

John Druce

DRUCE, JOHN (1818-1897), was counselor in the Salt Lake City 12th Ward for twenty years beginning in 1877. As a carpenter, he was employed on the temple block and assisted in construction of the Salt Lake Theater. In 1876-77 he was sent to the eastern states, where he presided over the Church units in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

John DRUCE [Parents <pafig07.htm>] was born 18 Jun 1818 in Mitcham, Surrey, England and was christened 12 Jul 1818 in Mitcham, Surrey, England. He died 7 Oct 1897 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah and was buried 10 Oct 1897 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Ut. He was sealed to his parents on 28 May 1896 in the St. George temple. John was baptized 8 Aug 1842. He was endowed 29 Nov 1861 in the St. George temple. John married Julia Ann JINKS on 19 Jun 1842 in Staffordshire, England.

<http://oblad.org/r&t/ancestors/pafig07.htm>

(Brigham Young, Letters of Brigham Young to His Sons, edited and introduced by Dean C. Jessee [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1974], 338.)

Druce, John

Druce, John, counselor in the Bishopric of the Twelfth Ward, Salt Lake City, Utah, for twenty years, was born June 18, 1818, in the parish of Mitcham, Merton, in Surrey, England. His father, John Druce, was an engraver with an establishment of his own, where his sons were taught in that art. His mother, Sophia Bragg Druce, was for thirty-one years the matron of the church school at Merton, where John received his early education under her tutelage. Later he attended the Arthur Academy for boys in Mitcham. Thoughtful and obedient, he always studied the wishes and interests of his parents. At twelve years of age he taught a small class in the Mitcham Church Sunday school. For a time he worked in a large confectionary establishment, owned by a cousin in London, but did not like the employment, and was glad to return home. He was strongly inclined to study financial questions, and took naturally to mathematics and mechanism. In the year 1840 he made his abode in the city of Manchester; where he was employed in the McEntire engraving department of the Ducie print works. He was very much respected by his employers and fellow workmen and was connected with that establishment as long as he remained in his native land. The year of his removal to Manchester was the year that "Mormonism" made that city its headquarters in the British Isles. Mr. Druce having become acquainted with the Latter-day Saints and their doctrines, was baptized Aug. 4, 1841, by Parley P. Pratt, who was then presiding in Great Britain. Soon Bro. Druce was called into the ministry and labored faithfully in the cause presiding at different times over the branches of Stockport, Crossmore, Salford and Middleton. He remained in England until twenty-eight years of age when he emigrated to America, sailing from Liverpool Feb. 17, 1846, and arriving in New York March 26, 1846. His wife, Julia A. Jinks Druce, whom he had married June 19, 1842, in Manchester, England, sailed for America in August 1846. Bro. Druce went to Haverstraw, Rockland county, in the same State, and was chosen presiding Elder of the Haverstraw branch April 25, 1849. Mr. Druce was employed at the Garnerville Print Works, where he remained for fifteen years. He served the firm faithfully, gained the confidence of his employers and became head of the engraving department. When he was about to leave, they offered him inducements to remain, but financial considerations had no weight with him, as compared with his religious convictions. Deeming it his duty to gather with the Saints, he started for Utah, accompanied by his wife and seven children: He also had with him a cook and two teamsters one of the latter his nephew. He left Haverstraw June 11, 1861, and by railroad and steamboat, via Chicago and St. Joseph, reached Florence, Nebraska, on the 21st of that month. Says he: "It was a very critical time to travel through the States. The Civil War had just begun and the feeling against the saints was quite bitter. At Dunkirk, New York, the company was detained part of a day and all one night, none being allowed to leave the depot. At Quincy, Ill., men gathered about the train, swearing and uttering threats, but none were harmed. At Hannibal, Missouri, the train of cars was taken away by soldiers, in order to clear the road, the guerillas having set fire to the bridge over which the train must pass. None were allowed to leave the depot; all slept on the station floor". Brother Druce had a good outfit of two Chicago wagons, well loaded with supplies, five yoke of oxen and three cows. He and his party

