

Knights Hold Memorable 2012 Reunion in St. George, Utah



Joseph Sr. and Polly Peck Knight descendants met for two days of reunion activities in St. George, Utah, June 8 and 9. Every two years, Knights exchange family histories, celebrate a rich ancestral heritage, and explore their common roots. This year's reunion was the largest in attendance and in the number of special events and activities.

Preparations were well planned and executed including a delicious Friday Dutch Oven dinner for over 330 persons. For a good number of Knight relatives, it was their first Knight reunion. More younger families attended than in past reunions. All were excited to mingle and share memories. James Knight and Dilworth Lyman created a spectacular giant pedigree wall chart of all Joseph Knight's children posted in the cultural hall where Knights met for events. Two special events highlighted this year's reunion. After the Friday dinner, nearly 400 Knights met in the historic St. George Tabernacle for a fireside with Elder Bruce C. and sister Marie Hafen, president and matron of the St. George LDS Temple. Both are descendants of Joseph Sr. and Polly Peck Knight. Their combined address featured the theme: "Keep your covenants and your covenants will keep you." The Hafens wove many spiritual stories of early Knight family experiences to demonstrate how the grace of the Lord can be manifested in our own lives, even experiencing similar miracles and answers to prayers. Obedience to the commandments of God provides access to God's mercies—for God always keeps His promises!



On a beautiful Saturday morning, Lydia Knight's new headstone, located in the St. George cemetery, was re-dedicated on the exact date of her 200th birthday! Lydia crossed the Great Plains with seven children as a single mother after her husband Newel Knight died in Nebraska in 1847. Her life has been chronicled in several books, articles, and magazines. Lydia's motto was, "God Rules!" Special thanks to James

Knight, the late Mavon Herring, and Branton Campbell, who gave an inspiring dedicatory prayer.

Held Friday afternoon, the histories of Joseph Knight Sr., Joseph Knight Jr., Polly Knight, Samuel Knight and Joseph Knight's children were reviewed in a series of workshop classes, and included other family history instruction presented by missionaries from the St. George LDS Family History Center.

Marla Kirby headed up the service project. Children and youth were treated to special activities for both days. Knights enjoyed a reader's theatre, before Saturday's lunch, from Vickie Lasswell.



A short business meeting culminated the Saturday agenda. Gordon Knight presented a lifetime recognition award to Darrell Knight for his many contributions to the Joseph Knight family, including organizing the Knight Family Organization in 1988; assisting with researching and publishing two Knight family history books, working closely with the author Bill Hartley; and initiating many historical projects, such as the current effort to publish Newel Knight's personal journal next year.



Saturday afternoon and evening were left open for family tours, shopping, and swimming. A large volume of Knight DVDs were purchased, along with pre-ordered T-shirts, which enable the funding of future Knight events and contributing to special projects, such as the restoration of the Joseph Knight Sr. original farmhouse at Colesville, New York.

Carolyn Lyman of Highland, Utah chaired the reunion and supervised an army of volunteers. Her drive and organizing abilities were seen throughout the entire event. All Knights owe her special appreciation for more than a year's effort to put on the reunion.

Other committee members included James Knight, Edi Ulloa, Darrell Knight, Ferrel Knight, and Gordon Knight. Edi Ulloa was not able to attend this year's reunion, but her work over many years in keeping a database of reunion and website registrations ensured a successful event. Special thanks to Kristine Hatch for managing the huge job of keeping us well fed; to Natalie Johnson for orchestrating the promotion and advertising; and to LuAnn Abbott and Jennie Murdock, who organized the classes.

And sincere thanks to everyone for attending. It was a joy to meet so many marvelous descendants. In the end, all the effort to bring Joseph Knight families closer together is a direct fulfillment of Joseph Smith's blessing to Joseph Knight Sr., that his name would never be forgotten among the righteous of the earth and his posterity.

Plan to attend the 2014 Reunion. Have an interest to work on the organizing committee? Simply send us an email at: info@josephknightfamily.org

