

Families of Our Common Ancestors
With The Surname KNEE
(KNIE, KNY, NYE)

Research done by:
Larry Knee of Greeley, Colorado.
Robert Pohle of London, Kentucky.
Jack Knee of St. Augustine, Florida.
And many others.



EASTERN U.S. EDITION

This is an ongoing project subject to changes and/or corrections.
Complete as of July, 2005

"The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see."
... By Winston Churchill



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“Billy Knee” chair by William Henry Knee 20 Aug. 1853 - grandson of Peter Knee



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What are Knees?

The term "knee" refers to a section of a tree where the trunk meets the root. The wood in this section of a tree is called "tension wood" because it grows against the stresses of nature's elements. Because of their great strength, knees are widely used for bracing and structural elements in ships, boats, homes, barns, timber frames and furniture.



photo by BENJAMIN MAGRO



We harvest our knees from Tamarack trees (*Larix laricina*), sometimes known as Eastern Larch. The roots of the Tamarack grow at a right angle to the trunk. We still dig them up by hand, just like they did 100 years ago.

Preface

This family genealogy book on our family history going back to early in the Eighteenth Century has been through the efforts of many people over the past twenty years. My primary purpose for self-publishing and donating copies is to preserve a lot of data that involves over 1,200 names from our family tree. In addition to family members and friends some copies as well as the Compact Disc will be given to various Pioneer, Historical and County Libraries in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia and the Midwest where our family settled from time to time in the past two hundred and forty years in America. The following pages will explain the conditions they found and their methods of earning a living and their military exploits. As well as a partial family tree that is on our Web Page <http://userpages.aug.com/~kneejack/> and may be printed from its "pdf format." This is an ongoing project or hobby similar to a jigsaw puzzle that never ends. At the end of it one's entire lifetime hobby may end up as rusty golf clubs, obsolete fishing tackle or things of little more than sentimental use to a heir. However, too many times genealogy data that has been accumulated for decades ends up being discarded, lost or "borrowed" and not returned. In these cases it involves data that may be of interest to many, many people all over the country or world searching for their family roots. For this reason, boxes of data has been culled in the preparation of this book so that it may be available to others as they follow along on their interest in genealogy and it may help them. The Epilogue at the end of this book pays tribute to the many people who were instrumental in the findings I compiled. Most of it is their work and mine is but a small portion. However, I particularly thank Mr. Larry Knee of Greeley, Colorado and Mr. Robert Pohle of London Kentucky. This "Eastern Edition" differs from their work with the same name as theirs goes into more detail in Darke County, Ohio and points West.

By: Jack Knee, St. Augustine, Florida, June, 2005



The Start in America

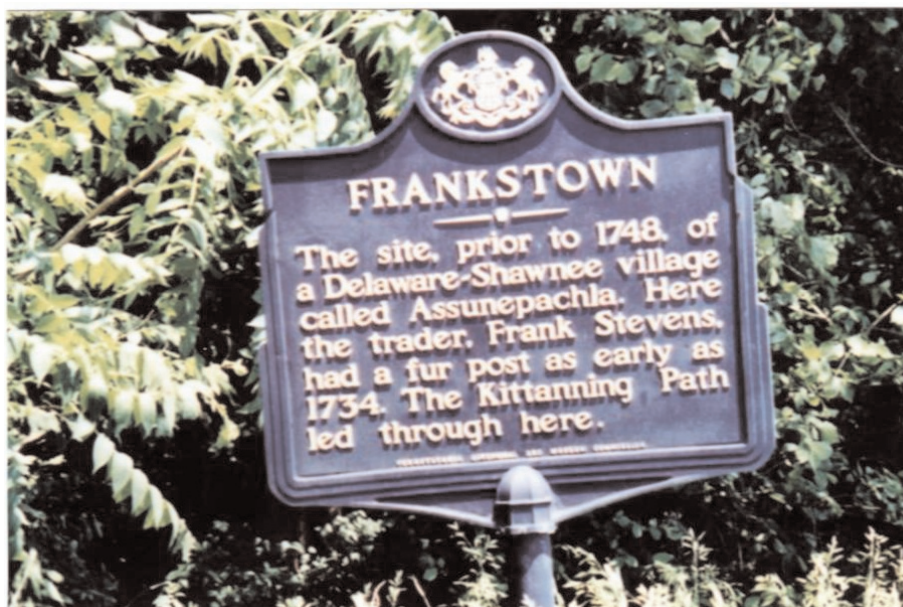
Our Knee family arrived in Pennsylvania prior to 1765 from Germany. William Penn received a land grant for Pennsylvania in 1681 and earlier settlers in addition to the Quakers were referred to as Scots-Irish. They and the Quakers began arriving in Pa. around 1683 from what we today call the United Kingdom.

Great Britain was interested in colonizing America with permanent settlers and not just plundering it for minerals then leaving. They also wanted to insure the French and Spanish did not take too much of North America and needed more settlers to keep them from encroaching. The French and Indian War (1756-1763) a.k.a. The Seven years War on the European mainland, made them realize they needed more people in their colonies to keep the French out. They looked to Germany for people of similar race and religion and a strong work ethic who would be granted free passage to America after an indenture period and were required to swear an oath to the Crown.

The Thirty Years War between organized religions, always the most savage type of war, resulted in the death of thirty percent of the population of Central Europe between the years 1618 - 1648. Most of this was in Germany, which was not a monarchy like France, Spain and England but, rather, a group of dozens of principalities. In 1709 the Rhine River froze over for the first time in recorded history. The German people were in desperate condition and noticing this and their desire for more settlers to North America, England's Queen Anne issued an invitation. German Protestants who could make it to Holland would be given passage to America, primarily to Pennsylvania, New York and Virginia. By the time of the Revolutionary War 200,000 Germans had settled, mostly in Pennsylvania. Another 30,000 would arrive around 1775 as so-called "Hessians" who were German mercenary soldiers hired by the Brits who sensed brewing trouble with the Colonials that erupted at Concord shortly thereafter. They were dubbed "Hessians" for the greatest number was from the province of Hesse. In fact, one George and Frederick Knie (our name in Germany) are shown in our National Archives in Washington, D.C. on a microfilm roll of Hessian deserters from a barracks in Frederick, Maryland in 1775. We are not positive if this is one of our ancestors but it is an interesting story in itself.

The aforementioned ancestors coming over from Germany were the children of Henrich Kny and Anna Daub Kny of Oberfischbach, Siegen, Westphalia, Prussia which is in the Eastern part of Germany. Henrich was born in that town in 1712 and Anna, whom he married on August 5, 1736 in that town's Lutheran Church, Zeitenbach Parish, was born in 1708 in the nearby town of Evangelisch. In 1750 a new pastor changed the spelling of their surname to Knie on the church rolls. The second generation of American descendants "Americanized" the name to Knee. There is some speculation that in earlier times the surname may have come from an occupation as foresters or carpenters gathering "Knees" from large trees which is the name given to the curved part where branches meet the trunk and these are used in ship building.

Two of their five children died within two years of birth. Their two sons and one daughter arrived in Bedford County, Pennsylvania prior to 1765. According to the 1850 Census George Knee at age 85 (the eldest son of the above Philip Knee) stated he was born in Maryland in 1765. So, it was probably closer to 1760 when Philip came over, got situated, found a wife and had their first child in 1765. We do not know if their parents came with them from Germany for their children were around age twenty when they emigrated. We believe they were unmarried when they arrived. These children were all born in Oberfischbach as follows. Anna Gela Knie (married George Rhodes in Pa), Philip Herman Knie, Sr. and Georg Knie, Sr. These spellings are correct and later we illustrate how these names followed the German naming pattern in those times. They died between 1820 and 1835 and are interred in Bedford County, Pa. and Darke County, Ohio. As we discuss this and the lengthy Genealogy Report we use the American Counties with the name at the time it is shown which may not be the same county today. A lot deals with Bedford County, Pennsylvania and Frederick County, Maryland and each of these has been broken down into three counties today. The Mason-Dixon Line, between Pennsylvania and Maryland, was set in 1767. Our Knees were not extensive property holders for the earlier Scots-Irish had taken most of the good land and Indian attacks over land disputes was quite common in those times. Our ancestors settled into the trades and roamed quite a bit between the above-mentioned counties. In the 18th Century there appears to be at least two other Knee families in Pa. and later Ohio but we have not connected them to ours. Some Knees arrived after being in Britain for several generations. However, according to a Reverend Geoff Knee, an Anglican Priest in London, he stated to Jack Knee in 2003 that he feels they came over to England in the fifteenth century from Germany. On occasion I would encounter a Jewish Knee in Pa. or New Jersey but in talking with them they seemed to have had their ancestors come over from Germany around 1880.



The Early American Years

1763 - 1820

This chapter is an attempt to follow the movements and occupations of the brothers' arrival in America around 1763 until 1820, a few years before their death. Due to similar names given their children and grandchildren, we will be referring to Philip Knie (born 1745) as "Old Philip" and George Knie, Sr. (born 1748) as "Old George." Old Philip was married in 1764 and Old George was married in 1784. This twenty-year difference meant that in the Civil War (1861-1865) Old Philip had certain great grandsons participate but in Old George's case they were his grandsons. There were some thirty-five in that war descended from those two as described in the book "Knees in The Civil War" by Larry Knee of Greeley, Colorado. This fine work has been placed in several pioneer or historical libraries of counties in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Ohio where the early Knees resided as will be described below.

We were not able to find the exact ship's log for the passage of the brothers and their sister Anna. One ship named "Richmond" did carry passengers from Obersfischbach. However, as we previously pointed out, the eldest son of Old Philip was born in Frederick County, Maryland in 1765 as he told a census taker. From around 1763 until 1809, when some of the family left for Darke County, Ohio (Dayton area) they roamed between Bedford County, Pennsylvania and Frederick County, Maryland. This is a distance of about ninety miles.

Old Philip had his first born, George, in Maryland in 1765. In 1771 his daughter Mary was born in Pennsylvania. In 1775 he appears on the tax rolls of Frankstown, Pennsylvania (Blair County, today). In 1783 he was taxed in Washington County, Maryland. In 2004 Robert Pohle, a descendant of Philip, reviewed this original document "The 1783 Tax List" in Annapolis which is the Maryland State Capital. It was in its Hall of Records. It is a very large form of seven pages with many headings but only those marked with an (x) had an entry for Philip Knee as follows:

(x) Name:	Philip Knee
(x) Horses	2
(x) Black Cattle	3
(x) Value	15 (pounds sterling mark)
(x) Stills, mills, value of other property	2.5
(x) Total amount of property	17.5
(x) No. of White inhabitants	8

(This agrees with our data of 2 adults, 6 ch) .This early American bureaucratic form had the lengthy heading of "Coppoy of Jackson's Certificate of Valuation of Property in Washington County In Pursuance of the Act of Assembly for Raising the Levy of Taxes for the year 1783." The spelling is as shown on the form and we presume "Jackson" is some sort of tax collector. The form has numerous blocks dealing with number and gender of slaves owned. As far as we know none of our Knee family ever owned slaves.

Between 1785 and 1789 Philip owned a one hundred fifty acre farm in Morrisons Cove, Woodbury Township, Pennsylvania near its town of Fredericksburg. Blair County was formed from that part of Huntington County. In Solomon Knee's four pages 1860 letter to his nephew Alfred Knee (attached in this publication) he states of the brothers "They were farmers and among the first settlers in Bedford County having migrated to the Cove when that now beautiful and fertile valley was a dreary wilderness." (We believe this part of Blair County came from Bedford County but see the article below. Anyway, the important point is we are discussing Morrisons Cove).

It's interesting to quote from the Blair County Genealogical Society Newsletter Volume 25, Number 4, an article titled "1800 Huntington County" by Scott Troutman. "The French and Indian Wars (1756-1763) were over and you did not have to "fort" anymore. And people were glad of that. During earlier times all or most of the citizenry had to fort or live for long periods inside a garrison during Indian activity. (Ed. Note: Solomon Knee, Sr., born 13 Oct. 1800, was kidnapped by Indians as a youngster and ransomed back to his parents, Old George) Now you could get on with farming in earnest. Settlers were filling Morrisons Cove and removing the trees. At the farm you had a cow or two that doubled as an oxen for plowing. Wheat, rye, corn, beans and flax were the key crops. The first four gave you food or liquor. The flax, along with wool from sheep, gave Lindsey-woolsey for clothing. A root cellar was a necessity for storing cabbage, apples and other fruits and vegetables. Most people had only two sets of clothes. A handkerchief was considered luxurious and any rugs were prized. Wild game was everywhere and hunting was necessary. Chestnuts were there for the gathering. Cougars, bobcats, bears and wolves were worth worrying about. Deer were less plentiful than today and beaver had been wiped out years earlier by trapping. But passenger pigeon flocks would come through with millions of birds."

