

Johanne Knudsen. Born in Tvis, Denmark on August 28, 1900.

PARENTS Ole Jensen and Ane Kathrine. Father left every morning with a team of horses and hauled things for people. He sold things as well. Didn't usually make over night trips. Mother was a seamstress as well as a homemaker.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS Nine children in the family. Johanne is next to the youngest. Anna, Jens, Oline, Mathilde, Niels, Wilhelm, Johanne, and Marie.

GRANDPARENTS Maternal, remembers grandmother. Johanne remembers playing with her dolls at her grandmother's home, while her grandmother weaved. Paternal - grandfather was a salesman. He always bought things for the children. Wilhelm and Johanne loved to walk to their grandparent's house, which was 10 kilometers from their home.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS (See also I-077) Ann emigrated to the US in 1911. Lived in Saxon, Washington. Passed away in 1982. Johanne came to her place when she came to the US. Johanne and Marie are the only ones in their family still living.

CHILDHOOD HOME A little village. The school was close by. The teachers had a hard time keeping Johanne home when she was still too young to go to school. They finally told her mother that she might as well start school. Four teachers. The village was very nice. There was a railway station too. Johanne's parents were poor. They had lost everything by buying their farm. Johanne was born at this farm in Tvis. Her sisters and brothers were all born in Hjerm. Her father left the farm after five years and got his job in Hjerm back. Johanne grew up in a nice home in Hjerm.

CELEBRATIONS Remembers her sisters' weddings. Celebrated for a couple of days. Johanne, who got married after WWI (1925), didn't get that kind of wedding. Their honeymoon was spent working in a turnip field. Planned on being a housewife. They both had to work.

MARRIAGE Married in Hjerm on May 21, 1925. Johanne had given up her job as a house assistant. She had started this type of work at age 14. Her husband was out looking for work.

CONFIRMATION Common for children to be out on their own after they were confirmed at 14 years of age. Johanne had a job where she could still live at her parent's home for the first year and a half after she was confirmed. Boys would sometimes be on their own when 9 years old.

MARRIAGE Johanne got work washing and cleaning. Her husband looked everywhere for work. Decided to sell fish. Rode around the county on his bicycle selling fish. Would could home with the fish he hadn't sold and the whole neighborhood would eat fish. Didn't do this work for very long. Her husband went to Canada on March

21,1927, looking for work. Johanne worked all summer and her husband helped to pay for her ticket. He was quite enthused about life in Canada.

TRIP TO AMERICA Left on a boat from Copenhagen on November 2, 1927. Sailed to England. Took one of Cunard Line's ships to America. Johanne was with two other girls. Took the boat from Southampton, England. One lady was in bed for the entire journey. Not Johanne and her friends. They met four Swedes. Had a lot of fun. Sailed to France. Picked up more passengers and then sailed to Quebec, Canada.

ARRIVAL After they got off the boat and entered the halls, they were instructed to put down their suitcase. They noticed that the girl who had been sick was missing. All passengers had been given ribbons of various colors. Each color meant something. The missing girl's ribbon meant she should be taken to the hospital at once. Johanne had a hard time finding her suitcase after she said good-bye to her friends. Because of this she missed her train to New Brunswick. She stayed at a YWCA in Quebec, and a lady there took her to the train station the next day.

TRAIN RIDE Couldn't speak much English. Was put on the wrong train. Ended up in New Castle, New Brunswick. Went back to Moncton, New Brunswick. A Danish lady at the YWCA got her on the right train to Grand Falls, New Brunswick.

REUNION She'd sent her husband telegrams from every place she'd stopped. They hadn't seen each other since March. She gave him a big hug and kiss.

SETTLING They stayed in Grand Falls for half a year. Bought a farm way out in the sticks, beyond a Danish settlement. Stayed there for 10 years, clearing land. Children grew up there. Bob was 4 when they left and Else was 7. Her husband had worked in a power plant and on farms before Johanne came over. Thought he would make a lot of money growing potatoes on their farm. The problem was that they had to clear the land first. New Denmark, New Brunswick was an old settlement. They were new immigrants. Many Danish immigrants in the area. They had one neighbor nearby. Cold winters with lots of snow. Men worked on the roads in the winter. Tried to raise their own food, make their own furniture, *etc.*

REASONS FOR LEAVING NEW BRUNSWICK: Johanne's sister and brother-in-law in Saxon, WA, were getting too old to run their farm. Anna thought maybe they could help each other. Johanne would have rather gone back to Denmark. Her husband thought it would be best to go to the West Coast.

TRAIN RIDE Johanne, her husband, and two children traveled by train to Mission City, British Columbia. They spent the night in Edmonton, Alberta went through Calgary, Alberta, and rode in the caboose from Mission City to Sumas, Washington. Her sister met them there and then took them to her farm in Saxon, Washington.

SAXON, WASHINGTON The farm in Saxon was almost lost. Johanne's husband was a very good farmer. Johanne drove a tractor on this farm. In Canada, she had always driven a team of horses.

