

Peter Nielsen and Caroline Petersen Family (charter members)
(Eight-page sketch excerpted from *St. Paul's Boomer-Neola Early Families* by Robert A. Christiansen. Reviewed by Cleo Christoffersen. Revised by RAC Jul 2011.)

Nielsen, Peter & Caroline Petersen (charter members)

Christian Peter Thomas "C.P.T" Nelson & Jennie Nelson

Thomas Christian "Tom" Peterson & **Christina Nelson** (see Christian Bondo sketch)

Hans R Nelson & Hilma Sandberg

Peter Nielsen (17 Feb 1849 – 21 Oct 1911) was born in Vemmeløse village in Gimlinge Sogn, Sorø Amt, Denmark to **Niels Olsen**, a day laborer, and **Inger Kirstine Pedersdatter**, natives of Gimlinge.

Caroline Petersen (14 Mar 1852 – 11 Apr 1926) was born in Sorbylille village, Sludstrup Sogn, Sorø Amt, Denmark to **Peder Thomsen and Magdalene Johansen**.

Peter Nielsen and Caroline Petersen married in Gimlinge Sogn, Sorø Amt on August 4, 1876.

Peter and Caroline Nielsen and their oldest child immigrated to Council Bluffs from Søndjellinge, Hyllested Sogn, Sorø Amt in June 1879.

The locations mentioned above are in eastern Denmark on the island of Sjaelland near Slagelse about fifty miles southwest of Copenhagen. Sorbylille is just southeast of Slagelse. Vemmeløse and Gimlinge are about eight miles southeast of Slagelse. Hyllested is about twelve miles southeast of Slagelse.

In 1884 Peter Nielsen bought a 40-acre farm in Hazel Dell Township, Section 14 from Andrew Petersen.

The six children of Peter and Caroline Nielsen are listed below. Some family members used the surname spelling of "Nelson", others retained "Nielsen":

- **Jorgen Peter "J. P." Nielsen** (18 Dec 1877 – 31 Jul 1963, conf. 1892) married **Anna Margreta Nielsen** (20 Mar 1872 – 30 Sep 1928) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on April 7, 1905.

After his first wife's death, J. P. Nielsen married **Gertrude Jensen** (15 Jan 1893 – Oct 1978) in Royal, Iowa on December 18, 1929. Gertrude Jensen was born in Alden, Minnesota to Niels Karl Jensen, a clergyman, and Annie K. Holm.

Of interest: Gertrude Jensen's younger sister, Ruth, was the wife of Rev. Edwin W. Petrusson, pastor at St. Paul's from 1936 to 1941.

J. P. Nielsen was a Lutheran clergyman. He was a missionary and theology teacher in Japan from 1909 to 1927. Later he served as president of Trinity Seminary in Blair, Nebraska from 1931 to 1946. J. P. and Gertrude Nielsen remained in Blair after his retirement.

J. P. and Anna Nielsen were childless. **The one known child of J. P. and Gertrude Nielsen is listed below.**

- **Carl Clemen Nielsen** (-) was born after 1935.

J. P. and Gertrude Nielsen are interred in the Blair, Nebraska cemetery. J. P. Nielsen's first wife, Anna Nielsen, is interred in the St. Paul's Cemetery.

- **Christian Peter Thomas "C. P. T." Nelson** (5 Jun 1880 – 13 Feb 1945, conf. 1895) married **Jennie Nelson** (29 Aug 1875 – 15 or 28 Jan 1969) in Pottawattamie County with the St. Paul's pastor officiating on March 6, 1901. Jennie Nelson was the daughter of **St. Paul's charter members Lars Nelson and Carrie Andersen**.

After marrying, C. P. T. and Jennie Nelson first lived in Hazel Dell Township near their parents.

Between 1905 and 1910 they bought the Soren Antonius farm east of St. Paul's in Boomer Township, Section 36.

Between 1920 and 1925 they bought and moved to a farm in central Boomer Township, Sections 16 and 17, previous owned by Elizabeth Marsh (Pusey) Officer of Council Bluffs. This farm was lost during the Great Depression.

C. P.T. Nelson lived in Omaha near the end of his life. He died in Los Angeles while visiting his son, Roger. Jennie Nelson died in Elk Horn, Iowa at the age of 93.

