

John Sanderson and Lena Jensen Family (charter members)

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

John Sanderson (about Apr 1843 – 19 Jan 1882) was born in Denmark as **Jens Sorensen** and immigrated to Pottawattamie County before 1868. He settled in southwest Boomer Township, Section 29 where he purchased, along with Christian Bondo, 123 acres early in 1868.

Pauline Marie “Lena” Jensen (8 Mar 1846 – 29 Oct 1911) was born in Ulsted Sogn, Aalborg Amt, Denmark, to **Jens Andreas Petersen and Mette Marie Christensdatter** and emigrated about 1870.

Ulsted is in northern Jutland about 15 miles east of Aalborg and six miles south of Dronninglund.

After John Sanderson’s untimely death in January 1882, his widow, Lena, married **Mads Peter “Mace” Christiansen** (28 Jun 1853 – 1 Feb 1941) in Council Bluffs on July 24, 1883.

Mace Christiansen, the son of **Christian Svendsen and Maren Madsdatter**, had immigrated around 1882 from Dronninglund Sogn, Hjørring Amt, Denmark, where he was born. Mace's parents and two of his siblings had immigrated earlier. Mace's sister, Ane Margrethe Christiansen, was the second wife of Peter Torgesen Christiansen of northern Boomer Township.

Mace and Lena Christiansen remained on the former Sanderson farm until Lena’s death. Sometime after Lena’s death, perhaps around 1918, the Sanderson farm was sold to Otto Lehmkuhl and Mace moved to Council Bluffs.

Mace Christiansen was living by himself at 1123 East Washington St. in Council Bluffs in 1920 and 1930. Mace died at the home of his stepdaughter, Mary, and her husband, Andrew Jensen at 1712 North Broadway.

Several of the Sanderson's immediate neighbors in southwestern Boomer Township also came from the Dronninglund area:

- Gregers Acton and Mary Nielsdatter and their children were early settlers, immigrating and buying land in 1867 just east of what subsequently became the Sanderson farm.
- Karen Jensen, later Mrs. Christian Bondo, immigrated as a young woman with the Acton family. Christian and Karen Bondo moved to Hazel Dell Township around 1872.
- Ane Matilda Nielsen, later Mrs. John Schroder, immigrated as a nine year old with her grandparents, Christen Skaksen and Ane Margrethe Christensdatter, in May 1872. The Schroder farm was just west of the Sanderson farm.
- Jens Christian Christensen and Maren Christensdatter and their three older children immigrated in May 1872 with the same party as Ane Matilda Nielsen. In 1860 Jens Christian Christensen was a hired boy living with the Acton family in Dronninglund Parish. The Jens Christensen farm was just north of the Acton farm.

The three children of John Sanderson and Lena Jensen are listed below.

- **Joseph Emil Sanderson** (7 Jul 1875 – 28 Jun 1968) married **Ida Billerbeck** (17 Jun 1875 – 26 Feb 1962) in Pottawattamie County on February 28, 1900. Ida Billerbeck was the daughter of **David Billerbeck and Margaret Hansen** of northern Boomer Township.

Joseph and Ida Sanderson farmed in Rockford Township, and in the 1920s moved to Woodbury County.

The seven children of Joseph and Ida Sanderson, six of whom lived to maturity, are listed below.

- **Lulu Pauline Sanderson** (26 Nov 1901 – 3 Jun 2006) married **George Morrison Jr.** (12 Apr 1899 – 28 Mar 1971) in Blair, Nebraska in 1925.
George Morrison Jr. farmed in Rockford Township, Section 34.
George and Lulu Morrison had six children.
- **Charles Ray Sanderson** (20 Mar 1904 – 6 Aug 1960) married **Bernice Olehan**.
- **Albert James “Beebee” Sanderson** (23 Jul 1907 – 19 Mar 1945) died of non-combat injuries in Germany near the end of World War II.
- **Marie Cecilia Sanderson** (10 Oct 1910 -) married **Clinton Floyd Clayton** (20 Mar 1908 – 21 Feb 1985).
- **Roy Edward Sanderson** (29 Apr 1912 – 4 Aug 1995) married **Ruby Marguerite Burge** (7 Jun 1917 -).
- **Mace Christian Sanderson** (11 Oct 1914 – 11 Apr 1995) married **Mildred Elaine Menefee** (6 Dec 1919 – 17 Jan 1994).
- **Alice Florence Sanderson** (29 Sep 1918 – 14 Oct 1919) died as a toddler.

I don't know where Joseph and Ida Sanderson are interred. George and Lulu Morrison are interred in the Branson Cemetery in Loveland, Iowa.

- **James Peter Sanderson** (4 Aug 1878 – 26 Feb 1969) married **Edith Elizabeth Acton** (7 Feb 1885 – 23 Jan 1969) in Council Bluffs on January 18, 1905.

Edith Acton was the daughter of **Peter Acton and Martha Jane McKeown** of southwestern Boomer Township and the granddaughter of Gregers and Mary Acton who were mentioned earlier in this sketch.

