

Lydia Goldthwait(e) Bailey Knight Dalton McClellan

Born 9 June 1812 at Sutton, Massachusetts

Died 3 April 1884 (age 71) at St. George, Utah

Also lived in New York, Canada, Ohio, Missouri,
Illinois, Nebraska, Iowa, and

Salt Lake, Provo, Payson, & Santa Clara, Utah

By John Knight Mangum, Jr., great-great-grandson

June 2016, Revised December 2020

Principal Sources

- Newel Knight's Journal (Allen version) – written in relevant part 1835-1847. Most of the Journal was later published in 2019 by BYU under the Title, *The Rise of the Latter-day Saints*, edited by M. H. MacKay & Wm. G. Hartley.
- Lydia Knight's History – written by Susa Young Gates under the pseudonym "Homespun" as the first book of the Noble Women's Lives series, published by the Juvenile Instructor in 1883. Gates was then about 27, and similar to Lydia, had been married at age 16 to a man with a drinking problem she soon divorced after bearing him 2 children.
- William G. Hartley, *Stand By My Servant Joseph, The Story of the Joseph Knight Family and the Restoration*, Joseph Fielding Smith Institute for LDS History & Deseret Book, 2003 (especially ch. 10)
- J. Will Knight, *The Jesse Knight Family: Jesse Knight, His Forebears and Family*, Deseret News Press, 1941.

Family of Jesse G. Goldthwait & Sally Burt
(1779-1870) md. Oct. 1808 (1789-1869)

1. David (1809 - 1869)
2. Ruth (1811 - 1892)
3. **Lydia (1812 – 1884)**
4. Eunice (1815 – 1900)
5. Hiram (1815 – aft 1880)
6. Mary (1818 – 1856)
7. Moses (1820 – aft 1880)
8. Jesse (1822 – 1901)
9. Amos (1823 – aft 1855)
10. Chloe (1826 – aft 1847)
11. Reuben (1828 – 1900)
12. Sally Maria (1830 – 1896)

“Lydia never leaves till the last lock is pulled.”

- Wool pulling
- Once a family sheep is killed, the skin is rolled up in ashes or lime and left for a time. Then, the wool may be pulled off the skin more easily. This was usually done by children. Lydia was the most persistent of her siblings in seeing this job through to the end.

In 1820, when Lydia was 8, her family moved from Massachusetts to Villenova township, New York, in the southwest corner of the state, about 30 miles southwest of Buffalo and about 15 miles inland heading east from Lake Erie. Her parents lived there the rest of their lives.

Lake Erie



·About 1827, at age 15, Lydia started attending a boarding school. Hartley believes it was likely the Fredonia Academy in nearby Pomfret, which had opened a year earlier. It was about 12-13 miles northeast from her home, near Lake Erie. While at the boarding school, she met a popular young man named Calvin Bailey, from out of the area, who was several years older than she was, perhaps by as much as a decade or more.

·In the fall of 1829, according to Newel's journal, when Lydia was 17, she married Mr. Bailey. The 1830 census records a Calvin Bailey, age 20-30, and his wife, age 15-20, with no children listed, living in Perrysburg township, New York, about 9 miles northeast as the crow flies from her parents' home in Villenova. Unfortunately for Lydia, she learned about three months after her marriage that her husband had a drinking problem. She kept that knowledge to herself, not confiding in her family, but only to God.

·But again according to Newel's journal, Lydia bore Mr. Bailey a baby daughter in the fall of 1830. We believe the baby's name was Rosanna. While Lydia delighted in her baby, that birth added to Lydia's grief, for the baby to live in what soon came to be destitute circumstances with a father too captivated by alcohol, as Calvin lost his farm to his vices.

·Either shortly before or after Rosanna's birth, the small family moved to the village of Lodi, NY, where Calvin rented the family a small, uncomfortable house. He spent most of his time at the shop or tavern.

·In February 1832, Lydia gave birth to a son Edwin. He only lived one day.

“About two weeks after the birth of their son, Mr. Bailey arose one morning before daylight, and went out without saying a word. . . . He did not return until about one o’clock, when he came in and said to Lydia: You must get ready by tomorrow morning to move to New Albion, a distance of about one hundred miles. The was a new idea to her She replied her health would not admit of it, as she was not able to sit up for half an hour at a time. He replied: Well, if you are so independent, you may stay where you are, but I shall go where you shall never see me again. He ate, dressed himself in his best, and went away. He had been gone but a short time when a gentleman came and drove away their cow, which was giving milk and was their main dependence for a living. Bailey had sold it to get money to go away with.

·He had been gone a considerable time when he returned and tried to get the child, and take the life of its mother, but through the interference of kind friends, both were rescued from him.” N.K. Journal, p. 52 of Allen typescript, also *Rise of the L.-d. Saints*, pp. 83-84.

Family of Calvin Bailey & Lydia Goldthwait
(1801-1833) md. Fall 1828 or '29 (1812-1884)
Lydia was 16 or 17 when she married.
Calvin abandoned Lydia in 1831 or 1832.

