

The Lydia Goldthwaite Graveside Memorial Project

A Personal Perspective By Knight Descendant Robert Newel Reynolds

In 2003 my wife Alene and I were called to serve as Family History consultants. During the intervening eight years of work and research we have witnessed many wonderful acts of kindness and generosity from folks willing to share their personal resources and their family's genealogical treasures and memorabilia.

The 2010 restoration of the Lydia Goldthwaite memorial gravestone in the St. George cemetery stands out as a significant case example. Along with a few others I was given the opportunity to see the project develop and come to fruition. The generosity of my nephew Scott Bonham provided the key to completing the project within a year of it's start. Without his monetary help the project would still be seeking funds.

Mavon Herring's lifelong love and passion for Family History produced the fertile ground for the inspiration to recognize our beloved forebear, Lydia Goldthwaite Knight, by starting the drive to restore her crumbling monument.



Architect James Knight chaired the 2010 Knight family reunion and he probably spent more time and effort than anyone else to bring to pass the Lydia Knight graveside memorial. James sent the above image of his family to the key individuals who participated in the decision making process. The photograph was taken at the St. George cemetery on the afternoon of February 27, 2011.

As a side participant to the 2010 memorial restoration, offered herewith are insights and chronology documenting a bit of the historic event.

First, we should dispense with a very unusual event that almost interrupted and put an end to the memorial project even before the actual work began. It had to do with the polished round granite ball that makes Lydia Goldthwaite's grave marker so unusual and intellectually stimulating.

Since the time of the earliest Greek philosophers, the geometrical shape most associated with the cosmos was the sphere. Empedocles and Xenophanes saw it as the ideal shape of the one perfect God, and were followed in this by Plato. Aristotle doubted that geometry could be a basis for subjective aesthetic opinions; however, when Cicero wrote on the subject it seemed to him incontrovertible that the world was round, since no other geometrical shape had such balance in movement and constancy in order. Cicero also believed that rounded forms---among solids, the sphere and, in two dimensions, the circle---were innately superior, as not only could they alone enclose all other shapes within their outline, but they were perfectly even and unbroken by angles, protrusions, or depressions.¹

We all believe that Uncle Jesse Knight deserves credit for Lydia's sphere. He occupies a chair, second to no one, in creating and erecting significant historic monuments to known forebears. How nice it would be to know his thinking behind this geometric choice -- one that has captured the attention of all visitors.

A little over a month after the 2010 Knight reunion a thoughtless act of vandalism occurred that shocked all who were involved in the Lydia Goldthwaite graveside memorial project. The sphere was knocked from its base and rolled to a nearby curb.



1 Monumentality and the Roman Empire architecture in the Antonine age By Edmund Thomas. The Symbolic Significance of Architectural Form, page 53.

Two inebriated youth unleashed their youthful energy causing 12,000 dollars damage. Lydia's granite ball survived without damage -- a fortunate blessing that would please her son Jesse, who was responsible for its original placement.



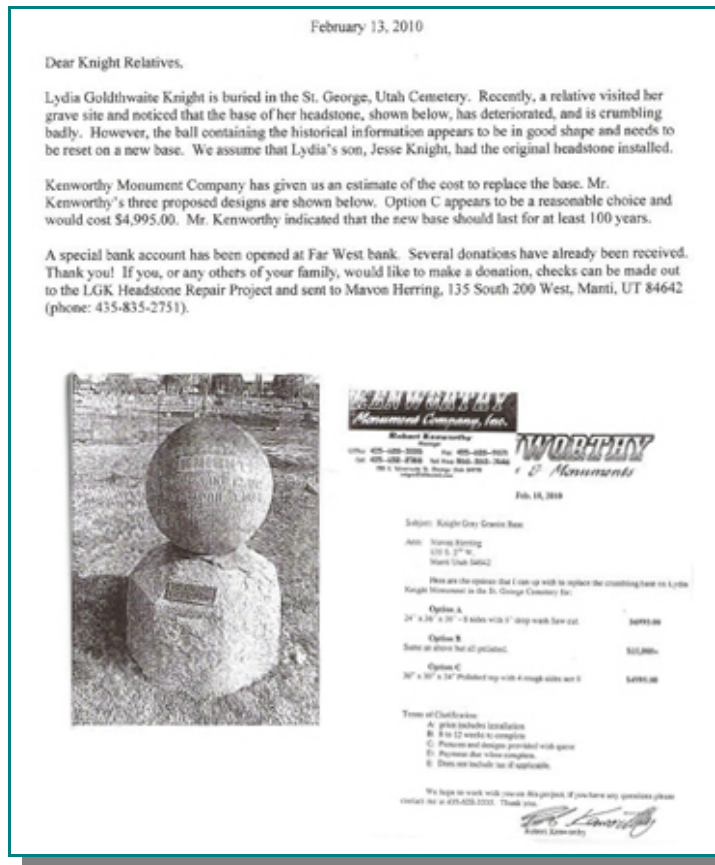
The perpetrators were soon brought to justice. The folks below rejoiced about that!



Alas, the monument was restored and on June 2, 2011 benefactor Scott Bonham, in the same true spirit demonstrated so frequently by Lydia's son Jesse, arranged for his private jet to carry the family of Mavon Herring to St. George for a testimonial to honor the grand lady.

Chronology of Events

The reconstruction of Lydia Goldthwaite's graveside memorial began in 2009 when Mavon Herring began contacting individuals asking for a donation to help with the project. By February 2010 she had received several donations and had established a bank account for their deposit. She had also obtained an estimate from a St. George monument company for the work.



On February 7, 2010 James Knight, committee chairman for the 2010 Knight reunion, emailed family members notifying them of the family reunion to be held July 30-31 in Salt Lake City. The stated purpose of Knight's email was to update their list of family names and to advise others to check out their website for information on the reunion.

In late February or early March 2010, I received a phone call from Mavon Herring telling me about the memorial project and requesting a contribution. I joyfully committed to creating and providing a quantity of CD's to the upcoming Knight family reunion for

purposes of generating income for the monument replacement project." Titles of the CD's to be contributed included "The Three Lydias," the "Stolworthy Family Memories," and "Original Histories." ²

Mavon subsequently contacted Chairperson James Knight and provided him a CD of "The Three Lydias." James agreed with Mavon's proposal and events developed from there. Following are emails that show how the "Lydia Knight Memorial" contribution evolved.

April 2, 2010 James Knight email to Knight family members:

Dear Knight Relatives,

Mavon Herring from Manti asked me to send this to you.

This page is part of a great biography she has written about Lydia Goldthwaite , Lydia Knight, and Lydia Young. She is asking those related to Lydia if they would be interested in donating to replace the stone that the 'sphere' sits on which is crumbling. The grave is in St. George.

Please let me know if you are interested by replying to this email and how much you could donate.

I will let her know what the response is.

Thanks

Also, the Three Lydia's document will be available at the reunion or I may be able to email it to you as well.

Let me know if you are interested.

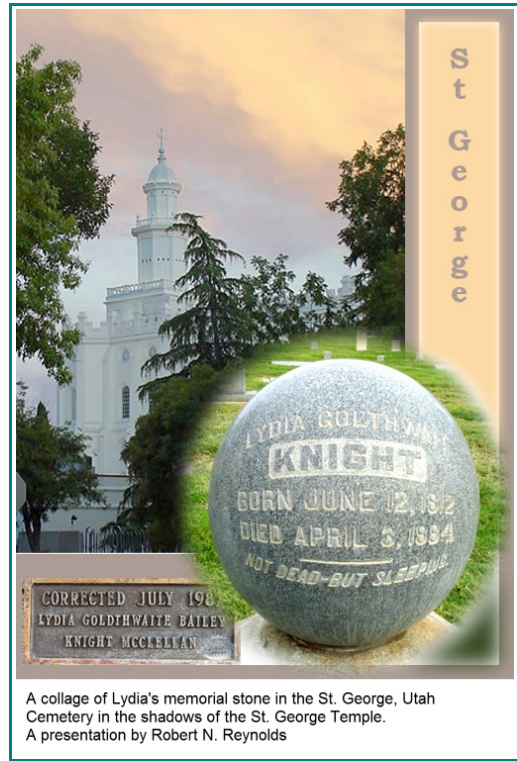
Thanks

James Knight



2 "The Three Lydias" PDF was produced under copyright of Robert N. Reynolds. See story below of it's creation. The PDF has been widely distributed, non-commercially, to family members and Knight Family reunion attendees via CD since 2010. Since the 2010 Knight Family reunion, a revised edition of "The Three Lydias" with editorial improvements, footnotes and improved digital images has been completed.

The collage image below was attached to James Knight's April 2, 2010 email. Produced in September 2006 for "The Three Lydias." it has since been updated with an image of the newly polished sphere and an inset photo of Mavon's family attending a June 2, 2011 event at the new memorial (See page three).



A reply was sent to James Knight on April 3, 2010 with the same proposal I had made to Mavon.

Dear James,

This is in response to your email regarding Mavon Herrings project to restore the base of Lydia Goldthwaite Knight's memorial stone in the St. George Cemetery.

I want to contribute to this project. Before I make a commitment let me offer a suggestion for your consideration. It has to do, not only with Mavon's work on "The Three Lydias," but also with a self starting CD I produced entitled, "Stolworthy Family Memories." The CD, which required two full years to produce is focused primarily on the family of Lydia Rosanna Young Stolworthy's family and includes much information on close relatives including the Knight and Young families. For example, the CD contains the work of Susa Young Gates entitled "Lydia Knight's History." It also contains the original biographies of Lydia Goldthwaite's daughter, Lydia Knight by granddaughters Wilma Stolworthy Hawkins and Pearl McGee; and the original biography of Lydia Goldthwaite's granddaughter, Lydia Rosanna Stolworthy by daughter Wilma Hawkins. These three documents were the

main sources for Mavon's work. The CD contains the original PDF of Mavon's work which I produced for her from her original typescript, as well as a PDF cover for the work. Thus a person can reprint the entire document from the CD.

The self starting CD contains a vast amount of information including 111 histories (over 3,000 pages), 292 original digital images of individuals and vital documents, several full length books such as the "Memories of John R. Young," Henry Thomas Stolworthy's "Treasures of Truth," and Lorenzo Dow Young's journal and his biography by Amasa Little; and several Personal Ancestral Files with extensive notes and sources. I should also point out that many of the digital images required hours and hours of work using advanced photoshop technology to restore.

The CD and all of the images produced for "The Three Lydias" are covered by copyright under my Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 License.

Now, here is my suggestion: I will be pleased to make copies of the CD available to you for distribution at the Knight Reunion with total proceeds going to the Lydia Goldthwaite Knight Memorial Stone fund. I would suggest that you offer the CD as a gift in return for every contribution of twenty dollars or more to the memorial fund.

Please let me know what you think.

Sincerely,

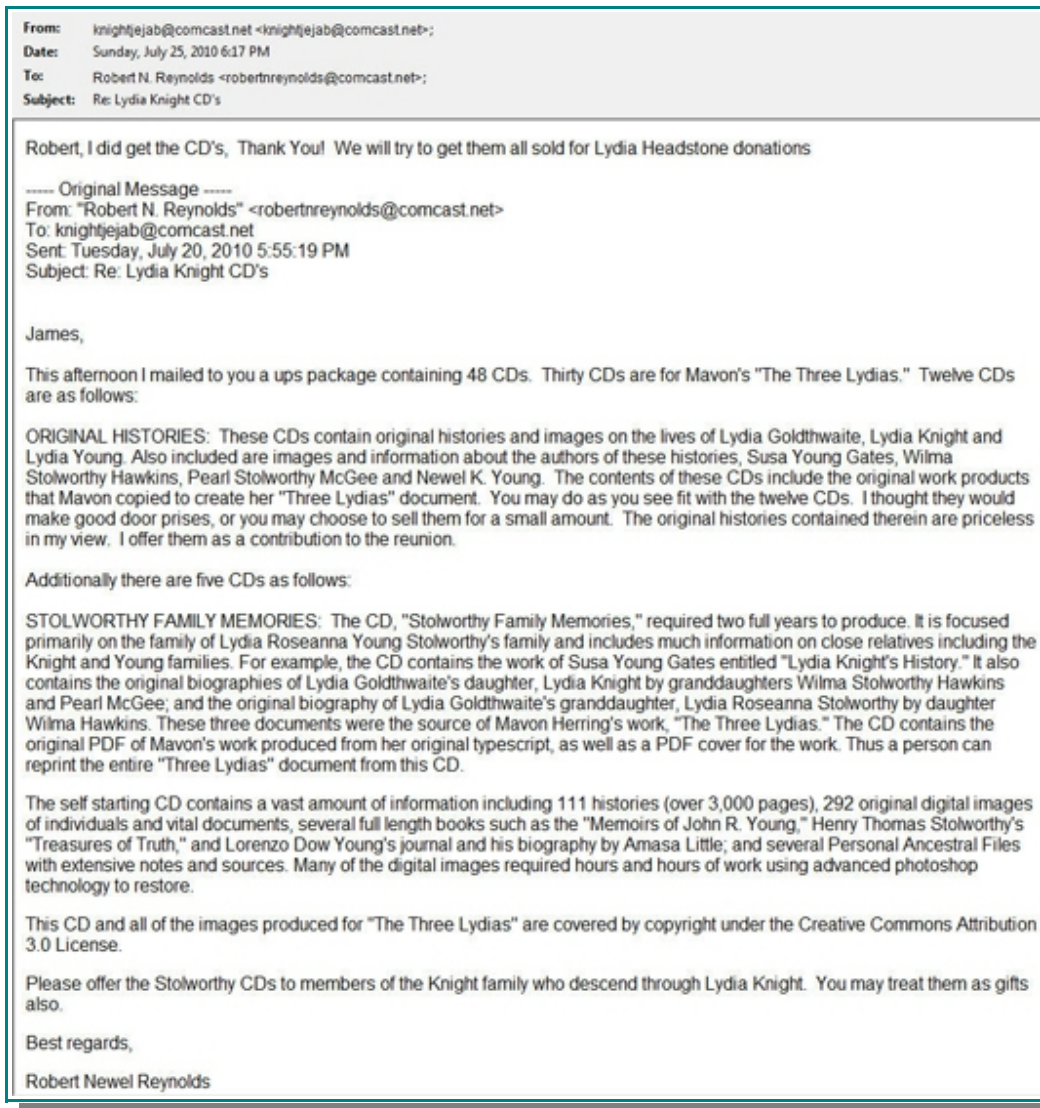
Robert Newel Reynolds

From April 3 until July 20, 2010 several emails passed between James Knight and myself. I was requested but declined to print the "Three Lydias" document. Instead, I committed to create and provide 48 CD's as my contribution to the project and most of these CD's contained the full version of the "Three Lydias" work. Ill health precluded my opportunity to attend the reunion. Even so, the contribution resulted in several hundred dollars added to the most worthy cause.

Sometime about this date Mavon called to say that her cousin, Harold Redd had not received the CD's I promised. I had sent them to James Knight as per my agreement with him.



The following email documents the transaction of 48 CD's to James Knight on July 20, 2010.³



August 4, 2010 accounting email from James Knight.

Here is a recap of the Fund Raising and alternate bid info for the Lydia Knight Headstone Base

3 Redd apparently was involved with selling CD's to reunion attendees as well as publishing "The Three Lydias" into "book" form. James Knight forwarded the following email that gives a general accounting of monies collected.

replacement:

- **Harold Redd told me that MaVon had about \$3035 already saved and donated in her possession.**
- **Harold also told me that he and his wife raised over \$1000 at the reunion through Cd & Book sales and pre-orders for more books, minus any costs producing the books and postage to send. He said he would send the checks to me to deposit in the reunion account, and he would send the cash in the form of a check to MaVon and take out any expenses he needs to cover printing and shipping.**
- **The pre-registration orders for the Lydia books, Cd's, & donations came to \$620 minus the \$290 for the printing of the 10 books ordered and 7 extra books (sold at the reunion) or \$330 net.**
- **So at this time, there is about \$4365 already available for the headstone and Scott Bonham (Newell Knight descendant) would like to cover the remainder.**
- **Scott Bonham did some research to get a comparative bid for the work. He contacted American Monument in Ogden who visited the site while in St. George, and said they would replace the base exactly to original size, shape, and design, add an octagon shaped granite foundation under it, clean & polish the sphere, and polish, clean and reapply the 2 bronze plaques that were on the base. As I understand it the total is about \$5200. (see below for the highlighted details of the work). This is quite a bit less than Kenworthy.**
- **See also the website for American Monument and their references. They are a reputable company and have done work in St. George. Apparently only America Monument and Kenworthy are capable of this work.**
- **I will notify Kenworthy of the comparative bid and allow them to match. I have spoken with them already about looking at other bids and they agreed with our desire to get other opinions and estimates.**
- **When we know which company we will use, I would suggest having Scott Bonham sign the contract and pay the 50% down-payment. Then, when the job is complete and satisfactory, we can use the money collected to pay the balance and repay him. If MaVon or her relatives would like to be in charge of the money and the contract agreements, we can certainly do it that way as well.**
- **One idea would be to polish just the top, sloped edges of the base for greater ability to shed water and avoid deterioration. Perhaps we should ask if the company thinks that would make a big difference. It would change the original look a bit. The sides should still have the framed rock pitched texture. See the attached images.**
- **Although the contrast between polished sphere and unpolished base is nice too. Another important suggestion would be to add a new plaque, signifying that Lydia's loving & admiring great-granddaughter MaVon Nelson Herring led a campaign among Lydia's descendants and raised enough money to pay for the restoration. I think this is important too.**

Let me know what you all think. Let's get this done right away!
Thanks for your help on this.

James Knight (Lydia Descendant)

The Knight Family website contains the following tribute to Mavon Herring for her role:

Mavon's project really started when she, with the help of other family members including Robert Newel Reynolds, began to write a wonderful book about three great ladies named Lydia: Her grandmother, Lydia Young; her great-grandmother, Lydia Knight; and her great-great-grandmother, Lydia Goldthwaite Bailey Knight Dalton McClellan. The book, which is really a compilation of journal entries, stories, photos and documents, is written in the first person, as if one of the Lydia's was speaking to the reader and so is very insightful of the life and example these great women left for us to learn from. Mavon decided that the book could be made available to family members and reunion attendees and the proceeds donated to the refurbishing of the monument.

History of "The Three Lydias" Undertaking

The story of Mavon's outstanding generosity is documented in the following section which serious students of family history will appreciate over time as they study and review how the story of "The Three Lydias" evolved.

By 2006 my wife Alene and I were deeply involved in our calling as Family History consultants. During the previous five years she had lost both of her parents, and in 2003 my 98 year old father had passed away at our home in Littleton, Colorado. When we learned of the Knight family reunion, to be held at Wheeler Farm in Salt Lake City, we made plans to attend and invited all of our close family members with whom we had email contact to join us. My most active family history buff nephew Scott, and his wife, Suzanne Bonham and a couple of my sisters and one brother-in-law responded. The event turned out to be a goldmine in our ancestral search.

For a long time I had been interested in making contact with members of the Stolworthy family who descended from my grandfather Newel Knight Young's older sister, Lydia Rosanna Young Stolworthy. My mother had fond memories of the Stolworthy family made in 1911-12 at their home in Fruitland, New Mexico when she, as a child of six, had fled with her family from the Mexican Revolution. Over the years I often wondered what kind of people the Stolworthy family must have been to instill such strong memories in a child like my mom. The urge to reconnect almost 100 years later was very strong. I mailed several letters to people of the Stolworthy name but they all came back unopened.

On a Saturday morning at the Knight reunion in 2006 I sat down to a large round table at Wheeler Farm and placed a wonderful 8x10 nicely framed image of my great-grandmother, Lydia Knight Young in front of me. Soon I was joined by other family. When I extended my hand to the gentleman seated next to me he warmly responded and introduced himself as Carr Stolworthy from Fruitland, New Mexico. He too was a great-grandson of Lydia Knight Young. I was for a time speechless as I dealt with a strange tightening in my throat. Then words flowed spontaneously between us. The time spent that day with Carr and his wife Willie was joyous. He fussed so over the antique mounted photo of Lydia Knight that I was moved to hand it to him as a touching gift.

Meeting Carr and Willie that day opened the door to the Stolworthy family and all of its treasures of old photos and written histories that had been preserved in typescripts produced on manual typewriters. Their generosity was boundless as they shared their family history resources, knowledge and time. Many contacts with other close family members followed.



Alene and Robert N. Reynolds on the left; Willie and Carr Stolworthy on the right.
Photo taken at Wheeler Farm, 2006 Knight Family Reunion.

When Carr and Willie left the Knight reunion to return to their home in New Mexico

they traveled through Manti where they stopped to visit Carr's first cousin, Mavon Nelson Herring. Upon seeing the framed 8x10 picture of Lydia Knight, Mavon persuaded them to unseal the back of the frame and take the photograph to a local copy shop. When speaking with Carr, after his return to Fruitland, he told me of Mavon's excitement in getting a copy of this image and he gave me her contact information. Soon afterwards I called her and introduced myself. She said she remembered my grandfather Newel from his days of teaching seminary in Richfield (*Mavon was born in 1927 and grandfather taught in Richfield during the period 1932-36*). We began at once to talk of trading genealogical information and items of common family history.

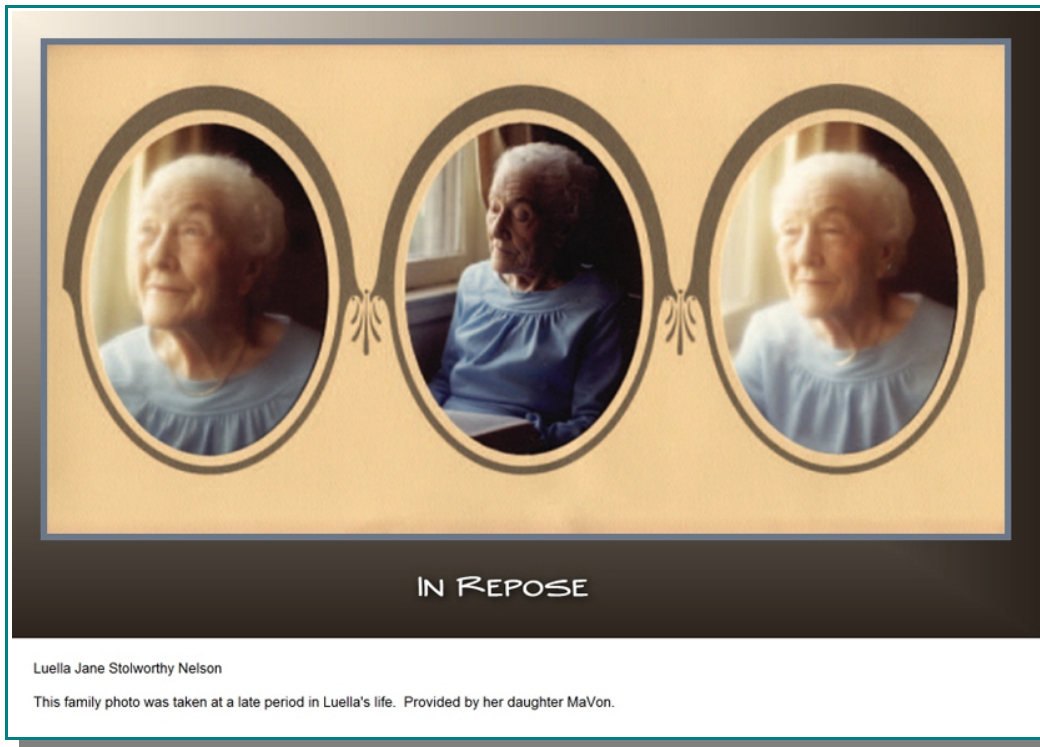
Soon after our initial meeting in 2006, I sent Carr and Willie some of the documents about common ancestors I had produced using an ink jet printer. In return they sent me a package containing copies of priceless family artifacts including pictures and old typescript histories. One of the items in the package was a binder containing Lydia related items. The contents of the binder were separated into three distinct parts with headings labeled #1 position, #2 position and #3 position. Each "position" focused on a different Lydia beginning with Lydia Goldthwaite. Intertwined between pages of



typescript were photocopies of various images and some handmade collages put together the old fashioned way of cut, paste and photocopy.

The cover page contained quaint depictions of three little ladies each wearing a bonnet and carrying items like a flower watering bucket etc. The typescript in each of the three sections was respectfully different indicating that each had been created at different times on different typewriters. I searched for authorship of the different sections but found only the name of Mavon Nelson Herring on the acknowledgment page.

Reviewing the binder contents, I was moved by what was obviously a heartfelt project that resulted from many hours of study and devotion. The subject matter I knew was that of Mavon's maternal ancestry starting with her grandmother and going back to the fifth generation represented by Lydia Goldthwaite, daughter of Jesse and Sally Burt Goldthwait.



Mavon's mother, Luella Jane Stolworthy Nelson, was the twelfth of fifteen children born to Henry Thomas and Lydia Rosanna Young Stolworthy, only eight of whom grew to adulthood. Her siblings called her "Lell." Like several of her siblings, Lell had a penchant for writing and poetry.

She also demonstrated a keen interest and appreciation for keeping family records. She was careful, as years passed by, to obtain and protect all the family's written treasures she could afford and lay her hands on. These records were passed on to her only daughter, Mavon.

Looking at the "Three Lydias" material in the binder that Carr and Willie had given me it *was obvious that Mavon was devoted to carrying on her Stolworthy family traditions.*⁴

⁴ Aware of Mavon's treasure chest of family photos, I requested copies of "hard to find" images. She sent me several and I was grateful for every one. Once, she sent a CD with low (72) resolution images -- not adequate for printing. I sympathized with the nature of her offering when I learned her treasures were being saved for a special and beloved grandson with latent plans for internet use of their family history.

At age 18, Mavon married Jack Wiley Herring in the Logan Temple on 27 December 1945. A World War II vet, Herring became a county agricultural agent and served for a time as a LDS Bishop when the family lived in St. George. Four children came from this marriage which ended in divorce in 1977 while they were living in the Sanpete valley. *Jack Herring died at Richfield, Utah 6 July 2003.*



Luella's Family in August 1953

Front row from left: Ronda Jo, Kathy, Pat, Brenda Lee;
Middle row: Mavon, Karla, Luella, Phyllis;
Top row: Jack Herring, Joe Nelson, Garn Nelson.

After her thirty year marriage ended, Mavon used her inherited strength and courage to go back to school at Snow College where she received a Secretarial Certificate. Over the years her love of family history work has given her much solace. Her life's story has only driven her deeper in understanding and appreciating the tribulations experienced by each of her three Lydia ancestors and the faith and courage they demonstrated. I believe her work with "The Three Lydias" was a significant highpoint for her Family History

commitment.

Upon reviewing Mavon's "The Three Lydias" writings and accumulations I was moved to help. Her text lacked an adequate introduction and the images and illustrations were deficient in resolution for printing.⁵

On September 14, 2006 I called Mavon to discuss how I could improve the Lydias representation. The following letters to Mavon and her grandson Branton summarize the crux of it.

**Mr. Branton Campbell
Springville, Utah
84663**

September 15, 2006

Dear Branton,

Yesterday, I had the opportunity of speaking with your grandmother Mavon Herring about our family's history. Mavon and I are second cousins with our common ancestors being John R. Young and Lydia Knight Young.

I mentioned to Mavon that one of my interests is digitizing our family history information so that it can be more readily available and more easily transferred to our numerous relatives of the later generations. She gave me permission to scan and digitize her work "The Three Lydias." She briefly mentioned your interest in FH and suggested we might have a common interest that could be shared online via email etc.

I am always pleased to develop new contacts with family members who are interested in FH work and so hereby provide my email in hopes that you will respond. Perhaps there are items of mutual interest such as histories, gedcoms, or images that we can share with each other.

If you are so interested please contact me.

**Sincerely,
Robert Newel Reynolds
Littleton, Colorado 80127**

⁵ It can really be a challenge to take an old, typewriter script, submit it to the tedious process of OCR and recreate it in modern form on a computer driven word processor; then obtain old photos, clean them up with Photoshop, develop the best manner of presentation such as with a collage of prime images etc., obtain the necessary permissions for use, and insert them at just the right place in the text.

Mrs. Mavon Herring
Manti, Utah 84642

September 15, 2006

Dear Mavon,

It was a pleasure to make contact with you yesterday and to speak about our common ancestry. Like I mentioned to you, "The Three Lydias" is an impressive compilation and contributes much to our family's library of precious histories. Thank you for this wonderful contribution.

Enclosed are glossies of Lydia and John R. The John R. photo is my favorite of the ones I have of him. The original photo from which this image was taken appeared in "The Memories of Howard D. Roberts." It was a rather poor photo with a busy background. I reworked it using advanced photo software producing the image you see. The image of Lydia is from John R's book and was likewise cleaned up a bit. Her eyes tell the whole story.

Also enclosed are some other items I produced. I developed the story about Persis Vilate as I researched John R's original homestead. The morning I came upon Vilate's grave was one of those instances when the blessings of Heaven, for doing FH work, were very strongly felt.

Thank you for your good work. As time rolls on I will pick up with you further regarding the items you mentioned on the phone.

With love from a grateful cousin,

Newel

Without further consult I set my hand to the task. My wife Alene helped OCR and retype some 90 pages of text. I wrote an Introduction, and carefully edited and produced photo collages and inserted many of my own images. The work we performed on "The Three Lydias" was self motivated, solely out of love for these writings that were primarily based on Susa Young Gates' "Lydia Knight's History," two earlier family member typescripts authored by deceased aunts and inherited from her mother, and a few other historic articles and journals. ⁶

On November 14, 2006 I printed the first two parts of the new document in hard copy and mailed it to Mavon together with the following letter:

⁶ Mavon provided a few footnotes for her sources. The final document could still be improved by adding more sources, pages listing contents, illustrations, and appropriate publication information for all of the respective references.

**Mrs. Mavon Herring
Manti, Utah 84642**

November 14, 2006

Dear Mavon,

Enclosed is the digitized hard copy of your “Three Lydia’s” document – Parts one and two. I am still working on part three – Lydia Rosanna and will send it when complete. I was not kidding when I told you I worked slowly! Please consider the document as a draft in the sense that I can revise any part of it should you desire changes in any of the photos, etc or if you find typos etc. Just make pencil notations and then communicate the changes you would like, making reference to the page number and paragraph and so forth.

Also enclosed are a couple of other documents that I did, as well as a list of items in what I call the “Stolworthy Project.” You will note the many, many articles that Carr and Willie have so generously given to me. Finally, there is a partial list of items from my files, including articles I am working on that are on disk (computer). I must have at least thirty or forty articles I am working on that are not yet complete.

I will keep in touch, and pray that you are well. Let me know if there are any items that I have that you would like.

With love from a grateful cousin,

Newel

Incl:

Three Lydia’s, parts one and two.

Vernessa, part one.

John R. –History Maker.

Stolworthy Project List.

My List.

When finished I credited Mavon as sole author, but I retained ownership of the original ODT text document and manuscript from which the PDF was produced. When distributing this work I have always included notification of the appropriate copyright to the recipients so that it will not be commercialized -- a determining factor for me for the work I performed in bringing the document to fulfillment.

The final product pleased my late stalwart cousin, who afterwords called me often on the telephone exploring ways she could capitalize on the new work. She sincerely asked for enough copies to provide each of her close family members with one as a gift on a special day. For a time I responded by producing the document in color on my ink jet printer, complete with a newly designed book cover that exists in a separate PDF.

Humbly, Mavon always insisted on covering the cost of my printing, which was at best,

difficult to determine.

One day Mavon called and asked me to send her a digital copy on CD of my PDF on "The Three Lydias." With reservations, I met her request with the stipulation inherent in the copyright that it not be commercialized. A **newly revised PDF version** was completed in 2013-14 and is available for free download from my family tree on ancestry.com and from my website at <http://robertnreynolds.weebly.com/goldthwaite-lydia.html>

On April 11, 2014, in email to Mr. Gordon Knight, Joseph Knight Reunion Committee, josephknightfamily.org I was pleased to authorize the organization to arrange for production and sale of both a "The Three Lydias" CD and a colored booklet, on condition that at all proceeds be treated as donations to the same organization. At this time I am unaware whether or not the organization acted on this offer.

Robert N. Reynolds
Littleton, Colorado
June 23, 2014