

Doris Laurentzen, daughter of Peter Nicolus Laurentzen and Margaret Jacobsen, born 28 October, 1829, at Kiel, Germany. Went to Denmark a few years later. She read in the papers about the missionaries being in Denmark and about their belief in Revelation, and when she read about being gathered in the valleys of the mountains, her mother told her to be still, saying: "that will come someday, but not in your day."

Diary found

Erastus Snow came and brought the gospel to me, she says, and I believed it at once and was baptized in 1853, but it took ten long years before I could emigrate, so in 1863, the Lord opened the way for me and I left my nice home on the 15th of April, 1863, took a steamboat to Germany then to England, thence to Grinsby. There was no steamboats there so we went by sail boat - the "John Bright", with 900 saints on board, and were four weeks on the sea. We came to America the last of May, stopped at Castle Gate two days then went on the cars on the left side of the Hudson River, saw some fine houses on the right side. I remember crossing the large bridge. When we saw the post office we knew we were on English soil. We stopped two days in Chicago; went to St. Joseph, Mo., then the war was on between the North and South. It took three days to go to Omaha. From there we went to Florence and stayed three weeks getting ready to go over the plains. On July first we started across the plains with John R. Young as Captain. We paid for forty persons to be emigrated and we celebrated the 4th of July at Little Pueblo then drove on, sometimes traveling 25 miles and 30 miles in a day. We followed the Platte River on the left side to Cheyenne, a little town at that time, and then to Ft. Laramie, thence to Ft. Bridger near Green River. When we arrived in Wyoming, President Young, Kimball and others came to meet us. I was so happy when they shook my hand - it makes me happy to think of it now - they gave us onions, potatoes and other vegetables, which we were badly in need of. We arrived at Salt Lake City the middle of September and stopped in Emigration Square for 3 days and saw the foundation of the Temple and Pres. Young's home.

One thing I will never forget: The third night I was there I heard such wonderful music - I had heard the King's music many times, but never anything to equal this - someone was singing "Oh, Ye Mountains High" at one o'clock in the morning.

We bade farewell to our friends, some went east, some west, while we went north to Brigham City. Had dinner with Apostle Lorenzo Snow, then went on to Hyrum. Hans Nielsen, George Nielsen and others came and shook hands with us and made us welcome. We arrived in Hyrum on Sept. 20, 1863, and I have lived there ever since - so happy. We had a little log house which I loved so much. We were invited to Bolitta Allen's house for a dance when she was married.

I remember, while crossing the plains, there was a stampede of buffaloes one day and a little girl from Norway was run over and there were three killed. I had never seen so many wild animals in my life. While we were in the old country we paid one thousand dollars tithing and 500 dollars on the church debt.

When the grasshoppers came we were very poor - they ate everything that was green. I had no shoes, and my daughter Josephine spun and helped all she could, and we all made quilts and gave money to help build the meeting house. When the children got bigger I went to Salt Lake and cooked at a hotel to support my children. A woman that we had emigrated came to see me and wanted me to learn to be a midwife. I refused, but she told some of the apostles and two of them came to see me and they called me to do that work, saying it was a mission for me to go and learn to be a midwife, so I consented. I learned this in ten months in Salt Lake then came back to Hyrum. I have brought over 1000 babies into this world, also brought babies to about 200 women who were on the underground. When the officers came and wanted to see my books I burned them so they could not see whose wives I had attended so they could prosecute their husbands. We had many good times and dances and other amusements.

When Earnest was 13 and Lawrence was 11 they went to Logan and bought a wagon on credit, then went to the canyon and got out ties and paid for the wagon, and they also got out logs for the house - I was very thankful for we were very poor.

Sometimes, when I was out attending to my work as a midwife, some people would say I would not be able to stand the work, but I told them I would live to be a hundred years old - I am now 92 years old (Nov. 3, 1921).

The first day the Logan Temple was opened I was called to go and have my endowments. A. N. Anderson's mother went with me - Bro. Cowley was there and was married to his first wife that day.

I was at the meeting when the Relief Society was organized - Sister Barnum was the President - I love the Relief Society.

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Following is a letter written by Dora Petersen Browning in March 1950.

Margaret Jacobsen (Brown) Lorentzen, a rich miller's daughter, was born in Rabinkirken, Anglen, Germany. She married John Adolph Brown when she was only in her teens, he was much older than she, he died and left her a rather rich young widow. Schleswig-Holstein belonged to Denmark then, and King Christian of Denmark had a palace there and would spend a great deal of his time there. He fell in love with Margaret. His queen was a delicate, sickly woman and had no children. The queen knew about Margaret and when grandma Lorentzen was born and grew up she would visit the king and queen in Copenhagen. The king would hold her on his lap and love her, calling her his little Doris. The king suddenly died, then Margaret Jacobsen married Lorentzen, the king's (kush) - grandma called him in Danish, which means "one who drives for the king."

When the Mormon Elders first came to Denmark, Margaret was one of the first to join the church. When Uncle Hans F. Hansen was on a mission to Denmark he often visited Margaret and said she was a beautiful, intelligent woman and so good to the missionaries. She would buy new suits of clothes for the elders, help them financially and do all she could for them. She was so anxious to have her daughter Doris join the Mormons in Utah, ~~back~~ to live with the Mormons. Doris was married to Hans Petersen, as you remember, who was not very religious but she was very religious. She had three children, Josephine, Ernest and Lorentz. They owned a farm and were considered very comfortable financially. Grandfather Petersen wanted to go to California during the gold rush he read about it and grandmother influenced him to sell out and come to the USA, which he did. Lorentz, my father, was only a small boy. He remembers coming across the plains in a wagon with horses - most of their company had oxen, which he remembered stamped several times on their way to Utah. Grandfather was lucky to have one of the best outfits in the company with horses that did not stampe.

When they arrived in Utah grandmother refused to go farther. Grandfather would gladly have gone to California but grandmother really came here for her religion, so she influenced grandfather to make his home in Cache Valley, where they lived and died. Grandmother was one of the most useful pioneers that settled in Cache County. She had good schooling in Denmark; went to Salt Lake to learn to be a midwife, delivered over one thousand babies and only lost one woman - Mrs. Rose - who dies in convulsions. Grandmother inherited money from an aunt of the Jacobsen family in Germany, but she gave most of it away. She delivered babies for women in Cache Valley, would nurse, go each day, care for her patients and would charge them only \$3.00 for delivery and care, and if they were poor she did not charge them, but would give them money too. When she died she had more flowers and the largest funeral in Cache Valley. We all loved her as she was an outstanding woman in every respect.