

# HISTORY OF ANDREW NELSON SR.

By Jean N. Draper

Andrew Nelson Sr. was sixteen years old when the Danish Mission was opened in 1850 under the direction of Erastus Snow. Until 1849 the Danish people were required by law to belong to the state church, the Lutheran Church. At that time they received their religious freedom. Since the Danes now had the opportunity to choose their religion for themselves, the leaders of the Latter-Day Saints Church decided that this was the opportune time to start missionary work in Denmark. While many converts were made, the opposition to the Latter-Day Saints was strong. Persecution was severe and several of the Elders were brutally treated. In spite of this, Andrew was baptized October 19, 1851 by Elder C. Larsen.

Andrew was born in the eastern part of the mainland (Jylland) in Kalahave, Hornborg, Skanderborg on March 8, 1834. He was the son of Niels Andersen and Marie Kirstine Jensen. His home region is quite hilly and very green, as is all of Denmark. In the springtime there are a great many flowers. Both evergreen and broad-leafed trees grow in profusion. The region has many beautiful lakes with green banks. A very high percentage of the land is cultivated.

At the time Andrew was a boy much of the land was owned by wealthy landowners and bonded out to the farmers. The tenants were bonded and usually could not leave the land. They were bondsmen and their children were also bonded by the landowner so they too had to stay on the land. It was a real accomplishment to become a freeman. The shop-owners and tradesmen were usually freemen, or freeholders, as the Danish usually write it. One way to become a freeman was to marry someone who was a freeman. Andrew's father, Niels Andersen, first married a woman nine years older than himself. We wonder if he did this because she was a freeholder or had some money or land. When she died thirty years later Niels married a younger woman of about thirty-eight. Andrew was born six years later when she was about forty-four, his father was sixty-nine. Needless to say, Andrew was the only child. His father died just before his tenth birthday. Andrew grew into a large, handsome man. He had a strong build and weighed well over two hundred pounds. He had dark, good-looking hair and blue eyes. He seemed to have had a spirit of independence; a trait, which has no doubt, filtered down to his family. Although there was much opposition to the Mormon Church, Andrew joined a year after it was brought to Denmark. Thus his routine way of life was interrupted and a course began which would lead him to become a pioneer in the wilderness of Western America.

Andrew soon had a strong desire to come to Utah. He joined the Forsgren Company which was the first large company of Latter-Day Saints to come from Scandinavia.

On noon December 20th 1852, one hundred and ninety-nine adults and ninety-five children under twelve years of age boarded the "Obotrit" for Kiel, Germany. The Obotrit was a packet ship, which conveyed dispatches, mail, passengers and goods between Wismar, Germany, Copenhagen, Denmark and Stockholm, Sweden. It was a paddle-wheel steamship of 167 tons and it was of wooden construction with copper fastenings. It was built in London, England in 1842, and normally carried fifty-seven passengers.

The passengers had each paid fifty-two rigsdaller, and were allowed two hundred pounds of baggage. Mormon agents had prearranged details such as chartering ships, arranging for wagons to use in crossing the plains, making needed connections, providing guides and planning ship board activities.

A crowd of on-lookers gathered at the wharf in Copenhagen to witness the departure of the emigrants who were in the charge of Elder John E. Forsgren, one of the missionaries who came with Apostle Erastus Snow to introduce Mormonism into Scandinavia. The rabble on the dock jeered and cursed the Saints for following "that Swedish Mormon priest" Forsgren to America. The vessel sailed away from the customhouse at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. A storm that night forced the ship into a Saister harbor where they stayed for forty-eight hours. After a stormy passage and much discomfort in cramped quarters, they reached Kiel in Holstein the evening of the twenty-second. They traveled three hours by rail to Hamburg, where they slept in a large hall and had well cooked meals.

The next morning, December 24, they boarded the English ship "Lion" bound for Hull, England. The Lion was a paddle-wheel steamship of 460 tons, and was 217' x 28' x 14' and was built in Glasgow, Scotland. It was a two-decker with a square stern and lion figurehead.

They sailed down the Elbe river and rode out a fog bound Christmas Eve in Cuxhaven. There, because of the heavy fog the vessel dropped anchor. The next morning anchor was weighed and the Lion sailed to the mouth of the river and fought head winds all day. On 26 December the ship encountered heavy gales after passing Helgoland bay. Soon winds were near hurricane force, some sailors saying it was the worst storm they had experienced in the North Sea. The ship's bridge and part of the gunwale were destroyed, and some cargo on deck was smashed and washed overboard. However, neither the ship nor her passengers were injured. Two days later, after the storm's fury was spent, the Lion steamed into the harbor at Hull, England December 28. Her arrival was met with surprise because about 150 vessels had been lost in the storm.

The route from Copenhagen south by boat to Kiel, Germany, then south approximately 60 miles by rail to Hamburg, then by boat down the Elbe River and into the North Sea may seem a round about route to reach Hull, England. A view of the map of the region shows that Hamburg, Germany is about 400 miles due east of Hull England, slightly south of the 54-degree parallel-latitude. Later emigrants from the northern districts of Denmark may have taken a northern route around the cape called "Skagens Odde", through the straight of Skagerrak, south of the 58 degree parallel and into the north sea, then southward to Hull, England, a journey of about 500 miles.

The next day the emigrants crossed England by rail, and were housed in a comfortable hotel in Liverpool. The "Forest Monarch", a splendid sailing ship which had not carried passengers before was boarded on December 31st. They discovered that carpenters were still installing berths.

The "Forest Monarch" was 977 tons and was 149' x 331' x 23' and was built in 1851 by Pierre Valin at Quebec, Canada and owned by Pierre Valen of Quebec and De Novo of Liverpool. It was carvel-built (built with the planks meeting flush at the seams) with three masts, one deck, a round stern, a standing bowsprit, and a figurehead of a man.

On New Years day, two tenders towed the frigate out into the river Mersey, but it was another fifteen days before favoring winds took them out to sea. During that time, three children died, two babies were born, three passengers were converted and baptized and some emigrants were injured when a near-by craft broke loose from her moorings and drifted into the Forest Monarch.

Finally, on 16 January 1853, the Scandinavians sailed out of the estuary and were on their way to America with Captain Edmond Brewer as skipper. There were now 297 Saints among the passengers. Elder John E. Forsgren presided over the company. Two years earlier he had opened the Scandinavian Mission with Apostle Erastus Snow. Forsgren's shipboard counselors were Elders Christian Christiansen and J. H. Christensen. During the voyage the weather was generally pleasant, although the ship was becalmed for several days. Provisions were poor, and fresh water was exhausted before reaching port. Four deaths were recorded, and three children were born during the crossing. After a fifty-nine day passage, the ship arrived at New Orleans on 16 March, but several days earlier at the mouth of the Mississippi five more emigrants died.

After reaching New Orleans the men in the company pooled their means to go by steamboat up the Mississippi River to St. Louis. They saw forests, orchards and slaves working in the fields. They stayed in St. Louis one month where they found empty houses to live in and worked at odd jobs. Half of the company left for Keokuk, Iowa on April 1st, and the remainder followed ten days later. At Keokuk they were known as the Danish camp since they were part of a large encampment of Welsh and English church members.

They started their journey across the plains on May 21st, and traveled under four captains, ten wagons to a company. The men felt the wagons surpassed the quality of the Danish wagons, but they had trouble learning to drive teams of oxen. The electrical storms and cloudbursts were a hazard while going through Iowa and Nebraska. After resting for one week near Council Bluffs they proceeded, covering ten to twenty miles a day. All those able to walk, walked beside the wagons. At night the wagons were formed into a hollow circle, five wagons to the right and five wagons to the left. The animals were corralled within the circle for the night. Campfires for cooking were made outside the circle. Very little wood was available for the campfires. Therefore, buffalo chips were gathered and used as fuel. Crossing the rivers was extremely hazardous. By holding hands and forming a long line, they were able to cross the rivers in safety even though some of the rivers were quite wide and contained quick sand.

