

Short Sketch of The Life of
Hans and Marie Dorothy Brink Jorgensen



HANS JORGENSEN (JOHNSON)

BORN: 13 Oct 1827 at
Espe, Svenbg, Denmark

DIED: 05 Nov. 1889 at
Bear River City, Utah

PARENTS: Jorgen Nielsen
Pernille Pedersen



MARIE DORTHEA BRINK

BORN: 30 June 1834 at
Stege, Praesto, Denmark

DIED: 05 Dec 1918 at
Bear River City, Utah

PARENTS: Jens Chistoffer Brink
Maren Sophia Jacobsen

Short Sketch of The Life of Hans and Marie Dorothy Brink Jorgensen

Hans Jorgensen was born 13 October 1827 to Jorgen Nielson and Pernelle Pederson in Flyen, Denmark. As a youth, Hans served his country in the war between Denmark and Germany, carrying messages from camp to camp. Exposed to bad weather and hardship his health was bad and he was never very strong.

About 5 April 1855 he married Marie Dorothy Brink, a daughter of Christopher Brink and Sophia Joacobsen. Marie Dorothea Brink was born in Stege, Denmark, 30 June 1834. She was a young woman, that was physically strong and very religiously inclined. In 1861, after meeting some Mormon missionaries, she knew she had found the right religion and she was baptized 17 August 1861. She was the first member of her family to join the church. Marie worked hard to convert her husband he was baptized 20 November 1861. This decision cost him his job, friends and relatives turned against them. But their faith never wavered. Together they worked, Marie taking in washings and Hans working at anything he could find.

Always the dream of going to Zion was in their hearts. For almost seven years they worked and saved their money for the long journey to Utah. Just before leaving a wealthy woman friend offered to send Marie money to pay for her return ticket if she found the new country unbearable. But the woman could not know that Marie and Hans Jorgensen were seeking a sanctuary where God could be worshipped without censor or ridicule and that hardship would only strengthen their determination to help make Zion a refuge for their children.

Materially they were poor and relatives and friends thought them very foolish and told them so. But they were rich with hopes and dreams and the joy of the Gospel and in their hearts was the sad, sweet memory of three little boys they were leaving behind who buried in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The Jorgensen Family consisted of Hans (40) and Marie (34 going on 35), son Lars (9), daughter Sophia (5) and baby sister Josephine Marie (4 months), sailing for a new land, leaving friends, relatives and all they had ever known. Then the day came, on 13 June 1868 joined a group of 630 emigrating Scandinavian Saints on the steamer

“Hansia” for Hull, England. They arrived in Hull on 16 June 1868 and traveled from there to Liverpool, England by train. The group stayed in Liverpool for three days in various locations and were for the most part, treated most unkindly by the hotel keepers. On 19 June 1868 they were able to board the sailing ship “Emerald Isle” being numbered with the 876 Saints and were again insulted in every way imaginable by the crew.

It was the intention of the Elders over the Scandinavian Mission that beginning this year (1868) that emigrating Saints would cross the Atlantic on steamers, but the high price demanded for steamship passage made the fare prohibitive for the Scandinavian Saints and the voyage had to be made on sailing vessels.

The “Emerald Isle” sailed from Liverpool on 20 June 1868. On 26 June 1868 the vessel sailed into Queenstown, Ireland harbor to take fresh water on board since the machine that was used to distill seawater for culinary purposes was broken down and could not be repaired quickly. The ship left Queenstown on 29 June 1868 to cross the Atlantic Ocean. During the long trip the water taken on at Queenstown became very stagnant and was the cause of much illness among the Saints. There were 37 deaths during the crossing. Many of these were caused by measles among the children but the stagnant water undoubtedly was the real cause of the heavy death rate. The mother of one little girl, that had died, gave Sophia her daughters’ doll. While the gift came from a broken hearted mother, nevertheless it provided Sophia with a cherished toy to fill the hours during the long ocean voyage.

The ocean voyage was a dismal one. Accommodations were poor and unsanitary, especially in the quarters of the immigrants. Many of the passengers became ill, died and were buried at sea, 37 in all. Measles also plagued the journey. But they were blessed and they arrived in New York safely.

In a quote from the “History of the Scandinavian Mission” it states: “No other company of emigrating Saints from Scandinavia are known to have met with such bad treatment as this one on board any ship in crossing the Atlantic Ocean. Fortunately, it was the last company of Scandinavian Saints, which crossed the Atlantic in a sailing vessel. From that time on steamers were employed in the transportation of the Saints.”

