

Nels Olsen and Mary Jensen Family (charter members)

(Seven-page sketch excerpted from *St. Paul's Boomer-Neola Early Families* by Robert A. Christiansen. Reviewed by _____. Revised by RAC Sep 2010.)

Olsen, Nels & Mary Jensen

Hans Peter Hansen & **Karen Sofie Olsen** (see Niels Hansen sketch)

P.W.I. Hansen & **Augusta Johanne Olsen** (see Isaac Hansen sketch)

Carl C. Carlsen & **Alma Hulda Olsen**

Niels Olsen (12 Oct 1840 – 30 Aug 1907) was born in Kongsted Sogn, Præstø Amt, Denmark to **Ole Larsen and Johanne Jensdatter**.

Niels Olsen immigrated to Council Bluffs from Kongsted Sogn, Præstø Amt in the spring of 1873 and subsequently used the spelling "Nels".

Julianne Marie "Mary" Jensen (22 Feb 1852 – 16 Jun 1917) was born in Sjælland, Denmark to **Julius Jensen**. Mary Jensen immigrated around 1873.

Nels Olsen and Mary Jensen married in Council Bluffs on June 19, 1875.

After immigrating, Nels Olsen worked in the railroad transfer yards for four and a half years before taking up farming.

Nels and Mary Olsen settled in southeastern Neola Township, Section 26 around 1878. By the time of his death in 1907, Nels Olsen owned a farm of 240 acres based in Section 26 and a farm of 320 acres just to the southeast based in Section 35.

Nels Olsen died suddenly at home. His widow remained on the family farm until her death. In the 1919 Neola Township plat, four of the Olsen children Anna, Julius, George Martin, and Edward, are all listed as each owning portions of their parents' farm.

The twelve known children of Nels and Mary Olsen, three of whom died in infancy, are listed below. Two of Nels and Mary Olsen's children, George Martin and Dagmar Antonia, married siblings, Winnie Ellen Barrier and Willard F. Barrier, the children of Joseph B. Barrier and Bella Sena Sargent of the Neola area.

- **Olena "Lena" Olsen** (Feb 1876 – 1942) married **Severin "Samuel" Christensen** (Mar 1865 – 1950) in Pottawattamie County on February 24, 1896.

Severin Christensen was born in Denmark and immigrated to Council Bluffs from Aggersund, Aalborg Amt or Aggersborg, Hjørring Amt in March of 1889.

Samuel and Lena Christensen initially lived in Neola Township, Section 28. Between 1905 and 1910 they sold their farm to Rasmus Petersen moved to Garner Township. By 1930 they were living in Lake Township, which had been split off from Garner Township in 1925.

The five children of Sam and Lena Olsen, one of whom died as an infant, are listed below.

- **Martinus Enislius Christensen** (4 Nov 1898 -)

- **Dorthea Marie Christensen** (7 Jul 1900 -)
- **baby Christensen** (Dec 1901 – 20 Mar 1902)
- **Eleanor Christensen** (about 1914 -)
- **Leah Christensen** (about 1918 -)

Samuel and Lena Christensen are interred in the Neola Township Cemetery. Their baby, who died in 1902, is interred in the St. Paul's Cemetery. I don't know where any of their other children are interred.

- **Anna Katrine Olsen** (12 Aug 1878 – 1 Oct 1939, conf. 1903) worked as a midwife and helped out after children were born. She was living with her brother, Edward in 1920 and with her daughter and son-in-law in 1930.

The one child of Anna Katrine Olsen is listed below.

- **Freda Laurette Olsen** (6 Jun 1899 – 20 Aug 1987, conf. 1915) married **Philip Raymond "Ray" Spencer** (6 Jun 1899 – 13 Sep 1993) in Atlantic, Iowa on March 31, 1920. Ray Spencer was the son of Neola Township residents **George Washington Spencer and Janet "Jennie" Hunter**.

Ray Spencer farmed part of the Nels Olsen home place.

