

Bernard & Louise Knapp
Family History

Justin Willis Knapp's
Letters to Wife Mabel

FROM THE FILES OF BERNARD ELDEN KNAPP

Melinda South
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September 1, 1997

Dear Bernie,

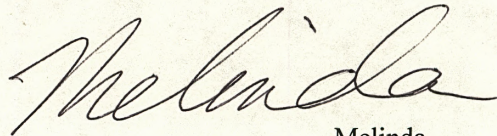
Here is some more. I have had a wonderful time getting to know my relatives both living and passed on. I am not sure of the order or of the years. Will you read over these and see if you can place them in the correct years?

Everything is moving ahead. But slowly. I have started to go back to school here at the University of Texas at Arlington. It is a lot of fun.

You may or may not know already that Jessica has decided to stay here for a semester. That will be a lot of fun with so many of us here. And she is always the one for fun and games.

Have a fabulous day.

Love,



Melinda

1958
August 12 (paper b)

Dear Mabel,

It's raining a little today. We were going to timber, but that is changed no. We brought two big loads in yesterday and David has started the motor to warm up. Leroy is still here. They stay up so late. Marj doesn't get them ready by 8. Russell is still here. How did you get along with cherries. I thought of you yesterday. I enjoyed the Raspberries. Wish I had some more. If we can't work I'll mail this today. I've been to work for an hour and a half. Then came the rain and hail again. The water is running apast the house. But it looks like it is about over. Leroy left a little while ago. he got your address and said he would call on you. I told him where Al lived in case you were not home. Our extreme warm weather should bring something. It is hard to take when it is above 90 and you are really working. Marj has let a family in the cabin where Warren and Beth lived. They came in in the middle of the night last night. The storm has cooled off a little. I think we can work and finish the logs we have.

Marj is going to mail this.

Love Jesse.

August 17, [1958] Our Wedding Date 48 years (paper b)

Dear Mabel,

Received your welcome letter. was glad to hear from you and from Bernard. Sorry things hasn't turned out different for him. But it will. He can't fail. And the Lord will bless him, I am sure. And things will be all right. We went to church, S. S. School and Pr. Meeting. Sat. Aunt Lue and three of the girls, didn't know Lola. Sorry. I didn't see her after meeting. Over flow again. Not enough seats. Sugar City choir sang. You didn't tell me how Jelly turned out. I was sick part of the night. That fool stunt carrying that bucket on my neck has caused me a lot of pain and ache in my head. I got my pencil refilled at Ponds for about 40 cents. Russell staid on last week. Did sister Ruf die over there. Will write Bernie. Then finish yours.

Leroy fixed Marjorie's lights, and that engine goes way late at nights and we don't get enough sleep. i don't know long it is going to continue. Company way late since Leroy left it has been better. They say we didn't draw a moose so I'll get that money back. I wish I had a dish of ripe Raspberries. Time is flying and hope we both have better health to carry on. Tell all hello. And I'll be seeing you. The new news. I got some envelopes and stamps. Have some left over will put in this letter. I may go over and mail this today. I suppose we will saw tomorrow. We have almost 4 loads of logs in. This hot weather almost gets me down. But that will soon change.

The middle of month is gone. Love and the Lord Bless you. Tell all hello. Jesse

August 24, 1958 (paper b)

Dear Mabel,

Came back from church and have had my dinner. No breakfast. Met a lot of people I knew this morning. Had splendid S. S. School and Meetings. Over flow as usual. I looked for letter from you. None came. But I had two letters with Bernie's in. But seeing is believing and you got the cherries put up. I t looked good. We've had quite a but of rain and the last 3 days were short ones 7,5,6, hours I think. The first were full days. 9 hours. I feel pretty good today. Perhaps will be down next week end. I thought from your letter the road would be closed. They ask me to give lesson next Sunday. And I referred them to Marjorie. As I thought I would like to drive down. David talks like he and I are going to work in se???

