

## **Elling Anderson Storruste and Ragnild Halvorsdatter, Charter Members of East Norway Lake Lutheran Church**

Elling Anderson was born 11 Dec 1809 at Storruste, Sor Aurdal, Oppland, Norway. He was the second of ten children born to Anders Johnson 1785-1848 and Olia Ellingsdatter 1789-1877.

Elling's first marriage was to Ingeborg Thorsdatter. Their child Kirsti was born 11 Sept 1834 in Nes, Hallingdal, Buskerud, Norway.

Elling married Ragnild Halvorsdatter 29 June 1839 in Nes. Her parents were Halvor Monson Lie Nes 1791-1871 and Ingeborg Haagensdatter 1796-1876. Ragnild was born 17 Sept 1817 in Rakke, Nes, Hallingdal, Norway, the oldest of 5 children. Her father Halvor was a member of the Norwegian Army.

Elling and Ragnild had 3 children:

1. Olia Ellingsdatter, born 18 Dec 1840 in Nes, Hallingdal Norway
2. Anders, christened 22 April 1849 in Nes, Hallingdal, Norway This is the only record of Anders.
3. Gunhild, born 25 Aug 1850 in Nes, Hallingdal, Norway

Elling and Ragnild emigrated with their 2 daughters around 1858. They followed Ragnild's parents and siblings who emigrated in 1846 after her father retired from the Norwegian Army. They settled in Spring Valley, Rock County, Wisconsin near her parents. Olia married Henrik Larsson who had emigrated from Nes in 1850. Their first child was born there in June 1859.

Elling, Ragnild and Gunhild are in Spring Valley in the 1860 census. He is already using the last name Storruste. In the 1865 census Elling and family are living in Wheeling Township, Rice County, Minnesota near Henry and Olia. A year later, they are living in Goodhue County. Gunhild is confirmed as Gunhild Storruste 8 April 1866 in Holden Lutheran Church. This is the last record I can find for Gunhild.

The family moves to Lake Andrew Township where Ragnild died 19 Mar 1868 and is buried in the East Norway Lake Cemetery.

The 1870 Federal census for Monongalia County states Elling is working as a farm laborer. The agricultural section of the same census {page 12} lists Elling as having 23 improved acres, 20 acres woodland and 117 unimproved. On 10 Aug 1871 Elling is awarded this homestead land, section 14 in Lake Andrew Township by the US government.

Elling died 27 July 1878 and is buried in East Norway Lake cemetery. His farm is inherited by his daughter Olia and her husband Henrik Larsson, also charter members of East Norway Lake.

### Souces

- My Heritage [my heritage.com]
- Family Search
- Digitalarkviet
- Kandiyohi County Historical Association
- Ancestry.com

Written by Carole Heimdahl and Todd Heimdahl, descendant of Henrik