

History of
Lorenzo Hansen
Spouse of Ann Maria Robbins (Mitton)
Son of
Christen James and Elisabeth Eriksen Hansen

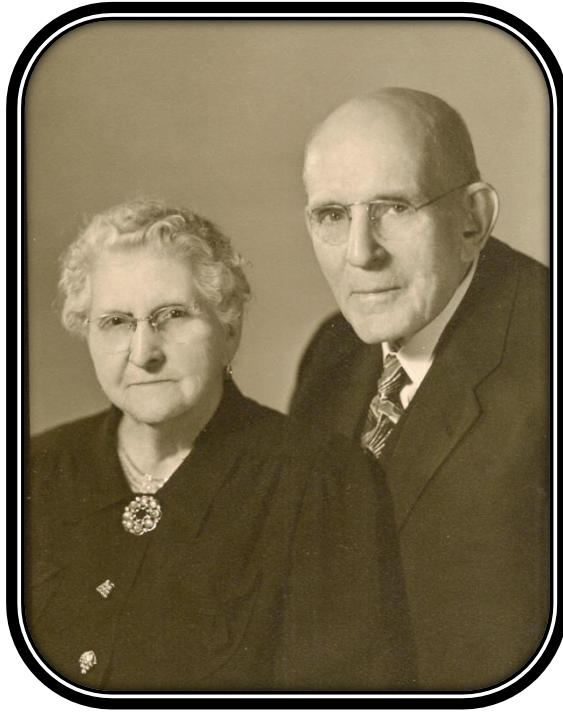


Lorenzo and Ann Maria Hansen

The following history and talk was compiled and typed by Ann Louise Dunn Bingham, daughter of Leslie Smith, Sr. and Annie Mitton Dunn and Maternal Grand-Niece of Lorenzo and Annie Hansen. The following history was sent to me by Ruth Johnson Randall Rice, the granddaughter of Lorenzo and Annie Hansen. The talk, which is at the end of the history, was found in the genealogy trunk of my grandparents, Samuel Bailey and Mary Jane Hawkins Mitton. I received the trunk at the death of my mother, Annie Hawkins Mitton Nov. 1994.

By Ann Louise Dunn Bingham 2990 East Riverside Dr. # 169, St George, Utah 84790

HISTORY OF LORENZO HANSEN



Lorenzo and Annie Hansen

Family of Lorenzo and Annie Hansen



Standing: Ida Marie, Alfred and Nettie
Sitting: Lorenzo and Ann Maria (Annie) Hansen

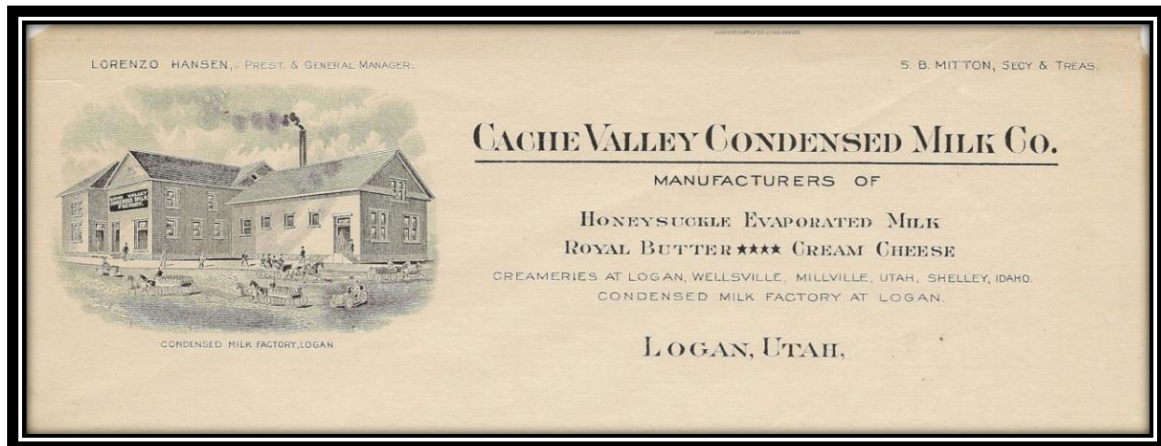
There is no success in life without effort. The purpose of life is to afford opportunity for physical, mental and spiritual development. In America these opportunities are offered in turn to everyone who is willing to embrace them; but it is equally true that opportunity slips away from the sluggard and tauntingly plays before the dreamer, yet surrenders to the individual of high purpose, undaunted courage and indefatigable determination. Possessing these last mentioned attributes, Lorenzo Hansen has won the rewards of success; and moreover, his labors have been a most potent element in the development of business interests in Utah and in the utilization of the natural resources of the state. He has always displayed a marked spirit of initiative and has not feared to venture into new and untried fields, where his clear discernment and discrimination have pointed out the way. He was the pioneer representative of the creamery business in Utah and more also engaged in dry farming more extensively than any other resident of the state at that time.

