

Edwards, Ole Jørgen

Ord. 1897 - Free Church, 1897-'05, United Church '05-

Born in Hemnes, Indre Helgeland, Tromsø, March 19, Mar. 1868. Son of Edward Erickson and Berith (born Olsen). Attended district school 1884-1886, Emigrated 1888. Attended Red Wing Sem. '89-'97. Pastor, Cooperstown N.D. '97-'99; Northwood N.D. '99-'05; Duluth Minn. '05-'06; Bellingham Wash. '06-'07; Everett Wash. '07-'13; Watertown S.D. 1913 - Teacher of religion, Columbia Coll. 1909-'11. Chairman of home mission ordination and finances '09-'10 also writer and editor. Married Hulda Gundersen, 1893 -

Translat. by M.P. from -

Norse Luth. Prest i Amer, 1914, page 333

Eliassen, Henry

Ord. 1892 - United Church, 1892 -

Born in Poland Iowa, Mar 8, 1863, son of
Halvor E. Vake and Maria H. (born Dyynes).
Attended Monona Acad., 1880 - St Olaf Coll. '82-'88;
Northfield Sem. '89-'90; Augsburg Sem. '91-'92 (P.T.)
Pastor, Cooperstown and Aneta, N.D. '92-'12.
Bible salesman '30 - Married Inger Louise Rinde, '92 -

Translated from Norse by M.P. from,
Norse Luth Pastors in U.S. Amer. 1914, p 278

An Autobiography to our Children
by
Isaac Ellefson
Christmas, 1936 -

It was on July 1, 1851, at Eidfjord, Norway, some 14 Norwegian miles N.E. of Bergen, that I first opened my eyes to view the land of my forefathers. My good father and mother, Ellef and Tena Isaacson, were the parents of seven children, Ole, Sarah, Isaac, Betsy, Ed., Peter, and John. The latter two, residing in Wisconsin survive.

Confirmed in the Lutheran Church at the age of 15, I left two months later for the land of the Mid-night sun in Northern Norway, and remained there three years engaged in the fishing industry. Returning home I tried to get work as an apprentice to a shoemaker, but was too young. Then I went sea as a sailor on a steam vessel and continued $8\frac{1}{2}$ years in that service. During that period we visited almost every part of Europe.

Following a visit a home I decided to go to the United States, and in 1874 landing in New York City. There I worked for three months and applied myself to learn the English language, going to Ithica

about 200 miles west of New York. I worked for about a month on a farm and at railroading. Proceeding to Buffalo I continued railroading work. Then hired out on a Great Lakes boat making a regular run to Chicago and return. On the 7th trip, seeing no future in that work, I jumped off the boat at Milwaukee, forfeiting the pay I would have received upon arrival at the home port. That, however, would have been about the same as the fare back - \$9.10. I wanted to get more practical experience in the work I would be interested in and settle down. Going to Baldwin Wis. about 30 miles east of St Paul I worked on a farm several years. I then married Anna Dale of Hardanger Norway.

Hearing about government homesteads in Dakota, we came in 1882 to Valley City, where I had work one year on the railway for two years in a warehouse I located a claim - SW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 34, Dover township Briggs County and we resided ~~there~~ alternately there and in Valley City, where Josie, my eldest daughter was born. The other five

children were born on the homestead -

Josie, now Mrs. Hadlock of Portland Ore. has four children - three girls and one boy.

The second child, Clara, now Mrs. Peder Pederson of Van Hook has eight children living and two dead.

Agnes, married 1st, Mike Michaelson, many years a rural mail carrier, and to them were born 6 children, One, with the father, are now dead. She married 2nd to C. H^m Smith of Iowa and they live in Glenfield.

Ellie, residing at Okreek, Oregon, married Liva Younck and they have two sons.

Elmer, age 23, died Jan 20, 1913

Ida, our youngest, married Clarence Wilde and they have one child Elaine. They live in Uxbridge township near Wimbledon.

For the greater part of twenty-three years we have made our home in Wimbledon. For 55 years we have resided in Barnes and Griggs Counties, N. Dak.

We commend to you, our children,

Faith in Our Fathers.

