

## Anders H. Skare<sup>1</sup> Charter Member of West Norway Lake Lutheran Church

[Anders was a widower at charter time. However, his first and second wives are included here as they were clearly important in Anders' life story.]

Anders was born in May<sup>2</sup> of 1828 in Sigdal, Buskerud, Norway to Helge Gunderson Skadeland and Eli Andersdatter Skare. Ander's mother, Eli, died in 1858 at the age of 57 in Norway. His father married Marit Helgesdatter Hoffareie who was born in Skalla in 1836. Anders brother, Halver took over the main farm. Helge and Marit moved to Nerum (part of the Skare farm)so Helge now used the name Nerum. Helge and Marit had two sons: Helge in 1862 and Finger in 1864.

Anders emigrated from Sigdal to America in 1854<sup>3</sup> at the age of 26 with his sister, the younger Ingeborg. Anders sent home a series of letters to the Skares' in Sigdal that are still preserved today<sup>4</sup>.

Anders oldest sister Ingeborg (1823) stayed in Norway. Ingrid (1825) came to America in 1852 and married Ole Myran in 1856. Mari (1830) came in 1852 and married Elling Wold in 1856. Gunder (1833) came in 1862 and returned to Norway in 1883. Ingeborg (1836) the younger sister came in 1854 and married Ole Evenson Jellum (Ragnhilds brother). Halver (1837) stayed in Norway. Eli (1842) came in 1866 and married her cousin Gunder Jonsen Moen.

In America, Anders settled first briefly in Decorah, Iowa, and then in Nerstrand, Rice County, Minnesota where he married Ragnhild. Ragnhild was born<sup>5</sup> at the Jellum farm in Buskerud, Norway to Jon Jakobsen and Kari Stenersdatter. Little is known about her travel to America<sup>6</sup>. Anders and Ragnhild finally settled in Norway Lake in 1868.

Anders and Ragnhild had nine children (The five oldest children were born and baptized in Rice County):

1. Helge (1859-1930) married Mari Margit Gulbrandsdatter Jorde).
2. Johan (1860-1941) married Nelje O Knutson.
3. Eli (1861) married John Hellerud.
4. Gunder (1863-1948) married Astri Olson Pladson(1871-1967).
5. Stener (1865-1949) single.
6. Kari (1868-1933) married Bernt Peterson.
7. Jacob (1869-1950) single.
8. Andreas (1871-1872)
9. Anders (1873-1873).

Ragnhild Jellum died in childbirth in April of 1873, along with her son, Anders. They are buried at the site of the Old Log Church S.E. of Sunburg, MN.

Anders married Mathea after Ragnhild's death and he and Mathea had six children on their farm:

1. Ragnhild born in 1878 (it was a Norwegian custom to name the first child born of the second marriage after the deceased spouse from the first marriage),
2. Peder born in 1880,
3. Bertha Marie born in 1882,
4. Anna born in 1884,
5. Oliver born in 1886,
6. Emma born in 18.

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1 This account is a condensation of a much longer piece by Pat Lindgren, Jean Shogren, Jean Skare Hagen, Orlan Skare, Tom Evensvold, and Deb Reed. Some information is added, as identified in footnotes

2 Eggedal Church records give May 30 as the birthdate, and confirms the parents' names.

3 Eggedal Church records show that Anders and his younger sister Ingeborg departed that church on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April, 1854, bound for America.

4 NLLHA Skare Letters

5 Eggedal Church records give Sept 26, 1835 as the birth date; her name is spelled Ragnil. The parents' names are hard to read in the handwritten record, but may be Jon and Kari, as stated.

6 Eggedal Church records show that "Ragnild" age 21 left for America in the company of her parents and two older sisters May 7, 1857.