

Christiansen Volume, Chapter 1 - Christiansen Family Overview

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My Christiansen great-grandparents, **Christian Christiansen and Ane Kirstine "Anna" Jensen**, immigrated from the Stevens peninsula south of Copenhagen to Pottawattamie County, Iowa in 1869. They brought with them their older son, Jens, (my grandfather) and Christian's son, Christen Ole, from his first marriage. In Pottawattamie County their younger son, Nels, was born.

This is their story, and the story of the three sons and the sons' descendants. In is also the story of their older relatives in Denmark and the United States, especially of Anna's Aunt Mary in Council Bluffs and Anna's brothers, Jacob and Ole Jensen.

The *Christiansen* volume has seven chapters, each in a separate file.

- Chapter 1 is a summary. Most of the material therein is amplified in later chapters.
- Chapter 2 covers the lives of my great-grandparents, Christian and Anna Christiansen.

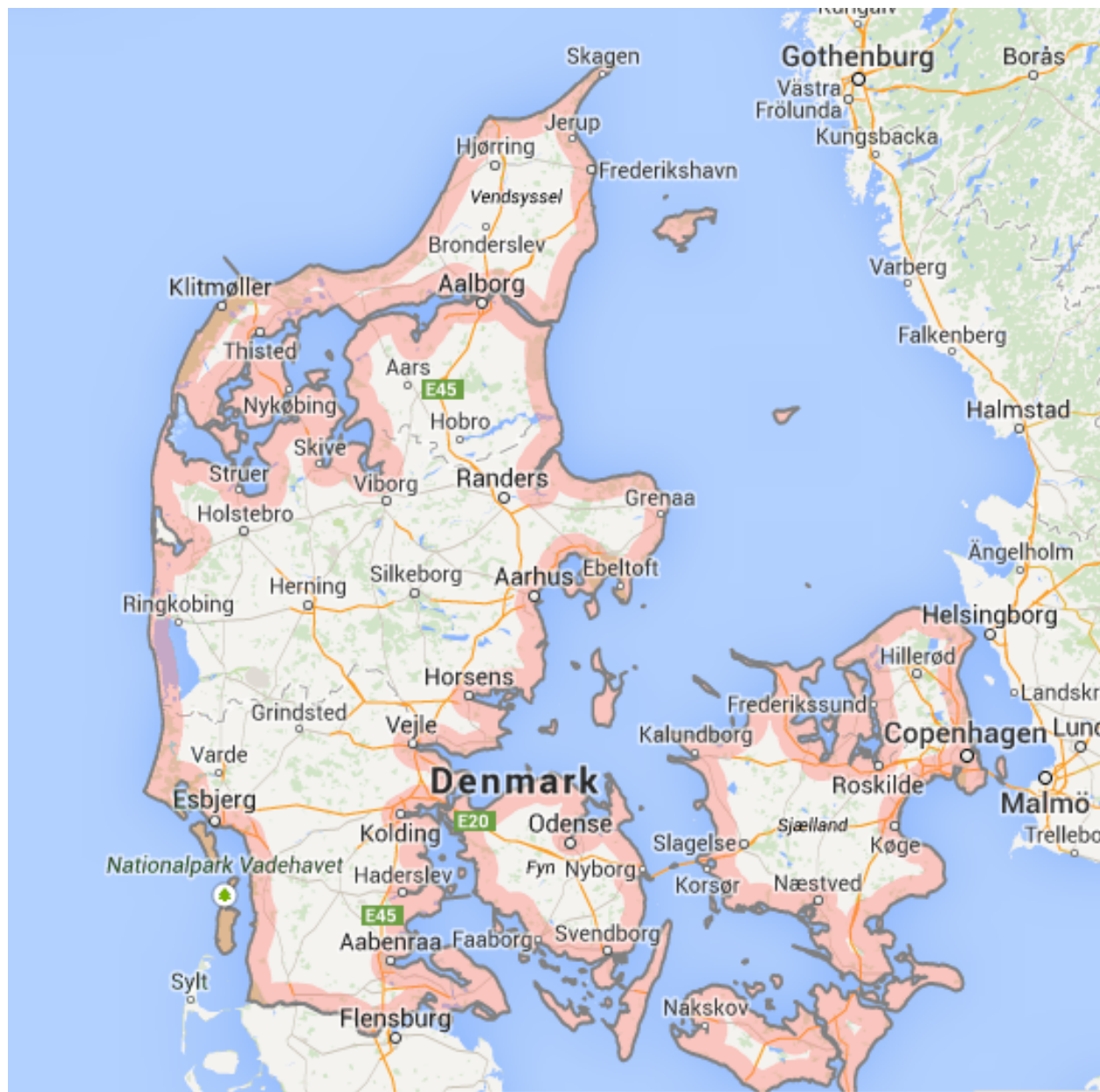
Chapters 3 and 4 summarize the lives of Christian and Anna's two sons and their older descendants.