joined Ira Reed's independent company and started across the plains (leaving Florence, on the 4th of July and reaching Salt Lake City Sept. 16, 1861). He bought a house and lot in the Twelfth Ward, where he resided continuously until the day of his death. He also owned at one time property in Pleasant Grove, Utah county. His Twelfth Ward purchase was an old adobe house cold and leaky, insomuch that the family had to open umbrellas and fasten them over the beds to keep off the rain, which, finding its way through the mud roof, at times made matters very unpleasant. As there was no engraving to be done, he determined to learn some other trade, and as building seemed to be a most necessary occupation, he concluded to be a carpenter. Aided by Wilford Woodruff and Daniel H. Wells, he was employed at the carpenter shops on the Temple Block, and there learned the trade in question. Subsequently he helped to erect the Salt Lake Theatre and other notable structures. As builder and contractor he afterwards formed a partnership with William Robinson, and later was associated with his sons, John A. and Edgar W. Druce. Under great difficulties he built up a business that enabled him to support his family in comparative comfort and made a good home lot himself in his declining years. He always had the respect and confidence of those who employed him and was ever honest and conscientious in his dealings. He became the father of nine children. In the Church John Druce held the office of Priest as early as October, 1841, and in April, 1843, he was ordained an Elder by Ezra Clark. February, 1862, witnessed his ordination as a Seventy and in October, 1866, he was a president of the 21st quorum. In 1876-77 he filled a mission to the Eastern States, presiding by appointment of Pres. Brigham Young over the States of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Returning home he was chosen, June 21, 1877, first counselor to the Bishop of the Twelfth Ward, which position he held for over twenty years, under the successive administrations of Bishop Alexander C. Pyper and Bishop Hiram B. Clawson. His name was a synonym for fidelity and devotion to duty. He was particularly attentive to the needs of the poor and helped them in many ways. During his two decades of faithful service as Bishop's counselor he had the unlimited confidence and esteem of the authorities and people of his Ward and all others with whom he was connected. His death was due to paralysis, the first stroke of which came on May 18, 1888. He recovered sufficiently after a few months to enable him to attend to his Ward duties again, but on March 12, 1895, he suffered another stroke, which deprived him of the use of his right arm. For about two years he was unable to walk, without assistance, though his general health remained good, and he was able to attend to business affairs at home. He served faithfully as a counselor in the Bishopric until he was honorably released in June, 1897. Sept. 29, 1897, he was taken in a carriage to the President's office, where he was ordained a Patriarch under the hands of Presidents Geo. Q. Cannon, Joseph F. Smith and Franklin D. Richards, the second-named being mouth. This was the last time that he left his home alive. A week later to the day (Oct. 7, 1897) his spirit suddenly departed from its earthly tabernacle.

(Andrew Jenson, Latter-day Saint Biographical Encyclopedia: A Compilation of Biographical Sketches of Prominent Men and Women in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 4 vols. [Salt Lake Cit 496.]

October 7, 1897 (Thursday)

Patriarch John Druce, an old and faithful member of the Church, died in Salt Lake City.

(Andrew Jenson, Church Chronology: A Record of Important Events Pertaining to the History of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints [Salt Lake City: Deseret News, 1914],)

person he introduced to the church was first YW President- Elmina Shepard Taylor

1880-1904

At the funeral of Elmina Shepard Taylor, first president of the Church's young women, President Joseph F. Smith commented, "I have known a few men and women in the world who do not seek borrowed light, for the light is in them, and they walk in the light, and they have fellowship with Jesus Christ and their associates. . . . All [Elmina's] thoughts and all her energies were directed in the right channel for the right cause." fn

As a young woman, Elmina sought to know the truth and to be baptized by immersion, which she described as the "pattern set by our Savior." Before reading the Book of Mormon, she prayed to know whether or not it was true. Realizing that her life would change dramatically were she to join an unpopular religion, yet unable to "silence [her] convictions,"^{fn} twenty-five-year-old Elmina was baptized on July 5, 1856. She had implicit faith in the promise, "If you will obey the doctrine, you shall know whether it is of God or man." This faith served her well throughout her life, particularly during the twenty-four years she served as the first general president of the Young Ladies' National Mutual Improvement Association (YLMIA).

A New York Childhood

Anstis Elmina Shepard was born in Middlefield, Otsego County, New York, on September 12, 1830, just a few months after The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized. Her parents, David Spaulding and Rozella Bailey Shepard, staunch members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, were regarded as honest and respectable members of their community.^{fn} Before Elmina's birth, they had lost a son, Alfred, who died in infancy; they subsequently had two additional daughters, Ann and Hannah.

Elmina—or Mina, as her family and friends called her—was frail in health but strong in her convictions. Some of her earliest memories were of riding to church in a sleigh in the winter and of reading the Bible with her family. She loved nature and often walked in the woods near her home, stopping occasionally to pray, giving thanks and asking for blessings for her family and herself.^{fn} Part of her childhood was spent on her grandparents' farm in a heavily wooded area of upstate New York, which in the summer had a profusion of flowers, maple and cherry trees, streams, and birds.

