

MY GRANDPARENTS

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 fourteenth great-grandfather, Tolak Aukland, born about 1360. These people were of local prominence, were Drotter and called Country Chiefs. Their history was written on sheepskins and kept in a steel vault in Aukland. Intermarried with this people is the Totland and Foss Aitken.

My eighth great-grandfather, Lagretsman Jon Jonsen Totland, had the honor as a young man of thirty years of being selected as the representative from Rogaland to attend the crowning of King Christian the IV in the year 1591. His wife was Karen Aagesen Nesa of another prominent family in Rogaland, whose ancestors I have back to Eivind Arnbjornsen of Caali Aitten, born about 1406.

I will also mention my eighth great-grandparents, Lensman Johannes Osmundsen Stoka and Brynela Knudsen, a very rich, God-fearing and interesting family. An oil painting of them with their many children has hung in the Church of Vats for 350 years.

My mother's paternal line, I have back to Amund Ile, born about 1460, and said to be of old nobility on Byre and Sponhime Hardanger. His son, Arnjorn, was the first lensman in Vats and his grandson, Amund Arnbjornsen, who is my eighth great-grandfather was Legretsman for Rogaland. Other lines I have back to Lars Knudsen Hoganvike, Lensman of Vikedel and Lauets Hunsid was Legretsman of Rogaland.

My father's maternal line brings the clergy into our lines. Jen Pederson Shjeldrup, Bishop of Bergen, born Shjeldrup Gylland, Denmark, in 1490, is my tenth great-grandfather on this line. His daughter, Adreanna, married the famous Jorgen Eriksen, Bishop of Stavanger, born in Hederslev, Denmark, in 1535, and often called the Martin Luther of Norway, as he most wisely and effectively established the Lutheran faith

in Norway.

This marriage produced my eighth great-grandfather, Daniel Jorgensen, a very good and beloved man. He was the Lutheran Minister and Prost in Hjelmeland for thirty-two years. An oil painting of him and his wife, Maren Nilsen, is hanging in the Church of Hjelmeland to this day. His wife, Maren Nilsen, was a great-granddaughter of Jon Jonsen Pack, born in England in 1490 and who was the first book-printer in Norway.

Jon Jonsen Pack's wife was Tala Paulsen, of Tonsberg, whose ancestors I have back to 1380. Maren Nilsen was also a great-granddaughter of Olaf Holk, Mayor of Tonsberg, born in Flenberg, Denmark, in 1485.

I will also mention my two seventh great-grandfathers, Jacob Nilsen Hoge and Hans Rasmussen Piel. Both were Lutheran Ministers and both were sons-in-law to Daniel Jorgensen, Prost of Hjelmeland. Jacob Nilsen Hoge's father, Nils Jacobsen Hoge, was the Mayor of Stavanger.

The first son of Hans Rasmussen Piel was born seven months after wedlock, and as a result of this he lost his high position as the Lutheran Minister of Hjelmeland, and he called his son "Expensive Rasmus".

Through the wife of Samuel Piel, the second son of Hans Ramussen Piel, our lineage goes back to Ostin Jonsen Raadmand of Stavanger and Torger Opsal, whose lineage goes back to Eivin Sigursen, of Foss Aetten, born about 1345.

Another seventh great-grandfather was Sten Sivertsen Jelsa. He was a very quarrelsome man. Much is said and written of his many quarrels and court procedures, mostly against the Lutheran Minister of Jelsa. He was Lensman in Jelsa.

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

My father's direct paternal line I have back to Knut Haaland, of Ronda Aetten, born Erford Norway about 1500, mostly known for his great wealth. His son, Olaf, lagretsman of Rogaland, married Gudrund, a daughter of Sebjorn Toresen Talga, through whom my ancestors I have back to Orm Sigurdsen Maage, who is my eighteenth great-grandfather, born about 1280.

Olaf Knutsen Haaland's son, Alf Olafson Sheftun, who is my sixth great-grandfather on my direct paternal line, married Ingeborg, a daughter of Elling Simonsen, the Lutheran Minister of Finoy, who assisted Bishop Jorgen Eriksen in the reformation to the Lutheran faith in Norway.

More recent in this line is my third great-grandfather, Severt Alfisen Alfseike. His wife was Astred, a great-granddaughter of Guner Michelsen, the Lutheran Minister in Skold and Vats, my home parish. His father was Michel Pedersen, the first Lutheran Minister in Skold and Prost of Stavanger.

*Written by my father
J. S. Knaphus*