

THE JENSENS

DANISH NAMES

The history and origin of the Jensen family is intertwined with the history of Denmark and the Danish people. The first principle that must be understood before comprehending Danish ancestry is the way in which these people use names. Simply put, the family name Jensen has been Americanized for convenience and cultural adaption. In essence it means "Jen's son." The first person to use the Americanized surname of Jensen was Christoffer Jensen and his brothers. However, his father's name was Jens Rasmussen. It follows that his grandfather's name is Rasmus Hansen. In Danish tradition, the last name is a derivative of the father's first name. The last name of a son is the father's first name with a "sen" added to the end. The last name of a daughter is the father's first name with a "datter" added to the end.

DANISH ALPHABET

The Danish alphabet has three letters that are not used in the English alphabet. Not all of these "extra" Danish letters are used in this chapter. However, several are used in the spelling of place names where the Jensen Ancestors lived. These letters and their pronunciation are:

- Ææ: like **i** in mile
- Ø ø: like **ur** in urgent, in older records it was shown as Öö
- Å å: Also found as aa prior to 1953

HISTORY OF DENMARK

Archeological discoveries indicate that primitive man lived in what is now Denmark as early as the Stone and Bronze ages. Seafaring

began in the Age of Iron. Records of the eighth century A.D. tell of the raids of Jutes, Angles, and other Viking warriors on coastal settlements of western Europe. By the tenth century the petty states of the Jutland Peninsula, the Baltic islands, and southern Sweden had been welded together, and the territory was protected against attacks by the Saxons and Wends to the south by a great wall known as the Dannevirke. The first king to rule over a united Denmark was Gorm the Old. Harald Bluetooth turned his people from Norse paganism to Christianity when he ascended the throne in 960.

The first northern empire was established in the eleventh century when King Sweyn Forkbeard of Denmark invaded England. The conquest was completed by his son, Canute the Great, in 1016, and Denmark held England until 1042. Two centuries later, under Waldermar II, Denmark's boundaries were extended eastward through Estonia; but these gains were wiped out in wars with the Germans, and after the Peace of Stralsund (1370) the Hanseatic League dominated Denmark for several decades.

At the close of the fourteenth century, through the deaths of her husband and son, Margaret, the daughter of Waldemar IV, became ruler of both Denmark and Norway. She was offered, and accepted, the throne of Sweden, and the Union of Kalmar of 1397 established the rule of a single monarch over all three Scandinavian countries. However, under Margaret's weak and irresponsible successors, the Second Northern Empire slowly disintegrated. The Orkney and Shetland Islands were lost to Scotland in 1472, and in 1523 Sweden asserted its independence. In 1536, as a result of the Protestant Reformation, the Evangelical Lutheran Church became the State Church of Denmark.

After a series of military reverses had



Southern part of the Island of Sjælland, Denmark, showing the origins of Christoffer Jensen and Kirsten Hendriksdatter with their ancestral villages and parishes shown below each.

caused Denmark in 1660 to lose the last of its Swedish provinces, the wealthy burghers usurped the political power hitherto held by the inept nobles. They reorganized the monarchy, abolishing the checks on the royal authority which had been granted the feudal aristocracy through the Danish "Magna Carta" of 1282, and allowed the king to rule with almost absolute power. Under one-man rule, Denmark liberated its peasants from feudal bondage in 1788 and laid the foundation for the small freehold system on the breaking up of the manorial estates. In 1797 Denmark set an example to other countries by being the first to abolish the African slave trade and by freeing the slaves in its colonies of the Danish West Indies (now Virgin Islands of the U.S.).

Because Denmark traded with Napoleonic France in defiance of Britains blockade, Lord Nelson led the attack on Denmark and won the Battle of Copenhagen (1801). A second

British assault in 1807 caused Denmark definitely to join with France, but this alliance cost it much of its territory after Napoleon had been overthrown. By the Peace of Kiel in 1814, Denmark was forced to cede Norway to Sweden and Helgoland to Great Britain, and the Congress of Vienna in 1815 ordered it to cede Pomerian and the island of Rugen to Prussia.

In the second half of the 19th century, the economic revolution was painful for many country dwellers, who had to choose between joining the drift towards towns or emigrating all together. The growth of industry, and with it an urban proletariat, made the lingering privileges of the land-owning classes anachronistic and untenable.

In 1864, when Denmark sought to incorporate in its realm the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein, the forces of Austria and Prussia defeated the Danish army, and

Denmark was obliged to renounce its claims to territory that had been self-governing under the Danish crown for four centuries. It was not until after World War I that northern Schleswig was returned to Denmark as the result of a plebiscite in 1920.

RASMUS HANSEN (1740 - 1814)

sp: Sidse Jensdatter (1763 - 1831)

1. Johann Rasmussen (1786 -)
2. Maren Rasmusdatter (1789 -)
3. Jens Rasmussen (1791 - 1863)
4. Kirsten Rasmusdatter (1808 -)

Rasmus Hansen was born in the village of Stavreby in Jungshoved Parish of Præstø County, Denmark around 1740. His father was Hans Hansen. Sidse Jensdatter was born on November 27, 1763, in Jungshoved, Præstø, Denmark. Her parents were Jens Nielsen and Sidse Larsdatter, who were born around 1740 and were married around 1760 and lived in the village of Stenstrup in Jungshoved Parish of Præstø County.

Rasmus Hansen married Sidse Jensdatter on April 15, 1785, in Jungshoved, Præstø,

Denmark. They made their home in the Village of Stavreby where Rasmus was a farmer. Rasmus and Sidse had at least four children. Johann Rasmussen was born April 18, 1786. Maren Rasmusdatter was born in 1789. Jens Rasmussen was born December 19, 1791. Kirsten Rasmusdatter was born June 6, 1808. In 1801, their household also included Hemming Hansen and Hans Hansen. All of their children were born and confirmed at age 14 in the Jungshoved Parish. Sidse Jensdatter died on October 23, 1831 and was buried at Jungshoved Parish on October 27, 1831. Rasmus Hansen died sometime before 1814 in Jungshoved.

HANS PEDERSEN (1751 -)

sp: Birte Hansdatter (1751 -)

1. Boe Hansen (1774 -)
2. Ane Catrine Hansdatter (1777 -)
3. Anne Hansdatter (1779 -)
4. Maren Hansdatter (1783 -)

Hans Pedersen was born about 1751 in Allerslev Parish of Præstø County of Denmark. He married Birte Hansdatter on November 5, 1771 in Allerslev. They had at least four children. Boe Hansen was born on May 23, 1774. Ane Catrine Hansdatter was born in 1777. Anne Hansdatter was born in January 1779. Maren Hansdatter was born on May 1, 1783. Ane Catrine Hansdatter was confirmed in 1793 in the Allerslev Parish.

OLE CHRISTOPHERSEN (1782 - 1849)

sp: Ane Catrine Hansdatter (1777 -)

1. Hans Olsen (1812 -)
2. Ane Olsdatter (1816 - 1862)

Ole Christophersen was born in 1782 in Allerslev Parish of Præstø County, Denmark. He was recorded in the 1787 census as the illegitimate son of Anna Hendriksdatter who married a person not his father after his birth.

Danish Village Life

Danish families usually stayed in the same basic geographic region. They also tended to move together, although they were not likely to move across the country. Most of the population lived on rural farming estates in small villages. Peasants – who were a large portion of the population – were legally bound to the land by a set of laws called Stavnsbaand, which lasted from 1733 to 1788. Stavnsbaand required a male to stay within the estate or manor where he was born while he was between the ages of fourteen and thirty-six. Hence records can be found for several generations of a single family within the same Parish.

Pedigree Chart

Jan 24 2001

Chart no. _____
 No. 1 on this chart is the same
 as no. _____ on chart no. _____

