

Ole Jellum and Ingeborg Helgesdatter, Charter members West Norway Lake Lutheran Church

Ole Evenson was born 30 Jan 1839 in Sigdal, Eggedal local parish, to Even Ericksen [1794-1853] and Berith Jonsdatter[1794-?].

Ole signed out of Sigdal, Eggedal local parish, 30 April 1861 as Ole Evenson Kopsengereie. He emigrated with his older brother Erick Evenson Skareie, Erick's wife Kari, their 2 children and their mother Beriths Jonsdatter. Ole's brother Jon had emigrated earlier.

Ole may have spent some time in Rice County with brother Erick but by 1864 he and his brother Jon have homesteaded in Arctander Township. Ole is awarded his land patent 10 June 1869 for 160 acres in Section 10 [NE1/4].

Ole marries Ingeborg Helgesdatter around 1864. Ingeborg was the daughter of Helge Gunderson Skare [1803-1884] and Eli Andersdatter [1801-1858]. She was born 22 Sept 1836, Sigdal, Eggedal local parish, the 6th of 8 children from this marriage. Ingeborg emigrated in 1854 with her brother Anders. They left the parish 5 April 1854. They initially joined sisters Ingrid and Mari who had emigrated in 1852 and had settled in Winneshiek County, Iowa. Later Ingeborg joined Anders and family in Arctander Township.

Ole and Ingeborg had 6 children. I was able to find records for 5. All 5 were baptized at Norway Lake church.

1. Berit/Birgit/Bertha: born 24 Sept 1866, died 21 Aug 1943 Fargo, N.D, married Ole Kopperdahl, 7 children
2. Eli: born 2 June 1869, died 12 Nov 1893 WNL
3. Even: born 19 June 1872, died after 1920 North Dakota, single
4. Helge: born 1 Mar 1876, died 25 June 1972 Tacoma Washington, married Clara Paaverud, 6 children
5. Inger Jorgine: born 30 Sept 1879, died 3 Aug 1881 WNL

In a letter written 12 Jan 1880 to his father in law in Norway Ole states they have moved twice. He sold his homestead and said he had bought 120 acres 5 years earlier. In 1874 he was one of the signers of a request to establish a school in a district that included Sections 5 and 6 in Arctander Township. The 1886 plat map shows the land he owns is mainly in Section 5 [NW1/4 and NE1/4 of NW ¼] with a sliver in the NE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 6. Ole also stated they had no crops in 1876 and 1877 because of the grasshopper plague and had lost a new horse stable and cow barn to fire in 1879.

Ole adopted the last name Gjelle as early as the 1869 baptism of Eli, but also used Evenson for many years. Eventually Gjelle became Jellum. I was unable to find a connection between Ole and Jellum which was the name of a farm in Eggedal. His brother Jon also adopted the name Jellum. Ole may have followed his example. Jellum was also the farm Ingeborg's sister in law Ragnild Skare emigrated from.

Ole died 2 Jan 1899 and is buried at West Norway Lake. He was almost 60. Ingeborg died 20 years later 2 May 1919 from cancer. She was also buried at West Norway lake Lutheran.

Ole's brother Erick Evenson Kvennerud and his wife's brother Anders Skare were also charter members and have separate biographies

Sources;

- Kandiyohi County Historical Association
- Digitalarkviet; Birth records and emigration records
- Skare Family Letters
- Family Search
- 1886 and 1900 Plat maps
- Ancestry.com
- Federal and State censuses
- Evangelical Lutheran Church Records
- 1905 County History Book

Written by Carole Heimdahl