

Christopher J. Arthur Biography

1832 – 1919

Christopher Jones Arthur was born March 9, 1832, in the village of Abersychan, Monmouthshire, South Wales. His father, Christopher Abel Arthur, and his mother, Ann Jones Arthur, were both Baptists. Trained by his father in a store and bakehouse, Christopher was placed in an academy near Bristol, Gloucestershire; but he returned home after eighteen months to be in charge of his father's business. He worked at the bakery warehouse until he and his father and sister, Mary Ann, left for America. His father and mother had been converted to the L.D.S. Church; however, his mother died prior to their departure. Christopher was baptized on board the ship during the journey. They reached Salt Lake City September 26, 1853, and were urged to go to Cedar City to help with the Iron Works.



On December 30, 1854, Christopher was married to Caroline Eliza Haight, daughter of Isaac C. and Eliza Ann Haight. There were seven children born to this marriage. He was appointed the Deputy Secretary of the Deseret Iron Company. Later, he acted as the Deputy Treasurer and subsequently became a Director until the business closed in 1860. At that time, he started making furniture, farming, and surveying for a livelihood.

Starting in 1854, Arthur served over twenty years as an elected City Councilman and Recorder, helping to draft the Cedar City Ordinances. He served as Mayor two years, Secretary and Treasurer of the Cooperative Mercantile business which was established in Cedar City patterned after the Zion's Cooperative Mercantile and Manufacturing in Salt Lake City. In this capacity he started his secretarial work in the east part of John M. Higbee's granary in a room measuring about six by twelve feet. Later, he continued the business in a frame and log building purchased Thomas Gower, which he moved to a small lot on Main Street. He was also an Indian War Veteran, helping to control the Indian uprisings between 1854 and 1867.

Active in religious affairs throughout his life, Christopher Arthur fulfilled an L.D.S. Mission to Great Britain from 1883 to November 1, 1885, and served as Bishop of the Cedar Ward for several years. He was married four times – the other three wives were: Ann E. Perry, Marion Brown, and Jane Condie. He died January 13, 1919 at the age of 65.

(Taken from *Iron County Record*, 18 Jan 1919 and personal journal of C. J. Arthur)
(Mayors of Cedar City, page 52)