

—ANNIE ELIZA JONES—
1869-1945

ANNIE ELIZA JONES was born the 10th Nov. 1869 in New Hope, Hawkens Co., Tennessee. Her parents were James Allen Jones and Minerva Ann Lawson. Her father served in the Union Army during the Civil War and, as the family was located in Tennessee, they suffered the plunderings and atrocities of both armies. At the end of the War the family possessed only one quilt, everything else having been stolen. They were in constant fear of their lives during this period. Her father witnessed the ruins of the Nauvoo Temple when he was serving in the Army.

Revival meetings were being held in those days but Annie Eliza was not impressed with the teachings. Before her mother died there were some elders of the Church of Jesus Christ traveling through Tennessee. The message they carried appealed to Annie Eliza and she was baptized into the Church.

Her early life was typical of the area in which she lived. They farmed and traded, made their own clothing, and enjoyed home entertainment. Annie's father was illiterate so he encouraged his children to go to school. Annie won many of the spelling matches she took part in. Her uncle was well educated and he was considered the best doctor in Tennessee at the time.

After the death of her mother, Annie Eliza came to Utah to live. She worked in American Fork, Utah; Pocatello, Idaho; and Logan before her marriage to Charles Hopkins Allen 30 Oct. 1890. Her son Ira, by a previous union, was adopted and sealed to her and Charles at the time of the marriage. They came to Mesa, Arizona to live.

She was extremely impressed by the faith and prayers of the Mesa people. After her arrival the area was suffering from a severe drought. President Hakes of the Maricopa Stake was in Phoenix and was approached by a Phoenix lawyer who said to him, "Hakes, why don't you Mormons start praying for rain?" Hakes said, "All right we will." That night it started to rain. It rained until the river flooded, water ran down the main street and into the stores, and the lawyer hurriedly got word to President Hakes saying, "For heaven's sake, you Mormons stop praying!"

She never saw an Indian until she came to Arizona. Until she became used to it she was frightened every time she looked up and saw one peeking in the window (which was a curious habit with the

Indians). The Indians would pass in droves on horses going on a rabbit hunt. They were yelling and excited as they drove their rabbits before them through the brush. The group would circle the rabbits and shoot them with bows and arrows.

Dairying and farming provided an income while her husband did missionary work with the Indians. They raised some fruit and a few vegetables. Raising their family of nine children was very expensive and as her husband was quite elderly she helped out by doing practical nursing. She did lots of charity nursing as well as nursing under Dr. J. B. Nelson, Dr. B. B. Moeur, and Dr. Drane. Obstetrics was her specialty and she assisted in many infant deliveries. One of her favorite stories during her nursing career was of Dr. Moeur trying to persuade a lady who really wasn't sick to get out of bed. She refused so he quickly struck a match and set the bedcovers afire. When Annie later asked him how the lady was doing, he said, "She was fighting fire the last time I saw her!" Most of her nursing was done under Dr. Nelson's direction. He was a convert from Denmark and had been blessed and set apart to become a doctor when in Utah. He used both medical science and the holy priesthood in doctoring the sick. He performed many wonderful miracles of doctoring during the time she nursed for him.

When she became too old to nurse, she visited often with her married children and made rag rugs for them. She had a great sense of humor and enjoyed a hearty joke.

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