

THE SAMSONS

ICELANDIC NAMES

The history and origin of the Samson family is intertwined with the history of Iceland and the Icelandic people. The first principle that must be understood before comprehending Icelandic ancestry is the way in which Icelandic people use names. Simply put, the family name Samson has been Americanized for convenience and cultural adaption. In essence it means "Sam's son." The first person to use the Americanized surname of Samson was Jonas Samson. However, his father's name was Samson Björnsson. In Icelandic tradition, the last name is a derivative of the father's first name. For any son, the last name is the father's first name with a "son" added to the end. Likewise, for any daughter, the last name is the father's first name with a "dóttir" added to the end.

ICELANDIC ALPHABET

The Icelandic alphabet has some letters that are not used in the English alphabet. Not all of these "extra" Icelandic letters are used in this chapter. However, several are used in the spelling of names of Samson ancestors and in the place names where they lived. These letters and their pronunciation are:

Àà: like **ou** in house

Ææ: like **i** in mile

Éé: like the **ye** in yet

Í í: like the **ee** in seen

Óó: like **o** in sole

Öö: like **ur** in urgent

Öð: like **th** in that

Þþ: like **th** in thin

Ú ú: like **oo** in moon

Ý ý: same as **i** or Icelandic í

HISTORY OF ICELAND

In 330 B.C., an explorer named Pytheas sailed north from Marseille (France) to discover how far the world extended that way. He navigated the British Isles and the northern seas. He told tales of an island that he named Thule, or Ultima Thule, which he learned about from others or found himself. The island was six days north of Britain and one day away from "the end of the world." On his return he wrote his travel journal that is long lost but is quoted in several other recent books. This island was possibly Iceland.

The first geography document that describes the Northern seas was written by an Irish monk, named Dicuil, early in the ninth century. The book was called *De mensura orbis terrae* and in it he describes his interviews with Irish priests, papas, that claimed they had sailed north to Thule and lived there from February to August. They say that during middle of the summer they never lost the light of day and could "pick lice off shirts."

The papas confirmed Pytheas' story that after a days journey north of the island they came upon "frozen sea." Dicuil was the first man to locate Thule on the isolated island that later became known as Iceland, (as the island was known in Ireland late in the 8th century). His accounts (and later research) claim there were no inhabitants prior to the Irish visits. It appears the Irish monks left Iceland soon after the Vikings started their own settlement in Iceland around the year 900. If they stayed, they were totally ignored and without influence.

The Viking settlement of Iceland was largely due to internal struggle in Norway between the barbarian king Harald the Fairhaired and the former rulers. Harald won a major victory late in the eighth century

following his retreating enemies all the way to the Scottish Isles, which he conquered. Many fled directly from Norway or from Britain to Iceland, which was then known among Vikings, in a successful attempt to evade Harald's reign of power.

In the year 850, the Faraese Naddodur landed on the east coast and named the place Snæland (Snowland) before returning to his original destination (likely Faroe Islands). In 855, the second visitor, a Swede named Garðar Svavarsson, came in search of Naddodur's Snæland. He circumnavigated the island and settled in for the winter at Húsavík on the north coast. When he left the following spring three of his men were left behind, whether they liked it or not, and thus became the island's first residents. He named the island Garðarshólmur in a Scandinavian tradition.

In 860, the Norwegian Flóki Vilgerðarson (a direct ancestor of the Samsons) uprooted his farm and family and headed for Snæland. He navigated with ravens and after some experiments one of the ravens did not return and Flóki followed its direction and found the shores of Snæland. His use of ravens gave him the nickname, Hrafna Flóki (Raven's Flóki), by which he has been known ever since. He sailed to Vatnsfjörður on the west coast but was far from being impressed by the environment. When he saw icebergs floating in the fjord he named the island Ísland (Iceland) probably as much to discourage others from arriving there as anything else. He then returned to Norway but at some point reconsidered his position as he did in fact return to Iceland some years later and settled in the Skagafjörður district on the north coast.

In 874, Iceland's first intentional settler, Ingólfur Arnarson (a direct ancestor of the Samsons), arrived from Norway. He set up a house at a place he called Reykjavík (Smoky Bay) so named because of the steam from the thermal springs there.

Descendants of Early Iceland Settlers and Viking Kings

The Samsons are descendants of the earliest settlers of Iceland. The direct lines of descent can be found in the ancestors of Kristin Sveinsdóttir (Katrín Ásmundsdóttir's Great Grandmother).

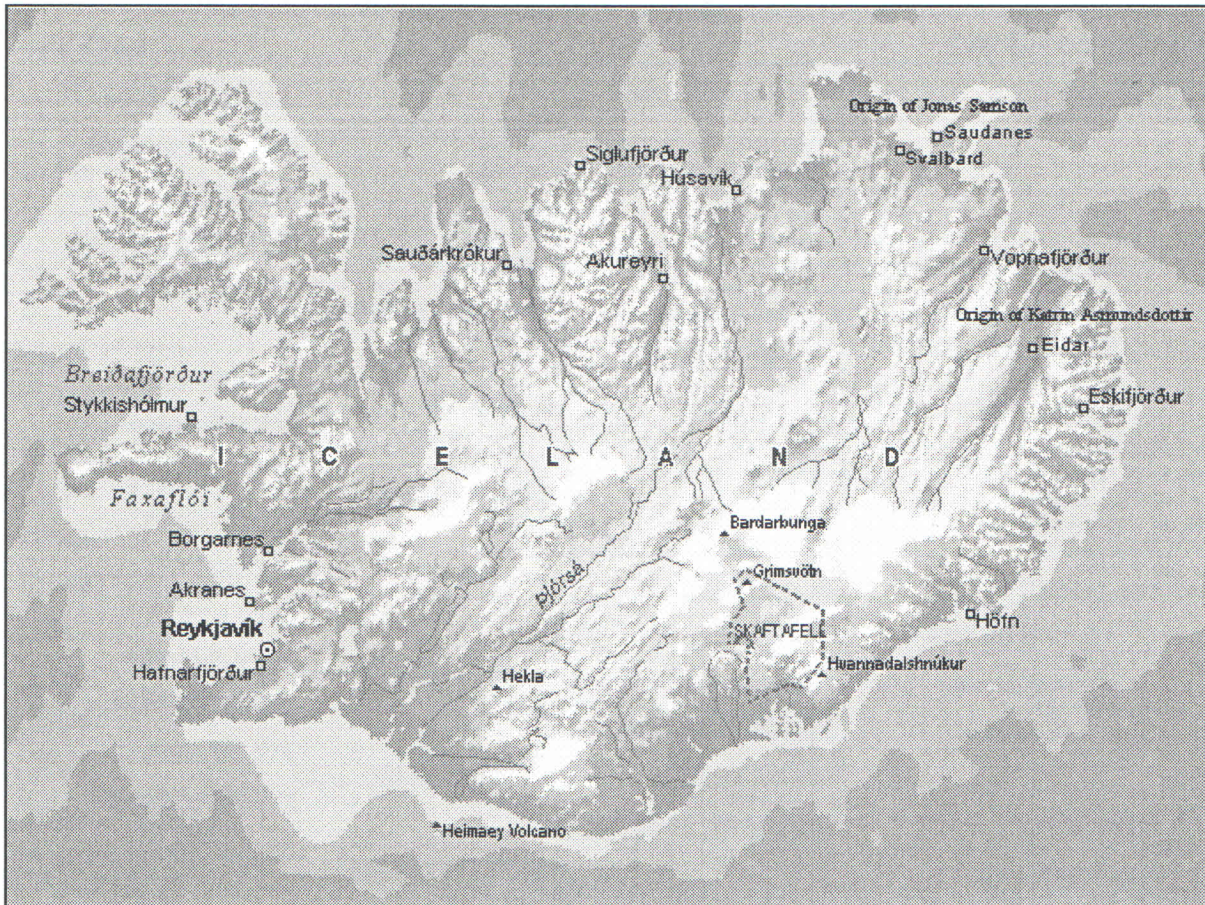
The early settlers came to Iceland from Norway in the late 800's. The Samsons are descendants of several of Norway's Minor Kings such as:

Harald "Golden Beard" King in Sogni, Snaer Jokulsson, King in Kvenland; Thorri Snaersson, King in Kvenland; Halfda "The Old" Hringsson, King in Ringerik; and Norr Thorrasson, King in Alfheim. Among the Samson ancestors mentioned in Snorri Sturlason's *Heimskringla* are Kings of Norway Halfdan the Black, Harald "Fairhair" Halfdansson, Harald Hardrade, Olaf III "The Tranquil" Haraldsson, and Magnus Barefoot.

Because the Vikings were so well traveled in northern Europe, the Samsons can also count three Finland Kings, Fornjotur, Kari Fornjotsson, and Frosti Karasson, among their ancestors. Also, Samson ancestors include four Irish Kings, Bjolan, Myrkjartan, Cearball MacDunlainq, and Olafur Ingjaldsson.

This ancestral line includes several Icelandic Chieftain or Goði and members of the Althingi. There also are many persons with the title Reverend who were Christian (Catholic) Priests and Bishops prior to the advent of Lutheranism (1536) in Iceland.

In 930, the Icelandic parliament, Althingi, (Alþingi), had its first meeting. The Althingi is the oldest parliamentary system still operating in the world. It was abolished in the year 1800 by the Danish king, but with the awakening of



Map of Iceland showing the areas of origin of Jonas Samson and Katrin Asmundsdottir in Northeastern Iceland.

Icelandic nationalism, taken back in use 43 years later.

In 985, Eiríkur the Red (Eiríkur Rauði) discovers and settles Greenland (his son, Leifur, 15 years later found North America).

In 1000, Christianity was adopted as the new religion replacing paganism. The adoption in Iceland was a peaceful almost overnight process, unlike the massive fighting and bloodshed in Norway. This leads to the conclusion that Christianity was at least well known in Iceland before the official adoption. Pagan graves (around 300 in number) in Iceland are dated from about 850 to early 11th century.

From 1120 to 1230, the old Scandinavian sagas were written down in Iceland. Snorri Sturluson (a direct ancestor of the Samsons), a

nobleman, historian and poet, wrote (or is believed to have written) the *Prose Edda*, the *Heimskringla* and the *Sagas of the Norwegian Kings*.

In 1244, the first naval battle, the Bay Battle, was fought in Iceland at Húnaflói. This battle was near the end of series of battles and murderous actions which raged more or less from 1208 to 1258. In 1262, weakened by internal struggles, Iceland comes under Norwegian rule, maintaining, however, a large autonomy. In 1380, Iceland and Norway came under the Danish Crown.

In 1402, the Black Death arrives in Iceland from Europe, believed to have been transmitted via black rats. One third of the population perishes from the plague during 1402 - 1404.

In 1536, Iceland becomes Lutheran. The

Pedigree Chart		Apr 13 2001
Chart no. _____		
No. 1 on this chart is the same as no. _____ on chart no. _____		
<p>4 Sæbjörn Þorsteinsson B: 1779 P: N-Múla, Iceland M: 1808 P: N-Múla, Iceland D: Jan 17 1841 P: Eiða, S-Múla, Iceland</p>	<p>16 Sigurdur Eyjólfsson B: abt 1720 D: aft 1750</p>	
<p>2 Á Sæbjörnsson B: Oct 15 1811 P: N-Múla, Iceland M: bet 1855 and 1860 P: N-Múla, Iceland D: Jan 30 1894 P: N-Múla, Iceland</p>	<p>17 Bóel Jensdóttir B: abt 1724 D: Feb 26 1797</p>	
<p>5 K Ásmundsdóttir B: 1781 P: N-Múla, Iceland D: aft 1851 P: N-Múla, Iceland</p>	<p>18 Oddsson (The Strong) B: abt 1714 D:</p>	
<p>1 K Ásmundsdóttir B: 1855 P: N-Múla, Iceland M: 1879 P: N-Múla, Iceland D: Mar 12 1894 P: Akra, ND</p>	<p>19 S Jónsdóttir B: 1716 D: Oct 13 1816</p>	
<p>6 Björn Jónsson B: 1794 P: Eiða, S-Múla, Iceland M: Nov 2 1820 P: Eiða, S-Múla, Iceland D: Oct 1 1845 P: Eiða, S-Múla, Iceland</p>	<p>20 Einar Þorleifsson B: 1662 D:</p>	
<p>3 Guðrún Björnsdóttir B: Nov 16 1822 P: Eiða, S-Múla, Iceland D: Oct 27 1893 P: Akra, ND</p>	<p>21 B: D:</p>	
<p>7 Katrín Eiríksdóttir B: 1799 P: Eiða, S-Múla, Iceland D: Mar 26 1868 P: Eiða, S-Múla, Iceland</p>	<p>22 Sveinn Jónsson B: 1701 D:</p>	
<p>15 G Benediktsdóttir B: 1767 P: Eiða, S-Múla, Iceland D: Sep 17 1823 P: Eiða, S-Múla, Iceland</p>	<p>23 S Guttormsdóttir B: 1708 D:</p>	
<p>Prepared Apr 13 2001 by: Dennis B. McLane</p>	<p>24 Björn Ögmundsson B: 1728 D:</p>	
	<p>25 I Kolbeinsdóttir B: 1730 D:</p>	
	<p>26 Einar Nikulásson B: 1734 D: aft Feb 1 1801</p>	
	<p>27 Guðný Jónsdóttir B: 1722 D:</p>	
	<p>28 Magnús Eiríksson B: 1726 D: Oct 6 1793</p>	
	<p>29 Katrín Eiríksdóttir B: 1730 D: bet 1801 and 1816</p>	
	<p>30 B Kolbeinsson B: 1728 D:</p>	
	<p>31 I Rafnsdóttir B: 1727 D:</p>	
	<p>32 E Guðmundsson cont. _____</p>	
	<p>33 H Þorsteinsdóttir cont. _____</p>	
	<p>34 Jens Wium cont. _____</p>	
	<p>35 Ingibjörg Jónsdóttir cont. _____</p>	
	<p>36 cont. _____</p>	
	<p>37 cont. _____</p>	
	<p>38 Jón Rafnsson cont. _____</p>	
	<p>39 R Pétursdóttir cont. _____</p>	
	<p>40 cont. _____</p>	
	<p>41 cont. _____</p>	
	<p>42 cont. _____</p>	
	<p>43 cont. _____</p>	
	<p>44 Jón Stefansson cont. _____</p>	
	<p>45 K Sigurósdóttir cont. _____</p>	
	<p>46 G Solvasson cont. _____</p>	
	<p>47 Kristín Pállsdóttir cont. _____</p>	
	<p>48 cont. _____</p>	
	<p>49 cont. _____</p>	
	<p>50 K Steingrímsson cont. _____</p>	
	<p>51 cont. _____</p>	
	<p>52 Nikulás Gíslason cont. _____</p>	
	<p>53 S Thoradarsdóttir cont. _____</p>	
	<p>54 cont. _____</p>	
	<p>55 cont. _____</p>	
	<p>56 E Marteinsson cont. _____</p>	
	<p>57 cont. _____</p>	
	<p>58 cont. _____</p>	
	<p>59 cont. _____</p>	
	<p>60 Kolbein Jakobsson cont. _____</p>	
	<p>61 cont. _____</p>	
	<p>62 cont. _____</p>	
	<p>63 cont. _____</p>	

Pedigree Chart of Katrín Ásmundsdóttir (1855 - 1894)

Bible is translated into Icelandic in 1584. This translation is believed to have been a major force in the preservation of the Icelandic language.

1627 was the year of "The Turkish landings." Five Algerian pirate ships under Muslim command struck various locations in Iceland, among them Westman Islands and Grindavík. They killed the Westman Islands Priest Jón Þorsteinsson (a direct ancestor of the Samsons) while he was kneeling in prayer. They killed and burned wherever they came and enslaved 380 Icelanders, moving them to Algeria where they were sold. After nine years in slavery 35 Icelanders were bought free and the following year, 1637, 25 of them made it back home.

In 1783, the catastrophic Lakagígur eruption and earthquakes occurred. It was the worst volcanic eruptions in the history of Iceland. The smoke affected sunlight in Europe for months. Grass was burned from large areas, 3/4 of the cattle starved to death and likewise, 1/4 of Iceland's inhabitants died of starvation. The turmoil lasted until 1786.

During the last quarter of the 19th century, Iceland had its share of problems: hardship, overpopulation, and disease in which many starved. People had been going west to North America since 1855 but the first organized journey took place in 1873 when a large group sailed from Akureyri. The greatest rush westward began shortly after 1880, when Icelanders faced great hardship, blaming the Danish rulers for the situation, and lasted until 1890 when things became better in Iceland.

