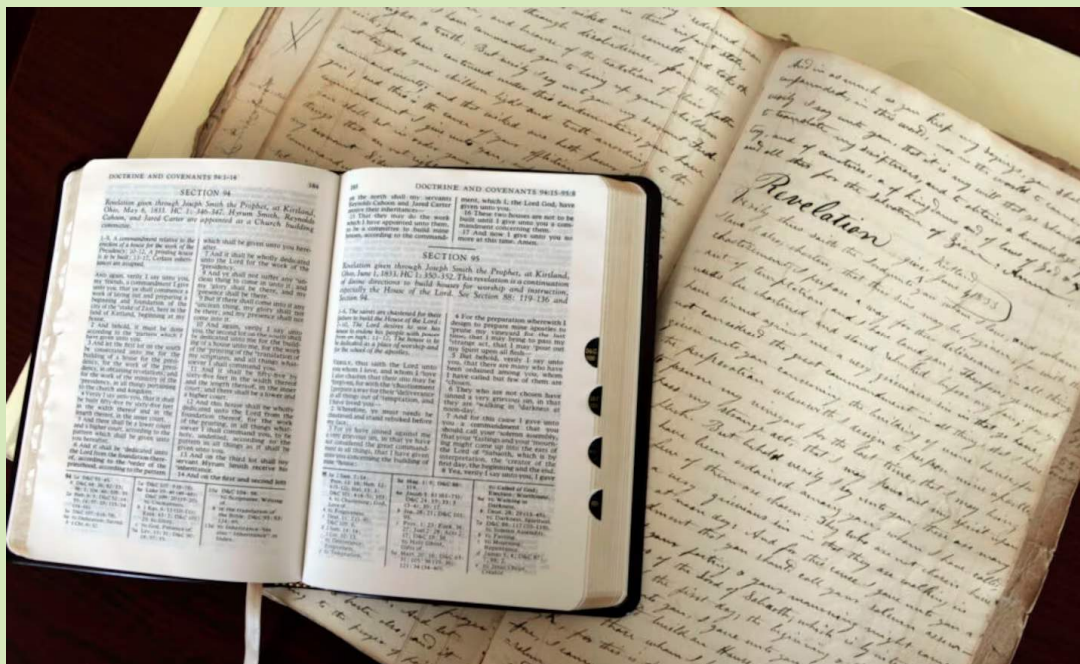


Knights in the Doctrine and Covenants

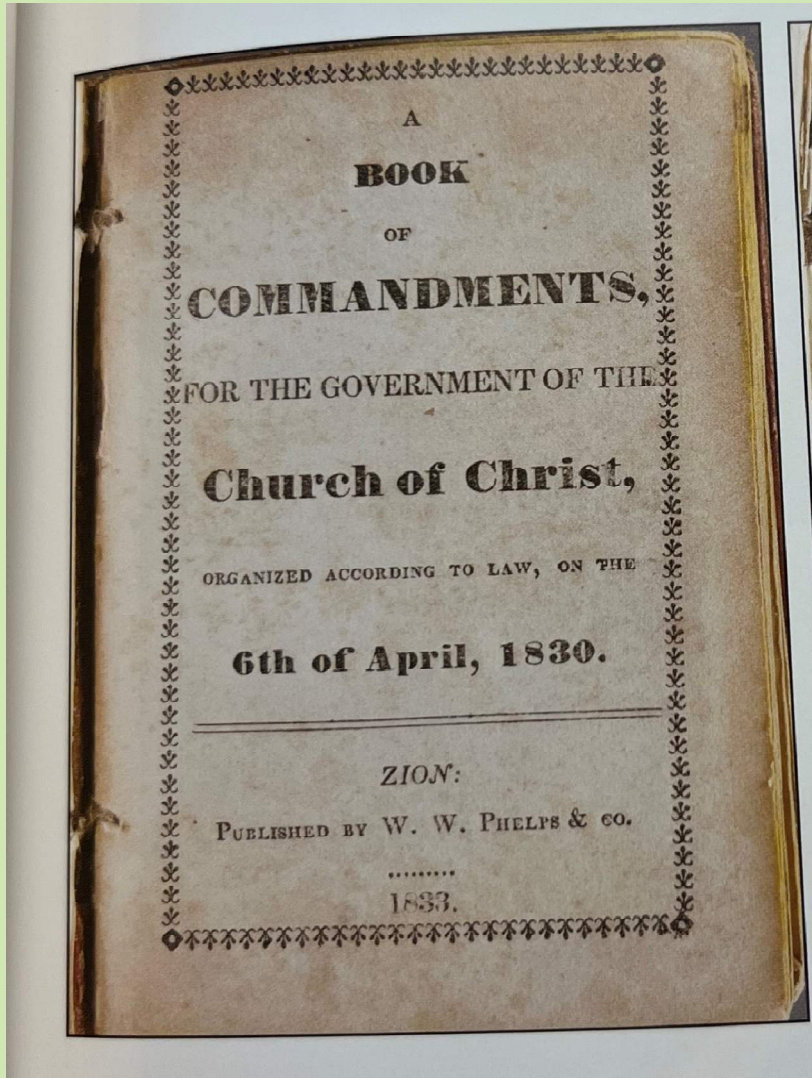
Stories behind the verses, updated June 2024

Diane L. Mangum



The Doctrine and Covenants is a compilation of the revelations received, primarily by Prophet Joseph Smith in a “line upon” fashion that came as a result of inquiry, a plea for help of were a matter of information for taking the next step in establishing and building up Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The lives of the Knights and the Colesville Saints were intertwined with almost all of the significant early events of the restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Knowing the Knight family stories and reading their memories enriches our study of the recorded in the Doctrine and Covenants.



The Doctrine and Covenants

- The original title was the Book of Commandments, first printed in Missouri in 1833, 64 ½ Chapters
- Reprinted in 1835 in Kirtland as an expanded, edited version, with new title The Doctrine and Covenants. Chapters became 103 sections. Added the “Lectures on Faith.”
- 1844 edition printed in Nauvoo, updated edition with 103 Sections with 7 additional items..
- 1876 edition arranged sections in better chronological order. Verse sizes and section headings changed.
- 1921 removed Lectures on Faith and added Declaration 1 and excerpts of the Manifesto
- 1981 Added sections 137 and 138 and Declaration 2 on the Priesthood
- 2013 edition updated some section headings based on new historical research.

The Knights and Joseph Smith

The Knights met Joseph Smith when he came to work at the family farm in Colesville in the fall of 1826 and he lodged in their home a few months.

They heard from him personally about visits from angels, gold plates, and organizing a church. They watched him grow from a young man, to a husband and father, to their prophet. A deep friendship formed that lasted a lifetime.

The Knight family in 1826

Joseph Knight, Sr. 54, and Polly Peck Knight, 52

Nahum, 30, married to Thankful

Esther, 28, married to Wm. Stringham

Newel, 26, married to Sally Coburn

Anna, 22, married to Freeborn DeMille

Joseph, Jr., 18, lived at home

Polly, 15, lived at home

Elizabeth, 9, lived at home

All of the married children lived nearby.



In the 1820s this was part of the Knight 140- acre farm in Colesville Township

Knights In the Doctrine and Covenants:

Knight family members, or Colesville are mentioned by name:

- Joseph Knight, Sr. in Sections 12 and 23.
- Newel Knight in Sections 52, 54, 56, and 124.
- Colesville in Sections, 24, 26, 37 and 128.

Knights were involved in one way or another to the events related to these revelations:

- Several verses were part of Polly Knight's funeral sermon in Section 59.
- Sally Knight was confirmed with Emma Smith in the Sacrament meeting described in Section 27.
- The backstory behind Section 19, a revelation to Martin Harris, is recorded in Joseph Knight, Sr. Reminiscences.
- The proselyting missionary journey of Joseph Smith that resulted in the baptism of Lydia Goldthwaite Knight is in Section 100.
- General Church Conferences attended by Knight family members where revelations were announced are recorded in sections 21, 28, 29, 37, and 51.

Understanding locations, distances and transportation limitations is important



Distances:

Colesville to Harmony – 28 miles

Colesville to Palmyra – 140 miles

Colesville to Fayette – 130 miles

Manchester to Fayette - 35 miles

Fayette to Harmony - 130 miles,
3 days by horse and wagon
with stops at night

Much of the time between 1825 and 1831, Joseph Smith likely did not have a horse or wagon and relied on others for transportation or walked.

Some history of the friendship

- Mid-1820s – Joseph Knight and Josiah Stowell became buyers of wheat from the Smith family in Manchester.
- 1826 – Joseph Smith, Jr. came to work in the Colesville area, including the Knight home
- 1827, January - Joseph Smith and Emma Hale eloped and got married in Chenango County, and then moved to Manchester.
- 1827, September – Joseph Knight is at the Smith home in Manchester the night Joseph and Emma get the gold plates from the Hill Cumorah. They used Joseph Knight’s horse and wagon to travel to get the plates and bring them home.
- 1827, December – Joseph and Emma moved back to Harmony. In January, Joseph and Emma walked to Colesville from Harmony to ask Joseph Knight, Sr. for some help, “But I was not in easy circumstances,” still he gave them some items to help them.
- 1828, January – Joseph Smith, Sr., and Samuel walked from Manchester to Colesville to ask Joseph Knight for help. Father Knight took them in his sleigh to Harmony to go see Joseph and Emma, and gave what he could to Father Smith and young Joseph.
- 1828, March – Joseph took Polly to visit Joseph and Emma to talk about translation and Polly’s testimony was solidified.
- 1829, April – Oliver and Joseph walked to Colesville, in sore need of food because they could not find work. Father Knight was not home. A few days later he took them a wagon load of provisions and paper for translating the Book of Mormon.
- 1829, May – Joseph Knight visits Joseph Smith in Harmony, possibly taking more supplies. Joseph Knight asks what the Lord would have him do.



An old photo of the Hill Cumorah





Emma Hale Smith



Joseph Smith, Jr.



Re-built home of Joseph and Emma in Harmony, Pennsylvania

Doctrine & Covenants Section 12

In May of 1829, Joseph Knight, Sr. visited the Harmony home of Joseph and Emma Smith. Joseph Smith wrote in his journal history about the day, “Being very anxious to know his duty as to this work I inquired of the Lord for him, and obtained the following: [now section 12].

Joseph Knight, Sr. was told:

- A great and marvelous work is about to come forth
- The field is white already to harvest, thrust in your sickle and reap
- I speak to you and all who desire to bring forth this work.
- Knock and it shall be opened, and more

“A marvelous work is about to come forth among the children of men,” as well as the phrase, “The field is white already to harvest,” is mentioned in Section 12 for Joseph Knight, but also in Sections, 4, 6, 11 and 14, to others.

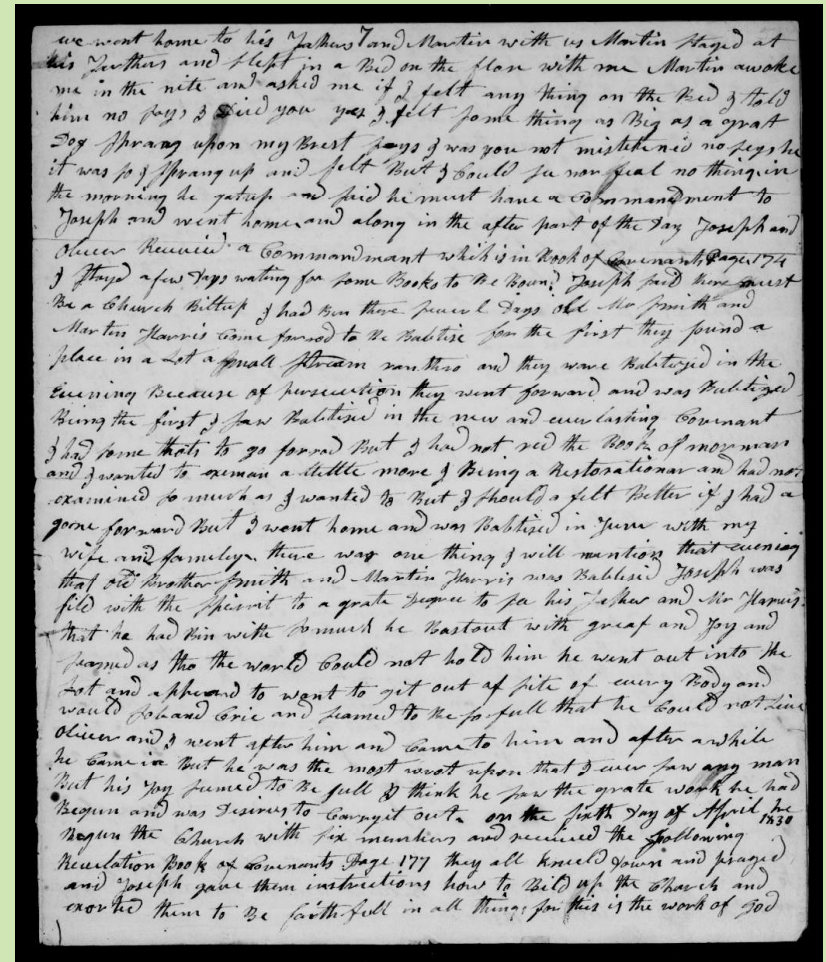
This was a time of anticipation of great things to come.

