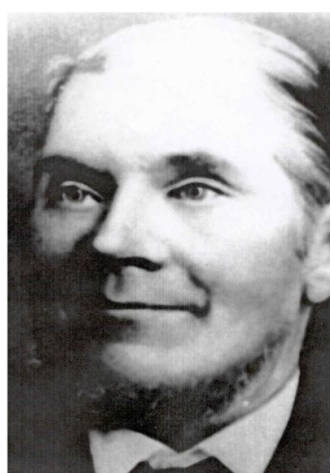


## ANDERS NIELSON HISTORY



Anders Nielson was born at Jestrup, Lyngs Parish, Thisted, Jylland or Jutland, Denmark, September 4, 1818. His father was Niels Pedersen of Varde, Ribe County, whom we have been unable to further identify. His mother, Maren Nielsen, was born January 25, 1794, at Jestrup, Lyngs Parish, Thisted, Jutland.

Little is known of the father of Anders; he and Maren apparently lived a common law marriage, and Anders lived with his mother and four or five step-brothers and sisters. Anders was the second eldest child in the family and his eldest sister, Ann Kirstine, born June 13, 1815, apparently married by the time of the 1834 census, as she was not listed with the family at that time.

His step-brother, Niels, was born February 19, 1822; twins, Lars Christian and Peder, were born December 26, 1829, died shortly thereafter and were buried January 1, 1830; step-sisters, Mariane, born February 8, 1831, and Else, born December 30, 1834. Else died on June 1, 1936. According to family accounts, Anders' mother showed some favoritism to the younger children of the family, and Anders often went hungry.

From his early boyhood Anders was a serious, but amiable, thrifty and industrious lad. The elementary schools of Thisted gave Anders a very meager education - enough, however, to enable him to read and write. With these tools he proceeded to educate himself. He always read history and biography.

He was a child when his father, or step-father, apprenticed him to a mechanic. During his apprenticeship, tasks which were tedious to others were easy and interesting to him. Many times he was rewarded for his efforts by promotions or special favors. He remained with his trade until he graduated as a master workman. He became a soldier in 1842, and in 1844 he was transferred to Copenhagen. He then began working as a mechanic in a grist or flour mill located near Copenhagen. He soon became foreman to it and later the manager. He systematically saved a portion of his wages, hoping to some day become the owner of the mill.

He lived at a boarding house where meals, beds and washing were provided. He later told his daughter, Matilda, that his landlady often considered him unnecessarily proud and particular, for when she did not have his clothing spotlessly clean, he would not pay her for the job. The dirt was usually along his collar and suspenders. Many, many times he would do his washing after a hard days work at the factory.

It was about this time that several of the young men began chewing tobacco. Anders considered it the smart thing to do. But one day after returning from, the mill, he caught sight of himself in the mirror. To his utter horror, he saw the tobacco juice was running down the corners of his mouth. He said to himself, "Anders, if you're getting so low you can't chew tobacco without making a swine of yourself, you'll simply have to quit using it." Then he would add, "So, my dear daughter, from that day until this, tobacco. has never touched my lips."

At the same time, Anders was deeply in love with a young servant girl, Dorothea Hansen. She was the cook for one of the leading doctors of the city. She was pretty and full of fun, and although considered a flirt by most of the young men, she was thought to be a perfect lover by Anders. He never had eyes or ears for anyone except

Dorothea. In those days, parties were very rare occasions, but they could talk and take long walks and go on picnics. They tried to make the neighbors think they were not interested in each other by having meeting places outside of town, or Dorothea would slip on ahead and Anders would follow a few minutes later. Anders told Matilda it was fun to keep the other people in the dark.

In 1848 war broke out between Denmark and the German states. The German inhabitants were trying to free themselves from Danish domination. The Germans were always unsuccessful in gaining their independence until they succeeded in getting the German Ulcers to intercede for them in 1848 and 49. During this short war, Anders was called into the service of his country, having been a member of the army since 1844. Before leaving for battle, he gave Dorothea, his fiancée, his life's savings, amounting to several hundred dollars. This caused a great deal of merriment to his friends, as they expected anyone as pretty as Dorothea to marry another, especially since she would be even more desirable with all that money at her disposal.

