

Julia Hills Johnson

Julia Hills Johnson was born 27 September 1862 in Spring Lake, Utah, Utah Territory. She was the seventh of eight children of Joseph Ellis Johnson and Hannah Maria Goddard. Her father took multiple wives so Julia had numerous half-siblings.¹ In 1870, the family included three wives and fifteen children; they lived in St George, Washington, Utah Territory.² When silver was discovered in nearby Silver Reef in 1876, her father opened a store and started a newspaper in town. He also ran a boarding house where the miners could pay for meals, cooked by Julia and her sisters, who traveled back and forth from Washington City by mule. When the store burned in the great fire of 1879, her father quickly rebuilt.³

Julia married James Leslie Cassidy in 1880 in Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory.⁴ James was a carpenter in the silver mines and he and Julia were living in the Harrison House hotel in 1880.⁵ They had seven children (the oldest child was born in Silver Reef). They lived in Washington City and then moved to Idaho and then to Arizona Territory by 1887. They settled in Nephi (four miles from Tempe, Arizona), where Julia's half-brother Benjamin and other relatives were living.⁶ The idea had started with Julia's grandmother (whom she had been named after) while the family lived in Nauvoo. Her father revived the idea of the extended family emigrating to a new place to live together.⁷

It was in Nephi and later Tempe that James put his carpentry, millwright and mechanic skills to work - building a stamp mill for the local gold mine, a home for his family, and buildings in Prescott, Arizona.⁸ In 1895, Julia filed for divorce on grounds of abandonment.⁹ She married Thomas Hansen Jensen in 1895 in Nephi, Maricopa, Arizona.¹⁰ They had six children. On the 1900 census, Julia is listed with husband James Cassidy as well as seven Cassidy children and three Jensen children.¹¹ Clearly an error was made, as Julia was married to Thomas Jensen at the time, bearing his children, and James had gone to South Africa to mine and fight in the Boer War.¹²

On the 1910 census, Julia was living with her husband Thomas, a dairy rancher, six children (four Jensen and two Cassidy), and her widowed mother, in Otay, San Diego, California. Julie mad and sold candies in a shop in San Diego.¹³ She died 16 November 1918 in San Diego, California,¹⁴ and was buried in the Mount Hope Cemetery.

¹ *Familysearch.org*

² United States Census, 1870.

³ Joseph Ellis Johnson, *Trail to Sundown*, by Rufus David Johnson, pp. 438, 447, 449.

⁴ Arizona County Marriages, 1871-1964.

⁵ United States Census, 1880.

⁶ *Arizona Republic*, 10 September 2015; 17 September 2015.

⁷ *Familysearch.org*

⁸ *Weekly Journal-Miner*, 17 September 1890, p. 3; 8 April 1891, p. 4; 10 June 1891, p. 3; 9 March 1892, p. 1; 26 September 194, p. 3.

⁹ *Weekly Journal-Miner*, 2 June 1895, p. 5.

¹⁰ Arizona County Marriages, 1871-1964.

¹¹ United States Census, 1900.

¹² *Weekly Journal-Miner*, 9 May 1900, et al. See research paper on James Leslie Cassidy.

¹³ Contributed by Sue Holmes on Familysearch.org

¹⁴ California Death Index, 1905-1939.



Julia Hills Johnson Cassidy Jensen
(image from *Familysearch.org*)



(Image from *Findagrave.com*)