

## Biography of Hans Jorgen Rasmussen

*This story is written by Alie Rasmussen, granddaughter, as told by his [Hans'] son, Frank "D" Rasmussen.*



Father was born on the Island of Møn, Denmark, February 14, 1840, where he lived with his mother and stepfather on a small farm.

Father was an only child and was of a religious nature. In his late teens, he was visited by two L.D.S. missionaries who gave him a Book of Mormon which he read. He put it to the test of "Moroni's great promise"--"If anyone would read this book with a prayerful heart he would know it was true," which he did. After being visited by the missionaries several times, he joined the church to the regret of his parents.

Father soon began to prepare to come to America in Zion. Finally the time arrived to leave with missionaries and saints. His stepfather was very vexed and his mother shut herself in her bedroom and would not bid him goodbye.

After a long and stormy voyage in a sailing vessel, they finally reached America, and he made his way to Winter Quarters. There he met a man outfitting to go to Salt Lake City. This man hauled what few belongings he had in return for his help. Father walked most of the way. After arriving in Salt Lake City, he went to work and lived with Brother Christensen for a number of years at South Cottonwood. While there, he took up the name of Christensen and went by it for several years.

Indian trouble arose in Sanpete County. Father was with a group of young men called by Brigham Young to go and protect the settlers. On the road down there two of the men disobeyed orders from their Captain and left the Company and went out by themselves to get some pine gum. While they were in the tree, they were shot and killed by the Indians. Each one hit by two or three arrows. On another occasion, an Indian dressed in a wolf's skin passed near their camp, and he was so well dressed that it was hard to distinguish him from a real wolf. They supposed he was spying on their camp to see how many men there were in the Company. They spent all of the summer and fall there and then he returned home.

A few years later, Father, with Chris Berger, Mins Lark and H. P. Peterson, were

summoned from Cottonwood by Brigham Young to go to Arizona. They arrived there on 24 of March 1876. Their company was known as Allen's camp. This place was named Joseph City, Arizona. That March day, the 24th brought temporarily to an end their travels, which had been through snow of varying depths through Utah, over the Buckskin or Kaibab mountains, across House Rock Valley, to Lee's Ferry on the Colorado River above Grand Canyon. While crossing the Colorado at Lee's Ferry, Father's old horse, Bill, swam the river three times while helping to get the stock across. They then went over Lee's Backbone (a rugged mountain) and on southward and eastward to Moencopie, a Hopi Indian Village, where previously Mormon explorers had found a friendly stopping place. Their trail led on southward to the little Colorado River, the "Rio de Limo," of the early Spanish explorers and up that stream to its confluence with Cottonwood Wash below the mouths of Chevalon and Clear Creek Canyons, where they settled. On the account of the water falling, they that wanted to were released to come back to Utah.

Father kept company with a young lady for a number of years, but she would not leave her aged parents to get married, so he began to look elsewhere for a wife.

In 1879 he met Elizabeth Susan Ottley, a young woman just over from England. On the 15th of July 1880, they were married in the Old Endowment House in Salt Lake City. They rode from South Cottonwood to Salt Lake, a distance of about 10 miles in a heavy wagon, for that was the only way they had of traveling in those days, and back to their home.

On June 9, 1881, a boy was born into their home, whom they named Fredrick William.

On the 15th of April 1882, Father and his two brothers-in-law, Henry and Fred Ottley traveled to southern Idaho looking for new homes. They visited Goose Creek where Oakley now is. They then camped on Raft River where they stayed three weeks. While there they met an old gentleman who told them that he had come down through that part of the county in 1847. After he was gone, they kind of laughed to themselves about the story the man had told them. Years later, they found out that he was one of the Mormon Battalion men that had come through that way on their way to Salt Lake.

Some days later, Father got an old Bill and rode up Cassia Creek where he met John Oskerhout who owned a sawmill at the mouth of the canyon. He told them of the places that they moved onto the 7th of June.

Two of John L. Smith's men, who later lived at Oakley, brothers, worked at Oskerhout Mill. They were trying out a new waterwheel which broke and killed both of them. An old trapper found them and went up and got Father, and he helped move them out. Father then went to Sublet and got John L. The two boys were buried there at Elba.

They built themselves two log cabins and then went out on the natural meadows and cut enough hay to feed their stock in the winter.

Fred, being single, stayed to look after things, while Father and Henry returned to Utah to prepare to move to Idaho. They started back on the 26th of September, taking all their belongings with them, arriving back at Elba on the 27th of October.

In February 18, 1884, a baby girl was born into their home whom they named Karen Marie. The night she was born was one of the worst blizzards ever known in Southern Idaho. Father left Sofia Ottley with his wife while he went to get Mrs. Cole and the storm was so bad they never got back till the middle of the next day. Mrs. Cole often relates that all she could see was the heads of the horses sticking out of the snow.

A branch of the L.D.S. Church was organized at Elba. A Sunday School was organized on August 31, 1885 and the first session held September 6 with Hans J. Rasmussen, my father, as

Superintendent with William J. Cole, First Assistant, and C. A. Brewerton as Second Assistant, with Elizabeth Taylor as Secretary. There were 15 officers and 50 pupils. The Cassia Stake was organized about his time, and father was chosen one of the Seven Presidents of the Seventy with Stake headquarters at Oakley. Released January 8, 1887.

June 13, 1886, another boy was born, Hans Jorgen, Jr., who died on the 13th of June 1886.

July 24, 1887, another boy was born, Jens Edward.

April 1, 1890, another boy was born, George Henry, who died on the 4th of April 1891.

September 8, 1892, a baby girl was born, Harriet Elizabeth, who died on the 10th of January 1898.

June 30, 1894, the last boy was born Frank "D".

During these 12 years they had built up quite a ranch. Father had not been well the past year, so in the fall he went back to South Cottonwood to receive medical aid where he stayed with his brother-in-law Richard Ballard where he passed away November 18, 1894. Father was shipped to Colton, Utah, Richard Ballard traveling with the body. There they were met by David Ward. Then he was taken to Elba where funeral services were held and he was buried in the family plot.

Several interesting incidents in his life were later told by Art Homer and others are: Once while they were hauling wool to Kellton for John Blight. While they were stopped in Kellton unloading, father's team ran away. Everyone was hollering that Han's team had run away, but in all the excitement Father just stood calmly by and after they had run out over the desert three or four miles, he borrowed one of the men's horses and rode out, caught them and drove them back.

He also related that father always drove a fine team and that no one ever passed him on the road unless their horses could run faster than his which there wasn't very many, and he loved to run his horses.

Cassia Creek was a wild country in the early days. They often saw bear tracks up near the house. A trapper named Kemton came down one morning with two big bears that he had trapped in one of the canyons. They also saw mountain lions from the house. There were lots of both mule and white tailed deer, and some antelope.

About two miles west of where they lived, there was a place called Pine Hollow. At the top of this hollow there was a large cliff of rocks. A Frenchman by the name of Pouch, who was a sheepman, killed a large deer right by this big rock. He took a small piece of the meat and left the rest and told Father and Uncle Henry they could have the remainder of the deer. They went up after it and named the rock, Pouch Rock.

About 8 miles east of Elba, there is a creek called Conner Creek, named after Captain Conner, that came down from Fort Boise and captured a band of Indians that was giving the settlers some trouble. Several years later, an old Indian, Jake Logan, told Father he was with that band of Indians, but he hid in the rocks and escaped being captured. He also said he had scalped many white men. I remember seeing old Jake, he had large rings in his ears and could not talk very much English. I knew the Logans down to Jake's great-grandchildren and some of them joined the L.D.S. Church.

Brigham Young conducted a school known as the School of the Elders for the General Authorities similar to the School of the Prophets of the Prophet Joseph Smith. From time to time President Young invited different people to the school. Father was invited to attend the school several times.

The baptism date of 3 October 1875 given on the family group sheets was a second

baptism conducted after coming to Utah to replace lost records of the first date.