Bibliog. Typed auto biography owned by Mrs. C. W. Smith.

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Following a visit at home I decided to go to the U.S., and in 1874 landed in N.Y. City. There I worked for 3 mo and applied myself to learn the Eng. Lang, going to Ithaca about 200 mi W. of N.Y. I worked for about a month on a farm and at railroading. Proceeding to Buffalo I continued railroading work, then hired out.

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 Younck & they have 2 sons—
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 Elaine, she live in the bridge top near Wimbledon.
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 made our home in Wimbledon, for 55 yrs
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 We commend to you our children.

Faith in Our Father.

PIONEER BIOGRAPHY

Ole. E. Ellefson

Ole Elefson was born in Stephens County, Davison, Illinois, October 12, 1862. The name of his parents was Mr. and Mrs. Ellef Olson. When he was a young man some of his friends went to North Dakota to take up land. When they came back they told Mr. Ellefson about this good land. He thought he would go and take up a homestead also. He was only twenty-four years old when he started out from South Center. He had a few men along with him. Three of them were old sailors. They drove with oxen and covered wagons. They took plenty food along with them, but it did not last very long. They killed and ate animals that they saw on the way. Some of the animals were buffalo, prairie chicken, and so forth.

They had trouble with the Indians and starvation. It took them three weeks to get to North Dakota. He arrived here in June 1881 and settled on his homestead near the Sheyenne River in Pilot Mound Township 148, Section 26, Range 59.

There were two hundred Indians that had settled southeast of his house. The women were sitting around doing their fancy work. When they saw Mr. Ellefson and the rest of his men, one Indian made a funny sign to one of the women. She went in the wigwam and got a long peace pipe. First she smoked it and then passed it along to the other men and women. When they came to Mr. Ellefson he hated to smoke from it but if he wouldn't he would have trouble.

One night in an old barn, there were over 1000 sparrows, and a cat was trying to get some of them but she did not succeed. There were many men sleeping in it because they had just settled and hadn't had time to build their homes. Mr. Elefson was one of the men. One of the men who was laying in bed got up and was going to shoot after the sparrows. The cat was sitting up in the rafters and thought he was going to shoot her so she jumped down and right on the man's face and almost scratched his eyes out. Mr. Elefson said he would never forget that.

After a while when they had settled down, they built a log house, 14 by 16. For fuel they used wood picked up along the river. They tilled the soil with walking plows and sowed the grain by hand. They used oxen to draw the loads or plows. Some of the crops were wheat, corn, potatoes, and vegetables. They would get around 20 to 25 bushels of seed per acre. Their nearest town for provisions was Mayville. Some of his neighbors were Thorne Olson, Ole Groff, Raymond Johnson, I. E. Mills, and Hans Koloen.

One day in 1895 a man near Kloten was burning straw around a straw pile. A large wind blew up and took the fire along with it. The fire was going north but just then the wind turned toward the south. It jumped the river, and it rained but there was nothing that could stop it. After a few years he was married to Lizze Larson of Brooklyn, Minnesota. He is 65 years old now and has grown-up children who are all married. He is still living in his old house in Pilot Mound Township near the Sheyenne River.

--Alfield Halvig

Biography of Ole E. Ellefson
--Alfheld Halvig

1927

Ole Elefson was born in Stephens County, Davison, Illinois, October 12, 1862. The name of his parents was Mr. and Mrs. Ellef Olson. When he was a young man some of his friends went to North Dakota to take up land. When they came back they told Mr. Elefson about this good land. He thought he would go and take up a homestead also. He was only twenty-four years old when he started out from South Center. He had a few men along with him. Three of them were old sailors. They drove with oxen and covered wagons. They took plenty of food along with them, but it did not last very long. They killed and ate animals that they saw on the way. Some of the ~~xx~~ animals were buffalo, prairie chicken, and so forth.

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by Alfie Halvig

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--Alfie Halvig

Biography of Carl E. Erickson

--Elizabeth Peterson

June 2, 1926

Early when files for homesteads were being made in North Dakota, people emigrated from many lands. Coming to America, they heard of rich lands of the West and came here to build homes and help raise America's future citizens.

