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SINE CATHARINA NISSEN & FAMILY

A FOUR-GENERATION RESEARCH PROJECT

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SINE CATHARINA NISSEN & FAMILY

OBJECTIVE

The goal of this research project is to research Sine Catharina Nissen and the maternal line of her ancestors for a total of four generations, following and documenting their life's journey through as many records as possible to prove their family relationships.

STARTING POINT

The information starting out was the baptismal record of Sine Catharina Nissen,¹ which lists her birth place (Osterbyfeld, Leck, Tondern, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany²) and date (5 August 1899), baptism place (Medelby parish church) and date (3 September 1899), and parents' names (servant Broder Heinrich Nissen and Catharina Margrethe Johanna née Christiansen of Osterbyfeld).

No other records for Sine Catharina Nissen were known. A preliminary survey unearthed only *Ancestry* and *MyHeritage* trees pertaining to her that did not contain any original sources.³ Two of the trees listed Sine Catharina's paternal grandparents' names,⁴ but none listed her maternal grandparents' names. Accordingly, this research project was begun to document Sine Catharina Nissen's life using original records and to identify and follow her maternal line.

¹ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Medelby, Taufen [baptisms] 1899-1907, image 5, entry 25, www.archion.de/p/f672bec061/ (accessed 30 June 2020). **Document 1**.

² The *Amtsgericht* (county court, Leck) is to differentiate between locations of the same name in the same county (Tondern), similar to listing the county to identify places of the same name in a province as per Roger P. Minert and Jennifer Anderson, "Recording German Place Names," *Heritage Quest Magazine* 20, no. 4 (2004), pp. 62–63.

³ *Ancestry*, online family trees, "Kolmos" and "Nicolaisen Familienstammbaum," user HMatthiesen, Sine Nissen, www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/75776132/person/34328889204 and www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/43832148/person/12711486372 (accessed 30 June 2020). *MyHeritage*, online family trees, "Stammbaum01 Web Site," user Holger Matthiesen, Sine Catharina Petersen (born Nissen), www.myheritage.com/research/record-1-218382021-9-17957/sine-catharina-petersen-geb-nissen-in-myheritage-family-trees; "Schön familie-webstedet," user Hartvig_ Schön, Sine Petersen (born Nissen), www.myheritage.com/research/record-1-133765791-5-45888/sine-petersen-fodt-nissen-in-myheritage-family-trees; "Karla - Familie Web Site," user Karla Paulsen, Sine Petersen (born Nissen), www.myheritage.com/research/record-1-280587131-1-503896/sine-petersen-geb-nissen-in-myheritage-family-trees; "Christensen Slægt," user Benny Christensen, Sine Petersen (born Nissen), www.myheritage.com/research/record-1-221413501-23-1472/sine-petersen-fodt-nissen-in-myheritage-family-trees; "Familie Web Site," user Henriette Matthiesen, Sine Nissen and Sine Petersen (born Nissen), www.myheritage.com/research/record-1-164300901-5-170/sine-nissen-in-myheritage-family-trees and www.myheritage.com/research/record-1-164300901-5-751/sine-petersen-fodt-nissen-in-myheritage-family-trees (accessed 14 July 2020). *FamilySearch* was also searched (30 June 2020), with nil results.

⁴ *MyHeritage*, online family trees, "Christensen Slægt," user Benny Christensen, Sine Petersen (born Nissen), www.myheritage.com/research/record-1-221413501-23-1472/sine-petersen-fodt-nissen-in-myheritage-family-trees; "Familie Web Site," user Henriette Matthiesen, Sine Petersen (born Nissen), www.myheritage.com/research/record-1-164300901-5-751/sine-petersen-fodt-nissen-in-myheritage-family-trees (accessed 14 July 2020).

RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

Generation One: Sine Catharina née Nissen

As explained above, the baptismal record for Sine Catharina Nissen⁵ (who went by Sine⁶) lists her birth as having taken place in Osterbyfeld on 5 August 1899, her baptism as having taken place in Medelby, Tondern, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany (both places now in the county of Schleswig-Flensburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany⁷), on 3 September 1899, and her parents as being Broder Heinrich Nissen and Catharina Margrethe Johanna née Christiansen.

At around age 13 ½, on Palm Sunday, 16 March 1913, Sine was confirmed in Medelby. She received a dispensation from the *Synodalausschuss* (synodal committee), though what she was exempted from is not stated.⁸

Just over a year after Sine's confirmation in the Lutheran church, World War I (July 1914–November 1918) began, ending in a German loss when Sine was 19, at which time the second wave of the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic (March 1918–April 1920) was underway. About a third of the world's population was eventually infected, and around 20–50 million people worldwide lost their lives to the pandemic (an additional about 20 million died due to WWI).⁹ Mortality in Germany was a high 0.76%, whereas mortality in Denmark was the lowest in the world, at 0.20%.¹⁰ In the Medelby

⁵ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Medelby, Taufen [baptisms] 1899-1907, image 5, entry 25, www.archion.de/p/f672bec061/ (accessed 30 June 2020).

⁶ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Medelby, Bestattungen [burials] 1899-1933, image 55, entry 14, www.archion.de/p/9aa262c482/ (accessed 3 August 2020). **Document 2.** Catharina Margaretha Johanna née Christiansen's burial record lists her three living children, including the married daughter "Sine Petersen," indicating that Sine is the given name Sine Catharina née Nissen went by.

⁷ For ease of reporting and to standardize place names, in this report and in its accompanying family group records and pedigree chart, places are listed as the 1871 German Empire standard derived from listings on *MeyersGaz*—specifically, each place is listed with the county (*Kreis*) and province it belonged to during the German Empire, with the *Amtsgericht* (county court) added when multiple towns by the same name exist within a county. Additionally, the first time each location is listed in this report, it is followed by the current place name and jurisdictional listing; locations currently belonging to Denmark are listed as "[town], [municipality], [region], Denmark." Citations referencing *MeyersGaz* list places exactly as seen on the *MeyersGaz* website for ease of locating them on that website.

⁸ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Medelby, Konfirmationen [confirmations] 1899-1914, image 37, entry 25, www.archion.de/p/322f768594/ (accessed 4 August 2020). **Document 3.** Several confirmands in surrounding entries received dispensations as well—some from the synodal committee like Sine, and others from the church provost; reasons for the dispensations are not listed in the confirmation entries.

⁹ "Pandemic Influenza Risk Management WHO Interim Guidance," World Health Organization, 2013, p. 19, https://www.who.int/influenza/preparedness/pandemic/GIP_PandemicInfluenzaRiskManagementInterimGuidance_Jun2013.pdf?ua=1 (accessed 4 January 2021).

¹⁰ Christopher JL Murray et al., "Estimation of Potential Global Pandemic Influenza Mortality on the Basis of Vital Registry Data from the 1918–20 Pandemic: a Quantitative Analysis," *The Lancet* 368, no. 9554 (2006), pp. 2211–2218, [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736\(06\)69895-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736(06)69895-4) (accessed 4 January 2021).

parish, where Sine and her family were living, the first death recorded as a result of the 1918 flu was in October 1918;¹¹ of the 42 deaths in Medelby parish from March 1918 to April 1920, 6 (i.e., 14%) are listed in the church book specifically as due to the flu, with an additional two deaths being due to illness from the military field (likely also the flu; one of these deaths is listed as pneumonia).

When Sine was 20 years old, a reunification vote took place, in which the northern and central parts of Schleswig were split into two zones and voted on whether to remain part of Germany or be reunited with Denmark. The plebiscite had been promised by the 1867 Treaty of Prague but was not granted until 1920. Originally, Bismarck had suggested the vote take place in a much larger area of Schleswig, but the Danish government was aware that only the northernmost zone would want a reunification, as it was the most Danish region of Schleswig.¹² As expected, the majority of Zone I voted to rejoin Denmark; each parish in central Schleswig (Zone II) voted to remain part of Germany. The new Danish-German border cut through the county of Tondern¹³ (the Danish portion was named Tønder after the reunification, while the southern/German part was named Südtondern¹⁴), leaving Sine's home parish of Medelby as one of the northernmost parishes of Germany, just barely (about 4 km) below the new border.¹⁵

With a world war, a global pandemic, and a plebiscite in the area she called home behind her, Sine married Jens Peter Petersen in Medelby at age 23, on 11 November 1922.¹⁶

Jens Peter was born to Peter Christian Petersen and Cathrine Marie née Jürgensen in Jardelund, Tondern, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany (now Jardelund, Schleswig-Flensburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany¹⁷), on 30 November 1894, baptized in Medelby on 13 January 1895,¹⁸ and confirmed in Medelby on 20 March 1910 with a dispensation from the provost.¹⁹ Since neither Sine nor Jens Peter is listed in their marriage record as being widowed, this was the first marriage for them both.

¹¹ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Nordfriesland, Medelby, Bestattungen [burials] 1899-1933, image 36, entry 9, www.archion.de/p/aaa2de5d5a/ (accessed 4 January 2021).

¹² Alan Sharp, *The Versailles Settlement: Peacemaking after the First World War, 1919–1923*, 3rd ed. (Houndmills: Palgrave, 2001), pp. 118–119.

¹³ *FamilySearch*, Research Wiki, “Germany ‘How to’ Guides,” Schleswig-Holstein Censuses, Instruction, [www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Germany: “How to” Guides](http://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Germany:_How_to_Guides) (accessed 17 September 2020).

¹⁴ *Wikipedia*, Tønder County, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tønder_County (accessed 18 September 2020).

¹⁵ *MeyersGaz*, online gazetteer, Medelby, Tondern, Schleswig, Schleswig-Holstein, Preussen, www.meyersgaz.org/place/20159013 (accessed 1 December 2020). Clicking on the “Map” tab and then on “Toggle Historical Map” shows Medelby about 4 km from the Danish border on both the North and the East.

¹⁶ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Medelby, Trauungen [marriages] 1879-1937, image 81, entry 10, www.archion.de/p/013e14beb8/ (accessed 4 August 2020). **Document 4.**

¹⁷ *Wikipedia*, Jardelund, <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jardelund> (accessed 7 December 2020).

¹⁸ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Medelby, Taufen [baptisms] 1881-1898, image 67, entry 4, www.archion.de/p/3e7949d537/ (accessed 4 August 2020).

¹⁹ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Medelby, Konfirmationen [confirmations] 1899-1914, image 29, entry 15, www.archion.de/p/41135c55f7/ (accessed 4 August 2020).

Although the war was over, its effects were still widely felt throughout Germany, which in 1919–1933 became known as the Weimar Republic. While the new republic printed bank notes quickly while making repayments for WWI in the early 1920s, the value of the German mark sank, causing hyperinflation that lasted until 1924; by the end of 1923, German money had depreciated from a value of 160 mark to a U.S. dollar to twenty-six billion two hundred fifty million (26,250,000,000) mark to a dollar, making daily survival in the republic difficult.²⁰

Part of Schleswig, including Medelby, is included in the 1835, 1840, 1845, 1855, and 1860 Danish census enumerations. Because Medelby parish belongs to the part of Tondern county that was retained by Germany in the 1920 plebiscite, no Danish census in the 1900s (when Sine lived) includes Medelby.²¹ Any German censuses would have been taken on the local (town or county) level and are not available online for this area; but church records provide greater genealogical details than German census records.²²

According to online trees and Sine’s granddaughter (originator of the information about Sine in the online family trees previously referenced), Sine and Jens Peter had the following children:²³

- Katharina Maria, born in Jardelund on 22 April 1923; she married Jacob Nissen Nicolaisen (born on 5 December 1896 and died on 21 June 1978 in Ladelund) on 5 December 1949 and died in Ladelund on 17 April 2005
- Broder Heinrich, born in Jardelund on 15 February 1926; he went by Broder, married Henriette Caroline Ingwersen (born on 19 March 1920 and died in Medelby on 11 August 1988), and died in Medelby on 10 September 1922
- Peter Christian, born in Jardelund on 9 July 1932; he went by Christian, married Henriette Pauline Johansen, and died in Medelby on 16 October 1997

Given the fact that Sine and Jens Peter were married in the Medelby parish and were still residing in that parish at Sine’s mother’s death in 1929 (her burial record lists Sine as married, with the surname Petersen, and living in Jardelund—which is in the Medelby parish²⁴), Medelby is almost certainly the parish their children were born in. This also matches the birth place provided in the family trees as listed above.

²⁰ Nick Goodell, “1920s Hyperinflation in Germany and Bank Notes,” Spurlock Museum of World Cultures at Illinois, 6 August 2018, www.spurlock.illinois.edu/blog/p/1920s-hyperinflation-in/283 (accessed 1 December 2020).

²¹ *FamilySearch*, Catalog, Keywords: Medelby, www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/results?count=20&query=%2Bkeywords%3Amedelby (accessed 18 September 2020).

²² Roger P. Minert, “36: Schleswig-Holstein,” in *German Census Records, 1816-1916: The When, Where, and How of a Valuable Genealogical Resource* (Orting, WA: Family Roots Publishing Co. LLC, 2016), pp. 197–200. Locating German censuses only helps in identifying towns of residence if the census happens to have been taken on the county rather than the town level—otherwise, the town of residence needs to be identified first.

²³ *MyHeritage message*, user Henriette Matthiesen, 13 November 2020. Birth and baptismal records in Germany are protected for 110 years; until then, only direct descendants may request access.

²⁴ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Medelby, Bestattungen [burials] 1899-1933, image 55, entry 14, www.archion.de/p/9aa262c482/ (accessed 3 August 2020). **Document 2.**

The Medelby parish baptismal records are only available online through 1907; later baptismal records may be located in the Medelby Protestant parish records office,²⁵ and civil birth records are found in the Schafflund *Standesamt* (civil registration office).²⁶ However, the birth records for Sine's children are all less than 110 years old and are thus protected by German law and cannot be accessed at this time by anyone other than direct descendants.²⁷

While Sine and Jens Peter were building their family, the Great Depression caused widespread unemployment in Germany. The year after the couple's last child was born, Adolf Hitler was appointed as chancellor of Germany, which, thus under Nazi rule, became the Third Reich.²⁸

The last 4 ½ years of Sine's life, the world was embroiled in World War II (1939–1945). Sine passed away before the end of the war, just shy of 45 years old, and was buried in Medelby on 23 April 1944.²⁹

Sine's husband, Jens Peter Petersen, remarried and moved to Ladelund, Tondern, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany (now Ladelund, Nordfriesland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany³⁰). He and his second wife, Laura née Markussen were married in Ladelund.³¹

²⁵ *Ev.-Luth. Kirchengemeinde Medelby*, www.kirchenkreis-schleswig-flensburg.de/gemeinden/kreisgebiet-schleswig-flensburg/medelby.html (accessed 18 September 2020). Contact email: kirche@stmatthaeus-medelby.de.

