

## **Jens Nielsen Lauridsen and Mary Johnson Family**

(Five-page sketch excerpted from *St. Paul's Boomer-Neola Early Families* by Robert A. Christiansen. Reviewed by Janice Girton, May 2011. Revised by RAC May 2011.)

### **Lauridsen, Jens Nielsen & Mary Johnson**

**Harry Norbert Lauridsen** & Martha Margretha Christiansen

Clarence Peter Christiansen & **Alice Elizabeth Lauridsen**

**Jens Nielsen Lauridsen** (27 Apr 1864 – 15 Apr 1940) was born in Denmark and immigrated to the United States as a young man.

**Mary Johnson** (30 Aug 1875 – 1921) was born in Hazel Dell Township to **Niels Peter and Marie Johnson**.

Mary Johnson was the half-sister of my great-uncle by marriage, Nels Christian Augustine "Chris" Johnson, who is interred in the St. Paul's Cemetery. Mary's parents sold their farm in Hazel Dell Township, Section 1, to my great-uncle by marriage, Peter Bondo, and moved to Woodbine in Harrison County, Iowa in the late 1890s. Mary's father was sometimes called "Plasterer Johnson".

Jens Lauridsen and Mary Johnson were married in Pottawattamie County with the St. Paul's pastor officiating on August 31, 1893.

After marrying, Jens and Mary Lauridsen lived in Hawaii, in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, and in Dodge County, Nebraska before returning to Boomer Township around 1913.

Jens and Mary Lauridsen moved to the San Jose area of Santa Clara County, California before 1920. In 1920 Jens Lauridsen was a fruit farmer in Franklin Precinct, San Jose Township. In 1930 Jens was a poultry farmer in San Jose Precinct #1.

Jens and Mary Lauridsen spent the remainder of their lives in California, dying in Santa Clara County. Jens evidently remarried after Mary's death.

Jens and Mary Lauridsen had six children, with the first born in Council Bluffs, the second and third in Hawaii, the fourth and fifth in Virginia, and the sixth in Nebraska.

All of Jens and Mary Lauridsen's children, except for Alice, spent most of their adult life in California. In 1930 five of the children were living with or near their parents in the Milpetas area of Santa Clara County.

### **The six children of Jens and Mary Lauridsen are listed below.**

Two of these children, Harry and Alice Lauridsen, married siblings, Martha Margretha Christiansen and Clarence Peter Christiansen, children of Andrew Christian Christiansen and Trine Marie Jorgensen of northern Boomer Township.

Andrew and Trine Christiansen had two additional children: Mary married Christen "Chris" Larsen and George married Mildred Deakins. When Christen and Mary Larsen's late son, Orville, was in the military after World War II he visited his Lauridsen relatives in California.

- **Harry Norbert Lauridsen** (23 Jul 1894 – 2 Dec 1969) married **Martha Margretha Christiansen** (19 Apr 1898 – 16 Nov 1976) in Pottawattamie County with the St. Paul's pastor officiating on January 29, 1919.

Harry and Martha Lauridsen initially farmed in Neola Township. Around 1926 they moved to Santa Clara County, California.

In 1930 Harry Lauridsen was farming in Milpetes Precinct #2, San Jose Township, Santa Clara County.

Harry and Martha Lauridsen died in Contra Costa County.

The three known children of Harry and Martha Lauridsen are listed below.

- **Chester Norbert Lauridsen** (24 Sep 1921 – 6 Dec 1922) died as a baby.
- **Harry Norman "Norman" Lauridsen** (3 Mar 1924 -)
- **Corrine Lauridsen** (about 1927 -)

Harry Norbert Lauridsen and Martha M. Christiansen head family #70 in the St. Paul's family roster begun in 1900.

Chester Norbert Lauridsen is interred in the Grange Cemetery in Boomer Township.

