

HANS JOHANNES HENJUM AND INGEBORG KRISTIANSDATTER, charter members of East Norway Lake Lutheran Church

Hans Johanneson Henjum was born on November 19, 1842 at Henjasanden, Leikanger, Sogn, Norway. His father, Johannes Hanson (1816-1856) was a cooper by trade and a husman on the Henjum farm. His mother, Kari Eiriksdatter (1819-1869) was a housewife and the mother of his two sisters, Britha Johannesdatter (1844-1883) and Gjertrude Johannesdatter (1847-1935). Hans also had a half-brother Lars Johannes Henjum, who was also a charter member of East Norway Lake and later on a founder of West Lake Lutheran. Britha's husband to be, Johannes Ingemorson Fosager, was yet another charter member of East Norway Lake.

Tragedy struck the Henjum family early on when Johannes died of leprosy in 1856. Leprosy was quite common in Norway at the time, especially along the western coast where they lived. Johannes was only 40 years old leaving his widow Kari, age 37 and children Hans 14, Britha 12 and Gjertrude 9 years old. About one month prior to Johannes' death, friend and neighbor Johannes Ingemorson (later Foshager) left the area for America. It is likely he played a large role in convincing Kari and her three children to also leave Norway for America, which they did on April 18, 1861. Along with half-brother Lars and his new wife, Barbro, plus Mari Ingemoson and her new husband they arrived in Quebec, Canada and made their way to Norway Grove, Wisconsin, which today is the city of DeForest. Working on a farm in the area according to the 1860 census was Johannes Ingemorson. While in Wisconsin, Hans worked on area farms, as a logger in the pineries and worked on the railroad being built from Winona to St. Charles, Minnesota. Hans' mother, Kari, left Wisconsin for Minnesota with her daughter Britha and her husband Johannes Ingemorson in 1866 and settled in Norway Lake (Sec 22 Arctander). About a year later, Hans appears at the land office in St. Cloud when he acquired his homestead adjacent to his mother, Kari, and brother-in-law John Ingemorson Foshager.

In 1869, Kari died from typhus at the age of 50 having lived in America for eight years. She is likely buried either in the log church cemetery or the East Norway Lake site. Her grave is unmarked. Less than a year later, on May 26, 1870, Hans is married by Rev. Lars Markhus to neighbor girl, Ingeborg Kristiansdatter Skindelien, the daughter of Marit Pettersdatter Smehaugen and step-daughter of Kristian Mikkelsen Saeter who arrived from Torpa, Nordre Land, Norway in 1869 and homesteaded next to Hans. Ingeborg was born on August 16, 1848. Minutes of the log church state that in 1870 Hans donated one dollar toward the church debt and that he was elected trustee in 1873.

Hans and Ingeborg Henjum had twelve children:

- John H. 1870-1953,
- Christian H. 1872-1875,
- Caroline 1874-1934,
- Elmer 1878-1916,
- am M. 1881-1945,
- Berthe Marie (Hauge) 1883-1950,
- Henry H. 1886-1968,
- Selma J. 1891-1920,
- Josephine B. (Skare) 1893-1968
- and three who died in infancy.

Ingeborg died on October 3, 1896 at age 48. Her funeral was conducted by Rev. R. K. Fjelstad. Hans died on January 11, 1917 at the age of 74. His funeral was conducted by Rev. Mons Sotendahl and Rev. N. J. Njus. Hans and Ingeborg Henjum's funerals were conducted at East Norway Lake Lutheran Church and they are buried in the church cemetery. Hans acquired a large acreage and became known in the community as "King Wheat."

Prepared by Marlin Henjum

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Kandiyohi County Marriage Records

Norway Lake Lutheran Congregation (Log Church) Minutes, Translated by Rev. Joel Njus