

Ole Ellingson and Anne, Charter Members of West Norway Lake Lutheran Church

Key dates are found on a grave marker¹ at the West Norway Lake Lutheran Church: Ole Ellingson, 1833-1903; Anna Ellingson, 1848-1927. From another source², we find tha Ole Ellingson (born Norway, died Feb. 5, 1903 at age 69) homesteaded in Arctander Section 4 on Dec 7, 1869.

Ole and Anne appear in censuses³ from 1875, 1880, 1885, 1895, and 1900, along with their growing family. In all but the first, they are in Arctander Township⁴. The 1900 census gives the years of immigration: Ole, 1862; Anne, 1861, and more precise birth information (Sep 1833 and Oct 1848).

Festsrkift⁵ has an entry as follows: "Elling Ellingsen, from Hallingdal. He came to Norway Lake in 1867. He married Anna Knudson, from Sigdal. She came to Rice County in 1861; to Norway Lake in 1867." This would be a match if Elling was changed to Ole.

In a list of 5000 immigrants⁶ from Sigdal, there is Anne Knudsdt. Engereie with matching birth and emigration years and associated with Arctander, Kandiyohi. In the comment section it states that her mother was Berit (but the father is not named). She emigrated with her grandparents Ole Klausen and Ana Kittelsdt., and two aunts. Later on she married Ole Ellingson from Nes, Hallingdal.

A passport journal for Hallingdal⁷, Norway, has this entry, dated Feb 25, 1862 (translation approximate): "Ole Ellingsen Skallet, Age 29, from Næs, 63½ inches, blue eyes, curly brown hair, crooked little finger on left hand, to America."

Also in the 1900 census of Arctander Township, Kandiyohi County it is learned that Anne is the mother of 9 children, all living. The 1885 census lists all nine. They are, with their ages in 1885: Elling O. (17), Olaus O. (16), Oluf O. (15), Andreas O. (13), Randy O. (female, 12), Berit O. (10), Gunhild O. (7), Karoline (5) and Albert O. (5/12).

1 FindaGrave.com

2 *Illustrated History of Kandiyohi County, 1905*. Page 120

3 Viewed at Ancestry.com

4 Oddly, the 1875 census log book has two title pages: page 761 states that the census pertains to New London, whereas page 762 states Norway Lake. Based on the homestead note in IHKC1905, the latter is correct. Keep in mind that before 1879 the current Arctander Township was part of Norway Lake Township.

5 "Festskrift - En Fremstilling at det Kirkelige Arbeide Norway Lake fra 1862-1916." Ved Pastorerne Mons Sotendahl og N.J. Njus. Partial translation by Debbie Boe at [http://www.debbiesgenealogy.com/Norway Lake Lutheran Churches 1862-1916.htm](http://www.debbiesgenealogy.com/Norway%20Lake%20Lutheran%20Churches%201862-1916.htm). Normally this is a reliable source, but in this case there is an error: the son's name was substituted for the father's name.

6 Emigrant List, sigdalslag.org. Available to members of Sigdalslag.

7 <http://gda.arkivverket.no/cgi-win/webcens.exe?slag=visbase&filnamn=ps06161856hall&spraak=n&metanr=4695>