

Guldbrand BJORKEVIK and Ingeborg PEDERSDATTER, Charter Members of West Norway Lake Lutheran Church

(See also Tollef BJORKEVIK, likely a brother. Tollef's middle initial was given as H and, several steps later, this led to Halstenson as a possible alternative name.)

A 1916 church history¹ book has this: "Gudbrand BJORKEVIC, from Hallingdal. Married with Ingeborg PEDERSON. Came to Norway Lake 1866." An internet map program² finds 4 BJORKEVIK, all in western Norway, and one BJORKEVIK, that one in Flå, Hallingdal.

A county history book³ records that "Gilbert Halstenson" homesteaded on Norway Lake Township Sec 26 on May 25, 1870. He was born Norway and died Feb 28, 1901 at age 73.

In the 1870 census of Norway Lake Township, Kandiyohi County we find Gud. Halstenson (age 43), Ingeborg (36), Kari (12), Corina (9), Oline (7), Holbert (5) and Peder (5/12). The Parents and Kari were born in Norway, the rest in Minnesota

In the 1875 census of "New London"⁴ Township, Kandiyohi County, we find Gudbrand Halstenson (age 48), Ingeborg (42), Kari (17), Karine (13), Oline (12), Hubert (8), Peder (5) and Theodor (2). The parents and Kari were born in Norway, the rest in Minnesota.

In the 1885 census of Norway Lake Township, Kandiyohi County: Gulbrand Halstenson (age 59), Ingebor (52), Olinne G. (23), Halburt G. (18), Peder G.(15), Theodor (12), Olaus G. (7). The parents were born in Norway, and all children were born in Minnesota.

Another church history book⁵, in its list of pastoral acts, has 6 Bjerkevig, 2 Bjerkevik and one BJORKEVEG. There are also 3 Halstensen. The baptism entries pertaining to Guldbrand and Ingeborg are:

Halbert Halstensen	1867
Peder Halstensen	1870
Theodor Bjerkevig	1872
Olaus Bjerkevig	1877.

Apparently Karine and Oline, listed in census records as born in Minnesota, were baptised elsewhere in Minnesota.

To summarize, Gulbrand Halstenson was born about 1827 probably at or near the Bjerkevik farm in Flå, Hallingdal, Norway. He, with Ingeborg and daughter Kari, emigrated in 1859 or 1860. The growing family lived elsewhere in Minnesota, probably in southeast, before arriving in the Norway Lake area in 1866.

Guldbrand died Feb 28, 1901 but the grave site is not known. For Ingeborg, we have neither the date of death or the place of burial. There is evidence⁶ indicates that she outlived Guldbrand.

1 "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).

2 NorwayParishes.com

3 *Illustrated History of Kandiyohi County, 1905.* p. 343

4 However, by paging backward through the census, it is clear that the census actually pertains to Norway Lake Township.

5 *Keeping the Faith, Sharing the Faith. 1862-1992.* First Lutheran Church of Norway Lake. Back pages

6 The death notice of Guldbrand that appeared in the log book of Norway Lake Township lists him as married, not widowed.