

Rasmussen Volume, Chapter 1 - Rasmussen Family Overview

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My Rasmussen great-grandparents, **Lars Christian Rasmussen and Karen Marie Andersen**, and their five daughters emigrated from the Vendsyssel area north of Aalborg to Pottawattamie County, Iowa in 1882. Later their son, Marion, was born.

This is their story, and the story of the five daughters and son and their descendants. It is also the story of their older relatives in Denmark and the United States, especially of Lars' two half-brothers who converted to the Mormon faith and moved to Utah and of Karen's two sisters who had immigrated earlier to Council Bluffs.

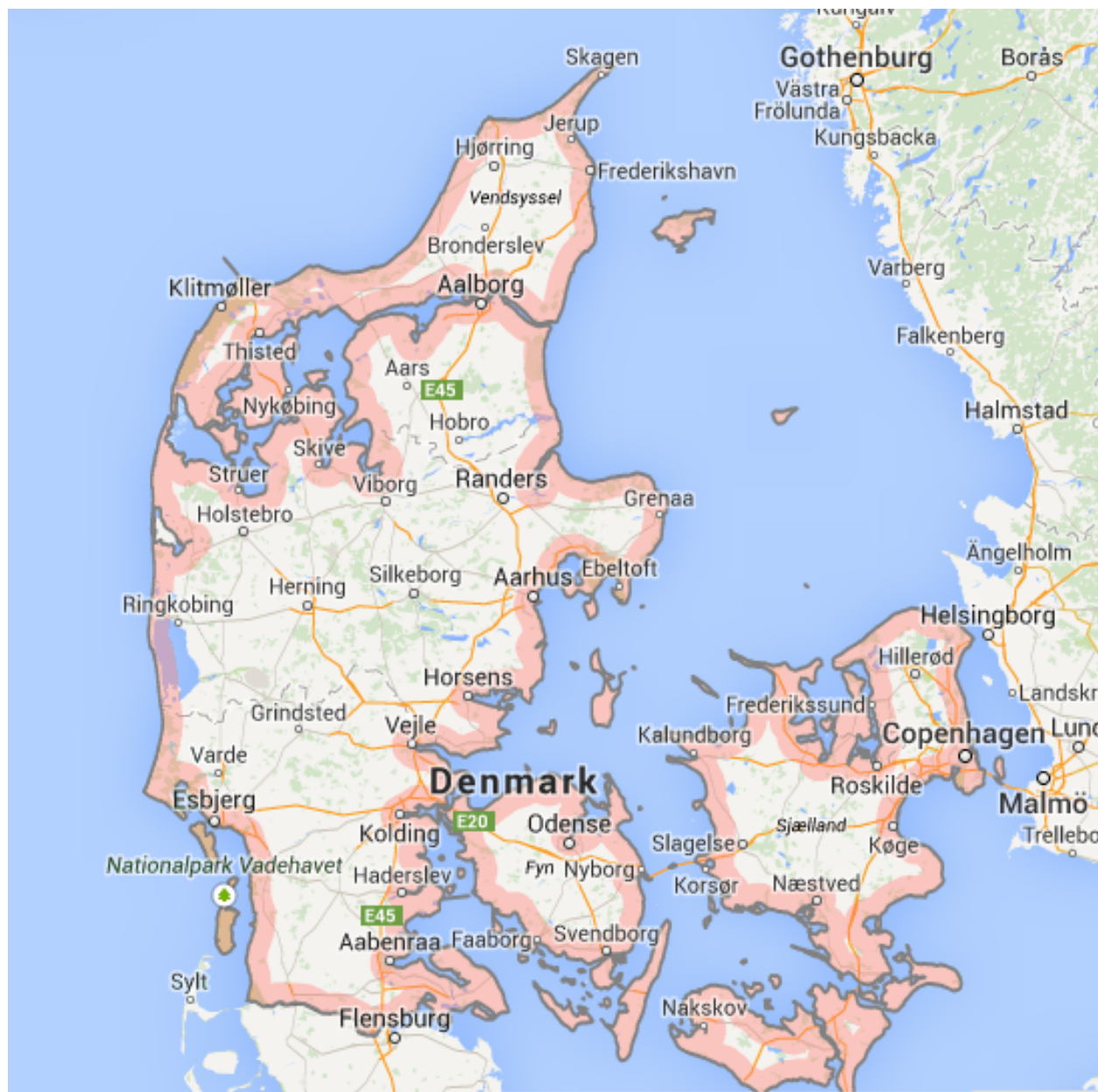
The *Rasmussen* volume has nine chapters, each in a separate file.

