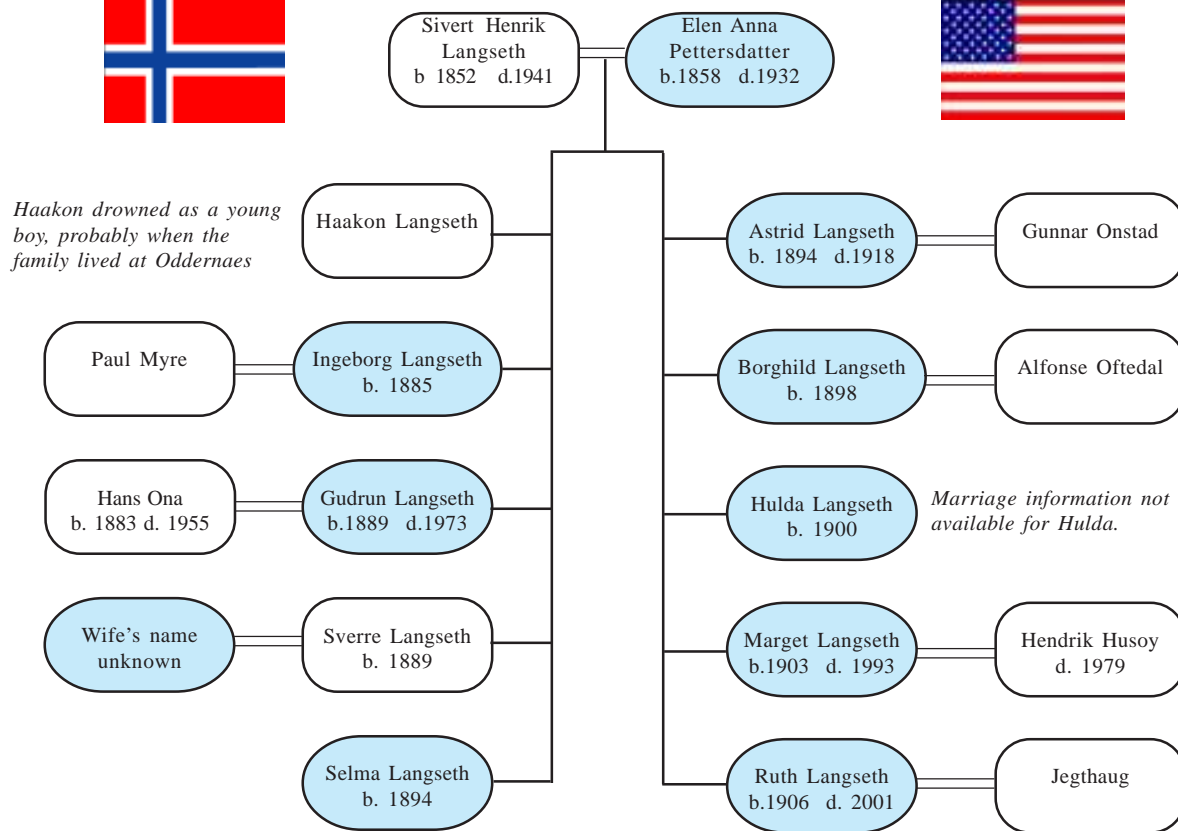


Sivert Langseth Family



Sivert Langseth was born in Vatne, Norway, which is about halfway between between the cities of Molde and Ålesund. Elen Anna Lergrovik was born and raised in Bolsøy Parish, which is just east of Molde. They were living in the coastal town of Bud, about ten miles north of Molde during their early married life. He was appointed lighthouse keeper in Oddernæs on the southern coast of Norway, near the city of Kristiansand, probably sometime in the 1890s. Sivert reportedly suffered from asthma and he applied for and was accepted for the position of lighthouse keeper on the island of Ona in 1902. According to the 1900 census, the oldest child, Ingeborg, was born in the region of Sandoy, an area of islands that included Ona, so they would have lived there before moving to southern Norway. He was said to have felt that on a remote island his asthma would improve. Sivert and Elen Anna eventually retired back in Bud, where they are buried.

On the 1900 census the family is living at Oddernæs near Kristiansand in southern Norway, and the ages of most of the children could be determined from this census. The two youngest daughters, Margit and Ruth were born after the family moved to Ona. A son, Haakon, is not counted on the census, so is presumed to have drowned prior to that.

Only two of the children emigrated to America. Gudrun left in 1908 to marry Hans Ona in North Dakota. Astrid left one year later and joined the Onas on a farm in Nelson County, North Dakota. Soon after that she married Gunnar Onstad. They had three children before she died in the 1918 influenza epidemic.

Hans and Gudrun Ona raised four children. They lived on various farms in Nelson County, North Dakota until 1938 when they moved to the Seattle, Washington area where they lived the rest of their lives.

The Jens Johan Larsen Tusvik Family



Jens Johan
Larsen Tusvik
b.1885 d.1933

Elen Anna
Niilsdatter
b.1861 d.1957



Gudrun
Sofie Langseth
b.1889 d.1973

Hans Andreas
Ona
b.1883 d.1955

Hanna
Nikoline
b.1889 d.1977

Ole Elias
Jensen
b.1885 d.1974

Helga
Skori
b.1884 d.1971

Ludvik
Bernhard Ona
b.1888 d.1968

Beret
Marta Nerland
b.1892 d.1976

Peder Salamon
Jensen
b.1890

Peder Pedersen

Anna
Josefine Jensdatter
b.1893 d.1985

Nels Ona
b. abt. 1896

*Nels Ona never
married. He died in
Seattle, Washington*

Rakel
Lien
b.1898 d.1983

*Rakel never married
and lived her entire life
on Ona*

Jonas Jensen
b.1901 d.1919

*Jonas died of tuberculosis at
the age of 18. He is buried in
the churchyard on Sandøy*

Arne Jensen
b. 1905

Birit

Ona is about a two hour ferry ride out into the North Sea. At its peak it had a population of about 380. Now there are only about eighty people left. At the beginning of the twentieth century there were two main industries, fishing and maintaining and operating a lighthouse. Now the fishing industry has vanished and the lighthouse, although still in operating condition, has been replaced by a smaller automatically operated unit. Many of the people living on the island are retired, but a tourism industry has developed and some residents are kept busy taking care of tourists. Most of the tourists are day visitors, but there is a hostel that takes care of those that stay overnight. Many of the wives on Ona make ceramic items to sell.

I believe this family and their ancestors were long time residents of the island of Ona. They made their living by fishing but, with the decline of the herring fishery in Norway, the industry gradually declined on Ona, and commercial fishing eventually disappeared completely. Today there are some descendants of Ole Elias and Salamon (Peder Salamon always just went by the name of Salamon) still living there, but the other families have either died out or moved away. Three of the sons, Hans, Ludvik and Nels emigrated. Nels, Jonas and Rakel never married. Other descendants live in various parts of Norway and Sweden.

This family is a perfect example of how Norwegians treat their surnames. Three sons (the three that emigrated to America) took the name of Ona. A daughter, Rakel, and some of Salamon's sons took the name of Lien, after the name of their house. The rest took their surname from their father's name, Jens, becoming either Jensen or Jensdatter. Hans and Ludvik changed their last names from Jensen to Ona after they had settled in America. Nels emigrated under the name of Ona.