

Nils H. Kleive and Ragne Ellefsdatter, Charter Members West Norway Lake Church

Niels Halvorsen was born 19 Nov 1850 in Eggedal, Buskerud, Norway to Halvor Nielsen [1813-?] and Christi Ellingsdatter [1813-1856]. He was the oldest of 3 children.

On 14 April 1866 he left Eggedal Parish for America. He traveled with his widowed father and 2 younger sisters Ragne and Kari.

The family spent time in Goodhue County prior to arrival in Norway Lake Township. His sister Ragne is confirmed 5 May 1867 at Holden Lutheran Church. Nils marries Ragne Ellefsdatter 16 May 1875 at Norway Lake Lutheran.

Ragne was born 26 June 1855 to Ellef Halvorsen and Aase Svensdatter. She was one on 10 children, only 4 survived to adulthood. Ragne emigrated in 1873 following her brother Svend Ellefson who left Norway in 1872. Ragne traveled on the steamship Haakon Adelsteen which left Christiania [Oslo] July 6th, stopped in Bergen and arrived in New York 25 July 1873. She travelled in steerage as Ragne Ellefson.

Nils and Ragne are listed in the 1875 Minnesota census in Norway Lake Township as Nils and Ragne Halvorson. Nils's father Halvor Nelson is living with them.

The first 3 children are born in Minnesota and baptized at Norway lake Lutheran.

1. Halvor: born 23 Feb 1876, died 30 Oct 1952, married Theoline Thompson
2. Kristine: born 7 June 1877
3. Aase Elise: born 16 Jan 1879

The family moves to Grafton Township, Walsh County, North Dakota sometime after the birth of their third child and before Ragne's brother Svend was married there in 1882. Nils is a witness at the wedding. Ragne's brother and her parents were there by the 1880 census. Nils and Ragne have 3 more daughters in North Dakota who are baptized at Grafton Lutheran Church.

4. Emma Karoline: born 6 Sept 1884, died 23 June 1932, married Carl E. Engemoen
5. Netta Randine: born 29 July 1889, died 20 June 1970, married Emil Thompson
6. Ida Gealine: born 1 April 1891, died Aug 1978, married Ture E. Erickson

In 1893 they adopt their godchild Louise Saarheim whose mother dies shortly after her birth on 10 June 1893. Louise dies 8 Nov 1914.

There are no records of land ownership in Minnesota. US General Land Office records show Nils Halvorson awarded 160 acres [NW ¼] in Section 21, Grafton Township via Land Patent on 8 Dec 1888.

The use of the name Kleive or Klev starts in church records as early as the baptism of Halvor in 1876 and in the Federal census in 1900.

Ragne dies 26 July 1903 and is buried in the cemetery at Grafton Lutheran. Nils dies 13 March 1926 in the town of Portland, N.D. He is buried in the Grafton Lutheran Cemetery with Ragne.

Nils father Halvor Kleive is also a charter member of West Norway lake and has a separate biography.

Sources:

- Digitalarkviet
- Evangelical Lutheran Church Records
- US General Land office records
- Ancestry.com Ancestry public member trees
- Norway heritage

Written by Carole Heimdahl, May 2019