In 1789 a son, Peter, was born to Old George near Woodsboro, Frederick County, Maryland. Yet, his children born before and after Peter were all born in Pennsylvania. These are beautiful areas to this day yet not over populated. Looking at a current Rand McNally Map Book the population today of the towns range from 200 to 893. In 1802 the brothers are shown in consecutive order on the tax rolls of Woodbury Township, Bedford County, Pennsylvania with \$1.77 for Philip and \$0.06 for George on Page 2 of the Township Tax Roll Number 89.

In 1809 some of the children of Old Philip began a migration to Ohio, to Darke County and Montgomery County. Other children of all three siblings followed, but not all. In 1814 the husband of Anna Gela Knie, George Rhodes, died near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania as they started their migration. They had seven children. These trips down the Ohio River, we have learned, were on enormous rafts that could hold over two hundred people. After the slow trip of about two hundred miles they then went about sixty miles up the Miami River or on wagon trains beside it to homesteaded, fertile lands in the two counties mentioned in sections of

one hundred sixty acres. A few sons served in the Great Lakes Campaign of the War of 1812 and received land grants for that service. This must have been an incredible trip by determined people who wanted more land for most of the good land in Pennsylvania had already been taken when they arrived.

While some members came back to Pennsylvania and some went to Ohio much later it appears, as a general statement, most of Old Philip's and Anna's families went to Ohio and most of Old George's stayed in Pennsylvania. The descendants of the ones staying in Pennsylvania, for the most part, stayed there throughout the nineteenth century. However, the Ohio members then spread into other Western and Missouri Valley States during that same time span.

Old Philip and Old George were educated and could sign their own name from their arrival in America from records we have seen. Sister Anna apparently did not have that opportunity as women did not at that time in Germany for the only document we have seen signed by her was with an "X" in 1814. We know they had German Bibles and upon his death, Old Philip was said to have had several books in his possession. Some are shown in the interesting four-page listing of his estate's content on January 2, 1826. Among these items was a bay mare valued at \$50.50, thirty-five gallons of whiskey at \$4.25 down to a razor at six and one-quarter cents.

A lot of the ones staying in Pennsylvania and a number of the Ohio Knees went into the trades or had their own business and left farming. Several of these livelihoods centered around carpentry such as cabinet, furniture and coach maker. Wool processing was done near Fredericksburg, Pennsylvania and we learned some of our ancestors were into weaving and related cloth activities. David Hartzell Knee, a son of Peter Knee, became a tailor as an apprentice shown in the 1850 Bedford County census and later migrated to Wardensville, West Virginia where he set up a tailor shop. He was later swept in the Confederacy as a sergeant whereas most of his brothers and cousins served in the Union Army. Other occupations in the subject time frame were toll keeper, innkeeper, undertaker, schoolteacher and law. These Knees moved around a lot searching for a better life. They were ambitious and solid citizens right down the middle of the American mainstream. They were neither involved in crime or divorced nor were they generals and other public leaders. It's been an interesting search of a few decades for their footprints and we are very proud of their accomplishments and good citizenship. Economics had to be the driving force that led them to move from extremely beautiful areas to the next, similar place. The Genealogy Report contains information on each of their occupations and residences.

NOT TO SCALE!

Warriors Mark Cemetery has
Knee Name on Memorial but
He is not buried there

Frankstown, Pa.
1775 tax rolls for Philip Knie
"Old Philip"

ALTOONA
X

RT 36

Morrisons Cove
Woodbury Township
Fredericksburg, Pa.
100 acre farm owned by Old Philip

RT. 164

Johnstown, Pa.
Flood Museum has George Knee's
Name on wall of flood victims.
He was engineer for Broad Top RR

Sandy Vale Cemetery along river
One of few grave markers left is on
Far end for George Knee

Grandview Cemetery
Johnstown, Pa.
Has Knee graves
Jewish Section has some Knee graves, too

RT. 56

Inler, Pa.
Union Church Cemetery
Grave of Peter Knee

I-99

RT. 869

New Enterprise, Pa.

Potter Creek Church

Bedford, Pa.

Potter Creek Cemetery
On right, over cornfield, out of sight, 100 yards
Unmarked grave of George Knie, Sr.
Father of Peter Knee

PA. TURNPIKE

Somerset, Pa. Courthouse
George Knee on Monument
To Civil War dead

Union Cemetery, Somerset
George Knee grave believed in worn
Grave markers of the Uhl Family

JETTYSBURG
X

PENNSYLVANIA MASON DIXON LINE
MARYLAND

NOT TO SCALE.

RT. 550

Copper Mine Road
2 miles to Lutheran Church

Woodsboro, Maryland

Children

Benjamin
Born Jul. 24, 1789
Bapt. Oct. 14, 1789

Daniel
Born May 4, 1789
Bapt. Nov. 14, 1789

Sarah
Born Nov. 10, 1789
Bapt. Jan. 31, 1790

Catharina
Born Oct. 22, 1789
Bapt. Jan. 31, 1790

→ Peter
Born Oct. 30, 1789
Bapt. Mar. 21, 1790

Parents

Benjamin Bernhardt
Rahel

Daniel Steiner
Elisabeth Simon, illegitimate

Robert Wickon
Susanna

Tobias Hammer
Catharina

Georg Knie
Christina

Sponsors

Benjamin Hertzog
Catharina

Johann Nicolas Jung
Maria Eva

Carolus Klens
Maria Elisabeth

Paul Enders
Gertraud

Adam Krüger
Christina

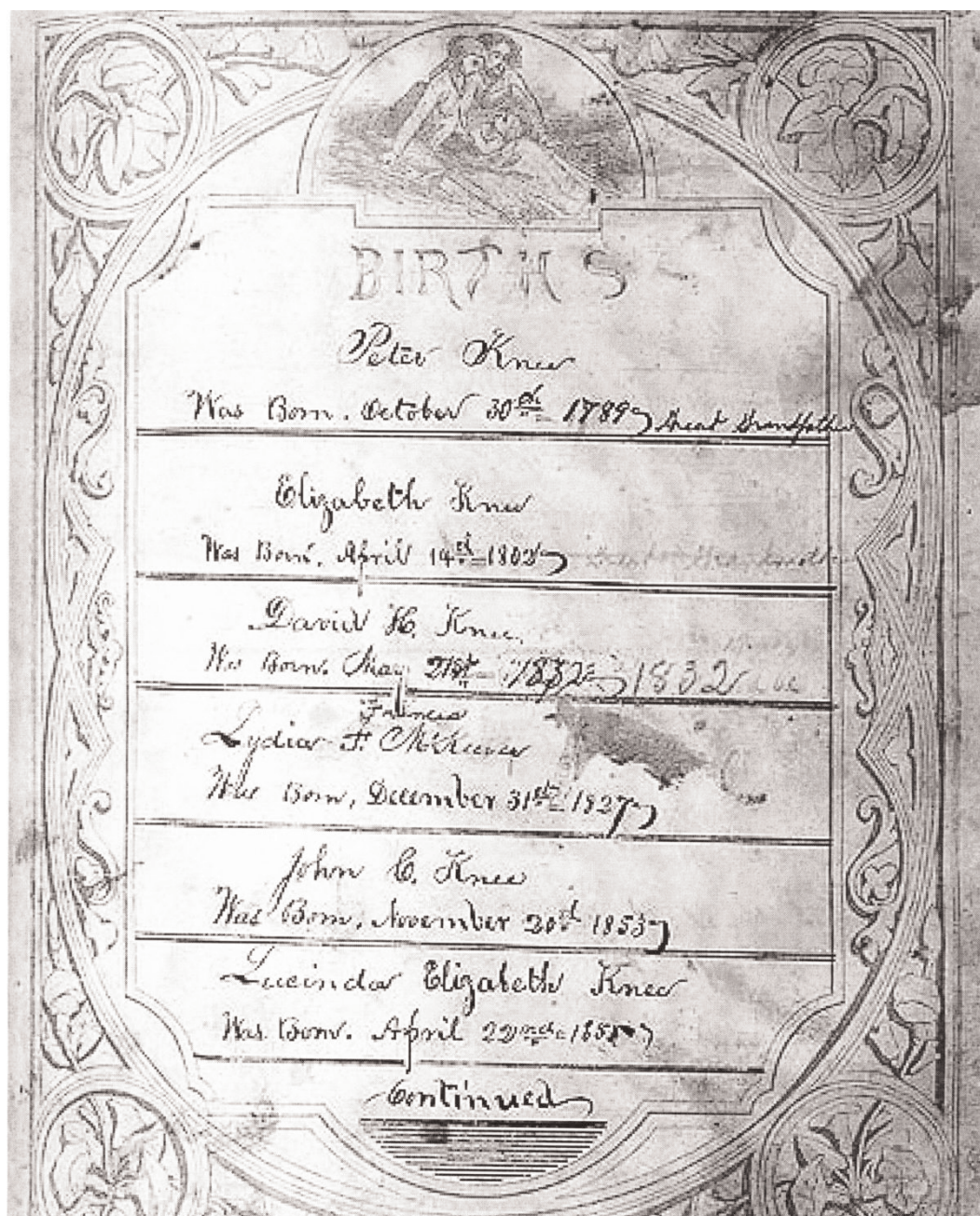
This is Peter Kne¹⁷⁹⁰'s baptismal Record in Vol III of Maryland Parish (Lutheran) registers. Page 47. This church Now Rocky Hill Church is on Coppermine Rd a Mile+ from highway 15. Woodsboro, MD. Peter Was buried in 1865 at Union Church, Imler, PA 75 miles from here. His father aka George Knee, Sr. is buried in ~~Delaware~~ Ohio. This MD cemetery Has stones back to 1802 And many that are illegible Or broken. This is the earliest place we find our family in America having migrated from the Pallatine area of Germany.



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
formerly St. Peter's
Rocky Hill
near Woodsboro, Frederick County, Maryland
Parish registers, 1767-1889

FROM ADAMS CO.
PA. HISTORICAL
SOCIETY - VOLUME III
MARYLAND PARISH
Registers.
Jettysburg College
Campus, Schmutzke Hall

Peter Knee baptismal record, Woodboro, Maryland



Knee family bible birth page

1860
Dorchester July 24 1860

Dear Nephew
Your highly valued favor came to hand a few days ago having found in all respects a most excellent specimen of health. Your frank letter was also received and I had written you a detailed account of our family history as you requested but unfortunately mailed it at the time and but a few days ago whilst looking over some old papers I found it. It cost me considerable time and trouble to write it having been compelled to write from memory. This too part accounts for not having written sooner but the greatest cause of neglect was that I depended upon my son George to write to you and give you all information as detailed before. He is a fine able man but he has spent a great part of his time and strength in endeavoring to do as I suggested. I have not had time to hear from him lately and find and will not be surprised that the kind of education he ought to be entitled to expect. He is however a fine man and I feel confident that the more he learns the more he will be pleased with. I would be happy to see you all and become acquainted with you and hope the day will come if not in this world in that brighter and better time when the memory are at rest. I will now give you a history of our family beginning with my Father who was born in Germany in the year 1717. He came to this country when young and settled near New York. He married the first time Shellen who was from the above named place in 1765. They were married some 10 years in 1754 and lived there a few years when they moved to Morrisania where they resided for some time.

First page of Solomon Knee 1860 letter to his nephew in his writing

From four pages handwritten letter from Solomon Knee to his nephew Alfred Knee dated July 24, 1860 from Somerset, PA. Original held by Kim Caldwell, California July 2003.

Somerset July 24, 1860.