1. Rosanna (Nov. 1830 - Jan. 1833)
2. Edwin (Feb. 1832 – Feb. 1832)

1833-1834 New York Home to Canada

- By early 1833, Lydia is back living with her parents in Villenova, NY. Lydia's daughter Rosanna, age 2, takes ill and dies in January of 1833. Lydia is still a few months shy of 21 years old, has been married, abandoned, and lost both of her children to death.
- Disconsolate, Lydia is invited by a family friend, Eleazar Freeman Nickerson, to go to his home in Mount Pleasant, Canada and stay with his wife and family. Lydia agrees, and in late February of 1833, she and Mr. Nickerson take a shortcut across frozen Lake Erie to Canada. Minor mishap crossing the Lake. *History*, p. 14
- Lydia remains with the Nickersons at their Canada home until late summer of 1834.
- Lydia's life was uneventful there until October of 1833, when Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon arrived with Mr. Nickerson's parents on Friday, October 18, 1833.

3. The New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio Area of the USA



- The following Saturday evening, Lydia's host invited Joseph Smith & Sidney Rigdon to tell about their newfound faith. As Joseph spoke, Lydia saw his face become white with a shining glow emanating from it. Over the next week, she heard several times from these two elders and her host's parents, who had earlier joined the new church. Finally, on Sunday, October 27, 1833, Lydia joined 11 others in the waters of baptism in this new faith, and was confirmed that evening with the gift of the Holy Ghost.
- The following evening, after two more were baptized, the group of new members was together with Joseph Smith. Moses Nickerson, one of the newly baptized, said if one of the group who knew no language but English would speak in tongues, he would not doubt the faith they had just embraced. Joseph Smith responded that if one of them would stand in the name of the Lord, he or she would speak in tongues. Those present asked Lydia to stand, and she did and spoke in tongues. "The room was well lighted, yet there was a cloud of light, above the brightness of the candles which covered the room, and then gathered and fell upon her. This light was visible to all in the room and it was a time of joy long to be remembered." N. K. Journal, p. 52 of Allen typescript, also *Rise of the L.-d. Saints*, pp. 84-85.

A Precursor to Patriarchal blessings

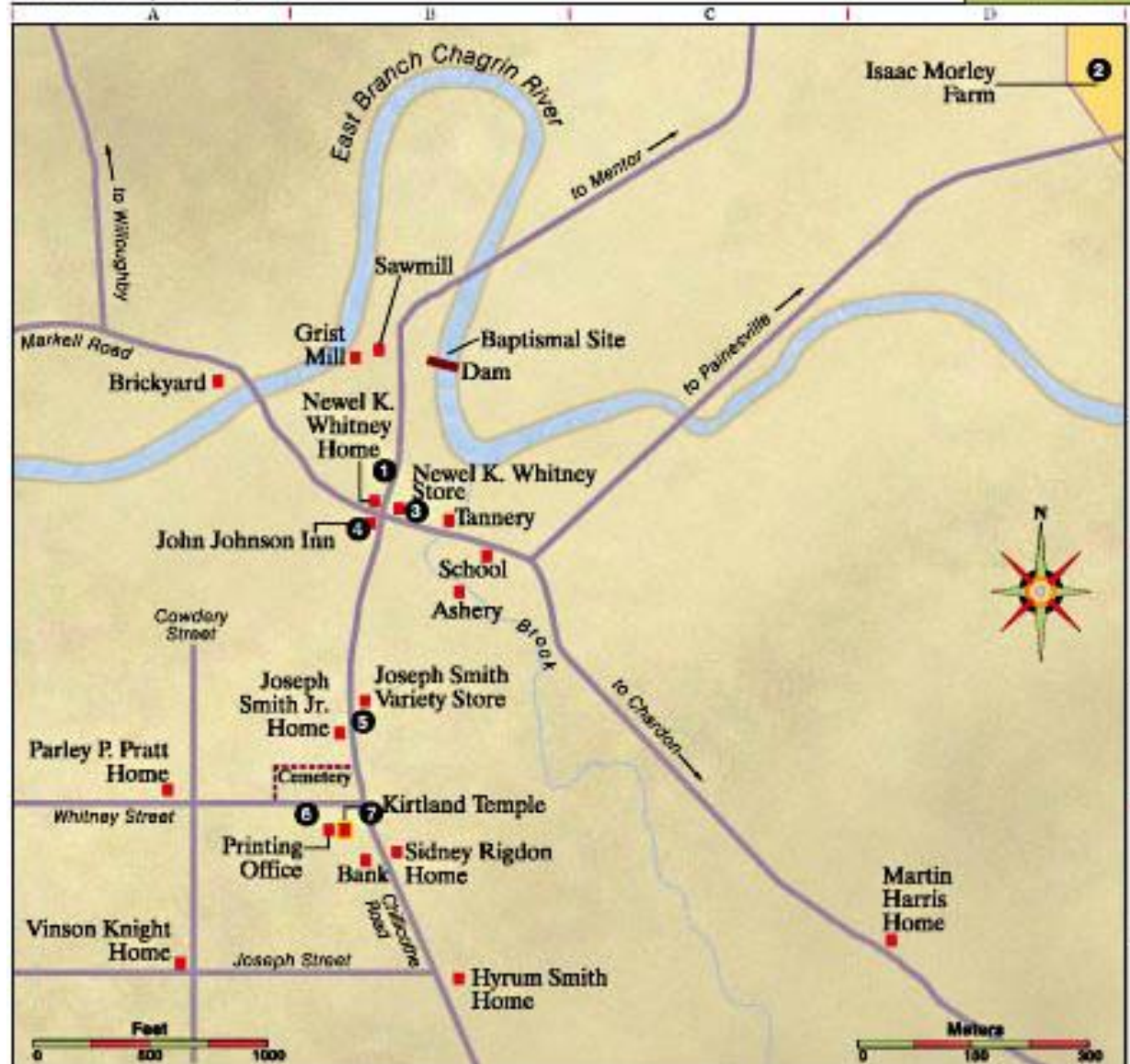
- The next morning, as preparations were made for Joseph and Sidney to leave, Joseph gazed at Lydia for a time. He then declared to know the cause of Lydia's former suffering. The Lord "has suffered her to be afflicted that she might be brought to a knowledge of the things of salvation." She later reported that her greatest sufferings had always been the source of blessings in the Lord's due time. N.K. Journal, p. 53, Allen typescript
- Before leaving, Joseph then pronounced a blessing for Lydia: "The Lord your Savior loves you, and will overrule all your past sorrows and afflictions for good unto you. Let your heart be comforted. You are of the blood of Israel descended through the loins of Ephraim. You shall yet be a savior to your father's house. Therefore be comforted, and let your heart rejoice, for the Lord has a great work for you to do. Be faithful and endure unto the end and all will be well." Hartley, *Stand . . .*, p. 217

