

Ole Ellendsen and Anna Lassesdatter Njos, Charter Members of West Norway Lake Church

Njos Family History¹. ... My great grandparents: Ole Ellendson Njos was born 12-14-1818 and died 3-26-1898; Anna O. Njos born 9-?-1816 died 8-30-1891. Compiled by Adeline Skogstoe. 1-17-2016. [Note: Adeline passed on July 20, 2016, at age 89.]

In fact, there is a grave marker² for Ole E. Njos (b. Dec. 14, 1818 d. Mar. 26, 1896) in the cemetery at West Norway Lake. Another grave marker has the inscription Anna S. Njos with the date of death August 30, 1891. (The date of birth was unknown or unreadable.) Very likely, this is the same Anna as in the family history quoted above.

Anna Lassesdatter was confirmed³ on July 24, 1831 at "Legangers" Parish. The parents were Lasse and Rugnilda residing at Njös. Anna was 15 and had been vaccinated on Sept 12, 1817. Ole Ellendson was confirmed on July 26, 1834 at "Leganger" Parish. The parents were Ellend and Aase, residing at (barely readable) Husebö. Ole was age 15 and was vaccinated on Nov. 14, 1819.

There is an Ole Ellandson in the 1875 census for Kandiyohi County, but he is 27. Not the same person.

In the Norwegian census of 1865⁴ we find, on the Njös farm in Lekangers Parish, Sogn og Fjordane County:

Ole Ellendsen	(age 48, Husfader)
Anne Lassesdatter	(age 50 hans Kone)
Ellend Olsen	(age 18, deres Søn)
Brithe Olsdatter	(age 13, deres Datter)
Ragnilde Olsdatter	(age 11, deres Datter)
Anne Olsdatter	(age 8, deres Datter)

In the 1880 US census of Hayes Township, Swift County, Household 133 there are:

Ole Njos	(age 62, born in Norway),
Anna Njos	(age 64, born in Norway)
Nellie Njos	(age 12, listed as a daughter).
J. Hokom	(age 22, born in Norway)
A.P. Carlson	(age 42, born in Sweden)
Emil Carlson	(age 14)
Selma Carlson	(age 12)
Pauline Carlson	(age 10)
Hulda Carlson	(age 8)

All children were born in Minnesota. The relationship between the Njos and Carlson families is not known.

Regarding Nellie, it seems unlikely that she is the daughter of Anna as their ages differ by 52 years. More likely, she is a granddaughter, perhaps the daughter of Ellend who died in 1876.

Ole E. Njos is listed⁵ (along with sons Lasse and Ellend) as one of the "Other Early Settlers" of Arctander Township, Kandiyohi County. The listed date of death is the same as on the tombstone, and the age at death was 77. Ole outlived the two sons: Ellend, who died March 26, 1876 at age 27 and Lasse, who died August 19, 1891 at age 51.

Search for information on Ole's migration was unsuccessful. It had to be between 1865 and 1875.

Regarding Anne, note the disagreement in middle name.

Ole Njos is listed⁶ as a contributor to the building fund for the West Norway Lake church, as well as a trustee of that church.

1 This is from a handwritten note from Adeline Skogstoe; Adeline passed on July 20, 2016, at age 89.

2 Viewed at Findagrave.com

3 Scanned records of the minister's book from Leikanger Parish, viewed at arkivverket.no/digitalarkivet.

4 Viewed at arkivverket.no/digitalarkivet.

5 Illustrated History of Kandiyohi County 1905, page 121. Viewed at <http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/ref/collection/p15160coll5/id/944>

6 Ibid, page 341.