



Picture of Ole Anderson Stubbhaug (1821-1916), known as Ole Stubb in America, was the first white man to move to the Dog Fish Bay area. He came in 1875.

To the west of Seattle, across Puget Sound, lies the Kitsap peninsula. Bainbridge Island lies as a sort of buffer between the peninsula and the mainland. A quiet, tranquil bay lies between the peninsula and the island. When the white man first came, the bay was teeming with dogfish, hence the name Dog Fish Bay. The name has since been changed to Liberty Bay. At the head of the bay lies Poulsbo. At the neck where it enters the Sound lies Keyport, now the United States Naval [199] Torpedo Station. In 1875 the bay was uninhabited except for an occasional Indian who came in to hunt or fish. That was the year the first white man entered the bay with the object of establishing a home. He was Ole Anderson Stubbhaug, know in America as Ole Stubb, who was born in Naustdal, Førdefjord, Norway in 1821. Very little has been written about Ole Stubb. He is barely mentioned in passing in a number of historical accounts about the first settlers. The writer discovered a great-grandson of Ole Stubb, Donald Stubb of Aberdeen, Washington. Through his genealogical research [200] this void in the story of the first Norwegians to settle in western Washington can now be filled.

Ole's father died in 1860 and Ole, the eldest son, inherited the family farm, which was said to be the finest in the Naustdal valley. A census report from 1860 showed a 25-acre (99 dekar) field and a 27-acre (105 dekar) pasture - a sizable spread in that time and place. The livestock included three horses, eighteen cows, ten calves, and seventy-six sheep and goats. An illustration in the family history from Sunnfjord, Henrikslekta, by Andreas Karstad, published in Bergen, Norway, in 1968, shows some very imposing farm buildings. Ole Stubb was no pauper who had to go out into the world to seek his fortune.

Ole Stubb married Danele Solem. A son, Anders, was born on March 26, 1850, and the mother died nine days later. The boy was reared by his maternal grandparents and took their name. In 1855 Ole then married Gunhild Hafstad from Ferde. Four sons were born to the couple while they were living in Naustdal: Ludvig Daniel, 1856-1933; Matias Olai, 1858-1894; Andreas, 1860-1961; and Olai Andreas, who was born in 1862 and died as a child in America. In 1866 this family, including Anders Solem, left Ferdefjord for Stony Lake, Michigan. There is some evidence that Ole came to America alone in 1864, then returned and sold his farm in 1865. The families of his brother, Kristian Anderson Stubbhaug, and his cousin, Kristian Larsen Karstad, accompanied him to settle in Michigan.

In 1868, Ole and his family left Michigan for Spink township in Union county, South Dakota, and then, in 1875, they headed west again. It is known that Ole visited the Norwegian settlement at Stanwood but he finally chose Dog Fish Bay in Kitsap county as his permanent residence. There is some uncertainty about his arrival there but he very likely went back to South Dakota [201] and brought the family out in 1876. His wife did not come to Washington. After a lingering

illness she died on December 28, 1876. She was cared for by her stepson Anders Solem. Ole was apparently not at home when she died. Ole and Gunhild had two children that were born in America; Helle Johanne was born in 1868 and died at the age of four; Henrik was born in 1872 and died October 28, 1944.

Ole's matrimonial ventures were not yet at an end. Sometime after coming to the West Coast he met and married a widow by the name of Ingeborg Erikson Peterson. Nothing is known concerning her except that she was born in Norway on February 18, 1821, and died October 28, 1907. She is buried in the cemetery by the First Lutheran Church in Poulsbo.

What sort of person was Ole Stubb? A passage from the genealogical study by Donald Stubb attempts to answer this question: "Very little is known of his characteristics, as no one now alive knew him intimately. His son, Andreas, once said he was a 'very restless man.' Captain J. Chris Moe, who first met him in 1883 when Mr. Moe was a small boy, pictured him as a very independent and self-sufficient man who believed in direct action and was not inclined toward compromise or bargaining. . . . Mr. Moe told these two stories: His father, two brothers and himself had rowed the three miles from Poulsbo to visit Ole Stubb. During their visit a rather violent storm came up and they were afraid to row home. They remained with Ole for three days. Finally Ole, tired of hearing them worry about the rest of the family at Poulsbo, said, 'If you cowards are afraid to go home alone, I'll take you.' So he herded them into his boat, took their boat in tow and rowed the three miles across the stormy bay and then returned home. He was then about 65 years old. Mr. Moe also told about bargaining for apples with Ole who had the only orchard in [202] the area at the time. Being boys they always tried to get him to lower his prices. The old man's firm reply was, 'Well, boys, the apples are mine and the money is yours; if each one of us keeps what belongs to him we'll both be satisfied.' "

A Norwegian Christmas magazine, *Jul i Sunnfjord* (1932), printed a rather farfetched account written by Andreas Johan Søreboe, who had some years earlier paid a visit to Ole Stubb and was now regaling his readers with vignettes of life in America. A translation of one section of the article follows:

WHEN 1,000 INDIANS CONDEMNED TO DEATH
ONE SUNNFJORDING
THE FIRST EMIGRANT FROM NAUSTDAL
by Andreas Johan Søreboe

"It wasn't completely a romantic life to be a pioneer in those days. The Indians paddled their canoes in and out among the many bays and fjords and kept their eyes on the scattered whites. Then something happened. An Indian disappeared without a trace. A Norwegian named Benson and a Finn were suspected of having done away with him. While this was going on Ole Stubb came rowing back from Seattle with food supplies and headed for a visit with his friend Benson. He was told of what had happened. While they were sitting discussing this something else happened to make the situation more ominous. An Indian's dog had come in and molested a milk cow in the pasture. Tired of this one of the men had gone out and shot the dog, thrown the dog in the boat, rowed out and dumped the dog in the bay.

"The next morning there was a band of Indians at the house. The three men went out to meet them. The chief pointed to the blood in the boat and demanded an explanation. It was given but the Indians did not believe [203] the story. They insisted the blood in the boat was evidence of what had happened to the missing Indian.

"The three men were taken prisoner and conveyed to Bainbridge Island. There at least a thousand Indians had gathered, all the way from British Columbia. A trial was held and a disposition was to be made of the matter. The cross-examination and final arguments of the Indians was an amazing performance and their whole demeanor was cool, calm, and collected. The result was that the three men were found guilty of murdering the vanished Indian.

"An Indian with a feather headdress hanging down his back quietly told the men they had been found guilty and proceeded to pronounce the sentence. He pointed to the Olympic Mountains to the west and said in a few simple words, Indian style, 'See the sinking sun. When that has dropped below the mountain's rim, your life will end.'

"But then suddenly, like a miracle, a troop of soldiers appeared in the arena. They had been alerted in Seattle that something unusual was going on on the island. Against them the Indians dared not put up resistance, so the three men who had stood at Death's door were saved."

For seven years, from 1876 to 1883, the Stubbs were the lone settlers on Dog Fish Bay. A couple of hours by rowboat would take Ole to Port Madison with its mill and probably a company store. A day's rowing, making use of the tide, would take him to Seattle, a bustling city of 16,000 people, and the next day's tide would carry him home. Though he came from the finest farm in Naustdal, Ferdefjord, here Ole Stubb, imbued with the pioneering spirit, was willing to grub and hoe to create a farm from the wilderness. He had found his Shangri-La. Ole Stubb died

at his home in Kitsap county in 1916, at the age of 95. He is buried in the Island Lake cemetery in Poulsbo in an unmarked grave. [204]

Five sons of Ole Stubb reached maturity. Information on each, garnered from Donald Stubb's genealogical study, follows:

1. Anders Olai Olsen (Stubbhaug) Solem, born in 1850, came to America with his father in 1866. He worked in the sawmills and logging camps in Michigan until 1874, when he made a trip back to Norway. He returned in 1875 and went to South Dakota, where he took care of his stepmother in her final illness. He held a number of elective offices, including that of county assessor in Union county, South Dakota. He died January 24, 1935.

2. Ludvig Daniel Olsen Stubb, born in 1856, farmed in South Dakota until he went west in 1880. He came to his father in Kitsap county and worked in the sawmill at Port Madison for a year and a half. In 1882 he moved to the Stillaquamish valley, settling at Norman, Washington, which is five miles upriver from Stanwood. He bought 140 acres of land which was densely covered with timber. Before buying the land he started a logging business with his brother Andreas. He continued logging while clearing his land in preparation for farming. He put up a log house and other buildings which were used until 1903, when a large house and other new buildings were constructed. He operated a shingle mill for a period of time. Later he confined his activities to dairy farming, maintaining a herd of forty milk cows. Their feed was raised on the farm. Cash crops such as spinach, beets, and other vegetables were raised, as well as field peas for canning and freezing. He was also involved in mining ventures in the Cascade Mountains. He served on the school board for many years, was on the election board as a representative of the republican party for forty-nine years, and was county road supervisor in his district for a time. He was one of the five original directors of the Josephine Old People's Home at Stanwood and one of its trustees for eleven years. [205]

Ludvig married Nele Marie Samsonsdatter Leknes. They had eleven children. They were a musical family; a picture in *The Stanwood Story* shows three of the boys in the Silvana Concert Band. The picture must have been taken around 1900 because one of the boys, Anton, died of a ruptured appendix in 1906. Ludvig died on the Stubb farm at Norman, Washington, on November 4, 1933. His obituary in the *Stanwood Twin City News* says of him, "He was a kind and helpful neighbor and possessed the courage and perseverance so necessary to him who would follow the frontier and develop new states. The pallbearers were his six sons."

3. Matias Olai Olsen Stubb, born in 1858, came to America with the family in 1866. While he was living in South Dakota he suffered a severe sunstroke which affected his mind. It is quite probable that he went west with his father in 1875. He lived with his father in Kitsap county but spent his last years with his brother Ludvig. He contracted tuberculosis in 1894 and soon died, at the age of thirty-six.

4. Andreas Olsen Stubb, born in 1860, came to America with the family in 1866. He went to Washington to join his father in Kitsap county in 1878. He followed his brother Ludvig to the Stillaquamish valley, where he and Ludvig were engaged in logging. After they quit logging, Andreas operated a packtrain carrying mining machinery into the Cascade Mountains. In 1898 he took his horses to Alaska where he carried miners and their equipment from Skagway to Lake Bennett over the Chilkoot Pass. After the gold rush he came back to Washington. From then until his retirement he operated hotels and apartment houses and for a time farmed near Kent, Washington. Andreas married Karoline (maiden name unknown). They had two children, Hazel Oline, born July 1, 1892, and Albert Charles, whose birth date is unknown. According to the genealogical records, Andreas died at the home of his daughter [206] in Palo Alto, California, in February, 1961. He would have been 101 years old.

5. Henrik (Henry) Olsen Stubb was born in 1872 on the Stubb farm in South Dakota. He went west to his father in company with his brother Andreas in 1878. He worked in the logging camps and farmed his father's homestead in Kitsap county. He is the only Stubb the residents of the Poulsbo area have any recollection of. Henrik married Sofia Pearson, a widow, sometime around 1907. They had no children. Sofia died August 20, 1944, and Henrik died October 28, 1944. They are both buried in unmarked graves in the Island Lake cemetery not far from Poulsbo.



Andreas Johan Sjørebøe

The Pioneers of Dog Fish Bay by Ranvald Kvelstad (Volume 30: Page 196)

When the Norwegians moved into the Pacific North [198] west they found a land very similar in climate and scenery to their homeland. The surprising difference was the huge stands of big trees. The forests provided them with a livelihood until they could clear a piece of land and begin to grow their food. Dozens of sawmills sprang up, some the largest in the world, and the timber products found a worldwide market. Amidst this abundance of timber, game, waterfowl, fish, shellfish, wild berries, and fruit lived the children of Nature, the Indians. At first the white man posed no threat to their livelihood and the relationship was amicable. There were here none of the fierce military confrontations that shook the Midwest, though the Indians' lack of a sense of ownership of land was later to create problems. The Indian tribes limited their activities within fairly well defined areas. A tribe would usually number only a few hundred souls. Since here there was very little need for extended travel as with the nomadic tribes of the plains, each tribe developed its own customs, culture, and language, somewhat like the fjord and mountain communities of Norway. The Indians around Seattle, Bainbridge, and parts of Kitsap county were called the Suquamish. Chief Seattle, for whom the city is named, was a member of that tribe. The Point Elliott Treaty in 1855 set aside a tract of land for the Suquamish tribe and they still own a part of it.

The remains of the first Norwegian settler in what is now the state of Washington were consigned to a forgotten grave in an abandoned cemetery. Thirty years later compassionate fellow Norwegians on Whidbey Island and in the Stanwood community were instrumental in having the body moved to the Lutheran cemetery in Stanwood. A marker was erected over his grave by the Pioneer Historical Society of the Stillaquamish Valley and the Sons of Norway. Suitably, the monument was dedicated by the future King Olav V of Norway, on May 27, 1939.

Source: <http://www.naha.stolaf.edu/>

Ole Stub`s birthplace:

1850 til 1866

Ola Matias Andersson f. 1821 i Stehogane, d. 1916. Gift 1. 1849 med **Danela Gunnhild Ingvaldsdotter** f. 1824 på Solheim bnr. 1, d. 1850 på Solheim. Gift 2. 1854 med **Gunnhild Pernille Madsdotter** f. kr. 1833 på Hafstad, d. 1876. Ola er innskreven i kyrkjeboka som ein av dei fyrste som ville utvandra til Amerika frå Naustdal. 15. april 1864 fekk han attest hjå presten og var klar til avreise. Men Elias Solheim fortel korleis dette gjekk til: Ola skulle reise i fylgje med Henrik Solheim, men Ola vart heft på veg til Bergen og møtte Amerikabåten ut Byfjorden. Båten hadde ikkje tid å vente på at Ola fekk ordna med pass og billett. Nistematen fekk han flidd ombord til Henrik. Men frå anna hald er det hevda at Ola var i Amerika i 1864 og fekk farm på hand. Sikkert er det i alle fall at Ola utvandra saman med heile familien våren 1866.

Barn i 1. ekteskapet:

a. Anders Ola f. 1850, d. 1935, bst. Sør Dakota, Amerika. Gift i Amerika.

Born i 2. ekteskapet:

b. Lovisa Danille f. kr. 1855, d. 1855.

c. Ludvik Daniel f. 1856, d. 1933. Gift med Nele Maria Samsonsdotter Leknes. Dei rydja gard nær Seattle, USA.

d. Matias Olai f. 1858, d. 1894.

e. Andreas f. 1860, d. 1961.

f. Olai Andreas f. 1862, d. 1872.

g. Helle Johanne f. kr. 1868 i Amerika, d. 1872.

h. Henrik f. kr. 1872 i Amerika, d. 1944.

Source: *Naustdal Bygdebok Bnd II*