

The  
First Record

From the notes of Alf Christophersen  
to 1918

Translated to English  
by  
Dean A. Enderlin  
Calistoga, California, USA  
Version 2, 2000

# The First Record

## Introduction:

This translation was prepared by Dean Andrew Enderlin, great-great-great-grandson of Christopher Helgesen Diesen and Karen Amundsdatter Ovren. Although it has no formal name, this document was referred to by my grandmother, Dagny Louise Bergersen-Jacobsen, as the “First Record,” to distinguish it from another family history, known as the “Second Record.” The latter was prepared “*by Superior Court barrister Mauritz Diesen during a visit from Wagonmanufacturer Andreas Lund.*” The translation of the Second Record was made many years ago. The copy of the First Record in my possession was never translated by my grandmother, and I am not aware of any attempts by others to do so. It is for this reason that I have attempted to translate, to the best of my abilities, the original Norwegian document into its English equivalent. Although I make no claim to be fluent in Norwegian, the language is grammatically similar to English, and therefore, generally not difficult to interpret.

The First Record was prepared by Alf Christophersen. Alf was the son of Axel Christophersen, who was son of Ole Christophersen (1835 - 1873). Ole Christophersen was the third child of Christopher Helgesen Diesen, and is shown in §3 of the First Record. According to written correspondence from Else Kathrine Bø to Dagny Jacobsen, dated Oslo, 14 December 1977, Alf was a medical student. He died at a young age in 1918 of tuberculosis. Another brother, Henrik, also died at a young age. A third brother, Georg, was still living in Trondheim in 1977, where he had practiced as a dentist. Georg completed the compilation of Alf’s notes in 1963.

## Background:

The First Record spans a period of over 500 years in Norwegian history, and as such, reflects many cultural changes. To fully comprehend the information set forth in the First Record, it was necessary for this translator to gain an understanding of the traditions in Norway in the Middle Ages. To assist the reader with the interpretation of the detailed information recorded by the original authors, a brief explanation of the traditions and culture is herein provided. The information draws heavily from the research of Johan I. Borgos and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## Surnames:

For centuries, Norwegians used the *patronymic* (father-name), where generations did not retain a constant surname. Rather, children were given a surname referring to the given name of the father. Hence, a son of Christopher Helgesen Diesen was named Anders Christophersen, whereas a daughter of the same man was named Oline Christophersdatter. Christopher Helgesen Diesen was the son of Helge Olsen, who was

the son of Ole Gulbrandsen, etc. The surname, Diesen, as given in the example above, was part of another ancient tradition in Norway, where the owner of a farm assumed the farm's name as an addition to his or her surname. This adds considerable confusion to Norwegian genealogy, since the second surname changed when the individual changed residence! More information on the farm names appears in a later section.

Women, under the old patronymic system, retained their patronymic surname after marriage. In the latter part of the 19th Century, the naming system evolved. Married women often took the patronymic of their husband. In addition, from a period from the 1870's to 1923, children were occasionally assigned their father's surname, rather than a conventional patronymic. In 1923, it was ordered by law that each family should have a single hereditary last name. Some families took a patronymic while others assumed a farm name. As a result, the surnames Helgesen and Diesen have equal likelihood of existing today. Fortunately, the First Record ends at the point in time when these changes were taking place.

One exception to the ancient patronymic system was foreign immigration to Norway. This appears at several points in the First Record, where foreign surnames, such as Bruennech, Stengel and Nagel, are reported. Foreign-born immigrants retained their surnames in the old Norwegian culture. These usually stand out clearly from the conventional Norwegian surnames.

### Given Names:

In the rural districts of old Norway, very strict naming rules often applied to given names of children. The eldest son was named after his paternal grandfather, and the second son was named after the maternal grandfather. The eldest and second daughters were correspondingly named after their grandmothers. Later children were typically named after great grandparents, although the rules of order were less rigid. If a parent died before the birth or baptism of the child, the child of that gender would be given their name first of all.

### Old Norway:

Norway was marked by economic and political upheaval in the Middle Ages. By the end of the 14th Century (when this record begins), the population of Norway had been decimated by the bubonic plague, or Black Death. Norway was ruled under a consolidated administration with Denmark and Sweden from 1397 to 1523 under the rules set forth in the Union of Kalmar. In 1523, Sweden left the union. In 1536, Norway ceased to be an independent Kingdom. For nearly three centuries, Norway languished under the rule of Denmark. During this time, Norway was drawn unavoidably into wars that Denmark waged with Sweden and the Baltic powers.

During the Napoleonic Wars of 1807-1814, Norway, under the sovereignty of Denmark, was allied with France. Following Napoleon's defeat at the Battle of Leipzig,

Norway was pledged as one of the spoils of war to the kingdom of Sweden. Norway was ceded to Sweden in 1814 under the Treaty of Kiel, ending 434 years of union with Denmark. A period of political struggle between Sweden and Norway ensued. The union between Sweden and Norway was ultimately dissolved in 1905. The First Record ends at about this time.

### Farms:

Most of the people listed in the First Record lived and worked in the rural farm lands near, or in the headwaters of, Lake Mjøsa, in the counties of Oppland (Christians Amt) and Hedmark. The parishes of Vang (in Hedmark) and Gausdal are the most frequently mentioned. Vang (in Hedmark) was located on the eastern shore of Lake Mjøsa, while Gausdal was situated in the northern headwaters of the lake.

Contrary to the modern interpretation of a farmer, Norwegian farmers were often quite diversified. Farmers often plied other trades to make a living in the depressed economies of the Middle Ages, often combining fishing, forestry and other trades with their farm duties.

Farms in the Middle Ages were originally owned by the church, the crown or other landowners, but by 1660 a fifth of the farm land in Southern Norway had been deeded to individuals called *selveiere*. Landowners often leased the land to tenant farmers called *leilendinger*. The right to use the land was granted through a registered lease contract called a *bygselbrev*. This term led to the individual *leilending* being commonly referred to as a *bygselmann*. The latter title (also spelled *bykselmann*) is commonly used in the First Record.

Tenant farming was the cornerstone of Medieval Norwegian rural society, and landowners and tenant farmers were socially equal groups in the feudal system that prevailed. The *leilending* was required to be a married couple. The land could be inherited, provided the heir was married. The *leilending* would then be registered under a new lease contract. The lease contract was not considered to be real property, so in case of bankruptcy, the *leilending* could continue to live on the land. The death of a spouse was a greater threat, because of the rules requiring a couple to occupy the farm under the lease contract.

