

DICTATED BY MARY BELNAP - ROBBINS, AT FRANKLIN, IDAHO, AUG. 24, 1944.

In the company, crossing the Plains in 1850, in which Gilbert Belnap travelled, there were two wagons, similar to the cannons, in which they supposed were the bodies of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, as Brigham Young had promised Joseph Smith that if the prophet died first that Brigham Young would bring his remains to the tops of the Rocky Mountains to fulfil the prophecy that the Saints should go to the tops of the mountains, or if, Brigham Young died first that Joseph Smith would bring his remains to the tops of the mountains. As Joseph Smith was martyred first, you may depend upon it that Brigham Young kept his promise, said Mary Belnap-Lowe.

When the officers of the State of Illinois were taking Joseph and Hyrum, John Taylor and Dr. Willards to Carthage, they were accompanied Joseph Smith's body guard, and members of the Nauvoo Legion, consisting of a number of men, one of whom was my father, Gilbert Belnap. They remained there all night previous to his martyrdom. Joseph A. McRae, the caretaker of Carthage Jail on June 9, 1942, told Mary Belnap-Lowe-Robbins and Chas. R. Robbins, her husband, about 5 p. m. that ten men stayed in the down stair room, one of whom was your father, Gilbert Belnap, all night and until two o'clock the next day, while Joseph Smith, John Taylor and Willard Richards were upstairs. At 2 p. m. in the afternoon of June 27, 1844, Joseph Smith came to the upstairs window and said, "Go Home, brethren, you can do me no good." And

the brethren who had been guarding them, followed his command and, returned to Nauvoo.

There never was a day, so long as my father, Gilbert, lived that when the hour of 4:20 P. M. of any June 27, that he failed to walk to the clock at the same hour in silent reverry to the memory of this awful tragedy.

My mother Adaline Knight-Belnap was standing on the sidewalk in Nauvoo, as the officers were taking the Prophet Joseph Smith and the other three brethren to Carthage, and heard the Prophet Joseph Smith say to Brother Cahoon, "Brother, Cahoon, have the floors laid and the doors hung to my sepulchre." Joseph Smith stopped and looked back. Those with him asked him why he was looking back on the city, and he answered; "If you were looking on something that you loved for the last time, wouldn't you look back, for I am going like a lamb to the slaughter."

The next day, June 28, 1844, the whole body of the Saints assembled in mournful crowds to receive the mangled and wounded bodies of the four men. After the bodies were prepared for burial, grandmother, Martha McBride Knight, asked Brother Cahoon for a lock of the Prophet Joseph Smith's hair. Brother Cahoon went to the casket and cut a lock from the center of the back of his neck and gave it to her. This lock of hair was given by Adaline K. Belnap, after Martha's death to Vinson Knight Belnap, who had it inclosed in a beautiful gold locket with that of his mother and wife. Its in the possession of Rita Belnap Schwanvondt.

*Mary Belnap-Lowe Robbins*

*August 24, 1944  
Franklin, Idaho  
Belnap-Lowe Robbins*

*aged 73*