Most of the people settled in Canada, specifically in Manitoba. A special Icelanders "colony" was formed in 1875 and was called Nyja Ísland ('New Iceland') It was located along the western shore of Lake Winnipeg about 60 miles north of Winnipeg and encompassed about 300 square miles of territory. Many of the first to leave Iceland

after 1855 took up the Mormon religion and moved to Utah in the United States where Spanish Fork became their main community. From 1855 to 1914 (few moved after 1904 though) about 15,000 Icelanders moved to North America, these people were sadly missed but some of them came back with new technology and knowledge.

Today it is estimated that about 60,000 North Americans can trace their roots to Icelandic origin. About 18,000 are believed to be in the B.C. (British Columbia, Canada) and Washington state (U.S.) areas. 25,000 more are in the Manitoba, North Dakota areas. The remainder are in pockets of several thousands in the large urban centers like Toronto, New York and Los Angeles. There are also notable settlements in Saskatchewan and Alberta. These people and their descendants are often called 'Vestur-Íslendingar' among themselves, but normally Icelandic Canadians and Icelandic Americans. When they first came over in the last century they were called "Icelanders" by the Canadians.

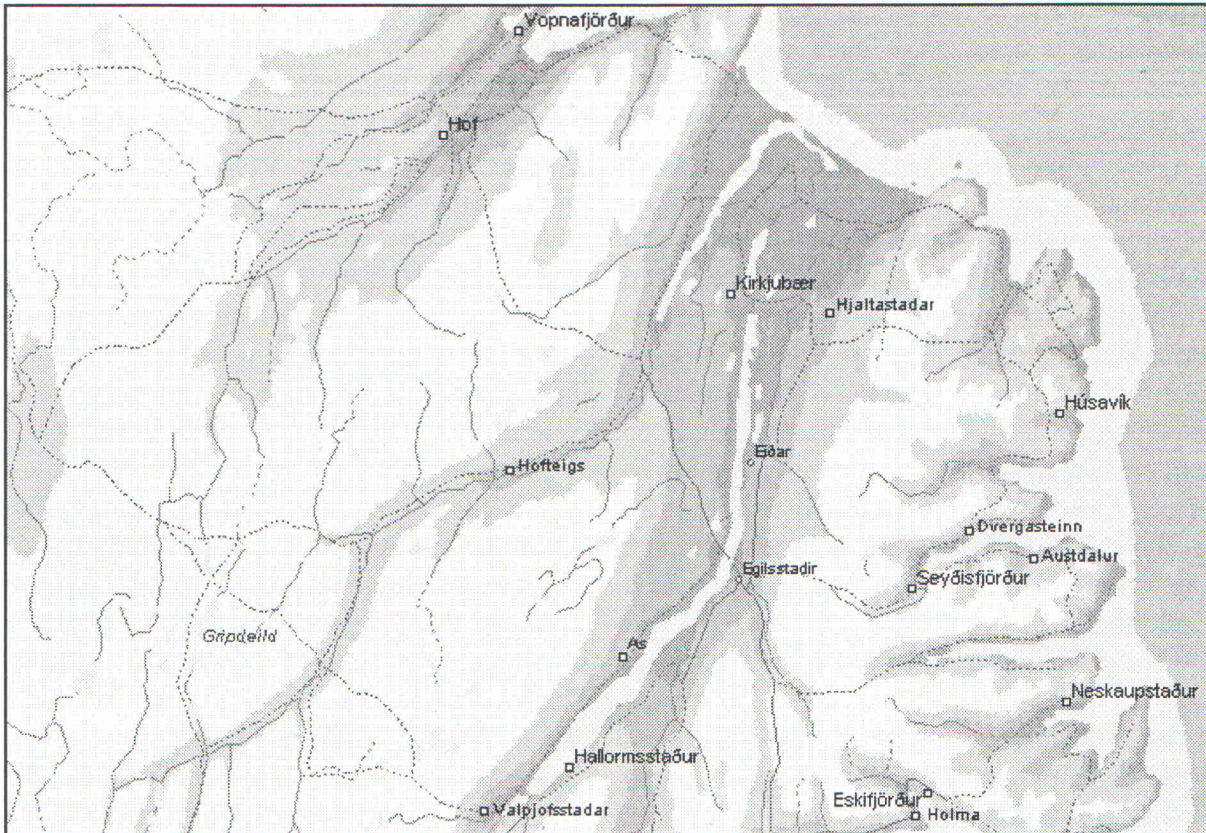
Special note: *The ancestors of the Samsons are well represented in a variety of Icelandic sources and date back over 1,200 years. Therefore, narratives on specific ancestors presented here will be only those persons who appear on the 6 generation pedigree charts for Katrín Ásmundsdóttir (page 122) or Jonas Samson (page 135) provided as illustrations in this chapter.*

EIRIKUR MARTEINSSON (1688 -)

Sp: Unknown

1. Magnús Eiríksson (1726 - 1793)

Eiríkur Marteinnsson was born in 1688 on the farm Hrafnsgarði in the Parish of As in Nordur-Mulasýsla. His parents were Marteinn Bartholomeison and Guðrun Guðmundsdóttir.



Enlarged map of Eastern Iceland showing names of major Parishes where the events of Samson ancestors occurred.

In 1726, Eiríkur Marteinsson's son Magnús Eiríksson was born in the Parish of As.

MAGNÚS EIRÍKSSON (1726 - 1793)

Sp: *Katrín Eiríksdóttir* (1730 - 1816)

1. Eiriker Magnússon (1755 -)
2. Eiríkur Magnússon (1759 -)
3. Bjarni Magnússon (1760 -)
4. Guðbjörg Magnúsdóttir (1761 -)

Magnús Eiríksson was born in 1726 in the Parish of As in Nordur-Mulasysla. His father was Eiríkur Marteinsson. Magnus owned the farm called Brekka in 1753. Magnus was married to *Katrín Eiríksdóttir* in 1754 in the Parish of Valþjófsstaður. Magnus and *Katrín* had at least four children while living at Brekka. Eiriker Magnússon (the elder) was born in 1755. Eiríkur Magnússon (the younger) was born in 1759. Bjarni Magnússon was born in 1760. Guðbjörg Magnúsdóttir was born in

1761. Magnús Eiríksson died on Oct. 6, 1793 in the Parish of Valþjófsstaður in Nordur-Mulasysla. *Katrín Eiríksdóttir* died sometime between 1801 and 1816.

KOLBEINN JAKOBSSON (1690 -)

Sp: Unknown

1. Benedikt Kolbeinsson (1728 -)

Kolbeinn Jakobsson was born in the Parish of Hofteigs in Nordur-Mulasysla in 1690. His father was Jakob Hallsson who was born in 1651 in Asgrimstaðir in the Parish of Hjaltast in Nordur-Mulasysla. His mother was Arndís Sveinsdóttir who was born in 1663. Kolbeinn Jakobsson had at least one child, Benedikt Kolbeinsson, who was born in 1728 in the Parish of Eiða in Sudur-Mulasysla while his family lived on the farm called Hleinargarður.

BENEDIKT KOLBEINSSON (1728 -)Sp: **Ingibjörg Rafnsdóttir (1727 -)**1. **Guðrún Benediktsdóttir (1767 - 1823)**

Benedikt Kolbeinsson was born in 1728 in the Parish of Eiða in Sudur-Mulasysla. His father was Kolbeinn Jakobsson. Benedikt was married to Ingibjörg Rafnsdóttir who was born in 1727 in the Parish of Hjaltastaðar in Nordur-Mulasysla. They had a daughter named Guðrún Benediktsdóttir who was born in the Parish of Eiða in 1767.

EIRÍKUR MAGNÚSSON (1759 - 1833)Sp: **Guðrún Benediktsdóttir (1767 - 1823)**

1. **Audun Eiríksson (1795 -)**
2. **Ingjörg Eiríksdóttir (1796 -)**
3. **Sigrídur Eiríksdóttir (1798 -)**
4. **Katrín Eiríksdóttir (1799 -)**
5. **Kristín Eiríksdóttir (1800 -)**
6. **Guðriður Eiríksdóttir (1804 -)**
7. **Björg Eiríksdóttir (1806 -)**

Eiríkur Magnússon (the younger) was born in 1759 in the Parish of Valþjófsstaðar in Nordur-Mulasysla. His parents were Magnús Eiríksson and Guðrún Benediktsdóttir. Eiríkur Magnússon (the younger) established himself as a farmer in 1794 at the farm called Gilsárteigur in the Parish of Eiða. Eiríkur married Guðrún Benediktsdóttir that same year in Eiða. Eiríkur and Guðrún had at least seven children while they lived at Gilsateigur. Audun Eiríksson was born in 1795. Ingjörg Eiríksdóttir was born in 1796. Sigrídur Eiríksdóttir was born in 1798. Katrín Eiríksdóttir was born in 1799. Kristín Eiríksdóttir was born in 1800. Guðriður Eiríksdóttir was born in 1804. Björg Eiríksdóttir was born in 1806. Sometime between 1806 and 1816, Eiríkur and Guðrún moved their family to the farm called Fossgærði, also in the Parish of Eiða. Guðrún Benediktsdóttir died on September 17, 1823 in the Parish of Eiða. She was buried on

September 20, 1823. Eiríkur Magnússon died in Eiða on April 2, 1833. He was buried on April 5, 1833.

KOLBEINN STEINGRIMSSON (1692 -)Sp: **unknown**1. **Ingibjörg Kolbeinsdóttir (1730 -)**

Kolbeinn Steingrimsson was born in 1692 in Hofteigs Parish of Nordur-Mulasysla. His father was Steingrimur Kolbeinsson who was born in Hofteigs in 1654. Kolbeinn lived at Breiðavað in 1734. Kolbeinn had a daughter named Ingibjörg Kolbeinsdóttir in 1730 in the Parish of Kirkjubæjar of Nordur-Múlasysla.

BJÖRN ÖGMUNDSSON (1728 -)Sp: **Ingibjörg Kolbeinsdóttir (1730 -)**1. **Jón Björnsson (1761 - 1848)**

Björn Ögmundsson was born in 1728 in Kirkjubær of Nordur-Múlasysla while his family lived at the farm called Breiðavað. He was a farmer at Fagrahlíð in 1762 in the Parish of Kirkjubæjar. He was married to Ingibjörg Kolbeinsdóttir. Her father was Kolbeinn Steingrimsson. Björn Ögmundsson and Ingibjörg Kolbeinsdóttir had a son named Jón Björnsson at the farm Fagrahlíð in 1761.

NIKULÁS GISLASSON (1675 -)Sp: **Steinunn Thordarsdóttir (1687 -)**

1. **Gisli Nikulásson (1716 -)**
2. **Einar Nikulásson (1734 -)**

Nikulás Gíslason was born in 1675 on the farm Rangá in the Parish of Kirkjubæjar in Nordur Múlasysla. His father was Gisli Nikulásson who was born in about 1630 on the farm Hedinshofdi in the Parish of Ísafjörður in Nordur Ísafjarðarsysla. His mother was Malmfrídur Björnsdóttir who was in 1634 on the farm Bakki in the Parish of Oxnaðal in Eyjafjarðarsysla. Nikulás Gíslason was

married to Steinunn Thordarsdóttir in about 1736 somewhere in Nordur Múlasysla. Steinunn Thordarsdóttir was born in 1687 on the farm Finnsstaðir in the Parish of Eiða in Nordur Múlasysla. Nikulás and Steinunn lived on the farm Finnsstaðir. They had at least two children. Gisli Nikulásson was born in 1716. Einar Nikulásson was born in 1737.

EINAR NIKULÁSSON (1734 - 1801)

Sp1: Guðny Jónsdóttir (1722 -)

1. Margrét Einarsdóttir (1760 - 1816)

Sp 2: Halldora Jónsdóttir (-)

1. Sigriður Einarsdóttir (1788 -)

Sp 3: Ragnheidur Björnsdóttir (1757 -)

1. Biarne Einarsson (1792 -)
2. Nikolaus Einarsson (1793 -)
3. Guðny Einarsdóttir (1796 -)

Einar Nikulásson was born in 1734 on the farm Finnsstaðir in the Parish of Eiða in Nordur Múlasysla. His parents were Nikulás Gíslason and Steinunn Thordarsdóttir. He married Guðny Jónsdóttir in 1759 in Eiða. Einar Nikulásson was a farmer at Myrnes in Eiða. They had a daughter named Margrét Einarsdóttir in Eiða in 1760. Guðny Jónsdóttir died sometime between 1762 and 1786. Einar married Halldora Jónsdóttir in about 1787 in Eiða. Einar and Halldora had at least one child. Sigriður Einarsdóttir was born in 1788. Halldora Jónsdóttir died before 1790. Einar married Ragnheidur Björnsdóttir in 1791. Einar and Ragnheidur had at least three children. Biarne Einarsson was born in 1792. Nikolaus Einarsson was born in 1793. Guðny Einarsdóttir was born in 1796. By 1801, Einar and Ragnheidur moved their family to the farm called Ásgeirsstaðir in Eiða. Einar died after 1801 in Eiða.

JÓN BJÖRNSSON (1761 - 1848)

Sp: Margrét Einarsdóttir (1760 - 1816)

1. Gudlaug Jónsdóttir (1787 -)

2. Ögmundur Jónsson (1791 -)
3. Þorunn Jónsdóttir (1793 -)
4. Björn Jónsson (1794 - 1845)
5. Margrét Jónsdóttir (1799 -)

Jón Björnsson was born in 1761 on the farm Fagrahlíð in the Parish of Kirkjubær of Nordur-Múlasysla. His parents were Björn Ögmundsson and Ingibjörg Kolbeinsdóttir. Jón Björnsson and Margrét Einarsdóttir were married in 1786 in Eiða. Her parents were Einar Nikulásson and Guðny Jónsdóttir. Jón and Margrét settled on the farm called Snjóholt in Eiða. Jón migrated often to find work. He made trips to Seyðisfjörður in 1818, 1831, 1832, 1837, 1844, and 1847. Jón and Margrét had at least five children. Gudlaug Jónsdóttir was born in 1787 in Eiða. Ögmundur Jónsson was born in 1791 in Eiða. Þorunn Jónsdóttir was born in 1793 in Eiða. Björn Jónsson was born in 1794 in Eiða. Margrét Jónsdóttir was born in Hofteigs Parish of Sudur-Múlasysla. Margrét Einarsdóttir died between 1801 and 1816 in Eiða. Jón Björnsson appears to have stayed in Seyðisfjörður after his 1847 trip. He died in the Dvergasteins Parish of Nordur-Múlasysla sometime after 1848.

GUTTORMER SOLVASSON (1665 -)

Sp: Kristín Pallsdóttir (1672 -)

1. Pall Guttormsson (1695 -)
2. Svanhildur Guttormsdóttir (1701 -)
3. Eiríkur Guttormsson (1702 -)
4. Björn Guttormsson (1704 -)
5. Arni Guttormsson (1706 -)
6. Solrun Guttormsdóttir (1708 -)
7. Solvi Guttormsson (1710 -)
8. Þrúður Guttormsdóttir (1712 -)
9. Jón Guttormsson (1714 -)

Guttormer Solvasson was born in Hofteigs in 1665. His parents were Solvi Gunnlaugarsson and Helga Sigfusdóttir who were married in 1654 in Bruar Parish of Nordur-Múlasysla. Guttormer married Kristín Pallsdóttir around 1694. Kristín was born in 1672 on the farm

Hjarðarhagi in the Parish of Hofteigsðin Nordur Múlasysla. Her parents were Pall Castiansson and Sigridur Jónsdóttir who came from Eyjofsstaðir. Guttormer and Kristín had at least nine children in Hofteigs Parish while living on the farm Hjarðarhagi. Pall Guttormsson was born in 1695. Svanhildur Guttormsdóttir was born in 1701. Eiríkur Guttormsson was born in 1702. Björn Guttormsson was born in 1704. Arni Guttormsson was born in 1706. Solrun Guttormsdóttir was born in 1708. Solvi Guttormsson was born in 1710. Thridur Guttormsdóttir was born in 1712. Jón Guttormsson was born in 1714.

JÓN STEFANSSON (1654 -)

Sp: **Katrín Sigurdsdóttir (1667 -)**

1. Sveinn Jónsson (1701 -)

Jón Stefansson was born in 1654 on the farm Torfastaðir in Kirkjubæjar Parish of Nordur-Mulasysla. He was married to Katrín Sigurdsdóttir. She was born in 1667. They lived on the farm Torfastaðir. In 1701 they had a son named Sveinn Jónsson.

