

Farm no 9 Bratteland

Extract from *Bykle Bygdebok (in writing 2002)* by Aanund Olsnes
Translated with explanatory comments by Geir Ottesen

Abbreviations

Gnr. Gardsnummer Farm no
Bnr Bruksnummer Division no
b Born
d Dead

Dates are written the Norwegian way: day. month year. e.g. 4.12.1842 = 4th April 1842

Explanation of terms

To find an exact translation of some Norwegian terms is sometimes more than difficult. The nearest English term has been used, but may differ from the usual meaning. To avoid confusion, a brief explanation has been given below

Bailiff, *fogd, fut* – An authority representing the King. The bailiffs' main duty was to collect taxes, but he also kept records of change of land and publicly recorded contracts. (see below). He represented the highest police authority and acted as state attorney. The bailiff was invariably a Dane and not popular with the public. (See also sheriff)

Bnr, Bruksnummer see Farm number

Cotter *husmann*. Someone who rents a smallholding or cottage against an obligation to work for the owner who invariably would be a farmer. The obligation to work, particularly during the sowing and harvest season could also extend to his wife and even children. Bigger farms could have several cottages. There were two types of cotters; *husmann med jord* and *husmann uten jord*, "cotter with land" or "cotter without without land". The first would receive a piece of uncultivated land which he cleared and cultivated. The land belonged to him during his and his wife's lifetime, but after the last survivor's death, the land would go back to the farmer. The house on the other hand, was the cotter's property.

A cotter without land lived in a house belonging to the farmer.

Cotters were near the bottom of the social ladder and they were toatally at the mercy of the owner and were often exploited. In 1851 a law was passed requiring written contracts for the cotters and limiting the amount of contractual work. With the emigration to USA during the 1800's, cotters became less in abundance and their conditions improved.

Derheime literally *their home*. Frequently used of the first (oldest) farm in a cluster of farms by the same name, e.g. Nesland Derheime, Tveiten Derheime.

Farm - a registered entity, enough to support a family, but nothing like the farms in the US. They were generally small, a handful of acres or less, with a horse, 3-4 cows, a dozen sheep or less and a half a dozen goats. Naturally, bigger farms existed, but they were in minority

Farm number *gardsnummer*. In each parish every farm would receive a number, usually starting with the vicar's as no 1. As time went on, farms were split into smaller units and

received a *bruksnummer* -division number. Therefore, farms will always have two numbers *gnr* and *brn*, the first indicating the original farm, the latter the division number. The system was introduced during the 1600's and is still in use. As will be apparent below, divisions play an important part of a farm's history

Farm evaluation. For tax and commercial purposes farms were evaluated according to their annual yield. If the yield corresponded to the value of one cowhide, the size of the farm would be one hide. 1 hide=12 calf skin=4 goatskin. 1 goatskin =3 calfskin. This way of measurement defies direct conversion into acres, as climate, soil and altitude influence. Other units have also been in use, mark and öre, but following the same philosophy.

Monetary system From 1544 no less than 4 monetary systems have been in use:

1544-1813:	Riksdaler Species = 4 Ort = 96 skilling	1 Ort = 24 skilling
1813-1816:	Riksbankdaler = 16 Mark = 96 skilling	1 Mark =16 skilling
1816-1875:	Speciedaler = 5 Ort = 120 skilling	1 Ort = 24 skilling
1875-	Krone = 100 öre	1 Speciedaler = 3.96 kroner

During the 1800' a farmhand's yearly wage would be about 10 daler + food and lodging.

Nor, Nord - Norwegian prefix meaning North

Owner eier. Person legally in possession of a farm or estate. Owners should be registered in the *Matrikkel* - records of farms, but it was not always done.

Pauper Legdeslem, fattiglem. There was a primitive form of social security for orphans and people not able to take care of themselves. It was called *legd*. It was considered a great shame to be a *legdeslem* and people would go to great lengths to avoid it. The *legd* was administered by a poor-commission - *fattigkommisjon* - headed by the vicar. The poor-commission had some, but limited funds to compensate those farmers who were willing to take a pauper in his care. Some places the paupers would be subject to downward auction; the bidding started high and proceeded downwards. The one who would take care of them for the lowest price won the bid. The pauper's situation was not a subject of envy. Apart from criminals, the paupers were on the bottom rung of the social ladder deprived of every right and respect and treated accordingly. When they finally were buried, their names might be omitted. An entry like "Buried a Pauper" is frequently found in the church records.

Provided retirement Kår, föderåd or Foddog. An arrangement where a farmer transferred the farm to someone (usually his oldest son) against an obligation by the receiver to provide food and shelter for the farmer and his wife during their remaining lifetime. The arrangement was a formal one and publicly recorded. The contract specified in detail annual quantities of various foodstuff, household articles and firewood to be supplied. On the farms there was usually a *föderådsbygning* – a separate house for the old, but if not, the contract could specify that one should be built.

Publicly recorded - tinglyst. To obtain full legal status, some deals had to be publicly recorded like purchase of fixed assets or contracts like provided retirement. Often public recording was used when there was a restriction or impediment on the contractual object, like the neighbor's right to take water from the well, to fish or to hunt on the premises etc. Publicly

recorded transactions were recorded in the bailiff's books, but in addition it was read out to the public, usually after church service. Protesters had to come forward there and then, otherwise their objections would become invalid. There was a fee for public recordings and there are many examples of the recording being omitted, to the grief of later genealogists.

Seter, Sæter or Støl No suitable translation found. A summer farm in the mountains. A *seter* would consist of a small dwelling house, cowshed, and sheds for sheep goats and occasionally pigs. In the Spring or early Summer, the livestock would be walked, often for miles, to the *seter*. The mountain pastures were considered to be very nourishing with the added benefit of avoiding use of valuable farm land for pastures. To attend the animals, a milkmaid, *budeie*, would stay on the *seter*. The milk was preserved in the form of cheese, butter and other dairy products. Once a week someone would collect the *surmelk* - sour and fermented milk, not unlike yoghurt which was used as thirst quencher. A reminiscence of the *seter* farming is found in the modern Norwegian supermarkets. In the dairy section one is certain to find a product called *seter rømme* which is nothing but fermented cream, very much like in the old days, except for the fact that the modern thing is a factory product which never has been even near a proper *seter*.

Severance *jordskifte* Change in land ownership, dividing land formerly held in common or patchwise and assigning them to individuals on an equitable basis. As the farms were divided, the land was equally so in order to have a fair share of good and not so good land. After a few generations it had become a patchwork of narrow strips with different owners. As long as the land was worked with a spade, the system worked, but when horsedrawn machinery was taken into use, agriculture became cumbersome. The patchwork system was also a frequent source of conflict. During the 19th century the authorities introduced severance committees whose task it was to redistribute the land so each farm would cover (preferably) one large patch. Some of the committees are still at work.

Sheriff -*lensmann*. The sheriff was the local police and the Bailiffs' assistant. He was in charge of the gaol and the one to execute forced auction when debtors failed to meet their obligations. Like the bailiff he was not popular, and there are instances where the bailiff and the sheriff have been lynched. (See also Bailiff)

-stog Setesdal dialect for *stue* - dwelling house. The word suggests a house of modest standard and size. Frequently used with the prefixes such as sy- and nor- plus the farm name. Systog Nesland thus indicates the southern division of Nesland. Correspondingly you would have Systog Bratteland etc.

Sy, sun - Norwegian prefix meaning South

Tenant *bygsler* someone who would rent - *bygsl* - land for an prolonged period. The tenant would set up his own houses and cultivate the land at his own cost, risk and profit. The contract period was frequently 99 years but any period could be agreed upon. At the end of the term special rules apply regarding the value of buildings and cultivation of land, alternatively the right to prolongation. The contract was inheritable and would follow the land in case of sale. The system is much used today and has its roots in the farmers' reluctance to sell away land.

Udal rights *Odel*. A legal system securing a family farm to be kept within the family. If a family farm was sold, anyone with udal rights could forcibly buy it back. The price was

decided by a commission, and was often in favour of the buyer. The udal rights extended to the oldest son and his issue. Only if there were no male issues, a female could hold udal rights. Correspondingly a boy with udal rights would be referred to as *odelsgutt*, or in the rarer case of a girl, *odelsjente*. The system is still valid, but from the middle of the 1980s' the udal rights follow the oldest issue, regardless of sex. Traditionally a farm was considered a family farm when it had been in the family's possession for 60 years. The required period of ownership has later been adjusted downwards and is currently 20 years. Current udal legislation only applies to farms exceeding 5 acres of cultivated land.

Up- Norwegian prefix meaning upper

User *bruker, oppsitter* someone who ran a farm as if he owned it. The user may or may not have paid rent. A user would often be a near relative of the owner

Vicar *-sogneprest* - Since 1537 the official state religion of Denmark-Norway has been the Lutheran church. Each parish *-sogn* -was headed by a *sogneprest* - vicar. Beside his clerical duties he lived at, and ran a state owned farm *-prestegard-*. The vicar would in many cases act as a public enlightener and was a pioneer regarding new methods within agriculture. After 1750 a number of vicars advocated the use of potatoes. The vicar was unquestionably no. 1 on the social ladder and was treated with obvious respect (and some times not so obvious contempt)

Weights and Measures. Farmlands were measured in *mål* - about ¼ acre. Outseed and harvest were measured in *tønne* - barrel or bushel. 1 tønne was roughly equal to 1 US bushel

Got.

Bratteland

is situated east of Dysje and is the most eastern of the old farms in the Botn¹

As the name indicates the land is steep, but on the downside where the farm stood, was a field not quite as steep. Today the farm is flooded.

There is no need to enlarge upon the significance of the name. With regards to the age of the name, the etymologists reckon that most farm names ending on *-land* date back to the time of the great migration of tribes, i.e. between 400 and 600 AD. If this also holds true for Bratteland, it puts Bratteland at the same age as the cultivation of Tveiten and Nesland, which sounds reasonable.

As with Brotteli, Bratteland was estimated for taxation purposes to ½ Hide and 6 Calf skins². In the Land Register of 1883 the farm was estimated to 1 daler, 2 ort and 11 shillings³ still in

¹ Botn – in this context: the Eastern end of Botsvatn

² See "eplanation of terms" page 1

³ See "eplanation of terms" page 1

line with Brotteli, but in 1888 it was estimated to 2,57 skyldmark⁴, which is about 20 % more than Brotteli. We don't know what caused this rise in relative value, but as each estimate was supposed to be based on independent judgement, there is not a case of mechanically adjusting the estimate based on the previous.

In the old farm and family saga⁵ the two divisions were referred to as Klubben and Systog, but on the map of place names by Mr. Folke Nesland, it says Nordstog and Systog (North House and South house), while the name Klubben is used for the rounded promontory outside Norstog.

According to Ivar Aasen⁶ "klubb" means exactly a rounded headland⁷. Here we will use Nordstog and Systog, not that we doubt that Norstog has been referred to as Klubben, but because we consider Norstog to be more descriptive, inasmuch as we also know that the name represents historical tradition.

The author of the old farm and family saga was of the opinion that Systog is the oldest settling place and Norstog represents a division. The opinion is shared by those who were responsible for the matriculation of the separated farms in 1917. It was Systog which represented the new division, not Nordstog. Therefore Norstog remains as division no 1, whilst Systog became no 5. The old saga says that Systog is division no 2, but division no 2 is Skolås while Skarberg is division no. 3 and a piece of hilly land called Aurdalsbeitet is division no. 4. We shall return to the divisions later, but let us first look at the oldest unit.

