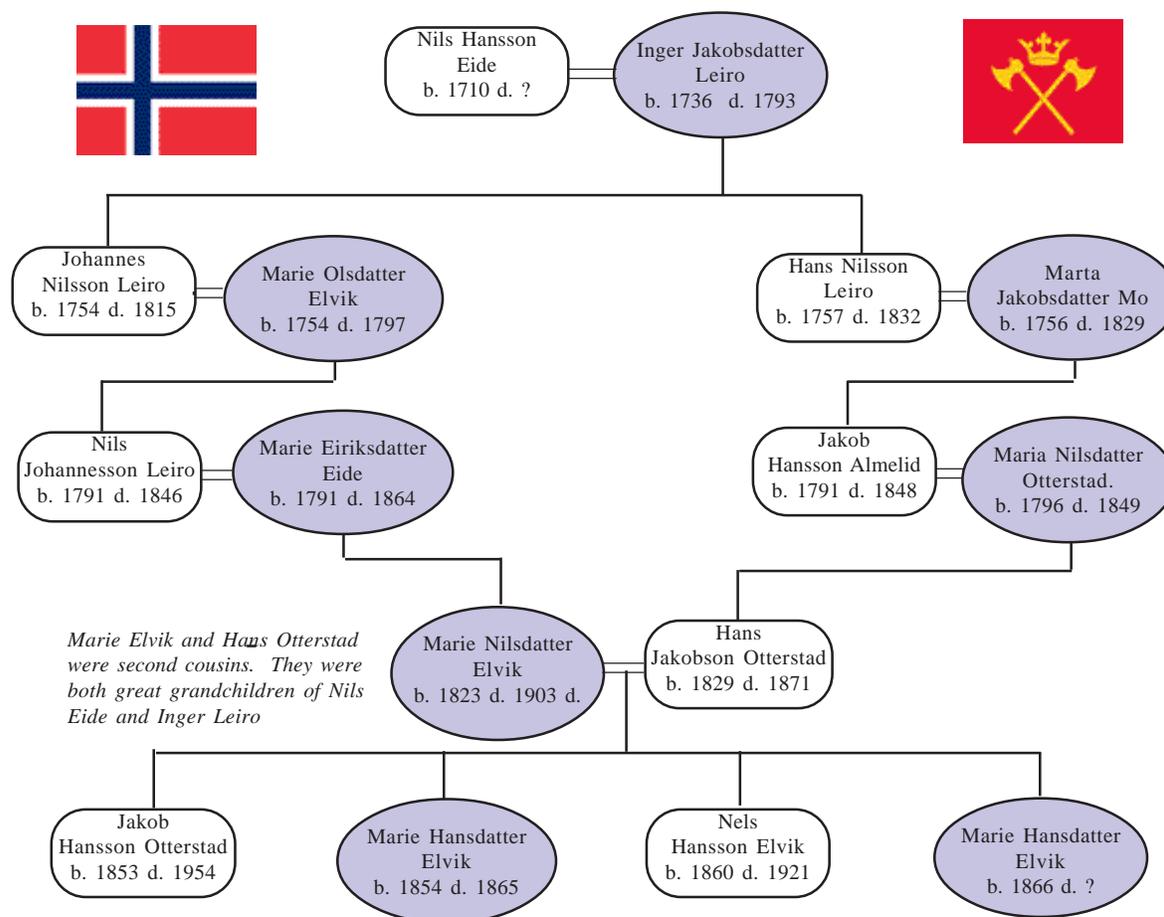


Nels Elvick's Ancestry



Marie Elvik and Hans Otterstad were second cousins. They were both great grandchildren of Nils Eide and Inger Leiro

The Marie Elvik born in 1854 died about 1865. When a child died, it was common to give a subsequent child the same name.

Both the Elvik and Otterstad names were handed down from the maternal side of the family. In the rural areas of Norway it was common for people to take their surname from the name of the farm where they lived. Sometimes when a couple married they would settle on the farm where the wife lived, and then the surname would come from the wife. This occurred several times in the above family. Nils Eide apparently became Nils Leiro when he married Inger Leiro. The children carried the Leiro name. When Jakob Almelid married Maria Otterstad, they settled at Otterstad and he took the Otterstad surname. When Hans Otterstad married Marie Elvik, they settled at Elvik and he took the Elvik surname. His son, Jakob, was Jakob Elvik at birth, but he inherited the Otterstad farm and took the name Otterstad when he moved there. His widowed mother Marie Elvik was apparently living in his household when she died, and she is buried in the Mo cemetery as Marie Otterstad. If our present day practice of always taking the paternal surname had been followed in every generation, the last name would have been Eide instead of Elvick.

When Hans Leiro married Marta Mo they settled at Almelid in the county of Modalen, so Nels Elvick's ancestry extended into both counties. Otterstad, Almelid and Mo are in Modalen, while Eide, Leiro and Elvik are in Vaksdal. The separation of counties here is significant. A high mountain range defines the boundary, and travel and communication between the two counties was possible only by a roundabout route by boat, and this was before the days of outboard motors. Eide, Elvik, Otterstad, and Mo were right on the fjord and were directly accessible by boat. Almelid and Leiro were inland and therefore more remote. All of these farms except Leiro are still currently inhabited. Elvik, though, since 2003 has been inhabited only during the summer months.