

Iver Ellefson and Beret Ellefson, Charter Members of East Norway lake Lutheran Church

Records¹ of the church in Krødsherad, Norway show:

Iver Ellefsen was born 5Jun1841 and baptised 18Jul1841. The parents are Ellev Trulsen [unreadable farm name] and Ingeborg Iversdatter.

Records² of the same church show:

Berit Reiersdatter was born uægte 17May1840 to Reier Pedersen and Sigrid Anne Olsdatter Aas in Krødsherad. She was baptised on 31May1840.

There is an Iver Ellefsen in the June 16, 1858 confirmation class of the Holden Lutheran Church³ in Goodhue County. Birth/baptism date cited is 5Jun41/16Jul41. Officiant is Rev. Stub, of Sigdal. Marriage records of the same church show that Iver Ellefsen [unreadable] and Berit Reiersdatter Raaneie were married on 8 June 1862, His age was 20½ and hers was 22. Both were born in Sigdal. Their daughter Ingeborg born 12 Feb 1864 (Holden Church microfilm, image 27) and daughter Anne was born 6 April 1867 (Nerstrand Church microfilm, image 7). Grandfather Ellef was a sponsor for both.

The family moved sometime in 1867-1869. Son Edvard⁴ was baptised in the Norway Lake Parish 13 Feb 1870 and the cited birth date was 29 Dec 1869. Other children baptised here were Caroline (born 5 May 1872), Bertine (17 Aug 1874), Maria (8 Nov 1876), and Iver Bernhard (3 April 1881) After the death (15 Apr 1882) of the first Maria, the second Maria was born on 26 Mar 1883. The father in all cases was Iver Ellefsen (or Ellefson). The mother's first name was Berit or Bergit, and her last name was Reiersdatter or Ellefsen or Ellefson, and in one one case, Tostensdatter (surely a mistake).

The 1870 census⁵ of Norway Lake Township, Kandiyohi County, MN, has Iver Ellefson (age 29), Beret (30), Ingeborg (6), Anne (3), and Edward (only months old). There is also a 70 year-old boarder.

In the 1875 census, Iver (age 33) was resident in Norway Lake Township, Kandiyohi County. With him were Berit (34), Ingeborg (11), Anne (8), Edwart (5), Caroline (3), Bertine (0). The parents were born in Norway, all children born in Minnesota.

In the 1880 census, Iver (age 39) was resident in Norway Lake Township, Kandiyohi County. With him were Beret (40), Ingebor (16), Anna (13), Edwart (10), Charoline (8), Bertine (6) and Maria (3). The parents were born in Norway, all children born in Minnesota.

In the 1885 census, Iver (age 44) resided in Norway Lake Township, Kandiyohi County. With him were Beret (45), Anne Olson (84), Anne I.(18), Edwart I. (15), Karolinne I. (13), Bertine I. (10), Iver Berhart (9, shoud be 4) and Maria I. (2). The parents were born in Norway, all children born in Minnesota. Probably, Anne Olson is Berit's mother. The neighboring house, there are Ellef Trulson and Anne Trulson, both age 68, probably Iver's father and step-mother.

The family relocated to North Dakota sometime between 1885 and 1888. Proof: Emma Oline, born 25 Jun 1888, was baptised 5 Aug at First Lutheran Church⁶ in Minot, ND. The parents were Ivar and Berit Ellefson. Berit was 48 years old at the time of Emma's birth.

In the 1900 census of Minot, Ward County, ND there is Iver Ellefson (age 58; b. Jul 1841 in Norway, 47 years in U.S.). His occupation is house carpenter. Also in the household: wife, "Beitha": (age 59, b. May 1840 in Norway, 39 years in U.S.); son Benny (age 19, b. Apr 1881 in MN); daughter Emma (age 12, b. June 1888 in ND); and 2 lodgers. **Despite the mismatch in Iver's birth month and in the spelling of Berit's name, this is quite certainly the same family.** The parents had been married for 37 years. She was the mother of 11 children, 8 living.

A tombstone⁷ in the First Lutheran Church of Minot cemetery reads: Iver Ellefson, 4 Jul 1841 – 6 Nov 1908. There are many other Ellefsons there, but not Berit.

Berit is listed in the 1910 census of Minot as Beret Ellefson, 69. Also in the husehold: daughter Emma and granddaughter Esther Johnson. In 1920 she is listed as Bariet Alffson, 79 year old, with a 12 year old granddaughter in the household, and with Edward Alffson (her eldest son?) in the neighboring house.

Sadly, we could not find Berit's final resting place. The variations in spelling may have obscured it.

Report prepared by Earl O. Knutson, February, 2019.

1 <https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/1103/49>

2 <https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/1103/43>

3 These Holden Church records were discovered using clues provided by Ancestry.com, then viewed on Ancestry.com,

4 These Norway Lake Parish records were found using the index in the back pages of *Keeping the Faith, Sharing the Faith*, a publication of the First Lutheran Church of Norway Lake, then viewed at First Lutheran Church Congregational records via Ancestry.com, microfilm images 44, 49, 56, 63, 76, 83. (Maria's death 15 Apr 1882 ; image 121.)

5 All US census cited here were viewed via Ancestry.com, usually found via pointers left by other Ancestry members.

6 Record located and viewed via Ancestry.com

7 Findagrave.com