

Even H. and Anne Tostendatter Hollen , Charter members of West Norway Lake Lutheran Church.

An 1916 church history book¹ has:

Even H. Hollen, born in Balders. Married with Anna Tostenson, born in Balders. To Goodhue County 1866.

In fact, this book has 6 other Hollens, many of them children of Even H. (The district in Norway is Valdres, not Balders, indicating that translator mistook the Gothic script "V" for "B.")

An obituary² for Even E. Hollen of Swift County, born 1862, states that his parents are Even and Ann. Since Even Jr. is only 13 at charter time, it is clear that his parents are the charter members.

In the 1895 census³ of Kerkhoven Township, Swift county, it is seen that:

Even Hollen, 91, Anna Hollen, 74, Even E. Hollen, 32, and Minda Hollen, 27 share a household. In the 1910 census, Anne E. Hollen (age 89, immig 1866, mother of 7, all living) is still living and in the household of son Even E. Hollen.

Norwegian church records⁴ show that Even Sr. was baptised in Vang Parish, Oppland, on 26 December 1803. The parents were Helge Christoffersen Haaverstad and Sigrì Evensdatter. Similarly, Anne was born⁵ 25 November 1820 and baptised 17 December 1820 in the same parish. The parents were Tosten Pettersen Øviem and Ingri Jensdatter.

A search of Norway's 1865 census⁶ yields, on a farm named Høllen in Vang, Oppland:

Name	Family status	Marital status	Occupation	Birth year	Place of birth
Even Helgesen	Husfader	g	Husmand med Jord	1803	Vangs Prgj.
Anne Torsteinsdatter	hans Kone	g		1820	Vangs Prgj.
Sigrì Evensdatter	deres Datter	ug		1847	Vangs Prgj.
Anne Evensdatter	deres Datter	ug		1849	Vangs Prgj.
Kristofer Evensen	dere Søn	ug		1854	Vangs Prgj.
Ingri Evensdatter	deres Datter	ug		1859	Vangs Prgj.
Marit Torsteinsdatter	Inderste	ug		1824	Vangs Prgj.

A search of ship passenger lists⁷ yields these aboard the *Fredrik Petersen*, which sailed from Bergen on May 1, 1866, arriving in Quebec on June 2. Despite differences with the census in spelling and ages, they are clearly the same family. Also, the passenger list has two names, Thorsten and Even, which were oddly missing from the census. Note that the ship sailed from Bergen, showing that the family had crossed the "roof of Norway" from Oppland to emigrate.

75	Even Helgesen Haverstad	63	M
76	Anne Thorstensdtr.	43	F
77	Thorsten Evensen	18	M
78	Sigrid Evensdtr.	16	F
79	Anne Evensdtr.	14	F
80	Christopher Evensen	10	M
81	Inger Evensdtr.*	7	F
82	Even Evensen*	3	M

Notably, there are six children in the passenger, one less child less than stated in the 1910 census. No explanation for this is known.

In the 1870 census of Warsaw Township, Goodhue County, Minnesota there are Even Helgesen, age 67, Anna, 49, Christopher, 15, Even, 8, and Ida, 11. (Clearly, Ida is another spelling of Inger.) The three older children have moved on.

According to the Even E. Hollen obituary, the family moved from Goodhue County to Swift County (Kerkhoven Township) in 1871.

The Hollens are buried at West Lake Lutheran Church. Their grave markers⁸ show that Even H. Hollen died 12 April 1896 and Anne Hollen died 13 October 1915.

Report prepared by Earl Knutson, with help from the Swift County Historical Society.

1 *Festskrift - En Fremstilling at det Kirkelige Arbeide Norway Lake fra 1862-1916." Ved Pastorene Mons Sotendahl og N.J. Njus. Partial translation by Debbie Boe at [http://www.debbiesgenealogy.com/Norway Lake Lutheran Churches 1862-1916.htm](http://www.debbiesgenealogy.com/Norway_Lake_Lutheran_Churches_1862-1916.htm).*

2 *Kerkhoven Banner*, 9/21/1934, page 3. Thanks to the Swift County Historical Society for locating and providing this.

3 All US census records cited here were accessed via ancestry.com.

4 <https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/9394/40>

5 <https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/9397/37>

6 http://www.rhd.uit.no/folketellinger/folketellinger_e.aspx

7 [Www.norwayheritage.com](http://www.norwayheritage.com)

8 [Www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)