

## **Hansen Volume, Chapter 2 - Peter Hansen and Dorthé Hansen**

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My great-grandfather, Peter Hansen, was the son of Hans Jensen and Karen Larsdatter. My great-grandmother, Dorthé Hansen, was born to Hans Jacobsen and Karen Marie Hansdatter. They were born and raised in neighboring parishes on the island of Lolland in Denmark, and remained in this area until emigrating with three of their children in 1886.

**(reserved for photograph)**

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## The Lives of Peter Hansen and Dorthé Hansen

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My great-grandparents, Peter Hansen and Dorthé Hansen, were married in Radsted Sogn, Maribo Amt, Denmark, on December 14, 1877.

I believe that Peter and Dorthé lived on Peter's parents' farm in Sløsserup in neighboring Toreby Sogn from the time they married until their emigration in 1886.

Peter and Dorthé Hansen had five children, with their oldest, Karen Margrethe "Maggie" Hansen, being my maternal grandmother. Their four older children were born in Denmark, while their youngest child, Ellen Marie, was born after immigrating. The three older children were christened in Toreby church, and Mads Adolf, the fourth child, was christened in Radsted church after his parents emigrated and left him in the care of Dorthé's relatives.

Peter Hansen's last parent died in 1879. I was told that his parents' farm was sold to settle the estate, and this helped motivate Peter to emigrate.

On April 8, 1886, Peter Hansen completed a Copenhagen police immigration form. Peter and Dorthé Hansen probably left Denmark shortly thereafter. They took with them their three older children, but left baby Mads Adolf with relatives in Denmark.

- **Mads Adolf Hansen**, the fourth child of Peter Hansen and Dorthé Hansen, was born in Denmark in 1885. When his parents emigrated in 1886, Mads Adolf remained in Denmark with his mother's sister, Kirstine, and Kirstine's husband, Anders Hansen. Mads Adolf died in 1893 at the age of 7.

Mads Adolf's short life is the subject of the book *A Frame but no Picture*, published by the Lur Press in Blair Nebraska, in 1998. This book consists of letters written to Peter and Dorthé Hansen during their early years in the United States.

Upon arriving in the United States, Peter Hansen first worked for the Rock Island railroad in Weston, ten miles northeast of downtown Council Bluffs. In 1887, while living in Weston, their final child, Ellen Marie, was born next door in the house of a neighbor, Swen Nelson.

After a few years in Weston, the Peter Hansen family moved to Council Bluffs, where Peter worked for the Northwestern Railroad. In Council Bluffs they lived in the North Eighth Street area. While living in Council Bluffs, the Hansen children attended the 8<sup>th</sup> Street School.

In 1895, Peter, Dorthé, and their four children, Maggie, Pete, Chris and Ellie, moved to a farm in Hazel Dell Township, Section 10, which they rented from the Graham estate. In Hazel Dell Township the Hansen children attended the Parish School, at the southwest corner of the intersection north of the Hansen farmstead.

Hansen family members remained on the rental farm in Hazel Dell Township for around 50 years.

In 1900, Peter and Dorthé's oldest child, Maggie, married Andrew Larson, who lived on a nearby farm with his parents. Andrew and Maggie set up housekeeping on an 80-acre

farm near Andrew's parents, which Andrew and Maggie rented from the Graham estate.

My great-grandfather, Peter Hansen, lived to see only two of his grandchildren. He died on the Hansen farm in Hazel Dell Township in 1904, at the age of 67.

After Peter Hansen's death in 1904, his widow, Dorthe, and their unmarried children, Pete, Chris and Ellie, continued to live on the Hansen farm. Pete became the farmer in the family. In the 1919 Pottawattamie County atlas, Pete was farming 120 acres.

In 1913, Chris began studying to become a minister. When school wasn't in session, Chris would return home and work in the neighborhood until he was ordained and married in 1921.

In 1916, Ellie married Andrew Larson's brother, Henry Larson, and left home to live on a nearby farm that Henry had just purchased.

In the 1920 census, Dorthe Hansen was living with her son-in-law and daughter, Henry and Ellie Larson, and their little daughter, Evelyn. Dorthe died at Henry and Ellie's home in Hazel Dell Township in 1923 at the age of 73.

For a quarter of a century, Uncle Pete Hansen lived by himself on the farm his parents had first rented in 1895. I believe that the Graham estate continued to own this farm until around the time Uncle Pete moved away in the 1940s. Then Henry Ted Peterson, the neighbor across the creek to the west, bought the Hansen farm and demolished the buildings.

My great-grandparents, Peter and Dorthe Hansen, and their children, Maggie, Pete and Ellie, are all interred in St. Paul's Lutheran Church Cemetery in Boomer Township, west of Neola, Iowa. Chris is interred in Blair, Nebraska. Mads Adolph was interred in Denmark.

The list on the following two pages shows Peter and Dorthe Hansen's five children and their sixteen grandchildren, along with spouses and birth and death dates. As of February 2016, all grandchildren are deceased, the last to die being Sara (Hansen) Walter in December 2015.