Dear Nephew


Your highly valued favor came to hand a few days ago having found us all enjoying a reasonable portion of health. Your former letter was also received and I had written out a detailed account of our family's history to send you as requested but unfortunately mislaid at the time and but a few days ago while looking over some old papers I found it. It cost me considerable time and trouble to write it having been compelled to write from memory. This in part accounts for not having written sooner, but the greatest cause of neglect was that I depended upon my son George to write to you and give you all information as dictated by me. George being absent from home part of his time and busy when at home he failed to do as I requested. I have ever been happy to hear from our relations and friends and I need not be reminded that the ties of relationship ought to be entitled to respect. This I have always known and felt and feel it the more now since my head is silvered with age. I would be happy to see you all and become acquainted with you and hope the day will come if not in this world in that brighter and better home where "the weary are at rest." I will now give you a history of our family beginning with my father who was born in Germany in the year 1747. He came to this country when young and settled near Hagerstown, Md. He married Christina Shetter who was born near the above named place in 1762. They were married near Hagerstown in 1784 and lived there a few years when they moved to Morrisons Cove, then a part of Bedford County where they both died. My father in the year 1820 and my mother in 1835. They are buried side by side in a cemetery near Potters Mill in Morrison Cove, Bedford County. They were farmers and among the first settlers in Bedford County having migrated to the Cove when that now beautiful and fertile valley was a dreary wilderness. There were sixteen of us in the family. Six brothers and seven sisters. The name of the oldest was Catherine who was born in 1785 and was married to Peter Marker in 1811. She died about the year 1830 in Bedford County. The next was Henry who was born in 1787 and was married to Barbara Hysung in 1822. He died in 1838 in Indiana County, Pa. His widow and family still live near the town of Indiana, Pa. The next is Peter. He was born in 1789 and was married to Elizabeth Dicks in 1822. He is still living and resides in Morrisons Cove. He is quite an aged man and has reared a large and happy family. The above three were born near Hagerstown, Md. And were tillers of the soil. The rest of us were all born in Bedford and Huntington Counties, Pa. Mary was the next older. She was born 1791. She was married about the year 1812 or 1813 to Jacob Reed. When she died I do not know having gone west at an early day when I was not yet a boy. Elizabeth is the next. She was born 1795 and was married to John Bixler in 1814. You say in your letter that she is still living. Rebecca was next. She was born in the year 1795 and was married to Valentine Barley in 1821. They are both dead. She died in 1837 and he some few years after. They were also farmers and lived in the Cove. The next was Christian who was born in 1797 and was married to Matilda Fisher. He died in 1830. His wife is also dead. He was a farmer by trade and lived for many years at Stoystown, Somerset County, Pa., where he also died. His son George is living near Holidaysburg is


a tanner by trade and is doing well. The next is Solomon, myself. I was born in the 13th day of October in the year 1800 and was married to Margaret Spangler on the 13th day of May 1827. My wife was born on the 16th of June 1808 near Stoystown, Pa. Our business for the last twenty years has been hotel keeping. Christina was next. She was born in 1802 and was married to Samuel Cayler in 1821. The year of her death I do not know. The next was your father. He was born on the 18th day of October, 1804 and the rest you know. The next is David who was born in 1806 and was married to Polly Schultz in 1832. He lives in Colesburgh, Delaware County, Iowa. He is a carpenter by trade. The next was Sarah who was born in 1809 and was married to William Davis in 1826. They had one child when he died. She was married a second time to a man named Butterworth and a third time to a man named Fogler. She died in 1834 in Martinsburg, Blair County, Pa. The youngest is Nancy who was born in 1811 and was married to David Hartzell in 1831. He died at Wellsville, Ohio about six years ago. She is still a widow and lives in Petersburg, Somerset Co., Pa. ..The above is a history of our family as far as I know having taken it from memory. I could not tell the precise date of each birth and death, yet the dates as far as I have given can be relied upon as being strictly correct. I will now give you a list of my family whose names are as follows. O.H.P. Knee, Daniel Stoye Knee, William Wilson Knee, Christian Knee, Aaron Knee, George Stoye Knee, Margaret Knee, Solomon Knee. Eleven in all. Eight living and three dead. Oliver the oldest was born on 10th of March 1828 and was married to his cousin Mary Knee (daughter of David) in 1854 at Martinsburgh, Pa. He lives in Colesburgh, Delaware Co., Iowa. He is a carpenter by trade. Daniel was born on the 8th day of April 1830 and was married to Mildred Shockley in the year 1852. They have three children, two boys and a girl. He is also a carpenter and lives in Wellersburg in this county. William was born on the 26th of February 1832. He is single and lives in Martinsburgh, Blair Co., Pa. where he carries on the coach making business. Christian was born on the 16th of March 1834 and died on the 3rd of December 1852. George was born on the 21st day of March 1836. He is single and is a teacher. He is also reading law. Aaron was born on the 7th of April 1838 and died on the 22nd of September of the same year. Margaret was born on the 12th of November 1839. She is single yet. Solomon was born on the 13th of Feb. 1842. He was drowned in a large watering trough on the first of September 1844. Catherine was born on the 20th of March 1844. Sarah was born on the 10th of August 1848, and Mary, the youngest, was born on the 10th of January 1851. This includes my father's family and my own. I would also state that my father was married to Susan Boyer and by her he had the two children you speak of. George and Susan. I would be pleased to hear from you often and shall take pleasure in giving you any other information concerning our family that you may require provided I can do so. I would be pleased if you would send a copy of the above statistics to Mrs. Bixler. Please give our respects to your mother and all the family. Let us hear from you soon again.


From your uncle, Solomon Knee.

The Massacre Of Philips' Rangers



→  The white participants in this incident were all residents of Bedford County, and more particularly of the Morrisons Cove of Woodberry Township. William Philips (variously spelled: Phillips) had been a resident of this region since roughly 1774. In that year's tax assessment he appeared in Barree Township as a resident. It should be kept in mind that the assessment records for the year dated (in this case, 1774) were quite often prepared during the previous year in order that the tax collector's job could be simplified a bit when the actual tax collection time came around. Therefore, we might assume that William Philips was actually in the area, and might have built his homestead during the year 1773. In 1775 his name appeared on the Frankstown Township tax assessment, meaning simply that the new township had been formed and his property now fell within the new township's boundaries. In 1779 William was recorded on the assessment as a farmer. His farmstead is believed to have been located along Clover Creek a couple of miles south of where the town of Williamsburg now stands. The Philips house was fortified and served the purpose of providing shelter to those settlers in the Morrisons Cove, which was rather heavily inhabited at the time of the Revolutionary War.

 William Philips was commissioned as a captain in the Bedford County Militia at some time in the summer of 1780. His name does not appear in any of the existing records of the Bedford County Militia prior to this particular episode. The records pertaining to the Bedford County Militia that have come down through time, and have been preserved are certainly not complete. Therefore it is possible that Philips did participate in the defense of this region prior to his being appointed a captain.

 Shortly after or at the time of receiving his captains commission, William Philips was given the authorization to raise a company of militia as rangers to serve for a tour of duty lasting two months in order to range through the forests of the Morrisons Cove valley in search of Indians and tories. There had been incursions into the region by

<http://www.motherbedford.com/Phillips.htm>

5/30/2005

...such times as other Provisions Can be made for our Defence. As Colonel Smith will Deliver this, I Beg Leave to Recommend you to Him, as he is verrey Capable to Give

<http://www.motherbedford.com/Phillips.htm>

5/30/2005

One page excerpt of Morrison Cove Massacre

COPY

Colonial and Revolutionary Days

Over half of Bedford County's land area is forest, much like the way it was in 1710, before the first white traders came into the area. They disturbed what until then was the province of the Indians. By 1730, a few settlers began moving north into Southern Bedford county from Virginia and Maryland. Most of these settlers believed they were still in their home states.

