

## **Jens Christensen and Maren Christensdatter Family** (charter members)

(Three-page sketch excerpted from *St. Paul's Boomer-Neola Early Families* by Robert A. Christiansen. Reviewed by \_\_\_\_\_. Revised by RAC Sep 2010.)

**Jens Christian “James” Christensen** (Apr 1843 – 4 May 1839) was born in Dronninglund Sogn, Hjørring Amt, Denmark.

In the 1860 census for Dronninglund Sogn, Jens Christian Christensen, 18, is a servant in the Gregers Acton household.

Jens Christian Christensen and Maren “**Mary**” **Christensdatter** (about 1831 – 7 Feb 1922) married in Skæve Sogn, Hjørring Amt, Denmark on August 2, 1868.

Skæve is a rural parish in northern Jutland about 25 miles northeast of Aalborg and ten miles north of Dronninglund.

Jens and Maren Christensen immigrated from Skæve Sogn to Council Bluffs in May 1872 with their three oldest children.

Also immigrating from Dronninglund to Council Bluffs in the same party were the following:

- Christen Skaksen and Ane Margrethe Christensdatter, an elderly couple.
- Their daughter, Christiane Christensen, her husband, Chr. Jensen, and Chr. And Christiane's two children.
- Their granddaughter, Mathilde, age 9, who later married John Schroder of Boomer Township.

Two additional children were born to Jens and Mary Christensen in Iowa.

James and Mary Christensen lived in Boomer Township, Section 20, just north of the Acton farm, from sometime in the 1870s until sometime between 1900 and 1905, when they turned over their farm to their son, Frank, and moved to North Eighth Street in Council Bluffs.

The five children of James and Mary Christensen, three of whom died in childhood, are listed below.

■ **Chris Christensen** (about 1868 –before 1880) died as a child.

■ **Christen Peter “Peter” Christensen** (about 1869 –after 1945) married **Dora Voss** (about 1868 – 2 Feb 1904) in Pottawattamie County on November 5, 1892.

Peter and Dora Christensen lived in Council Bluffs.

Dora (Voss) Christensen and all five of Peter and Dora's children died in a house fire at 1602 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street on February 2, 1904.

Later Peter Christensen moved to Florida. He is living in Miami in 1920, 1935 and 1945 with his second wife, **Rose** (about 1868 – after 1945), a native of England.

The five children of Peter and Dora Christensen are listed below.

- **Edna Christensen** (about 1893 – 2 Feb 1904)
- **Frank Christensen** (about 1895 – 2 Feb 1904)
- **Lila Christensen** (about 1898 – 2 Feb 1904)
- **James Christensen** (about 1901 – 2 Feb 1904)
- **Peter Christensen** (about 1903 – 2 Feb 1904)

Dora (Voss) Christensen and her five children are interred in Walnut Hill Cemetery in Council Bluffs. I don't know where Peter Christensen is interred.

- **Simon Peter Christensen** (about 1872 –before 1880) died as a child.
- **Mary Christensen** (after 1872 –before 1880) died as a child.
- **Frank Christensen** (17 Apr 1874 – 1942) married **Hedwig J. "Hattie" Jurgens** (May 1872 – 6 Oct 1938) in Pottawattamie County on February 9, 1898.

Hattie Jurgens was the daughter of **Heinrich Jurgens and Magdalena Christians**, one-time residents of Boomer Township.

Frank and Hattie Christensen lived on his parents' home place in Boomer Township.

The three daughters of Frank and Hattie Christensen are listed below.

- **Marie M. Christensen** (Jun 1899 – about 19 Sep 1984) married **Bodilius Jensen** (9 Feb 1895 – 3 Dec 1979) in Pottawattamie County on March 24, 1920.

Bodilius Jensen was the son of **Markor Martin Jensen and Ane Margrethe Pedersen** who lived in Boomer Township and then in Council Bluffs.

Bodilius and Marie Jensen had six children, two of whom died as infants.

- **Laura Edna Christensen** (16 Feb 1904 – Nov 1971) married **Argyle Ross** (1902 – 1937) in Pottawattamie County on February 15, 1928.

Argyle and Laura Ross were living in Boomer Township in 1930.

After Argyle Ross's death, Laura married **John Henry Harrison Woodward** (25 Dec 1897 – Sep 1963).

- **Elsie Lucille Christensen** (2 Dec 1907 – 16 Oct 1992) married **Eldred L. Prior** (17 Jun 1910 – 24 Jan 1993) in Pottawattamie County on February 11, 1931.

Eldred Prior was the son of **Herbert Prior and Hazel Sheen** of Garner Township.

Eldred and Elsie Prior were living in Garner Township in 1967.

Eldred and Elsie Prior had two known children, both of whom died as infants.

Frank and Hattie Christensen and all three of their children are interred in the Grange Cemetery in Boomer Township.

James and Mary Christensen and three of their children, Chris, Mary and Frank, are interred in the Grange Cemetery in Boomer Township.

### **Sources Specific to the Jens Christensen and Maren Christensdatter Family:**

- **References to other sketches in *St. Paul's Boomer-Neola Early Families*:**
  - None are known at this time.
- **Danish Emigration Archive (ddd.dda.dk):**
  - Jens Chr. Christensen, Maren, Chr., Christen Peter, and unnamed infant registered 5/10/1872.

### **End of the Jens Christensen and Maren Christensdatter Family Sketch**