1834-35 Canada to New York to Kirtland, Ohio

- Lydia stayed with the Nickerson family in Mount Pleasant until late summer of 1834. She then travelled towards her parents, getting a ride as far as St. Catherine, Canada, 80 miles from her home. After a 2 month stay in St. Catherine, she travelled by stagecoach to her parents' home in Villenova, NY, arriving in September, 1834.
- She hoped to persuade her family to join her newfound church, but they rebuffed her efforts, thinking she was delusional. But seeing her determination to join with other church members in Kirtland, her parents generously gave her the means to travel and ample to start out comfortable and respectable.
- She left home in May of 1835 for Kirtland in the company of the family of a Mr. Knight, and settled in Kirtland with the family of his brother Vinson Knight, no relation to her future husband's family.

Arrival in Kirtland, OH

- Before unpacking, Mr. Vinson Knight told Lydia that Joseph Smith was in bondage over an unpaid debt, and asked if she could help. She emptied her purse and promptly gave all she had, about \$50 (\$700-1,000 in today's money). Mr. Knight thanked her and provided her room and board with his family for the next 6 months or so.
- About October of 1835, Lydia accepted an offer of Hyrum Smith for her to come live with his family and help his wife Jerusha run a boarding house. It was there she met a fellow boarder, Newel Knight, who had come to Kirtland to work on the new Temple there, without pay.



Courtship & Marriage of Lydia & Newel

- Lydia had no knowledge of what had happened to her husband Calvin Bailey, but believed him to be still alive somewhere unknown to her. So she rebuffed Newel's early attempts to woo her, believing she was not free to again marry, even when he tried to persuade her that under his understanding of Ohio law, she was free of her first marriage because she had been abandoned for more than 3 years. (After 2003, evidence was found that Mr. Bailey had died two years earlier, in 1833.)
- So Newel fasted and prayed for 3 days, then told Hyrum Smith of his desire to marry Lydia. Hyrum consulted with Joseph, who told Hyrum after brief thought and prayer, that the marriage should proceed. Newel promptly obtained a marriage license, and they were married that day, Nov. 24, 1835. Initially it was presumed that the ceremony would be performed by Elder S. Brunson, who was officially licensed to perform marriages in Ohio. But Joseph Smith decided he, even lacking a written license, would perform the ceremony, the first one he did. Hartley explains Joseph's legal authority to marry others, even without a license, in his *Stand* history, at pp. 225-231.



