

Settlers of Markland

Update of Icelandic Settlements in Nova Scotia and names of the Icelandic people who lived and worked in the province in the latter part of the nineteenth century, based on the following:

Surveys made by Jón Rögnvaldsson in 1878 and 1879
Articles from the annual Almanak produced by Ólafur S. Thorgeirsson
The History of New Iceland written by Thorleifur Jackson
Articles from the annual *Tímarit*
Notes compiled by the author Jóhann Magnús Bjarnason
Research papers by Donald Gíslason, Borga Jakobson and J. Marshall Burgess

The provincial government built 19 homes, a schoolhouse and a teacherage in the Mooseland Hills. The settlers gave each home a name, following Icelandic tradition. These homes were all built during 1875-1877. In all, there were 30 homes in the Mooseland Hills, but numbers 20 to 30 were built by the incoming settlers themselves, then each given their own name like the others.

Survey conducted in February, 1878 by Jón Rögnvaldsson, (See # 13, Engihlíð) with a few added notes to offer some information on the lives of these people after they left N.S.

1. Sólheimar (Lot 34) Sunhome

Sigurjón Svanlaugsson, 1844-1928, b. Kolgerði, Höfðahverfi, Þýngeyarsýsla, Iceland, m. **Elísabet Guðmundsdóttir** 1850-1925, b. Vaðbrekka, Hrafnkelsdal, N. Múlasýsla, Iceland. They left from Arnórsstöðum, Jökuldals and Hlíðarhreppi, N-Múlasýsla on the ship Hjálmar to go to Nova Scotia, arriving November of 1875.

Children:

Elzabet, b. 1874, Arnórsstöðum, Iceland.
Þorbjörg, b. 1877, Markland, N.S.
Guðrún Sólveig, b. 27 Jul 1879, Markland, N.S.

The family moved to Minneota, Minnesota in 1881 and their lot was sold to William Keith. Many years later they moved to Gardar, N.D. Their daughter Þorbjörg was a schoolteacher in Gardar.

2. Grænavatn (Lot 35) Greenwater - One of the most beautiful homesteads, formerly known as "Rider's Hill"

Guðbrandur Erlendsson, 1845-1934, Kirkjubólsseli, Stöðvarfj, S. Múlasýsla, Iceland, m. **Ingibjörg Hávarðsdóttir**, 1852-1923, Gauksstöðum, Jökuldal, N. Múlasýsla, Iceland. They left Iceland on the ship Hjálmar, arriving in Markland, October 1875

Children:

Anna, b. 1872
Guðný, b. 1873
Hallfríður, b. 1874, m. Tryggvi Dinusson, Svold, N.D.
Hávarður, b. 1877, Markland, N.S., lived near Hallson, N.D.
Helga, b. 1879, Markland, N.S., m. Einar Snædal, Cheyenne Wells, Colorado.
Guðný Stefania, b. N.D, m. Einar Ásmundsson
Pálína Sophía, b. N.D. m. Jón Axdal; she was a nurse.
Pétur, the youngest, b. N.D. studied at the University of North Dakota.

With them in Nova Scotia was **Helga Erlendsdóttir**, sister of Guðbrandur. Her daughter **Jónína**, whose father stayed in Iceland, was born end of October 1875. The family moved to Hallson, Pembina County, North Dakota in July, 1881. Their lot was deeded to David Higgins.

They were loved and respected by all who knew them. Guðbrandur lived for a while with his daughter, **Hallfríður**, and her husband, **Tryggvi**. **Hávarður's** children, **Guðbrandur** and **Sigríður** were teachers.

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3. Staðvartúnga (Lot 33) Homestead Point

Sigurður Jónsson, 1845-1915, from Barðarstöðum, Húnaþingi, Iceland, m. **Sigríður Dýrleif Brynjólfsdóttir**, 1850-1909, Tyrtingstöðum, Skagafjörður, Iceland. They travelled to Kinmount, Ont. in 1874 on the ship St. Patrick. They were in Nova Scotia in May, 1875 and arrived at Markland, N.S. in August, 1875.

Children:

Brynjólfur, b. Sep 1875, Markland, N.S. (First Icelandic child born in Nova Scotia)
Þórarinn William, b. Sep 1878, Markland, N.S.
Sigurður Jóhann, b. Mountain, N.D.
Skapti, b. Mountain, N.D.

The family moved to Hallson, N.D. in 1881, and later to Mountain, N.D.

4. Staður (Lot 31) Homeplace

Stefán Brynjólfsson, b. 1839, Gilsbakka, Skagafjörður, Iceland, m.1 **Guðrún Guðmundsdóttir**, travelled to Kinmount in 1874 on the St. Patrick and to N.S. in 1875. Daughter Sigríður d.1875 of measles and her mother, Guðrún, died soon after that in Markland, N.S. With the family was their foster daughter, **Valgerður Kristjánsdóttir**, 1858-1893, m. Magnús Magnússon Melsted. They sold their lot in 1881 and moved to North Dakota and then Oregon.

m.2 Helga Erlendsdóttir, 1850-1918, sister to Guðbrandur Erlendsson, of Grænavatn. Helga's daughter, Jónína Jónsdóttir, m. a man of Scottish descent in Oregon, and had 2 married daughters there. Stefán, Helga, and Jónína moved to Portland, Oregon. Erlína Stefánsdóttir, was born there. She also married a man of Scottish descent in Oregon.

5. Hléskógar (Lot 29) Forest Lee

Sigurður Jón Jóhannesson, 1841-1923, b. Marbæli, Óslandshlíð, Skagafjörður, Iceland, m. **Guðrún Guðmundsdóttir**, 1839-1911, b. Mánaskáli, Húnaþingi, Iceland. Travelled on the ship Queen in 1873 first to Kinmount then to Nova Scotia, arriving in Markland in November 1875.

Children:

Ingibjörg, b. 1862-1925
Gróa, b. 1864, m. Skapti Brynjólfsson
Elizabet, b. 1874, Wasago, Ontario, m. Albert Jónsson, Consul in Winnipeg.
Haraldur, b. 1879, Markland, N.S., died young.

By 1881, all except the two oldest daughters appeared on the census for Nova Scotia. The family moved to Winnipeg in 1881. (A water mill was built between this lot and the next one in Markland.)

