

The cover

The family/lineage of Gamst and Gaare

in Rotsund and Rotsundelv

Taken from work prepared by Andreas Gamst with special emphasis on the descendants of Andreas Bernhardt Gamst and wife, Emma Rosea, born Gaare.

(line under photo reads:)

Theodor Kristian Gamst and wife, Anne-Lise, born Berg
in front of their house in Rotsund in 1902.



Solvig Tonsberg

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PREFACE

Ever since my childhood I have been interested in information regarding my family, including both Gamst and the Gaare side. I was quite young when I became involved with Skjaervø Savings Bank at Havnes and I often spent time in the evenings to take note on my typewriter what I had learned from information via word-of-mouth and/or "stuff" of interest that I had been able to obtain. From my notes dating back to that time I find information that I had listed from a small booklet "Summary of Skjervø Churchrecords, 1748-1814" by Axel Hagermann of Tromsø 1892.

From the above source also I have had much help from Leonhard Gamst's book, "Loppa Island and the family Gamst."

In 1967, Major Thorbein Gamst wrote a small booklet, "Gamst family- an addition to the family history," and also I have found information that has lightened my work load in gathering information to record family history.

I am thankful for and appreciate all my mother, Emma, has given, not only in telling me personally, but in what she has written about our family and including other family tree branching. Such information as I have received and gathered in this type of work has been of much help. Julius Gamman, a teacher, and brother of Margith Hoaas of Rotsundelv has also sent me information of and about the Gaare family that I have included in this book.

This book is not intended as a complete census/accounting and I have therefor mostly to a certain extent limited the research to our own family branch on the father's and mother's side.

I hope that this work can be of value to new generations who will have some interest in learning more of family "roots" and can build for the future on information found here.

Rotsund, March 2002

Family Name Gamst

From a connection/union with Denmark, came an extended citizen-relationship to Norway, especially in the years 1600 and 1700. The reason for this being the steady/ongoing conflicts with Sweden, and after the return trips of our own military following 1628, the officers issued a high total of immigrants who moved to Norway. But these people also included other types such as business men, builders, buyers and the like who were fast settlers in the Norwegian lands and for the most part in the area of business districts in Bergen and Nidaros/Trondhjem. Mixed in with these folks was the family-Gamst, a group who settled near Trondheim in the early 1600s. The name is registered as the area of Gamst in south-Jylland near the town of Vejen, located about midway between Esbjerg and Kolding.

The Family Gamst in North Norway

The family ancestor in North Norway is parish pastor for Loppen, later a dean in West Finland, Torben Reiersen Gamst. He came from Trondhjem's schooling in June 1644 and was accepted into the University in København (Copenhagen) the same year. He came to Loppa in 1651 as chapel leader. In 1674 he was named parish pastor and later elected a dean in West Finland.

Torben Reiersen Gamst born about 1610. Died at Loppa in 1695.

Married Gunelle Pedersdaughter Arctander.

Their children:

- a. Peter Torbensen Arctander born 1652 died 1700
- b. Margrete Torbensdaughter died about 1719. Married to Søren Pedersen Gamst
- c. Agnete Torbensdaughter
- d. Rebekka Torbensdaughter
- e. Giertrud Torbensdaughter
- f. Marlene Torbensdaughter
- g. Karen Torbensdaughter

Søren Pedersen Gamst married to Margrethe Torbensdaughter

He also came from Jylland at a young age to Loppa where he married the pastor's daughter Margrethe. It is supposed that there was a family connection with the pastor - Torben Gamst and Søren Pedersen Gamst. He was a businessman/merchant at Loppa.

Re: Søren Pedersen Gamst

Their children:

- a. Torben Sørensen Gamst born 1682 died 1769
Moved to Djupvik in Lyngen and is considered as ancestor to
Skjervøy branch 1 of the family.
- b. Peder Sørensen Gamst married Margrethe Pedersdaughter
- c. Reier Sørensen Gamst born 1684 died 1756 married Karen Tomasdaughter
Arild
- d. Søren Sørensen Gamst
- e. Henrik Sørensen Gamst
- f. Hans Sørensen Gamst died 1758 married to Kirsten Nilsdaughter
- g. Knut Sørensen Gamst
- h. Anne Catrine Sørensdughter
- i. Jørgen Sørensen Gamst born 1695 died March 14, 1757
see page 3 for continued data on Jørgen

Jørgen Sørensen Gamst, born 1695 is considered the ancestor for Skjervøy branch 2 of the family. He was the first (literally) merchant at Alteidet and began this about the year 1730. He moved to Valan in Skjervøy in 1740. Anders Rasch of Rotsund operated the business at Alteidet until about 1770. Then ownership of the business was taken by Johan Petter Gamst a son of Jørgen Sørensen Gamst. He operated the business until about 1810 when his son, Morten Gamst took it over. When Morten died the business was sold to Pihlfeldt and again in 1849 was sold to Peder Borch Giaever.

Jørgen Sørensen Gamst married Birgitte Hansdaughter Kaaby (of Danish Pastor's family)
Their children:

- a. Hans Henrik Gamst born 1731
- b. Søren Jørgensen Gamst born 1733
- c. Johan Petter Jørgensen Gamst born 1736
- d. Alet Eline Gamst born ?

Johan Petter Jørgensen Gamst Married 1. Trine Mortensdaughter Heggelund
2. Marianne Stenichen

Their children:

- a. Margrethe Heggelund Gamst born 1771
- b. Hans Petter Gamst born 1771
- c. Hellebor Margrethe Gamst born 1772
- d. Morten Heggelund Gamst born 1774
- e. Jørgen Heggelund Gamst born 1776
- f. Birgitte Heggelund Gamst born 1781
- g. Jørgen Gamst born 1782
- h. Jens Chr. Stabrun Gamst born 1785
- i. Margrethe Gamst born 1785

Jørgen Gamst born 1782 married Inger Margrethe Røde

Their children:

- a. Johan Petter Gamst born 1812

Johan Petter Gamst married Martina Eilertsdaughter

Their children:

- a. Eilert Gamst born 1842
- b. Olaus Gamst born 1843
- c. Johan Gamst born 1852
- d. Martha Gamst born ?
- e. Jørgine Gamst born ? married Jens Kaspersen, Parents to Karl Kaspersen, Oldina Kaspersen, Johanna Kaspersen and Mette Henriksen

Olaus Gamst married Serine Larsen from West-Uløy

Their children:

- a. Agnes Gamst born February 3, 1896 died June 26, 1964
Married Peder Gaare of Rotsundelv
- b. Larsine Gamst born ?
Married Bernt Vikeland of Kvedfjord
- c. Olidia Gamst born ?
Married Einar Hansen of Skognes - Maursund
- d. Anna Gamst born ?
Married Nordhus of Hammerfest

Skjervøy - Branch 1

Torben Sørensen Gamst born 1682 on Loppa. Died 1769. Moved to Djupvik in Lyngen where he operated a store from about 1740. He was married the first time to Trine Rasmusdaughter Oderup. Three children were born to this union:

- a. Thomas Torbensen Gamst born 1722. A mayor in Skjervøy from the year 1762.
- b. Margrethe Torbensdaughter Gamst born 1725. Married Morten Mortensen Heggelund.
- c. Rasmus Torbensen Gamst born 1727.

The second marriage was with Abel Cathrine Danefaer. 8 children were born to this couple as follows:

- d. Søren Torbensen Gamst born 1736 died 1802. Married Alet Cathrine Kiil who was born in 1700.
- e. Alexander Torbensen Gamst
- f. Hans Torbensen Gamst
- g. Domisielle Trine Torbensdaughter Gamst married Olaus Holmgren of Vorterøy
- h. Elen Torbensdaughter Gamst married Rasmus Clemetsen Oderup.
- i. Marta Torbensdaughter Gamst
- j. Sidsel Torbensdaughter Gamst
- k. Holger Torbensen Gamst

The last two children died in 1759 of small-pox in the big small-pox epidemic that struck in 1758 and 1759.

Thomas Torbensen Gamst born 1722 married Marta Einarsdaughter

Their children:

- a. Torben Thomassen Gamst born 1758 died 1759
- b. Torben Thomassen Gamst born 1761 died October 10, 1828
married Marit Thomasdaughter Darre.
- c. Abel Chatrine Thomasdaughter born 1763 married Christian Arild of Ravelseidet
- d. Holger Danefaer Gamst born 1765 Married Anne Katrine Henningsdaughter
- e. Hans Einarus Gamst born 1769

Torben Thomassen Gamst married Marit Thomasdaughter Darre born, 1757 died 1833.

