

796 Acres Acquired in 36 Years

**A Story of Land Acquisition and its Cagey Distribution
in Holmes County, Ohio**

By Jan M. Joyce

1. JOHN KNOX (SR.) was born 11 Oct 1797 in Pennsylvania; he died 14 Dec 1864 in Holmes County, Ohio.¹ He married **NANCY BITNER** likely around 1822-1823 in Pennsylvania.² Nancy was born 25 Sep 1803 in Pennsylvania; and died 28 Jul 1857 in Holmes County, Ohio.³

*It's said that in 1824 he walked 240 miles from Centre County, Pennsylvania, to Holmes County, Ohio. Before doing so, he killed an old horse given to him by a friend, to use its carcass as bait with which he trapped wolves. The hides of those wolves brought him \$100. He purchased 80 acres of land in Holmes. Then, John Knox Sr. walked back to Centre, brought his wife Nancy Bitner Knox, likely along with one or two children, and returned to Holmes in late 1824.*⁴

Centre County, Pennsylvania

Before those two long treks to and from Ohio, John Sr. (hereinafter "John") lived in Centre County, Pennsylvania, and may have grown up there.⁵ No information regarding John's

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The author would like to thank Cheryl Brown Abernathy for document retrieval services and Larry Knox for his assistance with family stories and provenance.

¹ Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 02 Apr 2018), entry for memorial 51492229, John Knox (1796-1864), John Knox Cemetery, Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio; created by ChrisB, gravestone photograph by JanJoyce. Birth date was determined by calculating the exact age from the headstone and his date of death; and *The Loudonville Democrat*, 07 Aug 1913, p 1, col 6, for John Knox; and "Old Citizens Gone," Holmes County Farmer, 22 Dec 1864, p. 3, col 3, for John Knox Sr., (www.newspapers.com : accessed 01 Apr 2018); and Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 02 Apr 2018), entry for memorial 51492229, John Knox (1864), John Knox Cemetery, Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio; created by ChrisB, gravestone photograph by JanJoyce. Vital records were not required to be recorded by the state until 1867: *Ohio History Connection* (www.ohiohistory.org : accessed 27 Mar 2018), Death Records.

² No results were found in the author's search in: "Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Church and Town Records, 1669-2013," database with images, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.org : accessed 19 Apr 2018); and Ohio, County Marriage Records, 1774-1993, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 03 Apr 2018). No record found in a 26 Apr 2018 search by: Centre County, Pennsylvania, Register of Wills and Clerk of Orphans' Court for John Knox and Nancy Bitner between 1820-1823. An historical sketch provides the marriage data but not a date and place. Date estimated based on prior to birth of first child. *The Loudonville Democrat*, 07 Aug 1913, p 1, col 6, for John Knox.

³ Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 02 Apr 2018), entry for memorial 51492245, Nancy Bitner Knox (1805-1857), John Knox Cemetery, Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio; created by ChrisB, gravestone photograph by JanJoyce.

⁴ *The Loudonville Democrat*, 07 Aug 1913, p 1, col 6, for John Knox.

⁵ *Ibid.*

birth was found,⁶ and the first record identified for John was an 1820 enumeration in Howard Township of Centre County. The household composition included:⁷

<u>Gender & Age</u>	<u>Inferred Family Member</u>
1 male 10-15	unknown, perhaps a brother
1 male 16-25	John Knox (head)
1 female < 10	unknown, perhaps a sister
2 females 45+	unknown, perhaps a mother, aunt and/or grandmother

Other men with the Knox surname lived in Centre and nearby Mifflin Counties during the time that John grew up.⁸ No connection has been made yet between John and the other Knox households, but it seems likely that John lived near Howard Township because the family of John's wife, Nancy Bitner, came from Howard.⁹

Centre County was formed on 13 Feb 1800 from the Huntingdon, Lycoming, Mifflin and Northumberland counties of Pennsylvania.¹⁰ In 1820, the entire population of Centre County was only 13,796 people.¹¹ Centre was an attractive area for early pioneers to settle because of the variety in topography. This included fertile ground for farming, water from the Susquehanna River, and many water runoffs from Nittany Mountain.¹² The town of Bellefonte was the county seat. It, too, was formed in 1800 with its first court held in November of that year.¹³

Perhaps it was Nittany Mountain that served as home to the wolves John trapped. He may have hunted wolves for many reasons and that was a typical practice at that time.¹⁴ The

⁶ *Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission*, (www.phmc.pa.gov : accessed 02 Apr 2018), Vital Statistics Records; Birth and Death Records. Pennsylvania did not require by law that vital records were kept until 1906.

⁷ 1820 U.S. census, Howard Township, Centre Co., Pennsylvania, pp 219-220, John Knox; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 24 Mar 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 98.

⁸ 1820 U.S. census, Pennsylvania, for Knox surnames; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 24 Mar 2018).

⁹ 1820 U.S. census, Howard Township, Centre Co., Pennsylvania, pp 219-220, John Bitner; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 13 Apr 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 98.

¹⁰ *Centre County Historical Society*, (www.centrehistory.org : accessed 11 Apr 2018), ABC's of Centre County.

¹¹ *Social Explorer*, (www.socialexplorer.com : accessed 19 Apr 2018), US Demography 1790 to Present for Centre County, Pennsylvania in 1820.

¹² John Blair Linn, "Election Districts and Lists of Settlers," *History of Centre and Clinton Co's, Pennsylvania With Illustrations*, (Philadelphia : Louis H. Everts, 1883), Map of the Territories of Centre and Clinton Counties in 1792, facing p 24.

¹³ John Blair Linn, "Organization of the County – Court Proceedings – Roads – Township Assessments," *History of Centre and Clinton Co's, Pennsylvania With Illustrations*, (Philadelphia : Louis H. Everts, 1883), p 37.

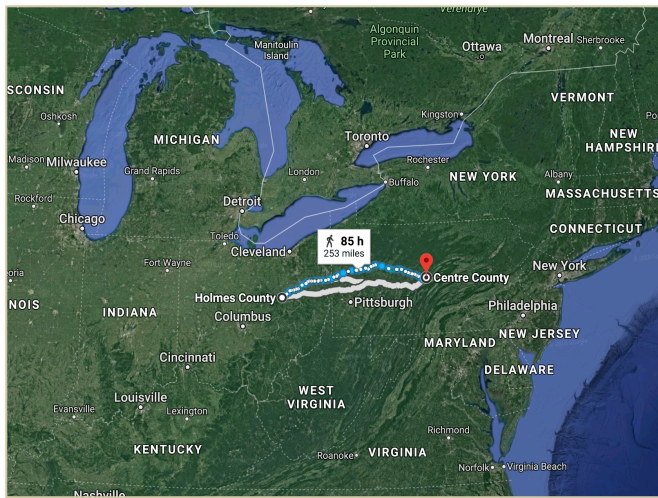
¹⁴ *PBS Nature*, "The Wolf That Changed America, Wolf Wars: America's Campaign to Eradicate the Wolf," 14 Sep 2008, (<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/the-wolf-that-changed-america-wolf-wars-americas-campaign-to-eradicate-the-wolf/4312/> : accessed 19 Apr 2018).

meat could be eaten.¹⁵ Other parts of the wolf may have been used to create tools. For example a knife could have been made from a bone. However, the main purpose of hunting wolves was to use the hides for clothing and hats.¹⁶ This would have been important to stay warm, and also alive, in the cold Pennsylvania and Ohio winters. And in John's case, he apparently sold these wolves' hides so that he had money to buy land.

Westward to Ohio

The John Knox historical sketch stated a distance of 240 miles between the two locations, which is fairly accurate (see map in Figure 2).¹⁷ John may have traveled on a part of the Forbes Road that originated to the southwest of Centre in Carlisle, PA and then continued on through Pittsburgh and to Ohio. The road was constructed from an old trading path to be used for military purposes in 1758.¹⁸

Figure 2:
Map from Centre Co., PA to
Holmes Co., OH



John must have been a hearty soul. At the age of 27, he ventured all the way to Ohio probably for the promise of inexpensive land. At that point John was married and had one or two young children. It seemed that he had the grit to pioneer west without members of his immediate family because no other Knox folks appeared in the same township before 1830.¹⁹ However, a few other Centre County families moved during the same time period and they surely provided a support community for each other. These men included Cornelius Gardener, George Liggett, Daniel Shank and John Shank. All of them also bought federal grant land in Holmes County, like John.²⁰

¹⁵ Sources vary on the consumption of wolf meat with an overall conclusion that people do eat it but only when other sources of meat are scarce, see: "Wolf and Coyote General," *Traditional Animal Foods of Indigenous Peoples of Northern North America* (<http://traditionalanimalfoods.org/mammals/furbearers/page.aspx?id=6370> : accessed 17 Apr 2018); and Randy King, "How To Cook A Wolf: You Can Shoot 'Em, But Can You Eat 'Em?" *Boise Weekly*, 07 Mar 2012, (<https://www.boiseweekly.com/boise/how-to-cook-a-wolf/Content?oid=2614143> : accessed 18 Apr 2018).

¹⁶ *Wolf Worlds* (www.wolfworlds.com : accessed 03 Apr 2018), Wolf Hunting.

¹⁷ *Google Maps* (www.google.com/maps) for Centre Co., Pennsylvania to Holmes Co., Ohio.

¹⁸ *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 03 Apr 2018), United States, Migration, Trails and Roads, Forbes Road.

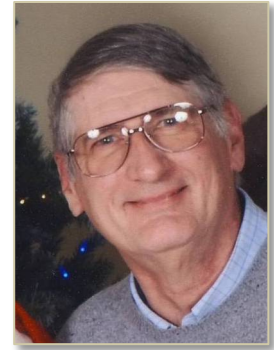
¹⁹ No other Knox surname found in Holmes County by 1830 in the author's search of: 1830 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 19 Apr 2018).

On John's second trip from Centre County to Holmes County, family lore says that they traveled in a wagon drawn by two horses.²¹ It is believed that John and Nancy brought a blanket chest with them. The chest is thought to have belonged to Nancy, and come from Switzerland via the immigration of her family, the Nestlerodes.²²

Figure 3 - Larry Knox
Photograph

The Nestlerode Blanket Chest

This blanket chest exists today and is in the possession of a Knox family descendent.²³ It's believed that the blanket chest was handed down to Nancy Bitner from her maternal family, the Nestlerodes.²⁴ Originally a design with bear tracks was painted on the chest. These tracks were considered native to Bern, Switzerland and thus became connected with the Nestlerode family whose origin was believed to have been Swiss. Larry Knox (see Figure 3) acquired the chest and described its acquisition and current painted design (see Figure 4):



²⁰ In the author's survey of 1820 U.S. census, Centre Co., Ohio, Howard township, pp 213-220; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 02 Apr 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 98; and 1830 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, Washington township, pp 314-316 (penned); digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 02 Apr 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 33; and Bureau of Land Management, Ohio, General Land Office Records, *U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management*, (www.glorerecords.blm.gov : accessed 17 Apr 2018), for Cornelius Gardner [sic], Wooster, certificate no. 1007; and Bureau of Land Management, Ohio, General Land Office Records, *U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management*, (www.glorerecords.blm.gov : accessed 17 Apr 2018), for Daniel Shank, Wooster, certificate no. 833; and Bureau of Land Management, Ohio, General Land Office Records, *U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management*, (www.glorerecords.blm.gov : accessed 17 Apr 2018), for John Shank, Wooster, certificate no. 1747; and Bureau of Land Management, Ohio, General Land Office Records, *U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management*, (www.glorerecords.blm.gov : accessed 17 Apr 2018), for George Liggett, Wooster, certificate no. 1511; and Bureau of Land Management, Ohio, General Land Office Records, *U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management*, (www.glorerecords.blm.gov : accessed 28 Mar 2018), for John Knox, Wooster, certificate no. 873.

²¹ "William Knox," Holmes County, *Commemorative Biographical Record of the Counties of Wayne and Holmes, Ohio, Containing Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens*, (Chicago: J.H. Beers, 1889), 723.

²² Larry Knox, Wooster, Ohio [(E-ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE),] to Jan Joyce, e-mail, 03 Apr 2018, "Blanket Chest," Personal Correspondence Folder, Joyce Research Files; privately held by Joyce, [(E-ADDRESS, & STREET ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE),], Los Altos Hills, California, 2018. Knox is a third great grandchild of John Knox Sr.

