

Across Oceans, Across Time® ...

Stories from the Family History & Genealogy Center ...



Poul Christian Larsen, the dignified *pater familias* in the above portrait, was born in Husby, Kettrup parish in Thisted County in February 1843 to pharmacy worker Lars Chr. Christensen and Kirsten Poulsdatter. His family moved to Thisted, where Poul grew up at Nørregade 39. He came to America in 1864 with eleven silver dollars in his pocket, and settled in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Two years later his fiancée, Karoline Petersen, came to Chicago, and they were married. After several years in Iowa, the growing Larsen family traveled by covered wagon to Nebraska and settled in on a 320-acre tract just west of Holstein, in Adams County. In a sod house on the prairie they put down roots and raised a family of eight children. P. C. Larsen became active in his community, serving as a Justice of the Peace and also chairing the local Democratic Party for many years. Despite his serious appearance, P. C. must have had a Thybo's twinkle in his eye. It is said that he tried - unsuccessfully - for many years to have the name of Holstein changed to "Karolina" in honor of his wife. He also repeatedly told his children how he had been a gardener for the King of Denmark, a story that was proudly passed down through the family, no one wondering how this could be with such a distance between Thisted and Copenhagen. More than a century after his migration, however, descendants made a trip to Thisted, and with the help of a local researcher found an explanation. Poul Christian Larsen had indeed worked in the king's garden - but it was a beer garden in Thisted called *Kongens Have* [The King's Garden]. How he must have enjoyed his children's big eyes! -- This family story and others was deposited at the FHGC by Poul Christian and Karoline's descendants.