

Larsen Volume, Chapter 1 - Larsen/Larson Family Overview

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My Larsen great-grandparents, Niels (Christensen) Larsen and Maren Larsen, both had earlier marriages in Denmark. They emigrated from different regions of Denmark to Pottawattamie County, Iowa. There they met and married and had three children.

This is their story, and the story of their three children and the children by their first marriages. Included is the story of older relatives in Denmark and the United States.

The *Larsen* volume has eight 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, Niels and Maren Larsen.

Chapters 3 - 5 cover Niels and Maren's three children and their older descendants:

- Chapter 3 - Annie Dorothy Johnson, married Nels C. A. "Chris" Johnson.
- Chapter 4 - Andrew A. Larson, married Karen Margrethe "Maggie" Hansen.
- Chapter 5 - Henry Larson, married Ellen Marie "Ellie" Hansen.

Around 120 pages in Chapters 3 through 5 are dedicated to Niels and Maren Larsen's children and their families. Niels and Maren's 44 great-grandchildren, over half who are still living as of 2016, are all listed in these chapters. However, some material in these chapters is private and will not be available outside of the immediate family.

Chapters 6 - 7 cover Niels and Maren's collateral relatives and their children from their first marriages.

- Chapter 6, *Niels Larsen's Other Relatives*, covers Niels (Christensen) Larsen's siblings and Niels' first family who remained in Denmark. Also in Chapter 6 is the story of two Jensen cousins who immigrated to Pottawattamie County.
- Chapter 7, *Maren Larsen's Other Relatives*, tells about Maren Larsen's ancestors, siblings and some of the sibling's children. Chapter 7 also covers Maren's first family, by her marriage to Anders Larsen, who lived in the United States.
- Chapter 8, Notes, includes Larsen/Larson-specific sources and acknowledgments and information for researching relatives of this family in Denmark.

Need help? Use your browser to return to the preface; then click on *Show Me Help*.

Larsen/Larson Family Origins - a Summary

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map of Denmark courtesy Google.com

My Larsen great-grandparents, Niels and Maren, were born and raised in different areas of Denmark.

- **Niels Larsen** was originally named Niels Christensen. Niels was born in 1828 in the northern Jylland (Jutland) peninsula just south of Aalborg to Christen Larsen and Maren Christensdatter. Except for his military service Niels probably lived south of Aalborg until emigrating.

Niels and his first wife, Ane Dorthe Madsen, married in 1849 and had two children. One died in infancy and the other remained in Denmark. Niels' first wife died in the Aalborg area in 1868. Niels immigrated in 1867-69 and in 1869 was living in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

- **Maren Larsen** was born in 1837 on the island of Sjælland, north of Copenhagen and west of Hillerød to Lars Hansen and Ane Kirstine Jensdatter. Maren probably lived in or near Hillerød until emigrating.

Maren and her first husband, Anders Larsen, married in 1858. Maren, Anders and their five children emigrated in 1870 and also settled in Council Bluffs. Anders Larsen and their baby daughter died soon thereafter.

After Anders Larsen died, Niels Christensen and Maren Larsen married and Niels Christensen assumed the name Niels Larsen. Niels and Maren had three children of their own and remained in Pottawattamie County, Iowa until their deaths.

