

INGEBORG NIELSEN WANGSGARD

Biography

On January 17 1853, in the little village of Inger Slev near the city of Aarhus, Denmark, a little girl was born to Jacob and Rasmine Sorensen Nielson. They were people of humble circumstances so when their little daughter whom they named Ingeborg was old enough to work she helped make her own living by assisting other people with house work and caring for children. She attended school only two half days a week, which was compulsory in Denmark at that time.

At the age of fourteen she was confirmed in the Lutheran Church and shortly after left her home to work for a family named Anderson who owned a small bakery. Here she became very useful assisting in the store as well as in the home. She lived with the Andersons for four and a half years until she was converted to the Latter-Day Saint Church.

With the consent of her parents she came to America with the Christian Sorenson family, Mrs. Sorenson being a sister of Mr. Anderson, her former employer. Due to the fact that Mrs. Sorenson's mother and sister had located in Huntsville these converts also located there, arriving July 18, 1872. Inasmuch as Ingeborg was unable to finance her trip to this country it was agreed that the Sorensens would pay her transportation then she would reimburse them after securing employment. But things did not turn out as they were planned. Beautiful young girls were not plentiful and proposals for a plural marriage were numerous. But Ingeborg had no desire to be involved with any polygamous family. She became lonesome and discouraged in this newly adopted land because her work kept her busy from early morning until late at night, not even allowing time to go to church.

She felt she should leave Huntsville to seek other employment, perhaps Salt Lake City would offer better advantages. But that was soon forgotten as romance came to her when she was introduced to Peter C. Wangsgard, who was a widower with two boys. He called to see her several times then proposed marriage. They were married September 9, 1872 in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City.

Thirteen children were born to this couple: Jacob, Inger, Anna, George, Carrie, Christian, Thomas, Minnie, Arthur, Samuel, Bertha, Herman and Walter. John Jr. and Marion, who were sons of her stepson John, were also taken into the home and cared for. She has 30 grandchildren and 32 great-grand children.

Peter and Ingeborg made their home in Huntsville for 40 years after which they moved to Five Points. On July 1, 1916, she was left to face the battles of life alone, which she has done very nobly. She is still very active and ambitious at the age of 85 passing her time making rugs, the art of which she is a past master. Another hobby is playing cards. If anybody can play Sewencel or Pinochle, Five Hundred or Rummy she may challenge you to play a game most any time.

Written by Melva Schade, Granddaughter of Christen C. and Anna Anderson
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