SVEINN JÓNSSON (1701 -)

Sp: **Sólrún Guttormsdóttir (1708 -)**

1. **Kristín Sveinsdóttir (1743 - 1829)**
2. **Katrin Sveinsdóttir (1745 -)**
3. **Svanhildur Sveinsdóttir (1747 - 1833)**
4. **Jón Sveinsson (1748 - 1831)**
5. **Thuridur Sveinsdóttir (1751 -)**

Sveinn Jónsson was born in 1701 in Kirkjubæjar Parish of Nordur-Mulasysla while his family lived on a farm called Torfastaðir. His parents were Jón Stefansson and Katrín Sigurdsdóttir. Sveinn owned the farm called Stóribakki in Kirkjubæjar in 1753. Sveinn married Sólrún Guttormsdóttir. Her parents were Guttormer Solvasson and Kristín Pallsdóttir. They had at least five children in

Ancestors of KRISTÍN SVEINSDÓTTIR

Kristín Sveinsdóttir was born in 1743 in Kirkjubæjar Parish of Nordur-Múlasysla. She comes from a long line of ancestors that date back to before the settlement of Iceland. She is a descendant of the minor Kings of Norway. A great deal of research has been done on this line and can be found in the display of multiple generations in a file submitted to the Ancestral File (AF) Index maintained by the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City. It is contained in AF94-101718.

It contains several noteworthy ancestors. In addition to the priests and chieftain mentioned in a previous text box, the most notable ancestor was Snorri Sturlason (1179 to 1241). Snorri was not only a Chieftain in his own right, he was also known as the richest man in Iceland in his time. He was Law-speaker at the Althingi. He was a major contributor to the Icelandic Sagas through his writing of the *Heimskringla*, which is a history of the kings of Norway. He is one of Iceland's greatest heros.

Kirkjubæjar. Kristín Sveinsdóttir was born in 1743. Katrín Sveinsdóttir was born in 1745. Svanhildur Sveinsdóttir was born in 1747. Jón Sveinsson was born in 1748. Thuridur Sveinsdóttir was born in 1751.

EINAR ÞORLEIFSSON (1662 -)

Sp: **unknown**

1. Ásmundur Einarsson

Einar Þorleifsson came from West Iceland and found his way to Hjaltastaðar Parish of Nordur-Mulasysla. Einar remained single for many years and was a farm servant in Kirkjubæjar Parish of Nordur-Múlasysla in

1703. He had a son named Ásmundur Einarsson, who was born in 1719 while his family lived on a farm called Hreimstaðir.

ÁSMUNDUR EINARSSON (1719 - 1798)

Sp1: unknown

1. Isleifer Ásmundsson (1754 -)

Sp2: Kristín Sveinsdóttir

1. Runolfur Ásmundsson (1779 -)
2. Kristín Ásmundsdóttir (1781 - 1851)

Ásmundur Einarsson was born in 1719 on the farm called Hreimstaðir in Hjaltastaðar Parish of Nordur-Múlasysla. His father was Einar Þorleifsson. He was a farmer and resided on Hreimstaðir for most of his life. He had a first wife with whom he had a son named Isleifer Ásmundsson in 1754.

He married his second wife Kristín Sveinsdóttir in 1778 in Hjaltastaðar. Kristín's parents were Sveinn Jónsson and Sólrún Guttormsdóttir. Ásmundur and Kristín had at least two children in Hjaltastaðar. Runolfur Ásmundsson was born in 1779. Kristín Ásmundsdóttir was born in 1781.

Ásmundur Einarsson was known as Ásmundur the Wealthy. This title was due to his business dealings and farming ability. He was the owner of the farm Hreimsstaðir in 1753. He purchased the farm Hóll in Hjaltastaðar in 1785 for 120 rd. By this time, his farm at Hreimstaðir was worth 192 rd. He lived from that time on at Hreimstaðir, but kept the Hóll farm. Ásmundur Einarsson died in 1798. After his death his property was estimated to be worth 451 rd. 5 sk., which would be considered "wealthy" in Iceland for the time. His farm Hreimstaðir was called "one of the better farms that was worth more than 1200 rd."

In 1816, Kristín Sveinsdóttir was living in the household of her son Runolfur at the farm called Hleiðargarður in Eiða Parish. Kristín Sveinsdóttir died on October 4, 1829 in Eiða

Parish. She was buried on October 11, 1829.

JÓN RAFNSSON (1665 -)

Sp: Rannveig Petursdóttir (1679 -)

1. Ingirður Jónsdóttir (1698 -)
2. John Jónnson (1702 - 1785)
3. Jón Jónsson (1707 -)
4. Sigbrúður Jónsdóttir (1716 - 1816)

Jón Rafnsson was born in 1665 on the farm Sleðbrjótssel in Kirkjubæjar Parish of Nordur-Múlasysla. His father was Rafn Einarsson who was born about 1635 on the farm Hrafnkelsstaðir in Valþjófsstaðar Parish of Nordur-Múlasysla. His mother was Sesselja Guttormsdóttir who was born in Brúar Parish of Nordur-Múlasysla. Jón Rafnsson married Rannveig Petursdóttir. She was born about 1679 on the farm Surtsstaðir in Kirkjubæjar Parish of Nordur-Múlasysla. Her parents were Petur Rustikusson and Bretteva Sigfusdóttir. Petur Rustikusson was born before 1653. Bretteva Sigfusdóttir was born before 1657. In addition to Rannveig, they also had a son named Jón Petursson who was born in 1683. Both Petur and Bretteva died after 1703. Jón Rafnsson and Rannveig Petursdóttir lived on the farm Sleðbrjótssel in Kirkjubæjar Parish of Nordur-Múlasysla. They had at least four children. Ingirður Jónsdóttir was born in 1698. John Jónnson was born in 1702 while the family was in Cardigan, Wales. Jón Jónsson was born in 1707. Sigbrúður Jónsdóttir was born in 1716.

BESSI ODDSSON (1714 -)

Sp: Sigbrúður Jónsdóttir (1716 - 1816)

1. Margret Bessadóttir (1745 -)
2. Sesselja Bessadóttir (1747 - 1824)
3. Sigridur Bessadóttir (1755 -)

Bessi Oddsson was born in 1734 in Brekka in the District of Fljótsdal. He was known as "Sterka" (the Strong). He was the owner of the farm Sleðbrjótur in Kirkjubæjar Parish of

Nordur-Múlasysla in 1753. He married Sigbrúður Jónsdóttir. Her parents were Jón Rafnsson and Rannveig Petursdóttir. Bessi Oddsson and Sigruður had at least three children. Margret Bessadottir was born in 1745 in Kirkjubæjar Parish. Sesselja Bessadóttir was born in 1747 in Hjaltastaðar Parish. Sigridur Bessadóttir was born in 1755 in Hjaltastaðar Parish. Sigbrúður Jónsdóttir died on October 13, 1816.

EYJÓLFUR (SPAKA) GUÐMUNDSSON (1689 - 1781)

Sp: Hildur Þorsteinsdóttir (1697 - 1762)

1. Groa Eyjólfadóttir (1718 -)
2. Sigurður Eyjólfsson (1720 - 1750)
3. Guðriður Eyjólfadóttir (1722 -)
4. Margret Eyjólfadóttir (1727 - 1784)
5. Oddur Eyjólfsson (1732 -)
6. Kristín Eyjólfadóttir (1736 - 1778)

Eyjólfur Guðmundsson was born on the farm Eyvindamúli in the Parish of Eyvindarmúla in Rangárvallasysla. His parents were Guðmundur (Elder) Jónsson and Guðriður Magnúsdóttir. Eyjólfur comes from a very long line of prominent Iceland citizens who had inhabited the Eyvindamúli farmstead for about three centuries. Eyjólfur was the farmer at Eyvindamúli. He also was a Lögréttumaður or representative to the Althingi, which was Iceland's equivalent of a parliament or congress. Eyjólfur was also known as "Spaka" which is translated as "The Quiet." Many of his ancestors had also held this position or were systumaður or district magistrates. See text box for further information on Eyjólfur's ancestors.

Hildur Þorsteinsdóttir was born in 1697 in Eyvindamúla. Her parents were Þorsteinn Oddsson and Kristín Grímsdóttir. Her father was a Lutheran minister. Hildur was married to Eyjólfur in about 1710 in Eyvindamúla. They had at least six children in Eyvindamúla. Groa Eyjólfadóttir was born in 1718. Sigurður

Ancestors of EYJÓLFUR (Spaka) GUÐMUNDSSON

The ancestors of Eyjólfur Guðmundsson include several centuries of Iceland's most prominent citizens. The information about his ancestors was obtained through e-mail contact with a person in Iceland who had these ancestors in his personal database. The sources for his data base include the published works: *Vestur-Íslenzkrar Æviskrár, Frá Landnámstímum til Árstoka* and *Saga Systumannaæfir*. This ancestral line includes many Lögréttumaður (representatives to the Althingi), Lögmaður (lawyers), Systumaður (district magistrates), and Prestur (priests) or Lutheran ministers, both before and after the Christian reformation in 1536.

The most significant ancestor in this line was perhaps Jón Arason (1484 - 1550) who was the last Catholic Bishop in Iceland. He was the Bishop of Skálholti. Despite the rise of Lutheranism in Iceland, he fought to maintain a place for the Catholic Church in Iceland. This even included armed conflict using his sons as his officers. This ultimately put him in conflict with the ruling Danish King Kristian III who ordered Jón's death penalty. Jón Arason was beheaded on November 7, 1550. The Lutheran Church then became the official church of Iceland.

Eyjólfsson was born in 1720. Guðriður Eyjólfadóttir was born in 1722. Margret Eyjólfadóttir was born in 1727. Oddur Eyjólfsson was born in 1732. Kristín Eyjólfadóttir was born in 1736. Their first son Sigurður sought his life elsewhere and migrated to Eastern Iceland where he settled on the farm Surtssstaðir in Kirkjubæjar Parish of Nordur-Múlasysla.

Hildur Þorsteinsdóttir died about 1762 in Eyvindamúla. Eyjólfur Guðmundsson died November 24, 1781 in Eyvindamúla.

JENS WIUM (1680 - 1740)

Sp: Ingibjörg Jónsdóttir (1685 -)

1. Guðny Jensdóttir (1703 -)
2. Elisabet Jensdóttir (1705 -)
3. Hans Jensson (1710 - 1788)
4. Boel Jensdóttir (1724 - 1797)
5. Niels Jensson (-)
6. Jens Jensson (-)
7. Gisli Jensson (-)
8. Guðmundur Jensson (-)

Jens Wium was born about 1680 in Hofteigs Parish of Nordur Múlasysla. His parents were Peder Hendriksen Wium and Bolette Wium. Peder and Bolette were both from Copenhagen, Denmark and were born around 1650. Peder's father Hendrik may have originally come from Germany and took the name Wium from a parish by that name in Denmark.

Ingibjörg Jónsdóttir was born about 1685 in Hofteigs Parish. Her parents were Jón Sigfusson and Sesselja Jóhannsdóttir. Ingibjörg and Jens Wium were married in about 1704 in Hofteigs Parish. They had at least eight children in Hofteigs. Guðny Jensdóttir was born about 1703. Elisabet Jensdóttir was born about 1705. Hans Jensson was born about 1710. Boel Jensdóttir was born about 1724. Niels, Jens, Gisli, and Guðmundur Jensson were all born after that.

Jens was known to have been a day laborer at the parish of Hólmar í Reyðarfirði of Suður Múlasysla in about 1715.

Jens Wium eventually was employed as the District Magistrate (Syslumaður) from 1718 to 1740. The following is a description of his life as a District Magistrate. It is only an approximate translation from Icelandic as published in *Syslumannaæfir* in 1913, as follows:

"Jens began his interest in the law with

District Magistrate Jón Þorlaksson who took office in 1685. He was then very youthful, but he stayed there for awhile and got close to District Magistrate Bessa and became accustomed to county work. In 1716, Bessa wrote a letter in hope of gaining him a position and office for the area around Skriðuklaustur, but he only got lip service. He received his appointment letter to be District Magistrate on April 3, 1718. In 1719, he wrote a document to District Magistrate Þorsteinn Sigurdsson concerning Skyldi Þorsteinn obeying a judgement against him about surplus rents charged for monastery burials. Þorsteinn then did not object to this. In 1721, at the time of the Þorsteinn judgement, he was in charge of the Northern part of the County. In 1736, he was put in charge of half of Skriðuklaustur until 1738. He had close to three parliament districts and 14 judicial districts. In 1740, he was working with the Lawyers Commissioner Jón Þorleifsson from Reykholti, handling a case of a crowded ship when five people died. The leader and the sailors were intoxicated and caused the men to fall overboard. He made the judgement under the guidance of Jón Þorleifsson."

Jens Wium died in Hofteigs in 1740. His son Hans Jensson took over Jen's District Magistrate office after his death.

SIGURÐUR EYJÓLFSSON (1720 - 1754)

Sp: Bóel Jensdóttir (1724 - 1797)

1. Ingibjörg Sigurðsdóttir (1744 -)
2. Þorsteinn Sigurðsson (1750 - 1794)
3. Jens Sigurðsson (-)
4. Lisebet Sigurðsdóttir (-)
5. Vigdis Sigurðsdóttir (-)

Sigurður Eyjólfsson was born in 1720 on the farm Eyvindarmúli in the Parish of Eyvindarmúla in Rangárvallasysla. His parents were Eyjólfur Guðmundsson and Hildur Þorsteinsdóttir. Sigurður sought his life elsewhere and migrated to Eastern Iceland

where he married Bóel Jensdóttir around 1743. Her parents were Jens Wium and Ingibjörg Jónsdóttir. Because Sigurður's father was a Logrettumaður (legislator), he may have been acquainted with Bóel's father Jens Wium who was a District Magistrate.

Sigurður Eyjólfsson was a farmer at Surtssstaðir in Kirkjubæjar Parish of Nordur-Múlasysla. Sigurður Eyjólfsson and Bóel Jensdóttir had at least five children. Ingibjörg Sigurðsdóttir was born in 1744. Þorsteinn Sigurðsson was born about 1750. Jens Sigurðsson and Lisebet and Vigdis Sigurðsdóttir were born after that.

Sigurður Eyjólfsson drowned in Lagarfljóti sometime around 1754.

Bóel Jensdóttir continued living in Surtssstaðir. Bóel became a foster mother to a boy named Sigurdur Jónsson and took her brother Han's daughter in as well. Bóel Jensdóttir died on February 26, 1797.

ÞORSTEINN SIGURÐSSON (1750 - 1794)

Sp: Sesselja Bessasdóttir (1747 - 1824)

1. Eyjólfur Þorsteinsson (1775 -)
2. Sæbjörn Þorsteinsson (1779 -)
3. Sigðrúður Þorsteinsdóttir (1782 -)

Þorsteinn Sigurðsson was born around 1750 in Surtssstaðir in Kirkjubæjar Parish of Nordur-Múlasysla. His parents were Sigurður Eyjólfsson and Bóel Jensdóttir. Þorsteinn Sigurðsson was the owner of the farm called Viðivellir ytri in Valþjófsstaðar Parish of Nordur-Múlasysla. Sometime before 1774 he married Sesselja Bessasdóttir. Her parents were Bessi Oddsson "Sterka" (the Strong) and Sigbrúður Jónsdóttir. Þorsteinn and Sesselja had at least three children while living in Hjaltastaðar Parish of Nordur-Múlasysla. Eyjólfur Þorsteinsson was born in 1775. Sæbjörn Þorsteinsson was born in 1779. Sigðrúður Þorsteinsdóttir was born in 1782. In 1785, Þorsteinn Sigurðsson was a farmer at

Heykollsstaðir in Kirkjubæjar Parish of Nordur-Múlasysla. In 1788 he was living by a stream at Selsstaðir on Seyðisfjöður. By 1790, he was living at the farm Austdalur in Dvergasteins Parish. Before 1794, he had some reason to travel across Iceland to Rettarhusami in the Hafna District of Gullbringusysla where he died July 13, 1794 at the age of 44.

In 1801, Sesselja Bessasdóttir was living in the household of her son Eyjólfur along with her daughter Sigðrúður on the farm called Hólshjáleiga in Hjaltastaðar Parish. By 1816, Sesselja Bessasdóttir was living in the household of her daughter Sigðrúður Þorsteinsdóttir and her husband Runólfur Ásmundsson on the farm called Hleinagarður in Eiða Parish of Sudur-Múlasysla. Sesselja Bessasdóttir died in Eiða Parish on October 21, 1824 and was buried on October 24.

