

Christofer Bjornson Teige¹ and Ingeborg Gulbrandsen, Charter Members of West Norway Lake Church

A local church history book² has "Christopher B. Teige, from Eggedal. Married with Ingeborg Gulbrandson, from Eggedal. Came to Norway Lake 1868."

Grave markers³ at the West Norway Lake Church cemetery show: Christofer B. Teige, 10 Aug 1834 – 29 Nov 1899 and Ingeborg Teige, 24 Jun 1839 – 15 Feb 1900.

Norwegian church records show the baptism of Christopher B. The parents are Björn Haagensen and Ingeborg Aslaksdatter Teige. Although hard to read, the birth date cited is 29 Jun 1834. (The difference from the earlier cited date is unexplained.) As to Ingeborg, these records show only one born in 1839; she was not a match as the father's name was not Gulbrand.

In the 1865 census⁴ of Eggedal, Norway there is a family:

- Kristoffer Bjørnsen, born 1835 in Eggedal;
- Ingebør Gulbrandsdatter, born 1839 in Sognedalen⁵;
- Bjørn Kristoffersen, born 1863 in Eggedal.

A Norwegian farm and family history book⁶ has the family living at Rotevassbråten, a part of the Medalen farm in northern Eggedal. The information given is:

- Kristoffer Bjørnsen, born 1834 at upper Teige;
- Ingeborg Gulbrandsdatter, born about 1839;
- Bjørn, died in infancy;
- Bjørn, born 1863;
- Gulbrand, born 1866.

The family went to America in 1868.

Confirming this emigration, an exit record dated 18 April 1868 from the Eggedal Church: Kristoffer Bjornsen Medalen, age 34; Ingeborg Gulbrandsdatter, age 29; Bjorn, age 6; Gulbrand, age 2. The notation reads "to Amerika."

In the 1875 census⁷ of Norway Lake Township, Kandiyohi county, in household 150, there are Christopher B. Teige, age 42. In the same house: Ingeborg, 32; Bjorn, 11; Gudbrand, 9; Ole, 5; Fingal, 3; Ingeborg, 0. The youngest 3 were born in Minnesota, all others in Norway. (Oddly, this part of the 1875 census record is mislabeled "New London" Township.)

In the 1880 census of the same township, we find: Christofer Bjornson, age 46; Ingebor, 40; Björn, 18; Gubbran, 14; Ole, 11; Fingal, 7; Ingebor, 5; Charoline, 3; Gunild, 1.

In the 1885 census of the same township, the family is listed (once again under the family name Bjornson). They are:

- Christafer, 50;
- Ingebor, 44;
- Bjorn C., 21;
- Gulbran C., 19;
- Ole C., 15;
- Fingar C., 12;
- Ingebor C., 10;
- Caroline C., 8;
- Anton C., 5;
- Gunil C., 2.

It appears that the first Gunild died between that 1880 and 1885 censuses.

The family appears again in the 1895 census of the same township (the family name is misspelled Tige): Chrestafer, 61; Engebar, 56; Gulbrand, 28; Ole, 22; Fingar, 21; Engeborg, 20; Anton, 15; Gunill, 12.

This copy of the census was blurry and the spelling of names was poor.

Report prepared by Earl O. Knutson, July 2018.

1 In the list of charter members, his middle initial is incorrectly shown as "D"

2 *Festskrift*, by Njus and Sotendal, 1916. The cited information was viewed at http://www.debbiesgenealogy.com/index_files/Page381.htm

3 Viewed at Findagrave.com

4 Viewed at http://www.rhd.uit.no/folketellinger/ftliste_e.aspx?ft=1865&knr=0621&kenr=009&bnr=0062&lnr=000

5 Sognedalen, also called Stedje, is on the west coast of Norway, far from Eggedal. How these two meet?

6 Sigdal og Eggedal, Volume III, Farms and Families. By Andreas Mørch. page 1147.

7 The 1875, 1885 and 1895 censuses were accessed through <http://www.mnhs.org/search/people>.