Their children:

- a. Marta Torbensdaughter Gamst born July 20, 1789
- b. Thomas Alexander Gamst born 1794 married Anne Grethe Borch of Koppangen
- c. Hans Andreas Gamst born 1798
- d. Olaus Gamst born July 14, 1801 married Johanne Marie Taarvik of Molde

Thomas Alexander Gamst born 1794 died October 8, 1878

Married Anne Grethe Borch of Koppangen in Lyngen. Born 1799..died August 22, 1886. Thomas was also known as Tommes and lived in Rotsund. Their children:

- a. Dortha Thomasdaughter Gamst born 1819
First marriage to Olaus Olsen of Rotsund
Second marriage to Christian Arild of Ravelseidet
- b. Martha Thomasdaughter Gamst born 1822
Married Lars Henriksen of Nordreisa
- c. Hansine Thomasdaughter Gamst born 1826
Married first to Nikolay Olsen of Rotsund born 1818
Married second time - Anton Thomassen of Ravelseidet
- d. Thomas Anton Alexander Gamst born 1829
Married Kristine Sommer of Trondheim born March 25, 1826
- e. Jeremine (Mina) Thomasdaughter Gamst born 1833
Married Mikal Henriksen of Nordreisa born in 1835
- f. Thora Thomasdaughter Gamst born 1839
Married Andreas Kiil of Dypvik..his 3rd marriage - no children
- g. Torben Thomassen Gamst born 1825..died at sea in 1839.

Thomas Anton Alexander Gamst born 1829 died 1913

Married Kristine Sommer, born March 25, 1826. She was a daughter of a storekeeper, Christian Sommer in Trondheim from the Sommer family at Røros. Thomas took over the place at North Rotsund from his father. This ownership reaches over a big area which today is from Mettelven in the south to the lower Tverrelv in Rotsunddalen. He did farming and fishing. During his life much of the large land area was sold in various sizes as well as divided among the children who are listed as:

- a. Augusta Gamst born 1853 married in Trondheim..the ancestral mother to much of the family relations there.
- b. Andreas Bernhard Gamst born 1858 died in Finland July 19, 1873
- c. Theodor Kristian Gamst born February 7, 1857 at Rotsund died May 8, 1919. Married Anne-Lise Berg of Djupvik who was born May 20, 1864...died May 22, 1947.
- d. Jens Severin Halden Gamst born August 12, 1862 died November 9, 1935 Married Susanna Nilsen who was born June 10, 1863 died December 9, 1941
- e. Thorbein Nicolai Gamst born August 22, 1864 died December 8, '33 Married Marie Schrøder of Tromsø born 4/7/1861 died 8/13/1936
- f. Petra Gamst born 10/10/1867 died 12/9/1939
Married Mathis Nilsen of Rotsund born 8/10/1865 and died 7/25/192

Theodor Kristian Gamst Born 2/7/1857 died 5/8/1919

Married Anne-Lise Berg of Djupvik a daughter of Vallentin Berg who was born in 1820 and his wife Marie Karoline Johnsdaughter born in 1826 a daughter of Johannes Pojanen born in Tornea, Sweden.

Their children:

- a. Andreas Bernardt Gamst born 8/10/1884
Married Emma Rosea Gaare
- b. Augusta Gamst born 3/8/1886
Married first to Albert Gamst in Loppa
Second marriage to Andreas Frostad at Balsfjord
- c. Wallentin Karolius Gamst born 3/8/1888
Married Emma Edvardsen at Bankekeila
- d. Nikoline (Lina) Charlotte Gamst born 2/16/1890
Married Hagen Klæbo of Trondheim
- e. Thomas Anton Alexander Gamst born 3/13/1892 Never married
- f. Johanna Gamst born 5/8/1894 Never married
- g. Anny Gamst born 6/29/1896
First marriage to Kristian Jaeger of Narvik
Second marriage to Einar Andersen of Kløfta
- h. Therese Gamst born 5/23/1898
Married Henrik Mathisen of Rotsund
- i. Otto William Gamst born 3/21/1902
Married Gunda Larsen of Alta
- j. Asta Bergljot Gamst born 1904
Married Andreas Gullholm of Kvedfjord
- k. Alfhild Synnøve Gamst born 1906 married Iversen of Alta
- l. Kristine Dorthea Gamst born 1909
Married Kristian Høgli of Sørreisa

Jens Severin Halden Gamst born August 12, 1862 died November 9, 1935

Married Susanna Nilsen who was born June 10, 1863...died Dec. 9, 1941
Their children:

- a. Karla Gamst born 6/6/1889 died 8/26/1984 in Oslo, not married
- b. Nikoline (Nikka) born 6/19/1893 died 3/31/1972
Married Godtlieb Bless of Vorterøy
- c. Astrid born 4/6/1897 died 4/24/1966
Married Oscar Haugan of Trondheim
- d. Jenny born 7/29/1899 died 8/24/1956
Married Hans Røen of Østfold
- e. Nils born 5/18/1886 died 9/2/1961
Married Dorthea Berg of Rotsund
- f. Aksel born 1/24/1888 died 8/5/1972
Married Jacobine Falck of Vorterøy
- g. Anton born 4/20/1891 married Ester Larsen of Oslo
- h. Ove born (not listed) married Ingrid Kristensen of Tromsø
- i. Leif born 11/28/1902 died 4/4/1960
Married Margit Gamst of Rotsund

Thorbein Nicolai Gamst born August 22, 1864 died December 8, 1931
Married Marie Schrøder of Tromsø

Their children:

- a. Elise Kristine born 4/22/1887 died 1/9/1954
Married Martin Rønning of Bergsfjord
- b. Thorleif M. born 5/22/1890 died 4/20/1913
Married Lydia Hansen of Nordreisa
- c. Anny Bergliot born 11/17/1891 died 12/13/1966
Married Isak Arøybukt in Lyngseidet
- d. Ludvik born 8/22/1893 died 2/22/1975
First marriage to Petra Tretten at Maursund
Second marriage to Solveig Dreyer of Kvesmenes
- e. Oscar born 2/18/1898 died 9/27/1974
Married Hjørdis Dreyer of Kvesmenes
- f. Haldis born 8/18/1903 died 3/6/1979
Married Jacob Jacobsen at Risøy

Petra Gamst Born October 10, 1867 died December 9, 1939

Married Mathis Nilssen born August 10, 1865 died July 25, 1929

Their children:

- a. Agnes born 4/3/1891 died 6/2/1974
Married Ingvald Gaare of Rotsundelv
- b. Margith born 4/14/1893 died 10/1/1918
Married Randor Gaare of Rotsundelv
- c. Thordis born 6/25/1902 died 2/14/1988
Married Johannes Nilssen of Rotsund
- d. Odd Arnold died as an infant
- e. Trygve born 3/21/1895 died 4/6/1972
Married Davida Arild of Rotsund
- f. Bertel born 9/12/1896 died 6/12/1980
Married Sara Bless of Vorterøy
- g. Johan born 3/27/1898 died 4/28/1988
Married Liv Fosnes of Sandland
- h. Jens born 10/6/1907 died 10/22/1993
Married Synnøve As Dreyer of Kvesmenes
- i. Nils born 7/18/1899 died 1/13/1984
Married Godtlieben Bless of Vorterøy
- j. Marinus born 9/10/1909 died 6/11/1984
Married Olaug Braastad of Nordreisa

Andreas Bernhard Gamst born February 10, 1884 died June 6, 1975

Married Emma Rosea Gaare of Rotsundelv born 4/1/1891 died 10/22/1976

Their children:

- a. Aase born 3/17/1913 died 7/1/1996
Married Ingvald Syrstad of Ravelseidet
- b. Theodor born 4/21/1915 died 7/31/1942
Married Mary Pedersen of Sørkjosen
- c. Edith born 2/12/1917
Married Thomas Sørgaard of Helgeland
- d. Margit born 2/12/1917
Married Leif Gamst of Rotsund
- e. Ingeborg born 11/1/1919
Married Einar Langhaug of Rotsund
- f. Magnus born 11/1/1921 died 4/11/1990
Married Borghild Wasmuth of Langnesbukta
- g. Andreas born 8/31/1923
Married Astrid Danielsen of Dyrøy
- h. Ottar born 4/22/1925 died 4/12/1996
Married Magnhild Nilssen of Dyrøy
- i. Asbjørn born 6/6/1930 died 12/24/1980
Married Asbjørg Eriksen of Djupvik

Augusta Gamst born March 8, 1886 died February 15, 1978. Married first with Albert Gamst of Loppa. Their children as follows:

- a. Alvin Gamst born 4/7/1921. Married Agot Isaksen of Rotsund. Second marriage to Andreas Frostad of Balsfjord..no children. Before her marriage with Albert Gamst..Augusta had a daughter Gunhild Wisthus born 1913..married Søreng..lived at Andenes.

