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Biographical Sketch

of

Niels Nielsen

And

Karen Marie Pedersen Nielsen

by Sina N. Chipman

Pioneer Year \_\_\_\_\_

He was born 17 Mar 1825, Norreaux Brovst, Denmark

She was born 20 Dec 1872, Vesterly Oland Aalborg, Denmark

Married: 2 Feb 1854, Denmark

Niels Nielsen, son of Niels Christian Nielsen and Annie Marie Nielsen, was born in Norreaux Brovst, Denmark, March 17, 1825.

Karen Marie Pedersen, third daughter of Peter Gregersen Pedersen and Marie Pedersen was born in Vesterly Oldan Aalborg Amt Denmark, December 20, 1827, a distance of about 15 miles apart.

They both attended the Public Schools in their respective towns until they were 14 years of age. At that time, having passed their confirmation, they were then, according to the custom of Denmark, obliged to leave their homes and serve for other people in order to receive a correct discipline.

They were both employed on a large Estate owned by a man by the name of Jacobson who hired a great many servants. They worked there for a number of years until my Father was drafted in to the army, during a war between Germany and Denmark. At that time my Mother was back again at her Father's home learning the trade of spinning and weaving which she followed for many years after coming to America.

While in the army, Father and my Mother's brother, Martin, were promoted to high ranks, and when the four years of war was over, they returned in Officer's uniforms trimmed with silver buckles furnished by the King of Denmark. Father was described to me by my uncle as being a tall and stately officer. His appearance and the separation between my Father and Mother soon developed into renewed courtship and they were soon engaged.

In the meantime my Father's parents had heard a New Gospel through a humble Elder, Erastus Snow, who was laboring there and they had been converted. Mother's people were all strong Lutherans but the teachings of that humble Elder sounded true and reasonable to her and she willingly accepted it for my Father's sake. They were baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, November 3, 1853, and were married February 2, 1854.

After Mother had joined the Church, the feeling of hatred was so strong against her that she was obliged to leave her home. Notwithstanding she was, and had always been a favorite sister in the family, and it was indeed a great trial to her to bid them all good-bye, never to see them again, and she being the only one out of nine children to join the Church and leave home.

They started that same year for America, in one of the first companies from Scandinavia. Captain Hans Peter Olsen having charge of the company, on the Ship, Benjamin Adams.

Their first experience was a hard trip crossing the North Sea. A great storm arose and most of their company on board ship were seasick and suffered from exposure and cold. As the ship neared the coast of England their infant babe died and they were forced to dig a little grave and leave the earthly remains of their darling babe behind. With broken hearts they took up their journey again, crossing over England to sail over the Atlantic Ocean.

In those days nothing but sail boats were invented and some days they would be drifted further back than forward, making no progress. This being a large company the boat was crowded to its capacity, 278 Scandinavians and 6 British Saints and the company in general suffered from the tediousness and awful seasickness, but great sorrow came to them when cholera broke out among them. Many died and were buried in a watery grave. The remaining ones suffered for lack of food to nourish and sustain their bodies. Their faith was tested almost to the bitter end and as they had almost given up all earthly hopes, at the end of four long hard months they landed in New Orleans, Mar. 22.

They gave thanks to their Heavenly Father for their safe voyage across the mighty waters.

Another long and tiresome journey confronted them. For they were without adequate means to go on. They were now among strange people, strange customs, and a strange

language. They had to seek employment to furnish food and teams to go on with their journey. Everything that could be done was done to obtain means where by they could get fitted out for crossing the plains. They would travel as far a distance as they could then camp and find employment. They continued in this way<sup>6</sup> until 5 months were spent on the plains traveling with ox-teams. The women as well as the men walked most of the way, fording the rivers and enduring the most severe and tragic hardships. They arrived in Utah October 5, 1854.

They first settled in Kaysville, then in Salt Lake, Father working at anything he could find to do. Mother assisting. She also took care and nursed some motherless babies who had been deprived of their mothers crossing the ocean.

As Father became accustomed to the language and habits of the people, he soon had all the work he could do. They moved to American Fork, Utah 1856, where he was engaged to work for Ira Eldredge, Washburn Chipman, Barnabas Adams and others, until he was able to buy a small farm. Mother made the first payment on the lot by spinning and weaving cloth, which they sold to Brother Clark, father of James H. Clark, to make a suit of clothes. She also sold some of her best dresses to help build the home that stands this date on the lot and where all of their children were born.

As life began to look brighter and conditions more favorable, the cricket famine came upon them, stripping their beautiful fields of grain and every blade of grass was devoured by this terrible plague. Again their faith was tried to the limit, for only those that passed thru that ordeal have any idea of the suffering of hunger and poverty. It seemed that was the crises to wreck all earthly hopes. They were then facing starvation and had nothing but the roots of thistles for food.

Many were the times we heard Mother relate that her sense of grief and loneliness was so intense that she would go off alone where she could pour out her soul in prayer that kind providence would open the windows of Heaven and hear her

humble supplication. We can to some extent imagine how these contrasts of life were much more keenly sensed by the poor Foreigners as they were indeed strangers in a strange land. Mother at that time had scarcely grasped the language and was scarcely able to make herself understood.

Imbued with a spirit of sturdiness, thrift, and spiritual uplift, at the end of another year they began to realize the results of their labors. In the course of events they were called upon again to make a still greater sacrifice. This time it was their eldest daughter, 10 years of age. She was stricken with Scarlet Fever and succumbed to the dreaded disease of which sorrow Mother never fully recovered.

In the Spring of the year 1878 Father was called to go on a Mission. He left May 1 and labored in Nebraska and Ohio. In his absence Mother with her small children took care of the farm and with the help of good neighbors, Brother and Sister James Gardner, and other who were indeed true neighbors, she was able to furnish him means sufficient to pay his expenses and when he returned, the bins were filled with flour and plenty of wood for another year.

Father was a member of the City Council several years, also City Marshall, and was ward Teacher for many years.

In the year 1888 he married Sarah Ann Carter Warcham, Mother accompanied them to the old Endowment House to be married. Two children were born to them, a girl and a boy, both dying in infancy.

Mother acted as a teacher in the Relief Society for over 20 years. She passed away February 5, 1897, after an illness of one week from pneumonia. Father succeeding her the following year, March 5, 1898.

Of this union 6 children were born, 4 of which now survive at this writing, their posterity numbers 27 grandchildren, and 44 great grandchildren.

Notwithstanding all the hardships they endured, their testimony of the Gospel never wavered.

May we honor and cherish their memory through-out life and all eternity.

Written and compiled this 30<sup>th</sup> day of October 1928 by their daughter, Sina Nielson Chipman.