

Elling Christopherson Sagadalen¹ and Eli Olsdatter Quie Charter Members of West Norway Lake Lutheran Church

Elling Kristofferson was born 3 Mar 1831 in Fla, Hallingdal , Norway. His parents were Kristoffer Hanssen Hei-eie born 1790 and Birgit Olsdatter, born 1795.

Elling married Ingeborg Pedersdatter, Brataa on 8 May 1851 in Nes, Buskerud, Norway. She was born 1829 and her father was Peder Olsen. Elling and Ingeborg's daughter Birgit was born 5 Jan 1851.

Elling emigrated from Fla on 24 April 1852 as Elling Christopherson Heien and with wife Ingeborg and daughter Birgit.

In 1853 the family was living in the Rock Prairie settlement near Orfordville in what is now Rock County, Wisconsin. Kristoffer is born 22 Dec 1853 and Kari is born 30 Apr 1856 and were baptized in the Luther valley Church. By 1858 the family had moved west to Goodhue County in Minnesota.

In Feb 1860 Elling purchased land in Northfield Township, Rice County [SW1/4 of SW1/4 of Section 32] totalling 40 acres. He purchased 80 acres in Section 31 [S1/2 of SE1/4]. The family moved again in 1865 to Kandiyohi County. He purchased 89.29 acres in Section 4 of Arctander Township [SW1/4 of SW1/4] 15 Sept 1865. At the same time he purchased 40 acres in Section 9 of Burbank Township [SE1/4 of SW1/4]. On 10 Aug 1871 his homestead claim was established for 160 acres in Arctander Township Section [NW1/4 of Section 9].

Elling's first wife Ingeborg died some time after the birth of daughter Mari in November of 1860. Elling married Eli Olsdatter Kvie/Quie in 1867. She was born 11 Jun 1830 in Fla, Buskerud Norway to Ole Arneson and Kari Engebretsdatter and emigrated in 1861.

Elling and Ingeborg had 5 children:

1. Birgit Ellingsdatter b. 5 Jan 1851 Norway d. 1901 m. Engebrit Svendsen
2. Kristoffer Ellingsen 22 Dec 1853 Wisconsin d. 7 Apr 1934 Washington State
3. Kari Ellingsdatter b. 30 Apr 1856 Racine County, Wisc. D. 2 June 1928 m. Bjorn Bjornson Teige
4. Gunild Kristoffersen b. 16 Jan 1858 Goodhue County, Minn d. m. Halvor Amundsen
5. Mari Christopherson b. 9 Nov 1860 Goodhue County, Minn d. 12 May 1927 m. Johannes Peterson

Elling and his second wife Eli had 5 children, 2 survived to adulthood;

1. Ole E. Sagadalen b. 30 Nov 1868 Arctander Township d. 30 May 1930 m. Kari Lokken
2. Ingeborg Sagadalen b. 20 Juli 1870 Arctander Township d. 25 Jan 1876
3. Edvard Sagedalen b. 27 Feb 1872 Arctander Township d. 1880-1885
4. Karoline Sagadalen b. 3 Dec 1873 Arctander Township d. 14 Mar 1876
5. Carl Ingebrig Sagadalen b. 3 May 1876 Arctander Township d. 18 Feb 1923 m. Kristi

Elling gradually added Sagadalen to his name, mainly after his second marriage. His 3 oldest children used the traditional Ellingsen and Ellingsdatter. Gradually Christopherson became the last name of choice. All Elling's land documents and censuses through 1880 used the last name of Christopherson. By the 1900 census the family had adopted Sagadalen probably from Elling's father Kristoffer. His older siblings who also emigrated also adopted the name Sagadalen. In some records the name was shortened to Sagadal.

Elling passed away 27 Mar 1902. He was 71. Eli died 24 Jan 1905, aged 74 years. Both are buried in West Norway Lake Cemetery.

Sources:

- Ancestry.com
- Federal and State censuses
- Evangelical Lutheran Church records
- Rice County Historical Society
- Federal land office records
- Public member trees on Ancestry.com

Submitted by Carole Heimdahl, wife of Todd Heimdahl descendant of Thor Thorson and Tollef Thorson

1 [Editor's note] Elling was an uncle of the brothers Henrik and Tosten, also charter members. Sagadaen is an area in Flå, adjacent to the Hei and Hilde farms, both of which are mentioned in the family's church records.