

Jorgen Christoffersen and Karen Jensen Family (charter members)
(Nine-page sketch excerpted from *St. Paul's Boomer-Neola Early Families* by Robert A. Christiansen. Reviewed by Elaine Hoyer 2011. Revised by RAC Nov 2013 with additional information on the Chris Christoffersen family.)

Karen (Jensen) Christoffersen had three female relatives who lived in southeastern Boomer Township:

- **Inger Marie (Jensen) Sorensen, Mrs. Jorgen Sorensen, was a sister.** Jorgen and Inger Marie Sorensen were St. Paul's charter members.
- **Marie (Jorgensen) Hansen, the daughter of Inger Marie (Jensen) Sorensen and the wife of Rasmus Hansen, was a niece.** Rasmus and Marie Hansen were St. Paul's charter members.
- **Christiane (Jensen) Hansen, Mrs. Thomas Hansen, was a sister.**

Christoffersen, Jorgen & Karen Jensen (charter members)

Christoffer Christoffersen & Anna Jensen (charter members)

Martin Christoffersen & Minnie Bondo

Otto Christoffersen & Anna Christine Christensen

Christen "Chris" Christoffersen & Lena Nielsen/Anna Larsen

Jorgen Christoffersen (15 Aug 1817 – 24 Apr 1907) was born in Løsning Sogn, Vejle Amt, Denmark to Christoffer Andersen.

Karen Jensen (24 Nov 1827 – 25 Jun 1914) was born in Uldum Sogn, Vejle Amt, Denmark to Jens Pedersen and Mette Pedersdatter.

Jorgen Christoffersen and Karen Jensen married in Denmark, perhaps on May 5, 1856 in Odense. After marrying, they lived in Løsning Sogn where their four children were born.

In the early summer of 1877, Jorgen and Karen Christoffersen, their four children, and their son Christoffer's fiancée, immigrated through Baltimore from Løsning Sogn.

Shortly after arriving, Jorgen Christoffersen bought 120 acres in northeastern Hazel Dell Township, in Section 1, for \$6 an acre. A man named Price built a 24' by 16' house for the Christoffersens that year.

Around 1881, Jorgen Christoffersen bought another 160 acres. These two parcels abutted one another, 80 acres in Boomer Township, Section 36 and 80 acres in Neola Township, Section 31. In the 1885 plat book, J. Christoffersen has title to the Boomer land and C. Christoffersen to the Neola land. I don't know if a house was ever built on the Boomer land.

Sometime before 1895, Jorgen, Karen and their youngest child, John, moved to Neola Township, Section 31. As of 2010, great-grandchildren are still living on this farm.

The four children of Jorgen and Karen Christoffersen are listed below.

- **Christoffer Jorgen Christoffersen** (1857 –after Apr 1930) married **Anna C. Jensen** (about 1852 -?) in Pottawattamie County on September 18, 1878. Anna Jensen had immigrated with the Christoffersen family.

Christoffer Christoffersen initially farmed in northeastern Hazel Dell Township, in Section 1. Mr. and Mrs. Christoffer Christoffersen appear on the 1881 St. Paul's charter members list.

Christoffer and Anna Christoffersen moved their family to Amherst, Buffalo County, in central Nebraska in 1887. They moved to Taney County in southwestern Missouri between 1894 and 1900, and between 1900 and 1910 they returned to Buffalo County.

Christoffer and Anna Christoffersen divorced between 1910 and 1920. In 1920 and in 1930 Christoffer and his second wife, a Louisiana native named Bessie, were farming north of New Orleans in Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana.

The seven children of Christoffer and Anna Christoffersen are listed below.

- **George Christoffersen** (3 Mar 1879 – 12 Aug 1927) married **Anna Dixon** (about 1890 -) around 1906.

George Christoffersen listed a number of occupations in Buffalo County, Nebraska. In 1900 he was farming with his younger brother, Theodore. In 1907 he was an operator of a grist mill, a thresher and a sheller, and dealing in hardware, furniture and undertaking goods. In 1910 he was an undertaker. In 1920 he was dealing in retail hardware.

George and Anna Christoffersen had five known children.

- **Alfred Christoffersen** (Oct 1880 -, conf. 1897) returned to the St. Paul's area as a teenager. In 1900 he was a farm laborer working for his grandfather, Jorgen Christoffersen.
- **Theodore Christoffersen** (Sep 1882 -)
- **Mary Christoffersen** (Oct 1883 -)
- **Henry Christoffersen** (30 Nov 1886 – 19 Jan 1919)
- **Emma Christoffersen** (Oct 1888 -)
- **Alma Christoffersen** (Oct 1894 -)

George and Henry Christoffersen are interred in the Old Stanley Cemetery near Amherst. I don't know where any other members of the Christoffer and Anna Christoffersen family are interred.

- **Martin Jorgen Christoffersen** (5 May 1865 – 10 Aug 1948, conf. 1889) married **Aline Gomme "Minnie" Bondo** (9 Oct 1870 – 18 Oct 1945) in Pottawattamie County with the St. Paul's pastor officiating on March 29, 1893.

Minnie Bondo was the daughter of **St. Paul's charter members Christian and Carrie Bondo** of Hazel Dell Township.

Martin and Minnie Christoffersen first farmed in Hazel Dell Township. In 1895 and 1900 they were living at an unknown location in Hazel Dell Township. In 1902 they were living on the Christian Bondo home place in Section 11.

Between 1902 and 1905 the Martin Christoffersen family moved to southwestern Neola Township, Section 31.

The eight children of Martin and Minnie Christoffersen, two of whom died in childhood, are listed below.

- **Otto Jorgen Christoffersen** (8 Mar 1894 – 30 May 1964, conf. 1908) married **Anna Christine Christensen** (30 Aug 1895 – 15 Oct 1965 or 15 Oct 1966) at St. Paul's on March 20, 1918.

Anna Christine Christensen was the daughter of **St. Paul's early members Niels Jorgen Christensen and Maren Kathrine Andersen** of Norwalk Township.

In 1919 Otto Christoffersen was farming the Christian Bondo home place in Hazel Dell Township Section 11. Between 1925 and 1930 the Otto Christoffersen family moved to Neola Township. In 1939 he owned the old Lars Petersen farm in Neola Township, Sections 28 and 33. Otto Christoffersen is still listed as the owner of the farm in the 1967 plat.

The seven children of Otto and Anna Christoffersen are listed below.

- ▲ **Agnes Marie Christoffersen** (10 Jun 1919 – 9 Aug 1992, conf. 1935) married **Ervin Nels Rasmussen** (8 Aug 1915 – 6 Jan 2013) in Osceola, Polk County, Nebraska on February 15, 1941.

Ervin Rasmussen was the son of **Nels Rasmussen and Inger Marie Nielsen** of the St. Paul's community.

Ervin and Agnes Rasmussen had three children. **See the Peter Rasmussen sketch for additional information.**

- ▲ **Ervin William Christoffersen** (18 Oct 1921 – 17 Sep 1931) died at age 9.
- ▲ **June Anna Christoffersen** (30 Jun 1923 – 16 Dec 1995, conf. 1938) married **Verne Wilbur Redinbaugh Jr.** (17 Sep 1922 – 25 Apr 2009) at St. Paul's on September 17, 1943.

Verne Redinbaugh was the son of **Verne Redinbaugh Sr. and Lena Austed** of Union Township, Harrison County. Verne Redinbaugh was a long-time farmer in Union Township, Harrison County northwest of Neola.

Verne and June Redinbaugh had seven children, one of whom died as an infant.

- ▲ **Arthur Otto Christoffersen** (7 Jul 1926 – 27 Nov 1978, conf. 1940) married **Cleo Gretchen Peterson** (13 Aug 1930 -) at St. Paul's on March 14, 1948.

Cleo Petersen was the daughter of **St. Paul's early members Henry T. Peterson and Edna Nelson** of Hazel Dell Township.

Arthur and Cleo Christoffersen farmed the former Alfred Iversen place in Norwalk Township and then his father's farm in Neola Township before Arthur's early death in a tractor accident.

Arthur and Cleo Christoffersen had four children, one of whom died as a teenager.

- ▲ **Shirley Ruth Christoffersen** (8 Nov 1929 -, conf. 1944) married **Carl Samuel Falcone** (13 May 1924 -27 Mar 2010) at St. Paul's on May 28, 1955.

Carl and Shirley Falcone lived in Omaha and had four children.

