

Is Mari Jonsdatter Mari Sjøberg

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Question

Is Mari Jonsdatter, the mother of Christofer Trondsen born 11 July 1847 the same individual as Mari Sjøberg enumerated in the 1885 Trondheim, Sør-Trøndelag, Norway with Christofer Sjøberg.

Background

Patronymics

Until the mid to late 1800's, Norway used the patronymic system for surnames. In this system a child's surname is a combination of their fathers given name with the addition of a SEN for a son and a DATTER for a daughter. For Trond Christofersen a son's surname would be Trondsen and a daughter's surname would be Trondsatter. To make things more exciting, there are naming traditions such that the first male child's given name comes from the paternal grandfather. Using Trond again, Trond's first male child's given name would be Christofer. This tradition creates a naming pattern through the generations i.e., Trond Christofersen to Christofer Trondsen to Trond Christofersen. Norway officially discontinued the use of patronymics in the 1920's.

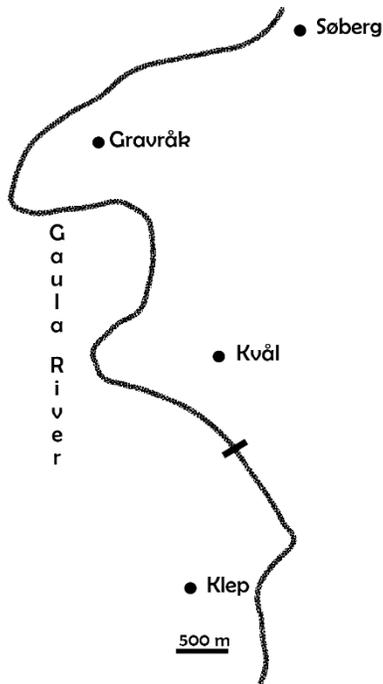
Farm name

To help differentiate between the various individuals who had the same name, the records, especially the parish records, would indicate along with the name, the farm name the individual resided at. Each farm has a name. Assigned centuries ago, modern Norwegian maps include the farm names today.¹ While many assume that the farm name was a surname, and many researchers over the years did just that, when an individual moved, their referenced farm name changed too. So Trond Christofersen Sjøberg becomes Trond Christofersen Klep when the family moves from the Sjøberg farm to the Klep farm. Most of the time the parish priests were very good about including farm names, but some records do not specify the farm name and that leaves doubt regarding the identification of an individual. A separate issue with the farm name differentiator is that those in the cities do not have access to a farm name.

* © David Grawrock. The author is a Certified Genealogist® and a retired high-tech computer architect. Writing international standards and industry specifications, along with numerous speaking engagements, the author loved solving technical problems and telling the world about the solutions. Since retirement, the problem solving and explanations efforts, now revolve around genealogical problems. All URL's active as of 20 September 2021.

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¹ Kartverket, "Norgeskart.no," <https://www.norgeskart.no/>. Centered on the source of the author's surname.



The map shows the Melhus farms that are of interest for Mari.

All four of the farms are part of the Melhus parish and have been in various stages of use for hundreds of years.

The small line crossing the river between Klep and Kvål is the nearest bridge and was in place in the 1840's and beyond.

The distance between Klep and Gravråk is about 4 kilometers and 2 kilometers between Gravråk and Søberg.

The parish church, and Melhus proper, is another kilometer north of Søberg.

Switching to surnames

In the mid to late 1800's the Norwegian society stopped using patronymics. The change was gradual and started in the cities but over just a few generations the use of patronymics stopped. What the change required was an individual to choose their surname. There were two obvious choices; keep the patronymic or use the farm name. Converting the patronymic to a surname led to the many Olsen's and Hansen's that Norway is famous for. Picking the farm name as a surname was another rational choice, the individual already used the farm name as a differentiator. When picked as a surname, as opposed to the patronymic differentiator, the surname will remain the same no matter what farm an individual is living on.

Bygdebok

A Bygdebok is a record of farms and inhabitants of a town. There is no set format for a bygdebok, nor are there any standards for what to include or omit. Not all towns create one. The author could be an individual with no experience or a team of credentialed historians and genealogists.