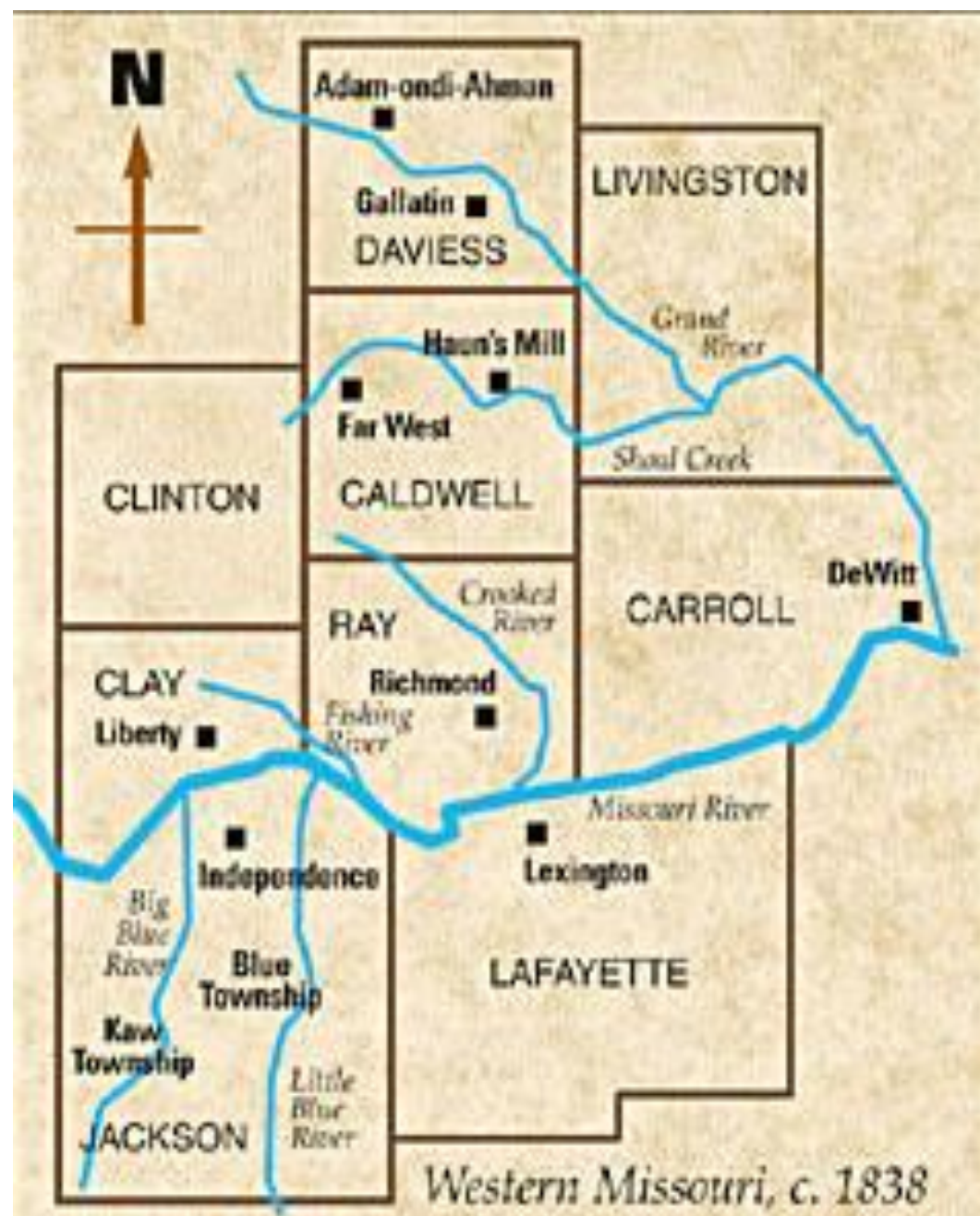
Kirtland Temple

Lydia's Patriarchal blessing, April 3, 1836, by Joseph Smith, Sr.

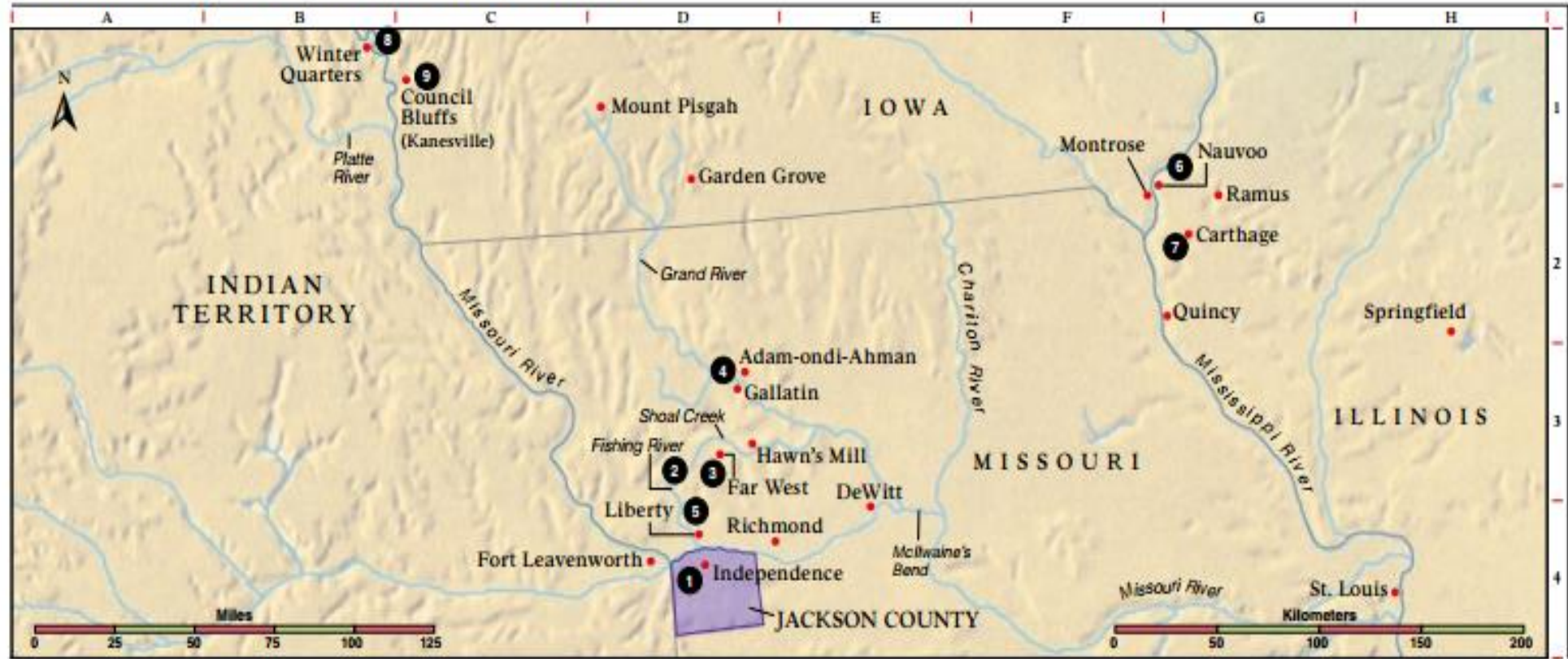
(See *Rise of the L.-d. Saints*, pp. 90-92)

