

## Older Photos of the Peter and Dorthe Hansen Family

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### Brief Overview of the Peter and Dorthe Hansen Family:

My great-grandparents, Peter and Dorthe Hansen, and their three oldest children immigrated to Pottawattamie County, Iowa in 1886, leaving behind their fourth child, Mads Adolf, in Denmark. In 1887 their last child, Ellen, was born in Weston, Iowa.

The Peter Hansen family soon moved from Weston to Council Bluffs and then moved from Council Bluffs to Hazel Dell Township in 1895, where for nearly 50 years they rented a farm from the Graham estate.

Peter and Dorthe's Hansen's oldest and youngest children, Karen Margrethe "Maggie" and Ellen Marie, married brothers, Andrew and Henry Larson, whose parents lived nearby in Hazel Dell Township. Maggie and Ellen and their families remained in Hazel Dell Township near the Peter Hansen farm.

Peter and Dorthe Hansen's oldest son, Hans Peter "Pete", never married. Pete remained on the Hansen farm until 1944 when he moved to Council Bluffs.

In 1921 at age 37, Peter and Dorthe Hansen's second son, Laurits Christian "Chris", was ordained a Lutheran minister and married Agatha Christine Mengers. In 1947 Chris and Agatha retired to Blair, Nebraska, where they are buried.

The following list shows Peter and Dorthe Hansen and their five children. A list showing grandchildren appears at the end of this document.

- Peter Hansen (1836 - 1904) & Dorthe Hansen (1850 - 1923)
  - | Karen Margrethe "Maggie" Hansen (1880 - 1962) & Andrew A. Larson (1874 - 1949)
  - | Hans Peter "Pete" Hansen (1882 - 1959)
  - | Laurits Christian "Chris" Hansen (1883 - 1965) & Agatha Christine Mengers (1896 - 1983)
  - | Mads Adolf Hansen (1885 - 1893)
  - | Ellen Marie "Ellie" Hansen (1887 - 1982) & Henry Larson (1877 - 1957)

As of 2013 the Peter and Dorthe Hansen family is memorialized as shown below. I've compiled these photographs to supplement the following.

- The *Hansen-Mengers collection* of manuscripts at the Danish American Archive and Library in Blair, Nebraska.
- A book, *A Frame but no Picture*, by John W. Nielsen (Lur Publications, 1998). The title refers to the Hansen's fourth child, Mads Adolf, left behind in Denmark.
- Plaques for Peter and Dorthe and their three oldest children on the **Wall of Honor** at the Danish Immigrant Museum in Elk Horn, Iowa.
- A painting of Dorthe Hansen at the Danish American Archive and Library.
- The Hansen chapter in my extended family history, *Ancestors and Older Relatives of Robert Christiansen – Christiansen, Rasmussen, Larsen/Larson and Hansen*. Copies are at the Family History & Genealogy Center in Elk Horn and at the Pottawattamie County Genealogical Society in Council Bluffs.

## Peter Hansen (undated)



I copied this photo of Peter Hansen (1836-1904) from page xiv of *A Frame But No Picture*.

Peter and Dorthe Hansen emigrated in 1886 from Toreby parish on the island of Lolland with their three oldest children. The Hansens first lived in Weston, Iowa and then in Council Bluffs in the North Eighth Street area. While in Weston and Council Bluffs, Peter worked on the railroad.

In 1895 the Hansen family moved in two wagons from Council Bluffs to Hazel Dell Township, Section 10, about five miles west of Underwood. Here Peter and Dorthe remained for the remainder of their lives. Peter and Dorthe and three of their children rest a few miles away in the St. Paul's Lutheran Church Cemetery.

Peter Hansen was in his 40s when his children were born and died at age 67. He lived to see only two grandchildren.



## **Dorthe Hansen (undated)**



Photograph by Martha Dennis Christiansen Jul 2014 from painting hanging in the Danish American Archive and Library, Blair, Nebraska



**Dorthe Hansen and Her Four Children (about 1915)**



Seated: Ellen Hansen (1887-1982) and Dorthe Hansen (1850-1923).

Standing: Laurits Christian Hansen (1883-1965), Karen Margrethe (Hansen) Larson (1880-1962) and Hans Peter Hansen (1882-1959).

This photograph appears on page 11 of *A Frame But No Picture*.



## Karen Margrethe Hansen and Ellen Marie Hansen



The two Hansen sisters, Karen Margrethe "Maggie" (1880-1962) and Ellen Marie "Ellie" (1887-1982) were devoted to each other. They married brothers and lived within two miles of each other for almost all their lives.

Maggie raised nine children in a tiny house and Ellie one child in a larger home nearby. Some belongings, like Maggie's daughters hope chests, were stored in Ellie's home.

I may have been told that this photo was taken in 1900 when Karen Margrethe married, but it may have been a few years later.



**Ben Nelson, Hans Peter Hansen and Ellen Marie Hansen (with horses)**



The Hansen house in Hazel Dell Township is in the background. I would date this photograph as around 1915 as Ellen married and left home in 1916.