- ▲ **Evelyn Emma Christoffersen** (20 Jul 1933 – 6 Dec 1998, conf. 1948) married **Coleman Calvin Fisher Jr.** (12 Oct 1930 – 31 Dec 1992) at St. Paul's on October 15, 1950.

Coleman Fisher was the son of **Coleman Fisher Sr. and Lois O'Neill** of Neola Township.

Coleman Fisher bought and farmed the Lars Rasmussen home place just west of St. Paul's until his untimely death.

After Coleman Fisher's death, Evelyn married **Vernon Carl Magnussen** (29 Jun 1932 -) in Pottawattamie County with the St. Paul's pastor officiating on July 22, 1995.

Vernon Magnussen was the son of **St. Paul's early members Carl Magnussen and Esther Bondo** of southeastern Boomer Township.

Coleman and Evelyn Fisher had five children.

- ▲ **Donna Mae Christoffersen** (19 Feb 1936 -, conf. 1950) married **James Ronald Burkhart** (15 Oct 1933 -) at St. Paul's on August 8, 1958.

James and Donna Mae Burkhart had two children.

Otto Christoffersen and Anna Christensen head family #58 in the St. Paul's family roster begun in 1900.

Otto and Anna Christoffersen and three of their children, Ervin, June, Arthur and Evelyn, are interred in the St. Paul's cemetery. Agnes (Christoffersen) Rasmussen is interred in Ridgewood Cemetery in Council Bluffs.

- **Amos Christian "Chris" Christoffersen** (11 Jul 1895 – 9 May 1906) died at the age of 10.
- **Carrie Louise Christoffersen** (6 Jan 1898 – 26 Sep 1992, conf. 1913) married **Louis Marinus Larsen** (24 May 1897 – 26 Oct 1967) at St. Paul's on April 25, 1923.

Louis Marinus Larsen was the son of **Soren Christian Larsen and Mette Marie Nielsen** and the brother of Lydia Larsen who married Oluff Hansen, the son of St. Paul's charter members Peter Hansen and Inger Marie Nielsen.

In 1918 Louis Larsen was a hired man for William Driver in Boomer Township, and in 1920 he was a hired man for Martin Christoffersen in Neola Township. In 1930 Louis Larsen was farming in Norwalk Township.

The seven children of Louis and Carrie Larsen, including two who died in infancy, are listed below.

- ▲ **infant Larsen** (27 Mar 1926 – 27 Mar 1926), a baby girl, died at birth of strangulation.
- ▲ **Orville Robert Larsen** (1 Nov 1927 – 28 Sep 2006, conf. 1942) served in the United States Air Force for several years immediately after WW II ended
Orville married Ioma Caldwell on December 18, 1948. Ioma had a daughter from a previous marriage, and Orville and Ioma had two children, one of whom is deceased.
Orville married Gloria Gardner on April 3, 1972. Orville and Gloria had three children.

Orville Larsen lived in Council Bluffs for much of his adult life.

- ▲ **living Larsen** (-)
- ▲ **Phyllis Helene Larsen** (13 Nov 1932 – 4 Dec 1932) died at three weeks from pneumonia.
- ▲ **living Larsen** (-)
- ▲ **living Larsen** (-)
- ▲ **living Larsen** (-)

Louis and Carrie Larsen, their two infant children, and their son, Orville Robert, are interred in the St. Paul's Cemetery.

- **Ruth Catherine Christoffersen** (23 Jul 1900 – 14 May 1906) died at the age of five.
- **Willie Martin Christoffersen** (29 Nov 1903 – 27 Jan 1964, conf. 1919) married **Lillian Margrethe Larsen** (9 Sep 1901 – 2 May 1959) in Kenmare, North Dakota on September 5, 1928.

Lillian Larsen was the daughter of **Lauritz Christian Larsen and Anna Margaretha Pedersen** of rural Kenmare, North Dakota and the sister of Bernard Larsen who married Florence Larson of Hazel Dell Township.

Willie Christoffersen farmed the Christian Bondo home place in Hazel Dell Township, Section 11.

The three children of Willie and Lillian Christoffersen are listed below.

- ▲ **living Christoffersen** (-)
- ▲ **living Christoffersen** (-)
- ▲ **living Christoffersen** (-)

Willie and Lillian Christoffersen are interred in the St. Paul's Cemetery.

