

Hans Ostenson and Eli Johnsdatter, Charter members East Norway lake Lutheran

Hans Ostenson was born 22 Oct 1819 to Osten Nielsen [1782-1860] and Siri Johnsdatter [1792-?] in Ringebu Parish, Oppland Norway.

Hans married Eli Johnsdatter on 28 Dec 1842 in Ringebu Parish, Oppland, Norway. She was born 20 Dec 1815 to John Mortenson.Hjelle and Ane Olsdatter.

Hans and Eli were living in Stor-Elvedal, Amot local Parish when they signed out 27 May 1867 for America. Records in Norway Heritage show they departed Christiania [Oslo] on the S.S. Argo [1] on 5 July 1867. After a stop in Christiansand the ship proceeded to Hull where they disembarked. [The Argo and its sister ship the S.S. Oder made weekly trips on this route.] They would travel by train to Liverpool where they would board another boat for the rest of the journey. They boarded the S.S Antwerp in Liverpool on 22 July 1867 for New York. Hans occupation was listed as farmer. They also were listed as Swedish! The S.S. Antwerp's maiden voyage had been 20 Feb 1867.

By the time Hans and Eli emigrated they were 48 and 52 respectively and childless. They may have made the trip to join Eli's younger sister Ronnaug, the wife of Amund Syverson, and her family in Kandiyohi County. Han's brother Nils followed with his family in 1869.

Hans settled on 80 acres in Arctander Township section 35 [N1/2 of SW1/4]. The 1870 agricultural census states he has 12 improved acres, 68 unimproved and 2 woodlot.

The 1900 census shows they are still living on the farm, but the 1900 Plat Map shows the land is now owned by their nephew Hakon Nelson, the son of Nils.

Hans dies 1 Jan 1901 at the age of 81. His funeral was 5 Jan 1901 at East Norway Lake according to church records.

Eli is living with her nephew Simon A. Syverson at the time of her death 6 Feb 1908 at the age on 92. Funeral services were held at East Norway Lake 13 Feb 1908, Rev M.A. Sotendahl presiding, with burial following in East Norway lake Cemetery.

Hans's brother Nils Ostenson is also a charter member of East Norway Lake as are Eli's sister Ronnaug and her husband Amund Syverson and their son Simon A Syverson. Each has a separate biography.

Sources:

- Norway Heritage
- DigitalArkviet- Stor-Elvedal and Ringebu Parishes
- My Heritage Family Trees
- Willmar Tribune
- Ancestry.com
- Evangelical Lutheran Church records

Written by Carole Heimdahl

Footnote: There are 2 other dates of death for Hans. Minnesota Death cards in Ancestry say 29 Dec 1900 and his cemetery monument says 1903.