

## ANNA MARIA HANSEN

Anna Maria Hansen was born November 18, 1840 in Egtved, Vejle, Denmark to Anders Hansen and Apollona Knudsen. Married William Morley Black October 26, 1859. They had nine children: five sons and four daughters. Died March 9, 1920 in Blanding, San Juan, Utah. Buried in Blanding, San Juan, Utah.

Maria's family belonged to the Methodist Church. As far back as she could remember, she and her brother would have to spend Sunday afternoon sitting at home listening to their father read the Holy Bible. When the Mormon missionaries came to their home her parents were interested. It was not long before they were converted and baptized.

The family wanted to come to America so they emigrated from their native land in December of 1855. They sail on the John J. Boyd. They arrived in New York in February and continued on to St. Louis. The family crossed the plains in the handcart company of Kanute Petersen's company in 1856. They settled in Manti, Sanpete county.

She found the American ways of living quite different from those of Denmark, where they were accustomed to eating five meals a day and whenever they were thirsty they drank beer, coffee or milk. Maria didn't know that plain water was meant to be used for drinking until she had her first drink on board the ship and thought it tasted awful.

Maria's parents always instilled in to her heart loyalty for America and her religion. They said, "We came here of our own free will, and may never see our native land again. We are Americans from now on." She was a true and loyal American in every way, so much so that she forgot her Danish language.

At the age of nineteen she met and married William Morley Black. She was his third

wife.

Maria was an excellent seamstress and was one of a very few women to own a sewing machine. She also acted as a mid-wife. She liked gathering and studying herbs because she felt that God had placed them on earth for the use and benefit of man, and that He expected us to know how to blend and make proper use of them in time of need.

While residing in Sanpete County Maria witnessed the terrors of the Black Hawk war. Her husband's brother and brother-in-law were killed by the Indians. In Circle Valley the family was robbed of their all and driven from their home.

Because she was part of a polygamous family she moved into Old Mexico. When the family was driven from Old Mexico twenty-five years later they had to leave their nice home and all their possessions behind.

She outlived the other wives by quite a few years, and all of her husband's children loved and respected her for the way she treated them, and for the wonderful way in which she looked after and cared for her husband in his old age.

Maria was a woman of great faith, having witnessed many instantaneous healings by the prayer of faith. She was a plural wife for forty years and rejoiced in that order of marriage.

Maria was lonely after the death of her husband and her health began to fail. She had heart trouble and passed away by peacefully falling asleep on the morning of March 9, 1920 at the home of her son, David P. Black.