

Wagon Trains, Spies, and A Pioneer Family

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A great essay Hadley
you have discovered
how fun it is to
learn about your
ancestors and your
heritage.
I really enjoyed
this story -
Keep reading more!

Wagon Trains, Spies, and A Pioneer Family

Jens Christen Christensen is my fifth great grandpa. He was born on October 6, 1834 in Denmark. Growing up he learned to play the clarinet, cornet, and violin. He enjoyed fencing and was really good at it. Jens was also a hard worker. When he was a young man, he worked on his uncle's large estate working as a weaver and in the dairy. While working there, he met a girl named Mette Marie Nielsen. They got married on July 29, 1860.

After Jens and Mette Marie got married, he went to military training camp. He learned a lot of things but liked being a scout the best. He was gone for a year and when he came home, he and his wife joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Jens was called to serve in the Danish Army during a war between Germany and Denmark. He already had a lot of training and was really good so Jens became a spy. Mette Marie could not get any letters from Jens while he was gone. His job was top secret and that meant he could not send any letters home or let anyone know what he was doing.

After a while Mette Marie heard reports that Jens had been killed in the war. She was very sad about this and decided to move to America with the church. She travelled by ship across the Atlantic Ocean, travelled by train to Missouri, and then crossed the plains in a wagon train to settle in Salt Lake City. She went to work for a family as their maid. Mette Marie always thought that her husband might not have been killed. Every time a wagon train came into the city, she would go wait to see if she could find Jens.

Jens served in the Army for 3 years. Once he was done with his service, he came home to find that his family had left without him. He decided to go to America to find them. Jens and his brother Christen had to earn money to travel so they worked as blacksmiths. The brothers were able to save enough money to get to America quickly.

Jens and Christen walked across the plains with a wagon company in 1865. After walking all day long the other pioneers enjoyed listening to Jens and his brother play their musical instruments every night. Once they were getting really close to the Salt Lake Jens couldn't wait any longer to get there. He was told not to go ahead but he didn't listen to the men in charge and he left the wagon train and walked ahead of the company. Jens was excited and nervous to see what the city looked like.

Mette Marie had heard that there was a wagon train coming. Before she could go greet them she had to finish her housework and chores and went outside to sweep the walkway.

Jens made it into town and was walking the streets. He passed a woman wearing a bonnet sweeping in front of the house. He didn't see her face and continued down the road. Something seemed familiar about her, so he looked back at the woman. She was looking at him too. Jens recognized that it was his wife looking back at him! He had not seen her since he left for war and they were very happy to be together again.

I like this story about my 5th great grandpa because it shows how much Jens wanted to be with his family and how hard he worked to find them again. Learning about Jens and Mette Marie was really neat and taught me that my family history is really interesting. I can't wait to read more stories!