

History of Ane Margrethe Lorentzen Petersen

As told by her sister, Anna Larsina Lorentzen Nelson, in January 1939.

Ane Margrethe, or Margaret, as she was affectionately known by her family and friends, was the third child of Christen and Dorthea Larsen Lorentzen. She was born September 23, 1~ in Follenslev, Holbaek Amt, Denmark. She had one brother Soren Peter, the oldest child, and two sisters, Anna Larsina, just older than she and Anna Marie, the youngest child.

Christen Lorentzen was born in Gislinge, Holbaek Amt, Denmark, 16 March 1822. His parents were poor. They were of the class who owned no property. They went out for hire and even begged for a living. Dorthea Larsen was born in Follenslev on 26 March 1825. Her mother was married to a German and had a daughter and a son by him, Ane Catrine and Gotfried Henrik. The husband's name was Georg (or Jorgen) Henrick Lemnitz. The son emigrated to Brazil and died there. (Note since the original account by Anna Nelson says the two children were both boys and that they both died in Brazil there is a possibility that Dorthea Larsen's full brother is the second boy meant. In fact a record I have says Lars Larsen, Dorothea's brother died in Rio de Janeiro. Anna Nelson's account is in error where it says the children of Jorgen Henrik Lemnitz were both boys. A check of the Danish microfilms give one boy and one girl-Ruth Hansen, Delta, Utah)

The Larsen family were of the tenant class ~ didn't really own their land, but inherited the right to live on the land and in their house from generation to generation. They did, however, own all of the stock and other things on the land. Dorthea inherited a home and eight acres from her parents, and when she was married to Christen Lorentzen they lived in her home in Follenslev. They and their children had a good living while there.

Christen Lorentzen served seven years in the Danish army. Each man was required to serve three and one-half years, and then after he had served his own term a rich ~ son hired Christen to serve another term in his stead. He was a cavalryman. At one time, during the war between Denmark and Germany in about 1864, he with a group of cavalrymen were fighting some German soldiers in a grain field and got cut off by the Germans from their main army. Their own horses had been killed and so they cut the horses loose from the cannon and made a dash for freedom through the German lines. Only five of them escaped with their lives.

Christian and Dorthea were baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints before any of their children were born. The "Mormon" elders came to their home. Later Christen was cut off from the church because he said some things about some of the church

leaders there. He did not rejoin the church for many years and none of the children were baptized "Mormons" before they came to America

They took small part in the church because of the great persecution at that time. They were called "Mormon" even though the children had never been baptized. Anna said that she could remember many times going along the street and other children throwing sticks and stones her way and calling her names.

Margaret and her sisters were baptized into the Lutheran church when they were children. Anna was confirmed when she was fourteen years of age. Margaret was attending the catechism but did not finish and was not confirmed. They left for America before she was old enough.

The children wore wooden shoes when they went to school and they had to walk a Danish mile, which is almost four miles. They used to skate in their wooden shoes. They would get in long lines behind the boys, holding to their coat tails, and would be pulled by them, sliding on the soles of their shoes.

In winter the weather was quite cold and since Margaret could never walk very fast or well she would cry when her sisters would run away from her on their way home. The schools in Follenslev were held one day for the younger children and on the next day for the older ones. At first Anna and Margaret went together, but the last year there Anna was old enough to go into the older section and so the two sisters attended school on different days. Anna finished what would be called the eighth grade of school and Margaret was probably in her last year when they left Denmark.

One evening some two years before they came to America, Christen and Dorthea were sitting out doors enjoying the evening. As she started to go into the house, Christen called her attention to something and when she turned to look she fell, breaking her hip. It was a very severe injury keeping her bedfast for about two years. As time went on and she did not get well, she kept asking her husband to have the "Mormon" elders come in and administer to her, but he would not consent because of his estrangement from the church. She continued to ask for the elders, however, and he finally consented and called them in. The elders administered to her and then returned several more times to bless her. She soon began to mend. She continued to get better until she could walk with crutches. When she got onto the boat to come to America she threw her crutches away and said that she would never use them again.

