



ANNA ELIZA LEMMON KNAPP

Anna Eliza Lemmon Knapp was born on November 18, 1860 in Smithfield, Utah and was the first girl born there. Her parents were Willis and Anna Eliza Homer Lemmon. Just before Eliza was born, her father was called to go to Iowa to help a train of pioneer immigrants cross the plains. During his absence, there was an Indian uprising in Smithfield and some fighting took place. Two town boys were shot and one died. All of this excitement occurred while Eliza's father was away and she was born before he returned.

Eliza was the eldest of ten children and shared the responsibility and work of caring for a large family. One particular evening, her parents went to visit some neighbors leaving her in charge of the house and the other children. There were no electric lights or lamps so they cautioned her to be very careful with the candle and to take good care of the baby. On their way home, Eliza's parents saw weird, flickering lights in the window of the house causing them to think the house was on fire. They ran like mad only to find Eliza and the other children up having a good time. How thankful they were to find their family safe and sound!

Eliza attended school as often as possible as did other pioneer children. She was left-handed and one schoolteacher she had become very cross with her and one day he whipped her severely because she did not do her lessons with her right hand. When her father learned what had happened, he waited by the gate until the teacher came by and proceeded to thrash him as he deserved.

Every fall after Eliza was old enough, she would go to the home of her father's parents who lived just south of Salt Lake City in the Mill Creek area. There she would gather and dry fruit for the family as their own orchards had not yet begun to produce.

Eliza loved to sing and became well-known for her beautiful soprano voice. She was often asked to sing solos in public and in private.

While she was attending college in Logan, Utah, she met Justin Abraham Knapp. Many hours of their courtship were spent around the unfinished Logan Temple walls where Justin was working as a stone mason. They were married on October 9, 1879 in the old Endowment House in Salt Lake City, Utah. For their wedding present, Eliza's father gave them a beautiful horse.

Their first home was a brick home which Justin had built in Richmond, Utah. Their first four children were born there. They are: Anna Rozina md. William Widdison, Mabel md. Heber Ward, Jennie md. Francis Walters and Justin Willis md. Mabel F. Hale.

In 1888, they bought 160 acres in Hibbard, Idaho, two and one-half miles west of Rexburg. Eliza and the four children travelled by train to Market Lake, now Roberts. Justin met them there with a team. They settled on the farm which was on the Teton River, called the Island Ward. The area was later given the name of Hibbard in honor of George Hibbard, Eliza's brother-in-law and their first bishop.

Eight other children were born after moving to Idaho. They are: Clara Leone lived seven years, Elsie May md. Charles Larsen, Warren lived nine years, Esther Jane md. Leslie Robertson, Alice Eveline md. John Hillman and twin boys, Edwin Raymond and Adrian Leroy. Edwin Raymond died at birth and Adrian Leroy lived two years.

Eliza knew the hardships of pioneer life. She did not have many of the material comforts of life. She must have craved the prettier things because later in her life when all of her children were grown and married, she would buy little trinkets that would delight a child.

Her home on the farm consisted of two log rooms, the one with a little lean-to shanty where the stove was kept in the summer. The other room was used as a storeroom where Justin kept the stones and markers he was working on. This room also held the barrels of salted meat and the large flour bin which held one thousand pounds of flour. Between these two rooms was space enough for two bedrooms.

Eliza's cooking was done on a woodstove and water was heated in a large boiler for washing and bathing. Baths were taken in a number three round tub in which two or three children would bathe at the same time. She did the washings for her husband and twelve children on a washboard, one piece at a time. She made her own soap. She crocheted and knitted and did all of the sewing for the family. She was known for being a fine seamstress. She was very fussy and never bought a pattern. She had the talent for seeing something and could make it like she wanted it by cutting and fitting her own patterns.

Her daughters remembered that she was the first one up in the morning and the last one to bed at night. Bedding used in her home was all homemade quilts. She always raised a garden, canned and dried apricots, apples and corn. She raised her own chickens and would take a big basket of eggs to town to trade for her groceries. She made her own bread and butter and her tithing was paid in products raised on their farm. Treats for her children were homemade ice cream, molasses candy and taffy candy.

She helped to milk the cows by hand. Water was pulled up in buckets from the well with a bucket on each end of the rope. She could really handle horses well and liked ones with spirit, not any "dead heads". She braided rugs and put straw under them for padding. Her house was a neat as a pin. She didn't like playing cards, she thought it was a waste of time.

