

## Ole E. Ellingboe, Charter Member of West Norway Lake Lutheran Church

Although marred by several conflicting dates, the following is thought to be an accurate sketch of Ole's life. Because he was a single man, only 19 or 20 years old at the time the church was chartered, no spouse is included in the title.

A venerable local church history book<sup>1</sup> has:

Ole Ellingboe, born in Vang, Valdres. Came with his mother to Goodhue County 1862; to Norway Lake 1868.

Married with Maria H. Gandrud, born in Spring Grove, Minnesota.

(There is just 1 Ellingbø farm in Norway<sup>2</sup>; it's in the Vang Parish, Oppland.)

Another local church history book<sup>3</sup> has these two bits of information:

- "Ole O. Ellingboe was born in Vang, Valdres, Norway, Sep 4, 1856. He died on Sep 1, 1929. He was confirmed by Rev. Markhus in 1871 in the Old Log Church near Norway Lake."
- Ole married Maria Gandrud. They had three children: Herbert, Cornell and Magdalena, all buried in the Monson Lake Cemetery.

There is a grave marker<sup>4</sup> at Monson Lake Lutheran Church showing Ole O. Ellingboe, Sep 4, 1856 – Sep 1, 1929. There is a companion marker inscribed Maria I. Ellingboe, Feb 26, 1869 – Feb 25, 1958. A slightly different birthday for Ole is found in baptism records<sup>5</sup> from Vang: "Ole born uægte on 8 Sep 1856 to Ole Jorgensen Ellingboe and Marith Olsd. Ellingboe."

Confirming the first above church history book, records from Vang Parish<sup>6</sup> in Valdres show Ole Olsen (age 6) and Jørgen Olsen (age 4) leaving the parish with their mother Marith Olsdatter Ellingbøe, a 27 year old widow, for Amerika on March 22, 1862.

In the 1885 census, Ole Ellingboe (age 28) is in Kerkhoven Township, Swift County, in the household of his mother Marit.

Minnesota state records show<sup>7</sup> that Ole O. Ellingboe married twice: first to Maria O. Sondrol on 2/4/1886 and then to Maria Inger Gandrud on 6/16/1894, both times in Swift County. The death of the first Maria is known from a grave marker<sup>8</sup> in the West Norway Lake cemetery inscribed "Marie O. Ellingboe, 1860-1892, fodd Sondro" (Other sources suggest that the year of birth was 1867 or 1869.)

In the 1895 census, Ole O. Ellingboe (age 37, born in Norway) is in Kerkhoven Township, with him are Maria (26, born in Minnesota) and Martin (8, born in Minnesota). Also in the household at 3 others, apparently unrelated, namely: Gilbert Lesteberg (18, born in Norway); Maria Ganrud (27, born in Norway); Andrew Olson (37, born in Norway). It is an odd coincidence that the household has two Marias of about the same age.

In the 1900 census of Kerkhoven Township, Swift County there are:

1. Ole O. Ellingboe, born Sept 1856 in Norway;
2. wife Maria, born Feb 1869 in Minnesota; mother of 2, both living.
3. son Martin, born Mar 1887 in Minnesota; mother born in Minnesota;
4. son Herbert, born Jun 1895 in Minnesota; mother born in Minnesota;
5. daughter Claretta, born Jul 1897 in Minnesota; mother born in Norway;
6. two apparently unrelated boarders.

Clarette is also known as Magdalena<sup>9</sup>. It is puzzling that on line 5, it is stated that the mother was born in Norway.

Church records show<sup>10</sup> that Claretta Magdelene died 20 April 1901 of cerebral meningitis. She is buried at West Norway Lake. The 1905 census of Kerkhoven Township, Swift County indicates that a son, Cornell, was added to the family in 1902.

To summarize, Ole came to the USA and Swift County with his mother. At age about 30, he married Maria Sondrol and this couple had on child, Martin. After Maria's death in 1892, Ole married Maria Gandrud in 1894. This couple had three children Herbert, Claretta and Cornell. Claretta died at age 4.

Report prepared by Earl O.Knutson, September, 2018.

1 Festschrift:En fremstilling af det kirkelege arbeide I Norway Lake fra 1962-1916. Partial translation accessed via [http://www.debbiesgenealogy.com/index\\_files/Page381.htm](http://www.debbiesgenealogy.com/index_files/Page381.htm)

2 NorwayParishes.com

3 Monson Lake Lutheran Church, Sunburg, Minnesota. 1886-1986. Edited by Leonora Lindquist, Nora Gjerde, Cora Lesteburg, Rev. Jerry Lamb.

4 Findagrave.com

5 <https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/8999/50>.

6 <http://gda.arkivverket.no/cgi-win/webcens.exe?slag=visbase&sidnr=1&filnamn=valdutf1&gardpostnr=5241#nedre>. Here the name Olsen just means that the two boys are sons of Ole.

7 <https://www.moms.mn.gov/Search?S=1>.

8 Findagrave.com

9 ELCA baptisms recorded in the books of South Lake Johanna Lutheran Church. Accessed via Ancestry.com.

10 Ibed.