- Chapter 3 - James P. "Jim" Christiansen (my grandfather, born "Jens") and Rasmine "Minnie" Rasmussen.
- Chapter 4 - Nels Christiansen (my grandfather's younger brother) and Mette Marie "Mary" Rasmussen.
- Chapter 5, *Christian Christiansen's Other Relatives*, mentions Christian Christiansens half-siblings in Denmark. Most of the chapter summarizes the lives of Christian's son by his first marriage, Christen Ole, and Christen Ole's older descendants.
- Chapter 6, *Ane Kirstine Jensen's Other Relatives*, focuses on Anna's Aunt Mary and Anna's two brothers, Jacob and Ole Jensen, all of whom immigrated to Pottawattamie County, as well as Anna's brother, Nels Johnson, who lived in California.
- Chapter 9, Notes, includes Christiansen-specific sources and acknowledgments and information for researching relatives of this family in Denmark. It also includes two appendices, *Immigrants to Boomer Township from the Stevns Area* and *Christiansen Boomer Township Land Transactions*.

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Christiansen Family Origins - a Summary

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map of Denmark courtesy Google.com

My great-grandparents, Christian Christiansen and Ane Kirstine "Anna" Jensen, were both born in Denmark, in Præstø Amt (county) on the Stevns peninsula south of Copenhagen. The Stevns peninsula is the bulge south of Køge on the island of Sjælland on the above map.

Christian Christiansen was born to Christian Olsen and Ane Katrine Mogensdatter in Store Linde, Karise Sogn. Christian, an only child, was born after his father died.

Christian received his last name *Christiansen* as the son of *Christian* Olsen. Christian received his first name in honor of his late father.

Christian's mother subsequently married Jens Jensen but remained in Store Linde.

Christian Christiansen was married twice. Christian Christiansen and his first wife, Ane Cathrine Christensen, had one child, Christen Ole, who was born in Denmark, emigrated with his father and stepmother, and lived all his adult life in Council Bluffs, Iowa. See the *Christian Christiansen's Other Relatives* chapter for more information.

Ane Kirstine "Anna" Jensen was born in Tokkerup in Fakse Sogn to Jens Nielsen and Karen Jacobsdatter.

The Christiansen family emigrated in 1869 from Smerup Sogn near Fakse. The family at the time consisted of Christian, Anna, Christen Ole, and Jens, my grandfather, who was thereafter known as "James" or "Jim".

The Christiansens first came to Council Bluffs, Iowa in 1869 but around 1871 settled about sixteen miles to the north in central Boomer Township. Christian and Anna remained on their farm until their deaths.

Christian Christiansen, his wife, Anna, and their two sons, James and Nels, are all interred in the St. Paul's Lutheran Church Cemetery in Boomer Township about eight miles west of Neola, Iowa. Christian's son from his first marriage, Christen Ole, is interred in Fairview Cemetery in Council Bluffs.

