

# JENSENS IN COPENHAGEN DECEMBER 1899

(By D F Jensen, September 2020) This study was prompted and enabled by the MyHeritage genealogy website, which improved this old black and white photo by colorizing it and then by enhancing it using Artificial Intelligence (AI) techniques. In addition, the software automatically presented isolated headshots of the twenty people in the photograph. The resulting pictures are very impressive.



The photo is of twenty members of the Jensen family. Below are the names numbered as in the photo.

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Mary "Merry" Johanne Franck         | 11. Alexandra Elvira Wenck Jensen |
| 2. Kathrine Frederikke Jensen          | 12. Alma Isabella Jensen          |
| 3. Ella Johanne Frederikke Jensen      | 13. Lars Jensen                   |
| 4. Esther Margrethe Franck             | 14. Hans Christian Jensen         |
| 5. Maren Sophie Juliane Jensen Madsen. | 15. Charles Valdemar Jensen       |
| 6. Hanna "Hani" Marie Jensen Lund.     | 16. Jens Vilhelm Lund             |
| 7. Emelia Alexandra Astrid Jensen      | 17. Oda Dora Elizabeth Lund       |
| 8. Ivan Wilhelm Lund                   | 18. Gudrun Elizabeth Jensen       |
| 9. Doris Elna Ophelia Lund             | 19. Rasmus Frederick Jensen       |
| 10. Waldemar Otto Jensen               | 20. Frederick Wilhelm Franck      |

What we know about this picture is based on the remarks of Esther Franck Magnussen and our jottings as she responded to questions about it through the years whenever she visited the U.S. She posed with the family when she was about 4 years old and it must be assumed that some of what she herself knew about the picture was later hearsay from her elders. To further complicate things, Esther's memory was evidently shaky: the three sets of notes we have are contradictory with respect to some of the people. So, I can't guarantee that all the pictures are accurately matched with the names. Indeed, I long thought that number 15 was a woman but the enhancement headshot shows clearly that it is a young man in his late teens.

Was the picture taken on the occasion of a funeral? Hanna has a book on her lap. Is it a Bible? If a funeral, certainly not that of the mother or father of Charles, Catherine, etc.. They both had died years before Esther was born in October 1895. We know that Charles was living in New York in 1897. If Esther is judged to be about 4 years old, that would put the picture near the end of 1899. The occasion then could very well be an End-of-the-Century celebration.

Analysis of this picture is further complicated by the fact that the children and adults did not arrange themselves in family groups. The five men, tall, all stood in the back row, two boys in the front row right, the three youngest girls clustered about Catherine Jensen Franck, front, left. In the back row, right, the two Freds stood together.

Before reading this study, one should read the following Wikipedia articles about Scandinavian naming customs and laws. (You may already be familiar with them.) We knew there were many Jensens but the truth about Danish names is much worse than we thought and it's further complicated by being in an *old way* versus *new way* transition since 1771. It's enough to drive a person crazy.

On a few documents it is apparent that the recorder insisted on imposing the new legal naming rules and so recorded the Jensens as Rasmussens, their father's surname, even though *they* were still (partially) following the patronymic system.

## In Denmark

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The most common Danish last names – or family names -- or [surnames](#) --are [patronymics](#), that is, they are derived from the father's FIRST NAME and they end in *-sen*; for example *Rasmussen*, originally meaning "son of Rasmus" (Rasmus' son). Approximately one-third of the [Danish](#) population bear one of the ten most common surnames. More than two-thirds have a patronym ending in *-sen* in their full name. Many of the patronymics are, however, very rare, local, or testimony of unusual descent, e.g.: **Heilesen** from [Northern Jutland](#), **Holdensen** and **Boldsen** from the former Duchy of [Schleswig](#) . Common classes of surnames are occupational (e.g., *Møller* - miller, *Schmidt* - smith, and *Fisker* – fisher; or topological or geographic, for example names that refer to a village or farmstead inhabited by ancestors. Other higher class people took heritable surnames during the following centuries: [clergy](#) often *Latinized* names (e.g. *Pontoppidan* was derived from *Broby* or *bridgetown*) and artisans often *Germanized* names.