The two children of Ray and Freda Spencer are listed below.

- ▲ **living Spencer** (-) married **Seth Van Riper** (22 Dec 1917 – 3 Aug 1976).
- ▲ **living Spencer** (-)

Anna Katrine Olsen is interred in the St. Paul's Cemetery. I don't know where Ray and Freda Spencer are interred.

- **Karen Sofie "Sophie" Olsen** (7 Apr 1880 -, conf. 1900) married **Hans Peter Hansen** (27 Jul 1872 -) in Pottawattamie County with the St. Paul's pastor officiating on April 9, 1902. Hans Peter Hansen was the son of **St. Paul's charter members Niels Hansen and Karen Sofie Henriksen**.

Hans Peter and Sofie Hansen had five known children. See the **Hans Peter Nelson section of the Niels Hansen sketch** for additional information.

- **Johanna Olsen** (5 Sep 1882 – 18 Sep 1883) died at age one.
- **Julius Olaf Olsen** (14 Mar 1883 – 6 Jun 1950 or 6 Jul 1951, conf. 1900) married **Florence Rosetta Clark** (7 Apr 1893 – 3 May 1978) in Council Bluffs on December 30, 1914. Florence Clark was the daughter of **Riley and Nancy Clark** of Neola.

Julius Olsen farmed part of the Nels Olsen home place but may have moved to Council Bluffs in the late 1930s.

The three known children of Julius and Florence Olsen are listed below.

- **Marion Eugene “Eugene” Olsen** (4 May 1920 -)
- **Ellen Elaine “Elaine” Olsen** (9 Sep 1923 -) married **John Kenneth Christensen** (4 Sep 1922 – 30 May 2009) in Council Bluffs on May 3, 1942.
- **Dorothy Elizabeth Olsen** (13 Apr 1929 -)

Julius and Florence Olsen are interred in the Neola Township Cemetery.

- **Augusta Johanne Olsen** (4 Dec 1884 – 13 Dec 1906, conf. 1900) married **Peter Wilhelm Isak “P. W. I.” Hansen** (15 Jan 1881 – 21 Sep 1948) at St. Paul's on November 9, 1904. P. W. I. Hansen was the son of **St. Paul's charter members Isaac Hansen and Marie Jensen**.

P. W. I. and Augusta Hansen had one child, who died at birth. Augusta died less than a month later.

- **Hulda Olsen** (20 Aug 1886 – 5 Jan 1887) died at the age of four months.

- **Alma Hulda Olsen** (27 Oct 1887 – 4 May 1937, conf. 1903) married **Carl Christian “C. C.” Carlsen** (5 Aug 1887 – 11 Jan 1949) at St. Paul's on February 24, 1910.

Carl Christian Carlsen was born in Verninge Sogn, Odense Amt, Denmark to **Jens and Anna Carlsen** and immigrated in 1906. (Carlsen Family history gives an immigration year of 1904.)

After they married, C. C. and Alma Carlsen farmed for four years in Norwalk Township, Section 23. In March 1914 they rented the Beh farm of 280 acres in Boomer Township, Section 23. In 1934 they moved a farm they has bought around 1918 southeast of Underwood in Norwalk Township, Section 22.

According to family history, Alma Carlsen gave birth to fifteen children before her death at age 39. The thirteen known children of Carl and Alma Carlsen, three of whom died in childhood, are listed below.

- **Neoma Jeraldeen Carlsen** (1 Jul 1911 – 1969, conf. 1926) married **Horace Hall** (13 Aug 1914 – Jul 1985).
Horace and Neoma Hall were living in Harlan, Iowa in 1949.
Horace and Neoma Hall had one son.
- **George Elvin Carlsen** (27 May 1912 – 28 May 1912) died at age one day.

