The Sorenson Family



Information on the Sorenson family and photographs were provided by Wayne Sorenson of Alberta, Canada and Dennis Boyd of Monticello, Indiana

The Sorenson Family History The History and Evaluation of Sir Names

Until about 1100 A.D. most people in Europe had only one name. As the population increased it became awkward to live in a village where a number of people were named John, William or Mary. And so, to distinguish one John, William or Mary from another a second name was needed. There were four primary sources for these second names (sir names). They were: a man's occupation, his location, his father's name or some peculiar characteristic about them.

Occupation:

The local house builder, food preparer, grain grinder and suit maker would be named respectively: John Carpenter, John Cook, John Miller, and John Taylor.

Location:

The John who lived over the hill became known as John Overhill, the one who dwelled near a stream might be named John Brook, Atbrook or River.

Characteristic:

An unusually small person might be labeled Small, Short or Little. A large person might be named Longfellow, Large, Lang, or Long. People having characteristics of a certain animal would be given the animal's name. *Example*, a sly person might be named Fox; or a quiet man might take the name of Dove.

Patronymic: (father's name)

Many of these surnames can be recognized by the termination ---son. Such as Anderson, Williamson or in our case **Soren son**, meaning the son of Soren. The name Sorenson is taken from Severinus, a name common to many European saints. The earliest known Saint Severinus was the Bishop of Cologne around the 4th century.

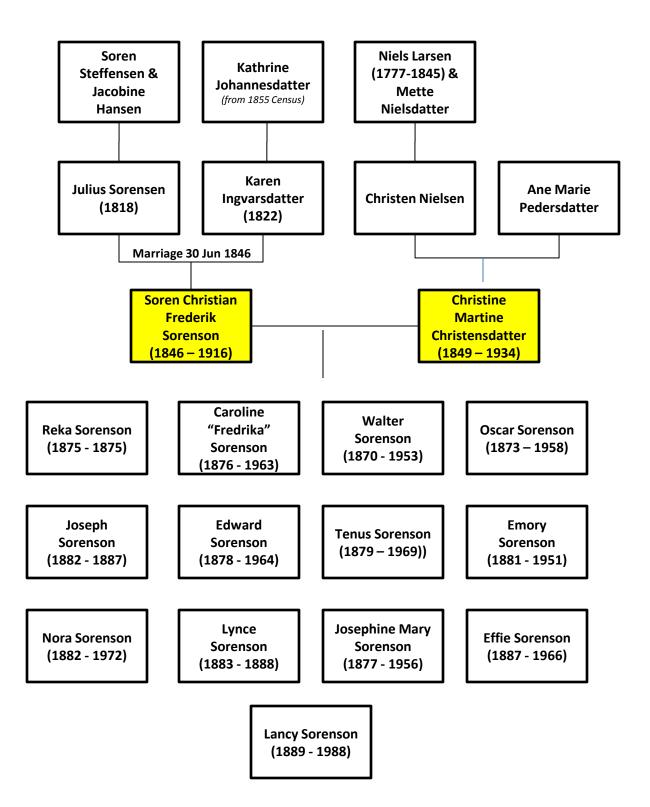
Information on the **Sorenson Family** was taken from that provided by Wayne Sorenson, great grandson, Lancy Sorenson, son, Adley Boyd, grandson, Pauline Peterson, granddaughter, and Dennis Boyd, great-grandson of Soren and Christena.



Soren Kristian Frederik and Christena Martine Sorenson (nee: Christensen)

Note: The name Christena and Christina are interchangeable based on the documentation from records and her tomb stone.

The Sorenson's (Sorensen)



The Sorenson's (before migrating to the U.S.)

Notes from Justin Falk ...

Soren Steffensen had <u>3 siblings</u>; they were Ane <u>Kirstine Petrine</u> Sørensen, <u>Anders Julius</u> Brinkmann Sørensen, <u>Else Marie Louise</u> Sørensen

As told there would have been a great divide in classes between the well-to-do Sorensons and the struggling contract farmers (husmenn) that were the Christensen family.

The 1855 census also has the **Karen Ingvarsdatter's** (wife of Julius) mother's name, Kathrine Johannesdatter.

After researching **Julius Sorenson's** occupation a bit I found a Danish language forum with a few people researching his family, and interested in knowing more from descendants. One is also a descendant of Soren's brother. To find out more about his family see the following link for (*Website for Sorensons in Denmark*) - <u>http://www.dis-danmark.dk/forum/read.php?1,633163,634486</u>

Regarding Karen Ingvarsdatter, translated from a Danish forum:

Karen Ingvarsdatter was born on 15.09. 1822 in Store Torøje, Smerup Parish Stevns District, Præstø County, she is the daughter of Ingvar Petersen, born 1796 in Smerup, died 28,04,1849 in Store Torøje, Smerup parish and Ane Katrine Johansdatter, born in 1793 in Præstø County, died on 19.03.1887 in Skæve sogn (parish), Hjørring Amt (County). After his death she lives in the house of grandson Sorensen. By the census in 1855 she lives with her daughter in Skæve parish. When dies it's like Anne Kathrine Renberg or Revnsberg. <u>Karen</u> Sorensen has <u>3 siblings</u>, <u>Daniel Ingvarsen</u> born 5.03.1820, <u>Peter</u> <u>Ingvarsen</u> born in 1828, <u>Niels Ingvarsen</u> born in 1835, all born in Store Torøje city Smerup parish, Stevns District, Præstø County.

Regarding Julius Sorenson, from the forum:

Julius Sorensen, was born on 12 February 1820 in Pedersker Præstegård, and baptized in the house on 20 February, baptism was published in Pedersker Church on 30 March, son of the vicar (sognepræsten) Soren Sorensen and Anne Kirstine Hansen in the vicarage (Præstegården). Godparents were: mother A.K. Sørensen, Bachelor - Andi Olsen, Hans Rasmussen, Th. L. Hansen - Gertrude Poulsdatter - AH Sejer, all in the vicarage (Præstegården). Census of 1834 in Nyborg includes Julius Sørensen , 15, Unmarried, skoledicipel and boarder bachelor and farmer Julius Sorensen, 26 $^{\prime\!\!\!/}_2$ years, and Karen Ingvorsdatter, 24 years mejerske on Holbæk Ladegård, was married on the 30th June 1846 in Tveje Merløse Church. The Legality of marriage in every way inside, we signed groomsmen: I. Dons, L. Frandsen. Note: According to Royal graciously Grant of 26 June 1846 is marriage without banns precedence Merløse Church 1846 30th June. - The Census of 1850 includes Julius Sorensen as the farm owner in Volsted, Torslev parish, and the Census of 1855 he is mentioned as a Forpagter (see my word document) in Forest Manager house. The 1880 and 1890 census he is mentioned as a farm owner in St. Vrængmose in Skæve parish. - When the youngest son, Johan Ludvig Henrik Sørensen's confirmation in 1880, he mentioned that, Forest Manager Julius Sørensen and wife Karen Ingvorsen, St. Vrængmose -Julius Sorensen, farm owner in Vrængmose, died on 6 June 1893 and was buried on 14 of June in Skæve Cemetery (this might translate more as Skæve church graveyard), 73 years old. Was married Karen Ingvarsen, same place.

