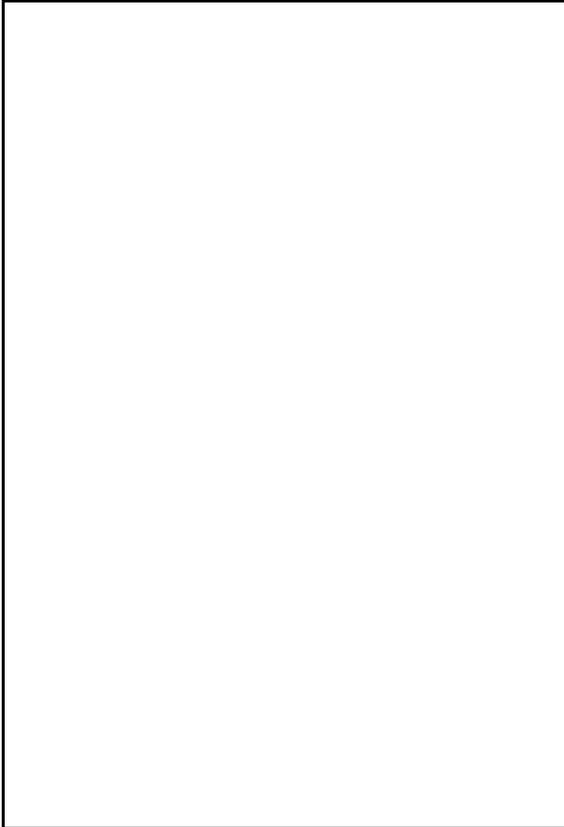


NEWEL KNIGHT



Newel Knight was born September 13, 1800 in Marlborough, Windham, Vermont to Joseph Knight and Polly Peck. Married Lydia Goldthwaite November 23, 1835. They had seven children: five sons and two daughters. Died January 11, 1847 in the Ponca Camp at Ft. Niobrara, Knox, Nebraska. Buried January 11, 1847 at Ft. Niobrara, Knox, Nebraska.

When Newel was nine his family moved to New York to the town of Bainbridge which was on the banks of the Susquehanna River.

Newel's father often had to hire help and among the many he employed was a young man by the name of Joseph Smith, Jr. Newel became quite attached to him.

Newel lived with his parents until he was twenty-five when he married his first wife, Newel afterwards said, "I now began to feel

Sally Colburn. Because of his health, he moved around doing different jobs but eventually ended up returning to Colesville where his father lived.

They would have frequent visits from Joseph Smith who would entertain them with accounts of the wonderful things which had happened to him.

From Joseph Smith's history: "During this month of April I went on a visit to Mr. Joseph Knight. We held several meetings in the neighborhood We had got into the habit of praying much at our meetings and Newel Knight had said he would try and take up his cross and pray vocally at the meeting When we met again he rather excused himself . . .and deferred praying until the next morning when he retired into the woods where he made several attempts to pray but could scarcely do so . . .and continued to feel worse both in mind and body until, upon reaching his own house, his appearance was such as to alarm his wife very much. He requested her to go and bring me to him. I went, and found. .his visage and limbs distorted and twisted in every shape. . .and finally he was caught up off the floor of the apartment and tossed about most fearfully. . . . After he had thus suffered for a time, I succeeded in getting hold of him by the hand; when almost immediately he spoke to me and with great earnestness requested of me that I should cast the devil out of him, saying that he knew he was in him and that he also knew that I could cast him out. . .and then I rebuked the devil; and commanded him in the name of Jesus Christ to depart from him; when immediately Newel spoke out and said that he could see the devil leave him and vanish from his sight. This was the first miracle which has been done in this Church or by any member of it, and it was done by God and by the power of godliness."

a most pleasing sensation resting upon me,

and immediately the visions of heaven were opened to my view. I felt myself attracted upwards, and remained for sometime enrapt in contemplation, insomuch that I knew not what was going on in the room. By and by I felt some weight pressing upon my shoulder and the side of my head; which served to recall me to a sense of my situation, and I found that the Spirit of the Lord had actually caught me up off the floor, and that my shoulder and head were pressing against the beams.”

As soon as consciousness returned his bodily weakness was such that Joseph and his wife, Sally, were obliged to lay him upon his bed and wait upon him for some time.

During the last week of May he visited Fayette and was baptized by David Whitmer.

On the first day of June, 1830 the first conference of the Church was held. Newel attended and said, “Much good instruction was given and the Holy Ghost was poured out upon us in a marvelous manner. I felt my heart filled with love, with glory and with pleasure unspeakable. I could discern all that was going on in the room and a vision of futurity also suddenly burst upon me. . . .

I saw the heavens opened, I beheld the Lord Jesus Christ seated at the right hand of the Majesty on High, and it was made plain to my understanding that the time would come when I should be admitted into His presence to enjoy His society for ever and ever.”

The spirit of persecution began to manifest itself and it became necessary for the Prophet to move regularly. Newel and his family provided housing and traveling arrangements for Joseph.

“Thru revelation we knew the exact spot for the building of the temple and the city of Zion, so we immediately prepared for our labors. On the second day August, Brother Joseph Smith, Jr., the prophet of God, assisted the Colesville Branch to lay the first log as a foundation for Zion in Kaw

township, twelve miles west of Independence. The log was carried by twelve men, in honor of the twelve tribes of Israel.” Newel was the President of the Colesville Branch.

Newel was called on a mission to Kirtland. As he was preparing to leave he and his wife became ill. Newel’s wife died and after burying her and making arrangements for his baby son, he left for his mission. He arrived safely and labored on the temple until it was finished and dedicated.

While there, he met and married Lydia Goldthwaite. They were married by the Prophet, Joseph Smith. Theirs was the first marriage he had ever performed.

Newel and Lydia returned to Clay county for a short time before being driven out. They ended up in Nauvoo. In each place they lived they left behind property and crops when they were driven out.

While in Nauvoo Newel was engaged in the building and working of gristmills and sawmills for the benefit of the saints.

Joseph Smith wrote in his history: “. . . I am now recording in the Book of the Law of the Lord - of such as have stood by me in every hour of peril, for these fifteen long years past.” He listed Joseph Knight, Sr. and then wrote: “There are his sons, Newel Knight and Joseph Knight, whose names I record in the Book of the Law of the Lord with unspeakable delight for they are my friends.”

Persecution from the mob continued to follow the saints so they were told to flee from their homes feeling that it was much better to be at the mercy of the elements than that of the ruthless mob. Newel and his family left Nauvoo April 17, 1846. They left house, barn, mills and all their possessions.

Newel and his family wintered on the plains of Nebraska with the Ponca Indians. It was there that Newel, at 46, died.