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## **The family of Charles Gilbert (Tarald Gulbrandsen)**

Charles Gilbert (Norwegian name *Tarald Gulbrandsen*) was born in Gran parish at Hadeland in Norway October 11, 1837. In 1853 he emigrated to the United States of America together with his mother and stepfather. Charles settled in Meade Township, Huron County in Michigan in 1859.

The ancestors of Charles were farmers and farmworkers in Norway. His father was a "husmann". It is difficult to make an accurate English translation of this word, but it is much like the historic *cotter* in England.

A "husmann" (plural: "husmenn") was allowed to live in a small cabin and till a small plot of land at a farm. The rent of the land was usually payed by duty work at the farm. A "husmann" was a farm worker and he did not own the place where he lived. "Husmenn" were hardworking people and often very poor. To escape from their difficult situation, many "husmenn" emigrated to America during the 1800s. Many of the Norwegian emigrants was able to buy land from the US government. To raise a farm in the wilderness was a very hard work. A "husmann" was used to hard work – but to have his own land certainly gave him a great feeling of freedom and independance! He could decide for himself and no longer obey his master at the old farm in Norway.

The old tradition of naming in Norway was quite different from the modern custom. Until the early 1900s people at the countryside in Norway had three names:

- 1) The first name which was given to the child then it was baptized
- 2) A middle name which consisted of the father's first name + the suffix "-sen" or "-datter", this means "son of" and "daughter of". This kind of name is called a patronym.
- 3) A last name which was the name of the farm or the place there they lived at the moment, if they moved to another farm, they changed their name.

Then a woman married she always kept her own patronym (she was still a daughter of her father). If she moved to the farm there her husband lived, she would use this farmname as her surname. If her husband moved into the farm there she lived, then he would change his surname. You may consider this type of surname as some sort of an adress, not a fixed family name.

A "husmannsplass" was the place where a "husmann" lived. In the official recordings, such a as the church books, a "husmannsplass" was often called by the name of the farm + the suffix "-eie" (literally *belong to*). Often a "husmannsplass" had an informal name too, which was used by the local people. The father of Charles Gilbert was a "husmann" at the farm Nes in

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Gran parish. Then Charles (*Tarald*) was born it was recorded in the church book that his parents lived at Neseie.

Many of those who emigrated to America changed their names from a typical Norwegian name to an English name. This is why Tarald Gulbrandsen called himself Charles Gilbert and his mother Karen Maria changed her name to Catherine.

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The parents of Charles Gilbert (*Tarald Gulbrandsen*) were:

***Gulbrand Pedersen Neseie***

***Karen Maria Andersdatter Neseie***

**Gulbrand Pedersen** was born in 1804 and baptized October 24. He was born at Neseie in Gran and his parents were **Peder Taraldsen** and **Barbro Olsdatter Neseie**. Peder and Barbro married in Gran April 2, 1792. By the census of 1801 they lived at Neseie. Peder was a "husmann" and he was 32 years old. Barbro was 28 years old. They had one son Ole who was 8 years, and one daughter Ingeborg 6 years old. Further the son Torsten was born in 1800 and then Gulbrand in 1804.

**Karen Andersdatter** was born at Sørumseie in Gran. She was baptized July 15, 1804. She lived at the farm Rekstad then she married. She was probably a servant at the farm.

Gulbrand Pedersen Neseie and Karen Maria Andersdatter Rekstad married April 2, 1825. They lived at Neseie in 1826, at Solbergeie in 1828, and again at Neseie in 1833 and later. Gulbrand died at Neseie February 20, 1841, 36 years old according to the church book.

Gulbrand and Karen Maria got 7 children:

1. Berthe Gulbrandsdatter Gamkinseie, born August 17, 1826, died May 5, 1855. At May 7, 1850 she married schoolteacher Lars Andersen Gamkinseie. He was 27 years old. Berthe and Lars got two children:
  - Anders Larsen, born April 12, 1851.
  - Karen Maria Larsdatter, born April 17, 1854. In 1882 she moved to Göteborg (Gothenburg) in Sweden to live with her uncle Anders Gulbrandsen (*A.G. Werner*). She lived in Sweden until 1884 then she moved back to Gran and lived with her father and his second wife at the place Haugerud at the farm Vinnorum in Gran.
2. Anders Gulbrandsen Werner, born October 22, 1828. He moved to Göteborg in Sweden in 1851 and still lived there in 1885. Anders was married, but no children is known.
3. Peder Gulbrandsen, born October 22, 1830. In 1885 he lived in Paris in France, he was a shoemaker.
4. Marthe Gulbrandsdatter Haldum, born April 3, 1833. She married Anders Hansen Haldum. By the census of 1865 he was a farmer and the owner of the farm Haldum i Lunner (the neighbour parish of Gran). He was 44 years old. The following children was listed in the 1865 census: Sophie 7 years, Hans 2 years og Helena 2 years.
5. Ingeborg Gulbrandsdatter Nordbråten, born June 18, 1835. She married Gulbrand Andersen. By the census of 1865 they lived at the place Lunnervestmarken at the farm Lunner in Lunner parish. Gulbrand was 30 years old and a "husmann". Ingeborg was 31 years old. They got two children: Anders and Karoline, both 4 years old. In 1884 it was told that Ingeborg was married to Gulbrand Andersen who was a blacksmith and living at Nordbråten in Lunner and that they had 3 sons and 4 daughters.
6. Tarald Gulbrandsen, born October 11, 1837, died 1885. He emigrated to USA in 1853. He changed his name to *Charles Gilbert*.
7. Thron Gulbrandsen, born June 7, 1840. (No further information is known).

