150 Years of Martinson Family History
1854 - 2004
Torkel & Barbro Martinson and their descendants

From Norway to Mt. Horeb
Written by Dorothy (Schwarz/Rindy) Bliskey
Torkel and Barbro Martinson’s great granddaughter

Dedication

The Martinsons of Springdale is written in honor of our Martinson family members who have passed on after living life to the fullest here on earth. We miss their presence and take direction from the powerful examples they set. For me, as well as for my nearly 40 first cousins, this includes our grandparents Clara and Martin Martinson and their parents: Barbro and Torkel Martinson and Karoline and Ole Anderson.

Three of our four great grandparents – Torkel, Karoline, and Ole were born in Norway. They immigrated to America in the 1800s. Torkel was 10 years old when he arrived in the Mt. Horeb area from Gudbrandsdalen, Norway in 1864 with his parents Marie and Martin Martinson. Torkel’s wife Barbro was born in Dane County, Wisconsin in 1851, shortly after her parents immigrated to the United States from Norway.

My grandmother Clara Martinson’s parents, Ole J. and Karoline (Folkestad) Anderson, immigrated to Mt. Horeb from Norway in the 1880s. Ole, who was born in Askvoll, Norway in 1849, arrived here with his half brother Jonas Einen in 1884. They settled in Dane County’s Perry Township. Karoline, 22, arrived in Mt. Horeb from Sonnfjord, Norway in 1883 with her parents Hans and Karoline Folkestad. The Folkestads settled in Primrose Township, eight miles south of Mt. Horeb.

This book of historical facts and personal recollections is also written so that living descendants of Clara and Martin Martinson can embrace special times in their lives by reading it and passing it on to future generations.

With special love and gratitude, I also dedicate this book to members of my immediate family. I miss them so very much … My father Walter Schwarz, my mother Benunie (Martinson) Schwarz-Berge, my sister Rosann (Schwarz) Jorns, and her husband Hub Jorns. My sister is the first and only one of our 38 first cousins to die. She passed away in 2002 from brain cancer. At this writing all the rest of the cousins are living. We range in age from age 32 (Charlie Martinson) to 72 (my oldest brother Don Schwarz).

The Martinsons come from sturdy Norwegian stock! Six of my nine aunts and uncles (my mother’s brothers and sisters) are alive to tell their stories and are in the 80s and 90s. My mother Benunie, her sister Geneva, and brother Marty have passed away. Their absence has left a hole in our family, but their presence while on earth filled us with joy!