6. Bólstaðarhlíð (Lot 30) Homeside

Magnús Brynjólfsson 1828-1919, m. **Elizabet Sigríður Klemensdóttir** 1838-1925. They left from Bólstaðshlíð in 1875 but it is unknown on which ship they travelled. They came first to Kinmount, ON and arrived in Markland October of 1875. Magnús and Elizabet with their children, except for Jósias (see below), moved from N.S. to Duluth, Minnesota, then to Pembina, N.D. and finally to Helena, Montana. They are on the 1881 census for Nova Scotia but the family name shows as "Brineo." Their daughters, unmarried, died young.

Their children:

Ingibjörg Klementína, b. 1864
Sigríður, b. 1866
Klemens Brynjólfur, b. 1874
Stefán Jónas Víctor, b. 1878, Markland, N.S.

His son with Guðrún Guðmundsdóttir:

Jósias Magnússon, b. 1854, Álfgveirsvöllum, Skagafjörður, Iceland (worked as a miner). He appears on the 1881 census for Nova Scotia and he moved to North Dakota after the family did.

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With this family was Elizabeth's sister: **Ingibjörg Guðrún Klemensdóttir**, a widow b. 1833.
Her two children:

Kristjana Margrét Guðmundsdóttir, b. 1863, married an Englishman in Halifax, and later lived in US.

Jónas Steinn Guðmundsson, b. 1865, died young.

This family does not appear on the 1881 census for Nova Scotia.

7. Vatnsdalur (Lot 27) Water Vale, near the Beaver Dam

Brynjólfur Brynjólfsson, 1829-1917, from Skeggstaðir in Húnavatnssýsla, m. **Pórunn Ólafsdóttir**, 1829-1892. He was a brother of Stefán (Lot 31) and Magnús (Lot 30) Brynjólfsson.

They travelled on the St. Patrick in 1874, first arriving in Kinmount and then on to N. S. in May 1875. They arrived at Markland in August, 1875.

With them were:

His daughter, Sigríður Dýrleif Brynjólfsdóttir 1848-1909, wife of Sigurður Jónsson, Staðartunga, Markland.
Pórunn's mother, Sigríður Hinriksdóttir, b. 1800.

Their children:

Ólafur Björn 1855-1921

Jónas Benedikt 1858

Skapti Brynjólfur 1860-1914, m. Gróa Sigurðardóttir, see Lot # 5

Björn Stefán 1864-1920, a lawyer

Magnús 1866-1910

Sigríður 1871-1918, m. Kristján Indriðason, Mountain, N.D.

They are on the census for Nova Scotia in 1881. Later that year they moved to Manitoba and to Mountain, ND in 1882. In 1893, all were in the Red River Valley. Brynjólfur was a much respected community leader in Markland. This distinguished family gave early leadership to the St. Patrick passengers and the Markland settlement. One son, Skapti, was the first Icelandic-American senator (1891-1893). Another, Björn, was the chairman of the North Dakota Democratic Committee. A third son, Magnús, was North Dakota's State Attorney from 1898-1910.

8. Vindhæli (Lot 28) Windhaven

Guðmundur Guðmundsson Laxdal, b. 1844 from Ytra Túngukot in Húnavatnssýsla, m. **Sigríður Guðmundsdóttir**, b. 1841. Travelled on the St. Patrick, 1874. This family first settled in Kinmount, where a son was born. In May of 1875 they were working in Washago, Ontario. Moved to Nova Scotia later that year, arriving at Markland in August, 1875.

Children:

Margrét Guðrún, b. 1865

Jónas Sigurður, b. 1867

Guðmundur Halldór, b. 1870

Robert Klemens, b. 1875

Frímann Jóhann, b. 1879 at Markland

They appear on the 1881 census for Nova Scotia. The family moved to Duluth, Minnesota in 1881 and remained there.

9. Vatnshlíð (Lot 13 and 17) Lakeside

Bjarni Sölvason, b. 1838, from Mikligarður in Skagafjarðarsýsla, m. **Kristín Jóhannsdóttir**, b. 1837. They travelled on the St. Patrick, 1874. This family initially settled in Kinmount, where two children died. By May 1875 they were in Nova Scotia, arriving at Markland in October 1875. A daughter died of measles shortly after arriving in Nova Scotia.

Children:

Maria, b. 1863, m. a man named Smith, Westlynne, Manitoba

Guðrún, b. 1869

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Ingibjörg Margrét, b. 1878, in Markland
Sólvi, died before they reached Markland, about 10 years old

The family appears on the 1881 census for Nova Scotia with two surviving children. The family reconveyed Lot 13 back to the crown in 1882 and sold Lot 17 to John Smith in May 1882. Family moved to Westlyne, Manitoba, near Emerson. They were among the last four families to leave Nova Scotia.

10. Hvammur (Lot 16) Hollow

Jóhann Bjarnason, 1834 -1879, m. **Herdís Höskuldsdóttir**, 1832 -1914.

Sons:

Þorvaldur Árni Jóhannsson, b. 1856, m. Jóhanna Ahrens
Guðvarður, b. 1862, m. Jósefína Ahrens (Jósefína Jósefsdóttir Ahrens)
Jóhann, m. Valgerður Friðriksdóttir

They left from Tumabrekka in Skagafjarðarsýsla and travelled on the St. Patrick in 1874. The family settled first in Kinmount, Ontario. In May 1875 they were working in Millbrook, Ontario and left for Nova Scotia soon after. They apparently lived in Lockeport until October 1877, when they arrived in Markland. A young son (Arni) does not appear on the 1878 census and likely died in Nova Scotia before their arrival in Markland. Jóhann Bjarnason died suddenly in Markland in 1879, shortly after completing a beautiful house. Hvammur was a large home, often used for gatherings.

After **Jóhann** died, Herdís m. **Ólafur Þorvaldsson**. She was his 2nd wife. The family returned to Lockeport in September 1880, where son Þorvaldur (Walter) worked as a shoemaker. They are in the 1881 census for Nova Scotia in Lockeport. The family successfully petitioned for a crown grant for lot 16 in September 1881. The lot was sold in April 1882. Herdis, her son Guðvarður and his wife Jósephine and perhaps Þorvaldur, left for Winnipeg around this time. In 1885, Guðvarður was in the 90th Winnipeg Rifles during the Northwest Rebellion.

