

“Eric” Eirik Syverson Steien from Tøfthaugen, Folldal, Norway

“Eric” Eirik Syverson was born January 27, 1845 on the Tøfthaugen farm in Folldal, Norway to Syver and Marit Larsdatter Syverson. A home christening was held the same day of his birth, and a church christening was also held on June 10, 1845 at the church in Folldal. Erik was confirmed in the Folldal Church on November 11, 1860. Eric lived and worked in the area called "Steien" in Alvdal and it is there he got his surname.

In the Folldal Church records, May 1871 is listed as the emigration date for Erik Syverson Tøfthaugen. According to records, Eric arrived in New York from Alvdal in June of 1871.

On October 25, 1874, Eric and Karen Christ were married in Stockholm, WI. Eric was 29 years old and Karen was 14 years old. The previous year, Eric’s brother, Syver married Karen’s sister, Julia.

Although they suffered many losses, Eric and Karen still had a great devotion to God and were very religious - the transcription in Eric’s bible attests to that. After the death of their daughter Julia, he wrote, “God gave and God took away. God’s name be praised.” After their daughter Edda Maria died, he wrote, “All things are for the good that love Him.” Of the seven children they had, only three lived to adulthood, they were Samuel Steien, Lucy Steien Anderson, and Mary Steien Nihart.

Eric and Karen lived on the South Bluff in Stockholm, WI. Their three children attended school in Stockholm, WI.

Karen had pleurisy which turned into T.B. On April 22, 1905, Karen died of pulmonary T.B. She was buried in the Old Sabylund Lutheran Cemetery during Holy Week on April 25, 1905.

Years later, Eric built a house next to his son, Samuel Steien’s home in Stockholm, WI.

Eric dearly loved his wife. Eric died of heart failure while working in the fields on September 17, 1927 with his wife’s wedding ring, in its original box, in his pocket. Eric was buried on September 20, 1927 next to his beloved wife in the Old Sabylund Lutheran Cemetery in Stockholm, Wisconsin.

Submitted by Chris Falteisek

