

## **The Boomer Township School #5**

© 2016 by Robert A. Christiansen, updated 1 May '16.

As the Contents below indicate, we have snapshots of Boomer #5 at three times in its history.

The Boomer #5 school subdistrict served the central portion of Boomer Township in Pottawattamie County, Iowa, north of Council Bluffs and about nine miles west of the town of Neola. The Boomer #5 subdistrict occupied Sections 15, 16, 21 and 22 of Boomer Township. Most of this land was steep and hilly, originally prairie with some woods.

For many years, the Boomer #5 school was held in the brick township hall that was built in the early 1870s. The brick township hall was originally two stories, and the brick school initially served some families who lived outside the subdistrict boundaries, so perhaps the school employed two teachers at times.

Between 1896 and 1902 a frame school building was built in the very center of the Boomer #5 subdistrict at the northwest corner of Section 22, about ½ mile east of the brick township hall, and school was no longer held at the township hall.

The Boomer #5 school was probably closed around the mid 1950s.

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For general information about Boomer Township schools, including a diagram of school locations in Boomer Township, see my report *Boomer and Hazel Schools*.

For an 1875 map and a current map of Boomer Township, see my report *Boomer and Hazel Dell Townships Overview*.

I would appreciate hearing from you if you have further photos with identifications. My contact information is in the *Acknowledgments and Sources* section of *Boomer and Hazel Dell Schools*.

## Known Boomer #5 Teachers

- 1887-97 James Driver, Laura Scott, George Hunter, George Demmon, Lillie Scott, Annie Williams, Matilda Strohbehn, May Yocum, Lilly Yocum, Mary Andersen, Della German, Susie Vickery
- 1913-14 Miss Jemima Cassidy
- c. 1933 Ruth Frazier
- 1943-44 Miss Leora Thomsen, Missouri Valley, my second cousin, daughter of Chris Thomsen and Dollie Johnson, married Vernon Andersen.
- 1956-57 closed

## Boomer #5 Teachers from 1887 to 1897

Nannie (Christians) Christiansen compiled a list of her teachers at the Boomer brick school from 1887 to 1897. Nannie was born in Boomer Township on August 23, 1882. I understand that Nannie started school in 1887, and last attended school, still at the brick hall, in 1896-1897.

Thus Nannie attended school for ten years. At this time, it was not unusual for students to attend a one-room rural school for more than eight years. For instance, the students who attended school with Nannie in 1896-1897 were born over a thirteen-year interval from 1878 to 1891.

Nannie left her daughter, Louise (Christiansen) Ward, two lists, which were then given to me by Derald Blois in 2002:

- ✓ A list of Nannie's twelve teachers. I have listed these teachers below in boldface, in the order on Nannie's list. When possible, I have added identifying information. So far I have been able to identify nine or ten of the teachers.
- ✓ A list of students who attended school at the township hall in 1896-1897, to which I have added commentary a few pages later.

**James Driver** moved to Boomer Township, Section 21 in 1876 and was said to have been a long-term teacher at the brick school. He fathered 17 children, 14 of whom lived to maturity. James Driver died after being kicked by a horse in April of 1889. His son, Edwin, later farmed the Driver home place. James Driver taught my grandfather, Jim Christiansen, and James Driver's wife, Elizabeth, was the midwife when my father, Alvin Christiansen, was born in 1901.

**Laura Scott** is probably the daughter of Henry Scott and Sarah Rachel Springer of Hazel Dell Township, Section 23. She was born about June 1870 and married Joseph H. McMullen in February 1892. After her marriage, she lived in Hazel Dell Township but the may have ended in divorce.

**George Hunter** – no information.

**George Demmon** was the teacher during Nannie's last year in school, 1896-1897, the year for which we have a list of Nannie's fellow students. George Henry Demmon

(1841 – 1907), a Vermont native was a long-term resident of Missouri Valley and was listed in a Harrison County directory as a teacher as late as 1905.

**Lilly Scott** is probably Lillie Inez Scott the daughter of George W. Scott and Frances Grace Horn of Hazel Dell Township, Section 22. She was born in October 1873 and married J. Frank Stageman in 1896. They may have lived on the George Scott home place, which later became the Oluf Larsen farm. Lilly (Scott) Stageman died in 1928.

Laura Scott's father, Henry, and Lilly Scott's father, George, were brothers. Thus Laura and Lilly Scott were first cousins.

**Annie Williams** – no information.

**Tilda Stroben** (sic). This is Matilda Strohehn, the daughter of William Strohehn and Christina Witt, who were married in 1875. Christina Witt was the sister of David, Peter, and Jacob Witt, all long-term residents of Boomer Township, and the sister-in-law of Sievert Rief Sr. of northwestern Hazel Dell Township. William and Christina (Witt) Strohehn are probably buried in Rose Hill Cemetery in Missouri Valley.

Matilda Strohehn was born in 1876 and died in 1960. She married Clarence H. Bell in Harrison County in 1900. In 1908 Clarence and Matilda moved to Huron, South Dakota, where they remained until their deaths.

**May Yocum.**

**Lilly Yocum**

May and Lilly Yocum were the daughters of Nephi Yocum and Rosella Ida Alexander who lived in Harris Grove in LaGrange Township, Section 11. The spelling "Yocom" may be more prevalent.

William Yocum, the grandfather of May and Lillie, was an early settler in the Downsville area of Norwalk Township south of Underwood. William Yocum was badly wounded at the Hahn's Mill massacre of LDS members in northwestern Missouri in 1838 during the Missouri Mormon War. (My daughter Kathy's ancestor, Samuel Wood, was present at Hahn's Mill that day and escaped by running across the creek and into the woods.) After the massacre, most Mormons in northwestern Missouri moved northeast into western Illinois where they founded the town of Nauvoo.

May Yocum was born in 1870 and married Max Wind. She died in 1954. She is called "Ida May" in the 1880 census, "Maie" or "May" in IGI genealogical records, and perhaps "Marie" on her tombstone. Max was the son of Robert Wind and Catherine Witt and thus was a nephew of the Witt brothers mentioned above. May and Max Wind are buried in the Linwood Cemetery in LaGrange Township, Section 14.

Lilly Ellen Yocum was born in 1872 and died in 1946. She married Roy W. Goodrick. Lilly and Roy Goodrick farmed in LaGrange Township and are also buried in the Linwood Cemetery.

**Mary Andersen** may be the daughter of John Anderson Sr. who lived a mile southwest of the brick school. Mary Anderson was born about 1873. She married Walter Garfield Axtell in 1902. They evidently moved to the Woodbine area and then lived in

Cincinnati Township southwest of Missouri Valley. Mary Axtell died between 1922 and 1930 and Walter Axtell later moved to Missouri Valley.

**Delle German**, who was married. This is possibly Belle or Delle Mathews who married William German in 1887. I know of two William Germans, uncle and nephew, who had earlier lived in York Township.

**Susie Vickery** was the daughter of Eli Vickery and Anne Lewis. She was born in 1871 and married C. H. McElderry in Harrison County in 1901. Susie Vickery is buried at the Grange Cemetery as Susia McEldery 1971 – 1916.

Susie's grandparents were William and Mary Lewis who emigrated from Wales in 1849 with their children, Anne and William, as part of a company of Mormons. A baby was born at sea and died at sea. Young William Lewis soon died, perhaps of cholera on the trip up the Mississippi River from New Orleans. The Lewis family first stopped in the Council Bluffs area, went to Utah around 1852, returned from Utah in the 1860s, and settled on what later became the William Price Jr. farm in Boomer Township, Section 28.

In 1895, Eli and Anne Vickery and their children were living with Anne's mother, the widow Mary Lewis on this farm. Mary Lewis died in 1896. Susie's brother, Joseph Vickery, drowned in Pigeon Creek in 1898. Not long after, William Price Jr. bought this farm at a tax sale. Frank and Viola Miner and later Freddie and Arda Schroder lived on this farm.

## 1896-1897 Boomer #5 Students and Their Families

### Background:

I believe the student names on the following list were compiled by Nanny (Christians) Christiansen, and then given me by Derald Blois in 2002, with Derald having acquired the last from Nanny's daughter, Louise (Christiansen) Ward.

The teacher was George Henry Demmon, a Vermont native, who appears to have lived in Missouri Valley, Iowa from before 1880 to his death in 1907.

The Boomer Township school board president was Lars Jensen, who lived in Section 17 west of the school. Lars had married Wiebka "Phoebe" Rief, the daughter of Sievert Rief and Lena Witt who lived in northwestern Hazel Dell Township.

The subdistrict 5 director was Hans Jensen Olsen, who is discussed later in the parents' section.

### The 1896-1897 Boomer #5 Students

#### Children of Niels Peter Acton and Martha Jane McKeown:

- **George Marcus "Mark" Acton** (15 Jul 1879 -) married Annie Christina Nelson in 1901. Annie Nelson was the daughter of Lars Peter Nelson and Martha Swanson of south central Boomer Township.