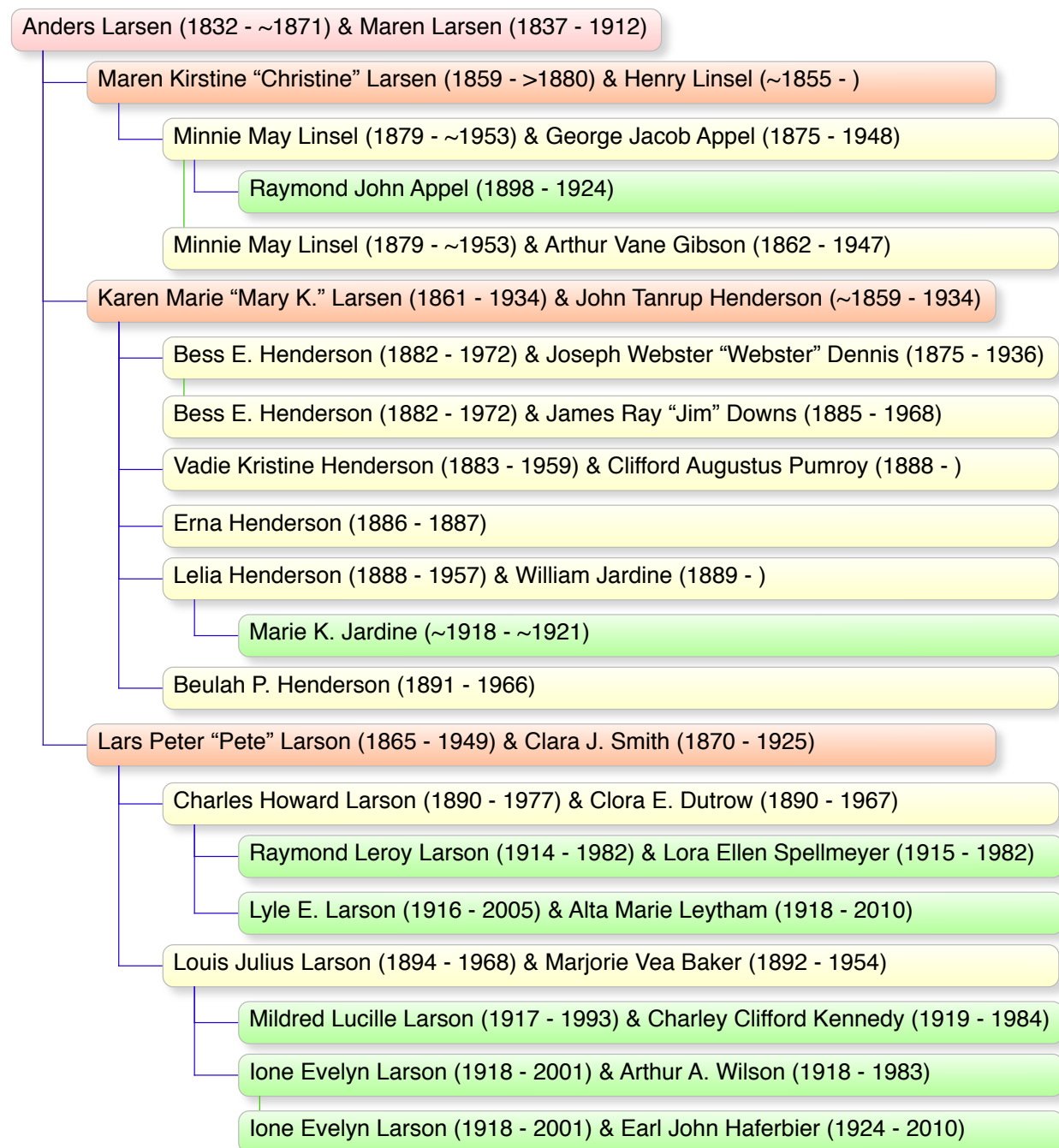
Around 1874 Niels and Maren moved about ten miles north of Council Bluffs, to Hazel Dell Township, where they remained until Maren's death.

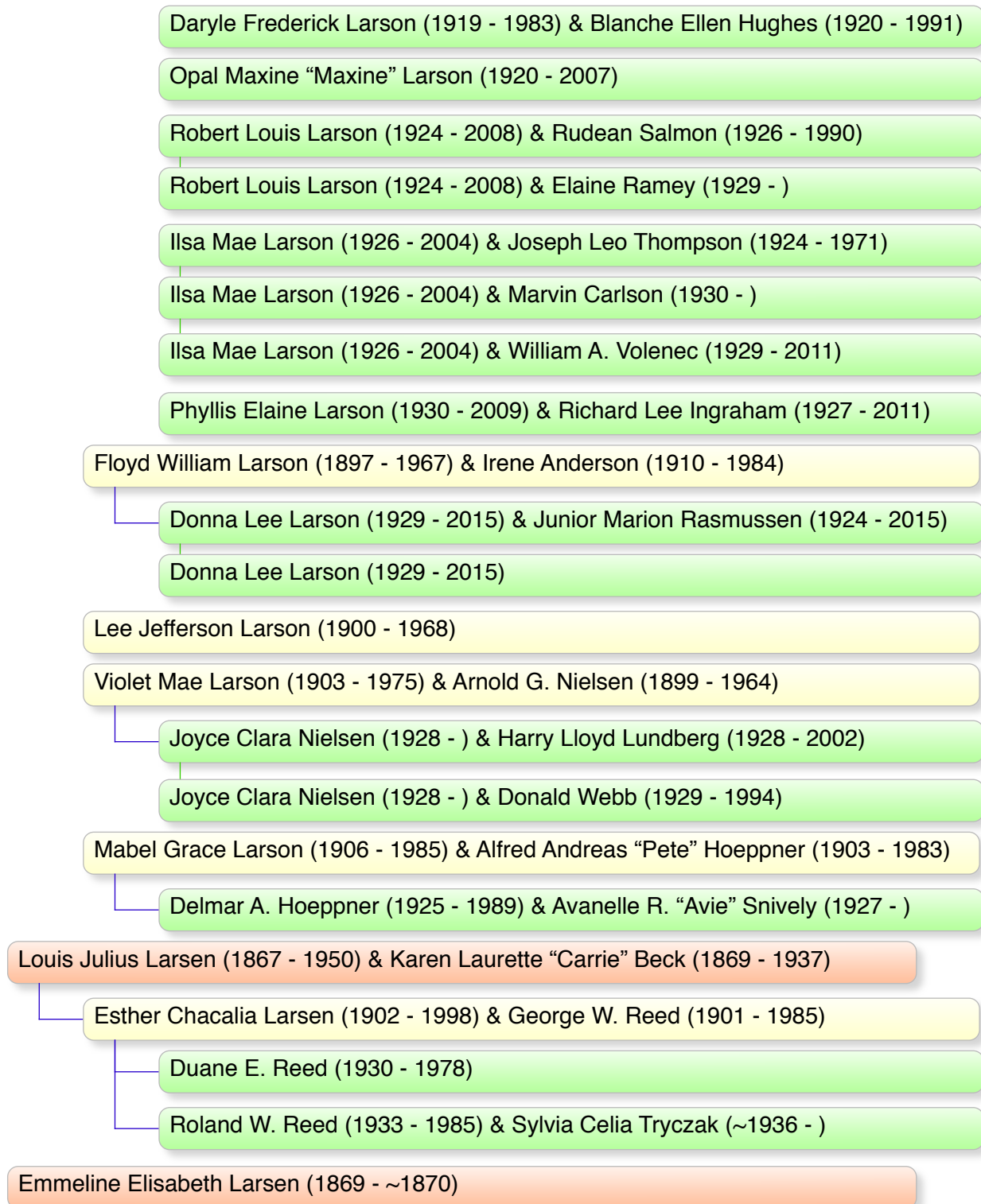
End of the *Larsen/Larson Family Origins* section
of the *Larsen* volume of *Robert Christiansen's Family History*.