- Chapter 1 is a summary. Most of the material therein is amplified in later chapters.
- Chapter 2 covers the lives of my great-grandparents, Lars and Karen Rasmussen.
- Chapter 3 touches briefly on the Rasmussen daughters, Rasmine "Minnie", Mette Marie "Mary", and Bendine. Minnie and Mary married the Christiansen brothers, Jim and Nels, and their story is in the *Christiansen* volume. Bendine never married and remained at home until her early death.
- Chapter 4 sketches the life of the oldest Rasmussen daughter, Christina, who married David Martison, and David and Christina's older descendants.
- Chapter 5 sketches the life of the youngest Rasmussen daughter, Alvina "Winnie", who married Peter Bondo, and Peter and Winnie's older descendants.
- Chapter 6 is dedicated to the Rasmussen's son, Marion, and his older descendants. Marion was married twice, his first wife dying from complications of childbirth.
- Chapter 7, *Lars Rasmussen's Older Relatives*, covers Lars Christian Rasmussen's siblings. Lars' two half-brothers, the Justesen boys, immigrated to Utah.
- Chapter 8, *Karen Marie Andersen's Older Relatives*, covers the siblings of Karen Marie Andersen. Two younger sisters were early immigrants to Council Bluffs, and a nephew later immigrated.
- Chapter 9, Notes, includes Rasmussen-specific sources and acknowledgments and information for researching relatives of this family in Denmark. It also includes two appendices, *Voer Sogn* and *Stories from the Lars and Karen Rasmussen Family*.

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Rasmussen Family Origins a Summary

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map of Denmark courtesy Google.com

My great-grandparents, Lars Christian Rasmussen and Karen Marie Andersen, were both born and raised in Voer Sogn, a rural parish in the northern Jylland (Jutland) peninsula, northeast of Aalborg. The area of Denmark north of Aalborg is often called Vendsyssel. Voer Sogn is about 25 miles northeast of Aalborg and at the time was in Hjørring Amt. Today it is in Brønderslev Kommune.

Lars Christian Rasmussen was the oldest of four children born to Rasmus Laursen and

Mette Marie Larsdatter. Rasmus Laursen died when Lars was nine, and six months later Mette Marie married Jacob Justesen. Mette Marie and Jacob had six children, but three died in childhood.

Karen Marie Andersen was the daughter of Anders Christian Jensen and Ane Kirstine Christensdatter.

Lars Christian and Karen Marie married in Voer Sogn and remained in Voer Sogn until emigrating in 1882. In 1882 the Rasmussen family, consisting of the parents and five daughters, left Denmark and immigrated to Council Bluffs in southwestern Iowa, where two of Karen's sisters already lived.

In 1883 the Rasmussen family moved to a farm in Boomer Township about fourteen miles north of Council Bluffs and eight miles west of the town of Neola. The St. Paul's Lutheran Church congregation subsequently acquired the east several acres of the Rasmussen farm, and the church and cemetery occupy what was once Rasmussen land.

A son and an infant who died at birth were born after Lars and Karen and their five daughters moved to Boomer Township.

Lars and Karen and all of their children, along with a number of grandchildren, are buried in the St. Paul's Lutheran Church Cemetery.

The children and grandchildren of Lars Christian and Karen Marie Rasmussen are shown below. Details follow in subsequent chapters.

As of 2016 three grandchildren are still living.

Lars and Karen Rasmussen's Older Descendants (two pages)





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



Voer Kirke (courtesy of korttilkirken.dk)

This was the Rasmussen's church in Denmark. Its location is marked on a map in the next section.

As most readers know, the Lutheran religion is the official religion of Denmark. Denmark is divided into sogne (parishes), and each sogn contains a kirk (church). Parishes in Denmark serve both a religious and an administrative function. Portions of many rural churches date back to the Middle Ages.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Boomer-Neola, Iowa

Photo courtesy of Tom McLaughlin

This was the Rasmussen's church in Iowa. It is located north of Council Bluffs in Boomer Township, about eight miles west of Neola. It and the adjacent cemetery occupy land once owned by Lars Christian Rasmussen.

Lars Christian and Karen Marie Rasmussen, their seven children, and the majority of their grandchildren, are interred in the St. Paul's Lutheran Church Cemetery adjoining the Rasmussen farm in Boomer Township, about eight miles west of Neola, Iowa.

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

Rasmussen 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*.

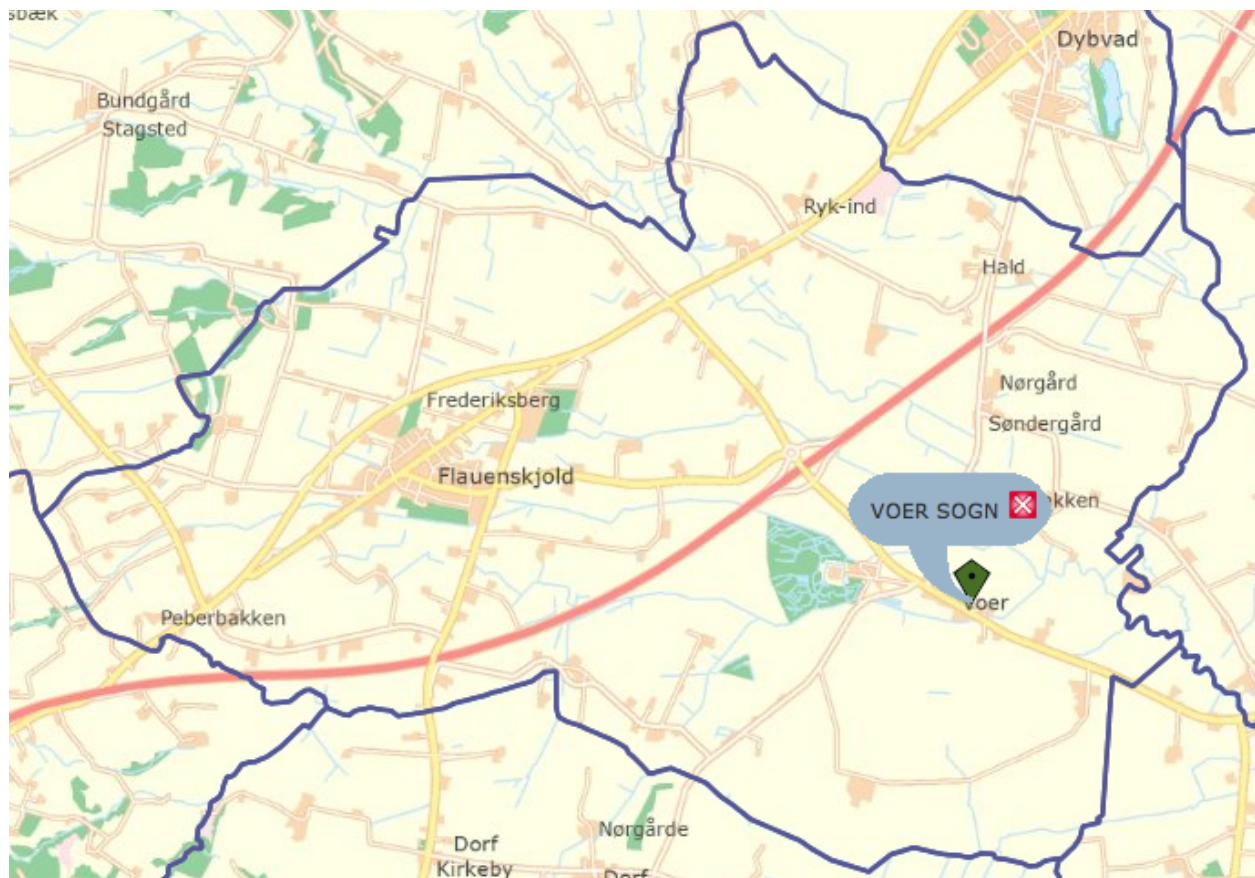
The Rasmussen family lived in Voer Sogn, Dronninglund Herred, Hjørring Amt. To the south of Hjørring Amt was Aalborg Amt, where the city of Aalborg was located.

Denmark's administrative structure has been revised at least twice since the Rasmussens emigrated in 1882. As of 2007 Voer Sogn is in Brønderslev Kommune, which in turn is in the Nordjylland Region.

Following are two maps that show the area of Denmark where my great-grandparents, Lars Christian Rasmussen and Karen Marie Andersen, lived before emigrating. First is an index map of Dronninglund Herred showing the constituent Sogne. The detailed map on the next page shows Voer Sogn where both great-grandparents lived.



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



Voer Sogn Today (courtesy of *viskort.dk*)

The above map shows the boundary of today's Voer Sogn. The curved line is the Frederikshavn Motorvejen freeway between Aalborg and Frederikshavn.

