

## Thor and Kari Paaverud, Charter members of the West Norway Lake Lutheran Church

A 1916 church history book<sup>1</sup> has this statement: *Thor. F. Paaverud, from Hallingdal. Married with Kari Haagensdatter, from Hallingdal. Came to Coon Valley, Wisconsin 1850; to Norway Lake 1866.* (We learn later on that the "F" should be "E" after Thor's father Even. Mistakes happen when transcribing Gothic to modern font.)

The dates on their tombstone<sup>2</sup> at the West Norway Lake Church cemetery are: Thor Paaverud, 1826-1909; Kari Paaverud, 1818-1896. Confirming this, a baptism record<sup>3</sup> shows that Thor was born in Hallingdal on May 5, 1826. His parents' names were Even and Ann and the baptism took place in the Nes Parish. The baptism record for Kari could not be found in the hard-to-read handwritten records.

The records of Nes Parish also show<sup>4</sup> that "Thore Evensen Paaverud" age 24 left that parish on May 3, 1850. An emigrant ship passenger list<sup>5</sup> shows Thor Paaverud onboard the *Drafna*, which sailed from Drammen on May 22, 1850 and arrived in New York on July 31.

Listed directly after Thor in both the Nes exit record and the passenger list is "Kari Haakensdatter/Haagensdatter" age 25. It is tempting to think that these two eventually married, but this cannot be so as this Kari was apparently born 7 years after the date shown on the tombstone.

Information assembled by descendants<sup>6</sup> is that Thor's wife Kari came from the Lofoten Islands of Norway and that they were married about 1854 in Wisconsin. This information also lists three children:

1. Even Thorson Paavrud, born February 1854 in Wisconsin
2. Peder Thorson Paavrud, born February 28, 1858 in Rice County Wisconsin
3. Truls Thorson Paaverud (also known as Poverud) was born December 1859 in Norway Lake [Township] Kandiyohi [County] Minnesota

Regarding Peder, there may be an error since there is a Rice County in Minnesota, but not in Wisconsin. Likewise regarding Truls, there is a baptism record for him (birth date, Dec 23, 1859; baptism date, Jan 8, 1860), in a log book<sup>7</sup> of a pastor serving in Rice and Goodhue Counties, Minnesota. This is strong evidence that the family lived in SE Minnesota as of that time.

Thor Evenson (Paaverud) is listed as a homesteader<sup>8</sup> in Section 32 of Norway Lake Township, with a date of July 2, 1868. It is not known if this is the date when the homestead filing was "proved up" or when it was filed.

The 1880 US census shows Thor, age 54, and Kari, 60, living in Norway Lake [Township], Kandiyohi County. Also in the household is their son Truls, age 21, born in Minnesota. In the 1900 US census, Thor E. Paaverud is in residence at his son Truls' household in Arctander Township, Kandiyohi County. Also in the house is Truls' wife and 8 children.

In 1875, Thor Paaverud donated<sup>9</sup> 1 acre in the NW corner of his farm as the building site for the West Norway Lake Lutheran Church.

Summary prepared by Earl O. Knutson, references shown below.

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- 1 "Festskrift - En Fremstilling at det Kirkelige Arbeide Norway Lake fra 1862-1916." Ved Pastorerne 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 Viewed at [www.findagrave.org](http://www.findagrave.org)
  - 3 Nes Parish Birth/Baptism records for 1826, item number 147; viewed at <https://media.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/3053/19579/1>
  - 4 Nes Parish Utflyttede records for 1850, item number 46; viewed at <https://media.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/1110/7100/1>
  - 5 [http://www.norwayheritage.com/p\\_list.asp?jo=464](http://www.norwayheritage.com/p_list.asp?jo=464)
  - 6 *Descendants of Thor Evenson Paaverud* Initial document developed by Carol Peterson, Notes by Ken Poverud.
  - 7 From the list of list of baptisms at the Urland, Valley Grove, Gol Lutheran churches. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Birth, Baptism and Confirmation Records 1850-1940. Viewed at [Archives.com](http://Archives.com)
  - 8 *Illustrated History of Kandiyohi County 1905*, page 343. Viewed at <http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/ref/collection/p15160coll5/id/944>
  - 9 *Illustrated History of Kandiyohi County, 1905*, page 341.