

Ingebret Strandbraaten and Gunnild Olsdatter, Charter members West Norway Lake Church

Ingebret Strandbraaten was born Engebret Reierson on 7 Nov 1820 in Eggedal local parish, Sigdal Parish, Buskerud County, Norway. His parents were Reier Engebretson and Astri Gundersdatter.

Engebret married Gunnild Olsdatter 29 Sept 1844 in Eggedal local parish, Sigdal Parish, Buskerud, Norway.

Gunnild was born 31 Oct 1821 in Modum Parish, Modum[Heggen]local parish, Buskerud, Norway. Her parents were Ole Tollefsen and Guri Olsdatter. Guri was from Flaa local parish, Nes I Hallingdal Parish, in Buskerud County.

The couple had one child Astri Engebretsdatter. She was born 4 Feb 1852 and baptized 14 Mar in Flaa local parish, Nes I Hallingdal, Buskerud County, Norway. Her father is listed in the church record as Engebret Reierson Strandbraaten.

The family left Flaa 7 April 1861 for America. Engebret is signed out as Ingebrit Reierson Strandbraaten from Sigdal, Gunnild as Gunnild Olsdatter Modum.

Ingebrit, Gunnild and Astri arrived in Rice County in 1861 and Norway Lake in 1865 according to Festskrift. Astri as Astri Strandbraaten is confirmed in Dec of 1866 by Pastor Johnson along with 3 others at the home of Even Railson.

The couple homesteaded in Norway Lake Township, section 28 [N 1/2 of NW1/4 and lots numbered 1 and 2]. He used the name Engebret Reierson. He was granted title to his homestead 10 Aug 1871. On 20 July 1869 he also purchased 40 additional acres from the government that adjoined his homestead in section 28 [SW ¼ of NE 1/4].

The 1870 agricultural census states Engebret had 18 acres improved, 20 woodlot and 172 unimproved. He also owned 3 milk cows, 4 other cattle, 2 oxen, 7 sheep and 2 pigs.

According to Gunnild's obituary Astri passed away when she was 17. This means 1869 or early 1870. I was unable to find a record in the Norway Lake church records.

Again, according to Gunnild's obituary, at some point the then childless couple decided to transfer title to their property to Levor Olsen Kvie {Quee, Quie} with the proviso that he care for them as long as they lived. Levor and his family were living with them by the 1875 census. Levor was born in 1835 in Nes, Hallingdal, Norway to Ole Arneson and Kari Engebretsdatter. He may or may not have been a relative.

The 1886 plat maps show all of Engebret's original acreage is in Levor's name. Also, there are 40 additional acres in section 28 [SE1/4 of NE1/4] and lot 7 [24.62 acres] and lot 8 [28.12 acres] adjoining in section 21. I am not sure if Engebret or Levor purchased these acres.

Engebret and Gunnild remain with the Kvie family until Engebret's death 13 July 1900 of kidney disease. He was 79 years old. The Norway Lake Township records list 16 July as the date of the funeral, however the West Norway Lake records state 26 August.

By 1905 Gunnild is living with her niece Guri Olsdatter Medalen. Guri was the daughter of Ole Bjornsen and Gunnild's sister Anne Olsdatter. She emigrated to America from Flaa local parish, Nes I Hallingdal, Norway in 1871 and married Ole Olsen Medalen, also from Flaa, 25 Dec 1871 in the Norway Lake church.. The Medalen family farms in section 6 in Norway Lake Township. Gunnild remains living with her niece until her death of old age, 21 April 1914, at age 92 ½. After services conducted by Rev. Sotendahl on 25 April 1914 she was also buried in the West Norway Lake cemetery.

Written by Carole Heimdahl, February 2020

Sources:

Digitalarkviet- birth marriage and emigration records

Family Search – death records

Kandiyohi County Historical Association- township death records

Newspapers.com- obituary of Gunnild

1905 Illustrated History of Kandiyohi County

U.S. land office records

1886 plat map

Federal and State census records