

A PATH TO YOUR PAST

THE LIFE OF ANNIE SCHLOSSER



Heather Alton



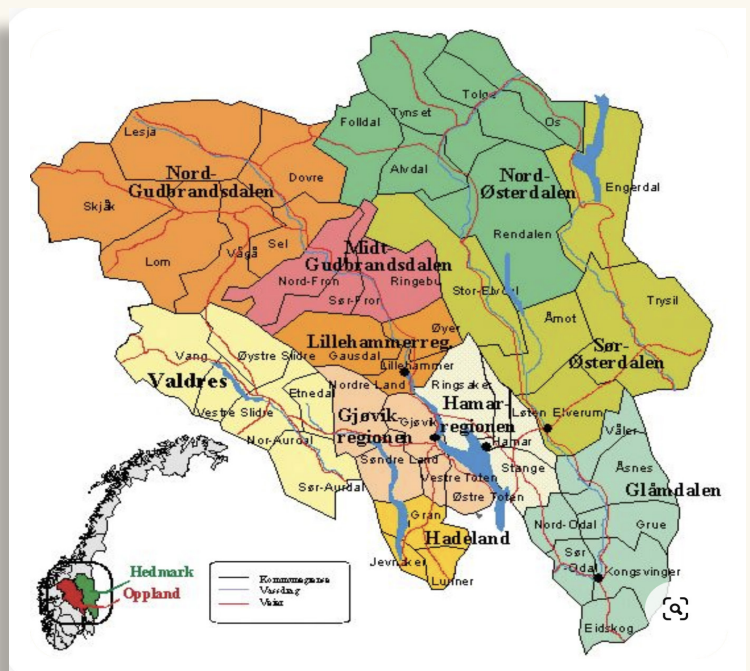
Annie Schlosser

Annie Schlosser was buried on September 27, 1957, beside her husband Lewis in the cemetery of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Honeyford, Gilby County, North Dakota.

There are some things we all know of her life – she was born in Norway and came to North Dakota on her own at the age of 18. She married Grandpa Schlosser and had four sons. Widowed at a young age, she raised the boys on her own in Grand Forks, North Dakota. She passed away on September 20, 1957.

But what is her story? Where was she born, who were her parents? Did she have brothers and sisters?

Mom, what follows is a Path to your Past. This story is the information I have found, thus far, about your grandmother. The search continues and her path will become more defined and side roads to her family clearer, as we find out more...



Anne's family lived on a farm in Ringebu county, Norway. Ringebu is in Oppland province in Norway. It is north of Oslo, and about 60 km north of Lillehammer. The farm was called Bratland farm. In 1875 Bratland farm had 2 cattle, 2 sheep and had crops of barley and potatoes.

1875-Telling for 0520 Ringebu

Person		sex	Fam	S	Occupation	DOB	POB
Guldbrand	Tomassen	m	hf	g	Husmand med Jord	1837	Ringebu
Mari	Hansdatter	wife	g			1837	Ringebu
Berte	Guldbrandsdattar	d				1861	Ringebu
Anne	Guldbrandsdattar	d				1865	Ringebu
Marit	Guldbrandsdattar	d				1867	Ringebu
Ahne	Guldbrandsdattar	d				1871	Ringebu
Thomas	Guldbrandsen	s	s			1862	Ringebu
Hans	Guldbrandsen	s	s			1874	Ringebu
Beret	Olsdattar	k			Mother e Foderaadskon	1810	Ringebu

She was born **Anne Guldbrandsdatter**, on September 17, 1865. Her father was Guldbrand Tomassen, her mother was Mari Hansdatter. Guldbrand and Mari were both born in 1837.

In 1875 there were 6 children living on the Bratland farm along with Guldbrand's mother, Beret Olsdatter (born in 1810).

Anne's siblings were:

Berthe Guldbrandsdatter	born in 1861	(14)
Thomas Guldbrandsen	born in 1862	(13)
Marit Guldbrandsdatter	born in 1867	(8)
Ahne Guldbrandsdatter	born in 1871	(4)
Hans Guldbrandsen	born in 1874	(1)

I have not yet found any records about the family between 1875 and 1886. There are no digital archives for a census from 1885.

There was a mention of the family being in Bergen, Norway – Uncle John had once asked Vytus to look for the family in Bergen when Vytus was travelling there. He was unable to locate anyone.

