



ANNA LOUISA JOSEPHINE HULTGREN CROWTHER 1847-1923

Anna Louisa Josephine Hultgren Crowther was born 7 October 1847, in Matalla, Ostergotham, Sweden, where her father, Andrew, was also born. When Anna was fourteen months old her mother, Charlotta Erickson, died. After her father remarried, Anna was raised by her stepmother, Anna Peterson Munson (or Anna Maja Mansson or Carlson). Little Anna was called Josephine, distinguishing her from her stepmother. Anna was the only mother Josephine ever knew, and she loved her dearly. To avoid distressing her,

Josephine was not told about the death of her own mother until she was older; she knew little about her.

Andrew and his new wife, Anna, had five children, all of whom were born in Matala, Sweden. Josephine had a little sister, Clara Mathilda, born 1 May 1853, and four little brothers; Frans Evald (Edward), 3 Oct 1855, Axel Victor, 14 Mar 1858, Claes Henning, 9 June 1861 and Emil Ferdinand, 18 Nov 1863.

In Sweden, families with sufficient means usually sent their children to boarding schools when they were eight or nine years of age. In keeping with that tradition, Josephine was sent to boarding school at a young age, visiting her home only once a year until she graduated.

After finishing school, Josephine was hired as a dressmaker by a man named Molander. About the same time, she met a young man who was a painter by trade. She kept company with him during the next three years. The relationship ended when Josephine and her family met missionaries from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, listened to their sermons, and were converted. Josephine was baptized and confirmed on 6 July 1866 by Sven August Vanberg. When it became clear that the young man she was seeing was not interested in her new religion, Josephine broke off the relationship.

Dismayed by her choice to join the LDS Church, Josephine's former friends and acquaintances turned against her. She was harassed at work until she finally quit her job as a dressmaker. She and her family sold or gave away their possessions and booked passage to America. They sailed from Liverpool on 15 July 1869, on the S.S. Minnesota with Captain Reese's company. There were 598 passengers on the ship, most of whom were LDS. They disembarked in New York City, then boarded a train and continued by rail until arriving in Ogden, Utah on 6 Aug 1869. The company of Latter-day Saints traveling to Ogden under the direction of Captain Ole C. Olsen was primarily Scandinavians.

Files in the Presiding Bishop's Office note the arrival of the Hultgren family, consisting of Andrew, Anna Marie, Louisa Josephine, 22, Clara Mathilda, 16, Edward, 11, Victor, 9, Henning, 7, and Ferdinand, 4. The family first camped in an inhospitable, sage brush covered area that

later became Riverdale. The entire family contracted the measles and was eventually taken in by a Mr. Garner. There was some conjecture that Mr. Garner hoped to take Josephine as his second wife, but while living in his home, Josephine met and fell in love with David Crowther. Upon learning of Josephine's affections for David, Mr. Garner turned the Hultgrens out of his home. The Dean family then took the Hultgrens into their home.

As was frequently done in the early days of the Church, Josephine was rebaptized by Pleasant Green Taylor on 10 Nov 1869. David Crowther had been rebaptized on 14 June 1868. Six days after Josephine's second baptism, on 16 Nov 1869, Josephine and David were married in the Salt Lake City Endowment House by Wilford Woodruff. Josephine was twenty years old; David was twenty three.

The young couple bought a small cabin on the south side of Second Street about fifty feet to the west of Wall Avenue. They lived next to the Stone family. Their daughter, Sarah Stone, later married David and Josephine's son, Walt. Josephine's parents also moved to the Five Points area. They built a house on the east side of Washington Boulevard at about 200 North.

Within a few years, David and Josephine moved to another cabin, in the area of 405 North Harrisville Road. Their third move was to a house on North Harrisville Road approximately a block from where the road currently intersects with Highway 89. Across the street to the south of that home was a large, grassy meadow where the Indians liked to camp. It was an excellent camp site. A creek, bordered by cottonwood trees and willow bushes, ran through the open fields and meadows. Often, the Indians would cross the narrow, dirt road to peek in the windows of the house, which scared the children.

