

A Biographical Sketch of "Anna Sorenson Peterson"

Mother of Sorena Peterson Malmgren

Anna Sorenson Peterson, daughter of Anders Sorenson Bade and Karen Jensen Sorenson Bade was born January 18th, 1844 in Valdsted in Yuland, Denmark. She was the sixth child of a family of eight.

The father was a well-to-do farmer; in Valdsted he was the owner of a gore or plantation where his family found plenty of work. The girls, while still small has as there job the herding of the geese. As soon as the geese were ready for market the herders in turn had the privilege of accompanying their mothers to market and weceived some of the money as their own to spend as they wished on this special day. Every child looked forward to a ride on the merry-go-round. When it fell Anna's turn of course this was her first thought also but then she remembered her smallest brother left at home. She got her biggest thrill out of spending her own money on a toy for her baby brother Niels.

When children in Denmark were 14 years of age they were considered old enough to stop school and study some occupation. Anna was sent away to take up dressmaking.

In 1852 her father died, never having heard the gospel. Through the missionary work of Erasters Snow, who was laboring in Denmark, the oldest daughter heard about the Mormans and their religion. She was very bitter toward the elders, but later she was the first of the family to join the church. You can well imagine the sorrow of the family knowing that one of their number had joined the much despised church. But only a short time went by until another daughter Mary also joined. Before a year had gone by the mother and the rest of her children were baptized into the church - Anna being one of them. This same year 1958 the two older girls immigrated to Utah with a number of other saints and missionaries.

It was understood that the mother and the other children should follow as soon as they could make arrangements. But before the farm was auctioned off and everything sold, nearly a year had gone by.

In March 1859 Anna, along with her mother and remaining brothers and sisters left their native land to begin their trip to America. The ship on which they were to cross the North Sea was very crowded for sleeping room. Many were forced to sit up on boxes and sleep on the bare floor. This trip took five days. They crossed the Atlantic Ocean in the ship "Tappscot". They were in Nisslens company with Gould as their captain. While crossing on this ship sixteen couples were married. They landed in New York in May taking five weeks to make the voyage over the Atlantic. From here they went to Chicago by train entering the city at night. But they were forced to leave right away because there was danger of the Mormon's bring robbed, so they took a train to Iowa City.

Arriving in Winter Quarters they remained there for three weeks. While they were here a handcart company left for the west, but they were to wait and prepare to take wagons and oxen, for the mother had enough money to purchase a good outfit. The outfit when completed consisted of two new wagons, four yoke of oxen and four cows.

One of these cows was always spoken of as "The valuable cow". This cow had been purchased in Iowa City for a large sum of money. All the way from Winter Quarters Sorena and Anna had the care of this cow. Before they had traveled many days the cow became tender footed so they were obliged to lead her. Her one leg became so sore that one of the girls led her while the other pushed. Every evening the girls put sage brush pollises on the leg. Many were the time they would

get to camp for dinner just as the company was leaving to travel on. One day the Captain of the camp rode back to them and seeing how far behind they were said, "Dangerous, Dangerous". The girls were old enough to know what he ment but they were so well protected on this long treek that they never once saw real danger. At another time they were so far behind that it got dark before they reached camp. Beeing a light in the distance they thought it was their camp and headed in that direction but to their surprise they came to a soldiers camp!

There was much talking and laughing among the soldiers. Sorena, being the oldest, asked if they had seen an emigrant train pass by some time during the day. One of the officers answered that they had not and then asked the girls if they would sell the cow. Sorena said "they would sell the cow for thirty dollars", but when she saw the soldier was going to give her the money she thought of her mother and wondered what she would say so she told the soldier he would have to talk with her mother. The girls were afraid that they could not reach theeir own camp that night. They could see a light of another camp in the distance. It was very late when they finally reached their camp and the girls were very tired.

One day a herd of buffalo came into camp with their oxen and started a stampede. One of the mothers oxen was hurt and so it was killed for meat for the camp to eat and the tallow was melted and put into a tub. This tallow was mixed with flour and used for axle grease.

Many of the oxen got sore feet and traveling was difficult. Every night a large kettle of sage brush was put to boil. The oxen feet were washed in this and those that were suffering the most had a sage brush pollice put on for the night. When the oxen were unable to pull the wagons the cows would be used instead. The cows were milked twice a day. The milk was always put on the wagon in the morning and by noon the jolting and swaying of the wagon would have churned a lump of butter.

