

(5) – Thomas Christian Jespersen and Cathrine Madsdatter

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

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Parents of Martine Thomsen, Mrs. Jens Pedersen, of northwestern Boomer Township.

In Denmark:

Thomas Christian Jespersen was born in Dronninglund Sogn to Jesper Nielsen and Mette Jensdatter.

Cathrine Madsdatter was born in Dronninglund Sogn to Mads Andersen and Anne Margrethe Hansdatter.

Thomas Christian Jespersen and Cathrine Madsdatter married in 1849.

Evidence suggests that Thomas Jespersen and Cathrine Madsdatter were born and lived until they emigrated in or near Ørsø, a village about two miles northeast of the town of Dronninglund. (Other places mentioned are Skjellet By and Hønborgbro, locations in Dronninglund Sogn that I have been unable to locate.)

In 1850, Thomas Christian Jespersen and Cathrine Madsdatter and their first child were living with Cathrine's parents in Skjellet By.

In 1880, Thomas Christian Jespersen and Cathrine Madsdatter were living in Skjellet By.

Thomas Christian Jespersen and Cathrine Madsdatter had five known children, all born in Dronninglund Sogn, of whom four immigrated to the United States.

Thomas Christian Jespersen had a brother, **Niels Jespersen**, whose granddaughter, Anna Matilda Nielsen, married John Schroder and lived in Boomer Township. See the *Christen Skaksen and Ane Margrethe Christensdatter* report in *Immigration to Boomer Township from Dronninglund Parish* for more information.

Immigration:

Thomas Jespersen and Cathrine Madsdatter's daughter, Ane Margrethe Thomsen, registered to emigrate on 10 May 1872. At the time, she was living in Hellum Sogn northwest of Dronninglund. Ane Margrethe registered indirekte, with destination Racine, Wisconsin. Ane Margrethe registered by herself, and gave her age as 16. Several others from Hellum Sogn registered the same day but gave Omaha or various other points in Wisconsin as their destination.

Thomas and Cathrine's daughter, Martine Thomsen, registered to immigrate to Council Bluffs with her uncle and aunt, Christian and Maren Svendsen, on 7 May 1879. She was living in Ørsø, Dronninglund Sogn. They traveled indirekte.

Thomas Jespersen, his wife, Cathrine, and their youngest child, Christine registered to immigrate to Council Bluffs on 29 Mar 1884. At the time, they were living in Ørsø, Dronninglund Sogn. They emigrated on the ship *Island*.

Thomas and Cathrine's daughter, Mette Marie Thomsen, her husband, Jens Laurits Thomsen, and Jens and Mette Marie's four children registered to emigrate on 20 Mar 1888. At the time, they were living in Gudumlund in Gudum Sogn, Aalborg Amt. They

emigrated on the ship *Hekla*. Jens and Mette Marie and their oldest child gave a destination of New York. However, they presumably immigrated to Lamberton, Minnesota, as that is the destination recorded on the forms of the three younger children.

In the United States:

I have been unable to locate Thomas and Cathrine Jespersen in the 1885 Iowa census.

Thomas Jespersen died in Boomer Township, Pottawattamie County in 1893, according to family records. He is interred in the Grange Cemetery in Boomer Township.

In 1895, his widow, Cathrine, was living with her son-in-law and daughter, Peter and Christine Madsen, in Council Bluffs.

Christine Madsen died in 1898 and Cathrine (Madsdatter) Jespersen moved to Cottonwood County, Minnesota, where she spent the remainder of her life.

In 1900, Cathrine was living with Niels Hansen, a married 26-year-old butter maker, in Westbrook Township, Cottonwood County. In 1905, Cathrine was living with her son-in-law and daughter, Jens and Ane Margrethe Nelson, in Westbrook Township.

Cathrine died at the end of 1905 at the age of 79. I assume she died in Cottonwood County and is probably interred in Cottonwood County.

