

Chapter 1

The Emigrants

Introduction

This chapter provides the background for Johannes Dalen and Guri Erlandson's decision to leave their ancestral farms in Lesja, Norway to homestead in Pope County, Minnesota

Lesja

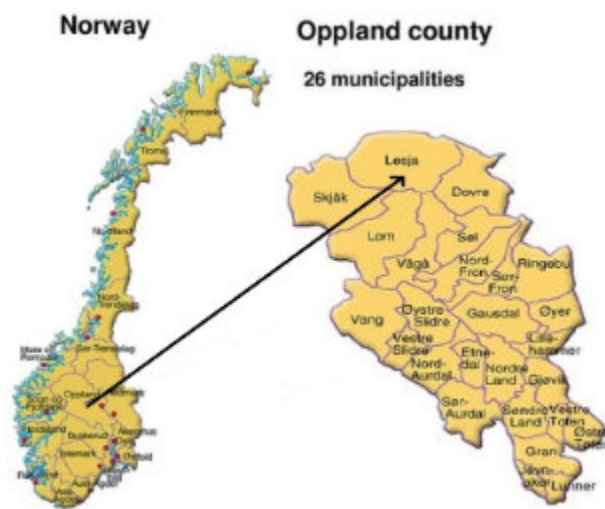
Lesja, a municipality of Oppland County, Norway, is located in the narrow and highly mountainous Gudbrandsdalen valley. The base elevation of Lesja is over 3000 ft, with the highest mountain peaks reaching 7,200 ft. Located in the rain shadow of western mountains, the Gudbrandsdalen valley includes the most arid region of Norway. The average annual precipitation is only 16 inches. Farming is mostly confined to the relatively narrow valleys, while the uplands and mountain plateaus were used mainly for summer pasture. The growing season in Lesja typically lasts 3.3 months (101 days), from around June 5 to around September 13.¹

Lesja was principally an agricultural region during the 1700 and 1800's. Most of the population, 70-80%, engaged in farming either as landowners or cotters, while most of the rest also had some connection with agriculture.³

It is documented that Norway and the Gudbrandsdalen valley from 1801 - 1815 and 1834-1843 experienced many years of crop failure with frost as the common cause.³

Such a series of poor years naturally created hard times in a community largely dependent on agriculture. Not surprisingly, Lesja parish, of which Dovre then formed a part, was characterized as "the parish in Gudbrandsdalen deepest sunk in poverty."

Two important factors bearing on emigration emerge from this brief survey of economic and demographic developments in Dovre: (1) The population increased rapidly toward 1865. A great majority of the people were dependent upon



agriculture, which still employed traditional methods. As a result the resources within the system were taxed to their limits by 1860. The slightest variation, such as, for instance, a crop failure, would throw it out of balance.³

Because Lesja farmers were dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods, a series of poor growing years led to hard times.

Natural population growth, coupled with introduced food varieties from the Americas, still led to a growing population. The potato, adapted to a cooler climate and shorter growing season, was introduced to Norway about 1750 and widely adopted by the early 1800's. The potato was a natural cure all for the scurvy and vitamin C deficiency common to Norway.²

From 1801 to 1865, documented by census records, the population of Lesja increased by 81%, from 2,022 to 3,664 individuals. In an attempt to provide for more people, many farms were subdivided during this period.

*Nordwest-Blick vom Slådalsvegen in das Øvre Gudbrandsdalen, links der Ort Lesja, dahinter der 1.591 m hohe Veslhorungen
©2013 by Otto and Mechtild Reuber (Aufnahme datum: 24.07.2009)
Home / Register/Sitemap: Lesja - Slådalsvegen-Tour - Veslhorungen - Øvre Gudbrandsdalen*



The more fertile topsoil occurred on the alluvial bottomlands, thus the farms were located along the more level, narrow valley floor. Surrounding the valley were uplands and mountain plateaus used as seter or summer farms for grazing dairy cattle and sheep.

Why They Left Norway

By 1865, existing farms became too small to accommodate the increasingly large families. In addition, there was little or no available land on which the children of existing families could establish new farms in the narrow Gudbrandsdalen valley. The latter problem was further complicated by the tradition of farmland inheritance by the eldest son, which left siblings without the opportunity to establish farms of their own.

While poor harvest and famine years were a contributing factor motivating Lesja residents, mainly farmers, to emigrate, a primary incentive was the economic advantages and social prestige that was synonymous with the ownership of land.⁴ The United States Homestead Act of 1862 opened the door for the immigrants to acquire land. The act made 160 acres of public land available to anyone 18 years or older, for a minimal filing fee and 5 years of continuous residence.

So emigration offered Lesja families a means to acquire affordable, yet excellent farmland in regions with a longer growing season and overall better weather conditions than their Norwegian homeland.

Two people are said to have left Lesja in 1853 but emigration from there did not really begin until 1864.³ Between 1853-1949, 2,292 people are documented to have emigrated from the Lesja region.⁵

Many of the emigrants from Lesja homesteaded in Reno and Ben Wade Townships, Pope County, Minnesota in the 1870's and 80's. Reno Township was surveyed and organized in 1867 and Ben Wade in 1869.

Lesja, Dovre and other Norwegian immigrants who settled in the area, organized the St. Pauli Lutheran Church in 1874, initially (1875), in a log structure. A more substantial church soon followed, and subsequently was moved into the town of Lowry, after it was laid out in 1887. (Lowry was not incorporated until 1896). The St. Pauli Cemetery is located across the road from the original church site. The first burials were in 1874 and 1882.

Family Backgrounds of Johannes Dalen and Guri Erlandson

Our Great Grandfather, Johannes Dalen, emigrated in 1879 and homesteaded 80 acres in Reno Township, Pope County, Minnesota. His wife, Guri Erlandson and their 3-year-old daughter, joined him in 1880. Together they established a farm on which they raised a family of eight. Close relatives and fellow Lesjians were among their many neighbors.