The Saints arrived in Salt Lake City on September 30th after nine months of hard travel. They were met by

Apostle Erastus Snow, and were divided into two groups. Some were to go to Box Elder and some to Sanpete. Andrew Nelson and Metta Gudkjaerson were among those called to go to the Allred Settlement, later to be known as Spring Town, Sanpete County. James Allred and his son Bishop Rubin Allred had recently asked for reinforcements for their little village. Bishop Allred and Lyman Stevens helped the Danish families get ready for the trip south.

They left Salt Lake City on October 14th, 1853. The people along the way were kind to them and at Nephi they obtained extra ammunition because of Indian hostilities. Upon reaching the near- by Salt Creek Canyon, the men who had guns walked ahead of the long wagon train. At the site of present Fountain Green, they saw the wagons where Indians had killed four Manti men.

After reaching the Allred Settlement in the latter part of October, the Danes lived in wagons and tents. In early December men were sent back to Utah County to get more supplies and brought back flour, nails, brooms and potatoes. A drum was used night and morning to call all of the settlers to roll call. Bishop Allred gave out the duties and instructions for each day, and appointed guards for the night. Everyone worked at general camp duty, providing feed for the cows, oxen and horses by cutting dry grass, hunting wild animals and quarrying rocks for building.

The Walker Indian War was then being fought and there was considerable fear among the settlers. Food was in short supply; and life was difficult. "Upon learning of the hostilities of the Indians, and near starvation of the people at Little Denmark, President Brigham Young sent a letter advising the Saints to continue on to Manti." (From "Song of a Century" p.30) Major Nelson Higgins sent teams to the Allred settlement to help with the evacuation. They arrived in Manti the evening of December 16, 1853. Manti residents took them in and all seven hundred and sixty- five white inhabitants of Sanpete County were together in the crowded conditions of the fort. "A foot of snow had fallen, and it was bitterly cold. They camped inside the fort. For the next few months frozen potatoes served with bran and smutty ground wheat was the fare three times daily. Insufficient clothing, however, caused greater suffering than the pangs of hunger.1' (Song of a Century, p.30)

Andrew's best accomplishment while at Spring City was marrying Metta Nelson, who also came with the Forsgren Company. How long they had known each other is hard to determine. It must have taken considerable courage to get married under the conditions, which they faced. The fare was hardly one that would be ordered for honeymoon.

Plural marriage was the order of the day for the Later-Day Saints who had a desire to live it. However, additional wives could be married only if the first gave her permission. One of the family said that as Andrew considered another wife, the young people of Manti were invited into the home of Andrew and Metta for some social evenings and Metta had the final say who was to be the second wife. Her choice was Christina Jensen, who Andrew married in July

1858. Christina had come in a handcart company in 1857. Christina has left us an excellent account in her own words of this handcart crossing. Many of the family have a copy of it.

Andrew was called on a mission to his native land, Denmark, in 1865. He had been ordained in the priesthood to the office of a Seventy May 17, 1857 by John Crawford. When he arrived in Denmark he assumed the Danish version of his name, Anders Nielsen. In the United States however, he always went by the Anglicized version, Andrew Nelson. It is not known whether Andrew changed it or someone else when he first came to this country. Andrew was evidently a good missionary because he was appointed to preside over the Aarhus Conference in January 1866. He was the first Elder from the United States to preside over this conference. (History of the Scandinavian Mission p.498, also p.187--190.)

Andrew Jenson, assistant church historian, in his history of the Scandinavian Mission, pointed out that "For a long time the Gospel gained splendid ground in the Aarhus Conference, and for a number of years more persons were added to the Church in that conference than any other conference in Scandinavia." Andrew was one of those that carried on that fine work.

Andrew left Copenhagen in the company of the Saints on June 13, 1867 bound for Liverpool. In the company were two young women, Camilla and Sophia Moller, who later married him. At Liverpool on June 21st they boarded the beautiful steamship "Manhattan", a vessel of 2,000 tons, big for those days. It was equipped to carry a thousand passengers.

