

# Halvor Mikkel Berge-Martha Agatha Kannikeberg Family Group Record

Husband: HALVOR MIKKEL BERGE

Born: 23 Nov. 1855 Place: Oystese, Kvam, Hordland, Norway  
Died: 14 Feb. 1926 Place: St. Johns, Multnomah, Oregon, USA  
Buried: Place: Home Valley, Skamania, Washington, USA  
Married: 24 Apr 1878 Place: Willmar, Kandiyohi, Minnesota, USA  
Husband's Father: Mikjell Larsson BERGE  
Husband's Mother: Kristi Johannesdt RYKKE

Wife: MARTHA AGATHA KANNIKEBERG

Born: 1 Mar 1855 Place: Oystese, Kvam, Hordaland, Norway  
Died: Feb 1931 Place: St. Johns, Mutnomah, Oregon, USA  
Buried: Place: Home Valley, Skamania, Washington, USA  
Wife's Father: Hans Sjurson KANNIKEBERG  
Wife's Mother: Agatha Jonsdt RYKKEN

Children:

1. M. John Mikkel BERGE (Mike)  
Born: 25 Jan 1879 Place: Willmar, Kandiyohi, Minnesota, USA  
Died: 27 Sep 1966 Place: North Bonneville, Skamania, Wash. USA
2. F. Agatha Christena BERGE  
Born: 31 Jan 1881 Place: Willmar, Kandiyohi, Minnesota, USA  
Died: 5 Apr 1956 Place: Vancouver, Clark, Washington, USA  
Spouse: Peter L. SATHER  
Married: 24 May 1900
3. F. Marie Mikkelenne BERGE  
Born: 2 Feb 1883 Place: Willmar, Kandiyohi, Minnesota, USA  
Died: 11 Aug 1909 Place: Coos Bay, Coos Bay, Oregon, USA  
Spouse: John Crawford BEATTIE  
Married: 1907
4. M. Hans Martin BERGE  
Born: 18 Oct 1884 Place: Parcella, Sully, South Dakota, USA  
Died: 6 Dec 1972 Place: Skamania, Washington, USA  
Buried: Place: Home Valley, Skamania, Washington, USA
5. M. Louis Albert BERGE  
Born: 5 Dec 1886 Place: Parcella, Sully, South Dakota, USA  
Died: 24 Jun 1972 Place: Home Valley, Skamania, Washington, USA

Buried:                                  Place: Home Valley, Skamania, Washington, USA  
Spouse: Bernice Marie KANNBERG  
Married: 30 Dec 1934      Place: Collins, Skamania, Washington, USA

6.            M.        John Sivert BERGE (Jack)  
Born:     15 Nov. 1889      Place: Cascade Locks, Hood River, Oregon, USA  
Died:     15 Feb. 1978      Place: Vancouver Clark, Washington, USA  
Buried:                                  Place: Home Valley, Skamania, Washington, USA  
Spouse: Minnie Ida OEHLSCHLAEGER  
Married: 23 Nov 1921
7.            F.        Julia Helen BERGE  
Born:     23 Jun 1891      Place: Home Valley, Skamania, Washington, USA  
Died:     1 Sep 1971      Place: Portland, Multnomah, Oregon, USA  
Buried:   4 Sep 1971      Place: Vancouver, Clark, Washington, USA  
Spouse: Melvin Seivert THOMPSON  
Married: 16 Nov. 1910    Place: Vancouver, Clark, Washington, USA
8.            M.        Joseph Edward BERGE  
Born:     12 Oct 1893      Place: Home Valley, Skamania, Washington, USA  
Died:     Apr 1901      Place: Home Valley, Skamania, Washington, USA
9.            F.        Emma Serene BERGE  
Born:     4 Mar 1895      Place: Home Valley, Skamania, Washington, USA  
Died:     13 Mar 1990      Place: Portland, Multnomah, Oregon, USA
10.          F.        Anna Johanna BERGE  
Born:     29 Mar 1899      Place: Home Valley, Skamania, Washington, USA  
Died:     29 Nov 1907      Place: Home Valley, Skamania, Washington, USA  
Buried:                                  Place: Home Valley, Skamania, Washington, USA

**NOTES:**

HUSBAND — Halvor Mikkell BERGE

Martha Hansdt Kannikeberg and her fiancé, Halvor Berge, left Norway and arrived in Rushford, Minnesota, in 1877. They stayed with Halvor's uncle, Hallvard Rykken, and were married there in Rushford. Hallvard Rykken would be his mother's brother.

Not long afterward, they joined some of Martha's relatives in Dovre township — her father's brothers, Torger and Sjur. In 1879 they had their first child whom they named John Mikkell. While in Dovre they were also joined by Martha's sister, Agata, around 1881.

Around the spring of 1884, having learned of land available in South Dakota, there was an exodus of the daughters of Hans and Agatha from Kandiyohi to the settlement of Parcella near the Missouri River in Sully County, South Dakota, northwest of Pierre,

where their husbands took land and built homes from the prairie sod.

