

Erick Erickson and Kari Andersdatter Rood, Charter Members of East Norway Lake Lutheran Church

Erick Erickson Rood was born July 13, 1827 in Nes (Hallingdal), Buskerud, Norway. His parents were Erick Thorson Myhre (1792-1868) and Gunille Thoresdatter (1792-1870). Erick had six siblings, one of which died in infancy and is buried in Hallingdal. The rest of the family, including his parents, all migrated at different times to Rock County, Wisconsin around 1850. Erick's brother, Ole, likely was the first to arrive. He volunteered for Civil War duty under Col. Hegg, rose to the rank of Corporal and died of war-related disease at age thirty-three and is buried in Nashville, Tennessee. At some point, Erick Erickson was married to Karie Andersdatter, born July 13, 1829, and they had two children while living in Rock County, Wisconsin. They moved to Rice County, Minnesota where two more children were born and then to Kenyon in Goodhue County, Minnesota where another child was born. According to Festschrift, Erick and Karie first appeared at Norway Lake in 1865 where the rest of the children were born. In all they had nine children:

1. Gunhild (1853-1950) married Ole Skinness, lived in Hays Township, Swift County and they are buried at West Norway Lake Lutheran Cemetery.
2. Erik Erikson Rood (1855-1895) married Gunhild Oleson, lived in Arctander Township and they are buried at East Norway Lake Lutheran Cemetery.
3. Elizabeth M. Rood (1858-1945) married Peder Lien and lived in Arctander Township. They are buried at East Norway Lake Cemetery.
4. Randi M. Rood (1862-1942) married Swan Mattson and lived in Kerkhoven, Swift County, Minnesota where Randi died in 1942. Burial sites have not been determined.
5. Anne O. Rood (1865-1911) married Ole O. Stai and lived in Arctander Township. They are buried at East Norway Lake Lutheran Cemetery.
6. Andrew Erick Rood (1867-1908) married Marie Huse and lived in Arctander Township. They are buried at East Norway Lake Lutheran Cemetery.
7. Even E. Rood (1869-1915) married Gunhild Arneson and lived in Arctander Township. Even is buried at East Norway Lake Cemetery. Gunhild remarried Oluf Johnson and may be buried with him at Hillside Cemetery in Kerkhoven, Minnesota.
8. Thomas E. Rood (1870-1963) married Emma K. Sathre and lived in Arctander. They are buried at East Norway Lake Lutheran Cemetery.
9. Carl Edward Rood (1872-1961) married Thora Thorsrud and lived in Arctander. They are buried at East Norway Lake Cemetery.

All of Erick and Kari's children remained close to home and have deep roots in the Norway Lake community to this day. One family member has stated that the first school in Arctander was held at the Rood cabin in 1870. Erick was a trustee of the church when it was decided to divide the congregation into East Norway and West Norway Lake Lutheran. His signature appears on the "Articles of Incorporation of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church." Erick Erickson Rood died on April 4, 1885. His wife, Kari, died May 17, 1898. They are both buried at East Norway Lake Lutheran Cemetery.

Prepared by Marlin Henjum

Sources Consulted

- Ancestry.com
- Minnesota Territorial and State Censuses, 1849-1905
- Norway, Select Baptisms, 1634-1927
- Norway, Select Marriages, 1660-1926
- Sotendahl, Revs. Mons and N. J. Njus, Festschrift, An Anniversary history of the Norway Lake Churches 1862-1916, translated by Edna Rude and courtesy of Peter G. Gandrud
- U. S. Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Records, 1875-1940
- U. S. Federal Censuses, 1870-1940
- U. S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s to Current
- U. S., General Land Office Records, 1776-2015