One of these early settlers was Carl Erickson. He was born on a small farm near Stockholm, Sweden, June 13, 1855. His early life was spent there with his parents, Mr. and *Mrs. Erick Person, and four brothers and sisters.

At twenty-six years of age he married Marie Johnson, a neighbor's girl. This step meant added money and conditions were poor financially, so they decided to go to America. He too had heard of the many people who went there and prospered, and this served to encourage his growing ambition.

He crossed the Atlantic alone in 1882 as his wife could not leave at the time with her small child. She joined him, however, in six months, coming to Moorehead with her brother.

They lived in Moorehead for four years. Mr. Erickson worked in a brick yard for a large concern. This work did not satisfy him, notwithstanding the change to city life, and he thought he would fare better if he filed a homestead. All the land around Moorehead and Fargo was taken up, and he was compelled to go over a hundred miles northwestward.

This does not seem very long ago, but there were no cars and trains were too expensive to travel in or ship any equipment. Mr. Erickson made the trip in a covered wagon with his wife and two daughters, his first son having died shortly after their arrival in Moorehead. The journey lasted two weeks. They moved some household furniture and led two cows all the way, necessitating very slow progress.

Their destination was reached finally, on June 25th. There were no buildings on the land, and they camped in the open (as they had done on the trip) until a house was built. He did not build it of logs but used pine boards which were not so expensive. The house completed contained but a single room, however, and it is clear that he, like most pioneers, was of limited means.

Their nearest town was Cooperstown, a twenty-five mile drive. Mr. Erickson went there only for supplies and once a year to pay taxes. He farmed one-fourth of a section of land at first but continued to accumulate more year by year.

Wheat mostly was raised by him as well as the neighboring farmers as it was profitable. Of course, oats had to be used to feed the oxen that were used instead of horses. The prices of grain varied from thirty-eight cents to a dollar a bushel and as now could not be depended on.

* Note here how the son formed his name by taking his father's given name and by adding "son" formed his surname.

Diversified farming was not the rule so after all, they did not prosper as well as they might have done.

The neighbors in that immediate vicinity lived but one-half a mile away. They were Charles Helling and Andrew Anderson. There were no community gatherings, however, and enjoyment was had when the neighbors visited each other.

Three girls were added to the Erickson family in successive years but trouble was not long denied them. Mrs. Erickson died April 8, 1894 from an illness of several months duration. At the time of this catastrophe the girls were not all capable of taking care of themselves. Two neighbors, old friends of the family, then adopted the two youngest so they could fare better, even though it broke up the family. Mr. Erickson lived without a wife but for two years after this. Then in February he was wed to Augusta Ness of Fargo. She had been working in private homes prior to her marriage, but then she came to the farm with him and tried to be a mother for the girls.

Sorrow in one thing often means luck in another. Mr. Erickson soon prospered financially and built a new home a mile farther west. It stormed so badly, however, that he could not complete it until a season later than he had planned and they lost a year on the new place.

Eleven children were born in this home, but Mr. Erickson did not relapse financially nevertheless and in 1916 a still better abode went up. It was large and equipped with modern conveniences, quite a change from a one room shack which had housed them in the beginning.

But Mr. Erickson lived only a month after the house was completed. A paralytic stroke affected him, and he passed away after a few days' illness.

His two oldest boys were now almost grown up so they continued the farm work. Both of them married a few years later and then the oldest stayed home. Mr. Erickson had left seven quarters and it was quite a task.

Mrs. Erickson lived six years after her husband's death. Then she was afflicted with apoplexy and died, leaving ten children. The oldest, Oscar is married and lives on a farm. He has three children, two boys and a girl. Hjalmar lives in Minnesota with his wife and three children, twin boys and a girl. Harold and Algot are working at neighboring farms near Glenfield. Carl owns a butcher shop in Leal, North Dakota. Virgil and Axel are at home with Deloris, aged ten. They stay with Oscar and his wife. Freda, the oldest girl, has taken a course in Beauty Culture but is home at present. Of the five girls from Mr. Erickson's first wife, three are living. The two youngest, Emma and Ruth died several years ago. Selma is working in Valley City and Elvira is on a farm west of Cooperstown. Mrs. A. O. Peterson is the only one of this vicinity. She has four girls.