I thought I'd get a chance to give at Al a lift. Perhaps there will still be time. All of my sisters were at the party Friday night. Leroy and wife were there, and Many I knew. I'm glad you are going ahead with Bernie's Xmas Box. I didn't get much from Bernard's letter. I sketched the other night. I read them several times. Leland Pack told me his Mothers mind is about like a three year old child. I was sorry to hear it. Nadra was with them this morning. Had 3 little kids. And one on the way, well I must write Bernard. I'm glad changes seem to be coming which has changed him. and I'm sure he will make good. Our nights have been cooler the last two at least. I'll try to get this off a day earlier than last one. Hope you are feeling fine. The Lord Bless and keep you. I Love you always. Jesse, a Tiked card will come for me keep til I come.

1958
Sept. 12 Friday (paper b)

Dearest Mabel,

Received your welcome letter and Bernerd's. Was glad to hear from you. We are rained out today, went and took hay to horses and came back. It has been raining ever since. So I wrote to Bernard, and am writing a note to you. If I could step in and visit a while. It won't be long I guess we will have another week logging I guess. Then David will have to register. Sorry to hear of Brother call. You know I fell the day I helped Al. But I've got more cushion. are have learned to fall early, ha ha. I've had several this summer. the worst is when someone is there to see you. My arm is still sore. And hurts to rest it on table when writing. Aunt Lue is in for a lot of trouble it seems at her age. That is a bad place to break. I ought to have 2 shirts. Could you get them. And send up one at least. I think my trousers are going to lose this year. I tore a pair yesterday. that can be patched. But one shirt

is worn out, and the brown one that gave me was in wash Saturday and I haven't got it yet. Mr. and Mrs. whitening stayed in cabin by mine last night. came up from Utah. had Breakfast with Marj and were gone when we came from taking hay to horses. Just got homesick to see Island Park I guess. I am sure Barry will be good help for Al. And will be good for him after being in school all day. Hope M'Jean is O.K. well it is still dropping on roof. Water is standing in low places. We were rained out one other day, Wednesday. I guess Sept. will probably give us more rain. Water is way down in wells. The scab is off my arm now and color is better. Love and best wishes the Lord Bless you. Hello to all Jesse

May 12th (paper a)

Dear Mabel

Bernard Love
I am going to Ponds. So thought I'd write a few lines. It has been storming there is a little water standing. Thanks to Marj I got to Church yesterday. They stayed and visited afterward. It has been quite Lonesome. Next Friday. Will be a month since I came up. The man on Section made two fires this morning. And I put a skunk and trap an one. I got it Saturday night. at the old house. Where I got one last year. My foot is tender in one place today. I have been looking for the Boys. It is almost 1 o'clock. I hope they will soon decide what they are going to do. If Bernard doesn't want to come and run the mill. That should be his business. It means a lot of hard work. I know and takes him away from a lot of things. Perhaps he wants to enjoy. So I am going to let him make up his own mind. How are you getting along. And the rest of the family. My Pencil stopped. Marjorie let me take part of an old one she had. Now this has gone dry--well I've had quite a bit of use out of this one. But I hate to go back to this old one. Bernard talked like when he got his next check he was going to turn some money back. If he does and you have enough get some more tomatoes for the cooler along with what we talked about. Marjorie told the people yesterday they would be to Sunday School next Sunday So I look for her this week. Have you lost your pencil? Hope you are O.K. Miss you, be careful, Love always, Jesse.

10th June. (paper a) (ca. 1960)

One third of June gone. It has been warm today. And my radio hasn't worked good. My pencil isn't working either. The day has been long. have had several callers. Went to Ponds. Made another check. \$20.00. It took almost \$5.00 for gas. I was able to get some All Brand Mush. That helps to work against Cottage Cheese. I told Bernard to tell you to get some more tomatoes if you order stuff for the cooler. I don't use a lot. If I open a can that does me for two days for dinner. Judy brought about one dozen grapefruit. I had 5 or 6. I hope they don't spoil. Judy left some milk. And Bernard left two quarts of milk. They used one quart of mine this morning.