The first resident was called Jon. He is referred to in a number of sources, but only by first name, never by patronym. The first instance where he is mentioned is in *Odelsjordeboka* – the Land Registry of 1624. The last time in 1647 in the list of Contribution Taxes, but by that time his heirs jointly owned the farm, indicating that Jon was dead. He was alive in 1645 and owned the farm solely. His wife was dead by then and, according to the same source, he lived with his daughter Anne. In the Land Registry of 1624 it appears that he owned 1 goatskin in Bratteland and 1 goat skin in Nesland. Who the owner was of the other half of Bratteland does not appear, but the part in Nesland which no doubt was a sister's part, proves that his wife has been a daughter of Björgulv Tallakson Nesland. According to the Bykle family history⁵ p. 74 she was named Guri (or more correctly Gyro), but we don't think so because in 1645 Jon is referred to as widower, and in 1663 Gyro Björgulfsdatter owned the farm, so she must have been married to someone else unless Björgulv Nesland had two daughters, both by name of Gyro.

In 1649 someone by the name of Eivind owned 5 calfskins of the farm and an Anne owned 1 calfskin. Anne was probably Jon's daughter, but whether Eivind was her brother is subject to doubt. In such case one would expect to find him listed as resident of the farm in 1645, but he wasn't.

Whichever way the ownership was, in 1651 both Anne and Eivind were succeeded as residents. Those residing now were Tov and Ånund. Tov owned only 1^{1/5} calfskin, while

⁴ Skyldmark = debit mark. Taxation system probably based on the monetary system between 1813 and 1816. where 1 Riksbankdaler = 6 mark. 1 Mark = 16 skilling. May also have been based on the older system from 1523 to 1767 where 1 riksdaler = 6 mark.

⁵ Knut Gjerden og Björgulv Holen: Gaards og Ættesoge for Bykle. 1966

⁶ Ivar Aasen (1813-96), Norwegian linguist, an unchallenged authority, even today. He published a much used dictionary in 1875.

⁷ Aasen: Norsk Ordbog, 1875 p. 367

Ånund owned 4^{1/2} skin "with security on behalf of his wife". Ånund might have been Ånund Ormsson Tveiten, but he does not quite fit in. On the other hand, if he was Ånund Sveinsson from Brotteli it fits very well, because Svein Brotteli did indeed have a son called Ånund. He owned part of the family farm, but he was not present in 1651. This is no proof of correct identification, only a plausible assumption. With regards to Tov, we are certain that he was called Tov Knutsson and came from Berget Mosdöl.

In 1659 Tov Knutsson Mosdöl ran the entire farm, but he does not appear to be the owner. In 1663 a woman named Gyro Björgulvsdatter was registered as owner. It is reasonable to believe that this Gyro was a widow at the time she was entered as farm owner in the Land Registry. Female proprietors usually were. From her patronym it might be guessed that she was daughter of Björgulv Nesland. The old saga⁵ indeed says so, but in reality it is uncertain. But whether she was or not, we think that Tolv Knutsson Mosdöl ran the farm for her. According to censi and registers of taxation he resided there during the sixteen hundreds and still at the beginning of 1670.

But in 1670 two brothers and a sister had come into possession of Bratteland. They were Anders, Björgulv and Svålaug, their father being a Tarjei. The ownerships show obvious signs of a hereditary settlement of the estate, but who Tarjei was, we have not succeeded in finding out. Likely candidates can easily be provided, but no one fits exactly into the puzzle. The only answer we dare venture is that he may have been married to the Gyro Björgulvsdatter mentioned above, and had not previously been residing in Bykle.

From 1671 and well into the 1680's the sources are meagre and we don't know for certain who resided on the farm. But as from 1687 up to and including 1711, Anders Tarjeisson both owned and ran the farm. It is possible that this Anders is identical to the Andres who was one of the owners in 1670, but that implies a rather lengthy period of ownership, so we should keep an open mind. There were two men with the same name. If it indeed was two different Andres'es, it is only the latter we know something about. But it is limited to the year of his death and the fact that he had two sons.

Andres Tarjeisson, b 1687, d ca 1711

married to: unknown

Children (we know of):

Olav, b. ca 1654, d (5.7.)1744, 90 years old.

Tallak, b. ca 1677, married 2nd time to Gunhild Olsdtr. Stavenes, see below

? Margit

The reason for believing that Andres Tarjeisson also had a daughter Margit is that the name of the wife of Tarjei Olsson Torstveit in Skafså⁸ owned a part in the farm in 1737. This part was probably a hereditary one, and in that case we are apt to believe that it was the wife rather than Tarjei himself who was the heir.

Why the oldest son did not take over the farm when he nevertheless remained living there, we don't know. We only know that it was the younger brother who became the new owner.

Tallak Andresson Bratteland, b ca 1677-1686, d (12.3.)1747

⁸ Marvik: Skafså p 229

married 1st time to unknown.

married 2nd time to Gunhild Olsdtr. Stavenes, b ca 1695, d (5.10.)1747

Children (known):

Ingebjörg, b. ca 1709, d. (9.7.) 1758, unmarried

Eli, b ca 1711 (?), d (24.3.)1743, unmarried

Andres, b ca 1713, married 1747 to Signe Knutsdtr., see Rynningen, farm no. 11, div.4

Sigrid, b (18.1.)1715, married. 1745 to Jon Folkesson Brotteli

Unchristened boy d. (5.10.) 1721, 7 days old

Turid, b (4.10.)1722, d. Tveiten (11.9.)1778, unmarried

Knut, b (15.7.)1725, d (22.3.) 1726

Olav, b (29.11.)1730, d Brotteli 3.12.1816

Knut, b. ca 1731, mentioned 1747, later fate unknown

Knut, b (1.7.)1736, d. Björnará (March) 1774. unmarried

That Tallak was twice married is a surmise, but the birth dates of his children point in that direction. The father of Gunhild who probably was his second wife, was Olav Torleivsson Stavenes the older. The name of the mother we have not succeeded to unveil, but they must have lived somewhere in Bykle.

Regarding Tallak's birth year, we have given it a liberal margin. According to a military register from 1718 he was supposed to be 32 in that year, in other words born ca 1686. But when he died in 1747 his age was reported to be 70 which puts his birth year to 1677.

His daughter Eli was reported to be 20 when she died in 1743. This is probably incorrect, as Tallak did not bring any children for christening neither during 1723 nor 1724. She was most likely born before the church records were taken into use, i.e. before 1714. Therefore she is probably just placed where there was an available space in the register.

For Knut Tallaksson we have found neither the christening nor the burial entry. Perhaps he was interred outside the parish? The only facts known are that he was present at the division of inheritance after his father in 1747, and it was recorded that he was 16 years old.

Tallak, Gunhild and their children lived at Bratteland till 1737. Then they moved to Rynningen Tveiten which Tallak the same year had acquired from Knut Åsmundson Tveiten for 196 Riksdaler⁹.

In 1737 Tallak Adresson and Tarjei Olsson Torstveit sold the farm⁹. How Tarjei Torstveit in Skafså had become joint owner, we don't know, but as mentioned above, the explanation may be a relationship by marriage, most likely to Margit, the wife of Tarjei who accordingly must have been Tallak's sister.

The buyer in 1737 was Gunsten Tarjeisson. Where this Gunstein came from is uncertain. In the Bykle family history⁵ p. 181 it says that he was a brother of Åsmund Tarjeison on Berdalen Deruppe, but we don't think that is correct, as in such case it would have appeared from the church records that the groom and bride were first cousins when Gro Gunsteindotter married Arne Åamundsson in 1761. The clergy were very much aware of such things as couples as closely related as that released an obligation to pay a royal tax of 10 riksdalers.

Perhaps Gunstein Tarjeisson could have been a grandson of Gunstein Ormsson on Rynningen? Both Tarjei and Gunstein were common names in that family, but we don't know whether

⁹ Bratteland

Gunstein Ryningen had a son by name of Tarjei, so this surmise becomes rather flimsy. In addition two of Gunsteins's sons were called Vrål and Bendik respectively and these names are rather rare in Bykle as well as Valle. Shall we guess that Gunstein was a newcomer to the parish, perhaps from Telemark? The fact that the two eldest of Gunstein's children are baptised neither in Bykle nor Valle seems to point in that direction.

Gunstein Tarjeisson Bratteland, b ca 1698, d (3.7.)1784, 86 years old.
married to Birgit Olsdtr., b. ca 1704, d (10.9)1791, 87 years old.

Children:

Gro, b ca 1733, married 1761 to Arne Åsmundson Berdalen, see Berdalen Deruppe

Tarjei, b ca 1736, d (1.7.) 1753

Vrål, b. (1.1.)1738 married 1768 to Hæge Salmundsdr. Breive, see Berdalen Hagen

Kristi, b (6.3.)1740. d (2.7.) 1740

Bendik, b (25.6.) 1741, d before 1771 (?)

Kristi, b (10.7.)1744, married 1770 to Såve Eivindsson Trydal, see Storestein Trydal

widower , b (24.6.)1747, married 1788 to Gunstein Såvesson Stavenes, see Nordstog Stavenes

Ingebjörg, b (15.3.) 1751, married 1779 to Åvold Torleivsson Trydal, see Nordstog Trydal

In 1758 Gunstein summoned the farmers at Löyland and Dale because they had unlawfully collected 6 winterloads of hay from a field called "Flaad" or more correct Flotti. The case was postponed a couple of times and ended with settlement out of court, which the minutes of the court do not record. (cfr. Valle VI, 74). Nevertheless we believe that Gunstein had to give in, as Olav G. Dysje in 1842 bought the very same field, and the owners were then residing at Löyland and Dale.

Gunstein and Birgit were still at Bratteland in 1762, but in 1764 an Eivind Kristensson registered the deeds of the farm. This man seemed neither to be from Bykle nor Valle, but wherever he came from, he never resided on Bratteland. The Bykle family history⁵ says that a cotter named Sigurd Hansen lived here in 1764, and it is correct inasmuch as a man by that name is mentioned in the taxation lists that year, but otherwise we have not found this Sigurd mentioned any other place. In any case, we assume that Gunstein and his household moved to Hagen in Berdalen in 1763 or 1764. Regardless when they moved, we can see that they resided on the farm in Berdalen in 1771 and that they owned it. Why we know is because they wanted to sell the farm to their son Vrål and enter into provided retirement¹⁰, but he considered the terms too harsh and refused point blank. If they could find someone else to provide as much, he wouldn't make any obstacles, he said.

The same autumn, in October 1771, the next known resident obtained the deeds of Bratteland. Whether the seller was the Eivind Kristensson mentioned above, do not appear from the court records, but the buyer is mentioned. Like his predecessor he was a newcomer to the parish, and according to what traditions tell, he was from Numedal. When we give him the farm's name as surname, it is because we don't know his patronym¹¹.