After a twelve-day voyage they arrived at New York City. They went up the Hudson by steamer to Albany. They traveled on the railroad from there to St. Joseph, Missouri via Niagara Fall, Detroit, and Chicago. They took a steamer up the Missouri River to Omaha. From there they traveled on the Union Pacific Railroad 291 miles westward to North Platte. After a stay of four weeks, they journeyed across the plains by ox-train. They arrived in Salt Lake City on October 5th. Andrew and the two girls went on to Manti. The two sisters stayed through the winter with Andrew's first wife, Metta.

In March Andrew married both sisters. Did he love one sister more than another? His actions speak very plainly for themselves, for he married both girls on the same day, March 28, 1868.

In Manti Andrew and his wives settled down and established themselves in the community. It was not entirely without fear because the Black Hawk Indian War in which seventy-five settlers were killed was in progress. Andrew took part in the local militia and is mentioned several times as an Indian fighter and a veteran of the Black Hawk Indian War.

Andrew Nelson held several positions in public life. He served as a city councilor for two terms, justice of the peace one term, sheriff for two years, and as constable and pound keeper for Manti. He owned several small farms and was a stockholder in the Union Roller Mill in Manti. Peter Munk, and old-time resident of Manti, said of Andrew Nelson, "A

man of great wisdom and foresight. He was active in the Indian Wars and served the city in several capacities. He was regarded as one of its (Manti) most substantial citizens." (Daughters of Utah Pioneers, Historical Pamphlet, March 1944.)

### **DESERT NEWS, SEPTEMBER 21, 1909, page 10**

*Nelson, Andrew at Manti, Sanpete Co. 9/17/1909*

Andrew Nelson passed away after an extended illness from cancer and other diseases. Mr. Nelson was among the early settlers of Manti in 1853 and the state, having crossed the plains with Captain Forsgren Company. He became a member of the Church of Jesus Christ in 1851 in his native land and for a number of years was actively engaged as a church worker, filling a most successful mission to his native land for a period of two years in the 60's. Many years ago he was excommunicated from the Mormon Church and some time later became a member of the Presbyterian faith, being an elder in the local church at the time of his death. During his career he held a number of places of trust in civil capacities, being sheriff of Sanpete County, Manti City councilman, justice of the peace, constable and pound keeper, and served during the Indian troubles. He followed farming and stock raising as a profession and was successful in his endeavors, and bore an excellent reputation among all the people of this community. Mrs. Sophia Miller Nelson and Mrs. Camilla Miller Nelson who were wives of the deceased together with a large family of children survive the deceased. Mr. Nelson was always kind and generous, helpful to the poor and needy and most friendly to all.

### **FROM "HISTORY OF SANPETE COUNTY"**

Nelson, Andrew, farmer, son of Nelson Anderson and Marie C., was born in Jydland, Denmark, on March 8, 1834. He joined the Mormon Church in 1851 and came to Manti in 1853, crossing the plains with Capt. Forsgren. In 1865 he returned to Denmark on a two years' mission. Was active in the Indian wars and one of the first settlers of Spring City, leaving an account of the Indians. Served as Sheriff for two years, City Councilor two terms, Justice of the Peace one term and is Constable and Keeper of the city stray pound. He owns several small farms and two fine residences in the city, and is a stockholder in the Union Roller Mill, is an Elder in the Presbyterian Church, of which he has been a member for several years. He has had four wives, thirteen sons and five daughters, and now lives with his third wife, Sophia.

First wife was Mette Nielsen. She had five children: Andrew, Emma, August, Joseph and Christian. Second wife, Christena Jensen, has two children: Hyrum and James. Third wife Sophia Miller has six children: Sophus, Maria, Oscar, Thorveld, Guy and Myrtle. Fourth wife, Camilla Miller, has five children: Fredrick, Annie, Erastus, Clara and Franklin.

The following are some comments on the character and disposition of Andrew Nelson Sr. by some of his descendants.

**From Kate Hall, a granddaughter.**

Andrew Nelson Sr. used to pound the table and say "I am the trunk and all the Nelson's are the branches."