SÆBJÖRN ÞORSTEINSSON (1779 - 1841)

sp: Kristín Ásmundsdóttir (1781 - 1851)

1. Jón Sæbjörnsson (1809 -)
2. Sveinn Sæbjörnsson (1810 -)
3. Ásmundur Sæbjörnsson (1811 -)
4. Sólrún Sæbjörnsdóttir (1816 -)
5. Þorsteinn Sæbjörnsson (1820 -)
6. Kristín Marie Sæbjörnsdóttir (1827 -)

Sæbjörn Þorsteinsson was born in 1779 in Hjaltastaðar Parish of Nordur-Múlasysla. His parents were Þorsteinn Sigurðsson and Sesselja Bessasdóttir. Kristín Ásmundsdóttir was born in 1781 in Hjaltastaðar. Her parents were Ásmundur Einarson (the wealthy) and Kristín Sveinsdóttir. She and Sæbjörn were married in 1808 at Hjaltastaðar. Sæbjörn Þorsteinsson's sister Sigðrúður had married Kristín Ásmundsdóttir's brother Runólfur Ásmundsson in 1806, which was the first union to join these families.

Sæbjörn Þorsteinsson and Kristín Ásmundsdóttir started out in Kirkjubær Parish

of Nordur-Múlasysla where their first three children were born. Jón Sæbjörnsson was born in 1809. Sveinn Sæbjörnsson was born in 1810. Ásmundur Sæbjörnsson was born in 1811. By 1816, Sæbjörn and Kristín had moved their family to a farm called Jórvíkurhjáleiga in Hjaltastaðar Parish. They had at least three more children while living there. Sólrún Sæbjörnsdóttir was born in 1816. Þorsteinn Sæbjörnsson was born in 1820. Kristín Marie Sæbjörnsdóttir was born in 1827.

In 1831, Sæbjörn Þorsteinsson and Kristín Ásmundsdóttir moved the family to Eiða Parish, where Sæbjörn was a farmer at Myrnes. He remained on the Myrnes farm for the remainder of his life except for departing for Dvergasteins Parish in 1837 and returning in 1838. Sæbjörn Þorsteinsson died in Eiða Parish on January 17, 1841 and was buried January 24. In 1851, Kristín Ásmundsdóttir moved to Dvergasteins Parish with her daughter Sólrún Sæbjörnsdóttir and her son-in-law Ogmundur Bjarnasson. Kristín died in Dvergasteins sometime after 1851.

Sæbjörn Þorsteinsson and Kristín Ásmundsdóttir's son Sveinn Sæbjörnsson had seven or eight children, one being Ásmundur Sveinsson who was born in 1846 and died in 1896. Another was Johann Sveinsson. Johann was married to Kristín Ásmundsdóttir, sister of Katrín Ásmundsdóttir.

BJÖRN JÓNSSON (1794 - 1845)

Sp: Katrín Eiríksdóttir (1799 - 1868)

1. Jón Björnsson (1821 -)
2. Guðrun Björnsdóttir (1822 - 1893)
3. Margaret Björnsdóttir (1824 -)
4. Björn Björnsson (1825 - 1828)
5. Guðfinna Björnsdóttir (1825 -)
6. Sigurbjörg Björnsson (1827 -)
7. Katrín Björnsdóttir (1830 -)
8. Þorunn Björnsdóttir (1831 -)
9. Jóhanna Björnsdóttir (1833 -)
10. Guðni Björnsdóttir (1835 - 1836)
11. Sophía Björnsdóttir (1841 -)

Björn Jónsson was born in 1794 in Eiða Parish of Sudur-Múlasysla. His parents were Jón Björnsson and Margrét Einarsdóttir. Katrín Eiríksdóttir was born in 1799 in Eiða Parish. Her parents were Eiríkur Magnússon and Guðrún Benediktsdóttir. Björn Jónsson and Katrín Eiríksdóttir were married on November 2, 1820 in Eiða Parish.

Björn Jónsson and Katrín Eiríksdóttir settled on the farm called Þrándarstaðir in Eiða Parish where Björn was a farmer. They had eleven children in Eiða. Jón Björnsson was born on July 31, 1821 and christened on August 11. Guðrun Björnsdóttir was born on November 16, 1822 and christened on November 17. Margaret Björnsdóttir was born on November 29, 1824 and christened that same day. Twins Björn Björnsson and Guðfinna Björnsdóttir were born on November 17, 1825 and christened on November 21. Sigurbjörg Björnsson was born on August 22, 1827 and christened on August 26. Katrín Björnsdóttir was born on July 16, 1830 and christened on July 18. Þorunn Björnsdóttir was born on February 15, 1831 and christened on February 20. Jóhanna Björnsdóttir was born on December 7, 1833 and christened on December 28. Guðni Björnsdóttir was born on January 7, 1835 and christened on January 11. Sophía Björnsdóttir was born on May 13, 1841 and christened on May 15.

Out of this large family, only two children died near birth. One of the twins, Björn Björnsson died on June 9, 1828. Guðni Björnsdóttir died on January 15, 1836.

Björn Jónsson and Katrín Eiríksdóttir lived their lives out in Eiða Parish. Björn Jónsson died October 1, 1845 and was buried October 5. After his death, Katrín Eiríksdóttir lived in the household of her oldest son Jón Björnsson at Þrándarstaðir and in 1860 at Myrnes. She died in Eiða Parish on March 26, 1868 and was buried on April 2.

ÁSMUNDUR SÆBJÖRNSSON (1811 - 1894)

Sp: Guðrún Björnsdóttir (1822 - 1885)

1. **Kristín Margret Ásmundsdóttir (1846 -)**
2. **Katrín Ásmundsdóttir (1855 - 1894)**
3. **Sveinn Ásmundsson (1858 -)**
4. **Jón Ásmundsson (1859 -)**

Ásmundur Sæbjörnsson was born in 1811 in Kirkjubær Parish of Nordur-Múlasysla. His parents were Sæbjörn Þorsteinsson and Kristín Ásmundsdóttir. He later moved with his family to the farm called Jórvíkurhjáleiga in Hjaltastaðar Parish of Nordur-Múlasysla. He moved again with his family in 1831 to the farm called Myrnes in Eiða Parish of Sudur-Múlasysla. From about 1840 to about 1845, he worked as a farm servant on the farm called Finnsstaðir in Eiða Parish. He apparently met Guðrún Björnsdóttir while working as a farm servant on her father's farm called Þrándarstaðir in Eiða Parish.

Guðrún Björnsdóttir was born on November 16, 1822 and was christened on November 17. Her parents were Björn Jónsson and Katrín Eiríksdóttir.

Although not yet married, Ásmundur Sæbjörnsson and Guðrún Björnsdóttir had their first child, Kristín Margret Ásmundóttir, on December 14, 1846 while living at Þrándarstaðir with Guðrún's family. Kristín was christened on December 17, 1846. Ásmundur, Guðrún, and daughter Kristín moved to Dvergasteins Parish in Nordur-Múlasysla in 1851. Ásmundur became a farmer at the farm called Austdalur. Ásmundur and Guðrún had their second child, Katrín Ásmundsdóttir, in 1855 in Dvergasteins Parish.

Sometime between 1855 and 1860, Ásmundur Sæbjörnsson was married to Guðrún Björnsdóttir. They had at least two more children. Sveinn Ásmundsson was born in 1858 in Dvergasteins. Jón Ásmundsson was born in 1859 in Dvergasteins.

By 1860, Ásmundur Sæbjörnsson moved his family to the farm called Hólhús in Húsavík

Parish of Nordur-Múlasysla. In 1880, Ásmundur Sæbjörnsson and Guðrún Björnsdóttir were living on the farm called Gnystaðir with their large extended family including their daughters Kristín and Katrín and their spouses and families.

In 1893, Guðrún Björnsdóttir departed Iceland from Seyðisfjörður on the skip Lake Huron and emigrated to Akra, North Dakota to be near her daughter Katrín. Guðrún died on October 27, 1893 in Akra and was buried on November 2 at Vidalin Cemetery. Ásmundur Sæbjörnsson died on January 30, 1894 in Dvergasteins Parish and was buried on February 22.

Sveinn Ásmundsson continued living at the farm called Gnystaðir. He married Guðrún Eyjólfsdóttir who was born in 1857. Their children were: Ásmundur Sveinsson, born 1883; Guðlaug born 1885; Raghildur born 1888; and Kristín born July 23, 1890.

Kristín Ásmundsdóttir was married to Johann Sveinsson, the son of her father's brother, her cousin. They were married around 1880 and lived on the farm called Gnystaðir. Their son Sigurjón Jóhannsson was born on August 16, 1881. His wife was Helga Arngrímsdóttir. He lived in Reykjavík, Iceland. They had four children, three of who live in Reykjavík or close by.

BJÖRN OLAFSSON (1682 -)

Sp: Guðlaug Oddsdóttir (1692 -)

1. **Grimur Björnsson (1717 -)**

Björn Olafsson was born in 1682 on the farm Halldorstaðir in Ljósavatns Parish of Sudur-Þingeyjarsysla. His father was Olafur Jónsson who was born in 1651 and was a farmer at Litluvellir in Lundarbrekku Parish of Sudur-Þingeyjarsysla. His mother was Helga Björnsdóttir who was born in 1656 at Stóruvellir in Lundarbrekku Parish.

In 1703, Björn Olafsson was a farm servant

on his father's farm, Litluvellir. By 1715, he was a farmer at Halldorstaðir. He married Guðlaug Oddsdóttir. Guðlaug was born at Arnarnes in Möðruvallaklaustur Parish of Eyjafjarðarsýsla. Her father was Oddur Bjarnasson who was born about 1636 at Lundur in Hals Parish of Sudur-Þingeyjarsýsla. Her mother was Arnbjörg Sigurdardóttir who was born at Arnarnes. Björn Olafsson and Guðlaug Oddsdóttir had at least one child, Grimur Björnsson, who was born in 1717.

GRIMUR BJÖRNSSON (1717 - 1809)

Sp: Hallfríder Einaradóttir (1733 -)

1. Kristlaug Grímsdóttir (1763 - 1808)
2. Ole Grímsson (1773 -)

Grimur Björnsson was born in 1717 in Einarssstaða Parish in Sudur-Þingeyjarsýsla. His parents were Björn Olafsson and Guðlaug Oddsdóttir. In 1754, Grimur Björnsson owned the farm called Hafalækur in Nes Parish of Sudur-Þingeyjarsýsla. Sometime before 1760 Grimur Björnsson married Hallfríder Einaradóttir. Hallfríder was born in Einarssstaða in 1733. Her father was Einar Ingaldsson who was born about 1680 and was a farmer at Kálfaströnd in Skútustaða Parish of Sudur-Þingeyjarsýsla.

Grimur Björnsson and Hallfríder Einaradóttir had at least two children in Einarssstaða. Kristlaug Grímsdóttir was born in 1763. Ole Grímsson was born in 1773. In 1801, Grimur and Hallfrídur were living on the farm called Stórulaugar in Einarssstaða Parish. Their son Ole and daughter Kristlaug and her second husband Jon Einersen were also living there with four of their grandchildren. Grimur died on June 10, 1809 in Einarssstaða Parish. Hallfrídur died sometime after that.

JÓN KETILSSON (1654 - 1732)

Sp: Þóra Skúladóttir (1662 -)

1. Þorsteinn Jónsson (1695 -)
2. Thurídur Jónsson (1696 - 1745)

3. Einar Jónsson (1697 - 1771)
4. Ketill Jónsson (1699 - 1778)
5. Sigríður Jónsdóttir (1699 -)
6. Jón Jónsson (1702 -)

Jón Ketilsson was born in 1654 at the farm Barðsnes in Skorrastaðar Parish of Sudur-Múlasýsla. His father was Ketill Teitsson who was born about 1610 and was a farmer at Barðsnes. His mother was Helga Þorsteinsdóttir who was born about 1615.

In 1703, Jón Ketilsson was the director of the Poor Law parish at Brimnes in Dvergasteins Parish of Nordur-Múlasýsla. He married Þóra Skúladóttir who was born in 1662 at Vallholt in Viðmyrar Parish of Skagafjarðarsýsla. Her father was Skúli Einarsson who was born in 1632 at Hraun in Ketu Parish of Skagafjarðarsýsla. Her mother was Guðrun Sigurdadóttir who was born about 1636 at Holl in Reynistaðar Parish of Skagafjarðarsýsla.

Jón Ketilsson and Þóra Skúladóttir had at least six children. Þorsteinn Jónsson was born in 1695. Thurídur Jónsson was born in 1696. Einar Jónsson was born in 1697. Ketill Jónsson was born in 1699. Sigríður Jónsdóttir was born in 1699. Jón Jónsson was born in 1702.

Jón Ketilsson died in an avalanche in 1732.

JAKOB PETURSSON (1669 -)

Sp: Sigríður Jónsdóttir (1699 -)

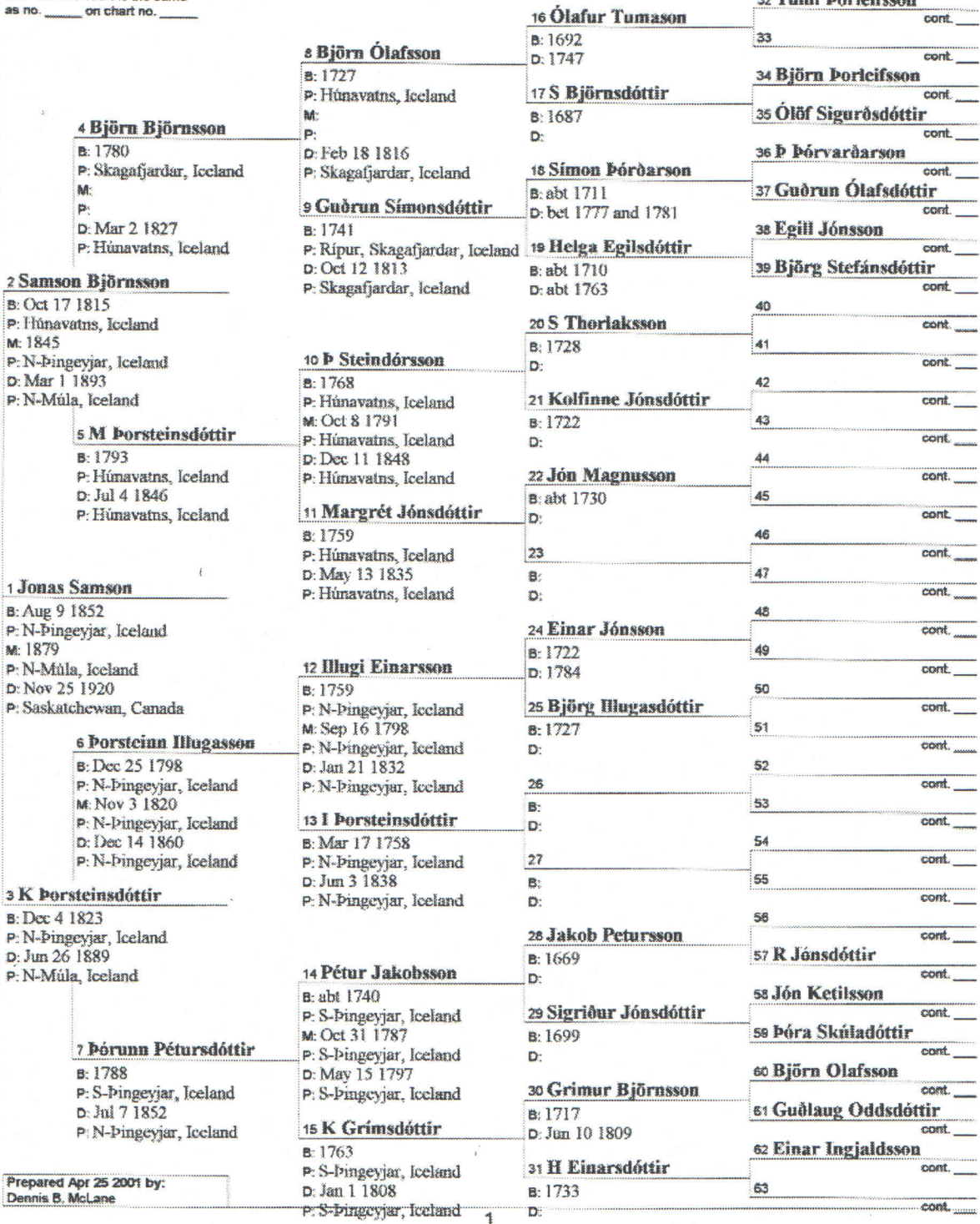
1. Pétur Jakobsson (1740 - 1795)

Jakob Petursson was born in 1669 at the farm Hánefsstaðir in Dvergasteins Parish of Nordur-Múlasýsla. His mother was Ragnhildur Jónsdóttir who was born in 1649 on Hánefsstaðir. His father was known to be from Germany. In 1703, Jakob was the farmer at Hánefsstaðir. He married Sigríður Jónsdóttir who was born in 1699 on the farm Brimnes in Dvergasteins. Her parents were Jón Ketilsson and Þóra Skúladóttir. Jakob and Sigríður had at least one child. Petur Jakobsson was born

Pedigree Chart

Apr 25 2001

Chart no. _____
 No. 1 on this chart is the same
 as no. _____ on chart no. _____



Prepared Apr 25 2001 by:
 Dennis B. McLane

Pedigree Chart of Jonas Samson (1852 - 1920)

about 1740 in Einarstaða Parish of Sudur-Þingeyjarsýsla.