Elmina attended public school and then Hardwick Academy, where she was awarded a teaching diploma at age sixteen. For several years she taught school in rural areas, receiving payment in the form of board and room at students' homes. Not liking this practice, she found a more lucrative position through her cousin, Kate McLane, who was teaching in southern New York. Her new school in Haverstraw was two hundred miles from Middlefield. Her parents initially forbade her to go; when they finally relented, she set out in midwinter on her first train ride. She and Kate boarded together in a home in Haverstraw, on the west side of the Hudson River not far from New York City. Elmina enjoyed this beautiful setting in the foothills of the Catskill Mountains, with sailboats and steamers plying the river and elegant summer homes of wealthy New Yorkers dotting its banks.

At age twenty, Elmina joined the Methodist church, to which her parents belonged, and for the next five and a half years she worked actively in the church, although she questioned some doctrines and practices. When she posed questions to her minister, especially about baptism by immersion, his answers confused her even more.

Conversion and Marriage

During the four years she lived in Haverstraw, Elmina became friends with John Druce, a trustee of the school. An elder in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, he gave her a copy of the Book of Mormon and other literature, with the admonition, "You know the Bible says 'prove all things; and hold fast that which is good.'"^{fn} As she studied, she came to believe, and in 1856 she joined the Church. Reflecting on her conversion, she later said, "When I was confirmed by the laying on of hands I received the testimony of [the gospel's] truth which I have never lost from that day to this."^{fn}

Through John Druce, Elmina also met George Hamilton Taylor, a young copper engraver who boarded at the Druce home. He too had been introduced to the gospel by John Druce and had been converted. In his autobiography, George described his early memories of Elmina and her cousin Kate:

"Miss Shepard was of a very lively vivacious disposition, witty, and ever ready at repartee. She was always the favorite whenever the two [Elmina and Kate] were out together and was always able to 'hold

her own' (as the saying is) in any company in which she might be placed. Being myself a direct opposite to these characteristics in her, I soon became very much interested in her, and thought that I would be supremely happy if I could get her for a wife. But I was of such a timid, bashful disposition, and so fearful of being refused, that when in the company of both of them, I paid nearly all my attention to Miss McLane. And I carried this to such a length that Miss Shepard thought that I did not care anything for her, while her cousin thought that I was in earnest in giving her seemingly the preference. I did not act thus to deceive Miss McLane, but as a blind to cover my real feelings from Miss Shepard, until I could discover whether there was any prospect of success if I undertook openly to win her." fn

When Kate went home for a visit, George was finally able to spend time alone with Elmina and express his true feelings for her. Persistent in his courting, he noted, "It was but a few weeks before I had gained her consent to be my wife." fn They were betrothed February 14, 1856. Kate, upon her return, was furious, feeling that both George and Elmina had deceived her, and she soon left Haverstraw. George and Elmina never heard from her again.

When Elmina joined the Church, one school trustee did not want to renew her teaching contract, though another trustee commented that he "did not care whether she was a Catholic, Protestant or Mormon, she had kept the best school they had ever had in that district." fn

Elmina and George decided they would not be married until she finished her current teaching contract; she also wanted to visit her grandparents in upstate New York. However, the day before she was to leave, Elders John Taylor and George A. Smith of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles visited the Druce home and urged the couple to marry immediately. And so George and Elmina were married August 31, 1856, by Elder Taylor, and the next morning she set out for her grandparents' home. George followed her there a month later.

The newlyweds, apparently hesitant to tell her grandparents that not only were they now Mormons but they were also married, kept their marriage a secret and were married again at the grandparents' home. George later wrote, "If we had known as much then . . . as we did afterwards, we would not have gone through the [second] ceremony. But however wrong it was from a religious stand point, our motives were good, as we wished to conciliate them, and take away some of the sting of our joining an unpopular people." fn

After this second wedding ceremony, the couple traveled to Bloomfield, New Jersey, so George could introduce his bride to his parents. His mother later told him that she herself could not have found a more suitable wife for him. Elmina then traveled to Wisconsin to visit her parents, who had moved there from New York (George, however, did not meet his in-laws for several more years).

George and Elmina lived in Haverstraw for the next two and a half years while they prepared to join the Saints in Salt Lake City. In April 1859 they were finally ready to bid farewell to the small community where, George said, "we had spent so many pleasant years, and where so much had transpired to change the current of our lives." fn

The trip to Salt Lake City took five months and involved a variety of modes of travel, including train, steamboat, covered wagon, and on foot. En route to Winter Quarters, near Omaha, Nebraska, they detoured to Ripon, Wisconsin, to visit Elmina's family. The only Latter-day Saint in her family, she related to them a prophecy given to her that they would all be reunited. fn

At Winter Quarters, George was initiated into how to handle oxen and a wagon, while Elmina became quickly immersed in housekeeping—her first such experience, since her entire married life they had boarded at a home in Haverstraw. As the couple did not have children, four other people were assigned to their wagon: a young man who was mentally handicapped, an asthmatic English widow, a thirty-year-old German woman who spoke no English, and an older single woman, who, as George described her, "said she was a descendent of the Salem witches, and her looks and actions did not belie her descent."

