

American Mothers Committee, Inc.

UTAH MOTHERS ASSOCIATION
5705 SOUTH 1700 WEST
MURRAY, UTAH 84107

MRS. DOROTHY LEWIS
NATIONAL PRESIDENT
NEW YORK, N. Y.

MRS. BELLE SPAFFORD
3RD VICE PRESIDENT

MRS. WALTER A. KERR
REGIONAL DIRECTOR

MRS. CALVIN L. RAMPTON
HONORARY STATE PRESIDENT

MRS. CALVIN S. SMITH
STATE PRESIDENT

MRS. AVARD FAIRBANKS
1ST VICE PRESIDENT

MRS. WILLIAM H. BANGERTER
2ND VICE PRESIDENT

MRS. FRED WRATHALL
3RD VICE PRESIDENT

MRS. J. BRACKEN LEE
HONORARY BOARD MEMBER

MRS. RUTH HARRIS STEWART
HONORARY BOARD MEMBER

MRS. HOMER P. EDWARDS
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Salt Lake City, Utah
December 8, 1970

To Whom It May Concern,

This is to certify that my great grandmother, Martha McBride Knight, was the wife of Vinson Knight, who was called by revelation (*Doc. + cov. 124:141*) to preside over the Bishopric for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. She came to the Great Salt Lake valley on Sept. 17, 1850 with her daughter, Adaline Knight Belnap, her son in law, Gilbert Belnap, and their son, Gilbert R. Belnap. Grandmother Belnap's family had the understanding from great grandmother Knight that Vinson Knight had served in this capacity for some time preceeding his death. When Martha Knight left Nauvoo, she brought with her precious things which her husband had told her to take special care of until they were called for. Her son in law, Gilbert Belnap, a wheelright by trade, had made for her a special wooden chest which had a lock and key which served to secure these precious things. Her family knew that things of value were in this chest, but had no knowledge of all its specific contents.

For years before her death, she lived in Hooper, Utah in the home of her daughter and son in law. They had built an extra room especially for her.

Whenever our family went to see Grandmother Belnap, we always went up the two or three steps to Great Grandmother Knight's room to visit her and to hear her stories of Kirtland, Nauvoo, and of crossing the plains. She died on Nov. 28, 1901.

Some time after her death, my father, Hyrum Belnap, was invited by his mother to examine the contents of Great Grandmother Knight's special chest. My father had served as assessor and collector of Weber County and was well informed on information regarding real estate. When he examined the papers, he said, "These are ^{church records} records of church property. They must be given to the church." Other members of grandmother's family were in accord with my father's evaluation.

In the school year of 1901 1902, I played with the Weber Stake Academy girls' basketball team. I was not tall enough to belong to the main team, but I was called at times to pitch the foul balls. So when the Weber Stake Academy team was invited by the L.D.S. High School basketball team to play them, I was supposed to go along. Since there were two reasons why my father should come to Salt Lake, he took the day off and brought me with him. We went first to the L.D.S. church office which was situated in a building between the Beehive House and the Lion House. My father gave the package of records to the brother who came to the counter to assist him. This brother spoke to other persons in the office and then called a woman from the Beehive House for consultation. After the records were received by the office force, we left.

This was a memorable occasion for me. It seems more important now as I realize that I was a witness to the turning over of church records which

had been in the possession of Bishop Vinson Knight and had been carefully preserved by Martha McBride Knight, his wife, as she left her home in Nauvoo, lived temporarily at Winter Quarters, and then crossed the plains by ox team to the Great Salt Lake valley.

After leaving the L.D.S. church records at the church office, my father and I went out to the Edward H. Anderson home on Ashton Ave. for a visit. The Andersons were long time friends of our family. They had moved a short time before from Ogden to Salt Lake, since the father had accepted an appointment to do editorial work for the Improvement Era.

Vinson Knight's possession of records of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is evidence of his church responsibility at the time of his sudden death July 3, 1842.

The accompanying photo of the Girls' Basketball Team with the date on the basketball coincides with the date on record.

Respectfully,

Marion A. Belnap Kerr

Marion A. Belnap Kerr
(Mrs. Walter A. Kerr)

This is to certify that the above signature is that of my mother, Marion A. Belnap Kerr.

*Keith B. Kerr, Ed D.
Principal, West High School
Salt Lake City, Utah*

Dec. 20, 1970

Original filed in photograph section