Well I'll try the pen won't work. I took a straw and ran through but no good. So this old reliable. Time goes slow when one is not busy. I draw a little water several times a day from the well by Marjorie's. that will do to wash with. But not to drink. We get good water at Ponds and the water as Simons Place is pretty good now. If David could have helped get things going. It is hard for Bernard to decide. He is thinking of the hard work and lifting ahead and accidents that have happened. So it is Better to let him make up his mind. Hope you are feeling fine. I am anxious to see things start. Will soon be a month since I came up. I watch every car to see if it is some of the folks. Will sign off. Love from [??] Jesse [had trouble getting a pen with ink]

June 10th. (paper c)

Bernard Love
It got cool toward morning. Not many mosquitoes. Flies are coming. I am out of vinegar. I like it with Salmon or Tuna. I may be able to get it at Ponds. I guess we will saw Today. 11th. The Mill started yesterday. But heated. So Barry and David changed radiators. The rest of us went on a clean-up and did a lot of firing. Marj had a letter telling her to clean up. Well we moved some stuff left by Targhee Tie Company. It has been neglected so long. There is new limit to the accumulation of stuff. One fire was burning when I got up in the night. It rained so we had a hard time starting, but made on ideal day for firing. I worked with a horse a half day. Moved and burned place where Bernard use to keep his horse. Made me think how much he enjoyed horses. well we have timber out for first order and should have it sawed and delivered today. This month will soon be half gone. We put logs on skidway and loaded special order with loader. I helped David So the first order is ready to go this afternoon to Last Chance. I don't know what I'll be doing.

new page (paper c) (ca. 1960) 6th-9th

20 to 1. we got back. I just finished dinner and washed dishes. My foot seems to be worse.

Mon. 6th. I got back O.K. Judy gave me the time after I got my things back in house and took some over to put in fridge. Judy said it was 15 to 4. So I got old Tops and went out and got in some wood I had prepared ahead to bring in for use in stoves. Well it is the 7th. We worked in timber, skidded in forenoon and trimmed in afternoon. Am very tired my foot is very bad tonight and my back aches. I went to hard for the first day hope I can take it. The 8th We worked until almost Noon with truck and loader and loaded one load and part of another and were rained out. Came home and changed all clothes and went to Marjorie's to get some cubes to put on to cook. My house got a lot of mosquitoes and they bothered me almost all night. I've got a lot of them since I came. Today 9th. Barry Delin and Trent lo timber loaded the army truck and toed the Federal with a real heavy load. It looks like it could rain again this afternoon. Have had

dinner washed dishes and have about 18 minutes to one. we got in a little after six. I called it 8 hours.

The 18th [probably May ca. 1960] (paper c)

Dear Mabel,

Just returned from Pond's and Whaley's. Mrs. Walker is back to Ponds. I mailed you a letter, still they haven't got things in I need. I got lettuce, two tomatoes, three grape-fruit, a dozen oranges, small ones. A lot of the snow has disappeared, on east side of buildings it is off. I gathered wood just in time and have a lot in the house. My car acted pretty good. Those snow tires were OK this morning. I guess I just got back in Time, it is snowing again. Some of the garden seeds should be showing soon. I hope it doesn't get too cold. I fixed some string beans for dinner out of a bottle. They taste a lot better than the ones from the cans. I had tuna for meat, vegetable and beef soup, a drink of buttermilk, some lettuce. Oh yes, one slice of bread. I hope the snow goes off Judy's front yard So I can finish porch step. Now the storm has changed to hail, well it will soon be 50 years since it really started hailing at our place, ha, ha, Well It has been a wonderful time. I sometimes wonder if I have been worthy of such a blessing.

A fine looking old lady was at Whaley's today. She introduced her as her Mother. Mrs. McKay. They were so busy. I didn't get to talk to her. I would like to have asked where her house was. And about the McKay part, but I didn't. She looked like an unusual person and I thought of our President McKay. Well I have been fixing Step and gathered some more wood. Took the wheelbarrow and went North to company well for 5 old blocks I seen there many times. Someone dumped there in waist pile. I think I can burn them during this stormy spell. Last year from this time or we got a lot of storm. I found the little sand paper in Tackle Box. thanks. The worst place in bottom of my foot is quite sore. I have 20 chapters read in my Book of 35 chapters. A car came in and went East. If the animal I set traps for didn't die it must have left. I'll have plenty of wood to keep you warm in house if you want to come Sat. while the girls are cleaning house. 19. It was foggy early this morning. But the sun has cleared things up. The snow left yesterday except where it was shaded is gone. It is very cool. I went for water and tub has ice on and a little wind makes it quite cool. I've had a fire for an hour and a half and still it isn't warm. I've been clearing yard a little if the boys were here I'd make fire while it is damp and not so dangerous catching and spreading fire. The news said 29 at Ida falls. I don't think that would freeze the new plants coming up. Well the ranger from over by Ponds came. We had quite a visit. Then tried to find corner of the 40 acres. Wish the Boys could have been here. He had a description but we didn't find the corner. I talked to him about the Boys putting in a drag line.

