

Christine Christensen/Anderson & her husband, Anders Jorgen Mortensen

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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**.

Part 1 – Christine Christensen/Anderson Narrative, updated 20 Feb '18

Christine Anderson (1833 – 1910) was born to Ane Katrine Pedersen and Christen Anderson in Ørsø, Dronninglund Sogn, Hjørring Amt, Denmark. Early in 1855, she immigrated with her parents and siblings on the *James Nesmith* from Liverpool to New Orleans. From New Orleans, the party ascended the Mississippi on the steamboat *Oceana*. The illnesses and deaths of her parents, and perhaps lack of funds, kept her from moving on to Utah in 1855.

Late in 1856, Christine crossed to Utah with the ill-fated Willie Handcart Company, arriving in Salt Lake City early in November.

Christine Anderson married Anders Jorgen Mortensen, also a Willie Handcart Company survivor, in 1857.

About Anders Jorgen Mortensen and his family: Anders Jorgen Mortensen (1833 – 1884) was born on the island of Fyn in Haarbolle, Fanefjord Sogn, Præstø Amt, Denmark to Peter Mortensen and Helena "Lena" Sanderson Pedersdatter.

At the time of emigration, the Peter Mortensen family had eight living children. However, the oldest child, Morten Pedersen Mortensen, remained behind in Denmark as a missionary.

The Peter Mortensen family sailed from Copenhagen on the ship *Rhoda*, setting sail 23 Apr 1856, to England. They sailed from Liverpool on the ship *Thornton*, setting sail on 4 May 1856. They arrived in New York on 14 Jun 1856 and were processed through the Castle Garden Emigrant Receiving Station on 16 Jun 1856.

The Willie Handcart Company: The roster of the Willie Handcart Company includes Peter and Lena Mortensen and seven children, four male and three female, as well as Christine Anderson. A child on the Willie Company roster, Bodil Mortensen, who died tragically on the journey to Utah, appears as a character in the film *17 Miracles*. Bodil Mortensen was from a different area of Denmark and was not known to be a relative but I have read that Peter Mortensen helped finance Bodil's journey.

The Willie Company left Iowa City with around 500 immigrants, 120 handcarts and six wagons pulled by oxen carrying supplies. However, on the Great Plains some of the draft animals were lost. The *Life Summary of Anders J. Mortensen* relates the following incident:

Anders was once out looking for oxen when he came over a ridge upon a large tribe of Indians. He walked forward as bravely as he could, making signs that he was looking for lost oxen. They had a fire made of buffalo chips, and two squaws were sitting by the fire roasting some buffalo ribs. Anders looked hungrily at the ribs and one of the squaws gave

him two of them, which he took very thankfully, bade them goodbye and went on his way. He said that meat was the sweetest morsel he ever tasted and thanked the Lord that his life was spared

Anders Mortensen's father, Peter, was a physically impaired cooper and shoemaker who could still work at his trades. Peter was so crippled that he was unable to walk. Initially he traveled in a wagon but because a shortage of draft animals developed during the journey he apparently spent the last part in the family handcart.

The Willie Company left Iowa City on July 15 and Florence, Nebraska on August 17, preceding the Martin Handcart Company by about 10 days. The Willie Company arrived in Salt Lake City on November 9th, and the Martin Company on November 30th.

The Willie and Martin handcart companies lost around 68 and 145 individuals respectively on their crossing to Utah in late 1856. I believe that only the massive relief effort sent from Utah enable any to survive. The companies' combined losses make this the largest disaster in the history of the 19th century western migration. The Donner party lost 39 in the Sierra Nevada in 1846-1847 and from 100 to 140 died in the Mountain Meadows massacre in southern Utah in 1857.

Despite Peter Mortensen's handicap, the Mortensen family must have been exceptionally vigorous. All survived the handcart journey to Salt Lake City. After resting for a time in Salt Lake City the family towed their handcart behind a wagon as they traveled in late 1856 to Parowan in southwestern Utah, over 200 miles southwest of Salt Lake City.

In Parowan Anders Mortensen and his brothers took up farming and Anders also worked as a cooper.

After arriving in Utah with the Willie Handcart Company, Christine Anderson stayed in Salt Lake City for a few months, and then traveled on to Parowan where she and Anders married in 1857.

