

The Myrlykkja Farm, Home of the Erland Kristoffersen Family⁴

Myrlykkja lies just below the old road 350 meters east of Kolådalen. Its closest neighbor is the Stugu farm which is 300 meter towards the northwest.

As far as we can determine, Myrlykkja was established in the 1750s or 1760s. The name is first found in the parish register for 1862 in the death record for the oldest daughter, Anne, of resident number 1.

*Note - Kristofer Erlandsen, was born December 14, 1787 at Øvre Lyftingmo. On November 13, 1823, as a resident of Myrlykkja, he married Guri Olsdatter. No death record was found for a person named Anne in the 1862 Parish records)*³

Myrlykkja was a tenant farm under Vesl-Avdem and was purchased as a self-owned farm for the first time in 1846. But there was no official land assessment or survey completed and in the census for 1865 and 1875 the residents were again listed as tenant farmers. In 1878 the assessment of the farm was completed and the residents were listed as owners from then on.

To the west, Myrlykkja borders on Stugu, to the north on Ommundstad, to the east on Ansetdalen, and Vesl-Avden, and to the south on fields belonging to Leira. The land is flat.

Today the farm operations consist of raising sheep. They stopped having cattle about 1960. In addition they have one horse and rabbits. The soil here is clay.

FARMING OPERATIONS AND LIVING CONDITIONS IN OLDEN TIMES

As elsewhere in this area, there is almost nothing known about farm operations in the oldest times. We can see that they had economic difficulties in the 1830s like so many others. Kristoffer, (see farm No. 4 below), took out a mortgage on the "residential buildings and movable articles" for a debt of 50 daler in 1838. The creditor was the trading representative, Mr. Løkra, in Romsdalen.

The crofters bought the tenant farm for

"inheritance and ownership," that is, for their personally owned property, in 1846. They purchased the land and buildings as well as a fenced paddock which was also named Myrlykkja "lying on the south side of the previously named lot," for 50 daler. To cover the fixed expenses of the main farm house, the purchaser was required to pay 1 daler per year. The purchase included the right to use the communal woods and harbor and the contract of purchase was entered at the registration office. However, no assessor's valuation and surveying of the property was carried out. In the contract it states also that it was the father of the purchaser, Kristoffer (see farm No. 4 below), who had for the most part developed the property "from ground up" (the literal translation might be: "from the raw roots") as the expression was in those days.

Kristoffer was at that time was also receiving a pension from his son.

We believe that the people here were owners of the land in 1846 and continued to be so even though they were not called that in future census records.

Details about farm operations we find first in the population and agricultural censuses of 1865 and 1875. Since the land assessment and division had never been completed, the property is not listed in the tax commission's valuation lists. Its operations in 1865 can be seen in the table on page 466. It had about 4 mål of cultivated fields then and livestock such that it could support 3 to 4 people those years it did not freeze. But this production was far from able to support the large family that lived here, so they certainly must have hired themselves out for additional work although this is not mentioned in the census. They had a horse, so maybe they worked in transport? *Note - A mål is a Norwegian unit of land measurement that is equal to 1,000 square meters. It is also known as a dekar. 1 mål = 1 dekar = 0.247 acres. So 4 mål was 1 acre.*

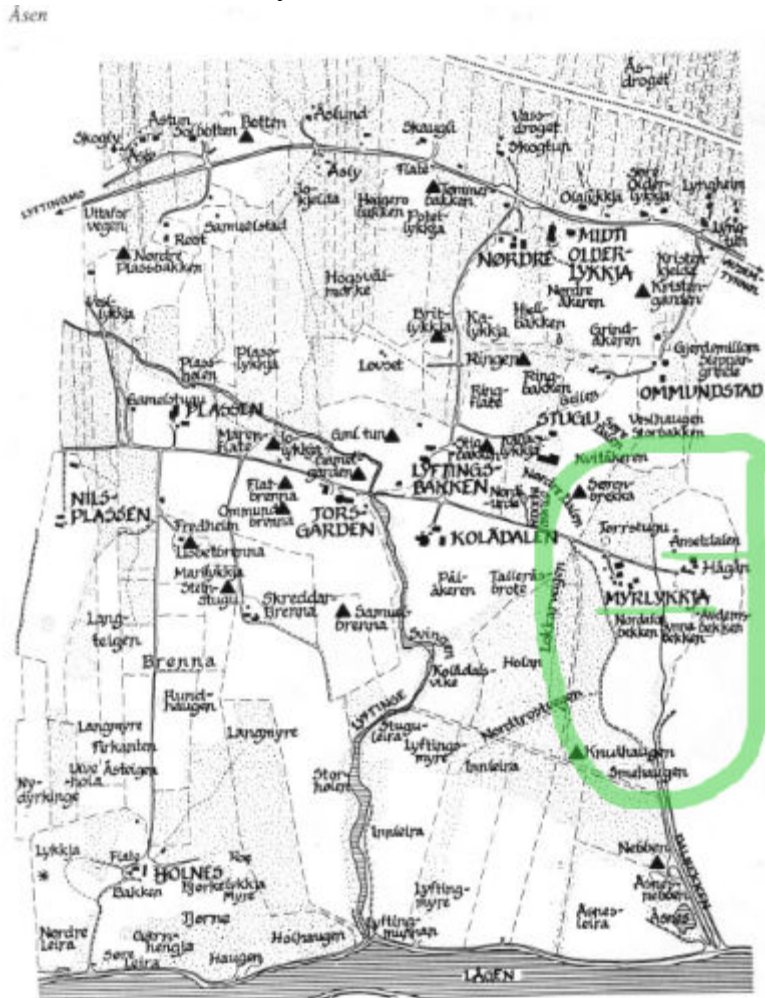
Over the next decade operations were expanded somewhat. In 1875 its operations could support 5 people with somewhat more cultivated acres than ten years previously. But now we have information about additional employment. Erland was a merchant. What type of merchant he was we don't know. It is not known if there was a store in the area. Marit and Erland's sons were also employed. Kristian was a merchant, Johan was a shoemaker, and Mathias was a painter's assistant.

First in 1878 the property was assessed and surveyed. Myrlykkja was established then as 1/13 of Vesl-Avdem and the oldest sons of Marit and Erland were designated as inheritors of the property.

Farm operations during the first part of the 1900s were up and down a bit. Many of

the people who lived here emigrated to America and in the period after Marit died in 1918 the farm was probably deserted. New owners came in 1930 and since then they have been employed in hunting, fishing, construction work, and now animal transport in addition to farming.

Note: Erland Kristoffersen and Marit Johnsdtr had 10 children. 7 survived to adulthood. Kristian emigrated to the United States in 1886, Johan in 1882, Ole relocated to Trondheim in 1875, Guri emigrated in 1880, Mathias in 1882, Marit in 1903, and Olaf in 1887. After 1903 Marit was alone. In the 1910 census Marit was listed at Ansetdalen with the family of Hans Johannesen (Johannes Dalen's older brother) and his wife Marit Johnsdtr, Marit's younger sister. In 1911 Olaf spent 11 months in Lesja and made repairs to his Mother's Myrlokken house.





Myrlykkja i 1918. Foran: Brit og Knut Haugen. ⁶



Myrlykkja Farm - 1962



1969



Myrlykkja 2013



https://mapcarta.com/s/lesja_norway

Lesja

Location: Innlandet, Norway, Nordic countries, Europe

Latitude 62.1179° or 62° 7' 4" north

Longitude 8.8626° or 8° 51' 45" east

Population 2,170

Elevation 660 metres (2,165 feet)

Bibliography

- 1) Kjelland, Arnfinn. Bygdebok For Lesja 2, 1992, Page 471
- 2) Kjelland, Arnfinn. *Bygdebok for Lesja. 2 : Gards- og slektshistorie for nördre del av Lesja hovudsokn.* Lesja:Lesja kommune, 1992
- 3) Digital Archives. *Norway, Church book from Lesja parish 1820-1829*, <<https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/327/pv00000009898288>> Role: brudgom, Given name: Christopher, Last name: Erlandsen, Gender: m, Residence: Myeløkken, Birth year: 1787 (calculated), Age: 36
- 4) Translation by Barbara Schlichting and Gordon Collett of pages 495-496. Kjelland, Arnfinn. *Bygdebok for Lesja. 2 : Gards- og slektshistorie for nördre del av Lesja hovudsokn.* Lesja:Lesja kommune, 1992.
- 5) Kjelland, Arnfinn. Bygdebok For Lesja 2, 1992, Page 468
- 6) Kjelland, Arnfinn. *Bygdebok For Lesja 2*, 1992, Page 495