The food for the company consisted of about 100 lbs. of flour a piece, also bacon, milk and butter. Their clothes were made of heavy cotton materials and everyone wore high, laced shoes, on the same order as the heavy man shoes of today. It took the company thirteen weeks to make the jouney from Winter Quarters to Salt Lake City.

At the head of Emigration Canyon they were ment by C.A. Madsen. He had married their sister Marea a short time before. In the month of Oct. 1858 they entered Salt Lake City and were taken by Brother Madsen to the tenth ward. Anna's mother had saved enough money to buy a two roomed adobe house in this same ward. The day after they arrived in Salt Lake the mother and entire family were busy gleanng wheat to get their flour for the winter months. A few days later C.A. Madsen and another brother by the name of Erick Peterson, who had come to board at the Madsen home, took up a piece of church land to farm on shares. It was here at this home that Anna met Erick Peterson, who was later to become her husband. Their first winter was a busy and happy one. In the spring of 1860 work was to go on again to build up this new country.

Phinisy Young, a brother of Brigham Young, had a ten acre patch of young locust trees where Anna and her brothers and sisters were fortunate enough to get work weeding and hoeing among these small trees. One day while they were working a buggy drove into the orchard. Brother Young had come to take them to his home for dinner and on to the store for their pay. He was paying the girls \$1.00 a day for their work while some of the men were only getting 75¢. Brother Young challenged any of the men to keep up with the girls. Anna's youngest brother Neils, then eight years of age, was given the job of herding the cows on the tenth ward range. He was so samll that he often lost his way while returning home with the cows in the evening. Anna was now sixteen years of age and the following January would be seventeen.

The next spring 1861, these small locust trees were to be transplanted so Anna and her brothers and sisters were hired again. The trees were moved across the street and planted in long rows. This same place is now Liberty Park. These locusts trees have been removed by the park labors and the Elephant "Princess Alice", and again replanted with hard wood trees of a different variety. After the job of transplanting was completed Anna was hired by the same man to pick strawberries while the season lasted.

In the fall of this year Oct. 18, 1861 Anna was married to Erick Peterson in the 10th ward by Bishop Petegrew and a few weeks later they were married in the endowment house by Heber C. Kimball.

While Anna had been busy the last summer with trees and berries Erick had been working for Henry Dinwoody the main furniture dealer of the time. Erick was a turner and furniture maker by profession. He made the fancy pins and legs for chairs and tables. He also made porch post, banisters, spinning wheels and all kinds of trimmings for furniture. He had done well at the business so he bought a new adobe house with one large front room, a good loft, and a lean too. It was furnished with a cupboard, table, bed, chairs and a built in book case, for he was always a student and a great reader. There were curtains at the windows and a fire place in the large room. Very soon after they were settled he bought her a cook stove. This stove looked something like a heater with the oven up on the stove pipe. This stove was a great luxury to her.

There was a great demand for his work and he was always a hard worker and very willing. At one time he loaded some furniture and got as payment a full piece imported dinner set. He was always looking for comforts for his wife and for their home. He gave her a beautiful gilded clock for which he paid \$35. This clock is now in the home of his eldest living son, Neils Peterson. He bought her lovely materials for dresses and a large mirror which is still in her home. His work was still paying well so he built a bedroom and large kitchen onto their home. Anna was always a homemaker and worked side by side with her husband in anything he was called to do in the church, ward or at home.

Anna was a very unusual mother. She had thirteen children while her three other sisters were childless. Their first child Carolina was born August 18, 1862 The second child Anna Christena, Oct 24, 1864. After the birth of these two children the family moved to Huntsville in Ogden Valley and bought a farm paying \$350 dollars for it. Her husband accompanied by her youngest brother Neils C. Sorensen in the spring of 1865 went to Odgen to build a home and other buildings and prepare to move the family to this farm in the fall.

Because of disappointments on the farms in new counties they only stayed on the farm three months and then returned to Salt Lake City. They planned on selling the farm and building a better home of brick. Their home at that time was rented out for a year so they had to make other arrangements then they returned to Salt-Lake. Anna with her two children went to live with her mother and her husband Erick went back to Ogden Valley to see to the threching and to make arrangements for the care of his stock during the winter. When he returned to Salt Lake he got his old job back. On June 7, of this year 1867, their oldest son was born. He was named Erick Peterson Jr. after his father.

