

## HISTORY OF THE FAMILY OF SVEN LARSON, 1836-1941

In far away Lindberg, Hallands, Sweden, on the 18<sup>th</sup> September, 1825, Sven Larson was born. His wife, Johanna Britta Olausson, daughter of Claus Jenson or Jenson and Anna Borgesson, was born 6 March 1827. They were married 27 December 1852. Their first two children, Lars Johan, 1858-1871, and Anna Olivia, 1855-1858, (the latter being drowned) were born in Sweden.

In 1856 the family moved to Denmark because working conditions were better there. They were tenants on an Barregaard (a large estate) by the name of Hvistegaard, in Torasogn, Hjorring, Jutland, Denmark. The owner of this estate was Herr Rasmus(?) Ammitsboll. Eight children were born on this estate. They were Maria, 29 March 1858 - 19 Nov. 1935; Andrew Peter, 17 Aug. 1859 ----; Niels Christian, 26 February 1862 ----; Inger (still-born); Olof, 2 Jan. 1865-9 Feb. 1887; Edward, 6 March 1869----; Johanna Lina, 14 Dec. 1871 – 25 July 1873; Martinus, 17 May 1873 – Nov. 1907.

A brother of Mother Larson by the name of Bentt Olauson born 10 April 1827 in Lindberg, Sweden, probably came to America, but no definite information is to be had.

Sven Larson had a sister, Inger Lena, Born in 1829 at Libergstropet Traslov, Sweden. She married Svind Bengtsson. They lived not far from the Larson home. They had a large family. Two of them were Johan and Britta Louisa. Their home was on Ganel Vrsa Mosa, probably a bog or uncultivated land.

The Larson home in Denmark was of the common class, thatched with straw. The country was flat and the estate was against a rock paved highway that let between two cities. It was not the King's Highway, which probably would be the same as a state road.

Sven was a good worker and was given many responsible tasks. His work kept him early and late, keeping him away from the family. Many times the children would see their father only on Sunday. It was the custom of the country that n employer might beat an employee, but to beat an employer was a penitentiary offense.

On the estate there were about six span of horses and 75 or 80 cows. The Larsons had two cows and some geese for their own use. The geese had to be staked or herded to keep them at home, and also to prevent them from destroying the crops. The children often did the herding, then putting the geese in the barn at night. The barn was really a part of the house. Two families occupied the building, the partition having a common cooking unit using the same chimney. It was similar to a blacksmith forge and peat was used for fuel. The entrance to the Larson's home was from the North and their animals came in from the West end. The other family entered from the South and their animals fro the East end. The hay and grain were mostly stored in the left of the building, after having been mowed and harvested by hand.

Andrew Peter herded cows on the estate for four summers. The family raised potatoes, rye, barley and other garden stuff. The mother carded and spun, often using old material to be

respun for yarn. She was a wonderful seamstress and made all their own clothing, and often helped other ladies on the estate with their sewing. She was a good cook and a good mother. Olef and the mother were naturally left-handed and worked accordingly all their lives.

When very young Niels Christian or Chris was sent to pull weeds from the garden and thought he did very well, but when his mother found he had pulled the garden stuff instead of the weeds his mother punished, instead of praising him. He can remember when the family bought a little pig which he was to help feed, but when the pig squealed, Chris did the same. When only two years old he kicked, with his wooden shoes, the man who came to take away his dead baby sister. At the age of four he went to a neighbor and said he was four years old. She put her hand on his hand and said he was a big man; then she gave him a lump of sugar. He got snow in his wooden shoes on this visit. At about seven years the children started to school and took military training. They liked this for they were called little soldiers.

One Sunday morning Sven Larson met Andreas Overson who was member of the L.D.S. Church and was on his way to hear the missionaries. He promised Larson a fine treat if he would go with him to the Mans Truelson home. Larson tried his best to refuse or get out of going but it seems this was the day for him to hear the gospel. Upon hearing he believed and joined the church. Another story is that he intended to help break up the meeting. This seems improbable as Mr. Overson was already a member of the church. At any rate he heard the gospel and in him the missionaries found a responsive note to their message. Maria, Peter and Chris were baptized 15 Feb. This was ten days before Chris turned eight years old. Ice had to be broken and because of persecution the baptism was held at night.

Sven went to his employer for whom he had worked for seventeen years and asked to borrow money to emigrate to Utah. It was refused with the landlord saying he would loan money to buy a cow or a farm but not to go to Utah. There was in the Church at this time what was called an Emigration Fund. The purpose of this fund was to help emigrants coming from Europe and other places to get to Zion. The people would borrow money and then when they got to Utah pay it back as soon as they could so others could borrow from it. From this fund money was obtained to make the trip. Crossing the North Sea many people were seasick but Mother Larson was sick all the way across the ocean. They crossed England on the train, sailing from Liverpool on Calder. Knute Peterson was in the same company. Knute Peterson took a very active part in the settlement of Sanpete County.

When only a short distance out the boat hit a sand bar and had to discard a lot of the cargo, including some heavy chains.

Edward can remember one day when the steward wanted to clean up the cabin. This steward poked Mother Larson with the broom handle and told her to go up on deck. Another day they were just ready to eat when the ship dipped and swept all the food and dishes into the corner of the room. One time when the ocean was rough the ship dipped and an old lady slipped towards the edge of the deck. Peter ran and grabbed her by the dress. They traveled second class. The company arrived in New York 15 July. From there the train on which they traveled

had to have the door kept closed by a rope which was being held by one of the passengers. Father Larson held this rope part of the time.

They arrived ed in Salt Lake City 24 July and camped that night with may others on the tithing lot. From Salt Lake City they went with a man called "Little" Swenson as far as Pleasant Grove where they buried Johanna Lina who had been ill during the journey. They continued their journey as far as Payson where they stayed about a week. A man known as "Little" Hansen came from Ephraim and two families accompanied him on his return home. In Ephraim, Sanpete County, they stayed at the Andreas Iverson home until they secured a place to live. Their new home was a two room adobe house with a whitewashed front. They had a nice lot and lived there until they moved to Emery County in 1877.

The mother and children went into the fields many times to glean wheat. Some of this was taken with them to their new home. Peter herded sheep quite a while. His father and brothers herded cows most of the time. Before leaving Ephraim the mother got some straw, washed it clean, then braided it and let it dry. She then soaked it in yeast and let it dry again, soaking and drying until it would hold no more. Then she carried her yeast from Ephraim to Ferron Creek.

About the year 1874 Chris Larson became acquainted with Orson Hyde, one of the Apostles of the Church, and carried food to him while he was being hunted by officers because of polygamy. In 1874, Chris, went to Circle Valley in Southern Utah with the Ephraim cattle and spent the winter there. About 1875 he and his brother, Peter, visited the Clau Peter Andersen family in Grass Valley after spending some time searching for lost horses. The Anderson family were friends who had lived in Ephraim. In the fall of 1877 Bro Anderson and Chris were called and went to Castle Valley, later Emery County. They were blessed for this work by Apostle Orson Hyde. They lived in a dug-out the first winter and during that time built a one-room log house. In the spring they returned to Ephraim for the other members of the family. Maria had married and Peter was herding sheep, so only Olof, Edward, Martinus and their mother returned with them. They arrived "home" on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May, 1878, and there experienced many hardships the same as other pioneers.

Mother Larson was one of the first woman to come to that section. Chris drove the team which plowed the first furrow on Ferron Creek. This team was made up of three yoke of oxen. Each yoke of oxen was owned by Sven, Chris and Nick Larson. Supplies had to be brought in by ox team, so during the summer the Sven Larson and his son, Chris, returned to Ephraim for supplies. They had to leave Sister Larson; Olof, who was then eleven years old; Edward, age nine; and Martinus, age five. These four, along with an elderly lady whose son, Nich Larson, had also gone for supplies, were the only people on Ferron Creek. Mother Larson would call her boys in each afternoon for prayers. Then, with a smile and a kiss, she would send one or two of her boys to stay with the elderly neighbor woman so she would not be alone at night.

At this time there was a rumor of Indian troubles and a cattle man by the name of Mike

Molen and one of his riders came and stayed two nights. It was not until some time later they knew the cattle man came to protect them from the Indians.

The first L.D.S. services held on Ferron Creek were held in the big log room of the Larson home in the Fall of 1878. During the year of 1879 several families moved to Ferron from Sanpete County in answer to a call of church leaders to help colonize the valley.

Johanna Larson died in Molen, Utah, 28 March 1886 of pneumonia. Sven Larson later married Matilda Anderson, but they were divorced in a few years. There was no co-operation in the home. She would steal from everybody to send things to her brothers who lived in Mayfield. The last few months of his life he spent in Ferron with Chris and family and on 29 December 1899, he died of disability. His activities in the Church and community were probably noted because of his speech. After living in Sweden, Denmark, and America his language was such a mixture it was said "he was one of the hardest men in the world to understand." His land in Molen was mostly meadow, but he raised some small grains. The father and mother, through their own efforts, learned to read, but neither of them could write.