"With this singular crowd we started," he said, "all on foot except Mina, who rode in the well-loaded wagon on the 26th day of June 1859. . . . We were strung along, (60 wagons of us) for over a mile, and the antics of wild cattle, and green drivers, was something to remember for a lifetime." fn

(Janet Peterson and LaRene Gaunt, Keepers of the Flame [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1993], 7.)

Treasures of Pioneer History
Treasures of Pioneer History: Vol 4
Utah During Civil War Years En Route To Utah—Civil War Days
page 432

Eliza Jane Druce, daughter of John and Julia Ann Jinks Druce was born September 29, 1850 in Haverstraw, Rockland County, New York. Her parents joined the Latter-day Saint Church in their native England. Eliza was ten years of age when the family left for Utah. There were three sisters older and a brother and two sisters younger than she at the time. The family left Haverstraw early in 1861. They traveled by steamboat through Chicago and St. Joseph moving westward. The Civil War had just begun. The feeling against the Saints was quite bitter, so traveling was very difficult. At Dunkirk, New York the company was detained part of a day and all one night. None were allowed to leave the depot. At Guernsey, Illinois men gathered around the train swearing and uttering threats, but no one was harmed. At Hannibal, Missouri the train of cars was taken away by soldiers in order to clear the road as the guerrillas had set fire to the bridge over which the train must pass. They slept on the station floor. Finally they reached Florence, Nebraska June 21, 1861. Here they joined [p.432]Ira Reed's Independent company and started westward July 4, 1861 bound for Salt Lake City. They had a good outfit—two wagons well loaded with supplies. Eliza and her sisters walked most of the way. They arrived in Salt Lake City September 16, 1861 without further incident. Eliza passed away in February, 1911 at her home in Salt Lake City where she had lived all her life since coming to her Zion.

Julia Ann Jinks

Ancestral File Number: 1T56-PP

!She was married by Elder Charles Miller, and baptized by Willard Richards: !She came to Utah Sept. 16, 1861, with the Ira Reed Company: !Julia Ann Jinks was the wife of John Druce, and president of the Twelfth Was Relief Society for twenty-nine years.:OBJE: D:\DATA\WPFILES\Family History\Pictures\Goins-Packard\juliaj~1.pcx

Julia Ann JINKS [Parents <pafg07.htm>] was born 17 Apr 1824 in Stone, Stafford, England. She died 2 Feb 1915 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah and was buried in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Ut. She was sealed to her parents on 28 May 1896 in the Salt Lake temple. Julia was baptized 27 Jun 1841. She was endowed 29 Nov 1861 in the Logan temple. Julia married John DRUCE on 19 Jun 1842 in Staffordshire, England.<http://oblad.org/r&t/ancestors/pafg07.htm>

They had the following children:

- F i Kate Augusta DRUCE was born 29 Jul 1865 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Ut. She died 8 Oct 1867.
- M ii Edgar Woodfield DRUCE was born 6 Mar 1862 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Ut.
- F iii Amanda May DRUCE was born 17 May 1859 in Haverstraw, Rockland, Ny.
- F iv Ada Eugenia DRUCE was born 2 Feb 1854 in Haverstraw, Rockland, Ny.
- M v John Alma DRUCE was born 28 Jul 1852 in Haverstraw, Rockland, Ny.
- F vi Eliza Jane DRUCE was born 29 Sep 1850 in Haverstraw, Rockland, Ny.
- F vii Harriet Almira (Lilly) DRUCE was born 20 Mar 1848 in Haverstraw, Rockland, Ny.
- F viii Mary Sophia DRUCE was born 2 Mar 1846 in Manchester Lane, England.
- F ix Julia Ann DRUCE was born 7 Aug 1844 in Manchester Lane, England.

Druce, 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 Manchester, 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. The 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 from this enterprise helped in a substantial way to keep the poor of the Ward. Sister Druce became the mother of nine children, namely, Julia A., Mary S., Lily H. A., Eliza J., John A., Ads E., Amanda M., Edgar W., and Kate A. 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.

(Andrew Jenson, Latter-day Saint Biographical Encyclopedia: A Compilation of Biographical Sketches of Prominent Men and Women in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 4 vols. [Salt Lake Cit 498.] Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel, 1847–1868