

(8) – Jens Christian Skaksen and Marte Marie "Mary" Madsdatter

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

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Their oldest child was the first wife of Peter Torgesen Christiansen of Boomer Township.

In Denmark:

Jens Christian Skaksen the seventh of eight known children of Skak Nielsen and Johanne Marie Christensdatter, was born in Dronninglund Sogn.

Marte Marie Madsdatter the third of six known children of Mads Andersen and Anne Margrethe Hansdatter, was born in Hønborgbro, Dronninglund Sogn.

Jens Christian Skaksen and Marte Marie Madsdatter married in 1847.

In the 1850 Denmark census, Jens, Marie and their oldest child were living with his brother, Niels, in Bollehede, Dronninglund Sogn. In the 1860 census, Jens was a smith living in Hjallerup school district in Dronninglund Sogn.

Immigration:

Jens Christian and Marie Skaksen and their five surviving children registered to immigrate to Council Bluffs on 17 May 1871. At that time, they were living in Skæve Sogn, Hjørring Amt. They traveled indirekte, meaning that they probably changed ships in England or Scotland. The party included Martha Marie's soon-to-be husband, Peter Torgesen Christiansen, and Martha and Peter's first child, Andrew Christian Christiansen.

In the United States:

In 1880 Jens and Mary Skaksen and their son, Skak, were living on their farm in Boomer Township. In 1885 and again in 1900 Mary, now a widow, was living with her son, Martinus, on their Boomer Township farm. I haven't located Mary Skaksen in the 1895 Iowa census.

The Jens Christian Skaksen Farm:

Jens Christian Skaksen died in 1885, perhaps before the 1885 Pottawattamie County plats were produced. In the 1885 Boomer Township plat, Mary Skaksen owned 40 acres in Boomer Township, Section 4, on which the Skaksen family lived and another 40 acres of prairie land further east in Section 2. By 1902 the prairie land was part of the farm of Peter Torgesen Christiansen's cousin, Axel Christensen, and Mary Skaksen owned 40 acres in Section 2 closer to the home place. The Skaksen land was sold between 1913 and 1919.

The six known children of Jens Christian Skaksen and Marte Marie Madsdatter

Jens Christian Skaksen (bef 16 Aug 1818 - 1885) & Marte Marie "Marie" Madsdatter (29 Oct 1820 - 1903)

m. 9 Apr 1847, Dronninglund Sogn, Hjørring Amt, Denmark

Martha Marie Skaksen (19 Jul 1849 - 1872) & Peter Torgesen Christiansen (8 May 1849 - 25 Dec 1922)

m. abt 19 Jun 1871, Pott. Co., IA
infant Skaksen (1852 - 1852)
Karen Marie Skaksen (22 Sep 1853 - 11 Jun 1909) & Christian "Chris" Johnson (8 Aug 1850 - 15 Sep 1919)
m. abt 1873
Mette Margrethe "Gertrude" Skaksen (13 Feb 1857 - 14 Jul 1928)
Ane Johanne "Hannah" Skaksen (7/16 Mar 1860 - 7 Feb 1907) & John Olson (10 Jul 1856 - 28 Jun 1934)
m. 8 Apr 1884, Council Bluffs, Pott. Co., IA
Skak Martinus "Martinus" Skaksen (5 May 1863 - 10 Aug 1937) & Mary C. Jorgensen (25 Oct 1873 - 25 Jul 1927)
m. 30 Dec 1891, Council Bluffs, Pott. Co., IA

Although the children used the patronymic surname "Jensen" in Denmark, after emigrating they generally used "Skaksen".

■ **Martha Marie Skaksen** immigrated with her parents, siblings, her infant son, and her future husband.

Martha Marie Skaksen married **Peter Torgesen Christiansen** in Pottawattamie County in 1871. She died the following year. In the 1880 census their daughter, Tina Christiansen, age 8, was enumerated both as living with her Skaksen grandparents and as living with her uncle and aunt, Chris and Karen Marie Johnson, in Council Bluffs.