He was strong willed and could get very angry, but he was generally just. One day he took a load of wheat in sacks to the miller and asked him to grind it. For some reason the miller did not want to do it. So Andrew left his sacks of wheat, walked into the mill and took a fair amount of flour, and then distributed the flour to families who needed it.

**From Eunice Madsen Nelson, a daughter-in-law.**

Andrew Nelson served a term as the Justice of the Peace in Manti. He preformed this duty in a very dignified and judicial manner. At one time a family man was brought before Andrew on trial. He was found guilty and Andrew assigned him to do a number of days' work on a town ditch project to pay his fine. Certain people criticized this penalty as too lenient for the offense. Andrew answered them, "If I fine him a certain amount of money his family will suffer the loss. It is he who is guilty, not they; hence, his labor would pay the penalty." The critics agreed with him.

**From Eunice and Max M. Nelson, a grandson:**

When the Council House was being built in Manti North Ward, using stone from the Temple Hill quarry, Andrew Nelson came along and watched six men trying to carry a long window sill stone up a ramp to the second story. One of the sidewalk engineers goaded another into a bet, then goaded grandfather into saying: "Let a man show you how to do it." He had them lift it to his shoulders and carried it up the ramp. This was in his prime of life before he had asthma. He was at the time the most physically powerful man in Manti.

**From Max M. Nelson, grandson:**

One time as they were hauling hay, the reach of the wagon came uncoupled. Andrew lay on his back and with his legs lifted and held up the load of hay while the reach was replaced.

**FROM: "IN THE DIRECTION OF HIS DREAMS",  
Lowry Nelson Memoirs**

**Chapter 2, p.39 - 44.**

First wife was Mette Nielsen. She had five children: Andrew, Emma, August, Joseph and Christian. Second wife, Christena Jensen, has two children: Hyrum and James. Third wife Sophia Miller has six children: Sophus, Maria, Oscar, Thorveld, Guy and Myrtle. Fourth wife, Camilla Miller, has five children: Fredrick, Annie, Erastus, Clara and Franklin.

The following are some comments on the character and disposition of Andrew Nelson Sr. by some of his descendants.

**From Kate Hall, a granddaughter.**

Andrew Nelson Sr. used to pound the table and say "I am the trunk and all the Nelson's are the branches."

He was strong willed and could get very angry, but he was generally just. One day he took a load of wheat in sacks to the miller and asked him to grind it. For some reason the miller did not want to do it. So Andrew left his sacks of wheat, walked into the mill and took a fair amount of flour, and then distributed the flour to families who needed it.

**From Eunice Madsen Nelson, a daughter-in-law.**

Andrew Nelson served a term as the Justice of the Peace in Manti. He preformed this duty in a very dignified and judicial manner. At one time a family man was brought before Andrew on trial. He was found guilty and Andrew assigned him to do a number of days' work on a town ditch project to pay his fine. Certain people criticized this penalty as too lenient for the offense. Andrew answered them, "If I fine him a certain amount of money his family will suffer the loss. It is he who is guilty, not they; hence, his labor would pay the penalty." The critics agreed with him.

**From Eunice and Max M. Nelson, a grandson:**

When the Council House was being built in Manti North Ward, using stone from the Temple Hill quarry, Andrew Nelson came along and watched six men trying to carry a long window sill stone up a ramp to the second story. One of the sidewalk engineers goaded another into a bet, then goaded grandfather into saying: "Let a man show you how to do it." He had them lift it to his shoulders and carried it up the ramp. This was in his prime of life before he had asthma. He was at the time the most physically powerful man in Manti.

**From Max M. Nelson, grandson:**

One time as they were hauling hay, the reach of the wagon came uncoupled. Andrew lay on his back and with his legs lifted and held up the load of hay while the reach was replaced.

**FROM: "IN THE DIRECTION OF HIS DREAMS",  
Lowry Nelson Memoirs**

**Chapter 2, p.39 - 44.**

During the first few years in Manti, Andrew acquired some land and built a house. Then in July 1858, he married Christina as a plural wife. With her mother, Christina Jensen had crossed the Plains with a handcart company. They had settled in Ephraim, seven miles north of Manti. The circumstances of the meeting and courtship are not known. After Christina joined the household, the nursery, by coincidence rather than family planning, had a new addition annually. Metta had already given birth to two children, one of whom died in infancy. Then, in 1859, she had another babe, which also died in infancy. Christina's turn came in 1860, Metta's in 1861. Both took a holiday in 1862, but both returned to the nursery in 1863.

In May 1865, Andrew left for a mission for the church in Denmark, and in November Metta had another baby.

Andrew, therefore, left a household of two women and six youngsters.

The women had to shift for themselves. Metta supported herself with the aid of neighbors by operating the farm. Christina, with her two sons, went to live with her mother in Ephraim and supported herself as a seamstress and tailor, a trade she learned in Denmark before emigrating. She had a ready market for her goods among the soldiers of Johnston's army, some of whom were stationed at Shumway, near Ephraim. She sold them gloves scarves, and other items she manufactured.

Before leaving Andrew we must add another page to his history. As we have seen, he was clearly devoted to the Church, at least until after his return from his mission. But sometime in the early 1870's--I do not know the date--he came to grief with the local Bishop, who disapproved of something Andrew was doing. He excommunicated Andrew and two or three others along with him. I do not know all the circumstances of this action. Certainly nothing was ever told me in our family. In 1919, when I became County Agricultural Agent in Sanpete County, I met Peter Munk, then about seventy-five years old, who had lived with Andrew Nelson when he was a boy. I asked Peter why the men were excommunicated. Was it because they smoked, drank tea and coffee, or even homemade Danish beer? "No," he said, no attention was paid to those things in those days. They were cut off for playing casino!"

It happened that the Presbyterian Church had established a mission in Utah and was gaining members in Mt. Pleasant. Andrew was interested in getting a school established in Manti and made a trip to Mt. Pleasant to inquire about the possibility of obtaining a teacher through the Presbyterian Mission. The upshot was that a Presbyterian Church and school were established in Manti.

Andrew finally joined the Presbyterian Church, and in doing so with his three wives created a delicate problem for himself as well as for the new church. It was clear that he would have to reduce his household to one wife, but how should it be done? The problem was simplest in Metta's case. In 1877 she was fifty and her eldest son Andrew was twenty. At twenty-two, he became a homesteader on Ferron Creek, as did Emma, who married John Lemon. Metta, whose other children also moved to Ferron, came to live with them.

More complex, was the problem of the two younger wives, the sister. They had their own homes near each other. After the excommunication and the arrangement agreed upon regarding Metta, the decision was finally made that Sophia would become the matron of the Andrew Nelson home. According to the history of Sophia written by her daughter-in-law, Eunice Madsen Nelson, Camilla was considered too frail to manage the Old Home. She remained in her own house and was given a small tract of farmland for her support. Metta was given \$1,000 in cash when she left to live in Ferron.

Thus, Andrew, the only child of Danish parents, the convert to Mormonism, the immigrant to Utah, the husband of

four wives married under the doctrine of plural marriage practiced by the Mormons--wives who bore him twenty-six children--Andrew, the excommunicated polygamist, became an elder in the Presbyterian church. Of his twenty-six children, only Hyrum was an active and faithful Latter-Day Saint. Some of the others were undoubtedly baptized, but most of them were not. Yet a goodly share of the third and later generations adhere to the Mormon faith.

Sources: "History of Andrew Nelson, Sr." by Stanley C. Nelson,

"Ships, Saints and Mariners" by Sonne

"The Forsgren Company" by Faye Crawford Curtis

### FROM MANTI CITY CEMETERY RECORD OF BURIALS.

Lot 10, Block 14, Plat A. Lot Owner, Nelson, Andrew. Tanei Elfreda Nelson b. Sept 29, 1880 Manti, Utah, Father – Andrew Nelson, Mother Sophia Nelson, d. Sept 1, 1881. Helge Methilda Nelson b. Sept. 19, 1880 Manti, Utah, Father - Andrew Nelson, Mother Carnelia Nelson, d. Sept. 6 1881. Sophie C. Nelson b. March 5, 1848, Radschow, Hornstet, Denmark, Father- Soren Moller, Mother Annie Kerstine, d. June 29, 1913. Carmella Nelson d. Dec 27, 1922. Andrew Nelson b. May 8, 1834, Colhan, Denmark. Father: Niels Andersen, Mother Mafie (Marie) C. Andersen d. 17 Sep. 1909.

