

Halvor Gandrud and Kari Andersdatter, Charter Members of West Norway Lake Church

Halvor Evenson was born 4 Jan 1836 in Fla, Hallingdal, Norway to Even Halvorson and Ingeborg Andersdatter.

Halvor marries Kari Andersdatter 27 Oct 1860 in Fla. She was born 11 Nov 1839 to Anders Olsen Geilongeie 1801-? and Mari Aslesdatter 1815-?.

Halvor Evenson Geilongeie and Kari emigrated 23 Mar 1867 with son Anders born 23 Nov 1860. They joined Kari's sister Birgit, her husband Knud Pederson and their 2 children, Peder and Mari. They were also joined by Birgit and Kari's parents Anders Olson and Mari Aslesdatter and Knud's brother Gulbrand and his wife Marthe. The group traveled on the clipper ship Flora leaving Drammen May 3rd and arriving in Quebec June 11th.

Halvor and Kari's first recorded stop is in Spring Grove, Houston County in S.E. Minnesota. Their daughter Inger Maria was born there 16 Mar 1869. They move shortly after, by Dec 1870 they are living in Swift County. Their daughter Oline is baptized in the Norway Lake Church. According to Halvor's obituary the journey was made by prairie schooner.

Halvor and Kari had a total of 8 children, 6 baptized at Norway Lake.

1. Anders: born 23 Nov 1860, died 5 June 1941 Swift County, married Kristi Braaten, 3 children
2. Inger Maria: born 16 Mar 1869, died 25 Feb 1958 Swift County, married Ole Ellingboe, 6 children
3. Oline: born 20 Dec 1270, died 15 Dec 1961 Swift County, married Nils Thoreson, 1 child
4. Helene: born 1 June 1873, died 5 Feb 1963 Swift County, married S.A. Youngberg, 2 children
5. Olaus[Lewis] ; born 7 Jan 1876, died 31 Jan 1976 Benson, single
6. Edward: born 7 Jan 1876, died 16 Aug 1939, single
7. Kristine: born 12 Dec 1877, died 19 April 1966 Murdock, married Anders Nybakke, 5 children
8. Anna Malena[Regina] : born 6 April 1880, died 23 Mar 1978 Swift County, married Adolph Rudningen, 1 child

Halvor and Kari settled on 80 acres in Hayes Township. Section 10[SW1/4 and SE 1/4] of NE ¼. They later added 120 acres adjoining in Sec 11. 80 in NW ¼ and SW1/4 of NE ¼ and 40 in NW ¼ of SW1/4 for a total of 200 acres.

Halvor adopts the last name of Gandrud like his brother in law Knud Pederson for his land purchases, even though there are no records of him at the Gandrud farm. His obituary says he spent the 2 years prior to coming to America running a steamboat on Lake Kroderen. He was Evenson in the 1875, 1885 and 1895 census's and in the baptismal records of Norway Lake.

Halvor passed away 1 Oct 1918 of old age. He was 82 years old. He and Kari had been married for over 50 years. The funeral was at the West Norway lake church on Oct 5th and burial was in the Monson Lake cemetery. Kari passed away 15 Feb 1923. After services in the West Norway Lake church she was also buried in the Monson Lake cemetery. They were survived by all 8 of their children.

Halvor had written his will in 1904. He left all of his property "real, personal, or mixed of whatever kind or wherever" to his twin sons Lewis[Olaus] and Edward. They in turn had to give each of their siblings \$500.00. Kari retained a life estate and title was not to pass until her death.

Kari's sister Birgit and her husband Knud Pederson Gandrud were also charter members and have a separate biography.

Sources:

- Swift County Historical Society- obituaries and plat maps
- Norway Heritage
- Digitalarkivet- birth, marriage and emigration records
- Ancestry.com
- Ancestry public member trees

Written by Carole Heimdahl

Footnote: All of the children lived to advanced ages. Edward at 63 years was the first to pass away, his twin Olaus [Lewis] was the last at age 100.