

JULIA HILL

Born: January 15, 1833 in England

Age: 23

Willie Handcart Company



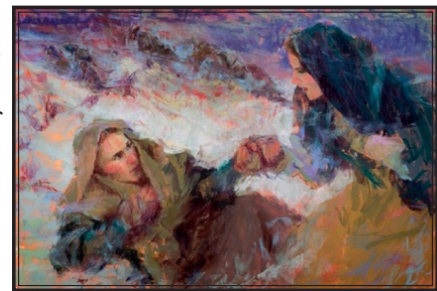
When Julia was a young girl, her cousin came to visit. Instead of talking about gossip and stories, her cousin only talked about a new religion. Julia and her sister, Emily, were curious. They investigated The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and Emily wanted to be baptized, but her parents were against it, and the Elders did not want to baptize her over her parents' objections. Later Julia became converted and the girls were both baptized when Emily was 16 and Julia was 19 years old.

Julia and Emily were anxious to emigrate to Utah to be with the other Saints. Julia went to work in a distant city as an apprentice to a milliner. Emily joined her there later. In 1856, they boarded the ship *Thornton* to America, arriving in New York and then to Iowa City, Iowa. On their handcart journey, some people in Iowa tried to persuade the girls not to go on in this fashion. They even gave them anonymous notes. Julia and Emily paid them no heed. The soldiers at Fort Laramie also tried to persuade the young single women to stay, but Julia and Emily persevered.

One experience that happened to the Willie Company, and thus affected the Hill sisters, was recorded in the Willie Company Journal: "25 July 1856 - This morning at 7 a.m. we left the Camp and traveled as far as Muddy Creek, 13 miles. We stopped twice by the way to rest[,] the weather being very warm[.] Just before we camped we were overtaken by the Sheriff with a warrant to search the waggons, &c. under the idea that the women were detained contrary to their wish[,] with ropes. After showing their authority, they had permission to examine any part of the company & were fully satisfied that the report was without foundation, & left us."

Julia and Emily volunteered to assist a young new widow, Martha Campkin, with her five small children. These women suffered many tribulations. Julia's health broke down and she was pulled in the handcart part of the way by her sister and friends. One time Emily lifted Julia from the snow and got her going again after she collapsed. Israel Ivins was one of the rescuers of the Willie company. Three months after arriving in the Salt Lake Valley, Julia became Israel's second wife. Due to the invasion of Johnston's Army in 1857, Israel moved his families to Provo. When they returned in 1858, the exodus had been very hard on Julia and her newborn son, Israel, Jr. The baby died a month later. Julia and Israel had 8 children. Four of them died at young ages. Julia died unexpectedly at the age of 63. Emily wrote a poem entitled "My Sister," in loving remembrance, February 14, 1895. The following are excerpts:

"Two of a household band, Two in the flush of youth, Came hither from their home afar, Led Zionward by Faith's bright star, And love of God and truth. Boughs from a parent stem, By sacred kinship wed, Are parted—one of them Is left—and one is dead. ... Hail, ransomed, cheery soul! Rescu'd from earthly bands, Uplifted from this world of ours, Thou art at home amid the flowers, That bloom in fairer lands, Thou art at home, indeed, With friends beloved of yore, From all affliction freed, Where vexing cares are o'er. ... Expanded by thy scope, Exalted is thy sphere, And yet, we fondly hope, Thou wilt at times be near. ... Oh, if thou hast the power, Befriend us here below, Attend us in the hour, When through death's vale we go!



Sisters in Zion
by Julie Rogers
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Sources: Orson F. Whitney, *History of Utah*, 1904, vol IV, 593-95; "Sweet Singers of Zion: Life Sketches of Emily Hill Woodmansee and Julia Hill Ivins," by Edith Ivins Lamoreaux, *The Relief Society Magazine*, vol. VIII, October 1921, no. 10, p. 562-570; Daughters of Utah Pioneers history files; "Julia and Emily: Sisters in Zion," by Debbie J. Christensen, *Ensign*, June 2004, 34; Poem in Leonard J. Arrington Historical Archives, Utah State University, Special Collections. See Hill sisters' history and more artwork in *Follow Me To Zion* by Andrew Olsen and Jolene Allphin, Deseret Book, 2013.