



John Erick Erickson and Ida Matilda Bengtson

John Eric Erickson was born June 10, 1855 in Stockholm, Sweden. His father, Eric Mattson, was a tenant farmer and his mother was Maja Capa Janson. They had five children. John learned the carpenter's trade from his uncles and then began to learn the cabinet makers trade. While he was in Stockholm, a friend of his came by on his way to America and persuaded John to go with him. The boat left within 6 hours so there was no time to bid farewell to his family. The young boys landed in New York, none of them spoke English and they had about a dollar apiece. They traveled to Michigan where John worked as a lumberjack and later as a cabinetmaker (and learned English). Before leaving Sweden he had met C.P. Larson, a Mormon missionary from Murray, Utah. He got a little money ahead and decided to go to Utah and look him up and joined the church.

He secured a job as a cabinetmaker at Dinwoody's Furniture Store in Salt Lake City around 1882 and in hunting up Brother Larson, he became acquainted with many others at the Scandinavian meetings. John began his own carpenter shop and furniture store in Sandy, Utah, selling coffins and sewing machines, besides other furniture.

John met Ida Matilda Bengtson through a mutual friend and they were married on the 30th of April 1885 in the Logan Temple. Ida was a daughter of Carl Erick Bengtson and Anna Brita Anderson all from Sweden. Anna and her eldest daughter joined the church in 1871 and the rest of the daughters and Carl joined in 1873. Carl was quite a prominent man in his community and held the office of a juryman, besides being a landowner. Though he only had a few days of formal schooling he learned to read, write and do arithmetic. He had spent some time fishing and taking produce to markets in Denmark. He and Anna settled on her father's farm and raised their children. When they were in their sixties they came to America, arriving in Ogden around 1883 with their grown children.

John and Ida lived in Sandy making a comfortable living with the Furniture store and a boarding house until the crash of 1895, when they moved to Salt Lake City and then to Farr West, Utah. They had seven children, 5 of whom lived to adulthood, Ester, Hazel, Hilmar, Mabel and Leon. John made a living with his farming, carpentering and cabinet work. They served the Scandinavian community, their family and the Church. Ida sang in the Scandinavian Choir.



Front Row: Lenard Beckman *, Ida Matilda, Jon Erik, John Leon
Back Row: Mabel Victoria, Beckman *, Esther Matilda, Hilmar Emmanuel,
Hazel Eugenia

* Lennard Beckman and the other Beckman boy are nephews of Ida. After their home burned down they moved in with the Erickson and stayed there.



Ida and Jon



Ida Matilda Bengtson Erickson