The Norwegian feudal system established a basic rank order for the population in the Middle Ages. Society was divided in more or less important groups of people, usually based on ancestry. The king (*konge*) held the highest social rank. The next lower title was earl (*jarl*), followed by bishop (*biskop*), followed by sheriff or governor of the kings lands (*lendmann* or *lensmann*). Several individuals in the First Record attained the higher social rank of *lensmann*.

### Farm Names:

Dozens of farm names are referred to in the First Record. Farm names ending with the suffixes, -vin, -heim, -stad, -land, -set(h), -tun, -bö, -voll/vold, vang, -tveit/-tvedt, -torp, -rud, and -hus were common in Norway. Those using short “nature” words in the name are typically the oldest, some dating back as early as the Iron Age (before 100 AD).

Farms with the -vin ending and its many variants (-en, -ene, -in, -n, -ni) were extremely large, possibly the ancient chieftain seats in the nation. Their ages possibly date back as far as 200 BC, with most appearing in the 1st through 5th centuries AD. The original -vin ending changed through time, finally vanishing around the 13th century. The name comes from the Old Norse *vin*, meaning “meadow” or “open grass field.” The name was usually applied to enormous farms, and the names often reflect some type of grandness. *Ovren, Bruestuen, Rudlökken, Bilben, Hagen, Koloen, Rusten, Volden, Nistuen* and *Lien* are farm names of this type referred to in the First Record.

Farms with the -heim (-um) ending were usually large and ancient. Some may date back to the Iron Age, but most appeared in the 3rd through 7th centuries AD. The name comes from the Old Norse *heimr*. The meaning is uncertain, but it may be derived from a Greek term, meaning “laying” or “placing.” *Onsum, Fjerdrum, Rössum (Röysem, Rösem)* and *Studsheim* farms are examples of this name type found in the First Record.

Farms with the -stad ending were large and very old. They fall into two categories: Those with and those without a person’s name preceding the -stad ending. Those farm names that don’t have a person’s name are thought to be older. The -stad ending goes back as far as the 3rd century AD, but most appear between the 7th through 11th centuries. The name comes from the Old Norse *staðr*, possibly meaning “living place” or “milking place.” *Börstad, Aalstad, Öistad, Olstad (Aulestad), Tolstad, Skraastad,* and *Bjölstad* farms are examples of this name type found in the First Record.

Farms with the -land (-lund) ending were usually small, but very old. The name comes from the Old Norse *landir*, meaning “farm land.” Farms with this ending became common in the period between the 5th and 8th century AD, but the names may go back to the 3rd century AD. These farms were of a lower social order than their large contemporaries ending with -vin, -heim, and -stad. *Stor-Imislund* and *Espelund* farms fall into this name type found in the First Record. The literal translation of *Stor-Imislund* is “Great Imis farm land.”

Farms with the -set (-seth) ending and its variants were usually small farms compared to those ending with -heim and -stad. The name is derived from the Old Norse *setr*, meaning “living place.” The name probably goes back as far as the 6th century AD. It was commonly used in the 7th through 9th centuries. *Skjeseth* and *Slette* farms are examples of this name type found in the First Record.

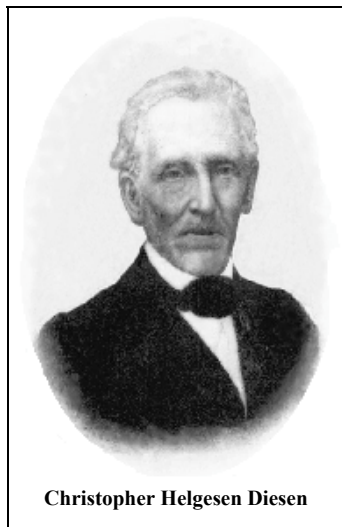
### **Explanation of the Translation:**

In translating the First Record, every effort was made to maintain the essence and meaning of each sentence. In some cases, sentence structure was revised to make the English meaning clearer. Certain Norwegian words or phrases have no clear English equivalent. This is especially true of titles. Where these occur, the original Norwegian word is shown in italics, followed by an English interpretation in square brackets. Square brackets or footnotes were also inserted wherever clarification by the translator was necessary. Errors in the original narrative are noted, but not corrected.

Farm names are also presented in italics, for ease in recognizing them in the context of the narrative. They are not italicized where used as part of a surname.

The family history begins with Alf Christophersen's great-grandparents, Christopher Helgesen Diesen and his wife, Karen Amundsdatter Ovren...

### **Øldefar og Øldemor Diesen**



**SUMMARY OF GENEALOGY ON FAMILIES:**

**SKJESET** - **IMISLUND** (grandfather's father's family)

**OVREN** - **RÖSEM AND SLETTE** (grandfather's mother's family).

Based on the information of *Stud.* [collegiate scholar] Alf Christophersen's notes, ending at his death in 1918.

-----

Fam. Slette and Ovren, next to Fliflet are nearest related to Björnstjerne Björnson.

It is said that Ovren shall have been Gausdal's mightiest family, all from Östen Ovren's calculations, and those of *Föxen* farm had the greatest prosperity.

(Alf Chr.)

Rewritten by Georg Christophersen

Trondhjem, November 1963.

### GREAT GRANDPARENTS (§ 3)

Christopher Helgesen Diesen was born at *Stor-Imislund* in Vang at Hedmark, 15/9 - 1802. (Standing in the church book: born 17/9 and baptized 19/9 - 1802). On the division of his mother's estate in 9/10 - 1811, he inherited 5337 Riksdaler, 3 Ort and 9.1/5 shilling<sup>1</sup>, besides a part of his father's farm, *Stor-Imislund*, with 5300 Riksdaler. 14/12 that same year he and his siblings released the farm to brother Ole. On 20/6 - 1830 he bought from Anstein Eriksen, *Östre Diesen* farm in Vang, assessed at 2 skpd. [*skippund*] and 111 pd. [*pund*]<sup>2</sup> -- 13/12 - 1817, for 1800 Speciedaler<sup>3</sup>. Then he sold it again, 7/12 - 1850 to his brother-in-law Ole Anton Ovren for 2800 Speciedaler. The same day he [Ole] sold the entire farm to Lieutenant Bögh for 3000 Speciedaler, with the simultaneous stipulation that Bögh provide living privileges to Christopher Diesen and his wife with an annual income of 100 Speciedaler, of which 50 Speciedaler must stand in the farm until they died.

