

Maren Andersen Aagard

(This story is written by me, Peggy Knighton, July 2006. The information is taken from several different documents. I have made a great effort to be as accurate as I can from the information that I have gathered. It is written in first person to be presented at our Haynie Family Reunion, July 9, 2006.)

My name is Maren Andersen Aagard. In Denmark it would be “Andersdatter” instead of Andersen. I was born in 1808 in Denmark. My parents were Anders Thomasen and Ellen Hansdatter.

I was much younger than Jens, but he was a good man and father. We had six children. Our two oldest children died young. Anders only lived to be 8 years old, and Jens only lived to be nine. Our next four were: Niels, Ellen, Birthe, and last was a son that we also named, Anders Jensen Aagard. Anders was called Andrew in America.

We were well off in Denmark. However, when we sold our property to migrate to Utah, Jens gave most of our money to the Church. I was worried that we may not have enough, so I sewed gold coins in the lining of my coat and in the hem of my skirt without telling my husband. Some people said that I was a pretty smart woman when it came to looking after the dollar!

My husband said we were in the Stoddard Company when we came across the plains, but I remembered being in the William Budge company. But no matter, we arrived in Salt Lake on the 5 of October of 1860. After being in Moroni for four years, we then moved to Fountain Green where we lived the remainder of our lives.

I was almost 71 years when I passed away. It was five years after Jens died. Did you see where I was buried along side my husband, Jens, in the Fountain Green Cemetery?