

LIFE OF JANE B. McKECHINE HATCH – My Grandmother

Author unknown

Jane B. McKechine Hatch was born Feb. 25, 1827 at Edenburgh , Midlothian County, Scotland. Her father was George Bee and her mother Jannett Atchinson. She had five brothers and sisters; Jane, Joanna, Richard John Moxey, Elizabeth and Jannett. Her father was able to support his family fairly well.

On July 14, 1844 she married John McKechine in Edenburgh, Midlothian County, Scotland. He was a bell molder by trade and a very good workman. He received good pay for his work, but was unable to secure enough work to support his family and Jane had to help whenever and in whatever way she could. She became the mother of three children by this marriage; Georgina, Jane and John. The youngest, John, was born two months after the death of her husband who died from typhoid fever in 1848.

After the death of her husband she secured work nursing a rich, old lady, as she was very much in need of money to support her family. While working here, she was visited one day by two Mormon Elders who succeeded in getting her very much interested in their teachings. After studying the principles of the Gospel and listening to the Elders teaching for some time she decided to join the Mormon church. Her mother opposed this step very strongly and begged her not to take it and finally she persuaded her to go and talk with their minister about the Mormons. She had very little to say to him other than that she believed whole heartedly in the message of the Elders. She asked this minister to talk with the Elders but he refused to do so. This refusal made it easier for her to convince her mother that the minister must not be sure of himself or he would not hesitate about meeting the Elders and discussing religion with them. She joined the church in Feb. 1850 and finally succeeded in converting her mother and brother and sisters and getting them to join also. Very soon after this she decided to come to the Western State of Utah. But, here again, met strong protests from her mother and also from the wealthy lady she worked for. This lady promised to make Jane the heir to her great fortune if she would remain with her in Scotland. However, her faith meant far more to her than this promise of money and after overcoming her mother's objections, she, with her family, her mother and brother and sisters, set sail for America on Sept. 4, 1850 on the ship North Atlantis.

Their voyage was a rough, disagreeable one which lasted four months. They landed at New Orleans Louisiana then came up the Mississippi River reaching St. Louis Missouri in Dec. 1850. The rest of the winter they stayed at St. Louis and while there suffered many and severe hardships. When telling of it in her later years she said there were hundreds of meals which she could have eaten all by herself, but which had to be divided among her three children. The only shoes they had for a long time were some she made from soldiers old coats.

In the Spring of 1851 she went to Council Bluff and later to Little Vigcon, a small town on the Missouri River not far from Council Bluffs. With her children she left there for Salt Lake Valley on June 9, 1852 in the Thomas Howells Company. During the trip to the valley, and for some time after arriving, their only food was corn meal with a little meat occasionally. They arrived in Salt Lake City in Sept. 1852.

On Nov. 27, 1852 Jane married Ira Stearns Hatch and the following day, Nov. 28, came to Bountiful to live. Her first home here was a little log cabin located just East of the home in which Glen Hatch is now living. Her husband owned a farm there. Later he built a larger home for her where this first cabin stood. Through this marriage she became the mother of eight children, seven of whom were living at the time of her husband's death Sept. 30, 1869, leaving her alone again with the responsibility of caring for a large family.

She faced the future bravely, never faltering though facing many hardships. The year of her husband's death her crops were completely destroyed by grasshoppers, but the generosity of a neighbor, who shared with her, kept them supplied with food until another crop was harvested. Through hard work and careful planning she managed to get enough for her family to eat, even making a kind of beer from roots of plants for them to drink. Hardships and trials seemed to strengthen her faith in her religion and she was always a faithful, devoted Latter Day Saint. The roof of her home was made mainly of dirt and when it became quite badly worn by the wind and rain she asked that the house be torn down. This was done and the brick home in which Glen Hatch now lives in was built for her. She lived in this house the rest of her life and died here Aug. 9, 1915 at the age of 88 years. The following children were born to Jane and Ira Stearns Hatch; Stearns, Philander, Abram, Reuben, Lucinda Janett, Leonard, Alvin Williard and Netta Elzina. At the time of her death she had the following descendants living:

Children 11

Grandchildren 54

Great Grandchildren 75

Great-Great Grandchildren 24

Jane Bee McKechine Hatch was blessed by Isaac Morley on Jan. 11, 1861.