

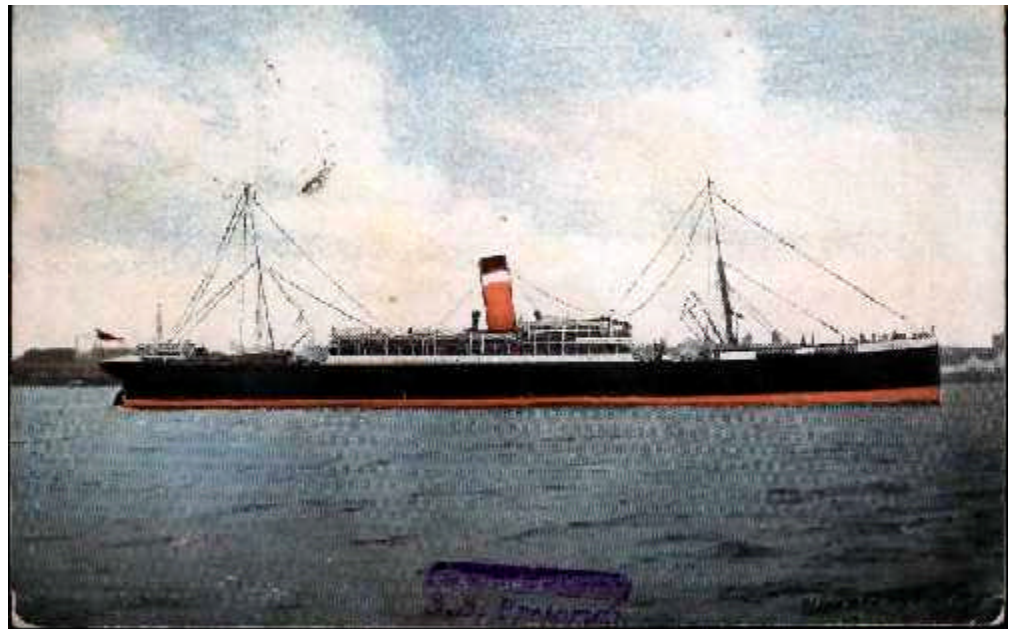
Ole Knutson Bakken And Theoline Kristiansdatter

By
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The farm called Landhandleribygningen had been their home for the past couple years, but as the four-year-old Anne Karine peered behind her, the small Vestre Toten farm became nothing more than a small speck on the snowy white horizon. Ole, Anne Karine's father, was an adventurous man always looking for "greener pastures". This is what perhaps brought them to Vestre Toten from Etnedal, Anne's birthplace. But now Ole was about to take his family farther than he had ever taken them before, with mama and papa leading the way, Anne was about to travel to a distant far off land. A land of opportunity, a land where Ole hoped to make his fortune, a land called America.

The small family, which consisted of father Ole Knutson and mother Theoline Kristiansdatter and daughter Anne Karine, was headed for Oslo to catch a ship to the New World. There were two other children born to Ole and Theoline. Kari, who was born in 1891, and died at one and a half of whooping cough and a brother Knut, who was born in 1893 on the Brustuen farm in Etnedal and died at three and a half. Anne was born February 11, 1896. Ole, her father was born in Sør Aurdal in 1860 and her mother Theoline was born in Toten in 1850.

Ole purchased tickets in December 1900 from Oslo to Beroun. The family departed from Oslo on December 28, 1900 aboard the ship called Tunisian. The Tunisian was a new ship that made her maiden voyage that same year on January 17, 1900. They arrived in Nova Scotia on New Year's Day, 1901 and then took the train to Beron. Upon their arrival in Beron, Ole found employment and changed his name to Bakken. Their stay in Beron was short lived, for Ole was looking for yet "Greener pastures".



The SS Tunisian – The ship that brought Ole, Theoline and Anne Karine Bakken to the New World.

They finally decided to move to the Dakotas, where Theoline had a sister. Christine and Theoline were not what one would call close sisters and this might be the reason that they only stayed a short time in the Dakotas. As Ole moved his family around Anne was forced to attend many different schools during her childhood. She adapted very well and made many friends along the way. Soon she had mastered the English language so well that later in life many people thought her to be a college graduate.

Eventually the family made it's way to Pierce County, Wisconsin, near Beldenville and Martell. This is where Anne finished the eighth grade. It is here that Ole found a job with the C. A. Smith Lumber Company in Minneapolis and things were going well. Ole would travel to Minneapolis and stay at the hotel at Forty-fourth Avenue North and the River Bank. Then on October 20, 1909 tragedy struck. Ole had finished his day's work and was travelling back to the hotel. He had just crossed the Soo tracks at Forty-Second and Lyndale Avenues North when he was hit by a switch engine and both his legs were severed above the knees. Ole died a short time afterwards from loss of blood. A couple of days after the accident a man came to the door and delivered the news to Theoline and Anne Karine. Ole was buried in the Paupers section of the Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery in Lot 74, Block H, 30th F-N and it is very unlikely that he had a headstone. To the day of her death on August 26, 1996 Anne never knew where her father had been buried.

So in the fall of 1909, Anne and her mother had to fend for themselves, taking in washings, cleanings and cooking for others. Anne graduated from the eighth grade in the Spring of 1910, and worked where ever she could. She got a position at the University of Minnesota with Phi Kappa Fraternity as a maid for a time and she loved it, but had to return to Wisconsin to care for her mother.

On June 14, 1922 Anne married Cecil G. Anderson in Minneapolis. That marriage totaled seventy-one years and lasted until Cecil's death in 1993. The couple settled in Martell, where Cecil was a "Jack of all trades", built bridges, worked in lumber mills, farmed, worked threshing grain, and cutting logs. While in Wisconsin they had three children: Robert, born November 29, 1922, Helen, born November 8, 1924 and Doris (Dodo) born September 16, 1926. During this time, Anne's mother Theoline, lived with them. In January 1927, Theoline passed away, allowing the family to leave Wisconsin and move to Swanburg, where Cecil had worked as a teen, with other cousins and relatives. They lived at the Ruud Estate home where their fourth child, Albert, was born on September 5, 1928. In 1937 after Grandma Ruud's death the family had to move. Cecil was able to purchase 40 acres for \$50.00, and he built a home for his family. Cecil had many different jobs, carpenter, sheet metal worker, mail carrier, and caretaker in later years. During the depression, Cecil worked for a time on the WPA making roads and bridges. Anne also helped out, cleaning for people and taking in washings. She used her skills as a reporter for the Swanburg area, writing a column for the Brainerd Daily Dispatch and the Pine River Journal. She was also instrumental in establishing the church in Swanburg and Cecil helped with the construction. She was the superintendent of the Sunday School there for over 50 years.

The four children all attended the Swanburg School, which was about 1 ¼ miles from home, and they walked the distance, carrying a lunch in a bag or sometimes a syrup pail. The school had six grades, one teacher and from the 7th to the 12th grades they were bused to Pine River where they all graduated.

During the war, Cecil worked in the shipyards in California and returned in 1945. Cecil passed away on August 31, 1993 and Anne on August 26, 1996, both in Crow Wing County, Minnesota.