Olav Larsson Bratteland, b. ca 1721, d (8.6.)1805, 84 years (?)

married 1st time ca 1750 to Ingebjörg Mikkjelsdtr. Mosdöl, b. (10.7.)1717, d (28.6.)1789

married 2nd. time 1791 to Eli Sigbjörnsdtr. Vatnedalen, b (15.1.)1757, d Holen 8.10.1837

Children:

¹⁰ Provided retirement, see "eplanation of terms" page 1

¹¹ According to Aasmund Tveiten, his patronym was Larsen , 1721-1805

Ivar, b ca 1752, d.(undated.)1769, 17 years old
 Ditleiv, b ca 1753, married 1782 to Torbjörg Olsdtr. Björnarå, see Björnarå Derheime
Mikkjel, b ca 1755, married 1790 to Signe Olsdtr. Homme, see below
 Birgit, b. ca 1758, married 1789 to Odd Tarjeisson Röyseland, see Austestog Byklum
 Sigbjörn, b (10.7.)1791, d (25.9.)1791
 Ingebjörg, b (7.10.)1792, married from Holen 1815 to Olav Olsson Nesland, see Systog
 Nesland, gnr 10, bnr 4, cfr Holen Plassen .
 Torbjörg, b (25.5.)1794, d.Holen 30.1.1857, unmarried, pauper¹²
 Olav, b 9.3. 1800, married 1822 to Gyro Knutsdtr. Vatnedalen, see Myri Holen, bnr 1

One may doubt the church records stating that Olav was as much as 84 when he died in 1805. But even if his age was exaggerated, he was well up in years when he married for the second time.

Ingebjörg, his first wife came from Torsbu Byklum. Mikkjel Tarjeison and his wife Birgit Torleivsdotter were her parents. Olav and Ingebjörg seemed to have lived at Bratteland from 1772 til her death in 1789. Their children were baptised in neither Bykle nor Valle, and their birth years are calculated from the age quoted at their death and may in consequence be somewhat misleading.¹³

After two years as widower, Olav remarried Eli Sigbjörnsdotter. She came from Vatnedalen Derhite, and was the daughter of Sigbjörn Torkjellson Rannestad and his wife Ingjerd Åsmundsdotter. At first Olav and Eli lived at Bratteland, but when they in 1800 carried their youngest son to christening, they lived at Vatnedalen Dersö and as far as we can understand, they must have bought the farm from the heirs of Jon Åsvoldsson in 1794. But they did not stay long there either. In 1805 they swapped the farm in Vatnedalen against Myri i Holen. It was Auver Jonsson Holen who exchanged his farm. Olav lived there when he died, the same year as the exchange took place

Ditleiv, the eldest son, who resided at and ran Nordtveiti had intentions of taking over his wife's parental farm at Björnarå, and that is the reason for the younger brother remaining at Bratteland which he obtained by the division of his mother's estate in 1789. The sum of redemption was 500 riksdalers.

Mikkjel Olsson Bratteland, b.ca 1755,d 12.3.1837
 married 1790 to Signe Olsdtr. Homme, f (4.1.)1761, d.12.8.1839
 Children:
 Jorunn, b. (27.6.)1790,d (31.5.)1795
Ditleiv, b (5.2.)1792, married 1814 to widow Astrid Björgulvsdtr. Nesland, see below
 Olav, b (25.5.)1794, d 24.6.1810
Ånund, b (15.1.1797), married 1821 to Kjersti Olsdtr. Skolås, se below
 Ingebjörg, b (31.3.)1799, mearried 1822 to Torleiv Olsson Röyseland, see Skarberg
 Olav, b (14.2.)1802, married 1826 to Ingebjörg Olsdtr. Nesland, see Nesland Derheime
 Gunhild, b (17.10)1807, married 1835 to Hallvard Knutsson Hisdal, see Lisle Hisdal
 Jon, d (8.6.) 1805, 8 days old
 Stillborn 15.6. 1806

¹² The Norwegian designation is *fattiglem* or *legdeslem*. See "eplanation of terms" page 1

¹³ People were illiterate and did not always know their exact age. The ages recorded at burials can therefore be misleading sometime grossly so. As a rule of the thumb, one may calculate plus/minus 10 years for an older person, a little less for a younger. The age of dead children were usually accurate, but not always.

Signe, Mikkjels's wife, came from Bjones. Her parents were Olav Olsson Homme and Gunhild Eivindsdotter from Trydal. The father died during a visit to his daughter and son-in-law at Bratteland in 1798.

Gunhild Mikkjelsdotter gave birth to her daughter Signe on the 25th of August 1832. The father was Gunnar Knutsson Nesland (gnr 10 Bnr 4). We have not succeeded in revealing how Signe fared, but she does appear to have been with her mother in Hisdal.

As it appears above, Mikjel was the second eldest son. Consequently the children of the older brother had better udal rights¹⁴, and in 1808 Mikjel bought the udal rights from Torleiv Ditleivsson Björnará for 1400 Riksdalers. (This sounds like an exceedingly large sum, but we must bear in mind that this was at the time of "phoney money" when the dalers were of low value)¹⁵

How did the history of Bratteland develop further? Recorded changes of ownership are few and far between at that time. The church records are the principal sources together with some American family sagas collected by emigrant descendants. But they contain conflicting information

In a manuscript by Tellef B. Nesland who lived in Canada at a place called Sask Frontier, British Columbia (*Slekstoversikt for Nesland, dated 25.10.1939, copied by Folke Nesland 12.12.1990 p. 19*) it is told that Ditleiv and Ånund each owned a half of Bratteland for some years from 1824, and that Ditleiv owned "Dernede Syga" later called Systog. The other American sources are less detailed, but point in the same direction.

We believe they were wrong. Neither Ånund nor Ditleiv had taken possession over any property, in fact, Ditleiv who held the udal rights owned the entire farm from 1835 till his death. As to why we support this view, we shall return below.

But let us first have a look at Ditleiv and his fate.

Ditleiv Mikkjelsson Bratteland, b. (5.2.)1792, d 2.3.1845

married 1814 to Astrid Björgulvsdr. Nesland¹⁶, b (29.10) 1768, d. 20.6. 1844

No children

Ditleiv and Astrid seemed to have lived at Vodden Nesland from about 1814 till Dileiv became owner of Bratteland in 1835. Some time afterwards they moved there.

Astrid Björgulvsdotter was the daughter of Björgulv Knutsson Nesland and his wife Torbjörg Tarjeisdr. They lived at Nesland Derheime. When Ditleiv married Astrid in 1814, she was a widow after Ånund Hallvardsson Tveiten. With him she had one child who did not survive. With Ditleiv she had none.

¹⁴ See "eplanation of terms" page 1

¹⁵ Because of the Napoleonic wars, the finances of the Danish/Norwegian kingdom got into large disorder, 1807-13. Inflation was the consequence and in 1813 the Riksdaler standard was abandoned. Its successor was the Riksbankdaler which also turned out to be short lived,. In the meantime Norway had gained independence from Denmark and entered into a union with Sweden in 1814. In 1816 the Riksbankdaler was released by the Speciedaler which lasted till 1875 when it was released by the Krone, the currency still in use.

¹⁶ Some of us can tell a funny, but not entirely truthful story about Ditleiv and his wedding

He nevertheless begot one son¹⁷ Hallvard, born 6.4.1842. The mother was Ingebjörg Olsdotter, a daughter of Olav Torsteinsson Örnefjell and his wife Gunvor Olsdotter, b. Berdalen. They lived at the cottage Ljosådalen under Löyland (Valle VI, 130f). In 1850 Ingebjörg received attestation¹⁸ for moving to Stavanger and her 8 year old son followed.

At the census in 1865 his mother probably was dead, but Hallvard Ditleivsson then lived permanently at a cottage under Håvardstein on Rennesøy¹⁹. He was an agricultural worker and a married one, it says. His wife was Marthe Eriksdatter. A few years later he embarked on an emigrant ship in Stavanger bound for USA. By then he had become a widower and had remarried. His new wife was called Anna Malena Olsdatter and was born in 1835. The emigrant records do not mention if he brought any children.

The settlement of estate after Astrid Björgulvsdotter in 1844 shows that Ditleiv was the sole owner of the farm. By this settlement the estate was split in such a way that Ditleiv and Ånund each received 3 skinworths², but as Ditleiv died the year after his wife without any legitimate heirs, Ånund became the sole owner of Bratteland

Ånund Mikkjelsson Bratteland, b (15.1.)1797, to USA with his entire family as per attestation dated 7.July.1846, d Mai 1847, Rock River Settlement, Dodge Co., Wis., USA married 1821 to Kjersti Olsdtr. Skolås, b Midtre Lien in Svartdal, Seljord 3.8.1794, to USA 1846, d mai 1863

Children:

Anne , b 4.2. 1822, d 27.6.1908, Polk Co., Minn., married 1845 to Björgulv Knutsson Nesland, to USA 1846, see Nesland Derheime

Signe, b 4.4.1825, d 1845

Jorunn, b 5.5. 1827, d 14.4.1828

Mikkjel, b 27.2.1829, d Hendrum, Norman Co., Minn. 14.3. 1888, g Dodge Co., Wis. 1851 married to Ingebjörg Ånundsdr. Straume, see Valle I, 215;

Children:

Ånund (Andrew), f 1852, married 1874 to first cousin Anette Gurine Olsdtr. Ljosådalen, see Skolås, residing at Hendrum, Norman Co. Minn.; Christian b 1855; Ole b 15.8. 1858; Michael, b 1861 ; Gilbert, b 1865

Jorunn, b 5.11.1831, d May 1892, married Dodge Co., Wis. 1848 to Björgulv Olsson Sandnes, see Valle III, 99

Ingebjörg, b 29.9.1834, d. 16.5.1925, married Dodge Co., Wis, 1850 to Halvor Halvorson Hellem, Rogaland

The father of Kjersti Olsdatter, Ånund Brattelands wife, was Olav Höljesson Lien and came from Midtre Lii in Nord-Svartdal in Seljord. Anne Olsdotter, Kjersti's mother, came from Sydre Svartdal. These are referred to under Skolås

¹⁷ Naughty naughty !!

¹⁸ In order to settle outside your parish, you needed attestation from the vicar that you were a good Christian and had been "a guest at the Lord's Table" within the last 12 months. The Lutheran Church lost its monopoly to preach in 1842 and the requirement for attestation gradually appeased, but remained surprisingly long in some districts. Travelling also required a passport issued by the sheriff, stating in each case where you were going. Passports for domestic travel were abolished in 1860.

¹⁹ An island north of Stavanger

Ånund and Kjersti lived at Bratteland from when they married in 1821. In the records for 1822 and 1825 Ånund is referred to as "lodger"²⁰ and he has probably lived together with his brother and their parents at Nordstog. In 1827 he runs a farm somewhere, but in 1829 he is back and runs the farm together with his brother.

In other words, he had not taken over the farm as quoted in the manuscript of Tellef B. Nesland. According to the church records, he was a cotter at Bratteland in 1831, so during the years of 1829 to 1831 he has probably built a new abode at Systog in the form of a cottage under the main farm. In 1834 he was still a cotter, but by then his he and his family lived at Skolås. The following year they moved to Årdal in Ryfylke²¹ and stayed there for 2 years.

The American sources nevertheless state that Ånund sold his farm before he moved to Rogaland in 1835. We have already mentioned the manuscript of Tellef Nesland, but the same statement is found in "*History and Genealogy of Brattland, Olson, Knutson and Newton Families*" written by Mrs Julia Eggen and edited by Beatrice Olson in 1942. Similarly in "*Journal of Andrew A. Bratteland, also known as Andrew M. Anderson or Aanond Mikkelsen, Prior to May 25th, 1901*". The last we have received from Mrs. JoLeen Randolph, Victoria, Minnesota. To which degree the American manuscripts are independent of each other, we have no knowledge.

How do we understand this? We are apt to believe that the explanation is as follows: The estate after Mikjel Olsson was not settled when Ånund wanted to move in 1835. Ånund and Kjersti were cotters at Systog from 1827 to 1833, give or take. But then they fell out with his father and /or his brother. Anyway, they moved to Skolås. But when Ånund in 1835 turned up and told about his emigration plans and claimed his part of the inheritance, it was not possible to refuse. In consequence the estate was settled, Ditleiv took over the farm and Ånund received his part in cash.

It is therefore not so strange that his American descendants got the idea that "he sold his farm", he may even have thought so himself. But in reality he did not have any farm to sell in 1835, he only had a standing hereditary claim in the estate.

Further we will maintain that it is correct, and in this respect the American sources are univocal, that he intended to emigrate to USA as early as 1835, but his family persuaded him to remain in the home country. The result was two years in Årdal in Ryfylke before he returned to Bykle in 1837.

Ditleiv still lived at Norstog and Ånund resettled in Systog where he had lived previously. That he bought the farm back from his brother, as the American sources maintain, is not very likely. In that case, Astrid and Ditleiv would not have owned the entire farm in 1844. Most likely Ånund remained a cotter for the interim period.

Then it happened, as we have mentioned earlier, that Ditleiv died in 1845 and Ånund became the sole owner of Bratteland. It can well be imagined that by then he was well off and could have settled and calmed down. But according to Mrs. Eggen, he had got the "*America Fever and could neither speak nor think of anything else*". Therefore he sold the farm to Olav Torleivsson Björmarå, and during the Spring of 1846 he took his wife, his grown up daughter

²⁰ The Norwegian expression "inderst" or "innerst" was a lodger who paid for his board and house, but not necessarily participated in the farm work.

²¹ District north east of Stavanger. Part of Rogaland county

and her family and even his 82 year old father in law and left for USA. This tiny flock of Byklings became the first emigrants.

We shall describe the life of several persons from this first emigrant party under their respective farms, i.e. Skolås and Nesland Derheime. The sale of Bratteland probably was the main contribution to the economical foundation of the emigration

The transaction had indeed some curious clauses. Ånund did not want to completely burn his bridges. As the recorded contract shows, it would be difficult to get a mortgage closer to what in reality was a sale..

Obligation from Ole Tellefsen Björnaraa for 800 speciedaler, irrevocable for 30 years with received and tied security in the entire estate, in such a way that if not terminated after the expiry of said 30 years, creditor shall be entitled to the deed and property of the farm. 3 April 1846, registered 12 June same year.

Somewhat earlier the same year, Ånund had sold the cottage Skolaas to his brother in law Hallvard Olsson Skolås for 300 speciedaler, much on the same conditions. Altogether he must have had more than 1000 speciedaler to buy America tickets with. One should count Skolaas as a separate smallholding from 1846 even if it was not formally divided and registered in its own right till 1853.

Ånund Mikkjelsson died in Lebanon Township, Dodge County, Wisconsin the year after the emigration. This information as well as the death dates for most of his children, we have found on an internet page made by JoLeen Randolph in Victoria, Minnesota. (<http://webpages.mr.net/joleen>). In Lebanon Twp, Dodge Co., we also find the family in a listing of Norwegians in Wisconsin in 1850 by Vesterheim Genealogical Centre in Madison, Wisconsin. This source confirms that Ånund Mikkjelsson at the time was dead and buried.

Olav T. Björnara who bought Bratteland from Ånund Mikkjelsson Bratteland was the son of Torleiv Ditleivsson, and in other words the first cousin of Ånund. In 1850 Olav bought Utestog Stavnes where he settled. He is further described under Stavenes. It is likely that he sold Bratteland to finance the purchase of Stavnes and we believe that the sale was in 1849 or 1850. It is not registered, but there is no doubt that a sale took place, but the buyer is unknown.

Tarjei Oddsson Byklum, b. (12.4.)1789, d. 11.8.1852

married 1815 to Gunhild Björgulvsdotter Nomeland, f. (25.2.)1798, d. 19.2.1876

Children:

Birgit, b 8.5.1819, d 15.5. 1819

Björgulv, b 22.5.1820, d. before 1833 (?)

Birgit, b 25.5.1822, see below

Margit, b 14.2.1825, married 1854 to Knut Torleivsson Homme, see Valle VI, 451

Gunhild, b 22.5.1828, d 24.9.1829

Gunhild, b 6.5. 1830, to Stavanger 1861, see below

Björgulv, b 12.1.1833, married. 1859 to Targjerd Kjetilsdtr. Harstad, b. 1832, to USA 1866, see below, cfr. Systog, bnr 5

Odd, b 14.9.1835, married 1859 to Gro Bjugsdtr. Åkre, see below under Nordstog, bnr 1

Tarjei Oddson was born at Austistog Byklum. His parents were Odd Tarjeisson Röyseland and his wife Gyro Åsmundsdr., b. Løyland. When Tarjei bought Bratteland, he came from Attestog Gjerden which he had bought in force of his udal rights from Åvold Jonsson in 1815. (See Neire Dysje).

Gunhild, Tarjei's wife, came from Nordigard Nomeland (V), but her father was from Bykle. His name was Björgulv Åsmundsson Gjerden and his mother's Gunhild Jonsdr., b. Dale (Valle III, 632).

We have not seen anything written about when Björgulv Tarjeisson died, but we assume that he was dead when they gave his name to his son.

Birgit Tarjeisdatter gave birth to her son Olav 14.3.1822. The father was Neri Vetleson Vadder from Mo, who lived at Breive when he met Birgit.

Birgit's fate is unknown, but we find Olav Nerisson again in 1865. He was then in the smithy of the Blackmith Anders Johnsen Hognestad in Stavanger. Then we lose sight also of him.

Gunhild Tarjeisdatter gave birth to her daughter Tone Tarjeisdatter . 3.6.1851. The father was Tarjei Olsson Dysje. A few years later she gave birth to her daughter Gyro, b. 9.3.1858. To the vicar she gave up the father as Dreng Torleivsson Homme, the brother of her sister's husband. Then on the 29th November 1860 she got another daughter, Ingebörg. Now it came to light that she had reported the wrong man as Gyro's father, and that Tarjei Dysje, or Skolås as he now was called had fathered all her three daughters. In consequence, she was put before the magistrate for perjury and was sentenced to 5 days on bread and water in the sheriff's gaol in 1861. After that she moved to the county of Stavanger. Later she had a son called Björgulv Johansson, b. 21.5.1872. By this time she lived at Hjelmeland²². There she met a Swede named Johan Jonasson Brandt, according to the church records of Valle.

From the census of 1865 we can see that Tone and Gyro at that time lived as settlers with Odd Tarjeisson on Nordstog Bratteland, but their mother was not there. From then on it is rather obscure how mother and children fared, but the oldest daughter Tone, according to Reidar Vollen in Kristiansand, seemingly ended up in USA where she produced a large number of descendants.

Björgulv Tarjeisson fathered a daughter, Birgit b 14.1.1859 with Ingebjörg Eivindsdatter Trydal in Stigamillom.. The girl died after only 4 days and the mother was later married to Tarjei Olsson Dysje, mentioned above. Björgulv also married another girl in the Summer of 1859,. We will return to him under Systog.

Neither at this time does the ownership of the farm emerge clearly from the sources, as more and more owners seem to have omitted the expense of registration and deeds. Nevertheless, an entry from 1855 shows that the heirs must have sold the farm to Olav Gunnarson Dysje after Tarjei Oddson's death in 1852. It appears that Olav had borrowed 152 Speciedaler from Hallvard Olsson Skolås, and mortgaged 3 skins² in Bratteland as security, something he couldn't have done without being owner

Björgulv and Odd, the grown up sons of Tarjei Oddsson by this time needed some place to live. Without the sale to Olav G. Dysje, Björgulv who was the oldest, would have remained in possession of the entire Bratteland and if needed could have given Odd the Systog under a

²² Hjelmeland. Village and district North East of Stavanger and the Bokna fiord

cottage contract²³. But now the ownership was split, one half belonging to Olav the other to Björgulv. This is the reason for Björgulv remaining as independent owner while Odd paid Olav G. Dysje for tenancy in Norstog.

Systog has been a cottage under Norstog from the second half of the 1820's, in other words a separate entity. By the sale of half the farm early in the 1850's, Bratteland became in reality two farms, even if formally not so until 1917. In the following we'll adapt this view and treat the two entities separately.

Bnr 1 Nordstog

For reasons related above, Björgulv Tarjeisson Bratteland was registered as "farm owner"²⁴ when he married in 1859, while his brother Odd had to content himself with "farm-user"²⁵. From the census of 1865 we can see that Odd still lived at Norstog, but now he had become "farm user and owner". Somehow he must have managed to provide means to settle the mortgage. Olav G. Dysje died in 1863, so we presume that his heirs resold the farm to Odd.

Björgulv Tarjeisson and his family went to USA in 1866. Odd remained at Norstog for some years.

Odd Tarjeisson Bratteland, b. 24.9.1835, attestation for moving to Nedstrand 1880, later USA

married. 1859 to Gro Bjugsdtr. Åkre, b. 1829, attestation for moving to Nedstrand 1880, later USA

Children:

Tarjei, b 10.2.1864, d 4.6.1864

Tarjei, b 7.8.1865, d 27.3.1871

Gunhild, b 13.1.1870, attestation for moving to Nedstrand 1880, later USA

Tarjei, f 7.12.1873, d 22.3.1874

The parents of Gro Bjugsdotter were Bjug Torleivsson Åkre and Gyro Hallvardsdotter b. Harstad (Valle IV, 105).

The Bykle family history⁵ (p 85) tells us that Odd Tarjeisson sold the farm to Borghild Eivindsdotter Stigamillom or Hisdal, the widow after Auver Helleiksson. This is no doubt correct, but this sale was not registered either, so we don't know exactly when it took place.

When it says that Odd, his wife and his daughter Gunhild received attestation for moving to Nedstrand in 1880, this is broadly speaking correct, but they probably left some years earlier, most likely when the third son died in 1874. In the 1875 census we find them as residents at Holen, but they were "not present" and resided at Nedstrand., but they had not formally registered the move. Those residing at Norstog and Bratteland during the autumn of 1875 were Borghild Eivindsdotter and her children.

We are of the opinion that Borghild bought the farm in 1874 and Odd and his family lived in Rogaland from that point in time. When he visited his home ground in 1880 and received

²³ In 1851 cotters received improved legal protection. Contracts should be in writing and a limit was put to the amount of work the cotter had to provide

²⁴ The original Norwegian term is "Gaardman" literally farm-man

²⁵ The original Norwegian term is "gaardbruger" literally farm-user

attestation for moving, we believe he had a special purpose in mind. He did not need attestation from the vicar for living at Nedstrand, but according to the Bykle family history, Odd and his family emigrated to USA. Prior to making such a long journey, it was common to obtain an attestation from the local vicar. Admittedly, no entry is found in the emigrant records, but their departure is confirmed by Tellef B. Nesland in his manuscript of the Nesland Family. Therefore we can assume with a high degree of certainty that they in fact did emigrate.

As related above, Borghild Eivindsdotter bought the farm, most likely in 1874. In this work she and her family are treated under Hisdal where all her children were born and where her husband, Auver Helleiksson Glidbjörg, died in 1868.

Helleik Auversson, Borghild's oldest son became the next owner of Norstog. He did not register the sale either, but we reckon that he took over some time during the first half of the 1880's

Helleik Auversson Bratteland, b 30.8.1858, d 29.3.1936

married 1883 to Sigríð Tarjeisdtr. Skolås, b 11.9.1856, d 28.4 1941

Children

Borghild, b 31.10.1884, d 31.5.1902, unmarried, tuberculosis

Auver, b 19.12. 1886, married 1912 to Ingebjörg Olsdtr. Trydal, see below

Ingebjörg, b 24.12. 1889, married 1912 to Olav Arnesson Byklum, see Lien, gnr 14, bnr 3

Tarjei, b 22.10.1894, married 1922 to Ingebjörg Hallvardsdtr. Berg, see Evre Dysje, gnr 8, bnr 1

Eivind, b 29.11.1896, to USA ca 1925, see below

Tarjei Olsson Dysje at Skolås and his first wife Ingebjörg Arnesdotter Berdalen were the parents of Sigríð Tarjeisdotter. These are treated under Skolås

In 1907 Helleik agreed with his neighbour Knut Aslaksson at Systog that they should sell the hayfield which was called Aurdalsbeitet. The sum was 3200 kroner and the buyer was Ole Haraldsæt, a real estate dealer out to make a quick profit. The field was evaluated to 0,46 mark and became division no 4 under Bratteland. The following year Haraldset sold it again to Thv. Heiberg and it became part of his complex of estates. Later it was called Njardarheim.

The same year as he sold Aurdalsbeitet, Helleik Evre Dysje bought Tveiten from Ánund Ánundsson, and shortly after he moved there with his family. For the time being, he kept on the Bratteland farm and in 1912 or thereabouts he let his oldest son take it over. Also this change of generation took place without entry in any official record, but that it took place around this time is certain

Auver Helleiksson Bratteland, b 19.12.1886, d 20.1.1926

married 1912 to Ingebjörg Olsdtr. Trydal, b 26.3.1890, d. 30.3.1985, reided in Kristiansand from 1955

Children:

Helleik, b 17.1.1913, d. 1981, construction worker lived in Oslo. Last Sarpsborg, unmarried
Sigríð, b 7.2.1914, d. 1999, unmarried, lived in Kristiansand from 1955

Gunvor, b 9.7.1915, d 1995, married to farmer Birger Sandnes, living in Snåsa, N..Trøndelag., children: Ingrid, 1951, d. 1993, married to Henry Mogstad, Malm, resident of Snåsa; Ingar, 12.09. 1956, married to May Britt Andersson, Malm, resident of Snåsa

Olav, 21.11.1916, unmarried, carpenter construction worker resident of Kristiansand from 1955

Borghild, b 25.09.1918, d 1981, married to farmer Lars Gramstad, Sandnes, children: Ann Irene, b 15.07.1951, married to Keld Nilsen, resident of Sandnes; Randi, 27.01.1953, married to Arne Kalberg, resident of Kverneland; Elna, b 21.12.1956, married to 1. Jon Erling Risa, 2. Odd Espedal, resident of Sandnes; Berit, b 10.2.1959, married to Audun Steinsvik, resident of Sandnes

Tore, b 1920, d 1995, married to farmer Lars Suleskard, Sirdal, children: Kirsten, b 26.09.1942, married to Andreas Braut, resident of Klepp; Kåre, b 15.10.1945, d 1988, unmarried; Arne, f 29.09.1949, married to Britt Andersen, resident of Sirdal; Ingebjörg, b 20.02.1953, married to Tor Arvid Braut, resident of Klepp

Torgeir, f 19.7.1922, construction worker married to Signe Guldbrandsen, Vennesla, resident of Kristiansand,

Son: Arild, b 12.11.1952, residence: Oslo

Torbjörg, b 25.09.1924 married to seacaptain Erling Maurhaugen, residence: Kr.sand, Children: Laila, b 2.3.1955, married to Rolf A. Kristiansen, residence Greipstad; Solveig, b 16.10.1961, married to Kai Solberg, residence Greipstad

Auver, b 21.01.1926, retailer married to Gudrun Finsådal, Öyslebö, residence Kr.sand, children: Anne Grethe, b 28.06.1956 ; Ole Kåre, b 22.9.1960

Ingebjörg Olsdotter came from Systog and her parents were Olav Tarjeisson Trydal and his wife Gunvor Ånundsdr., b. Berdalen.. Her mother again was Ingebjörg Arnesdotter Berdalen the younger, sister of Ingebjörg Arnesdotter the elder, who was the mother of Sigrid Tarjeisdotter who again was the mother of Auver Helleiksson.. Both Auver and Ingebjörg had Arne Olsen at Berdalen Deruppe as great grandfather, and the couple were in other words second cousins.

In 1918 Auver erected a new barn at the farm. In 1924 he bought Skolås so it again became a part of Norstog. The seller was Olav Auversson Trydal and the price 3000 kroner. Shortly after, Auver contracted "tuberculosis of the bones" which he died from in January 1926. His family remained.

During the summer of 1926, in close cooperation with Kristiansand Tourist Association Ingebjörg started a tourist hostel. At this time there was only a small house with two rooms, two bedrooms, an attic and a kitchen. In order to provide room for the tourists, the family slept in the barn or on the "seter"²⁶ during the summer. In 1939 the house was extended to accommodate 14 tourists in 5 rooms. The ground area of the new was building 720 sq. ft. The exterior looked pretty much like a traditional Setesdal house with two stories and an arch over the entrance.

As time went on, the children moved out, so after the war²⁷, only two of the unmarried siblings, Olav and Sigrid, remained together with their mother.

In 1946 Ingebjörg sold both Nordstog and Skolås to Olav. According to the register it was sold for 4000 kroner, provided retirement¹⁰ and 4 chests of drawers. The explanation for the last part of the compensation was that Olav worked as a cabinet maker and Ingebjörg wanted one for each of her daughters. Olav ran the farm with 3-4 cows and about 20 sheep till the

²⁶ "Seter", see "explanation of terms" In the supermarkets today one can buy "seter-rømme" fermented cream and other associated products, although none of the products have ever been in the neighbourhood of a proper "seter".

²⁷ Second World War, ended 1945.

Spring of 1955. The he moved to Kristiansand bringing his mother and sister. Here he worked as carpenter and building worker till he retired.

In 1965 Nordstog Bratteland was entered with the Registrar. According to agreement I/S Övre Otra should pay 165000 kroner for Norstog Bratteland and an additional annual sum of 1500 kroner for compensation for flooding the farm²⁸. Before it was flooded, Olav took apart the house on the farm and used some of the timber for erecting a cabin on higher ground.

Olav was formally the owner till 1985 when he sold Norstog and Skolås to the brothers Torgeir and Auver for 100 000 kroner. Since then the estate has been used mostly as a holiday resort, but from 1979 and for some 20 years, Randi Larsdotter Kalberg and her husband Arne, kept sheep grazing at Bratteland. They ran (and still run year 2000) a farm at Kvernland in Jæren²⁹. Each Spring the herd was transported by boat to the Botn¹ and collected again in the Autumn. So far this is the last agricultural activity in this area.

Systog, bnr 5

This farm had common borders with Norstog. Formally it was divided from the main farm as late as 1917, but by then it had in reality existed as a farm in its own right for more than 90 years.. Under the treatment of the undivided farm, we have related that Ånund Mikkjelsson Bratteland and his wife Kjersti Olsdotter resided here from 1827 to 1832 and later from 1837 to 1845. The next residents we know of were Björgulv Tarjeisson and Targjerd Kjetilsdotter. Börgulv was resident and owner for certain during the years 1859-1864, but most likely did he own the farm as early as 1852.

Björgulv Tarjeisson Bratteland, b. 12.1.1833, to USA with his entire family 1866 married. 1859 to Targjerd Kjetilsdtr. Harstad, b. 1832

Children:

Gunhild , b 23.6.1860

Kjetil, b 8.12.1862

Ingebjörg, b 24.5.1865

Tagjerd's parents were Kjetil Danielsson Harstad and his wife, Ingebjörg Tjodgeirdotter, b. Kvestad.

In 1864 Björgulv and his family moved to Nesland Derheime and became residents there. According to the Bykle family history⁵ the next resident bought the farm the same year. We believe that is correct, but again we have a sale that was not registered. Two years later, Björgulv and his family went to America. From the census of 1865 we can see who bought Systog. The man in that family was Aslak Larsson who came from the Veka farm in Suldal³⁰, gnr 33, bnr 9. His parents were Lars Aslaksson Steinbru and his wife Kjersti Olsdotter, b. Vetterhus. Aslak married in Suldal in 1856 and the first years he lived with his family in his home parish. The reason for moving to Bykle could have been that it was his wife's home ground.

²⁸ A hydroelectric power station was built in Bykle. To provide sufficient water reserves, a dam was built at the eastern end of Bossvatn and the water level raised by 130 ft. Bratteland was completely flooded. Nothing is visible of the old site.

²⁹ District SE of Stavanger, noted for its good soil and fair sized farms.

³⁰ District roughly half way between Bergen and Stavanger, east of Haugesund.

Aslak Larsson Veka, b. 1822, d 13.7.1903

married 1856 to Birgit Knutsdotter Hoslemo, b. 4.11.1821, d. 6.4.1889

Children:

Lars, b. 1856, d. before 1864

Kjersti , b 1857, d. before 1864

Knut, b 6.3. 1860, married 1883 to Birgit Andresdtr. Brotteli, see below

Kjersti , b 8.4.1866, d. 3.8.1892, unmarried

Birgit came from Uppigard Hoslemo. her parents were Knut Knutsson Hoslemo and his wife, Birgit Knutsdtr. b. Byklum.

Of Aslak and Birgit's children, only the youngest was born in Bykle. The two older ones were born prior to the move to Bratteland. Most of the information prior to 1864 is taken from Suldal Bygdebok³¹

The livestock on the farm in 1865 was 1 horse, 7 cattle, 27 sheep and 22 goats. They sowed only one kvartel³² barley, but planted no less than 7 barrels³³ of "earth apple"³⁴

His son succeeded Aslak as resident. At which time he took over does not appear to be written anywhere, but as he married in 1833 it is reasonable to assume that it would have been around that time or possibly somewhat later.

Knut Aslaksson Bratteland b 6.3. 1860, d 30.9.1947

married 1883 to Birgit Andresdtr. Brotteli, b. 20.4.1860, d. 17.1.1890

Children:

Tone, b. 5.9.1883, married 1906 to Knut Tarjeisson Skolås, see Stigamillom

Andres, b 25.8.1885, married 1914 to Torbjörg Hallvarsdtr. Berg, see below

Andres Jonsson Brotteli and his wife , Tone Halvorsdtr. Mosdöl, were the parents of Birgit Andresdotter.

