

Tollev H. BJORKEVIK and GJORAND PEDERSON, Charter Members of West Norway Lake Lutheran Church

(See also Guldbrand BJORKEVIK, likely a brother.)

A 1916 church history¹ book has this: "Tollec H. BJORKEVIK, from Hallingdal. Married with GJORAND PEDERSON. Came to Rice County 1866; came to Norway Lake 1867." An internet map program² finds 4 BJORKEVIK, all in western Norway, and one BJORKEVIK, that one in Flå, Hallingdal.

The internet site Findagrave.com shows this tombstone, Tollev H. BJORKEVIK (10/7/1822 – 11/7/1883). It is in the West Norway Lake cemetery, Kandiyohi County.

A county history book³ records that Tollev Halstenson homesteaded on Sec 28 on Aug 21, 1868. Born Norway, died Nov 7, 1883, age 59. The exact match on the date of death confirms that Tollev BJORKEVIK and Tollev Halstenson are one and the same person.

In the 1870 Agricultural Census, Tollev Halstenson has 10 improved acres in the Town of Norway Lake, Monongalia County.

In the 1870 census, there is Tollev Halstenson (age 45), Jorand (44), Peter (15), Kari (12), Gudbrand (8), and Aster (female, 1, probably Ester). The last one was born in Minnesota, all others in Norway.

In the 1875 census of "New London"⁴ Township, Kandiyohi County, there is Tollev Halstenson (age 51) with wife Joran (50), Kari (17), Gudbrand (13) and Ingeborg (6). The youngest born in MN, others in Norway.

In the 1880 census of Norway Lake Township, Kandiyohi County: Tollev Halstenson (55), Joran (54), Gubran (18), Ingebor (11).

Another church history book⁵, in its list of pastoral acts, has 6 BJORKEVIG, 2 BJORKEVIK and one BJORKEVEG. There are also 3 Halstensen. The only baptism pertaining to Tollev and Jorand is Ester Halstensen, baptised in 1869.

To summarize, Tollev was born October 7, 1822, probably at or near the BJORKEVIK farm in Flå, Hallingdal, Norway. Jorand was born about 1824, probably in the same area as Tollev. Tollev and Jorand emigrated with 3 children between 1863 and 1867. It is not known if they came directly to Minnesota.

Tollev died November 11, 1883 and is buried with marker at the West Norway Lake church. "Jorand BJORKEVIK" is mentioned in a brief death report⁶ which states that she died on December 2, 1905 at age 81, but the place of burial is uncertain. Three daughters were named.

1 *Festskrift - En Fremstilling at det Kirkelige Arbeide Norway Lake fra 1862-1916*. Ved Pastorerne 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 Found in the Sunburg News section of the Dec 7, 1905 Willmar Republican Gazette, viewed at the KCHS.