

## George William Crouch

George William Crouch was born 12 March 1834<sup>1</sup> in Washington, Hempstead, Arkansas. He was the sixth of seven children of Sanford Crouch and Elizabeth Bean. His father died when he was two years old. In 1840, George was living with his mother and siblings in Vineyard Township, Washington, Arkansas.<sup>2</sup> On the 1850 census, he was a student, living with his mother and brothers in Prairie, Washington, Arkansas.<sup>3</sup>

George married Margaret Amelia Faught in 1853 in Arkansas.<sup>4</sup> She was a Cherokee Indian<sup>5</sup>; they had two daughters. George, Margaret, and their two daughters immigrated to Utah with the Warren Walling Company. They left Florence, Nebraska on 30 May 1860 and arrived in the Great Salt Lake Valley, Utah Territory, on 9 August 1860.<sup>6</sup> Margaret was found frozen to death in a tent in January 1866 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah Territory.<sup>7</sup> She was buried in the potter's field there.<sup>8</sup>

George married Eliza Campbell Brown in 1862 in Salt Lake City; she had small children from a previous marriage and they had one daughter together. On the 1870 census, he was a school teacher, living with his wife and two children in Beaver, Beaver, Utah Territory.<sup>9</sup> In 1873, he was the editor of the *Beaver Enterprise* newspaper.<sup>10</sup> He worked as a printer for the *Salt Lake Tribune*, but gave up his newspaper job to become Connor's agent in the Star mining districts near Beaver, Beaver, Utah Territory.<sup>11</sup>

In 1878, Joseph Ellis Johnson sold his newspaper business to George, who commenced publication of the *Silver Reef Miner* newspaper at Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory.<sup>12</sup> George and J N Louder paid \$550 in one initial payment and two promissory notes to be paid within six months. If the amounts were not paid when due, then Johnson would be able to sell at public auction.<sup>13</sup>

A letter from George to Johnson on 18 May 1879 indicated that he would pay but would claim a reasonable rebate on some items that were not satisfactory, and would need a little more time. The next day another letter indicated that George had sold the press and material to Messrs. Pike and Dunham and would make payment as soon as the money was obtained. The two promissory notes were still attached to the contract, so it is unknown if those payments were ever made. It is interesting to note that Johnson retained the right to have one column of advertising in each issue of the paper for one year, free of charge.<sup>14</sup>

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

<sup>2</sup> United States Census, 1840.

<sup>3</sup> United States Census, 1850.

<sup>4</sup> Arkansas Marriages, 1837-1944.

<sup>5</sup> Utah Salt Lake County Death Records, 1849-1949.

<sup>6</sup> Utah Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel Database, 1847-1868.

<sup>7</sup> Utah Deaths and Burials, 1888-1946.

<sup>8</sup> Salt Lake City Internment Record.

<sup>9</sup> United States Census, 1870.

<sup>10</sup> *Chroniclingamerica.loc.gov*

<sup>11</sup> *Salt Lake Tribune*, 10 July 1872; *Corinne Reporter*, 8 July 1872.

<sup>12</sup> *The Union* [St George, Utah], 18 October 1878, p. 3.

<sup>13</sup> *History of Washington County*, by Douglas D Alder and Karl F Brooks, p. 180; *Joseph Ellis Johnson, Pioneer*, by Rufus Johnson, 1961, pp. 441-2.

<sup>14</sup> *Joseph Ellis Johnson, Pioneer*, by Rufus Johnson, 1961, pp. 441-2.

The *Silver Reef Miner* was published semi-weekly, on Wednesdays and Saturday. It was four pages long, each page measuring 19x26 inches. A subscription cost \$8.<sup>15</sup> Below is a list of the items included in the sale of the newspaper business:

1 Printing press and distributor	\$350.00
3 galleys, 3 sticks	7.50
19 fonts job type	38.00
15 (type) cases	18.75
1 galley stand, 1 double rack	10.00
240 lbs. body type	100.00
1 back table, 2 chases	6.50
1 imposing stone, 1 sheepsfoot	7.75
4 side sticks, 1 roller mould	4.50
1 stove and pipe	7.00
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	\$550.00

Details of newspaper outfit sold by J E Johnson to George W Crouch  
(image from Joseph Ellis Johnson, *Pioneer*, by Rufus Johnson, 1961, p. 441)

On the 1880 census, George was a printer, living with his wife and daughter in Beaver, Beaver, Utah Territory.<sup>16</sup> He moved to Ashley's Fork, Uintah, Utah Territory, in 1882, where he was the Uintah county clerk.<sup>17</sup> He took over James Gibson's store and was the leading merchant in town in 1885.<sup>18</sup> He shipped merchandise from ZCMI in Salt Lake City to stock his store.<sup>19</sup> By 1889, he was the only merchant left in town and did a good business even though the area was having a hard time.<sup>20</sup>

In 1890, Eliza died from a stroke in Ashley; she was buried in the Salt Lake City Cemetery.<sup>21</sup> George continued living in Ashley. He was elected a delegate to the Ogden convention in 1892.<sup>22</sup> Eventually, sickness compelled him to find someone to care for him, so he moved into the home of William Gibson, his stepson.<sup>23</sup> George died 12 April 1894 in Ashley, Uintah, Utah Territory. He was buried on William Gibson's farm by his own request.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Rowell's American Newspaper Directory, 1879, p. 362.

<sup>16</sup> United States Census, 1880.

<sup>17</sup> *Salt Lake Herald*, 31 October 1882, p. 9.

<sup>18</sup> *Salt Lake Evening Democrat*, 21 May 1885, p. 4.

<sup>19</sup> *Salt Lake Evening Democrat*, 8 September 1885, p. 4; 22 October 1885, p. 4.

<sup>20</sup> *Salt Lake Herald*, 21 September 1889, p. 3.

<sup>21</sup> *Salt Lake Herald*, 11 April 1890, p. 7.

<sup>22</sup> *Salt Lake Herald*, 14 May 1892, p. 2.

<sup>23</sup> *Salt Lake Tribune*, 23 April 1894, p. 3.

<sup>24</sup> *Salt Lake Tribune*, 23 April 1894, p. 3; *Deseret Evening News*, 23 April 1894, p. 5; *Findagrave.com*