Christian Christiansen's Older Descendants by His First Wife

Christian Christiansen (1832 - 1913) & Ane Cathrine Christensen (1835 - >1863)

Christen Ole "Chris" Christiansen (1864 - 1936) & Ane Kirstine "Christina" Larsen (1862 - 1917)

Christen "Charlie" or "Carl" Larsen (~1886 - ~1898)

Arthur Charles Christiansen (1891 - 1965) & Edith Rebecca Kretchmer (1894 - 1980)

Oscar C. Christiansen (1893 - 1972) & Eurith Marie Hatfield (1894 - 1976)

Oscar C. Christiansen (1893 - 1972) & Oneta Beatrice Boarts (1904 - 1939)

Oscar C. Christiansen (1893 - 1972) & Bernice M. Erickson (1912 - 1996)

The two children and six grandchildren of Christian Christiansen and his second wife, Ane Kirstine “Anna” Jensen are shown below. My father was Alvin Christiansen.

Christian and Anna Christiansen's Older Descendants



(above charts created from Robert Christiansen's *St. Paul's* database Mar 2016)

For more about those listed in the above charts, see later chapters of the Christiansen volume.

End of the *Christiansen Family Origins* section
of the *Christiansen* volume of *Robert Christiansen's Family History*.

Christiansen Family Roots - a Summary

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During the 19th century Denmark was divided into counties, called *Amt*. Counties in turn were divided into districts, called *Herred*. Finally each district consisted of a number of parishes, called *Sogne*.

Following are two maps that show the area of Denmark where my great-grandparents Christiansen lived before emigrating. First is an index map of Fakse Herred showing the constituent Sogne. The detailed map on the next page shows the portion of Fakse Herred where both great-grandparents lived.

