

Thorsten N. Rosby and Ingeborg Emelia Kristensdatter, Charter members East Norway Lake

Tosten Narvesen was born 9 June 1831 in Norderhov, Buskerud, Norway. His parents were Narve Christopherson Gaardhamer and Anne Olsdatter.

He signed out of Norderhov Parish, Buskerud, Norway 21 April 1856, destination America. He signed out as Tosten Narvesen Gaardhamer. His sister Ingeborg Narvesdatter Hjelmerud, born 1 Dec 1827, traveled with him. They joined their older brother Ola Narvesen, who emigrated in 1854, in Calmar, Winneshiek, Iowa. This journey would have been by sailing ship in 1856 and would have taken 3 months to reach Quebec before traveling on to Iowa.

Tosten married Karen Halgrimsdatter 1 Jan 1858. She was born 7 Jan 1838 and was the oldest daughter of Halgrim Johnsen Gordhamer and Mari Olsdatter. Halgrim, Mari and family had signed out of Norderhov Parish two days prior to Tosten and Ingeborg. They may have traveled together to Calmar.

Tosten and Karen had 7 children while living in Calmar, Winneshiek, Iowa, 5 survived.

1. Anne Marie: born 25 April 1858, died 15 May 1951, married Ole H/Charles Negaard, 4 children
2. Norvald: born 10 Feb 1860, died 18 Feb 1893, married Inger Syverson, 3 children
3. Hans Olaus: born 1 Nov 1861, died 4 Aug 1927, single
4. Ola: born 25 Dec 1863, died 1864
5. Ola: born 10 Nov 1865, died 11 Aug 1867
6. Olave Matthea: born 10 Sept 1867, died after 1940, married S.N. Wold
7. Martha: born 1871, died 1892, single

Tosten adds Rosby to his name in the 1860's in Iowa. Also, both Tosten and Thorsten are used.

The 1870 census places them in Calmar, Winneshiek County Iowa where he is employed as a clerk in a retail store. In the early 1870's they follow Karen's parents and siblings to Arctander Township in Kandiyohi County, Minnesota. Karen dies 14 Dec 1872 and is buried in the East Norway Lake cemetery.

Tosten marries Ingeborg Emelie Torgerson, born Kristensdatter, the widow of Petter Uldrik Torgerson. She has 2 daughters from this marriage.

- Maria: born 18 July 1866, died 1 May 1919, married Matthew Larson, 1 child
- Kristine Sophie: born 1 Jan 1868, died 1934, married ? Ridgeway

The 1870 census places her in Dovre Township and farming as Emily Torgerson. They live for a time in Arctander and later are back in Dovre. Tosten is farming.

Tosten and Ingeborg Emelie have 2 more children:

8. Petra Nilla Caroline: born 5 May 1874, died before 1880
9. Clara Theolins: born 23 Mar 1876, unknown, married Fred Bjork, 2 children

Tosten and his wife Ingeborg Emelie moved to Beltrami County in 1895. Hans Olaus, Marie, Christine and Clara and her husband Fred move with them. The families homestead or purchase land in Township 146, Range 33, Sections 15,21,22 and 23. Hans Olaus purchased 154 acres, Thorsten 60. Thorsten, Maria, Christine, Clara and Fred homestead. Thorsten, Marie and Christine each homesteaded 160 acres. Clara and Fred homestead 80.

Thorsten is appointed Probate Judge of Beltrami County in the spring of 1897. He died unexpectedly 8 Feb 1898 at his home in Bemidji from pneumonia after a short illness. Services were held at his home and then later at East Norway Lake before burial in the East Norway Lake Cemetery with his first wife Karen. He was 66 years of age.

His wife was awarded his homestead land after his death as Emelia Rosby. She remained in Beltrami County residing first with daughter Maria and husband Matthew Larson and then daughter Christine Ridgeway. She died 3 Nov 1922 and is buried in Calvary Cemetery in Bemidji as Emelia Rosby.

Written by Carole Heimdahl

Sources:

- Digitalarkviet- Norderhov parish
- Family Search
- Federal census's
- Evangelical Lutheran Church records
- Ancestry. Com
- Kandiyohi County Historical Association obituaries
- Ancestry public member trees