Wallentin Karolius Gamst born March 8, 1888 died October 15, 1978

Married Emma Edvardsen of Bankekjeila..born 8/9/1895 died 9/30/1983

Their children:

- a. Thoralf born 7/14/1918
Married Astrid of Trondheim born 7/31/27
- b. Valborg (Tulla) born 3/25/1920 died 2/20/1999
Married Jermund Johansen of Bodin
- c. Torgun born 9/24/1921
Married Andor Joramo of Arnøyhamn
- d. Reidar born 1/30/1923
Married Alexandra Alsgard born 9/26/1925 in Vefsn
- e. Otto born 2/17/1925 died 1/29/1999
Married Elisif Jakobsen born 9/26/1923 in Hasvik
- f. Fritz born 5/20/1926 died 4/26/1995
Married Johanne Berg born 4/23/1931 in Rotsund
- g. Snefrid born 5/25/1928
Married Henning Svendsen..Husby, Helgeland
- h. Ernst born 11/29/1929
Married Ellis Nilssen born 4/2/1934 in Rotsund
- i. Elrid born 11/15/1931
Married Einar Bersvendsen of Rotsundelv
- j. Liv born 2/2/1936
Married Sigmund Gjerde of Tromsø
Married second time to Sivert Hansen of Stavanger
- k. Dagfinn born 8/20/1939
Married Eli Fosshaug of Malselv

Nikoline (Lina) Gamst born 2/26/1890 died 9/11/1983

Married Hagen Klaebo of Trondheim. No children born to them.

Thomas Anton Alexander born 3/13/1892 died 3/2/1962 Never married

Johanna Gamst born 5/8/1894. Not married. Buried in Sørreisa

Anny Gamst born 6/29/1896 died 9/19/1980

Married first time to Kristian Jaeger of Narvik

Their children:

- a. Karin...adopted from Icy-sea ship-master Jensen of Tromsdalen
- b. Alice...adopted from Tannery-master Storstad of Tromsø

Married second time to Einar Andersen of Kløfta No children born to them

Therese Gamst born 5/23/1898 died 2/1/1992

Married Henrik Mathisen of Rotsund

Their children:

- a. Margot died as an infant
- b. Thoralf born in 1941

Before her marriage, Therese gave birth to a son Theodor (Ted) who was adopted by Bolstad at Harstad

Otto William Gamst born March 21, 1902 died January 17, 1985

Married Gunda Larsen born 10/7/1904 died 10/8/1989

Their children:

- a. Bjørg born 2/24/1936 Married Thorbjørn Moen of Bodø
- b. Turid born 1/21/1938 Married Arne Svineng of Karasjok
- c. Helga born 10/17/1940 Married Ragnvald Utsi of Bodø
- d. Kristine born 5/8/1942 Married Per Antonsen of Mosjøen

Asta Bergliot Gamst born May 30, 1904 died June 10, 1943

Married Andreas Gullholm of Kvedfjord

Their children:

- a. Asta Gullholm (no data on birth date) of Kvedfjord

Alfhild Synnøve Gamst born January 18, 1907 died April 2, 1989

Married to Iversen of Alta No children born to this couple

Before her marriage Alfhild gave birth to the following children with Kristian Høgli of Sørreisa a widower.

- a. Audhild born 4/11/1944
Married Johan Arnt Solli, living at Øvrebø
- b. Elbjørg born in May, 1945, living in Trondheim

Kristine Dorthea Gamst born April 26, 1909 died in 1939

Married Kristian Høgli of Sørreisa

Their children:

- a. Edna born in 1933 died as an infant
- b. Inger born 7/12/1934
Married Einar Paulsen, living in Sørreisa
- c. Elsa born 8/29/1935
Her children: Ken Allan born March 17, 1961
Kristin born December 16, 1966
- d. Theodor born 9/20.1936

Aase Gamst born March 17, 1913 died July 1, 1996

Married Ingvald Syrstad born 12/6/1905 died 8/23/1985

Their children:

- a. Bergljot born 4/26/1936 died 11/9/2000
Married Roger Bakken of Nordkjotsbotn
- b. Eivind born 11/15/1937 died 5/5/1982
Married Hedrun Ag of Bodø
- c. Kjellaug born 10/2/1945 died 1/24/1971
Married Kare Fløiten of Kongsvinger

Theodor Kristian Hagen Gamst born 4/21/1915 died 7/31/1942

Married Mary Pedersen of Sørkjosen born 6/16/1917 died in 1981

Their children:

- a. Margareth born 3/24/1941
Married Jan Hagerupsen of Moss
- b. Theodor born 1/2/1943
Married Alise Alstad of Storslett

Before her marriage Mary Pedersen gave birth to a son, Kjell Henriksen born 2/1/1938

Edith Bergliot Gamst born February 12, 1917

Married Thomas Sørgaard born 11/28/1913 died 6/21/1982

Their children:

- a. Thron Ivar born 11/12/1946 (Living with Eva Gamst born 5/18/1950)

Margit Oline Gamst born February 12, 1917

Married Leif Gamst born 11/28/1902 died 4/4/1960

Their children:

- a. Walter born 3/15/1939
Married Laila Nilsen born 10/22/1940
- b. Torgeir born 11/10/1949
Married Lilian Sarabia born 7/25/1959

Before marriage Leif Gamst had a daughter Gerd-married Fritzen born 3/7/1928 living in Denmark

Ingeborg Margrethe Gamst born November 1, 1919

Married Einar Langhaug born 6/9/1915 died 3/3/1990

Their children:

- a. Torgeir born 2/14/1943 died 9/14/1948

Magnus Martin Gaare Gamst born November 1, 1921 died April 11, 1990

Married Borghild (Boja) Wasmuth of Langnesbukt born 3/22/1921

Their children:

- a. May-Bodil born 6/22/1947 First marriage to Yngve Rismo of
Second marriage to Olderdalen
Arne Pedersen of Skibotn
- b. Thor Øistein born 11/13/1948
- c. Steinar born 8/27/1952 married-Sissel Johansen of Samuelsberg
- d. Britt Elin born 6/6/1956 married-Kjetil Rasmussen of Skibotn

Andreas Bernhardt Gamst born August 30, 1923

Married Astrid Danielsen of Langhamn

Their children:

a. Ellen born 10/7/1952

Married Richard (Dick) Ratliff of Sacramento, California

b. Anne Lise born 3/9/1956

Married Odd Enoksen of Kvaenangsbotn

c. Berit born 1/12/1968

Living with Geir Hugo Eriksen at Kvaenangsbotn

Ottar Jørgen Gamst born April 22, 1925 died April 12, 1996

Married Magnhild Nilssen born 1/3/1929 died 6/8/1986 at Langhamn
Their children:

- a. Knut Bjørnar born 12/18/1955
In partnership with Esten Kraft-Pettersen Nygaard at Oslo
- b. Bard-Ander born 2/21/1958
Living with Vivi-Ann Johnsen at Storslett

Asbjørn Johan Dortin Gamst born 6/6/1930 died 12/24/1980

Married Asbjørg Eriksen born 3/6/1930 at Djupvik

No children born to this couple

Before marriage Asbjørg Eriksen gave birth to daughter Marit born 1/18/54

Bergljot and Roger Bakken of Nordkjosbotn

Their children:

- a. Terje born 6/17/1963
- b. Eva born 10/5/1964
- c. Kjell born 5/5/1967
- d. Knut born 9/22/1970

Eivind and Hedrun Syrstad of Stathelle

Their children:

- a. Gry-Kristin born 12/4/1975
- b. Vegard born 3/5/1978

Kjellaug and Kare Fløiten of Kongsvinger

Their children:

- a. Torunn born 3/9/1969

Margareth and Jan Hagerupsen of Moss

Their children:

- a. Nina born 8/15/1965
- b. Bente born 9/20/1967
- c. Jorunn born 4/19/1971

Theodor and Alise Gamst of Sørkjosen

Their children:

- a. Ann-Kirsti born 9/15/1965
- b. Børge born 6/24/1971
- c. Vibeke born 3/9/1979

Walter and Laila Gamst of Rotsund

Their children:

- a. Leif-Kjetil born 7/7/1966
- b. Merethe born 12/30/1967

Torgeir and Lilian Gamst of Rotsund

Their children:

- a. Rosemari born 5/16/1985

May-Bodil and Yngve Rismo

Their children:

- a. Tanja born 1/4/1972
- b. Eirin born 4/22/1973
- c. Kjersti born 5/22/1975

May-Bodil and Arne Pedersen of Skibotn

Their children:

- a. Thor-Arne born 3/22/1985

Steinar and Sissel Gamst of Langnersbukt

Their children:

- a. Arnt-Magnus born 6/6/1984
- b. Stian born 5/20/1987

Before marriage Sissel gave birth to daughter Camilla born 11/20/1978

Britt-Elin and Kjetil Rasmussen of Skibotn

Their children;

- a. Kine born 1/12/1984
- b. Preben born 6/2/1987

Before marriage Britt-Elin gave birth to daughter Torgunn born 12/16/1976

Ellen and Dick Ratliff of Sacramento, California

Their children:

- a. Siv born 11/4/1987 died 12/28/1987
- b. Ingrid born 11/4/1987
- c. Astrid born 5/11/1989

Anne Lise and Odd Enoksen of Rotsund

Their children:

- a. Lise born 5/20/1987
- b. Marie born 7/8/1989

Berit Gamst and Geir-Hugo Eriksen of Storslett

Their children:

- a. Andreas born 8/15/1996

Bard-Ander Gamst and Vivi-Ann Johnsen of Rotsund

Their children:

- a. Marte born 7/21/1979
- b. Christin born 7/6/1987
- c. Markus born 11/16/1998

The Berg Family

Anne-Lise Berg born May 20, 1864 and married to Theodor Kristian Gamst born February 7, 1857 came from the large Berg family of Djupvik in Lyngen. Her brother Jens, born June 19, 1849 and her sister Karoline born June 1, 1866 was also married at Rotsund. These three family members have many descendants and so it is of much interest that information of their ancestry and descendants should be also included.