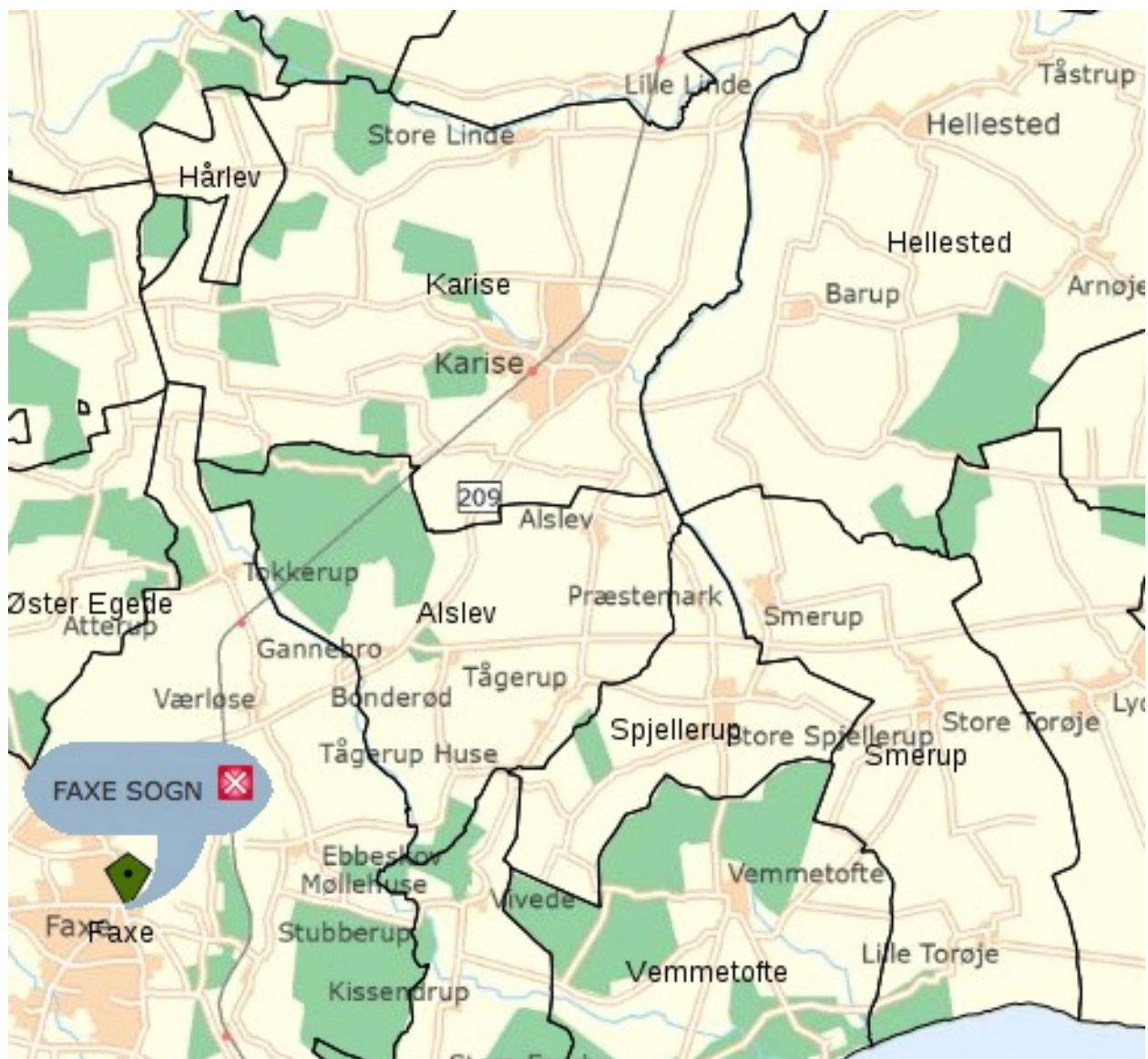


Fakse Herred (courtesy of da.wikipedia.org/wiki)

Note the following sogne (parishes) on the above map:

- Karise, where Christian Christiansen was born and raised.
- Fakse (often spelled Faxe) , where Ane Kirstine "Anna" Jensen was born and raised.
- Smerup (to the east in Stevns Herred), where Christian and Anna lived before emigrating.

In the 1800s the three parishes mentioned above were all in Præstø Amt (county). Today they are all in Fakse Kommune (municipality) in Sjælland Region.



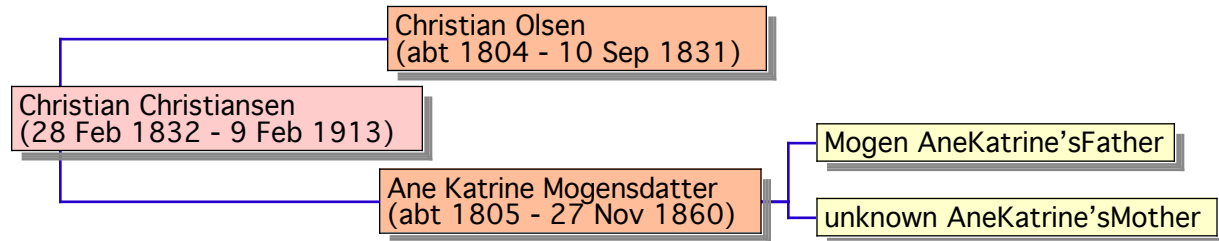
Karise, Faxe/Fakse and Smerup Sogne (courtesy of viskort.dk)

Note the small industrial city of Faxe (sometimes spelled "Fakse") in the lower left corner of the above map.

- My great-grandfather, **Christian Christiansen**, was born on February 28, 1832 to Christian Olsen and Ane Katrine Mogensdatter in Store Linde, Karise Sogn. Store Linde is about two miles north of the town of Karise. Christian Christiansen was the first of my ancestors to bear the Christiansen surname.
- My great-grandmother, **Ane Kirstine "Anna" Jensen**, was born on July 29, 1839 to Jens Nielsen and Karen Jacobsdatter in Tokkerup, Fakse Sogn. Tokkerup is about two miles north of Faxe. Ane Kirstine was christened two weeks later on August 11.

Christian Christiansen's Parents and Grandparents

As the following chart shows, I currently don't know the names of Christian Christiansen's grandparents. Note the use of the patronymic naming system; Christiansen Christiansen's surname was taken from his father's first name.



Christian Christiansen's father, **Christian Olsen**, was a weaver who was born and died in Frøslev Sogn, Præstø Amt. Frøslev is about ten miles northeast of Fakse.

Christian Christiansen's mother, **Ane Katrine Mogensdatter**, a serving maid before marrying, was also born in Præstø Amt, in either Frøslev Sogn or in the village of Dysted in Toksværd Sogn.

