

# Maren "Mary" Christensen & her husband, Jens Christian "James" Christensen

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- Part 2 contains full dates and marriage information for older family members.
- My website, *bigpigeon.us*, contains this file in **Mormon History > A House Divided**.
- An older version of this report is found in *Immigration to Boomer Township from Dronninglund Parish*.

## Part 1 – Maren "Mary" Christensen Narrative, updated 26 Feb 18

### In Denmark:

**Jens Christian "James" Christensen** (1843 – 1939) was born, perhaps in Dronninglund Sogn, to parents who are currently unknown.

In the 1860 Denmark census, Jens Christian Christensen with age listed as 18 and birthplace as Dronninglund was a hired man working in the Gregers Acton household in Dronninglund Sogn.

**Maren "Mary" Christensen** (1831/1834 – 1922) was born in Denmark. Most sources point to Christen Andersen and Ane Katrine Pedersen as her parents. However, vital records for her birth and death have not yet been examined.

Jens Christian Christensen and Maren Christensen married in 1868.

### Emigration:

Jens Christian and Maren Christensen and their three oldest children registered to immigrate to Council Bluffs from Skæve Sogn, Hjørring Amt on 10 May 1872. They traveled indirekte, meaning that they changed ships, which for Dronninglund emigrants was likely in England or Scotland. Emigrating from Dronninglund at the time was a party that included Christen and Ane Skaksen, who also settled in Boomer Township.

### In the United States:

By 1880 the Jens Christensen family was farming in Boomer Township, Section 20.

The Jens Christensen family was listed as charter members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Boomer Township, although they probably didn't remain as active members.

Between 1900 and 1905 Jens and Maren Christensen turned over their farm to their son, Frank, and moved to 525 North 8<sup>th</sup> St. in Council Bluffs where they enjoyed a long retirement. Jens and Maren died in Council Bluffs.

### The Jens Christian Christensen Farm:

The Jens Christensen farm was in Boomer Township, Section 20, just north of the Acton farm. Jens probably bought the farm before 1880.

Jens Christian Christensen Americanized his given name to "James", as did my grandfather, Jens/James Christiansen, who lived less than a mile to the east. Further, many people did not distinguish between the surnames of "Christensen" and "Christiansen". To avoid confusion, my grandfather assumed a middle initial of "P."

By 1950 Paul Vorthmann, who moved to Boomer Township in 1944, had purchased the former Jens Christensen farm. The farm then became the residence of Ronald Vorthmann, Paul's son, and I believe is still owned by Ronald's widow, Rose (Baker) Vorthmann, in 2018.

### **The Children of Jens Christian Christensen and Maren Christensen:**

The five children of Jens Christian Christensen and Maren Christensen are listed below. The first three were born in Denmark and emigrated with their parents. The last two were born in Iowa. Three of the children died in childhood. Perhaps Jens and Maren were not both the birthparents of all three of the first children.

■ **Chris Christensen** (about 1868 – before 1880)

■ **Christen Peter "Peter" Christensen** (Mar 1869 – after 1945) married **Dora Voss** (about 1868 – 2 Feb 1904) in 1892. Dora Voss was born in the Wilton, Iowa area to recent German immigrants.

In the winter of 1904 while Peter was absent, Dora and their five children, the oldest around eleven years in age, died in a house fire in Council Bluffs.

Peter Christensen subsequently moved to Miami, Florida and eventually married **Rose** (about 1868 – after 1945), a native of England.

■ **Simon Peter Christensen** (1872 – before 1880)

■ **Mary Christensen** (after 1872 – before 1880)

■ **Frank Christensen** (1874 – 1942) married **Hedwig J. "Hattie" Jurgens** (1872 – 1938) in 1898. Hattie Jurgens was the daughter of J. H. "Heinrich" Jurgens and Magdalena Christians, former Boomer Township residents who moved to Lagrange Township in Harrison County between 1895 and 1900.

Frank and Hattie Christensen farmed his parents' home place. Their three daughters are listed below.

● **Marie M. Christensen** (1899 – 1984) married **Bodilius Jensen** (1895 – 1979) in 1920. Bodilius Jensen was the son of Markor Martin Jensen and Ane Margrethe Pedersen of Council Bluffs who had lived in Boomer Township in 1905 and 1915.

Bodilius and Marie Jensen lived in the Council Bluffs area before retiring to Council Bluffs. They had six known children, two of whom died in infancy.

● **Laura Edna Christensen** (1904 – 1971) married **Argyle Edison Ross** (1902 – 1937) in 1928. Argyle Ross was born in Kansas to William N. and Myrtle E. Ross.

After Argyle Ross's death, Laura married **John Henry Harrison Woodward** (1897 – 1963). John Woodward was the son of George A. Woodward and Rena L. Adams.

Laura (Christensen) Ross Woodward lived in the Council Bluffs area. She had no known children.

