

Amund Syverson and Ronnaug Johnsdatter, Charter Members East Norway Lake Church

Amund Syverson was born in 1821 according to most records in America. His cemetery monument says 26 Jan 1821 as does the 1905 county history. I have found two possibilities. Amund Syverson born 16 Dec 1820 and baptized 31 Dec 1820 in Svatsum Parish, Gausdal, Oppland Norway to Syver Iverson and Ingri Amundsdatter. The second possibility is Amund Syverson born 20 Jan 1821 and baptized 28 Jan 1821 in Oster Gausdal, Oppland Norway. His parents were Syver Olsen and Karen Olsdatter.

Amund is married 18 Nov 1846 in Ringebu Parish, Oppland, Norway to Ronnaug Johnsdatter. Both were living on the Hjelle farm in Ringebu Parish at the time. Ronnaug was born 6 Aug 1826 in Ringebu to John Mortenson, Hjelle and Anna Olsdatter.

Amund and Ronnaug signed out of Ringebu Parish 16 June 1854, destination America. Amund signed out as Amund Syverson Hjelle. Their two sons Simon born 8 Feb 1847 and John born 15 March 1849 traveled with them. The ocean crossing took 13 weeks between Christiania {Oslo} and Quebec. The trip to Iowa was another 3 weeks according to his obituary.

The family settled in Paint Creek Township, Allamakee County in the northeast corner of Iowa. The first winter he worked splitting rails for 50 cents per 100. He is listed in the 1856 Iowa census as Edmond Severson. He had been a resident for 2 years, was a farmer and a landowner. The 1860 Iowa agricultural census stated he owned 200 acres with 130 being improved.

Amund and Ronnaug have 5 more children in America, 4 in Iowa and the last in Minnesota.

3. Karl/Carl: born 6 April 1856, died 4 May 1938, married Marie Jensen.
4. Albert: born 28 Jan 1858, died 6 Nov 1931, single.
5. Inger Olava: born 29 May 1860, died 1905-1910, married Norwald Rosby.
6. Martin: born 6 June 1862, died 1947, married Mina Harbu.
7. Julia Andrine Caroline: born 24 Oct 1866, died 20 Jan 1888, single.

In Iowa the children were baptized at the Paint Creek church and in Minnesota the Norway Lake church.

The family moved from Iowa in the spring of 1866 by ox team and settled in Lake Andrew Township. The 1870 agricultural census shows he owns 240 acres, 33 improved, 167 unimproved and 40 woodlot. 160 of these acres were homesteaded, 2 Nov 1870 in Section 30 [SW1/4]. In addition to his homestead land the 1886 plat map shows he owns 120 acres in Sec 31 [NE1/4, SE1/4 and SW1/4] and 40 acres in Sec 36 in Arctander Township [SE1/4 of NE1/4] adjoining his land in Lake Andrew for a total of 320 acres.

By the 1895 census he lists his occupation as retired. The 1900 plat map lists the owners of the 160 acres in Sec 30 and the 40 in the NE1/4 of NW1/2 of Sec 31 as Syverson Brothers (Albert and Martin?) Carl is the owner of 80 acres SW1/4 and SE ¼ of NW ¼ of Sec 31 and the 40 acres in Arctander. Simon A. homesteaded separately, on adjoining land in Arctander Township.

On 1 Oct 1906 family and friends celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary according to the Willmar Republican gazette.

Amund dies 23 March 1910 of old age and is buried at East Norway Lake on 26 March 1910. He is 89 years of age. Ronnaug dies 7 Jan 1916 at age 90 of the grippe and was buried beside her husband. All the children were also buried at East Norway lake except for Inger whose burial place I have not been able to confirm.

There is no mention of son John after the 1856 census in Iowa. The 1870 census lists his older brother but not him. I was unable to find burial records in Iowa or Minnesota.

Simon A. Syverson, their oldest child, was also a charter member of East Norway lake and has a separate biography.

Sources

- Public member trees Ancestry
- Kandiyohi County Historical Association
- Digitalarkviet records of Ringebu Parish and Gausdal Parish
- 1905 Kandiyohi County history Book
- Family Search
- Iowa State census's for 1856 and 1870
- Evangelical Lutheran Church Records

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Footnote: I used the Norwegian spelling of Ronnaug which is how her birth and marriage records spelled her name. Most records in America spelled it Ronnog or Ronog.