- **Ruby Angela Carlsen** (27 Jun 1913 – 22 Dec 1999) married **Vance C. Lipovac** (5 Dec 1912 – 8 Jan 2001) and was living in Des Moines in 1949.
Ruby and Vance Lipovac had two sons and two daughters.
- **Owen O. Carlsen** (11 Jul 1914 – 24 Mar 1987) was born in Boomer Township. I have seen Owen's middle name listed as "Orville" and also as "O'Niel".
Owen farmed with his father until he was drafted into the United States Army in 1941. He served as a military policeman and was discharged as a sergeant.
Owen married **Margaret Elmyria White** (1922 -) on May 11, 1946. Margaret was the daughter of Alvie White and Mamie Jennings of Hamburg, Iowa.
Owen and Margaret Carlsen lived in Pottawattamie County after marrying. They first lived in the Underwood area and moved to Canning St. in Council Bluffs in 1949. Later they farmed for a few years in the Oakland area and then moved to Norwalk Township, Section 21 in 1961. In 1973 they had a farm sale and returned to Council Bluffs.
Owen and Margaret Carlsen had three daughters.
- **Deloras Darlin Carlsen** (18 Oct 1915 – before 1919) evidently died as a small child.
- **Zeda Marie Carlsen** (7 Oct 1916 – 29 Jun 2001) married **Merlyn Arvid Ross** (20 Apr 1917 – 22 Jun 2001) on April 22, 1939. Merlyn Ross was the son of **Earl Ross and Anna Marie Klopping** of the Underwood area.
Merlyn and Zeda Ross farmed in Norwalk Township, Section 15.
Merlyn and Zeda Ross had three sons and two daughters.
- **Loretta Mardell "Mardell" Carlsen** (19 Aug 1918 – 6 Oct 2004) married **Claude W. Eisel** (6 Aug 1913 – May 1984) and was living in Eudora, Kansas in 1949.
Mardell may have died in Rutland, Vermont.
Claude and Mardell Eisel had two daughters.
- **Dean Worth Carlsen** (29 Jan 1920 – 12 Sep 1971) married **Mona Wright** and was living in Omaha in 1949.
Dean and Mona Carlsen had two sons and two daughters.
- **Helen Wava Carlsen** (21 Apr 1921 -) married **Vincent Gue** (3 Feb 1917 – Mar 1988) and was living in Council Bluffs in 1949 and in Missoula, Montana in 2004.
Vincent and Wava Gue had two sons.
- **Mildred Glee Carlsen** (24 Oct 1922 -31 Oct 2000) married **William Stacy**.
Mildred (Carlsen) Stacy was living in Glenwood, Iowa in 1949.
William and Mildred Stacy had two sons.

- **Philip Dudley Carlsen** (8 Feb 1924 – 30 Nov 1937) died at age thirteen.
- **Ardis Jean Carlsen** (27 Jun 1926 – Aug 1986) married **Emmett M. Hanson** (8 Oct 1923 – 31 Dec 2004).

Ardis (Carlsen) Hanson was living in Omaha in 1949 and may have died in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Emmett and Ardis Hanson had no children.

- **Donna Marjorie Carlsen** (abt Oct 1929 -) married **Harry R. Drummond** (18 Sep 1923 – 19 May 2000).

Harry and Donna Drummond lived in Underwood and Council Bluffs.

Harry and Donna Drummond had three daughters.

Carl Christian Carlsen and Alma Olsen head family #45 in the St. Paul's family roster begun in 1900.

Carl and Alma Carlsen and three of their children, George Elvin, Zeda and Philip Dudley, are interred in the St. Paul's Cemetery. Owen and Dean Carlsen are interred in the Cedar Lawn Cemetery in Council Bluffs.

- **George Martin Olsen** (19 Aug 1889 – 11 Feb 1937, conf. 1903) married **Winnie Ellen Barrier** (15 Nov 1893 – 26 Jan 1968) in Logan, Iowa on August 21, 1916.