²⁶ *Standesamt [civil registration office] Schafflund*, Tannenweg 1, 24980 Schafflund. Contact email: Angelika.Rogalla@amt-schafflund.de.

²⁷ According to *MyHeritage message*, user Henriette Matthiesen, 13 November 2020, Sine and Jens Peter had only the three children listed in this report. This cannot be verified until their children's birth records are past the German 110-year privacy protection. Any additional children the couple may have had in the gaps between these children or in the later 1930s likely died in infancy since Sine's granddaughter has no knowledge of them. Two Petersen children in the Medelby burial records could belong to the family: Christine Petersen, who was born on 21 February 1924 and died in Weesbyfeld on 6 April 1925—see *Archion*, digital image, Medelby, Bestattungen [burials] 1899-1933, image 47, year 1925, entry 3, www.archion.de/p/9f2733ce9c/—and Ellen Johanna Petersen, who was born in about December 1929 and died on 29 April 1930—see *Archion*, digital image, Medelby, Bestattungen [burials] 1930-1968, image 4, year 1930, entry 4, www.archion.de/p/62fb1b0771/ (accessed 9 September 2020). Parents' names are not listed on these burial records, so copies of their baptismal records would have to be obtained from the Schafflund civil registration office (once those records are 110 years old) to determine whether or not these children belonged to Sine and her husband.

²⁸ Shirley J. Riemer, Roger P. Minert, and Jennifer A. Anderson, *The German Research Companion* (Sacramento, CA: Lorelei Press, 2010), Chronology of Events in German History, p. 8.

²⁹ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Nordfriesland, Medelby, Bestattungen [burials] 1930-1968, image 32, entry 15, www.archion.de/p/d604ab7732/ (accessed 17 September 2020). **Document 5.** The year, parish, and surname match the information provided in unsourced online family trees. According to emails from the Schafflund civil registration office from 22 September 2020 and 11 November 2020, the Schafflund office does not have the April 1944 Medelby civil death record for Frau Petersen. And according to an email from 17 November 2020, the Medelby Protestant parish church has no death records. However, Sine's granddaughter Henriette Matthiesen, who was contacted via *MyHeritage*, stated that although any copy the family may have had of Sine's death record was lost in a family house fire in 1952, she knows that Sine died sometime in April 1944, just before Henriette's brother Peter was born on 22 April 1944; that Sine died of tuberculosis, which she had caught from her brother-in-law Hans (since Sine's only sister died at age 2, Hans must be her husband Jens Peter Petersen's brother); and that Sine was buried in Medelby.

³⁰ *Wikipedia*, Ladelund, <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ladelund> (accessed 7 December 2020).

³¹ *MyHeritage message*, user Henriette Matthiesen, 13 November 2020. According to Henriette Matthiesen, whose maternal grandmother Sine Catharina Nissen is, Jens Peter Petersen married Laura née Markussen after Sine's death and moved to Ladelund, but he was buried in Medelby next to Sine.

The couple did not have any children of their own but did adopt a girl named Helga. Laura née Markussen (who was born in Ladelund on 27 June 1914) preceded Jens Peter in death in Ladelundfeld (in Ladelund Protestant parish) on 9 January 1963.³²

Jens Peter later passed away in Ladelundfeld on 23 May 1965 at age 70 ½ and was buried in Medelby on 28 May 1965³³ next to his first wife, Sine.

³² *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Nordfriesland, Ladelund, Bestattungen [burials] 1899-1987, image 102, entry 1, www.archion.de/p/6171a30288/ (accessed 19 November 2020). **Document 6.** Laura's church burial record states that Laura did not have any biological children but that she and Jens Peter Petersen had an adopted daughter named Helga; it also mentions that Jens Peter's marriage with Laura was his second marriage.

³³ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Medelby, Bestattungen [burials] 1930-1968, image 89, entry 8, www.archion.de/p/b76ccc26e2/ (accessed 4 August 2020).

Generation Two: Catharina Margaretha Johanna née Christiansen

A careful study of the Medelby marriage records from Sine's 1899 birth and back (since no older siblings of hers were listed in the family trees) led to the 1899 marriage record of her parents.³⁴

Translated from German, the record states:

The following couple was married in the Medelby church on 19 May 1899: laborer Broder Heinrich Nissen of Osterbyfeld (born on 25 December 1874 and confirmed here [in the Medelby parish] in 1890) with widow Catharine Margrethe Johanna Nissen née Christiansen of Holt (born in Joldelund on 19 July 1867, baptized on 4 August 1867, and confirmed in Nordhackstedt in 1882).

Based on the birth date and place listed in the marriage record, the baptismal record of the bride³⁵ was located after determining that the Protestant parish church of Joldelund is in Joldelund, Husum, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany (now Joldelund, Nordfriesland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany³⁶), itself.³⁷ Her baptismal record states, translated from German:

Catharina Margaretha Johanna Christiansen was born in Joldelund on 19 July 1867 and baptized on 4 August 1867. She was the first living child and a legitimate daughter of laborer Andreas Peter Christiansen and Maria Dorethea [Dorothea] née Hansen, both of Joldelund.

Catharina Margaretha Johanna (who went by Catharina³⁸) was born the year following the Seven Weeks' War (June–July 1866), in which power shifted from Austria towards Prussia and when Schleswig-Holstein became a Prussian province.³⁹

³⁴ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Medelby, Trauungen [marriages] 1879-1937, image 48, entry 2, www.archion.de/p/50a8fb5e8d/ (accessed 30 June 2020). **Document 7.**

³⁵ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Nordfriesland, Joldelund, Taufen [baptisms] 1862-1907, image 20, entry 18, www.archion.de/p/ca9375b4c8/ (accessed 30 June 2020). **Document 8.**

³⁶ *Wikipedia*, Joldelund, <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joldelund> (accessed 7 December 2020).

³⁷ *MeyersGaz*, online gazetteer, Joldelund, Husum, Schleswig, Schleswig-Holstein, Preussen, www.meyersgaz.org/place/10903015 (accessed 30 June 2020).

³⁸ *Standesamt [civil registration office] Schafflund*, Tannenweg 1, 24980 Schafflund, black/white scan, Nordhackstedt, civil death record, 1897, entry 4, Peter Nissen (email from Angelika.Rogalla@amt-schafflund.de 17 November 2020). **Document 15.** Catharina Margaretha Johanna née Christiansen signed her husband Peter Nissen's 1897 civil death record as Catharina M. J. Nissen, indicating that she went by her given name Catharina.

³⁹ The Editors of Encyclopædia Britannica, "Seven Weeks' War," Encyclopædia Britannica (Encyclopædia Britannica, inc., August 16, 2020), www.britannica.com/event/Seven-Weeks-War (accessed 17 September 2020).

Although Catharina is listed as the first living child, this is not necessarily an indication of any preceding deceased children of the couple, because the same phrasing is found in all of the surrounding baptismal entries.⁴⁰

The 1882 confirmation of Catharina Margaretha Johanna Christiansen in Nordhackstedt, mentioned in her marriage record, is verified by the original confirmation record.⁴¹ Since the village of Nordhackstedt, Flensburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany (now Nordhackstedt, Schleswig-Flensburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany⁴²), contains its own Protestant parish,⁴³ the confirmation took place in the church in Nordhackstedt. The record states:

Catharina Margaretha Johanna Christiansen was confirmed on Palm Sunday 1882 (2 April 1882⁴⁴). She was a legitimate daughter of laborer Andreas Peter Christiansen and Maria Dorothea née Hansen, previously of Joldelund and now of Ostlinnaufeld. According to a certificate from Pastor Aye of Joldelund dated 27 November 1881, she was born on 19 July 1867 and baptized on 4 August 1867.

Catharina's confirmation took place at the peak of emigration from Schleswig-Holstein, when thousands of people were leaving.⁴⁵ She partook of Holy Communion for the first time on *Gründonnerstag* (Holy Thursday), 6 April 1882.⁴⁶

In 1889, another flu pandemic hit the world; although it claimed about a million lives globally and infected about half of the German population,⁴⁷ its effects globally were far less devastating than the one during Catharina's daughter Sine's young adult years.

⁴⁰ No baptismal or burial record is found for any child of Andreas Peter Christiansen and Maria Dorothea née Hansen born before Catharina. Every child for several years in the Joldelund 1862-1907 baptismal book is listed as the “[number] living child” of their parents, so the word “living” in these baptismal records does not indicate the presence of any deceased child(ren).

⁴¹ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Nordhackstedt, Konfirmationen [confirmations] 1812-1900, image 141, entry 2, www.archion.de/p/a1c8e70e61/ (accessed 30 June 2020). **Document 9**.

⁴² *Wikipedia*, Nordhackstedt, <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nordhackstedt> (accessed 7 December 2020).

⁴³ *MeyersGaz*, online gazetteer, Nordhackstedt, Schleswig, Schleswig-Holstein, Preussen, www.meyersgaz.org/place/20342001 (accessed 30 June 2020).

⁴⁴ *FamilySearch*, Research Wiki, “Moveable Feast Day Calendar for: Germany,” 1882, www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Moveable_Feast_Day_Calendar_for_Germany (accessed 30 June 2020).

⁴⁵ F. Burgdorfer, “Migration Across the Frontiers of Germany,” in *International Migrations, Volume II: Interpretations*, ed. Walter F. Willcox (NBER, 1931), pp. 318, 349, <https://www.nber.org/system/files/chapters/c5114/c5114.pdf> (accessed 5 January 2021). According to Table 132, average annual emigration from the Prussian province of Schleswig-Holstein jumped from 159 (in 1875–1879) to 866 per 100,000 residents in 1880–1884.

⁴⁶ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Nordhackstedt, Kommunikanten [communicants] 1863-1890, image 203, entries 23–24, www.archion.de/p/a33a875fea/ (accessed 7 January 2021). **Document 10**.

⁴⁷ Bogumila Kempnińska-Mirosławska and Agnieszka Woźniak-Kosek, “The Influenza Epidemic of 1889–90 in Selected European Cities – a Picture Based on the Reports of Two Poznań Daily Newspapers from the Second Half of the Nineteenth Century,” *Medical Science Monitor* 19 (10 December 2013), pp. 1131–1141, <https://doi.org/10.12659/msm.889469> (accessed 5 January 2021).

Because Catharina Margaretha Johanna née Christiansen is listed as a widow with the married surname Nissen in her 1899 marriage record, she must have been married to someone else with the same surname of Nissen before her marriage to Broder Heinrich Nissen.

The previous marriage could potentially have taken place in Medelby (where she married Broder Heinrich Nissen in 1899), Nordhackstedt (where she was confirmed), or Joldelund (where she was born). No marriage could be located in either Medelby or Joldelund, and marriage records in Nordhackstedt were not available online after 1858 when this research was initially undertaken.

An 1895 baptismal record of Andreas Peter Nissen (born on 12 December 1895), a child of Catharina and Peter Nissen, was located in Nordhackstedt, suggesting that this may have been the parish where her first marriage took place.⁴⁸ The marriage index lists “Nissen/Christiansen Peter” as having married in 1895;⁴⁹ that is, Peter Nissen and Catharina Margaretha Johanna Christiansen were married sometime in 1895.

The 1895 civil marriage record was obtained from the Schafflund civil registration office,⁵⁰ where the original record is located. A transcription of the record reads:

B.

Nr. 7

Nordhackstedt am sechsten
September tausend acht hundert neunzig und fünf

Vor dem unterzeichneten Standesbeamten erschienen heute zum
Zweck der Eheschließung:

1. der Arbeiter Peter Nissen,
der Persönlichkeit nach
bekannt,
evangelischer Religion, geboren den zweiten
September des Jahres tausend acht hundert
sechszig und neun zu Heezfeld, Kreis
Tondern, wohnhaft zu Nordlinnau,
Gemeinde Linnau,
Sohn des Arbeiters Nis Peter Nissen und
dessen verstorbenen Ehefrau Marie
Cathrine geborenen Enemark wohnhaft
zu Tinglef

⁴⁸ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Nordhackstedt, Taufen [baptisms] 1860-1907, image 131, entry 22, www.archion.de/p/1f76f15e1f/ (accessed 14 July 2020). **Document 11.**

⁴⁹ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Nordhackstedt, Namensregister Trauungen [index of marriages] 1880-1936, image 15, year 1895, Nissen/Christiansen Peter, www.archion.de/p/74d7ea57af/ (accessed 15 July 2020).

⁵⁰ *Standesamt [civil registration office] Schafflund*, Tannenweg 1, 24980 Schafflund, black/white scan, Nordhackstedt, civil marriage record, 1895, entry 7, Peter Nissen and Catharina Margaretha Johanna Christiansen (email from Angelika.Rogalla@amt-schafflund.de 27 August 2020). **Document 12.**

2. die Haushalterin Catharina Margaretha
Johanna Christiansen,
der Persönlichkeit nach
bekannt,
evangelischer Religion, geboren den neunzehnten
Juli des Jahres tausend acht hundert
sechszig und sieben zu Joldelund,
Kreis Husum, wohnhaft zu Nordlinnau,
Tochter des Arbeitsmannes Andreas Peter
Christiansen und dessen Ehefrau Maria
Dorothea geborenen Hansen, wohnhaft
zu Linnaufeld, Gemeinde Linnau

Als Zeugen waren zugezogen und erschienen:

3. der Schlachter Carsten Hansen
der Persönlichkeit nach
bekannt,
fünfzig und sechs Jahre alt, wohnhaft zu Sillerup
4. der Hüfner Lorenz Petersen
der Persönlichkeit nach
bekannt,
vierzig und zwei Jahre alt, wohnhaft zu Nordlinnau.

In Gegenwart der Zeugen richtete der Standesbeamte an
die Verlobten einzeln und nach einander die Frage:

ob sie erklären, daß sie die Ehe mit einander eingehen wollen.

Die Verlobten beantworteten diese Frage bejahend und erfolgte
hierauf der Ausspruch des Standesbeamten, daß er sie nunmehr
kraft des Gesetzes für rechtmäßig verbundene Eheleute erkläre.

Vorgelesen, genehmigt und unterschrieben,

Peter Nissen

Catharina Margareta
Johanna Nissen, gewesene Christensen.

Carsten Hansen

Lorenz Petersen

Der Standesbeamte.
C. Dethlefs

Translated from German, this means:

Entry number 7

In Nordhackstedt on 6 September 1895

Before the undersigned civil registrar, the following appeared today for the purpose of
entering into marriage:

5. laborer Peter Nissen, identity known, Evangelical, born in Heezfeld⁵¹ in the county of Tondern on 2 September 1869, residing in Nordlinnau in Linnau, son of laborer Nis Peter Nissen residing in Tinglef and his deceased wife Marie Cathrine née Enemark
6. housekeeper Catharina Margaretha Johanna Christiansen, identity known, Evangelical, born in Joldelund in the county of Husum on 19 July 1867, residing in Nordlinnau, daughter of laborer Andreas Peter Christiansen and his wife Maria Dorothea née Hansen, both residing in Linnaufeld⁵² in Linnau

The following were present as witnesses:

7. butcher Carsten Hansen, identity known, age 56, residing in Sillerup [this fits the age of the Carsten Hansen born on 4 May 1839 who is a son of Metta Katharina Johannsen and Karsten Hansen; if this is him, he is an uncle of the bride]
8. farmer Lorenz Petersen, identity known, age 42, residing in Nordlinnau

In the presence of the witnesses, the civil official asked the engaged couple one at a time whether they wanted to marry each other. Both members of the engaged couple answered in the affirmative. Following this, the registrar declared them to be legally married by virtue of the law.

Read aloud, approved, and signed,

Peter Nissen

Catharina Margaretha Johanna Nissen, formerly Christensen

Carsten Hansen

Lorenz Petersen

The civil registrar, C. Dethlefs

Once the 1859–1929 marriage book for the Nordhackstedt parish was made available online in November or December 2020, the 1895 church marriage record was also located.⁵³ In comparison with the civil record, the church marriage record states, translated:

Laborer Peter Nissen of Nordlinnau (legitimate son of Niss Peter Nissen and deceased Maria Catharina née Enemark of Heezfeld, parish Bülderup, later of Tingleffeld) and Catharina Margaretha Johanna née Christiansen of Nordlinnau (legitimate daughter of Andreas Peter Christiansen and Maria Dorothea née Hansen of Joldelund, later of Nordlinnaufeld) were married on 6 September 1895.

⁵¹ *MeyersGaz*, online gazetteer, Heez, Tondern, Schleswig, Schleswig-Holstein, Preussen, www.meyersgaz.org/place/10749057 (accessed 9 September 2020). The Ecclesiastical tab states the Protestant parish of Heez is Bülderup, and Heezfeld means a field belonging to Heez.

⁵² According to *Wikipedia*, Lindewitt, <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lindewitt> (accessed 14 December 2020), Linnaufeld, Flensburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, is now Linnaufeld, Schleswig-Flensburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. Linnau is listed as belonging to Lindewitt, and Linnaufeld means a field belonging to Linnau.

⁵³ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Nordhackstedt, Trauungen [marriages] 1859-1929, image 160, entry 7, www.archion.de/p/3941e800f5/ (accessed 3 December 2020). **Document 13.**

According to a certificate from Pastor Bahnsen of Bylderup, Tondern, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany (now Bylderup, Aabenraa, Syddanmark, Denmark⁵⁴) dated 27 January 1884, the husband was born on 2 September 1869 and baptized on 3 October 1869. According to a certificate from Pastor Johannsen of Tingleff dated 3 September 1895, the husband was confirmed on 30 March 1884.⁵⁵

According to a certificate from Pastor Asmussen of Joldelund dated 4 October 1894, the wife was born on 19 July 1867 and baptized on 4 August 1867. According to the confirmation book, the wife was confirmed on 2 April 1882.

Intercession took place on 1 September 1895.⁵⁶

Certificate of the marriage from civil registrar Dethlefs in Nordhackstedt is entry 7, dated 6 September 1895.

Witnesses:

1. Lorenz Petersen of Nordlinnau
2. Carsten Hansen of Sillerup, parish Groß[en]wiehe

The information provided in the church marriage record agrees with the civil marriage record. The church record also adds baptismal and confirmation dates and lists more specific current residences (such as Tingleffeld—i.e., the field belonging to Tinglef—versus Tinglef, and Nordlinnaufeld—i.e., Northern Linnaufeld—versus Linnaufeld) as well as previous residences of the couple's parents.

As a 20-year-old man, Peter Nissen was listed in the Prussian alphabetical military lists under his birth place and birth year, as had been the custom since 1867.⁵⁷

The military record provides the following information about Peter Nissen:⁵⁸

⁵⁴ *Wikipedia*, Bylderup Sogn, https://da.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bylderup_Sogn (accessed 7 December 2020).

⁵⁵ *Arkivalieronline*, Tinglev Sogn Hovedministerialbog, 1860 FK - 1897 FK [births, confirmations], image 234, entry 6, www.sa.dk/ao-soegesider/da/billedviser?epid=17217358#202669,38421409 (accessed 4 December 2020). The confirmation record states that his mother was already deceased.

⁵⁶ Daniela Berger-Künzli, “*Lieber Gott, bitte hilf mir. Ich sterbe dir sonst weg.*”: *Analyse spätmoderer Religiosität am Beispiel von frei formulierten Gebetsanliegen und Fürbitten*, vol. 41 (Bern: Lang, 2006), pp. 43–44. Intercessions or intercessory prayers (known as *Fürbitten*) were sometimes read aloud during a church service by the couple's parents or friends prior to the marriage ceremony. These *Fürbitten* were focused on asking God for the well-being of the bride and the groom.

⁵⁷ *FamilySearch*, Research Wiki, “Military Records for Sønderjylland,” www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Military_Records_for_Sønderjylland (accessed 14 September 2020). The other husbands of the women researched for this project all resided in Sydslesvig their entire lives—i.e., south of the 1920 border—and thus are not in these military lists, as only those living in the counties of Tondern, Sonderburg, or Hadersleben (who are born between about 1842 and 1899) are listed; see *Rigsarkivet (Danish National Archives)*, Alfabetiske lister (lægsruller [sic]), www.sa.dk/ao-soegesider/da/other/other-collection/123 (accessed 29 December 2020).

⁵⁸ *Rigsarkivet (Danish National Archives)*, Alfabetiske lister (lægsruller [sic]), Der königliche Landrat zu Tondern, Alphabetische Listen (1845 - 1920), Z. Lb. nr. 18 Alfabetiske lister. (D.V.S.) Lægsrullen 1869, birth place Heezfeld, image 38, community 21, entry N1, Nissen, Peter, www.sa.dk/ao-soegesider/da/billedviser?epid=19857976#262521,49144964 (accessed 14 September 2020). **Document 14.**

- Peter Nissen was born on 2 September 1869 in Heezfeld, Tondern, a son of small farmer Nis Peter N[issen] and Maria Catharina née Enemark (verified by Peter’s baptismal record from Bilderup parish⁵⁹), both living in Tingleffeld.
- When the military record was created, Peter was an Evangelical farmhand living in Stoltelund, Tondern, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany (now Stoltelund, Aabenraa, Syddanmark, Denmark⁶⁰).
- When inspected in 1889, Peter was registered in the Stoltelund personnel roster. His height was measured at 1.72 m (5’8”),⁶¹ he weighed 59.5 kg (131 lb),⁶² he had lumps on his neck,⁶³ he was in the infantry, and his lot number was 275.⁶⁴
- In 1890, Peter was registered in Tingleff, was 1.75 m (5’9”) tall, weighed 64 kg (141 lb), and was in the infantry.
- In 1891, Peter was registered in Tingleff[?] (seemingly listed as *Daselbst*, meaning “the same place”), was 1.75 m (5’9”) tall, weighed 67 kg (148 lb), had lumps on his neck, was in infantry regiment 82, and was number 53 on presentation list E.

As Peter Nissen’s son, Andreas Peter Nissen, was born in 1895 and no other children could be found for this couple, Peter Nissen likely died shortly after.

Burial records for Nordhackstedt were not available on Archion after 1779 at the time of this perusal, but a burial index was; it lists only one Peter Nissen dying between 1895 (when Andreas Peter was conceived) and 1899 (when his wife remarried): In 1897.⁶⁵ Peter Nissen’s civil death record, subsequently obtained by writing to the Schafflund civil registration office, verifies 1897 as his death year.⁶⁶

⁵⁹ *Arkivalieronline*, Bylderup Sogn Kontraministerialbog, Fødte mænd og kvinder 1859 - Fødte mænd og kvinder 1898 [births], image 31, entry 11, www.sa.dk/ao-soegesider/da/billedviser?epid=22019205#450458.80729295 (accessed 9 September 2020).

⁶⁰ *Wikipedia*, Tinglev Sogn, https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tinglev_Sogn (accessed 14 December 2020). Stoltelund is listed as part of Tinglev *sogn* (parish).

⁶¹ *Lexikon+*, “Umrechnung: Deutsche in Englische Körpergröße,” <https://lexikon.plus/umrechnung/englische-koerpergroesse> (accessed 5 January 2021). The initial “1.” of the height is listed only once, at the top of the table; the first number in the third column of each registration entry indicates the number following the decimal.

⁶² The military roll does not specify this number as his weight; however, it is listed in the “Größe” (height, or size) column along with the height, so weight is the logical conclusion and kilogram would have been the unit used.

⁶³ The military record lists him as having “Drüsen am Halse,” indicating growths (tumors/lumps) on the neck.

⁶⁴ According to Maximilian von Feilitzsch, *Zusammenstellung Der Gesetze, Verordnungen Und Vollzugsbestimmungen über Die Verpflichtung Zum Kriegsdienste in Bayern: Mit Einleitung Und Sachregister*, 2nd ed. (Nördlingen: Beck, 1873), p. 45, https://books.google.com/books?id=1z9SAAAAcAAJ&pg=PA504&dpq=PA504&dq=loosnummer+275&source=bl&cots=9O3HcZYI01&sig=ACfU3U3EHn1rIZ8yPXmznPIHBXmG4uZgpg&chl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiri4nHno_tAhVEJzQIHxHNCCMQ6AEwAHoECAUQAq#v=onepage&q=loosnummer%20275&f=false (accessed 19 November 2020), being assigned a lot number does not indicate release from compulsory service; but the higher the number, the more likely a conscript is to remain exempt from military service in times of peace as long as the number of available conscripts is greater than the troops’ needs.

⁶⁵ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Nordhackstedt, Namensregister Bestattungen [index of burials] 1880-1936, image 18, year 1897, Nissen Peter, www.archion.de/p/d051c9c7cf/ (accessed 14 July 2020).

⁶⁶ *Standesamt [civil registration office] Schafflund*, Tannenweg 1, 24980 Schafflund, black/white scan, Nordhackstedt, civil death record, 1897, entry 4, Peter Nissen (email from Angelika.Rogalla@amt-schafflund.de 17 November 2020).

The civil death record states that Peter Nissen died in his home in Nordlinnau, Flensburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany (now Nordlinnau, Schleswig-Flensburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany⁶⁷), at age 27 on 14 February 1897. His wife, Catharina Margaretha Johanna née Christiansen, was the informant. The record further states that Peter Nissen was born in Heezfeld in the county of Tondern, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany (now Heds Mark, Aabenraa, Syddanmark, Denmark⁶⁸), to laborer Nis Peter Nissen and his wife Maria Catharina née Enemark; at the time of Peter's death, his mother was already deceased and his father was living in Tingleff, Tondern, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany (now Tinglev, Aabenraa, Syddanmark, Denmark⁶⁹).

Once the later burial records for the Nordhackstedt parish were made available online in November or December 2020, his church burial record was also located.⁷⁰ The record states that Peter Nissen, laborer in Nordlinnau, previously married with Catharina Margaretha Johanna née Christiansen, born in Heezfeld in the parish of Bülderup on 2 September 1869, died on 14 February 1897 and was buried on 19 February 1897. Peter's parents had married just seven days before his birth.⁷¹

Upon Peter Nissen's death, Catharina was a widowed mother of one-year-old Andreas Peter.⁷² A little over two years after her husband's death, Catharina married Broder Heinrich Nissen.⁷³ The surname Nissen is common in the parish records of this area. Although Catharina's husbands both had the surname Nissen, it was determined they were not brothers, as evidenced by their different parents' names in Peter's death record⁷⁴ and in Broder's baptismal record⁷⁵ (Peter was a son of Nis Peter Nissen and Maria Catharina née Enemark, and Broder was a son of Gregers Nissen and Sünne Catharina née Fries). It is, of course, possible they were distantly related.

⁶⁷ *Wikipedia*, Lindewitt, <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lindewitt> (accessed 7 December 2020). Linnau is listed as belonging to the community of Lindewitt. And according to *MeyersGaz*, online gazetteer, Nordlinnaufeld, Schleswig, Schleswig-Holstein, Preussen, www.meyersgaz.org/place/20343022 (accessed 7 December 2020), Nordlinnaufeld is dependent on (i.e., contained within) Linnau.

⁶⁸ *Wikipedia*, Bylderup Sogn, https://da.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bylderup_Sogn (accessed 7 December 2020). Heds Mark is listed as part of Bylderup *sgn* (parish).

⁶⁹ *Wikipedia*, Tinglev Sogn, https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tinglev_Sogn (accessed 7 December 2020).

