

# Amelia Leicht Kemple More

Amelia Leicht was born 8 February 1856 in West Bromwich, Staffordshire, England.<sup>1</sup> She was the second of three daughters of George Leicht and Mary Ann Hunt. Her father died when Amelia was not yet two years old and her mother remarried. Amelia had eleven step or half siblings from her mother's various marriages. In 1861, Amelia was living with her mother, sisters, aunt and grandparents in West Bromwich, Staffordshire, England.<sup>2</sup>

Amelia's mother joined the Mormon Church and wanted to immigrate to America. She married a man with three sons on the ship<sup>3</sup> as they immigrated from Liverpool to New York City on the "General McClellan" in 1864.<sup>4</sup> The family departed Wyoming, Nebraska, to cross the plains to Great Salt Lake Valley on 21 July 1864 with the William S Warren Company. They arrived 4 October 1864<sup>5</sup> and settled in St George, Washington, Utah Territory, where they appeared on the 1870 census.<sup>6</sup>

Amelia married John Kemple in 1874 in Middleton, Washington, Utah Territory. They had six children. They made their home in Silver Reef, where John was employed in the mines.<sup>7</sup> John was involved in the initial discovery of silver ore in Silver Reef. Their son John Orson Kemple described growing up in Silver Reef: "We children ran wild like Indians and in the summer us boys spent our time swimming, hunting, and trapping quail and grey squirrels. Fighting wasps was one of our favorite pastimes..."<sup>8</sup>

Their youngest child was born in Silver Reef. Amelia was made a naturalized citizen in 1879.<sup>9</sup> On the 1880 census, John, Amelia, two of their sons, and six boarders were living in Star, Beaver, Utah Territory.<sup>10</sup> They moved back to Silver Reef in 1885, living there until 1890.<sup>11</sup> Their son John Orson attended school in Silver Reef until the winter of 1886, when the family again moved to South Star, Beaver, Utah,<sup>12</sup> for six years. They were isolated there and had to haul water ten miles by wagon.<sup>13</sup> In 1891, the family moved to the White Hills Country in Mohave, Arizona. They also lived for a time in Los Angeles, California; Chloride, Arizona; and Yellow Pine and Goodsprings, Nevada.<sup>14</sup>

John had squandered his fortune again on new prospecting, and Amelia finally divorced him. She married John H. More, a gold miner, about 1898. She became quite the businesswoman in Arizona. She had a restaurant business; there was an advertisement for a social dance "for the young folks of the camp" held at the Kemple restaurant in 1899.<sup>15</sup> On the 1900 census, Amelia lived with her new husband and six of her children in Chloride, Mohave, Arizona Territory.<sup>16</sup> She ran a restaurant in

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<sup>1</sup> Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel, 1847-1868.

<sup>2</sup> England Census, 1861.

<sup>3</sup> Mormon Migration Index.

<sup>4</sup> New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957 (Amelia Cornwall).

<sup>5</sup> Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel, 1847-1868.

<sup>6</sup> United States Census, 1870.

<sup>7</sup> Biography of Amelia Leicht Kemple More.

<sup>8</sup> John Orson Kemple: An Autobiography.

<sup>9</sup> United States Census, 1920.

<sup>10</sup> United States Census, 1880.

<sup>11</sup> *Salt Lake Herald*, various issues in November and December 1890.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid; [Biography of John Kemple](#), by great grandson James E. Kemple.

<sup>13</sup> John Orson Kemple: An Autobiography.

<sup>14</sup> Amelia Leicht Kemple More: A Biography, by James E Kemple, at [wchsutah.org](http://wchsutah.org)

<sup>15</sup> *Mohave County Miner*, 1 April 1899, p. 4.

<sup>16</sup> United States Census, 1900.

Chloride, Arizona, in 1902. It is of historic interest to note that she hired only “white help”.<sup>17</sup> Amelia and her two daughters participated in an excursion to Santa Catalina Island in Los Angeles, California, in 1903.<sup>18</sup> John More and Amelia were no longer living together by 1910, but it is unknown if they divorced or just separated. John More continued to work as a gold miner in Mohave, Arizona, until he died between 1930 and 1940.

Meanwhile, John Kemple [first husband] had struck it rich again, this time in gold.<sup>19</sup> In 1895, he went back to Silver Reef to test the mine properties belonging to Woolley, Lund and Judd.<sup>20</sup> He died in 1918 in Kingman, Mohave, Arizona and was buried in the Mountain View Cemetery.<sup>21</sup>

In 1920, Amelia was living with her daughter and grandson in Goodsprings, Clark, Nevada, and helping with her daughter’s boarding house.<sup>22</sup> In 1930, she was a seamstress in private homes, living with her daughter’s family in Glendale, Los Angeles, California.<sup>23</sup> By 1936, she was living in Goldroad, Arizona, where she operated a café.<sup>24</sup> In 1940, she was living with her daughter and grandson in Goodsprings Clark, Nevada.<sup>25</sup> She died of neck cancer on 14 December 1946 in St George, Washington, Utah, and was buried in the St George Cemetery.



Advertisement for Amelia’s restaurant in Chloride, Arizona, 1902  
(Amelia Leicht Kemple More: A Biography, by James E Kemple, at [wchsutah.org](http://wchsutah.org))

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<sup>17</sup> Amelia Leicht Kemple More: A Biography, by James E Kemple, at [wchsutah.org](http://wchsutah.org)

<sup>18</sup> *Los Angeles Times*, 7 June 1903, p. 11.

<sup>19</sup> [Biography of John Kemple](#), by great grandson James E. Kemple.

<sup>20</sup> *Salt Lake Tribune*, 30 October 1895, p. 6.

<sup>21</sup> Arizona Death, 1870-1951.

<sup>22</sup> United States Census, 1920.

<sup>23</sup> United States Census, 1930.

<sup>24</sup> Amelia Leicht Kemple More: A Biography, by James E Kemple, at [wchsutah.org](http://wchsutah.org)

<sup>25</sup> United States Census, 1940.



Amelia Leicht Kemple More  
(image from *Amelia Leicht Kemple More: A Biography*, by James E Kemple, at [wchsutah.org](http://wchsutah.org))



Amelia Leicht Kemple (image from *Familysearch.org*)



(Image from *Billiongraves.com*)