

1753

# HISTORY - HISTORY

DUP PREVIEW PAGE

NAME . . . HANS DENISON  
 BIRTH . . GJENTOFTE, COPENHAGEN, DENMARK  
 20 JULY, 1824  
 Death . . MANTI, SANDETE, UTAH  
 13 JAN. 1904  
 ARRIVAL . 30 SEPT. 1853  
 COMPANY . CAPT. JOHN FORSGREN  
 HISTORY by RUBY E. D. WHITLOCK  
 DATE WRITTEN APRIL 1960  
 PERSON SUBMITTING HISTORY  
 RUBY E. D. WHITLOCK  
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 COUNTY *South Salt Lake County*  
 CAMP . . . CRESCENT

Biography of Hans Denison , by Ruby E. D. Whitlock

Hans Denison was born 20 July 1824 at Gjentofte, Copenhagen, Denmark. He married Johannah Christofferson, the 22 Nov. 1845. They had 2 boys and a girl in Denmark. One boy and the girl died in early infancy. I don't know the story of their conversion into the church but I feel sure it was a wonderful story. The family left Copenhagen, Denmark the 20 of Dec. 1852 and crossed the ocean in a sailing vessel. This is according to a letter written me by Hyrum Denison, his son. It took them six weeks to cross the ocean. They landed at New Orleans the 19th of March, 1853. A son was born to them before landing whom they named after the ship.

In the book "These, Our Fathers," a history of Sanpete County from 1849 to 1947, by the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, p.29, I find a report on immigration. It tells of a census of Sanpete taken in 1853 that showed the population to be 765 people. And that the number was increased in 1853 by immigrants from England and Denmark. This book tells of them leaving Liverpool the 31 of Dec. 1852 on the ship Forrest Monark. Also it states they were 10 weeks on the ocean instead of 6, and that they landed the 12th of March instead of the 19th. It tells of them coming in Iowa in April and of reaching Salt Lake City the 30th of Sept. It was more than nine months they were on the way. They were without food and without money to purchase any, and the settlers in the valley were not much better off. A tribute is paid to the part the Scandinavians played in building up the west with their sturdy, hardy traits of character that make men of high purpose and dependable character and reserve power.

This book also refers to Hans Denison's diary telling of witching camp near Spring City where sage and rabbit brush covered the ground. The first Danish meeting was held in a little log house

owned by Hans Christian Hansen.

They organized themselves into companies of ten or twelve, and divided the work. One company would go out grass for the cattle, another company would go cut logs, another to the stone quarry for rock for buildings. Others went back to Payson, Provo and Salt Lake to earn money to buy provisions for the winter. Some got flour, brooms, nails, potatoes, etc. and brought them home to the rest of the company.

President Young found out their situation and sent word for them to go on to Manti. They left on the 16 of Dec. in a snow storm. They had no sooner gone than the Indians came and burned all that had been left. Assistance came from Manti to help those who needed it. There was not room for all in the fort so those with wagons had to camp outside. It was very cold and without proper nourishment they suffered greatly. Hans made a rock, sort-of, room around his wagon to protect them from the cold. It was equipped with a crude fire-place and chimney for heat and warmth and cooking. Every morning and evening they would be required to stand and answer to roll call without regard to weather conditions.

Hyrum Denison, in his letter to me, reports that Hans often stood guard during the Indian Wars without adequate clothing to keep him warm. He would cut a hole in the center of a warm quilt and put it over his head with his head through the hole and wrap up in the quilt and keep warm that way.

The custom of patronymics, used in Denmark, was such that if Hans had kept it up, his father being Rasmus Denison, our name would have been "Rasmussen" instead of "Denison".

From my family group sheets I learn that Hans had three wives. His first marriage occurred in Denmark, the 2nd one occurred the 13th Oct. 1873 at Salt Lake City, and the 3rd one the 3rd Nov. 1880 at

Manti. There were 8 children from the first marriage, 1 child from the 2nd and 3 children from the third marriage. Comparing the birth dated of the children, I find the youngest in the first family, Hyrum, was born 6 Jan. 1865, and the youngest of the other families, Emanuel, was born 19 June 1885, making 20 years between. I have gathered the following impression about my ancestor; that he tried to live the gospel as he understood it. He became the father of 12 children in all. Hyrum, in his letter to me, mentions several autobiographies written by Hans in his lifetime. Perhaps if I were to find and read them I would get an entirely different picture of him. I see him as sincere, energetic, capable and determined.