

Gunder Swenson and Gemine Negaard, Charter Members¹ of East Norway Lake Lutheran Church.

Extensive information on Gunder and on Gemine are available online at http://mankell.org/gunder_obit.html and <http://mankell.org/gunder.html> . Here we only include what will fit on one page.

As confirmed in baptism records², Gunder was born 16 January 1845 in Rollag Parish, Buskerud County, Norway. His parents were Svend Gundersen and Margit Syversdatter and the residence was Borgen. Modern maps³ show that this is in the western part of Buskerud County and in the northern end of Numedal Valley.

A venerable church history book⁴ states that Gunder emigrated with his parents in 1857. (Very likely, they sailed on the ship Balder which left Drammen on May 2 and arrived at Quebec on June 26.) They stayed in Rock County, WI before moving to the Norway Lake area in 1860.

Gunder, along with his parents and siblings, was deeply involved in the U.S.- Dakota War of 1862. Refer to the information cited at the top of this page.

Baptism records⁵ show that Gemine was born 9 April 1854 bapt in Stor-Elvedal Sokn, Åmot Prestekantor, Hedmark. The parents were Halvor Olsen Negaard and Marthe.....

In the 1865 census⁶ of Hedmark County, Gemine is the eldest of five children in the household of Halvor Olsen and Marthe Taraldsdatter. All were born in Storelevedalen. They resided at Negaardssven.

Church records show⁷ that the family left Stor-Elevedal on the 23 of March, 1870. The exit group included Gemine's maternal grandmother. The father's name is given as Halvor Olsen Negaardssveien.

Gunder Svendson and Gemine Hanvorsdatter Negaard were married⁸ in the Norway Lake Congregation on 30 December 1871.

The 1900 census of Arctander Township, Kandiyohi County states that Gemine was the mother of 14, of whom 13 were living at census time. Collecting names from the 1880 and 1900 censuses yields this list of children:

	Name	Birth year and month
1.	Swen	1873 October
2.	Mina	1875 June
3.	Henry	1877 March
4.	George	1879 January
5.	Clara R.	1880 December
6.	Anna M.	1883 April
7.	Otto	1885 May
8.	Malvin	1887 June
9.	Gerhard	1889 October
10.	Mabel T.	1891 September
11.	Lydia B.	1893 November
12.	Hellen E.	1895 December
13.	William B.	1900 March

Gunder and Gemine lived out their lives on the land homesteaded by Gunder's father (Arctander Township, Section 24). They lie at rest in the cemetery of East Norway Lake Church. Their grave markers read:

Gunder		Gemine	
Jan 16 1845	Sep 9 1934	Apr 9 1854	Sep 6 1927

Report prepared by Earl O. Knutson, April, 2020, drawing heavily on the references shown at the top.

1 Gunder's parents and two siblings - Birgit (Mrs. Thomas Osmundson) and Ragnhild (Mrs. Christopher Engen) - were also charter members; they are written up separately.

2 <https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/7764/106> There is an unreadable word following "Borgen."

3 http://mankell.org/norway_farms.html

4 *Festskrift – En Fremstilling af det Kirkelege Arbeid i Norway Lake fra 1862 – 1916*. Translated by Edna Rude, Gary, MN. Translation promulgated by Peder C. Gandrud, Bemidji, MN. Translation page 2.

5 <https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/8898/76>

6 https://www.rhd.uit.no/folketelling/ftliste_e.aspx?ft=1865&knr=0429&kenr=008&bnr=0009&lnr=000

7 <https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/8901/118>

8 https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/60722/41742_315039-00048?backurl=&ssrc=&backlabel=Return#?imageId=41742_315039-00154