

# The Johann Nacht Family of Tuscarawas and Stark Counties Ohio

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From the beginning of the eighteenth century, Vechigen in Canton Bern, Switzerland saw dramatic social change, including rapid population growth, an increased number of people to feed, and the removal of common lands for agricultural production.<sup>1</sup> Sometime earlier, the Nacht family had settled in Vechigen, bearing a surname found in Switzerland only in that part of Canton Bern until after the mid-nineteenth century.<sup>2</sup> Subsequent periods of turmoil in the Swiss Confederation resulted in Canton Bern falling to French invaders in 1798. Bern's treasury was looted and its domain dismantled. By then, Vechigen encompassed several tiny villages with outlying farms, but its rural location provided little protection from political events. Between the fall of Bern and 1848, when a new constitution was written, a series of internal and external conflicts continued to stress the canton's inhabitants.<sup>3</sup> Several Nacht family generations lived in Vechigen during this time. Johannes Nacht, a member of the third known generation, decided to try his luck elsewhere.

## The generations before emigration

**1. Niclauß<sup>B</sup> Nacht**, a possible son of Hans and Madle (née Bigler) Nacht, married **Barbara Beütikofer** on 20 April 1742 in Vechigen, Canton Bern, Switzerland.<sup>4</sup>

The known child of Niclauß<sup>B</sup> Nacht and Barbara Beütikofer is:

+ 2    i. DANIEL<sup>A</sup> NACHT, born 21 November 1751.

**2. Daniel<sup>A</sup> Nacht** (Niclauß<sup>B</sup>) was baptized 21 November 1751 in Vechigen<sup>5</sup> and died there 3 March 1825.<sup>6</sup> On the morning of 8 October 1802, in Vechigen, Daniel Nacht married **Elisabeth**

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<sup>1</sup> Heinrich Richard Schmidt, "Chapter 4: English Summary," *Dorf und Religion. Reformierte Sittenzucht in Berner Landgemeinden der Frühen Neuzeit*, (1995), (<http://www.schmidt.hist.unibe.ch/veroeffh/summary.htm> : accessed 17 July 2009).

<sup>2</sup> "Genealogy," online database, *Swissroots.org* (<http://www.swissroots.org/swissroots/en/stories/heritage/Genealogy.html> : accessed 8 March 2009); and L.B. Rohrbach, to P.L. Brinegar, 30 May 2009, e-mail citing *Familiennamenbuch der Schweiz*, as listing Swiss Heimatrecht (hereditary citizenship rights) only in Vechigen for the surname Nacht.

<sup>3</sup> Alexander I. Grab, *Napoleon and the Transformation of Europe*, (2003), pp. 115-122; digital images, *Google Books*, (<http://books.google.com> : accessed 17 July 2009).

<sup>4</sup> International Genealogical Index, *FamilySearch.org*, (<http://www.familysearch.org> : 6 August 2009) entry for Niclaus Nacht, Batch No. 6934535, sheet 65.

<sup>5</sup> L. B. Rohrbach, to P.L. Brinegar, 30 May 2009, baptismal record for Daniel Nacht, citing image reprint, Kirchgemeinde Vechigen Kirchenbüch 6:80, *Vechigen, Canton Bern, Switzerland, Churchbooks 1552-1875* on CD, (Rockland, Maine : Picton Press), CD1, image 1056.

**Hodel.**<sup>7</sup> A daughter of Benedikt Hodel and Katharina Kislig, she was born 12 November 1775 in Münsingen, Bern,<sup>8</sup> and died 27 October 1838 in Vechigen.<sup>9</sup>

The known child of Daniel Nacht and Elisabeth Hodel is:

+ 3 i. JOHANNES<sup>3</sup> NACHT alias JOHANN NACHT, born 1 November 1812.

## Johannes Nacht<sup>10</sup>

**3. Johannes<sup>3</sup> Nacht alias Johann Nacht** (Daniel<sup>A</sup>, Niclauß<sup>B</sup>), a son of Daniel and Elisabeth (née Hodel) Nacht was born 1 November 1812 in Vechigen, Canton Bern, Switzerland<sup>11</sup> and died about 6 April 1890 in Bethlehem Township, Stark County, Ohio.<sup>12</sup> On 5 August 1842, in Vechigen, he married **Katherina Wölfli**, a daughter of Samuel (presumably) Wölfli. Katharina was born 24 August 1817 in Schangnau, Canton Bern, Switzerland<sup>13</sup> and died 4 August 1889 in Stark County, Ohio.<sup>14</sup>

## Emigration

Swiss emigration during the early and mid-nineteenth century frequently is attributed to the country's lack of sufficient agricultural resources to support its citizens. Significant numbers of people left the country after famines in 1816-1817 and 1845-1855. The potato blight beginning in 1845 that is often associated with Irish immigrants, also affected other countries, including Switzerland.<sup>15</sup> In 1850, 60% of the entire Swiss population was still employed in agricultural activities but, with the advent of mechanization, the privatizing of communal

<sup>6</sup> L.B. Rohrbach, to P.L. Brinegar, 30 May 2009, death record for Daniel Nacht, citing image reprint, Kirchgemeinde Vechigen Kirchenbüch 24:5, *Vechigen, Canton Bern, Switzerland, Churchbooks 1552-1875 on CD*, (Rockland, Maine : Picton Press), CD2, image 1251.

<sup>7</sup> L.B. Rohrbach to P.L. Brinegar, 30 May 2009, marriage record for Daniel Nacht, citing image reprint, Kirchgemeinde Vechigen Kirchenbüch 19:52, *Vechigen, Canton Bern, Switzerland, Churchbooks 1552-1875 on CD*, (Rockland, Maine : Picton Press), CD2, image 810. Daniel Nacht, of Vechigen, and Elisabeth Hodel, of Münsingen, were both residents of Lindenthal in Vechigen when they married.

<sup>8</sup> L.B. Rohrbach, to P.L. Brinegar, 30 May 2009, birth record for Elisabeth Hodel, citing image reprint, Kirchgemeinde Münsingen Kirchenbüch 11:287, Münsingen, *Canton Bern, Switzerland, Churchbooks 1552-1875 on CD*, (Rockland, Maine : Picton Press), CD1, image 1835.

<sup>9</sup> L.B. Rohrbach, to P.L. Brinegar, 30 May 2009, death record for Elisabeth (nee Hodel) Nacht, citing image reprint, Kirchgemeinde Vechigen Kirchenbüch 24:40, *Vechigen, Canton Bern, Switzerland, Churchbooks 1552-1875 on CD*, (Rockland, Maine : Picton Press), CD2, image 1269.

<sup>10</sup> Johannes called himself Johann, and Katherina was referred to as Catherine, so those forms are used here.

<sup>11</sup> L. B. Rohrbach, to P.L. Brinegar, 30 May 2009, baptismal record for Johannes Nacht, citing image reprint, Kirchgemeinde Vechigen Kirchenbüch 9:142, *Vechigen, Canton Bern, Switzerland, Churchbooks 1552-1875 on CD*, (Rockland, Maine : Picton Press), CD1, image 1604.

<sup>12</sup> Ohio. Stark County. Death Records, John Night, 1890, Stark County Regional Library, Canton, citing Ohio Death Records 2:27.

<sup>13</sup> L. B. Rohrbach, to P.L. Brinegar, 30 May 2009, marriage record for Johannes Nacht and Katharina Wölfli, citing image reprint, Kirchgemeinde Vechigen Kirchenbüch 20:114, *Vechigen, Canton Bern, Switzerland, Churchbooks 1552-1875 on CD*, (Rockland, Maine : Picton Press), CD2, image 890.

<sup>14</sup> The Ohio Genealogical Society, *Cemetery Inscriptions Stark County Ohio Volume II*, (Canton, Ohio : Stark County Chapter, 1982), page 281.

<sup>15</sup> Christine Kinealy, *A Death-Dealing Famine* (2003), page 52; digital images, Google Books, (<http://books.google.com> : accessed 17 July 2009).

grazing lands, and the impact of the railroad, that percentage began to decline rapidly.<sup>16</sup> A high departure point was in 1854, when 8,000 Swiss citizens came to the United States. Most of those emigrating came from agricultural cantons and settled in rural areas abroad, directly transferring their skills from the old country to the new.<sup>17</sup>

Whether Johann Nacht and his family left Canton Bern for these reasons is unknown, but he apparently obtained a Bernese passport in late 1855 or early 1856.<sup>18</sup> Not long after this, the family of six likely began the long journey from their rural Vechigen village of Hchstetten to the northeastern Ohio countryside. Citizenship proceedings in 1863 suggest only that Johann was in the United States by the first week of October 1858,<sup>19</sup> but either he or members of his family were almost certainly in the country earlier than that. In 1900, three of his four children gave arrival dates that were each one year apart (Elisabeth, 1854,<sup>20</sup> Rosa, 1855,<sup>21</sup> and John, 1856<sup>22</sup>), so the possibility that the family did not travel together cannot be discounted. Whether they arrived together or not, there is evidence that the family may have either stayed for a while with the Society of Separatists of Zoar, in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, or that Johannes Nacht sent some of his family members there as part of a transition to their new country.

## Zoar

The Society of Separatists of Zoar was a communal group founded by religious dissenters from Wrttemberg, Germany.<sup>23</sup> Its members believed in a direct relationship with God that did not rely on ceremony or ritual. Pacifism with regard to military duty was an important principle and original society members stayed with Philadelphia Quakers before moving to Tuscarawas County Ohio in 1817.<sup>24</sup> The group prospered, often employing the services of outsiders to maintain its extensive operations. Upon his arrival in Tuscarawas County, Johann could easily have found employment and lodging for his family with the society.

<sup>16</sup> "The Economy: agriculture," *swissworld.org*, (<http://www.swissworld.org/en/history>: accessed 17 July 2009).

<sup>17</sup> "Swiss Emigration to the USA," *Swissroots.org*, (<http://www.swissroots.org> : accessed 24 April 2009).

<sup>18</sup> L.B. Rohrbach, to P.L. Brinegar, 30 May 2009: Bernese passport registry index entry, 5:462, for Johann Nacht in late 1855 or early 1856. Bern's passport Volume 5 is lost, so no further information is available from this source.

<sup>19</sup> Ohio. Tuscarawas County. Probate Court 2:202, John Nacht, 1863, Tuscarawas County Ohio Genealogical Society, New Philadelphia, Ohio.

<sup>20</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Stark County, Ohio, population schedule, Pike Township, page 198A (stamped), sheet 15 (penned), dwelling 321, family 326, Harmon Strouble, digital image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 5 August 2009), citing National Archives microfilm T623, roll 1323.

<sup>21</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, population schedule, Sandy Township, sheets 14B (penned) and 188A (stamped), dwelling 323, family 381, Napoleon Shott, digital image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 February 2009), citing National Archives microfilm T623, roll 1321.

