

# **History of Saunders, Hansen, Andersen and Jensen Families Who Homesteaded in Nestucca Valley near Hebo and Cloverdale in the 1870s.**

Author unknown

*Retyped in March 2023 by Dean Bones*

Americus Demetrius Saunders was born in 1844 in Princeton, Caldwell County, Kentucky. His father, Jori Saunders, was English, and his mother, Alice BUCHANAN Saunders was Irish. A. D. Saunders served in the Civil War from 1862 - 1865.

Mary Ann Martin was born in 1846 at Platte County, Missouri. Her father, George Dillon Martin, was born in Ireland and came to the U.S. when a child. Her mother, Mary Jane Townsend, was English. She died when a young lady in 1853. G. D. Martin later married a widow and moved to The Dalles about 1880. He later moved to Forest Grove where he died in 1922.

Americus D. Saunders and Mary Ann Martin were married in 1866. Their children were Florence Emma and Lawrence Emerson who were twins born in 1868 and Henson Coppage Saunders born in 1870. All were born at Coffeyville, Montgomery County, Kansas. In 1874 with their three children the family came by train to Oregon and settled on a farm at Lafayette in 1874. Alice Elizabeth was born in 1874.

In September 1883 they came to the Nestucca Valley and took up a soldier's homestead northwest of the present town of Cloverdale. (*The homestead was on land later owned by Tom Blackburn, Victor Huson, Hugh Skarda and the Silva Brothers in 1982.*) In 1885 they proved up on their claim in 2 years. Then they moved to McMinnville where they lived until 1887. They then came back to the homestead near Cloverdale where their youngest son, George Dillon "Dee" was born in 1887. They lived from that time on on the homestead where the children grew to adulthood.

They had one of the first electric light systems in the community powered by a waterwheel from a creek which came from off the hill down past the buildings.

- Florence Emma Saunders married Nels Peter Hansen October 25, 1883.
- Lawrence Saunders married Gertrude Lyster September 6, 1899, and lived near Beaver, Oregon. They had five children - 3 boys and 2 girls. 2 boys died in infancy.

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- Henson Saunders never married. He lived on the home farm until his death on November 10, 1923. He is buried in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery near Hebo. *(Now Nestucca Valley Community Cemetery db)*
- Alice Elizabeth Saunders was born at Lafayette in 1874. She had three marriages. She married David Rhodes, L. J. Barnett, and Walter Kinnaman. She lived near Beaver, Oregon, where she died July 21, 1913. She is buried in the Beaver Cemetery.
- George “Dee” Saunders served in the Army during World War I. He married a widow, Alfreda Mudge, September 1926. They had three children, 2 boys and 2 girl.

Americus Demetrius Saunders died November 12, 1903 at the age of 59 years, 9 months and was buried in the Gist Cemetery. Later his remains were moved to the I.O.O.F. Cemetery near Hebo.

Mary Ann MARTIN Saunders died April 22, 1929, on the farm near Cloverdale at the age of 82 years, 9 months and 2 days. She is buried in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery near Hebo, Oregon.

Nels Peter Hansen was born April 20, 1852, at Sanbi, Denmark. At the age of 19 he and his friend, Andrew Andersen, who was the same age left Denmark for America on May 12, 1871, landing in New York on June 3rd, 1871. Hansen and Andersen stayed in New Jersey for 4 years before going west to Bakersfield, California, where Hansen's brother-in-law Lars Jensen lived. They stayed there 2 years and then started for Tillamook County arriving in September of 1877. They came by way of Grand Ronde and then over the old Indian trail down the Little Nestucca River to Woods.

From Woods they had to cut their own trail through the brush up the big Nestucca Valley to where Hansen filed on a homestead of 160 acres lying on both sides of the big Nestucca River just below the mouth of Three Rivers. Anderson filed a claim of 160 acres joining Hansen on the south along the east bank of the Nestucca River.

Hansen sent word to his brother-in-law, Lars Jensen, at Bakersfield, and in 1878 Jensen and his family left for Tillamook County. They came by train

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as far as Dayton, Oregon, and then hired a rig to Grand Ronde where the family stayed while Jensen, with an Indian guide, hiked over the old Indian trail which came over the top of Mr. Hebo. Hansen and Jensen with an old Indian called Mose as a guide and 3 pack horses went to Grand Ronde for the family. Jensen first filed a claim near what is now Cloverdale, but he soon gave it up because the land was too brushy. He filed on a claim where the town of Hebo is now. He was joined on the north by William W. Conder and on the west by the James S. Hill homestead.