Lieutenant, later *rittmester* [Captain of Horses], Lt. J. Stenersen Bögh also bought *Borstad* farm in Vang, and both properties were later sold in 1876 by his widow to *can. min.* Jacob Roll. Christopher Diesen died 16/2 - 1876. 10/4 -1828 Christopher Diesen married Karen Amundsatter Ovren in Vang, who was born in Gausdal 14/4 - 1808. They had 9 children:

1. Oline Christophersdatter (3/11 - 1828 - 27/7 - 1881). Married 14/12 - 1847 to Geo. Emil Gonsales Stengel (1823 - 1915).
2. Anders Christophersen (18/3 - 1832 - 21/3 - 1890). He was a *Butikksjef* [shop chief] and later became part owner with *kjöpman* [businessman] Engzelius, in Rörås. (He never married).
3. Ole Christophersen (1835 - 1873). *Kjöpman* [businessman] in Rörås.
4. Helene Christophersen (1837 - 1923). *Husbestyrerinne* [housekeeper] with her brother Gustave Christophersen in Selbu.
5. Anette Karoline Christophersdatter (1842 - 1894). 9/5 1872 married *lensmann* [rural mayor] Martinius Pedersen (Romedal?) in Stange.
6. Cathrine (Trine) Christophersdatter (10/11 - 1844 - 19/9 - 1883). Married *vognfabrikant* [carriage-builder] Andreas Lund, Hamar.

---

<sup>1</sup>From about 1700 to 1813, the Riksdaler (or Riksdaler kurant) had an exchange value of 20.63 grams of silver. One Riksdaler equaled 4 ort, or 96 skilling.

<sup>2</sup>A *skippund* was a measure of weight equal to about 185 kilograms in the Oslo region. It was also known as a *pundspund* in the old ship weight system. The abbreviation, "pd.," is short for "*pund*," which presumably refers to the *pundmerker*. A *pundmerker* equaled 1/720th of a *skippund* in the Oslo area, but this equivalency varied considerably throughout the country. These measures represent weight of a commodity, as was customary in the assessment system of the time.

<sup>3</sup>The Speciedaler was used in Norway from 1816 to 1873. It was equal to 5 ort, or 120 skilling.



7. Gustav Christophersen (25/8 - 1847 - 1937). From 12/10 -1870 he was a *handelsmann* [merchant] in Selbu and was never married.
8. Adolf Christophersen (1851 - ). Was a *sjömann* [seaman] and died of malaria. (Married a Miss Samuelsen).

### **GREAT - GREAT - GRANDPARENTS (§ 6).**

Helge Olsen Stor-Imislund was born in 1737. On 6/10 -1780 he bought his father's farm *Stor-Imislund* in Vang for 1600 Riksdaler. His divided inheritance was an entire estate and fortune of 14,000 Riksdaler. Of that, the farm's worth was 10,000 Riksdaler. In the spring of 1812, he passed the farm over to his oldest son Ole. On 4/12 - 1811, the latter had obtained general responsibility for the farm from his siblings for 7800 Riksdaler, upon dividing their inheritance after their mother. Helge Olsen died 27/3 - 1823.

11/10 - 1781 he fell in love with, and the same year married, Olea Olsdatter from Vang. She was born in 1761. (and had 4 children: (died 1811))

1. Ole Helgesen. (1787)
2. Ole Helgesen Stor-Imislund (1792 - 15/4 - 1819). Took over his father's farm in 1812. In 1811 he married Kari Gulbrandsdatter Aalstad (1792 to circa 1870). They had one son.
3. Helge (1812 to 1847) who inherited the farm.
4. Kirsti Helgesdatter Stor-Imislund (13/9 -1788 - 20/5 - 1880). Married in 1805 with Nils Jacobsen Farmen (1763 to 1859). She had 11 children, one being<sup>4</sup> Christopher Helgesen Diesen (15/9 - 1802 to 16/2 - 1876).

(Parents see §§ 12 and 13 as a reference)

### **§ 7.**

Amund Olsen Ovren was born in Gausdal in 1782. In 1813 he was called quartermaster, in 1816 and in 1822 *Vaktmester* [caretaker], besides also corporal. He came to Vang in Hedmark from Gausdal about 1810, and settled himself on *Olsrud* farm. He became *arrestforvarer* [jailer] in Vang and died in 1865 at *Olsrud* in Vang.

---

<sup>4</sup>In the original document, the abbreviation in this sentence is "*bl.a.*," which is assumed to mean "*blant annet*" (English: "for one thing"). The translation here implies that Kirsti was mother to Christopher Helgesen Diesen, but no clear reference is made to the father. It appears that Kirsti was unwed when Christopher was born.

He married 6/12 - 1807 Anne Guttormsdatter Midhold, who was born circa 1873<sup>5</sup> in Gausdal and died 2/4 - 1869 at *Östre Diesen* in Vang. She had 2 children:

1. Karen Amundsdatter Ovren (1808 - 1887). (§ 3).
2. Ole Amundsen Ovren (1816 - ). Never married.

(Parents see §§ 14 and 15 as a reference)

## **GREAT - GREAT - GREAT - GRANDPARENTS**

### **§ 12.**

Ole Gulbrandsen Stor-Imislund was born in 1697. On 15/3 - 1732 he bought *Stor-Imislund* in Vang at Hedmark from *foged* [bailiff] Lars Hvid for 1000 Riksdaler. On 18/12 1751 he bought *Aalstad* farm in Vang from his father-in-law, 3½ huder<sup>6</sup> (with *Amseth Ödegård* ½ hud, also "*Gaardens kierkekiöbspenge* and *1 Lovig hvert 3de Aar uden Böxel*," besides allodial and rightful possessions of ½ hud), who sold the rest to his brother, Juel Thoresen Dalfarmen, to possess his inheritance. For the whole, he paid 700 Riksdaler. He sold it again in 1754 to his eldest son Gulbrand Olsen for 890 Riksdaler. In 1780 he sold *Stor-Imislund* to his next-eldest son Helge Olsen (§ 6) for 1600 Riksdaler. He died in 1784. On 23/10 - 1732 he was married to Cathrine Helgesdatter Aalstad, who was born in Vang in 1692 and died in 1772. She had 6 children:

1. Helge Olsen Stor-Imislund (1737 - 1826). (§ 6).
2. Karen Olsdatter Stor-Imislund (1738 - 1816). Married in 1762 to Jacob Gudmundsen Tomter (1726 - 1805). 3 sons.
3. Anne Olsdatter Stor-Imislund (1739 - 1773). Married in 1765 to Jens Jensen Stammerud in Furnes.
4. Thore Olsen Övre Skjeseth (1742 - 1824). Bought *Skjeseth* farm in Vang from his father's brother, Jacob Gulbrandsen, in 1771. Married in 1774 (?) to Gunhild Olsdatter (1745 (?) to 1834). 6 children.
5. Anders Olsen Stor-Imislund (1745 - 1821). Lived unmarried with his brother Helge at his father's farm.

