



CHRISTENA CHRISTENSEN
Person #5 on chart #1

Christena was born 20 of March 1861 in Hune Rhodes, Aalborg, Denmark. She was the daughter of Mads Christensen and Maren Jensen. She came to the United States when she was a child of 6 years old. Christena, was a faithful devoted wife. Their home was always neat and clean. She was very good cook, no one could produce better food than she could. Every one loved her, the young people especially loved her. They were always treated with love and respect in their home. Her rootbeer and fruit cake were a favorite to all who came to their home. Christena's great desire was to go to the temple and receive her blessings, and be sealed to her husband and have their children sealed to them.

Christena died in March 1939 and was buried in Emery, UT.

Things that Clair & Bruce Johnson remember about their Grandma Christena

They remember as little boys there was always cookies and good things to eat at Grandma's. They remember sleeping at her house. Their responsibility was to help Grandma cook dinner for the Threshers, this was quite a big deal. They would serve a big breakfast & big dinner.

Grandma's home was above the canal. This necessitated carrying water up hill from the canal for washing, cooking, etc. Grandpa, being a progressive person, built a cistern above the house to store water in, thus allowing for running water in the house.

On the first of Nov. 1886 they moved to Emery, Emery county, UT. where he homesteaded a large amount of land. They lived in a dugout on the Muddy Creek 3 miles north of Emery town. They helped dig a tunnel through a hill in order to get water to Emery town. From 1885 to 1889 the pioneers located on the Muddy Creek, built in their poverty, a tunnel 1200 feet long through blue slate rock to bring water to the town of Emery. Their only tools were picks, shovels and blasting powder. They hauled dirt in wooden buckets by horse power.

Their living quarters were dugouts along the creek bank. Their life was hard but their faith was strong. Later they built a one room log house on the land he had taken up. As they prospered through their hard work they built a large house with plenty of room.

Seven boys and two girls were born to them. Here are their names in the order they came.

1. Rasmus Randolph Married Susie Keele
 2. Arile M.....Married Beata Keele
 3. Clement Married Alice Foote
 4. Hazel.....Married Emer Elias Burr
 5. Clifford..... He died as a child
 6. Stanford EmeryMarried Artemisia Foote
 7. Stanley Castle He died as a child of 6 months
- *Stanford and Stanley were the first twins born in Emery Co.
8. Mary Christena Twin who died shortly after birth
 9. Marion..... Twin who died shortly after birth

His wife Christena's great desire was to go to the temple and receive her blessings, and be sealed to her husband and have their children sealed to them. Rasmus at the time was not able to get a recommend, because of the habits of smoking and drinking.

One time Christena became very ill and looked as though she would not live. Rasmus was very worried and repented and told of going out into the night and praying to God, promising to quit his bad habits and take her to the temple if he would spare her life. The Lord heard and answered his prayer. On Oct. 26th 1898, Rasmus took his wife and children to the Manti temple, and was sealed for time and all eternity. He never took liquor or tobacco again. Later he filled a mission. Rasmus left for an LDS mission to Norway on 28 Nov. 1906. He returned Dec. 1908. He kept a diary of his entire mission which is in the possession of Audry T. Reynolds a granddaughter.

Rasmus and Christena were an honest and hard working couple and helped those in need. His occupation was farming and livestock. He was County Commissioner in the 1930's.

Their oldest sons wife died in 1912 and left 4 small children. Rasmus and Christena took these children into their home along with their father and cared for them. Later in Dec. 1918 the father of the children died of the flu, leaving the entire responsibility of the children to them. Until they were all married.

Christena died in Mar. of 1939. Rasmus's Patriarchal blessing said he would die with his boots on. He became ill and died within 2 weeks. He died in June 1942 in the hospital in Price, Carbon, UT. He was buried by the side of his wife in Emery ward Cemetery, in Emery County, UT.

Clair & Bruce would help fill the cistern by taking a large tank with wheels to the bank of the canal and diverting water in to the tank. When it was filled the horses would pull it up the hill and it would then be emptied into the cistern. The top of the cistern was ground level and had a cover over it. Once or twice a year they would help their Grandpa clean out the mud and sediment from the cistern. Sometimes a mouse or other rodent would get in and drown. These were cleaned out along with the mud.

This water system allowed Grandma to have one of the first indoor bathrooms in Emery. Everyone wanted to use the bathroom, but only in dire emergencies were they allowed to use the indoor toilet. (it would take too much water to flush) On special occasions the boys were allowed to have a bath, two or three at a time. This was really a special treat.

Grandpa & Grandma had a corral to feed and keep cows. Part of the corral was covered to let the cows have some shelter from the weather. The shelter was made from willows and covered with straw and dirt. This made a wonderful place for sparrows to nest.

The boys liked to get rid of those pesky sparrows by getting on each others shoulders at night and robbing the nest of eggs and killing the birds.