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Magazine Printing and Publishing Co.
Salt Lake City, Utah

Gentlemen:

In your publication "Temple Manifestations" by Joseph Heinerman on page #104 you print an item concerning a manifestation participated in by a Brother Peter Alstrom.

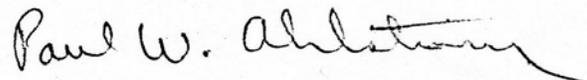
The reporting of this item is basically correct as reported by family members who are acquainted with the incident. However, the information concerning Peter Alstrom is INCORRECT. I am enclosing an article which is in the official family history of Jons Peter Ahlstrom concerning the reported item.

Hopefully that in the next printing of this book the correct name of JONS PETER AHLSTROM will be given and a mention made of his correct appointment at the Manti Temple.

Jons Peter Ahlstrom was in charge of the carpenters under supervision of the architect. He learned his carpenter trade in Sweden and worked on the Manti Temple from the time of its construction beginnings. At the time of its dedication he was appointed to be in charge of the temple physical plant. He lived in the temple until the time of his death.

These are small items and would add to the correctness of the published article.

Yours Truly,



Paul W. Ahlstrom Sr.
--grandson of Jons Peter Ahlstrom
(Peter Alstrom) incorrect name

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Jons Peter Ahlstrom, May 17, 1888, Dedication of the Manti Temple
Born 15 April 1835 Malmo, Mlmhs, Sweden - Died 12 Jun 1903 Manti, Sanpete, Utah

Jons Peter Ahlstrom, my grandfather, a Swedish convert to the Church, was called to work on the Manti Temple at its beginning. In Sweden he had been trained in the art of carpentry. His first assignment at the Manti Temple was to keep the tools of the workers in good and sharpened condition. A tool house was erected on Temple Hill where Peter (that was the name he used) conducted his daily work.

As the temple work progressed and the finishing of the interior commenced, Peter Ahlstrom's activity moved to the interior of the temple where he was engaged in finishing the woodwork of the temple. It has been said that his handiwork can be seen in every room of the original Manti Temple. He assisted in the construction of the famous Manti Temple spiral staircases.

Jons Peter Ahlstrom and the other workers at the temple knew that in earlier days, the Angel Moroni had visited the Manti Temple Hill and dedicated the site for the building of a temple in the latter day. In the early morning of April 25, 1877, President Brigham Young was in company with Warren S. Snow. Brother Snow reporting the incident said, "He went to the southeast corner, and President Young said, 'Here is the spot where the Prophet Moroni stood and dedicated this piece of land for a temple site and that is the reason why the location is made here, and we can't move it from this spot; and if you and I are the only persons that come here at high noon today, we will dedicate this ground.'"

Sometime before the dedication of the Manti Temple, Jons Peter Ahlstrom was called to be the "overseer" of the temple complex. His duties were numerous as he directed all activities in relation to the physical plant. He was well qualified for the appointment as he had worked on the temple from the time the foundations were started on the Manti hill.

At the time of the dedication of the Manti Temple, two rather remarkable incidents happened to Jons Peter Ahlstrom while he was working in the temple. They are related here.

A few days before the dedication while upstairs busy at work, a very strong windstorm came up and Peter hurried downstairs to close the windows. As he came to the first of a series of three rooms, he saw a man in the center of the room, dressed in dark clothes, with his back turned to Peter, looking curiously around the room. He walked ahead of Brother Ahlstrom down the stairs, through the open door, going leisurely through the second room, looking about as he walked along, then down the stairs to the third room, all the time keeping ahead of Brother Ahlstrom. Peter had not taken time to speak, for he was anxious to get the windows closed, then he intended to ask the stranger how he got there, for these rooms were kept locked. Stepping down into the third room, Brother Ahlstrom looked around for the man, but he was nowhere to be seen. Unwilling to believe himself the victim of an hallucination, he walked to the only other door of the room (which was kept locked) and tried it. It was still locked. Where did the man go? He did not know. A thorough search followed, but nothing more was heard or seen of the man. This occurred before the temple was opened, and there were but one or two other brethren inside the temple at the time. Neither had access to these rooms.

The night after the dedication was a dark, rainy night, filled with sudden gusts of wind and beating rain. After Brother Ahlstrom had retired for the night, he remembered that the window in one of the rooms near the sealing room had been left open. He arose and hurriedly went down the stairs to close the window. Opening the door to the sealing room, he was surprised to see standing above the alter, a personage clothed in white robes, a brilliant light surrounding him and filling the whole room. For the first time in his life, he was filled with an unreasonable, unaccountable feeling of fear. Shutting the door hastily behind him, he hurried back to his room, fell to his knees, and asked his Heavenly Father to take away from him the fear that had taken possession of him. Instantly he was calmed and filled with peace which seemed to flood the room.

In the morning, he reported the incident to the temple president, Dan H. Wells. President Wells remarked, "None need fear to see an angel of the Lord; that there are angels in this place we have no doubt; but it is not given to everyone to see them."

I have visited the Manti Temple on several occasions in the company of a cousin, Harold Ahlstrom who is 79 years of age (1976). He has lived in the Manti area all of his life and is well aware of the two incidents recounted above as quoted from several family histories.

Paul W. Ahlstrom, Sr.