Jón Gunnarsson and **Pálína Jónsdóttir** stayed briefly at Hvammur. They separated and Jón, a fisherman, lived alone near Hnausa, MB, and died in 1930.

11. Laufás (Lot 12) Leafridge

Hannes Jónsson, b. 1834 (age 44 in 1878), m. **Sigríður Hannesdóttir**, widow, 1834-1905 (age 44 in 1878)

With them were:

Ingibjörg M. Sigurðardóttir, b. 1861 (age 17 in 1878) (Sigríður's daughter with Sigurður Sigurðsson)
Björg Hannesdóttir, b. 1868 (age 10 in 1878)
Hannes Hannesson, age 8.

Travelled on the St. Patrick, 1874. The family first settled in Kinmount, Ontario. They were in Nova Scotia by May 1875 and arrived at Markland in October 1875. They are all in the 1881 census for Nova Scotia except for an older daughter. The family moved to Argyle, Manitoba and more children were born there.

12. Laufskógur (Lot 10) Leaf woods

Pétur Jónsson Hillman, 1854-1926, left from Hóli in Skagafjarðarsýsla 1874, lived with his cousin/ sister-in-law **Olöf Kjartansdóttir** 1843-1937, who also left Iceland in 1874 but from Garðakot in Skagafjarðarsýsla. (She was a sister to Guðmundur Kjartansson of Lot 11).

With them were his niece, **Maria Rögnvaldsdóttir**, b. 1870, daughter of Pétur's brother Rögnvaldur (who died in 1870).

Children:

Rögnvaldur Pétursson, b. 1873, later lived near Mouse River, N.D.
Una, b. 1876 at Lockeport, was fostered by Einar Hnappdal and his wife, Halla, died young
Jón, b. 1878 at Markland, grew up in N.D. Died young.
Sigurður, son of Einar Jónsson Hnappdal

Travelled on the St. Patrick, 1874. The family first settled in Kinmount, Ontario. By March 1875 they were working in Millbrook, Ontario. They moved to Nova Scotia in July 1875 and took land in Markland in November 1875. They spent the winter in Lockeport, in 1876 they began to farm their Markland property, where Jón was born in 1878. Pétur's mother in law, **Maria Rögnvaldsdóttir 1815-1905**, who left Garðakot in Skagafjarðarsýsla on the Verona in 1876, joined them in

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November 1877. Pétur worked in different places, including Halifax, Montreal and Portland, Maine. Pétur left for Winnipeg in 1881, having deeded the property to Ólöf.

Son Jón, born in Markland, does not appear in the 1881 census for Nova Scotia.

Una, born in Lockeport, is renamed Annie and was fostered by Einar Jónsson Hnappdal b. 1829, at Fljótshlíð (Lot 2), Markland.

An older son, Rögnvaldur, is renamed Walter and was fostered with Pétur Hansen on Hjarðarholt. Ólöf petitioned for a crown grant in May 1881. In 1885 Pétur Hillman married Valgerður, a widow, at Akra, Pembina, N.D. and they had 7 children.

Ólöf Kjartansdóttir married Halldór Þorgilsson. Their son was Friðrik Theodor.

13. Engihlíð (Bjarkavellir) (Lot 9) Meadowside

Jón Jónsson Hillman, 1848-1929, and his father, **Jón Rögnvaldsson Hillman**, 1807-1886 (see *Timarit* Vol. V11, 1925) left Hóli, Skagafjarðarsýsla on the St. Patrick in 1874, settling initially in Kinmount, Ontario November of 1874. These were the brother and father to Pétur Hillman of Lot 10. With the encouragement of Jóhannes Arngímsson, who was acting as Immigration Agent for the government of Nova Scotia, Jón Hillman accompanied Konráð Egilsson and Johann Straumfjord to examine the area for settlement opportunities. It was on this trip that Jón Jónsson began to call himself Jón Hillman (originating from Hóli, his farm in Iceland, which means "hill" in English). Jón became ill and he was not able to explore as he had hoped. Furthermore, it was wintertime by the time this delegation arrived in Nova Scotia, so it was difficult to see what soil conditions were like. In the summer of 1875, Jón and his father, along with most of the other Icelandic immigrants who were in Kinmount, moved to N.S, arriving in Markland in October, 1875. Jón Rögnvaldsson Hillman did the census of Markland in February 1878 and again in February 1879. Jón took a lot of land in Markland but, for the next two or three years worked at the Tangier gold mine and in other places in N.S. He married twice: **m1 Jóhanna Hafsteinsdóttir**, 1855 - 1884 October 11, 1879 from Fljótshlíð (Lot 8)

Her daughter:

Sigríður Anna, m. Andrés Guðmundsson. She died young.

m2 Elizabet Katrín Jónsdóttir

Her son: Jón

Their children: Magnús and Elizabet

They appear on the 1881 Nova Scotia census where Jóhanna Hafsteinsdóttir is known as H. Ellen Hillman. In May 1882 Jón Jónsson, with his family and father, moved to Pembina, North Dakota. They were among the last four families to leave. He is mentioned in Johann Magnús Bjarnason's short stories, Errand Boy in the Mooseland Hills, translated by Borga Jakobson (published by Formac, 2001 pg. 70.).

14. Fljótshlíð (Lot 8) Riverside

Hafsteinn Skúlason, b. 1828, left from Hraun in Skagafjarðarsýsla, m. **Sigríður Þorbergsdóttir**, b 1822. Travelled on the St. Patrick, 1874. The family first settled in Kinmount, Ontario.