²³ *Ibid.* The blanket chest is in the possession of Gerald Knox of Dalton, Ohio and was given to him by Larry Knox. Gerald Knox is a 3rd great grandson of John Knox Sr.

²⁴ Nancy Bitner Knox was the daughter of Susannah Nestlerode: Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 17 Apr 2018), entry for memorial 51492245, Nancy Bitner Knox (1857), John Knox Cemetery, Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio; created by ChrisB, gravestone photograph by JanJoyce; and documenting Susannah Bitner as Susannah Nestlerode in her father's will: Centre County, Pennsylvania, Will Book B, pp 67-69, Christian Nestlerode (1834), Register of Will's Office, Bellefonte.

"The first time I saw the blanket chest was in the garage at the home of Iola Baxter in Shreve. The Baxter's had purchased the Knox farm. Iola had taken the blanket chest from the barn at the home farm and transported it into Shreve after the death of her husband and the sale of the farm. She promised to let me know if she decided to part with it.

A few years later, Iola called to let me know that she was moving and that it would be listed in her estate sale. I managed to outbid a determined antique dealer and won it for \$350. When I arrived home with it, my wife warned that it had to be cleaned up before it would become a "Family Showpiece." The chest smelled strongly of a musty barn odor. The blanket chest was missing hinges to the lid, a large burned spot marred the right side of the lid, and only one of the three drawers was complete. The whole outside of the chest was covered with numerous coats of red barn paint.

A friend of ours offered to clean it up and make repairs to it. We agreed and he constructed new wooden hinges for the lid and made a new front for one drawer that was missing a part and built a completely new exact replica of one for the missing drawer. We were happy.

Figure 5: Nancy Bitner Knox Blanket Chest



Next, he offered to strip the barn paint and plane down the lid to remove the charred spot. During the paint stripping process, he discovered a hand painted vine design on the front corners along with what he called "bear tracks" that looked like footprints. Based on our research, we think these were indicative of Early 1700s Bern artistry and craftsmanship. I took some pictures of the design and told him to continue painting the chest with a promise from him that an artist friend of his would recreate the whole design according to my

photos. I also took measurements of all the different objects in the design.

We received word to come and pick up our reconditioned blanket chest. It looked great. The lid looked good. It was a solid piece of wood native only to Europe. It worked fine and the lid to the storage compartment inside worked, too. The drawers looked good and worked well. But wait! The hand-painted design looked terrible! The "bear tracks" had been overlooked!

I did not complain. I just figured that I would find another person to repaint the design later. The photos should have been in the internal storage compartment and could suit a real artist. When we got it home and it was situated properly in the front room and I pulled out the pictures. They were going to be placed for safekeeping. It was then that I discovered that the detailed pictures of the design were missing. And, that is why the "bear tracks" don't show up in the photos and could not be recreated."²⁵

Clearing the Land

That blanket chest traveled those 240 miles to where John's first purchase of land was executed from the United States of America through the General Land Office.²⁶ In the Ohio territory, the federal government had been selling land at \$2.00 per acre for 320 acres since the Land Act of 1804. However, the state experienced difficult economic times and the Relief Act of 1821 was put into place. This allowed homesteaders to purchase less land at a lower cost – now only \$1.25 per acre with a minimum of 80 acres required.²⁷ It appears that this relief act allowed John Knox to settle in Ohio with his first purchase of 80 acres, likely at the \$1.25 for a total of \$100.²⁸

²⁵ Larry Knox, Wooster, Ohio [(E-ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE),] to Jan Joyce, e-mail, 03 Apr 2018, "Blanket Chest," Personal Correspondence Folder, Joyce Research Files; privately held by Joyce, [(E-ADDRESS, & STREET ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE),], Los Altos Hills, California, 2018.

²⁶ *Bureau of Land Management*, Ohio, General Land Office Records, U.S. Department of the Interior, (www.glorerecords.blm.gov : accessed 28 Mar 2018), for John Knox, Wooster, certificate no. 873.

²⁷ *Ohio History Connection* (www.ohiohistory.org : accessed 29 Mar 2018), Ohio History Central, Land Act of 1804.

²⁸ *Bureau of Land Management*, Ohio, General Land Office Records, U.S. Department of the Interior, (www.glorerecords.blm.gov : accessed 28 Mar 2018), for John Knox, Wooster, certificate no. 873.

John arrived to Holmes County, with his family, a little before Christmas in 1824 and occupied a cabin upon his land.²⁹ The 80 acres John purchased was heavily timbered but then cleared and turned into one of the most prosperous farms in the area.³⁰

John's farm was not unlike most others in the Holmes County area that were covered in timber.³¹ Settlers in early Ohio history preferred to buy lands populated with trees. They believed that the timbered land produced more than the grasslands. One method of clearing land included killing the trees, often by girdling, which is a process of cutting away the bark in a strip around the tree to kill it. When the trees died, they were cut down. Another method was to cut the tree by hand with a double-bit or grub ax. The branches and trunk were rolled aside and the stump left in the ground for a few years to decompose. Farmers would plow around the stumps initially, and then axes were used to cut off roots and remove the stump. The lumber was often used for buildings cabins, barns and fences, and as wood for fires.³²

Holmes County, however, was not only comprised of woodland. Perhaps one of the reasons it was attractive to settlers was its geographic variety. Two ridges run through the county that created many creeks those farmers found necessary. There were also thousands of natural springs and a lake. Some townships enjoyed rolling hills.³³ In the area near where John settled, which became the town of Nashville, the land was described as gravelly loam that would produce good crops of wheat, corn, oats, barley and fruit.³⁴ Interestingly, the history books document that Johnny Appleseed was active in this area and planted many of the apple trees, so perhaps the Knox family enjoyed some of Johnny's apples.³⁵

²⁹ *The Loudonville Democrat*, 07 Aug 1913, p 1, col 6, for John Knox.

³⁰ "William Knox," Holmes County, *Commemorative Biographical Record of the Counties of Wayne and Holmes, Ohio, Containing Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens*, (Chicago: J.H. Beers, 1889), 723.

³¹ *Holmes County Historical Sketches, "Early Life in Holmes County,"* (Sugar creek, Ohio : Carlisle Printing, 2002), 90.

³² "Clearing the Land," *Ohio History Connection, Ohio History Central*, (http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Clearing_the_Land : accessed 17 Apr 2018); and Marilyn Salzl Brinkman, "For Pioneers, Farming Started With Stump Clearing," (2015) *SC Times* (<https://www.sctimes.com/story/life/2015/02/14/pioneers-farming-started-stump-clearing/23418141/> : accessed 17 Apr 2018).

³³ G. F. Newton, *Holmes County: Settlement, Organization and Agricultural Productions, Twenty-Eighth Annual Report of the Ohio State Board of Agriculture, With an Abstract of the Proceedings of the County Agricultural Societies, to the General Assembly of Ohio, for the Year 1873* (Columbus: Nevins & Myers, State Printers, 1874), (www.books.google.com : accessed 17 Apr 2018), pp 215-216.

³⁴ *Holmes County Historical Sketches, "Nashville"* (Sugar creek, Ohio : Carlisle Printing, 2002), 178.

³⁵ Natasha Geiling, "The Real Johnny Appleseed Brought Apples – and Booze – to the American Frontier," *Smithsonian.com* (<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/real-johnny-appleseed-brought-apples-and-booze-american-frontier-180953263/> : accessed 20 Apr 2018); and *Holmes County Historical Sketches, "Nashville"* (Sugar creek, Ohio : Carlisle Printing, 2002), 178.

The 1830s

No one with the name of John Knox resided back in Centre County, Pennsylvania in 1830.³⁶ This helps confirm it was this John Knox who moved to Holmes County. In 1830 John lived in Washington Township of Holmes County. The census' limited information corroborated the family's known composition that included John, his wife Nancy, and four children:³⁷

<u>Gender & Age</u>	<u>Inferred Family Member</u>
1 male 30-39	John Knox Sr. ³⁸
1 female 20-29	Nancy Bitner Knox ³⁹
1 male 5-10	Martin, born 07 May 1823 in Pennsylvania ⁴⁰
1 female < 5	Mary, born about 1825 in Pennsylvania ⁴¹
2 males < 5	John Jr., born 17 Aug 1826 in Ohio ⁴² Christian, born about 1829 in Ohio ⁴³

Joining the Knox family during this decade were five more children:

Daniel, born about 1830⁴⁴
David, born 26 Mar 1832⁴⁵

³⁶ 1830 U.S. census, Centre Co., Pennsylvania, for John Knox; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 20 Apr 2018).

³⁷ 1830 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, Washington township, p 314 (penned), John Knox; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 25 Mar 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 33.

³⁸ Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 02 Apr 2018), entry for memorial 51492229, John Knox (1796-1864), John Knox Cemetery, Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio; created by ChrisB, gravestone photograph by JanJoyce. Birth date was determined by calculating the exact age from the headstone and his date of death.

³⁹ Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 02 Apr 2018), entry for memorial 51492245, Nancy Bitner Knox (1805-1857), John Knox Cemetery, Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio; created by ChrisB, gravestone photograph by JanJoyce.

⁴⁰ Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 22 Apr 2018), entry for memorial 51403646, Martin Knox (1823-1893), Nashville Methodist Cemetery, Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio; created by ChrisB, gravestone photograph by Bill Miller.

⁴¹ "Birth records, 1867-1966; death records, 1867-1908," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 20 Mar 2018) for Mary Reynolds, 08 Oct 1886, reference p 33, record number 2930, No 18, FHL microfilm 4,016,798; and Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 22 Apr 2018), entry for memorial 51552914, Mary Reynolds (1886), Nashville Methodist Cemetery, Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio; created by Bill Miller, gravestone photograph by Bill Miller. The age inscription on the headstone is incorrect at '91' years instead of '61' years.

⁴² "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1953," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 20 Mar 2018), for John Knox, 05 Aug 1913; citing Ripley, Holmes, Ohio [deaths], reference file number 49228: FHL microfilm 1,953,757.

⁴³ "Ohio, County Death Records, 1840-2001," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : 20 Mar 2018) for Christian Knox, 07 Jun 1906, Knox, Death records, 1867-1908, Vol 1-3, p 64 (printed), number 1, Morris Twp.; FHL microfilm 1,299,055.

⁴⁴ 1850 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, Washington township, pp 589-590 (penned), John Knox; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 27 Mar 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 696.

Sarah, born about 1834⁴⁶
Samuel, born about 1835⁴⁷
Robert, born about 1839⁴⁸

Perhaps these children were baptized in the first Methodist Church that was built near Nashville in 1823.⁴⁹ Maybe John and his family attended there. Many members of the Knox family were buried in the Nashville Methodist Church Cemetery that evolved from that first Methodist Church.⁵⁰ Acknowledgment that some of the Knox clan attended this church exists in the church's history.⁵¹ However, the congregation states that it no longer has records dated prior to 1930.⁵²

John continued to invest in land during the 1830s. He made three purchases totaling 160 acres. The first two purchases, of 40 acres each, were contiguous with the 80 acres he purchased in 1826 from the federal government. By 1836, he owned the entire Southeast quarter of Section 11, Township 19 and Range 15. The cost of these two pieces of land was \$250 and \$300 each, thus \$6.25 and \$7.50 per acre respectively.⁵³ That was significantly more than his 1826 purchase at \$1.25 per acre.⁵⁴ Perhaps it can be concluded that John was farming fairly successfully to both have the money to buy the land without a mortgage, as well as continue to grow his responsibilities of managing more land with a young family.

⁴⁵ "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1953," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 20 Mar 2018), for David Knox, 01 Jun 1911; citing Washington, Holmes, Ohio [deaths], reference file number 33190; FHL microfilm 1,953,043.

⁴⁶ "Birth records, 1867-1966; death records, 1867-1908," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 20 Mar 2018) for Sarah Reynolds, 27 Jul 1894, reference p 9, record number 4549, No 190, FHL microfilm 4,016,798.

⁴⁷ *Ibid*, for Samuel Knox, 30 Sep 1892, reference p 60, record number 4038, No 11, FHL microfilm 4,978,704.

⁴⁸ *Ibid*, for Robert Knox, 16 Feb 1899, reference p 25, record number 5163, No 104, FHL microfilm 4,016,798.

⁴⁹ *Holmes County Historical Sketches* (Sugarcreek, Ohio : Carlisle Printing, 2002), 122.