<sup>22</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Stark County, Ohio, population schedule, Bethlehem Township, p. 9A (stamped), sheet No. 9 (penned), dwelling 177, family 185, John Knight, digital image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 January 2009), citing National Archives microfilm T623, roll 1321.

<sup>23</sup> The Ohio Historical Society provides a succinct description of Zoar: "The Society of Separatists of Zoar was a group of German religious dissenters who immigrated to Ohio in 1817. Finding it difficult to make ends meet on their own, they formed a communal society in 1819 in which all members shared equally. After a few hard years, the group became solvent by helping build seven miles of the Ohio and Erie Canal, which passed through their lands. ... The village of Zoar, named for the Biblical city that Lot fled to from Sodom and Gomorrah, included grist mills, a wool factory, iron furnaces, a tannery, a foundry, garden, and store. The community disbanded in 1898," *The Ohio Historical Society* (<http://www.ohiohistory.org/> : accessed 18 June 2009).

<sup>24</sup> Tarunjit Singh Butalia and Dianne P. Small, "Society of Separatists at Zoar," *Religion in Ohio: profiles of faith communities*, (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2004 ), page 107.

In 1860, the only Swiss native living at Zoar was Johann Nacht's 15 year old daughter, Elisabeth, who was enumerated as a member of millwright Frederick Haid's Zoar household<sup>25</sup> and also as a member of her father's Sandy Township household, some four miles distant.<sup>26</sup> She had not attended school during that year at Zoar, but it is quite possible that all of Johann's children were students at the society's school where girls were educated until age 15, boys until age 16.<sup>27</sup> Instruction was in both German and English, with English spoken on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, but "German was the mother tongue and they were not to forget it." After 1850, school was in session five months, six hours a day with evening school each day for several hours.<sup>28</sup>

The schoolteacher at Zoar was Simon Beiter [Jr.] who, one writer noted in 1875, also "officiates as justice and superintendent of a fine two-acre garden."<sup>29</sup> Both Simon Beiter Jr. and Sr. were incorporators of the Village of Zoar in 1884, with Simon Jr., acting as agent for the community.<sup>30</sup> Johann Nacht did not become a member of Zoar,<sup>31</sup> but, just as its members did, he turned to Simon Beiter for help with personal affairs, asking him to draft a will in 1872. The subscribing witnesses were John Brunny Sr., a master shoemaker,<sup>32</sup> and John Breymaier, a master tanner,<sup>33</sup> both from Württemberg and former Zoar residents, who were living in Canal Dover by 1870. Johann signed the will in deutsche schrift (German script) and left it in Simon Beiter's care.

### Figure 1. Johann Nacht's Signature<sup>34</sup>

<sup>25</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, population schedule, Zoar Village, p. 32 (penned), dwelling 221, family 227, Frederick Haid, digital image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 28 June 2009), citing National Archives microfilm M653, roll 1043.

<sup>26</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, population schedule, Sandy Township, p. 42 (penned), dwelling 283, family 289, John Knacht, digital image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 11 January 2009), citing National Archives microfilm M653, roll 1043.

<sup>27</sup> E.O. Randall, "The Separatist Society of Zoar: An Experiment in Communism from its Commencement to its Conclusion," *Ohio Archaeological and Historical Quarterly* 8:1, (July 1899), 44; digital images, (<http://books.google.com> : accessed 18 June 2009).

<sup>28</sup> Hinda Dischinger Morhart, *The Zoar Story*, (Strasburg, Ohio: Gordon Printing, 1981), pp. 107-108.

<sup>29</sup> "Stories, Memories and Histories," online database, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 3 June 2009), citing L.H. Everts & Co., *Combination Atlas Map of Tuscarawas County, Ohio*, (1875; reprint, Strasburg, Ohio: Gordon Printing, 1973), p. 38.

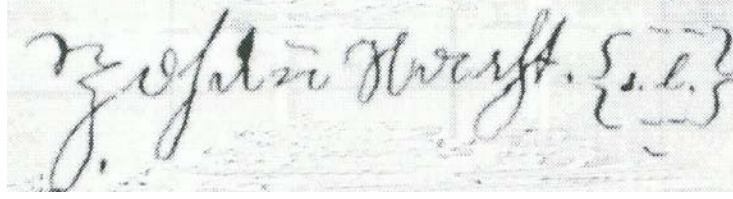
<sup>30</sup> E.O. Randall, "The Separatist Society of Zoar: An Experiment in Communism from its Commencement to its Conclusion," *Ohio Archaeological and Historical Quarterly* 8:1, (July 1899), 87-90; digital images, (<http://books.google.com> : accessed 18 June 2009).

<sup>31</sup> His name does not appear among the extant society membership applications or terminations: "Finding Aids Collection," Society of Separatists of Zoar Papers, *The Ohio Historical Society*, MSS 110, (<http://cdm267401.cdmhost.com/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/aids&CISOPTR=1401&REC=1>) and MSS 984 (<http://cdm267401.cdmhost.com/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/aids&CISOPTR=7402&REC=3> : both accessed 19 June 2009).

<sup>32</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, population schedule, Zoar Village, p. 33 (penned), p. 336 (stamped), dwelling 226, family 232, John Brunny Sr., citing National Archives microfilm M653, roll 1043; and 1870 U.S. census, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, population schedule, Canal Dover Lawrence Township, p. 18 (penned), dwelling 139, family 138, Rosina Roth, (household includes John Brunny family), citing National Archives microfilm M593, roll 1273; digital images, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 6 June 2009).

<sup>33</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, population schedule, Zoar Village, p. 36 (penned), dwelling 246, family 252, John Brymire, citing National Archives microfilm M653, roll 1043; and 1870 U.S. census, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, population schedule, Canal Dover Lawrence Township, p. 20 (penned), dwelling 154, family 153, John Brymire, citing National Archives microfilm M593, roll 1273; digital images, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 6 June 2009).

<sup>34</sup> Ohio. Stark County. Probate Records, Case Number 3383, John Nacht, 1890, letter from Simon Beiter, Stark County Regional Library, Canton, citing Will Record J:92.



It is likely that the Nacht family's ties to Zoar were stronger than can be demonstrated from remaining records. William C. Shott, a son of Johann's eldest daughter, Rosanna, stated that his mother came to Zoar in 1855.<sup>35</sup> He did not say she came to Ohio, or to Tuscarawas County, but to Zoar, which meant something specific to the local reader at that time. It suggests that William Shott believed young Rosanna had come from Switzerland directly to the Society of Separatists of Zoar. She arrived almost 30 years before the Village of Zoar was incorporated, a distinction William surely understood when he spoke about his family's history.<sup>36</sup>

### Sandy Township

A few years before the Nacht family arrived, there were 567 Swiss emigrants in Tuscarawas County, but only one Swiss family lived in Sandy Township.<sup>37</sup> By June 1860, there were five Swiss families, four near Mineral Point and John Knacht [*sic*] living apart in the Sandyville Post Office district. Johann's closest neighbors were a stone mason and a laborer, both from Württemberg and farmers from Germany and England. His location could suggest that he was not closely integrated with other Swiss families in Sandy Township, but perhaps it was simply where he could lease a farm, or obtain employment, since he apparently worked as a teamster for a while.

The 1860 census record, recorded on 19 June, is the first time the family members are listed together in the United States.<sup>38</sup> All four of the children attended school during the year, although it is likely that Rosanna's school days had ended since she is also listed as Rosan Knight, a German-born servant living in the Edward H. McGrew home.<sup>39</sup> The nearby Philip P. Laffier household contained laborer Napoleon Shott,<sup>40</sup> who married Rosanna sixteen months later. Johann declared personal property valued at \$50.<sup>41</sup>

<sup>35</sup> "Stories, Memories and Histories," online database, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 3 June 2009), citing L.H. Everts & Co., *Combination Atlas Map of Tuscarawas County, Ohio*, (1875; reprint, Strasburg, Ohio: Gordon Printing, 1973), p. 38.

<sup>36</sup> The Village of Zoar was not incorporated until 1884: E.O. Randall, "The Separatist Society of Zoar: An Experiment in Communism from its Commencement to its Conclusion," *Ohio Archaeological and Historical Quarterly* 8:1, (July 1899), 87-90; digital images, *Google Books* (<http://books.google.com> : accessed 18 June 2009).

<sup>37</sup> Almost 500 of the Swiss born residents were clustered in Auburn, Clay, Goshen, Warwick, Wayne and York townships: 1850 U.S. census, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, population schedule, digital images, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 6 August 2009), citing National Archives microfilm M432, rolls 1042 and 1043.

<sup>38</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, p. 42, John Knacht. Even though individual relationships to a head of household are not stated until the 1880 census, which was after Johann's children had left home, the family relationships are later proved by Johann's estate and other records discussed in this report.

<sup>39</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, population schedule, Sandy Township, p. 40 (penned), dwelling 268, family 274, Edward H. McGrew, digital image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 6 August 2009), citing National Archives microfilm M653, roll 1043. The identification of the family as German was not an unusual occurrence.

<sup>40</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, population schedule, Sandy Township, p. 40 (penned), dwelling 273, family 279, Philip P. Laffier, digital image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 6 August 2009), citing National Archives microfilm M653, roll 1043.

<sup>41</sup> Tuscarawas County Genealogical Society, Inc., *Tuscarawas County Ohio Marriages 1845-1863 volume 2*, citing Tuscarawas County Probate Court Records, Marriage Book 5: 311, return 9147, (New Philadelphia, Ohio: the society, 1981), page 122.

On 20 October 1860, John Nacht declared his intention to renounce allegiance and fidelity to the Republic of Switzerland and become a citizen of the United States.<sup>42</sup> His final naturalization hearing was held three years later in the Tuscarawas County probate court on 3 October 1863. Nicholas Ebersoll attested that the applicant had lived in the United States for five years and in Ohio for at least one year. John Nacht again renounced allegiance to the Republic of Switzerland and was granted United States citizenship.<sup>43</sup> His naturalization meant that all four of his children also became citizens and, under the provisions of a February 1854 law, that Catherine was then a citizen as well.<sup>44</sup>

At the time of Johann's arrival in the United States, each state was free to grant aliens "any civil or political privileges within its own jurisdiction not inconsistent with the laws of the United States." Many newer states granted non-citizens the right to hold land and other privileges usually conferred by citizenship.<sup>45</sup> In Ohio, aliens could buy and sell real property as long as they had resided in the state for two years. This restriction introduced a period of vulnerability for immigrant families such as the Nachts during which they could not legally own property, yet had to somehow earn a living in a largely agricultural area. Further, although resident families were to inherit should a resident alien property holder die prior to naturalization,<sup>46</sup> sometimes claiming this right could be difficult. Whether these circumstances resulted in unrecorded property transactions is unknown, but there is some reason to think that Johann Nacht may have done just that.

