

Narve and Ingeborg Lesterberg, Charter Members of West Norway Lake Lutheran Church

A local church history booklet¹ gives this starting point:

Narve Lesteberg (1848-1916), from Krødsherad, Norway. He married Ingebor Gulbrandsdatter (1846-1906) in Norway. Came to Norway lake in 1872 and to Swift County, Minnesota, in 1875. They lived 10 years in a dugout before building a frame house. They had seven children: Ole, Aase, Andrew, Gilbert, William, Elmer and Nestor. Ole and Aase died as young adults. Andrew married Hulda Halberg and after her death, married Anna Solberg. Gilbert married Thea Lesteberg and they farmed near Valva, North Dakota. William married Edna Rudningen; Elmer married Esther Paulson; and Nestor married Mabel Norman. All are buried at Monson Lake Cemetery except Gilbert. The grandchildren of the Narve Lesteberg's are presently members of the Monson Lake Church: Elvina Brackenbury, and Harlen and Oral Lesteberg.

According to baptism records² of the church in Krødsherad, Sigdal, Buskerud, Narve was born on 4 February 1848 to parents Ole Eriksen Lesteberg and Viil Andersdatter. In Norway's 1865 census³ Narve resided on the "Læsteberg" farm along with his parents, two full siblings, two half-siblings⁴, and others. Further baptism records show that Viil was the common parent.

According to other baptism records⁵ in the same church, Ingeborg was born on 20 March 1846 to parents Gulbrand Colbjørnsen Andersplassen and Aase Olsdatter. Church records⁶, again from Krødsherad, show that Narve and Ingeborg were married there on 11 March 1872. Another entry⁷ shows that the couple left that parish – on that very same day - bound for America.

A descendant added this:⁸

Narve was a cousin of Norway Lake pioneer Even Railson. On one of his many visits to Norway, Even attended their wedding and paid for their passage to America. In return, Narve and Ingeborg lived with and worked for Even during 1872 – 1875.

Further information on their life in America, gathered by researchers and available to ancestry members, can be found in Ancestry.com.

Narve Olson Lesteberg family in the 1900 census ⁹ of Hayes Township, Swift County The census also confirms that the parents born in Norway, married 28 years, in the US 28 years. There were 7 children, all born in Minnesota, all living as of the census date.							
First Name	Status	Birth data		First Name	Status	Birth data	
"Narvy"	Head	Feb1848		William	Son	Apr1879	
"Engeborg"	Wife	Mar1846		Andrew	Son	Dec1880	
Ole	Son	Oct1873		Elmer	Son	Feb1883	
"Ose"	Daughter	Jun1875		Nestor	Son	Aug1892	
Gilbert	Son	Feb1877					

Narve and Ingeborg were also charter members of the Monson Lake Lutheran Church, which was formed some 10 years after the West Norway Lake Church. As already noted, they lie at rest in the cemetery of that church. Their graves are marked by handsome tombstones.

Report prepared by Earl O. Knutson, May 2019.

- 1 Monson Lake Lutheran Church, Sunburg, Minnesota. 1886-1986. Edited by Leonora Lindquist, Nora Gjerde, Cora Lesteberg, Rev. Jerry Lamb.
- 2 <https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/1103/85>
- 3 http://www.rhd.uit.no/folketelling/folketelling_avansert_e.aspx
- 4 Narve's two half brothers, Kristoffer and Truls, are charter members of East Norway Lake Lutheran Church; each has a separate page in this collection.
- 5 <https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/1103/73>
- 6 <https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/5882/228>
- 7 <https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/5882/275> Their names could not be found in the available ships' passenger lists.
- 8 Dennis Lesteberg, a grandson of Narve and Ingeborg.
- 9 US census records were located and accessed via Ancestry.com; membership required.