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Karen Maria married second time June 13, 1852 to widower Anders Christophersen Neseie. He was 40 years old. They lived at Neseie in 1853. Karen Maria and Anders and her son Tarald emigrated to America about This was recorded in the church book of Gran at June 18, 1853.

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The parents of Karen Maria Andersdatter were:

***Anders Trondsen Sørumseie***  
***Marthe Evensdatter Sørumseie***

**Anders Trondsen** was born at the farm Knustadmarken in Gran in 1770. By the census of 1801 he was a "husmann" at Skrebergeie in Gran, 30 years old.

Anders was married April 26, 1791 to **Marthe Evensdatter Kløvstadbakken**. She was 38 years old in 1801.

Anders and Marthe lived at Sørumseie in 1804. They got one child:

1. Karen Maria Andersdatter Neseie, born 1804, died 1854.

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The parents of Anders Trondsen were:

***Trond Jonsen Knutstadmarken***  
***Maria Larsdatter Knutstadmarken***

**Trond Jonsen** was born at the farm Knutstad in Gran 1729. He was a soldier then he married. By the census of 1801 he lived at Knutstadmarken, retired farmer, 73 years old. He died at Knutstadmarken in 1809.

Trond was married November 4, 1757 to **Maria Larsdatter Holeeie**. She was born about 1729, she was 74 years old in 1801. Maria died at Knutstadmarken in 1802.

Trond and Maria lived at Holeeie in 1757 and at Knustadmarken in 1761 and later. They got the following children:

1. Jon Trondsen Knutstadmarken, born 1757, died 1784.
2. Ingeborg Trondsdatter Holeeie, born about 1759, died June 19, 1842.
3. Berte Maria Trondsdatter Knutstadmarken, born 1763, died November 26, 1826.
4. Kiersti, born 1765.
5. Anders Trondsen Sørumseie, born 1770.

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The parents of Trond Jonsen were:

***Jon Trondsen Staksrud***  
***Berte Hansdatter Staksrud***

**Jon Trondsen** was born about 1688. He was a farmer at the farm Staksrud i Gran. He did not own the farm, he got leasing contract in 1719. Jon died at Staksrud in 1761, 73 years old.

**Berte Hansdatter** was born at the farm Knutstad in Gran about 1693. She died at Staksrud in 1739, 46 years old.

Jon and Berte married June 17, 1723. They got 9 children:

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1. Marthe Jonsdatter Dompidal, born 1724, died 1773.
2. Ole Jonsen Røysumseie, born 1725, died 1801?  
(*Ole is the ancestor of Ole Arild Vesthagen*).
3. Trond Jonsen Knutstadmarken, born 1729.
4. Hans, born 1731. Died 11 years old.
5. Jon, born 1733. Died 10 weeks old.
6. Birthe, born 1734. Died 9 years 14 days old.
7. Ragnil, born 1734, twin with Birthe. Died 9 years 14 days old.
8. Kari, born 1737. Died 1 year 17 weeks old.
9. Eli, born 1737, twin with Kari. Died 2 years old.

Jon married second time December 29, 1740 Kari Olsdatter Solberg. Jon and Kari got 3 children:

10. Jon, born 1742. Died 6 years 10 months old.
11. Berthe Jonsdatter Tingelstad, born 1748. By the census of 1801 she was 58 years old and lived at the farm Tingelstad. She was not married.
12. Marie Jonsdatter Mogereie, born 1752, died 1806.

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The parents of Jon Trondsen were

***Trond Jonsen Staksrud***  
***Berit Abretsdatter Staksrud***

**Trond Jonsen** was born about 1658. He came from the farm Haug i Gran, but he was probably not born there. He was a farmer at the farm Staksrud in Gran since 1696. Trond died at Staksrud in 1728, 70 years old.

**Berit Albretsdatter** was born about 1653. She died at Staksrud in 1736. According to the church book she was 83 years, but this age is probably far too high.

Trond and Berit married about 1688. The following children are known:

1. Jon Trondsen Staksrud, born about 1688, died 1761.
2. Johannes Trondsen Kjos, born about 1690, died 1765.
3. Ole Trondsen Brauta, born about 1698.
4. Christen Trondsen Knotterud, born about 1704, died 1765.

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The parents of Berte Hansdatter were:

***Hans Christophersen Knutstad***  
***Ragnil Gulbrandsdatter Knutstad***

**Hans Christophersen** was born at Mjønval in Gran about 1663. By the census of 1666 he lived with his father who was a "husmann" and blacksmith at Mjønval. Hans was 3 years old in 1666. In 1728 he was told to be 65 years old. Hans became a farmer at the farm Knutstad in Gran. He died at the farm Grinaker (at the home of his son Hans) in 1741, 77 years old.

**Ragnil Gulbrandsdatter** was born about 1655. She died at Knutstad in 1728, 73 years old.

Hans and Ragnil got 6 children:

1. Christopher Hansen Helgedalen, born about 1686, died 1742.
2. Gulbrand Hansen Smedsvollen, born about 1685(?), died 1751.

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3. Berte Hansdatter Staksrud, born about 1693, died 1739.
4. Brynild Hansen Skreberg, born about 1694, died 1748.
5. Hans Hansen Knutstad, born about 1702, died December 8, 1773.
6. Kari Hansdatter Eggeie.

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The parents of Trond Jonsen were:

***Jon Trondsen Haug***

***Marthe Olsdatter Haug***

**Jon Trondsen** was a tenant farmer at the farm Haug in Gran. His name was recorded first time in 1673. Jon died before 1703.

**Marthe Olsdatter** was born about 1628. She was born at the farm Framstad i Gran. Marte died at Haug in 1708, 80 years og 3 months old.

The following children are known:

1. Trond Jonsen Staksrud, born about 1658, died 1728.
2. Ole Jonsen Haug, born about 1661.
3. Rønnaug Jonsdatter Hilden.
4. Marthe Jonsdatter Holter.

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The parents of Hans Christophersen were:

***Christopher Amundsen Mjønval***

***Karen Christophersdatter Mjønval***

**Christopher Amundsen** was born about 1626. He was a blacksmith and lived at Mjønval in Gran. The place where he lived was raised by his father. Christopher own the houses but the property belonged to the farms Tingelstad, Molstad and Røysum. Christopher died about 1688.

**Karen Christophersdatter** died between October 18, 1682 and July 17, 1683.

Christopher and Karen got 5 children:

1. Dorthe Christophersdatter Mjønval, born about 1653, died 1711.
2. Amund Christophersen Kongeliv, born about 1657, died 1724.
3. Hans Christophersen Knutstad, born about 1663, died 1741.
4. Birte Christophersdatter In 1688 it was told that she was crippled and ill and had stayd in bed for 5 years.
5. Kirsten Christophersdatter Mjønval.

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The father of Ragnil Gulbrandsdatter was:

***Gulbrand***

**Gulbrand.** Doucuments I have found proves that the three persons listed below were siblings. Since they used the patronym Gulbrandsdatter/Gulbrandsen, their father was named Gulbrand. The full name of Gulbrand is not known. It is not known where or when he lived, and the name of his wife is unknown. Most probably he lived in Gran

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Three children are known:

1. Siri Gulbrandsdatter Røysum, born about 1640, died 1728.
2. Hans Gulbrandsen Tingelstad, born about 1651, died 1716.
3. Ragnil Gulbrandsdatter Knutstad, born about 1655, died 1728.

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The father of Marthe Olsdatter was:

### ***Ole Framstad***

**Ole** was a tenant farmer at the farm Framstad in Gran. His full name is not known. He is mentioned first time in documents in 1612/1613 and last time 1660.

The name of his wife is not known, but she was still living in 1645. This year Ole payed tax for himself and his wife.

Only one child is known:

1. Marthe Olsdatter Haug, born about 1628, died 1708.

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The father of Christopher Amundsen was:

### ***Amund Mjønval***

**Amund** was a blacksmith and lived in Mjønval in Gran. He was the owner of the houses which he raised himself, but the property belonged to the farms Molstad, Tingelstad and Røysum. Amund was granted a free rent of the property as long as he served the farms as a blacksmith. His full name is not know, and the name of his wife is unknown.

One child is known:

1. Christopher Amundsen Mjønval, born about 1626, died about 1688.