

Three Peaks Elementary

I would like to have  
known this lady. You  
are right that she  
had great strength  
and faith.

I really enjoyed  
reading your  
essay -

Great Job.

Lydia Knight

A Woman of Great Strength and Faith

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### Lydia Knight a Woman of Great Strength and Faith

The ancestor I chose is Lydia Knight. She was a Utah pioneer. She blazed the trail for others to come and settle here. She was born on June 9, 1812. Then when she was 23, she met Newel Knight while she was working for Hyrum Smith. Newel's first wife had died of persecution while in Missouri. Lydia's husband had run off and abandoned her and their kids, prior to Newell & Lydia meeting each other. Once when they were alone together, he asked Lydia "You seem very lonely as well as myself. Why can we not comfort each other?" Lydia was offended and she replied, "Sir, I know my condition is lonely and not a desirable one, but I do not wish you to insult me. I have not the slightest knowledge where my husband is, nor whether he's alive or dead. But I do not wish to take any step to make my condition worse or bring shame upon my family and deprive me of the salvation I am seeking to obtain." Newel was shocked, he hadn't meant to insult her, he just hoped to marry her. Then he learned about her story.

Lydia was born in New England to a happy family. In school she met a popular boy named Bailey and they got married. When they had one child, with a second on the way he abandoned his family. Next, she went back to her parents' home hoping to get away from the sadness of her situation, but more sadness followed, and both her children died. Then she decided to have a change of scenery and moved away from New England. She went to Canada and her life improved, not from the change of scenery but because she joined a church in Canada. She had found the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Lydia then joined the Saints in Kirtland, Ohio when she heard prophet Joseph Smith was a prisoner, she donated all the money she had saved of \$50 to help get him released from jail.

This is when she met Newel Knight for the first time. Later, with some convincing from Joseph Smith she finally agreed to marry Newel. Lydia faced many trials from persecution from the mobs in Missouri, illness, loss of her children, and the death of Newel. When Newel died later during the trek west, she was crying out for him, because of her strong faith, she saw him standing by her side and he said "Be calm, let not sorrow overcome you. It was necessary for me to go. You cannot understand it now, but the time will come when you will understand. Be patient, I will protect you. You and the



children shall never perish for lack of food." She finished crossing the plains while pregnant alongside her other seven children and finally got to the Salt Lake Valley with the other Saints in October 1850.

She remarried a third time, and it was unhappy and only lasted a few years. After that she married for the fourth and last time to a widower named McClellan. They moved to the St. George area where they lived a happy life for the next twenty years until she was once again, left a widow. Lydia served faithfully in the St. George Temple almost until she died in April 1884 at the age of 71. She never lost the courage she had during the Missouri prosecution when one-night Newel came and said "My dear, be careful of our little ones tonight, I must go out and join my brethren who are on guard. You will not be afraid, will you?" Lydia answered, "Newel, God rules." I am grateful to have Lydia Goldthwaite Bailey Knight McClellan as my 5<sup>th</sup> Great Grandmother because she has an amazing life story, and she was a brave woman who had to face many trials but still kept her faith in the Lord.

Thank you for reading my essay.



My family at Lydia's grave



Lydia Goldthwaite Bailey Knight McClellan