<p>4 Jens Rasmussen B: Dec 19 1791 P: Jungshoved, Præsto, Denmark M: Mar 29 1844 P: Allerslev, Præsto, Denmark D: Dec 17 1863 P: Jungshoved, Præsto, Denmark</p>	<p>8 Rasmus Hansen B: 1740 P: Jungshoved, Præsto, Denmark M: Apr 15 1785 P: Jungshoved, Præsto, Denmark D: bef 1814 P: Jungshoved, Præsto, Denmark</p>	<p>16 Hans Hansen B: 1707 cont. ____ D: _____ B: _____ D: _____</p>
<p>2 Christoffer Jensen B: Mar 17 1849 P: Jungshoved, Præsto, Denmark M: Dec 4 1877 P: Fergus Falls, MN D: Sep 10 1942 P: Mahanomen, MN</p>	<p>9 Sidse Jensdatter B: Nov 27 1763 P: Jungshoved, Præsto, Denmark D: Oct 23 1831 P: Jungshoved, Præsto, Denmark</p>	<p>17 B: _____ cont. ____ D: _____</p>
<p>5 Ane Olsdatter B: Oct 19 1816 P: Allerslev, Præsto, Denmark D: Dec 21 1862 P: Jungshoved, Præsto, Denmark</p>	<p>10 Ole Christophersen B: 1782 P: Allerslev, Præsto, Denmark M: Nov 14 1804 P: Allerslev, Præsto, Denmark D: Feb 15 1849 P: Allerslev, Præsto, Denmark</p>	<p>18 Jens Nielsen B: abt 1740 cont. ____ D: _____</p>
<p>1 Hattie Elvina Jensen B: Mar 11 1887 P: Fergus Falls, MN M: Feb 18 1907 P: Minot, ND D: Jan 29 1964 P: Los Angeles, CA</p>	<p>11 Ane Catrine Hansdatter B: 1777 P: Allerslev, Præsto, Denmark D: _____ P: _____</p>	<p>19 Sidse Larsdatter B: abt 1740 cont. ____ D: _____</p>
<p>6 Hendrik Christensen B: Feb 18 1814 P: Kickerup, Soro, Denmark M: Dec 5 1835 P: Forslev, Soro, Denmark D: _____ P: _____</p>	<p>12 Christen Pedersen B: Dec 1766 P: Soro, Denmark M: _____ P: _____ D: Nov 23 1820 P: Tystrup, Soro, Denmark</p>	<p>20 B: _____ cont. ____ D: _____</p>
<p>3 Kirsten Hendriksdatter B: Mar 1 1856 P: Forslev, Soro, Denmark D: Jun 13 1941 P: Mahanomen, MN</p>	<p>13 Kirstine Ane Pedersdatter B: _____ P: _____ D: _____ P: _____</p>	<p>21 Anna Henriksdatter B: 1760 cont. ____ D: _____</p>
<p>7 Ellen Thomasdatter B: Feb 9 1811 P: Herlufmagle, Præsto, Denmark D: _____ P: _____</p>	<p>14 Thomas Jensen B: 1759 P: Herlufmagle, Præsto, Denmark M: Jan 17 1808 P: Herlufmagle, Præsto, Denmark D: Aug 25 1828 P: Herlufmagle, Præsto, Denmark</p>	<p>22 Hans Pedersen B: abt 1751 cont. ____ D: _____</p>
<p>Prepared Jan 24 2001 by: Dennis B. McLane</p>	<p>15 Marcen Sorensdatter B: _____ P: Herlufmagle, Præsto, Denmark D: _____ P: _____</p>	<p>23 Birte Hansdatter B: abt 1751 cont. ____ D: _____</p>
	<p>24 B: _____ cont. ____ D: _____</p>	<p>25 B: _____ cont. ____ D: _____</p>
	<p>25 B: _____ cont. ____ D: _____</p>	<p>26 B: _____ cont. ____ D: _____</p>
	<p>26 B: _____ cont. ____ D: _____</p>	<p>27 B: _____ cont. ____ D: _____</p>
	<p>27 B: _____ cont. ____ D: _____</p>	<p>28 B: _____ cont. ____ D: _____</p>
	<p>28 B: _____ cont. ____ D: _____</p>	<p>29 B: _____ cont. ____ D: _____</p>
	<p>29 B: _____ cont. ____ D: _____</p>	<p>30 B: _____ cont. ____ D: _____</p>
	<p>30 B: _____ cont. ____ D: _____</p>	<p>31 B: _____ cont. ____ D: _____</p>

Pedigree Chart of Hattie Elvina Jensen (1887 - 1964)

Her husband was Jens Hansen and they lived in the Village of Rekkende in Allerslev Parish. In 1801, Ole was a farm worker living with his step father and farmer named Jens Hansen in Rekkende.

Ole Christophersen and Ane Catrine Hansdatter were married in Allerslev on November 14, 1804. They lived in the village of Tjørnehoved in Jungshoved Parish of Præstø County where Ole was a farmer. Ole Christophersen and Ane Catrine Hansdatter had at least two children, Hans Olsen, born November 15, 1812, and Ane Olsdatter, born October 19, 1816. These children were born as well as confirmed, at age 14, in the Allerslev Parish. In 1834, their household also included boarders Rasmus Sorensen and Kirsten Neilsdatter. In 1840, they had boarders Jens Sorensen and Ane Kirstine Sorensdatter living with them. By 1845, their daughter Ane had left with son Hans still at home and the boarders were Jens Sorensen, Lars Petersen, Katren Rasmusdatter, and Kirstine Larsdatter.

Ole Christophersen died in Allerslev on February 15, 1849 and was buried on February 23, 1849. By 1855, Ane Catrine Hansdatter was living in the household of her daughter Ane Olsdatter and her husband Jens Rasmussen in the Village of Ambæk in Jungshoved Parish. She was still found there in 1860. Ane Catrine Hansdatter died sometime after 1862 in Jungshoved.

JENS RASMUSSEN (1791 - 1863)

Sp1: Margarethe Nielsdatter (1772 - 1841)

1. Maren Jensdatter (1816 -)
2. Rasmus Jensen (1819 -)

Sp2: Ane Olsdatter (1816 - 1862)

1. Ole Jensen (1845 - 1919)
2. Peder Jensen (1846 - 1915)
3. Christoffer Jensen (1849 - 1942)
4. Maren Jensdatter (1851 - 1851)

Jens Rasmussen was born in Jungshoved Parish, Præstø, Denmark on December 19,

1791. His parents were Rasmus Hansen and Sidse Jensdatter. He grew up with his brother Johann and sisters Maren and Kirsten. They lived in the village of Stavreby. He was confirmed in the Jungshoved Parish at age 14 in 1805.

Jens Rasmussen was first married on December 21, 1814 to Margarethe Nielsdatter in Jungshoved Parish. They made their home in the Village of Ambæk where Jens was a farmer. Jens and Margarethe had at least two children, Maren Jensdatter, born March 20, 1816, and Rasmus Jensen, born June 29, 1819. These children were born as well as confirmed, at age 14, in the Jungshoved Parish.

In 1834, the Jens Rasmussen and Margarethe Nielsdatter household included Jens sister Kirsten Rasmusdatter and boarders Hemming Nielsen, Niels Nielsen and Ole Larsen. In 1840 their son Rasmus Jensen was still in the household but daughter Maren had left. The boarders were then Johann Frederiksen, Sidse Nielsdatter and Kirsten Nielsdatter.

Margarethe Nielsdatter was also found in some records as Margarethe Rasmusdatter. Margarethe died on March 13, 1841 and was buried at Jungshoved Parish on March 19, 1841.

Jens Rasmussen married Ane Olsdatter on March 29, 1844 in Jungshoved Parish. Jens' first son by Margarethe, Rasmus Hansen, remained a part of their household in the Village of Ambæk. Their first child, Ole Jensen was born on January 13, 1845, and was baptized March 12, 1845, in Jungshoved, Præsto, Denmark. In 1845, boarders Christopher Hemmingsen, Ulrik Nielsen, Ane Kirstine Jensdatter, and Maren Hansdatter lived with them as well.

The household continued to grow with two more children. Peder Jensen was born on November 4, 1846 and was baptized on December 26, 1846. Christoffer Jensen was

born on March 17, 1849 and baptized on the same day.

In 1850, their household consisted of Jens and Ane, their three sons, and boarders Christopher Hemmingsen, Neils Hansen, Maren Hansdatter, and Karen Marie Sorensdatter. Their daughter Maren Jensdatter was born on January 22, 1851 and baptized on February 23, 1851. However, Maren died in Junshoved on March 9, 1851 and was buried on March 15, 1851. By 1855, their household included a total of 10 persons: Jens, Ane, Ane Catrine Hansdatter (mother of Ane Olsdatter), the three Jensen brothers, and four boarders. Maren Hansdatter was still with them and also Jens Larsen, Rasmus Nielsen, and Bodil Gregersdatter. In 1860, the family was still together, but now there were only two boarders, Niels Rasmussen and Karen Marie Larsen.

Ane Olsdatter died on December 21, 1862 in Jungshoved and was buried on December 28, 1862. Sons Peder and Christoffer left for Minnesota on April 17, 1866. Son Ole Jensen was married to Ane Marie Pedersen in 1867 and started their family in Ambæk but took his young family to Minnesota to join his brothers by 1880. Jens Rasmussen died in Jungshoved on December 17, 1863 and was buried December 23, 1863.

CHRISTEN PEDERSEN (1766 - 1820)

Sp: Kirstine Ane Pedersdatter (-)

1. Hendrik Christensen (1814 -)
2. Anne Christensdatter (1817 - 1817)
3. Peder Christensen (1818 -)
4. Marie Christensdatter (1821 -)

Christen Pedersen was born December 1766 somewhere near Kirkerup Parish of Sorø County. Christen married Kirstine Ane Pedersdatter around 1813 and they lived first in Kickerup Parish. Christen Pedersen and Kirsten Ane Pedersdatter had at least four children. Henrik Christensen was born on

February 18, 1814 in Kickerup, Sorø, Denmark. The family later moved to Tystrup Parish where Christen was a cottager in the Village of Langebjerg, where their next three children were born. Anne Christensdatter was born on February 19, 1817, but she died February 27, 1817 and was buried on March 2, 1817. Peder Christensen was born on August 4, 1818. Marie Christensdatter was born on April 30, 1821. Christen Pedersen died in Tystrup on November 23, 1820 and was buried on November 29, 1820. It seems that his wife Kirsten was pregnant with Marie at the time. Kirsten most likely died shortly after that as the children are later found in the households of foster parents.

THOMAS JENSEN (1759 - 1828)

Sp: Maren Sorensdatter (-)

1. Ellen Thomasdatter (1811 -)
2. Margaretha Thomasdatter (1813 -)
3. Soren Thomasen (1814 -)
4. Pavel Thomasen (1817 -)
5. Ane Marie Thomasdatter (1821 -)

Thomas Jensen was born in Herlufsmagle Parish of Præstø County in 1759. Thomas Jensen married Maren Sorensdatter on January 17, 1808 in Herlufsmagle. Maren was from Frederichborg. They lived in the village of Nygaarde in Herlufsmagle Parish where Thomas was a farmer. Thomas Jensen and Maren Sorensdatter had at least five children. Ellen Thomasdatter was born on February 9, 1811 and baptized on February 10, 1811 in Herlufsmagle. Margarethe Thomasdatter was born on January 31, 1813 and baptized on March 14, 1813 in Herlufsmagle. Soren Thomasen was born on November 1, 1814 and baptized on November 2, 1814 in Herlufsmagle. Pavel Thomasen was born on August 26, 1817 and baptized on August 27, 1817 in Herlufsmagle. Ane Marie Thomasdatter was born on January 16, 1821 and baptized on January 17, 1821 in Herlufsmagle. Ellen and

Soren were both confirmed at age 14 in Herlufsmagle.