Peter Torgesen Christiansen (8 May 1849 - 25 Dec 1922) & Martha Marie Skaksen (19 Jul 1849 - 1872)
m. abt 19 Jun 1871, Pott. Co., IA
Andrew Christian "Chris" Christiansen (22 Mar 1870 - 21 Feb 1948) & Trine Marie Jorgensen (5 Sep 1869 - 29 Oct 1960)
m. 27 Oct 1893, Boomer T., Pott. Co., IA
Tena Marie Christiansen (14 Aug 1872 - 5 May 1955) & William Price Jr. (10 Mar 1868 - 27 Jan 1912)
m. 16 May 1894, Boomer T., Pott. Co., IA

Peter Torgesen Christiansen farmed in Boomer Township, Section 4. See the *Peter Torgesen Christiansen* report in *Immigration to Boomer Township from Dronninglund Parish* for additional information.

■ **Karen Marie Jensen** was not included in some family history I was given twenty years ago. She married Christian "Chris" Johnson about 1873 and lived in Council Bluffs, where Chris worked as a shoemaker, grocer, and proprietor of a stationery store. They had three children. The following list includes the known grandchildren.

Christian "Chris" Johnson (8 Aug 1850 - 15 Sep 1919) & Karen Marie Skaksen (22 Sep 1853 - 11 Jun 1909)
m. abt 1873
James C. Johnson* (Sep 1874 -) & Minnie Bergen (Dec 1877 -)
m. 8 Jun 1898, Council Bluffs, Pott. Co., IA
James C. Johnson* (Sep 1874 -) & Minnie C. Madsen (1880 - 1951)
m. abt 1907
Martha M. Johnson* (Jun 1876 - 7 Jan 1947) & Charles William Jones (13 Mar 1875 - 13 Mar 1918)
m. abt 1897
Myrle Jones (20 Nov 1898 - Apr 1987) & Leo Moran (7 Dec 1895 - 12 Oct 1939)
m. 1 Dec 1917
Warren Leslie Jones (29 Aug 1900 - 12 Dec 1956) & Elizabeth Lydia Grafstein (5 Jul 1904 - 26 May 1974)
m. abt 1922
Earl William Jones (14 Nov 1903 - 29 Apr 1994) & Margaret Catherine Hart (15 Oct 1904 - 19 Feb 2001)
m. 17/21 Mar 1925, Glenwood, Mills Co., IA
Martha M. Johnson* (Jun 1876 - 7 Jan 1947) & James Elbert Medley (10 Mar 1873 - 13 Mar 1943)

Jack Elbert Medley (6 Nov 1924 - 26 Jan 2009) & Colleen Mae McAvoy (21 Jan 1926 - 10 Jul 1985)
m. 7 Apr 1945, Hermosa Beach, Los Angeles Co., CA
Ella Marie Johnson (Apr 1880 - 22 Dec 1953) & William H. Ellam (1881 - 28 Jul 1928)

Christian and Karen Marie Johnson are interred in the Fairview Cemetery in Council Bluffs.

- **Mette Margrethe "Gertrude" Skaksen** never married and suffered from mental illness. In the 1895 Iowa census, she was enumerated both in Council Bluffs and at the state hospital in Clarinda, Iowa. In 1900, 1905, 1910, 1915 and 1920 she was living at St. Bernard's Hospital in Council Bluffs. She died at the state hospital in Clarinda.

- **Ane Johanne "Hannah" Skaksen** married **John Olson** in Council Bluffs in 1884.

John Olson immigrated from Denmark around 1876. After working on the railroad, he became a grocer in Council Bluffs. He lived at 910 Avenue B in Council Bluffs for many years.

John and Hannah Olson had eight children, two of whom died before reaching adulthood. The following list includes some of their grandchildren.