Maria m. Jacob Zacharich Nielson about Mar. 1878. After his death she m. Andrew H. Andersen. Their children:

1 Johanna Maria b. 17 Nov. 1881, d. 28 Oct. 1919 or 20. She married Frank Beach. Their

children:

1. Francis L. Beach. M. Loie Miner. They had  
1 Marilyn b. 26 July 1934.

2. Ellis b. 29 Oct. 1913, m. Geniel Singleton. They had

1 Helen b. 9 June 1938

3. Fern m. Boyd Christensen.

2 Hyrum b. 17 Jan. M. Maggie Biddlecome

1 Martha

3 Peter, b. 30 Aug, 1886, d. 21 Mar. 1927 from effects of gas from the World War I.

4 Owen, drowned as a child.

5 Olivia b. 22 Oct. 1891, m. Wm. Dugmore. No children. She raised his three motherless children.

6 Lydia b. 16 Feb. 1894 m. Grand Swasey. Their children:

1 Wanda m. \_\_\_\_\_ Jones. They had Blain. She also m. \_\_\_\_\_ Fugate.

2 Ted M. Had Susann.

3 Faun m.

This family lived in Molen and Ferron. Maria was a good seamstress and did much

sewing. She was a visiting Relief Society teacher. She was with the sewing committee for burial clothes. As a widow she raised her family. Then when Olivia was left with three stepchildren she helped with them. Also she took the responsibility of raising Johanna's children after their mother's death.

- 4 Andrew Peter m. his brother's widow, Margaret Larson. Their children:
  - 1 Emma Vaneta 18 July 1894 - 15 Sept. 1895.
  - 2 Cleo Christina 17 Aug. 1896
  - 3 Andrew Carlos b. 25 Oct. 1898, m. Helen Archibald. Their children:
    - 1 Andrew Russel b. 8 Aug. 1935
    - 2 Margaret Jane b. 3 Mar. 1939
  - 4 Margaret Elinor b. 27 June 1901, m. Herbert A. Simmons. She d. 1 Mar 1933. Their children:
    1. Willis Andrew b. 12 Feb. 1924.
    2. Edward Lee b. 5 June 1928.
    3. Donald David b. 30 June 1930
  - 5 Anna Lucio b. 20 Nov. 1903

This family moved to Lee's Summit, Mo. In 1907

- 5 Niels Christian m. Anna Susanna Andersen. Their children:
  - 1 John Christian b. 31 Dec. 1882. D. 18 Jan. 1887.
  - 2 Sarah Ann b. 29 Jan. 1885. D. 10 Jan. 1887.
  - 3 Andrew Olof b. 11 Sep. 1887. M. Sophronia Peterson. Their children:
    - 1 Andrew Warren b. 19 Oct 1909, m. Frances Vaunee Thompson.
      - 1 Neil Warren 16 Aug.1939,
      2. David Andrew 17 Dec 1940
    2. Frona b. 16 July 1911 m. Charles Adrian Johnson. Children:
      - 1 Myrna Ann b. 15 Oct. 1935, Modesto, Cal.
      - 2 Arleen b. 21 May 1937
      - 3 Nathan Aaron b. 16 Oct. 1940
    - 3 Noal P. B. 17 Sep 1912, m. Ila Carter. Children:
      - 1 Roger Carter, b. 15 Dec. 1938, Brookings, S. Dak.
      - 2 Gordon Thomas b. 15 Apr 1941 Brookings, S. Dak
    4. Anna Irene, b. 15 Nov. 1913, m. Lyle G. Williams
      - 1 Richard James, b. 28 Nov. 1933, Oregon City, Oregon
      - 2 Shirley Jean, b. 15 Dec 1934, Oregon City, Oregon
    - 5 Chloe b. 11 Apr. 1916 m. Joseph Cook, Children:
      - 1 Susan Andrea, b. 22 June 1940, Seattle, Wash.

6 James Christian, b. 30 apr. 1923

4 Nathan Alvin, b. 12 June 1890, m. Nellie Christensen, Children:

1 Leo Alvin, b. 17 Oct 1910 m. Lillie Jones. Children:

1 Kenny D.

2

3

2 Leila ?? B. 12 Feb. 1912 m. Alfred Elihu Whotcott. Children:

1 Ferrel b. 17 Dec. 1936, Cedar City, Utah

2. May \_\_\_\_ b. 3 May 1948

3 Alice Ann b. 3 June, 1913, m. Sherrel Mont Riddle

3 Allice Caroline, b. 3 June, 1913, d. 27 June 1913

4 Du Rell b. 3 Apr. 1916, d. 8 July 1934

Twins were born 3 Aug. 1923 and died the same day. There were other Children still born or died at birth.

Anna Susanna (Sanna) died 10 Nov. 1909. Niels D. married Diantha

Henry Stringham (Aunt Sis) 23 Dec. 1911. She died 28 Jan. 1929. His home was in Ferron.

7 Olof m. Margaret Larson. Their children:

1 Julia Bertha b. 25 Mar. 1886, m. Albert Orlando Beach: Children:

1 Loren, b. 24 June 1904, m. ~~ruth Geraldine Derner~~ Ruth Derner

2 Wendell O. b. 6 Oct. 1906, d. 28 Oct 1906

3 Alta b. 3 Nov. 1907, m. Clifton Nelson

4 Margaret Ruth b. 17 Apr 1910, m Stanley Kanton

5 Albert Floyd b. 28 Nov 1912, joined the Army Dec. 9, 1942

6 Cleo b. 18 Nov. 1915, m. Elmer Frandsen

7 Nina Bessie b. 16 July 1918, m. Orlando Sulpizo

8 Anna Irya b. 12 April 1921 m. Charles Everett Davis

9 Robert Carlos 14 Aug 1926, at age of 18 joined the navy.

This family lived in Molen, Utah

8 Edward m. Mary Jane Shoemaker They had children:

1 Alice b. 30 Aug. 1895, m. Junius Day

1 Udella, b. 13 Aug. 1923

2 Myrtle b. 23 May 1897, m. Harry Bryan Mortensen. Children:

1 Muriel May, 31 Mar 1919

2 Lael, b. 26 Apr 1922

3 Arva Lue, b. 14 Jan 1924

4 Ona Velyn, b. 18 Dec. 1926

5 Henry Boyd, b. 13 Aug. 1930

- 3 Edward Lloyd, b. 2 May 1900, m. Thora Charlotte Otterstrom
- 1 Edward Lloyd, b. 30 Nov. 1926

- 4 Mary Gladys, b. 22 Oct. 1902, m. Andrew Smith Larsen. Children:
  - 1 Andrew Keith, b. 9 June 1924
  - 2 Ronald John, b. 17 July 1927
  - 3 Cheryl Mae, b. 5 Apr 1931

This family lived in Molen. Mary Jane died 30 Oct 1902. Edward married Alice Elisa Shoemaker. Children:

- 1 John W. b. 20 June 1906, m. Emid Merla Axelsen
  - 1 John W. b. 27 Jan 1931
  - 2 Son (still born) 6 Feb 1933
- 2 Melvin Olof, b. 17 Oct. 1911
- 3 Arvid Duan3, b. 20 Feb. 1915
- 4 Elwood A. b. 9 May 1918, m. Valoise Gardner
- 5 Bertha Helen, b. 19 Oct. 1921

This family lived in Cleveland

- 9 Martinus m. Margaret Hansen. They had Mary, born in Ferron and Oscar, born in Idaho.

Martinus was to have gone on a mission when about 22 years old, but because of a misunderstanding he never filled the call. He was strong physically, was 5 ft. 7 in. High, weighed 175 lb. His wife was a convert from Denmark and after his death in Nov. 1907 in a Boise hospital she stayed at the Chris Larson home in Ferron a while, and then returned to her native land.

About the year 1932 Andrew Warren Larson, son of Andrew and Sophronia, visited them. They were living in a town, Brup, “” about two English miles north of the pre-war line between Denmark and Germany. Margaret had married again and had a son about sixteen years old. Mary was a housekeeper for a family in Copenhagen and Oscar was a blacksmith. They were very pleased for the visit of Warren.

The Larson boys were all good workers at whatever they were called to do. They did some farming, sheep herding, riding the range for cattle and helping build canals or other community projects. They stood for what they believed to be right, all belonging to the Latter Day Saints Church.

Andrew Peter moved to Missouri to be near the Reorganized branch as he had belonged with them since a young man.

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In writing this history and working on the genealogy and record parts of the work, many thoughts have gone through my mind, mostly of how grateful we should all be because the Larsons accepted the gospel and lived according to those teachings. I wish to express thanks to all those who have given so much information for this history and hope each family will immediately start a similar history of other members of the family. Start with your own family and build from the foundation and information you have.

I have tried to make it a true and impartial history. Checked by Andrew O. and written by Sophronia Larson. Compiled by Vaunee T. Larson.