

Doris Lauritzen

(Oct. 28 1829 – Nov. 17 1922)

While Doris Lauritzen was alive she wrote a one page paper on her life but she didn't say anything about her life and family as a child. About 1959, 37 years after Doris died, Dr. Clyde Hurst wrote his history of Doris. Because of the lack of written records on Doris, Dr. Hurst spent considerable time and effort interviewing the grandchildren of Doris. From these interviews, Dr. Hurst was able to get a history that was consistent and agreed with each grandchild's memory. From those memories and from genealogical records provided by Clark L. Petersen, Dr. Hurst was able to write his impressive history. The following is a history of Doris, which I compiled from the following sources: Clark Petersen, Dr. Hurst, and Dora Browning.

DORIS LAURITZEN'S ANCESTORS

Margaretha Jacobsen mother to Doris Lauritzen, was born July 1, 1794 in Kalleby Schleswig-Holstein Prussia. Kalleby is about 24 kilometers east of Flensburg Germany. Until 1864 this area belonged to Denmark. Margaretha's family can trace their direct line to Peter Rasch who was born about 1564-1570 in Westerholm Schleswig-Holstein, Prussia. Peter Rasch's mother was Anna Grevinde Af Egmont whose father was Count Lamoral Von Egmont of Belgium and Holland. Count Egmont was beheaded by the Duke of Alba, because the Spanish government thought he was plotting against Spain because of his opposition to the inquisition (at the time, the Spanish controlled Holland and Belgium, which were known as the "Low Countries"). His execution was one of the reasons the Low Countries rebelled against Spain and fought for 80 years to gain their freedom. The last thirty years of the struggle was part of the terrible Thirty Year War that permanently established the religious boundaries of Europe. Most of Europe was left devastated and bankrupt because of the war.

Margaretha Jacobsen Lauritzen could also trace her family to a former Catholic priest who was the advisor to a Norwegian Prince who governed Schleswig Holstein at the time of the reformation. From his services, the now Lutheran priest received a large farm formally belonging to the Catholic Church.

Another of Margaretha (Rasch) relatives (not a direct ancestor) had a large estate on the island of Fyn between Odense and the East coast of Fyn. Clark Petersen in his research found an article in a magazine from Odense that gave the history of the Rasch estate. The article stated that the owner of the Rasch estate had been Prime Minister. I visited the estate with my family in 1974 and talked with the current owner. The current owner corrected me when I told him that our distant relative had been Prime Minister of Denmark, he told me our relative had held another important position serving the king. The current owner said he would have liked to have shown us the house while we were visiting, but the mother of the queen was staying with them and he didn't want to disturb the routine of the estate.

About 1900, Lorentzo "Wren" Petersen (Doris Lauritzen's grandson) was in Iowa and visited one of Doris's cousins. The family treated Wren very kindly and was interested in knowing more about their Utah cousins. Wren said that the family was prosperous and had a brewery and other commercial interests. The cousin was also mayor of Davenport, Iowa.

In 2008 I checked the Davenport city web site and there was no mayor with Jacobsen connections. Checking the internet further we found that from Clinton, Iowa, a town 32 miles from Davenport, there was a Jacobsen connection. The Clinton Jacobsens were merchants and politicians (U.S. congressman from Iowa) originally from Schleswig Holstein.

Margaretha's family from 1564 until 1794 (when Doris was born) continued to live in a rural area close to Westerholm. This area seen from Google Earth and seen from family pictures seems to be very fertile farm land. During the 250 years (8 generations) from Peter Rasch until Margaretha Jacobsen, the genealogical

records of the family are fairly complete and they indicate to me that they were of the landowning class. Margaretha's first marriage to a prosperous businessman would be another indication that the family had some status in the community.

There are 8 generations between Margaretha and Peter Rasch. There are also eight generations between Margaretha and grown children from her descendants. Margaretha's family kept the memory of Margaretha alive until now. It is most likely that Margaretha also was acquainted with the history of her family.

EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF MARGARETHA JACOBSEN 1 July 1794- 26 March 1879

Born July 1, 1794 at Kalleby Schlesvig Holstein, then part of Denmark.

Married June 21 1809 Johan Adolf Bruhn. She was 15 and he was 31.

They had a son that died the same day that he was born.

Her husband died 1810.

In 1819 she had an illegitimate son, Johann Ehrlich Thomas Brodersen,

She then became house keeper in a castle near Kiel, Germany.

On the 31 aug 1826 Margaretha married Lorentz Lauritzen, who was coachman to the king of Denmark.

On the 16 of February 1827 they had a son Johannes,

On the 28 October 1829 Doris Lauritzen was born.

After Doris was born, Margaretha and Lorentz had at least one more son, Hans Christian Lorentzen.

DORIS LAURITZEN

Doris was born on 28 October 1829. Her father was the King of Denmark not Lorentz Lauritzen. The king needed a male heir to inherit the throne and had Doris been a male she would have been the King's heir. This is the important point of Doris's story setting her apart from being just an illegitimate child of the King. Doris attended the royal school and was well educated. She spoke many languages. On the back of her tombstone she had a ship's anchor carved into it. This to me, is an indication that her background and education gave her a special respect and love for Danish history and Danish sea faring tradition. Doris, by attending the royal school, would have had this knowledge emphasized. Doris had a regal demeanor and was considered a lady and respected by those who knew her.

PERSONAL STORIES

The King would publicly acknowledge Doris by calling her his "darling girl". She was accepted as a princess and the servants treated her with much respect. She traveled with the King and could remember details when a ship she was supposed to have been on sank and she lost many of her personal belongings. She referred to beautiful music that she heard from the King's musicians. Doris had a large portrait of the king dressed in his uniform that she had hung over her bed. Doris would show the picture to her family and tell them that the king was her father. She would make a point to tell everyone what a wonderful man he was. "Doris had vivid memories of their parting because they were fond of each other".

1850 CENSUS

Frederiksborg (district), Holbo (county), Valby (city)

Lorentz Lorentzen, 57, Gift (married), Gardmand (farm owner), husfader (father), Skaevinge Sogn (county)

Vilhelmine Jacobsen, 61, Gift, Hans Hustru (wife), Holsten

Doris Lorentzen, 21, Ugift (not married), Deres datter (their daughter), Holsten

Anders Pedersen, 41, Ugift, Tjenestekarl (farm worker?), Jaegerspris

From these few lines we can learn that their farm only had one worker living with the family, although there may have been other family units living on the farm. This fact indicates that the farm was not a large farm. We learn that Doris, who was 21, was still living at home and her half siblings were already away from home on their own. Doris, according to the census, was considered a daughter to Lorentz Lorentzen.

DORIS LORENTZEN MARRIGE

In March 1851, at the age of 22, Doris Lorentzen married Hans Pedersen 26 "a wealthy farmer"¹. During the war of 1848, Hans volunteered to serve in the army for another person and received money for it. This indicates to me that at that time Hans didn't have a lot of money. During the War, Hans saw much action. While riding on cannon a cannon ball from the enemy knocked the head off his companion who was riding with him. On another occasion while fighting on the Danish lines the bloodshed was so terrible that the fortification filled up with blood that covered his shoes. On his tombstone, he has a figure of a Danish soldier holding a Danish flag indicating to me that he was a proud, patriotic, brave Danish soldier. Before Hans and Doris were married in 1851, neither party seemed to have much money, but while they were married, they acquired a large farm ("wealthy Farmer") where they raised horses for the king of Denmark. The King may have been the source of their wealth. Perhaps the King left a dowry that was the source of funds used to purchase the farm. Hans would have been a good candidate for an arranged marriage as his family was from Valby, where they were landowners. Hans distinguished himself during the war. He was intelligent, ambitious and had the qualities that made him very successful financially when he came to America.