Christian Olsen and Ane Katrine Mogensdatter married in 1830 in Toksværd Sogn. Toksværd is in Præstø Amt about ten miles west of Fakse.

Christian Olsen and Ane Katrine Mogensdatter were married for less than ten months before Christian Olsen died during an epidemic in 1831 at the age of 27. Thus Christian Christiansen was an only child. In fact, Christian Olsen never got to see his son, as he died five months before his son was born.

Ane Katrine Mogensdatter evidently moved from Frøslev to Store Linde after Christian Olsen's death and before Christian Christiansen was born.

Ane Katrine remarried on March 31, 1832, the day that young Christian was christened. Ane Katrine's second husband, a day laborer named Jens Jensen, was also from Store Linde. (Incidentally, "Store Linde" translates as "large linden tree".)

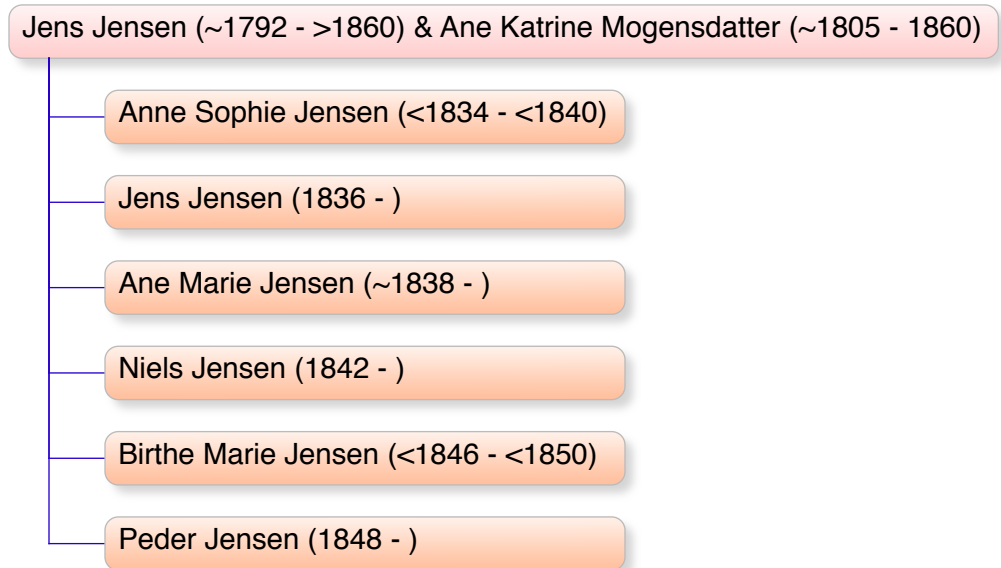
Christian Christiansen grew up in the household of his stepfather, Jens Jensen, in Store Linde. Census records suggest that Jens Jensen thought of Christian as his own child. Ane Katrine had six additional children after marrying Jens, four of whom grew to adulthood.

See the *Christian Christiansen's Other Relatives* chapter for some limited information about Christian Christiansen's half-siblings.

Christian's mother, Ane Katrine Mogensdatter died in Store Linde in 1860 at the age of 55.

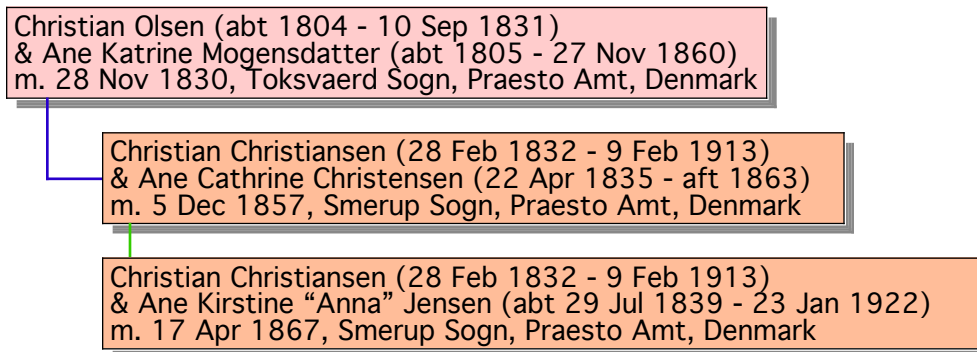
Christian Christiansen's Collateral Relatives

The following chart reflects how little I know about Christian Christiansen's half-brothers and sisters.

