

Joseph Knight Family Connections to the 2025 Come Follow Me Lessons

Doctrine and Covenants 84:103-105

“Give to the Bishop in Ohio or Zion of your means and consecrate it to the work”

Joseph and Betsey Knight’s 1832 Deed of Consecration

When Leman Copley withdrew the land in Thompson, Ohio that he had consecrated to the church, it led to the Colesville Branch moving to Missouri in the summer of 1831.

The Knight family and the Colesville Branch left behind the once-consecrated land, but not the principles of consecration.

When Joseph Smith visited Missouri in April of 1832 he confirmed that the Lord desired that the Saints live the law of consecration in Missouri as well. The revelation given at that time, Section 82, instructed in verses 15-19 and said in part, “You are all to be equal, or in other words, you are to have equal claims on the properties for the benefit of managing your stewardships, everyman according to his wants and needs.”

Five months later, Section 84 was revealed in September of 1832 in Kirtland. It is known as the section on the priesthood, but it has quite a lot to say about the gathering of the saints on Mount Zion and the building of the New Jerusalem. Later verses also give counsel on consecration such as in verse 104:

And let all those who have not families, who receive money, send it up unto the bishop in Zion, or unto the bishop in Ohio, that it may be consecrated for the bringing forth of the revelations and the printing thereof, and for establishing Zion.

These revelations apparently rung in the ears of Joseph Knight, Jr. and his new wife. They had only been married six months, he was 24 and she was 19, but in October of 1832 the couple chose to consecrate their property to the church. They signed the deed over to the Bishop, who in return leased the land back to them, and they promised that any surplus they gained would be returned to the Bishop and consecrated to the building of Zion. There were several other provisions including agreement that if they left the faith they would have to buy back their land, but in the case of disability or old age the bishop would care for them.

This deed kept by Joseph Knight, Jr. is the only one known to have survived the tumult of Missouri, Nauvoo, and crossing the plains, from this time period. Probably other Knight members signed similar deeds. Joseph’s deed mentions that his land borders Newel Knight’s land. Newel was a witness to the signatures of Betsey and his brother on the deed. It is dated October 4, 1832.

BE IT KNOWN, THAT I,

Edward Partridge

Of Jackson county, and state of Missouri, bishop of the church of Christ, organized according to law, and established by the revelations of the Lord, on the 6th day of April, 1830, have leased, and by these presents do lease unto

Joseph Knight Junr of Jackson county, and state of Missouri, a member of said church, the following described piece or parcel of land, being a part of section No. thirty three township No. forty nine range North thirty three situated in Jackson county, and state of Missouri, and is bounded as follows, viz:—

Beginning forty two rods E. from the N. W. corner of S. 2 Sec. thence E. on the N. line of S. 2 Sec. ten rods thence S. 5/4° W. thirty six rods twenty one S. thence W. six rods to land leased to H. Knight. thence S. 3/4° E. 30 rods to the point of beginning containing one acre and eighty one hundredths be the same more or less

And also have loaned the following described property, viz:— Sundry articles of crockery, tinware, knives, forks and spoons valued nine dollars forty three cents, — Sundry articles of iron ware and household furniture valued twelve dollars ninety two cents, — one bed and bedding valued nineteen dollars, — Sundry articles of clothing valued twenty two dollars thirteen cents, — a grain valued seven dollars, — Sundry articles of jasper table valued twenty dollars forty four cents, — one cow valued twelve dollars

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above described property, by him the said Joseph Knight Junr to be used and occupied as to him shall seem meet and proper. And as a consideration for the use of the above described property, I the said Joseph Knight Junr do bind myself to pay the taxes, and also to pay yearly unto the said Edward Partridge bishop of said church, or his successor in office, for the benefit of said church, all that I shall make or accumulate more than is needful for the support and comfort of myself and family. And it is agreed by the parties, that this lease and loan shall be binding during the life of the said Joseph Knight Junr unless he transgress, and is not deemed worthy by the authority of the church, according to its laws, to belong to the church. And in that case I the said Joseph Knight Junr do acknowledge that I forfeit all claim to the above described leased and loaned property, and hereby bind myself to give back the leased, and also pay an equivalent for the loaned, for the benefit of said church, unto the said Edward Partridge bishop of said church, or his successor in office. And further, in case of said Joseph Knight Junr or family's inability in consequence of infirmity or old age, to provide for themselves while members of this church, I the said Edward Partridge bishop of said church, do bind myself to administer to their necessities out of any funds in my hands appropriated for that purpose, not otherwise disposed of, to the satisfaction of the church. And further, in case of the death of the said Joseph Knight Junr his wife or widow, being at the time a member of said church, has claim upon the above described leased and loaned property, upon precisely the same conditions that her said husband had them, as above described; and the children of the said Joseph Knight Junr in case of the death of both their parents, also have claim upon the above described property, for their support, until they shall become of age, and no longer; subject to the same conditions yearly that their parents were; provided however, should the parents not be members of said church, and in possession of the above described property at the time of their death, this claim of the children as above described, is null and void.

In testimony whereof, WE have hereunto set our hands and seals this twelfth day of October in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and thirty two

IN PRESENCE OF
John Correll
Daniel Knight

Edward Partridge [SEAL]
Joseph Knight Junr [SEAL]
Betsey Knight