

## **John J Steberg and Marit Simensdatter, Charter members East Norway Lake Church**

John Johnson was born 10 Nov 1842 In Fron Parish, Sor-Fron local parish, Oppland Norway to John Larsson Steberg and Marit Olsdatter.

He left for America according to census records in 1866. A John Johansen, age 25, sailed on the Bark Vidfarne from Trondheim to Quebec May 26 to July 6, 1866. This could possibly be John.

According to Festskrift he arrived in Goodhue County in 1866 and Norway Lake in 1869.

John married Marit Simensdatter 12 Dec 1870 in the Norway Lake Church.

Marit was born 12 Dec 1834 also in Fron Parish, Sor-Fron local parish, Oppland, Norway. Her parents were Simon Amundsen Tofte and Goro Olsdatter. Marit left the parish for America 18 Feb 1867. She first settled in Black River Falls, Wisconsin with relatives and then Norway Lake.

A 1969 newspaper article stated the couple journeyed from Goodhue County together in a covered wagon pulled by a team of oxen. Their home for the first 5 years was a dugout. They homesteaded 80 acres in Arctander Township in sec 32 [Se ½ of SW1/4]. John was issued title to his land 30 Mar 1880. By 1886 they had also purchased land adjoining in Mamre Township, Sec 5 55.34 acres in NW1/2 of NW ¼ and 40 acres in SW ½ of NW ¼.

Marit and John had 5 children. All were baptized at the Norway Lake church.

1. Ludvig Magnus: born 10 May 1871, died 25 July 1918, married Alma nelson, no children
2. Selmer Gustav: born 4 Dec 1872, died 20 April 1956, married Emma Anderson, 6 children
3. Jessi Milvin: born 3 June 1874, died 15 Sept 1874
4. Jesse Alfred: born 24 Mai 1877, died 1891
5. Melvin Oscar: born 20 Sept 1875, died 28 April 1879

John has adopted the last name Steberg from his place of birth as early as the 1875 census although he homesteaded as John Johnson.

John died 25 Nov 1904 at St. Barnabas Hospital in Minneapolis. His was the first interment in the West lake Cemetery in Sunburg. In addition to being a charter member of East Norway Lake in 1875 he was also, in 1903, a charter member of West Lake Lutheran.

Marit passed away 17 Mar 1910 at the age of 75 after a long illness. She was also buried at the West Lake cemetery.

Selmer took over the family farm. In the 1969 newspaper article two Of Selmer's sons Bennie and Lawrence were the current owners. Ludvig Magnus was a businessman and store owner in Pennock at the time of his death. He had been one of the first butter makers at the Norway Lake Creamery at the turn of the century.

Written by Carole Heimdahl. January 2020

### Sources

- Kandiyohi County Historical Association- obituaries, death certificates and the newspaper article from 1969 " Immigrants from Goodhue County Came by Ox Cart" by Marv Edstrom
- Norway Heritage
- Digitalarkviet- birth records and emigration records
- Ancestry Public member Trees
- 1886 Plat Maps
- US Land Office records