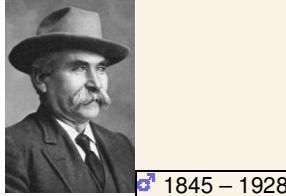


Pioneren og settleren
Andreas Henrik Bertelsson Fitje Oleson



I Amerika tok Andreas namnet A.B.Oleson.

Frå Inge Fitje si slekts-heimeside og etter løyve frå han.

Redigert av Sigmund Svoen

10. mai 1867 la Seglskuta "Norden" ut frå Bergen hamn med kurs for Quebec i Canada. Blant fleire menn og kvinner frå Naustdal var Andreas Henrik Bertelsson Fitje ein av passasjerane ombord. Hans endelege reisemål var USA. Etter fleire vekers seilas kom dei til land i Quebec i Canada. Eg let Andreas sjølv fortelje om si tid i Amerika ved å gjengi eit brev han skreiv til mor si Andrea 1908. Det er litt vanskeleg og forstå deler av brevet men eg skal gjengi avskrift etter beste evne.
(Inge Fitje)

The book "1916 History of Oklahoma" by Joseph B. Thoburn. Written by The American Historical Society, 1916

In has "Bios" about the the pioners settler of the Ok. Territory is in the book.

A.B. Olesen born in July 9, 1845, his Father Bertel dying at the age of 75, his Mother still alive at 92 (1916)

In age of 22 came A.B. Olesen to America, Wisconsin, he lived in Kansas, Illinois. Iowa, Colorado, working as a Contractor. he was the superintendent to the Courthouse buld in 1907, owns 160 acres in Lincoln Co. Ok.

1872 married Elsabeth Hildebrand a native of New Jersey, died i 1913 at 62 years.

Chandler Oklahoma Okt. 16, 1908

Forenede Stater America.

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Brevet til mor

Kjære Moder

Jeg vil nu sende nogle ord det er lenge siden jeg har skrevet og lenge siden jeg hørt frå deg eller nogle af mine Brødre eller søstre og ved ikke enten de er i live eller ikke men håber at de vill få det brev. Jeg tenker at jeg selv er gammel 65 aar og over og men di er jeg haaber ednu i live så di kan læse det Brev men tiden kan ikke være lenge for deg mere.

Jeg vil give kort historie of mit liv og bestiling siden jeg reiste fra Norge i aaret 1867 over Atlanterhavet i et Norsk Seilskip uger på reisen til Qeebeck paa Kreatur vogne over Jernbanen Til Madison Wisconsin 6 dager, nu i Tiden kan vi gjøre den hele reise i mindre end 10 dager. Jeg begynte arbeide paa en gaard for 12 dollar Maanen men snart fikk jeg 25 Dollar. I to aar efter begynte jeg på Jernbanen og i en tid ofte som Stenmurer med en løn of 3 Til 5 dollar dagen og jeg hadde ingen mangel at tjene penge under tid tog jeg avkort eller Contract selv og havde store arbeide paa Broer og Bygninger. Contracter det beløp seg til undertiden til hundre of tusen Dollar. Jeg den begynte at spekulere i land Kreature og tomte i Byen og det første jeg vist fant jeg meg falit og havde ingen ting men taket være gud jeg havde god hilse og mod og havde laant lidt og begynte på nyt med midt Bygningsarbeide baade Jernbane og Husbygning og kom paa foden igjen saa i de siste 12 aar kan jeg igjen erverve nok saa jeg kan lev godt de faa aar eller dage son jeg ednu har; og håber at det vil bleve mange.

At komme til Norge igjen bliver vel ikke om jeg endog vilde ønske at det kunde ske men foruden deg og Søskende, saa har mine venner og bekente enten geen eller forglemst mig, og jeg har været saa lenge i America at det er mitt hjem og jeg Tror ikke at der findes noget land paa jorden at det er saa godt for en som vill kan leve som en Konge. Ikke alene hvad angaar det jordige men ogsaa det cristeloge liv, vi kan gaa til hvilken som helst kirke of alle slags religioner; her i min By kun en liden har det minst 10 Kirke ved de mange religioner og alle siger at deres er den rete og jeg tror de alle siger sant da alle har den samme Bibel og samme gud og samme tro paa et liv efter dette.