Lorenzo Hansen was born in Brigham City, Utah on December 1, 1858, the son of Christian James and Elizabeth Erickson Hansen, both of whom were natives of Denmark. They were married November 1, 1850 in Denmark. Christian James Hansen was born on January 15, 1820 in Skuldelov, Sjælland, Copenhagen, Denmark and christened February 7, 1818 in Gerlev, Frederiksborg, Denmark. He took up the occupation of farming in his early life. Coming to the United States, he made his way to Utah in 1854, settling first in Salt Lake City and later residing in Brigham City. He was an earnest and zealous worker in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and filled a mission to Denmark from 1880 until 1883. Christian died June 26, 1908, at the age of eighty-five, in Brigham City, Box Elder, Utah. Lorenzo's mother, Elisabeth Eriksen Hansen, was born December 6, 1817 in Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark and was christened on February 7, 1818 in Gerleve, Frederiksborg, Denmark. She died August 16, 1899, in Brigham City, Utah, at the age of eighty-one years old. They are both buried in the Brigham City Cemetery.

After attending the public schools in Brigham City, Lorenzo took up the occupation of farming, which he did with his father. It is said that it was characteristic of him to improve on opportunities which others have passed by and never feared to venture on an opportunity that looked good. In 1889 he became the pioneer in the creamery business of Utah, being the first to buy milk and sell through the usual channels of the creamery trade. He established four creameries at different locations in the state and built up a business of extensive proportions.

In 1903 he erected a large condensed milk plant in Logan and in 1911 he sold this plant to the Borden Condensed Milk Company. He remained the superintendent of the plant in Logan. Through his activities he demonstrated the possibilities for success in connection with the creamery business in Utah and his example has been profitably followed by many others. His brother-in-law, Samuel Bailey Mitton, kept the books for the Milk Company for many years and all of Samuel's children worked for the company at various times in their lives. Two of Lorenzo's nephews, William Edwin and Samuel LeRoy Mitton, went on to make careers and also became superintendents for the Borden Company throughout their lives.

The stationary head for Cache Valley Condensed Milk Company



Lorenzo also took up dry farming and his operations, along that line of work, placed him in the position of leadership among the dry farmers of Utah. He owned fourteen hundred acres of farmland and also had an additional one thousand acres of pastureland in Box Elder County. In 1915 he raised nineteen thousand bushels of wheat. His activities constituted a large element in the development of the northern part of the state. The creameries that he established offered an excellent market to dairy farmers for their milk and he was the pioneer of Utah in the manufacture of butter. The plant in Logan of was one, which excited the admiration and interest of all that visited it. It was equipped with the most modern machinery for handling dairy and creamery products and had a splendid chemical laboratory for making tests of butter fats and was supplied with machinery for forcing the water out of milk and with other machines for canning, labeling, boxing, etc. There were six different railway tracks that came into the plant, which handled a thousand cases, (with forty-eight cans to the case) of condensed milk daily. Lorenzo sold the plant to the Borden Company thinking to retire, but the corporation insisted upon him remaining as manager. The company had eighty employees at that time.