I hope Marj puts her foot down on that. Putting in a lot of money on equipment and they only have timber for a year or so and timber is getting harder every year to get. Another year Barry may not be here. If they had a lot of money it might be different. If they hire two men that takes quite a hole in what they make. Well I've read a little more today. My eyes seem to stand it better. I am sure cotton in my ears has helped. It is hard to keep in though. I hope you are better and that you get another letter from Bernard to bring with you Sat.

another letter separated from its companions. (20 May) (paper c)

The sun is shining through window tonight. It is 20 after 7. Hope it is a good day. Tomorrow 20 May. cold with wind. Sun is out. Hope it will warm up. My house is still too cool to be comfortable. A plane is going over. The first human sign of life today. It is evening I have had supper. Sun is shining. But still the wind blows. It has been a little warmer. Sat. I hope you will be with the folks tomorrow. Sat. and that it is a good day. This has been a long week. But I feel I am helping Marjorie and family. As well as myself. It don't look like storm as of now.

June 11th (paper c)

Dear Mabel,

It is cloudy, has hated this afternoon. I just finished writing to Bernard. All but me are gone to Idaho Falls. By my staying Barry could go and help David. The wind blew awful and the lightning flashed, and it rained water all over. That should help the water in the well. Now the sun is out, and wind has stopped and mosquitoes are in my house. I haven't used Pit so far. I hate the smell and I am afraid of it getting into the things I eat. Well last night before I went to bed I went outside and I was there half hour. I prayed and I worked until I was all in. And finally I got something through me. I've been bad lately. I guess the boiled egg and cottage cheese is what's doing it. I wish I had some Brand flakes. or 100 percent brand. Marj told me to try some prunes. So I bought a box from her. I was here alone and it really gave me a scare. I hope it never happens again. They asked me to go to church with them this morning. So we were at Sunday School. David took charge. Myrna at organ and M'Jean led. Barry helped with Sacrament. I opened with prayer. Howard Knapp closed. They have a place at Ponds.

14 (paper c)

No sunshine so far. The 7 Nerns are on and my eggs are on cooking. Myrna said you sent paper. I haven't seen it yet. Breakfast is over and it looks like rain. David and I worked in timber all day. The other 3 run the mill,

Ericson, started preparing to load pulp wood. 15th. This is the middle of June. Rained most of the night and is still cloudy. Hope you are well today. Breakfast and dishes done. 1:30 Judy's folks are here. I don't know yet if Marj came last night. Delin has a Rols?? and they went to Torus Creek. He may have parked in front.

They should have a letter or two when they come. Your letter came. I read it this morning. Was glad to hear from you. 17th looks like rain. David and I went to timber yesterday. Besides helping at mill. We cut what timber was left standing that was marked. Trimmed it, then went and logged out two big fir trees. Had a good hay. If we work all day. I probably will come down Sat. morning.

Separated Page (paper c)

and are here for the summer. He said they were going to the Reunion. So perhaps there will be quite a few there. I mailed a letter to Bernard this morning at Ponds. I never noticed where his address was changed on last letter I got from David. It looks like we will get going now. Brother George Muir and two brothers and their wives except sister Gor called and Marj and I had quite a visit with them. I have more flies than mosquitoes not today. Every time it storms the water soon leaves so I don't think they are going to be so bad this year. How are all the folks? Hope you are better. Hope to see you Saturday. Well another day has arrived. Have had breakfast and read the 18 Chapter of 8 *Nephi*. It is about 10 to 8. The sun is out and looks pretty good outside. Delin hasn't got back yet. Don't know if we go to timber or saw. Well, we all went to timber 9 hours today. I put down the first full day so far. We got 6 loads of logs in today 4 unloaded. Judy gave me some meat loaf for supper. It was fine. A little onions and tomatoes mixed in. I get quite tired walking and skidding all day. That is a lot of logs. Hope you are feeling better.