Johann does not appear on the Tuscarawas County real property tax lists and no records show that he ever owned land in the county. He is first listed on the county's 1865 Sandy Township chattel lists when he is taxed on \$670 in personal property, a considerable increase over the \$50 declared in the 1860 population census. Interestingly, the 1870 federal census enumerator noted the value of his real property as \$6,500. This may have been an error, or Johann may have been party to a private property agreement that was inadvertently mentioned by the informant. In 1873, the value of his personal property, consisting largely of livestock, had grown to \$2,443.<sup>47</sup> Clearly, he had access to land through some arrangement that permitted management of cattle and other animals.

The Nacht family remained in Sandy Township throughout the Civil War. Johann and his son, John, did not participate in the war as soldiers. Their ages, one too old, the other too young, may have kept them from joining an army, but they could have provided assistance in various ways, such as giving supplies or other aid to soldiers. Even if they did nothing material, the family was surely affected by the war. It was a divisive event for Tuscarawas County pacifists. Thirteen young men from The Society of Separatists of Zoar felt strongly enough to set aside

<sup>42</sup> Ohio. Tuscarawas County. Naturalizations page 237, record 682, Tuscarawas County Ohio Genealogical Society, New Philadelphia, Ohio.

<sup>43</sup> Ohio. Tuscarawas County. Probate Court 2:202, John Knacht, 1863, Tuscarawas County Ohio Genealogical Society, New Philadelphia, Ohio.

<sup>44</sup> Charles P. Daly, *Naturalization: The Past History of the Subject and Present State of the Law [...]*, (New York, John F. Trow, printer, 1860) pages 20-22.

<sup>45</sup> Charles P. Daly, *Naturalization: The Past History of the Subject and Present State of the Law [...]*, (New York, John F. Trow, printer, 1860) pages 20-22.

<sup>46</sup> Francis Hilliard, *An Abridgement of the American Law of Real Property*, (Boston : Charles C. Little, 1839 and 1869), pages 213 and 325.

<sup>47</sup> Ohio. Tuscarawas County. Chattel Tax Records, Sandy Township, entries for John Knight, 1865, John Night, 1867, 1869-1872, John Nacht Sr., 1873, Office of the Treasurer, New Philadelphia. Information provided by Nancy Schaar, Sherrodsville, Ohio.

their life-long principles and take up weapons for the Union Army. These men would have been members of families the Nachts knew, some perhaps well.<sup>48</sup>

In August 1870, Mary and John were the only Nacht children still at home. For the first time, the Nacht family is identified as Knight in the census, which states that all family members were born in Württemberg,<sup>49</sup> information that Johann and Catherine surely did not provide. Although it is possible that a neighbor spoke with the census enumerator, the likely informant is daughter Mary, who sometimes apparently gave her birthplace as Germany.<sup>50</sup>

The 1870 Knight household also contained Ohio native Flora Stansbury who could read, but not write and had attended school that year. A decade later, she was a servant in another household,<sup>51</sup> so she probably performed similar chores for the Nachts. Flora (née Stansbury) Lechner's death certificate shows that she was a daughter to Adam Stansbury<sup>52</sup> whose farm was close to the Knight residence in 1870.<sup>53</sup>

By late 1875, after almost twenty years in Tuscarawas County, Johann, Catherine, and their son, John, relocated to nearby Stark County. Johann was 63 years old when this new chapter of his life began.

### Stark County

Stark County in 1870, with 44,728 residents, was more populous and prosperous than neighboring Tuscarawas County. Both counties had significant numbers of Swiss- and German-born residents,<sup>54</sup> as well as German language newspapers, churches, and stores. There would have been few, if any, cultural challenges presented to German-speaking individuals moving from one county to the other. Johann and Catherine were probably completely at home in their new farm near Navarre, which was less than fifteen miles from their former village of Sandyville.<sup>55</sup>

<sup>48</sup> "American Civil War Research Database," *Historical Data Systems, Inc.* (<http://www.civilwardata.com> : accessed 3 June 2009), entries for privates Simon Briel, John Brunny, Anton Burkhardt, Magnus Burkhardt, John Geissler, Samuel Knoffle, John Kuecherer, George Kuemmerle, Christian Ricker, Franz Strobel, Jacob F. Thumm, Daniel Unsold, and John A. Zeeb, all residents of Zoar.

<sup>49</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, population schedule, Sandy Township, p. 2 (penned), dwelling 14, family 12, John Knight, digital image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 11 January 2009), citing National Archives microfilm M593, roll 1273.

<sup>50</sup> see e.g., 1900 U.S. census, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, population schedule, Lawrence Township, p. 264 (stamped), sheet No. 7A (penned), dwelling 177, family 185, William D. Mayers, digital image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 15 August 2009), citing National Archives microfilm T623, roll 1326.

<sup>51</sup> Flora Stansbury, age 17: 1880 U.S. census, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, population schedule, Sandy Township, p. 26 (penned), dwelling 201, family 227, R.R. Morrison, digital image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 29 June 2009), citing National Archives microfilm T9, roll 1072.

<sup>52</sup> The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints [LDS], "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1953," database, *FamilySearch* pilot site (<http://pilot.familysearch.org> : accessed 5 August 2009, entry for Flora Lechner, 1919, citing death certificate 36482, Tuscarawas County, Ohio.

<sup>53</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, population schedule, Sandy Township, p. 2 (penned), dwelling 10, family 8, Adam Stansbury, digital image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 5 August 2009), citing National Archives microfilm M593, roll 1273.

<sup>54</sup> United States. Census Office. *The Statistics of the Population of the United States (Embracing the Tables of Race, Nationality, Sex, Selected Ages and Occupations...)*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1872, p. 368 (<http://www2.census.gov/prod2/decennial/documents/1870a-01.pdf> : accessed 4 June 2009).

<sup>55</sup> "Township and Range - Public Land Survey System on Google Earth," databases and digital images, *Earth Point*, (<http://www.earthpoint.us/townships.aspx> : 6 July 2009), citing BLM data set, Ohio, U.S. Military Survey, T9N R9W S13, northwest corner, showing land purchased by John Knight in December 1875.

Figure 2. Detail of Stark and Tuscarawas counties<sup>56</sup>



On 18 November 1875, John Nacht had entered into a lease agreement with Nicholas Wagoner of Stark County in which he agreed to purchase part “of the North West quarter of Section nine, Range nine in Bethlehem Township and being fifty acres in the South West corner of said quarter,” together with the straw, corn, fodder and house and ell. John Nacht was to care for the harvest and thresh the wheat then on the land, giving half to Nicholas Wagoner when completed. Johann made a \$50 deposit toward the first payment of \$2,000 due on 10 December of that year. The rest of the \$4,000 purchase price was due in \$500 annual installments.<sup>57</sup> Less than a month later, on 11 December 1875, he paid the entire amount due.<sup>58</sup> This large cash transaction suggests that during the few weeks he financed the new property, Johann was completing financial transactions elsewhere.

In June 1880, Johann and Catherine were living alone for the first time since their 1842 marriage.<sup>59</sup> John was the last to leave home, when he married in 1879. Even then, he didn’t really leave, but lived next door to Johann and Catherine, presumably on their land. Chattel lists indicate that a few years earlier, before leaving Tuscarawas County, Johann had divided his livestock with John.<sup>60</sup>

Catherine died on 4 August 1889,<sup>61</sup> the day before her 47th wedding anniversary. Johann died six months later. The application to probate his will states that he died on 8 March 1890,

<sup>56</sup> "Stark County 1914 Map," citation details not provided, Stark County, *Ohio Genweb Project*, ([http://theusgenweb.org/oh/stark/maps/Stark\\_1914.jpg](http://theusgenweb.org/oh/stark/maps/Stark_1914.jpg) : accessed 27 February 2009).

<sup>57</sup> Ohio. Stark County. "Archive Search," digital images, *Stark County Recorder's Office*, ([www.recorder.co.stark.oh.us/](http://www.recorder.co.stark.oh.us/) : accessed 6 July, 2009), entry for John Nacht, 18 December 1875, Lease Book 2: 374. The document was presented to the clerk’s office on 15 June 1876 and recorded 5 July 1876.

<sup>58</sup> Ohio. Stark County. "Archive Search," digital images, *Stark County Recorder's Office* ([www.recorder.co.stark.oh.us/](http://www.recorder.co.stark.oh.us/) : accessed 26 January, 2009), entry for John Knight, 11 December 1875, Deed Book 143: 411-412. The document was presented to the clerk’s office on 15 June 1876 and recorded 3 July 1876.

<sup>59</sup> 1880 U.S. census, Stark County, Ohio, population schedule, Bethlehem Township, p. 27 (penned), dwelling 257, family 275, John Night, digital image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 11 January 2009), citing National Archives microfilm T9, roll 1066.

<sup>60</sup> Ohio. Tuscarawas County. Chattel Tax Records, Sandy Township, entries for John Nacht Jr., 1874-1875, Office of the Treasurer, New Philadelphia. Information provided by Nancy Schaar, Sherrodsville, Ohio.

<sup>61</sup> The Ohio Genealogical Society, *Cemetery Inscriptions Stark County Ohio Volume II*, (Canton, Ohio : Stark County Chapter, 1982), page 281.



the Stark County death record says 6 April 1890, and his tombstone reads April 8 1890.<sup>62</sup> April is almost certainly the correct month while either the 6<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> of the month is a possible death date. Notary public Simon Beiter of Zoar forwarded Johann's will to the Stark County court on 11 April 1890 and John Knight made application to probate the next day. Johann had nominated Simon Beiter as administrator, but he declined to serve, asking the court to appoint Johann's son, John, in his place, which was done.

Johann left his entire property to Catherine but, since she had predeceased him, his estate was then "divided in equal shares among my four children," named as Elisabeth Strobel, Mary Myers, Rosina Schott, and John Nacht. Johann, apparently concerned about one of his daughters, had stipulated that "William Mayers the husband of the said Mary Mayers shall have no right to receive anything of...her share...which shall be owned by herself and applied for a homestead for her family and heirs of her body."<sup>63</sup>

Johann and Catherine Nacht are buried in the Sherman [Reformed] Church Cemetery, Bethlehem Township, Stark County, near a shared obelisk that reads "John Knight born 1 November 1812 – died 8 April 1890" and "Catherine, wife of John Knight, born 25 Jan 1818 - died 4 August 1889, 71 yrs 6 mos 10 d." They are buried next to their daughter, Elizabeth, and her husband, Herman Strobel.<sup>64</sup>

The known children of Johannes and Katherina (née Wölfli) Nacht, alias Johann and Catherine Nacht, all baptized and likely born in Höchstetten (now Grosshöchstetten), Canton Bern, Switzerland and all died in Ohio are:

- 4 i. ANNA ROSETTE NACHT alias ROSANNA KNIGHT, born 21 January 1843<sup>65</sup> and died 1 July 1905 in Sandyville, Tuscarawas County.<sup>66</sup> On October 6, 1861, in Tuscarawas County, she married Napoleon Shott,<sup>67</sup> a possible son of Abraham and Rhoda (née Miller) Shott.<sup>68</sup> He was born 8 January 1832 and died 5 October 1905 in Sandyville.<sup>69</sup>

<sup>62</sup> Ohio. Stark County. Death Records , John Night, 1890, Stark County Regional Library, Canton, citing Ohio Death Records 2:27; and The Ohio Genealogical Society, *Cemetery Inscriptions Stark County Ohio Volume II*, (Canton, Ohio : Stark County Chapter, 1982), page 281.

<sup>63</sup> Ohio. Stark County. Probate Records, Case Number 3383, John Nacht, 1890, Stark County Regional Library, Canton, citing Will Record J:92.

<sup>64</sup> John and Catherine Knight are buried in row 8 of the Sherman Church Cemetery, which is located in Bethlehem Township, S13 of Sherman Church Road SW, 400 feet North from Haut Road SW. The Ohio Genealogical Society, *Cemetery Inscriptions Stark County Ohio Volume II*, (Canton, Ohio : Stark County Chapter, 1982), page 281.

<sup>65</sup> L.B. Rohrbach, to P.L. Brinegar, 30 May 2009, birth record for Anna Rosette Nacht, citing image reprint, Kirchgemeinde Vechigen Kirchenbüch 14:137, *Vechigen, Canton Bern, Switzerland, Churchbooks 1552-1875* on CD, (Rockland, Maine : Picton Press), CD2, image 456.

<sup>66</sup> Tuscarawas Co. Genealogical Society, Inc., *Tuscarawas County Original Death Records Volume 3, 1895-1908*, (New Philadelphia, Ohio : the society, 1995), page 100, entry for Rosan Shott, citing Probate Court Records of Deaths, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, entry 320.

<sup>67</sup> Ohio. Tuscarawas County Probate Court Records, Marriage Book 5: 311, Shott-Knight, 1861, Tuscarawas County Genealogical Society, Inc., New Philadelphia; and Christy J. Walker, research secretary, Tuscarawas County Genealogical Society to P. L. Brinegar, 13 March 2009, letter stating Philip Laffer M.G., who performed the ceremony, was of Mill Township.

<sup>68</sup> In 1850, the 18-year-old Napoleon Shott is living in the Abraham Shott household: 1850 U.S. census, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, population schedule, Sandy Township, p. 14 (penned), p. 144 (penned), dwelling 283, family 289, Abraham Shott, digital image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 23 March 2009), citing National Archives microfilm M432, roll 735.

<sup>69</sup> Tuscarawas Co. Genealogical Society, Inc., *Tuscarawas County Original Death Records Volume 3, 1895-1908*, (New Philadelphia, Ohio : the society, 1995), page 100, entry for Napolion Shott, citing Probate Court Records of Deaths, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, entry 321.

- 5    ii. ELISABETH NACHT alias ELIZABETH KNIGHT, born 13 August 1845<sup>70</sup> and died 13 February 1923 in Stark County.<sup>71</sup> On 3 September 1865, in Tuscarawas County, she married Herman Strobel.<sup>72</sup> Herman and Elizabeth are buried in the Sherman Church Cemetery, Stark County, Ohio.<sup>73</sup>
- + 6    iii. JOHANNES NACHT alias JOHN KNIGHT, born 17 March 1848<sup>74</sup> and died 6 January 1935 in Stark County.<sup>75</sup>
- 7    iv. ANNA MARIANNE NACHT alias MARY KNIGHT, born 10 October 1850<sup>76</sup> and apparently died 14 January 1919 in Tuscarawas County.<sup>77</sup> On 20 April 1871, she married William Myers in Tuscarawas County.<sup>78</sup> William was born about 1843 in Ohio and in July 1870 was a laborer on Elisabeth and Herman Strobel's Tuscarawas County farm.<sup>79</sup>

## John Knight

**6. Johannes Nacht alias John<sup>4</sup> Knight** (Johannes<sup>3</sup>, Daniel<sup>A</sup>, Niclauß<sup>B</sup>), a son of Johannes and Katherina (née Wölfli) Nacht, was born 18 June 1848 in Canton Bern, Switzerland and died 6 January 1935 in Stark County, Ohio.<sup>80</sup> On 6 April 1879, in Stark County, he married **Mary**

<sup>70</sup> L.B. Rohrbach, to P.L. Brinegar, 30 May 2009, birth record for Elisabeth Nacht, citing image reprint, Kirchgemeinde Vechigen Kirchenbüch 14:161, *Vechigen, Canton Bern, Switzerland, Churchbooks 1552-1875* on CD, (Rockland, Maine : Picton Press), CD2, image 468.

<sup>71</sup> The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints [LDS], "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1953," database, *FamilySearch* pilot site (<http://pilot.familysearch.org> : accessed 16 January 2009, entry for Mrs. Elizabeth Strobel, 1923, citing death certificate 14416, Stark County, Ohio; and "Dies of Complications," obituary for Elizabeth Strobel, *The Canton Repository*, Canton, Ohio, 14 February 1923, page 8.

<sup>72</sup> Ohio. Tuscarawas County Probate Court Records, Marriage Book 6: 98, return 10187, Knight-Strobel, 1865, Tuscarawas County Genealogical Society, Inc., New Philadelphia.

<sup>73</sup> "Strobel Funeral," *The Canton Repository*, Canton, Ohio, 15 February 1923, page 11.

<sup>74</sup> L.B. Rohrbach, to P.L. Brinegar, 30 May 2009, birth record for Johannes Nacht, citing image reprint, Kirchgemeinde Vechigen Kirchenbüch 14:188, *Vechigen, Canton Bern, Switzerland, Churchbooks 1552-1875* on CD, (Rockland, Maine : Picton Press), CD2, image 482.

<sup>75</sup> The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints [LDS], "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1953," database, *FamilySearch* pilot site (<http://pilot.familysearch.org> : accessed 16 January 2009, entry for John Knight, 1935, citing death certificate 6244, Stark County, Ohio.

<sup>76</sup> L. B. Rohrbach, to P.L. Brinegar, 30 May 2009, birth record for Anna Marianne Nacht, citing image reprint, Kirchgemeinde Vechigen Kirchenbüch 14:209, *Vechigen, Canton Bern, Switzerland, Churchbooks 1552-1875* on CD, (Rockland, Maine : Picton Press), CD2, image 492.

<sup>77</sup> The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints [LDS], "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1953," database, *FamilySearch* pilot site (<http://pilot.familysearch.org> : accessed 5 August 2009, entry for Mrs. Mary Myers, 1919, citing death certificate 7313, Tuscarawas County, Ohio.

<sup>78</sup> Ohio. Tuscarawas County Probate Court Records, Marriage Book 6: 482, return 12108, Knight-Myers, 1871, Tuscarawas County Genealogical Society, Inc., New Philadelphia.

<sup>79</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, population schedule, Fairfield Township, p. 11 (penned), p. 100 (stamped), dwelling 82, family 72, Strobel Herman, digital image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 20 September 2009), citing National Archives microfilm M593, roll 1273.

<sup>80</sup> The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints [LDS], "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1953," database, *FamilySearch* pilot site (<http://pilot.familysearch.org> : accessed 16 January 2009, entry for John Knight, 1935, citing death certificate 6244, Stark County, Ohio.

**Eversole**, a daughter of John Eversole and Hannah Hartzell.<sup>81</sup> Mary was born 28 November 1856 in Stark County, Ohio and died there 15 March 1939.<sup>82</sup>

### **From Johannes Nacht to John Knight**

Baptized Johannes Nacht, surely after his father, John Knight emigrated with his parents and three sisters from Canton Bern, Switzerland to Tuscarawas County, Ohio about 1856.<sup>83</sup> In 1860, he attended school in Ohio,<sup>84</sup> perhaps at the dual language school run by the Society of Separatists of Zoar, where instruction alternated between German and English. His formal education likely ended at the age of 16, when he would have been expected to assume the full-time duties of adulthood.

Beyond a reading level sufficient for business documents, a newspaper, and the Bible, an important lesson that young men in particular needed to learn at that time was the Rule of Three.<sup>85</sup> John's father, Johann, undoubtedly learned it in Switzerland as a boy. Today, this seems an odd thing on which to base business success, but for millenia,<sup>86</sup> those buying and selling anything, whether corn, bricks, lace, or cattle, who understood the Rule of Three were at a great advantage. Among other uses, they could rapidly calculate the value of any given number of a proffered item if they knew the cost of another amount of the same item. Those not practiced enough to do this quickly were hindered in the frequent transactions between individuals. Based on John's solid success throughout his life, even during times of agricultural depression, it is likely he could apply the rule very well.

In 1870, 21 year old John was enumerated as a farm laborer in his parents' Sandy Township home in Tuscarawas County.<sup>87</sup> As the only son among three daughters, it fell first to him to carry on his father's livelihood if he chose to follow a farming life. His sisters certainly would have been expected to marry and provide supporting roles to their own husbands. Fortunately, farming was a role that apparently suited John well and for which his father rewarded him with his own livestock and perhaps other items as well.

John lived with his parents until he was almost 31 years old, working on their farm and securing his own stable financial footing. When marrying Mary Eversole on 6 April 1879, it marks the last time John used the name Nacht in a public record. Perhaps he was nervous about the dramatic life change he was making. Even though he certainly could write his name, John signed the marriage certificate with his mark, attesting that he and Mary were not "nearer kin

<sup>81</sup> Ohio. Stark County. Probate Records, Case Number 9-132MB, Eversole-Nacht, 1879, Stark County Regional Library, Canton, citing Stark County, Ohio Marriage Records 9:132.

<sup>82</sup> "Mrs. Mary Knight," obituary, *The Canton Repository*, Canton, Ohio, 16 March 1939, page 22 and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints [LDS], "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1953," database, *FamilySearch* pilot site (<http://pilot.familysearch.org> : accessed 16 January 2009), entry for Mary Knight, 1939, citing death certificate 20209, Stark County.

<sup>83</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Stark County, Ohio, p. 9A, John Knight.

<sup>84</sup> 1860 U.S. census, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, p. 42, John Knacht.

<sup>85</sup> The rule states that if three numbers are known, the fourth can be calculated because it will have the same ratio to the second number as the first does to the third. For a more complete explanation, see "Math Words and Some Other Words of Interest," *Notes on the History of Math Teaching and Math Books*, (<http://www.pballeg.net/arithm18.html#ruleof3> : accessed 1 September 2009).

