

**A BIOGRAPHICAL
SKETCH OF
JAMES JENSEN**

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A Biographical Sketch of James Jensen by J. M. Tanner

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J. M. TANNER

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By
J. M. TANNER

THE DESERT NEWS
Salt Lake City, Utah
1911

Foreword.

It was the intention originally to summarize briefly the leading events in the life of James Jensen. Contrary to all expectations, the subject matter of this small volume grew beyond the limitations put upon it. The writer, believing that many of the events connected with this biography and belonging to the history of Forest Dale would be a source of interest to the people generally of the Ward, therefore obtained the consent of the Bishop to the publication of his biography in book form. This consent was given with great reluctance on the part of Bishop Jensen whose fears about "becoming modesty," "undue pretensions," and "adverse criticism" had to be overcome by persistent effort and persuasion. The author assumes all responsibility for whatever publicity this volume may acquire. If its subject matter should prove as interesting to the reader as it has been to the writer, the latter will have no apology to make for offering this book to the members of the Ward and the friends of its worthy Bishop.

THE AUTHOR.

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James Jensen

CHAPTER I

BIRTH AND EARLY BOYHOOD

Somewhere between forty and fifty miles west of Copenhagen, on the Island of Sjeland, was located the little village of Haugerup, where James Jensen was born June 7th, 1841. The village was small and its chief resources, its farms, were in the ownership of perhaps a half a dozen men. The others in that little village either worked under the local landlords or sought employment in the town of Soro. The village of Haugerup was in those early times a fruitful land for the Mormon elders, who induced, it is said, more than half of the people there to join the Church.

"My parents were poor," said Bishop Jensen in commenting upon the early circumstances

of his boyhood. But that could hardly be true since they were the owners of one cow, which gave them some right to recognition in the so-called middle class of society. Besides, his parents owned their home which was covered by a thatched roof, and in the style peculiar to those days. Conditions not unlike those of his parents may be found in many of the rural communities of Europe at the present time. The family at that time sought employment at the hands of others. They represented that condition of thrift which comes through hard and constant toil.

It was in the year 1855 that the Mormon elders led the Jensen family into the waters of baptism. It was the dawn of a new era to them. It lifted them from the narrow confines of a life about them into an open and new world.

To the parents of James Jensen there were born seven children. The family record is given as follows:

Father:

Hans Jensen, born December 19, 1816; died April 24, 1880.