

Endre Johannessen and Brita Jensdatter Roisum, charter members of East Norway Lake Lutheran Church

Endre Johannessen Roisum was born on the Roisum farm, Leikanger Parish, Sogn og Fjordane, Norway on January 12, 1845. His parents were Johannes Johannessen and Johanne Njøs. In 1866, Endre left for America arriving in Fillmore County, Minnesota. He married Brita F. Jensdatter after arriving. Brita was born February 2, 1839 in Norway.

On September 16, 1876, Endre and his brother, Johannes applied for land patents at the Litchfield Land Office for land in Arctander Township, Kandiyohi County which likely means that they had arrived in the township by 1871.

The 1875 census finds Endre and Brita living in Section 21 of Arctander Township with four children.

1. Their first child, Davine Endresdatter Roisum was born in 1868. She died on July 14, 1875. Her funeral was held July 16 ten days after that of her younger sister Johanne.
2. A son, Johannes Endreson was born in January, 1870.
3. Their third child, Margrete, was born January 20, 1872 and died November 9, 1879. She was buried at East Norway Lake Lutheran on November 15, 1879.
4. Daughter Johanne Endresdatter was born in 1874 and died July 3, 1875 and was buried July 6, 1875.

Davine and Johanne may have been buried at the log church cemetery or are among the "unknown" graves at East Norway Lake Cemetery.

The Roisums had four additional children only one of whom survived to adulthood.

1. David Johann was born April 1, 1876 and baptized at East Norway Lake Lutheran on May 14.
2. Margrete Josephine was born January 12, 1880 and baptized at East Norway on February 29. She died In June of 1883 and is buried at East Norway Lake Lutheran. Buried with Margrete on the same day was her brother Henry who died on June 13, 1883.
3. Henry was born on May 20, 1882 and baptized at East Norway on June 18. He died on June 13, 1883 and was buried July 1, 1883. The graves for Margrete and Henry are likely among the "unknowns" at East Norway.
4. Endre and Brita had one more child born May 11, 1885 whom they named Henry in honor of their recently deceased son, a common practice of the day. He was baptized at East Norway Lake on June 7, 1885. Henry likely died young as no further evidence of his life has been found.

Most pioneer settlers suffered the loss of children, however, the Roisums likely received more than their share when only two of eight children survived. Endre and Brita farmed in Sections 19, 20 and 29 of Arctander all of their lives. Brita died on September 29, 1905 and Endre died January 28, 1907. They are both buried at West Lake Lutheran Cemetery.

One of the surviving children was Johannes E. "John" Roisum (1870-1937) who married Gemina Julia Negaard (1871-1964). They had ten children all of whom survived and remained in the community: Mabel (Cornell Hagen), Elmer (Agnes Skindelién), Belinda (Ottis Hjelle), Alvina (Swen Swenson), Dinah (Carl Dickson), Ruth (Art Tengwall), Elsie (Clarence M. Skindelién), Ottine (Andrew Knutson), Henry (May Fosager), and George who never married but as this writer as a young boy recalls could really play the accordion!

The other surviving son was David Johann (1876-1951) who married Karen Hornseth (1877-1977) in Minneapolis in 1902. They had five children: Edward (Sophie Linman), Clarence, Edwin, Berglot, and Darwin (Gladys Shuck).

Prepared by Marlin Henjum

Sources Consulted

- U. S. Census Federal Census, Minnesota Territorial and State Census
- U. S., Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Records, 1875-1940
- U. S., Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records
- Minnesota Death Index 1908-2002
- U. S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current
- *West Lake Lutheran Church Centennial 1903-2003*
- *Keeping the Faith...Sharing the Faith, 1862-1992 First Lutheran Church of Norway Lake, 1992*