Anders suffered all the usual hardships of army life - hunger, cold, wounds, and at last he was taken a prisoner. Tradition has preserved a legend to the effect that Anders was being cornered by two German soldiers. He hurriedly shot one, but before he could reload his gun the other German fired at him. The bullet struck either a watch or other metal mirror he was carrying in his vest pocket. He was wounded but his life was spared. He was taken as a prisoner and marched off to a German prison camp.

The prisoners were allowed to play cards and other games to help pass the time. Anders and his fellow prisoners constructed and played with several puzzles. Anders remembered some of the principles he had learned in his mechanics classes and constructed a puzzle from materials available in the prison, which consisted of barley straw and twigs. None of his fellow inmates could solve this puzzle, and the German guards became interested and asked to be shown the puzzle. The guards were so pleased with the puzzle that they released Anders from the camp within a few days, probably in 1849, although one account states he served for three years. As soon as Anders got back to Denmark, he made an iron model of this puzzle. The puzzle and story were handed down to Waldemar, and Waldemar in turn gave the puzzle to Leslie Nelson shortly before he died in 1924.

It is assumed that on his return, Anders went to Dorothea's home in Godsted, Lolland. Contrary to the gloomy predictions of his friends, both Dorothea and his money were waiting for him, and they were soon married, probably during the years 1850 or 1851. So far, we have not found a record of their marriage. It is believed two children were born to them in Copenhagen; both died in infancy. Records show they moved to Sinidstrup, near Skelskor, in early 1854. They truly loved each other, and were very happy most of their life in spite of the severe hardships. Matilda said she had a vague remembrance of their life in Skelskor. it seemed to her that they lived in a beautifully furnished apartment. She remembered a tall grandfather clock in the hall; also a full sized mirror in which you could see yourself as you descended the stair. She slept in a heavy walnut bed which was draped with curtains. The floors were of white wood.

She and her mother had silk dresses and petticoats, while her father and brothers had silk vests, broadcloth suits and shirts with tucked fronts.

Matilda said that after they reached Utah, her father sold one of his broadcloth suits to a man in Huntsville for a good cow.

Four children were born to them in Smidstrup Mollegard (translated "mill farm at Smidstrup") near Skelskor in the Parish of Egeslevmagle, Soro County. They were Theodore Waldemar, February 15, 1854; Matilda, October 23, 1855; Laura, January 30, 1858; and Joseph, February 20, 1860. These four migrated to Utah with

their parents.

Dorothea became interested in the teachings of some Mormon missionaries about 1858. Their message thrilled her very soul. In her diary she says she could not rest night or day she wanted to be baptized so badly, but she would not do it without the consent of her husband. He was very bitter about her misguided acceptance of the Mormon missionaries' message. He at last acquiesced to her wishes for baptism. But as the Elders lifted her up out of the water he had such a lonely feeling. It was as though a wall had been erected between them. He felt that she no longer would be his pal and sweetheart; from that moment he became jealous of the Church's hold on her and instead of being kind and considerate, he was hard, cruel, often resorting to bullying. The children even became afraid of their father. Dorothea would not give way to tears until after he left the house. For five days and nights they seemed to be living with the devil himself.

Finally, after five days Dorothea decided she would have a nervous breakdown unless she left him. Anders then pleaded with her to be patient a little longer. He then read all the literature the Elders could give. He would take long walks and then after several days and nights of reading, working, reading and walking, he told Dorothea he was going to be baptized and if that didn't restore his peace of mind, she and the children could leave him. On August 15, 1859, he was baptized and confirmed a member of the L. D. S. Church. All hatred, discontent and disbelief left him. His testimony became a reality. From that moment on he never faltered in his love and devotion to family or church. Danish records indicate the family moved from Smidstrup Mollegard to Skelskor in May, 1860.

