

**Peter Olsen Hansen**  
11 June 1818 – 9 August 1895

Peter “Ole” Hansen was the translator of the Book of Mormon into Danish.[1] He was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, and was a sailor by trade. In 1842, Hansen read a newspaper article, which spoke of an ancient record “found in a miraculous way by a young man whose name was Joseph Smith” and translated these records as “The Book of Mormon.”[2]

He joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Boston in 1844. That same year, Hansen moved to Nauvoo, Illinois, headquarters of the Church, with the intent to translate the Book of Mormon into Danish. [2][3] At Nauvoo, Hansen assisted in building the Nauvoo Temple.[4] Hansen later became an early pioneer, arriving in the Salt Lake Valley in September 1847.

In 1849, Hansen was at last selected to accompany Erastus Snow on the first Latter-day Saint mission to Denmark.[2][5] He arrived in Copenhagen on 11 May 1850, and, soon after arriving, began attending Baptist worship services, quickly befriending several people and successfully converting two families to the Church. [6] His translation work continued during this time, enlisting his former schoolteacher ‘Miss Mathisen’ to review his translation in 1850, before finally completing and publishing it in 1851.[7] Elder Hansen served on this mission from 1849 to 1855, during this time he also served as the first editor of the *Skandinaviens Stjerne*. Hansen later served additional missions in Denmark from 1873 to 1875 and from 1880 to 1882.[4]

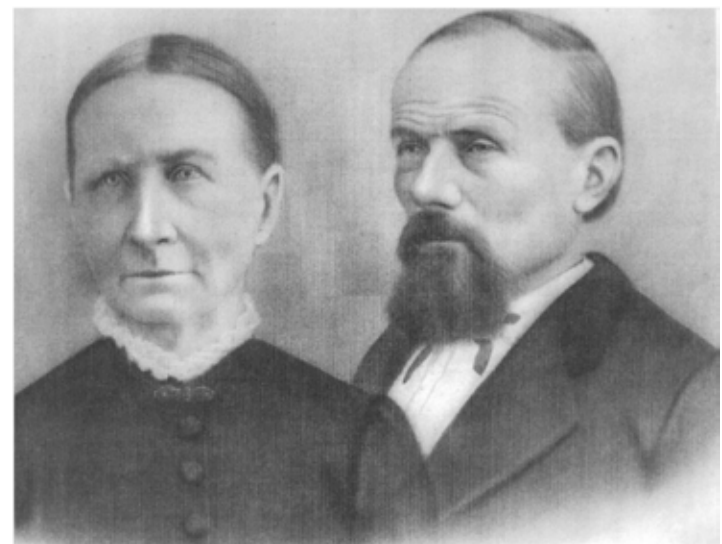
Hansen died at Manti, Utah Territory.

**References**

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3. Romig, Ronald E. (2002). “Valiant Mission: RLDS Beginnings in Denmark”. *Journal of Mormon History*. 28 (1): 166–194. ISSN 0094-7342. JSTOR 23288651.
4. Jenson, Andrew. *Latter-day Saint Biographical Encyclopedia*, p. 766.
5. Mulder, William. “Homeward to Zion” (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1957).
6. Hemming, Val G. (2002). “A Voice from the Land of Zion: Elder Erastus Snow in Denmark, 1850 to



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**Peter “Ole” Hansen and his wife Ann Katrine Koffoed  
(about 1863)**