

A Sketch of My Life – Hans Peterson

I, Hans Peterson, was born in Denmark, June 29, 1867. I, with a sister, age twelve, and a brother, age 19, sailed from Copenhagen June 25, 1875, my parents remaining to come one to two years later. We landed in England June 28, crossed England by train June 29, on my eighth birthday. We left Liverpool June 30, arrived in New York thirteen days later and arrived in Richfield, Utah the last of July. My mother came over one year later, and my father two years later. We moved to Elsinore (Utah) in 1878, where I spend my boyhood and manhood days. There I married Alice Higgins, and four of our children were born there.

We moved to Dempsey, Idaho (now Lava Hot Springs) in 1895, where two more of our children were born, and where my wife died November 28, 1900. In the summer of 1901, I took my family to Logan, Utah, where we did Temple work for the family. While in Dempsey, I served as secretary of the school board for five years and was Postmaster for four years. I also took an active part in religious work. Most of the time I served as Ward Clerk, Ward Teacher, Sunday School Teacher, President of Y.M.M.I.A., and chairman of Amusement Committee.

In May, 1902, I moved with my six motherless children to Riverside (Idaho). Here I served six years on the school board, and during the World War, I was a member of the Bingham County Counsel of Defense, and Chairman of the Council of Defense of the Riverside District.

While I had my health here, I took an active part in religious work. I was Sunday School Superintendent for over six years, Ward Clerk several years, was Assistant Superintendent of the YMMIA and was in the Bishopric and High Council. I also held many small offices, such as Chairman of Amusement and Dance Committees, etc.

In the winter of 1920-1921, following a critical operation, influenza and pneumonia left me almost a nervous wreck. My doctors, after ordering me to California for a few months, advised me if I wanted to live a few years longer, to leave off all public and religious duties, and where there was any chance for excitement, theaters or in public places, such as church where my name might be called unexpectedly, and similar instances. They said that that would be able to break my nerves instantly. This, with ailments of some of my organs of which I have no control, is what has kept me from all public places, and from visiting friends, and even my own children.

My timidity and lack of education has kept me from advancing as I had desired. From what I know of the Gospel, and my life, I am not at all afraid to pass on to the hereafter. I feel the end coming and am putting my house in order. On account of some of the things mentioned above, I have not been understood by many of my associates, but I now that God will know, and He will pass final judgment on me, and that matters most.

This Life Sketch came from the personal papers of Dorothy Iola Bitton Cook, granddaughter of Hans Peterson. There is no indication when the sketch was written or dictated, but deducing from the things he said and having died in 1944, it likely was written in the 1930's or early 1940's. Unfortunately, there are no surviving children or grandchildren who might have known the dates. –Alonzo Dean Cook, 27 June 2013

If anyone reading this sketch does have more information, please use the “Contact Us” link to initiate an email correspondence. It will be greatly appreciated.