Lorenzo was married at the age of twenty-one years to Miss Ann (Annie) Maria Robbins Mitton, of Wellsville, Utah. She was a daughter of Samuel Crowther and Mary Ann Bailey Mitton. They met when "Annie" was a milkmaid at one of his dairies. They raised three adopted children: Antoinette (Nettie), who was married to Henry B. Ames; Oswald, who married Annie Rollinson and Ida, who married Sydney Johnson. Lorenzo and Annie also raised their niece, Mabel Hawkins Hansen, who was the daughter of Joseph and Mary Ann Mitton Hawkins, after the death of Mabel's mother. Mabel married to Dwight Hansen.

Lorenzo belonged to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and his political endorsement was to the Republican Party and was one of the recognized leaders in its ranks in Utah. In 1901 and 1902 he served as mayor of Logan and under his direction, the city had never enjoyed a more beneficial or progressive administration. He was the Grand Marshall of the Logan Fourth of July Parade and rode with his wife Annie and their daughter Ida and Sidney Johnson in a splendid horse-drawn buggy. He was asked to give a talk in celebration of the ninety-fourth anniversary of the pioneers entering the Salt Lake Valley on July 24,

1847 and about their pioneer heritage. The talk is included at the end of this history.

He established the Logan municipal electric light plant, which furnished electric light at the cheapest rates in the United States, only ten cents per year being charged for each light. It was also through the efforts and instrumentality of Mr. Hansen that the Utah-Idaho Hospital was erected in Logan. He was also a trustee of the former Agriculture College of Utah from 1896 to 1906 (now Utah State University). Prior to 1904 he served on its building committee and did much for its advancement. He labored untiringly to retain the institution in Logan at the time it was being discussed for removal to Salt Lake City.



In 1914, he was active in plans for raising money for the Budge Hospital. He later served on the hospital board as first vice-president and later as president.

He was a man of splendid physique, a tireless worker and has been a dynamic force in the development of Utah along various lines. Lorenzo loved to build and was always remodeling his Victorian home at 33 South 100 West, Logan, Utah to make new apartments. The house was like a duplex and the South side of the home belonged to Samuel Bailey and Mary Jane Hawkins Mitton, the brother of Annie Hansen.

One of the highlights of Lorenzo's life was when he went on a trip to San Francisco and crossed the Golden Gate Bridge.

Note added by Ann Louise Dunn Bingham:

Lorenzo loved music and played the violin. He was very generous with Samuel and Mary Mitton's children and gave their daughter "Annie" her first violin. He also provided a piano for the family. Lorenzo loved life and did not want to die. When he got sick, several of the relatives would take turns staying with him night and day. On one occasion my father, Leslie Smith Dunn, Sr., husband of Lorenzo and Annie's niece Annie Mitton Dunn, took his turn to keep watch on him. He was sitting by his bedside and Lorenzo was in a coma. Lorenzo woke up, looked at Les and said, "Les, trade places with me." So Les helped him get out of bed and sat him in the chair and then Les layed down on the bed for a few minutes. After a while Lorenzo told him he was ready to lie down again, so Les got up and helped Lorenzo back to bed.

The following handwritten last will and testament of Lorenzo Hansen was found in the Samuel Bailey and Mary Hawkins Mitton genealogy trunk by Ann Bingham. (Typed by Ann Louise Dunn Bingham, December 2011)