Maren Larsen's First Family - with Anders Larsen

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The two-page chart below shows Maren Larsen's children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren from her first marriage, to Anders Larsen. As of 2016, all are deceased save for Joyce Nielsen.





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

Of Anders and Maren Larsen's five children, Emmeline Elisabeth died as a baby. Here is brief information about the remaining four children.

- **Maren Kirstine “Christine” Larsen** married Henry Linsel, a German immigrant living in Council Bluffs. Christine was living with her husband and baby, Minnie, in Forest City, Missouri in June 1880, with Henry working as a butcher. Evidently Christine died not long thereafter. Henry left Minnie temporarily with Matt and Minnie Bartel, grocers in Council Bluffs, and never returned. The Bartel family then raised Minnie. Minnie had one child but has no living descendants.

There are no known photographs of Christine (Larsen) Linsel. The only known evidence of her life is her hair wreath, which is among the artifacts at the Museum of Danish America in Elk Horn, Iowa. As of December 2015, one could view this artifact by goggling the following:

“christine linsel” “museum of danish america”

- **Karen Marie “Mary K.” Larsen** married John Tanrup Henderson, a Norwegian immigrant living in Council Bluffs. John and Mary K. Henderson remained in Council Bluffs. John and Mary K. had five children, but their only grandchild died as a toddler from measles.
- **Lars Peter Larson** married Clara Smith and moved about five miles north of the Niels Larsen farm to Clara’s parents’ neighborhood in Boomer Township. The Smith family was among the many Reorganized Latter Days Saints (RLDS) church members living north of Council Bluffs. Lars Peter Larson was a substantial farmer who lived west of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church before retiring to the Downsville area south of Underwood. He has many living descendants.
- **Louis Julius Larsen** moved to Racine, Wisconsin as a young man. He married Karen Laurette “Carrie” Beck, worked in the retail shoe business, and remained in Racine until his death. Louis Larsen had a daughter and two grandsons, but no living descendants.

