

Ole B. Aasen and Astrid Helgeson¹, Charter Members of East Norway Lake Lutheran Church.

Ole B. Aasen was born March 20, 1807, in Telemark, Norway. Astrid Helgeson (more properly Helgesdatter) was born in Norway sometime in 1817. The two were married in Norway (date unknown) and their two children were born there. They emigrated sometime after 1844.

In the US, there is a church burial listing² for Ole, showing 1807 and 1886 as the birth and death years. Ole has a grave marker in the cemetery of the above church³; the date of birth is unreadable but the date of death is October 16, 1886. As noted later, Astrid is listed in a 1905 census. However, no specifics on Astrid's death were found.

Efforts to locate the birth, confirmation, marriage and emigration records for Ole and Astrid in Norwegian online records were unsuccessful. Likewise, the dates and mode of their journey in the US and their arrival in the Norway Lake area are not known.

A son, Kjetil Olesson Aasen, was born around 1843 in Telemark, Norway. He died after 1905 in Colfax Township, Kandiyohi, MN. It is not known if he was married and had children

Scant records were found online for Kjetil. There is a listing for "Kittel" O.Aasen in the 1885 Minnesota census⁴. At this point, his age is 41 and he is in a separate household in Norway Lake Township⁵, Kandiyohi County. Also listed in the household is "Astri" Helgesen, age 69, obviously his mother. Notably, his father is not listed.

In the 1905 Minnesota census⁶, Kjetil Aasen is a farm laborer, age 62, residing in Colfax Township, Kandiyohi County, in the household of Christian Larsen.

There is a newspaper death notice⁷ for a "Kittle" O. Aasen. However, this is probably not the same Kjetil as the siblings' names do not match.

A daughter, Anna Olesdotter Aasen, was born on May 16, 1844 in Telemark, Norway. She Married Ole L. Oleson Husa 1866 and the couple had 9 children. Anna died in 1889.

A grave marker⁸ at the East Norway Lake church is inscribed "Anna Olson Husa, Fodt Mai 16 1844, Dode Aug.30.1889" Anna died just 3 years after her father's death, and their grave markers are very similar in style.

If Anna's marriage was indeed in the current Arctander Township, it took place before the Log Church was built. If so, the family's arrival in the Norway Lake area was very early.

1 The key information for this article, shown without indentation, came from Ancestry.com, via Barb Peterson. She also provided information, not included here, on Ole and Astrid's more than 23 grandchildren. The indented material was added by Earl O. Knutson from sources shown in the footnotes.

2 [http://www.debbiesgenealogy.com/East Norway Lake Lutheran -cemetery.htm](http://www.debbiesgenealogy.com/East_Norway_Lake_Lutheran_cemetery.htm)

3 www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=pv&GRid=113717915&PIpi=84251090

4 [search.mnhs.org/index.php?brand=people&collection\[\]=mn_mhs-census&familyname\[\]=Aasen&year\[\]=1885&startindex=26](http://search.mnhs.org/index.php?brand=people&collection[]=mn_mhs-census&familyname[]=Aasen&year[]=1885&startindex=26)

5 This is puzzling. East Norway Lake church is located in the current Arctander Township, which, prior to 1879, was part of Norway Lake Township. <http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/ref/collection/p15160coll5/id/944>

6 <http://people.mnhs.org/finder/census/120952>

7 New London Times, 28 April 1921. Viewed on microfilm at the kandiyohi County Historical Society

8 www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSin=Husa&GSiman=1&GScid=2318003&GRid=113563944&