

## JOHANNES JACOBSON AND KIRSTIE PEDERSDATTER, CHARTER MEMBERS OF EAST NORWAY LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Johannes Jacobson (Kaasa)** was born 4 June 1810, to Jacob Clausen Kåsa and Anna Tollefsdatter Jontvet, Holden (Holla), Telemark, Norway. Johannes was a wheelwright (wagonmaker). **Kirstie (Christine) Marie Pedersdatter Ytterbøe**, b. 11 March 1816, Holla, and Johannes were married in the Helgen church.

In 1844, Johannes, Kirstie and sons Jacob and Peter, and Johannes' widowed mother, Anne Tollefsdatter Jontvet Kaasa, met brother Peder Jacobson, his family, and brother Niels in Porsgrunn. On 21 May they sailed on the brig "Washington" to the United States and arrived in New York 9 July. They traveled by boat on the Erie Canal and on through the Great Lakes to Chicago and Milwaukee. Timber claims were taken at Muskego, Racine County, Wisconsin. Muskego was one of the first Norwegian settlements. Jacobsons were involved in building "Old Muskego", the church that was moved in 1904 to Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. They encountered many difficulties with the land and cholera epidemics.

Jacobsons first lived in a large house partly dug into an Indian mound. It had been the print shop for the newspaper "Nordlyset." Johannes and Peder bought forty acres from the Rev. Claus Clausen where they built a large log house. In 1845 they moved to Pastor Clausen's house when he left to serve the church in Koshkonong, WI. In 1848 the Johannes and family moved to Saukville, near Port Washington, WI. They farmed there until 1867 and then homesteaded in Arctander Twp., Kandiyohi County, Minnesota.

Johannes and Kirstie's children were:

- Jacob, b. 12 September 1840, Kåsen, Lower Telemark, Norway; d. 4 May 1919
- Peter, b. 2 December 1841, Kåsen, Lower Telemark, Norway; d. 9 April 1926
- Anna Kristine, 1845, Muskego, Racine Co., WI; d. about 1854
- Anne Margrethe, 7 November 1847, Muskego, Racine Co., WI; 11 July 1934
- Karen (Carrie) Avangeline 23 November 1849, Belgium Twp., Ozaukee Co., WI; d. 4 Nov. 1905
- Caroline, 1850, Belgium Twp., Ozaukee Co., W; d. about 1854
- Maria, 12 April 1853, Belgium Twp., Ozaukee Co., WI, d. 29 Apr 1882
- Amos, 6 October 1855, Belgium Twp., Ozaukee Co., WI, d. 14 Jul 1931
- Johan (John), 18 February 1858, Belgium Twp., Ozaukee Co., WI; d. 25 Feb 1929

The Jacobsons were members of the Norway Lake Lutheran congregation, first in the log church that Johannes was involved in building, later in East Norway Lake. Both Johannes and Kirstie are buried at ENL cemetery. A tall, narrow white stone marks Johannes' grave. He died 14 January 1888; Kirstie died 21 August 1890.

### Sources

- Nordmaendene I Amerika; Ulvestad, Martin
- Bob (Charles) Cox, great-grandson of Johannes and Kirstie (Ytterbøe) Jacobson
- Blanche (Jacobson) Schmitz, great-granddaughter of Johannes and Kirstie (Ytterbøe) Jacobson
- Niels Jacobson Family Histor

Submitted by Thelma Aasen Johnson, Myrtella Aasen Christenson and John Aasen, great-grandchildren of Johannes and Kirstie Jacobson.