

THE LIFE
of
ERICK PETERSON
IN BRIEF



*Sorena Malngren
father*

Erick Peterson was born in Ostergotland, Sweden, July 1, 1826 the first son of Peter and Anna Johnson Peterson. Only a few months after he was born his father passed away, leaving his mother and her small baby pretty much alone in the world. He spent his early boyhood days helping his mother, and going to school. Consequently, he and his mother became very close to one another.

At the age of 12 years he worked on a farm where he herded cows and geese. While he was employed here he spent many happy hours fishing in the ocean with his employer. At the age of 16, he started to work in the great forests of Sweden. He learned the lumber business and became a professional wood turner, which consisted of turning lumber into fancy shapes to make furniture. He made their legs, porch railings, and all sorts of fancy parts for furniture. At the age of 20 years he lost his mother. This left him very much alone, and being a great lover of books, he spent much time reading and studying to help pass away the lonely hours. He missed his mother's companionship and guidance, and spent many hours studying the scriptures.

However, as he studied and prayed, he realized that there was conflict between the religion to which he belonged and the Church established by Jesus Christ when he was on the earth. He had been raised in the Lutheran faith by his parents, and had a strong desire to know more of God and His son Jesus Christ. While thinking of this, and pondering it in his heart, some friends invited him to attend a meeting of a new religious group, known as the Mormons, or the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. This new group had just opened the Swedish Mission, and begun to hold meetings among the people there.

Erick was much impressed with their message. They said that a young man of 14 years of age named Joseph Smith, through faith and a humble prayer in the woods, had received a vision of God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ who told him that none of the churches on the earth were true, and that he would be an instrument in the hand of God to bring the true church upon the earth again, if he would live a worthy life. Angels appeared to this young man later, and bestowed upon him power to act in God's name, also the authority to organize the Church of Jesus Christ, and all rights, keys and powers necessary to restore His Gospel upon the earth again. The angel delivered to him plates of gold containing the history of an ancient people who had lived on the American continent, and their dealings with God and His son Jesus Christ.

Erick was much impressed with this story. He prayed to God for a knowledge of its truthfulness, and studied a great deal that he might know if it were true. In attending the LDS meetings he became acquainted with the Elders and saw many wonderful healings accomplished through the laying on of hands. Many of his most respected friends joined this new religion. After praying and studying for a few months, he felt deeply within

his soul that he had been given a testimony of the truthfulness and divinity of this work by God. In January, 1856, an Elder named John Larson baptized him into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. After his conversion, Erick began to preach to his friends and neighbors. This work was very pleasing to the heads of the mission, and they called him on a mission as District President of the Norkopings Branch. He served in this position for some two years with much success.

A strong desire began to manifest itself about this time, to gather with the Saints in Zion, and to help build a Temple to their God. In the Spring of 1858 he made all the necessary arrangements and started with a small group of Saints for Zion. They had many experiences on the voyage in a sailing ship. Their ship drifted for 2 days in high winds between Germany and Liverpool, England. On the trip across the Atlantic fierce winds gave them much concern as well as a great deal of illness among the passengers. This trip took them 30 days. Upon reaching New York City, they took the railroad to what was then known as Ious City. Here they organized a company to cross the plains. There were 81 saints, 17 wagons, and 34 oxen in their company. Erick drove a yoke of oxen all the way to Salt Lake City. He tells of an experience which he had on this trip that increased his testimony: "One night we were camped in a low spot among the rolling hills of the plains. After eating supper, I went to look for my oxen which had strayed away. As I neared the top of a hill, four Indians on horseback grabbed me and threw me behind an Indian on a horse. We rode for some time and finally came to the Indian camp. Indians were talking fast and gesturing, but I couldn't understand what they wanted of me. The Chief of the tribe made a sign which I interpreted to mean that he wanted me killed immediately. A squaw came running over and plead with the Chief. It appeared to be his own squaw. She seemed to be impressed with something about me and after much pleading and discussion, three Indians came on horses, lifting me behind one of them. We traveled for some time, and suddenly they stoppd, letting me go free. To my surprise I was only a short distance from camp. Everyone had given me up for dead, so they were surprised to hear my story, as well as thrilled to see me."

The company reached Salt Lake City on Octoaber 7, 1858. When winter came Erick used his oxen to haul wood from the mountains and sold it for fuel. When spring came he and a good friend, Bishop M. A. Madsen (who later became his brother-in-law) rented 35 acres of land from Brigham Young's Church farm. Planting wheat, potatoes, and corn they did pretty well, and he bought 10 acres of ground on Sixth East and Sixth Sough in Salt Lake City(in the old 10th Ward) during the summer. He planted berries and trees on his new farm. While attending church in the Tenth Ward, he became acquainted with a young Danish girl who had recently come from her home to settle in Zion. They fell in love, and were married on October 18, 1861. Her name was the same as his mother's "Anna", the daughter of Anders Sorensen and Karen Jensen, and she had imigrated with her mother

who was a widow, and several brothers and sisters, from Valsted, Yuland, Denmark.

Erick began to build a small home as soon as they were married. In 1862 he obtained a job wood-turning for the Henry Dinwoodey Furniture Company. He worked here for seven years, and received a good wage from which he saved a nice sum.

In April, 1869, he was called on a mission by Brigham Young to return to his native land as a missionary. On June 7, 1869 he departed, leaving Anna and four small ones behind. They were Caroline - 7, Kristine -5, Erick Jr. -3, and Maria- 2 months.

Upon arrival in Sweden, Erick was made President of Stockholm Conference. He labored here with great success for 3 years and 2 months. Upon the return trip he was President and Captain of a large company of Saints coming to Zion. There were 612 Saints in the group.

Maria, the baby of their little family, passed away while he was gone, so his homecoming was saddened by this fact. He arrived home in August 1872.

In October Conference President Young encouraged the Brethren to leave the valley and go out and colonize the State. Settlers were needed greatly, so when Anna's sister wrote begging them to come to Levan to help colonize it, they decided to move. They sold their 4 room house and 10 acres of soil for \$1,500.00 cash. Arriving in Levan, they bought a 3 room home, 1 extra city lot and 10 acres of land, and Erick filed on a quarter-section of land under the Homestead act. He sat about to enlarge the home and plant fruit trees on the two city lots, and built himself a shop for his turning laths.

Grace Lumber Company of Nehop, saw his work and hired him to come to Nephi, where he worked at his trade for many years in addition to managing a large farm in Levan, and during this time filling many important positions in the ward.

He was counselor to Bishop Niels Aagard, and first Counselor to Bishop N. P. Rasmussen at the time of his death. He presided over the High Priest Quorum and the Scandinavian meetings in the Levan Ward. He was a Stake Missionary for many many years. He was also Stake Appraiser for all arrivals taken into the United Order.

During the time they lived in Levan eight children were born to them. They were Niels, Mary, Sorena, Eliza, Orson, Joseph, Sarah, and Erastus. Eliza, Joseph and Sarah all died as children. Orson died a young man, Christian died in childbirth. Erick, the eldest son left home one night to irrigate the farm and was killed by lightning in the field, leaving a wife Millie, one small son, and another child on the way. He was 27 years of age, an elder in the Priesthood.

Erick has a marvelous testimony and great faith in God. He wrote in his diary at the death of their daughter Sarah, "Little Sarah died of diptheria, and it has been very sad in our home since the death of our sweet little daughter. WE have this consolation that she has gone to rest from pain and trouble. She will come forth again in a glorious resurrection, crowned with Eternal Life. Only can we prepare to meet her, there never to

part again. What a glorious day it will be in the mansions of our God to meet our children, our relatives and freinds and Father's who have died. No more separation will there be! What a glorious day for the righteous! Oh My Father who has been so kind and merciful to us, help us to be faithful and true to all our covenants we have made with thee. May we be worthy to be saved in Thy Celestial Glory!"

Erick kept a diary of his life for many years, and his humility and sweet spirit radiates from the pages of his book for all to read and feel of its warmth and testimony. He died after a short illness on June 15, 1897.

He was a man of faith and devotion, was universally respected by everyone, a true and honest man.

Grampa Erick Peterson - born in Ostergotland, Sweden, July 1826
baptized Dec. 18, 1856
died June 15, 1896

Grandma Anna Sorensen Peterson - born Jan 18, 1844. Baptized Mar. 1859
died Jan 5, 1935.

<u>Children</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Died</u>
Karolina Peterson	18 Aug. 1862	Aug. 25, 1872	Jan. 8, 1950
Anna Kristine Peterson	Oct. 14, 1864	Aug. 25, 1872	April 3, 1998
Erick Peterson	June 7, 1867	Oct. 31, 1875	July 15, 1894
Maria Peterson	April 24, 1969		Feb. 187-
Niels Ogard Peterson	May 14, 1873	May 2, 1883	
Mary Peterson	March 2, 1875	May 26, 1883	
Sorena Peterson	Sept. 24, 1876		Nov. 30, 1958
Eliza Peterson	May 25, 1879		Jan 8, 1880
Orson Peterson	May 5, 1882		May 22, 1923
Joseph Peterson	Aug. 11, 1884		1884
Sara Peterson	Jan 3, 1886		1887
Erastus Peter Peterson	May 17, 1889	Sept. 3, 1897	

Grampa Peterson's parents: Father Peter Peterson died 1827, no other dates
Mother: Anna Johnson Peterson, Born 1788, died 1851

Grampa Peterson and Aunt Karoline did all the temple work for them Dec. 14, 1888.

Grampa Peterson wrote:

My father Peter Peterson and Anna Christine Johnson Peterson were adopted and sealed to Erastus Snow as son and daughter, and I Erick Peterson was also sealed to Erastus Snow and his wife as a son.

Daniel Wells officiated for Erastus Snow & his wife.

Carlson

Eric Peterson
for mother

M. B. Sadren ungeto varn,

William Eric Peterson - Admen Anna King Jones

Eric, illegitimate son of Pether Nilsson and Anna Stina
Janson, was born on July 14 and christened on July 18. Family records indicate that
his parents were Pether Peterson and Anna Christina Johnson, names that resemble those
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