The “Emerald Isle” arrived at the entrance to New York harbor on 11 August 1868. They were taken off the sailing vessel and put on a steamer that took them up the

Hudson River where they were held in quarantine for three days and landed at Castle Garden 14 August 1868. On the same day a steamer conveyed the emigrants a few miles up the Hudson River, where they found shelter in a warehouse of a couple of days, while their baggage was being weighed.

The Jorgensen family was once again on dry land and had survived the difficult crossing of the Atlantic Ocean. But they were tired and hungry; the children cried for food, they were virtually penniless. Marie was trying to quiet the children when she found a paper bill. Not knowing what it was she was about to discard it when a young *girl traveling under the Jorgensen's care said, "That looks like what everybody else is using to buy bread." Marie could not believe this piece of paper was worth anything, nevertheless she sent the young girl to find a bakery. Soon she returned with her apron overflowing with buns and even had some change.

*(The identity of this young girl is not known but hopefully with more research her identity will be revealed. It is believed that she went to Sanpete County).

But their journey was only begun, the hardest part still ahead. On 17 August 1868 the group left New York by rail and the emigrants went to Niagara Falls, New York; Detroit, Michigan; Chicago, Illinois and on to Council Bluffs, Iowa arriving here 21 August 1868. On 22 August 1868 the Saints were taken by steamboat across the Missouri River. Then they traveled by the Union Pacific Railroad to Benton, Wyoming seven hundred miles west of Omaha, Nebraska arriving early in the morning of 25 August 1868. Here the Church oxen teams, wagons and supplies met the emigrants and took them to their camp on the Platte River about six miles from Benton, Wyoming where they remained until 31 August 1868 when the Scandinavian Saints took up the journey across the mountains by ox train to Zion. Captain John G. Holman was the wagon master over this Scandinavian group of Saints that the Jorgensen family traveled with the 28th company. The crossing was made with oxen but the family walked the majority of the distance to lighten the load.

The journey across the plains was even more trying than the ocean voyage. En route the emigrant group faced many hardships and dangers common to the pioneers. The journey across the vast, unsettled plains and mountains was long, tedious and often difficult. To ensure safety against unfriendly Indians and natural dangers, leaders

instructed those walking to stay close to the wagons. In spite of numerous warnings from leaders, one young woman lagged farther and farther behind until she finally disappeared completely. A search party retraced their tracks, but she was never found. It was thought the Indians had captured her.

Many of the company were ill, Lars, their boy of nine years, was very seriously ill. Riding in the jolting wagon made him worse, so Hans carried him almost all of the way in his arms. Just turning six, Sophia, the second child, sometimes rode but more often dragged wearily behind hanging on to her mother's skirts. Little Josephine Marie was about six months old, making her cross and tired all of the time. She rode in the wagon on the lap of the little girl traveling with them or was carried by her mother over many miles of lonely plains. It seemed unlikely, for some time that they would reach Utah without any deaths. Sickness continued to rage among the Scandinavian emigrants, about thirty died between New York and Salt Lake City. Marie hoped and prayed that she wouldn't have to leave any of her family in a lonely grave by the trail.

They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley 25 September 1868. This was the last oxen company to arrive in the valley thus ending the emigration of Latter Day Saints from Europe by sailing vessels and oxen teams.

Hans had a relative living in Sanpete and so he had planned of going there to live. But while in Salt Lake, he met Bishop, Nels Nelsen of Bear River City, who persuaded Hans to come with him to sparsely populated community. At thus time this little city was populated primarily by Danish emigrant Saints.

It was early fall when they arrived in Bear River City. Their first home in this new land was a dugout in the bank of the Bear River. As soon as possible Hans built a two-room adobe house. This seemed very wonderful to them after spending a gloomy winter in the dugout. The location of this home was across the street and a short distance south of where the ward building and opera house were later erected. Their lot would one day become the site of the Bernard Hansen store. Here two of their children died and the others grew to manhood and womanhood.

Life here was not easy. To make a living for his family Hans worked at all sorts of jobs. The first winter he worked on the final leg of the railroad, which was completed the transcontinental railroad as the tracks laid by the Union Pacific and the Central

Pacific inched there way to Promontory Summit uniting the East and the West by rail. 10 May 1869 the railroad was completed.

He worked on the canal, which helped make irrigation possible. This canal brought joy to the people of Bear River City. Orchards grew and crops were good. But their joy was short lived. The Indians claimed the water of the canal and the Government granted their claim and so once again Bear River City was dry and uninviting.