The eleven children of Christine and Anders Mortensen were born in Parowan between 1858 and 1879. One child died in infancy, the others all lived into their middle years or beyond.

In 1865, Anders Mortensen took a plural wife, Wilhelmina Christine "Elmina" Ipsen, with whom he had four children.

About Wilhelmina Christine "Elmina" Ipsen: Wilhelmina Christine "Elmina" Ipsen (1836 – 1885) was born in Vester Marie Sogn, Bornholm Amt, probably to Hans Ibsen and Bodil Kirstine Jacobsdatter. Wilhelmina Christine Ipsen crossed to Utah with the John R. Murdock Company in 1862.

Anders Mortensen's two wives lived in neighboring houses in Parowan.

In the early 1880s, grandchildren of Peter and Lena Mortensen were among the first Mormon settlers near the Rio Grande River in the San Luis Valley area of south central Colorado. These Mortensen cousins included Christine and Anders' three oldest sons, Peter, Ephraim, and Anders Jr. Peter moved to the San Luis Valley first, around 1881, and Ephraim and Anders Jr. followed early in 1884.

The three Mortensen brothers lived in the Manassa and Sanford areas of Conejos County near the Rio Grande Valley. However, Ephraim and Anders Jr. later moved east across the Rio Grande River to the East Dale area of Costilla County.

In September 1884, Anders Mortensen became ill while threshing and died in Parowan the next month. In 1885, Anders' two wives and their younger children joined the older sons in Conejos County. Anders Mortensen Jr. wrote eloquently of this wrenching period in the Mortensen family history in the following passage.

The Mortensen Family Move to Colorado (excerpted by RAC from pp. 1013-1014 of the *Mortensen family history*):

During the winter of 1883-1884, I (Anders Mortensen) attended the Brigham Young Academy at Provo, Utah, under Karl G. Maeser. After returning from Provo, Ephraim and I decided to go to the San Luis Valley, Colorado, for the purpose of making our future home there. We left Parowan April 22, 1884, in company with William C. McGregor, Junior and William Lyman of Parowan and others. When we reached Bluff City, San Juan, Utah, we found the water so high in the San Juan River we were compelled to stay there a month.

We spent the summer hauling timber from the west mountains. We purchased an interest in a threshing machine with Soren C. Burthelson, and worked at this for the fall season.

On the night of October 13, Peter, Ephraim, and I, Anders, were together on the La Jara, west of Richfield, but we could not sleep, and wondered why. The morning of the 14th, we received a telegram that our father had passed away at home in Parowan, October 13, 1884. I was not married and my mother requested that I return to Parowan, which I did at once. I arrived at Parowan on October 17, 1884, two days after my father had been buried. He died at the age of 51 years and 22 days. Soon I went north into the small range of hills and quarried out two nice sandstone slabs suitable for headstones. I gave the largest one to Thomas Hickman plus about \$2.00 to smooth and shape the other one as a tombstone for Father's grave which still stands there.

After my father Ander's death, all the family decided to sell the home at Parowan and move to the San Luis Valley, Colorado. After selling the land and home property during the winter of 1884 and 1885, arrangements were made to move the family. Ephraim, one of my brothers, came from Colorado to help move the family out there. On May 20, 1885, mother Christine, and her youngest son, Alma, and Aunt Elmina and her youngest son, Hemming, went by train to Manassa, Colorado

On May 23, 1885, the rest of the family started for Colorado by teams and wagons. We reached the San Luis Valley July 14, 1885, a distance of 600 miles, with very poor roads and poor feed and water most of the way. When we arrived in Manassa, Colorado, we first heard that Aunt Wilhelmina had died on July 8, 1885, from the effects of a cancer of the throat. She had suffered terribly before she passed away.

For a time, her four children made their home with my mother and myself, as I had been appointed guardian of both families at the suggestion of Aunt Wilhelmina. I tried to fill this appointment with honor and honesty, and I think all concerned were very satisfied.

We first settled in Richfield. When the town of Sanford was started, we moved there with the first of those who settled in that place. My older brothers and I, and cousin Francis Marion

Mortensen played music for most of the dances in that part of the country. Naturally we had an easy time becoming acquainted with the young people.

Of Interest: During 1880-1882 the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad built a narrow-gauge railroad line from Alamosa, Colorado west to Durango, Colorado and then north to Silverton. Portions of this line still operate today surviving by transporting tourists. This line opened the lower San Luis Valley to development. It would have been over this line that the widow Christine Mortensen traveled on her circuitous rail journey during her move to Colorado in 1885.

Of Interest: Morten Mortensen, the older brother of Anders Jorgen Mortensen, had several wives. Morten Mortensen moved to Arizona in 1875 or 1876. To escape the strictures against polygamy Morten moved again, to northern Mexico in 1886, where he died in 1891.

In 1900, the widow Christine (Anderson) Mortensen and her youngest son, Alma, were living on a farm near her son, Ephraim.

In the early 20th century, some children of Christine Mortensen moved to the Phoenix, Arizona area. In 1907 Christine moved to Mesa, just east of Phoenix, where she lived with her son, Anders Jr. Christine died in Mesa in June 1910.

Christine (Anderson) Mortensen gave birth to eleven known children. Listed immediately below are the ten children who survived infancy. At Christine's death in 1910, all ten of these children were still living, five in the Sanford/Manassa area of south central Colorado, three in Mesa, Arizona, one in Parowan, and one in the Salt Lake City area.

- Peter Andrew Mortensen (1858 – 1934) and his young family moved to the San Luis Valley in Colorado around 1881 and lived in Conejos County.
- Ephraim Mortensen (1860 – 1949) moved to the San Luis Valley in 1884, living in Conejos and Costilla Counties, and then to the Phoenix, Arizona area in 1911.
- Anders Mortensen (1862 – 1943) moved to the San Luis Valley in 1884, living in Conejos and Costilla Counties, and then to the Phoenix, Arizona area in 1906.
- Olena Christina Mortensen (1864 – 1922) married William Morris and died in St. George in southwestern Utah.
- Sarah Ann Elsen Mortensen (1866 – 1955) was the plural wife of Peter Miller Jensen, married in 1884 after the Edmunds Anti-Polygamy Act of 1882, which criminalized polygamy. Peter Miller Jensen's first wife was Anders Mortensen's sister, Mary Mortensen. Sarah died in the Salt Lake City area.
- Mary Caroline Mortensen (1868 – 1963) married William Crowther and died in Manassa, Colorado.
- Emma Amelia Mortensen (1870 – 1918) married Chester Hostetter and died in Mesa, Arizona.
- Tomena Auricla Mortensen (1873 – 1938) married Nephi Hostetter and died in Sanford, Colorado.

Chester and Nephi Hostetter were brothers, born in Wisconsin to Robinson Hostetter and Sarah Jane McNutt, who moved their family to the San Luis Valley in 1887. The Hostetter brothers married the Mortensen sisters in the Manti temple in 1890.

- Ammon Ernst Mortensen (1877 – 1930) died in Manassa, Colorado.
- Alma Christen Mortensen (1879 – 1965) remained with his mother until his marriage in 1901. By 1910 he had moved to Mesa, Arizona and later to Walnut Creek, California.

Christine Anderson, the wife of Anders Jorgen Mortensen, is buried in the City of Mesa Cemetery in Maricopa County, Arizona. Anders Jorgen Mortensen is buried in the Parowan City Cemetery and his plural wife, Wilhelmina, in the Old Manassa Cemetery in Conejos County, Colorado.

Part 2 – Christine Anderson – Older Family Members

four lists generated from *St. Paul's* database, updated 25 Feb '18

- 1 Parents & siblings of Christine Andersen.
- 2 Parents & siblings of Christine Anderson's husband, Anders Jorgen Mortensen.
- 3 Children & selected grandchildren of Anders Jorgen Mortensen & Christine Anderson.
- 4 Children & selected grandchildren of Anders Jorgen Mortensen & his plural wife, Wilhelmina Christine "Elmina" Ipsen.

