

ADELINE KNIGHT BELNAP



## HISTORY OF ADALINE KNIGHT BELNAP

A history of Adaline Knight Belnap, born May 4, 1831 in Perisburg, Catorogus Co., New York.

Written by her granddaughter Alpha Coolbear Crow of the McKinley Camp Daughters of the Utah Pioneers.

Adaline Knight was the daughter of Vinson Knight and Martha McBride Knight.

Her parents were wealthy farmers owning a large clearing in the timbers of New York. Her mother was the daughter of a Campbelite Minister.

On the evening of March 21, 1831, two Mormon missionaries came to her father's door and introduced themselves as Joseph Smith and Parley P. Pratt. That evening and subsequent ones convinced Adaline's parents of the truthfulness of the church of Jesus Christ of latter Day Saints. Her father and mother were baptized into the church in the spring of 1834.

The headquarters of the church at that time was at Kirtland, so the farm was sold and the Knight family moved to Kirtland, at that time Adaline Knight was but 3 years old.

Their stay in Kirtland was short as they went with the body of the church when they moved to Missouri and later to Nauvoo, Ill.

Joseph Smith had an office in a room above the school room. On one occasion the school children were busy when the door was carefully opened and two men entered carrying the limp form of Joseph Smith. The children became very excited because they thought he was dead. The teacher quieted them by saying "he is in

a revelation." He lay with his eyes open but seemed not to see things earthly. They carried him to his room above. The revelation he had at that time is recorded in the 124 Sec. of the Doc. in Cov. In it there is a message to Adaline Knight's father.

Adaline was baptized in the Mississippi river when she was ten years old.

Soon afterwards her father died, and a brother Rudolphus and a sister Martha Abigail also died. Then her oldest sister Almira apostatized from the church.

Her father was building a brick house when he died. His widow completed it. Adaline, her mother and her sister Rizpah and her brother James lived in the upstairs and rented the first floor to George Grant and family.

At the age of 14 Adaline married Gilbert Belnap. The wedding was to be on the evening of Dec. 21, 1845. A few of the young people had gathered for a good time. Apostle Heber C. Kimball was to perform the ceremony. The evening was passing and Bro. Kimball had not come. It almost looked like there wouldn't be a wedding that evening. At ten o'clock Bro. Kimball finally came. He had forgotten about his appointment and had retired before he remembered. He had to get out of bed and dress before coming to perform the ceremony. The bride wore a white dress made by her own hands, trimmed with narrow lace at neck and wrists and with rolls of pink ribbon. The wedding trip was to the home of Aunt Betsy McBride where they stayed until the saints started westward. Their first home was a strong new wagon made by the groom's own hand.

Adaline and her husband went as far as Winter Quarters where they stayed until the spring of 1850. Two sons were born to them there.

June 15, 1850 they started across the plains arriving in Salt Lake City Sept. 17, 1850.

Grandmother with her husband and family settled in Ogden.

In the spring of 1868 they moved to Hooper, Utah.

In 1871 grandmother was made president of the Relief Society of Hooper ward. This position she filled for 36 years. She helped the poor and needy, ministered to the sick and took care of those who needed her.

She was the mother of nine boys and four girls. She also adopted a boy and raised him.

She liked to do nursing. When she was 18 years old she was the mother of three children. There was a neighbor woman gave birth to a pair of twins. Another woman and grandmother were the only ones present. The other woman said "I am going to the door and just scream." Grandmother said "You are not. You are going to help me with this woman."

When the ill fated Martin handcart company came it was Adaline that took care of some of them. Sister Gibbons arms were frozen to the elbows. Grandmother held them in ice water until they thawed out.

Sister Gibbson was a trained nurse from a large hospital in London. Grandmother took training under her and received her diploma as a Dr. from the state of Utah. She was the only doctor or nurse west of Ogden for many years. She took care of women who

had large families and then took care of the second generation when they had children.

There was a boy died with what was called black canker. Everyone went to the funeral and viewed the body. Grandmother said he died with diphtheria but no one would believe her. In one week there were 38 cases of diphtheria in Hooper. Adaline Belnap was called to take care of the sick and for three weeks she went house to house and her family didn't see her. When she came home she called to her daughter to take a tub of water and some clean cloths to the berry patch. She bathed there before she came into the house. She was so worn out that the perfume of a bunch of lilacs made her faint away.

Once a lady was hanging some window curtains. She stood on a high-chair to reach. The chair tipped over and the leg of the chair caught the woman in the groin and severed an artery. She was unconscious for some time before her husband found her. Grandmother was called. She sent the husband after a doctor in Ogden as grandmother was a midwife and did not have the proper instruments. It was ten miles to Ogden. The trip was made with a horse and wagon. It took about 4 hours. In the meantime grandmother placed the woman on the bed raised her feet and legs higher than her head and poured some alcohol in the wound which kept the bleeding down and kept her alive till the doctor arrived. The woman lived to be a grandmother.

One night about 1 o'clock the dog made a racket. Grandmother went to the door and found a drunk man lying on the ground. After a time she managed to understand that his wife was sick and wanted

her. Grandfather was not home so she took the drunk man and drove the team of horses to the mans home. She hound his wife in labor. The next morning when she returned home the man was sober and so thankful that grandmother was not afraid of him when he was drunk.

On another occasion she was being driven in the night to a sick woman. The man drove too close to the edge of a bridge. The wheel dropped off the bridge into the ditch, throwing grandmother out and the seat fell on top of her, hitting her in the side and breaking some ribs. The man picked her up and asked her if she was hurt. She said "no." He drove the rest of the way to his wife. Grandmother took care of her while her baby was born and went home and the people never knew that she was injured.

Once grandmother ate some onion tops that had been stored in a grainier. Soon afterwards she became unconscious and remained so most of the time for 12 hours. The doctor who was called said there had been strychnine on the onions. Her life was despaired of but after 4 days she began to rally and was soon well.

Grandmother was happiest when serving others. As president of Relief Society she often entertained the authorities of the church.

Grandmother was 70 years old when she took care of her last obstetric case.

After the death of her husband and when her health was failing she came to live at my mother's home. We children grew up with grandmother always there to tell us a pioneer story if we were willing to listen.

She was no longer the black eyed curly haired, dainty little woman of this history but a little bent old lady, hair gray and

very thin, her face lined with a million cares; but there was one thing that had not grown old. Her eyes, how they could snap or twinkle as she told of days long past. She loved to wear ear rings and rings and a new dress. She loved to be with young folks and she was always looking for a bit of romance. She was free with her money, and was always buying little presents for us children.

Her testimony of the truthfulness of the gospel was so strong that she instilled it into the lives of us children never to be forgotten.

She died at our home in Salt Lake City on June 10, 1919 at the age of 88 years, a true pioneer, a kind mother to her own family and to every one with whom she came in contact.