Religion became so much to this family they were willing to give up home, job, friends, and country. Even the mill owner, who had loved Anders as a son, could not persuade them to remain among the people who really loved them. Finally he told Anders, "If they don't treat you right in America, I will pay your passage back to Denmark, if you will only renounce your horrible religion."

They sold most of their possessions, and used the money they had saved before the war of 1848 for the tickets to America.

Anders Nielson with his wife and four children were listed among the passengers of the ship "Waldemar." They sailed from Copenhagen, May 7, 1861, in company with 516 other L.D.S. Saints. The ship landed them at Kiel, Germany, and from there they went by train to Hamburg. Here the company of Saints was split, part going to the ship "Britannia" to Hull, England, and the other part by the ship "Eugenia" to Grimsby. Here the company reunited and proceeded by special train to Liverpool, England. From, there they took the ship "Monarch of the Sea" to New York City. The Saints were under the direction of Jabez Woodland, Hans O. Hanson and Niels Wilhelmsen.

Early in the morning of May 16, 1861, just before the ship sailed, the Presidency of the European Mission met with the emigrating Saints and gave them counsel and instructions as were adapted to their circumstances. An excellent spirit prevailed and all felt to rejoice. The Millennial Star, speaking editorially, says it was truly an interesting spectacle to witness the assembling together of different families and nationalities; all actuated by one motive, all possessed by one faith, filled with the spirit of love and union, going to Zion in fulfillment of words spoken by inspirations of the Almighty, many centuries ago. They fully organized the Saints and then passed the resolution that no smoking should be allowed between decks. They then married twelve couples before leaving the ship.

As they left England, one large trunk of possessions belonging to Anders and his family had to be thrown

overboard for lack of space. It was a sacrifice long remembered by the family. After a voyage of thirty-four days, during which harmony and peace prevailed, the good ship arrived in New York City, June 19, 1861. From New York City, the companies traveled by rail (in cattle cars) and steamboat (part of the way in two divisions) to Florence, Nebraska. The first division arrived July 1st and second division the next day. The route taken was by way of Cleveland, Chicago, Quincy and St. Joseph.

At Florence, Nebraska, the Saints rested and bought the necessary equipment for the journey across the plains. They were also organized into small companies. Anders and his family were assigned to the first company under the direction of Samuel A. Wooley, Captain; Joseph Porter, Assistant Captain; Ole Hansen, Sergeant of Guards; and Niels Wilhelrisen, Chaplain. The company consisted mostly of Scandinavians who had crossed the ocean together. They were called the ox team train which consisted of 338 persons, 61 wagons, 6 mules, 2 horses, 277 oxen and 81 cows.

They left Florence July 13, 1861. After leaving Omaha, they decided the company would be handled better if it were divided. So 49 wagons were turned over to the Assistant Captain, Joseph Porter.

Dorothea and her daughter, Matilda, were very sick on the boat while crossing the ocean. However, they were blessed by the Presiding Elder before leaving Liverpool. At that time they were promised that if their faith did not falter, they would reach Utah alive. Dorothea's health was even worse when they started on their long wagon ride from Florence, Nebraska. But neither she nor Anders considered remaining behind the other Saints. At one time while they were crossing Indian Territory, the Captain looked in the wagon and reported to Anders they had better stop because he was sure both the women and children were dead. "No," said Anders, without looking into the wagon, "I'll just keep moving with the others as I've been promised that my entire family will arrive in Zion alive and I'm certain the Lord will spare their lives."

They suffered day after day of weary, patient traveling, dusty trails, uncomfortable camps, insufficient or unpalatable food, deep streams to ford, hideous sounds of wild animals at night, pain racked bodies, and endless distances. However, they did not suffer as much for food or clothing as others of the wagon train because Anders' savings allowed them to better prepare for the journey. Their three cows enabled them to have milk and fresh butter most of the time. They would place the morning milk in a covered bucket which they tied to the back of the wagon. It would bounce and jostle all day in the hot sun. In the evening when they camped for the night, they would have fresh butter and buttermilk for their evening meal. Word was sent to President Brigham Young that the Samuel Wooley company, consisting of two divisions, had passed Chimney Rock on the morning of August 15th. The route then taken lay over the old pioneer road from the mouth of Echo Canyon over the so called "Hog's Back" up East Canyon Creek, over Big and Little Mountains and down the Emigration Canyon into Salt Lake City. The company's two divisions arrived September 22, 1861, in the public square of Salt Lake City.

Referring to the arrival of the company, the Deseret News (Weekly) of September 25, 1861, has the following to say: "On Sunday evening, September 22, 1861, Captain S. A. Wooley arrived with his company of emigrants, almost entirely composed of persons of Scandinavian birth. There were some twenty wagons in the train. The number of persons we have not ascertained, but the wagons that passed our office leaving the public square were generally well filled with women and children and with each team there were two or three men, all looking well and hearty. Among their implements we saw a goodly number of spades and shovels, which they unquestionably know how to use."

A few days after their arrival in Salt Lake City, President Young told Anders he had better move his family to

Milton, Morgan County, Utah. His worldly possessions had dwindled to a yoke of oxen, a wagon, three cows, a shovel and a large box of fine clothes. These, with his family, he took on to Milton.

According to Andrew Jensen's history, the Scandinavians sent to Morgan County by President Young in 1861 were given a town site or lot for a home and five to ten acres of farm land. Brother Thurston had charge of the settlement. He had saved the best lands for the descendants of Jediah Grant. This placed the property given to the foreigners in what is now known as the villages of Milton and Littleton. Both places are included in the ward of Milton. Anders' property was in Milton. This village is situated on Line Creek four miles northwest of Morgan City or four miles southwest of Peterson, marking at 20 miles southwest of Ogden and 40 miles northeast of Salt Lake City.

It was a very early fall; already they had several frosts at night. But their faith was still not shaken. He and the boys left Dorothea and Matilda in the wagon bed while they began cutting logs for a new home, as Dorothea was expecting a new baby very soon.

However, the leading authorities of the district advised him to stop work on the house and go at once to the mountains and cut grass for his cattle's winter food. The bishop told him that unless he could get some food stored for his cattle, they would die of starvation before spring. They worked very hard, but the grass was thin and dry so they were not able to gather nearly enough.

The building plans were so delayed that his baby was born in the covered wagon that had crossed the plains. The wagon was standing in front of a little log house owned by John Olsen. It was in what was called "Thurston's Fort." Dorothea was moved into Olsen's log house shortly after the baby was born. Her baby, a ten pound boy, was born December 10, 1861.

The house was not much better than the wagon as it had a dirt roof and floor. Aunt Till says she distinctly remembers that there was a terrible rain storm which finally settled into snow. It was necessary to put pans all around the bed to catch the rain that leaked. They also had to scoop the water off the floor. But at least it was warmer because they could keep a good fire in the fireplace.

They didn't think Dorothea would live for weeks, but gradually she began to build up. They named the new baby Hyrum. He was such a big, husky boy that even bread and water didn't discourage him and how he did relish the milk when he could get it!

The winter was very severe. To make matters worse, it was a very late spring. Anders lost an ox and one cow from starvation. Aunt Till says many times during that winter the tears streamed down her mother's face when the children would ask for food and she had none to give them.

At one time when they were so sadly in need of bread, Anders in desperation walked through the canyon across the mountain into Uinta where he obtained a sack of flour weighing one-hundred pounds. This sack he carried on his back through the canyon, across the mountain back to his home in Milton.

The log cabin when completed consisted of a dirt roof and floor. The door had a wooden latch and a gunny sack covered the window. The large heavy wooden box which had contained all their food during the trek across the plains served as a table for the new home. This he placed on wooden stools made from logs, several more stools served as chairs.

The beds were made by driving four posts into the ground and placing other poles across them, after which straw borrowed from the neighbors was placed on top of the logs. The children's bed was made in the same way except it was not stationary and was made low enough to be put under the larger bed in the day time. Aunt Till says the fireplace was made of rock or sandstone (she wasn't sure which it was). An iron bar extended across the opening from rock to rock. Hooks were hanging down from this iron bar. The cook kettles were hung from these hooks. For baking they had a heavy iron bake kettle. Dorothea would rake the hot coals out of the fireplace and place the red hot coals on top of the kettle's lid.