- **James Nielsen Lauridsen** (27 Dec 1895 – 11 Jan 1979) married **Selma** (7 Aug 1898 – 3 Feb 1976), a Nebraska native, around 1920.

James and Selma Lauridsen first lived in Nebraska, but moved to Santa Clara County, California around 1926.

In 1930 James Lauridsen was farming in Milpetas Precinct #2, San Jose Township, Santa Clara County.

James Lauridsen died in Santa Rosa, Sonoma County. Selma died in Sacramento County.

The three known children of James and Selma Lauridsen, all born in Nebraska, are listed below.

- **Kenneth Lauridsen** (22 Feb 1922 – Jul 1987) may have died in Sacramento County.
- **Melvin Lauridsen** (about Mar 1925 -)
- **June Lauridsen** (about Jul 1926 -)

- **Alice Elizabeth Lauridsen** (14 Feb 1898 – 10 Aug 1996, conf. 1915) married **Clarence Peter Christiansen** (24 Jul 1895 – 5 Nov 1992) in Council Bluffs on February 14, 1917.

Clarence and Alice Christiansen first farmed in Boomer Township, and then moved to Missouri Valley, Iowa. In 1937 they moved to Council Bluffs where in 1964 Clarence owned an auto repair shop.

The seven children of Clarence and Alice Christiansen are listed below.

- **Evelyn Virginia Christiansen** (18 Jan 1918 –12 Aug 1993) married **Maynard Arthur Riddle** (9 Feb 1918 – 8 Oct 1991) at Rockport, Missouri in 1940.  
Maynard and Evelyn Riddle lived in the Denver area but died in California, Maynard in Riverside County and Evelyn in San Bernardino County.  
Maynard and Evelyn Riddle had three children, Evelyn Carole, Maynard James and Floyd Clarence "Skip".  
Maynard and Evelyn Riddle are interred in Northglenn, Colorado.
- **Rosemond Madeline "Romie" Christiansen** (27 Mar 1920 – 22 Oct 2009) married **Thomas R. Brougham** (13 May 1916 – 19 May 1986).  
Rosemond (Christiansen) Brougham was living in Council Bluffs in 2004.  
Thomas and Rosemond Brougham had two children, Phillip and Dean.  
Thomas and Rosemond Brougham are interred in the Cedar Lawn Cemetery in Council Bluffs.
- **Dorothy Marie Christiansen** (1922 – 1927) died as a child and is interred in the Grange Cemetery in Boomer Township.
- **Pearl Margaret Christiansen** (19 Aug 1926 – 27 Feb 2004) married **Leroy C. "John" Mahrenholz** (about 1921 – 1992?) on July 13, 1946.  
John and Pearl Mahrenholz lived in Council Bluffs.  
John and Pearl Mahrenholz had two children, Bruce and David. Pearl had one child, Keith, by an earlier marriage to Dudley Warford.  
John and Pearl Mahrenholz are interred in the Grange Cemetery in Boomer Township.
- **Norma Jeane Christiansen** (about 1928 -) married **Richard Ross Handbury** (10 Aug 1925 -) in Council Bluffs on January 18, 1948.  
Richard Ross Handbury was the son of **Ross Handbury and Helen Allphin** of eastern Boomer Township and was a World War II Marine Corps veteran.  
The Richard Handbury family moved to Rogue River, Oregon between 1950 and 1954. In 2004 Richard and Norma were running the Pioneer Square Mobile Park in Ashland near Rogue River. Richard Handbury was living in Rogue River in 2010.  
Richard and Norma Handbury had five children. The first two, twins, died at birth and are interred in the Grange Cemetery in Boomer Township. Their three surviving children were Joan, Karen and Lynne.
- **Gordon George Christiansen** (1930 – 1988) married Joyce Andersen.  
Gordon Christiansen lived in Grants Pass, Oregon, where he died.  
Gordon and Joyce Christiansen had two children, Scott and Suzanne.

