Joel Myklebust

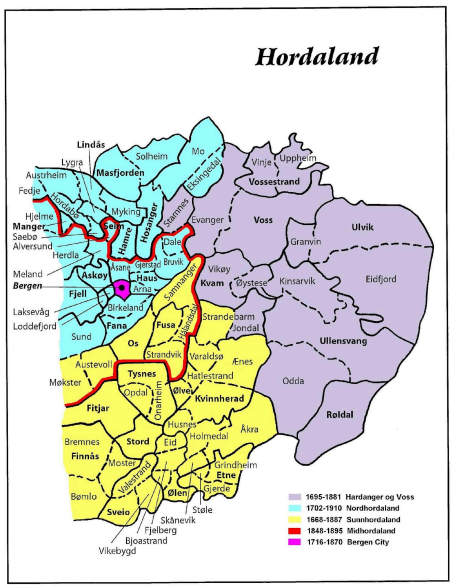




Paternal Grandparents

Samson Samsonsen Myklebust
Born: 30 Sep 1875, Myklebust, Kvinnherad, Hordaland, Norway
Father: Samson Samsonsen (Stueland) Myklebust
Mother: Margrete Nilsdatter Myklebust

Alis (Alice) Anette Gjertsdatter Fjellandsbøl
Born: 23 Apr 1882 Haugland, Kvinnherad, Hordaland, Norway
Father: Gjert Gjertsen Friheim Sandvik
Mother: Martha Johnsdatter Fjellandsbøl



Hordaland county (third largest in Norway by population) showing probate jurisdictions and the relevant time frames. (picture from familysearch.org)

Kvinnherad is located in the eastern part of Sunnhordland.

Sam originally emigrated at the age of 16 in June,1892. He went to America with his sister Sella, his uncle Jens, Jens' wife Sigrid, and 6 children. Sam worked on farms in Illinois and Iowa for several years, becoming an American citizen in 1898. He returned to Norway in 1898 and went into the commercial fishing business with his brother Gjert.

Alice was born on the Haugland farm, but the family subsequently moved to Friheim on the Fjellandsbøl farm. After completing school, she worked as a tjenestepige (serving girl) on the nedre Fedt farm and learned to cook for large groups.

Sam and Alice were married on 17 April 1903 and left for America from Bergen on 21 April 1903 by way of Liverpool (departing 29 April) on the Teutonic. They sailed with Sam's sister Sella, her husband Thomas Stueland and their 3 children.

After arriving in America, they worked on a farm in Calamus, Iowa for two years. They subsequently bought a farm near Jasper, Minnesota then moved to another farm near Trosky Minnesota in the southwestern corner of Minnesota in 1918. According to a family publication on their 50th wedding anniversary in 1953, Sam "…was one of the first farmers to raise certified potatoes, to do tractor farming, to sponsor farm agents and to help build a potato warehouse…". Sam and Alice raised 8 children on this farm before retiring in 1943 to Jasper Minnesota.

Sam and Alice believed strongly in education and all of the children received some advanced education. Two of the children, Bertha and Joseph (my dad), were deaf. Sam and Alice became very interested in the deaf community and held an annual picnic attended by deaf people from far and near. Two of the children (Arthur and Helmer) and many in subsequent generations became heavily involved in deaf education and research. Arthur was superintendent of the South Dakota school for the Deaf for many years. Helmer developed an international reputation for research in deafness, speech and language, and learning disabilities.

Children:
Signe Marie Haraldson (1904-1996), Martha Gurina Williams(1905-1986), Bertha Judith Larson (1906-1984), Arthur Sigvald (1908-1978), Helmer Rudolph (1910-2008), Louisa Leonora (1912-1985), Esther Lillian Simonson (1916-2006), and Joseph Berner (1917-1985).

Sam died on Christmas day, December 25, 1956 in Jasper Minnesota. Alice died on June 10, 1974 in Jasper. Both are buried in Jasper, Minnesota.

I have many wonderful memories of visiting the big house on the first corner in Jasper, Minnesota. Grandma Alice was a great cook; I especially remember the lefse. Her brother Gjert, who we knew as Great-Uncle George, lived in the house after he retired. George was a member of Sons of Norway and had Norwegian language newspapers. Although I had no clue how to read Norwegian, he got a huge kick out of having me reading the papers to him.