<sup>86</sup> See Judy L. Klein, "The Merchant's Rule," in *Statistical visions in time: a history of time series analysis, 1662-1938*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997), page 26.

<sup>87</sup> 1870 U.S. census, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, p. 2, John Knight.

than second cousins." Their marriage was performed by Peter Herbruck of the First Reformed Church of Canton, Ohio.<sup>88</sup>

It is probable that John built a separate home on his father's property sometime around the time of his marriage, for he is found living next to his parents in June 1880 with wife Mary, their first child, Ella Elizabeth, and a young male servant.<sup>89</sup> Over the next 18 years, John and Mary had at least six children, with the youngest, a son named for his father, born when John was 50 years old. It was their third child and first son, Earl, born in March 1886, who surely would have been expected to fulfill the same obligations that John had carried out with his father, Johann. In return, Earl could have probably expected at least a division of livestock to help him grow his own financial security.

John's parents died within six months of each other, Catherine, in August 1889<sup>90</sup> and Johann in April 1890.<sup>91</sup> John administered Johann's estate, signing the application to probate as "John Night," although the court referred to him as John Nacht.<sup>92</sup> On 2 August 1890,<sup>93</sup> for \$2,500, he purchased his father's 52 acre farm from the other heirs.<sup>94</sup> Even factoring in a share for John's inheritance, the value of the farm was less than Johann had paid for it in 1875. This difference was likely due in part to several intervening recessions that had devalued the 1875 dollar to .82 in 1890.<sup>95</sup> Economic conditions in the country did not improve. Between 1893-1897 there was another, even deeper economic depression in the United States.<sup>96</sup> Despite this, on 2 February 1893, John Knight paid cash for thirty acres adjoining his farm.<sup>97</sup>

Mary's mother, Hannah (née Hartzell) Eversole, had died 5 February 1892 without leaving a will. Since Hannah held property, her widower, John Eversole, was appointed estate administrator, with sons-in-law John Knight and Samuel Fetters serving as bondsmen. John Eversole named Hannah's seven daughters as her only heirs-at-law; however, once the estate was appraised and outstanding notes collected, he claimed one-half of the estate as his dower, an argument which was accepted by the court. The remaining half was distributed to daughters

<sup>88</sup> Ohio. Stark County. Probate Records, Case Number 9-132MB, Eversole-Nacht, 1879, Stark County Regional Library, Canton, citing Stark County, Ohio Marriage Records 9:132; and Open-Access Text Archive, *The Internet Archive*, (<http://www.archive.org> : accessed 10 July 2009), citing Theodore P. Bollinger, *History of the First Reformed Church, Canton, Ohio*, Cleveland, Ohio: Central Publishing House, 1910, p. 37.

<sup>89</sup> 1880 U.S. census, Stark County, Ohio, population schedule, Bethlehem Township, p. 27 (penned), dwelling 258, family 276, John Night Jr., digital image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 11 January 2009), citing National Archives microfilm T9, roll 1066.

<sup>90</sup> The Ohio Genealogical Society, *Cemetery Inscriptions Stark County Ohio Volume II*, (Canton, Ohio : Stark County Chapter, 1982), page 281.

<sup>91</sup> Ohio. Stark County. Death Records , John Night, 1890, Stark County Regional Library, Canton, citing Ohio Death Records 2:27.

<sup>92</sup> Ohio. Stark County. Probate Records, Case Number 3383, application to probate will, John Nacht, 1890, Stark County Regional Library, Canton, citing Will Record J:92.

<sup>93</sup> The US 1890 census was almost completely destroyed in a 1921 Commerce Department fire and records for Tuscarawas and Stark counties Ohio were among those lost, so there is no 1890 census record for the Knights. For a more complete explanation see, e.g., <http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/census/1890/1890.html>.

<sup>94</sup> Ohio. Stark County. "Archive Search," digital images, *Stark County Recorder's Office* ([www.recorder.co.stark.oh.us/](http://www.recorder.co.stark.oh.us/) : accessed 26 January, 2009), entry for Rosanna Shott et al, 2 August 1890, Deed Book 267: 432-433.

<sup>95</sup> S. Morgan Friedman, "The Inflation Calculator," *Westegg.com*, (<http://www.westegg.com/inflation/> accessed 1 August 2009).

<sup>96</sup> "Panic of 1893," *Blackwell Reference Online*, (<http://www.blackwellreference.com> : accessed 30 July 2009), citing Thomas L. Purvis, editor, *A Dictionary of American History*, (1997).

<sup>97</sup> Ohio. Stark County. "Archive Search," digital images, *Stark County Recorder's Office* ([www.recorder.co.stark.oh.us/](http://www.recorder.co.stark.oh.us/) : accessed 26 January, 2009), entry for John Night, 2 February 1893, Deed Book 297: 177-178.

Harriet Fetters, Elizabeth Whiffle, Sarah Lichtenwalter, Amelia Baer, Catherine Fohl, Susan Rebstock, and Mary Knight.<sup>98</sup>

### Toward the twentieth century

From the early days of Stark County, reformed church congregations were numerous, but extant records are "brief and incomplete."<sup>99</sup> The Sherman Reformed Church, founded in 1813,<sup>100</sup> was the Stark County church attended by John's parents, Johann and Catherine, and where they were buried. The location of its record book of baptisms and confirmations that was found in 1926 is no longer known.<sup>101</sup> In 1896, along with David S. Burgurt, John Urshel, David F. Bordner, John Strubel, and Christian Camp, John served as a trustee of the Sherman Cemetery Association which was incorporated early in January 1896.<sup>102</sup> That month, the trustees of the newly formed association bought the land known as the Sherman Graveyard for \$1 from the Salem Reformed Church of Bethlehem Township (formerly the Reformed Presbyterian Church).<sup>103</sup>

In June 1900, John's entire family was listed together for the only time. Three of the children, George, Kittie, and Allie were in school. Despite recent recessions, John still owned his farm free of debt. He said both his parents were born in Switzerland and that he had immigrated to the US in 1856. Mary was the mother of six children, all of whom were then living.<sup>104</sup> One year old John, born when she was about 43, was likely her last child.

On 8 November 1907, 59 year old John Knight bought another Stark County farm, slightly over 80 acres located near Navarre.<sup>105</sup> His daughter Aggie's husband had died during 1907 and, by April 1910, she was living with her parents on the new farm.<sup>106</sup> In mid-May 1908, reportedly despondent over a daughter's death, Mary's father, 87 year old John Eversole, hanged himself in the Knight's barn.<sup>107</sup> John was buried two days later in the Sherman Cemetery

<sup>98</sup> Ohio. Stark County. Probate Records, Case Number 3827, Hannah Eversole, estate, 1892, Stark County Regional Library, Canton. Dower, but not curtesy, was in force in Ohio at this time and applied to both men and women. A husband was entitled to one-third of his deceased wife's estate. Leonard A. Jones, *Forms in Conveyancing, and General Legal Forms, Comprising Precedents for Ordinary Use*, (1892), p. 61; digital images, Google Books, (<http://books.google.com> : accessed 30 July 2009).

<sup>99</sup> Open-Access Text Archive, *The Internet Archive*, (<http://www.archive.org> : accessed 10 July 2009), citing Theodore P. Bollinger, *History of the First Reformed Church, Canton, Ohio*, Cleveland, Ohio: Central Publishing House, 1910, preface and page 17.

<sup>100</sup> "Navarre," announcement of centennial and founding day for Sherman Church, *The Evening Independent*, Massillon, Ohio, 10 October 1913, page 5, column 2.

<sup>101</sup> "Sherman Reformed Church, 113 Years Old, to Hold Big Celebration Sunday," *The Evening Independent*, Massillon, Ohio, 17 July 1926, columns 4-5; Stark County Regional Library, Canton, Ohio.

<sup>102</sup> "New Incorporations," *Newark Daily Advocate*, Newark, Ohio, 8 January 1896, page 1, column 6.

<sup>103</sup> Ohio. Stark County. "Archive Search," digital images, *Stark County Recorder's Office* ([www.recorder.co.stark.oh.us/](http://www.recorder.co.stark.oh.us/) : accessed 26 January, 2009), entry for Sherman Cemetery Association, 21 January 1896, Deed Book 335: 90-91.

<sup>104</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Stark County, Ohio, population schedule, Bethlehem Township, p. 9A (stamped), sheet No. 9 (penned), dwelling 177, family 185, John Knight, digital image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 January 2009), citing National Archives microfilm T623, roll 1321.

<sup>105</sup> Ohio. Stark County. "Archive Search," digital images, *Stark County Recorder's Office* ([www.recorder.co.stark.oh.us/](http://www.recorder.co.stark.oh.us/) : accessed 26 January, 2009), entry for John Knight, 8 November 1907, Deed Book 460: 254-255 and 255-256.

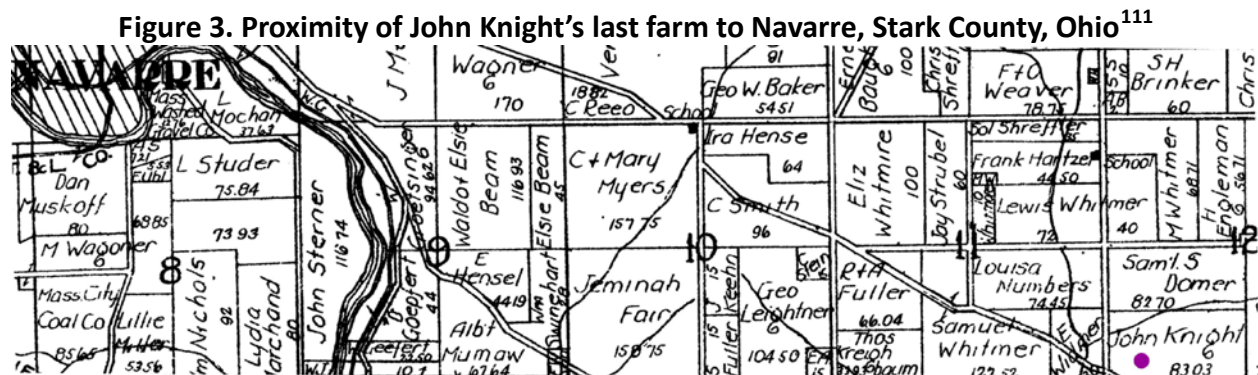
<sup>106</sup> 1910 U.S. census, Stark County, Ohio, population schedule, Bethlehem Township, p. 25 (stamped), sheet 11A (penned), dwelling 118, family 119, John Knight, digital image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 January 2009), citing National Archives microfilm T624, roll 1231. No death record or obituary was located for Martin Mark.