- **Luella Christine Christoffersen** (10 Aug 1906 – 11 Oct 1988, conf. 1921) ran a printing shop in Council Bluffs and never married.

- **Ernest Laurits Christoffersen** (15 Jan 1909 – 14 Jan 1971, conf. 1923) married **Gene Bernice Jensen** (10 Jan 1920 – 20 Aug 2002) at St. Paul's on July 8, 1951.

Gene Jensen was the daughter of **St. Paul's early members George Jensen and Dora Nelson**.

Ernest and Gene Christoffersen lived on the old Martin Christoffersen farm in Neola Township, Section 31 where their children are still living as of 2010.

The three children of Ernest and Gene Christoffersen are listed below.

▲ **living Christoffersen (-)**

▲ **living Christoffersen (-)**

▲ **living Christoffersen (-)**

Ernest and Gene Christoffersen are interred in the St. Paul's Cemetery.

- **Minnie Marie Christoffersen** (21 Aug 1911 – 31 Dec 1978, conf. 1926) married **Erwin Maynard Orville Jensen** (4 Nov 1910 – 1 Jul 1995) at St. Paul's on September 9, 1945.

Erwin Jensen was the son of **St. Paul's early members Christian Jensen and Christine Hansen** of Hazel Dell Township.

Erwin Jensen farmed the old Oscar Hough place in Hazel Dell Township across the road from the Christian Bondo home place.

Erwin and Minnie Jensen had no children.

Erwin and Minnie Jensen are interred in the St. Paul's Cemetery.

Martin Jorgen Christoffersen and Aline Gomme Christoffersen head family #7 in the St. Paul's family roster begun in 1900.

Martin and Minnie Christoffersen and all eight of their children are interred in the St. Paul's Cemetery.

- **Christen Jorgen "Chris" Christoffersen** (19 Apr 1869 – 24 Nov 1949, conf. 1889) married **Ottoline Krestine "Lena" Nielsen** (10 Feb 1867 – 9 Feb 1907) in Pottawattamie County with the St. Paul's pastor officiating on October 19, 1893.

Lena Nielsen was the daughter of **St. Paul's charter members Jeppe and Ane Nielsen**.

In 1896, Chris and Lena Christoffersen moved to the Stuggart area in northeastern Arkansas and around 1902 they returned to Iowa and settled in southern Hazel Dell Township just east of the Hazel Dell church.

After Lena's tragic early death, Chris Christoffersen married **Anna Magrete Larsen** (16 Feb 1889 – 2 Nov 1985) in Pottawattamie County with the St. Paul's pastor officiating on December 16, 1908.

Anna Larsen was the daughter of **St. Paul's early members Andrew Jorgen Larsen and Mary Ann Nielsen** of southern Hazel Dell Township.

Chris and Anna Christoffersen moved their family to a farm in the Fredericksburg, Virginia area in 1920 and then to a farm near West Groton, New York in 1922. Their children generally used the spelling "Christofferson".

The four children of Chris and Lena Christoffersen, two of whom died at birth, are listed below.

- **baby Christoffersen** (about 1896 – about 1896) died in Arkansas at birth.
- **Harlan Benjamin Christofferson** (16 Mar or 16 Sep 1898 – 16 May 1946) married Viola Lorraine Newton (5 Jul 1900 – 13 Jul 2008) in Virginia on March 24, 1923.
Harlan Christofferson worked as a pipe fitter at the Penn Dixie cement plant near Ithaca, New York. Harlan died of burns received in a coal dust explosion at the cement plant. His widow, Viola, lived to 108.
- **baby Christoffersen** (25 Jul 1904 – 26 Jul 1904) died at one day.
- **Helen Ogat Christoffersen** (27 Dec 1905 – 11 Aug 1977) married **Lloyd M. Hart** (Nov 1905 – 31 Mar 1969) and **Alden Northup** (3 Sep 1907 – May 1974).

The seven children of Chris and Anna Christoffersen are listed below.

