

## JOHN WELCH

John Welch, son of Nicholas Welch and Elizabeth Briggs, was born 6 January, 1823 in the family home on Brampton Moor, near Chesterfield, Derbyshire, England. In his youth he worked as apprentice for George Worstenholm & Sons, Sheffield, England, who operated a cutlery business, and which business still operates there, successfully. With this firm he was bound from the time he was fourteen years of age until he was twenty-one. He was converted to the Church of Jesus Christ of latter Day Saints, and was baptized 12 September 1841. His family preceded him to America because of his work, but two years before his apprenticeship was completed, he left England and came to America, in the fall of 1842.

It must have been with mingled feelings of sadness and joy, that he met his mother and sister in the new land, finding that his father and two young brothers had died since arriving at Nauvoo. His sister Ann had gone to Chicago, to obtain work, and John procured a team and outfit and drove to Chicago, and brought her back to their home in Nauvoo. After a brief stay with his folks, he went to New Orleans where he worked at the trade he had mastered in Sheffield, from the manufacturing of heavy carving cutlery for tableware, to the grinding and tempering of fine steel razors and scissors.

On the ship on which John sailed to America, he met Eliza Billington, also a convert to the Church. This couple were married in Nauvoo, 18 May 1845. Here their first child, a son, whom they named for his grandfather and his great-grandfather, Nicholas Welch, was born 2 April 1846, but died 14 September 1847 at Winter Quarters, where he lies buried in the Church Cemetery, with about five hundred others who gave their lives there, and whose names are listed on a large bronze plaque in the center of the cemetery, which the Church has improved and beautified. John and his wife were among the first ones privileged to receive their endowments in the Nauvoo Temple, 7 February 1846.

Their religion meant much to these good people. For it they had given up their homes, their friends and all they possessed in their mother country and had come here, under adverse conditions, to be near those who had expoused the same faith, and to live the Gospel as they understood it. They were both well acquainted with the Prophet Joseph Smith and his brother, the Patriarch, Hyrum Smith--in fact Hyrum had personally befriended the Welch family after the husband and father had been taken, having given them a home and cared for them until they were able to find employment. In connection with John's fine work, he made two beautiful pen knives--had the name "Joseph Smith" engraved on one, and "Hyrum Smith" on the other, and proudly presented them to these good friends, proud of the fine workmanship and the art he had mastered, and proud of the fellowship and love which enabled him to present them as gifts to these men whom he loved and honored.

He was a member of the Nauvoo Legion.

After the martyrdom of the Prophet and his brother, John stood guard as their bodies were viewed by the Saints and friends, who had lost their beloved leaders.

Their testimonies never wavered, they loyally gave their support to all of the leaders of the Church who followed their Prophet, and their testimonies greatly strengthened those of their children and grandchildren, as they listened over and over again to the experiences and teachings of John Welch and his faithful wife, Eliza.

In the winter of 1846 John Welch with his wife, his mother and the children she was caring for, Jane and John Miles, and his sister Ann and her husband, Robert Crookston, left for the west. They crossed the river on the ice, and settled at Winter Quarters. That winter food was scarce. They killed their oxen and used them for beef, which was shared among other members of the camp, not so fortunate as they. From here they traveled into Missouri, where they stopped to earn money to obtain new outfits with which to cross the plains. Brother Isaac Danford Bickmore, who years later was a neighbor of John Welch, in Paradise, Utah said, "John Welch ironed a wagon for me," John and Robert had taken contracts to dig and rock up walls in 1847 and 1848. While in Missouri John entered into a partnership with James Currey, a blacksmith, and they ironed wagons for the saints who were leaving to cross the plains.

They located in Salt Lake City in 1852 and were allowed five acres of land outside of the city limits, and a building lot in town. In the spring of 1854 they moved to Centerville, Utah, and ten years later traded the farm in Centerville for one hundred acres of land in Three Mile Creek, and went there to make their home. Upon the advice of the Stake President, Lorenzo Snow, in 1874 the family moved to Brigham City, Utah.

In 1876 John was called to go to Dixie to take charge of the Brigham City Cotton Farm in Washington, Washington County, Utah. On the 23 of October 1876 he married Edvenia Maria Jeppson and she accompanied him to Dixie. They were present at the dedication of the temple at St. George and did considerable temple work there.