Children:

Jóhanna Hafsteindóttir, m. Jón Jónsson Hillman See # 13

Hallfríður Magnúsdóttir, foster daughter, b 1866, m Þórarinn Guðmundsson

It is possible that Hafsteinn's mother, **Jóhanna Jósefsdóttir**, is one of the two elderly women to die in Kinmount, as her arrival in Markland is not mentioned and she does not appear on the 1878 Nova Scotia census. In May 1875, Hafsteinn and his foster daughter, Hallfríður Minerva Magnúsdóttir, were in Nova Scotia and his daughter was in Lutterworth Township, Ontario. They all arrived in Markland in October 1875, when Hafsteinn's wife, **Sigríður Þorkelsdóttir**, who had just arrived from Sævarland, Skagafjarðarsýsla on an unnamed ship, joined them. In 1879, their daughter married Jón Hillman from the neighbouring farm. They are in the 1881 census for Nova Scotia. In May 1882, the family moved to North Dakota. They were among the last four families to leave Markland. Hallfríður and Þórarinn moved to Markerville, then Red Deer, Alberta and finally to Elfros, Saskatchewan. Sigríður Þorbergsdóttir was with her daughter, Hallfríður, for her last years and died in Red Deer.

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15. Hlíðarhús (Lot 6) Hillside House

Bjarni Andrússon, (1832 -1899), m. **Kristbjörg Magnúsdóttir, (1831-1893)**. They left from Fljótsbakki in S. Múlasýsla 1875.

Children:

Seven children died at an early age in Iceland

Jóhann Magnús Bjarnason, 1866 -1945, m. Guðrún Hjörleifsdóttir Björnsson

Anna Málfríður Bjarnadóttir, 1874-1895, m. Bogi Sigurgeirsson, Hecla, MB but died after a fall when travelling on horseback.

The family arrived in Markland in December, 1875. Their house was built on a hill known as “White Birch Hill” and was sometimes referred to as *Hvítbirkiskot*, which means literally “White Birch Cottage”. They appear on the 1881 census for Nova Scotia. They were the last family to leave Markland. The family moved to Manitoba in 1882, and settled in Point Douglas, Winnipeg, quite near the Louise Bridge. Kristbjörg operated a boarding house there from 1882 until her death in 1893. Bjarni worked on the CPR tracks until he was injured in the summer of 1883. Kristbjörg was much loved by many friends, and Jón Rögnvaldsson described her as a very intelligent woman and well informed. Her son, Jóhann Magnús, was a very popular teacher and author of several novels, including ‘Errand Boy in the Mooseland Hills ‘ and ‘The Young Icelander ‘ (translated by Borga Jakobson) as well as short stories and articles. The daughter, Málfríður, was an excellent teacher.

Jón Einarsson Dalsted, b. about 1857, stayed with the family at Hlíðarhús in Markland during the winter of 1878-1879. He married a daughter of Ásmundur Þorsteinsson. He was the captain of a steamship on Lake Winnipeg and drowned in 1899.

16. Fagrahlíð (Lot 5) Fairside

Björn Sigvaldason (Walterson) 1852-1932, Austaraland in N. Þingeyjarsýsla m. **Kristín Hansdóttir**, 1846-1913. Travelled on the St. Patrick, 1874. The family first settled in Kinmount, Ontario where their daughter died. In the spring of 1875 they were working in Millbrook, Ontario. They arrived in Markland in October 1875. The family appears on the Nova Scotia census for 1881. In 1881 the family moved to Argyle, Manitoba.

Their son:

Hannes Björnson, born in Markland in 1877

Björn’s nephew **Jósep Sigvaldason (Walterson)** stayed for a while at Fagrahlíð, m. **Ingibjörg Sigurðardóttir** (Lot 11 Laufás). They moved to Winnipeg, then Garðar, N.D. Jósep later was a member of the government of N.D, *Þingmaður (MP)*. Their daughter, **Valgerður**, born in Manitoba, m. **Lindal Þorsteinsson**, Winnipeg.

17. Brautarholt (Lot 4) Roadhill

Jóhannes Guðmundsson, 1838-1917, left from Stapabúð in Gullbríngusýsla, m **Sólveig Jónsdóttir**, 1837-1910. Travelled on the Corinthian, out of Glasgow, arriving in Quebec on August 17, 1874 with his wife and four children. They arrived in Markland, likely from Ontario, in October 1875. A daughter was born in Markland in 1876. A teen-aged daughter died in Markland in 1881. The family does not appear on the 1881 Nova Scotia census and may have left for Winnipeg by then.

Children:

Sigríður Jóhannesdóttir, 1865 - 1881

Jóveig, b. 1866

Oddný, b. 1869

Jónína, b. 1872

Engmey, b. 1876 at Markland

Jóhannes was a particularly enterprising and hardworking man. The family moved to Lunenburg, Boston, North Dakota, “New Iceland”, and eventually the west coast. After Jóhannes Guðmundsson left, he was followed by:

Jón Eiríksson, 1841-1920 m. **Guðný Magnúsdóttir** , b 1841

Children:

Magnús b. 1865 m. Ingibjörg Jónsdóttir, settled in Selkirk

* Guðrún Snjólaug, b. 1867

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Guðný, b. 1876

Sveinbjörn, b. 1878

Elinborg Erlendsdóttir, b.1854, travelled with Jón Eiríksson, Guðný and family when they settled near Winnipeg Beach. Elinborg worked in Musquodoboit and in Winnipeg.

***Guðrún Snjólaug Jónsdóttir** was remarried to **Herman (Guðmundur) Hermansson**. Snjólaug shows surname as "**Eiríksson**" on marriage record for daughter Wildora.

Their children:

Rósa Hermanson, well known singer

Anna, 2nd wife of Rev. Jóhann Sólmundson

Mrs. Björg Ísfeld, Winnipeg.

Wildora, m. Jón Jónsson Austman, brother of Dr. Kristján Austman

Guðný, m. Oddur Guttormson, brother to Rev. Guttormur Guttormson, Minneota, Minnesota

Ásta Hermanson, Winnipeg, well known violinist

Sons; Magnús, William, Alexander and Jón. Cousin to J.M.B. author

18. Brúarland (Lot 3)_Bridgeland

Jón Sæmundsson 1830 -1918, left from Hraunkoti in Kleifahreppi and **Vigdís Emilía Þorkelsdóttir** 1842 – 1925, Nes in S. Þingeyjarsýsla. Vigdís and her daughter Þuríður, travelled on the St. Patrick, 1874. Jón is not listed on the passenger list.