A summary of oral-history for Røros area from 1801:

Peder Kristensen Hagen, born 1755 work in the smelt-works (hot furnace to melt ore or metals). Was married to Olava Olsdaughter born 1746.

Their children:

- a. Kristen Pedersen born 1772
- b. Ole Pedersen born 1779
- c. Anne Elisabeth..married to Peder Andreas Galskytt
- d. Elen Pedersdaughter baptized in Røros church in March 1791.

Information from the Vår Frues Church in Trondheim-1815-1820

Woodsman, Lars Bergstrøm of Trondheim was married to Elen Pedersdaughter Hagen of Røros, born 1791. The family moved to Kvalvik in Lyngen where a son, Vallentin was born. The family name-Bergstrøm was entered as Berg.

Their children:

- a. Johan Peder born 1816
- b. Vallentin born 3/20/1820 at Lyngen.

Oral-history of December 31, 1875 of the area Djupvik in Lyngen:

The husband, Vallentin Berg, born 1820 was an owner, farmer and operated a telegraph station. His wife, Marie Karoline Johnsdaughter was born 1826 a daughter of Johannes Pojanen born in Tornea in Sweden.

Their children:

- a. Lars Berg born 3/20/1848. Married Toline Lauritsdaughter, born 1852 in upper Rendalen.
- b. Jens Berg born 6/19/1849 Married Cisilie Arild (Sella) of Rotsund
- c. Johan Oluf Berg born 1/18/1851 died 8/25/1871.
- d. Anton Berg born 3/20/1854 Married Marie Isaksen of Nordmannvik
- e. Nils Berg born 7/24/1855 Married Johanna Paulsen of Djupvik
- f. Vallentin Berg born 3/21/1857 Married Kristiana Olsen of Hammervi
- g. Rasmus Berg born 8/15/1858 Married Rebekka Nilsen of Skjervøy
- h. Marie Karoline Berg born 1/20/1860 died 1863
- i. Marie Karoline Berg born 2/12/1863 Married Kristoffer Kiil of Kviteberg in Lyngseidet
- j. Anne-Lise Berg born 5/20/1864 Married Theodøre Kristian Hagen Gamst of Rotsund.
- k. Karoline Berg born 6/1/1866 Married first to David Arild of Rotsund; Married again to Hans Kiil of Slottet, Djupvik
- l. Edvard Berg born 4/1/1868 died 4/1/1868
- m. Sara Katrine Berg born 10/2/1869 died 2/26/1871
- n. Johan Oluf Kristian Berg born 4/6/1873 Married Nelle Nilsen of Joelv, Djupvik

Vallentin Berg, before he was married had a child with Brita Grete Pedersdaughter, born 1820 at Langnes..a son, baptized as Vallentin who became the ancestor for the Berg-families in that area. When Vallentin Berg married in 1847 he was living in Kvalvik at Lyngen. In 1863 he bought Djupvik. In 1884 he sold his holdings to sons, Rasmus and Nils Ber

Jens Berg born 6/19/1849. Married Sisilie Arild (Sella) of Rotsund

Their children:

- a. Kristian Berg born 1877 Married a widow, Charlotte (Karlotta) Gulbrandsen
- b. Marie Berg born 1879 Married Severin Steffensen of Skjervøy
- c. Daniel Berg born 1881 Died young
- d. Jensine Berg born 1884 Married Karl Johansen of Rotsund
- e. Wilhelmine (Mina) born 1885 Never married
- f. Age Berg born 1888 Never married
- g. Dorteia (Tea) born 1890 Married Nils Gamst of Rotsund
- h. Johan Berg born 1892 Married Pauline Moen born Hansen of
- i. Thorleif Berg born 1894 Never married Hestdahl
- j. Karl Berg born 1896 Married Marie Johansen of Rotsund

Anne-Lise Berg born 5/20/1874 Married Theodor Kristian Hagen of Rotsund

Their children: Listing on page 6 as Gamst family

Karoline Berg born 6/1/1866 Married first to David Arild of Rotsund

Their children:

- a. Marie (Maia) Arild Never married
- b. Kristine Arild Married to teacher Anton Medby of Djupvik
- c. Rebekka (Rikka) Arild Married Kristian Arild of Rotsund
- d. Anne Arild (Anne Vida) Never married
- e. Davida Arild Married Trygve Nilssen of Rotsund
- f. Nils Borch Arild Married Mildrid Lie..settled at Bakkeby

Karoline Berg married second time to Hans Kiil of Slottet, Djupvik

Their children:

- a. Agnes Kiil born 1900 Married Ingvar Johansen of Arøybukt
- b. Lovise Kiil born 1902 Married Kristian Simonsen of Djupvik
- c. Theodor Kiil born 1904 Married Aslaug Jørgensen of Stonglandseide

The Gaare Family

Emma Rosea Gaare, born April 1, 1891 married Andreas Bernhardt Gamst who was born August 10, 1884. (see Gamst family data on page 7). They came from Kvedfjord. Her father, Magnus Martin Pedersen Gaare, born 1/6/1866 purchased and became owner of Rotsunddalen from Godtlieb Bless before the turn of the century-1900 and settled/living there. He had his own boat (a 10-oared boat) named "Emanuel" that he used for fishing. While fishing at Finland he was killed in a sailing accident, November 27, 1901. His wife, Henriette Amalie Iversdaughter Gaare, born 3/6/1868 was left alone with seven children. Ingvald, the oldest, was age 14 at that time and the youngest, Ottar was seven months old. With good help received from the family in Kvedfjord she was able to hold her family together. When all of the children reached adult age, she left in 1917 for America and there married a widower, Elias M. Eliason who was born in 1857. (died in 1941.) Elias was a farmer in the Randal, Wisconsin area. He was from Hammervik in Kafjord, Norway.

Regarding her trip to America she wrote a "America-letter"..a poem of 115 verses which she wrote to her goddaughter Nora Bersvendsen in Rotsundelv. This "America-letter" has been published in a year-book for North-Troms in the year 1983 and carries a large interest beyond the North-Troms area. This is especially because of the detailed account of the trip from the homeland to Randal in Wisconsin. The America trip extends over about a month's time. This "America-letter" is in its entire content in this booklet, on pages 23-36.

It is of great interest for the children of Magnus Martin Pedersen and Henriette Amalie Gaare to know more of the ancestors as far back as we have information about them. This will begin with ancestral search..first for Magnus Martin Pedersen Gaare:

1. Farmer and Mayor, Anfind Hansen. He had a farm in Gara in Kvedfjord in the last part of 1600 to the beginning of 1700.
2. His son, Jørgen Anfindsen, born 1728 married Ane Margrethe Olsdaughter from Fauskevåg.
3. Their son, Anders Jørgensen born 5/29/1759 married Kristin Paulsdaughter, born 1763..died 6/14/1826.
4. Their son, Torlev Andersen, born 6/24/1807..died 12/28/1887 Married Maren Pedersen Utstrand born 1798..died 6/12/1855
5. Their son, Peder Andreas Torlevsen born 8/16/1829 died 1/9/1910 Married Oline Gundersen from Fosnes-South Flatanger born 1843 died 1929
6. Their son, Magnus Martin Pedersen born 1/16/1866 died 11/27/1901 Married Henriette Amalie Iversdaughter born 3/6/1868 died 3/26/1901

Ancestral background for Henriette Amalie Iversdaughter Gaare:

1. Henrik Holby Sivertsen, a farmer of Tofte, Lødingen, born 1797
Married Anne Dorthea Raphaelsdaughter born 1793 at Tofte
Their children:
 - a. Ribor born 11/8/1822
 - b. Raphael born 7/1/1824
 - c. Bereth Margrete born 7/29/1827
 - d. Sivert Andreas born 2/19/1830
 - e. Ole Harr born 9/7/1832
 - f. Hans Andreas born 3/23/1836
 - g. Elen Olena born 4/23/1840

Iver Martinus Anfindsen Ulven born 3/22/1830 died 3/22/1910

born in Stod church parish area of parents Anfind and Ingborg Ulven
married Elen Olena Sivertsen born 4/23/1840

their children:

- a. Henriette Amalie born 3/6/1868
Married Magnus Martin Pedersen Gaare
- b. Albert Julius born 1871..died as an infant
- c. Ingeborg Margrethe born 8/26/1876
Married Ingvald Hansen of Rotsundelv

Iver Martinus Anfindsen Ulven came to Gara in Kvedfjord to his father's brother, Jon Ulven. Jon Ulven came to Kvedfjord as a woodsman or lumberman and a carpenter from Stod area in North-Trøndelag. He bought 60 (a measure of land) that he cleared and put in order and named it Gamman. When Jon Ulven reached old age he sold the farm to Iver Martinus Anfindsen Ulven. At a later time, the ownership was obtained by a son-in-law, Ingvald Hansen.