In 1857, Lorentz Petersen the third child was born to Doris and Hans. Also in 1857, the couple gave 500 relchalters (the equivalent of \$____) to Doris's half brother Hans Christian. In 1858, they gave 1000 relchalters to the children of Johann Brodersen who was Doris's half brother. This is another indication that they had money.

In 1863, Doris and Hans immigrated to Utah, USA. In America they had two more children. In 1867 Doris divorced Hans. The reason for the divorce was money. Doris wanted to help everybody that needed help while Hans wanted to build up an estate. To me this shows that Doris, who always had money, didn't value money like Hans who knew what it was like not to have money.

In 1878, after her three oldest children were married Doris became a midwife. At that time there was a shortage of midwives in Utah and some of the leaders knowing of the compassion and intelligence of Doris prevailed upon her to receive the training necessary to do the work. She did a great work and blessed many people with her skill and dedication. It was said that she delivered over 1200 children.

WHICH KING WAS DORIS FATHER?

I think I was responsible for the family accepting Frederick the Sixth as Doris's father. Whenever my father referred to Doris's father it was only as the "King of Denmark". When I returned from Denmark after being there as a Mormon missionary I brought back a Danish history book. In the book, Frederick VI was king when Doris was born and he didn't have a male heir, so I assumed that he was the father. After getting more information on Christian VIII, I believe that he has a better claim to being Doris's father. When Doris was born, Frederick VI was 61 years old and his wife was 62. This precludes the possibility that Frederick would have an heir with the queen because she was too old to have children. The King also spent most of his time in Copenhagen, except visits to the rest of the kingdom. King Christian VIII was 43 years old when Doris was born and his queen was probably younger. The age of the future queen made the possibility of an heir possible. Christian VIII already had an heir in Frederick VII, who was 21 years old when Doris was born. Frederick VII, at the age of 21, had been married a year and had no children. The wife eventually had the marriage annulled and he never did have any children. I think it is probable that

¹ According to Dr. Hurst

Christian knew that his son was sterile and chose Margaretha to be the mother to his possible heir. Because of the importance of Schlesvig Holstein to Denmark, it is probable that he spent a lot of time there as heir to the throne. While living in Schlesvig, he may have decided on a plan to have Margaretha give birth to his son and have the queen claim to be the mother. Doris' birth ended the possibility of having a male heir for Christian, because the king couldn't go through this elaborate scheme twice. It would have been very difficult to have his wife to pretend to be pregnant again.

80 + 20 = 100
Dora Petersen Browning, a granddaughter to Doris Larentzen, spent many years doing genealogical on the Petersen family line and was more knowledgeable about the Petersen family than anybody in 1950. At that time, she wrote a letter (that I have a copy of), where she gives a brief history of Doris and referred to King Christian as the father to Doris. Doris was born ⁴⁴about 1880 and was about ⁴²32 years old when Doris died. During the 32 years that Dora knew Doris she heard Doris repeat her history many times and it was King Christian that Dora remembered as the father of Doris when she wrote her letter.

