

The Journey is the Reward:

Tracing Scandinavian  
Latter-day Saints  
from the Scandinavian Mission  
(1852-1881)

“The work we are doing is, I trust, done for posterity, in such a way that they need not repeat it...”

Thomas Jefferson

“The work we are doing is, I trust, done for posterity, in such a way that they need not repeat it...”. Thomas Jefferson said this to William Dunbar, an early explorer in a letter. I feel the same thing can be said for your researching your Scandinavian LDS ancestry. If you document and detail your ancestor’s trek from Scandinavia to Utah it will never have to be done again by your posterity again.

From the time period of 1852-1881 over 15,000 people from the Scandinavian Mission attempted to gather themselves up into Zion, which at that time was Utah. It was the great gathering place for all far and wide to join in and create a new society. The gathering is one factor in coming to Utah, but it was not the only one. Unlike most others who came West those from Scandinavia did not come for land, gold, or timber, but for a better life in a land where they could worship according to their own dictates and not those of the state. Many did not make it to Utah due to death on the ocean voyage, death on the trail, and other circumstances.

The purpose of this volume is to provide a single place that you can begin your Scandinavian research and be prepared to fully utilize your time on your visit to the Family History Center. This book is only a beginning and not an end of your research. You should always verify the information contained in this volume with that found in original records wherever possible. Also you should also verify the information found by confirming the information in another resource *e.g.* if you find a name on an LDS roster of a particular ship you can confirm the information by finding the name on the U.S. roster.

The book is divided into several sections. The first section goes into detail on how you can trace your Scandinavian ancestry in several steps. The next section shows 22 resources that you can use in your research. This section is not exhaustive in its treatment of resources, but it has the main sources that will get you started in your search. The next major section is a few articles on the Scandinavian mission and those who came to Utah. Next is a year by year treatment of the emigration from the Scandinavian Mission. Detailed are voyage narratives, ship descriptions, and pioneer rosters for those who came to Utah prior to 1869. Following the year by year descriptions you will find the contents of LDS microfilm 025696, which was transcribed by Aurelia Clemons. About 15,000 names are included in this list and the names are arranged by emigration year, conference, and family. Most families were listed together. This transcription is the heart of the book in that it allows one to quickly scan for their Scandinavian ancestry. If you know of the year of emigration you can quickly find the names you are looking for, but if not then you must then scan line by line, which is often slow, but you can skip over parts if you know the country of origin as the names are organized in conferences, so those who came from Sweden, Norway, or Denmark are listed separately.

The last section in the book is the Scandinavian Biography Index, which contains over 1,000 references to Scandinavian biographies. The index includes references from Daughters of Utah

Pioneers publications, *Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah* and the *LDS Biographical Encyclopedia*.

Some special software was created to create the index as you see it in this volume. Not every Scandinavian biography is referenced here as this index was hastily created almost as an afterthought for this volume, so if your ancestor is not listed I suggest you still search all the resources including the Early Church Information File when trying to find biographical information on them.

So use this volume and find those Scandinavians you have always wanted to know.

B.N.

Editor

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