

## **Johannes H. Gordhammer, Charter Member East Norway Lake Lutheran**

Johannes Halgrimsen was born 13 Dec 1851 in Soknedal, Sor Trondelag, Norway. He was the sixth of eight children born to Halgrim Johnsen Gardhammer (born Kjos) 13 April 1804 - 28 Nov 1869 and Mari Olsdatter Ringerud 12 Jan 1812 - 22 Feb 1900.

The family emigrated from Norderhov, Buskerud, Norway in the spring of 1856 and settled in Calmar, Winneshiek County, Iowa. They remained there until 1869, when according to his mother's obituary they moved to Arctander Township. Halgrim died shortly thereafter on 28 Nov 1869 and was buried in the East Norway Lake cemetery.

Johannes was confirmed in 1866 at Washington Prairie Lutheran Church near Decorah, Iowa.

Johannes married Siri Syversdatter 9 July 1880 at East Norway Lake. She was the daughter of Syver Syverson born in Sondre Aurdal Parish, Oppland County in 1818 and Karen Olsdatter born 1823 in Lands Parish. Siri was born in 1860 in Brufaldt, Sogne Aurdal, Oppland. She was one of 6 children.

Siri emigrated in 1879 with her older sister Olava Syversdatter [born 1849]. They sailed on the ship Illinois from Liverpool, England and arrived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 7 July 1879. They are listed on the ships manifest as O.S. and Sigi Gothenburg, occupation servant. They are using the family farm name which was Gottenborg.

Johannes and Sigi had 8 children, all of whom were baptized at East Norway Lake:

1. Henry Severin: born 22 Dec 1880, died 16 Nov 1957, married Josephine S. Erickson
2. Carrie Maria: born 9 April 1882, died 4 Feb 1971, married Carl Alfred Peterson
3. Karl Oliver: born 8 Jan 1885, died 1 July 1951, married Mabel Brenden
4. George Selmer: born 12 Jan 1887, died 9 June 1945, married Margaret Domsival
5. Clarence Morgan: born 8 April 1891, died 18 Dec 1947, married Lydia
6. William Elmer: born 27 Mar 1893, died 7 Feb 1965
7. Otena: born 14 Aug 1895, died 15 Aug 1985, married George C. Kutz
8. Francis Marion: born 16 Dec 1897, died 6 Oct 1918

Johannes homesteaded 80 acres in Arctander township [ W ½ of NE ¼ in Section 34]. He was awarded this land in 1882. According to the 1886 plat map they also owned 40 acres in section 27 next to his mother Mari.

Around 1887, based on the 1895 census, the family sold their land and moved to Kerkhoven Village in Swift County where John opened a dry goods store. John's two oldest sons, Henry and Oliver, eventually joined the family business. When their father retired it became known as Gordhammer Bros.

The two youngest boys William and Francis served in World War I. William as a private with the army in France. He returned home in 1919. Francis was a seaman, second class in the Naval reserve and was stationed at Puget Sound. He died there 6 Oct 1918 of influenza. He had enlisted in July of 1918.

John died 17 Mar 1936 and Sigi followed 16 Oct 1938. They are buried at Hillside Cemetery in Kerkhoven. They are one of 3 Gordhammer families who are charter members of East Norway Lake. The others being his mother Mari and brother in Law John J.

Sources:

- 1865 and 1875 Norway censuses
- Digitalarkviet
- Evangelical Lutheran Church Records
- Swift County Historical Society
- Ancestry .com
- U.S. County Land Ownership Maps
- Federal and State censuses

Written by Carole Heimdahl, February, 2019