

## JOHANNES AND KARI ENGEN, CHARTER MEMBERS OF EAST NORWAY LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Johannes Hansen Engen** was born in Bjerkeengen, Torpa, Land, Oppland Fylke, Norway, in 1830. Johannes emigrated in 1864. Three brothers, Kristoffer and Andreas had emigrated in 1857, and Martin in 1858.

**Johannes** and **Kari Hansdatter Aasen** were married 13 October 1872 by the Rev. Lars J. Markhus.

**Kari Aasen** was born 19 January 1834 on the Aasen farm in Nord Torpa, Land, Oppland Fylke, Norway, to Hans Nielsen Aasen and Mari Nielsdatter Engeslet Røste. She emigrated in 1857 at age 23, with her sister, Oline (later married Erik Kapperud). We presume that Kari and Oline left from Oslo (then Christiania). The first railroad in Norway was finished in 1854, running from Eidsvold to Oslo, so possibly they went to Eidsvold to take the train to Oslo. From there they began the long trip across the Atlantic to America.

Kari first worked as a cook in Minneapolis for a wealthy family. She wrote in a letter saying, "Now I will get rich; my wages have been raised from three dollars to four dollars a week."

Johannes and Kari farmed in Section 24 of Arctander Twp., just west of East Norway Lake Lutheran Church. Martin Aasen, Kari's brother, built the Engen house in 1880s or 1890s. They lived there the remainder of their lives. The Engens were among the first in the area to own a car, likely bought about 1915.

Kari and Johannes had two children:

- Daughter; died when very young. Not listed in the 1880 census or on the list of the Nannestad Lutheran Cemetery members produced by the Romerike Lag in 1992.
- Hans Adolph, born 5 September 1877; baptized 7 October 1877; confirmed 1892. He died 23 January 1941, age 63, and was buried at Nannestad Lutheran cemetery. He attended Red Wing Seminary where he majored in music.

Johannes died 22 May 1912. Kari died 23 February 1924. Both are buried in Nannestad Lutheran cemetery, a Hauge Synod church organized in 1870 with the Rev. I. O. Rustad serving from 1870-1878. Nannestad was about a mile west of East Norway Lake church.

### SOURCES

- Boka om Land IV, Sandaker, Arvid, p. 191, 197
- East Norway Lake Lutheran 1875 - 1975
- First Lutheran Church of Norway Lake – 1862-1992
- History of the Aasen Family, Carl M. Aasen, 1972

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