

John J Peterson¹, Charter Member West Norway Lake Lutheran

Johannes Johansen was born 1 April 1855 to Johan Magnus Pedersen [24 Aug 1818-13 Aug 1910] and Ingeborg Anna Hansdatter [16 Dec 1818-24 Nov 1908] in Nord-Rana, Nordland, Norway. He was the oldest of two children. His sister Christine Mathea Johansdatter was born 14 Sept 1862.

Johannes was 11 when he emigrated with his family in 1866. They left Trondheim on June 2nd on the bark Telegraph. They arrived in Quebec, Canada on July 22nd.

After a short stay in Goodhue County the family moved to Norway Lake Township. His father Johan Magnus or John M. homesteaded 160 acres in Section 29 in addition to purchasing 40 acres in Section 20.

Johannes was confirmed in the old log church by the Rev. L.J. Harkhus on 10 Sept 1871.

Johannes married Mary Sagadalen on 11 May 1879. She was born 9 Nov 1860 in Rice County to Elling Christopherson Sagadalen and his first wife Ingeborg Pedersdatter. Her baptismal name was Mari Christopherson. The baptism was at the Holden Lutheran Church in Goodhue County. The family moved to Arctander Township in 1865 as homesteaders.

Johannes and Mari had 8 children, 6 of them survived to adulthood:

1. Anna Ingeborg, born 14 July 1879, died 25 June 1952, married Elling Tollefsrud
2. Johanna Marie, born 14 July 1888, died 1954, married Henry Swenson
3. Elling Julius, born 15 Dec 1890, died 1 Aug 1980, married Mima Mathilda "Mollie" Jorgens
4. John Malvin, born 3 Dec 1893, died 20 April 1965, married Emma
5. Inger Eline, born 6 ay 1899, died 9 Aug 1973, married John Vik/Wick
6. Ingvald Cornelius, born 5 Nov 1901, died 9 July 1993, single

His children would have attended District 59 school on the family homestead.

Johannes Johansen gradually became John J Peterson. He added substantially to his father's original holdings. By 1886 he had purchased 80 acres in Section 19. 1900 plat map shows the addition of 40 acres in Section 20. He adds 140 acres in Section 28 contiguous to original homestead in Section 29 by 1915. Also by 1915 was the purchase of 120 acres in Section 5.

Mary Peterson passed away Thursday May 12, 1927. The cause of death was pneumonia, a contributing factor being cardio-renal disease. Funeral services were held May 16 at West Norway Lake Lutheran and burial was in the church cemetery. Rev. H. E. Baalson presided.

Johannes Johansen or John J lived another 9 years. He died July 2, 1936 of acute bronchitis complicated by pleurisy and cancer in the gastric area. He was 81 years of age. Funeral services were held July 6th at West Norway Lake Lutheran and burial was in the church cemetery. The Rev. H.E. Baalson again presided .

John J Peterson's parents John Peterson and Ingeborg Anna were also charter members of West Norway Lake Lutheran Church, and have a separate page in this collection.

Sources:

- Kandiyohi County Historical Association
- Family Search
- Norway Heritage
- My Heritage
- Ancestry.com

Written by Carole Heimdahl

1 Editor's note: It is quite remarkable that Johannes was listed as a charter member, since he was a 20-year old single man at the time of chartering. Therefore, his wife is not included as a charter member.