Magnus Martin Pedersen Gaare born 1/16/1866 died 6/6/1901

Married Henriette Amalie Gaare born 3/6/1868 died 3/26/1940 in Randal, Wisconsin.

Their children:

- a. Ingvald Julius Schelderup Gaare born 9/22/1887 died 6/6/1948
Married Agnes Nilssen of Rotsund born 4/3/1891 died 6/2/1974
- b. Peder Andreas Gaare born 7/15/1889 died 6/7/1965
Married Agnes Gamst born 2/3/1896 died 6/26/1963
- c. Emma Rosea Gaare born 4/1/1891 died 10/22/1976
Married Andreas Bernhardt Gamst born 8/10/1884 died 6/6/1975
- d. Randor Gaare born 5/4/1893 died 4/11/1978
Married first to Margit Nilssen of Rotsund; Married again to Petra Johnsen of Rotsundelv; Married third time to Gjertrud Gulbrandsen of Rotsundelv.
- e. Magnus Henrye Ingemann Gaare born 4/23/1896 died 10/21/1956
lived in Skien. Married first to Tordis of Bodø and again to Ingrid F. Amundsen of Skien.
- f. Astrid Oline Gaare born 7/29/1896 died 11/13/1981 not married
- g. Ottar Jørgen Gaare born 4/19/1901 died 8/3/1911

Ingvald Julius Schelderup Gaare and Agnes Nilssen GaareTheir children:

- a. Odd Arnold Gaare born 6/29/1912 died 2/4/1956
Married Julie Paulsen of Djupvik
- b. Thorleif Oddbjørn Gaare born 10/2/1914 not married
- c. Petra Marie Gaare born 6/10/1917
Married Bjarne Johannessen of Storneshamn
- d. Marius Gaare born 8/25/1919
Married Olga from Lødingen
- e. Ingolf Gaare born 5/18/1924
Married first to Liv Danielsen of Anstad
Married second time to Henny of Denmark
- f. Arvid Gaare born 10/5/1925
Married Margot Nilsen of Rotsund
- g. Erna Gaare born 11/8/1927
Married Eivind Eriksen of Djupvik
- h. Reidar Gaare born 2/28/1931 married Jorun
- i. Ivar Gaare born 10/6/1932 married Frøydis

Peder Andreas Gaare and Agnes Gamst GaareTheir children:

- a. Rolf Gaare born 3/25/1922
Married Berthea Nilssen of Rotsund
- b. Alf Gaare born 11/26/1923
Married Astrid of Justøy
- c. Laila Gaare born 1/24/1926
Married Eidar Skjelstad of Mortenhals
- d. Anna Gaare born 6/5/1928
Married Leon Dahle of Klepp
- e. Asbjørn Gaare born 3/26/1930 never married
- f. Dorthea Gaare born 6/13/1933 never married
- g. Astrid Gaare born 5/16/1937
Married Halfdan Olsen of Mortenhals

Emma Rosea Gaare and Andreas Bernhardt GamstTheir children: See Gamst family data page 7Randor Gaare and Margit Nilssen GaareTheir children:

- a. Randi Gaare born 1915. Married first to Egil Olsen of Kabelvag
Married second time to Heiberg Solvang of Kabelvag.
- b. Mary Gaare born 12/26/1916 Married Johan K. Johansen of Hamar

Randor Gaare and Petra Johnsen GaareTheir children:

- a. Olav Gaare born 7/4/1923 died 3/8/2001 Married to Hanny of Tromsø..second time to Mari from Burfjord
- b. Ivar Gaare born 5/29/1925 died 2/26/1929
- c. Age Gaare born 4/27/1927 died 1/17/2000 Married to Ragnhild from Tromvika. Second to Vally of Kjøllefjord
- d. Ingrid born 5/9/1930..Married Arne Hansen of Oslo
- e. Ruth born 9/27/1931 Married Mikal Solberg of Stange
- f. Ingeborg born 6/27/1933 Married Ole Ørslein of Oslo
- g. Magnus born 2/16/1935 died 3/4/1936

Randor Gaare and Gjertrud Gulbrandsen Gaare

No children born to this marriage

Magnus Henrye Ingemann Gaare and wife Tordis

Their children:

- a. Per Gaare born November 25, 1930

Photo shown on lower half of this page shows:

Amalie Gaare with her children:

from Left: Magnus, Peder, Randor, Emma and Astrid.

On the lap sits Ottar. (Not included was Ingvald who was away).



Childhood-home on the "Homestead"

The house in which we grew up was called the "Homestead". It stood on the upper part of "Hagen" or of the garden area and did not have a special listing of the site in a record book. The father was able to add to his ownership of the area after the grandfather's death in 1919. In the house built by the grandfather, lived the grandmother as well as uncle Otto, uncle Anton and aunt Johanna. Also growing up at this place was Gunhild and Alvin..she was born in 1913 and he in 1921.

In 1935, Uncle Otto was able to obtain a land-split from the upper-area used (called Haug) and there lived and had a cow-barn. He moved to this new site with his family and was joined there by the grandmother, Uncle Anton and Alvin. Aunt Johanna had by this time moved to her sister Kristine in Sørreisa and remained there until her death. Johanna is buried at the new church cemetery in Sørreisa but Kristine is buried in the old church cemetery. The 10 family members in that large family are buried at the church cemetery in Rotsundelv.

In Emma and Bernhardt's family there was always new "citizens". In succession we had grown to 9 brothers and sisters. The oldest was Aase born in 1913 and the youngest, Asbjørn, born in 1930. We learned early on to take part in helping with small jobs. There were 2 to 3 milking cows, a horse, sheep and in between, a goat or two. We had milk and meat enough for onē's own use. The horse was actually a important hired-man for small jobs. With help from the horse we could bring home wood from our own woods in Rotsundelv and often, also from Hornseth where we bought mountain birch on the root from John Johnsen. It was also possible to do haying (cutting/mowing of grasses) in Pilteri on John Johnsen's land at which time the workers stayed overnight there while this was done. In winter, the horse helped transport this hay home.

The girls in the family helped with all of the indoor work such as spinning and knitting. The boys learned while quite young to tie and bind fishing-nets, for their own use as well as for others..making it possible to earn a few dollars. Father traveled each year to Lofoten and was away during February and March and on until Easter. Before this there was fishing done to obtain flounder and torsk in the sound and haddock at Lyngenfjorden. There was never a shortage of fish. In the outhouse was barrels of salted (or cured) herring or haddock. Each spring, Father bought a small piglet that would grow and in six months had reached a size large enough to be butchered and in so doing helped to secure food for the upcoming winter. Mother was smart/clever to use the foods we had in the best way including using lye in preserving fish into "lutefisk" in a first class outcome.

In the later years we have heard much about the "lean 30's", but we don't pay much attention to those remarks. It's possible that at times there was not much money but we had enough food. Small jobs and food and "riches" were obtained and provided from work and the sea.

In a reunion to celebrate the 75th birthday for our twin-sisters, Edith and Margit and also Ingeborg's 80th birthday, we sang a song we had written about our growing-up years in the "homestead". One of the verses tells in a special way how we lived as children and young years at home.

"In the home where we grew up we had no luxury..but much happiness"

"Our father was often away fishing, but mother was always there".

"From early morning to late at night, working hard for her own to provide food and clothing".

"She sang and hummed a tune, we remember well, in every-day-life, she formed happiness".

There was but a small possibility, due mostly to problems of economy, of further education beyond the elementary schooling. As soon as one was "through" with the basic schooling, it was therefore necessary to seek employment as soon as possible away from home.

