**THE LIFE OF LARS PEDER CHRISTENSEN (PETERSON)  
by Niels Marcus Peterson – a grandson—son of Niels Peter Peterson  
(My copy was made first by his sister, Mary Monson, in 1979.)  
  
COMMENTARY & PHOTOS ABOUT LARS PETER PETERSON  
by George Vernon Peterson Jr. ‘Bud’ (completed in 2013)**

**LARS PEDER CHRISTENSEN** was born on November 27, 1825 in Fourholt, Albek Sogn (Parish), Hjorring Amt (County), Denmark. He was the son of Christen Pedersen and Marie (pronounced Maria in Danish) Laursen. His name was chosen to perpetuate the names of both his mother and his father. Three children had preceded him in the family, but each had lived but a short time. The eldest, Peder, was born October 6, 1818 and died the same day. The next, Lours Peder, was born 24 September 1820, and died on September 30, six days later. The third child was born on 8 July 1822 and died the same day. So when our Lars was born, it was a happy time, and brought joy to his parents to know that they had an heir to carry on their name.



Danish Flag



**Lars Peder Christensen** was an early settler of my hometown of Richfield, Utah. His birth name was Laurs Peder Christensen. Laurs is the first name of his maternal grandfather, Laurs Laursen. Peder is the first name of his paternal grandfather, Peder Jensen. Christensen reflects that he is the son of Christen Pedersen. In 1862, Laurs Peder Christensen spoke to the immigration agent in New York City, when Laurs told him that his father’s last name was Petersen, the agents is said to have exclaimed, “Well, you have to have the same last name as your father!” The agent then quickly wrote down his name using English. The agent wrote, “Lars Peter Peterson” in perfect English and that is how Laurs Peder Christensen became Lars Peter Peterson in America. This is the story I heard when I attended the Lars Peter Peterson family reunion at Lagoon many years ago. There were two beautiful cousins there who both had been Miss Utah. When you go to the Richfield Cemetery to look for Lars Peter’s grave, you will find it if you use the name of Lars Peter Peterson. If you use his original name you will never find it.

Christen Pedersen, Laurs’ father, lived to see him marry to Else (pronounced Elsa) Marie Jensen of Fourholt, and to know that he had a posterity. Marie Laursen, his mother, must have been pleased when her only child became a father of a whole family of ”Laursens”, since her father was born Laurs Laursen. The Parish Register shows that Ane Marie (pronounced Anna Maria) Larsen was born 16 May 1853. My father, Niels Peter (Niels Marcus Peterson is the Author.), said that it was at 10 o’clock A.M. James Christen Larsen was born 12 December 1854. Maren Larsen was born 12 June 1856 at 4 o’clock P.M. Niels Peter Larsen was born 9 May 1858 at 5 o’clock A.M.; Ole Christen Larsen was born 24 June 1859 at 4 o’clock P.M.; and Christen Larsen was born 17 June 1861 at 9 o’clock P.M.

Lars Peter Peterson and Elsie Marie Jensen Peterson had six children born to them in Denmark. If they had stayed in Denmark they would have been Larsens (or even Laursens) since Lars (or Laurs) is their father. The six children that they took with them in 1862 when the immigrated to America were Anne Marie, James Christian, Maren, Niels Peter, Ole Christen and Christen. They were born on the family farm in the Fourholt area, of the Albek church zone, in the county of Hjorring, in the Kingdom of Denmark.

These six children were all born in the Family Home, Fourholt. It was located on the south side of a large hill near a stream that ran into the North Sea near Vososo. After Laurs Peder and Else Marie (pronounced Elsa) were married on 26 November 1852, a series of events occurred which changed the lives of the family. Elsa’s widowed mother, Maren Mickelsen, married Ole Mickelsen. They accepted the Gospel when contacted by the Latter Day Saint Missionaries, and prepared to leave for America. Elsa’s only sister, Johanna, was baptized in 1855, and left the next year with her mother and step-father for America. Johanna joined the “Hand Cart” Company to cross the plains, and Maren and Ole went with the Ox Team Company. Maren never reached Salt Lake City, but Johanna made the difficult trip and later married John Paternoster Squires.

Maren Mikkelsen and her younger daughter, Johanna Marie Jensen, were both baptized by Latter Day Saint Missionaries on 9 April 1855. Perhaps Maren’s second and much younger second husband, Ole Mikkelsen, was baptized that same day. They joined a group of Danish Saints led by Johan Ahmanson and sailed from Copenhagen to Germany and from Germany to Liverpool where they boarded the *Thorton.* They sailed to New York, made their way to Iowa City, where Johanna, at the age of 21, joined the Willie Handcart Company, and Maren and Ole Mikkelsen, because of Maren’s age of 61, joined the William Hodgett Ox Train Company. Maren died along the way. Johanna made the journey and raised a family there. Ole Mikkelsen seems to have disappeared; don’t know what he did next.

Else (Elsa) accepted the gospel and was baptized on 27 November 1857, Lars’ birthday. (It must have been cold in that winter stream.) This was a critical time for the young family. Where there had been perfect love and confidence between Lars and his wife, now there was religious differences. He insisted that the children be baptized into the Lutheran Church at birth. He drove the Company to church at Albeck while Else stayed home to prepare the feast. Church (L.D.S.) members were severely persecuted in Denmark at this time. There was now bickering and contention almost causing a separation: but on 14 October 1861, Lars joined the L.D.S. Church. He had finally seen the “Light.”

After Elsa joined the Mormon Church in November 1857, three children were born to Lars and Elsa: Niels Peter in May 1858, Ole Christen in June 1859, and Christen in June 1861. For each of these occasions, Lars must have loaded the children into the family wagon to take them to church to have the newest one baptized as an infant in the Royal Danish Lutheran Church. Each of these times, Elsa must have stayed home because she did not agree with the need for infant baptism and prepared a nice feast for when the family returned following the blessing of each of their three youngest sons. It can be assumed that Elsa attended the baptisms of the three oldest children. These baptisms would have all happened in the Albek Church.



**The Danish Lutheran Church at Albæk. All who were born in this church’s region were supposed to be baptized as an infant and a record made in the Kirkebog (church book).**

Before Lars married, he had served in the Danish army in the War of 1848 over the Schlechwich-Holstein Corridor. In his little diary, he tells of the march from northern Jutland to the Prussian Border and return. For his service he was awarded a metal by the King of Denmark (King Frederick VII). (When I obtain someone to translate the little diary of Lars Peder, I will include the information in an appendix.}



**Lars Peter Peterson lived to be 80. See his military metal from Denmark!**

When I was 17, I was motivated by my patriarchal blessing to do family history research and gathering and collecting genealogy and pictures. I asked so many questions of Mother, one day she sent me to the west side of our block (At 25 North 3rd East, we were on the east side.) She sent me to visit Mary Monson who I knew well because I had delivered her morning paper for years and each month would stop by and collect for the paper delivery. Mary Monson was Grandpa George Peterson’s first cousin. She seemed to be in a much younger generation like the one of my parents, but her father hadn’t married until 1879 whereas George Peterson’s mother, who was five years older got married in 1867 or 12 years earlier. When I visited Mary Monson back then in 1963, she showed me old things of Lars Peter Peterson—such as the metal he received by fighting on the border way down on the Danish-German line. Where was the borderline between the two countries? That was what they were deciding.