---

<sup>5</sup>Sic: Presumably 1773.

<sup>6</sup>*Hud* (plural: *huder*) refers to animal hides, which were used as a standard value in assessments. *Huder* were probably cow hides. A smaller unit of assessment was the *skind* or skin. *Skind* were most likely the hides of bucks, goats, sheep and calves. One *hud* could equal from 2 to 20 *skind*, depending on the animal the skin was made from.

6. [No entry]<sup>7</sup>

(Parents see §§ 24 and 25 as a reference)

**§ 13.**

**Unknown.**

**§ 14.**

Ole Östensen Ovren was born in Fron in 1745. On 14/4 - 1771 he obtained his *Ovren* farm from his father for 1400 Riksdaler and pension. On 14/9 - 1794 he bought, from Ellef Forstad, *Bruestuen* farm with another place, *Rudlökken* in Skinn, for 430 Riksdaler. On the division of his inheritance (1808 - 1809), the value of *Ovren* rose to 2100 Riksdaler and *Bruestuen* to 400 Riksdaler. The moveables amounted to 500 Riksdaler and debts [owed to the estate] were also 500 Riksdaler. Of that devolution, the widow got 500 Riksdaler and the sons, Östen, Amund, Ole, Svend and Johan received 333-1-8 Riksdaler each, and the daughters, Karen and Anne, 166-2-16 Riksdaler each. He died in 1798. On 7/10 -1772 he was married in Gausdal to Anne Tronsdatter, Nordre Kraaböl, who was born in 1754 and died in 1842. She had 9 children, and was mother to

Ole Olsen Ovren Manglerud (1785 - circa 1870). Married Karen Nilsdatter Österlie (1806 to ? ).

Svend Olsen Ovren (1788 to ? ). In 1811 married Berit Jensdatter Skjershagen in Gausdal. He died in Molde.

Kari Olsdatter Ovren (1791 - 1874 ?). Unmarried. She was *husholderske* [housekeeper] for her brother-in-law, *Rittmester* [Captain of Horses] Bruennech at Lillehammer.

Anne Olsdatter Ovren (1797 - 1880). In 1827 married *Rittmester* [Captain of Horses] August Carl Bruennech (1777 - 1874) at Lillehammer. 3 children.

Johan Olsen Ovren (1794 - 1866). Unmarried.

Östen Olsen Ovren (1780 - 1849). In 1801 he bought *Grytli* in Gausdal, 2 huder and sold it in 1807 to *Capitain* Stibolt. In 1809 he took over his father's farm, *Ovren*. He was married in 1800 to Anne Olsdatter Stenersen Lie (1779 - 1852), and with her had 11 children. Beginning in 1815-1816, he was elected 3 times as Parliament representative for *Christians Amt* [Oppland], and in 1821-22 and 1833 he was twice representative to the same. He was member of

---

<sup>7</sup>Since the eldest son was stated as being Gulbrand Olsen, it is assumed that this child was accidentally omitted from the list.

the Committee for Land and Forest and Mountain Management in 1815-16, Committee for Prisoners and Glassworks in 1821, Food Committee and *Lagtinget* [a lower division of Parliament] in 1833, and was member of Deputations to Stockholm in 1823 in order to oversee Crown Prince Oskar's marriage. In a series of years he was also member of the *Forlikskommissjonen* [Courts of Conciliation] .

Amund Olsen Ovren (1782 - 1865) (§ 7).

(Parents see §§ 26 and 27 as a reference)

**§ 15.**  
**Unknown**

**GREAT - GREAT - GREAT - GREAT - GRANDPARENTS**  
**(§ 24)**

Gulbrand Jacobsen Skjeseth was born circa 1653. From 1687 he leased and farmed *Skjeseth* in Vang at Hedmark together with Erik Skjeseth. He was a very active man in the parishes, and was often consulted with inheritance matters and other trust affairs. He began his work also under fairly miserable circumstances, but in the course of 15 years he worked himself up to a well established man, in spite of poor health. But in time, he became better and he continued to help, and besides he was *bykselmann* [tenant farmer] under *Storhamar*, which was looked upon as a successful situation to come into. He died in 1708. On 3/9 - 1693 he was married to Anne Gulbrandsdatter Hol who was born circa 1622 and died in 1703<sup>8</sup>. She had 6 children:

Erik Gulbrandsen Schieseth (1694 - 1756). Most of our relatives were large strong folk, but Erik was champion of them all. According to tradition, he took part in the war against Carl XII but his achievements here are now forgotten. It was customary for him to chop three cords of wood per day, besides rendering other work on the same scale. His sword and weighty *Syring* [coat of mail] were in safe-keeping at *Skjeseth*, but have disappeared from there. Possibly the sword is in Helge Væringsaasen's collection. He died unmarried.

Jacob Gulbrandsen Skjeseth (1695 - 1787). In 1756 he bought his sibling Ole's *Stor-Imislund*, Lars' *Börstad*, and Marte's *Börche* farms north of *Skjeseth*, 2½ huder, which they had inherited from their brother, Erik. In 1760, he bought in an auction, together with Lars Börstad, *Markestad Ödegård* in Vang, ½ hud. It is said that he had never lain in a bed but over a bench which he presumably found at *Skjeset*. Also, he died unmarried.

---

<sup>8</sup>Probable error: Dates are the same as her father's birth and death dates.

Ole Gulbrandsen Stor-Imislund (1697 - 1784) (§ 12)

Lars Gulbrandsen Börstad (1699 - 1773). In 1740 he bought *Börstad* in Vang, 3 huder from *justitsråd* [Chief Justice] Grönbech's widow, Christine Nagel. In 1742 he was married to Anne Mikkelsdatter Oug (1722 to 1798). In 1780 he was half partner in the farm taken over by son, Mikkel.

Marte Gulbrandsdatter, married Börche.

(Parents see §§ 36 and 37 as a reference)

**(§ 25)**

Helge Thoresen Aalstad was born circa 1671 and died in 1761. He was married to Karen Kristiansdatter.