Guri Erlandson and her daughter Mari, age 3, sailed from Oslo, Norway on the Steamship Angelo, shown here, May 28, 1880. Their destination was New York.

Emigrants from Kristiania 1871-1930,
County: Oslo
Geographic area: Kristiania muni.
Given name: Guri
Last name: Erlandsd.
Gender: k
Age: 24
Residence: Lesje
Position: Pige
Date of emigration: 1880-05-28
Date of contract: 1880-05-26
Destination: New York
Ship: Angelo
Agent: Fr. Lie⁶

Johannes Dalen's father, Johannes Mortensen (1792-1877), farmed the Ansetdalen Farm in Lesja. He had 10 children, with 6 reaching adulthood. Of these 6, only Johannes left for America (1879), but 6 of his Johannes Mortensen's *grandchildren* emigrated, settling either in either Minnesota or North Dakota.

Guri Erlandson's father, Erland Kristoffersen (1823-1907), raised his family on the Myrlykkja Farm in Lesja. Seven of his 10 children reached adulthood, and of these, 6 emigrated to the United States. Two eventually settled in North Dakota, while the other 4 homesteaded in Minnesota.

The following chart on the next page lists the 6 sons and daughters of Erland who emigrated to the United States.

*They lived in the north
In a steep mountain valley
in the land Norway*

*Their summers were short
they planted seed and waited
but rain did not fall*

*Family and neighbors left
to homestead in the New World
where land was dirt cheap*

*Mid West they settle
writing back praiseful reports
of harvests plenty*

*Reading the good news
They pack their belongings
starting their journey*

*Our ancestors left
sailing cross the ocean blue
and arrived Lowry*

Haiku by Bonnie

**Note: All individuals colored blue -
sailed the ocean blue.**

Descendants of Erland Kristoffersen

15 December 2019

First Generation

1. **Erland Kristoffersen** was born on 30 Dec 1823 at Myrlykkja in Lesja, Oppland, Norway. He appeared in the census in 1865 at Myrlykkja in Lesja, Oppland, Norway. He appeared in the census in 1875 at Myrlykkja in Lesja, Oppland, Norway. Erland appeared in the census in 1885 in Trondheim, Sør-Trøndelag, Norway. He died on 11 May 1907 at the age of 83 in Lesja, Oppland, Norway.

Erland Kristoffersen and Marit Johnsdatter were married on 31 Oct 1848 in Lesja, Oppland, Norway. **Marit Johnsdatter**, daughter of Jon Eriksen and Marit Olsdatter, was born on 18 Aug 1826 at Lyftingmostugu in Lesja, Oppland, Norway. She died in 1918 at the age of 92 in Lesja, Oppland, Norway.

Erland Kristoffersen and Marit Johnsdatter had the following children:

- 2 i. **Kristian Erlandsen**, born 22 Jan 1849, Lesja, Oppland, Norway; married Christense Jakobie Monsdatter, 15 Oct 1876, Hemnes, Nordland, Norway; died 15 Nov 1905, Roberts County, South Dakota, USA.
- 3 ii. **Johan Erlandsen**, born 23 Mar 1851, Lesja, Oppland, Norway; married Anne Olsdatter, 1 Jun 1879, Lesja, Oppland, Norway; died 12 May 1932, Lowry, Pope County, Minnesota, USA.
- 4 iii. **Ole Erlandsen**, born 29 Sep 1853, Lesja, Oppland, Norway; married Marie Andreasdatter, 30 Sep 1876, Trondheim, Sør-Trøndelag, Norway; died 26 Feb 1928, Trondheim, Sør-Trøndelag, Norway.
- 5 iv. **Guri Erlandson**, born 21 Feb 1856, Lesja, Oppland, Norway; married Johannes Dalen, 25 Sep 1880, Pope County, Minnesota, USA; died 29 Dec 1893, Lowry, Pope County, Minnesota, USA.
- 6 v. **Mathias Erlandsen**, born 1 Feb 1858, Lesja, Oppland, Norway; married Gurine Sjenstad, 29 Feb 1884, Starbuck, Pope County, Minnesota, USA; died 14 Dec 1889, Morris, Stevens County, Minnesota, USA.
- 7 vi. **Marit Erlandsdatter**, born 16 Sep 1860, Lesja, Oppland, Norway; married Anders Anderssen Klepp, 27 Apr 1900, Lesja, Oppland, Norway; died 16 Jan 1930, New Effington, Roberts County, South Dakota, USA.
- vii. **Edvard Erlandsen** was born on 4 May 1863 at Myrlykkja in Lesja, Oppland, Norway. He died on 22 Mar 1865 at the age of 1 at Myrlykkja in Lesja, Oppland, Norway.
- viii. **Edvard Erlandsen** was born on 2 Jul 1865 at Myrlykkja in Lesja, Oppland, Norway. He died on 8 Oct 1867 at the age of 2 at Myrlykkja in Lesja, Oppland, Norway.
- 8 ix. **Johan Olaf Erlandsen**, born 16 Dec 1867, Lesja, Oppland, Norway; married Gurine Sjenstad, 11 Jul 1895, Lowry, Pope County, Minnesota, USA; died 2 Jan 1945, Glenwood, Pope County, Minnesota, USA.
- x. **Erland Erlandsen** was born on 28 May 1870 at Myrlykkja in Lesja, Oppland, Norway. He died in Apr 1871 at the age of 0 at Myrlykkja in Lesja, Oppland, Norway. He was buried on 27 Apr 1871 in Lesja, Oppland, Norway.