Children:

Þuríður, b. 1871

Sigurlög, b. 1877, in Markland

A son b. 1881 in Markland

Jón Sæmundsson arrived in Markland in October 1875, where Vigdís Emilia joined him with her daughter, **Þuríður Holmfríður Þorkelsdóttir**. They had settled for a time in Ontario, believed to be in Kinmount before coming to Markland. A daughter and son were born in Markland in 1877 and 1881. Their farm was sold to Isaac Prest in August 1881 and they left for Winnipeg.

With the family at Brúarland, was **Guðrún Ahrens**, from Reykjavik and her daughter, **Josephine (Jósefína)**. Guðrún married a German Canadian, lived in Dartmouth, and died there.

Her daughters:

Jósefína Jósefsdóttir Ahrens, b. 1862, m. Guðvarður Jóhannsson, died in Winnipeg.

Jóhanna Ahrens, b. 1858, came from Iceland later than her mother in 1880 and married shoemaker Þorvaldur Jóhannsson.

19. Eljótubrekkja (Lot 2)_Riverslope

Einar Jónsson Hnappdal, 1829-1906, Svarfhóll in Hnappadalssýsla, self-taught veterinarian, m. **Halla Jónsdóttir** 1816-1885, Laxarbakki in Hnappadalssýsla, the village poetess, wrote a newsletter, Bægarvísur, *in verse*.

Einar travelled on the St. Patrick, 1874, settling first in Kinmount, Ontario. In the spring of 1875 he was on land in Lutterworth Township. Soon after he left for Nova Scotia, arriving in Markland in October, 1875. In 1876, his wife Halla and their three adult children, who had left Laxarbakki in Hnappadalssýsla for Halifax, aboard the Verona, joined him. They appear on the 1881 Nova Scotia census with five-year-old Annie (likely Una Pétursdóttir Hillman from "Laufskógar"). In August 1881 the Markland property was sold and the family moved to Winnipeg.

Children:

Sigríður B. Einarsson, b. 1857

Jón Einarsson, b. 1858

Guðjóna Einarisdóttir, b. 1859

Ingiríður, arrived 1877, m. Snæbjörn Ólafson, Hallson N.D.

Einar Hnappdal later moved to Markerville, AB (See *Tímarit*, 1925)

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The rest of the houses in Markland were built by the settlers themselves.

The survey was prepared by Jón Rögnvaldsson in 1879, ages are based on that date. As before, additional information has been added when available.

20. Robbshús or Ós (Lot 8) **Robb's House**

Hans C. Robb, b. 1832, formerly a merchant in Reykjavik, m. **Rósa Elíasdóttir**, b. 1833

Robb, a businessman, left Reykjavik in 1878 with his wife, three children and a domestic, **Margrét Árnadóttir**. They arrived in Markland in Sept. 1878, where H. C. Robb built a fine house and yard on or near the land belonging to Guðmundur Laxdal (lot 8), where he opened a store. He soon realized that this was not the proper spot for an elderly merchant and sold his business to Erlendur Höskuldsson, who arrived in 1879. The Robbs moved to Halifax, then to Tangier in Nova Scotia, and finally to New York.

Children:

James Elias, b. 1861

Anna Margrét Jarprúður, b. 1866, but died young

Carl Ole, b. 1869 or 1870

In 1879, Hans Robb sold his cottage to Erlendur Höskuldsson, who renamed it **Ós**. Robb moved to Halifax, then to Tangier, and finally to New York, where he died. Rósa continued to live in New York with her sons.

Margrét Árnadóttir who came with the family from Iceland, later worked for families in Musquodoboit.

Erlendur Höskuldsson, 1845-1928, S. Múlasýsla, m. **Guðlaug Stefánsdóttir**, 1835-1919, S. Múlasýsla. Erlendur changed the name of the home to Ós.

Children:

Thórunn, b. Iceland, 1874, married John Ryan, had one son. She died at an early age at East Green Harbour, NS.

Sigríður Nikolena, b. Iceland, 1878 married James Marshall Burgess, had 7 children. Lived at Port L'Hebert, Queens County, NS

Lewis Churchill b. 1882, Lockeport, NS. married Sarah MacKay had 9 children, lived in Lockeport, NS

The family moved from Markland to Lockeport in 1881. They settled in East Green Harbour, a fishing community which is about 2 miles west of the town of Lockeport. Guðbjörg was described as a gentle lady, quiet in her daily conduct. Erlendur was a fine carpenter, and specialized in making coffins. He built up a good business in Lockeport, building houses and barns for other families in the area. This family was one of the few who remained in Nova Scotia after most left to go to western Canada or the U.S. around 1882.

— Wilsonshús (the teacherage or teacher's house) The school was located about 200 fathoms to the east.

Alexander Wilson, m. Sarah Wilson

The Wilsons arrived in Halifax from Britain in 1875. In the spring of 1876, Alexander was hired as a teacher for the Icelandic settlement of Markland. The N.S. government built a good, roomy house for him and his family. They moved into their new home in midsummer 1876. Mr. Wilson was a big man, impressive in appearance. He was fair-haired, and he had a big beard. He was well educated, particularly in the field of English literature. He had a fine library in his home and he was happy to lend his books to students or others who wanted to read. He was an unusual man, perhaps a little eccentric, but an exemplary teacher. He carried out his work with enthusiasm and energy. He was a disciplinarian and he expected a lot of his students. As a person, he was respected for his integrity and good will. In turn, he held the Icelandic settlers in high regard and wished them well. Sarah Wilson was a fine, good hearted woman, raised in England and well educated.

Children: John, Mary, Sarah, Alexander and William were all born in England. Two children were born in Markland. The family remained there for a few years after the Icelandic people left. Two more children were born elsewhere in Nova Scotia. Mr. Wilson corresponded with Johann Magnus Bjarnason. In 1887, he wrote that the four older children were already settled in England and the parents were about to leave Canada with the five younger children.

21. Lundur (Grove)

Jón Gíslason (Borgfjórð), b. 1840, m. **Oddrún Samúelsdóttir**, b. 1841. They travelled on the Cumbræ, arriving at Markland in 1878. Jón was a carpenter by trade. He and his wife moved to Halifax in 1879 and lived there until they died.

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Children:

Árni Einar Jónsson b. 1866.

Two children were left in Iceland and another son was born in Halifax

Sigfús Bjarnason, b. 1836-1919, m. **Helga Gunnlaugsdóttir**, 1844-1930. Sigfús and Helga moved directly from Iceland to Markland in midsummer 1879 and took over **Lundur**, the house that had been occupied by Jón and Oddrún.