Parents see § 38.

**(§ 26)**

Östen Olsen Ovren was born in 1721 at *Slette* in Heidal. On 14/3 - 1744 he inherited, from his parents, part of *Nedre Bilben* farm in Heidal and part of *Öistad* in Land for 200 Riksdaler. In 1744 he bought from his wife's cousin, Johannes Olsen Steig, *Melbye* farm in Kvikne 2 huder 7 skind for 1350 Riksdaler. At this time he was corporal under Captain Kaas', later with Captain Gaarmann's company. In 1745 he renounced his claim against brother Ole for the right to *Nedre Bilben* on the condition of 430 Riksdaler. In 1757 he bought by auction, from Östen Fosse, *Rudi* farm in Fron with underlying *Frydalen* 3 huder 2 skind 18 mk. fish<sup>9</sup> for 1410 Riksdaler. He then sold the property again in 1758 to Ole Melgård. The same time he bought *Ovren* in Gausdal with *Hage ödegård* [deserted farm], and seed enclosure in Kiljin, collectively valued at 3 huder 6 skind 2 b.pd.<sup>10</sup> 15 mk. fish, obtained from his younger brother Iver for 2300 Riksdaler. He had already sold *Melby* [sic] to Lodver Olsen, who immediately resold it to Ole Solhjelm. On 14/4 - 1771 Östen Olsen passed on *Ovren* farm to his eldest son, Ole, for 1400 Riksdaler and pension. He died on 11/5 - 1801. On 14/12 - 1744 he was married in Ringebu to Kari Gulbrandsdatter Strande who was born in Ringebu in 1726 and died in Fåberg in 1792. She had 8 children, namely.

1. Ole Östensen Ovren (1745 - 1798). (§ 14).

---

<sup>9</sup>The *mark* (abbreviated "mk.") in this case is a measure of weight of fish. Its exchange value with respect to hides (*huder*) and skins (*skind*) is unknown. The mark was equivalent in weight to about 230 grams.

<sup>10</sup>The abbreviation, "b.pd.," refers to the *bismerkund*, which was equivalent to 24 *bismerk* or 5,520 grams. The *bismerkund* is used in combination with the *mark* to indicate a measure of weight of fish, as part of the assessment on *Ovren* farm, etc. In this case, the total weight due in fish was about 14.5 kilograms.

2. Marit Östensdatter Ovren ( ? )
3. Gudbrand Östensen Onsum (1752 - 1827). In 1778 he married Bereth Aamunds datter Onsum in Fåberg. A year later he bought his father-in-law's farm, *Onsum*, in Fåberg. He was progenitor for the Onsum-line at Veblungnes.
4. Svend Östensen Ovren. (1755 - 1762).
5. Peder Östensen Ovren. (1757 - 1847). Was married 2 times, the last time in 1800 to Ingeborg Torgersdatter Grythe. He was progenitor of the Pedersen-Prag family.
6. Anne Östensdatter Ovren. (1760 - 1763).
7. Svend Östensen Ovren (1763 - ?).
8. Anne Östensdatter Ovren (1765 - ? ). Married in 1787 to Torsten Tomassen, Nordre Jörstad (1752 to 1832), who in 1797 bought *Sörböe* in Follebu and in 1799 *Grythe* in Gausdal. Both farms he soon sold. In 1815 he leased *Lunde* from *prost* [dean] Thaulow; having received after 1811 pension for himself and his wife from *Sörböe*.

(Parents see §§ 39 and 40 as a reference)

### § 27.

Tron Olsen, Nordre Kraaböl, was born in Bødalen, Vestre Gausdal in 1730. In 1761 he took over his step-father Haagen Simensen Baarslien's father's farm, *Nordre Kråbol* for 600 Riksdaler and pension for his mother and stepfather. In 1772 he sold the farm for 1800 Riksdaler to Erland Pedersen Olstad and got pension in 1809 for himself and for his wife from grandson Östen Olsen Ovren. He died on 11/6 - 1821. On 13/7 - 1752 he was married to Kari Torgersdatter, Søndre Solberg, who was born in 1732 in Bødalen. She died in 1825.

(Parents see §§ 41 and 42 as a reference)

-----

## GREAT - GREAT - GREAT - GREAT - GRANDPARENTS

### § 36.

Jacob Toresen Skjeseth was born circa 1619. He was 46 years old in 1665 and died in 1693. In the series of years 1643-46 he leased, in all, 2½ hud in *Skjeseth*, and owned when he died 1/4 of *Hulleberg* farm in Ringsaker, which father-in-law Peder Skraastad had owned in 1669 and Erik Skraastad in 1680. Until 1665, he farmed *Skjeseth* together with Amund Skjeseth, thereafter until 1676 together with Amund's son-in-law, Erik Siverson. At this time this was said about the farm:

“Schieszet, Hammers hofuidtgaards goedtz' av skyld 4½ hud, 3 Skpd. 4½ Spd. Saaer 13 Tönder 4 Skjeper, foeder fæ 28 stk. Hester 6. Schatter 8-3-4. Tiende 5½ Tönde. Hammer følger Foring ½ rd. Visöre 5 Skill. Hammerspenge ½ rd. Engen er god, thuende Hauger till gaarden och Ellers Samb Eier med Dalseng och Huuse, huorudj er noget Braadeland. Setter i Bremmonddahlen. En homble Hauge.”<sup>11</sup>

He married Marte Pedersdatter, who was born circa 1621 and was buried 20/11 - 1698.

(Parents see §§ 55 and 56 as a reference)

### § 37.

Gudbrand Eriksen Hol was born circa 1622 and was buried in 1703.

### § 38.

Tore Torkildsen Aalstad was born circa 1638 and was buried 16/12 - 1692. He was married to Aase Nilsdatter ( ? ).

