

## **Simon A. Syverson and Mathea Larsdatter, Charter Members East Norway Lake Church**

Simon Amundsen was born 8 Feb 1847 In Ringebu Parish, Oppland Norway. His parents were Amund Syverson born 1821 in Gausdal, Oppland, Norway and Ronnaug Johnsdatter born 6 Aug 1826 in Ringebu Parish, Oppland, Norway. He was the oldest of seven children.

Simon emigrated from Hjelle farm in Ringebu Parish with his parents and younger brother John on 16 June 1854. The family settled in Paint Creek Township, Allamakee County in N.E. Iowa. His father farmed 200 acres there. The family left Painted Creek and moved to Lake Andrew Township around 1866.

Simon married Mathea Larsdatter 16 Jan 1872 in the Norway Lake church. She was born 13 Dec 1847 also in Ringebu Parish, Oppland Norway. Her parents were Lars Michelson Hjelle and Anne Johnsdatter. Census records state she emigrated in 1870. A Mathea Larsdatter, age listed as 25, accompanied the Halvor Olsen Negaard family who left Christiania[Oslo] on the Bark Columbia 25 April 1870 and settled in Arctander Township. She may have come as a maid to the family or traveled with them as a family friend to marry Simon.

Simon and Mathea had 3 children, 2 survived to adulthood:

1. Regine Anne Elene: born 25 Jan 1874, died May 1946 in New London, married Osten Johnson
2. Adolph Louis: born 2 April 1876, died 29 Sept 1876
3. Anna Louise: born 18 Aug 1879, died 1949 in New London, single

Simon homesteaded in Arctander Township in 1870 and his certificate for 80 acres was awarded 10 Jan 1874 [W1/2 of NW ¼ in Section 26. The 1870 agricultural census shows Simon has 4 improved acres and 76 unimproved. The 1886 plat map shows Simon has moved to Section 25 in Arctander. He owns 120 acres in the SE ¼ and 40 acres directly south in Section 34[NE1/4 of NE1/4. His father owns 40 acres directly south of him. Simon also owns 40 acres in Lake Andrew Township [NW ¼ of NW ¼ in Sec 31. This is adjacent to the land in Sections 30 and 31 owned by his father and brothers.

According to a newspaper article published after his death Simon was very involved in community affairs serving in many capacities on different boards. He was secretary of the East Norway Lake Lutheran Church for 30 years.

Mathea dies 6 July 1920, age 72. By the 1930 census Simon has sold his farm and moved to a house in New London Village. His daughter Regine and her husband Osten are living with him.

Simon dies 11 April 1936, age 88. He had suffered a stroke 15 Feb 1836. He was already bedridden from a fall in April 1935. Both Simon and Mathea are buried in the East Norway Lake Cemetery as are their 3 children.

Simon's father Amund Syverson is also a charter member of East Norway Lake and has a separate biography.

Written by Carole Heimdahl

Sources:

- Ancestry
- Kandiyohi County Historical Association
- Arctander and Lake Andrew Township Plat Maps
- Digital arkviet records for Gausdal and Ringebu parishes
- Family Search
- 1905 Kandiyohi County History
- State and Federal censuses