I found several Bratlands in the 1875 census of Bergen but none of the name Annie or Guldbrand. It is possible the family left the farm and went to Bergen. However, they probably would have boarded a ship in Stavanger instead of Christiania, if they had lived in Bergen.

So, in 1886 there is a record of an Anna G. Bratland, age 20, leaving Ringebu for the United States. It was common for people departing from Norway to change their name to the name of their home farm.

Year	Contract date	Depart date
1886	09/06/1886	10/06/1886

Name	Age	Domicile	Destination	Line	Ship	Paid
Anna G. Bratland	20	Ringebu	Grand Forks DT	Fr. Lie	Thingvalla	Ppd



The trunk Annie used to bring her belongings to America.



The type of ticket Annie would have had.

On the 9th of June Anna paid for a ticket to Grand Forks, North Dakota on the Thingvalla, of the Thingvalla Line.

The official name of the Thingvalla Line was Dampskibs Selskabet Thingvalla. Founded in Copenhagen in 1880, the company commenced Copenhagen - Newcastle - New York sailings and later instituted calls at Christiania (Oslo) and Christiansand.

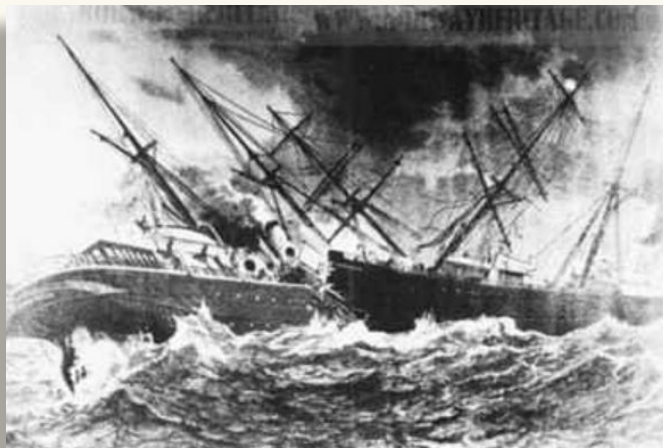


A Thingvalla Line Brochure 1887

The Thingvalla departed on June 10th from Christiania. It stopped at Christiansand and then continued across the Atlantic to New York. There were 408 Norwegians on board.



The Thingvalla was built in 1873 and sank in a collision off Sable Island Nova Scotia, just a year after Anna crossed the Atlantic.



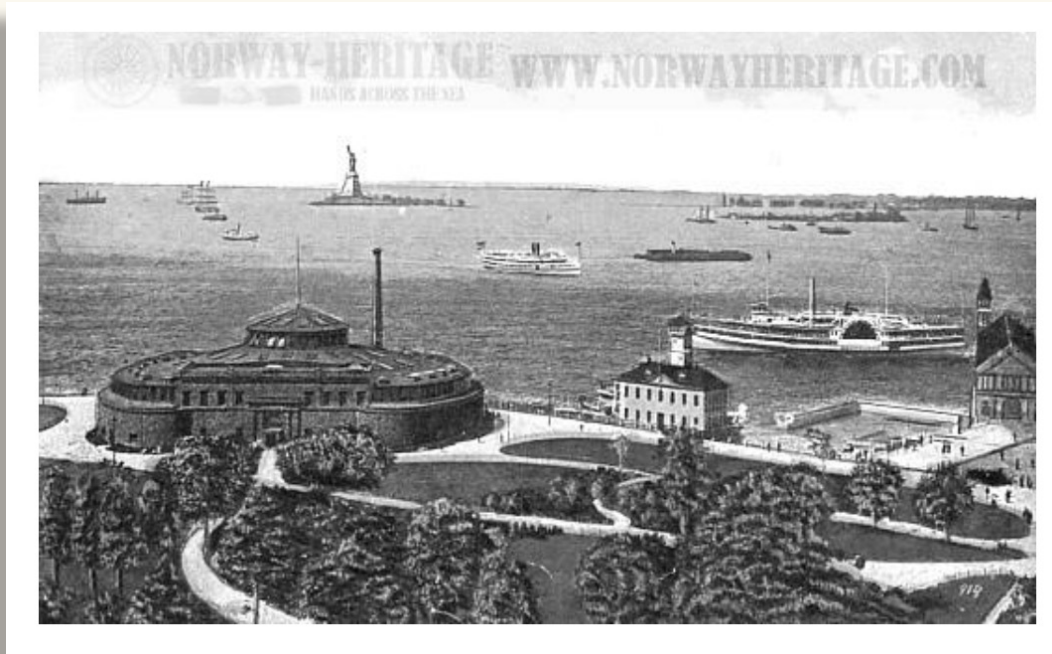
The sinking of the Thingvalla, 1888

The trip took 15 days. Anna arrived in New York on June 25, 1886.