The ten children of C. P. T. and Jennie Nelson, five of whom died in infancy, are listed below.

- **Edna Mathilda Nelson** (26 Mar 1902 – 29 Nov 1964, conf. 1917) married **Henry Theodore Peterson** (29 Sep 1902 – 6 Nov 1977) at St. Paul's on March 11, 1925.

Henry T. Peterson was the son of **St. Paul's early members Hans Andersen Petersen and Christine Marie Christoffersen** who lived in Neola Township, Section 18, five miles east of St. Paul's.

Henry T. and Edna Peterson lived on his parents' farm after marrying, and then lived in the Underwood-McClelland area. Around 1928 they bought the former farm of her maternal grandparents, Lars and Carrie Nelson, in Hazel Dell Township, Section 10. They sold this farm to John C. and Nellie Larsen around the early 1950s.

Henry T. and Edna Peterson had five children, one of whom died at birth. See the *Henry T. Peterson section* of the *Vilhelm Pedersen Family sketch* for additional information.

- **Ruth Kirstine Nelson** (Sep 1904 – Sep 1904) died as an infant and was interred at St. Paul's on September 26, 1904.
- **Nomie Carrie Nelson** (6 Jul 1905 – 23 Oct 1997, conf. 1919) married **Harvey Viggo Hansen** (25 Jun 1906 – 22 Aug 1987) in Blair, Nebraska on March 22, 1930. Harvey Hansen was the son of **St. Paul's early members Viggo Hansen and Emma Bondo** who lived in Section 1 in northeastern Hazel Dell Township.

Harvey and Nomie Hansen had four children. See the *Viggo Hansen section* of the *Isaac Hansen Family sketch* for additional information.

- **Helen Frances Nelson** (14 Jun 1908 – 2 Jan 1995, conf. 1923) married **Arthur Richard Smith** (28 Nov 1908 – 21 Nov 1989) on January 27, 1939.

Arthur and Helen Smith were living in Los Angeles in 1945 but they died in Omaha, Nebraska.

The one child of Arthur and Helen Smith, a son, is listed below.

▲ **Larry Richard Smith (-)**

- **Christian Peter Thomas Nelson Jr.** (3 Mar 1910 – 3 Mar 1910) died at birth.
- **Emma Jennie Nelson** (1 or 2 Feb 1911 – 20 or 21 Feb 1911) died in infancy.
- **Roger Peter Nelson** (22 May 1912 – 3 Jul 2003, conf. 1928) married **Opal Ellen Jorgensen** (27 Apr 1913 – 15 Jun 1986) in Los Angeles on June 20, 1942. Opal Jorgensen was born in Cleghorn, Iowa to **Christian Jorgensen** and **Nellie Wilhelmena Mabel Willardsen**.

Roger and Opal Nelson met in Los Angeles, where they lived during the first years of their marriage. They moved to Denver, Colorado in 1951.

The two children of Roger and Opal Nelson are listed below.

▲ **Janeen Kay Nelson (-)**

▲ **Delores Lynn Nelson** (22 Sep 1946 – 11 Sep 1972)

- **Frederick Thomas Nelson** (22 May 1912 – 22 May 1912), a twin of Roger Peter, died at birth.
- **Harold Nelson** (Jun 1914 – Jun 1914) died as an infant.
- **Violet Marie Nelson** (23 Apr 1918 – 12 Sep 2009, conf. 1933) married **Milford Robert "Bob" Brown** (23 Sep 1917 – 17 May 2009) in Papillion, Nebraska on June 26, 1939. Bob Brown was born and raised in Nebraska, the son of Eugene Edward Brown and Susan Mary Powell.

Bob and Violet Brown moved to Detroit, Michigan in 1941 and to Des Moines, Iowa in 1961.

Bob Brown was an auto dealer in Des Moines.

The three children of Bob and Violet Brown are listed below. Robert and Betty are twins.

▲ **Robert Malcolm Brown (-)**

▲ **Betty Lee Brown (-)**

▲ **Ronald Gene Brown (-)**

Christian Peter Thomas Nielsen and Jennie Nielsen (sic) head family #19 in the St. Paul's family register begun in 1900.