Late March 1830, the back story on Section 19 – Joseph Knight watched it unfold

Joseph Knight, Sr. wrote 10 pages of his memories surrounding the early years of the church, and titled them “Reminiscences.”

Father Knight wrote:

- In the spring of 1830 Father Knight got his team and took Joseph Smith, Jr. to his father's. On the way young Joseph spoke a lot that a church must be built up.
- Arriving in Palmyra they met Martin Harris in the street with newly bound Books of Mormon. Martin was upset that the books would not sell. Martin insisted several times that Joseph needed to get a revelation for him. Books of Mormon went on sale in Palmyra on March 26, 1830.
- Father Knight and Martin Harris slept on the floor of the Smith home that night, and in the afternoon the Prophet Joseph received a revelation for Martin that he should pay the printer.
- Joseph Knight stayed in Manchester for a “few days,” and he saw Father Smith and Martin Harris get baptized, and the church organized on April 6, 1830.



we went home to his father's land Martin with us Martin stayed at his father's and I slept in a bed on the floor with one Martin awake me in the night and asked me if I felt any thing on the bed I told him no says I did you yes I felt some thing as big as a great dog sprang upon my breast says I was you not mistaken no says he it was so I sprang up and felt but I could see nor feel no thing in the morning he got up and said he must have a commandment to Joseph and went home and along in the after part of the day Joseph and Oliver Keiser a commandment which is in book of commandments page 174 I stayed a few days waiting for some books to be bound Joseph said here must be a church bishop I had been three years I says old Mr Smith and Martin Harris came forward to the pulpit for the first they found a place in a lot a small place and they were baptized in the evening because of persecution they went forward and was baptized being the first of new baptisms in the new and everlasting covenant I had some things to go forward but I had not read the book of mormon and wanted to examine a little more I being a Restorationist and had not examined so much as I wanted to but I should feel better if I had a gone forward but I went home and was baptized in June with my wife and family there was one thing I will mention that evening that old brother Smith and Martin Harris was baptized Joseph was filled with the spirit to a great degree to see his father and Mr Harris that he had this with so much he burst out with great and joy and rejoiced as tho the world could not hold him he went out into the lot and appeared to want to get out of sight of every body and would speak and seemed to be so full that he could not speak Oliver and I went after him and came to him and after awhile he came in but he was the most weat upon that I ever saw any man but his joy seemed to be full I think he saw the grate work he had begun and was desirous to carry it out on the sixth day of April he began the church with six members and received the following revelation book of commandments page 177 they all knelt down and prayed and Joseph gave them instructions how to build up the church and exhorted them to be faithfull in all things for this is the work of God

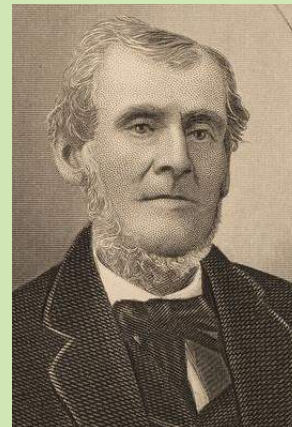
Page 8 of Joseph Knight's handwritten "Reminiscences," that describe taking Joseph Smith to Palmyra and meeting Martin Harris

Joseph Knight, Sr. was a witness to conversations between Joseph Smith and Martin Harris in late March, 1830, in Manchester. Was this when Section 19 was revealed?

Joseph Knight, Sr.'s written "Reminiscences" seem to fit the facts and circumstances of Section 19 closely. Martin was very stressed that the books would not sell and he would lose his farm when the two Joseph's met him in Palmyra. Not surprising he wanted reassurance from the Lord that he needed to pay the printer.

The section heading from the first 1833 printing of the Book of Commandments through the 1981 D. & C., the heading gave a March 1830 date that would match the Father Knight reported situation.

The date was changed in the 2013 D. & C. edition to "the summer of 1829." That was when the Book of Mormon translation was finished and about to be printed. This also would have been a natural time for a revelation telling Martin to be humble and "Impart of they property, yea even part of thy lands, and all save the support of they family."



Left, Martin Harris

Below is a photo taken about 1940 of Martin Harris' home. Home photo from a book by Wilford Wood, printed 1958.

Martin and his wife separated and never got back together because of her anger over his payment for the printing of the Book of Mormon. He had to sell 150 acres of his farm to pay the printer.



Martin Harris' home built of small stones not much larger than an egg. Martin Harris mortgaged this home and his farm to help pay for printing the First Edition of the Book of Mormon. He lost his home and his wife turned against him. Dr. Widssoe and Sister Widssoe, Willard Bean and Sister Bean with Sister Wood and others are in the picture.

1981

SECTION 19

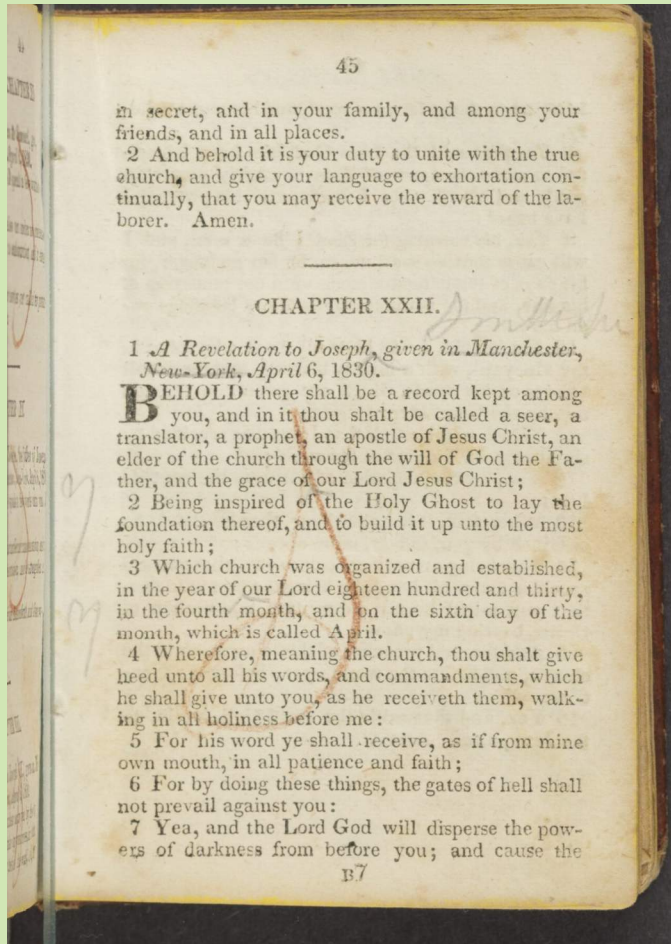
Revelation given through Joseph Smith, at Manchester, New York, March 1830. HC 1: 72-74. In his history the Prophet introduced it as "a commandment of God and not of man, to Martin Harris, given by him who is Eternal."

2013

SECTION 19

Revelation given through Joseph Smith, at Manchester, New York, likely in the summer of 1829. In his history, the Prophet introduces it as "a commandment of God and not of man, to Martin Harris, given by him who is Eternal."

Sections 20 and 21 – the organization of the Church, April 6, 1830: Joseph Knight's Reminiscences at the heart of a little controversy



The revelations themselves, what we know as Section 20 and 21, were carefully written down and preserved. There is no controversy about the verses, it is the Chapter/Section headings that cause the confusion.

Where the church was organized is not as simple a matter as you might think.

At the April 6, 1830 meeting no one was taking roll, or minutes of the meeting. No first-hand, contemporaneous record has been found to report the place, who gave prayers, what hymns were sung, or even who the first six members of the church were.

Several major church publications do not give a list of the first six members, probably because that list can't be given with certainty. The list of the six commonly used by some historians comes not from Joseph Smith, Jr, but Joseph Knight, Jr., and in 1862!

All the written memories agree the day was April 6, 1830, but memories vary on who was there, where it happened, and who the original six members were.

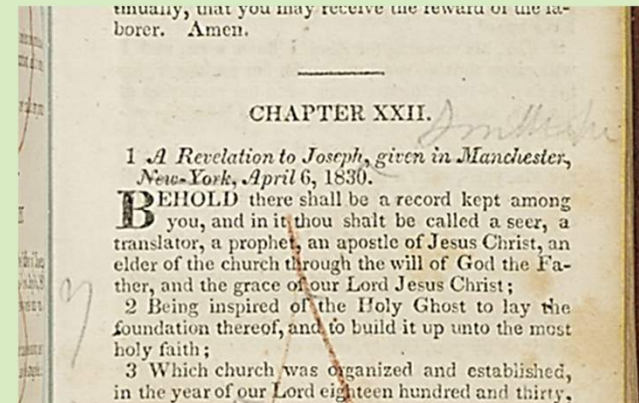
Note that the first instruction given in the revelation was, "Behold, there shall be a record kept among you!"

Why some think the Church was organized in Manchester

- Joseph Knight, Sr. “Reminiscences” report taking Joseph Smith, Jr. to his father’s home in Manchester, and they stay there several days.
- Father Knight in his “Reminiscences” describes going to Manchester, Joseph wanting to get the church built up, and recounts the glorious experience of watching Joseph Smith, Sr. get baptized that night. No mention of going to Fayette. Joseph Smith, Sr. was baptized April 6, 1830.
- In the Wentworth letter in written 1842 Joseph Smith states the Church was organized in Manchester, N.Y.
- Joseph Smith, Jr. received revelation now called Section 23, for 5 men, including Joseph Knight, Sr., and the original heading on that section read April 6, 1830, Manchester.
- William Smith, brother of Joseph remembered the church was organized in Manchester.



The Joseph Smith, Sr. family frame home in Manchester, New York, where they lived from 1825 to the fall of 1830.



1833 Book of Commandments Chapter heading states the April 6 revelation on organizing the church came in Manchester. Pencil note adds, “Smith home.”

Why most think the Church was organized in Fayette, New York

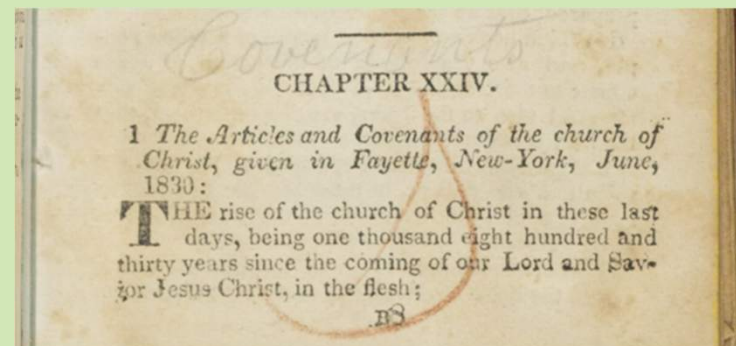
Joseph Smith wrote in the History of the Church that it was organized in Fayette. (He started writing that history in 1838.)

Joseph Smith, Sidney Rigdon, Oliver Cowdery and William G. Fredricks were on the committee that edited the 1833 Book of Commandments and made corrections before it was reprinted in 1835 as the Doctrine and Covenants. Section headings for Sections 20 and 21 were changed to report the location was Fayette.

