

O.E. Rolvaag
V.R. Nelson

Ole Rolvaag

- Born April 22, 1876 on isle of Donna; father Ole Jakobsen, and mother Ella
- Second of eight children
- Began fishing at age of 5
- Was seen as difficult learner
- Aspired to be a poet, laughed at by family for these ideas
- Loved reading about J.F. Cooper's "Last of the Mohicans"
- Came to America in 1897 at the age of 21.
- Worked near Elk Point on a farm – had an uncle in that area. The preface of "Giant's in the Earth" gives his early life in detail.
- Schooling in Norway only to age 14
- Graduated in 1901
- Enrolled at Augustana Academy in canton after 3 years of farm work.
- St. Olaf College graduated in 1905 at age of 28
- Borrowed \$400 to do graduate work in Norway at University at Oslo for one year.
- Started teaching at St Olaf in 1906 Norwegian language, Literature, Norwegian History
- Married Jennie Berdahl in 1908, had met her while at Augustana Academy
- In 1922 built cabin in Northern Minnesota north of Minneapolis near Grand Rapids, MN near Marcell on big Island Lake
- In 1923 took year's leave to work on Giants in the earth which he finished in London where the publisher was located.
- Written in Norwegian and later translated into English was an immediate and continued success. One of three books which have been in continuous print.
- Wrote a Trilogy of prairie life of Norwegian pioneers and their struggles in the new culture.

Cabin contents are those used by the writer, and furniture and appliances are original to the cabin.