

The Life of Elsie Marie Miller Christensen

The little girl stood outside of the big iron gate, and took a deep breath before she entered. The scene before her was familiar; she had been here often before, but it seemed different now that she was going to start school here. The schoolhouse was set back from the road. It was a long building because the schoolteacher, Mr. Hansen, and his family lived in most of it. Rows of graves with their white markers marched down to an iron fence separating the schoolyard and the cemetery. In the mist of the graves, watching over them like a guarding power stood the Lutheran Church. It was a typical village church with a belfry and a large bell, which was the pride of the surrounding county.



The little girl pushed open the gate, walked to the schoolhouse, and entered. The school consisted of one large room. The desks were long black benches with raised, slanted platforms above for writing. The desks were long enough for six children. There were five rows of these desks on either side of the center aisle. All of the boys sat on one side of the room while the girls sat on the other. The teacher's desk was on a raised platform in the front and center of the room. To the teacher's right was a huge black stove which heated the room. To his left was a large map of the world. A blackboard covered the front wall. Mr. Hansen was a kind man. The little girl was not afraid of him as he greeted her and began asking her questions.

"What is your name?" asked Mr. Hansen.

"Elsie Marie Miller," and her voice quavered a little.

"What is your father's name?" was the next question.

"Christian Miller," the little girl stopped. Suddenly she wished she were at home. She could almost see her father bending over his shoemaker's bench in the little shoe making shop in their home. The awls and lasts would be neatly in place. Her father would be working on a pair of shoes, pounding the nails in with short, quick taps.

"And what is your mother's maiden name?" Mr. Hansen interrupted her thoughts to ask the question.

The little girl answered, "Dorthea Jensen," and her thoughts went back to her home. Perhaps her mother would be making candles to light their home, or she may be spinning or sewing. Maybe she would be cleaning the house--the kitchen adjoining the shoemaker's shop. The large pantry was next to the kitchen, and the large bedroom by the pantry. The house was an odd shape, being long because the rooms were all side by side, but it was a good house; and it was large enough to accommodate the family of six children. These children were Jens, Marie, Lars, Soren, Nicholi, and herself, Elsie.

"When and where were you born?" Mr. Hansen asked.

"I was born July 5, 1864, at Mygaard (Hoysler) Viborg, Denmark. It was the ready answer to the question. Mygaard was a small village 2 1/2 miles from Hoysler, but Mygaard belonged to Hoysler. The people came to Hoysler for church, school and special occasions.

Mr. Hansen took hold of her hand and led her to her desk. It was on the end of the bench nearest the aisle.

"I hope you get along well in school," said Mr. Hansen as he went to his desk.

That was how her school life began. She got along very well in her work. Her spelling was not good, however, and Mr. Hansen often stood behind her and reached down to rub a misspelled word from her slate with his finger. She learned reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, and Bible history. Because Mr. Hansen was the church singer, the classes were often excused for funerals and weddings. Then the boys would stand quietly in a row on one side of the big iron gate while the girls stood in a row on the other side. They all listened attentively while Mr. Hansen sung "Amen" in response to the prayer of the priest.

Most of Elsie's life was taken up with school. In the winter she went to school only two days of the week. Elsie was very happy until Catherine came. Catherine came to her home when Elsie was 9 years old. She wanted Elsie to go out into the country to herd the sheep. These sheep were owned by all of the villagers and were herded by one person in one place. When Elsie heard the proposition, she wanted to go at once. Her father didn't want her to go, but she coaxed and pleaded until he gave his consent.

Elsie had always wondered what it was like to be homesick. She was still wondering as she went out to herd the sheep the next day. She took the sheep down on the peninsula. She became afraid the sheep would go into the water, which surrounded the land on three sides: so she went around and around the sheep keep them in the center. When the man came that afternoon Elsie was crying. She knew what it was to be homesick now; however Elsie stayed with the sheep herding job for the full four months.

