

THE HISTORY OF
LARS OLSEN
AND
ANE INGEBORG HANSEN

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and

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Lars Olsen, son of Ole Pedersen and Margrethe Carlsen, was born 27 August 1841 in Vejleby, Ferslev, Fredericksborg, Denmark. Ferslev is in the southwest corner of Fredericksborg County. On 30 June 1875, he and his wife, Anna (Age 29), his mother-in-law, Maren (Age 57), and two children, Oluf (Age 3) and Mathilde (Infant) sailed from Liverpool, England on the S.S. Idaho headed for America. In charge of the company was Captain Chr. G. Larsen who had just been released as president of the Scandinavian Mission. In the book "History of the Scandinavian Mission" found in the Brigham City Family History Center, a brief account is given of this emigration:

"On Friday, June 25, 1875, about 3 o'clock a.m., the first company of the season's emigration of Scandinavian Saints (658 souls) sailed from Copenhagen on two steamers, namely, the "Pacific" and the "Cato." The "Pacific" took on board 383 Saints from the Christiania, Copenhagen, and Skane conferences who were placed in charge of Elder Chr. G. Larsen. . . . Both ships arrived in Hull on Monday, June 28th. The same day the emigrants were conveyed to Liverpool by rail. Here, together with 98 English Saints and one returning missionary, they went on board the ocean steamer "Idaho" commanded by Capt. Beddoe and sailed from Liverpool on Wednesday, June 30th.

President Joseph F. Smith appointed Elder Chr. G. Larsen leader of the company to be assisted by all the other returning missionaries . . . After a successful voyage, the company arrived safely in New York, July 14th.

The overland journey by railway was begun on the 15th, and on the 22nd the company arrived all well in Ogden and Salt Lake City. A Swedish sister, 73 years of age, died on the Atlantic Ocean and was buried at sea, and a child, 15 months old, died before arriving in Ogden, July 22nd. A young Norwegian sister who was left in New York on account of sickness came on to Utah later."

Another record of their emigration can be found on Microfilm No. 025696, a passenger list for the ship Idaho. Lars Olsen (Age 33) with his family is listed as part of the Copenhagen Conference. His youngest child, Mathilde, was only 7 months old.

It is difficult to imagine the apprehension and anxiety that many of the saints must have felt as they left their homes to make the journey of about fourteen days across the Atlantic Ocean to a new land and a new life. "At night in his bunk he would hear the creaking noises of the ship. His quarters were dark and confining; one or two lanterns swinging near the hatch diffused a dim light. One would hear the crying children, the retching and vomiting of the seasick, the crash of waves on the hull and at times bursting over the deck, the flap of canvas, the wind whistling through the shrouds and rigging, the cursing of gambling seamen, the impatient shouts of officers, and the muttering and groaning of despairing companions." (Taken from the book:)

In a manuscript compiled by David H. Pratt and Paul F. Smart entitled "Life on Board a Mormon Emigrant Ship," more information is given about what it must have been like for

many of our Mormon ancestors. Excerpts from this research article may be found in the appendix of this history along with additional information about the particular ships our ancestors sailed on.

Lars was married to Ane Ingeborg Hansen 27 May 1867 in Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark. She is the daughter of Cottager Hans Willads and Maren Pedersen. A marriage record for her parents reads [see Microfilm No. 049411, Oro, Fredericksborg, Denmark]:

Bachelor Hans Willads Pedersen (age 37) resides in Naesbye and has learned farm work. He has been vaccinated and bears the mark on his arm, which was certified by Broberg, county medical officer in Roeskilde 20 July 1842.

Widow Maren Pedersen of Naesbye (age 35) has learned farm work and was vaccinated 4 July 1808 by Krog. This is her second marriage.

Sponsors: Farmer Anders Andersen and Peder Andersen.

Married 12 November 1842 in the church (Lutheran). Banns (marriage) proclaimed the tenth Sunday after Trinitatis.

It is interesting, since it may prove to be a possible link to another generation, that Anders Andersen who was a sponser at this marriage was also a witness at Ane's baptism (8 March 1849) into the Lutheran church as a baby. Other witnesses that may prove to be relatives were a young girl Karen Andersen, Lars Hansen, and bachelor Jens Thomsen Larsen.

Born 15 December 1845 in Naesbye, Oro, Hoback, Denmark, baptized 8 March 1846 into the State Church of Denmark

(Lutheran), and vaccinated 4 August 1846 by Kjeldahl [see Microfilm No. 049411, Church Records, no. 90, p.464], Ane emigrated with Lars and two of their children in 1875. They had five children from this marriage: Ane Margrethe (1867), Hans Willard (1869), Olof Fredrick (1871), Matilda Marie (also spelled Mathilde) (1873), and Mary (1876). Mary was the only child of theirs born in America. Their two oldest children died in 1870 within two weeks of each other in Denmark while still young.

In June of 1880, Lars Olsen married a second time to Elizabeth Mortensen. A brief history of her which mentions a little about her husband is found in the book "Holbrook and Surrounding Areas History Book, 1878-1987" compiled by Carol Eliason. A copy is in the Salt Lake Family History Library. The following is quoting from pages 322-323:

Lars Olsen

and

Elizabeth Mortensen Olsen
by Wilma Evans Fridal

Elizabeth Mortensen, daughter of Knud and Karen Mortensen, was born in Lille Rorbek, Denmark, 13 March 1854, the fourth child of a family of eight children. Her parents were very poor and her father was sickly, so it fell to her mother's lot to provide for the family, and for that she had to go out working every day. The children were left to take care of themselves the best they could. Together with her parents, they joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints when she was six years old. At the beginning of the year, 1863, when she was nine years old, means were provided for the family to immigrate to Utah, and they joyfully took advantage of the opportunity. The hardships of that journey, tongue or pen can only faintly tell.

They were six weeks at sea, in an old boat that seemed ready to sink any moment and were herded together, but little better than cattle, and lived on the poorest and scantiest food. From New York to Florence, Nebraska, the journey was made by railroad, which offered little relief from the ocean voyage; then from Florence westward began their journey afoot, and for nearly 1,000 miles, that tried the strength and faith of the strongest hearts. It was during the crossing of the plains and due to the hardships and poor food that her little sister, Camilla, and short time after, her baby brother, Willard died. They lie buried somewhere on the plains of Nebraska. With the exception of a short way, when the mother was permitted to sit in the wagon and hold her dying children, the family walked the entire distance from Florence to Salt Lake City, wading many rivers and creeks without any help.

In September 1863, they arrived in Salt Lake City, and later moved to Brigham City then to Hyrum, Cache County, Utah, for a year. A call was then made upon a number of families to settle and develop the country we know as the Bear River Valley, and among them was Knud Mortensen and his family. They were among the first five families to locate on the west bank of Bear River where Bear River City is now located. This settlement was made in the early part of the year 1866. Their first home was a dugout on the hillside just north of the present bridge on Bear River. Elizabeth, age 12, lived there with her parents and her sister, Inger Marie, her brother, Peter, and baby brother, Moroni, age two. The following year they built a log cabin on the banks of the river, and her father and brother operated the ferry across the Bear River for many years until a permanent bridge could be built (See picture).

In June of 1880 she was married to Lars Olsen, and they were the parents of two sons and four daughters: Parley, Lorenzo, Annie, Caroline (Carrie), Sophrina and Mary. When the area around Holbrook, Idaho, was opened up for homesteading, the Olsen family moved to Holbrook on what was known as Olsen Hill. Elizabeth died there at the age of 51 and is buried in the Holbrook cemetery.

Ane, Lars's first wife, died 2 April 1878 in Brigham City, Box Elder, Utah at the age of 33. The record lists childbirth as the cause of death. She is buried along with two of her children, Marla (or Mary) and Oluf F. (or Olof),

and her mother, Mary (or Maren), in the Brigham City Cemetery. Also buried here is another of Lars children (Moroni) who was mothered by Elizabeth. [see Brigham City Sexton Records, Microfilm No. 194133, (1800-1959)]. It was two years later that Lars married Elizabeth.

On 1 January 1876, Lars "Olesen" officially became a United States citizen. A copy of his Declaration of Intention to become a Citizen of the United States may be found in the Appendix of this history. Note the spelling of Olsen in his signature as compared with the spelling filled in on the form in two other places.

Microfilm No. 025802, Brigham City First Ward Church Records, Early to 1900, lists the Lars O. Petersen family. Both wives, Ane I. and Elizabeth, are listed along with Lars thirteen children (five were mothered by Ane and eight by Elizabeth). Along with birth, death, and blessing dates, the record states that Lars and Ane were baptized 27 December 1868 by F. Olsen and confirmed 1 January 1869 by C. Halversen. In January of 1884, Lars was ordained a seventy by L. Snow. He was ordained a High Priest 7 November 1910. This same source shows that Lars baptized one of his children in 1894 and blessed another in 1892 which indicates his church activity and worthiness to perform priesthood ordinances. Ane's mother, Maren, was also listed a member of the ward, and further dates and information on her is listed in this record. Ordination certificates (see copies later in this chapter) show that Lars was ordained a Deacon

7 April 1869 in Copenhagen and a priest 10 August 1870.

Other church records [see Endowment House Special Collections Microfilm No. 183409] list that Lars received his endowments and was sealed 22 May 1879. This is believed to be his and Elizabeth's marriage date, but it has not yet been confirmed.

According to the June 1880 Census (Microfilm No. 295842 p.28), Lars was 39 years old and married to Elizabeth (Age 26). Mathilda was 7 years old at the time of the census and going to school. Her grandmother, Ane's mother Mary, was living with them and was 76 years old. This source lists Lars as a blacksmith but added that for 3 months he had been unemployed.

Several years ago, while visiting the graveside of Lars in Holbrook, Oneida, Idaho, a great-grandson, Ralph Hadley relates this story. A man named Mr. Sweeten introduced himself; and when it was learned they were searching Lars Olsen's grave, he acknowledged knowing him and even remembering him first coming into the valley riding a horse and driving seven head of cattle. Mr. Sweeten went on to point out where Lars's blacksmith shop had been. The cemetery was a small sagebrush covered area fenced with barbwire overlooking Holbrook. The graves were sunken and poorly kept, some marked with rotting wood markers barely standing back then. The size was about the size of an average sized lot, quite small for a cemetery.

This history would not be complete without some kind of an explanation regarding Lars's surname. Quite a confusion has arisen in recent years as to whether Lars is an Olsen (also spelled Olesen) or a Peterson (also spelled Pedersen) and understandably so. Of the numerous documents and records uncovered thus far, the following shows Lars with a surname of Olsen: 1) Danish Birth Certificate, 2) 1880 Census Record, 3) Emigration Register of Continental Europe (Passenger List), 4) Registration of Marriage to First Wife, 5) Declaration of U. S. Citizenship, 6) Danish L.D.S. Church Ordination Certificates, and 7) The Life History of Elizabeth Mortensen Olsen (found in "Holbrook and Surrounding Areas History Book") which tells of her marriage to Lars Olsen. On the other hand, these documents list him as a Peterson: 1) Brigham City Sexton records, 2) Brigham City First Ward Membership Records (L.D.S. Church), 3) Brigham City Cemetery Records (this document actually has his surname both ways), and 4) Temple ordinance records. As compilers of this history, it is not our right to make a decision as to what is right and what is not right regarding Lars's surname. We merely want to report the facts as clearly as possible. The reader will find it interesting, however, to read an article enclosed in the appendix which addresses the issue of Danish surnames, or patronymics. Also note that many times, when Danish emigrants gave personal information, it was received by Englishmen and was copied the way it sounded. The spelling was not the same as

a Danishman would himself spell it. For example, Peterson and Olsen is the English spelling for the Danish Pedersen and Olesen. Whether the name is Olsen or Peterson is really of no consequence. The individual is the same.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Microfilm No. 1374240, 1910 Census, Holbrook, Oneida
County, Idaho.

Microfilm No. 1249031, 1900 Census, Utah, Soundex.

Microfilm No. 1241682, 1900 Census, Box Elder County, Utah.

Microfilm No. 538591, 1880 Census, Utah Index.

Microfilm No. 295842, 1880 Census, Box Elder County, Utah.

Microfilm No. 025802, Brigham City L.D.S. Ward Record, First
Ward.

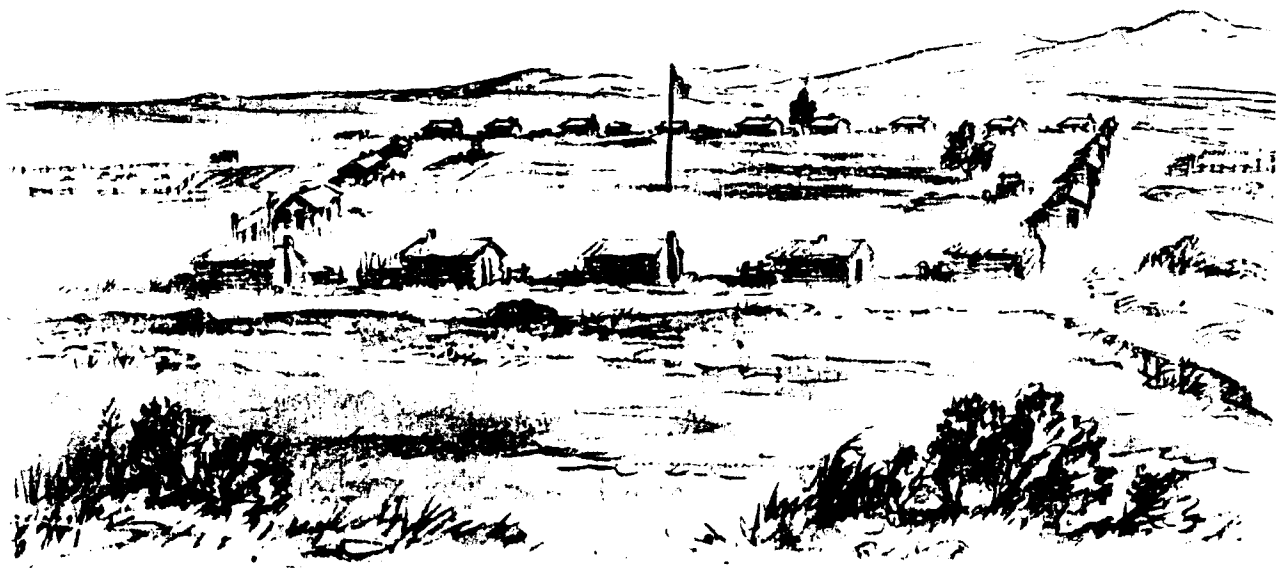
Microfilm No. 007348, Oneida, Idaho, Membership Records.



The Ferry on the Bear River. Note the dugouts on the hill.
This was called "Cellar City."



The first bridge over the Bear River.



The Pioneer Fort that later became Bear River City.

These pictures were copied from the book, "The History of Bear River City" by Lucinda Jensen (979.242/B2, H2j).

Skuds-Brev.

Herved bevidnes, at Sars Olsen er ordineret til

Diacon i Jesu Christi Kirke af Sidste-Dages Hellige ved Haandspaalæggelse, og overeensstemmende med Kirkens Regler, og fuldkommen berettiget til at prædike Evangelium og forrette alle hans Embede tilhørende Pligter. Efter den Kundskab vi have om hans Retskaffenhed og gode Charakteer, og hans Attraa til at lære Menneskene Sandheden og overtale dem til at skye det Onde og holde sig til det Gode, anbefale vi ham til alle gode Mennesker og nedbede vor himmelske Faders Velsignelser over alle hans Bestræbelser og over Alle, som give Agt paa hans Ord.

Givet under vore Hænder med almindeligt Bifald af bemeldte Kirkes Embedsmænd, i Kjøbenhavn den 7 Dag i April Maaned 1869.

Chr. Halvorsen
Corr. Præsident.

Secretair.

Skuds-Brev.

Herved bevidnes, at Sars Olsen er ordineret til

Diakon i Jesu Christi Kirke af Sidste-Dages Hellige ved Haandspaalæggelse, og overeensstemmende med Kirkens Regler, og fuldkommen berettiget til at prædike Evangelium og forrette alle hans Embede tilhørende Pligter. Efter den Kundskab vi have om hans Retskaffenhed og gode Charakteer, og hans Attraa til at lære Menneskene Sandheden og overtale dem til at skye det Onde og holde sig til det Gode, anbefale vi ham til alle gode Mennesker og nedbede vor himmelske Faders Velsignelser over alle hans Bestræbelser og over Alle, som give Agt paa hans Ord.

Givet under vore Hænder med almindeligt Bifald af bemeldte Kirkes Embedsmænd, i Kjøbenhavn den 10 Dag i August Maaned 1868.

D. J. Madison
Præsident.

Secretair.



Lars Olsen's family plot in Brigham City Cemetery. Lars is not buried here, but his wife Ane and several other family members are. No headstones mark any of the graves.

Lib. Nr. 1064, P. 56, 57.

OLSEN, Lars (33)

" Anna (29)

" Maren (57)

" Oluf (3)

" Mathilde (Infant)

1875: June 30. Sailed from Liverpool, Eng. on ship
"Idaho" and arrived at New York July 14th.

Company continued journey by rail in charge
of Capt. Chr. G. Larsen and arrived at
S. L. City July 22, 1875.

Declaration of Intention

To become a Citizen of the United States.



I, Lars Olesen do declare, on oath, that it is bona fide my intention to become a Citizen of the United States of America, and to renounce and abjure forever all allegiance and fidelity to all and any foreign Prince, Potentate, State and Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to Christian IX King of Denmark of whom I was a subject.

Sworn and subscribed to before me at my office, at ~~Salt Lake City~~, this this day of January A. D. 1876

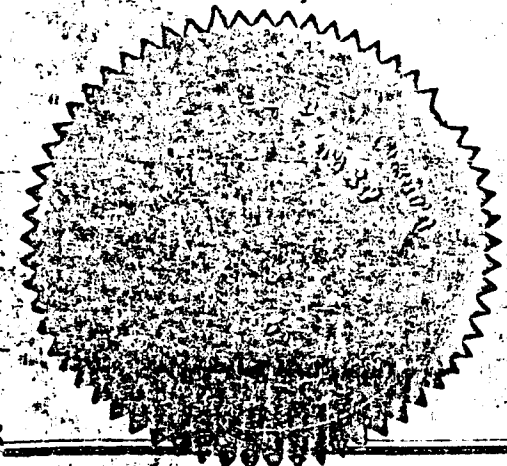
Lars Olesen

Charles A. Gould, Clerk of the U. S. Supreme Court in and for the Territory of Utah. By J. C. Wright Deputy Clerk

Charles A. Gould, Clerk of the U. S. Supreme Court in and for the Territory of Utah, do certify that the above is a true copy of the original declaration of intention of Lars Olesen to become a Citizen of the United States of America remaining on record in my office.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the Seal of said Court, at my office, in Salt Lake City, in said Territory, this First day of

January A. D. 1876
Charles A. Gould Clerk.
By J. C. Wright Dep. Clerk.



Copenhagen, Frederiksborg and Holbæk Counties