The Sorenson's (before migrating to the U.S.)

1855 Denmark Census - Karmisholt, Skæve, Skæve, Dronninglund, Hjørring (54) Neisom Skovridder Boligen, 118 – Opslag 21 and 22

Name	Age	Marital Status	Occupation in Household	Occupation	Birth Place
			Forpagter, Jordbruger		
			(Tenant Farmer, one who		Peterskirken Bornholm
			leases the right to cultivate		(St. Peter's Church,
Julius Sørensen	35	Gift (Married)	a farm, manager of estate)		Bornholm)
					Store Torsbie
					Kjøbenhavn (Large
Kathrine Ingvorsen	33	Gift (Married)	Hans Kone (His Wife)		Torsbie, Copenhagen)
			Svigermoder (Mother in		Amt ? Kjøbenhavn
Kathrine Johannesdatter	61	Enke (Wido)	Law)		(County of Copenhagen)
					Merløse Sogn Holbæk
Søren Christian Frederik					Amt (Merløse Parish,
Sørensen	9	Ugift (Single)	Deres Børn (their children)		Holbæk County
					Torslev Sogn Hjørring
					Amt (Torslev Parish
Ane Kirstine Petrine Sørensen	8	Ugift (Single)	Deres Børn (their children)		Hjørring County)
					Torslev Sogn Hjørring
Anders Julius Brinkmann					Amt (Torslev Parish
Sørensen	5	Ugift (Single)	Deres Børn (their children)		Hjørring County)
			Forpagter Sørensens Datter		Skæve Sogn Hjørring
			(Tenant Sørensens		Amt (Skæve Parish
Else Marie Louise Sørensen	2	Ugift (Single)	Daughter)		Hjørring County)
					Torslev Sogn Hjørring
			Tjenestefolk (Service		Amt (Torslev Parish
Niels Chr. Jensen	23	Ugift (Single)	People)		Hjørring County)
					Torslev Sogn Hjørring
			Tjenestefolk (Service		Amt (Torslev Parish
Søren Chr. Jensen	14	Ugift (Single)	People)		Hjørring County)
			Tjenestefolk (Service		Hellevad Sogn Hjørring
Mette Marie Thomsen	17	Ugift (Single)	People)		Amt

The Sorenson's (Soren & Christina)

Soren Kristian Frederik Sorenson was born August 21, 1846 in Copenhagen, Denmark (Left July 7, 1876 - Alborg), and died August 21, 1916 in Lake Village, IN. He married **Christena** Christensen 1869 in Denmark, daughter of Christen Christensen and Ane Pedersdatter. She was born September 08, 1849 in Vendsyssel, Denmark (baptized name Martine Christine Christendatter), and died April 12, 1934 in Lake Village, IN.

<u>Children</u> of Soren Sorenson and Christena Christensen are:

- Woldemar "Walter" Sorenson, b. Jan 5, 1870, Hjorring Denmark; m. Emma Merrill 1892, (Came to USA in 1880); d. July 24, 1953, Lake Village, IN Cemetery.
 a. daughter Glena b. 1892, d. 1987, m. William Henry Graefnitz on 4/19/1910; Village, IN Cemetery.
- 2. Oscar Christian, b. April 22, 1873, Jutland, Denmark; d. April 13, 1958, Seduc AB, Canada; m. Annie Unknown abt 1895; Children:
 - a. Selma, 1896
 - b. Robert, 1899
 - c. Olga, 1901
 - d. Frank, 1908; m. Unknown: Donna, Patricia, Graham, Wayne
 - e. Nora, 1910; m. Switzer: Bruce, Linda
 - f. Myrtle, 1912; m. Hall: Gary, Shirley
 - g. Walter, 1914; m. Unknown: Preston, Susanna
- 3. Fredricka "Reka/Rika" Sorenson: b. 1875, d. 1875 Denmark
- Caroline "Carrie" (same as Rebecka in 1880 census) or (Fredricka on photo? b. 1876, Denmark; m. William Dixon (Dickson) – 1910 Census has "Clara Sorenson, daughter age 15", living with them, (who is this?)
- 5. Edward Sorenson, b. Feb. 1877, Lake Village, Indiana, d. Feb. 22, 1964, Indiana, never married; worked in ND; buried in Lake Village, IN Cemetery.
- Alfred "Tenus" Sorenson (Alfred in 1880 Census, Tenus thereafter); b. July 1879, Lake Village, Indiana, d. 1969, d. Jan. 1969 in Alberta, Canada; m. Mary Unknown abt 1900. Children:
 - a. Lester, 1901
 - b. Basil, 1903
 - c. Lyla, 1905
 - d. Victor, 1908
 - e. Raymond, 1910
 - f. Biphany, 1912
 - g. Tiffany, 1912
 - h. Esther, 1915
 - i. Ruth, 1915
- Emory/Emery Sorenson, b. 1881 Lake Village, IN, d. 1951 Momence, IL; m. Alma Christenson (this is his first cousin – daughter of Christian Christenson, brother to Christena Christenson and wife Mary, maiden name unknown); Children:
 - a. Lucy, 1910
 - b. Mabel, 1912

The Sorenson's (Soren & Christina)

- Joseph b. 1882, Lake Village, IN; d. November 12, 1887, lake Village, IN (5 yr. 10 mo. 10 days). Died of Typhus
- LYENCE b. 1883, Lake Village, IN; d. October 08, 1888, Lake Village Cemetery (5 yr. 10 mo. 26 day). Died of Typhus
- Josephine Mary, b. March 12, 1885, Lake Village, IN; d. July 10, 1969, Lake Village, IN. m. William L. Boyd (Abt. 1905) b. 1877 in Grant Park, IL; d May 1956; buried in Lake Village, IN Cemetery. Children:
 - a. Adley, 1905
 - b. Chester, 1907
 - c. Roy, 1910
 - d. Orville, 1917
 - e. Lawrence, 1920
 - f. Pauline, 1927
 - g. Shirley, 1929
- Effie Sorenson, b. 1887, Lake Village, IN, d. May 25,1966, Memory Gardens, Kankakee, Illinois, m. 1904 Charles Gallagher b. 1876, d. 1966 or 1950 (other trees), son of George and Jane (Heskett) Gallagher; Children:
 - a. Mildred, 1906
 - b. Charles, 1908 [see 1920 census, Mildred and Edwin Gallagher are living with William and Caroline (Sorenson) Dixon in Kankakee, Illinois and listed as niece and nephew, but I think Edwin is from another Gallagher family they are not brother and sister, but cousins)
 - c. Walter, 1910
 - d. Evelyn, 1912
 - e. Theodore, 1918
- 12. Lancy Russell Sorenson, b. 1889 Lake Village, IN; m. Hilda Hildabrand (1889-1972); d. March 1, 1988 in Lake Village, IN Cemetery (no children).
- 13. Nora Sorenson, b. 1892, d. 1972; m. abt 1915 to Paul Richard Therien (1895-1951) son of Charles and Ella (Boudreau) Therien; Children:
 - a. Charles, 1916
 - b. Paul, Jr. 1920
 - c. Norma, 1928

Soren and Christina Sorenson

The following information was taken from audio tapes made by their son Lancy (Sorenson) and grandson Adley (Boyd) which was recorded during the mid 1980's.