By 1910 the Mark Acton family had moved to Madison County, Nebraska. Mark and Annie Acton are buried in Lyons, Burt County, Nebraska.

- **David Edward "Edward" Acton** (2 Jan 1883 – 9 Jun 1919) probably never married. David Edward Acton is buried in the Grange Cemetery.

#### Children of William H. Cook and Lydia Graybill:

- **Claud Calvin Cook** (31 Aug 1881 –Dec 1946) married Mabel A. McElroy.
- **Mary E. Cook** (7 Sep 1883 - 27 Jun 1956) married Melvin Connett.
- **Valeria Cook** (7 Apr 1885 - 1968) married Samuel McCain.
- **Lulu Fay Cook** (21 Feb 1891 –Dec 1955) married Albert Wood.

#### Children of Johannes A. Christians and Catherine Bielfeldt:

- **Nanny Elisa Christians** (23 Aug 1882 – 16 Jul 1973) married Henry Christiansen in 1904 and after his 1912 death married Ellis C. Christiansen in 1913. Henry and Ellis Christiansen were the sons of Peter T. Christiansen and Anna Margrethe Christiansen of northwestern Boomer Township.

Ellis and Nannie Christiansen farmed a portion of the Peter T. Christiansen property in northwestern Boomer Township. Nannie, Henry and Ellis Christiansen are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

- **Lillian "Lilly" Christians** (1885 – 16 Sep 1906) married Frederick Wilhelm August "Fred" Ehlert of Harrison County in 1903.

Lilly (Christians) Wohlers died at age 21 and is buried in Magnolia in Harrison County.

### **Children of James Driver and Elizabeth Beswick:**

- **Leon Driver** (2 Oct 1878 – 1 Dec 1943) married Mary Christiansen, sister of Henry and Ellis Christiansen mentioned above, in 1906.

Leon and Mary Driver lived in the Beebeetown area in Harrison County. Leon and Mary Driver are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

- **Edwin Driver** (26 May 1880 – 19 Feb 1965) married Anna Christiansen, sister of Henry, Ellis and Mary Christiansen, in 1907.

Edwin and Anna Driver farmed the Driver home place about a mile south of the brick school. Edwin and Anna Driver are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

- **James J. Driver** (7 Apr 1884 – 20 Mar 1955) married Helene Christine "Helen" Witt who is listed below in 1909.

The James and Helen Driver family lived about a mile east of the brick school on what later became the Howard Blois farm. James and Helen Driver are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

- **Thomas Driver** (30 Dec 1885 – 9 Jul 1956) married Anna Georgia Reese in 1909. Anna Reese was the daughter of Henry Reese and Anna Margaret Louise Wohlers of south central Boomer Township.

The Thomas Driver family lived about in Section 20 over two miles south and west of the brick school on what was earlier the Nels Benson farm and later the Derald Blois farm. Thomas and Anna Driver are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

- **Mabel F. Driver** (26 Aug 1887 – Sep 1978) married Oscar H. Hough in 1909. Oscar Hough was the son of Morris Hough and Sarah Ellen Hall of Hazel Dell Township.

Oscar and Mabel Hough lived near his father in Section 11 of Hazel Dell Township. Oscar and Mabel Hough are buried in Cedar Lawn Cemetery in Council Bluffs.

- **George Able Driver** (4 Mar 1889 – 24 Dec 1948) married Pauline Christina Christiansen in 1910. Christina Christiansen was the daughter of Mace Christiansen and Lena Jensen of southwestern Boomer Township.

George and Christina Driver farmed near the Missouri River west of Honey Creek and in the early 1920s moved to Council Bluffs, where George worked as a barber. George and Christina Driver are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

### **Child of Niels Jessen and Marie Skow:**

- **Peter Jessen** (11 Nov 1880 – 7 Oct 1951) married Nettie Cornelia Mackland in 1906. Nettie Mackland was the daughter of Joseph Mackland and Louisa Jane Price of southeastern Boomer Township.

Between 1913 and 1919 the Peter Jessen family moved to southeastern Boomer Township. Peter and Nettie Jessen are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

### **Child of Hans Jensen Olsen and Hanne Madsen:**

- **Charles Edward Olsen** (May 1880 – abt 15 Dec 1958) married Dora M. Rief in 1902. Dora Rief was the daughter of Sievert Rief Sr. and Lena Witt of northwestern Hazel Dell Township.

The Charles Olsen family first lived in northern Boomer Township, then east of Honey Creek on the Rockford/Boomer Township border, and then northwest of Neola, where he had a closing out farm sale in 1944. Charles and Dora Olsen are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

#### **Children of Peter Juergens and Marie Schroeder:**

- **John Juergens** (13 Nov 1880 - 1945) married Margaretha Adelheid "Maggie" Reese in 1907. Maggie Reese was the daughter of Henry Reese and Anna Margaret Louise Wohlers of south central Boomer Township.

John Juergens was a carpenter, who by 1910 was living in Wolsey near Huron in eastern South Dakota. However, John returned to Boomer Township from time to time to build houses. John and Maggie Juergens are buried in the Huron area.

- **Anna C. Juergens** (Jan 1883 – abt 14 Feb 1944) married Frederick R. Lowe in 1907. Frederick Lowe was the son of Henry E. Lowe and Esther Aveyard of Rockford Township.

Frederick and Anna Lowe are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

- **David Juergens** (28 Feb 1886 – 21 Oct 1965) married Esther Lowe, sister of Frederick Lowe listed above, in 1908.

David remained on the Juergens home place west of the Grange Cemetery. David and Esther Juergens are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

#### **Child of William Peters and Margaret Armstrong:**

- **Charles Arthur Peters** (10 Sep 1885 – 1 Sep 1974) married Hannah C. Nelson in 1907. Hannah was the daughter of Henry Nelson, who at the time lived in Boomer Township, Section 7.

After Hannah's early death in 1915, Charles Peters married Edna (Yeager) Deal in 1919. During the 1920s the Charles and Edna Peters family moved to DeKalb County, Missouri. Hannah (Nelson) Peters is buried in the Grange Cemetery.

#### **Children of Heinrich Spark and Adelheid Veebrock:**

- **Margaret "Maggie" Spark** (Dec 1879 – Nov 1959) married Henry Peper in 1924. Henry Peper had emigrated from Germany around 1897.

Henry and Maggie Peper lived at Beebeetown just north of Boomer Township, where Henry worked as a paperhanger. Henry and Maggie Peper are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

- **Henry J. Spark** (1 May 1882 – 3 Jul 1957) married Adele Wohlers around 1919. Adele Wohlers was the daughter of Wilhelm Wohlers and Maria Meinke.

Henry and Adele Spark farmed in the Beebeetown area in Lagrange Township, Harrison County. Henry and Adele Spark are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

- **Carl Spark** (26 Nov 1884 – 9 Sep 1969) married Matilda Anna Witt, who is listed below, in 1909.

Carl and Matilda Spark farmed in Lagrange Township. Carl and Matilda Spark are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

### **Children of Jacob Witt and Margaret Reese:**

- **Emma Julia Witt** (5 Feb 1885 – 3 Jul 1978) married Henry Wohlers, the son of Wilhelm Wohlers and Maria Meinke, in 1907.  
Henry and Emma Wohlers farmed in Lagrange Township. Henry and Emma Wohlers are buried in the Grange Cemetery.
- **Matilda Anna Witt** (2 Aug 1888 – 23 Dec 1981) married Cark Spark, who is listed above.
- **Dora Margaret Witt** (25 Oct 1890 – 21 Aug 1978) married Ora Wilson (abt 1884 -), the son of Leander Wilson and Dora Nicholson, in 1924.  
Dora (Witt) Wilson is buried in the Odebolt, Iowa Cemetery.

### **Children of John Henry Peter "Peter" Witt and Adelheid Margrethe Reese:**

- **Adele M. "Dealy" Witt** (16 May 1880 – 27 Dec 1979) married Dietrich M. "Dick" Wohlers in 1900. Dick Wohlers was the son of Wilhelm Wohlers and Maria Meinke of Lagrange Township, Harrison County.  
Dietrich and Adele Wohlers lived in Lagrange Township. Dietrich and Adele Wohlers are buried in the Grange Cemetery.
- **Henry Peter John Witt** (4 Mar 1882 – 19 Mar 1962) married Amanda Wojahn of Minnesota in 1905.  
The Henry and Amanda Witt family lived in Kingfisher County, Oklahoma and by 1930 were living in Fresno County, California.
- **Anna Margaretha Magdalena "Margaret" Witt** (27 Oct 1884 – Oct 1979) married Fred Stumpf and lived in Oklahoma.
- **Elsie Katharine Witt** (9 Feb 1887 – 1 Nov 1982) married Arthur Clement Ward in 1908. Arthur Ward was the son of Richard Trulock Ward and Elizabeth Sabey of southeastern Boomer Township.  
Initially the Arthur Ward family farmed in northern Boomer Township. By 1924 the Arthur Ward family was living in Council Bluffs, where Arthur worked as a car salesman. However, Arthur Ward retained ownership of his farm in Boomer Township, Section 10 for many years after moving to Council Bluffs. Arthur and Elsie Ward are buried in the Grange Cemetery.
- **Helene Christine "Helen" Witt** (18 Jul 1889 – 23 Nov 1964) married James J. Driver, who is listed above.

