

## **Nils Ostenson and Karen Mikelsdatter, Charter Members East Norway Lake Church**

Niels Ostenson was born 8 June 1815 in Ringebu Parish, Oppland, Norway to Osten Nielsen Bergstuen [1782 - 29 Jan 1860] and Siri Johnsdatter [1792-?] .

He marries his first wife Karen Pedersdatter in Stor-Elvedal Parish 30 Dec 1838. They have 5 children, Marit, Sigrid, Nils, Helene and Olaf, before she dies 24 Feb 1854 in Stai, Stor-elvedal Parish.

Nils marries Karen Mikelsdatter 27 Mar 1865 in Stor-Elvedal. The church record says Nils was 49 years old and from Ringebu Parish, Karen 32 from Ringsaker Parish. I found two possibilities for Karen both born in 1831 which would have made Karen older than 32 at the time of her marriage. Karen born 13 Jan 1831 to Mikel Evenson and Anne Tollefsdatter and Karen born 04 Mar 1831 to Mikel Gunderson and Elin Pedersdatter. Her death certificate has her birth date as 6 Jan 1832.

Nils and Karen have 3 sons, 2 survive to adulthood. The two oldest are born in Norway

1. Anton Nielsen; born 1866, died 1866
2. Andreas Nilsen: born 18 April 1868, died unknown

Nils, Karen and Andreas sign out of Amot Parish, Stor-Elvedal local parish 12 April 1869, Nils as Nils Ostenson Stai. None of the children from his first marriage travel with them.

Nils and Karen join Nils's brother Hans Ostenson and wife Eli, who immigrated in 1867, in Arctander Township. Nils homesteads 80 acres in Section 26 [W ½ of SW ¼, certificate dated 25 Oct 1871.

Karen and Nils have their last child,

3. Hakon on 18 Oct 1870. He was baptized at the Norway Lake church.

Nils dies suddenly 18 Dec 1889 or 20 Dec 1889, church records and the obituary differ. He was 74 years of age. The service and burial were held 23 Dec 1889 at East Norway Lake with the Rev. R. K. Fjelstad presiding.

The 1900 plat map shows Nils's acreage owned by Hakon who also owns his uncle Hans Ostenson's 80 in Section 35 and an additional 80 he purchased in the [N1/2 of NW ¼] of Section 35.

Karen is living on her own in the 1900 census but by 1910 she is living with her son Hakon and his family. She dies 4 Dec 1913 after suffering a slight stroke 4 months earlier. Services were held by Rev. Sund at West Lake Lutheran, Sunburg and she was buried in the West Lake cemetery next to Hakon's first wife Birthe

Son Andrew attended both funerals. In 1889 he was living in Dwight N.D. and in 1913 he was in St Paul. Karen's obituary said she was survived by 5 grandchildren so Andrew must have been married and a father. The 1905 state census has an Andrew Nelson, age 36 with Hannah Nelson age 22 and a male child age 1 living in St Paul, Minn. This may be the correct Andrew. I have found no other records.

Nils's brother Hans is also a charter member of East Norway Lake and has a separate biography.

Written by Carole Heimdahl

Sources:

- My Heritage Family Trees
- Ancestry.com
- Digitalarkviet- Stor-Elvedal, Ringebu, Ringsaker parishes
- Kandiyohi County Historical Society obituaries and death certificates
- Family Search

Footnote: A family tree in My Heritage owned by a descendant of one of the children of his first marriage stated they traveled to Quebec on the Bark Columbia. The Columbia did make a crossing in 1869 but I have not been able to verify they were passengers.