

Ole N. Stoutland and Anne Thorkelsdatter, Charter members West Norway Lake Church

Ole Nielsson was born 26 Nov 1829 in Finnas Parish, Hordaland Norway to Niels Peterson and Ales Nielssdatter Stautland.

Anne Thorkelsdatter was born 14 Mar 1834 to Thorkel Johnsen Totland and Mari Helgesdatter, also in Finnas Parish, Hordaland, Norway.

The couple married 12 April 1857 in Finnas Parish and left the next day for America, Ole as Ole Nilsen Stautland. Ole's occupation was teacher [seminarist] having graduated from Stord.Off. Laeurskule, a teachers college, in Dec of 1856.

Ole and Anne's first recorded residence in America was Rock County, Wisconsin. These children were born in WI:

1. Nicolai Marius, born 15 Mar 1858 and baptized at Luther Valley Congregation. He died 21 Jun 1862.
2. John Henry, born 13 Aug 1859, [according to 1875 confirmation records at Norway Lake] also in Wisconsin. John Henry died 16 Jan 1896 in South Dakota.

According to Festskrift the family moved to Rice County, Minnesota in 1860. Their residence there is only documented by the baptismal records of 3 children, all baptized at Holden Lutheran

3. Nicolai Marius: born 4 May 1862, died 18 Oct 1862
4. Tom Oluf Marius: born 23 Aug 1863, died 4 Feb 1915, married Emma Seam, 5 children, blacksmith
5. Alette Mariane: born 25 July 1865, died 10 Nov 1957, married Olof O. Rudningen, 5 children

According to Festskrift the family moved to Nicollet County in 1868. Four children were born there but I was unable to find any baptismal records, census records or other documents to verify their stay there.

6. Betsey: born 1 Mar 1867, died 27 Dec 1956, married Ingebret O. Rudningen, 12 children
7. Nicolai Bernhard: born 6 Jan 1870, died 20 Nov 1907, single
8. Caroline Julia: born 18 April 1872, died 19 Jan 1947, married John Nelson, 8 children
9. Olava: born 23 April 1874, died 8 Dec 1939 Ole K. Wilson, 6 children

While the family was in Rice County, Ole came up to Kandiyohi County and made several land purchases. On 2 April 1866 he purchased a total of 160 acres in Lake Andrew township Sec 32 [E1/2 of SW 1/4] and [W1/2 of SE 1/4]. On 10 April 1866 he purchased Lot 4 [22.57 acres] also in sec 32 in Lake Andrew township and 40 acres in Arclander Township in Sec 11 [SE1/4 of SW1/4]. Lastly, on 10 May 1866, he purchased 160 acres in Norway Lake, Sec 35 [SE 1/4].

Festskrift records Ole's hiring as a teacher in 1873 by the Norway Lake congregation for \$200.00 for an 8 month school year plus free board. Since he was also the church song leader he was eligible for special offerings and a bushel of wheat or 75 cents per family. I do not think his family moved here with him in 1873 but they are recorded as being here in the 1875 census in Norway lake township. After the congregations divided into east and west he was hired by the west congregation since he lived in their area. His salary, however, was reduced to \$20.00 per 22 day month and ½ a bushel of wheat per family as song leader. He probably taught until 1879 when the congregation hired another teacher. Later he was asked to fill in. In 1879 the Stoutland Brothers build the first store in Sunburg. It was sold 2 years later. The 1895 census refers to his occupation as teacher but there are no records of where he taught after West Norway Lake nor before 1873. They are listed as living in Norway Lake Township in this census but the 1886 plat maps do not show him owning any of the properties purchased in 1866.

Their 10th and last child was baptized in the Norway Lake church:

10. Andrew: born 22 Mar 1876, died 19 July 1943, married Anne Tollefson

Ole is not listed in the 1900 census. He passed away 28 Nov 1900 and his obituary lists his residence as Brooten in Stearns County. His obituary lists the services as being at the United Church in Brooten but no cemetery is listed. It also said he left his family in "comfortable circumstances"

Anne is in the 1900 census. She is living with her daughter Caroline Julia in North Dakota. By 1910 she is living in Brooten with her youngest son Andrew. Anne passed away there Oct 27, 1911.

Written by Carole Heimdahl, February 2020

Sources;

- Ancestry.com and Ancestry public member trees
- US land records Newspapers.com
- DigitalArkviet- birth, marriage and emigration records
- Festskrift
- My Heritage
- 1886 plat map