### THE NELSONS AND THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Understanding the association of the Nelsons and the Presbyterian Church requires an examination of the facts concerning the excommunication of Andrew Nelson Sr. from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1877. One hundred eighteen years after his excommunication the case is listed as "confidential" by the L.D.S. Church and as such is not open to view by his descendants. So we are left to draw our own conclusions. Was the excommunication a result of Andrew Nelson Sr. playing "casino" (cards) as Peter Munk of Manti told grandson Lowry Nelson, or the result of a civil disagreement with the local ward bishop as was alluded to in the stage play "Metta" written by great-grandson Brian Stanton? For whatever reason he was excommunicated from the L.D.S. Church in 1877

On October 2, 1940, sixty-three years after the event and thirty-one years after his death, his case was reviewed and he was reinstated to membership in the Church by proxy. It should be remembered, however, that for the remainder of his life he never sought reinstatement of his membership in the L.D.S. Church. Once Andrew became aligned with the Presbyterian Church he was a sincere, dedicated servant of that organization.

Because of the high standards and the relatively high quality of education offered by the Presbyterians, schools were being established throughout Utah in the late 1800's. These primitive educational systems led to the establishment

of higher education in Utah. They opposed the Mormon doctrine of polygamy and they considered the Mormon hierarchical government un-American and un-Democratic, they also objected to the Mormon denial of freedom of worship. ("Journey through a Century.")

The Presbyterian Church founded a mission and school at Mt. Pleasant, Utah in March 1875. About 1877 Andrew Nelson Sr. and Andrew Jensen hired Swensen, with his buggy and mules, and went to Mt. Pleasant and saw Rev. D. J. McMillan soon after he opened his school there. McMillan asked what chance there would be for a mission school in Manti. Andrew Nelson told him, he would support it with all he could send. (Some times meant about a dozen boys and girls. Pastor)

April 20, 1878, G.W. Martin and Rev. R. C. McNiece of Salt Lake City visited Manti. The Presbyterian Church was organized then. Andrew Nelson acted as interpreter but did not join the church at that time. Camilla and Sophia had homes across the street from each other. The Presbyterian Church wanted the corner occupied by Camilla on which to build a church, mission school and teacher's home. In 1880 Camilla sold her home to the Presbyterian Church and procured a home one block east. The first service in the newly built church was on Thanksgiving Day 1881.

Prior to March 24, 1891 Andrew Nelson Sr. was examined by the Session and was admitted to membership in the Presbyterian Church. Sophia was accepted into membership September 18, 1892, their daughter, Clara Magnetta was baptized October 8, 1892. Andrew Nelson Sr. was ordained and installed an Elder of the organization November 12th. 1893 and became clerk of the Session September 1st. 1902. He served in that capacity until his death. He was chosen as Elder delegate to the Presbytery, and as such traveled as a delegate of the Manti Church to various Presbyterian functions throughout the area. He and Pastor G. W. Martin were instructed to go to Gunnison to visit members and hold communion services November 22, 1894. He was chosen to represent Manti at the Presbytery at Nephi August 23, 1895 and was chosen to represent the Church at a meeting of the Synod at Ogden October 8, 1895 and at the Presbytery at the same time and place. August 12, 1902 Andrew was chosen by the Presbytery as Commissioner to the Geneva Assembly which met in the 5th Avenue Presbyterian Church of New York City, and was elected to attend the Presbytery at Logan August 21<sup>st</sup> 1902.