⁵⁰ In a general search for the Knox surname: Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 17 Apr 2018), for Knox, Nashville Methodist Church Cemetery, Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio; and "A Brief Historical Sketch of Our Congregation," *Nashville United Methodist Church*, (<https://nashville-umc.org/a-brief-historical-sketch-of-our-congregation/> : accessed 17 Apr 2018).

⁵¹ "A Brief Historical Sketch of Our Congregation," *Nashville United Methodist Church*, (<https://nashville-umc.org/a-brief-historical-sketch-of-our-congregation/> : accessed 17 Apr 2018).

⁵² Sue Weimer, Nashville, Ohio [(e-mail address for private use),] to Jan M. Joyce, e-mail, 05 Apr 2018, "baptismal records search," Personal Correspondence Folder, Joyce Research Files; privately held by Joyce, [(e-mail) & street address for private use], Los Altos Hills, California, 2018.

⁵³ Bureau of Land Management, Ohio, General Land Office Records, *U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management*, (www.glorerecords.blm.gov : accessed 28 Mar 2018), for John Knox, Wooster, certificate no. 873; and Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds, vol 2, pp 578-579, George Shearer to John Knox (1833), Recorder's Office, Millersburg; and Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds, vol 3, p 545, John Shearer to John Knox (1836), Recorder's Office, Millersburg.

⁵⁴ Bureau of Land Management, Ohio, General Land Office Records, *U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management*, (www.glorerecords.blm.gov : accessed 28 Mar 2018), for John Knox, Wooster, certificate no. 873.

John's third 1830s land purchase, in 1839, was for 80 acres. This new area was not contiguous to his holdings at the time, but was nearby. It was in Section 12, Township 19 and Range 15 and was the South Half of the Southeast Quarter. Perhaps the price of land had increased significantly since his 1836 purchase. Or maybe this section of land showed more promise, because its \$1,000 purchase price cost John \$12.56 per acre, almost doubling what he paid just three years prior.⁵⁵ By the end of the 1830s, John owned 240 acres of land.

The 1840s

Holmes County's population nearly doubled between 1830 and 1840 from 9,135 to 18,088.⁵⁶ John's household followed that growth pattern by nearly doubling to eleven from six members in the household with this likely family composition:⁵⁷

<u>Gender & Age</u>	<u>Inferred Family Member</u>
1 male 30-39	John Knox Sr. ⁵⁸
1 female 30-39	Nancy Bitner Knox ⁵⁹
1 female 15-19	Mary, born about 1825 in Pennsylvania ⁶⁰
3 males 10-14	Martin, born 07 Mar 1823 in Pennsylvania ⁶¹ John Jr., born 17 Aug 1826 in Ohio ⁶²

⁵⁵ Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds, vol 6, pp 390-391, Jeremiah Ackison to John Knox (1839), Recorder's Office, Millersburg.

⁵⁶ *Social Explorer* (www.socialexplorer.com : accessed 17 Apr 2018), for Holmes County, OH 1830 and 1840.

⁵⁷ 1840 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, Nash, p 241, John Knox; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 27 Mar 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M704.

⁵⁸ Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 02 Apr 2018), entry for memorial 51492229, John Knox (1796-1864), John Knox Cemetery, Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio; created by ChrisB, gravestone photograph by JanJoyce. Birth date was determined by calculating the exact age from the headstone and his date of death.

⁵⁹ Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 02 Apr 2018), entry for memorial 51492245, Nancy Bitner Knox (1805-1857), John Knox Cemetery, Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio; created by ChrisB, gravestone photograph by JanJoyce.

⁶⁰ "Birth records, 1867-1966; death records, 1867-1908," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 20 Mar 2018) for Mary Reynolds, 08 Oct 1886, reference p 33, record number 2930, No 18, FHL microfilm 4,016,798; and Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 22 Apr 2018), entry for memorial 51552914, Mary Reynolds (1886), Nashville Methodist Cemetery, Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio; created by Bill Miller, gravestone photograph by Bill Miller. The age inscription on the headstone is incorrect at '91' years instead of '61' years.

⁶¹ Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 22 Apr 2018), entry for memorial 51403646, Martin Knox (1823-1893), Nashville Methodist Cemetery, Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio; created by ChrisB, gravestone photograph by Bill Miller; and 1850 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, Washington township, pp 589-590 (penned), Martin Knox; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 27 Mar 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 696.

	Christian, born about 1829 in Ohio ⁶³
2 males 5-9	Daniel, born about 1830 ⁶⁴
	David, born 26 Mar 1832 ⁶⁵
1 female 5-9	Sarah, born about 1834 ⁶⁶
2 males < 5	Samuel, born about 1835 ⁶⁷
	Robert, born about 1839 ⁶⁸

The older children would have helped out on the farm, working with both their father and mother as needed, to maintain the farm and the household. John's propensity to buy land did not diminish during the 1840s. He acquired two more properties totaling 236 acres. The first purchase, in 1841, geographically linked all his current holdings through the acquisition of the South Side of the Southwest Quarter of Section 12, Township 19 and Range 15 (see Figure 9 map). At \$2,150 for 99 acres at \$21.72 per acre, John appeared to pay a premium.⁶⁹ This seemed evident from the significant increase in the \$12.56 price per acre from just two years earlier, as well as the fact that John mortgaged \$1,000 of the \$2,150 purchase price.⁷⁰ It seemed that other people thought he paid too much also. In his son, John Knox Jr.'s, extended obituary, it was stated: "People thought he was crazy to pay so much for it."⁷¹ No mortgages were found for any of John's other land purchases,⁷² which may indicate his preference for paying cash and not being bound to anyone else. So

⁶² "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1953," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 20 Mar 2018), for John Knox, 05 Aug 1913; citing Ripley, Holmes, Ohio [deaths], reference file number 49228: FHL microfilm 1,953,757.

⁶³ "Ohio, County Death Records, 1840-2001," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : 20 Mar 2018) for Christian Knox, 07 Jun 1906, Knox, Death records, 1867-1908, Vol 1-3, p 64 (printed), number 1, Morris Twp.; FHL microfilm 1,299,055.

⁶⁴ 1850 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, Washington township, pp 589-590 (penned), John Knox; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 27 Mar 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 696.

⁶⁵ "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1953," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 20 Mar 2018), for David Knox, 01 Jun 1911; citing Washington, Holmes, Ohio [deaths], reference file number 33190: FHL microfilm 1,953,043.

⁶⁶ "Birth records, 1867-1966; death records, 1867-1908," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 20 Mar 2018) for Sarah Reynolds, 27 Jul 1894, reference p 9, record number 4549, No 190, FHL microfilm 4,016,798.

⁶⁷ *Ibid*, for Samuel Knox, 30 Sep 1892, reference p 60, record number 4038, No 11, FHL microfilm 4,978,704.

⁶⁸ *Ibid*, for Robert Knox, 16 Feb 1899, reference p 25, record number 5163, No 104, FHL microfilm 4,016,798.

⁶⁹ Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds, vol 8, pp 77-78, Augustus Andrews to John Knox (1841), Recorder's Office, Millersburg. Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds, vol 8, pp 12-13, John Knox to Augustus Andrews (1841), Recorder's Office, Millersburg.

⁷⁰ Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds, vol 8, pp 12-13, John Knox to Augustus Andrews (1841), Recorder's Office, Millersburg.

⁷¹ "Historical Sketch Of John Knox, Pioneer Resident of Washington Township," *The Loudonville Democrat*, 14 Aug 1913, p 3, col 5, for John Knox.

⁷² In the author's search for John Knox in "Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 30 Mar 2018), "Deed records, 1825-1916; index to deed records, ca. 1808-1901, vols 1-6.

perhaps he felt as if he needed to buy this particular piece of land when it was available and not lose out on connecting his holdings geographically.

In 1848, two deeds depict John’s purchase of the entire 160 acres in the Northeast Quarter of Section 14, Township 19 and Range 15. In total John spent \$1,825 at \$11.41 per acre.⁷³ This property was contiguous to his original land purchase on the south side of Section 11, Township 19 and Range 15 (see Figure 9 map). By the end of the 1840s, John owned 476 acres of land.

Figure 5:
Headstone of Infant Knox



The 1850s

Two more children were born in the 1840s. William was born 25 Nov 1840.⁷⁴ Another son was born and appeared to have died soon after birth. The only record identified of his existence is a gravestone, in the John Knox family farm cemetery, indicating that J&N (John and Nancy) Knox were the parents (as seen in Figure 5).⁷⁵

By 1850, John’s entire clan of ten living children resided with him. None had yet married and thus all of them were enumerated in one household unit:⁷⁶

Name	Age	Sex	Profession	Value of Real Estate	Place of Birth
John Knox	53	m	Farmer	\$10,000	PA
Nancy “	47	f			“
Martin “	26	m	Laborer		“
Mary “	25	f			“
John “	23	m	“ “		OH
Christian “	21	m	“ “		“
Daniel “	20	m	“ “		“
David “	17	m	“ “		“
Sarah “	16	f			“
Samuel Knox	13	m			“

⁷³ Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds, vol 14, p 214, Joseph Shank to John Knox (1848), Recorder’s Office, Millersburg; and Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds, vol 14, p 463, George Smith to John Knox (1848), Recorder’s Office, Millersburg.

⁷⁴ Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 23 Apr 2018), entry for memorial 51402562, William Knox (1840-1898), Nashville Methodist Cemetery, Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio; created by ChrisB, gravestone photograph by Pennola Nolan.

⁷⁵ Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 20 Apr 2018), entry for memorial 188372417, Infant Knox (1848), John Knox Cemetery, Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio; created by ChrisB, gravestone photograph by JanJoyce.

⁷⁶ 1850 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, Washington township, pp 589-590 (penned), dwelling 627, family 638, John Knox; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 27 Mar 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 696.

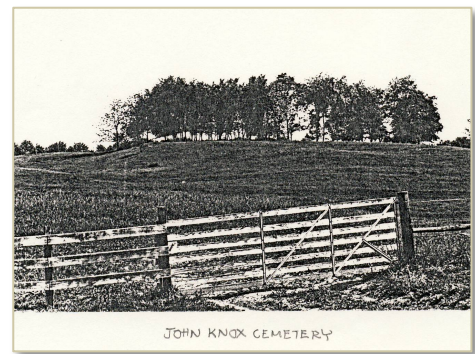
Robert	“	11	m	“
William	“	10	m	“

The family tale of John and Nancy’s move to Ohio has likely changed over the years. One item in question may be the exact year they arrived in Holmes County. This 1850 enumeration and all subsequent ones of the couple’s second child, Mary, consistently recite her birthplace as Pennsylvania.⁷⁷ Mary’s death record also corroborates her birth in Pennsylvania. The death record does not give her date of birth, but rather an age of 61.⁷⁸ Mary’s headstone however, does provide her death date and exact age that established a birth date of 18 May 1825.⁷⁹ So it seems more likely that the family moved from Pennsylvania to Ohio in 1825 after Mary was born, not in 1824 as the story was recorded.

John’s only 1850s-era purchase of land was for 160 acres in 1855. He paid \$25.00 per acre for this plot of land that connected to some of his Section 12 property.⁸⁰ By the end of the 1850s, John owned 636 acres of land.

In 1857, John’s wife of approximately 34 years died.⁸¹ The cause of Nancy’s death is unknown but would likely be unnatural since she was only 53 years old. There is no death record because Ohio began recording civil deaths several years after Nancy’s 1857 passing.⁸² The Knox’s family farm cemetery scene can be seen in

Figure 6:
John Knox Family
Farm Cemetery



⁷⁷ 1850 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, Washington township, pp 589-590 (penned), Mary Knox; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 27 Mar 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 696; and 1860 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, Washington township, Nashville, p 227 (penned), dwelling 1561, family 1583, Mary Knox; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 27 Mar 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 989; and 1870 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, Washington township, p 1 (penned), dwelling 6, family 6, ___ [sic] Reynolds; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 23 Apr 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M493, roll 1224; and 1880 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, Washington township, p 12 (penned), dwelling 118, family 124, Mary Reynolds; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 23 Apr 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M1034.

⁷⁸ “Birth records, 1867-1966; death records, 1867-1908,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 20 Mar 2018) for Mary Reynolds, 08 Oct 1886, reference p 33, record number 2930, No 18, FHL microfilm 4,016,798.

