

Johan Johnsson Gordhamer and Maria Halgrimsdatter, Charter members East Norway Lake

Johan Jonsson was born 7 February 1835 in Norderhov Parish, Buskerud, Norway to Jon Olsson Land [1795-1865] and Anne Olsdatter[1803-1863]. He was the third of nine children.

Johan left Norderhov parish 28 April 1861 with his parents and 3 of his younger siblings, Gunder, Torine and Maren. The father is listed as Jon Olson. Kjos.

They settle in Calmar Township in Winneshiek County, Iowa. As John Johnson Kjos he marries Maria Halgrimsdatter in the Washington Prairie Church on 26 February 1864.

Maria was born 4 Dec 1841 to Halgrim Jonson Kjos [13 April 1804-28 Nov 1869] and Mari Olsdatter [12 Jan 1812-22 Feb 1900] in Sognedal, Ringerike Norway. She was the third of eight children. The family emigrated in the spring of 1856, the father signing out of the parish as Halgrim Johnson Gaardhamer. They settle in Calmar Township, Winneshiek County, Iowa.

John and Maria's first child Hans Olaus is born in Iowa 23 Dec 1864. They leave Iowa sometime in 1865 or 1866 and settle in Arctander Township. Their second child Johan Alfred is born 14 Oct 1866 and is baptized at the Norway Lake church the following June.

John and Maria have 7 more children all of whom are baptized at the Norway Lake church and, after 1875, at East Norway Lake Lutheran Church.

1. Hans Olaus/Oliver: born 23 Dec 1864, died 2 Mar 1930, married Ida Alberta Staff
2. Johann Alfred: born 14 Oct 1866, died 5 April 1940, single
3. Karoline Marie: born 14 Nov 1868, died 13 May 1940, married Carl Oscar Anderson
4. Josephine: born 16 Jan 1871, died 16 Oct 1947, married James Brennan
5. Johannes Matthei/ John M: born 16 Feb 1873, died 2 Aug 1946?
6. Andrea Julius: born 22 Sept 1875, died 13 June 1899
7. Theoline M: born 3 April 1878, died 10 July 1903, married Strubek
8. Oscar: born 3 May 1880, died 9 Oct 1943
9. Fredrick Edward: born 27 Dec 1882, died 13 Oct 1911

John and Maria use the last name of Johnson for several years. He first uses Gordhamer [the name his father in law is using] in 1871 in daughter Josephine's baptismal record. In the 1875 census he is Johnson but is listed as Gordhamer in the 1880 census

The 1886 plat map also shows him as J.J Gordhamer. He is shown as owning 40 acres in SE1/4 of SE 1/4 of Section 23. In section 25 he owns 113.24 acres in NW 1/4 and about 30 acres in SE1/4 of SE1/4. Sometime around 1896 John and Maria move to Beltrami County. He homesteads in Township 146 and is awarded 160 acres 28 June 1901. SE 1/4 of NE1/4 in sec32 and 1/2 of NW 1/4 and the NE 1/4 of NW 1/4 of sec 33. He also purchases 40 acres 16 Nov 1898 in sec28. The 1900 census lists Oliver, Theoline, Oscar and Edward as living with them.

Theoline marries and has a daughter Theoline Strubek. She dies 10 July 1903, possibly in childbirth. John J dies 10 Jan 1904. Maria, Oscar, Edward and the baby Theoline leave Beltrami County and return to Arctander Township. Oliver remains in Bemidji where he is working as a carpenter. The 1905 census shows they are living with Alfred who is farming. The 1915 plat map shows Alfred is the owner of the land John J had in section 25.

Maria dies 22 May 1927 and is buried at East Norway Lake. She was 85 years of age. I have been unable to determine where John J is buried. John J and Maria are one of 3 Gordhamer families to be charter members at East Norway Lake. Maria's mother Mari and brother John H. Each family has a separate biography.

Sources:

- Digitalarkviet
- Public member trees on Ancestry
- My Heritage- Geni World Search
- Ancestry.com
- Family Search
- Kandiyohi County Historical Society

Written by Carole Heimdahl