

Thore Thoresen Ogdahl and Astri Olsdatter, Charter Members of West Norway Lake Lutheran Church

Tore Toresen Oktedalen was born 9 October 1841 on Oktedalen in Nore, Buskerud, Norway to Tore Olsen Sevle and Gunhild Nilsdatter Oktedalen, the youngest of eight children. He was baptized 19 December 1841 and confirmed 28 June 1857, age 14. Tore was the only member of his immediate family to emigrate.

Astri Olsdatter was born 22 February 1850 on Skare-eie in Eggedal, Buskerud, Norway to Ole Eriksen Skare and Astri Gundersdatter. She was baptized 3 March and confirmed 2 October 1864, age 15. It is not known when Astri emigrated but it is known that her sister, Sigrid, emigrated to America in 1859 at age 16. The remainder of the Ole Eriksen family which included Ole's wife Astri and six of their children emigrated later in 1868. Our Astri was not included with the family group.

Thore Thoresen Oktedalen was located on the Nore Parish udflyttede or exit list for 28 May 1868 bound for America. He lived at first in America near Byron, Olmstead County, Minnesota where he married Astrid Olsdatter on 7 September 1868 at St. Olaf Lutheran Church. Their son, Theodore, was born on 6 December 1868 and son Ole was born 30 November 1870. Both were baptized at St Olaf Lutheran Church in Byron.

The family moved by covered wagon pulled by oxen to Kandiyohi County after several years in Byron. They settled in Section 4 of Norway Lake Township, Kandiyohi County, Minnesota, eventually farming 200 acres by 1886. Astri's parents lived nearby as well as Thore's nephew, Thore Levorsen Stavn, who was Thore's older sister's son. The original part of the house that Thore and Astri built had walls made of basswood logs 12 inches thick. The house stands today.

The 1875 State Census for Norway Lake Township, Kandiyohi County, Minnesota listed Thore T Thoresen, age 33, wife Astrid, age 25, sons Theodore, age 6, and Ole, age 4, and daughter Gunhild, age 2, parents born in Norway and children born in Minnesota. This is the first time they were noted on a census.

Thore and Astri were parents of eleven children: **Theodore** (1868-1957), **Ole** (1870-1951), **Gunhild** (1873-1959), **Edward** (1875-1918), **Nils** (1877-1961), **Gilbert** (1880-1968), **Anton** (1882-1934), **Tosten** (Thomas 1884-1964), **Lovise** (1887-1964), **Tinius** (1889-1923) and **Berthine** (1891-1926). Ole and Edward opted to use the Thoresen surname but all the others adopted the farm name which was shortened to Ogdahl.

Anyone who has visited Glenwood, MN no doubt would have seen a building with the name "Ogdahl" visible near the roof. The Ogdahl building, located on the corner of 1st Street and 1st Avenue Southeast, was once the site of a mill purchased by Wallace Ogdahl, son of Theodore and grandson of Thore, in 1936 where he operated a hatchery business. The original building was demolished in 1976 when the present brick building was constructed. It is now a combination of offices and apartments.

Thore and Astri left their farm in Norway Lake in about 1912 to move to Brooten, Minnesota where they lived out their lives. Astri died soon after the move on 18 November 1913, age 63. Thore died in Brooten on the 7th of May 1929, age 88. Both were buried in Our Savior's Lutheran Church Cemetery in Brooten.

Sources:

- Nore, Buskerud County, Norway Church Records
- Eggedal, Buskerud County, Norway Church Records
- St Olaf Lutheran Church Records, Olmstead County, MN
- Norway Lake Lutheran Church Records, Kandiyohi County, MN
- Ogdahl Family Book, author Joanne Salter
- State and Federal Censuses

Report submitted by Donna Kukenkamp. Thore Ogdahl is her great, great uncle.