

ADDENDA

By Harold H. Jenson, Historian of the Sons of Utah Pioneers

As a tribute to my father, Andrew Jenson, this humble scribe will attempt to write a finale to his autobiography. It has been a pleasure to me to read his manuscript. Although this writer has differed in some instances with him and argued against the use of so many dates and names, no one could have written this volume in the way Historian Jenson wanted it done but himself. Dates, names and figures have been paramount in his life, and therefore may consistently occupy an important place in his autobiography.

Back of all this detailed life's history is a story that reads much like a Horatio Alger book, showing the struggle of a young peasant boy from Denmark, who would perhaps never have had an opportunity to progress to any great extent, had not the restored gospel of Jesus Christ opened the way for him. This writer visited his father's birthplace, an ordinary dwelling in a country district, where some of his cousins today still live in similar homes. The autobiography tells in detail what happened to "this Danish lad" who came with his father and mother, to the new world. But the struggle of the fifteen-year-old youngster, who sold maps and colored pictures from door to door to raise funds to emigrate to America, cannot be told in words. The six weeks voyage across the ocean in a sailing vessel, and his two months travel across the plains with an ox train in 1866, his working as a cowboy and railroad grader, at first unable to speak the English language, and his desire to get an education, point to one word, **determination**. His struggle for success and recognition is well recorded, but the heart aches and the long nights of worry over disappointments can never be told.

Only one criticism can be made of Father's determination, and that is his over-ambition to accomplish what he thought was for the best good of all. Those who are best acquainted with him know that his activities are not based on selfish motives. He never made money on his books, and anyone who has had anything to do with printing and publishing will realize the hard task he has had to raise the necessary funds to pay for printing and binding. His solicitations sometimes may have been misconstrued by some, but his books will live on to benefit future generations and be appreciated by those who as subscribers contributed a little towards making the publication of them possible. When one realizes what historians generally charge to write histories and biographies, the money paid to Historian Jenson was so small that in several cases it only paid for cuts, while thousands of dollars were spent for printing and binding.

This writer has always said that "words soon die, but writing, if well done and preserved, will, like monuments of stone, live on forever." So will Father's books live on, a

lasting memory. His "Church Chronology" has been of invaluable aid to every student of Church history. Newspapermen and all classes in Latter-day Saint communities use that little volume for reference. Many have traced their Priesthood back to the beginning from its pages.

Andrew Jenson's L. D. S. Biographical Encyclopedia has brought into the limelight of publicity thousands of people whose life's history would not have been known or recorded by their own families or relatives. Hundreds of obituaries have been taken from these books. Volume 4 was printed by Historian Jenson to please those whose life's histories were sent in too late to become a part of the three volumes previously published. And in order to make it complete, historical sketches of general authorities, presidents of stakes and missions, and bishops in the Church up to 1930 were included.

Historian Jenson has written over 400 letters for publication in the "Deseret News"; they constitute in themselves valuable historical contributions. His complete work of writing manuscript histories of every mission, stake, ward and settlement of the L. D. S. Church up to 1930 will never die, and in some cases is all that is left of the records, for in many instances the original documents have been lost or destroyed.

Historian Jenson in his trips around the world in the interest of Church history shipped to the Historian's Office thousands of old handwritten records that are now on file on steel shelving, but which otherwise would never have been preserved. It is claimed that the publication of the "Trek of the Pioneers of 1847 across the plains" published in the "Salt Lake Tribune" gained thousands of subscribers for that paper. The "Deseret News" has also gained a good following by publishing in its columns the "Encyclopedic History of the Church" in installments each evening for several years. Copies of these articles have been preserved in scrapbooks.

Every man has a hobby and is entitled to his views. Andrew Jenson's Memorial Hall houses a collection of relics and souvenirs gathered on his extensive journeys. These travels include two trips around the world, and voyages from Alaska on the north to the South Sea Islands on the south. Thirteen times he has crossed the Atlantic and four times the Pacific Ocean. He is a millionaire in miles of travel. He made a trip afoot at the age of 75 down the Bright Angel Trail in Arizona and climbed Mount Timpanogos a little later. In fact, walking, he says, has helped to keep him young. Every day now, at nearly 88 years of age, he walks to and from work at the Historian's Office, and on Sundays often travels to fill some appointment, or visit some distant place, for he maintains that "a change is as good as a rest." After his office work he frequently spends hours in his home library indexing books, letters and sundry documents; for he files everything of importance in numerous scrap books. He has kept a personal diary journal since he was 13 years old.

