

Martin and Ingeborg Gjelhaug¹, Charter Members of East Norway Lake Lutheran Church.

Martin Christianson Gjelhaug was born² June 9, 1838 at Gjeile in Nordsinni, Nordre Land, Norway. His parents were Kristian Matson Gjelhaug, born April 18, 1808 at Solberg, Aurdal in Telemark and Inger Maria Jensvold born July 12, 1817 at Jensval Nordre in Nordsinni, Nordre Land.

Martin had 5 brothers, Johan, Gubrand, Ole, Lauritz and Andreas. He had two sisters, Marthea and Kjirsten.

His wife Ingeborg Marie Olsdatter was born³ September 16, 1827 at Nordre Tonvoll in Østsinni, daughter of Ole Hansen Gjevle and Marte Gulbrandsdatter Nårum. They were married⁴ on October 19, 1864 by Bishop Aabel in Sondre Land, Norway.

Martin and Ingeborg⁵ are listed on the passenger list for the Johannes Rod in 1867. There were 275 passengers listed. They arrived in Quebec May 31, 1867, They are listed from Nordre Land. A doctor came on board to inspect everyone and all were healthy. On June 5th they left Quebec by train and arrived in Detroit on June 8th. On June 19th they arrived in Chicago and in Minnesota on July 16th. The first 3 years they lived in Zumbrota, Goodhue County, MN. They then moved to a farm in Arctander Township in Kandiyohi County.

As the siblings emigrated from Norway they lived with Martin and Ingeborg. Kjirsten Gjelhaug tells: "When my siblings and I left Norway we first came to Kandiyohi County where our brother Martin Gjelhaug had already settled. There we lived in a sod house for five years until we made the move to Marshall County about 1880. The men went first, walking with the cattle, and about two weeks later the women came by train to Argyle." Ole moved to North Dakota. Several of them moved to northern Minnesota.

Martin and Johan were listed as original members of East Norway Lake Lutheran Church in 1875 and Martin later became a member of First Lutheran Church of Norway Lake in 1892.

Martin and Ingeborg's adopted children were John Martin born November 11, 1868 and Bertina born February 8, 1872. John and Bertina's birth-parents were Ole and Berit Olsen Bjorge from Crow River. Berit, a cousin of Martin, died in 1876 and that is why some of the children were adopted out. Another sister, Louise, was adopted by Christopher Engen's of Norway Lake.

Martin died October 6, 1920 and Ingeborg died August 31, 1923 at Sunburg, MN. They are buried at First Lutheran Church of Norway Lake, in rural New London, MN.

A Norwegian family history book⁶ gives essentially the same information. In the section pertaining to 1867 emigrants, we find:

"Martin Christiansen Gjelhaug, born in 1838 to parents Kristian Madsen Solberg from Etnedal and Inger Martea Jensvold, and his wife Ingeborg Olsdatter Thonvold, born in 1828. Martin and Ingeborg were married in 1864. They spent their first years in Zumbrota, Minnesota, then moved to Kerkhoven, Minnesota, where they had a farm. They adopted two children in 1876. A brother, Johan Chr. Gjelhaug, emigrated in 1865, and a sister, Christine, in 1876."

(However, note the conflict in the birth year for Ingeborg.. A careful reading of the baptism record reveals that the mistake is easily made; the correct year is 1827.)

Report prepared by Earl O. Knutson.

1 The text down to the divider was shared by Martin and Ingeborg's great granddaughter Gayle Gjelhaug Rehn. Footnotes were inserted by Earl Knutson.

2 SAH Land Prestekantor, Nordsinni Parish, baptisms section, 1838, Page 63. Viewed at <https://media.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/9359/45267/62>

3 From Land Prestegjeld, various churches, baptisms in 1927, page 151. Viewed at <https://media.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/9356/87160/106>

4 SAH, Nordre Land prestekontor, Parish register (official) no. 1, 1860-1871, Weddings, p. 145; dated 1864. Viewed at <https://media.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/8981/43856/8>

5 In the 1865 census of Norway, Martin and Ingeborg are listed as owners of a farm called Bondelidbakken in Nordsinnen, Land.

6 *Boka Om Land, IV. The Immigration to America from Nordre and Søndre Land, 1839-1915* by Arvid Sandaker, Translation by Sandra Hendrickson (2010). Page 178