1 Parents & siblings of Christine Andersen.

Niels Peder Pedersen (9 Mar 1801 - 19 May 1888) & Johanne Pedersen (29 Apr 1810 - 6 Jan 1879)

m. 5 Nov 1831, Lille Brøndum, Bælum Sogn, Aalborg Amt, Denmark

Peter B. Nelson (18 Sep 1832 - 6 Apr 1899) & Bertha Christina Aagard (21 Oct 1849 - 12 Feb 1889)

m. 1863, Richfield, Sevier Co., UT

Peder Christian Nielsen (12 Aug 1834 - 12 Mar 1899)

Mariane "Mary Ann" Pedersen (29 Sep 1837 - 23 Sep 1912) & Anders Rasmus "Andrew" Anderson (9 Mar 1844 - 10 Jul 1919)

m. 1 Jan 1863, Ephraim, Sanpete Co., UT

Niels Nielsen (20 Apr 1840 - 23 Jun 1913) & Maren Christensen (15 Apr 1836 -)

m. 1866

Ane Kirstine Nielsen (25 Nov 1842 - 27 Mar 1843)

Anne Christine Pedersen* (3 Mar 1844 - 24 Feb 1908) & Niels Peter Peterson (23 Apr 1836 - 23 Apr 1887)

m. 24 Dec 1862, Ephraim, Sanpete Co., UT

Anne Christine Pedersen* (3 Mar 1844 - 24 Feb 1908) & Christian Anderson Kolby (25 Apr 1842 - 6 Jul 1919)

m. 13 Jul 1892, Manti, Sanpete Co., UT

Anne Marie Pedersen (9 Apr 1847 - 10 Sep 1916) & Oluf Christian Larsen (8 Apr 1836 - 9 or 11 Nov 1929)

m. 23 Dec 1863, Ephraim, Sanpete Co., UT

Christiane Pedersen (14 Jun 1850 - 11 Mar 1926) & William Powell (28 Jan 1841 - 4 Apr 1898)

m. 14 Sep 1866, Ephraim, Sanpete Co., UT

Anders Nielsen (23 Oct 1854 - 11 Jan 1862)

2 Parents & siblings of Christine Anderson's husband, Anders Jorgen Mortensen.

Peter Mortensen (23 Jan 1806 - 9 Apr 1866) & Helena "Lena" Sandersen (28 Mar 1808 - 24 Aug 1890)

Morten Mortensen (27 May 1829 - 16 Jun 1891)

Ane Kirstine Mortensen (12 Aug 1831 - 5 Apr 1900) & Hans Jorgen Hansen (1821 - 1911)