As Andrew's health failed the monthly Sessions were held at Andrew's home until his death, the last being June 5, 1909. On October 15th, 1909 the session met at the call of the Moderator and the following memorial was adopted:

"The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Manti, in view of the release and home-going of Elder Andrew Nelson, which came to pass as day dawned September 17th, 1909, makes the following affectionate minutes:

"As a Court of the Lord's House we are deeply bereft in this event, and join our sorrow with that of many friends, in that we see him no more in the flesh.

"We are thankful to the Father of Lights for the saving mercy, which by the Holy Spirit through the Word wrought mightily into his subduing and conversion to Christ; for the Christian example so long set before many witnesses; for his service as a Ruling Elder, sensible, deliberate and loving, from his ordination in 1892 even to the end."

"As a Session anew we commend to the gracious Saviour, in whom he trusted, his widow, his children and other relatives, and the Manti and Ephraim Churches for which he served and prayed, that each soul may walk worthy of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, until we, too, hear the Master's loving words, "Well done, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

The Session then adjourned. The minutes were signed by Ole Nelson and G.W. Martin, Moderator and Clerk respectfully. The following note was added to the minutes. "This action being duly read in the public services of the Church and congregation, October 31st 1909, by a unanimous vote was reverently approved and adopted for record and publication."

Andrew's daughters, Maria, Clara and Myrtle were active in various capacities of the Presbyterian Church in Manti, and Andrew's children received their education in the Presbyterian school system. Sophia's daughter, Myrtle, graduated from the "Collegiate Institute" in Salt Lake City, as it was called at that time. Today we know it as Westminster College. Sophia's grandson, Rex Nelson was also a graduate of that institution.

The Presbyterian mission school at Ferron was established about 1906 and was an extension of the Wasatch Academy of Mt. Pleasant. The first classes were held in the Wyatte Bryan building.

A meeting was held December 11, 1907 for the purpose of incorporating the Presbyterian Church in Ferron. Andrew Jr. and Sophus Nelson were among those chosen to act as trustees until the next regular annual meeting to be held the last Wednesday of March 1908. Andrew Jr. and Reverend J. W. MacGillivray along with Thomas H. Jones were appointed to draft bylaws for the church. In a meeting of the congregation February 11, 1908 Andrew Jr., T.H. Jones and William McKenzie were appointed to re-canvass the 'field' for subscriptions for the purposed new building for church and school purposes, they were also appointed to manage the work of excavating the basement and hauling the rock needed to the site, also to stake out the ground plan on the lot and to have plans prepared.

At the annual meeting of the congregation March 25, 1908, Andrew Nelson Jr. was elected as a three-year trustee. Sophus Nelson was elected as a two-year trustee.

March 28, 1908 the "Emery County Progress" announced: "The excavation for the new Presbyterian building has been completed and almost sufficient rock for a 12-foot wall is on the ground. The building will be 51x60, with two stories and will accommodate church, school and academy, as well as provide for reading room, gymnasium and other school

features. It is hoped that the building will be ready for occupancy early in September."

Due to a shortage of funds the beautiful building was not completed until 1911. It was built on a hill overlooking the valley on ground donated to the Presbyterians by Joseph Nelson, brother of Andrew Nelson Jr., and was known as the Forsythe Memorial Chapel School House also Ferron Wasatch Academy. There were a pastor and three teachers and had over one hundred students and for a time was the largest school in the county. The local people contributed over \$1000 to the school. Andrew Nelson Jr. was a strong supporter of this church and school. Many socials were held in Andrew JR's home for the missionary-teachers. The teachers were well educated and talented especially in music. The high quality of education offered at the Ferron mission school was well received by both Mormons and non-Mormons. Many of the Ferron descendants of Andrew Nelson Sr. completed their high school education at the Mt. Pleasant institution. The Ferron School operated from about 1906 until 1942 although a kindergarten was all that was offered in the later years. The property was sold in 1942. Today the beautiful old church building is occupied by the American Legion post #42 of Ferron and is a center for community activities. It was dedicated 1986 by the Utah Outpost Mt. Charlie Chapter #1850. E Clampus Vitus.