Children:

Bjarni, b. 1866, died young in N.D.

Benedikt Þórarinn, 1869-1937, died in Elfros, Saskatchewan

Sigurlaug, b. 1871

Björg, b. 1873

Ingibjörg, b. 1876

Guðlaug, b. 1878

Sigurður, b. 1879 in Markland, died in Elfros, Saskatchewan

All moved to Lockeport in 1881 and Pembina County, N.D. in 1882.

Lúðvík, b. 1884 in N.D., later settled in Blaine, Washington

Halldór, b. 1888 in N.D.

All daughters married, location undetermined. Sigfús and Helga later moved to Elfros, Saskatchewan

22. Hlíð (Lundarbrekka) Hillside

Brynjólfur Gunnlaugsson 1847-1914, m. **Halldóra Sigvaldadóttir**, b. 1856 (she was the sister to Björn Walterson from "*Fagrahlíð*"). They left from Höskuldsstaðasel, Breiðdalshreppi, S. Mulasýsla in 1878. The family arrived first in Quebec City on 1 August 1878 aboard the Osborne. Later boarded the Waldensian and reached Markland (via Halifax) in August 1878. This property was next to that of Sigfús Bjarnason and is said to be located on the "next height west of the school property". In 1881, all the family, except Vilborg (see below), are in the Nova Scotia census.

Children:

Sigvaldi Brynjólfsson, b 1876, settled in Argyle.

Brynjólfur Brynjólfsson, b 1878, died in Markland.

More children were born after the family moved to Winnipeg in 1882. They settled near Baldur, MB.

Brynjólfur's sister, **Vilborg Gunnlaugsdóttir**, b. 1849, was married, died in 1929. She left from Þorgrimsstaðir in S. Mulasýsla also on the Osborne in 1878 and is with this family in Markland.

Child: Guðný Sigurbjörg Einarsdóttir, b. June 10, 1887 in the Akra Valley, N Dakota, d. 08/08/1954.

23. Arnes (Lot 18) Riverness

Ólafur Þorsteinsson, 1831-1910, m. **Elín Stefánsdóttir**, 1836-1923. Left from Tunga in Þingvallahreppur in 1877 for Markland, died in Pembina, N.D.

Children:

Eyólfur Ólafsson (twin of Þorsteinn), b. 1859. Eyólfur was unmarried.

Þorsteinn Ólafsson (twin of Eyólfur), b. 1859.

Guðrún Olafsdóttir, b. 1869

Stefanía Kristín Ólafsdóttir, b. 1877, m. Rev. Jónas Sigurðsson

Jórunn Ólafsdóttir, m. Arnljótur Olson

Niece and nephew (children of Ólafur's brother Þorsteinn):

Sigríður Þorsteinsdóttir, b. 1862, m. Porter Taylor, lived and raised a family in Chaswood, near Markland.

Þorgils Þorsteinsson/ Oliver, b. 1872, was married and lived in Lundar, MB.

Ólafur went first to Lockeport, was a good carpenter and a smith. They had a big house. Ólafur and Elín settled in North Dakota and prospered there.

Ólafur's sister:

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Snjófriður Þorsteinsdóttir, d. 1909, N.D.

Ólafur Þorsteinsson was a blacksmith and a carpenter. He arrived in Nova Scotia in 1877. He spent the winter in Lockeport. In 1878, his wife, five children, sister, niece and nephew left from Iceland aboard the *Cumbræ*. They all arrived in Markland in August of 1878. It is indicated that his property was east towards the Tangier River, east of the schoolhouse. He was a prosperous man who built a fine house. The family appears on the 1881 census for Nova Scotia. In August 1881, Ólafur Þorsteinsson's petition for a Crown Grant was granted and they moved to Pembina, North Dakota.

Lárus Frímann Þórðarson, b. 29 January 1843. Left from Reykjavik, travelled on the ship *Cumbræ*, arriving in Markland August 1878. Lárus lived for a while at Árnes. He was a big man, said to have the strength of a giant. He went to work as a farmer in Smithfield, Colchester County, NS. There he met widow with 3 small children, Mary Jane Gourley (nee Pratt). They married August 18, 1879 and he changed his name to Lárus Freeman. They later had two more children whose descendants still live in NS. Lárus is buried at Pine Grove Cemetery, Colchester County, NS.

24. *Austurhlíð* (Lot 19) East Hillside

Halldór Halldórsson (Ármann), b. 1849, m. **Margrét Eyolfsdóttir**, b. 1853. They left from Stóri Háls in Þingvallahreppur, travelled aboard the *Cumbræ*, coming first to Lockeport and then Markland, August, 1878. **Seselja Grímsdóttir**, b. 1846, travelled with Halldór and Margrét. **Einar Einarsson (Mýrdal)**, b. 1852, m. Anna Sveinsdóttir. They left in 1878 from Hvoll in Dyrholahreppur, also aboard the *Cumbræ*, and joined this household. Halldór's property was adjacent to Árnes (Lot 18). He built an exceptionally fine house. Einar Einarsson and Sesselja Grímsdóttir do not appear on the 1881 census for Nova Scotia. The Halldórsson family moved to Winnipeg and in 1884 to Gardar, North Dakota. Their children were born there.

25. *Ljósavatn* (Lot 25) Light Lake (East toward the Tangier River)

Ólafur Ólafsson Fellsted, 1847-1902, m. **Helga Guðmundsdóttir**, b. 1852. They left from Vestra Miðfelli in Borgarfjarðarsýsla. Ólafur arrived in NS in 1876. He lived in Lockeport until 1878. His future wife and son left from Hvítárvellir in Borgarfjarðarsýsla in 1878 aboard the *Cumbræ*. They joined him in Lockeport before arriving at Markland in August 1878. They were married on 13 October 1879 at the home of Ólafur Þorsteinsson. They had a daughter in Markland in 1879. Ólafur does not appear on the 1881 census for Nova Scotia although his wife and children do. They moved from Halifax, NS to Winnipeg, MB and then to Vestfold, MB. More children were born after they left N.S.

