

## **Peter E. and Marie Reese, Charter Members of East Norway Lake Lutheran Church.**

The key dates and places for Peter and Marie Reese and family are given concisely in a 1905 article about their son, Charles<sup>1</sup> and these can be confirmed in Norwegian records, cited now. (Note that there are some changes in the spelling of names; e.g., Charles was baptised Carl. Also, we find that the handwritten records are often difficult to read.)

According to baptismal records<sup>2</sup>, Peder Ericksen was born July 8<sup>3</sup>, 1823 in Fet Parish, Akershus County, Norway. His parents were Erick Olsen and Maren Pedersdatter, but the farm of residence is unreadable.

Marie was born April 3, 1823 in Enebakk Parish, Akershus County, Norway<sup>4</sup>. Her parents were Johannes Olsen and Dorthe Chrestensdatter residing at the Nygaard farm. Peder and Marie were married December 28, 1848 in Skedsmo Parish, Akershus County, Norway<sup>5</sup>.

(In the current map, Fet, Enebakk and Skedsmo are eastern suburbs of Oslo.)

In the 1865 Norwegian census<sup>6</sup> Peder, Marie and 5 children reside in Skedmos Parish, Akershus County, on a farm called Volla. The ages are: Peder, 42; Marie, 42; Carl, 15; Karen M., 13; Julie, 11; Ole, 9 and Arnt, 5. The birthplace listed for the oldest 4 was Fet Parish and for Arnt, Skedsmo Parish. Peder and Marie's eldest, Elin Dorthe, is found at a nearby farm called Riis, co-owned by two of Peder's brothers. Peder's mother Maren is listed as a widow also living with the two sons.

The records for Skedsmo Parish show Elen Dorthea Pedersdattet Riis and Carl Martin Pedersen Riis departing that parish in April of 1867<sup>7</sup>. No entry could be found for the other family members.

The name Peder E. Riis is found in a passenger list<sup>8</sup> for the sail ship Olaf, which departed Christiania (now called Oslo) on April 15, 1867. Thus, Peder has chosen to go by the farm name Riis, later anglicized to Reese. The entry states that Peder is traveling with his wife and 5 children, but their names and ages were apparently not readable to the transcriber. The Olaf reached Quebec on May 29.

In the article about Charles, we read that Peder and family lived for a year or so near St. Cloud before settling in Lake Andrew Township, specifically the W½ of the NE¼ of Section 28. The following page (281) of the same book shows that, as of November 10, 1874, Peter Erickson (Riis) homesteaded on Section 28. Very likely, this was the end of the 5 year period required to make the homestead official.

In the 1875 Minnesota state census<sup>9</sup>, the family is listed as

- P. E. Rise (age 51),
- Maria (22),
- Ole (18) and
- Arnt (14).

Thus the family name and Marie's have varied and Marie's age is incorrect by 30 years (probably the handwritten "5" was misread by the transcriber as "2").

In the 1880 US census<sup>10</sup>, the listing is

- Peter E. Reese (56),
- Maria (57),
- Charles M. (29),
- Julia (25), and
- Arnt Peter (19).

The Peter and Marie lie in rest in the cemetery at the First Lutheran Church of Norway Lake. The tombstone inscription is Peder (1823-1907) and Marie (1823-1913) Reese.

Summary prepared by Earl O. Knutson.

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1 Illustrated History of Kandiyohi County 1905, page 280.

2 Entry 35 in the 1823 male births section of Fet parish records, Akershus County, viewed in Arkivverket.no

3 All later documents give July 7, 1823.

4 Entry 31, page 174, 1823 female births section of Enebakk Parish, Akershus County, viewed in arkivverket.no.

5 This information is from the Reese family, especially the document put together by Marion Joyce Lamont Reese.

6 Census records for Akershus County (and other counties) can be viewed at arkivverket.no.

7 Skedsmo Parish records for 1867, page 328, viewed on Arkivverket.no

8 www.norwayheritage.com

9 Page 705 of the Kandiyohi County section, seen at <http://people.mnhs.org/finder/census>.

10 *Nordmenn I Amerika 1880*, seen at arkivverket.no