### § 39.

Ole Olsen Slette was born 12/4 - 1680 at *Slette* farm in Heidal, and inherited as sole son his father's immense farmland, *Slette*, on 5 huder with lease and assets, in addition to 8 Skind in *Horgan*. In 1723 he also owned the farms *Lien* and *Bilben*. On 16/7 - 1728 he bought from Nils Bygfulien, *Aurdal* in Valdres, *Öistad* farm in Storbygden at Land, 5 huder with lease over 1 hud (which belonged to the church) and underlying place, *Tronholt*, 2 Skind all together for 1600 Riksdaler. In 1744 he divided inheritance between himself and his wife on the one side, and his 5 sons on the other. As a consequence of that division he owned:

---

<sup>11</sup>The passage is difficult to translate, due to the archaic spelling and dialect. It appears to read, “Skjeseth, Hamar manor's lands, assessed at 4½ hud, 3 Skpd. 4½ Spd. Sowed 13 barrels, 4 bushels, feeding 28 dependent recipients. 6 horses. Taxes 8-3-4. Tithes 5½ barrels. Hamar followers feed ½ rd. 5 wise-listening divisions. Hamar's boundaries ½ rd. Meadows are good, reliable hills to farm and generally connecting ownership of valley floor lands and house, everywhere are abundant cleared lands. Situated in Bremmonddahlen. An honorable hill.”

1. His father's farm, *Slette*, in Heidal. 5 huder, appraised at 650 Riksdaler.
2. *Öistad* farm in Land, 5 huder, appraised at 550 Riksdaler.
3. In *Sandbu* farm in Bredebygden 1½ hud, appraised at 350 Riksdaler.
4. In *Nedre Bilben* farm in Heidal 1½ hud, appraised at 150 Riksdaler. "In consideration that the farmhouse is dilapidated and used in common under *Slette*."
5. *Lien* farm in Heidal, 1 hud, appraised at 50 Riksdaler. In all, 15 huder, appraised at 1750 Riksdaler. For these field lands he settled with his sons for 350 Riksdaler each. But in addition, he possessed:
6. *Søndre Hagen* farm in Heidal, which had 3 horses and 20 cows.
7. *Koloen* farm in Bredebygden in Vågå, which had 1 horse and 10 cows.

These possessions he kept for himself and his wife and those on whose shoulders it would fall: They, of the children, who attended to them the best upon their old age. According to the register of 1723, he owned in all 34 horses, 186 cows and 362 *småfe* [small beasts]. About 1706 he was married to Anne Pedersdatter Horgen, who was born at *Horgen* in Heidal circa 1681, and died in April, 1750. She had 5 sons, namely:

1. Ole Olsen Slette (circa 1707 - 1775). Married Kari Paulsdatter Tolstad (circa 1703 - 1775). He inherited his father's farm, *Slette*, and in 1845 bought *Bilben* and in 1749, *Lien* from his brother. Later, he obtained from his parents, *Horgen* and *Koloen* farms. In 1727 he bought from the King, 1 Skind in the cleared lands, *Rusten* in Övre Heidal in Vågå. In 1733 he sold this again. In 1727 he bought from the King for 1590 Riksdaler courant<sup>12</sup>, 2 Huder with lease including remaining farm debt, 1 hud and 3 Skind in *Lillejivne* farm (little Hiem) with underlying *Landverk* in Kvam. Then, he sold the farm again in 1737 to Tosten Olsen Hielle at Dovre for 1200 Riksdaler.
2. Peder Olsen Öistad. (circa 1713 - 1793). He inherited *Öistad* farm in Land. In 1736 he was married to Anna Dorothea Kristensdatter Fliflet (1717 - 1763), daughter of Lieutenant Kristen Fliflet and Eli Stenersdatter Waalen.
3. Torsten Olsen Slette. (circa 1719 - ? ). Inherited *Sandbu* in Bredebygden, later with his father's death, also *Søndre Horgen*. The latter he sold to his nephew [brother's son], Iver Olsen Slette for 60 Riksdaler. He was no doubt unmarried.

---

<sup>12</sup>The *Riksdaler kurant* (courant) superseded the *Riksdaler specie* circa 1700. It was equivalent to 20.63 grams of silver, whereas, the older *Riksdaler specie* was equivalent to 25.28 grams of silver.



4. Östen Olsen Ovren. (1721 - 1801) (§ 26).
5. Iver Olsen Vigness. (1724 - 1780). Inherited *Lien* in Heidal, and part of *Slette*, but later saved the latter for his brother, Ole. In 1748 he bought *Lillejevne* in Kvam, but then sold it the same year. In 1749, he bought *Ovren* farm in Gausdal from Captain Cold for 1450 Riksdaler and lived there until he sold this to his brother, Östen, in 1758 for 2300 Riksdaler. Since then, he lived at *Vigness* in Fåberg. He was married the first time in 1745 to Kristine Jörgensdatter Elstad (1724 - 1755), daughter of Jörgen Olsen Elstad and Anne Stenersdatter Waalen. Another time, he was married (1756) to Marie Pedersdatter Wignæs (1734 ? ) who earlier had been married to Christian Henningsen Wignæs (1724 - 1756).

(Parents see §§ 57 and 58 as a reference)

#### § 40.

Gulbrand Arnesen, *Søndre Strande*, was born circa 1691, died 1737. He inherited his father's farm, *Søndre Strande* in Ringebu. In 1719, he was married to Marit Stenersdatter Waalen, who was born circa 1692 and died 1746. She was married another time in 1738 to Sivert Stivlen (1705 - circa 1760). With her first man, she had 7 children.

1. Mari Gudbrandsdatter Strande. (1719 - 1771). In 1746 married *handelsmann* [merchant] Peder Iversen Bøe (1719 - 1769) who by inheritance in 1750 became owner of *Søndre Bøe* in Follebu.
2. Arne Gulbrandsen Strande (Berg). (1723 - 1759). *Lensmann* [vassal/sheriff] in Ringebu. In 1747 he obtained from his brothers and sisters, *Søndre Strande*. In 1751 he exchanged it with Ole Östensen Berg towards his *Berg* farm in Ringebu, 3 huder and had to bring forth 400 Riksdaler besides. In 1747 married Siri Iversdatter Bøe from Gausdal.
3. Kari Gudbrandsdatter Strande. (1726 - 1792). (§ 26).
4. Eli Gudbrandsdatter Strande. (1728 - 1788). First time married in 1749 to Arne Olsen Randklev (1719 - 1761). They produced 5 children. Another time she was married (1764) to Mauritz Kraft (1714 - 1780) -- 2 children. The third time she was married (1781) to her cousin, *Lensmann* [vassal/sheriff] Christopher Olsen. With him she had 1 daughter.
5. Stener Gudbrandsen Strande (Lunde). (1730 - 1803). Lived at *Strande* until he married his cousin, Sigrid Johnsdatter Waalen (1730 - 1799) at *Lunde* in Torpa at Land.
6. John Gudbransen Strande (1737 - ?). Never married.

