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# Biography of Karen Kristine Petersen

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Born 27 April 1817 in Asserbo, Fredericksborg, Denmark, a daughter of Peder Jorgensen and Karen Jensen. She married Hans Larsen, son of Hans Larsen and Karen Olsen.

They established themselves in a little home in Asserbo and owned two or three acres of land, which they farmed. Asserbo at that time was but a small cluster of homes near Melby, which was the headquarters for that locality. Their home was not far from the sea coast and the children often watches the ships sail by. On the opposite side of the home was a grove of trees, or forest, where the children played. They had their own vegetable garden, chickens, geese, sheep and a cow, so they were quite self-supporting. They were members of the Lutheran Church and the children attended the school taught by the parish priest from which they were graduates or confirmed at the age of 14.

In 1863, the husband, Hans Larsen, met with an accident while at work on his farm. He was spreading fertilizer on his garden when the horse became frightened, ran, and threw him from the wagon. A broken leg and internal injuries resulted and finally caused his death 14 October 1863. He suffered seven weeks. He was survived by his wife, three daughters, one son; Margrethe, Anne Kirstine, Laurentze, and Christian.

It was about this time that the Mormon elders came to this locality. They were not well received, but made arrangements to hold a cottage meeting in the neighborhood and invited the Larsen family to attend. Karen and her son Christian decide to go, but with a feeling of prejudice. Then they heard the message; however, they were convinced of its truthfulness. They attended the meetings again and again, and before many months were ready for baptism, which did occur 1 January 1865. Annie Kirstine was baptized March 1<sup>st</sup> and Laurentze April 1<sup>st</sup> of the same year.

The oldest daughter, Margrethe, was working away from home at the time. When she came home for a visit and found her family had joined such an unpopular church, she was very upset and said they had disgraced her for life. Hastily she left home but forgot her wooden shoes by the door. She had to steal quietly back to get them, but by June she also was ready for baptism, which was performed 10 June 1865. The family was now cut off from their friends socially and suffered much abuse and embarrassment.

The saints at this time were encouraged to gather to Zion where they could be with the rest of the church members. This trip; however, would take considerable means, of which she had but little. There were some converts from their neighborhood immigrating, so it was decided that Margrethe, Laura, and Christian should go with them. Annie was to remain with her mother and go later when money could be obtained. These saints were among others with the family of Mary Ann Larsen to whom Christian was engaged to be married. This family consisted of Mary Ann, her mother Karen Kirstine Christiansen, her step-father, Lars N. Christiansen, and their four daughters and one son, half brother, and sisters of Mary Ann. The story of this voyage and its hazards and hardships, will be recorded elsewhere. The ship was the Emeralds Isle and it became the last voyage of the LDS Saints by way of sailing vessel. Mary Ann's mother died upon arrival in Salt Lake City. Her husband then married Margrethe, oldest daughter of Karen Kristine.

In 1870, two years later, Karen Kirstine, her daughter Annie, her sister Frederikka with two of her children left the old country by steamship and came to Utah. They were able to cross the plains by train in only a few weeks after the transcontinental railroad had been completed.

When Karen Kirstine arrived in Utah, she expected to join her children in Brigham City, where they had gone upon arrival in Utah. She found all three had married. Her son, Christian and daughter Margrethe, had both gone to Newton in Cache Valley to establish homes there. Laurentze was married in Brigham City where Karen stayed for a time, before going to Newton to live with her oldest daughter, Margrethe. Annie came also and married Hans Sorensen of Newton. Soon after her arrival, Karen became ill and spent the last ten years of her life in bed. She died 22 November 1892 and was buried in the Newton cemetery. Her posterity while not too numerous are to found mostly in Utah with scatterings in Idaho, California, Montana, Alabama, and other states. She had four children, seventeen grandchildren. Of these, nine grandchildren had no posterity. From the remaining children have come forty-one great grandchildren.