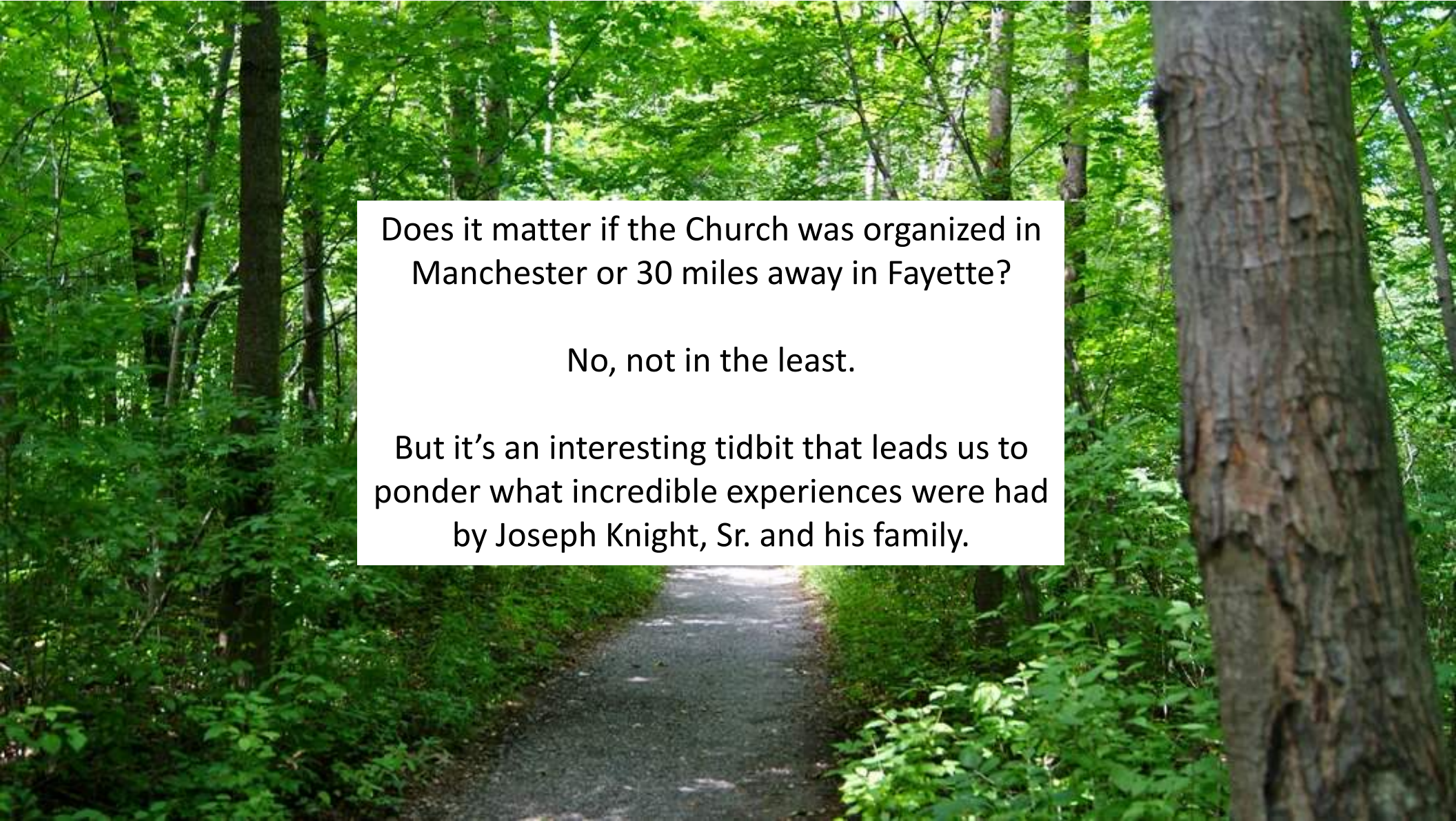
Elder John Carmack 2004 article, "Fayette, the Place the Church was organized."



Peter Whitmer, Sr. rebuilt home in Fayette, New York



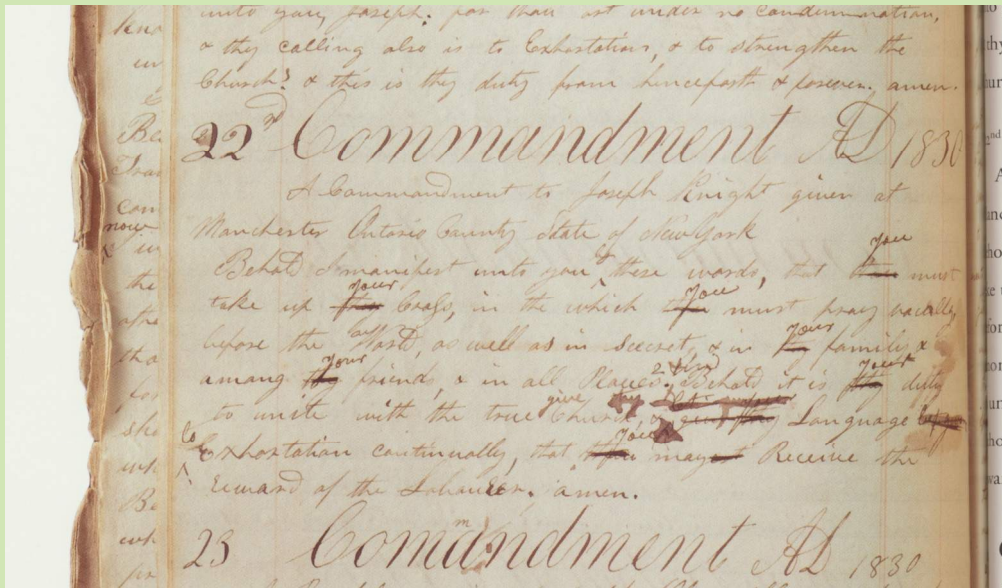
From the 1833 Book of Commandments



Does it matter if the Church was organized in
Manchester or 30 miles away in Fayette?

No, not in the least.

But it's an interesting tidbit that leads us to
ponder what incredible experiences were had
by Joseph Knight, Sr. and his family.



22nd Commandment AD 1830

A commandment to Joseph Knight given at Manchester, Ontario County, State of New York. Behold I manifest unto you by these words that you must take up your cross, in the which you must pray vocally before the world as well as in secret and in your family and among your friends, and in all places. And Behold it is your duty to unite with the true Church and give your language to Exhortation continually, that you may Receive the Reward of the Laborer, Amen.

Doctrine & Covenants Section 23

In the original handwritten copies of the revelations there were five men given personal revelations of 1-2 verses each. These were given at about the same time as the organization of the church. In fact, the 1833 Book of Commandments lists the date as April 6, 1830.

