

Christian Hanson and Lisa Eriksdatter, Charter members East Norway lake Church

Christian Hanson was born 15 Feb 1831 in vestre Toten, Oppland , Norway to Hans Johansen and Gurline Pedersdatter. Hans grew up in Christiania {Oslo} and according to his obituary he served in Norway's 1st Infantry Regiment.

He emigrated to America in the early 1860's and, also according to his obituary, he spent 5 years working in Illinois prior to moving to Lake Andrew Township and homesteading. His homestead consisted of 157.7 acres in Section 12 [SW ¼]. Part of this bordered the eastern shore of Lake Andrew. He was awarded his land title 20 May 1873. The 1870 agricultural census lists Christian as having 12 acres improved, 8 woodlot and 140 unimproved. He also owned 2 milk cows, 2 oxen and 3 other cattle. The 1886 plat map shows an additional 40 acres in section 13 [NE ¼ of NW ¼].

Christian married Lisa Ericksdatter Sundin, a widow, in 1871.

Lisa was born on 30 April 1835 in Edsele, Angermanland [now Vasternorrland] Sweden to "kronobatsman Eric Qvar" and his wife {Qvar was the military name of Lisa's father Eric Persson}. Her mother was Brita Jonsdotter [1808-1868]. Lisa married Pehr Larsson Sundin 23 Mar 1862 in Edsele. The couple had 5 children: Anna Lisa 24 Dec 1862 and Erick Olof 20 June 1864 in Edsele and 3 children, twins Greta Johanna and Brita Gunnilla 2 Jan 1866 and Petronella Caroline 10 Dec 1867 in Ramsele, Angermanland. Pehr passed away there 1 Feb 1868 of a lung inflammation at the age of 35.

Lisa and the 5 children left Ramsele for America 12 Juli 1869, arriving in New York 19 Aug 1869 on the steamship Santiago de Cuba from Copenhagen. They traveled with friends who were heading to Minnesota. Lisa settled in St Paul. In 1870 her 4 youngest children died of diptheria there. Hearing of work in the Willmar area she moved there with Anna Lisa, the oldest and sole survivor. She met Christian soon after.

Christian and Lisa had 6 children:

1. Hannah: born 5 April 1871, died 20 Sept 1962, married Emil Thimell, 10 children
2. Albert: born 20 Oct 1872, died 15 Aug 1921 of tuberculosis, single
3. Hans: born 27 Oct 1874, died 17 Oct 1900, single
4. Gustaf: born 21 Oct 1877, died 20 Jan 1962, married Bessie J. Mattson, 9 children
5. Louis Christian: born 9 July 1878, died 31 July 1940 or 9 Jan 1948
6. Caroline: born 10 April 1882, died 19 Mar 1928, married Martin Warness ,8 children

Anna Lisa, Lisa's daughter from her first marriage, married Emil Hallberg and had 11 children. She died 24 July 1932.

Christian retired and sold his farm shortly after the 1900 census. He and Lisa moved to the town of New London and lived with their daughters Hannah and Caroline.

Christian died 6 Jan 1916 at the home of Caroline after a short illness. He was 85 years of age. He was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, New London after services at the Lutheran Free Church, Rev. Hanson officiating.

Christian had written his will 14 Sept 1915. Lisa was to inherit everything first and after her death everything remaining was to be divided equally among his living children.

Lisa died 4 Mar 1923 at the home of Hannah from senility and influenza after being bedridden for 2 years. Services were held at the Swedish Mission Church and burial was at Oak Hill Cemetery, New London. She was 87.

Written by Carole Heimdahl

Sources:

- Kandiyohi County Historical Society- obituaries and death certificates
- My heritage Swedish Household records
- Susan Stillwell-descendant who shared "Hannah's Heritage" written by Lisa's granddaughter June Thimell Hedberg
- Swedish Church records- Birth death and marriage records
- Evangelical Lutheran church records-births and baptisms
- Ancestry.com and Ancestry public members trees
- Swedish relative of Lisa's Nils Wadstrom

Footnote: I used 30 May 1835 as the birth date of Lisa as that is the date in the church record. All other records in Sweden said she was born 20 May 1835. Also, many records list her last name as Ersdatter