

## HISTORY OF MY LIFE

BY P. G. HANSON.

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Br. P. G. Hanson was born Jan. 6, 1853 in Nartuma district about 35 miles north of Stockholm Sweden. My father's name was Hans Peter Hanson born in the year 1813, my mother Luisa Selstrum Hanson born in Stockholm, Sweden 1818. The family consisted of ten children boys and girls. Two boys and two girls lived to maturity while the others died in their infancy. The Hanson family belonged to the Lutheran Faith and the good faithful mother always prayed with her children and encouraged them to go to Sunday school and church on Sunday.

My Father died when I was four years old leaving my mother with four children to support. Mother married again, a fine religious man about six years after my father's death. He also belonged to the Lutheran Faith and was a wagon maker and a farmer by trade. This encouraged me in my early manhood to learn that trade combined with the carpenter and cabinet makers trade. After I had graduated from school at the age of Sixteen years I left home and went to the capital city of Sweden, Stockholm.

I secured employment in a drugstore. Worked there about six months, hard labor, long hours, about 15 hours a day and very little wages; about \$9.00 for the entire time I worked there. I stayed with one of my sisters who was married to August Peterson in Stockholm. Often on Sundays we would together go to the Baptist Church to listen to their Doctrine. But we never joined their faith. In this city I learned my trade, carpenter and cabinet maker for two years which trade I followed all my life.

About the year 1874 one of my friends invited me to come with him to hear the Mormon Missionaries preach. I went but with disappointment. They did not make any impression on me. They met in a common room about two dozen people. The local Elders of that branch in charge of the meeting. I did not go there again for a long time although the spirit prompted me to go again and investigate. I listened to that small whispering voice and went once more and to my surprise found out that they had moved to some other place. I was very anxious to find their new location and fortunately found them located in a nice district in the city in a nice little hall. The meetings were conducted by the Elders from Zion and I was impressed at my first visit there.

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I kept investigating reading their books and having some very interesting talks and discussions with the Elders. I finally was convinced and after six months was baptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints by Elder Flygary of Ogden. I have never regretted that step. It made me happy and rich with experience in my life. I was baptised April 30th 1875 in the city of Stockholm in Sweden by Elder Flygary and confirmed a member of the Church the following Sunday May 1, 1875 by Elder August Hedber. My oldest sister and her husband got baptised at the same time. Only six weeks after joining the church I emigrated to Zion. I had the means saved for my Emigration working on buildings as a carpenter and cabinet maker. I left the city of Stockholm on June 19th, 1875.

We left in a little steamboat to go to Copenhagen Denmark. It took two days. We stopped and visited two days there and then continued our journey. A fine big L.D.S. choir from Norway joined us. They also emigrated to Zion and made our journey most pleasant always, entertaining us with their fine songs on our way.

We crossed the North sea, a stormy voyage. It took us about three days to get to our destination, Hull in England. From there we took the train for Liverpool, England. Liverpool was in those days the Headquarters of the Mission and all the Saints who emmigrated to Zion met there from all nations.

We went then on the big steamship Wyoming, about 800 L.D.S. Emmigrants in the company. It is recorded in the Church History the biggest emmigration at one time. Many other passengers boarded the big steamer. It took about fourteen days to cross the Atlantic ocean. The voyage was most pleasant. Most of the L.D.S. Co. went as steerage passengers. Our company of L. D.S. would hold one meeting daily, the fine Norwegian choir singing the songs of Zion, encourage us and our hearts were filled with joy and gratitude for the many blessings we received on our journey.

We landed about the 19th of July and were transferred to a ferry boat to take us to New York. We stayed there one night and the next day boarded the train for Salt Lake City, Utah. It took a little over four days to get to Salt Lake City, although such a large company of Saints everything went orderly and most pleasant. Our joy was great when we arrived in Salt Lake. We were thankful everything went so well on

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our journey.

A committee appointed by our church leader Brigham Young welcomed us to the city. Brigham Young was also there to welcome us, the newcomers in his fine carriage.

They took us to the old tithing yard and we were made welcome. Tables about fifty feet long were set with good cooked food for us to eat. Also all kinds of fruit in abundance. Everything was done for our comfort and our joy was great to mingle with the Saints.

The next day after our arrival I tried to find employment. It was hard for I could not talk the English language. I hunted in vain to get work as a carpenter. I felt discouraged but finally, an agent from the railroad came into camp. He engaged some men to work on the railroad which was being built from Sandy to Alta, and I gladly accepted the work. \$ 2.00 per day but we had to pay \$.75 for board, very poor board. Our beds at night were some old brush. I never had my clothes off for over ten days. The extreme change of living and exposure, no rest at night broke my body down. I became very ill with typhoid fever and lay in the brush exhausted for ten days without medical aid. I was very low and about to die when my fellow workmen got alarmed and four of them packed me in a big rocking chair to Sandy, three miles, and put me on the train for Salt Lake City. One workman to accompany me who could talk my language. After arrival in the city he took me on a dump cart to the Hospital but when they found I had only about \$12.00 they would not take me in. My companion also an emigrant who could not speak English hunted up some Swedish friends of his in the city while I rested on the dump cart. They lived in the 10th ward, and were willing to take me and take care of me. I was so low, unconscious, I lay in bed there for ten weeks, weak and exhausted that they gave me up to die. They had a good L.D.S. Dr. to take care of me.

The Swedish and Scandinavian people in the city who heard about my misfortune got up an entertainment and dance for my benefit to pay for the Dr. and Medicine I used.

After this long siege of sickness I was left in such a weakened condition I could not walk. It took another six weeks to get me in shape for work again. I decided when to go out south and rode with one of my fellow country-men who took a load of merchandise to Sanpete as far as Salem, Utah. It took about three days to get there.

It was in Demeber, bitter cold, snow on the ground and very poor roads. We camped in Salem, with Bishop Davis. He offered me to stay awhile. I gladly accepted the invitation and stayed about three days, then continued to Payson on foot in terrible mud and slush about kneesdeep carrying my tool chest on my back. Not being able to talk English always handicapped me and hunted for work in vain. I finally got acquainted with a Danish tailor who was able to speak a little English. He took me to Mr. Jackson who had a little carpenter shop on main street in Payson. He employed me for \$1.00 per day and board. I stayed with him about ten weeks, then he was called to Arizona on a mission. I had to accept my pay in lumber. I than rented a small log house and made furniture that winter for sale. The log house had no window in it but I worked and slept in it. I had no bedding only the shavings from the wood as my bed. After I worked all the lumber up in furniture I got work for Richard Bates in Benjamin making furniture for him. I then earned my first \$25.00 in cash in Utah and sent it at once to the two dear sisters who took care of me during my sickness to pay a part on my debt. In the spring of 1876 I started to work for Walter Huish in Payson who owned a furniture shop. He paid me \$1.50 per day but I had to board myself. He soon raised my wages to \$2.00 per day. With his company I worked for thirty years to a day making all kinds of furniture, coffins, etc.

I was married June 19, 1876 to Sophie Anderson one of the sisters who cared for me during my sickness. We were married in the old endowment house in Salt Lake City. Two years later I bought a small home, a two-room log house, paying \$300.00 for it. We felt so thankful for that home a King could not appreciate a palace any more than we did that humble home. It took me two years to pay for it. The only debt I ever had. In the year 1882 I built an addition of two more rooms to my home for my family increased. In the year 1886 I was called on my first mission to my native land Sweden by President John Taylor. I gladly accepted the call and went in the fall of that year to fill the mission. Overjoyed at the great privilege and opportunity that came to me. I converted and baptized forty-four souls in my two years stay, there in the Stockholm conference. After an honorable release from my mission I returned home to my loved ones. I again resumed my work for my old employer Mr. Walter Huish--Huish Furniture Company..

I also faithfully discharged my duties at home as a teacher, Elder, President of Young Men's M. I. A. I was ordained a seventy and finally a High Priest.

In the year 1896 I was again called on a mission by President Wilford Woodruff. I again accepted the call, although by that time I had five living children, a faithful wife to leave at home. They all worked unitedly together and with the help of my dear wife I was able to fill the call for the second time.

I left in the fall of the same year. This time I labored in the city of Malmore. I presided there over the conference and made many friends, converted and baptized seventeen persons. Again after two years of labor received my honorable release. I can say indeed the mission I filled here was the happiest time of my life. No greater joy I never experienced than working for the upbuilding of God's Kingdom here upon the earth and surely rich is our reward if we live and cling to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Again I worked for my old employers, Mr. Walter Huish's son Mr. Jon Huish, Bishop of Payson first ward. His father Mr. Walter Huish had passed away while I labored on my second mission.

I went also and worked a while in Salt Lake City for the Dinwoody Furniture Co. and several other business houses. I returned to Payson again and worked for the Erlandson Brothers for twelve years at my trade as carpenter. After they sold their business to Mr. Spears from Provo I worked for him for several years till my eyesight failed. I then retired from my trade work at the age of 73. I then worked at my home in the garden and improved the surroundings of my home; remodeled and modernized my home in the year 1918. I lived in this same house close to sixty years where joy and sorrow alike were shared. My good wife died a faithful member of the church on Feb. 8, 1932 at the ripe old age of 89 years and six months, from Heart Stroke suffering only about ten minutes. May our Heavenly Father grant her the reward she so faithfully looked for as a true Latter Day Saint, a faithful wife and a noble devoted Mother in Israel.

Our union was blessed with six children. Three boys and three girls, but only one son Charles is living in Salt Lake City, Father of ten children.

The dear children that passed away:

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Ester Ranghild Hanson died Nov. 3, 1899 Age 22 years.

Joseph Emmanuel Hanson died Oct. 17, 1885 Age 5 years.

Edward Conrad Hanson died Mar. 16, 1914 Age 36 years. Left 3 children and wife.

Lillie Elizabeth Hanson died Feb. 6, 1910 Age 24 years. Left husband.

Amanda Elenora Hanson died Mar. 15, 1921, age 31 years. Left husband and one daughter Marie.

All died in full faith as Latter Day Saints. We did temple work in the Logan Temple and also had some done in Salt Lake For my ancestors back as far as 1600. Ever thankful for the light and faith of the Gospel and the knowledge and satisfaction that we will all be reunited again in the presence of our Maker where sorrow and trouble will not part us again if we endure faithful to the end is my humble prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, even so--Amen.

Brother P. G. Hanson