⁷⁰ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Nordhackstedt, Bestattungen [burials] 1866-1987, image 78, entry 4, www.archion.de/p/f726865426/ (accessed 4 December 2020). **Document 16.**

⁷¹ *FamilySearch*, Denmark, Åbenrå, Hellevad - Church records, Den Danske Folkekirke, Hellevad sogn (Åbenrå), Kirkebøger, 1764-1914, FHL microfilm 42780, DGS 4034314, image 201, page 453, entry 2, www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-89ZD-L379 (accessed 4 December 2020).

⁷² *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Großenwiehe Bestattungen [burials] 1938-1983, image 120, entry 2, www.archion.de/p/86135df977/ (accessed 15 December 2020). Andreas Peter Nissen lived to adulthood, dying in 1964.

⁷³ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Medelby, Trauungen [marriages] 1879-1937, image 48, entry 2, www.archion.de/p/50a8fb5e8d/ (accessed 30 June 2020). **Document 7.**

⁷⁴ *Standesamt [civil registration office] Schafflund*, Tannenweg 1, 24980 Schafflund, black/white scan, Nordhackstedt, civil death record, 1897, entry 4, Peter Nissen (email from Angelika.Rogalla@amt-schafflund.de 17 November 2020). **Document 15.**

⁷⁵ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Medelby, Taufen [baptisms] 1824-1880, image 232, entry 48, www.archion.de/p/700c0222be/ (accessed 4 August 2020).

Sine Catharina Nissen was not the only child of her mother's second marriage. Catharina and her second husband, Broder Heinrich Nissen, had an additional two children, both born in Medelby:

- Maria Dorothea, born in Medelby on 11 November 1901⁷⁶ and died in Osterbyfeld on 28 January 1904⁷⁷
- Gregers Heinrich, born in Osterby on 25 December 1903,⁷⁸ married Christina Jürgensen in Großenwiehe on 9 April 1928,⁷⁹ and died on 18 January 1992⁸⁰

No other children of the couple were found in baptismal records through April 1908, which marks the end of the Medelby baptisms available online (and the mother's 39th year); no burial records were found for any additional children either, so they likely had no other children.

Protestants who partook of Holy Communion in the 1700s were sometimes known as *Konfitemten*, or “confessors” (i.e., confessors of the faith).⁸¹ Broder and Catharina took Holy Communion in the parish church of Medelby on *Bußtag* in 1899, which that year was on 22 November;⁸² they were living in Osterbyfeld, and Broder (the given name Broder Heinrich Nissen went by) was the holder of a small plot of land.⁸³

⁷⁶ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Medelby, Taufen [baptisms] 1899-1907, image 12, entry 45, www.archion.de/p/8dad7e2a6/ (accessed 3 August 2020).

⁷⁷ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Medelby, Bestattungen [burials] 1899-1933, image 13, entry 5, www.archion.de/p/db85a77fb0/ (accessed 3 August 2020).

⁷⁸ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Medelby, Taufen [baptisms] 1899-1907, image 21, entry 8, www.archion.de/p/af3de33062/ (accessed 3 August 2020).

⁷⁹ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Nordfriesland, Großenwiehe, Trauungen [marriages] 1908-1937, image 73, www.archion.de/p/274883c654/ (accessed 3 December 2020).

⁸⁰ *Ancestry*, online family trees, “Andresen,” user Karin Andresen, Gregers Heinrich Nissen, www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/89238307/person/132169517795 (accessed 3 December 2020).

⁸¹ Adolf Ronnenberg, “Liste Der Abendmahlsgäste Als Geschichtsquelle? Beispiel Wiedensahl 1639-1703,” *HeimatNetz*, 17 November 2016, pp. 1, 4, heimat-netz.de/?dl_name=http://heimat-netz.de/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Abendmahl-als-Geschichtsquelle.pdf (accessed 23 November 2020).

⁸² *FamilySearch Wiki*, Denmark: Moveable Feast Days in 1899, www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Denmark:Moveable_Feast_Days_in_1899 (accessed 23 November 2020). *Bußtag* is 11 days before the First Advent; see https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buß-_und_Betttag (accessed 23 November 2020).

⁸³ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Nordfriesland, Medelby, Abendmahlsgäste-Konfitemten [Holy Communion participants] 1867-1908, image 153, entries 305–306, www.archion.de/p/dd9c75b3ab/ (accessed 23 November 2020). **Document 17**. Broder Heinrich Nissen is listed as Broder Nissen, indicating that he went by his first given name. Only one other Broder Nissen was married in Medelby between 1879 and 1899: smallholder Thomas Broder Nissen of Osterbyfeld, married on 26 May 1899 (his marriage is on the same record as laborer Broder Heinrich Nissen's). The 22 November 1899 list of Holy Communion participants lists a Broder Nissen (and wife), smallholder in Osterbyfeld. The same image lists Thomas Broder Nissen (and wife), smallholder in Osterbyfeld, on 24 post Trinitatis (12 November) 1899. The facts that no other people appear under both dates and that one of these two “Broder Nissen” names includes “Thomas” show that the 12 November and 22 November listings are not for the same person. Many records list Broder Heinrich Nissen as a laborer, but both his daughter Sine's 1913 confirmation record and the Holy Communion list identifies him as a smallholder. Therefore, smallholder Thomas Broder Nissen who married in 1899 is smallholder Thomas Broder Nissen in the 12 November

Catharina Margaretha Johanna née Christiansen died on 21 June 1929 at age 61, just a couple of months before the Great Depression began—although she did live through its beginnings, in 1921–1923, when extreme inflation caused money in Germany to become essentially worthless.⁸⁴

Catharina was buried in Medelby on 26 June 1929, according to her burial record leaving behind her husband and three children:⁸⁵

- From her first marriage: Andreas Peter Nissen in Gr. Wiehe [Großenwiehe], Flensburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany (now Großenwiehe, Schleswig-Flensburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany⁸⁶)
- From her second marriage: the married Sine Petersen in Jardelund (Medelby parish⁸⁷)
- From her second marriage: Gregers Heinrich Nissen in Osterbyfeld (Medelby parish⁸⁸)

Her husband Broder Heinrich Nissen died a few years later, at age 62, on 2 February 1937.⁸⁹ He had been born in Osterbyfeld to Gregers Nissen and Catharina Fries on 25 December 1874,⁹⁰ the same year civil registration began in the Prussian province of Schleswig-Holstein.⁹¹

1899 Holy Communion list, and laborer/ smallholder Broder Heinrich Nissen of this study is smallholder Broder Nissen in the 22 November 1899 Holy Communion list.

⁸⁴ Shirley J. Riemer, Roger P. Minert, and Jennifer A. Anderson, *The German Research Companion* (Sacramento, CA: Lorelei Press, 2010), Chronology of Events in German History, p. 8.

⁸⁵ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Medelby, Bestattungen [burials] 1899-1933, image 55, entry 14, www.archion.de/p/9aa262c482/ (accessed 3 August 2020). **Document 2.**

⁸⁶ *Wikipedia*, Großenwiehe, <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Großenwiehe> (accessed 7 December 2020).

⁸⁷ *MeyersGaz*, online gazetteer, Jardelund, Tondern, Schleswig, Schleswig-Holstein, Preussen, www.meyersgaz.org/place/10892036 (accessed 3 August 2020).

⁸⁸ *MeyersGaz*, online gazetteer, Osterby, Tondern, Schleswig, Schleswig-Holstein, Preussen, www.meyersgaz.org/place/20427003 (accessed 3 August 2020). There is no listing for Osterbyfeld on *MeyersGaz*, but clicking on the “Map” tab in the Osterby listing shows Osterbyfeld surrounding Osterby.

⁸⁹ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Medelby, Bestattungen [burials] 1930-1968, image 12, entry 2, www.archion.de/p/9d4d64b83a/ (accessed 3 August 2020). **Document 18.**

⁹⁰ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Medelby, Taufen [baptisms] 1824-1880, image 232, entry 48, www.archion.de/p/700c0222be/ (accessed 4 August 2020).

⁹¹ *FamilySearch*, Research Wiki, “German Civil Registration Time Periods,” www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/German_Civil_Registration_Time_Periods (accessed 17 September 2020).

Generation Three: Maria Dorothea née Hansen

As proven by the 1867 baptismal record, 1882 confirmation record, and 1895 marriage records discussed in the previous section of this report, Catharina Margaretha Johanna née Christiansen is the daughter of Andreas Peter Christiansen and Maria Dorothea née Hansen.

Catharina's mother Maria Dorothea Hansen's baptismal record from Joldelund⁹² states that she was born in Süderhuus, Husum, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany (now Süderhuus, Nordfriesland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany⁹³), on 18 February 1841. She was a legitimate daughter and the 5th child of hireling Carsten Hansen and Metha Catharina née Johannsen.

Maria Dorothea Hansen went by her given name Maria.⁹⁴ The introduction to her and other teenagers' confirmations in the parish of Großenwiehe states: "Paa Palmsøndag, den 16^d Marts 1856 bleve confirmerede" (translated from Danish into English, this means "on Palm Sunday, the 16th of March 1856 were confirmed"), followed first by "Drengene" (the boys) and then "Pigerne" (the girls). The ninth girl is listed thus:⁹⁵

Marie Dorathea Hansen, en Datter af Indsider Carsten Hansen i Lyngeraa; født i Joldelund, den 18^d Febr. 1841.
V. A. Flensburg, den 4^d Octbr 1848 Esmarch Phys.

Translated from Danish, this record states that Marie Dorathea [Dorothea] Hansen, a daughter of tenant Carsten Hansen in Lyngeraa (Lüngerau, Flensburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany [now Lüngerau, Schleswig-Flensburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany⁹⁶], which is located close between Großenwiehe, Ostlinnau, and Sillerup⁹⁷), was born in Joldelund on 18 February 1841 and was vaccinated against smallpox on 4 October 1848 by Dr. Esmarch in Flensburg.

⁹² *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Nordfriesland, Joldelund, Taufen [baptisms] 1763-1854, image 221, entry 4, www.archion.de/p/e9aac903c1/ (accessed 18 August 2020). **Document 19**.

⁹³ *Wikipedia*, Goldebek, <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goldebek> (accessed 7 December 2020). Süderhuus is listed as being right next to Goldebek.

⁹⁴ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Nordfriesland, Joldelund, Bestattungen [burials] 1862-1962, images 219–220, entry 8, www.archion.de/p/b11a072af6/ (accessed 3 December 2020). **Document 20**. This burial record of Maria Dorothea née Hansen's mother-in-law (Catharina née Clausen) lists her son Andreas Peter Christiansen's wife as Maria née Hansen, indicating that Maria is the given name Maria Dorothea née Hansen went by.

⁹⁵ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Großenwiehe, Konfirmationen [confirmations] 1839-1883, image 38, entry 9, www.archion.de/p/9b5b3764fd/ (accessed 19 August 2020). **Document 21**.

⁹⁶ *Wikipedia*, Lindewitt, <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lindewitt> (accessed 14 December 2020). Lüngerau is listed as belonging to the community of Lindewitt.

⁹⁷ *MeyersGaz*, online gazetteer, Lüngerau, Schleswig, Schleswig-Holstein, Preussen, www.meyersgaz.org/place/20114046 (accessed 19 August 2020).

All of Schleswig and Holstein was under Danish rule until 1864. When the London Protocol (1852) was signed at the end of the First Schleswig War, Denmark agreed to cease attempts to incorporate Schleswig into the monarchy, and Prussia agreed to accept the law of succession—neither adhered to its promises. The German Confederation rejected Christian IX, Christian VIII's chosen hereditary prince, as duke of Schleswig and Holstein; and the Danish king, pressured by nationals, signed the 1863 November Constitution, declaring Schleswig to be part of the Kingdom of Denmark.

At an impasse, with Austria and Prussia occupying Holstein while demanding on 16 January 1864 that the constitution be revoked, and with Denmark refusing to revoke it, the German powers declared war on Denmark and invaded Schleswig. In this Second Schleswig War, Austria and Prussia were victorious.⁹⁸

The Treaty of Vienna was signed in 1864, and Denmark was forced to cede not only the German duchies of Holstein (to Austria) and Lauenburg (to Prussia), but also the long-standing Danish duchy of Schleswig (to Prussia),⁹⁹ where Maria Dorothea Hansen and her family lived.

The rather fluid Danish-German language border after the Second Schleswig War ran just north of Joldelund, meaning Maria's family likely spoke German in daily life, although it is quite possible they spoke Danish as well. German was the administrative language of northern Schleswig.¹⁰⁰

Just two years into a thirteen-year global cholera outbreak (1863–1875) that caused 115,000 deaths in Germany and 600,000 worldwide,¹⁰¹ Maria Dorothea Hansen married Andreas Peter Christiansen (born in Joldelund on 6 January 1831 to parents Christian Christiansen and Catharina née Claussen¹⁰²) in Joldelund on 5 November 1865.

Their marriage record states the following:¹⁰³

Der Junggesell Andreas Peter Christiansen in
Joldelund, ehel. Sohn des Abnahmemanns Christian Christi-
ansen und der Catharina geb. Clausen in Joldelund, mit
seiner Braut Maria Dorethea Hansen in Joldelund,
led. Standes, ehel. Tochter des Arbeitsmanns Carsten
Hansen in Sillerup und der Mettha Catharina
geb. Johannsen.

⁹⁸ Keith A. P. Sandiford, “The British Cabinet and the Schleswig-Holstein Crisis, 1863–1864,” *History* 58, no. 194 (1973), pp. 361–364, 368, www.jstor.org/stable/24407714 (accessed 14 December 2020).

⁹⁹ W. R. Prior, *North Sleswick under Prussian Rule, 1864-1914*, no. 40 (London: Oxford University Press, Humphrey Milford, 1914), pp. 3–4.

¹⁰⁰ *Wikimedia*, Research Wiki, Schleswig-Holstein German or Danish, www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Schleswig-Holstein_German_or_Danish (accessed 18 September 2020). “In 1867 the ‘language border’ between German and Danish ran roughly north of Viöl to Joldelund and Oeversee, but the political border lay further north.”