- **Janice Audrey Christiansen** (Apr 1937 -) married **Kenneth D. Girton** (11 Oct 1928 – 10 Jan 2002) in Council Bluffs on June 18, 1955.

Kenneth and Janice Girton lived in Council Bluffs.

Kenneth and Janice Girton had four children, Kevin, Lisa, Kristine and Erin.

Kenneth Girton is interred in the Cedar Lawn Cemetery in Council Bluffs.

Clarence Peter Christiansen and Alice Elizabeth Lauridsen head family #56 in the St. Paul's family roster begun in 1900.

Clarence and Alice Christiansen and two of their daughters, Dorothy and Pearl, are interred in the Grange Cemetery in Boomer Township. Evelyn (Christiansen) Riddle is interred in Northglenn, Colorado. Rosemond (Christiansen) Brougham is interred in the Cedar Lawn Cemetery in Council Bluffs.

- **George Peter Lauridsen** (23 Jul 1900 – 29 Jul 1964) married **Jennie** (about 1900 -), an Iowa native, around 1925.

In 1930 George Peter Lauridsen was a farmer in Milpetas Precinct #2, San Jose Township, Santa Clara County. He was still living in Milpetas in the early 1930s and was living in Berkeley, Alameda County in 1944.

George Lauridsen died in Alameda County.

The four children of George and Jennie Lauridsen are listed below.

- **Darlene Lauridsen** (about Oct 1927 -)
- **Gloria Lauridsen** (-)
- **Donna May Lauridsen** (-)
- **Claudia Lauridsen** (-)

- **Paul Anton Lauridsen** (3 Dec 1901 – 17 Jan 1981) married **Angela** (about 1909 -), a Colorado native, around 1928.

In 1930 Paul Anton Lauridsen was a farmer in Milpetas Precinct #2, San Jose Township, Santa Clara County.

Paul Lauridsen died in Calistoga, Napa County.

- **Pearl Maria Lauridsen** (4 Apr 1908 -) married Victor Cecchetti.

Victor and Pearl Cecchetti probably died in Sacramento County, California.

The three children of Victor and Pearl Cecchetti are listed below.

- **Diane Cecchetti** (-)
- **Rodney Cecchetti** (-)
- **Allen Cecchetti** (-)

Jens Nielsen Lauridsen and Mary Johnson head family #54 in the St. Paul's family roster begun in 1900.

Alice Elizabeth (Lauridsen) Christiansen is interred in the Grange Cemetery in Boomer Township. I don't know where Jens, Mary, or any of their other children are interred.

### **Sources Specific to the Jens Nielsen Lauridsen and Mary Johnson Family:**

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

I know of none at this time.

#### ■ **References to sketches in *Emigration from Dronninglund Parish to Boomer Township*:**

- For the relatives of Andrew Christian Christiansen, whose children married Harry and Alice Lauridsen, see the *Peter T. Christiansen sketch*. Peter T. Christiansen was the father of Andrew Christian Christiansen.

- For more information about the relatives of Mary (Johnson) Lauridsen see the *Annie Dorothy Larsen section* of the Larsen/Larson chapter of my extended family history, *Ancestors and Older Relatives of Robert A. Christiansen – Christiansen, Rasmussen, Larsen/Larson & Hansen*. My great-aunt, Annie Dorothy Larsen, married Mary (Johnson) Lauridsen's half-brother, Nels Christian Augustine "Chris" Johnson.

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

- A. C. Christiansen, pp. 149-150.

#### ■ **Bosschaerts – Persyn Genealogical Research** ([bosschaerts.be/genealogy](http://bosschaerts.be/genealogy)).

This database is maintained by Rudi Bosschaerts of Belgium. I don't know why some Christiansen and Lauridsen family members are included. I suspect the connection with Rudi's family is through a descendant of Clarence P. Christiansen and Alice Elizabeth Lauridsen.

### **End of the Jens Nielsen Lauridsen and Mary Johnson Family Sketch**