

Nels Lund

aka

Nils Erikson Hægg Lunde

Born October 11, 1889

Died October 17, 1976

By Kelly Galloway

Written in August of 2017 in Norway

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Introduction

My name is Kelly Galloway. I am an American living in Norway for over 20 years when I became interested in genealogy. I have learned that my father's maternal grandmother (Eda Elmina White Galloway born 1893 Baton Rouge Louisiana, died 1977 Baton Rouge Louisiana) married a Norwegian man after my father's paternal grandfather (Thomas Anderson Galloway Sr. born 1891 San Marcos Texas, died 1960 Baton Rouge Louisiana) died. The Norwegian man called himself Nels Lund. His original name was Nils Erikson Hægg Lunde. I realized that he had Americanized his name and I wondered about what else he must have adapted to make a new life for himself in America. I wondered about where he had come from and where he once lived. And I realized that my 20 plus years living in Norway would make me a good candidate to find out this information for others interested and for his decedents living in America. So after many hours of online research, my father and I took a road trip in the summer of 2017 to the west coast of Norway to explore the place where Nels Lund had come from.

Background Information

Since Nels left Norway when he was only 16 years old, information that I learned directly about his time in Norway is limited. But I have learned a lot about his family in general, his siblings, and mostly about his mother, Anna. I have made a chart over all of Anna's children to give an overview before diving deeper.

Anna's children:

Name	Year born	Place born/baptized	Went to USA	At age
Kari	1876	?	Stayed in Norway	Stayed in Norway
Anna	1880	Røldal Norway	1899	19
Maria*	1883	Haus Norway	1902 (visits Norway 1910)	19
Hanna	1885	Samnanger Norway	1902	17
Ole	1887	Røldal Norway	1906	19
Nils	1889	Røldal Norway	1905	16
Ingeborg	1892	Sogndal	1910	18

*As far as my research shows, Maria is the only one of Anna's children to ever come back to Norway to visit. She did so only once in 1910.

Nels' mother Anna Ingebrigtsdatter Lunde (1854-1940) married Erik Nilsson Hægg (1830-1892) from Fridefors, Elfsborg Sweden. They married on 21st of May 1875 in Tønjum Lærdal, where Anna is from.



Tønjum church where Nels' parents married in 1875

Anna's father was Ingebrigt Jakobson Prestegarden (1823-1914). Anna's mother was Marita Pedersdatter Haugshagen (Hauge) (1824-1912). They married in 1854. Anna was the second of 7 children. More information about this genealogy before Anna can be found in a book called "Byggdeboka" from Lærdal, book 3.

Nels' birth and baptism

Nels Lund was born Nils Erikson Hægg Lunde on the 11th of October 1889 around Røldal Norway. He was baptized in Røldal Church on 20 October 1889. His parents were Erik Nilsen Hægg who was Swedish and a seasonal road worker. His mother was Anna Ingebrihtsdatter from Lunde in Lærdal. At the time of his birth, his parents were very poor road workers in Norway. They seemed to always go where the road work was in the spring and summer months, therefore having children born all around Norway's western landscape. But they always migrated back to her parents, who were farm workers, in Tønjum, Lærdal for the winter or whenever hard times struck.

Nels' baptismal records (below) are indicated here on line starting with "21". They show that his parents were staying not far from Røldal at a place called "Ekkje". The records state the occupation of the parents, and that Nels is a legitimate child because his parents are married. The names of the

Godparents are also stated as being, Lars Aakesen, Martha A?, and Annbjorg Olsen, all living in Ekkje.