One day two men, who were very neatly dressed in black, came to the house. They brought the message of the L.D.S. Church with them. Elsie was only ten years old at the time and she didn't quite understand all they said and meant. Elsie liked to hear the missionaries though, and she would hurry home from school especially fast when they were going to be there.

Dorthea her mother, eagerly listened to all they said and read every piece of literature about this new religion she could get. Christen, her father, was different. He scoffed at the missionaries and would have little to do with them. This situation continued for some time until one day, Christen broke his leg. He was unable to work any longer and he could get no one to help him in the shoemaking shop until he was able to work again. The money was soon gone, and the rent could not be paid. The family moved to a much smaller house in Hoysler. Christen became restless and discontented and wise Dorthea gave him the religious literature, which had been so interesting to her, so the he could read it too.

Christen read, studied, and believed. He waited anxiously to go to one of the meetings. He went to the first meeting supported by a crutch on one side and Dorthea on the other. His faith grew and now the whole family wanted to be baptized into the Church. On November 22, 1876. Elsie, who was 12 years old, and her brother, Nick, were baptized into in a deep water filled hole. The

rest of the family, except Jens, had been baptized the year before. The Miller family were Mormons now. The attitude of the people changed. The neighbors did nothing to harm the Mormons, but they would associate with them very little. The children at school treated Elsie and her brothers and sisters differently too. Only the attitude of Mr. Hansen, the schoolteacher remained the same.

About this time the wife of Mr. Hansen died. It was the custom to invite whomever you wished to the funeral instead of all the friends and relatives coming. Mr. Hansen sent a messenger to invite everyone in the village. The messenger invited everyone except the Miller family. Mr. Hansen heard the Miller family had not been invited and he walked to their home to see the family. He invited them to the funeral showing that regardless of the fact that the family had become Mormons, he was still their friend.

The time was now the end of the school year. It was the custom in Hoysler to have a gathering to show what the children had learned at school in the past year, and then the children were blessed by the priest. Because Elsie was a Mormon, she was not allowed to participate in the program. At the meeting the priest cried over the ones of the flock who had strayed and become Mormons.

Like all other Mormons at that time, the Miller family became interested in coming to America to live among other people of their own faith. Money was saved and some borrowed until at last they had enough for the whole family to take the journey. Late in June, 1879, the long journey began. There were many little things to remember of the following days on the ship and train. Elsie celebrated her fifteenth birthday on the Atlantic Ocean, but she was so seasick she could not enjoy the gifts her mother and her aunt gave her. The screaming of a crazy girl on the ship, a woman holding a dead baby, the rushing crowds of New York, the long walk to the train, the hot uncomfortable days on the train and the changing of trains at Omaha and Chicago were only a few of the impressions left on Elsie's mind.

At last the family settled at Logan, Utah. They were able to find a house large enough to accommodate the family. Christen at once took up shoemaking in the now home as he had done in Denmark, while Dorthea sat spinning in the other corner. They were soon getting along fairly well in this country.

Elsie at once began wondering about the future. She had borrowed the emigration fee, which was \$80.00, from her brother-in-law. She must pay it back now, but how? She couldn't even speak English, and she didn't know just what type of work she could do. After inquiring around some, she was able to get a job doing housework. It only paid fifty cents a week, however, and the debt wouldn't get paid very soon at that rate. She began at once to learn to spin and to weave the thread into cloth. From the cloth she learned to make clothing for herself and to help her mother make clothing for the other members of the family.

Elsie was a good worker and in such a small town the people soon knew of her ability. She soon offered opportunities to do washings. The pay was much better for this type of work. She was now getting fifty cents per washing and she saw the debt getting smaller. It was easier for her to get work now and she was able to speak some of the language too. When Elsie was seventeen she was offered the chance to go to Montana to cook for some men who were working on the railroad. It was a good opportunity because the pay was better than at the work she was doing. Her brother, Nick, persuaded her to go, and her parents gave their consent. Marinus and Christina, another brother and sister team, went along too.

Elsie and Christina got along very well. They lived in a sheep-camp like wagon together. They were the only girls in this camp and the next, so of course, they were very popular. They enjoyed their work because it was not too hard and they had some time between meals to do as they pleased. In this free time the girls used their imaginations and many funny jokes like this one resulted:

Jim was the boss's son. He was a pretty boy rather than being just good-looking. The girls wondered how Jim would look dressed as a girl and they finally persuaded him to put on one of Christina's dresses. He proved to be a beautiful girl, and after much coaxing from the girls, he consented to go to the dance that night-as a girl. Jim was very popular at the dance. All of the young men were excited about the new girl from the upper camp and there was no lack of dancing partners. The new girl was not only beautiful, but also witty with a pleasing personality. Everyone left the dance talking of the pleasant evening and the new girl. It was not until much later that the masquerade was discovered.

Not long after the dance Christina became violently ill. She could no longer work and her health became worse instead of better. Finally her parents took her home. When Elsie's parents heard there were no other girls in the camp, she was called home too. She didn't want to leave this very interesting life for the daily washings again, but she must. At any rate, she had earned \$20.00, which was paid on her debt. The rest of the debt was paid after her marriage. Elsie was a popular girl. She and Nick went to many of the dances, which were held in the various homes. Elsie went with many fellows, but was never very satisfied with any of them. She liked them, of course, but she wanted someone better.

In September Elsie met Ferdinand Christensen. He was a friend of her brother, Nick, Ferdinand had wanted to meet Elsie, and Nick had promised to introduce him to her, not telling Ferdinand that Elsie was his sister. One day a group of young people wanted to visit the Baptist Church. Ferdinand, Nick and Elsie were in the group, but everyone else left leaving Ferdinand to take Elsie home. That day Elsie promised to go to the dance with Ferdinand the next Friday night. This first dance with Ferdinand was great fun. It seemed as though everything was just right. Elsie was wearing a new red dress, which she had made; she was with a fellow she liked, and the dance was a lot of fun.

When they went out after the dance, it was raining. As Elsie and Ferdinand walked home, they must cross a ditch. Ferdinand jumped across while Elsie walked across on the board, which was used as a bridge. Because of the rain, the bridge was slick, and Elsie slipped into the ditch. Elsie's, new dress was covered with mud, and she was a funny sight as she went on home that way.

'Elsie and Ferdinand were seen together often in the months that followed. About 12 or 14 couples would rent a big room to have a dance. The dances were all square dances except for two waltzes, which were allowed at each dance. They became engaged in April 1883. The summer was spent in work for Elsie and Ferdinand, and also in preparations for the wedding. Ferdinand was rather at a loss as to know were to live. He had a very little money even though he was working. It was partly because of this that they were married so soon. Elsie Marie Miller and Ferdinand Christian Christensen were married on October 4. 1883. in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City, Utah a wonderful new life began at once for them.

As soon as they returned from getting married, Ferdinand rented a shoe shop. They rented a small room and Elsie made it into a home. Within the first four years following their marriage,

two children were born: first a girl, Mary Dorothy, on July 24, 1884, and then a boy, Ferdinand Christian on January 14, 1887. With more responsibility a bigger income was needed. The decision was made to move to Preston, Idaho where it was reported that the prospects of a new business were better.

As soon as they moved to Preston, Ferdinand built a shoe shop. Business was only fair so Ferdinand went to Pocatello to work. While he was working there, Elsie went to Logan. While she was there another son, Christian Miller, was born February 3, 1889. Ferdinand had returned just before the child was born. He now found that he could no longer work at shoemaking because of his health. Although Ferdinand was experienced in other types of work, he tried many of them. His work often took him away from home for many days.

During this time on February 20, 1891, another son, John Erastus, was born. Although they had been living in Preston for some time, this was their first child actually to be born there. The time palled. Ferdinand went to work as usual the fall morning. He was working high on the roof of the academy building when the scaffolding broke. Ferdinand and his companion fell to the ground. When the people reached his side, Ferdinand didn't move at all; but he was alive. They carried him into the house until he regained consciousness. Then they carried him home to Elsie. Elsie watched the men coming up the street. A cold fear gripped her heart. Was he hurt badly? Would he live? Thanksgiving and Christmas were coming too. Would he still be there to share those good times with them?

The doctor came. He examined Ferdinand thoroughly. There were no broken bones, but his body was badly bruised and possibly some internal injury was present. He seemed to be completely paralyzed and could only move his fingers and toes on his right side. Ferdinand must stay in bed for at least three weeks, maybe longer. He would not die from the injury, and right now that was the most important factor.

The weeks that followed were hard for everyone. Ferdinand fretted and worried about the welfare of his family. He was very independent and was afraid they would need to have help from the Relief Society. Elsie assured him there would be no need of it, and set out to prove it.

Here was a real problem to solve. Elsie could not go away to work because she must care for Ferdinand and the children. John at this time was only about 9 months old. The boys needed new shirts and Dorothy also needed some new warm things with winter coming on. There was not much need to worry about food because they had potatoes, carrots, and other vegetables from their garden, and they had a good supply of flour too. Money would be needed to buy sugar and a few other things they could not raise in their garden. The need was urgent and something must be done at once.

"If I cannot go to work," Elsie reasoned, "it will have to come to me." It was with this thought in mind that she went out to talk to some of the people. She was able to get a few washings to do. As before she was married, she did her work very well and more people were willing to have her do their washing for them. Elsie discovered that the butcher would pay her three cents apiece for cleaning chickens, which were to be sold in the butcher shop the next day. All of this added up to being able to supply enough money to just get along. Then there was the problem of clothes. Elsie could put the knowledge of spinning and weaving into practice as she had done when she first arrived in America. She would spin and weave some cloth for all of them. She always made all of the clothes anyway, so the task would not be too difficult. The work began and before she had finished twenty-one yards of material had been made by her nimble fingers.

Another problem arose. Christmas was coming and there must be something special for the children. Elsie and Ferdinand had a conference and decided to sell two chickens for which they received twenty-five cents each. Elsie bought some candy and a few trinkets for the children. In the years that followed the Christmas was remembered as one of their happiest. They had everything necessary to make the small family happy. Ferdinand was at last well enough to be out of bed some. He would be able to walk and live a happy, normal life again. Elsie gave thanks for the good health of the family, and Ferdinand gave thanks for his wife, her initiative and ability to keep the family independent of any outside charity. At last Ferdinand was well again. He went back to work as before. He was often away from home working now.

In 1894 Ferdinand was away from home working in Whitney. Elsie was at home with the children. They had a new wagon to play with. Ferdinand had warned them often not to stand up in the wagon when it was moving, but children do not always do as they have been told. Ferd was standing in the wagon with the tongue straight up in front Chris and John were pushing the wagon. They were laughing and playing. Suddenly all was quiet. In a few moments Ferd came into the house. He was crying and his arm hung limply at his side. Elsie was frightened and went immediately for the doctor. He came at once and set the broken arm as well as he could. The doctor felt, however, that it was hurt too badly to be set correctly. Ferd's arm did not heal as it should and it was never the same as before it was broken.

Zina Gertrude, another daughter, was born into the family on October 16, 1894. On April 16, 1897 another son, Heber Wilford, was born. There were now six children in the family. The summer following the birth of Heber, Ferdinand took up some land in Clarkston, Utah. Ferdinand had built a home on the land and Elsie brought the rest of the family to live there. This venture was not very successful, so it was given up. The family returned to Preston to live. Ferdinand built a brick house for them in which they lived for about two years.

At about this time Zina developed the habit of putting her tongue out when she was interested in something or when she was running. One day as she was running along with her tongue out, she fell and hit her head against a box. Elsie was washing the blood out of Zina's mouth when she discovered that the tongue had been bitten almost entirely off, Ferdinand took her to the doctor who assured them that because the cord was not cut, the tongue would grow back together again, and it did.

It was this same year that Elsie got typhoid fever after helping a neighbor. She was very ill when Chris, who was 9 year old, came into her room "Shall I pray for you, Mother?" he asked. Elsie didn't believe anything could make her well, but she told him to go ahead. Chris stood beside her bed, held up his hand to heaven, and prayed. Elsie said later that a man could not have done better. When he had finished, he went to Elsie saying, "Shall I get your clothes now so that you can get up?" Elsie did get up and never went back to bed again for being sick with the typhoid fever.

Chris and John also got typhoid fever. Elsie and Ferdinand were frightened because at that time many died from the same disease. The two boys were very sick and Elsie spent much time nursing them. At last the doctor announced that they would be well soon. The boys were getting older and Elsie and Ferdinand recognized the fact that they must be kept busy. Ferdinand had been looking for some good land to take up for quite awhile now. He finally took a piece of land in Central, Idaho, which was near Grace. Ferdinand took Ferd with him to build a home and to break up and plant some of the land.

Elsie and the rest of the family came later. She did not want to go into this desolate country to make a home. It was much easier to live in Preston, or even in some other town where people near-by, but she knew that it was best for her family. The land was good and they should be able to make a good living here from such soil. As she rode to her new home, Elsie was wondering about all of the hardships and troubles they would have to endure in the future. She hoped they would be successful this time and make their home here. She looked around her and sighed. No trees were in sight, only sagebrush, native grass and wild currant bushes. Low hills were everywhere. Toward the west the hills became larger until at last they joined the mountains. Everything was hot and dusty. No, Elsie didn't like this at all. They arrived late at night. The house had been used as a storehouse for the farm implements and grain, which had to be taken outside before the family could go to bed. There was little rest for any of them because the mice, rats and squirrels, who had occupied the house for some time, didn't like the idea of being disturbed and kept running around until they were finally driven out. That was how it began.

It was almost too late to plant a garden, but Ferdinand planted some potatoes. That fall when Elsie dug the potatoes, she found they were all very small because the growing time had been so short.

One of the worse things about this new home was the lack of water. Water for house use and drinking must be hauled six miles from Bear River and the drinking water must be boiled. Every other day the cattle were driven to the river to drink and the days between three large barrels of water were hauled for them. Snow was melted to be used as water in the wintertime. A little later a large cistern was built to store water. It would hold gallons of water and made the task of getting water easier.

The family moved to Lund the first winter. The children must attend school and besides a new one was to be born in the spring. A daughter, Leona Elsie, was born April 10. 1900. When the family moved back to Central in the spring, the house had been improved some. Ferdinand had built a lean-to in addition to the shack to be used for cooking. The money was getting low again so Ferdinand and Ferd went to Gray's Lake to work in the hay. In the meantime Elsie and the other children must take care of everything while they were gone. The whole family was very happy that fall. They were successful in harvesting their first crop. Of course it was only 57 bushels of wheat, but it was something---and there would be much more later.

Often this life was very discouraging. Sometimes Ferdinand would come in ready to give up and go back to town. Elsie would greet him with a cheerful smile, a few encouraging words, and a hot meal. After this sort of treatment Ferdinand would be ready to go back to work again.

To hear these things told it sounds as though all was tragedy and sorrow. A great joy and satisfaction was derived from the little daily successes and triumphs. Relief Society was an important thing in the lives of these pioneer women. The meetings were held in the various homes. These meetings were greatly enjoyed because it meant a few hours away from work and a chance to talk to other women with the same interests. For many years Elsie was an officer in the Relief Society.

It was not long until a schoolhouse was built. Life was more pleasant after this. It was a central place for the children to go to school. But better still, it was a means for entertainment for everyone. Many dances, programs, and parties were enjoyed in this old school building. About

this time Ferdinand and the boys began to build a new home. At first there was only one room, but it was large, 16 feet by 18 feet. Elsie and Dorothy whitewashed the log walls inside because it hadn't as yet been plastered. Elsie was especially happy about this and went often to look at it before they moved into it. Later a smaller room was added to it.

November 2, 1902, was another day to be remembered. Joseph Amos, another son was born that day. At this time Ferdinand was working on the Last Chance Project, the last opportunity to take water from Bear River to the place where it could be used for irrigation. This Last Chance Canal Project was successful and the benefits from it were many and greatly appreciated.

In the spring of 1904 there was great excitement. Dorothy was getting married. She was marrying Ralph Harrison. The journey to the Logan Temple was long. They went in a big wagon and the trip took three days. Elsie was able to spend about three days with her parents who were still living in Logan. It was the last time Elsie saw her mother well and happy.

The condition of the farm was improving. Crops were better and now that they had water to irrigate, they were able to have a garden. Fruit trees and berry bushes had been planted and were producing well now.

One morning a lady brought a message to Elsie. Her mother had been hurt badly in a buggy accident and Elsie must go to Logan to see her at once. Elsie left the next day but it was several days later that she arrived in Logan. She stayed with her mother for about five weeks before she went home. Her mother died only a few months after that. Elsie went to the funeral of course.

Anna Elvera, another daughter, was born on October 9, 1906. A son, Austin Miller, was born August 26, 1909. There were not other children born to them so this made a grand total of 11 in all.

One day Heber and Joe went to the canyon to get wood. The brakes on the wagon broke. The horses could not hold the wagon and it rushed down hill. Heber tried to hold the horses, but couldn't, and he yelled to Joe to jump. Joe couldn't jump because he was pinned to the load by a tree branch going completely through the fleshy upper part of the left arm. When at last the wagon stopped, Heber unpinned Joe from the load and took him to the doctor at once. After this first treatment by the doctor, Elsie cared for the sore arm entirely. The arm got well, but the muscle never grew any more in that part of the arm.

Two important things happened at about this time. Ferd married Elsie Marie Anderson in 1907 in the Salt Lake Temple. In 1909 Chris Married Pearl Eliza Jorgensen in the Logan Temple. About 1910 John went on an L.D.S. mission to Scandinavian. About a year after he had returned, Halga Constance Ring came from Denmark and they were married in 1914 in the Logan Temple. While John was on his mission Zina married too. She married James Alva Egan in the Logan Temple in 1912.

In 1917 Ferdinand sold some of his land and bought a car with some of the money. With more of the money he built more on the house. He added four rooms---two rooms upstairs and two rooms downstairs. This was a great improvement and the whole family was much happier.

At last it had happened. The World War was being fought and Elsie had been afraid one of her sons would have to go. Heber was the one. However he did not have to go overseas and only served the time required by law in the army.

It was in 1920 that Dorothy died as a result of a major operation in the General Hospital in Pocatello. She left a family seven small children. Some of them came to live with Elsie part of the time when their father, Ralph, was working and the older children were at school. Seventeen months later Ralph was accidentally killed. Elsie and Ferdinand took two of the children to live with them. In 1922 another of their sons was married. Heber and Florence Myrtle Neffer were married in the Salt Lake Temple.

The next year Ferdinand was gored by the bull. He had taken the bull to water and was just staking him out again. The bull furiously attacked him and finally left him for dead. But Ferdinand was not dead and he staggered to the fence. He was taken to the hospital immediately, and it was feared that he would not live. On the third night he became delirious and the doctor said he could not live until morning. All of the children and the Elders were called. Everyone knelt around the bed in prayer. Ferdinand soon went to sleep and his condition steadily improved after that.

That fall Ferdinand, Elsie, Anna and Austin went to Banida, Idaho to take over Joe's store. It was a more satisfactory work for Ferdinand while he recuperated than farming. Joe took over the farm for awhile. Later they went back to the farm in Central to live. Joe married Goldie Echo Miles on June 25, 1924 in the Logan Temple. On December 24, of the same year Leona married Harry Olsen at Ogden. The Logan Temple on December 1, 1926 was the scene of the marriage of Anna and Ephraim Alexander Swann.

The family became very sad on September 2, 1932. Leona underwent a major operation, but never recovered. She died in the Dee Hospital at Ogden, Utah. On December 21, 1932, Austin married Helen Johansen in the Salt Lake Temple. Now all of the children were married but Helen, Dorothy's daughter, who lived with them until she was married to Deloys Jenkins in October 1935. Now Elsie and Ferdinand could settle down to live the rest of their lives quietly.

There was great rejoicing on October 4, 1935. The occasion was the 50th wedding anniversary of Elsie and Ferdinand. A huge banquet was held in the afternoon with all of the children, grandchildren and some of the original Central settlers in attendance. In the evening the Central Ward honored them at a dance. Many gifts were received from the multitude of friends, plenty of food was everywhere, and everyone enjoyed themselves a great deal. It was an event to be remembered.

In 1935 Ferdinand and Elsie decided that the home in Central was too large for just the two of them. After much deliberation it was decided to build a small comfortable home in Banida, Idaho. The work progressed well and they were able to move into the new home in February of 1936. They were very pleased and surprised when the people of Banida honored them at a big housewarming party. Elsie and Ferdinand hoped to live long and happily together here but this was not to be. The next winter Ferdinand was stricken with pneumonia. He died on January 11, 1937.

Elsie was very lonely in the months that followed. Some of her grandchildren would stay with her and finally Ferdinand's brother, Martin, came to visit her for a while. Again sorrow came, as Martin died in her home on November 11, 1937. Elsie has been living alone since then in the little house in Banida. The number of her posterity is large and she is proud of all of them. She has 51 grandchildren and 78 great grandchildren, but these numbers are subject to change without notice. She is often lonely, and welcomes her friends and relatives who should come more often to visit her and brighten her days. She is quite active for her age and is independent

as ever. She certainly deserves the love, respect and every honor possible of everyone who comes in contact with her.

Elsie Christensen dies at age 89: Rites held yesterday.

Elsie Marie Miller Christensen, age 89, died Saturday, February 13, 1954, at Pocatello, Idaho after a lingering illness. She was born July 5, 1864, at Mygard Veborg, Denmark, the daughter of Christiand L. Miller and Dorthea Jensen. She joined the L.D.S. Church in Denmark in November 1875 and came with members of her family to America in 1879. They settled in Logan where they lived for seven years then moved to Preston, Idaho. She was married to Ferdinand Christian Christensen Oct. 4, 1833 in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City, Utah. Her husband preceded her in death January 11, 1937. The Christensen's were engaged in farming at Central, Idaho for 37 years. They moved to Banida, Idaho in 1935 where she has lived since the death of her husband. Mrs. Christensen was the mother of 10 children, eight of whom still survive; Ferdinand C. Christensen, Preston: Christian M.; John E.: Heber W. and Austin M. of Logan, Utah: Mrs I.A. (Zina) Egan, Pocatello, Idaho. Joseph A. Christensen and Mrs. E. Alex (Anna) Swann of Banida. Also surviving are 53 grandchildren, 121 great grandchildren and 19 great great grandchildren. She was active all her life in the L.D.S. Church. She served as counselor and visiting teacher in the Relief Society. She assisted at the birth of about 100 babies and helped to prepare people for burial.

Funeral Services were held Wednesday, Feb. 17, at 1 p.m. in Banida Ward under direction of Bishop Golden C. Geddes. Burial well be in Central cemetery.

Author unknown. It appears to have been written about the time of Elsie's death.

Spelling and minor phrasing and paragraphing corrections were made by Stanley D. Hansen March 2008.