In the summer of this same year they had many trials and hardships. The grasshoppers destroyed nearly all the crops and as a result flour was very expensive. Many people paid \$24 for a hundred lbs. But Erick was able to keep his job and so the family did not suffer so much.

On April 6th, 1869 Erick was called to labor in the Scandanavian mission. He was set apart and had made all preparations for leaving, but Orson Pratt sent word back that the river was very high and it would be very dangerous to try to cross. A daughter Maria was born to them April 24th 1869. Then on June 7th of the same year Erick left to fulfill his mission. After arriving in Copinham he was sent to Stockholm and there he remained for 3½ years as conference Pres. While her husband was away on his mission Anna's mother sold her home and moved to Levan to live with her daughter Sorena Aagard. This left Anna alone with her family until the return of her husband. Her daughter Maria lived just 10 months and again the young mother had to face parting with a loved one. Her husband had made full arrangements to provide for his family and himself while he was away, so his family was never in need of worldly things. He had invested \$100 in Z.C.M.I. stock and \$100 in the office of Henry Dinwoody and when the baby daughter died Anna got half of this money for its burial.

Her brother Neils C. Sorenson came to Salt Lake from Gunnison every fall to have her supply of wood for lthe year and gather hay and feed for her cows.

Brother Peterson returned from his mission in the fall of 1872. Here he met real disappointment for he found that he could not get his job with Mr. Dinwoody again. Eastern firms could manufacture the furniture much cheaper and it could be shipped in on the railroad. Anna's brothers and sisters and mother had all moved to the southern part of the state to live and it was decided that she and her husband should follow. Their home in Salt Lake was sold for \$1,500. They bought a span of mules and farm implements and taking what household equipment they had room for they started for Levan. The rest of their furniture was stored in Salt Lake until they should come up for general conference. Bix days after Brother Peterson returned home from his mission then the family was on its way to the new home. In Oct of the same year Bishop Neils Aagard of Levan and Bishop C.A. Madsen went to Salt Lake to attend general conference and brought the rest of the household furniture home with them.

Their first home in Levan was on the same lot where the Peterson home now stands. It was an adobe house with one large room and a lean too. On May 14, 1873 their son Neils was born. At this time they purchased a pliece of land and a few shares of water, leter they took up a homestead. On March 1975 a daughter Mary was born. Soon a new three room adobe house was built. On Sept 24, 1876 a daughter Sorena was born. She was the first child born in the new home. Three years later a daughter Eliza was born but she only lived four years. On May 5, 1882 another son Orson was born. He grew to manhood and died May 22, 1922. Two years later a son, Joseph, was born he lived only a few months. On January 3rd, 1886 a daughter, Sarah was born. She died of scarlet fever before reaching five years. On May 17, 1889 a son, Erastus Peter was born.

On July 17th , 1894 her oldest son Erick was killed by lightening. She was hardly over this shock when her husband fell victum to a stroke and died two years later - June 13, 1897. Just nine months later her second daughter Christina Wankier died leaving seven children. Anna, then 54 years old, took the six day old baby boy Arvil Wankier, and raised him as her son. He stayed with her until he married. In later years she took another of her grandsons to care for. This child was the son of her oldest living son Neils and the childs mother died when he was just 2 weeks old. She cared for him for a year and a half.

IN later years her sons built her a modern brick house so she had all the comforts of a country home. Besides taking care of her own home and family she acted as Relief Society teacher for many years, then as a counselor and later as Relief Society president for four years. Her husband was a counselor to Bishop Aagard and Bishop Rassmussen, so she had full responsibility of the family a great deal of the time.

Her big joy was to read and study the scriptures and think of the progress of the church. She took a great deal of pride in the fact that she helped her son Erastus on a mission in Denmark for 2½ years. He is at present the Bishop of Levan ward. At the time of her death Anna was 90 years old. She would have been 91 on the 18th of this month.

Of all her 13 children only five survive and all are living in Levan. She has 32 grand children 74 great grand children and 9 great great grand children.

Her's was a life of service to her children and the entire community. Her home was a place of cheer and good felling. Her life stands as a priceless monument to faith, service and self sacrifices.

Written by Mrs. Anna Thompson Poulsen, her eldest grand-child on Oct. 25th 1933

Read by her oldest great grand child Virgil Poulsen Christensen a member of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers at Levan Dec. 8, 1933

Anna Sorenson Peterson being an original pioneer was an honorary member of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers.