

### Notes on Hans Olsen Rust

I prefer March 19, 1806 as the date of birth of Hans Olsen Rust over May 14, 1806 (cited by others) since Hans records the first date in his own handwriting as the date of birth (see below). Perhaps his baptism occurred on May 14, 1806.

Hans was born on a farm called Narum near Gol in the Hallingdal province of Norway (south-central part of the nation). The farm's name was closely linked for generations with his family, and the name "Narum" appeared repeatedly in the 17th century records. "Records of the family in the Gol Parish Church reveal no less than four Ole Olsen Narums, including the father of Hans Olsen Rust," reported Alfred Rust Chatman in his genealogical study entitled *Hans Olsen Rust and his Descendants, 1806–1965*.

I owe deep gratitude to Alfred Rust Chatman for his work. Much of the information on Hans Olsen Rust and his descendants contained in this volume was informed by his study, which he self-published in a limited edition of 125 copies in 1965 in Madison, WI.

Hans's parents died within fourteen days of each other in December 1810, and apparently the Rust family in the area took Hans in. In this way he eventually received (took) his surname. He grew up at the large estate named "Rust," and apparently went to school and learned to read and write as evidenced by his name and annotations in a book entitled *Den Christelige Laere (Christian Teachings)*, published in 1800, a copy of which his father gave him (see the photos under **Hans Olsen Rust** above in **Part I** of this volume, where the book's flyleaf is reproduced).

Hans wrote in the book's flyleaf, "[This book] belongs to me, Hans Olsen. In the year 1806 on March 19 I was born to this world on the farm Narum. [Written down at] Ror, October 30, 1815--H. Olsen." He added, "In the year 1810, 17 days before Christmas, when my father died, I came to Ror when I was 5 years old except for 3 1/4 months. 14 days after my father's deathly departure, my mother died, the third day before Christmas Eve."

He married Ingeborg Colbjornsen and the couple had eleven children. In 1851 Hans, his wife and six children between the ages of two and seventeen immigrated to the United States. The sailing vessel took seven weeks to reach its destination. The family packed all its belongings in large decorated wooden chests, including books, dishes and food for the voyage.

The Rust family spent its first year with friends near Orfordville in Rock County, WI. In June 1853 the family joined a number of Norwegian immigrants in a covered wagon caravan to a colony created in northern Iowa by the Danish Lutheran pastor Claus L. Clausen. Hans's farm was in Newburg Township of Mitchell County, IA, northwest of St. Ansgar, IA. He died there, and both he and his wife were buried in St. Ansgar's First Lutheran Church Cemetery.