C. P. T. and Jennie Nelson and their five children who died in infancy, Ruth, Christian Peter Thomas Jr., Emma, Frederick Thomas, and Harold are interred in the St. Paul's Cemetery. Edna (Nelson) Peterson is interred in the Hazel Dell Cemetery. Nomie (Nelson) Hansen is interred in the Ridgewood Cemetery in Council Bluffs. Helen (Nelson) Smith is interred in Evergreen Memorial Park in Omaha, Nebraska. Roger Nelson is interred in Lakewood, Colorado. Violet (Nelson) Brown is interred in Resthaven Cemetery in West Des Moines, Iowa.

- **Magdalena Christina "Christina" Nelson** (4 Feb 1882 – 1 May 1960, conf 1897) married a widower, **Thomas Christian "Tom" Peterson** (19 Apr 1868 – 4 Feb 1932), around 1921.

Tom and Christina Peterson had one child, who died as an infant. See the *Tom Peterson* section of the *Christian Bondo Family sketch* for additional information.

- **Niels Peter "N. P." Nielsen** (24 Dec 1883 – 31 Mar 1952, conf. 1898) married **Maren Christine Olsen** (1 Nov 1887 – 14 Mar 1967) at Poy Sippi, Wisconsin on September 11, 1913.

Maren Christine Olsen was born in Poy Sippi to **Jens Peter Olsen and Anna Sophia "Sophia" Andersen**.

Of Interest: By coincidence, the St. Paul's community included two individuals born one day apart and both named Niels Peter Nielsen. Further, at times both went by their initials, N. P. Nielsen.

As mentioned herein, the older Niels Peter Nielsen was born in Hazel Dell Township on December 24, 1883 to Peter Nielsen and Caroline Petersen, recent arrivals from Denmark. He was ordained a Lutheran minister in 1913, the same year he married Maren Christine Olsen of Poy Sippi, Wisconsin. This Niels Peter Nielsen served pastorates in Iowa, Nebraska, Wisconsin and South Dakota. Niels Peter and Maren Christine had nine children, of whom one, Rudolph P. Nielsen, died as an infant and is interred in the St. Paul's Cemetery. The Peter Nielsen and Caroline Petersen Family sketch has more information.

The younger Niels Peter Nielsen was born in Denmark on December 25, 1883 to Jens M. Nielsen and Marie Paulsen, immigrated in 1903, and farmed in Neola Township. In 1911 he married Henriette Fredericka Nielsen, who had also immigrated as a young adult. Niels Peter and Henriette Nielsen had five children, one of whom died in infancy. Niels Peter, Henriette, and their infant child are interred in the St. Paul's Cemetery. The Niels Peter Nielsen and Henriette Nielsen Family sketch has more information.

N. P. Nielsen was a clergyman, being ordained in 1913. He served churches at Clinton, Wisconsin, Atlantic, Iowa, Plainview, Nebraska, Luck, Wisconsin, Viborg, South Dakota, Clinton, Wisconsin again, and Laurel, Nebraska.

N. P. and Maren Nielsen died in Blair, Nebraska.

The nine children of N. P. and Maren Nielsen, one of whom died at birth, are listed below.