The five known children of Thomas Christian Jespersen and Cathrine Madsdatter

Thomas Christian Jespersen (31 Dec 1821 - 18 Sep 1893) & Cathrine Trine Madsdatter (6 Mar 1826 - 31 Dec 1905)

m. 31 Dec 1849, Dronninglund, Hjørring Amt, Denmark

Mette Marie "Marie" Thomsen (22 Nov 1849 - 1 Mar 1895) & Jens Laurits Thomsen (Mar 1848 -)

m. 16 Dec 1875, Gudum Sogn, Aalborg Amt, Denmark

Ane Margrethe "Margaret" Thomsen (14 Sep 1854 - 26 Jan 1936) & Jens Nelson (16 Mar 1852 - 5 Dec 1948)

m. 26 Oct 1878, Racine, Racine Co., WI

Mads Peter Thomsen (abt 27 May 1860 -)

Martine Thomsen (24 Aug 1862 - 9 Sep 1903) & Jens Pedersen (19 Oct 1853 - 21 May 1915)

m. 12 Mar 1884, Council Bluffs, Pott. Co., IA

Christine "Stine" Thomsen (25 Dec 1872 - 18 May 1898) & Peter C. Madsen (27 Nov 1871 - 29 Jan 1938)

m. 23 May 1895, Pott. Co., IA

The first two spent most of their lives in Cottonwood County, Minnesota. The third perhaps died as a child; I have no information. The fourth lived in Hazel Dell Township and then Boomer Township. The fifth lived in Council Bluffs but died as a young mother.

■ Mette Marie "Marie" Thomsen married Jens Laurits Thomsen in 1875.

Jens Laurits Thomsen was born in Hellum Sogn, Hjørring Amt, about ten miles northwest of Dronninglund.

After marrying, Jens and Mette Marie remained in Gudum Sogn, where their four children were born. Gudum is south of the Limfjord about 20 miles south of Dronninglund.

Jens and Mette Marie emigrated in 1888 with their four children and settled in southwestern Minnesota in Westbrook Township, Cottonwood County. Their farm

was near Mette Marie's brother-in-law and sister, Nels and Ane Margrethe Nelson. In the United States Jens used the surname "Thompson".

After Mette Marie died in 1895, Jens remained on their farm. Between 1900 and 1905 he married Pauline, but remained in Westbrook Township.

- **Ane Margrethe "Margaret" Thomsen** married **Jens Nelson**, a native of Maarekov, Herrested Sogn, Odense Amt, Denmark, in 1878.

Soon after marrying, Jens and Ane Margrethe Nelson moved to Westbrook Township in Cottonwood County, Minnesota, about 80 miles west of Mankato.

Jens and Ane Margrethe Nelson were farmers. They had five children and lived in Cottonwood County for the remainder of their lives.

- **Martine Thomsen** immigrated from Ørsø, Dronninglund Sogn, to Council Bluffs with her uncle and aunt, Christian and Maren Svendsen, in 1879.

Martine Thomsen married **Jens Pedersen** in 1884.

Jens Pedersen was born in Baadstedhede, Vrensted Sogn, Hjørring Amt, Denmark to Peder Pedersen and Inger Kjerstine Pedersdatter. Vrensted is about 25 miles northwest of Dronninglund.

In 1885 Jens Pedersen, his wife, Martine, and Martine's younger sister, Christine, were living on a farm in southwestern Hazel Dell Township, in Section 29.

Around 1894 the Jens Pedersen family moved to a farm in northwestern Boomer Township, in Section 5. As of 2009 a portion of this farm was still owned by a descendant.

The Jens Pedersen Farm:

In 1885 Joseph Deur, an early settler in Boomer Township who had arrived around 1859, owned what later became the Jens Pedersen farm, in Boomer Township, Section 5.

Around 1894 Jens Pedersen bought the bulk of the Joseph Deur farm, consisting of around 353 acres. By 1913 he had sold the southwest portion of his farm, consisting of 80 acres, to my great-uncle, N. C. A. Johnson.

By 1919, after Jens Pedersen's death, the Jens Pedersen farm had been divided into three portions, owned respectively by his children Harry J. Peterson, Nora (Pedersen) Bertelsen and her husband, Nels C. Bertelsen, and Elmer Peterson.

By 1935 William Wohlers owned Harry J. Peterson's farm.

By 1967 Donald Ward, married to a granddaughter of Jens Pedersen, owned the previous Elmer Peterson farm.

By 1984 Donald Ward also owned the previous Nels C. and Nora Bertelsen farm.

In 2009, the Donald Ward trust still owns 142 acres of the old Jens Pedersen farm.

The nine children of Jens Pedersen and Martine Thomsen

Jens Pedersen (19 Oct 1853 - 21 May 1915) & Martine Thomsen (24 Aug 1862 - 9 Sep 1903)

m. 12 Mar 1884, Council Bluffs, Pott. Co., IA
 Peter William Pedersen (19 Feb 1885 - 12 Dec 1918) & Dorothy "Dora" Thompson (24 Feb 1892 - 19 Nov 1961)
 m. 10 Apr 1913, Pott. Co., IA
 Charles Pedersen (abt Mar 1887 - Oct 1971?)
 Harry James Peterson* (17 Apr 1889 - 26 Oct 1948) & Ethel Emma Thomas (16 Jan 1892 - 15 Nov 1918)
 m. 19 Dec 1912, Pott. Co., IA
 Harry James Peterson* (17 Apr 1889 - 26 Oct 1948) & Courtney Caple (15 Nov 1902 - Aug 1985)
 m. abt 1922
 Elnora Christine "Nora" Pedersen (27 May 1891 - 17 or 19 Jul 1970) & Nels Christian Bertelsen (17 Feb 1887 - 15 or 16 Oct 1930)
 m. 22 Feb 1911, friend's home, Council Bluffs, Pott. Co., IA
 Elmer Peterson (5 Sep 1893 - 15 Jan 1957) & Mabel Claire Thomas (7 Apr 1893 - 21 or 27 Feb 1948)
 m. 10 Jun 1918, Port Townsend, Jefferson Co., WA
 Minnie Catherine Pedersen (4 Dec 1895 - 28 May 1937)
 Agnes Martine Pedersen (1 Mar 1898 - 27 Feb 1935) & Donald W. Leverton (2 May 1896 - Aug 1954)
 m. abt 1922, Denver, Denver Co., CO
 Esther Stella Pedersen (28 Nov 1900 - 16 Jun 1904)
 Lillian Ellen Pedersen (4 Mar 1903 - 2 Jan 1983) & Glenn John Muller (6 Sep 1902 - 5 Jul 1968)
 m. 26 Nov 1924

Their sons, Harry and Elmer, generally used the spelling "Peterson".

Two of their sons, Peter and Elmer, married sisters, Ethel and Mabel Thomas, the daughters of Joseph Thomas and Elizabeth "Lizzie" Peterson of Boomer Township. Joseph and Lizzie Thomas lived on the old Drake place in Boomer Township, Section 31, just north of the farm of Lizzie's parents, Peter and Rachel Peterson. You can read about the Thomas / Peter Peterson history in *Two Families From Boomer Township*, available at the Pottawattamie County Genealogical Society.

■ **Peter William Pedersen** married **Dorothy "Dora" Thompson** in 1913.

Dora Thompson was the daughter of Chris Thompson, a widower, who lived in Boomer Township, Section 8.

Peter Pedersen died young and Dora remarried Otto Christensen.

Peter and Dora Pedersen had one child, Helen, and Dora and Otto Christensen had one child, Kenneth.

■ **Charles "Charley" Pedersen** moved to California after 1910 and lost touch with the family.

■ **Harry James Peterson** married **Ethel Emma Thomas** in 1913

Harry and Ethel Peterson had two sons, Earl and Glen, before Ethel's early death during the 1918 influenza epidemic.

After Ethel died, Harry Peterson took their children and moved to Denver. Here he met and married **Courtney Caple**, a native of Washington state. Harry and Courtney had two sons, Duane and Courtland. Harry later became a rancher in Snow, Oklahoma. Harry died in east Texas.

■ **Elinor Christine "Nora" Pedersen** married **Nels Christian Bertelsen** in 1911.

Nels Bertelsen was born in Varde, Ribe Amt, Denmark to Jens Bertelsen and Anne Katrine Tofte. Varde is about 10 miles north of Esbjerg in southwestern Denmark. The Jens Bertelsen family emigrated in 1890 and settled in Boomer Township, Section 18.

Nels and Nora Bertelsen owned and farmed a portion of the Jens Pedersen home place in Boomer Township, Section 5. The Nels and Nora Bertelsen portion was 80 acres along the county line in the north part of Section 5.