### **Child of Elias Wright and Amanda Bullard:**

- **William Henry Wright** (25 Feb 1881 – 20 Dec 1960) married Maude Ersula Hetrick in 1907. Maude Hetrick was the daughter of Charles Hetrick and Julia Anna Moore who lived in the Hazel Dell Township area at the time.  
William and Maude Wright eventually moved to Oregon and are buried in Newport, Oregon.



## **The 1896-1897 Boomer #5 Families**

**Niels Peter Acton and Martha Jane McKeown** married in 1878. Niels Peter Acton was the son of Gregers Acton and Dorthe Marie Nielsen. The Acton family immigrated from Dronninglund, Denmark and settled in southwestern Boomer Township in 1867. Martha Jane McKeown was the daughter of William McKeown and Eliza Jane Hall, William McKeown being one of the first settlers of Boomer Township in 1847.

The Niels Peter Acton lived on his mother's farm in Section 29 about two miles southwest of the brick school. Somewhere around 1905 to 1910 most of the family moved to the Norfolk area of Nebraska. Niels Peter and Martha J. Acton are buried at the Grange Cemetery.

**William H. Cook and Lydia Graybill** married in 1879. William Cook was the son of William James Cook and Harriet Ward, early settlers in Garner Township. Lydia Graybill was the daughter of George Washington Graybill and Mary Jane Smith, who came to Pottawattamie County with the first Mormons in 1846.

The William Cook family was living in Norwalk Township in 1885, in Boomer Township in 1895 and 1900, in Lagrange Township, Harrison County in 1905, in Garner Township in 1910 and in Missouri Valley in 1915, 1920 and 1925.

I don't know where the William Cook family lived while in Boomer Township. However, William Cook's brother, John E. Cook, was a landowner in Section 17 about a mile and a half northwest of the brick school.

**Johannes A. Christians and Catherine Bielfeldt** married in 1872 in Germany and immigrated about 1873.

The Christians family lived in Walnut, Iowa for a few years but by 1880 were living in Boomer Township. Their farmstead was in Section 16 just northeast of the brick school across the county road. Johannes died in 1895 and I believe the Christians farm was sold between 1905 and 1910. Johannes A. and Catherine Christians are buried at the Grange Cemetery.

**James Driver and Elizabeth Beswick** married in Bernley, Lancashire, England in 1868.

The James Driver family immigrated about 1869 and was living in Boomer Township by 1880. James and Elizabeth raised a large family in Section 21 about a mile south of the brick school down the county road. James Driver was a teacher at the brick schoolhouse but died in April 1889 after being kicked by a horse. James and Elizabeth Driver are buried at the Grange Cemetery.

**Niels Jessen and Marie Skow** married 1873.

Niels Jessen emigrated from Denmark around 1870 and married Marie Skow, another Danish immigrant, in 1873. In 1873 the Jessen family bought land in Section 20 about a mile west of the brick school from John Anderson. This farm remained in Jessen family ownership until the 1940s when it was sold to Chris Larsen. Niels and Marie Jessen are buried at the Grange Cemetery.

Niels Jessen, born Niels Jessen Bertelsen, was the older brother of Jens Bertelsen. Their

parents were Bertel Nielsen and Gjertrud Marie Nielsdatter. Thus Grace (Jessen) Dideriksen and Stella (Bertelsen) Witt, long-term Boomer Township residents, were second cousins, their grandfathers being brothers.

**Hans Jensen Olsen and Hanne Madsen** were born in Denmark and married in 1867.

Hans and Hanne Olsen emigrated with their older children, and settled in Boomer Township, Section 9 in 1871, near his brothers George and Mike Olsen.

By 1896 Hans and Hanne Olsen had moved to Section 16 about a mile north of the brick school. Hans J. Olsen was school director in 1896. Hans J. and Hanna Olsen are buried at the Grange Cemetery.

**Peter Juergens and Marie Schroeder** married in 1879.

Peter Juergens and Marie Schroder were immigrants from Holstein, Germany who married after emigrating. By 1885 they were living in Section 29 about a mile and a half southwest of the brick school along the county road, where their son, David, later lived. Marie Juergens died in May 1889. In 1900 and 1905 Peter's widowed mother-in-law Maggie Schroeder was living in the household. Peter and Marie Juergens are buried at the Grange Cemetery.

**William Peters and Margaret Armstrong** married in 1858 in Utah.

The William Peters family were long-term residents in Section 21 a half mile east of the school. Margaret died in Jan 1895 and William in Jan 1896. Their son, Charley, who is listed as one of the Boomer #5 students is probably living with his married older brother, Nicholas. The Peters farm eventually passed to their daughter Caroline and her husband Ole C. Olsen. William and Margaret Peters are buried at the Grange Cemetery.

**Heinrich Spark and Adelheid Veebrock** married in Germany in 1873.

Heinrich and Adelheid Spark and their five children emigrated from north Germany around 1892. I don't know where they were living in 1896-1897. Possibly they lived briefly on the Jacob or Peter Witt farm. I don't find the Spark family on the 1895 Boomer Township census. By 1900 the family was living in Lagrange Township southeast of Beebeetown. In census records into the 1920s the spelling "Sparks" was sometimes used. Heinrich and Adelheid Spark are buried at the Grange Cemetery.

**Jacob Witt and Peter Witt** listed below were brothers. They were born in Schleswig to Jacob Witt and Margaretha Julia "Julia" Sievers and immigrated about 1870. Jacob and Peter Witt married sisters, respectively Margaret and Adelheid Reese, who were born in north Germany to Hein Reese and Adelheid Wohlers.

**Jacob Witt and Margaret Reese** married in 1884.

The Jacob Witt family were long-term residents in Section 21 about ½ mile east and ½ mile south of the brick school. Jacob and Margaret Witt are buried at the Grange Cemetery.

**Peter Witt and Adelheid Reese** married in 1877 in Harrison County.

The Peter Witt family were long-term residents in Section 21 about ½ mile east and ¼ mile south of the brick school. Peter and Adelheid Witt are buried at the Grange Cemetery.

**Elias Wright and Amanda Bullard** married in 1868. Elias Wright was the son of Ellis Wright and Minasha Hinds, who moved to Boomer Township around 1864 and later moved to Holt County, Missouri. Amanda was a Civil War orphan, who took on the name "Bullard" from the family that raised her.

The Elias Wright family lived in Section 17 about a half mile northwest of the brick school. Elias Wright died in 1888 and Amanda married Jesse Graham in 1894.

Elias Wright is buried at the Grange Cemetery. Amanda (Bullard) Wright Graham is buried in Rose Hill Cemetery in Missouri Valley.

## 1913-1914 Boomer #5 Students and Their Parents

In the belongings of my father, Alvin Christiansen, I found a souvenir booklet that listed the Boomer #5 students in 1914. I suspect that this book was prepared early in the early part of 1914 and represents the school year 1913-1914. Below I place the students listed into families.

**Catherine Jemima Cassidy**, the Boomer #5 teacher, was the daughter of Charles Baskin Cassidy and Elizabeth Floyd, natives of Ireland who farmed in Garner Township. Catherine J. Cassidy eventually married William H. Fleming, a native of Fort Dodge, Iowa, and lived in Seattle, Washington.

### **Township school board officers were as follows:**

J. P. Christiansen, President and subdistrict five director. This is my grandfather. I discuss James P. Christiansen in the parents' section.

Charles Darrington, Treasurer. Charles Darrington never married. He farmed the home place of his parents, William Darrington and Mary Ann Sabey, in central Boomer Township until his sudden death in 1937. Charles Darrington and his parents are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

W. Mackland, Secretary. William John Mackland was the son of Joseph Mackland and Louisa Jane Price who lived in southeastern Boomer Township just east of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. William Mackland married Cora Parish, the daughter of Elida Parish and Jane Tucker Nelson of north central Hazel Dell Township in 1908.

