

parents were Benjamín Sigurðsson and Salbjörg Benediktsdóttir at Kelduvík in Skaga. Jónas and Lilja lived on their farm, called Teigi, in Óslandshlíð until they immigrated to Canada in 1883. After their arrival in Riverton in the New Iceland area, they spent the first summer and winter with Mr. and Mrs. Jóhann Briem, and the next four years in the vicinity of their homestead, which included the S. 1/2 of N.E. 1/4 of Section 35 and the S. 1/2 of N.W. 1/4 of 36-22-3E., a lot stretching a mile east from the Icelandic River. They settled on this farm in 1888, naming it Djúpadal. They built a log house at the east end. Many years later, the family moved to the west end and built a frame house. Son Unvald homesteaded the next lot, the N. 1/2 of N.E. 1/4 of Section 35, and the N. 1/2 of N.W. 1/4 of Section 36. Later, these two lots were divided into two 1/4 sections, the N.E. 1/4 of section 35 taken over by son Jónas and the N.W. 1/4 of section 36 taken over by Unvald.

Jónas and Lilja raised six children to adulthood, having given their three-year-old daughter, Jóhanna, for adoption to Jóhann and Guðfinna Johannson at Steinnes in the Riverton area. In 1910, they adopted a year and a half old Ruby Jónasson, daughter of son Gisli and his wife Anna at Hléskógum in Geysir and brought her up with the assistance of daughter Guðrún, son Jónas and his wife, Evelyn.

Strong, energetic and resourceful, Jónas and Lilja carried out the requirements for homesteading as they gradually acquired oxen, horses, other domestic animals, farm machinery, and a frame house to replace the log house, all with the help of the children at home.

Sympathetic and willing, they gave support to neighbours in need, and to community efforts. Deeply religious and true to the church of their fathers, they became members of the Geysir Lutheran Church. Lilja was an active member of the Ladies' Aid Freyja.

Culturally inclined but short of time, they combined culture and daily chores. Jónas had led the singing of the congregation in the church at Hólar (Hólakirkja) which was in the vicinity of his home at Teigi in Iceland. Now, he sang in the evenings at home at Djúpadal in New Iceland, while carding wool, shrinking socks, mitts, etc. and Lilja read prose and poetry while the others sat around spinning, knitting, etc. The woollen articles made were worn by the family, sold or bartered to supplement the farm income. Lilja enjoyed poetry and had a talent for writing poems, such as the one prompted by the death of their eldest child, Una, at the age of twelve. Lilja also capped verses begun by others in verbal encounters. They encouraged music in

the home - an autoharp, an organ and a violin were acquired by the children, who played by ear. The family and others gathered around the organ for singsongs.

On May 22, 1926, a party was held in the Geysir Hall to honor Jónas and Lilja on the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary, which had been on September 30, 1925. Close to 200 relatives and friends from far and near were present.

The family ties established at Djúpadal were strong. Jónas and Lilja gave their assistance as long as they could. When old age took its toll, they basked in the love and care of their children and grandchildren. Jónas passed away at the home of daughter Herdís, wife of Guðmundur Jónsson in Framnes, on March 30, 1930. Lilja died suddenly on May 5, 1936, also at the home of Herdís. Both were buried in the Geysir Cemetery.

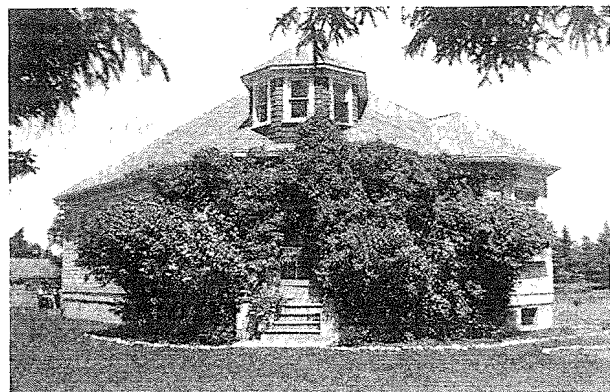
The children of Jónas and Lilja were:

1. Gisli
2. Herdís
3. Jóhanna
4. Jónas
5. Unvald
6. Una
7. Guðrún
8. Ruby

Gisli was born on September 15, 1877 at Teigi in Óslandshlíð, Iceland, the son of Jónas Thorssteinsson and Lilja Friðfinnsdóttir, who farmed there until they immigrated to Canada in 1883. They homesteaded in Geysir, Manitoba and called their farm Djúpadal. Gisli grew up there.

On December 8, 1900, Gisli married Anna Sigríður, born November 11, 1879, the daughter of Jón Bjarnason, Guðmundsson from Vaði in Skriðdal, Iceland and his wife, Guðrún Halldóra Guðmundsdóttir, from Austfjörðum, Iceland.

Gisli took a homestead in Geysir, S.W. 1/4 3-23-3E and they named their home Hléskógar. For many years, Gisli fished on Lake Winnipeg during the winter to supplement the farm income and



Hléskógar in the 1940s.