

*Note:* There are many stories of Jens Hansen some of which may be redundant but, I wanted to make sure that they were all included in their complete form. By Cathie Wood Davis Owens

*The life history of Jens Hansen*  
*Translated from his complete original personal diary*  
by Wilford Abraham Hansen

I was born the 13th of October in the year of our Lord, 1823 in Otterup parish, on Fyen in Denmark to my parents, Hans Jorgensen and Maren Kirstine Pedersen (Pedersdatter). I was my parents firstborn son, I had 5 brothers and sisters and a half brother. My parents were very poor, so because of that I had to walk around the country selling cow hides and clay ceramics to ease their burden. My half brother, Jorgen Jacobsen, who was older than I, was my companion but when he grew older he felt ashamed, and there after I had to do this work alone and even beg people to give me something to eat, which food I thereafter, when possible, brought back home to my parents and smaller brothers and sisters. Several years passed this way. Later on my father started slaughtering cattle, and I accompanied him to the different cities as well as to the country selling the meat. In the summer time I also had to work very hard cutting peat moss and helping my parents the best way I could.

About this time I became well acquainted with poverty and used to earn my bread by the labor of my hands. I was raised in the Lutheran religion, and according to the custom of this church, I was confirmed at the age of 14. Then I was sent away to work, which I did for almost three years. First I worked for Hans Andersen in Lunde parish. My employer and his wife were very satisfied with me. After that I worked for Simon Nielsen in St. Pedersborg, who died while I was there. When I left this place, I went to Copenhagen. Here I visited my older brother who received me with much kindness. He was a gardener for a nobleman living in Strandvejen. After a few days I returned to Fyn and accepted work with a merchant named Limkilde in Odense.

The following summer I worked for Lars Stoffersen in Frostrup, Kaarup. I worked for him three years, he wanted me to stay even longer, and he offered me a larger salary, but I wanted to go to Copenhagen and therefore I left him. When I came to Copenhagen, I worked for my brother, Jorgen Jacobsen. The following winter I worked for J. C. Lund, a wholesaler, and stayed there to May 10<sup>th</sup> 1846, at which time I joined the army, (first artillery regiment 2nd battery). I spent the summer going to school, being trained as an officer (Konstabel) and having graduated I served as "Konstabel" and as servant to Lt. Testrup, a physician. I also worked for a beer bottler, so I had a very good income. Because of fine grades in school, I was advanced to "Over Konstabel." Then I had to leave my job of beer bottler in order to go to school for further education.

My knee was injured while at the horse riding school. It was pressed between the horse and the hill. The horse fell down on it, so I couldn't walk and so I was brought to the hospital. When the first pain had disappeared I was released to go home.

When the war began between Denmark and Germany in the year 1848, I was sent along with Commander Bruun and landed at Snoghoj, where the farmers had been instructed to take us to Haderslev. Here I received my horse and saddle, and was assigned to be commander of a cannon battery. The captain ordered the soldiers to practice with the cannons that same afternoon at 2 pm and the battery commander gave orders that all cannon commanders should meet together with the other soldiers. Thepperup Huss and I received not that order as we had been lodging outside of the city, and because of this we did not arrive at that time for which the captain was mad, but when he found out the true facts, we remained the same friends as before. The following day we saw combat at Bov. I also participated at the great battle at Dybol, where I was recognized for bravery and rewarded Dannebrogorden. I also participated in all of the greater battles between the Danes and the Germans.

In the spring of 1850 I was stationed in Aasum, Odense, Denmark. Here I met and got acquainted with Maren Katherine Christensen (Christensdatter), who later became my wife. March 15th I attended a funeral at Somrese for a child of a brother. It was here I had the opportunity to talk to many of my relatives and friends. On April third a parade was held for Colonel Fibig. May seventeenth my battery was ordered to Middlefart to practice sharp shooting. June fourth I went to Jylland, where I was stationed in Starup. On June the twelfth I arrived at Vejle according to orders to be prepared to meet the enemy. The fourteenth we went to Jarup where I was living with twenty five soldiers at the parsonage. For the first time we had to sleep on hay and did not have our clothes off until the thirty first of January 1851. July sixteenth we went to Haderslev, but we had to stay outside of the city, since it was crowded with the military. July seventeenth we went to Aabenraa. The eighteenth we went to Flensborg and rested for four hours in a forest. The citizens received us with honor. I stayed with the widow of Hans Bruun and was treated very fine. July twenty first the battery was assembled to march. The departure was delayed until two A.M. at which time we traveled two Danish miles (eight American miles) toward Slesvig, and here I saw the Germans for the first time this year. July twenty fourth at three A.M. we saw combat duty with the enemy. The shooting lasted all day and many were wounded. We stayed in the fields until three A.M. then we resumed attacking the enemy and made him flee from here, we then went on to Slesvig and on to old Dannevirke. July twenty ninth we traveled north toward Husum to a forest, where we stayed over night. July thirtieth we went to Holsten, where the citizens treated us with eats and drinks.

The houses here were like the houses in the surrounding area. One could drive right into them up to their fire place, so people and cattle were in the same room.

We then went on to Vaffede where we saw combat. August third I visited my brother who was not far from here. August eighth we went to Randsborg and came within one mile of the enemy, but we saw combat and lost several men. August ninth, eleventh, and thirteenth, I with several others had a rest period. August twenty fourth we held a parade for the company

commander. August thirty first an enemy patrol made it necessary to go out to the front lines, but shortly afterwards we withdrew.

September second we had to do patrol duty which lasted to the third of January 1851. September twelfth the whole battalion was ordered ready, but after having taken up our positions we were ordered back. September twenty eighth King Frederick, the seventh was present. November first we were relieved of guard duty at night. January twenty sixth 1851 we had review for our general, who praised us for our bravery shown during the war. January twenty seventh we heard a message read from our general. January twenty eighth we assembled again to hear of the appreciation from our division commander, and January twenty ninth a message of thanks from the king was read to us, and of the peace agreement singed between Denmark and Germany.

February first we went to Haderslev, the fourth to Assens and arrived in the evening at Valtofte. February eighth we arrived at Nyborg and the same day across the Great Belt to Korsor. We arrived the same evening at Brislunde, where I stayed at the home of the reverend Clausen. February thirteenth I went to Copenhagen where I was doing service for the regiment. February thirtieth a banquet was served, the king was present and several speeches were given. Tickets for the Casino theater were donated and we attended the show that evening. March thirteenth I was dismissed from the service and went home to see my relatives.

On May twenty fourth I took employment in Copenhagen. While here I was afforded the opportunity to hear about a religious movement called Mormonism, the correct name is "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints." I was informed about its truthfulness by the Lord, who was the originator of the same, and He gave me about it. One of the elders of the church, Elder Christiansen visited me at the room where I resided. During our conversation he put his hand upon my previously mentioned injured knee. I then thought to myself, if he is a servant of God, like unto those of olden times, then the healing power should affect me because of being touched by him. He had no knowledge of my injury, as he touched me I felt a chill go over my whole body. I excused my self and left the room to remove the bandage from my knee, and from that time I was made well and whole. On the twenty fifth of August 1851 I accepted the gospel of Jesus Christ by baptism, it being performed by Elder Christiansen and shortly thereafter I had hands laid upon my head for the Gift of the Holy Ghost.

My time was not much occupied while convalescing, by material or business things so I studied a great deal in the Scriptures, which gave me much, light, knowledge, and happiness.

One day while busy working, I felt impressed to ask the Lord if I could be given the privilege to bring souls unto him, as I knelt down to pray I was so overwhelmed by evil forces that I was unable to pray, but after a fight with my right arm and leg, then with my left arm and leg I was finally relieved and found myself lying on my back yet praying.

A light came into my soul and I saw Jesus in the spirit with the nail prints in his hands and feet saying; "Your sins are forgiven and because of your sincerity you are sanctified." I lifted my hands towards heaven at the same time was told; "yes, and even your nails are

sanctified.” After which I let my hands go over my whole body and I felt myself sanctified. I then asked if my clothes could also be sanctified and was answered by a yes. I then saw the coming glory where the Savior came to me and placed a crown upon my head and said; “This is the reward for your faithfulness.” Then a great multitude appeared and given crowns, but none as lovely as mine. They all looked at me with such a devoted look that I felt an inexpressible joy. I was then told that I should hereafter bring many souls unto the Lord. I was shown the darkness of this world in the likeness of a very deep well into which I had to go to work out my exaltation by faithfulness.

I spent much of my time pondering over the laws of the Lord and visiting the meetings. On November fifteenth 1851 was held the first public Conference in Copenhagen at which I was ordained and set apart as a missionary on the island of Fyen together with Elder W. Andersen.

We immediately proceeded to our field of labor and holding meetings that were attended by many, and they were informed about the Gospel.

I baptized **Gertrud Hansdatter**. I then visited my fiance and her family who received me very kindly. I next went home to my parents after holding several meetings with my parents present, and there they heard more about the gospel.

My father received his answer by going in secret, praying, and asking the Lord to help him know if this teaching was true. He returned but felt unworthily to enter the room I was in.

I came to him and he asked me to baptize him, which took place the fifteenth of December 1851, and the same day I baptized my mother. From the time close to these events I cannot report as they have been lost.

I worked a great deal on the desert and baptized many. I also visited the island of Taasinge, where I was given an opportunity to bear my testimony in public gatherings, and felt great joy laboring in the vineyard of the master.

May fifteenth 1852 C. Carlse left for Falster, and I went to Taasinge. May sixteenth and seventeenth I held a well attended meeting in the Troense school where I bore testimony of the truth. May eighteenth I baptized two sisters. May nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty first time was spent speaking to the people. May I returned to Troense and May twenty third baptized a widow. May twenty fourth I went to Svendborg and spoke of the gospel and the twenty fifth went to Oremark, and the twenty sixth went to Sulkendrup, and held meetings.