<sup>107</sup> "A Suicide at 87," *The Evening Independent*, Massillon Ohio, 11 May 1908, page 1; and "Think Man took Own Life at 87," *The Canton Repository*, Canton Ohio, 10 May 1908, page 1; and "Bancroft News" *The Canton Repository*, Canton Ohio, 15 May 1908, page 8.

with relatives serving as pallbearers.<sup>108</sup> A tombstone was not located for him, but it is likely he is buried near his wife, Hannah, whose marker reads "26 June 1824—5 February 1892, wife of Jno."

By April 1910, John and Mary's household included the widowed Aggie, listed by her nickname Tillie, and her younger sister, Hallie.<sup>109</sup> Where 11 year old John was is unknown. He was not found elsewhere, so he may have been inadvertently left off the available census copy. John and Mary's other children had married, elder son Earl the preceding year. Although Earl also lived in Bethlehem Township, he was apparently located some distance from his father's farm.<sup>110</sup>

For whatever reasons, John and his son Earl did not seem to work together as well as John and his father had. In September 1916, Earl bought his own farm some miles from John's. He paid a high price of \$8,000 for two parcels totaling 100 acres and obtained a mortgage for \$3,000 of the purchase price. Thrifty John, who, like his father, paid cash for even large purchases such as land, may have questioned the wisdom of his son's business decision.



In 1920, John and Mary lived alone with their youngest child who was an adult by then. The census informant said that John Knight's father was born in Switzerland, his mother in Ohio and that the mother tongue of both parents was German. John said he spoke both German and English.<sup>112</sup> Young John socialized with other young locals<sup>113</sup> and, unlike his older brother Earl, does not ever seem to have seriously taken up the occupation of farming.

<sup>108</sup> "Salmagundi: Today's Doings About Town," burial notice for John Eversole, *The Massillon Independent*, Massillon, Ohio, 12 May 1908, page 2, column 1.

<sup>109</sup> 1910 U.S. census, Stark County, Ohio, population schedule, Bethlehem Township, p. 25 (stamped), sheet 11A (penned), dwelling 118, family 119, John Knight, digital image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 January 2009), citing National Archives microfilm T624, roll 1231.

<sup>110</sup> 1910 U.S. census, Stark County, Ohio, population schedule, Bethlehem Township, sheet 7A (penned), dwelling 75, family 76, E.G. Knight, digital image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 January 2009), citing National Archives microfilm T624, roll 1231.

<sup>111</sup> W.W. Hixson & Co., *Hixson 1930's Ohio Plat Maps*, Stark County Townships, n.d. detail, Rails and Trails, (<http://www.railsandtrails.com/Maps/Hixson-Ohio-Counties/Stark-1930/index.htm> : accessed 27 February 2009).

<sup>112</sup> 1920 U.S. census, Stark County, Ohio, population schedule, Bethlehem Township, p. 94 (stamped), p. 4400 (penned), sheet 3A (penned), dwelling 53, family 61, John Knight, digital image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 January 2009), citing National Archives microfilm T625, roll 1433.

<sup>113</sup> "A Navarre Party," correspondent notes, *The Evening Independent*, Massillon, Ohio, 11 November 1920, page 5, column 2.

By the end of April 1930 when the census was taken, John and Mary were living in a house on Canal St. East on one of two Navarre lots he had purchased that January.<sup>114</sup> They were among only a few in the neighborhood to own a radio. John's birthplace and that of his parents is recorded as Germany rather than Switzerland, but in this instance it is possible to see how the error occurred. He apparently gave his place of birth as Bern, meaning Canton Bern, and enumerator Hazel C. Ziegler likely assumed he meant Bern Germany. When asked if the family lived on a farm, he answered "no" and said that he had no occupation. He confirmed that he had not participated in the Civil War.<sup>115</sup> Two months later, he sold his original Stark County farm<sup>116</sup> which he had managed until the age of 81.<sup>117</sup> When John died on 6 January 1935, his elder son, Earl, was the informant for the death certificate which states that both John Knight and Catherine Wolfe, his wife, were born in Switzerland.<sup>118</sup>

John Knight's will dated 10 January 1919, named his sons Earl and John J. as executors.<sup>119</sup> Earl declined to serve, so younger son John handled the administrative tasks alone. Funeral services were held in John Knight's home and in St. Paul's Evangelical Church,<sup>120</sup> likely the Lutheran church in Bolivar. He was buried in the mausoleum at Bolivar Cemetery in Tuscarawas County.<sup>121</sup> The executor's notice, asking creditors to present claims against the estate within four months was published 16 April 1935.<sup>122</sup> A year later, John Knight Jr. advertised for sale a six room house with garage at the corner of Tuscarawas and Canal Streets in Navarre. The terms called for \$1100.00 in cash.<sup>123</sup> The house, John Knight's last home, was a two-story structure, with a parlor, living room, bedroom, kitchen and pantry downstairs. Two additional bedrooms were on the second floor. The furnishings were modest, with the average room contents appraised at \$25.<sup>124</sup> During her final years, Mary Knight made her home with her

<sup>114</sup> Ohio. Stark County. "Archive Search," digital images, *Stark County Recorder's Office* ([www.recorder.co.stark.oh.us/](http://www.recorder.co.stark.oh.us/) : accessed 7 July, 2009), entry for Mellow Steberger, 8 January 1930, Deed Book 1036: 101.

<sup>115</sup> 1930 U.S. census, Stark County, Ohio, population schedule, Bethlehem Township, p. 248 (stamped), sheet 5A (penned), dwelling 97, family 104, John Knight, digital image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 January 2009), citing National Archives microfilm T626, roll 1869.

<sup>116</sup> Ohio. Stark County. "Archive Search," digital images, *Stark County Recorder's Office* ([www.recorder.co.stark.oh.us/](http://www.recorder.co.stark.oh.us/) : accessed 7 July, 2009), entry for John Knight, 25 June 1930, Deed Book 1058: 103 and entry for Paul M. Ulrich, 24 June 1930, Deed Book 1058: 104.

<sup>117</sup> The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints [LDS], "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1953," database, *FamilySearch* pilot site (<http://pilot.familysearch.org> : accessed 16 January 2009, entry for John Knight, 1935, citing death certificate 6244, Stark County, Ohio.

<sup>118</sup> The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints [LDS], "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1953," database, *FamilySearch* pilot site (<http://pilot.familysearch.org> : accessed 16 January 2009, entry for John Knight, 1935, citing death certificate 6244, Stark County.

<sup>119</sup> Since his son was named John O. Knight, the use of J. as the middle initial reflects the fact that he was known as John Knight, Jr.; Ohio. Stark County. Probate Records, Case Number 26933, John Knight, estate 1935, Stark County Regional Library, Canton.

<sup>120</sup> "Funeral, Wednesday," notice of change for funeral service, John Knight, *The Evening Independent*, Massillon Ohio, 8 January 1935, page 2.

<sup>121</sup> "John Knight: retired farmer stricken at home in Navarre at 86," obituary, *The Canton Repository*, Canton, Ohio, 7 January, 1935, page 7, and "John Knight: funeral services Wednesday at 1:30 in home for Navarre Man," funeral notice, *The Canton Repository*, Canton, Ohio, 8 January 1935, page 13.

<sup>122</sup> "Executor's Notice," John Knight, *The Evening Independent*, Massillon Ohio, 16 April 1935, page 8.

<sup>123</sup> "Navarre," advertisement, *The Evening Independent*, Massillon Ohio, 6 April 1936, page 12, column 7.

<sup>124</sup> Ohio. Stark County. Probate Records, Case Number 26933, John Knight, estate 1935, Stark County Regional Library, Canton.

daughter, Tillie Masters, in Canton<sup>125</sup> where she died on 15 March 1939.<sup>126</sup> Mary was a member of the Reformed Church and is buried with her husband in the Bolivar Cemetery mausoleum.<sup>127</sup>

The known children of John and Mary (née Eversole) Knight, all born in Ohio, are:

- 8 i. ELLA ELIZABETH KNIGHT, born 20 January 1880 and died 11 July 1918 in Osnaburg at the home of her sister Tillie (née Knight) Decker. Her funeral was held at the Decker home and burial was in the Valley Chapel Cemetery in Canton. Ella Knight married and divorced [—?—] Turnbull.<sup>128</sup> She left two daughters, Mary Turnbull and Miriam Turnbull.<sup>129</sup>
  
- 9 ii. AGGIE MATILDA "TILLIE" KNIGHT, born 21 January 1883 and died 26 December 1963 in Summit County.<sup>130</sup> On 29 March 1906, in Stark County, she married (1) Martin Mark, a son of John C. and Sarah N. (née Brechbill) Mark.<sup>131</sup> He was born February 1882<sup>132</sup> and died during 1907.<sup>133</sup> On 15 April 1913, in Stark County, she married (2) George E. Decker, a son of David and Lottie (née Garboden) Decker.<sup>134</sup> A self-employed farmer, George E. Decker was born 16 December 1885 in Canton and died in Osnaburg on 28 November 1919.<sup>135</sup> On 5 September 1929, in Stark County, she married (3) A. Lincoln Masters,<sup>136</sup> a son of Samuel and Abigail (née Masters) Masters.<sup>137</sup> He was

<sup>125</sup> "Canton Ohio Directories, 1888-1901, 1936, 1938-40, 1942, 1945," database, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 16 July 2009), entries for Artie Knight, Mrs. Mary Knight, and Orin Knight, citing *Canton Official City Directory*, 1938 (Akron, Ohio: The Burch Directory Company, 1938, pages 34 and 592).

<sup>126</sup> The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints [LDS], "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1953," database, *FamilySearch* pilot site (<http://pilot.familysearch.org> : accessed 16 January 2009), entry for Mary Knight, 1939, citing death certificate 20209, Stark County.

<sup>127</sup> "Mrs. Mary Knight," obituary, *The Canton Repository*, Canton, Ohio, 16 March 1939, page 22.

<sup>128</sup> "Dies of Complications," obituary for Ella Turnbull, *The Canton Repository*, Canton, Ohio, 11 July 1918, page 9, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints [LDS], "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1953," database, *FamilySearch* pilot site (<http://pilot.familysearch.org> : accessed 28 March 2009), entry for Mrs. Ella Turnbull, 1918, citing death certificate 45203, Stark County.

<sup>129</sup> Ohio. Stark County. Probate Records, Case Number 26933, John Knight, estate 1935, Stark County Regional Library, Canton.

<sup>130</sup> "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1932, 1938-1944, and 1958-2002," database, *Ancestry.com* and *Ohio Department of Health* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 3 May 2009), entry for Matilda A. Masters, 26 December 1963 and Social Security Administration, "Social Security Death Index," database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 3 May 2009), entry for Matilda Masters, 1963, SS no. 298-32-5308.