John was made the first Bishop of the Brigham City Fourth Ward, 19 of August, 1877. At the meeting then, President Brigham Young was present and delivered his last public address to the Latter-day Saints.

In the year 1880 Bishop Welch sold his farm in Three Mile Creek and received in exchange several pieces of property in and near Brigham City. In 1884 he moved his wife Edvenia and her family and his sons, John and William to Paradise, Cache County, Utah. Some of his neighbors evidently complained of the fact that he was practicing plural marriage, and the officers came and took him to Ogden to be tried. He was accompanied by his wife, Edvenia and his son John and his wife, Ann who went as witnesses. On the 8th of February 1889 he was sentenced to four months in the penitentiary, but was discharged on the 20th of May 1889 and was fined \$25.00 while the fees allowed for witnesses and transportation amounted to much more.

He was treated very kindly and given every consideration by the officers, who evidently respected him highly and expressed regret at having to molest him.

During his lifetime he served in the AAronic Priesthood and also as an Elder, Seventy, and High Priest. He was also a Bishop and was ordained a Patriarch by Apostle George Teasdale on the 8th of May 1898. He was the father of twenty-one children, a kind and living husband and father. Many of his children and grandchildren were among those who received blessings from him.

He died at his home in Paradise, Utah on the 8th of November 1910 and was buried in the Brigham City Cemetery.

The foregoing information was obtained from John Welch Jr., son of John Welch and Eliza Billington Welch; from Mary Crookston Farmer, daughter of Ann Welch Crookston, and from some old notes belonging to Martha Jane Welch Dunn, daughter of John and Eliza Billington Welch. E.D.S.)

Wilford W. Welch, youngest son of John Welch and Edvenia Maria Jeppsen Welch writes of him:

"He was an active, spiritual-minded and energetic man; a scientific student, studying deep books on science and philosophy to his last days. He was well versed in scripture and religious history and delighted in expounding the truth. He was blunt, but convincing in his speech and decisive in his opinions and decisions. He was keen of sight, mentally alert, industrious and thrifty. He was kind-hearted and would give to the needy or anyone who sought his aid, council or advice. He trusted his fellow-men, was hurt by their undependability, and often remarked that "A man's word should be as good as his bond." He feared God and was faithful to his covenants to the last. He was loved and held in high esteem by many people, and was spoken of by all as an honest man. Two funerals were held for him, one in Paradise, Utah where he resided and died, and the other in Brigham City Fourth Ward where he served as Bishop."

Note: John Welch was a brother of Ann Welch Crookston

#### WELCH FAMILY RECORD

John Welch born 6 Jan 1823 died 8 Nov 1910  
Eliza Billington (his wife) born 16 Dec 1825 died 16 Aug 1907  
They were married 18 May 1845.

#### CHILDREN

Nicholas Welch born 2 April 1846, died 14 Sep 1847  
Elizabeth W. Horsley born 31 Mar 1848, died 8 Apr 1824 ?  
Maria W. Phillips, born 4 Feb. 1850, died 6 Jan 1941  
Eliza Ann W. Tippetts born 16 July 1852, died July 1927  
5th chld was stillborn  
Charlotte W. Boden born 25 Sep 1856, died 22 Jan 1922  
Martha Jane W. Dunn, born 23 Feb 1859, died 23 July 1923  
Ann W. Hanson, born 31 Aug 1861, died 21 Dec 1839  
John Welch II born 5 Sep 1864, died 16 Oct 1948  
William Wallace Welch born 26 Feb 1867, died 21 May 1920  
Flora born 5 Apr 1870 died 5 May 1879

John Welch I married Edvenia Jeppsen on 25 Oct 1876. ~~She~~ was  
born 2 Sep 1832 died 31 Aug 1835  
Olive W born 27 Sep 1877 died 1879  
Clarissa born Dec 1878 died 1892  
Amy Schow born 5 Aug 1880  
Rachel W Lofthouse born 15 May 1882, died 27 June 1920  
Joseph Preston born 18 June 1884 died 19 Nov 1929  
Parley Jeppsen born 2 May 1886  
Eleanor W Schow born 30 May 1888  
Winnifred W. born 22 May 1890, died 8 June 1909  
Wilford Woodruff, born 30 March 1892  
Martha W Rose born 4 June 1894, died 24 Feb. 1907

#### NICHOLAS WELCH RECORD

Nicholas Welch was born in Ireland came to England 1790. He married  
Mary Preston when 60 year old and had 3 children, William, Margaret  
and Nickolas II  
Nicholas Welch II born May 1795 died 25 Nov 1842  
His wife born near Chesterfield Derbyshire England  
Elizabeth Briggs born 22 Dec 1799 in Chesterfield Derbyshire England

#### CHILDREN

Nathaniel died 22 Feb. 1822  
Sarah born 15 Oct 1821, died when 9 months old  
John Welch born 6 Jan 1823, died 10 Nov 1910  
married Eliza Billington and Edvenia Jeppson  
Mary Ann born 15 June 1825, died 15 Mar 1826  
Ann Welch born 18 Dec 1826, died 3 Feb 1904  
married Robert Crookston  
William born 1830 died Dec 1842 in Nauvoo, Ill.  
George born 1832 died Dec 1842 in Nauvoo, Ill.

Nicholas II and his family were all baptized into the L.D.S. Church  
in the fall of 1841. He died in Nauvoo, Ill.

Many other DUP Members sent histories of Elizabeth Briggs Welch to the DUP Museum in Salt Lake City.

Eveline Silver Dunn Snow on Oct. 1, 1968  
Address: 3111 South Main St., Nibley, Utah 84321

Merlene Thompson Braegger , Sept. 1997  
Address: 36 North 200 West (P.O, Box 304) Willard, Utah 84340

Donna C. Jenkins on March 2002 Great Great Granddaughter  
Address: 952 Sumac Drive, Logan, Utah 84321

Elizabeth Briggs Welch Madson Ellsworth was buried in the Pioneer Cemetery north of Willard, Ut., and although the cemetery has since been moved, her grave can be seen just north of the flood control project at Willard, Box Elder County, Utah, a lonely headstone, marking the resting place of a tired pioneer, but one with a brave, kind and gentle heart, who gave much for the Gospel and left a large posterity who honor and thank her for her contribution to their lives.

Evaline S.D. Snow  
Great-Granddaughter

"This pioneer mother, brave and true,  
Has gone to a far happier home,  
She prayed and toiled and suffered here,  
Now she will reap what she has sown.

The years of sacrifice and love  
She spent for us, were not in vain,  
Her service, faith and charity  
A rich reward for her will gain.

Her life's work here was well performed,  
Now she is busy on that shore,  
Among those dear ones who have gone,  
Where pain and sorrow are no more.

She's watching for us, over there,  
Yes, her reward will be complete,  
When in one happy family  
Her numerous descendants meet."

Evaline Dunn Snow

"TO THE MEMORY OF GRANDFATHER WELCH"

(by his granddaughter, Gladys Hansen Butterfield Aug. 1938)

We your descendants, Grandfather dear  
To become better acquainted are gathered here.  
Your life and your memory we would perpetuate.  
Your worthy example we should emulate.  
The gospel you heard on old England's strand,  
Then cast your lot in a foreign land.  
Your father, mother, sister and brothers came on before,  
That father and brothers you never saw more.

The great modern Prophet in life you knew,  
Then his mortal remains you sorrowed to view.  
You also were present when on Brigham his mantle fell.  
Of things such as these you loved to tell.  
We recall how, as children we loved you so dear.  
It made us quite happy to have you so near.  
You were so cheerful, affectionate and kind  
With as ready a wit as you ever find.

We thank you grandfather, for the life you led.  
For the splendid things you did and said.  
For the faith and courage with which you were filled  
For the honor and virtue in your children instilled.  
For the hardships you bore, the trials you stood  
That you ever were patient, kind and good.  
For your high ideals, for your name without tarnish  
Your religion was read, not merely a varnish.

Our grandmother dear, by your side ever stood.  
She was equally brave, equally good.  
When she left her home for that long, weary trek,  
There was one thing she knew she had to expect.  
Out there within sight of old Chimney Peak,  
She gave birth to her babe, so helpless and weak.  
That one thing alone is all need be told  
To prove to us here, her heart was pure gold.

Dear Aunt Edvenia too, now here is to you.  
You were just as good and just as true.  
When we think of them, we think of you.  
Again we thank you for the blood in our veins,  
That makes us one family, regardless of names.  
There are uncles and aunts, yes, all kith and kin in  
this crowd.  
And wherever we live, we each are proud  
To own you, our parent, you grand old man,  
To be worthy of you we will do all we can.