Anna had finished her schooling and was working out sowing for people Margaret was at home waiting to be confirmed when the family decided to emigrate to America. Their father went for Anna and had her come home to help them get ready to leave.

They emigrated to America in 1879, crossing the ocean in the steamship, "Nevada," second class. The parents and three girls came. The boy, Soren Peter, did not come. He was well to do. He stayed in Denmark and died there.

While they were crossing the ocean, Marie lost her hat in the ocean and how she did scream. She had to go bareheaded the rest of the journey.

When they came into New York Anna got soaked in the rain because the steps were too crowded to get down fast.

Their father bought them many things in New York. He was very generous. At one time he bought a pie and brought it to his wife and said, "Oh, see, a cake with preserves in it!" They had never seen a pie before.

When they got ready to come to America they sold all of their property. Christen Lorentzen lent money enough to five people to pay their way from Denmark to America. They promised to pay it back, but never did. This worked a hardship on the family because they had been depending on getting the money when they got to America to use for themselves, and so they had hard going when they arrived here. It left them practically broke, and so they had to go right to work to earn a living.

The family came across the United States on a train to Salt Lake City. From there they went by wagon, pulled by two mules, to Manti, where they lived for two years. The wagon was loaded so heavily that the people had to walk. Margaret and Anna had measles when they reached Salt Lake City, but they had to walk anyway. At one time Annie became so ill that she stopped and lay down. Her father said that she was a lazy girl.

In Manti Margaret worked for John Hougaard whose family could all talk Danish. Anna worked for Taylor Poulsen who made coats and clothes for men. She could sew well and also made buttonholes in the pants.

Christen Lorentzen quit smoking when he was re-baptized into the church in 1879. He dried crusts in the oven and chewed them all day long. When the crusts were gone he chewed sagebrush. Once Orson Hyde came to Manti and Christen saw him going down the street smoking and he said, "If Orson Hyde can smoke, so can I." And so he took it up again and smoked until he died. (Viola Zwahlen says she never saw him smoke-he quit eight years before he died.)

Christen Lorentzen died the day Stanley Nelson (one of Anna's sons) was born 25 November 1895. He had been ill for a long time-stomach trouble.

Dorthea Lorentzen died 5 October 1~96. She fell while down cellar and bumped her head and never did get well from that.

John Hougaard baptized Margaret into the church at the age of 15 years out at the Manti Warm Springs. Hougaards were wealthy and Margaret worked in their home. She said that in the evenings she had to wash the dishes and that Mrs. Hougaard would come in to see if they were done well.

Margaret met her husband in Manti but she never did "go" with him there. She came to Ferron (and Castle Valley) for the first time to stay with Anna when her first baby was born. She came in the spring of 1881 in a horse drawn wagon, with Andrew Nelson coming by way of Salina Canyon.

Margaret stayed at Anna's and worked all over for people. She worked at one time Mike Malan. She used to follow the thresher and cook for the crew. Christen Petersen worked for John Lemon when lived across the creek and the two became well acquainted there. (They both still had money coming to them when they died for work they had done during their days of courtship.

Chris and Margaret kept company for about two years before they married on 29 November 1883. They went by wagon and horse team via Salina Canyon to Salt Lake City to be married. It took 20 days for the round trip. On the way home they camped in Salina Canyon and got caught in a snowstorm.

They lived first in an adobe house on the farm just south of Ferron. All the older children were born there. Lorenzo was the last baby born in the adobe house.

Margaret used to go help with the work in the fields. Christen hauled all material from the mountains for corrals, etc. They had poor crops the first year; it was hard to get enough for groceries. Clothes were mostly handmade. Eggs and butter furnished their only source of cash income.

Their entertainments in the town were mostly dances in the old meeting house, which was situated on Swen Larsen's land east of the old Taylor place. The building was an old log house. "There wasn't much room," said Anna, but there weren't so many people." The people went to the dances and took their Picnic. They also went on parties to different people's houses, especially to the old Hansen home.