Nels Peter Hansen and Florence Emma Saunders were Married at the Saunders home on October 25, 1883. Eight children were born to this union all at the farm home near Hebo. They were:

- Lillie Ann Hansen - 20 Sep 1884 - married William Flescher on 6 Sep 1914
- Elizabeth "Lizzie" Hansen - 7 Apr 1886 - married Walter Churchill on Sep 7 1904
- Lawrence "Edd" Hansen - 10 Jun 1888 - married Burley Edwards on 28 May 1909
- Charles Roy Hansen - 29 Dec 1891 - never married
- Mable Hansen - 18 Jan 1893 - married Claude Hussey on 23 Mar 1911
- Allie Hansen - 21 Jan 1895 - married Wilgur Broughton on 6 Sep 1916
- Daughter who died in infancy
- Nels Albert Hansen - 10 Jan 1902 - married Pearl Lorna Ray on 14 Jan 1925

Nels Peter Hansen lived on his farm 47 years until his death on 14 Oct 1924 at the age of 72 years. Florence Emma SAUNDERS Hansen died 25 Mar 1907 at her home near Hebo at the age of 39 years. Both are buried in the I.O.O.F. cemetery near Hebo.

Andrew Andersen proved up on his claim where he lived until his death on 28 Oct 1924, and he is buied in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery. Andersen was married and had 2 daughters, Olga and Juanita. Nothing is known about his wife other than she left him. His daughters lived on the farm with him until about the time of his death. They later were known to have lived

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around the Portland area. Andersen in his later years was crippled with arthritis in his hands. He rented his farm to an immigrant family from Switzerland named Portman. Members of the Portman family were later prominent dairymen and citizens in the Tillamook area. Mr. Andersen sold his farm shortly after World War I to D. A. Bailey.

When Andersen and Hansen came to the Nestucca Valley they said to get from the higher land to the river one had to crawl on hands and knees because the brush was so thick. Mr. Andersen hired S. Hill who had homesteaded on land between Hansen and Jensen to help clear his bottom ground. For wages he deeded Hill 40 acres of land which later became the Jeff McGinnis farm which was later owned by Milton Johansen. The John Love family now own all of the original Andersen homestead (In 2023 it is owned by the Menefee family.)

Lars Jensen was born in Denmark in 1843. He was married to Marie Sophia Hansen who was born 6 May 1842. Two sons were born in Denmark, Charles C. and Hans Lars. They came to America settling in Bakersfield, California, where 2 daughters, Mildred and Mary, were born before coming to the Nestucca Valley in 1878 and homesteading where Hebo is now.

Marie Sophia Jensen died in 1915 at the age of 73 years of burns when a boiler of hot water was spilled on her. Lars Jensen died on his homestead near Hebo in 1916 at the age of 73. Both are buried in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery near Hebo.

- Charles Carl Jensen married Effie Sappington and lived on a part of the original homestead where Kenneth Lane now lives in 1982. They had no children. Charles died in 1942 at the age of 71. Effie died in 1936 at the age of 56. They are both buried in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery near Hebo.
- Hans Lars Jensen married Adella Bays at her home on Bays Creek in 1893. He had filed on a 160 acre homestead on Boulder Creek off of Blaine Road in 1891 where 10 children were born. Nine of the children grew to adulthood, Carl, Ethel, Chester, Leslie, Jessie, Merle, Vernon, Boyd and Kenneth. After World War I they moved to a portion of the

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original homestead at Hebo now owned by Leo Hurliman in 1982. Hans died in 1948 at the age of 76. Adella died in 1974 at the age of 97. They were both buried in the I.O.O.F Cemetery near Hebo.

- Mildred, known as Millie, married Wirt Sappington. They lived on that part of the homestead where Walter Baumgartner now lives in 1982. They had 1 daughter, Crystal. Millie died in 1932 at the age of 56. Wirt died in 1940 at the age of 63. Both are buried in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery near Hebo.
- Mary married a man by the name of Davis and lived on her part of the homestead which lies to the south of highway 101. She divorced Davis and married John Darling.

Nearly all of the town of Hebo is located on the original Jensen homestead. The land where the school is located was donated by Mr. Jensen.