Adley had tried to get some family history through the Mormons and through Washington D.C. in the U.S., but the family didn't either have the time or money to pursue it. However, they were successful in getting some information from records located in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Soren (born on August 21, 1846 in Copenhagen, Denmark and died August 21, 1916 in Lake Village, Indiana U.S.A.) came from a family of landowners who would be considered from the upper class people in Denmark. In the 1800's there were basically two classes of people, the land owners and the peasants that worked for the land owners. Christina was born September 8, 1849 in Vendsyssel, Denmark (baptized name was Martine Christine Christendatter) and she died on April 12, 1934 in Lake Village, Indiana. She came from a peasant family, at the age of four she was sent to work for a rich cattle owner to help with the chores. She remembered that she only had one dress to wear and if it got wet she would hang it up to dry so she could wear it the next day. The food that she was given were the scraps left over from the kitchen table of the land owner.

Soren met and fell in love with Christina and they married in 1869. Christina was the daughter of Christen Christensen and Ane Pedersdatter. Their decision to do this had serious consequences for them because it was not proper to have a peasant girl of the lower class marry into a family of land owners. Consequently Soren's family disowned him. Because of the hard feelings caused by this action, to my knowledge

Soren never mentioned his parent's names to his children, so it's sad to say that that part of the family history is lost. Sorens father had a total of 4 children and their names are also unknown to me, except for Soren's. In the year 1914 Soren's mother was 90 years old, therefore her birth date would have been **1824**. She would have been 22 years old when Soren was born.

Soren worked for a shipping line and was a sail rigger and sailor. He had sailed to America on two previous occasions and had an idea of what it would be like to live there. Records obtained from Copenhagen indicate that on July 7, 1876 Soren at age 30 and Christina at age 27 set sail on an ocean voyage from Aalborg from an open port known as Jutland and their destination was Chicago, U.S.A. Apparently there were a lot of Danes settling in the area and they thought they would be comfortable there amongst their own culture.

Their sailing vessel was transporting cattle and it must have been a trying journey for their family because of the squalid conditions. The voyage took 28 days to sail across the Atlantic Ocean. Because of limited space on the ship they had to leave their three oldest children, Walter was the oldest at 6 years old (born January 5, 1870) and Oscar who was 3 years old (born April 22, 1873 in Jutland, Denmark), who was to become my Grandfather and Caroline who was born in 1876. They also left their children behind with Christena's sister and husband the Madison's'. Christena's parents had eight children and came to America in 1874, their name was Christensen..

Soren's family settled close to a little place called Lake Village (Newton County) about a mile and a half away from the Kankakee River in Indiana. In those days there were about 12 homes in Lake Village. Obviously the village has grown since then and the population was 800 in the year 2000. During the first three years Soren hired himself out as a farm worker on the state side of Illinois, eventually making enough money to return to Denmark to get the three children he had left behind.

Adley Boyd, Soren's grandson said he remembers his grandfather Soren as being short and stocky and would come over to visit his son Lancy on his farm to help cut grass and also split wood using his axe. He also said that he thought people took advantage of Soren's generosity and so he didn't prosper as he could have. Apparently land could be purchased for 50 cents an acre



Christina in her old age

in those days but he never took advantage of that opportunity. At some point in his life he became a heavy drinker but must have straightened out as Adley remembers him as a very kind grandfather who was dedicated to his community, the Lutheran Church and he loved the outdoors and had a reverence for all of life.

In Demark Soren's trade was a "cooper" and he made butter tubs that were exported to England. When he was farming in Newton County U.S.A., he would make hay bail hooks from small 12 foot long birch trees which would be used to hold together bails of hay. Him and his son Tenus (Oscar's brother) would go to a place called Manteno and sell them for cash.

As well, Soren was the only person in the area that had a 50 foot trammel fish net and he would go fishing at night at oxbow landing on the Kankeekee River with his son Lancy. Catching a gunny sack full

of fish was not unusual and they made sure they shared the fish with their neighbors and other family members.

Soren and Christina had 13 children, but only 10 survived to live out a full life. Their names were Walter, Tenus, Lancy, Emery, Edward, Caroline, Nora, Effie, Josephine and Oscar. Their young son Joseph (born 1882) died of diphtheria on November 12, 1887 at age 5 years, 10 month and 10 days. Their other son Lyence (born 1883) died from diphtheria about a year later on October 8, 1888 at the age of 5 years 10 months and 26 days. They had a 4 week old daughter that also died of unknown causes. There was a 23 year spread between the oldest and the youngest child. Apparently the only thing that Christina feared in her life, was that her children would get sick and she always cautioned them not to lie on the damp ground or wear wet clothing because medical treatment in those days was very limited. I guess that the loss of two of her sons and one daughter was all she could take.



Christina's brother in law "Marion"

Adley remembers his grandmother Christina as being frail and small, probably weighed 90 pounds but was wirery and tough. She kept a clean house and had flowers she gathered from their farm which she placed in every room. They didn't have the money for cloth curtains so she made them from whatever paper she had available. On the farm they had chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, cows, milk and cream. She milled their own grain and she was an expert and making butter and cheese, preserving meat, making bread and waffles which her family was grateful for.

To keep the family members warm she knitted stockings, caps and wristlets to cover their wrists when the sleeves on their coats were not long enough, as they had probably had outgrown them.

Their children walked to the "State Line" school which taught grades 1 to 8. It was a typical rural school, the toilets and drinking water pump was outside and a pot bellied stove was located in the middle of the classroom. School recess games that were played were baseball, tag and drop the handkerchief. The happiest day for the children was the last day of their school year when everyone brought food to share at their year end picnic.

She had a strong faith and a compassion for others less fortunate. These less fortunate people always knew that they might have a chance for a free meal at a farm house and she never disappointed them. She would always prepare them something to eat and would give them a blessing and send them on their way.

Music was in the family, they enjoyed singing and Oscar (my grandfather) had a pump organ and also played the mouth organ and violin. As well, apparently a family member in Denmark played a musical instrument for Danish Royalty. Their name and the type of instrument played is unknown at this time.

After her son Lancy married, Christina moved from the farm and made the rounds staying with each relative for short periods of time. Government social assistance was not available in those days, so her family had a duty to look after her. Christina Sorenson's house was known as the half way house. She always made home-made bread and always had coffee. She served that to everyone that stopped on their way to Momence. She and her daughter, Josephine, did grocery shopping in Momence. They took a horse and buggy to town. There was a ford in the river which was more shallow so you could cross it.



