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Biographical Sketch

of

Thomas Frederick Trane

Written by Hayde Thornton

Pioneer Year 1860

Sailed on the William Tapscott

Captain Nephi Johnson Company

Born: 4 Feb 1846, Lenvig, Jutland, Denmark

Married: Eliza Marie Howes, Jan 1869, Utah

Died: 5 Aug 1921, American Fork, Utah

Thomas Fredrick Trane was born in Lenvig, Jutland, Denmark, Feb. 4, 1846. He as the son of Margrethe Nielson and Andreas Peter Trane. He lived with his grandparents until 8 years of age, when he went to his father who lived in Copenhagen making this long journey alone on a steamer. When 6 years old he had an accident which was almost fatal to him, falling in a deep pond and was almost drowned, when he was rescued. When 13 years of age he heard some Mormon missionaries preaching and being a boy spiritually inclined, decided that he had indeed heard the teachings of Jesus Christ and at once was delighted to be one of the members of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. When 14 years of age he started with a family from Copenhagen without one of his relatives to America and then on to Utah. With what joy did this young boy have in his heart when he was on this journey, and thanksgiving to his father in heaven for being privileged to hear and accept the Gospel of Christ.

They came in a sailing vessel called "William Tapscott", and after arriving on the American land drove an ox team across the plains in Captain Nephi Johnson' Co. arriving in Salt Lake City Oct. 5, 1860. Oh! How strange it did seem to this young boy after living in such a crowded populace as Copenhagen, to settle in such a new and sparsely settled country as Utah then was, but was so extremely happy as he felt that he was indeed one of God's chosen people. He moved that same fall to Lehi, going to school, as he had more ambition than ever to learn the English language having gone to an English school in Denmark.

In the summer of 1862, which will be remembered by the early settlers as the year of high water, he was washing sheep in Utah Lake near Pelican Point when Hyrum, the son of Bishop Evans, was drowned. Brother Trane was sent to Lehi with the news, and ran 2 miles from Pelican Point to Jordan Ferry, which was under water, there he procured a horse and went to Bishop Evans who immediately returned, but the body of Brother Trane's friend was never found. In the summer of '64 he hauled freight out West on Brigham Young's contract with Benjamin Eldredge and the Well Fargo Stage Line.

In the year of 1866 he went to the Missouri river driving four yoke of oxen, to help get Church immigrants, being gone from April until September when Salt Lake City was reached.

In the summer of '67 he was called to Sanpete to protect the people from the Indians who were on the war path under Chief Black Hawk, which was later known as the Black Hawk War. This same fall he went to California with a ten horse team and two wagons after freight which was brought down the coast in small schooners. After crossing the desert of Arizona and Nevada Brother Trane says he thought the San Bernardino valley just paradise itself. He went on 60 miles farther south to Los Angeles, then a city of about 2,500 inhabitants, half of them were Mexicans and Spaniards. That trip lasted from December until May of 1868.

Then he started to work at Fort Laramie on the railroad which was coming West as fast as men and money could push it, working until Christmas of that year. In the year of 1869 in January Brother Trane was married to Eliza Marie Howes, going back soon to his work on the new railroad at Promontory and was there when the Golden Spike was driven by Senator Stanford of California.

He has often said the men there were of the roughest characters he had ever met.

He worked also at Bingham Canyon at one of the first placer mines there.

In the year of 1871 he tended stage stock at the half way house between Salt Lake City and Lehi.

In July of 1871 he commenced work for Bishop Evans as a clerk in the Lehi Union Exchange, continuing until the year of 1879 when he started as a traveling salesman, and was one of the first to introduce the Studebaker wagons in the West, his territory covering Utah, Idaho, Arizona and Wyoming.

In 1882 Brother Trane started a small mercantile business near the Denver and Rio Grande Depot in Lehi and conducting the same until 1894.

In the year of 1896 he was ordained a seventy and was sent on a mission to California, going by the way of Portland Oregon, laboring in San Francisco, Sacramento, Los Angeles and San Diego, returning home in the fall of 1897. Taking up once again the activities of life as a traveling salesman for the Lehi Knitting Factory. During his life time he also served several times as City Councilman, a member of the school board, and one of the very first officers of the Young Men's Mutual Association.

Brother Trane traveled a great deal as you have been told in this biography, and he and sister Trane were permitted to attend the World's Fair in Chicago and also in Saint Louis.

He moved to American Fork in 1912 and, taking his life altogether, he lived a very busy, progressive, industrious and useful life.

Eight children were born, four going to the life beyond and the following daughters still living: Mrs. Jean Chipman, Mrs. Haydee Thornton, Mrs. Lexia Briggs, all of American Fork, and Mrs. Lula Robinson of Ogden, Utah.

Surrounded by his loving wife and daughters he passed away after an illness of seven weeks at his home in American Fork August 5, 1921, at the age of 75 years and 6 months.