- **Dagmar Caroline Nielsen** (28 Oct 1914 – 24 Aug 1994) may have been born in Clinton, Wisconsin. Dagmar married **Keith LaVern Knudsen** (7 Nov 1915 – Aug 1976) in 1938.
Dagmar (Nielsen) Knudsen was living in Lincoln, Nebraska when she died.
- **Rudolph P. Nielsen** (about 1917 – about 1917) probably was born and died in Atlantic, Iowa.
- **Lydia Sophia Nielsen** (10 Jun 1920 – 9 Nov 1993) was born in Plainview, Nebraska. Lydia married **Gordon Hofstrom** and after his death married **Otto Henry Stave** (28 Aug 1910 – 10 Jun 1997) in Blair, Nebraska on August 12, 1951.
Otto and Lydia Stave remained in Blair, where they both died.
Otto and Lydia Stave had two children.
- **Lela Christine Nielsen** (19 Dec 1921 – 16 Oct 1988) was born in Plainview, Nebraska and married **Paul E. Neve** (25 Jan 1918 – 18 Jul 2009) in 1944.
Paul and Lela Neve lived in Blair, Nebraska.
Paul and Lela Neve had four children.
- **Adolph Theodore Nielsen** (19 Jul 1923 – 19 Dec 1993) was born in Plainview, Nebraska and married **Elva Berniece Runestad**.
Adolph Nielsen was living in Marshalltown, Iowa when he died.
- **Merle Dean Luther Nielsen** (20 Oct 1925 – May 1978) was born in Plainview, Nebraska and married **Betty Purcell**.
Merle Nielsen may have lived in Williston, North Dakota.
- **LeVern Stanley Nielsen** (26 May 1927 -14 Oct 2012) married **Marilyn Y. Holm** (12 Mar 1931 – 15 Dec 2012), who was from Racine, Wisconsin.
LeVern Nielsen was been a clergyman. LeVern Nielsen was living in Elk Horn, Iowa in 1993 and Racine, Wisconsin in 2009.
- **Carl Henry Nielsen** (15 Jun 1928 – 10 Feb 1996) was born in Luck, Wisconsin and married **Phyllis Benson**.
Carl and Phyllis Nielsen were living in Yankton, South Dakota when he died.
- **Vera Mae Luella Nielsen** (7 May 1931 – 21 Mar 2009) was born in Luck, Wisconsin and married **Charles "Chuck" Doidge**.
Charles and Vera Doidge lived in Redwood Falls, Minnesota.
Charles and Vera Doidge had five children.

N. P. and Maren Nielsen are interred in the Blair, Nebraska cemetery as are their daughters, Lydia (Nielsen) Stave and Lela (Nielsen) Neve. Their infant son,

Rudolph, is interred in the St. Paul's Cemetery. Vera (Nielsen) Doidge is interred in the Redwood Falls, Minnesota Cemetery.

- **Carl Henry Nielsen** (24 Apr 1887 – 29 Jan 1928, conf. 1902) married **Dorthea Anna Carolina "Dorothy" Kramer** (13 Aug 1891 – 17 May 1972) on August 31, 1917.

Dorothy Kramer was born in Grant Park near Kankakee, Illinois and was a nurse.

Carl Henry Nielsen was a medical missionary who died in Liberia, West Africa and is interred in the Lutheran cemetery in Monrovia, Liberia.

After Carl Henry Nielsen's death, his widow settled in Ocala, Florida where she lived for the remainder of her life.

The two children of Carl Henry and Dorothy Nielsen are listed below.

- **Albert K. Nielsen** (5 Nov 1920 – 6 Feb 1999) was born in Monrovia, Liberia.
- **Armond C. Nielsen** (24 Dec 1922 – 18 Jan 1984) was born in Illinois.

- **Hans Rasmus Nelson** (14 Jul 1890 – 8 Apr 1945, conf. 1906) married **Hilma Matilde Sandberg** (2 Feb 1895 – 21 Jan 1958, conf. 1911) at St. Paul's on September 15, 1915. Hilma Sandberg was the daughter of **Andrew Sandberg and Christina Knudsen** who lived in the St. Paul's community.

Hans and Hilma Nelson farmed his parents' home place in Hazel Dell Township, Section 14.

The three children of Hans and Hilma Nelson are listed below.

- **Bernard Rudolph Nelson** (24 May 1917 – 23 Jul 1959, conf. 1932) married **Esther Irene Olsen** (23 Oct 1921 -) at St. Paul's on May 3, 1942. Esther Olsen was the daughter of **John H. Olsen and Dagma Thomsen** of Boomer Township.

Bernard and Esther Nelson farmed about five miles east of St. Paul's. Esther Nelson remained on the farm after Bernard's early death.

The one son of Bernard and Esther Nelson is listed below.

- ▲ **Dennis Duane Nelson** (-) married **Shirley Mae Baker, Linda Baker and Stephanie Ann Smith.**

Dennis and Shirley Nelson had five children, Dennis and Linda Nelson had one child and Dennis and Stephanie Nelson had two children.

- **Stanley Clifford Nelson** (18 Sep 1920 – 11 Apr 1978, conf. 1935) married **Selma Edna Vorthmann** (17 Feb 1923 -). Selma Vorthmann was the daughter of **William Albert Vorthmann and Minnie A. Heithoff** of the Treynor area.

Stanley Nelson and his brother-in-law, Clinton Erickson, owned an International Harvester farm implement business, first in Neola and then in Council Bluffs.

Stanley Nelson died when the light plane he was flying crashed soon after taking off from Gulfport, Mississippi. He and his son had been attending an International Harvester meeting in Gulfport.

The two children of Stanley and Selma Nelson are listed below.

- ▲ **Rowan Stanley Nelson** (2 Feb 1949 – 11 Apr 1978) married **Judith Ann Lenihan**.

Rowan Nelson was in business with his father and died with his father in a plane crash.

- ▲ **Sylvia Ann Nelson** (-) married **Mark Findley Wildgen**.

Mark and Sylvia Wildgen were living in Minnesota in 2011.

- **Orlee Ione Nelson** (21 Jul 1923 - , conf. 1938) married **Clinton Junior Erickson** (6 Dec 1923 -) at St. Paul's on October 22, 1943. Clinton Erickson was the son of **St. Paul's early members Peter Erickson and Anina Christensen**.

Orlee (Nelson) Erickson was the organist at St. Paul's for many years.

Clinton and Orlee Erickson had three children, one of whom died at birth. See the *Clinton Erickson section* of the *Niels Eriksen Family sketch* for additional information.

Hans R. Nielsen and Hilma M. Sandberg head family #53 in the St. Paul's family roster begun in 1900.

Hans and Hilma Nelson and their son, Bernard, are interred in the St. Paul's Cemetery. Stanley Nelson is interred in Ridgewood Cemetery in Council Bluffs.

Peter Nielsen and Caroline Petersen head family #22 in the St. Paul's family roster begun in 1900.

Peter and Caroline Nielsen and three of their children, C. P. T., Christina and Hans, are interred in the St. Paul's Cemetery. J. P. Nielsen and N. P. Nielsen are interred in the Blair, Nebraska Cemetery. Carl Henry Nielsen is interred in the Lutheran Cemetery in Monrovia, Liberia, Africa.

Sources Specific to the Peter Nielsen and Caroline Petersen Family:

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

- For the relatives of Jennie (Nelson) Nelson, wife of C. P. T. Nelson, see the *Lars Nelson Family sketch*.
- For the family of Henry T. and Edna (Nelson) Peterson, see the *Henry Theodore Peterson section* of the *Vilhelm Petersen Family sketch*. Henry T. Peterson was the grandson of Vilhelm Petersen.

- For the family of Harvey and Nomie (Nelson) Hansen, see the *Harvey Hansen section* of the *Isaac Hansen Family sketch*. Harvey Hansen was the grandson of Isaac Hansen.
 - For the family of Thomas Christian “Tom” Peterson, husband of Christina Nelson, see the *Thomas Peterson section* of the *Christian Bondo Family sketch*.
 - For the relatives of Hilma (Sandberg) Nelson, wife of Hans Nelson, see the *Christen Knudsen Family sketch*. Hilma Sandberg was the granddaughter of Christen Knudsen.
 - For the family of Clinton and Orlee (Nelson) Erickson, see the *Clinton Erickson section* of the *Niels Eriksen Family sketch*. Clinton Erickson was the grandson of Niels Eriksen.
- **Articles from Pottawattamie County, Iowa “Makers of Fire” history book, 1978:**
 - Stanley C. Nelson, p. 331.
 - *Nelson & Brown* family history, a privately printed book by granddaughter, Violet (Nelson) Brown, 2000.
 - Christian Peter Thomas Nelson family genealogy charts provided by great-granddaughter, Jeneen K. Nelson, in 1997.
 - Information and materials provided by granddaughter, Orlee (Nelson) Erickson.
 - Conversations with and information provided by great-granddaughter, Cleo (Peterson) Christoffersen.
 - WorldConnect database in wc.ancestry.com maintained by great-grandson, Wayne Nielsen.
 - Danish Emigration Archives (ddd.dda.dk):
 - Peter, Caroline and Jørgen Peter Nielsen registered 6/13/1879.

End of the Peter Nielsen and Caroline Petersen Family Sketch