

Aaron Johnson Macdonald and Julia Ann Ivins

Aaron Johnson Macdonald was born 12 July 1859 in Springville, Utah, Utah Territory¹, four months after his parents immigrated from Scotland to America. He was the fourth of eleven sons of Alexander Findlay Macdonald and Elizabeth Graham. His father found employment in Springville, Utah Territory, and the family lived there for seven years. Aaron was living with his parents in Provo, Utah, Utah Territory, in 1870.² Then his father was called to St George, Washington, Utah Territory, to manage the construction of the St George Temple and take charge of the tithing office. Aaron and his brothers worked on the St George Temple.³

From 1877-1879, Aaron, his father, and brother Alec went on a mission to Scotland. They took the train east, and upon arriving in Scotland, the saints were “somewhat awe-struck by the towering threesome”. They were able to visit and collect valuable family genealogical research. On their return, his father was in charge of 170 emigrating Saints sailing aboard the steamship *Wyoming*.⁴ In 1880, Aaron was a carpenter, living in Washington, Washington, Utah Territory.⁵

Julia Ann Ivins was born 2 December 1859 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah Territory.⁶ She was the second of eight children of Israel Ivins and Julia Hill.⁷ She was living with her family in Great Salt Lake City 14th Ward, Salt Lake, Utah Territory, in 1860.⁸ When she was two years old, her father was called to take his family to the Cotton Mission about three hundred miles to the south.⁹ In 1870 and 1880, the family was living St George, Washington, Utah Territory.¹⁰

Aaron and Julia were married 12 January 1881 in St George. They had three children, two of whom were premature twins.¹¹ Aaron went into business with his father-in-law, a doctor. They ran a drug store in St George, and later a second store in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory.¹² His family lived in Silver Reef for a short time, then they moved to St George.

In 1883, Aaron has received the contract for doing the wood work on the new building of Guss Ellis & Company in Mesa City, Arizona Territory¹³ (Aaron’s father had been called to move to Mesa City and was serving as stake president and mayor¹⁴). Aaron and Julie played in dramatic productions, sang duets, and gave music lessons. Julie gave lessons on the organ and Aaron on the banjo. Julie was also a milliner, making and selling women’s hats.¹⁵

¹ Membership of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1830-1848.

² United States Census, 1870.

³ *Bluthfamilyforever.blogspot.com*

⁴ Utah Early Mormon Missionary Database.

⁵ United States Census, 1880.

⁶ Utah Early Mormon Missionary Database.

⁷ *Familysearch.org*

⁸ United States Census, 1860.

⁹ Our Pioneer Heritage, Vol. 6, p. 404.

¹⁰ United States Census, 1870, 1880.

¹¹ *Familysearch.org*

¹² Israel Ivins, A Biography, by Kimball D Erdman, 1969, p. 37.

¹³ *Weekly Republican* [Phoenix, Arizona, 23 August 1884, p. 1.

¹⁴ *Bluthfamilyforever.blogspot.com*

¹⁵ Autobiography of Jessie Marguerite Pace Graham.

There are two stories of Aaron's death. A newspaper reported that he was injured when he was thrown from a wagon while taking the mail to Phoenix. He suffered a concussion and congestion of the brain, and after four hours, died.¹⁶ His step-daughter reported that he was roofing a house when he fell from a heart attack or ruptured blood vessel and died almost immediately.¹⁷ Either way, he died 5 July 1884. He was buried in Mesa, Maricopa, Arizona Territory. Julia received \$1,500 from his life insurance.¹⁸

After Aaron's death, Julia lost a pair of twins, born prematurely, and they were buried beside their father. She returned to St George and lived in the home of her father, a doctor.¹⁹ In September 1884, she left Mesa City with her child and went to Salt Lake City, Utah Territory, to study obstetrics.²⁰ In 1885, Julia studied under Dr. Ellis Reynolds Shipp (one of the first females to earn a medical degree in Utah Territory). She passed her final examinations in obstetrics, and practiced midwifery in St George.²¹