REASONS I BELIVE THAT DORIS WAS THE DAUGHTER OF CHRISTIAN VIII

1. The extraordinary story of a very respectably lady in Utah claiming to be the daughter of the king of Denmark is so unbelievable that the story should be taken seriously. Doris's mother was married to Lorentz Lauritzen the coachman to the king [a respected position]. After they were married they had a son. Twenty One months later Doris was born. Later Margaretha and Lorentz had another son. What reason would Doris have in believing that she was the daughter to the king unless her story was based on fact?
2. Doris's character. Doris's family, friends, and associates all believed that she was a person of highest character and no one ever questioned her story believing it to be true. Although divorced her ex-husband before dying told some of his grandchildren to always take care of their grandmother because she was the best woman that he had ever known. Hans was in a position to have known the details of Doris story but he never corrected her or had any doubts about her being the daughter to the king.
3. In telling her children and grand children about her life as a child she had many personal stories about her life in the palace. She was well educated, having attended the royal school.
4. She had a large portrait of the king of Denmark in her bedroom. If she didn't believe the king to be her father why would she have hauled the picture from Denmark? While Doris was alive, there were about 800 Danish people living in Hyrum Utah (where Doris lived), and some of them probably saw the picture and recognized the king. If the Danish people of Hyrum had doubted her story, they would not have the respect for her that they did.
5. Doris had money that her sibling didn't. Also, it appears she was treated differently from them. The best explanation for that is that her father was the King of Denmark.
6. The large farm that Hans and Doris owned when they were married was perhaps a dowry that they received from the king.
7. Doris, her mother and stepfather's stories have many connections to the King of Denmark: Housekeeper, Coachman, royal school, moved to Copenhagen with the king, raised horses for the king.
8. Margeretha would have been considered a good selection to be the mother of the future king. It would have been difficult for a lady from a noble family to have agreed to such a scheme. However, Margaretha, a young widow from an old land owning family, would have been a good choice. The fact that she was recently married to the King's coachman and had been a "housekeeper" at the palace may have some bearing on the story. "Housekeeper" could be anyone from a maid to someone who was responsible for the running of the palace.

9. The only information outside of Petersen oral history on Doris Lauritzen that I have comes from Lois Petersen Cowley a great grand daughter. Lois, while visiting Denmark, visited a palace where she told a palace attendant the story of Doris's relationship with the king. The attendant took Lois to a large group picture or tapestry of a royal family and pointed to a small child and said that the girl was Doris. Lois reported this story at a Petersen reunion shortly after she returned from Denmark while the details were fresh on her mind. Lois was a serious intelligent college graduate and school teacher and her story should be taken as support for Doris's family connection to the King.

Last year (2008) my family visited Denmark, where we visited the Danish National Archives and met with Jan Nielsen who worked as an archivist. Mr. Nielsen was very helpful to us and he spent time trying to find a connection between King Christian VIII and Doris using the official directory. He didn't find anything but said that the private collection of Christian might have something. He also suggested that we hire a professional researcher (a retired archivist) to aid us in our search. The cost would be between \$100 and \$120 dollars per hour.

Clair Petersen

August 30, 2009

Doris Lauritzen RESEARCH

If anyone in the family has any interest in finding any information that connects Doris to King Christian VIII or King Frederick VI, now would be a good time to start. Richard and Mary Cahoon were recently in Germany where they worked with a Danish missionary. Perhaps this Danish fellow could be hired or he would know of someone to oversee the gathering of information.

1. We could verify Lois Petersen Cowley's story about the picture of Doris being in a group portrait of a Danish king (Frederick VI or Christian VIII). Someone could visit the palace curators and talk to the curators.
2. We could do research in the private records of King Frederick VI, Christian VIII and Frederick VII to find any personal record connecting Doris to one of the kings. Such records could include: inheritance, dowry, arranged marriage contracts, school expenses, private letters, diaries, etc.

	1765	1770	1775	1780	1785	1790	1795	1800	1805	1810	1815	1820	1825	1830	1835	1840	1845	1850	1855	1860	1865	1870	1875	1880	1885	1890	1895	1900	1905	1910	1915	1920
Frederick VI	1768-1839																															
Christian VIII	1786-1848																															
Frederick VII	1808-1863																															
Margretha Jacobsen	July 1, 1794-1879																															
Doris Lorentzen	1829-1922 (Anna Margretha Dorteia Lorentzen)																															

Doris married in 1851 after Christian VIII died. If she received a dowry from Christian VIII, it should be documented in a will or other document. If Frederick the VIII was a half brother, perhaps he took over the dowry.

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Frederick VI 1768-1839	61 yrs old when Doris was born, Doris was 10 when he died
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Christian VIII 1786-1848 43 yrs old when Doris was born, Doris was 19 when he died

Frederick VII 1808-1863	21 when Doris was born
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Margretha Jacobsen July 1, 1794-1879	35 years old at Doris' birth
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Doris Lorentzen 1829-1922 (Anna Margretha Dorthea Lorentzen)

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