Lar’s mother died on 15 December 1855, and his father on 28 September 1857, shortly before Else (Elsa) joined the L.D.S. Church. After Lars joined the Church, they decided to make preparations to emigrate to America. By the first part of April 1862, he had sold his home and furniture, and they were ready to leave Denmark. Their neighbor, Hans Christensen, drove the family to Aalborg, a distance of 15 miles in his wagon. From there, they went by boat to Hamburg, Germany.

***This record is the work of  
Niels Marcus Peterson  
Copy is made March 13, 1979  
by Mary Monson—his sister  
at Richfield, Sevier County, Utah***

PS. N. Marcus Peterson has included lengthy discussions about the Genealogy Charts (1 through 7) that originally accompanied this presentation. I have placed these in the back of this presentation in APPENIX A because they are difficult to relate to without the family history charts referred to. I will personally go to [www.FamilySearch.org](http://www.FamilySearch.org) and sign into the Family Tree Project and see that all this information is available there. Anyone can go there to view the Family Tree Project with either an LDS Account or a FamilySearch Account.

Hamburg **to** New York **on the Franklin** (15 Apr 1862 - 29 May 1862)  
 Google.com: searched (Franklin sailed from Hamburg 1862, Mormon)

"Tues. 15. [Apr. 1862] -- The ship Franklin sailed from Hamburg, Germany, with 413 Scandinavian Saints, under the direction of Christian A. Madsen. The company arrived in New York harbor May 29th and at Florence [Nebraska] June 9th. Between forty and fifty children died of measles on board the ship."

**From the Ship’s Roster**

Laurs Peder Christensen  
Else Marie Christensen  
Ane Marie Christensen  
Jens Christian Christensen  
Maren Christensen  
Niels Peter Christensen  
Ole Christian Christensen  
Christian Christensen

". . . For several months, the preparation for this large emigration had been going on in the different conferences throughout Denmark, Sweden and Norway. The emigrating Saints from the Jutland Conferences in Denmark went direct to Hamburg, while most of those from the other conferences first gathered in Copenhagen and thence made their way to Hamburg in different companies. Thus the steamer 'Albion' sailed from Aalborg, April 6, 1862, with over 400 Saints from the Aalborg and Vendsyssel Conferences **(Lars Peter Christensen’s family was with this group.)** Sailing southward, the ship took up the emigrating Saints from the Aarhus and Skive Conferences at Aarhus in the morning of the 7th, and at Fredericia later the same day they picked up the emigrating Saints from the Fredericia and Fyen Conferences at Fredericia; the ship reached **Kiel** in Holstein on the eve of the 7th. Here they were joined by a small contingent from Copenhagen, and the journey was then continued the same day (April 8th) to Altona and Hamburg (This was a train trip from Kiel to Hamburg); in the evening the emigrants went on board the ships 'Humboldt' and 'Franklin,' which were anchored in the Elbe. . . .

. . . On Tuesday, April 15th, the ship 'Franklin' (Captain Robert Murray) sailed from Hamburg with 413 emigrating Saints, nearly all from the Aalborg and Vendsyssel Conferences. They were in the charge of Christian A. Madsen, an elder returning home. He chose Jens C. A. Weibye and Lauritz Larsen as his counselors. On board the ship the company was organized into eight districts with the following brethren as presidents: Jens C. Thorpe, Jens Christensen Kornum, Niels Mortensen (Lynge), Lars P. Fjeldsted, C. P. Borregaard, Jens C. S. Frost, Thomas Larsen and Jens Andersen. Jens F. Mortensen was appointed baggage master, Anthon H. Lund, interpreter, and Christian Andersen captain of the guard. . . .

**Franklin**   
Ship: 708 tons: 163' x 31' x 15'   
Built 1854 at Rockland, Maine

On 15 April 1862 the full-rigged *Franklin*-one of four German flag square-riggers ' to carry an emigrant company to America-sailed from Hamburg with 413 Mormons from Denmark. Captain Robert Murray commanded the vessel. Christian A. Madsen, a returning elder, and his two counselors, Elders Jens C. A. Weibye and Lauritz Larsen, presided over the Saints. The emigrants were divided into eight districts, each with a president. Among the emigrants was Anthon H. Lund, an accomplished linguist l who acted as interpreter. He later became an apostle and a member of the First Presidency of the church.

The passengers had boarded the *Franklin* on the evening of 8 April. Below deck l they found 160 bunks which were wide enough for three persons to lie side by side. Their rations consisted of beef, pork, peas, beans, potatoes, pearl barley, rice, prunes, syrup, vinegar, pepper, coffee, tea, sugar, butter, rye bread, sea biscuits, water, flour, salted herring, salt, and lamp oil. There were eleven lanterns, six belonging to the ship and five to the emigrants. For 90 rigsdaler, the Saints hired an extra cook in Hamburg, who was assisted by two of "our brethren." On Sunday the cooks served "sweet soup;" Monday, pea soup; Tuesday and Wednesday, rice; Friday, barley mush; and Saturday, herring and potatoes.

It was a memorable passage of forty-four days, the *Franklin* arriving at New York City on 29 May. Elder Jens C. A. Weibye recorded a valuable description of the voyage:

Some of the emigrants carried the measles with them from home and the disease soon spread to all parts of the ship, so that no less than forty persons, mostly children, were attacked at once. Many of the emigrants were also suffering with diarrhea, which caused much weakness of body. We lost the appetite for sea biscuits, but leamed to soak them in water or tea for eight to ten hours, which softened them so that they became more palatable. The sick were served twice a day with porridge made from barley, rice or sago, and almost every day pancakes could be had by the hundreds for the sick, who could not eat the "hardtack" (sea biscuits). Wheat bread was also baked for some of the old people. We held a council meeting every night and the sanitary condition of the ship's apartments were attended to with great care. Three times a week the decks were washed and twice a week the ship was thoroughly fumigated by burning tar. A spirit of peace prevailed.... The captain and crew were good-natured and obliging and so were the cooks who even served the sick when they were not on duty. We held at times meetings of worship on the upper or lower deck, and every morning at 5 o'clock the signal for rising was given by the clarionet or accordion. At 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. a similar signal was sounded calling the Saints to assemble in their several districts for prayer. Most every day we amused ourselves a short time by dancing on deck to music played by some of our brethren or members of the crew. We could thus have had an enjoyable time, had it not been for the sorrow occasioned by the many sick and dying amongst us on account of the measles. Up to this date (May 27th) three adults and 43 children have died, nearly all from measles. During the last few days, the chicken-pox has broken out amongst us and four cases have already developed. We have had head winds most of the time; otherwise we could have been in New York before now for the "Franklin" is a first-class ship. We have been very little troubled with seasickness.

By the time the Saints arrived at New York forty-eight had died-more than 11 per cent of the company. At Castle Garden the Saints were quarantined. After eighteen had been hospitalized, the remaining emigrants were returned to the *Franklin*. They remained on shipboard two more days and a night. On 31 May they were received at Castle Garden, where Elder Charles C. Rich and other church representatives greeted them. However, before the company reached Utah there were fourteen more deaths, bringing the total to sixty-two since leaving Hamburg. It is almost certain that the *Franklin* was formerly the American ship *Yankee Ranger* which was sold to German owners at Bremen in 1858. Both vessels were registered at 708 tons and reportedly built at Rockland, Maine, in 1854. The Franklin was rigged as a bark and ship at different times, not an unusual practice for this type of sailing craft. She was a three-master with two decks, no galleries, a round stern, and a figurehead. In 1866 she was reported sold to Norwegian owners.