KRISTLAUG GRÍMSDÓTTIR (1763 - 1808)

Sp1: Pétur Jakobsson (1740 - 1795)

1. Ingibjörg Pétursdóttir (1788 - 1789)
2. Þórunn Pétursdóttir (1789 - 1852)
3. Jakob Pétursson (1790 -)
4. Asu Pétursdóttir (1795 -)

Sp2: Jón Einarsson (1800 -)

1. Olaf Jónsdóttir (1800 -)
2. Einar Jónsson (1802 -)

Kristlaug Grímsdóttir was born in 1763 in Einarstaða Parish in Sudur-Þingeyjarsýsla. Her parents were Grimur Björnsson and Hallfríder Einarasdóttir. Kristlaug Grímsdóttir was married to Pétur Jakobsson on October 31, 1787 in Einarstaða Parish. Pétur Jakobsson was born about 1740 in Einarstaða Parish. His parents were Jakob Pétursson and Sigríður Jónsdóttir. Pétur and Kristlaug had four children in Einarstaða. Ingibjörg Pétursdóttir was born August 30, 1788. Þórunn Pétursdóttir was born in 1789. Jakob Pétursson was born October 10, 1790. Asu Pétursdóttir was born in 1795. Unfortunately, Ingibjörg died as an infant on February 3, 1789. Pétur Jakobsson met an untimely death around 1795.

Kristlaug Grímsdóttir married Jón Einarsson on February 21, 1800, in Einarstaða Parish where they had two children. Olaf Jónsdóttir was born on September 19, 1800. Einar Jónsson was born on June 15, 1802. They lived on the farm called Stórulaugar in Einarstaða Parish along with her parents and brother. Kristlaug Grímsdóttir died on January 1, 1808 in Einarstaða Parish.

EINAR JÓNSSON (1722 - 1784)

Sp: Björg Illugasdóttir (1727 -)

1. Illugi Einarsson (1759 - 1832)
2. Kristín Einarasdóttir (1760 -)
3. Hacon Einarsson (1761 - 1761)
4. Guðrun Einarasdóttir (1764 -)
5. Hallfrídur Einarasdóttir (1768 -)

Einar Jónsson was born in 1722 in Svalbarð Parish of Nordur-Þingeyjarsýsla. In 1754, he owned the farm called Skinnastaðar in Nordur-Þingeyjarsýsla. Around 1758, he married Björg Illugasdóttir in Svalbarð. In 1762, they were living at the farm called Gunnarsstaðir. Einar and Björg had at least five children while in Svalbarð. Illugi Einarsson was born in 1759. Kristín Einarasdóttir was born in 1760. Hacon Einarsson was born on September 27, 1761 but died the same day. Guðrun Einarasdóttir was born in 1764. Hallfrídur Einarasdóttir was born in 1768. Einar Jónsson died in 1784 in Svalbarð.

ILLUGI EINARSSON (1759 - 1832)

Sp1: Helga Sigurdsdóttir (1761 - 1798)

1. Björg Illugasson (1789 -)
2. Guðrun Illugasdóttir (1791 -)
3. Sigurdur Illugasson (1794 -)
4. Ingibjörg Illugasdóttir (1797 - 1799)

Sp2: Ingibjörg Þorsteinsdóttir (1758 - 1838)

1. Þorsteinn Illugasson (1798 - 1860)
2. Illugi Illugasson (1800 - 1803)

Illugi Einarsson was born in 1759 in Svalbarð Parish of Nordur-Þingeyjarsýsla. Illugi Einarsson married his first wife Helga Sigurdsdóttir on October 15, 1789 in Sauðanes Parish in Nordur-Þingeyjarsýsla. They had at least four children. Björg Illugasson was born in 1790. Guðrun Illugasdóttir was born on March 23, 1791. Sigurdur Illugasson was born on November 2, 1794. Ingibjörg Illugasdóttir was born on September 15, 1797, but died on March 2, 1799.

Illugi Einarsson's first wife died on January 16, 1798. He married his second wife, Ingibjörg Þorsteinsdóttir, on September 16, 1798 at Sauðanes Parish. Ingibjörg Þorsteinsdóttir was born in Sauðanes on March 17, 1758. Illugi Einarsson and Ingibjörg Þorsteinsdóttir had at least two children in Sauðanes. Þorsteinn Illugasson was born on December 25, 1798. Illugi Illugasson was born in 1800, but died on October 4, 1803.

By 1801, Illugi Einarsson and Ingibjörg Þorsteinsdóttir had moved their family to the farm called Ytribrekkur in Sauðanes Parish. Illugi Einarsson died on January 21, 1832 in Sauðanes. He was buried January 27. Ingibjörg Þorsteinsdóttir went on to live in the household of her son Þorsteinn Illugasson on the farm called Hallgilsstaðir in Sauðanes. Ingibjörg Þorsteinsdóttir died on June 3, 1838 in Sauðanes. She was buried June 9.

ÞORSTEINN ILLUGASSON (1798 - 1860)

Sp1: Þorunn Pétursdóttir (1789 - 1852)

1. Kristlaug Þorsteinsdóttir (1823 - 1889)
2. Ingibjörg Þorsteinsdóttir (1824 -)
3. Einar Þorsteinsson (1826 -)
4. Petur Þorsteinsson (1828 - 1829)
5. Olof Þorsteinsdóttir (1830 - 1831)
6. Guðrun Ólöf Þorsteinsdóttir (1831 -)
7. Jacob Þorsteinsson (1832 - 1833)
8. Þorunn Þorsteinsdóttir (1836 -)

Sp2: Halfridur Jóhannesdóttir (1817 -)

1. Karitas Helga Þorsteinsdóttir (1858 -)

Þorsteinn Illugasson was born on December 25, 1798 in Sauðanes Parish of Nordur-Þingeyjarsýsla. His parents were Illugi Einarsson and Björg Illugasson. He grew up on the farm called Ytribrekkur in Sauðanes.

Þorunn Pétursdóttir was born in 1789 in Einarstaða Parish of Surdur-Þingeyjarsýsla. Her parents were Pétur Jakobsson and Kristlaug Grimsdóttir. She grew up on the farm called Stórulaugar and was confirmed in Einarstaða Parish in 1803. By 1816, she was a maid servant for another family on the farm called Núpar in Nes Parish of Surdur-Þingeyjarsýsla.

Þorsteinn Illugasson married Þorunn Pétursdóttir on November 3, 1820 in Sauðanes Parish. He established himself as a farmer on the farm called Hallgilsstaðir. After his father's death, his mother lived at Hallgilsstaðir with he and his family until her death.

Þorsteinn Illugasson and Þorunn

Pétursdóttir had at least eight children in Sauðanes Parish. Kristlaug Þorsteinsdóttir was born on December 4, 1823 and was christened on December 5. Ingibjörg Þorsteinsdóttir was born on November 16, 1824 and christened on November 17. Einar Þorsteinsson was born on July 20, 1826 and christened on July 21. Petur Þorsteinsson was born on August 4, 1828 and christened on August 5. Ólöf Þorsteinsdóttir was born on June 29, 1830 and christened on June 30. Guðrun Ólöf Þorsteinsdóttir was born on December 6, 1831 and christened on December 10. Jacob Þorsteinsson was born on May 4, 1832 and christened May 5. Þorunn Þorsteinsdóttir was born on November 28, 1836.

Þorsteinn Illugasson and Þorunn Pétursdóttir's family life was saddened by the childhood deaths of three of their children. Petur Þorsteinsson died before his first birthday on May 28, 1829. Ólöf Þorsteinsdóttir died shortly before her first birthday on June 5, 1831. Jacob Þorsteinsson died shortly after his first birthday on May 16, 1833.

By 1840, Þorsteinn Illugasson moved his family to the farm called Tungesel where he was a farmer. Þorunn Pétursdóttir died on July 7, 1852 at Sauðanes Parish and was buried on July 13.

Þorsteinn Illugasson married his second wife, Halfridur Jóhannesdóttir on February 23, 1853. They had at least one child named Karitas Helga Þorsteinsdóttir who was born in 1858. Þorsteinn Illugasson and Halfridur Jóhannesdóttir and their daughter lived on the farm called Assel with Þorsteinn's son Einar Þorsteinsson and his wife, Margret Sigurdursdóttir and their family. Þorsteinn Illugasson died on December 14, 1860 in Sauðanes Parish and was buried December 21.

ÞORSTEINN STEINDÓRSSON (1768 - 1848)

Sp1: Margrét Jónsdóttir (1759 - 1835)

1. Margrét Þorsteinsdóttir (1793 - 1835)
2. Jón Þorsteinsson (1794 - 1855)
3. Ingebjörg Þorsteinsdóttir (1796 -)
4. Þórunn Þorsteinsdóttir (1800 -)
5. Björn Þorsteinsson (1804 -)

Sp2: Margrét Guðmundsdóttir (1795 -)

Þorsteinn Steindórsson was born in 1768 on the farm Þórormstunga in the Parish of Grímstungu in Húnavatnssýsla. His parents were Steenthór Thorlaksson and Kolfinne Jónsdóttir. Steenthór Thorlaksson was born in 1728 in Grímstungu. Kolfinne Jónsdóttir was born in 1722 in Grímstungu. Þorsteinn married Margrét Jónsdóttir on October 8, 1791 at Blöndudalshólar in Húnavatnssýsla. Margrét Jónsdóttir was born in 1759 at Eyvindarstaðir in Blöndudalshólar. Her father was Jon Magnusson who was born about 1730 and was a farmer at Eyvindarstaðir.

Þorsteinn and Margrét had at least five children. Margrét Þorsteinsdóttir was born in 1793 at the farm Kufustaður. Jón Þorsteinsson was born on June 7, 1794 at the farm Kufustaður. Ingebjörg Þorsteinsdóttir was born in 1796 at the farm Kufustaður. Þórunn Þorsteinsdóttir was born in 1800 at the farm Gilstaðir in the Parish of Undirfells. Björn Þorsteinsson was born on December 4, 1804 at the farm Holt in the Parish of Hjaltabakka.

Their oldest daughter Margret was a maid servant at Björn Björnsson farm, Orrastaðir in Þingeyrar Parish of Húnavatnssýsla. Þorsteinn Steindórsson must have sensed an improper relationship forming as he tried to make her leave but she was reluctant and Björn was not willing to let her go either. An illicit affair ensued between Björn Björnsson and Margret that resulted in the birth of Samson Björnsson.

Þorsteinn Steindórsson and Margrét Jónsdóttir's son Jón Þorsteinsson grew to eventually claim fame as head physician of Iceland after 1820 in Reyjavík.

Þorsteinn Steindórsson was shown in the

Hjaltabakka parish register as a Godfather to many children. It appears that he and his wife Margrét Jónsdóttir may have often taken orphans into their home. Þorsteinn Steindórsson also had an illegitimate daughter born September 14, 1824. The mother was Kristín Guðmundsdóttir.

Margrét Jónsdóttir died on May 13, 1835 in Hjaltabakka in Húnavatnssýsla and was buried there on May 22, 1835. Þorsteinn Steindórsson then married Margrét Guðmundsdóttir at Hjaltabakka on October 19, 1835. Þorsteinn died at Hjaltabakka on December 11, 1848 and was buried there on December 18, 1848.

BJÖRN ÞORLEIFSSON (1659 - 1728)

Sp: Ólöf Sigurðsdóttir (1654 -)

1. Þorkell Björnsson (1681 -)
2. Hallur Björnsson (1684 -)
3. Steinunn Björnsdóttir (1687 -)
4. Olafur Björnsson (1688 -)
5. Þorleifur Björnsson (1691 -)
6. Þuridur Björnsdóttir (1692 -)

Björn Þorleifsson was born in 1659 on the farm Finnstungu in Blöndudalshólar Parish of Húnavatnssýsla. His father was Þorleifur Ólafsson who was born about 1620 on Finnstungu. His father was assistant clergyman at Blöndudalshólar Parish. His mother was Þórunn Kortsdóttir who was born about 1625 in Blöndudalshólar Parish.

Björn Þorleifsson married Ólöf Sigurðsdóttir. Ólöf Sigurðsdóttir was born about 1654 in Skagafjarðarsýsla. Her father was Sigurður Bergþórsson who was born about 1620 in Skagafjarðarsýsla. Her mother was Þuridur Ólafsdóttir who was born about 1620 in Skagafjarðarsýsla.

Björn and Ólöf had at least six children on the farm Guðlaugarstaðir in Svínavatns Parish of Húnavatnssýsla. Þorkell Björnsson was born in 1681. Hallur Björnsson was born in 1684. Steinunn Björnsdóttir was born in 1687.

Ólafur Björnsson was born in 1688. Þorleifur Björnsson was born in 1691. Þuridur Björnsdóttir was born in 1692.

In 1703, Björn Þorleifsson was still the farmer at Guðlaugarstaðir. Björn Þorleifsson died in 1728 at Guðlaugarstaðir.

ÓLAFUR TUMASON (1692 -)

Sp: Steinunn Björnsdóttir (1687 -)

1. Björn Ólafsson (1727 - 1816)

Ólafur Tumason was born in 1692 on the farm Torfalæk in Hjaltabakka Parish of Húnavatnssýsla. His father was Tumi Þorleifsson who was born in 1659 at Torfalæk. Ólafur was a farmer at Svínavatn in Svínavatns Parish of Húnavatnssýsla. He married Steinunn Björnsdóttir. She was born in 1687 on the farm Guðlaugarstaðir in Svínavatns Parish. Her parents were Björn Þorleifsson and Ólöf Sigurðsdóttir. In 1703, Ólafur Tumason was the farmer at Torfalæk. Ólafur and Steinunn had at least one child. Björn Ólafsson was born in 1727 at Svínavatn.

ÞÓRÐUR ÞÓVARÐARSSON (1682 - 1725)

Sp: Guðrun Ólafsdóttir (1677 - 1735)

1. Simon Þórðarson (1711 - 1777)

Þórður Þóvarðarsson was born in 1682 on the farm Axlarhagi of Flugumyrar Parish of Skagafjarðarsýsla. His father was Þórvarður Filippusson who was born in 1653 at Axlarhagi. His mother's first name was Ónefnd and she was born about 1650.

Þórður Þóvarðarsson married Guðrun Ólafsdóttir. She was born in 1677 at the farm Skarðsá in Glaumbærjar Parish of Skagafjarðarsýsla. Her father was Ólafur Erlendsson who was born in 1638. He was a farmer and director of the poor law parish at Skarðsá. Her mother was Sesslja Grímólfsdóttir who was born in 1650 at Skarðsá. By 1703, Þórður is the farmer at Axlarhagi, with his

father Þórvarður Filippusson residing with him.

Þórður and Guðrun had at least one child. Simon Þórðarson was born about 1711 in Rípur Parish of Skagafjarðarsýsla.

Þórður Þóvarðarsson died between 1725 and 1730 at Axlarhagi. Guðrun Ólafsdóttir died about 1735 in Blondudalshólar Parish of Húnavatnssýsla.

EGILL JÓNSSON (1669 - 1723)

Sp: Björg Stefánsdóttir (1679 - 1714)

1. Steinunn Egilsdóttir (1700 -)

2. Helga Egilsdóttir (1710 - 1763)

Egill Jónsson was born in 1669 on the farm Hof in Goðdala Parish of Skagafjarðarsýsla. His father was Jón Sigurdsson who was born in 1633 at Flatartunga in Silfrastaða Parish of Skagafjarðarsýsla. His mother was Ragnhildur Egilsdóttir who was born in 1620 at Flatartunga.

