

**Sketch of the Lives of Peter Mathiasen Mackelprang
and Sophia Margaret Sorenson Mackelprang
Utah Pioneers of 1856**

Edited by Helen McElprang Fox; a compilation of three separate histories written by unidentified members of their family.

"Hans Christian Andersen has written fairytales, which have been translated into almost 100 languages and read by children and adults throughout the world.

"But he also wrote poetry -- not known by the world at large but loved by all Danes -- in which he praises his country and declares his love, as in the following lines:

"In Denmark I was born, 'tis there my home is,
From there my roots, and there my world extend.
You Danish tongue, as soft as Mother's voice is,
With you my heartbeats O so sweetly blend."

Andersen wrote further of the bracing Danish beaches, of the green islands and of Jutland as the head of land separating on one side the Baltic and the Kattegat and on the other the North Sea.

"The peninsula of Jutland is anchored to the central European mainland, but otherwise Denmark is comprised of those green islands that Hans Christian Andersen wrote about, numbering no fewer than 406 larger and smaller isles, of which 90 are inhabited. The largest are Zealand -- with the capital of Copenhagen -- Funen, and Bornholm."

Facts About Denmark, Fifth edition, March 1989

When the blood of Israel, the ten tribes, traveled northward, they scattered themselves throughout Europe. History tells us the tribe of Dan settled in Denmark -- thus the country received it's name, Danmark in Danish and Denmark in English.

In the year 1850 Erastus Snow, assisted by P. O. Hansen, G. P. Dykes, and John Forsgren introduced and established the Latter-Day Saint religion into that country. They were very badly treated at first, but the fruits of their labors were bountiful at the end. More joined the Church from Denmark than from any other European country, according to her size. This is especially true of the two small islands of Falster and Lowland.

From such a land and people came the subject of our sketch, Peter Mathiasen Mackelprang, born April 20, 1817, in Rodby, Maribo, Denmark, to Eric Makkeprang (Kruckow), and Anna Kirstin Hansen (With). (Father and Mother dropped the family name of Kruckow upon arrival in America. Research proves father and mother to be Eric Makkeprang KRUCKOW and Anna Kirstin Hansen WITTH.)

He graduated from high school where he excelled in mathematics. He learned the trade of tanning and shoemaking. In order to get a diploma for his trade of shoemaking Peter was required to take a measurement for a pair of boots and a pair of fine ladies' slippers and cut them without a pattern. When the instructor put his pattern on, it was exactly right, so he gave him his diploma. He worked at this trade until he was married. Peter often took boys as apprentices to learn the trade. His forefathers were master shoemakers and, as history records it, many of them were well informed in the law of the country. A great granduncle was a lawyer to the king.

Peter was the youngest in the family, having one brother and sister older than himself. Being the youngest, he inherited the homestead where he lived for a few years after he married Sophie Margaret Sorensen. They were married December 23, 1840 in Rodby. They raised nine children to maturity, the eldest dying when nine months old.

Margaret Sorensen was born March 2, 1820 in Rodby, Maribo, Denmark. Her mother and mother's sister were married the same day to two brothers. The eldest child in each sister's family was born just one week apart. Margaret was the oldest in her family. Her mother died when she was but three weeks old. Her father was an officer in the army. Her mother's sister, Kirstina, the one that was married the same day as her mother, took Margaret.

Margaret lived with her aunt's family until she was ten years of age when her father remarried. She then lived with him until she and Peter were married. They soon tired of city life and moved to the country. They took a boy with them who had been mistreated by his father. He married and they built a home for him. When Peter and Margaret left, the young couple said they had never been better treated by anyone than by them.

Peter and Margaret were considered in the well-to-do farming class. They owned a large farm and comfortable home and never were without servant girls from the first of their housekeeping. The hired men were all men of families and lived in homes on their farm furnished by their employers, Peter and Margaret.

When the Mormon missionaries preached the glad tidings of life eternal in their prosperous little island, Margaret accepted the message willingly, feeling in her

soul that it was of divine authority and believing that Peter would soon see the light. She was baptized in the spring of 1854. It being harvest time, Peter told the missionaries he didn't have time to study their work but as soon as the harvest was over he would investigate it. He wanted to fit them with clothes so he had the tailor make them each a suit; a shoemaker made them a pair of boots; the dressmaker a pair dickeres, as they were called; four collars each and linen handkerchiefs. Plus bought them silk hats. They were all fixed up for conference. The missionaries were named Swenson and Lubean.

After the harvest Peter joined the Church. Then he and his wife sold the farm and moved to Copenhagen, where they lived for one year. Peter was called to act as a missionary among his countrymen, doing much good. Brother Mattison, who works in the Sale Lake temple, was the first baptized.

After laboring at this calling for six months, they commenced preparations for the journey to Zion. An Elder came to see them and told them to take a teakettle along. Peter returned to the kitchen where 3 brightly polished copper kettles were on a shelf. He reached for the smallest one, but the Elder said to take the largest as it would be more useful to them. The largest was a two-gallon size and seemed almost too large. He followed the advice given him and was thankful many times for it through their many years after reaching Utah. It's usefulness ended with their housekeeping but it remains in the family to this day as a treasured relic.

While preparations were being made for the family to emigrate, Christian and his sister Christina were asked by their mother, Margaret, to give all their nursery furnishings and toys to their cousins. This was not in harmony with Christina's idea for she felt that the cousins had plenty, while the children of the hired men were deprived of all these things. So she went to her father and asked him if they might give the toys to these children. He was very elated at the thought and told them that their hearts were in the right place. With their father and mother's consent, every child on the farm was made happy. Tears of gratitude were shed by the parents to see bestowed on their children luxuries and comforts they could not buy for them.

Peter paid the way from Denmark to Utah for one family and two servant girls who were coming to relatives in Sanpete County. Before sailing, Margaret was given a blessing by one of the Elders and was promised that she would reach Utah with all of her family, although she was very weak. Anne Eve Mackelprang (Bailey), their seventh child, was only five weeks old when they started on their ocean voyage in a sailing ship. Although Margaret was very sick crossing the sea and was never able to leave her bed, she clung to the promise given her and trusted in faith. She was the only one in the company who was not called upon

to lay away one or more of her loved ones en route. The trip lasted eleven weeks and five days.

Ox teams took them across the plains. Kunte Peterson was the captain of the company. At the Missouri River, they had to leave all luggage that was not absolutely essential to their existence. Margaret told of the cooking utensils, stove, feather beds, pillows and other comforts that were left on the bank of the river. She also told of how she smuggled cloth she had bought for the children's extra clothes. This same cloth was given into tithing after they arrived in Utah. Brigham Young advised all that company that could to travel on farther south to settle. Some of the company settled in Sanpete County and others in Iron County.

Peter and Margaret attended a meeting, leaving the two servant girls to care for the children. The family the girls were traveling with to Sanpete County left Salt Lake City before Peter and Margaret returned from their meeting. On their return, they made preparations for leaving Sale Lake City that afternoon. When putting their clothing away, Margaret discovered, to her dismay, that a bundle of valuables was missing. Hoping they were merely misplaced, they made a thorough search of the wagon but it was gone. It contained all the family jewelry; some very valuable and precious pieces that never could be replaced, including her dead mother's gold wedding ring and earrings which were given to Christina before they left Denmark; broaches, bracelets, necklaces, rings, two gold watches and chains, and many other valuable gold articles besides beads, fancy braids, and silk thread which Aunt Mary had made as a special gift to Christina. Margaret and the older children felt the loss of the things that her bundle contained. The servant girl who took the bundle met Margaret on the road to Sale Lake many years later. She threw her arms around Margaret's neck and begged her forgiveness. She never thought of the bundle in the few excited moments they spent together, but she understood later when each had gone their own way.

Through Peter and Margaret's supply of money and generosity, four young people emigrated with them as far as Salt Lake City. These young people moved to Sanpete County to live with relatives who had come to America before them. Peter and family were sent south, while others went northward. They located in the Old Fort, northwest of what is now Cedar City, Utah. They arrived November 14, 1856, and lived there several years.

Peter followed his trade as a tanner and shoemaker and farmed on the side. He was an excellent beer maker and made malt beer that was sold to emigrants bound for California. In this way the maintenance of the family was considerably lightened. The Bishop of the ward wanted Peter to make beer for the town working men, as malt beer was very nourishing and they had but little to eat.

When the "New City" was laid out, they moved up, living in a shed with willows woven around to form a room. During August they moved into a cellar that had been dug during the summer. The next summer they built two rooms above it. The children carried the water from the creek for the mixing of mud to build the adobe structure. This was one of the first homes built in Cedar City. It was located on what is now 1st South and 300 East Street. On September 3, 1857, another girl was born to them; they named her Mary. A few days later a cloudburst brought a flood which came into the cellar through the windows. Fortunately the children were there and they were able to turn the stream in another direction. They then began dipping the water out. Through their efforts they kept the flood from reaching their Mother's bed. This flood destroyed all the family records they had brought with them from Denmark. Peter wrote all he could, which was very little owing to the difficulty of remembering correctly the dates involved. When the house was torn down, the old brick oven was still there. Brother Bengt Nelson and Peter erected this house.

Since so much water was needed for tanning the leather, and since it was impossible to keep the ditch from breaking, they moved back to the old fort. John D. Lee had moved to Harmony and Peter bought his four-room house. Peter would go down to Harmony once a year and take leather and make shoes for the Lee family, which amounted to 40 pairs. This paid for his house. It was here that Margaret "Maggie" Mackelprang (Perkins) was born on September 19, 1860. Peter then bought a four-room house in the "New City" and the family moved into it that fall. They lived there the rest of their lives. Bishop Lunt asked Margaret on many occasions to prepare food for the Twelve Apostles when they would arrive for conference or visits. She always cooked for them and did all she could to make them comfortable.

Peter was a great walker and thought it no great task to walk to Parowan and back in a day or up Shurtz's canyon for his oxen before breakfast. He held the record for being the best wheat cradler in southern Utah, often doing five acres a day. He kept a dairy for many years, always having nineteen cows in the herd. The milk was used for cheese and butter making.

Margaret was a devoted Relief Society worker. Her name often appears in the old minute books for deeds of charity. She was a short, stout person and seemed to always have peppermint candy in her pocket for the children. Whenever she and Peter were discussing something they might not want someone else to hear, they would speak in Danish. Margaret was an excellent cook and seamstress and did much of this type of work for the poor and needy.

Peter and Margaret were a very hospitable couple and emigrants from the north would try to arrange their drives to "make Brother Mackelprang's" before the night. They tell us that twenty outfits camping in and around the lot was not

uncommon. Though they were not before the public eye, their faith was deep-rooted and the paying of an honest tithe was one of their strong points. There never was a missionary that left Cedar City that Peter did not give five dollars and his blessing. During the winter when he would kill a beef, he always sent a piece of it to the widows. He performed many duties in the Church, being called with his wife to take their second anointing because of their faithfulness.

Peter died December 9, 1893, in his seventy-fifth year, leaving Margaret in loneliness for fifteen years before she was permitted to join him. He was a Seventy in the Priesthood and a teacher in the ward. Margaret's granddaughter, Martha Jane Perkins (Urie) went with her to John Parry to have him make a tombstone for her beloved husband, wanting the very best. Another granddaughter, Maggie Mackelprang (Mosdell) remembers taking money to Brother Parry each time Margaret had some to pay on this stone. When the stone was nearly paid for, she happened to go down with 25 cents to pay on it and he told her to tell her grandmother that the stone was paid for and not to worry, as he knew she needed the money to raise her children more than he needed it. This stone, though badly worn, still stands at the graves of Peter and Margaret. Margaret died November 23, 1908. They left behind them a posterity of eight children, two of whom preceded them in death, and over four hundred fifty descendants.

Their children are:

Stina, who died at nine months of age
Christian Eric, who married Lenora Bailey
Christina, who married Martin Chatterley
Samuel William, who married Adelia Terry
August (Gus), who married Jane Parry
Julius, who married Martha Jane Perkins and Margaret Jane Stephens
Anna Eva, who married Nephi Bailey
Mary, who married Frederic Jones
Margaret, who married Daniel Perkins
Peter, who married Kathryn Perkins



Pedar Mathiasen
Mackeprang



Sophia Margretha
Sorensen

THE MACKELPRANG FAMILY (By Rachel Harris Thorley)



Soren Vilhelm
Mckelprang



Adella Terry

They left their homes in Denmark
With hopes and spirits high
To reach the Utah desert
It looked mighty dry.

They fed and fought the Indians
All along the way,
And if this wasn't bad enough
They were out of hay.

Yet, with faith and courage,
They built homes and tilled the soil,
Not knowing that someday on these lands
They would strike oil.

They stopped at every green spot
To let the cows and horses feed.
Unlike us folks today
They weren't out for speed

Some who looked upon the land
Said, "This is for the birds."
But on such ground the Mackelprangs
Run sheep and cattle herds.

They settled Bluff and Blanding
And Monticello, too.
Others settled in Kanab
They now number quite a few.

They spun the wool and knit their socks
Tanned hides to make them shoes.
And on the side, so I am told,
They made a little booze.

The ones that stayed in Cedar
Still have their horns to blow.
They planted roots both firm and deep
And then began to grow.

They sat upon the homemade chairs
To knit and weave and sew.
For they must always look their very best
Where'ere they chanced to go.

Now the little branches spread
To states both far and near.
But still they hold their Utah home
As something very dear.

Some crossed the Colorado
Without bridge, or boat, or plane.
I wonder if we folks today
Would undertake the same?

And though the going may get tough,
And fate their hopes may mar,
Still they have that Pioneer spirit
And hitch their wagon to a star.

They had to push their wagon through
With only half a load,
And when all reached the other side,
They had to build the road.

Now when we leave this earthly home,
We'll forge full-steam ahead
For we will be most anxious
To meet our kindred dead.



Thomas Peter
Mckelprang



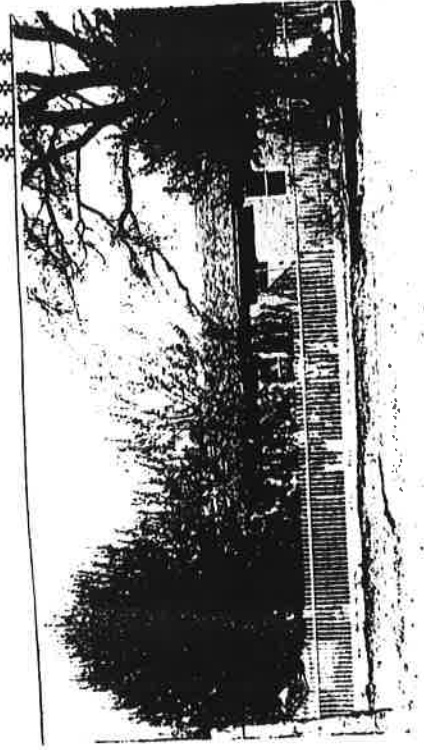
Maud Howard

And when we reach the other shore
Where not but love abounds,
We'll be one great big family
On those happy hunting grounds.

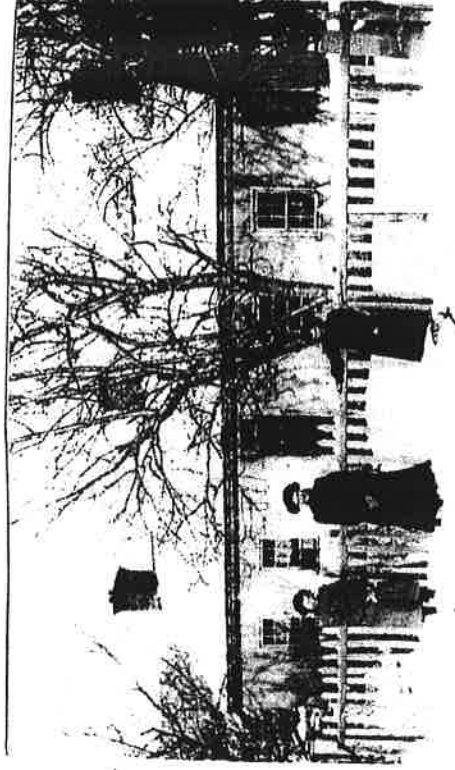


Peder Mathiason Makkeprang

PETER MATHIASON AND MARGARET SOPHIA SORENSON



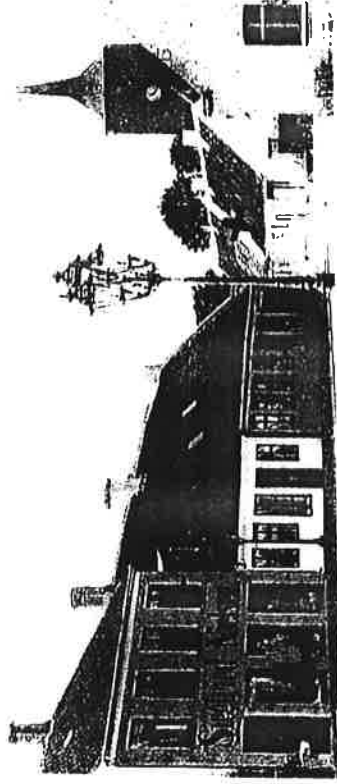
This is the first house built in the new city after Mary was born in the cellar underneath.



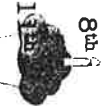

This is the four-room house Peter bought where they always lived.



This is the farm yard in Denmark, the house is back in the trees.



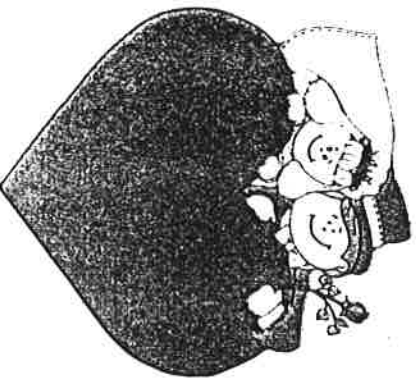
Happy August Birthday to:

Rolando Silva Duran	1 st
Keldan Guymon	
John Wilson	
Daryl Guymon	2 nd
Teresa Halliday	
Kevin Gilbert	3 rd
Wes Gray	5 th
Raelene Terwilliger	6 th
Bharon Jensen	7 th
Collette McElprang	8 th
Ray Rowley	 13 th
Brianna Bass	
Kollette Nielson	12 th
Madge Guymon	
Kristan Potter	
Bailey Birch	13 th
Vee Guymon	14 th
Colleen Diamond	16 th
Jeremiah Luke	
Juanita McCandless	 17 th
Reeve Cook	18 th
Donald Kinder	20 th
Ryan Allred	
Danna Gray	
Jeremy Kinder	22 nd
Justan Potter	
Dale Black	24 th
Richard Rowley	
Christine George	25 th
Karla Powell	
Dallyn Ward	26 th
Grage Guymon	29 th
Tanner Olsen	31 st
Isabelle Ovesson	

Congratulations to:

Kamie Kinder & Brandon Conover
Married July 17, 2004

Tom Guymon & Nancy Bayles
Married July 30, 2004
Manti Temple



Remembering Our Ancestors

Sketch of the Lives of Peter Mathiasen Mackelprang and Sophia Margaret Sorensen Mackelprang – Utah Pioneers of 1856

Submitted and Edited by Helen McElprang Fox

When the blood of Israel, the Ten Tribes, traveled northward, they scattered themselves throughout Europe. History tells us that the tribe of Dan settled in Denmark, thus the country received its name, Denmark in Danish, and Denmark in English. In the year 1850 Erastus Snow, assisted by P. O. Hansen, G.P. Dykes, and John Forsgren, introduced and established the Latter-day Saint religion into that country. These three missionaries were very badly treated at first, but the fruits of their labors were bountiful at the end. More joined the Church from Denmark than from any other European country, according to size. This is especially true of the two small islands of Falster and Lowland. From such a land and people came the subject of our sketch, Peter Mathiasen Mackelprang, born April 20, 1817, in Rodby, Maribo, Denmark. Peter was the son of Eric Makkeprang (Kruckow) and Anna Kristin Hansen (With). (The family name of Kruckow was dropped when the family arrived in America.)

Peter Mathiasen graduated from high school where he excelled in mathematics. He learned the trade of tanning and shoemaking. In order to get a diploma for his trade of shoemaking, Peter was required to take a measurement for a pair of boots and a pair of fine ladies slippers and cut them without a pattern. When the instructor put his pattern on, it was exactly right, so Peter got his diploma. Peter worked at this trade until he was married. His forefathers were master shoemakers, and, as history records, many of them were well informed in the law of the country. A great granduncle was a lawyer to the king.

Peter was the youngest in the family, having one brother and sister older than himself. Being the youngest, he inherited the homestead where he lived for a few years after his marriage to Sophie Margaret Sorensen. This couple raised nine children to maturity, the eldest dying when nine months old.

Margaret Sorensen was born March 2, 1820 in Rodby, Maribo, Denmark. Margaret was the oldest in her family. Her mother died when she was but three weeks old. Her father was an officer in the army. Her mother's sister, Kristina, took Margaret in. Margaret lived with her aunt's family until she was ten years of age when her father remarried. She then lived with him until she and Peter were married. They soon tired of city life and moved to the country. They took in a boy to live with them who had been mistreated by his father. When this boy married, Peter built a home for him. When Peter and Margaret left, the young couple said they had never been better treated than by Peter and Margaret.

Peter and Margaret were considered to be in the well-to-do farming class. They owned a large farm and a comfortable home and never were without servant girls. The hired men were all men with families and lived in homes on their farm furnished by Peter and Margaret. When the Mormon missionaries preached the glad tidings of life-eternal in their prosperous little island, Margaret accepted the message willingly, feeling in her soul that it was divine authority and believing that Peter would soon see the light. She was baptized in the Spring of 1854. It being harvest time, Peter told the missionaries that he did not have time to

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Building cleaning schedule:

Call Hal Guymon if available to help

687-2474

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After the harvest, Peter joined the Church. Then he and his wife sold the farm and moved to Copenhagen where they lived for one year. Peter was called to act as a missionary among his countrymen. After laboring at this calling for six months, Peter and Margaret commenced preparations for the journey to Zion. An Elder came to see them and told them to take a teakettle along. Peter returned to the kitchen where three brightly polished copper kettles were on a shelf. He reached for the smallest one, but the Elder said to take the largest as it would be more useful to them. The largest was a two-gallon size and seemed almost too large. Peter followed the advice given him and was thankful many times for it through their many years after reaching Utah. The kettle remains in the family to this day as a treasured relic. While preparations were being made for the family to emigrate, Christian and his sister Christina were asked by their mother, Margaret, to give all their nursery furnishings and toys to their cousins. This was not in harmony with Christina's idea for she felt that the cousins had plenty, while the children of the hired men were deprived of all these things. So she went to her father and asked him if they might give the toys to these children. He was very elated at the thought and told the children that their hearts were in the right place.

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Ox teams took them across the plains. Kunte Peterson was the captain of the company. At the Missouri River, they had to leave all luggage that was not absolutely essential to their existence. Margaret told of the cooking utensils, stove, feather beds, pillows, and other comforts that were left on the bank of the river. She also told of how she smuggled cloth she had bought for the children's extra clothes. This same cloth was given for tithing after they arrived in Utah. Brigham Young advised all that company that could, to travel on farther South to settle. Some of the company settled in Sanpete County

and others in Iron County. Over time, Peter and his family were sent south and located in the Old Fort located northwest of Cedar City, Utah. They stayed there for several years. Peter followed his trade as a tanner and shoemaker and farmed on the side. Then when the 'new city' was laid out, the family moved up, living in a shed with willows woven around it to form a room. During August they moved into a cellar that had been dug during the summer. The next summer they built two rooms above the cellar. The children carried the water from the creek for the mixing of mud to build the adobe structure. This was one of the first homes built in Cedar city.

Peter was very generous and caring to others. There never was a missionary that left Cedar City to whom Peter did not give \$5. During the winter months he would kill a beef and share the meat with the widows in town.

Peter was a great walker and thought it no great task to walk to Parowan and back in a day. He held the record for being the best wheat cradler in Southern Utah, often doing five acres a day. He kept a dairy for many years. Margaret was a devoted Relief Society worker. She was an excellent cook and seamstress and did much work for the poor and needy.

Peter died December 9, 1893 at the age of 75. Margaret died November 23, 1908. They left behind a posterity of eight children, and numerous descendants.