

## **Thor Thorson Solien and Kari Knudsdatter, Charter Members of the East Norway Lake Lutheran Church**

Thor Thorson was born December 9, 1830 on the Sollila farm in Eggedal, Buskerud, Norway. His parents were Tor Andersen, born in nordre Bråten, Sigdal, Buskerud, Norway in 1796 and Ingeborg Halvorsdatter, born in nedre Engar, Sigdal, Buskerud, Norway in 1799. He was the 4<sup>th</sup> of 7 children. His brothers Nils born 1825, Ivar born 1833, and Reier born 1841 also emigrated to America.

Thor married Kari Knudsdatter, Stalsbråten, Eggedal, Buskerud, Norway, born 9 June 1838. She was the oldest child of Knud Larsen born about 1815 and Helga Olsdatter born Skalerie 1818. They married 28 April 1861 in Sigdal, Buskerud Norway and emigrated that year. I have been unable to verify the port of embarkation or arrival. Kari's sister Ragne emigrated with them.

In 1862 they were living in Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin where their oldest child Carl Teodor was born. In 1863 the family was in Madison Township, Winneshiek, Iowa. Thor purchased a farm June 4<sup>th</sup>, 1863 for \$320.00. {E ½ of SW quarter of Section 7.} He sold it to Ole Aslesen, a neighbor, on June 18<sup>th</sup> 1867 for \$1000.00. After selling the farm in Iowa, Thor and Kari moved to Lake Andrew Township and homesteaded on Section 22. Brothers Nils and Reier moved from Iowa at the same time and homesteaded on the same section. This was Thor and Kari's last move.

Thor and Kari had 11 children, 9 survived:

1. Carl Theodor, born 23 Feb 1862 Stoughton, Wisconsin died 24 Dec 1935. Married Anne Thorson.
2. Johan, born 20 Dec 1863 Winneshiek Iowa died 18 April 1936. Married Carolina Thorson.
3. Andreas, born 29 July Winneshiek Iowa. died 13 Nov 1947. Married Marie Thorson.
4. Halvor, born 26 June 1868 Lake Andrew Township died 25 Aug 1939.
5. Lars Olaus, born 11 March 1879 Lake Andrew Township died 25 Jan 1908.
6. Ingeborg Helene, born 11 Nov 1871 Lake Andrew Township died 13 May 1914. Married Martin Kvamso.
7. Ragne Serine, born 8 Sept 1873 Lake Andrew Township died 18 Dec 1959. Married John Gjelhaug.
8. Anne, born 18 Oct 1879 lake Andrew Township died 1 Mar 1928. Married Emil Peterson.
9. Inga Marie, born 2 Dec 1881 Lake Andrew Township died 1 Feb 1913.

Three Thorson brothers married three Thorson sister, daughters of Tollef Thorson and Kari Larsdatter. They were also members of East Norway Lake Lutheran Church.

Thor passed away 20 April 1907 after suffering a stroke 18 months earlier. Burial was 24 April 1907 at First Lutheran Church of Norway Lake. He was 76. Kari died 29 April 1918. She was buried 3 May 1918 at First Lutheran Church of Norway Lake. Kari was 79 when she died

Sources:

- Ancestry.com
- Digitalarkivet
- Eggedal bydebok pp. 1154 and 1155.
- Evangelical Lutheran Church records
- Federal, state and territorial censuses.
- Public member trees on Ancestry.

Prepared by Todd Heimdahl, descendant of Thor Thorson, and Carole Heimdahl