

## Tollef Thorsen and Kari Larsdatter, Charter Members of the East Norway Lake Lutheran Church

Tollef Thorsen (1829-1914) was born October 30, 1829, on the Nørdre Gjerdingadn portion of Raket-Ro farm Gol municipality, Buskerud county, Norway, and was baptized November 15, 1829, Gol, the son of Thor Biørnsen (1795-1846) of Gol and Margit Tollefsdatter (1799-1870) from the Søre Imre-Ullsåkeige farm Hemsedal municipality.

On June 28, 1853, Tollef married Kari Larsdatter (1833-1901) from the Kolbråten portion of Langåkereige farm Nes municipality. They later moved to Isakbraaten farm Nes.

On April 30, 1868, Tollef departed Drammen municipality on the ship Fauna and emigrated west. He arrived Quebec Canada, on July 3, 1868, and by 1870 he and his family had moved to the town of Norway Lake Monongalia county Minnesota, including several children. Tollef's oldest son, Thor, who was born Norway, retained his patronymic surname Tollefsen.

Report prepared by Ryan Christiansen (Great-Great-Great Grandson of Tollef Thorsen)

### Sources

- The National Archives of Norway, including various Folketelling and Kirkebøker
  - Passenger lists for emigrant ships from NorwayHeritage.com
  - U.S. Evangelical Lutheran Church America Church Records, 1826-1945
  - The 1870 United States Federal Census
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The following information was added by Earl O. Knutson.

Tombstones<sup>1</sup> at First Lutheran Church of Norway Lake show that Tollef Thorson died 7 January 1914 and Kari Larsdatter Thorson died 13 July 1901.

The following children's names and information were supplied by a descendant<sup>2</sup>:

<b>Name</b>	<b>birth</b>	<b>death</b>	<b>Spouse</b>
Thor	14 April 1853, Nes, Hallingdal	22 April 1927 Lake Andrew Tshp	Gunvor Amundsdatter
Margit{Mary}	17 Feb 1855, Nes	2 July 1920 Lake Andrew	Hans Halvorsen
Lars Andreas	10 Aug 1864 Nes,	21 Oct 1948	Inga Andrea Johannesd, 1890
Anne	5 Aug 1867, Nes,	3 Nov 1888 Lake Andrew	CT [Carl Teodor] Thorson
Caroline	7 Oct 1869, Lake Andrew	17 May 1935 Lake Andrew,	Johan Thorson
Inger Marie	3 Aug 1871,	31 Aug 1938 Lake Andrew	Andreas Thorson
Tilda Karine	20 Aug 1873, Lake Andrew	2 Dec 1938	Anton Johannes Larson
Andrew	2 April 1875, Lake Andrew	13 Sept 1949 Lake Andrew	single
Henry	14 Feb 1877,	31 Aug 1930 Lake Andrew	single

The 1900 census<sup>3</sup> of Lake Andrew Township states that "Kary" Thorson was the mother of 13 children, of whom 8 were living. (Note that one of the 9 listed above had passed before 1900; some children may have died in Norway in the years from 1855 to 1865.) This census also states (incorrectly) that the family immigrated in 1865.

1 These tombstones were viewed at findagrave.com

2 This information provided by Carole Heimdahl

3 This census was accessed via Ancestry.com