<sup>131</sup> Ohio. Stark County. Probate Records, Case Number 8-582MA, Mark-Knight, 1906, Stark County Regional Library, Canton, citing Stark County, Ohio Marriage Records 21:407.

<sup>132</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Stark County, Ohio, population schedule, Bethlehem Township, p. 8282 (penned), dwelling 112, family 114, John C. Marks, digital image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 28 February 2009), citing National Archives microfilm T623, roll 1322.

<sup>133</sup> The Ohio Genealogical Society, *Cemetery Inscriptions, Stark County, Ohio, Volume IV*, (Stark County Chapter, 1984), page 341, entry for Martin Mark, d. 1907.

<sup>134</sup> Ohio. Stark County. Probate Court, case number 26-48MA, Decker-Mark, Stark County Regional Library, Canton, citing Stark County, Ohio Marriage Records 26:48. On the marriage application Tillie Mark was noted as not previously married and her father incorrectly named as John Mark. Her mother was correctly named as Mary Eversole.

<sup>135</sup> "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1953," database, *FamilySearch* pilot site (<http://pilot.familysearch.org> : accessed 28 March 2009), entry for George E. Myers [sic] Decker, 1919, citing death certificate 65524, Stark County and "Dies while on charity mission," obituary for George Decker, *The Canton Repository*, Canton, Ohio, 29 November 1919, page 3.

<sup>136</sup> Ohio. Stark County. Probate Court, case number 41-207M, marriage application, Decker-Masters, 1929, Stark County Regional Library, Canton, citing Stark County Ohio Marriage Records 41:207.



- born 28 October 1870 in Ohio and died in Canton on 8 February 1951. In April 1930, Lincoln Masters was working in a grocery store with his step-son, Victor.<sup>138</sup> A member of the Bethel Lutheran Church, he is buried in the Greentown Cemetery.<sup>139</sup> Matilda was a member of the First Church of the Brethren. She is buried in Valley Chapel Cemetery in East Canton next to her first husband, Martin Mark, and her sister, Ella (née Knight) Turnbull.<sup>140</sup>
- + 10    iii. EARL GEORGE KNIGHT, born 30 March 1886 in Bethlehem Township, Stark County<sup>141</sup> and died in Canton 24 December 1964.<sup>142</sup>
- 11    iv. KITTIE M. KNIGHT, born May 1888 and died 3 December 1957 in Stark County.<sup>143</sup> On 15 February 1910, she married John F. Snyder, a son of Isaac and Polly (née Powell) Snyder.<sup>144</sup> He was born about 1876 in Stark County and died there 29 March 1966.<sup>145</sup> Kittie and John are buried in the Greenlawn-Uniontown Cemetery.<sup>146</sup>
- 12    v. HALLIE A. KNIGHT, born March 1893 and died 11 November 1977 in Stark County.<sup>147</sup> On 17 June 1917, in Stark County, she married (1) John E. Smith, a son of William and Hattie (née Myers) Smith.<sup>148</sup> The couple owned Smith Florist in Akron and lived in Uniontown.<sup>149</sup> She married (2) George E. Ogle, who survived her.<sup>150</sup>

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<sup>137</sup> Ray F. McCune, "1869-1879 Coshocton County Ohio Births," online index, *Coshocton County OHGenWeb Project*, ([http://coshoctonohio.pa-roots.com/Births1867\\_1879/births1867\\_1879Info.html](http://coshoctonohio.pa-roots.com/Births1867_1879/births1867_1879Info.html): accessed 7 August 2009). Abigail repeatedly gave Masters as her maiden name when her children were born.

<sup>138</sup> 1930 U.S. census, Stark County, Ohio, population schedule, Canton, p. 274 (stamped), sheet 11A (penned), dwelling 241, family 250, Lenon Masters, digital image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 24 February 2009), citing National Archives microfilm T626, roll 1870.

<sup>139</sup> "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1953," database, *FamilySearch* pilot site (<http://pilot.familysearch.org> : accessed 28 March 2009), entry for Lincoln A. Masters, 1951, citing death certificate 12250, Stark County; and "Lincoln A. Masters," obituary, *The Canton Repository*, 9 February 1951, page 7.

<sup>140</sup> "Mrs. Matilda D. Masters," obituary, *The Canton Repository*, Canton, Ohio, 27 December 1963, page 11; "Masters, Mrs. Matilda Decker," death notice, *The Canton Repository*, Canton, Ohio, 27 December 1963, page 26; and The Ohio Genealogical Society, *Cemetery Inscriptions, Stark County, Ohio, Volume IV*, (Stark County Chapter, 1984), pages 340-341, entries for Matilda Decker Masters, Martin Mark, and Ella Turnbull, all in row seven, and cemetery description: Valley Chapel Cemetery is in Canton Township located S1 on west side of Trump Avenue NE, one mile north of Lincoln Street SE, 600 feet north of Georgetown Street NE.

<sup>141</sup> "World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 January 2009) Earl George Knight, serial no. [illeg.], order no. 1094, Local [Draft] Board, Stark County, Ohio; citing World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918, NARA microfilm publication M1509, roll 1851188.

<sup>142</sup> Ohio. Department of Health. Division of Vital Statistics, death certificate 1839, (1964), Earl G. Knight.

<sup>143</sup> "Mrs. John F. Snyder," obituary, *The Canton Repository*, Canton, Ohio, 3 December 1957, page 13.

<sup>144</sup> Ohio. Stark County. Probate Records, Case Number 23-559MA, Snyder-Knight, 1910, Stark County Regional Library, Canton, citing Stark County, Ohio Marriage Records 23:559.

<sup>145</sup> "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1932, 1938-1944, and 1958-2002," database, *Ancestry.com* and *Ohio Department of Health* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 28 February 2009), entry for John F. Snyder, 29 March 1966.

<sup>146</sup> "Snyder," obituary and death notice for John F. Snyder, *The Canton Repository*, 30 March 1966, pages 57 and 27.

<sup>147</sup> "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1932, 1938-1944, and 1958-2002," database, *Ancestry.com* and *Ohio Department of Health* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 13 January 2009), entry for Hallie S. Ogle, 11 November 1977 and "Ogle, Hallie Smith," obituary, *The Canton Repository*, Canton, Ohio, 12 November 1977, page 15

<sup>148</sup> Ohio. Stark County. Probate Records, Case Number 29-182MB, Smith-Knight, 1917, Stark County Regional Library, Canton, citing Stark County, Ohio Marriage Records 29:182.

- 13 vi. JOHN ORREN KNIGHT, born 26 September 1898<sup>151</sup> and died 10 May 1960 in Stark County.<sup>152</sup> On 18 June 1931, in Tuscarawas County, he married Mary Bender, a daughter of James E. and Della (née Belknap) Bender. Mary was born 9 July 1899 in Bolivar County, Ohio.<sup>153</sup> John was a florist with Smith Florist, working with his sister and brother-in-law, Hallie and John E. Smith, in Uniontown, where he took up residence about 1930.<sup>154</sup>

## Earl George Knight

**10. Earl<sup>5</sup> George Knight** (John<sup>4</sup>, Johannes<sup>3</sup>, Daniel<sup>A</sup>, Niclauß<sup>B</sup>) was born 30 March 1886, to John and Mary (née Eversole) Knight, in Bethlehem Township, Stark County, Ohio<sup>155</sup> and died there 24 December 1964.<sup>156</sup> On December 25 1909 he married (1) **Carrie Zella McClure**, a daughter of William and Martha Jane (née Johns) McClure.<sup>157</sup> Carrie was born 24 April 1885 in Wayne County, Ohio and died 12 March 1968 in Stark County.<sup>158</sup> Earl and Carrie divorced on 10 May 1943.<sup>159</sup> On 1 June 1943, Earl G. Knight married (2) **Ada Ustena (née Shupe) Hoover**,<sup>160</sup> a daughter of Samuel and Flora (née) Bali Shupe. Ada Shupe was born 24 November 1888 and died 12 June 1962 in Stark County.<sup>161</sup> Earl and Ada divorced on 29 June 1951.<sup>162</sup> On 6 March 1952 he married (3) **Ann (née Frutig) Silver**, a daughter of Fred and Kathryn (née Groff) Frutig. She was born 9 June 1895 in Dundee, Tuscarawas County, Ohio.<sup>163</sup> Earl and Ann divorced on 5

<sup>149</sup> The Burch Directory Company, *Akron, Tallmadge, Portage Lakes, Barberton, and Cuyahoga Falls Official City Directory*, (Akron, Ohio: The Burch Directory Co., 1946), entry for John F. and Hallie Smith, page 1480. Hallie Ogle's obituary incorrectly states that she was an owner of Smith Floors, but directory listings confirm the business was a florist shop.

<sup>150</sup> The name on her estate reads "Hallie Smith Ogle AKA Hallie A. Smith," Ohio. Stark County, Probate Court General Case information, case number 105088, closed 26 March 1979; and Ogle Hallie Smith," obituary, *Canton Repository*, 12 November 1977, page 15.

<sup>151</sup> "World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 11 January 2009) John Orren Knight, serial no. 2464, order no. 3621, Local [Draft] Board, Stark County, Ohio; citing World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918, NARA microfilm publication M1509, roll 1851188.

<sup>152</sup> The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints [LDS], "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1932, 1938-1844, 1958-2002," database, *FamilySearch* pilot site (<http://pilot.familysearch.org> : accessed 16 January 2009, entry for John O. Knight, 1960, citing death certificate 39352, Stark County, Ohio.

<sup>153</sup> Tuscarawas County, Ohio, Marriage Records 24: 502, Knight-Bender, 1931, Tuscarawas County Genealogical Society, New Philadelphia.

<sup>154</sup> "John O. Knight," obituary, *The Canton Repository*, Canton, Ohio, 11 May 1960, page 28.

<sup>155</sup> "World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 January 2009) Earl George Knight, serial no. [illeg.], order no. 1094, Local [Draft] Board, Stark County, Ohio; citing World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918, NARA microfilm publication M1509, roll 1851188.

<sup>156</sup> Ohio. Department of Health. Division of Vital Statistics, death certificate 1839, (1964), Earl G. Knight.

<sup>157</sup> Tuscarawas County, Ohio, Marriage Records 15: 436, Knight-McClure, 1909, Ohio Historical Society, Columbus.

<sup>158</sup> Ohio. Department of Health. Division of Vital Statistics, death certificate 025192, (1968), Carrie Z. Knight.

<sup>159</sup> Ohio. Stark County. Clerk of Courts, Case Number D.R. 12747, Earl G. Knight v. Carrie Z. Knight, 10 May 1943.

<sup>160</sup> Ohio. Stark County. Probate Records, Case Number 53-42MA, Knight-Hoover, 1943, Stark County Regional Library, Canton, citing Stark County, Ohio Marriage Records 53:42.

