

Editor's Note

TORLEIF S. KNAPHUS, gifted sculptor of Norway, was baptized as a convert in 1903, at the age of twenty-one. Relinquishing a promising career in his native land, he came to Utah. His rare talents have since been devoted to producing for his Church such well-known sculptures as "Handcart Pioneers," on Temple Square, the statue of the Angel Moroni on Hill Cumorah, and a new statue of the Angel Moroni delivering the plates of the Book of Mormon to the Prophet.

In another line, he is equally distinguished. He is the happy possessor of a pedigree chart of mammoth proportions, one of the finest in the Church, linking him up with many grandfathers on many lines.

The story of those forefathers he tells in the accompanying article.



I have been engaged in genealogical work for over forty-five years and am grateful for the success I have obtained. At the beginning of my search I knew only of my four grandparents. I had also heard of two of my great-grandparents. Now, through the help of the genealogists Jens Jensen and John Dalsbo, my friend Berge Velde of Oslo, my wife, and my brother Andrew, I have on record the names of 442 grandparents on my direct lineage, connecting me with some forefathers who lived more than six hundred years ago.

In all my research I have used the greatest care and have checked and rechecked every link and every lineage to make sure that no mistake has occurred. This work was made more difficult because the church books I needed to consult were burned in 1789.

As a result of this search, I find that my love has been extended to every one on this large record, just as if all were members of my living family. I have used the utmost care to record their names correctly and to attend to their temple work.

My father's paternal line goes through many changes of surnames to one Knut Haaland or Ronda Aetten, Erfjord, Norway. He was known primarily for his great wealth. He was born about the year 1500. His son Olaf had a son Alf Olafsen Shefton who married Engeborg, a daughter of Elling Simonsen, the Lutheran minister of Finnoy who assisted Bishop Jorgen Eriksen in the reformation to the Lutheran faith. This Alf Olafsen Shefton, my sixth great-grandfather, received as part of his inherit-



Jorgen Eriksen, Bishop of Stavanger, Norway, often called the "Martin Luther of Norway."

ance the great estate called *Eike in Vats*. Here he made his home, and thereafter the estate was called *Alfsike* in his honor; and *Alfsike* became the surname of the family.

My third great-grandfather on this line was Severt Alfsen Alfsike. He married Astred, a granddaughter of the humorist, Olaf Gunnerson Torsdal, the Lutheran minister of Vats and Skjold. The latter was the son of another Lutheran minister, Gunner Michelsen, and grandson of still another minister, Michel Pedersen, born about 1530, my seventh great-grandfather.

All of the ancestors of Severt Alfsen Alfsike are also progenitors of Bertha Madison, wife of Joseph Smith III of the Reorganized Church, and of their two sons, Frederick Madison Smith, late president, and Israel Alexander Smith, presi-

My

dent of the Reorganized Church. I am third cousin to Bertha Madison Smith, as shown by the chart which follows:



The information I have gathered on the genealogy of this family should be of interest to the Smith descendants. In 1929 Mary Audentia Smith Anderson, daughter of Bertha Madison, wrote and published a volume on the genealogy of her grandparents under the title, *Ancestry and Posterity of Joseph Smith and Emma Hale*, in which she wrote on her Madison line:



Daniel Jorgensen, Pastor of the Church in Hjelme-land for 32 years.

It is a matter of deep regret to her descendants that so little is obtainable concerning the ancestry of Bertha (Madison) Smith. In Norway, where her parents were born, doubtless there would be opportunities for extending the research to a period farther back than that of which we now have knowledge.

The difficulties of family research in THE IMPROVEMENT ERA

Grandparents

By Torleif S. Knaphus

Norway are increased by the peculiar customs there of naming people after the farms or estates upon which they live, and of using for the surname of a child, his father's Christian name with the addition of "son," in case of a boy, and "datter" in the case of a girl. . . In Norway Mads Madison's name was *Mads Ache*, Ache being the name of the farm upon which he lived.

It is gratifying to me to know

great-grandparents, *Lendsman* Johanes Osmundsen Stoka and his wife, Brynela Knudsen, and their many children, has hung in the church at Vats for over three hundred years. They were a God-fearing and interesting family. A photograph of this painting was recently made by my relative, Elder Enoch Wayne Russon.



