



PAULINE MARY WILLIAMSON CLINGER

Born September 15, 1848

Died April 19, 1931

I, Pauline Mary Williamson Clinger, was born 15 September 1848 at Brevig, Jarlsberg, Norway, the daughter of Niels Williamson and Pernilla Johnson. There were five children in the family, all born in the same house in Brevig.

John, born in 1844; died age 6 years

Berthel Martin, born 26 August 1846

Pauline Mary, born 15 September 1848

John William, born 5 May 1851

A baby girl who died at birth

My mother was born several months after her father, Peder Johnson, was drowned while enroute to Denmark for breadstuff. At the age of six she went to live with her aunt. Her uncle was a shipbuilder and accidentally met his death while working on a big ship. They were well-to-do people without children, so my mother fell heir to their vast estate. She married Niels shortly before her aunt's death.

My father's people were well-to-do and came from a royal family. His father, Wilhelm Jensen Blom, was a head officer in the army that fought between Denmark and Norway. He was knocked off a ship and drowned, leaving a widow and three children. The widow went to her uncle to make her home. In early manhood one of the sons was drowned while fishing, and he left a wife and one son. The oldest son of Wilhelm Jensen Blom was a lighthouse keeper that was out on an island in the ocean. They were very aristocratic people and would not listen to the Gospel.

My father was a sailor. He was also a cook on board a large vessel for many years. Mother didn't like his work on the sea, so he changed his occupation.

My parents always welcomed the Mormon missionaries who came in their vicinity and often assisted them with funds. My mother, being a great Bible student and very sincere, soon recognized the truthfulness of the Gospel and accepted it with gratitude. She was one of the

first ones in that part of Norway to be baptized. Her baptism entry as recorded in the Church Historian's Office is as follows.

Pernille Pederson, daughter, born 12 of May 1814 at Skien. She was baptized at Brevig on the 17th of May 1853-by-President Knud Larsen and confirmed the same day by J. Jensen. She was excommunicated on the 20th of Sept. 1854. (To find the reason for this, the minutes of the meeting of 20 Sept. 1854 were checked and the following entry noted.)

"25 of January 1857--a council meeting was held at the home of Brother Niels Wilhelmsen. Elders Lund, Larsen and the Priesthood and some members of the branch were present. Prayer was offered, after which Pernille Wilhelmsen was accused, and a complaint issued against her for insubordination to the Priesthood and the branch presidency, Knud Larsen, and priest Christian Olsen.

"Sister Pernille was requested to humble herself before God and the brethren, but she was in possession of a rebellious spirit and would not acknowledge her fault owing to which fault the President moved that she be excommunicated, which was done by unanimous vote The President offered the benediction."

(Grandmother Clinger told us that the Elders wanted to hold a meeting at her mother's home. As her mother was expecting a baby soon, she refused and for this reason was excommunicated.)

It was recorded in another book that Pernille Peders daughter, born 12 May 1814, was again baptized on 25 Jan. 1857.

Record was also found in the Church Historian's Office of Niels Wilhelmsen, born Aug. 24, 1820, husband of Pernille Peders daughter, was baptized on the 5th of Oct. 1853 at Brevig by Pres. Knud Larsen. He was confirmed the same day by Johan August Ahmanson He was excommunicated 25 Jan. 1857, but no reason given. Farther on, the record states that Niels Wilhelmsen, born 24 Aug. 1820, was baptized 25 Jan. 1857. This signifies that he was re-baptized on the same day that he was excommunicated.

I was baptized when I was eleven years old on 20 Nov. 1859. To do so it was necessary to cut through the foot of ice. The Elder performing the baptism was sentenced to spend eight days in prison on bread and water.

When the time came to emigrate to Utah, my parents and grandfather assisted several other families financially. They helped Knud Larsen and Hansen and families. Two of Knud Larsen's children died while crossing the water. The others of the same family died while crossing the plains and were buried by the wayside.