Egill Jónsson married Björg Stefánsdóttir. She was born in 1679 on the farm Silfrastaðir in Silfrastaða Parish of Skagafjarðarsýsla. Her father was Stefan Hrafnsson who was born in 1642 at Bjarnastaðahlið of Goðdala Parish of Skagafjarðarsýsla. Her mother was Guðrun Þorlaksdóttir who was born about 1646 at Merkgigil of Ábæjar Parish in Skagafjarðarsýsla.

In 1703, Egill Jónsson was the farmer at Bjarnastaðahlið. Egill and Björg had at least two children. Steinunn Egilsdóttir was born about 1700 at Bjarnastaðahlið. Helga Egilsdóttir was born about 1710 at Flatartunga.

Egill Jónsson died in 1723 at Flatartunga. Björg Stefánsdóttir died between 1714 and 1725 at Villinganes in Goðdala Parish of Skagafjarðarsýsla.

SÍMON ÞÓRÐARSON (1711 - 1781)

Sp: Helga Egilsdóttir (1710 - 1763)

1. Sveinn Simonsson (1737 -)

2. Þordur Simonsson (1738 -)
3. Guðrun Simonsdóttir (1741 - 1813)
4. Steinunn Simonsdóttir (1745 -)
5. Þórlakur Simonsson (1748 -)
6. Ari Simonsson (1751 -)
7. Jón Simonsson (1736 - 1812)

Símon Þórðarson was born about 1711 in

Ancestors of BJÖRN ÞORLEIFSSON

The ancestors of Björn Þorleifsson go back at least 30 generations to the early settlers of Iceland. They include several Priests and Ministers and the historian Sturla Þórðarson, who was Snorri Sturlason's nephew (see previous text box).

The most noteworthy ancestor of Björn Þorleifsson was Þorfinnur "karlsefni" Þórðarson (born about 975). Þorfinnur was the first to lead a party of Icelanders to make an attempt to settle Vinland (the east coast of North America) after it was discovered by Leif Eiriksson. They found Vinland to be a land of abundance compared to Greenland and Iceland. However, after several skirmishes with Indians, they abandoned the settlement and returned to Iceland. A son, Snorri Þorfinnsson, was born in about 1004 to Þorfinnur and his wife Guðriður Þorbjarnardóttir while they were in Vinland. It is among the few births in Vinland recorded in the "Sagas." This event was almost 500 years before the famous Christopher Columbus voyage of 1492. For many years historians believed that the Icelandic "Sagas" lacked historical accuracy on this account. However, the archeological discovery of the remains of a "Viking" settlement on Newfoundland at L'Anse aux Meadows has given credibility to the story that shows a Samson ancestor was in America long before his descendants emigrated there.

Rípur Parish of Skagafjarðarsýsla. His parents were Þórður Þóvarðarson and Guðrun Ólafsdóttir. Símon Þórðarson married Helga Egilsdóttir around 1735 in Rípur Parish. Helga's parents were Egill Jónsson and Björg Stefánsdóttir.

Símon was director of the poor law parish and farmer at Utanverðunesi in Rípur. Símon and Guðrun had at least seven children. Sveinn Simonsson was born in 1737. Þordur Simonsson was born in 1738. Guðrun Simonsdóttir was born in 1741. Steinunn Simonsdóttir was born in 1745. Þórlakur Simonsson was born in 1748. Ari Simonsson was born in 1751. Jón Simonsson was born in 1736.

Helga Egilsdóttir died about 1763 at Utanverðunesi. Símon Þórðarson died between 1777 and 1781 at Utanverðunesi.

GUÐRUN SÍMONSDÓTTIR (1741 - 1813)

Sp1: Samson Bjarnason (1737 -)

1. Bjarni Samsonsson (1763 -)
2. Guðrun Samsonsdóttir (1764 -)
3. Gisli Samsonsson (1765 - 1765)
4. Samson Samsonsson (1768 -)

Sp2: Björn Ólafsson (1727 - 1816)

1. Björn Björnsson (1780 - 1827)

Guðrun Símonsdóttir was born in 1741 at the farm Utanverðunesi in Rípur Parish of Skagafjarðarsýsla. Her parents were Símon Þórðarson and Helga Egilsdóttir. She married her first husband Samson Bjarnason on March 21, 1763 in Rípur Parish. She and Samson had at least four children while living in Rípur Parish. Bjarni Samsonsson was born on May 30 1763. Guðrun Samsonsdóttir was born on August 5, 1764. Gisli Samsonsson was born on August 30, 1765, but died on September 9, 1765. Samson Samsonsson was born on February 15, 1768.

Guðrun Símonsdóttir's second husband was Björn Ólafsson who was born in 1727 on the farm Svínavatn in Svínavatns Parish of

Húnavatnssýsla. His parents were Ólafur Tumason and Steinunn Björnsdóttir. Guðrun and Björn had at least one child. Björn Björnsson was born in 1780 on the farm Holl in Reynistaðar Parish of Skagafjarðarsýsla.

Guðrun Símons dóttir died on October 12, 1813 at Holl. Björn Ólafsson died February 18, 1816 at Holl.

BJÖRN BJÖRNSSON (1780 - 1827)

Sp1: Þórdís Bjarnarsdóttir (1786 -)

1. Björn Björnsson (1805 -)
2. Holmfrídur Björnsson (1807 -)
3. Gunnlaugar Björnsson (1812 -)

Sp2: Margrét Þorsteinsdóttir (1793 - 1846)

1. Samson Björnsson (1815 - 1890)

Björn Björnsson was born in 1780 on the farm Holl in Reynistaðar Parish of Skagafjarðarsýsla. His parents were Guðrun Símons dóttir and Björn Ólafsson. Björn Björnsson married Þórdís Bjarnarsdóttir about 1804. They first lived in Viðidalstunga Parish of Húnavatnssýsla. Their first child Björn Björnsson was born on August 2 1805 while in Viðidalstunga. Later they moved to the farm called Orrastaðir in Þingeyrar Parish of Húnavatnssýsla. They had two more children in Þingeyrar. Holmfrídur Björnsson was born August 11, 1807. Gunnlaugar Björnsson was born on October 18, 1812.

Margrét Þorsteinsdóttir was a farm maiden on Orrastaðir in 1815. An illicit affair ensued between Björn Björnsson and Margrét Þorsteinsdóttir that resulted in the birth of Samson Björnsson on October 17, 1815.

Björn Björnsson died March 2, 1827, at Orrastaðir.

MARGRÉT ÞORSTEINSDÓTTIR (1793-1846)

Sp1: Björn Björnsson (1780 -)

1. Samson Björnsson (1815 - 1890)

Sp2: Magnus Petursson (1798 -)

1. Þorsteinn Magnusson (1826 -)
2. Margrét Magnúsdóttir (1833 -)

Margrét Þorsteinsdóttir was the mother of Samson Björnsson. Margrét Þorsteinsdóttir was born in 1793 at the farm Kufustaður in the Parish of Bergsstaða in Húnavatnssýsla. Her parents were Þorsteinn Steindórsson and Margrét Jónsdóttir. Margrét was a maid servant at Björn Björnsson farm, Orrastaðir in Þingeyrar Parish of Húnavatnssýsla. Þorsteinn Steindórsson must have sensed an improper relationship forming as he tried to make her leave but she was reluctant and Björn was not willing to let her go either. An illicit affair ensued between Björn Björnsson and Margrét that resulted in the birth of Samson Björnsson on October 17, 1815.

About two years later, Margrét married Magnus Petursson at Hjaltabakka Parish in Húnavatnssýsla on June 16, 1817. Margrét and Magnus had at least two children born at Þingeyrar Parish of Húnavatnssýsla. Þorsteinn Magnusson was born in 1826. Margrét Magnúsdóttir was born on December 15, 1833. By 1845, Magnus and Margrét were living on the farm Holt in Hjaltabakka Parish. Margrét Þorsteinsdóttir died at Hjaltabakka on July 4, 1846, and was buried there on July 11, 1846.

SAMSON BJÖRNSSON (1815 - 1890)

Sp: Kristlaug Þorsteinsdóttir (1823 to 1889)

1. Jón Samson (1845 -)
2. Þorsteinn Samson (1846 -)
3. Fríðbjörn Samson (1850 - 1925)
4. Jonas Samson (1852 - 1920)
5. Guðrun Samsonsdóttir (1854 - 1854)
6. Sigurveig Samsonsdóttir (1854 -)
7. Margaret Samsonsdóttir (1855 - 1860)
8. Eufemia Samsonsdóttir (1858 - 1859)
9. Unknown Samson (1864 - 1864)
10. Johannes Samson (1864 - 1864)
11. Tryggvi Samsonsdóttir (1864 - 1864)

Margrét Þorsteinsdóttir was a maid servant

at Björn Björnsson farm, Orrastaðir in Þingeyrar Parish of Hunavatnsýsla. Her father Þorsteinn Steindorsson must have sensed an improper relationship forming as he tried to make her leave but she was reluctant and Björn was not willing to let her go either. An illicit affair ensued between Björn Björnsson and Margret that resulted in the birth of Samson Björnsson. The birth of Samson Björnsson was recorded as October 17, 1815, in Þingeyrar Parish of Hunavatnssýsla with his parents as Björn Björnsson and Margrét Þorsteinsdóttir. He was christened on October 18, 1815. Samson was recorded at age one in the 1816 census living with his father Björn Björnsson and his wife Þórdís Bjarnarsdóttir and their other two children on Orrastaðir. He was also recorded with his mother Margret Þorsteinsdóttir on the farm Hjaltabakki where his mother was a maid servant. It is assumed from this that Samson grew up in both family's households. In 1845, Samson was working as a farm servant at Flaga in the Parish of Svalbarð in Nordur Þingeyjarsýsla. He was also known to be a poet.

Kristlaug Þorsteinsdóttir was born on December 4, 1823, to Þorsteinn Illugasson and Þórunn Pétursdóttir in Sauðanes Parish in Nordur Þingeyjarsýsla. She was christened in that parish on December 5, 1823. The first part of Kristlaug's life was on the farm Hallgilsstaðir in Sauðanes. Later she moved to the farm Tungesel with her family.

Samson Björnsson married Kristlaug Þorsteinsdóttir in 1845, at Sauðanes Parish. At first they lived at Tungesel with Kristlaug's family. Later they settled on the farm Hvappur in Svalbarð Parish. Ten years later they were to be found on the farm Hávarðsstaðir in Svalbarð. Samson and Kristlaug had 11 children including Jónas Samson. However six of these children died during childhood.

Jón Samsonsson was born December 12, 1845 at Tungusel. He was christened on

December 26. He grew up to be a farmer on Hávarðsstaðir along side his father. After his parents left he remained on Hávarðsstaðir from 1877-1912. Jón was also a poet. Jón Samsonsson married Ólöf Palma Arngrímsdóttir in 1878. They had at least three children while living at Hávarðsstaðir. Arngrímur Jónsson was born in 1879. Andres Kristian Jónsson was born in 1886. Johann Olafur Jónsson was born on June 20, 1888. Many of the descendants of these families are still living in North Iceland.

Þorsteinn Samsonsson was born October 27, 1846, at Hvappur. He was confirmed at Svalbarð Parish in 1863. He later was known to have lived in Akureyri.

Friðbjörn Samsonsson was born June 5, 1850, at Hvappur. He was christened on June 7, 1850, and confirmed in Svalbarð Parish in 1864. His life is described below.

Jónas Samsonsson was born August 9, 1852, at Hávarðsstaðir. He was christened on August 12, 1852, and confirmed in Svalbarð Parish in 1867. His life is described below.

Twins Guðrun Samsonsdóttir and Sigurveig Samsonsdóttir were born March 10, 1854, at Hávarðsstaðir. They were christened on March 14. Guðrun died of diphtheria on March 31, 1854, and was buried at Svalbarð Parish on April 3, 1854. Sigurveig was confirmed at Svalbarð Parish on 1869. She was a maid servant on her brother Jonas' farm at Gnystaðir in Dvergasteinn Parish in 1880. In 1920 she went to Westmannaeyjar, Iceland where she married and lived. It is not known whether or not she had children.

Margrét Samsonsdóttir was born September 30, 1855, and was christened on October 3. She lived only five years. She died of diphtheria on October 8, 1860, and was buried at Svalbarð Parish on October 12.

Eufemia Samsonsdóttir was born April 20, 1858, and was christened the same day. She lived only a year, dying of diphtheria on May 14,

1859, and was buried at Svalbarð Parish on May 17.

An unnamed infant girl was born on February 4, 1862, and died the same day.

Twins Jóhannes Samsonsson and Tryggvi Samsonsson were born April 4, 1864, and christened the same day. They both died of diphtheria on April 8, 1864, and were buried at Svalbarð Parish on April 18.

In 1878, Samson Björnsson and Kristlaug Þorsteinsdóttir moved to the Parish of Hof í Vopnafirði in Nodur Mulasysla where they lived on the farm Lytingsstaðir. In 1882, Samson and Kristlaug moved to the Parish of Dvergasteinns in Nordur Mulasysla to live near their son Jonas on the farm Austdalur. Kristlaug died on June 26, 1889. She was buried at Dvergasteinns Parish on July 3, 1889. Samson departed Dvergasteinns in 1888 with his destination to be Hjaltastaða Hreppur (district). He was reported to be living at Fjardarsel in 1892. He died on March 1, 1893, in Hjaltastaðar Parish of Nordur Mulasysla.

FRIÐBJÖRN SAMSON (1850 - 1925)

Sp1: Jarðþrudur Gislasdóttir (1857 - 1922)

1. Gisli F. Samson (1876 - 1953)
2. Samson Samson (1877 - 1952)
3. Arnbjörg Samson (1879 - 1883)
4. Margret Stefania Samson (1881 - 1881)
5. Jonas Samson (1882 - 1883)
6. Kristbjörg Samson (1884 - 1892)
7. Stephan Samson (1886 -)
8. Kristen M. Samson (1887 - 1892)
9. Christlerg Samson (1888 - 1888)
10. Þorsteinn Samson (1890 - 1891)
11. Kristbjörg Samson (1893 -)
12. Sigridur Juliana Samson (1897 - 1910)

Sp2: Elisabet Halldorsdóttir (1852 -)

1. Sigtryggur Samson (1880 -)

Friðbjörn Samsonsson was born at the farm Hvappi in Svalbarð in Þistifiorði, Nordur Þingeyjarsysla on June 5, 1850. He was christened in Svalbarð on June 7, 1850. His

parents were Samson Björnsson and Kristlaug Þorsteinsdóttir. His first home was on the farm Hvappur in Svalbarð Parish. Later he moved with his family to the farm Hávarðsstaðir. In 1876, Friðbjörn Samson married Jarðþrudur Gislasdóttir who was born in December 1857. They settled on the farm Skeggjastaðir in Hof í Vopnafirði Parish of Nordur Mulasysla. Two of their children were born there. Gisli F. Samson was born in June 1876. Samson Samson was born in July 1877. Then they moved to the farm Lytingsstaðir in Hof í Vopnafirði Parish of Nordur Mulasysla where three more children were born. Arnbjörg Samson was born on May 6, 1879. Margret Stefania Samson was born March 2, 1881. Jonas Samson was born on July 29, 1882.

Friðbjörn Samson also fathered an illegitimate son, Sigtryggur Samson, who was born February 1, 1880 in Lytingsstaðir. Sigtryggur was christened on March 2, 1880. His mother, Elisabet Halldorsdottir, appears to have been a maid-servant to Friðbjörn.

Friðbjörn and his family emigrated to North Dakota in 1882 leaving from the Port of Vopnafjarðar. Friðbjörn took his family as well as Elisabet Halldorsdottir and their son Sigtryggur. They settled in Gardar, North Dakota, where Friðbjörn was a farmer. Friðbjörn filed a petition for naturalization on March 6, 1883, and made a homestead entry on 80 acres in section 34 of Township 159 North and Range 56 West. He was granted patent to his homestead on November 16, 1891.

In North Dakota, Friðbjörn and Jarðþrudur had at least seven more children. Kristbjörg Samson was born February 8, 1884. Stephan Samson was born in March 1886. Kristin Samson was born September 20, 1887. Christlerg Samson was born September 25, 1888. Þorsteinn Samson was born October 10, 1890. Kristbjörn Samson was born in November 27, 1893. Sigridur Juliana Samson was born in July 1897.

Several of the children did not live to adult age and died in Gardar. Arnbjorn Samson died January 4, 1883. Jonas Samson died July 5, 1883. Christlerg Samson lived only one month and died October 2, 1888. Þorsteinn Samson lived about one year and died September 13, 1891. Kristin Samson died July 27, 1892. The first Kristbjorg Samson died July 30, 1892. These children are buried at the Gardar Cemetery.

