

In the fall of 1868 when the Union Pacific Railroad was being build there were some twenty men going to Echo canyon to work and they asked her to go along as cook, although she now had two small boys, John and George L. Muir, she took her stove and what things were needed and with the help of Mary Mair they fed the men and made \$90.00 each. With some of this she bought a sewing machine, about the first in Heber and did sewing for other people... Mary died at age 91 on June 21, 1948 (Daughters of Utah Pioneers [DUP] n.d.a).

Mary Petersen Ipsen also worked for the UP railroad construction crews. She was born in Aalborg Denmark in 1857. She came to America in 1858 with her family. In 1868, her father died and her mother moved the family to Bear River City, Utah, where she married Peter Alberson. One of her family members wrote a brief sketch of Mary's life:

In the Spring of 1869, Mary's mother Christine Nessen Petersen, took work cooking food for the railroad workers of the Union Pacific as the line moved west from Corinne to Promontory. Mary, age 12, also went to work as a cook's helper... Mary indicated that the work was hot and dusty, and paid very little. She recalled the big soup kettle which played an important role and the old cook stove, hauled forward with the line in its own special wagon. Both the cook and the helper ate anything that was left after the men were finished, if anything was left (Daughters of Utah Pioneers [DUP] n.d.b).

Because of her working with the crews across the Promontories, Mary Ipsen was also present at the golden spike ceremony. Her life story recounts:

Mary was present that historic day of May 10, 1869 witnessing the driving of the golden spike. She also witnessed the "Undriving" of the Spike on Sept 8, 1942, when the rails no longer in use were taken up to be used for various purposes during World War II (Daughters of Utah Pioneers [DUP] n.d.b).

Another Mormon woman who worked with the men on the railroad was Catherine Scow Davidson. She was born in Denmark where she joined the Mormon church. She later immigrated to Utah in 1866. Catherine's father was a carpenter, and they moved often looking for work. Catherine's father and brother worked on the railroad and "Catherine and her mother (Ellen Marie Jensen Scow) cooked, sewed, and laundered for these crews" (Leavitt Loose n.d.:1). Catherine was also present for the driving of the Golden Spike, "which was the finish of this massive project" (Leavitt Loose n.d.:1).

Sharon Brooks wrote of her ancestor, Johanne Bengtson Valentine, that she came with her family from Denmark in 1866. For the Valentine family, work was also very hard to find. Johanne's sons went freighting to Missouri and her husband joined the Union Pacific Railroad taking an 11 year-old son with him (Brooks n.d.: 3). The family moved to Bryant near Green River, Wyoming, to work for the railroad. Here they made adobe for buildings and lived in a dugout with no furniture. The family eventually were able to build a log house. Mr. Valentine got work as a carpenter while Johanne and her daughter took in washing. The family were doing