

Ingeborg Knutsdatter Storebraten and Lars Nelson –Charter Members, East Norway Lake Lutheran Church

Ingeborg Knutsdatter Storebratan, named for her maternal grandmother, was born March 25, 1844 on a farm called Storebratan, Sigdal, Buskerud, Norway. Her parents were Knud Olson Rustand (1805-1875) and Ragnhild Bjornsdaughter (1806-1878). Ingeborg was one of eight children, including four sisters named Marte, only the last of whom survived childhood to carry their paternal grandmother's name (The last Marte died age 26 in America). In 1865, at the age of 21, Ingeborg was a servant girl at a large and relatively wealthy Sigdal farm called Eken. According to the bygdebok Sigdal og Eggedal II, she came to America in 1871. On July 24, 1872 she was married to Lars Nelson by Reverend L.J. Markhus.

According to the church history, **First Lutheran Church of Norway Lake 1862-1992**, Ingeborg was a charter member of the Ladies Aid Society organized in 1887 at the newly built First Norway Lake Lutheran Church. She died October 1899. **Willmar Tribune Obituary**: "...passed to her eternal rest...at the home of O.A. Hedin in this village...The husband and five children were all present at the bedside...Death resulted from a surgical operation...on account of a tumorous growth...Deceased was 56 years of age..." She is buried in the cemetery at First Lutheran.

Lars Nilson Solien was born August 18, 1852, Eggedal, Buskerud, Norway on Haglebu Seter (according to a story published by Gabriel Stene) and grew up on the tiny mountain farm of Sollilia or Sollilien in Eggedal. His parents were Nils Thorson Sollilien and Helga Larsdatter Nordmansplassen. He emigrated with his family in 1861 when he was nine. They went to Cambridge, Wisconsin for three years, then to Winnishiek County, Iowa, where he was confirmed.

In July, 1867 they moved to Kandiyohi County, then Monongalia County, Minnesota. The trip, you might say, was eventful. The **80th Anniversary History of First Norway Lake Lutheran**, apparently prepared from oral testimony in 1942, recites: Nils Thorson Solien and wife, Helga, "... came to Lake Andrew in 1867. As Nils Thorson was sickly, he and his wife and baby, Ingeborg, came by train to St. Cloud. They hired a man to take them to Paynesville. From there they walked to Bjorn Reier's, where they had their home for some time. Nils was busy cutting logs in his timber lot south of Lake Florida while he waited for his brothers, Thor and Reier, and his son, **Lars**, to come with the oxen and a herd of cattle. Lars was then 15 years old. He walked barefooted most of the way. After six weeks they reached their destination. They found Nils on his deathbed. He died a few hours after their arrival. The logs he had prepared for buildings his brothers and his son took in rafts across the lake, and then hauled them by ox team to their respective homesteads."

Lars aka Louis, Lewis, Nilson, Nelson, Sollilien and Sollilia. To his grandchildren he was known as Teppa.

Death certificate: (MN Hist Society. #1938-MN-006634). Died at Rice Hospital on 3/30/1938 of uremia. He was a widowed farmer and had last worked February 1938. Buried: 4/3/1938. Born: Norway 7/18/1852 to Nels Thorson. Married Engborg Knutson. Informant: Nellie Railson.

Ingeborg and Lars had somewhere between five and seven children; five survived to adulthood:

1. Nellie Helene, born January 20, 1874, died October 12, 1954. According to church records and the First Lutheran history: Nelje H. Solelie was baptized 3/1/1874. The 1875 census records Nelsina. She married Oluf Railson 6/18/1894.
2. Martha Randine, born November 26, 1875, died December 29, 1954. Marthe R. Solelien was baptized at First Lutheran on 12/19/1875. Her obituary states that, "she attended Willmar high school and was organist at First Lutheran. **Two sisters died in infancy.** Burial...First Lutheran..."
3. Knute Henry, born August 28, 1878, died February 10, 1943. Knud H. Sollelien was baptized First Lutheran 10/6/1878. Knud married Ida Sjodin – a Swede – 1903.
4. Maria Caroline, born 1882, died 1947. Karoline M. Sallelie was baptized at First Lutheran on 7/23/1882. She married Martin Lundberg 12/9/1911.
5. Ida Louise, born November 10, 1888, died June 14, 1967. Ida L. Nilsen was baptized at First Lutheran 12/9/1888. She married George Hovey.

Additional sources: Sigdalslag 2005; Census 1865; Draft manuscript "Our Sigdal Families: The Hektoa, Skatvedt and Knutson Families" by Earl O. Knutson and Colleen M. Cameron.

Submitted by John Hanson, Spicer, MN; great-great grandson of Ingeborg and Lars.