

JULIA DELIGHT STOCKING WOODRUFF



Born: 28 June 1878, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah, daughter of Wilford Woodruff and Sarah Delight Stocking

Died: 8 Jan. 1954, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah

Julia contracted typhoid fever when she was 6 years old. From that time, on she suffered with ulcers; however, in general, she was quite healthy most of her life. She was baptized on her birthday at the age of 8.

She married John Reuben Park on April 15, 1896 in Salt Lake Temple. He had been raised in the Granger area, and he moved his wife there where she resided for 57 years. They lived at 2200 West and 4100 South, where they farmed and had sheep and chickens. Julia was an excellent seamstress and made all the children's clothing, even when they got older, including their pants. She bottled fruit every year, churned butter and never bought bread. She made it several times a week. She had a huge coal-burning stove in the kitchen. The bedrooms were heated with potbelly stoves.

Their first child was stillborn on 19 May 1897, however she was given the name of Eva. John and Julia were then blessed with three sons, John Wilford on 14 Jun 1898, Milton Rueben on 15 May 1901, and Alexander Delbert (on 3 Nov 1902; and then two more twin sons, Orsen Daniel and Owen Woodruff on 23 July 1904. Another son, Lewis Elmer was born 28 Oct 1906. May Delight was born 22 May 1909, but passed away when she was 5 months old. Another daughter, Emiline, was stillborn on 5 Sept 1910. Ensign was born on 5 Oct 1912. Another daughter, Mary, was born 24 Apr 1916. She lived until 19 Jan 1922 when she passed away after a severe scalding incident. The last child born to John and Julia was Willard Leroy on 28 Aug 1925. If you have been counting you now realize that the family of 12 children consisted of 8 strapping healthy boys and 4 girls; unfortunately, all the young ladies died at birth or very young.

Julia was a visiting teacher for the ward. Each month she would visit 10 ladies. She was an active member of the Tayorsville Second Ward all her life and served for a time as a temple worker. She was also the midwife for many of the women in Granger. She always had a black medical bag packed, which she kept behind the couch, and she had her own buggy. Her boys were taught to hook it up at a minute's notice. She also loved to ride horses. She was a member of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers. She belonged to the Granger Camp and joined Oct. 19, 1931. Her registration number was 4960. We must thank Julia for writing the life story of her mother, Sarah Delight Stocking Woodruff, her father Wilford Woodruff and that of her husband John Reuben Park.

Her brother, John, lived with the family for a time following his wife's death. Julia and her brother were quite close. Her husband, John, passed away in 1952, preceding her by two years. Julia passed away at the age of 76, just one year after her last son was married. One of her children remarked, "She just got old and wore out." Julia lived to be the last surviving daughter of Wilford Woodruff – however two of her brothers (Ensign and John) outlived her. At the time of her death, she had 8 surviving sons and 21 grandchildren.

[Alan J. Hill, 12-3-01, corrected 4-15-20]

SOURCES

Family Group Sheet: Wilford Woodruff and Sarah Delight Stocking: John Reuben Parks and Julia Delight Stocking Woodruff.

Black, Rosa Vida Bischoff, Under Granger Skies: History of Granger, 1849-1963, Utah: Granger Stake Relief Society, 1963.

Memories of Willard Leroy Park.

Obituary, "Mrs. Julia Park, 75 Church worker, Dies", Deseret News and Telegram, Salt Lake City, Saturday, January 9, 1954.