

Salt Lake City, Utah

December 4, 1970

To Whom it May Concern,

This is to certify that my ~~great~~ ^{great} grandmother, Marth McBride Knight, was the wife of Vinson Knight, who was called by revelation () to preside over the Bishopric for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. She came to the Great Salt Lake valley in 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 wooden chest which had a lock and key which served to secure these precious things. Her family knew that things of value to her were in this chest, but had no knowledge of all the 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 2 or 3 steps to ^{great} Grandmother Knight's room ~~her~~ ^{her} to visit ~~Grandmother Knight~~ ^{her} and her her stories ^{to a} of Kirtland, ~~and~~ her her stories of Nauvoo and 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 ^{records} deeds 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} ~~was a member of~~ 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 the ^m, 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} ~~deeds~~ to the brother who came to the counter to ^{assist} ~~receive~~ him. This brother spoke to other persons in the office and then called a woman from the Beehive House ^{for consultation} ~~to come to the office~~. After the ^{records} ~~deeds~~ were received by the office force, we left.

~~After leaving~~ ^{occasion}
This was a memorable ~~experience~~ 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. ^{records} ~~church property deeds~~ 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} ~~who~~ had moved a short time before from Ogden to Salt Lake, ^{since} ~~as~~ the father had accepted an appointment to do editorial work for the Improvement Era.

[~~The basketball game was played in a building near the L.D.S. church office.~~]

Vinson Knight's possession of ^{records} ~~property deeds~~ of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints is evidence of his church responsibility at the time of his ~~death~~³¹ sudden death July 30, 1842.

The accompaning photo ~~of~~ the Girls' Basketball Team with the date on the Basket Ball ~~co~~incides with the date ~~the office of the church~~ ^{on records} received the deeds.

Respectfully,

Marion A. Belnap Kerr

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(Mrs. Walter A. Kerr)