

## **Johan S. Rosland and Cecilie Georgine Abrahamsdatter Charter members East Norway Lake**

Johan Sievertson was born 19 May 1831 in Sokndal Parish, Sokndal local parish Rogaland, Norway. His parents were Sievert Simonson and Elizabeth Larsdatter of Øvre Rægeland.

Johan married Cecilie Georgine Abrahamsdatter 7 Nov 1861 in Sokndal, Sokndal local parish Rogaland, Norway. Cecilie was born 23 Sept 1867 to Abraham Verngren and Guri Hjertine Haagensdatter of Urdal.

Johan and Cecilie had 2 children in Norway: August Gerhard born 28 April 1862 and Sine Elizabeth born 15 Feb 1866.

Johan made a trip to America [possibly his first] in 1866. He left Stavanger May 3rd on the Bark Hercules as Johan Sivertsen Rægeland and arrived in Quebec June 7<sup>th</sup>. He was traveling alone. This is the earliest trip I could find a record of. According to notes added to this trip in Norway Heritage by his great grandson he made 13 crossings. He referred to Johan as adventuresome and restless.

He returned in 1872 with his family. They signed out of the Sokndal Parish 30 May 1872, Johan as Johan Sivertson Rosland. In addition to his wife and 2 children his mother-in-law Guri Haagensdatter traveled with them. They traveled on the ship St Olaf which left Bergen and arrived 1 July 1872 in New York. He is listed on the passenger manifest as John Rosland, nationality American.

The family settled in Arctander Township on land he purchased in Section 17. 113.92 acres in [SW1/4 and SE ¼ of NE ¼] and about 19 acres adjoining in Section 16 on the shores of West Lake. He also had a woodlot in Section 5 or 6 in lake Andrew Township. The 1900 plat map shows that land has been sold and they are living on 40 acres in section 21[NW1/4 of NW ¼].

Their son August Gerhard returned to Norway to live after 1880. He married Kristine Olausdatter 17 Dec 1885 in Rogaland, Norway. Sine also married in 1885 to Iver Iverson and had one son Julius Urians in 1886. She died in 1890 and is buried in the West Lake [Nannestad] cemetery.

John returned from a trip to Norway 17 June 1894, destination Willmar. There are also border crossing records into Illinois for a John S. Roslund in 1893 and 1895. Both he and Cecile returned to Rosland, Norway possibly in 1899. The 1900 Norwegian census places them in Rosland store, Sokndal, Rogaland Norway. They are living with their son, his wife and 3 children.

John returns to America alone in 1903, arriving in Montreal, Quebec on the Canada 9 July 1903. He died suddenly Aug 16, 1903 of heart trouble while walking around the house where he was staying in Arctander Township. He was buried after services in the East Norway Lake Cemetery

Cecilie remained in Norway and passed away there 3 Nov 1906.

John and Cecilie wrote their will in Norway. It was signed 13 Nov 1902 at Egersund, Norway. The surviving spouse to receive everything to use as they saw fit. They asked that their wishes be respected by their heirs, namely son August Johansen Rosland and daughters son Julius Urian Iverson. After both deaths granddaughter Sine Jorgine Augustsdatter and grandson Julius Urian Iverson were each to receive 1000 crowns first. Then the remainder of the estate to be divided among the heirs according to law.

The fact that the will was written in Norway caused some consternation in Willmar when it was filed here for probate according to an article in the Republican Gazette 31 Mar 1904. Which law Norwegian or American?

Written by Carole Heimdahl

### Sources

- Kandiyohi County Historical Association – newspaper articles
- Ancestry.com
- Digital arkviet- birth , marriage and emigration records
- My Heritage Family Trees
- Norway Census 1900
- NorwayHeritage- 1866 passage

Footnote- Cecilie's younger sister Anna emigrated in 1862. She married John Georgeson in Wisconsin in 1866. The family moved to Arctander Township and purchased land in sec 16 in 1870. Did Johan and Cecilie come to Arctander to join them or had he purchased land on an earlier trip ? Guri Haagensdatter , the mother of Cecilie and Anna lived with Anna after she came to America.