In 1914 William and Cora Mackland were probably living on a farm owned by his parents in south central Boomer Township, Section 27 west of St. Paul's Lutheran Church on the north side of the road. Between 1925 and 1930 the William Mackland family moved to Garner Township, and by 1935 were living in Council Bluffs. William and Cora Mackland are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

## **The 1913-1914 Boomer #5 Students**

### **Child of George W. Archer and Lucinda Hicks:**

- **Bertha Beatrice "Birdie" Archer** (27 Jul 1906 – 13 Jul 1987) married John A. Morgal around 1928. John Morgal was the son of John Morgal and Grace Hagerman of Council Bluffs.

John and Birdie Morgal died in California.

### **Children of Frank Christensen and Hattie Jurgens:**

- **Marie M. Christensen** (Jun 1899 – abt 19 Sep 1984) married Bodilius Jensen in 1920. Bodilius Jensen was the son of Markor Martin Jensen and Ann Margretha Pedersen of Council Bluffs.

The Bodilius Jensen family lived in Boomer Township in 1925, Lewis Township in 1930, and eventually in Council Bluffs. Bodilius and Marie Jensen are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

Bodilius Jensen had relatives in Boomer Township. His father's sister, Severine Nielsine (Sena) Jensen, was married to Christen Petersen and lived in Boomer Township. Section 19. Several of Christen and Sena Petersen's children married neighbors:

- Frieda Christine Petersen married John David (J. D.) Anderson, the son of John and Mary (Jensen) Anderson, Sr.
- Walter Petersen married Hazel Grace Anderson, the daughter of John and Mary Anderson, Sr.
- Mark Petersen married Mary Sophia Bertelsen, the daughter of Jens and Anne Cathrine (Tofte) Bertelsen.

The John Anderson family were early settlers in Section 20. The Jens Bertelsens lived in Section 18.

- **Laura Edna Christensen** (16 Feb 1904 – Nov 1971) married Argyle E. Ross, a Kansas native, in 1928.

Argyle Ross died in 1937 and Laura married John H. Woodward, who died in 1963. Laura, Argyle, and John are all buried together in the Grange Cemetery.

- **Elsie Lucile Christensen** (2 Dec 1907 – 16 Oct 1992) married Eldred L. Prior in 1931. Eldred Prior was the son of Herbert Prior and Hazel Sheen of Garner Township.

Eldred and Elsie Prior lived in Garner Township in the Glendale area just northeast of Council Bluffs. Eldred and Elsie Prior are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

#### **Children of James P. "Jim" Christiansen and Rasmine "Minnie" Rasmussen:**

- **Vesta Christiansen** (15 Jan 1899 – 14 May 198) married Tolford Gerhard Thompson from Eagle Grove, Wright County, Iowa in 1925. Tolford and Vesta Thompson lived in Eagle Grove, Iowa, where they are buried.
- **Alvin McKinley Christiansen** (14 Oct 1901 – 18 Sep 1973) married Leona Margaret Larson in 1933. Leona was the daughter of Andrew and Karen Margrethe (Hansen) Larson of central Hazel Dell Township

Alvin Christiansen farmed the Jim Christiansen home place until 1948, and then farmed west of Avoca. After Leona died, Alvin married the widow Lila Ferne (Spencer) Bertelsen in 1970. Alvin and Leona Christiansen are buried at Graceland Cemetery in Avoca, Iowa.

Lila Ferne (Spencer) Bertelsen was the daughter of Ralph and Hannah (Madison) Spencer of southeastern Boomer Township. Ferne was the widow of John "Vern" Bertelsen. Vern Bertelsen was the son of Alfred and Martha (Wohlers) Bertelsen. The Alfred Bertelsen family lived in Boomer Township in 1920, in Lagrange Township in Harrison County in 1930 and in northwestern Hazel Dell Township by 1940.

#### **Child of Nels Christiansen and Mary Rasmussen:**

- **Anneta Viola Christiansen** (19 Jul 1906 – 11 Jul 1942) suffered from poor health, always lived at home, and died at age 35. Anneta is buried in St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery.

### **Children of Alfred Darrington and Bertha Jane Carlile:**

- **Alma Walter Darrington** (24 Jul 1898 – 22 Apr 1991) married Cecile Clara Hough in the 1930s. Cecile Hough, the daughter of Delbert and Clara Isabel (Parish) Hough, spent her childhood in Neola Township.

In early 1945 Alma and Cecile moved from the Alfred Darrington farm in Boomer Township to Norwalk Township, Section 8 northwest of Underwood. Alma and Cecile are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

- **Florence Vera Darrington** (24 Nov 1900 – 10 Dec 1993) married Herman Rasmussen in 1922. Herman Rasmussen was born in Hazel Dell Township to Mads and Matilda (Jensen) Rasmussen.

Herman and Florence Rasmussen are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

- **Elva Amy Darrington** (19 Oct 1903 – 7 Sep 1979) married Frank Maxey.

Frank and Elva Maxey lived in Council Bluffs, and then in Omaha and Fremont, Nebraska, where Frank was a butcher and ran a market. Frank and Elva Maxey had no children. Elva (Darrington) Maxey is buried in the Grange Cemetery.

- **Ione Eulalia Darrington** (4 Jan 1908 – 26 Mar 1997) married William Johnson, Russell Hall, and John A. Cochran.

Ione lived in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Ione (Darrington) Cochran is buried in the Grange Cemetery.

### **Children of George Darrington and Christina Peterson:**

- **Clarence Christian Darrington** (11 Sep 1898 – 25 Sep 1982) married Mable Geneva Bardsley in 1922.

Clarence and Mable Darrington lived in Nebraska and then Ohio. Clarence and Mable Darrington are buried in Memory Gardens in Athens, Ohio.

- **George Everett "Everett" Darrington** (8 Sep 1900 – 25 Oct 1989) married Frances Marie Bardsley in 1923.

Everett and Frances Darrington may have died in Grand Junction, Colorado but are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

The wives of Clarence and Everett Darrington were sisters, the daughters of Charles Bradley Bardsley and Dora Anna Witz of southwestern Neola Township.

- **Arnold Henry Darrington** (13 Dec 1903 – 26 May 1981) married Esther M. Reese in 1927. Esther Reese was the daughter of Henry and Anna Margaret (Wohlers) Reese of central Boomer Township.

Arnold Darrington farmed his parents' home place until 1944 and then farmed in Norwalk Township southeast of Underwood. Arnold and Esther Darrington are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

- **Mabel Irene Darrington** (21 Dec 1905 – 11 May 2004) never married, and is buried in the Grange Cemetery.

- **Eva Christina Darrington** (17 Nov 1907 – 14 Jul 2000) married Wayne Brewster Rule.

Wayne Rule died around 1966. Eva lived in the eastern United States and eventually returned to Council Bluffs, where she lived with her sister, Mabel, in Bethany Home. Eva (Darrington) Rule is buried in Dow City, Crawford County, Iowa.

#### **Child of Albert Driver and Alvina Katherine Witt:**

- **Harold D. Driver** (15 Apr 1904 – Feb 1986) married Lillie M. Christians in 1927. Lillie Christians was the daughter of M. Theodore and Anna Margaret (Wohlers) Christians.

Harold and Lillie Driver are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

#### **Child of Peter Jessen and Nettie Mackland:**

- **Ellis Verner Jessen** (20 Dec 1906 – 20 Jul 1988), the son of Peter and Nettie Jessen, never married.

Ellis and his bachelor brother, Max, lived together in southeast Boomer Township. Ellis ran a road maintainer. Max, who had lost an arm during World War II, farmed. Both are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

#### **Children of Ole Christian Olsen and Caroline Elmira Peters:**

- **Christina Margaret Olsen** (15 Jan 1901 – 15 Jan 1972) married Warren Smith who lived in Omaha.

Christina (Olsen) Smith and her three children lived with her brother-in-law and sister, Ray and Ethel Fulfs. Christine (Olsen) Smith is buried in the Grange Cemetery.

- **Homer J. Olsen** (24 Nov 1903 – 21 Oct 1977) married Viola Mae Henkle who died in 1931 and subsequently married Eva Nolan.

Homer Olsen is buried in Adair, Iowa.

- **Ernest George Olsen** (1 Sep 1906 – 5 Jul 1982) married Elna A. Petersen in 1928. Elna was the daughter of Peter Thybo and Karen Marie (Jensen) Petersen of southwestern Boomer Township.

Ernest and Elna Olsen lived in different locations in Pottawattamie County. Ernest and Elna Olsen are buried in Memorial Park Cemetery in Council Bluffs.

#### **Children of Herman Wehrli and Margaret Eggerman:**

- **Anna Wehrli** (9 Jul 1899 – 29 Jun 1931) married Sievert Edward Rief, the son of Sievert and Minnie Katherine (Page) Rief, Jr. in 1920.

Anna died at an early age and is buried alongside her parents in the Grange Cemetery.

- **Henry H. Wehrli** (28 Mar 1905 – 11 Feb 1991) married Mildred A. Peterson from Cass Co., Iowa.