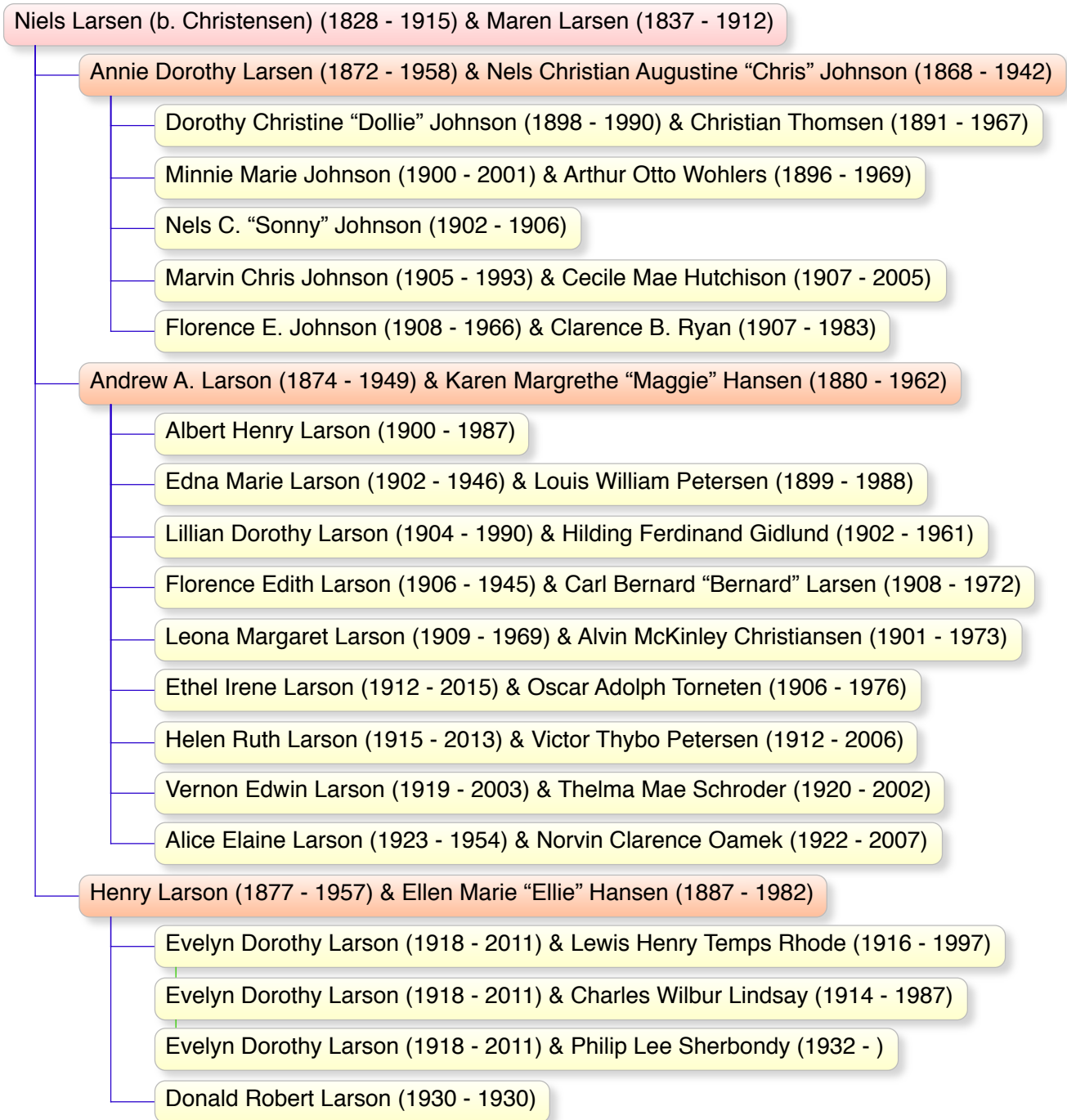
For more about Maren Larsen's first family, with Anders Larsen, see Chapter 7 - *Maren Larsen’s Other Relatives*, of the *Larsen* volume.

End of the *Maren Larsen’s First Family* section
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Maren Larsen's Second Family - with Niels (Christensen) Larsen

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The chart below shows Maren Larsen's children and grandchildren from her second marriage, to Niels (Christensen) Larsen. All are deceased. My mother is Leona Margaret Larson.



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

The last living grandchild, Ethel (Larson) Torneten, died at age 102 early in 2015. Maren's great-grandchildren, over half who are living as of 2016, are listed in their grandparent's chapters.

Of interest: My grandfather and my great-uncle, Andrew A. and Henry Larson, married sisters, Karen Margrethe "Maggie" and Ellen Marie "Ellie" Hansen, the daughters of Peter and Dorthie Hansen, who were neighbors of the Niels Larsen family.

Here is brief information about the three children of Niels and Maren Larsen.

- **Annie Dorothy Larsen** married Niels Christian Augustine Johnson, a farmer known both as "Chris" or "N. C. A.". Chris and Annie lived most of their married life in northwestern Boomer Township, eventually retiring to Council Bluffs.
- **Andrew A. Larson** married Karen Margrethe "Maggie" Hansen. After marrying, Andrew and Maggie settled on a rental farm in Section 15 where they remained until their deaths. On this farm in meager circumstances they raised nine children, one being my mother.
- **Henry Larson** was a farmer who remained at home until his mother's death. Soon thereafter he married Ellen Marie "Ellie" Hansen. Henry and Ellie settled on a farm in Section 10 that Henry had recently purchased. There they lived for many years.

Niels and Maren Larsen, their three children, and five of their grandchildren are buried in the St. Paul's Lutheran Church Cemetery in Boomer Township, west of Neola, Iowa.

For more about Maren Larsen's second family, with Niels (Christensen) Larsen, see Chapters 3 through 5 of the *Larsen* volume.

The Two Larsen/Larson Families Over the Years

After my Larsen great-grandparents died, Maren in 1912 and Niels in 1915, a rift between the two sets of Maren's children became evident. Niels' will left his property to his birth children, namely \$500 to his daughter, Else, in Denmark, and 40 acres to each of his three children, Annie, Andrew and Henry, in Pottawattamie County. Niels' stepdaughter, Mary K. Henderson, challenged Niels' will.

The tension was especially strong between the half-brothers Lars Peter Larson and Andrew Larson. For years thereafter many members of these two families had little contact with each other. Finally, in the 1990s, Lars Peter Larson's great-grandson, the late Lloyd Larson, collected notes made by older family members and began researching the Larsen/Larson history. As a result of Lloyd's research and initiative, members of the two branches became connected. This culminated in a 2000 reunion at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Boomer Township organized by Lloyd and his cousin, Craig Wilson.