Their only light came from the fireplace. In the evening, they would read and spin yarn by the light of the fireplace.

During the summer of 1862, in spite of her poor health, Dorothea helped Anders shear sheep for Mr. Thurston. From this wool she carded enough yarn to spin wool for winter clothes for her children. Anders sold his broadcloth suit to obtain another cow so that the one lost the previous winter might be replaced. Dorothea then made him some trousers out of her heaviest petticoats. Aunt Till said her pretty satin dresses were of no use in the barbarous country.

During the fall of 1862, both Dorothea and Anders worked in the fields of their neighbors. Anders would cut or cradle the hemp, hay or wheat and Dorothea would rake and bind it. Thus the winter of 1862-63 was a little better from the standpoint of food, clothes and housing.

Anders did all sorts of work to earn a little money. He threshed grain with a flail and cleaned it with a short handled shovel or scoop. He would sit on a stool by the pile of grain and take a scoop of grain, throw it in such a fashion that the chaff would fly out and the grain would go on the clean floor. It was slow dirty work avoided by many. He made rope of horse-tail and also from hemp. He made forks and spoons from wood which were smooth as glass. Many thought them very pretty so they sold well. All members of the family wore wooden shoes made by Anders. However, their shoes were worn only in the winter; during the summer the entire family went barefoot. In spite of these heart rending hardships the family never faltered in their faith or trust in God. They paid their tithing and attended all Church meetings.

During the summer of 1863 Dorothea would take a rag and put it in a plate of grease and burn it for light at night. Still later she took beef and mutton tallow to make into candles. Before they could afford candle molds she would take sticks on which she had tied strings, usually enough for 12 candles. She then poured the melted grease over the strings or cords. This process was done over a tub of water so the grease which did not adhere to the string could be saved and remelted. It took a great deal of patience because the candle would have to be dipped and hardened many times before the candle was large enough for use. At first they could not afford enough grease to make them very large. But for special occasions like Christmas, Aunt Till said, "Would you make a three-stemmed one like this?" Still later, they used candle molds.

For soap, Dorothea would make a sort of grate and put straw in it; then fill it with ashes, over which she would pour water. When the water dripped through, it was a strong lye water. By boiling this, she made a soft jelly substance or soft soap.

She obtained all her water from the creek which ran past her house. She and the children gathered wild fruit and dried it, so it could be used during the winter months. She gathered and dried rose leaves, which she steeped for tea. All of these things were held in high esteem after their diet of boiled wheat, which she sometimes made into a coarse flour by grinding in an old coffee mill.

During the summer of 1863 they raised garden vegetables which greatly helped their appetites as well as their health.

Brother Thurston's daughter, Hulda Cordelia, opened a school in her father's home in 1863, where she taught the foreign born children and most of their parents to read and write the English language. At first the school was conducted at night, then three months in winter.

For a couple of years the Church Authorities had been advising Anders, abetted by his wife, Dorothea, to take another wife. Dorothea believed implicitly in the teachings of the leaders of the Church, and so polygamy was a principle to be obeyed. She was convinced that they must practice the teaching, and persuaded Anders that it was his duty. Apparently they reached agreement, and Dorothea approached a recent arrival from a handcart company, Sophia Christensen, to ask if she would become the second wife of Anders. Sophia had never been married, and the man to whom she had been promised had died prior to their marriage. Sophia accepted, and so on June 30, 1866, Anders married Maren Sophia Christensen at the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. The same day, Dorothea was endowed and sealed to her husband. One child was born of the second marriage, Annie, June 2, 1867.

In the spring of 1868, Anders received ten dollars a day for hauling ties with his oxen from Echo Canyon to the new Union Pacific Railroad at Ogden. This work saved the family financially. They all felt that it was a direct answer to prayer. During the late part of summer he hauled a load of poles through the canyon to Salt Lake City, receiving two gallons of molasses for payment. He bought a pig and used another suit of clothes for payment.

Both of Anders' families were very happy during the autumn of 1868, knowing that this winter they need not go hungry or cold as they had plenty stored away for their winter needs.

The family's happiness and joy was short-lived because Dorothea's health began to fail rapidly. She was expecting a new baby, which caused her to remain in bed most of the time. However, she refused to let her husband stay at home, even though his work took him several hundred miles away. In early September, Anders and Waldemar were in the Tremonton District in the Bear River Valley harvesting grain, when they received the following letter from Dorothea - and it was to be the last letter she wrote.

***Weber Valley***

***September 6, 1868***

***"My Dear husband and son:***

***As opportunity gives me such a good chance to send you a letter, I made up my mind to send you a few lines as I think it will please you to hear from us here at home.***

***Jess Pederson's son came here yesterday and will go back Monday. I'm in hopes you folks will get it.***

***I sent a letter off the other Sunday which I hope you folks have received. I will first let you know that we are in good health and getting along fine in our circumstances. It is beginning already to show the cold fall weather; both at night and mornings and quite a bit of wet. Eight days ago it froze very hard at night.***

***After receiving your letter I was almost in hopes that you would have been home this week; for I can't deny that I am longing a great deal for you both, but I will not advise you to come until you, yourself***

*can see the wisdom of leaving them.*

*We had a great meeting the other Sunday: Bishop Kluff and John Teiler (Taylor) and many more were here to speak.*

*The bowery was made a great deal larger than it was. Dinner was prepared at Jens Hanson's for them, besides thirty other people. Much good advise and many lessons were given.*

*You must surely give my regards a thousand times to Anne and Sister Hanson.*

*But that you must be permitted to live for me, and you and my son return back home all well.*

*Your loving wife and mother."*

Anders continued to work for the Hansons until November 1, 1868. He returned with more money than he had possessed at any one time since his arrival in Utah. He expected his affairs to go along more happily during this winter. On November 10, 1868, Dorothea gave birth to a baby boy which she named Willard. She died on the 16th, leaving her saddened family to struggle on to prosperity alone. Her oldest child was 14 and her youngest not yet a month old.

Anders was a stricken, inconsolable old man. He asked his family to kneel in prayer while he besought God's help for strength to accept the sorrow. Aunt Till, his daughter, says, "From a man of gladness, he was changed to a man of sadness." All who knew him testify to the fact that he never was able to recover from the sorrow and loneliness of her passing. Neither his other wife nor his children could comfort him.

Dorothea had been an excellent wife, mother, cook and seamstress. Many other things she had learned to do since coming to Milton. The only Church position she ever held was that of treasurer of the first Relief Society formed in Milton.

Sophia assumed the care of the children, even to nursing the infant, Willard; she weaned her own baby, Annie, in order to do so. Anders became excessively strict with his children. The home was so changed that the children left as soon as they were able to obtain work. Waldemar, the oldest, fourteen years of age, began working around for various farriers, doing the work of a man; Matilda obtained work at the Jensen home milking ten cows night and morning besides helping do the general housework for 50 cents a week; Laura did housework for various people around the community; Joseph and Hyrum left as soon as they were eleven or twelve years old; Willard died at the age of two; Emmy and Annie were the only children to remain at home until their marriages, which occurred on the same day.

In the year of 1874, Anders built a small home on his farm at Dalton Creek and moved his family out there. It was almost three miles out from the center of town. Anders then became active in Church and civic affairs. He was very proud of the fact that he had traveled around the county seventeen times as a home missionary or visiting elder. He was a member of the stake high council for many, many years, resigning because of old age.

He had a special gift as a peacemaker and he was often able to affect amicable agreements between persons in controversy. Old age mellowed and softened many of his harsh qualities so that he again became a friend of all little children. At this time he begged his girls to forgive him for his earlier strictness, saying he had felt that he had to be both mother and father to his children, and he didn't know how very well. During his later years he loved to tease as well as love each child he came in contact with. It seems that he always carried a sack of candy around



in his pocket, so that when he met a child he could slip a piece into its mouth. He would then give them a pat on the head and walk on.

His shoulder was broken in an accident at Dalton Creek at the age of 78, and was never properly reset. Probably as a result of this, he spent his last years in his daughter Matilda's home. She furnished a room with all his most loved household furniture, so that he could do just as he pleased. For fifteen years this room was home to him. She carried three meals a day in to him and not once during those years did he express any desire to eat or to take part with her family. Matilda said he loved to watch the children and young people from the door of his room. Cleve Peterson later recalled seeing his grand-father climb the small hill behind Matilda's home and sit looking over the Morgan Valley, surveying each memorable spot with a telescope - he dearly loved his mountain home.

He died from old age, gradually becoming weaker. His son, Waldemar, pleaded with him to have a doctor or at least some kind of medical help but Anders would refuse such pleading by saying, "That if the Mormon Elders couldn't help, no one else could." For the week before his death, he refused to eat anything, only allowing his lips to be moistened.

He died June 3, 1911, at his daughter Matilda's home in Milton, Morgan County, Utah, just three months short of his 93rd birthday. According to Waldemar's diary, Matilda, Laura, Lee, Walter and himself were at his bedside when the end came at 10 o'clock." He was buried on June 5 beside his wives, Dorothea and Sophia, in the Milton Cemetery. Pall bearers were Lawrence Poulson, Cleve and Archie Peterson, Walter, Andy, and Irvin Nelson.

Again quoting Waldemar's diary, "We had such a beautiful funeral; everything went off like clock work. The speaking & singing were so beautiful; Serge Benson and H. B. Fry sang. Joe Anderson also sang a solo. As the funeral progressed a feeling of thankfulness, peace and strength seemed to penetrate every fiber of my being, & instead of mourning I felt to rejoice. Hope that feeling of peace & strength may remain with me to the last. Charles Tucker Dedicated the grave. The Band Played a tune when the Body had been lowered in the grave. A funeral dirge was also played when the grave had been decorated with flowers. Father loved peace. He was laid away peacefully. The following persons spoke at the funeral: W. Giles, Richard Fry, Harry Toone, Charles Tucker, W. Francis, Daniel Heiner, Hyrum Nielson. After the funeral we all went over to Nels Petersons and partook of their hospitality. They gave us a fine dinner."

Sophia, Anders' second wife, spent her last years with her daughter Annie in Preston, Idaho, died there on March 15, 1904, and was buried in the Milton Cemetery.

## **PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF ANDERS NIELSON**

Anders was 5'1-8" in height, weighed 180 pounds, and had fine, wavy hair with clear blue eyes. He had an exceptionally good memory. In the use of axes and shovels, etc., he was left handed.

He loved fine clothes, culture, manners, and strived very hard to keep these things about him. He could not tolerate coarse and vulgar manners in those about him, and looked down upon the clothes and language of some of his neighbors. This gave him the nickname of "the dainty little old man."

Neatness in personal habits as well as in his person were leading characteristics. His belongings had a definite place and were kept there when not in use. The children always loved to look at his woodshed because it was

such a marvel of neatness.

Honesty and trustworthiness were a veritable part of himself. He liked all things to be above-board and he believed there was more sin in concealment or evasiveness than in performance.

He was intolerant with those whom he considered had sinned even to the point of un-forgiveness.

Duty came before kindness or even understanding, especially was this true among the members of his family.

Among his neighbors he was known as a peacemaker and was often called to settle disputes. People spoke of his love for animals and his kindness to them.

He had a proud, indomitable will which made it easy for him to do anything he decided to do, but very difficult for him to retract a statement or to rectify an act once committed.

He had a deep, abiding love for children, which was especially noticeable in his declining years.

He was truly a man of honor who by sheer force of faith, intellect and character attained distinction in two continents.

His life reminds one of Kipling's Poem:

**"If you can watch the things you gave your life to, broken,  
And stoop and build 'em up with worn out tools;  
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew  
To serve your turn long after they are gone;  
And so hold on when there is nothing in you  
Except the power which says to you - hold on  
You'll be a man, my son."**

## **CHARACTERISTICS OF DOROTHEA NIELSON**

Dorothea had dark blue eyes, black, wavy hair; she was 5'-4" in height and weighed 160 pounds.

Dorothea was a delicate, well educated, dainty, refined woman. She couldn't bear quarrelling or discord and impressed upon her children the beauty of gentleness. She insisted that her little girls join the choir because she thought singing helped modulate the voice and that such a voice was the requisite of any lady. Another argument that she used was that the ability to sing was one of the greatest assets to a happy home and a harmonious family life.

She unhesitantly gave up her dearest possessions for others. She taught her children to walk with heads erect and toes turned out and never to shuffle their feet when walking. She insisted that they be most particular with their undergarments as it was no reflection of credit upon anyone to conceal dirt or rags under a good exterior.

Toil, hardships and privation only enhanced the beauty and strength of her character and mentality. She had the courage to give her family unbounded love and happiness in the very face of destitution.

Love, service and kindness were the very essence of her existence.

Her lofty spirit so aptly represents Henley's Lives: "It matters not how strait the gate, How charged with punishment the scroll, I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul."

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(This history of Anders, Dorothea, and Sophie is a composite from many sources. A history of Anders appears in "A Family History of Waldemar Theodore Nelson," compiled and written by Mazel Nelson Fry. Matilda Peterson's history, written and compiled in 1934, appears to be an original source of much of it. Martha and Olive Geodes compiled a history of Anders prior to 1950, and this served as the basis of this present history. Additional sources include the "Diary of Waldemar Nelson," published by Laurel Nelson; research commissioned by Laurel Nelson; a short History of Anders and Dorothea obtained from the family of Laura Poulson; and histories of Emmy and Annie obtained from their families. Our intent is to provide as complete and unbiased a history as is possible, and welcome the addition of other sources and input from other family members.)

## Anders Nielsen

LDS Biographical Encyclopedia, Andrew Jenson, Vol. 3, p.185

Nielson, Anders, one of the first pioneers of Morgan county, Utah, was born Sept. 4, 1818, at Jestrup, Sjøælland, Denmark. He married Dorteia Hansen, who was born Feb. 26, 1826. Becoming converts to "Mormonism," he and his wife were baptized and emigrated to Utah in 1861, crossing the Atlantic in the ship "Monarch of the Sea," which sailed from Liverpool, England, May 16, 1861; they crossed the plains in Samuel A. Woolley's company which arrived in Salt Lake City Sept. 22, 1861. Bro. Nielsen, with his family, located the same month in Morgan county, where he took an active part in all Church matters from the beginning and had a special gift as a peacemaker, rendering most efficient service in the Ward in which he lived in settling difficulties that sometimes arose among the brethren. In 1867 he married a second wife, Sophia, who was born in Denmark Sept. 2, 1820. His first wife died Nov. 16, 1868, and Bro. Nielsen himself passed to his final rest June 3, 1911. Bro. Nielsen was a man of wonderful character and great physical strength. At one time he packed a sack of flour from Uintah through Weber canyon to his family at Milton, there being no other means of transit at that time, and his folks were sadly in need of bread. He always attributed his strength to the fact that he was a strict observer of the Word of Wisdom. His adherence to this principle he often summed up in these words, "I have never bought five cents worth of tea, coffee, whiskey or tobacco for myself." He occupied many important positions in the Church, among which was a seventeen years' service in the High Council of the Morgan Stake. He was universally beloved by all who knew him, and for several years he traveled through Morgan county as a home missionary. By his first wife, Dorteia Hansen (who died Nov. 16, 1868), he had eight children, namely, Waldemar Theodore, born Feb. 15, 1854; Matilda, born Oct. 23, 1855; Laura, born Jan. 30, 1858; Joseph, born Feb. 20, 1860; Hyrum, born Dec. 10, 1861; Emma, born April 16, 1865; Mary, born Sept. 23, 1866, and Willard, born Nov. 1, 1868. By his second wife, Sophia, he had one child, namely, Anna, born June 2, 1868.

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