

Ane Nielson Sorensen 1822-1903  
Parents: Niels/Ane Marie Nielson  
Husband: Hans Sorensen  
Son: Parley Peter Sorensen

## History of Ane Nielson Sorensen

Ane Nielson (Nielsdatter) was born in Posthuset, Munkebjergby, Soro, Denmark on December 24, 1822 to Niels Nielson and Ane Marie Olsen (Olsdatter). When Ane was a very young girl she was hired out to learn a trade. Her father had a small plot of land which he farmed. During this period of time in Denmark, 70% of the population were farm folk and leased land from the nobles and burgers, who in turn, owned 75% of all land. Consequently most of the people were peasants, and their children were taught a trade at a young age. Ane learned the trade of being maid and a housekeeper. She was fortunate as she was hired in the homes of wealthy land owners. She made a fair wage, but the greatest asset was the knowledge she learned from working with the influential people. She learned social graces, along with the skills of dressmaking, ironing, and caring of clothing. She became an excellent cook and baker, and learned many ways to cook specialties using the ordinary grains of the day. One of her specialties was the making of aebleskivers, which recipe was handed down to several generations. They were like small popovers (doughnut balls) which were fried in an iron cast pan containing small individual cups. When fried, they were dipped into syrups of fruit. Ane learned to read the Danish language, and to tell time, as clocks were not common to most Danes. The experiences she had as a young girl carried over into her married life.

Ane married Hans Sorensen who had been a dear friend to her for several years. Their marriage took place on September 9, 1848, in Terslose, Holbaek, Denmark. She was twenty five years old, and Hans was twenty three. He was a weaver by trade, and had a good clientele of customers. He built them a fine home, with clay floors, and green tinted glass windows which faced the front area. They lived in a village called Terslose, near Slagelse, on the same island as Copenhagen, Denmark. During the next nine years they had three children born to them. Soren Peter, Mette Marie, and Anders William. They had many friends and enjoyed their company. Outside of working, going to church and dancing occupied much of their free time. They had a happy life and their children brought them much joy.

Ane kept busy with her children and the many duties she had as a housewife, and taking care of their cow, chickens and geese. The daily chores seemed never-ending, and there were jobs of churning, making butter, cheese, soap, cooking and sewing. She would bake enough bread at a time to last the family for a three to four week period. It was a big job to prepare enough bread dough to make a dozen loaves weighing about thirteen pounds each. Hans would grind the grain the day she would prepare the dough. On baking day, the oven was heated to a scorching temperature, then the coals would be raked out. The bread loaves would be put on long wooden paddles which had been soaked in water to withstand the heat. The story is told that it didn't matter if the bread got old and molded, as it could be washed down with beer. Moldy bread made one strong. Homemade beer was the usual drink as water was generally not fit for drinking. The Danes usually ate five to six meals a day, which consisted mainly of bread and mush. Their main dish was dried and salted fish or pork, with vegetables and fruit when available. Main dishes were served in a large common bowl with all the drippings included. Bread would be broken and

dipped into the grease and fried meat drippings. Ane would make pancakes, aebleskivers, and pastries for treats.

Ane, Hans and family belonged to the Reformed Lutheran Church, and attended regularly. It was the State Church and they could be fined if they did not attend communion often. The ministers preached, but the congregations did not understand, nor did they have books to enlighten them. They understood hellfire and damnation, toil, trouble, taxes, and a God that was fearful and full of punishment. Superstitions had ruled the lives of Danes for generations. People lived in continual fear of evil powers. The fears and powers were real, and they had to protect themselves by either outwitting or pacifying them.

In the year 1857, the Church of Jesus Christ had been brought to Denmark. Later that year the Mormon missionaries came to their village. They were most unwelcome, however Ane and Hans eagerly listened to their message. They learned to pray, as praying was a new concept to them. They asked for divine help to answer their questions and aid them in their decisions. The Spirit touched their hearts and answered their prayers. They came to understand and believe that there was a living God who knew them individually and loved them. They were grateful to learn about the Plan of Salvation, and know that they would be able to return to their Father in Heaven, and live again with Him. They were grateful that the Church of Jesus Christ had been restored to earth again.