When his brother Jonas Samson's wife Katrín Ásmundsdóttir died in March 1894, Friðbjörn took into his household two of their children, Kristlauger Samson and Svava Samson.

In the 1910 North Dakota census, Friðbjörn had a farm servant named Olafur Johnson. Olafur had come from Foam Lake, Saskatchewan where he had been married to Svava Samson until her death in 1907. A few months later on August 1, 1910, Olafur married Friðbjörn's daughter Kristbjorg. Olafur and Kristbjorg moved to Saskatchewan and settled in Foam Lake.

Jarthrudur Samson died on October 3, 1922, and was buried on October 5 in the Gardar Cemetery. Friðbjörn Samson died April 18, 1925, and was buried on April 21 in the Gardar Cemetery.

JÓNAS SAMSON (1852 - 1920)

Sp1: Katrín Ásmundsdóttir (1855 - 1894)

1. John J. Samson (1879 - 1912)
2. Svava J. Samson (1883 - 1907)
3. Christian J. Samson (1884 - 1947)
4. Samson F. Samson (1886 - 1955)
5. Kristrun J. Samson (1887 - 1890)
6. Lewis J. Samson (1889 - 1968)
7. Helga Caroline Samson (1891 - 1972)
8. Elizabeth (Beth) Samson (1892 - 1936)

Sp2: Sigríður Pálsdóttir (1850 - 1930)

Jónas Samson was born August 9, 1852 at the farm Hávarðsstaðir in Svalbarð in Þistifjörði, N-Þingeyjarsýsla. He was christened

on August 12, 1852, in Svalbarð. He was confirmed at Svalbarð in 1867. His parents were Samson Björnsson and Kristlaug Þorsteinsdóttir. Jónas started out in Iceland as a farmer close to where his father and ancestors had farmed. He married Katrín Ásmundsdóttir in 1879, in Dvergasteins Parish of Nordur Mulasýsla. They settled on the farm Gnystaðir near Seyðisfjörður, Iceland. Later they lived on the farm Austdalur. They had six children while living in Iceland. Ásmunder (John J.) Sigurdson Samson was born in April, 1879, at Gnystaðir. Svava J. Samson was born in September 1883. Kristján J. Samson was born in September 1884. Samson Friðbjörn Samson was born April 17, 1886, and christened on June 13, 1887. Kristrún Samson was born on July 30, 1887. Kristlauger (Lewis J.) Samson was born on April 27, 1889, and christened on July 3, 1889.

Then in October 1889, they emigrated to Akra, North Dakota with the six children. They departed from the port of Seyðisfjörður. The reason or particular event that led to the decision to emigrate is not known. It may have been the fact that there were difficulties in growing enough food for Iceland's population at the time because of some recent volcanic eruptions. It must have been a difficult decision considering the hardships of relocating six children to such a far away place. However, Jónas' older brother Friðbjörn was already in North Dakota and was willing to assist the family when they arrived.

They lived on rented land in the east corner of section 24 of Akra Township. This was two miles east of the crossing near Vidalin Church. Jónas found work right away as a carpenter. One of the jobs he had was building the Akra town hall. This town hall is now displayed as a historic structure at Icelandic State Park. He also built several of the local churches. He filed a petition for naturalization on February 24, 1890. On November 8, 1890, their



Katrín Ásmundsdóttir and Jonas Samson about 1890 in Akra, North Dakota

daughter Krístrun Samson died.

Jónas and Katrín had two more children in North Dakota. Helga Caroline Samson was born on August 8, 1891, and christened July 3, 1892. Elizabeth Gertrude Samson was born October 8, 1892, and was christened November 2, 1893.

Katrín met an untimely death on March 12, 1894, and Jónas was left to care for the seven remaining children. Without being able to hire the help he needed, Jónas made the difficult decision to place his children into foster homes. Although the family was split up, many of the foster families lived in the Akra, North Dakota area.

Jonas became a naturalized U.S. citizen on November 2, 1894. He later remarried a woman named Sigríður Pálsdóttir in Akra on August 11, 1896. Sigríður was born October 18, 1850. Her parents were Páll Eyjólfsson from (the farm) Eyvindará and Gróa Eiríksdóttir from Egilsstaðir. Sigríður was first married to Jón Eymundsson and they had the daughter named Gróa Jónsdóttir. Sigríður and Jón

divorced. Sigríður was then married to Gísli Hansson and had the children Hans Gíslason and Stefanía Gísladóttir. These two children were brought into the household of Jonas and Sigríður along with son John (Ásmundur).

They lived for awhile in the Akra area. Eventually Jónas moved on to the Foam Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada area. His sons Chris and Sam and his daughter Svava went to Saskatchewan with him. They came to Canada in 1902 and settled in the Kristnes district north of the village of Leslie. He made his homestead entry December 11, 1902, building a house on it in April, 1903. The homestead was at the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 34, Township 32, Range 12 West. He also had a small store called Kristnes and was the Kristnes school caretaker in 1905. He was granted his homestead patent in May 20, 1907. He became the postmaster of Kristnes on December 23, 1910.

After Jonas daughter, Svava, died in 1907, Jonas and Sigridur adopted Svava's son John Samson and raised him as their own. Later, a

TOWN OF AKRA

This rural community was founded in 1882 in NW 1/4 Sec. 14, T 161 N, R 55 E, Akra Township, by settlers from Iceland. The post office was established January 2, 1890 with Sigurð Thorwaldson, p.m. The name, meaning cultivated fields, comes from Akranes, Iceland, just north of the capital city of Reykjavik. The post office, Zip Code 58211, closed November 1, 1973 with mail to Cavalier. Throughout its history it was located in the same country store, which is still in operation. Several of the historic structures of Akra have been moved to nearby Icelandic State Park.

relationship between Jonas' son, Christian Samson, and Sigridur's daughter, Stephania Gísladóttir, resulted in her becoming pregnant. On January 27, 1909, Stephania gave birth to a son, Jonas Samson, named after his grandfather. Jonas and Sigridur took this child into their home and raised him along with John Samson. Jonas later was a school superintendent at Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan, where a junior high school today bears his name.

Jónas Samson died November 25, 1920, and is buried in the Kristnes Cemetery, where a homemade headstone once marked his grave. Sigridur died in July, 1930, and is buried at Kristnes.

KATRÍN ÁSMUNDSDÓTTIR (1854 - 1894)

Sp: Jónas Samson (1852 - 1894)

1. John J. Samson (1879 - 1912)
2. Svava J. Samson (1883 - 1907)
3. Christian J. Samson (1884 - 1947)
4. Samson F. Samson (1886 - 1955)
5. Krístrun J. Samson (1887 - 1890)
6. Lewis J. Samson (1889 - 1968)
7. Helga Caroline Samson (1891 - 1972)
8. Elizabeth (Beth) Samson (1892 - 1936)

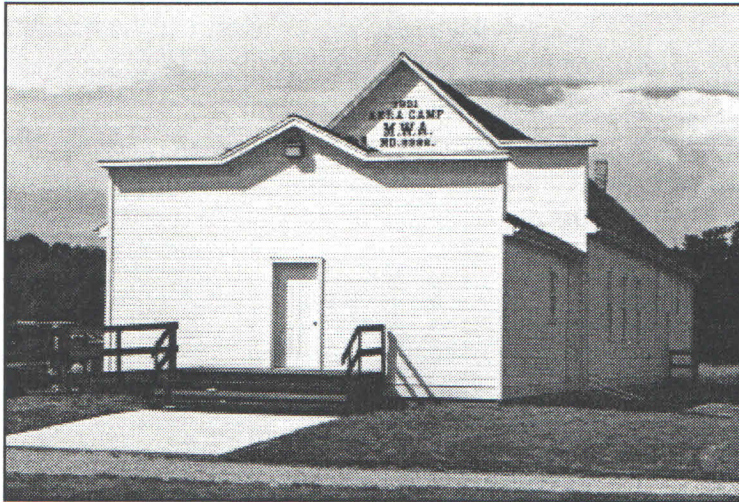
ICELANDIC PEOPLE IN NORTH DAKOTA

An Icelandic man named Pall Thorlaksson was the first to start an Icelandic settlement in North Dakota on April 30, 1878, when he and a small party of men from the Gimli settlement (in Manitoba) left for Dakota to look for the promised land. They found it in the lush valley between the Pembina Mountains and the Red River telling the people of Gimli about it. As a result, a large number of Gimli settlers came to the Dakota Territory. The Dakota Territory settlements grew, spreading out in this area. They were built around a Lutheran church.

The common way to get to North Dakota from Iceland was by passage on steam boats through the great lakes. Many Icelanders made this journey to North Dakota. Although, Northeast North Dakota was settled by people from many different European ethnic groups, the two townships around Mountain and Akra were mostly settled by people from the small North Atlantic Island of Iceland.

Today, the story of the Icelandic people in Iceland is commemorated at Icelandic State Park. Many of the buildings from the town of Akra have been restored and are on display here, one being the Akra town hall that was built with the help of Jonas Samson.

Katrín Ásmundsdóttir was born in 1855 at Austdalur in Dvergasteinn Parish of Nordur Mulasysla, Iceland. Her father, Ásmundur Sæbjörnsson, and mother, Guðrún Björnsdóttir, were at the farm Austdalur. In 1860, she was living with her family on the farm Hólhús in Húsavík Parish.



Akra Hall that Jonas Samson helped to build, restored today in Icelandic State Park.

She married Jónas Samson in 1879 at Dvergasteins Parish where they settled on a farm at Gnystaðir and later taking over the farm of her parents at Austdalur. She had six children while still in Iceland. She survived the difficult emigration in October of 1889 to North Dakota only to bury her child, Kristrun, on November 8, 1890. She gave birth to daughters, Helga and Elizabeth, in Akra. She died an untimely death of pneumonia on March 12, 1894, when her daughter Helga was three years old and Elizabeth was just one year old.

Her oldest son was almost 15 but was not quite ready to start out on his own. Without her, Jónas could not take care of the children, so he put the younger ones into foster homes. Katrín is buried in the Vidalin cemetery in Akra, North Dakota. Her daughter Kristrun was exhumed from an earlier burial and buried with her in 1894.

An obituary for Katrín Ásmundsdóttir was published in the April 14, 1894 edition of *Lögberg* Icelandic newspaper in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. It was written in Icelandic and is

translated as follows:

On 12th March, died at Akra, North Dakota Mrs Katrín Asmundsdóttir wife of Jónas Samsonarson, carpenter. Katrín was around 40 years old. She was raised in Loðmundarfirði and Seyðisfirði in South-Múlasysla in the east of Iceland. The husband and wife moved to America in the year 1889. They had 9 children but 7 of them are alive now, and all younger than 14 years old. Her father and one brother are living on Iceland, but her mother when very old came to her last summer, but she died while



What remains of Kristnes School today, near Foam Lake, Saskatchewan

living with her last autumn.

Katrin was very sick the last part of the year, and she sought treatment from Dr. Halldórsson and other doctors but in vain.

She was a good woman and loved by everyone who knew her.

At the funeral there was lots of people when it took place in Vidalíns Church the 18th of this month.

JOHN J. SAMSON (1880 - 1912)

John Samson was born Ásmundur Sigurdson Jónasson on April 12, 1879, on the farm Gnystaðir in the Parish of Dvergasteins near Seyðisfjörður, Iceland. Later he moved with his family to the farm Austdalur. Then in 1889, they emigrated to Akra, North Dakota.

He was known as John Samson after his arrival in North Dakota. He was almost 15 when his mother, Katrín, died and was the only Samson child to remain in the household of his father Jonas. He was living with Jonas and his second wife, Sigríður Palsdóttir, and her two children in the 1900 census. John became a naturalized U.S. citizen on January 8, 1898.

John sought some higher education as a teacher. He had a teaching contract for two years (1899 and 1900) with Pembina County school district 64. He made thirty-five dollars a month the first year and forty dollars a month the second year. He taught at the school in St. Thomas, North Dakota.

During the time John was teaching, he was attending courses off and on and continuing his studies at the State University in Grand Forks. He was also studying law in the office of Judge Henry G. Vick. He graduated from the University in 1906.

After graduation he practiced law in Grand Forks for about six months and then moved to Edinburg, North Dakota where he was the publisher of the Edinburg Tribune. In 1907 he moved to Lakota, North Dakota, where he

practiced law. He was a member of the Knights of Pythias and a member of the local Lutheran church.

He always took an active part in the political life of the state and in 1906 stumped the northern part of the state in the interests of



Vidalin Church and cemetery today.

the Republican party. In the fall of 1908, he was a candidate for the office of state's attorney for Pierce County. In 1909, he formed a law partnership in Lakota with V. A. Peterson.

John was considered to be one of the finest



John J. Samson, about 1900 in Pembina County, North Dakota

public speakers in the area. His law practice was remarkably successful with many important actions being entrusted to his care. He gained an enviable reputation as a trial lawyer. His brilliant defense of the celebrated Wright murder case will long be remembered by those who were present at the sessions of the court. He possessed a rare gift of oratory.

A biographical sketch of John J. Samson appeared in the 1910 *History of North Dakota* by W. B. Hennessy. The sketch closed with the statement that John would "...most assuredly be heard from again both professionally and politically." John was to be true to these words in the next few years. In a case that John tried in February of 1910, the following article appeared in the *Lakota American Newspaper* on February 10, 1910:

"Mikl Convicted of Murder, After Being Out Four Hours the Jury Brot in Verdict of Guilty in Second Degree.

The most important and hardest fought criminal case ever tried in Walsh County came to an end after eight days of actual trial with the results that the jury brot in a verdict of guilty of murder in the second degree and fixed the penalty at thirty years in the state penitentiary. Considering the awful brutality of the crime and the fact that both his wife and little three year old boy were killed and the delicate condition of the woman at the time of death, the result of the trial was highly satisfactory to the attorneys for the defense, John J. Samson of this city and Col. E. Smith Peterson of Park River. Attorney Samson conducted the case for the defense and his brilliant work won for him the admiration of the immense throng that crowded the court room every day during the trial.

The Lankin Reporter in connection with this case speaks of Mr. Samson "As probably the best known criminal lawyer in this part of the state."

The Grand Forks Herald in reporting the

case says among other accounts "The court room was crowded to suffocation and the remarkably able and thrilling address to the jury of Attorney John J. Samson for the defense, was the high water mark in one of the strangest cases that has ever been tried in Walsh County. Attorney H. C. DePuy was followed by Attorney J. J. Samson, chief counsel for the defendant and his address will be long remembered by those who packed the court room. In a graphic manner he depicted the scenes of the alleged murder and declared that a human being to have done what Mikl is charged with doing must have been insane. The address had a visible effect on the jury."

John gained much in prestige and popularity in Lakota. In March 1910, John was encouraged once more to seek public office. The March 24, 1910, *Lakota American* had the following to say:

"J. J. Samson for States Attorney

Many Friends of the Popular Local Attorney Insist That He Enter the Race.

There is a strong movement on foot among the Republican voters of Nelson County to induce Attorney John J. Samson of this city to be a candidate for the office of states Attorney at the coming primaries. People of this county feel keenly that the present states attorney has been a disappointment, that he is owned by a notorious political gang and that every wish and whim of this gang is law to him. The people feel that the states attorney's office should be filled by a man of legal ability and a man who is independent, tied up to no one and fearless and just in the discharge of his official duties. Mr. Samson's friends and three who have known him since he came to Nelson County know he is independent in thot and action and under the control of no one and that while a young man he has made for himself a state reputation as a brilliant trial lawyer, having been engaged in the trial of the most important criminal cases tried in this part of the state in

recent years.

While strong pressure has been brot to bear upon him by voters in all parts of the county, Mr. Samson has not yet decided to be a candidate, as there are business and personal reasons which he desires to consider fully before he announces his candidacy, but it is to be hoped for the integrity of the administration of justice in Nelson County that he will decide to be a candidate, and his announcement to this effect will be watched for with a great deal of interest.

John ran for the office of States Attorney for Nelson County in the primary election on June 29, 1910 against Skuli G. Skulason. Unfortunately he lost that election by only 18 votes, 708 to 690. John continued to be active in his law practice. In January of 1911 for example, he defended a man accused of assault with a deadly weapon, another for maintaining a common nuisance, another for grand larceny, and another in representing the City of Lakota in a civil case. In almost all cases he was opposed by States Attorney Skulason, his political rival. By July of 1911, John's brother Christian Samson joined him as a law partner and they became the firm of "Samson & Samson."

In July of 1912, John came down with tuberculosis while on a trip to Pembina County. He went to the Star Ranch Sanatorium in Colorado Springs, Colorado to recover from this debilitating illness. However his condition worsened and he died on October 26, 1912. His body was returned to Lakota where he was buried in the Lakota Cemetery on October 31, 1912. Unfortunately John's potential for greatness was not fully achieved. He apparently never married and had no descendants. The following article about his death appeared in the Lakota American on October 31, 1912.

"Death Takes Attorney Samson, Died at Colorado Springs, Colo. - Funeral Held in

Lakota Thursday.

The many friends of Attorney John J. Samson of this place were greatly shocked on Saturday morning when a telegram was received announcing his death. They were entirely unprepared for the sad news as the last word received from his physician was to the effect that he was recovering rapidly and was feeling fine.

About the middle of July last Mr. Samson attended the establishment of the county seat of Pembina County at Cavalier, after which he went to Edinburg, his former home, where he was taken sick with a severe cold which soon developed tuberculosis of the left lung. He was confined to the bed until about two weeks ago when he appeared to be gaining strength rapidly and expressed a desire to go to Colorado. His friends made arrangements immediately and he was taken to the Star Ranch Sanatorium near Colorado Springs, his physician accompanying him. The physician wrote that Mr. Samson stood the trip well and that he was feeling better than at any time since he was taken sick. But the dread disease secured a fresh hold on his weakened system and the end soon came.

Mr. Samson was a resident of Lakota for a number of years and at the time of his death enjoyed a large practice with offices at this place and Devils Lake, being associated with his brother C. J. Samson, also of this place. He was considered one of the best trial lawyers in the state and had an exceptionally bright future before him.

The body was brot to Lakota on No. 5 Thursday, and the funeral was held from the A. O. U. W. hall shortly after the train arrived, being attended by a large number of the friends and admirers of the departed attorney. A number of beautiful floral designs from the K. of P. and Elk lodges and the North Dakota Bar Association, were in evidence. The funeral sermon was preached by Rev. Burleson of

Grand Forks.

The body was laid at its last resting place in the Lakota Cemetery.

As an interesting foot note in the following month, John's brother, Christian Samson, ran for the office of States Attorney on the Democratic ticket against John's political rival Skuli G. Skulason losing by a margin of 414 votes.

SVAVA J. SAMSON (1883 - 1907)

Sp: Olafur Johnson (1877 - 1929)

1. John Johnson (Samson) (1906 -)

Svava J. Samson was born in September of 1883 on the farm Austdalur in Dvergasteins Parish near Seyðisfjörður, Iceland. In 1889, she emigrated with her family to Akra, North Dakota.

After her mother Katrín died, Svava was sent to live at the home of her uncle, Friðbjörn Samson (Jónas brother), and his family on a farm in Gardar Township three miles north of Edinburg, North Dakota. Her brother, Lewis, would live there as well. In the 1900 North Dakota census, she was in the household of Friðbjörn Samson and reported her occupation as dress maker. Svava went to the Foam Lake, Saskatchewan area with her father Jonas.



Svava Samson, most likely taken in 1890s in Pembina County, North Dakota

Svava married Olafur Johnson in 1905 and had a son, John, who was born in 1906. Svava and Olafur lived on a farm near Foam Lake. Svava died in 1907 and her infant son was taken in by Grandfather Jónas who took him in as his own giving him the last name of Samson. Svava Samson and Olafur Johnson are buried at the Bertdale Cemetery near Foam Lake, Saskatchewan.

CHRISTIAN J. SAMSON (1884 - 1947)

Sp1: Stefania Gísladóttir (1883 - 1968)

1. Jonas Samson (1909 - 1978)

Sp2: Sophia Magnusson (-)

1. Douglas Leighton Samson (-)
2. Myra Christine Samson (-)
3. Lorne Christian Samson (-)
4. John Barrie Samson (-)

Kristján J. Samson was born in September of 1884 on the farm Austdalur in Dvergasteins Parish near Seyðisfjörður, Iceland. He emigrated with his family in 1889 to Akra, North Dakota. He was known as Christian (Chris) J. Samson after his arrival in North Dakota. After his mother Katrín's death, Chris was raised by Gudgen Saemundson in Cavalier Township near Akra, North Dakota. He was a farm laborer on Gudgen's farm in 1900. He moved with his father Jonas to Foam Lake, Saskatchewan in 1902. He made his homestead entry at the SW 1/4 of Section 4, Township 33, Range 12 West in Kristnes on December 11, 1902. He received his homestead patent on January 30, 1907.

Christian's homestead was only a short distance from his father's place. His father's household included his stepmother, Sigridur, and her daughter, Stephania Gísladóttir. Christian had a relationship with his stepsister, Stephania, and it resulted in her becoming pregnant. The baby, Jonas Samson, named after his grandfather, was born on January 27, 1909. The event was somewhat scandalous and Christian left Saskatchewan for North

Dakota, leaving baby Jonas to be raised by his mother and grandparents.

He returned to North Dakota where he went to law school at the University of North Dakota and finished around 1911. He moved to Lakota, North Dakota and joined his brother John J. Samson as a partner in his law firm around July 1911. Their firm was known as "Samson & Samson." However their partnership lasted only about a year until John's untimely death on October 26, 1912.

The following month, Christian was a candidate for States Attorney of Nelson County on the Democratic ticket. He was running against the incumbent, Skuli G. Skulason, who was also his brother John's political rival. Christian lost the election with only 509 votes to Skulason's 923. With an unsuccessful bid for office and the loss of his brother, he decided to move near his father Jonas in Foam Lake, Saskatchewan in 1915.

He enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force Army in 1916 and was wounded at Passchendaele. He lost a leg and had his

hearing impaired. After the war, he opened a law office in Raymore, Saskatchewan. He was married to Sophia Magnusson on May 22, 1922 in Wynyard. They lived in the Raymore area before moving to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, where they raised their family. Their children are: Douglas Leighton Samson, Myra Christine Samson, Lorne Christian Samson, and John Barrie Samson. Chris Samson died on January 25, 1947.

SAMSON F. SAMSON (1886 - 1955)

Sp: Anna Thorsteinson (1900 -)

1. **Raymond L. Samson (-)**
2. **Margaret Samson (-)**
3. **John J. Samson (1924 - 1975)**
4. **Lewis Earl Samson (-)**
5. **Brian Samson (-)**
6. **Emily Ann Samson (-)**

Samson Friðbjörn Samson was born April 17, 1886 on the farm Austdalur in the Parish of Dvergasteins near Seyðisfjörður, Iceland. He was christened on June 13, 1887. He emigrated with his family in 1889 to Akra, North Dakota.

He was known as Sam F. Samson after his arrival in North Dakota. He was not quite ten years old when his mother Katrín died. He was raised by Samson Bjornsson and his wife Anna in Akra. When he was 27 years old, he moved with them to Saskatchewan where he took up land near the village of Wynyard. He made his first homestead entry at the SW 1/4 of Section 18, Township 32, Range 13 West in Elfros on July 6, 1903. This also gave him an opportunity to be near his father Jónas. He built his house on the homestead on June 15, 1905. He made entry to a second homestead at the SE 1/4 of Section 21, Township 32, Range 15 West, in Wynyard on September 1, 1908. He built a house on that homestead on March 15, 1909 and a patent on the first homestead on May 31, 1909. He was granted a patent on the second homestead on December 16, 1911.



Political handout for promoting the candidacy of Christian Samson for States Attorney in Nelson County, North Dakota in 1912

After that he gave up farming and became an elevator man in Kandahar, Saskatchewan where he was a grain buyer. He quit that job in 1915 to enlist in the Canadian Armed Forces in the 108th Battalion in World War I. He was in for three years in the trenches in France and was wounded by shrapnel and exposed to gasses. Even though he seemed to regain his health, he carried the scars of battle all his life and probably died as a result of those wounds. After the end of the war, he came back to Kandahar and started a store in partnership with Harold Johnson and Harry Palmason. They sold automobiles and farm machinery.

He married Anna Thorsteinson in June, 1920. They first settled at Dafoe where Sam again became an elevator man. Their first four children were born in Dafoe. Then, in 1927, he decided to go farming on 320 acres near Poor Man's Indian Reserves, twenty miles south of Dafoe. The government sold that poor land to the returned soldiers for eleven dollars an acre. He farmed for two years and got hailed out the first year and froze the second year. He walked away from that disastrous farming experience and moved to a farm at White Rock, British Columbia in 1931. Their last two children were born there. Ten years later they moved to Vancouver, British Columbia, where they lived out their lives.

Sam was a very fine looking man and was good at most anything that he tried. He had a very good disposition and was always happy, and for that reason he was willingly accepted as a guest in every home. He was quite a humorist whenever opportunity offered itself for such expression, and, perhaps for that reason, he always appeared to be young in spirit and in mind. He had his ups and downs like everyone else, but when things were difficult he took them in stride and everything seemed to go fine. He was an optimist and always ready to have fun. He had a good mind which he undoubtedly inherited from his people. He was



Sam Samson in uniform and ready to go off to war about 1916 in Saskatchewan

a great reader and was able to grasp and use the value of good books that he read. He was prominent in his neighborhood and took a very active part in the Icelandic National Society in Vancouver.

Sam died March 19, 1955. He is buried in the Field of Honor in Mountain View Cemetery, British Columbia.

Sam and Anna's children are: Raymond Lee Samson, Margaret Alga Samson, John Jonas Samson, Louis (Mickey) Samson, Brain Scott Samson, and Emily Ann Samson.

KRISTRÚN SAMSON (1887 - 1890)

Kristrún Samson was born July 30, 1887, on the farm Austdalur in the Parish of Dvergasteinn near Seyðisfjörður, Iceland. In 1889, she emigrated with her family to Akra, North Dakota.

She died shortly after their arrival on

November 8, 1890. Her body was later exhumed and buried with her mother Katrin at Vidalin Cemetery.

KRISTLAUGER (LEWIS J.) SAMSON, (1889 - 1968)

Sp: Marie Edna McLean (1896 - 1959)

1. Marcellus Wesley Samson (1920 - 1998)
2. Glenn Winfield Samson (-)
3. Lyle Jerome Samson (-)
4. Wanda Lou Samson (-)
5. Charles Rodney Samson (-)
6. Virginia Mae Samson (-)
7. Joanne Marie Samson (-)

Kristlaugur Samson was born April 27, 1889, on the farm Austdalur in the Parish of Dvergasteinn near Seyðisfjörður, Iceland. He was christened on July 3, 1889. Shortly after that, he emigrated with her family to Akra, North Dakota.

He was known as Lewis J. Samson after his arrival in North Dakota. His mother Katrín died when he was six years old. He and his sister Svava were sent to live with their Uncle Friðbjörn Samson (Jónas brother) and their family on a farm in Gardar Township three miles north of Edinburg, North Dakota. Lewis did not attend school beyond the fourth grade. He soon went on his own, always keeping in touch with his older brothers. He loved music and played the tuba with the Edinburg band. He was adventurous and had many friends. He rode his Harley-Davidson motorcycle to the west coast before he was married. He married his sister Elizabeth's husband's sister, Marie McLean, on June 17, 1919.

Lewis was a very loving, tender hearted and caring man. He was an avid Democrat and liked to argue politics. He engaged in farming most of his life. He had a "Rumley" threshing rig and did custom threshing. He retired in 1959. He traveled in his later years visiting his children and relatives where ever they may be. He came to visit Enid McLane (his niece)

several times and the McLane children came to love the only Samson they were to know.

He learned to play golf and enjoyed it until his death from a heart attack at Willits, California on April 18, 1968. He was visiting his daughter at the time. Lewis is buried at Odalen Cemetery in Edinburg, North Dakota



Lewis Samson about 1918
Walsh County, North Dakota

along side his wife Marie.

Lewis and Marie had seven children: Marcellus Wesley, Glenn Winfield, Lyle Jerome, Wanda Lou, Charles Rodney, Virginia Mae, and Joanne Marie.

HELGA CAROLINE SAMSON (1891 - 1972)

Sp: Joseph Aaser (1888 -)

1. Harold Earl Aaser (1919 -)
2. Rexford S. Aaser (1920 -)
3. Dale Samson Aaser (-)
4. Jacqueline Aaser (-)
5. Joy O. Aaser (-)

Helga Samson was born in Akra, North Dakota on August 8, 1891. She was christened on July 3, 1892. Her mother Katrín died when



Helga Samson about 1913
in North Dakota

she was three years old. She was sent to live as a foster child of an Icelander, Elizabeth Goodmanson, in Cavalier Township near Akra, North Dakota. Elizabeth lived in a little house on the yard of Bjorn and Gudrun Sigurdson. Helga wrote about going to live there:

"I remember the house where I was born, not the house in particular, but my sister [Svava] who was dressing me and that she was crying and kissing me over and over until she handed me to a woman who was to become my foster mother."

She was taken to her foster mother's house which was not a happy place. It was a place where there was no love and she referred to them as "beasts of humanity." She wrote that she fought like a lion when she was put to bed because she wanted to go home to her sister.

Helga was a survivor and always remembered that her sister told her that she did not belong to her foster mother and they had no

right to mistreat her. She wrote:

"Thanks to good strong teeth and heavy shoes, I bit and kicked my way through life in the early years and survived."

Helga was very intelligent and she wrote that her sweetest memories were her years in school. About the time she was in third grade, she ran away from her foster parents and went to live with her father in Akra where she completed the sixth grade at age thirteen. Her step mother (Jónas' second wife) and step sisters were very good to her and her father taught her to play chess and other games. But Jónas and his second family moved to Saskatchewan and Helga had to go back to the foster home. The situation there had not improved except that the old man (as she referred to her foster father) had died and soon his wife had to give up the farm. At this time, Helga went to work for a neighbor, which she said was from early dawn until late at night. She decided that there must be a better way of life, so she caught a ride to Winnipeg, Manitoba, and planned to stay with a lady that had brought up one of her brothers, and to look for work. She was now fourteen years old. There was a child labor law in Canada which prohibited anyone under sixteen years of age to work in a public place, but that didn't stop her. She put on a long skirt, tied her hair back, lied about her age and went to work in a factory that made clothing. They were paid by the piece, so she worked very hard and earned enough money to buy some decent clothes and another year of school. She left Winnipeg in November and returned to the States to catch up and complete her seventh grade in Akra. When school was out in the spring, she returned to Winnipeg and worked at the Winnipeg Hotel for the summer months. She returned to Akra for the eighth grade. Helga graduated from eighth grade and was confirmed that year. She was now nearly sixteen years old.

Helga wanted to go on to school so she got

a job in a cook car with a threshing rig where they worked from 4:00 AM to 11:00 PM. They worked long hard hours, but the pay was good and she saved enough money to attend high school in Fargo. While in Fargo, she boarded at the home of A. J. Parrott at 1024 11th St. N. She worked in the registrars office and managed to graduate from high school in 1911. She attended that school along with her sister Elizabeth.

Helga and Elizabeth's 1911 classes were the first year of a rural teachers course at the North Dakota Agricultural College (now North Dakota State University). It was a three year program leading to a teaching certificate for rural schools. Two of her brothers were lawyers and Helga had aspirations along that same line so she enrolled at the University of North Dakota in the School of Law. Financial problems forced her to leave the university and become gainfully employed. She took a teaching job at Piney and South Junction, Manitoba, Canada. In 1916, Helga taught school near Lakota, North Dakota where she met Joseph Aaser at a political rally for her brother Christian when he was running for Nelson County states's attorney. She married Joseph Aaser on March 5, 1917 in Mapes, North Dakota. She continued to teach school after they were married.

Joseph and Helga lived and farmed in

Center Township except for a few years spent at Harvey and Hurdsfield, North Dakota. In 1943 they moved into McVile, North Dakota where she was employed as a clerk at the Anderson Market and Joseph was custodian at the McVile School.

Helga Samson was a very intelligent, independent, remarkable woman who lived through many heart aches, trials, and tribulations. However, she lived a long productive life and set a good example for her children and grand children as far as education and integrity were concerned. She suffered from Alzheimers disease and spent her last years in a nursing home and died December 15, 1972.

Helga and Joe raised six children: Harold Earl, Rexford S., Dale Samson, Jacqueline, Joy O., and Donald S.(who was adopted).

ELIZABETH GERTRUDE (BETH) SAMSON (1892 - 1936)

Sp: John Harvey McLean (1895 - 1955)

1. Enid Ione McLean (1920 -)
2. Keith Wallace McLean (1924 -)
3. Hugh Duane McLean (1928 -)
4. Jay Allen McLean (1931 -)

Elizabeth Gertrude (Beth) Samson was born October 8, 1892 in Akra, North Dakota. Her life will be described in a later chapter.



Helga and Elizabeth Samson taken at Cavalier, North Dakota around 1900