Henry and Mildred Wehrli are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

**Child of Jacob Witt and Margaret Reese:**

- **Adele Katharina Witt** (28 Feb 1901 – 15 Oct 1999) married Claus John Cohrs in 1919. Claus John Cohrs was the brother of Dora Cohrs who married William J. Reese.

Claus John and Adele Cohrs were living in Boomer Township in 1920, in Lagrange Township, Harrison County in 1925, and again in Boomer Township in 1930. Before 1935 they bought a farm in Wright Township, Section 14 about five miles west of Lewis and fifteen miles southwest of Atlantic.

At some point Claus John and Adele left their farm and moved to Atlantic. Claus John Cohrs lived to be 100 and Adele 98 although none of their four children lived to 75. Claus John and Adele Cohrs are buried in the Atlantic Cemetery.

**Children of Joseph Wright and Minnie Billerbeck:**

- **Margaret E. Wright** (24 Dec 1899 -) married James Hickson.
- **Oscar D. Wright** (25 Sep 1903 – Nov 1981) married Marvel Parker. He probably died in Woodbury Co., Iowa.
- **Joseph B. Wright** (abt 23 Mar 1905 – Jul 1987) married Ada and probably died in Woodbury Co., Iowa.
- **Ivan Wright** 19 Nov 1906 – 1 Jan 1969) married Hazel Heath and probably died in Rusk Co., Wisconsin.



## **The 1913-1914 Boomer #5 Families**

**George W. Archer and Lucinda Hicks** married in 1880. George was born in New York and Lucinda in Illinois.

The George Archer family was renting in Boomer Township early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, was living on Lake Manawa Road south of Council Bluffs in 1920, and by 1925 was living in Council Bluffs. Birdie appears to have been their only child. I don't know where George and Lucinda Archer are buried.

**Frank Christensen and Hedwig J. "Hattie" Jurgens** married in 1898. Frank was the son of Jens Christian "James" Christensen and Maren "Mary" Christensen, who settled in Boomer Township, Section 20 in the 1870s. Hattie was the daughter of J. H. "Heinrich" Jurgens and Magdalena Christians, German immigrants who settled in Boomer Township just northeast of the township hall in the early 1880s.

Frank and Hattie Christensen farmed the Christensen home place about a mile and a half southwest of the Boomer #5 school. This was later the Ronald Vorthmann farm. Frank and Hattie Christensen are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

**James P. "Jim" Christiansen and Nels Christiansen**, listed below, were the sons of Christian Christiansen and Anna Jensen who emigrated from Denmark in 1869 and settled in Boomer Township, Section 22. Their respective wives, Minnie and Mary Rasmussen, were sisters, being the daughters of Lars Rasmussen and Karen Andersen, who emigrated from Denmark in 1882 and settled in Boomer Township, Section 35, just west of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

**James P. "Jim" Christiansen and Rasmine "Minnie" Rasmussen** married in 1893.

After marrying, Jim and Minnie lived on the former farm of his uncle, Ole Jensen, in Section 21, a mile south and  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles west of the Boomer #5 school. The Christiansen family left this farm in 1948 and as of 2014 it has been the residence of Norman Thomas for many years. Jim and Minnie Christiansen are buried in St. Paul's Lutheran Church Cemetery.

**Nels Christiansen and Mary Rasmussen** married in 1898.

Nels and Mary lived on the Christian Christiansen home place,  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles south of the Boomer #5 school on the east side of the road. Later this was the farm of Nels and Mary's son, Clarence. Nels and Mary Christiansen are buried in St. Paul's Lutheran Church Cemetery.

Alfred and George H. Darrington, listed below, were born in Utah to William Darrington and Mary Ann Sabey, and moved to Boomer Township with their parents in 1872. The William Darrington home place was in Section 22, 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles southeast of the Boomer #5 school.

**Alfred Darrington and Bertha Jane Carlile** married in 1897. Bertha Jane Carlile was the daughter of John Priest Carlile and Bertha Hansen of Norwalk Township.

The Alfred Darrington farm was a mile east and  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile north of the Boomer #5 school. The William Darrington family had acquired this farm from William Peters Jr. between 1885 and 1902. Alfred and Bertha Darrington are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

**George H. Darrington and Christina Peterson** married in 1893. Christina Peterson was the daughter of Christen Peterson and Ane Margrete Christensen, who emigrated from Denmark in 1855 and moved to Boomer Township in 1867.

The George H. and Christina Darrington family lived on her parents' home place, on the west side of the county road about a mile west of the Boomer #5 school. George H. and Christena Darrington are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

**Albert Driver and Alvina Katherine Witt** married in 1900. Albert Driver was the son of William Driver and Elizabeth Beswick, who settled in Boomer Township, Section 21. Alvina Witt was the daughter of David Witt and Alvina Karstens who lived in Boomer Township, Section 18.

The Albert Driver family lived about 1 ½ miles southwest of the Boomer #5 school, as the crow flies. Jerry Driver, Albert's brother's grandson, later lived on this farm. Albert and Alvina Driver are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

**Ole Christian Olsen and Caroline Elmira Peters** married in 1898. Ole Christian Olsen was the son of George Olsen and Christena Jensen who lived near the Boomer #2 school, along with George's brothers, Hans and Michael. Caroline Peters was the daughter of William Peters and Margaret Armstrong, early settlers in Boomer Township, Section 16.

The Ole Olsen family lived just north of the school, on the west side of the road, on the William Peters home place. Ole and Caroline Peters are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

**Herman Wehrli and Margaret Eggerman** married in Harrison County in 1889. Herman Wehrli was born in Switzerland and immigrated as a young man. Margaret Eggerman was born in Bayreuth, Germany and immigrated as a teenager.

The Herman Wehrli family lived ¾ miles north of the Boomer #5 school, on the west side of the road. Herman and Margaret Wehrli are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

**Jacob Witt and Margaret Reese** married in 1884. Jacob Witt was born in Erfde, Schleswig to Peter Witt and Julia Sievers and came to the United States with his family when he was about twelve. Margaret Reese was born in Hannover, Germany to Hein Reese and Adelheid Wohlers and came to the United States with siblings when she was about 12.

The Jacob Witt family lived about a half mile south of the Boomer #5 school on the west side of the road. This farm continues in the Witt family today, later being the Julius Witt farm and then the Willie Witt farm. Jacob and Margaret Witt are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

**Joseph Wright and Minnie Billerbeck** married in 1899. Joseph was born in Boomer Township to Elias Wright and Amanda Bullard. Minnie was born in Clinton County to David Billerbeck and Margaret Hansen, immigrants from north Germany who moved to St John Township in the 1870s and then to Boomer Township between 1880 and 1885.

Between 1915 and 1920 the Joseph and Minnie Wright family moved to the Anthon area in Miller Township, Woodbury County, southeast of Sioux City. Later they moved to Sioux City. I don't know where Joseph and Minnie Wright are buried.

I don't know where the Joseph Wright family lived in 1913-1914. Here is one possibility:

-- A half mile northeast of the Boomer #5 school, on a farm owned in 1902 by Joseph's brother, Levi, in 1913 by Joseph, and in 1919 by James P. Organ, whoever that was.

## c. 1933 Boomer #5 Students and Their Families



### Boomer #5 Students and Teacher c. 1933

Front: Owen Darrington (b. 1928), Calvin Bertelsen, \_\_\_ Labs, Dean Coe, \_\_\_ Labs, Harold Darrington (b. 1926), Dale Driver

Second: Warren Smith, Margaret Ann Reese (b. 1928), Alyce Olsen (b. 1928), Lois Olsen, Beulah Larsen, Alvin Larsen

Third: Betty Bertelsen, Estella Bertelsen, Marjorie Rief, Lucille Darrington, Bernice Reese, Mildred Smith

Back: Dorothy Witt, Elsie Bertelsen, Dorothy Jean Rief, Helen Frazier (teacher), Elsie Reese, Ruth Dicks, Frances Larsen

### **Mysteries regarding the c. 1933 Boomer #5 Photo:**

- I received a copy of the photo and a list of identifications through Derald Blois. Who provided this photo and prepared the identifications?
- Who was the teacher, who is identified as Helen Frazier?
- Why were some students, like Stella Bertelsen, attending Boomer #5 when the family lived in the Boomer #2 subdistrict? (Had the Boomer #2 school been closed, with some of the students going to Beebeetown?)
- Who were the Labs family that has two sons pictured? I'm told the Labs family lived in Section 16, on what was later, by 1950, Fred George's farm. An insurance company owned this farm in the 1930s.
- Do we know the names of either of the Labs boys who are pictured?
- Do we know the given names of either of the Labs parents or where they came from or moved to?

