

Berhow Family Reference

Although one should have expected the oldest son, Eirik, to purchase and take over the farm from Mons Ebna, Torres was the one who had the money to do it. In 1780, 112 state dollars was a lot to pay for the land. Torres did it so that the land could belong to the family once and for all. At this time, the farm had rich soil for growing grains, fine meadows and it was very easy to work. There was 'sater' (mountain pasture) and enough fire wood for everyone. There was a small mill down the river and this produced enough of the necessities for the owners. They fed nine cows, five calves, twelve sheep and one horse on Rya. They raised oats, about 4 1/2 'tonner' of it, besides about 1/8 toner of barley. Besides the upper mountain pasture, the Rya farm also has a pasture towards the boundary of East Eia; a piece in Litlehagen. But from olden days, all of Litlehagen belonged to East Eia, while farmers on the Flata only had the right to graze their horses there. When the farmers of Litlehagen fenced it in for their own use in 1790, several disputes arose. At last, they all came to an agreement that grazing on Litlehagen could be done; only for short periods of time; in the spring and in the fall. Torres married Marta Olsdaughter Nerheim in 1776. She was born in 1743, and was the daughter of farmer Old Torsson 'Big' Nerheim and Siri Larsdaughter. There was a big wedding feast at Rya on the day of the wedding. There was plenty of beer and food. Among the guests, came the Game Cocks, Mons Ebna and Reinert Haugen. During the festivities, Mons and Reinert had a terrible fight. Mons sued Reinert for using improper language after Mons poured beer over Reinert's head. The court accused Reinert of starting the fight, because Reinert had called Mons an improper name after Mons had pulled Reinert's foot while he was dancing on the table. The court was right in electing Mons as the winner, but Mons had family in the court system. Reinert had to pay a fine to the Norden road fund. The names of Torres, Reinert and Mons appear often in the court records. Usually in connection with each other over tedious things, and usually in regards to the Flata. Torres was a big and powerful man, and he often used physical force in his clashes with Mons. Torres and Reinert were usually on one side on the argument and Mons on the other. In 1803, potatoes were brought to the farm in great quantities. They had been there before, but only in gardens and the like. They planted 1/2 toner and at the fall harvest 2 toner. There were very few changes in the method of farming since 1723. People were starting to complain about the poor pasture and scarcity of wood. In 1804, the farm was appraised at 400 state dollars. Torres died in 1804. His survivors were his wife, Marta, and four of his five children.

Torres married Anna Nilsdaughter Over Hauge. They were married in 1831. They took over the family farm in 1842. Conditions had now changed so it was easier to raise a family without staying on the farm and running it. So in 1863 they deeded the farm to the oldest son, Erik, for 1000 state dollars and vilkar (pension). All the children were then grown. Nils, Torres & Knudt left Norway in 1870. Nils with his wife and 5 children. Anna lived until 1879, while Torres died the following year. They were survived by most of their children.