



JUSTIN ABRAHAM KNAPP

Justin Abraham Knapp was born in Farmington, Davis County, Utah on August 4, 1857. His father, Albert, was a descendant of William Knapp who came to America in 1630 from Suffolk County, England. Albert and his wife, Rozina Shepard, were the parents of six children, of whom Justin was the second son and fifth child.

When Justin was five years of age, he suffered from scarlet fever. As a result of the fever, the cords in his left foot were tightened, leaving him crippled for the remainder of his life. He often said that as a child he longed to run and play like other children. At age thirteen he worked in a grocery store. His family moved from Farmington to Richmond, Utah where he enjoyed hunting. He spent many hours tramping along the banks of Bear River where there were many geese and ducks. He often told of a time when he brought down three geese with one shot. He enjoyed the pasttime of hunting throughout his life. In later years after moving to Hibbard, Idaho, he would hunt ducks and wild chickens on the sloughs and the river running through his farm and in the nearby sage country.

In his young manhood, he worked for a Mr. Brown in Park City, Utah where he learned the trade of stonecutting. After his day's work was finished, he would stay at night and experiment on scraps of stone which he polished and decorated with letters and designs. He carefully laid these away.

One day Mr. Brown saw them and was surprised and pleased with Justin's work. He encouraged Justin to enter the stones in an exhibition at the fair in Logan, Utah. Justin did so and won several prizes.

As a stone mason, Justin helped to build many important buildings in the communities where he lived. One of these buildings was the Logan Temple. Each mason who worked on the temple had his own chisel, axe and a four-pound hammer. The masons would each enter the stone quarry and select and prepare enough stones for the corners to last him a few hours or for the day. These stones would be hoisted out of the quarry and then sent to the mason who had selected them. Justin's initials are carved in one of these stones and he also prepared the cornerstone which forms the box where the records are sealed.

He made many pioneer headstones, some of which are found in the Rexburg, Idaho cemetery. He helped to build the large rock store made of native stone owned by Henry Flamm. As the walls were raised, stone and mortar were drawn up by horses. He also helped to build the sugar factory in Sugar City, Idaho and several other rock buildings in the Rexburg area.

He made a violin which he played at parties and dances. He was very musically talented and could play the accordion, the mouth organ and harp.

While working on the Logan Temple, Justin met Anna Eliza Lemmon who was attending college there. She was the daughter of Willis and Anna Eliza Homer Lemmon. Many hours of their courtship were spent walking around the unfinished temple walls. They were married in the old Endowment House in Salt Lake City, Utah on October 9, 1878.

Twelve children were born to them, six of which preceded them in death. Their children are: Anna Rozina md. William Widdison, Mabel md. Heber Ward, Jennie md. Francis Walters, Justin Willis md. Mabel F. Hale, Lydia Malinda lived four months, Clara Leone lived nine years, Esther Jane md. Leslie Robertson, Alice Eveline md. John Hillman and Edwin Raymond and Adrian Leroy, who were twins. Edwin Raymond died at birth and Adrian Leroy lived two years.

Justin and Eliza made their first home in a brick house which he had built in Richmond. While working at his trade as a stone mason, he played in the local brass band and served a term as town marshal.

About 1888, Justin bought a relinquishment of 160 acres in the Snake River Valley in Hibbard, Idaho, two and one-half miles west of Rexburg. He hired a man to take his furniture and stock while Eliza and the four children they had at the time travelled by train to Market Lake, now Roberts. There Justin met them with a team to continue their journey to their new home. There was no bridge across the river so they crossed on a ferry boat operated by George Hibbard, Eliza's brother-in-law and their first bishop.

They lived in a log house in Rexburg while their house was being built on the farm. Justin had found a hunter's paradise with deer, antelope, wild chickens, ducks and plenty of fish. There also were coyotes, badgers and porcupines.

The winters on the farm were hard and long. The land had to be cleared of sagebrush which was pulled out and burned. There were ditches and dikes to be made. Every now and then, Justin would plow up a rusty gun barrel, arrowheads or a smooth stone used to ground meal by the Indians.

