

Martin Hansen Aasen And Margrethe Jacobson, Charter Members Of East Norway Lake Lutheran Church

Martin Hansen Aasen was born 17 November 1842 on the Aasen farm in Nord Torpa, Land, Oppland Fylke, Norway to Hans Nielsen Aasen and Mari Nielsdatter Røste. Martin emigrated in 1864, one of their seven children who emigrated to the United States. Their maternal uncle, Lars Nielsen Røste, had emigrated to Rock County, Wisconsin, in 1839, returning to Norway 19 years later. Their home church was Aamodt in Nord Torpa. Farms there were small and income came mostly from forestry.

Martin left Oslo on a Sharps Company ship. After reaching Hull, England, he went by train to Liverpool. The trans-Atlantic ship picked up 300 passengers in Ireland. They entered North America by way of the St. Lawrence Seaway to Quebec, Canada. Martin continued via train to Detroit, then to Chicago. After visiting a cousin, Mrs. Ole Shager, in Beloit, Wisconsin, he went to Paint Creek Prairie, Iowa, where a maternal uncle, Johannes Falde, had settled. In the fall of 1866, he bought school land in Section 16, Arctander Twp., Monongalia County (later merged with Kandiyohi).

Martin and **Anne Margrethe Jacobson** were married 15 May 1870, by the Rev. Lars J. Markhus. Margrethe was born 7 November 1847 in Muskego, Wisconsin. In 1867 she came to Arctander with parents Johannes Jacobson and Kirsten Ytterbøe who emigrated in 1844 from Holla, Telemark, and later farmed in Saukville near Port Washington, Wisconsin.

The following children were born to Martin and Margrethe:

- Hilda Marie, b. 3 June 1871, d. 16 May 1876
- Johannes, b. 13 April 1873, d. 31 Oct 1953
- Laurence Winfred, b. 1 March 1875, d. 28 July 1875
- Winfred Laurens, b. 1 October 1876, d. 13 Jun3 1958
- Hilda Marie, b. 3 September 1879, d. 8 July 1930
- Axel, b. 10 Feb 1882, d. 25 January 1956
- Carl Minard, b. 10 Dec 1891, d. 15 January 1984

The economy was not good during the early years of Martin and Margrethe's marriage – a Grasshopper Plague in the 1870s, depression in 1873, another major depression in 1893. In April of 1911, the family went to Bowman County, North Dakota, filing for a homestead. He had not used his homestead privilege since land he bought in Arctander was school land. In 1914 they returned to Arctander. Martin was also a carpenter and was involved in many building projects in the community. Some were the Norway Lake log church, East Norway Lake Lutheran in 1875, West Lake Lutheran in 1904, many houses, barns, and other buildings. On 18 May 1930, Martin and Margrethe celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

Martin remained active until he was very old, stacking grain at age 85 and splitting wood in his 90s. He died 22 June 1936, age 93. According to custom, the service was held first at home, then the people processed to the East Norway Lake church for the funeral and interment. Margrethe died 11 July 1934, age 86. The Rev. H. E. Baalson officiated at both funerals.

SOURCES

- Aasen History; Aasen, Carl
- Boka om Land IV; Sandaker, Arvid, p. 196
- Kandiyohi County Historical Society
- Landingsbogen - 1924
- Nordmaendene i Amerika; Ulvestad, Martin, p. 804

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

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