

Christoffer Quale and Ingeborg Olsdatter, Charter Members West Norway Lake Lutheran

Kristoffer Erikssen was born 23 Jan 1843 in Vang Parish, Valdres, Norway. He was the second child of Erick Kristofferson Kvale and Kjersti Endresdatter Kattevol. Erick Kristofferson died a year later. Kjersti then married Ole Oysteinsson Berge and had three more children.

Christopher married Ingeborg Olsdatter who was born 19 Oct 1844 to Ole Jacobsen and Berith Johnsdatter in Vang Parish. They were married 5 April 1866 as Christopher Ericksen Kattevol and Ingeborg Olsdatter Hamre. They left the parish 7 April 1866 for America.

Their first stop was Goodhue County where their first 2 children were born. In 1868 they moved to Swift County. The 1886 plat map shows they own 160 acres in Section 14 [SW ¼] as Christopher Erickson and 160 acres in Section 23 [NE ¼] as C. E. Qvale. I was unable to find any records of which section was homesteaded. They remained on this land until their deaths.

Christopher and Ingeborg had 10 children all of whom survived to adulthood. The first 2 children were born and baptized in Goodhue County, the remainder in Swift County with baptism at West Norway Lake.

1. Erik: born 25 Oct 1866, died 23 Nov 1921
2. Ole: born 11 May 1868, died 8 Sept 1909, married Ingeborg Saxlund
3. John: born 17 Sept 1869, died 8 July 1970, married Laura Gorie
4. Kristoffer: born 30 Jan 1871, died 1911 Tosten: born 2 July 1874, died May 1943, married Emma Solberg
5. Carl/Carle: born 25 Nov 1875, died 5 Jan 1940, married Lillian Wright
6. Jacob: Born 14 Dec 1877, died 30 April 1954 Berit/Bertha: born 18 Dec 1882
7. Anton/Andrew: born 14 Jan 1885, died 1914
8. Kjersti/Christine: born Oct 1887, died 1910

Christopher slowly adopts the last name of Qvale or Quale. He is Erickson in the 1880 census but Qvale in the 1895 state census and federal censuses of 1900 and 1910.

Ingeborg dies on 21 Aug 1909 from consumption. Services were held at West Norway Lake Church and burial was in the cemetery. Rev. Sotendahl presided.

In the 5 years following his wife's death Christopher loses 4 of his children. Ole dies 3 weeks after Ingeborg. In the spring of 1910 his youngest Kjersti Christine dies. Christopher dies in October 1911 in New Mexico where he was being treated for tuberculosis. He was followed by the Rev. Andrew[Anton] in 1914 in Minneapolis.

Christopher died 5 Mar 1916 after suffering a stroke 3 days earlier. He was 73 years of age. Services and burial were again at West Norway Lake with Rev. Sotendahl presiding.

Sources:

- Swift County Historical
- Family Search
- Evangelical Lutheran Church Records
- Public member trees on Ancestry
- Ancestry.com

Written By Carole Heimdahl

Footnotes:

- Two of Christopher and Ingeborg's children went on to have professional careers. Andrew as a Lutheran minister and Carle as a physician and author.
- Although they lost 4 children as young adults Christopher and Ingeborg's son John lived to be 100.