Oh, the sacrifice to leave a good, well-furnished home of peace and plenty, and friends and neighbors, and start out into an unknown world, but the gospel was worth everything to us. We went to Copenhagen first with some Elders and waited a long time for the ship to be in readiness, then went to Germany and waited long in Keal. I was then seventeen years old. In May 1866 we set sail and were eight weeks on the ocean. This was a long trip, but the trip from New York to St. Louis was harder and longer. We boarded box cars and cattle cars and forded streams. Many of our best clothes were stolen out of our trunks in New York. When we finally reached St. Louis, we tarried there a long time, waiting for the ox teams to be in readiness for their long migration across the plains.

Mother and I walked all the way except when crossing the Mississippi River. Though mother had very bad feet, she trudged the distance remarkably well. Being a midwife, her services were needed all along the way and she was always ready to render assistance in any way she could. It was only through providential strength and courage that we endured until we arrived in Salt Lake City the last day of Conference, 8 October 1866, with only \$5.00 left.

The next day the company scattered in all directions. Our family went to Provo to Bishop Peter Madsen's home. At first, I was very homesick and cried 6Ften. I didn't know how to talk the language. I had to go to work--my firs', experience as a domestic. Oh, it was a trial, but the people were good to me, and I gradually became accustomed to the people and learned how to talk.

Mother's skill as a midwife soon became known, and she was called out far and near and her services graciously received, but she never charged for her work. She was so sincere and devoted to her calling that she often fasted and prayed over her problems. While at Madsen's she met an elderly Englishman, William Bowering, who had a one-room log house. They arranged to care for him for the use of his home, which they moved to the present home grounds. He was a kind old man, religious and well-to-do, with money in the bank and plenty of livestock. We cared for him for fourteen years. When he died, we buried him in the family burial lot in Provo.

I was married to James Henry Clinger at his sister's home (Martha Ann Clinger Boren) by John Riggs on 9 February 1868. My wedding ring had been made out of a bone button by my sweetheart. Our wedding cake was a molasses cake made by Martha. We stayed at her home all night, and the next morning my husband left for the canyon to cut ties for the railroad company. Later he worked for Ithamer Bunnell who gave us a little step stove. Then we bought a farm on the Lake Bottoms from Nelson P. Beebe and acquired additional land (63 1/2 acres) which we homesteaded (Homestead Certificate, dated 15 Nov. 1881 and signed by Chester A. Arthur, President of the U.S.) (The Beebe farm included land from the old home to the south line of Edward Nelson's property and the homestead property north to Martin Williamson's across the railroad tracks to the top of the sandhill.) We built a log house with a dirt roof six hundred yards below the highway where our first two children were born:

Mary, born 9 May 1869

James Henry, Jr., born 9 September 1870; died 10 October 1870

One evening I came out of the door of the log home holding the baby in my arms, when I was frightened by a shot and then a thud of something dropping beside me. It was a wildcat. It had been on the roof of the cabin ready to pounce on me, when my husband saw it in time to shoot it before it leaped down upon me.

This home was destroyed by fire, and we built the south part of what is now referred to as the old Clinger family home in 1873 and 1874. The remaining section of the house was built in 1881.

When our friend, William Bowering, passed away, he willed all he had to me. We used \$200.00 of it to send my husband on a mission to Norway; he left Salt Lake City on 5 November 1884. The remainder was used to purchase the Stewart property. (This is the property located north of Bill Olson's and the acreage Herschel Clinger now owns south of Olson's above the sandhill road.

At the time my husband went on his mission, we had six children living, the first two having passed away, viz:

John William, born 3 December 1871

Marion, born 13 June 1874

Henrietta, born 11 July 1876

Parley Bowering, born 5 April 1878

Martin Albert, born 18 September 1880

Harriet Ann, born 31 January 1883.

My husband married a second wife, Caroline Christensen, 18 September 1884 in the Endowment House, and she lived with me while he was in Norway. I managed the farm with the help of my boys and hired help. John, the eldest, was just thirteen, and Hattie, the baby, was not quite two years old. While Henry was gone, we had the misfortune of a fire which burned all the hay, oats, stables, and corrals.

While in Norway, Henry sent a little six-year-old boy named Martin Albert Hansen home to us; he left Norway 21 August 1885. What a coincident that he should have the same name as our baby boy who was five at the time he arrived in our home. They both went by the name of Albert, and the newcomer refused to change his name, so our own boy changed his name to Martin. We adopted this boy and raised him as our own.

Oh, how happy we were to have our husband and father return to us after fulfilling an honorable mission across the sea. He was released 23 May 1886, left Liverpool on June 26 on the steamship "Nevada", and arrived in New York July 7th. Our baby girl, Lillie May, was born to us the following year, 14 September 1887.

Henry established his second wife, Caroline, in a home in Mayfield, Sanpete County, Utah. He had two children by this marriage:

Heber Christian, born 31 May 1889, Salt Lake City

Myrtle Marie Rosetta, born 14 November 1893, Mayfield

We always had some sheep on the farm in the early days. The largest herd was about twenty-five head. We would shear the sheep and then I would wash and cord the wool and spin it on a flax wheel worked with the foot. We took it to Pond Town to be woven into cloth. I then sewed it into underwear for the family and sheets for the beds.

In 1892 when I was forty-four years old, I broke my arm. We were all gathered at a church ward party. I reluctantly ran a race with a group and fell and broke my arm. It never did heal correctly and left my right arm crippled. I always had to have someone comb my hair in later years, as I was unable to raise my arm to do it myself.

Marion and Martin both went on missions. Marion, Etta, and Lillie attended school at the Brigham Young Academy.

Mary Clinger was very industrious and a good manager. She took care of the farm with the help of the boys. Henry was a traveling salesman and gone a good share of the time. She would re-decorate her home and keep it attractive inside and out. She was a generous soul and would give, give, and give some more. One year she had twenty-six quilts on her beds, and before the winter was over, she had given them all away. She was always doing for others.

George Sanders lived with her for several years as he had no other place to go. After George Clinger died, she took care of his five boys all winter. Peter Zobell stayed with her for ten years. When he left, they gave him a new wagon and harness. When the authorities of the Church traveled from place to place, they stopped at Mary's to stay. No one was ever turned away.

One of her mottos was "Don't buy anything cheap; it is always more expensive in the long run."

On 9 December 1921 they sold their home and remaining farm to their daughter, Lillie May, and her husband, Jesse Sumsion. They continued to live with them the rest of their lives with the exception of about one year. Part of that year they lived in a rented home from Frank. Taylor in Lake View, and one winter they spent with their daughter, Etta, in Salt Lake City.

Mary's parents, Grandma and Grandpa Williamson, lived in a one-room home on the hill in front of the old home until Grandma Williamson died, 28 July 1895. Her funeral was held under the apple trees southeast of the family home. Grandpa Williamson then lived with Hannah and John Williamson and then with Mary until he died 26 June 1905. His funeral was held out of doors in front of the dining room of the family home.

Grandma Clinger fell and broke her leg, and on 19 April 1931, at the age of eighty-two, she passed away at the family home. She said she wanted to live to see her grandson, Jesse Clyde Sumsion, who was on his way home from a mission to the British Isles. She died soon after he arrived home.

Following is an account of her passing as it appeared in the newspaper.

Mrs. Mary Pauline Clinger, 82, oldest resident of Lake View, widow of J. H. Clinger, died early Sunday morning at her home.

Mrs. Clinger was born in Brevig, Norway, 15 Sept. 1848. She joined the Church in her native land and came to this country with her parents in 1866, settling in Lake View. She had made her home there continuously since that time.

She was married to J. H. Clinger, 9 Feb 1868. She served as counselor in the presidency of the Primary association and was Relief Society treasurer in the early days. She was the mother of nine children, six of whom survive as follows:

Marion Clinger, Salt Lake,
Mrs. Henrietta Brown, Salt Lake,
Mrs. Hattie Wride, Aberdeen, Idaho,
Parley and Martin Clinger and
Mrs. Jesse Sumsion, Lake View.

58 grand-children and 47 great-grandchildren. Her granddaughter, Mrs. Harold Holdaway, is engaged in LDS missionary work with her husband in the Tonga Islands at the present time. Funeral services will be held Tuesday at 1:30 o'clock in the Lake View Chapel. Interment will be in the Provo City Cemetery.

(This life sketch was written from information given personally by Grandmother Clinger to members of her family who wrote it for her, and from information furnished by two of her children, Martin Albert Clinger, and Lillie May Clinger Sumsion.)