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF LORENZO HANSEN

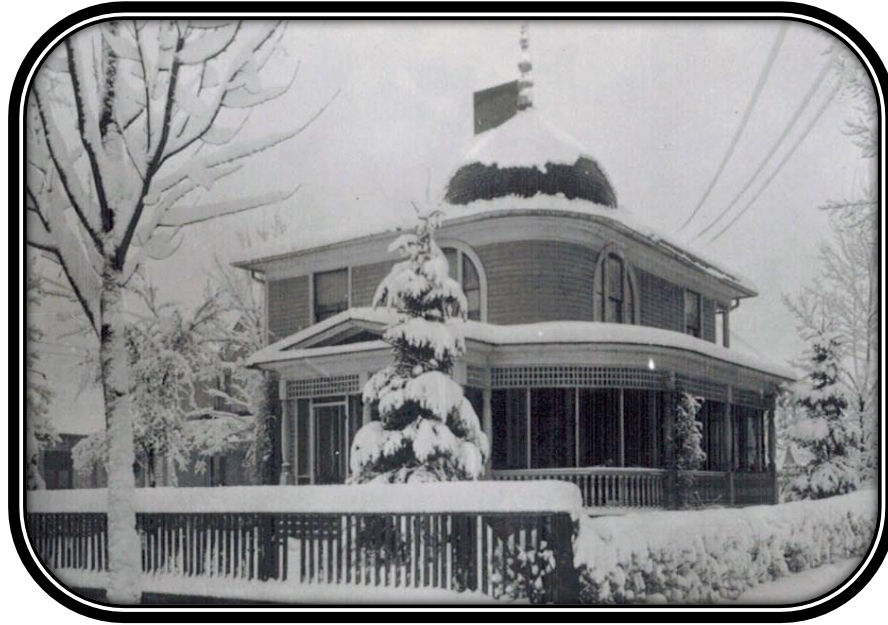
KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, THAT I, Lorenzo Hansen, of Logan Utah, being of sound and disposing mind and memory, and not acting under any restraint, undue influence, or representations of any person whatsoever, do make, publish and declare this my last will and testament in the manner following:

FIRST: I direct that my executors hereinafter named, as soon as they have sufficient funds in their hands, pay all the expenses of my last illness, my funeral expenses, all my just debts and expenses incident to the probate of this will.

SECOND: I hereby appoint the First National Bank of Logan, Utah, and Howard S. Layton, of Salt Lake City, Utah, as executors of this my last will and direct that they serve without giving bond.

THIRD: During a period of four years after my death my said executors, shall not sell or offer for sale the property belonging to my estate consisting of the real and personal property situated at 33 South, 1st West in Logan, Utah, except that one Samuel B. Mitton, the owner of the property situated immediately south and contiguous thereto, his heirs, executor, administrators but not his assigns, shall request in writing, a sale of said Mitton property jointly with sale of my property above described. That if said written request is thus made and if the improvements on said real property are substantially the same as at present and if the furniture and fixtures therein are remain the same as of this date, then my executors shall be bound to make such joint sale and the proceeds thereof shall be divided as follows: 3/5 to my estate and 2/5 to said Samuel B. Mitton, his heirs, executors or administrators, provided that during said four year period or until said joint sale is made, the furniture and fixtures in my said apartment house at said 33 South, 100 West in Logan shall be held in tact and in good condition and operation so as to make said furnished apartments attractive to prospective purchasers. The above and foregoing direction and limitation on the sale of said property is made for the benefit of said Samuel B. Mitton and his heirs or estate and is limited strictly to a period of four years after my death.

Lorenzo Hansen passed away at his home on 33 South 100 West in Logan, Utah on March 21, 1949 and was buried March 25, 1949. Annie passed away November 5, 1951 in Linn, Oregon while living with her daughter, and she was buried November 10, 1951. They are both buried in the Logan, Utah Cemetery.



*The Lorenzo and Annie Hansen home at 33 South 100 West Logan, Utah
This house was the original before Annie's brother Samuel B. and Mary Jane Hawkins Mitton added
a living room, dining room, kitchen, and sun room on the South Side of the house. They also added
an L-shaped covered porch and entryway to the south side of the living room and to the front of the
window..*

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**TALK GIVEN BY LORENZO HANSEN
July 23, 1941 in Logan, Utah at the centennial**

Sister Hansen and I have been invited to occupy seats on the stand as honored guests on this Sunday evening preceding the ninety-fourth anniversary of the arrival of the first company of Latter-Day Saints who arrived in Salt Lake City on July 24th, 1847, for which we feel high honored.