¹⁰¹ Daniel Knutsson, *The Effect of Water Filtration on Cholera Mortality*, no. 1346 (2020), p. 9, <https://www.ifn.se/wfiles/wp/wp1346.pdf> (accessed 5 January 2021).

¹⁰² *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Nordfriesland, Joldelund, Taufen [baptisms] 1763-1854, image 188, entry 1, www.archion.de/p/dc784256f0/ (accessed 18 August 2020).

¹⁰³ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Nordfriesland, Joldelund, Trauungen [marriages] 1862-1931, image 125, entry 6, www.archion.de/p/3cb02814a5/ (accessed 18 August 2020). **Document 22.**

Translated, this means:

The bachelor Andreas Peter Christiansen in Joldelund (legitimate son of retired farmer Christian Christiansen, living on a life estate, and of Catharina née Clausen in Joldelund) with his bride, Maria Dorethea [Dorothea] Hansen in Joldelund (unmarried, legitimate daughter of laborer Carsten Hansen in Sillerup, Flensburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany [now Sillerup, Schleswig-Flensburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany¹⁰⁴], and of Mettha Catharina née Johannsen) [were married on 5 November 1865].

Following this paragraph are additional pieces of information:

- The groom presented a smallpox certificate from Bredstedt, Husum, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany (now Bredstedt, Nordfriesland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany¹⁰⁵), dated 5 September 1833 and signed by Dr. Lorenzen.
- The bride presented a confirmation certificate from Großenwiehe dated 4 October 1865 and issued by Pastor Momsen. She also presented a smallpox certificate from Flensburg, Flensburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany (an independent city¹⁰⁶), dated 4 October (no year listed) and signed by Dr. Esmarch.
- The groom was born on 6 January 1831.
- The bride was born on 16 February 1841.

Austria was forced to give up rule of Holstein after the Seven Weeks' War (1866)¹⁰⁷ the year after Maria was married, and Holstein and Schleswig were united into the Prussian province of Schleswig-Holstein.¹⁰⁸

Since Maria was married in 1865 and Danish censuses that include southern Schleswig were last conducted in 1864, she is only listed in censuses before her marriage.¹⁰⁹ A thorough look at the census records for the Großenwiehe (in Danish, *Store Vj*) and Joldelund parishes show she was not living in either of those parishes during the 1860 census enumeration; she may have been working as a servant elsewhere, as was common among young adults at the time.

Andreas Peter Christiansen and Maria had three children in Joldelund:

¹⁰⁴ *Wikipedia*, Lindewitt, <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lindewitt> (accessed 7 December 2020). Sillerup is listed as belonging to the community of Lindewitt.

¹⁰⁵ *Wikipedia*, Bredstedt, <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bredstedt> (accessed 7 December 2020).

¹⁰⁶ *Wikipedia*, Flensburg, <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flensburg> (accessed 7 January 2021).

¹⁰⁷ The Editors of Encyclopædia Britannica, "Seven Weeks' War," Encyclopædia Britannica (Encyclopædia Britannica, inc., 16 August 2020), www.britannica.com/event/Seven-Weeks-War (accessed 17 September 2020).

¹⁰⁸ *FamilySearch*, Research Wiki, "Schleswig-Holstein History," www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Schleswig-Holstein_History (accessed 18 September 2020).

¹⁰⁹ Hans H. Worsøe, "Folketællinger i Nordslesvig 1864-1919," Tidsskrift.de, <https://tidsskrift.dk/soenderjydskeaarboeger/article/viewFile/80237/115361> (accessed 17 November 2020). Except for a few pages from Flensburg found in the *Landesarchiv* (State Archives of Schleswig-Holstein), the entirety of the 1864 pages for Schleswig are lost. Neither *Rigsarkivet* (the Danish National Archives) nor the *Landesarchiv* know what happened to these records. For later Schleswig census enumerations, the pages were destroyed after gathering statistical information, with the exception of the *tællingskort* (individual cards) for Danish citizens from the 1885 census enumeration.

- Catharina Margaretha Johanna, born on 19 July 1867¹¹⁰ (as a focus person, her information is detailed in the section in this report titled “Generation Two: Generation Two: Catharina Margaretha Johanna née Christiansen”)
- Metta Christina or Metta Catharina,¹¹¹ born on 13 December 1868,¹¹² confirmed in Nordhackstedt on 6 April 1884,¹¹³ and died unmarried in Nordlinnaufeld on 13 July 1891¹¹⁴
- Christine, born on 23 January 1872¹¹⁵ and died in Ostlinnaufeld on 1 March 1875¹¹⁶

In January 1871, a year before Maria’s third child was born, the German Confederation (including the new Prussian province of Schleswig-Holstein) was unified to become the German Empire.

By law, the family would have had to acquire a certificate of departure to change residences. A residential registration document for the family, which would list the exact date they moved, is not available online but might be found in a town archive.¹¹⁷

Even without any residential registration document, the children’s baptismal records attest to the family having moved sometime between January 1872 and July 1874, to Ostlinnaufeld in Nordhackstedt parish, about 7 km northeast of Joldelund.¹¹⁸

¹¹⁰ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Nordfriesland, Joldelund, Taufen [baptisms] 1862-1907, image 20, entry 18, www.archion.de/p/ca9375b4c8/ (accessed 30 June 2020).

¹¹¹ Her baptismal record lists her as Metta Christina, but her confirmation and burial records both list her as Metta Catharina. The records are for the same person; all list her birth date and place, and only one person is born on that date in that place. Her parents’ names, listed on her confirmation record, also match her baptismal record exactly.

¹¹² *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Nordfriesland, Joldelund, Taufen [baptisms] 1862-1907, image 25, entry 28, www.archion.de/p/53ad65f99f/ (accessed 18 August 2020).

¹¹³ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Nordfriesland, Nordhackstedt, Konfirmationen [confirmations] 1812-1900, image 148, www.archion.de/p/dd89038801/ (accessed 3 December 2020).

¹¹⁴ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Nordhackstedt, Bestattungen [burials] 1866-1987, image 63, entry 16, www.archion.de/p/dc24b3cda9/ (accessed 9 December 2020).

¹¹⁵ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Nordfriesland, Joldelund, Taufen [baptisms] 1862-1907, image 34, entry 4, www.archion.de/p/ba0ca6568e/ (accessed 18 August 2020).

¹¹⁶ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Nordfriesland, Nordhackstedt, Bestattungen [burials] 1866-1987, image 37, entry 7, www.archion.de/p/edcf067210/ (accessed 3 December 2020).

¹¹⁷ Roger P. Minert, *German Residential Records For Genealogists: Tracing Your Ancestor From Place to Place in Germany* (Orting, WA: Family Roots Publishing Co. LLC, 2018), Chapter 32: Schleswig-Holstein, section III.

¹¹⁸ *MeyersGaz*, online gazetteer, Ostlinnaufeld, Schleswig, Schleswig-Holstein, Preussen, www.meyersgaz.org/place/20431029 (accessed 18 August 2020).

In Ostlinnaufeld, Flensburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany (now Ostlinnaufeld, Schleswig-Flensburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany¹¹⁹), the following two children were born:

- Carsten, born on 28 July 1874¹²⁰ and confirmed in Nordhackstedt on 30 March 1890¹²¹
- Christina, born exactly two years later, on 28 July 1876,¹²² confirmed in Nordhackstedt on 27 March 1892,¹²³ married Carsten Jensen in Nordhackstedt on 27 August 1897,¹²⁴ and died in Kleinwiehefeld on 22 October 1969¹²⁵

No other children of the couple are found in the baptismal records of Ostlinnaufeld through 1885, at which time the mother is almost 45.

Maria's husband, Andreas Peter Christiansen, died in Nordlinnau at age 75 on 21 August 1906; he was born in Joldelund to Christian Christiansen and Katharina née Clausen, who both preceded him in death.¹²⁶ He was buried in the Nordhackstedt parish cemetery on 26 August 1906.¹²⁷

¹¹⁹ *Wikipedia*, Lindewitt, <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lindewitt> (accessed 7 December 2020). Linnau is listed as belonging to the community of Lindewitt. And according to *MeyersGaz*, online gazetteer, Ostlinnaufeld, Schleswig, Schleswig-Holstein, Preussen, www.meyersgaz.org/place/20431029 (accessed 7 December 2020), Ostlinnaufeld is dependent on (i.e., contained within) Linnau.

¹²⁰ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Nordhackstedt, Taufen [baptisms] 1860-1907, image 45, entry 20, www.archion.de/p/dfca6b9da3/ (accessed 18 August 2020).

¹²¹ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Nordhackstedt, Konfirmationen [confirmations] 1812-1900, image 177, entry 4, www.archion.de/p/c2f5f5f3b8/ (accessed 9 December 2020).

¹²² *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg Nordhackstedt, Taufen [baptisms] 1860-1907, image 52, entry 24, www.archion.de/p/ff42a09931/ (accessed 18 August 2020).

¹²³ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Nordhackstedt, Konfirmationen [confirmations] 1812-1900, image 194, entry 1, www.archion.de/p/ab0e7f1736/ (accessed 9 December 2020).

¹²⁴ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Nordhackstedt, Trauungen [marriages] 1859-1929, images 167–168, entry 2, www.archion.de/p/10699c9caf/ (accessed 9 December 2020).

¹²⁵ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Großenwiehe, Bestattungen [burials] 1938-1983, image 142, entry 30, www.archion.de/p/9f2b6cc70d/ (accessed 9 December 2020).

¹²⁶ *Standesamt [civil registration office] Schafflund*, Tannenweg 1, 24980 Schafflund, black/white scan, Nordhackstedt, civil death record, 1906, entry 9, Andreas Peter Christiansen (email from Angelika.Rogalla@amt-schafflund.de 17 November 2020). **Document 23**. The record lists him as the husband of Katharina née Clausen (his mother's name), but a signed note in the column officially corrects this to Maria Dorothea née Hansen.

¹²⁷ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Nordhackstedt, Bestattungen [burials] 1866-1987, image 105, entry 9, www.archion.de/p/401abb265b/ (accessed 9 December 2020).

According to the burial index of the Nordhackstedt parish, a Maria Dora Christiansen died in 1921.¹²⁸ When later Nordhackstedt burials were put online at the end of 2020, the church burial record this index refers to was located,¹²⁹ which verifies that the index refers to the correct Maria.

The burial record states, translated: widow Maria Dora Christiansen née Hansen of Kleinwiehefeld, Flensburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany (now Kleinwiehefeld, Schleswig-Flensburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany¹³⁰), born on 18 February 1841 in Süderhuus to parents Carsten Hansen and Metta Kathrine née Hansen, died on 7 June 1921 and was buried on 12 June 1921.

¹²⁸ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Nordhackstedt, Namensregister Bestattungen [index of burials] 1880-1936, image 6, year 1921, Christiansen, Maria Dora, www.archion.de/p/c2bcbceffd/ (accessed 18 September 2020).

¹²⁹ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Nordhackstedt, Bestattungen [burials] 1866-1987, image 139, entry 10, www.archion.de/p/fdeb612ecc/ (accessed 4 December 2020). **Document 24.** According to an email from the Schafflund civil registration office from 11 November 2020, no death register fitting the date and name in the burial index is in the Schafflund office. The church burial record later located online states that the civil death record is filed with the Großenwiehe civil registration office under 8 June 1921.

¹³⁰ *Wikipedia*, Lindewitt, <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lindewitt> (accessed 14 December 2020). Kleinwiehe is listed as belonging to the community of Lindewitt, and Kleinwiehefeld means a field belonging to Kleinwiehe.

Generation Four: Metta Katharina née Johannsen

Browsing the Joldelund baptismal records from Maria Dorothea née Hansen's 1841 birth led to locating siblings of Maria and, eventually, her parents' marriage record.

Maria's parents, Carsten Hansen and Metta Katharina née Johannsen, were married in Joldelund on 30 December 1831.¹³¹ Translated, their marriage record states:

The bridegroom Carsten Hansen (legitimate son of deceased farmer Hans Hinrichsen, who had a full-sized farm, and of deceased Margaretha née Carstens in Sillerup) and Metta Catharina Johannsen (daughter of deceased Hans Johannsen and of Margaretha Christina née Jürgensen in Seeth [Seth, Tondern, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, now Sæd, Tønder, Syddanmark, Denmark,¹³² about 2.6 km from Uberg¹³³], parish Uberg, Tondern, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany [now Ubjerg, Tønder, Syddanmark, Denmark¹³⁴]) were married on 30 December 1831.

The bridegroom had his doctor's letter dated 23 November 1831 in Großenwiehe; the certificate of the procured proclamation dated 18 December 1831 in Großenwiehe; and his vaccination certificate dated 20 August 1812 in Großenwiehe.

The bride likewise delivered her doctor's letter dated 15 November 1831 in Uberg and her vaccination certificate dated 27 November 1811 in Tondern, Tondern, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany.

Since the marriage record does not list Metta Katharina as a widow or Carsten Hansen as a widower, this was their first marriage.

One other Metta Catharina Johannsen in the nearby parish of Bjolderup, Apenrade, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany (now Bjolderup, Aabenraa, Syddanmark, Denmark¹³⁵), was living at the same time, but she was determined to be a different person because that Metta Catharina's husband remarried after her death in 1837,¹³⁶ whereas the Metta Katharina of this study will be shown to have lived beyond 1837.

¹³¹ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Nordfriesland, Joldelund, Trauungen [marriages] 1763-1892, image 55, year 1831, entry 3, www.archion.de/p/1e79ef06df/ (accessed 18 August 2020). **Document 25.**

¹³² *Wikipedia*, Sæd (bebyggelse), [https://da.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sæd_\(bebyggelse\)](https://da.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sæd_(bebyggelse)) (accessed 7 December 2020).

¹³³ *MeyersGaz*, online gazetteer, Seth, Tondern, Schleswig, Schleswig-Holstein, Preussen, www.meyersgaz.org/place/20803016 (accessed 19 August 2020).

¹³⁴ *Wikipedia*, Ubjerg Sogn, https://da.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ubjerg_Sogn (accessed 7 December 2020).

¹³⁵ *Wikipedia*, Bjolderup Sogn, https://da.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bjolderup_Sogn (accessed 7 December 2020).