Effie, Nora, Josephine (Boyd) and Oscar Sorenson

The Birth and Death dates of Soren and Christena's children are:

- Walter, born January 5, 1870, Hjorring, Denmark, died July 1953 at Lake Village, Indiana.
- Oscar Christian, born April 22, 1873, Jutland Denmark, died April 13, 1958 in Quesnel, British Columbia, Canada.
- Reka, born about January 1, 1875 and died 1875.
- Caroline, born in 1876 in Denmark and died at Momence, Indiana.
- Edward, Born February 1877 at Lake Village and died February 22, 1964 at Lake Village, Indiana.
- **Tenus**, born July 1879 at Lake Village and died January 1969 and buried in a cemetery located beside his farm located a few miles south of Calmar, Alberta, Canada.
- Emory, born 1881 at Lake Village, and died in 1951, buried at Momence cemetery, Indiana.
- Joseph, born 1882 at Lake Village and died November 12, 1887 at Lake Village, Indiana.
- Lynce, born 1883 at Lake Village and died October 8, 1888 at Lake Village, Indiana.
- Josephine Mary, born March 12, 1885, Lake Village, died July 10, 1969 at Lake Village, Indiana
- Effie, Born July 18,1887 at Lake Village and died May 15, 1966, buried at Memory Gardens Kankakee, Illinois.
- Lancy, born April 13, 1889 at Lake Village and died March 1, 1988 at Lake Village, Indiana.
- Nora, born July 13, 1892 at Lake Village, Indiana and died October 13, 1972 at Momence, Illinois.



Left Back: Walter, Tenus, Lancy, Emery & Edward Left Front: Josephine, Nora, (??), Effie & Caroline. Missing: Oscar Photo dated 1931 in Lake Village, IN

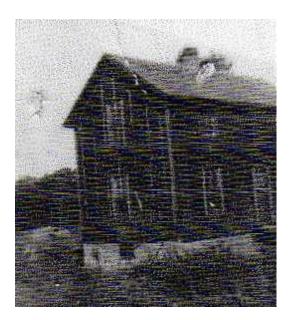


Caroline "Carrie" Dickson

Oscar was born in Denmark in 1873 and his parents immigrated to the U.S.A. in 1876 but had to leave Oscar and his brother Walter and their new born sister Caroline in Denmark with his mother's sister and husband the Madisons'. Oscars' father Soren returned to Denmark in 1879 to bring them to America and settle in a little place called Lake Village in Indiana.

He was brought up in this community with a total of nine other brothers and sisters. My understanding is that in his early adult years he became involved with some people who were moon shining and counterfeiting. These activities took place at a location called Bogus Island where I guess they thought they could secretly keep their activities unknown to the public. Oscar's activities probably took place around 1893. Bogus Island is located on Beaver Lake in McClellan Township in Newton County Indiana. The Island obtained its name by its occupation by horse thieves and counterfeiters. The Island covered 40 to 50 Acres and could be approached by the northwest via sandbars. The caves of the horse thieves and counterfeiters were located on the northwest end of the island. Stolen horses were brought here for preparation to sell, hair dye and paint was used to disguise their coats. Thieves began using the island in the 1830's, and began passing bogus coins in the local vicinity.

Oscar became very skilled at using a camera as well as using the required chemicals to develop his negatives and pictures and to make counterfeiting plates. Apparently the word got out to the F.B.I. and they came looking for him and his illegal equipment. He had stored his equipment and plates at his brother Tenus's home and was able to get a message to him that the F.B.I. was coming to look for his equipment. Tenus disposed this evidence into the farm water well and the equipment was never found by the authorities.





Oscar Christian Sorenson and Annie Sorenson (nee: Erickson)

Counterfeit equipment dumped down the water well of this house located in Indiana

He then left Lake Village and made his way to the Dakotas where his brother Edward had a successful cattle operation. He worked with Edward for a while and then branched out on his own with another business partner. Apparently that partnership did not last and at his own discretion took some cattle from the operation that he thought was rightfully owed to him. However the business partner had Oscar charged with theft and apparently he did spend some time in jail.

If you wanted cheap land in Canada, you signed a homestead agreement with the government. Over the first few years the farmer had to clear a certain amount of land, plant crops and build a dwelling. If they complied with these requirements they could purchase the 180 Acres for one dollar. They also had the option to purchase the mineral rights for one dollar. Most of the homesteaders either didn't have the extra one dollar to purchase the mineral rights or didn't see the value in doing so. After 1905 the government made sure that all mineral rights were owned by the Crown (Government). That's why you will never hear of a Canadian striking it rich with and oil well, as you do about people that live in the U.S. The oil companies will pay the land owner the right to enter onto his land to drill for oil, gas etc.



Oscar Sorenson's money making camera



Three of Oscar's gold panning partners



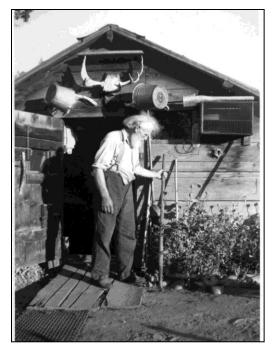
Oscar and his musical instruments

Oscar later communicated to his son that as he traveled across the northern U.S. and that he was able to attend the famous "Buffalo Bill Wild West Show". He was thrilled to shake Buffalo Bills hand and have a conversation with him. He said Buffalo Bill was quite old at that time.

In 1905 at the age of 33 he decided to go to Canada and settled in the Calmar, Alberta area. Oscar also encouraged his brother Tenus to bring his family from Lake Village to the Calmar area, and he followed Oscar's advice.

Oscar carried out a number of activities to support himself. He was accomplished at playing the violin, mouth organ and auto harp and enjoyed playing at dances at local school

houses. He also had two silent movies that he would show to the public. One was called "The Drunkard's Child" and the other was "The Face on the Bar Room Floor". Oscar would have been one of the first film projectionists in Alberta.



Oscar's last year at age 86



Oscar's prospecting partners, Oscar is third from the left

Tenus Sorenson was born in 1878 and grew up in the Lake Village, Indiana area. In 1899 He married Mary Baer and they lived in Lake Village. He worked in the brick yards in Momence, Illinois which was a few miles away. In 1907 they left for Canada coming by train but from Calgary to Leduc had to ride in a cattle car. They had 4 children at the time; Lester 7, Basil 5, Lyle 3 and Victor 6 months.

They heard a lot about Canada through the many advertisements in those days to get settlers to come ... "Go West Young Man, Go West to the land of golden opportunities". Tenus' brother, Oscar came in 1905 and had written Tenus to come as the land was cheap.

They spent the first few months on the Moberg Farm N.W. of Calmar and this gave them time to look around for a place of their own. But money wasn't very plentiful in those days and one had to be satisfied with whatever he could get for the time being. They moved on to the Gus Johnson farm (which was in the Buford district) now known as Glen Park. Here another son, Raymond was born. They purchased some cattle, pigs, horses and chickens and Mary churned butter and packed it in wooden tubs which was shipped to British Columbia.

There was nothing much in the way of entertainment in those days, so John Mattson, a neighbor, use to come over with his grind organ and entertain them every once in a while.

They lived here for about two years but during that time purchased the Harry Moore Homestead which was about a mile east of the Johnson farm. The first house was a small log building with a sod roof and this is where their twin sons, Breffany and Tiffany were born.

It was plain to see by now that a larger living quarters was needed. Tenus had the lumber for the house but no doors, windows or nails. Word got out around the area and the Anderson and Modin families put on a basket social and raised \$45.00. This was greatly appreciated and along with that, many willing hands came forward and the house was completed.

