

PERSONAL BACKGROUND Name is Elias Larsen. Born on May 7, 1888 in the country near Ålesund which is near the Kristiansund and Molde on the west coast.

PARENTS Father was Lars Andreassen. Mother was Rasmina Eliassen. They were born in 1849 and were confirmed in the same church and later married at age 20. Had six brothers and two sisters all born between 1870 and 1888.

THE FAMILY FARM Two cows, eight sheep, and one pig. To make money his father fished.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS Andreas, Nikolai, Martin, Gina, Sofia, Rasjofil, Johannes and Elias.

FAMILY HOME When he came to America he sent money home to have it remodeled. Only one that got to stay home until he was confirmed.

EMIGRATION OF FAMILY First brother left in 1903. Martin in 1903. Johannes in 1904. Sofia in 1905 and Elias in 1906. The first sent a ticket to the second.

SCHOOL DAYS Elias' brother in the U.S. sent him money so that he could get a better education. Went through regular school for seven years. Went to Ålesund for six months to go to school. Came on a Tuesday and that weekend the entire town burned down. This was 23 January 1904. Got a job working at a store as an errand boy there. Hard to find housing so the principal rented a house for the students. Took arithmetic, penmanship, bookkeeping, and business letters.

WORKED IN A GROCERY STORE One of the biggest stores. Worked there until he came to the U.S. Worked only for board and room, no wages.

REASONS FOR EMIGRATION Couldn't make any money. Mother hated to see her fifth child to go because she didn't know if she would see them again.

TRAVEL TO THE U.S. Got money for the ticket from his brother. Left Ålesund on the 7th of August 1906. Remembers standing on the deck watching the mountains disappear and wondering if he would ever see them again. Went to Hull, England and took the train to Liverpool where they stayed for 2-3 days. Remembers a man who could speak to all the emigrants, kind of a guide. Came into Boston and took a train to Portland where he arrived September 1st after 24 days.

FINDING A JOB Came on a Friday, Monday was Labor Day and he had a job that day and worked up until the time that he retired.

GRANDPARENTS Doesn't remember them.

REASONS FOR EMIGRATION Couldn't make a living in Norway. Three brothers here already. Only brought a handbag with him.

ARRIVAL PORTLAND No one was there to meet him. Had a policeman help him.

BROTHERS' OCCUPATION One was a carpenter, one worked for the Portland Lumber Co., and the other worked there too. Talks about transporting timbers at this time, used trucks. Sister worked as a maid.

LANGUAGE PROBLEMS Didn't speak any English. Just had to pick it up the best he could.

WORK Started working at the mill and stayed there for about a year. Then he started working at the Southern Pacific train shed. In 1909 he started doing carpentry work. His brother was the foreman. This brother started his own business in 1911. Built homes.

ORGANIZATIONS Joined the Good Templar Lodge and was active in it for ten years. Joined young peoples' societies which they had for Lutherans, the Methodists, and the Free Church. Was pretty busy, liked the people.

CITIZENSHIP Got it later on.

MARRIAGE Got married in 1915. Met his wife at the lodge, Karen Peterson. No children. Lived in Portland.

HOME Built it in 1913, bought the lot in 1907 for \$500 at \$10 a month.

MEDICAL CARE In Norway, old people were taken care of by the state. Now you are taken care of from the time you are born until the time you die. At 67 you get a pension and are well taken care of.

CHRISTMAS In Norway it is just a family affair, here they have lots of parties. Sometimes they would have a tree. Mother would knit woolens. Slaughtered a pig. Favorite Norwegian food is lefse. Raised on fish and potatoes.

CHURCH LIFE Goes to a Lutheran church but has never belonged to a church.

ORGANIZATIONS Belongs to Sons of Norway, Good Templar Lodge, and Young People's Society. Talks about the Good Templar Lodge.

VISITS TO NORWAY October 1911 went home for Christmas and stayed for six months. Had told his mother that if all went well he would be back in five years. Came pretty near to being on the Titanic when it came back, but decided to stay a little longer to witness a baptism. He had brought his tickets but changed them to the next trip on the Titanic. Donna Mallonee mentions that her grandmother also missed this run of the Titanic because the tickets got there four days too late.

SHIP BACK TO THE U.S. 16 immigrant boys and girls became very good friends with on the trip back because they had so many questions about the U.S. They had a big 24th birthday party for him on the ship.

Keeps in touch with his nieces and their children in Norway.

VISITS TO NORWAY Went in 1920 with his wife. Norway was much the same as when he had been there before. Went again in 1961 after his wife's death. This time his school friends were grandparents. Then he took another trip in 1968. Has been home four times. The family here in the U.S. is very close.

IMPORTANCE OF NORWEGIAN HERITAGE Has been an important part in just a regular way. Has been a member of the Sons of Norway for over 50 years.

NORWEGIAN TRADITIONS Didn't keep any particular traditions.

USE OF NORWEGIAN LANGUAGE Still speaks it. Other relatives here are all gone.

SPOKEN NORWEGIAN Says two Norwegian poems. The first talks about remembering your youth and the friends that you had and wonderful feeling it gives you. The second is about how young people try to do the best for their friends.

CHILDHOOD IN NORWAY He was the only one who got to stay home until he was 15 years of. All the rest had to leave as soon as they were old enough to make their own living at age 10 or 11.

REFLECTIONS ON IMMIGRATION Glad he came. There is no place like America. It's been good to him. Hasn't suffered here. Never had any trouble with the law.