¹³⁶ Arkivalieronline, Bjolderup Sogn Kontramministerialbog, Døde mænd og kvinder 1763 - Døde mænd og kvinder 1863 [deaths], image 172, entry 8, www.sa.dk/ao-soegesider/da/billedviser?epid=22019179#450314,80720303 (accessed 9 September 2020). Jacob Boisen Jepsen's burial record states he was married in 1824 with Metta Catharina Johannsen, who died on 10 June 1837; since the Metta Katharina Johannsen of this report lived past 1837, this is a different couple.

A child in Denmark in the 1800s was to be vaccinated at a young age, and certainly before being confirmed in the Lutheran church at around age 14. By 1812, immunization had become mandatory in Schleswig-Holstein.¹³⁷ Since Metta Katharina Johannsen was vaccinated in 1811, she was born between about 1797 and 1811 (depending on whether her vaccination took place closer to her confirmation or her birth). And since her parents lived in Seth in the parish of Uberg when she married, she was likely born and baptized in the parish of Uberg. As expected, this is where her baptismal record was found.

According to her Uberg baptismal record,¹³⁸ Metta Katharina Johannsen was born in Seth on 11 October 1802 to parents Hans Johannsen and Magretha Kiestina née Petersen. Metta Katharina was born thirty years after the duchies of Schleswig (including her hometown of Seth) and Holstein became Danish.¹³⁹ Her parents' first child had died as an 8-week-old infant the year before Metta Katharina was born,¹⁴⁰ and a younger brother died in 1813 at age 4 years.¹⁴¹ When Metta Katharina was just 15 years old in 1817, her father, Hans Johannsen, drowned in the stream south of Seth, leaving his wife a widow with four children.¹⁴²

The widowed Margaretha Christina may have moved to another parish with her surviving children, because no confirmation record is found in the Uberg parish for Metta Katharina or her brother Jürgen. However, if they did leave for a while, the family returned by 1831, as both her brother Ingwert's confirmation in May 1831¹⁴³ and her own marriage in December of the same year¹⁴⁴ list them as residents of Seth.

Metta Katharina's mother is listed in her and her family's church records with several variants of her given names: Magretha Kistina/Christina/Kiestina/Kastina; Magaretha Christina/Kastina; and Margaretha Christina.

¹³⁷ *FamilySearch*, Research Wiki, "Schleswig-Holstein Timeline," www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Schleswig-Holstein_Timeline (accessed 21 August 2020).

¹³⁸ *Arkivalieronline*, Ubjerg Sogn Kontraministerialbog, Fødte mænd og kvinder 1763 - Fødte mænd og kvinder 1863 [births], image 77, entry 15, www.sa.dk/ao-soegesider/da/billedviser?epid=22045412#455267,81458556 (accessed 20 August 2020). **Document 26.**

¹³⁹ *FamilySearch*, Research Wiki, "Schleswig-Holstein Timeline," www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Schleswig-Holstein_Timeline (accessed 21 August 2020).

¹⁴⁰ *Arkivalieronline*, Ubjerg Sogn Kontraministerialbog, Døde mænd og kvinder 1763 - Døde mænd og kvinder 1863 [deaths], image 52, entry 6, www.sa.dk/ao-soegesider/da/billedviser?epid=22045412#455268,81458720 (accessed 18 September 2020).

¹⁴¹ *Arkivalieronline*, Ubjerg Sogn Kontraministerialbog, Døde mænd og kvinder 1763 - Døde mænd og kvinder 1863 [deaths], image 76, entry 4, www.sa.dk/ao-soegesider/da/billedviser?epid=22045412#455268,81458744 (accessed 18 September 2020).

¹⁴² *Arkivalieronline*, Ubjerg Sogn Kontraministerialbog, Døde mænd og kvinder 1763 - Døde mænd og kvinder 1863 [deaths], image 86, entry 1, www.sa.dk/ao-soegesider/da/billedviser?epid=22045412#455268,81458754 (accessed 17 September 2020). **Document 27.**

¹⁴³ *Arkivalieronline*, Ubjerg Sogn Hovedministerialbog, 1739 K - 1938 K [confirmations], image 52, entry 6, www.sa.dk/ao-soegesider/da/billedviser?epid=17217402#202780,38445469 (accessed 18 September 2020).

¹⁴⁴ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Nordfriesland, Joldelund, Trauungen [marriages] 1763-1892, image 55, year 1831, entry 3, www.archion.de/p/1e79ef06df/ (accessed 18 August 2020). **Document 25.**

She is also listed with alternating surnames in various records, reflecting the Danish patronymic naming system loosening its hold at this time:

- *Jürgensen* in her (i.e., Margaretha Christina's) son Jürgen Peter's 1800¹⁴⁵ baptismal record
- *Jürgens* in her son Jürgen Peter's 1801 burial record¹⁴⁶
- *Petersen* in her daughter Metta Katharina's 1802¹⁴⁷ and son Jürgen's 1806 baptismal records¹⁴⁸
- *Jürgens* in her son Ingwart's 1809¹⁴⁹ and son Jens's 1812¹⁵⁰ baptismal records
- *Petersen* in her son Ingwart's 1813 burial record¹⁵¹
- *Jürgens* in her son Ingwert's 1815 baptismal record¹⁵²
- *Petersen* in her husband Hans Johannsen's 1817 burial record¹⁵³
- *Jürgensen* in her daughter Metta Katharina's 1831 marriage¹⁵⁴ and son Jens's 1840 burial¹⁵⁵
- *Petersen* in her son Jürgen's 1879 burial record¹⁵⁶

¹⁴⁵ *Arkivalieronline*, Ubjerg Sogn Kontraministerialbog, Fødte mænd og kvinder 1763 - Fødte mænd og kvinder 1863 [births], image 75, entry 3, www.sa.dk/ao-soegesider/da/billedviser?epid=22045412#455267,81458554 (accessed 17 September 2020).

¹⁴⁶ *Arkivalieronline*, Ubjerg Sogn Kontraministerialbog, Døde mænd og kvinder 1763 - Døde mænd og kvinder 1863 [deaths], image 52, entry 6, www.sa.dk/ao-soegesider/da/billedviser?epid=22045412#455268,81458720 (accessed 18 September 2020).

¹⁴⁷ *Arkivalieronline*, Ubjerg Sogn Kontraministerialbog, Fødte mænd og kvinder 1763 - Fødte mænd og kvinder 1863 [births], image 77, entry 15, www.sa.dk/ao-soegesider/da/billedviser?epid=22045412#455267,81458556 (accessed 20 August 2020).

¹⁴⁸ *Arkivalieronline*, Ubjerg Sogn Kontraministerialbog, Fødte mænd og kvinder 1763 - Fødte mænd og kvinder 1863 [births], image 82, entry 5, www.sa.dk/ao-soegesider/da/billedviser?epid=22045412#455267,81458561 (accessed 20 August 2020).

¹⁴⁹ *Arkivalieronline*, Ubjerg Sogn Kontraministerialbog, Fødte mænd og kvinder 1763 - Fødte mænd og kvinder 1863 [births], image 86, entry 3, www.sa.dk/ao-soegesider/da/billedviser?epid=22045412#455267,81458565 (accessed 20 August 2020).

¹⁵⁰ *Arkivalieronline*, Ubjerg Sogn Kontraministerialbog, Fødte mænd og kvinder 1763 - Fødte mænd og kvinder 1863 [births], image 92, entry 11, www.sa.dk/ao-soegesider/da/billedviser?epid=22045412#455267,81458571 (accessed 20 August 2020).

¹⁵¹ *Arkivalieronline*, Ubjerg Sogn Kontraministerialbog, Døde mænd og kvinder 1763 - Døde mænd og kvinder 1863 [deaths], image 76, entry 4, www.sa.dk/ao-soegesider/da/billedviser?epid=22045412#455268,81458744 (accessed 18 September 2020).

¹⁵² *Arkivalieronline*, Ubjerg Sogn Kontraministerialbog, Fødte mænd og kvinder 1763 - Fødte mænd og kvinder 1863 [births], image 97, entry 8, www.sa.dk/ao-soegesider/da/billedviser?epid=22045412#455267,81458576 (accessed 17 September 2020).

¹⁵³ *Arkivalieronline*, Ubjerg Sogn Kontraministerialbog, Døde mænd og kvinder 1763 - Døde mænd og kvinder 1863 [deaths], image 86, entry 1, www.sa.dk/ao-soegesider/da/billedviser?epid=22045412#455268,81458754 (accessed 17 September 2020).

¹⁵⁴ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: LandeskirchlichesArchiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Nordfriesland, Joldelund, Trauungen [marriages] 1763-1892, image 55, year 1831, entry 3, www.archion.de/p/1e79ef06df/ (accessed 18 August 2020). **Document 25**.

¹⁵⁵ *Arkivalieronline*, Bylderup Sogn Kontraministerialbog, Døde mænd og kvinder 1809 - Døde mænd og kvinder 1869, image 194, entry 17, www.sa.dk/ao-soegesider/da/billedviser?epid=22019205#450461,80729810 (accessed 5 January 2021).

¹⁵⁶ *Arkivalieronline*, Bjolderup Sogn Kontraministerialbog, Døde mænd og kvinder 1864 - Døde mænd og kvinder 1898, image 53, entry 23, www.sa.dk/ao-soegesider/da/billedviser?epid=22019179#450317,80720578 (accessed 5 January 2021).

Since the surname alternates, rather than switching completely from one to the other, it is not two different women (the death records were checked to be certain, with no matches located).

In 1771, a decree recommended fixed surnames for nobility, and in 1828, a law was passed in an attempt to turn all residents of Denmark (which at the time included the duchy of Schleswig) away from the patronymic naming system. However, another law followed in 1857, clarifying the mandatory nature of passing down a fixed family name rather than changing surnames every generation based on the father's given name. It took several decades for the patronymic system to die out; during that time, the surnames were transient. This being the case, Margaretha Christina, as a daughter of Jürgen Petersen living during this time of transient surnames, could be known either by her father's surname (and her likely official fixed surname), Petersen, or by her patronymic name (i.e., her father's given name turned into a surname), Jürgens or Jürgensen. The shifting surname system would even have allowed her to show up in records with a double patronymic—i.e., as Margaretha Christina Jürgensen Petersen—though no records were found listing her as such.¹⁵⁷

In 1814, when Metta Katharina was 11, a set of Danish school laws (including a school law specifically for Schleswig) improved schooling and made school mandatory for all children in the kingdom of Denmark from age 7 until their confirmation at age 14. To allow for children to continue helping out at home, school took place every other day.¹⁵⁸ Due to these school laws, by 1871, 95.1% of Schleswig-Holsteiners were literate.¹⁵⁹

Metta Katharina is found in the Danish census enumerations listed in Table 2 below:

TABLE 2: CENSUSES FOR METTA KATHARINA NÉE JOHANNSEN

Year	Name	Age	Marital Status	Relation/ Occupation	Residence as Listed	Birthplace
1803 ¹⁶⁰	Metta Catrina Johannsen	1		their [Hans Johannsen and Margrethe Christina Jürgens's] daughter	Seth, Uberg, Tøndern	

¹⁵⁷ Shirley J. Riemer, Roger P. Minert, and Jennifer A. Anderson, *The German Research Companion* (Sacramento, CA: Lorelei Press, 2010), Chronology of Events in German History, p. 4, 6, and *FamilySearch*, Research Wiki, “Denmark Names, Personal,” www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Denmark_Names_Personal (accessed 21 August 2020).

¹⁵⁸ *Danmarkshistoriendk Aarhus Universitet*, “Skole Og Undervisning Efter 1814,” <https://danmarkshistorien.dk/leksikon-og-kilder/vis/materiale/skole-og-undervisning-1814-2014> and “Bilag til Skoleloven, 29. juli 1814,” <https://danmarkshistorien.dk/leksikon-og-kilder/vis/materiale/bilag-til-skoleloven-1814> (accessed 1 December 2020).

¹⁵⁹ *FamilySearch*, Research Wiki, “Schleswig-Holstein Schools,” www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Schleswig-Holstein_Schools (accessed 17 September 2020).

¹⁶⁰ *Rigsarkivet* (Danish National Archives), digital image, 1803 Danish census, Metta Catrina Johannsen (age 1), in household of Hans Johannsen, in Seth, Uberg parish, Tønder amt III Tønder Herred, Slesvig, image 59, page 108, family no. 48, www.sa.dk/ao-soegesider/da/billedviser?bsid=313567#313567.64193385 (accessed 24 August 2020).

Document 28. For Sydslesvig (southern Schleswig), census records exist for the years 1803, 1835, 1840, 1845, 1855, and 1860; see *KIP Projektet*, digital map (showing whether census records are indexed for a parish or not), Sydslesvig, 1769–1860, www.dis-danmark.dk/kipkort/index.php (accessed 21 August 2020).

Year	Name	Age	Marital Status	Relation/ Occupation	Residence as Listed	Birthplace
1835 ¹⁶¹	Metta Catharina Johannsen	32	married	his [Karsten Hansen's] wife	Süderland, Joldelund, Bredstedt	
1840 ¹⁶²	Metta Catharina Hansen	39	widowed [sic ¹⁶³]	tenant; lives from her handwork	Süderhuus, Joldelund, Bredstedt	
1845 ¹⁶⁴	Metta Cathr. Hansen	43	married		Wiehelund, Großenwiehe, Wiesharde, Flensburg	Buhrkall, [sic ¹⁶⁵] Tondern, Schleswig- Holstein
1855 ¹⁶⁶	Metta Catharina Johannsen	53	married	his [Carsten Hansen's] wife	Lüngerau, Großenwiehe, Wiesharde, Flensburg	
1860 ¹⁶⁷	Metta Cath. Johannsen	58	married	his [Carsten Hansen's] wife	Lüngerau, Großenwiehe, Wiesharde, Flensburg	

¹⁶¹ *Danish Family Search*, index and image, 1835 Danish census, Metta Catharina Johannsen (age 32), in household of Karsten Hansen, in Süderland, Hjolelund (Joldelund) parish, Bredsted, Slesvig-Holsten, image 11, page 173, Süderland family no. 2, www.danishfamilysearch.com/sogn3324/census1835/opslag19467360 (accessed 21 August 2020).