Thomas Jensen died on August 25, 1828 and was buried September 2, 1828 in Herlufsmagle. Nothing is known about Maren's death.

HENDRIK CHRISTENSEN (1814 -)

Sp: Ellen Thomasdatter (1811 -)

1. Christen Hendriksen (1837 -)
2. Anne Sophie Hendriksdatter (1839 -)
3. Peder Frederik Hendriksen (1841-1842)
4. Petra Hendriksdatter (1842 - 1842)
5. Peder Frederik Hendriksen (1844 -)
6. Thomas Hendriksen (1846 - 1846)
7. Thomas Hendriksen (1848 -)
8. Ann Hendriksdatter (1850 -)
9. Hans Hendriksen (1852 - 1852)
10. Kirsten Hendriksdatter (1856 - 1941)

Henrik Christensen was born on February 18, 1814 in Kickerup, Sorø, Denmark. His parents were Christen Pedersen and Kirsten Ane Pedersdatter. He later moved with his family to Tystrup Parish where Christen was a cottager in the Village of Langebjerg. Henrik was confirmed in Tystrup in 1828 at age 14 when he was living in the household of Peder Hansen. By 1834, Henrik was shown as the foster son of Lars Sorensen in Tystrup. His sister Marie was shown as a foster daughter in the same household.

Ellen Thomasdatter was born on February 9, 1811 in Herlufsmagle, Præstø, Denmark. Ellen was confirmed in 1825 at age 14 in Herlufsmagle.

Henrik Christensen was married to Ellen Thomasdatter on December 5, 1835 in Førslev Parish of Sorø County. His occupation was shown as a timberman. By 1840, Henrik and Ellen were living in the Village of Hojbjerg in the household of Mogens Larsen and Kirsten Jensdatter. By 1845, they had a household of their own in the Village of Snesev Overdrev (overdrev means common grazing lands) in

Førslev Parish of Sorø County. They lived in that village for at least 25 years, from 1845 to 1870.

Henrik and Ellen had at least ten children in Førslev Parish. Christen Hendriksen was born on August 31, 1837 and baptized on October 8, 1837. Anne Sophie Magdaline Hendriksdatter was born December 30, 1839 and baptized on March 15, 1840. Peder Frederik Hendriksen was born September 16, 1841 and baptized November 26, 1841 but he died February 30, 1842 and was buried March 5, 1842. Petra Frederikke Hendriksdatter was born September 9, 1842 and was baptized September 22, 1842, but died that same day and was buried on September 25, 1842. A second Peder Frederik Hendriksen was born April 27, 1844 and was baptized July 18, 1844. Thomas Hendriksen was born September 16, 1846 and was baptized October 31, 1846, but died November 1, 1846 and was buried on November 8, 1846. A second Thomas Hendriksen was born on April 8, 1848 and was baptized on June 4, 1848. Ane Margarethe Hendriksdatter was born on August 21, 1850 and baptized on October 18, 1850. Hans Hendriksen was born on June 11, 1852 and baptized on June 12, 1852, but he died that same day and was buried on June 20, 1852. Their last child Kirsten Hendriksdatter was born on March 1, 1856 and baptized April 18, 1856.

Christen, Ane Sophia Magdaline, the second Peder Frederik, the second Thomas, Ane Margarethe, and Kirsten were confirmed in Førslev Parish at age 14 in the years 1852, 1854, 1858, 1862, 1865, and 1870, respectively.

Peder Frederik Hendriksen had emigrated to Dodge County, Minnesota by 1870. Ane Margarethe was also known to have emigrated to Minnesota. Kirsten left the household and moved to Tystrup Parish to work in the household of Peder Andersen of Vinstrup. Kirsten later left for Minnesota on April 30, 1876.

There is nothing known about Henrik Christensen and Ellen Thomasdatter after 1870.

OLE JENSEN (1845 - 1919)

Sp: Anne Marie Pedersen (1838 - 1916)

1. Jens Jensen (1866 - 1872)
2. Peder O. Jensen (1867 - 1946)
3. Christoffer Jensen (1869 -)
4. Hans O. Jensen (1870 - 1947)
5. Rasmus O. Jensen (1870 - 1941)

Ole Jensen was born on January 13, 1845 and was baptized March 12, 1845 in Jungshoved, Præstø, Denmark. His parents were Jens Rasmussen and Ane Olsdatter. He lived on his father's farm in the Village of Ambæk. He was confirmed at age 14 in Jungshoved on April 17, 1859. He married Ane Marie Pedersen around 1867. Ane Marie was born July 2, 1838 in Lundby Parish of Præstø, Denmark. Ole and Ane Marie had at least five children. Jens Jensen was born March 21, 1866 and was baptized on March 30, 1866. Peder O. Jensen was born September 17, 1867 and was baptized on December 9, 1867. Christoffer Jensen was born April 9, 1869 and was baptized on June 4, 1869. Twins Rasmus Jensen and Hans Jensen were born December 26, 1870 and were baptized on March 7, 1871.

By 1870, Ole had a farm of his own in Ambæk. Ole and Ane Marie's first child Jens died on March 22, 1872 and was buried in Jungshoved on March 25, 1872. By 1880, Ole and his family had emigrated to Minnesota to establish a farm adjacent to his brothers Peder and Christoffer in Tordenskjold Township of Otter Tail County, Minnesota.

Ole Jensen settled on a piece of land in Tordenskjold township on the Northside of Dane Lake just a few miles from the farms of his brothers Peder and Christoffer.

Ane Marie died July 26, 1916 and is buried at the Tordenskjold Lutheran Church Cemetery. Ole died July 2, 1919 and is buried at the

Tordenskjold Lutheran Church Cemetery. Ole and Ane Marie's sons Peder, Hans and Rasmus lived out lives in Minnesota and are also buried at the Tordenskjold Lutheran Church Cemetery.

PEDER JENSEN (1846 - 1915)

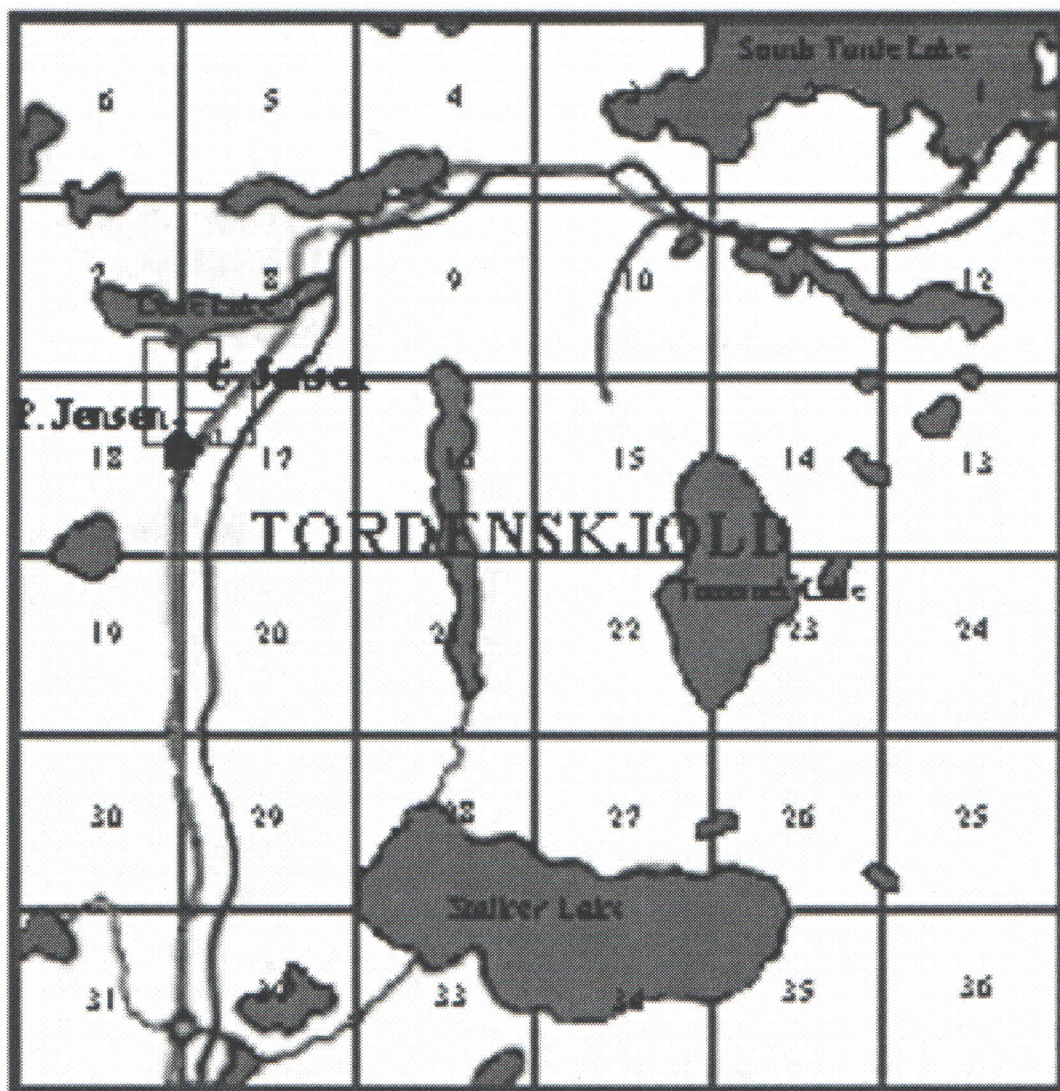
Sp: Maren Kerstine Jensen (1845 - 1917)

1. Anna Sophie Jensen (1870 -)
2. Jens Peder Jensen (1871 - 1955)
3. Hans P. Jensen (1872 - 1935)
4. Marie Jensen (1874 -)
5. Anton Jensen (1876 - 1949)
6. Hanna Andrea Jensen (1878 - 1892)
7. Reimar Andrew Jensen (1878 -)
8. Alexander W. Jensen

Peder Jensen was born on November 4, 1846 and was baptized December 26, 1846 in Jungshoved, Præstø, Denmark. His parents were Jens Rasmussen and Ane Olsdatter. He lived on his father's farm in the Village of Ambæk. He was confirmed at age 14 in Jungshoved in 1860.