With the help of his children, he fenced his farm with green posts and poles. This was hard work lifting the green timber all day. Some nights after a hard day's work, sagebrush fires were built and potatoes roasted. This new cleared land grew fine crops and on this farm there was fine pasture, lots of grass and plenty of water and timber for their own firewood. In addition to farming, Justin continued his work as a stone mason and did some bricklaying and plastering.

Justin loved horses and always had fine teams and sold many good ones. He raised black, bay and bolley-faced horses. Almost every farmer in the area had a team of Justin's horses. An epidemic got among his horses one spring and he found thirteen little dead colts in his field. He sent to Belgium for a beautiful registered horse which he called Mathun. He also kept a few head of sheep.

In about 1899, he and his brother Morgan built a sawmill on Moody and Canyon Creeks and operated this mill for about two years.

He enjoyed wrestling and other feats of strength. Because of his trade as a stone mason, he developed strong arms. One day he went to the old grist mill east of Rexburg. Several boys from Ricks College were there lifting different weights and trying to outdo eachother. One boy held out a sack of flour on his wrist and Justin asked him, "Why don't you put it on your hand?" The boy retorted, "You can't do it." Justin jokingly asked, "What do you have to say I can't?" The boys collected about \$4.50 for a bet. Justin held out his hand and they put a fifty pound sack of flour on it. Then he held out his other hand and said, "Put another on this hand." The boys did and he raised them both upward. The boys offered him the money but he just laughed and told them he didn't want their money.

The first school held in Hibbard was in the Knapp granary. It was built of logs and whitewashed. When completed with desks and seats, it was very comfortable.

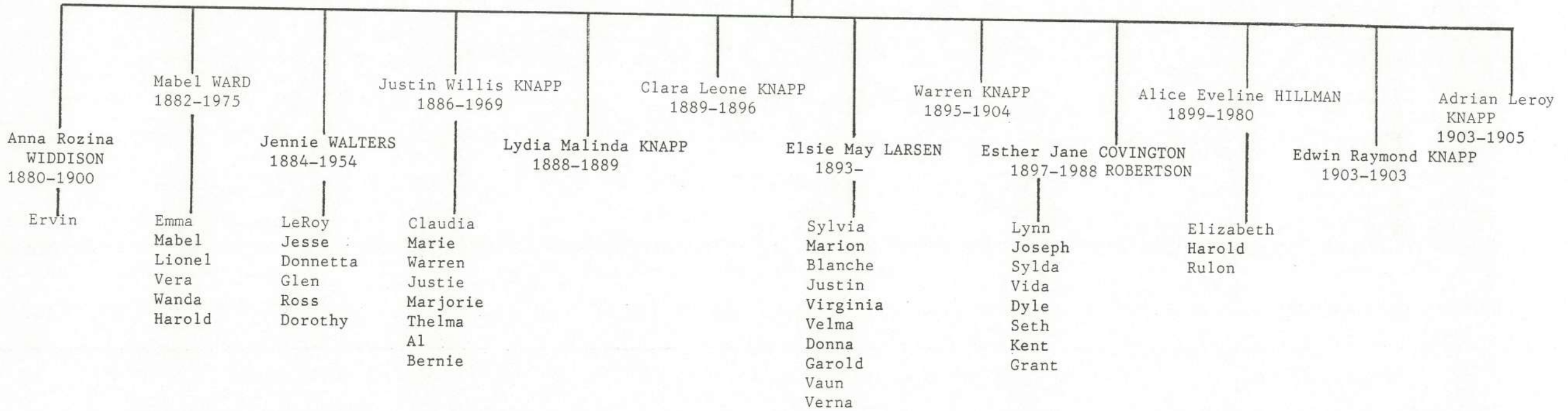
Justin served as the first superintendent of the Religion Class organized in Hibbard by Karl G. Maeser. He also served as a counselor in the bishopric to Bishop Rigby. In January of 1914, he went to Southern California and served a short-term mission.

After his mission, he returned in the late spring and his health failed rather quickly. For years he had suffered from hay fever and asthma. In November of 1918, he had a stroke and lapsed into a coma. This coma lasted for some time and on November 21, 1918, Justin awoke to the sounds of bells and alarms. He lived long enough to learn that it was Armistice Day and that World War I was over. He passed away later that same day. At that time an influenza epidemic was raging and no public gatherings were allowed. Justin was buried after a short graveside service at the Rexburg cemetery.

