

Halvor Soland and Gjorand Helgesdatter Charter Members East Norway Lake Church

Halvor Engebretson was born 26 Feb 1841 to Engebret Halvorsen 1803-1884 and Mari Olsdatter 1808-1886 in Nes, Hallingdal, Norway. He was the oldest of their 2 children.

Halvor emigrated with his parents and younger brother Ole. His father signed out of Sigdal parish, Sigdal local parish as Engebret Halvorsen Solland on 30 April 1861. Engebret, Mari, Halvor and Ole traveled on the Bark Askur, leaving Drammen May 17th and reaching Quebec July 14th.

The family settled in Wheeling Township, Rice County, Minnesota. Halvor Engebretson Soland married Gjorand Helgesdatter there on 4 Nov 1865 in the Holden Lutheran Church. Gjorand was born July 1845 to Helge Knudsen Espelien and Ragnild Pedersdatter. Gjorand had emigrated with her parents in the early 1850's.

By 1867 Halvor and Gjorand had moved to Norway Lake Township. Halvor and Gjorand's parents moved there also. Halvor purchased 160 acres in Section 35 [NW ¼]. He also owned a 21.23 acre woodlot in Lake Andrew Township, Sec 6.

I was able to document 8 surviving of 12 children from their marriage. All were baptized at Norway Lake

1. Engebret/Ingebret; born 11 Oct 1867, died 1 Dec 1953 Willmar, married Ragnhild Glesne 1 child
2. Helge: born 21 July 1869, died 30 April 1947 Grafton ND, single
3. Ole: born 27 Aug 1871, died 1933 Bottineau County ND, married Matthea 7 children, married Ragnild Hellerud 3 children
4. Randine: born 5 Dec 1875, died Mar 1964, Bottineau County ND, married Gustaf Ogren 2 children
5. Alfred Julius: born 22 July 1880, died 1 July 1968 Mercer City ND, married Julia Bergetta
6. Inga Marie: born 26 Sept 1883, died 1966 Bottineau ND, married John Elton 1 child
7. Peder Cornelius: born 8 Apr 1887, died after 1910, single
8. Carl Johann: born 23 Dec 1888, died 1946 Bottineau Nd, married Clara Amelia Olson 6 children

Tragedy struck in January 1873 when Gjorand was trapped in a blizzard on the way home from the town of Kerkhoven. She managed to survive but lost her feet and an arm to frostbite. Her sister in law Margrete {Ole's wife} perished. Life must have been incredibly hard especially caring for her children. Halvor's parents had moved to Norway Lake and lived with them for several years. Also, her parents had settled on adjoining acreage in sec 25.

In the early 1900s Halvor and Gjorand sold the farm and moved to Roseau County. He homesteaded in Dieter Township, 40 acres in section 20 [NE ¼ of NE ¼] and 120 in section 21 [n1/2 of NW ¼ and NW ¼ of NE ¼]. He is awarded his land 27 Feb 1908. The 1905 census states Helge, Inga, Carl and Peder live with them. They move again and in 1910 Halvor, Jorand Carl and Peder are renting a farm in Bottineau ND.

Gjorand dies in 1916 and Halvor dies in 1921. I was unable to locate where they are buried. They had been married over 50 years.

Both Halvor's parents and Gjorand's parents and brother Anders are charter members of East Norway Lake. Each family has its own biography.

Written by Carole Heimdah

Sources

- Digital arkviet- birth and marriage records, emigration record
- Family Search- birth records
- 1905 Illustrated History of Kandiyohi County
- Almost Saved, But Lost by Carolyn Mankell Sowinski- January 1973 blizzard
- 1886 plat maps
- U.S General Land Office records
- Public members trees on Ancestry
- Ancestry.com
- Evangelical Lutheran church records
- Norway Heritage