

Ole Johansen and Ellen Olsdatter Rindahl, Charter Members of West Norway Lake Lutheran Church

Ole Johansen Rindahl was born on April 10, 1833 in Aure, More Og Romsdal, Norway to Johannes Ericksen (1788-?) and Ane Martha Olsdatter (1797-1853). He was baptized at Aure Parish on April 14, 1833. On July 1, 1862, Ole was married to Ellen Olsdatter in the Aure Parish, More og Romsdal. Ellen was born January 6, 1838 at Øre Parish, Tingvold Municipality More og Romsdal, Norway.

Ole and Ellen along with their three children departed for America via Glasgow, Scotland, arriving in New York City on June 15, 1869. Apparently they went directly to Norway Lake as Ellen gave birth to another son there in May of 1870. Ole and Ellen raised six children, three born in Norway and three at Norway Lake.

1. Johanna Olsdatter Rindahl (1861-1899) married Lewis J. Sommervold and raised nine children. Johanna died September 26, 1899 and is buried in Canby, Minnesota where they lived.
2. Ole Olsen Rindahl (1864-1916) married Bertha Andrinna Roen raised five children before Ole's death at age 51. Bertha married Tolef O. Odland who adopted the children. Sons Orville Edvin and James William remained in the community. Orville is buried at West Norway Lake and James at East Norway Lake Cemeteries. Daughters Ella, Florence and Ruby moved out of the area and are buried elsewhere.
3. Johannes Olsen Rindahl (1867-1906) remained single and farmed with his brother Ole. Johannes is buried at West Norway Lake Cemetery.
4. Martin Olsen Rindahl (1870-1933) married Annie Bertina Raaen and had ten children. Of the nine only four remained in the area. Oliver M. Rindahl is buried at West Norway Lake and Norman J. Rindahl is buried at West Lake Johanna Lutheran Cemetery. Arthur died in infancy and is buried at West Norway Lake. Daughter Inga married Palmer Peterson and they farmed for a time in Lake Johanna Township of Pope County. They retired and moved to California where six of Martin's and Annie's children, namely Edward, John, Ellen, Johanna, Laura and Arthur who was named after his deceased brother had previously settled.
5. Anna Marta Olsdatter Rindahl (1873-?) appears to have remained single and moved to Minneapolis. No record of her death has been found.
6. Johan (John) Olaus Rindahl (1877-1947) moved to Minneapolis as a young man and remained single. He was a merchant in that city and is buried in Hillside Cemetery in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Ole and Ellen remained in Norway Lake Township. Ole died on May 21, 1909. Ellen died November 18, 1909. They were charter members of the West Norway Lake Lutheran Church and are buried in its cemetery.

Prepared by Marlin Henjum

Sources Consulted

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- Newspapers.com, Willmar Tribune, 9 Feb 1916, p. 2
- New York, Passenger Lists, 1820-1957
- Norway, Select Baptisms, 1634-1927
- Norway, Select Marriages, 1660-1926
- U. S., Cities Directories, 1821-1989
- U. S., Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Records, 1875-1940
- U. S. Federal Censuses, 1870-1940
- U. S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current
- U. S., Social Security Application and Claims Index, 1936-2007
- World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918