Slowly, *naming laws* applying to all citizens were issued starting in 1771 (for the [Duchy of Schleswig](#) only) and then in 1828. The rural population only reluctantly gave up the traditional primary patronyms. Several naming laws followed; in 1856, 1904, 1961, 1981, and 2005. The result of the first act was that most people took a patronymic surname as their heritable family name, with the overwhelming dominance of a few surnames as a consequence. Later acts have attempted to motivate people to change to surnames that would allow more certain identification of individuals.

The table below lists the top five surnames in Denmark in 1971 and 2012. The general tendency over the past century has been to give up the commonest names and adopt less frequently used ones.

Rank	Surname	1971 Bearers	2012 Bearers
1	Jensen	368,631	264,824
2	Nielsen	349,126	264,159
3	Hansen	297,937	220,956
4	Pedersen	203,426	166,417
5	Andersen	188,359	161,379

## In Norway

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The most common Norwegian surnames were originally patronymic, commonly ending with the suffixes "-ssen", "-sson", "-sdatter", "-sdotter" which is the genitive *s* plus the suffix *sen* or *son* for son or *datter* or *dotter* for daughter. The possessive *s* was often dropped; compare Hanssen and Hansen. In 1923, it was ordered by law in Norway that each family should have a single, hereditary last name. Surnames derived from place names commonly originated as farm names. Most families took a patronymic name, but some adopted a farm name. Today, the patronymic names are increasingly being left for the toponyms; 22.4% of the entire Norwegian population had a "-sen"-name in 2009, while the share is down to 18.4% for the newborns of 2009.

The most common Norwegian surnames would include many names which originated as farm names: Bakke/Bakken (hill or rise), Berg/Berge (mountain or hill), Dahl/Dal (valley), Haugen/Haugan (hill or mound), Lie (side of a valley), Moen (meadow), or Rud (clearing).

In Norway *Jensen* is the ninth most common name.

**Let's begin with my Great, Great, Great, Grand-father:**

**Peder Rasmussen 1741 - 10/23/1824 He married Mette Pedersdatter 1756 - 5/28/1830 .  
Among their children was Rasmus Pedersen.**

**Rasmus Pedersen 8/17/1777 - and his wife, Bodild Jensdatter 1782 - had a child named:**

**Jens Rasmussen 4/15/1818 – 10/12/1893 who married 10/30/1846  
Johanna Jochumsdatter 1818 –6/2/1887.**

**In the 1870 Denmark Census Jens was listed as a laborer.**

**Jens Rasmussen and Johanne Jochumsdatter had nine children but only six of them are in the group photo. The third child, Niels Peter Jensen, was employed in a distant part of Denmark. The fourth child, Rasmus Jensen, (a twin of Lars) lived only five months. The sixth child, my Grandfather, Carl Johannes, had already emigrated to New York. His photo with his wife, Mary Healy, is included below but was taken 23 years later in Brooklyn, New York in 1923.**

**Headshots of the nine children are presented here, numbered, in birth order. Their spouses and children, if known, are also shown. The numbers from the group photo are indicated in parentheses. Information of interest is also included. The symbol “> greater than” means the event occurred after the date listed.**

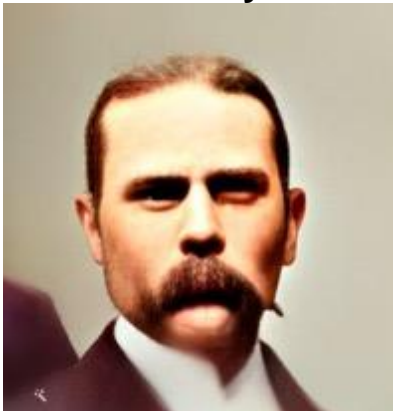
- 1. J&J's daughter, age 50 at the time of the photo: She was a guesthouse manager. We have the original will she wrote shortly before she died of rectal cancer.**

**Maren Sophie Juliane Jensen Madsen (5) 5/25/1847 - 12/8/1907  
m Valdemar Madsen -10/27/1884 (Not in photo.) (No children)**



