

John Olsen Hamre and Borgila Agesdatter, Charter Members of West Norway Lake Lutheran Church.

A gravestone inscription¹ at Monson Lake Lutheran Church Cemetery² shows:

John O Hamre, b. May 27, 1832³ d. May 29, 1904.

Borgild Åkesdatter *Fyljesvold*⁴ *Olson* Hamre, b. Feb 16, 1838, Norway, d. June 7, 1910.

A church history book⁵ has:

John O. Hamre, born in Eggedal. He came to Decorah, Iowa, in 1858; to Norway Lake in 1868. He married Borgilla Ageson, born in Stavanger⁶. She came to Rice Co. in 1857; to Norway Lake with her man.

John's birth date and place are confirmed (except as noted in footnote 3) in the Eggedal Sokn church records⁷, which names the parents as Ole Larsen and Marte Johannesdatter Skaaleneje.

A family history⁸ indicates that John and his father emigrated together. Confirming this, Eggedal church records⁹ show that Ole Larsen Hamre age 46 and Jon Olsen Haugeneie b. 27 May 1835 signed out of the parish on 16 April 1859, bound for America.

An isolated note¹⁰ speaks of military service

John O. Hamre, one of our early pioneers, is reported to be quite sick. John is one of the old veterans who for four long years fought bravely upon the Southern battlefields, where he suffered many hardships for the perpetuation of the Stars and Stripes, and that right and liberty should be justly administered to the people of our land regardless of race or color.

In the 1885 census of Norway Lake Township¹¹, Kandiyohi County we have John O. Hamre (age 50), Borgila (47), Marte J. (18) Aaskar Olai (16), Teodor J. (14), Torger J. (12), Johanna (10), Louis J. (8), John (6), Hendre (4). Parents born in Norway, all children born in MN.

In the 1886 Plat of Norway Lake Township¹², the SW quarter of Section 32 is labeled "Jno. Olson Hamre."

In the 1900 census¹³, there is John O. Hamre, age 65, b. May 1835 in Norway, imm. 1859, living in Norway Lake, Kandiyohi County, MN. Spouse: Borgile, age 63, b. Feb 1838 in Norway, imm. 1857. Both married 34 years, she has 9 children, all living.

Report prepared by Earl O. Knutson, with help from Scott Christenson, a great-grandson.

1 Viewed at Findagrave.com.

2 However, ELCA records (accessed through Ancestry.com) mention South lake Johanna Lutheran Church in John's death record.

3 Apparently a reading error; other places state that the year of birth is 1835.

4 The meaning of this word is a mystery. It could refer to the Fylsvik farm in Volda Parish, More and Romsdal, Norway. However, no birth record or utflytede record could be found.

5 "Festskrift - En Fremstilling at det Kirkelige Arbeide Norway Lake fra 1862-1916." Ved Pastorerne Mons Sotendahl og N.J. Njus. Translation by Edna Rude, Gary MN

6 Attempts to find Borgilla's birth/baptism records in Stavanger church records were unsuccessful..

7 Sigdal Prestgjeld, Ministerial bok 1829-1843, page 141. Viewed at <https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/15927/8>

8 Shared by a great-grandson, Scott Christensen.

9 Sigdal Prestgjeld, Ministerial bok 1829-1843, page 469. Viewed at <https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/1130/353?indexing=>

10 Willmar Tribune, Dec. 11, 1902, under "Sunburg Items." Viewed on microfilm at the Kandiyohi County Historical Society.

11 Viewed at Ancestry.com

12 Viewed at <http://cdm16022.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/p15160coll5/id/42>

13 Viewed at Ancestry.com