On the twenty ninth went home and the thirtieth held a meeting. On June fourth I went with brother V. Andersen to Hemmeslev. June fifth we went to Fyendslev and returned home the sixth. June seventh we again went to Sulkendrup and on to Nyborg, where we held fine meetings. June eighth meetings were held in Bonkel and many attended, so in June we sold many tracts. June eleventh we went back to Oremark and on to Svendborg.

The thirteenth meetings were held at book-binder Hansen's home. June fourteenth we went to Troense on Taasinge. The fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth we visited many people and held a good meeting, and the eighteenth we went on to Lundby, and a very fine meeting was held at the home of Niels Larke. Then on to Svendborg and on to Troense, Taasinge. June twenty first we tried to hold a meeting in the Troense school again but the teacher created a bad disturbance. But on the twenty third we held our meeting.

The twenty fourth Brother V. Andersen went to Svendborg and I went to Lundby. June twenty fifth I went to Thoro where I had planned a meeting but was disturbed by the authorities. I considered it wisdom to leave the island and went back to Troense. The twenty sixth I walked around thinking what to do and met Brother V. Andersen who was looking for me. He baptized a girl that evening, and the twenty seventh we were in Svendborg.

The twenty eighth I was again in Taasinge holding a meeting that night. On the thirtieth I held a meeting in Lundby. July I spent in the city, and the second held a meeting in the hospital. July third I went to Svendborg and slept out in the field that night.

July fourth, after walking around the city thinking, on the fifth I went home to my parents where I stayed until the eleventh at which time I held a meeting. The twelveth I went to Emle Mark, and the Thirteenth went to Toreso. On the fourteenth went to my home and stayed the next day studying. The sixteenth I went to Roglemose and the seventeenth to brother Lars Jensen's home. The eighteenth I went to Fredericia and held a meeting, then walked during the night to Vejle again. Nineteenth I went to brother Beck's home where I stopped in Greys during the evening. The twentieth I was at brother Larsen's again. On the twenty first I went to "Store Limvie" where a great many of the saints were assembled in prayer. Much joy and satisfaction was prevalent there. And on the twenty second I visited a large number of the saints in their homes. The twenty third I walked to Vejle and the next day I went to Greys. The next day there was a large gathering of the saints and the Lords Spirit of the occasion was felt in great abundance.

The twenty seventh I walked to Alborg together with brother C. Larsen, we arrived on the morning of July twenty ninth. August first the conference was held and many good principals of the gospel were given to the enjoyment and uplifting of all. August fourth I stayed with the saints here in the city of Alborg. The fifth I and several saints went to Keldbygaarden. On the sixth a priesthood counsel was held. Elder F. G. Forsgren and several other elders were present. Many of the principals of the gospel and instructions were given.

The seventh I stayed at brother Lund's. On the eighth we had a very good meeting and then I returned to Alborg. The ninth I stayed in the city and in the morning at two A.M. on the tenth we all went aboard a little ship which a brother had bought for the purpose of sailing with the traveling Elders. We started our journey to Copenhagen, where we arrived in the evening of August eleventh. We stayed at my brothers home at Strandvejen. A conference was held on the twelveth, it started on this date and lasted until the sixteenth.

Reports were given by the brethren regarding their missions. Many good instructions were given. The brethren who had been called to receive the Priesthood were ordained the sixteenth. Several of the brethren and I visited my brother Jorgen Jacobsen. A letter was written to my mother's brother. August eighteenth a priesthood counsel was called that lasted until the late hours of the evening. Very good advice and gospel teachings given under the influence of the spirit of the Lord. The nineteenth we went aboard our ship Loven (the lion). It was loaded with saints who accompanied us on our trip about a mile from the city, where we met a fishing boat that took them back home.

The rest of us sailed on with a good wind to Roglemose on Fyen to Lars Jensen's, where we arrived the twenty first and helped this brother harvest his corn.

The twenty second a conference was held in Fredericia, and the twenty third some changes were made for the best of the missionaries. Brother Jorgensen and I were assigned to labor on Fyen and V. Andersen on Langeland. We sailed thereafter in the Loven to Fyen. The twenty fourth Brother Jorgensen and I went to my fathers home. The twenty fifth and twenty sixth I stayed home and helped my father with his work.

August twenty seventh brother Jorgensen and I went to brother Lehn's where we held a nice meeting. Brother Jorgensen went to Nyborg and I went home, where I found my father doubting this work. I prayed very humbly to the Lord several times and then my father felt better. The twenty eighth I wrote a letter to my fiance. The twenty ninth we held fast meeting and partook of the sacrament. On the thirtieth I still continued fasting and praying. The thirty first I bore testimony to several of our friends of the Lords blessings to us and wrote a letter to brother Jorgensen.

September first, second, and third, I stayed at my fathers home, then on the fifth we held a meeting to bear our testimony. I was sick on the sixth and brother Jorgensen came and we held meeting. On the seventh and eighth I and brother Jorgensen went around talking with the people. Then brother Jorgensen and I on the ninth went to Hemmerslev, and asked the people in town for permission to hold a meeting, but none dared to permit it for fear of their priest. So on the tenth we went to Sonderso and, we talked to people about the gospel, then walked from there to Hosbaekhusene and stayed at Jacob's place. The eleventh we went together to Pastor Larsen's at Stroby, bore a testimony to him about the first principals of the gospel. He said that he believed that some of our teachings were true, but a part of it was false. I stayed on in Fyen preached the gospel and baptized some. I am unable to give a complete account as my diary for a period has become lost.

In December 1852 my parents started their journey to Zion, ( Utah territory, North America).

My father was born the twenty ninth of November 1795, in Vellinge, Fyen, and my mother, Maren Kirstine Pedersen (**Pedersdatter**), was born the twenty seventh of January 1794 in Sverup Molle, Vigerslev, Fyen, Denmark.

I supervised their departure and the home of my parents, but still attended to my mission duties and made good progress as president of Fyen, Langeland, and Taasinge districts for which I was always very happy. April the twenty fourth, 1853 I was married by the district justice, Knudsen with the previously mentioned girl, Maren Katherine Christensen (**Christensdatter**) which took place in Odense. After that we went to my house in Trostrup, Korup, where we were then married by Elder A. Andersen according to the order of the church. A large meeting was held at which several brethren and I spoke. The same day my brother, Peder Hansen and Karen Pedersen (**Pedersdatter**) were married the same way. December twenty sixth, 1853 we left after turning over my mission duties to my brother. We left Denmark and arrived at Liverpool. Here our son Lars Christian Hansen died the sixteenth of January 1854. My wife gave birth to another son, who was named Joseph Christian Hansen, born January sixteenth 1854 in Liverpool. After about two weeks stay, we departed in the sailing vessel "Benjamin Adams" on which seven or eight hundred Latter Day Saints were passengers. On this voyage my wife suffered much with sickness which was a great trial for me, as it was difficult to find a woman who nursed, so our little son could be breast fed. After seven weeks we landed at New Orleans, in the blessed land of America, after having crossed the Atlantic ocean and up the lovely Mississippi river, on the banks of which beautiful gardens were planted with trees that only can be grown in countries with climates like here. I felt an inexpressible joy and happiness on entering this beautiful country about which I had read so much. This country where so many great things had been done.

We sailed up the river to St. Louis, here my wife regained her health which was a great joy to me as well as a relief, for she was able to nurse our baby. The river banks here were as before very beautiful. Orange trees and other fruit trees were growing in the beautiful landscaped gardens. We now went aboard another steam boat, which sailed up the river to Kansas, where we camped in a forest. Here my wife received a child whose mother died during childbirth, who with our own child had sufficient breast feeding. This child's father was Jens Pedersen who had emigrated from Sjaelland. The child lived however only a couple of weeks. Cholera had just started up the river and the child caught it and died. Do to this communicative disease my half brother, Jorgen Jacobsen and several of his children died and was buried in this forest. A daughter of my brother, Peder Hansen and his wife Karen also died here. Karen was also very sick so we naturally thought she would die too. My brother Peder her husband and I even selected a place for her body when we buried their daughter Anne Kirstine, but soon she was better and lived.

Our camp was soon moved to another forest by the name of Westpole, thinking that it would be more healthy, and the health of the camp seemed to improve now.

I was appointed captain of the camp, which assignment I had until arrival at the Great Salt Lake Valley. It consisted of seeing to it that there was order in camp etc. While we stayed in this forest my wife and I wrote letters to our relatives in Denmark. We spent a great deal of time reading the D and C while waiting for the oxen, wagons, and other supplies to arrive.

I spent much time pondering over the laws as revealed by the Lord. Here died the little child previously mentioned we had fostered. Would the parents know where we laid it.

A part of the company was removed from the forest as we received our oxen and wagons we had been waiting for. I was assigned as temporary leader for those who came there until brother H. P. Olsen arrived with the rest of our party. The company was organized as follows, H.P. Olsen as camp captain, brother Bent Nielsen as wagon captain. The company composed of sixty wagons and was divided in six groups and each group with its captain. With every wagon was four oxen, two cows, besides a certain number of reserve oxen. While we camped here my wife took very sick that lasted to June twenty ninth when she died.

Because of the sickness of my wife, I had many difficulties as I had to carry her to and from the wagon in addition of caring for our little child, besides my camp assignment which caused me to get sick. I regained my health shortly after my wives death.