I have been asked to make a short address or reminiscences or happenings of things that would pertain to the early pioneer life of Utah. To my mind, the urge that prompted the Saints to come west to the Rocky Mountains was to find a haven of rest and to escape persecution and to find a place where they could worship God in accordance to the dictates of their conscience; and, since the arrival of the Pioneers, Utah has become a great commonwealth, and Salt Lake City a center for all the states surrounding; and if there is anything that I feel grateful for, it is that my parents heard the Gospel, and received a testimony and joined the Church and emigrated to Utah.

I will give a detailed account related by my parents in joining the Church and their early Pioneer life in Utah which will depict the life of nearly all the lives of early pioneers.

My parents were some of the first to accept the Gospel when Apostle Erastus Snow came to Denmark to open the L.D.S. Mission. My parents were well situated in Copenhagen. Father was a coachman for a wealthy wholesale wine merchant at a good salary, including a comfortable quarter to live in on the estate and my mother was assigned a room for weaving, she being an expert weaver.

Their first thought after joining the Church was to emigrate to Utah. They secured passage on an old sailing vessel and they were eleven weeks crossing the ocean. During their preparations to leave, the wine merchant and his wife, both did all that they could to persuade them to renounce their faith, saying that they knew that they were being deceived and on the day set for sailing, their employer and his wife came to the ship and he had the same amount of money that Father had paid for his passage contained in a sack and offered it to them, pleading for them to leave the ship and come back with them and take up their situation as before, but they both bore their Testimony to them, stating that they knew that the Gospel was true and nothing that they could do would alter their mind and when they bid them goodbye, they both cried and stated again that they knew that they were being deceived. They left Copenhagen early in the spring and arrived in Salt Lake City in the fall of 1854 and moved that fall to Brigham City where they established their home, and they both died there.

A most sorrowful experience in their life was when my mother gave birth to a baby girl in a covered wagon as they were passing through Echo Canyon and the baby died and was buried along-side of the road in an unmarked grave and I never pass through Echo Canyon without a feeling of reverence for the sorrow and sacrificing endured by my parents on that November day in 1854. My parents arrived in Salt Lake City in November, 1854 and at Brigham City the same fall. I have always tried to visualize the thought and feeling they must have had when viewing Salt Lake City for the first time. I have seen the illustration of Salt Lake City in Orson F. Whitney's History of Utah in the year 1854 where it has the appearance of a prairie with a few houses scattered over it and when they arrived at Brigham City there were only from three to four hundred houses, each one built on one acre and a quarter lot all fenced with a woven willow fence. I can recall when nearly all the lots were fenced with woven willow fences. However, they accepted the situation and in the Spring of 1855 they set about to build their home. They were assigned a lot on the southeast corner of the block one block east of the courthouse. They bought a yoke of oxen and a wagon and they commenced making adobe at the adobe yard west of the city. Father would work in the pit mixing the clay and placing it in a mold two at a time and

mother would carry them out on the drying floor to dry and when they got enough dried they would haul them home each night and this continued until they had enough adobe to build their home. The house they built was where I was born and the house has now been stucco plastered and painted and now appears as an up-to-date residence and is now the home of one of the Brigham City doctors.

When the house was finished Mother took up weaving and she would weave clothes for blankets and ladies suits and dresses and cloth for under wear. This was made from cotton and wool. The cotton warp with wool filling and was called linsey. She also made linen for underwear and tablecloths and towels. This linen was made from hemp. The linen made from hemp is somewhat coarser than linen made from flax.