Jeg har havt flere brev fraa Marianne døtre. Hun selv skriver sjeldent (maske saa ofte jeg) og det meget gledeligt for mig at faa Brev fraa di smaa jeg saa att de har god lærdom og det er en ting som vi er lidt stolte af i vort land; men jeg vil sige at Norge er ednu bedre i den hensende i skolen og lærdom den vi er for naaværende hen; det er sjeldent at vi kan finde en Norsk uden han kan skrive og læse men vi finder i somme stater hen en femte Part som ikke kan skrive sit eget navn men største delen of den kommer fraa Europa ikke fraa Norge og Sverige Danmark eller Tyskland men fraa de Katoliske Rigen.

Vi har dog nu i mestedelen of Statene tvungen skole og som er det eneste som kan hjelpe i opplysningen.

Oklahoma Staten som jeg nu er og som jeg har været i de sidste 15 aar har vi et varmt Klimat. Vintere er kort og sjeldent ser vi sne. Sommaren er dog nogen lunde varmt saa skyggen er meget behagelig men sjeldent haver vi solstik som ofte sker lenger Nort vi har altid litt vind. vi Dyrker her det mest Bombul Mais hvede Havre og frukter of mest alle slag.

Land har førend været biligt men nu gaar det up i prise og det er ikke godt for fatig at kjøpe; jeg selv har flere styke land some giver mig en liden inkomme.

I sidst sommer har jeg vært omkring ganske meget en dotter i Dakota besøte jeg og flere andre steder side jeg har nesten slutet med arbeide saa har jeg ikke meget at bestile; sidste sommer var jeg overseer of en Tingstuve som bygedes her den kost var 130 000 hunder og tredeve Tusend Dollar, jeg fikk 100 Dollar Maaned som overseer at

arbeide var udført som planen og kontrakten det aar gjør jeg ingen ting at tale om det er muligt at jeg gaar til Seattle til sommeren en Expositon er bleven holt der og saa skulle jeg se Mariane og hindes familie det er langt der hen herfra omtrent 1000 Engelsk Mil eller 700 Norske og som jernbanen gaar omkring Fjeldene er der meget at se paa veien til møde vestlandet og havet paa vestkanten of vaart land som jeg ednu ikke har været di store Fjelde og sne liger paa dem hele sommeren og andre i steder har vi sommer hele aaret. Mine brev er altid korte thi jeg ved ikke at skrive noget som kunde være serdeles til dit behag men det brev er et of mine lengste men nu vil slute kun lade dig vide at jeg er Frisk og sterk med god hilse og tenker til at leve til bleven saa gammel som du. Jeg ønsker at høre at du er frisk saa meget som kan vente i din høi alderdom og at Guds velsignelse være med os alle Til enden.

Kjærlig hilses du og dine fraa din sørn Andreas

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Andrew B. Oleson

From - "Historie of Oklahoma" - by Thoburn Vol. Y

1916

The present mayor of the city of Chandler, is one the pioneer white settlers of Oklahoma terrytory, having been identified with this country more than twenty years. Mr. Oleson has been a resident of Chandler for the past twelve years and a business man conducts the office of mayor on business principles with emphasis on efficiency and an impartial administration for the benefit of all concerned. Mr. Oleson came to Oklahoma in 1892 with the tide of home seekers that made Oklahoma famous in those day. He was first located on the Sac and Fox reservation.

A.B. Oleson was born in Norway. July 9. 1845; of a family noted for industry, thrift, and physical and mental vigor. His parents were Bertel and Andrea (Angie)Oleson (Fitje), His father dying at thr age of seventy five and his mother still living at ninty two. His father was a farmer and there were five sons and five daughters in the family. Mayor Oleson grew up on a farm, received a wholesome training in body as well as mind, and living school at the age of fifteens, became a sailor before the mast, and spent five years in sailing about the world. In 1867 at the age of twentytwo he came to America and located at Madison, Wisconsin, where he was employed in the carpenters trade. He did som railroad work and later was a builder and contractor, and in that business laid the foundation for his substantial property.