About people named "Labs": The "Labs" surname seems to have come from Germany. The original Labs may have settled in the Bennington, Nebraska area, in Jefferson Township, Douglas County, north of Omaha. Dora (Cohrs) Reese was also from Bennington. Over the years there were many people with the surname Labs living in the Omaha area.

- Who were the Hodson family that has two foster children, Ruth Dicks and Dean Coe, pictured? I'm told that Ruth Dicks and Dean Coe lived with the Hodson family in Section 9, on what was earlier the farm of the bachelor Andrew P. Christensen later became Vern Driver's farm. When the Hodsons left, Ruth lived with Bert and Vida Jessen in Section 10.
- Do we know the names of either of the Hodsons, or where they came from or moved to?

About people in the area named "Hodson":

- There was a Hodson family in Missouri Valley, namely Ralph and Clara (Jerson) Hodson. They had one child I know of, Gerald Hodson who married Wanda Hosman.
- In 1930 there was another Hodson family living in Lake Township north of Council Bluffs.

In the April 1940 census the Labs and Hodson families are both gone from Boomer Township. Ruth Dicks is enumerated in the Bert Jessen household. Dean Coe is also enumerated, but not assigned to a household. Not long after 1940 Dean Coe married and moved to California for a time. He is buried in Fort Calhoun, Nebraska.

- Where was Dean Coe living in 1940?

## **The c. 1933 Boomer #5 Students**

### **Children of Hans Carl "Charlie" Bertelsen and Irene Axtell:**

- **Elsie Bertelsen** (16 Sep 1923 – 9 Feb 2005) married Homer Vere Watson, a Sioux City native, in 1947.

Homer and Elsie Watson lived in Sioux City. Homer and Elsie are buried in Memorial Park Cemetery in Sioux City.

- **Estella "Stella" Bertelsen** (1 Mar 1925 -) married Julius William "Willie" Witt in 1946. Willie Witt was the son of Julius Witt and Lilly Wohlers.

Julius and Stella Witt lived on the Witt home place in Boomer Township.

- **Betty Jean Bertelsen** (14 Jul 1926 – 27 Dec 2007) married Keith Gunderson around 1945. Keith Gunderson was the son of George Gunderson and Lena Bousfield of Harrison County.

Keith and Betty Gunderson lived in the Beebeetown area. Betty Jean (Bertelsen) Gunderson is buried in the Grange Cemetery.

- **Harley Calvin "Calvin" Bertelsen** (1 Dec 1927 -) married Wilma Hosman in 1949 in Harrison County. Wilma Hosman was the daughter of Harry Hosman and Cecil Niles of Harrison County.

### **Children of Arnold Darrington and Esther Reese:**

- **Owen Darrington** (22 Aug 1928 -) married Barbara George. Barbara George was the daughter of Virgil George and Hazel Ricker who lived in Neola and Underwood.

Owen remained in the Underwood area after moving to rural Underwood with his parents in 1944.

### **Children of Nathan Darrington and Ella Jorgensen:**

- **Lucille Darrington** (18 Aug 1924 – 25 Nov 1996) married Eldon Hekter in 1946. Eldon Hekter was the son of Henry Hekter and Hanna Klahn of the Treynor area. After Eldon's death in 1885, Lucille married Mr. Harder.

Eldon and Lucille Hekter are buried in the St. Paul's Cemetery in Treynor.

- **Harold Darrington** (21 Nov 1926 – 30 Sep 2006) married Dodie Keisler

### **Children of Edwin Driver and Anna Christiansen:**

- **Edwin Dale "Dale" Driver** (15 Feb 1924 – 18 Nov 2013) married Florence Sampson of Council Bluffs in 1947. After Florence's death Dale married Lourean (Lynch) Dickey in 1969.

Dale Driver lived on the Driver home place in Boomer Township for many years. Dale and Florence are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

### **Foster children of \_\_\_\_\_ Hodson and \_\_\_\_\_:**

- **Essie Ruth "Ruth" Dicks** (30 Jun 1920 -) lived with Bertel and Vida Jessen after the Hodsons left Boomer Township. Ruth Dicks married Robert Braman in 1945.

- **Dean Coe** (16 Oct 1925 – 4 Dec 2012) lived with a currently unknown family after the Hodsons left Boomer Township. Dean Coe was confirmed at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in 1939, and is enumerated in the 1940 Boomer Township census but without an identifying family. Dean Coe married Mary Catherine Gloden around 1943.

Dean and Mary Coe lived in Fort Calhoun, Nebraska. Dean Coe is buried in the Fort Calhoun Cemetery.

**Sons of \_\_\_\_\_ Labs and \_\_\_\_\_ :**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Labs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Labs

#### **Children of Christen "Chris" Larsen and Mary Christiansen:**

- **Alvin Larsen** (20 Mar 1922 – 3 May 2003) married Naida Jeffers.  
Alvin was a career navy man who remained in San Diego after marrying. Alvin was cremated and his ashes interred at Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego.
- **Frances Larsen** (4 Dec 1923 – 11 Aug 2009) married Francis Tighe in 1944. Francis Tighe was the son of William Tighe and Rose Reel who lived in Crescent Township.  
Francis and Frances Tighe farmed in Boomer Township, Section 14. Francis and Frances Tighe are buried in St. Joseph Cemetery in Council Bluffs.
- **Beulah Larsen** (abt Aug 1927 -) married John H. Petersen of Nebraska.  
John and Beulah Petersen lived in Fremont, Nebraska.

**Children of Homer Olsen and Viola Henkle:** (Viola died in 1931 and Lois and Alyce lived with their grandparents, Ole and Caroline Olsen.)

- **Lois Mae Olsen** (7 Oct 1926 -) married Dean Stump in 1948 in Adair, Iowa.  
Dean and Lois Stump lived in Altoona near Des Moines.
- **Alyce Olsen** (5 Feb 1928-) married Dean Schneckloth in 1947 and divorced in 1949.  
Alyce married Joseph F. Hassay around 1950.  
Joe and Alyce Hassay lived in Council Bluffs.

#### **Children of William Reese and Dora Cohrs:**

- **Elsie Reese** (16 Jul 1922 – 25 Aug 1990) married Arnold Meier of Page County in 1943.  
Arnold and Elsie Meier are buried in the Summit Cemetery in Yorktown, Page County.
- **Bernice Reese** (10 Feb 1925 -) married Leo Driver in 1944. Leo was the son of Edwin Driver and Anna Christiansen of Boomer Township.  
Leo and Bernice Driver lived in Missouri Valley.



- **Margaret Ann Reese** (11 May 1928 -) married Warren Mellencamp of Page County in 1952. After Warren's death Margaret married John Kirkland.

Warren and Margaret Mellencamp lived near Clarinda, Iowa. Warren had previously been married to Margaret's older sister, Lucille, who died in 1951.

#### **Children of Henry Rief and Minnie Wehrli:**

- **Dorothy Jean Rief** (25 Jun 1923 – 13 Sep 2006) married George Ernst in 1939 and divorced in 1942. Dorothy married Bob Ahart in Texas in 1943 and divorced. Dorothy married Joseph Lasko in Ohio in 1954.

Dorothy died in Columbia, Tennessee. I don't know where she is buried.

- **Marjorie Rief** (17 May 1925 – 29 Apr 2006) married James Ahart about 1947 and divorced. Marjorie married Mr. Boyd. Marjorie married Robert E. Batterson in 1961 in Ohio.

Marjorie died in Franklin County, Ohio. I don't know where she is buried.

#### **Children of Warren Smith and Christena Olsen:** (Christena and her children lived with her brother-in-law and sister, Ray and Ethel Fulfs)

- **Warren Olsen Smith** (21 Nov 1924 – 22 Sep 2012) married Frances Pauline "Pauline" Witt in 1947. Pauline Witt was the daughter of Fred Witt and Nellie French who until 1949 lived on the old French place in southern Boomer Township.

Warren and Pauline Smith lived in the Omaha / Council Bluffs area. Warren and Pauline Smith are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

- Mildred Smith (9 Nov 1926 – 22 Feb 2000) married Wayne Sheets in 1947. Wayne Sheets was the son of Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Sheets of Omaha.

Wayne and Mildred Sheets lived in Omaha.

#### **Children of Julius Witt and Lilly Wohlers:**

- **Dorothy Witt** (11 Jan 1924 -) married Charles Wohlers in 1943. Charles Wohlers was the son of Claus J. F. Wohlers and Rebecca Spark who lived in Boomer Township, Section 2.



## **The c. 1933 Boomer #5 Families**

**Hans Carl "Charlie" Bertelsen and Irene Axtell** married in 1922. Hans Carl Bertelsen was born in Council Bluffs to Jens Bertelsen and Tofte, who soon thereafter moved to Boomer Township. Irene Axtell was born in Boomer Township to Charles Monroe Axtell and Clara Driver.

Hans Carl and Irene Bertelsen lived on her father's farm in Section 9, 1 ½ miles north and west of the Boomer #5 school. (Note: this family lived out of the Boomer #5 subdistrict.) Hans Carl and Irene Bertelsen are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

**Arnold Darrington and Esther Reese** married in 1927. Arnold Darrington was the son of George H. Darrington and Christine Peterson of Boomer Township. Esther Reese was the daughter of Henry Reese and Anna Wohlers of Boomer Township.

Arnold and Esther Darrington lived on his parents' farm south of the Boomer Township Hall until 1944 when they moved south of Underwood. Arnold and Esther Darrington are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

**Nathan Darrington and Ella Jorgensen** married 1910. Nathan Darrington was the son of William Darrington and Mary Ann Sabey of Boomer Township. Ella Jorgensen was the daughter of Jens Jorgensen and Hannah Lagerholm who farmed in Rockford Township and in Oak Township, Mills County, before retiring to Council Bluffs.

Nathan and Ella Darrington lived on the north portion of his father's farm about 1 mile east of Boomer #5 until selling to Don Warner and moving to Council Bluffs around 1951. Nate and Ella Darrington are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

**Edwin Driver and Anna Christiansen** married in 1907. Edwin Driver was the son of William Driver and Elizabeth Beswick of Boomer Township. Anna Christiansen was the daughter of Peter T. Christiansen and his second wife, Anna Margretha Christiansen, of Boomer Township.

Edwin and Anna Driver lived on the Driver home place ½ mile west and 1 mile south of Boomer #5. They turned over the Driver farm to their son, Dale, and moved to Council Bluffs late in 1947. Edwin and Anna Driver are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Hodson and** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bertel Jessen and Vida Ward** married in 1905 (foster parents of Ruth Dicks). Bertel Jessen was the son of Niels Jessen and Marie Skow of Boomer Township. Vida Ward was the daughter of Richard Trulock Ward and Elizabeth Sabey of Boomer Township.

Bertel and Vida Jessen lived on county road J in Section 10 about 2 ½ miles north of Boomer #5. Bertel and Vida Jessen are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Labs and** \_\_\_\_\_

**Christen "Chris" Larsen and Mary Christiansen** married in 1920. Chris Larsen emigrated from Denmark as a young man and was the brother of Oluf and Einer Larsen of Hazel Dell Township. Mary Christiansen was the daughter of Andrew Christian Christiansen and Trine Jorgensen of Boomer Township.

Chris Larsen was evidently renting in Boomer #5 north of the school until 1947 when he bought the Jessen home place in Section 20. Chris and Mary Larsen are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

**Ole Christian Olsen and Caroline Peters** (grandparents of Lois and Alyce Olsen) married in 1898. Ole Christian Olsen was the son of Jorgen "George" Olsen and Christena Jensen of Boomer Township. Caroline Peters was the daughter of William Peters and Margaret Armstrong of Boomer Township.

Caroline's parents were deceased when Ole Christian and Caroline married and Olie Christian and Caroline lived just west of the school on the William Peters home place. Ole Christian and Caroline Olsen are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

**Homer Olsen and Viola Henkle** (parents of Lois and Alyce Olsen) married around 1925. Homer Olsen was born in Boomer Township to Ole Christian and Caroline Olsen. Viola Mae Henkle was born in Nebraska to Charles Henkle.

Viola died in 1931 and is buried in Graceland Park Cemetery in Omaha. Homer subsequently married Eva Noland. Homer is buried in Adair in Cass County.

**William Reese and Dora Cohrs** married in 1919 at Bennington, Nebraska. William Reese was the son of Henry Reese and Anna Wohlers of Boomer Township. Dora Cohrs was the daughter of William Cohrs and Catharine Lena Gurke of rural Bennington, Nebraska.

The William Reese family lived on County Road J west of Boomer #5 and north of St. Johns Lutheran Church until moving to northeastern Hazel Dell Township in 1955. William and Dora Reese are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

**Henry Hans Rief and Minnie Wehrli** married in 1914. Henry Hans Rief was born in 1891 in Hazel Dell Township to Sievert Rief Sr. and his second wife, Emma Rief. Minnie Wehrli was born in 1894 in Iowa to Herman Wehrli and Margaret Eggerman.

The Henry Rief family moved from Council Bluffs in the mid 30s and were living on the Henry Wehrli farm (his in-laws) in Section 16  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles north of Boomer #5 on west side. Henry and Minnie Rief are buried in Walnut Hill Cemetery in Council Bluffs.

**Christena (Olsen) Smith** married Warren Smith in 1923. Christena Olsen was born in Boomer Township to Ole Christian Olsen and Caroline Peters. Warren Smith was born in Sharpsburg, Iowa.

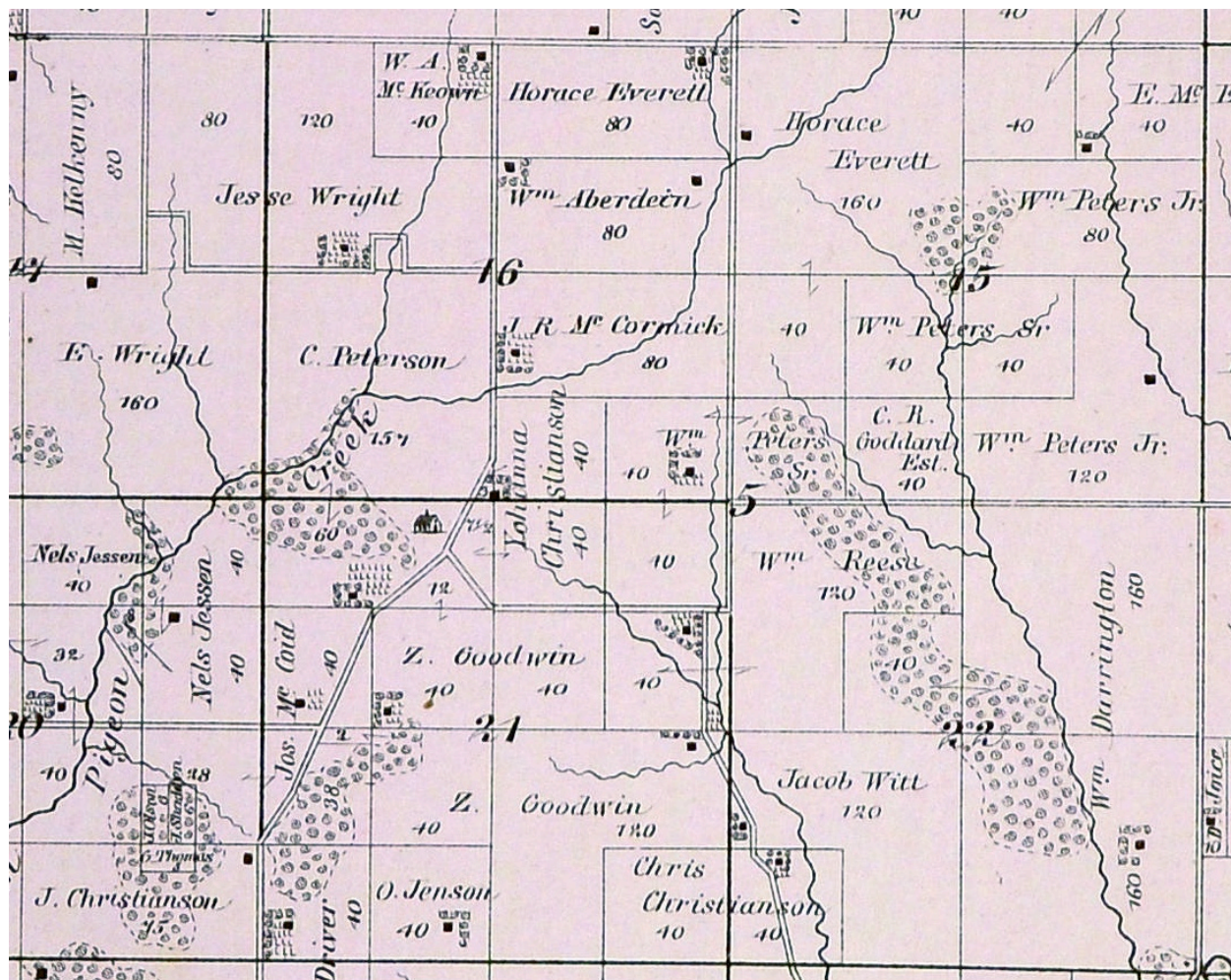
Christena and Warren Smith had three children. By 1935 Christena and her children were living with her brother-in-law and sister, Ray and Ethel Fulfs, first in the Boomer #5, moving to Boomer #8 in 1944. Christena (Olsen) Smith is buried in the Grange Cemetery. Warren Smith lived in Omaha and is buried in Hillcrest Cemetery in Omaha.

