

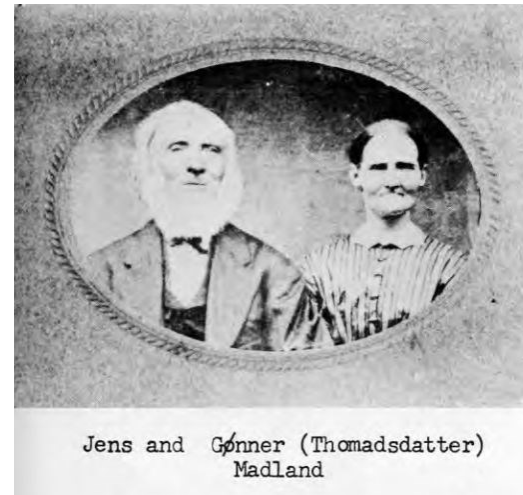
Tormod Jensen "Thomas" Madland

Tormod Jensen Madland (Tormod Høle) 1780-1826

had left the farm and gone to Stavanger where he operated a blacksmith shop. He had five daughters and only one son, so had no particular problem of inheritance. His son was old enough to take over the business and most of his daughters were of marriageable age so there was apparently less family compulsion for him to immigrate. Was it religious liberty or simply the chance of a better economic life that drove him to America?? Religious liberty was undoubtedly high among his reasons for emigrating.

Tormod Madland had three attractive daughters: Rachel, aged 18, Gurine, 15, and Serene, 11. Raket captured the eye of none other than the Captain, Lars Olsen Holland; Gurine shared mutual admiration with Gudmund Danielsen Haukaas, 25; and Serine was to eventually marry the crew member, Jakob Andersen Slogvig.

Beside the Sloopers poverty the state of their health was a principal cause of discouragement during the first four or five years. The air was damp in the woods, the climate was different to that to which they had been accustomed in Norway, and the ague and malarial fevers³ plagued nearly all of them, "What the mosquitoes did not eat up, the fever and ague would kill". Summer was worse than winter and in the summer of 1826 the first death occurred that of Tormod Jensen Madland. He left his wife, Siri, and three daughters: Serine, 12, Gurine, 16, and Raket, 18, as well as the two older daughters and a son remaining in Norway. A man of only 46, Tormod's death, coming only eight months after the Sloopers arrival, must have been a grievous blow to the spirits of the entire party. It is not difficult to imagine that sad procession, as the settlers followed the body to the simple grave, that was soon to become unknown to the generations to come.



Jens and Gønner (Thomadsdatter)
Madland



Serena Madland
Anderson