The three children of Nels and Nora Bertelsen, one of whom died as a baby, are listed below.

Nels Christian Bertelsen (17 Feb 1887 - 15 or 16 Oct 1930) & Elnora Christine "Nora" Pedersen (27 May 1891 - 17 or 19 Jul 1970)

m. 22 Feb 1911, friend's home, Council Bluffs, Pott. Co., IA

Esther Eleanor Bertelsen (6 Oct 1912 - 16 Jan 2009) & John Frederick "Jack" Bolliger (18 Feb 1914 - 11 Mar 2010)

m. 24 Jun 1943

Edna Catherine Bertelsen (2 Jun 1917 - 1918)

Ethel Vivian Bertelsen (7 Jun 1920 -) & Donald Richard Ward (15 May 1915 - 9 Feb 2004)

m. 27 Jan 1945, Hiawatha, Brown Co., KS

- **Esther Eleanor Bertelsen** married **John Frederick "Jack" Bolliger** in 1943.

Jack Bolliger was the son of Fred Bolliger and Agnes Tamisiea who farmed in the Beebeetown area east of Missouri Valley.

Jack and Esther Bolliger lived in the Beebeetown area and moved to Missouri Valley at an unknown date.

- **Edna Catherine Bertelsen** died during the influenza epidemic of 1918.
- **Ethel Vivian Bertelsen** married **Donald Richard Ward** in 1945.

Donald Ward was the son of Willard Richard Ward and Nellie Pearl Stevenson of Boomer Township, Section 23.

Ethel (Bertelsen) Ward was a schoolteacher. She was my teacher at Boomer #8, a one-room rural school, in 1946-1947.

Donald and Ethel Ward took over the farm of Ethel's parents in Boomer Township, Section 5. Sometime between 1950 and 1967 Don Ward also bought the farm of Ethel's uncle, Elmer Peterson, just to the east. A portion of the Don and Ethel Ward farm may have been over the county line in Harrison County.

In 1959, the United States Air Force constructed an Atlas D intercontinental missile site, with three missile pads just to the north of the Don and Ethel Ward farmstead. The site was deactivated around 1964. (RAC: I believe the site may have been in Section 32 of Lagrange Township, Harrison County which is just north of Section 5 of Boomer Township.)

Donald and Ethel Ward moved to Missouri Valley at an unknown date.

- **Elmer Peterson** served in World War I. Elmer married **Mabel Claire Thomas** in 1918.

Around 1920, Elmer Peterson bought 80 acres of the Jens Pedersen home place containing the farmstead in Boomer Township, Section 5. After Mabel died in 1948, Elmer continued to farm until 1951 when he retired. The Elmer Peterson farm was sold to his niece's husband, Donald Ward.

Elmer and Mabel Peterson had five children, Dale J., Dorothy, Donald, Jack and Mary Ann.

- **Minnie Catherine Pedersen** never married. She was an attorney, living in Los Angeles in 1929 and in New York City in 1930.

- **Agnes Martine Pedersen** moved to Denver, where she married **Donald W. Leverton**, an Indiana native.

Donald and Agnes Leverton probably did not have children.

- **Esther Stella Pedersen** died as a toddler from scarlet fever.

- **Lillian Ellen Pedersen** was a baby when her mother died. Cousins of her mother who lived nearby, Mary and Martinus Skaksen, cared for her.

Lillian Pedersen married **Glenn John Muller** in 1924. Glenn Muller had lived in Missouri Valley, Iowa as a teenager.

Glenn and Lillian Muller lived in Omaha, where Glenn was a dentist. Glenn and Lillian Muller had two daughters, Suzanne and Judith.

Jens and Martine Pedersen and all their children except for Charles and Lillian are interred in the Grange Cemetery in Boomer Township.

Jens Pedersen's older brother, **Christen Peterson** married **Severine Nielsine "Signe" Jensen**, who was born in Skæve Sogn, Hjørring Amt, Denmark to Jens Christian Sorensen Kjarsgaard and Bodil Marie Hansdatter. Skæve Kirke is about ten miles north of Dronninglund.

