

## **Emma Caroline Arnesen Greenhalgh (1858-1937)**

### **Introduction**

Situated along the northwestern edge of the European continent is the long narrow kingdom of Norway. The northern third of the country lies above the Arctic Circle. Because of its northern latitude, it has long periods every summer when the sun shines twenty-four hours a day. Norway, therefore, is often called the Land of the Midnight Sun. Its largest city and capital, Oslo, is located in the southeastern part of the country.

The country has a long history that dates back almost eleven thousand years. At that time, much of the region was covered by thick ice sheets, which took thousands of years to melt. People lived along the northern and western coasts of the area, but it was not until 2000 B.C. that a series of Germanic tribes had started to settle there permanently.

Beginning about 800 A.D., Viking sea raiders from the Norwegian communities spread terror through much of western Europe for a period of about three hundred years. About 1000 A.D., five hundred years before Columbus, Leif Ericson led what is believed to have been the first voyage of Europeans to the mainland of America. It was about this same time that King Olav I introduced Christianity to Norway. In the mid fourteenth century, Norway was united with Denmark and it was not until 1814 that much of the country was given to Sweden. Norway did not become the independent country that we know today until 1905.

### **The Early Years**

It was during the mid nineteenth century (on January 4, 1858) that Emma Caroline Arnesen was born in Christiania (now known as Oslo), Norway. Her parents were Augustinus Arnesen Nielsen and Caroline Martina Johannesen Frantzen. She was the second of four children. Her siblings included an older sister, Alvilda Matilda (born September 26, 1855), a younger brother, Carl Hagabert (born January 22, 1860) and a younger sister, Mary Magdaline (born June 6, 1861). The family was apparently well fixed financially and was socially accepted in the community.

Previous to her marriage, Caroline had been serving as a maid to the queen of Norway. She was also a school teacher. She had been raised by foster parents and subsequently had found it necessary to find employment at an early age. In addition to room and board and a clothing allowance, Caroline's salary for her services was about twenty dollars a year.

Augustinus was a respected brick mason and a well-known master shoemaker. Through his expert work, he had earned a diploma. His shoes, made by hand, were of heavy silk and were in great demand. Most of his customers were of the wealthier citizens of the

community. Because of his large business, he employed additional men to produce his product.

### **Gathering to Zion**

It was in 1865 that the family first came in contact with missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Caroline, in particular, was very kind to the missionaries who came to their home often for food and lodging. When the missionaries were ill, they were welcomed into the Arnesen home where they stayed until their health improved. Missionaries that Emma remembered included Elder O.H. Berg of Provo, Utah and Elder Dorius and Elder C.A. Christiansen, also from Utah. (According to a daughter, Geneva, “O.H. Berg’s wife and Grandma Arnesen were relatives. He (Berg) had come to this country and joined the Church while he was here. He went back there to Norway and got them to join the Church. So then they came over to this country. They associated and were friends all of their lives.”).

After hearing the message of the restored gospel, both Augustinus and Caroline desired to be baptized. So strong was the feeling of the local townspeople against the church, that it became necessary for the baptism to occur at night. It was on or near Christmas 1865 that the Arnesens were baptized in the ocean after the ice had been broken. In the following spring (1866), the two oldest children, Alvilda and Emma, were baptized in the ocean at nighttime as well.

Heeding the call to gather to Zion, the Arnesen family made arrangements to leave their native Norway and travel to America. A rich relative, the husband of Caroline’s cousin, offered to build them a large home adjacent to the king’s palace if they would remain. So strong was their commitment to the gospel, however, that unhesitatingly, they sold their home and most of their earthly belongings, packed a few items in suitcases and trunks, and said farewell to their relatives, friends, and native land, never to return again.

Joining many other Norwegian converts, they made their made to Hamburg, Germany where they boarded the ship, *Humboldt*, under the leadership of Captain Boyson, on June 2, 1866 and started on their journey to Zion. This group numbered 328 saints and was the third emigration of saints to leave for America that year. Their leader was George M. Brown.

The company was organized into four districts, each of which was subdivided into nine lesser divisions with a president appointed for each of them. Beside the saints, approximately seventy other passengers were on board as well.

