

Jennette Aitchison Bee Dobson
Mother of Jane Bee McKetchinie Hatch

Tears of joy mingled with tears of sorrow were in the hearts and eyes of the 257 passengers on the ship "North Atlantic" as it left the shores of England at Liverpool on the 4th of Sep., 1850 and passed into the Irish Sea on it's way to America. The journey would be long and strenuous and all had made sacrifices in order that this day might make their dreams come true. The sailing from the beginning was not desirable, but as they came nearer the end of their course, they were overtaken by a terrific storm.

Each hour the vessel became more battered and unmanageable until it was greatly feared that all would be lost. It was at this time that David Sudworth, the presiding elder on the ship, called all the Saints on board to unite in prayer for a safe delivery at their destination. The storm subsided and the vessel, much in need of repair from it's harrowing experience, finally made entry at New Orleans in November of 1850.

Registered on the passenger list of this great sailing vessel were many converts from Great Britain, among whom were Jennette Aitchison Bee, age 52, her daughter, Joanna (Murray) Bee, age 21, her son, Richard Aitchison Bee, age 15, and her daughter, Jane Bee McKetchinie and her young family which consisted of Georgianna, age 5, Jane, age 4, and John James, age 2.

These good people had embraced the gospel in Edinburgh, Scotland and were on their way to the Salt Lake Valley, little realizing the hardships which they would be called on to surmount before their course in life was completed.

The subject of this sketch, Jennette Aitchison Bee-Dobson was born in Musselborough, East Lothian, Scotland on the 10th of April, 1798. She was known to most of the family as "Janet", however she was christened "Jennette" at the request of her parents, James Aitchison (born 10 May, 1771) and Jane Smart. (born 5 April, 1765.) She was the second of a family of five children. (There may have been more children but the family record gives Margaret, born 30 Aug. 1796; Jennette, born 10 April, 1798; May, born 27 Oct. 1799; Alexander, born 10 Dec., 1801, and Isabella, born 17th Sep., 1808. She spent the major part of her life in Musselborough which is located about six miles east of the great city of Edinburgh, Scotland. Like Edinburgh, it lies on the south coast of the Firth of Forth. The river Esk runs through the city cutting it in two sections, Musselburgh proper and Fisherrow. It is noted for an old bridge of Roman origin, a curious old toll booth built in 1590 out of material from the celebrated Loretta Chapel, a fine Jacobean mansion called "Pinkie House" in which Prince Charles Edward once resided and Loretta, the school for

Nuns. The chief manufactures are leather, paper, twine and fishing nets. Coal is mined in the neighborhood and there are numerous market gardens which together with the fisheries of Fisherrow help supply the needs of Edinburgh.

In the year 1826, Jennette married George Bee (date obtained from family record.) He had been born in Dalkeith about four miles south of Musselborough. He was the son of William and Joanna Murray Bee, both old and honorable families in the vicinity. Old Dalkeith Castle graces the banks of the Esk River which flows through this town, also.

Jennette and George made their home in Musselborough where was born Jane, 25 Feb., 1827; Joanna, 14 Oct., 1829; Jennette, born 1830 but died in 1831; Elizabeth, born 1832 but died as an infant. Shortly after the death of Elizabeth the family moved to Edinburgh proper, where, on the 7th Feb., 1835 a son was born whom they christened Richard John Moxey Bee. There seems to be no record as to a definite occupation of the father, George Bee, but he supported his family to a degree that they lived quite comfortably until his death in June of 1843.

About one and one-half years after the death of her father, on the 12th July, 1844, Jane married at the age of seventeen, John McKetchinie. The certificate of proclamation of the Banns for Jane's marriage were posted at St. Cuthberts parish Church in Edinburgh and states that she was a daughter of George Bee, Joiner (carpenter) of No. 57 Bristol Street, Edinburgh. We consequently conclude that the family resided at this address. Many generations of the Aitchison, Murray, MacFarlane and other family names are listed in the old St. Cuthbert Parish Church Register. In the old "Kirk" Cemetery still stand headstones bearing these family names, some with the prefix or title "Honorable" before them, thus assuring us that these families had a noble purpose in their lives.

