

# **MEMORIES OF THE DANISH TOWN AREA**

**1872 - 1950'S**

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I love my home, although things have really changed since I was a child. All of the landmarks are gone making it difficult to remember how it was. However, I'm going to make an attempt at writing about the families that lived along our road when I grew up here and a brief history of the property they owned.

I grew up in an area that was known as "Danish Town." This area was originally settled by my great-grandfather, Andrew Hansen Sr. He was a Danish immigrant, arriving in Utah in 1871 with his wife, mother-in-law and sister. He homesteaded 160 acres of land in section 35. Other Danish immigrants coming to Utah also settled in the same area. Some of these also received land grants and others bought property from my great-grandfather. Thus, the area became known as Danish Town.

## **Hansens**

Starting at the north end of Danish Road, the first house you came to belonged to Wilford and Viola Hansen. They had three children, Beverly, Harvey and Ronnie. Beverly was born in 1931, Harvey in 1934 and Ronnie in 1944.

Wilford was the son of Andrew Hansen Jr. When Wilford and Viola were first married, they lived with Wilford's mother. After Wilford's sister Beth and her husband Roy moved out of the two-room adobe house built by Gustave Andersen, the original owner from whom Andrew Hansen Jr. purchased the property, Wilford and Viola moved into it. I'm not sure of the date, but prior to 1937, as Marilyn remembers they were living in the two-room house when her family moved in next door. Wilford added onto the two rooms making the house as it is today. This was probably about 1940. Wilford said that he had the opportunity of living in the family home, but Vi didn't want to live with Wilford's mother. It seemed that whoever lived in the family home had to take care of their mother.

This house sits on the property that was originally homesteaded by Gustave Andersen and then purchased by Andrew Hansen Jr. Andrew Hansen Jr. lived there with his family until about 1907 when he completed his large house to the south of Andrew Hansen Sr. My grandparents then moved into the two-room adobe house and lived

there until their house was finished sometime around 1915. I don't know if anyone lived there between then and when Beth, Andrew Hansen Jr.'s daughter, and her husband, Roy Tate, moved in.

In addition to the property Andrew Hansen Jr. purchased from Gustave Andersen, he also purchased land from Mrs. Maggie Thompson, October 8, 1913. Maggie Thompson and her husband, James had lived there since about 1903. James died in 1907 and Maggie purchased the property from August Steingurber, May 16, 1910. August Steingurber was the son-in-law of Gustave Andersen. Steingurber bought the property from Newman, who originally homesteaded the property. There was a small house on this piece of property, but I don't know if anyone lived there after Andrew Hansen Jr. obtained the land. This was the land at the west end of the original property. This piece of property became Cecil Hansen's. There is now a large subdivision on that property.

Elizabeth Hansen Tate, received a piece of property on the north side of Creek Road that Andrew Hansen Jr. purchased from a family named Poulsen, who had purchased the land around nineteen hundred from Andrew Hansen Sr., the original owner of the property, and the piece east of Danish Road and south of Bengal Boulevard. The LDS Stake Center and a nursing-home are now on the piece on Creek Road. The school and a subdivision are now on the other piece.

It appears that Emma Hansen divided the property, owned by her late husband, Andrew Hansen Jr., among her five children sometime around 1936-37. Andrew Hansen Jr. died of the flu, in January of 1919.

Wilford was a farmer and raised hay and alfalfa. He farmed all of the Hansen land on the west side of the road owned by him and his brother and sisters until it was sold for development. Later he went into the mink business. He kept his mink longer than any of the other families along the road.

He divided his land between his three children and each of them has built a house. Two of Harvey's boys and one daughter have also built houses south of Harvey's.

After his wife, Viola died, Wilford continued to live in the house. Although he was almost completely blind from Glaucoma, and suffered from prostate cancer, he still managed to grow a beautiful flower garden each year until he died in 2001.

## **Browns**

The next house belonged to Joe and Edith Brown. Edith was Wilford's sister. They built a basement house and moved in about 1937. About 1940 they completed the house. They had four children, Marilyn, Melvin, Eddie and Gloria. Marilyn was born in 1932, Melvin in 1934, Eddie in 1935 and Gloria in 1937. When Melvin was about six years old, he got rheumatic fever. The doctor said it was from living in the damp

basement house. This is when the main floor of the house was completed.

This house was built on the property originally owned by Gustave Andersen and purchased by Andrew Hansen Jr.

