

# Ray Knight

Son of Jesse and Amanda Knight  
Grandson of Newel and Lydia Knight



## Biography of Oscar Raymond Knight 1872- 1947

Oscar Raymond Knight was born April 8, 1872 at Payson, Utah. He grew up on the ranch home west of Payson. Here he learned the skills of farming and caring for livestock which became a part of him. His education in Payson and the Brigham Young Academy gave him the foundation to continue school but he longed for the outdoor life of the ranch and to be with his fine horses and cattle. He always owned the best stock money could buy.

Ray filled a mission for his church in England and toured western Europe before he returned to work with his father. In 1901 he was sent to Southern Alberta by his father to look over the new country. So much did it appeal to him with its spacious plains and abundant grass that he decided to make it his home. Here his father bought large areas and Raymond followed suit.

The town of Raymond was named after him and his father brought in a sugar factory to help open up this virgin land for settlers. Raymond Knight was a big man, both in stature, ideas, and ambition, and his generous heart was in keeping with his size. He bought large ranches and stocked them with the best

cattle and horses on the range. It took a lot of men to run these places but these he found among the many settlers whom he had encouraged to come in.

Ray Knight made a trip to England and brought back over three hundred of the finest work horses that he could find. These became the nucleus of the heavy work breeds so necessary to pull the plows and other machinery of the farmers in those days. As his herd grew he sold or loaned them out to farmers who broke them to work and after the harvest was over returned them to the Knight ranch or bought them outright. He also bought milk cows and loaned those to needy people with the instruction to keep them as long as they needed them but to take good care of them.

He donated to the town the Victoria Park and the land for the Agriculture School and farm and the cemetery. Besides his own property which was all over Southern Alberta and as far north as Brooks, he managed the Knight Sugar Company holdings. When one considers a ranch of nearly 400,000 acres of land, fenced and divided into many pastures, stocked with 15,000 head of cattle and 40,000 sheep, one can realize the enormous responsibility of the job. Yet he had time for sports, and community activities to enrich the lives of everyone.

Ray organized and fathered the first stampede in Canada at Raymond and was an active participant in it. He introduced calf roping along with chariot races, and the Roman race with two horses but one driver standing with one foot on each horse. What thrillers these were! His fame as a great stamper soon spread across the continent. He was asked to stage a stampede for the Prince of Wales in Saskatoon, to be judge at the stampede in Madison Square Garden, New York, and to put on stampedes in many places. He won many honors and trophies at these shows for he was an outstanding cowboy himself.

At Calgary in 1924 Ray was awarded the Prince of Wales Trophy which consisted of a silver calf mounted on a polished block with a silver rope dragging from its neck. This is one of his most coveted prizes. In 1917 his father's interests in Utah became so extensive that he asked Ray to sell out and return to help him. This Mr. Knight was prepared to do. When the people of Southern Alberta heard of this they arranged a farewell banquet in his honor at which the following resolutions were adopted.

When Raymond Knight arrived in Utah he went over the affairs of the Knight Investment Company with his father, and after considerable deliberation he reached the conclusion that he would not fit into the picture as outlined and concluded to return to Canada where he began accumulating large tracts of land.

Through the subsequent years financial successes and failures came but his indomitable spirit never quit striving. In early 1942 he had a stroke from which he never recovered and although he received the best medical care science could give, he suffered until Feb. 7, 1947 when he died at the age of seventy-four. Mr. Knight's wife, Isabelle Smith, was a school teacher before she married. They had five children prior to coming to Alberta. She lived in Raymond a number of years but her health was impaired and she returned to Provo where she died. Two of her children preceded her in death. Her eldest daughter, Uarda was a student of the University of Utah and a graduate nurse. Raymond, her oldest son was a mechanic and interested in mining. He enlisted in the World War of 1914. Kenneth liked farming and worked with his father. He attended Brigham Young College and the Utah Agricultural College. He filled two missions for his Church and is the only one of the family still living in Raymond.

