

History of Daniel McBride

Daniel Mcbride was the son of Samuel McBride and Margaret Brown. He was born on 13 September 1766 in Stillwater, Saratoga, New York. He was a Campbellite Minister. Records indicate that Daniel was in Queensbury in 1801 and 1802. His son Reuben stated that Samuel McBride's father came from Northern Ireland. A letter from Mrs. Belle (McBride) Strang states- "I think Samuel's father was born in Scotland and removed to Ireland." Daniel McBride married Abigail Mead, daughter of Gideon and Martha Mead. Daniel died on 1 September 1823 in LeRoy, Genesee, New York. After his death Abigail joined the L.D.S. Church and removed to Kirtland, Ohio, then to Missouri, then to Nauvoo, Illinois and then to Salt Lake Valley with the Second Company.

Martha McBride Knight

Refinement, religious fervor and supreme loyalty characterized the life of Martha McBride Knight, the 9th child of Daniel McBride, a Campbellite minister of New York, and Abigail Mead. She was born March 17, 1805, at Chester, Washington Co., New York. She was married July 26, 1826 to Vinson Knight, who inherited a farm at Perrysburgh, New York, from his father, Dr. Rodolphus Knight of Norwich, Massachusetts. They acquired considerable wealth from their farm.

Joseph Smith and Parley P. Pratt brought the Gospel to them March 21, 1834.

The following story was related by Martha McBride Knight of the visit of the two missionaries:

"Who is calling tonight?" whispered Martha.

Tap, tap, tap, was heard again.

Reclining on large buffalo robe before the blazing fire, the handsome, broad-shouldered farmer beckoned for his wife to open the door.

Dropping her needle work on the table, she hastily welcomed the visitors to the fireside.

Resting on his elbow, Vinson's piercing, dark eyes observed the so-called dreamer, Joseph Smith and his friend Parly P. Pratt.

"We have brought you a message of eternal truth," came from the lips of the boy prophet.

"My mother, Abigail McBride, of Villanovia, has already told me your story. You claim divine authority as my father taught from

his pulpit", interrupted Martha.

"These are the men who immersed your brothers and mother in the water, like the Savior?" asked the stalwart head of the household.

"We commissioned Brothers Lyman and Cahoon to do so", replied Brother Pratt.

Question after question kept the logs in the huge fireplace flaming till the wee hours of the morning.

The following day, March 24, 1834, at Perrysburgh, New York Vinson Knight and his wife Martha were ushered into the fold of Christ.

Their home became a regular stopping place for the prophet and his associates. It was Martha who heard his midnight screams from the wood after he had been ruthlessly tarred and feathered. It was she who threw him the blanket that he could seek refuge.

A new, large frame house was soon built on Vinson's farm, replacing the little log cabin, and the industrious young wife operated her spinning wheel and plied her needle on the woolen goods and yards and yards of linen made from the wool and flax, grown on their own homestead. She developed so proficiently that the stitches, nor the patches in the best gowns of her great grandchildren could not be detected. Her great granddaughter, Jeruah Lowe-Thompson proudly exhibits a perfect quilt top made by her Grandma Knight in her extreme aged years, with pink and yellow blocks arranged in an exquisite design, and all made by hand. Martha assisted in making the soap for the family use from their

cured sheep and cattle, and plucked the feathers from a large flock of geese. She directed the maid while the harvest of wheat, hemp, flax, potatoes and corn were garnered and their maple trees tapped for sugar. The maid complained of the heavy bags of gold on the shelves at cleaning time.

The first test of her faith was the departure of her husband for Zion's Camp, organized by Joseph Smith for the redemption of Zion. Upon Vinson's return the farm was sold at a great sacrifice. The Knight family left New York and headed for Kirtland Ohio. The party, included Vinson and Martha, their children, Almira (Hanscom), Rizpah (Gibbons), Adaline (Belnap) and James Vinson, accompanied by Newel Knight, Lydia Goldthwait and Maria Crandall. They traveled 135 miles by stage coach and canal boat in the beautiful springtime of 1835 to Kirtland.

The Knights assisted in the building of the City of Kirtland and the Kirtland Temple.

June 24, 1835, her patriarchal blessing from Father Joseph Smith Sr., reads:

"Thou shalt be satisfied in beholding the glories which shall come unto the faithful in these last days and thy children shall rise up and call thee blessed."