The journey to New York took about six weeks. Initially the *Humboldt* was tugged down the River Elbe to the North Sea. Taking a route north of Scotland, the ship passed the Shetland Islands on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June. With the exception of the first ten days, the ship was driven by strong headwinds. Few ships were encountered during the voyage, but as the *Humboldt* approached Newfoundland, dense fog resulted in a near collision with another

German vessel. The ships came so close together that they had to be separated with poles used by the sailors. Only slight damage was done to the *Humboldt*.

From accounts of the ship's passengers we learn that conditions were less than adequate. Drinking water taken from the river Elbe in Germany was stored in wooden barrels that had been burned on the inside. The water "was as black as coal when we drank it. Water was also put in large iron barrels, holding about five hundred gallons, and when the water from the wooden barrels was exhausted, the water from the iron barrels was used. This was red with rust."

The passengers' diet was composed mostly of soup, potatoes, beans, fish, bread and hard tack biscuits. Cooking was done in iron pots "so large that the cook could get inside." According to one passenger, the biscuits were extremely hard and dry and the potatoes were sour and soggy. "Pigs would object to the food and water, but we had to take it."

Sleeping quarters on the ship consisted of berths made of common lumber with room for four in width and were two tiers high.

"In the beginning of the voyage, much seasickness prevailed among the passengers. Caroline, in particular, was sick much of the time she was on board. Five persons, including two adults and three children, died during the voyage."

The *Humboldt* arrived safely in New York on July 18, 1866. "[We] were glad when we reached Castle Garden, New York, where we stayed for three days. We all had to pass a doctor's inspection before landing. Had there been any contagious diseases on board, we would not have been allowed to land."

While in New York, a trunk of the Arnesens containing valuable silverware was stolen. By their journey's end, the family essentially had given up all of their worldly possessions "except for the clothing on their backs." This scenario was often repeated in these early pioneer families,

"We left New York City and went up the Hudson River in a boat to Albany, New York where we were put in very dirty cattle cars. After many days, we reached St Louis, Missouri [where] we went in a paddle wheel steamer up the Missouri River to Florence, Nebraska (now called Omaha) where we remained two weeks waiting for ox teams from Salt Lake City."

"The one spring of water that was used by the saints in Florence for drinking had been poisoned by some of the citizens of that place because of hatred towards the saints. Consequently, the water could not be used and we had to go to the Missouri River for drinking water and for general purposes."

"When we started for Salt Lake City, Peter Nebeker of Willard was captain of the entire company. There were forty-eight teams, and each team consisted of two yoke of oxen for each covered wagon. Each wagon was loaded with merchandise and provisions, besides

our luggage.” Some members of the company had milk cows while others had beef cattle to be used as food along the way. “All those who were able to walk, were expected to walk all the way to Salt Lake City.” Shoes became quickly worn and Emma’s father “had to wrap her feet in old canvas because her feet were severely cut and bled every day.”

“[At night] the oxen had to be herded as the Indians might drive them away. But the Indians were friendly and came to us only once on the trip. They wanted food, clothing, guns, and ammunition. The only thing we could give them was a sack of flour. After accepting it, they peacefully left us.”

“One evening at dusk, while the wagons had stopped for the night, Emma almost lost her life. She had wandered away from camp by following a little stream of water. She came to a place where the water ran into a pool. The bank was very steep, and the water very still. Emma decided she would catch some fish for the evening meal. So she secured a stick which served as a pole, a string for the line, and a pin for the hook. As Emma sat very still looking down into the water, she became dizzy. She was thinking that if she fell in, she’d never get out. [About this time] in she went head first. The water was deep, coming up over her head. When she was about to give up after struggling for some time, she was rescued by some men of the company who had left camp in search of water. There was much happiness when Emma was back in camp. Her parents had missed her and thought her lost or stolen by some Indians.”

The remainder of the journey was rather unremarkable. “We traveled on an average of ten miles a day....The weather was good throughout our entire journey across the plains. We reached Salt Lake City on Saturday, September 29, 1866.”

