

Helge Olsen Hellerud and Ingeborg Hellerud, Charter members of West Norway Lake Lutheran Church

Helge Olsen was born 31 October 1820 to Ole Helgesen Jellum and Ingeborg Stenersdatter Kleiv from Eggedal in Buskerud County, Norway. The Ole Helgesen family moved from Eggedal to Vold in Flaa, Buskerud County in 1826 with their sons, Stener born 1819, Helge, born 1820 and Jon, born 1823.

Helge married Ingeborg Thoresdatter Tollefstrudeie from Flaa on 9 January 1851. Ingeborg was born 10 March 1830, the daughter of Thore Stenersen Tollefstrudeie and Randi Evensdatter Stavn from Flaa. Helge and Ingeborg's first child, Ole, was born 17 January 1851 in Flaa.

Helge Olsen Hellerud, age 31, wife Ingeborg Thoresdatter, 21 and son Ole born 1851 were recorded on the udflyttede or exit list for April 1852, bound for America. Included in Helge's group were his brother Stener Olsen Hellerud, his wife Christi Ellingsdatter, and their daughters Ingeborg, born 7 August 1843, Sigri, born 4 December 1848 and Ragnhild, born 1850. Christi's son, Ole Pedersen, was on the list as well as was Helge's mother, Ingeborg Steinarsdatter Hellerud. Listed elsewhere in the records for April 1852 was another of Helge's brothers, John Olsen Vold, 29, his wife Margit Halgrimsdatter, 27, daughter Ingeborg, born November 1848 and son Ole, born 12 May 1850. Yet another brother, Anders, born at Vold in 1826, had emigrated earlier in 1846.

It is not known at this time the date that the Helge Olsen family actually left Norway or the ship on which they sailed. It is known, however, that Helge and Ingeborg eventually made their way to Wisconsin where two children were born. Daughter Ingeborg, Helge and Ingeborg's second child, was born 6 September 1853, perhaps in Rock Prairie as noted in an Ancestry Public Tree. Her birth record, however, has not been verified. Their third child, son Even, was born at the Hamilton Settlement, Iowa County, Wisconsin 6 March 1855.

The family moved to Rice County, Minnesota, where they lived for many years. They worshiped in Goodhue County at Holden Church near Kenyon until after the Civil War at which time they moved to Kandiyohi County. The following children were baptized in Holden Church: Niels, born 2 May 1856, Anders, born 28 January 1859, Randi, born 13 November 1860, (died 28 September 1862), Steinar, born 11 September 1862, and Randi #2, born 23 February 1865.

Between February 1865 and February 1867, the Helge Olsen Hellerud family moved to Norway Lake Township, Kandiyohi County, Minnesota where their daughter Christi was born on 14 February 1867 and baptized at Norway Lake Church. Helge and Ingeborg homesteaded acreage in Section 20 and 21 of Norway Lake Township.

Their tenth child Oline, was born 21 May 1869, Kari, their eleventh, was born 5 April 1871 and lastly, Maria was born 8 March 1877, their 12th child. Each was baptized in the Norway Lake Church.

Helge and Ingeborg were first noted in America on the 1870 Federal Census for Norway Lake Township, Monongalia (Kandiyohi) County, Minnesota as follows: Helge Olsen, 49, Ingebor, 40, Ole, 19, Ingebor, 17, Even, 15, Niels, 13, Andres, 11, Steiner, 7, Randi, 5, Christi 3, Olina 1. By the Minnesota State Census of 1885, the family was complete with the addition of Kari and Maria. The house Helge and Ingeborg built in the 1860s still stands today.

It's interesting to note that "Productions of Agriculture" was added to the 1870 Census. Included in Helge Olesen's information was 160 improved acres of land, cash value \$1000, 2 horses, 3 milk cows, 11 other cattle, 6 sheep and 4 pigs. He produced 200 pounds of butter, put up 20 tons of hay, harvested 400 bushels of oats, 400 bushels of spring wheat, 140 of barley and 20 bushels of potatoes. Some of the amounts were difficult to read as the ink had faded.

Helge Olsen Hellerud died 4 August 1898, age 76, funeral on 8 August. Ingeborg died 6 October 1908, age 78, funeral 10 October. Both funerals were held at West Norway Lake Church with burial in the church cemetery.

Stener.Olsen Hellerud died in 1887, burial in Madison Church Cemetery, rural Decorah, Iowa. John Olsen Hellerud died in 1907, burial in Valley Grove Cemetery in Nerstrand, Rice County, MN. Anders Olsen Hellerud died in 1903 and was also buried in Valley Grove Cemetery. It is not known when their mother, Ingeborg Thoresdatter, who emigrated with the family, died or where she was buried.

Sources: Church Records for Eggedal and Flaa, Norway, Church Records for Holden Lutheran Church, Church Records for Iowa County, Wisconsin, Church Records for Norway Lake Parish, Kandiyohi County State and Federal Censuses, Kandiyohi County birth and death records, Ancestry Public Trees, and the Kandiyohi County Historical Society.

Report submitted by Donna Kulenkamp who grew up on the farm homesteaded by Helge and Ingeborg.