Now, as to the secret of his longevity, he claims that this is due to his close observance of the Word of Wisdom. He can perhaps outwalk any man of his age and can dance the old fashioned waltz like a youth.

"To know Andrew Jenson is to like him," said one of the Church authorities, who also claimed that Elder Jenson had contributed more to Church history than any other man now alive pertaining to the community to which he belongs, and his memory for dates and figures is phenomenal.

Eccentric he may be in the art of questioning, at times, but this is his means of finding out things. His knowledge of genealogy and names is remarkable, for off hand he recalls the names of grandfathers and great-grandfathers in meeting with those of the present generation.

If Father should retire from work, like some men do, he would die. This journalist believes that unless something unforeseen happens, Andrew Jenson will live to be a

centenarian. His mother died at 97 and he comes of long-lived parentage. His frugality and simple habits have made him somewhat independent in temporal affairs, and he has asked financial favors of no one and prepared for old age. He believes children as soon as they reach the age of maturity should make an effort to earn their living, and this son does not begrudge his father what he now enjoys, for real saving has enabled him to accomplish his life's ambition where many have thrown their chances away.

Therefore this pen justly joins with others in giving the flowers before and not after death. Andrew Jenson will never be forgotten and his children and grandchildren would do well to follow in his footsteps. His friends, numbered by thousands, will never forget the white-haired man with the kindly smile who at the age of 88 years is as active as many not half his age. His many friends and admirers wish and pray that his physical and mental powers will enable him to reach the one hundred years mark in mortality.

To show the efficiency of a life complete in every detail, Father has already erected his own monument. This was done in order that no one be asked to contribute to such a cause and also that he might show his love for his adopted country, the United States of America, and still record his love for his native land. The wording on the monument reads as follows: "Andrew Jenson, historian, missionary, and extensive traveler; born Dec. 11, 1850, in Torslev, Hjørring Amt, Denmark, emigrated to Utah in 1866. His loyalty to his adopted country, America, did not diminish his love for his native Denmark." The monument is also unique in that it shows a globe on top of a slab of Utah granite, indicating his travels as a "globe trotter." The two-colored markings on this orb not only show the skill of the carver, but will perpetuate in stone the trek of this veteran natural Historian and his life's travels, mainly in the interest of Church history. His writings, like this monument, will be durable and lasting.

A TRIBUTE

The following is from the pen of Mrs. Mary F. Kelly Pye, secretary to Bro. Jenson since 1917:

"Poets are born, not made," is an old adage, and perhaps the same may be said of historians. Andrew Jenson is a natural historian and from his boyhood took greater delight in studying the lives of great men than in reading of the "trolls" and mythical demons and fairies described in the legends of his native country.

He came to America when only 15 years of age, having at the time but little knowledge of the English language, but he read with avidity the historical articles published in the "Millennial Star" and other Church periodicals. Of these, the most fascinating to him were the chapters from the Life of the Prophet Joseph Smith, printed serially in the "Millennial Star," and he regretted that this thrilling story was not published in Danish, so that others of his nationality might enjoy it. This led to his first literary effort, which was his translation of the Life of Joseph Smith into Danish and the publishing of the same in parts of 16 pages each. In order to get subscribers for the work he appointed agents in different localities who attended to the delivery of the parts until the book was completed and published in full, when, if desired, he exchanged the loose number for a bound volume. As he traveled over the country on this business he made many friends and laid a foundation for his next literary venture. As he visited the settlements, he gathered material for their written history, including the date of the arrival of the pioneer colonists and in many cases their names. Much of this he incorporated in his next work, called "Morgentjernen," another Danish publication. After four years, by the advise of his friends, he

discontinued the Danish periodical and continued it in the English language under the title of "Historical Record."

In order to write many of the historical articles of his magazine it was necessary to consult Church records, which he was permitted to do by the courtesy of Apostle Franklin D. Richards, Church Historian, upon the recommendation of Apostle Erastus Snow, the founder of the Scandinavian Mission, who was always a staunch friend to Bro. Jenson.

