

**CHRISTEN AND DORTHEA LARSEN LORENTZEN AND ANNA LORENTZEN NELSON**

Anna Larsine Lorentzen was born February 15, 1863 at Follenslev, Holbaek on the island of Sjealland, Denmark to Christen and Dorthea Larsen Lorentzen. Their home was on a twelve acre farm called Grasmacken which was part of the estate of a wealthy landowner. Dorthea had inherited the right to rent the farm. Their two roomed home had a hard earthen floor sprinkled with white sand. An open roofed-over shed connected the house and the animal barn. Their livestock consisted of one horse, two cows, a few sheep, some pigs, chickens, ducks and geese. In the shed they sheared sheep, flailed the grain, butchered and cured the meat. Christen did his farming with a one-horse plow. He used a scythe and grain cradle to cut and bind the bundles of grain. The sheaves of grain were hauled to the shed on a small cart and stored until the family threshed it by hand. The grain was flailed by hand or tossed into the wind to let the chaff blow away. Christen hauled enough grain to the mill to be made into flour for the next year's bread.

Between Follenslev and the sea there was a large peat bog. Anna and her sisters cut peat and turned the moist piles over to dry before it could be used for fuel. Another farm chore that Anna and her sisters had was herding the geese. One evening the geese strayed far out through the marshes to the open sea and would not come back when called. After continued calling to the geese, the honking of the gander could be heard, soon he could be seen leading his flock out of the water.

Danish people didn't change their clothing very often in cold weather and so washing clothes was needed only three or four times a year when they did a big washing which they called "storwash". It took two or more days to scrub and boil the clothes. The water for washing was heated in large kettles at the stone fireplace.

Dorthea Larsen and Christen Lorentzen were married January 2, 1847. Their first child was a son named Peter Soren. The next two children, a boy and a girl, were still-born. The next child a girl, Anna Larsine was born February 15, 1863. The following year on September 23, 1864 another girl, Margrethe was born. Four years later the youngest girl Ane Marie was born. Peter Soren now grown, worked for the landlord as a coachman.

As the girls grew they wore wooden shoes to school. They had to walk a Danish mile, which was almost four U.S. miles. They warmed their wooden shoes in the mornings by rolling hot coals in them before putting them on. They used to skate in their shoes on the frozen canals. In Follenslev, school was held one day for the younger children and on the next day for the older students. Most of the time Anna and Margrethe went together, but Anna finished eighth grade a year earlier than Margrethe. The children were required to go to school until they were fourteen years of age, going every other day the year round, except for summer and short

periods of six weeks in the winter. The girls spent so much time walking to and from school that in good weather their mother required them to either cord wool or knit as they walked along so as not to waste any time.

Almost everything needed in the home was produced on the farm. Down feathers from the ducks and geese were used to fill new ticks for their beds. Anna and Margrethe were taught to spin flax and wool. Their mother also taught them to do the fine embroidery on some of their special clothing. The girls and their mother spun the yarn for their dresses, suits, stockings, sweaters, shawls and mittens. Their garters were also hand knit. Dorthea was never idle, and the spinning wheel was busy hour after hour. She was an expert seamstress. She worked fine and intricate embroidery on her waists and underthings as well as on the antimacassars which adorned her home. She was frugal and took great care of her few pieces of delicate china. Her home was furnished with beautiful furniture which she had inherited from her mother.

In Denmark each young man was required to serve three and one-half years in the army. After Christen had served his term he was hired by rich families to serve other terms in place of the rich men's sons. He served in the cavalry. He related the following incident. "It was about 1846 when I was in the war between Germany and Denmark. We were fighting Huns in a grain field when we found we were cut off from our main army by German soldiers. Our cavalry horses had been killed so we were on foot. We cut the horses loose from the cannon wagon and make a dash for freedom through the German lines. We didn't stop to fight, just ran the horses as fast as we could make them go. They were shooting at us, and only five of us escaped with our lives."

Christen and Dorthea were baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints January 17, 1858. About 1878 the family made plans to emigrate to America. Dorthea sold her beautiful furniture to get money for their ocean passage, but she took her spinning wheel with her to Utah. Christen sold the livestock and settled his affairs. He had more than enough money to pay their second class passage and was persuaded by the missionaries to lend money to three other families that they might emigrate, also. They were to pay him back when they all got to America, but they never did. They sailed aboard the steamship NEVADA. At the end of the long voyage it was raining when the NEVADA docked in New Your harbor and the family was soaked before they reached the dock.