In 1907 Knut, together with his neighbour Helleik Auversson at Nordstog, sold the hayfield Aurdalsbeitet. This sale is treated in more detail under Nordstog

In 1917 the two farms constituting Bratteland were formally split after having been so in reality for a long time. Systog was divided from the main farm and received division no 5 (brn. 5). The two farms were about equal with regard to taxation evaluation, but Systog was evaluated to 0,89 "skyldmark"³⁴ while Norstog was left with 0,92. We assume that it was Andres Knutsson who took the initiative to arrange the formal division, but his father was still the owner. Andres did not receive the deeds till 1922. The price was 2000 kroner "which was to be settled in the form of "provided retirement"¹⁰"

Andres Knutsson Bratteland, b 25.8.1885, d 14.6. 1965

married 1914 to Torbjörg Hallvarsdtr. Berg, b 1890, d 2.1.1961

Children:

³¹ Hallvard M. Hoftun : *Gamle Suldal*,1972, p. 404

³² about 7 bushels.

³³ about 1 bushel

³⁴ Potatoes

Store Birgit, b 22.7.1915, married 1936 to Knut Sigbjörnsson Löyning, see Löyning, gnr 4, bnr 6

Margit, 22.4.1917, d. Valle 2001, lived i Kristiansand, unmarried.

Lisle Birgit, b 28.10.1918 married 1944 to Olav Sigbjörnsson Löyning, see Steinsland, gnr 3, bnr 17

Ingebjörg, b 9.9.1920, d Valle 2002, married 1967 m Sigurd Hallvardsson Uppstad, Flårenden, lived at Kvarstein, Vennesla, no children

Knut, b 24.11.1922, married 1964 to Ingjerd Hallvarsdtr. Uppstad, living at Valle,

Children:

Anders Helge b 24.8.1965, Bjarne Torfinn, f. 3.8.1968

Torbjörg Hallvardsdotter came from Åmli in Valle bnr 1. Her parents were Hallvard Eivindsson Berg and his 2nd wife Margit Jacobsdotter, b. Hisdal, (Valle III,436 f).

Andres and Torbjörg ran the farm together with their son Knut and their daughter Margit till 1954 when the family moved to Överebö north of Kristiansand. At the end of their life, the two old ones returned to Bykle to live with their oldest daughter at Löyning.

Knut took over the farm after his father in 1961. He worked with a contractor company and in 1962 he move to Valle. When he married a couple of years later, he and his wife built a house at her home farm at Flarenden. There they still (2002) live. (cfr. jfr Valle III, 29 f).

Prior to the adjustment of the water level at Botsvatn²⁸, Knut took the main house down and moved it to a higher level and rebuilt it as a holiday cabin. The rest of the buildings he set fire to.

Skolås, bnr 2

This is a “husmannsplass” i.e. cottage which was cleared and built during 1812-13. It was an independent small holding from 1846. It is situated on the shore of Botsvatn about one mile east of Bratteland. Below the houses was a field down towards the water.

The first settler was Olav Höljesson . He came from Midtre Lien in Svartdal, Seljord, his wife was Margit Höljesdotter, b. Svartdal. According to the “bygdebok” for Seljord, Olav’s parents lived at Siljudale in Flatdal at the time when he was born. But both before and after, they lived most of the time at Midtre Lien, and they are registered under this farm in the Seljord saga³⁵. From what we can see, Olav and his wife lived there the first 10 years of their marriage. For this reason we will use Lien as the surname of Olav.

Olav Höljesson Lien, b (25.2.)1764, to USA 1846, d May 1847
married 1790 to Anne Olsdtr. Svartdal, b (2.2.)1766, d 8.5.1835

Children:

Hölje, b 18.2.1792, confirmed in Öyffjell church 1808, subsequent fate unknown

Kjersti, b 31.8. 1794, married 1821 to Ånund Mikkjelsson Bratteland, to USA 1846,
see below. cf. Bratteland

Olav, b 4.7.1797, married 1826 to Margit Salmundsdtr. Ryningen, to USA 1846

³⁵ Flatin, T.: Seljord III, 1954, p. 15

see below, cf. Löyning under Ryningen

Margit, b 15.1. 1800, married 1823 to Tarjei Tarjeisson Bjones, see Bjones

Arne, b (7.6.) 1802, fate unknown, see below

Neri, b (1.8.)1803, married to Eli Salmundstr, Nedstrand, resident of Hjelmeland 1865, see below

Hallvard, b (9.3.)1807, married 1836 to Ingebjörg Olsdtr. Dysje, to USA, see below

Anne, b 17.11. 1813 married 28.9. 1840 to Olav Olsson Ljosådal, to Stavanger 1850, later USA, see below

Anne Olsdotter's parents, Olav Olsson Svartdal and Kjersti Gregarsdotter were from Sud-Svartdal in Seljord

Olav and Anne were living in Svartdal when they in 1799 obtained a lease³⁶ of the farm Skolås in Öyffjell. The farm was owned by the church, and was part of the ecclesiastical estate of Lårdal. Such estates were popular to lease, as the rent was equal to or even less than the annual tax..

They probably moved during the autumn of 1800, as they had carried their daughter Margit to christening in Flatdal in June that year. In the census for 1801 they appear as residents of Skolås.

In 1803 a new contract of lease was signed where Olav and his brother Halvor agreed to use one half each of Skolås. For a couple of years it worked, but in 1805 Halvor Höljesson moved and in 1807 a cousin of Halvor, Halvor Aslaksson took over Halvor's part. In 1810 Olav Höljesson renounced his part to the same Halvor Aslaksson, who became resident of the entire farm. Olav and Anne moved to Bykle.

In 1812 they lived somewhere in Bykle, as their daughter Kjersti was confirmed in the spring. But the following year they were back at Skolås, and here they resided when they christened their youngest daughter Anne.

In the old farm and family saga⁵ (p. 79) it says that "Olav bought the farm from M.O. Bratteland." However, in an article in "Setesdølen"³⁷ in 1998 this is modified to "ca 1813 he had bought rights in Bratteland and started clearing a farm. This farm is Skolås. We have not had the opportunity to check the sources, but we assume what Olav in reality bought, was an unregistered right to establish a farm. Such "right of establishment" would be almost the same as long term lease. Whether the compensation was an "annual fee" or a "once and for all payment" made as late as 1812 little difference. Previously it made a legal difference. Those interested in the legalities may read about it in "Kvistseidsoga III" 1987 p 466.

Furthermore, the author of the old farm and family saga⁵ has, in the same article, found it curious that the children at the time of their confirmation were called Bratterud. That they were named Bratterud is perhaps stretching the truth a bit, but the vicar had his Episcopalian instructions to enter an address. He obviously knew that they lived on a new established farm under Bratteland, but he did not know that the parents had named it Öyffjell. So he took a name he thought might fit and the result was "Bratterud"³⁸

³⁶ The Norwegian word is "feste" which is a time-limited lease, See "explanation of terms, tenant"

³⁷ Local periodical in Bykle

³⁸ The majority of the population were illiterate. The clergy wrote the names as they thought befitting which explains the large number of variations in spelling.

Anne Skolås died in 1835, but Olav and several of the children remained on the farm. During the years of 1834-35 also his son-in-law Ånund Mikkjelsson Bratteland stayed there with his wife Kjersti and their children. As related under the main farm, they were to emigrate to USA in 1835, but settled instead in Årdal in Ryfylke, and returned after two years. But in 1846 they had made up their minds, and this time they went. Even the 82 year old Olav Höljeson went along, but he had moved many times before. Originally it was planned that Kjersti's brother, Olav Olsson at Ryningslöyning also should come along, but he and his family did not get further than Kristiansand and settled later at Konsmo in Vest-Agder (see Löyning under Ryningen).

In the mentioned article it is further told that Olav Höljesson, while he lived in Bykle, was a wood carver and sculptor.

It was horses and candlesticks shaped like lions. The actual candle holder was placed on the top of the head of the horse or the lion. Often several lions were carved, standing back to back. The candle holder was in such cases placed in the middle where the bodies of the lions touched. The lions look nice and friendly. One of the candlesticks is in possession of of Norsk Folkemuseum³⁹, one is in Nordiska Musee⁴⁰ besides one in Bergen Museum. A few are privately owned

Olav died in America, only half a year after leaving Norway. He was buried in Rock River Settlement in Wisconsin, but before he died, he managed to carve a full size goat and a tiger. These are described in the manuscript of Julia Eggen, previously referred to under Bratteland. Julia Eggen was the granddaughter of Kjersti Bratteland, the sculptor's daughter. The time of Olav Höljesons death is confirmed by JoLeen Randolph, Victoria, Minnesota ^{page25}.

Three of Olav's sons, Hölje, Arne and Neri left few tracks. Hölje was confirmed in Öyffjell in 1808, but besides that, he is referred to neither in the church record of Valle nor other sources. But as he was grown up by the time his parents left Bykle, he might not necessarily have followed them. But we believe, Neri and Arne, or more correct Åni, did. We have neither found them among the confirmees nor the buried.

From the census of 1865 we can see that Neri lived till he reached mature years. In 1865 he was a cotter under Groven in Hjelmeland. He was married to Eli Salmundsdotter who, according to the same source, was born in Nedstrand ca 1807. They had a son, Peter, born in Hjelmeland ca 1849.

As for Arne and Hölje we don't know their fate. In 1865 they cannot be found in Norway at all, and they might be dead. They may of course have gone to America, but not as members of the party that left Bykle in 1846.

Neither were the youngest daughter Anne and her husband Olav O. Ljosådal. members of the same party. Most likely, they remained living at Ljosådal until 1850 when they moved to Stavanger. There they are found in the 1865 census where Olav was "foundry worker". They brought their children along Olav , b. ca 1843; Gurine, b ca 1848; Kirsten , b ca 1854, and Anette b.1859

³⁹ Norsk Folkemuseum. Museum in Oslo with a unique collection of artifacts including buildings showing the old rural culture of Norway.

⁴⁰ Similar institution in Sweden, located in Stockholm.

According to JoLeen Randolph ^{page25} the whole family later went to USA , and in 1874 they lived in Otisco Township, Dodge Co., Minnesota. The youngest of the girls, whom Mrs. Randolph calls "Anette Juren", was married in 1874 in Otisco to Ånund Mikkjelsson Bratteland. He was the son of Mikkjel Ånundsson Bratteland, and was born in Minnesota 4.1. 1853.

Anette and Ånund had 9 children. Later they moved to Saskatoon in Sakatchewan, Canada. He died there in 1903. She was killed in a car accident in Coopertown, N.Dak., 9.6. 1930.

But let us revert to Skolås. Before the Bratteland company left for USA, Hallvard Olsson took over the Skolås farm. Formally it was a security for a mortgage, but as he got the farm on the same conditions as Olav T. Björnara who took over Norstog Bratteland, it was in reality a purchase. The contract was signed 7 March 1846 as an independent smallholding and the price was 300 Speciedaler

Hallvard Olsson Skolås, b. 9.3. 1807, to Stavanger 1849, later USA
 married 1836 to Ingebjörg Olsdtr. Dysje, b. (7.7.)1816, to Stavanger 1849, later USA
 Children:

Olav, b 4.4.1837

Anne, b 17.3. 1839

Olav, b 11.6. 1841

Tone, b 26.4. 1844, d 14.10.1844

Tone, d 20.12.1844, 4 weeks old.