. . . On Thursday, May 29th, in the forenoon, the 'Franklin' arrived at New York. The emigrants were placed on a transport steamer to be landed at Castle Garden, but on arriving at the wharf, they were not permitted to go ashore, because of some cases of measles yet existing among them. After 18 of the sick had been taken into the hospital, the rest were returned to the 'Franklin' and there remained on board two more nights and a day. Finally, on May31st, they landed at Castle Garden, where they were met by Elders Charles C. Rich, John Van Cott and other brethren.

A part of the emigrants did not have means to carry them further on their way to Zion than New York, but through the generosity of some of the Saints who were more fortunate, a sufficient sum was raised to take all these poor Saints along, and with rejoicing the journey was then resumed, leaving New York May 31st, at 9 p.m., by extra railway train to Albany, where they arrived the next morning (June 1st). From there the journey was continued by train via Syracuse, Rochester, Niagara, Windsor, Detroit and Chicago to Quincy, Illinois, and thence by steamboat across the Mississippi River to Hannibal, Missouri, and again by train to St. Joseph, Missouri, where they arrived June 6th. The following day they boarded the steamboat 'Westwind' and left St. Joseph at 10 p.m., after having spent the 'Day of Pentecost' in a way that was anything but pleasant (as there was very poor and crowded accommodation for so many people on this comparatively small vessel). The company arrived at Florence, Nebraska, on Monday, June 9th, at 10 o'clock p.m. Hans C. Hansen's company, which crossed the ocean in the 'Humboldt,' arrived there a week before. Among the 48 persons who died in the 'Franklin' company during the voyage on the sea was Brother Jens Andersen from Veddum (Aalborg Conference), Denmark, who with his own means had assisted 60 or 70 poor Saints to emigrate. He died on the North Sea on the 25th of April, soon after the ship had left Cuxhaven. On the way from New York to Florence [Nebraska], two children died, of whom one was the 15 months old daughter of Jens C. A. Weibye. Eleven persons (4 adults and 7 children) died while staying at Florence and a young girl died on the plains, making in all 62 of the 'Franklin' company who died between Hamburg and Salt Lake City.

On Tuesday, June 10th, the emigrants pitched their tents a short distance north of Florence, and the necessary purchases of oxen, wagons, cows, etc. were attended to. Those who crossed the plains by the Church teams were organized into messes to receive their provisions from the commissary of the company. A few of the emigrants had become apostates on the way and remained in the States. Among these were a blacksmith, J. P. Jacobsen, and Lauritz Larsen from Hojen, Christopher Thomsen from Gaardsholt, Vendsyssel, Denmark, and others with their families. The rest of the emigrants remained in camp for several weeks before beginning the journey across the plains. A few days before the company left camp, Florence and vicinity was visited by a terrible tornado, accompanied by rain, thunder and lightning, by which two of the brethren were killed and Elder Joseph W. Young received severe wounds from a wagon box which blew down upon him; after the accident, he was carried to a place of safety in an unconscious condition, but recovered after a while. The tents and wagon covers of the company were badly torn and shattered on that occasion. . . .

. . .The emigrants who sailed across the Atlantic in the four ships mentioned [THE Humboldt, Franklin, Electric, and Athenia] came together in Florence from which place those who had not the means wherewith to equip themselves for the journey across the plains were assisted by the teams sent there from the Valley by the Church, while those who had means wherewith to help themselves were organized into two independent companies. One of these was placed in the charge of Elder Christian A. Madsen and was composed of 264 persons, 40 wagons, 14 horses, 174 oxen, 99 cows, 37 heifers, 7 calves, 6 dogs and 10 chickens, and brought along 22 tents, 32 cooking stoves, 5 revolvers and 37 rifles. Hans C. Hansen was captain of the guard and Jens C. A. Weibye secretary for the company, which was divided into six divisions with the following brethren as captains: Soren Larsen, Jens C. A. Weibye, Niels Mortensen (Lynge), Thomas Lund, Lauritz Larsen and Christian H. Gron. The first mentioned had charge of five horse teams and the others eight ox teams each.

The other company, which also counted about 40 wagons, with its quota of persons, animals, etc., was in charge of Elder Ola N. Liljenquist, and Elder John Van Cott was placed as general leader of both companies, which broke camp at Florence, July 14, 1862. The first few days some difficulty was experienced, as the oxen, who were not used to Scandinavian orders and management, would often follow their own inclination to leave the road and run away with the wagons, but after some practice on the part of their inexperienced teamsters, the difficulty somewhat disappeared. The journey from Florence was via Elkhorn River, Loup Fork, Wood River, Willow Lake, Rattlesnake Creek, Fort Laramie, Upper Platte Bridge, Devil's Gate, South Pass, Green River, etc., to Salt Lake City, where the company safely arrived Sept. 23, 1862. . . ."  
HSM, pp.162-65, 166-67

**Tragedy for the Traveling Lars Peter Peterson Family**

As they traveled from the seaport of Aalborg sailing south to Kiel, Germany, and then by train to Hamburg, their youngest daughter, Maren (age 6} became very ill. Maren died on 2 April 1862 while traveling to Hamburg. There was not enough time for her burial. Her father, Lars Peter Peterson, just had time to get a small casket built for her. Maren, in her casket, was part of the family luggage as they boarded the Good Ship Franklin. They set sail from Hamburg on 15 April 1862. It took a few days to get out of the Elbe River and out to the Atlantic Ocean. Once they were beyond the twelve mile limit, the burial at sea was done on 20 April 1862.

**The 2013 Author Introduces Himself:** George Vernon Peterson Jr. also Bud Peterson (1945-)

Since I was 17 years old, I have been collecting and gathering family history information and genealogy. After asking Mother lots of questions, she directed me to go to the west side of our Richfield City block and visit Mary Monson—Grandpa George Peterson’s first cousin. She is the daughter of Niels Peter Peterson who would be Grandpa George’s uncle. Mary Monson showed me old things that belonged to Lars Peter Peterson, her grandfather. She gave me copies of Pedigree Charts and Family Group Sheets that she had and I began my very own genealogy book—Book of Remembrance. When extended family members came to Richfield to visit, Mother arranged for me to get to talk and ask questions and they would often send me copies of documents when they got home. My freshman year at BYU, I spent the two-seek semester break of January 1965 in Salt Lake City, staying with my cousin Gary Sheets. Each weekday he would take me downtown where he worked and drop me off at the Utah Genealogical Society Library which is now called FamilySearch. The information that I learned about my ancestors in Denmark and about their places of birth, I took with me to Denmark when I served my mission there from June 1965 until December 1967. I received the most help during my first four months in Copenhagen. A member’s husband went daily to the national archives. I gave him information about Jens L. Peterson because I could not find the town of Lester Osta anywhere on the lsland of Laaland. But he found that it was Vester Ulslev and he found a Jens Pedersen who had emigrated to America in 1853, which corresponds with Mormon Pioneer time. The Book of Mormon was translated into Danish in 1850.