On April 17, 1866, he emigrated with his brother Christoffer. They traveled by ship from Copenhagen, Denmark to New York City. After spending some time in quarantine due to an outbreak of typhoid fever, they continued their journey to Otter Tail Minnesota to establish a homestead in the woods. They made their homesteads on neighboring lands in the Tordenskjold Township. Peder made his homestead claim on the SE of the SE of Section 7, the E of the NE of Section 18, and the SW of the NW of Section 17 in Township 132 North and Range 41 West. He was granted a patent to his homestead from the U. S. Government on October 10, 1876.

Peder married a Maren Kerstine (unknown maiden name) around 1869. They had at least eight children. Anna Sophia Jensen was born in April 1870. Jens Peder Jensen was born on March 2, 1871. Hans P. Jensen was born on September 26, 1872. Marie Jensen was born in 1874. Anton Jensen was born on February 25,



County, Tordenskjold Township of Otter Tail County, Minnesota showing the homesteads of Peder and Christoffer Jensen just south of Dane Lake. Their brother Ole Jensen was known to have his farm on the north side of Dane Lake. Also shown are the early trails and roads through the area that traversed their lands many of which were established by the Jensen brothers.

1876. Hanna Andrea Jensen was born on January 4, 1878. Reimer Andrew Jensen was born in 1878. Alexander W. Jensen was born on October 26, 1883.

On June 10, 1892, their daughter Hanna Andrea died and was buried at the Tordenskjold Lutheran Church Cemetery. Peder and Maren Kerstine raised their family in Tordenskjold

Township. Today, there are many descendants of this family still living in the Underwood and Fergus Falls area of Minnesota.

In 1910, Peder and Maren Jensen bought some land near San Marcos in Southern California where their son Alexander helped them work this farmland. Later they moved to Los Angeles where their daughter Marie

Jensen Sundeen looked after them. Anne Sophie Jensen also lived in the area.

Peder Jensen died on April 20, 1915 and is buried at the Tordenskjold Lutheran Church Cemetery. His wife Maren Kerstine died April 10, 1917 and is buried at the Tordenskjold Lutheran Church Cemetery. Their sons Jens Peder, Hans P., and Anton are also buried at the Tordenskjold Lutheran Church Cemetery. The Tordenskjold Lutheran church and cemetery is on land that was once a part of the homestead of Peder Jensen.

CHRISTOFFER JENSEN (1849 - 1944)

Sp: Ane Jensen (1853 - 1875)

1. Hans Jensen (1870 - 1891)
2. Marie Jensen (1873 - 1961)

Sp: Kirsten Hendriksdatter (1856 - 1941)

1. Henry Jensen (1879 - 1918)
2. Annie Jensen (1882 - 1886)
3. Hannah Jensen (1883 - 1886)
4. Johnny Jensen (1884 - 1884)
5. James Gould Jensen (1885 - 1965)
6. Hattie Elvina Jensen (1887 - 1964)
7. Effie Jensen (1890 - 1980)
8. Edna Mae Jensen (1897 - 1991)

Christoffer Jensen was born on March 17, 1849 in the Parish of Jungshoved, Præstø, Denmark. His father's name was Jens Rasmussen and his mother's name was Ane Olsen. He grew up on his father's farm in the Village of Ambæk along with his brothers Ole and Peder. There are two things that may have influenced his emigration to America at an early age. First, the economic revolution of the time in Denmark was painful for country dwellers who had to choose between joining the drift towards towns or emigrating all together. Second, when his father Jens Rasmussen died, he left his possessions to the children of his first family. Christoffer left Denmark on April 17, 1866 when he was 17 years of age accompanied by his brother Peder. He went from Copenhagen to Liverpool, and from there to America. They were on the ocean but a few days when cholera broke out and 96

of the 406 passengers died within seven or eight days. When they were near New York, they were put on an old battleship and stayed there in quarantine for five weeks. He was then allowed to enter the United States at New York on July 3, 1866. He then went from New York to Redwing, Minnesota. He went from Redwing to Kenyon, then to German Grove in Rice County, where he worked for an old Norwegian, Halvor Odegaard. He got typhoid fever and was sick most of the summer. He frequently told about how good these people were to him during his illness. In the fall he went to work in Minneapolis, Minnesota. While there he bought a gun for \$48 to take with him on his trip to look for a homestead. He later took it with him back to Denmark and gave it to his nephew, Rasmus, and he brought it with him to America. Rasmus Jensen later gave the gun to the Historical Society in Fergus Falls.

In September 1867, Christoffer and his brother, Peder Jensen, left Minneapolis driving a yoke of oxen to find suitable farming land to the west and north. With them went two brothers, Danes Jens and Hans Jacobsen, with their oxen and outfit. At the rate of about twenty miles a day the party wended its way through St. Cloud, past Osakis Lake and pushed on to Pomme de Terre. It took them two days to get to the town of Alexandria just 14 miles away. Alexandria was then a fort. However, the soldiers had been transferred to another Fort the year before.

At Pomme de Terre they left the government trail and traveled about 4 miles to the west, then turned north to Ten Mile Lake. Here on the north end of the lake, lived Mr. McComber, who had just previously located there. The four men camped at his place over night and the next morning they started out in search of a suitable place to settle on. Peder Jensen and Jens Jacobsen walked further north the next day and got onto a large and well traveled road. They could see it was no wagon

trail. They went north following the timber, rather than to go west into the prairie as they wished to locate where there was timber. It was here that the Indians camped in the winter on the North side of Dane Lake, on the land that later became the homestead of Christoffer's brother, Ole Jensen. In the summer the Indians moved west into the Red River Valley. The boys trapped during the winter, and in the spring they had quite a pile of muskrats that they didn't know how to get rid of. However, some of the Indians came along and asked through signs if they could have them, which took care of this situation. They used them, of course, for food.

Christoffer Jensen selected his homestead in what is now section 17, Tordenskjold Township, and his brother Peder settled in section 18. The land had not yet been surveyed by the Government and Christoffer and Peder Jensen were the first white men to permanently settle in what later became known as Tordenskjold Township.

The first task was to erect a place of shelter. There was plenty of timber on the land, and both of the Jensen's were accustomed to hard work. So logs were cut and hewed and a cabin built. Their cabin was the first building north of Pomme de Terre. Shortly they found they were in need of provisions, which meant a trip to Sauk Centre had to be made. They had a compass, and they calculated they were about due north of Pomme de Terre, and figured out they could save many miles going to market by cutting a trail through the timber south of where they had settled. They spent about 3 days cutting their way through the timber. This pioneer trail was used by all the early settlers who later came to the township. It took eleven days to make the trip to Sauk Centre and back by ox team. Christoffer paid \$13.50 for a barrel of flour, and \$32.00 for a hog.

Christoffer did not raise any grain in 1868, as the tall grass that was plowed under for the

THE HOMESTEAD ACT OF 1862

Under the Homestead Act of May 20, 1862, heads of households, widows, and single persons over 21 years old could apply for 160 acres subject to entry under the Preemption law. Patent for the land would be issued after 5 years of residence and cultivation or, if applicants so chose, they could commute their claim before the end of 5 years to a cash entry, paying the minimum price per acre.

The Homestead law was seen as a great democratic measure by its supporters. The law, however, was but a promise; not all could take advantage of it. The Homestead law offered free land but building of a home and breaking soil for crops took capital. The environment also worked to defeat the dreams of many. Of the more than 1.3 million homestead entries filed before 1900, only about half would go to patent.

first time had to be given time to rot and the soil turned once again before a crop could be produced. However, he raised a fine garden, which was a great boon as it reduced the demand for other supplies.

In the summer of 1868, Christoffer decided to go to Winona and secure work in the harvest fields thereabout, as harvest hands were being paid \$3.50 per day. He walked to St. Cloud, then by rail to Minneapolis, but he did not have money to secure passage any further, so he got on board a barge at Minneapolis and thus was transported to Winona.

In 1869, Christoffer raised his first crop of wheat, and it was cut with a cradle and threshed with a flail. Later Christoffer and Peder purchased a horse-powered threshing machine, this becoming the first threshing machine in the township.

Eventually, the government survey made it

to Tordenskjold Township. George B. Wright got the contract from the government to survey. Christoffer first met Wright in the winter of 1869-70, when Wright came up from St. Paul to survey the township of Tordenskjold. The weather was bitterly cold, and Wright had a grain sack tied around his head and neck to keep warm. Jack Billings was one of the surveyors, who later became sheriff of Ottertail County for 38 years. Settlers started coming in the next year and as theirs was the only cabin, their yard was full of covered wagons. They came in on the road Christoffer and Peder had cut through the timber the year before. It was crooked, of course, and up and down hills. As the newcomers arrived and got settled, they met and organized a township. They consisted mostly of Danes, Norwegians and Swedes.

