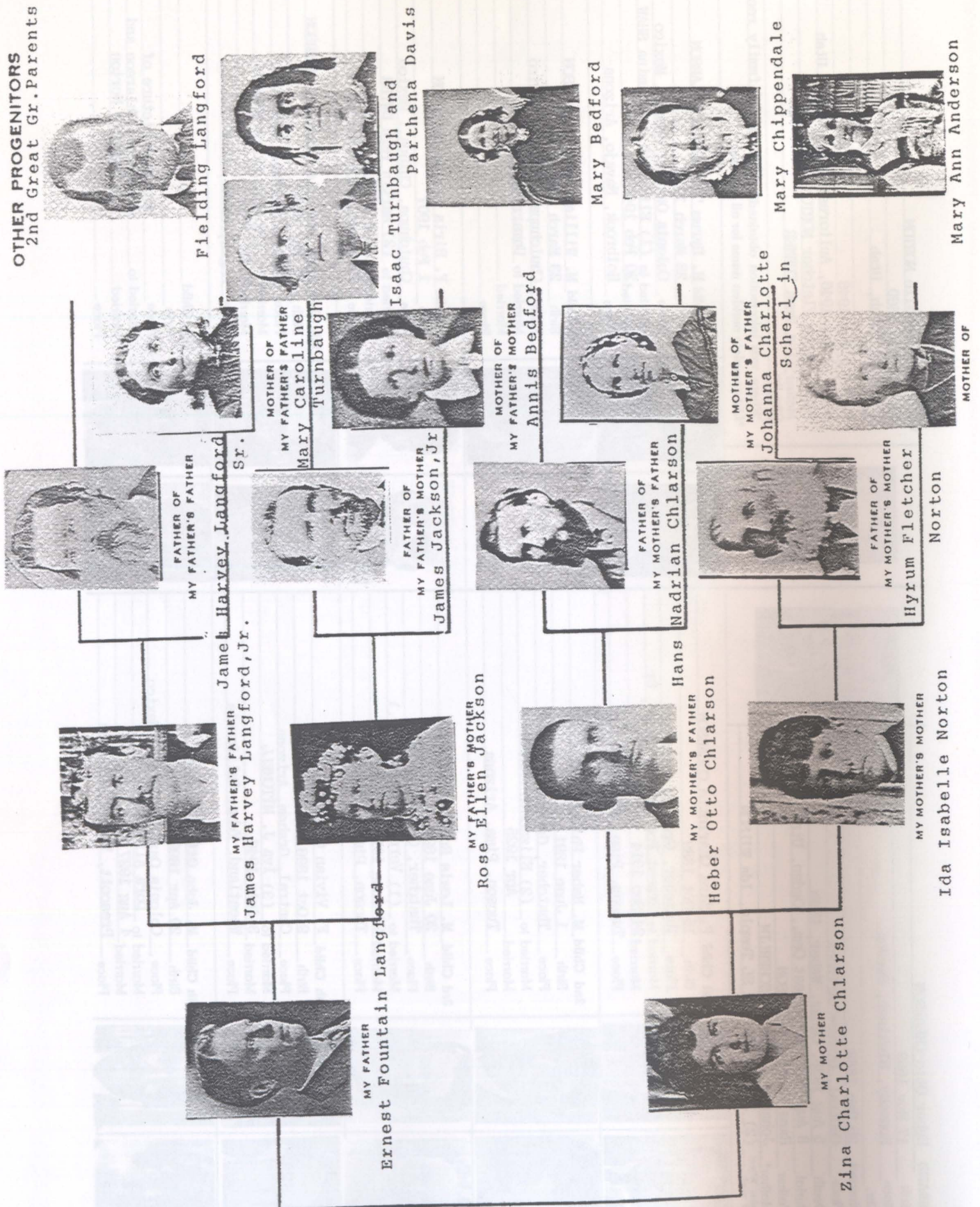


OTHER PROGENITORS
2nd Great Gr. Parents



MY MEXICAN HERITAGE

MY MOTHER, ZINA CHARLOTTE CHLARSON LANGFORD

Note to the reader: I (Ida-Rose Langford Hall) am writing this history of my parents' Mexican experience. For dates for the different moves of the Chlarson family, refer to Louis Chlarson's history which appears before this one. I will concentrate on the experiences of my parents in Mexico, until my parents were married. My material is taken from a taped interview of my parents taken in August 1961, at the Langford home at 3292 Orchard Avenue, Ogden, Utah.

I wish to extend my thanks to Elisabeth Huntington Hall who graciously edited this history and gave suggestions. If there are mistakes in this history, the mistakes are not Betsy's, they are mine.

My mother, Zina Charlotte Chlarson, was born 15 October 1889, in Thatcher, Graham County, Arizona. Her parents were Heber Otto Chlarson and Ida Isabelle Norton. Heber Otto was born in Ronneby, Blekinge County, Sweden, on the 17 November 1862. His parents, Hans Nadrian Chlarson and Johanna Charlotta Scherlin, had moved to Ronneby after they were married 20 September 1861. Hans N. and Johanna met when Hans knocked on Johanna's door when he was serving as an LDS missionary. She and her widowed mother were both converted and were promptly disowned by the rest of Johanna's family. In fact, her brothers threatened to put both Johanna and her mother in an insane asylum.

While Heber Otto was only six months old, his father sent Johanna and Heber, Han's mother, Anna Persson Nilsson, and his wife's mother, Ulricka Scherlin, to Salt Lake City, the "Gathering Place" of Zion. Hans N. was to follow as soon as he could earn enough money to pay his passage. Johanna and Heber sailed on the John J. Boyd from Hamburg, 30 April 1863. Anna Nilsson, sailed 14 May 1861 on the Monarch of the Sea, and Ulricka Scherlin sailed 21 April 1862, on the Athenia.

There is a story in the family that Johanna was advised that she would need a sunbonnet to protect her from sunburn on the trip across the plains. She went to buy one and instead fell in love with a fussy little hat which she bought instead of the more practical sunbonnet. The way the family tells it, she was sunburned so dark on the trip to Utah that she never lost the tan. Tall tale? Well, at least the part about never losing the tan.

It was three years before Hans Nadrian arrived in Salt Lake City and was re-united with his wife and child. The story of both their lives during this time reads like a dime novel. Hans had his money stolen from a New York City hotel and a Swedish friend in New York offered to get him a job as an interpreter with the Union Army. Instead, the friend sold Hans as a substitute in the Union Army for a rich man's son. He fought through many battles, was wounded in the leg, spent time in a Washington D.C. hospital and then went back to New York and beat up his supposed friend.

Johanna, meantime, did not receive any of Hans' letters. The local postmaster intercepted them because he was trying to get Johanna to become his polygamous wife. She went to Brigham Young for advice and he asked her if she thought Hans was still alive. She thought he was.