

## **Tosten Olson Quamme and Marit Tostendatter Sondrol, Charter Members West Norway Lake Lutheran**

Tosten Olson was born 19 June 1841 in Vang Parish, Valdres Norway to Ole Christopherson Qvale [1809-1903] and Kjersti Simonsdatter [1812-1864]. He had one sister Marit born in 1836.

Tosten emigrated in 1864. He first settled in Rice County. In 1867 he was one of a group of Valdres Norwegians who settled in "Valdres Prairie" now known as Kerkhoven Township in the north east corner of Swift County.

Tosten married Marit Tostendatter<sup>1</sup> in 1867. She was the daughter of Tosten Knudsen and Marith Olsdatter. She was born 1 April 1845 in Vang, Valdres Norway. The farm name was Sondrohl. Marit emigrated 12 April 1865 as Marit Tostendatter Sondrol. She may have come to marry Tosten.

Tosten and Marit settled on 160 acres in Section 26 [NE ¼]. They also owned acreage in Section 23. 80 acres in N1/2 of SE 1/4, 40 acres in NE 1/4 of SW1/4 and 40 in SE 1/4 of NW 1/4. I could not find the homestead records for any of the properties. Tosten and Marit remained on this land until their deaths.

Tosten and Marit had 10 children, 9 of whom survived to adulthood. All the children were born after the move to Kerkhoven Township and all were baptized at West Norway Lake Lutheran.

1. Kristi: born 2 Mar 1869, died 26 Oct 1943, married Even Olson Grindheim
2. Marit: born 12 June 1870, died 7 June 1905, married Andrew Jorgenson
3. Tosten T: born 19 May 1872, died 29 May 1922 ,married Ingeborg [Belle] Hanson
4. Anne L: born 12 Dec 1873, died 1 Nov 1939, married Nuffen Torger "Gunuf" Gunufson
5. Dina: born 20 Aug 1875, died 09 Mar 1876
6. Ole T: born 15 June 1877, died 1907-1910, married Julia Njos
7. Martin: born 16 Mar 1879, died 07 June 1939, married Emma Johanna Paulson
8. Simon: born 22 Aug 1881, died 18 Dec 1955, married Ingeborg Halvorsdatter Hande
9. Dina, born 24 Dec 1883, died 26 Dec 1957, married Alfred Berg
10. Matthea: born 7 Dec 1888, died 5 Feb 1949, married Peter LeClair

In 1876 a school was established in the north east corner of Section 26. It was known as Quamme School.

Tosten and Marit are in the 1875 census as Olsens but by the 1880 census they are using Quamme. He adopted this name from the farm in Norway, Kvamme Gard where he last worked.

Tosten passed away 16 May 1899 at the age of 57. The cause of death was stomach trouble lasting several years. Funeral services were held at West Norway Lake Lutheran, Rev Jordahl officiating. He was buried in the Monson Lake Cemetery. Marit passed away 2 May 1903 and was also buried at Monson Lake Cemetery, again after services at West Norway Lake Lutheran.

According to the 1907 plat map after Marit's death Simon and Martin each inherited 80 acres in Section 26. Tosten received 40 acres contiguous to land he owned in Section 23.

Tosten's sister Marit Olsdatter Ellingboe was also a charter member of West Norway Lake Lutheran.

### Sources:

- Swift County Historical Association
- Evangelical Lutheran Church Records
- Ancestry.com
- Public member trees on Ancestry
- Family Search

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1 Detective work was required for Marit. There were two Marit Tostensdatters of nearly the same age and place of birth. The ELCA funeral entry has a birth date matching neither of the two. Ultimately, it was the orderly old Norwegian convention for naming children that favored the Marit listed above.