

Bernard & Louise Knapp

Family History

Farmington Knapps
A Letter from Glen Leonard

FROM THE FILES OF BERNARD ELDEN KNAPP

672 Leonard Lane
Farmington, Utah 84025
6 September 1997

Bernie Knapp
345 So. 1450 East
Provo, Utah 84606

Dear Mr. Knapp:

Thanks for writing to me about the Knapp family of Farmington. I am glad that Beth Knapp passed along my name and address to you. I grew up in Farmington on the Leonard family farm. My father, Burnham J. Leonard, was farming it then; his father, George M. Leonard, farmed it before that; and his father, my great grandfather, Truman Leonard, began the farm when he and his wife, Ortentia, arrived from Nauvoo after a four-year stopover at Kanesville, Iowa, in the Council Bluffs area.

Truman and Ortentia settled in North Cottonwood Ward (as it was known then) in the fall of 1850. According to the 1850 census, taken early the next year, their neighbors to the south were Albert and Rozina Knapp. Just beyond the Knapps were Isaac and Elinor Shepard. Rosina's maiden name was Shepard (sometimes spelled Shepherd in ward records). Truman Leonard served as the first watermaster on the creek that supplied the farms of these three families and the Secrist family north of the Leonards. The creek was known as Leonard Creek. When Truman left in 1852 for a mission to India, Isaac Shepard replaced him as watermaster. The creek then took Shepard's name and is still known by that name, as is Shepard Canyon from which it flows and Shepard Lane, now a main east-west road in Farmington. (When our family developed a ten-lot subdivision on the top portion of the Leonard farm, we named our street in honor of Truman and Ortentia (and Truman's other wives, Margaret and Mary Ann [my great grandmother], so that now Farmington has a Leonard Lane.)

Truman Leonard built a barn on his property just north and west of his log home. Later, his son, George, built a home next to the barn. I guess living in the barnyard didn't work. He and his neighbors jacked up the barn, hitched some teams to it and dragged it to a new location along the south edge of the Leonard Farm. He added a new hay barn on the south end. A second addition, a milking shed, came later. The original part of the barn was caved in by heavy snows about ten years ago. It has been gradually falling in and this year was totally flattened. I used to play in the barn, help my dad milk the cows, feed the calves, etc. Just outside the south entrance to the milking barn was the barbed wire fence marking the south line of the Leonard property. Just across the fence at that time was a small patch of scrub oak. Trees like this are still found elsewhere on the farm and grow to a height of about twenty feet.

In that cluster of oak were two headstones and two footstone markers. Every Memorial Day, with the encouragement of our parents, my sister and I would take wild roses picked from bushes along the fence line and place them on the graves of the two little girls

buried there. We would also place an iris, or peonie, or lilac on them. This was part of our "Decoration Day" ritual after decorating the graves of family members in the Farmington and Kaysville cemeteries. Truman and Ortentia lost some babies while living on the farm and buried them at the family burial place on the farm. We don't know where that burial place is located, but it may have been at or near the location of the Knapp burial place. Farmington did not have a community cemetery at the time, so everyone created their own place, usually on their farmstead.

Those who owned the Knapp farm in the 1970s cleared out the oak with a bulldozer to square off the field, which was used to raise grain. I suppose they didn't know about the graves, and when we discovered what they had done, it was too late to preserve the location, although we know about where the gravestones were located. The footmarkers were gone, but I picked up the headstones and stored them in the barn for safety. After the barn caved in, one of my brothers took the stones out and keeps them at his home.

In 1966, I photographed the headstones (closeup) in place and copied off the inscriptions to preserve the information. I didn't expect the site to be disturbed, but I'm glad I did that anyway. One of my father's sisters lived the George and Mary Ann Leonard home on the farm at the time. She was the family historian and told me that the Knapp family had moved to Idaho. So, I was not surprised to meet a Knapp from Idaho.

The information on the grave stones is as follows:

Gravestone at the right (a light tan sandstone):

AZILCA R.
daughter of A. & Rozina Knapp
Born
Jan. 15, 1849
Died
April 20, 1849
Sleep In Peace my child. Thy
Sister lies beside thee

Gravestone at the left (north) (a pink sandstone):

Rozina A.
daughter of E. N. &
Rozina Francis
Born July ___ 1862
Died - Nov. 21, 1864
Sleep in Peace my child. Thy
Sister lies beside thee

B. J. Mitchell

Mitchell's name is at the bottom, the name of the stonemason. The blank in the July date is something unreadable. The November 21 date may read November 24 (it is hard to read). The second stone

suggests that Albert Knapp had died and that his wife, Rozina had remarried someone named E. N. Francis. I have not tried to identify E. N. Francis. Another Francis family, Samuel and Esther, emigrated to Utah from England in 1861 and lived in Farmington until 1863. They moved to Morgan County, directly across the mountains to the east. Interestingly, the peak at the head of Shepard Canyon, which can be seen from both Farmington and Morgan, is named Francis Peak after Esther Francis. I have corresponded with and met one of her descendants, who informed me about the naming. The radar towers that can be seen from the valley below are located at Francis Peak.