After a couple of days travel we had to send back for more oxen, which we received from the church. My mentally disturbed brother, Jorgen P. Hansen resisted to go with us after the first days departure and he would not follow, but demanded to have his clothes from the wagon. I tried to persuade him to come along until the wolves ate his body. Several of the brethren tried to persuade him and even offered that he could drive all the way but of no avail. I then consulted with our captain, Brother Olsen, who after careful consideration said that we should leave him, as he supposed that he, after our departure, would go to the closest city and seek employment. We did this, but while we waited in camp for the oxen we should have from the church we received the rumor that my brother was still lying there, and as I now was alone without our leader, I called the company together and counseled with them. The result was that some one would go back to him bringing along a rope with which to tie him up, if he refused now willingly to come, but as he saw and heard this when they approached, he consented to come along.

After receiving our reserve oxen, we continued our travel across the desert. In the beginning we went a new way where the grass was extremely tall and plentiful, which was very helpful for the cattle. The beautiful vast plains laid before us, which at some places were covered with forests, and in between we also came to rivers and small creeks. My brother Peder Hansen got sick and died in June. We arrived soon after to the regular used road, that took us by Fort Laramie. To this point the prairie has been level plains, but now it became more rocky and mountainous. We passed the peculiar rock formation named Chimney Rock. We came later by Independence Rock, and soon after we reached the very unusual rock formation, formed by nature called the Devils Gate. It is a great rock formation that is divided all the way through making an opening for the sweet water river to go on its merry way. There was a whole days many wonders of nature to see, which thrilled ones every sight. And especially Echo Canyon which we also came through. It is very narrow and through runs a good stream. The road is partly dugout or cut out of the banks of that stream. When one looks to the right it is like some ancient buildings or ruins. The color of the rock formations are red, yellow and grey, and among them the ever beautiful cedar trees besides many types of trees, which gives it all a very romantic and interesting sight.

I feel and understand by all of this, partly the greatness and power of the Lord by viewing his handy work. We crossed the large and smaller mountains and entered in through



Emigration Canyon, where my father came to meet us. We were very happy to see each other in the camp of Zion, the gathering place of Gods children. My father had now another wife by the name of Dortha. My mother had died aboard the ship that took them from England to America, but because they were so close to land she was buried in America. October fifth 1854 we came into the great Salt Lake valley and the beautiful laid out city. It was a joy to see and to realize all of the work had already been done in so short a time they had lived in the valley. I felt very thankful to the Lord for his protection and for the comfortable trip we had with the exception of the trial I went through when He called my wife and little son home and the difficulties with my brother Jorgen P. Hansen. But the joy and satisfaction of arriving here to Zion healed these wounds. We accompanied my father home to the fifth ward. On October sixth I went to general conference where I heard the prophet of the Lord for the first time, Brigham Young and despite the fact I could not understand him or the Apostles talks given in the English language, I rejoiced over seeing them and being under the influence of the spirit of our God.

My father received from me two oxen, one wagon, one cow and a tent as payment for his house in Denmark. I had another oxen which I bought a half city lot. After a short stay with my father we rented an apartment in the tenth ward. October twenty second I renewed, according to the order of the church, my covenants by baptism. I now pondered a great deal about what I should do for my future and choosing a helpmate, one who could be a mother for my little son.

I then went to the prophet Jedidiah M. Grant and asked for counsel concerning the wife of my brother, Peder Hansen, who was deceased. Karen and I were advised to marry for time. We received a recommend form the bishop of the tenth ward who married us for time. I spent my time working for people, separating corn from straw and thus was able to support myself and family.

November eighteenth I was recommended to be ordained a seventy and a member of the twenty first quorum.

I bought ten acres of land out by Millcreek and paid for it with merchandise I had brought along. I worked for three years, but had no success with it. The saleratus damaged the seed. I bought a cow that died when she gave birth to a calf (the calf died also). In the spring of 1855 I spent my time hauling brick to build homes with. I built a home on my lot in the second ward and when it was dedicated by me as a residence. I moved in with my wife Karen and our little son Joseph. We now lived in our new home in Zion. From then on my time was spent partly working for other people and partly taking care of my land.

February third 1856 my deceased wife, Maren Katherine Christensen (Christensdatter) was sealed to me for time and all eternity by Apostle Erastus Snow in a dedicated room in the home of the Prophet Brigham Young and in his presence. Then known as the Gardo house on South Temple and State. The marriage took place in Danish, and my present wife, Karen, daughter of Peder Andersen and Maren Johansen (Johansdatter) were sealed to me for time.

In the fall of 1855 Caroline Knudsen (Knudsdatter) arrived, and as I knew her from Denmark, she visited us in our home. One day when I left the meeting brother Snow came to the

school house and gave a talk about faithfulness. As an example, he said that those who had received the gospel in the beginning, of its coming to Denmark, and remained faithful since, would just as sure be ahead of those who followed after as those who went on to California, several years before others. It was the same way with old Israel. The first born among them had privileges before those who came after.

This talk together with her knowledge of polygamy as well as her confidence in me rested upon her mind, and in order to know the will of the Lord concerning this matter, she went to her brother asking him to go to me and have me ask the prophet of the Lord, if it was his will that this should happen. On Sunday morning I went up to brother Snow to know the will of the Lord, and if it was, I would feel satisfied. His answer was that this was the correct way to receive wives. He would present it to President Young, who by the spirit of inspiration would make it known as to the will of the Lord. The answer came that it was right of me to marry her. I sent word to her and together we went to the office of President Young, where she was sealed to me for time and all eternity, the third of February 1856, and the same day two other marriages took place. After the marriage we had a little party consisting of my family, and our friends, where we had a good discussion about the gospel principals and enjoyed a meal of love.

Since the grasshoppers ate the seed, there was a scarcity of getting the necessities of life, I worked for the church and for people in general.

The twenty eight of April at four A.M. my wife Karen gave birth to a son and in the blessing by the bishop, he was Peder P. Hansen. We had very hard times and times were so difficult that food was very scarce. I went north after planting my land to earn food for my family or sell some of my clothes for food. By hard labor I was able to earn a little, but this was not sufficient. I therefore had to go out in the field and dig roots and cut greens which we ate. At harvest time my wife Caroline and I went in the fields to gather corn which Karen ground in a coffee mill and prepared food from and in this way we sustained life. Because of good crops, times did get better. September twentieth 1856 Caroline gave birth to a son at six thirty P.M. he was blessed immediately as we feared he would not live. But November the ninth he was blessed by the bishop and given the name Benjamin Hansen.

The following winter I worked partly for the people and partly on the canal that was built for the purpose of sailing mountain rocks from cottonwood canyon to Salt Lake City for Temple building. In the spring of 1857 a reformation was initiated by Jedidiah M. Grant. The missionaries were sent out of the territory and admonished to cry repentance in the settlements. My wives and I renewed our covenants by according to instructions. February twenty fifth, in order to be prepared to inter into the house of the Lord. February twenty sixth we received our endowments and took upon ourselves sacred covenants. This made a very deep impression upon my mind and I hope it will remain clear to me throughout all eternity.

In the spring the united states organized an army and sent against us. The Nauvoo Legion was ordered ready to defend us in event of an attack. I was called as a captain of ten. President Brigham Young called a great gathering and told us of the importance that everyone filled his obligations given him in the Nauvoo Legion, for he had no intention to be imprisoned.

I have never heard the Prophet speak under the influence of the spirit more powerful than at this time.

I rented a farm home in Millcreek from brother Jeffersen who was called to go on a mission. My wife and I stayed there from the twenty seventh of June as I was in the city for military maneuvers and likewise July fourth and several other times for exercises.

My first wife stayed with me at this time. On the nineteenth and twentieth of September we were on the other side of the River Jordan and practiced camping. The twenty ninth the regiment met at the music hall ready to go out on the desert. Here several forceful talks were given. We stayed overnight in this hall. September thirtieth I was permitted to return home, but should be ready to meet by the first signal.

The signal was the hoisting of a flag. I had to meet every evening for orders and stay in this hall during the nights until the fourth of October, when we were permitted to stay at home, but still meet morning and evening. This lasted to November ninth. The tenth we were ordered to leave. It snowed all day. We camped at the foot of Little Mountain. It was very cold there and many got sick and had to return home again. November eleventh we crossed over Little Mountain and camped by the Great Mountain. The twelfth we crossed this mountain but with very much difficulty because of much snow. On the thirteenth we marched to bitter camp, and the fourteenth on to weber creek. On the fifteenth we came to Echo Canyon and camped. November sixteenth I supervised the guard. The seventeenth I went up Echo Canyon and visited several of our batteries which were placed as a defense against attack. I spoke to several of my acquaintances and the eighteenth to nineteenth helped my company in building a house in which we lived rather comfortable. The twentieth we were on front line duty, and the next day to practice and next day being Sunday we rested. Then we had to line up morning and evening to the twenty fifth at which day we worked. The next day we all rested for our trip, the next day our battalion went out seven or eight miles to watch our cattle. On the twenty eight we started building a stone house into which we moved. It was much better than the first house. The thirtieth all was quiet so we received orders to return home, which made us very happy. On arrival home found all well and happy.

On September thirteenth 1857 there arrived a handcart company to the valley in which was a sister Karen Andersen (Andersdatter), who stayed at my home and now after my return from Echo Canyon was sealed to me for time and all eternity in the home of President Young December twentieth. She is the daughter of Anders Andersen and Johanne Marie.

In the Spring of 1858 all the northern settlements moved father south. The reason was that we would rather escape the enemy than be killed. My two first wives moved to Spanish Fork and several men were ordered to stay to see what would happen, I was one of them and kept my wife Karen Andersen (Andersdatter) with me. If the troops would enter we were ordered to burn our cities as an offering to the Lord. In the month of May I was permitted to go down and see my family whom I found very well. Some time after the peace agreement was signed and the enemy troops were permitted to enter. They built a city called camp Flayry, and our people moved back to their homes. But my family and I remained in Spanish Fork. I rented

some cultivated land and received crop rent of two fifths of what I produced to farm it. Later I bought this land.

I then worked part of the time for other people and then on building a house.

In the mean time my wife Caroline gave birth to a son on the seventh of July at five A.M. and bishop Butler blessed and named him Jens Hansen.

July eighteenth Karen Pedersen gave birth to a daughter being also blessed and named by him, Maren Kirstine P. Hansen. And on January the twentieth 1859 my wife Karen Andersen (Andersdatter) gave birth to a daughter also blessed by Bishop Butler February fourth and named her Karen Catherine A. Hansen. In this year of 1859 I had much misfortune with my cattle.

Bishop Butler set me apart as President of the Danish saints in Spanish Fork. April twenty ninth 1860 Karen Pedersen (Pedersdatter) gave birth to a daughter blessed and named Sarah P. Hansen by the bishop. On May ninth Caroline gave birth to a daughter and named Anne Marie Hansen.

I sold my house and lot in Salt Lake City and my land in Millcreek and bought land in Spanish Fork. I was now in a position, I could work for my self. Then on January twenty second 1861, Karen Andersen gave birth to a daughter blessed by Bishop Thurber and named Jensine A. Hansen.

In the fall sister Marie Sorensen (Sorensdatter) arrived with a company of church wagons, who after working in the city for a while came to my house. March eight 1862 my wife Karen Andersen (Andersdatter) and sister Marie Sorensen (Sorensdatter) and I went to Salt Lake City, where they received their endowments, after that Marie Sorensen (Sorensdatter) was sealed to me for time and all eternity by the prophet Daniel H. Wells. March thirteenth my wife Caroline gave birth to a son being blessed and named Abraham J. Hansen by the bishop. On April fifth my wife Karen Pedersen (Pedersdatter) gave birth to a son also blessed and named Isaac P. Hansen by the bishop.

I was kept very busy farming this year and attending to the Danish meetings where I gave counsel and teachings according to my position. Then the seventeenth of December 1862 my wife and I traveled by our own transportation to Box Elder and visited my father, we had not seen for quite some time. He received us with much joy and we had many good talks about gospel principals. We then went on to Cache Valley, visited my wives sister Kirsten, who was also very glad to see us. After a couple of days my brother Hans Hansen drove us to Logan, where we visited my brother Niels Hansen who also received us with much joy. We had many confidential conversations. My relatives there wanted us to move to Cache Valley, I liked the valley, but we wanted to think it over. Caroline and I agreed that she should stay there a couple of weeks and I returned home and found the rest of the family in good condition. The fourteenth of January 1863 my wife Karen Andersen (Andersdatter) gave birth to a daughter, blessed by Bishop A. R. Thurber and named Anne Kerstine A. Hansen.

I did very little without first seeking advise, and so I asked bishop Thurber if I should move away from the city and up to my relatives? He encouraged me to stay, as he felt I could be of more service to the church here than up there. So I felt then that it was right to obey, and so because of this I wrote my wife to return. My brothers brought her to Salt Lake City where I met them with our carriage. May the sixth my wife Marie gave birth to a daughter blessed and named Caroline Hansen by Bishop Thurber. During the coming year I took care of my temporal and spiritual duties. And then on the twenty ninth of January 1865 my wife Karen Andersen gave birth to a son, being blessed and named Jacob A. Hansen by Bishop Thurber. Shortly after our sons birth my wife Karen Pederson (Pedersdatter) traveled to Sanpete and visited many of my old acquaintances living around in these settlements. I brought along molasses which we made and traded it for wheat. After three weeks we returned home and found all well.

I had now bought more land and had it well stocked with cattle, and had people working for me. So I decided to build a house on our property in Spanish Fork over by the river. And also here in the city across the street from where we lived. One day I went out to plow on the land near the river, and my wife Karen Pedersen (Pedersdatter) came with the news that I was called to a conference in Salt Lake City, to go on a mission. my call was to Scandinavia. I soon drove home to get further information. On getting close to home a number of my children came toward me, I took them up into my arms and the thought that I was soon to leave them made me feel my responsibility to them as well as my duty to my church. When I returned home I went directly to see Bishop Thurber and told him of my call and he said it was true. On getting back home, my families and I began to make preparations for my departure.

My property now consisted of twenty five acres planted to barley, oats, wheat, and corn. I had two carriages, five plows, eight oxen, seven cows and some young cattle, one mare and thirty seven sheep. A house and city lots. I felt good about being able to leave then under such good conditions.

His lifes motto was; "He who seeks a mansion in the sky, must watch his purpose with a steadfast eye."

A patriarchal blessing given at Spanish Fork, Utah, March 18th 1859 by Isaac Morley, and sealed upon the head of Jens Hansen, son of Hans and Maren Kirstine Jorgensen (Jorgensdatter). Born in Otterup Parish, Odense, Fyen, Denmark, the thirteenth of October, 1823.

Brother Jens, in the name of Lord , I place my hands upon your head and I seal your fathers blessing upon you after the pattern of the Patriarchal order, and I bless you in your birthright, which obligations are the redemption of your forefathers. These gifts have been given you through your creators blessings. You are destined to enjoy all of Abrahams sons blessings. Keep them in your heart for the welfare of your forefathers, who have now gone beyond the veil, and you will be honored in your birthright, as the first who have embraced the Gospel to be a Savior for your ancestors. You are of Joseph, who was sold into Egypt. Your heart has often been touched with the same feelings and sympathies which was in his heart. Your heart will often be touched with compassion. You will be moved when you become familiar with your ancestors, who have gone behind the veil.

Let the virtues of faith be nourished in your heart, and you will be the keys of these virtues see the relationship that ties you to those who are on the other side. I bless you as a patriarch, as the head of your family, that you like Abraham may stand as head of a numerous offspring, that your name, your remembrance, your Priesthood may be extended with honor from generation to generation. I bless you with the fruits of the earth and of your body, and I seal you to the enjoyment of life of the Eternal in your fathers Mansions.

So may it come to pass. Amen.

In the early part of his diary, Grandfather tells of his desire to know if the gospel is true. So he prayed for more light and knowledge regarding the same. While in the attitude of prayer he was seized by evil forces similar to the Prophet Joseph Smith. After a struggle he overcame. Then he asked the Lord if he could be sanctified and bring souls unto the master? His answer was yes.

A list of his four missions in and to his native land of Denmark.

First local on the island of Fyen, 15 November 1851, set apart by Erastus Snow, released 26 December 1853, arrived home 5 October 1854.

Second appointed 6 April 1865, Salt Lake City set apart by President Brigham Young, left 22 May 1865, arrived home 10 October 1867.

Third appointed 6 October 1878, Salt Lake City set apart by John Taylor, left 10 October 1878, arrived home 25 September 1879.

Fourth appointed 2 May 1885, Salt Lake City set apart by F. D. Richards, left 26 May 1885, arrived home 26 Jun 1888.

He was the husband of fourteen wives and father of thirty seven children; one died at birth.

Wife #1 Maren Katherine Christensen (Christensdatter) had two children

1. Lars Christian Hansen
2. Joseph Christian Hansen

Wife #2 Karen Pedersen (Pedersdatter) had seven children

3. Peter Petersen Hansen
4. Maren Kristen Petersen Hansen
5. Sarah Petersen Hansen
6. Isaac Petersen Hansen
7. Emma Jane Petersen Hansen
8. Hyrum Petersen Hansen

Wife #3 Caroline Jorgensen Knudsen (Knudsdatter) had five children

9. Benjamin Jorgensen Hansen
10. James Jorgensen Hansen
11. Anne Marie Jorgensen Hansen
12. Abraham Jorgensen Hansen
13. Caroline Jorgensen Hansen

Wife #4 Karen Andersen (Andersdatter) had seven children

14. Maren Katherine Andersen Hansen

15. Jensine Andersen Hansen
  16. Annie Kirstina Andersen Hansen
  17. Jacob Andersen Hansen
  18. Theodora Andersen Hansen
  19. Erastus Andersen Hansen
  20. Hannah Dorthea Andersen Hansen
- Wife #5 Maren Sorensen (Sorensdatter) had eight children
21. Wilhelmine Sorensen Hansen
  22. Ephraim Sorensen Hansen
  23. Nephi Sorensen Hansen
  24. Elnora Elizabeth Sorensen Hansen
  25. Albert Peter Sorensen Hansen
  26. Enock Alfred Sorensen Hansen
  27. Elias Sorensen Hansen
  28. Daniel F. Sorensen Hansen
- Wife #6 Maren Katrine Larsen (Larsdatter) no children
- Wife #7 Maren Bishoff Jacobsen (Jacobsdatter) had 1 child which died at birth
29. Jacob Bishoff Hansen
- Wife #8 Mette Marie Hansen (Hansdatter) had two children
30. Kirstene Marie Hansen
  31. Alma Christian Hansen
- Wife #9 Dorthea Kirstine Johnsen (Johnsdatter) had four children
32. John Lehi Johnsen Hansen
  33. Heber Johnsen Hansen
  34. Emily Dorthea Johnsen Hansen
  35. Hans Ezra Johnsen Hansen
- Wife #10 Karen Fredericksen (Fredericksdatter) no children
- Wife #11 Mary Kirstine Rasmusen (Rasmusdatter) had 1 child
36. Rasmine Rebbecca K. Hansen
- Wife #12 Camilla Larsen (Larsdatter) had one child
37. James Emanuel Larsen Hansen
- Wife #13 Martha Christensen (Christensdatter) no children
- Wife #14 Anna Elizabeth Nielsen (Nielsdatter) had no children

Many ordinances were performed in the Logan Temple for each of his wives families, plus about one hundred of relatives and friends including his father families, and many we have been unable to identify or connect up as yet.

May I be permitted to reminisce right here just a little: In his diary grandfather tells of trading molasses they had made. I remember the old cane mill in the north field, north of town in which they juiced the sugar cane, boiled it in a large tank under which a fire was built to cook and skim the juice, under a bowery built over it for shade and to protect it from the weather. We would take the skimmings and make lasses candy.

They also raised broom corn for the broom factory. When they secured the grain binder, the women would come with large aprons and glean at the corners of the field where the grain would be trampled some in turning and also the large bull wheel rolled it down.

I believe I am one of the oldest ones still living to see grandfather alive. In the month of June 1897 he was struck by a hay pole while watching the Miller boys raise the pole to stack hay at the Miller home.

He lay unconscious for about a week and had his bedroom near the hallway of the Old White house in the home where his families lived. I slept on a cot in the hallway so I could watch him, I was nearly six years old at the time. Once he regained consciousness long enough to speak to me. He always called me:, "mien strar olscall". And he gave me a charge; " I am counting on you to take care of this work". Died 28 June 1897.

I am only trying to do my duty to one who in my estimation has no peer, and has left us a Heritage unequalled by few people today. Wilford Abraham Hansen.

An APPENDIX to the previous sheets with a few explanations regarding names as used in Danish records and the English equivalent as in general usage.



*Jens Hansen*  
*Patriarchal Blessing*

A patriarchal blessing given by Isaac Morley at Spanish Fork, Utah March 18, 1859, and sealed upon the head of Jens Hansen, born October 13, 1823 in Otterup Parish, Odense, Fyen, Denmark, son of Hans and Maren Kirstine Jorgensen.

Brother Jens! In the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, I lay my hands upon your head, to seal upon you a Father's Blessing according to the Patriarchal Order of God. You are of the tribe of Ephraim, through the loins of Joseph who was sold into Egypt. I bless you in your birthright as the one chosen to release your forefather's. And these gifts have been given to you through the Lords Blessings, that you are to be the Savior of your progenitors.

You are entitled to all of the blessings of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; to keep them in your heart, for your forefather's who have gone beyond the veil, and you will be honored in your birthright as the first spirit, who accepted the gospel. And because you have often been touched with the same spirit of sympathy and feelings that was in the heart of Abraham.

I bless you as a patriarch to your families, that you like unto Abraham, you will stand at the head of your posterity. And your heart will be touched with tenderness when you meet those who have passed on before you.

By the convictions in your heart, you will see through the keys of relationship that binds you to those that are on the other side.

And I bless you to stand from generation to generation, as a patriarch, like unto Abraham of old to be the head of all of your posterity.

The fruits of the earth and the elements of Eternity, I seal upon you with immortal lives in your father's mansions. And these are your blessings. Amen

## *History of Jens Hansen*

Jens Hansen (Jorgensen) was born the 13th of October, 1823 at Otterup, Odense, Denmark, the eldest son of Hans Jorgensen and Maren Kierstine Pedersen (Pedersdatter). Because of his parent's large family, he soon traveled throughout the countryside, aiding in their support and thereby also gaining a very eloquent education.

At military age he served in the Danish calvary. During this service he received a very severe knee injury. While convalescing at home, he met two Mormon missionaries. He believed their story. Through his faith, his injury was instantly healed.

On August 25, 1851, he was baptized and ordained to the priesthood and then served as a local missionary. His father previously had, had a dream and was shown that Jens was to be a savior to his household.

Soon after accepting the gospel, persecutions began. Intoxicated men with clubs surrounded the house. Being promised a thrashing, he and his companion Elder Andersen, left the house and hid in a ditch. The pursued prayed that they would not be found. After abusing the family, the pursuers came in search of the pursued. About midnight they gave up and the pursued returned to the house. They all joined in songs of praise for being counted worthy to have their prayers answered. Shortly after this, the family left Denmark for Liverpool and sailed for America, landing at New Orleans, then up the river to St. Louis, leaving there June 15, 1854 for Utah.

Jens Hansen served three missions to his native land.

He was asked by President Brigham Young to settle in Spanish Fork. Our common ancestor, Jens Hansen married 14 wives, 4 of which bore no children, none bore a total of 37 children and one had only a still birth.

## *Resolutions of respect*

From the presidents and members of the 19th quorum of Seventies of The Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter Day Saints, to the family of the late Senior President of that Quorum.  
Brother James (Jens) Hansen

Whereas, God in his infinite wisdom, has taken away a devoted husband and father, while yet in health and vigor of life, having just returned from the old people's annual festival.

Whereas, we realize your deep sorrow in this hour of bereavement and recognize the magnitude of your loss, in the removal of one who was ever able to give a loving word of counsel or advice in time of need; and we, the members of his quorum, sharing that loos in common with you.

Whereas, Brother James (Jens) Hansen was a man of more than ordinary ability and wisdom, and had the full confidence of those with whom he associated through out a long career of usefulness; he carried several medals of honor and esteem from the King of Denmark, whom he served with honor and distinction; he heard the message of the everlasting gospel, and forsook all to obey it; gathering with the latter day saints in 1854, he has ever been held in the highest esteem by the church authorities and community in general; he performed three missions to his native land, covering a period of about nine years, traveling without purse or script, and fulfilling the same with honor and respect,

Whereas, our deceased brother, by purity of life and conversation, by kindness of spirit, patience and fidelity in the discharge of the many duties of his calling, has inspired nobler views of life and won the love and confidence of his co-laborers.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the members of this quorum hereby express their sympathy with the family of our deceased brother in the loss of a father and counselor, and our earnest prayer that the peace and blessing of our Heavenly Father may be with them abundantly to comfort and sustain them in their bereavement and throughout all their future years; and that all of us may be enabled to imitate our deceased brother in every good word and work.

Resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be spread on the record of the quorum and that copies be presented to members of his family.

Signed in behalf of the quorum,  
Andrew Engberg, President  
William Robertson, Clerk.

# *Biography of Elder Jens Hansen*

For Private Circulation

In Salt Lake City

Published by the Family 1930

Dedication: In honor of our father, whose life we revere and respect with pride. He went about his business with a smile on his face and a heart full of faith and took the changes and chances of this mortal life like a man, facing rough and smooth alike as it came.

He who seeks a mansion in the sky must watch his purpose with a steadfast eye.

Let us all join hands and meet as one big happy family in our home above.

Among the most prominent and outstanding characters of early Scandinavian church history, Elder Jens Hansen must be accorded a conspicuous and important place. Like most men who have their mark in the world, Brother Hansen came from humble but honest and upright parentage. Having commenced his first hard battles in life in an obscure village in Denmark, he became later a leader among men, both in religious and political activities. He was yet in his strong manhood when war broke out between Denmark and Germany, and he took a gallant part in the defense of his native fatherland, and was decorated for his bravery.

The following life sketch of this wonderful warrior and peacemaker is mostly gathered and translated from his own journal.

I am the oldest son of Hans Jorgensen and Maren Kierstine Pedersen (Pedersdatter), and was born in Otterup parish on the island of Fyen, Denmark, October 13, 1823. On account of the rather straightened circumstances of my parents, I was forced when very young to engage in a certain business that made it necessary for me to travel around considerably in the country districts, and when old enough I engaged with my father in hard physical labor.

When about 19 years of age I went to Copenhagen, where for ten years I was in the employ of a wholesale merchant.

On the 10th day of May, 1846 I commenced military service in the first regiment of artillery, after having been previously notified to prepare for military service. After having finished my school instructions, I served for some time as a gunner and was then sent to the training school. While in the riding school, I met one day with a mishap, when the horse I was riding fell and I got between the animal and the rampart, causing my leg to be badly squeezed and one of my knees injured, which necessitated my being in the hospital for some time. However shortly afterwards I had become strong enough to be able to repair to the theater of war, for war had meantime broke out between Denmark and the Duchies. With the battery Bruun I was put on shore at Snoghoj, Jutland, where I got horse and saddle, and was appointed commandant of the cannon. The day following (April 9, 1848) I took part in the battle of Bov, one Danish mile north of Flensborg, wherein the Sleswic war the first shot was fired at the enemy. From then on I took part in most of the greater battles of the war and was later decorated

with the order of Daneborg for exhibited bravery during the renowned great battle of Dybbol in June 1848. In the spring of 1850, while as a soldier I was quartered at Aasum, in the neighborhood of Odense, I became acquainted with a young lady by name of Maren Katrine Christensen (Christensdatter), whom I married on April 24, 1853. When the war in the beginning of the year 1851 had concluded, I went with my battery to Copenhagen, and on March 13th was granted home furlough, after the victorious army had been given many demonstrations of honor for exhibited courage and bravery in battle by both the king and several commanders. After having made a short visit with my relatives on the Island of Fyen, I secured employment in Copenhagen, where I shortly afterwards made acquaintance with the Latter Day Saints.

The first missionary who ever called on me at my room was Brother Chr. Christiansen. During our conversation he happened to lay his hand on my knee that had been injured, as before related. The thought immediately arose in my mind, that if this stranger was really a servant of God, like unto the messengers of Christ in former days, then the healing power through his touch might operate on me, and imbued with that belief, I removed the bandage that I had not gone without for three years, and from that moment I was entirely healed of my weakness.

Meanwhile I had often prayed to the Lord that I might receive a distinct testimony regarding the truth of the new doctrine, which was really given unto me, for one day while I had been devotedly engaged in earnest prayer, I heard a voice saying "If thou wilt receive that doctrine, which by men is called Mormonism, thou shalt preach the gospel to many people." "Thou shalt preach" I said half laughingly to myself, and I rather doubted what the spirit of the Lord had told me. But my prayer had been answered and I knew now what I had to do.

I became a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints by baptism on August 25, 1851, Elder Christensen performing the ordinance and since my time was not very much occupied by temporal labor, I read and studied extensively the bible, the book of Mormon and other church works, thereby gaining considerable knowledge of the principles of the gospel. I soon experienced a heartfelt longing to preach the gospel, and often prayed to the Lord that privilege might be accorded unto me. One day when I was alone in my room and earnestly pleaded with the Lord to grant me the privilege of becoming a laborer in his vineyard, I was suddenly seized by the power of the adversary, which endeavored to destroy me and tied my tongue so that I could not pray. However, after a hard bodily struggle, I succeeded in conquering the evil, and was afterwards enraptured in a vision, in which I saw the Heavens opened, and in the spirit I beheld the Savior, with the prints of the nails in his hands and feet, and who said to me, "Thy sins are forgiven thee, and thy prayers granted. From now on thy labor shall be to bring souls unto God until I come." The darkness of this world was then presented before my sight in the shape of a deep well, through which I must pass to be able to gain my exaltation. I also saw the glory of the next world, and a crown was placed upon my head, with the declaration that that was the reward for my faithfulness. I was surrounded by a great host, which also received crowns, but these were all smaller than the one that was bestowed on me. The many that surrounded me gazed upon me with indescribable joy. All the while I was in possession of complete consciousness and could distinctly hear what was going on in the room below, which gave me greater joy and satisfaction than I had ever before experienced.

Shortly afterward I related the whole circumstance to Erastus Snow, who declared that it was from the Lord, who had a great work for me to perform, and that what I had beheld would be to me a great advantage in the future. My later experiences have confirmed the truthfulness of his word, for it has become my portion to go through trials and temptations of such a nature, that it surely would have been very difficult for me to endure, had this vision not constantly inspired me with renewed courage and increased strength, I believed at first that the great host I had seen with crowns on their head, represented those who through my preaching would receive the gospel and make themselves worthy to Eternal Life and exaltation, but the spirit of the Lord made known unto me many years later, that it alluded to my own family.

At a General Conference that was held in Copenhagen, November 15 and 16, 1851, I was ordained a Priest and together with Elder William Anderson was set apart to labor as a missionary on the Island of Fyen. We immediately set out for our field of labor, and commenced to converse with the people, selling tracts and holding meetings, which were generally well attended by fairly well attentive listeners. One of the first towns we visited on Fyen was Sulkendrup. As we were entering a certain house, a woman walked up to us, exclaiming " Here come my brethren". She had never seen us before, nor had we informed her whom we were. This woman's name was Gjertrud Hansen (Hansdatter), and I baptized her shortly afterward ( on December 5, 1851) she being the first fruit of mine and Elder Anderson's labor on Fyen.

We next visited my parents, who received us with joy, and held several well attended meetings. My father had dreamt a long time before this, that I should be a savior to his family, but had never understood the meaning thereof. One evening after I had addressed a large gathering, my father went into his garden, where he bent his knees and in earnest prayer pleaded with the Lord to give him understanding and discernment, as to whether the message which I was proclaiming was from God. When he again entered the house, the sign was given him, which caused his whole body to shake terribly, and he felt unworthy to enter the room in which I was sitting. With trembling voice and tear drenched eyes he now requested me to baptize him, which request was granted that same evening. My mother was baptized on the same occasion and a short time afterward four of my brothers together with several other people were also added to the fold by baptism.

Meanwhile a spirit of persecution began to make itself felt in the neighborhood, and the rabble banded themselves together for the purpose of doing us harm. One evening when we as was our custom, had held a meeting in my father's house, the place was surrounded by a big crowd of drunken men armed with clubs, who said that a certain priest had promised them money if they would give us a good thrashing. One of the mob, with a cudgel in his hand started for me, but I and Elder Anderson succeeded in slipping through the door and escaped through the field. My parents who remained in the house became now the objects for derision by the mob. They wrote with chalk on my father's back, and subjected him to a great deal of banter, but otherwise did him no bodily harm. The persecutors there upon ran out of the house for the purpose of finding me and my companion. We had hidden ourselves in a ditch behind a fence. Here we lay listening to their awful cursings and declarations that they would not return to their homes before they had killed us. We humbly prayed to the Lord that He would strike them with blindness, which literally happened, in as much as they did not find us, although they were

searching for us until after midnight. When they at last gave up the hunt, we repaired to the house, where we sang songs of praise to the Lord for our delivery, and felt exceedingly happy that we were found worthy to be persecuted for Christ's name's sake.

As we felt a burning desire that all should have the privilege of hearing the testimony. Elder Andersen and I went in opposite directions, he going to the south and I to the north. I called upon many of my relatives and friends, who listened to my testimony with joy, and several of them became afterwards faithful members of the Kingdom of God.

One day, while on the way to my father's house, I was, without knowing the reason, influenced to vigorously hasten my steps. But I had hardly entered the door before I knew the cause. My brother, Jorgen Peter, had been attacked by an evil spirit, under whose influence he was shaking in his whole body without cessation, and my mother was very much distressed over the occurrence. I stood awhile and observed him closely, and meditated on what the cause could possibly be for his hideous occurrence. I was impressed with the thought that he might have committed himself in some manner, and thus given the evil one an opportunity to attack him. After a short conversation with him, he admitted to me that when the priest had asked him if he had been baptized, he had answered "no". I mildly rebuked him, and then, as I had already been ordained an Elder, laid my hands on his head and commanded the evil one in the name of Jesus to leave him, which he immediately did. When we thus saw the power of God made manifest, the same as in the olden days, it made us very happy, for this the Lord be praised and honored.

I continued my activities with great success and became an instrument in the hand of God to bring many to acknowledge the truth. One day, when walking along the road between Nyborg and Svendborg, I heard a voice close by my side, which, after having called me by name said, "how do you dare to say:"Having been commissioned by Jesus Christ" when you baptize?" this voice made a strange impression upon me, but after having sincerely prayed to the Lord, my thoughts of performing the ordinance of baptism was absolutely correct.

On the 16th of march I organized the first branch of the church on the island of Fyen, giving it the name of Trostrup Korups's branch. I had earlier been set apart as president of the same by President Chr. Larsen.

It had also fallen to my lot, in the beginning of the year 1852, to be come the first missionary to promulgate the glad tidings on the Isle of Taasinge where I held several meetings and baptized many. One of these meetings, held on May 17th, in the Troennse school house, was attended by the priest, the school teacher, and by almost every inhabitant of that town, but the spirit of the Lord sustained me so that I was enabled in calmness to bear an excellent testimony. The following day I baptized the first two persons to embrace the gospel on the island. I was later invited to preach in the well known Valdemar's Castle, where the Lord of the manor treated me with the most consideration and even gave his name to be sent in as a subscriber to the "Scandinavians Sterne" (the Scandinavian star). Afterward, however this same gentleman became obdurate against the truth, and forbade the people to give me lodging. I went into the woods and fasted and prayed for the people, but when I later came to Troense, I found all the doors closed against me, which caused me much sorrow. The spirit of the Lord

confronted my soul, however, and seemed to say that the day would come when the inhabitants of this island should know that I was a messenger from the Lord, sent to them with the message of salvation.

In company with Elder Anderson, I also visited Thoro, where we held largely attended meeting at the tavern, and the people were so pleased with our preaching that they desired to appoint us their preachers, but when I alone sometime later made the island a visit, I was banished by the parish constable. This happened in June 1852.

I now continued my operations in the isle of Fyen, but in the month of July I went to Jutland, where I traveled around considerably on foot, and attended the conference in Aalborg, which was held on the first of August, after which I with several of the brethren took passage on the renowned little vessel, "Zion's Love" (the Lion of Zion) to Copenhagen, where I next attended the general conference, which lasted from the 12th to and including the 16th of August.

At the end of the same month I attended the conference held at Fredericia, and there after continued my mission activities on the Island of Fyen and surrounding isles with good success until I took my departure for Zion.

During my operations on the Island of Fyen, I had the opportunity to preach the first principles of the gospel to almost every citizen in Svendborg. All listened to my discourse with the greatest attention, with the exception of a certain dyer, who made various objections. This very much offended the chairman of the dyer's union, and the dyer was immediately expelled from that organization. I afterward answered a great number of questions that some of the people present propounded with respect to some false reports which already at that time had been circulated about the saints.

Because of the many baptisms that were performed, the people were incited to persecute us at several places. On a certain occasion, when I was holding a meeting in Svendborg, a mob thus started some mad pranks, and I had to sneak out the back door, climb over a wall and then leave the town, running through the fields, I was however pursued by several persons who had sworn that they would kill me, but I found at last protection at a house close by, and thereby escaped the intended fate. Late in the night I returned to town and retired to bed in the hall of a certain house, the people of which had gone to bed. During the night I had a glorious vision, in which I among other things saw John the Baptist, who came to give me comfort and consolation. I awoke with great joy in my soul. The Lord granted me many such instances, and it seemed to me that I was constantly surrounded by the angels of the Lord: yea at times it occurred to me as though the Holy Beings waited at my side to carry my prayers to the Lord.

While the work made headway and many were baptized, there were also some who fell away and lost their faith. Even my own father permitted himself to be influenced by evil rumors to such an extent that he on a certain occasion requested to be excommunicated. This naturally caused me great sorrow, but I withdrew to a secluded spot and prayed humbly to the Lord in my father's behalf, which had the desired effect. After having thus three times invoked the Lord's help, my father became a changed man. I found him with a blissful smile on his countenance



and a perfect satisfaction in his soul, and he together with my mother continued to be faithful to the day of their death. My parents left Denmark in December 1852, and father arrived in Utah the following year. Mother died while crossing the Atlantic. After having transferred my position as presiding Elder over Fyen, Langeland and Taasinge, to my brother Neils Hansen, I left Denmark in company with a large party of emigrants on the 26th of December 1853, and arrived in Liverpool, England on the following 9th of January. Here my wife gave birth to a son, on the 16th of January, 1854. After sojourning in England a couple of weeks, we continued our journey over the atlantic on the sailing vessel " Benjamin Adams" and arrived at New Orleans in the course of seven weeks, my wife was very sick on the journey. The cholera broke out in our camp after our arrival in Kansas, and among the great number that died were also my brother Jorgen and several of his children. Immediately there after we commenced our long journey across the plains with ox teams and wagons, during which I officiated as captain of the camp. My brother Peder Hansen became ill and died a few days after we commenced our travel through the desert; my wife, also was again attacked by sickness, and died on the 29th of July. After an otherwise successful journey we arrived in Salt Lake City on the 5th of October, 1854. My father who, resided in the fifth ward, came to meet us in the emigration canyon, to be permitted to again see and speak to him was indeed a joyful occasion. The day after our arrival, I attended the general conference in the tabernacle when I for the first time beheld President Brigham Young and several of the twelve apostles. Of course, I could not understand what they said, but the sight of them and the spirit by which they were animated made a very deep impression on me. After having resided with my father for a short while, I rented a small place in the tenth ward, and bought myself a half city lot in the second ward, on which I build a house the following year. Meanwhile, being a widower I began to consider the desirability to again find a companion for life, who also could take a mother's place for my little son. In contemplating the saying in Deuteronomy 25th chapter, with regard to the duty of a man to his brother's widow, it seemed to be clear to my understanding that the obligation rested on me to marry my deceased brother's, Peder Hansen's widow; and after having been advised by President Jedediah M. Grant of the correctness of my understanding in the matter, I acted on my first intuition and married her.

By assisting people to thresh wheat that fall. I earned enough for my own and family's upkeep, but I had bad luck with ten acres of land in cottonwood which I later on bought having cultivated it for three years without raising anything on it; I also lost several animals.

Already in the month of November, 1854; I was enrolled a member in the Twenty First Quorum of Seventy.

In the fall of the year 1855, a young lady, miss Caroline Knudsen, arrived in Utah as an emigrant from Denmark and since we were acquainted with each other in our native land, she made us a visit. About the same time I had counseled with President Erastus Snow about having my departed wife sealed to me for time and eternity, and he had asked me if I did not also have the intention of having a living wife sealed to me. This was a subject about which I had made no decision: however, the young lady mentioned became influenced with the thought, that it would serve to her exaltation to become my wife. She sincerely asked the Lord respecting this thought, and though her brother made me acquainted with her feelings. She expressed the desire that I go

and ask the Prophet of the Lord, that she might know the will of God in the matter. This I did, having first explained all the circumstances to Brother Erastus Snow, who afterward sought the Prophet's answer, which was to the effect, that it was in accordance with the mind and will of the Lord that I should marry the young lady, which I did on the 3rd of February, 1856. When the ceremony was performed in a room dedicated for that purpose at the residence of President Young, and on the same occasion my departed wife was sealed to me for time and eternity. I was therefore able to raise a family that would be my own, and as I have since been blessed with a numerous posterity. I cannot consider it otherwise than being a reward from the Lord; because I did wed my brother's widow from the express purpose of fulfilling the law and doing my duty to my departed brother, and raising seed unto him.

When in 1856 the crickets destroyed the drops, there was a considerable shortage of food on the territory, and I and my family had of course, to share the fate with most of the other people. While I did undertake a journey to the north in an effort to earn means for articles of food, and even tried to sell remnants to secure the most needed things for the sustenance of our lives, yet I was unable, though I worked hard, to earn enough for that purpose, and therefore forced to get out in the fields and dig roots and gather greens, which we ate as we did not have a bit of bread in the house for many weeks. Although I was well fixed economically in Denmark, I did not permit myself to be disheartened by our sufferings through this extreme poverty and want. I prayed to the Lord to spare our lives, that we might not suffer death from famine, and He heard our supplications, for we were all preserved, and when the harvest finally commenced, and I and my wife Caroline went out in the field and gleaned grain, from which Karen made flour by grinding it in a coffee mill, and in this manner were our lives preserved.

I had lived in Salt Lake City more than three years when the so called Utah War broke out, and when in the winter of 1857/1858 the Nauvoo Legion equipped and prepared for defense, should by chance an attack be made on our people, I took part in the expedition to the Echo Canyon as a captain of ten. After my return home, I married on December 20, 1857 Miss Karen Andersen, who had arrived in the valley with a hand cart company the previous fall. Four years later I married Marie Sorensen.

In the spring of 1858 when the saints, because of the war abandoned the settlements in the north and travelled south, I together with several others was left behind in the city with the purpose in view to fire everything, if the troops after their arrival in the valley were showing a disposition to be unfriendly. In the month of May I started for Spanish Fork, to which city part of my family had already departed ahead of the rest of us. Here I commenced to lay the foundation to my present home, and the following spring I was set apart as president over the Scandinavian saints residing in Spanish Fork. I there upon disposed of my property in the city and Mill Creek.

In September 1862, I made a visit to see my father, brother and other remaining relatives in the northern part of Utah. While on this journey I spent a night with some people in Weber county, and was asked by a gentleman to accompany him to his house and assist in administering to his daughter, who was attacked by evil spirits. When our administration did not seem to immediately have the desired effect, I went outside the house, where I fell on my face and in

humility supplicated the Lord in behalf of the poor girl, whose condition was pitiful indeed. This done I reentered the house, looked earnestly in the faces of the parents, and inquired of them if it was really and truly their desire that the evil influence should leave their little daughter, to which they answered "yes". I there upon took the hand of the girl, and asked her if she wished the evil spirits to leave her to which she answered in the affirmative. I now looked her straight in the eyes, and commanded the evil one in the name of Jesus Christ to depart from her and go to Morris camp. The girl was immediately relieved, and the wife, who was standing by the door, related that she distinctly noticed that the spirit went past her out through the door. There was great joy in the house and we glorified and praised the name of the Lord. I continued my journey to Brigham City the following day, where my father resided.

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After his return home to Spanish Fork, Brother Hansen again took hold of his temporal as well as spiritual affairs. The Lord blessed his labors to such an extent that he could surround his family with such luxuries that would in some measure make life tolerably pleasant, and he could leave it's twenty member in fairly good circumstanced when he, in the April Conference in 1865, together with eighteen other Scandinavian brethren, was called to perform a mission to the land of his nativity. He left Salt Lake City on 23rd of May and arrived after a successful journey, in Copenhagen, Denmark the 20th of August when he was immediately appointed to labor as traveling elder on the Island of Fyen, and later in all the Islands Conference. While on this mission he held about 500 meetings, attended 8 conference gatherings, 31 branch meetings, and baptized 40 persons. He also beheld the power of the Lord on many different occasions and in many various ways. We shall here only relate one event:

A young girl who was a house maid at the monorial estate, Gyldensten, on the Island of Fyen was very seriously attacked with a dangerous disease, and since brother Hansen was not able to pay her a visit he gave her some admonitions through a letter. While the young lady was engaged in reading his message, she felt herself penetrated from head to foot by a healing power, and every pain left her, so that she immediately was able to arise from her bed and continue her daily work.

Brother Hansen left Denmark on the 13th day of June 1867, to return to his home in Utah, where he arrived in the month of October the same year.

After his return home he labored continually for several years for the support of his family, and since he was elected to various positions of trust, he executed a number of public works.

In the fall of 1878, he was for the second time called to go back to Scandinavia on a mission, and therefore left his family which at this time consisted of 36 souls in the city of Spanish Fork, the 20th of October. In company with 9 other missionaries he arrived in Copenhagen on the 20th of November the same year and was called to labor as travelling elder in Copenhagen Conference in which calling he journeyed considerably and assisted in holding about 200 meetings. On account of the death of his son James, 21 years old, he was honorably released from his mission. He traveled with a company of emigrating saints in 1879, and

returned to his home in Spanish Fork, where he arrived well and sound on the 25th of September that year. Sometime later he was installed as President of the Scandinavian meetings in that city, was appointed home missionary in Utah county, president of the Deacons quorum, and held several other public positions.

But although active and alert in the duties which he was called upon to perform in his home town after returning home from his second mission, a valiant servant of God and successful missionary in preaching the gospel to his fellow men like elder Hansen, he was permitted to tarry among his family and friends only about six years, when he again for the third time was called to perform a mission in his native land, and left his loved ones 1886 about new years, arriving in Copenhagen on January 27th of that year. He labored this time principally in the Aarhus conference, and after having filled a good mission for two years and six months duration, was honorably released and sailed for home on 24th of May, 1888, having now spent nearly ten years on foreign missions.

After his return from his third mission, he again became active in the duties required of him as a member of the church and as a citizen, which he faithfully performed until a sudden and violent death snatched him on the other side of the veil, which sad happening occurred on Monday, 28th of June 1897.

The accident occurred on the Friday previous. He had just returned home from the old folks gathering in Salt Lake City and went over to one of his daughter's homes, where he stood watching the men raising a haystack pole. This fell and struck him on the head. He was hastily carried to the house, but never gained consciousness.

Elder Hansen was ordained a Seventy on 18th of November 1854 and became one of the presidents of the 19th Quorum of Seventy on 29th of May 1884. He was the senior president of that quorum when he died. On 17th of July 1897, the family with the presidents and members of this quorum presented the family with printed copies of resolutions of respect to their late senior president, in which they set forth the many virtues and accomplishments of the beloved departed.

The funeral was held in Spanish Fork meeting house on the 1st of July 1897 conducted by Bishop A. Nelson. The house was filled to overflowing. The speakers were Bishop Nelson, President Christian D. Fjeldsted, Elder Ole H. Berg, Peter Madsen, and others. The remaining six presidents of the ninetieth Quorum of Seventies acted as pall bearers and a very large cortege of carriages followed the remains of the old veteran to his last resting place in the Spanish Fork City Cemetery.

Elder Jens Hansen had the distinction of having married more wives than any other of his countrymen in modern times. They were all living in harmony and in order, helping to build the community.

His first wife was Maren Katrine Christensen (Christensdatter) had two sons, Christen and Joseph. His second wife, Karen P. Hansen (Hansdatter) had six children, Peter P., Mary, Sarah, Isaac, Hyrum and Emma. His third wife Caroline Knudsen (Knudsdatter) had five

children; Benjamin J., James J., Anna Marie, Caroline and Abraham. His fourth wife, Karen Andersen (Andersdatter) had seven children; Mary Kathrine, Jensen, Teenie, Jacob, Dora, Hannah and Erastus A. His fifth wife, Mary Sorensen (Sorensdatter) had eight children; Mena, Ephraim, Nephi, Nora, Albert, Enoch, Alfred, Elisa and Daniel. His sixth wife, Maren K L had no children. His seventh wife, Maren B had one son; Jacob B. His eighth wife, Mette Marie H had two children; Kristine Marie, and Alma. His ninth wife, Dorothea K J had four children; John L, Heber J., Emily D and Ezra. His tenth wife, Camilla L had one child; James Emanuel. His eleventh wife, Mary K R had one child; Rebecca. His twelfth wife, Martha C had no children. His thirteenth wife, Anna Elizabeth had no children.

Six of his wives preceded him to the other side, while seven survived him, when he was taken away.

The beautiful spirit of unanimity pervading the family of a noble sire, whose life and works has been briefly told in this short sketch of Elder Jens Hansen, preacher of the gospel of peace, as well as a warrior in the defense of his beloved native country, and pioneer, may as a fitting climax be here portrayed. At the settling of the estate of the deceased, and the dividing up of the property between the numerous members of his family, there was not one objection or disagreement raised, or even a breath of ill feeling disclosed by anyone. It was all done harmoniously, in keeping with the teachings and examples set by this but humble citizen and saint.

Honored be his memory.

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*History of Jens Hansen, born October 13, 1823 in Otterup, Fyn, Denmark; died June 28, 1879 in Spanish Fork, Utah; Arrived in Utah October 5, 1854 with the H. P. Olsen Company; Had 14 wives and 37 children*

*Written by Kristine C. Green (Great-Great Grand daughter), 91 East 110, North Centerville, Utah, Submitted March 9, 1980 to the Farmington - Central Davis County - Rocky Knoll Camp*

*[Information in this History is taken from a personal Diary of Jens Hansen translated from Danish to English. A copy of which is in the possession of Elmer J. Carr, Salt Lake City, Utah]*

web address: <http://www.ldsep.org/denmark/sjael/cop/51jhans.htm>

Jens Hansen was born on October 13, 1823 in Otterup Parrish, Fyn, Denmark to Hans Jorgensen and Maren Kirstine Pedersen. He was their firstborn son. The family eventually consisted of 5 brother and sisters and a half brother. His parents were very poor, and Jens sold cow hides and clay ceramics with his half brother, Jorgen Jacobsen, at a very early age to help support the family. His half brother soon refused to go with him to beg for food as he was ashamed to struggle so for his existence. Years later, his father started slaughtering cattle and Jens helped him sell meat over the country.

“About this time I became well acquainted with poverty and used to earning my bread by the labor of my hands” his journal states.

He was raised as a Lutheran and was confirmed at the age 14. Shortly after, he was sent away to work for a Hans Andersen in Lunde Parrish. They were very pleased with his work. His next employer was Simon Nielsen in St. Pedersborg. This man died while Jens was in his employ. From there, he went to Copenhagen to visit his brother, who was working for a nobleman as a gardener. He met a man named Limkilde, a merchant from Odense who wanted im to come work for him. He worked for him only until the Summer came, then went to Frostrup, Kaarup for three years to work for Lars Stoffersen. His work was so good that Lars Stoffersen offered him an increase to stay, but Jens wanted to go to Copenhagen but found it necessary to work for J. C. Lund instead. He was a wholesaler. Jens stayed until May 10, 1846, at which time he joined the Army (1st Artillery Regiment, 2nd Battery). He went to military school to train as an officer. When he graduated, he worked as a 1st Lieutenant to a Physician in the Army, and on the side worked for a Beer Bottling Company. With two jobs he had a very good income. Jens got fine grades in school and got and advancement. While learning to ride a horse, he had an accident and injured his knee severely. He was taken to the hospital and finally sent home from the Army.

War broke out between Denmark and Germany in 1848 and he was called to go with Commander Baum to Snoghoj and to Haderslev. In Haderslev he was assigned to be a battery commander. He fought battles in Bov and Dybol (where he was recognized for Bravery and received a medal). He also participated in all the greater battles (Vaffede, Slesvig, Randsborg) between the Danes and Germans. In 1850, he was stationed in Aasum, Odense where he met Maren Katherine Christensen (later his wife). He traveled a great deal with the Army, seeing many battles and lost many friends. January 29, 1851 a peace agreement was signed, and the War ended.

After being discharged from the Army, he found employment in Copenhagen which afforded him the opportunity to hear about “Mormonism”. He prayed earnestly to receive an answer of it’s truthfulness. And an Elder of the Church visited him in a room where he resided. During the conversation the Elder put his hand upon the knee that had for so many years bothered Jens. He thought, if this man was a servant of God then the healing power would affect him. He felt a chill come over his body. Jens excused himself and went into the next room where he removed the bandages to find his knee completely healed and well. On August 25, 1851 he was baptized and confirmed by Elder Christiansen.

From his diary - “One day while busy working, I felt impressed to ask the Lord if I could be given the privilege to bring souls unto him. As I knelt to pray, I was so overwhelmed by evil forces that I was unable to pray. But after a fight with my right arm and leg, then with my left arm and leg, I was finally relieved, and found myself lying on my back yet praying”. He was told that his sins were forgiven and because of his sincerity he was sanctified. He spent much of his time pondering the scriptures and on November 15, 1851 he was called and set apart as a missionary on the Island of Fyn with Elder W. Andersen. He taught the gospel to his family while there and converted them. They were baptized on December 15, 1851. Many of the saints

converted to the gospel came to American. On December 1852, his parents left for the United States of America. Jens took care of selling their land, home and possessions left behind, while still on his mission.

On April 24, 1853 he married Maren Katherine Christensen. His Brother, Peder Hansen was married that same day to Karen Pedersen. Jens turned his duties as a missionary over to the Brethren and departed with his wife to Liverpool, England on December 26, 1853. When they arrived at Liverpool, a son was born and died on January 16, 1854 (Lars Christian Hansen). His twin, however, survived and was named Joseph Christian Hansen. After about 2 weeks, they departed for the United States on the ship "Benjamin Adams". His wife was very sick on the boat, but soon regained her health upon landing, after 7 weeks, in New Orleans. They got on a steamboat and went up the Mississippi river to Kansas. While there his half brother, Jorgen Jacobsen and several of his children died from an outbreak of cholera. They assembled themselves into camps to make the trek into the Great Salt Lake Valley. They came to Salt Lake in the H. P. Olsen Company. Much sickness prevailed on the trek from Kansas. Jens' wife became extremely ill and died on June 29, 1854. His brother, Peder Hansen also died in June. As they entered the Emigration Canyon coming into the valley, Jens' father met them. Jens, learned that his mother had died aboard the ship crossing to American from England. They were so close to America that she was buried in the United states. His father had taken another wife named Dorothea.

On October 5, 1854, they arrived in the Salt Lake Valley. They spoke no English and had a hard time understanding the sermons, but felt the spirit and brotherhood of the Church. On October 22, 1854, he was re-baptized. When he arrived, he was very concerned about how to take care of his little son and support his livelihood. So, he decided he should marry his widowed sister-in-law, Karen Pedersen. On February 3, 1856, his first and second wives were sealed to him for time and all eternity.

In light of polygamy, Jens was asked about taking another wife. After much consideration about this, he married Caroline Knudsen, whom he knew in Denmark, also on February 3, 1856. His family grew tremendously.

He helped build the canal from Cottonwood Canyon to Salt Lake, that was built to float Mountain rocks down for the Salt Lake Temple.

He and his two wives received their endowments on February 25, 1856.

He was a member of the Nauvoo Legion, and was sent to help protect the Saints from the Military sent by the U.S. to harass the Saints.

On September 13, 1857, Karen Andersen arrived from Denmark with a handcart company. She became Jens' fourth wife on December 20, 1857.

In the Spring of 1858, he moved his family to Spanish Fork to help settle that area. He worked part of the time for other people and some, on his own land that was in Salt Lake and Millcreek areas. He had much misfortune with his cattle that year, too. So, he decided to sell his land in

Salt Lake and Millcreek and purchase land in Spanish Fork. He was now able to support himself by working for himself on his own land. He even had other people working for him. His material blessings grew greatly. He and his three wives were very happy and prosperous.

In 1865, he was called to serve a Mission in Denmark. He knew of his great responsibility to his family, as he had such a large one, but also felt his responsibility to the Church. Jens was glad he could leave his family in such good conditions.

His life was filled with service and devotion to the church and his family. He fulfilled four missions for the Church, all to Denmark.

In June 1897, Jens struck his head against a hay pole which was being raised to stack hay. He laid unconscious for about a week and regained consciousness just long enough to give charge of the household to his son. He died on June 28, 1897