Hans and Martha, with their son Sjur, and youngest daughter, 14 year old Sella, came from Norway later that year and joined the rest of their family in South Dakota. In 1885 another daughter, Anna, arrived. Ingeborg had married a man in the community named Endre Frost, and Kristi soon married one Ole Thompson. There were three Soldai brothers from home in the community and in 1886 or 1887 daughter Anna married one of them, Johan.

But in Sully County, there was a drought, and farming became one crop failure after another. So when word came of a work opportunity in the west, another move began. A lock was being built on the Columbia River and train fare was being provided for workers from the East.

In 1887, Halvor and Martha Berge were the first to take their family to a place in Oregon called Cascade Locks and soon other family members followed.

Martha's Uncle Kittle and her cousin Jon went on to a beautiful area on the Washington side of the Columbia that looked like their Norwegian home, becoming postmaster and named the place Home Valley.

Martha's brother Sjur, and her parents settled in Stevenson. Johanna, the last remaining sister of Martha in Norway, left Norway in 1888 and soon she too was with her family in Stevenson.

In 1890, the Halvor Berges moved across the river and took a homestead in that beautiful valley that resembled Norway (Home Valley).

An obituary tells that Halvor Berge, one of the oldest settlers in the county, died Monday afternoon, Feb. 14, from cancer. In 1880 he homesteaded at Home Valley, being one of the first to settle there. Four years before his death, (1922) he rented the place and moved to St. Johns, Oregon, where he died.

His body was brought to Home Valley on Feb. 17, 1926, and laid to rest in the cemetery on his old homestead. Halvor applied for citizenship while living in Home Valley, and it was granted in the Superior Court of Washington for Skamania County by Hon. E. A. Wiswall, Judge, on 2 April 1904, by the oaths of N. Skaar and John Kanneckeberg (Kannikeberg), citizens of the USA, witnesses for that purpose. (Book B. Naturalization Records, Skamania County, Washington, page 202.)

*(Borghil T. Estness, JOSIE RYKKEN'S FAMILY, 1983, Xenos Books, Gardena, CA.; pp 51, 59, 269, 270, 273, 274, 281. Notes on Ch. XIII. Book in possession of Louis Berge, Underwood, WA 98651,)*

**NOTES:**

WIFE — Martha Agatha KANNIKEBERG

Both Martha and Halvor were buried at the Berge Cemetery, Home Valley.

CHILD 1 — John Mikkel BERGE

John was unmarried. Page 406 of JRF gives his name as Mikkel Johan and death in 1966 at Vancouver, WA. The Berge Cemetery Record gives his birth 1879 and death 1966, and the Social Security Death index (*ancestry.com*) gives birth 25 May 1879 and death 15 Nov 1966, WA. Information on FGS gave birth 25 Jan 1879 and death 27 Sep 1966. The source for the FGS was Julia (Berge) Thompson's family bible.

CHILD 3 — Marie Mikkelenne BERGE

The 1920 U.S. Federal Census, Coos Bay, Oregon, shows Marie's husband John C. Beattie, age 49, widowed and son Rolland C. Beattie, age 11.

CHILD 4 — Hans Martin BERGE

P. 406 of JRF says Hans died at Vancouver, WA. He is buried at the Berge Cemetery at Home Valley.

CHILD 5 — Louis Albert BERGE

A WWII draft registration dated 5 Jun 1917 gives the following: Occupation: farmer, single, medium height, medium build, blue eyes, dark brown hair.

CHILD 6 — John Sivert BERGE

Jack, as he was called by his family, married first to Jessie Duffield; they had a son, Jack Seivert, b. 1913, d. 1970 at Seattle, WA (p. 407 JRF).

Jack lived in the Home Valley area most of his 89 years. Jack was born in Cascade Locks Nov. 15, 1888. His family moved to Home Valley in 1890. Jack went to school at Home Valley and married about 1912 to Jessie Duffield. They had one son, Jack S. Berge. They were later divorced and he subsequently married Minnie Ohleschlage, in 1940. Jack and Minnie bought property at Home Valley, below the Berge place. They lived there until about ten years before Jack's death, (1960) when Minnie died. Jack then moved to Vancouver. (Obituary, Skamania County Pioneer.)

Jack worked as a logger and later for the Corps of Engineers during construction of the Bonneville Dam. The funeral program for son Jack gives birth 14 Jun 1913, Seattle, WA., and death 29 June 1970, Seattle; buried 3 Jul 1970, Winona Cemetery, Tualatin, OR.

CHILD 7 — Julia Helen BERGE

Source: Julie Berge Thompson's family Bible. Also funeral program for Julia Helen Thompson, b. 23 Jun 1891, Home Valley, Skamania, Washington; d. 1 Sep 1971, Portland, Oregon; burial on 4 Sep 1971 at Evergreen Memorial Gardens, Vancouver, Clark, Washington.

## CHILD 9 — Emma Serene BERGE

After Grandfather Hans' death at Stevenson around 1900, Grandmother Agata remained in the home of her son, Sjur, in what was called Besta Stuva (Grandmother's room); and there were often grandchildren, together with their parents, who called at her home. Among them was granddaughter Emma.