It was here that the twin girls Ruth and Esther and Edward were born. In a year or so the Spanish Influenza came along and Mary and the children were all sick. Tenus was left to do all the chores and keep the wood fires burning. They had a good neighbor named Harlow Umberger and his wife Mary came over every day and helped in any way she could. Tenus' brother, Oscar also helped.

Tenus and Mary's house was a home to all as many weary traveler going to and from Leduc would stop here for the night, feed their horses, have a supper and breakfast before going on. Mary did all her own baking and making bread nearly every day of the week. A 100 lb. sack of flour would last about 10 days. They would take their wheat to Edmonton to the flour mill and have flour made, about 20 bags at a time. Mary also sewed most of the clothes for the family, knitted socks, mittens and sewed for all the neighbors. Washing was done by hand ... it was a lot Of hard work but they had fun too.

In July 1955 their second oldest son, Basil passed away at 53 years. In December 1959 Tenus and Mary celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. On December 5, 1961their oldest son Lester passed away at 61 years. On March 11, 1962 Mary passed away at 90 years old. Tenus died January 1969 and is buried in a cemetery located beside his farm located a few miles south of Calmar, Alberta, Canada.



Tenus and his mother Christina

Lancy Sorenson was born April 13, 1889 at Lake Village , Indiana. He was the 12th of 13 children born to Soren and Christina Sorenson. Lancy married Hilda Hildebrand and purchased a farm about three miles West of Lake Village. Lancy and Hilda had no children but they were a favorite uncle and great-uncle to his sister's children and grand-children . Lancy's home burnt to the ground in 1955 and he lost all his and Hilda's personal effects including pictures, family papers, etc.

Shortly after the fire Lancy and Hilda had a new home built on the farm and lived there until he retired and moved into a new home in Lake Village, Indiana. In 1972 Hilda passed away at their home.

In Lancy's declining years he needed help to look after himself and his family hired a local lady to look after him. Lancy's goal was to live to be 100, however 2 weeks short of his 99th birthday he slipped and fell during the night and the lady that looked after



Lancy

him found him the next morning. He later died of pneumonia on May 31, 1988 and he and Hilda are buried in the Lake Village cemetery near his brother Lyence who died October 8, 1888.

Josephine Mary was born March 12, 1885 in Lake Village , Indiana. She married William Boyd in 1905. They had seven children – Adley in 1905, Chet in 1907, Roy in 1910, Orville in 1915, Lawrence in 1917, Pauline in 1927 and Shirley in 1929. The boys attended school at the old State Line School which was located just North of the home place.

Later on the school was closed and they boarded a horse-drawn school bus and travelled into Lake Village to attend a new grade school which was built there. By the time Adley was out of grade school there was no opportunity to go on to high school in Morocco because there was no transportation. The year Roy graduated from the 8th grade in 1924 Lake Village had initiated a bus to transport the children on to Morocco High School and he was the first in his family to get through high school.

Josephine and William moved into his father's farm home and upon his death, lived there until they Died. William died in 1956 and Josephine passed away July 10, 1969. She and William are buried in Lake Village.



Josephine (Sorenson) and William Boyd



Josephine (Sorenson) and William Boyd's Home West of Lake Village, Indiana (in picture is Thomas & Sarah Boyd

Effie Sorenson was born on July 18,1887 in Lake Village, Indiana and died May 15, 1966; she is buried at Memory Gardens in Kankakee, Illinois. She married Charles Gallagher and lived in Kankakee, Illinois. Charles worked at the Kankakee State Hospital and Effie was a stay-at-home mom. Effie and Charles had 5 children: Mildred, Walter, Ed, Ted, and Evelyn.

Nora Sorenson was born on July 13, 1892 at Lake Village, Indiana and died October 13, 1972 at Momence, Illinois where she and her husband are buried. She married Paul Therien and they lived in Momence. Paul was the U.S. postmaster. Nora and Paul had 3 children. Charles was the oldest and Paul Jr. was the second son ... his nickname was "Babe"; Paul Jr. served in Italy during the 2nd World War. Norma Jean was their little girl. She was known as a "blue" baby and was about 5 or 6 when she died. She was a beautiful little girl with very curly hair.

Edward Sorenson, 86 passed away on February 22, 1964. He was born near Lake Village on Feb. 1878. and died Feb 22, 1964. He was raised in Lake Village until he was in his twenties. He spent 25 years on the cattle and horse ranges of North Dakota after which he returned to Lake Village where he bought and sold horses and cattle. He lived with his sister, Effie Gallagher in Kankakee, IL. before his death. Ed never married. He is buried in the Lake Village, Indiana Cemetery.

Walter Sorenson was born January 5, 1870 in Hyuring, Denmark and at the age of ten years came to the USA with his parents and lived in the community until at the age of 22 years he married Emma Merrill and they later moved to North Dakota and settled on a homestead. Later the family migrated back to Indiana and settled on a farm West of Lake Village where he made a success of farming and bee-keeping for more than 53 years. Walter and Emma had two children; one died in infancy and Glena who married William Graefnitz. Walter died on July 24, 1953 at his farm home and is buried in the Lake Village, Indiana cemetery with his wife.



Effie and Nora

Stories on the Canadian Sorensons ...

TENUS SORENSON

by Marie Sorenson

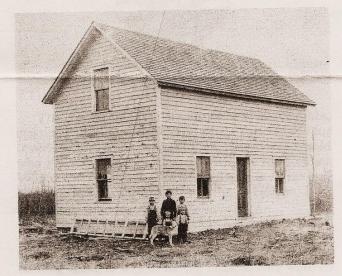
Our parents Tenus Sorenson and Mary Baer were married in 1899. They lived in Lake Village, Indiana, U.S.A. which is situated 40 miles south of Chicago. Dad worked in the brick yard in Momence, Illinois; which was a few miles away. In 1907 they left for Canada, coming by train; but, from Calgary to Leduc they had to ride in a cattle car. They had 4 children at the time: Lester 7, Basil 5, Lyle 3, and Victor 6 months.

They heard a lot about this country through the many advertisements in those days to get settlers in. The slogan was, "Go west, young man, go west", to the land of golden opportunities. Our uncle Oscar came in 1905 and he had written to Dad to come as the land was cheap.

They spent the first few months on the Moberg farm, N.W. of Calmar and this gave them time to look around for a place of their own. But money wasn't very plentiful in those days and one had to be satisfied with whatever he could get for the time being. So they moved on to Gus Johnson's farm (which was in the Buford district) now known as Glen Park. Here another son, Raymond was born. They purchased some cattle, pigs, horses and chickens and Mother churned butter and packed it in wooden tubs, it was shipped to B.C. which helped with the family living.

There was nothing much in the way of entertainment in those days, so, Mr. John Mattson used to come over with his grind organ and entertain them every once in awhile.

They lived here for about 2 years, but during that time they purchased Harry Moore's homestead; which was about a mile east of the Johnson farm. This was the S.W. -28-48-27-W4. The first house was a small log building with a sod roof and this is where their twin boys were born, Breffany and Tiffany.



House built in 1912. Lester, Basil, Lyle, Victor and Raymond.