- "Voer Sogn" on the map marks Voer Kirk, the Voer parish church.
- Hald, the location of Lars Christian Rasmussen's ancestral farm, is just north of the freeway. **Lars Christian Rasmussen** was born in 1851 at Hald to Rasmus Laursen and Mette Marie Larsdatter.
- Vesterskov, the neighborhood where Karen Marie Andersen lived, was in the vicinity of today's Peberbakken in the lower left corner. **Karen Marie Andersen** was born in 1843 at Vesterskov to Anders Christian Jensen and Anne Kirstine Christensdatter. Vesterskov was located on the road from Flauenskjold to Aalborg about a mile southwest of Flauenskjold. Although Vesterskov means "west woods", an old map indicates that in Karen Marie Andersen's time the woods, sometimes called the Allerup Bakken, began about a mile from the settlement of Vesterskov.
- The area just to the west of Voer Kirk is the Voergaard estate, which figures into Rasmussen family history.

Lars Christian Rasmussen's Parents and Grandparents

In the following chart note the use of the patronymic. E.g., Lars Christian assumed the surname of Rasmussen, and not Laursen.



Lars Christian Rasmussen's father, **Rasmus Laursen**, was a farmer ("Gårdmand i Hald" in the Voer parish death record) who lived his entire life in the Idskov area.

Lars Christian Rasmussen's mother, **Mette Marie Larsdatter**, was born and raised in Skæve Sogn. Skæve Sogn is just north of Voer Sogn, and contains the town of Dyvbad. Skæve Kirk is in the countryside about four miles north of Voergaard.

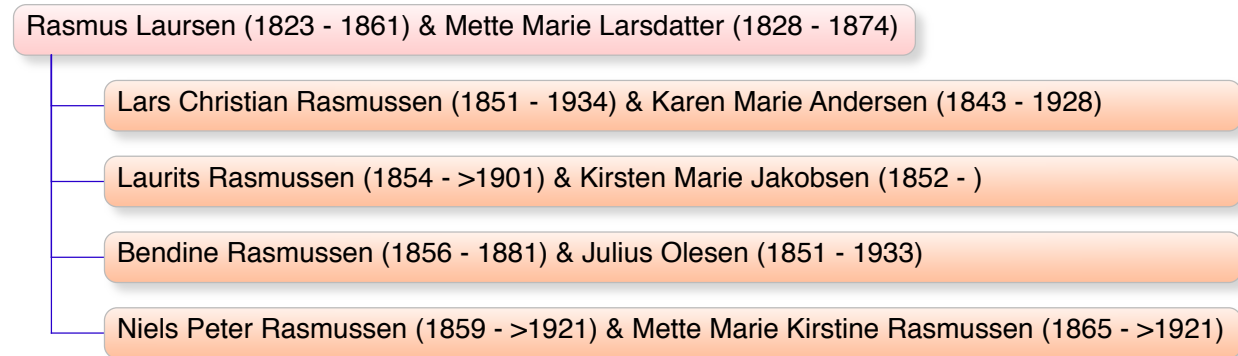
Rasmus Laursen and Mette Marie Larsdatter married in Skæve Sogn on December 29, 1850.

Rasmus Laursen died at age 37 when Lars Christian, the oldest child, was only nine years old.

Six months after Rasmus Laursen died, Mette Marie Larsdatter married a farm laborer named Jacob Justesen, but remained on the Rasmussen farm near Idskov.

Lars Christian Rasmussen's Collateral Relatives

As the following chart shows, Lars Christian Rasmussen was the oldest of four known children born to Rasmus Laursen and Mette Marie Larsdatter.



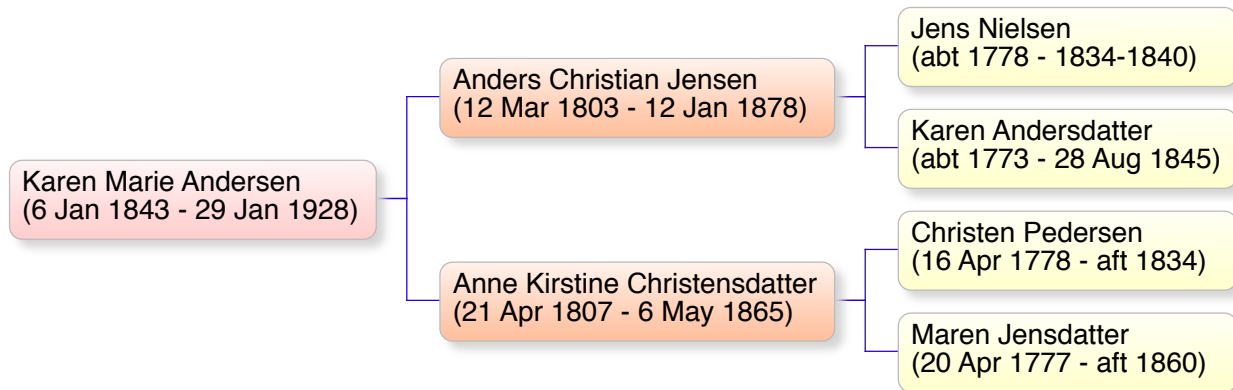
The following chart shows Lars Christian Rasmussen's six known half-siblings from his mother's second marriage. Note that the three babies named Karoline Margrethe Justesen died in early childhood.