My father gave me a car when I returned from my mission on December 22, 1967. It was a white Volkwagen station wagon with two seats and a cargo hold behind them in place of a trunk. I got to drive it home from Salt Lake. My sweetheart, Julia Ann Magleby, got to ride with me. In fact we rescued a stranded motorist and wife and drove them into Nephi. Now I was an adult with a car in Utah Valley as I attended BYU. Now I got to make family genealogy visits Ila Christensen Toronto in Spanish Fork was one who her brother, Alten Christensen, recommended that I talk to. His comment was that since Ila was the girl in the Christensen Family that Grandma Annie Peterson raised after the death of their parents, she knew a lot more than he or his brothers did of the stories that their Grandma Peterson told to them. June Barton Bartholomew in Provo, on my father’s maternal side was also a great family genealogist who I visited with and got lots of information from. And also Elsie Christina Peterson Barker has been one of main presenters at several Lar Peter Peterson family reunions which I attended--one was at Lagoon. When I lived in Downey, Idaho, I made a nice visit with Elsie Christina Peterson Barker at her home in Logan. She was named after her grandmother who is buried in Mount Pleasant. She told me where that grave was and how the Spirit led her to find it. She also told at the Lars Peter Peterson Family Reunions how his name was changed from Christensen to Peterson by the immigration agent at Castle Gardens. She also told me the precious story of her sitting on Grandpa Lars Peter Peterson’s lap in Aunt Annie’s home on the corner of Third East and Center Street. She was sitting on his lap when he spoke the words, “Elsa,Elsa, mean care Elsa.” She looked at him and he had tears in his eyes and they were closed. She was six. She thought he was talking to her. Years later, she realized that her name reminded him of his sweetheart with the same name and he was thinking about how much he missed her and how much she had missed out. This happened about 1900 in Richfield.

I have called and talked with N. Marcus Peterson several times. He told me where he got the main account that Lars wrote about the family in Denmark and their long journey to Utah. I no longer have that account and do not know where to get another one. I was hoping that this was it that Pete Monson gave to my sisters in Richfield, but it is not. N. Marcus Peterson had a small ledger book used by Lars Peter Peterson for reckoning money. It listed entries on several pages; but one day he thumbed through all the pages not just the first ones. He found Lars Peter Peterson account or story written by him about their conversion and their long journey. It was in Danish and he got someone to translate it for him. He made copies and I ended up with one, but have since miss placed it and have added to my re-typed account all the stories that I have learned. Therefore the original has been lost. In trying to get another one, I called after N. Marcus Peterson had died so he could not help me. I learned from his wife the name of his son who received his father’s genealogy works. He did not know anything about the account that Lars Peter Peterson had written.

N. Marcus Peterson told me that after Lars Peter’s account had been translated, he gave the little ledger book to the LDS Historian’s Office. Back just a couple of years ago, my sister, Elaine Wayland, and her husband served an LDS Headquarters Mission. While there I asked Elaine to visit the LDS Historian’s Office to see if she could find Lars Peter’s ledger book and history in Danish. I would love to see his handwriting and see if I can read it. Elaine was not able to find anything out about the little ledger book originally belonging to Lars Peder Christensen, who would become Lars Peter Peterson in Utah. I have looked through Niels Peter Peterson’s Sketch of his Life. I think he copied a lot of his history from his father’s. He was only four years old during the trying journey to Zion. That is my main source in restoring the original history I got about Lars Peter Peterson from N. Marcus Peterson—his youngest grandson.

One of the stories that I recall hearing at one of the Lars Peter Peterson Family Reunions was that in the early days of Richfield, that he was the owner of the southeast corner of Richfield’s intersection of Center Street and Main Street—where the Young Block with its tower has stood for years. There he had a corral and barn and sheds behind his home. They had boarding for travelers and stables for their horses along with guestrooms in the home—a Richfield Inn for travelers. I wonder if this could be verified by looking at old property records of Richfield City.

**THE HISTORY OF LARS PETER PETERSON  
 written by his Great Great Grandson  
 George Vernon Peterson Jr. (Bud)  
 February 2013**

Maren Mikkelsen was the first family member to join The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, there in Denmark, in Albek Parish, Maren and her younger daughter, Johanna Maria Jensen, age 21, were both baptized on April 9, 1855. By April 1856, they had both emigrated with a group of Danish Latter Day Saints from Copenhagen to Liverpool and then sailing on the *Thornton* to New York. They were heading for the Mormon’s Zion in the West.

It would have been about November 1856, when Lars Peter Peterson’s wife, Elsa Marie Jensen, would have received a letter from her younger sister from Salt Lake City informing her that she had made it successfully on the journey to Utah but that her mother, Maren, had not made it. On that journey, handcarts and wagons were stuck and stranded in the early snows and made it so hard on the old and young. Elsa Marie was so impressed with her mother, that she named her newest daughter, Maren, in her honor. The fact is that Elsa was already impressed with the faith and actions of her beloved mother. She had already named her second daughter, Maren, soon after her mother and Johanna had left on the journey to Utah. The birth of Baby Maren was on June 12, 1856. I also think that Elsa Marie, wife of Lars Peter, had listened in as often as she could as her mother and sister were receiving the Message of the Restoration from the Mormon Elders. Now she began pleading with Lars Peter to allow her to be baptized a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Lars Peter gave his permission and Elsa Marie Jensen Christensen was baptized on November 29th 1857.

Lars and Elsa had three children before Elsa joined the Mormon Church. The oldest was Anna Maria, born 16 May 1853; then James Christian Peterson, born 12 December 1854; and Maren, born 12 June 1856. Then four for years that was disharmony in the home because of religious differences that almost led to a divorce. Niels Peter, born 9 May 1858, explained what happen when each new child came along and Lars Peter insisted that his children be blessed and baptized and christened in their Danish Lutheran Church—the family church there in Albæk. “Father would load all of us into the family wagon and drive us to church for the infants blessing. Mother would stay home and prepare a feast for when we returned.” I think that Elsa Marie stayed home because she did not agree with the need for infant baptism. This would also happen after Ole Christian was born 24 June 1859 and again after Christian was born 8 October 1861.

I avoided using the last names in the previous paragraph. If the family had stayed in Denmark the children’s last names would have been Larsen, since their father was Lars. Lars Peter’s last name was Christensen because his father was Christen Pedersen. By the way, in Denmark, Pedersen and Petersen are pronounced the same. This is why when the immigration agent in New York heard Lars Peter say “Pedersen” ,the agent using the English spelling wrote “Peterson”. I believe he wrote down his complete name as Lars Peter Peterson and that is apparently how his name was changed from Lars Peder Christensen to Lars Peter Peterson.

Lars Peter was finally persuaded to join the Mormon Church. He was baptized in November 1861, four year after his wife. Immediately the family began making preparations to emigrate to America and to the Mormon Zion in the West—the promised land. Household furnishings were sold, a buyer was arranged for the family farm and home and implements and livestock, and their farm wagon.

It was during the first days of April 1862, that their neighbor, Hans Christensen, drove them in his farm wagon, the fifteen miles south to Aalborg. Leaving Albek were Lars Peter (age 36), Elsa Maria (29), Anna Maria (9), James Christian (8), Maren (5), Niels Peter (4), Ole Christen (2) and Baby Christen (10 months). In Aalborg, they boarded the steamer *Albion* that had been chartered by Danish LDS mission leaders. They sailed from Aalborg on April 6, 1862 with 400 Saints from both the Aalborg and Vendsyssel Conferences. (Early missions of the Church were divided into conferences instead of districts; districts become stakes. Conferences held conferences quarterly just as today; we have two general conferences and two stake conferences.)

The next morning at Aarhus, they picked up the Saints from the Aarhus and Skive Conferences. Later that day at Fredericia, they picked up the Saints from the Fredericia and Fyen Conferences. That evening they reached the harbor at Kiel, Germany. The next day the continued by train to Hamburg. That very evening, April 8, 1862, they boarded the *Good Ship Franklin*. Little Maren, age five, had already died. Lars Peter had to hurry quickly to get a small casket made. As they boarded the ship, the casket was part of their luggage. Part of the Danish Saints boarded the *Franklin*, but another group boarded the *Humboldt*.