August 7th (paper d)

Dear Mabel,

Thought I'd drop a line as I am up a little early. David called said no letter last night. Hope all is well with you. It is 15 after 8. We generally leave about 9 or a little before. I went to crick with David and Barry last night. So have shaved this morning and just have to change clothes. The other Boys went down in afternoon. Delin went to Salt Lake Mon. and expects final word for his mission. The first of September. Barry went to see President Mickelson Fri. night but didn't find him for interview. So it looks like these two are going at that early age. Well we have moved up on Split creek logging. David and I were up cutting for half day yesterday. But we have brought woods and so far and haven't had a horse, yousing cabel and machinery. My it is steep. I hope more of us get hurt. There is a lot of power. Bringing trees full length. Almost 300 feet off the Mountain.

Some large ones. Marj wants me to go and get some clothes that fit me. Well I may come down early or the day before we go to the Temple.

Stoddards Mill Burned to the ground the other day. David and I went over. They saved the Plaining mill. I'll change so as to be ready. Our well is about dry. I draned twice to get a half bucket this morning. We dug Marjorie's down and have water there. But it doesn't taste good to me. David is supt. and Judy Secy So they go early and take the girls Myrna organist and M'Jean chorister and Barry generally helps with sacrament. Susan gave the gem and Marj opened last Sun. Minnie Knapp and Ron and wife were up last Sunday. And Howard will Teach the young People. David tells me. They have the small ones in another class. Three in all. McGroger is our Teacher. He is an ex-school teacher. My Pen has just run out. It is a quarter to 9. Some times we are late back home. I ask David if I could get a refill. He said no, but here is one you can have. Christensen Relestate. We had a nice Sunday School and a testimony Meeting at the Church of the Pines. And short Priesthood after. And it was taken up Talking New Building.

I guess I should get started on a letter to Bernard. I just completed a letter to Bernard. I'll go mail this after noon. Hope all is well at home. Would like to have a few berries. But the ones in bottles are even better. I had one last night. Will no doubt hear from you the first of week. Our work in timber is going to be more difficult for me — the under brush and steep climb. The Boys have been very fine with me so far. Tell all hello. Love, I'll be seeing you, Jesse.

(May 29-31, 1960) Paper -clipped to envelope post marked "Island Park, May ??, 1960" (paper c)

Sunday 29th

Dear Mabel, Thanks for fixing my bed. It has never been so good since I came up. 18 days ago I came to Island Park this year. It cooled off and took care of the mosquitoes last night. The sun is out clear this morning. I listened to church choir this morning. Richard Evans spoke from Miama Florida in the Program. This is a great world we are living in. I've prayed for the success of your convention today. You will write me about it, please. I'm looking forward to next week. Which no doubt will. See the folks move in. to make ready to work the next week, in getting out the special order the next week. Mon. 30. They 19 day since I came up. It didn't storm yesterday. And it looks like a good day today. Mosquitoes are here. But the cool last night seemed to slow them up. I forgot to take my pills. Have had breakfast. And listened to 7 News, which just finished. Tues., 31, well it is a little cloudy today. Am out of cottage cheese. Have been using powdered milk to drink. Will have to have more. Beans

are gone. Also vegetable soup. My meat has been all right. I put it down in that box on floor. Had several visitors yesterday, one about logs. Those fellows who own Simmons Ranch. No storm yesterday. My watch has quit.

Love, Jesse

Dearest Mabel,

20 Days this last day of May. Just returned from Ponds. Roads are almost entirely dry. They have there supplies in now. I got lettuce, cottage cheese, skim milk and buttermilk, and was able to get a globe for Battery. So didn't have to buy batteries. Wish you had my watch to send and get fixed. It stopped last night and won't run. Miss Ovard is at Ponds, also the Walkers. Horace says school always slows them up in spring. Misses Pond was in, said she had been busy cleaning cabins. Also one of their Boys, Joan ask how Bernard was and when he was coming home. Said her sister was doing fine. Porcheger the Language she has to learn. I don't know if I spelled it right. I brought an old block and split it, put two pieces in stove. I shut all drafts then I was afraid it would set the house on fire. I put carrots on to cook and had to move the pot back. Pitched what a fire. Will be glad to see the folks come. It's 5 to 5. I have over half of the Book of Mormon read. That Book of *Alma* is a long old Book. Over goes the calendar, June 1st, and so far a nice day. The neighbor lady called on her way to Ponds. I said bring me a letter and she did. Was glad to get your welcome letter.

