

(1) – Biographical Sketch - Gregers Marcus Poulsen Acton and Dorthe Marie "Mary" Nielsen

from *Immigration to Boomer Township from Dronninglund Parish*, Version 2
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Gregers Acton died a few years after immigrating in 1867 but his wife retained ownership of the Acton farm in Boomer Township for many years thereafter.

In Denmark:

Gregers Marcus Poulsen Acton was born in Gunderup Sogn, Aalborg Amt to Poul Jacob Achton, a bookkeeper, and Christiane Cathrine Gregersen Vinther. His parents both died when he was a teenager.

In the 1845 and 1850 censuses for Skæve Sogn, Hjørring Amt, Gregers Acton was a gardener and gamekeeper on the estate of Adolf Nicolai Winkel.

It appears that Gregers Acton had a child by a relationship with Anne Christensdatter. This child, Frederikke Caroline Kristine Christensen, was born in Torslev Sogn on 28 Jan 1849.

Dorthe Marie Nielsen was born in Flade Sogn, Hjørring Amt to Niels Jacobsen, a day laborer, and Inger Marie Pedersdatter. Her parents moved to Sæby in Hjørring Amt when she was a child.

In the 1850 census for Skæve Sogn, Hjørring Amt, Dorthe Marie Nielsen was a servant on the estate of Adolf Nicolai Winkel.

Gregers Acton and Dorthe Marie Nielsen married in Dronninglund Sogn in 1852.

In the 1860 census Mr. Acton, with name transcribed as Andreas Acton, was a Gaardmand (farmer) in Østerled Skoledistrikt in Dronninglund Sogn.

Immigration:

The Acton family emigrated too early to be included in the Danish Emigration Archives.

In 1867, Gregers Acton and Dorthe Marie Nielsen and their seven oldest children immigrated to Council Bluffs, Iowa. The Acton family brought with them Karen M. Jensen, later Mrs. Christian Bondo.

In the United States:

Gregers Acton bought his future Boomer Township farm on June 5, 1867. The Acton family may have delayed moving to this farm until 1868.

Karen M. Jensen, who emigrated with the Acton family in 1867, left the Acton household and married Christian Bondo on 5 May 1868. The Bondo family lived near the Acton farm until 1872, when the Bondo family moved about eight miles southeast to Hazel Dell Township. For more about the Christian Bondo family, see the appendix *When Christian Met Karen* in *Immigration to Boomer Township from Dronninglund Sogn*.

Gregers and Dorthe Marie's last child, Edith, was born in June 1868.

Gregers Acton died early in 1869 and was interred in the Reels Cemetery in Boomer Township. Fortunately, his sons were old enough to take on farming duties.

Gregers' widow, Mary Acton, married Lorenz Jensen in Pottawattamie County around 7 Jun 1869. The marriage probably was of short duration.

I can't find Mary Acton in the 1870 census. In the 1880 and 1885 censuses Mary Acton and some of her younger children were living on the Acton farm. In 1895 and 1900 Mary Acton was living with her son-in-law, Frank Levin, in Council Bluffs.

The Gregers Acton/Julius Schroder/Dale Schroder Farm:

Gregers Acton bought about 117 acres in Boomer Township from A. A. Hutchinson on June 5, 1867. (Alexander A. Hutchinson was a farmer in Crescent Township.)

The 37 acres of Acton land in Section 20 was later sold and was part of the Parley Lewis farm in 1885. Mary Acton, as she was known in the United States, retained ownership of the bulk of the farm, in Section 29, until her death. Mary Acton moved from Boomer Township to Council Bluffs between 1885 and 1895, where she lived with her oldest daughter until her death in 1905.

After Mary Acton's death, M. Jensen, probably Markor Jensen, and later J. D. Anderson owned the Acton farm. Julius Schroder bought the old Acton farm around 1930 and his son, Dale Schroder, was still living on this farm as of 2014.