(Parents see §§ 59 and 60 as a reference)

**§ 41.**

Ole Tronsen, Nordre Kraaböl, was born circa 1700 and died in 1740. According to deeds of 11/3 - 1727 and 3/3 - 1735 he owned 2 huder and 8 Skind in *Nordre Kraaböl* in Bødalen, Vestre Gausdal. He was married to Anne Hansdatter Bratland who was born at *Søndre Solberg* in Bødalen, Vestre Gausdal. They had 2 children:

Tron Olsen, N. Kraaböl (1730 - 1821). (§ 27).

Marit Olsdatter (1730 - 18\_\_). Was married to Knud Iversen, Nordre Solberg (circa 1730 - 1794), with whom she produced son, Iver.

(Parents see §§ 61 and 62 as a reference)

**§ 42.**

Torger Larsen Søndre Soldberg was born circa 1700 at *Nistuen Solberg* in Vestre Gausdal. First, in the year 1720, he took over his father's farm, *Søndre Solberg*, which he sold in 1754 to his son Peder for 600 Riksdaler. About 1823 he was married to Kari Johnsdatter Bratland, with her he produced 9 children:

Marit Torgersdatter, born 1723, married at *Solset*.

Peder Torgersen Solberg, born 1727.

Lars Torgersen Solberg, born 1730.

Kari Torgersdatter (1732 - 1825). (§ 27).

Gudbrand Torgersen Solberg, born 1736.

Ole Torgersen Bøe, born 1738.

Jacob Torgersen Solberg, born 1743. Became *skredder* [tailor] in Trondhjem.

Ambjörg Torgersdatter, born 1746, married Gudmund Olsen Ödegården (*Søndre Solset*).

(Parents see § 63).

-----

**GREAT - GREAT - GREAT - GREAT - GREAT - GREAT - GRANDPARENTS**

**§ 55.**

Thore Skjeseth was progenitor to the Skjeseth-Imislund-line. He was probably born in the last part of the 1500's, and died circa 1642, when his widow paid tax for 2 huder for 1642-43 and for 1½ hud for 1645-46. We see, for the first time, he to have paid tax for 1612-13. "*For 3die Aars Tage og gaardebögsel af Scheeset, 2 huder, kronens Gods,*"<sup>13</sup> in all 1 Riksdaler. The last time he paid it was for the years 1639-40, but he continued to pay the general land tax -- 2 Riksdaler up to and including 1643. *Skjeseth* belonged to Hamar *hovedgaard* [manor] and was in *Hvalumsfjerdings* in Vang. Thore and his descendants were *leilendinger* [tenant farmers] under the *hovedgården* [manor], exclusively to 1717. He was married to a Kari, whom we are want for information. She had 2 sons:

Tjöstel Toresen Skjeseth, b. circa 1615.

Jacob Toresen Skjeseth (circa 1619 -1693). (§ 36).

**§ 56.**

Peder Skraastad owned *Hulleberg* farm in Ringsaker. He died around 1675, and the farm came to be divided between (his son?) Skraastad and his daughter, Marte, who was married to Jacob Skjeseth.

**§ 57.**

Oluf Pedersen Slette was born circa 1645 (he was 66 years old 15/10 - 1711), and died after 6/4 - 1708, when he divided inheritance with his 4 children. According to *kongebrev* [letters patent] of 29/11 - 1671, he acquired by inheritance, from Ole Olsen Slette and his wife in 8/7 - 1679, the entire estate. In 1686 he leased out the same to Sölfest Horgen, Thord Stener and Sivert Fogstad, *Muen fiskevann* [fishing waters] being applied toward 1 *Ort*'s<sup>14</sup> annual rent. According to the division of inheritance, in 1708 he owned the following possessions:

1. *Slette* farm in Heidal annex, Vågå parish with lease and possessions 5 huder.
2. *Søndre Horgen* farm as used under *Slette*, taxed for 1 hud.

---

<sup>13</sup>Archaic Norwegian: "For thirty Years, Holdings and farm-estate of Skjeseth, 2 huder, Kings lands."

<sup>14</sup>An *ort* was equal to ¼ *Riksdaler kurant*.

3. *Rössum* farm in Kvam, with lease and possessions , 2 huder.
4. *Volden* farm under *Rössum*, with lease, taxed for 2 Skind.
5. *Aamodt* farm, with lease and possessions, taxed for 1 hud and 6 Skind.
6. *Övre Bilben* farm, with lease and possessions, taxed 6 Skind.
7. *Nedre Bilben* farm, with lease and possessions, taxed for 1 hud and 6 Skind.
8. *Lien* farm, with lease and possessions, taxed for 1 hud.
9. *Espelund* farm, with lease and possessions, taxed for 6 Skind.
10. *Ulvsgård Kili* farm in Dovre annex, Lesja Parish, with lease and possessions, taxed for 1 hud and 6 Skind.

Of these, he had bought *Rössum* last. On 3/5 - 1676, he bought *Aamodt* from Captain Oluf Brun in part, and the rest in 1683 from *Assessor* [Judge] Lammers. *Övre* and *Nedre Bilben* he exchanged in kind in 1704 against *Stöe*, *Studsheim* and *Rudi* farms. In 1686 he bought *Lien* and *Espelund* from *Rittmester* [Captain of Horses] Brockdorf. *Ulvsgård Kili* he bought prior to 1694 from Guri Skjille. Altogether, he owned according to the inheritance in 1708, 14 huder and 5 Skind. He was married to:

Marit Torstendsdatter Skjille, was born in Dovre (at *Ulvsgård Kili*?). She produced 4 children:

1. Anne Olufsdatter, who was married to Amund Östensen Forbrigd (d. 1735).
2. Guri Olufsdatter, who was married circa 1703 to Tor Bjölstad circa 1671 - 1739 at *Bjölstad* in Heidal.
3. Rønnaug Olufsdatter (died 1745). Married Iver Pedersen Vekle.
4. Ole Olsen Slette (1680 - 1758). (§ 39).

(Parents see § 71).

### **§ 58.**

Peder Horgen owned *Søndre Horgen* farm in Heidal. He was married to Marit Iversdatter. They died probably sonless, when the farm was taken over by son-in-law, Ole Olsen Slette.

**§ 59.**

Arne Johnsen Strande was born at *Strande* in Ringebu circa 1659, and died 8/5 - 1737. He was married to Kari Iversdatter, who was born circa 1648 and died 27/2 - 1739.

