

17 Jan 2015

Hi guys!

I have looked and not found any documentation on Dad's parents. Raza Mia sent information on a photo he had, that I had taken a photo of, but I can't find that right now either. On that photo dad is about 11, but the names Raza wrote down were more like Benjamin Jamal, and not full last names, certainly not maiden names. Bia and her mother are pictured on it as well. This is not the kind of thing that was ever a part of family lore, there was very little talk about Dad's family beyond his siblings, nor did he offer much. His 'papers' were thrown out at some point, so if he had documentation there it is gone. I tried to write to the university in Lucknow a few years ago, to find a trace of him as a student there, but got nowhere. So it is hard to say where they even were from, other than they were in Delhi at the time of partition. Dad's father Abbajan was from Iran. Haidri or Haider is a common name there, like Smith. Dad used to say that his mother was German. He said it many times, but mom didn't believe it. For one thing, Dad looked very distinctly like Bia, his nose and forehead, she had the same profile, so I too think it would be hard to believe he had a German mother. The real mystery is why he said it, insisted on it, but gave no information about it in any concrete way. He would hold discourses to me about the family and in-laws of Mohammed but not of his own father. Peter is the last hope.

Richard Sandaas (spelled Sandås here) is through his father's father connected with Cecilia Andersen... as neighbors at least. See maps below for Sandås, Fillan... both of these places are on Hitra, Norway's 7th largest of thousands of islands along the coast. Ulvøya is an area on Hitra. It looks like Sandås is on the

southwest edge of it. All maps are from norgeskart.no

Info about Lars and Cecilie

1865 census: Ørland parish Hitra is in Ørland, and Fillan is on Hitra, as is Ulvøya and Sandås. (Ørland is on the far right of the map below, it has an airport, big Nato place now).

Fillan in 1865 comprised 100 farms, of which 4 were named Skjærbustad. The one we are from was Skjærbustadskog, or the "forest farm". I can't find anyplace by that name now. Fillan is, for the area, a booming little village and all farms are called Fillan.

Johan Arne Eriksen, 41 years old, a husband and farmhand so to speak for the fisherman at Ørlandet parish and his wife Grethe Israelsdatter (she was Jewish it looks like!) 46 years old.

Daughter Elin Cecilia, listed as age 8, has no siblings, but the family has 4 sheep and 1 pig. There is one manservant who is 21 years old. **Cecilia is Anna's mother**, mom's grandmother, who was known as Cecilia Andersen. (Married to Lars Andersen, see below)

sidenote: Mom took Cecilia Andersen a pseudonym when, during the war, she wanted some German letters translated by a professor in Madison, and did not want her identity known.

I have a copy of Lars Andersen's birth record, or rather an affidavit from a priest that he was without bad repute. This is dated 15 January 1881. It says he was Lars Andersen Fjøseide, born in Thingvold 24 Nov 1855. His father was Anders Andersen Fjøseide, married to Anne Jørusdatter, who was in fact Anders' cousin.

Fjøseide was actually the farm name. At the time of Lars's birth

they lived at Fjøseide so Anders is named Fjøseide on the church document showing Lars's birth, baptism (1856) and confirmation (1872). (Lars never took "holy communion," it has been crossed out on the document, whatever that means.)

But in the bygdeboka, regional annal, almanac, volumne thingy about all the farms, the father of Lars is called Anders Andersson *Rønningen*, because he lived at a place called Rønningen before coming to Fjøseidvikan. Anders Andersson was born in 1818 in Oppistua, further inland, down the fjord. So from birth he was migrating toward the coast.

Lars was born on Fjøseide and how he met Cecilia is unknown to me. You can see on the map how far it was to Hitra. Lars was a sea captain of sorts... but chances are the direct link between Richard and us is Cecilia, not Lars. Cecilie, mom's maternal grandmother, was born on a farm near where Sandås is. It is possible to keep on going through church, census and farm annals to find the connection between her and Richard's grandfather.

On with our family.

April 10, 1845 Anders Andersson got a rental contract to farm at Fjøseid. Note that the name is spelled Andersson and Andersen, depending on who was doing the writing. Anders Andersen means Anders, son of Anders. His son then is Lars, son of Anders: Lars Andersen.

There were 11 children, Lars was number 5 born in 1855. Number 11, Jon went to America, married Netta, whom mom called Aunt Netty (Aunt Netty and Uncle Jon). It doesn't say here when Jon went to America, but Louie and Barb told me Jon went first, and sent money back to Lars to come. Lars was at least 11 years older than Jon by the looks of the birth years. Bastian was child number

10. He also was in America, mom talked about him. It says here he was born in 1866 and died unmarried in America. So Jon was born after 1866. Went to America and married Netta (could she possibly have been Ella, Bill's mother's sister??)

Here it says Anders Andersson died in 1889. Bastian ran the farm until he went to America, and then someone whose name I won't go into because it will just complicate things took over. They were just renting the whole time. In 1875 the farm was one of the largest or best in the area with 2 cows, one calf, and 16 sheep.