- Sister Knight, In the name of Jesus Christ, I lay my hands on thy head and ask my Heavenly Father to give me wisdom and power to pronounce such things as shall be according to the mind of the Holy Spirit. I also ask God to prepare thee to receive blessings, and to pour them into thy soul, even a fullness; and to give thee wisdom to abide all things that shall come upon thee; and bless thee in thy out-goings and in thy in-comings. I seal a father's blessing upon thee and thy posterity. For thou shalt be a mother of many children. And thou shalt teach them righteousness, and have power to keep them from the power of the destroyer; and thy heart shall not be pained because of the loss of thy children, for the Lord shall watch over them and keep them. And your children shall be raised up for glory and be ornaments in the Church.

Thou hast been afflicted much in thy past days, and thy heart has been pained. Many tears have fallen from thine eyes and thou hast wept much. But thou shalt be comforted. The Lord loves thee and has given thee a kind and loving companion for thy comfort. And your souls shall be knit together, and nothing shall be able to dissolve them. Neither distress nor death shall separate you. You shall be preserved in life, and go safely and speedily to the land of Zion. Thou shalt have a good passage, and receive an inheritance in Jackson County. Thou shalt also see thy friends in Zion, thy brothers and sisters, and rejoice with them in the glory of God. Angels shall minister unto thee; thy heart shall be comforted. Thou shalt receive all thy hearts desire. Thy soul shall be enlarged, and thou shalt stand to see Israel gather from their dispersion, the ten tribes come from the land of the north country; the heavens rend, and the Son of Man come in all the glory of His Father. And thou shalt rise to meet Him and reign with Him a thousand years, and thy offspring with thee. Great are thy blessings. I confirm blessings on thee in common with thy husband. Blessings of the earth, and all things which thou needest for thy comfort. And thou shalt be a mother in Israel. Thou shalt relieve the needs of the oppressed and minister to the needy. All needed blessings are thine. I seal them upon thee, and seal thee up unto eternal life, in the name of Jesus. Amen.



