

HISTORY OF MARY AGNES BRAITHWAITE

Birth: 9 Nov 1858, Kendall, Westmoreland, England

Married: 23 Dec 1880 to Hans Denison, Jr.

Death: 5 Sep 1937, Sterling, Sanpete, Utah

Burial: 8 Sep 1937, Manti, Sanpete, Utah

I will try and give a small sketch of my life. I was born in Kendall, Westmorland, England, November 9, 1858. I came to Manti, Utah when I was about five years old. I came across the ocean when I was four and a half years old. I well remember the ocean and the big ships, and how the waves would toss the ship up and down. I well remember the captain would yell every day for the parents not to let the children, small or large, on the deck of the ship as it was dangerous. The weather was very rough. As I remember, the water looked almost black. After we got away from the shore my Father held me in his arms and let me see us leave the shore, but that's about all I remember of the journey on the ocean.

I got my schooling in Manti what little I got. When I was twelve years old I had to go to work to earn money for my clothes. I did work for others at first just helping the wife with the washings, but by the time I was fourteen years old I was working while the mother was in bed with a new baby.

The people those days were very poor so my wages were very low. I worked for seventy-five cents a week most of the time, and the most I ever got was \$1.50 a week. Some times I had to just do washings for some family and this I got \$1.00 for doing three washings. I would wash almost all day on the wash board.

In 1878 (Note: Temple records show the date to be 1880 ahc) I was married to Hans Denison in the St. George Temple by D. C. Mccallister. Hans was born in Manti, July 29, 1856. We lived in Manti then moved out to Sterling, Utah in 1879. The town was then know as Pettyville, and it was located dawn on the old road about a mile west of Sterling.

When we moved out there, there was nothing only a little old log room for a house, and a little rock chicken coop. I cooked over the fireplace for a long time before I got a stove. There were no fences, and the land was covered with sage brush and rocks, plenty of them. When we broke it up we hauled many loads of rocks off. I know we hauled a hundred loads in our life.

We lived there all the time except for a few months at a time when we would move to Manti, mostly for the Winter months. In 1888 we moved to Manti for the Winter. On January 7, 1888 my husband, Hans Denison, went into the hills to get a load of wood. In those days we had to burn all wood as there wasn't but little coal, and it cost a lot of money for those days. He got so cold and wet, as he had no rubbers on his shoes, and he froze his feet because they got so wet. He had to have his toes cut off and really suffered a lot of pain all the rest of the Winter. His feet hurt him the rest of his life a lot.

On February 23, 1888 our son, Hyrum, was born. Both my husband and I were in bed then, and had four other children.

In the Fall of 1889, on September 2, we had worked hard all summer and had our hay and grain all stacked in the yard. Hans had gone up to Sterling with the last load of hay for tithing. He had just got it unloaded when someone came and told him his corrals were on fire. Before he could get home everything was burned to the ground, including one calf and all of the chickens.

We built a new home after all these trials. We have had eleven children, eight boys and three girls. We reared them all until they were grown. The first we lost a child was our oldest son, John Miles. He died February 6, 1912, of anemia. He left a wife and two children. Then our next loss was another son, Homer, who died March 16, 1920, at the age of nineteen years. He died in the Salina hospital from an appendicitis operation.
END

Notes:

1. This autobiography came from Wilfred Peters. It was written up by Camille Johnson Larsen.
2. It was scanned in from a typed copy by Almon H. Clegg.
3. Mary Agnes Braithwaite Denison was married to Hans Denison, Jr. (son of Hans Dinesen, Sr.). The son mentioned in this history by the name of Hyrum is not the same person as his Uncle Hyrum Denison who was a brother to Hans Jr. and who married Kathrina Barbara Stutznegger.
4. Children of Mary Agnes and Hans Denison, Jr. are:
 1. John Miles, bn 2 Jun 1879
 2. Hans Leon, bn Feb 1881
 3. Mary Ann, bn Apr 1884
 4. Malinda, bn Apr 1886
 5. Hyrum Ephraim, bn 23 Feb 1888
 6. Edward, bn 1891/92
 7. Rowland, bn 4 Oct 1893
 8. Myrtle, bn 24 Jul 1895 (twin)
 9. Myrland, bn 24 Jul 1895 (twin)
 10. Homer Braithwaite, bn 19 May 1901
 11. Forest , bn 21 Jan 1905)