

*Bernard & Louise Knapp*  
*Family History*

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Letter from  
Justin Willis Knapp  
To  
Daughter Marjorie

FROM THE FILES OF BERNARD ELDEN KNAPP

I think 16th  
haven't a calendar

Oct. Sun. - 38

Journal

Dearest Marjorie Dear Daughter. and Barney  
Dear Children

Was surely pleased to receive a letter tonight. For we have been in bunkhouse almost all day - Odey Kent and I. It has rained night and day for two days excepting a few spells between. We had snow a week ago Fri. But it didn't stay here. But there has been snow in sight every day since we've been here up on what they call the Ballies. There doesn't seem to be any thing growing there. We are about 9,000 feet elev. here.

Just came back from supper. And it is snowing in great stile so perhaps our rainy spell is endid I hope so. Some of the roads are so slick. When it rains. They just have to stop and wait until they dry. Odey and Ren staid out all night last Fri night. They have had a lot of trouble hauling ties. They got a new Shiv and had it broke down several times. And last Tuesday night after dark Ruth and Ren left here. And at midnight they were onloading at Green River. Ruth fell asleep. And Ren was about onloaded when he saw a freight car coming around the curve on the siding He got Ruth out just in time. And the train struck the car. And took it up the track about 50 fifty feet. Smacking it in great stile of course it was insured. And there was no switchman on lead nor no light. So they will no doubt get their money out of there truck. They were on a deal for a new International which was at Shi-Ann. about 300 miles But they haven't showed up yet

Of coarse I was here in charge of Mill. Thanks Barney for the patients you had in trying to show me something about sawing. And fixing saws. I've had splendid luck up to now. I've sawed within six ties in one half day. as Art did in any day he sawed. And we have the best ties that they are receiving. It is all Yellow pine. Six ties is the most I can make of one log. for they are logged off at 8 feet and an 18 1/2 by 21 1/2 is all our 50 inch saw will reach. It just does cut 21 1/2 inches.

This timber is very pitchy My overalls get so stiff they break. I have the 3 pair since I started sawing. We have between one thousand and fifteen hundred ties at the mill. We are on a side hill. And the slabs are put on a shoot and run about 75 feet and drop in a pile where they are burned. There is between 40 and 50 thousand feet of lumber at the mill.. Larence told me they had checked over 4 thousand dollars thro the bank so far. Right now we are up to the choppers. They have six of them. Pat was sick Fri. (may have been the cutter...Pat Knapp)

They have a man with old Clip and Dick who skids or snakes the logs They have a '33 Shivy truck that one man does the hauling with They haul there skids about and back up to the logs and roll them on loading them crosswise of truck. I keep them busy and am out of logs often when they get in with a load. I have too offbears

One peals the ties. And throws the sawdust out. And they move it away with the team twice a day. I've been using a thin saw. While they sent the heavy one away to Portland to have it pounded. I put the heavy one on and it doesn't work. It seems to have too mutch dish for the speed we run. And the other saw is out of teeth so you se I am in trouble. I pounded the light saw until it run almost

AJWK

perfect. But darsent the new one until Ren comes. It cost them about \$40.00. They had new circles put in also. Well that's probably enough. (FOR NOW)

The timber is thin. They can drive anywhere among it and load..no under Brush. No roads to make. Yesterday 4 deer walked across a flatt just a little way from the mill at noon. Was seen by offbear. And the loggers saw 5 in afternoon 300 yards from mill in Timber. They say when the storms drive them out there are hundreds of them. We saw some pretty sights 2 weeks ago. Larence and I went for some red cedar. They really have some high rough country. Cliffs and mountains of different formation of real interest. to people who like that sort of cenery. Well don't be surprised if you hear of me being treed by a deer. I sure hate to be away off here away from My family. But want to catch up a little. And provide If I can to Make them comfortable. There isn't anything I wouldn't do that is right for them. Some say they can log all winter here some winters So it is hard to say what is ahead. At present. They have talked a little of next year. But that is quite a ways off. I send my washing to Ruths She is a good cook Thelma is not so experienced. But we have plenty to eat and work very hard. Must close are will tire you. Lovingly DADDY

My Watch hasn't run good up here. And has stopped for good, But I carry it anyway.

Some words are misspelt, purposely to reflect the spelling in the handwritten account on the old lined letter writing tablet. It should be known however that he was an excellent speller, a fact he prided himself in. I am sure that the many times he uses capital letters throughout the letter may be from his education. In an earlier time, people often capitalized nouns. And in the letter there are places where periods are used indiscriminately rather than commas.

But the general content of the letter and the way it is written is his desire to do what was necessary for the welfare of his family and his dedication to them...without complaining.

I have heard my father tell of writing to the Simons Saw company and receiving instructions on caring for circle saws. He eventually papered the heavy saw from instructions he received and it stood up right for the speed they were running and it sawed well. At a later time in Island Park I've seen him paper a saw and make it run right with the proper amount of dish for the speed. Then one year, Marjorie had the saw man come up to the mill from the Rexburg and hammer their heavy saw. It was amazing to see him work on the saw. It really ran well afterwards. He laid it out and made chalk marks on it at angles made from his use of a simple framing square and then pounded on it over some lumber laid crosswise beneath the saw. We also papered the saw from time to time using the slick pages from a Sears Roebuck catalog. It worked well.

I'm grateful to Al for sending this letter to me. I'm glad to share it with my family. I'll have a master for copies if any are wanted. Bernie