

The Story of Niels Mortensen, Jr.

Niels Mortensen, Jr. was born 28 Sept. 1872 in Ephraim, Sanpete County, Utah, the 6th child and 3rd son of Niels N. Mortensen and Patrie Ane Christine Jensen. He was preceded in birth by Anne Kirstine, born 11 June 1861 in Rakkeby, Hjørring, Denmark. Then a brother George Q., born 29 March 1864 in the same place.

His father joined the LDS Church in 1863 and emigrated, along with his wife and 2 children in 1864. They passed through Germany to England to avoid being pressed into the army. The family crossed the plains with Capt. John Smith's Company and arrived in Ephraim in Sept. 1864. He (the father) came from a well-to-do family and had enough money to lend to other pioneers, enabling them to reach Utah, but received very little back from them. On arriving in Ephraim, he purchased farm land, built a large home on the corner of Center and 100 West Street, and became a very prosperous farmer.

The 3rd child, Catherine Josephine, was born in Ephraim on 27 Nov. 1866, then another son, Heber was born 22 Sept. 1868. Heber only lived 22 years. Then another sister, Matilda Elizabeth, was born on Dec. 6, 1870. She married Ernest Taylor, but died 23 Aug. 1899.

After Niels, Albert George was born 8 Sept 1875, but he died 5 Mar 1892. Then came a sister, Petra Anna Christena, on 23 Feb 1878. She married Bendt (Ben) Rasmussen 22 Aug 1900 and died 5 Mar 1957. Then came another sister Martina Annina born 4 Sep 1880. She married Erastus Theodore Jensen 8 Oct 1898 and died (?). Last of all 10 children was Josephine Catherine, born 26 Jan 1883. She married Louis W. Hahn 14 Oct. 1914 and lived until 29 July 1973.

Niels' father went on a mission to the Northern States in 1886 leaving 7 living children without their mother, who had died 1 June 1883. While he was away, the daughter Anne Kirstine and her husband took care of the younger children. Clara Jacobson (Christensen) was also hired to help at the house.

Niels was eleven at the time of his mother's death and 14 when his father went on his mission and learned how to be a good farmer and livestockman from his father and older brother. Though George emigrated to Emery County and became a successful farmer and rancher there.

Niels didn't get much chance for an education, but learned the fundamentals, enabling him to be a success in life.

Niels married Saretta Louise Christensen 14 De 1898 in the Manti Temple and 8 children were born to them:

Pearl Oneida, born 17 Sept 1899 (married Norval J. Vincent 29 June 1922)

Iva Petriana, born 20 Sept 1903 (married William Jensen from Canada)

Edgheill Niels, born 28 Sept 1905 (married Rachel Sparks 14 Oct 1925)

Odell Erick, born 8 May 1909 (married Hazel Christensen 28 Nov 1930)

Hazel died in May 1938. Married Dora Priscilla Nielson 21 Nov