He was in Westeren Kansas for a time, erecred some court houses, and other important buildings, lived in Iowa, later in Princeton, Illinois, and for several years was a building contractor for the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroads. Later he returned to Iowa, and in 1886 located in Kansas, where he did extensiv business as a building contractor. He afterwaedstook som large contracts for railroad, lived in Pueblo, Colo. for a time, and in 1892 came to Oklahoma.

Since moving to this state he has performed a number of important contracts in

buildings such a court houses, business blocks, private residences and other structures. He was superintendent of the courthouse here, which was built in 1907. He has been quite successful in his operations and owns one hundred and sixty acres of land in this country, also his home and three houses in Chandler which he rents, besides city and farms property in other parts of the state.

In 1872 Mr. Oleson married Elisabeth Hildebrand, a native of New Jersey, and she died here in 1913 when sixty two years of age. To their union were born six children, four sons and two daughters. Those still living are; Ben, a business man of Sapulpa; Edward of Texas, Charles, a business man of Sapulpa; Harry, a contractor of Chandler; Anna, who married Tom Jessen of Dakota; and Ella at home. Mr. Oleson has always been a staunch supporter of the republican party. For the past forty years he has been connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and in whatever relation he has stood with business or with the community has exemplified a thorough integrity and a high degree of public spirit.

He is a member of the Lutheran church.

Her er eit par nekrologer frå aviser i Chandler område etter Mr. Olesons død.

Inge Fitje



THE TOMB

A. B. Oleson

A.B. Oleson, long time resident, highly respected and greatly esteemed, died at home in Chandler, Wednesday afternoon, at three o'clock. Funeral services will be held at the Methodist church, Friday afternoon at two o'clock. Interment will be made in the family plot in New Zion cemetery.

About three weeks ago deceased suffered a stroke of paralysis and his condition steadily grew worse until death came to end his suffering.

Obituary

Andrew B. Oleson was born in Naustdal Norway July 9th, 1845. He came to the United States in 1867 locating at Princeton Ill., where, in 1872 he was united in marriage to Elisabeth Hildebrand. To this union ten children were born, six of whom were survivors. These are; Ben and Edward of Brownville, Texas; Charles, of Davenport, Harry G., of Chandler; Mrs. Anna Jessen of Casper Wyo; and Ella Becknell, of Chandler. He leaves, besides the above, sisters and brothers; then grandchildren and four grandchildren. The wife and mother passed away in Chandler in 1914.

Mr. Oleson was builder and contractor, having followed this line of endeavor since coming to America, and was very successful, handling many large contracts throughout several states. He retired from active work some few years ago, since spending his time visiting among his children.

The family moved to Oklahoma in 1892, locating on a claim five miles east of Chandler, which still remains in the family, residing there until 1901, when they took up their residence in Chandler.

Mr. Oleson became a member of the I.O.O.F. in 1873, and has been a member in good standing for fifty-five years. He was a regular attendant at all meetings of the Chandler lodge and always took a great interest in the lodge work. He was also a member of Lutheran church.

All during his residence in Chandler Mr. Oleson was held in the highest esteem by all our people. His sterling honesty, his loyalty and his universal fair dealing caused him to be elected three times as mayor of this city. His passing caused universal sorrow throughout the community and to the deeply bereaved children and other relatives the very sincere sympathy of all is extended.

A. B. Oleson Dead

Det er ukjent kva for avis denne nekrologen kjem i frå men eg gjengir den i orginal utgåve.(Inge Fitje)

A. B. Oleson, ex-mayor and for over a third of a century an active and valuable citizen of Chandler and Lincoln county, died Wednesday afternoon, January 4 at 3 o'clock at his home on West Ninth street at the advanced age of 82 years. About then days ago he suffered a paralytic stroke from which he never realized the death of Mr. Oleson removes from Chandler one of the familiar faces that has greeted his host of friends for well over a third of a century to a community is proven by the work of his years of toll that are left to be a monument to his memory when he has passed from earth to his reward in the next world.