Document 29.

¹⁶² *Danish Family Search*, index and image, 1840 Danish census, Metta Catharina Hansen (age 39), in Sønderhuse (Süderhuus), Hjoldelund (Joldelund) parish, Bredsted, Slesvig-Holsten, image 11, page 245, Süderhuus family no. 3b, www.danishfamilysearch.com/sogn3324/census1840/opslag19479518 (accessed 21 August 2020). **Document 30.**

¹⁶³ Metta Katharina is listed as widowed in the 1840 census, but in the next two censuses she has added children to her family with the same husband as before, indicating that her 1840 marital status is either a scribal error or reporting error.

¹⁶⁴ *Danish Family Search*, index and image, 1845 Danish census, Metta Cathr. Hansen (age 43), in Wiehland (Wiehelund), Store Vi (Großenwiehe) parish, Wiesharde (Wies hundred), Flensburg, Slesvig-Holsten, image 73, page 849, family no. 43b, www.danishfamilysearch.com/cid6521916 (accessed 21 August 2020). **Document 31.**

¹⁶⁵ Metta Katharina is incorrectly listed in the 1845 census as born in Buhrkall (her baptismal record from Uberg parish lists her as born in Seth). All the names and ages, as well as the residence, in this 1845 census entry fit her family exactly and there is only one Metta born in 1802 listed in Großenwiehe in the 1845 census, where she is known from her children's 1843 and 1846 baptismal records to have lived in at that time. As such, Buhrkall is an error.

¹⁶⁶ *MyHeritage*, index and image, 1855 Denmark Census, Metta Catharina Johannsen (age 53), in household of Carsten Hansen, in Lyngrå (Lüngerau), Store Vi (Großenwiehe), Wiesharde (Wies hundred), Flensburg, image 257, page 812, family no. 11, www.myheritage.com/research/record-10258-1199590/carsten-hansen-in-1855-denmark-census (accessed 22 August 2020). **Document 32.**

¹⁶⁷ *MyHeritage*, index and image, 1860 Denmark Census, Metta Cath. Johannsen (age 58), in household of Carsten Hansen, in Lüngerau, Store Vi (Großenwiehe), Wiesharde (Wies hundred), Flensburg, image 929, family no. 194, www.myheritage.com/research/record-10194-2947701/carsten-hansen-in-1860-denmark-census (accessed 22 August 2020). **Document 33.**

After their marriage in 1831, Metta Katharina née Johannsen and Carsten Hansen remained in the Joldelund parish for several years. The 1838 map below, of the languages spoken in Schleswig, shows that half of Joldelund (in red and pink) and all of Großenwiehe (listed as Gr. Wihe, in red) spoke more Danish than German and that the other half of Joldelund was evenly split; this family may thus have spoken either, or both. Danish, German, and Frisian were all spoken in the close surrounding area. In 1840, Danish was the official language.¹⁶⁸



FIGURE 1: LANGUAGE OF THE PEOPLE IN THE DUCHY OF SCHLESWIG 1838

¹⁶⁸ F.H.I. Geertz, *Folkesprogene i Hertugdømmet Slesvig*, map, in Franz Christopher von Jessen, ed., *Haandbog i Det Nordsløvske Spørgsmaals Historie: Dokumenter, Aktstykker, Kort Og Statistiske Oplysninger Vedrørende Sønderjylland* (Kjøbenhavn: Det Nordiske Forlag, 1901), p. 176, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duchy_of_Schleswig#/media/File:Folkesprogene_i_Hertugdømmet_Slesvig.png (accessed 14 December 2020).

Although Carsten Hansen and Metta Katharina née Johannsen spent their married life in the small geographic area of just two parishes (Joldelund and Großenwiehe), they did move around within that area.

While living in Joldelund parish, they lived in at least three different locations and had the following five children:

- Hans Hinrich, born on 6 May 1832 at Löwenstedten Felde¹⁶⁹ [Löwenstedtfeld], Husum, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany¹⁷⁰ (now Löwenstedtfeld, Nordfriesland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany¹⁷¹) and confirmed in Großenwiehe on 16 April 1848¹⁷²
- Hans Thomas, born on 14 January 1835 at Löwenstedtfeld¹⁷³
- Jens Peter, born on 14 Dec 1836 at Löwenstedtfeld,¹⁷⁴ confirmed in Großenwiehe on 4 April 1852,¹⁷⁵ married Christine Marie Hansen in Großenwiehe on 3 November 1863,¹⁷⁶ and died in Flensburg on 13 March 1905¹⁷⁷

¹⁶⁹ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Nordfriesland, Joldelund, Taufen [baptisms] 1763-1854, image 191, entry 7, www.archion.de/p/7c62e3d91c/ (accessed 18 August 2020).

¹⁷⁰ *GenWiki*, GOV, Löwenstedtfeld, http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/GOV:LOWELD_W2251 (accessed 14 December 2020).

¹⁷¹ *Wikipedia*, Löwenstedt, <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Löwenstedt> (accessed 29 December 2020). Löwenstedtfeld means a field belonging to Löwenstedt.

¹⁷² *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Großenwiehe, Konfirmationen [confirmations] 1839-1883, image 24, entry 12, www.archion.de/p/caa77946a4/ (accessed 26 December 2020).

¹⁷³ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Nordfriesland, Joldelund, Taufen [baptisms] 1763-1854, image 200, entry 2, www.archion.de/p/c1af0a648d/ (accessed 18 August 2020).

¹⁷⁴ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Nordfriesland, Joldelund, Taufen [baptisms] 1763-1854, image 210, entry 22, www.archion.de/p/8b74d4c7d2/ (accessed 18 August 2020).

¹⁷⁵ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Großenwiehe, Konfirmationen [confirmations] 1839-1883, image 32, entry 11, www.archion.de/p/a5a61cc256/ (accessed 26 December 2020).

¹⁷⁶ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Großenwiehe, Trauungen [marriages] 1863-1882, image 76, entry 6, www.archion.de/p/050225f22e/ (accessed 13 December 2020).

¹⁷⁷ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Flensburg-St.Nikolai, Bestattungen [burials] 1899-1925, image 46, entry 19, www.archion.de/p/b8bdb4cc8f/ (accessed 29 December 2020).

- Carsten, born on 4 May 1839 in Goldelund, Husum, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany¹⁷⁸ (now Goldelund, Nordfriesland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany¹⁷⁹), confirmed in Großenwiehe on 1 April 1855,¹⁸⁰ and married Catharina Maria Andresen in Joldelund on 11 November 1866¹⁸¹
- Maria Dorothea, born on 18 February 1841 in Süderhuus¹⁸²

After moving to Wiehelund, Flensburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany (now Wiehelund, Schleswig-Flensburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany¹⁸³), in Großenwiehe parish, they had two more children:

- Margaretha Christina (called Margaretha¹⁸⁴), born on 10 June 1843,¹⁸⁵ married Peter Mathiesen Nissen in Bjolderup on 2 May 1873,¹⁸⁶ and died in Bollersleben (Bjolderup parish), Apenrade, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany (now Bolderslev, Aabenraa, Syddanmark, Denmark¹⁸⁷), on 10 August 1922¹⁸⁸
- Ingwer, born on 16 March 1846,¹⁸⁹ vaccinated in Flensburg on 4 October 1848, and confirmed in Großenwiehe on 13 April 1862¹⁹⁰

¹⁷⁸ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Nordfriesland, Joldelund, Taufen [baptisms] 1763-1854, image 217, entry 6, www.archion.de/p/e4313b0816/ (accessed 18 August 2020). **Document 37**.

¹⁷⁹ *Wikipedia*, Goldelund, <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goldelund> (accessed 14 December 2020).

¹⁸⁰ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Großenwiehe Konfirmationen [confirmations] 1839-1883, image 36, entry 9, www.archion.de/p/ed12af55d1/ (accessed 26 December 2020).

¹⁸¹ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Nordfriesland, Joldelund Trauungen [marriages] 1862-1931, image 127, entry 4, www.archion.de/p/e402e8237d/ (accessed 17 December 2020).

¹⁸² *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Nordfriesland, Joldelund, Taufen [baptisms] 1763-1854, image 221, entry 4, www.archion.de/p/e9aac903c1/ (accessed 18 August 2020).

¹⁸³ *MeyersGaz*, online gazetteer, Wiehelund, Schleswig, Schleswig-Holstein, Preussen, www.meyersgaz.org/place/21138057 (accessed 14 December 2020). Wiehelund is listed as part of Klein Wiehe, and according to *Wikipedia*, Lindewitt, <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lindewitt> (accessed 14 December 2020), Kleinwiehe is part of the municipality of Lindewitt.

¹⁸⁴ *Danish Family Search*, digital image, 1921 Danish census, Margarethe Nissen (born 10 June 1843), in Bolderslev (Bollersleben), Bjolderup parish, Rise, Åbenrå, image 141, family no. 20, www.danishfamilysearch.com/sogn13/census1921/opslag9390122 (accessed 13 December 2020). In the census record she is listed as Margaretha Nissen, so Margaretha Christina née Hansen went by Margaretha (Nissen is her married surname).

¹⁸⁵ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Großenwiehe, Taufen [baptisms] 1817-1852, image 74, entry 13, www.archion.de/p/80afcbed9a/ (accessed 20 August 2020).

¹⁸⁶ *Arkivalieronline*, Bjolderup Sogn Kontraministerialbog, Viede 1864 - Viede 1898 [marriages], image 18, entry 2, www.sa.dk/ao-soegesider/da/billedviser?epid=22019179#450316,80720483 (accessed 21 August 2020).

¹⁸⁷ *Wikipedia*, Bolderslev, <https://da.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bolderslev> (accessed 14 December 2020).

¹⁸⁸ *Arkivalieronline*, Bjolderup Sogn Kontraministerialbog, 1899 D - 1927 D [deaths], image 23, entry 6, www.sa.dk/ao-soegesider/da/billedviser?epid=17216091#201038,38070675 (accessed 13 December 2020).

¹⁸⁹ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Großenwiehe, Taufen [baptisms] 1817-1852, image 81, entry 6, www.archion.de/p/bdec000285/ (accessed 20 August 2020).

¹⁹⁰ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Großenwiehe, Konfirmationen [confirmations] 1839-1883, image 47, entry 4,

Metta Katharina née Johannsen is listed with her first six children in the 1845 Danish census. She was a tenant receiving support from the poor fund, and her husband was not with the family because he was serving (either in the military or as a servant employed elsewhere; the phrasing is ambiguous).¹⁹¹

Shortly after the birth of Metta Katharina's last child, the First Schleswig War (1848–1851) broke out over the issue of who should control the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein.

For centuries, the king of Denmark had ruled as duke of Schleswig and Holstein, and both the kingdom and the duchies operated under a Salic law (male-line-only succession). However, with Frederik VII of Denmark seeming unable to produce a legitimate heir (any extramarital child was barred from royal succession), his father, Christian VIII, modified the Danish succession law to be semi-Salic (allowing for succession through the closest female if the male line was extinct). Controversy arose regarding the legality of this change in succession law being applied to the duchies. Frederik VII also declared that the duchy of Schleswig (a Danish fief) would be reintegrated into the Kingdom of Denmark so residents of Schleswig would not be excluded from the full rights of being Danish citizens. The duchies began being referred to as Schleswig-Holstein by Germans who wanted the two to remain united and be permitted as a state into the German Confederation.

The actions of the Danish king going against their desires, the Schleswig-Holsteiners rebelled, drawing the German Confederation—most notably the Kingdom of Prussia—to go to war against Denmark. At the urging of several European powers, Prussia gave up, and Denmark retained rule of the area for a few years longer.¹⁹² The war ushered in Denmark's mandatory military conscription for all physically able men.¹⁹³

www.archion.de/p/606c803a7f/ (accessed 20 August 2020). The confirmation record refers to his “V.A.” (*vaccinations attest*, meaning vaccination certificate) from Flensburg dated 4 October 1848.

¹⁹¹ *Danish Family Search*, index and image, 1845 Danish census, Metta Cathr. Hansen (age 43), in Wichland (Wichelund), Store Vi (Großenwiehe) parish, Wiesharde (Wies hundred), Flensburg, Slesvig-Holsten, image 73, page 849, family no. 43b, www.danishfamilysearch.com/cid6521916 (accessed 21 August 2020). **Document 31**. The index states that Metta Katharina is a “Miethsfrau, erhält Unterstützung aus der Armencasse” (tenant receiving support from the poor fund). The original image adds “ihr Mann dient”—i.e., her husband serves; he is either a servant or is in military service. All the children are listed as born in Joldelund (although the child from 1843 was born elsewhere, according to her baptismal record), and Metta Katharina is listed as born in Buerkull [Buhrkall, Tondern] (although her baptismal record is from Uberg parish). All the names and ages fit perfectly, as does the location, and this is the only family in Großenwiehe in the 1845 census with a Metta born in 1802.

¹⁹² *FamilySearch*, Research Wiki, “Schleswig-Holstein Jurisdictions,” www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Schleswig-Holstein_Jurisdictions (accessed 18 September 2020). *Wikipedia*, First Schleswig War, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Schleswig_War; Schleswig-Holstein Question, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schleswig-Holstein_Question (accessed 14 December 2020).

¹⁹³ *Danmarkshistoriendk Aarhus Universitet*, “Indførelse af almindelig værnepligt, 1848-49,” <https://danmarkshistorien.dk/leksikon-og-kilder/vis/materiale/indfoerelse-af-almindelig-vaernepligt-1848-49/> (accessed 14 December 2020). Until the new mandatory conscription law was signed in February 1849, military service had been compulsory for only the peasantry.

Carsten Hansen (who was confirmed in the parish of Großenwiehe as a 16-year-old on 31 March 1822¹⁹⁴) preceded his wife in death on 17 June 1884. His burial record from the Großenwiehe parish reads:¹⁹⁵

Arbeiter Carsten Hansen in Sillerup,
geboren daselbst den 2 Novembr. 1805, ehel. Sohn
des Bohlsmanes Hans Hinrichsen und der
Margaretha geb. Carstens. Er war verhei=
ratet mit der ihn überlebenden Metta
Catharina geb. Johannsen, mit der er
vor 2 ½ Jahren das Fest der goldenen Hoch=
Zeit feiern konnte.

