

TRØYFLAT 55/2



Gård #55 in Vestre Slidre is named Nedre Vik. Records for this farm go back to 1662. There are numerous bruk under Nedre Vik. My great grandfather came from bruk #2; Trøyflat.

Sven Syversen was born at Grøte Søndre in Hemsedal, Buskerud in 1876. His father, my GG grandfather, was the 6th born child of 8 and the 5th born son. His chances for inheriting land at Grøte were few. In 1883 Syver Syversen Grøte obtained the lease for Trøyflat in Vestre Slidre. He and wife, Barbo Olsdtr Kjyrkjebø, moved with their 4 children: Syver, Ingrid, Ole and Sven. There would be 4 more children born in Vestre Slidre to Syver and Barbro Trøyflat: Ola, Mari, Jøger and Marit. Trøyflat gård was taken over by the eldest son, Syver, and this practice continued to present day as this farm is still owned and operated by descendants of this family.

Following his confirmation in 1892, Sven Syversen Trøyflat began his training in blacksmithing which would be his lifelong occupation. It was in Vestre Slidre that he met Sigrid Olsdtr Kvale. She would become his wife and mother of their 9 children.

While Sven came from a stable, loving home; Sigrid did not. Her mother had died when she was young and her step mother did not treat her well. Sigrid left Valdres for Oslo following her confirmation where she went to school to learn sewing. She was most proficient at making hardanger lace. It was Sigrid, in fact, who wanted to come to America.

On 10, April 1903 Sven and Sigrid left Oslo aboard the SS Angelo. This ship took them to Glasgow, Scotland where they transferred to a steamer named the SS Columbia. The couple left Glasgow on 18, April and arrived in New York on 27, April 1903.

A train transported this couple to Blooming Prairie, Minnesota where Sven met a cousin from Hallingdal. It had been prearranged that they would stay and work at the farm in Blooming Prairie. However, the farmer's wife soon learned that Sven and Sigrid were not married and she would have none of that. A wedding was planned which occurred on 26, July 1903. The farmer's wife arranged for a wedding dress, a cake, and food for all attendees following the ceremony.

Not long after the wedding, the newlyweds announced their plans to continue their travels toward North Dakota. This was their intent all along. The farmer's wife was so incensed upon learning this news that she promptly sat down and wrote out a lengthy bill for the wedding; right down to the eggs and cream used to make the cake. Sven and Sigrid stayed and worked until the bill was paid in full.

The couple left Blooming Prairie in October of that year. They made it to Wolverton in Wilkin County, Minnesota where they stayed with yet another cousin from Hallingdal. They stayed the Winter in Wolverton and continued on to Kindred in Cass County, North Dakota the following Summer. Sven worked as a blacksmith here for another cousin from Grøte. In 1905 he had the opportunity to buy his own blacksmith shop in the neighboring community of Davenport.

Sven and Sigrid lived in Davenport and had 9 children; 8 lived to adulthood. Sven owned his shop until he retired. Although he never returned to Norway, he continually had contact with his siblings who all remained in Valdres. Fortunately, i have many of those letters which tell of love, loss, the Depression, weather and a strong faith in God. Sven died on 9, April 1958. Following his death, Sigrid moved to the Twin Cities where she lived in a nursing facility near our home. I remember visiting her on Saturdays and riding in her wheelchair. She died on 16, November 1967 and is buried, next to Sven, in Davenport.

Sven and Sigrid's 2nd born child, Gladys Bergliot Severson, was born and raised in Davenport, North Dakota. She was my paternal grandmother. In 1928 Gladys married Olaf Martin Standal, who was also a child of Norwegian immigrants. I was fortunate to have spent much time with these grandparents. Both Gladys and Olaf spoke Norwegian in their home, but never in public. I learned to speak, read and write Norwegian with these grandparents. It was in their home that we learned to make lutefisk, lefse; Gladys would cook after Olaf had rolled, krumkake, sandbakkels, and other Norwegian foods. Olaf took me to my first Sons of Norway meeting when i was in

1st grade. I carried the Norwegian flag and lead the procession of officers to their table in front of the members. I felt very important.

The youngest child born to Sven and Sigrid Severson was Donald. Donald developed a passion for Norwegian genealogy and was responsible for planning Severson family reunions in America, Canada and Norway. I got my love of genealogy from Don and am fortunate to have many of his original documents, family group sheets and hand written stories and photos.

I am also fortunate to have contact with grand and great grandchildren of every one of Sven Severson's siblings that remained in Norway; many of whom have been to America. So, although Sven and Sigrid never returned home, their family ties have remained intact to this day.



Sven and Sigrid
with children:
Donald, Margaret,
Bea, Sophus,
Dorothy, Gladys,
Walter and
Adeline.

This is a photo from Trøyflat in Vestre Slidre showing some of Sven's siblings with their children and grandchildren.

