

## **HALVOR & GURI HANDE, Charter Members of East Norway Lake Lutheran Church**

On June 22, 1869, the ship Valkyrien arrived at the port of Quebec, Canada. Debarking were Halvor Hande, his wife Guri, daughter Barbro and son Knudt. Also traveling with them was Halvor's elderly parents Halvor Pederson Torstad (1803-1875) and Barbro Nilsdatter Hoyne (1805-1882), his sisters Guri and Ingeborg and his brother Niels. They emigrated that same year from the Øvre Hande farm in the Slidre Parish, Vestre Slidre, Oppland, Norway where Halvor was born on February 23, 1838. It is also where he was married on July 29, 1866 to Guri Knutesdatter Hamre. Guri was born in Vestre Slidre on August 9, 1843, the daughter of Knut Reiersen Hamre (1797-1880) and Ingrid Pettersdatter Jarstad (1804-1884).

They arrived in the Norway Lake Settlement in the summer of 1869 and homesteaded in Section 13 of what is today Arctander Township. It is not surprising that Halvor's parents left Norway with them as eventually all of Halvor's siblings immigrated to America. Halvor's older brothers, Tosten and Peder immigrated to America arriving in Quebec on June 2, 1866. Both brothers settled in Minnesota, Tosten in Pine City and Peder in Holmes City where they are buried. Younger brother, Niels, joined Peder at Holmes City where he is buried. Two of Halvor's siblings, Guri (Mrs. Tosten Evenson) and Ole who married Dorothea Sondrol settled near Sunburg, Minnesota. On November 7, 1875, Halvor's father, Halvor Pederson Torstad Hande died. His mother, Barbro Nilsdatter Hoyne, was living with her son Ole when she died on December 23, 1882. Halvor and Barbro are buried at the East Norway Lake Lutheran Cemetery.

Halvor and Guri continued to live on the home place in Section 13. They raised a large family, many of whom remained in the community.

- Barbro married Jens Skaalrud and had twelve children. They are buried at First Lutheran of Norway Lake.
- Knute married Ida Railson, the daughter of Andrew and Berthe Railson. They settled near Belgrade, Minnesota and raised seven children and are buried in Stearns County.
- Son Halvor moved to Canada in his early thirties where he married Elisabeth Popp and raised four children at Marchwell, Saskatchewan where they are buried.
- Ingrid married Ole Skaalrud and raised nine children. They are buried at First Lutheran.
- Guri married Swen Swenson, the son of early pioneers Gunder and Gemina Swenson and had eight children and lived on Lake Mary in Arctander Township. The Swensons are buried at East Norway Lake Cemetery.
- Ingeborg married Simon Quamme and raised two children near Sunburg and is buried at Monson Lake Lutheran.
- Like a number of fellow Norway Lakers, Olaf moved out to North Dakota where he married Elizabeth Oakland. They had four children and lived the rest of their lives in Rhame, North Dakota.
- Daughter Maria married Martin Elvestrom and they had four children, one of whom died in infancy.
- Maria is buried in Bricelyn, Minnesota.
- Daughter Anne Marie was born in 1884 and appears to have remained single. She was living on the farm in 1920 but details of her life after that remain sketchy.
- Son Henry married Ida Gronseth and they had six children and are buried at East Norway Lake Cemetery. Their son, Russell, remained on the home farm his entire life.

The Hande homestead is now owned by his son, Norman, a great grandson of Halvor and Guri Hande. Halvor and Guri had one more child, Carolyn, in 1888 who died in infancy. Halvor died August 21, 1910. His wife, Guri, died August 29, 1912. Both are buried at the East Norway Lake Lutheran Cemetery where Halvor was a charter member.

Prepared by Marlin Henjum

Sources Consulted

US Federal Census

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