1886 was the same year France gave the Statue of Liberty to the United States. I wonder if it was in place when she sailed in to the harbor.

Anna's ship would have arrived at Castle Garden, America's first official immigration center, located at the tip of Manhattan. The Castle received 10 million immigrants from 1830 through 1892, the year Ellis Island opened.



An arrival room at the Castle Garden Center

As a first or second class passenger, Anna would have been processed on the ship and not in an arrival room.

I also found records of Anna's family leaving Norway April 25, 1888:

Year	Depart date	Name	Sex	Age	Domicile	Destination	Ship	Nationality
1888	27/04/1888	Hans Bratland	m	10	Ringebu	New York	Rollo	
1888	27/04/1888	Gud. T.	m	50	Ringebu	Grand Forks	Rollo	
1888	27/04/1888	Marie	k	20	Ringebu	Grand Forks	Rollo	
1888	27/04/1888	Annie	k	18	Ringebu	Grand Forks	Rollo	
1888	27/04/1888	Marie	k	4	Ringebu	Grand Forks	Rollo	
1888	27/04/1888	Thomas G.	m	25	Amerika	Grand Forks	Rollo	Americaner

The migration of Norwegians to North America was second only in size to the migration of Irish. People left for economic and religious reasons. Since they belonged to the Lutheran church and it was the dominant religion, it is unlikely they left for religious reasons.

The entire family had changed their name to Bratland. The family members listed were her father (50), sisters Marie (20), Marie (4), Annie (18) and brothers Tomas (25) and Hans (10). Her brother Tomas is listed as being American and having his residence in America while everyone else lived in Ringebu.

Could it be that Tomas had already been to America and returned to bring the rest of the family back to North Dakota? If so, he was probably the person who greeted Anne on her arrival in America.

This information tells that Anne had another sister Marie, born in the early 1880's and that her mother was not with the family in 1888. It is possible that 20 year old Marie is Marit (listed in the 1875 census) and that the 18 year old Annie here is actually Ahne. It is often suggested that names and ages are not wholly accurate in the immigration records, so maybe we won't ever know.

According to the name on Anna's trunk she was destined for Arvilla, which is a town east of Grand Forks in North Dakota. She probably got there by train as the railway line had made it to Minot ND by 1886.



Bratland, Thomas	Male	W.	Feb 1875	27	8	5			Norway	Norway	Norway	1875	16	16	Liveryman	0	20	20	0	7	3
— Ella	Female	W.	Apr 1875	24	16	8	3	2	Minnesota	Norway	Norway						20	20	0		
— Carl	Male	W.	Oct 1898	16	8	5			North Dakota	Norway	Minnesota										
— Clifford	Male	W.	Oct 1899	12	5				North Dakota	Norway	Minnesota										
Bratland, Henry	Male	W.	Apr 1875	24	8	5			Norway	Norway	Norway	1875	16	16	Farm Laborer	0	20	20			

The North Dakota census of 1900 lists Anna's brothers, Thomas and Hans, on a farm in Meekinoc county, North Dakota. Meekinoc is just south of Honeyford. Thomas was married to Ella (born in 1875 in Wisconsin) and they had two sons Carl and Clifford. Since Meekinoc and Arvilla are so close it is likely that Anna went to North Dakota to be with her brother.

The next thing we know is that in 1889 Anna is married to Lewis Schlosser. Lewis had 160 acres of land in Gilby county, Honeyford, in North Dakota. He bought it on October 15, 1884.

See the Bureau of Land Mangement in North Dakota record at <ftp://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/nd/grandforks/land/graf-s.txt>

Given the proximity of Honeyford and Meckinoc, it is likely Anna met Lewis through Thomas.