They decided that Tordenskjold would be an appropriate name for the new township. This was the nickname for Peter Vessle (a man well known in the history of their countries). His father was a tailor in Bergen, Norway. He enlisted in the Danish Navy, later became an Admiral, fought against Sweden. He is buried in Copenhagen.

Clitheral, 10 miles east, was settled in 1865. Mostly settlers from Illinois. Whiting was the first postmaster. Mail was brought from Clitheral to Tordenskjold by dog team driven by a man named Barbeau.

The Fergus Falls Journal of Thursday, April 17, 1930, contained an account of the passing of one of Ottertail's earliest settlers Knute Olson, who came to that county in 1868. The following paragraph described the journey north from Pomme de Terre in northern Grant County:

"Here the four men engaged Mr. Esten to accompany them as a guide. From Tumuli they travelled toward Wall Lake. They crossed the lake on ice. A small band of Indians stood on the west side of the lake watching them. It was growing dusk and the guide suggested that they

strike eastward where he knew there was a settler. So they traveled over into Tordenskjold. In that whole township there was but one shack. Here lived Peter and Christoffer Jensen and two other men, brothers. They were all Danes, and Mr. Olson and his party received a warm welcome. They stopped over night and the next morning, the guide, Mr. Esten, returned to this home in Tumuli and Mr. Olson and his party looked around for a suitable piece of land. They could not as yet file, of course, since no surveys had been made."

Christoffer Jensen was married first to Ane Jensen (she had the same surname) in 1869. Ane was born in Denmark in 1853. Two children were born to them. Hans was born on Oct. 5, 1870. Marie was born in 1873. She was known as Mary most of her life and later became part of Christoffer's second family. Ane died shortly after Mary's birth on February 10, 1875 and was buried on Peder Jensen's homestead on land that would later become the Tordenskjold Lutheran church cemetery.

Once the Tordenskjold township was surveyed by the U. S. Government it was ready for official settlement. Before the survey, Christoffer and his brother Peder basically lived there as "squatters." On March 27, 1871, Christoffer made his official application for homestead entry for 160 acres in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ in the of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8, the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 17 in Township 132 North and Range 41 West. He would later say in his "proofs" documents that he began his settlement of those lands on September 20, 1871. However, he had been there since 1867. He knew that one of the requirements for being granted patent to his claim was that he had to be a U.S. citizen. He became a naturalized citizen at the Ottertail County District Court on November 9, 1875. After Ane's death, Christoffer returned to Denmark for a visit. He met his second wife



Ane Jensen, first wife of Christoffer Jensen,
probably in 1870s, Underwood, MN

Kirsten Hendricksen on the boat coming back to America in May of 1876. Upon his return on July 11, 1876, he filed his affidavits for final proofs and payment for patenting of his homestead claim. He stated that he was the head of a family consisting of two children and that he had built a house of logs 20 feet by 20 feet 1 stories high with a shingle roof, two floors, three doors and four windows. He further stated that he plowed and cultivated about 50 acres, fenced 160 acres, built a log stable 25 feet by 36 feet and a grainery 14 feet by 17 feet. His witnesses were his brother Peder Jensen and Christian Jensen. Christoffer received patent to his homestead on October 10, 1876.

Christoffer Jensen married Kirsten Hendriksdatter on December 4, 1877 and they first settled into the homestead at Tordenskjold. Kirsten accepted Hans and Mary as her own. Then they had their first child Henry Jensen on April 3, 1879.

Christoffer and Kirsten sold the homestead and moved to Fergus Falls in 1882. Shortly after this move they had two more children, Annie Jensen in 1882 and Hannah Jensen shortly after in 1883. Then they had a son named Johnny Jensen in July 1884, but he died the following month on August 7, 1884.

They lived in Fergus Falls for 11 years and they had both good and bad times. In partnership with another man, Christoffer operated a store for some time, but as this venture proved unprofitable, it was not of very long duration. He was in the lumber business with Winther, and they also had a yard at Elizabeth. He was also out of work for a time. They were getting along with \$10 to \$12 a month for family living.

In 1886, there was a scarlet fever epidemic. Christoffer was sick in bed, Hannah and Annie became ill as well. Hannah died on January 8, 1886 and Annie died on January 14, 1886. The deaths occurred in winter and they had to wait until spring to bury them. Kirsten made them each a burial dress. Henry was so sick that the neighbors, who brought over food and left it on the porch, also brought a shroud for him. He lived, but was a long time getting back to health.

Christoffer and Kirsten had another son who they named James Gould Jensen on November 2, 1885. They also had a daughter named Hattie Elvina Jensen on March 11, 1887. Both these children were born in Fergus Falls.

The first of many tragedies struck this small family in 1891. Christoffer's son Hans was working in the woods in Wisconsin. He wrote a letter home saying he was ready to start for home. He never came home and nothing further was heard until a telegram came saying he was dead. He died of pneumonia March 28, 1891. He got pneumonia and medical care was not available. When they came to claim the body, they found him laid out in a box in the



The United States of America,

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

Homestead Certificate No. 13885
Application 1292

Whereas, there has been deposited in the General Land Office of the United States a CERTIFICATE of the Register of the Land Office at Alexandria, Minnesota, whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress approved 20th May, 1862, "To secure Homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of Christoffer Jensen

has been established and duly consummated in conformity to law for the South West quarter of the South West quarter of Section eight, the North West quarter of the North West quarter and East half of the North West quarter of Section seventeen, in Township one hundred and thirty-two of Range forty-one, in the district of lands subject to sale at Alexandria, Minnesota, containing one hundred and sixty acres

according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land returned to the General Land Office by the SURVEYOR GENERAL.

Now know ye, That there is therefore granted by the UNITED STATES unto the said Christoffer Jensen the tract of Land above described: To Have and to Hold the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said Christoffer Jensen and to his heirs and assigns forever:

In testimony whereof, J. Myles S. Grant, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the 10th day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and first



BY THE PRESIDENT: J. M. Grant
D. O. Lane, Sec'y.
S. M. Lane, Recorder of the General Land Office

Patent certificate issued on October 10, 1876 to Christoffer Jensen for his homestead in Tordenskjold Township, Minnesota

back of the camp.

In 1893 the family moved to Vernon, South Dakota next to the North Dakota line, just 12 miles south of Hankinson, North Dakota. They broke up the place, put up buildings and planted trees. It was here that the Jensen family would form a friendship and a bond with the Tyson family that would have an affect on them for years to come.

The Lewis Tysons came to Dakota Territory in June, 1886, from their home in Mascoutah, Illinois. Lewis decided to go to Dakota and claim a quarter section of land in Richland County under his Soldier's Homestead rights. He had served two terms in the Civil War "in the Army of the United States." His discharge papers state: the first term was from April 9, 1861, to April 9, 1864, and the second from September 1, 1864, to July 31, 1865.

Lewis was not a good farmer, as he had learned earlier in life. He had a mail carrying contract to take the mail from Hankinson, North Dakota to Vernon, South Dakota in a horse drawn rig. Later he had a R.F.D. route out of Hankinson, still using horses.

Lewis and Emily Tyson had five children: Robert, Annie, Goldie, Charles, and Harry. The Tyson and Jensen families became somewhat acquainted while both lived in South Dakota. Robert Tyson married Mary Jensen on December 8, 1896. Annie Tyson would later become the wife of Henry Jensen in North Dakota. Also while living in South Dakota, Christoffer and Kirsten had another daughter, Effie Jensen who was born on January 19, 1894.

Christoffer was always looking for new places. As soon as he got one built up and made it liveable, and Kirsten was happy about it, he was on his way. They sold the South Dakota farm to Nels Pedersen, a close friend of the family, for \$1000. Kirsten cried when she got the letter from Christoffer telling about buying a place in Port Arthur, Texas, but as it worked

out he sold half of the lot about three years later for \$1000 to Pete Stock. Stock was from Omaha and was a good friend of Sophus Neble, then editor of the Danish *Pioneer*, and as Kirsten frequently wrote to the *Pioneer*, and Neble came to Port Arthur to visit and hunt, there was a friendly relationship all around.

In 1897, Christoffer and Kirsten moved their family to Port Arthur, Texas. Christoffer had some trouble finding work at first, but finally landed a job working with a landscape man who took care of the Sabine Hotel yards. James worked there later as a bell boy. Christoffer worked 10 hours a day at 15 cents an hour and on some of those days the weather was very hot.

Christoffer and Kirsten had another daughter Edna Jensen, who was born in Port Arthur on July 17, 1897, shortly after their arrival there. It has been said that Edna was the first white child born in Port Arthur.

Christoffer saved up enough to buy a team of tough little mules and when millionaire, John W. Gates and Ellwoods moved in and bought property, he got the contract for filling in the ground. He had men working for him and made up to \$20 a day.

He later got a job as a carpenter and doing general work and hauling. One project involved building the big terminal elevator at the end of the ship canal which came from the Gulf to within two miles of Port Arthur. Sometimes he would haul bricks for 10 hours a day, and for a time he had a bunch of hogs about a mile out of town. He was always up in the morning at four o'clock, to feed the mules and hogs and was out at the docks at seven. Then back to town, have supper and go out to feed the pigs again. It was hard to tell who was tougher, Christoffer or his mules.

The mules had the use of a vacant lot, fenced with three barb wires. Whenever they wanted to get out, they jumped over the fence, and when they got through roaming around

outside, they jumped back in again and never got a scratch. James used to ride the gray mule to go hunting. One day he wanted to go after some ducks on the other side of Alligator Bayou, but the mule would not cross the bridge. He could not even lead him over.

While in Port Arthur the family lived through the great Galveston flood.

The Galveston flood also brought great damage upon the neighbor community of Port Arthur. The flood didn't leave one building undamaged on Proctor (main) Street. Most of them were two story buildings and in practically every case the top story blew off.