In April, 1898, Elder Jenson was sustained as an Assistant Church Historian and shortly afterwards he began work upon a compilation known as the "Journal History of the Church," which is a loose-leaf manuscript history covering the record of the Church from the date of its organization to the present time. Bro. Jenson's part of this compilation covers the period from the beginning of the Church down to the close of the centennial year of the Church and comprises about 400 volumes. He also compiled a history of every stake, and of most of the wards and branches of the Church comprised in them, down to the end of 1930, in about 150 volumes. He also compiled in chronological form a history of all the missions of the Church and of many of their conferences and branches; this compilation comprises about 250 volumes. There are also about fifty volumes of miscellaneous matter, such as the history of Zion's Camp, Mormon Battalion, Church Emigration, Handcart Companies, "Ship Brooklyn" and the Original Pioneer Company.

The modus operandi adopted by Bro. Jenson has been to glean important data from original sources, historical notes, minutes of meetings, correspondence, private journals, and his own field notes, all of which he arranged in chronological order in four major divisions, namely, Journal History, Stake Histories, Mission Histories and Miscellaneous Matter. Much of this information was gained from records perused by Bro. Jenson during his extensive travels, or from books sent back by him to the Historian's Office for safe keeping. Many items also were clipped from the "Deseret News," "Millennial Star," and other Church publications, great care being taken to note on each clipping the name of the paper from which it was obtained and, in the case of books, the name, volume and page number. To each item a piece of paper was usually attached upon which Bro. Jenson or one of the head researchers wrote an introductory paragraph which was copied by the stenographers before affixing the clippings. All the work was carefully proof-read and passed upon by Bro. Jenson before being bound in loose-leaf covers. These covers permit the introduction at any time of more material as it is obtained, and additions are still being made from journals, correspondence, manuscripts, and other sources.

Since Bro. Jenson has been associated with the Historian's Office, he has published the "Church Chronology," the "Scandinavian Jubilee Album," four volumes of the L. D. S. Biographical Encyclopedia and a History of the Scandinavian Mission, besides writing hundreds of letters for the "Deseret News" and other periodicals, mostly on historical subjects.

Bro. Jenson has a remarkable memory and often will answer as many as ten letters in one morning, each pertaining to some item of Church History, without once referring to any book or source for dates or information. He is an indefatigable worker and expects every one of his co-laborers to be the same.

From the information on file in the Historian's Office in regard to the settlements of Utah, a unique history has been compiled, unequalled in any state of the Union. The commencement of many of the towns and cities in the United States was accomplished by squatters who independently located in certain sections; but colonization under the leadership of Brigham Young was an organized undertaking. Suitable sites having been selected upon which colonists (brought from the various branches of the Church in the United States, or by emigration from abroad) might be located. Experienced leaders were frequently called from the stand in the Tabernacle or by special notification, to take charge

of groups of colonists and, provided with agricultural implements, seeds and other necessities, were sent to these localities to establish settlements. This early history and much of their subsequent experiences has been preserved and recorded by Bro. Jenson.

Following are the names of the co-workers of Elder Andrew Jenson: Franklin D. Richards, Anthon H. Lund and Joseph Fielding Smith, Church Historians; John Jaques, Charles W. Penrose, Orson F. Whitney, A Milton Musser, Brigham H. Roberts, A. Wm. Lund and Junius F. Wells, Assistant Church Historians; and the following clerks, researchers and stenographers: Martin S. Lindsey, Larinda Pratt Weihe, Edwin F. Parry, Parley P. Jenson, George R. Smith, C. C. A. Christensen, John Powell, George C. Smith, Helen M. Whitney, Ethel Reynolds, Eva Jenson (Olson), Bertha Emery, Harold H. Jenson, Fred Christensen, Edith Dean, Tamar (or Tare) Gunson, Paula Halversen, Emil Christensen, Geo. Cannon Lund, Alvin E. Olson, Robert Campbell, Idell Ingram (Nordström), Amanda Loland, H. Cornelius Lund, Mary F. K. Pye, Andrew K. Smith, Janet Y. Easton, Ruby McKinley (Egbert), Dorothy Pye, Orion W. Snow, John H. Miles, Janne M. Sjødahl, LeRoi C. Snow, Minnie Broomhead, Alvin F. Smith, Chas. D. Goaslind, Hugo D. E. Peterson, Alice M. Rich, P. Joseph Jensen, Glynn S. Bennion, Frank I. Kooyman, Earl E. Olson, John V. Bluth, Carl Goering and Minnie I. Margetts.

Although in his 88th year, Brother Jenson's head is covered with a thick crop of snow-white hair and he reads without glasses. He attributes his strength and energy now to the fact that from his youth up he has tried to live the laws of health as a "Mormon Boy" should. Altogether he may be described as a "remarkable man."

Salt Lake City, Nov. 1, 1938.