

Ole Hanson (Nov 6, 1829 – Sept 10, 1910) was Louise Alm's father. He used his wife's last name (Maren Karina Aarnaes) most of the time but signed papers as Ole Hanson. Their gravestone in the Luthern Cemetery in Decorah has Aarnaes on the top and Ole H. and Maren K. on the front. Ole's father's name was Hans Henricksen and his grandfather was Henrik Brynhildsen—each generation took their father's first name and added sen or son as their last name, which at first was a little hard to follow.

The Hansens were very interesting people - Ole, who was the oldest son, went to America very early (1851), and as far as I can tell he must have stayed in Wisconsin until 1855 waiting for Iowa or Minnesota to be more accessible. Still too dangerous to go to Minnesota in 1851 - Sioux-Indians - and Iowa was just a wilderness. Hans, the second to oldest brother, and Olaus, the youngest brother, went in 1861, directly to Iowa, via Fillmore county, Minnesota. There was still one brother at home (Nils) and two sisters, Anne Marie (the oldest child) and Kari.

Their father was a cotter and blacksmith, i.e. dirt poor, but both Anne Marie, Ole, Hans and Nils did exceedingly well being children of a cotter. Ole had a farm in Iowa, Hans had one in Minnesota, Nils bought 2 farms(!) in 1881 and 1882 in Norway, and Anne Marie married one of the wealthiest men in Nannestad - 39 years older than her - Ingel Pedersen Nordeeg. When Ingel died the farm became hers, and she was a very wealthy woman in those days - in 1865 her farm had 5 horses(!), 22 cows, a bunch of sheep and pigs and farmland.

Maren Karine Aarnaes Obituary

Maren Karine Aarnaes, the wife of Ole Hansen Aarnaes died this morning June 29, 1911 at her home on Main Street, Decorah, Iowa, after an illness of two weeks. A "maveilfaede" (norwegian) was the direct cause of her death.

She was born in Norway September 11, 1828 and reached the age of nearly 85 years. In 1850 she married Carl Amundsen (Aarnaes) who died in 1854, leaving her with two little girls. The oldest is now Mrs. G. H. Weflin of Granite Falls, Minnesota. The second girl is Mrs. Heimsnes of Ostrander, Minnesota. In 1855 the widow married Ole Hansen Aarnaes, who survives her. Of this marriage there were eight children, two of whom died in childhood. The living are:-Mrs. John Swanson, Britton, So. Dak., Henry Aarnaes, Veblin, So. Dak., O. H. Aarnaes, Mrs. Christ Alm, Decorah, Will Aarnaes and B. H. Aarnaes of Alton, Montana. The deceased was a friendly person and always had a good to speak of her neighbors and friends. Before her last illness, regardless of her age she could out-walk many younger persons.

Don't know where they lived before living in Decorah.

Ole H, Aarnaes (Ole Hanson) Obituary

The funeral of Ole H. Aarnaes (Nov 6, 1829 – Sept 10, 1914) was held Monday from the home of his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. & Mrs. Chris Alm of East Main St., Decorah. Church services were held at the Norwegian Synod Church. Pastor I. B. Torrison, officiated at the home and the church.

The deceased was born at Nannestad, Norway the 6th., of November 1829 and was near 85 years old. He came to Winneshiek County, Iowa in the year of 1855 and engaged in farming until 1889 when he moved to Decorah where he resided until his death. Aarnaes married in 1855 to Mrs. Maren Amundsen (Aarnaes) with whom he had seven children. One of these, son Carl is deceased. The others are: Mrs. Caroline Swanson, Henry Aarnaes, Mrs. Chris Alm, William and Benjamin Aarnaes. The deceased had been ill for a long time. His wife died a few years ago.

Hans Hansen (April 7, 1827 – March 19, 1908) - he was Ole's younger brother (Olaus was the youngest brother) and he emigrated to America with Olaus in 1861. Hans opened the first blacksmith shop in Lake Park, Becker County, Minnesota in 1873, and because of his strength he was called "Horse Power Hanson!"

Hans Hansen - in Minnesota he called himself Hans Hanson-Eger, Eger after the name of the little place where he grew up, Eger meaning "Oaks".

The picture in uniform is from the Civil War. He was about 5' 8" tall and had hazel brown eyes.

Wounded in the leg the Civil War in the battle of Pleasant Hill, Louisiana, but recovered to become a farmer in Hesper, Iowa, then blacksmith in Lake Park, Minnesota.

Here is a guess: Ole "Amundsen" secured a parcel in section 32, 100 N, 7 W in Highland Township on June 15th, 1855. This would be dead on the Minnesota border. Both of Ole Hanson's brothers, who came together from Norway in 1861 and enlisted simultaneously in the Civil War, did so from Highland Township.

Could be more than a coincidence. The plot map and the document are included in "Old Time Photos"), the document is split it in two for better magnification.

Olaus Hansen

Taken from the proposed book cover "From the Hornets' Nest to Custer's Last Stand" The immigrant story of Norwegian Sergeant Olaus Hansen by Ozzie Sollien.

April 6, 1862 – he was a private in Company G, the 12th Iowa Volunteer Infantry Regiment in the Hornets' Nest at the battle of Shiloh, Tennessee – the American Civil War. June 25, 1876 – he was a sergeant in Company G, the 7th Cavalry in Custer's Last Battle at the Little Bighorn, Montana – the Great Indian Wars. Two of the most iconic stands in American history, and only one soldier fought in them both – and survived: Olaus Hansen from Nannestad, Norway. It took more than twenty years to piece his story together, and the author found some astonishing obstacles along the way. American relatives thought he was killed at Shiloh. Norwegian relatives refused to talk about him. What had this man done to make his family on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean put their best effort forward to erase him from their history?