Sorry about Al's accident. I've been afraid of that rattle trap. And a horse that don't know much about harness and work. It is time to get dinner. 15 to 12. The second. Son is out. I've been over to slabs. moved a few. A lot of cars has been in this morning. Going over to Ericsons I guess. Had one yesterday for logs. Will call when Mar comes. Just a little to do finish work. The railroad set fire to the ties across from the slabs. Then left. The wind blew. And I was afraid. But every thing seems to be all right today. There is still fire in one Pile. But it is quiet. I'm looking tomorrow for some canning up. Well I got though with the Big Book of *Alma*. Finished last night. David and Judy are here. Have a friend, Hamilton with them, Judy staid and I went down to look at timber that is stamped. Ericsons Son was here and talked to us. They are going to load some timber here. I'll send this note with them. Hope you are better. I'm O.K. but my foot is still tender. I don't know how soon they'll be going. So will send this note. Lots of Love will be seeing you. Jesse

• on small scrap of paper:

Will send my watch so you can send it. I can't get along without one. Thanks. No mosquitoes in the house.

Dear Mabel,

Just a few lines. I came back safe. And we worked hard yesterday, got in three loads. I was sore last night. Those pads and the thing Al gave me I used, and foot was better but still sore. Every soul left this morning. Family reunion in Utah. So I wrote Bernard this morning. I've been cooking chicken and have had a lot of plies. And weather is warm. A Mrs. Ramey called for three house logs. Times in I.F. from Blackfoot. Sam Trude came to see Marj. He is at Boise Now. We talked for an hour. So the forenoon is gone. The train just came and brought some cattle. They are unloading and what a noise. I do hope my condition changes for the better. I do want to carry on this year and build up an account. The more I think of July 24 for a reunion the more I think perhaps we should. If we could only decide on place and time. And should be ready for Plo's by first Don't you think. I enjoyed my visit with you. Mabel the corn will have to be thinned out. One or two stalks to a hill. Can you do that in the mornings? Cut or pull all out. But one or 2 to the hill. Then we will have corn. The Lord Bless you. Love and Best wishes. Yours forever. Jesse

There is an envelope post marked "Island Park, August 8, 1960 3 pm"

There is an envelope post marked "June 12, 1961, 3 pm, Idaho"

June 20th (paper e)

more →

From Mabel to Marj

Darling Marjorie:

Of course I hope you will be successful and I am sure you will because you have been in your few attempts at class work. I have often wondered why you did not; and rather wished you would, ask for your blessing. It would be a sort of safe guard to you and perhaps point out the pitfalls which are along your way so you could avoid them. However, that is of course for you to decide.

But Marjorie Dear, remember a large part of your success will depend upon the company you keep. And your life companion will be chosen from among your associates. So choose the best, for the best is not too good for you. You will be, as it were, in the spotlight over there, you are young, you are inexperienced and you will be watched. Some of your critics will be friendly some will not. Be your sweet lovable self — pure always and sweet and virtuous. And Darling, remember we love you — Daddy and I — more than you can realize now. And we want you to keep your ideals high and clean, and your friends come up to your level. It is hard to have you leave us to go on your own independence. It would seem that you would not need us longer. But Honey, do not leave us — still make our home yours, until some clean worthy boy will take you to the Temple and make for you a home of peace and joy and happiness. Pray for guidance in this greatest event in your life. Reach up to God and be strengthened, be prayerful and He will bless you, and preserve you, and protect you from evil, or evil persons, never leave your room without a prayer for protection, do not go on dangerous ground, or in forbidden places. Even Apostle Ballard said he would flee from temptation, and how much more should we. So we will pray for you every day in this new undertaking, and for your sweet fresh young girlhood, that nothing will ever mar the beauty or purity of your of your life, your soul. May Our Father grant you the peace of virtue, honor, love and sweet contentment. Will be the constant prayer of your loving Mother.