Mr. Oleson came to Chandler in the early day and was one of the city's leading masons and contractors for many years. His services were always in demand because he was a man of his word and a workman with experience and of much value to the community. His splendid workmanship stands out as an enduring monument to the memory of the man in many of the buildings which grace our main street that he erected or helped to build.

When the court house was built citizens of the town and county demanded the employment of a building inspector who was an experienced judge of good building material and competent workmanship and Mr. Oleson was selected for this important post. He insisted on good material and good work and he was a judge of both.

He served the city as its mayor at three different periods in its history and he has his credit to this service the remarkable fact that no deficiencies in the public funds were

allowed under his administrations. There were no shortages, no refunding bonds. Many was always available to pay any obligation he was party to in public or private life. His convictions whether right or wrong were honest and sincere, resulting from much experience and careful study on his part. No bronze or marble shaft is needed to adorn the memory of such excellent characters and exemplary citizens as he.

Their lives, their deeds, their influence and their good work and their pure aspiration are the monuments that will keep their names burning in the hearts and homes of kindred and friends while time dims the inscription upon the brightest obelisk in the cemetery.

We will be able to publish an obituary of this splendid citizen and good friend in our next issue of this paper.

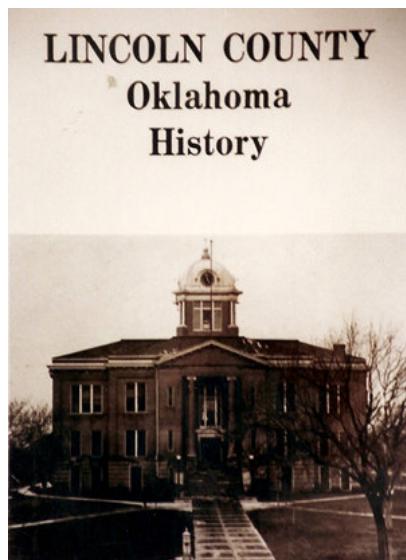
Funeral service will be held from the Methodist church of this city this afternoon (Friday) at 2 o'clock. Interment will be made in New Zion cemetery southeast of the city.



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Sigmund & Inge-----I am sending you 2 pictures----One is begravel place of A.B. Oleson in Chandler Oklahoma. The other is a picture of old Lincoln County courthouse in Chandler. A.B. was the contractor who built the courthouse. He also was mayor of Chandler 3 times of 4 year terms[12 years.] I will send another ee-mail with more pictures

Howard

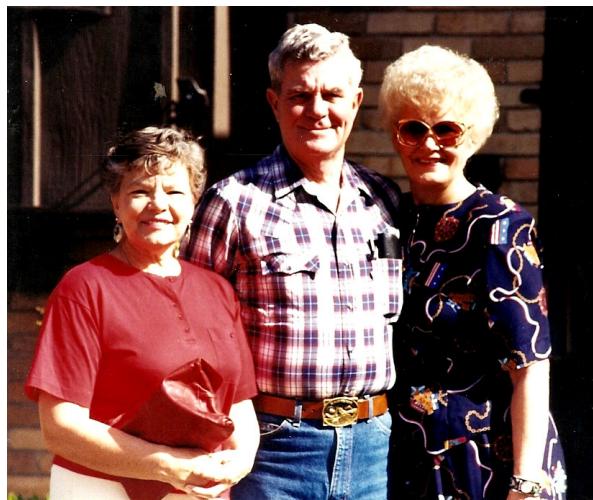


A.B. was the contractor who built the courthouse



This is a picture A. B. granddaughter Iona Goodwin--her husband Wesley and Son Donald with wife Betty and children. This picture was in 1992. Iona, Wesley and Donald are not living Iona died in 2003 at age 93.

Howard



This is a picture of Dee with John and Cleo Callanan. Cleo is A.B. granddaughter lives in El Paso Texas. Cleo was fadt 1926.....John-- 1928--2008. This picture was taken in 1992

Howard

