

Hansen Volume, Chapter 5 - Laurits Christian Hansen and Agatha Mengers

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My great-uncle, Laurits Christian "Chris" Hansen, the third child of Peter and Dortha Hansen, was born in Denmark in 1883 and immigrated with his family in 1886. Professionally he was generally known as "L. C. Hansen".

==> This space is reserved for a photograph.

The Lives of Laurits Christian & Agatha (Mengers) Hansen

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- **Laurits Christian “Chris” Hansen, the third child of Peter and Dortha Hansen,** was born in Denmark in 1883 and immigrated with his family in 1886. Chris spent his teenaged and early adult years on the Hansen farm in Hazel Dell Township and was 20 when his father died.

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)

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)

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)

When Chris was in his late 20s, living at home and doing farm work, he received the calling to be a minister. Chris returned to school in 1913, studying at Dana College and the University of Nebraska.

Of interest - Uncle Chris Saves a Little Girl:

Ruth (Hansen) Nielsen in her family history told of an incident that happened in the summer of 1916. (Ruth was the daughter of P. W. I. and Anna Hansen, who lived about four miles to the northeast of the Peter Hansen family.)

Chris Hansen, one of the carpenters, was helping to remodel our home that summer to earn enough for his tuition at Dana College that fall. He told me this story about forty years later what happened one day.

"Ruth, I remember that you were only three years old when one day I had just moved my 30 foot ladder to the west side of the skeleton frame house to finish a section near the roof line. I went around the house to get my hammer and nails. When I came back around the corner to climb up the ladder, I saw you, Ruth, climbing up as fast as your little legs would take you. I didn't dare yell at you for fear you would look down and become frightened. So I climbed up as fast as I could. You were ready to climb around the ladder side and step out to the 2 x 4 that was to be part of the framework for the attic above the ceiling of the upstairs bedroom. You had one foot ready to go when I grabbed you. If you had fallen you would have fallen all the way to the basement floor. I

was pretty shaken up when I got you back down and set you on the ground. I knew I had to stop you from doing this again so I shook my finger in your face and yelled at you. I told you I would scream at you if you ever did that again. Then I stamped my feet hard on the ground."

Chris Hansen made his point. After that, I shied away from his ladder and also from him.

Chris graduated from Trinity Seminary in 1919. (Dana College and Trinity Seminary were both in Blair, Nebraska.) Then Chris attended Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary in Maywood, Illinois.

In 1921, Chris was ordained as a clergyman in the United Evangelical Lutheran Church. Also in 1921, Chris married Agatha Christine Mengers.

Agatha Christine Mengers, my great-uncle Laurits Christian "Chris" Hansen's wife, was the daughter of Rev. C. C. Mengers and Maren Dortha "Dora" Henriksen.

Of Interest: The extended Mengers family contained several clergymen who produced voluminous amounts of correspondence and other papers that were saved for the better part of a century, from the 1880s to the 1970s. After my great-aunt Agatha died, these papers, about 11,000 in number, were donated to the Danish American Archive and Library in Blair, Nebraska, where they are known as the Hansen-Mengers collection. These papers have been the source of several books and articles.

As of 2014 a painting of Uncle Chris's mother, Dortha Hansen, keeps watch over the alcove in the archives where the Hansen-Mengers collection is kept.

A chapter appendix provides an overview of the Mengers family in the United States.

Rev. Laurits Christian Hansen, was known within the family as "Chris" but within the Blair branch of Danish Lutheranism as "L. C.". I believe he served in the following locations:

- Chicago, Illinois
- Shennington, Wisconsin
- Kenmare, North Dakota, where he was pastor at the Trinity Lutheran Church about three miles north of Kenmare from September 1927 to August 1937.
- Dannebrog, Nebraska

Rev. L. C. Hansen, my great-uncle Chris, retired from the ministry in 1947. Chris and Agatha then moved to 2120 Nebraska Street in Blair, Nebraska. In Blair Chris he worked for the Lutheran Publishing House until his second retirement in 1959.

Of Interest: Chris and Agatha's Hansen's home at 2120 Nebraska Street in Blair was not commodious, even by the standards that prevailed around 1948. During their early years in Blair, Chris and Agatha shared their home half the year with Agatha's parents. Agatha's parents then lived elsewhere in Blair with their other child, Ethan, for the other half of the year.

My great-uncle Chris Hansen died in Blair in 1965. Agatha died in 1983 at the Immanuel Fontenelle home in Omaha, where she had been a resident for three to four years.