In the 1750's, the county took on a greater importance. The British had been unsuccessful in removing the French from the forks of the Ohio by attacking from the south. They planned on trying again, but this time they would try from across the Pennsylvania mountains. In 1758, British General Edward Forbes erected a fort to serve as the main base for the final thrust west. The fort was named Fort Bedford, in honor of one of England's most powerful families. From there, the British hacked a trail through 100 miles of mountain and forest and used it as a military highway for the capture of the French Fort Duquesne. Today, that trail still remains widely used and is now called U. S. Route 30. The road follows the historical trail almost exactly.

After the fall of Fort Duquesne, renamed Fort Pitt by the British, Ft. Bedford became an important outpost to the western frontier. Soon, it was the scene of a major event in American history, though one largely ignored today. It was the first British fort captured by American rebels.

In 1769, 16 colonials were being held in the fort for crimes against the crown. They were to be transported to Carlisle to stand trial. Captain John Smith, a colonel agitator, and his men advanced up Juniata Valley during the night. They used black paint to avoid detection, and were therefore known as the Black Boys. At dawn they surprised the British, captured the fort, and freed all the prisoners. News of this capture spread throughout the colonies and showed that the British were not invincible, and could be overtaken. Many believe that this helped encourage the colonists several years later to challenge British authority.

At this time, the Indians were also resisting the onslaught of the white man. At Tulls Hill, west of Bedford, eleven members of the Tull family were killed in 1763. They had decided to stay on their land when most others had fled to the safety of Fort Bedford, trying to avoid the Indian raids.

Another massacre occurred in 1780 in Woodcock Valley, which is west of Saxton. This was during the American Revolution, when the British were encouraging Indian uprisings, and men were scarce on the frontier. Captain William Phillips of Williamsburg and his "rangers" rode through the area to protect the settlers, and drive the Indians out. They arrived in Woodcock Valley to find the families had fled, and they spent the night in one of the deserted cabins. The next morning they found themselves surrounded by a band of sixty Indians and two renegade whites. After fighting all day, Captain Phillips

Two page excerpt of late 18th Century Bedford County, Pennsylvania

COPY

and his rangers surrendered, only to be executed by their captors.

In 1794, one of the most important events in the young nation's history took place, although it is largely forgotten. The farmers in Western Pennsylvania made whiskey, using a large portion of their grain crops. They did this because it was too difficult to transport the grain over the mountainous roads to larger markets. By making whiskey, the value of bringing a load to market increased greatly.

When the new federal government imposed a tax on whiskey, the farmers thought they were being treated unfairly and many felt that they should not have to abide by this tax. So in response, President George Washington led an army of 13,700 men into Bedford - the first (and only) time an American President commanded an army in the field. If the protestors could refuse to pay the tax, the authority of the government would be forever challenged, and could result in 13 independent states, instead of the one unified country that had recently been established.

President (General) Washington used the Espy House as his headquarters, and today it still stands in the heart of downtown Bedford. That is as far as Washington went, and the revolt collapsed, if not peacefully, at least without a major confrontation.

✓ Tombstones in Smler Union Cemetery, Smler,
Pennsylvania (3rd row from road)

Our Father
Peter Kneel
Died
Feb. 18, 1868
aged 75 yrs 4
Mo 11 days

Our Mother
Elizabeth
Wife of
Peter Kneel
Died
May 2 1888
aged 86 yrs
18 days

Precious ones from us have gone
Voices we loved are still
Places are vacant in our home

Morrison Cove Farm 100 acre farm owned by Old Philip Knee c.1790
Route 164 Fredericksburg, Pennsylvania - Owned by Smith in 2003

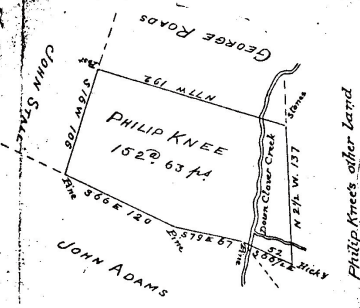


Potter Creek Lutheran Church, New Enterprise, Pennsylvania
Potter Creek Cemetery, 1-1/2 miles NW of Church behind cornfield
Gravesite for Old George Knee (unmarked in 2003)



year of -
A. D. 1809

36



Situate, on Closs Creek, Woodberry Township Bedford County, adjoining land of George Roads, John Stall, John Adams, and the land of the said Philip Knee Surveyed the Eighteenth day of August, A. D. Eighteen Hundred, and Eight, in pursuance of a warrant granted to the said Philip Knee, dated the twenty fifth day of June A. D. Seventeen hundred, and ninety two, containing one Hundred, and fifty two, acres, and six ty three perches, and allowance of one per cent for Roads &c.

To Samuel Cochran Esq.
Surveyor General
Warrant dated 4th June 1792

John Anderson
Deputy Suror



In Testimony, That the above is a copy of the original remaining on file in the Department of Internal Affairs of Pennsylvania, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the said Department to be affixed, at Harrisburg, the eighth day of January 1891/904

[Signature]
Secretary of Internal Affairs.

Westward Ho!

c.1810 to 1820 The move To Darke County, Ohio

Solomon Knee's 1860 letter (attached) to his nephew, Alfred Knee mentions how our three Knee immigrants cleared Morrison's Cove, Bedford County, Pa. around 1784. They "having migrated to the Cove when that now beautiful and fertile valley was a dreary wilderness." Landowner Tax Rolls of Woodbury Township show "Old Philip" owned 250 acres of land between 1781-1808. We three descendants who made the 2003 trip to that area marveled at the beauty of the tranquil dairy farm today and also learned that at least 100 acres of the land is still a hillside on a small mountain and never has been cultivated. We wondered what drove most of them to migrate to Darke County, Ohio starting in 1810.

In 1795 the Treaty of Greenville was signed which ended most of the Indian hostilities in Ohio making it more desirable for settlers. In 1806 our nation's first "National Road" was the 124 miles completed from Cumberland, Maryland to Wheeling, West Virginia although there were no hard surface pavements in those days. Today that road is U.S. Route 40 (Not Interstate 40). Wheeling is on the Ohio River. However, our family made their way to Pittsburgh where the Ohio River begins.