- **Frederick Christian Christofferson** (13 Sep 1909 -6 Feb 1985) attended Dana College in Blair, Nebraska. While at Dana he was a beau of my mother, Leona (Larson) Christiansen.
Frederick Christofferson married Bessie A. Tarbell (6 Nov 1910 – 7 Oct 2003) in Ithaca, New York on September 12, 1931. The Frederick Christofferson family moved to Reno, Nevada in the 1940s. In 1976 Frederick and Bessie divorced.
- **George Johannes Christofferson** (23 Dec 1910 – 31 Jul 2010) married Ellen Griffis.
George Christofferson worked for Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.
- **Leland Glenn Christofferson** (3 Dec 1912 - 21 or 22 Feb 1995) married Marjorie I. Muncy.
In the 1930s and 1940s Leland Christofferson farmed near Fredericksburg, Virginia. I don't know if this was the Chris Christoffersen farm from the early 1920s. Later the Leland Christofferson family moved to Cortland County in upstate New York.
- **Arnold Joshua Christofferson** (17 Sep 1914 – 1931) died in a hunting accident. In the 1930s and 1940

- **Sylvia Eveline Christofferson** (27 Jul 1916 – Jul 1989) married Harold L. Burch (30 Apr 1909 – Aug 1982).
- **Virgil Immanuel Christofferson** (22 Oct 1919 – 31 Mar 1991) may have remained unmarried.
- **Virginia Irene "Ginny" Christofferson** (16 Jun 1922 - ?) married Dudley J. Greenwood (17 Aug 1912 – 19 Dec 1987).

Christen Christoffersen and Anna Larsen head family #38 in the St. Paul's family roster begun in 1900.

Chris and Anna Christoffersen and two of their sons, Arnold and Virgil, are interred in the West Groton Rural Cemetery in Tompkins County, New York. Chris Christoffersen's first wife, Lena and one of their babies are interred in the Hazel Dell Cemetery.

- **John Christoffersen** (1871 - ?) moved to Prince George, British Columbia, Canada after 1900 and never married.

Jorgen Christoffersen and Karen Jensen head family #8 in the St. Paul's family roster begun in 1900.

Jorgen and Karen Christoffersen and their son, Martin, are interred in the St. Paul's cemetery.

Sources Specific to the Jorgen Christoffersen and Karen Jensen Family:

- **References to other sketches in *St. Paul's Boomer-Neola Early Families*:**
 - For the family of Inger Marie (Jensen) Sorensen, the wife of Jorgen Sorensen and sister of Karen (Jensen) Christoffersen, see the *Jorgen Sorensen Family sketch*.
 - For the family of Marie (Jorgensen) Hansen, the wife of Rasmus Hansen and niece of Karen (Jensen) Christoffersen, see the *Rasmus Hansen Family sketch*.
 - For the relatives of Minnie (Bondo) Christoffersen, the wife of Martin Christoffersen, see the *Christian Bondo Family sketch*.
 - For the relatives of Anna (Christensen) Christoffersen, the wife of Otto Christoffersen, see the *Nels Jorgen Christensen Family sketch*.
 - For the family of Ervin and Agnes (Christoffersen) Rasmussen, see the *Nels Peter Rasmussen section* of the *Peter Rasmussen Family sketch*.
 - For the relatives of Gene Bernice (Jenson) Christoffersen, the wife of Ernest Christoffersen, see the *George Jenson section* of the *Jens Jensen Family sketch*.
 - For the family of Erwin Jensen, the husband of Minnie Christoffersen, see the *Christian Jensen section* of the *Jacob Jensen Family sketch*.

- For the relatives of Lena (Nielsen) Christoffersen, the first wife of Christen Jorgen “Chris” Christoffersen, see the *Jeppe Nielsen Family sketch*.
- For the relatives of Anna (Larsen) Christoffersen, the second wife of Christen Jorgen “Chris” Christoffersen, see the *Andrew Jorgen Larsen Family sketch*.
- **Chris Christoffersen’s autobiography** (manuscript written about 1945).
- **Articles from Pottawattamie County, Iowa “Makers of Fire” history book, 1978:**
 - Jorgen Christoffersen, p.150; Martin Christoffersen, pp. 150-151; Willie Christoffersen, p. 151; Paul Christoffersen, p. 151.
- **Baltimore harbor passenger lists 1820-1948** (ancestry.com Oct 2008): Arriving on the British steamship Circassian from Liverpool via Queenstown to Baltimore on 10 Jul 1877 are J. Christopherson, wife, maid (RAC: Christoffer’s fiancée), and four children.
- As of 2013, several databases available through ancestry.com contain substantial information on the Chris Christoffersen family.

End of the Jorgen Christoffersen and Karen Jensen Family Sketch