They welcomed baptism. They were baptized on February 9, 1858. It was a cold wintery day, and they were baptized in the icy waters of their pond. However, they both said that there was a warmth that surged through them as they entered the icy waters. Hans was confirmed a member of the Church and received the Gift of the Holy Ghost on February 14 by Anders Anderson. Ane was baptized two days later on February 16, by Ole Poulson. They became the first generation to join the Church on the Sorensen and Nielson lines.

As soon as the word had circulated that they had left the Lutheran Church and had joined the LDS Church, they were ostracized and condemned by many of their friends and neighbors. The clients that Hans had done weaving, went elsewhere. This caused the family to become poor in the necessities of life, but they felt rich in their hearts. They moved to a place called Jylland thinking they could find new clients for Hans' weaving skills, but that failed. The family decided to move to a larger place where work would be available. They moved to a beautiful wooded area about six miles from the City of Aarhus. Hans rented a little house where they could have chickens and a cow. Ane called the new home, Maarsgaard Hus, meaning a happy home. They were much better off now, as Hans found a full-time job as a stonecutter. They were happy with their testimonies of the Gospel, and they would now live in peace. Ane would take the children and glean the fields of wheat and rye to help out. She imparted a love of truth and honor to her children, who all adored her. On July 11, 1862, little Peter Parley was born, being their last child, and what a joy he was to the family.

(The following paragraphs are excerpts concerning the Sorensen's life when they were living around the City of Aarhus, taken from their son, William's history.)

*Our father moved our family to the city of Aarhus in 1858 and went to work as a stonecutter. He rented a house about six miles from the city. Our new home was called Maarsgaard Hus and we were comfortable there, except we missed our father as he worked in the city. It was all right with us children, because we had all the bread and mil we could eat, but it was harder on our mother. She had to be alone and care for us, and tend chores, but she, together with father, would work with love to*

support us, and were happy to know that they were members of the Church of Christ, and that they had a testimony of the same, and they could live in peace.

I was then four years old. There were four children of us, and I remember that my mother would go out and glean wheat and rye in the summer time. She would take a sack and my little sister on her arm, and the rest of us would catch hold of her dress while we helped to glean the grain. In the evening we would toddle off for home. Though tired of packing her burden, Ma would get us some bread and milk, and we would play around the house and gladden the heart of a loving mother.

When I turned six years old, and Father was still off to work, I was now so big I could help Ma a little with the cow and other things. my little sister was now four years old, and we had no baby, but on the 11 of July 1862, we had a brother brought to us and he was made welcome by all of us, his name was Parley. I was in the middle of five children. Now we were too many to stay at home and my older brother and sister had to work out to learn a trade, and I was left to help mama with the little ones, and in the winter I would go to school.

Those were the happy days of my childhood when I could play around my parental home. That didn't last long for when I was eight years old, I was hired out to tend cows. I should have two dollars for the first summer and a pair of wooden shoes. I should herd cows in the grove. Now my trouble began. In Denmark the days are very long in the summer and very warm. There are also some big cow flies and they bothered the cows, so that they would stampede and I would run for life to herd them so that they would not get into damage. I would cry and run and run and cry. I would think of my dear brother and my sister and my little brother and of the happy days I used to have and wished myself home again. Summer went and winter came. Then I should go to school. That went well to begin with, but it wasn't long until the children knew I was a Mormon boy, and nearly all the children hated me, because I was the only one that didn't belong to their church. Even the teacher could hate, and if he could get half a chance he would punish me more than the rest, because I was Mormon boy. I would tell my mother at night when I got home. She would console me by saying, "You do not need to care for that, they will soon stop and the time will soon come when we will go home to Zion."

I was hired out for four years, and I learned lots about endurance and learning to bear my burdens. If I made any complaints I would get a hard slap on the side of my head by the man I worked for. One day he asked me to take his team and haul some rocks. As I was gathering the rocks, a flock of birds flew down and scared the horses, and of course they ran away, broke the harness and kicked each other quite bad. After the horses were caught, I ran for the house, as I expected he would nearly kill me. He came full-force at me, to give me a thrashing, but his wife came out, and jumped between us, and told him to strike her instead. He put down the whip, thus I was delivered from his clutches that time. I continued to stay, but endured many hardships.