Joe planted an orchard when he moved in to supplement his income from the smelter. This meant that Wilford could no longer farm that section of land. Edith and Joe also had a larger piece of land across the road. Their boys also went into the mink business.

I remember an old barn that stood on the piece of property across the road. It was torn down after the subdivision was built on the north side of Bengal Boulevard. Wilford remembers that a family named Andersen lived in that barn. This must have been where they lived before building the adobe house on the west side of the road.

After Edith died, which was shortly after my mother died, the kids sold the property across the street. Homes were built on that land. After Edith died, her children rented out the house until the property on the west side of Danish Road was sold in 2000. In the fall of that year, the house was torn down to make way for a new development.

## **Fergusons**

Fergusons lived in the house originally built by Annie Taubman and her husband, Ernest. Taubman's bought this 11 acres from Andrew Hansen Sr. about 1889, although, they lived on the property for several years before that (1874.) It was part of the original Hansen homestead. Annie lived there for many years with her son Charlie. The graves over by Wilford's belong to the Taubman's, Mr. Taubman and two young daughters according to Alice Covington.( In talking with Marilyn Brown and Shirley Ferguson, they said that they remembered taking care of those graves and that there were more than three. I have found that Taubmans had four children that died very young after they moved into the area. Could they account for the extra graves?) A daughter, Mary Smith, owned the property from 1938 until Fergusons bought it in 1939. Mr. Ferguson was a grandson of Mrs. Taubman. Fergusons were also related to my grandfather. Mr. Ferguson was a cousin. My grandfather's Aunt Mary Jane married Isaac Ferguson, who was David Ferguson's grandfather.

When Taubman's first lived on the property, they lived in what became the pig pen. Marilyn remembers that as a child seeing wall paper on the walls of the pig pen. Charlie, later built a two-room adobe house. Ferguson's added onto this to make a nice home.

Ferguson's had six children, David, Gene, Charles, Marian, Shirley and Louise. All of

the children were older than I. Charles, the youngest was a year older than I. When we were going to school, Louise had diabetes. She went blind in her early 20's and died shortly after. David became blind and died of diabetes. From what I remember they weren't aware he had the disease when he was younger. Gene was in the Air Force. I don't know what happened to the other kids. As far as I know, Mr. Ferguson was a farmer and was not employed anywhere else. Like the other boys living along the road, they also started a mink ranch.

After the property was sold, Clayne Poulsen rented the house for several years. He eventually bought the house and one acre of ground. Clayne added onto the house, making a beautiful home for his family. The rest of the property went to the Catholic Church and the piece across the road has a beautiful new house on it.

### **Edgels**

Edgels bought their farm from Richard Dyer sometime in the mid 1940's. . Richard was the son of Thomas and Julia Dyer who had built a two-room adobe house on the property they had homesteaded in the 1880s. They also purchased property on the west from Andrew Hansen Sr. and property on the south from Julia's brother, William Rasmussen. Richard Dyer's brother, Tom, lived in the house until about 1933, when Richard, who never married, came home to live. Thomas and Julia Dyer had four sons, Tom, Richard, Louis and William. After Thomas' death, Julia, divided the land among the boys.

I didn't know the Edgels because their children were all grown before they moved in, this was sometime in the early 1940's.. They did have a beautiful peach orchard and had land on both sides of the road.

We were in high school when Carl Davis bought the property. This was in the middle 50's. They had two adopted children. Not too long after, the house was sold to Alvin and Violet Thomas and their nine kids. There was David (he was in my mission the same time as me), Richard, Carl, Chris, Charles, Harold, Valerie, Alvin (TT or T, which stood for tenth Thomas) and Stephen. Alvin Thomas had been the bishop of the old Butler Ward. He was from Wales and talked with a Welch accent. He was a little man, who had white hair from the time I first knew him. He was a jeweler by trade and had a jewelry and watch repair shop in Holladay. Violet was from England, and she had served a mission in Birmingham, England, during World War II. She was such a pleasant person. These two people will always be among my most cherished friends.

The rest of the Edgels/Davis property was sold for the subdivisions on both sides of the road.

## **Stephens**

Stephens lived in the little white house as you went around the curve. They bought the property and house from Louis Dyer, a bachelor that had lived there for many years. This was also part of the original Dyer property. This property as I remember it growing up, was mainly orchards. When the property was sold, it was developed as Scandia Village. McGuire's Subdivision and the property on the south of them were all part of the Thomas and Julia Dyer property that was purchased from Andrew Hansen Sr. and William Rasmussen.

