

## Iver L. and Sigrid I. Gronseth, Charter Members of West Norway Lake Lutheran Church

Iver Larson Gronseth was born on May 29, 1836 on the Grønset farm, Hegra Parish, Trondhjem, Norway. His parents were Lars Rollaugen Bjornsgard (1795-1840) and Lisbet Gunnarsdatter Fornes (1804-1889). Iver had seven siblings: Ola who settled near Iver in Kerkhoven Township, Gunnar and Sigrid who settled in Jackson County, Minnesota, Rollaug who migrated to Goodhue County, Minnesota and Beret and Lisbet who remained in Norway. Iver with brothers Ola and Rollaug migrated to the United States arriving in Quebec in July, 1865. They likely traveled to Goodhue County where Iver married Anna Johannesdatter Holdmarkat Skatval in about 1867. Anna was born in 1844 in Holdsaunet, Hegra, Nord Trondelag, Norway. Iver and Anna moved to Kerkhoven Township in Swift County about 1871 where Anna gave birth to her first and only son, Ludvig I. Gronseth on May 14, 1872. On May 1, 1875, Anna, Iver and Ludvig are still living in Kerkhoven Township. Sometime after that date and before May 11, 1876, Anna died. No record has been found of her death or burial. Their son, Ludvig, married Inger J. Brekke, ran a grocery store in Minneapolis and died on September 28, 1937. They are buried in Sunset Memorial Park Cemetery in Minneapolis.

After Anna's death, Iver married Sigrid I Jorgenson on May 11, 1876. Sigrid was the daughter of Andreas A. Jorgenson (1825-1912) and Marit Andersdatter Jorgenson (1824-1903). Sigrid was born on March 1, 1856 in Stordalen, Hordaland, Norway. The Jorgenson family migrated to America about 1867 and in 1870 is found living in Kerkhoven Township, Swift County, Minnesota. Tragedy struck for Iver Gronseth on February 12, 1872 when Iver and his brother Ola who lived on an adjacent farm left home to gather wood in Section 4 of Norway Lake Township in Kandiyohi County. A storm came up and while Ola managed to get his brother home safely, Ola perished in the storm. Following her marriage to Iver in 1876, Iver and Sigrid had eleven children.

1. Anna Maria (1877-1931) married Peter A. Gandrud, and remained in the Sunburg area. They are buried at West Norway Lake Lutheran Cemetery.
2. Oline I. (1878-1920) married Even A. Gandrud and moved to North Dakota. They are buried in Coulee, North Dakota.
3. Johannes I. (1880-1971) married Caroline Rime. They farmed in the Sunburg area and are buried at West Norway Lake Cemetery.
4. Louise Bertine (1882-1920) married Christopher G. Gandrud, lived in the Sunburg area and they are buried at West Norway Lake.
5. Alma Sophia (1884-1974) married Carl D. Swenson and they remained in the area. Their gravesites are unknown at this writing.
6. Andrew I. (1886-1922) married Marie Caroline Anderson. They moved to Mountrail County, N. D. where Andrew died. He is buried at St. Luke's Lutheran Cemetery in Coulee, N. D. His widow married Andrew's brother Robert a number of years later.
7. Anna Radine (1887-1957) married Elling E. Swenson and remained in the community. Elling died in 1934 and Anna married Peter Flaten in 1953. Anna and Elling are buried at Spring Creek Lutheran Cemetery.
8. George Iver (1889-1978) married Alma Karine Rice. They farmed in Hays Township, Swift County, Minnesota and are buried at Spring Creek Lutheran.
9. Ida Serine (1891-1984) married Henry Hande and they farmed in Arctander Township, Kandiyohi County. Henry died in a farm accident in 1948. Henry and Ida are buried at East Norway Lake Cemetery.
10. Robert Iver (1893-1982) married his brother Andrew's widow Marie Caroline in about 1935 and they lived in Kerkhoven Township. Marie died in 1953. In about 1955 Robert married Marie H. Rose. Robert and his first wife Marie are buried at West Norway Lake.
11. Mabel Emily (1899-1972) married Arnold S. Ellendson and farmed in Kerkhoven Township. They are buried at West Norway Lake Lutheran Cemetery.

Iver Larson Gronseth died on December 27, 1901. His wife, Sigrid, died on October 21, 1941. They are both buried at the West Norway Lake Lutheran Cemetery near Sunburg where they were charter members.

Prepared by Marlin Henjum      Sources Consulted

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- Sowinski, Carolyn, Almost Saved, But Lost: The January 1873 Blizzard in Kandiyohi County, Minnesota, self-published
- U. S. Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Records, 1875-1940
- U. S. Federal Censuses, 1870-1940
- U. S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s to Current
- WWI and WWII Draft Registration Cards