

Polly Peck Knight's Funeral

From William G. Hartley's book, *Stand By My Servant Joseph*, page 135

Polly had been so sick during the trip from Ohio, Newel said, that he bought lumber along the way for her coffin. On August 6, 1831, Edward Partridge wrote to his wife in Ohio that "Old Mrs. Knight is very low, probably will not live long."

She died that day. "She fell asleep rejoicing in the New and Everlasting gospel and praising God that she had lived to see the land of Zion," Newel said; her "greatest desire was to set her feet upon the land of Zion and to have her body interred in that land." She died "on the west side of the Big Blue," son Joseph said; "I helped to make her coffin and bury her."

Friend Joseph Smith preached her funeral sermon the next day. "I can say a worthy members sleeps in Jesus till the resurrection," he said. Polly Knight was the first member of the Church to die and be buried in the newly dedicated land. On the day she died, Joseph Smith received another revelation, now Doctrine and Covenants 59, in which the Lord instructed the settlers, anxious to erect houses and plow fields to refrain from labor on the Lord's day and to meet together on that day for prayers, sacraments, and confessing.

Joseph Smith recorded in the *History of the Church*, Vol.1 p. 199

"On the 7th I attended the funeral of Sister Polly Knight, the wife of Joseph Knight, Sen. This was the first death in the Church in this land, and I can say, a worthy member sleeps in Jesus till the resurrection."

Joseph Knight, Sr. recorded, Hartley, *They Are My Friends*, p.81

"She was buried in the woods a Spot Chosen By ourselves. I was along By where she was buried a few days after and I found hogs had Began to root where She was Buried. I Being very unwell But I took my ax the next Day and went and Bilt a pen round it. It was the Last I done for her."

Doctrine and Covenants 59: 1-4, a revelation received by Joseph Smith the day Polly died seems to aptly apply to Polly Knight:

1 Behold, blessed, saith the Lord, are they who have come up unto this land with an ^aeye single to my glory, according to my commandments.

2 For those that live shall ^ainherit the earth, and those that ^bdie shall rest from all their labors, and their works shall follow them; and they shall receive a ^ccrown in the ^dmansions of my Father, which I have prepared for them.

3 Yea, blessed are they whose feet stand upon the land of Zion, who have obeyed my gospel; for they shall receive for their reward the good things of the earth, and it shall bring forth in its ^astrength.

4 And they shall also be crowned with blessings from above, yea, and with ^acommandments not a few, and with ^brevelations in their time—they that are ^cfaithful and ^ddiligent before me.