Mr. Knight's second wife was Charlotte Maud Henninger, also a teacher who was the mother of three sons and two daughters. Her eldest son Owen died in his youth. Wayne H. filled a mission for the Church in France and Switzerland. He is a lawyer and lives in California. Jess H. filled a mission in Germany and is also a lawyer in training. He lives with his wife and family in Calgary, Alberta. Charlotte H. is a graduate

of the University of Utah and Columbia University and served with distinction as a reporter with the American Air Force in the Far East. Mary Maxine graduated from the Brigham Young University, the University of Utah and specialized in psychiatry in Hartford, Connecticut. She married and lives in California.

Oscar Raymond Knight was a robust gentleman, "born of the frontier's need, disdainful of the spoken word, exultant in the deed," No man did more for his town and district than this great man. Truly, his father was the founder of the town but Raymond Knight was the builder.

**Newspaper article from the Great Falls Tribune  
Great Falls, Montana  
13 January 1927 (Thursday)**

**Knight Visits Friends Here**

Prominent Alberta Stock Grower and Business Man En Route Home From Salt Lake

Ray Knight, prominent Albert stock grower and business man, will leave for his home near Raymond this morning after spending Wednesday in Great Falls visiting with friends. Mr. Knight is returning from Salt Lake City where he spent the holidays with his family.

Mr. Knight for a number of years was associated in the livestock business in Canada with J. D. Watson, now of Great Falls. He became well known to a large number of Montana residents in 1923 when he staged a rodeo at Shelby preliminary to the Dempsey-Gibbons championship fight.

Mr. Knight has been one of the leaders in the sugar beet industry in Alberta for more than 20 years. He was one of the organizers of the Knight Sugar company which operated a sugar factory at Raymond. Failure to obtain sufficient acreage resulted in the abandonment of the this plant but two years ago the Utah-Idaho Sugar company, of which Mr. Knight is a director, erected a new factory and a good run of beets was made last fall. The supply of beet pulp and molasses created by operation of the plant has resulted in encouragement of livestock feeding at Raymond, Mr. Knight said. All of the pulp and molasses is fed at the factory. The original Knight Sugar company controlled 140,000 acres of land in Alberta and following the dismantling of its sugar plant has engaged in the livestock business.

Contributed by WilliamKnight1 to FamilySearch 22 August 2017  
Oscar Raymond Knight -Family Search ID # KWDH-NBJ

**Obituary from the Great Falls Tribune  
Great Falls, Montana  
12 February 1947 (Wednesday)**

**Ray Knight, Famed Rancher Industrialist, Dies in Canada**

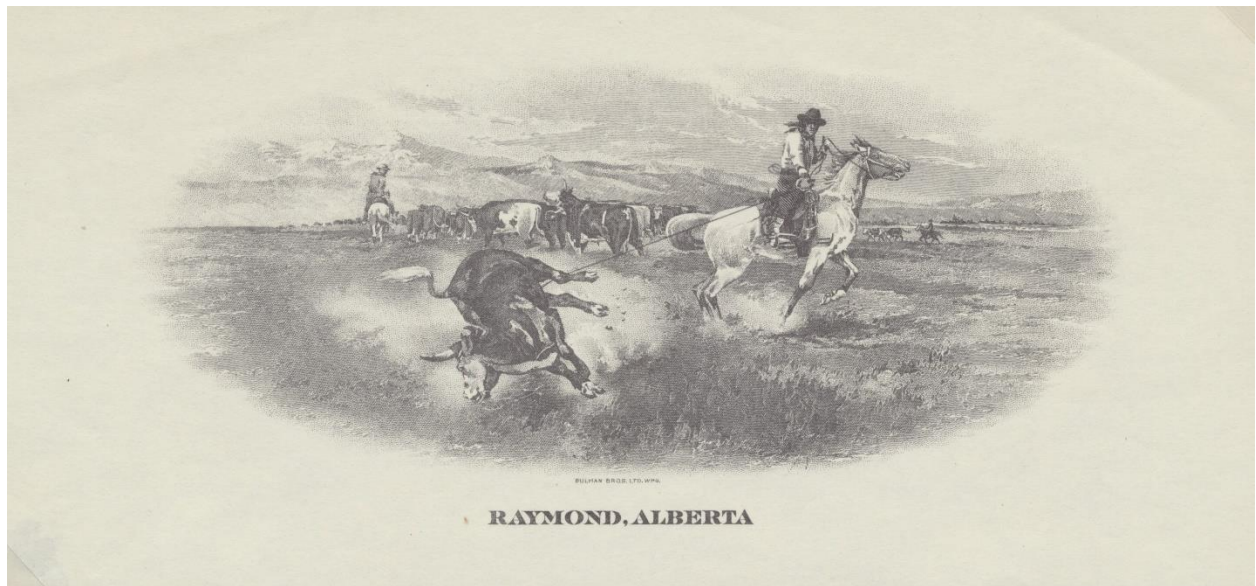
Lethbridge, Feb. 11 (Special) – Ray Knight, 75, pioneer rancher, industrialist and “father of the stampede” in western Canada, died at Magrath, Alta., after an illness of three years following a stroke. The town of Raymond, home of the first beet sugar factory in western Canada built by the Knights at the turn of the century, was named for Ray Knight. He was born in Utah, son of the late Jesse Knight, Utah mining and industrial magnate, and rode the Utah range in the early days. He came to Canada with his brother, Will, now of Provo, Utah, and started the famous – K2 ranch near Spring Coulee. The stocked it