It has always been very important to keep the family connected. It has been easy to hold a steady contact with family members because all settled in the northern areas. Magnus lives farthest away in the south part at Langnesbukta and Edith lives to the farthest north in Rotsundelva. Many of the young in the next generation have also established residence in nearby neighborhoods from Skibotn in the southern area to Nordreisa to the north. With automobiles it has become convenient to often arrange for a happy-mini-visit with family.

We who are now the oldest are especially glad that the family has remained so connected and continues that pattern as is also experienced into the new generations.

It is an inheritance/gift that is so valuable and should be guarded well.

Photo on the page shows:

Emma with the family in front of the house in Rotsund, 1925.

Standing from the left: Edith, Theodor, Ottar, Emma, Aase and Margit.

Sitting from the left: Andreas, Ingeborg and Magnus.



Reader Contribution In "Decora-Posten"
Written in 1930 by Amalie Gaare Eliason.

(Note: Decora-Posten was a newspaper from/of Decorah, Iowa, which in English translates to Decorah-Post. It was printed in the Norwegian language and distributed in the midwestern states)

Here in Randal we have had an event that seldom happens..in that we have been without a Postoffice the last four months.

The Postmaster died and the person appointed to fill his place was paid such a low salary, he had to quit the job.

All of the mail to Randal and Evergreen ended up in St. Paul City, Minnesota, sealed up and the postmaster received it at the train depot at Benson and brought it to Evergreen where it was unsealed/opened with the postmaster on the return trip delivering the mail. But no letters or mail could be sent out, because the mail sacks were sealed in Evergreen and brought back to Benson when the train, the next time, came to Grantsburg. So, all correspondence has been laid down this winter. And, had it been absolute necessary..then old "Henry" would have had to make a trip to Grantsburg which on our part lays about 13 miles from here, but for many others, much farther.

A summer past, I wrote a few remembrances of my father-in-law regarding his 100th birthday observance. Now I especially want to write about the 22nd of March which was the hundred year anniversary of my dear father Iver Martinus Ulven's birthday born of parents Anfind and Ingeborg Ulven of Stod church parish district in Trøndelagen.

At age 18 he went to be with his uncle, Peter Mikkelsen, of Finstad in Vestlofoten. Peter was a brother of his mother. He stayed there a short time to learn and be trained as a shoemaker..but he didn't want to be doing this type of handwork. So, he then went to work for Ole Danielsen of Uhre, Vestlofoten where he stayed for three years. From there he went to Kvaedfjord where he had another uncle, a brother of his father who was a lumberman and carpenter and his name was John Ulven. There he remained. He took part in fishing at the Lofot and Finland's areas. During the fall season he worked at sod-breaking to establish acreage. In doing this work he used hand tools..spade, digging equipment and iron crow-bars. Much of the ground in the Kvaedfjord area was thick with stone, so much so that when stone was taken out of the ground there was little room..or not enough of an area to pile up rock piles. He was a foreman during the haying season for old madam Normann Husebye. He also did trading (buying-selling) but not as a pedlar moving about with a knapsack on his back. He stood as a cashier in the fishing market and also from the house where he lived.

He sold cloth (material), hardware, butter, cheese in the fishing "station."

He made many trips home to visit his parents and took care of his belongings in Trondhjem. He married my mother in 1867. She was from Tofte in Lødingen church parish.

After the death of his uncle, who was his father's brother, he bought his uncle's farm and settled there, as a farmer until he was age 72 at which time he gifted the farm operation to his daughter and son-in-law. The farm was near Vigelandselven (the river's edge near Vigeland)..so he also operated a mill-grinding for one of the neighbors who lived much farther away. Also, he took hides off dead animals and tannēd skins. I have many times assisted in helping to tidy up the area where he worked with the tanning process.

He was also a master of pelts (hides) that he would sew into leather vests or jackets and large pieces (perhaps coverlets-rug types) used in the sleighs made from hides of bears. Also he melted and made a type of tar from red-juniper and it was known by the name of juniper-tar. It became useful as a medical remedy for anyone with a rheumatism ailment as an ointment or for anyone having had a stroke. But I do not recall ever knowing he took pay for his ointment from any who came to get this special tar from him.

NOTE: PAGE 22 CONTINUES HERE:

My sister broke her leg and he immediately made a frame/splint for the leg and she had to be quiet/laying for six weeks wearing this cast and after such a time became entirely healed.

The best I can say about him is that he was a serious Christian in all he did in life. We were always expected to conduct ourselves in righteousness and honesty in deeds/actions and in our talk. We lived near a church so he always attended church every Sunday.

Sunday afternoons he would read a sermon from a family book of sermons to us and if a person/neighbor came at this time he was given a place to sit and the reading of the sermon continued to its end.

And I remember often back to the happy times in our home where we were together for prayer and songs. It is so dear to remember these old church-folks who so faithfully attended church services..with many having so many miles to cover they often came on Saturdays and there was always room in our father's home for them. I remember John Sørensen, Jakob Olsen, Ole Jensen Stennes and many more. It was a rich learning experience to hear these old folks witness their deep and serious Christianity.

From middle of page 22:

Likewise, there was always room for the traveling lay-pastors of the Lutheran Church. There was always family devotional times every Saturday and Sunday afternoons/evenings whether we were just our family or if there were others with us. And so often I heard my mother praying to God to extend her the mercy and grace that none of her own ever should be turned away from the Heavenly Throne. It will be 21 years in May since mother died. And father died on his 80th birthday also 20 years since the last March 22.

I am now the last surviving of this family and will hereby send a greeting to relatives and friends. Father has a large relationship of family in this land..in Lanesburg and Highlandprarie and also over the entire country. I'm sending also a greeting to old Norway. I saw a letter in the "Posten" from a trønder who asked for letters or information about his relatives/family here. I didn't have time to write but the name seemed to indicate that he was of my father's family background and the Sneve-folks were of father's near relatives.. likewise on "Baere" and Namdal-side.

A friendly greeting to Decora-posten's readers and not to forget the Kvaedfjording folks. Ingeborg Udstrand wrote to me that there were some who would want my address. I have received letters from Norway that my old mother-in-law died last summer at age near 87. Her maiden name was Oline Christine Gundersdaughter in Fladanger. Blessed are the memories of these dear departed deceased.

Mrs. E. M. Eliason

America Letter A Leave of Absence Odysse

Taken in its entire length from "Yearbook for North-Troms 1983" Odysse is found in the dictionary as a adventure type of trip telling of many personal experiences.

When we dare ourselves to place an odysse explanation on this special America Letter it is because it gives us the experience of such a trip/adventure in many ways. In the first insights, it gives us the trip itself in time and space.

Amalie Gaare tells of her own trip to America in 1917..a trip that gives birth to ones own personal experiences under a stressful time of 1917. It gives us a personal chance to take part in such a trip that reading it affords. As still waters flow forward, this account takes us along and we become involved in various hurdles with many unexpected events happening. It is overwhelming and touching.

In addition, it is a traditional trip: To write tales, verses and poems, if not unusual, is in the least extended. Big incidents or adventures have been written in rhyme or thought of to be set to music and perhaps as such have been kept through history and in itself recorded in a memorybook. To have written poetry or verses in rhyme has been seen as an achievement. An account with 115 verses must then be considered a master achievement. We repeat the entire yearbook's account here. Because we see the whole story. To have edited or shortened the writing would not be right. As we see each new verse as being important for the whole, whether in form or in detail with small side-events happening with new verses bringing the traveler and the reader to new places and new experiences.

With this in mind, we invite the reader to an America trip in the year 1917 through 115 verses.

America Letter written by Amalie Gaare to Nora Bersvendsen.

To you my dear Nora I will write a letter,
And thank you for the latest and that you wrote to me.
It was for me much fun to read from your pen
Then you had to wait a long time before you got my answer again.

You also thank me for the card I sent to you
And you want to hear if I was in the cathedral
Yes, now I shall tell you the best way I can
Of my trip entirely from home to the new land.

It was on Friday morning that I from Rotsund left
With motor conveyance "Bjarne" I had a splendid beginning
I intended to go to Skjervøy to obtain a certificate/testamonial
From the mayor, the doctor and the pastor.

Early Saturday morning I was off to Tromsø
There I had things important that had to be made clear
But the time there was short, I could not stay late
Then I moved on to the street or gate of Rektor Steen.

To Harstad I went that same evening
Went directly to the hotel Norden and got a room
Because early the next morning I would be leaving
with Postman (mailman) to Kvedfjord, that I was allowed to accompany.

And over the land we went fast
So, Grandmother didn't know before I stood before her
On the same Sunday evening arrangements had been made
for a gathering in my honor.

When the next day dawned, we had received New Year
Me along with several others also to church we went
To hear God's word as the scripture says:
We cannot live by bread alone.

When the day was ebbing out
My dear Magnus and I went for a walk
We agreed to go to Vikeland
We wanted to greet Sina and also her man.

One more day I am still in my grandmother's home
But good-bye must be said to her and all others
I had lived with during my childhood years
Yes, and several of the young people..those beautiful light years.

