

Lars Peter Hansen and Dorthea Mickelsen and Parents

Lars Peter was born in Halenslev, Denmark, the eldest child of Lars and Maria Larsen Hansen. His father was the village tailor so they must not have had too much money. They joined the Mormon Church and wanted to come to America, but they didn't have enough money to all come together. Nevertheless, they determined that the family would come to Zion. They sent their oldest son, Lars Peter, and his sister, Martha, first. Lars Peter was twelve. Martha was ten. They came to Mantua, Utah where Lars herded sheep and Martha worked as a servant. Maria and the two younger boys, Christian and Julius, came next. When the father came they made their home in Ogden, Utah.



Lars Peter Hansen Dorthea Mickelsen

They made their living by going to the canyon, cutting wood and hauling it to the tie yard in Ogden. Later they moved to Mantua where they herded milk cows for the community. They took them to the canyons north of Mantua. They were paid according to the distance they had to travel, so much for the first canyon, more for the second and so on. One day while herding the cattle Lars Peter told of watching a wagon caravan crossing the canyon. They were laden with the baptismal font and oxen for the new Logan Temple. When the Jens Swensen's and the Christian Mickelsen's came though Mantua the family joined them and settled in Gentile Valley, Idaho. It was no doubt at that time that Lars Peter first set eyes upon the small daughter of Christen and Maren Mickelsen. They homesteaded 40 acres of the place later owned by Jack Hubbard. Years later Lars Peter began courting Taya Mickelsen and they were married March 1, 1894. Lars and Maria, Lars Peter's parents, are buried in the Lago cemetery.

Dorthea (Taya) Mickelsen was born 21 November 1872 in Huntsville, Utah, the second child of Christen and Maren Anderson Mickelsen. Christen and Maren were both born in Denmark and were converts to the LDS Church. She came across the plains to Salt Lake City with one of the handcart companies. He came by train from New York to Salt Lake City with his parents and two brothers. Christen and Maren met and married in Salt Lake City. They were among those sent by Brigham Young to settle Huntsville, Utah. Later Christen served a mission in Denmark. They had five children. They moved to Gentile Valley in 1878 and homesteaded the place later owned by Louis Bitton. Christen and Maren are buried in the Lago cemetery.

One of Dorthea's first recollections was when a neighbor came rushing to the door in tears with the news that Brigham Young was dead. She remembered her mother snatching up here baby sister Helmar, and rushing to the next neighbor with the news with a frightened Taya holding onto her skirts for dear life. The news spread like wildfire around the settlement. The cabins were built around a square at the center of Huntsville. Shortly after this, Taya, along with her family and others, moved to the Gentile Valley in Idaho. As soon as Taya was old enough she began working for other families. By doing this she learned early the value of a dollar and hard work.

Lars bought the farm owned by Pete Lund and built a two-room log cabin there for his bride. The cabin was later moved to another spot by numbering the logs and reassembling them on the new site. Six children were born in that cabin. It is shown at right in 1952. They built another home about a quarter mile straight east of the cabin. The last two children were born in that home. Lars and Taya worked hard to build up their farm. Coyotes were abundant and preyed on sheep and cattle. Taya tells of battling squirrels with poison but they seemed to flourish rather than die out. It was said that she could walk through a prepared field and sow seed from a bag by hand as evenly as if sown by machine.



Bud and Dorothy remember how good Grandpa Hansen was to them. At Christmas there was a little purse with 100 pennies. Dorothy remembers she and Phil setting on his lap and learning to play pinochle. Grandpa taught Dorothy that she had to bid to win and she still plays the game that way. Bud remembers driving the header box for Grandpa and Grandpa bought him his first Stetson hat in reward. They remember Grandpa always loving and caring for them. Stan was much younger but he remembers sitting on Grandpa's lap. He suffered a stroke at age 75 and is buried in the Lago cemetery. Taya lived another eighteen years. As long as she lived the family continued to gather for major holidays and summer gatherings at Hooper Springs, Lava and Bear Lake. She died at 86 and is buried beside Lars at Lago.

Source unknown.

Pictures added and placed on website March 2008

OurGenerationsAncestors.org