● **Elsie Lucille Christensen** (1907 – 1992) married **Eldred L. Prior** (1910 – 1993) in 1931. Eldred Prior was the son of Herbert E. Prior and Hazel Gertrude Sheen of Garner Township.

Eldred and Elsie Prior lived near the Glendale area in Garner Township just east of Council Bluffs. They had two known children, both of whom died in infancy.

Jens Christian and Maren Christensen and several of their children, including Frank, are interred in the Grange Cemetery in Boomer Township, as are all three of Frank's daughters. Peter Christensen's wife, Dora, and his five children are interred in Walnut Hill Cemetery in Council Bluffs.

## **Part 2 – Maren “Mary” Christensen –Older Family Members**

two lists generated from my *St. Paul's* database, updated 26 Feb '18

- 1 Parents & siblings of Maren “Mary” Christensen.
- 2 Children & grandchildren of Maren “Mary” Christensen & Jens Christian Christensen.

### **1 Parents & siblings of Maren “Mary” Christensen.**

Christen Andersen (abt 15 May 1796 - 11 Oct 1855) & Ane Katrine Pedersen (abt 14 Jun 1805 - 30 Dec 1855)

m. abt 23 Oct 1825, Dronninglund Sogn, Hjørring Amt, Denmark

Ane Margrete Christensen (29 May 1826 - 28 Dec 1915) & Christian Peterson (1829/31 - 24 Sep 1911)

m. 18 Apr 1852, Dronninglund Sogn, Hjørring Amt, Denmark

Peter Christian Anderson Sr.\* (7 Jul 1828 - 3 Dec 1903) & Kirsten Marie “Christina” Jacobsen (25 Sep 1835 - 28 Apr 1872)

m. Dec 1855, Atlantic Ocean

Peter Christian Anderson Sr.\* (7 Jul 1828 - 3 Dec 1903) & Christina Nielsen (1853 - 15 Mar 1889)

m. 6 Sep 1873, Utah

Maren “Mary” Christensen (abt Feb 1831 - 7 Feb 1922) & Jens Christian “James” Christensen (Apr 1843 - 4 May 1939)

m. 2 Aug 1868, Skæve Sogn, Hjørring Amt, Denmark

Christine Anderson (25 Dec 1833 - 12 Jun 1910) & Anders Jorgen Mortensen (21 Sep 1833 - 13 Oct 1884)

m. 22 Aug 1857, Parowan, Iron Co., UT

Ane Marie Anderson (18 Jun 1837 - 28 May 1872) & Jens Christian Nielsen (10 Aug 1830 - 26 Dec 1920)

m. 2 Oct 1856, Big Cottonwood, Salt Lake Co., UT

Niels Christian Anderson (28 Jul 1840 - 11 Mar 1855)

Else Marie Anderson (29 Sep 1848 - )

### **2 Children & grandchildren of Maren “Mary” Christensen & Jens Christian Christensen.**

Jens Christian “James” Christensen (Apr 1843 - 4 May 1939) & Maren “Mary” Christensen (abt Feb 1831 - 7 Feb 1922)

m. 2 Aug 1868, Skæve Sogn, Hjørring Amt, Denmark

Peder Christen Andersen (abt 1867 - bef 1880)

Christen Peter “Peter” Christensen\* (13 Jan 1869 - aft 1945) & Dora Voss (9 Jun 1869 - 2 Feb 1904)

m. 5 Nov 1892, Council Bluffs, Pott. Co., IA

Edna Christensen (abt 1893 - 2 Feb 1904)

Frank Christensen (abt 1895 - 2 Feb 1904)

Lilla Christensen (abt 1898 - 2 Feb 1904)

James Christensen (abt 1901 - 2 Feb 1904)

Peter Christensen (abt Sep 1903 - 2 Feb 1904)

Christen Peter “Peter” Christensen\* (13 Jan 1869 - aft 1945) & Rose unknown (abt 1868 - aft 1945)

Simon Peter Christensen (5 Jan 1872 - bef 1880)

Mary Christensen (aft 1872 - bef 1880)

Frank Christensen (17 Apr 1874 - 1942) & Hedwig J. “Hattie” Jurgens (May 1872 - 6 Oct 1938)

m. 8 Feb 1898, Council Bluffs, Pott. Co., IA

Marie M. Christensen (16 Mar 1899 - Jul 1984) & Bodilius Jensen (9 Feb 1895 - 3 Dec 1979)

m. 24 Mar 1920, Pott. Co., IA

Laura Edna Christensen\* (16 Feb 1904 - Nov 1971) & Argyle Edison Ross (1902 - 1937)

m. 15 Feb 1928, Pott. Co., IA

Laura Edna Christensen\* (16 Feb 1904 - Nov 1971) & John Henry Harrison Woodward (25 Dec 1897 - Sep 1963)

Elsie Lucile Christensen (2 Dec 1907 - 16 Oct 1992) & Eldred L. Prior (17 Jun 1910 - 24 Jan 1993)

m. 11 Feb 1931, bride's home, Pott. Co., IA