

Peter H. Finstad and Ingeborg Olsdatter, Charter Members of East Norway Lake Lutheran Church

Listed among the emigrants in 1866, a Norwegian local history book has¹:

The cotter Peter Hansen Finstad, Findeneie, born 1834, his wife Ingeborg Olsdatter Fossom, born 1824, and their son Ole, born in 1854. After a year's stay at Rock Prairie, Wisconsin, this little family moved to Norway Lake, Minnesota, where their son was married to Margit Knudsdatter from Nordre Land. Ole and Margit had seven children. Ole Finstad was known as a capable farmer and held many positions of trust in his church and community.

(In modern Norway, there are² Finstad and Fossum farms about 5 miles apart in SE Land County.)

Baptism records³ from Land Parish have Peter, born 21 Dec 1833 to Hans Pedersen and (unreadable) Pedersdatter Rini. The baptism record for Ingeborg was difficult to find owing to the varying citations of birth year. The best match⁴ is 18 July 1823. Her father's name, hard to read, could be Ole Madsen.

Land Parish records⁵ show the marriage of the servant Peder Hansen and virgin Ingeborg Olsdatter on April 4 (or 6, unclear) 1854. Their ages are 21 and 31, respectively. Their birthplaces are (hard to read) Findens... and Fossums..., respectively. Their fathers are Hans Pedersen and Ole Madsen, respectively.

In Norway's 1865 census⁶, residing at Finstaa, Søndre Land, Oppland: Petter Hansen, Ingeborg Olsdatter, and Ole Pettersen. Their birth years are 1834, 1824, and 1855, respectively. Also in the household are Ole Hansen and Kjerstine Eriksdatter, likely Ingeborg's parents. All are born in Lands Parish.

A ship's passenger list⁷ has Peder Hansen Finstad (age 32), Ingeborg Olsdatter Finstad (40) and Ole Pedersen Finstad (under 12) aboard the bark *Anna Delius* in 1866, sailing from Christiania (April 28) to Quebec (June 3). The destination was Iowa.

A Kandiyohi County history book⁸ has Peter (Finstad) Hanson listed as a homesteader in Arctander Township, Section 2, October 28, 1868.

In the 1875 census⁹, Peter H. Finstad (age 42) along with Ingeborg (53) and Ole (20) live in Norway Lake Township, Kandiyohi County. All three were born in Norway.

In the 1880 census,

· Peter	Finstad	m	49	f	N	N	N	19	Arctander Kandiyohi Minnesota
· Ingeborg	Finstad	f	57		N	N	N	19	Arctander Kandiyohi Minnesota
· Ole P	Finstad	m	25	f	N	N	N	19	Arctander Kandiyohi Minnesota
· Marit	Finstad	f	24	wife	N	N	N	19	Arctander Kandiyohi Minnesota
· Peter A	Finstad	m	2	grson	Mn	N	N	19	Arctander Kandiyohi Minnesota

In the 1885 census, P. H. Finstad (age 51) is in Arctander Township, Kandiyohi County. With him: Ingeborg H. (62).

In the 1900 census of Arctander Township, Kandiyohi County, Petter Finstad is listed as a widower. His birth is listed as December 1833 and his year of immigration is 1867. Also in the household is Karen Olson, a servant born Oct 1844 in Norway.

In the 1905 census, there is a P. H. Finstad, but the census image is unreadable.

Peter and Ingeborg lie in repose in the cemetery at East Norway Lake church¹⁰. The markers read:

Peter Finstad (1833-1911);

Ingeborg Finstad (October 27, 1822- December 28, 1898).

(It seems doubtful that this is the correct birth date for Ingeborg.)

Report prepared by Earl O. Knutson, October 2018.

1 *Boka om Land IV, 1973* by Arvid Sandaker. translation by Sandra Hendrickson, published 2010 by Landingslag, page 171.

2 Norwayparishes.com

3 <https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/9359/24>. The birth was in 1833; the baptism 1834.

4 <https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/9358/69>

5 <https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/8980/120>

6 http://www.rhd.uit.no/folketellinger/ftliste_e.aspx?ft=1865&knr=0536&kenr=003&bnr=0194&lnr=000

7 NorwayHeritage.com

8 IHKC1905, p. 120:

9 Except for 1880, all census records were accessed via Ancestry.com. In the 1875 census, the township is incorrectly transcribed as New London Township. The 1880 census was viewed via Nordmenn I Minnesota 1880, no longer available.

10 Findagrave.com