A translation of his burial record reads:

Laborer Carsten Hansen in Sillerup, born in that same place [Sillerup] on 2 November 1805, was a legitimate son of farmer Hans Hinrichsen, who had a full-sized farm, and Margaretha née Carstens. He was married with the surviving Metta Catharina née Johannsen, with whom he celebrated his golden marriage [i.e., 50-year wedding anniversary] 2 ½ years ago.

After her husband's death in Sillerup in the Großenwiehe parish, Metta Katharina moved to the neighboring parish of Nordhackstedt, likely to be with a son or daughter, where she died in 1890,¹⁹⁶ five days after having received Holy Communion in her home.¹⁹⁷

Her civil death record states, translated from German:¹⁹⁸

Entry number 8
In Nordhackstedt on 29 June 1890
Before the undersigned civil registrar appeared today

¹⁹⁴ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Großenwiehe, Konfirmationen [confirmations] 1764-1838, image 56, entry 13, www.archion.de/p/10155f2fe4/ (accessed 17 September 2020). The confirmation record states that Carsten Hansen, legitimate son of *Boblmann* (farmer with a full-sized farm) Hans Hinrichsen of Sillerupsfeld, was born on 2 November 1805 and vaccinated by Mr. Bohmann on 20 August 1812.

¹⁹⁵ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Großenwiehe, Bestattungen [burials] 1864-1896, image 170, entry 22, www.archion.de/p/e79a3f9baf/ (accessed 21 August 2020). **Document 34.**

¹⁹⁶ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Nordhackstedt, Namensregister Bestattungen [index of burials] 1880-1936, image 10, year 1890, Hansen geb. Johannsen, Metta Catharina, www.archion.de/p/c09f9ef013/ (accessed 21 August 2020).

¹⁹⁷ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Nordhackstedt, Kommunikanten [communicants] 1863-1890, image 363, entry 491, www.archion.de/p/61d6b90899/ (accessed 7 January 2021). **Document 35.** Only one person is listed as a communicant on 23 June 1890: Carsten Hansen's widow in Nordlinnaufeld. She is not named in the record, but analyzing the record indicates that it is referring to Metta Katharina née Johannsen for the following reasons: her husband's name and her marital status fit, and she received Holy Communion at home, indicating she was dying (which she did five days later).

¹⁹⁸ *Standesamt [civil registration office] Schafflund*, Tannenweg 1, 24980 Schafflund, black/white scan, Nordhackstedt, civil death record, 1890, entry 8, Metta Catharina Hansen née Johannsen (email from Angelika.Rogalla@amt-schafflund.de 17 November 2020). **Document 36.**

laborer Carsten Hansen, identity known, residing in Goldebe[c]k in the county of Husum,¹⁹⁹ and declared that his mother, Metta Catharina Hansen, age 87, Evangelical, residing in Nordlinnaufeld, born in Dagebüll on 11 August 1802, previously married with Carsten Hansen,

daughter of laborer Hans Johannsen and Margaretha Christina Bojsen, whose last residence was Sillerup,

died in Nordlinnaufeld at 9 p.m. on 28 June 1890.

Read aloud, approved, and signed,

Carsten Hansen

The civil registrar, Broder N. Petersen

In this civil death record are inconsistencies with pieces of information verified by other records.

Information matching other records:

- *Given names* Metta Catharina
- *Maiden surname* Johannsen
- *Married surname* Hansen
- *Husband's name* Carsten Hansen
- *Son's name* Carsten²⁰⁰
- *Father's name* Hans Johannsen
- *Mother's given names* Margaretha Christina
- *Birth day and year* 11 [month] 1802

Information inconsistent with other records:

- *Birth place* Dagebüll (her baptismal record from Uberg parish lists her as born in Seth)
- *Mother's maiden name* Bojsen (her siblings' baptismal records list her mother's surname as Jürgens, Jürgensen, or Petersen, depending on whether they are using the patronymic or the fixed surname; however, it is possible that her mother married someone with the surname Bojsen after her husband Hans Johannsen's death in 1817, since she lived until at least 1840²⁰¹)
- *Birth month* August (her baptismal record lists her as born in October)

Once the Nordhackstedt church burial records for this time period were publicized online, the church burial record of Metta Katharina Hansen née Johannsen was also located.

¹⁹⁹ According to *Wikipedia*, Goldebek, <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goldebek> (accessed 14 December 2020), Goldebek, Husum, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, is now Goldebek, Nordfriesland, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany.

²⁰⁰ *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Nordfriesland, Joldelund, Taufen [baptisms] 1763-1854, image 217, entry 6, www.archion.de/p/e4313b0816/ (accessed 18 August 2020). **Document 37**.

²⁰¹ *Arkivalieronline*, Bylderup Sogn Kontraministerialbog, Døde mænd og kvinder 1809 - Døde mænd og kvinder 1869, image 194, entry 17, www.sa.dk/ao-soegesider/da/billedviser?epid=22019205#450461,80729810 (accessed 5 January 2021). Jens's burial record lists his father as deceased (in Seth, Uberg parish), but not his mother, Margaretha Christina Johannsen née Petersen/Jürgensen.

The burial record agrees with the civil death record that she was born on 11 August 1802, and it states that she was the widow of laborer Carsten Hansen of Sillerup in the parish of Großenwiehe, that she died in Nordlinnaufeld on 28 June 1890, and that she was buried on 3 July 1890.²⁰²

Metta Katharina née Johannsen had lived her entire life in the very small area of northern Schleswig-Holstein and would have been unlikely to move far away for the last few years of her life after her husband's death. A study of the Dagebüll Protestant parish records showed that no Metta Katharina née Johannsen was born in that parish on the date provided in the death record. This means that the 1890 civil death record contains at least one error. This being the case, and since most of the information matches what is known of the Metta Katharina of this study and no other burial record could be found for her,²⁰³ the record is thus likely for the correct person. An even more expanded geographical search would help verify this.

CONCLUSION

The objective of this research project was to document Sine Catharina née Nissen's life and extend her maternal lines back for a total of four generations. The information at the onset was a single original baptismal record of Sine, along with unfinished and unsourced online family trees. Original sources were located and relied upon to gather the information in this report about the family; they include baptismal, confirmation, church marriage, civil marriage, church burial, civil death, military, and census records. Where original records were not available (specifically in the parish of Nordhackstedt, until additional records were put online at the end of 2020), church indexes were referred to and the Schafflund civil registration office was contacted for copies of original records.

The research reported above has identified the family relationships between Sine Catharina née Nissen, her parents (Catharina Margaretha Johanna née Christiansen and Broder Heinrich Nissen), her maternal grandparents (Maria Dorothea née Hansen and Andreas Peter Christiansen), and her maternal great-grandparents (Metta Katharina née Johannsen and Carsten Hansen).

The family was Protestant and of German nationality,²⁰⁴ although they may have spoken both Danish and German since both languages were prevalent in this area (see Figure 1). Most of the records referenced were in the German language, though some were in Danish, reflecting the two cultures of the area this family lived in.

²⁰² *Archion*, digital image, Norddeutschland: Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang.-Luth. Kirche, Kirchenkreis Schleswig-Flensburg, Nordhackstedt, Bestattungen [burials] 1866-1987, image 61, entry 8, www.archion.de/p/a74f8d3355/ (accessed 4 December 2020). **Document 38.**

²⁰³ The 1818–1843 Uberg marriages, 1832–1878 Uberg and Nordhackstedt burials, and 1840–1878 Großenwiehe and Bülderup burials were browsed, with no other record found for Metta Katharina Hansen née Johannsen.

²⁰⁴ Hans H. Worsøe, "Folketællinger i Nordslesvig 1864-1919," *Tidsskrift.de*, <https://tidsskrift.dk/soenderjydskeaarboeger/article/viewFile/80237/115361> (accessed 17 November 2020). Of the 1885 Danish census, only the pages for Danish optants were preserved. The pages for the towns the people in this report are known to have lived in around 1885 were browsed on the Danish National Archives website *Arkivalieronline* (www.sa.dk/ao-soegesider/da/other/other-collection/139). No person in this report was listed, meaning all of them were of German nationality rather than Danish.

The focus people in each of these generations spent their lives in Schleswig-Holstein, specifically in the small region encompassing these very northernmost parishes of modern Germany: Medelby, Nordhackstedt, Joldelund, and Großenwiehe,²⁰⁵ as well as one of the southernmost parishes of modern Denmark: Uberg.²⁰⁶ These parishes are marked on the map (Figure 2) below to show their close proximity to one another, with the blue line indicating the approximate location of the modern Danish-German border.²⁰⁷



FIGURE 2: PARISHES OF PERSONS OF INTEREST IN EACH GENERATION

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

The following would further the research already conducted for this family:

- Obtain response from Holger Matthiesen, a creator of one of the online family trees that include Sine Catharina Nissen, about whether Sine’s death record is in another archive.
 - The 1944 Medelby death for “Frau Petersen” (which has been shown to be Sine Catharina Petersen née Nissen) is not found in the Schafflund civil registration office.
- Perform a gradually expanding geographical study of baptismal records around the Dagebüll parish for a Metta Catharina née Johannsen born to parents Hans Johannsen and Margaretha Christina née Bojsen on 11 August 1802.
 - No Metta Katharina née Johannsen was born in Dagebüll on the date provided in the 1890 death record.

²⁰⁵ The husband of Sine Catharina née Nissen (first generation) remarried after his wife’s death and moved to the Ladelund parish.

²⁰⁶ The first husband of Catharina Margaretha Johanna née Christiansen (second generation), who died after only 1 ½ years of marriage, also lived in the parishes of Bülderup and Tingleff.

²⁰⁷ F.H.I. Geertz, *Folkesprogene i Hertugdømmet Slesvig*, map, in Franz Christopher von Jessen, ed., *Haandbog i Det Nordslesvigske Spørgsmaals Historie: Dokumenter, Aktykker, Kort Og Statistiske Ophysninger Vedrørende Sønderjylland* (Kjøbenhavn: Det Nordiske Forlag, 1901), p. 176, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duchy_of_Schleswig#/media/File:Folkesprogene_i_Hertugdømmet_Slesvig.png (accessed 14 December 2020). On the map, Medelby is listed as “Medelbye,” Nordhackstedt is listed as “N.Hackstedt,” Joldelund is listed as “Joldelund,” and Großenwiehe is listed as “Gr.Wihe.” From Joldelund to Uberg as the crow flies is about 33 km.

- If an expanded geographical study does not unearth a baptismal record of a person by this name on that date, this negative evidence (the absence of that record) would provide further proof that the 1890 death record is of the Metta Katharina née Johannsen of this report.
- Perform a gradually expanding geographical study of marriage and burial records around the Großenwiehe and Uberg parishes to find Margaretha Christina Petersen/Jürgensen (widow of Hans Johannsen) to determine whether she later married a Bojsen.
- Obtain residential registration (*Melderegister*, *Einnobnermelderegister*, etc.) records, which are not available online for Schleswig-Holstein, by contacting the *Stadtarchiv* (city archive) closest to each residence in the three most recent generations (residential registration records are found beginning in the 1840s). Ask for records of these Hansen siblings to determine where they each settled, married, and died: Hans Hinrich, Hans Thomas, Carsten, and Ingwer.
- Contact the Flensburg civil registration office via standesamt@flensburg.de for the 11 March 1904 civil death record of Christine Marie Hansen née Hansen (in Flensburg-St. Nikolai).
 - Her church burial record lists her with her known birth date and parents' names, but also as the wife of Hans Christian Hansen. Everything except the husband's name matches the information for the wife of Jens Peter Hansen; the civil death record may clarify whether she and Jens Peter Hansen divorced and she remarried, or whether the church burial record contains an error.
- Contact the Flensburg civil registration office via standesamt@flensburg.de for the 13 March 1905 civil death record of Jens Peter Hansen who died in the Flensburg-St. Nikolai parish.
 - His church burial record lists him with his known birth date, birth place, and parents' names, but also as the widower of Margareta Maria Hansen née Hansen. Everything except the wife's name matches the information for the husband of Christine Marie Hansen née Hansen; the civil death record may clarify whether he and Christine Marie divorced and he remarried, or whether the church burial record simply contains an error.
- Conduct a gradually increasing geographical study (beginning with parishes closest to Großenwiehe or, in the case of Carsten, closest to Joldelund) of marriage and burial records of people matching these Hansen siblings' names in an effort to locate them: Hans Hinrich, Hans Thomas, Carsten, and Ingwer. Look for entries that match their parents' names (Carsten Hansen and Metta Katharina née Johannsen) and/or birth dates (6 May 1832, 14 January 1835, 4 May 1839, and 16 March 1846, respectively).
 - Once a marriage record is located, look for children of that couple to see whether godparents' names and residences provide clues about the other Hansen brothers.
 - Once a death record is located, look at any surviving relatives listed.
- Once the records are 110 years old, contact the Schafflund civil registration office (Angelika Rogalla at a.rogalla@amt-schafflund.de) for a copy of the following records; these are children listed in the Medelby burial index with the surname Petersen without parents' names, meaning they could be children of Sine Catharina Nissen and Jens Peter Petersen that died young:
 - The 21 February 1924 Medelby birth record of Christine Petersen
 - The December 1929 Medelby birth record of Ellen Johanna Petersen
- Contact the *Landesarchiv* (state archives of) Schleswig via landesarchiv@la.landsch.de for a copy of Maria Dorothea Hansen's 4 October 1848 vaccination certificate (*Impfbescheinigung*) from Flensburg. Dr. Broder Schwensen from the *Stadtarchiv* (city archive of) Flensburg (standesamt@flensburg.de) suggested the *Landesarchiv* may have a copy.
 - The vaccination certificate is unlikely to add any new information, as it is likely to only contain Maria Dorothea Hansen's name, her vaccination date, and her doctor (Dr. Esmarch), but it would be an interesting document to procure a copy of.