

(2) – Jens Christian "James" Christensen and Maren "Mary" Christensen

from *Immigration to Boomer Township from Dronninglund Parish*, Version 2

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In Denmark:

Jens Christian "James" Christensen was born, perhaps in Dronninglund Sogn, to parents who are currently unknown.

In the 1860 Denmark census Jens Christian Christensen with age listed as 18 and birthplace as Dronninglund was a hired man working in the Gregers Acton household in Dronninglund Sogn.

Maren "Mary" Christensen was born in Ørsø, Dronninglund Sogn to Christen Andersen and Ane Katrine Pedersen. She was the sister of Mrs. Christian Peterson, an early settler in Boomer Township in 1868, and a cousin of Karen (Jensen) Bondo.

Jens Christian Christensen and Maren Christensen married in Skæve Sogn, Hjørring Amt on 2 Aug 1868.

Immigration:

Jens Christian and Maren Christensen and their three oldest children registered to immigrate to Council Bluffs from Skæve Sogn, Hjørring Amt on 10 May 1872. They traveled indirekte, meaning that they changed ships, which for Dronninglund emigrants was probably in England or Scotland. Also emigrating from Dronninglund at the time was a party that included Christen and Ane Skaksen.

In the United States:

By 1880 the Jens Christensen family was farming in Boomer Township, Section 20.

The Jens Christensen family was listed as charter members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Boomer Township, although they probably didn't remain as active members.

In Boomer Township, Jens/James Christensen lived a half mile west of my grandfather, Jens/James Christiansen. Since the Christensen and Christiansen surnames were often interchanged, my grandfather, who had no middle name, eventually took on the middle initial of "P." to try to avoid confusion.

For addition information, see my report *Kirsten Pedersen's Relatives and the Jens Christensen and Maren Christensen Family* report in *St. Paul's Boomer-Neola Early Families*.

Between 1900 and 1905 Jens and Maren Christensen turned over their farm to their son, Frank, and moved to 525 North 8th St. in Council Bluffs where they enjoyed a long retirement. Jens and Maren died in Council Bluffs.

The Jens Christian Christensen Farm:

The Jens Christensen farm in Boomer Township, Section 20 was just north of the Acton farm. Jens probably bought the farm before 1880.

Jens Christensen Americanized his given name to "James", as did my grandfather, Jens/James Christiansen, who lived to the southeast less than a mile away. Further,

many people did not distinguish between the surnames of "Christensen" and "Christiansen". To avoid confusion, my grandfather used a middle initial of "P."

By 1950, Paul Vorthmann, who moved to Boomer Township in 1944, owned the former Jens Christensen farm. The farm then became the residence of Ronald Vorthmann, Paul's son, and I believe is still owned by Ronald's widow in 2010.

The Five Children of Jens Christian Christensen and Maren Christensen

Jens Christian "James" Christensen (30 Apr 1843 - 4 May 1939) & Maren "Mary" Christensen (27 Feb 1831 - 7 Feb 1922)

m. 2 Aug 1868, Skæve Sogn, Hjørring Amt, Denmark

Peder Christen Andersen (30 Aug 1866 - bef 1880)

Christen Peter "Peter" Christensen* (13 Jan 1869 - aft 1945) & Dora Voss (9 Jun 1869 - 2 Feb 1904)

m. 5 Nov 1892, Council Bluffs, Pott. Co., IA

Christen Peter "Peter" Christensen* (13 Jan 1869 - aft 1945) & Rose unknown (abt 1868 - aft 1945)

Simon Peter Christensen (5 Jan 1872 - bef 1880)

Mary Christensen (aft 1872 - bef 1880)

Frank Christensen (17 Apr 1874 - 1942) & Hedwig J. "Hattie" Jurgens (May 1872 - 6 Oct 1938)

m. 8 Feb 1898, Council Bluffs, Pott. Co., IA

The first three children were born in Denmark and emigrated with their parents. The last two were born in Iowa. Three of the children died in childhood.

■ **Chris Christensen**

■ **Christen Peter "Peter" Christensen married Dora Voss in 1892.**

Dora Voss was born in Muscatine County, Iowa to German immigrants John Voss and Cathrine Dorothea Margrete Voss.

In the winter of 1904 while Peter was absent, Dora and their five children, the oldest around eleven years in age, died in a house fire in Council Bluffs.

Peter Christensen subsequently moved to Miami, Florida and eventually married **Rose**, an English native.

The five little children of Peter Christensen and Dora Voss

Christen Peter "Peter" Christensen (13 Jan 1869 - aft 1945) & Dora Voss (9 Jun 1869 - 2 Feb 1904)

m. 5 Nov 1892, Council Bluffs, Pott. Co., IA

Edna Christensen (abt 1893 - 2 Feb 1904)

Frank Christensen (abt 1895 - 2 Feb 1904)

Lila Christensen (abt 1898 - 2 Feb 1904)

James Christensen (abt 1901 - 2 Feb 1904)

Peter Christensen (abt Sep 1903 - 2 Feb 1904)

■ **Simon Peter Christensen.**

■ **Mary Christensen.**

■ **Frank Christensen married Hedwig J. "Hattie" Jurgens in 1898.**

Hattie Jurgens was the daughter of J. H. "Heinrich" Jurgens and Magdalena Christians, former Boomer Township residents who moved to Lagrange Township in Harrison County between 1895 and 1900.

Frank and Hattie Christensen farmed his parents' home place. Their three daughters are listed below.

The three children of Frank Christensen and Hattie Jurgens

Frank Christensen (17 Apr 1874 - 1942) & Hedwig J. "Hattie" Jurgens (May 1872 - 6 Oct 1938)

m. 8 Feb 1898, Council Bluffs, Pott. Co., IA

Marie M. Christensen (16 Mar 1899 - Jul 1984) & Bodilius Jensen (9 Feb 1895 - 3 Dec 1979)

m. 24 Mar 1920, Pott. Co., IA

Laura Edna Christensen* (16 Feb 1904 - Nov 1971) & Argyle Edison Ross (1902 - 1937)

m. 15 Feb 1928, Pott. Co., IA

Laura Edna Christensen* (16 Feb 1904 - Nov 1971) & John Henry Harrison Woodward (25 Dec 1897 - Sep 1963)

Elsie Lucile Christensen (2 Dec 1907 - 16 Oct 1992) & Eldred L. Prior (17 Jun 1910 - 24 Jan 1993)

m. 11 Feb 1931, bride's home, Pott. Co., IA

- **Marie M. Christensen married Bodilius Jensen in 1920.**

Bodilius Jensen was the son of Markor Martin Jensen and Ane Margrethe Pedersen of Council Bluffs who had lived in Boomer Township in 1905 and 1915.

Bodilius and Marie Jensen lived in the Council Bluffs area before retiring to Council Bluffs. They had six known children, two of whom died in infancy.

- **Laura Edna Christensen married Argyle Edison Ross in 1928.** Argyle Ross was born in Kansas to William N. and Myrtle E. Ross.

After Argyle Ross's death, Laura married **John Henry Harrison Woodward**.

John Woodward was the son of George A. Woodward and Rena L. Adams.

Laura (Christensen) Ross Woodward lived in the Council Bluffs area. She had no known children.

- **Elsie Lucille Christensen married Eldred L. Prior in 1931.**

Eldred Prior was the son of Herbert E. Prior and Hazel Gertrude Sheen of Garner Township.

Eldred and Elsie Prior lived near the Glendale area in Garner Township just east of Council Bluffs. They had two known children, both of whom died in infancy.

Jens Christensen Family Interment:

- Jens Christian and Maren Christensen and several of their children, including Frank, are interred in the Grange Cemetery in Boomer Township, as are all three of Frank's daughters.
- Peter Christensen's wife, Dora, and his five children are interred in Walnut Hill Cemetery in Council Bluffs.

End of the Jens Christian Christensen and Maren Christensen Sketch