

12-7-83

Dear Randy,

Obviously I wasn't recalling much info when you were wanting it on the phone. So I'll hasten to augment/clarify a little of what you asked about.

Turid gave me a skeleton family tree, + I found a book at Gyda's + putting these together, here are some facts as I know them:

My great grand father, Peder Larsen Stenpjen (in the book spelled Peder, Larssen Steindjen) (1825) married Ingeborg Johansdatter, e.i. Johnson in 1846. In Norway 8 children were born to them: Lars, Johanna, Marta, Johanne, Kirste, Ala (1861), Ingeborg + Peder.

The family, all except Johanna, came to America in 1879. (You will hear about + meet relatives ^{of this Johanne} in Norway e.g. Kvidal, Kværmo, Bjørneggen, etc.) The father was a carpenter by trade. Ala was one of the youngest. They first went with the name of Pederson, later Ala (or Ole) changed it to Stenpjen as there were too many Ole Pedersons.

He ^{Ala} married Johanna Gillen, dt. of Svend + Sidsken Gilland. (Her brother, Haas, is father to Gyda, Harald + Ingemann + Svend)

Olle ^{Johnsen} Stensien had 12 children, namely:
Peder, Svend, Gilbert (our dad),
Ingeborg, Gina, Alle, Petra, Thilda,
Selma, Selmer, Judith + Russell.
Three are living - Petra, Thilda + Sam.

Grandpa Ole P. Stensien died in 1940
+ Grandmother in 1948.

Back to the Gillans (pronounced Yellan):

Grandma Johanna had 2 brothers who stayed in
Norway, Hans + Thomas (who married a Stensien
sister).
As I said earlier Hans + his wife Ingeborg had 4 children.
I met all but Svend - Syda married Toralf Gjermund
+ they live on the old Gjermund farm. I stayed with
this couple. They don't speak much English,
in fact Toralf doesn't speak a lot period!
Harald lives in Meraker, + I was there
for a nice meal. Since then his wife
Mary died. I visited Ingermann who
was an invalid at a nursing home in
Meraker. Since then he too has died.
He was Turid's father; Turid has a
sister, May, who also lives very close
to Turid + Bjorn Lundemo. Her husband
is Sverre Strøm. May has corresponded
with a Sampson fellow who visited relatives ^{here}. Turid has
2 children; May, 3. Turid's + May's mother, Marit, lives

with May, and also helps Tui's family when she's away at school. I was amazed how Ingemann resembled my Uncle Ole, your grandfather, as well as Derold.

I'd very much like to return - I'd feel more at ease a second time - but I'll have to be glad I could go once. On our fixed income, I can't make big plans.

Die scribbled - without much organization to the info - Hope it is helpful.

As to the Gjense name, I haven't any facts - except Toralf & Syda & their offspring, Gunnleif & wife Li^{Li} ^(Li has the store in Stordalen) & their 3 boys & etc. Maybe you'll make some discoveries or connections between Gjense - Stordalen. There doesn't have to be, however. I think it was Evelyn Carboe who made a visit to Stordalen & mentioned Gjense -

I do a little tutoring - ESL, or English as a second language. Once a week I assist at a public school & once a wk (today) a French couple from Poland come to our house for couple hours of teaching. Volunteer on my part. Greetings for the holidays. Did we miss our snow? Gudrun