1. "Average Weather in Lesja", .<https://weatherspark.com/y/61782/Average-Weather-in-Lesja-Norway-Year-Round>. (Accessed 14 Dec 2012)

2. Jens Helleland Ådnanes, (June 2014). *How the potato was brought to Norway*. University of Bergen. <https://partner.sciencenorway.no/agriculture-church-food/how-the-potato-was-brought-to-norway/1402256>

3. Arnfinn Engen, (Oslo, 1978). *Emigration from Dovre, 1865 -1914*
https://www.naha.stolaf.edu/pubs/nas/volume29/vol29_08.htm (Accessed March 2020)

4. Einar Haugen. *Norwegian Migration To America*{1}
https://www.naha.stolaf.edu/pubs/nas/volume18/vol18_1.htm

5. https://www.naha.stolaf.edu/pubs/nas/volume33/vol33_11.htm
Kjelland, Arnfinn, comp. *Emigranter fra Lesja 1853-1949*. Lesja, Norway, 1989. 282 pp
"A computer printout of the 2,292 persons who emigrated from the region of Lesja."

6. Digital Archives. *Emigrants from Kristiania 1871-1930*
<https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/8/pe00000000937042>

Chapter 2

The Lesja Farms

The Ansetdalen Farm, Home of Johannes Dalen

The following paragraphs are a translation made by Stella Dalen Olsen from page 509 of Bygdebok for Lesja. 2 : Gards- og slektshistorie for nrdre del av Lesja hovudsokn, published 1992. Author: Kjelland, Arnfinn, 1952-

Ansetdalen was first settled in the mid 1730's when a newly married couple cleared the place. They received a lease to the farm (a lease was usually for life) in 1752. When the first part of the name - Anset - came from is unknown. It is mentioned first in 1736 when Anne and Knute were married.

Ansetdalen was a tenant farm until 1876.

Sigrid and Johannes (Great grandparents of Stella Dalen Olsen) took over the farm a few years after they married in 1820.

There were also farm animals on the place: a horse, 5-6 cows, 3 calves, 6-7 sheep, and a pig. The last year grain was raised for threshing was in 1955. The farm had no 'seter' (mountain pasture).

First thing known about the place is that the liquor serving family number 1 was taken to court for illegally serving alcohol and the resulting seduction of the served.

In 1792, the tenants received new (or higher?) leases from Knut Syversen Stor-Avdem (1-8) on the use of the land. They had to pay 30 dalers and an annual fee of 3 dalers. Of these,

2 would be paid in cash and 1 in work. Included in the leasehold was Vesl-dalen and Holakeren.

Ansetdalen was not a small farm. The tax records from 1865 and 1875 state that in 1865 they had 2 horses, and there were only 2 or 3 farmers in the entire community that had 2 horses. The farm could support 8 people (the years it didn't freeze). There were many people on the place ,too, two families, two workers, so the men had to find work outside the farm. Hans (Stella's grandfather) is mentioned as a road worker.

Ten years later in 1875 there was a change in the managers, or workers, and the farm was considerably larger, about 2 1/2 acres were added and eleven people would now live there. That was fewer people than ten years earlier. Now they lived reasonably well of the farm alone.

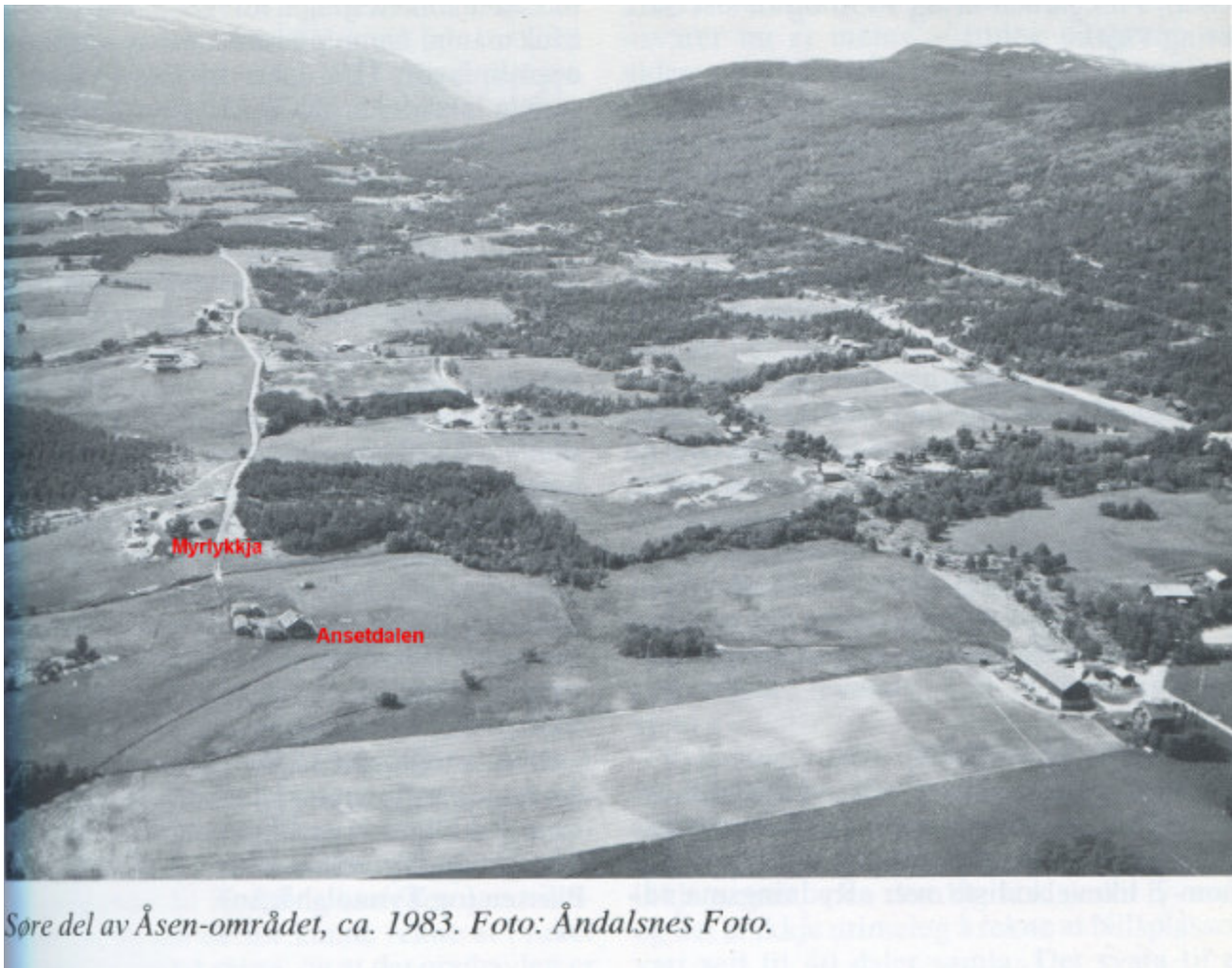
A year later, in 1876, the farm was purchased - not leased anymore. Until the 1900's there were usually farm animals there. Ole (?) - who owned it then, was also a carpenter.

The farmer in Stugu bought Ansetdalen in

Comments shared by Ann-Kristin Holshagen from Lesja, Norway October 2013

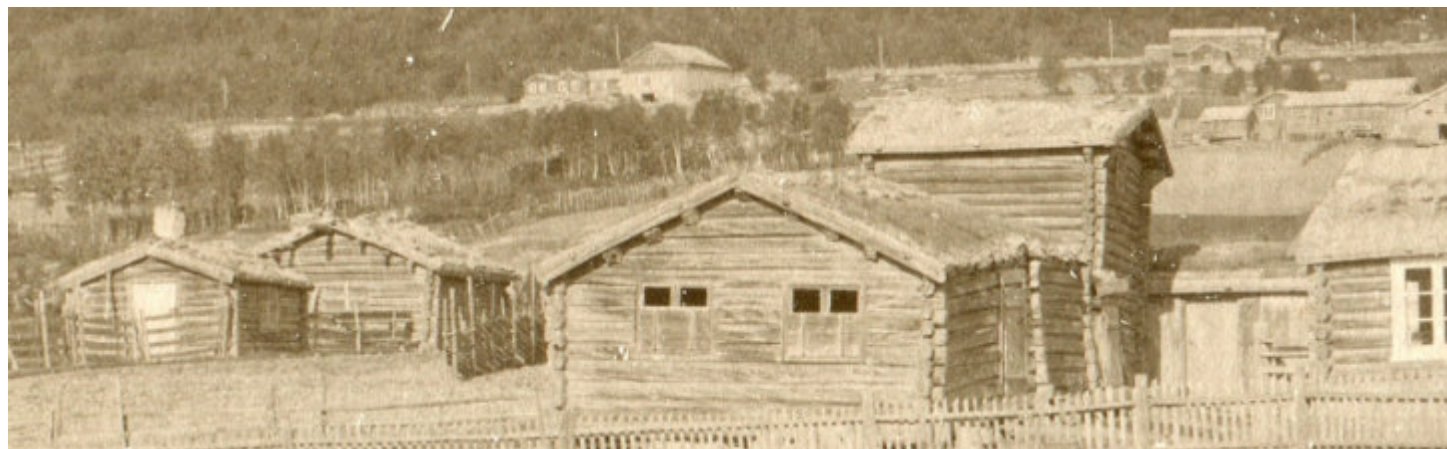
"And as for the looks alike or not - things changed dramatically regarding house building here in Norway around 1900. Old ones were torn down and new ones were built. Finally people got to buy the properties (earlier they had only been for rent or what you call it) that they lived in and ran. And new land came to as they put down the Lesja-vatnet (which was actually a big lake all over close to both Myrlykkja and Ansetdalen) The fields downwards to the river today, were under water and the bottom of the lake back then. So both scenery and houses have changed since then"

The families of the Ansetdalen and Myrlykkja farms were very close neighbors as the farms were adjacent at the end of the road.



Kjelland, Arnfinn. *Bygdebok For Lesja 2*, 1992, Page 471

Ansetdalen farm about 1910. Photo was in the possession of Julia Dalen Weisel.
Also found on Page 509 of *Bygdebok Lesja 2* by Arnfinn Kjelland.





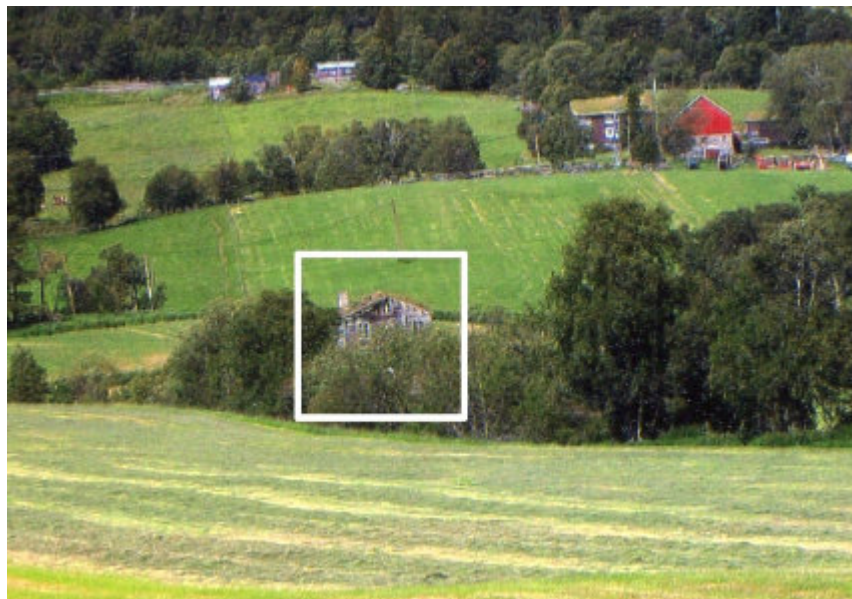
Ansetdalen Farm 1962

Gaarden Onsetdal
(Onsetdal Farm)
Lesja, Norway
September 1969





2013 - The last building on the Ansetdalen farm.



The Myrlykkja Farm, Home of Guri Erlandson

Translation by Barbara Schlichting, about 1997, of pages 495-496 of of Bygdebok for Lesja. 2 : Gards- og slektshistorie for nrdre del av Lesja hovudsokn, published 1992. Author:

Myrlokken is situated down below an old road 350 meters east from Koladalen. The nearest neighbor is Stugu 300 meters toward the northwest. (Look up map page 468)

So we looked up and come to Myrlykkja in 1750 - or the first in 1760 - year. The name is first used in the church record book in 1862, when the eldest daughter of number 1, Anne, deceased.

Myrlykkja had cottage holding below Vesl-Avdem, and was considered country until the first royal road in 1846. But they didn't have tax fees and census records in 1865 and 1875 is first rate holdings with cottagers. In 1878 it is tax divided, and is in the agricultural census.

In the west boundary of Myrlykkja to Stugu, in the north to Ommundstad, and in the east to Ansetdalen and Vesl-Avdem and south to home fields division at Leira, the land is flat.

Today the farm operation is grazing sheep. They stopped with grazing cows in 1960. In addition there is 1 horse on the farm, and rabbits. The soil is clay.

Agriculture use and living conditions

We won't forget or slip over the opportunities of the olden times. We can look up and see they had economical waterways in about the 1830, and many later years. Kristoffer, number 4) held the mortgage on the cottage buildings and movable effects and the payment debt was set at fifty dollars in 1838. The creditors was the head clerk Lokra in Romsdalen.

Tenant holders bought the cottages and possessions and owned their own farm - in 1846. They purchased the place and house, together they inspired happiness and also

named Myrlykkja: the site on the south side for the name Plads, for fifty dollars. The debt per person in each dwelling was one dollar a year. To buy including the right of way between the woods and pasture, and bought a leasing contract. There wasn't a land assessment. In the contract study of it, they were badly off to buy the pair, and Kristoffer (number 4) nearly had to pay for the place. (From Rod) this is where they took their name from.

Kristoffer had an allowance paid by his son.

It is true the people owned their own farm in 1846, and it's hard to interpret whether the families benefited from owing their own or as the census shows, them moving away.

At first it was popular for the people to move - and the agricultural census in 1865 and 1875. There after they didn't have holding taxes or commissioning land registration or appraisal commissioning. Look on the table on page 466. It shows the livestock holding will be able to feed 3-4 men. The production of the 8 laborers was enough to feed the large families of which we learned from the census. With one horse, perhaps they made the thoroughfare?

The next ten years brings and extends to the year 1875, with five men tending the feed, fewer men than the previous years. Now we will arrange the order of the eight laborers: Erland was a merchant. He didn't have a sufficient roadway for trade. It's hard to tell where the store was located. Marit and Erland's son worked as a laborer. Kristian was a tradesman. Johan was a shoemaker and Mathias was a landscape artist.

First in 1878 there was a property assessment. Myrlykkja then had become one-third of Vesl-



Myrlykkja i 1918. Foran: Brit og Knut Haugen.

Kjelland, Arnfinn.
Bygdebok For Lesja 2,
1992, Page 495



Myrlykkja Farm - 1962



1969



Myrlykkja
2013

Chapter 3

The Dalen Farm

Introduction

Johannes Dalen and Ole Loftingmoe were early settlers in Reno Township, Pope County, Minnesota. They left the Lesja Parish in Oppland County Norway together in 1879. On June 5th in the 1800 US Federal census, Ole Loftingmoe was recorded in

Reno Township. Johannes is not found in the 1880 census, but his future wife and mother of his daughter had left Norway on May 28, 1880 and he was possibly arranging to meet her. On September 25, 1880 they were married at the Pope County courthouse. In 1886 Johannes and Ole had adjacent farms in the NW corner of Section 30.

Early History of Pope County and Reno Township.

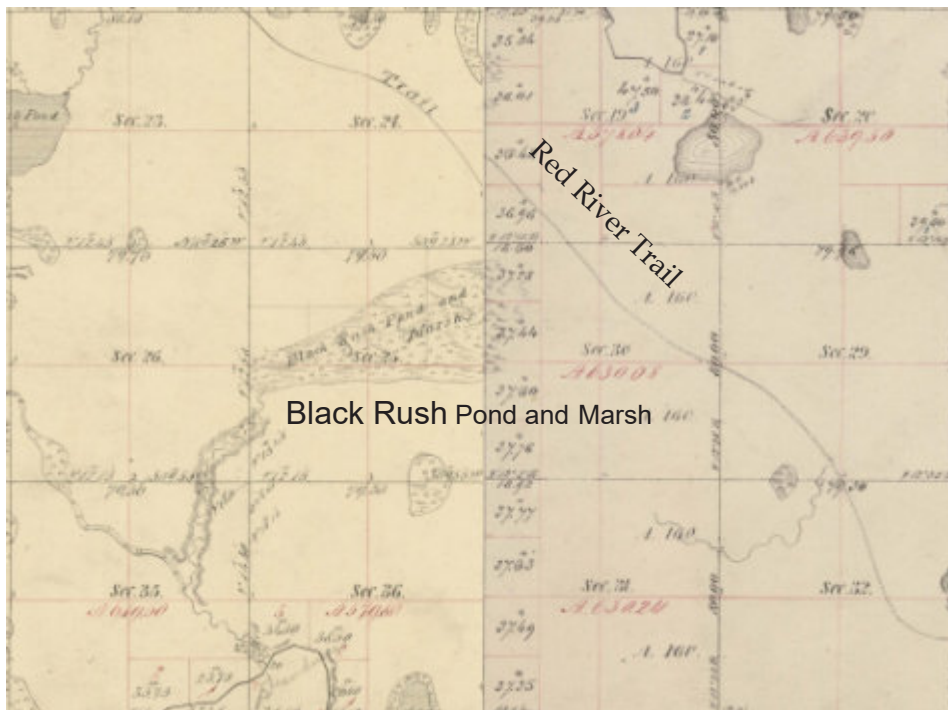
Pope County was identified by the state legislature in 1862] and named for John Pope, a Union Army general who had worked as a surveyor in the area. Its organization was effected in 1866.¹

Reno Township took its name from Lake Reno. The survey for Reno Township was completed September 29, 1859 and was recorded in the Surveyor General's Office in St. Paul, Minnesota on March 16, 1860.

In Reno Township two homestead claims were filed in 1861, one claim in 1864, 17 in 1865, and many more between 1866-1869. In the 1870 US Federal Census for Reno Twp. there were 61 families enumerated and 64

families in the 1880 census. By 1870 Reno Twp. was fairly well settled, all the best farmland having been homesteaded. Most of the homestead claims were filed by Canadians, English, Swedes, etc. The Lesjians and Norwegians began purchasing farm-land in Reno Twp. a decade later.

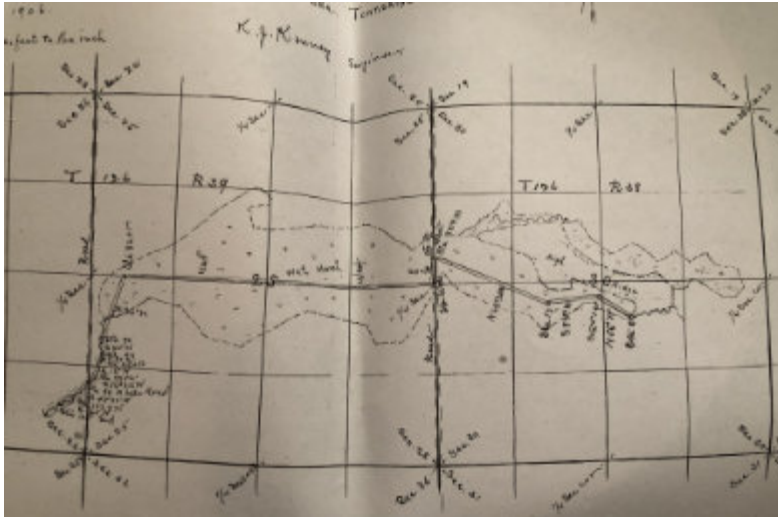
On Jan 15, 1880 Hans Christenson filed a homestead claim on the East half of the NW quarter of Section 30, Reno Township, containing 80 acres. This is the 80 acres that was purchased by Ole Loftingmoe in 1886. Hans Christenson was from Lesja and emigrated in 1868 when he was 20 years of age.



1859 original survey map of a portion of Ben Wade and Reno Townships.

The Red River Trail², as seen on this survey map, cut across the NE corner of the 80 acres homesteaded by Hans Christenson.

Labeled in the 1859 survey and marked in the 1898 plat map, was the "Black Rush Pond and Marsh". A portion of this pond and marsh occupied the middle section of the eventual farmland of Johannes and Ole.



County Ditch Number Seven in Reno and Ben Wade Townships. Surveyed Oct. 1906, K.J. Kimney Engineer

The first public ditches in Pope County were established in the very early 1900's to benefit the public. A Petition for Public Ditch was brought forward for each ditch by the public. This began an administrative process which ended with an Order Establishing Public Ditch. There are 18 public ditches within Pope County.³



The Black Rush Pond and Marsh is now "County Ditch Number Seven". By 1906 the pond and marsh had been drained to allow the land to be used for livestock grazing.

Even when the ditches were drained, there would still be standing water and wet areas. The summer bugs must have been fearsome and screens weren't in use until the early to mid 1900s.⁴

1. "Pope County Minnesota", Accessed Apr. 2020, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_County,_Minnesota

2. "Red River Trail", Accessed Apr. 2020, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_River_Trails

The Red River Trails were a network of ox cart routes connecting the Red River Colony (the "Selkirk Settlement") and Fort Garry in British North America with the head of navigation on the Mississippi River in the United States. These trade routes ran from the location of present-day Winnipeg in the Canadian province of Manitoba across the Canada-United States border, and thence by a variety of routes through what is now the eastern part of North Dakota and western and central Minnesota to Mendota and Saint Paul, Minnesota on the Mississippi. Travelers began to use the trails by the 1820s, with the heaviest use from the 1840s to the early 1870s, when they were superseded by railways.

3. "Drainage / Public Ditches", Accessed Apr. 2020, <https://www.co.pope.mn.us/departments/Drainage/PublicDitches>

4. "Window Screen", Accessed May 2020, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Window_screen
Window screens designed specifically to prevent insect entry were not patented in the United States, although by 1900 several patents were awarded for particular innovations related to window screen design. By the 1950s, parasitic diseases were largely eradicated in the United States in part due to the widespread use of window screens

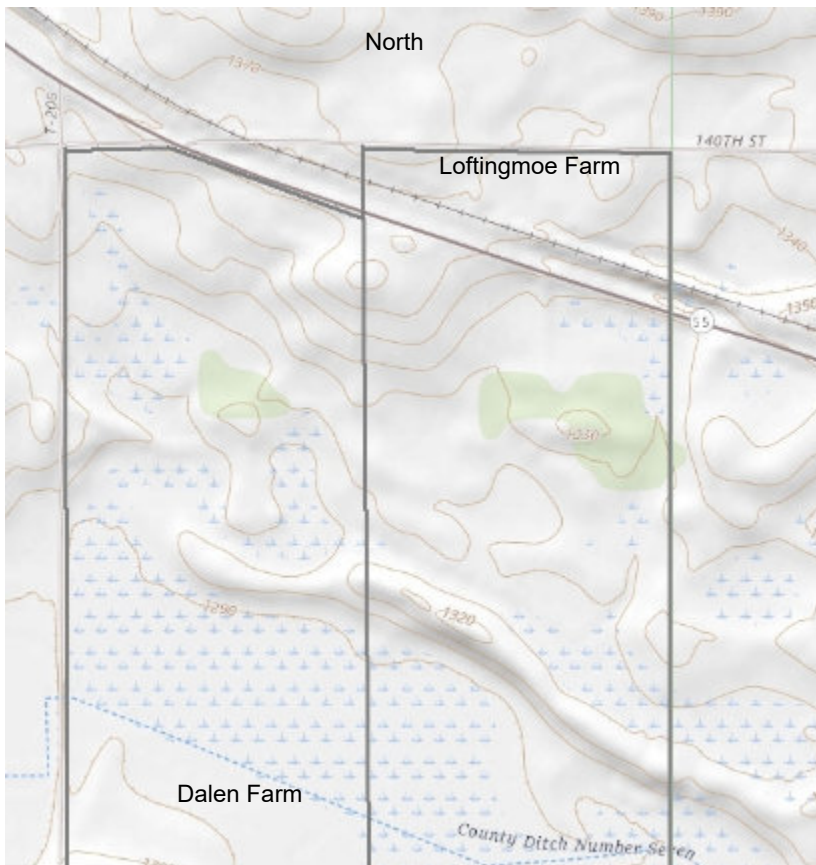
Pope County Plat Map 1898



The St. Paul & Chicago Railway Company had claim to 40 acres located in the NW quarter of the NW quarter of Section 30, dated September 1, 1877. This acreage was adjacent to the 80 acres homesteaded by Hans Christenson and was the first purchase of land by Johannes. The railroad was built in 1886 and passed through the northern corners of the NW quarter of Section 30.



This photograph on the left of the former Dalen, now Erlandson farm, was taken in 2019 from the west and shows the land being used for livestock grazing. The depression behind the cattle would be ditch number 7.



The contours on this 7.5 minute topo map are 10'. The only tillable cropland on the Dalen farm was located in the northern quarter of the 120 acres, about 30 acres.

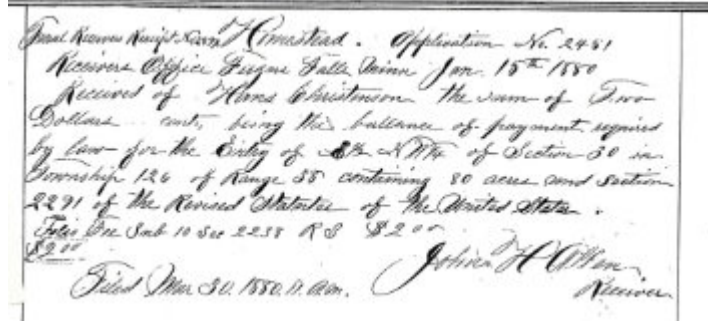
The southern half of the farm was only suitable for livestock grazing.

The house, barn, and other small structures were located on this south facing slope

Purchase History of Johannes Dalen and Ole Loftingmoe's Farms

Hans Christensen filed a homestead claim for 80 acres on January 15, 1880 for \$2.00 with location east half of NW one quarter of Section 30, of Township 136 of Range 38.

Signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln on May 20, 1862, the Homestead Act encouraged Western migration by providing settlers 160 acres of public land. In exchange, homesteaders paid a small filing fee and were required to complete five years of continuous residence on the land, building a home on it, farming the land and making improvements before receiving ownership of the land.

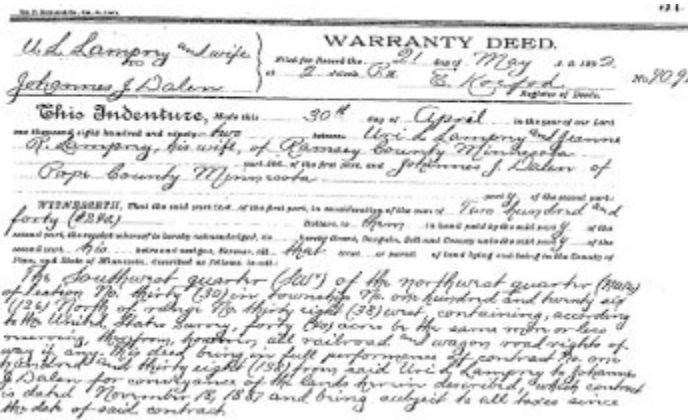


On May 6, 1886 Ole Loftingmoe purchased for \$500 the 80 acres that were homesteaded by Hans Christensen. Hans, after completing his residence requirements, was able to sell his 80 acre claim for \$500, turning a profit.



On June 28, 1886 Johannes Dalen purchased from The St. Paul & Chicago Railway Company 37.28 acres for \$149. The 37 acres were located in the NW quarter of the NW quarter of Section 30.