Bernhardt "Ben" Nelson a neighbor and family friend of the Hansens, was the son of Lars and Carrie Nelson who raised their family across the creek from the Hansens. He married Petrea Jorgensen, who emigrated from Denmark as a young woman. As an adult Ben lived on the Nelson farm at times. At other times he lived in the Council Bluffs area, in Harlan, Iowa and eventually in Oregon.



## Laurits Christian Hansen (on horseback)



Here is another view of the Hansen house, taken at a different season. This photo was taken some time between 1911 and 1921.

For ten years after deciding on the ministry, Laurits Christian Hansen studied at Dana College, the University of Nebraska, Trinity Seminary, and Chicago Lutheran Seminary. He supported his studies by returning in his free time to the Hansen farm where he worked as a farmhand and as a carpenter. In 1921 he was ordained and married Agatha Christine Mengers, whose father and brother were both Lutheran ministers.

## Andrew and Karen Margrethe (Hansen) Larson Family 1931



Andrew and Maggie Larson raised their nine children in a small house in a hollow about a mile south of the Peter Hansen farmstead. The youngest children, Vernon and Alice, are standing alongside their parents. In the rear are Leona, Florence, Ethel, Albert, Edna, Lillian and Helen.

When this photo was taken, only Edna was married. Albert remained at home and was farming. Leona, Florence and Ethel were working as rural schoolteachers. Lillian was living in Denver working as a domestic. The three younger children were still in school.

The spouses of the Larson children are listed near the end of this history.



## Hans Peter Hansen



Unfortunately we have no date for this studio photograph.

Hans Peter "Uncle Pete" Hansen (1882-1959) never married. He farmed the Hansen rental farm in Hazel Dell Township until he retired in his early 60s. After his brother, Laurits Christian Hansen, left home in 1921, Pete lived by himself on the Hansen farm. In 1944 the Hansen farmstead, where family members had lived for nearly 50 years, was sold and Pete moved to Council Bluffs. Pete lived at times with several of his nieces, and eventually lived in a Council Bluffs nursing home. Pete died in Council Bluffs.



**Laurits Christian Hansen, Hans Peter Hansen, Karen Margrethe (Hansen) Larson, and Ellen (Hansen) Larson.**



Photograph by Karen Margrethe's son-in-law, Victor Petersen, courtesy of Carol Petersen.

Thanksgiving 1951 at the home of Ellen's daughter, Evelyn, 14 Lainson Ave., Council Bluffs, Iowa. This was the last known reunion of the four Hansen siblings. At the time Chris was 68, Pete 69, Maggie 71 and Ellie 63.

### **Mads Adolph Hansen**

Unlike his four siblings shown above and elsewhere in this document, Peter and Dorthie Hansen's fourth child, Mads Adolf, is not pictured herein. Mads Adolf was left behind when the Hansen family emigrated in 1886. He was barely one year old at the time and went to live with Dorthie's brother-in-law and sister, Anders and Kirstine Hansen, in Radsted parish, where he died at age seven.

Mads Adolf Hansen is the subject of the little book *A Frame but no Picture*, by John W. Nielsen. This book was compiled from letters in the Hansen-Mengers collection at the Danish American Archive and Library. It was published in 1998 and was the first of the now sixteen volumes in the Lur Publications series.



"Sure Thing, Ellie"



Council Bluffs *Nonpareil* photo, courtesy of Sara (Hansen) Walter, granddaughter of Peter and Dorthie Hansen.

The photograph on the previous page appeared in the *Council Bluffs Nonpareil* on November 12, 1944.

In the photograph, Hans Peter "Uncle Pete" Hansen is wheeling Mrs. Eleanor "Ellie" O'Hanlon down Broadway Street in Council Bluffs, Iowa in a customized wheelbarrow. Below I have included the accompanying newspaper article, followed by some contextual information:

"Losing an election bet, H. P. 'Uncle Pete' Hansen gave Mrs. Eleanor O'Hanlon, Farm Bureau office assistant, a ride in an upholstered rubber tired wheelbarrow, accompanied by a police escort, through the streets of Council Bluffs Friday afternoon. The route led from the corner of Broadway and First street down Pearl street, through the Nonpareil court, and back up Main street to the Farm Bureau office. Hansen treated the Farm Bureau office personnel and county extension director to lunch before starting the trek."

We may never know why Uncle Pete and Ellie bet against their party's candidates. I seem to remember that if Ellie lost the bet she was to eat a meal of crow prepared by Uncle Pete.

The photograph is taken at the beginning of Ellie's memorable ride. Note the streetcar tracks and the Broadway Methodist Church in the background.

The election in question was the 1944 presidential election, in which Franklin Roosevelt defeated Thomas Dewey of New York thus winning a fourth term. Roosevelt defeated Dewey handily, winning 53% of the vote, although Dewey carried Iowa.

At the time Uncle Pete, who never married, was 62 years old. Earlier in the year he had left the farm in Hazel Dell Township, where he had lived since 1895, and moved to Council Bluffs.