Anna and Lewis Schlosser

The family had two farm hands from Norway living with them – Ole Tregan and Olaf Rudd. They had a servant named Vanessa Visness who came from North Dakota.

from 1900 Census

Sherman – April 1891, born in Washington
Walter – December 1892 born in North Dakota
Arthur – May 1895, born in North Dakota
Llyod – February 1896, born in North Dakota



Walter, Arthur and Sherman Schlosser, about 1895

Lewis died later in 1900. He was only 48. By 1910 Annie and the boys had moved into Grand Forks and were living at 601 Chestnut Street. The 1910 census documents Guldbrand living with Annie and the boys in Grand Forks.

01 43 30	Adler	Salmon	son	11	W	19	10	4	4	Norway	Norway	Norway	186	English	Norwegian	Norway
	Adler	son	11	W	19	10	4	4	Norway	Norway	Norway	186	English	Norwegian	Norway	
	Adler	son	11	W	19	10	4	4	Norway	Norway	Norway	186	English	Norwegian	Norway	
	Adler	son	11	W	19	10	4	4	Norway	Norway	Norway	186	English	Norwegian	Norway	
	Adler	son	11	W	19	10	4	4	Norway	Norway	Norway	186	English	Norwegian	Norway	
25 46 51	Guldbrand	Guldbrand	son	11	W	19	10	4	4	Norway	Norway	Norway	186	English	Norwegian	Norway
	Guldbrand	son	11	W	19	10	4	4	Norway	Norway	Norway	186	English	Norwegian	Norway	

from 1910

In 1910, Gilbert is also listed as living with his son Hans, Annie's younger brother, in Gilby county. Hans is now married to Peggie(?) and has two young daughters, Thelma and Gladys. I wonder if they are living on the farm where Annie used to live?

1	Gilbert	son	1	W	3	1	1	1	1	Norway	Norway	Norway	186	English	Norwegian	Norway
	Gilbert	son	1	W	3	1	1	1	1	Norway	Norway	Norway	186	English	Norwegian	Norway
	Gilbert	son	1	W	3	1	1	1	1	Norway	Norway	Norway	186	English	Norwegian	Norway
	Gilbert	son	1	W	3	1	1	1	1	Norway	Norway	Norway	186	English	Norwegian	Norway
	Gilbert	son	1	W	3	1	1	1	1	Norway	Norway	Norway	186	English	Norwegian	Norway

from 1910

In 1920 Annie was still living at 601 Chestnut Street. The boys were still listed on the census with her.

1	Annie	son	1	W	29	5	1	1	1	Norway	Norway	Norway	186	English	Norwegian	Norway
	Annie	son	1	W	29	5	1	1	1	Norway	Norway	Norway	186	English	Norwegian	Norway
	Annie	son	1	W	29	5	1	1	1	Norway	Norway	Norway	186	English	Norwegian	Norway
	Annie	son	1	W	29	5	1	1	1	Norway	Norway	Norway	186	English	Norwegian	Norway
	Annie	son	1	W	29	5	1	1	1	Norway	Norway	Norway	186	English	Norwegian	Norway
	Annie	son	1	W	29	5	1	1	1	Norway	Norway	Norway	186	English	Norwegian	Norway
	Annie	son	1	W	29	5	1	1	1	Norway	Norway	Norway	186	English	Norwegian	Norway
	Annie	son	1	W	29	5	1	1	1	Norway	Norway	Norway	186	English	Norwegian	Norway
	Annie	son	1	W	29	5	1	1	1	Norway	Norway	Norway	186	English	Norwegian	Norway
	Annie	son	1	W	29	5	1	1	1	Norway	Norway	Norway	186	English	Norwegian	Norway

from 1920

[illegible]

US Census 1910

[illegible]

In the census of 1930, Annie was not listed at 601 Chestnut Street. However, Judy remembers visiting her at 601 Chestnut Street where she lived on the top floor of the house. Annie died in 1957, the year after her son Walter died.



The House at 601 Chestnut, Grand Forks ND, ca 2023



Annie Schlosser

Annie was buried beside Lewis in St. Paul's Lutheran church in Honeyford North Dakota.



Guldbrand is buried in the church yard as well. It is likely that two of his other daughters are also buried there, as a Marie Bratland and Anna Bratland are listed in the graveyard. Are these Annie's younger sisters – Marie (born in the early 1880 or possibly Marit born in 1867) and Anna (Ahne born in 1871)? I'd like to think so...



Annie with her four boys, Arthur, Lloyd, Walter and Sherman.

I'm sure there are other stories about Annie that will come to light and can be added to this tale - helping us to see more of this amazing and resourceful woman -

Annie (Guldbrandatter) Schlosser.