

### What You Will Do as a Docent

1. It is important to understand from the outset that docents who serve at the Joseph Knight and Josiah Stowell homes are there to have their testimonies strengthened and to try to impart to all guests who come there a spiritual experience regarding the sacrifice, the consecration, and the valiancy of some of the earliest members of the restored Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The Colesville Branch of the Church was the first one organized, and it consisted of Knight family members, their relatives, and friends—all of whom joined the Church despite fierce opposition and persecution from their neighbors. The homes have been restored and preserved by a group of faithful Latter-day Saints who hope that they can be used to help spread the Gospel message and build faith in those who visit the homes. Accordingly, docents should remember these things about the time they serve:

2. The main thing you will do as a docent is give tours of the Josiah Stowell and the Joseph Knight homes. The two homes are 2 miles apart.
3. Tours are conducted generally between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. However, some people may show up sooner or come later. You may have very little or no warning about when a tour will come. Many people, especially large bus tours, call first and give notice.
4. We will provide information about the Joseph Knight Sr and his family and how to present the information for tours.
5. If you want to learn more about the history of the Saints in this area, you can also read the new Church history book, *Saints: The Standard of Truth*<sup>1</sup>, particularly chapters 4 through 13. Even more helpful for leading tours at the Knight home is William Hartley's *Stand By My Servant Joseph*<sup>2</sup>, which gives a detailed history of Joseph Knight's family.
6. You will be expected to keep the homes presentable. This will include sweeping, dusting, and other light housework. All cleaning supplies are provided. Outdoors, you will need to sweep the walks and porch, and sweep the cobwebs. You will be responsible for mowing the lawn around the Stowell home. If you are uncomfortable with this task, please let the us know. You may need to rake leaves in the fall. You will take the garbage can out to the main road once a week for pick-up. If you have handyman skills, you may use them to make minor repairs to doors, windows, bathrooms, etc. Tools are available.
7. In May, early June, late September and October, there may be stretches of time, even whole days, when you won't give a tour. So, bring things you can do in the down time because you do need to stay at the home. You will have Wi-Fi access in both houses.
8. On Sundays, you may either attend church at the Greene Branch or at the Susquehanna Branch at the Priesthood Restoration Site. The Greene Branch is about 17 miles northwest (21 minutes) from Nineveh. It is easy to drive there, and the branch members are friendly. Some of the members are familiar with the homes and can give a tour or two, if you need help in a pinch. The Priesthood Restoration Site is about 23 miles south (34 minutes.)

---

<sup>1</sup> *Saints: The Standard of Truth* - The book is available for [free online](#) and on the Gospel Library

<sup>2</sup> *Stand By My Servant Joseph* – Hartley, William – Amazon \$44.75 Hardcover, \$23.99 Kindle

### **Where You Will Live and What the Accommodations are Like**

1. You will stay in either home depending on availability. The Stowell home is in Afton, Chenango County, New York, on the north side of the Susquehanna River. The Knight home is about 2 miles away in Nineveh, Broome County, on the south side of the Susquehanna. (Nineveh used to be called Colesville.)
2. We try to make the homes serviceable and comfortable, while preserving their historical nature.  

The kitchen is well-stocked with plates, bowls, cups, glasses, serving bowls and platters, silverware, utensils, pots, pans, dishcloths, dish towels, etc. If you plan to cook and eat simple meals, you will be fine. There is a little pantry cupboard, and it may have many spices and things you will want to use that have been left behind by previous docents.
3. The water heater and furnace at the Stowell home function very well, as do the washer and dryer in the basement.

### **What You Can Expect to Pay For and Where to Get What You Need**

1. You will need to pay your own way to New York. You can fly into Syracuse International Airport, about an hour and a half by car from Nineveh. You could also fly into Albany or Rochester, NY, and drive to Nineveh in a couple of hours or so. You could also drive to New York in your own car.
2. You will have to buy food and cook your own meals or eat out. Before shopping for groceries the first time, check the refrigerator and cupboards to see what previous docents may have left for you. The closest grocery shopping is at Price Chopper in Sidney, New York, about 20 miles from Nineveh. You can also shop in Chenango Bridge, also about 20 miles away. In the summer, you can buy fresh produce from the Frog Pond Farmers' Market on the road into Afton.

updated – Oct. 2022 Robert Whetstone