

Peder O. and Helene Negaard, Charter Member of East Norway Lake Lutheran Church

A venerable church history book¹ has this entry, in a list of those who arrived in the area in 1870:

Peter O. Negaard, born in Osterdalen. Married with Helene Pederson, born in Osterdalen. They came direct to Norway Lake.

There are tombstones at the First Lutheran Church of Norway Lake with the inscriptions²:

- Peder O. Negaard, 24 Apr 1830 – 22 Jun 1906
- Helene Negaard, 4 Nov 1833 - 20 Oct 1918.

Peder Negaard³ was born April 24, 1830 at Storelvedal, Norway to Ole Pedersen Olsen Negaard (February 1798 - January 3, 1881) and Oleane Gundersdatter (November 24, 1805 - April 15, 1824). Ole and Oleane were cotters (very common in olden days. A family rented a small farm or piece of land, paying the landowner by work.) The Negaard farm in Storelvdal is north of Lillehammer close to the Glomma River.

Peder married Helene Berg (born November 4, 1833) on April 2, 1860 in Storelvdal, Norway . In the 1863 and 1865 census he is mentioned as "Uhrmager" (Clocksmith, probably mending rather than making clocks.) They were given a certificate for emigration on March 14, 1870, and their destination was St. Paul, Minnesota. According to Norwayheritage.com, The ship Columbia left Christiania on April 25 and arrived at Quebec on June 2, 1870. Their children were:

1. Oline (born October 2, 1860, died 1-26-1935 in Eitel Hospital, Minneapolis, MN. In Oct. 3, 1885) She married Olaf Ruden (12-21-1855 from Korterud, Iola Parish, Varmland, Sweden.) He died Feb. 11, 1918 in Minneapolis, MN, but buried at Atwater Union Cemetery, Atwater, MN.
2. Berthe born Dec. 31, 1862 in Storelvdal, Norway, died Jan 28, 1962 in Minnesota.
3. Thea born Feb. 19, 1866. Died Feb. 23, 1949 in Fargo, North Dakota. Married Per Person born 1867 in Malma, Skaana, Sweden died October 17, 1952 in Fargo, North Dakota.
4. Pernella born 1874 in Minnesota. Died from injuries sustained in an automobile accident in the state of Washington. The name is spelled Pernille in the 1880 US Census report on LDS website.
5. Otto born January 1, 1879 in Norway Lake, MN. died January 12, 1971 in the Bethesda Nursing Home, Willmar, MN.. Married Serina Netland born August 23, 1880 in Mosterhavn, Norway. Died February 1966 in Willmar, MN. Otto was a farmer. They had no children.

Further information on Peder and Helene's marriage is found in the books⁴ of the Stor-Elvdal Parish. The date was 2 April 1860 and it was the first marriage for both. Their full names and ages were Peder Olsen Negård. 30, and Helene Pedersdatter Vestgård, 26. The fathers were Ole Pedersen and Peder Arnesen, respectively. As to birth/baptism records, Thea's (there spelled Tea) could be found in the hard-to-read records⁵ of the same parish.

In the 1865 census of Åmot, Hedmark, Norway⁶, the family is living in the Domicile called Kirkestuen, along with 7 others, relationship unclear. In that record, Helene's name is spelled Hellene and her birth year is given as 1832,

Amøt Parish exit records⁷ show that Peder, Helene and 3 children, as mentioned above, left there in April 1870; the parents' ages are shown as 41 and 37, respectively, and the children's birth dates are 2 Oct 1860, 3 Dec 1862, 19 Feb 1866.

Reported by Earl O. Knutson, with help as noted in the footnotes. May, 2019

1 *Festskrift. En Fremstilling af Kirkelige Arbeide I Norway Lake fra 1862-1916*. The line cited is from a partial translation by Debbie Boe.

2 Findagrave.com

3 Jean Negaard Shogren, a descendant of Peder's sister Anne, supplied the information in this and the next paragraph, including the information about the children. Jean cites these sources: "Fragments of a 'slekt' Some Negaard Families in Stor-Elvdal" by Ola Klefsås "Slekstsgransker", Koppang, Norway; Further Correspondence with Ola Klefsås January 2014; "Descendants of Ole Petersen Bekk" Family tree and History completed by Rhonda Lang, great-grand-daughter of Peder Olsen Negaard.

4 <https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/9193/251>

5 <https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/9193/169>

6 https://www.rhd.uit.no/folketellinger/ftliste_e.aspx?ft=1865&knr=0429&kenr=008&bnr=0005&lnr=000

7 <https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/8901/117>