See the *Lars Christian Rasmussen's Other Relatives* chapter for information about Lars Christian Rasmussen's three siblings and six half-siblings. Among this group, only Lars and the two Justesen brothers emigrated.

Karen Marie Andersen's Parents and Grandparents

The following chart shows Karen Marie Andersen's parents and grandparents.



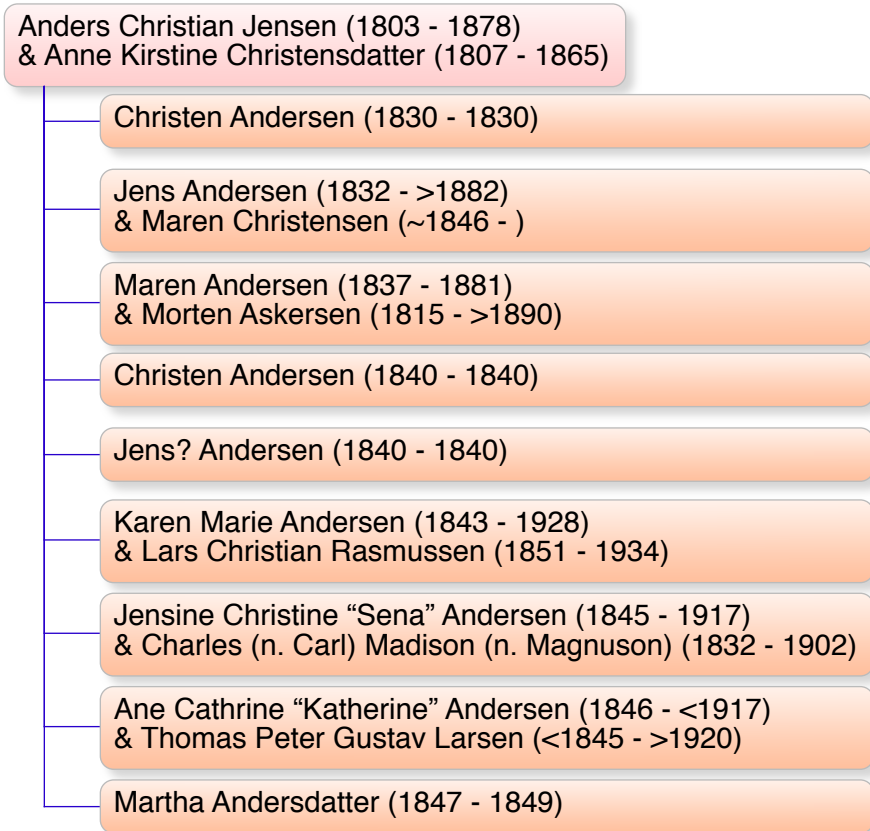
Karen Marie Andersen's father, **Anders Christian Jensen**, was born in Volstrup Sogn in 1803. The town of Volstrup is about six miles northeast of Voer Kirke.

Karen Marie Andersen's mother, **Anne Kirstine Christensdatter**, was born in Hals Sogn in Aalborg Amt and moved with her family to Dronninglund Sogn when she was a child. The town of Hals is about twenty miles south of Voer Kirke.

Anders Christian Jensen and Anne Kirstine Christensdatter married in Voer Sogn on December 11, 1832 and probably remained in Voer Sogn for the remainder of their lives.

In 1834 Anders Christian Jensen was a herdsman on the Voergaard manor farm. Subsequently he became a smallholder living in the Vesterskov area.

As the following chart shows, my great-grandmother, Karen Marie Andersen, was the third of five children of Anders Christian Jensen and Anne Kirstine Christensdatter who reached maturity.



Karen Marie's two younger sisters and their families immigrated to Council Bluffs in the 1870s. Later a nephew immigrated. See the *Karen Marie Andersen's Other Relatives* chapter for information about Karen Marie Andersen's siblings.

Lars Christian Rasmussen and Karen Marie Andersen

My great-grandparents, Lars Christian Rasmussen and Karen Marie Andersen married in Voer Sogn on August 18, 1874, three weeks after Lars' mother died. They married after the birth of their first two children.

In 1882 the Lars Rasmussen family, now consisting of five daughters, emigrated from Voer parish to Pottawattamie County, Iowa.

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

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of the *Rasmussen* volume of *Robert Christiansen's Family History*.