**§ 60.**

Stener Svendsen Vaalen was born at *Vålen* in Gausdal circa 1658 and died 1743. He was *lensmann* [vassal/sheriff] in Gausdal and was married circa 1682 to Eli Jonsdatter Fjerdrum, born 1663 and died 1739. She had 9 children:

1. Anne Stenersdatter Vaalen (1683 - 1720). In 1704 married Erland Pedersen, Nordre Olstad (1677 - 1737).
2. Rønnaug Stenersen Vaalen (1685 - 17\_\_ ?). In 1704 married Ole Johansen Föxen (Kongsli) (? - 1738).
3. Eli Stenersdatter Vaalen (1687 - 1762). Married the first time in 1712 to Christen Torstensen Fliflet (? - 1718) and another time in 1721 to Simen Paulsen Tolstad (Fliflet) 1700-65.
4. John Stenersen Vaalen (1690 - 1746). Was *bygdelensmann* [district vassal/sheriff] in Gausdal. In 1738 he bought *Vaalen* from his parents, and sold it in 1744 to his sons, Johannes and Svend. In 1715 he was married to Rönnöug Johannesdatter Kongsli, 1684 - 1746.
5. Marit Stenersen Vaalen (1692 - 1746). (§ 40).
6. Svend Stenersen Vaalen (Roquam). (1697 - 1737). Born in Gudbrandsdal. In 1729 he bought *Rokvam* in Gausdal. He was foremost expert for property transactions, and when his estate came to be taken over by new management in 1742-46, he had fallen into bankruptcy. In 1724 he married Christiane Brun, daughter of *fogd* [sheriff] Christopher Brun.
7. Erland Stenersen (circa 1700 - 1732). Was *fullmektig* [agent or head clerk] with his brother, Svend, and lived at *Lunde* in Fåvang, which he bought in 1732. He was married to his sister-in-law's sister, Elisabeth Christine Brun.
8. Anne Stenersdatter Vaalen (1695 - 1739). In 1724, married Jörgen Olsen Elstad (1701 - 1743).
9. Ingeborg Stenersdatter Vaalen (circa 1705 ?). Married at *Esbjerg* in Land. Stener Svendsen Vaalen sold on 14/4 - 1741, *Voldslie* farm, 9 Skind, to Lars Pedersen Lien for 200 Riksdaler. He had that farm since 1685. In 1710 he bought *Nedre Frösen* in Gausdal, 2 huder 3 Skind from Svend Olsen for 234

Riksdaler. In 1730, he and Ole Stenersen sold this farm to Jens Jonsen for 300 Riksdaler.

(Parents see §§ 72 and 73 as a reference)

**§ 61.**

Tron Olsen Nordre Kråbol was born at *Sönstevold* in Gausdal about 1670. At the turn of the century, he came to accept *Nordre Kråbøl* and married Ömbjörg Jonsdatter Solset.

**§ 62.**

Hans Upistuen Solberg was one of the 3 owners of *Söndre Solberg* in Gausdal.

**§ 63.**

Lars Pedersen Nistuen Solberg was born in Sweden and did military service there, but came about 1700 to *Nistuen* at *Söndre Solberg* in Gausdal. When Hans Upistuen Solberg (§ 62) died, he also bought *Upistuen* and later also *Kanggården*, such that *Söndre Solberg* came together. He was married circa 1700 to Marit Nistuen.

**GREAT - GREAT - GREAT - GREAT - GREAT - GREAT - GREAT -  
GRANDPARENTS**

**§ 71.**

Peder Olsen Røysem was born circa 1615, and died in 1672. He owned *Røysem* farm in Kvam in Fron, and was married to Eldri Olufdatter Slette.

(Parents see § 76).

**§ 72.**

Svend Stenersen Vaalen was born in 1617 (according to the census record of 1665, he was 48 years old). He owned *Vålen* in Gausdal and was married to Anne Axelsdatter Stene.

(Parents see § 77).

**§ 73.**

Jon Torstensen Fjerdrum was born circa 1616 and owned *Fjerdrum* farm in Gausdal.

**GREAT - GREAT - GREAT - GREAT - GREAT - GREAT - GREAT - GREAT -  
GRANDPARENTS**

**§ 76.**

Ole Lodversen Slette was born in 1613, and in 1619<sup>15</sup> he rose to be *bykselmann* [tenant farmer] at *Slette* in Heidal. He died in 1638 and had the following children:

Rönnoug Olsdatter (? - circa 1679), was married to Ole Olsen (1610 - 1679), who in 1668 owned *Søndre Horgen* and who in 1669 acquired the deed to *Slette*. They died childless and made Oluf Pedersen Slette (§ 57) their heir general.

Eldri Olsdatter (§ 71).

Barbro Olufsdatter, was married to Paul Christensen Ellingsbö in Vågå.

Kari Olufsdatter, was married to Oluf Bue in Sel.

Magnhild Olufsdatter, was married at *Grytlieng* farm in Fron.

---

<sup>15</sup>Probable error. Ole Lodversen Slette could not have become bykselmann at the age of six.

Ole Lodversen was son of Lodver Eriksen Slette, who died in 1602, and who in 1570 and 1593 rose to be *bykselmann* [tenant farmer] at *Slette*. He was again, son of Erik Slette, who in 1528 paid 1 *lodd*<sup>16</sup> of silver in tax.

§ 77.

Stener Olsen Vaalen was born circa 1590 at *Stene* in Follebu. He bought *Vaalen* farm in Gausdal and came to be *bygdelensmann* [district vassal/sheriff]. His cause of death is unknown, likewise marks his wife. He was no doubt married two times. He was son of Ole Madsen Stene, who was born circa 1560 and later had 3 sons, Mads, Stener and Jacob, of which the first died unmarried. The second came to be progenitor to the Vaalen-lineage, while the third continued the lineage of Stene. Ole Madsen was son of Mads Bjørnsen, born circa 1530, who took over *Stene* farm. He, in turn, was son of Björn Olavsen Kråbøl, born circa 1485, who had 3 children: John Bjørnsen Kråbøl, Sigrid, who was married at Olstad (Aulestad), and Mads' Björn's father was Ola Bjørnsen Kraabøl (circa 1460 - 1490), who was son of Björn Gulbrandsen Kraabøl and grandson of Gulbrand of Kråbøl (originally Kråkuböle), in Vestre Gausdal.

Gulbrand was born circa 1375.

---

<sup>16</sup>The *lodd* (or lot) as it applied to gold or silver, equaled 1/32 *pund* or 14.62 grams.