## Older Descendants of Peter Hansen and Dortha Hansen

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Peter Hansen (2 Dec 1836 - 6 Jun 1904)  
& Dortha Hansen (31 Jan 1850 - 16 Dec 1923)

Karen Margrethe "Maggie" Hansen (31 Aug 1880 - 14 May 1962)  
& Andrew A. Larson (26 Apr 1874 - 22 Oct 1949)

Albert Henry Larson (30 May 1900 - 19 Oct 1987)

Edna Marie Larson (4 Jul 1902 - 22 Feb 1946)  
& Louis William Petersen (23 May 1899 - 4 Mar 1988)

Lillian Dorothy Larson (14 Nov 1904 - 16 May 1990)  
& Hilding Ferdinand Gidlund (10 Jul 1902 - 10 Apr 1961)

Florence Edith Larson (4 Dec 1906 - 24 Feb 1945)  
& Carl Bernard "Bernard" Larsen (26 Jun 1908 - 2 May 1972)

Leona Margaret Larson (28 Jan 1909 - 15 Apr 1969)  
& Alvin McKinley Christiansen (14 Oct 1901 - 18 Sep 1973)

Ethel Irene Larson (16 Jun 1912 - 8 Jan 2015)  
& Oscar Adolph Torneten (14 Dec 1906 - 19 Jul 1976)

Helen Ruth Larson (19 Jul 1915 - 20 Aug 2013)  
& Victor Thybo Petersen (26 Mar 1912 - 17 Aug 2006)

Vernon Edwin Larson (18 Oct 1919 - 13 Jan 2003)  
& Thelma Mae Schroder (10 Dec 1920 - 20 Jan 2002)

Alice Elaine Larson (1 Sep 1923 - 24 Jun 1954)  
& Norvin Clarence Oamek (25 Nov 1922 - 28 Oct 2007)

Hans Peter "Pete" Hansen (4 Apr 1882 - 25 Jun 1959)

Laurits Christian "Chris" Hansen (6 Nov 1883 - 14 Apr 1965)  
& Agatha Christine Mengers (2 Dec 1896 - 12 Apr 1983)

David Christian Hansen (20 Jan 1922 - 1 Jan 1976)  
& Doris Elaine Stream (13 Jun 1917 - 5 Aug 2009)

Ellen Margrethe Hansen (28 Jun 1923 - 4 Oct 2004)  
& Gail Owen Schooley (13 Jun 1919 - 26 Aug 1983)

Ethan Laurits Hansen (7 Dec 1925 - 15 Jul 2015)  
& Patricia Herman (21 Nov 1928 - )

Charles Richard Hansen (26 Aug 1928 - 16 Jun 2004)  
& Arlene Mae Hatt (6 Apr 1929 - 24 Dec 2015)

Sara Anne Hansen (15 Oct 1930 - 3 Dec 2015)  
& Harold Alvin Houser (27 May 1930 - 27 Apr 2010)

Sara Anne Hansen (15 Oct 1930 - 3 Dec 2015)  
& Paul R. McDonald (24 Feb 1919 - 7 Apr 1995)

Sara Anne Hansen (15 Oct 1930 - 3 Dec 2015)  
& Neal Eugene Walter (14 Sep 1929 - 1 Dec 2009)

Mads Adolf Hansen (30 Apr 1885 - 17 Mar 1893)

Ellen Marie "Ellie" Hansen (27 Dec 1887 - 25 Jun 1982)  
& Henry Larson (15 Apr 1877 - 12 Feb 1957)

Evelyn Dorothy Larson (12 May 1918 - 10 Apr 2011)  
& Lewis Henry Temps Rhode (21 Jan 1916 - 2 Jul 1997)

Evelyn Dorothy Larson (12 May 1918 - 10 Apr 2011)  
& Charles Wilbur Lindsay (2 May 1914 - 2 Feb 1987)

Evelyn Dorothy Larson (12 May 1918 - 10 Apr 2011)  
& Philip Lee Sherbondy (30 Apr 1932 - )

Donald Robert Larson (29 Sep 1930 - 1 Oct 1930)

As of March 2016, all but seven of the 43 great-grandchildren of Peter and Dortha Hansen are living. The deceased are:

- † Karen Mae Hansen (daughter of Ethan Hansen, died 1956 on day of birth)
- † Alvin Petersen (died 2003, three children)
- † Edwin Rhode (died 2005, three children)
- † Larry Larsen (died 2010, two children)
- † Ron Larson (died 2012, three children)
- † Rosalie (Gidlund) Nelson (died 2014, no children)
- † Donald Petersen (died 2015, three children)

For more about Peter and Dortha Hansen's descendants through their daughters, Maggie and Ellie, see the *Larsen* volume of *Robert Christiansen's Family History*.

End of Chapter 2 - *Peter Hansen and Dortha Hansen*  
of the *Hansen* volume of *Robert Christiansen's Family History*.