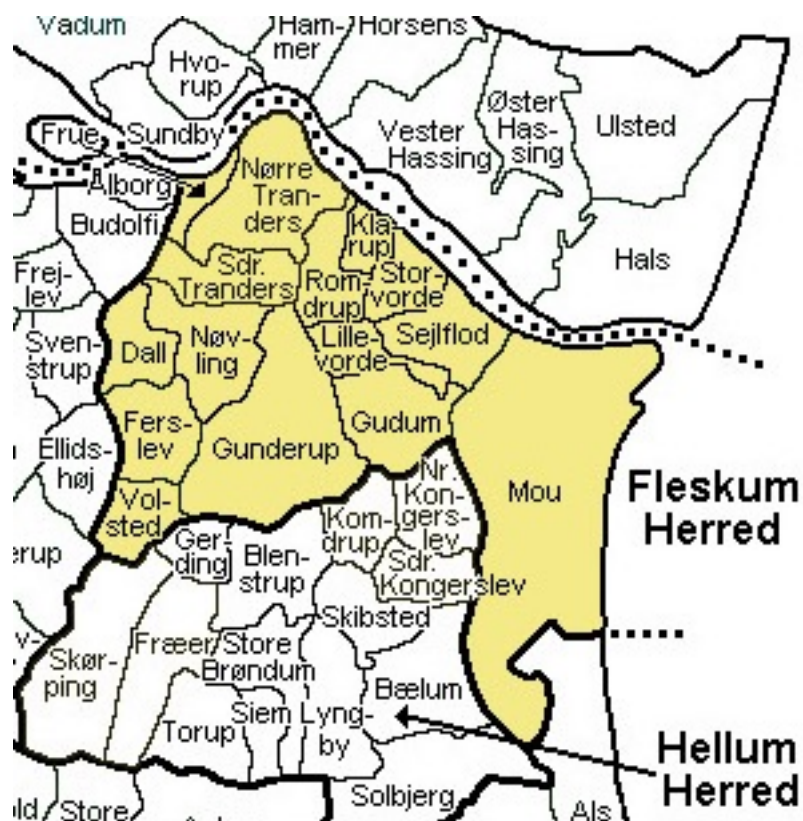
End of the *Maren Larsen's Second Family* section
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Niels (Christensen) Larsen's Roots - a Summary

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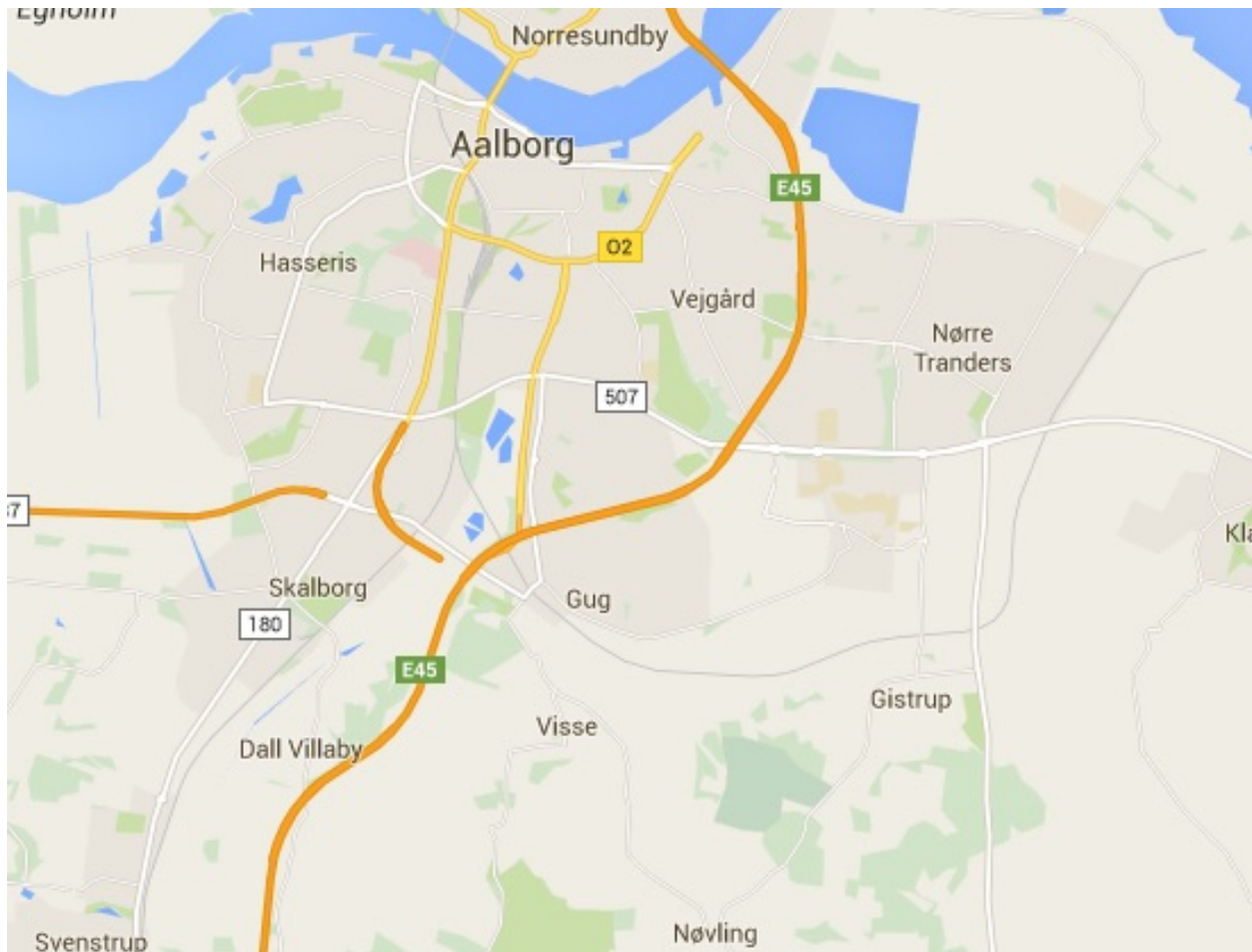
During the 19th century Denmark was divided into counties, called *Amt*. Counties in turn were divided into districts, called *Herred*. Finally each district consisted of a number of parishes, called *Sogne*.