Wednesday afternoon I left for Harstad
As I would be leaving on the hurtigruten (cruise ship route) the same night
But I don't see any travelers at this point
It was only I, myself traveling as an "emigrant"

The ship went fast towards the south
So, I was standing on land Friday evening in Trondhjem.
There I was immediately taken to "Normens" Hotel
Available for travelers such as I only.

Saturday, about 10 o'clock I went to the office
Very near the hotel, just past the corner
As there anyone can order and arrange
Necessary papers needed to continue travel.

A bit later in the day I had to go out again
To the political office I first had to appear
Next, to the Private Bank I also had to go
Because all that the trip required I must have in order.

And as I wandered about through the streets
I see among the other churches, also the big dome
And even if I am a stranger, my thoughts were immediately clear
That this was the Cathedral that before me stood.

I thereby immediately wondered how I could show
this church that is so familiar in name in the north land
That stands here peaceful but mighty/~~colorful~~ but speechless.,
as thousands of olden time memories tumble from its bosom.

The next day the church bells ring
And I make my way to the cathedral
There was also a big happening..a big festival day
A son of Bishop Bøchmann was ordained as a pastor.

I still had a day to be around the town of Trondhjem
I had to buy some things so I had to go into the town
While I was wandering I spent time observing
My eyes behold a dear, yes, holy spot.

Before me on the street I see a house
Where my dear father in days gone by must have been
As then he operated a market/business for many, many years
And obtained much of his wares in this house.

"Andreas Moe" was the name that first caught my thoughts
There, next, in quietness and determination it began
It reminded me about a time when father went in and out
My eyes became veiled over and sorrow filled my soul.

That same afternoon, Monday, a ship will go to Bergen
that takes along emigrants..we were six in numbers
But the weather was stormy for Stadt and Hustadvik
So many became sea-sick.

When Wednesday morning came we were in Bergen
On the dock we were met by officers
Who immediately let us know we had to go to the office
To be inspected from top to bottom.

When the office opened, we are a large group
Finlanders and Swedes, yes, Danes and Spaniards
There are children and ladies, and also many men
And all are on this trip from home and the native country.

When we were well examined on our eyes, our hair and skin
The same officers took us out from there
We were certain to be observed as a flock from afar
As one at the front led us and one walked after us.

Again we reached the dock where a ferry boat lay waiting
It will bring us to the place where
We will have our orders/directions from the "General-office"
That the "Line" there will be paid for a one-day stay.

In a short time we were delivered to the hotel
Where we were given a sleeping room, two stairs up
It had not been "aired-out" and was in dis-array
It was so unfit/miserable, we stood there lost/disheartened.

One dame was very shy and bashful and
Said, here it smells like "oh-oh" as the innkeeper led us in
One chair, a table, two beds, and hardly space enough to stand
As we leaned against the wall.

We came to this site at mid-day
And we didn't get anything to eat until after 3 o'clock
As time went on we expected to be getting an evening meal
Then came the innkeeper and said, "Now we shall go on board".

He walked ahead of us and we followed after
The baggage/luggage was heavy to carry and the way was long.
At the Trondhjem hotel area a wagon-man was available
But this poor wretched group had no such convenience.

Finally we reached our destination, along the water's edge
And we could see the "Bergensfjord"
The leader said, "Yes, you shall soon be taken care of"
"Boats will soon come that will ferry you to your boarding".

We are left standing there near the water, first an hour, then two
We are feeling the cold temperatures too, before we have left.
We could help ourselves to keep warm if we could be walking about
But we had to stay as we were in order to watch out for our luggage.

That this had all be arranged this way, we later understood
That the innkeeper of the Line was paid for the day
And could not bring us out to the ship
Before the day was ended and the service was also ended.

As everything must end, so also was this stressful time
As we wondered if we would be on board as the clock struck 10
We finally were delivered and immediately received instructions
Regarding our belongings, that would go the entire trip.

We were hungry and tired and were ready for bed and sleeping
Let sleep wipe away the thoughts of yesterday.
Of the innkeeper (hotel-host) who did his business as that man did
Must surely earn his money, but not our blessings.

When the next day came we were far on the North-sea
The roughness of the sea keeps us on the lower part of the ship
The North-sea is known to make sea-sick folks afraid
So that's the reason this day there are not many up on deck.

Now it is nearing evening and darkness is falling
Right before us as a leader, a English watch/guarding ship is seen
The man of war has ordered each ship to Kirkwall
There too, we observe that the Censor (safety issues) are strict.

With the morning, I went up on deck
I see a forest of mast heads
With flags from all lands, a special sight it was
I see also a man plowing his land, think of it..January 12th.

Now, English officers have control of "Bergensfjord"
They over everything, with control and a guard at each stairway
We are all pushed together on the ship's lowest deckside
As tight as herring in a barrel..it was frightening and gruesome

When all had been put down, more were found
We had to go back to our places, but at a snail's pace
As we had to be sure we had all of our papers in our hands
As one could only go through the guards one time.

We were all glad when this ended
As a little more than 900 went through this inspection by the guards
It took us a day and a half
So our minds felt lighter as we left there.

As Saturday begins we are on the Atlantic Ocean
It has been a total of eight days
Sunday forenoon, we have a worship service
A pastor conducted the service; he also was a passenger on board
All days have been stormy and this Monday also
The masts and rigging are creaking and knocking and the waves are
hitting with violence
Monday....night I awoke because of the
storm at high sea.

Tuesday..I went up on the deck
I understand that most of the passengers are sick
The ill are needing help
From room to room I wander, door to door.

Many are lying sick on their beds, but worst is the stillness
And the many who are entirely alone with strangers everywhere
Including a lady that I found
Had been lying sick for three days without a drop of water.

She was fully aware of all things as I reached her
She knew Monday had passed
I cannot here describe what I saw
But I must tell of one more discovery.

A found a wretched creature, a Finnlander, age six years
His mother was not with him
He was bound for Canada as his father was in Canada
And this poor child had had very poor care.

A caregiver (nurse) and a doctor were on board
But they did not visit or tend to anyone, even if called to do so
This small boy was ill with a high fever
I called for the nurse to come at once to help the child.

From the first day that we went on board
I took care of a lady, as we had to share a berth
She was from the highlands near Trondhjem
She had crossed the Atlantic Ocean eight times before this trip.

One day she said to me, " This is my 9th trip
I can say this is the best trip
Never before has anyone brought food to me as I was lying sick
Perhaps because the others were just as ill as I".

From the day that I began to go the rounds helping the sick
I was kept very busy bringing food and drink to the sick
I helped them through every meal time
As they were too ill to sit at a table for food, but were sick on their be

I had every opportunity to be a waitress (of service)
and to bring what was necessary to the sick.
Two other easy-going persons
Helped me in bringing food to the sick.

If I must be completely honest
Bitter memories would spring up from the past
When I was often misjudged or not appreciated for my work, my sweat
But, here God gave me satisfaction amongst the strangers.

Now, Wednesday passed as usual with stormy weather and high waves
But "Bergensfjord" was brave and strong moving forward
On Thursday the storm has its mind set
To hit on the ship's bow with might.

Thoughts were not changed on Friday
As the waves were up over the ship's bow
The engines were working harder than ever before
And the next thing we knew the propellers were up high and dry.

It felt as if a stirring-stick was under the ship
As it was standing still as if being bored from below
But as the ship kept competing with the sea's wild behavior
It began to move forward, blow by blow.

These last days the advancement on the sea was not much
And many places are empty around the card tables
Each evening some musicians provided music
About three of us women would be attending this at times.

On Thursday after breakfast in the largest dining area
We are all to meet and each will be called by name
Each of us will be given a certain kind of paper
That will describe us as we go off the boat on to land.

Thursday afternoon as the clock said three
We learned we could exchange our Kroner (money)
Because our Norwegian money will not be needed
And when the office opens we will hurry to do this.

On Friday we all had to be examined
It was called going through quarantine exam
A doctor has set himself by the side of a door
And now it is a law, we must all pass through this.

Now this Mr. Doctor in the first place wants to learn
If any certain sickness has been brought in
He doesn't find any diseases with us
As he reports "They are free of diseases".

When Saturday comes, the storm has surrendered
Those who were sea-sick, many are now on the deck
It was so gray and foggy..as far as one could see
But now we experience passing by Newfoundland's banks.

A festive meal was enjoyed Saturday forenoon
This meal was specially in honor of the Captain
And by each person's plate an orange had been set
With a Norwegian flag stuck into the orange.

With this Captain's meal, a new custom should take place
That each was to give to the waiter, a shilling for drinks
But several of the assembled decided that the money was needed otherwise
And before midnight money was put to a different use.