It seems the answer may have been, in our opinion, simple logistics of not having enough land to support the growing families. Old Philip and Anna had fifteen children between 1765 and 1785. We have found that fourteen of these died in Ohio. In addition, George Knee, Sr. born to Old Philip in 1785 had nine children who all died in the Midwest. Old Georg, the brother of Old Philip had fifteen children by two wives and it appears that at least five made the Ohio migration.

So, one can see that nearly thirty children or grandchildren of the three original immigrants went to Ohio between 1810 and 1820. Of course, over the years some returned to Pennsylvania and others came later to the Midwest but this does not subtract from our hypothesis of the motivation for our "Three Knees" move to the Midwest. Back in Pennsylvania we stated earlier that most of the good farming land was owned and cleared by the Scots-Irish who got to the boats first. As evidenced by the kidnapping and ransomed release of the letter author, Solomon Knee at age four around 1804, that it was not a matter of simply clearing more land to farm. Indians were a big threat

Darke County, Ohio is North of Cincinnati near Dayton and this entailed an Ohio River raft or barge trip of two hundred miles beginning in 1810. Current river charts indicate the Ohio had a current flowing Westward of an average of two miles per hour and no rapids or waterfall portage problems the entire trip. So, this

calculates to about a five-day trip. The Internet Web page for Darke County and its Historical Society has interesting documentation of this rather large migration that our Knees also partook. Some of the acreage obtained, many in plots of over one hundred acres, was termed "Bounty Land" as well as some land grants for War of 1812 military service that two of the sons participated. Another land parcel was signed off by President Monroe to one of our Knees and so on that you can see in the notes attached to each genealogical description for source data.

So, it is safe to assume that nearly all of the children of Old Philip and Anna Gela ended up in the Midwest and went right into farming. Most of the children of Old Georg, perhaps ten of the fifteen (we are not sure of the death location of some of them) stayed in Pennsylvania and roamed between Bedford, Blair and Somerset Counties and back and forth into Maryland. Most of these left farming when they could and went into the previously described trades and self-employed businesses. Also, as we mentioned before how David Hartzell Knee, a grandson of Old Georg ended up in Wardensville, Virginia, later West Virginia. Along that line we learned that the Cumberland Valley in Pennsylvania changes names to the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. There is data for a natural flow of early American Pioneers from Pennsylvania down into Central North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee. In fact, Quakers founded Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina in 1836 and we know where the Quakers first came to America. However, for our "three Knees" we have no data that showed the early ones went further South than Wardensville, ninety miles from Bedford but there are some that we don't know where they ended up. So, we will leave you here. After 1820 there was some further movement and more generations enter the scene and particularly after the Civil War there was a lot of family movement. Have a good search. This is the winter of 2005.



Ehrnstine Cemetery near Dayton, Ohio. Grave of "Old Philip" Knee and Agnes



1795 TREATY OF GREENE VILLE DARKE COUNTY, OHIO

The Treaty of Greene Ville and the Opening of the Northwest Territory: Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan & Wisconsin

"Mad" Anthony Wayne

Written by Harry Ebeling, Dayton, Ohio



Treaty of Greene Ville

The role of Greenville and Darke County in the development of the midwest cannot be understated. In the years after the Revolution and Independence, adventuresome pioneers came to Ohio via the River at great peril. Many with government scrip for land set out for new lands and were never heard from again. Indians picked them off as they rafted down the River on their way to Marietta and Losantiville (Cincinnati-Ft. Washington). Those who made it that far, set out north to settlements and trading posts along Indian trails. When they attempted to clear land and settle it, they were again set upon.

Arthur St. Clair, governor of the new Northwest Territory and a Revolutionary general, was instructed to subdue the Indians and enter into peace treaties. This effort resulted in treaties which either Congress would not ratify or the Indians would not keep. He was ordered to establish a network of forts extending

One page excerpt of 1795 Treaty of Greenville, Ohio which opened up Darke County Ohio to settlers including the Knee family

PHILIP KNEE

THE GREENVILLE DEMOCRAT, WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 14, 1877

DEATH OF AN OLD VETERAN.

The subject of this sketch, PHILIP KNEE, was born in Morrison's Cove, Pennsylvania, on the 1st of October, 1794. He came to Ohio in 1809 or 10, and settled in Montgomery county, Ohio; he served with distinction in Col. Kunkle's regiment stationed at Ft. Greenville during the war of 1812-15, being employed most of the time as a scout and messenger, between the various posts in this and surrounding counties. He was one of the detail sent out with provisions to meet the Kentucky troops on their retreat from Muncie to Greenville. With knap sacks filled with provision, this detach proceeded on a force march through snow knee deep to the relief of the brave Kentuckians, who retreating and fighting day and night, after one day's march the detail met them and supplied them with food, and relieved them of duty; returning the second day after to Ft. Greenville. After the war he returned to Montgomery county, from whence he returned to German township, in this county, in 1817 or 18; he saw all the changes which 65 years made in the face of this country, and the howling wilderness subdued, and the Indian, the bear and the panther banished. He performed perhaps more labor in the wilderness of German township, than any person now living in the township, towards its improvement, and yet he died poor.

Nearly two years ago, through the influence of Wm. Falknor, Jesse Woods and D.P. Bowman, Esqs., he was admitted to National Soldier's Home, at Dayton, but he remained only a short time - the inmates were men of another generation, with whose rudeness he had nothing in common. He was then admitted to Darke County Infirmary, where he remained to the day of his death, which occurred on the 10th of this month. He was buried on the 12th, from the residence of his niece, Mrs. T. Finarn. His funeral was largely attended by his old neighbors, and notable among them was David Stevens, of Palestine, this county, who is the only companion in arms who is left in the county, so far as is known.

It may be well to say that whilst his home was at the Infirmary, he was well satisfied. In one respect, his was a pauper's funeral, yet in others it was not. Will not the Commissioners as a grateful tribute to him grant a memorial stone to mark the place where he sleeps his last sleep.

His age was 83 years, 3 months and 10 days. This is from one who had the honor to pay the last rite to one of our old pioneers, of whom all say, though poor, Philip Knee was an honest man. Peace to his ashes.

L. M. Kerschner

Note; I believe Philip's date of birth should be October 31, 1793.

