

## **Niels Jorgen Christensen and Maren Kathrine Andersen Family**

Six-page sketch excerpted from *St. Paul's Boomer-Neola Early Families*

© 2014 by Robert A. Christiansen, last update by RAC Jul 2014.

Reviewed by Neil Christensen Jul 2014

Immediately following is a list of the children of Niels Jorgen Christensen whose spouses had major St. Paul's connections. All of the children appear in the body of this report.

**Christensen, Niels Jorgen & Maren Kathrine Andersen** (parents of members)

Niels Christian Nielsen & **Margaret Christensen** (see Anton Nielsen sketch)

Otto Christoffersen & **Anna Christensen** (see Jorgen Christoffersen sketch)

**Leon Christensen** & Emma Bondo (see also Christian Bondo sketch)

**Verner Christensen** & Julia Rasmussen (see also Peter Rasmussen sketch)

**Niels Jorgen "N. J." Christensen** (26 Jan 1856 – 16 May 1927) was born on the island of Møn in Damsholte Sogn, Præstø Amt, Denmark to **Christen Jensen and Ane Margrethe Hansdatter**. Præstø Amt is on the island of Sjælland south of Copenhagen.

Niels Jorgen Christensen immigrated to Council Bluffs from Damsholte Sogn in the spring of 1884 and worked in the Council Bluffs and Weston areas before marrying.

**Maren Kathrine Andersen** (13 Feb 1868 – 13 Dec 1910) was born in Harndrup Sogn, Odense Amt on the island of Fyn, Denmark to **Anders Pedersen and Maren Mortensdatter**.

Maren Andersen immigrated to Council Bluffs from Gudbjerg Sogn, Svendborg Amt in November 1888. Earlier, in 1880, her brother, Morten Andersen, had immigrated to Omaha from Harndrup Sogn.

Niels Jorgen Christensen and Maren Andersen married in Pottawattamie County on February 28, 1890.

Niels Jorgen and Maren Christensen moved to Norwalk Township, Section 5 after marrying, buying an 80-acre farm north of the road from Thomas Petersen and subsequently buying 80 acres south of the road from Henry Schmaedecke.

Maren (Andersen) Christensen died six days after the birth of their youngest child, Valeo. **Mary Jensen**, a neighbor and the wife of Niels Christian Jensen of Neola Township, cared for baby Valeo for a year. (Niels Christian and Mary Jensen were St. Paul's early members, see the Niels Christian Jensen sketch for further information on this family.)

After Maren (Andersen) Christensen's death, Niels Jorgen Christensen continued to live on the Norwalk Township farm, raising his younger children with the help of his two older daughters.

Fifteen years after Maren died, in Pottawattamie County on August 19, 1925, Niels Jorgen Christensen married the aforementioned **Mary Jensen**, who now was a widow.

After marrying, Niels Jorgen and Mary Christensen and his youngest children moved to Garner Township near Council Bluffs, where the youngest children finished school.

Niels Jorgen Christensen died in Garner Township. Subsequently his son, Verner, bought the N. J. Christensen farm from the estate. Verner continued to live on this farm until his death.

As of 2014 the N. J. Christensen farm is still in the Christensen family. Verner's grandson, Dan, lives on the farm in a house built by Dan's father, Alan Christensen. A second house, believed to have been built by N. J. Christensen in the early 1920s and added onto subsequently, is rented out.

The twelve children of Niels Jorgen and Maren Christensen are listed below. The nine who survived to adulthood all married, and six remained in the Pottawattamie County area.

- **Emanuel Christensen** (16 Feb 1891 – 11 May 1898) died at age seven of diphtheria.
- **James Christensen** (2 May 1892 – 1962, conf. 1908) married Lillian Hanson (9 Mar 1898 Jul 1978) in Bainville, Roosevelt County, Montana on December 17, 1924. Lillie Hanson was born in Cottonwood County, Minnesota to Ole Hanson and Carrie Rougstad, natives of Norway.

James Christensen was a wheat farmer in the Williston Basin in northeastern Montana, living near the town of Froid in Roosevelt County.

The four children of James and Lillian Christensen are listed below.

- ▲ **living Christensen** (-)
- ▲ **James Robert Christensen** (19 Jan 1929 – 8 Feb 1997)
- ▲ **Jeanette Mae Christensen** (22 Nov 1930 – 22 Nov 1930) died at birth, a probable twin.
- ▲ **living Christensen** (-)

James and Lillian Christensen and their infant daughter, Jeanette, are buried in the Kville Memorial Cemetery in Froid, Montana.

- **Maren Margrethe “Margaret” Christensen** (11 Dec 1893 – 1 Jan 1967, conf. 1908) remained at home until her father remarried.

Margaret Christensen married **Niels Christian Nielsen** (6 Jan 1883 – 14 Oct 1935) at St. Paul's on February 20, 1929.

Niels Christian Nielsen was the son of **Anton Nielsen and Kirsten Marie Christensen** of the St. Paul's community who lived in Neola Township east of St. Paul's.