Discouraged and disappointed Hans Jorgensen decided, as did many people of Bear River City, to move to a new community. But Brigham Young came to the people and asked them to stay with their land. He promised them that the water of the Bear River would irrigate their crops and that the country should blossom as a rose.

So he and his family stayed and Brigham Young's words came true, irrigation produced green fields, orchards, bounteous crops, shade, lawns and flowers. Bear River City became a lovely place in which to live.

Times were hard and Marie helped in every way she could to meet the needs and expenses of a growing family. Poverty and hardship did not spoil the generous natures of Marie and Hans. They always had some thing to give to the needy and they always had time to help others in trouble. Friends were always asked to have a bite to eat with them.

Two years after their arrival in Bear River City, Josephine Marie became very ill. The nights were terrifying in their darkness and tallow candles made a very poor light. The night Josephine Marie died, the Jorgensens had nothing with which to make a light. Imagine that mother and father listening fearfully for the faint sounds of breathing. The breathing eased, the little body grew cold and they knew their child was dead. Hans went across the road to Ipsen's to borrow enough tallow so they could have light to wash and lay little Josephine Marie out for burial. She died 26 February 1870.

The 27th April of that same year 1870, Hans Christian was born. He lived only a few days. For the second time in two months Hans and Marie knew the anguish of burying a beloved child.

Three other children, Caroline (Carrie), Nina and Mary (Maude or Aunt Mam) were born to them making them the parents of ten children. Lars and Sophia the pioneer children, enjoyed their younger sisters and many were the happy times spent together.

Hans Jorgensen was a man who always had to work hard, but he loved it. Although he never sought an office, he gave willingly of his time to work in the United Order. He respected his calling as a High Priest and was always glad to use his Priesthood in administration to those who were sick or afflicted in any way. He was always humble and self-effacing, willing ever to let others be first.

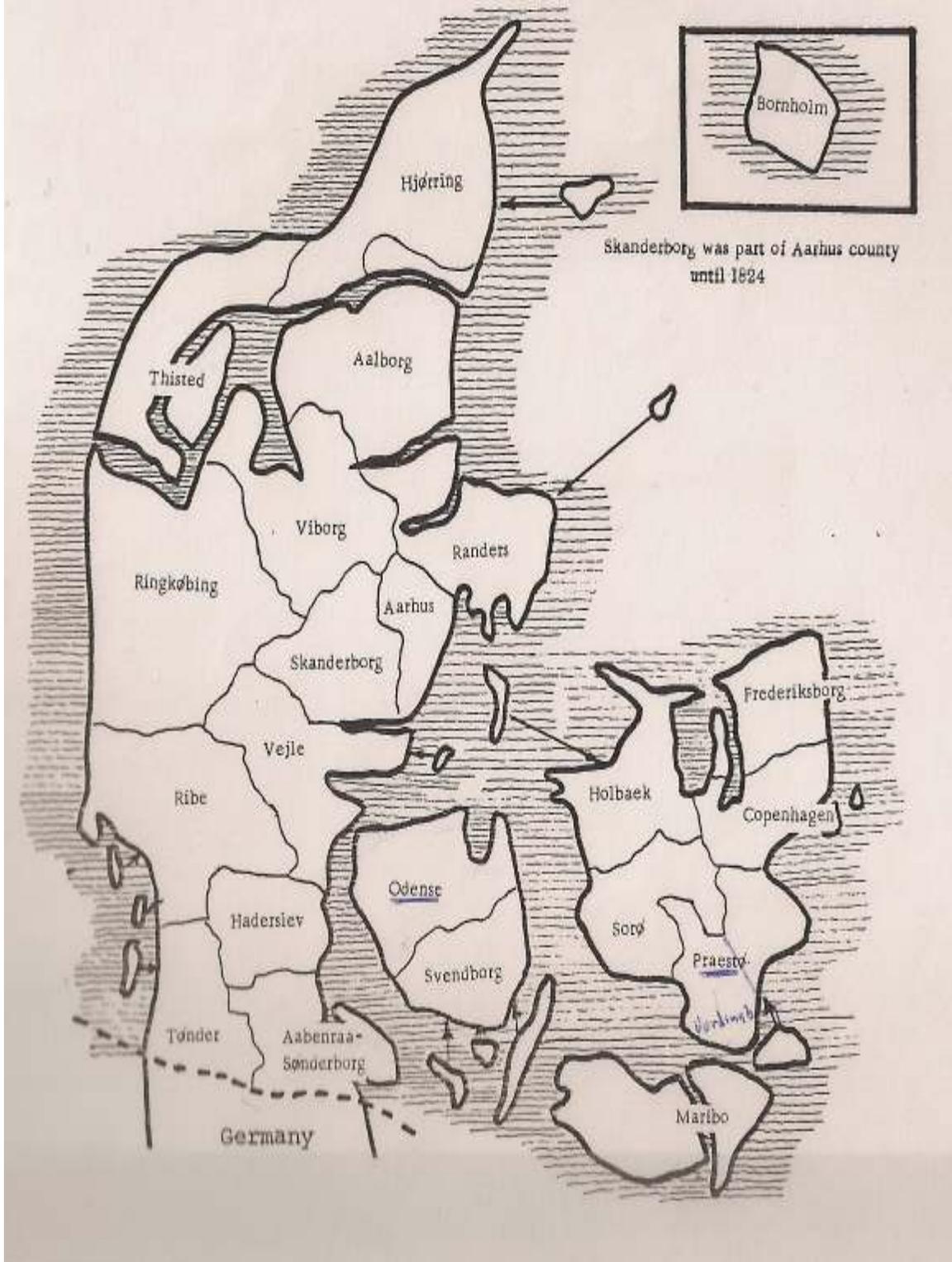
Hans Jorgensen was only fifty-two years old when he died on 5 Nov 1889 in Bear River City. His life, though short, had been rich in experience and service. He was a true pioneer and his name belongs in the annals of the West, as one who helped shape the events, which were so vital in the building of the new frontier. He is buried in the Bear River City Cemetery.