The five commandments were numbered 18-22, with the one directed to Joseph Knight, Sr. being the 22nd commandment.

In several meetings in Colesville by Joseph Knight, Sr., Newel Knight and Joseph Smith, Jr. , Father Knight found it uncomfortable to pray in public and declined. He also had not yet been baptized into the Church.

In Joseph Knight's "Reminiscences," that he gave some thought to being baptized at the same time Father Smith was baptized on April 6th, but decided to wait until after he had read the Book of Mormon. In the end Father Knight was baptized with his family in Colesville on June 28, 1830.



The Knight home in Colesville was the meeting place and headquarters for church activity in the Colesville Branch in 1830. There were more about 60 who participated with the branch.

A group in Colesville had been baptized in late June, but not confirmed because a mob had Joseph Smith arrested for “disturbing the peace,” before confirmations could be held.

In July, Joseph, Oliver and David Whitmer were told they needed to complete those confirmations in Colesville.

Section 24:3, July 1830

3. Magnify thine office; and after thou hast sowed thy fields and secured them, go speedily unto the church which is in **Colesville, Fayette, and Manchester**, and they shall support thee; and I will bless them both spiritually and temporally;

Section 26:1, July 1830

1 Behold, I say unto you that you shall let your time be devoted to the studying of the scriptures, and to preaching, and to **confirming the church at Colesville**, and to performing your labors on the land, such as is required, until after you shall go to the west to hold the next conference; and then it shall be made known what you shall do.

Joseph Smith's journal records the visit from Newel and Sally

of the is the necessity of humility, and meekness before the Lord, that he might take us of his ways; that we might walk in his paths, and live by every word which proceedeth forth from his mouth.

Early in the month of August, Newel Knight and his wife paid us a visit, at my place at Harmony, Penn; and, as neither his wife nor mine had been as yet confirmed, ~~and~~ it was proposed that we should confirm them, and partake together of the sacrament, before he and his wife should leave us. — In order to prepare for this; I set out to go to procure some wine for the occasion, but had gone ^{only} a short distance when I was met by a heavenly messenger, and received the following revelation; the first paragraph of which was written at this time, and the remainder in the September following

Revelation given at Harmony Penn, August 1830.

1. Listen to the voice of Jesus Christ, your Lord, your God and your redeemer, whose word is quick and powerful. For behold I say unto you, that it mattereth

Joseph Smith recorded the visit from Newel and Sally Knight in August 1830. Both Sally and Emma had been baptized in Colesville in June, but neither had yet been confirmed.

Newel had been baptized and confirmed in May of 1830.

They decided it would be nice to hold a sacrament meeting and perform the ordinances. As Joseph went out to get wine for the sacrament, he had a visit from a heavenly messenger.

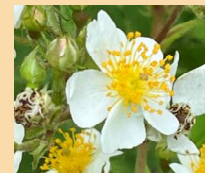
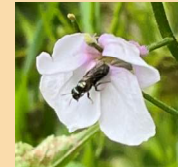
The instructions he received became Section 27.

Section 27 – Early August 1830, Harmony, Pennsylvania

2 For, behold, I say unto you, that it mattereth not what ye shall eat or what ye shall drink when ye partake of the sacrament, if it so be that ye do it with an eye single to my glory—remembering unto the Father my body which was laid down for you, and my blood which was shed for the remission of your sins.

3 Wherefore, a commandment I give unto you, that you shall not purchase wine neither strong drink of your enemies;

4 Wherefore, you shall partake of none except it is made new among you; yea, in this my Father's kingdom which shall be built up on the earth.





Joseph Smith wrote about the event:

“In obedience to the above commandment, we prepared some wine of our own making, and held our meeting, consisting only of five, viz., Newel Knight and his wife, myself and my wife, and John Whitmer. We partook of the Sacrament, after which we confirmed these two sisters into the Church, and spent the evening in a glorious manner. The Spirit of the Lord was poured out upon us, we praised the Lord God, and rejoiced exceedingly.”

Joseph Smith, History of the Church, Vol. 1, p. 108

Sally and Newel returned to Colesville to report that Joseph would come August 21st to confirm the newly baptized people there. The meeting had to be delayed and Joseph and John Whitmer sent a letter.

A copy of this letter to the Colesville Saints is found only in the journal of Newel Knight.

“August 20, Harmony

Dearly Beloved in the Lord,

We are under necessity to disappoint you this time for reason I shall mention hereafter . . . may you all realize the necessity of getting together often to pray and supplicate at the Throne of Grace that the spirit of the Lord may always rest upon you. Remember that without asking we can receive nothing, therefore ask in faith and ye shall receive such blessings as the Lord sees fit to bestow upon you. . . .”

The letter continues at some length, acknowledging the tribulations of the Colesville Saints who are placed among “ravens wolves,” and concludes with instructions to prepare for their visit on the following Saturday.



On August 29th, Joseph and Hyrum Smith and John and David Whitmer also offered “a mighty prayer” themselves pleading for safe keeping before leaving home. Miraculously they rode into Colesville unnoticed and unharmed, and were able to hold a confirmation meeting in the Knight home undisturbed.

Second Conference of the Church September 1830

The last week of August, Newel Knight took his wagon to move Emma and Joseph back to Fayette. What Joseph found there was his Hiram Page, who was married to Catherine Whitmer. Hiram had “found” a seer stone and was preaching some distressing revelations.

Newel went back to Fayette with his brother-in-law Freeborn DeMille in September to attend the 2nd conference of the Church. Newel roomed that night with Joseph Smith.

Newel Knight wrote in his journal about the night before the Second Conference in Fayette: “Joseph was perplexed, and scarcely knew how to meet this new exigency. That night I occupied the same room that he did and the greater part of the night was spent in prayer and supplication. . .”

Newel wrote, “It was wonderful to witness the wisdom that Joseph manifested on this occasion for truly God did give him great wisdom and power.”



Section 28 – Fayette, New York

The revelation declared that no one in the Church was appointed to receive revelation for the church other than Joseph Smith. And, “For all things must be done in order, and by common consent in the church, by the prayer of faith.”



Rebuilt Peter Whitmer, Sr. home in Fayette, New York

Section 29 – Fayette, Sept. 26, 1830 & Second Conference of the Church

The gathering began.

Even as a hen gathers her chicks, the Lord would have his people gathered. The members of the Church were commanded to gather in a place not yet announced.

Freeborn DeMille, husband of Anna Knight DeMille, was baptized by Hyrum Smith and confirmed by Joseph Smith

Newel Knight was ordained a priest by Oliver Cowdery

Total baptized membership of the Church was now 62. The Knight, Peck, Slade, Stringham, DeMille relatives from Colesville made up one-fourth of the Church. More were committed to the church but not yet had the opportunity to be baptized.

Newel Knight and his brother-in-law Freeborn DeMille attended the 3rd Conference in Fayette and brought back word to the family that the gathering place of the Saints would be in Ohio. The whole extended family immediately began plans to move.

Just a few weeks later, in early January 1831, Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon visited Colesville. Such severe threats were made against them and the Knights, that they left immediately.

Joseph Knight, Sr., with wife Polly and their daughter Polly left in the dark of night for Kirtland. The rest of his children and extended family came in April.

It took the rest of the Colesville Branch 25 days to get everyone to Thompson, Ohio.



Section 37- Jan. 2, 1831 3rd Conference – Fayette

1. Behold, I say unto you that it is not expedient in me that ye should translate any more until **ye shall go to the Ohio**, and this because of the enemy and for your sakes.
2. And again, I say unto you that ye shall not go until ye have preached my gospel in those parts, and have strengthened up the church whithersoever it is found, and **more especially in Colesville; for, behold, they pray unto me in much faith.**

Section 38, January 2, 1831

25 And again I say unto you, let every man esteem his brother as himself.

26 For what man among you having twelve sons, and is no respecter of them, and they serve him obediently, and he saith unto the one: Be thou clothed in robes and sit thou here; and to the other: Be thou clothed in rags and sit thou there—and looketh upon his sons and saith I am just? . . .

Section 51, May 1831

13 And again, let the bishop appoint a storehouse unto this church; and let all things both in money and in meat, which are more than is needful for the wants of this people, be kept in the hands of the bishop.

14 And let him also reserve unto himself for his own wants, and for the wants of his family, as he shall be employed in doing this business.

15 And thus I grant unto this people a privilege of organizing themselves according to my laws.



The United Order

At the Third Conference in Fayette on January 2nd, the revelation that became Section 38 was presented, and it signaled the beginning of a new economic system known as the United Order.

Section 51 was given in Kirtland in May of 1831. The Colesville Branch was asked to be the first to live the United Order. They were asked to go as a group to Thompson, Ohio, ten miles from Kirtland, and create a self-contained community on donated land.

Section 52 - June 3-6

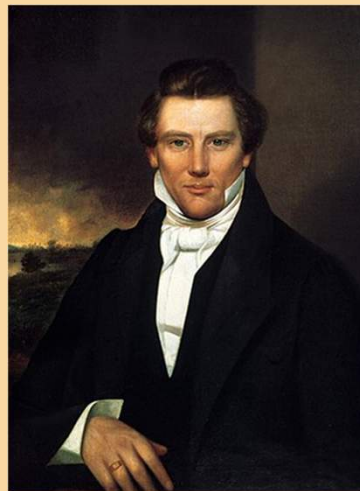
Following a conference held in Kirtland

10 Let them go two by two, and thus let them preach by the way in every congregation, baptizing by water, and the laying on of the hands by the water's side. . .

32 And let my servants **Newel Knight** and Selah Griffin both be ordained, and also take their journey.

33 Yea, verily I say, let all these take their journey unto one place, in their several courses, and one man shall not build upon another's foundation, neither journey in another's track.

34 He that is faithful, the same shall be kept and blessed with much fruit.



During the Kirtland Conference, Joseph Smith announced that 28 men were called on missions to preach variously, in Missouri, “eastern lands” and even “Detroit.”

Newel's mission call to Missouri led to some great distress among members of the Colesville Branch. More guidance was sought.

Section 54

2 Behold, verily, verily, I say unto you, my servant **Newel Knight**, you shall stand fast in the office whereunto I have appointed you. . .

8 And **thus you [you, meaning the whole of the Colesville Branch] shall take your journey into the regions westward, unto the land of Missouri, unto the borders of the Lamanites.**

Section 56

6 For behold, I revoke the commandment which was given unto my servants Selah J. Griffin and **Newel Knight, in consequence of the stiffneckedness of my people which are in Thompson, and their rebellions.**

7 Wherefore, let my servant Newel Knight remain with them; and as many as will go may go, that are contrite before me, and be led by him to the land which I have appointed.



With new homes underway, Leman Copley withdrew his land from the United Order. The consecrated community lasted less than 43 days, and instead of Newel going on a mission to Missouri, the whole branch was asked to move to the western most part of Missouri.

Newel was released from his mission call and was asked to lead the branch to Kaw Township, Missouri.

The Colesville Branch included two dozen children and about 40 adults, and they had a long journey to Missouri. Going by river helped make the journey faster.

To make matters worse, Polly Peck Knight was very sick. Newel even left the steamboat at one point to buy lumber to make a coffin just in case she died along the way.

Polly's greatest hope was to be buried in Zion, and she made it just barely. She passed away a few days after her family made it to Kaw Township, Missouri, and she rejoiced that she was in Zion.

By the time the Colesville Branch got to Missouri in July, 1831, they had been traveling 53 of the previous 95 days.



Route of the Colesville Branch from Thompson, Ohio to Kaw Township, Missouri, a journey of 28 days.

1. From Thompson to Wellsville, Ohio by wagon
2. Down the Ohio River by Steamboat to Cairo, Illinois
3. Up the Mississippi River by Steamboat to St. Louis
4. West on the Missouri River by steamboat to Independence, Missouri
5. Up the Big Blue River by flat boat to Kaw Township

Part of the Section 59 heading, [2013 edition:]

“Revelation given through Joseph Smith the Prophet, in Zion, Jackson County, Missouri, August 7, 1831. Preceding this revelation, the land was consecrated, as the Lord had directed, and the site for the future temple was dedicated. On the day this revelation was received, Polly Knight, the wife of Joseph Knight Sr., died, the first Church member to die in Zion.”

Verses 2-4 were part of the funeral sermon Joseph Smith gave for Polly Knight.

Joseph Knight wrote, “She was buried in the woods in a spot chosen by ourselves.”



Section 59 - Jackson County, Missouri 7 August 1831

1. Behold, blessed, saith the Lord, are they who have come up unto this land with an eye single to my glory, according to my commandments.
2. For those that live shall inherit the earth, and those that die shall rest from all their labors, and their works shall follow them; and they shall receive a crown in the mansions of my Father, which I have prepared for them.
3. Yea, blessed are they whose feet stand upon the land of Zion, who have obeyed my gospel; for they shall receive for their reward the good things of the earth, and it shall bring forth in its strength.
4. And they shall also be crowned with blessings from above, yea, and with commandments, not a few, and with revelations in their time—they that are faithful and diligent before me.



Section 100 -Perrysburg, New York October 12, 1833

3. Behold, and lo, I have much people in this place, in the regions round about; and an effectual door shall be opened in the regions round about in this eastern land.

4. Therefore, I, the Lord, have suffered you to come unto this place; for thus it was expedient in me for the salvation of souls.

In October of 1833, Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon left Kirtland to parts of New York and “Upper Canada,” the region north of Lake Erie. Like many missionaries, Joseph and Sidney became concerned about the welfare of their families at home and prayed for help. This revelation instructed them to preach for the salvation of souls.

Lydia Goldthwaite, a young woman visiting the Nickerson home in Mount Pleasant, heard Joseph and Sidney preach and quickly became one of those souls that it was found.



Lydia Goldthwaite
Baptized 27 October 1833 by Joseph Smith
in Mount Pleasant, Upper Canada
Lydia married Newel Knight on 23 November 1835



Hyrum and Jerusha Smith Home in Kirtland, Ohio. This is the home where Newel and Lydia met and where they were later married by Joseph Smith. Hyrum and Jerusha hosted the wedding party for Lydia and Newell in their home.

Lydia Goldthwaite moved to Kirtland, Ohio after her baptism, where she met widower, Newel Knight. They were boarders at the Hyrum and Jerusha Smith home. After their marriage, Newel and Lydia returned to Newel's home in Clay County, Missouri after the dedication of the temple.

The Knights had already been driven from Jackson County.

Like all the Knights and members of the Colesville Branch, they were pushed from Clay County to Caldwell County and then to Nauvoo. The branch no longer existed. The group fractured as each family unit tried to find their own way. Nahum Knight took his family west rather than to Nauvoo.

In Nauvoo, Newel and Joseph, Jr. resumed the family trade of mill building.

Section 124:131-132

19 Jan. 1841 – Nauvoo, Illinois

Newel was named with 11 other men to be on the High Council in Nauvoo

131. And again, I say unto you, I give unto you a high council, for the cornerstone of Zion—

132. Namely, Samuel Bent, Henry G. Sherwood, George W. Harris, Charles C. Rich, Thomas Grover, **Newel Knight**, David Dort, Dunbar Wilson—Seymour Brunson I have taken unto myself; no man taketh his priesthood, but another may be appointed unto the same priesthood in his stead; and verily I say unto you, let my servant Aaron Johnson be ordained unto this calling in his stead—David Fullmer, Alpheus Cutler, William Huntington.



Section 128

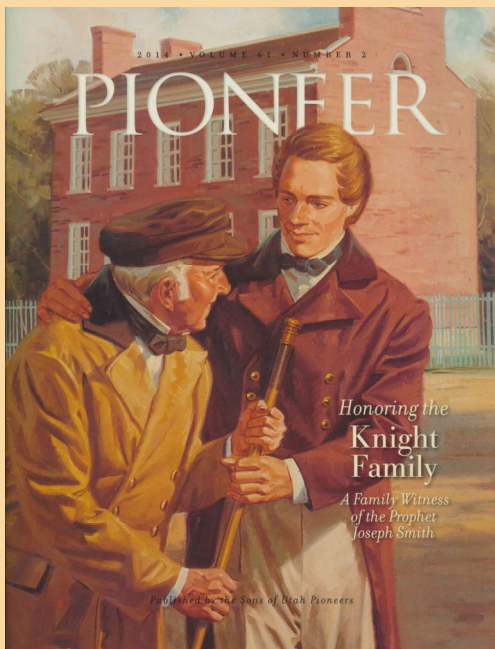
6 September 1842 – Nauvoo

An epistle from Joseph Smith

20 And again, what do we hear? Glad tidings from Cumorah! Moroni, an angel from heaven, declaring the fulfilment of the prophets—the book to be revealed. A voice of the Lord in the wilderness of Fayette, Seneca county, declaring the three witnesses to bear record of the book! The voice of Michael on the banks of the Susquehanna, detecting the devil when he appeared as an angel of light! **The voice of Peter, James, and John in the wilderness between Harmony, Susquehanna county, and Colesville, Broome county,** on the Susquehanna river, declaring themselves as possessing the keys of the kingdom, and of the dispensation of the fulness of times!



Besides rejoicing in the restoration, this epistle gives instructions on baptisms for the dead.



In Nauvoo, Joseph Smith, Jr., met Joseph Knight, Sr., now an older man on the street, and gave to him a nice cane he had been given, commenting that his old friend needed it more than he did.

That cane was passed down through several generations of Knights, and then donated to the Church. The cane now can be viewed in the Church History Museum, first floor.



The Doctrine and Covenants was a significant volume of scripture for the Knight family.

Over the years many of the friends and supporters of Joseph Smith in the early years had a falling out of one kind or another with him. The Knight family are among the few who stayed loyal.

“I have my feelings of the 16th inst. Towards my friends revived, while I contemplate the virtues and the good qualities and characteristics of the faithful few, which I am now recording in the Book of the Law of the Lord- of such as have stood by me in every hour of peril for these fifteen long years past- for instance, my ged and beloved brother, JOSEPH KNIGHT, SENIOR, who was among the first. . .

“Behold his is a righteous man . . . And it shall be said of him by the sons of Zion, while there is one of them remaining that this was a faithful man in Israel, therefore his name shall never be forgotten.

There are his sons, NEWEL KNIGHT and JOSEPH KNIGHT, JUN. whose names I record in the Book of the Law of the Lord with unspeakable delight, for they are my friends.”

*Joseph Smith
January 22, 1842*



Created by Diane Mangum, June 2024 for the Knight Reunion held in Provo, Utah, June 22, 2024. For a more complete text and citations on sources used, go to josephknightfamily.org. A pdf with the expanded text version is posted with 2024 Reunion Handouts.