Tenus Sorenson brothers Back row — Ed, Lester, Lyle, Raymond, Harlow, Gerald. Front row — Basil, twins Breffany and Tiffany, and Victor.

It was plain to see by now that larger living quarters were needed. Dad had the lumber for the house; but no doors, windows or nails. How to get them was the question? Well, word got around that here was a family that needed help. So the Ole Anderson and Modin families put on a basket social and raised \$45.00 which helped towards getting these. This was greatly appreciated and along with that and many willing hands the house was completed on the S.W. corner of the homestead. I would like to mention here that the siding was hand planed by Rudolph Johnson and Ole Modin; the house is still in use today.

It was here that the twin girls and Edward were born, Ruth, (Mrs. Clarence Eklund) and Esther (Mrs. Chris Lauridson). In a year or so the Spanish influenza came along and Mother and the children were all sick except Edward. Dad was left to do the chores and keep the wood fires burning. They had good neighbors, Harlow Umberger and his wife Mary came over every day and helped in any way they could. They stayed nights too, if necessary. Uncle Oscar Sorenson was a great help, also. Doctor Woods from Leduc came and advised them what to do. There were many people in the district who had the influenza too. Mother was sick most of January and February and in March, Harlow was born. As the years passed, Gerald and Maye (Mrs. Uno Nystrom) joined the family. By this time the farm earned a title; "Sorenson's Trading Post", for in those days a lot of trading was done.

This house was a home to all, as many a weary traveller going to and from Leduc (the only close town then) were taking in their eggs, butter, hogs, cattle or fence posts in exchange for groceries, clothing, etc. They would stop here for the night, feed their horses, have supper, and also have breakfast before going on.

Mother did all her own baking; making bread nearly every day of the week. A 100 lb. sack of flour would last about 10 days. They would take their wheat to Edmonton to the flour mill and have flour made, about 20 bags at a time and this would give them porridge, too, (whole wheat and cream of wheat). Mother also sewed most of our clothes, knitted socks, mitts and sewed for the neighbors. Washing was done byhand on the old washboard in those days. It was a lot

Stories on the Canadian Sorensons ...

Tenus Sorenson Continued ...

of hard work, but they had their fun too. They were a musical family and many a night was spent in singing and dancing with neighbors and friends coming for miles around. They would bring a cake or sandwiches and spend an enjoyable evening. By this time there were community picnics to go to, with foot races, horse races, baseball and horse shoe games, etc.

In July, 1955 their second oldest son Basil passed away at 53 years. In Dec., 1959 Dad and Mother celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary. On Dec. 5th, 1961 their oldest son, Lester passed away at 61 years. On March 11, 1962 Mother passed away at 79 years. In January 1969 Dad passed away at 90 years of age. On August 31, 1973 Maye (Mrs. Uno Nystrom) passed away. Victor has spent most of his life in Florida and Esther lives in Edmonton. The rest of us live in the Glen Park district, not too far from the home place.



 Tinus Sorenson, with his twin calves, at the age of 85 years.



Tenus Sorenson brothers Back row — Ed, Lester, Lyle, Raymond, Harlow, Gerald. Front row — Basil, twins Breffany and Tiffany, and Victor.



Above Left to Right — Maye Nystrom (Sorenson), Esther Lauridsen (Sorenson), Ruth Eklund (Sorenson), Ruth and Esther, twin daughters of Tenus Sorenson, 1962.



House built in 1912. Lester, Basil, Lyle, Victor and Raymond.

THE OSCAR SORENSON FAMILY By Frank & Nora Sorenson

Oscar Sorenson was born in Denmark in 1873 and when very young his parents immigrated to Indiana, U.S.A. Here they lived until their demise.

In 1905 Oscar decided to come to Canada and for a time stayed with and worked for the Christensen family. They were formerly from Indiana and had purchased a farm east of Leduc.

Many members of the Sorenson family had a natural born talent for music and Oscar was no exception. He mastered the art of playing the fiddle, as violins were called in those days; a mouth organ, jewsharp and auto harp, almost all at the same time. He enjoyed playing for dances in the local school houses. Usually the dancing was an aftermath of the showing of his silent movies such as "The Drunkard's Child" and "The Face on the Barroom Floor".

He had also become rather an expert in photography, a means of earning extra money. The pioneers of that time were very proud of their new heritage and were delighted to have photos taken of the entire family plus a favorite horse or dog in front of their new house and farm buildings. Often the photo took such an expanse that it was difficult to distinguish the faces of the residents.

It was during the course of photographing families near and around Leduc that Oscar met Mrs. Anna Thompson, nee Erickson. She was the eldest daughter of Olar and Britta Erickson who had immigrated to Canada in 1898. Anna came to stay with her parents in 1905, bringing three of her five children from a former marriage, Selma, Robert and Edna. The other two Arthur and Fred, remained in Minnesota, but several years later Fred came to Canada and farmed in Buford, now known as Glen Park.

Oscar and Anna were married shortly after they met and lived in a sod, thatched house called the "Old Lindberg Place". Here, their first child, Frank was born.

Both Anna and Oscar took homesteads, hers was on the shore of Conjuring Lake, now called Wizard Lake. Hers was listed as SW 18-48-27 W4. Oscar's was listed as SE 24-48-28 W4. They moved to Anna's homestead as soon as a house could be built, which was done mainly with the help of neighbors and relatives.

One of the renowned builders of that time was Andrew Dickson who always managed a veranda with lattice work. At this residence Nora, Myrtle and Walter were born. Approximately six years later the family moved to Oscar's homestead where they remained a year or so before moving to Maxwell's farm.

During the period of those years Oscar had gone into a cattle business (something familiar to him from his years in the Dakotas). With his trustworthy cutting horse, Dick, and devoted collie dog he spent many hours in the saddle driving herds all the way to the stockyards in Edmonton. It was while residing at the Maxwell place that disaster struck. A fire destroyed the rather large house with all of its contents one early, cold fall morning. Neighbors rallied in an effort to subdue the blaze, but to no avail. Without insurance, clothing or household belongings, the family was virtually destitute. Anna and the three younger children lived at Calmar with Grandma Erickson for over a year, while Frank and Oscar lived on what was known as the Roll place while another house could be built on the Maxwell farm. Shortly after moving to the newly built house Oscar decided it was time his family moved to Edmonton, as along with his other enterprises he had a yen for real estate.

It was during the course of this move that Walter who was six years old, suffered a very unfortunate accident. As a consequence he lost his sight. However, he received his education at the Brantford School for the Blind in Ontario and had the opportunity to learn to play the piano and guitar. He loved music and this gave him great solace until he could be home again in the summer holidays. Frank is also musical and plays the violin.

Oscar passed away in Quesnel, B.C. at the age of 86 in 1957.

The children are all married and living in Edmonton.



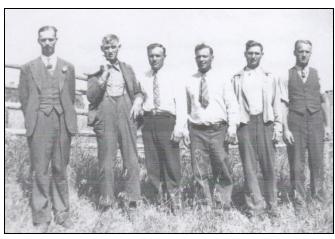
Oscar Erickson family visiting the Sorensons about 1906.