Accordingly, she was present at the dedication of the Kirtland and Nauvoo Temples and enjoyed the glorious manifestations of the visitation of angels, the unveiling of the veil between heaven and earth and numerous prophecies verily fulfilled.

For a time the family enjoyed peace in Kirtland, which was broken when F.G. Williams and five of the apostles apostatized, quarrels and disputes over the bank failure and other annoying incidents, with threats from mobs from outside ranks. Joseph Smith was compelled to flee for his life, and he sent her husband, Bishop Vinson Knight and other true friends to make purchases of lands elsewhere. Vinson and Alanson Ripley selected and purchased the land of Commerce, later called Nauvoo for the Prophet and returned for his anxiously panic stricken family, enduring faithfully again. The move was hastily made to Adam-ondi-Ahman, in Missouri, (where Adam assembled the patriarchs and faithful children just before his death and was ministered unto personally by the Lord and heavenly hosts who changed his name to Michael, the Arch Angel.) For a while her children played along the banks of the Grand River gathering nuts, fruits and flowers and her husband was appointed Bishop of this sacred land, June 28, 1838, the only bishop of this dispensation of Adam-ondi-Ahman. Shortly they were ordered by mobbed citizens to flee again. Bishop Knight disguised himself to evacuate the majority of the Saints and sent Brother Fisk to assist his family who had gathered up a few clothes and bedding, and rode in the cold and storm with only a quilt for a covering and found the bishop. Adaline Knight-Belnap was the first one to recognize her disguised father. Under these trying circumstances in Pike Co. their daughter Martha A. was born Feb. 9, 1839.

Giving up hope of establishing a Zion in Missouri, they were soon in Nauvoo, the beautiful. Despite his many religious and

civic demands in building the new City, Vinson erected a story and a half dwelling, with a gateway leading to Brigham Young's home. This home is still standing (1941) in Nauvoo.

Martha was active in attending to the needs of the poor and afflicted, belonged to the sewing circle and was a Charter Member of the first Relief Society, organized March 17, 1842, in the Masonic Hall, by the Prophet Joseph Smith, on her thirty-seventh birthday anniversary. The other ladies present were Emma Smith, Sarah M. Cleveland, Phoebe Ann Hawkes, Elizabeth Jones, Sophia Packard, Philanda Merrick, Desdemona Fulmer, Elizabeth Ann Whitney, Leonora Taylor, Bathsheba W. Smith, Phoebe N. Wheeler, Elvira A. Coles (Cowles), Margaret A. Cook, Sarah M. Kimball, Eliza R. Snow, Sophia Robinson, and Sophia R. Marks.

Her life was saddened July 31, 1842 with the passing of her devoted companion, Vinson Knight, then a bishop of Nauvoo. The Prophet attended him during his illness, preached his funeral sermon, saying, "There lies the best friend I had on earth." Very soon after, September 3, 1842, her son Rodolphus Elderkin was called, also Martha A. and Nathaniel (blessed by the Prophet, who selected his name.) The Prophet Joseph Smith was continually offering words and rendering assistance to the widow. She rented the lower floor of her home, her family partitioning off some of the upper rooms with curtains for their abode.

After the death of her husband she married Joseph Smith, and later became the plural wife of Heber C. Kimball.

She was among the throng of the Prophet's true and tried friends, whom he called to stand by him until death. As Lieutenant General of the Nauvoo Legion he dressed in full uniform and paraded the streets of Nauvoo with the Legion and the Saints. She saw him climb on the unfinished frame building and lifting his glistening sword to heaven exclaimed:

"I call God and angels to witness that I have unsheathed my sword with a firm and unalterable determination that this people shall have their legal rights, and be protected from mob violence, or my blood shall be split upon the ground like water, and my body consigned to the silent tomb. While I live, I will never tamely submit to the dominion of cursed mobocracy. I would welcome death rather than submit to this oppression; and it would be sweet, oh, sweet to rest in the grave, rather than submit to this oppression, agitation, annoyance, confusion, and alarm upon alarm any longer."

Among others, she heard his pathetic words:

"I am going like a lamb to the slaughter; but I am calm as a summer's morning; I have a conscience void of offense towards God, and towards all men. I shall die innocent, and it shall yet be said of me--he was murdered in cold blood."