5. The Missouri, Illinois, and Iowa Area of the USA



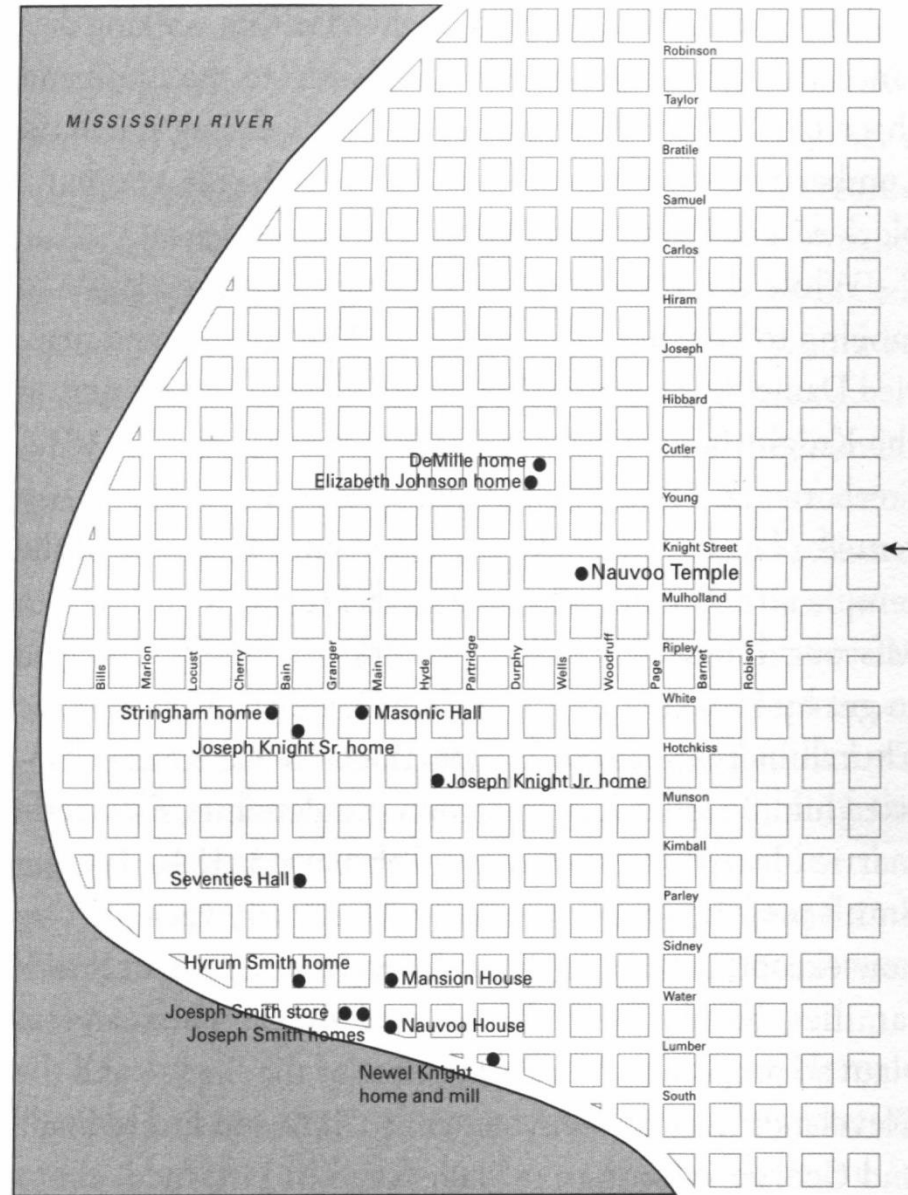
In Missouri – 1836-1839

- After travelling most of the way by boat, Newel and Lydia arrived in Clay County, MO, in May of 1836. Lydia there became step-mother to Newel's son Samuel, by his first wife Sally. Samuel was now age 3 & 1/2. They also began caring for Newel's aunt Esther Peck Culver, but she died in Oct. 1836.
- Lydia's first child with Newel was Sally, born Dec. 1, 1836.
- Lydia's sickness in Feb. 1837. Newel's prayer for her recovery was granted. See *Journal, Rise of the L.-d. Saints*, pp. 99-100.
- They move to Far West in Feb. 1838.
- Son James born April 29, 1838, just days after Newel built a new home in only ten days, letting his earlier new home be used at Brigham Young's request for the Church's printing press brought from Kirtland.
- Nov. 1, 1838 – story of men hidden by Lydia in her home. *History*, p. 48.
- They leave Far West in late Feb. 1839 for Illinois. 2 months to get to Mississippi River.

Nauvoo – 1839-1846

- Lived in tents for months. Newel first worked on new mill as requested by Church Leaders, before he could start a house for his family.
- Sept. 1839, Lydia's grave sickness, followed by son James
- 4 children born to Lydia and Newel in Nauvoo: Joseph – Oct. 18, 1840; Newel – Oct. 14, 1842; Lydia – June 6, 1844; & Jesse – Sept. 6, 1845.
- 1842 Lydia was an early member of the newly-formed Relief Society, with several other Knight women.
- Winter of 1845-46, Lydia and Newel sealed in new Nauvoo Temple, not yet fully completed.
- April 1846, Lydia and family leave Nauvoo to go west.

BUILDING THE PROPHET'S CITY



Knight family homes in Nauvoo



Newel Knight Home? in Nauvoo as of early 1900s



Circa 1847, Public Domain.

