

HANS HANSEN AASEN, CHARTER MEMBER OF EAST NORWAY LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH, NEW LONDON, MINNESOTA

Hans Hansen Aasen was born 11 February 1840 on the Aasen farm in Nord Torpa, Land, Oppland, Norway. He was the sixth out of eight children of Hans Nielsen Aasen and Mari Nielsdatter Engeslet Røste. Seven of their children emigrated to the United States between 1853 and 1866. The oldest sibling, Niels, remained in Norway. They were members of the Aamodt church in Nord Torpa.

Hans and **Marie Haraldsdatter Nørsteli** (b.10 October 1835 in Søndre Nørsteli) were married in 1866. That same year they emigrated to America. With them were Hans' sisters, Kjerstine (Christine) and Nekoline (Lunde). They left Christiania (Oslo) on the ship, *Tanaro*, on 13 May and arrived in Quebec on June 26.

We assume they traveled approximately the same route to Iowa that Hans' brother, Martin, did two years earlier, going by train from Quebec to Detroit, then Chicago, then Wisconsin, probably stopping at Wiota to visit with relatives there. From there they went to Paint Creek Prairie, Iowa where Hans' brother, Martin, was working and their maternal uncle had settled. After a short time, they went to Kandiyohi, Minnesota, to the Norway Lake area in Arcander where a sister, Oline, (Mrs. Erik Kapperud) was living with her family. Martin joined them that fall. Hans and Marie homesteaded in Section 2 of Arcander.

Hans was a very large and strong man. He built his home in a beautiful location in the woods. No one was allowed to cut down the trees he loved. Hans and Marie had three sons.

- Harald, b. 1 August 1867, d. ca. 1938.
- Hans, b. 9 January 1869; d. 14 April 1931.
- Mathias, b. 18 October 1872; d. 20 December 1948, buried at East Norway Lake Lutheran cemetery.

Marie died 27 October 1874, and was buried 4 November 1874 at West Norway Lake Lutheran, Sunburg, MN (likely due to ENL church not yet finished). In 1885 Hans married **Agnethe Jacobsdatter Kattestad Nørsteli**, b. 12 January 1846, a widow with two daughters Inga and Anna. Inga was organist in two of the churches in the area. Agnette had emigrated in 1866. She died in 1934, and is buried at East Norway Lake church cemetery.

Hans and Agnethe had one son:

- Henry Alfred, b. 17 December 1889. On 17 Oct 1927, he married Louise Skarhus Fosse, b. 3 January 1889. Louise died 14 May 1964; Alfred died 31 December of 1955.

Hans died 17 June 1920. The funeral was Saturday, June 19, at East Norway Lake Lutheran, the Rev. N. Sotendahl officiating, with burial in that cemetery. At his request, the pallbearers were his four sons, nephew Axel Aasen, and Martin Skaalerud, Agnethe's son-in-law.

Sources

- [Boka om Land IV](#); Sandaker, Arvid; p. 199
- Solem-Swiggum & Austnem; Passenger list - bark *Tanaro* in1866
- "To God be the Glory" 1875-1975; East Norway Lake Lutheran Church, New London, Minnesota; "Keeping The Faith... Sharing The Faith" 1862-1992, First Lutheran Church of Norway Lake, New London, Minnesota
- United States Census, 1900

Submitted by Thelma Aasen Johnson, Myrtella Aasen Christenson and John Aasen, grandchildren of Martin Aasen, brother of Hans Aasen.

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