

## Life of Jane Bee McKetchine Hatch

Written by her granddaughter, Lillian Howard.  
(daughter of Stearns, and Mother of Hatch Howard)

Jane B. McKetchine Hatch was born Feb 25, 1827 at Edinburgh, Midlothian Co., Scotland. Her father was George Bee, and her mother, Jennette Atchison. 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 Edinburgh, Midlothian, 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 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 they 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 have a 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 February 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 states and Utah but here again she 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, brother and sisters, set sail for America on Sept 4, 1850 on the ship New Orleans. (letter has also North Atlantis written in the letter with New Orleans written above it) Their voyage was a rough, disagreeable one which lasted four months. They landed in New Orleans, Louisiana then came up the Mississippi River reaching St. Louis, Missouri in 1850. The

rest of the winter they stayed at St. Louis in which they suffered many and severe hardships. When telling of it in her later years she said there were hundreds of meals she could have eaten all by herself, 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 Vigcom a small town on the Missouri River not far from Council Bluff. With her children she left there for Salt Lake Valley on June 9, 1852 in the Thomas Howells Co. During the trip to the valley and for sometime after arriving there, 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. Again left alone with the responsibility of caring for a large family, she faced the future bravely never faltering though 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 seem to strengthen her faith in her religion and she was always a faithful and devoted Latter Day Saint. The roof of her home was mainly of dirt and when it became quite battle worn by wind and rain, she asked that the house be torn down. This was done and the brick home in which Glen Hatch now lives was built for her. She lived in this house the rest of her life and died here Aug 9, 1915 at the age of eighty eight years, leaving five sons. They were Stearns, Philander, Abram, Reuben and Alvin Williard. The following children were born to Jane and Ira Stearns Hatch: Stearns, Philander, Abram, Reuben, Lucinda Jannett, Leonard, Alvin Williard, Iretta Alzina. At the time of her death she had the following descendants

|                          |     |         |    |
|--------------------------|-----|---------|----|
| Children                 | 11. | Living  | 5  |
| Grand children           | 54, | Living, | 39 |
| Grt. Grandchildren       | 75  | Living  | 63 |
| Grt.. grt. Grandchildren | 24  | Living  | 24 |

She was blessed by Isaac Morley 11 Jan, 1861

A lady at Dugway named Donna Parker, living in Bountiful in 2002, was a granddaughter of Jane Bee McKechine Hatch by her first husband. Donna

told Charmain Hatch she had her Grandmother sealed to her first husband. Jane Bee will have to make that decision herself for in the Hatch records she was sealed in Brigham Young's office to Ira Stearns Hatch. However it was her decision to be sealed to Hatch at that time. Hatch records show her first married name as McKetchine.