### **A New Home**

“[The] company did not stop long in Salt Lake, but pressed on to Provo where they (the Arnesens) lived for about one year. Mr. Arnesen was offered about ten acres of land if he would go to Summit (now Santaquin).” A three-room adobe brick home was built on the northeast corner of 200 East and Main Street in present-day Santaquin. (To be noted is that Augustinus, according to his granddaughter, built many adobe-brick homes in Santaquin).

“After moving to this community, he (Augustinus) could not make a living at farming so started a shoemaker shop. This business was not very successful because most of the children went barefooted, and the men needed heavy leather shoes which Mr. Arnesen was not accustomed to making.”

Living conditions continued to be rather hard. “Tom Holladay gave the girls permission to glean wheat in his field.” It was about four years after their arrival [in Santaquin], during the Grasshopper War, [that] Mrs. Arnesen walked to Springville to make arrangements for getting some flour. Her husband was sick at the time so was confined

at home. On her way back, she got lost and had to go through a mire. It was past midnight when she arrived home, wet and covered with mud. After going without flour for over a week, Mr. Arnesen was well enough to go in a wagon to Springville for some flour, which cost thirteen dollars for one hundred pounds.”

To further provide for his family, Augustinus left Summit to work in the mines in Cottonwood Canyon near Salt Lake City. It was at this time that tragedy struck the family. After drinking some “poisoned mineral water” from the mine, Augustinus became ill and a few days later (August 14, 1873) died at his home. “In order to support her four children, [Caroline] washed for other people and sold berries (strawberries and gooseberries) from her lot. The oldest child, Matilda, married and moved to Sanpete County. She sent clothes and sometimes a little money to help her mother.” Emma herself was very industrious and would tend children to help earn money for the family.

### **Beginning of a New Life**

When Emma was just sixteen years of age, she married Ezekiel Greenhalgh, who was ten years her senior. Emma had felt that “she was too young to get married. She wanted to go to Salt Lake to find work, but her mother encouraged her to get married.” The couple was married February 9, 1874 (her husband’s birthday) in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. The trip was made by wagon and required two days each way. On returning to Summit, they moved into a two-room house which had no furniture. “Emma’s mother had saved a twenty-dollar gold piece that she gave to the couple. With this they purchased a bed, table, and a plough. Wooden boxes were used as chairs. Emma cooked over a fireplace for four years and baked bread in a skillet heated over the fire. She hauled water from the ditch and made soap from wood ashes. When her father died in 1874, she took her mother into her home to care for her.”

Ezekiel owned some farming ground and a team of horses. On his farm he raised sugar cane for making molasses, potatoes, and wheat. Pigs were raised for meat. During their first year of marriage, food was very scarce. Meals on occasion would consist only of bread and water. After the farm work was done in the fall, Ezekiel was able to get a job hauling ore at the mines in Tintic District. Hereafter, living conditions at home improved.

Thirteen children were born to the Greenhalgh family (with birth dates) as follows:

William Ezekiel Greenhalgh	24 October 1874
Emma Mary Greenhalgh	30 January 1877
Albert Augustus Greenhalgh	5 November 1878
David Joseph Greenhalgh	24 January 1881
Henry Alanzo Greenhalgh	3 February 1883
Clara Matilda Greenhalgh	26 October 1884
Jesse Ray Greenhalgh	16 March 1887
Zelphia Martina Greenhalgh	23 February 1889

Carl Daniel Greenhalgh	13 May 1891
Lavina Auaness Greenhalgh	21 April 1893
Geneva May Greenhalgh	26 February 1896
Angus Leo Greenhalgh	13 May 1898
George Ernest Greenhalgh	31 December 1900

A daughter (Emma Mary) recollected those happy days at home. “I can well recall the many suits which mother sewed for the boys and dresses for us girls, and knitted stockings for the whole family. She cooked on a bake skillet, and sometimes they were out of butter for weeks, but they were too proud to make their wants known. Mother never had a doctor in her home until the last baby was born. Their faith was so strong they always depended upon the Lord to bless and heal them.”