The descendants of Hans Jorgensen are known by the name of Johnson. Just how the name became changed is not known. But it probably happened very soon after their arrival in Bear River City as only a few of the very old people in the community knew Hans by the name of Jorgensen. It appears also, that his children were all known by the name of Johnson.

Marie left to care for her family set about to do so courageously in the face of every obstacle. Her faith in God and her love for her fellowmen fitted her completely for the life of a pioneer woman. She was always busy, working hard at the many tasks demanded of a Pioneer woman in making a home. All through those busy years, she found time to carry the message of Relief Society from home to home. Her courage in the face of obstacles, her faith in God and her love for her fellowmen fitted her completely for the life of a Pioneer woman.

She died 18 December 1918. She was always staunch to the faith and always thankful to her Heavenly Father for his many blessings. Her story stands as a monument to her numerous posterity. She is buried at the Bear River City Cemetery.

THE COUNTIES OF DENMARK 1793 TO THE PRESENT

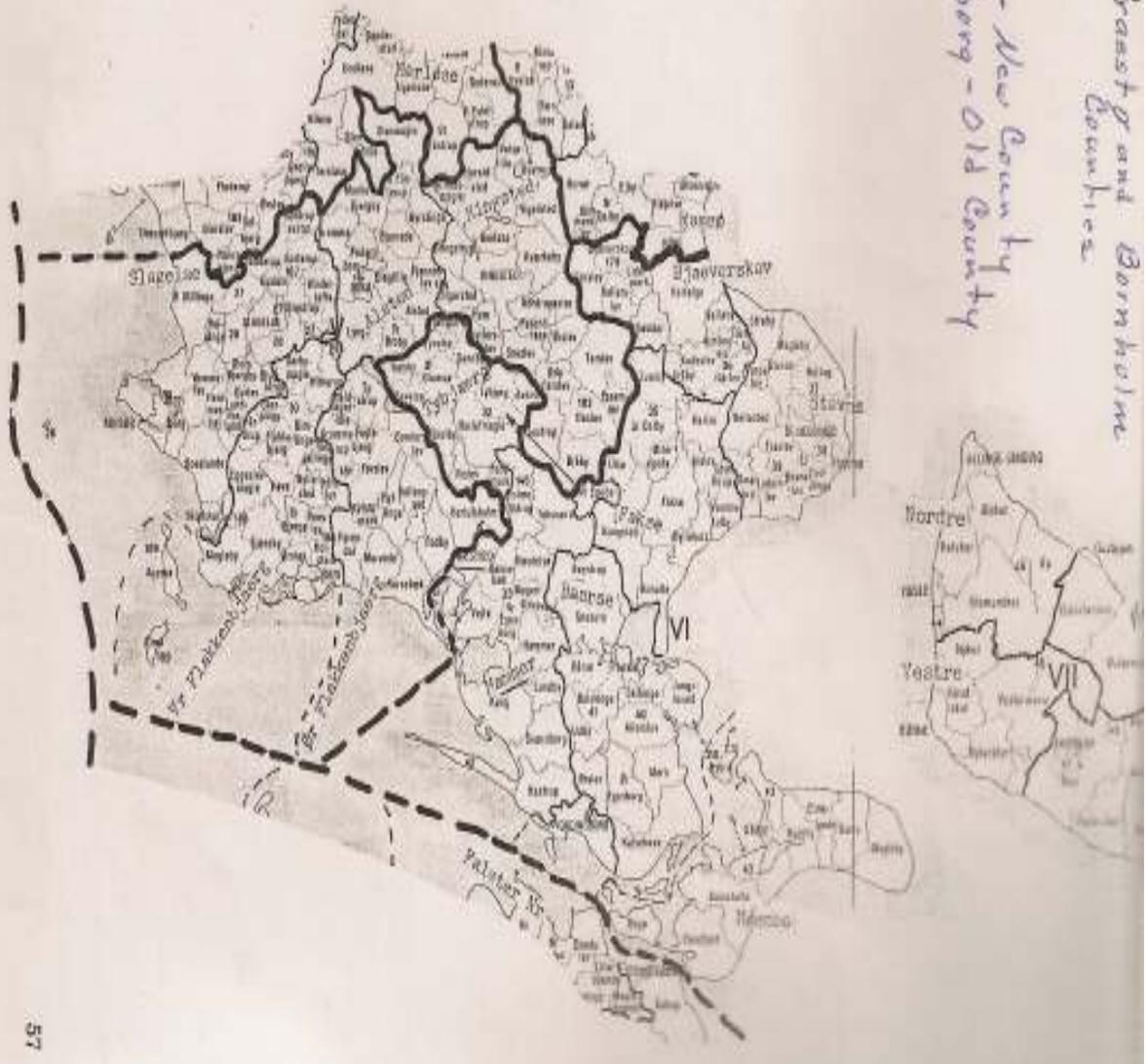


Svendborg and Odense Counties
 Island of Fyn
 Denmark



Parish: Naestved
District: Hammer
County: Old-Vordingborg
New-Præstø

Sorø, Præstø and Bornholm
Præstø - New County
Vordingborg - Old County



PASSENGER LIST FOR EMERALD ISLE 1868

JORGENSEN, Hans <1828> Emerald Isle 1868
Age: 40 Origin: Espe, Denmark Occ: Farmer
Note: SMR, p. 33; Copenhagen Conference; Customs, p.7.
JORGENSEN, Maria Dorthea <1834> Emerald Isle 1868
Age: 34 Origin: Stege, Denmark
JORGENSEN, Lauritz <1861> Emerald Isle 1868
