

Tosten Sagadalen¹ and Berit Ostendatter Bonde, Charter members West Norway Lake Lutheran Church

Tosten Hanson was born 27 Dec 1845 in Fla, Buskerud Norway to Hans Christopherson 19 April 1811- 24 Sept 1887 and Ingeborg Tostendatter Roen-eie 1815 – 1887. Tosten was the third of eight children. Tosten, his parents and the 3 siblings born in Norway left Nes, Hallingdal Norway the 21st of April, 1852. Their destination was listed as Drammen.

By 1853 Tosten is living with his parents in the Rock Prairie settlement near Orfordville in Rock County, Wisconsin. 1857 finds them living in Wheeling Township in Rice County.

Tosten married Berit Ostendatter Bonde in 1867. Berit was born 16 Oct 1847 in Vang Parish, Valdres, Norway to Osten Tostenon Bonde 24 April 1820- 11 Mar 1848 and Sigrid Olsdatter Framstad 25 Sept 1823- 2 April 1902. Berit emigrated in 1864 with her mother, brother Ole and uncle Thore Olson Framstad and had also settled in Rice County. Tosten and Berit moved to Valdres Prairie, later Kerkhoven Township, shortly after their wedding. Tosten's parents and siblings also moved to Valdres Prairie. The couple's first child Ingeborg was baptized 20 April 1868 in the Norway Lake Church.

I can not find any public records of how Tosten obtained his land but by 1886 he owned 307.77 acres in Section 36 [W1/2] in Kerkhoven Township.

Tosten and Berit had 10 children, 9 who survived to adulthood. All of the children were born in Kerkhoven Township.

1. Ingeborg/Isabella, born 20 April 1868 , died 8 May 1942 Sunburg, married Oliver H. Thompson
2. Hans T., born 9 May 1870, died 17 June 1937 Wildrose N.D, married Christine Suvertson
3. Sigri, born 7 Nov 1872, died 1943 Minneapolis, Minn, married F.A. Lindberg
4. Betsy Caroline, born 15 June 1874, died 4 June 1946, married Christian Skeie
5. Osten/Esten, born 15 Oct 1877, died 20 Sept 1908 McVillie, N.D.
6. Bernt Theodore, born 26 Nov 1881, 27 Mar 1958 Minneapolis, Minn, married Anna Bergithe Peterson
7. Julius Oliver, born 7 July 1884, died 4 June 1945 Multnomah, Oregon, married Regina Peterson
8. Ida, born 10 July 1886, 6 Nov 1959 Swift County, married Rudolph J. Johnson
9. Olina, born 30 April 1889, died Dec 1973 Boy River, Minn, married Oliver Erickson

Tosten died 27 July 1907 at age 61 and is buried in West Norway Lake cemetery as Tosten Sagadalen Hanson.

Tosten used both the last name of Sagadalen and Hanson. He used Sagadalen in the Norway Lake Church records, but censuses and his farmland list his name as Hanson. The 1907 plat map refers to his acreage as Sagadal Farm.

Berit passed away at age 76 on Nov 17, 1923 after several years of ill health. She is buried with her husband.

Sources:

- Digitalarkviet
- Swift County Historical Association
- My Heritage Family Trees
- Evangelical Lutheran Church records
- Ancestry.com

Submitted by Carole Heimdahl

Footnote: Tosten and Berit's son Osten or Esten gained fame as a deaf and dumb baseball player. He is the subject of a book titled Dummy Hanson by Jim Johnson.

1 [Editor's note] Tosten was a brother of Henrik 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 the family's church records.