

## **A Brief Sketch of Mr. & Mrs. Christian Ayling**

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Christian Ayling was born in Denmark April 4, 1860, the son of Andrew and Trena Hansen Ayling. While he was very young his mother immigrated to America under the auspices of the Mormon Church.

After landing in America she crossed the plains to Utah by ox team, enduring many hardships as only those who have experienced such a journey can realize.

When Christian was about four years of age his mother married Ludvig Ericksen who brought them to Cache Valley, Utah, to make their home. This was in 1863. Here they engaged in agriculture and stock raising with profitable results. Christian gave earnest and unstinted service to the interest of his mother and step-father until he reached the age of twenty-one.

On December 1, 1881, at Salt Lake City, Utah, Christian Ayling was united in marriage to Mary E. Christensen, also a native of Denmark, a daughter of James and Karen Christensen, who with her parents came to Utah in 1862 and settled in Sanpete County until after the death of her mother when they moved to Brigham City, Utah. Her father died on February 17, 1894 and was buried in the Newton Cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Christian Ayling made their home in Newton, Cache County, Utah, for a short time where Mr. Ayling engaged in various occupations for himself.

On July 23, 1884, they moved to Rexburg, Idaho, where using his homestead rights he took up 160 acres of land west of the city, then a young and thriving little settlement. On his homestead they lived until 1892 at which time he sold the homestead and bought another place where he devoted generous attention to horticulture as well as other usual farming operations. He had a very promising orchard which has firmly demonstrated the superior adaptabilities of this section for the production of fruit.

From the time of his first settlement in Rexburg to the time of moving away he always willingly and cheerfully did his full part in all the require labors for the development of his section of the country. He was early interested and identified with the irrigation projects and other measures of vital importance to community growth. He was one of the directors and a watermaster of the Rexburg Irrigation Company Canal. He was also an official in the Consolidated Farmers Company. As a watermaster many time he found it necessary to be up all night riding the ditch.

The same conscientious devotion which marked his administration of official trusts in civil life was always in evidence in his church activities. He held numerous responsible positions in his ward and stake. He was ordained a deacon in 1869. At the time of his marriage he was ordained an elder and in due time became a seventy. He was appointed alternate in the stake high council and then became counselor to President Thomas E. Ricks which position made it

necessary for him to be ordained a high priest. He has given and is now giving zealous and valuable service to the home mission field.

Mr. Ayling and his wife endured many hardships in helping to pioneer and develop the Rexburg country, many times not having enough to eat and no doctors to help in times of sickness. However he was always willing to help his neighbors and assist the widows and orphans in their hardships and struggles.

About 1900 Mr. Ayling sold his farm and started up in the grocery business at Hibbard, Idaho, but was forced out of business in 1906 having given too much credit and not being able to collect his bills to finance his business and to carry on.

Giving up his store he then moved to Pocatello, Idaho, where he obtained work with the O. S. L. Railroad as night clerk at the store house. He started once more to build up a home and get started in life. He worked at this job about twelve years.

On April 16, 1914, his wife died leaving him alone. After this his health gave away and he went to California to see if he could regain his health and strength. After a time the change did help him a great deal and at the present time he is living at Topango Canyon, California, but often longs to be back in Idaho and see old friends as well as familiar spots.

A family of interesting children have come to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ayling, namely:

James C., born September 25, 1882  
Karen E., born December 31, 1884  
Mary A., born May 13, 1887, and died January 13, 1891  
Minnie, born November 18, 1890  
Evelyn, born February 13, 1896  
Letha, born February 26, 1899

The family was a constituent part of the social activity of the community and is highly esteemed among young and old of society circles here, finding most hospitable and enjoyable entertainment.

All to myself, I think of my parents,  
Think of the things they used to do,  
Think of the things they used to say,  
Think of each happy yesterday,  
Sometimes, I sigh and sometimes I smile,  
But then all seem so golden and so worth  
While to me, my parents.

Christian Ayling died on April 3, 1936.