As morning moved on, on Sunday we were in Brooklyn
We also had a church service that Sunday
That Sunday we remained quiet and still in Brooklyn's harbor
Waiting for the next morning when we were to go on land.

Monday morning early we all went on land
Each hand held many papers
But additionally, more was made for us
As now we are garnished or dressed up as if we are going to a side-show.

Each of us now delivers a special type of card
With tall numbers that had been put on each card
On the backside was printed in Swedish
This must be fastened to our chest/breast area.

As such we were marked
We stood out in the crowd but afterwards a man brought us out.
Now, baggage and boxes were brought out also
And each one had to show what was his own.

When all of our baggage had been searched, it was marked as having
had that procedure done
Then as each had had this done, each person went back to the line
and spot where we had begun
And so it went, from the first to the last person
As we were many hundred in number, the time was very long.

From there we had to move to where there was a barge
From there we went a short distance farther and on to land
Forward we marched until a house stood before us
With our hats in our hands we were allowed to advance.

There were two doctors on the steps by the door
Now our life/destiny was laid in their hands
The passage way from the door was arranged as such
That past two stair rails, one had to go through three rows/aisles/divided

We all had to go upstairs where decisions were made
The Mr. Doctors had looked us over
Those who were judged to be well and not ill were to stand in the middle
But those who were suspected of being not well were told to go to the
side line.

The doctors did not say a single word to us
In tending to our line, with their hand they gestured
The women were sent to the left and the men to the right
What was to happen to everyone, we were not yet told.

We who were found to be well moved on to an office
Where inside a door was a large counter (desk top)
And along this counter top we saw new authorities
Who had us stand before them to answer them as they asked us questions.

One man in authority asked questions regarding money
He asked, "Can you show us that you have \$25.00..?"
The other authority asked questions regarding knowledge and understanding
He asked, "Are you trained to read and can you write?"

I can't quite recall how far this went
But one would like to know just how we are doing
Another would inquire regarding our work..what we can do best
Third interviews were regarding our attitudes towards ourselves and
this new country.

It seemed as if we were going from King Herod and on through Pilate
(of the Biblical testing of Jesus)
As more authority figures we must stop for
Now we are asked to again bring forth our papers
And more of the authorities are examining them.

When it all was brought to order and each paper examined
The ticket for our train ride was also handled
With this we were through at the office
And directed to go stand in a hall.

We were directed to the middle area of the hall
To stay as a group we were told to stand
Until the last person would be through at the office
Which took many hours before all of this was accomplished.

So, then we stood and waited until the last one would come and join us
And all felt so tired we could fall asleep
Then we were held in a watch (control) in a round circle
And held tightly together like threaded into a bundle.

Now the watch was over and we were free again
Food and drink was for sale a distance away in the rooms
Which we truly needed as we hadn't tasted food
Since early in the morning and by now it was far into the day.

There were also benches on which we could sit
But we were so many, there was a traffic problem
Soon as we were to go out, we saw a ferry boat
That we are to take from there.

We knew we all had to be on board this ferry
We could not exactly comprehend how all of us could have room on it
Ourselves and our belongings..we were all pushed together
We hung on each other..there was hardly room for our feet.

It didn't take long before we were in New York
And immediately we all were trying to get to the station
And to a big area where we all had room to sit down
We were also all, very thankful.

We were not able to stay long at this spot where we sat
We very soon had to get to the train's departure gate
And now at the station the total number of persons had increased
Because from many other lands, more emigrants had come.

The train took us off, shortly before midnight
It is a certain fact, that Monday felt very long
As the emigrants had to go to Ellis-Island
And with such a heavy traffic of persons in big numbers..such a
problem would be unlawful.

On this trip all the way from Trondhjem, two Swedish boys were also passengers
Their money was held only by the one boy.
As mentioned in an earlier verse, they also had to go up the stairs to be examined
One was allowed to progress forward the other was sent to the side line.

The end result (fate) of these young men seems gruesome
The one who had the money was the one who was kept back
The other of the two was very sad for his companion
As even now on the third day he has not heard from him.

Two women on this trip had a similar experience
One cannot find the other
As up to Ellis Island they both had to go
But surely one of them had been kept back.

A train had been ordered for us on a local route
And we were transported in the country's style and custom
As the emigrant is not held in high regard in this land
So we were transported in a simple manner.

The rail-car in which we are riding is tremendously long
And only emigrants are taken in to ride in it
The interior was filthy dirty - like a toilet
Everything one touches, sticks to the fingers.

So much dirt on the windows..one can write ones name
And where you sit, it is just the same
I had almost forgotten, but after some thought
Remembered that this train had the name "Burtingtown"

As the train moves forward we sit here in peace
It is not long between stops
This whole Tuesday we move along
Towns and farms are seen along the entire line.

We reach Chicago Wednesday forenoon
And we are through with the "Burtingtown" line
We are taken immediately by bus to the station
Where we are to take another line.

At this station we don't see a watchman
As long as the doors are locked, the safer we are
It was about two hours that we were locked in there
But, then the doors were open and the train will be starting to go.

Now as we view the landscape, it is changing and it is very beautiful
As far as the eye can see, the land lies flat with pretty houses
And with this train we have the first of things being clean
So we are sitting snug/comfortable and cozy.

This train bears the name of three towns
"Chicago" and "Milwaukee" and "Saint Paul" is what we can read
This train will go as far as to the west coast if one wants to
travel that far
But I shall go to the mid-west area and will get off at Saint Paul.

A little before midnight we are in Saint Paul
And we must go from the train directly to the station
As soon as we had arrived, a train came in from the south
And now we hear music and the beat of drums.

The music we are hearing is from a band
That is accompanying many soldiers who have come from Texas
The United States is having a war with Mexico
So these soldiers have been called to the Texas area.

This army of soldiers went through the station
Directly to the hotel located near the side of the station.
But first in the line the little drummer goes
And following him were the others, in their own style and custom.

The next morning the soldiers returned towards the train
With the drummers in the lead beating the time
Now that it is morning I can easily see them all
The soldiers numbered 33 in all.

A little after 8 o'clock a train makes ready to go
And I again must get in line
The whole time from the start I was headed to the west
But now the course is changed directly to the north

I don't have any traveling companions on this train
As we were all marked and so recognizable by each other up to now..
Views of the landscape is the same today as yesterday
There are many pretty houses on the flat lands.

We came to Rush City right about midday
And I must hurriedly change trains.
I was not long at this station
As it was clear that the train I was to take is ready to leave.

I have begun another direction..as now I am headed east
It didn't take long before we were standing at Bencon (is Bencon-Benson??)
I exited the train at the Bencon station (the script says Bencon or is it
In haste in order to greet Eliason, Benson??)

For now I am through with train rides
And also with being in lines and changing trains
The train ride I used when I left Saint Paul
Was a train named.. "Northern Pacific".

As I was waiting for my ride an old woman approached
And in a friendly manner asked me to follow her to her room (place)
She had heard of the war and about the dire needs, the expensive
provisions, the scarceness of food, etc.
And wanted to know: "Where would folks get their bread"?

I then told her what I had experienced
Of the many passengers who were on the trip from Sweden
And that Sweden had already provided bread
On hearing this the old woman cried..

Now Eliason had arrived so I had to leave with him
Two horses and a sleigh waited..outside
We were to drive 6 miles..I see two farmers
I feel a bit anxious, downhearted; I wonder..are there any wild
animals?

We have now come out of the forest into a wide open area
And I can see on the other side that there are buildings
And as we move on a little farther I recognize these buildings
As I had seen them a long time ago on photos.

Now the destination has been reached
Now I understand everything; God has been especially good to me.
I have remained in good health and have not had any accidents
It has been exactly five weeks since the trip began.

This letter was started many years ago
By now the paper had yellowed, so I wrote it anew
During the days as I worked, my thoughts were formed
And in the evening, written down..a big work (labor in doing this)

I have also received another letter from you
That I here with thank you from my heart
I am happy to see that all goes well with you
God in Heaven, take care of you both in body and in soul.

Bring my greetings to all who are in your home
My wishes are that I can meet them all in Heaven
There we will never be parted but will together stay
With God in eternity, with happiness and perfect joy and peace.

A greeting is also included to the valleys, the wooded, grassy
mountain side and the mountains
And greet the brook as it slowly ripples; greet also the gushing rivers
To the ocean as it slowly ripples, and
Greet the ocean also when its waves hit the shoreline violently.

In closing, I offer a prayer to God..that as the summer stands in bloom
And you at times will go to church
That you will bring with you some fresh flowers that you have picked
and place them on the graves of my dear ones..from me.

Now, my pen I shall put away as this letter I will end
It is written in a simple, every-day, common-place style
In spite of all that, I send it as a remembrance from me
You remember that Godmother Malla is especially fond of you.

Translation lovingly done by:
Edna C. Ringerud
3727 118TH Lane
Coon Rapids, Minnesota 55433
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