

## **Anders Olofsson and Marie Elizabeth Hedin, charter members of East Norway Lake Lutheran Church**

Anders Olofsson, the son of Olof Nilsson and Anna Larsdotter, was born on December 11, 1820 in Tjärne, Ransåter, Värmland, Sweden. In 1836 Anders moved to Arvika and served as a journeyman hatter to his cousin Nils Hedin. He returned to Ransåter in 1840 and in 1841 moved to Karlstad where he worked as a hatter. In Karlstad he met and married Marie Elizabeth Carlberg on March 16, 1844. Marie was born on April 8, 1816 in Karlstad, Värmland and was the daughter of Jonas Carlberg and Anna Koler. Following their wedding they moved to Arvika, Sweden where Anders worked as a full-fledged hatter. All of their children were born while living in Arvika. Their first child, Johann Axel was born on May 14, 1845 and baptized on May 18. Carl August was born May 14, 1849 and baptized on May 24. He died July 7, 1852. Oscar Albert was born September 4, 1850 and baptized September 15. Anna Augusta was born April 19, 1852. No further information was found on Anna who may have died in infancy.

Anders, Marie and their two surviving sons emigrated from Sweden to the United States via Canada in 1854. His obituary states that he worked for short periods in Canada, Chicago and Rockford prior to arriving in St. Paul in 1856. The following spring he settled on a farm in Dakota County, near Northfield. In 1865 the family moved to Norway Lake in what was then Monongalia County. The farm was located in Section 13 of what would later become Arctander Township, Kandiyohi County. Many of the early meetings of the Norway Lake congregation were held at the home of Anders and Marie Hedin. The Hedins eventually would donate the land where the East Norway Lake Church stands today as well as the land on which the first parsonage was built. They only requested that the church pay for preparation of the deed.

On March 27, 1875, Anders' and Marie's son Oscar Albert died at the age of 24. He was buried on April 2 in the East Norway Lake Lutheran Cemetery. Son Johann Axel Hedin was married in 1868 to Johanna, a girl from Sweden. They farmed in Lake Andrew Township until moving to Willmar where they were living in 1900. In 1885 Marie Elizabeth Hedin died and is buried in the East Norway Lake Lutheran Cemetery. Her husband Anders remained on the farm until selling it and moving to Willmar to live with his son Johann Axel. Johann and Johanna remained in Willmar when the 1920 census was taken on January 8. They apparently moved to California shortly after that as on September 5, 1920, they joined the Beulah Covenant Church in Turlock, California. No record of their deaths has been found. On February 13, 1901, Anders Hedin died in Willmar. He was buried in the East Norway Lake Lutheran Cemetery with his wife Marie and son Oscar. The officiant at the burial was Rev. Nils Frykman, a prominent minister in the Swedish Evangelical Covenant Church who once served a large parish in Kandiyohi and Swift Counties. It appears that Anders Hedin's loyalty to his home church was stronger than to the church that stands on ground which he once owned and gave to the Norway Lake Congregation.

Prepared by Marlin Henjum

### Sources Consulted

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- Family Search.com
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- U. S. Federal Censuses, 1870-1880
- U. S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current
- The Willmar Tribune, February 20, 1901, Willmar, MN, p. 1. (Obituary of Anders Hedin)