Julia married John Ezra Pace in August 1888, although she did not take his name,²² and eventually had three more children. A month after their marriage, she went on a mission to Ann Arbor, Michigan, to complete her medical training.²³ Her little son was left in the care of his grandparents.²⁴ She studied for three years but was unable to finish her course because of heart disease.²⁵ Her cousin, Heber J. Grant who was in the east, accompanied her home as she was too ill to travel alone. She gradually regained her strength and resumed her home duties again.²⁶

Due to persecutions of polygamy in the area, Julia went to Salt Lake City for the birth of her daughter. Her health was very poor and she had a long recovery before she could return to St George.²⁷ She began to write poems and articles for various journals and magazines.²⁸

In 1891, she was a matron at the Brigham Young Academy (a high school at the time but eventually became Brigham Young University).²⁹ She served as secretary and treasurer of the Washington County Silk Association, a member of the general board of the Primary Association, a writer for the *Young Woman's Journal* and the *Juvenile Instructor*, and won a prize for a poem which Evan Stephens set to music. She was a charter member of the Union Club in St George and a charter member and vice president of the Utah Women's Press Club (for women engaged in active

¹⁶ Autobiography of Jessie Marguerite Pace Graham.

¹⁷ *Weekly Republican* [Phoenix, Arizona], 4 September 1884, p. 3.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ Autobiography of Jessie Marguerite Pace Graham.

²⁰ *The Young Woman's Journal*, 1900, Vol 11, p. 245.

²¹ *Salt Lake Herald*, 16 April 1885, p. 8; An Ann Arbor Medical Student Our Pioneer Heritage, Vol. 6, p. 404.

²² *The Young Woman's Journal*, 1900, Vol 11, p. 245.

²³ Utah, Early Mormon Missionary Database.

²⁴ Autobiography of Jessie Marguerite Pace Graham.

²⁵ *The Dispatch* [Provo, Utah], 29 July 1891, p. 4); *The Young Woman's Journal*, 1900, Vol 11, p. 245.

²⁶ Autobiography of Jessie Marguerite Pace Graham.

²⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸ *The Young Woman's Journal*, 1900, Vol 11, p. 245.

²⁹ *The Dispatch* [Provo, Utah], 29 July 1891, p. 4).

journalistic or newspaper work).³⁰ Julia set out to collect information about every known miracle that had been performed in the Mormon Church, with the intent of publishing it in book form.³¹

In 1895, she began caring for her feeble parents. After their deaths, she was the proprietor of the St George Millinery Store.³² Julia died 17 January 1900 at home in her bed, with her five-month old baby in her arms.³³ She left four children under eleven years old, who were raised by her husband's other wife Phoebe.³⁴ She was buried in St George.³⁵ Her second husband died in 1932 in St George and is buried there.³⁶



Julia Ann Ivins and her mother Julia Hill Ivins
(image from *Familysearch.org*)

³⁰ An Ann Arbor Medical Student Our Pioneer Heritage, Vol. 6, p. 404; Julia Ivins McDonald Pace: Obituary at *Familysearch.org*; Heart Throbs of the West, Vol 11, p. 231; *Salt Lake Herald*, 31 October 1894, p. 5; *Deseret Evening News*, 3 February 1900, p. 8; *The Union* [St George, Utah], 9 January 1897, p. 3.

³¹ *Millennial Star*, 1894, Vol 56, p. 15; *Deseret Weekly*, 1893, Vol 47, p. 767.

³² *The Union* [St George, Utah], 28 August 1897, p. 4.

³³ *The Young Woman's Journal*, 1900, Vol 11, p. 247.

³⁴ Autobiography of Jessie Marguerite Pace Graham.

³⁵ *The Manti Messenger*, 20 January 1900; Journal of Mary Goddard Whitehead; *Familysearch.org*

³⁶ Utah, Death and Military Death Certificates, 1904-1961.

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16-6m At Dr. Ivins' residence.

(Image from *The Union* [St George, Utah], 28 August 1897, p. 4)

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Julia A McDonald was a writer for the *Young Woman's Journal*
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