



## JOHN WALLACE KNIGHT 1900–1973

John Wallace Knight was born 6 December 1900, in Bates, Fremont, Idaho. He is the son of Martha Hipwell and William Alma Knight. When he was four years of age, the family moved to Taylor, Weber, Utah. They moved to Ogden, Utah, when he was six years old, and he began attending Madison School. He was baptized a member of the LDS Church 4 September 1910. His brothers and sisters included William Leonard (1893), Austin (1895), Hazel May (1898), and Neta (1908).

During vacations from school in the summer, Wallace and his two brothers, Leonard and Austin, took their neighbors cows up on the hills east of Ogden to pasture each day. They also pastured the cows by the Ogden River on hot summer days, so they could take advantage of the swimming holes. Wallace often spent the summer with his cousins in West Weber, working on the family's property for his board. At night the boys would go to the dances in Plain City, Hooper, and other towns. Even though they worked hard during the day, they were never too tired in the evening to enjoy dancing. It was while at a dance in Wilson Lane that he met Myrtle Marie Bingham who would become his first wife.

Wallace first found employment with the American Can Company at the rate of \$.15 per hour, and he attended Smithsonian Business College. Upon graduation in June 1922, he was able to secure a position with the Southern Pacific Railroad Company, and he remained with this company until he retired 26 June 1966.

On 12 September 1923, Wallace and Myrtle were married in the Salt Lake Temple. They were blessed with one daughter, Donna, born 5 May 1924. On 9 September 1925, his wife died. This was a hard time for Wallace. After a few years he met and married Lenora Elizabeth Burt Chambers on 3 July 1928. Wallace, Lenora, and Donna lived in Ogden. They had a little home built on the corner of Gramercy and Knights Lane.

During the depression years of 1933 and 1934, Wallace found it necessary to work three jobs because wages were low and they were making payments on their home in addition to adding sons to their family. He worked an extra four hours a day at the Railway Express and eight hours janitor work for the Southern Pacific Railroad at \$2.72 per day. In addition, he had a small Ford truck which he used to haul coal to several customers. With these additional positions they were able to get by.

Wallace and Lenora were blessed with five sons while living in Ogden, Wallace Burt (1929) Robert Wayne (1931), Grant Larry (1932), Leslie Danny (1934), and George Lynn (1936). In November 1936, they moved from Ogden to Harrisville (431 North Harrisville Road) where their sixth son was born, Byron Leroy (1938). After their children were married, Wallace and Lenora moved back to Ogden in November 1967, and lived there for about two years. They moved back to Harrisville into a home next to the church (1290 North Harrisville Road). They lived there for

three or four years before moving to 775 North Harrisville Road where they lived the remainder of their lives.

Wallace held many positions in the LDS Church including bishop of the Harrisville ward for five years from 1953 to 1958. He was serving as bishop when the church was remodeled and the old chapel taken down and replaced with a new one. As a young man he served a one year mission, Oct 1926-1927, to the Western States, with headquarters in Denver, Colorado. Wallace was always interested in athletics and enjoyed the time he served as Athletic Director while on the North Weber Stake Mutual Board. He directed the basketball schedule which included fourteen wards for three years. During this time there were some outstanding teams including the all church champions one year.

Wallace was active in the community. When the town of Harrisville first incorporated, he was sworn in, 10 April 1962, as one of the five members of the Harrisville Town Board. He continued to serve on the city council after the city became a third class city until November 1966.

Like Wallace, four of their sons, Burt, Wayne, Dan, and Lynn, became railroaders and worked at one time in the same place—The mechanical department. Since Wallace worked for the railroad, he and Lenora took advantage of the free transportation made available to them. They were able to travel extensively throughout the United States and twice into Canada. They also traveled to Cuba. After retirement, they spent eleven winters in Mesa, Arizona where they enjoyed attending the Mesa LDS Temple.

On 13 July 1970, Wallace suffered a stroke. Lenora was able to care for him with the help of her sons until he died 24 June 1973. He is buried in the Ogden City cemetery.

#### **SOURCE:**

Harrisville City Records.

Knight, Byron. Family records.

Knight, Marcia. Autobiography of John Wallace Knight.

Bingham, Myrtle Marie Burt, Lenora Elizabeth Chambers, Lenora Elizabeth Burt Hipwell, Martha Knight, Austin Knight, Byron Leroy Knight, Donna Knight, George Lynn Knight, Grant Larry	Knight, Lenora Elizabeth Burt Chambers Knight, Leonard Knight, Leslie Danny Knight, Martha Hipwell Knight, Myrtle Marie Bingham Knight, Robert Wayne Knight, Wallace Burt Knight, William Alma
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