The Melhus bygdebok, by Per O Rød, is a good view into the Melhus farms.² It contains most of the individuals in a family along with some cross indexing, but gaps are present. As with most bygdebok, there are no sources for any of the facts cited.

² Per O Rød, "Melhusboka, slekts- og gårdshistorie," (Melhus: Melhus Kommunen, 1975-1978), 4 vols, Kvålssttu, 1845-1851, V2:511-512; imaged in "Digitized Books" Besøk Nasjonalbiblioteket (<https://www.nb.no/items/89290cfc87117f3f61e357096ad44153?page=515>), image 515. Book only viewable with Norwegian IP address.

Support for the Name Change

Mari Jonsdatter³

Mari's birth was previously a solid connection to Lesja, recent research called those previous links into question.⁴ For this argument, Mari's parentage will remain an unknown subject to further research.⁵ If she is from Lesja, then she was born 30 November 1823, if from Vågå she was born sometime around 1823.⁶

In either case she gave birth to John Jacobsen 11 December 1841 in Melhus.⁷ John was illegitimate, but his father, Jacob Hansen admitted paternity. Both Jacob and Mari were servants on the Gravråk farm.

Marriages

While illegitimacy was not unusual in Norway during that period, many of the couples were merely following the adage that babies take nine months to come except for the first one and that one can come quicker. What is unusual is that Jacob and Mari, after the birth of John, do not marry each other, rather they married other partners.

Jacob married first, 6 June 1845, three and a half years after the birth of John, to Brynhild Jonasdatter.⁸ Brynhild is from the Kvål farm and the family will reside there when Jacob and Brynhild have their child Hendrik Jacobsen 3 September 1850.⁹ In 1851 Jacob and Brynhild left the Kvål area [sub farm Kvålssttu], the bygdebok does not indicate which farm they moved to, but subsequent events indicate they remained in the Melhus area.¹⁰

³ The records will use various forms of Mari, most often Marie, this report will use Mari consistently in the text, see the citation for the exact use in the associated record.

⁴ For my ProGen reviewers this is what caused the change in focus for the proof argument.

⁵ The rabbit hole goes very deep here. While one record is pointing to Vågå, research there finds no birth record for Mari, there appears to be a vaccination and confirmation but no birth? Further research needed.

⁶ For Lesja date: Lesja Parish "Kirkebøker", 1820-1829, section "Fødte og døpte," p. 127, entry 2, Mari Johnsdatter baptism 7 December 1823; imaged in "Digital Parish Registers (DPR)," Digitalarkivet, digitized images (<https://www.Digitalarkivet.no/kb20070603480503>), image 63 of 265; citing State Archives in Hamar (SAH), archive PREST-068, no. 4. For Vågå date: Vågå Parish (Vågå), "Kirkebøker", 1827-1842, section "Konfirmerte," p. 344, entry 12, Mari Johnsdatter confirmation, 27 September 1840; imaged in "DPR," Digitalarkivet, DBDI (<https://media.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/9250/44876/48>), image 274 of 589; citing SAH, archive PREST-068, no. 5.

⁷ Melhus Parish (Melhus), "Kirkebøker", 1842-1852, section "Fødte og døpte," p. 1, entry 2, John Jacobsen baptism, 9 January 1842; imaged in "DPR," Digitalarkivet, DBDI (www.Digitalarkivet.no/kb20050518040360), image 4 of 552; citing SAT, archive A-1456, series 691, piece L1074, no. 691A06.

⁸ Melhus Parish (Melhus), "Kirkebøker", 1842-1852, section "Agteviiede", Jacob Hansen and Brynhild Jonasdatter marriage, p 260 (inked), entry 4; imaged in "DPR," DigitalArkivet, DBDI (<https://www.Digitalarkivet.no/kb20050518040623>), image 265 of 552; citing SAT, archive SAT/A-1456/691/L1074, protocol 691A06.

⁹ Melhus Parish (Melhus), "Kirkebøker", 1842-1852, "Fødte og døpte," p. 151, no. 105, Hendrik Jacobsen (entered 27 October 1850); imaged in "DPR," Digitalarkivet, DBDI (<https://www.Digitalarkivet.no/kb20050518040516>), image 151 of 181; citing SAT, series 691, piece L1074, protocol 691A06.

