

## Orpha Florialla Knight

From the original Sexton Records:

Name: Orpha Knight

Age: 2y; 9m; 26d

Relationship: D of Joseph & Betsey Knight

Deceased: Oct. 20, 1847

Disease: Canker

Birth Place: Nauvoo, Il.

Birth Date: Dec. 24, 1846

Grave No. 251

Birth Date: December 24, 1844

Birth Place: Gallatin, Clay, Missouri

Death Date: October 20, 1847

Cause of Death: Canker

Burial Place: Winter Quarters Grave #251

Father's Name: Joseph Knight

Mother's Maiden Name: Betsey Covert

Which Winter Quarters Ward or Iowa Branch was the family: Winter Quarters Ward 23

Where was the family in the 1850 U. S. Census? Listed as family #57 in Great Salt Lake, Utah Territory

Which Pioneer wagon train took the family west? Came west with the Benjamin Hawkins Company in 1850

Any interesting facts or stories that might have been submitted.

history from collection of Daughters of Utah Pioneers Betsy Covert was born in the little town of Mayfield, outside of Cleveland, near the eastern border of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, on June 27, 1813. She was the daughter of James Covert and Martha Judd Covert. Of the 16 children in her family, she was the only one to join the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. She married Joseph Knight, Jr., in Kirtland, Ohio, on March 22, 1832. As part of the Knight family, she was one of the members of the Colesville branch. They were asked to remain together and settle in Thompson, sixteen miles northeast of Kirtland. On land that was part of the holdings of Lemam Copley before the Ohio saints consecrated their lands to the church, they commenced preparing houses and fences, and planted and sowed the fields. They were the first saints to try to live the United Order. A few weeks after they had commenced this work, Lemam Copley had second

thoughts about giving up his land, and was excommunicated from the church for “bad conduct”. Father Knight (Joseph Knight, Sr.) said that Copley “would not consecrate his property, therefore he was cut off.” As reported in “They Are My Friends” by William G. Hartley, Leman retaliated by ordering the Saints to leave his property and to pay sixty dollars for damages, which Betsy’s husband noted consisted of “fitting up his houses and planting his ground.” As the covenant of consecration had been broken, the Lord said in Doctrine and Covenants 54:5 that it was now void and of none effect. They were told to “flee the land” and go to Missouri, and “be patient in tribulation”. They left for Missouri on July 3, 1831. A foreshadow of things to come, they were indeed called on to suffer much tribulation. Betsy’s first child, Martha Ann, was born June 11, 1833 at Kaw Township, Jackson County, Missouri. Their second child, Mary Elizabeth, was born June 16, 1836 at Gallatin, Clay County, Missouri. Just three weeks after the birth of their third child, Rhoda Caroline on March 14, 1839 at Far West, Caldwell County, Missouri, a mob drove them from their home. They were not allowed to take anything, although it was said they could come back later. The couple, with their three little girls, had to leave everything and flee, seeing their stock frightened and killed. They continued to be driven by the mob until they had crossed the Mississippi River. Of this time, little Mary Elizabeth, in a history written in 1914 remembered vividly, “Mother looked so pale and sorrowful. We had to leave everything we had.” Betsy was described by her daughter Mary Elizabeth as a “stout-hearted woman”. She had a firm testimony of the gospel, and faith to turn to the power of the priesthood for blessings, as shown by her having Brother Richard Morgan administer to little Mary when her eyes were sore. In 1841 Betsy and her husband were among the first Saints to do proxy baptisms. On January 17, 1846 both Betsy and her husband received their endowments in the partially finished Nauvoo Temple. They were sealed on February 4, 1846. Having to leave everything when driven out of Missouri, the family was poor and life was hard when they came to Nauvoo in 1839. They lived in a house close to the temple, where mention is made of making cheese. Mary records, “Mother took us to the old bowery by the Temple, and while there we saw the Prophet Joseph Smith. Mother worshipped his name and taught us of him.” Two children, Joseph James, December 25, 1841, and Orpha Floilla, December 24, 1844, were born to Betsy and Joseph Knight during the years spent in the Nauvoo area. According to “These Are My Friends”, on March 26, 1845, Betsy visited Newel Knight with the sad news that her husband Joseph, then at the mill in LaHarpe, was in poor health and might be dying. Little Joseph James died February 2, 1846. After four years of relative peace in Nauvoo, once again mobs sought to drive them out. When actual fighting was going on, Betsy and her children would hide in the basement of their home. She and her three daughters made bags to hold the scraps of iron that were used as missiles for the cannon during the Battle of Nauvoo. Betsy made bread for the army. As the family did not have a team or wagon when they were drive from Nauvoo in the fall of 1846, they had to wait by the banks of the Mississippi near Montrose, Iowa, until teams could come back for them. They were hungry, with nothing much to eat. As Mary later recorded, “They were in an almost starving condition, and some were out searching for food while others were sick and faint for want of food, when the incident of the quails, which they considered a miracle, happened. The sky began to darken like a great black cloud, and hundreds of quail alighted in the camp, and were so tame that they could be easily picked up by the hand.” After remaining about three weeks on the banks of the Mississippi they left for Winter Quarters. On arriving at the banks of the Missouri, they found it frozen, so they could not ferry over, but the ice wasn’t solid enough to hold the wagons. They had to winter there, and called the place Ferryville. There were no mills, and no way of grinding the corn, so they lived mostly on hulled corn. With so little to eat,

those were “sad days”. In the spring they left for Winter Quarters. Of this time Mary says, “Mother always encouraged us and helped us not to be fearful.” At Winter Quarters there was little to eat. Orpha Floilla died October 20, 1847. When the saints headed west, their family went to Kanesville (now called Council Bluffs) where they would stay until they could earn an outfit to cross the plains. Ellen Rebecca was born March 8, 1848. She died January 5, 1854. In the summer of 1850 with two teams consisting of one yoke of oxen and one yoke of cows, the family left for the West. Captain Thomas Johnson was the appointed leader of the one hundred wagons. Of their trip Mary records, “A man coming from Kanesville wanted to cross the plains with us. None wanted him, but he insisted. We all had all we could do. He said he would drive team or anything. We let him go [as our teamster]. He came to water [about which] the captain said, ‘Don’t any of you drink this water!’ It was green, slimy, and stagnant. This man was warm and thirsty. He didn’t heed the warning. He drank and drank and was boasting it wouldn’t hurt him. But he took sick that evening with cholera and was dead by morning.” There were some deaths as they crossed the plains, but they were more afraid of Indians, although they did not see any. Betsy and the rest of the family suffered from measles as they traveled. Mary recalled, “All had measles in the wagon—Mother and all. Laying in the wagon, the hot sun pouring down on us, no water, how I suffered for a drink! We carried our water and it became scarce. [We] carried ours in a churn.”

([https://www.familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/9041252?p=12346742&returnLabel=Betsey%20Covert%20\(KWJY-YJD\)&returnUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.familysearch.org%2Ftree%2Fperson%2Fmemories%2FKWJY-YJD](https://www.familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/9041252?p=12346742&returnLabel=Betsey%20Covert%20(KWJY-YJD)&returnUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.familysearch.org%2Ftree%2Fperson%2Fmemories%2FKWJY-YJD))