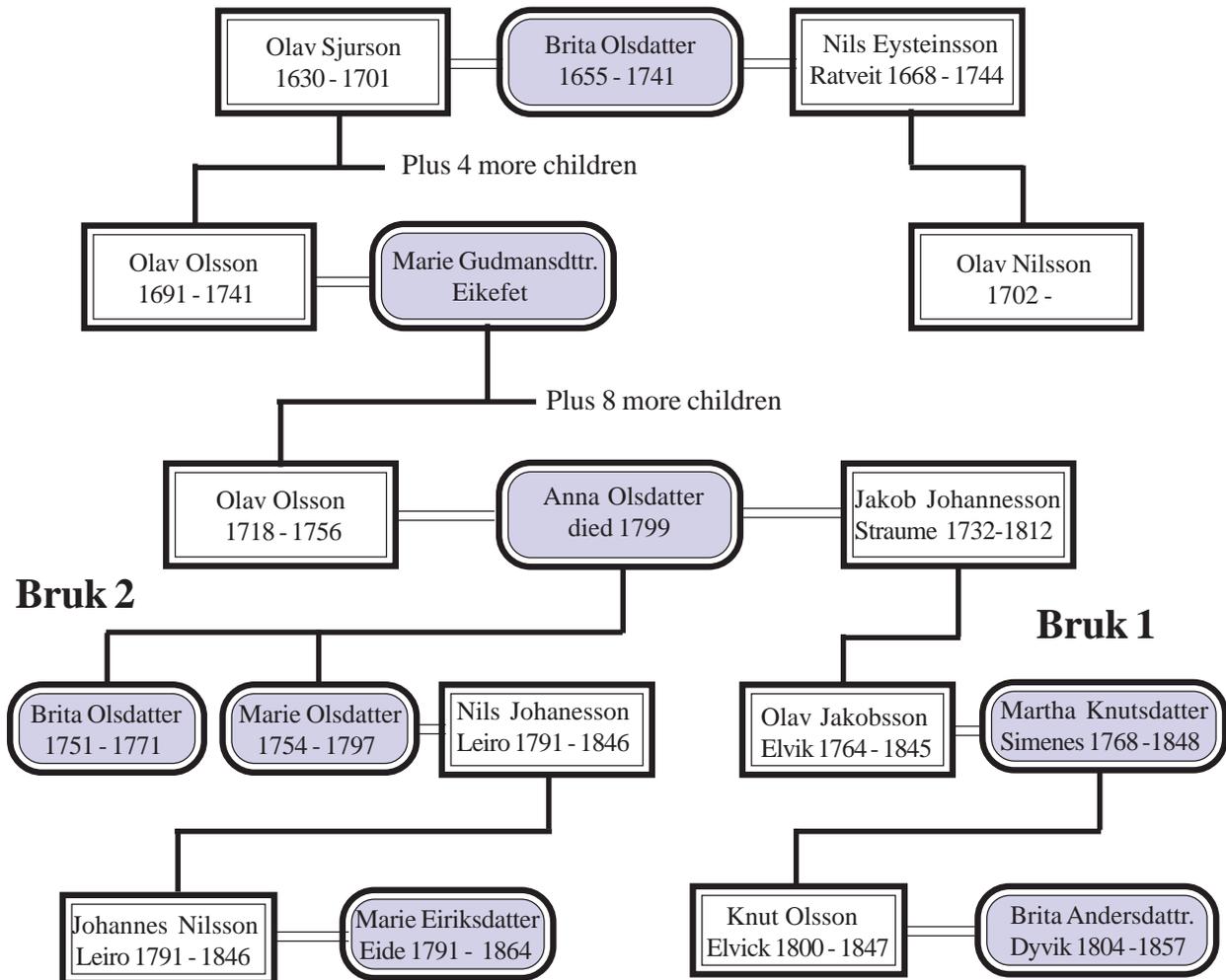


Descendants of Olav Sjurson and Brita Olsdatter



There are records of people living on Elvik in the 14th century. However, an entry in the Vaksdal Bygdebok in 1600 states that Elvik was deserted and most likely had been deserted since the Black Death struck this area in 1349. There were a few transient residents mentioned shortly after 1600, but the first permanent family line seems to trace back to Olav Sjurson and Brita Olsdatter in the chart above. The inheritance of the property appears to have proceeded along the normal lines for that time, in that the entire property was inherited by the oldest son. His siblings either went to work for him, or found spouses on other farms and moved there. Elvik was divided when Anna Olsdatter transferred half her share to her daughters when her husband died. She then remarried and the remaining land was inherited by her oldest son by that marriage. The backlog of Norwegians who had no land resulted in the mass exodus which started in the late 19th century and which had resulted in fully one third of the Norwegian population emigrating to America by the time of the First World War.