

## Polly Phydora Graves Knapp

### Memories by Doris Sprague

Born to Hyrum Knapp and Thankful Stearns.

Married to Isaac Sprague, a farmer, in Stratton Vermont 7/2/1848

#### Children:

Eva: 8/26/1849

Alfred Isaac: 8/4/1853      Married:      Elizabeth Belle Johnson

Lafayette: 6/9/1855      Died: 1863

James: 8/21/1857      Died: 1863

Eliza E: 12/6/1861      Married:      William Symonds

Bertha: 4/27/1867      Married:      Lawrence Lazelle

Elmer L: 5/10/1864      Died: 11/1869

James T: 10/24/1871      Married:      Anna Liscom

Nellie Sprague Fitts, daughter of Alfred, remembers her grandmother Phydora as a sweet old lady, bent over with shaky head and scuffing along, She was a strict religious person, writing many poems.

She made silk quilts for all her grandchildren. Nellie's was a velvet one, with elaborate embroidery, all different stitches and all hand sewed. It had a house embroidered on it in one corner, Nellie's name, and the date she made it which was just before she died. She also made a velvet one for Nellie's mother, Elizabeth Sprague. The other quilts were for James' 3 girls, Marion, Mildred, and Gertrude. Nellie passed her quilt on to her niece, Doris Sprague who in turn gave it to her cousin Linda Sprague Horton.

Phydora said her husband claimed ill until someone asked him to go for a ride, thus Nellie's mother told her. He, (Isaac) died in 1902 a year before Nellie was born. Her brothers Raye and Ralph were too young to remember him.

Nellie remembers her grandmother living with aunt Bessie (Eliza Symonds) winters after her husband's death and the children were all grown. (Eliza preferred to be called Bessie.) In the winter Phydora lived with her son Alfred and Elizabeth in Gill, Mass and in Hinsdale, NH. Nellie used to sit with her. Phydora was quiet, never talked about herself and stayed in her room much of the time writing and embroidering. She died in August of 1918 while at Bessie's. She got to see only one of her great grandchildren, Lawrence Durgin (Bertha's daughter Delphaine's son).

Nellie said that her father Alfred did most of the work to put his brothers and sisters through schools and took care of the family. He had to quit school himself. Alfred lived upstairs in father's house in Stratton, Vt and married Elizabeth Johnson 6/30/1878 who was 15 at the time and he was 25.

Phydora and Isaac moved to Winchester, NH and were buried in Hinsdale. Alfred went to Hinsdale and then to Gill, Ma, then to Brattleboro, Vt. He was a lamplighter in Hinsdale and Elizabeth did all the washing of the light shades.