

## **Henrik Sagadalen<sup>1</sup> and Kari Steengrimsdatter, Charter Members of West Norway Lake Lutheran Church**

Henrik Hanson Sagadalen was born 16 Feb 1841 in Fla, Hallingdal, Buskerud, Norway to Hans Christopherson Sagadalen (19 April 1811- 24 Sept 1887) and Ingeborg Tostensdatter Roen-Eoie (1815-1887). Henrik was the second of 8 children, four of whom were born in Norway and four in America. The family left Nes, Hallingdal, Norway 21 April 1852. Their first destination being Drammen.

In March 1853 the family was living in the Rock Prairie settlement near Orfordville in what is now Rock County, Wisconsin. His two sisters, Bergith and Kari were baptized there in the Luther Valley Church. By 1857, they were living on a farm in Wheeling Township in Rice County, Minnesota.

Henrik enlisted as Henry Hanson in the Union Army 16 Nov 1863. He was in the 2<sup>nd</sup> regiment, Minnesota Cavalry Company A. His rank was Private. He served in both the Civil and Indian Wars, including an expedition into Dakota territory in 1864. He was discharged with his company 2 April 1866.

Henry married Kari Steengrimsdatter in Northfield, Rice County on 12 Aug 1866. Kari was born 20 Oct 1844 in Nes, Hallingdal, Norway to Steengrim Helgeson, born 1814 and Anne Pedersdatter, born 1816. Kari was the eldest of 3 children. The family emigrated in 1860. Kari was confirmed 4 Dec 1862 at Holden Lutheran Church in Goodhue County.

Henry and Kari moved shortly after their marriage to Valdres Prairie, a Norwegian settlement in the SE corner of Swift County. It is now known as Kerkhoven Township. Henry's parents and siblings also moved and settled nearby.

Henry homesteaded 160 acres in Section 24 [SW 1/4<sup>th</sup>] and was awarded his land 20 May 1873 as Henry Hanson.

Henry and Kari had no children of their own. There are records of them adopting two boys. The 1880 census lists a Gilbert Hanson, 6 years, as adopted but the 1885 census calls him Gilbert Larson. After the death of Henry's brother Gulbrand Sagadalen in 1890 they adopt his son Hans who was about 3 years old.

Henry and Kari rented out their farm in 1908 and moved to the town of Kerkhoven. Henry died 3 Jan 1915 from heart trouble and other complications. Civil War pension records state he suffered "valvular insufficiency of the heart". Kari passed away a little over a year later on 27 Feb 1916 from complications of old age. Henry was almost 75 and Kari was 71 years old when they died. Services for both were held at Kerkhoven Lutheran Church with burial in Hillside Cemetery.

Even though Henry is listed as Henrik Sagadalen as a charter member most other records show him as Henry Hanson.

### Sources

- Vesterheim Museum
- Civil War data base
- Digitalarkivet
- Ancestry.com
- Swift County Historical Association
- Ancestry public member trees
- Evangelical Lutheran Church records

Submitted by Carole Heimdahl

1 [Editor's note] Henrik was a brother of Tosten and a nephew of Elling, also charter members. Sagadalen is an area in Flå, adjacent to the Flå farms Hei and Hilde, both of which are mentioned in this family's church records.