Here it says Lars had a sister Magnhild, born 1849, married to Johan Mortenson Fredsvik. Their son Martinus, born 1870, went to America. That would be Lars's nephew. He was, I believe, father to the unmarried cousin Margaret. Cousin Margaret lived with a woman near Milton or Janesville. Maybe on Mud Lake? I am not sure of these places. When Margaret died we (Barb, mom, Louie... can't say for sure exactly who, but Trond and I were there with mom) went to the auction of her stuff. There were beautiful little silver coffee spoons, with a rosemaled pattern engraved in the handle. A dealer snatched them up for \$2 each, along with a bunch of other stuff. It was impossible to be one step ahead of those antique sharks. But I went up to the woman and told her I was family and was married Norwegian and really wanted those spoons, and she let me buy them back from her... for \$2 each! It was so kind, I couldn't believe it. So anyway, those spoons, which I somehow thought were from Telemark, because the rosemaling pattern is that Telemark C, probably came from this area, with Martinus, grandson of Anders Andersson Rønningen, and no relation at all to your Richard Sandaas.

While I have it in front of me: Also emigrating to America from this sibling flock were child number 8, Jens, born 1863 married

and had children in America; Anna, child #9, born 1866, went to America and married a priest. Bastian died a bachelor, maybe I said that already. Here's a little gossip: Child number 7, Mali, was born in 1860 and died unmarried at her home, i.e. on this farm. She had a son Anders, born in 1883, the skipper Arne Pedersson Vassli. Wonder what year she died. The bastard son became a 7th Day Adventist minister in Denmark. More than you wanted to know.

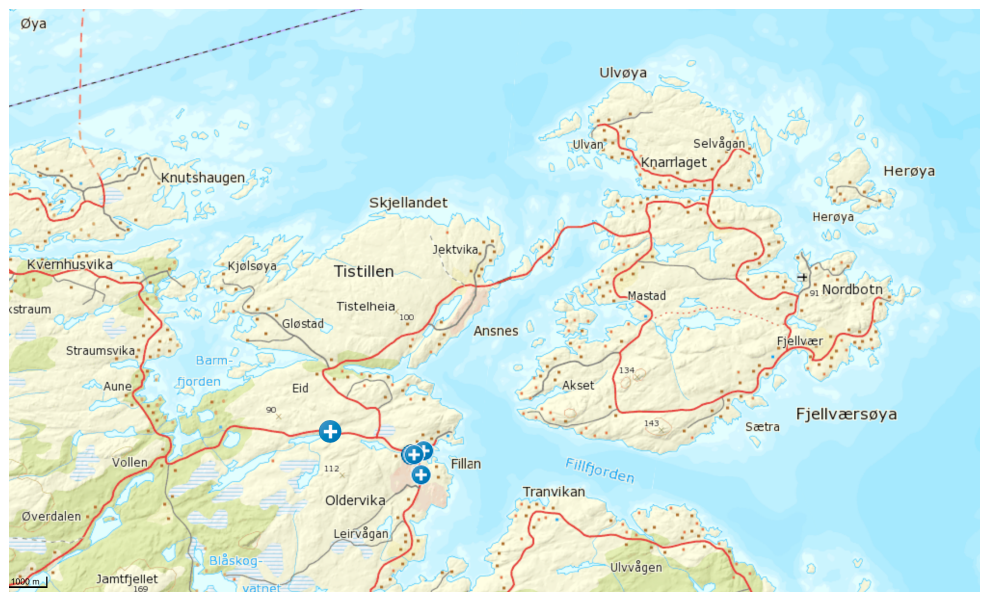
Wait! on the back of the church document is the very hard to decipher wedding date of Lars and Elin Cecilie Skjærbusstad. 29 June 1887. THAT part of the document is dated 1891. That means they probably emigrated in 1891, needed this document updated as a type of marriage certificate before leaving. Meaning Ma was born around that date. If she was born in 1887 or 88 she would be about 3 or 4 when they left, which this seems to be. The fact of Lars getting this marriage document written 4 years after he actually got married means he must have planned at that time to go to America, which sort of complicates the impression I had earlier, which was that he up and left in a hurry because of some shipmate's death being pinned on him.

What I know from Barb, Louie, Mom: Lars followed his brother John with his little family. If Luella was born or not I don't know. She was younger than Ma. They went directly to Chicago, walked to Milton Junction, bought a farm that ended up being a fraudulent property, most of it was swamp but when they saw it in the summer it looked like lush fields. Mud Lake was the place in Wisconsin.

Sandane, the other place Richard mentions, is deeply entrenched in the richest fjord country of the middle of Norway. There is no doubt as to why Hitler wanted Norway, you could hide a planet in these geographical nooks and crannies and only find it by satellite. I don't think there's much of a chance of a connection there, but ... the place Anders Andersson is from is about halfway between there and Hitra. Who knows.

As far as the Landsverks go, they were from a whole other area, Bø in Seljord in Telemark, and never lived near Trondheim or Oslo. All of them came to the states in one fell swoop via Christiania, i.e. Oslo. Tollef and his brothers were in North Dakota and Minnesota, as well as in Wisconsin.

Fillan and
Ulvøya (up
where it says
Skjellandet):





Hitra, Trondheim and distance to Kristiansund (where Lars embarked from)

Fjøseide
to Hitra



Sandås (Sandaas) farm and Fillan where Skjærbustadskog farm was and Cecilie born:

