

Writings of Hans Denison

Translated from Danish

A Brief Life History

(Re typed by Trena Horne Dodge November 12, 2003
from a copy of a typed manuscript in the possession of Ellen Bernice Phillips Horne)

He was born July 20, 1824 at Gjentofte near Copenhagen, Denmark.

I wrote to Marie Wright, Naisahedave, Denmark in 1899 and received 40 names of mine and my sister's ancestors, and about as many of my mother's ancestors. I also sent to Fyen for my father's ancestors records in 1901 which I received from Holger Hansen in the Archives of Odense and about 30 or 40 names. Now I have written to Marie Wright for my wife Ane's forefathers records. I praised Marie for her good handwriting which they told us at the temple was easy to read, and wished I could do as well.

I sent her a weekly journal with speeches by Joseph Smith and some of the brothers of our four Holy Temples here in Utah.

I have never felt such heavenly joy and satisfaction as when I helped build these three Temples. One in St. George, one in Salt Lake and in Manti. Brigham Young, Prophet and seer and Revelator, sent us word that we were Honorably discharged and could now go home again to our families with a blessing for all we had done.

Now I will go back to my younger days and tell how I met my wife. In 1844 I worked for a man named Peter Witersen, from a place named Rygaard. In the neighborhood was another farm called Sundegaard. There was a girl working there and I met her a few times and found I could love her and she said the same to me. I asked her to marry me and she agreed and when I walked home that night I was so happy, that I knelt down in the road under the heavens and thanked God for giving me one of Adam's and Eve's beautiful daughters to love. I thought of my dear lovely Johanne almost as an angel from heaven and think what a sorrow it was to me when I was called to that bloody war in 1849 and knew that our marriage was just till death do us part, and I was in danger daily of being killed. Again I knelt down and prayed to God to spare my life, which he did and I found the night between the 6 and 7th of July 1849, I was the only living man among several hundred comrades, who had all been killed. So God is my only witness and not many have had such a terrible experience, but God was surely with me.

I will now relate how happy I became when I heard the revelations of Joseph Smith and right away realized that here was a true religion sent to my fatherland for the good of all people who would believe. Can anyone understand with what heavenly joy I knew I could now be sealed to my dear wives and children for all time and eternity, which is with a thousandfold all the riches on this sinful earth.

I have been sealed by the President of the Temple and witnessed hundreds of pairs of young and old men and women married and sealed to each other for time and eternity never more to part, that is why Gods chosen people have been able to withstand patiently all the persecution, and go out into a sinful world to preach the Gospel.

Now just a little about our dead ancestors and friends. My father told me he was born in Skalgendrejjan on the Island of Fyen but on the map it is called Skelerup, and is located 1 mile from Nyborg on the road to Odense. He told me the Parsonage burned with all the records. He had a sister named Else who was married to a Peder Jeperson. They had children but I do not know how many. He also had a brother names Jens who lived along the same road, but closer to Odense. He married twice and had children but I do not know how many. I visited Else and Jens once when I was called to war in 1849. My father's name was Rsmus Denisen and his

father's name was Dines Rasmuson. On the roll when I was in the war I was called Hans Rasmussen.

My mother's name was Inger Marie Moens Denison. Born in Loseld Sweden. They had a son Carl 1 year 6 months old who died and a daughter Marie, both born at Ordrup. She married Morten Hansen and had 5 children. She died in 1854 in Copenhagen.

I left Copenhagen December 20, 1852 with my mother and wife Johanne, Jacob Christofers daughter. She was born November 22, 1846. We had 2 children who died, named Rasmus and Cristine; and Jens lived and came with us to Utah. My wife had 2 sisters.

My lovely young wife Johanne was a good loving and ambitious wife and mother. I had known her from the year 1844 till 1880 and we had a good life.

Now I will have to stop writing maybe for the last time as I Saturday July 20 was 77 years old. I have a good family, 12 children, 50 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. I thank God for them all. Now goodbye till I hear from you. You and your mother are wished the best of luck and loving regards. God bless you and may you walk the right road so we once upon a time may meet in Gods holy heaven. This is the prayer of Hans Denison sent to Marie Wright, Naisamhedsvej, Denmark. I wrote this letter as a testimony of the youth in my dear old home in Copenhagen.

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