## **Proctors**

Jay Proctor lived in the house next to us. He bought the property about 1947. He worked for the telephone company and they ran a phone line down over the hill from Wasatch Boulevard so he could have a telephone. He was the only one on the road to have one.

Tom and Lily Dyer lived next to us before Proctors moved in. They had inherited the property from Tom's parents. The property belonged to William Rasmussen before it was purchased by the Dyers. William Rasmussen, the original owner lived above Wasatch Boulevard. Tom Dyer didn't build a house on the property until about 1933 when he had to move out of his brother, Richard's house.

During 1951, a family named Steed, Wilford Woodruff, and Daisy, bought the property. They had kids that were our age. We had a lot of fun playing with Allen and Shauna. They had older daughters, Wilma, who was married, and Renae and younger children, Gladys, Kathy, Kenneth, Rolayne, Sarah and Hyrum. They lived there about two years and then moved to Salt Lake. A woman named Erna then lived in the house. She had two sons, Merrill and Ron. I think this is about the time that everyone realized that this was a polygamist family. Daisy and the kids moved back about the time I was in high school. Allen, for some reason missed a grade of school and ended up graduating the same time I did. He has the most beautiful singing voice. He built a house on his father's property, which he sold to a family named Keat, when he built a larger house to the north of his father's house. After his father's death in 1994, Allen moved into his father's house and David lived in Allen's old house.

Shauna married before completing high school. For a while, she lived in a trailer next to Allen's first house. She has since divorced. She still works for Steed's Inc. She has a teenage boy and girl that I met at Hyrum's funeral. She is a grandmother also.

Kenneth joined the army, and left the group. So did Hyrum. Hyrum died in 1999 from liver problems. His brothers helped Daisy take care of him for about a year before his death. I don't know what happened to the girls. I did see Rolayne at Hyrum's funeral.

Mr. Steed built a big house on the edge of the hill. Daisy had a drapery business and was known all over the valley for the quality of work she did.

Mr. Steed died in 1994. He was one of the finest men I have ever known. He was a true Christian. They have been such good neighbors. Most of the boys built houses on the property.

Merrill lived in the red brick house that Tom Dyer built, for many years before building a beautiful new home on the north side of the lane.

Ron was going to remodel the old Dyer home, but found the interior structure in such poor shape that it was necessary to tear the whole house down to the foundation and start over. He built a big beautiful house in its place.

In the summer of 1999, Allen and David sold all of their property, Keat's also, to a developer who built a very exclusive gated community on the property. It is called Monte Luca at Willow Creek. The barn, sheds, and houses have all been torn down. Allen and David moved their families to Colorado City and have expanded their business into southern Utah. The last time I talked with Allen, he was very happy living in southern Utah. Ron and Merrill stayed and continued to run the Salt Lake end of the business for a couple of years before leaving the area. I really miss not having the Steed's as neighbors. Their leaving is a real loss to the community. I could not have asked for better neighbors.

### **Congers**

The next house was ours. It was built by my grandfather on property that had been part of Andrew Hansen Sr.'s original property. My grandmother was Andrew Sr.'s daughter.

My mother had three children, Weldon, Gayle and Sylvia. Weldon has since died. My mother's brother, Almon, also lived with us as we were growing up. My father was in the Air Force stationed in Japan.

My brother and uncle had a mink ranch on the property.

This property is the only piece of the original Andrew Hansen Sr. property that is still in the family today. On April 6, 2000, the house was placed on the "National Register of Historical Sites."

### **Englishs**

This house was originally built by my great-grandfather, Andrew Hansen Sr., who originally settled the area that was known as Danish Town. He received 160 acres through the Homestead Act. He sold parts of his land to other Danish immigrants and farmed the rest until he died in 1924. His daughter Mary was given the property with the house in 1923, with the stipulation that he could live there until he died. Her husband, David Hilton, bought the rest of the farm after he married Mary. Mary had one daughter, Dorothy. The property with the house went to Dorothy when her mother died in 1926. Dorothy was just four years old at the time.

Dorothy and her father, David Hilton, sold both pieces of property to Charles English in 1945.

English's had a married daughter, Wilma, and nine other children. There was, Charles, Lyle, he was in the Air Force and when he was in Utah would fly his plane low over our houses, Vern, Lee, Phil, Afton, Marjorie, Genevieve and Tom. When we were going to school, in the winter, we would wait for the bus in Mrs. English's dinning room and watch out the south window for the bus to come over Covington's hill. Mr. English with the help of his son's, especially Tom, farmed the land until an accident broke his back. He died shortly after. The boys also helped build a small house for Charles' mother, Catherine, who was living with them at the far south end of their property. She died in 1948.