One of the buildings was Wolf's saloon. Christ Mortensen from Sabine Pass, one of the men who fished oysters with the Jensens, was spending the evening there and when the second story collapsed, he got out through the window. He then decided to come down to find out how the Jensens were getting along. Fortunately, Christoffer had built their house on stilts so the high water did not flood the house. When Mortensen arrived, the Jensen family was standing in water to the windward of the house. James remembers that it must have been partly moonlight because he distinctly saw Mortensen come rolling across the street. The family was amazed at how Mortensen got there through three blocks of

flying wreckage and water.

Mortensen and his partner, Jim Hansen, never had any personal concern about storms. They used to make a trip from Sabine Pass to Port Arthur, about 15 miles in their little sloop (Sisa) loaded with oysters, and they always had whiskey with them as well. It didn't matter if it was dark, in a storm or no storm. Henry made one of those night trips with them. He said Jim and Christ were having a fine time, singing and swearing by turns. Neither of them could swim a stroke.

During the storm the Jensens tried to get to the big terminal depot, but only made it to the next neighbor. Their house blew off the stilts, but was still upright. They took the family in. The place was pretty well filled with the other refugees. The family stayed until about 12 o'clock when the wind moderated, and then went home. There had been about six inches of water in the Jensen house, which was in highest part of town. Big logs were in the yard and a row boat. The barn, made of heavy planks and almost filled with oysters, was tipped over on its side. The bad part of that was the family horse had been tied outside to the barn, and now was found under it.

A fairly big three masted ship broke loose from the dock in Sabine Pass and drifted quite a way into the lake which was otherwise quite shallow. They had to dredge out the lake to get it back to deep water.

When it was all over, the Jensens found out that the water had risen to a depth of 25 feet in the business section of the city, costing hundreds of lives and millions of dollars in property damage. The Jensen cottage and one hotel were the only buildings left completely undamaged in Port Arthur.

In June, 1902, the Jensens moved to a farm four miles NW of Lawton, Oklahoma. One of Christoffer's fellow workers in Port Arthur had a homestead and they planned to farm and to have some dairy cows. It seemed to be a good

THE GALVESTON FLOOD

For many years to come the inhabitants will remember Sept. 8, 1900 when the city was visited by the most appalling disaster from natural causes in the history of the North American continent. The city was flooded by a depth of from 4 to 16 feet by a tidal wave that followed a West Indian hurricane which caused a loss of 8000 lives and destruction of property amounting to \$20,000,000. The bodies were piled up and burned to prevent disease.

place to start again. Lawton was only nine months old and had a population of 7500. They stayed there about a month. There was a big rodeo July 1 to 7 and they got to see it about every day. The kids got to go swimming every day either in Cache Creek or Medicine Creek, beautiful creeks in the mountains or bluffs near Fort Sill. They used to see Old Geronimo about every day too, either in town or at the Fort.

During this time, Christoffer bought a beautiful black team named Prince and Nelly. He also bought an almost new covered wagon and a pony named Sally. Sally had some Arabian blood from a stallion owned by Comanche Chief Quanah Parker.

Christoffer had rented some land in the oil district. An oil well was sunk on the land, but it was pronounced a dry well. Later that same land had several wells that were all heavy producers.

Oklahoma proved to be too hot even for a Texan, so one day after a scorching day in the country trying to find even one cow, Christoffer went to town and hired an immigrant car direct to Kenmare, North Dakota. Some of the kids were riding in the livestock car. In the Minneapolis transfer, the train ride was so rough that the partitions broke down and the horses got loose. After being almost trampled to death, the family managed to get the partitions nailed up again and Christoffer said, "That's enough, from now on you ride in the caboose." About two days later the family landed in Kenmare shortly after sun up.

After their arrival in Kenmare, they were able to locate a couple of old friends and former neighbors from South Dakota, Nelson and Paulson, who were in the farm implement business. Henry worked for them so they had no trouble finding him. Henry had already been in the area since he entered his homestead claim in Stafford Township in Renville County around 1899. The men managed to get hold of

some beer, and they lay on the hillside overlooking the lake, having a great reunion. Later Christoffer and James got a load of lumber and started for Henry's claim, about 30 miles north of Kenmare, 2 miles south of the Canadian line. They had to go 20 miles west to McKinney because there was the only bridge between there and Canada. They didn't know about the ford at Stafford's or Gulson's.

From McKinney they went northwest again. About the only person they saw was George Wegdahl whose folks had just put up a house on their claim two miles north of what became the Jensen home. Christoffer bought a homestead claim from Henry in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 14 of Township 163 North and Range 87 West in an area known as Stafford Township. Henry had married Annie Tyson on July 25, 1903 in Minot, North Dakota. Henry had his homestead claim in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 11 of Stafford Township just one-half mile north of Christoffer's. Robert Tyson, husband of Mary Jensen, had his homestead claim in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 2 of Stafford Township adjacent to the north side of Henry's. The entire Jensen family was now all living within 2 miles of each other. Everybody was happy with this arrangement.

Annie had a claim five miles straight south of the Jensens and across the Mouse River. Annie, with her son, Erwin, had drove from Hankinson to her claim by horse and buggy for 11 days on the road. The Jensens spent many happy days at their place during the four years they lived there, visiting them and Annie's brothers, Harry and Charley.

Christoffer and James got to the Aaby's place before dark on the first day on their way to the Stafford homestead claim. The Aaby family had a good set of buildings now. They camped by a slough. Christoffer slept on the ground and James on the tool chest in the wagon. The next morning they found that they were exactly on the track with only $2\frac{1}{2}$ more

miles to go. They got there and built the shack the same day. Christoffer had planned to find someone who had a plow so they could plow a fire break. They got up early the next morning and dug a furrow around the shack and then dug another furrow on the outside and burned the grass in between creating a nice fire break.

Then they returned to Kenmare. It didn't take so long to go back because Aabys told them about the Stafford ford. They were so hungry that they ate almost everything in the house when they got back to Kenmare that night. They then returned to the homestead with the family.

The Jensens believed that they probably had the best 160 acres in the country. They could look almost into Canada up the river, and could see Henry's place on the north. They had

the best of hunting for both ducks and prairie chickens. New settlers were coming in by the trainload and everybody prospered. A small settlement named Pleasant, North Dakota soon sprouted up. The Sherwood Tribune newspaper reported on October 23, 1904:

"C. Jensen of Pleasant brot a load of grain to town the other day. He says his wheat netted 17 bushels per acre of bright, clean no.1 hard grade."

It was in Stafford Township where Hattie Jensen was to meet Miles McLane who had a homestead claim just one-half mile from the Jensens. Hattie married Miles on February 18, 1907, in Minot, and they lived on Mile's nearby homestead claim.

In 1907, Christoffer must have had another bountiful crop as he placed the following



Christoffer Jensen, Kirsten Jensen and their daughters, left to right, Effie, Edna, and Hattie, taken around 1914 in Minnesota.

announcement in the August 8, 1907 Sherwood Tribune:

"Chris. Jensen: I have 140 acres of good land under cultivation and in crop this year. 104 acres of this is seeded to wheat that won't go over 10 bushels to the acre, and acre for acre is as good grain as there is in the country this season. As to credit in town I will not over do, but what I want is a square deal. I am not over estimating this years crop."

The family togetherness established in Stafford Township started coming to an end. On March 21, 1908, Christoffer sold his claim and all his stock to William Hoppe and the family moved to Calloway, Minnesota. Then Robert and Mary Tyson left their homestead for Russell, North Dakota on May 24, 1908. Henry and Annie Jensen moved their family as well. This left Hattie and James as the only Jensens left in Renville County.

Christoffer and Henry each rented a Uran farm four miles north of Callaway. Later they both bought land near Popple Grove, four to five miles northwest of Waubun, Minnesota. Both did well and eventually sold to good advantage. Henry went into the garage and implement business in Red Lake Falls, Minnesota. Christoffer bought another farm adjoining Waubun which he sold expecting to quit farming. Around 1914, their daughter Hattie came to visit them along with her three children Dorothea, Lois, and David. A family portrait was taken of Christoffer, Kirsten, and their daughters Hattie, Effie, and Edna.

Christoffer and Kirsten lived in Detroit Lakes for a while and were living in Red Lake Falls in 1920 in a house with daughter Effie. By this time, James Jensen and his family were also living in Red Lake Falls. Finally they landed in Mahnommen where they got themselves a nice home, and where they spent their remaining years both working and very active. Kirsten with her cream and butter for which she was famous, and Christoffer with his

work for Robinson and Schmerhorn.

Christoffer led a rather hearty and robust life. He was always looking for a better place and new opportunities. He was known to always have a sip of whiskey in the mornings while he was pulling his boots on. He also had a habit of always drinking buttermilk or clobbered sour milk with his meals.

Christoffer and Kirsten were often visited by their children and grandchildren. Effie came back from a visit with Hattie and brought home with her their granddaughter Dorothea McLane for a visit in July 1924. Then in July of 1927, the entire McLane family came from



Effie Jensen, Christoffer Jensen, and Isabelle Jensen (daughter of Jens Jensen) in the 1930s at the Jensen home in Mahnommen, Minnesota.

Sherwood, North Dakota for a visit. Dorothea came to visit on her own in August of 1930.

In 1931, Christoffer went to Faribault, Minnesota with James for a visit. They located the old farm where Christoffer was employed when he arrived in Minnesota for the first time. Christoffer immediately recognized it. They



Christoffer Jensen and his nephew Jens Jensen (son of Christoffer's brother Peder) in the 1930s in the backyard of the Jensen home in Mahnomen, Minnesota.

found an old lady of about 90 years, a descendent of the Odegaard's, and had quite a visit.