¹⁰ Per O Rød, "Melhusboka, slekts- og gårdshistorie," Kvålssttu, 1845-1851, V2:511-512.

Mari married Trond Christofersen 6 August 1847.¹¹ Mari is from Vågå and lived on the Søberg farm while Trond is from and lived on the Klep farm. This marriage follows the birth of their first child, Christofer Trondsen who was born 11 July 1847 in Melhus.¹² The side notes on Christofer's christening indicated that while Trond and Mari were not married, the reading of the marriage bans was complete. Trond and Mari had a second child, Kari Trondsdatter, 31 August 1851.¹³ They still resided on the Klep farm. According to the bygdebok, Trond dies in a Trondheim hospital in 1855.¹⁴

Confirmation

By law in the 1800's, an individual was required to receive confirmation into the Lutheran Church. Confirmation should occur around the individual's fifteenth birthday. John Jacobsen, Mari's first child, received his confirmation 31 August 1856.¹⁵ Assuming that John lived with his mother, they lived on the Klep farm in 1856. Christofer Trondsen, Trond and Mari's son, received confirmation 5 October 1862 and the listed farm was Klep.¹⁶ Hendrik Jacobsen, Jacob and Brynhild's son, received confirmation 8 October 1865 in Melhus and the listed farm was Klep.¹⁷ Kari Trondsdatter, Trond and Mari's daughter, received confirmation 21 October 1866 in Melhus and the listed farm was Klep.¹⁸

1865 Census

By 1865, Jacob and Brynhild have married and had one child, Mari married, had two children, and became a widow. In 1865 Norway performs a national census. The census enumerated Jacob and

¹¹ Melhus Parish (Melhus), "Kirkebøker", 1842-1852, section "Agteviiede", Trond Christophersen and Mari Johnsdatter marriage, 6 Aug 1847, entry 15; imaged in "DPR," Digitalarkivet, DBDI (<https://www.Digitalarkivet.no/kb20050518040641>), image 283 of 552; citing SAT, archive SAT/A-1456/691/L1074, protocol 691A06.

¹² Melhus Parish (Melhus), "Kirkebøker", 1852-1861, section "Fødte og døpte," p. 95 (inked), entry 81, Christofer Tronsen, 19 July 1847; imaged in "Digital Parish Records (DPR)," Digitalarkivet, Database and Digital Images (DBDI) (<https://media.Digitalarkivet.no/en/view/2409/15508/95>), image 95 of 181; citing SAT, archive A-1456, series 691, piece L1074, no. 691A06.

¹³ Melhus Parish (Melhus), "Kirkebøker", 1852-1861, section "Fødte og døpte," p. 164 (inked), entry 76, Kari Trondsen, 31 August 1851; imaged in "DPR," Digitalarkivet, DBDI (<https://media.Digitalarkivet.no/en/view/2409/15508/167>), image 167 of 181; citing SAT, archive A-1456, series 691, piece L1074, no. 691A06.

¹⁴ Per O Rød, Melhusboka, "Melhusboka, slekts- og gårdshistorie," Ner-Klepp, 1865-1872, V2:335-339. Previous research did not locate a death record for Trond. "The" Trondheim Hospital has been in continuous operation since 1207. The parish records for the hospital do not have an entry of Trond Christofersen in the death records.

¹⁵ Melhus Parish (Melhus), "Kirkebøker", 1852-1861, section "Konfirmerte," p. 212 (inked), entry 34, John Jacobsen, 31 August 1856; imaged in "DPR," Digitalarkivet, DBDI (<https://media.Digitalarkivet.no/view/2411/15528/29>), image 29 of 74; citing SAT, archive A-1456, series 691, piece L1076, no. 691A08.

¹⁶ Melhus Parish (Melhus), "Kirkebøker", 1862-1873, section "Konfirmerte," p. 192 (inked), entry 13, Kristoffer Trondsen, 5 October 1862; imaged in "DPR," Digitalarkivet, DBDI (<https://media.Digitalarkivet.no/en/view/2412/15540/1>), image 23 of 85; citing SAT, archive A-1456, series 691, piece L1077, no. 691A09.