Following is an index map showing the general area of Denmark on the Jylland peninsula near Aalborg where my great-grandfather, Niels (Christensen) Larsen, lived before immigrating. You will find a more-detailed map on the following page.



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

Niels Larsen was born in Nøvling Sogn, Fleskum Herred, Aalborg Amt in 1828.



Aalborg southward – courtesy of google.com/maps

The above map shows Aalborg at the top and Visse and Nøvling at the bottom.

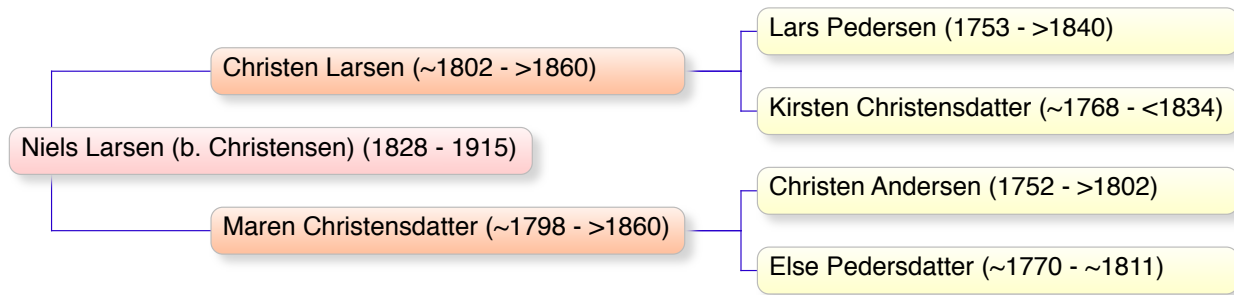
My great-grandfather, Niels Christensen, later known as Niels Larsen, was born to Christen Larsen and Maren Christensdatter in Visse, Nøvling Sogn.

As the above map shows, Visse is about four miles south of the city of Aalborg, the largest city in the northern portion of the Jutland peninsula.

Visse was a rural area when Niels Christensen was born. In today's Visse only a few of the old buildings survive, Visse now being a residential area for Aalborg. However, the Nøvling Sogn church, about two miles further south, is still active and is well maintained.

Niels Christensen's parents, Christen Larsen and Maren Christensdatter, were married in Dall Sogn in 1823, but lived most of their married life in Visse. They probably died in Visse.

Niels (Christensen) Larsen's parents and grandparents



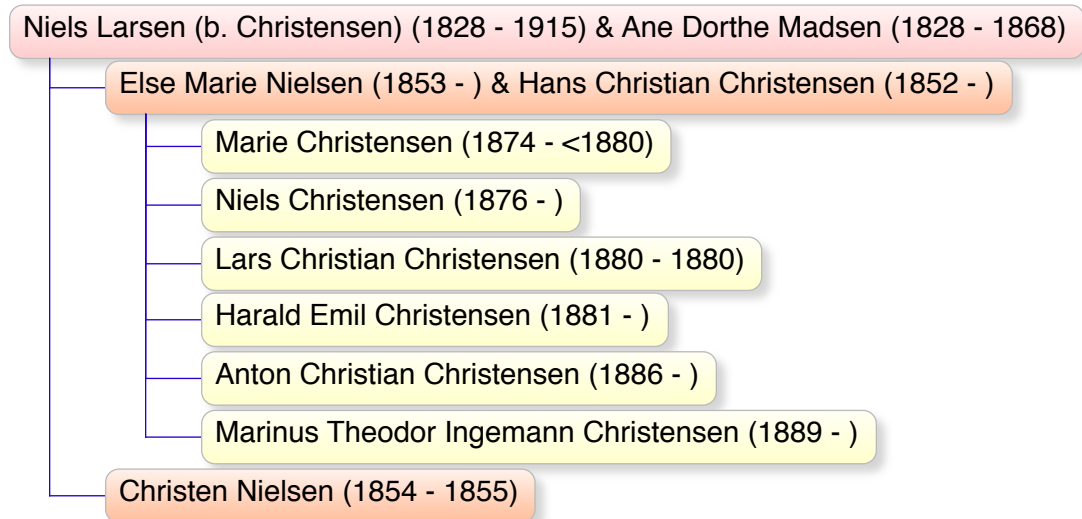
Niels Christensen's father, **Christen Larsen**, was a farmer, cabinet-maker and carpenter who was born in Dall Sogn. Dall Sogn, sometimes spelled "Dal", lies just to the west of Nøvling Sogn.