TRAVEL ON NEW BRUNSWICK Drove a team of horses everywhere. Took the kids into the settlement for vacation Bible school one time with the neighbor another Danish lady. Bob was too young for Bible school so Johanne fixed a place in the wagon for him to sleep. He didn't want to sleep, he wanted to drive. Tells about driving with horse and sled in the snow to the settlement's general store. Worried about bobcats when she went by herself.

LIFE IN NEW BRUNSWICK They tried to make the most of their own things. Bought flour, beans, and meat. One year they had only \$12 in cash. She used it to buy underwear. People helped those having a hard time. The Frenchmen would bring them buckwheat. Anybody could make it if they had buckwheat and buttermilk.

SAXON, WASHINGTON Rented her sister's farm. Wanted most of all to get their citizenship papers. Were just about ready to this in Canada when her sister wrote, asking them to come to the US. There were only two openings left for Danes to come into the US. They barely got into the US. Came to Saxon and 'started working like troopers.' Had to clear a lot of land. Tough years. Her husband wanted to learn to do something else. The government was sending teachers to the colleges to learn welding and such. He went to school at Western Washington State College in Bellingham everyday. Came home every night. Became a first class welder. They had a lot of cows, a bull, and four horses to take care of as well. He got a job as a welder in a shipyard in Everett, Washington.

CITIZENSHIP January 1943 got their citizenship papers. They had gone to a school in order to become a citizen. There were many people without citizenship papers. This was a problem when the war started up, so many school sprang up.

Husband went to work in Everett, Washington. Johanne and the kids decided to stay in the farm. They liked Mt. Baker. They helped their mother on the farm. They stayed on this farm for 26 years.

Bought another farm, which was a block away from the old one. There weren't many Danes in the area. Many Norwegians.

LEARNING ENGLISH Began studying English at home, but didn't know enough to get along. Learned to understand quite a lot. Learned a lot of English from a 3 year old girl she babysat in Grand Falls, New Brunswick. Johanne's husband had to learn because of his work. After they moved to New Denmark, they spoke a lot more Danish. Wasn't good for their English.

1030 CHILDREN Else was born in 1930 and Bob was born in 1933. Neither speaks Danish now. Else and Johanne were in Denmark in 1971. Johanne thought that Else would pick up Danish again but she didn't.

1040 TRIPS BACK TO DENMARK Johanne and her husband went back in 1958. Stayed six weeks. Her husband died in 1969. Else said to Johanne that she and Bob didn't know their family in Denmark. Else wanted to make a trip to Denmark. Bob is the only one who hasn't been to Denmark.

CHANGES IN DENMARK Enjoyed seeing friends and relatives. Planned on renting a place to stay, but they had a

lot of family who would not allow them to do anything for themselves. Rented a car. The trips were very interesting. Met someone from Minnesota. Husband started speaking to a Danish bus driver in English. Johanne told him to speak Danish but the bus driver said he wanted to learn English.

DANES VISITING THE U.S. One of Johanne's girlfriend has visited her twice. Came alone once and with her husband once. They had a son who got married in California. He lives in Germany now.

CHILDREN Else has been the secretary for the Garden Street Methodist Church in Bellingham for 17 years. Bob is superintendent of the identification bureau at the police station in Bellingham.

Johanne has six grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Talks about them. Phyllis went to Denmark while in the Air Force. She was stationed in Turkey at the time.

SCANDINAVIAN ORGANIZATIONS Has never had time to join. Her husband was sick for a long time. Does know some Danish people in town. It was the Danish bakers that got Johanne and Else in on the trip to Denmark in 1972. They saved a lot of money on that trip. Belongs to Faith Lutheran Church. Has been more active than she is now.

Loved living on the farm. Her husband worked on the farm when he came home at night, but during the day it was hers. Her kids were always helpful. She was active in the church in Saxon. Her husband belonged to the grange there. She still does, but she's not an active member.

CANADA Poor times when they were in New Brunswick. They had school in their area but couldn't afford to pay the teacher much. They offered room and board to the teacher. One girl who taught there comes to visit Johanne almost every year. There was a table prayer they always said while she lived with them before 1937. The last time she visited Johanne she asked if Johanne could say it. Johanne was surprised that she still remembered it. Johanne says some prayers in Danish. Her grandchildren always like to hear the table prayer: I Jesus navn til bords vi gaar.

Learned to quilt in America. Learned to knit mittens in Canada. Learned to knit stockings in Denmark. Had to learn to sew. The pastor at the Danish settlement helped them get a cow and a horse.

Had a one room school at the Danish settlement in Canada. They had the teacher stay with them quite often because they had an extra room. The only thing she didn't like out there was the bedbugs. Tells how they would get rid of them.

Danish tradition to have a raising party when building. They built a barn. Tradition to put a wreath and flag on top and have a big party.

CONTACT WITH FRIENDS IN CANADA Gets a letter from one friend once every years. She has moved into the city now. She has a daughter the same age as Else. Edith Kveld (?), the school teacher came to visit in the summer of 1982. (See also II-402) She remarked how much she admired Mrs. Knudsen for always managing something on the table. They had cows, pigs, and chickens. The chickens were friendly. There were a lot of French-Canadians in the area. They got along fine with each other.