

Christian Pladson and Kari Olsdatter, charter members of the West Norway Lake Lutheran Church

Kristian Edvard Olsen Medalseie was born Mar. 11, 1838 near Hurum, Eggedal, Norway: he was the third child of Ole Torstensen Medalsplassen (1801) and Eli Ellefsdatter Bøleshagen (1811). His sisters Kari born 1834, Kristi born 1844 (died same year), Kristi born 1847, Eli born 1849, Mari born 1854 all remained in Norway. Brothers Torsten born 1835, Lars born 1840, Ole born 1843; all emigrated to America. Lars emigrated to America in 1861 enlisted in the United States Union army and was killed in the Battle of Stone's River, Tennessee Jan. 3, 1863.

Kristian married Kari Olsdatter Flatin (born Mar. 14, 1845 to Ole Ericksen Skarseie and Astri Bergan) on Mar. 27, 1865. Their first child Eli was born in 1866. In 1868 they emigrated aboard the schooner Bravo, then traveled to Lake Andrew township, Kandiyohi County, Minnesota. Eli, age 2 died May 5th and was buried at sea.

Accompanying Kristian and Kari were Kristian's brother Ole Olsen Medalen, Kari's parents, and Kari's siblings Erik, Gunder, Ole, Liv, Ingebord and Helge.

The Ole Ericksen family used the name Skarhus (they were husman on the Skare farm in Eggedal, Norway) after arriving at Norway Lake township, Kandiyohi County, Minnesota.

Kristian's brother Torsten emigrated to America in 1869 along with Kristian's mother Eli (she came to claim the pension for her son Lars who was killed in the civil war) and Eli's mother Kristi Nilsdatter age 83. Her family thinks she died at sea.

The three brothers took different family names after arriving in America; Kristian (aka Christian Olsen) Pladson, Ole Medalen and Torsten Hagen.

Christian and Kari had 10 children after arriving in the Norway Lake area in Minnesota

1. Ole born July 3, 1869, married Enger Fiegum
2. Astrid born Aug. 20, 1871, married Gunder Skare.
3. Ella born Jan. 23, 1874, married Nils Fiegum.
4. Caroline born Nov. 13, 1877, married John Fiegum.
5. Edward born Dec. 3, 1879, married Randi Fosse.
6. Louise born June 25, 1882, married Albert Gandrud
7. Geoline born June 6, 1884, married Henry Freese.
8. Clara born April 2, 1887, married Andrew Ellingson
9. Tilda born July 29, 1889, died 1890
10. Thilda C born Aug. 4, 1891 died Aug. 5, 1891

Christian Pladson died Oct. 26, 1920, is buried at the West Norway Lake Lutheran Church cemetery. Kari Pladson died Feb. 15, 1926, is buried at the West Norway Lake Lutheran Church cemetery.

Sources

- 1900 census
- U.S. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Church records
- Find a grave index 1600 to current
- Minnesota death index 1908-2017
- Vesterheim - Civil War Portfolios
- Eggedal bygdebok pp 2644 and 2645
- Norway Heritage ship records departing Drammen on Apr. 23 1868 aboard the schooner Bravo.

By Lowell Torkelson a descendent of Christian and Kari Pladson
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