

# The Knight Family Women

## The First and Second Generations

**Polly Peck Knight**, born in 1774, wife of **Joseph Knight, Sr.**, a farmer and miller

Married at age 21, Joseph was 24.

Mother to 7 children, all lived to adulthood

Died in Missouri in 1831 at age 57 of illness

Husband married widow, Phoebe Crosby Peck, Polly's sister-in-law two years later

**Phoebe Crosby Peck Knight**, born 1800, 2<sup>nd</sup> wife of **Joseph Knight, Sr.**

In 1829, first husband Benjamin Peck died; he was a brother to Polly Peck Knight

Left Colesville as a widow with 4 children

Married Joseph Knight in Missouri in Oct. 1833, she was 33, he was 61

Phoebe was the same age Joseph's son Newel

Mother to 2 more sons by Joseph Knight: Ether, and Charles who died at age 3

**In 1842, joined the Female Relief Society in Nauvoo at the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting**

After Joseph's death in Iowa, later married Cornelius Peter Lott as a plural wife

**Thankful Knight**, born in 1798, wife of **Nahum Knight**, a wheelwright

Married at about age 19, and Nahum was 21

Mother to 9 children, 8 born in Colesville, NY, and another in Missouri

Lived in Washington, Missouri in 1850, Thankful died about 1856

Thankful and Nahum moved away from family and the church about 1840

**Esther Knight Stringham**, born 1798, wife of **William Stringham**, a tailor

Married at age 18, and William was 28. They met when he came to work in the Knight mill

Mother to 5 children, two who lived to past age 16

Died in Missouri in 1831 at age 33

Husband William married her sister Polly Knight about 2 years after Esther's death

**Sally Colburn Knight**, born 1804, wife of **Newel Knight**, a miller

Married about age 21, Newel was 25

Mother to 2 sons, and 2 still born babies; only son Samuel lived to adulthood

Took into her home her husband's widowed Aunt Esther

Died in 1834 in Missouri at age 30 from malaria and childbirth, two days after her newborn son Eli died

Husband Newel married Lydia Goldthwaite Bailey a year later

**Lydia Goldthwaite Knight**, born 1812, 2<sup>nd</sup> wife of **Newel Knight**, a miller

First marriage at age 16 to Calvin Bailey, mother to two children by him who both died in early childhood. Abandoned by Bailey, who then died in 1833

In 1835 married Newel Knight at age 23, Newel was 35

Mother to 7 children by Newel who all lived to adulthood, came to Utah with children ages 3-14

**In 1842 joined the Female Relief Society in Nauvoo at the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting**

Widowed at age 35 in Nebraska, and delivered the 7<sup>th</sup> child by Newel six months later

Married John Dalton in 1852 in Utah as plural wife, bore a daughter, Artemesia Dalton

Divorced Dalton in 1857 after 5 years of marriage

Married James McClellan, a widower, in 1864

Wrote her life story in 1883

Died in 1884 at age of 72 in St. George, Utah

**Anna Knight DeMille**, born 1804, wife of **Freeborn DeMille**, worked in mills and farmed

Married at age 15, Freeborn was then age 23

Mother to 7 children who all lived to adulthood, one daughter died age 21 in Winter Quarters

In 1842 joined the Female Relief Society in Nauvoo at the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting

Crossed the plains with 4 children, mostly teenagers

Died in Manti at the age of 74

Freeborn in later years married a plural wife, Emma Richards

**Betsey Covert Knight**, born 1813, first wife of **Joseph Knight, Jr.**, a miller

Married at about age 19 in Jackson County, Missouri in 1832, Joseph was 24

Mother to 6 children, only 3 daughters lived to adulthood

The other children were 2, 4, and 5 years old when they died

Died at age 62 in Salt Lake City

Husband married to 3 other plural wives including:

**Adeline Johnson Knight**, a plural wife married in Winter Quarters, 1847 who does not appear to have come to Utah, no known children

**Abba Welden Knight**, a widow from Philadelphia, married in April 1852 in Salt Lake City as a plural wife, no known children

**Mary Woolerton Knight**, 4<sup>th</sup> wife of **Joseph Knight, Jr.**

Married on Nov. 1852 as a plural wife at age 26, when Joseph was 44

British convert; Joseph married Mary as advised by Brigham Young so Joseph could have a male heir

Mother of three children, first daughter died as infant and her two sons, Miland Knight and Joseph Knight III lived to adulthood

**Polly Knight Stringham**, born 1811, 2<sup>nd</sup> wife of **William Stringham**, a tailor

Married in Missouri in 1835 about age 24 and William was 47

Gave birth to one son Walter, helped raise sister Esther's children

**In 1842 joined the Female Relief Society in Nauvoo at the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting**

In 1843 Relief Society minutes report she volunteered to sew for temple workmen

Died in Nauvoo in April 1844, at age 33

Husband later married Eliza Lake

**Elizabeth Knight Johnson**, born 1817, wife of **Joseph W. Johnson**, a mason

Married Feb. 1842 at age 25 in Nauvoo, her husband was 27

Mother to 8 children, 3 lived to adulthood; babies died age 1 day, 10 months and 14 months and twin girls born on the pioneer trail in Wyoming in Sept. 1848 died at birth

Died in Salt Lake City at age 66

Husband married two other plural wives in Utah

Of the original nuclear family of Joseph and Polly Knight with parents and 7 children, only 3 family members made it to Utah: Anna Knight DeMille, Joseph Knight, Jr., and Elizabeth Knight Johnson. Two more spouses of the original seven children, Lydia Knight and William Stringham, made it to Utah, bringing with them grandchildren of Polly and Joseph, Sr. Two grandchildren of Polly and Joseph Knight, Sr., came across the plains on their own: Newel and Sally's son, Samuel Knight, age 14, drove a team for Mr. Wixom, and came in 1847, and Polly and William Stringham's son, Walter Stringham, age 19, came in 1851 driving a freight wagon. Several other grandchildren were already married and came with spouses.