

#### ANDERSON FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

Emma Clson was the oldest of six children, born to Claus and Johanna Ohlson in Hemsjo, Sweden, in 1855.

Claus was remembered by his family as a hard worker and a stern disciplinarian. He was a carpenter and disappeared while building a ship. It was never known what happened to him.

While still a girl in her teens, Emma was converted by visiting Mormon missionaries and returned with them to America. Johan (John) Anderson, also from Sweden, met Emma in Salt Lake City and they were married.

Their first child died at birth and was given the name of Emma. The second was a girl, Genevive, who died at the age of six months. They were living at a mining camp at Alta, near Salt Lake City, Utah.

John worked in the mine and Emma cooked for the miners. They lived, cooked, and ate in one room. The bed was near the ceiling and was reached by way of a ladder. When John worked the night shift, Emma pulled the ladder up to offer protection from irresponsible miners who came for food that had been set out for them.

Emma's brothers John, Charlie and Otto and her sister Charlotta came from Sweden and worked at the camp too. Charlotte helped with the cooking. One evening she walked toward the mine to meet her brothers and was killed in a snow slide. August was one year old when they were forced to leave the camp because of severe snowslides. John carried the baby and Emma carried a few possessions through the snow. Being pregnant, her strength was about gone when a miner friend offered to help. She gave him her heavy purse to carry. He reached Salt Lake City ahead of them and was both shocked and fearful when he opened the purse and found all of their savings from the mine. He guarded it carefully until they arrived and returned it to them.

The family took a homestead at Dover and built a two room house of adobe bricks and dirt floors. It had two small windows. The stove was placed on blocks to make it high enough to use. The homestead consisted of 160 acres of swampy, alkali land. Crops would not grow here so the land was used for pasture. They received some income from neighbors who kept their cattle there.

Hannah and Harry were born while they lived in Dover. Erma crocheted bedspreads and tablecloths and sold them to cattlemen who lived in a nearby town. With this money she bought calves. All of this time John was working in the mine and Erma was alone with the small children. August learned to milk a cow here. The cow must have been gentle because she allowed both children to milk her at the same time, one on each side. The mosquitoes were terrible.

A store and post office joined the property. The owner, Mr Larson, freighted in the merchandise from the railroad with mules and a covered wagon. The Larson family lived in two rooms at the back of the store.

The Andersons kept this fenced homestead and continued to keep cattle there. They bought thirty acres at Gunnison and moved there where they could raise wheat and alfalfa. A two room house was built. This one had a hard floor.

When the children were old enough to attend school, John bought some property at the edge of town. It was a mile from school. They built a one room log house and brought the adobe bricks from the house in Dover and built an additional room. Later, a summer kitchen was built off the log room for cooking and eating. The rest of the children were born here.

They attended a Presbyterian mission school. Mrs. Green, who was the primary teacher, was also the doctor in town. Her daughter taught the upper grades.

There seemed to be a friendly feeling between the Presbyterian school and church and the public school and church since the children of both denominations intermingled in school and church services. The Anderson family became members of the Presbyterian church.

The town had dirt roads and board walks in front of the stores. There was no fire department but there was a town marshal and a jail. In this area farming and cattle and sheep raising were the principle occupations.

Erma made butter and shipped it to the mines. It was placed in a large box around a metal box that contained ice.

When Hannah was 14 years old, she and the girl who later became August's wife, took the cattle belonging to both families to the farm in Dover. The girls milked these 18 cows and brought the milk in a wagon to the Gunnison creamery

3

every morning. They had to ford the Severe River and at times the water was so deep that it came up into the buffy. Smudges had to be built to keep the mosquitoes away while they milked the cows.

The drinking water came from the city ditch. It was brought in cans by wheelbarrows to the house. There was little control of sanitation and after the family moved to St. Anthony, Idaho, Gunnison had a bad epidemic of typhoid fever.

The food supply was limited as to variety. They butchered two pigs at Christmas and put the meat in salt brine. A neighbor smoked the hams, bacon, and sausage. To make the sausage, they had a machine that chopped the meat fine instead of grinding it. The smoked meat was placed in a bin under wheat to keep it away from heat and flies.

Wheat was taken to the grist mill and ground into flour. The bran was used to feed the farm animals. A 25 gallon iron kettle was placed on rocks over a campfire and potatoes, oats, wheat, and bran were cooked. This was fed to the cows while they were being milked.

The flour bin was built of grooved boards and lined with cloth. It held the years supply of flour. A slanting lid dropped down and covered it. Bees were kept and honey was used for sweetening on the table, for cooking and canning. Corn, carrots, onions, and potatoes were raised. Uncle Johnson made wooden shoes for the family with leather tops.

Wool was gathered from the bushes and fences and from sheep that had died or drowned after the flocks were driven to and from the hills. They washed, corded and spun this into yarn. Emma knit their stockings. Other wool was taken to Manti where it was made into cloth. Other clothing was made from this cloth. The girls had one wool dress that was worn to school and church. On school days it was covered with a large apron to keep it clean. Underwear was made from flour sacks. Shoes were worn only in the winter and for church. Emma would carry her shoes when she walked to the depot to get the butter boxes. She wore them only when she came to town. This was done to make them last longer.

Each Christmas John built what was called a "Spider" in Sweden. It was made of wires and suspended from the ceiling and turned slowly. Sticks with wires were stuck into it. Candles were put on the end of the wires. Crepe paper was

turned around the wires. Another Swedish ornament was made of new straw. Threads were strung through them and they were formed into the shape of a bird cage.

In the year 1901 the Anderson family moved to Parker, Idaho. They bought 160 acres of good farm land. Here they lived in a three room log house. From then on they found it much easier to provide for their needs.

As told us by Hannah Elizabeth (Anderson) Strong age 83