

Across Oceans, Across Time® ...

Stories from the Family History & Genealogy Center ...



Charles Jørgensen, born in Hobro in 1892, left his girlfriend Alvilda and young daughter when he immigrated to the US. He must have maintained contact with them, however, since this photograph taken in Clear Lake, Iowa, was found in Alvilda's possession by her descendants, but his later life remained unknown, and has only recently come to light. Charles' original 1914 destination was Chicago, to which he and a friend traveled via Liverpool, England; Halifax, Nova Scotia; and Detroit. His ultimate destination was Cerro Gordo County, in northern Iowa, where his sister Anna Jørgensen Mikkelsen also settled. After registering for the World War I draft, Charles fought for his adopted country, serving in France with the 30th Infantry, and apparently received US citizenship for his service. In 1920, about the time the above photograph was taken, he was working as an agricultural tiler. Charles married Iowa native Florence M. Callanan in July of 1921. Their marriage was extremely brief, for Charles died the following November. His wife also died young, surviving him by two years. Today the only concrete evidence of his life and brief residence in this country is this tombstone in Clear Lake Cemetery.