**Julius Witt and Lilly Wohlers** married in 1917. Julius Witt was born in Boomer Township to Jacob Witt and Margaret Reese. Lillie Wohlers was born in 1894 in Boomer Township to Wilhelm Wohlers and Mathilde Christians.

The Julius Witt family lived on the Jacob Witt home place  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles south of Boomer #5, on the west side of the road. Julius and Lilly Witt are buried in the Grange Cemetery.

## Boomer #5 Plats

The *Acknowledgments and Sources* section mentioned on page 1 gives the locations of the on-line Pottawattamie County Township plats that I know of. I have cropped the following Boomer #5 plats from these on-line township plats.

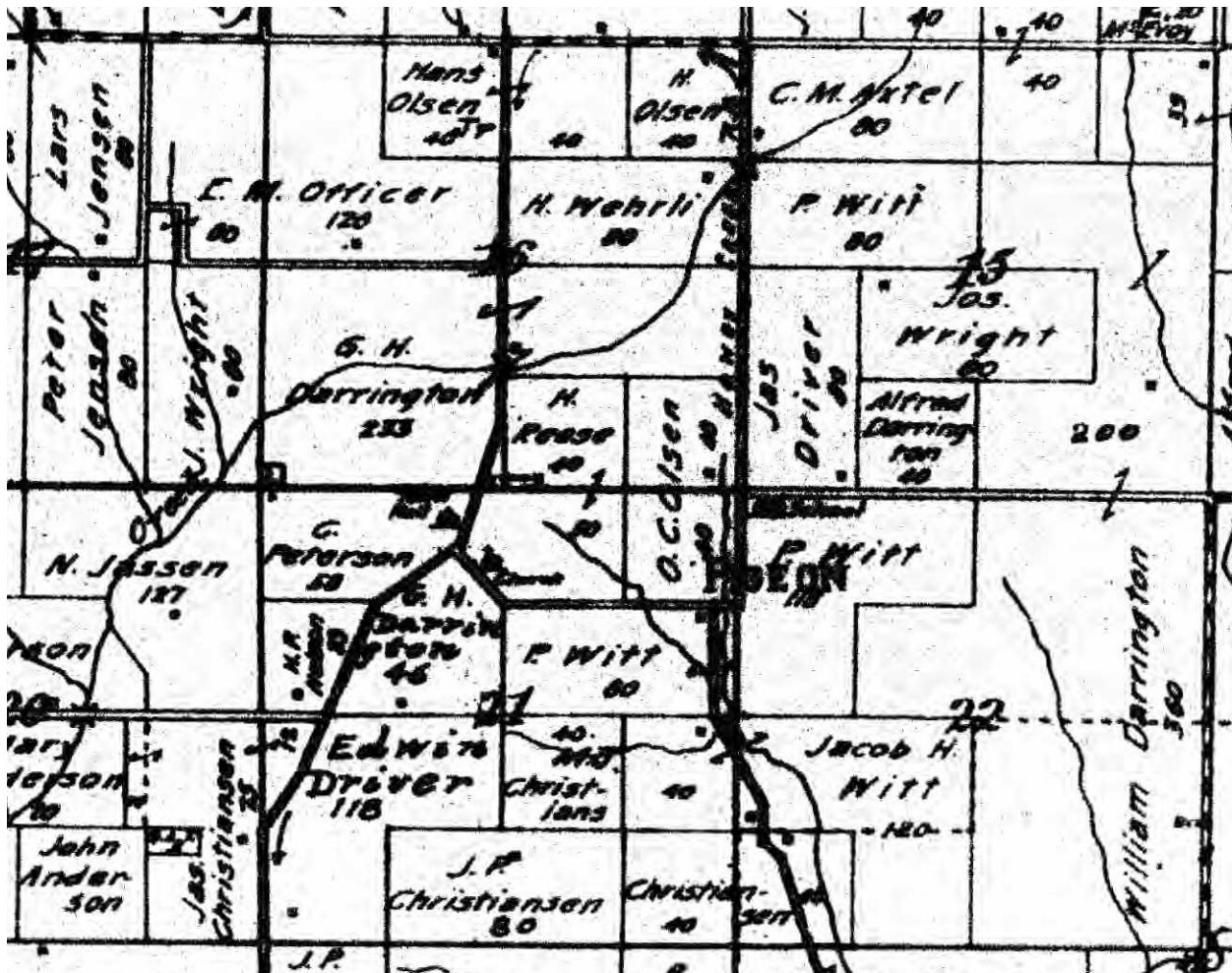


*Boomer Township #5 in 1885 (the brick school is in the northwest quarter of Section 21).*



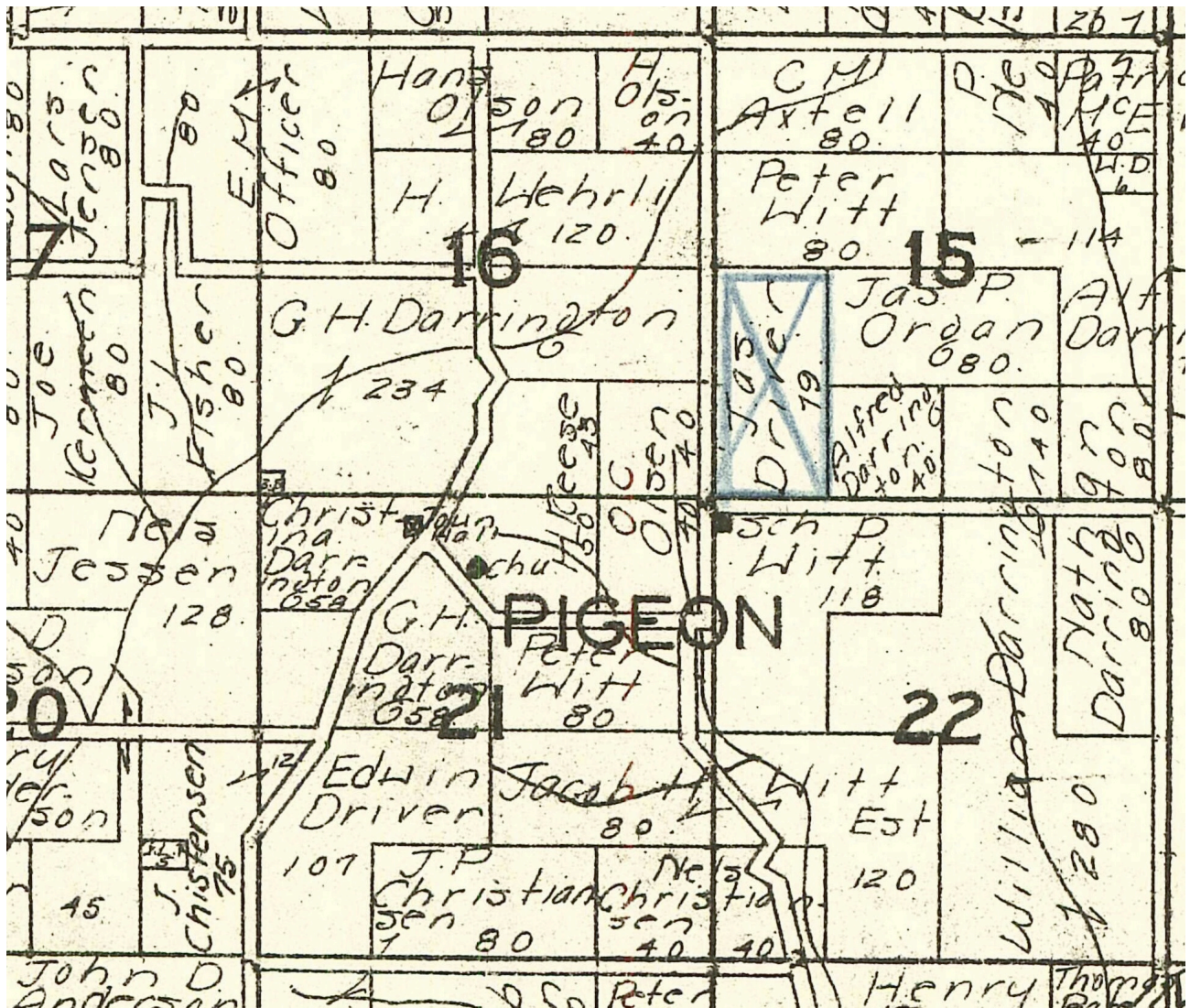


*Boomer Township #5 c. 1900 (the frame school is in the northwest corner of Section 22).*



Boomer Township #5 c. 1912  
(courtesy of ancestry.com)





*Boomer Township #5 c. 1919 or 1930*

This is taken from the Hixson plats of Pottawattamie County published in 1930 but the Hixson plats appear to be a redrawing of the plats in the 1919 Pottawattamie County atlas.