

Iver Ludvig Bergum^{1,2}, Charter member of the East Norway Lake Lutheran Church.

Iver Bergum was born 24 Jun 1841 in Gulbrandsdal, Norway and emigrated to the US in 1873³. He married Ragnild Olsdatter Njøs on 15 Jul 1876⁴ at the East Norway Lake Lutheran Church. This basic information is supported in a local church history⁵, which states "Iver L. Bergum born in Gudbrandsdalen. Married with Ragnild O. Njos, born in Sogn."

The name Bergum is very likely taken from the farm or village from which Iver came. There are, in fact, three farms in Eastern Norway by that name. Unfortunately, we have not found census or church records to confirm this guess. We presume Iver became a charter member before his marriage and therefore do not include Ragnild as a charter member.

In the 1880 US census⁶, Iver and Ragnild were listed in Hayes Township, Swift County, MN, with two children, Anne and Emma. Ragnild died young. Her grave⁷ is in the East Norway Lake Lutheran Church cemetery and the marker lists birth and death dates, January 8, 1855 and August 28, 1882.

In 1887 Iver married Marie Evenson, born 1861 in Norway. The marriage took place on December 14 under a license issued in Swift County⁸. Almost certainly, the marriage took place in the West Norway Lake Lutheran Church, although records that would confirm that are not available.

In the 1900 US census⁹, Iver (listed as Ivan) is found in Swift County (as before), with wife Mary and 6 children: Ludvick (age 11), Enoch (10), Hilma (7), Ruth (5), Otto (2) and Edith (5 months). Iver's year of immigration is listed as 1870. His birth is listed as June, 1841.

In the 1910 US census¹⁰, Iver (handwritten middle initial appears to be "T" but could also be "L.") is found in Swift County (as before), with wife "Maria." The 6 children from the 1900 census are still at home, and a son, Seth, is added. There is an obvious error in the listing, as Iver's mother's birthplace is listed as Minnesota.

In the 1920 US census, Iver is listed as residing in Swift County (as in the previously cited censuses) with wife Maria, son Enoch, daughter Ruth, and son Seth. At this point, Enoch is identified as a "partner." Also listed is a Reuben Bergum, age 22. The listing indicates 1873 as the year of immigration and shows that Iver became a naturalized US citizen in 1880.

Iver died on 11 March 1923 and is buried in the West Norway Lake Cemetery, Sunburg, MN. We have not been able to find an obituary, which might have given more information about Iver's life. Likewise, there is not a record of a grave marker.

Report prepared by Earl O. Knutson, February 2017

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- 1 Except as indicated by footnotes, the information in this report came from Barb Peterson.
 - 2 The name Iver was used in all records found, except in the 1900 US census where Ivan was used.
 - 3 The 1900 and 1910 US censuses give 1870 as the immigration date, but the 1920 census gives 1873.
 - 4 Marriage year confirmed in records of both the East Norway Lake Lutheran Church and the First Lutheran Church of Norway Lake.
 - 5 "Festskrift - En Fremstilling at det Kirkelige Arbeide Norway Lake fra 1862-1916." Ved Pastorene Mons Sotendahl og N.J. Njus. Partial translation by Debbie Boe at [http://www.debbiesgenealogy.com/Norway Lake Lutheran Churches 1862-1916.htm](http://www.debbiesgenealogy.com/Norway%20Lake%20Lutheran%20Churches%201862-1916.htm)
 - 6 <http://gda.arkivverket.no/cgi-win/webcens.exe?slag=visbase&sidnr=1&filnamn=MINN1880&gardpostnr=38120&merk=38120#ovre>
 - 7 www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gsr&GScid=2318003&CScn=east+norway+lake&CScntry=4&CSst=25&
 - 8 www.moms.mn.gov/Search?S=1
 - 9 Viewed in Archives.com.
 - 10 Viewed in Archives.com