Christen Peterson was a dealer in meat in Council Bluffs. Christen and Signe Peterson, some of their children, and some of her siblings, were all Boomer Township residents at one time. Around 1900 Christen Pedersen acquired land in Boomer Township, Section 19, which by 1919 he had expanded to a farm of about 250 acres. As of 2011, his descendants may still own some of this farm.

The seven children of Christen Peterson and Signe Jensen

Christen Peterson (9 May 1849 - 8 Sep 1939) & Severine Nielsine "Signe" Jensen (7 May 1856 - 5 Feb 1948)

m. Denmark

Frederick Peterson (22 Jan 1877 - 6 Jul 1941)

Frieda Christine Peterson (18 Dec 1883 - 6 May 1967) & John David "J. D." Anderson (abt Jul 1884 - abt 29 Jun 1967)

m. 18 Dec 1906, bride's home, Boomer T., Pott. Co., IA

Walter Peterson (31 Aug 1888 - 14 Dec 1953) & Hazel Grace Anderson (10 Jul 1889 - 9 Dec 1980)

m. 21 Jun 1911, Pott. Co., IA

Mark Ernest Peterson (21 or 23 Jan 1890 - 1 Apr 1941) & Mary Sophie Bertelsen (28 Mar 1895 - 7 Jul 1954)

m. 26 Nov 1913, Pott. Co., IA

Dorothy "Dottie" Peterson (15 Aug 1892 - 1987) & C. June Arnold (- 1956)

James H. Peterson (23 Nov 1897 - 17 Dec 1918)

Lillian Bedelia Peterson (7 Nov 1902 - 16 Oct 1990) & Roy Peter Knott (1897 - 29 Jul 1984)
m. 2 Sep 1925

Christen and Signe Peterson's children, Frieda and Walter, married siblings, the children of John Anderson of Boomer Township, Section 20. Christian and Signe's son, Mark, married Mary Bertelsen, the daughter of Jens and Anna Bertelsen of Boomer Township, Section 17.

As of 2011, J. D. and Frieda Anderson's grandson, Jay, is still living in Boomer Township, Section 32.

For more about the relatives of Severine Nielsine "Signe" (Jensen) Peterson, see the family history *Book of Remembrance for the Jensens and McCarthys and Allied Families* by Roger J. Jensen, available at the Pottawattamie County Genealogy Society.

■ **Christine "Stine" Thomsen**, the youngest known child of Thomas Christian Jespersen and Cathrine Madsdatter, emigrated with her parents in 1884.

In 1885 Christine Thomsen, age 12, was living with her brother-in-law and sister, Jens and Martine Pedersen, in Hazel Dell Township, Section 29.

Christine married **Peter C. Madsen** in 1895.

Peter Madsen was born in Denmark to Jens C. Madsen and Anna M. Benson, a native of Sweden.

In the 1895 Iowa census, Peter and Christine Madsen and her widowed mother, Trena Jespersen, age 68, were living in Council Bluffs.

Christine died soon after the birth of her second child.

The two children of Peter and Christine Madsen

Peter C. Madsen (27 Nov 1871 - 29 Jan 1938) & Christine "Stine" Thomsen (25 Dec 1872 - 18 May 1898)
m. 23 May 1895, Pott. Co., IA

James C. Madsen (2 Mar 1896 - 10 Aug 1897)

Jennie M. Madsen (Mar 1898 - 1988) & Elmer T. Hansen (24 Feb 1900 - 21 May 1957)

m. 25 Aug 1944, Council Bluffs, Pott. Co., IA

■ Jennie M. Madsen was raised by her grandparents Madsen, and remained in Council Bluffs until 1944. Jennie Madsen married Elmer T. Hansen of Westbrook Township, Cottonwood County, Minnesota in 1944, and then moved to Minnesota.

Peter and Christine Madsen and their young son, James, are interred in Walnut Hill Cemetery in Council Bluffs.

Jespersen Family Interment:

- Thomas Christian Jespersen is interred in the Grange Cemetery in Boomer Township, as is his daughter, Martine (Thomsen) Pedersen.
- His wife, Cathrine Madsdatter, and two of their children died in Cottonwood County, Minnesota, so may be interred there.
- Their youngest daughter, Christine (Thomsen) Madsen, is interred in Walnut Hill Cemetery in Council Bluffs.

End of the Thomas Christian Jespersen and Cathrine Madsdatter Sketch