History of Soren Peter Hansen Sorensen

April 16, 1849 – January 31, 1929

Denmark

Written by Joseph F. Buchanan, Aug. 27, 2012
The History of Soren Peter Sorensen

Introduction

In researching and writing about the life of Hans Sorensen over the past two years, I realized that there was little known about his oldest son, Soren Peter. Soren Peter remained in Denmark when the rest of his family emigrated to the United States in 1871 and 1872 as recent converts to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. There were still some ties between Soren Peter and his American family, but not much was known about how Soren Peter lived after his family left. In doing more research into his life and family, I am now able to fill in some details about his life. I feel that his father, Hans, would have us know more about his dear son.

- Joseph F. Buchanan, 27 August 2012

Explanatory Notes

Concerning his name: Soren Peter was known originally as Søren Peter Hansen. Hansen is the patronymic name given him at birth. Many of the subsequent records show his name as either Sørensen or Hansen Sørensen. It appears that for the most part, he retained the last name used by his father. It was becoming a common practice in the latter part of the 1800s to use last names of the father and the use of patronyms was abandoned by the end of the 19th century. Concerning name spelling, the use the ø or ö are interchangeable. In this document, I use ø, ö or just the letter o, but the original was ø.

The source materials for this history include many resources from the Danish National Archives, which are freely available online. The footnotes contain the specific reference information. Also, the first part of the history is taken in large part from the history written (by the same author) about Sören Peter’s father, Hans Sørensen (http://aeb.buchananspot.com/histories/Sorensen/Hans/).

The Story of Søren Peter (Hansen) Sørensen

Søren Peter was the first child of Hans Sørensen and Ane Nielsen. Hans married Ane on September 9, 1848 in Tersløse. In the marriage record, Hans is listed as a weaver. The "arrivals" records of the Tersløse parish show that Hans moved to Tersløse on 17 Oct. 1848, from Kragevig, where he was born and raised, though he was an orphan and lived in many places before that time. Soren’s mother, Ane Nielsen, was from Munke-Bjærgby, which is near Tersløse. Hans served six

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1. Danish Archives Online, Tersløse Holbæk parish records beginning 1842, Opslag 155; p 158.
2. Tilgang Index -7 -34
months in the army at his time, though he doesn't appear to have left the area. The 1846 Military Levying Rolls shows that Hans served as a soldier from December 1, 1848 until June 28, 1849.

Søren Peder was born on April 16, 1849, while his father was still in the army. The records show that they moved from Tersløse to Ruds-Vedby on May 1, 1849 as recorded in parish records. The 1850 census for Ruds-Vedby shows Hans with his wife Ane and their son, Søren Peder. (It should be noted that there were two families living here with the exact same names. Because of this, there are some records that show that Søren had an older sister, born out-of-wedlock, to Hans and Ane. This is also where a middle name of Henrik is mistakenly added to his father's name. I give a detailed explanation about why these are two different families in an appendix of the Hans Sorensen history.)

Parish records show that on November 4, 1852, Hans moved again with his family, this time to Torpegavn, a town in the parish of Hallenslev.

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3. Danish Military Levying Rolls, Ørslev, Holbæk, Denmark, 1846, film 0510120, lægd 67.
4. Danish Archives Online, Tersløse Holbæk parish records beginning 1842, Opslag 11; page 8.
5. Danish Archives Online, Tersløse Holbæk parish records beginning 1841 - Tilgangsliste, Opslag 32; (no page number) line 150.
   Hans Sørensen 25 married [born] Ørslev weaver, housefather
   Ane Nielsen 28 married [born] Tersløse his wife
   Søren Peter Hansen 1 [born] here in this parish their son
7. Danish Archives Online, Hallenslev, Holbæk parish records beginning 1834, Opslag 85; p 86.
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The 1855 census of Hallenslev lists Hans with his family in Torpegavn. In the census, they are listed as belonging to the Lutheran Church.

On Feb. 5, 1858, Hans and Ane were baptized into the LDS church in Torpegavn. The ice was broken with an ax in order that they could be baptized." Hans was confirmed on February 14, 1858, and Ane two days later on the 16th.

