

THORSTEN KNUDSEN.

Biography from the Lehi Centennial History

Thorsten Knudsen was born February 20, 1835, in Sorknes, Grue, Soler, Norway being a son of Knud Knudsen and Tore Gulbrandsen. His father, who had been a well-to-do land owner, lost all of his property in speculations and when Mr. Knudsen was four years old his father died and he was sent to live with an aunt. When he was 16, his mother died also. There were ten children in the family, and Thorsten was the youngest. He lived with his aunt till he was about 12 years old, when he went home to live with his mother.

After her death, he lived with various ones to whom he hired out to work, as the custom was to hire out for a year. At the age. of 20 he went to Christiania, the capital of Norway, and four years later he married Ogene Hergesen, the orphaned daughter of Hans and Ingaborg Hergesen.

In 1860 he joined the Mormon Church, having come in contact with the elders through the persuasions of his affianced. In 1866 he became very ill and as the doctor advised a change of climate he decided to emigrate to America. He shipped from Hamburg in the sailing vessel "Humbolt," taking nine weeks to cross the ocean. He crossed the plains in Captain Scott's company, arriving in Salt Lake City during the October conference.

Mr. Knudsen went to Provo, where he lived till the 22nd of December, 1866, when he came to Lehi and has lived here ever since. When Knudsen left his wife in Norway he also left his son Parley, who was 5 years old. Two years later through the death of a child whose fare had been paid, Parley was brought to Utah by C. C. A. Christensen, a returning missionary.

In 1870 Mrs. Knudsen emigrated to Utah and joined her husband and son in Lehi. Three children have been born to this family since their arrival in Lehi, but only one, Hyrum, is living. His home is in Logan. The wife and mother died November 13, 1910.

In 1871 the Knudsen family moved to their present home over the creek, being among the first to locate in this neighborhood. Mr. Knudsen has lived a quiet, peaceful life, tilling his little farm with care and keeping within his means; a good neighbor, a kind father and a consistent citizen.