

## **Johannes Andersen Jorgenson, charter member of East Norway Lake Lutheran**

Johannes (John) A. was the third child and first son born to Andreas Jorgenson (1825-1912) and Marit Andersdatter (1824-1903). He was born on 29 Aug 1858 in Stordalen, Hordaland, Norway and baptized 26 Sep 1858 at Nedre Stjordal, Nord-Trondelag. Andreas, Marit and their five children left Norway for America in 1865 arriving in Goodhue County, Minnesota. Another son, Andrew A. Jorgenson was born while they lived in Fodti Township, Goodhue County. In 1868, the family moved to Section 29 in Norway Lake Township, Monongalia County, a short distance southwest of Sunburg. Another son, Olaus A. was born on 28 Nov 1869.

John A. Jorgenson arrived at Norway Lake in 1868 with his family. He was confirmed by Rev. Lars J. Markhus likely at the Norway Lake Log Church on 10 May 1874. He farmed with his father.

John married Ragnild Nilsen Haramon on 7 April 1885 at East Norway Lake Lutheran. Ragnild was born 3 January 1860 in Hallingdal, Norway to Nils Nilson Hardamoen and Mari Helgesdatter (1818-1912). She was baptized on 5 Feb 1860 at Ulnes, Oppland, Norway.

John and Ragnild had seven children:

1. Mina "Minnie" N. Jorgenson (1886-1977) who married Lewis Paulson and are both buried at West Norway Lake Cemetery.
2. Annie C. Jorgenson (1887-1976) married Martin A. Ellingboe at West Norway. He died in 1920 and is buried at West Norway Lake. Annie later married an Amundson and she is buried at Vinji Cemetery in Willmar.
3. Elmer J. Jorgenson (1888-1894) is buried at West Norway Lake Cemetery
4. Minda M. Jorgenson (1881-?) No additional information has been found on Minda after 1910.
5. Sophia Bertine Jorgenson (1893-1978) married Melvin Carl Skare. They lived in Canada, Oregon and California. They are buried in Calimesa, Riverside County, California.
6. Elmer Nobel Jorgenson (1896-1973) married Agnes Rosella Ellingson. They are buried at West Norway Lake Lutheran Cemetery.
7. Rose (Rosilia) Josephine Jorgenson (1898-2001) married Ole Amundson. They lived in Willmar, MN. Burial site for Rose is undetermined. Ole is buried at Vinji Cemetery in Willmar.

John A. Jorgenson died on 23 September 1938. Ragnild died six months later on 3 March 1939. They are both buried in the West Norway Lake Lutheran Cemetery. They were charter members of East Norway Lake Lutheran Church.

Prepared by Marlin Henjum, January 2020

### Sources Consulted

- Ancestry.com
- Minnesota, Births and Christenings Index, 1840-1980
- Minnesota Death Index, 1908-2017
- Minnesota, Territorial and State Censuses, 1849-1905
- Newspapers.com Obituary Index, 1800s-current
- Norway, Select Baptisms, 1614-1927
- Norway, Select Marriages, 1660-1926
- U.S., Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Church Records, 1781-1969
- U. S. Federal Census
- U. S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current

Footnotes added by Earl Knutson:

- It is remarkable that Johannes achieved the status of charter member. He was only 17 years old at the time of chartering.
- Two older siblings, Sigrid (Mrs. Ivar Larson Gronseth) and Beret (Mrs. Kolbjorn Braaten) are also charter members and are written up in this collection.
- It is remarkable also that Johannes' parents, longtime residents of the Norway lake area, are not listed as charter members of either East or West Norway Lake Lutheran Church.