2. J&J's son, age 49.

**Hans Christian Jensen (14) 8/12/1848 – >11/5/1930 Dance teacher  
m 4/15/1876 Pouline Elizabeth Henry Jensen 10/7/1852 - >11/5/1925(Nip.)**

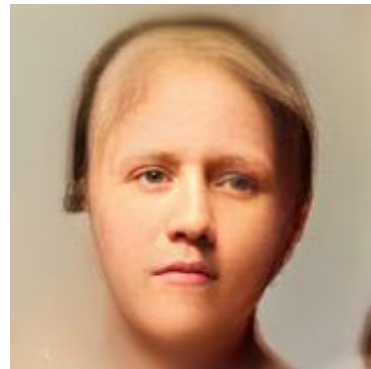
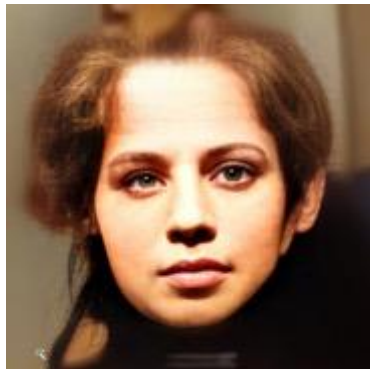


**Their children:**

**Charles Valdemar (15) Age 19. 9/14/1878 -**

**Alma Isabella (12) Age 16. 4/23/1881 - >11/5/1925 m. 10/7/1906 Louis Kroll 9/4/1882 -**

**Gudrun Elizabeth (18) Age 7. 8/17/1890 – >11/5/1930 Assistant dance teacher**



3. J&J's son, age 47. On 1/11/1896 on a police registration his occupation was "clerk." The 2/1/1911 Census records him and Karen as Rasmussen.

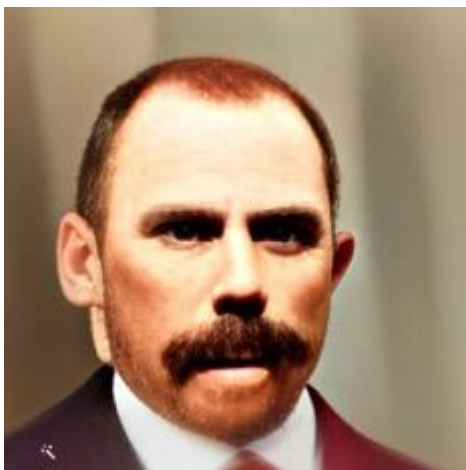
**Niels Peter Jensen / Rasmussen(Nip) 2/1/1850 - >2/1/1911  
m Karen Rasmussen(Nip) 11/22/1852 - >2/1/1911**

4. J&J's son. (Nip) Records show this first Rasmus had the same birthdate as Lars but do not give other evidence of twinning. He lived less than 7 months.

**Rasmus Jensen 5/3/1853 - 11/24/1853 Twin of Lars? (Nip.)**

5. J&J's son, age 44. In 1915 it was reported in a police registration document (a kind of local census) that at age 62 Lars was living with his sister Hani and her daughter, who were both also divorced.

**Lars Jensen (13) 5/3/1853 – Master Baker  
m divorced from Flora Ludovica Clothilda Nielsen 1859 –**



**Lars and Flora's son, age 13. Went to New York, lived with Karl and Mary for a while, settled in Connecticut, married, ran a motel, had two daughters, retired to Florida.**

**Waldemar Otto Jensen (10) 11/27/1884 - 1964  
m 8/21/1911 Helen Friedman**



**Waldemar and Helen's children:  
Lillian Jensen m Peter Albisani  
Selma Jensen**

6. J&J's son Karl was age 43 at the time of the Copenhagen picture. However, the picture below (split here) was taken on 11/17/1923 in Brooklyn at the wedding of his daughter Rose Johanna to William Trumbull. It is the only picture we have of Karl. He was 68, Mary, his wife, was 54. In Europe he was a "journeyman printer." He came to New York in 1887 and became a typesetter for Pulitzer's *NY World*. Mary came to New York in 1892 and worked as a domestic. Four children survived. Karl and Mary are my Grandparents:

**Karl Johannes Jensen, (Nip) 11/29/1854 - 4/26/1926**  
**m 10/17/1894. Mary Bridget Healy 5/1/1869 - 4/3/1940**



7. J&J's son, age 41, cabinetmaker, and his wife, age 35.  
**Rasmus Frederick Jensen (19) 10/11/1856 – 12/19/1921**  
**m 10/27/1883 Alexandra Elvira Wenck (11) 9/12/1862 – 3/16/1906**



**Their children, ages 14 and 11:**  
**Emilie Alexandra Astrid (7) 12/19/1883 -**  
**Ella Johanne Frederikke (3) 9/27/1886- m Henry Carl Vilhelm Haagensen 4/5/1884-**



8. J&J's daughter, age 38 and husband, age 43. A locksmith, he made safes and vaults.

**Kathrine Frederikke Jensen (2) 8/4/1859 – 1936**

**m Frederick Wilhelm Franck (20) 1/4/1854 –**



**Their daughters:**

**Mary "Merry" Johanne Franck (1) age 14. 10/24/1883 - 1978**

**m Evald Jerichau 1/21/1878 - 1949**

**Esther Margrethe Franck (4) age 3 or 4. Became a dancer. 10/13/1895 - 10/13/1992**

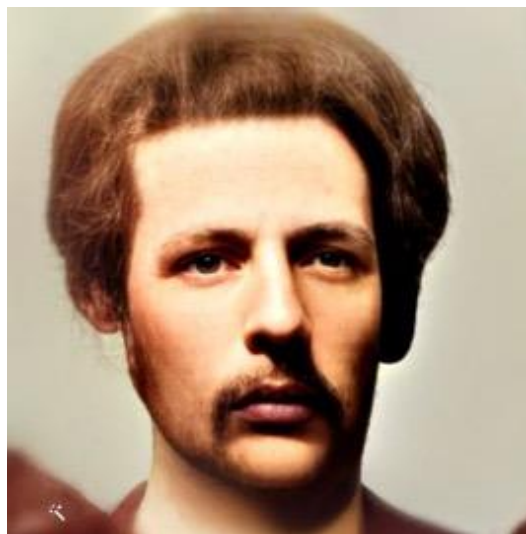
**m 1941 Eric Magnussen 5/14/1884 - 2/24/1961 (The noted silversmith.)  
(No children)**





9. J&J's Daughter, age 35. Her husband was an engineer/shipbuilder.

**Hanna "Hani" Marie Jensen (6) 2/27/1862 -  
m, d Jens Vilhelm Lund (16) age 34. 11/30/1863 -**



**Their children, below:**

**Oda Dora Elizabeth Lund (17) age 14. 1/29/1883 - m Ibsen**

**Doris Elna Ophelia Lund (9) age 10. 4/9/1887 - m**

**Ivan Wilhelm Lund (8) age 8. 1/24/1889 - 8/31/1976.**

**m Olga Eva Jacobsen (Nip.) 12/1/1892 - 11/4/1971**

**Ayoe Ginja Lund (Nip.) 3/26/1914 -**



During the 1700s, records show, the family was engaged in farming at the management level and lived in or near the town of Jyderup in the western part of Zealand, the island that has Copenhagen on its east side, near Sweden. Many family baptisms, confirmations, marriages and burials were recorded at the Lutheran Church of Jyderup, which goes back to before the 1100s.



**Jyderup Church**



**Assistens Kirkegaard (Cemetery)**

In the 1800s the family left farming and moved to Copenhagen but for some functions returned to Jyderup Church where, presumably, they still had some family and where their ancestors were buried. Before the Census of 2/1/1870 the family had moved to Jagtvej, (hunting road) a very long street in Copenhagen. So far we have not found a house number for where on Jagtvej they lived.

In Copenhagen, church-related family events happened at various churches including Vor Frue Kirke (Church of Our Lady), which was designated a Cathedral.

Its construction began no later than 1187, but it has been destroyed and rebuilt a number of times including once by a British bombardment in 1807 during the Napoleonic Wars when the British insisted that Denmark surrender its fleet of ships before they were captured by the French. Denmark, trying to remain neutral, resisted but had to surrender the fleet to stop the destruction of the city.