The Children of Laurits Christian & Agatha (Mengers) Hansen

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After the following chart you will find brief additional information on the children of Chris and Agatha Hansen, along with a list of grandchildren. As of February 2016, all but one of their fourteen grandchildren, born between 1944 and 1967 are thought to be living. For privacy reasons I have omitted the grandchildren's birthdates and spousal information.

Chart - Laurits Christian "Chris" and Agatha Hansen and Their Children (two pages)

Laurits Christian "Chris" Hansen

b. 6 Nov 1883, Sløsserup, Toreby Sogn, Maribo Amt, Denmark

d. 14 Apr 1965, Blair, Washington Co., NE

bur. 17 Apr 1965, Blair, Washington Co., NE

& Agatha Christine Mengers

b. 2 Dec 1896, Philadelphia, Philadelphia Co., PA

d. 12 Apr 1983, Immanuel Fontenelle Home, Omaha, Douglas Co., NE

bur. 15 Apr 1983, Blair, Washington Co., NE

m. 30 Mar 1921, Webster Groves, St. Louis Co., MO

David Christian Hansen

b. 20 Jan 1922, Chicago, Cook Co., IL

d. 1 Jan 1976, Denver, Denver Co., CO

bur. 5 Jan 1976, Chapel Hill Mem. Gardens, Denver, Denver Co., CO

& Doris Elaine Stream

b. 13 Jun 1917, Las Animas Co., CO?

d. 5 Aug 2009, Littleton, Douglas Co., CO?

m. Jun 1943, La Veta, Huerfano Co., CO

Ellen Margrethe Hansen

b. 28 Jun 1923, Shennington, Monroe Co., WI

d. 4 Oct 2004, Elk Grove, Sacramento Co., CA?

& Gail Owen Schooley

b. 13 Jun 1919, Chicago, Cook Co., IL

d. 15 Oct 1983, Chicago, Cook Co., IL

brp. Mt. Emblem Cem., Elmhurst, DuPage Co., IL

m. 13 May 1949, St. Timothy Luth. Ch., Chicago, Cook Co., IL

Ethan Laurits Hansen

b. 7 Dec 1925, Shennington, Monroe Co., WI

d. 15 Jul 2015, at home, Atascadero, San Luis Obispo Co., CA

brp. Atascadero Cem., Atascadero, San Luis Obispo Co., CA

& Patricia Herman

b. 21 Nov 1928, Newmarket, Rockingham Co., NH

m. 29 Apr 1950, Arlington, Arlington Co., VA

Charles Richard Hansen

b. 26 Aug 1928, Kenmare, Ward Co., ND

d. 16 Jun 2004, McCook, Red Willow Co., NE

bur. 19 Jun 2007, Oak Ridge Cem., Dannebrog, Howard Co., NE
& Arlene Mae Hatt

b. 6 Apr 1929, Dannebrog, Howard Co., NE

d. 24 Dec 2015, Edgewood Vista, Fremont, Dodge Co., NE

brp. Oak Ridge Cem., Dannebrog, Howard Co., NE

m. 20 Jun 1948, Our Saviour's Luth. Ch., Dannebrog, Howard Co., NE

Sara Anne Hansen

b. 15 Oct 1930, Kenmare, Ward Co., ND

d. 3 Dec 2015, in hospital, Blair, Washington Co., NE
& Harold Alvin Houser

b. 27 May 1930, Huntington, Huntington Co., IN

d. 27 Apr 2010, Bloomington, Monroe Co., IN

m. 1 Sep 1962, Luth. Deac. Nsg. Home Chapel, Chicago, Cook Co., IL

Sara Anne Hansen

b. 15 Oct 1930, Kenmare, Ward Co., ND

d. 3 Dec 2015, in hospital, Blair, Washington Co., NE
& Paul R. McDonald

b. 24 Feb 1919

d. 7 Apr 1995

bur. 11 Apr 1995, Blair Cem., Blair, Washington Co., NE

m. 15 Oct 1984

Sara Anne Hansen

b. 15 Oct 1930, Kenmare, Ward Co., ND

d. 3 Dec 2015, in hospital, Blair, Washington Co., NE
& Neal Eugene Walter

b. 14 Sep 1929, Norfolk, Madison Co., NE

d. 1 Dec 2009, in hospital, Blair, Washington Co., NE

m. 15 Jul 1995, Camdenton, Camden Co., MO

- **David Christian Hansen** married Doris Elaine Stream, a native of southern Colorado.

David and Doris lived in Denver, Colorado, where David was an engineer and Doris was a teacher.

David and Doris both died in the Denver area.

David and Doris Hansen had three children:

- ▲ **Sandra Kay Hansen.**
- ▲ **Roger Keith Hansen.**
- ▲ **David Lawrence Hansen.**

- **Ellen Margrethe Hansen**, a nurse, married Gail Schooley, a Chicago native and a research chemist.

Gail and Ellen Schooley lived in Chicago. Gail died in the Chicago area. Sometime after Gail's death, Ellen moved to Elk Grove, near Sacramento, California, where she died.

Gail and Ellen Schooley had two children:

- ▲ **Jon Howard Schooley.**
- ▲ **Linda Kathleen Schooley.**

- **Ethan Laurits Hansen** was also a nurse. Ethan and his wife, Patricia, lived in Atascadero, California.

Ethan and Patricia Hansen had four children:

- ▲ **Karen Mae Hansen** was born prematurely and died on the day of birth.
- ▲ **Judith Ann Hansen.**
- ▲ **Carol Joyce Hansen.**
- ▲ **Laurence Ethan "Larry" Hansen** was a navy helicopter pilot who served five tours in Iraq.

- **Charles Richard Hansen** married Arlene Mae Hatt, the daughter of Alton E. and Connie Hatt of Dannebrog, Nebraska.

Charles Hansen was a grocer in Arlington, Nebraska. In 1996 Charles and Arlene moved to McCook, Nebraska, where Charles died.

Charles and Arlene Hansen, had four children:

- ▲ **Michael Dean Hansen.**
- ▲ **Mary Ellen Hansen.**
- ▲ **Thomas Charles Hansen.**

▲ **Sonja Lea Hansen.**

- **Sara Anne Hansen** was also a nurse. Sara attended high school in Dannebrog, Nebraska and spent her final year of high school in Blair, Nebraska. Sara returned to Blair around 1980. Until her death Sara lived in the old Hansen house at 2120 Nebraska Street in Blair.

Sara lived in Bloomington, Indiana with her first husband, Harold Houser, an Indiana native and an accountant. Sara and Harold Houser were divorced in 1982.

Sara and her second husband, Paul McDonald, divorced in 1986 and Paul subsequently died.

Sara's third husband, Neal Walter, is deceased. Neal was Sara's high school sweetheart from Dannebrog, Nebraska.

Neal Walter was born in Norfolk, Nebraska to Arthur Walter and Irene Wieboldt. Neal served in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean War and was previously married to Mary Nagel, who died in 1994.

Harold and Sara Houser had one child:

- ▲ **Laura Ellen Houser** was living in Springville, Indiana in 2009 and soon thereafter moved to Blair, Nebraska to live with her mother.

End of Chapter 5 - *Laurits Christian Hansen and Agatha Mengers*
of the *Hansen* volume of *Robert Christiansen's Family History*.

Chapter 5 Appendix - The Mengers Family

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My mother's uncle, Laurits Christian "Chris" Hansen, married Agatha Christine Mengers.

Agatha's paternal grandparents, Anders Christiansen and Ane Marie Nielsen, were born in Vejle Amt in Denmark in the sogne (parishes) of Smidstrup and Gauerlund respectively. Anders Christiansen was a weaver and Anders and Ane Marie settled in the small city of Fredericia near Vejle. Their children were born too late to receive the patronymic name of "Andersen", and hence took on the surname "Christiansen".

