

# NIELS CHRISTIANSEN JENSEN AND KAREN SEIRSEN

## Niels Christiansen, JENSEN

BORN: 15 Jun 1826  
 PLACE: Solbjerg, Aarhus, Denmark  
 MARR: 15 Jul 1853

DIED: 7 Apr 1908  
 PLACE: Castle Dale, Emery, UT

## John Young JENSEN

BORN: 18 Apr 1858  
 PLACE: Raunhoft, Denmark  
 MARR: 3 Nov 1881

DIED: 23 Sep 1937  
 PLACE: Castle Dale, Emery, UT

## Karen SEIRSEN

BORN: 13 Feb 1828  
 PLACE: Tingstovnen, Denmark  
 DIED: 27 May 1909  
 PLACE: Fountain Green, UT

## Ernest Eugene JENSEN

BORN: 30 Oct 1890  
 PLACE: Castle Dale, Emery, UT  
 MARR: 5 Apr 1916  
 PLACE: Salt Lake City, UT  
 DIED: 7 Jul 1945  
 PLACE: Price, Carbon, UT

## Sarah Andrea NIELSEN

BORN: 31 Jan 1865  
 PLACE: Fairview, UT  
 DIED: 19 Apr 1937  
 PLACE: Price, Carbon, UT  
 PLACE: Fountain Green, UT

## Andrew NIELSEN

BORN: 1 Jan 1827  
 PLACE: Scanderborg, Gentofys, Denmark  
 MARR: 5 Sep 1851  
 PLACE: Denmark  
 DIED: 12 Sep 1917  
 PLACE: Fairview, Sanpete, Utah

## Sarah RASMUSSEN

BORN: 6 Sep 1827  
 PLACE: Lystrup, Aarhuse, Denmark  
 DIED: 22 Mar 1915  
 PLACE: Fairview, Sanpete, Utah

**NIELS CHRISTIANSEN JENSEN AND KAREN SEIRSEN**  
**(Parents of John Y. Jensen)**



NIELS C. JENSEN AND KAREN SEIRSEN  
(Niels Jensen or Christiansen)

Christian Rudolph Phillip Jensen of Horhaven joined the then "unpopular" Mormon church in 1852. Later, his son, Niels Christiansen Jensen, also joined the Church, being baptized October 28, 1855. These men were among the first in their section of Denmark to join the new religion from America, and Niels, John Y.'s father, became a staunch defender and supporter of the Mormon Faith.

Under Danish law, the local Parish Priests of the late Lutheran Church acted as the Registrars of the government, and were required to keep the official records of births, deaths, marriages, census, and the military roll. Apparently it "irked" the local priest to be required to enter the records of a Mormon in his good Lutheran Parish Register. The Priest could not christen the child, and receive a fee, yet he was required to enter the birth. Their children's names do not appear in the register of the Trandberg Parish. The entries state that on such a date, a son or daughter "... was born to Niels Christiansen and Karen Jensen, the Mormons of Osterby."

Under the old Danish custom and in the Registers, the children of Niels are known by the surname of Nielsen. However, elders of the Church suggested that the family should all keep the same surname of the father, so the children took the surname of "Christiansen".

It would appear from the Parish Register that Niels and his family were the only Mormons in the village at this time, and undoubtedly they were subject to considerable treatment from the local populace. At least, Niels soon moved (about 1857) to the village of Raunholt, Parish of Tiset, Aarus Amt. This was the home of his wife's father and family. And, no doubt, Niels commenced to make plans to "go up to Zion", the promised land in the rocky Mountains.

The 1860 Census of Aarus County, Tiset Parish:

Niels Christiansen	Age 34	Hustfadder	Mormon
Karen Jensdatter	Age 32	Wife	Mormon
Jens Christian Nielsen	Age 7	Born	Trandjborg P.
Anne Johana Nielsdatter	Age 5	"	"
Andrew Christian Nielsen	Age 4	"	"
Johan Young Nielsen	Age 2	"	Tiset P.

Niels was a poor country farmer, and America was a long way from Denmark. It appears that Niels soon decided if nothing better could be arranged, he would send the family to America - one by one. For, according to Fred Anderson, of Huntington, Utah, his mother Anna Johana, was sent to Zion alone, in 1864, when she was only nine years old. According to this story, young Anna walked across the plains. Sometimes she was permitted to ride on the wagon tongue, or cross-trees of a wagon.

She would help gather prairie "firewood" in her apron (buffalo chips) for the evening fires of the company she traveled with. When she arrived in Salt Lake city, she was alone, and she nearly starved for two months, living on potatoes only. She was finally able to make her way down to Fountain Green, Utah, where an uncle was living (the uncle was Soren, brother to Niels).

Luck seemed to come to the family, either through the emigration fund, or some other means. In 1866 the entire family migrated to Utah. Afterwards, John Young wrote some of the details in his personal history.

The grandfather, Christian R. P. Jensen, and a brother of Niels, Soren, had preceded them to Zion, and were already located in Fountain Green.

When the family settled in Fountain Green, the Church authorities suggested the family of Niels should take the same surname as the grandfather, of Jensen. Accordingly, all the children changed their surname from Christiansen, to Jensen. However, Niels continued to go by the surname of Christiansen, and the two children who were born to him in Fountain Green also kept the surname of Christiansen.

Living was hard, and the family was poor. Niels and his wife had to "farm out" the children. They worked for other people for board and room and a few clothes. But the children learned to work.

At a General Church Conference in June 1877, Brigham Young called for a settlement of Castle Valley in Emery County. This was the last colonization order the great leader gave, as he died some two months later. In the spring of 1877 a group of men had been sent to explore the headwaters of the San Rafael River in Castle Valley. They reported good water available.

On September 22, 1877, a Priesthood meeting was held in Mt. Pleasant to organize the settlement of Castle Valley. Only a few men responded, Andrew, John Y.'s older brother was one of the few. Not too favorable reports had been given of the area. Even the Indians avoided the area. The Indians' name for the country was "Blow Valley" because of the winds.

The company was finally organized. The first caravan consisted of five wagons drawn by oxen. Sixteen men were in the party, including Andrew, and his older brother, James. They arrived in November of 1877. They built roads and bridges and passes for wagons.

Orange Seeley and a group of men had been in Castle Valley in 1875, with cattle for summer grazing. They had built a dug-out shelter at Castle Dale, about 20 x 30 feet in size.

Niels C. Jensen, farmer and apiarist (keeper of bees), son of Christian Rudolph Phillip Jensen and Ane Johanne Rasmussen, was born in Denmark June 15, 1825. He joined the Mormon church in Denmark, and came to Utah in 1866, crossing the plains in an ox train under Captain Reynolds, and located in Fountain Green. He took part in the Black Hawk War as a home guard. He served two years as water master in Fountain Green, and was a shareholder in the Co-op Store.

He was for many years a ward teacher, and did about ten years of missionary work in his native land before coming to Utah. He came to Castle Dale in 1890, and has since been engaged in farming and bee-keeping.

He was married in Denmark July 7 (or 15), 1853, to Karen Jensen or Seisen, born September 28, 1827, daughter of Jens Seisen and Johanna Rasmussen.

They had nine children - James C. Johannah, Andrew, Mary, Maria, John Y., Niels, Joseph and Soren.

Niels died in Castle Dale April 7, 1908, and Karen died May 27, 1901 in Fountain Green. Niels's other wives were (2) Anna "C" Nielsen, sealed June 29, 1904, and (3) Jane Annie Dobbs, October 11, 1983 (in Polygamy).