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Biographical Sketch

of

Peter Beck

Pioneer Year 1862

Sailed on the Franklin

Born 10 Oct. 1850 in Denmark

Married 29 Dec. 1873 to Isadora Jameson

Died 28 Feb. 1927 in American Fork, Utah

Peter Beck, second son of Stephen and Justina Beck, was born in Denmark, October 10, 1850. He was baptized and confirmed a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at the age of 8 years, his parents having embraced this faith a few years previously. His parents were making preparations to emigrate to Utah and in the month of June, 1862, Stephen Beck accompanied by his wife and family of small children left their native land of Denmark and embarked on the long journey to Salt Lake City, Utah, the gathering place of converts to the "Mormon" faith. Young Peter was at this time between the age of 11 and 12 years.

They sailed on the good ship "Franklin" together with 600 passengers, most of whom were "Mormon" immigrants bound for the same destination. They suffered the many privations incident to steerage passage on the sailing vessels of that time. The food rations were small and of poor quality, and as a result much sickness prevailed. To use Peter Beck's own words, "over fifty deaths occurred during the sea voyage and as was customary at that time they were rolled in canvas or burlap, weighted and dumped overboard. I was a young inexperienced and homesick boy and the impression made on my mind of this gruesome sight will never be erased from my memory as long as life lasts."

The family arrived in Salt Lake City the 6th day of October 1862. The trip across the plains from the Missouri river was made by wagon, both horses and oxen being used. Quoting Mr. Beck again, "By the time we started on our journey across the great stretch of country between the Missouri River and Great Salt Lake, I had become more reconciled to conditions, and being a young healthy boy I was commencing to enjoy my experiences. The one great drawback was my inability to either talk or understand English. Fortunately I formed the friendship of an English boy of about my own age and I rapidly acquired a working knowledge of the language. This boy, whose name I cannot now recollect and myself together with all members of the company who were well and strong, walked the entire distance from the Missouri River to Salt Lake City."

After a few days in Salt Lake City the Beck family moved to Lehi. Soon after their arrival, young Peter Beck obtained employment

as a sheep herder. He followed this work for some time, and when a young man of eighteen started in the cattle business on a small scale for himself. He prospered in this work and followed it for about ten years. He planted the first trees at what is now known as Saratoga Springs. He was one of the first settlers on American Fork bench, having homesteaded 80 acres of land when only 23 years of age. He was under contract with the United States government to carry the mail between American Fork and Topliff during the years 1914, 1915, 1916 and 1917. The route was through a stretch of country where in the winter the roads were little better than a trail.

He married Isadora Jameson, December 29, 1873, and seven children were born of this union. April 15th, 1886, he married Margaret Boddison and ten children were born to them.

He was retiring in his disposition, but in his quiet unassuming way made many warm friends who loved him for his integrity of purpose and for his clean, upright manner of living. He has kept the faith and was a firm believer in the divinity of the truth of the gospel he embraced in his early youth. He died at the age of 76 at the family residence in American Fork early Monday morning February 28, 1927 after an illness of eight weeks with diabetes. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Margaret Boddison Beck and the following children: Stephen Beck and Mrs. Mattie Weeks of Vernal, Avery Beck of Gunnison, Mrs. Florence Latham, Mrs. Emma Kisler, Mrs. Margaret Andrews and Milton Beck of Salt Lake City, Mrs. Laura Huish, Byron Beck and Knord Beck of Magna, Calvert Beck and Mrs. Edna Hindley of American Fork, also 41 grand children and 7 great-grandchildren, one sister, Mrs. Laura Hooton of Beaver, and three brothers, Stephen Beck of Oregon, Theodore Beck of Idaho and John Beck of American Fork.