The name of a female child (Georgiana) born to John and Jane Bee McKetchinie may be found in the Edinburgh proper records and then the family moved over into Leith, the harbor suburb of Edinburgh. Here are the great shipping docks and the hustle of port work.

While living in Leith a daughter, Jane, was born. Soon after, Jane Bee McKetchinie was called on to part with her mate. He contracted typhoid fever and passed away 3 Jan, 1848. In sorrow she gathered together her few belongings and with her two daughters returned to the home of her mother in Edinburgh proper. It was here on 20 April that her son, John James, was born just three months after the death of her husband. Funds were low and things looked desperate for the two families, consequently Jane sought employment.

It was while in the service of a Scottish lady that the greatest event in the lives of these people occurred when Jane first heard the gospel message as taught by Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter

Day Saints. She recognized the truth immediately, but it was more difficult for her mother with a background of fifty years in the Presbyterian faith to make such a change. Jennette must think of Richard, who, as the only male member of the household had had much money expended on his education. He was a precocious child and in consequence was privileged to attend Heriots Hospital Academy for boys from which institution he was graduated at the age of fourteen. he was granted a permit to enter the Ministry or any other professional work he desired. Due to his age, he chose to serve as the private secretary to the president of the Government Custom House and was appointed correspondent to Hamburg, Germany. It took a long time for Jennette to make up her mind to ask that her son give up such a promising future..

However, Jane was baptized 21 Feb, 1850 by Robert Gault of Green Oak Branch of Renfrewshore, who had received the gospel almost immediately after it was introduced into Edinburgh in 1840. But they didn't have to wait long for Richard. He was baptized 5 May, 1850 by this same good soul, Robert Gault. Then the family began in earnest to prepare themselves to go to Zion.

On 11 Aug, 1850, Joanna (registered Johanna) entered the waters of baptism, but there is no record of the baptism of Jennette Bee in the early Edinburgh register, however, she came along to Liverpool with the rest of the family and sailed with them on the "North Atlantic". The family funds were exhausted on reaching New Orleans, so they took turns tending the children and working so that they might get the necessary equipment to go on to St. Louis, Missouri. They were greatly upset when the mother, Jennette, contracted cholera, but fortunately she soon recovered. It was in Dec. of 1850 that they were welcomed by the Saints in St. Louis. During the winter months they were not too comfortable but they worked when ever there was an opportunity.

There seems to be no record available as to when Jennette Aitchison Bee married Joseph Dobson, although members of the Dobson family have been contacted and church records searched. Yet in an autobiography in which Richard Bee recorded some of the events of his life and now in the possession of one of the members of the Bee family, he states that in the spring of 1851 he left St. Louis, Missouri with his Mother (Jennette Bee) and his stepfather, Joseph Dobson, for winter quarters.

It was deemed advisable for Jane McKetchinie and her three children to remain in Winter Quarters until there was a home established in the West and sufficient funds obtained for their crossing the plains. No mention is made of Joanna and so we presume that she came to Utah with her Mother and stepfather in 1851 (probably the Morris Phelps Co.)

Upon reaching the West, Joseph Dobson was assigned to help settle Lehi. But before leaving Salt lake city, Jennette requested a patriarchal

blessing of John Smith. This was given to her on 18 Dec., 1851. On the 22 Dec., 1851 she received her endowments in the Old Endowment House. Richard accompanied his parents to Lehi and found employment in a printing shop and in doing some freighting. He was also called to assist with work on the Salt Lake Temple. It was while crossing the Temple block one day in the fall of 1852 that he met his sister Jane, who had arrived in the valley in September of 1852. It was a joyous greeting and much was talked about. Among other things, she told him of her plans to marry Ira Stearns Hatch. They were married 27 Nov, 1852 and she brought her three children to Bountiful to make their home.

On his 20th birthday Richard received his patriarchal blessing from John Murdock in Lehi (7 Feb. 1855.) He was making preparations to go with a group of home steads to help with the settling of Cache Valley. He had been engaged to marry a very lovely girl, but in a whirl away courtship she married another. This incident not only embarrassed Richard, but confused his plans for his married life. He located at Richmond in Cache Valley and a short time later his mother and stepfather sold their holding in Lehi to follow him. Before they left however, they went to the endowment house in Salt lake and were sealed as man and wife (30 Aug, 1852) At this time Jennette gave her baptism date as 21 March, 1849, but we are unable to locate a church record of it.