⁷⁹ “Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 22 Apr 2018), entry for memorial 51552914, Mary Reynolds (1886), Nashville Methodist Cemetery, Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio; created by Bill Miller, gravestone photograph by Bill Miller. The age inscription on the headstone is incorrect at ‘91’ years instead of ‘61’ years.

⁸⁰ Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds, vol 21, pp 231-233, Gibson Cook et al. to John Knox (1858), Recorder’s Office, Millersburg.

⁸¹ Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 02 Apr 2018), entry for memorial 51492245, Nancy Bitner Knox (1805-1857), John Knox Cemetery, Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio; created by ChrisB, gravestone photograph by JanJoyce.

⁸² *Ohio History Connection* (www.ohiohistory.org : accessed 27 Mar 2018), Death Records.

Figure 6. It's the only direct evidence of her death.⁸³ She is also absent from John's 1860 household enumeration.⁸⁴

Composition of John's Farm

The 1850 agriculture schedule noted that John owned 475 acres of land 300 of which were improved and 175 unimproved.⁸⁵ Other acreage was attributed to his sons. Of the 164 farms reported on the Washington Township agriculture schedule, John and two others had the highest cash value of farms estimated worth \$10,000 each.⁸⁶ The average cash value of all farms in the township was less than a fifth of that at \$1,808.⁸⁷ The information on the agriculture schedule seems to be self-reported by the owner or occupant of the farm. The marshal, John Huston, who appeared to be an inhabitant of the same county but a different township, could not have known the many values of not only each farm, but of the 45 items listed on the schedule. John's farm value seems to be somewhat bloated in comparison to the other two who claimed a \$10,000 value. They have 400-500 acres of improved lands, and 300-500 acres of unimproved lands, each. Compared to John's 300 improved, and 175 unimproved acres, John's value seems high.⁸⁸ However, that doesn't take into account the possible richness and productivity of his, or any, given farm.

Management of the 476 acres of the farm was enabled by 8 horses, 18 milk cows, 4 oxen, 12 other cattle, 115 sheep, and 13 swine. The value of these livestock was estimated at \$500. In addition to the livestock, John's farm reported the following for the year ended 01 Jun 1850:⁸⁹

- 800 bushels of wheat
- 100 bushels of rye
- 100 bushels of Indian corn
- 1,200 pounds of butter
- 40 tons of hay
- 7 bushels of clover seed

⁸³ Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 02 Apr 2018), entry for memorial 51492245, Nancy Bitner Knox (1805-1857), John Knox Cemetery, Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio; created by ChrisB, gravestone photograph by JanJoyce.

⁸⁴ 1860 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, Washington township, Nashville, p 227 (penned), dwelling 1561, family 1583, John Knox; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 27 Mar 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 989.

⁸⁵ 1850 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, Washington Township, agricultural schedule, pp 49-50 (penned), line 24, John Knox; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 28 Mar 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication T1159, roll 5.; and the specific quantity of acres John Knox Sr. owned by the 1850 US. Census was 476 acres, not 475.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ In the author's analysis of the 'Cash Value of Farm' for all of Washington Township: 1850 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, Washington Township, agricultural schedule, pp 43-50 (penned); digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 28 Mar 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication T1159, roll 5.

⁸⁸ 1850 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, Washington Township, agricultural schedule, pp 49-50 (penned), line 24, John Knox; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 28 Mar 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication T1159, roll 5.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

- 200 bushels of oats
- 350 lbs. of wool
- 60 bushels of Irish potatoes
- 3 bushels of sweet potatoes
- \$40 value of orchard produce
- 3 bushels of other seed
- 150 lbs. of flax
- 4 bushels of flaxseed
- 100 lbs of maple sugar
- 2 gallons of molasses

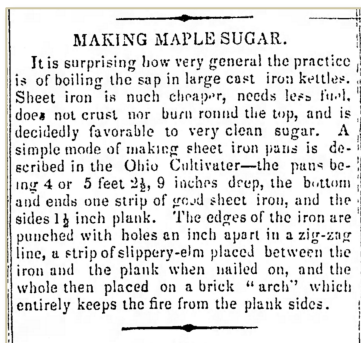
Maple Sugar

The Knox family seemed fortunate to be one of only five families in their township to produce maple sugar, with 100 pounds on record.⁹⁰ The tap and “bucket” used may have looked like the one in Figure 7. One gallon of maple syrup weighs approximately 11 pounds.⁹¹ It takes approximately 40 gallons of sap to produce one gallon of maple sugar. Each tap in a tree typically produces between 10 to 20 gallons of sap annually.⁹² Using an average of 15 gallons of sap per tree tap, the Knoxes would have had approximately 26 trees to produce the 100 pounds of pure maple syrup or about 9

Figure 7:
Maple Sugar Tap and Bucket



Figure 8:
Maple Sugar Article



gallons. This could have been used by the family in ways that we use it today – as a sweetener and an ingredient in baking, as crystalized sugar, or as a topping for pancakes or toast.⁹³

An 1850 newspaper article makes the production of maple syrup sound simple (as seen in Figure 8). The maple sugar produced by John’s farm may have been valued at approximately \$14 based on a \$.14 per pound price and was likely generated by Sugar Maple trees.⁹⁴

⁹⁰ In the author’s analysis of the “Maple Sugar, lbs. of” for all of Washington Township: 1850 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, Washington Township, agricultural schedule, pp 43-50 (penned), column number 41; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 28 Mar 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication T1159, roll 5.

⁹¹ {convert to}, (<http://convert-to.com/571/maple-syrup-amounts-conversion-plus-nutritional-facts.html> : accessed 9 Apr 2018), Maple syrup amounts converter.

⁹² “How much Sap Can One Tree Produce?,” *New York Pure Maple*, (<https://nysmaple.com/how-much-sap-can-one-tree-produce/> : accessed 09 Apr 2018),

⁹³ “A Brief History of Maple Syrup,” *Time.com*, (<http://time.com/3958051/history-of-maple-syrup/> : accessed 09 Apr 2018),

⁹⁴ “Maple Sugar and Molasses,” *The Summit County Beacon* (Akron, Ohio), 01 Apr 1857, p. 2, col 3, (www.newspapers.com : accessed 09 Apr 2018); and *Holmes County Historical Sketches*, “Sugaring on the Doughty” (Sugarcreek, Ohio : Carlisle Printing, 2002), 157; and “Maple (Red, Silver, Sugar),” *Division of Forestry, Ohio Department of Natural Resources* (www.forestry.ohiodnr.gov : accessed 09 Apr 2018).

The 1860s

By 1860, several of John’s children had married and begun their own households. However, still living in John’s household were several adult children: Mary, Sarah, Samuel, Robert and William, as shown below:⁹⁵

Name	Age	Sex	Profession	Value of Real Estate	Place of Birth
John Knox	61	m	Farmer	\$25,000	PA
Mary “	34	f			“
Sarah “	26	f			OH
Samuel “	22	m	Farmhand		“
Robert “	21	m	“ “		“
William “	19	m	“ “		“

Interestingly, both daughters still lived with John and were single at the ages of 34 and 26.⁹⁶ Did John require them to remain single to support his household? Were they not attractive “catches” in the community?

The answer to that question will likely never be known. The children that had married and moved out all remained geographically close to John and lived near him (see Figure 9 map).

- Martin married in 1850.⁹⁷ He was enumerated two households away from John Sr. in 1860 with no value assigned to his land, and had not made any of his own land purchases.⁹⁸ He likely lived on land John owned.
- John Jr. also married in 1850.⁹⁹ He was enumerated 15 households away from John Sr. in 1860 with \$3,600 value assigned to his land.¹⁰⁰ However, he seems to have

⁹⁵ 1860 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, Washington township, Nashville, p 227 (penned), dwelling 1561, family 1583, John Knox; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 27 Mar 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 989.

⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁹⁷ “Ohio, County Marriages, 1789-2013,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 19 Mar 2018), entry for Martin Knox, 31 Dec 1850; citing Coshocton, Ohio, United States, reference number 4598; county courthouses, Ohio: FHL microfilm 895,286.

⁹⁸ 1860 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, Washington township, Nashville, p 227 (penned), dwelling 1561, family 1581, Martin Knox; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 27 Mar 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 989; and in the author’s search for Martin Knox in “Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 30 Mar 2018), “Deed records, 1825-1916; index to deed records, ca. 1808-1941, vols 1-4.

⁹⁹ “Ohio, County Marriages, 1789-2013,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 19 Mar 2018), entry for John Knox, 31 Oct 1850; citing Holmes, Ohio, United States, reference p 20; county courthouses, Ohio: FHL microfilm 477,144.

¹⁰⁰ 1860 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, Washington township, Nashville, p 227 (penned), dwelling 1576, family 1598, John Knox; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 27 Mar 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 989.

made no land purchase prior to 1860.¹⁰¹ He likely lived on land John owned, and perhaps had been “given” the land informally by his father.

- Christian married in 1853.¹⁰² He was enumerated 14 households away from John in 1860 with \$2,600 value assigned to his land.¹⁰³ By the time of the 1860 census, Christian had purchased and retained land near his father’s properties for approximately that value.¹⁰⁴
- Daniel married in 1854.¹⁰⁵ Unlike his brothers who stayed nearby and farmed with their father, Daniel moved one township east, to Ripley, and was occupied as a clerke [sic]. His real estate was valued at \$175.¹⁰⁶ He had purchased a part of a lot in the town of Nashville, Ohio, for \$160 two years earlier in 1858.¹⁰⁷
- David married in 1854.¹⁰⁸ He was enumerated one household away from John in 1860 with no value assigned to his land, and had not made any of his own land purchases.¹⁰⁹ He also likely lived on land John owned.

¹⁰¹ In the author’s search for John Knox in “Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 30 Mar 2018), “Deed records, 1825-1916; index to deed records, ca. 1808-1941, vols 1-4.

¹⁰² “Ohio, County Marriages, 1789-2013,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 20 Mar 2018), for Christopher [sic] Knox, 01 Sep 1853; citing Holmes, Ohio, United States, reference p 90, number 127; county courthouses, Ohio: FHL microfilm 477,144.

¹⁰³ 1860 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, Washington township, Nashville, p 227 (penned), dwelling 1576, family 1597, Christian Knox; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 27 Mar 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 989.

¹⁰⁴ “Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 25 Apr 2018), vol 24, p 337, Kesiah Meanor to Christian Knox (1860); and “Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 25 Apr 2018), vol 24, pp 337-338, George G. Meanor to Christian Knox (1860); and “Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 25 Apr 2018), vol 24, p 338, Ephraim Homer to Christian Knox (1860).

¹⁰⁵ “Ohio, County Marriages, 1789-2013,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 20 Mar 2018), for Daniel Knox, 09 Mar 1854; citing Holmes, Ohio, United States; Holmes 1825-1859, reference p 102, number 19 county courthouses, Ohio: FHL microfilm 477,144.

¹⁰⁶ 1860 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, Ripley township, Nashville, p 193 (penned), dwelling 1350, family 1374, Danl Knox; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 20 Apr 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 989.

¹⁰⁷ “Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 25 Apr 2018) vol 23, p 281, John Kincaid to Daniel Knox (1858).

¹⁰⁸ “Ohio, County Marriages, 1789-2013,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 20 Mar 2018), for David Knox, 09 Mar 1854; citing Holmes, Ohio, United States; Holmes 1825-1859, reference p 168, number 76 county courthouses, Ohio: FHL microfilm 477,144

¹⁰⁹ 1860 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, Washington township, Nashville, p 227 (penned), dwelling 1562, family 1584, David Knox; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 27 Mar 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 989; and in the author’s search for David Knox in “Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 30 Mar 2018), “Deed records, 1825-1916; index to deed records, ca. 1808-1941, vols 1-4. One deed for a David Knox was identified and believed to belong to an elder David Knox based on David’s age, and his single marital status in 1852, and that the land was a lot in Holmesville where he never appeared to live: “Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 25 Apr 2018) vol 18, p 56, James Peppard to David Knox (1852).