1887				A. Levensde		Fødsle				18	
Nr.	Fødsle Dato	Godfædre og Godmødre	Barnets fulde Navn	Fødslesfulde Navn og begravelse Stilling (Kvægning)	Fødslesfulde Navn	Fødslesfulde Navn	Fødslesfulde Navn og begravelse Stilling	Om aften eller nat	Anmærkninger		
15	2 Sept	2 Sept	Ingeborg	Thomand Ingeborg Mathen Mathen Helge Mathen	Mathen	1860	1887	Mathen Mathen Mathen, Ol. Olav Mathen Ingeborg Mathen, Mathen Ingeborg Mathen Mathen, Mathen Mathen Mathen	afte		
16	16 Aug	22 Sept	Thore	Thore Mathen Mathen Mathen Mathen	Mathen	1852	1860	Ol. Olav Mathen Mathen, Mathen Mathen Mathen, Mathen Mathen Mathen, Mathen Mathen Mathen	afte		
17	2 Aug	29 Sept	Knut	Thore Mathen Mathen Mathen Mathen	Mathen	1836	1863	Mathen Mathen Mathen, Mathen Mathen Mathen, Mathen Mathen Mathen, Mathen Mathen Mathen	afte		
18	29 Sept	6 Okt	Olav	Thore Mathen Mathen Mathen Mathen	Mathen	1855	1861	Mathen Mathen Mathen, Mathen Mathen Mathen, Mathen Mathen Mathen, Mathen Mathen Mathen	afte		
19	12 Sept	12 Sept	Knut	Thore Mathen Mathen Mathen Mathen	Mathen	1855	1864	Mathen Mathen Mathen, Mathen Mathen Mathen, Mathen Mathen Mathen, Mathen Mathen Mathen	afte		
20	10 Okt	20 Okt	Ingeborg	Thore Mathen Mathen Mathen Mathen	Mathen	1855	1867	Mathen Mathen Mathen, Mathen Mathen Mathen, Mathen Mathen Mathen, Mathen Mathen Mathen	afte		
21	11 Okt	20 Okt	Nils	Thore Mathen Mathen Mathen Mathen	Mathen	1855	1867	Mathen Mathen Mathen, Mathen Mathen Mathen, Mathen Mathen Mathen, Mathen Mathen Mathen	afte		
11	16 jule	7 Aug	Martha	Thore Mathen Mathen Mathen Mathen	Mathen	1820	1849	Mathen Mathen Mathen, Mathen Mathen Mathen, Mathen Mathen Mathen, Mathen Mathen Mathen	afte		
12	31 Okt	1 Okt	Grunla	Thore Mathen Mathen Mathen Mathen	Mathen	1855	1858	Mathen Mathen Mathen, Mathen Mathen Mathen, Mathen Mathen Mathen, Mathen Mathen Mathen	afte		

Ekkje does not appear to be a large area at all. There are only about 3-4 livable houses there today. Here are some various pictures taken at Ekkje. We do not know which of these dwellings Nels was born in, or if their house has been torn down.



Old house in Ekkje



House in Ekkje



House in Ekkje



House in Ekkje



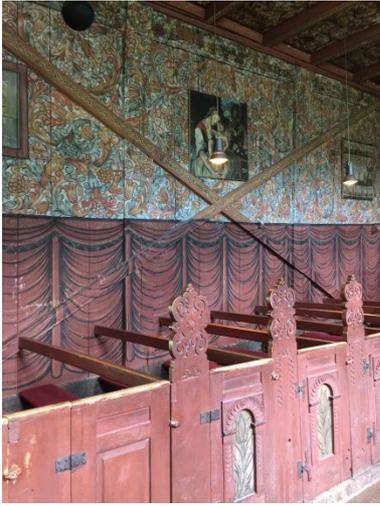
The view from Ekkje.

Ekkje is only a few kilometers away from Røldal. It is on a steep hillside overlooking the fjord. Freshwaterfalls are all around Ekkje, running into the fjord. The easiest way to get from Ekkje to Røldal was most certainly by boat.

The church at Røldal is very popular and many books have been written about it. It was Lutheran at the time of Nels' baptism. The Holy Crucifix in the center of the church was taken down and hidden in a farmers barn for over 300 years because it is believed to have healing powers and the Catholic church came to seize it. It was in the church at the time of Nels' baptism. Many pilgrims come to the church every year to see the Holy relic. Three of Anna's children were baptized here. Anna in 1880. Ole in 1887. Nels in 1889.



Røldal church



Traditional Norwegian wood carvings and rose painting on the walls.



The Holy cross is said to have water pouring out of it and heal people



Inner area for priest



Baptismal also used in the church when Nels was baptized there



More rose painting



Outer hall of the church where people with contagious deceases sat



All of the priests who have served the church



Peter Ringdal was the priest serving the church at the time of Nels' baptism. 1885-1900



My father, Charles William Galloway (born 27 September 1947) and myself, Kelly Galloway (born 7 June 1973) outside of the church.

Living around Røldal and Ekkje was only temporary for the family. They would work here in the spring and summer. But this was not the place that they called home. The place that they called home was in Lærdal. The easiest way to travel to and from Lærdal was by boat as it is situated in between steep mountains on all sides.

Lærdal (Farm in Tønjum and Lunde)

The 1900 census has Anna living at a poor house in Lunde Lærdal with several of her children. Today the large building once owned by the Norwegian government is now a private dwelling. The owners have turned it into a fishing lodge.



Sunray fishing lodge at Lunde, Lærdal

The family was very poor. They often stayed with Anna's parents when they were not away working on the roads of Norway. Anna's father was a farm worker in Tønjum. Norwegian farms traditionally contain an archipelago of many small dwellings in one place. The land owner had the largest house but he provided smaller houses for his workers on the farm. The workers did not own the land but had the privilege of staying there. The farm in Lunde was no exception. The original house that Anna stayed in with her parents in Tønjum is no longer there. Today it is a potato field. But I have taken pictures of the surrounding area. We know from the 1910 census Anna was living there with several of her children.



The big house of the land owner in Tønjum



A smaller home on the farm for a worker



Potato field. There was once a house here where Anna's parents stayed. Anna and her children also would stay here.

One story of Anna

During my research of the family, I spoke with several people from the local area on the telephone. In one telephone conversation a woman told me a story that she had heard of Anna. The lady on the telephone told me that "Anna was called 'Lukris'." Not a word or name that I had heard before, even after spending over 20 years in Norway. She tells me that Lukris was a 'huldre', which in Norwegian is a type of witch/ troll/ magical person. They are rumored to look like a regular person when you look at them straight on. But when you look at them from the back they have the tail of a cow. "No one really knows who regular mortals were and who was a huldre," she tells me. Then she goes on to tell me that "Lukris once was walking in the forest one day and met a man who was frozen to death. She continuously pitched him on his thighs, until he came back to life."

I found the story to be interesting, but far-fetched. I immediately thought that even though the story might be true, it is highly unlikely that the person in the story is really our Anna. I dismissed the story completely. So much so that I did not even mention it to my father during our long car ride from my home in central Norway to the western part of Norway where Nels is from.

But while visiting the church at Tønjum, I start talking to an older gentleman in the graveyard. I tell him the name of the family that I am researching. I tell him that I am researching Anna, who had 7 children and 6 went to America. I told him that she was a road worker and was married to a Swedish man. And to my surprise, he repeats the story that the other lady had previously told me on the telephone. Word for word. I am shocked.

He says, "I know who that is! That is the lady they called 'Lukris'. She was once walking out in the forest and found a man frozen to death. She pinched him on the thighs until he came back to life." Same story. Word for word.

Since my trip to Lærdal, I have spoken to a third person who also called her "Lukris", although that person did not share the story about the frozen man with me. Was she a holdre? Did the people of the time see her as a holdre? And how can this story still be alive and being readily told amongst the locals more than 100 years later?

A difficult period for the family

1892 was a particularly difficult year for the family. In March of 1892 the family was working not far from Lærdal, just on the other side of the fjord in Sogndal. Nels is only 3 years old. Ole is 5 years old. Hanna is 7 years old. The other children are 9, 12, and 16. On March 1st Ingeborg is born. On March 13th their father dies (cause unknown). On March 17th the father is buried in Sogndal. On March 20th young Ingeborg is baptized in Sogndal.

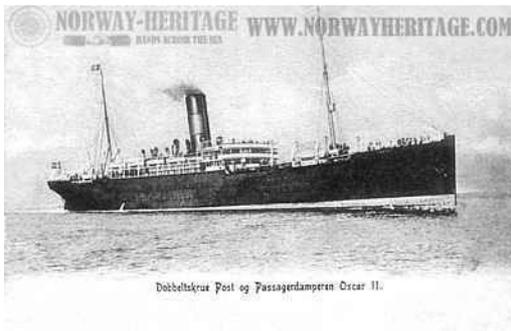
This had to be an incredibly difficult time for Anna. As we know from the 1900 census, she was living in the poor house with several of her children and with her new husband August Nilsson from Tveta in Varmland Sweden, who she married in 1898. In the 1900 census we see that young Ingeborg is living in foster care. But in the 1910 census Ingeborg is again back living with her mother Anna.

Leaving for America

Nels left Norway using his birth name Nils Erikson Lunde Hægg. He sailed on a boat called "SS Oscar II" that left Bergen Norway on 15th of May 1905. In the travel documents given at Ellis Island Nels writes that his profession is a "farm worker" and that he is going to South Dakota USA to work as a farm worker for a better pay. He is going there to work on the farm of his sister Maria in Volga South Dakota. We know that Maria prospered very well in Volga SD. Maria married a man named Tom Elverud (very Norwegian sounding last name/ probably also Norwegian) in 1904 in Volga SD. She helped several of her siblings get a start at her farm in Volga SD when they first arrived in America. She was probably the only sibling to every return to Norway for a visit. We know that she was very influential in the Lutheran church in Volga SD, where she is buried today.



Picture of the "SS Oscar II" that Nels sailed on



Historic Postcard of the ship. Postcard written in 1903

Over the course of many years, 6 of Anna's 7 children left Norway for America. Nels was not the first to leave and he was not the last. After some time we find that Anna and her only remaining daughter in Norway Kari own a small house in Lunde. The year it was built is unknown, but it was built somewhere between the 1910 census and when Anna dies in 1940. It is undoubtedly built with funds sent from her 6 children in America. The house was made up of one living room/ kitchen and one very small bedroom. There was an outhouse for a toilet. It had no electricity or running water at the time. Today a family living outside of Bergen Norway owns the house and they use it as a cabin. When we were in the area visiting, the owner was kind enough to let us enter the house to take a look. The owner has added a bathroom and a loft upstairs. He was putting a large deck on the front of the house when we were there.

Kari was the only sibling to stay in Norway. She married a man with the last name "Bruheim". Kari had a daughter named Olga, who had no living children. It is also believed that Kari had a son named Theodore who lived in Bergen (1914-1986). Kari may have had other daughters named Tordis and Ingeborg who also lived on the west coast of Norway, possibly in Årdal, but I have not verified this information and I have not attempted to contact any living relatives at this time.



Lunde, Norway where Anna finally settled with Kari. Anna lived to be 89 years old.

Nels in America

I do not know alot about Nels and his life in the United States and will leave that for his decedents there to document. What I do know is that after South Dakota, he lived in a place called Wolf Point, Montana and was married to Anette Lund aka "Nettie". They had many children together. Russel, Lloyd, Zane, Maxine, Nadine, Earl, Francis, Avis and Robert to name the ones that I have found online.

I have attached various photos that my great grandmother kept after Nels' death, in hopes that some of Nels' family members will recognize themselves or know something about someone in one of these pictures. On the side of each picture is the text written on the back of the original photograph.



Gregory Neal Lund, 6 years old, 1st grade, July 1, 1953.



Karen 14, Kim 15, Chuck4, Michal?2. Nels' grandchildren



Karen Freeman. Francis Grand daughter. Route2 Whitefish Montana, 59937



Lloyd planting his first fruit trees. Feb 1976. Medford. Nels' son.



Lloyd with his tractor. Feb 1976. Medford Oregon. Nels' son.



Lloyd Jr. 1968

In Montana Nels was a justice of the peace, judge and coroner. He would also mine coal to sell to nabors, and do the calling out at the square dances he held in his barn in Montana.

After his wife Nettie died, he began courting my paternal great grandmother, Eda Elmina White Galloway, through the mail. It was through their churches that they came into contact with each other. He a widower, she a widow. I have a few of their love letters here in Norway with me. I have chosen not to copy them here as they are very personal. They married in Baton Rouge Louisiana, where they lived until his death on October 17, 1976. His body was returned to Wolf Point Montana where he is buried.



Eda Elmina White Galloway Lund and Nels Lund in Baton Rouge.



Eda Elmina White Galloway Lund and Nels Lund in Baton Rouge. With my paternal grandfather Thomas A. Galloway and myself, Kelly Galloway on Elmina's lap. 1974.



Eda Elmina White Galloway Lund and Nels Lund in Baton Rouge.