In April 1881, David and Josephine moved a final time to a two room adobe house on a gentle bend of North Harrisville Road (992 North Harrisville Road), a quarter mile to the west of their previous home. Luman and Noah Shurtleff had built the home with adobe bricks they made. They sold the home to James Meek, and a year later, with some financial assistance from Josephine's father, David and Josephine bought the house and 15 acres from Mr. Meek for \$600.00. A lean-to was added to the back of the house with two more rooms; the completed house consisted of two small bedrooms, a kitchen and a front room.

In that adobe house, Josephine and David raised six daughters, Annie Josephine (Dinsdale) 1871, Alice Charolette (Cowles) 1873, Clara Marinda (Smout) 1875, Emma Adella (Della) (Yearsley) 1882, May Eveline (Wangsgard) 1887, and Ethel Delora (Williams) 1892, and three sons, Walter Herbert (1879), Albert Lawrence (1885) and William Leslile (1894). Another son, David Eli, a twin to Annie Josephine, and a daughter, Rose, died as infants.

Josephine was described as a very tender, loving mother, who taught her children a love for the Gospel. She was economical and always found creative ways to make do with whatever they had. Quiet, unassuming and not very tall, Josephine worked and walked with quick, fluid movements and kept her home clean and tidy. She took pride in being immaculately dressed, preferring white or light colored clothing, such as pastel house dresses covered by a clean white apron. Bishop Brown said that he always felt as if he were in the presence of someone very

special as he greeted her at the door of the Church, dressed in her light calico dress with her pure white hair shining.

Near the end of her life, Josephine's health began to fail, as did David's. He suffered from diabetes. Josephine problems with her legs, particularly from varicose veins, which would break and bleed, turning her bath water red. As they grew older Josephine lived for a time with Albert, and his wife, Ellen, then with some of her daughters, living finally with her daughter, Clara Smout, in Slaterville, while David stayed with William and Albert in Harrisville.

Josephine lived five years after David's death on 18 Sept 1918. She died on the morning of 1 May 1923, or May Day, which she would have celebrated in Sweden with flowers and song. She was 73 years old. A viewing was held at Albert's home, followed by a funeral in the Harrisville Ward Chapel. Bishop R.R.D. Brown officiated. She is buried in the Ogden City Cemetery beside her husband of fifty four years.

SOURCE:

Wheeler, LeAnn Painter. Biography of Anna Louisa Josephine Hultgren Crowther. Based on family records of Eleanor Painter and LeAnn Wheeler. Unpublished manuscript.

Brown, R.R.D. Bishop	Hultgren, Anna Peterson Munson or
Carlson, Anna Maja (or Mansson)	Hultgren, Axel Victor
Crowther, Albert Lawrence	Hultgren, Charlotta Erickson
Crowther, Alice Charolette (Cowles)	Hultgren, Claes Henning
Crowther, Anna Louisa Josephine Hultgren	Hultgren, Clara Mathilda
Crowther, Annie Josephine (Dinsdale)	Hultgren, Emil Ferdinand
Crowther, Clara Marinda (Smout)	Hultgren, Frans Evald (Edward)
Crowther, David	Mansson, Anna Maja (or Carlson)
Crowther, David Eli	Meek, Mr.
Crowther, Ellen	Molander, Mr.
Crowther, Emma Adella (Della) (Yearsley)	Munson, Anna Peterson
Crowther, Ethel Delora (Williams)	Olsen, Captain Ole C.
Crowther, May Eveline (Wangsgard)	Reese, Captain
Crowther, Rose	S.S. Minnesota
Crowther, Walter Herbert	Shurtleff, Luman
Crowther, William Leslile	Shurtleff, Noah
Dean Family	Stone, Sarah
Erickson, Charlotta	Taylor, Pleasant Green
Garner, Mr.	Vanberg, Sven August
Hultgren, Anna Louisa Josephine	Woodruff, Wilford