

Rasmus Olson and Kari Enersdatter, Charter members West Norway Lake Church

Rasmus Olson was born 24 May 1845 in Hitra Parish, Søndre Trondhjems amt, [now Sor-Trondelag] Norway to Ole Rasmussen Stalen and Caroline Knudsdatter.

Rasmus and 2 friends signed out of Hitra parish 22 April 1868 for America, he as Rasmus Olson Stalen. He sailed on the ship Frigate Bird, leaving Bergen May 11th and arriving in Quebec June 23rd.

After a short stay in the Red Wing area Rasmus settled in Goodhue County. He married Sonneve Torbjørnsdatter there. Sonneve was born 18 Aug 1840 to Thorbjørn Olsen and Agathe Larsdatter Vangestad in Sogndal parish, Sogn og Fjordane, Norway. She signed out of this parish for America on 20 April 1861 as Syneve Torbjørnsdatter Vangestad.

Rasmus and Sonneve moved to Norway lake in 1871 or 1872. Rasmus homesteaded 137.8 acres in Norway lake Township in Sec 18, 19 April 1872 [NW½ of NW¼ and Lot 2 in NE ¼. He eventually purchased 120 adjoining acres in Sec 7 from the railroad [SE¼ of NW¼ and S½ of NE¼]. He received his certificate of title for his homesteaded land 30 Mar 1880.

Rasmus and Sonneve's son Ole was born 18 Mai 1873 and was baptized at the Norway Lake church. Sonneve died 23 Juli 1876 at the age of 36 years and was buried in the West Norway Lake cemetery.

Rasmus married Kari Enersdatter 11 Dec 1877. Kari was born 8 Oct 1848 in Nore Parish, Nore local parish, Buskerud, Norway. Her parents are Ener Olson and Mari Knudsdatter. Kari, her father Ener and younger sister Kristi sign out of Nore Parish for America 5 Oct 1871.

Rasmus and Kari have 4 children. All baptized at West Norway Lake.

1. Ole: born 18 Mar 1879, died 15 Dec 1967, married Alma Christine Torgerson, 12 children
2. Sam: born 8 April 1881, died 8 April 1956, single
3. Karl/Carl: born 21 Sept 1883, died 1907, single
4. Christine: born 26 Oct 1885, died 20 Sept 1909, married Oscar John Hamre, 1 child

Kari passed away 4 Mar 1887, age 38, and was buried in the West Norway lake cemetery.

Rasmus marries Johanna Hansdatter 19 June 1889. Johanna was born 2 June 1860 to Hans Johnsen and Ane Nielsdatter in Hemne, søndre Trondhjems amt [now Sor-Trondelag]. They have 3 daughters.

1. Clara: born 5 Oct 1889, died 6 Juli 1963, married Martin Nelson, no children
2. Anna: born 16 Dec 1894, died 3 Feb 1978, married Johannes Teigland, 2 children
3. Ida Randine: born 17 Sept 1896, died 16 Sept 1982, single

In March 1915 Rasmus sold most of his land to his 3 remaining sons, Ole Olson, 80 acres., Ole Rasmussen 57.8 acres and Sam Olson 80 acres. He retained 40 acres and the homestead until 1919. He then sold this and moved into Willmar shortly before the death of Johanna 5 Dec 1919. Johanna was buried in the West Norway Lake Cemetery after services at the church. Rasmus died 10 Sept 1931, age 86 and, after services at Vinje Church in Willmar, was buried in the West Norway Lake Cemetery.

Written by Carole Heimdahl, January 2020

Sources:

- Digitalarkivet- birth and emigration records
- Family Search- birth records
- Kandiyohi County Historical Association- obituary of Rasmus
- Ancestry.Com
- Evangelical Lutheran Church records- births, marriages, deaths
- Wikipedia
- Norway Heritage – Passenger list for Rasmus
- Festskrift
- 1905 Illustrated History of Kandiyohi County
- Newspapers.com

Footnotes:

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1. Rasmus and Karen's son Ole followed in the Norwegian naming tradition and adopted the last name Rasmusson, possibly to differentiate from his older brother Ole Olson.
2. Christine passed away a week after the birth of her daughter Christine possibly from complications of childbirth. Her monument in the West Norway Lake Cemetery lists her name as Crestine.
3. The 1880 and the 1885 censuses both list children by the name of Emma Olson as members of the family. I have been unable to find any connection to Rasmus, Sonneve or Kari.