Her home in Idaho was so far away from her family home in Smithfield that in those days of slow travel, many homesick days passed before she again saw her parents. It had been eight years since she had been home for a visit. Justin prepared a covered wagon and gave her a good team of horses. With her sister Julia, she visited her parents. They were gone two weeks, most of the time spent in travel.

When Justin needed to buy a water right to the canal for their farm, they did not have enough cash. He asked Eliza if they could sell the horse her father had given them for their wedding present so that they could get the money they needed. He told her he would look around for a nice gentle horse she could drive on a buggy. He found just the right horse, a little brown mare which Eliza named "Baby Birdie". She would curry and brush her and she kept the little buggy neat and shiny. Everyone knew Sister Knapp when she drove into the town of Rexburg.

Eliza was about 5'8" and weighed about 150 pounds. She had beautiful eyes and long, dark brown hair which she braided and bobbed in the back. It was always neat, never a hair out of place. Her personality was very dignified and sincere.

Whether working on the farm or at Justin's sawmill, she carried her share of the burdens cheerfully and with a song on her lips.

Her oldest daughter, Anna Rozina, died a few weeks after her first child born. Eliza's own baby, Lydia, died a few months after they reached Idaho. Typhoid fever took her daughter Clara Leone and her son Warren. Then in August of 1903, her twin babies were born. One died at birth and the other died in an accident when he two years old. Thus half of her children were taken from her. Then when the rest of her children were married, her husband too passed away, leaving her alone in her home.

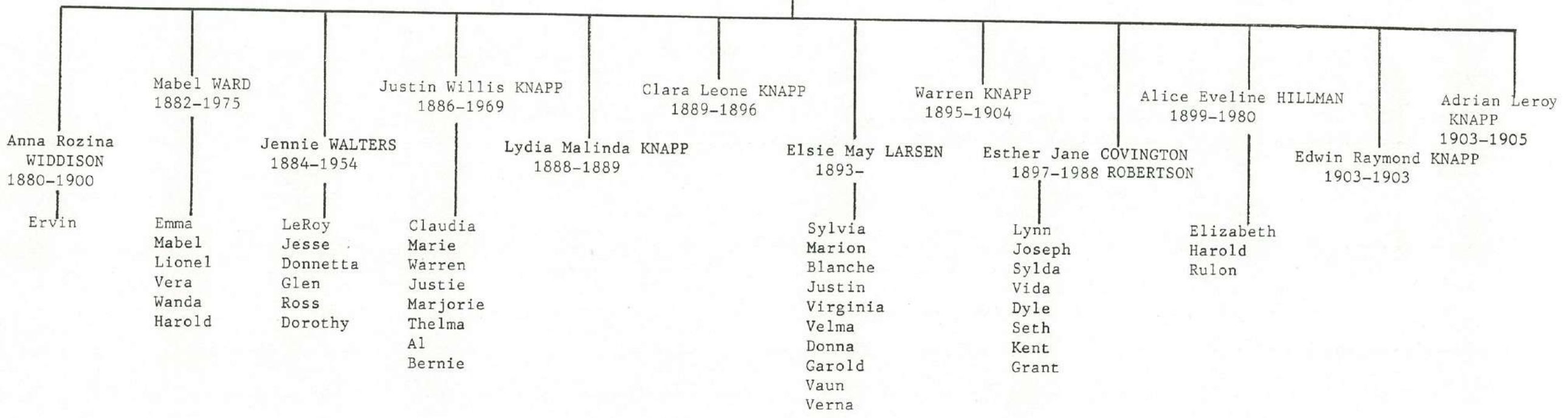
Through all of her trials, she did her duty as she saw it. She had a strong testimony of the Gospel and walked in faith and prayer all of her life.

She was a schoolteacher as well as being active in the Relief Society of the church. She was the first secretary in the first Relief Society organized in Hibbard and later served as president. She went from place to place with "Baby Birdie" and her buggy visiting the sick and cheering the sad. She made many quilts, did Red Cross work and knitted socks for the soldiers during World War I. She also served as chorister in the Relief Society and was asked to sing at many gatherings and socials. Much needed help was given to her children at different times especially at the births of her grandchildren or in times of sickness.

After she had suffered about three strokes, she left this life on December 13, 1931. She was seventy-one years old. She is buried in the Rexburg cemetery.