Niels Christensen's mother, **Maren Christensdatter**, was born in Klarup Sogn. The town of Klarup is five miles northeast of Nøvling. (You can see the "Kl" for Klarup on the right end of the above map.)

Niels left home as a teenager. He may have worked for his older brother, Lars Christensen, a farmer in Gug in Sønder Tranders Sogn, just north of Visse.

Niels and his first wife, Ane Dorthe Madsen, married in 1949 and apparently continued to live south of Aalborg.

Niels (Christensen) Larsen's First Family in Denmark



While in Denmark, and for some time after emigrating, Niels used his patronymic name of Niels Christensen.

Niels' daughter, Else, took her surname from her father's first name. That is, she used the surname "Nielsen" instead of "Christensen". Else and her family lived in Aalborg.

Niels (Christensen) Larsen's Collateral Relatives



Two sons of Niels (Christensen) Larsen's younger brother, Jens Christensen, immigrated to Pottawattamie County.

- **Andrew Christian Jensen** married Mary C. Anderson and lived in Council Bluffs.
- **Christen "Chris" Jensen** married Lena Madison and lived in the Council Bluffs area.

For more information about Niels (Christensen) Larsen's descendants from his first marriage, his siblings, and his two nephews named above, see the *Niels (Christensen) Larsen's Other Relatives* chapter later in this volume.

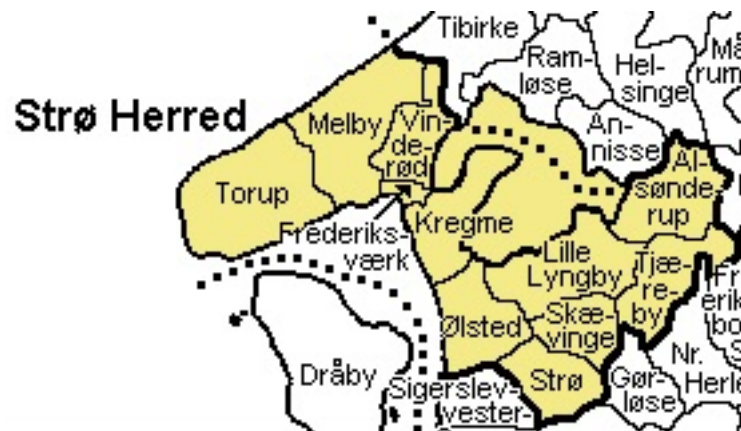
End of the *Niels (Christensen) Larsen's Roots* section
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Maren Larsen's Roots

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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 is an index map showing the general area of Denmark on the island of Sjælland west of Hillerød where my great-grandmother, Maren Larsen, was born and raised.. You will find a more-detailed map on the following page.



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

My great-grandmother, Maren Larsen was born to Lars Hansen and Anne Kirstine Jensdatter in Ølsted By (town), Ølsted Sogn, Strø Herred, Frederiksborg Amt, Denmark. When she was a toddler her parents moved to Bendstrup By, Alsønderup Sogn, where they remained. Alsønderup Sogn is also on the above map.



Hillerød westward - courtesy of [google.com/maps](https://www.google.com/maps)

Hillerød, east of Maren Larsen's birthplace, is a city of around 30,000 about 25 miles northwest of Copenhagen. Hillerød is the site of Frederiksborg palace, now Denmark's Museum of National History, and was the seat of Frederiksborg Amt. Now Hillerød is the capital of Hovedstaden, one of the five administration regions into which today's Denmark is divided.

Ølsted is about ten miles west of Hillerød.

Bendstrup, where Maren Larsen spent most of her childhood, is near the highway marker "267" on the above map.

Maren Larsen's Parents and Grandparents



Both of Maren Larsen's parents, Lars Hansen and Ane Kirstine Jensdatter, were also born in Ølsted Sogn. Maren's father was a farmer (with occupation given as gaardmand and jorgbruger in the censuses).

Maren Larsen married her first husband, Anders Larsen, at Alsønderup in 1858. I believe that the Anders Larsen family remained in the Hillerød area until emigrating with their five children in 1870.