On the afternoon of June 28, 1844, she joined the first to view the lifeless bodies of the two martyrs Joseph and Hyrum Smith. Her own sheets became a shroud for the honored dead. Thousands viewed their remains in solemn reverie. With the permission of those in charge, she clipped a lock of hair from the head of the prophet who converted her to the gospel message. This golden lock

was carefully preserved in a gold locket by her grandson, Vinson Knight Belnap, and is now (1948) in possession of Vinson' daughter Rita Belnap-Schonwandt, Ogden, Utah.

The radiant memories of the Prophet's have been heard from the lips of Martha by the writer, kneeling by her side, as a child, when she called special attention to their portraits that hung on her walls.

She often told her grandchildren of the cruel martyrdom of the prophet, the sorrowing of the Saints and the solemn services; her witnessing the form of Brigham Young change to the person of Joseph Smith, and Brigham's voice ringing out in the tone of Joseph's voice, declaring him the leader of the wondering Saints.

In the exciting day that followed in Nauvoo, she gave the hand of her daughter, Adaline to Gilbert Belnap in holy wedlock. It was a tense moment on December 21, 1845. Martha had bidden guest to the wedding. Heber C. Kimball, the apostle, had promised to tie the sacred knot. The fourteen year old bride-to-be knotted her black shining curls in disappointment. They waited--and still they waited! No minister? No wedding---Heber C. Kimball sat leisurely reading the evening news. Suddenly arising, he hurried to the rack, donned his hat, saying "I'm two hours late to that bridal party." In a few minutes Martha's anxiety was relieved. The tall, handsome groom, with snappy black eyes and wavy hair with his dark eyed, blushing bride, in her sheer white gown, trimmed with blue, stood side by side, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Belnap.

The young bridegroom immediately began fulfilling his own dreams of providing for his mother-in-law and youthful bride. With much difficulty they crossed the great wide Mississippi River on blocks of ice.

In due time they moved to Winter Quarters. Martha and her dear friend, Emmeline B. Wells attended Adaline during her illness and sent for Brigham Young to bless her, as her husband had returned many miles to Illinois for provisions. Brigham promised her she should have a son. Gilbert Rosewell Belnap, her first and always her favorite grandson was born in their covered wagon January 8, 1847, with the snow piled high around their camp. Another grandson was born May 11, 1849.

The time arrived for their move into the uncultivated valleys of the mountains. Their train of wagons was organized by Apostle Orson Hyde. Martha, her daughter Adaline, their two tiny children, her son James Vinson and her son-in-law, Gilbert Belnap, June 15, 1850 in Jonathan Foote's Company, Captain Joel Terrill and William Wall, of fifty, Gilbert Belnap, captain of one of the five tens, left the banks of the Missouri River. Thus began the tedious, adventurous journey across the trackless plains to the tops of the Rocky Mountains.

The party had only travelled a few miles when the ten year old daughter of John Gidcomb sustained a broken thigh under a wagon wheel. Her son-in-law, Gilbert set the limb and it healed perfectly.

Then the Cholera broke out among them. Several died, one of whom was the grandchild, John McBride Belnap. Martha, once more, bowed her head in grief over the little lifeless form laid away in Gilbert's tool chest.

Many nights they spent in tears and prayer, giving the meager assistance, within their power to the sick and afflicted, whose moans were mingled with the howling wolves and coyotes of the prairies. One day they saw the mangled bodies of twenty three pioneers, dragged from their shallow burial by wild animals.

They arrived in the Salt Lake Valley, September 15, 1850, in Jonathan Foote's Company. Martha and her party were assigned by Brigham Young to Ogden, Utah.

They made their first temporary home in Miles M. Goodyear Fort. It had a thatched roof, much straw and fenced-in corals. Mrs. Knight witnessed the grasshopper plague. Gilbert hewed logs for Captain James Brown, built a log house and a mile of fence, broke up and sowed thirteen acres with wheat and a variety of vegetables by the Spring of 1851. Later she moved with Gilbert and Adaline to a home on 26th Street, above the present Second Ward Chapel.

At the first Relief Society organized in Ogden City, in the Council House on the Tabernacle Square, she was sustained first counsellor to Delilah Pierce Palmer, the first president, Jan. 6 1856.

When the hand cart company arrived with their frozen limbs, she assisted in bandaging and caring for the ill-fated group, among

whom was Mary Gibson, a trained nurse from London.

She moved with her daughter, Adaline and husband, Gilbert Belnap to Hooper, Weber Co. Utah and continued her relief work.