Oscar Sorenson Family: Left to Right — His wife Anna, Myrtle, Oscar, Walter, Frank and Nora (bottom centre).



Niels Peter Christensen, brother of Christena Christenson Sorenson



Tenus Sorensons' sons are from the left, Edward, Lester, twins Tiffany and Breffny, Harlow and Gerald. Picture taken on homestead located at Calmar, Alberta, Canada.



Tenus Sorenson family, 13 offspring, son Lester is missing from the photo. Photo also taken at their at farm in Calmar.



Christinas' brother in law "Martin Madison", with his four work horses



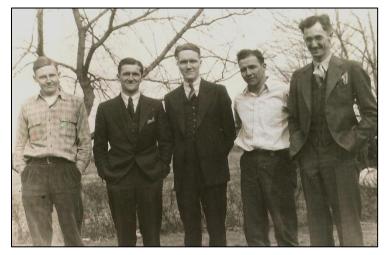
Tenus and Mary (Wedding Picture)



Tenus and Mary (60th Anniversary)



L to R: Josephine, Effie, Nora, Lancy, Grandma Sorenson, Tenus, Walter & Emory Taken in Lancy Sorenson's yard in Lake Village, Indiana



Josephine's sons – L to R: Lawrence, Orville, Roy Chet and Adley

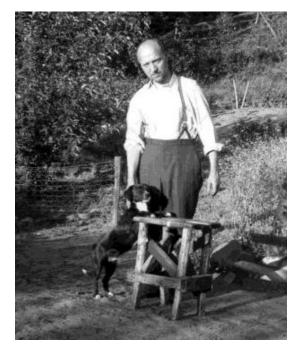


Boyd – Sorenson Reunion (Grant Park, IL)



Josephine's daughters Pauline and Shirley





Frank Sorenson, Son of Oscar

Oscars' son Walter



Josephine (3rd from Left) & Tenus (2nd from Right)



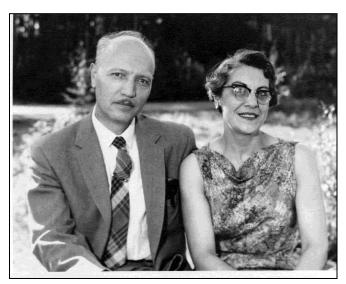
Oscar in front of the St. Louis Hotel, Calgary, Alberta with 1928 Ford (only a guess)



Ina Hanson - daughter of Soren 'Samuel' Hansen and Marie Christensdatter (aka 'Marie Christensen')



Josephine's children – L to R: Orville, Pauline, Lawrence, Roy, Adley, Shirley & Chet



Oscar's son Frank Joseph Sorenson and his wife Anne Doris



Ervie Christenson's Garage and Auto Dealership in Lake Village, IN

Obituaries

(taken from Newspaper Articles)

The death of Mr. **Soren Sorensen** came as the culmination of a serious illness of many weeks in the hospital at Logansport, Ind. Death came on his seventieth birthday, April, 21, 1918. He was a native of Denmark. The first thirty years of his life were spent in his native country. At the age of twenty-two he was married to Miss Christiana Christensen. Forty years since they came to America and have spent the greater part of this time in this section of the country.

The family consisted of thirteen children, ten of whom are yet living. These are Walter of Lake Village, Ind., Oscar of Alberta, Canada, Mrs. Carrie Dixon of Momence, Ill., Edward of Bismarck, North Dakota, Tenus of Alberta, Canada, Emory of Momence, Mrs. Josephine Boyd of Lake Village, Ind., Mrs. Effie Gallagher of Momence, Lancy of Lake Village, Ind., and Mrs. Nora Therien of Momence.

Mr. Sorenson was a stranger to the writer but from the friendly estimates of his life one can only easily conclude that he was a man of many worthy virtues. No man is perfect one may excel in one and another in other ways. Our friend was conscientious as a man, brotherly as a neighbor, honest in business, and much given to kindly and worthy deeds. Little more can be said of any man. He is a member of the Danish Lutheran church in Lake Village, and for years carried out his religious profession before the world. He leaves a sorrowing companion and family and a wide circle of sympathetic friends.

The funeral service was held from the family residence near Lake Village on last Sunday at 2:00 p.m., conducted by Rev. G.M.Boswell. A quartette consisting of Misses Alice Hardy and Ruth Boswell and L.E.Hardy and Rev. Boswell rendered selected hymns. The floral offerings were beautiful. The burial took place in the Lake Village cemetery.

The friends from a distance attending were George Hauff of Salem, Ind., Mr. and Mrs. F.Ainsworth; S.Fox; E.Christianson, of Morocco, Ind.; C.Wiltee, L.C.Johnson, Fred Rice, F.Gilbert and Mr. and Mrs. A.Kile of Momence. Aside there were many relatives and neighbors present.

G.M.Boswell

Walter Sorensen Dies:

Walter Sorensen passed away Friday morning, July 24 at his farm home six miles west of Lake Village. Short services were held Monday at the Canady-Boos Funeral Chapel in Momence, Illinois prior to the services conducted by Rev. William Schuster here in the Presbyterian Church in Lake Village Monday afternoon. Mr. Sorensen was born January 5, 1870 in Hyuring (spelled wrong) Denmark and at the age of ten years came to the USA with his parents and lived in the community until at the age of 22 years he was united in marriage to Emma Merrill, they later moved to North Dakota and settled on a homestead. Two children were born to this union, one died in infancy. Later the family migrated to Indiana and settled on their farm west of Lake Village where Mr. Sorensen has made a success of farming and bee keeping for the past 53 years. He leaves to mourn his passing his wife, Emma; a daughter, Mrs. William Graefnitz of Pioneer, Ohio; four sisters, Mrs. Wm. Dixon and Mrs. Paul Therian of Momence, Ill., Mrs. William Boyd of Lake Village, and Mrs. Charles Galogher of Kankakee, Ill.; four brothers, Oscar of British Columbia, Tenus of Calmus, Alberta Canada, Edward and Lancy of Lake Village; two granddaughters, Mrs. William Meadows of Fort Wayne, Ind. And Mrs. Harvey Snyder of Edgerton, Ohio; three great grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends. During the services here soloist Mrs. Porter Madison sang two of Mr. Sorenson's favorite Hymns, "In the Garden" and "Beyond the Sunset". Mrs. Lloyd Arbuckle accompanied on the Hammond Nova Chord. Burial was in the Lake Village Cemetery.

Obituaries

Edward Sorenson

Edward Sorenson, 86, passed away on February 22, 1964. He was born near Lake Village in February 1878. His parents were Soren and Christina (Christenson) Sorenson originally from Denmark. Mr. Sorenson was raised in Lake Village until he was in his twenties. He spent 25 years on the cattle and horse ranges of North Dakota, after which he returned to Lake Village where he bought and sold horses and cattle. For the past four years he had lived with his sister, Effie Gallagher of Kankakee, III.

Mr. Sorenson had never married. He is survived by three sisters, Mrs. Josephine Boyd of Lake Village and Mrs. Effie Gallagher and Mrs. Nora Therian both of Kankakee, Ill. Also surviving are two brothers, Tenus of Canada and Lancy of Lake Village, and many nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held at the Sheets Funeral Home in Lowell, Ind. On Tuesday with Rev. Jon Yost officiating. Burial was in the Lake Village Cemetery.