Maren Larsen's Collateral Relatives

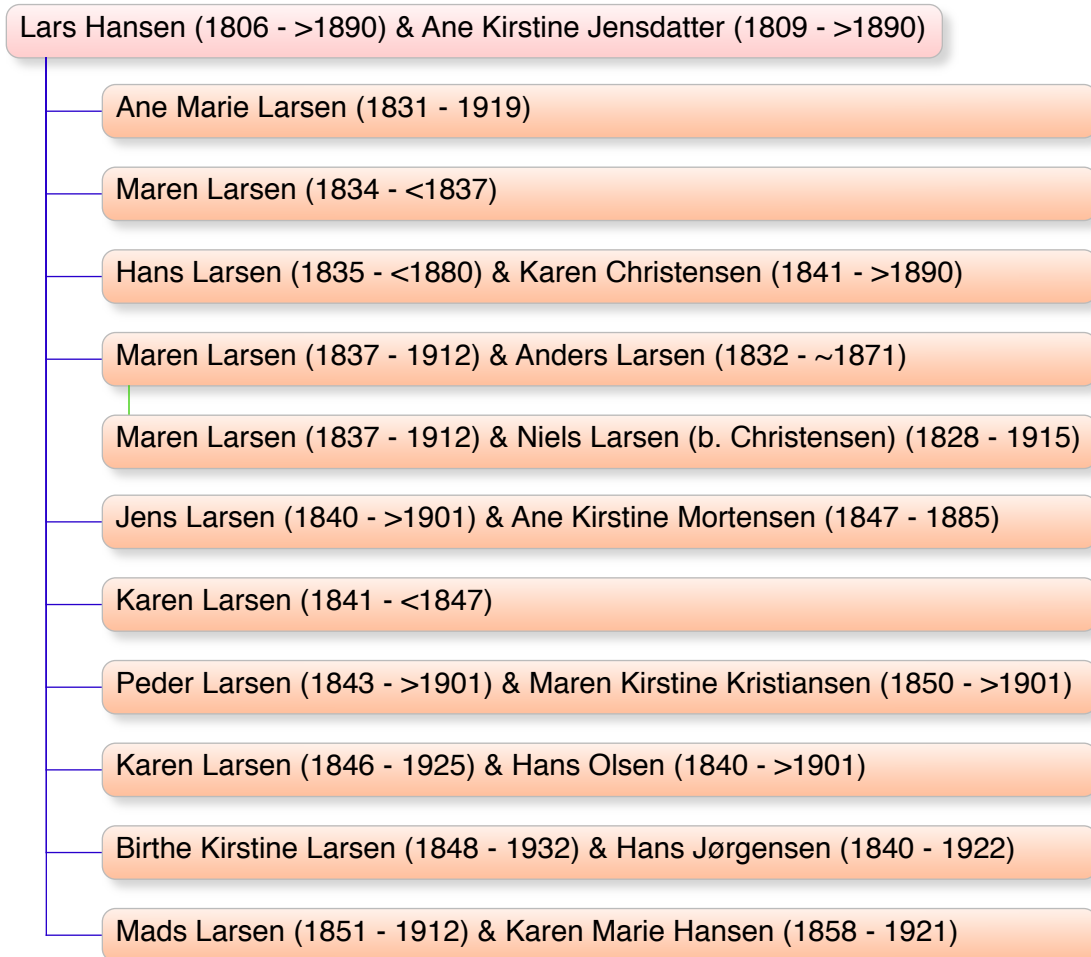
The chart on the next page shows Maren Larsen's parents and siblings. All of Maren's siblings remained in Denmark, and five were quite prolific.

As of 2016 I know of three siblings of Maren with descendants who immigrated to North America. Here are brief summaries.

- **Ane Kirstine "Christine" Larsen**, the daughter of Maren's brother, Hans Larsen, immigrated to Pottawattamie County with her baby in 1887. She married Christen Ole "Chris" Christiansen and lived in Council Bluffs. Chris Christiansen was the half-brother of my paternal grandfather, Jim Christiansen.
- **Peter, Carl and Agnes Larsen**, three siblings who were grandchildren of Maren's brother, Jens Larsen, immigrated to Montana before and after World War I.
- **Svend Larsen**, great grandson of Maren's brother, Mads Larsen, emigrated to Canada after World War II and settled in Vancouver.

Of interest: Through a database of DNA test results, Svend Larsen, contacted my brother, Donald Christiansen, in 2015. Svend introduced another Larsen third cousin, James Nyborg of Washington State, whose mother, Agnes Cecelia Larsen, emigrated from Denmark to Montana as a young woman in 1923. Learning of my new North American relatives, I was motivated to research further my great-grandmother Maren's Danish relatives.

The following chart shows Maren Larsen's siblings.



For more information about Maren Larsen's children from her first marriage (listed earlier in this chapter), siblings (listed on the above chart), and other relatives (listed on the previous page), see the *Maren Larsen's Other Relatives* chapter later in this volume.

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

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