When I turned twelve years old, life took a big, big change for the better for me. My father was able to get his boss to hire me as a stonecutter, with my father. I loved my father, and did all in my power to handle the hammer well. In the evenings I could go home and see my dear mother. That was a treat for me. I could also have a chance to learn to read and write in Danish and English, as we had Brother and Sister Howgaard who were willing to teach us. I was able to live at the Mission Home with my family, and eat my mother's wonderful cooking."

(End of William's narrative.)

Hans continued to work in Aarhus, and traveled to see his family as often as possible. In 1865 the three oldest children were hired out to learn a trade. Soren Peter was learning the trade of a tailor, Mette Marie started as a maid, and William worked as a hired hand. There were just two children at home with Ane. The Elders of the Church often came to their home and they were always welcome and enjoyed Ane's cooking. The President of the mission, J. Howgaard requested that Ane, her husband and family move in the Mission Home where Ane would be the cook and housekeeper. For nearly five years she did this work well and faithfully. This proved a blessing for the family, as well as for the mission headquarters. President Howgaard and his wife taught their family to read and write in English so it would be an easier adjustment when they emigrated to Utah.

For many years, Hans and Ane had dreamed and had set their goal that their family, would leave Denmark and join the Saints in Utah. They worked early and late, saving all they could, and doing without even the minor luxuries to fulfill this goal. Finally Mette Marie was the first to get the opportunity to leave. This was done by signing a note that she would work for a year after her arrival there to pay for her passage. It was a bitter-sweet time for Ane to see her daughter leave all alone for a strange country, regardless of the joy she felt knowing she was going to Zion. All went well with Mette Marie, and while there she met a wonderful young man, and they were married and sealed in the Endowment House on January 2, 1871. She and her husband, Peter Christensen moved to Salina, Utah to make their home.

Finally in 1871, another part of their dream came true, as there was passage for three people to emigrate to Utah. It was decided that Ane and the two youngest children should make the trip first, leaving Hans and the two older boys to come later. Ane, Caroline, and Parley went to England, and then sailed to America from Liverpool, England on the ship Minnesota in June 1871.

They arrived in Utah a month later, finding many adjustments to be made. The Danish people helped them immensely with the language, finding a home and getting situated. Ane hired out to do housework, saving all she could to help gain passage for her husband and sons. During nighttime she would cook and bake pastries to sell. Many nights she would iron to make a few extra pennies. She was an expert at ironing the stiff-busomed shirts and the stiff collars worn at that time. After many months of hard work and savings, she and Hans had enough money saved to make plans for the rest of the family to emigrate.

In June 1872, Hans and William signed notes to pay back the additional money they needed for the passage. There was sorrow in their hearts that Soren Peter decided to remain in Denmark, as he was married and doing well in his trade as a tailor.

Hans and William sailed on the first steamship (a Church-sponsored ship--the Nevada) to cross the Atlantic Ocean. They were so thankful to be together as a family again, and praised the Lord for their blessings. Hans worked on the Salt Lake Temple the next two years, cutting, chiseling the huge granite stones.

Ane enjoyed the two years they stayed in Salt Lake City. She continued doing the work she had been doing which helped toward their living expenses. She made many friends, and they all did their part in furthering the progress in the Church. On October 13, 1874 she and Hans were sealed together in the Endowment House. Mette Marie had come from Salina to join in on the occasion. This was the crowning day of their lives, as their four children were sealed to them for eternity. Their only sorrow was that Soren Peter was not with them.

At this time Hans and Ane felt they should start finding a more permanent place to settle down. They chose to move to Richfield, Utah, and took their two youngest children, Caroline and Parley with them. Shortly later they moved to Glenwood, and William joined them at that time. Ane adjusted well to her moves, and with each move she met people from the Scandinavian countries. She was continually noted for her excellent cooking and hospitality. They joined with many other friends in dancing, which they had been so accustomed to in Denmark. Hans built a grist mill and several homes in Richfield, and also in Glenwood. (The mill, store and several homes have remained as landmarks in Glenwood for over a hundred years. Because of their sturdiness and character, they may last for future centuries.)

It was while they were living in Glenwood, that their daughter Caroline Sophie married Archibald Walter Buchanan in the Endowment House on September 27, 1875. Two years later, William married Mary Kristine Steffeson, in the St. George Temple. She and Hans felt blessed that their children had married such fine companions.