¹⁷ Melhus Parish (Melhus), "Kirkebøker", 1862-1873, section "Konfirmerte," p. 215 (inked), entry 10, Hendrik Jacobsen, 8 October 1865; imaged in "DPR," Digitalarkivet, DBDI (<https://media.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/2412/15540/23>); citing SAT, archive A-1456, series 691, piece L1077, no. 691A09.

¹⁸ Melhus Parish (Melhus), "Kirkebøker", 1862-1873, section "Konfirmerte," p. 229 (inked), entry 16, Kari Trondsdatter, 21 October 1866; imaged in "DPR," Digitalarkivet, DBDI (<https://media.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/2412/15540/37>); citing SAT, archive A-1456, series 691, piece L1077, no. 691A09.

Mari in Melhus.¹⁹ Not a surprise, but the location is, Jacob and Mari are living in the same house on the Klæp farm.

		Jan. Tronsen	hendes Datter	De	7
Klæp	W. 11	Jakob Hanssen	Husfader, Grandbruger og Løns	gift	45
		Brynhild Jonsdatter	hans Hustru	De	60
		Hendrik Jakobsen	dens Søn	ugift	16
		Ch. Pedersen	Løgsnek	Enkemand	80
		M. Marie Jonsdatter	Husmands hustru, uden Jord	Enke	44
		M. Marie Tronsdatter	hendes Datter	ugift	15

1865 Norway census (Melhus), district 004 4de, farm 41 Klæp, Jakob Hanssen.

The plot line here reads like a soap opera. Young couple move from ancestral home, girl gets pregnant, boy doesn't marry the girl, they both marry others and have children, girl's husband dies, and boy invites his old girlfriend and mother of his first child to live with wife and their child. The assumption is that family life was unique with this group. There are no records to indicate if things went smoothly or not.

The Melhus enumeration did not include Mari's two oldest boys. The location for both is Trondheim, the big city a few miles north of Melhus. John, the oldest, is an estate manager living with the Gärtner family.²⁰ Christofer is living in a multi-family unit without a listed job.²¹ They lived close to each other, about an eight-minute walk.

Life in Trondheim

Table 1 1875 Trondheim^A

NAME	POSITION	BORN	BIRTHPLACE	OCCUPATION
Christofer S Sjøberg	Head	1847	Melhus	Tailor
Marie Johansdatter	Mother	1829	Gudbrandsdalen	Provided for by son
Karen Sjøberg	Sister	1851	Melhus	Seamstress

A 1875 Norway census, Sør-Trøndelag, Trondheim, district 019, 0081 Øen, person 1, Christofer Sjøberg; imaged in "DCR," Digitalarkivet (<https://media.Digitalarkivet.no/view/52359/3326/indv2>), image 3326 of 3382; citing RSAT, no. 52359. Index at Digitalarkivet, (<https://www.Digitalarkivet.no/en/census/person/pf01052359021588>).

In this enumeration Mari and Christofer claimed to be mother and daughter. Important to note that instead of an enumerator doing all the writing, the 1875 census had the enumerator give the

¹⁹ 1865 Norway census (Melhus), district 004 4de, farm 41 Klæp, Jakob Hanssen; imaged in "Digitized Census Registers (DCR)," Digitalarkivet, DBDI (<https://www.Digitalarkivet.no/ft20090803410076>), image 76 of 255; citing NAN, archive RA/S-2231, no. 362; index at Digitalarkivet, (<https://www.Digitalarkivet.no/en/bf01038325001942>).

²⁰ 1865 Norway census (Trondheim, Sør-Trøndelag), spesiallister 561-580, garden 33, 575 Prindsens Gades, entry 5, John Jacobsen; imaged in Digitalarkivet, DCR (<https://media.Digitalarkivet.no/view/38310/1199>), image 1199 or 3157; citing Riksarkivet (RA), archive RA/S-2231, nr. 376-381; transcribed at (<https://www.Digitalarkivet.no/en/census/person/pf01038310008318>).

²¹ 1865 Norway census, Sør-Trøndelag, Trondheim, district 000, 0438 Thomas Angelsgade, person 13, Kristoffer Tronsen; imaged at Digitalarkivet, DCR, DBDI (<https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/38310/921>), image 921 of 3157; citing NAN, archive RA/S-2231, no. 38310; index at Digitalarkivet, (<https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/census/person/pf01038310006365>).

household the form to fill out. The result is that a member of the household was responsible for the information making the information slightly more reliable. But caution is still necessary as in this census Mari's birth year is off by about six years. As households could contain multiple families, as is the case for Mari and Christofer, an unrelated individual could still be the source of the enumeration details.

This enumeration highlights the use of patronymics and the move to surnames. The two children are now using the farm name where Mari lived at the time of her marriage to Trond.²² Mari, however, is still using her patronymic surname of Jonsdatter.

The ages and birthplace match for both children while Mari's birthyear is a tad off. This propensity for some people to not age ten years between censuses is a very common issue. The enumeration does list the correct birth area for Mari [and will be correct if Lesja or Vågå is the right town as both are in the Gudbrandsdalen area]. Also possible was a mistake by the person filling in the form, they may have not had known Mari's birthyear.

Table 2 1885 Trondheim^A

NAME	POSITION	YEAR	BIRTHPLACE	OCCUPATION
Marie Sjøberg	Mother	1824	Gudbrandsdalen	Provided for by son
Christofer S Sjøberg	Son	1847	Melhus	Tailor and farm owner

A 1885 Norway census, Sør-Trøndelag, Trondheim, district 008 Vollan og Øen, 0249 Sannan 28a, Christofer Sjøberg; transcribed at Digitalarkivet, (<https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/census/person/pf01053300025893>), Index only no scans.

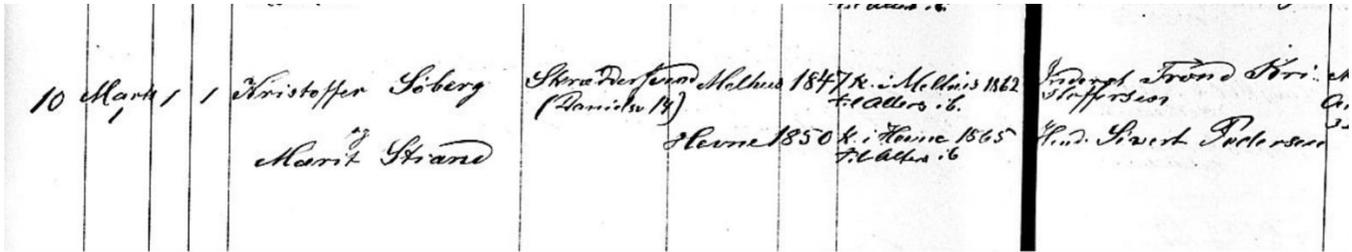
Ten years on from the 1875 census Mari and Christofer still lived in Trondheim. The enumeration does not include Kari as she died 11 November 1878 in Trondheim.²³ In this census Mari dropped her patronymic and chose the same surname as her son, Sjøberg. The dates and places match the expected values for Mari and Christofer. They again claim to be mother and son.

Christofer married Marit Strand 1 March 1890 in Trondheim.²⁴ The marriage record, imaged below, provides a direct link between Christofer Sjøberg and Christofer Trondsen. The record specifically identified Christofer's father as Trond K[C]ristofersen.

²² Melhus Parish (Melhus), "Kirkebøker", 1842-1852, Trond Christophersen and Mari Jonsdatter marriage, 6 Aug 1847, entry 15.

²³ Trondheim Parish (Trondheim), "Kllokkerboker, 1877-1891, section "Døde og begravede," p. 489 (stamped), entry 91, Karen Soberg, 18 November 1878; imaged in "DPR," Digitalarkivet (<https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/3020/112>), image 112 of 345; citing SAT, archive A-1456, series 601, piece L0058, period 601A26/1877-1891. Index at <https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/267/pg00000000763605>. The record contains no mention of her father or mother.

²⁴ Trondheim Domkirke Parish, "Kirkebøker", 1877-1891, section "Agteviiede", p 445 (stamped), entry 10, 1 March 1890, Kristoffer Sjøberg – Marit Strand; imaged at DigitalArkivet, DPR, (<https://media.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/3020/92>), img 92 of 345; citing SAT, reference SAT/A-1456/601/L0058, protocol 601A26/1877-1891. DigitalArkivet index (<https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/327/pv00000000629225>).



Trondheim Domkirke Parish, "Kirkebøker", 1877-1891, section "Agteviede", p 445 (stamped), entry 10, 1 March 1890, Kristoffer Sjøberg – Marit Strand.

The 1891 census enumerated Christofer and his wife Marit but did not include Mari.²⁵ The census highlights a typical family pattern, Christofer and Marit's child, Thoralf Sigurd Sjøberg was born 1 September 1885 five years prior to their marriage.²⁶

Table 3 1900 Trondheim^A

NAME	POSITION	YEAR	BIRTHPLACE	OCCUPATION
Kristoffer Sjøberg	Head	1847	Melhus	Tailor
Marie Sjøberg	Mother	1824	Gudbrandsdalen	Mother of head
Toralf Sjøberg	Son	1885	Trondheim	Son

A 1900 Norway census, Sør-Trøndelag, Trondheim, district 008, 27 Prinsens Gade, Kristoffer Sjøberg; imaged at Digitalarkivet, DCR (<https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/census/person/pf01037426002717>), image 1321 of 16877. Index says 13 Prinsens Gade, however the actual image shows 27 Prinsens Gade.

Mari still used the chosen surname of Sjøberg and Christofer and Mari still claimed to be mother and son. The 1900 census is the last known record for Mari. No death or other records document any additional events in her life.

Proof Argument

Basic facts

- At the birth of her first son Mari lived on the Gravråk farm.²⁷
 - Her prior location, Lesja or Vågå requires additional research.
- When married five years later, Mari lived on the Sjøberg farm.²⁸
- After the marriage, Mari lived on the Klep farm through at least 1866.

²⁵ 1891 Norway census, Sør-Trøndelag, Trondheim, district 017, 033 Rebslagerveiten, Christofer Sjøberg; imaged at Digitalarkivet, DCR, DBDI (<https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/53073/13584/indv1>), image 13584 of 28754; citing NAT, RA/S-2231/E/Ea/L0866/001. Index at Digitalarkivet, (<https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/census/person/pf01053073010817>).

²⁶ Trondheim Domkirke Parish, "Kirkebøker", 1891-1911, section "Konfirmerede", p 301 (stamped), entry 28, 1 October 1899, Toralf Sigurd Sjøberg; consulted at DigitalArkivet, DPR, (<https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/2713/312>), img 312 of 397; citing SAT, reference SAT/A-1456/601/L0062, protocol 601A30/1891 - 1911. DigitalArkivet index (<https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en/view/279/pk00000000525922>).

²⁷ Melhus Parish (Melhus), "Kirkebøker", 1842-1852, p. 1, entry 2, John Jacobsen baptism, 9 January 1842.

²⁸ Melhus Parish (Melhus), "Kirkebøker", 1842-1852, Trond Christophersen and Mari Jonsdatter marriage, 6 Aug 1847, entry 15.

- Evidenced by birth of children, 1865 census, and Kari's confirmation.²⁹
- The 1865 census enumerated Christofer in Trondheim.³⁰
 - The enumeration showed Christofer still using a patronymic.
- The Klep farm familial environment was unusual.³¹
 - Age differences between the wife and former girlfriend.
 - Former girlfriends' illegitimate child.³²
- Mari left Melhus for Trondheim, took Kari with her, and lived with Christofer in 1875.³³
 - Christofer prior to the enumeration, started to use Søberg as a surname. Mari does not select a surname and the enumeration used her patronymic of Jonsdatter.
- In 1885, Mari still lived with Christofer, Christofer continued to use the Søberg surname and Mari switches from the Jonsdatter patronymic to the Søberg surname.³⁴
- Christofer's marriage record explicitly links Christofer Søberg to Christofer Trondsen through the identification of Christofer's father.³⁵
 - Christofer Trondsen comes from the identification of Trond as the father and the rules of patronymics.
 - The record identified Christofer's birthplace as Melhus and birth year as 1847.
- Mari continues to use the Søberg surname in the 1900 census.³⁶
- Consistently through the census records, Christofer claimed Mari as his mother.