Justin Abraham KNAPP
1857-1918

Anna Eliza LEMMON
1860-1931





WILLIS LEMMON



ANNA ELIZA HOMER



ANNA ELIZA LEMMON KNAPP



ANNA ROZINA WIDDISON



MABEL WARD



JENNIE WALTERS



JUSTIN W. KNAPP



CLARA LEONE KNAPP



ELSIE LARSEN



WARREN KNAPP



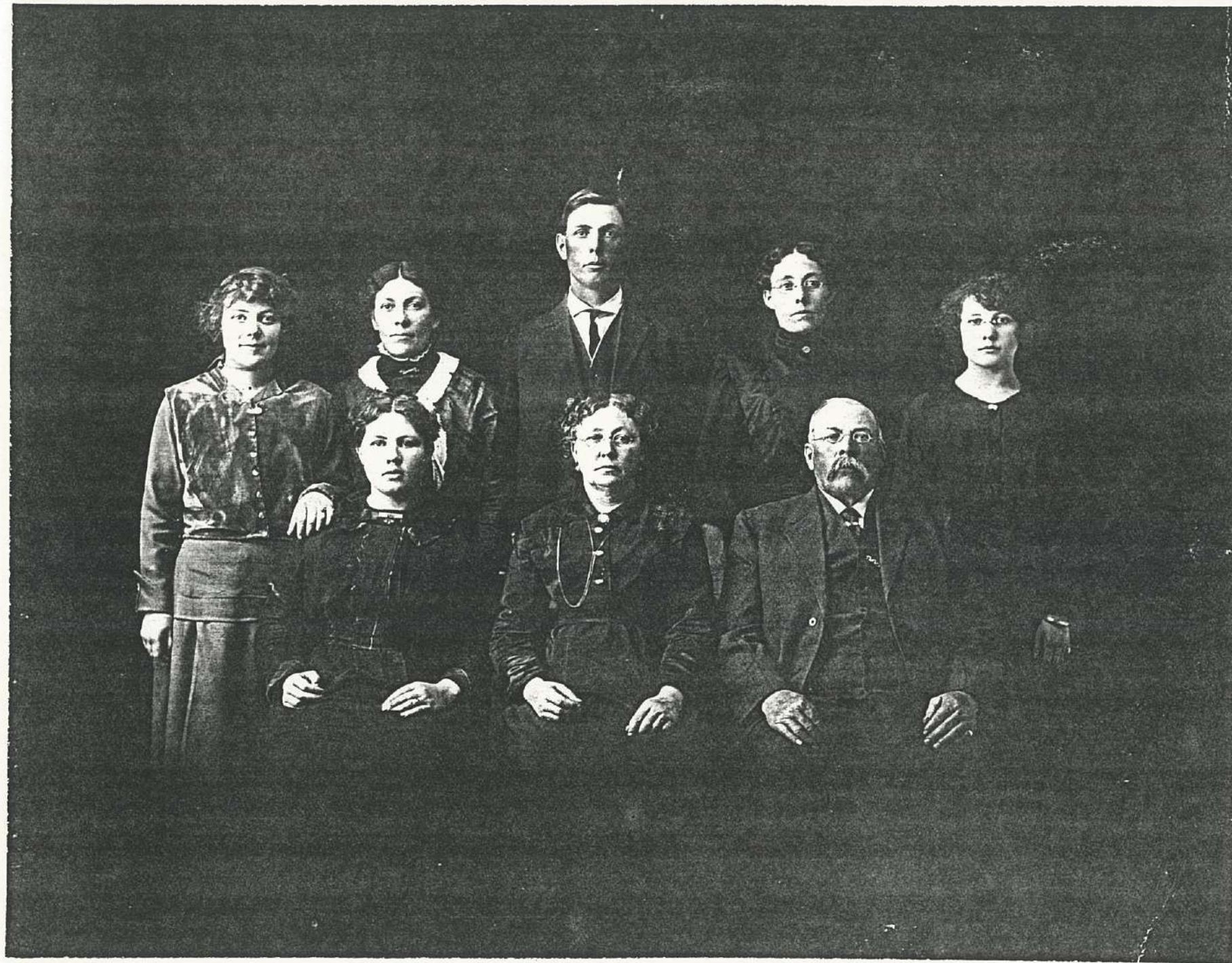
ESTHER COVINGTON ROBERTSON



EVIE HILLMAN



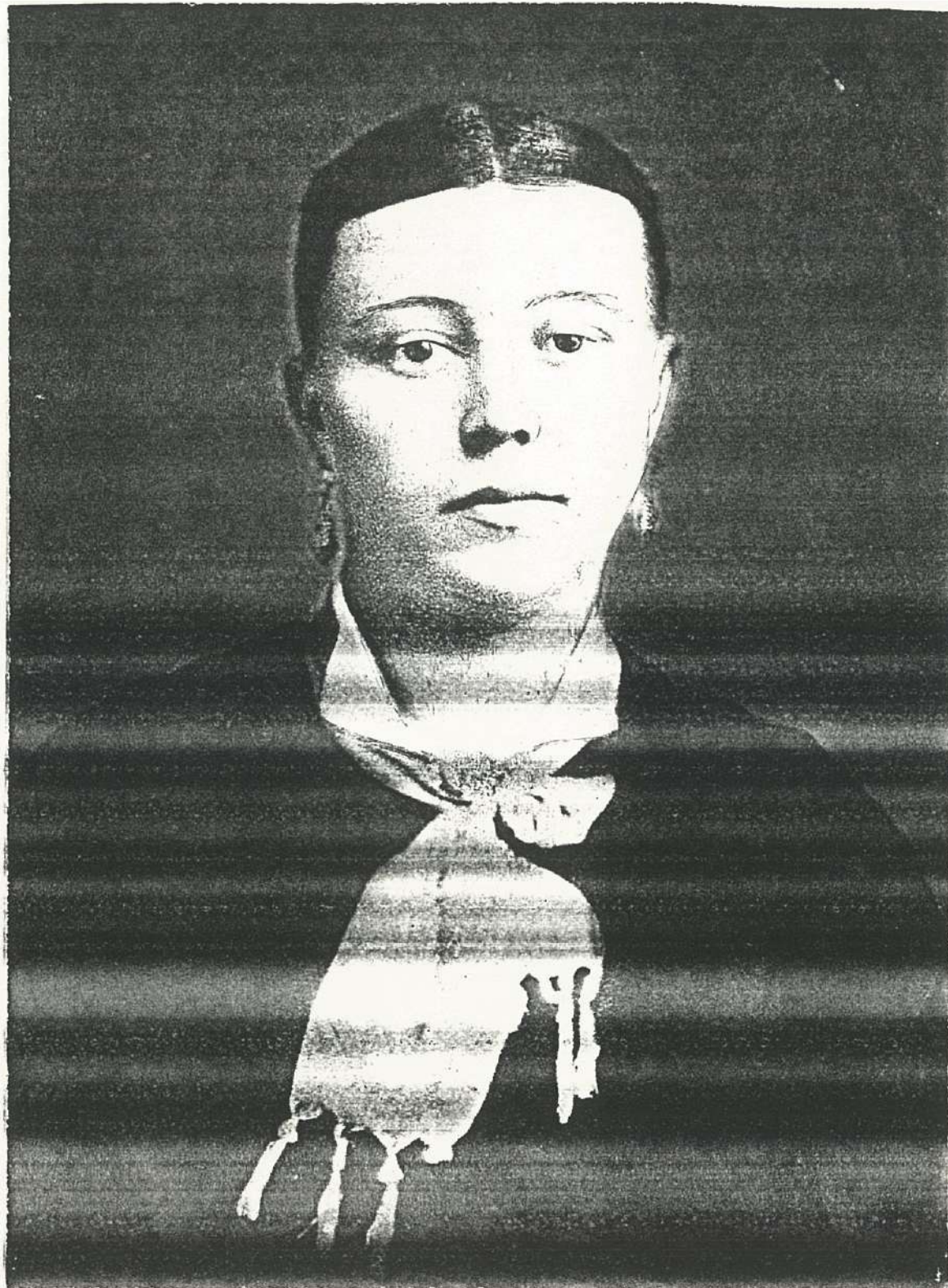
RAYMOND KNAPP



KNAPP FAMILY (ABOUT 1907)

Standing Back Row: Esther, Jennie, Jesse, Mabel, Eveline

Sitting Front Row: Elsie, Anna Eliza (Mother), Justin Abraham (Father)



Back: Anna Eliza Lemmon Knapp, Anna Rozina Knapp Widdison
Front: Anna Eliza Homer Lemmon, Eliza Williamson Homer



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