

Charlotte Jenkins Cole

From the original Sexton Records:

Not listed

Birth Date: October 6, 1846

Birth Place: Winter Quarters, Nebraska Territory

Death Date: Nov 1846

Cause of Death: Unknown

Burial Place: Cutler's Park calculated on death date

Father's Name: John Cole

Mother's Maiden Name: Charlotte Jenkins

Which Winter Quarters Ward or Iowa Branch was the family: Unknown

Where was the family in the 1850 U. S. Census? Listed as family #276 in Utah County, Utah Territory

Which Pioneer wagon train took the family west? John initially traveled to the Valley in 1850 with his wife, Rachel, and three children. He is seen on the plains again in 1856 when he assisted in the rescue effort of 1856. They were in the William Snow and Joseph Young Company.

Any interesting facts or stories that might have been submitted.

John Cole was born May 19, 1821, in Bishopsfroom, Hereford, England and christened on July 8, 1821. He was the second of eight children born to William and Ann Fenner Cole. As a young man, John Cole was an apprentice for seven years as a wheelwright. This was his trade and no doubt had he remained in his native land he would have followed this line of work. He joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints with his father, mother, and the following brothers and sisters: Elizabeth, John, Sarah, William, Richard, Charlotte and Mary. Eliza, the fourth child died in infancy. They were among the people who were baptized in 1840 at the John Benbow farm by Wilford Woodruff who was on a mission for the church in England with the Twelve Apostles.

Charlotte Jenkins was born August 9, 1824 at Mathon, Worcestershire, England. She was the seventh of eight children born to Thomas and Hester Bruton (or Burton or Brewton) Jenkins. Charlotte's mother died when she was five years old. Charlotte was about sixteen when she joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints with her father, her sister Mary and her two brothers, William and Edward. William's church record says he was baptized March 16, 1840. Other siblings were named Hannah, Ann, Thomas and Hannah. It is unclear why two children were named Hannah. Perhaps one died in infancy.

John Cole and Charlotte Jenkins were married in Nauvoo August 25, 1843 by James Hill. They owned property in Nauvoo. A map can be obtained in the land recording office that shows the

location. John built a small home and Uncle Jenkins lived nearby. He raised grain and potatoes and he had a garden. The family members were comfortable, but at times John Cole was dissatisfied for they were lacking the means to make them as comfortable as they were in England. His wife, Charlotte's steadfast devotion to her religion and the encouragement and love of Aunt Betsy, his sister, helped sustain him through the times of discontentment. The circumstances and birth dates of their children suggest that there were trials and afflictions which John and Charlotte encountered as members the Church in the Nauvoo period and afterward. The first child born to them was a girl they named, Rachel. She was born on July 17, 1844 at Nauvoo, a short time after the martyrdom of Joseph and Hyrum Smith. Their second child, Charlotte, was born October 6, 1846, in a covered wagon at Winter Quarters. The child lived just a few weeks and then died in November 1846. Their third child William Edward was born July 3, 1848 at Council Bluffs, Iowa and their fourth child Joseph Jenkins was born in a covered wagon on the plains of Nebraska June 26 1850. While living in Nauvoo, John Cole's father, William, died very suddenly while stoking a log in the fireplace. After the death of his father, his mother, Ann, became homesick and dissatisfied. She returned to England with William, Charlotte and Richard. Richard, not wanting to leave, cried, "I'll come back when I am a man." Sarah Cole, John's sister, married a Mr. Griswold and moved to Michigan. The other children all came to Utah. The idea of the Saints coming west was inspired by the Prophet Joseph Smith at a time when there was peace and prosperity in Nauvoo and when every effort was being made by the leaders of the church to strengthen the settlement of the Mormon people in Hancock County and the vicinity. On Saturday, August 6, 1842, the Prophet uttered his famous prophecy that "the Saints would continue to suffer much affliction and would be driven to the Rocky Mountains. Many would apostatize, others would be put to death by our persecutors or lose their lives in consequence of exposure or disease. Some of you will live to go and assist in making settlements and build cities and see the Saints become a mighty people in the midst of the Rocky Mountains." Charlotte was well acquainted with the prophet Joseph and his brother Hyrum. She joined the Relief Society in Nauvoo and was an active participant. She was at Nauvoo June 27, 1844, the night Joseph and Hyrum were assassinated. When she described the night she said, with tears in her eyes, "It was awful. The cows moored, the horses neighed, the dogs barked and howled and even the blades of grass hung their heads. We had lost our prophet and what were we going to do." At a meeting held August 8, 1844, in Nauvoo, Sidney Rigdon addressed the assembled church members for about an hour and a half. He presented himself to the congregation as a guardian for the church. The longer he talked, the more the people were convinced that he was without inspiration from the Lord. President Brigham Young arrived after the meeting had begun. While he addressed the congregation he was miraculously transfigured before the people. They beheld the Prophet, Joseph Smith, and heard his voice as naturally as ever they did when he was living. In describing the meeting Charlotte said, "He looked like Joseph and he sounded like Joseph, but we knew it was Brigham Young." The first task before the Saints after the death of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, and after the Twelve had assumed leadership as the presiding quorum of the Church, was to complete the temple. There was an urgency to have all the Saints receive their endowments before going into the wilderness. On February 7, 1846, John and Charlotte Cole were among the group of over 600 Saints who received their endowments. This was the last day the temple was open for ordinances. The work had been going day and night with very little rest for the workers.

The saints had begun their exodus across the Mississippi River. It is not known when the Coles left Nauvoo, but by October they were camped near Council Bluffs where John Cole worked sawing lumber and making wagons to equip families before they started for Utah. In addition to her motherly duties, Charlotte took care of two yoke of oxen and two cows.

([https://www.familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/2860304?p=19293281&returnLabel=John%20Cole%20\(KWNN-2VN\)&returnUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.familysearch.org%2Ftree%2Fperson%2Fmemories%2FKWNN-2VN](https://www.familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/2860304?p=19293281&returnLabel=John%20Cole%20(KWNN-2VN)&returnUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.familysearch.org%2Ftree%2Fperson%2Fmemories%2FKWNN-2VN))