with 40,000 head of sheep and 15,000 head of cattle, the spread consisting of 400,000 acres. They later founded the Kirkaldy ranch on Milk river, now owned by W. H. McIntyre, another Utah man. The Knights built the Raymond sugar factory later. Ray Knight was a famous stampede roper himself, twice winning the Canadian calf roping championship at the Calgary stampede. He supplied much of the stock for the Calgary show for many years. Knight was a big man physically, a typical westerner of the old school. He staged a stampede in Saskatoon for the duke of Windsor, former king of England, at that time prince of Wales. Knight was a judge at Madison Square garden, New York city, some years ago but figured the western shows were really more typical of the cowboy sports. Personal friend of Charley Russell, Montana's cowboy artist, Ray Knight's home at Raymond contains one of the finest Russell originals.



***Ray Knight, one of the founders of the Calgary Stampede Rodeo***





*This drawing by Charles Russell of Ray roping a steer was used on Ray Knight's letterhead.*



*The Charles Russell drawing became a painting that hung in Ray Knight's home in Raymond, Alberta, Canada. Charles Russell was an internationally recognized painter of cowboys, Native Americans and Western landscapes, known as the "cowboy painter." Charles Russell lived in Great Falls Montana, and died in 1926. Some of his paintings now sell for several millions of dollars.*





June 17 1924

Ray Knight

Friend Knight I received your kind invite to the stamped and Jubilee and if possible will be there I don't like to miss that show any time you pull one the boys will shore have to ride it aint a show its a contest for riders and ropers I seen good riders at your contests that had a hard time proving it your horses unlode the best of them Alberta and Montana have tamed a hole lot since I first knew them but you have proved to me their horses havent I am sending some sketches which I hope you can use to advertise the Jubilee I would have colord them all but it I think would make them harder to reproduce hoping you all kinds of good luck we are leavin Cal tommoraw will soon be home your friend C M Russell

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A letter and drawing Ray received from Charles Russell in 1924.

A transcription of the letter is typed below.





**Ray Knight's home in Raymond, Canada**



**Ray Knight is among the Rodeo contestants and officials.**

# Raymond Is Celebrating Its Golden Jubilee

## Pioneer Sugar City of West Looks Back To Coming of Jesse Knight And First Settlers

### Jubilee-Stampede Opens Saturday

RAYMOND—(HNS)—Raymond, Sugar City of West Canada, is this year celebrating its Golden Jubilee with the festivities planned to open Saturday and continuing through Monday, July 2, Dominion Day.

Elaborate plans have been worked out for the outstanding event by committees who have worked under the general chairmanship of Mayor William Jensen. He has extended a warm welcome to the pioneer residents of the town, who will be here for the celebration, and the thousands of others expected to be Raymond's guests on the gala days.