Eleanor (Lutz) O'Hanlon was an only child whose mother, Maude (Stupfell) Lutz of Hardin Township, died when Eleanor was a teenager. Eleanor's father, John C. Lutz, ran the family fire insurance business on Pearl Street in Council Bluffs. He served as a Council Bluffs alderman in the late 1930s and much of the 1940s, and also was a Republican member of the Iowa State Legislature from 1939 to 1941.

Eleanor Lutz attended the University of Nebraska in Lincoln where she was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. She graduated with a degree in science education in 1941 and married Clark O'Hanlon of Blair, Nebraska in October 1941. Clark served in the United States Army for four years during World War II and was overseas while Eleanor was working in the Farm Bureau office. In Clark's absence, Eleanor lived with her widowed father, John C. Lutz, at 200 Park Avenue in Council Bluffs, the same house where she was born back in 1919. Eleanor worked in the Farm Bureau office from November 1943 to October 1945, when she resigned to be with her husband.

After World War II, Clark and Eleanor remained in Council Bluffs for a few years while Clark attended Creighton Law School. A few years later Clark and Eleanor moved to Blair, where Clark joined the family firm, Blair Abstract & Title Company. Clark died in 1979 and Eleanor married David Noble in 1989 and lived in Sioux City, Iowa until David's death in 2001.

Eleanor (Lutz) O'Hanlon Noble died in Blair on March 27, 2013 at the age of 93.



## The Grandchildren of Peter and Dorthie Hansen

Peter Hansen (1836 - 1904) & Dorthie Hansen (1850 - 1923)

- | Karen Margrethe "Maggie" Hansen (1880 - 1962) & Andrew A. Larson (1874 - 1949)
- | | Albert Henry Larson (1900 - 1987)
- | | Edna Marie Larson (1902 - 1946) & Louis William Petersen (1899 - 1988)
- | | Lillian Dorothy Larson (1904 - 1990) & Hilding Ferdinand Gidlund (1902 - 1961)
- | | Florence Edith Larson (1906 - 1945) & Carl Bernard "Bernard" Larsen (1908 - 1972)
- | | Leona Margaret Larson (1909 - 1969) & Alvin McKinley Christiansen (1901 - 1973)
- | | Ethel Irene Larson (1912 - ) & Oscar Adolph Torneten (1906 - 1976)
- | | Helen Ruth Larson (1915 - ) & Victor Thybo Petersen (1912 - 2006)
- | | Vernon Edwin Larson (1919 - 2003) & Thelma Mae Schroder (1920 - 2002)
- | | Alice Elaine Larson (1923 - 1954) & Norvin Clarence Oamek (1922 - 2007)
- | Hans Peter "Pete" Hansen (1882 - 1959)
- | Laurits Christian "Chris" Hansen (1883 - 1965) & Agatha Christine Mengers (1896 - 1983)
- | | David Christian Hansen (1922 - 1976) & Doris Elaine Stream (1917 - 2009)
- | | Ellen Margrethe Hansen (1923 - 2004) & Gail Owen Schooley (1919 - 1983)
- | | Ethan Laurits Hansen (1925 - ) & Patricia Herman (1928 - )
- | | Charles Richard Hansen (1928 - 2004) & Arlene Mae Hatt (1929 - )
- | | Sara Anne Hansen\* (1930 - ) & Harold Alvin Houser (1930 - 2010)
- | | Sara Anne Hansen\* (1930 - ) & Paul R. McDonald (1919 - 1995)
- | | Sara Anne Hansen\* (1930 - ) & Neal Eugene Walter (1929 - 2009)
- | Mads Adolf Hansen (1885 - 1893)
- | Ellen Marie "Ellie" Hansen (1887 - 1982) & Henry Larson (1877 - 1957)
- | | Evelyn Dorothy Larson\* (1918 - 2011) & Lewis Henry Temps Rhode (1916 - 1997)
- | | Evelyn Dorothy Larson\* (1918 - 2011) & Charles Wilbur Lindsay (1914 - 1987)
- | | Evelyn Dorothy Larson\* (1918 - 2011) & Philip Lee Sherbondy (1932 - )
- | | Donald Robert Larson (1930 - 1930)

## Credits

- As mentioned earlier, the photo of my great-grandfather, Peter Hansen, comes from page xiv of *A Frame But No Picture*.
- I believe the photos of Dorthe Hansen and her four children and of the sisters, Maggie and Ellie Hansen, came from the collection of my aunt, Ethel (Larson) Torneten.
- The two photos of Hansen family members with horses came from the collection of my late aunt, Evelyn (Larson) Sherbondy.
- I don't recall the origins of the 1931 photo of the Andrew and Maggie Larson family.
- I don't recall the origins of the photo of Hans Peter "Uncle Pete" Hansen.
- The photo of the four Hansen children in their later years came from a slide taken by my uncle, Victor Petersen, and digitized by his daughter, Carol Petersen.
- The "Sure Thing Ellie" photo was given me by Sara (Hansen) Walter, Uncle Pete's niece, and originally appeared in the Council Bluffs Nonpareil.