Nauvoo Temple about 1847



Rebuilt Nauvoo Temple

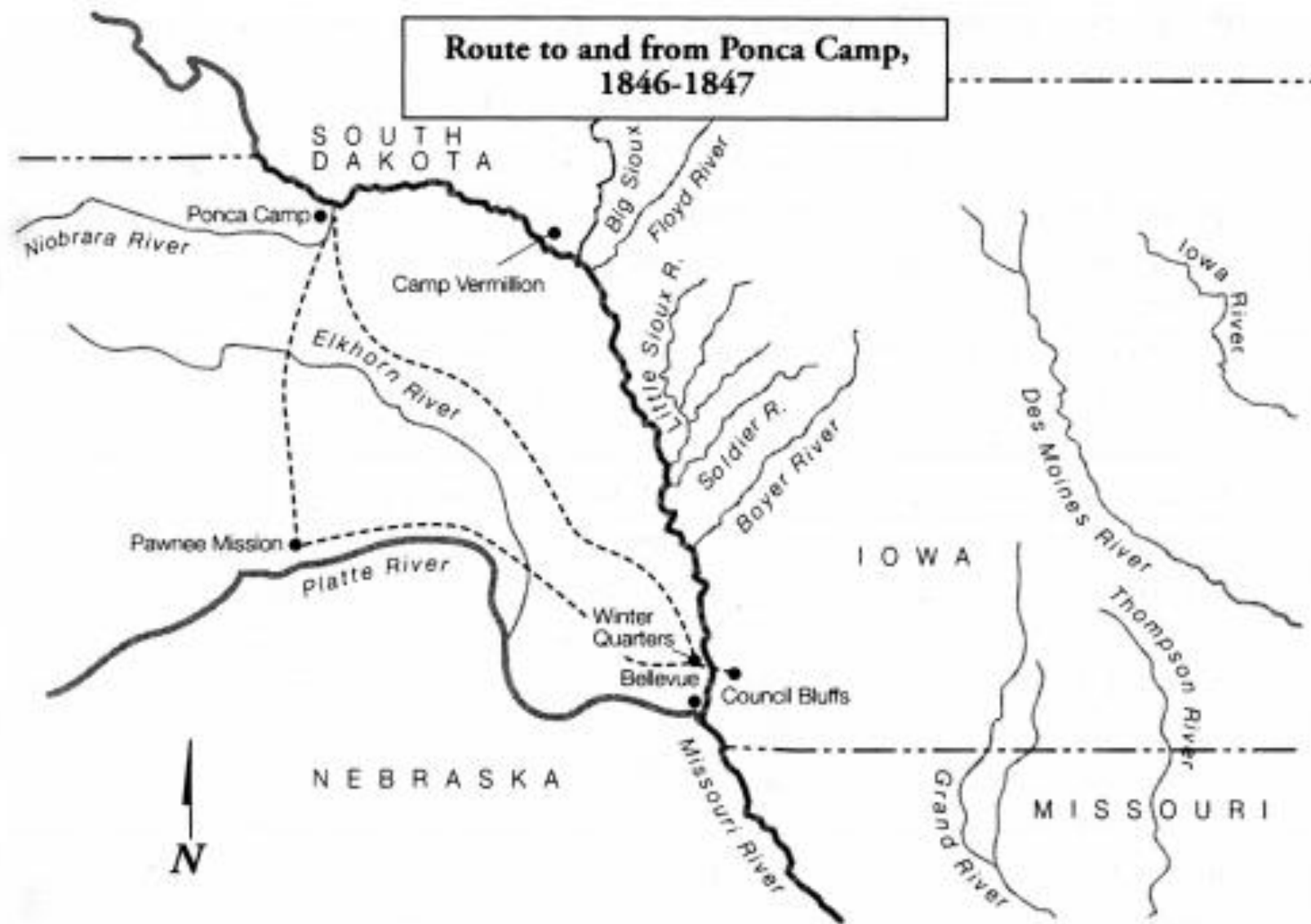
1846 - Leaving Nauvoo for Trip West

- Lydia and Newel catch up to Brigham Young's lead Camp of Israel at Mt. Pisgah, Iowa on May 25, 1846. They learned that Brigham then intended for a train of 100 wagons to go to the Rocky Mountains that summer. Brigham invited Newel to join, and he agreed. But he had to scramble to get equipment to be ready.
- June 16, the Knights reach the Missouri River. Lydia waits while Newel goes south to trade for more provisions.
- July, Newel is appointed to lead the first company west to the Rocky Mountains that year. This instruction was recalled just weeks later.

Ponca Camp and Newel's death

- Instead, in early August, they are told to find a good spot to winter in what is now eastern Nebraska.
- Aug. 13-23, Newel and those with him travelled about 90 miles north to the vicinity of the Ponca Indian camp, near where the Niobrara River empties into the Missouri River, just a few miles south of the present Nebraska border with South Dakota.
- In Sept. they built a fort with 112 lots for the various families to live in during the coming winter.
- Early January, Newel takes sick. He dies on January 11, 1847, at age 46. Lydia had prayed for his release. Lydia is only 34, with 7 children to care for, and 2 months pregnant with another son. See Journal, p. 175, Allen Typescript.

NORTH TO THE NIOBRARA





Newel Gravesite Memorial at Niobrara, Nebraska
– erected 1908

Family of Newel Knight & Lydia Goldthwait
(1800-1847) md. Nov. 1835 (1812-1884)

3. Sally (1836-1916) md. Zemira Palmer

4. James Filander (1838-1909) md. Elizabeth
Jones

5. Joseph Ether (1840-1878) md. Jane L. Judd

6. Newel (1842-1907) md. Jane C. Loveless

7. Lydia (1844-1905) md. John Ray Young

8. Jesse (1845-1921) md. Amanda McEwan

9. Hyrum Helaman (1847-1880)

Winter Quarters, Neb. & Kaneshville, Iowa

- April 1847, the group at Ponca travelled to Winter Quarters. Following counsel, she sent her oldest, stepson Samuel, age 14, to Utah.
- Men erected a log shelter for her, but with no door and nothing in the window spaces, and only part of a roof.
- August 27, 1847, she gave birth to Newel's last son, whom she named Hyrum Helaman.
- A week later, a huge rainstorm hit. See Hartley, *Stand*, pp. 451-52.
- Spring of 1848, she wanted to come to Utah. Brigham Young advised not, and asked for her to lend her two wagons to others. She did. He advised she go to Kaneshville (Council Bluffs, IA), which she also did.
- At Kaneshville, her home for a year was a dugout. In June 1849, she bought a cabin nearby.

1850 – Trip West to Salt Lake City

- Lydia had to wait for her wagons to return to Iowa. They were in poor shape and she could only salvage enough parts to make 1 good wagon from the 2.
- She joined the Edward Hunter Company, as part of the first group of pioneers sponsored by the PEF. They left July 4 and arrived in SLC on Oct. 3, 1850.
- Buffalo country scare. *History*, pp. 85-86.
- Once safely in the Salt Lake Valley, Lydia and children settled in the First Ward, contracted with Newel's brother in law, Joseph Johnson, a mason, for him to build them an adobe house, which was finished by early December.
- Lydia started teaching school that winter. Within two years, she had saved enough to pay off her debt to the PEF.

