

# Jesse Christopher and Anna Larsen Behling

Jesse Christopher Larsen was born September 14, 1887 in Molen, Utah to Nicholas and Helen Alfsen Larsen who were the first settlers on Ferron Creek in the winter of 1877. He was the sixth of nine children. Jesse



attended public school in Molen until the eighth grade at which time he left home to be a lineman in Moab, Utah and in 1916 he worked as a foreman on a ranch in Deeth, Nevada. In 1917 (during World War I) he was called to serve in the Army. He received his training at Fort Lewis, Washington and then was sent to France.

Anna Behling Larsen was born May 7, 1904 in Ferron, Utah to Ferdinand August Henery and Augusta Nohr Behling who arrived in Ferron June 18, 1899. She was the eighth of nine children. She was born in their family's first real home which had been the first meeting house in Ferron. The roof was covered with willows, straw and dirt, most of which was blown or worn off and it leaked badly. Anna was baptized a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints when she was nine years of age instead of eight because she was so frightened of the place in the Ferron Creek where they did the

baptisms. As a child she would climb up on the lean-to kitchen to spread fruit on the roof so they would have dried fruit in the winter. She hated shooing the chickens off the porch and out of the garden, but she loved swimming in her old dress, eating and playing ball. Anna attended school until ninth grade which was the first grade of High School.

Jesse and Anna were married September 1, 1925 in Castle Dale, Utah and then lived in Ferron. He was 38 and she was 21 years of age. Jesse worked on the Q. G. Crawford ranch and they raised chickens for a time.

Anna worked outside the home on occasion. She worked for Ed and Cecil Crawford in Castle Dale cooking for a border plus their family of three. She received \$20 per month. She worked in the telephone office and in Singleton's Store in early 1925. She made \$60 per month in the store which was really good pay.

They had been married for nearly five years, but had no children until they heard of a family in Kennilworth, Utah who had 3 little girls up for adoption. On March 8, 1930 they drove there and came home with the youngest of the 3, Helen Jean Healey, who was 8 months old (born July 1, 1929). The legal adoption was final and her name became Helen Jean Larsen on July 12, 1930. On March 9, 1931, Anna gave birth to a son, Darwin J. Now their family was complete. They enjoyed their children very much and soon discovered that what one didn't think of to do, the other one did!

After living on the ranch for 6 years, Jesse hauled coal, did custom plowing, did blacksmithing, and then raised turkeys for several years which was very hard work. In 1951, Jesse and Anna started Emery County's first rest home in Ferron which they set up in their own home. They cared for many people and Anna cooked lovely meals for them. They did all the work alone until Jesse's health began to fail and then they moved the rest home to a building in Castle Dale that had been a hotel. They eventually turned the home over to someone else and moved back home to Ferron. Jesse's health continued to fail and he passed away July 24, 1964 at the age of 76.



After Jesse's death, Anna worked in the Post Office part time with Art and Anna Rhodes and Minnie Thomas. In 1967, she entered the Northern States Mission Home where she spent 7 months cooking and cleaning for LDS missionaries. In her 60's she took up oil painting and everyone who visited loved to see her paintings. She was very good. She loved raising plants and flowers both indoors and out, and spent many hours making quilts and sewing clothes for her grandchildren. She also loved being a reading listener at the Elementary School until 1981 when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She passed away February 4, 1982 at the age of 77.