John Olson (10 Jul 1856 - 28 Jun 1934) & Ane Johanne "Hannah" Skaksen (7/16 Mar 1860 - 7 Feb 1907)
m. 8 Apr 1884, Council Bluffs, Pott. Co., IA
Ella May Olson (18 Jun 1886 - 15 Aug 1969) & James M. Jensen (10 May 1869 - 1963)
m. 25 Sep 1921, Council Bluffs, Pott. Co., IA
Betty A. Jensen (abt 1923 -)
Lois N. Jensen (15 Apr 1925 - 26 Dec 1996)
Amos Chris Olson (7 Mar 1888 - 24 Jan 1942) & Irene Louise Momsen (23/28 Jan 1898 -)
m. 30 Jun 1922, Council Bluffs, Pott. Co., IA
Clarence E. Olson (? 17 Jul 1891 - 30 Jul 1894)
Louis Alfred Olson (17 Jul 1891 - 20 Jul 1972) & Elsie Christine Sorensen (17 Oct 1891 - 2 Jan 1983)
m. 20 Oct 1919, Council Bluffs, Pott. Co., IA
Marjorie Ellen Olson (23 Sep 1921 - 22 Mar 1936)
Clara E. Olson (Jul 1895 -)
Esther Katherine Olson (18 Feb 1898 - 20 Oct 1988) & Herman Zilg Hoyer (30 Jul 1896 - Sep 1987)
m. 9 Jun 1923, Missouri Valley, Harrison Co., IA
Ethel Jenny/Jane Olson (18 Feb 1898 - 10 Sep 1978) & Dale Thurston Smith (18 Mar 1900 - 11 Jan 1975)
m. 31 Mar 1923, Council Bluffs, Pott. Co., IA
Bertha Christine Olson (abt 1901 - 23 Mar 1901)

John and Hannah Olson are interred in Fairview Cemetery in Council Bluffs.

- **Skak Martinus "Martinus" Skaksen** married **Mary C. Jorgensen** in 1891.

Martinus Skaksen lived in Boomer Township on his parents' home place in Section 4, selling the Skaksen farm between 1915 and 1919. He may have lived in California later.

Skak Martinus "Martinus" Skaksen (5 May 1863 - 10 Aug 1937) & Mary C. Jorgensen (25 Oct 1873 - 25 Jul 1927)
m. 30 Dec 1891, Council Bluffs, Pott. Co., IA
Mamie A. Skaksen (Apr 1893 -) & Charles Duncan (30 Jul 1889 - Nov 1981)
m. 21 Oct 1914, Pott. Co., IA
Eugene C. Duncan (abt 1916 -)
Glen L. Duncan (abt 1917 -)
Virginia M. Duncan (abt 1920 -)

Donald G. Duncan (abt 1923 -)
Ellen M. Duncan (abt Jun 1926 -)
Mary J. Duncan (abt Dec 1928 -)
Shirley L. Duncan (abt Feb 1930 -)
William Duncan (aft 1930 -)

The one child of Martinus and Mary Skaksen is listed below.

■ **Mamie A. Skaksen** married **Charles Duncan** in 1914.

Charles Duncan was the son of Israel Duncan and Jane Pierce, Kentucky natives who lived in Boomer Township before moving to Lagrange Township in Harrison County between 1900 and 1905.

Charles Duncan farmed in Lagrange Township. Some members of the Charles Duncan family moved to Sac City, Iowa.

Jens Christian Skaksen Family Internment:

- Jens Christian and Mary Skaksen are interred in the Grange Cemetery in Boomer Township, as are their children, Gertrude and Martinus.
- Their daughters, Karen Marie (Skaksen) Johnson and Hannah (Skaksen) Olson, are interred in Fairview Cemetery in Council Bluffs.
- The 1872 burial location of their oldest child, Martha (Skaksen) Christiansen, is unknown.

End of the Jens Christian Skaksen and Marte Marie "Mary" Madsdatter Sketch