Hamburg is over 50 miles inland from the Atlantic Ocean on the Elbe River. They set sail on the Franklin on April 15, 1862. It took more than a day to clear the river and then more time to reach the 12-mile limit, where Maren could be buried at sea in the newly made casket. As they reached mid-ocean, an epidemic of measles broke out and 46 immigrants died and were buried at sea; 43 were children and 3 were adults.

The sea voyage was 45 days long. The nineteenth day was on Sunday, May 4th; that day Elsa’s 10-month baby boy, Christen, died in her arms and was then buried at sea. Then exactly a week later, her two-year old son, Ole Christen, died and was buried at sea. Lars Peter and Elsa Marie had now lost three of their children. The other three, Anna Maria, James Christian and Niels Peter would arrive successfully and grow to have families in Richfield, Utah.

They arrived in New York Harbor on May 29th 1862. That morning, they tried to disembark at Castle Garden, but because they were still struggling with the measles epidemic, they were sent back to the Franklin to spend one more night and a day. Then they were allowed to disembark on May 30th, after 18 Saints who still had the measles were sent to a hospital.

It was here at Castle Gardens, according to family tradition, that Lar Peder Christensen, became Lars Peter Peterson. The immigrant agent asked Lars, “What is your name?” Lars replied, “Lars Peter Christensen.” “And what is your father’s name?” asked the agent. “Christen Peterson,” Was Lars’ reply. Then the agent declared, “Well you have to have the same last name as your father!” Then the agent wrote down Lars’ American name as *Lars Peter Peterson*--using the English spelling and giving him the same last name as his father.

At Castle Garden, the immigrants were met by Elders Charles C. Rich, John Van Cott and other brethren who had made arrangements for them on trains and boats to get to Florence, Nebraska or the old Winter Quarters of 1846, where the Danish Saints would form one of the largest wagon trains to ever cross the American Prairie.

A part of the emigrants did not have means to carry them further on their way to Zion than New York, but through the generosity of some of the Saints who were more fortunate, a sufficient sum was raised to take all these poor Saints along, and with rejoicing the journey was then resumed, leaving New York May 31st, at 9 p.m. Lars Peter Peterson was one of the well-off families and was able to assist others in completing the journey. Lars Peter had been in the King’s Guard there in Denmark. He lived far north of the Danish capital of Copenhagen, but had served in the King’s army in 1847. Apparently after the border war with Germany that he participated in, he returned and continued in the king’s service there in Northern Jutland. I think there was a satellite castle up there that he served at. I picture him once a week, getting on his horse and heading to Dronninglund to serve for a day in the king’s guard. His wife had very elegant dresses that she brought with her in crossing the plains. His children after arriving to Utah found out from Saints who emigrated from the same area of Albaek would curtsy Lars and Elsa when they met them because they were like royalty.

From New York the journey continued. A long line of boxcars with provisions on board were charted and trains carried them from New York City north to Albany where they began heading west passing through Syracuse, Rochester, and Niagara. Then into Canada and onto Winsor where they crossed the river into Detroit and then on to Chicago. There they headed southwest to Quincy, Illinois (near old Nauvoo). The following day they boarded a steamboat that took them across the Mississippi River and further north to Hannibal, Missouri. There they were back on a train again that took them to St, Joseph, Missouri arriving on June 6th 1862. A steamboat took the Saints from the *Franklin* up and across the Missouri River to Florence, Nebraska. They arrived there on June 9th and they found that the Danish Saints that left Hamburg in the *Humboldt* had already been there for a week.

Eleven persons (4 adults and 7 children) died while staying at Florence and a young girl died on the plains, making in all 62 of the *'Franklin'* company who died between Hamburg and Salt Lake City. Three of these were Lars Peter’s children--Maren, Christian, and Ole Christian.

On Tuesday, June 10th, the emigrants pitched their tents a short distance north of Florence, and the necessary purchases of oxen, wagons, cows, etc. were attended to. Those who crossed the plains by the Church teams were organized into messes to receive their provisions from the commissary of the company.

**Recorded Accounts from the Internet**

The emigrants who sailed across the Atlantic in the four ships mentioned **[the Humboldt, Franklin, Electric, and Athenia]** came together in Florence from which place those who had not the means wherewith to equip themselves for the journey across the plains were assisted by the teams sent there from the Valley by the Church, while those who had means wherewith to help themselves were organized into two independent companies. One of these was placed in the charge of **Elder Christian A. Madsen** and was composed of 264 persons, 40 wagons, 14 horses, 174 oxen, 99 cows, 37 heifers, 7 calves, 6 dogs and 10 chickens, and brought along 22 tents, 32 cooking stoves, 5 revolvers and 37 rifles. Hans C. Hansen was captain of the guard and Jens C. A. Weibye secretary for the company, which was divided into six divisions with the following brethren as captains: Soren Larsen, Jens C. A. Weibye, Niels Mortensen (Lynge), Thomas Lund, Lauritz Larsen and Christian H. Gron. The first mentioned had charge of five horse teams and the others eight ox teams each. *I believe that Lars Peter Peterson was in this group.*

In crossing the plains, Lars Peter Peterson teamed up with Niels Mortensen. The two men and the two families had become great friends once their journey from Aalborg began. With the two men working closely together, they could put both teams of oxen onto one wagon when needed to cross a stream or to get over a steep slope. At nights, they camped together and shared the same fire.

They arrived in Salt Lake on September 23, 1862. I think that Lars and Elsa would have parked their covered wagon at Elsa’s younger sister, Johanna Marie Squires, for a few days. This would be their first reunion after 6 ½ years since Johanna and her mother, Maren Mikkelsen, left Denmark in April 1856 on their way to the Latter Day Saints’ Zion in the West. Johanna Marie Squires had been there in Salt Lake City since November 9, 1856, when she arrived with the rescued Willie Handcart Company. She was now the wife of John Paternoster Squires and was the mother of two: Catherine Harriet Jensen Squires, almost 2, and James Jensen Squires, almost 4. Elsa and Johanna must have had a good time remembering their beloved Mother, but saddened by her passing. Johanna would have grieved with Elsa over the passing of her three children before crossing over the ocean; she would be meeting Annie Marie (9) and James Christian (8) again, but would be seeing Niels Peter (4) for the very first time.

Many of the Danish Saints from the *Franklin*, and perhaps all, were assigned by Brigham Young to go south of Salt Lake Valley and settle in Pleasant Grove in Utah Valley. There Lars Peter and his family shared a dugout for the winter with Niels Mortensen’s family, their great friends from the *Franklin*. I like to think of two covered wagons parked near a large underground hut. Many, if not all, would still sleep in the wagons. I imagine most of the winter cooking was done in the fireplace at the far end of the dugout. There would have been a camping/cooking fire on the ground between the two wagons much as they had done in crossing the plains. The dugout gave them increased shelter from the cold and the storms, but as soon as spring arrived, they would get busy building frame or log homes above the ground to make the living quarters more bearable and a lot less muddy.

It was in Pleasant Grove that Elsa gave birth to her seventh child and third girl; the baby girl was born on October 9th 1862. They named her Elsie Marie Peterson after her mother’s American name. Mother Elsie struggled for her life as she also tried to nurse her baby girl. Her struggle ended on the 17th of October. Lars would have had to find another nursing woman in the community to take care of his new baby girl. Baby Elsie Marie Peterson lived only a month, dying on November 10th 1862. Both Mother and Baby Elsie Marie Peterson are buried side by side in the Pleasant Grove Cemetery. Today there are matching headstones marking the sight. The main difference is that their dates of birth are almost 30 years apart.



**Pleasant Grove Utah Cemetery**

Upon the death of his wife, Elsie Marie Peterson, Lars sold his wife’s elegant dresses to ladies there in the community so that he could afford a casket for the burial. Now his daughter, Annie Marie, would see ladies wearing her mother’s dresses, and it would upset her so that she would hurry home throw herself on her bed and cry her eyes out. This story I heard from Ila Christensen Toronto when I visited her in her home in Spanish Fork back when I was a married student attending college at BYU in 1968. Ila had heard it directly from her grandmother, Annie Marie Peterson, who raised her as her parent after the passing of Ila’s parents. Ila showed me a carved wooden box; the top unscrewed and in it was some of the material cut from one of her mother’s elegant dresses and an old Danish dime. These were Grandma Annie’s keepsakes form her trip traveling to America and reminding her of her beloved mother. I was hearing this story from the very person who had heard it from Grandma Annie Marie Peterson.

Lars Peter needed a wife to help him raise his three young children. On December 8th 1862, Lars married Maren Andersen in Salt Lake City. Maren was also a Danish immigrant from Hjorring county from a place called Voer, not far from where Lars Peter came from. She was 46 years old and he was 37. There is no mention of any of her children from her previous marriage but her former spouse appears to have been Peder Michel Jensen; he was also from Voer.

There was now a strained relation between Lars Peter’s new wife, Maren Andersen, and his oldest child, his nine year old daughter, Annie Marie. The two just did not get along. Perhaps Annie was at the age where she could not accept another woman in her mother’s place. “You are not my mother!” could have easily slipped from her lips when her stepmother asked for her help. Perhaps Maren was the wicked stepmother type so often portrayed in fairytales. To remedy the situation, Annie Marie Peterson was soon sent to live with her aunt—Mrs. John Paternoster Squires. I recall Ila Toronto telling me this story but she has no idea why Mrs. John Squires was her aunt. I now know that Mrs. John Paternoster Squires is Annie Marie’s mother’s younger sister, Johanna Marie Jensen, who immigrated with the handcart pioneers back in 1856 and arrived in Salt Lake with the Willie Handcart Company.

From her aunt, Johanna Marie Jensen Squires, Annie Marie would learn all the skills of a Utah pioneer woman—raising sheep, shearing wool, spinning wool, weaving, mending, making rugs, doing laundry, etc. These skills would help her provide for her own children when she became a widow at age 33 and having to raise five children.

In March 1864, Lars Peter Peterson and his new wife, Maren Andersen, moved to Richfield, Utah, with Lars Peter’s two boys, James Christian (age 9) and Niels Peter (age 5). Lars Peter’s daughter, Anna Maria Peterson (age 10) had already been sent to live in Salt Lake with her Aunt Johanna Marie Jensen Squires. There is no record of Maren Andersen having children from her previous marriage. Lars Peter was again following and catching up with his great friend, Niels Mortensen. When they arrived in Richfield which was first called Warm Springs, they shared a dugout with them, just as they had done in Pleasant Grove, until they could build their own house above the ground.

In Richfield’s centennial history—*Golden Sheaves from a Rich Field*—in the first paragraph on page 15 it says “The first families started to arrive….on March 13, 1864. On the following day Niels Mortenson arrived with his family….were followed by many others….Lars Peter Petersen…and family…”

The first dwelling places were dugouts or a hole in the ground. The first ten men first built one where McKinlay Chevrolet stood for many years. Richfield had very few trees and no straight ones at all. Logs from straight trees had to be hauled from the mountains, and the mountains above Glenwood were easiest to get to. The toll road just north of Cottonwood Canyon had to be built before the West Mountain with all of its rocky cliffs could be used for hauling in straight logs for cabin building.

The first settlers in Richfield had arrived only two months earlier on January 6, 1864; ten men came in a wagon train from Sanpete Valley. Once some improvements were made, they returned to get their families. One wife upon arriving at her new home in Richfield at night and seeing it was level with the ground—a dugout—wept.

The last half of my senior year at Richfield High School was in 1964 and Richfield’s Centennial Celebration began on January 4th 1964 on Manti’s Main Street with an early morning breakfast and a modern wagon train begin making its way along Highway 89 heading south to Richfield. When they arrived in Gunnison, a school teacher met them and asked them to circle the wagons for the benefit and education of the children. That night lots of Richfield Citizens visited the overnight camping site for the wagon train. Twenty-three bearded men from Richfield were in the wagon train with seven wagons hauling them. They arrived in Richfield on January 4th 1964. They circled their wagons at the blocked off intersection of Main Street and 1st North. Speeches were given from off the steps of the Post Office. The mayor, Elmo Herring declared, “Let the Celebration begin!”—speaking of all the events planned for the year of Richfield’s Centennial Celebration. A street dance was held there that evening

On November 5th 1866, both Lars Peter Peterson and his new wife, Maren Andersen, were in Salt Lake City. They did sealings in the Endowment House. They were not sealed to each other in marriage; theirs was just a marriage for time—for their time in mortality. They were sealed for Time and All Eternity to their former spouses. Lars Peter was sealed to Elsa Marie Jensen, his first wife and mother of their seven children. Maren was sealed to her departed husband, Peder Michel Jensen.

As Lars Peter Peterson moves with his family to Richfield in March of 1864, I will use selected quotes from Richfield’s centennial history—*Golden Sheaves from a Rich Field*—(GSFRF). The chairman of this publication was Pearl S. Jacobson. She was my English teacher in both 7th and 8th grade. She was also my Utah History teacher in 7th grade. At the end of 8th grade, I was elected to be the new student body president of Richfield Junior High School. My first assignment was to give a farewell speech at Ninth Grade Graduation. I wrote the speech, then got it approved by my English teacher—Mrs. Jacobson. Then I memorized it and gave it to the ninth grade graduating class.

I was surprised with this current reading of the centennial history to find that name of Lars Peter Petersen listed in the second wave of settlers coming into town in March 1864.

“In the early part of January, 1864, a party of ten men under the leadership of Albert Lewis came from Sanpete and arrived in what is now Richfield on January 6.” (GSFRF, page 13)

“Although these first men were not ordered or “called” by the church to this location, they must be recognized as the ones to make the beginning of what is now Richfield.” (GSFRF, 13)

“These men were Albert Lewis, Nelson Higgins, Andrew Poulson, Hans Hansen, C.O. Hansen, George Olgilvie, August Nelson, Robert Glenn, Jorgen Smith, and Eskild C. Petersen.” (GSFRF, 14)

“The first families started to arrive, among whom were Joseph S. Doxford and Marrison P. Fugatt, who arrived on March 13, 1864. On the following day Niels Mortensen (Peterson) arrived with his family. (This is Lars Peter Peterson’s closest friend.) Those first families were followed by many others. Among them were Nelson Higgins with his family, Christian P. Christensen and his family, Chas Green, Nathaniel Hanchett and family, Albert Lewis and family, Paul Petersen, Peter Poulsen and family, Didrick Mortensen and family, James Mortensen, Hans Peter Miller and family, Lars Nielsen, **Lars Peter Petersen** (They are spelling his name with sen which is the Danish way and is also the spelling on his headstone.), Peter Petersen and family,Lars Nielsen, August Kesler, Hyrum A. Marble, August Nelson and family, Wm. D. Norton and family, John A Norton and family, Lewis Nebeker and family, Geo Ogilvie and family, John P. Peterson and family, Claus P. Anderson, Andres Rasmussen, Geo Swindle and family, Ulrick Winkler and family, and Hans Petersen and family. (Perhaps Lars Peter Peterson went and got his family soon after this.) (GSFRF, 15)

“The first dwelling places were dugouts. Here is an account taken from the Biography of H.P.Miller, written by his daughter Eudora Miller: ‘These men did what few men who had settled earlier had done—They dug cellars, placed a willow-dirt roof over the excavation, formed steps out of the soil leading down to the entrance, and brought their wives and children. As they came into the settlement, Mother noted a few mounds. When Father stopped at a mound and gravely said, “Well here we are,’ Mother with tears in her eyes asked ‘Is this home?’ A cellar, no window; no door, merely a cloth hung up to keep out some of the cold; tiny children to take care of, and a new child to be born in mid spring, I weep as I write.’ So—this was the sort of home that greeted these wives and families who had left fairly comfortable homes to come to this “land of promise.” (GSFRF, 15) (I think this was the first type of homes in Richfield because trees were scarce and had to be haul down from Cove Mountain. But as summer weather arrived, logs were hauled down from the mountains and log homes above the ground were soon constructed and the dugouts became the root cellars for storing food for the winters.)

”Jacob Norton, who built the first adobe house in Richfield, raised 60 bushels of wheat to the acre that same summer of ’64, hence he suggested that the name of Omni be changed to Richfield, owing to the apparent richness of the soil.” (GSFRF, 17)

Three Paragraphs Taken From *www.lgwilliams.blogspot.com:*

The first dwelling places were dugouts, with willow and dirt roofs. They then built houses of adobe because clay dirt was available as a building material; logs and lumber weren’t. Because of Indian troubles settlers were prevented from long trips into the mountains. Consequently, there were few log or lumber houses in early Richfield.

He—Eskild Christian Peterson--moved his family to Richfield and built a one room adobe house with willows and a red dirt roof. They lived in this until the Indians became so hostile; they had to move back to Mt. Pleasant. He was also one of the first pioneers to build a log cabin. His log cabin is still standing and is the Richfield Pioneer Relic Hall for that chapter of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers.

According to Peter Peterson, son of E.C. Peterson, the old cabin which is the Richfield DUP Relic Hall, North of the Library was built about **1878** on the Peterson lot on First South and First East Streets in Richfield, Utah. The logs to build it were hauled from Cove Mountain by Peter and his father. He was but a small boy of ten, but he rode a horse, dragging the logs to the wagon. When they returned home with the logs, the boy sat on them to steady them while his father hewed and shaped them with an ax. After the cabin was finished, a year or two later, it was used for a granary.

*Golden Sheaves from a Rich Field*, page 17 & 18: Everybody was interested primarily in two things—something to eat and protection from the Indians…A fort was built around the” town square”—a five acre block, as protection from the Indians (this is the block that the post office is on and the two old elementary buildings that have both been torn down. It was decided that each man who owned a city lot should build one rod (16 feet) of wall which was to be 3 ½ feet at the base, 12 feet high, and one foot wide at the top….”We are quarrying rock for the fort…The wall was provided with portholes at intervals…There were no towers or lookout posts…There were big wooden gates on the east side, a little north of center…”The Big Drum” was used to warn people or call them to a special council meeting at the fort…The fort was started in the fall of 1865. (Lars Peter would have built his 16-foot section of the fort wall.)

**Genealogy for Appendix A.**It is difficult to read this detailed information without the family pedigree chart to compare with so I am going to move it to this appendix at the end. But Niels Marcus Peterson was a great family genealogy researcher. I hope that I can build Jens L. Peterson’s (my great grandfather) ancestral lines to be the equal of his wife’s, Anna Maria Peterson. She is the oldest daughter of Lars Peter Peterson and their ancestral genealogy far surpasses that of Jens L. Peterson’s. This is because of the great work that Marcus has done on his grandfather’s line. George Vernon Peterson Jr.

I will go to [www.FamilySearch.org](http://www.FamilySearch.org) and logon with my LDS Account to view these pedigree records and to make sure all of this is recorded permanently online where all can have access to it. Everyone can set up an account number and begin building their Family Tree starting with the information that is already there. Church members can sign up for an LDS Account using their membership number and baptism and confirmation dates that can be printed out for you by your ward clerk. Anyone else interest can go to [www.FamilySearch.org](http://www.FamilySearch.org) and sign up for a FamilySearch Account.

WIVES AND FAMILY OF LARS PETER PETERSON (CHRISTENSEN)

On 26 November 1852, he married Else (Elsa) Marie Jensen in the little Church at Albeck, Hjorring, Denmark. She was the daughter of Jens Thorsen and Maren Mickelsen, born 11 February 1833. They lived in the family home at Fourholt until they emigrated to the United States of America in 1862. Else (Elsa) died 17 October 1862 in Pleasant Grove, Utah soon after their arrival there. They had seven children, six of whom were born at the family home in Denmark, and the seventh was born in Pleasant Grove, Utah

On 8 December 1862, he married Maren Andersen in Salt Lake City, Utah. She was the daughter of Anders Thompsen and Anne Larsen, born 5 May 1816 in Jenecyssel, Loer, Hjorring, Denmark. They moved to Richfield, Utah in the Spring of 1864. Maren died there on 16 October 1876 and was buried in the old cemetery (I think that’s the one by Richfield High School.). They were sealed in the Salt Lake Endowment House on 15 July 1874.

On 17 August 1874, he married Martha Marie Nielsen (Mogensen) in Salt Lake City, Utah and was sealed to her in the Salt Lake Endowment House. She was the daughter of Niels Pedersen and Maren Jensen, born 4 October 1843 in Syndal, Hjorring, Denmark. They lived in Richfield, Utah; she died 15 February 1932. Lars adopted her two children, Olene Marie and Charles Pader Christian. They were sealed to him.

On 13 June 1877, he married Mette Petersen, in St. George Temple. She lived in Richfield, Utah until she died on 21 April 1900. See Microfiche M170579-0310 for record of sealing.

FOUR GENERATIONS OF DANISH GENEALOGY—HJORRING AMT

My father, Niels Peter Peterson, was born in Albeck Parish, Hjorring County, Denmark, May 9, 1858. He was the son of Lars Peter Christensen of Fourholt. Lars was the only surviving child of Christen Pedersen of that place. He was born on November 27, 1825. Christen was the son of my second Great Grandfather, Peder Jensen, a farmer in Vorsaa, Albeck Parish. He was born September 13, 1789. Peder Jensen was born February 14, 1740. We have no information regarding the birth of Jens Nielsen, except that he was born in 1709, and married Anne Pedersen of Vorsaa.

In order to understand more about the PETERSON FAMILY, it is necessary to investigate the branches of Pedigree Chart of my father. His grandfather, Christen Pedersen, provided the name for the present family PETERSON. (In Denmark, Peterson and Pedersen are pronounced the very same way.) However, there are many “Peder’s (or Peter’s) who were the fathers of other “Pedersens”. Anne Pedersen, my third great-grandmother, was probably born in Vorsaa in 1705. The she died February 25, 1780 at the age of 75. She had six children including twin boys. She was a member of a large family that has been identified. Since the Parish records go back only to 1717 for birth records,exact verification of dates is difficult.

Anne was the first of many in the family by that name. She had a daughter Anne, and four granddaughters named Anne. One of her granddaughters married Jacob Christensen and they had a daughter Anne Johanna. Grandfather (Lars Peter Peterson) had a daughter Anne Marie, who married Jens Pedersen. (They lived and died in Richfield, Utah. Their home was on the northeast corner of the intersection of Center Street and 300 East.)

Peder Jensen married Maren Jensen of Klitten, August 14, 1777. She was one of many in the family by that name. She was fourteen years younger than he. She came from a large family. Her parents were Jens Andersen and Anne Nielsen. Jens was christened on December 7, 1715; and Anne was christened August 24, 1727 in Volstrup. Jens’ parents were listed as Anders Jensen and Johanne Christensen, the second wife. However, Anders’ first wife, Inger Larsen did not die until two years after the birth of Jens. Jens has been sealed to Anders Jensen and Johanne Christensen in error; he should be sealed to Anders and Inger, the first wife of Anders. She was born in 1670; Anders was born in 1655. They had three children. Johanne Larsen is listed as the illegitimate daughter of Inger, and therefore is shown by the mother’s maiden name. (See Chart #2)

I only have access to a few of the charts and they are not numbered and they are too large to copy. However, I am going to [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) and sign in and make sure that all of this information is recorded there; for it will become a permanent record that can be accessed by all. LDS Church members can sign up with their Membership Number and Date of Baptism and Confirmation that can be obtained from the Ward Clerk. This will give them an LDS Account. ANYONE ELSE can sign up as an interested person and receive a FAMILYSEARCH ACCOUNT. This way anyone who wishes my view these Family History Records as you create your very own window into the World Wide Family Tree.

The parents of Anne Nielsen were Niels Nielsen and Maren Thomassen. They came from Volstrup, Hjorring, Denmark. Niels was born in 1684 and Maren was born in 1684. They had six children. Niels was a farmer in Kneverhede in the Parish of Volstrup. He died at the age of 72 in 1756, and was buried 25 July 1756. Maren died 25 March 1757 at age 57. The marriages of each family member are recorded in the Parish record with the exception Else, she died when two weeks old. The records are nicely written and easy to read.

It appears that they had a son, Niels Nielsen, who lived in Hytten. He married Johanne Christensen. They had a son Christen born Octoberr 13, 1748. There is a second Johanne Christensen, that he married, but the records are a bit confusing on this matter. The father of Niels, was also Niels Nielsen, born about 1659. He died June 23, 1726 at age 67 in Kneverhede. I have identified several members of his family born before 1700. I have not identified his wife. This confirms three generations of “Niels Nielsens.” The name appears in the record to be written also as Nels Nelsen. Their births: 1659; 1684; and 1718.

Most of the fore-fathers of the (Lars Peter) Peterson Family (and descendants) came from the Parishes—Albeck and Voer. The family home was in Fourholt, although many were born in Vorsaa—a sea-coast town nearby. In Voer, the town of Idskov seems to be a main birth-place. However, we find the names of Flavenskjold, Agersted, Helleved, Strdusholm, and Molkjoer appearing frequently.

The earliest record of the family is the name of Morten Jensen, born in 1664 and his wife, Johanne Larsen, born 1672. (see Chart #6.) They lived in Strudsholm in the Parish of Voer. I have a record of four children born to them on their farm. In fact I have a chart showing the descendants of this couple for four generations. Their daughter, Maren, married Jens Madsen November 17, 1724, and they had nine children. Two of the children, Peder Jensen and Rasmus Jensen, married sisters by the names of Maren Nielsen and Karen Nielsen, who came from Helleved. Peter and Maren were the parents of Michel Pedersen, my second-great-great-grandfather. Michel’s daughter Maren joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and Emigrated to the United States in 1856. She died crossing the Plains with her third husband, Ole Michelsen. (This is the Maren Mikkelsen that I have written a full history about; she is my furthest generation back in being a member of the Mormon Church. Her daughter, Johanna Marie Jensen, emigrated with her to America. She made it to Salt Lake City with the Willie Handcart Company and married John Paternoster Squires. Her older daughter, Elsa Maria Jensen, married Lars Peter Peterson and they emigrated to America in 1862)

Michel Pedersen married Maren Madsen on October 21, 1792 in Albeck. They lived in Vorsaa where their first five children we born. The witnesses of their wedding were Christen Nielsen and Christen Jacobsen. Their last four children were born in Kjoret and Maren died in Skiellet on September 15, 1806. Michel had died two weeks before. This left the family as orphans. Four of the children had already died and the five survivors had Mariane and Maren, twelve and eleven of age, to care for them. (See Chart #5)

I have not been able to find the birth record of Maren Madsen. She was born in 1770 and she was married in Albeck; but I cannot find her parents.

Maren Michelsen, my great-grandmother, was born March 16, 1795 in Vorsaa, Albaek, Hjorring, Denmark. When she was two years old, the family moved to Kjeret in Voer Parish. She married Bertell Nielsen, and a daughter Kirsten was born to them on March 31 1818. After Bertell died, she married Jens Thorsen on November 23, 1823. They had three children. This was Jens’ second marriage. His first wife was Karen Jorgensen. Jens died March 16, 1842, and Maren married Ole Michelsen, her third husband. They joined the Church and came to America in 1856. Maren’s two daughters also joined the Church and emigrated to Utah. Her son died when less than a year old. It is interesting to note that Maren’s mother was also named Maren, and her grandmother was named Maren: Several others of my “Grandmothers” were named Maren. This is our Maren Mikkelsen that I have written a full account about.

Jens Thorsen, Maren’s second husband, was born April 10, 1785 in Ugilt Parish to Thor Thorsen and Else (pronounced Elsa) Jensen. I have been unable to find birth records of these people, or to trace their origin. It appears that Else (Elsa) was one of the family of “Jensens” that I have identified; but the details will have to be verified.

This leaves three families: Thor Thorsen, Else Jensen, and Maren Madsen, that will need to be identified in order to complete the Peterson Family Pedigree to 1700. When this is accomplished, eight generations of Danish genealogy will be available to us.

In order to understand the complexity of Danish Genealogy, we will investigate the grand-parents of Maren Michelsen and their descendants. Maren’s grandfather, Peter Jensen, was born 1 November 1734 in Broen, Albaek, Hjorring, Denmark. He married Maren Nielsen of Helleved on 28 December 1767 in Vøer Parish. She was the widow of Michel Sindalsen, who died 11 August 1767 at the age of 66. She and Michel had four children, who were born in Vesterskeve, Ver. The eldest, Laurs Michelsen, was born 18 April 1760 and married Karen Thomsen and had one son, Michel. Karen died on January 29, 1789 soon after Michel was born. Then Laurs married Johanne Christensen, who bore him three children. Laurs died May 31, 1797, while his children were very young. Johanne marred Thomas Jensen on November 28, 1802, but they had no children.

Rasmus Michelsen was the second son born June 29, 1761 in Vesterskov. He married Gjertrud Thomassen of Albaek Parish on November 18, 1792. They had six children, four of whom were “still born.” He was a farmer in Albaek. Gjertrud died August 20, 1807, and he then married Maren Nielsen in November 1807 in Albaek. She was from Soraa. They had six children. Maren died April 20, 1819. Then Rasmus married Inger Jensen on April 6, 1790 in Albaek Parish. They had three children.

The two other sons of Michel Sindelsen died in infancy. It should be stated that Michel’s first wife was Maren Olufsen, who was the mother of six children: so Michel was the father of ten. The first wife died September 24, 1757, and Michel married his second wife on October 17, 1759.

Peder and Maren had four children. The eldest, Michel, married Maren Madsen on October 21, 1792, according to my records. They had nine children. Maren was the fourth child. Michel was a farmer in Versaa, Albaek Parish and later in Kjaret, Ver Parish.

This record is the work of  
Niels Marcus Peterson,  
Copy is made March 13, 1979 by  
Mary Monson – his sister  
at Richfield, Sevier County, Utah.