

Autobiography of John Johnson

Written and Produced by Diane J. Stokoe

and Final Touch Video Productions

23 Minutes

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This docudrama was narrated by Per Haugen, a stake president from Norway, who relocated to Utah. Per was chosen because his slight Norwegian accent lent authenticity to the script. However, John and Inger's grandchildren claimed neither of them spoke with an accent.

The script was developed from an autobiography written by John in his eightieth year. The statements towards the end of the production were developed to bring this docudrama to a conclusion in 1896. The video was first screened in June, 1993 at the Johnson Reunion. Diane was asked to produce a second video for the 1996 Reunion. "The Circle of Life," a sequel, focused on John and Inger and their family and included interviews by several grandchildren.

Photographs, documents and video clips came from these sources

1. Brigham Young University Library Archives: Photos of the old Provo Tabernacle and other area buildings in the late 1800s.
2. Daughters of the Utah Pioneer Library: Photo of John's mother standing in front of "the Long House," the Knudsen's home in Provo.
3. L.D.S. Genealogy library: The "Monarch of the Sea" passenger manifest was reproduced from a microfilm photocopy. Also Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah biographical listings.
4. L.D.S. History Museum: The model of an immigrant ship and pictures of various ships. The small pioneer cabin next to the library was used to represent John and Inger's first home.
5. Lotenboka, Farms and their Generation Series, published by the Norwegian Government. Actual photographs of Norwegian farms and lists of farm families, in Norwegian. The photographs of John's father and grandfather's farms came from these books.
6. Roads Jeppson's painting of a home in Utah Valley was used to depict the home where John expected to be trained as a carpenter.
7. Alfred Madsen family records yielded the painting of Madsen Pond where John was baptized. Also the photograph of his sister Lina, Peter Madsen's fifth plural wife, and her children.
8. Dave and Connie Peterson's photos of a trip to Loiten, Norway in April, 1993. Dave Peterson's Olsen ancestors lived in Loiten and were baptized by the same missionary who converted the Knudsen family. They were likely baptized in the same local mill pond.
9. Scandia Kaffeus, S.L.C: The owner provided video clips from various Norwegian travel tapes. The clips of wagon trains were taken from several major motion pictures of 1960s.
10. Ships, Saints and Mariners, A Maritime Encyclopedia of Mormon Migration 1830-1890 by Conway B. Sonne, yielded the sketch of "Monarch of the Sea."
11. Thomas & Diane Stokoe photographs and family records were collected by Diane's parents, Dean A. and Jessie Farley. Others came from the Alfred H. and Francis Madsen files.
12. Marvin & Nanalee Johnson Stratton's family records included a photo of Inger's brother Andrew, John's Utah Indian War Metal and photos the Strattons took on a trip to Loiten.
13. Utah State Historical Society Photography Collection provided the majority of still the photos used. We are indebted to Edith Clinger who suggested this valuable resource.
14. Edith Clinger provided many original photographs of John and Inger's family.