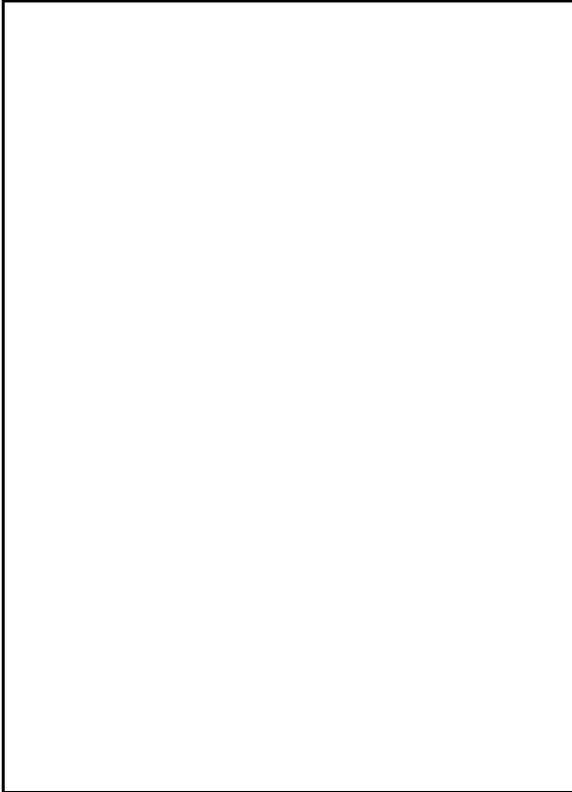


LYDIA GOLDTHWAITE



Lydia Goldthwaite was born June 9, 1812 to Jesse G. Goldthwaite and Sally Burt in Sutton, Worcester, Massachusetts. Married Newel Knight November 23, 1835. They had seven children: five sons and two daughters. Died April 3, 1884 in St. George, Washington, Utah.

As a young girl Lydia already displayed a determination about anything she set her mind to. She had a firm will but a quiet voice. She was brought up to habits of work and she had also received religious training from her parents.

When Lydia was about fifteen years old her parents sent her to boarding school. While at boarding school she met Calvin Bailey. He was smart, handsome and a smooth talker. He also drank and was cruel. All the girls were in love with him but he showed a preference for Lydia and they At last she decided to go to Kirtland. Her parents provided for her and made arrangement for her to travel with a family going to Kirtland. Lydia lived with members

were married in the Fall of 1828. Her life turned into a life of suffering. A little girl was born to them the next year.

When they had been married about three years Lydia woke up one morning to find herself and her little girl alone - deserted by her husband. She returned to her father's home and six months later a little boy was born to her. He died at birth. Another year passed and her little girl died.

In 1833 Lydia moved to Canada with a friend of the family and his wife. Although far from the states rumor of a new prophet and a "golden bible" had reached their settlement.

Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon accompanied a new convert into this settlement and stayed with the family. They were all taught the gospel and were baptized, including Lydia.

Lydia had thought often of death and its rest with a longing heart but now, here was life, life eternal.

The Prophet spoke to Lydia, ". . . Sister Lydia, great are your blessings. The Lord, your Savior, loves you, and will overrule all your past sorrows and afflictions for good unto you. Let your heart be comforted. . . . 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."

Lydia then returned to her father's house in New York. She felt her parents would share her joy and her religion, all she had to do was tell them the story. However, that was not the case. Arguments and tears did no good.

of the family until the prophet requested that she come to his home and help his wife. While there she met another boarder who was there working on the temple, Newel

Knight, a widower with one small boy.

They fell in love and he wished to marry her but she felt she could not because she was still married. Newel continually tried to convince her but she could not be persuaded. Finally Newel fasted and prayed three days and nights, then sought the Prophet and presented the case to him. Joseph went to the Lord and the reply came that Lydia was free from that man, that the union would be pleasing in his sight and that she was free to marry.

When Newel told Lydia what the prophet had received from the Lord she consented to be his wife. A few days later the news came of her husband's death.

They were married in the parlor of Hiram Smith' home and the prophet married them. This was the first marriage ceremony ever performed by the Prophet Joseph Smith.

After the dedication of the temple the couple returned to Newel's home and his son. Their first child born was a little girl. They named her Sally after her grandmother.

They next moved to Far West where a little son was born. It was while they lived here that the extermination order was signed by Governor Boggs. The mobs raged. Lydia and her family left for the Mississippi River.

Sickness ravaged the saints and Lydia ministered to those she could help until she too took ill. She asked Newel to get a handkerchief from the prophet and have him bless it. Newel didn't like to trouble Joseph so he went out and brought her a handkerchief back. She experience no relief and rapidly grew worse. She suffered one more week and then called Newel to her and told him she was dying and to take care of their children. Newel was distraught and hurried away. Coming back soon he called her, "Here, Lydia, here is a handkerchief from the Prophet Joseph. Oh As she spoke, he stood by her side and said, "Be calm, let not sorrow overcome you.

It was necessary that I should go. I was needed behind the veil to represent the true condition of this camp and people. You

my wife, the one I brought before was not from him. I so hated to trouble him. But see this is from Joseph, and he says your Heavenly Father shall heal you and you shall be restored to life and health."

The handkerchief was bound around her brow and as it touched her head the blessing sent with it descended upon her, and over and all through her was poured the spirit of healing.

For the next six years Lydia lived in Nauvoo, increased her family, joined a new organization, The Relief Society, and dealt with tribulation and the persecutions of the mobs.

The prophet and his brother were murdered in Cathage and brought back to Nauvoo.

One year later Newel and Lydia visited the Carthage jail. The jailor's wife told them she scoured and scrubbed the blood spots but as soon as the water dried they were as bright as they were the first day. She also said the scars in the plaster from the bullets would return as soon as they were fixed.

In 1846 Newel and Lydia left Nauvoo. They left their house, barn, mills, and all their possessions. They traveled into the plains but were required to spend the winter with the Ponca Indians. While there, Newel became very sick. As she watched her husband dying he whispered, "It is necessary for me to go. Joseph wants me. It is needful for me, that a messenger be sent with the true condition of the Saints. Don't grieve too much, for you will be protected."

Lydia was alone in Indian country with seven little children. As she thought about what she must do she was so burdened down that she cried out in pain, "Oh Newel, why hast thou left me."

cannot fully comprehend it now, but the time will come when you shall know why I left you and our little ones. Therefore, dry up your tears. Be patient, I will go before you and protect you in your journeyings. And you

and your little ones shall never perish for lack of food. Although the ravens of the valley should feed you and your little ones you shall not perish for the want of bread.”

Lydia stayed in this area until 1850 when she and her children prepared to go to the Rocky Mountains with help of the Perpetual Emigration Fund. Days, weeks and months went by and at last, about the first of October, the train entered Emigration Canyon.

She stayed with her sister and brother-in-law until her sons could build an abode. As soon as possible after moving into the house, Lydia went around to her neighbors and told them she was about to open a small school. Schools were rare and she had many students.

Lydia married James McClellan and they moved to Payson and then to Santa Clara. Lydia was called to act as a worker in the St. George temple. After her husband’s death she bought a house in St. George and lived there and worked in the temple until her death.