

# The History of Jane Williams Backhouse

Obtained from the *Daughters of the Utah Pioneers*, June 2007

Author: not stated, though it is in the same format as other histories written by Cora Hazelgren

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## JANE WILLIAMS BACKHOUSE

BORN: 30 September, 1824, Stockport, Lancs., England

Died: 22 July, 1898, Pleasant Grove, Utah

Pioneer: September, 1861; Horace Eldrige[sic] Co

Travelled[sic] by ox team

**Biography:** Jane Williams Backhouse  
**Birth date:** 30 September 1824, Stockport, Lancs. England  
**Died:** 22 July 1898; Pleasant Grove, Utah  
**Parents' Full Name:** Samuel Williams and Mary Ann Moss  
**Pioneer:** September, 1861; Horace Ledridge[sic] Co.; Travelled[sic] by ox team but she walked the entire distance  
**Spouse:** James Backhouse  
**Married:** 1847; Somewhere close to Blackburn, Lancs. England  
**Spouse Death:** 16 May 1909 in Pleasant Grove, Utah

### Their Children:

Mary Alice	14 March 1849
William Orson	13 August 1851
James Williams	27 April 1854
John Thomas	14 August 1857
Sarah Jane	8 March 1861
Eleanor	6 October 1862

### Accomplishments:

Jane was a strong and stalwart member of the Mormon church and her faith sustained her on the journey from England to Salt Lake City. She walked every step of the way from Nebraska to Salt Lake City. Along the way she buried her infant daughter [Sarah Jane] and was so grief stricken she had to be carried across the Platte River, but on she went.

Jane was a very good cook and before they started on the trip with the ox teams she made a large supply of yeast cakes from hops and cornmeal. Along the journey she shared the yeast cakes with the women in the company until they didn't have enough themselves to finish the journey.

Jane was an exceptional bread maker and on the ship from England she baked bread and then had her husband sell it on the streets of New York when they landed.

Jane Williams Backhouse was known for her generosity and her willingness to help others. She was an excellent midwife and her services were constantly in demand. In later years she did a lot of geneology[sic] and temple work. She was loved by her family and neighbors who found her always ready to share whatever she had with others and to help in her quiet, kindly ways.

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### Notes on the above history

The above document was obtained on 29 June 2007 by Roger E. Grua, great-great-great grandson of Jane Williams Backhouse. The original document was done completely in capital letters, and a few formatting changes were also made for easier reading. It appears that this document was taken from a history titled *Mary Alice Backhouse Ward*, written by Suzanna Mae Clark Grua in 1964. There is also

another history titled *Biographies of James Backhouse and Jane Williams Backhouse*, which appears to have been written by Suzanna Mae Clark Grua, as there are notes on the cover sheet and margins that appear to be in her handwriting. These histories are also available at the *Daughters of the Utah Pioneers* museum. Also note that this history lists that they came in the Horace Eldredge Company. According to *Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel (1847-1868)*, the Horace Eldredge Company did not come across the plains in 1861, but rather in 1858. This source lists the family among those in the Ira Eldredge Company (1861).

Sources used:

- 1) *Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel (1847-1868)*; Jane Williams Backhouse, Pioneer Company: Ira Eldredge Company (1861); see website at:  
<http://www.lds.org/churchhistory/library/pioneercompanysearch/1,15773,3966-1,00.html>  
Records of Suzanna Mae Clark Grua, great-granddaughter of Jane Williams Backhouse
- 2) *Biography of Mary Alice Backhouse Ward*, by Suzanna Mae Clark Grua, 1964.
- 3) *Biographies of James Backhouse and Jane Williams Backhouse*, probably written by Suzanna Mae Clark Grua

Note: there is another document also obtained from the DUP Museum in Salt Lake City which is entitled "Biography" of Jane Williams Backhouse. It was also submitted by Cora Hazelgren. The information is similar but there are some differences so it has been digitized and filed and posted as a separate document. August 18, 2007 REG