The four children of Niels and Margaret Christensen are listed below. Niels died before his last child, Jim, was born.

- ▲ **Ruth Marie Nielsen** (16 Jan 1930 – abt 30 Sep 1973)
- ▲ **living Nielsen** (-)
- ▲ **Elna Mae Nielsen** (3 May 1934 – 13 Feb 2014)

▲ **James Christian "Jim" Nielsen** (5 Feb 1936 – 24 Jul 2007)

See the **Niels Christian Nielsen** section of the **Anton Nielsen** sketch for additional information.

- **Anna Christine Christensen** (30 Aug 1895 – 15 Oct 1965 or 15 Oct 1966, conf. 1911) married **Otto Jorgen Christoffersen** (8 Mar 1894 – 30 May 1964) at St. Paul's on March 20, 1918.

Otto Christoffersen was the son of **St. Paul's early members Martin Christoffersen and Minnie Bondo**.

The seven children of Otto and Anna Christoffersen, one of whom died in childhood, are listed below.

- ▲ **Agnes Marie Christoffersen** (10 Jun 1919 – 9 Aug 1992)
- ▲ **Ervin William Christoffersen** (18 Oct 1921 – 17 Sep 1931)
- ▲ **June Anna Christoffersen** (30 Jun 1923 – 16 Dec 1995)
- ▲ **Arthur Otto Christoffersen** (7 Jul 1926 – 27 Nov 1978)
- ▲ **living Christoffersen** (-)
- ▲ **Evelyn Emma Christoffersen** (20 Jul 1933 – 6 Dec 1998)
- ▲ **living Christoffersen** (-)

See the **Otto Christoffersen** section of the **Jorgen Christoffersen** sketch for additional information.

- **Hans Christian Christensen** (Mar 1897 – Mar 1897) was stillborn.
- **Emma Sophie Christensen** (3 Jun 1898 – Nov 1898) suffered from spinal bifida and died at five months.
- **Leon Emanuel Christensen** (14 Aug 1899 – 14 Feb 1960, conf. 1915) married **Emma Frances Bondo** (30 May 1902 – 28 Sep 1997) at St. Paul's on February 20, 1924.

Emma Bondo was the daughter of **St. Paul's early members Peter Bondo and Winnie Rasmussen** who lived in Hazel Dell Township, Section 1.

Leon and Emma Christensen farmed in the St. Paul's area before moving to Omaha.

The two sons of Leon and Emma Christensen are listed below

- ▲ **Eldon Richard Christensen** (6 Aug 1927 – 7 Jun 1992, conf. 1942)
- ▲ **Kenneth Harold Christensen** (15 Aug 1932 – 2 Feb 2008, conf. 1947)

See the **Peter Bondo** section of the **Christian Bondo and Karen Jensen** sketch for additional information.

Leon and Emma Christensen are interred in the St. Paul's Cemetery. Eldon Christensen is interred in Memory Gardens in Iowa City, Iowa. Kenneth Christensen was cremated.

- **Verner Walter Christensen** (30 Jun 1902 – 30 Dec 1976, conf. 1917) married **Julia Margaret Rasmussen** (13 Jun 1908 – 8 Oct 2001) at St. Paul's on June 5 or 6, 1929.

Julia Rasmussen was the daughter of **Nels Rasmussen** and **Inger Marie Nielsen** of the St. Paul's community. See the **Peter Rasmussen sketch** for information about Julia Rasmussen's relatives.

Verner and Julia Christensen farmed the Christensen home place in Norwalk Township, Section 5, which Verner bought from the estate in 1929. After Verner's death, Julia continued to live on the farm for a number of years.

Eventually Julia moved to Council Bluffs and then to Des Moines to be near her daughter. Julia died in Des Moines.

The four children of Verner and Julia Christensen are listed below.

- ▲ **living Christensen** (-)

- ▲ **living Christensen** (-)

- ▲ **Alan Verner Christensen** (18 Sep 1935 – 19 Jul 1988, conf. 1950) took over the N. J. Christensen home place after Verner retired. Alan built and lived in a second house on the property. Alan worked for Union Pacific in Omaha as well as farming, and died of pancreatic cancer.

- ▲ **living Christensen** (-)

Verner and Julia Christensen and their son, Alan, are interred in the St. Paul's Cemetery.

- **William Christian "Bill" Christensen** (16 May 1904 – 8 Jun 1957, conf. 1919) married **Maybell Sigrid Hansen** (10 May 1912 – 8 Nov 2001) in Dagmar, Montana on January 27, 1932. Maybell Hansen was born in Kensal, North Dakota to **Hans C. Hansen** and **Maren "Marie" Jorgensen**.

Bill Christensen lived at 2756 Avenue A in Council Bluffs in 1940 when he was working as an auto mechanic and in 1942 when he was working for the Storz Brewing Company in Omaha. By 1944 Bill and Maybell Christensen were living at 2405 Avenue B in Council Bluffs. Both addresses were near West Broadway.

The two children of Bill and Maybell Christensen are listed below.