Ane and Hans wanted to build a home of their own, fulfilling a dream they had had since leaving their home in Denmark. Hans was given permission to homestead some land a few miles east of Glenwood, called Kings Meadow Canyon. It was a beautiful area with a creek running through it. Hans built a two-story rock home, and Ane decorated the plastered walls with stenciled artwork and cheerful colors. Together they planted trees, flowers and garden. They cultivated the ground for farming and planted grain. They were happy with their home and land for awhile. Unfortunately the farming failed, as the water was too scarce for the crops to mature, and the soil was poor. They abandoned their home and their dreams, and moved south to a settlement called Koosharem. (Part of the rock house still stands today holding unspoken memories of the past. Our minds visualize the dreams, work, love and disappointment that was part of Ane's and Hans' life. Some of the plaster is still in tact, showing the stencil artwork on the walls.)

Ane, Hans and Parley were warmly welcomed to the group of people in Koosharem. Hans immediately secured a house and farm land. Again life seemed well and happy for them, and they enjoyed the association of neighbors. Many of the people had immigrated from Denmark, and also enjoyed dancing and entertainments which were appealing to them.

They established a mercantile business which proved successful. After the items were brought from Salt Lake City, Ane took charge of the shelving and arrangements of the goods. The bartering of goods made the store successful, as the village people would bring in their commodities, such as eggs, flour, vegetables and such, and exchange or get credit for other supplies.

Ane and Hans met a fine young woman who they both admired, by the name of Matilda Evenson. She had immigrated from Norway, and they had many things in common. She was unmarried, lonely and yearned for children of her own. Since polygamy was practiced and accepted by the Church at that time, both Ane and Hans were in accord for Hans to marry her. Matilda was a fine woman with a sterling character and needed the blessings of marriage and motherhood. They were sealed in the Endowment House, Salt Lake City on May 27, 1880. Hardships came to Hans and Matilda shortly thereafter when the Edmond-Tucker Act in Congress became law, and disfranchised any man who was convicted of polygamy. It was necessary for Hans to be separated from his two wives, to avoid fines and a prison sentence. The decision was made that Hans would move his second family to Aurora, Utah.

Ane was sympathetic to the problems and needs of Hans and Matilda, as Matilda had two little girls, Nora and Josephine and she was carrying another child. Ane offered to take care of Nora, for which Hans and Matilda were grateful. Ane had passed the age of child-bearing, and she was delighted to have this precious little girl to care for. Ane raised her and loved her as her very own. It was a beautiful relationship, and Nora chose to remain with Ane all her life, and never went back to her own mother. (Matilda bore six children during the years of 1881-1891.)

One of the highlights for Ane during her days in Koosharem, was the courtship and marriage of their son, Parley. She had always hoped he could find a choice LDS girl, and this he did. He met Emma Helquist, a girl who had immigrated from Sweden about the time they had come from Denmark. After their marriage, they lived in Koosharem for a year before moving to Aurora. Emma brought so much love, joy, and happiness into Ane's life.

Ane's husband, Hans, was finally sent to prison in 1890, and remained there for six months. Parley moved Ane and little Nora to Aurora, where they could be close to him and Emma. Parley built her a home close to his and Emma's, and Ane spent the rest of her days in Aurora.

When Hans was released from prison, he was a feeble and broken man, after suffering from abuse, exposure, and a stroke, which took a dramatic toll of his life. He was unable to be around a household of little children, and spent the remainder of his life in the home of Ane and Nora, although Matilda and her children were in Aurora. It was solace to Ane to have Hans back with her where she could take care of and comfort him. He appreciated his wife and sweetheart of forty-five years of a rewarding and happy marriage, regardless of their struggles and challenges. They would be sweethearts for all eternity. He died at the age of sixty-eight years old.

The relationship between Ane and Nora was truly sweet and close. Nora continued to live and take care of her in her latter life. When Ane fell and broke her hip and was never able to walk again, Nora was her constant companion. A year before Ane died, when Nora was twenty years old, Parley and Emma persuaded her to go to Salt Lake and study nursing, which she did. At that time Emma assumed the complete care of Ane until her death on March 16, 1903, at the age of eighty-one years. She was buried by her husband in the Aurora Cemetery. This death closed a chapter of love and sacrifice in our family history.

#### NOTE:

History compiled by Margaret Sorensen Peterson, a great granddaughter.

History typed by Marilyn Peterson Abenroth, a great, great granddaughter.