

H-4

History of Hans Christian Hansen

Hans Christian Hansen was born in Eskilstrup Denmark on 24 August 1848 and was raised by his grandmother. He joined the Mormon church in 1871 and in 1872 was sent on a mission to Copenhagen then in 1873 he was released and went on a mission to Norway. He labored in Christiania and presided over Dramon Branch. It was here that he met Elise Otilie Skoug Ekman and converted her to Mormonism. Her husband was not interested in the church so Hans sent her name in as worthy to immigrate to America. Her people in Norway owned a lot of forest land. She was asked to come with her four children and live with them but she wanted to stay with the church.

Part of the funds were provided and Hans was appointed to assist her. They left from Christiania in January 1875 in company with a great number of saints. She was quite sick crossing the ocean. She settled in Ephraim and earned a living for her family as a seamstress.

Hans went to American Fork where he contacted the Carl Miller family with whom he was acquainted in Denmark. He married Ane Margrethe Miller 6 September 1875. She died in childbirth 19 July 1876. The child died also.

In November 1876 he married Elise Otilie Skoug Ekman. They moved to Rush Valley on a sheep farm. Their first child, Ane Margretha, was born there 14 September 1877. They moved next to Lake View. Eliza was born there 3 June 1879. Also Charles 7 February 1881, Hyrum 13 September 1883, T. Peter 6 May 1884, Hilda 3 June 1886.

Hans was a strong, intelligent enterprising man who took advantage of the opportunities and resources available. He established a freighting business with his stepson and sons. They hauled ore from the mines at Ophir, Stockton and Dry Canyon to the terminex of the Narrow gauge railroad at Bauer. They hauled supplies to the mining camps on Rush Valley. During the last decade of the 19th century Mercur became a booming camp of 7000 people. They depended on the teamsters of Tooele Valley to provide meat, vegetables and other supplies.

On February 10, 1896, Hans filed for a homestead in section 18 Range 3 west, Township 3 south. It consisted of 120 acres. He received a warranty deed to the property on October 11, 1900.

He built a home at 1648 E East Pine Canyon Road. He had a garden

and fruit trees. He also bought a dry farm in section 22. It was a 40 acre piece of land located in what is now the northeast corner of Tooele City. He raised dry farm wheat at the location.

On his land Up on the Bench east of Lincoln, he built a summer home. He was one of the first farmers in the area to successfully raise dry farm alfalfa.

His youngest son, T. Peter Hansen, on occasion took a load of hay to Salt Lake City and sold it for \$15.00. He bought a blue serge suit and returned--a four day trip.

He also cut timber in Pine and Dry Canyon and sold it to the saw mill at Milton. During the construction for the Union Pacific Railroad in Tooele Valley in 1902-1905 he cut and sold ties. The price of the ties was 25¢ a piece.

He reported to Orrin Miller that wading in 4 feet of snow to get logs caused him to contract rheumatoid arthritis. He also reported that when he first came to Tooele Valley it was covered with tall grass so tall that it was difficult to see the calves.

During 1908, trustees for the International Smelting Company began taking options to buy the alfalfa land to build a smelter on. He did not want to sell but feared the pollution would ruin the crops so he sold out for \$10,000.000.

By 1920 his family was all married and he sold his homes on Pine Canyon Road and bought a home at 43 south 1st east in Tooele. He lived there as a rheumatoid cripple until he died on 1 June 1924. Eliza died on 31 December 1921. They are buried in the Tooele County Cemetary.

He returned to Denmark twice on missions for the L.D.S. church. The first mission was during 1898. His son Hyrum died of pneumonia while he was on the mission. During 1907 he arranged for his youngest daughter Hilda to marry Olaf A. Miller. He then went on his second mission to Denmark.

Eliza Ekman Hansen had four children by Ekman and six children by Hans Hansen. She was a large rugged Norwegian and a good manager.

A picture and geneological data are attached.

By Grandson Orrin P. Miller