Soon, the family and the other immigrants secured passage on a train bound for Salt Lake City. Finally in Utah Christen bought a wagon and a team to pull it. The wagon was loaded so heavily with needed supplies that the family had to walk. Anna and Margrethe had the measles by the time they reached Salt Lake City, but there was no room for them to ride when they started for Sanpete County. It was a long journey to Manti. On the second day out Anna became too ill and tired to walk and so she lay down. Her father came back and scolded her, but he tenderly lifted her up and

helped her along the way. They arrived on July 3, 1878.

Christen and Dorthea found a house to rent in Manti, but he had run out of money, and since the money he had supposed would be paid back to him never came, he had to work at odd jobs to earn a living. Margrethe worked as a housemaid for the family of Mr. and Mrs. John Hougaard. Anna worked for "Tailor" Poulsen who made coats and other clothing for men. She spent many hours making neat button holes in the suits.

Anna met Andrew Nelson at the socials in the ward meeting house. When she was seventeen Andrew came back to Manti from Ferron and persuaded her to marry him. They were married July 12, 1880. They then moved to Ferron. The next year Andrew Nelson offered his father-in-law five acres of land near the creek and a place to live in Ferron. Christen, Dorthea and Marie moved over the mountain to Ferron.

For a few years Christen and Dorthea lived in a dugout. Later on, they lived in a small one room house just south of Andrew and Anna's home. He farmed his small acreage raising wheat for flour and for feeding his pig. He raised lucern for his cow and grew a vegetable garden. He sold the eggs from his flock of chickens. He worked for other farmers and was such a big strong man he could work fast and well. He could carry a half-bushel sack of grain around his neck, and as he walked down the field, he broadcast the grain using both hands at once. After broadcasting he harrowed the grain in, driving a team up and down to make the furrows and cover the grain. One of his grandchildren said of him, "Grandpa Lorentzen was as big hearted as he was big in stature, and he always had something good for us kids hidden in his pockets, goodies which we had to hunt for. He came really often to visit us."

One story told on Grandpa Lorentzen was when a skunk got into Grandpa's chicken coop. He went in to the coop to chase it out and in the scuffle the skunk sprayed him. When he came to the house Grandma Lorentzen had him hide in the bushes and strip all his clothes off before he could change clothes. Then he dug a hole and buried the clothes where they remained for several months until the odor had dissipated.

The youngest daughter of Christen and Dorthea, Marie, went to Salt Lake City to attend nursing school. After graduation she worked in a mental hospital in Idaho. One night the hospital caught fire. Marie had all the keys to the doors in her pockets and by the time she got the patients outside she was almost overcome with smoke. She tried to grab a few of her things but the fire drove her out. She lost everything she owned. A few years later she moved back to Ferron and bought a small house. Christen and Dorthea moved out of their small house and lived with Marie.

Christen Lorentzen died November 16, 1895, at age seventy-three, the same day as his grandson Stanley Nelson was born. Dorthea died October 3, 1896. They are buried in the Ferron City Cemetery with an obelisk monument marking their graves.

Anna and Andrew Nelson began their married life in a dugout, their first child, Lawrence Andrew was born in the dugout. Life was

not without its trials. Rain water came through the roof and down the dugout walls. Andrew soon built a small log cabin. This was also a temporary dwelling, and as soon as circumstances provided, a large comfortable brick home was built.

Grandfather Andrew Nelson was industrious and the farm bore testimony of his hard work. He had a large orchard of apples, pears, apricots and some cherry trees. He kept bees and sold many tons of honey annually. He had beef cattle as well as milk cows. Early farming was done with the aid of oxen, later he had horses, both for work and riding. With chickens, pigs and sheep the farm supplied most of their needs. Wool from the sheep was washed, corded, spun into yarn then knitted into caps, sweaters, stockings and mittens for the large family. Anna kept a large vegetable garden to the south of the home that supplied the family with fresh vegetables in the summer. She dried corn and fruit for use in the winter months. Anna could, if the need arose, milk the cows. On one occasion she was helping Rulon milk the cows and milked them very rapidly. When Rulon asked how she could milk so fast she replied that as a girl in Denmark she had milked the cows for the landlord. She related a tale about milking the cows and walking along with the full buckets of milk. Either she or Margaret spilled some of the milk and decided to finish filling the bucket with water from the stream. The next day the land owner asked the girls to tell him which cow had given the fish!

Andrew suffered from gastro-intestinal cancer for a number of years. He died February 11, 1911 and was buried in the Ferron cemetery.

Jesse was attending school at Utah State Agricultural College in Logan, Utah. In the spring of 1913, his family asked him to come home and take over the farming for the family. Rulon took over the farm after his marriage and lived in the family home. For several years Anna lived in the 'parlor' and the little upstairs-bedroom which was located above the kitchen. When she could no longer care for herself she lived with her daughters, Metta, Lillian, Sylvia and Mildred. She died at the home of her daughter, Mildred, at Kaysville, Utah, May 20, 1942, and was buried in the Ferron Cemetery.

#### FAMILY GROUP RECORD

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HUSBAND Christen LORENTZEN:

BORN: 26 Mar 1822 PLACE: Gislinge, Holbaek, Denmark

CHR.: 31 Mar 1822 PLACE: Gislinge, Holbaek, Denmark

DIED: 25 Nov 1895 PLACE: Ferron, Emery, UT

BUR.: Nov 1895 PLACE: Ferron, Emery, UT

MARR: 2 Jan 1847 PLACE: Follenslev, Holbaek, Denmark

FATHER: Lorentz CHRISTENSEN:

MOTHER: Ane Margrete SORENSEN:

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WIFE Dortha LARSEN:

BORN: 26 Mar 1825 PLACE: Graesmarken, Follenslev, Holbaek, Denmark  
CHR.: 26 Mar 1825 PLACE: Graesmarken, Follenslev, Holbaek, Denmark  
DIED: 3 Oct 1896 PLACE: Ferron, Emery, UT  
BUR.: Oct 1896 PLACE: Ferron, Emery, UT  
FATHER: Lars LARSEN:  
MOTHER: Ane NIELSEN:

## CHILDREN

1. NAME: Soren Peter LORENTZEN:  
---- BORN: 13 Apr 1847 PLACE: Graesmarken, Follenslev, Holbaek, Denmark  
DIED: 25 Sep 1887 PLACE: Denmark
2. NAME: Stillborn Daughter CHRISTENSEN:  
---- BORN: 12 May 1850 PLACE: Graesmarken, Follenslev, Holbaek, Denmark  
DIED: 12 May 1850 PLACE:
3. NAME: Son LORENTZEN: stillborn  
---- BORN: 10 Dec 1851 PLACE: Graesmarken, Follenslev, Holbaek, Denmark  
DIED: 10 Dec 1851 PLACE:
4. NAME: Ann Larsine LORENTZEN:  
---- BORN: 15 Feb 1863 PLACE: Follenslev, Holbaek, Denmark  
DIED: 20 May 1942 PLACE: Kaysville, Davis, UT  
BUR.: 24 May 1942 PLACE: Ferron, Emery, UT  
SPOUSE: Andrew NELSON:  
MARR: 12 Jul 1880 PLACE: Manti, Sanpete, UT
5. NAME: Ane Margrethe LORENTZEN:  
---- BORN: 23 Sep 1864 PLACE: Graesmarken, Follenslev, Holbeak, Denmark  
CHR.: 9 Nov 1865 PLACE: Follenslev, Holbaek, Denmark  
DIED: 22 Dec 1929 PLACE: Price, Carbon, UT  
BUR.: 24 Dec 1929 PLACE: Ferron, Emery, UT  
SPOUSE: Christen PETERSEN:  
MARR: 29 Nov 1883 PLACE: Endowment House, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, UT
6. NAME: Ane Marie LORENTZEN:  
---- BORN: 19 Jul 1868 PLACE: Graesmarken, Follenslev, Holbaek, Denmark  
DIED: 5 Jul 1923 PLACE: Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah  
SPOUSE: Nephi Peter PIERCE:  
MARR: 30 Jun 1898 PLACE: