

## Who Where the Knights and the Pecks?

- Both were from English **puritan and pilgrim** (non-conformists) stock; **Romsey, Hampshire**, England. **Persecution and suffocating taxes** forced their ancestors to migrate to the new world.
- They **rejected the doctrines of the Church of England**. They demanded more freedom in how they worshiped God. (King Henry VIII)
- They immigrated in the **mid-1630s (1635-1638)**, Knights to **Charlestown** and the Pecks to **Plymouth**. Joseph & Polly were 5<sup>th</sup> generation Americans.
- Both families (**Knights to Rehoboth, MA**) moved inland and eventually to **Vermont**, seeking new lands to farm. Both (Joseph & Polly) grew up during the **Revolutionary War**. Grandfather **Benjamin Knight served in the Continental Army**. **Capt. Joseph Peck was an officer of the New York militia while living in Guilford, Vt.**
- New York claimed a portion of southern **Vermont**. Vermont claimed the same area and **persecuted the Pecks**, forcing them to leave. **New York tagged the Pecks as “Vermont Sufferers”** and **granted Capt. Peck 640 acres** in western New York which became known as **Colesville**, east of Binghamton, New York. Now known as **Afton and Bainbridge**.

- Joseph and Polly met and **married in Vermont; had 6 of their 7 children there.** Tough winters and poor crops encouraged them to **move to New York near the Pecks** and formed a close family unit along the **Susquehanna River**, and Pickerel Pond. They eventually acquired **142 acres of land**, engaged in milling, carding, and farming.

- The family consisted of **7 children**, four daughters and three sons. Children were **Nahum, Esther, Newel, Anna, Joseph, Jr., Polly and Elizabeth.** They all joined the Church. Nahum faded from history after leaving the family, migrating from Far West, MO, to **Washington Township** in Buchanan County, MO.

- Joseph was known as a **kind, Christian man** who was respected by neighbors and friends; however, he suffered many persecutions with the family when he joined the Church.

- Polly was a **caring and sweet spirited mother.** She was **reluctant to follow Joseph** in accepting Joseph Smith, Jr., at first. After meeting the Smiths at Harmony, **she was converted** and was faithful to the end of her life.

- She **became ill** (cause not known) but **wanted to be buried in Zion (MO)** and held out until Aug of 1831 after they arrived from Ohio. The Prophet spoke at her funeral, **“I can say a worthy member sleeps in Jesus ‘till the resurrection.”**

- The last service Joseph performed for her was to **build a fence** around her grave site to guard it from the wild boars.
- Ages and events **paralleled the Smiths**. (Point out) “Mirror families”

Joseph Knight, Sr. was one year younger than Joseph Smith, Sr.

Polly was one year older than Lucy Mack Smith.

The Knights married in 1795, one year before the Smiths did.

The children: Joseph Smith, Jr. 1805; Newel Knight 1800; Joseph Knight, Jr., 1808; Anna Knight 1804.

- Father Knight **taught sons to be millers**. They built at least 5 mills. **Joseph, Jr. delayed** moving several times to furnish flour to the last of the Saints. In Nauvoo, this made him one of the **last to leave** and was a member of the “**poor camp**” that was fed by the “quail miracle.” Father Knight’s motto was “**Always follow the Prophet.**”

---

We now come to the point of considering this couple as individuals. **I will continue with Joseph** and **Gordon will then continue with information about Polly**. At the end, if some of you have questions, we will do our best to answer them. Thank you.