After Mr. English died, Mrs. English sold part of the property south of the lane to Ross Lindgren in 1954. Ross was Daisy Steed's brother. They lived in a little house south of Covington's that had been built for grandma English, until they had the house built where it is today. It is on this property that three babies were buried. Two, a boy and a girl were Andrew Hansen Jr.'s babies and one, a girl was my grandparent's. All three children were still born.

The property in the creek bottom was sold to Willow Creek.

About 1957, a Mr. Poulson moved into the English house and did some remodeling. I'm not sure what happened, but the property was never deeded to them. In 1961, the property with the house and down over the hill to Willow Creek was deeded to Andrew Wilford Sr. He had an argument over the house with his wife, so while she was out of town, he had the house torn down.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilford sold the property to their son, Ronald. He has now sold it to Kevin Ludlow, of Sequoia Development. They built a gated community on the property. It is called Lantern Hills at Willow Creek.

## **Covington's**

Alice and Doug Covington lived in this house. The property was part of Andrew Hansen Sr.'s homestead. Andrew Hansen Jr., built a large house about 1907, where he raised his family. His children, Elizabeth, Alice, Wilford, Cecil and Edith, were my mother's cousins. When Mrs. Hansen died in 1940, the house went to her daughter Alice. Alice and Doug moved in about 1937. They had six children, Robert, Carol, Mary and Francis who were twins, Brent, who was a twin, his brother was still born, and Lynn. Francis, Robert and Brent have since passed away.

Prior to this time, Alice and Doug had lived in Torrey, Utah, where Alice met Doug while she was teaching school there. They were married and lived there until they moved to Murray, so Doug could work at the smelter.

After moving into the family home, Doug's brother, Royal, came to live with them. It was here he met Alice's cousin, Dorothy Hilton, and married her. Dorothy moved with Royal when he was called into the service. She only stayed a short time, then returned home. She lived in the back of Covington's house, where grandma Hansen had lived. She stayed there until shortly after Royal came home after the war.

Doug continued to work at the smelter until it closed. His son, Robert, got Doug started in the mink business.

About 25 years ago, Doug sold about two and one half acres on the south side of his lane to John Josephson. He grows pine and spruce trees on his property.

A few years after Doug's death, at his request, the children sold the remainder of the property to John Josephson and Fred Wetzel. They have developed the land into an eight-house subdivision.

The other piece of property associated with our road, was west of Wilford Hansen's, and fronted Bengal Boulevard. This property originally belonged to Christian and Eugena Johnson and then to August Hauptfleisch. A family named Teasdale and one named Heaps lived on the property for a short period of time. The property was sold to Florence L. Pepper, about 1915. This is why the hill below the Church was called Pepper's Hill. It was then sold to E. B. Wicks about 1934 and then C. I. Kingston, in 1944. It then went to Afton Brown. There were two Brown families that lived there. They didn't go to elementary school with us. They went to Union, and caught the bus at the bottom of Pepper's Hill. The two families had been part of a polygamist group but had left it by the time I knew the kids in junior high. I knew David and John from the one family. David was the only one to join the LDS Church. He later became a bishop. I knew Joan from the other family, later, much later, I would know her brother Lionel. Except for Joan's house and another sister, and a small house owned by one of Lionel's sons, the property has been sold and has mostly been developed.



I think it was on this property that Diana Scott's family lived for several years, because part of the development is called Scotts Ridge. Diana did go to school with us from third grade through eighth grade. They then moved to the Roosevelt area.

In addition to the families on our road, we also associated with the kids that lived on Wasatch Boulevard and what now is Bengal Boulevard between 27<sup>th</sup> East and 35<sup>th</sup> East. The people we went to school with on Wasatch Boulevard were few.

### **Bytendorps**

They lived on the east side of the road, across from where we got our mail. They had a daughter who was one year older than I, and her name was Lorita. She had brothers too, Lain, Albert and Ralph and a sister Ruth. They bought their property from Lovell's about 1945. Lovell's had bought the property of William Rasmussen, who was the original owner, in 1924. The property has since been sold and developed. The property across the street on the west has also been developed.

Further north on the west side of the road, John Bair in 1947 bought the rest of the Lovell property and built a house for his family of two daughters, Shirley and Janice, and a son John (Jack).