Children:

Ólafur Ólafsson Fellsted (probably born at Hvítárvöllum, Iceland)
Guðrún, b.1879 at Markland, NS

26.

Björn Ólafsson Fellsted, b.1850 - d.1930 at Betel, Gimli, MB, m. **Guðrún Jónsdóttir** 1850-1904. Left from Nýbæ, Strandahreppi, Borgarfjarðarsýsla and travelled on the *Cumbræ*, arriving in Markland August, 1878. Joined his brother Ólafur who was living on Ljósavatn (Lot 25).

Children:

Guðný Björnsdóttir, b. 1875, m. Þórður Jónsson, a goldsmith
Þorsteinn Björnsson, b. 1878, m. Hólmfríður Ólafsdóttir

They had 9 children but only 3 reached adulthood. The family does not appear on the 1881 census for Nova Scotia. They moved from Winnipeg to Saskatchewan and then to Big Point, MB

27.

Jóhann Jóhannsson, b. 1854, m. **Valgerður Friðriksdóttir**, b. 1856. Left from Akureyri in Eyjafjarðarsýsla, travelled aboard the *Osborne* 1878. Living with them for a while were: **Jón Gunnarsson**, age 23, (1856-1930) and his wife **Pálína Jónsdóttir**, age 21, b.1858. They left Kjarni in Eyjafjarðarsýsla and travelled aboard the *Osborne* in 1878. These couples are in Markland in August 1878, but they are not on the 1881 census for Nova Scotia. Both moved to Winnipeg. Jón and Pálína separated. Jón worked as a fisherman, near Hnausa, MB. (See #10 Hvammur)

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28. Baldurshagi (Baldur's Field)

Guðmundur Kjartansson, b. 1858, m. **Valgerður Jónsdóttir**, b. 1856. They left Keta in Skagafjarðarsýsla and travelled aboard the St. Patrick 1874, first settling in Kinmount, Ontario where their child died. In the spring of 1875 they were employed near Lindsay, Ontario. The family moved to Lockeport, Nova Scotia in 1876. In 1878 they arrived in Markland. This property was adjacent to that of Pétur Hillman (lot 10). Valgerður was working as hired help, likely in Musquodoboit, but she mysteriously disappeared. Guðmundur searched for her in Halifax, Boston and Milwaukee. Around 1881 he moved to Milwaukee. They do not appear on the 1881 Nova Scotia census. Guðmundur left a remarkable collection of books and handwritten manuscripts.

29. Hjarðarholt (Herd Hill)

Pétur Hanssen, b.1849, m. **Guðlaug Jónsdóttir** b.1852 (later known as Laura Hansen). They left from Þverá, Hallardal in Húnavatnssýsla and travelled on the Verona in 1876, first settling in Lockeport, NS.

Children:

Jón Ágúst, died young
Ingibjörg

In 1878 they moved to Markland, near "Baldurshagi." They are in the 1881 Nova Scotia census where they appear to be caring for young **Rögvaldur Pétursson**, named Walter Hillman, and the elderly **Maria Rögnvaldsdóttir**, known as Catherine Mary, from "Laufskógar". They moved to Hallson, North Dakota and then Blaine, Washington.

30. Árbakki (Riverbank)

Jón Ívarsson, 1829-1897. Jón is the father-in-law of Pétur Hanssen (Hjarðarholt). He left Þverá, Hallardal in Húnavatnssýsla and travelled aboard the St. Patrick in 1874, first settling in Kinmount, Ontario. In the spring of 1875 he was employed in Millbrook, Ontario. He went to Lockeport, Nova Scotia that year and in 1878 arrived in Markland. He took property on the shores of the Tangier River, immediately east of Jóhann Bjarnason (Lot 16).

Children of Jón Ívarsson - 2 of his daughters came to Canada:

Jónína, who remained in Lockeport
Guðlaug, m. Pétur Hanssen (See # 30, Hjarðarholt)

In 1879 Jón Ívarsson took as his common-law-wife his house keeper **Helga Magnúsdóttir**, 1830-1913, who arrived in 1879 from Ormarstaður in N-Mulasýsla. Helga was Jóhann Magnús Bjarnason's aunt, a sister of **Kristbjörg Magnúsdóttir**. She was an expert in weaving and she wove and taught weaving to a Scottish woman in Musquodoboit. After she moved to Manitoba, she lived for a while in Winnipeg Beach. She died in Winnipeg 1913.

They appear on the 1881 Nova Scotia census, where Jón Ívarsson is known as John Irving and Helga Magnúsdóttir is known as Helga Jónsson. Jón Ívarsson built a large and remarkable *seglskip* (sailing ship). Likely in 1881, they moved to Winnipeg

For a while, the following men stayed at Árbakki:

Jón Einarsson Dalsted, left from Þingnes in Borgarfjarðarsýsla and travelled on the Cumbrae in 1878, later married a daughter of Ásmundur Þorsteinsson.

Lárus Frímann Þórðarson, (See 23 Árnes (Lot 18) Riverness)

Rafn Guðmundsson (Nordal) 1850-1938, left from Akranes and travelled on the Cumbrae in 1878. Stayed at times at Árnes (Lot 18), moved to Winnipeg, was married, lived in Argyle, MB and later in Leslie, SK.

Jósef Sigvaldason, m. Ingibjörg Sigurðardóttir. They left from Jórviik in S-Mulasýsla, travelled on the Osborne, 1878. Later moved to Garðar, ND. At one time he was a member of "Þingmaður" in the North Dakota government. (See #16, Fagrahlíð). He took the name of Walter and in North Dakota he was known as Josef Walter.

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Others who lived and worked in Nova Scotia for a short time before moving on to other places:

Konráð Egilsson, b. 1851 Laxamýri, unmarried, travelled on the Emma in 1873. He went first to Kinmount, Ontario but was in Nova Scotia in 1878. He travelled to Nova Scotia with Jóhann Straumfjord and Jón Jónsson to view the area which was later known as Markland. This was in response to the offer made to the Icelandic immigrants by Jóhannes Arngrímsson on behalf of the government of Nova Scotia. He does not seem to have taken a lot in the area, rather he worked as a miner. He apparently worked in gold mines in Nova Scotia and copper mines in Newfoundland. He is not on the 1881 Nova Scotia census. When he left in 1882, he went to Winnipeg and perhaps to Colorado. Supposed to have disappeared in America. He is mentioned by Guðbrandur Erlendsson, in his book *Markland*, p.103

Oddur Jónsson, left from Hjarðarholt in Mýrasýsla and arrived in 1875, ship unknown. He went to Washington Island, Lake Michigan, the Klondike and other places, finally settling at "New Iceland" on Lake Winnipeg, where he died in 1930. He was a brother to Valgerður Jónsdóttir, wife of Stefán Sigurdson, merchant at Hnausa, MB. He is not on the 1881 census for Nova Scotia.

