

Hansen, Joseph Christian, counselor in the Bishopric of St. Joseph Ward, Snowflake Stake, Arizona, was born Jan. 16, 1854, in Liverpool, England, the son of Jens Hansen and Marie Katrine Christensen. At the time of his birth his parents were on their way to Utah as converts to "Mormonism." His mother, like so many others, was unable to stand the hardships of crossing the plains. She was at times so weak that she could not stand the jolting of the wagons, but had to be carried. At last she succumbed to her sufferings in death, leaving her husband with an infant child to care for as best he could. His father made his home in Salt Lake City until the time of the move in 1858, when he located permanently at Spanish Fork. When Joseph was eleven years old, his father, who then had four wives, and 17 children, was called on a mission to Scandinavia; the following years were hard, trying times for the family. In 1877 Joseph was called to go to Arizona as a pioneer settler. He arrived at St. Joseph on Christmas eve of that year, and there he made his home on the banks of the Little Colorado river. In 1881 (May 28th) he was set apart as first counselor to Bishop Joseph H. Richards, and when Bishop Richards was promoted to a position in the Stake presidency, Elder Hansen became first counselor to the new Bishop, John Bushman. Elder Hansen has put forth much energy and skill and spent much of his time in building dams in the treacherous Little Colorado river. Many dams were washed away in the earlier days of the settlement, but now the people of St. Joseph believe they have a permanent dam built of cement on a rock foundation, which they think will stand.

Hansen, Jens, one of the pioneer missionaries in Scandinavia and a prominent Elder at Spanish Fork, Utah county, Utah, was born Oct. 13, 1823, at Otterup, Odense amt, Denmark, the son of Hans Jøørgensen and Maren K. Petersen. Being one of the early converts to "Mormonism" in his native land, he was baptized Aug. 25, 1851, by Elder Chr. Christiansen. A few month later (Nov 15, 1851), he was ordained a Priest by Erastus Snow and the following year he was ordained an Elder. He labored faithfully as a missionary in Denmark about two years, being among the very first Latter-day Saint Elders who preached the fulness of the gospel on the islands of Fyen and Langeland, and quite a number of people were added to the Church under his administration. In the midst of the persecutions to which the first saints in Scandinavia were subjected Bro. Hansen escaped personal violence on the part of mobs and others on account of his services in the war between Germany and Denmark, during which he distinguished himself for his bravery, and was rewarded by the Danish government with the bestowal upon him of the cross of Dannebrog. Only a few of the Danish subject were thus honored, and it was distinction which everybody in that country respected. After his arrival in Utah he settled at Spanish Fork and soon became a prominent citizen of that place. In 1854 (Nov. 18th) he was ordained a Seventy by Stephen Hales, and later (May 29, 1884) he became one of the presidents of the 19th quorum of Seventy; he was senior president of that quorum when he died. Bro. Hansen filled three successful missions to his native land as an Elder from Zion. The first of these was in 1865—1867, the second in 1873—1877, and the third in 1885—1888. On all these missions, as well as on the missions which he filled prior to emigrating to Utah in 1853, he labored with diligence and success. For many years he was president of the Scandinavian meetings at Spanish Fork and built a special meeting house on his own premises for the holding of these meetings. Of all the Scandinavian brethren who have figured prominently in the Church Bro. Hansen distinguished himself by marrying more wives than any other of his countrymen in modern times. He married

his first wife (March K. C Hansen) April 24, 1853, his second wife (Karen P. Hansen) Nov. 11, 1854, his third wife (Caroline I. Hansen) Feb. 3, 1856, his fourth wife (Karen A. Hansen) Dec. 20, 1857, his fifth wife (Mary S.) March 8, 1862, his sixth wife (Maren K. L.) Jan. 25, 1868, his seventh wife (Maren B.) Jan. 25, 1868, his eight wife (Mette Marie) Jan. 25, 1868, his ninth wife (Karen F.) April 5, 1868, his 10th wife (Dorthea J.) April 5, 1868, his eleventh wife (Camille L.) Nov. 4, 1880, and his twelfth wife (Mary K.) Nov. 4, 1880. Later he married a thirteenth and fourteenth wife (Martha C., and Annie E.). By these wives he became the father of thirty-six children. As a result of a lamentable accident Bro. Hansen died at Spanish Fork June 28, 1897. Most of his children are faithful and active members of the Church.

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Volume 4
Stake and Ward Officers
Nebo Stake

Hansen, Isaac, Bishop of the Benjamin Ward, Nebo Stake, Utah, from 1900 to 1904, was born April 5, 1862, in Spanish Fork, Utah, the son of Jens Hansen and Karen Petersen. He was ordained a High Priest and Bishop June 18, 1900.

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Stake and Ward Officers
Palmyra Stake

Hansen, Erastus, Bishop of the Palmyra Ward, Palmyra Stake, Utah Co., Utah, from 1921 to 1929, was born May 2, 1872, in Spanish Fork, Utah Co., Utah, the son of Jens Hansen and Karen Andersen. He was baptized May 2, 1880, and ordained a High Priest and Bishop March 13, 1921, by Orson F. Whitney.