- ▲ **Keith Wayne Christensen** (10 Mar 1933 – 4 Mar 1997)

- ▲ **Elizabeth Mary "Betty" Christensen** (2 Apr 1936 – 30 Mar 2009) married **Edward Charles Bracker** (8 Apr 1935 – Jan 1984). Edward Bracker was the son of **Charles Bracker** and **Grace Rodenburg** who moved to the former Swen Nelson farm east of St. Paul's in the 1940s.

Bill and Maybell Christensen and their son, Keith, are interred in the St. Paul's Cemetery. Their daughter, Betty, is interred with her husband in Hazel Dell Cemetery.

- **Elna Amanda Christensen** (24 Oct 1906 – 23 Apr 1989, conf. 1921) married **Chauncey J. "Jack" Vesey** (18 Jun 1904 – May 1976) at St. Paul's on October 23, 1929.

Chauncey Vesey was the son of **John Vesey and Helen McPherron** of Norwalk Township.

Chauncey Vesey and Elna Christensen divorced. Later Elna Christensen married **Ted Mulsberry** and then **Ivan Glen Gerardy** (21 Oct 1905 – 14 Mar 1961).

Elna (Christensen) Gerardy died in Sacramento, California. Elna probably did not have children.

- **Harald Nathaniel Christensen** (1 Feb 1909 – 5 Apr 1997, conf. 1923) married **Helen M. Whipple**.

Harald Christensen was a chemist in Racine, Wisconsin.

The two children of Harald and Helen Christensen are listed below.

- ▲ **living Christensen** (-)

- ▲ **living Christensen** (-)

Harold and Helen Christensen are interred in the West Lawn Park Cemetery in Racine.

- **Valeo Toldevar Christensen** (7 Dec 1910 – 12 Feb 1979, conf. 1926) married **Mary Ida Downs** (7 or 9 Sep 1922 – 5 Feb 2005) in Pottawattamie County with the St. Paul's pastor officiating on October 26, 1938. Mary Downs was the daughter of **Thomas Downs and Mary I. Pardee** of Norwalk Township.

After marrying, Valeo and Mary lived on a rented farm near the N. J. Christensen home place. Later they moved to the McClelland area and Valeo worked in Omaha. Omaha city directories show him working both for the Falstaff Brewing Company and for Wilson and Company, a meat packer.

After Valeo Christensen died in Omaha, Mary Ida (Downs) Christensen married John Mihaly (9 May 1919 – 28 Apr 2005).

The four children of Valeo and Mary Christensen are listed below.

- ▲ **living Christensen** (-)

- ▲ **Timothy Lee Christensen** (13 Oct 1943 – 2 Feb 2009)

- ▲ **living Christensen** (-)

- ▲ **living Christensen** (-)

Valeo and Mary Christensen are interred in the St. Paul's Cemetery.

Niels Jorgen Christensen and Maren Kathrine Andersen head family #3 in the St. Paul's family roster begun in 1900.

Niels Jorgen and Maren Kathrine Christensen and nine of their children, Emanuel, Margaret, Anna, Hans Christian, Emma Sophie, Leon, Verner, Bill, and Valeo are interred in the St. Paul's Cemetery. Harald Christensen is interred in West Lawn Memorial Park in Racine, Wisconsin. James Christensen is interred in the Kville Memorial Cemetery in Froid, Montana. I don't know where Elna (Christensen) Vesey Mulsberry Gerardy is buried.

## Sources Specific to the Nels Jorgen Christensen and Maren Kathrine Andersen Family:

### ■ Family members who assisted:

- Neil Christensen.

### ■ References to other sketches in *St. Paul's Boomer-Neola Early Families*:

- For the family of Niels Christian and Margaret (Christensen) Nielsen, see the **Niels Christian Nielsen section of the Anton Nielsen sketch**.
- For the family of Otto and Anna (Christensen) Christoffersen, see the **Otto Christoffersen section of the Jorgen Christoffersen sketch**.
- For the relatives of Emma (Bondo) Christensen, the wife of Leon Christensen, see the **Peter Bondo section of the Christian Bondo sketch**.
- For the relatives of Julia (Rasmussen) Christensen, the wife of Verner Christensen, see the **Nels Rasmussen section of the Peter Rasmussen sketch**.

### ■ Articles from Pottawattamie County, Iowa "Makers of Fire" history book, 1978:

- Niels Jorgen Christensen, pp. 151-152; Second Generation of Niels J. Christensen, p. 152

### ■ Danish Emigration Archives (ddd.dda.dk):

- Niels Christensen registered 3/29/1884; Maren Andersen registered 11/5/1888.

### ■ Other Sources:

- Undated **CHRONOLOGY** for Niels Jorgen Christensen (typescript that consists of pages 13-18 of another unknown document).
- "Heritage", a nine-page typescript by Cleo (Petersen) Christoffersen, with two appended pages about Niels Jorgen Christensen's relatives in Denmark.

## End of the Nels Jorgen Christensen and Maren Kathrine Andersen Family Sketch