They purchased a home near their son, Richard, in Richmond. Jennette was now fifty-seven but she seemed much older due to the hardships she had endured.

In 1859 Richard married his niece Georgianna McKetchinie and they moved to Bloomington, Idaho and then to Georgetown, Idaho. He worked as a proof reader for the Paris, Idaho Newspaper, along with his farming. He died at Montpelier, Idaho on 18 July, 1912 and was buried at Georgetown.

Not much is said of Joanna. It is known that she was married to a George Thomson, but when is not known. However, this marriage was unsatisfactory and after her divorce she lived with her sister, Jane B. McKetchinie Hatch in Bountiful and her mother in Richmond for a while. Then on 13 Oct., 1860 she married Arthur Pendry Walshman and they made their home in Grover, about five miles north of Afton in Wyoming where she died on 14 Jan, 1913.

We have a letter written by Richard J. M. Bee to his sister Jane B. McKetchinie Hatch, in 1868 which we feel states the circumstances incident to the death of Jennette Aitchison Bee Dobson better than we can. We shall conclude the sketch with this letter.

Richmond, Cache Co.
August 17, 1868

Dear Jane,

I sit down at this time with peculiar feelings of joy and sadness mingled together for I feel to thank my Heavenly Father at this time that I had the privilege dear Jane of paying my last duty and respects to our kind mother that has at last passed behind the veil after suffering so much pain and distress for this last year. I feel to thank God that she has died faithful in the Church and Kingdom of God and with assurance to her and a hope and satisfaction to us that she will gain her reward and glory in the presence of God that she has lived for upon the earth and I hope and pray that we may live faithful to the end and again enjoy her society in the next world but Jane it seems hard to bear and lose her society here. I can't say anymore about that as I feel to full to express my feelings but you can best sense them, but i thought for a satisfaction to you I would write the circumstances attending her death as I am informed last Tuesday she was taken violently with a pain in her side, (but before that she had felt pretty smart for two weeks.) (too smart for her own good for you know how she exerts herself when she feels well) and had to go to her bed shrieking to her utmost for two days and nights. The neighbors were very kind to her. At last she eased off and went to sleep and at times when she woke she wanted her back always rubbed and she could speak calm and nice. Everything was applied that was thought good for her. On Friday evening she dosed off to sleep and woke up at intervals and spoke to father. She had said before not to send for me unless they thought she was dying. During the night she died, she was going and spoke to father several times but he could not understand all she said. The brethren and sisters all had the impression she was dying at last. Father sent for me and after he came back from finding a man to come for me mother called father to her and took him round the neck and said she was going and some more but he could not understand her then she turned her head and died at half past three on Saturday morning half an hour after the messenger had started for me. I thank God she died in peace easy and sensible to the last moment and with the hope of a glorious resurrection and eternal life. At last I got the word of mother's sickness about 9 on Saturday morning and be assured Jane I was in trouble whether to go or stay. I was expecting Georgina to be confined every minute and sisters waiting on her but at last I started trusting in the Lord to preserve her in life and I did not know but what it might be death in the case of mother and there would be a self reflection. I got to Richmond in the afternoon of the same day but I seen her body stretched out lifeless form. Thomas Dobson had done his duty and acted kind and faithful to the last and we both done our utmost to

get her buried as decent, honorable and respectable as we could and it was done to all our satisfactions and she was buried here at 2 o'clock on Sunday the 16th after laboring and toiling faithful for 70 years, 4 months and 4 days. Jane, I can't say any more now. On Sunday the messenger came back from Round Valley and brought me word that Georgina was better and had delivered of a daughter on Saturday evening at 10:00 o'clock and she was doing well. Jane it is not quite determined what father will do but I think he will go home with me for a little while, he is very poorly. I hope Brother Hatch (Ira Stearns) got home safe and not any worse from his journey and that you and your family are all well. Please tear the end strip of paper and hand it in to the Deseret News office.

From your affectionate brother
Richard J. M. Bee