Move to Wardensville, Virginia (Now, since 1863, West Virginia)

David Hartzell Knee (21 May 1832 - 25 Mar 1885) - "Jack" Knee's great grandfather

David Hartzell Knee was the fourth of nine children of Peter and Elizabeth Knee. In the 1850 census he is listed as a tailor in another's household in Martinsburg Township, Blair County, PA. He was probably an apprentice. Public records also show that on 2 Feb 1853 he married Lydia Frye McKeever at the Union Methodist Church in Wardensville, Hardy County, Virginia. Lydia was from an old Hardy County family that traced its roots back to the John and Christine Hawk family in the early 1700's. In the 1860 census David is shown as a tailor in Wardensville. (West Virginia became a state or this part of Virginia was ceded to it in the middle of the Civil War, 1863). Hardy County had been formed in 1793 and retained that name under West Virginia. To this day it is a picturesque rural and mountainous setting about 30 miles West of Winchester, Virginia. The 1850 Hardy County Census shows 4,100 white males, 3151 white females, 185 and 173 free blacks, male and female, respectively and slaves at 643 male and 617 female. Free blacks in a slave state usually gained their freedom from two sources. Some freed them in the last will and testament of their owner like about half the U.S. Presidents did whom owned slaves. The others worked on the side as a skilled tradesman rented out to other plantations, etc., and accumulated enough to eventually purchase their freedom. It is an American peculiarity that freed slaves, even after the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 and the end of the Civil War in 1865 stayed in the area of their enslavement. Slaves in most other areas of the world down through history high tailed it out of the area of confinement as quick as they could. We don't know of any descendants of Old Philip or Old George that ever owned slaves.

We can only speculate on what motivated David Hartzell to move to Wardensville. In the 1850 Pennsylvania Census he is shown as a tailor in another's household so he may have been an apprentice there. The Cumberland Valley changes names in Virginia to the Shenandoah Valley so, perhaps, through the grapevine he learned that they did not have a tailor in Wardensville. We have no evidence he knew Lydia before moving there. In the 1860 Virginia Census he is shown as a tailor in Wardensville. Lydia and David had five of their nine children born before the Civil War and four afterwards. They both lived out their lives in Wardensville.

During the Civil War David became a Sergeant in the Eighteenth Virginia Cavalry under General Imboden, which was part of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. It was on Lee's flank at Gettysburg in view of Little Round Top. Documentation shows it also covered the retreat from that epic battle that had an enormous wagon train carrying dead and wounded that was over thirty miles long. Nearby Winchester, Virginia was a town taken over forty times between the North and South. The Shenandoah Valley was the "bread basket" for Lee's army and eventually Union General Phil Sheridan burned out the entire Valley. He was quoted as saying afterward "A crow cannot fly across the Shenandoah Valley without provisions." Jack's paternal

grandfather was born in 1853 and saw the family home burned to the ground. During those war years he had a steady diet of corn bread and hominy and family lore has it that he never ate another bite of either after the war until his 1926 death.

After the war, David resumed his tailor shop business and it is mentioned in his eloquently written will upon his 1896 death. The family carpentry and furniture making abilities surfaced again with some of his sons such as John Clevenger, Hugh Clinton and Eugene Lester. Also, Hugh Clinton was twice elected Mayor of Wardensville and was an undertaker. One of the family homes was on 15 Main Street. Another was moved out of town to 3505 State Road 259 North by Wardensville. Both are viewed below

John, Lester and Edward found opportunities in Strasburg, Virginia and Winchester. In July, 1990 a Knee Family Reunion was held in Wardensville and was attended by twenty eight descendants of David and Lydia. Next we go to Strasburg.



David Hartzell Knee's Will

Will Book 13, Page 297, Moorefield, West Virginia

To all whom it may concern be it remembered that I, D. H. Knee, of the County of Hardy and the state of West Virginia, being of a Sound and disposing mind and fully cognizant of the frailty of human nature, of the uncertainty of life and the certainty of Death, do by these presents, make publish and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form as follows, to wit: My will is that my body shall be decently and plainly buried without any ostentation or unnecessary expense, that, after paying my funeral expense and all lawful debts, I will and bequeath to my wife, Lydia F. Knee, during her lifetime (in case she should outlive me) all my real and personal estate which I may own at the time of my death, except my Shop and lot in Wardensville, which (shop) is to be rented out for two years after my death, and the fire insurance policy to be kept up during that time on said shop, at the expiration of said Two years from the time of my death, said shop is to be sold by my executor either privately or at public sale and to the best possible advantage and one third (1/3) of the proceeds of such sale is to be paid to my wife (if living) and the balance to be equally divided between my children all to share and share alike. That as soon as practicable after the death of my wife, or in case she should die before me, then at the end of one year from the time of my death, all my real estate (Other than my shop in Town) is to be sold by my executor to the best possible advantage and the net proceeds of such sale to be equally divided between my children, all to share and share alike. Lastly I hereby appoint my son H. C. Knee as my Executor and in case he should fail or refuse to qualify as such Executor within Sixty (60) days after my death, Then and in that event My estate is to be committed to the Sheriff of Hardy County, without further delay, and with the powers conferred upon My executor by this will.

In testimony whereof I hereunto set my hand and affix my Seal this the 15th day of March 1893
D. H. Knee (Seal)..Hardy County, to wit:

In the clerks office of the County Court of Hardy County on the 14th day of Oct. 1896, a writing purporting to be the last will and testament of D. H. Knee, late of Hardy County, was this day presented to the clerks office. And there being no subscribing witnesses to the said Will, T. Q. McKeever & John J. Chipley were sworn and severally (?) deposed that they are well acquainted with the handwriting of D. H. Knee, dec'd, and verily believe that the said will, and the signature thereto subscribed, are wholly in the handwriting of said D. H. Knee, dec'd. Whereupon the same is ordered to be recorded as the true last will and testament of the said D. H. Knee, deceased; And on the motion of H. C. Knee, the executor named in said will, who made oath as the law directs, and entered into a bond in the penalty of three hundred dollars, conditioned according to the law, with T. Q. McKeever, his surety therein, (who justified on oath as to his sufficiency, and which said bond, being acknowledged by the obligor therein, is ordered to be recorded) certificate is granted the said H. C. Knee for obtaining a probate of the said will in due form, And ordered that B. W. McKeever, Wm. Barney, & H. N. Claggett, be appointed appraisers.

Teste

Robert A. Wilson, clerk