About a year later, Hans and his brother Jørgen (who also joined the church) and their families are listed as living in the same town, Gierslev, when the 1860 census was taken.

The 1860 Census lists Hans and his wife, Ane as "Mormon", but the children are still listed as Lutheran. Hans is listed as a day laborer, not as a weaver any more. He is also not listed as a stone-cutter, which was his trade for the remainder of his life. According to a family history, because of his new affiliation with the LDS church, he was no longer allowed to work in his trade as a weaver.

Hans and his family moved to the Aarhus region (also spelled Århus) on the Jutland peninsula fairly soon after moving to Gierslev: "In about 1860 they moved to Jutland (Jyland) thinking they could get away from persecution, but as the Church grew, persecution grew with it, so the Sorensen family endured much those first years." The family settled in the Aarhus region (also spelled Århus) on the Jutland peninsula, where Parley Peter, Soren's youngest brother, was born on July 11, 1862. According to family genealogy, Parley Sorensen was born in Maarslet, a small town southwest of Aarhus. His birth is not recorded in the

8. Danish Archives Online, Hallenslev 1855 Census (Landsogn: Amt: Holbæk, Sogn: Hallenslev ) Opslag 9, page 252, house number 47. Torpegavn
Hans Sørensen, 30; Ane Nielsdatter, 34; Søren Peder Hansen, 6; Methe Marie Hansen, 4; and unnamed child, 1.
9. As recorded in the Aarhus LDS membership records, LDS Family History Library film 0041938, p 157:
Hans Sorensen born 30 October 1825 Kragevig
baptized 5 February 1858 Torpegavn by O. Poulsen
confirmed 14 February 1858 by Andersen emigrated 21/6/72
Ane Sorensen born 25 December 1822 Munkebjergby
baptized 5 February 1858 Torpegavn by O. Poulsen
confirmed 16 February 1858 by O. Poulsen emigrated June 1871
10. Unpublished history, written by his granddaughter, Anna Delila Buchanan Poole.
Hans Sorensen (34), Ane Nielsdatter (37), Søren Peder Sorensen (11), Mette Marie Sorensen (9), Anders Wilhelm Sorensen (6), Sophie Caroline Sorensen (2).
12. Hans Sorensen history, by his daughter Josephine Christensen (via Josephine's daughter, Arla Dean Christensen Ashby), unpublished.
13. Poole, unpublished history, also the same in Sorensen/Day.
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parish records since the family was not part of the local (government) religion. LDS ordinance records show that Soren was baptized in 1861, on May 5 (according to new.familysearch.org). However, others in the family did not believe that he was baptized. For example, Caroline recalls: "My brother, S. Peter Sorensen had not joined the Church so he remained in the Old Country". In later years, Andrew William returned to Denmark and during that time endeavored to convert his brother (see details later in this document).

In Maarslet the family all worked for their living and earned money in hopes of emigration. Ane's history reports: "In 1865 the three oldest children were hired out to learn a trade. Soren Peter was learning the trade of a tailor, Mette Marie started as a maid, and Andrew William worked as a hired hand." 15

The Wallace Sorensen and Anne Poole histories mention the circumstances bringing about their move from the Maarslet area to the big city of Aarhus: "Finally the Elders prevailed on the family to move into the city of Aarhus and live at the Church headquarters there. This they did and grandmother [Ane] kept house and cooked for the Elders faithfully and well for five years. Grandfather [Hans] was faithful to his callings in the Church. The entire family enjoyed the sweet spirit of the Gospel, although some of the members had to leave home to work to help make a living for the family." 16

War was declared between Germany (Prussia/Austria) and Denmark in 1864. The war, or the disputed territory that caused the war, was just 190 kilometers (114 miles) south of the home of Soren's family. It does not appear that Hans and his family were directly affected by the war. Hans was nearly 40 at the time and Soren was 15, so they probably were not enlisted into the army.

