

In May 1871 Axel Jorgenson had lumber on the ground in Shakopee in preparation for building a one-story building for his jewelry and silversmith business.

In 1874, Axel and Ellen separated, but by 1877 the couple moved to Stockholm Township in Wright County, Minnesota where they lived for the rest of their lives.

In late 1879 or early 1880 Axel and Ellen Marie Jorgenson adopted a son who they named Axel Peter Jorgenson. Son Axel Peter Jorgenson was born at Stockholm Township in Wright County on Nov. 9, 1879. The infant's 29-year-old mother died 24 days after his birth, perhaps from childbirth complications, leaving her widowed husband with two other children to care for, and so he let Axel and Ellen to adopt the child.

In the 1870s and 1880s Axel Jorgenson was engaged in cutting and selling lumber in Stockholm Township. Axel Jorgenson was one of many involved in the Minnesota Commission of Fisheries' task of stocking various species of fish in many Minnesota rivers and lakes. During 1885 Axel stocked 40 carp on February 6; on March 28 he and 13 others stocked 425 carp; and on November 16 he stocked 20 carp.



Axel Peter Jorgenson (1879-1948) was born as Oscar Lind, and was adopted by Axel and Ellen Marie Jorgenson. On right is a picture of Axel Peter Jorgenson and his wife, Anna Kristine Betson (1881-1954.)



In December 1886 Axel Jorgenson's family home in Stockholm in Wright County burned, destroying all his papers, notes, and other valuables.

Axel Jorgenson died in Stockholm Township about 1899. His widowed wife, Ellen Marie, lived in the eastern part of Stockholm Township where she owned a farm and served as postmaster, with her son, his wife, and a granddaughter living with her in 1900. Ellen Maria died on February 10, 1910 at the home of her son Axel in Keystone, Polk County, Minnesota and was buried in the family plot in the Stockholm town cemetery after services at the Stockholm Lutheran Church.



## SHAKOPEE HERITAGE SOCIETY



# Aksel Axel Jørgensen

1818-1898



Axel Jorgenson was born Aksel Jørgensen on December 1, 1818 in Gjerstad in Aust-Agder County in southeast Norway. Axel was the eldest of four sons and a daughter born to Jørgen Akselsen (1783- 1864) and Karen Margrete Nilsdatter (1794-1866).

In Oslo, Norway on April 28, 1850 Axel Jorgenson married a certain Ingeborg Marie, age about 31. Five days later on May 3, 1850, according to the *Carver Historic District*, the newlyweds boarded the brig *Incognito* in Christiania (Oslo), Norway and arrived in New York City on July 13th or 17th, 1850 with 132 passengers, by name probably all Norwegians, including steerage passengers Axel Jorgenson and Ingeborg Marie.

After the ship's arrival in New York Ingeborg Marie is found no more in connection with Axel Jorgenson. Her fate unknown, most likely she died in the first year or two after arriving in America.

Jorgenson probably traveled America's water routes, eventually making his way to the frontier Territory of Minnesota sometime in 1850-1851.



Hotel Luksenborg 309 Oak Street, Carver, Minnesota was built in 1852. This space, big enough to serve as a single bay garage, served as one of Minnesota's first schools. In its first year as a public school, 26 students were taught here. Some of the wall boards are over 20 inches wide. It also served as a general store and a hotel. From *Oldest Building in Carver Hiding in Plain Sight* by Mark W. Olson, *Chaska Herald*, August 31, 2012. Photo courtesy of John von Walter.

Axel came to Minnesota territory and took preemption claim as a settler-colonist in Carver county, which allowed squatters to purchase up to 160 acres on Indian land. It gave him a toehold on townsite before claims could be legal settled. He "improved" the land with dwellings, warehouses, and stores, and thus were less liable to be taken over those who came along later. He picked a large parcel of choice land on the north side of the Minnesota River at the junction of the Minnesota River, Carver Creek, and Spring Creek, a site situated some 32 miles upstream from St. Paul, Minnesota.

Jorgenson there built a crude claim shanty house, which he loosely called a hotel, and situated it just above the Minnesota River bank on First Street near Broadway. The claim shanty was a 14' x 18' dirt-floored upright board and batten (or log) shanty "hotel" with four large windows. Said to have been called Hotel Luksenborg, it was intended to augment his business of hauling logs, lumber, and supplies to and from St. Paul on a barge in the Minnesota River, and is said to have also served as his home and blacksmith shop, according to Mark W. Olson.

Axel had a barge, an old, dirty, heavy, flat-bottomed boat, which could float downstream, but would have to be propelled with long poles to pull upstream.

Jorgenson seems to have offered prospective settlers free lodging and transportation from St. Paul up the Minnesota River to land around his claim area in return for them helping to propel his barge. It purportedly would take three long days of hard poling work against the river current to reach Jorgenson's claim in the future Carver County.

Alex Jorgenson moved to Shakopee by December of 1863. He worked doing clock and watchmaker repair work. According to a business directory for 1865, Alex was advertised as a watchmaker and jeweler on Holmes Street.

In Shakopee on June 6, 1868 Axel Jorgenson took out a marriage license and married Ellen Marie Oleson, an immigrant from Vadsø in Finnmark County in northern Norway who arrived in America in 1865. The couple lived in Shakopee for the first years of their marriage.

The 1870 United States Census for Shakopee in Scott County, Minnesota mentions that Axel Jorgenson was a watchmaker and legal citizen of the United States with \$2730 in real estate worth and \$600 in personal property value, a tidy sum for the period.

Axel is listed in 1870 as being married to Ellen M. Jorgenson, age 30, who is described as a housekeeper and not yet a legal citizen. Both are listed as born in Norway.