

## **Peder J Bakke and Agnete Christendtr Hoibakke**

Peder J Bakke was born on 15 August 1857 in Fåvang, Norway to Iver Pedersen Kirkestuen Bakke and Marit Andersdtr. Lundstuen Losneslokken. Fåvang is a village and parish in the municipality of Ringebu, in Oppland county, Norway. Naming in Norway is interesting. Male children are normally called the name of the father followed by son while the female children are the name of the father followed by dtr. Marit Andersdtr is an example. However, Peder J Bakke does not follow that convention or he would have been Peder Iverson. In all the records I've found of Peder, his name is Peder J or P. J. Names are frequently followed by the farm or location where they live. The Bakke farm is located a couple miles from the town and has two locations; the upper and lower. Normally livestock such as sheep are moved to the upper location in the summer and brought back to the lower in the winter.



To continue the story of Peder, he was baptized in the Fåvang church on 30 August 1857 according to research by my cousin in Oslo, Norway, Harold Bakke. Peder was vaccinated against small pox on 19 July 1858. Peder was confirmed on 20 April 1873 again in the Fåvang church, a modern day photo of the church is on the left. Fåvang is located in south of the valley and traditional district of the Gudbrand Valley, 51 kilometers north of Lillehammer. On the west side of the Gudbrandsdalslågen river, about three kilometers away from the centre of Fåvang is Kvitfjell, the downhill skiing arena used in the Lillehammer Winter Olympics held in 1994. The population of the village was 687. Particularly heavy fighting took place in Fåvang, as well as neighboring Tretten, Vinstra, Kvam, Sjoa and Otta during the Norwegian Campaign which led up to the occupation of Norway by Nazi Germany. The Norwegian movie Jonny Vang was principally filmed in the town of Fåvang during 2003. Fåvang stave church (Fåvang kirke) was built after the Reformation, for the most part of using materials from earlier stave churches in the valley which had been demolished. The church was probably built between 1627 and 1630. The oldest parts can be dated back to around 1150-1250.

Peder migrated to the United States in 1882. I have a written statement on the back of a form letter that states "Peder J Bakke born 17<sup>th</sup> August 1857 in Fodvang Gudbrandsdalen, Norge Came to the USA 1883 to Alexandria Douglas Co and to Warren Marshall Co 1885." It was written in Norwegian and the ink is faded, but that is the best translation I can do.



Agnete Christendtr. Høibakke was born on October 6, 1858, to Marta Olsdr. Skuggen Høibakken, age 41, and Cristen Nilsen, age 52. Agnete was baptized on 31 October 1858 in the Øyer/Tretten Lutheran Church, Oppland, Norway. Agnete was confirmed in the same church on 2 May 1875. Agnete migrated to Minnesota in July 1883. The photo on the left is of Agnete and her sister Sina taken in Norway. I do not know which one is Agnete.

Agnete and Peder were married in Warren, Minnesota on 11 June 1885. According to stories I've heard, the newly-wed couple walked from Warren to their homestead farm near Newfolden after the ceremony, a distance of about 25 miles. The second year of their married life, Peder was helping with a threshing crew in the area when an accident happened. He was driving a bundle wagon with two 'broncos' and stopped for noon. A bundle wagon is what was used to pick up grain bundles from the field and bring them to the threshing machine. The horses described as 'bronco' were not quite tame horses. As Peder was unhitching the horses from the wagon, the 'broncos' bolted for the water, pulling the wagon behind them and over Peder's neck. He survived but was partially paralyzed for nearly a year. Agnete helped drive the horses for plowing in the spring and drive the horses again for planting grain while Peder used his body to control the plow and planter.

In researching archived Warren Sheaf newspapers, I found the following interesting references to Peder.

Warren Sheaf, Warren, Minn, Thursday, July 20, 1911

Peder Bakke, of the town of Newfolden had a leg badly cut in a mowing machine last Wednesday. He got off to pick up a tin can in front of the sickle. The horses became frightened in some way and started up, cutting five deep gashes above the ankle before they were stopped.

Warren Sheaf Warren, Minn. Date unavailable

Town Clerks and Treasurers of Marshall County, Minn., elected in 1901 (the names of Clerks or Recorders come first, Treasurers second.)

Marsh Grove	John Knudtson	Fodvand
"	Peder J. Bakke	"



Their home on the farm was a log house. Daughter Minnie remembers being in the log house when a tornado hit it. Minnie told me that she was pretty young at the time and doesn't remember much more than that. Peder and Agnete built a more modern home which still stands on the farm. Here is a photo of the farm, date unknown. I remember as a young boy

helping my father shingle the roof on the barn shown on the left. The middle building was the granary with the new house on the right.

Peder and Agnete raised a family while on the farm. I understand that Peder learned English but Angete spoke mostly Norwegian. All of their children also spoke both English and Norwegian. The family consisted of:

Ida Bakke was born on 31 July 1886

Amanda Bakke was born on 6 February 1888

Clara Bakke was born on 10 December 1890

Mary (also spelled Marie) Bakke was born on 10 November 1892

Gilbert Bakke was born on 23 September 1894

Adolph Bakke was born on 15 April 1896

Pauline Bakke was born on 29 May 1898

Olga Bakke was born on 25 March 1900

Minnie Bakke was born on 10 June 1902

I find it interesting that all births occurred in an even year.

From the Newfolden Clarion, 8 November 1935, I found the following story.

#### P. J. BAKKE'S FETED ON THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING

Mr. and Mrs Peder J. Bakke wre pleasantly honored at their farm home in Marsh Gove when a large crowd of neighbors, relatives and friends gathered for a Golden Wedding reception on Wednesday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. Bakke were married in Warren on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, 1885, and the next day moved into their tiny log cabin on their homestead in Marsh Grove. Crippled for life by an accident during the second year of married life, his buildings once destroyed by storm, Mr. Bakke, surmounting handicaps that would have made a weaker man give up in despair, stuck to his homestead, raised a family of nine children, built up a fine farm home and today may be truthfully said to be one of Marsh Grove's successful pioneer farmers.

On Wednesday afternoon the guests were received in rooms tastily decorated in gold, and the following program in charge of Rev. G. P. Ronholm was given:

Devotion, Rev. Ronholm; Vocal trio, Mrs. Louis Farstad, Mrs. Albert Lokken, Mrs. Harry Anderson; Talk, Rev. Ronholm; Talks by Mrs. Karen Thompson, Elias Haarstad and E. O. Hjelle, all pioneer neighbors of the couple; Duet, Rev. and Mrs. Ronholm. The program was completed by the presentation of the Golden Wedding Gift by Andrew Holmos. Following the program a bounteous lunch and a huge wedding cade was served.

The following children were present: Gilbert, Ida and Adolph, of Newfolden; Mrs. Iver Farstad, Devils Lake, N. D.; Mrs. Hans Nordlie, Grand Forks, N. D. and Mrs. Carl Johnson, Goodridge. Three daughters, Mrs Carl Wickgren Robbinsdale; Mrs. Athur Lewis, South Carolina, and Mrs. Aubrey Lopp, San Pedro California were unable to attend.



I left the spelling as it was in the article, although Andrew's last name should have been Holmas and it should have been Arthur Lewis. The photo may have been taken at that event, however, I have no date on the photo. The photo was definitely taken at the

home of Peder and Agnete. Agnete and Peder are in the middle of the photo. All of the children named in the story are in the photo. Spouses of the children are not in the photo, however, I believe some of those sitting on the ground are grandchildren.

Another newspaper clipping has survived the years and I have in my possession is as follows:

A family reunion was held on Sunday afternoon at the home place of the late Peter Bakke's which is the first time that all of the children have been together since 1910. Those present were Gilbert Bakke, Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Bakke, Arlene, Lester and Larry, Ida Bakke, Amanda Lewis, Mrs. Clara Frederick, Mrs. Mary Nordlie, Mr. and Mrs. Carl M. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Lopp, John Bakke, Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Johnson. The occasion was also the birthday of the youngest sister, (Minnie) Mrs. Lopp.

A delicious lunch was served, the table was decorated with yellow candles and a big birthday cake. Pictures were taken of the family group.

However, some detective work was necessary. We know from the article, the event took place on Sunday and it was Minnie's birthday which was 10 June. We know that Larry Bakke was there and he was born in 1948. We know Mary Nordlie was there and she died in 1958. The only two Sundays on 10 June between 1948 and 1958 were in 1951 and 1956. That means it must have



been one of those two years. The following photo was probably taken that day, since it includes all the children except Pauline who was killed in an automobile accident in 1940.



From left to right: Ida Bakke, Amanda Lewis, Clara Frederick, Mary Nordlie, Gilbert Bakke, Adolph Bakke, Olga Johnson and Minnie Lopp.



Here is the only photo I have of Peder and Agnete, taken on the porch of their farm home.

Here is the obituary as printed on March 7, 1946 in the local newspaper for Peder Bakke:

### **Peder J. Bakke Dies**

Peder J. Bakke passed away at a hospital in Thief River Falls on Saturday evening, February 23, 1946 at the age of 88 years, 6 months and 6 days.

He had become bedridden for almost 3 years. He became suddenly worse so he was taken to the hospital where he died two days later. He was born in Fodyang Ringbo, Guldransdalen, Norway on August 17, 1857. There he spent his childhood days.

In the year of 1883 he came to America and settled first in Alexandria, Minn. In 1884 he moved to Warren, Minn. The same year he filed on a homestead in Marsh Grove township, where he lived until his passing. On November 6, 1885 he was united in marriage to Agnetha Christianson, also from Norway. To this union 7 daughters and 2 sons were born, all living except one daughter, Pauline (Mrs. Carl Wikgren) who died in 1940.

He leaves to mourn his passing his beloved wife and 8 children namely: Ida and Mrs. Amanda Lewis, at home; Mrs. Clara Frederick, of San Diego, Calif; (Mary) Mrs. Hans Nordlie, of Grand Forks., N. Dak.; Gilbert and Adolph of Newfolden, Minn.; (Olga) Mrs. Carl Johnson, of Thief River Falls, Minn.; (Minnie) Mrs. Aubrey Lopp of Richmond, Calif., and two brothers 2 sisters , Andrew Bakke of Newfolden, Minn., Mrs. Ole Hilstad of Wilmar, Minn. And Mathias and Pauline in Norway. Two sisters have preceded him in death. There are also 16 grandchildren and 4 great-grand children.

Funeral services were held from Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Newfolden on Thursday, February 28 at 1:30 p. m. Rev. E. J. Ranum, assisted by Rev Thy. Myhrer, officiated. Vocal Solos were rendered by A. O. Gudim and Mrs. Kore Myhrer. The large attendance and many floral and memory wreaths showed the esteem in which the departed was held. Among those from out of town attending were; Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Bakke and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Johnson of Thief River Falls, Mrs. Fred Larson of Fargo, O. E. Hilstad of Leonard, Carl Bakke of Walker; Mr. and Mrs. Hans Nordlie, of Grand Forks, and Miss Doris Wikgren of Robbinsdale.

The following article from the newspaper, is Agnete's obituary.

### **Mrs. Peder J. Bakke Passes Away**

Another of our pioneer mothers was laid to rest on Saturday afternoon, July 10 when funerals services were held from Bethel Lutheran Church for Mrs. Peder J. Bakke, pioneer Marsh Grove resident. Rev. E. J. Ranum assisted by Rev. Thy. Myhrer officiated. Special singing consisted of a vocal solo by Mrs. Kore Myhrer and another in the Norwegian Language by Mr. A. O. Gudim. A very large crowd of relatives and friends were in attendance and beautiful floral wreaths and memory wreaths were given. Pall bearers, all neighbors of the deceased were Ingvald Nyflot, Selmer Nyflot, Clarence Haugen, Carl Haugen, Albert Knutson and Conrad H. Engelsrud. Interment was made in Oak Grove Cemetery.

Agnetha Christianson Bakke was born in Trette, Gulbrandsdalen, Norway, October 6 1858. There she was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith and grew to womanhood.

In the year 1884 she came to America and settled first in Alexandria, Minn., later she moved to Warren, Minn. Where she was united in marriage to Peder J. Bakke on November 6, 1885. The same fall they moved to a farm in Marsh Gove where she lived until her death on July 8, 1948. She was at the time of her death 89 years, 9 months and 2 days old.

To this union seven daughters and two sons were born, all living except one daughter, Pauline (Mrs. Carl Wikgren) who passed away in 1940.

She leaves to mourn her passing six daughters, namely Ida Bakke and Amanda Lewis at home, Mrs. Clara Fredericks of San Diego, Cal., (Mary) Mrs. Hans Nordlie of Grand Forks, N. Dak.,

(Olga) Mrs. Carl Johnson of Thief River Falls, (Minnie) Mrs. Aubrey Lopp of Detroit Lakes, and two sons, Gilbert and Adolph of Newfolden. She is also survived by 17 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren, besides other relatives.

Two brothers and two sisters have preceded her in death. Her husband preceded her in death February 23, 1946.

Mrs. Bakke was active and in good health until about three years ago when she began to fail. She was a member of the Westakers Ladies Aid.

My final picture may have been taken at one of funerals. I know most of the people and will identify those.



Standing, left to right: Adolph Bakke, Amanda Lewis, Ida Bakke, unknown, Clara Frederick, unknown, Gilbert Bakke, Alice Bakke (wife of Adolph), Anna Bakke (wife of Gilbert), Olga Johnson

Sitting: unknown

On the ground: Delores Bakke (wife of Floyd), Floyd Bakke, Carl Johnson, unknown and unknown