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The Hans Sorensen Family in Aarhus, about 1868
Andrew William, Ane, Parley, Hans, Caroline, with Soren Peter in back

This is a map of the city of Aarhus, dating from the first half of the twentieth century.
The family moved into the center of the city of Aarhus somewhere between 1866 and 1868.
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Living in Aarhus must have been quite a change for the family, because they had lived in the country or in very small villages all their lives and now they were in the center of one of the largest cities of Denmark. According to the 1870 Census, they lived at the address Nørrebrogade 6 (Nørre means north and gade means street in Danish). This is likely where the LDS church headquarters were located in Aarhus. Other LDS members are listed in that same building, including two missionaries living in the Sorensen home.

Their oldest son, Søren Peder is not listed in the 1870 census with the family. He was now almost 21 and was probably being trained in his future trade as a shoe maker.

Soren’s mother, Ane, along with his sister and brother, Caroline and Parley, emigrated to America in June, 1971. His father and other brother, Andrew William emigrated the following year, in June, 1872. Just one month before his father left Denmark for America, Soren married Christine Petersen - on May 3, 1872. According to the marriage record, Soren lived on the street Klosterøgade at the time. Christine live on a street named Graven which was near by (see the accompanying map). The record shows that he was vaccinated for smallpox on 21 Apr 1872. Normally, children are vaccinated within a year or two of their birth. Perhaps with all the moving around, this was not done for Soren. It appears that the vaccination needed to be done before the marriage, because most marriage records list vaccination information. Also in the record, Soren is listed as a bachelor and a shoe maker.

20. Danish Archives Online, Marriage record from Aarhus Aarhus Domsogn parish records beginning 1868, Opslag 376; page 415.
Soren and Christine had 7 children, only two of which lived to adulthood. They welcomed their first child, Hans Peter Sorensen, on 23 June 1873. He was christened in the same church as where they were married, Aarhus Domsogn (the Aarhus parish Cathedral), on July 2 of the same year.  

Their second child, William Parley was born on January 2, 1875 and died almost 7 months later. His birth is recorded in the Aarhus Domsogn church and also in the Church of Our Lady (Vor Frue). This is where the remainder of the children were christened. William died on July 23, 1875. His death and burial are recorded in the Vor Frue parish church records. William Parley is listed as the son of shoemaker Søren Peter Hansen Sorensen at the address: Søndergade 19. It is evident that Soren was thinking about his family in America with the naming of his children. Parley was not a name used in Denmark, except for members of the LDS church. Even the minister of the church had trouble with the name as evidenced by the spelling of Parley as "Parly" in the christening and "Pharlye" in the burial record. William was also not a normal spelling of that name. Soren's brother, Andrew William,

21. Danish Archives Online, Aarhus Aarhus Domsogn parish records beginning 1873, Opslag 20; page 14, entry 97.
22. Danish Archives Online, Aarhus Aarhus Domsogn parish records beginning 1873, Opslag 61; page 55. No name given, but mentioned that this was recorded in Vor Frue church (Church of our Lady).
23. Danish Archives Online, Aarhus Vor Frue parish records beginning 1872, Opslag 83; page 78, entry 2. William Parly Sørensen.
24. Danish Archives Online, Aarhus Vor Frue parish records beginning 1872, Opslag 353; page 438, entry 46. William Pharlye Sorensen. He was buried 29 July 1875, age 6 months 24 days.
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was originally named Anders Wilhelm, and changed it to Andrew William in America. Therefore, William Parley was most likely named after of his two uncles.

Two years after the death of William Parley, Soren and Christine welcomed another child into the family, Carl Martin. He was born on August 20, 1877, but lived only 12 days. He died on September first (the day of his christening) and was buried on the sixth of that month.

Sophie Christine was born on November 1, 1879. The Danish pronunciation of her name would have been "Soh-fee-ah," but she was known in her life later in America as "Soh-fi-ah." Later, her name was spelled "Sophia." Soren's sister was named Caroline Sophie so we can surmise that Sophie Christine was named after her aunt and her mother. In the 1880 census, taken in Aarhus City, Soren is listed with his wife and two surviving children, Hans Peter and "Sophie Kirstine" (under 1 year old).