Justin was about 5'8", stocky built and had dark brown hair. He was a hard worker, not only in his trade as a stone mason and on his farm but also in church and community activities. His children remember him as being a lot of fun and of having a hard time being strict with them. He is also remembered as enjoying a good laugh and always having good advice. Justin's love for his family, the church, horses, music, hunting and the outdoors were important parts of his personality.

Justin Abraham KNAPP
1857-1918

Anna Eliza LEMMON
1860-1931





ALBERT KNAPP



ROZINA SHEPARD



JUSTIN ABRAHAM KNAPP



ANNA ROZINA WIDDISON



MABEL WARD



JENNIE WALTERS



JUSTIN W. KNAPP



CLARA LEONE KNAPP



ELSIE LARSEN



WARREN KNAPP



ESTHER COVINGTON ROBERTSON



EVIE HILLMAN



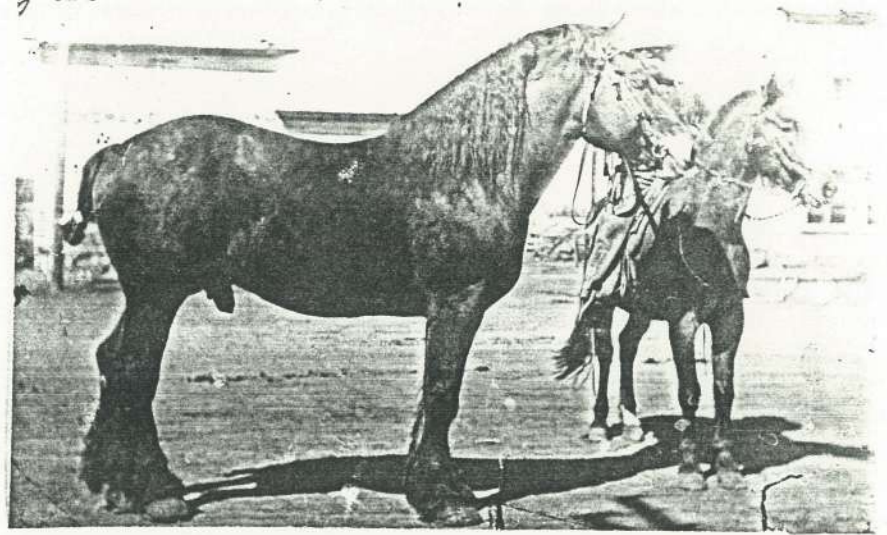
RAYMOND KNAPP



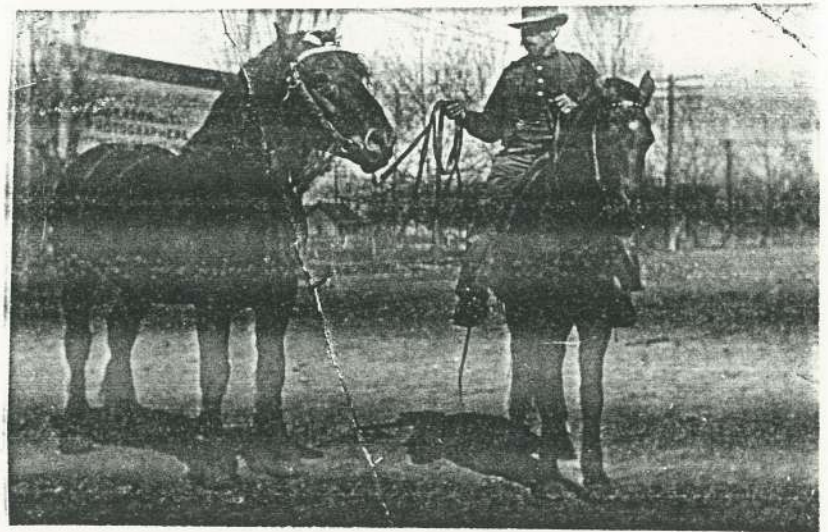
KNAPP FAMILY (ABOUT 1907)

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

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



Justin Abraham Knapp and Mathun



Justin Abraham Knapp and Mathun