In all Mr. and Mrs. Erickson have surviving them, ten children, three step-daughters of Mrs. Erickson, and ten grand children.

Erick Erickson

Erick Erickson, of Cooperstown, was born in Bergen, Norway, on the 20th of June, 1853, the youngest of 3 boys and 2 girls. In 1856, his step-father, Jacob Hallen brought his family to U.S. to Dane Co. Wisc. for 2 years - then to Jackson Co where he farmed the rest of his life. Erick Erickson's eldest brother, Absalom, was in Civil war as a member of a Wisc Cavalry Co.

In 1882 Erick Erickson filed on a homestead in Nelson Co, where he lived 7 years, then he sold out and moved to Cooperstown, having an implement ~~the~~ business for 2 years, then with general merchandise added until 1906 when he started the same at Jessie NW 1/4. He then traded his store for ^{farm} land, and in partnership with J. G. Thompson and Oliver Hoff started a store at Sutton, a new town.

In Jan, 1884 Mr. Erickson married Miss Miss Isabella Tve taken, born in Norway. Children - Edwin, married Clara Hammer Myrtle.

Bibl. Condensed from Lounsbury Vol III, 1917, page 411-2

Estrem, Gustav Rudolph
Ord, 1909, Norske synode, 1909 —

Born at Hillmar Minn. Sept 10, 1884
the son of Pastor Ole O.E. and Josephine Emelie (born
Amundson) Attended Hillmar High School
Hillmar Sem, 1900-1902; Luth Coll 1902-1906 (A.B.)
Luth Sem, 1906-1909 (C.T.) Pastor, Reider N.D. 1909-
Married D. Therese Nelson in 1913.

Translated by M.P. from
Norse Luth Prest i. Amer, 1914, page 486-

PIONEER BIOGRAPHY

John Evers

His father's name is Mr. Henry Evers and his mother's name is Mary Evers. The pioneer's name is John Evers. This pioneer was born in Canada. He was born September 14, 1860. He was born in Bruce, Ontario, near Newstadt.

He came to North Dakota because it offered the best opportunities. Pioneer left farmer home to work out.

The pioneer came to North Dakota the 28th day of March, 1882. He took up land by what is called "squatting", that is, getting the land and claiming it before it was surveyed, Griggs County, Clearfield Township, Section 6, Township 146, Range 60.

The first home was a shanty.

The provisions and lumber for the shanty was hauled forty miles by horses but later Cooperstown was his trading place.

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He has no pictures to give away.

He has no letters or copies to give away.

--Arne Goplen

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by Arne Coplen

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Biography of Edwin W. Everson

--Olive Gilbertson - *granddaughter*

Edwin W. Everson was born April 29, 1857, at Toten, Norway. He left Norway at the age of nine years and came to Wisconsin with his father, Andrew Everson, leaving his mother, Johannah Everson, four brothers, and four sisters in Norway. They arrived here one year later. In April, 1880, he left Wisconsin and came to North Dakota. His reason for coming to North Dakota was to get free land and also grow up with the country. His first claim was the west half of section 20, range 59, township 144, which is now Greenfield township, Griggs County.

The first house he built and lived in in North Dakota was part sod and part lumber. The nearest town was Valley City. The most common way of getting there was by foot. His nearest neighbor was Abraham Gunderson. The first teams he had on the farm were oxen but later he got horses. His first machinery were broad cast seeder, scotch harrow, champion harvester, etc. His first crops were oats, and wheat. Wheat was the Scotch Fife which yielded twenty bushels to the acre. Oats yielded thirty bushels to the acre. In order to get seed he went to farmers around Valley City that had raised grains before. Usually he went with a team.

He had many hardships and experiences with Indians, prairie fires, and hard blizzards, none of which were very dangerous.

He was married to Betsey Mossing, October 6th, 1885, at River Falls, Wisconsin.

In November, 1912, he was elected representative, reelected in 1914 and 1916, serving in the years of 1913, 1915, and 1917. He organized the I. V. A. in 1918 and was elected president of the I. V. A. serving until 1922, then resigning. During these years he put in all his time on the firing line, therefore rented out his farm, retiring from farming he moved to Walum in 1920. He has been in the store business now four years. His present home is at Walum. His descendants are Mrs. Clara Gilbertson, Edwin Everson, Walum, N. Dak., Mrs. Julia E. Danielson 547 E. Ave. 39, Los Angeles, California, Mrs. Mable Jensen, 3635 Vermont Street, Long Beach, California, Mrs. Myrtle Iverson, Helen Everson, Box 284, Kalispell, Montana, Mrs. Adeline Turnpaw, 207½ Taylor Ave., Seattle, Washington. Deceased is Axel Everson, 1923, Benton Everson.

Grandchildren, Olive Gilbertson, Everett Gilbertson, Donald Gilbertson, Violet Gilbertson, Roy Gilbertson, John Everson, Thelma Everson, Virginia Everson, Marion Everson, Robert Everson, Walum, N. Dak., Elwood Jensen, Gerald Jensen, 3634 Vermont St., Long Beach, California, Ellsworth Iverson, Box 284, Kalispell, Montana, Lillian Turnpaw, 207½ Taylor Ave. Seattle, Washington. Deceased, Arlene Jensen, 1923.

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Edwin W. Everson

by Olive Gilbertson

- Edwin W. Everson was born April 29, 1857 at Toten, Norway. He left Norway at the age of nine years and came to Wisconsin with his father, Andrew Everson, leaving his mother, Johannah Everson, four brothers, and four sisters in Norway. They arrived here one year later. In April, 1880, he left Wisconsin and came to North Dakota. His reason for coming to North Dakota was to get free land and also grow up with the country. His first claim was the west half of section 20, range 59, township 144, which is now Greenfield township, Griggs County.
- The first house he built and lived in in North Dakota was part sod and part lumber. The nearest town was Valley City. The most common way of getting there was by foot. His nearest neighbor was Abraham Gunderson.
- The first teams he had on the farm were oxen but later he got horses. His first machinery were broad cast seeder, scotch harrow, champion harvester, etc. His first crops were oats, and wheat. Wheat was the Scotch Fife which yielded twenty bushels to the acre. Oats yielded thirty bushels to the acre. In order to get seed he went to farmers around Valley City that had raised grains before. Usually he went with a team.
- He had many hardships and experiences with Indians, prairie fires, and hard blizzards, none of which were very dangerous.
- He was married to Betsey Mossing, October 6th, 1885, at River Falls, Wisconsin.
- In November, 1912, he was elected representative, reelected in 1914 and 1916, serving in the years of 1913, 1915, and 1917. He organized the I. V. A. in 1918 and was elected president of the I. V. A. serving until 1922, then resigning. During these years he put in all his time on the firing line, therefore rented out his farm, retiring from farming he moved to Walum in 1920. He has been in the store business now four years. His present home is at Walum.
- His descendants are Mrs. Clara Gilbertson, Edwin Everson, Walum, N. Dak., Mrs. Julia E. Danielson, 547 E. Ave. 39, Los Angeles, California, Mrs. Mable Jensen, 3635 Vermont Street, Long Beach, California, Mrs. Myrtle Iverson, Helen Everson, Box 284, Kalispell, Montana, Mrs. Adeline Turnpaw, 207½ Taylor Ave., Seattle, Washington. Deceased is Axel Everson, 1923, Benton Everson.
- Grandchildren, Olive Gilbertson, Everett Gilbertson, Donald Gilbertson, Violet Gilbertson, Roy Gilbertson, John Everson, Thelma Everson, Virginia Everson, Marion Everson, Robert Everson, Walum, N. Dak., Elwood Jensen, Gerald Jensen, 3635 Vermont St., Long Beach, California, Ellsworth Iverson, Box 284, Kalispell, Montana, Lillian Turnpaw, 207½ Taylor Ave. Seattle, Washington. Deceased, Arlene Jensen, 1923.

--Olive Gilbertson