The last of their children to be born in Aarhus was Henry. Henry was born on March 15, 1881 and was christened in the Vor Frue church as well. The family moved out of Aarhus a few years later and the 1890 census does not list Henry. He is also not shown as being confirmed in Beder (the city where the family settled). It is then assumed that Henry died as a child, though no records have yet been found giving details.

Soren and his family moved to the town of Beder in 1884 (as recorded in the 1901 Census, detailed later). Beder is about 13 kilometers (8 miles) south of Aarhus, about half way to Odder, where Christine was born. Their next child, Frode

25. Danish Archives Online, Aarhus Vor Frue parish records beginning 1876, Opdag 48; page 43, entry 139.
26. Danish Archives Online, Aarhus Vor Frue parish records beginning 1876, Opdag 341; page 417, entry 82.
27. Danish Archives Online, Aarhus Vor Frue parish records beginning 1876, Opdag 283; page 278, entry 202. Sophie Christine Sørensen was christened 5 Dec 1879; parents were shoe maker Soren Peter Hansen Sorensen and Kjerstine Petersen (age 31).
28. Danish Archives Online, Aarhus 1880 Census:
Aarhus, Hasle, Aarhus Købstad, Århus Købstad 7, 209/halls Vej, 52, FT-1880, a4181
Navn:  Alder:  Civilstand:  Stilling i husstanden:  Erhverv:  Fødested:
... (two other people listed first)
Soren Peter Hansen Sorensen 30 Gift Husfader Tersløse Pastorat, Sjælland
Kirstine Sorensen 32 Gift Husmoder Odder Sogn, Aarhus Amt
Hans Peter Sørensen 6 Ugift Barn Aarhus
Sophie Kirstine Sorensen Under 1 Ugift Barn Aarhus
29. Danish Archives Online, Aarhus Vor Frue parish records beginning 1878, Opdag 133; page 128. Henry was christened at home on May 3rd and in church on October 9th, 1881 The family lived on Aagade (street) 45, his mother was 32 years of age.
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Mikael, was born in Beder on May 24, 1885. Frode only lived 5 months, died on October 30 and was buried 5 November 1885. Hans Peter was confirmed in Beder on October 9, 1887. In the Lutheran church in Denmark, the young men and young women are usually confirmed at about the age of 14. Their next child, Klara was born December 18, 1888. She also appears in the 1890 census with the family, along with her parents, Hans Peter and Sophie (spelled "Sofie," this time).

Beginning in 1893, Andrew William visited his brother, Soren Peter and his family in Beder. William left for his mission to Denmark from Utah shortly after the death of their father. Hans Sorensen died on April 6, 1893. William served his mission in Denmark for three years and visited Soren Peter several times. In William’s autobiography, recalling his concerns shortly after his arrival in America back in 1872, he writes: "but there was still one left whom I loved as dearly as those who had gone before us. He had no excuse so far as the Gospel was concerned because father had taught him that for years and he was now a married man and was able to judge for himself." In his mission journal, dated October 24, 1893, William recalls his first meeting with Soren Peter in Beder. He said that he first had to introduce himself because Soren Peter did not recognize him. William reported: "I stayed there for two days and we could not get through talking. I told him my errand; that I had come to preach the Gospel. He said, 'That is all right, I am willing to hear you.' I explained some of the first principles of the Gospel to him and his family, and they were very glad to hear me. They said they had never understood Mormonism that way before and asked me to come and stay by them a long while, which I promised to do." Concerning another visit, in 1894, William writes: "I stayed two days in Aarhus and went out to give my brother another visit. I stayed with them for three days and conversed with them about the Gospel and we talked every night till 12 o'clock.

30. Danish Archives Online, Beder parish records beginning 1863, Opslag 46; page 41.
31. Danish Archives Online, Beder parish records beginning 1863, Opslag 168; page 279. His age: 5 months.
32. Danish Archives Online, Beder parish records beginning 1863, Opslag 125; page 215.
33. Danish Archives Online, Beder parish records beginning 1863, Opslag 106; page 145.
34. Danish Archives Online, Beder 1890 Census (Opslag 36 of the census records for Beder):
   Hus 32
   Soren P Sorensen, 40, shoemaker
   Kerstine Pedersen, 42
   Hans P Sørensen, 16, gardener
   Sofie Kirstine Sørensen, 10
   Klare Sorensen, 1
36. ibid p 21, dated October 24, 1893.
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or more. I then left for Aarhus to attend our conference. He promised to come, which he did." 37 In 1895, William made his last visit to Soren Peter: "I also invited my brother who lived in Beder but he was cold for the Gospel. Although he read the Book of Mormon and came to the conclusion that it was true, he thought Joseph Smith was a false prophet and I had no more influence over him." 38

During this time in which William made his visits, Soren Peter's daughter, Sophie Christine, received her confirmation in the Lutheran Church, on April 1, 1894. 39 Since Sophie joined the LDS church a ten years later, It can be assumed that the visits by her uncle William had an effect on her, despite her Lutheran upbringing.

Soren Peter's youngest child, Klara lived longer than some of her siblings, but her death is recorded in the Beder parish records. 40 She died on 2 April 1897 at the age of 8. She was buried there on 9 April 1897. The census of 1901, taken in February of that year lists only Soren Peter, Christine (Kristine) and Hans Peter. Hans is listed as a market gardener. 41 The family is recorded as belonging to the "Folks" church (Lutheran) and as having arrived in Beder in 1884 (as mentioned above).

Sophie Christine was not living with her parents at the time of the 1901 census. She likely lived in Aarhus because it was there that she was baptized into the LDS church. She was baptized and confirmed on August 5, 1904 in Aarhus. 42 The church records list her emigration date as October 1905 (the day is unreadable in the record). Close following in the list was a Sören Sörensen, from Randers, baptized 14 Jan. 1905, also emigrating Oct 1905. Sophie and this man are listed in the Danish Emigration records for 1905. Their emigration registration date is listed as 23 Oct. 1905 with an arrival in Boston, Massachusetts. 43 According to family tradition, Sophie lived with her uncle Andrew William in Glenwood, Utah until her marriage less than a year later to Isaac Hansen in the Manti Temple in Utah. The marriage took place on September 19, 1906.

37. ibid, pp 21,22.
38. ibid, p 28. Andrew mentions another visit briefly a few pages before this (p 26) "When I got back to Aarhus, I visited my brother in Beder and on my trip I visited a lady eighty-eight year old."
39. Danish Archives Online, Beder parish records beginning 1892, Opslag 190. Details: 1 Apr 1894 Sofie Christine Sörensen of Beder; parents: shoe maker Sören Peter Hansen Sörensen and wife Kjarstine Petersen of Beder.
Born in Aarhus, Frue Sogn 8 Nov 1879 christened 5 Dec.
40. Danish Archives Online, Beder parish records beginning 1892, Opslag 276, p 391.
41. Danish Archives Online, Beder 1901 Census (Opslag 332 of the census records for Beder).
42. Aarhus LDS branch membership records, LDS Family History Library film 0041938, 1904.
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The emigration of Sophie Christine in 1905 was at the very end of the traditional practice of Danish emigration to "Zion." According to the Danish Mission History: "By 1905, organized Mormon emigration became a thing of the past due to a significant change in Church policy and program." 44 The document does not specify what that change was, but notes that from 1905 onwards, the emigration rates from Denmark dropped dramatically.

Hans Peter, was married on September 3, 1911 in the Aarhus parish cathedral (Aarhus Domsgogn), where he was first christened. He married Anna Marie Svensson. 45 By this time, Soren Peter and Christine had moved from Beder to Vejlby, which is just a few miles north of Aarhus City.