Ásgrímur Guðmundsson Westdal, 1845-1931. Left from Hákonarstaðir in N-Mulasýsla, came to N.S. with Guðbrandur Erlendsson in 1875 travelling on the ship Hjálmar. He arrived in Markland with the Erlendsson family and worked on farms in the Musquodoboit Valley. He moved to Oakfield, N.S., then to Minneota, Minn, m. **Guðný**, daughter of **Rúnolfur Jónsson**. Her mother was Margrét Bjarnadóttir, d. 1931, half-sister to Andrés Bjarnason. Children were born after they moved to the U.S. He is not on the 1881 census for Nova Scotia but the family, including 4 children, do show on the 1885 census for Minneota.

Guðmundur Guðmundsson Norðmann, 1847- 1935. Buried with his 2 wives at Cypress River, MB. Left from Grjótnes in N. Þingeyjarsýsla and travelled on the St. Patrick in 1874. Settled first in Kinmount, Ontario but in May of 1875 he was in Nova Scotia. He worked with Captain Magnús Jónsson at shipbuilding after he first arrived, then returned to the Markland area where he worked on building the road through the settlement. The foreman for that undertaking was an Englishman but the crew was made up from the settlers. Guðmundur was asked to share a tent with the foreman and to act as an interpreter, he was also asked to make a list of the workmen and to keep track of their hours. (Wages were \$1.00 a day less the food allowance.) Next he went to Truro where he worked at digging out a big ditch. He took various other jobs. Went to Lockeport in 1876 and from there left for Manitoba, first to Interlake, then to Argyle in 1881. He was among the first to leave Markland and is not on the 1881 census for Nova Scotia.

Guðmundur was married twice: m. #1 **Guðrún Kristjánsdóttir**, b. 1850. She died in 1887 and is buried at Cypress River, Manitoba.

Their children:

Sigurbjörg, age 11
Guðmundur Kristján, age 7
Guðný Ingibjörg, age 5
Kristján, age 3
Konrad, age 2

m. #2 **Guðbjörg Þorsteinsdóttir**, 1853-1943 and is buried at Cypress River, MB.

Guðjón Jónsson, left from Bustarfelli, Vopnafjarðarhreppur in N- Mulasýsla, travelled on the ship Hjálmar. He arrived in Markland with Guðbrandur Erlendsson in 1875. He was living in Oakfield, N.S., then moved to Manitoba, and Blaine, WA. He is not on the 1881 census for Nova Scotia.

Magnús Jónsson, arrived from Akureyri, 1875. He was a ships captain and he worked with **Guðmundur Guðmundsson Norðmann** at ship building.

Ólafur Björnsson, left from Vestaríkrókar in S. Þingeyjarsýsla and travelled on the St. Patrick in 1874. Went first to Kinmount, ON and then worked as a lumberjack in N.S. before returning to Iceland. He is not on the 1881 census for Nova Scotia.

Sigurpáll Guðlaugsson worked in the Caribou Gold Mines, Moose River, NS, then moved to Manitoba.

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Magnús Jóhannesson, b. 11 Dec 1839. He left from Akureyri and travelled on the St. Patrick, 1874. Magnús settled first in Ontario but he was in Nova Scotia by 1875, where he was joined by his wife **Málmfríður Baldvinsdóttir** and son Magnús, who arrived from Akureyri in 1875. Two children were born in Nova Scotia, in 1877 and 1880. They appear in Lockeport on the 1881 census for Nova Scotia where Magnús is registered as a fisherman and his son is listed as Walter. They later moved to Duluth, Minnesota. (See families of Lockeport)

Jóhann Elíasson Straumfjörð, 1840-1914, m. **Kristbjörg Jónsdóttir**, travelled to Kinmount, then to N.S. Jóhann worked for Donald Archibald, M.L.A., doing carpentry. Moved to Manitoba, and settled at Engey, near Mikley, now known as Hecla Island. There was a flood at Engey, *Grunnavatnabyggðir*, and the settlement there was abandoned.

Their children:

Jón, m. Ingibjörg Jónsdóttir Bjarnason, moved to Portland, Oregon

Jóhann, m. Björg Kristjánsdóttir Jóhannesson, settled in Blaine, Washington

Kristján, m. Karitas Bjarnadóttir Guðmundsson

Ragnheiður, m. Ágúst Magnússon (One son was the well-known scholar and teacher, Agnar Magnússon)

Ásta, m. Ingimundur Sigurðsson, Lundar, Manitoba.

Hannes was an older man who came to Musquodoboit in 1875 after first going to Kinmount. (See Markland by Guðbrandur Erlendsson). Hannes planned to return to Iceland but he died on the return journey.

Jósep Sigvaldason, left from Jórviik in S. Mulasýsla, travelled on the Osborne in 1878.

Einar Einarsson (Mýrdal), left Hvoll in Dyrhólahreppur, V-Skaftafellssýsla, travelled on the Cumbrae in 1878. It is not known if he took land in Markland and he did not stay long. He is not on the 1881 census for Nova Scotia. Likely in 1881, he moved to Gardar, North Dakota.

Guðrún Guðlaugsdóttir Ahrens, b. 6 Oct 1822, left from Reykjavik and was in Markland in 1878 at age 54 yrs. Ship unknown. She does not show on the 1881 census for Nova Scotia. (See lot 18)

Jósefína Jósefsdóttir Ahrens, b. 4 Apr 1862, left from Reykjavík, ship unknown, and was in Markland in 1878 at age 16 yrs. She arrived with her mother Guðrún Guðlaugsdóttir Ahrens but does not show on the 1881 census for Nova Scotia. (See Lot 18)