The Story of Julia Ann Jinks Druce

Julia Ann Jinks Druce was born April 17, 1824 at Stone, Staffordshire, England, the daughter of John Jinks, Jr. and Mary Woodfield. She joined the Church on April 5, 1840 and was baptized by Willard Richards. She married John Druce on June 19, 1842 in the old Collegiate Church in Manchester, England. John was an engraver in a print shop.

Julia and John and their two little girls, two-year old Julia and baby Mary left on the ship "Montezuma" from Liverpool, England on 15 August 1846 and went to New York. They lived in Haverstraw, New York for 15 years. Five more children were born there, daughters Lilly and Eliza Jane, son John Alma, and daughters Ada and Amanda. John worked as a printer and was the Branch President. They family assisted the Elders who labored as missionaries in that part of the county, both materially and otherwise.

In 1861 the family decided to go to Utah. John, Julia and their seven children, a cook and two teamsters left Haverstraw on 11 June. They joined Ira Reed's Independent Company and arrived in Salt Lake on 16 September 1861. On the journey John Druce was captain of ten and chaplain of the company.

The family bought a home in the Twelfth Ward on 5th East Street. John learned the carpenter trade and became a building contractor. Two more children were born in Salt Lake, Edgar and Kate. Kate died when she was just two years old, but the other eight children grew to adulthood.

Julia was a teacher in the Relief Society of the 12th Ward from 1868 to 1897 - 29 years - then she became the Relief Society

President and served until the fall of 1908 - 11 years. During the period of her presidency in the society she had left to them by will, etc., several pieces of good property, upon which the sisters built houses to rent. The income from this enterprise helped in a substantial way to keep the poor of the Ward. She was also a member of the Reapers Club.

After the two Wards (the Twelfth and Thirteenth) were joined together, Julia, on account of her advanced age, was honorably released from presiding over the Twelfth Ward Relief Society, which she had served faithfully and well for so many years, and retired with the love and esteem of the Ward and her fellow workers in the Society.

Julia died on February 2, 1915 and was buried in the Salt Lake City cemetery.

LDS Biography of Julia Ann Jinks

Druce, Julia Ann Jinks, wife of John Druce, and president of the Twelfth Ward Relief Society for twenty-nine years, was born April 17, 1824, at Stone, Staffordshire, England, the daughter of John Jinks and Mary Woodfield. She joined the Church Apr. 5, 1840, being baptized by Willard Richards, and in 1842 (June 19th) she was married to John Druce in the old Collegiate Church in Mancester, England. She emigrated to America in 1846, crossing the Atlantic in the ship "Montezuma", which sailed from Liverpool Aug 15, 1846. The family resided at Haverstraw, New York, fifteen years. Druce family assisted the Elders who labored as missionaries in that part of the country, both materially and otherwise. Finally the family crossed the plains and mountains in Ira Reed's independent company which arrived in Salt Lake City, Sept. 16, 1861. On the journey John Druce was captain of ten and chaplain of the company. The family settled in the Twelfth Ward, Salt Lake City, where Sister Druce acted as a teacher in the Ward Relief Society from 1868 to July 13, 1879, when she was chosen president of the society. Her counselors were Mrs. Jemima R. Midgley, and Mrs Eliza D. Hooper. Sister Druce acted as president until the fall of 1908. During the period of her presidency in said society she had left to them by will, etc., several pieces of good property, upon which the sisters built houses to rent. The income form this enterprise helped in a substantial way to keep the poor of the Ward. Sister Druce became the mother of nine children. After the two Wards (the Twelfth and Thirteenth) were joined together, Mrs. Druce, on account of her advanced age, was honorably released from presiding over the Twelfth Ward Relief Society, which she had served faithfully and well for so many years and retired with the love and esteem of the Ward and her fellow-workers in the Society.