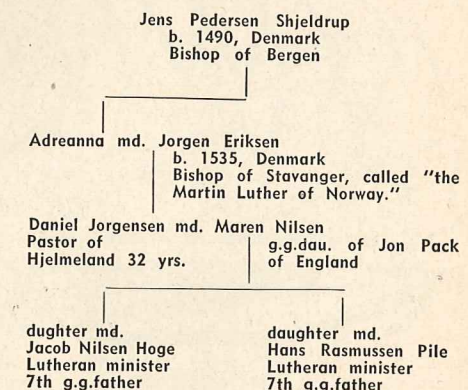
The large family of Johanes Osmundsen Stoka and Brynela Knudsen, 8th great-grandparents of Torleif S. Knaphus.

that her ancestors, as well as mine, have now been traced so far back.

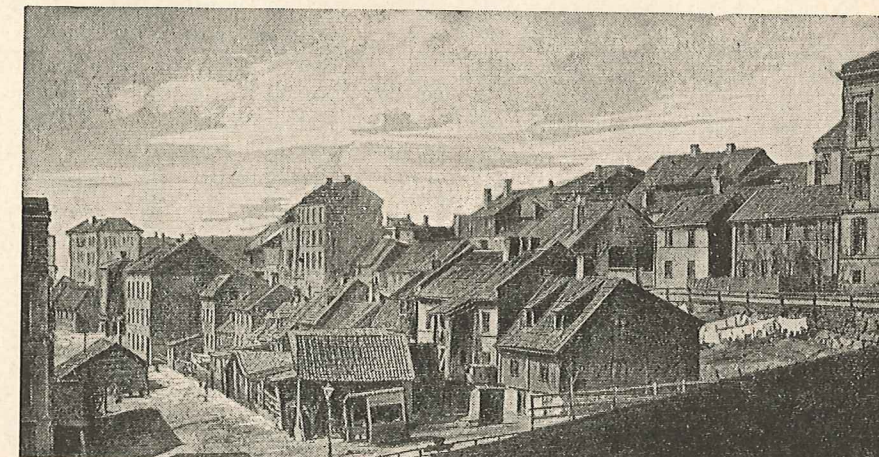
On the island of Ombo in Rogaland, Norway, lies an old estate called Aukland. This was the home of my maternal ancestors for many generations, back to my 14th great-grandfather, Tolak Aukland, born about 1360. This family was of local prominence, its leaders being called *Drotter* or country chiefs. Their history was written on sheepskins and was kept in a steel vault in Aukland. My eighth great-grandfather, *Lagretzman* John Jonsen Totland, was honored as a young man of thirty-one years by being selected as the representative of Rogaland to attend the coronation of King Christian IV, in the year 1591. His wife, Karen Aagesen Nesa, belonged to another prominent family of Rogaland, tracing back to Arnbjorn, born about 1295.

An oil painting of my eighth JANUARY 1951

famous Jorgen Eriksen, bishop of Stavanger, often called the "Martin Luther of Norway." He was born in Hederslev, Denmark, in 1535. This marriage produced my eighth great-grandfather, Daniel Jorgensen, a very good and much beloved man. He was Lutheran pastor in Hjelme-land for thirty-two years. An oil painting of him and his wife is hanging in the church of Hjelme-land to this day. His wife, Maren Nilsen, was a great-granddaughter of Jon Pack, born in England in 1490, who became the first book printer in Norway. He married a Norwegian girl, whose ancestors trace back to 1380. My two seventh great-grandfathers, Jacob Nilsen Hoge and Hans Rasmussen Pile were both sons-in-law to Daniel Jorgensen and Maren Nilsen, and were both Lutheran ministers.



It will also be of interest to mention my third great-grandparents, Bjorn Johannesen Egeland and Sofia Larsen, who lived in married life sixty-nine years and had twenty children—ten boys and ten girls—all of whom reached maturity and were respectable people in their community.



The picturesque city of Christiania (now Oslo), Norway, where the first headquarters of the Church for the Norwegian branch of the Scandinavian Mission was established.