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Stories from the Family History & Genealogy Center ...



A Tombstone mystery. Some months ago a Danish tourist happened upon this cemetery marker in the famous Boot Hill Cemetery in Tombstone, Arizona. It piqued his interest, so he snapped a picture, and upon his return to Denmark contacted the Family History & Genealogy Center to see if we had any information about this early denizen of the Arizona Territory. We didn't, but started searching. Although we have not yet definitively identified him, we now know a few facts about the man under the marker.

In the 1880 territorial census 29-year-old farmer H. M. Christiansen was enumerated in Tombstone as one of a large number of single males in the town. In January 1882 he applied to become an American citizen. In June of 1884 Hans married Christina Beck, also of Tombstone, who may have previously been married to a local carpenter, Paul Beck. In September of 1890, now a citizen, Hans was listed as a voter in the town of Fairbank, about 10 miles outside Tombstone. His cause of death the following year is not known; hopefully, he did not fall victim to the many stabbings and gunfights for which Tombstone had a reputation. "Christina B. Christiansen" is also buried in Boot Hill Cemetery. She died in May of 1893 from "the administering of arsenical poison," in the opinion of a coroner's jury convened in the matter. Whether there were any children is unknown.

Hans M. Christiansen was born around 1851 and may be the 22-year-old Hans Morten Christiansen who left Lindknud parish in Ribe County, in 1873, arriving in New York City on the *S/S Nestorian* out of Liverpool. The search continues in both Denmark and Arizona to see if this supposition is correct and to fill in some of the gaps in our knowledge about one more Danish immigrant.

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