George Martin Olsen initially farmed near his parents' home, but moved to Minden Township between 1925 and 1930 and in 1931 moved to Neola where he operated the Olsen Service Station. His widow continued to live in Neola after his untimely death.

The two children of George Martin and Winnie Olsen are listed below.

- **Mildred Estevon Olsen** (6 Nov 1917 – 28 May 2001) married **Vernon DeVary** (22 Jun 1904 – 3 Apr 1971). After his death married **Merritt William Powell** (31 Jan 1907 – 12 May 1982). Later she evidently married **Mr. Baldwin**.

Mildred was living in Neola in 1978 but evidently lived in Little Sioux, Iowa before her death.

- **Verna Belle Olsen** (25 Jun 1923 -) married **George Loren Thompson**.

George Martin and Winnie Olsen are interred in the Neola Township Cemetery. Mildred Olsen's first two husbands are also interred in the Neola Cemetery.

- **infant son Olsen** (25 Oct 1892 – 25 Oct 1892) died at birth.

- **Dagmar Antonia Olsen** (19 Mar 1893 - , conf. 1908) married **Willard F. Barrier** (25 Mar 1891 – 1934) at St. Paul's on September 5, 1916.

Willard Barrier was a mechanic, living in Atlantic, Iowa in 1917, in Norwalk Township in 1925, and in Dix, Kimball County, Nebraska in 1930.

After Willard Barrier's early death, Dagmar returned to Neola and then moved to Council Bluffs where she was last known living in 1939.

The two known children of Willard and Dagmar Barrier are listed below.

- **Ruth M. Barrier (-)**
- **Phyllis F. Barrier (-)**

Willard Barrier is interred in the Neola Township Cemetery. I don't know where Dagmar (Olsen) Barrier is interred.

- **Edward Emil Olsen** (23 Sep 1895 – 1932, conf. 1911) married **C. Lucille Hower** (about 192 -) in Council Bluffs on March 21, 1921.

Edward Olsen farmed near his parents' home, but I have been unable to find him in the 1930 census.

The one known child of Edward and Lucille Olsen is listed below.

- **Donald Richard Olsen** (30 Jan 1922 – 11 Jan 2009) married **Phyllis** (- 1993) and lived in Little Sioux, Iowa at the time of his death.

Edward Olsen is interred in the Neola Township Cemetery. Donald and Phyllis Olsen are interred in the Ridgewood Cemetery in Council Bluffs.

Nels and Mary Olsen head family #42 in the St. Paul's family roster begun in 1900.

Nels and Mary Olsen and three of their children, Anna, Augusta and Alma, are interred in the St. Paul's Cemetery. Lena, Johanna, Julius, Hulda, George Martin, an infant and Edward are interred in the Neola Cemetery. I don't know where Dagmar (Olsen) Barrier is interred.

Sources Specific to the Nels Olsen and Mary Jensen Family:

- **References to other sketches in *St. Paul's Boomer-Neola Early Families*:**
 -
- **Field History of Pottawattamie County, 1907:** Nels Olsen article, pp.406-407.
- **Articles from Pottawattamie County, Iowa "Makers of Fire" history book, 1978:**
 - Julius Olsen, p. 340; George Martin Olsen, p. 339; M. Eugene Olsen, pp. 338-339.

- Carl Christian and Alma Hulda Carlsen, pp. 137-138; Owen and Margaret Carlsen, p. 138; Merlyn and Zeda Ross, pp. 386-387; Regene C. Ross, p. 387; Reggie and Phyllis Ross, p. 387.
- Mildred DeVary Powell, p. 368.
- John Kenneth Christensen, p. 151.
- Danish Emigration Archives (ddd.dda.dk):
 - Niels Olsen registered 5/16/1873.
 - Severin Christensen registered 3/8/1889 (future son-in-law).
 - Carl Chr. Carlsen registered 11/1/1906 for Ruskin b. Veringe Sogn (possibly future son-in-law)

End of the Nels Olsen and Mary Jensen Family Sketch.