A portion of John Bair's property above our house was condemned for the Jordan School District to build a school. This never happened and the school district sold the property and it was developed into a subdivision. After John's death, the remainder of the property was sold to the LDS Church. The church sold the piece on the east side of Wasatch Boulevard to the county for a park. This was all part of the original Rasmussen property.

### **Lossees**

They lived on the property that originally belonged to H. S. Jensen. The family of Joseph Cornwall lived there for a while until it was sold to a Vesley in 1915. He was from Bohemia, his wife was the daughter of H. S. Jensen. The 1920 Census shows their daughter, Mary and husband, John Hilpert and their four children along with Vesley's 15 year old son living there at that time. There was a small house on this property and several people lived there after that and before Lossees bought it in 1943. The property was divided up when Lossees left. One of the families was named

Baumert and they had a boy my age named Brent.

### **Kitts**

On the corner of what is now 35th East and on the south side of Bengal Boulevard, John Kitt had a large turkey farm. He bought the property at a sheriff sale in 1945. ( He had been renting the property prior to 1940.) The property, before being seized by the state, belonged to Henry Hinnenkamp. He lived on the bench in Butler and just farmed this land in the summer. The original owner was Hyrum Covert who sold the property to Henry Hinnenkamp in 1912. Hyrum Covert then bought the William McGhie property after Mr. McGhie died. Hyrum's first wife was a McGhie. She died in 1911. Hyrum died in 1922. The Smith's Shopping Center and some duplexes are now on this property.

### **Templemans, Larsens, Armstrongs, Peters.**

Between 1946-48, these families built homes on the Dyer property on the south side of Bengal Boulevard.

Templemans were Seven Day Adventists. They had a daughter my age, Laurena, and two other daughters, Carol and Bonnie. Bonnie married Ronnie Hansen. Templemans moved away later and the property has been developed.

Armstrongs had two boys, Robert, who was the same age as my sister, and Greg who was younger. Robert was killed in an auto pedestrian accident while I was on my mission. Mrs. Armstrong lived in the house until she died..

Larsen's had a son Gary. He was about three years older than I and ran around with Judy's brother Kendall Bunnell. Within the last year, Mr. Larsen was moved to a nursing home. I don't know what has happened to his place. Dick Larsen and Louise Armstrong are brother and sister. Their father, Lewis Larsen, purchased the property from William Dyer.

Peter's had a daughter, Donna, she was a couple of years older than I. Mr. Peters was an accomplished artist. When he died, the property was sold and became the Artist Heights Subdivision.

### **Bunnells**

They built a big brick home at the bottom of the old Hilton property, on the north side of Bengal Boulevard. Mrs. Bunnell's mother, Mae, was a Hilton. They had a daughter Judy and a son Kendall. Judy was my age. She now has a home on part of that property.

Her brother Kendall became a doctor. He lived in Idaho. He recently killed himself because he had terminal cancer. Judy's father was the principal of Granite elementary school. This was a very prestigious job at the time, and they seemed very wealthy compared to the rest of us.

The property west of Judy's where the cemetery is, was originally owned by a man named Hadfield. He built a small house on the property. This is where my mother was born. Alva Butler bought the property from Hadfield when he left the area. After Alva Butler died, a family by the name of Fife owned the property until bought by Memorial Estates Cemetery.

(There were several people that lived in the small house from the time Alva Butler bought the property until it was sold to the cemetery.)

The next piece of land on the north belonged to Erekson's. A subdivision and a church are now on this property. West of the church is also a subdivision which was part of the Brinton farm, they also owned land on the east side of Wasatch Boulevard, north of the Rasmussen property. They lived in Holladay and just farmed the land in Butlerville.

This was the area that constituted my world as I was going to school. The rest of Butler was too far away for us to traverse on foot, or I should say for our mother to allow us to traverse on foot. We associated with the others at school and church but not as part of our normal everyday activities.

Another family that lived in the area, at the mouth of Little Willow Canyon was Dittman's. August Dittman was a carpenter by trade he immigrated from Germany in 1885.

While the area has changed and developers have built many subdivisions, the area still maintains some of the natural beauty it had when we were kids.



**Winter Wonderland**









**Winder Wonderland**





**Big Willow Irrigation Ditch on Danish Road**





**Little Willow Canyon**





**Little Willow Creek**





**Little Willow Creek**

**NOTE:**

The following maps are not exactly to scale, and are only approximations of the original farms in the Danish Town area. Only the names of the people who actually owned the farms are shown on the maps. For the names of those who may have rented the farms, see the narratives in “My Memories of Danish Town” and “The Early Residents of Danish Town.”