### **Church Service**

In 1902, when the youngest child, George, was only fifteen months of age, Ezekiel was called to fulfill a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Central States (Kansas) Mission. In his absence, the older boys took care of the farm. William, the oldest child, was married. Emma and the older boys would send a little money to Ezekiel for support of his missionary labors whenever possible, but by far, Ezekiel, like other missionaries at that time, traveled without purse or script. Ezekiel also completed four missions at home as well. He held many other church positions and was active in civic affairs.

Ezekiel suffered from the effects of rheumatism which he had contracted while serving on his mission in Kansas. He didn't ever regain his strength completely, and on October 28, 1907, he died, leaving Emma with five of their thirteen children at home and a sick mother. “This sad event caused the family greater grief than they had ever endured before. Emma went to Salt Lake looking for employment so she could assist her mother.” Her mother passed away the following year in November 1908.

Emma remained a faithful member of the church throughout the remainder of her life. In 1908, she was called to serve as a counselor (to President Nettie Tietjen) in the Santaquin Relief Society presidency, a position which she held for three years. “This she did very well being humble and full of love, having faith, hope, and charity.” From an account of her life written in 1933, we learn the following: “At the present time, she is nearly seventy-six years old, possessing a fine personality free from envy and jealousy, a heart abounding in sympathy and love for her family and friends, and an enduring faith in God.”

### **A Life to be Remembered**

On May 3, 1937, Emma Caroline Arnesen Greenhalgh died peacefully at her home in Santaquin at the age of seventy-nine years. Her obituary noted that up until her death, “she had been well, and was up and around at the time that death overtook her.” She was buried in the Santaquin City Cemetery next to her beloved husband, Ezekiel.

From a history compiled by her daughter, Emma Mary Greenhalgh Kirkman, we read the following: “Never was there a mother who more thoroughly appreciated the privilege of having children, each one being warmly welcomed. She was a lovely homemaker. A beautiful spirit ever pervaded her home and her self-sacrificing and hospitality delighted those who came in contact with her. They learned to love her and to know her worth.”

It is my hope that as we learn more of this ancestor and the beautiful life she lived, that we too can love her and appreciate the great worth of this noble woman. Emma Mary further wrote: “To this splendid kindred who stood so loyal and faithful by us, there is a consolation that she left a character unsullied, a name honored and revered. She shall never be forgotten in God’s universe—nothing is ever lost. The impulse of the beautiful and the good kindled in this mortal mind, which is a spark of the divine fire, will go on and on to the remotest time, lighting the lamp of each new generation as it passes, and linking each individual into that endless chain which connects the eternity, past and gone, with the eternities yet to come.”

Robert C. Lofgran, 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grandson  
August 2008

#### References

Emma Caroline Arneson Greenhalgh, author unknown. Written in 1933. In possession of Robert C. Lofgran.

History of Emma Caroline Arnesen Greenhalgh, compiled by her daughter Emma Mary Greenhalgh Kirkman. Copy of original in Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Emma Caroline Arnesen Greenhalgh, Women of Faith and Fortitude Collection, submitted by Charlene Holladay Putnam. Copy of original in Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum, Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Early Life of Emma Caroline Arnesen Greenhalgh, Lucille Greenhalgh Liddle, 1981. Copy of original in Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Mormon Immigration Index, Voyages and Personal Accounts, *Humboldt* (June 1866).

World Book Encyclopedia, Norway, 1990.

Personal interview with Geneva May Greenhalgh Openshaw by Robert C. Lofgran shortly before her death.

## **Obituaries of Emma Caroline Arnesen Greenhalgh**

Deseret News, May 5, 1937

Santaquin—Funeral services for Mrs. Emma Caroline A. Greenhalgh, 79, early Utah pioneer and widow of Ezekiel Greenhalgh, Indian War veteran, who died at her home in Santaquin Monday, will be conducted Friday at 2 P.M. in the Santaquin First Ward chapel. Interment will be in Santaquin Cemetery.

She was born January 4, 1858 at Christiania, Norway, daughter of Augustinus and Caroline M. Frantzen Arnesen. In 1865 the family was converted to the Church by Elder



O.H. Berg of Provo, and in 1866, emigrated to America in a sailing vessel which took six weeks for the trip.

