

## Edmund Olson and Karen Larsdatter, Charter members East Norway Lake Church

Edmund was born Omund Olson 9 Aug 1843 in Hommedal Parish, Herefoss local parish, Aust-Agder, Norway. His parents were Ole Nielsen Bjelland and Berthe Omundsdatter. He was the second of 3 children born in Norway.

The family of 5 left the parish in 1846 for America, Ole as Ole Nielsen Bjelland. Ole's brother Halvor and his wife Anne Gundersdatter emigrated at the same time. According to the Vesterheim Civil War database "they arrived on the ship *Isette* at New Orleans 11 Jan 1847 from Havre, France. Passengers left Grimstad, Norway on 17 Sept 1846 on the ship *Louise Caroline* bound for Ramsgate, England and Havre." The family eventually settled in Wisconsin.

The 1860 census places Edmund, as Edmund Ohlson, in Saukville, Ozaukee, Wisconsin employed as a farm laborer.

In 1862 Edmund enlisted in the Wisconsin 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry, Co. I. Edmund served in the Civil War as Edmund Johnson. Again according to the Vesterheim civil war database, he enlisted 20 Aug 1862 for 3 years. He took part in the Chancellorville and the Knoxville, Tennessee campaigns and the Atlanta, Georgia campaign. He was wounded in the battle at Resaca, Georgia and again at Peach Creek. He was awarded a pension of \$6.00 a month in 1881 for contusions on his spine and chronic diarrhea.

After the war Edmund moved to what is now Arctander Township and homesteaded June 1868 in Sec 20 {NW ¼}. He received his certificate of title 28 Feb 1875.

Edmund married Karen Larsdatter Slattum 19 Dec 1872 in the Norway Lake Church.

Karen was born 11 April 1845 and baptized 27 April 1845 in Nannestad, Akershus, Norway. She was the daughter of Lars Jensen and Inger Olsdatter Slattum. Karen signs out of Nannestad Parish 19 April 1869 for America along with her father Lars Jensen Slattum and older sister Anna Dorthea. Also emigrating at the same time are her brother Ole Larson Slattum, wife Mari and son Johan. Ole purchases 160 acres in Sec 20 [SW1/4] of Lake Andrew Township, probably from the railroad.

Edmund and Karen have 5 children, all baptized at the Norway Lake and East Norway Lake church.

1. Berthe Marie: born 8 Jan 1874, died 1 Juli 1891
2. Oscar Ludvig: born 22 Dec 1876, died 20 Oct 1952, married Barbara Haavelmoen, no children,
3. Hilda Josephine: born 19 Aug 1879, died 25 Aug 1967, single,
4. Herman Newel: born 19 Aug 1882, died 1 April 1932, single
5. Elmer Cushman: born 22 Aug 1886, died 13 April 1965, married Letitia, 2 children

The family left Kandiyohi County in 1892 according to family obituaries. They move to Oregon and Edmund purchased a farm in north Silverton precinct, Marion County, which is on the eastern edge of the Willamette Valley. By the 1920 census Edmund and Karen have sold the farm and are living in Silverton City. Oscar is working as a carpenter and Elmer owns a drug store. Herman is unemployed. Hilda is a schoolteacher.

Edmund died 31 Dec 1926 at age 83 after an illness of 5 days. Services were held at St Johns Lutheran and burial was at the Valley View Cemetery [also known as Evans Valley]. Karen passed away eleven months later 10 Nov 1927 and was also buried at Valley View Cemetery in Silverton. The couple had been married 54 years.

Written by Carole Heimdahl, Febraury 2020

### Sources:

- Digitalarkviet- birth and emigration records
- Vesterheim Norwegian American Museum Civil War database
- 1905 Illustrated History of Kandiyohi County
- State and Federal censuses
- Family Search
- U.S. Land Records
- Newspapers.com
- Ancestry family trees and Ancestry.com

### Footnotes:

- Edmunds service in the Civil War was the only time he used the last name Johnson.
- According to Carolyn Sowinski's book *Four Farms: Life in Lake Andrew Township* the first wooden schoolhouse of District 25 was built at the Ole Slattum farm in 1869. The log building was used until 1881 when the school was moved further east.