

LARS JOHANNES HENJUM AND BARBRO MONSDATTER, Charter Members of East Norway Lake Lutheran Church

Lars Johanneson Henjum was born September 22, 1837 to Johannes Hansson and Synneve Bottelsdatter at Henjasanden, Leikanger Parish, Sogn, Norway. His father was a cooper by trade and a husman on the Henjum farm. They lived in a small house on the Sognefjord where they made barrels, maintained a small acreage with a few livestock and spent most of their time working on the Henjum farm.

Lars served a term as a soldier in 1855. His mother died when Lars was young and his father remarried Kari Erikksdatter with whom Johannes had three children Hans, Britha and Gjertrude. In 1856 Johannes died of leprosy and Lars was left with no parents except his step-mother Kari and her three young children.

Like many others in Norway at the time, there was much talk about emigrating to America. Friend and neighbor John Ingemorson Forshager was already there and probably writing to his family and friends in Norway. About this time, Lars met a girl named Barbro Monsdatter (1822-1898), the daughter of Mons Amundsen and Syneve Endresdatter. They were married on April 2, 1861 and sixteen days later on April 18 they left Leikanger for America along with Lars' step-mother Kari and her three children plus John Foshager's sister Marie and her husband Iver Erikson. Barbro was five months pregnant with a son who would be born in America.

Lars and Barbro and the others arrived in Quebec, Canada probably in June of 1861. They made their way to Norway Grove in Wisconsin where they were very likely met by John Foshager from Leikanger. In 1865 the family moved to Fillmore County in Minnesota and in 1868 Lars joined his half-brother Hans and half-sister Britha Fosager at Norway Lake settling southwest of what is today known as Henjum Lake in Arctander Township.

Lars was a member of the log church and a charter member of East Norway Lake Lutheran. In 1903, he was instrumental in establishing the West Lake Lutheran congregation. His wife, Barbro (Njos) Henjum died in 1898 and is buried at East Norway Lake Cemetery. Lars died in 1917 and is also buried at East Norway Lake.

They had four children,

- Endre (1860) who died at birth,
- John L. (1861-1939) buried at East Norway Lake,
- Synneva (1863-1946) and
- Andrew L. (1864-1960), long time member of West Lake Lutheran and Arctander farmer. He is buried at West Lake.

Prepared by Marlin Henjum

Sources Consulted:

Leikanger Bygdebok, Vols 1-2.

Digitalarkivet

U. S. Federal Census

Minnesota State and Territorial Censuses 1849-1905

Minnesota Death Index 1908-2002

US Find A Grave Index

Cameron, [West Lake Lutheran Church Centennial 1903-2003](#)