The eight children of Gregers Marcus Poulsen Acton and Dorthie Marie "Mary" Nielsen

Gregers Marcus Poulsen Acton (20 May 1824 - 23 Feb 1869) & Dorthie Marie "Mary" Nielsen (12 Sep 1828 - 15 Jan 1905)

M. 6 Apr 1852, Dronninglund Sogn, Hjørring Amt, Denmark

Jacob C. Acton* (abt 1852 - 26 Nov 1925) & Olive Frances "Fannie" Kirkland (15 May 1859 -)

M. 12 Aug 1877, Rockford T., Pott. Co., IA

Jacob C. Acton* (abt 1852 - 26 Nov 1925) & Gertrude unknown (Jul 1875 -)

M. Abt 1895

Christian M. Acton (abt 1853 or Jun 1856 - 30 Oct 1930) & Mary Elizabeth Goodwin (Feb 1857 - 6 Sep 1944)

M. 26 Apr 1877, Pott. Co., IA

Caroline Christine Acton (26 Nov 1855 - 19 Jul 1928) & Frank R. Levin (16 Jul 1854 - 1934)

M. 3 Aug 1880, Pott. Co., IA

Nels Peter "Peter" Acton (abt 1 Jun 1858 - 9 May 1916) & Martha Jane McKeown (20 Feb 1861 - 24 Jan 1923)

M. 14 Apr 1878, Pott. Co., IA

Edward Ludwig Acton (bef 23 Apr 1860 -) & Maggie Grindle (abt 1863 -)

M. 1 Jul 1888, Pott. Co., IA

Cathrine Marie "Kate" Acton (abt Mar 1864 - aft Jan 1920) & William F. Shear (abt Apr 1857 - abt 31 Mar 1950)

M. Sep 1891, Omaha, Douglas Co., NE

Jennie Acton (May 1866 - aft 1940) & James Calder (abt 1856 -)

M. Mar 1912, Omaha, Douglas Co., NE

Edith Acton (Jun 1868 - 14 Nov 1906) & Thomas Rochford (Feb 1865 - 13 Nov 1914)

M. 22 Oct 1887, Omaha, Douglas Co., NE

The first seven children were born in Dronninglund Sogn. None remained in Boomer Township.

■ **Jacob C. Acton married Olive Frances "Fannie" Kirkland in 1877.**

Fannie Kirkland was the youngest of seven children of Samuel B. Kirkland, who died at the age of 41 while serving in the Union army during the Civil War.

Jacob and Fannie Acton divorced, and Jacob married Gertrude. Jacob lived in Omaha and Fremont, Nebraska where he was in the musical sales business in the early 1900s.

The one child of Jacob Acton and Fannie Kirkland

Jacob C. Acton (abt 1852 - 26 Nov 1925) & Olive Frances "Fannie" Kirkland (15 May 1859 -)
M. 12 Aug 1877, Rockford T., Pott. Co., IA
Olive Acton (abt 1879 -)

■ **Christian M. Acton married Mary Elizabeth Goodwin in 1877.**

Mary Goodwin was the daughter of Indiana natives Zadock Goodwin Sr. And Nancy Sigler. Zadock Goodwin Sr. lived in Boomer Township before moving to Alliance in western Nebraska in the late 1880s.

Christian Acton was a street railway motorman in Omaha.

The five children of Christian Acton and Mary Elizabeth Goodwin

Christian M. Acton (abt 1853 or Jun 1856 - 30 Oct 1930) & Mary Elizabeth Goodwin (Feb 1857 - 6 Sep 1944)
M. 26 Apr 1877, Pott. Co., IA
Orville E. Acton (Mar 1878 - 23 Oct 1905)
James Acton (17 Aug 1883 - 13 Jun 1927)
Florence Acton (Dec 1888 - 4 Sep 1954) & Carl W. Adolphson
Arthur Acton (11 Nov 1891 - 31 Dec 1977)
Harry Theodore "Teddy" Acton (abt 1901 - 8 Dec 1954) & Louisa unknown (abt 1903 -)

■ **Caroline Christine Acton married Frank R. Levin in 1880.**

Frank Levin, a Swedish native, was a cigar manufacturer in Council Bluffs.

The one child of Frank Levin and Caroline Acton

Frank R. Levin (16 Jul 1854 - 1934) & Caroline Christine Acton (26 Nov 1855 - 19 Jul 1928)
M. 3 Aug 1880, Pott. Co., IA
Oscar Acton Levin* (13 Nov 1888 - Jul 1974) & Ethel Thompson (1889 - 19 Jul 1949)
Oscar Acton Levin* (13 Nov 1888 - Jul 1974) & Rosalind D. Unknown

■ **Nels Peter "Peter" Acton married Martha Jane McKeown in 1878.**

Martha McKeown was one of the 21 children born to William McKeown, an early settler in Boomer Township in 1847.

Peter and Martha Acton lived in Hazel Dell and Boomer Townships before moving to the Norfolk, Nebraska area between 1905 and 1910.

The seven children of Peter Acton and Martha McKeown

Nels Peter "Peter" Acton (abt 1 Jun 1858 - 9 May 1916) & Martha Jane McKeown (20 Feb 1861 - 24 Jan 1923)
M. 14 Apr 1878, Pott. Co., IA
George Marcus "Mark" Acton (15 Jul 1879 - 1953) & Annie Christina Nelson (29 Apr 1879 - 21 Jun 1954)
M. 20 Feb 1901, Pott. Co., IA
Eliza Jane Acton (23 Jun 1881 - 7 Mar 1942) & Lewis William Nelson (18 Mar 1877 - 12 Jun 1952)
M. 3 Apr 1901, Honey Creek, Pott. Co., IA

David Edward "Edward" Acton (2 Jan 1883 - 9 Jun 1919)
Edith Elizabeth Acton (7 Feb 1885 - 23 Jan 1969) & James Peter Sanderson (4 Aug 1878 - 26 Feb 1969)
M. 18 Jan 1905, Council Bluffs, Pott. Co., IA
Clara Ellen Acton (Oct or 4 Jun 1888 - 14 Apr 1945) & Salathiel Cordon Dorf (abt 1887 - 2 Jul 1973)
M. 12 May 1912, Closter, Boone Co., NE
Mary Callista Acton (Oct 1890 - 4 Feb 1891)
Ernest Everett Acton (Dec 1899 - 4 Feb 1900)

Three of the older children of Peter and Martha Acton, namely Mark, Eliza Jane and Edith, married spouses from Boomer Township and thus have individual entries below. Mark and Eliza Jane married siblings, whose parents were Lars Peter Nelson and Martha Ellen Nathalia Swanson of Boomer Township, Section 33.

■ **George Marcus "Mark" Acton married Annie Christina Nelson in 1901.**

Mark and Annie Christina Acton lived in Nebraska.

The four known children of Mark Acton and Anna Christina Nelson

George Marcus "Mark" Acton (15 Jul 1879 - 1953) & Annie Christina Nelson (29 Apr 1879 - 21 Jun 1954)
M. 20 Feb 1901, Pott. Co., IA
Olive Acton (abt 1902 -)
Elmer Acton (11 Aug 1904 - Oct 1984) & Goldie unknown (abt 1903 -)
Roy W. Acton (9 Jan 1908 - 24 Sep 1981) & Goldie J. Hultquist (13 May 1907 - 24 May 1988)
M. 1 Jun 1928, Council Bluffs, Pott. Co., IA
Willie Milton Acton (30 Dec 1910 - 22 Jan 1911)
Dorothy Marie Acton (abt 1912 -) & Herbert Lloyd Olson (abt 1904 -)
M. 2 Jun 1930, Sioux City, Woodbury Co., IA
Evelyn Acton (abt 1915 -) & Paul Dalrymple (abt 1913 -)
M. 13 Jul 1935, Elk Pt., Union Co., SD
Laura Mae Acton (12 May 1918 - 13 Jun 2000) & unknown Chambers

■ **Eliza Jane Acton married Lewis William Nelson in 1901.**

Lewis and Eliza Jane Nelson lived in Nebraska.

The one known child of Lewis Nelson and Eliza Jane Acton

Lewis William Nelson (18 Mar 1877 - 12 Jun 1952) & Eliza Jane Acton (23 Jun 1881 - 7 Mar 1942)
M. 3 Apr 1901, Honey Creek, Pott. Co., IA
Lulu M. Nelson (abt 1905 -) & unknown Pedersen

■ **Edith Elizabeth Acton married James Peter Sanderson in 1905.**

James Peter Sanderson was the son of John Sanderson and Pauline Marie "Lena" (Jensen) Sanderson and the stepson of Mads Peter "Mace" Christiansen. See the *Christian Svendsen and Maren Madsdatter* sketch herein for additional information.

The nine children of James Peter Sanderson and Edith Elizabeth Acton

James Peter Sanderson (4 Aug 1878 - 26 Feb 1969) & Edith Elizabeth Acton (7 Feb 1885 - 23 Jan 1969)
M. 18 Jan 1905, Council Bluffs, Pott. Co., IA
Earl Lee Sanderson (24 Dec 1905 - 1 Mar 1996) & Nora Tranmer (23 Nov 1912 - 1 Nov 1995)
M. 29 Jul 1933, Ponca, Dixon Co., NE
Floyd Willard Sanderson (11 Sep 1907 - 24 Nov 2000)
Everett James Sanderson (26 Jul 1909 - 4 Jul 1961) & Agnes Ann Burke (3 Jun 1911 - 19 Mar 1962)
M. 27 Aug 1948, Bennington, Bennington Co., VT

Lester Stanley Sanderson (5 Sep 1911 - 17 Nov 1988) & Elizabeth Amy Paine (14 Aug 1918 - 21 Feb 2012)
 M. 20 Jul 1940, Albany, Renselaer Co., NY
 Darlene Marie "Dolly" Sanderson (19 Sep 1913 - 2 Jul 1993) & Walter Henry Dean (3 Oct 1911 - 7 Aug 1964)
 M. 2 Dec 1931, Neligh, Antelope Co., NE
 Darrel Raymond Sanderson (19 Sep 1915 - 24 Feb 1994) & Eleanor Margaret Morter (19 Apr 1926 - 11 Jan 2018)
 M. 16 May 1942, De Ridder, Beauregard Parish, LA
 Wayne Alvern Sanderson (10 Jan 1918 - 8 Jan 1987) & Doris Henrietta Morter (4 May 1927 -)
 M. 3 Mar 1946, Omaha, Douglas Co., NE
 Harold Eugene Sanderson* (9 May 1920 - 9 Feb 1995) & Cora Elizabeth Ensminger (3 Oct 1922 -)
 M. 26 Jun 1941, Pierce, Pierce Co., NE
 Harold Eugene Sanderson* (9 May 1920 - 9 Feb 1995) & Betty Lou Sonnenfelt
 M. 23 Dec 1971, Onawa, Monona Co., IA
 Lyle Kenneth Sanderson* (9 Apr 1922 - 30 May 2009) & Edna Mary Margaret Conway (6 Dec 1924 - 22 Mar 1985)
 Lyle Kenneth Sanderson* (9 Apr 1922 - 30 May 2009) & Eileen Conway (11 Sep 1923 - 17 Jun 2011)
 M. 1987

Peter and Martha Acton and three of their children, Edward, Mary Calista and Ernest, are interred in the Grange Cemetery in Boomer Township.

■ **Edward Ludwig Acton** married **Maggie Grindle** in 1888.

Edward Acton's given name sometimes appears as Ernest or Edmund. He was thought to be living in Springfield, Illinois in 1905. I have no information about children.

■ **Cathrine Marie "Kate" Acton** married **William F. Shear** in 1891.

William and Kate Shear lived in Omaha where he was a farmer and gardener and later a laborer in a meat packing plant.

The four children of William Shear and Kate Acton

William F. Shear (abt Apr 1857 - abt 31 Mar 1950) & Cathrine Marie "Kate" Acton (abt Mar 1864 - aft Jan 1920)
 M. Sep 1891, Omaha, Douglas Co., NE
 Modjesta Shear (abt Jun 1892 -)
 Morton C. Shear (8 Jun 1894 - abt 12 Mar 1972) & Mary K. Unknown (abt 1901 -)
 M. Abt 1920
 Howard C. Shear (abt 1923 -)
 Charles Shear (Apr 1896 - bef Apr 1910)
 Grace Shear (Jun 1898 -)

■ **Jennie Acton** married **James Calder** in 1912.

James and Jennie Calder had no children.

■ **Edith Acton** was born in Pottawattamie County and married **Thomas Rochford** in 1887.

Thomas and Edith Rochford lived in Omaha where he was a city employee.

The two known children of Thomas Rochford and Edith Acton

Thomas Rochford (Feb 1865 - 13 Nov 1914) & Edith Acton (Jun 1868 - 14 Nov 1906)
 M. 22 Oct 1887, Omaha, Douglas Co., NE

George Thomas Rochford (7 Aug 1890 -)
Dorothy M. Rochford (Mar 1894 -)

Acton family interment:

- Gregers and Mary Acton- Reels Cemetery in Boomer Township.
- Jacob Acton and Caroline (Acton) Levin – Walnut Hill Cemetery in Council Bluffs.
- Peter Acton - Grange Cemetery in Boomer Township.
- Christian M. Acton - Forest Lawn Cemetery in Omaha.
- Kate (Acton) Shear – Hillcrest Cemetery in Omaha.

End of the Gregers Marcus Poulsen Acton and Dorthie Marie Nielsen Sketch