The railroad was constructed in 1886 and apparently the St. Paul & Chicago Railway Company obtained/purchased the 40 acres on September 1, 1877.



In April 30, 1892, Johannes purchased 40 acres from Uri and Jeanne Lamprey for \$240. These 40 acres were located adjacent and south of his 37 acres purchased in 1866. The 40 acres of Uri and Renee Lamprey were dated November 18, 1887.

On July 29, 1896 Johannes purchased 37.6 acres from Cornell University of New York State for \$480. This acreage was the NW quarter of the SW quarter of Section 30. Johannes now owned 111-114 contiguous acres. Cornell had title to this property dated December 26, 1888. Johannes's three purchases for his 111 acres totaled \$869.

On July 29, 1896 Ole Loftingmoe purchased 40 acres from Cornell University of New York State for \$480. This acreage was the NE quarter of the SW quarter of Section 30. Cornell had title to this property dated December 26, 1888. Ole now owned 115 contiguous acres. Ole's two purchases for his 115 acres totaled \$980.

Johannes and Ole purchased their adjacent farmland in 1886. But in the Minnesota State 1885 census they were enumerated consecutively. It's possible they were already occupying the land before the purchase was arranged or recorded.

Johannes died in 1913. In his will dated May 9, 1913 he gave half interest of all his property to Martinues, to Julia he gave three tenths interest of all his property, and to Otto he gave the remaining two tenths of all his property. Julia and Henry had moved to Lowry per the 1930 census leaving Martinus and Otto to manage the farm.

In the 1930's the Dalen brothers were in debt. Prices were bad, only a few cents for a dozen eggs. The brothers weren't able to make enough money to keep the farm. It was foreclosed by the bank in 1937. The farm was then purchased at auction for \$3,000 by George and Minne Erlandson. (See Warranty Deed below) George Erlandson, son of Mathias Erlandson, was Guri's nephew. In 2020, a grandson of George and Minnie is the current owner. Thus the farm has been continually owned by an Erlandson for over 130 years.

B1038 Warrenty Deed

This Indenture, Made the twenty-ninth day of March, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight between The Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a corporation duly created, organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Wisconsin, party of the first, and George M. Erlandson and Minnie Erlandson, his wife, of Lowry, Pope County, Minnesota, as joint tenants and not as tenants in common, parties of the second part:

Witnesseth, That the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of Three thousand (3,000) --- dollars, to it in hand paid by the said parties of the second part the receipt whereof is hereby confessed and acknowledged, hath given, granted, bargained, sold, remised, released, aliened, conveyed and confirmed, and by these presents doth give, grant, bargain, sell, remiss, release, alien, convey and confirm unto the said parties of the second part, and the survivor of them, his or her heirs and assigns forever, the following real estate, lying and being in the County of Pope and State of Minnesota and known and described as follows, viz: The west half of the northwest fractional quarter of Section thirty, (30), in Township one hundred twenty-six (126) north, of Range thirty-eight (38) west, containing seventy-four and seventy-two one-hundredths (74.72) acres, more or less, except the right of way of the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Sault Ste. Marie Railroad Company, as the same is now located and constructed over and across said premises, such right of way containing one and one one-hundredths (1.01) acres, more or less, and also the northwest quarter of the Southwest fractional quarter of said Section thirty (30) containing thirty-seven and six-tenth (37.6) acres more or less. (...) much legalese (...)

The party party of the first part hereby agrees to pay taxes on the premises for the year 1937. (...) more legalese (...) Notarial Seal, Milwaukee Co., Wisconsin, Filed April 14, 1938 at 1 P.M.

The Farm History with Photos



The house above was likely completed a few years after the 1886 purchase. This was the primary residence of the Dalen family until the farm was foreclosed in 1937.

The house below was occupied by Guri's oldest brother Kristian Erlandson and his family in July 1889. By 1900 Kristian and his family had moved to Roberts County, South Dakota. This house was located in the Northwest corner and was subsequently repurposed.



The house was on a rise, above the marsh and faced south. It backed up to a low ridge, about 6 feet in height. The house had no basement and wasn't very well insulated, if at all.

The barn was west of the house. It can just be seen in the photo on the top right.

There was a flowing spring near the barn that provided water for the barn and house.

A sod shanty sloped down to the spring near the barn. The soddy would have served the purpose of refrigeration in the summer and a way to prevent milk, butter and food from freezing in the winter. The soddy would have been inexpensive to build and fireproof. It's likely at the back end of the soddy was a dugout into the hill to create a room that could maintain a temperature in the 40's year round. Once electricity arrived in the early 30s, the soddy would not have been needed.



Taken October 1990. A natural spring is in this spot. It matches the grassy slope to the house on the right



If this Receipt is not current Return at once.
TAX 1913
 Treasurer's Office, Pope County, Massachusetts.
 (Barnes, Mass.) *17 May 14* 1914
 Received of *Johannes Bales* *paying 1913* the sum of *2.00* of *1913* being *1913* amount of Taxes charged upon the following property *FOR THE YEAR 1913* in the Town of *Pillsbury*
Mass
 TAXES PAID

Real Estate	Time Bonds	Range	Amount
<i>17 May 14</i>	<i>1913</i>	<i>1913</i>	<i>2.00</i>
Total			2.00

 Personal Property Tax.
 Received Payment of *A. P. Braman*
C. B. Treasurer.



Otto hauling water

Martinus in the family car with
Earl in the back seat





Description 2019

Sect	Twp	Range	Lot	Block
30	126	38	0	0

NW1/4 SW1/4; W1/2 NW1/4
EX PT TO RR ROW IN BK L PG 205

Property Address
14208 280TH AVE
LOWRY MN 56349

Land: 298600 / 298600
Till Land: 186700

1978 photos of the
Erlandson farm