Miles and Hattie McLane and sons Patrick and Brian paid a visit to Christoffer and Kirsten in August of 1933. Hattie returned to Mahnomen again on August 9, 1934, to visit them.

On July 21, 1938, Christoffer, Kirsten,

Effie, and Edna all went together to visit Hattie and Miles in Sherwood, North Dakota. Christoffer was a short man. While in the local saloon, some patrons were making comments about his lack of height. He immediately bet them that he could put one foot on the bar while keeping the other foot on the floor. He won the bet! This was quite a feat considering that he was 89 years old at the time. The occasion of the trip was to visit the Miles and Hattie McLane family in Sherwood before their move in September 1938 to Los Angeles, California. This was the last time Hattie got to see her parents before their deaths.

One blessing was that in later years Christoffer and Kirsten had Effie and Edna close by, and it was their wonderful and loving care that kept them in comfort and good health for so many years. The years Christoffer and Kirsten spent in Waubun and Mahnomen were probably the most pleasant. They always had the respect and esteem of many good friends. Kirsten died in Mahnomen on June 13, 1941.



**Tordenskjold Free Lutheran Church
1871-1996**

Tordenskjold Lutheran Church and cemetery near Underwood, Minnesota where Christoffer and Kirsten Jensen are buried along with many other Jensen relatives.

Christoffer died just over a year later on September 10, 1942. Effie cared for them until the end of their years.

There is satisfaction in the fact that after leaving Fergus Falls and living in the various places, their final resting place is in the old church yard by Underwood (Tordenskjold) where Christoffer and his brother, Peder, settled back in 1867. Peder had donated the ground to the church many years before. The two Jacobsens are buried there too.

KIRSTEN HENDRIKSDATTER (1856 - 1941)

Sp: Christoffer Jensen (1849 - 1942)

1. Henry Jensen (1879 - 1918)
2. Annie Jensen (1882 - 1886)
3. Hannah Jensen (1883 - 1886)
4. Johnny Jensen (1884 - 1884)
5. James Gould Jensen (1885 - 1965)
6. Hattie Elvina Jensen (1887 - 1964)
7. Effie Jensen (1890 - 1980)
8. Edna Mae Jensen (1897 - 1991)

Kirsten Henriksdatter was born on March 1, 1856 and baptized April 18, 1856 in Førslev Parish of Sorø County Denmark. Her father was Hendrik Christensen and her mother was Ellen Thomasdatter. She grew up with her family in the Village of Sneslev Overdrev (means common pasture) in Førslev Parish. On May 1, 1871, Kirsten moved to Tystrup Parish to board and work at the farm of Peder Andersen in the Village of Vinstrup. She came to America in May of 1876, when she was 20 years old. She met Christoffer Jensen on the boat trip over. She said: "Das fellews vas teasing us." This was in reference to Christoffer and the friends he had made on board. She was later to say: "Vall, he must of done a goot chop, becous da was marred."

After her arrival in New York, she went to Benson, Minnesota to live with her sister Margrethe Person (Mrs. Sven Person). She lived in Benson a year and then went to Kasson

in March 1877 where her brother Frederick lived on a farm about six miles out.

She worked in Kasson for some people by the name of Tucker. Then she left the last of November, 1877 and went to Tordenskjold Township of Otter Tail County, Minnesota and was married to Christoffer Jensen on Dec. 4, 1877 in Fergus Falls. They lived in the little log house that was first built on the homestead by Christoffer and Peder Jensen.

Kirsten was a musician and loved music of all kinds. She could play the violin and clarinet. She could remember every verse and song she ever knew. When others needed information about old Danish songs, they either wrote her direct or to the *Pioneer*, and she could always provide what they wanted. She was also very active in Ladies Aid and other church work.

Many times Kirsten was sick and tired of moving with all the work, losing old friends and finding new ones. But she took it in stride and made the best of it. The new scenes, the new places and interests helped to keep her and Christoffer young.

Kirsten was famous for her cream, butter, and buttermilk. She enjoyed preparing these items and seeing her family and friends enjoy them.

Kirsten was diagnosed with sciatic rheumatism on July 5, 1940. She died on June 13, 1941 at the age of 85 in Mahnomen, Minnesota. Her funeral services were held on June 16, 1941 at the Congregational Church with Rev. J.A. Hughes officiating. She is buried with Christoffer at the church cemetery in Tordenskjold (Underwood), Minnesota. Kirsten had shucked grain in the field adjoining, and at one time had the two little ones (Hannah and Mary) with her in the go-cart.

HANS JENSEN (1870 - 1881)

Hans Jensen was born to Christoffer and

Ane Jensen on October 5, 1870 at Tordenskjold, Minnesota. He had only a short life. After his mother's untimely death, he became part of his father's second family. As a young man, he went to work in the woods of Wisconsin. Unfortunately, he was never to return home. He died of pneumonia March 28, 1891.

MARIE (MARY) JENSEN (1873 -1961)

Sp: Robert M. Tyson (1873 - 1956)

1. Boyd Ellicott Tyson (-)
2. Victor Millman Tyson (1899 - 1977)
3. Iva Marie Tyson (1901 - 1995)
4. Chester Russell Tyson (-)

Marie Jensen was born to Christoffer and Ane Jensen in 1873 at Tordenskjold Township, Otter Tail County, Minnesota. She was known as Mary for most of her life.

Mary was apprenticed to a seamstress at age 12, although she would have rather had a formal education. Any money that she earned was sent to her father to help with household expenses.

While the Jensen family lived in South Dakota, Mary met Robert M. Tyson. Christoffer referred to Robert as being that "lung bennett yankee," which means long legged yankee. Robert had "broke sod" in Richland County with a team of oxen, and estimated that he had broken no less than 1000 acres of land. He was still in his teens when he acquired his first quarter of land in 1891 from R.H. Hankinson for \$800, paying for it out of the crops. This is the same R.H. Hankinson for whom the town is named. He later sold his equity in the tract and homesteaded on lands opened on the Sisseton Reservation.

Robert and Mary were married on December 8, 1896 in Wahpeton, North Dakota by Rev. Schermerhorn. The December 17, 1896 Hankinson News published the following:

"We heard casually, recently, that our old friend R. M. Tyson, of Greenfield Township

and Miss Mary Jensen, a young lady well and very favorably known, were married in Wahpeton, and have settled down to the prosaic yet pastoral duties of farm life on the claim. And it was gently hinted that the next thing on the program would be bells, tin pans, old wash-boilers and the like."

Mary gave up her homestead and went to live in Robert's two-room shack that he had built on his Sisseton claim. Mary was a clever seamstress and homemaker, so she got busy to make the dreary place more habitable. With the help of yards of "turkey-red" calico, the place was transformed into a cheerful, cozy prairie home.

In 1903, they moved to new land along the Canadian border, near Sherwood, North Dakota. Robert bought a homestead claim relinquishment there and they made their home on a farm 13 miles west of Sherwood. His homestead was at SE of Section 2 of Township 163 North and Range 87 West. The township was known as Stafford. His 160 acres was immediately north of Henry Jensen's and a mile north of Christoffer Jensen's.

Robert learned that he was not really cut out to be a farmer, so on May 24, 1908 they moved to Russell, North Dakota where he became an implement dealer.

Mary enjoyed visiting with her sisters and brothers. Mary received her sister Hattie as a visitor on February 28, 1909. Mary and Effie went to Sherwood, North Dakota to visit Hattie on September 24, 1921. Robert and Mary and their family visited Hattie for New Years 1926. On July 28, 1927, Mary went to Sherwood with family members that included her son Chester, her mother-in-law Annie Jensen, and her son Raymond.

In 1928 Robert turned his implement business in Russell over to his son Victor. Later, Robert and Mary moved to Westhope, North Dakota. On June 7, 1928, Miles and Hattie and family came to visit them. Then the

Tyson's went to visit in Sherwood in August of 1929. On July 17, 1930, the McLane family met up with the Tysons at Antler, North Dakota for a picnic. In August 1934, Robert and Mary's son Chester was married and Miles and Hattie came to attend the wedding.

In April of 1935, Mary was very sick and was in the hospital at Minot, North Dakota. Hattie came to visit her in the hospital. At that time, Robert and Mary were residing in Sawyer, North Dakota.

Robert and Mary lived to celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary in Minot in 1946 with their whole family in attendance. Mary died in June 1961 at the age of 88 in Westhope, North Dakota.

Robert and Mary had four children: Boyd Ellicott, who died shortly after birth, Victor Millman, Iva Marie, and Chester.

HENRY JENSEN (1880 - 1918)

Sp: Annie E. Tyson (1875 -)

1. Marion Jensen (1904 - 1994)
2. Harry Jensen (1909 - 1960)
3. Charles Jensen (1910 -)
4. Raymond Jensen (1915 -)

Henry Jensen was born to Christoffer and Kirsten Hendriksdatter on April 3, 1879 at Tordenskjold, Minnesota. Henry moved with the family to South Dakota, Texas, and eventually North Dakota. While he lived in South Dakota he was acquainted with members of the Tyson family. One member of that family, Annie made a journey to North Dakota that would lead to a future with Henry.

The young widow Annie Tyson Johnson and her little boy Erwin loaded up a few provisions in a buggy, hitched up old Dobben and took off west by northwest toward Minot, North Dakota and eventually to Kenmare. She wanted to stake her own homestead claim. She followed wagon wheel tracks across the prairie west, then north, then west. Eventually she

would see a windmill off on the horizon, then a barn, a house, and she would stay the course. She would go to that farm and they would take her and her little boy in and feed them. They would give them rest and care for her horse. Then in the morning, they would give them directions and send them on their way with God's blessing. Annie eventually did all the things necessary to prove up her homestead claim. Her claim ended up being near the Jensen family claims. When it came time to build her house, the Jensens came over to assist. Christoffer let her know, "Da vas damnit goot carpenter too." He proved it by helping her build her house.

Henry and Annie were married on July 25, 1903. They lived on Henry's homestead in Stafford Township in the NE of Section 11 of Township 163 North and Range 87 West. Henry's place was next to Robert Tyson place immediately on the north and mile north of his father Christoffer Jensen's place. Henry was granted a patent to his homestead on June 16, 1904. Their daughter Marion was born on August 9, 1904 while they were living in Stafford.

In 1908, Henry and Annie and family moved to a farm near Mora and Calloway, Minnesota. Their son Harry was born March 13, 1909 in Calloway. Later they moved to Waubun to be near the rest of the Jensen family. They had two more children while living in Waubun. Charles was born on June 29, 1910 and Raymond was born on August 3, 1915.

In 1916, they moved to Red Lake Falls, Minnesota where Henry and his brother James purchased the Findeisen Auto & Implement Co. Later J.S. Evans was taken into the firm and the name was changed to the Jensen & Evans Co.

Henry died Dec. 6, 1918 during a siege of Spanish influenza. He endured the illness for six weeks, however it was followed by

pneumonia which in turn was followed by pleurisy and his heart was not in condition to stand the strain. The funeral services were held on December 8 from the residence and internment was in the cemetery of the Presbyterian church east of Red Lake Falls.

Annie stayed in touch with the Jensen family. On July 28, 1927, she and Raymond went to Sherwood, North Dakota to visit Henry's sister Hattie. She also got to visit her brother Robert Tyson. Then in August 1938, they stopped at Hattie's on their way back home to Minnesota from a trip to Yellowstone National Park.

ANNIE JENSEN (1882 - 1886)

Annie Jensen was born to Christoffer and Kirsten Hendriksdatter in 1882 at Fergus Falls, Minnesota. She lived only a few years. Annie died during scarlet fever epidemic Jan. 14, 1886.

HANNAH JENSEN (- 1886)

Hannah Jensen was born to Christoffer and Kirsten Hendriksdatter at Fergus Falls, Minnesota. The year of her birth is not known. She lived only a few years. Hannah died during scarlet fever epidemic Jan. 8, 1886.

JOHNNY JENSEN (1884 - 1884)

Johnny Jensen was born in 1884 to Christoffer and Kirsten Hendriksdatter at Fergus Falls, Minnesota. He died in infancy on Aug. 7, 1884

JAMES GOULD JENSEN (1885 - 1965)

Sp: **Randina L. Rockne (-)**

1. **Marjorie Jensen (-)**

2. **Barbara I. Jensen (-)**

3. **Gladys E. Jensen (-)**

4. **James G. Jensen (-)**

James Gould Jensen was born to Christoffer and Kirsten Hendriksdatter on November 2, 1885 at Fergus Falls, Minnesota. James moved with the family to South Dakota, Texas, Oklahoma, and eventually North Dakota. James loved to ride a pony named Sally. James put Sally in many races after they got to North Dakota and never lost one or even took second place. James settled in Stafford Township, North Dakota along with his family in 1903. He also made his own homestead claim in Williams County, North Dakota and went to establish residence there on June 20, 1907. In December 1907 he was back in Stafford and had a job working at Walker's Bakery in Sherwood, North Dakota.

On September 11, 1910 James was married to Randina Rockne by Judge Percey S. Crewe in Mohall, North Dakota. By 1919, James was partners with his brother Henry in an auto and implements business in Red Lake Falls, Minnesota. On June 20, 1919, James and his family went back to Sherwood, North Dakota to visit his sister Hattie.

Around 1925, James became a bank examiner in Canada, Minnesota. On July 9, 1925, he and his family visited Hattie again. By 1931, James and his family were living in Fairbault, Minnesota. His parents Christoffer and Kirsten came for a visit that year. Then on July 16, 1931, he took his family once again to visit Hattie.

By 1935, James was employed as a clerk at the Federal Land Bank in St. Paul, Minnesota. He and his family were residing at 1438 Lafond in St. Paul.

In about 1955, James had the foresight to write a Jensen family history. This written document handed to many generations of Jensens became a major part of this consolidated history.

James was later known to have been a

State Bank Inspector in St. Paul, MN. James died in St. Paul, Minnesota on August 6, 1965.

James and Randina had four children. They are Marjorie Dillon, Barbara I. Linse, Gladys E. Birkland, and James G. Jensen.

HATTIE ELVINA JENSEN (1887 - 1964)

Sp: Miles Joseph McLane (1880 - 1957)

1. Dorothea Hazel McLane (1907 - 1965)
2. Lois Edna McLane (1910 - 2000)
3. David Miles McLane (1912 - 1995)
4. James Patrick McLane (1918 -)
5. Brian Henry McLane (1923 - 1988)

Hattie Elvina Jensen was born to Christoffer and Kersten Hendriksdatter on March 11, 1887 in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. She met and married her husband Miles McLane when the family moved to North Dakota. Her life will be described in a following chapter. Hattie died in Los Angeles on January 29, 1964.

EFFIE JENSEN (1890 - 1980)

Sp: John Benishek (-)

Effie Jensen was born to Christoffer and Kersten Hendriksdatter in Fergus Falls, Minnesota in 1890. She moved with her family to South Dakota, Texas, and North Dakota. She moved with her parents to Minnesota in 1909. She traveled around a bit visiting her brothers in sisters in the various places they lived. She spent January and February of 1913 with her sister Hattie in Stafford Township, North Dakota. Later she would live with her brothers Henry and James in Red Lake Falls, Minnesota.

A small glimpse of Effie's life can be seen in the letter that she wrote to Kirsten on October 18, 1918:

"Dear Mama, I am sitting here with not much to do so might as well write you a few lines you might get it to morrow morning. Henry hasn't got back yet from New Rockford.

He may come to morrow at least I think he will get here some time during the day. We had rain last night and it freshened up things just fine and cleared the air of all that smoke. It was a fright here for about three days we were nearly chocked and I can imagine how terrible hard it must have been to see or breathe where the fire was. I suppose people couldn't see where to go even if they could get away.

It is just a swell day here to day and I sure would like to go home to night but there isn't much chance as Henry is gone and there isn't any car here but an old Ford so I guess it is not much use to plan on going when it is so hard to get cars. If we are not any more busy here then we are now I don't think I will be here any longer than the first of December. If I do and have any money saved up I am going out to Miles some time in the winter.

I suppose you are busy to day it is Saturday but I think you are just taking your sleep now as it is just half past two o'clock and then you will get up and work the butter. You churn on Friday now though don't you? Do Knauffs still beg for buttermilk? It makes me mad when I think of it because here we can't get good butter milk if we pay for it and couldn't get any unless we did pay. I got a chain prayer from Petra Johnson yesterday and she wanted me to send it to seven more of my friends but didn't do it because I think it is just silly. It is very queer I don't hear from Mike he surely must be gone from there.

They are awful busy at the bank where Jimmie is and keeps them going all day and they all go back and work nearly every night after supper so you can imagine there is some business to do there. Mr. Quesnell is surely a nice man and he doesn't like it because his wife keeps working in her office and I don't blame him nothing is done at home only by spells and she could easily cook breakfast for them two and supper but she would rather eat that dirt at the restaurant and he just hates to eat there.

Some women get out of things pretty easy.

Well I see Charles is here so I am going to send the mail down with him so I will stop now. Love from Effie"

The letter was written on stationary with the letterhead of Jensen & Evans Co., Authorized Agents for the Sale of Ford Cars, Red Lake Falls, Minn. The "Mike" she was referring to was Mike McLane, a brother of Miles McLane. Apparently she had a friendship with him at that time.

In September of 1921 Effie went to North Dakota and visited her sisters Mary and Hattie. She went out there again on July 17, 1924. On this trip, she brought back her niece Dorothea McLane with her to Minnesota.

Effie lived with her parents for a number of years in Mahnomen, Minnesota. While there she operated a beauty shop. The letterhead of her business read:

"Beauty within Your Reach, Effie's Beauty Shop, for appointment phone 49, Effie Jensen, Prop., Mahnomen, Minnesota."

Effie cared for her parents in their later years. Effie was in attendance, both day and night. She not only sacrificed her business, but almost her health, and her only reward is the satisfaction she must have had that she left nothing undone that could administer to their welfare. She accompanied her parents along with her sister Edna on a trip to Sherwood, North Dakota to visit Hattie On July 21, 1938.

After Christoffer's and Kirsten's death, she married John Benishek in 1944, and they settled in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. Effie visited her sister Hattie several times in Los Angeles, California. Effie died on April 6, 1980 in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

Jensen. She was born on July 17, 1897, in Port Arthur, TX. She moved with her family to North Dakota and eventually to the Mahnomen, Minnesota area. She attended country school and went to teachers college at Moorhead, Minnesota. She taught country school at Mahnomen. She moved to Warren, Minnesota and worked at First National Bank. In June of 1924, she married Harold T. Swanson. Harold was known to be employed as a State Land Inspector. They did not have any children.

Edna lived near her parents for most of her life. She traveled with her parents and sister Effie to visit her sister Hattie in Sherwood, North Dakota on July 21, 1938. She also visited her sister Hattie in Los Angeles a few times as well.

Edna died in Warren, Minnesota on Feb. 10, 1991 at the age of 93.

EDNA MAE JENSEN (1897 -1991)

Sp: Harold T. Swanson (-)

Christoffer Jensen and Kirsten Hendriksdatter's last child was Edna Mae