

Jeppé Iversen

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER



Family History StoryBooks

Jeppe Iversen and Ane Mortensens story began in Denmark about 1834 when Jeppe went to work on Ane's father's farm in Ostbirk Denmark. He and Ane fell in love, and despite her family's concerns about his younger age, they soon were married. They settled on their own farm and started building a life of their own.

Denmark is a very green grassland, but the Iversen's farm had a forest of trees behind it where the children loved to walk. In the summertime they picked wild flowers and berries and in the fall they gathered hazelnuts. When they wandered in the woods behind the farm they were frightened by the native boars that ran wild in Denmark.







On the family farm they raised chickens, pigs, horses, cows, and vegetables. The children helped with the chores and the animals. In the late 1840s the Iversens sold the farm and moved to Vestbirk where Jeppe worked as a builder.

Latter-day Saint missionaries Hans Peter Olsen and Jens Jensen arrived in Vestbirk around that time. Ane and Jeppe were Lutheran, but they believed the message that the missionaries shared with them. Ane was first to accept their message and be baptized, with Jeppe and the children following shortly thereafter. They were baptized in 1854.



From the sale of their farm, Jeppe had enough money to move his family to America. Their oldest son, Hans Peter, stayed in Denmark as a missionary. The family first traveled on a ship to England, and then across the ocean to America. The ocean voyage took almost 3 months, and was a miserable experience for most of the travelers.

After arriving in New York City they took a train across the country to Missouri and then a steamboat up the Mississippi river. Jeppe and Ane Iversen and their children traveled by wagon with the Canute Peterson wagon company to the Great Salt Lake Valley. They all walked the whole way, except for 11-year old Elizabeth Catherine who was occasionally allowed to ride in a wagon.







After arriving in Salt Lake, the Iversens were sent by Brigham Young to a Danish settlement at Fort Ephraim where they found protection from the Indians. They spent a few years there before Brigham Young sent them along to help settle Pleasant Creek. Here they spent 4 years establishing a settlement at Mount Pleasant.

Jeppe and Ane and their children lived close to each other and worked hard building homesteads and clearing land to grow food. While living in Denmark, Jeppe had worked for a wealthy farmer and learned the trade of farming. He was successful at farming and raising animals during his time at Mt. Pleasant.



While the Iversens were helping settle Mt. Pleasant in 1857, another group of saints were settling a place further south called Washington. By the end of the first year in Washington, the settlers had failed at building successful dams and ditches, and there was intense heat and illness that caused some families to leave.

During the winter, fifty families arrived from California, but most of them left in the spring. The nearest post office was in Cedar City. Roads were awful or nonexistent. Other challenges included finding reliable sources of water and the hot weather. During a visit to Washington in 1861 Brigham Young saw that after seven years of effort to settle the southern region, the people were discouraged. In Washington, there were only 20 families, and the settlement of Santa Clara also had only 20.







At the October conference in 1861, Brigham Young called 300 families to the cotton mission in southern Utah. 30 of those families were Swiss converts and they were sent to Santa Clara to settle and help provide supplies for the cotton farmers. Some of Jeppe Iversens children were sent to the Cotton Mission in Washington. Jeppe was not called by Brigham Young, but he volunteered to move with his children and leave Mount Pleasant for Utah's Dixie! He was 49 years old and Ane was 60.

When Jeppe came to Dixie and decided on a lot, his past experiences helped him become successful at tilling the land and growing produce in Washington. He raised fruits and vegetables and had a large vineyard of red grapes.



Back across the ocean in Europe, in a country south of Denmark, there were also Latter-day Saint missionaries teaching the Swiss people about their church. Samuel and Magdalena Stucki believed in their message and were baptized in 1857. They too immigrated to America by ship and then came across the plains to Salt Lake City enduring the hardships of a handcart company.

Although they had only recently arrived in Salt Lake from Switzerland, the Stucki family was sent to Southern Utah. They arrived in Santa Clara in November of 1861 and built a simple dugout from willow branches. Their beds were piles of straw.







On the 25th of December torrential rains began to fall. The winter was stormy with rain and snow in the nearby Pine Valley mountains. After an incredible rainfall on January 19, 1862, the Santa Clara fort, the grist mill, the school and meeting house, and seven dwellings and other buildings, orchards, and vineyards were swept away in a flood.

They immediately went to work to rebuild the town site. They worked on homes and other buildings, and planted crops in the ground that would provide food to get them through the year. By March, Samuel Stucki was able to plant a vineyard and fruit trees.



After all of Samuel's hard work however, he discovered that the soil he planted his garden in had alkali in it. His crops failed, and food was scarce. His neighbors were not any better off than his family, and they were reduced to eating red (dock) root and pigweed.

For more than one spring season they did not have anything to eat except pigweeds cooked in water without anything more nourishing to go with them. They had no cow, no flour, and no seasoning of any kind - not even a bite of bread for the little children. When the children would cry for some bread, their mother had nothing to give them.







In 1863, Samuel Stucki's oldest child was 12-year-old Johannes (John) Stucki. John asked his father if he would let him go see if he could find someone, either in St. George or Washington, that would take him in and feed him in exchange for work. John walked 6 miles in bare feet to St. George but could not find anyone that would accept his offer to work for food. So, he went another 5 miles to Washington.

The Stucki's had little in the way of shelter, food, and clothing. When John arrived in Washington, he thought that he would take one street after the other and ask at every house. After asking at several houses he finally found a good old Danish couple by the name of Iversen who took him in.



Jeppe and Ane Iversen had raised their 5 children and were able to harvest enough food for the two of them. They fed John and gave him a place to stay in their little home. But he wasn't satisfied until he could find better living conditions for his sister Mary Ann (Anna Marie) who was just 8 years old. He decided to continue trying one street after another to see if he could find someone who would take his sister in.

After searching, he found a young couple with twin babies that took her in to help with the little ones. John was able to make sure his sister had a better place to live.





Though John was sheltered and fed, he still worried for his parents and his two younger siblings, 6 year old Rosina and 3 year old Christian. They still had almost nothing, and he worried that they might die of hunger. He continued to search the town again to see if he could find anyone that would loan his father some flour.

After asking in many homes, he found a man that promised to let his father have fifty pounds of flour. John sent word to his father and it brought tears to his eyes. John was grateful that those at home could have something a little more nourishing to eat than just the pigweeds to keep them from starving to death.







On Sunday mornings John walked more than ten miles home to see how his parents were. Ane Iversen would pack him a big lunch of pancakes to take along for dinner. John gave those pancakes to his little sister and brother so that they could have a little better dinner on Sunday, and he would eat the pigweed.

When a lawyer asked Jesus which of the commandments was the greatest, he said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself"

-Matthew 22:37-39



Jepppe Iversen

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SEPTEMBER 23, 1814 - AUGUST 17, 1898

My Relationship:



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Jepppe Iversen KWJJ-N7G
John Stucki: KWC1-888

Book Created for Jepppe's Great-Great-Great
Granddaughter, Sasha Nielson

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SCAN
ME





**The Iversen Home in
Washington, Utah**



The Iversens



**The Church building
in Denmark where
Jeppe and Ane would
have attended**



Adobe brick home built in Washington, Utah. Built by Jeppe Iverson.
Still standing – 1906

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Johannes "John" Stucki



Samuel & Magdalena Stucki