

Ole Olson Hetletveit

Ole Olson Hetletveit 8/5/1797 – 1/27/1854

During the first years at the Fox River settlement, the religious lay leader was Slooper, Ole Olson Hetletveit. Ole brought Hauge books with him on the Restoration voyage to America.

Ole was well educated and had been a teacher in Norway. He was the first teacher for the children of the Norwegian immigrants and the first to teach Norwegian parochial school.

"Bible Ole" was the first Norwegian lay preacher in America. On October 4, 1839, Ole sold his farm and on Nov. 21 purchased 80 acres in what was to be Newark, Illinois, only six miles east of the Fox River settlement.

Ole operated a station on the famous Underground Railroad. In fact all three of Ole's sons served and distinguished themselves in the Civil War, to fight slavery.

Ole married Sarah (Chamberlain) [related to Daniel Webster] in NY. Ole and Sarah had four children, sons Porter Chamberlain, Soren Luther, and James "Webster", and daughter Bertha Ann All born in NY except for the youngest, James "Webster", who was born in Mission Twp, LaSalle County, IL.

An important event for all the middle west Norwegians during this period was the advent in 1847 of the first Norwegian newspaper, "Nordlyset". Although it was actually published in Wisconsin, the Sloopers and their associates in LaSalle County are given credit for the steps which brought it about. The key man in promoting the appearance of the Norwegian press was Ole Olson Hetletveit (Middlepoint).

"The first impulse to starting of "Nordlyset" seems to have been given in 1846 when a number of meetings were held in which Ole Olson Middlepoint suggested the publication of such a paper. At a meeting held on Dec. 8, 1846 at the home of Endre Osraundsen, a sort of constitution was drawn up for the proposed paper, and Gudmund Hugaas was elected president, and Ole Olson secretary". The "constitution" clearly indicates the Quaker and Haugean influences in the backgrounds of the organizers.

Lt Col Porter Olson,
Killed Civil War



Mrs. Bertha Olson
Shaver

Lt. Soren Luther Olson,
Killer in Civil War

1st Sgt. James Webster
Olson