m. 11 Feb 1857, Parowan, Iron Co., UT

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

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

Peter Andrew Mortensen (29 May 1858 - 9 Jan 1934) & Hannah Mariah Driver Smith (31 Aug 1859 - 26 Nov 1944)
 m. 8 Jan 1879, St George, Washington Co., UT
 Ephraim Mortensen (22 Apr 1860 - 19 Mar 1949) & Elizabeth Ann Jones (24 Sep 1862 - 21 Jan 1951)
 m. 2 Jun 1880, St. George Temple, St. George, Washington Co., UT
 Anders Mortensen (25 Mar 1862 - 14 Jan 1943) & Sina Caroline Heiselt (19 Jan 1868 - 1 Jun 1965)
 m. 1 Oct 1886, Logan, Cache Co., UT
 Olena Christina Mortensen (25 Feb 1864 - 4 Feb 1922) & William Thomas Morris (17 May 1861 - 18 Apr 1946)
 m. 24 Mar 1882, St. George, Washington Co., UT
 Sarah Ann Elsen Mortensen (12 Mar 1866 - 24 Feb 1955) & Peter Miller Jensen (6 Dec 1842 - 29 Mar 1930)
 m. 20 Feb or 20 Nov 1884, Utah
 Mary Caroline Mortensen (21 Feb 1868 - 10 Dec 1963) & William O. Crowther (27 Oct 1866 - 26 Apr 1944)
 Emma Amelia Mortensen (18 Jul 1870 - 1 Dec 1918) & Chester Hostetter (5 Jun 1866 - 17 May 1956)
 m. 10 Apr 1890, Manti temple, Sanpete Co., UT
 infant Mortensen (1872 - 1872)
 Tomena Auricla Mortensen (17 Aug 1873 - 26 Sep 1938) & Nephi Hostetter (10 Sep 1869 - 17 May 1946)
 m. 10 Apr 1890, Manti temple, Sanpete Co., UT
 Ammon Ernst Mortensen (18 Oct 1877 - 12 Feb 1930) & Kjersten Pernelia Jensen (15 Oct 1878 - 10 Mar 1958)
 m. 4 Oct 1898, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake Co., UT
 Alma Christen Mortensen (7 Dec 1879 - 15 Jan 1965) & Leonora Nielsen (8 Jan 1884 - 23 Dec 1933)
 m. 20 Jan 1901, Manassa, Conejos Co., CO
 Anders Jorgen Mortensen* (21 Sep 1833 - 13 Oct 1884) & Wilhelmina Christine "Elmina" Ipsen (20 Jan 1836 - 8 Jul 1885)
 m. 15 Jul or 15 Aug 1865, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake Co., UT
 Holm Andreas Mortensen (17 Oct 1866 - 13 Oct 1957) & Annie Rozella "Rosa" Crowther (4 Dec 1870 - 6 Mar 1912)
 m. abt 1889
 Francis Ipsen Mortensen (5 Jan 1869 - 13 Oct 1934) & Mary Ann Hyde (16 Oct 1872 - 20 Apr 1968)
 m. 11 Oct 1900, Salt Lake City Temple, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake Co., UT
 Laura Andrea Mortensen (27 Jun 1873 - 14 Jan 1893)
 Hemming Carl Mortensen* (29 May 1879 - 14 Apr 1956) & Lillian Maude Gade Hooper (18 Sep 1886 - 23 Aug 1927)
 m. 18 Dec 1912, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake Co., UT
 Hemming Carl Mortensen* (29 May 1879 - 14 Apr 1956) & Mary Ann Barnes (20 Oct 1879 - 14 Mar 1953)
 m. 18 Dec 1929, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake Co., UT
 Hans Jorgen Mortensen (11 Apr 1837 - 17 Jan 1912)
 Lars Mortensen (25 Jul 1842 - 27 Jun 1910) & Cornelia Lee (15 Jan 1846 - 26 Dec 1937)
 Mette Kristine or Kirstine Mortensen (3 May 1845 - 5 Jul 1935) & Christen Rasmussen (1825 - 1915)
 m. 30 May 1863, Parowan, Iron Co., UT
 Maria "Mary" Pedersen Mortensen (3 Jul 1847 - 13 Jul 1903) & Peter Miller Jensen (6 Dec 1842 - 29 Mar 1930)
 m. 6 Dec 1867, Parowan, Iron Co., UT
 Caroline Mortensen (16 May 1850 - 19 Aug 1915) & Thomas Durham (1828 - 1909)

3 Children & selected grandchildren of Anders Jorgen Mortensen & Christine Anderson.

Anders Jorgen Mortensen (21 Sep 1833 - 13 Oct 1884) & Christine Anderson (25 Dec 1833 - 12 Jun 1910)
 m. 22 Aug 1857, Parowan, Iron Co., UT
 Peter Andrew Mortensen (29 May 1858 - 9 Jan 1934) & Hannah Mariah Driver Smith (31 Aug 1859 - 26 Nov 1944)
 m. 8 Jan 1879, St George, Washington Co., UT
 Ephraim Mortensen (22 Apr 1860 - 19 Mar 1949) & Elizabeth Ann Jones (24 Sep 1862 - 21 Jan 1951)
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 Emma Amelia Mortensen (18 Jul 1870 - 1 Dec 1918) & Chester Hostetter (5 Jun 1866 - 17 May 1956)
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 Ammon Ernst Mortensen (18 Oct 1877 - 12 Feb 1930) & Kjersten Pernelia Jensen (15 Oct 1878 - 10 Mar 1958)
 m. 4 Oct 1898, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake Co., UT
 Alma Christen Mortensen (7 Dec 1879 - 15 Jan 1965) & Leonora Nielsen (8 Jan 1884 - 23 Dec 1933)
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4 Children & selected grandchildren of Anders Jorgen Mortensen & his plural wife, Wilhelmina Christine "Elmina" Ipsen.

Anders Jorgen Mortensen (21 Sep 1833 - 13 Oct 1884) & Wilhelmina Christine "Elmina" Ipsen (20 Jan 1836 - 8 Jul 1885)
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 Holm Andreas Mortensen (17 Oct 1866 - 13 Oct 1957) & Annie Rozella "Rosa" Crowther (4 Dec 1870 - 6 Mar 1912)
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 Francis Ipsen Mortensen (5 Jan 1869 - 13 Oct 1934) & Mary Ann Hyde (16 Oct 1872 - 20 Apr 1968)
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 m. 18 Dec 1929, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake Co., UT