James and Edith Sanderson farmed in Boomer Township until 1912, when they moved to Boone County, Nebraska, northwest of Columbus. In 1944 they moved to Lyons in Burt County in northeastern Nebraska.

The nine children of James and Edith Sanderson are listed below.

- **Earl Lee Sanderson** (24 Feb 1905 – 1 Mar 1996) married **Nora Tranmer** (23 Nov 1912 – 1 Nov 1995).
- **Floyd Willard Sanderson** (11 Sep 1907 – 24 Nov 2000)
- **Everett James Sanderson** (26 Jul 1909 – 4 Jul 1961) married **Agnes Ann Burke** (3 Jun 1911 – 19 Mar 1962) and **Gladys Gallup**.
- **Lester Stanley Sanderson** (5 Sep 1911 – 17 Nov 1988) married **Elizabeth Amy Paine** (14 Aug 1918 -).
- **Darlene Marie Sanderson** (19 Sep 1913 – 2 Jul 1993) married **Walter Henry Dean** (3 Oct 1911 – 7 Aug 1964).
- **Darrel Raymond Sanderson** (19 Sep 1915 – 24 Feb 1994) married **Eleanor Margaret Morter** (19 Apr 1926 -).
- **Wayne Alvern Sanderson** (10 Jan 1918 – 8 Jan 1987) married **Doris Henrietta Morter** (4 May 1927 -).
- **Harold Eugene Sanderson** (1920 – 1995) married **Cora Elizabeth Ensminger** (3 Oct 1922 -) and **Betty Lou Sonnenfelt**.
- **Lyle Kenneth Sanderson** (9 Apr 1922 -) married **Edna Mary Margaret Conway** (6 Dec 1924 – 22 Mar 1985) and **Eileen Conway**.

James and Edith Sanderson are interred in the Lyons Cemetery in Burt County, Nebraska.

- **Marie Cecilia “Mary” Sanderson** (31 Jan 1880 – 17 May 1960) married **Andrew Emile Jensen** (25 Nov 1878 – 14 Apr 1959) in Missouri Valley, Iowa on November 11, 1911.

Andrew and Mary Jensen lived at 1712 North Broadway on the north edge of Council Bluffs.

The two children of Andrew and Mary Jensen are listed below.

- **Albert Walter Jensen** (14 Oct 1914 – 29 Jul 1981) married **Kathryn Florence Barnes** in Council Bluffs on October 16, 1936.
- **Gladys Mae Jensen** (14 Aug 1916 – 5 Jun 1974) married **Everett Louis Gano** (31 Dec 1907 – 12 Jan 1990) in Glenwood, Iowa on January 1, 1939.

Andrew and Mary Jensen are interred in the Cedar Lawn Cemetery in Council Bluffs. Everett and Gladys Gano are interred in the Ridgewood Cemetery in Council Bluffs.

The two children of Lena (Jensen) Sanderson and her second husband, Mace Christiansen, are listed below.

- **Christine Christiansen** (31 Oct 1884 – 7 May 1888) died as a small child.
- **Pauline Christina "Christina" Christiansen** (14 Feb 1889 – 24 Jun 1934) married **George Able Driver** (Mar 1889 – 24 Dec 1948) in Pottawattamie County on March 9, 1910.

George Driver was the son of **James Driver and Elizabeth Beswick** of central Boomer Township.

George and Christina Driver lived in Council Bluffs. George Driver was a barber. In 1946 his shop was at 124 West Broadway.

The two children of George and Christina Driver are listed below.

- **Viola Ingeletta Driver (-)**
- **Robert Howard "Howard" Driver (-)**

George and Christina Driver are interred in the Grange Cemetery in Boomer Township.

John and Lena Sanderson are interred in the Grange Cemetery in Boomer Township, as are Lena's second husband, Mace Christiansen, and their children, Christine Christiansen and Christina (Christiansen) Driver. I don't know where Joseph Sanderson is interred. James Sanderson is interred in the Lyons Cemetery in Nebraska. Mary (Sanderson) Jensen is interred in the Cedar Lawn Cemetery in Council Bluffs.

Sources Specific to the John Sanderson and Lena Jensen Family

- **References to other sketches in *St. Paul's Boomer-Neola Early Families*:**
 - None are known at this time.
- *Christian and Carrie Bondo, An Essay on Their Farms and Life in America and Their Friendship with Jens Sorensen* by Donald Bondo Pedersen, Sep 2010.
- Mary Lou (Gano) Burke, great-granddaughter of John Sanderson.
- Public Member Tree "Gano Family Tree" (ancestry.com Mar 2009).
- Various family history documents produced by Sanderson descendants Betty J (Sanderson) Foster and Mary Lou (Gano) Burke. Portions of these documents draw

on what may be a fictionalized history of John Sanderson's early years in the United States.

End of the John Sanderson and Lena Jensen Family Sketch