Hallvard, b 7.8. 1845

Knut, b 5.6. 1848

Ingebjörg Olsdotter came from Evre Dysje. Her parents were Olav Gunnarsson Nesland and Tone Tarjeisdotter, b Mosdøl.

Hallvard and Ingebjörg did not stay for long at Skolås. In 1858 Hallvard went to the vicar of Valle and asked for a "moving attestation"¹⁸ allegedly from 4.7.1849. In other words, he obtained the attestation 9 years after he had left. In 1863 the estate of the late Olav Gunnarsson, Ingebjörg's father was settled, and they still lived in Stavanger. At the census of 1865, they were not there any more. In 1902 the estate of her cousin, the late Jon Gunnarsson Dysje, was settled. By then they lived in Dalton, Minnesota. From that we can deduct that they must have moved some time during 1863-65. According to the family saga of 1939 by Tellef B. Nesland, they died in Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

Tarjei, Ingebjörg's brother took over the farm when Hallvard and Ingebjörg left for Stavanger. The sale was not registered and consequently the price is unknown, but in 1853 Skolås was formally divided from Bratteland as a separate entity "belonging to Torgeir Olsen". Skolås became division no 2 and the tax evaluation, "landskyld", was 16 skillings.

Tarjei Olsson Dysje, b. 5.5.1825, d 6.5.1901
 married 1st time 1853 to Ingebjörg Arnesdtr. Berdalen, .b (5.10.)1816, d 15.9.1866,
 married 2nd time 1870 to Ingebjörg Eivindsdtr. Trydal

Children:

Olav, b 23.11.1854, to Skafså 1885, married 1887 to Turid Andresdtr. Dokki, residing Åmdals verk, from ca 1900 Skotfoss near Skien

Sigrid, b 11.9.1856, married 11.2. 1883 to Helleik Auversson Bratteland, see Nordstog Bratteland

Tone, b 1.3.1859, d 16.4. 1859

Eivind, b 12.2.1871, confirmed. 1888, to USA with attestation. pr 3.6.1893

Ingebjörg, b. 1.9.1882, married 1896 to her cousin Auver Olsson Trydal, see Stigamillom Trydal

Knut, b 10.4.1877, to USA with attestation pr 20.7.1896, married 1906 to Tone Knutsdtr. Bratteland, see Stigamillom Trydal

Before he married, Tarjei had fathered a daughter Tone, b. 3.6.1851. The mother was Gunhild Tarjeisdatter Bratteland. A few years later, in an extramarital relationship, he also fathered with the same woman, the daughters Gyro, . 9.3.1858 and Ingebjörg, f. 29.11.1860⁴¹.

What we have found about these is related under Nordstog Bratteland.

In 1853 Tarjei married Ingebjörg Arnesdatter a daughter of Arne Olsson Berdalen and his wife Sigrid Knutsdatter, Berdalen. About their lives, see Berdalen Deruppe. Ingebjörg Arnesdatter died in 1866. Three years later Tarjei first (illegitimately) fathered a son Knut, born 11.5.1869 with Birgit, the daughter of Eivind Ånundsson Stavenes på Stigamillom. Thereafter, on Christmas Eve 1869 Olav, another illegitimate son of his was born. The mother was Sigrid Knutsdatter, a daughter of Knut Åvoldsen of Juvet under Byklum. His wife was Gro Arnesdatter who came from Berdalen and was a sister of Tarjeis' first wife.

The following year Tarjei married for the second time Ingebjörg Eivindsdatter. She was from Stigamillom, and was a sister of Birgit, the mother of his illegitimate son Knut. His new wife also had some children before she married⁴².

The first one was Knut Ånundsson born 5.1. 1855 – his father was Ånund Asbjörnsson Berdalen. Then followed Birgit Björgulvsdatter, b. 15.1. 1858 who died 3 days later. Her father was Björgulv Tarjeisson Bratteland the brother of the above mentioned Gunhild who already had 3 children with Tarjei. Finally she had the daughter Gyro Drengsdatter born in 1860 who died 3 years old. The church records do not give the dates for the birth and the death, but in any case, the father was Dreng Torleivsson Homme

As can be understood, the family relationship was somewhat complicated, and not surprisingly the bailiff, sheriff and magistrate intervened.

The legislation concerning sexual morale had been alleviated in 1812, and it was no longer an offense to have illegitimate children, but there were still reasons for charge: “of outside Marriage obtained Pregnancy or Pregnancy obtained by three different Persons” Ingebjörg was sentenced to 5 days on bread and water in the Sheriff's goal while Tarjei received 8 days enjoying the same diet. This was in the autumn of 1870

Thereafter they had 3 children together, and none by others.

In 1875 it appears from the census that Tarjei and Ingebjörg lived at Hjelmeland. When they got there and how long they stayed is uncertain, but it is obvious that it was not just a quick trip because they allowed Torbjörg Torleivsdatter Skarberg and her husband Olav Bendiksson to move from Skarberg which then remained empty. Torbjörg and Olav brought all their cattle, and they had made an arrangement to bring up the 4 year Evind Tarjeisson whose parent had left, “hired away to the housefather” the census tells us. But Torbjörg and Olav had not rented their cattle from Tarjei and Ingebjörg. Whether they brought the cattle to

⁴¹ Hm!

⁴² Obviously no need of Viagra in those parts.

Hjelmeland or they were left some other place, we don't know. But they couldn't have gone to Hjelmeland with the intention of staying there permanently. In the census they are registered as "temporarily away", and we do know that they returned to Skolås. Torbjörg and Olav also returned to Skarberg, but when does not appear from the sources.

How did the children of Tarjei and Ingebjörg fare?

Those who remained in Bykle are accounted for under their respective places of living. Tone Tarjeisdatter, b. 1851 and her siblings Gyro, b 1858, and Ingebjörg, b. 1860, are accounted for under Norstag Bratteland, so here we will limit ourselves to those **not** living in Bykle.

Olav Tarjeisson, b. 1854 moved to Skafså and became employed at the Åmdal's Mines⁴³. There he married Turid Andersdotter Dokki in 1844. They had 4 children who grew up and 3 who died in infancy. Around 1900 they moved from Skafså to Skotfos near Skien. There they lived when the late Jon G. Bratteland's estate was settled in 1902. Assumingly Olav was working in the paper industry, many from Åmdal's mines ended up there.

According to genealogist Reidar Vollen in Kristiansand, Knut Tarjeisson, b. 1869 followed his mother Birgit Evindsdotter Trydal to Bygland in 1881 where she married a widower by name Gunnar Torleivsson Nordihus. Knut was confirmed in Bygland 1886 and moved in 1896 to Mykland. There, in 1898, he married Gunvor Tjöstolvsdatter Ramse born in Tovdal 1874. In 1900 they lived as cotters under Auestad in Mykland⁴⁴. To this place they brought their son Tjöstolv, b. 29.6.1899, and later they had at least one more son.. He was called Olav and was born 12.12. 1902. As family name, the sons used Bratteland.

Eivind Tarjeisson b 1871, the one who was "Hired away to the housefather" was confirmed in Bykle in 1888. In 1893 he went to USA.

Tarjei Skolås died in 1901. When his estate was settled in 1904, the rights to the farm were transferred to his widow Ingebjörg Evindsdotter. A few years later, in 1909, she sold to Auver Olsson Trydal at Stigamillom. It seems that this was more of a swap than a sale. A couple of years later Knut Tarjeisson Skolås received the deeds of Stigamillom from Auver Olsson, and moved there. He and his family are treated further under this farm.

Auver Olsson did not stay long at Skolås, only from 1909 to 1911. He became the last owner who actually lived at the farm, but for a long time he was living at Åsen brn 18 at Flateland⁴⁵. In 1916 he sold Skolås for 1000 kroner to Folke Torleivsson Nesland who is further referred to under Nesland Derheime. The purchase of Skolås was probably only a financial disposition, but a successful one, as he in 1918 sold the farm again to Thina Lund for 3000 kroner. She had borrowed the sum from her brother, merchant Sören Lund (see Brotteli). She had the farm till 1924, when she was forced to sell it back to Auver Olsson Trydal who invoked his udal rights. The price was 2800 kroner. But Auver Trydal's ownership did not last long this time either as the same year he sold the farm to Auver Helleiksson Bratteland at Nordstog Bratteland who wanted some additional farmland. Since then, the owners of Norstog have also owned Skolås. Subsequent sales of Skolås is therefore treated under Norstog Bratteland.

⁴³ Åmdals Verk – mines. Minerals and metals. Started 1540 closed down 1945. Now museum.

⁴⁴ gnr 18, bnr 1. cf. Mykland, Knut.: *Mykland, ei bygd i Råbyggelaget.*, vol 1, 1967, p. 169

⁴⁵ cf. Valle VI 246

Gnr 9, bnr 3 Skarberg

Where Botsvatn makes a bend, about three quarters of a mile east of Skolås, lies Skarberg. From the very start it has been a farm in its own right, and remained so apart from a few years during the eighteen hundreds when it was a cottage.

The main building was a small one. Beside the entrance a small shed was later added on. Under the rafters there was a small loftroom without a window. Otherwise there was a small barn with an added on byre but without a dung cellar. The houses were situated on a flat piece of ground below steep rocks. On the other side was a crag diving into the water.

The first one to clear the land and build was Torleiv Olsson Röysland. In the Valle saga it is said that his father who lived at Heimigard Röysland, bnr 7, could have been the son of Torleiv Alvsson Breive and his wife Gyro Åsmundsdr. b. Berdalen. It is emphasized that the relationship is uncertain, but as far as we can see, nothing points against the assumption. Olav Torleivsson's wife was Torbjörg Tarjeisdatter Röysland. Heimigard was her home. Torleiv Olsson married a Bratteland girl in 1822, Ingebjörg Mikkjelsdotter, and that is why he established a farm under her home farm. In the old family saga³ it says that she was "given the farm from her father" and we consider that to be correct. But nothing was registered, and later owners of Bratteland say she only got a right to use the farm limited to her lifetime. We will come back to this issue.

Ingebjörg Mikkjelsdr. Bratteland, b (31.3.) 1799, d 3.3. 1869 married 1822 to Torleiv Olsson Röysland, b 1788, d 7.5.1866

Children:

Olav, b 20.11.1822, d 18.2.1823

Jorunn, b 25.3. 1824, d 7.7.1824

Olav, b 11.11.1826, d in Suldal 5.5.1832

Olav the elder, b 11.12.1829, moved to Hjelmeland ca 1850

Jorunn, b 26.6.1833, moved to Hjelmeland ca 1850, to USA from Bykle 1876

Olav the younger, b 12.9.1836, married 1865 to Gunvor Rasmusdotter Sinnes, Sirdal

Torbjörg, d 12.2.1841, 13 weeks old

Torbjörg, b in Suldal 1843, married at Mo 1874 to Olav Bendiksson Röyndal

Ingebjörg was the daughter of Mikkjel Olsson Bratteland his wife, Signe Olsdotter. Torleiv and Ingeborg probably lived most of their time at Skarberg after they married, but they were at times in Suldal as they, in 1832 buried their son Olav there, and they christened their daughter Torbjörg there in 1843.