John valued his multiple real estate holdings at \$25,000 in 1860.¹¹⁰ Of the land he acquired between 1826 and 1860, those purchase prices add up to \$16,225 (see Table 2). Considering that the land value had increased for many of the properties over the years, the \$25,000 estimate seems reasonable. The value of John's land was one of the highest in the township with only a handful of other property owners' values in five figures.¹¹¹

There was some shift in the composition of John Sr.'s farm between 1850 and 1860. A likely reason for this shift of crops and livestock is that several of his sons were managing pieces of John's land. That may explain why many of John's crops appeared reduced on the agricultural schedule. For example, he had only 200 bushels of wheat down from 800 in 1850, and only 50 bushels of oats in 1860 compared with 200 in 1850. John reduced his sheep from 115 to 60, although he increased his swine from 13 to 50.¹¹²

John appeared to make decisions to shift his farm investments for more reasons than having his sons manage some pieces. In 1850, John claimed 350 pounds of wool.¹¹³ But by 1860, that had decreased to 190 pounds.¹¹⁴ The price of wool had been decreasing for several years with a 5-10% decrease between 1859-1860. Apparently attacks from wild dogs on sheep had made sheep farming increasingly less popular.¹¹⁵

In 1860-1862 John made one more purchase of land via several deeds. It was his last purchase. It totaled 160 acres and brought John's holdings to 796 acres.¹¹⁶ The per acre cost of \$39.38 reflected a continued increase in land value. Two corners of this property touched the corners of his other property (see Figure 9 map). Overall, John's purchase of land during his life seemed quite methodical. He always bought near his first homestead in Township 19 and Range 15. He first grew his holdings in Section 11, then Section 12, followed by Section 14 and then Section 13.

¹¹⁰ 1860 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, Washington township, Nashville, p 227 (penned), dwelling 1561, family 1583, John Knox; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 27 Mar 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 989.

¹¹¹ In the author's analysis of the 'Value of Real Estate' for all of Washington Township: 1860 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, Washington Township, pp 194-229 (penned); digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 29 Apr 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 989.

¹¹² 1850 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, Washington Township, agricultural schedule, pp 49-50 (penned), line 24, John Knox; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 28 Mar 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication T1159, roll 5; and 1860 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, Washington Township, agricultural schedule, p 48 (penned), line 27, John Knox; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 28 Mar 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication T1159, roll 27.

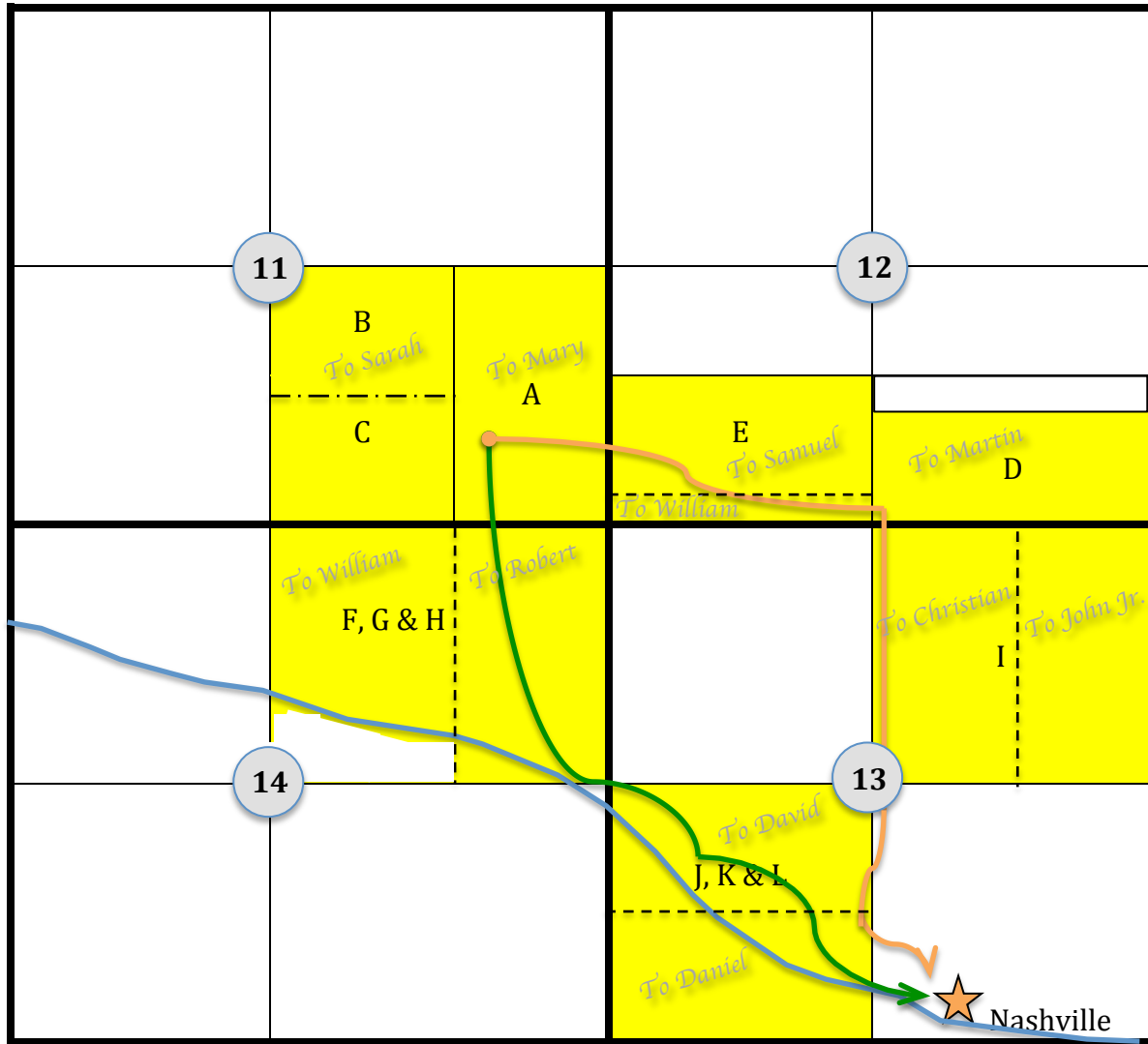
¹¹³ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁴ 1860 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, Washington Township, agricultural schedule, p 48 (penned), line 27, John Knox; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 28 Mar 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication T1159, roll 27.

¹¹⁵ "The Wool Crop," *The Holmes County Republican* (Millersburg, Ohio), 07 Jun 1860, p 3, col 1 (www.newspapers.com : accessed 09 Apr 2018).

¹¹⁶ Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds, vol 24, pp 96-97, Jacob Crow et al. to John Knox Sr (1860), Recorder's Office, Millersburg; and Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds, vol 25, pp 284-285, Jacob Crow to John Knox (1860), Recorder's Office, Millersburg; and "Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 31 mar 2018), vol 25, p 258, Jacob Crow et al. to John Knox.

Figure 9
 John Knox Sr. – Map of Property Ownership
 Township 19 & Range 15



- 11 Sections are identified by a greyed-out round circle in the middle of each of the quadrants with an black section number.
- A, B... Capital Letters refer to land acquisition and distribution in Table 2.
- - - A dashed line indicates a larger lot purchase that was later split into two lots.
- . - . A dashed line with dots indicates that two smaller lots were later combined into one lot.
- The solid orange and green lines indicate the paths on which John Knox Sr. could walk to Nashville while staying on his own land.
- The solid blue line indicates the state road.
- Name John Knox Sr. children's names are in the section to whom he deeded land.

Walking to the Village of Nashville

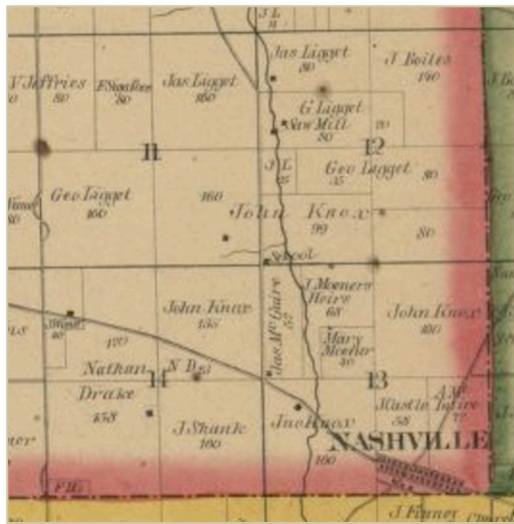
“He could then walk from his home to the Village of Nashville on his own land.”¹¹⁷

Was it John’s intention as he purchased property to be able to walk to town on his own lands as family lore describes? That will likely never be learned, but he did accomplish connecting his land to be able to do so. As seen on the map in Figure 9, there were actually two paths John could have taken to walk into Nashville. One path was to head east through Section 11 into Section 12, then south into the northeast quarter of Section 13 crossing over into the southwest corner, (represented by the orange line on the map in Figure 9) then into town.

Another path was to head south out of Section 11, into the northeast quarter of Section 14, then at its southeast corner, cross over into the southwest corner of Section 13. Then walk into town (represented by the green line on the map in Figure 9). This route would have, in part, followed the “state road” as indicated by the blue line.

An 1861 surveyor’s map of this same area can be seen in Figure 10.

Figure 10:
1861 Map of Township 19, Range 15 –
Washington Township, Holmes
County, Ohio



Land for Ten Children

This methodological approach to buying land seemed to serve his family well. The family history written about John describes that he purchased land for each of his ten children.¹¹⁸ Though the purchase intent cannot be validated, the distribution of his land can be. As discussed previously, John made multiple land purchases between 1826 and 1862 (see Table 2). These purchases were typical sizes for the area of 40, 80 or 160 acres each, with a couple of exceptions. In total, John bought 796 acres of land over this 36-year period.

¹¹⁷ *The Loudonville Democrat*, 07 Aug 1913, p 1, col 6, for John Knox.

¹¹⁸ *Ibid.*

Table 2
John Knox Sr.'s Land Transactions in Holmes County, Twp. 19 & Range 15

Grantor	Grantee	Date	# Acres	\$ Paid	Sec.	Description	08 Dec 1864 Deeded To:
A) General Land Office of the U.S.	John Knox	10 May 1826	80	\$100	11	East Half of SE Qtr ^a	Mary Knox ^b (80 acres)
B) George Shearer & Sarah	John Knox	06 Dec 1833	40	\$250	11	North Half of West Half of SE Qtr ^c	Sarah Knox (80 acres total) ^d
C) John Shearer	John Knox	04 Jan 1836	40	\$300	11	South Half of West Half of SE Qtr ^e	Sarah Knox (with above 'B') ^d
D) Jeremiah Ackison & Catherine	John Knox	14 Mar 1839	80	\$1,000	12	South Half of SE Qtr ^f	Martin Knox (80 acres) ^g
E) Augustus Andrews & Fanny	John Knox	06 Sep 1841	99	\$2,150	12	South Side of SW Qtr ^h And mortgage ⁱ	Samuel Knox (77 acres) ^j William Knox (22 acres) ^k
F) Joseph Shank & Leeannah	John Knox	03 Feb 1848	137	\$325	14	NE Qtr ^l	William Knox, West Half (58 acres) ^k Robert Knox, East Half (79 acres) ^m
G) George Smith & Mary Ann	John Knox	01 Dec 1848	(incl. in F above)	\$1,500	14	NE Qtr (same as above 'F') ⁿ	William Knox, West Half ^k Robert Knox, East Half ^m (with above 'F')
H) Samuel Sheets	John Knox	24 Aug 1849	(incl. in F above 1/7 th)	\$300	14	NE Qtr (same as above 'F') ^o	William Knox, West Half ^k Robert Knox, East Half ^m (with above 'F')
I) Gibson Cook & others	John Knox	10 Apr 1855	160	\$4,000	13	NE Qtr ^p	Christian Knox , West Half ^q John Knox Jr., East Half ^r (80 acres each)
J) Jacob Crow et al.	John Knox, sen.	26 Jan 1860	160 acres 5/6 of 160	\$5,400	13	Undivided 5/6 part of SW Qtr ^s	David Knox , North Half ^t Daniel Knox , South Half ^u (80 acres each)
K) Jacob Crow & Maria	John Knox	24 Mar 1860	160 acres 1/6 of 160	\$900	13	Undivided 1/6 part of SW Qtr ^v (same as above 'J')	David Knox , North Half ^t Daniel Knox , South Half ^u (with above 'J')
L) Jacob Crow et al.	John Knox	12 Mar 1862	160 acres 1/6 of 160	(with above 'K')	13	Undivided 1/6 part of SW Qtr ^w (same as above 'J')	David Knox , North Half ^t Daniel Knox , South Half ^u (with above 'J')

^a Bureau of Land Management, Ohio, General Land Office Records, *U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management*, (www.glorerecords.blm.gov : accessed 28 Mar 2018), for John Knox, Wooster, certificate no. 873; and Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds, vol 95, p 223, United States to John Knox (1826), Recorder's Office, Millersburg.