When Emma became grown, she began to talk of becoming a nurse; but nursing required training, and her Norwegian parents could see no need for educating their daughters. So Emma determined to raise her own support. By cooking in a lumber camp and doing maid work, she raised the necessary tuition and enrolled in the training program at St. Vincent Hospital in Portland in 1915, completing her course just in time to be of help in the flu epidemic of 1918. Later she went on to broaden her knowledge by becoming an X-ray technician. Emma became devoted to a lifetime of nursing the sick. She never married.

She also loved to travel and visited Norway — her parents homeland — twice.

A biographical piece on Emma gives the following:

In 1915 Emma Berge left her parents' home near Stevenson, Washington, and for the next three years took the rigorous nurses' training at Portland's St. Vincent's hospital. From 7:00 in the morning until 10:00 at night, the students both attended classes and worked in the hospital, with only a half-day off per week. It was a stringent life in which trainees stood in terror of their nursing supervisor who, noticing a skid mark on the floor, would line up her charges against the wall to check the soles of their shoes.

The first year after Emma finished school, she worked as a private nurse in Pendleton. Later, with another nurse, she established an emergency hospital in Hermiston. The conditions were not deluxe. Emma worked nights; her partner worked days; their facility was a former Odd Fellows Hall; and understanding that their patients often had difficulty "making it into town," the two young women provided their own transportation system. "We would put a mattress in the back of a truck and go out and collect a load of patients," Emma cites.

After transferring from Pendleton and working in a Klamath Falls hospital for six months, Emma returned to Portland where one of her patients, a woman visiting from Pittsburg, (Pa.), decided that her convalescence required the continued presence of a nurse. Emma therefore accompanied her on the return to Pittsburg. While back east, Emma visited New York City. For a young woman with a rural background, the east coast experience was the epitome of sophistication indeed.

Emma returned to Portland and resumed a career in private nursing. After attending the matriarch of a well-to-do Portland family for five years, the family expressed their appreciation by offering to present Emma with a trip to Hawaii. Emma was delighted but her heart was not set on white sands or waving palm trees. She wanted to see Norway where her parents were born and raised.

They (her parents) immigrated first to Minnesota and then farmed in South Dakota. Scarcity of land initially caused many Norwegians to come to the U.S. Repeated crop failures in South Dakota prompted many Norwegians to continue to move west.

Emma's father took a 160-acre claim in (Skamania County) Washington and there Emma and her nine brothers and sisters were raised. With the Norwegian language spoken in the home as well as Norwegian cuisine appearing on the table, Norway was not forgotten, (and) Emma's desire to see Europe and Scandinavia was understandable. It was her sense of timing, however, that was open to question.

"Yes," Emma admits, "I was caught in the war over there." Following her tour of Norway, Emma traveled to Germany. "A lot of people did tell me that I was crazy to go to Germany," Emma concedes, "but I said, I'm over here, I want to see Germany." Determined to be a tourist unintimidated by a country mobilizing for war, Emma toured Berlin, the Kaiser's Summer Place, and the Black Forest. A concerned Munich hotel clerk warned Emma that it was potentially dangerous for an American woman to be traveling alone. Emma began to see his point when she returned one evening from the theatre, to see — at every door — a set of calvary boots. The army was billeted in the hotel. The next morning the hotel clerk not only strongly suggested that Emma leave, he drove her to the train station and deposited her and her bags on the train.

From this point the trip home to Portland was circuitous and chaotic. In Stuttgart the train was sidetracked for an army train; at the German/French border the passengers transferred to a French train; arriving hours late in Paris.

Emma could have left Europe on a Dutch ship departing from France, but as her passage was already booked on a Danish ship scheduled to sail from Southhampton, and Emma could not see forfeiting her previously purchased ticket, she crossed the English Channel to Dover. No sooner had she arrived in London when she was ping-ponged to Cardiff, Wales, back to London and finally to the north of England, where the ship departed for San Francisco.

Once on board, there was an ever-present awareness of torpedoes. "We got a message that an Allied ship had been torpedoed and that we should come to its assistance. But we later found out that another ship had reached it first." Although Emma refused to panic, she admits that not until the ship docked in San Francisco did she truly feel safe. "Although I had paid my fare to stay with the ship up to Portland, once I put my foot on terra firma in San Francisco, I decided to stay there." She opted for the land route home to Portland.

Once home, Emma went to work at St. Vincent's; after 25 years in the X-ray department there, she decided to retire but was convinced to stay on as a floor medicine nurse for five additional years. Then she worked for several more years in private care. Finally, at age 81 Emma retired.

The year 1939 may have marked the first time Emma embarked on world travels, but it certainly wasn't the last. From climbing pyramids in Egypt, to keeping a sharp eye for elephants that might come too close to camp in Kenya, Emma traveled in Europe, Africa, New Zealand, Australia, and the South Seas, as well as the U.S. and Mexico.

#### CHILD 10 — Anna Johanna BERGE

Anna is buried in the Berge Cemetery at Home Valley