

## ADOLPH FREDRIK WARNICK

1832-1905

In preparing to write this short report on my Grandfather, Adolph Fredrik Warnick, I re-read his Journal, the Warnick Family History, and Reed Warnick's comments in his book on The Emigration. Also, two years ago my sons, daughter-in-law, grandson and I visited Sweden where we saw the old German St. Gertrud's Church in Stockholm, the Lutheran Church in Forsby where the family actively worshipped for twenty-plus years, and the beautiful Skara Cathedral where good Lutherans attend on special days. We also visited the Nohloson farm and homes outside Forsby where the family was so much in bondage. From the historical farm houses and conditions we saw in Skansen Museum near Stockholm, the Warnick situation was quite typical of the common class Swedish family. This is only my opinion.

I feel I know my Grandfather and I would like to have you love and respect him as I do. I have chosen to write why I think the Gospel and building the kingdom was the center of his life and then to mention one of his skills with which you may not be too familiar; that of carpentry.

The Warnick family was religiously inclined and they took an active part in the Lutheran Church. They were students of the Bible--always searching for something more. They readily accepted Mormonism when Adam Swenson brought them the liberating message. The parents were baptized January 13 and 17, 1860, Adolph Fredrik and Christena in February, Christina Olson Erickson and her step-father Jon Erickson May 6, 1860. John August was not baptized until 1864 and our missionary Grandfather baptized Charles Pater before the family emigrated in 1866.

Adolph Fredrik had been a member only five months when he was set apart as a missionary and called to be Branch President over Sventorps thus beginning a mission which was to continue for 10 years until the spring of 1870 when he was released to go to Zion. He worked hard to make converts and build the Church in Skara, Sventorp, Kyrkefalla, Skovde, Finneodja and Hjo Branches and Districts. He baptized many and bore strong testimony of his experiences concerning the eternal truths of the Gospel.

Grandfather left Skovde July 12, 1870 for America. He traveled as far as Omaha where his funds gave out. He went to work in a furniture factory to make money to send back to Sweden to bring his wife-to-be, Christina, to America. Christina was from Ledsjo, north of Skara and Grandfather met her at Mormon Church activities and courted her, knowing they had similar hopes and aspirations. They were married in the Salt Lake Endowment House. They then traveled to Pleasant Grove for an emotion filled reunion with his family members who had survived the emigration, plus his older sister Ingre Marie and children, who had come in 1868.

Grandfather was active in many church callings. While in Pleasant Grove he was called to serve as a Seventy, a Home Teacher, and he tried to participate in the United Order

experiment. After four children and eight struggling years of not being able to get his own land, he moved his family to Deseret, Millard County in 1879.

Again he was immediately active in Church activities. He was on the Ecclesiastical Board for many years, served in the Bishopric for some 12 years from 1891 to May of 1903. During this time construction began on a beautiful chapel in Deseret. Grandfather was on the three-man building committee and was appointed foreman of the project because of his carpentry skills.

Grandfather's journal is full of reports of tithing payments, commandment keeping, living close to his Heavenly Father, and reaping of blessings because of his life style. He reported on the many conferences he attended both in Salt Lake and Deseret. He always named the visiting authorities and commented on their messages. He was happy when he and his brothers and other family members were able to do the temple ordinances for his parents, family, and ancestors. Yes! I think the Gospel of Jesus Christ was the mainstay of Grandfather's and his family's lives.

The predominate skill of Adolph Fredrik Warnick, aside from his knowledge and experience in farming, was carpentry. He was a skilled craftsman. While in Omaha, on his way to Utah, he worked as a furniture maker. His specialty was turning or fashioning on a lathe. I've heard family members describe bedsteads he made. I understand he was given one of his beds to bring to Utah when he left Omaha. Grandfather was proud of the work he did on the Deseret Church. The doors of the church, as shown in the picture, show fine workmanship. This building project took nearly all of his time on a daily basis over a two year period. He gave freely of his time and means and saw that his sons contributed more than their share. Many progress reports of the building project find their way into his journal and again are proof of the strong testimony Grandfather held of the value of the Gospel and the important place church activity played in his life.

In addition to furniture making and church building, Grandfather built his family at least two homes in Pleasant Grove and built and continually improved their homes in Deseret. Grandfather built several of the early homes in Hinckley and Deseret.

Adolf Fredrik did not directly experience the difficulties of emigrating with the rest of his family. He faced his difficulties alone: The trials and sacrifices of a ten year mission; the anguish of losing his parents and other family members; the struggles associated with emigrating alone and then working to send for his sweetheart; and finally the reality of providing for his family in a very harsh environment served only to strengthen his commitment to the gospel as evidenced by his many years of church service and the experiences recorded in his journal.

Submitted by Erma Warnick Andrus