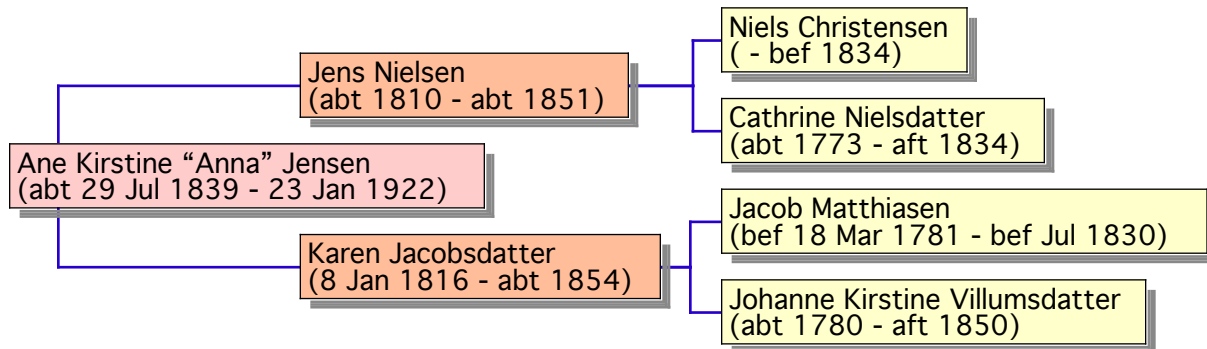


In the 1850 census, Christian Christiansen was a servant living with a farm family in Store Linde. After marrying, he appears to have lived in Smerup Sogn until emigrating in 1869.

The following chart shows Christian Christiansen's two marriages. His second wife was my great-grandmother.



Ane Kirstine Jensen's Parents and Grandparents



Anna Jensen's father, Jens Nielsen, was a tailor who was born in Lyderslev Sogn, Præstø Amt, where he probably lived until he married. Lyderslev is about eight miles east of Fakse.

Anna's mother, Karen Jacobsdatter, was born in Fakse Sogn.

Jens Nielsen and Karen Jacobsdatter married in Fakse Sogn in 1837, and thereafter lived in Tokkerup.

Jens Nielsen died around 1851, when Anna was about eleven years old.

After Jens Nielsen died, Anna Jensen's mother, Karen Jacobsdatter, remarried, but then died several years later. I currently don't know the name of Karen Jacobsdatter's second husband.

Ane Kirstine Jensen's Collateral Relatives

Ane Kirstine Jensen was the second of the six known children listed below.



After her mother's death, Anna Jensen and her five siblings were dispersed. In the 1855 census, Anna and two of her siblings were living with her father's sister, Maren, and Maren's husband, Jens Pedersen, in Lille Heddinge Sogn, about 12 miles east of Fakse. (This aunt and uncle later were early Danish immigrants to Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Anna's siblings are listed below.

- Anna's older brother, Jacob Jensen, was a long-time resident of Boomer Township.
- Anna's brother, Jens, died during the 1864 war between Denmark and Prussia.
- Anna's brother, Nels Johnson, immigrated to the United States and eventually settled in California. Nels had one daughter but no grandchildren.
- Anna's sister, Sidse Marie, never married and remained in Denmark.
- Anna's youngest brother, Ole Jensen, lived in Boomer Township until moving to Council Bluffs around 1886.

Both Jacob and Ole Jensen had numerous descendants, many still living in Pottawattamie County as of 2016.

Additional information about Anna Jensen's siblings and their descendants is in the *Anna Jensen's Other Relatives* chapter of the *Christiansen* volume.

End of the *Christiansen Roots* section
of the *Christiansen* volume of *Robert Christiansen's Family History*.

End of Chapter 1 - *Christiansen Family Overview*
of the *Christiansen* volume of *Robert Christiansen's Family History*.