In the 1850 census, the three neighbors reported their property as follows. They told the census taker what to record, including the values, which are the owners' own estimates.

	Truman Leonard	Albert Knapp	Isaac Shepard
Acres:			
Improved	10	15	20
Unimproved	37	15	30
Cash Value			
Farm	260	240	300
Machinery/equip.	100	55	90
Livestock (number):			
Horses	4	2	1
Mules			
Working oxen	18		
Milch cows	5	1	3
Other cattle	2		
Sheep			
Swine			
Cash value:			
Livestock	125	200	150
Slaughtered (during year)		105	
Bushels of:			
Wheat	160	100	220
Rye			
Indian corn		60	30
Oats			
Irish Potatoes	200	130	50
Value of:			
Market garden		40	20
Pounds of:			
Butter	25	100	50
Cheese			
Tons of hay		2	2

When I began to do active research on the history of Farmington in the 1960s, I checked for the Knapp family in the Farmington Ward records in the Church Historical Department in Salt Lake City. These particular ward records are notoriously inaccurate. They reflect what a clerk copied from verbal reports, and the records were recopied. They contain many spelling errors and many errors in dates and must be verified from other sources. Having said that, you will note that some of the information agrees with the gravemarkers and some does not. The gravemarkers were added after the second child died in 1862 (both refer to the sister buried next to them), so those dates could be in error, but I prefer to think that they are not. The information in square brackets [such as this] are my corrections or questions. I have not commented on spelling. Those performing ordinances were residents of Farmington. Brownell was bishop.

Farmington Record, 1851-65, Book A., pp. 30-31:

Azilka Ratena Knapp, daughter of Albert and Rozana Knapp
born Great Salt Lake Valley, Jan. 15, 1850
died April 20, 1850

Same record, pp. 30-31:

Azilca Retena Knapp, daughter of Albert & Rozina Shepherd Knapp
born at Farmington, Jan. 15. 1849
blessed April 20, 1849, by Thomas S. Smith
died April 20, 1869 [1849]

Farmington Record, 1851-68, Book AA, p. 13:

Albert Knapp, b. 10 July 1827, Antwerp, Jefferson, N.Y.
rebaptized June 1, 1851, by George McBride
confirmed, June 8, 1851, by Gideon Brownell

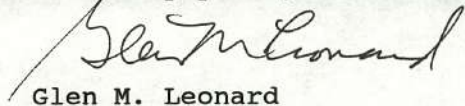
Rosina Knapp b. 21 Jan. 1829, Denmark, Jefferson, N.Y.
rebaptized June 1, 1851, by George McBride
confirmed, June 8, 1851, by Gideon Brownell

I would be pleased to show your son the place where the graves were located if he is interested in seeing it. That land was subdivided last year. The homeowner who built on the lot behind the Leonard barn has been informed by my mother of the graves. They have watched for evidence but found none as they have landscaped their yard. I suspect that the graves were deep enough and well settled enough over the years that no surface evidence survives. Even we have lost track of exact locations, but we know that the graves were almost directly south of the south door of the milking barn, which, because of its one rock wall, still stands. My cousin, who now runs the farm, will likely soon demolish what is left of the barn so that he can build a new hay barn to be useful to his farming operation--alfalfa that he and his son raises and sells.

I hope this information has been of interest to you. Obviously I have told you more than you really asked about, but maybe the information will give you a sense of our interest in the neighbors of our ancestor and "the graves" that we respected and honored in our younger years and that still are part of our memories and interest as the descendants of Truman and Mary Ann Leonard, who lived on the farm from 1850 until their deaths about one hundred years ago.

Your son may call me at work at the LDS Museum of Church History and Art (801-240-3593) or at home (801-451-5566) to make arrangements for a visit. If I can be of any further help, please let me know. Any information you may have about Albert and Rozina Knapp would be of interest to me and to our family.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glen M. Leonard". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Glen M. Leonard