Soren Peter died in 1929, on January 31, in Vejlby. 46 In the record, he is listed as the son of weaver Hans Sorensen. His wife, Christine died about one year later on January 15, 1930. 47 At the time of their deaths, Soren Peter and Christine had two living children, Sophia in Utah and Hans Peter in Denmark. Sophia had two children, Loree and Isaac Divett Hansen. Sophia's children both married in 1941. Hans Peter had only one child, a daughter, Lilli Margretha Kresine Svensson Sorensen. Hans Peter's wife, Anna, died the year before Soren Peter died, on November 27, 1928. 48 Hans Peter lived to see his daughter Lilli marry Ludvig Knud Frans Adolf Andersen, on January 3, 1937, 49 but he died about two years later, on May 29, 1939, 50

The legacy of Soren Peter and his family continue forward with the Hansen families in America. Someday, we may also find out about possible cousins from Lilli’s family in Denmark.

45. Danish Archives Online, Aarhus Aarhus Domsgogn parish records beginning 1907, Op slag 243; page 242, entry 100. Details:
Bachelor gardner Hans Peter Sörensen of Aarhus Dom parish 23 June 1873 of skomager (shoe maker)
Soren Peter Sörensen and wife Kirstine Pedersen Vejlby (age) 38
Unmarried girl Anna Marie Svensson of Aarhus Dom Parish 21 January 1876 of Skrædder (tailor)
Jöns Svensson and wife Margrethe Sörensen Mejlgade 35 (age) 35
witnesses Emil Chr. Svensson Norreale 37 and S P Sörensen of Vejlby
46. Danish Archives Online, Vejlby parish records beginning 1923, Op slag 379, p 347. Details:
Death record of Soren Peder Hansen Sorensen
Died 31 Jan 1929 bur 10 Feb 1929 age 79 son of weaver Hans Sorensen and Ane Nielssdatter, married to Kristine Pedersen born 16 April 1849 Tersløse.
47. Danish Archives Online, Vejlby parish records beginning 1923, Op slag 386, p 429. Details:
Died 15 Jan 1930 bur 26 Jan 1930 b 25 Jan 1848 Ane Christine Pedersen, widow of Soren Peder Hansen Sorensen, age 81, daughter of Peder Hensen and Johane Pedersdatter.
The Families of Hans Sorensen

Soren Peter Hansen Sorensen (16 Apr. 1849 - 31 Jan. 1929)
Ane Christine Pedersen (25 Jan. 1848 - 15 Jan. 1930)
  Hans Peter Sorensen (23 Jun. 1873 - 29 May 1939)
  William Parley Sorensen (2 Jan. 1875 - 23 Jul. 1875)
  Carl Martin Sorensen (20 Aug. 1877 - 1 Sep. 1877)
  Sophie Christine Sorensen (1 Nov. 1879 - 14 Nov. 1953)
  Henry Sorensen (15 Mar. 1881 - before 1890)
  Frode Mikael Sorensen (24 May 1885 - 30 Oct. 1885)
  Klaral Sorensen (18 Dec. 1888 - 2 Apr. 1897)

Ane Nielsen
b. 24 Dec 1822
d. 16 Mar 1913

md. 9 Sep 1848

Hans Sorensen
b. 2 Oct 1825
d. 6 Apr 1893

Matilda Torgersen
(Evensen)
b. 14 Aug 1853
d. 26 Dec 1912

md. 3 Jun 1880

Soren Peter
Sorensen
b. 16 Apr 1849
d. 31 Jan 1929

Anders Vilhelm
(Andrew William)
Sorensen
b. 9 Nov 1854
d. 28 Dec 1923

Parley Peter
Sorensen
b. 11 Jul 1862
d. 8 Nov 1927

Josephine
Sorensen
b. 7 Feb 1883
d. 18 Aug 1955

Edwin
Sorensen
b. 20 Jun 1886
d. 16 Aug 1961

Alma
Sorensen
b. 31 Mar 1891
d. 12 May 1977

Mette Marie
Sorensen
b. 4 Oct 1851
d. 5 Jan 1883

Caroline Sophia
Sorensen
b. 30 Apr 1858
d. 2 May 1928

Nora
Sorensen
b. 29 Aug 1881
d. 5 Nov 1992

Maria "Ry"
Sorensen
b. 24 Sep 1884
d. 7 Oct 1966

Levi
Sorensen
b. 16 Sep 1888
d. 23 Jun 1977