Marriage to John Dalton as plural wife - 1851

- “Some time in the Fall of ’51, a friend by the name of John Dalton proposed to become my protector for this life, if I wished him to do so. He had a farm six miles from the city, which he had no one to live upon, as his first wife lived in the city in a comfortable home. Said I could think of it, and sometime he would call again. This was a new idea to me; for since my dear Newel’s death, I had never thought of marrying again. It had been all my study to take care of my little ones, and try to teach them the principles which would prepare them for usefulness in this life, and to meet their father in eternity, so that we might be an unbroken family in the future state of existence.
- I had always believed in the principle of celestial marriage, since I received a testimony of its truth in an early day from the Prophet Joseph’s teachings. I have heard him teach it in public as well as in private; have heard him relate the incident of the angel coming to him with a drawn sword, commanding him to obey the law, or he should lose his priesthood as well as life if he did not go forward in this principle; and I had received a strong testimony of its truth when under the Prophet’s teachings. The spirit seemed to whisper to me, you can now test your belief by practice.

- What would be best for my children? If we were situated on a farm, it would give them employment, always at home; and the change would relieve me of many cares and burdens which were fast growing too much for my strength. My constant prayer was, ‘Oh Lord, give me wisdom to do that which will be thy will.’
- At last, I concluded to accept.” *History*, pp. 95-96. [She was married to him in August 1851, and shortly thereafter moved to the farm near the Jordan River].
- They had a girl in June 1852 whom she named Artemesia.
- By Spring of 1856, she returned to Salt Lake City to her former home and resumed teaching at the Ward School. Probably about this time, she separated from Mr. Dalton. About 1857, she divorced him, with permission of Brigham Young.
- But she continued to say that plural marriage was “a principle that if not abused, will purify and exalt those that enter into it with purity of purpose, and so abide therein.” *History*, p. 96.

Family of John Dalton Jr. & Lydia Goldthwait
(1800-1885) md. Aug. 1851 (1812-1884)
Lydia was Dalton's plural wife
Divorced about 1856-7

10. Artemesia (June 1852 - June 1922)

In 1868, at age 16, Artemesia left Santa Clara, came to Payson where her older Knight brothers lived, and married Lewis F. White in Dec. 1869. She had 8 children by him.

1857 – Move to Provo

- Lydia's oldest living daughter, Sally, born 1836, had married Zemira Palmer in 1851 at age 15. They were living in Provo in mid 1850s, and asked Lydia to join them in Provo with her children when Zemira was briefly enlisted to help fight Johnston's army coming to Utah in 1857.
- Story of buying Provo home of old man Hoops – *History*, pp. 97-98.

1864 – Marriage to James McClellan

- James McClellan, born 1804, was a recent widower with two young teenage girls in 1864, the youngest of his 12 children. He was living in Payson, where some of Lydia's sons lived. About 1863, he had gone east to help an emigrant train come to Utah with Jesse Knight, Lydia's son. He had somehow become acquainted with Lydia, perhaps as early as Kaneshville, Iowa, in 1849, where he was on the high council. Wanting a mother for his two youngest daughters, he asked Lydia to marry him in early 1864. Perhaps because she took pity on the motherless girls, she agreed, at age 51. It appeared to be a good marriage for both, as they remained married to his death in February of 1881, a period of over 16 years.
- Within a few years, James was called to go south and they soon settled in Santa Clara, Utah, where Lydia's step-son Samuel lived. They lived there until James' death. They raised silk worms some of the time there.
- In 1882, she sold her Santa Clara home and bought a place in St. George.

1877-1884 Temple Worker in St. George

- A partial dedication of the nearly complete St. George Temple was done on Jan. 1, 1877, when Brigham Young called Lydia to be one of the first Temple workers there. The temple was complete by early April, 1877. Lydia's circumstances did not allow her to start her work there until the Fall of 1877.
- Over the next six and one-half years, she performed over 700 endowments for the dead, including many of her ancestors.
- During this time, she would occasionally visit her children in Utah County, and persisted in reminding them of the blessings of the restored Gospel. See story of conversation with her son Jesse, then not active in church, where she assured him the Lord had let her know he would return to activity. *J. Knight Family*, p. 33.
- At the close of a day when the last name she had to work for was done, she went to bed and passed peacefully in her last sleep, April 3, 1884, at her St. George home.

Milestones in Lydia's Life

- Born in June, 1812 in MA. Age 8, moved to NY from MA in 1820.
- Age 15, started boarding school. Met Calvin Bailey and married him in 1829 at age 17. Bore him two children, was abandoned, and lost both children, by 20.
- 1833, at age 21, joined the Mormon Church in Canada.
- 1835, Moved to Kirtland, Ohio. Met and married Newel Knight at age 24.
- 1836-39 Lived in Missouri, step mom to Samuel, bore 2 more children.
- 1839-46 Lived in Nauvoo. Bore 4 more children. Travelled to Ponca Camp.
- 1847- Newel Died. She goes to Winter Quarters, bore Hyrum at age 35.
- 1848-50 In Kaneshville, Iowa, then treks to SLC.
- 1851 – marries John Dalton as plural wife. Has a daughter. Divorces by 1857.
- 1864 – marries James McClellan. In Payson, then to Santa Clara. He dies 1881.
- 1882-84 Buys home in St. George. More Temple Work. Dies in 1884 at age 71.