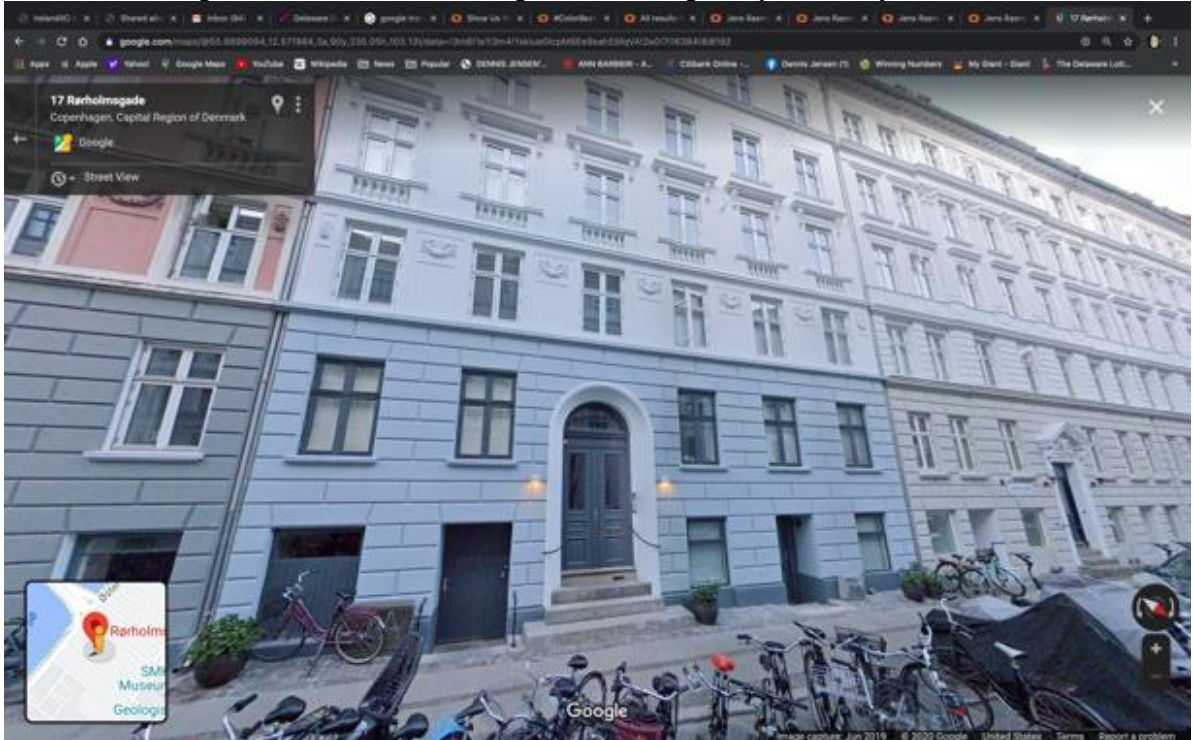
**Vor Frelzers Kirke (Church of Our Saviour)** Construction of this church, with a staircase on the outside of the steeple, began in 1682. The tower was finished in 1752. It survived the British bombardment of 1807.