They crossed the plains with an ox team and lived in Provo for one year, and then moved to Santaquin in 1867 where Mrs. Greenhalgh had since resided.

She was married to Ezekiel Greenhalgh in the Salt Lake Endowment House February 9, 1874. Her husband died in 1907.

Mrs. Greenhalgh was active in church work and was in the Santaquin Relief Society presidency for many years.

Surviving are the following sons and daughters: Bishop Albert A. Greenhalgh of the Santaquin Second Ward, Bishop Carl D. Greenhalgh of the First Ward, William E., Henry A., Angus L., and George E. Greenhalgh, Mrs. Emma Mary Kirkman, Mrs. Lavina LeBaron, and Mrs. Geneva Openshaw, all of Santaquin; David J. Greenhalgh, Salt Lake City; 62 grandchildren, and 35 great-grandchildren.

\* \* \* \* \*

Santaquin—Emma Arnesen Greenhalgh, 79, died suddenly at her home in Santaquin Monday afternoon. She had been well, and was up and around at the time that death overtook her.

She was born Jan. 4, 1858 in Christiana, Norway to Augustinius and Caroline Frantzen Arnesen. She came to America with her parents when eight years old, crossing the ocean in an old-type sailing vessel. She walked across the plains with a handcart company, undergoing the rigors of the trip at her tender age.

When Mrs. Greenhalgh was 16, she married Ezekiel Greenhalgh in the Salt Lake Endowment House, the ceremony being performed Feb. 9, 1874. To this union 13 children were born. The husband and three children preceded her in death.

She was one of the few remaining pioneers in Santaquin, and has been a real faithful Church worker, and a devoted mother, spending one year in Provo, and the remainder of her life in Santaquin since coming to this country. Proof of her faithfulness in her duties to the Church she had espoused in far away Christiana is the fact that two of her sons are bishops in Santaquin. Carl D. being bishop of the First Ward, and Albert A., bishop of the Second ward in Santaquin.

She had made the first contribution to the new First Ward Chapel, now under construction, in this way and others, always seeking to set an example to her family and neighbors.

In addition to Carl D. and Albert A., she is survived by William E., Henry A., Angus L., and George E. of Santaquin; David J. Greenhalgh of Salt Lake City. And three daughters, Mrs. Emma Mary Kirkham, Mrs. Lavina LeBaron, and Geneva Openshaw of Santaquin; 62 grandchildren and 35 great-grandchildren, along with a host of friends will mourn her passing.

\* \* \* \* \*

Santaquin—Mrs. Emma Caroline A. Greenhalgh, 79, early Utah pioneer and widow of Ezekiel Greenhalgh, Indian war veteran, died at her home in Santaquin Monday from infirmities incident to age.

She was born January 4, 1858 at Christiania, Norway, daughter of Augustinus and Caroline M. Frantzen Arneson. In 1865 the family was converted to the L.D.S. church by Elder O.H. Berg of Provo, and in 1866 emigrated to America in a sailing vessel which took six weeks for the trip.

They crossed the plains with an ox team and lived in Provo for one year and then moved to Santaquin in 1867 where Mrs. Greenhalgh had since resided.

She was married to Ezekiel Greenhalgh in the Salt Lake Endowment house February 9, 1874. Her husband died in 1907.

Mrs. Greenhalgh was active in church work and was in the Santaquin L.D.S. Relief Society presidency for many years.

Surviving are the following sons and daughters: Bishop Albert A. Greenhalgh of the Santaquin L.D.S. Second ward, Bishop Carl D. Greenhalgh of the First ward, William E., Henry A., Angus L., and George E. Greenhalgh, Mrs. Emma Mary Kirkham, Mrs. Lavina LeBaron, and Mrs. Geneva Openshaw all of Santaquin; David J. Greenhalgh, Salt Lake City; 62 grandchildren and 35 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be conducted Friday at 2 p.m. in the Santaquin L.D.S. First ward chapel. Interment will be in Santaquin cemetery under direction of the Claudin funeral home of Payson.