^b "Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 31 Mar 2018), vol 27, pp 79-80, John Knox Sen. to Mary Knox (1864), Recorder's Office, Millersburg. Presented for record 09 Feb 1865 and recorded 14 Feb 1865.

^c Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds, vol 2, pp 578-579, George Shearer to John Knox (1833), Recorder's Office, Millersburg.

^d "Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 31 Mar 2018), vol 27, pp 80-81, John Knox Sen. to Sarah Knox (1864), Recorder's Office, Millersburg. Presented for record 09 Feb 1865 and recorded 15 Feb 1865.

^e Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds, vol 3, p 545, John Shearer to John Knox (1836), Recorder's Office, Millersburg.

^f *Ibid*, vol 6, pp 390-391, Jeremiah Ackison to John Knox (1839), Recorder's Office, Millersburg.

^g "Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 31 Mar 2018), vol 27, p 48, John Knox Sen. to Martin Knox (1864), Recorder's Office, Millersburg. Presented for record 24 Jan 1865 and recorded 26 Jan 1865.

^h Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds, vol 8, pp 77-78, Augustus Andrews to John Knox (1841), Recorder's Office, Millersburg.

ⁱ *Ibid*, vol 8, pp 12-13, John Knox to Augustus Andrews (1841), Recorder's Office, Millersburg.

^j "Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 31 Mar 2018), vol 27, p 78, John Knox Sen. to Samuel Knox (1864), Recorder's Office, Millersburg. Presented for record 09 Feb 1865 and recorded 14 Feb 1865.

^k *Ibid*, vol 27, pp 78-79, John Knox Sen. to William Knox (1864), Recorder's Office, Millersburg. Presented for record 09 Feb 1865 and recorded 14 Feb 1865.

^l Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds, vol 14, p 214, Joseph Shank to John Knox (1848), Recorder's Office, Millersburg.

^m "Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 31 Mar 2018), vol 27, p 80, John Knox Sen. to Robert Knox (1864), Recorder's Office, Millersburg. Presented for record 09 Feb 1865 and recorded 15 Feb 1865.

ⁿ Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds, vol 14, p 463, George Smith to John Knox (1848), Recorder's Office, Millersburg.

^o *Ibid*, vol 17, p 156, Samuel Sheets, guardian of George W. Smith (1849), Recorder's Office, Millersburg

^p *Ibid*, vol 21, pp 231-233, Gibson Cook et al to John Knox (1858), Recorder's Office, Millersburg.

^q "Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 31 Mar 2018), vol 27, p 23, John Knox Sen. to Christian Knox (1864), Recorder's Office, Millersburg. Presented for record 14 Jan 1865 and recorded 16 Jan 1865.

^r *Ibid*, vol 27, pp 47-48, John Knox Sen. to John Knox Jr. (1864), Recorder's Office, Millersburg. Presented for record 23 Jan 1865 and recorded 25 Jan 1865.

^s Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds, vol 24, pp 96-97, Jacob Crow et al to John Knox Sr (1860), Recorder's Office, Millersburg.

^t "Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 31 Mar 2018), vol 27, pp 14-15, John Knox Sen. to David Knox (1864), Recorder's Office, Millersburg. Presented for record 11 Jan 1865 and recorded 11 Jan 1865.

^u *Ibid*, vol 27, p 49, John Knox Sen. to Daniel Knox (1864), Recorder's Office, Millersburg. Presented for record 24 Jan 1865 and recorded 26 Jan 1865.

^v Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds, vol 25, pp 284-285, Jacob Crow to John Knox (1860), Recorder's Office, Millersburg.

² This deed appears to correct the grantees in the quitclaim from the deed in 'v' above. "Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 31 Mar 2018), vol 25, p 258, Jacob Crow et al. to John Knox (2, Recorder's Office, Millersburg).

John never received a better deal on a price of land than his initial purchase from the federal government at \$1.25 per acre.¹¹⁹ Only seven years later, in 1833, he paid \$6.25 per acre for the 40 acres from George and Sarah Shearer.¹²⁰ The price of land increased steadily over the years to where in 1862 his final purchases of 160 acres from Jacob Crow et al averaged \$39.38 per acre.¹²¹

Not once did John sell any of his real estate holdings. He only added to them over the decades. However, on 08 Dec 1864, that all changed. John deeded similarly sized pieces of land to each of his ten children via ten different deeds (see Table 2). These deeds represented his entire real property holdings of 796 acres. He “sold” the pieces of property for \$3,500 a piece to each child, including his two daughters.

John died 14 Dec 1864, just six days after these transactions occurred. See Table 3 for a timeline for the creation of these deeds and the time period shortly thereafter.

¹¹⁹ Bureau of Land Management, Ohio, General Land Office Records, *U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management* (www.glorerecords.blm.gov : accessed 28 Mar 2018), for John Knox, Wooster, certificate no. 873.

¹²⁰ Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds, vol 2, pp 578-579, George Shearer to John Knox (1833), Recorder’s Office, Millersburg.

¹²¹ *Ibid*, vol 24, pp 96-97, Jacob Crow et al. to John Knox Sr (1860), Recorder’s Office, Millersburg; and Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds, vol 25, pp 284-285, Jacob Crow to John Knox (1860), Recorder’s Office, Millersburg.

Table 3

John Knox Sr. – Deeds, Death and Probate Timeline

Date	Event
08 Dec 1864	John sold 10 parcels of land for \$3,500 apiece, one to each of his 10 children (see Table 2).
14 Dec 1864	John died. ^a
22 Dec 1864	Obituary published in local newspaper: "John Knox, Sr. a highly respected citizen of Washington Tp. Died of general debility at the advanced age of 68 years, 43 of which he has spent in the township of his late residence." ^b
11 Jan 1865	Administrator's Bond issued to Lawrence McMarrell, Jeremiah Liggett, Michael Baughad and Michael Mangum for \$2,000. ^c
11 Jan 1865	A different version of the Administrator's Bond issued to Lawrence McMarrell, Jeremiah Liggett, Michael Baughad and Michael Mangum for \$10,000 [sic]. ^d
11 Jan 1865	The county's probate journal records Lawrence McMerrell appointed as administrator of estate with a bond of \$10,000 [sic]. Additional bondsmen included Jeremiah Liggett, Michael Branghad [sic], and Michael Mangum. Appraisers appointed were Richard Shreve, Jacob Shearer and Eli Glasgow. ^e
26 Jan 1865	First newspaper notification for probate of estate. ^f
02 Feb 1865	Second newspaper notification for probate of estate. ^g
08 Feb 1865	The probate journal records the accepted resignation of administrator Lawrence McMerrell [sic]. ^h
09 Feb 1865	Third newspaper notification for probate of estate . Lawrence McMurrell [sic] continued to be listed as administrator. ⁱ
16 Feb 1865	Fourth newspaper notification for probate of estate. Lawrence McMurrell [sic] continued to be listed as administrator. ^j
11 Jan – 09 Feb 1865	The ten children's deeds were presented at the courthouse for recording during this short time and recorded either immediately or within a few days (see Table 2).
After 16 Feb 1865	No new administrator was appointed and no further probate records were found, or journal entries were made, for John Knox. ^k

^a Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 02 Apr 2018), entry for memorial 51492229, John Knox (1864), John Knox Cemetery, Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio; created by ChrisB, gravestone photograph by JanJoyce; and Old Citizens Gone," *Holmes County Farmer*, 22 Dec 1864, p 3, col 3, for John Knox Sr., (www.newspapers.com : accessed 01 Apr 2018).

^b “Old Citizens Gone,” *Holmes County Farmer*, 22 Dec 1864, p 3, col 3, for John Knox Sr., (www.newspapers.com : accessed 01 Apr 2018).

^c “Ohio, Wills and Probate Records, 1786-1998” database with images, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 27 Mar 2018) for John Knox, 11 Jan 1865, no 424; citing Holmes, Probate Records, No 411-468, 1866-1870.

^d *Ibid*, vol 2, p 1; citing Letters of Administrators, 1841-1862; Administrators and Executors Bonds, 1849-1864, Administrators Docket, Vol 2, 1850-1864.

^e *Ibid*, vol 2, p 180; citing Holmes, Probate Journals, vols 3-4, 1863-1875.

^f “John Knox’s Estate,” *Holmes County Farmer*, 26 Jan 1865, p 2, col 5, for John Knox, (www.genealogybank.com : accessed 01 Apr 2018).

^g *Ibid*, p 3, col 6, for John Knox, (www.genealogybank.com : accessed 01 Apr 2018).

^h “Ohio, Wills and Probate Records, 1786-1998” database with images, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 27 Mar 2018), for John Knox, 11 Jan 1865, vol 2, p 195; citing Holmes, Probate Journals, vols 3-4, 1863-1875.

ⁱ “John Knox’s Estate,” *Holmes County Farmer*, 09 Feb 1865, p 2, col 6, for John Knox, (www.genealogybank.com: accessed 01 Apr 2018).

^j *Ibid*, 16 Feb 1865, p 4, col 7, for John Knox, (www.genealogybank.com : accessed 01 Apr 2018).

^k In the author’s search of “Ohio, Wills and Probate Records, 1786-1998” database with images, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 27 mar 2018) for John Knox; and in the author’s search of the *Holmes County Farmer* for six months after John’s death for John Knox, (www.genealogybank.com : accessed 01 Apr 2018).

Why would John “sell” all his property to his children? He obviously knew he was dying; no land had been formally given or sold to his children before this point, and many of them were living on it and farming it already.¹²² And, John died 6 days after “selling” it to each of them.¹²³ The price of each sale was at, or even above, the current market value for the area.¹²⁴ He did not sell it to his children for “love” and a small consideration, such as \$1, as was typical of the time. He could have passed it on to them via a will that was also common. But he didn’t. No will existed.¹²⁵ Three hypotheses can be considered:

¹²² As discussed by the author in the ‘*First Generation*’ section and ‘*The 1860s*’ subsection within this paper.

¹²³ “Old Citizens Gone,” *Holmes County Farmer*, 22 Dec 1864, p. 3, col 3, for John Knox Sr., (www.newspapers.com : accessed 01 Apr 2018); and Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 02 Apr 2018), entry for memorial 51492229, John Knox (1864), John Knox Cemetery, Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio; created by ChrisB, gravestone photograph by JanJoyce. Vital records were not required to be recorded by the state until 1867: *Ohio History Connection* (www.ohiohistory.org : accessed 27 Mar 2018), Death Records.

¹²⁴ In the author’s analysis of 30 randomly selected property transactions within the same Holmes County deed book of similar size properties and transactions (e.g. not a lot in town, not between a grantor and grantee with the same name or for a nominal consideration) when John Sr. sold the properties to his children: “Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 22 May 2018), vol 26, various pages; FHL microfilm 8,193,409.

¹²⁵ An administrator was appointed thus indicating John Knox Sr. died intestate: “Ohio, Wills and Probate Records, 1786-1998” database with images, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 27 Mar 2018) for John Knox, 11 Jan 1865, no 424; citing Holmes, Probate Records, No 411-468, 1866-1870. Also, no will was found in John Knox Sr.’s probate file: Holmes County Wills, K-L & Holmes County Probate Files, K-L and Holmes County Probate Court Index I-K (file 424).

Hypothesis 1 – Debt

If John were in significant debt, the sale of his lands at market value would signal to his debtors that he was not attempting to give it away before his death. This would keep creditors from acquiring it or contesting the action.

It seems unlikely that each of his ten children would have had \$3,500 to pay their father for the land. The girls, Mary and Sarah lived with their father through at least 1860 and neither had married before his death.¹²⁶ They probably helped run his household, yet had no source for income, especially none that would add up to \$3,500. Some of John's sons may have had enough money saved from their farming efforts to buy this land from him, but it's unlikely that each one possessed it.

There is no evidence of John having debtors of any kind. An administrator for John's estate was assigned, thus indicating no will had been created. The only documents in the thin probate file are the administrator's appointment and bond. There exists no inventory list, or list of creditors and debtors.¹²⁷ Notice was given in the newspaper, as was typical of the times, that "all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment, and those holding claims are requested to present them for settlement."¹²⁸ Only 28 days after the appointment on 11 Jan 1865, administrator Lawrence McMerrell submitted his resignation.¹²⁹ There are several possibilities for the lack of probate papers, which included:

1. Maybe a comprehensive probate process was actually completed but the papers were misfiled, lost or destroyed.
2. Perhaps no additional probate process was administered. It's possible that after the resignation of the administrator, nothing more was done.

If the real property in John's estate had been "sold" to his children, what happened to the personal property? Since several of his children still lived with him and John took time to organize his property before his death, perhaps he gave all his personal property to the children prior to his death; or told them how he wanted it distributed. Thus, it left no estate to administer. However, it seems unlikely that John would have no small outstanding debts due to others or to him as that was a typical system of the times to barter goods and services.

¹²⁶ 1860 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, Washington township, Nashville, p 227 (penned), dwelling 1561, family 1583, Mary and Sarah Knox; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 27 Mar 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 989.

¹²⁷ "Ohio, Wills and Probate Records, 1786-1998" database with images, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 27 Mar 2018) for John Knox, 11 Jan 1865, no 424; citing Holmes, Probate Records, No 411-468, 1866-1870. Because more documentation was expected to be found in this probate file and on-site search of the file was completed with no further results; the online version of the probate file mirrored what was viewed in the Millersburg Recorder's Office on 06 Apr 2018.

¹²⁸ "John Knox's Estate," *Holmes County Farmer*, 02 Feb 1865, p 3, col 5, for John Knox, (www.newspapers.com : accessed 01 Apr 2018).

¹²⁹ "Ohio, Wills and Probate Records, 1786-1998," database with images, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 27 Mar 2018), for John Knox, 11 Jan 1876, vol 2, p 195, citing Holmes, Probate Journals, Vols 3-4, 1863-1875.

Little information was ever written directly about John Knox. What is known about him today is derived mostly from his real estate transactions. His character can be partially crafted from some additional analysis. John was not involved in any civil or criminal charges.¹³⁰ His name did not appear defamed in any surviving newspaper accounts.¹³¹ The two family sketches written about his sons John Jr. and William mention John Sr.'s grit and perseverance in moving his family from Pennsylvania to Ohio.¹³² In 1848, John even set aside a part of his land to be used by the township for a school at the price of \$1 a year.¹³³ And, John Sr.'s obituary reported him as a "highly respected citizen."¹³⁴

With one exception, it seems John purchased all his property mortgage-free. And at the point John "sold" his land to his children, all properties in the deeds were described as "premises free and clear..." The ten deeds were presented at the courthouse for record between 11 Jan 1865 and 09 Feb 1865 and recorded either immediately or within a few days afterwards (see Table 2).

The \$3,500 purchase price multiplied by ten properties totals \$35,000. This was a significant sum at the time. Because there was no will, and apparently no probate process that closed the estate, where did the money go? It seems likely that no money ever changed hands because then it would have just been redistributed to the children after John's death.

Hypothesis 2 – An Unidentified Heir Another

Hypothesis 3 – Market Value Determination

Another possibility for why John "sold" his land to his children for \$3,500 each, was to set the market value. This strategy wasn't common for that time; it was more

¹³⁰ In the author's search of: "Civil Court Index 1825-1900," *Holmes County* (www.usgenwebsites.org : accessed 02 May 2018); and "Criminal Court Records Index, 1825-1900" *Holmes County* (www.usgenwebsites.org : accessed 02 May 2018)

¹³¹ In the author's search in: *Holmes County Farmer*, 1860-1866, for John Knox, (www.newspapers.com : accessed 01 Apr 2018); and *The Holmes County Republican*, 1856-1862, for John Knox, (www.newspapers.com : accessed 01 Apr 2018); and *Holmes County Republican*, 1856-1874, for John Knox, (www.newspapers.com : accessed 01 Apr 2018); and *Holmes County Farmer and Free Press*, 1852-1866, for John Knox, (www.genealogybank.com : accessed 01 Apr 2018); and *Holmes County Republican*, 1856-1862, for John Knox, (www.genealogybank.com: accessed 01 Apr 2018); *Holmes County Republican*, 1870-1874, for John Knox, (www.genealogybank.com: accessed 01 Apr 2018).

¹³² *The Loudonville Democrat*, 07 Aug 1913, p 1, col 6, for John Knox; and "William Knox," *Holmes County, Commemorative Biographical Record of the Counties of Wayne and Holmes, Ohio, Containing Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens*, (Chicago: J.H. Beers, 1889), 723.

¹³³ Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds vol 13, pp 589-590, John Knox to School Dist. No. 4, Washington Tp (1848), Recorder's Office.

¹³⁴ "Old Citizens Gone," *Holmes County Farmer*, 22 Dec 1864, p 3, col 3, for John Knox Sr., (www.newspapers.com : accessed 01 Apr 2018).

traditional to name a nominal consideration, such as \$1, to “pass on” property to a family member.

Daniel seemed to be the only of John Sr.’s children to move away from the family. He did this first by moving into Nashville, Ohio and into the occupation of a clerk instead of a farmer like the rest of the men in the family.¹³⁵ Daniel also must have experienced a lot of grief with the early death of his first wife, Sophia Jarvis, at age 32 in 1863.¹³⁶ Three of this couple’s four children died in childhood: Hilary in 1856, Viola Vitalia in 1861 and Sophia Lilly in 1862.¹³⁷ Even though Daniel did not follow in his father’s farming footsteps, John Sr. still provided the same “inheritance” of 80 acres of land to him as he did for the other nine children.¹³⁸

John Sr. acted strategically so that each child received nearly the same amount of land. He reconfigured his different purchases and then redistributed them. Every child received 80 acres except Samuel, who received 77, and Robert who received 79.¹³⁹

Christian was the only child who sold his “inheritance” fairly soon after John’s 1864 death. On 26 Mar 1866, he received \$4,000 for his 80 acres.¹⁴⁰ Considering that this sale was approximately 15 months after John died, that \$50 per acre cost resulted in a 14% increase in value.

The same three men witnessed each of John Knox Sr.’s ten deeds on 08 Dec 1864. They were Lawrence McMarrell, J.P., George B. Orner and C. B. Ferrill. None of these

¹³⁵ “Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 25 Apr 2018), vol 23, p 281, John Kincaid to Daniel Knox (1858); and 1860 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, Ripley township, p 193 (penned), dwelling 1350, family 1374, Daniel Knox; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 27 Mar 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 989.

¹³⁶ Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 02 Apr 2018), entry for memorial 51492322, Sophia Knox (1863), John Knox Cemetery, Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio; created by ChrisB, gravestone photograph by JanJoyce.

¹³⁷ Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 02 Apr 2018), entry for memorial 51492397, Hilary Knox (1856), John Knox Cemetery, Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio; created by ChrisB, gravestone photograph by JanJoyce; and Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 02 Apr 2018), entry for memorial 51492435, Viola Vitalia Knox (1860), John Knox Cemetery, Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio; created by ChrisB, gravestone photograph by JanJoyce; and Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 02 Apr 2018), entry for memorial 51492467, Sophia Lilly Knox (1862), John Knox Cemetery, Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio; created by ChrisB, gravestone photograph by JanJoyce.

¹³⁸ “Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 31 mar 2018), vol 27, p 49, John Knox Sen. to Daniel Knox (1864). Presented for record 24 Jan 1865 and recorded 26 Jan 1865.

¹³⁹ *Ibid*, vol 27, p 78, John Knox Sen. to Samuel Knox (1864). Presented for record 09 Feb 1865 and recorded 14 Feb 1865; and “Holmes County, Ohio, Deeds,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 31 mar 2018), vol 27, p 80, John Knox Sen. to Robert Knox (1864). Presented for record 09 Feb 1865 and recorded 15 Feb 1865.

¹⁴⁰ *Ibid*, vol 28, p 378, Christian Knox to Jacob Lefever (1866).

three seemed to have a familial relationship with John Knox, however, Lawrence McMerrell [sic] was the appointed administrator for John's estate, as described previously.

Perhaps there was another, yet unidentified, reason for the "sale" of John's properties to his children. Because there was no evidence of debt of any kind, especially significant debt, the first hypothesis can be fairly confidently eliminated. The second hypothesis, of an unidentified heir, can also be fairly confidently eliminated. No documents survive that show any challenge to the estate and its probate. The family was well established in the community and its members would have likely known if there was a subsequent spouse or illegitimate child. It seems likely that the third hypothesis, of John setting a market value for his property, may hold some truths, if not all.

The early December 1864 scene on the Knox farm in Holmes County, Ohio that seems possible was this:

A very ill John Knox Sr. calls together his family. He tells them he is dying. Each child will receive exactly the same inheritance from him but that it won't be transmitted the usual way through a will. Instead, he wishes to set a high market value for the land and "sell" approximately 80 acres to every son and daughter for \$3,500 each before he dies. The children object because most of them don't have that kind of money. With a wink and a knowing look, John tells them that they have each already paid him.

Perhaps there was further discussion about which child received what piece of property. Some may have already been decided because they were being farmed accordingly. There must have been discussion about the two girls' properties and how they would be farmed. They were unmarried and thus would need significant help to make the farms productive. There was probably already a system in place to do this.

John continues, and verbally distributes all of his personal property to the children. Telling one daughter that she can have a feather bed...telling a son that he will get the silver spoons, and so on, until all of his personal property has been given away.

If John had any creditors, or outstanding debts, he likely issued instructions to his sons for how to take care of them. If monies were owed John, perhaps he assigned these to different children, or even forgave them and had the notes returned.

John might have told the kids that he would not make a will. And thus his estate would be assigned an administrator. Because of the odd nature of how he chose to close out his estate, he didn't want any of the children to be appointed as an administrator. That way the children would not be responsible for any questionable practices.

The children and grandchildren likely gathered in one large group, or several small groups, for a last meal with John. They laughed and cried and told stories of their pioneering experience in Ohio, and how John had traveled here from Pennsylvania to do exactly this – establish a stronghold in a fertile area, grow and enjoy his large

family, and then take care of each one of them from his wise investments. Maybe he even told them about the wolves he killed in Pennsylvania and how the initial sale of those wolves' hides got them to where they are today with nearly 800 acres of land.

Finally, John had Lawrence McMerrell, Justice of the Peace, called to his bedside. There, he would have explained the situation and how he distributed his property in a neat and clean way. He probably told McMerrell that he would be appointed as his administrator and that after a short time, he could resign because there would be nothing to administrate. The resignation should occur after all the deeds are recorded. Two additional witnesses were called and John executed ten deeds. Then, he probably sent McMerrell off with a handshake and a big jug of maple sugar.

John's Death

John Knox Sr. died in 1864. No civil record of his death is available because Ohio didn't begin recording deaths until 1867.¹⁴¹ No church records for his burial were found, likely because he didn't attend church.¹⁴²

The children born to John Knox Sr. and Nancy Bitner Knox were:

- 2 i. MARTIN KNOX, born 07 May 1823 in Pennsylvania; died 20 Oct 1893 Holmes County, Ohio.¹⁴³ He married PATIENCE WINSLOW on 31 Dec 1850 in Coshocton County, Ohio.¹⁴⁴
- 3 ii. MARY KNOX, born about 1825 in Pennsylvania; died 06 Oct 1886 in Holmes County, Ohio.¹⁴⁵ She married LEVI REYNOLDS on 24 Jun 1866 in Holmes County, Ohio.¹⁴⁶

¹⁴¹ *Ohio History Connection* (www.ohiohistory.org : accessed 27 Mar 2018), Death Records.

¹⁴² *The Loudonville Democrat*, 07 Aug 1913, p 1, col 6, for John Knox.

¹⁴³ Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 22 Apr 2018), entry for memorial 51403646, Martin Knox (1823-1893), Nashville Methodist Cemetery, Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio; created by ChrisB, gravestone photograph by Bill Miller; and "Birth records, 1867-1966; death records, 1867-1908," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 20 Mar 2018) for Martin Knox, 20 Oct 1893, reference p 1, record number 4225, No, 35, FHL microfilm 4,015,798.

¹⁴⁴ "Ohio, County Marriages, 1789-2013," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 19 Mar 2018), entry for Martin Knox, 31 Dec 1850; citing Coshocton, Ohio, United States, reference number 4598; county courthouses, Ohio: FHL microfilm 895,286.

¹⁴⁵ "Birth records, 1867-1966; death records, 1867-1908," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 20 Mar 2018) for Mary Reynolds, 08 Oct 1886, reference p 33, record number 2930, No 18, FHL microfilm 4,016,798; and Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 22 Apr 2018), entry for memorial 51552914, Mary Reynolds (1886), Nashville Methodist Cemetery, Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio; created by Bill Miller, gravestone photograph by Bill Miller. The age inscription on the headstone is incorrect at '91' years instead of '61' years; and "Birth records, 1867-1966; death records, 1867-1908," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 20 Mar 2018) for Mary Reynolds, 06 Oct 1886, reference p 33, record number 2930, No, 18, FHL microfilm 4,978,704.

- + 4 iii. JOHN KNOX JR., born 17 Aug 1826 in Ohio; died 05 Aug 1913 in Washington Township, Holmes County, Ohio.¹⁴⁷ He married (1) SOPHIA ANN HOMER on 31 Oct 1850 in Holmes County, Ohio;¹⁴⁸ and (2) JULIA ANN (NEE SHREVE) SMITH on 26 Dec 1882 in Holmes County, Ohio.¹⁴⁹ John Knox and Julia Smith Knox divorced 14 Mar 1894.¹⁵⁰
- 5 iv. CHRISTIAN KNOX, born about 1829 in Ohio; died 07 Jun 1906 Morris Township, Knox County, Ohio.¹⁵¹ He married MARY E. DAVIS on 01 Sep 1853 Holmes County, Ohio.¹⁵²
- 6 v. DANIEL KNOX, born about 1830 in Ohio; died 18 Jan 1897 in Winfield, Cowley County, Kansas.¹⁵³ He married SOPHIA JARVIS on 09 Mar 1854 in Holmes County, Ohio.¹⁵⁴
- 7 vi. DAVID KNOX, born 26 Mar 1832 in Ohio; died 01 Jun 1911 in Washington

¹⁴⁶ "Ohio, County Marriages, 1789-2013," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 19 Mar 2018), entry for Mary Knox, 24 Jun 1866; citing Holmes, Ohio, United States, reference page 356; county courthouses, Ohio: FHL microfilm 477,145.

¹⁴⁷ Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 02 Apr 2018), entry for memorial 51492229, John Knox (1796-1864), John Knox Cemetery, Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio; created by ChrisB, gravestone photograph by JanJoyce. Birth date was determined by calculating the exact age from the headstone and his date of death; and *The Loudonville Democrat*, 07 Aug 1913, p 1, col 6, for John Knox; and "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1953," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 20 Mar 2018), for John Knox, 05 Aug 1913; citing Ripley, Holmes, Ohio [deaths], reference file number 49928: FHL microfilm 1,953,757.

¹⁴⁸ "Ohio, County Marriages, 1789-2013," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 19 Mar 2018), entry for John Knox, 31 Oct 1850; citing Holmes, Ohio, United States, reference p 20; county courthouses, Ohio: FHL microfilm 477,144.

¹⁴⁹ *Ibid*, entry for John Knox, 26 Dec 1882; citing Holmes, Ohio, United States, reference p 318, no. 5096; county courthouses, Ohio: FHL microfilm 477,176.

¹⁵⁰ Holmes County, Ohio, Civil Court, file no. C-80, Knox vs Knox (1893), Holmes County Genealogical Society Library, Millersburg.

¹⁵¹ "Ohio, County Death Records, 1840-2001," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : 20 Mar 2018) for Christian Knox, 07 Jun 1906, Knox, Death records, 1867-1908, Vol 1-3, p 64 (printed), number 1, Morris Twp.; FHL microfilm 1,299,055; and "Ohio, County Death Records, 1840-2001," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : 20 Mar 2018) entry for Christian Knox, 07 Jun 1906, Knox County, Death records, 1867-1908, Vol 1-3, p 64 (printed), number 1, Morris Twp.; FHL microfilm 1,299,055.

¹⁵² "Ohio, County Marriages, 1789-2013," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 20 Mar 2018), for Christopher [sic] Knox, 01 Sep 1853; citing Holmes, Ohio, United States, reference p 90, number 127; county courthouses, Ohio: FHL microfilm 477,144.

¹⁵³ 1850 U.S. census, Holmes Co., Ohio, Washington township, pp 589-590 (penned), John Knox; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 27 Mar 2018); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 69; and the state of Kansas does not allow access to vital records for genealogical research. Additionally, the state does not hold death certificates prior to 01 Jul 1911: *Kansas Department of Health and Environment* (<http://www.kdheks.gov/vital/genealogy.html> : accessed 23 Apr 2018), Genealogy Requests. For Daniel Knox's death information: Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 23 Apr 2018), entry for memorial 152327750, Daniel Knox (1897), Floral Cemetery, Winfield, Cowley County, Kansas; created by Judy Mayfield; and "Daniel Knox," obituary, *The Holmes (Ohio) County Farmer*, 04 Feb 1897, p1, col 2.

¹⁵⁴ "Ohio, County Marriages, 1789-2013," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 20 Mar 2018), for Daniel Knox, 09 Mar 1854; citing Holmes, Ohio, United States; Holmes 1825-1859, reference p 102, number 19 county courthouses, Ohio: FHL microfilm 477,144.

- Township, Holmes County, Ohio.¹⁵⁵ He married RHODA JANE PURDY on 08 May 1856 Holmes County, Ohio.¹⁵⁶
- 8 vii. SARAH KNOX, born about 1834 in Ohio; died 27 Jul 1894 in Holmes County, Ohio.¹⁵⁷ She married SAMUEL REYNOLDS on 22 Mar 1866 in Holmes County, Ohio.¹⁵⁸
- 9 viii. SAMUEL KNOX, born about 1835 in Ohio; died 30 Sep 1892 in Holmes County, Ohio.¹⁵⁹ He married MARY E (nee REED) CHAPMAN 17 Nov 1887 in Wayne County, Oh.¹⁶⁰
- 10 ix. ROBERT KNOX, born about 1839 in Ohio; died 16 Feb 1899 in Holmes County, Ohio.¹⁶¹ He married PRISCILLA REED on 31 Mar 1864 Holmes County, Ohio.¹⁶²
- 11 x. WILLIAM KNOX, born about 1840 in Ohio; died 09 Sep 1896 in Holmes County, Ohio.¹⁶³ He married SARAH E. REED on 22 Feb 1866 Holmes County, Ohio.¹⁶⁴

¹⁵⁵ "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1953," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 20 Mar 2018), for David Knox, 01 Jun 1911; citing Washington, Holmes, Ohio [deaths], reference file number 33190: FHL microfilm 1,953,043; and "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1953," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 20 Mar 2018), for David Knox, 01 Jun 1911; citing Washington, Holmes, Ohio [deaths], reference file number 33190: FHL microfilm 1,953,043.

¹⁵⁶ "Ohio, County Marriages, 1789-2013," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 20 Mar 2018), for David Knox, 09 Mar 1854; citing Holmes, Ohio, United States; Holmes 1825-1859, reference p 168, number 76 county courthouses, Ohio: FHL microfilm 477,144.

¹⁵⁷ "Birth records, 1867-1966; death records, 1867-1908," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 20 Mar 2018) for Sarah Reynolds, 27 Jul 1894, reference p 9, record number 4549, No 190, FHL microfilm 4,016,798; and "Birth records, 1867-1966; death records, 1867-1908," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 20 Mar 2018) for Sarah Reynolds, 27 Jul 1894, reference p 9, record number 4549, No, 190, FHL microfilm 4,016,798.

¹⁵⁸ "Ohio, County Marriages, 1774-1993," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 20 Mar 2018), for Sarah Knox, 22 Mar 1866; citing Holmes, Ohio, United States; Holmes 1859-1877, reference p 342, county courthouses, Ohio: FHL microfilm 477,145.

¹⁵⁹ "Birth records, 1867-1966; death records, 1867-1908," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 20 Mar 2018) for Samuel Knox, 30 Sep 1892, reference p 60, record number 4038, No, 11, FHL microfilm 4,978,704.

¹⁶⁰ "Ohio, County Marriages, 1789-2013," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 20 Mar 2018), for Samuel Knox, 17 Nov 1887; citing Wayne, Ohio, United States, Marriage records 1882-1887 vol 10, reference p 588; county courthouses, Ohio: FHL microfilm 425,757.

¹⁶¹ "Birth records, 1867-1966; death records, 1867-1908," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 20 Mar 2018) for Robert Knox, 16 Feb 1899, reference p 25, record number 5163, No, 104, FHL microfilm 4,016,798.

¹⁶² "Ohio, County Marriages, 1789-2013," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 20 Mar 2018), for Robert Knox, 31 Mar 1864; citing Holmes, Ohio, United States; Marriage records 1859-1868 vol 4, reference p 240, number 2006 county courthouses, Ohio: FHL microfilm 477,145.

¹⁶³ Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 23 Apr 2018), entry for memorial 51402562, William Knox (1840-1898), Nashville Methodist Cemetery, Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio; created by ChrisB, gravestone photograph by Pennola Nolan; and "Birth records, 1867-1966; death records, 1867-1908," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 20 Mar 2018) for William Knox, 20 Mar 1898, reference p 21, record number 5007, No, 96, FHL microfilm 4,016,798.

¹⁶⁴ "Ohio, County Marriages, 1789-2013," database with images, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org : accessed 20 Mar 2018), for William Knox, 22 Feb 1866; citing Holmes, Ohio, United States; Marriage records 1859-1868 vol 4, reference p 337, number 2288, county courthouses, Ohio: FHL microfilm 477,145.

- 12 xi. INFANT KNOX, born about 1848 likely in Ohio; died Jun 1848 probably in Holmes County, Ohio.¹⁶⁵

¹⁶⁵ Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 20 Apr 2018), entry for memorial 188372417, Infant Knox (1848), John Knox Cemetery, Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio; created by ChrisB, gravestone photograph by JanJoyce.

FIGURE CITATIONS

Figure # Page #	Title	Citation
Figure 1 Page 9	Nancy Bitner Knox Headstone	Find A Grave, Inc., <i>Find A Grave</i> , database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 02 Apr 2018), entry for memorial 51492245, Nancy Knox (1857), John Knox Cemetery, Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio; created by ChrisB, gravestone photograph by JanJoyce.
Figure 2 Page 11	Map From Centre Co., PA to Holmes Co., OH	<i>Google Maps</i> (www.google.com/maps) for Centre Co., Pennsylvania to Holmes Co., Ohio.
Figure 3 Page 12	Larry Knox Photograph	Larry Knox photograph, undated, ca. 2016; privately held by Larry Knox, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Wooster, Ohio, 2016.
Figure 4 Page 13	Nancy Bitner Knox Blanket Chest	Nestlerode Blanket Chest photograph, undated, ca. 2010; original photograph privately held by Larry Knox, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Wooster, Ohio, 2018.
Figure 5 Page 20	Headstone of Infant Knox	Find A Grave, Inc., <i>Find A Grave</i> , database with images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 20 Apr 2018), entry for memorial 188372417, Infant Knox (1848), John Knox Cemetery, Nashville, Holmes County, Ohio; created by ChrisB, gravestone photograph by JanJoyce.
Figure 6 Page 21	John Knox Family Farm Cemetery	John Knox Cemetery photocopy, undated, ca. 1900; photocopy privately held by Larry Knox, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Wooster, Ohio, 2018.
Figure 7 Page 23	Maple Sugar Tap and Bucket	<i>Coombs Family Farms</i> , (https://www.coombsfamilyfarms.com : accessed 09 Apr 2018), <i>The History of Maple Syrup: From Early North American Days to the Present</i> .
Figure 8 Page 23	Maple Sugar Article	"Making Maple Sugar," <i>The Sandusky Register</i> (Sandusky, Ohio), 14 Mar 1850, p. 2, col 3, (www.newspapers.com : accessed 09 Apr 2018).
Figure 9 Page 27	John Knox Sr. – Map of Property Ownership in Township 19 & Range 15	Created by the author for the purpose of this paper; from information provided in Table 2.
Figure 10 Page 28	1861 Map of Township 19, Range 15 – Washington Township, Holmes County, Ohio	Burlingame, <i>E. H. Sectional & topographical map of Holmes County, Ohio</i> . New York: H.F. Walling, . New York: H.F. Walling's Map Establishment, 1861. Map. (https://www.loc.gov/item/2012591117/ : accessed 09 Apr 2018)