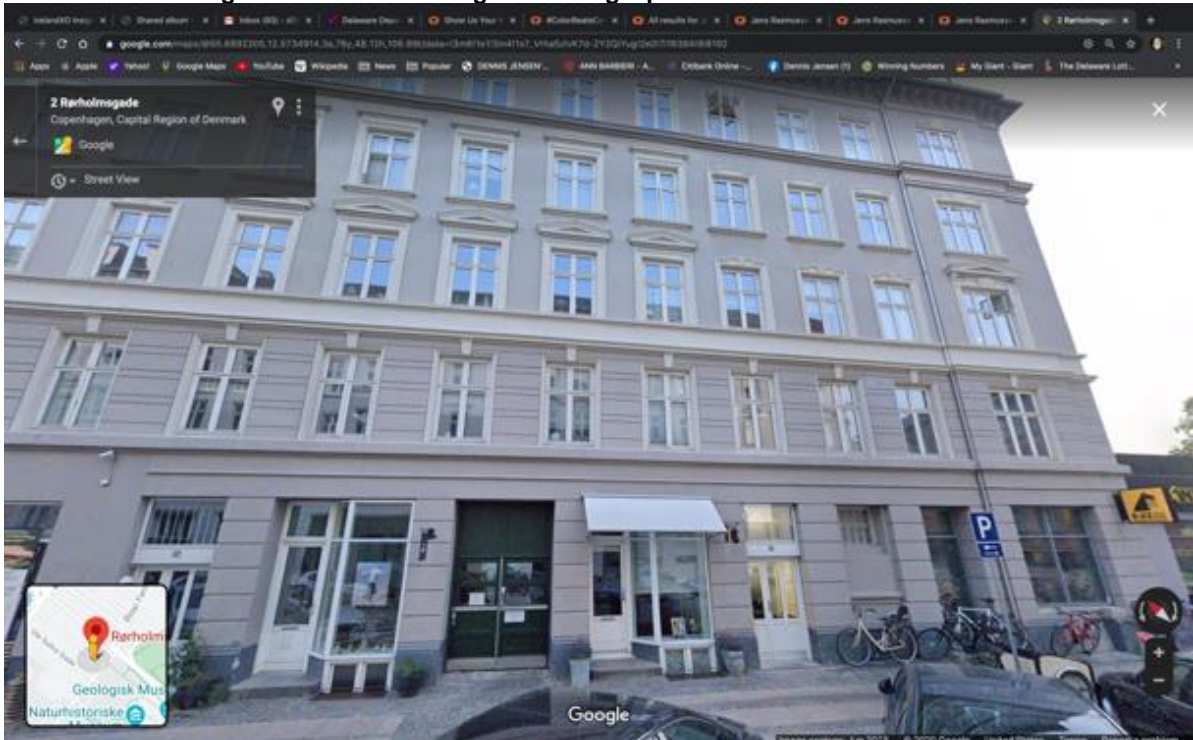
**Sankt Johannes Kirke (St John's Church)**. First built in 1861, it was the first to be built outside the city's medieval fortification wall, which had been proven irrelevant by the British bombardment of 1807.

The 2/1/1880 Census shows the Jens Rasmussen family living at Ravensborg Square.

The 2/1/1890 Census shows the Jens Rasmussen family on page 861. The street address is given on page 849 as 17 Rohrholmegade. Here is 17 Rohrholmegade from Google Maps, January 2019. Was it the same in 1890?



A burial invoice dated 10/15/1893 shows the address as Rohrholmegade 2A. The entrance marked 2A is the white door to the right of the white awning. This Google picture is from June 2019.



**Bodil comments:**

Peder Rasmussen Age 60 Born 1741 Married Farmer who lives on the farm. I don't know how to translate it precisely, but it means as I have described before, that he either owns the farm or he is a Manager of the farm. The danish text is Husbonde bonde og gårdbeboer.

## DESCENDENCY CHARTS (Eight Generations: 1741 to 2020)

Peder Rasmussen 1741 - 10/23/1824 m Mette Pedersdatter 1756 - 5/28/1830 .

\*Rasmus Pedersen 8/17/1777 - m Bodild Jensdatter 1782 –  
Hans Pedersen 1779 - <1787  
Jens Pedersen 4/29/1781-  
Ane Pedersdatter 5/11/1783-  
Baby boy Pedersen 1785-1785  
Maren Pedersdatter 5/28/1787-  
Mette Pedersdatter 8/16/1789-  
Christian Pedersen 11/11/1792- 1/11/1830 m Maren Jensdatter  
Four Children

\*Rasmus Pedersen 8/17/1777 - m Bodild Jensdatter 1782 –

Mariana Rasmusdatter 1816-  
\*Jens Rasmussen 4/15/1818 – 10/12/1893 m 10/30/1846 Johanna Jochumsdatter 1818 –6/2/1887.  
Ane Cathrine Rasmusdatter 1819-

Note: Jens and Johanna Rasmussen followed the traditional *patronymic* naming system of their forebears and applied the *Jensen* surname to their children even though a few non-family recorders insisted on applying the surname *Rasmussen* to them according to the *new* system. His *children*, however, abandoned the old *patronymic* system and continued to use *Jensen* as the surname for *their* children. Subsequent generations also followed the new system,

\*Jens Rasmussen 4/15/1818 – 10/12/1893 m 10/30/1846 Johanna Jochumsdatter 1818 –6/2/1887.