When a small boy, I helped to prepare the hemp to convert into linen. Hemp is a tall plant that grows from three to four feet tall. It would be harvested and tied in the bundles, then placed in a pond of water, covered with slabs or planks. The planks were weighted down with rocks and left there long enough to become soft, then it would be raked to dry and when dry it would go through what was called a breaking box and it would come out almost like dust and the fine fibre that was between the pith and the bark would be left and this would be white and as fluffy as silk. This fibre would be spun into thread on a spinning wheel in the same manner that wool is spun. I have heard my mother relate that she would often spin and weave from twelve to eighteen hours per day.

My Brother Willard was born in the new home in April, 1856 and everything was moving along very smoothly and they were accumulating enough to make them happy and contented when in the Spring of 1858 word came that Johnson's Army was approaching Utah and all were ordered to pack all their belongings into wagons and prepare to move south, not knowing their destination. This they did leaving only a few men to keep watch and irrigate the growing crops and in the event that the army should enter they were to set fire and destroy all the crops but the Brigham people only got as far South as Provo when word came that they were all to return which they did and they got back in time to harvest their crops, and on December 1st, I came along and it would seem that the weatherman had planned some demonstration, but possibly it was overdone a little for on the day I was born, an East Wind blew the roof off the County Court House.

My parents have often related the trying times they had when the grasshoppers destroyed their crops sometime in the early 60's and the Spring following their subsistence was mainly Segos that grew on a thousand acre tract of land west of

Brigham City. The Sege were so completely dug up that there was none left for seed and no Sege has grown there since.

My wife's folks joined the L.D.S. Church in England and came to Utah for the Gospel's sake in same as my folks did and came to Utah and arrived in Salt Lake City in the fall of 1855 and settled at Farmington where she was born on June 7, 1856. In the fall or early winter of 1859 her folks moved to Maughan's Fort, now Wellsville.

Maughan's Fort, pioneered in 1856 by Peter Maughan and family and others, was built in 1857 to protect them from the Indians. It was called Maughan's Fort but the fort and all of Cache Valley was vacated in 1858 on account of the approach of Johnson's army and they moved south. In the spring of 1859, the first settlers moved back and a number of others. My wife's folks moved to Maughan's Fort in the fall of 1859 when she was 3 ½ years old but it was so near winter that they could not build a home so their first abode was a sheep shed with a dirt roof and with a straw floor and the light came through the spaces between the logs but the next spring in 1860 the city was laid out and the fort abandoned and that summer nearly all built houses on the city lots allotted them. Her father built a comfortable log house on their lot.

In this house is where Samuel Bailey Mitton was born. To those that don't know Brother Mitton is my wife's brother.

In the summer of 1876, fourteen years later, they built a commodious two story frame house which is still in good preservation and stands as a credit to their frugality and a determination to make Wellsville and Utah a better place to live in.

In conclusion, I hope that we may all live such lives that will prove to our God and to each other that we reverence and appreciate our God-given heritage, the UTAH PIONEERS.

Signed by Lorenzo Hansen



Ann Maria (Annie) Mitton and Lorenzo Hansen, July 24, 1941 in front of their home on West Center Street, Logan, Utah



Annie and Lorenzo Hansen, Grand Marshalls in the Logan, Utah, July 24, 1941 Parade, honoring the Utah Pioneers. Seated with them is their daughter Ida Hansen and Sidney Johnson. The driver is unknown

*HOME OF SAMUEL CROWTHER AND MARY ANN BAILEY MITTON IN
WELLSVILLE, UTAH*



The Samuel Crowther and Mary Ann Bailey Mitton home at 242 East Main St., Wellsville, Utah built in 1865. The home which faces north is still standing, but in disrepair, is on the Utah National Register of Historic Places.

*Bottom tier: Samuel Crowther Mitton, Mary Ann Bailey Mitton, Ann Maria (Annie) Mitton Hansen.
Upper Tier: Samuel Bailey Mitton, Ellen Jane Robbins, Mary Ann (May) Mitton Hawkins,*



The Wellsville, Utah home of Lorenzo and Annie Hansen