

#1 OVERALL

Really good story and sure written by a "D"

Josephine Tomine Fredericksen Torgersen

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This story is about my great, great, great grandma Josephine Tomine Fredericksen. I would like to tell you how her life back then was and how my life is now in comparison. Her family was poor and they actually were not able to eat as much food. So for dinner they would have stuff like a little bit of bread or her mother would cook mush on the kettle. While what I have for dinner is stuff like steak or shrimp or something like that and some good veggies. Josephine and her young sister who was two years younger than Josephine actually had to go miles to go get a little bit of milk that they probably wouldn't even be able to drink that day. But when they went to go get milk, sometimes the people running the business would give them a sandwich. Josephine said that when they gave her and Nora a sandwich they were very grateful for what they got but she also said that, "occasionally it would be white bread, which is like cake for me and my sister." Josephine had said.

This is the part where it gets sad. I just wanted to let you know. One day when Josephine was home she got typhoid fever. This means that she got really sick. Josephine said, "When I was about seven years old I got typhoid fever. They thought for sure I was going to die. But faith and prayer from mother and father and the Morman elders I was better; and I know that's what saved me. I was sick for a long time. I couldn't walk a step, and I lost all of my hair." Luckily we don't have typhoid fever too much in America now and we don't have to worry about dying if we get sick anymore.

I have a sister that looks exactly like Josephine except for the jet black hair and has the exact same fiery spirit that Josephine had which I find interesting. I even have some of her characteristics like determination, compassion for other people, and her love of animals.



Josephine



Me



My sister Claire

When Josephin's mother would card and spin wool with her husband, Nora and Josephine would comb their mothers long beautiful black hair. "We sure loved it, but we think our mother never did." Josephine had said. This is something that Josephine said and she went from Denmark to Ellis island all by herself. I was able to go to Ellis island a month ago and see where she landed. I was with my family and I think it would have been scary to be there all by yourself. Josephine actually has her own story to tell. "When the time came to go, Father said he couldn't let me go. Mother and I went to Alborg the day before I was to leave and the next

morning Father was there to take me back. He sure felt bad and said he couldn't stand to let me go. But the Elders were there and talked to him and changed his mind. But how hard it must have been for them to see their little girl just nine years old leave them. They didn't know if they would ever see me again or not. When I think of it now, it makes me feel very sad to think what they suffered. They sent two more of their girls like that. Josephine said, when she was very old, "When I think about it now I can see Father and Mother standing on the shore when the ship went out on the rough Northern Ocean. They stood there as long as I could see, waving goodbye to me. I don't see how they could stand it, but it was for the Gospel's sake, or they wouldn't have stood it." Once they were on the ship Josephine said she doesn't remember getting even close to sea sickness even though there were pigs, horses, sheep and a whole bunch of other animals with a whole bunch of mess and a whole lot of noise on the other deck. Josephine was put into this Mormon care system when she got to New York. Now I'm glad that we don't have to travel by ourselves and have to go somewhere else that we have never been to before and now you can see why I said that she is a confident young woman. Because this generation would never travel by themselves when they were kids. Like I get really nervous when I'm by myself somewhere it really scares me.



Me at Ellis Island,
February 2022
I am the same age now
that Josephine was when
she landed at Ellis Island
138 years ago.

Now I would like to tell you about her life when she was out of the Mormon care system. Josephine had to work very hard and was also treated like a peasant when she was out of the Mormon care system. The lady she lived with had to sew a lot of rugs for people. Josephine would pay for her own school by doing janitor work at the school house. Josephine said that she always wishes she had a better education like the rest of her family. But she did know how to read, do math and write very well. She just wishes that her life would be more convenient like the rest of her family. Also Josephine remembers getting a penny to spend one day. You might

think that it was not a lot of money but back then a penny meant at least getting some “chicken tendies.” Something sad was that Josephine never tasted ice-cream until after her marriage. When she was working she went to work for Richard Brown when his first child was born. She milked 15 cows morning and night and carried water from the creek. Josephine got paid \$1.50 a week which by the way was a lot of money back then for her and her family.



Josephine with 11 of her kids

Something that I find really interesting is that Josephine had fifteen kids. Josephine was married to Torval Torgerson. Something sad was that Josephine's first child died at birth on October 20 1890. There was actually something I forgot to tell you in the beginning. Josephine was born on 21 September, 1874. When she got old, during the summer she became unable to stay alone because of illness and her family had to start helping her. This really bothered her because she did not want to be a burden to anyone or have anyone do things for her. It was harder for her to accept the fact that she needed to be waited on than it was for her to bear the pain and discomfort of her illness. Something sad was that when she got old she actually got another really bad disease and she actually just sat there peacefully and passed away on the 13 of January 1960. This actually had a hard hit on her family. Her mom got really depressed and her sister Nora did too. Josephine was buried in the Koosharem cemetery on the 16 of January 1960. This is actually really sad but I'm sure that my great, great, great grandma Josephine Tomine Frederickson Torgerson had a very wonderful life.



Headstone at her grave

The End



Josephine with
daughter Lynn