Mrs. Gallagher Rites Saturday

Mrs. Effie Gallagher, 78 of 1105 S. Third Ave., died Wednesday at St. Mary's Hospital after a short illness. Funeral services will be 1:00 PM Saturday at the Yates Funeral Home, the Rev. Jack North officiating. Burial will be in Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be after 2:00 PM Friday at the funeral home.

Effie Sorenson was born July 18, 1887 in Lake Village, Ind., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Soren Sorenson. She was married to Charles Gallagher in 1904 at Momence, Ill. He died in 1966. She was a 45 year resident of the Kankakee community. Surviving are daughters, Mrs. George Fedde of Van Nuys, Calif. and Mrs. Evelyn O'Brecht of Kankakee; sons Charles E., Walter and Theodore all of Kankakee; five grandchildren and eight great grandchildren; sisters Mrs. Josephine Boyd of Lake Village and Mrs. Nora Therien of Michigan City, Ind., and brothers Tenus of Edmonton, Canada and Lancy of Lake Village.

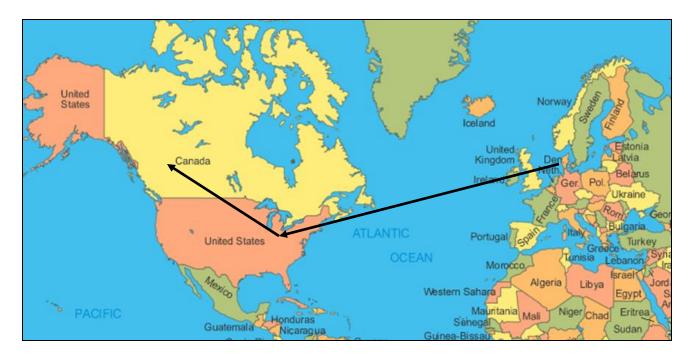
Josephine Boyd

Mrs. Josephine Boyd, 84 passed away Wednesday, July 9 at the George Ade Memorial Hospital after a long illness. She was born in Lake Village on March 12, 1885, the daughter of Soren Sorenson and Christina Christenson. Ten brothers and sisters preceded her is death. Her husband, William Boyd died in 1956. Survivors include sons Adley of Morocco, Chester, Roy and Orville of Lake Village, Lawrence of Momence, and daughters Mrs. Pauline Peterson of Momence and Mrs. Shirley Storey of Morocco, 16 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. Also surviving are one brother, Lancy Sorenson of Lake Village, and one sister, Mrs. Nora Therian of Anderson, Ind. Mrs. Boyd was a lifelong resident of Lake Village and a member of the Presbyterian Church for almost 50 years. Services were held Saturday at the Presbyterian Church with the Rev. August Stork of the Morocco Methodist Church officiating. Burial was in the Lake Village cemetery.

(from Pauline Peterson, daughter of Josephine Sorenson Boyd)

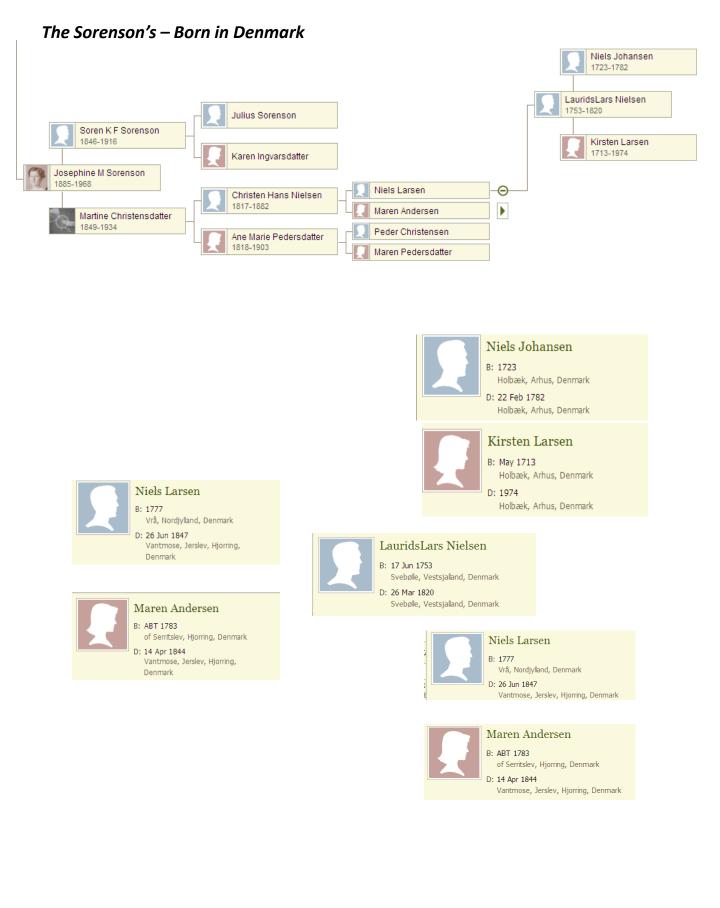
Oscar Christian Sorenson, Born April 22, 1873 in Jutlend Denmark, Died April 13, 1958. He married in Leduc Alberta, Canada – 1907. A son, Frank Sorenson, married Nov. 18, 1933 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. A daughter – Myrtle Hall, married Nov. 7, 1964 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. A daughter, Nora Switzer, married Oct. 14, 1939 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada; and a son Walter Sorenson, married June 7, 1947, Anglican Church in Banff, Alberta, Canada. (from Myrtle Hall) ... Frank had 2 sons and 2 daughters, 1 died in infancy ... they were Wayne, Graham, Donna and Patricia. Nora had one boy and one daughter ... they were Bruce and Linda. Myrtle had one daughter (Shirley) and one adopted son (Garry). Walter had one boy (Preston) and one daughter (Susanna).

The Sorenson's – Denmark to Lake Village, IN – Indiana to Alberta, Canada





Soren Kristian Frederik and Christena Martine Sorenson (nee: Christensen



The Sorenson's – Born in Denmark

Most of the Sorenson-Christenson families came from the following four areas of Denmark:

- Vra
- Hjoring
- Holebaek
- Svebolle



Vra - Hjoring



Holebaek



Svebolle

From Wanda Smith Kearns:

I've got a nice labeled picture, but don't know where she fits in the tree. Any idea where she belongs?

The back of the photo in Victoria Christenson Gatlin's hand is written: Ina Hanson, daughter of Aunt Mary Hanson and Sorn. (signed by Victoria) my mom added "Gatlin". Let me know if you have any ideas.... *Wanda*

This is the daughter of Soren 'Samuel' Hansen and Marie Christensdatter aka 'Marie Christensen'. Marie was the 1st born of the Christenson siblings. Niels Peter was the 3rd born, Christena the 5th born.

Sam and Marie had 10 children that I know of. Ina was the 9th born. Sam and Marie are in the LV cemetery. –Justin



Ina Hanson - daughter of Soren 'Samuel' Hansen and Marie Christensdatter aka 'Marie Christensen'