

Julia Baxter

I want to scale to the utmost height
And catch a gleam of glory bright
But still I'll pray 'till heaven I've found
Lord lead me on to higher ground

These few lines I found tucked away in Aunt Julia's Book of Remembrance and it truly typifies her aspirations as she journeyed here on earth. Her sudden passing at 10:05 A.M. Wednesday has touched a sympathetic cord in the hearts of everyone whose privilege it was to know her.

She was born on the 31st day of December in 1886 in Alpine, Utah and christened Julia Mary Strong, being named after both her families. She was the third child and first girl born to David Johnson and Martha Healey Strong, and was always proud to be numbered among their eleven splendid children.

Her childhood days were days of happiness and she always cherished the memory of the family life together. Music and laughter were characteristics of the Strong home and were among the important factors which kept the home fires burning. Friends were always welcome and she loved to tell of the fun they shared as crowds gathered around the old family organ. Strains of happy voices could be heard around the neighborhood. She loved music and was active in many singing groups until later years when she became afflicted with asthma. When 17 years old she served as Sunday School organist. Her uncle Don C. Strong was chorister.

Her love for knowledge always found her reading good books, and with outstanding grades in school it was no wonder that she became valedictorian of her graduating class. Later she was privileged to attend the Brigham Young Academy, as it was then called, under the direction of President George H. Brimhall.

From the day of her childhood to the day she departed from this life she really had a love for her religion, and a love for all that was good and beautiful. She had great faith in the Priesthood and has on many occasions received comfort and relief through the administration of the Elders. When 21 years old she had what was thought to be an attack of polio and with her great faith and the hands of the Elders she received a miraculous healing.

In that same year, 1907, she obtained employment in Garland, Utah and went to live with Uncle Oscar and Aunt Estella Hyde. It was here that she met her future husband. They taught Sunday School together. Their friendship grew into an everlasting union, for on 17th of Marcy, 1909, they sealed their love in the Salt Lake City Temple for time and all eternity. They are the parents of three boys, one of them being taken by death shortly after he was born. Though they moved about a good deal during their married life, they years always found her active in serving her Heavenly Father in one auxiliary or another. She has been a teacher in Primary, Sunday School, Mutual, and given the social science lesson in the Relief Society. In her Patriarchal Blessing it said, and I quote, "The Lord has given you wisdom and good judgement and talent to labor among the young people. You shall have influence among the youth of Zion and they will arise and call you blessed for the counsel you have given them."

Her gift of leadership was recognized wherever she went, for she held many responsible positions in various wards and stakes. For four years she served as secretary of the Stake Primary Board in Bear River Stake and later as First Counselor in the Stake Y.W.M.I.A., also in Bear River. After moving to American Fork she again served as First Counselor in the Stake M.I.A. It was at this time she, along

with Brother Clifford E. Young and others, made plans for a summer home in American Fork Canyon that could be enjoyed by members of the M.I.A. This has proven itself to be a lasting establishment and is dearly referred to as "Mutual Dell".

She was later made President of the Stake Y.W.M.I.A., a position she held for three years. They moved to Salt Lake City and there she was active in Beehive work. Again her outstanding ability as a leader was recognized and she was set apart as a member of the General Board of the Y.W.M.I.A. by Melvin J. Ballard, and for 11 years served in this capacity.

She dearly loved the out-of-doors. Together she and Uncle Rube built a summer home in American Fork Canyon which they unselfishly shared all their friends and loved ones. She delighted in keeping a spotless home and was an outstanding wife and mother. She will always be remembered for her wonderful cooking for she had a special talent for making food look attractive as well as tasting delicious. For several years she worked at the Lion House Social Center and later established a very flourishing catering business.

She was extremely good to her brothers and sisters and many of them lived with her and Uncle Rube at various times during their married life. Their friends were many and as I scanned some of her personal belongings in preparing this sketch I found many notes of thanks for little kindnesses she had done. She was known as Aunt Julia by more than just her immediate relatives for her unselfishness has won her friends wherever she has been.

Though never privileged to have a daughter of her own, she was truly blessed with two wonderful daughters-in-law and in her life history she gratefully acknowledges their goodness to her, especially in the last years when her health has been so poorly. Since her husband's death in 1946 her life has been centered in her two boys, their wives and their children. She dearly loved her grandchildren and you seldom conversed with her that she did not make mention of them. She was so proud of her two boys and their many fine accomplishments, and they in turn have been equally proud and good to their mother. She will be greatly missed by her family and all who knew her, but especially by her sister, Mattie, for they were very near and dear to each other and so concerned over each other's welfare.

Survivors include her two sons, Harold Emerson and James Clifton Baxter, both of Salt Lake City. Also four grandchildren and the following brothers and sisters: Mr. Mattie Larsen and Jay Young Strong of Salt Lake City, William Fred and Ralph H. Strong of Alpine, and Mrs. Louella Barnes of Long Beach California. She has left to you a heritage which is beyond price and in the days to come you will still have the influence of her sweet spirit to guide and sustain you through the years ahead.