

**About my great grandparents Helena Maria Andersdtr.
(1853-1932) and Oluf Martinus Pedersen (1851-1934),
Stavfjord**

They were called Tinus and Hellena in everyday life. What I am about to tell you here I have from people who knew Hellena and Tinus very well.

Tinus was a kind and quiet man in everyday life, but when it was bad weather and lightning he was always afraid, and when that happened he fled to the earth cellar and there he could sleep during the night. It was told that he once had been very frightened by the lightning.

Hellena was very domineering, she decided everything, how much everyone in the family could eat, and also how much butter and cheese on the bread. It is easy to see that she was not easy going. I think she was both a domineering and a respected person.

Tinus had once forgotten a candle in the shed, and the result was that the shed burnt down. However, it also aroused Hellenas anger, and for sure Tinus would get a scolding although it was an accident. However, some clothing which were stored in the shed also burnt. In those days some spare clothes were of much more value than today.

Today it is not easy to find firm information of the life in those days. It is uncertain if he went to Lofoten during wintertime for cod fishing, matter indicate that he then was doing local fishing in Stavfjorden. He also did a little

forestry and farming. His father, Peder Olsen, was from Gudbrandsdalen and accustomed to farming not fishing. I think Tinus was a good farmer and he cleared a little land on the northern side of outer Stavfjorden in order to have a hayfield there. In this place it was also a large shrubbery of raspberries. Once he came to the place the shrubbery was filled with large and fine and ripe raspberries. He had not brought anything to carry the raspberries home, so he sat down and started to eat from the shrubbery. After a while he heard a noise on the other side of the shrubbery, and he got up to check. There on the other side a bear was standing and also eating from the shrubbery. Of course he got very frightened, ran off for the boat and rapidly rowed off-shore.

At the time, about 1880 – 1890 or the end of the 18th century, it was a lot of bears in the mountains in the Stavfjorden area.

This was a story from Helena's and Tinus' life, hard and complex as for everybody at the time.

May, 2015
Jarle Pettersen