Frank Taylor, chairman of the parade committee, is forecasting the biggest and finest spectacle of its kind in the history of the town. It is set for Monday at 10 o'clock and will depict the half century of the town that helps to fill Canada's sugar bowl and which gave to Canadian amateur sport the famous Union Jacks baseball club.

#### LORENTZ BACKWARD

Many editions were reprinted by "Home Town" which then J. William Jensen, at present head of the town "Home Town" (HNS) called the action of Jensen.

"Clark Jones" with J. William and the late Ray Knight, his sister and some into the country in last year's first settlement. They found a country rich with sugar cane—'Columbia's Paradise'—that was in the hands of the late Ray Knight, his sister and some into the country in last year's first settlement. They found a country rich with sugar cane—'Columbia's Paradise'—that was in the hands of the late Ray Knight, his sister and some into the country in last year's first settlement.

A settlement was placed at what is now Raymond. "Clark Jones" has the story of the settlement in the hands of the late Ray Knight, his sister and some into the country in last year's first settlement. They found a country rich with sugar cane—'Columbia's Paradise'—that was in the hands of the late Ray Knight, his sister and some into the country in last year's first settlement.

Another noted character and business man of that period was the late H. A. Allen, who became the first president of the town. The story of the settlement in the hands of the late Ray Knight, his sister and some into the country in last year's first settlement. They found a country rich with sugar cane—'Columbia's Paradise'—that was in the hands of the late Ray Knight, his sister and some into the country in last year's first settlement.

#### LAYS OUT TOWN

In the same year of 1881 that settlers began arriving "Clark Jones" laid out a town. The story of the settlement in the hands of the late Ray Knight, his sister and some into the country in last year's first settlement. They found a country rich with sugar cane—'Columbia's Paradise'—that was in the hands of the late Ray Knight, his sister and some into the country in last year's first settlement.

#### INCORPORATED IN 1881

Raymond was incorporated into a town in 1881, with Clark Jones as mayor. The story of the settlement in the hands of the late Ray Knight, his sister and some into the country in last year's first settlement. They found a country rich with sugar cane—'Columbia's Paradise'—that was in the hands of the late Ray Knight, his sister and some into the country in last year's first settlement.

#### TOWN'S FOUNDER



JESE KNIGHT

"Clark Jones" Knight, who founded the town, was the first settler. The story of the settlement in the hands of the late Ray Knight, his sister and some into the country in last year's first settlement. They found a country rich with sugar cane—'Columbia's Paradise'—that was in the hands of the late Ray Knight, his sister and some into the country in last year's first settlement.

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#### First Sugar Beets Plowed In Raymond District



This interesting picture depicts the plowing of the first sugar beets in the Raymond district for the old Robert Sugar Company. In the background we have a glimpse of the school, and place on the east approach to Raymond where the ground under the school is owned by the Canadian Sugar Factory Ltd.

#### Raymond's "Broadway" In the Early Days of Sugar City



This is a picture of Raymond's Broadway in the early days. The Raymond Mercantile Company was operated by the late H. A. Allen, who moved from Cardston to the new town, with the hotel was owned and operated first by Charles McArthur and later by the Carl family. This scene of the business area was taken in 1881.

#### CHURCH LEADER



FRANK H. ALLEN

#### CHURCH LEADER

The first church building in the Raymond district was the one of William Knight, son of Jesse Knight, and Charles Knight. The first church building in the Raymond district was the one of William Knight, son of Jesse Knight, and Charles Knight.

#### Incorporation Of Town In 1881

Raymond was "incorporated" as a town with 1,000 people in the year 1881, while the country was still a part of the Northwest Territory.

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Newspaper clipping reporting on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the founding of the town of Raymond, Alberta, Canada.



**Four Missionaries in England in 1898**  
**Ray Knight, seated**  
**Standing: Jennie Brimhall, Will Knight and Inez Knight.**

Ray and his brother, J. Will Knight were serving a proselyting mission for the LDS Church in England when Ray's sister Inez was sent to England as the first sister proselyting missionary for the church. Her companion was Jennie Brimhall, the future wife of Will Knight.