

PREFACE

Compiling these histories has been a wonderful experience for me. I have learned to know my ancestors much better and realized they were living, breathing people, the same as we are today. It has been a labor of love.

I want to thank Dora Deane Jewkes for all of the information she has given me. It has made these histories possible.

There will be other histories written and as I complete them, copies will be made available to those wanting them.

It is my prayer that after reading these histories you will have a desire to write your own, and your parents. When you complete them, if you would like, I will put them on my computer using the same format as those I have already finished and then distribute them to anyone wanting them. This way, we can all get to know each other's family better. I haven't written these histories just for the people of today. It is my hope that our grandchildren and great-grandchildren will read these and learn about their ancestors.

HISTORY OF JASPER PETERSON

1847 - 1887

Compiled By James B Branson

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Much of the information used in writing this history I obtained from my Aunt Dora Deane Jewkes and a distant Cousin Reed Peterson. I want to acknowledge how much I appreciate their contributions. Other information I used was found in the following publications. The book entitled, "EMERY COUNTY 1880-1980," compiled by the Emery County 1880-1980 Book Committee, with Montell Seely chairman; a supplement to the Emery County Progress, entitled, "EMERY COUNTY 100 YEARS, 1880-1980," a centennial edition; and volumes 6 and 9 of the book, "OUR PIONEER HERITAGE," found in the LDS Family History Center. This history is not only about Jasper Peterson, but includes accounts of his entire family.

My great grandfather Jasper Peterson was born in Moderup, Saeslev Parish, Odense County, Fyen, Denmark, on June 6, 1847, to Rasmus Pederson, also known on some records as Rasmus Peterson; and Anne Marie Jespersdatter, also known on some records as Annie Maria Hansen and Ane Maria Jespersen.

Rasmus Pederson was born on April 11, 1820, in the village of Højby, approximately five miles southeast of Odense, on the island of Fyen (Fyn), Denmark. Rasmus was the son of Peter Knudsen (1786), and Maren Augustsen (1796). Anne Marie Jespersdatter was born on December 12, 1821, in Saerslev, located ten miles northwest of Odense, and five miles from the ocean.

Nothing has been learned about the early lives of Rasmus and Anne Marie, but they probably spent most of their time in the small villages around Højby and Saerslev, with occasional trips to Odense, which is the main city on the island of Fyen, and to the small villages along the shore of the ocean.

Jasper Peterson was the eldest son born to Anne and Rasmus. At the time of his birth they were not married, a common practice in those days. Jasper was baptized in the Saerslev Lutheran

immigrant loan of \$500 and sent to the family, making it possible for them to immigrate to the United States.

After receiving the money, the family sold their possessions and joined a Church company bound for Utah. Jasper's father, Rasmus, age forty-six, his mother, Anne Maria, age forty-four, his brothers Hans Peter, age sixteen, Niels Christen, age thirteen, Jens James, age three, and sister, Mette Marie, age eighteen months, left Copenhagen, Denmark, May 28, 1866, on the steamship Aurora. This was to be the first leg of their journey to Utah, in the United States. The next morning they stopped at Kiel (Holstein), Germany for about three hours to pick up luggage. Since the weather was favorable, they went through the Kiel Canal, and up the Elbe River a short distance to Altona, at the west edge of Hamburg, Germany.

At Hamburg the company divided, and the Norwegians, the Danes, and some of the other passengers, totaling 201 saints boarded the Norwegian sailship Cavour. The Cavour was commanded by Captain Floyen (Foyen). Niels Nielsen, a missionary from Brigham City returning to Utah, was appointed president of the company, with Jens Gregorsen and Carl Rundquist as his assistants. The emigrants were organized into four districts under the direction of Elder Jens Gregorsen, Elder Carl Rundquist, a Brother Jacobsen, and a Brother Ole Nielson. The vessel and all pertaining to it were dedicated by Carl Winderborg, who was famous at the time as the Danish translator of the "Millennial Star."

The Cavour sailed out of Hamburg, Germany into the open Atlantic Ocean on either May 30, or June 1, 1866, where they sailed, without seeing land, for two months. The voyage to America was nearly twice as long as usual, due to unusually high winds, or calm and foggy weather.

During one of the stormy days, with the ship sailing at a fast rate, one of the sailors fell overboard. Everything possible was done to rescue him, but they weren't able to save him.

Two women who had been sick before joining the company, and

families and friends had no way of learning what happened to them.

Before beginning the account of the saints crossing the plains by ox team, mention should be made of an occurrence reported by John Nielson, a member of the company. This occurrence illustrates what the Pedersen family was feeling when they had to leave their sick husband and father behind near Quincy, Illinois. John reports, "I do not remember how long we had been on our way from New York City, when we were put off from the train, in a station, for the night. We were aroused early the next morning to board the train, but during the night one of the men in our company had been stricken with that dreaded disease, cholera. He was almost dead at the time of our boarding the train. His family was not allowed to take him with them, so he had to be left to the mercy of strangers, in a strange land. It was heart rendering to hear the weeping and wailing of his wife and children at the time of their parting. This man and his family had been mess mates of my father and family during our journey, so I have good reason to remember it."

From St. Joseph, the immigrants traveled up the Missouri River approximately ninety miles by steamship, to Wyoming, Nebraska. Wyoming, Nebraska was a small village on the west bank of the Missouri River, about twenty-five miles down river from the present day city of Omaha, Nebraska. Also, it was about seven miles north of Nebraska City, Nebraska. The village was an outfitting place for emigration. There were two large warehouses, a store, an emigration office, a corral and two or three other dwellings.

During the trip up the Missouri River, four people were buried the first evening, during a wood fueling stop along the river. The next evening, during a wood fueling stop, another five people were buried. The company arrived at Wyoming, Nebraska, on August 11, 1866.

After reaching Wyoming, Nebraska, the luggage was removed from the steamship, and the company huddled together on the river

company had to start across the plains immediately, before the mountain passes were filled with snow, and impassable. The journey west started on August 13, 1866, two days after the company arrived in Wyoming, Nebraska, and ended in Salt Lake City, on October 22, 1866, nearly two and half months later. Their wagon train was the last one to leave for the season. Around seventeen miles were traveled on the average day. The route to Salt Lake City was the same one the Church companies had been using for nearly nineteen years.

The immigrants started their wagon train journey up the North Platte River, mainly on the north bank where there was water, grass and firewood. When wood was not available, buffalo chips were used for the cooking fires. They were collected mostly by the children as they walked along the way and thrown on a tarp draped under the wagons. Shortly after leaving the Missouri River, cholera attacked the company at an alarming degree. Cholera is an acute intestinal infection that causes vomiting and diarrhea. It leads to severe dehydration and can be fatal within hours. Contaminated water and food are the normal causes for it's spreading. The hot August weather and poor water supply, probably caused the spread of the disease.

The lower North Platte River, during the late summer months was described as a mile wide and an inch deep stream, which meandered across the landscape and wasn't conducive to a supply of good fresh drinking water.

Captain Abner Lowry was from Sanpete County, Utah, which had a large Scandinavian population. He was very considerate of the needs of members of the company, especially those who were sick. He had a large tent that was pitched each evening. The sick were carried by the teamsters, into the tent in the evening and back to the wagons in the morning. Due to the many deaths in this company, the Abner Lowry wagon train became known as, "The Cholera Train."

Anne Maria Jespersen died on August 31, 1866, approximately 250 miles west of Wyoming, Nebraska. Since there was no wood to

from the Three Crossings of the Sweetwater saying Captain Abner Lowry's company, the last of the seasons emigration, would pass the Sweetwater Bridge that day.

The arrival of the relief train was the salvation of Captain Lowry's company. Many of his passengers were sick, and a large number of them had died along the trail. Of the three-hundred people who started with Captain Abner Lowry's Company, over one-hundred died before reaching Salt Lake City. Captain Arza Hinckley took eighty-seven of the sick and aged back with him to Salt Lake City. He arrived on October 7, 1866, two weeks ahead of Captain Abner Lowry's train. Hans Peder was one of the sick taken on ahead with Captain Hinckley, leaving Jens and Mette Marie in the care of the Hendriksen's.

When the company neared Fort Bridger, Wyoming, they were hit by a big snow storm. The heavy snow and bad weather continued to hamper their progress, but happily, the provisions left by Captain Hinckley's train were sufficient to last the remainder of the journey.

When the train crossed the Utah line, the presiding elder, Niels Nielsen had the wagons form a circle and a prayer of thanksgiving was offered. By this time snow storms were becoming quite common. The worst storm of the trip was encountered as they crossed the divide into Parley's Canyon. The snowy blizzard lasted for three days with the wind blowing so hard it was impossible to make a fire. On October 21, 1866, the company camped near the mouth of Parley's Canyon. The next morning, October 22, 1866, the company arose very early, being anxious to get their first view of Salt Lake City, and the great Salt Lake valley. Almost as soon as the teamsters had hitched up the ox teams, and the company was in motion, they ascended a dugway, which brought into view their long awaited destination.

Many of the company stayed for a few days in the LDS Church's Eighth Ward Square, in Salt Lake City. This location is where the City and County Building now stands, at Fourth South and State Street. It was here that the Pederson children were met

While Jasper and Louisa lived in Mt. Pleasant, five children were born to them. Their first child was Jasper Peter, born on April 14, 1868; the next was William, born on February 21, 1870; then Annie Maria Rasmina, born on September 21, 1871; James Christian Edward, born on March 13, 1874; and Annie Catherine Josephine, born January 13, 1876. All of these children were born in Mt. Pleasant, Utah.

During this time, Jasper also took a second wife in plural marriage. Her name was Christina Larsen. A son, Louis Christian, was born to this union. The marriage later ended in divorce.

On August 23, 1877, President Brigham Young sent a letter to Canute Peterson, President of the Sanpete Stake, urging the settlers to respond and settle Castle Valley. Orange Seely was called to be the leader with a number of men responding to the call, Jasper being one of them.

The following is a copy of the letter from President Brigham Young:

President Canute Peterson
Ephraim, Utah Territory

Salt Lake City, Utah
August 23, 1877

Dear Brother

Inasmuch as it is probable that quite a number of the brethren, who have sold out in Thistle Valley, to facilitate its occupancy by the Lamanites (Indians), will not desire to settle in Castle Valley, though we should like as many as possible to do so, and as we are anxious to see a good, strong settlement of Latter-Day Saints established in the last-named valley, we should be pleased to have you make inquiry and find what Brethren in the Stake of Zion over which you preside would like to settle there.

There are numbers of the brethren in different portions of Sanpete County, who have not an abundant supply of water for their land, who would, no doubt, be happy to remove to a valley where the water is abundant and the soil good. We should like to have, at least fifty families locate in Castle Valley this fall;

weather, a man could walk it in a day and a half. It was a common practice in those days for a man to make the trip on foot.

While on their way over on that first trek, they spotted a mountain sheep and killed it to add to their meat supply. Also, near the mouth of Cottonwood Canyon, they saw about twenty head of elk stringing around the hillside. Aaron Oman was successful in shooting one of these, which also added to their food supply.

Just before they reached the mouth of the canyon, Niels P. Miller's wagon broke down. It was loaded with seed potatoes, so they dug a pit and buried the potatoes. The following spring they returned to get the potatoes for planting.

They arrived at the Seely dugout on November 2, 1877. This was the dugout the Seely brothers had built in 1875, when they first came with their sheep and cattle. The following day Niels P. Miller was sent back to pilot others over the mountain who were preparing to come. He came back with only three men: Fred Anderson, James Jensen and Andrew Jensen. They arrived at the dugout on December 2, 1877.

My great grandfather Jasper Peterson filed on one-hundred and sixty acres of land on the south side of Cottonwood Creek, south of the present town of Castle Dale. He and Justus Seely set to work digging a ditch to bring water to their land. This became known as the Blue Cut Canal. James and Andrew Jensen, Niels P. Miller, and Fred Anderson, also worked on the Blue Cut Canal that winter.

Justus Wellington Seely, Jasper Peterson, John S. Jorgensen, Aaron Oman and Chris Peel returned to Sanpete later that winter.

In the spring of 1878, Jasper, his three sons, Jasper Peter, William and James Christian Edward, along with his brother Jens (James), returned to Castle Valley. Jasper, his sons, and Jens (James), planted wheat on land between Castle Dale and Orangeville. This was the first wheat planted and reaped by hand on the Cottonwood Creek. I remember my Grandfather, James Christian Edward, telling me he came with his father and brothers at this time. He told me he and his brother William stayed in

and was huge, fourteen feet by sixteen feet. Sylvester Watson was the fiddler. There were forty-two men and boys in attendance and only seven women, so the men were numbered and took turns at the dance. Since the one-room house was too small to accommodate all of the masculine wall-flowers and the dancers, the extra men waited in a dugout nearby until their numbers were called. They had a fire on the hearth, and a side of beef hanging outside. While waiting for their turn to dance, the men cut off pieces of meat and cooked them over the fire. Jens James and his wife Annie of Castle Dale attended the dance by walking a distance of ten miles. J.W. Jensen and his brother also went from Castle Dale, so they all took turns riding the mule J.W. had brought.

Mette Marie married Carl Frederick Emil Larson on October 4, 1883. They had two children, a son and a daughter. She died four years later, October 23, 1887, on her 23rd birthday.

Jasper and Louisa's homestead was across the river, south of the Castle Dale townsite. To be as near his homestead as possible, Jasper built a home for the family in the southeast part of Castle Dale. Each Sunday the family would walk to Orangeville for Church. One way, the trek would be about four miles.

On October 7, 1879, President Canute Peterson, of the Sanpete Stake visited Castle Valley. Bishop Orange Seely was released as Bishop over the area, and three wards were organized. Elias Cox was ordained as Bishop of the Huntington Ward, William H. Taylor was ordained as Bishop of the Ferron Ward and Jasper Peterson was ordained as Bishop of the Castle Dale Ward. At this time all the homesteaders on Cottonwood Creek were in the Castle Dale Ward. This included Castle Dale, Orangeville and Wilsonville. Bishop Jasper Peterson chose as his counselors, Niels P. Miller, 1st counselor, and Immanuel Bagley, 2nd counselor, with James Peterson, his brother, as ward clerk.

In a very brief period, Castle Dale grew from a frontier outpost with a few families to a permanent community. In Castle Dale, as in nearly all of the communities of Emery County, the

until it terminated his earthly career, on June 23, 1887. His remains were interned in the Odense, Denmark, cemetery.

President Nils C. Flygare wrote the following letter:

Copenhagen, June 27, 1887.

President George Teasdale.

Dear Brother,

It has become my sad duty to inform you of the demise of Elder Jasper Peterson, from Castle Dale, Emery County, Utah, one of our Missionaries who died at Odense, Denmark, on June 23, 1887.

Brother Peterson arrived here on the 26th of April, 1887, from the Southern States Mission, where he had labored for about six months. He was appointed to labor in the Odense Branch of the Aarhus Conference. He was very anxious to fill his Mission, and went energetically to work among his relatives and friends who received him very kindly.

He began to be indisposed in the latter part of May. Until then he enjoyed good health and seemed to be very robust. He suffered from chills and fever, together with acute pains in his head, but owing to the faith exercised by himself, and the brethren, he was much relieved when anointed. He had a good appetite, and partook of his meals up to the time of his death.

On the 22nd of June, he felt a pain in his side and breast. He was anointed and felt better. He retired to bed, but in the night he had another attack of pain, making it difficult for him to breath. He was administered to again, and received immediate relief, so he fell asleep and did not awaken again until 9 A.M. At 10 A.M., he felt hungry and ate with relish the food set before him, and remarked, "It tastes pretty good." At 11:45 A.M., he fell asleep without the slightest sign of pain, and thus died. He was conscious to the last, and occasionally remarked that he would have to go home with the first company.

Brother Peterson was a good and faithful Latter-Day Saint.

The Rowley Flume

The Rowley Flume across the Maple Hollow Wash was built around the year 1898 by Peter Johansen Jr. who Homesteaded a 120 acer Farm in the area.

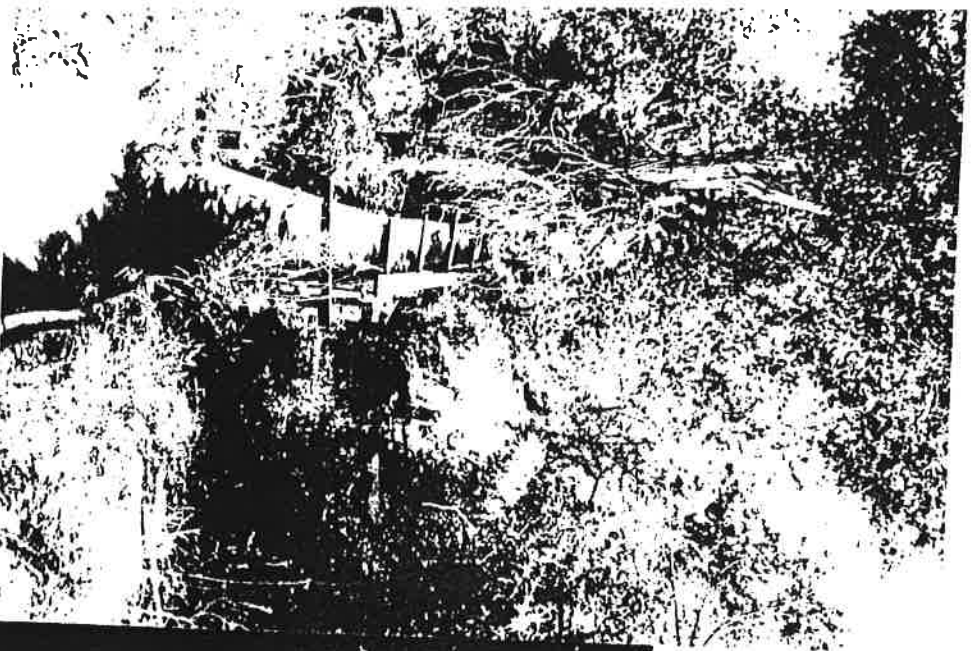
On May 2, 1898 Peter Johansen Jr. received title to the property from the United States Government, Under the Homestead Act passed by Congress in May of 1862.

The title of ownership was signed by William McKinley the 25 President of the United States.

On the 28 of September 1917 Joseph and Rosa Cunha, Received title to the property from Peter Johansen Jr. for the sum of \$2,000.00. The Cunha's Farmed the land and maintained the Flume untill the 23 day of September 1931, when it was sold to George Walter Rowley for some property on the Buffalo Bench and \$1,000.00 Cash.

The Farm, and the old Flume has been used and Maintained by the Rowley Family for the pasted Five Generations, and is still in use after 93 years of Service.

Documented and Photographed
by Vernell Rowley
15 February 1991



Travel guide to Alaska
M.P.



FROM
THE A. D. PALMERS.

CONTENTS:
LIFE HISTORIES OF:

- JOHN ALBERT JOHANSEN
- ANNA NELLIE NIELSON JOHANSEN
- PETER JOHANSEN
- ANE KERSTINE CHRISTENSEN JOHANSEN
- SWEN OLE NIELSON
- RACHEL VIOLET ATKIN NIELSON
- WILLIAM ATKIN.

Also includes:
Pedigree charts and Family group
sheets and pictures.

December 1959
Compiled by Mable J. Palmer.

HUSBAND
P
Birth
Chr.
D

Where was information shown on this family record obtained?
 From Cecelia Johansen
 possession of Amelia P. Johansen - 1229 - 5th Ave. A. South, Lehighbridge

Mothers: Karen Hermansen, Ephraim, San Pete Co., Utah

Place: Mt. Pleasant, Utah
 Place: Mt. Pleasant, Utah
 Place: Mt. Pleasant, Utah

Place: Store Valbye, Denmark

Place: Valsted, Aalborg, Denmark

Name and address of person submitting this sheet:
 Mt. Pleasant, Utah
 Mt. Pleasant, Utah
 Place: Mt. Pleasant, Utah

Family Representative:
 Mother: Karen Pallsen
 Father: Mickel C. Christensen

WIFE: Ane Kerstine Christensen
 Birth: 29 May, 1836
 Chr.: *
 Death: 23 Dec. 1899

HUSBAND: Peter Johansen
 Name (in full): Wife Ane Kerstine Christensen
 Temple Ordinance Data:
 Baptized: 20 Sept. 1857
 Endowed: _____
 Relationship of Family Representative to Husband: _____

WIFE: Ane Kerstine Christensen
 Baptized: 30 Jan. 1858
 Endowed: _____
 Relationship of Family Representative to Husband: _____

HUSBAND: Peter Johansen
 Name (in full): Wife Ane Kerstine Christensen
 Temple Ordinance Data:
 Baptized: 20 Sept. 1857
 Endowed: _____
 Relationship of Family Representative to Husband: _____

SEALER: _____
 Date & Time: _____

Sex	CHILDREN	WHEN BORN	WHERE BORN	MARRIED	BAPTIZED	ENDOWED	SEARCHED
M	Use each child (whether living or dead) in order of birth	Day Mo. Yr.	Town County State	(First Husband or Wife) (List Additional Marriages with Dates on Reverse Side of Sheet)	(Date)	(Date)	Date & Time
M	1	4 Sept. 1859	Mt. Pleasant Sanpete Utah	12 Mar. 1897	17 Dec. 1891	10 Aug. 1869	23 June 1898
M	2	14 May 1861	"	10 Aug. 1936	30 Oct. 1884		
F	3	5 Apr. 1863	"	19 Jan. 1889	17 May 1886		
F	4	12 May 1866	"	30 May 1929	17 May 1886		
F	5	12 Apr. 1868	"	10 May 1868			CHILD
F	6	22 Oct. 1869	"	28 Jan. 1930	9 Oct. 1890		
F	7	20 Mar. 1875	"	12 Nov. 1911	1 May 1893		
F	8	13 May 1877	"	23 Aug. 1957	16 Dec. 1903	13 May 1885	May 1899
M	9	3 June 1880	"	29 Aug. 1943	28 Apr. 1910		
M	10						
	11						
	12				15 Dec. 1913	13 Dec. 1957	
	13				Sophia Timothy		
	14						
	15						

Place Additional Genealogical and Historical Data on Reverse Side.
 Place Additional Genealogical and Historical Data on Reverse Side.

FEDIGRE CHART OF JOHN ALBERT JOHANSEN

- 16. GASPER EWIG
B. abt. 1722, Denmark
D. Jan. 14, 1790
- 17. MARIN JORGENSEN
B. abt 1761
W. Roskilde, Den.
W. D.
- 18. LARS HERMANSSEN
B. abt 1728
W. St. Valby, Agerup
M. Sept. 13, 1780
D. Jan. 11, 1816
- 19. METTE NIELSEN
B. 1753
W. D.
- 20. CHRISTEN ANDERSEN PALLESEN
B. June 6, 1776
W. Sebbor, Denmark
M. Feb. 12, 1806
D. June 15, 1815
- 21. ANNE KIRSTINE MATTHESEN
B. abt. 1778
W. Valsted, Sebbor, Aalborg
D. (Same as No. 10 on chart)
- 22. HANS ANDERSEN NIELSEN
B. Feb. 20, 1771
W. Sebbor, Denmark
M. Sept. 2, 1798
D. Jan. 23, 1855
- 23. METTE KIRSTINE JOHANSEN
B. Aug. 6, 1780
W. Sebbor, Denmark
D. April 16, 1855
M. Sebbor, Denmark
- 46. JOHAN NIELSEN SANDBOG
B. Sept. 29, 1748
W. Sebbor, Denmark
D. May 17, 1824
- 47. KAREN PEDERSEN
B. June 9, 1747, Valsted
W. Sebbor, Denmark
D.
- 48. NIELS NIELSEN PALLESEN
B. abt. 1700
D. May 24, 1735
- 80. ANNE MARIE ANDERSEN
B. abt. 1700
D. May 24, 1735
- 81. ANNE MARIE ANDERSEN
B. abt. 1689
D. Nov. 14, 1763
- 82. CHRISTOPHER POUSSIN
B. abt. 1700
D. June 11, 1724
- 83. JOHANNES JENSEN
B. abt. 1706
D. Sept. 13, 1778
- 88. NIELS NIELSEN PALLESEN
D. (Same as #80 on chart)
- 89. ANNE MARIE ANDERSEN
B. abt. 1869
D. May 24, 1735
- 90. CHRISTOPHER POUSSIN
B. abt. 1700
D. Nov. 14, 1763
- 91. JOHANNES JENSEN
B. abt. 1706
D. Mar. 15, 1763
- 92. NIELS CHRISTENS SANDBOG
B. abt. 1705
D. Sept. 13, 1778
- 93. MAREN ANDERSON
B. abt. 1729
D. June 11, 1783
- 94. HEDER JUSTSEN
B. 1740
D. Sept. 29, 1748
- 95. NIELS PEDERSEN
B. 1720
D. Nov. 23, 1796
- 180. PAUL NIELSEN RUTH
B. abt. 1646
D. Aug. 25, 1736
- 181. MAREN CHRISTOPHERSEN
B. 1669
D. Mar. 25, 1741
- 189. MRS. JUST JOHANSEN
B. Jan. 3, 1760
D. Nov. 1, 1750
- 190. NIELS PEDERSEN
B. 1666
D. Feb. 9, 1712
- 191. MAREN PEDERSEN
B. abt. 1690
D. Jan. 18, 1789
- 192. NIELS PEDERSEN
B. abt. 1690
D. Jan. 18, 1789
- 193. NIELS PEDERSEN
B. abt. 1690
D. Jan. 18, 1789
- 194. NIELS PEDERSEN
B. abt. 1690
D. Jan. 18, 1789
- 195. NIELS PEDERSEN
B. abt. 1690
D. Jan. 18, 1789
- 196. NIELS PEDERSEN
B. abt. 1690
D. Jan. 18, 1789
- 197. NIELS PEDERSEN
B. abt. 1690
D. Jan. 18, 1789
- 198. NIELS PEDERSEN
B. abt. 1690
D. Jan. 18, 1789
- 199. NIELS PEDERSEN
B. abt. 1690
D. Jan. 18, 1789
- 200. NIELS PEDERSEN
B. abt. 1690
D. Jan. 18, 1789
- ALBERT JOHANSEN
B. Dec. 13, 1877
Pleasant, Utah
M. Mar. 30, 1809
- 10. MICHEL CHRISTEN CHRISTENSEN
B. Mar. 30, 1809
W. Valsted, Sebbor, Denmark
M. Oct. 1, 1830
D. Aug. 1878
W. M. Pleasant, Utah
- 5. ANNE KIRSTINE CHRISTENSEN
B. May 29, 1836
W. Valsted, Aalborg, Denmark
D. Dec. 23, 1899
M. M. Pleasant, Utah
- 11. KAREN HANSEN PALLESEN
B. abt. 1805
W. Sebbor, Denmark
D. 1885
- 8. JOHAN ALBERT CASPERSEN
B. June 8, 1787
W. Roskilde, Denmark
M. Dec. 10, 1809
D. 1859
W. Agerup, Denmark
- 9. KAREN HERMANSSEN LARSEN
B. April 3, 1785
W. St. Valby, Agerup, Denmark
D. Nov. 29, 1805
M. St. Valby, Denmark
- 1. PETER JOHANSEN
B. Dec. 18, 1827
W. Store Valby, Denmark
M. Nov. 21, 1858
D. Oct. 2, 1895
W. M. Pleasant, Utah

LIFE STORY OF PETER JOHANSEN

Peter Johansen, son of Johan Albert Kaspersen and Karen Hermensen Larsen was born in Store Valby, Roskilde, Denmark on December 18, 1827. His parents belonged to the state religion of Denmark, the Lutheran Church. He was the youngest of eight children, four boys and four girls. His mother died when he was only eight years of age, and when he was fourteen years old his father passed away. His father was a harness maker by trade.

After the death of his parents, Peter Johansen went to the city of Copenhagen to seek work. He secured a position with a harness maker. His second position was a job as coachman for a very wealthy man where he was treated royally, just as one of the family. While serving as coachman he heard the Gospel and believed the testimonies of the Elders. He joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, being baptized in the year 1857 at the age of thirty. When it became known that he had joined the Mormons, he lost his job as coachman and was cast out from the family. Three of the youngest of his sisters and their families joined the church, the eldest of the sisters and none of his brothers ever joined. In the early part of the year 1858 Peter Johansen and two of his sisters, Sedse and Kirsten and their families prepared to go to Zion. They sailed from Hamberg early in the year 1858 in a sailing vessel. The voyage occupied eleven weeks. The conditions on the vessel were very difficult. The water became bad causing much sickness among the passengers on board. After a hard voyage over the sea they landed in America early in the month of May.

Soon after arriving in the State of Iowa preparations were made to come west across the plains with a company known as "Captain Homer's Company." Peter Johansen was given the position as a teamster. It was while on this journey west that Peter Johansen met Mickel Christensen and his daughter Ane Kerstine Christensen. The company arrived in Salt Lake City in September 1858. Peter Johansen went to Farmington, and worked for Mr. Height until early in November. He left Farmington and came to Ephriam, Sanpete County where Mickel Christensen and his daughter "Stena" had come for the winter.

On the memorable day of November 21, 1858, Peter Johansen and Ane Kerstine Christensen were married by a man named Koferd (believed to be in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City). In the spring, early in March, Peter Johansen went with a company of men to Mount Pleasant. The company camped in the foot hills across the river and commenced cutting cedar posts. This they continued to do until the early part of April when they got their families and came as the first company of pioneers to settle what is now Mount Pleasant, Utah.

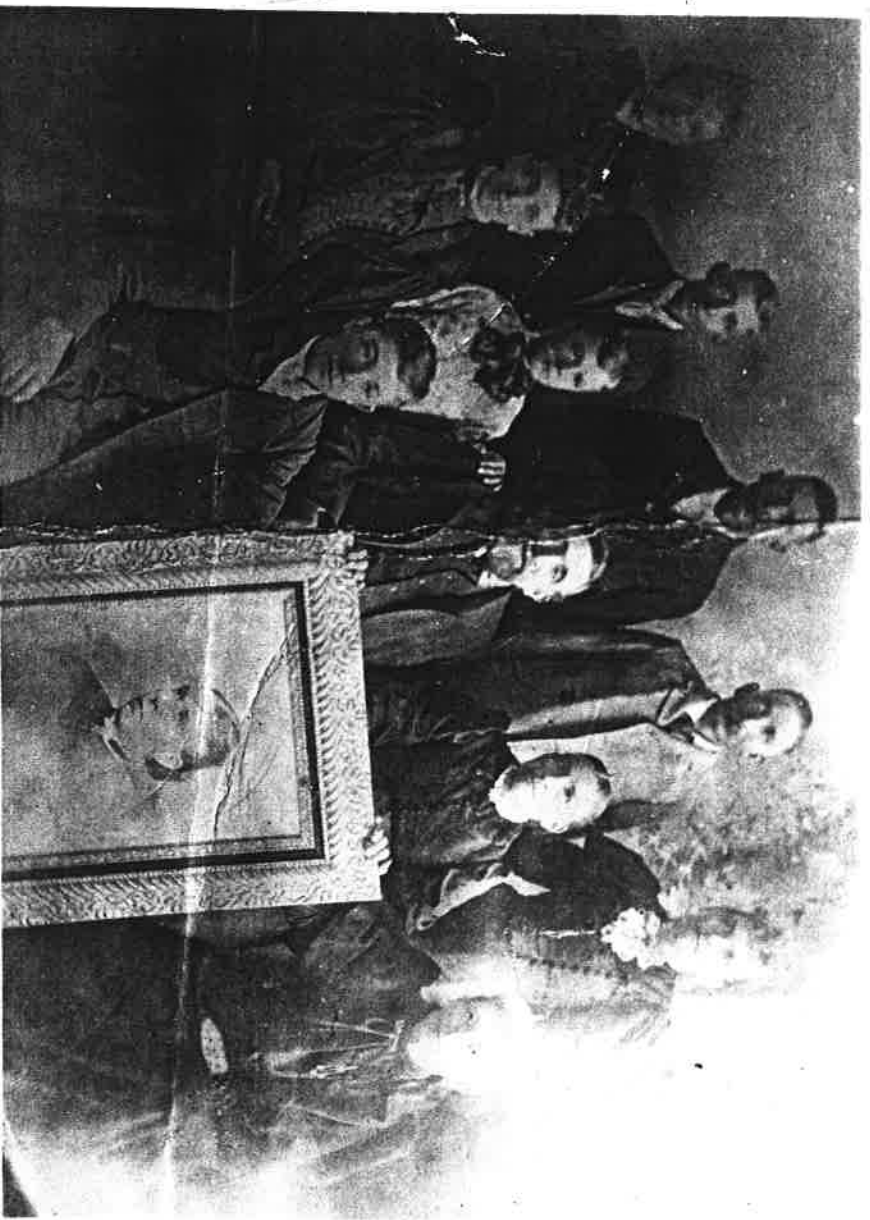
Owing to Indian hostilities, the saints were compelled to leave the primitive homes they had built of dugouts or small log cabins, and build a fort around the block from Main to first North and east. They built a wall 12 feet high and 8 feet thick at the bottom with port holes at every 12 feet of rough stones laid in mortar of clay. On the inside, butting the wall, small houses were built, also dugouts to serve as homes of the people. Here Peter Johansen and his wife lived when their first son was born on September 4, 1859. They named him McCarl after his grandfather. In 1860 they bought the lot on 4th south and 2nd west. They were living there in a two-roomed cellar when their second son Peter was born. This constituted the family home until late in the fall of 1862 when they moved to 1st South and 3rd East where a two-roomed adobie (white) house had been built. They were nice large rooms and the first the family had known anything of comfort. In the year 1862 Mrs. Peter Johansen's sister Wina Christensen on her way to Utah called to see Mr. Hans Nielson and family, and found them regretting very much having left Utah and the Church.

Peter Johansen, like many others of the early settlers, filed on 160 acres of land, of which he was only permitted to retain ten acres for himself, the remainder was distributed in similar sized tracts to other settlers. This was the prevailing custom adopted by Church authorities in Mount Pleasant.

Peter Johansen served in the Black Hawk Indian war, assisted in all the pioneer work such as building roads, canals, ditches and all public improvements. He worked on the Marti Temple. He was president of the Elder's Quorum for 20 years in succession, after which he was ordained a High Priest and chosen to act as counselor to President Jacob Christensen, which position he held at the time of his death.



(Note: We are indebted to Cecelia J. Rasmussen for the stories of Peter and Kerstine (also spelled Christine) Johansen. Minor changes and additions were made by John A. Johansen). M.J.P.



Mina John Peter McCarl Cecelia
Sina Parley Olsen (Son of Caroline-deceased) PETER KRISTINE
Charlie Caroline (in photo) Mary