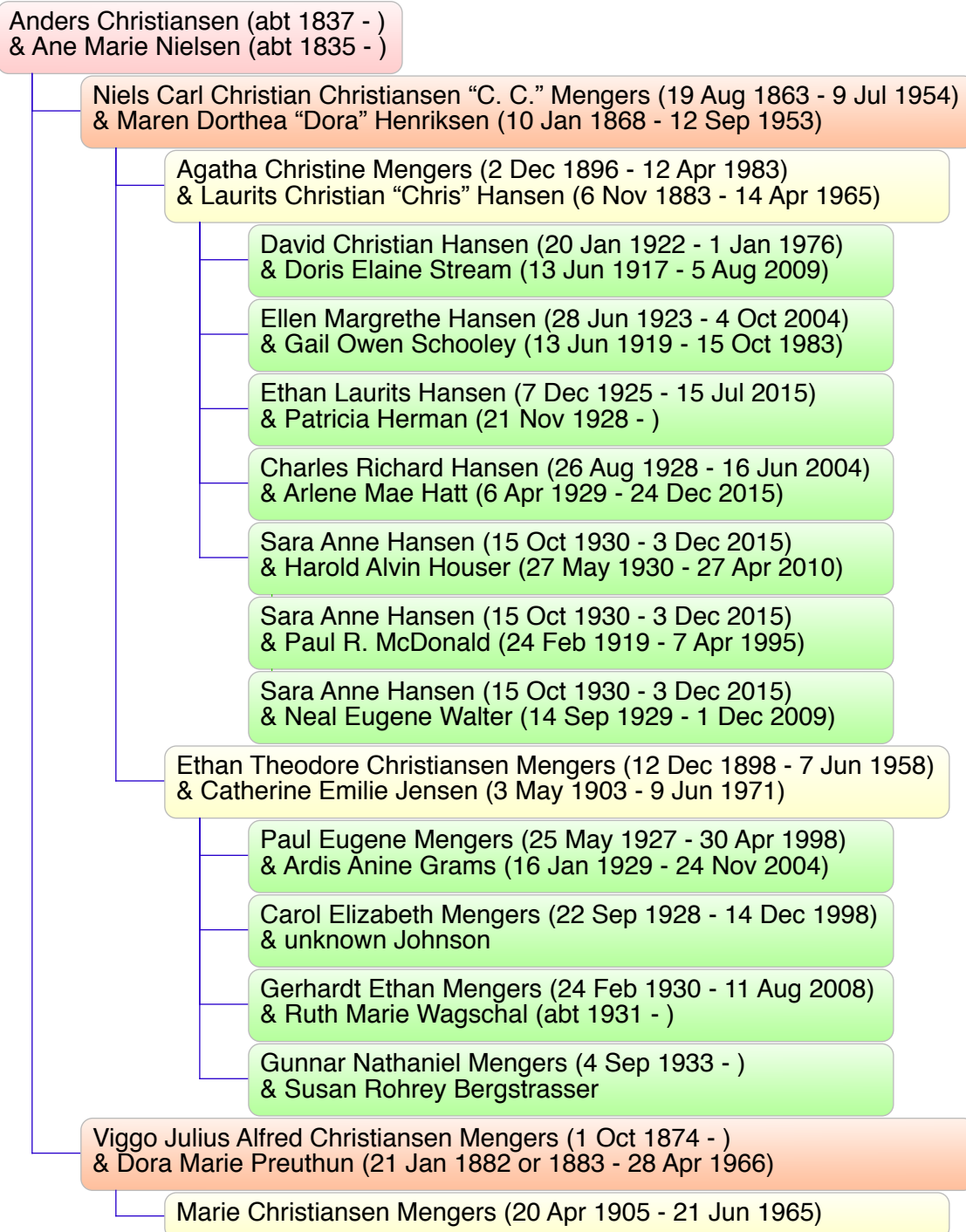
However the Christiansen family the family apparently wanted a less-prosaic surname for the children than Christiansen. They chose "Mengers", which was the surname of a Jewish family from Schleswig-Holstein that the Christiansen family was acquainted with.

Agatha's father and uncle, Niels Carl Christian, and his younger brother, Viggo Julius Alfred, both emigrated from Denmark as young men. It is not clear to me whether they changed their surnames before or after immigrating. In the United States both became Lutheran ministers.

The following page shows the known older members of the Mengers family. Here I list those known to be Lutheran clergymen:

- Niels Carl Christian Christiansen "C. C." Mengers.
- Laurits Christian "L. C." Hansen is the subject of this chapter of my family history.
- Ethan Theodore Christian "Ethan" Mengers married Catherine E. Jensen around 1926. Ethan was a clergyman in Kenmare, North Dakota in 1930, in Denver, Colorado in 1940 and in Northfield, Minnesota in 1945. By 1948 Ethan Mengers was a faculty member at Dana College and Trinity Seminary in Blair, Nebraska. In 1956, with the merger of various Lutheran synods, Trinity Seminary closed in favor of Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. Ethan and Catherine Mengers moved to Dubuque, where Ethan died a few years later.
- Gerhardt Ethan Mengers.
- Viggo Julius Alfred Christiansen "Viggo" Mengers seems to have lived throughout much of the United States during his career (Philadelphia; Washington State; Chicago; Lincoln, Nebraska; Sioux City, Iowa; Boston; Puerto Rico; New York; Connecticut), along with two or three stints at Dana College and Trinity Seminary in Blair, Nebraska. His only child, Marie, never married and was a French professor at the University of Maine when she was killed in a tragic car accident.

Older Mengers Descendants of Anders Christiansen and Ane Marie Nielsen in the United States



End of Chapter 5 Appendix - The Mengers Family
of the *Hansen* volume of *Robert Christiansen's Family History*.