According to the old family saga³ Olav Torleivsson took over the farm after his parents in 1864, and that is not far off the mark. Nevertheless, according to the census of 1865 Olav and his wife "help with the running of the farm". According to the church records of 1867, Olav is a cotter, so we assume that he must have taken over the place after this date.

In 1869 the farm was entered into the official register, and it appears that it was Torbjörg, Olav's sister who had demanded registration. Olav was not present and there is no record of her acting on his behalf. But Aslak Larsson and Odd Tarjeisson from Bratteland turned up and

claimed the Right in any Case to the now mortgaged Farm, which they maintained was their Property, inasmuch as the late User Tellef Olsen Skarebergs and his Spouse Ingeborg Mikkelsdatter's Entitlement was only a Right of Utilisation, which on their Death must be regarded as repossessed by the main Farm.

Torborg Tollefsdatter repudiated the above Statement, and maintained her Right as the only present Heir of the aforementioned Couple, which she claimed had lived on the Farm with legal Rights of Property.

If the Bratteland farmers had followed up with a court case, the outcome might be rather uncertain, but it did not come to that. The Skarberg people continued to use their farm as if they were the owners, and it was never again disputed. With this in mind, we can count Skarberg as an independent farm, in reality from the first settler, but formally from 1869.

When the farm was registered it received division no. 4 under Bratteland and was tax evaluated to 6 skillings. Skarberg was in other words considered to be far less worth than its neighbour. As mentioned, it was Torbjörg Torleivsdotter who demanded the registration, but it was her brother and his wife who used it.

Olav Torleivsson Skarberg, b. 12.9. 1836, moved before the census of 1875
 married 1865 to Gunvor Rasmusdtr. Sinnes, b. in Sirdal 1.11. 1839, d. Kr.sand 4.4.1897
 children:
 Ingebjörg, d 31.12.1865, ½ year old.
 Torleiv, b 13.2. 1867
 Torleiv, b 24.10. 1868, confirmed. Hetland 1883, married in Kristiansand 1893 to Karen Gurine Tellefsen
 Ingebjörg. b in Sand in Ryfylke 2.4.1880, d Sand in Ryfylke 1881

According to the "bygdebok for Sirdal"⁴⁶ Gunvor Rasmusdotter was the daughter of cotter Rasmus Olsson at Leideli under Sinnes in Sirdal. How Gunvor ended in Bykle is not known, but she and Olav married there and lived in Bykle from 1865 most likely for close to 10 years.

But by time of the census of 1875, they had left. Where they went is uncertain, but it might have been to Suldal., at least that's where they christened their daughter Ingebjörg in 1880. So the church records of Valle tell us. A year later, they lived in Sand in Ryfylke and there Ingebjörg was buried in 1881. The genealogist Reidar Vollen found some notes in the church record of Kristiansand, and it appears that their son Torleiv was confirmed in Hetland. In 1893 Torleif married in Kristiansand. It looks like the entire family stayed in Kristiansand during the 1890's. When Gunvor died there in 1897 she is entered as "wife of stone workman Ole Tellefsen Bratteland"

When Olav and Gunvor left Skarberg, Torbjörg his sister, mentioned above, took over together with her husband , Olav Reindal from Mo in Telemark. His parents were Bendik Tarjeisson Bakken and his wife Gro Halvorsdotter, b. Sigurdsli⁴⁷.

Torbjörg Torleivsdotter Skarberg, b 1843, to USA 1876
 married 1874 to Olav Bendiksson Reindal, b 1852, to USA 1876
 Children:
 Gro, b 15.6.1875, to USA 1876
 Torleiv, b. in USA 1877, d 1938

⁴⁶ Seland, P.: Sirdal vol I, p. 232

⁴⁷ Marvik, S.: Mo, p. 426

Bendik, b in USA
 Mikkel, b in USA
 Eivind, b in USA 1884
 Ole, b in USA 1886

In the chapter of Skolås it is told that Olav and Torbjörg had found it worthwhile to move from Skarberg to Skolås and use that farm for Tarjei and Ingebjörg in 1875. This says something about how much better Skolås was. As we shall see, Olav og Torbjörg did not endure for very long at Skarberg after Tarjei and Ingebjörg returned from Hjelmeland.

The livestock Olav and Torbjörg had at Skolås in 1875 was 1 cow, 1 calf, 2 sheep and 5 goats, but they were not the owners. The sowing was 3 kvartel barley and 2 barrels of potatoes³² In addition they planted 1^{1/2} barrel⁴⁸ at Skarberg.

In the listing above of Olav and Torbjörg's children, we have only entered those mentioned in the old family saga⁵ as we have no other means of checking the information. But according to the list of Bykle emigrants issued by the Setesdalslaget in USA, they are all there. Admittedly from that list one received the impression that they all left Skarberg in 1876, but in reality only the oldest was born there. The others were born in the USA. According to the old family saga, they lived at Thief River Falls in Pennington Co., Minnesota. We have not succeeded in finding any records of them there, but we believe the information is correct.

Jorunn Torleivsdotter, the sister of Torbjörg, also followed with her family to USA in 1876. Before they left Olav and Torbjörg sold the farm for 62 speciedaler to Björgulv Olsson at Nesland Derheime. Included in the deal were a "cow and some inventory", it says. They had to provide as much money as possible for the big journey.

According to the old saga, Björgulv O. Nesland had the farm until he sold it to Knut Ånundsson Trydal in 1887, a statement we think is mainly correct, but not entirely. We will revert to the question below.

Knut Å. Trydal grew up at Stigamillom with his mother and her parents. His mother was Ingebjörg Eivindsdotter who married Tarjei Olsson Dysje at Skolås. Knut's father was Ånund Asbjørnsson Berdalen.

Knut Ånundsson Trydal, b. 5.1.1855, d 30.1.1938

married 1878 to Torbjörg Hallvarsdtr. Uppstad, b 1856, d 14.2.1935

Children:

Eivind, b 17.5.1879, married 1901 to Tone Olsdtr. Röysland, see below ,

Björn , b 26.9.1881, to USA 1904, d 1905

Ånund the elder, b 26.9.1881, to USA 1905

Hallvard the elder, b 3.3. 1886, to USA 1905

Hallvard the younger, b 21.12.1888, married. 1910 to widow Jorunn Olsdtr Bjørnarå, see Svingen, Trydal

Ånund the younger, b 19.10.1890, unmarried see Krone Trydal, bnr 12-13

Olav b 1.6.1893, married 1932 to Birgit Öyulvsdtr. Löyland, see below, see also Krone, Trydal, bnr 12-13

Ingebjörg, b 18.1.1896, married 1915 to Åvold Torleivsson Trydal, see Systog Grasbrokke Trydal, bnr 14

Gunvor, b 30.11.1898, married 1919 to Åsmund Olsson Trydal, se Optestöyl, Trydal, bnr 19

⁴⁸ 6 bushels

Torbjörg Hallvarsdtr came from Hylestad. Her parents were Hallvard Torolvsson Faremo and Gunvor Björnsdotter Uppstad⁴⁹

During the first years of their marriage, Knut and Torbjörg lived somewhere in Trydal. In 1885 they used Nesland for a while, but in 1886 they were back in Trydal. It is no doubt correct that they came to Skarberg in 1887 as related above, but we don't think they bought the farm from Björgulv O. Nesland till 1889 or 1890. When their son Hallvard was christened in 1888, Knut was referred to as "cotter" in the church records, but when Ånund was christened in 1890 his father's status had changed to "owner".

In connection with the flooding of Botsvatn in 1967 Olav K. Skarberg (b. 1893) was interviewed. From the interview one can get an impression of the conditions at the farm. Among other things Olav told the following:

Most of the time we only had one cow, but for a while we had two. Goats? – six or seven I should think, but I can't remember any sheep. We grew cereals and potatoes. The cereals were ground at Bratteland. They had a mill and a sauna. [...] For a period there were many mouths to feed at Skarberg, 11 in all. If the hunger was satisfied each day? Oh I cannot remember, but it wouldn't have been every day. During the summer father was at work, seasonal work at the farms and other things for others. During the winter he went snare hunting. We had quite a few hayfields far away where we cut and transported the hay home. There were Åmundslått, Stulslåtta, Fjöllveggjen, Kvæven and Oppi Slåta. Åmundslått was a little to the east of the farmland, Stulslåtta a wee bit further. Fjöllveggjen was above the Stogebergje. Kvæven and Oppi Slåta were at either side of the brook. We had stacks of hay spread all over. Skarberg had a summer seter at Övre Åsane on the south side of Botsvatn. On the north side there was no grassland

When Sören Lund bought Brotteli in 1903, Knut and his family moved there to run and live on that farm. They stayed as long as Lund was the owner, but when he sold the farm in 1907, they returned to Skarberg. But at Skarberg there was little to live on for a family with many children, and by 1909 Knut took over the running of Björmarå Derheime, so they moved again. There they stayed till 1920 when Torgeir B. Björmarå came of age and wanted to run his own farm. Having finished their user agreement at Björmarå, Torbjörg and Knut moved to Krone. Torbjörg died there in 1935 and Knut in 1938.

In 1901 Eivind Knutsson married Tone Olsdtr. Röysland, and by that became the owner of Gunhildsstog under Röysland. Later he went to the USA, but his wife remained at Röyselund. It does not appear which year he left.⁵⁰

Knut Ånundsson kept his ownership of Skarberg when he moved, and from 1931 his son Olav Knutsson at Krone took over.

In 1968 Olav Knutssons sons Daniel, Ånund and Trygve took over the farm in joint ownership. Daniel bought Trygve's part in 1972. After Ånund's death in 1996, his widow Anne Lise took over his third part.

⁴⁹ Valle I, 35 og II, 514

⁵⁰ Valle, VI 529

After 1909 Skarberg has not been inhabited. The grassland was cut as long as Olav and Ånund ran their farm at Trydal. The hay was taken by rowing boat to Holen and from there by road. But after 1960 there has not been any activity worth mentioning. The houses have rotted down, and the courtyard is overgrown by shrubs.

NOTE

BYKLE BYGDEBOK

I sent the downloaded copy of the Bygdebok (in Norwegian) to my good email friend, Geir Ottesen, (an amateur genealogist) in Norway and he translated the entire thing, which was over 200 pages, into English for me. He also wrote explanations of terms, made comments, etc.

The professional genealogist, Aanuund Olsnes, (known personally by Geir but whose findings Geir didn't always agree with) researched all the farms in the Bykle area and some obscure relatives who entered our Brattland family through marriage are in the genealogies of farms like Nesland, Derheime, Vodden, Sygard Nesland, Lower Sygard, Viki, Steinstoyl, Naustdol, Libu and Nordstog, all part of Bykle.

We all know that if you owned the Brattland farm your last name was Brattland. If you bought a different farm, say Nesland, your name became Nesland and the new owner of Brattland would be a Brattland. So, we aren't related to all of them.

I've sent the complete translation of the Brattland (we start on page 11) and Skolas/Skolaas (where g-g-grandmother Kjersti came from).

The last two pages is the genealogy as I have it. As you can see, after the line of the three siblings Mikkel, Ingeborg and Jorond... I continued only my direct line from Ingeborg.

The name changes and spellings could drive you to drink.

BY
(DEE) DOLORES ANN RANUM DE SOUCK
GREAT GRANDDAUGHTER of INGEBOG ANNUSDATTER
BRATTLAND