Rationale

The farms an individual lived on can be critical in identifying that person's selection of a surname when they convert from a patronymic. Mari first's known farm in Melhus was when she lived, as a servant, on the Gravråk farm. When Mari married, a few years later, she lived on the Søberg farm. After marriage Mari moved to her husband's Klep farm. Confirmation records show that after the death of Mari's husband, she remained on the Klep farm. By the 1865 census Mari's former boyfriend Jacob, and father of her illegitimate child, and Jacob's wife Brynhild, and Brynhild's child Hendrik, are all living together on the Klep farm. Mari's two oldest children, Jacob's son John and

²⁹ Melhus Parish (Melhus), "Kirkebøker", 1852-1861, section "Fødte og døpte," p. 95, entry 81, Christofer Tronsen, 19 July 1847. Melhus Parish (Melhus), "Kirkebøker", 1852-1861, section "Fødte og døpte," p. 164, entry 76, Kari Trondsen, 31 August 1851. 1865 Norway census (Melhus), district 004 4de, farm 41 Klæp, Jakob Hanssen. Melhus Parish (Melhus), "Kirkebøker", 1862-1873, section "Konfirmerte," p. 229, entry 16, Kari Trondsatter, 21 October 1866.

³⁰ 1865 Norway census, Sør-Trøndelag, Trondheim, district 000, 0438 Thomas Angelsgade, person 13, Kristoffer Tronsen.

³¹ 1865 Norway census (Melhus), district 004 4de, farm 41 Klæp, Jakob Hanssen.

³² Melhus Parish (Melhus), "Kirkebøker", 1852-1861, section "Konfirmerte," p. 212, entry 34, John Jacobsen, 31 August 1856.

³³ 1875 Norway census, Sør-Trøndelag, Trondheim, district 019, 0081 Øen, person 1, Christofer Søberg.

³⁴ 1885 Norway census, Sør-Trøndelag, Trondheim, district 008 Vollan og Øen, 0249 Sannan 28a, Christofer Søberg.

³⁵ Trondheim Domkirke Parish, "Kirkebøker", 1877-1891, p 445, entry 10, 1 March 1890, Kristoffer Søberg – Marit Strand.

³⁶ 1900 Norway census, Sør-Trøndelag, Trondheim, district 008, 27 Prinsens Gade, Kristoffer Søberg.

Trond's son Christofer, had left prior to the census and lived in Trondheim. In 1865 everyone enumerated still used a patronymic.

Over the next decade to 1875, as individuals chose a surname to replace their patronymic, Christofer chose, not the farm he spent most of his life at but, Sjøberg which represents the farm he never lived on but was the farm his mother lived on when she married. In 1875 Mari still used her patronymic. By 1885, at the next enumeration, Mari chose a surname, and she matched her son's choice of Sjøberg. Christofer's marriage in 1890 definitively links Christofer Sjøberg to Christofer Trondsen of Melhus. Mari continued to use her selected surname in the 1900 census.

Mari's choice presents an interesting dilemma, Mari, and especially her son, spent most of their time in Melhus on the Klep farm. Mari was associated with the Sjøberg farm just at the time of her marriage, after marriage she lived on Klep with both her husband Trond and, after Trond's death, with the father of her illegitimate child Jacob. There are no contemporary records that describe the atmosphere on the Klep farm, but it is a potential soap opera. One rationale for the choice of Sjøberg over Klep is that Klep brought up painful memories. With no diaries or other personal remembrances available, Christofer, then Mari's, rationale for the chosen surname will remain supposition.

Conclusion

This report is confident that evidence, analysis, and rationale support the statement that Mari Jonsdatter, the mother of Christofer Trondsen born 11 July 1847 is the same individual as Mari Sjøberg enumerated in the 1885 Trondheim, Sør-Trøndelag, Norway who lived with Christofer Sjøberg. Mari lived in an era where individuals switched from patronymics to surnames. Her choice of surname, Sjøberg, matched her son's choice. There is a consistent use of the Jonsdatter patronymic prior to her choice and a consistent use of Sjøberg as a surname after her choice.