Maren Sophie Juliane Jensen Madsen 5/25/1847 - 12/8/190 m Valdemar Madsen -10/27/1884  
(No children)  
Hans Christian Jensen 8/12/1848 – >11/5/1930 m 4/15/1876 Poulina Elizabeth Henry Jensen 10/7/1852 - >11/5/1925  
Charles Valdemar 9/14/1878 -  
Alma Isabella 4/23/1881 - >11/5/1925 m. 10/7/1906 Louis Kroll 9/4/1882 -  
Gudrun Elizabeth 8/17/1890 – >11/5/1930 Assistant dance teacher  
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Rasmus Jensen 5/3/1853 - 11/24/1853 (5 months) Twin of Lars?  
Lars Jensen 5/3/1853 – Master Baker m, d Flora Ludovica Clothilda Nielsen 1859 –  
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Lillian Jensen m Peter Albisani  
Selma Jensen  
Charles Johannes Jensen 11/29/1854 - 4/26/1926 m 10/17/1894 Mary Bridget Healy 5/1/1869 - 4/3/1940  
Catherine Jensen m Frank Kreutzer  
Harry Kreutzer  
Rose Jensen m William Lesyear Trumbull  
Mary Trumbull m Ed Walsh  
Children  
Robert Gilmore Trumbull m Catherine Woodward  
Children  
Elizabeth Jensen m Gerard Morgan Weber  
Elizabeth Weber m Joseph Mechelay  
Children  
Children  
Patricia Weber m William McShea  
Children  
Children  
Gerard Jensen Weber m Carole Imelda Hudson  
Theresa Weber m Michael Grifferty  
Children  
Cecelia Weber m Douglas Whittaker  
Children  
Regina Weber  
Catherine Judith Weber  
Harry Francis Jensen m Julia Bernadette Mathea  
James Thaddeus Jensen 7/9/1935 m Ann Thomas  
No children  
Henry Allen Jensen 12/25/1936- m Monika Gretschel  
John Henry Jensen 10/ / 1962- m Sheila  
Jackie Alicia Jensen  
James Jensen m  
Gerard Jensen  
Jennifer Jensen  
Dennis Francis Jensen m 6/30/1968 Kathleen Mary Barbieri 1/4/1938 – 6/28/2018  
Anton Dennis Jensen 7/14/1971 - m 5/13/. Sue Young Park  
Francesca Ji Min 8/ /20.

Molly Min Ji 8/ / 20 -  
Daniel Charles Jensen 12/21/1973 -  
Maryann Jensen m Vincent Anthony Scotti  
Gregory Vincent Scotti m d Christine Kollig  
Anya Scotti

Paul Jensen  
Judith Cathrine Jensen m d Carlos Augusto Chiri  
Ana Lisa Chiri m Haas  
Children  
Julia Alicia Chiri m Daniel Madariaga  
Children

Elizabeth Rose Jensen

Rasmus Frederick Jensen 10/11/1856 - 12/19/1921 m 10/27/1883 Alexandra Elvira Wenck 9/12/1862 - 3/16/1906  
Emilie Alexandra Astrid Jensen 12/19/1883 -

Ella Johanne Frederikke Jensen 9/27/1886- m Henry Carl Vilhelm Haagensen 4/5/1884-

Kathrine Frederikke Jensen 8/4/1859 - 1936 m Frederick Wilhelm Franck 1/4/1854 -

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No children)

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Ivan Wilhelm Lund 1/24/1889 - 8/31/1976 m Olga Eva Jacobsen 12/1/1892 - 11/4/1971

Ayoe Ginja Lund 3/26/1914 -

Vvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvv

Jyderup Peder Rasmussen 1741 Born here

Rasmus Pedersen 1777

Jens Rasmussen 1818. Lived on Jagtvej 2/1/1870