

## **Jens Jorgensen & Sophie Madsen Family**

(Three-page sketch excerpted from *St. Paul's Boomer-Neola Early Families* by Robert A. Christiansen. Reviewed by James D. Iversen. Revised by RAC May 2013.)

### **Jorgensen, Jens & Maren Sophie "Sophie" Madsen**

Alfred Iversen & **Asta Marie Jorgensen** (see also the Iversen sketch)

Herman Rudolph Sandberg & **Nina Martina Jorgensen** (see also Knudsen sketch)

Christian John Petersen & **Jorgensen** (see also the Anton Nielsen sketch)

**Jens Jorgensen** (18 Sep 1865 – 13 Oct 1948) was born in Brenderup Sogn, Odense Amt, Denmark to **Hans Jorgensen and Ane Marie Hansdatter**.

**Maren Sophie Kirstine "Sophie" Madsen** (25 Jul 1866 – 23 May 1931) was born in Middlefart Sogn, Odense Amt, Denmark to **Niels Jorgen Madsen and Maren Larsen**. Sophie, her parents, and her four siblings all immigrated to the Council Bluffs area over the period from 1889 to 1898.

Sophie Madsen immigrated to Council Bluffs around 1889. She journeyed back to Denmark in 1894 and Jens Jorgensen accompanied her on her return to the United States in March 1894. Jens and Sophie were married in Pottawattamie County on November 23, 1894.

**Factoid:** Sophie Madsen's brother, Laurits Peter Madsen, is thought to have built the first automobile in Council Bluffs around 1898. He later built about a dozen autos with the Madsen brand. There is a chapter about L. P. Madsen in "Iowa's Automobiles" by Bill Jepsen published in 2007. Parts of the chassis of one automobile and many sand casting patterns are preserved at the Danish Immigrant Museum in Elk Horn, Iowa.

Jens and Sophie Jorgensen were living in Garner Township in 1895. In 1900 and 1905 the Jens Jorgensen family was living at 920 Avenue G in Council Bluffs, where Jens was a railroad worker.

In late 1906 Jens and Sophie Jorgensen bought an 80-acre farm in Hazel Dell Township, Section 16 from Andrew Sandberg, who was moving to Boomer Township.

In early 1910 Jens Jorgensen swapped farms with John and moved to Boomer Township, Section 36.

In early 1914 Jens Jorgensen sold his Boomer Township farm to P.W.I. Hansen, who was expanding his farm, and moved to the former David Nelson farm in Hazel Dell Township, Section 9. Jens Jorgensen sold this farm to his three daughters in 1940.

After 1930 Jens and Sophie Jorgensen left Hazel Dell Township and moved to the west edge of Underwood, where they lived in a small house on the farm owned by their son-in-law and daughter, Herman and Nina Sandburg. While living in Underwood, Jens carried the mail between the post office and the mail trains passing through town.

Sophie died in the Herman Sandburg home in Underwood.

In 1948 Jens Jorgensen became ill and moved to the home of his daughter, Asta (Jorgensen) Iversen, south of Shelby, Iowa. Here he died.

The three daughters of Jens and Sophie Jorgensen are listed below.

- **Asta Marie Jorgensen** (16 Apr 1899 – 1 Jan 1991, conf. 1913) married **Alfred Iversen** (7 Jul 1893 – 11 Oct 1972) in Pottawattamie County with the St. Paul's pastor officiating on April 8, 1920. Alfred Iversen was the son of St. Paul's early members **Peter Christian Iversen and Kirstine Marie Mikkelsen**.

Alfred and Asta Iversen had three children. **See the Alfred Iversen section of the Peter Christian Iversen sketch for additional information.**

- **Nina Martina Jorgensen** (6 Mar 1903 – 16 Nov 2000, conf. 1917) married **Herman Rudolph Sandberg** (16 Nov 1901 – 30 Jul 1986) in Pottawattamie County with the St. Paul's pastor officiating on March 28, 1923. Herman Sandberg was the son of Andrew Sandberg and Christena Karen Knudsen who lived in the St. Paul's vicinity.

Herman and Nina Sandberg had three children. **See the Andrew Sandberg section of the Christen Knudsen sketch for additional information.**

- **Bertha Elizabeth Jorgensen** (1 Sep 1907 – 25 Apr 1997, conf. 1923) married **Christian John Petersen** (6 Jul 1906 – 21 Feb 1981) in Pottawattamie County with the St. Paul's pastor officiating on March 7, 1928. Christian John Petersen was the son of St. Paul's early members **Rasmus Petersen and Mary Anine Nielsen** who lived in Neola Township east of St. Paul's.

Christian John and Bertha Petersen had four children. **See the Rasmus Petersen section of the Anton Nielsen sketch for additional information.**

Jens Jorgensen and Sophie Madsen head family #40 in the St. Paul's family roster begun in 1900.

Jens and Sophie Jorgensen and their son-in-law and daughter, Christian and Bertha Petersen, are interred in the St. Paul's Cemetery. Alfred and Asta (Jorgensen) Iversen are interred in the Blair, Nebraska Cemetery. I don't know where Nina (Jorgensen) Sandberg is interred.

## **Sources Specific to the Jens Jorgensen and Sophie Madsen Family:**

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

- For the family of Asta (Jorgensen) Iversen, the wife of Alfred Iversen, **see the Alfred Iversen section of the Peter Christian Iversen sketch.**
- For the family of Nina (Jorgensen) Sandberg, the wife of Andrew Sandberg, **see the Andrew Sandberg section of the Christen Knudsen sketch.** (Andrew Sandberg was the son-in-law of Christen Knudsen.)
- For the family of Bertha (Jorgensen) Petersen, the wife of Christian John Petersen, **see the Rasmus Petersen section of the Anton Nielsen sketch.** (Rasmus Petersen was the son-in-law of Anton Nielsen.)

### ■ **Grandchildren James D. Iversen and Cal Petersen.**

- Information obtained from the Danish Emigration Archives (ddd.dda.dk):
  - Jens Jorgensen registered 3/10/1894 with last residential parish Asperup, Odense and last residence Vedelshave, Odense. Sophie Madsen registered 3/10/1894 with last residential parish Asperup, Odense and last residence Vedelshave, Odense.

## **End of the Jens Jorgensen and Sophie Madsen Sketch**