Age: 7 Origin: Stege, Denmark

Emerald Isle

Date of Departure: 20 Jun 1868 Port of Departure: Liverpool, England
LDS Immigrants: 876 Church Leader: Hans Jensen Hals
Date of Arrival: 14 Aug 1868 Port of Arrival: New York, New York
Source(s): BMR, Book #1048, pp. 322-332,370 (FHL #025,692); Customs
(FHL #175,654)

Emerald Isle

Ship: 1736 tons: 215' x 42' x 21'
Built: 1853 by Trufant & Drummond at Bath, Maine

A famous clipper packet, the full-rigged *Emerald Isle* carried a total of 1280 Mormons in three voyages across the Atlantic Ocean.

Described by her owners-Tapscott's Line-as a half clipper in model and a packet clipper in rig, the *Emerald Isle* hailed out of New York and was the largest vessel built at Bath, Maine, until the 1860s. She was somewhat full bodied, sharp, and heavily sparred. She was a three-decker but also had a forecastle deck with two large houses for a galley, storerooms, and crew's quarters and a small cabin abaft the main hatch. The first lower deck contained a steerage cabin with a double tier of staterooms on each side running forward to the main hatch. Each of these staterooms had eight berths. This graceful ship had a figurehead of a dog in the act of leaping. Her stern was half round with a carved moulding which had the Harp of Erin in the center, an American Eagle on the right, and a dog on the left. Underneath were written the mottoes on the Irish and American coat of arms-Erin-go-Bragh and E Pluribus Unum. The *Emerald Isle* was among the first vessels to have standing rigging of wire. In 1885 she was sailing under the Dutch flag and renamed *Berendina Oriria* out of Batavia.

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