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HISTORY OF CARL RASMUS ENGELBREGT BERG

Our father, Carl Rasmus Elgelbregt Berg, was born October 22, 1869 in Gerrild, Denmark to Andreas Berg and Hansine Engeline Petersen. He was the first son and second child in a family of six children and two half-sisters. His brothers and sisters were Hansine Engalina Andrea, born January 18, 1868, John Emanuel Emandrus, born October 5, 1871, Carl Albert Charles, born June 6, 1873, Hans Peter Arnold, born February 19, 1875, and Anne Catherine, born May 15, 1877. His half-sisters were Olivia Engeline Eleanora, born March 12, 1880, and Petra Marie, born December 20, 1881. (Petra Marie died January 24, 1882. She only lived one month and four days.)

Grandfather and grandmother Berg joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints March 29, 1868. Grandfather's two older sisters, Caroline and Amalia, and their husbands had also joined the Church and had emigrated to Utah in 1868. Our father was baptized December 3, 1877.

Grandfather Berg was a harness maker by trade, but it seems they did not have much of this world's goods, and in the year 1878 when our father was about nine years of age, it was decided that grandfather should go to America and perhaps there he could make a better living and send for the rest of his family. He took with him John Emanuel Emandrus (whom they called Mansey) and Carl Albert Charles, the third and fourth children. The reason for this was because they were young enough to travel for one-half fare and yet old enough that grandfather could look after them. Uncle Mansey was seven and uncle Charles was five.

After grandfather left, this little family were so very poor. Sometimes grandfather sent them money, but not much, so it made it necessary for Andrea and Carl to go to work to help support the rest of the family. For this reason they did not get much schooling after grandfather left - to about the fourth grade.

When grandfather reached Salt Lake City, Utah, October 3, 1878, they went on to Sandy, Utah and stayed with his sister Caroline and her husband, Jens Carl Dederik Ostermann, until he could find work. Just how long he was there we do not know, perhaps a few months. Then he got work in Salt Lake and took the two boys with him. The boys being alone all day, the street was their playground. Grandfather realizing this was not good for the boys he finally hired a housekeeper to care for them. So after paying rent, food, clothes and the housekeeper, there was not much left to send to his family in Denmark.

Carl and Andrea and sometimes their mother worked in the "Torre Moser" which means "Dry Swamp", a low soggy swamp land, that had perhaps at one time been a lake, into which pine needles and leaves had dropped and grasses grown, and when it had sort of dried up leaving a blackish fibrous, a strictly organic substance, which when dug out, then cut into blocks and dried, was used for fuel. As a fuel it did not give off much heat (perhaps too much soil in with the organic matter). Sometimes these blocks were used for bricks to build houses, which would be real good - sort of like adobe bricks.

After these blocks were taken away the soil where they had been was prepared for agriculture.

Cutting this turf into blocks was what Andrea and Carl did, and their mother also when she could work.

This kind of work was much too hard for children and mother, and not having the proper food to eat nor the heat to keep them warm, grandmother took very sick and died March 30, 1882, about three and one-half years after grandfather had left for America.

At this time the children did not have very good clothing. Andrea did not have a decent dress to wear to the funeral, so she washed Carl's shirt and trousers and ironed them and told him to go to the funeral and to listen very carefully to all that was said so he could come home and tell her. Then she asked him to pick up a branch or a stick and put it on grandmother's grave to mark it, which he did. The next day Andrea dressed the children and herself in the best clothing they had and they took a potted plant that was growing in the kitchen and placed it on their mother's grave.

At this time they were living on the top floor of the apartment, with no windows, just a skylight for light and air.

After grandmother's death it left Andrea and Carl to earn the living for the rest of the family. They had to work very hard. Sometimes they worked in homes and sometimes they picked up potatoes, for which they received one Kroner a week, or about twenty-five cents. This made it necessary for someone to care for the two little sisters, and so Andrea said to Arnold, he being now seven years old, "You will have to help us now and take care of Annie and Olivia (Vea)." She told him how many potatoes to peel and have them on the stove cooking when they got home from work. Then it didn't take long to get supper after they got home. Uncle Arnold said he never once failed in his responsibility.

Father's cousin Mary Nielsen Hansen's husband, went on a mission to Denmark in 1883, the year after grandmother's death, and he went to visit this little family. He got them moved to Aarhus, and it was through his efforts that this family got to Utah. His name was Jorgan Hansen. He arranged for Arnold and Annie to come to America in 1884, and the rest of the family, Andrea, Carl and Olivia (Vea) came in 1885.

Uncle Arnold left Aarhus August 25, 1884 on the "Panther" for Hull, England. He was nine years of age. Aunt Annie got sick, so came with next emigration. She was seven years of age.

Father, Aunt Andrea and Aunt Olivia (Vea) left Copenhagen on the steamship "Panther", which took them to Hull, England, and then went by train to Liverpool, England where they boarded the steamship "Wisconsin" May 16, 1885. They arrived in New York May 27, 1885 at 8:00 a.m. The man in charge of this company of saints was N. M. Hodges, a returning missionary who was president of the company. They arrived in Salt Lake City, Utah June 2, 1885.

The first night in Salt Lake City they stayed with their father, as he had married his housekeeper after their mother had died and now had two children by her. The next day they went to Sandy, and again Father's Aunt Ostermann took her brother's children in. Andrea and Olivia (Vea) were to have gone to Provo to stay with their father's sister, Amalia Nielsen, but Aunt Ostermann wanted Andrea to stay with her to help her in the store and house. Aunt Annie was already there and our father was to stay there too. Aunt Ostermann was very good to all of them and treated them like her own children. Her husband had died in October, 1883, so it was good for her to have our father with her. Aunt Ostermann's youngest son James was born May 9, 1874, so father was about five years older than James.

When the Ostermann family first moved to Sandy in 1876, there was a community well on 1st West and 1st North, right in the middle of the intersection. That was a block west of the Ostermann place. They paid 50¢ a month to get water from the well. Sometime after father came to live at the Ostermann place he dug a well in their back yard. He and James Ostermann also planted some Boxelder trees on the west side of the Ostermann place. They brought them from the Thorup place on Ninth East in Salt Lake City, where Aunt Ostermann's daughter, Caroline Ostermann Thorup lived. Father also made a small cupboard for his sister Annie, who also lived with Aunt Ostermann, which was filled with beautiful dishes. When Annie married Van Dam she took the little cupboard with her.

Peter Tolboe also lived at the Ostermann home for a while (he was a distant cousin). He and Father worked at Ericksen's Furniture Store that was close to the Ostermann place. About 1891 father and Peter Tolboe left together to go looking for work. Our father was about 22 years old. They came to Castle Dale and made adobes which they sold for a living, and did other odd jobs.

In 1893 father met mother who was teaching school in Castle Dale. He courted her for two years. They were married April 11, 1895 in Eckert, Colorado while mother was visiting her sister, Mary. They were later sealed in the Manti Temple September 20, 1900.

After father and mother were married they went to Moab and lived one summer while father made brick for a school house. They then returned to Castle Dale and rented a home until they bought one and one-half acres in the west part of town and built a one-room house with a pantry and closet. Two children were born before they built this house (Atlanta and Arnold). They later added three rooms and four more children were born to them - all girls, Vera, Leone, Mal and Cora. During this time father farmed, painted and hung wallpaper.

After six children had been born father was called to serve a mission in the Danish Mission. Cora was just nine months old at this time. He was gone 24 months. They had to mortgage the home and lot to send him on his mission. Mother took in washings and rented one room of our home to support us. Her brothers, John and Henning Olsen, who worked in the coal mines, also helped support the family.

Father was set apart for his Mission on April 30, 1907, and on May 1, 1907 in company of a number of Elders and a few Sisters left Salt Lake City on the U.P.R.R. and arrived in Boston May 8, 1907. On May 9, 1907 at 7:00 a.m. they went aboard the ship "Arabic" and set sail for Liverpool. The ship was 615 feet long, with a capacity of 1500 tons of freight, besides 1,700 passengers. The ship traveled about 369 miles a day, and it took nine days to reach Liverpool, where they arrived on May 17, 1907. Father was seasick much of the trip and was glad to once more step on mother earth.

Saturday, May 18th, they left by rail for London. May 19th they took a ship for Copenhagen, Denmark where they arrived May 20th. Father lived at the Mission Home until May 24th, when he was assigned to labor in Copenhagen. He and his companion found a three-room furnished house for 10 Kroner a month which was very cheap. They usually spent the mornings studying the Gospel in the Danish language and writing home, and went tracting and attended meetings in the afternoon and evenings. Some days they would walk 16 miles while tracting. Father said the country was very beautiful and clean.

On June 8th father hunted up his Uncle Rasmus Berg who lived with his daughter, and had many pleasant visits with them.

While laboring in Copenhagen father had the opportunity of visiting the King's Palace which was very large and very old. He also visited the museums and saw many beautiful figures carved out of marble, and many beautiful paintings. While tracting he met his Uncle and aunt, the Valentines, and his cousin Caroline Berg Miller, who could remember taking him to the ship when he left for America.

Father traveled by rail and boat to many cities and islands in the Danish Mission, and visited the village where he was born and everything looked so small, especially the distance between the homes. He met his old school teacher on the street and when he told him who he was he could remember him. He was still teaching in the same school house father went to 28 years ago. Father also went to Aarhus and visited his cousins, Carl and Jens Berg, who had a harness shop. Father attended a conference at Aalborg where Apostle Penrose spoke.

Christian Mortensen of Cleveland, Utah, Peter Peterson of Ferron, Utah, O. J. Anderson of Castle Dale, Utah and Rasmus Johnson of Emery, Utah were filling Missions in Denmark at this time, and father met them often at the Mission Home and labored some with O. J. Anderson. The saints were very kind and hospitable and father was invited to their homes real often for meals.

Father returned from his Mission in May, 1909. The family went to Huntington in a two-seated, white-topped buggy to meet him.

After returning from his Mission father worked on the Emery Stake Academy.

Four years later on January 8, 1913 another girl was born to them and they named her Uwin.

Father was elected to be Treasurer of Emery County in November, 1912. He served two, two-year terms - 1913, 1914, 1915 and 1916.

Father and mother raised all kinds of fruit and berries and always had a large vegetable garden. They worked very hard. They also raised their own pork and cured it, and had horses, milk cows and chickens. They sold milk, butter and eggs. They also made their own soap. Each fall father took a wagon load of corn, cucumbers, tomatoes and squash to Hiawatha to sell, where he would go from house to house. We girls would get up early and help him gather the vegetables, so they would be fresh. He would camp overnight outside of Hiawatha in the cedars and gather a load of wood to bring home for winter.

Father sold Raleigh products for a number of years. He traveled all over the county. He bought a special closed-in, yellow buggy equipped to hold his products.

Father served as Superintendent of the Sunday School and on the Stake High Council. He was ordained a High Priest May 8, 1910.

At a meeting held April 28, 1929, Bishop Samuel H. Larsen was honorably released, together with his Counselors John W. Lake and Edward Gardner Snow, and father was chosen and sustained as Bishop of the Castle Dale Ward. He was ordained a Bishop and set apart to preside over said ward by Apostle Joseph F. Smith, Jr. on May 11, 1929.

During the time father was Bishop, Carl E. Wilberg, Dorman Seely, Erastus S. Larsen and Peter Eugene Johansen served as his Counselors, and Richard Miller as Ward Clerk. Father was released as Bishop of the Castle Dale Ward November 20, 1932.

When father was Bishop church was held in the old Emery Stake Academy building. He spent many hours repairing and painting the building. Father and mother were very charitable and took vegetables, fruit, butter and eggs to the needy.

Father was on the building committee when the new Ward and Stake house was built. He helped make the brick for the inside walls.

Father will be remembered for the fine work he did in painting and papering the many homes in Emery County.

In 1946 father and mother sold our old home in the northwest part of Castle Dale and built a new home in the central part of town. They were both seventy-five years old at this time, but father did most of the work on the new home.

Father served as City Treasurer from 1949 until the time of his death. He died May 12, 1954 at his home from cancer of the liver. He was eighty-four years old. Funeral services were held Saturday, May 15, 1954. Bishop Glen P. Bott was in charge of the services.