She also attended the dedication of the St. George Temple, where she continued the temple work for her dead kindred, in company with her daughter, Rizpah Knight-Gibbons, of Arizona and family.

She spent some time with her last husband, Heber C. Kimball in Salt Lake. They lost their only child. In 1881 and 1882 she kept house for Sheriff Gilbert Belnap, of Weber Co. They lived in a rock house of John I. Hart's just above Washington Blvd., Ogden Utah.

On the evening of Nov 19, 1901, she told her daughter, Adaline to call in her grandson Gilbert Roswell Belnap, who was at his farm house across the block in Hooper. Despite Adaline's insistence that Gilbert Roswell was in Ogden attending to the sheriff's responsibilities, Martha persisted on seeing her favorite grandson. Adaline sent her adopted son Roy Stoddard, across the field in the dark, who found Gilbert asleep in his farm house, much to the astonishment of all. After visiting with him, she laid down to rest. Somewhat alarmed by this time, Adaline lay on the foot of her mother's bed because she knew that the Prophet Joseph Smith had promised Martha that she should be changed from mortality to immortality in the twinkling of an eye. Adaline said, "I must have fallen asleep. When I looked at mother again she had not moved, but her spirit had flown, in fulfillment of the prophecy, I think." It

was 4:00 A.M. Nov. 20, 1901.

Her eventful life, full of kindness to everyone, her devotion to her family and her religion had ended.

Her remains lie in the Ogden City Cemetery on Gilbert Belnap's plot, beside her mother, Abigail Mead-Mcbride, her daughter, Adaline and husband, Gilbert Belnap, her niece Henrietta McBride-Belnap, with a suitable marker and monument, erected by her grandson, Hyrum Belnap.

(The following is a notice of Martha McBride Knight's death as printed in the Ogden Standard November 21, 1901, at Ogden Utah, accompanied with a picture of Martha and her great-great grandson.)

WIDOW OF PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH DEAD

Mrs. Martha K. Smith, widow of the Prophet Joseph Smith, and her great great grandson.

A woman who was married in turn to Vinson Knight, presiding Bishop of the Mormon Church; to Joseph Smith, its first president, and to Heber C. Kimball, died yesterday of old age at the home of Bishop Belnap in Hooper. She was Mrs. Martha Kimball. She was in her 97th year. She was born March 17, 1805, at Chester, Washington Co., New York. She was married to Vinson Knight July 26, 1826. Her husband died July 31, 1842 at Nauvoo. He was the presiding bishop of the Mormon church at that time.

She came to Utah in 1850, settling in Ogdan, where she made her home for a number of years. She went to Hooper in 1869, where

she had lived most of the time since, although visiting often with relatives in other parts of Utah.

She was sealed by the Mormon rite to the Prophet Joseph Smith at Nauvoo a short time before his death.

After the death of the Prophet Joseph Smith, she was married to Heber C. Kimball, and by him she had one child, who died in infancy. (It was a son.) She was the mother of six other children by her first husband, Mr. Knight, and three of these survive her, all of them being between 70 and 80 years of age. They are Mrs. Almira Hanson, who resides near Cleveland, Ohio; Mrs Adaline Belnap, living at Hooper, this county, and James Knight, who resides at Clearfield, Piute Co. She had a great many grandchildren and great grandchildren and several great-great grandchildren. Picture of the old lady grouped with four of her direct descendants are to be found in the homes of most of her Ogden relatives.

The picture of the child in the accompanying illustration is that of Heber Ballantine, grandson of former Sheriff Gilbert R. Belnap, and great grandson of the daughter at whose home the old lady passed away.

The physical strength and endurance of Mrs Knight was wellnigh marvelous. For nearly twenty years she had not used spectacles. Her needlework was a model for fineness amongst all her acquaintances for the past fifty years. She was a great reader, particularly of the daily papers, reading every word of telegraphic news, and during the Spanish-American War she was regarded as one

of the best posted persons in Weber Co. on the military operations of the contending forces.

Two or three years ago at a birthday reunion of the family held in her honor, Mrs. Knight was called on for a speech, and prefaced on of considerable length with a recital of the tremendous changes which had taken place in her lifetime, mentioning the steam engine, the modern printing press and the telegraph. To illustrate the latter she described with what slowness news traveled when she was a young woman of 40, and wound up her recital of how on that very day the entire country was able to watch every detail of a little affair at Carson City when Corbett was knocked out by Fitzsimmons.