<sup>161</sup> Ohio. Department of Health. Division of Vital Statistics, death certificate 201, (1962), Ada Ustena Knight.

<sup>162</sup> Ohio. Stark County. Clerk of Courts, Case Number D.R. 25065, Ada U. Knight v. Earl G. Knight, 29 June 1951.

<sup>163</sup> Ohio. Tuscarawas County, Marriage Records 1952: 49394, Knight-Silver, 1952, Probate and Juvenile Court, New Philadelphia.

September 1952.<sup>164</sup> On 29 April 1954, Earl G. Knight married (4) **Marie Katherine (née Curtis) Marstrell**,<sup>165</sup> a daughter of William Edward and Mary Ellen (née O'Conner) Curtis. She was born 23 January 1897 in Ohio and died 22 August 1988 in Tuscarawas County.<sup>166</sup> Earl and Marie divorced on 29 July 1961.<sup>167</sup>

### First native-born son

Earl George Knight was a member of the first generation and the first son born to this family in the United States. Many of the things that had figured prominently in the lives of the preceding two generations, including life in rural Switzerland, the Society of Separatists of Zoar, and speaking German as a first language, were never part of Earl's personal experience. What he shared with the preceding generations was his farmer occupation, but his business approach seemingly set him on a different path than that of his father and grandfather. Part of the difference may have resulted from the environmental instability introduced when the country experienced a depression that prematurely affected farmers, but at least some of the disparity must stem from the fact that his world view was simply not the same as that of his more cautious forebears.

### Earl and Carrie

On Christmas day in 1909, Lutheran minister Geo. G. Bright joined in marriage farmer Earl G. Knight of Navarre and houseworker Carrie McClure of Strasburg.<sup>168</sup> Reverend Bright did not note the names of witnesses or where the wedding took place, although, given the date, a brief ceremony in his home on Main Street in Strasburg or the nearby church seems likely.<sup>169</sup>

Earl and Carrie spent their many years together on farms. When they first married, they rented. Earl was working as a farm laborer in 1910,<sup>170</sup> but whether he worked on his father's farm is unknown. He likely continued in the employ of others until 8 September 1916 when he bought an 80 acre farm plus 20 nearby acres for the large sum of \$8,000.<sup>171</sup> Earl mortgaged \$3,000 of the purchase price. The land he bought was close to Richville<sup>172</sup> and reports from the Richville and Navarre correspondents to Massillon's *Evening Independent* provide a few fleeting

<sup>164</sup> Ohio. Stark County. Clerk of Courts, Case Number D.R. 26791, Earl G. Knight v. Ann Knight, 5 September 1952.

<sup>165</sup> Tuscarawas County, Ohio, Marriage Records 34: 164, Knight-Marstrell, 1954, Tuscarawas County Genealogical Society, New Philadelphia, and "Nuptials Read in New Phila," marriage announcement Mr. and Mrs. Earl Knight, *The Daily Reporter*, Dover, Ohio, 13 May 1954, page 7, columns 6-7.

<sup>166</sup> Ohio. Department of Health. Division of Vital Statistics, death certificate 080868 (1988), Marie Katherine Knight; and "Marie Knight," obituary, *Times-Reporter*, New Philadelphia, Ohio, 23 August 1888.

<sup>167</sup> Ohio. Stark County. Clerk of Courts, Case Number D.R. 39441, Earl G. Knight v. Marie K. Knight, 29 July 1961.

<sup>168</sup> Ohio. Tuscarawas County, Marriage Records 15: 436, Knight-McClure, 1909, Ohio Historical Society, Columbus.

<sup>169</sup> 1910 U.S. census, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, population schedule, Village of Strasburg, Franklin Township, p. 144 (stamped), sheet 1A (penned), dwelling 2, family 2, George S. Bright, digital image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 19 June 2009), citing National Archives microfilm T624, roll 1236.

<sup>170</sup> 1910 U.S. census, Stark County, Ohio, page 7A, E.G. Knight.

<sup>171</sup> Ohio. Stark County. "Archive Search," digital images, *Stark County Recorder's Office* ([www.recorder.co.stark.oh.us/](http://www.recorder.co.stark.oh.us/) : accessed 27 January, 2009), entry for Earl G. Knight, 8 September 1916, Deed Book 604: 193.

<sup>172</sup> "Township and Range - Public Land Survey System on Google Earth," databases and digital images, *Earth Point*, (<http://www.earthpoint.us/townships.aspx> : accessed 6 July 2009), citing BLM data set, Ohio, U.S. Military Survey, OH T10N R9W S36, southeast quarter, showing location of land purchased by Earl G. Knight on 8 September 1916 and subdivided beginning in 1941.

glimpses into Earl and Carrie's life and help differentiate him from two other men named Earl Knight of the same approximate age who lived in the area.

The 1920 census shows that the couple had three daughters and one son born during their first eleven years of marriage.<sup>173</sup> Earl's parents were recorded as born in Germany, but surely he did not make that declaration since clearly he knew of his Swiss heritage when providing information for his father's death certificate.

An economic depression began for farmers in 1920, years before the more well-known crash in October 1929.<sup>174</sup> Earl's father and grandfather had withstood national financial crises,<sup>175</sup> Johann Nacht likely during 1857 and certainly through the depression that lasted from 1873-1878. His son, John Knight, continued to prosper despite the financial crisis of 1893-1897. But farm life during the 1920s was surely not easy and, for Earl and Carrie, apparently not especially profitable. On 1 December 1922, Earl and Carrie took out the first of a series of mortgages, this one with the Federal Land Bank in Louisville, Kentucky.<sup>176</sup>

All of Earl and Carrie's children attended school in 1920, although the oldest son, Orren, was listed in the census as a general farm laborer. This likely meant that Orren carried a full work load at the farm in addition to school duties. Once again, it was noted that Earl's father was born in Germany rather than Switzerland.<sup>177</sup> The census also shows that several of the Knight's neighbors had shifted their primary source of income from farming to employment in light industry, making roller bearings or corrugated boxes. Earl apparently did not ever join them, but remained a farmer as long as he could.

What factors entered into Earl's decision are not known, but in 1941 he began subdividing the family's farm. His eldest son had set a professional path outside the farm, his remaining sons were of service age during wartime and, even if he had the resources to hire farm help, there would have been few available workers during the remainder of World War II. On 5 December 1941, Earl G. and Carrie Z. Knight recorded the sale of less than half an acre described as "Lot Number Twenty-five (25) of an unrecorded plat."<sup>178</sup> Further, his marriage of more than 30 years was ending. He and Carrie divorced on 10 May 1943 after "living apart for some time."

### Earl's other marriages

Ultimately, it is Earl's land that ties him to his three subsequent wives, for they were each party to his subdivision transactions. Two weeks after divorcing Carrie, on 1 June 1943, Earl

<sup>173</sup> 1920 U.S. census, Stark County, Ohio, population schedule, Perry Township, p. 6539 (penned), sheet 31B (penned), dwelling 478, family 496, Earl G. Knight, digital image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 January 2009), citing National Archives microfilm T625, roll 1436.

<sup>174</sup> Jerome M. Stamm and Bruce L. Nixon, *Farmer Bankruptcies and Farm Exits in the United States 1899-2002*, (Washington, D.C. : United States Department of Agriculture) page 11.

<sup>175</sup> "The Panic of 1857," *American Memory, Library of Congress*, (<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/aug24.html> : accessed 7 August 2009), "Panic of 1893," *Wikipedia* ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panic\\_of\\_1893](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panic_of_1893) : accessed 7 August 2009).

<sup>176</sup> Ohio. Stark County. "Archive Search," digital images, *Stark County Recorder's Office* ([www.recorder.co.stark.oh.us/](http://www.recorder.co.stark.oh.us/) : accessed 8 July, 2009), entry for Earl G. Knight and Carrie Z. Knight, 1 December 1922, Mortgage Book 658: 124-125.

<sup>177</sup> 1930 U.S. census, Stark County, Ohio, population schedule, Perry Township, p. 41 (stamped), sheet 12A (penned), dwelling 253, family 261, Earl G. Knight, digital image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 January 2009), citing National Archives microfilm T626, roll 1873.

<sup>178</sup> Ohio. Stark County. "Archive Search," digital images, *Stark County Recorder's Office* ([www.recorder.co.stark.oh.us/](http://www.recorder.co.stark.oh.us/) : accessed 25 April, 2009), entry for Earl G. and Carrie Z. Knight, widow, 5 December 1941, Deed Book 1322: 257 (two sheets both numbered 257).

G. Knight married Ada Ustena (née Shupe) Hoover, a daughter of Samuel and Flora (née) Bali Shupe. Ada was born 24 November 1888 and died 12 June 1962 in Stark County.<sup>179</sup> Ada married (1) Neal V. Runser<sup>180</sup> and (2) Frank E. Hoover<sup>181</sup> before marrying (3) Earl G. Knight. Earl and Ada divorced on 29 June 1951, the same day Ada filed a quit claim on the balance of Earl's property.<sup>182</sup>

Earl did not remain single for very long. On March 6 1952, in Beach City, Stark County, Earl married Ann (née Frutig) Silver, a daughter of Fred and Kathryn (née Groff) Frutig.<sup>183</sup> Ann was born 9 June 1895 in Dundee, Tuscarawas County. As Harriet Anna Frutig, she had married (1) Merle Machan whom she divorced on 15 December 1928 and (2) Donald C. Silver, whom she divorced on 14 December 1950.<sup>184</sup> Earl and Ann divorced on 5 September 1952.<sup>185</sup>

Earl remained busy working on the development of his property. On 29 April 1954, he dedicated "to the public use forever" a Knight Subdivision street he called Maple Drive.<sup>186</sup> The same day he married Marie (née Curtis) Marstrell at the Evangelical United Brethren Church of New Philadelphia. On the marriage application Earl stated that he was three times previously married. Marie had earlier married (1) Joseph L. Marstrell, from whom she was divorced on 16 February 1931<sup>187</sup> and (2) Leonard Orlo Pearch,<sup>188</sup> although she revealed only one prior marriage on the application. Earl and Marie took a honeymoon trip through southern states and made their home on Eden Church Road<sup>189</sup> in Earl's new Eden View development.<sup>190</sup> Earl and Marie's marriage did not last and their divorce was granted 29 July 1961.<sup>191</sup>

Earl died on Christmas eve 1964 at Mary Grove Rest Home in Canton,<sup>192</sup> one day before what would have been his 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with his first wife, Carrie, had their marriage survived. He is buried in Eden Cemetery, Perry Township, in the first row of the "new

<sup>179</sup> Ohio. Department of Health. Division of Vital Statistics, death certificate 201, (1962), Ada Ustena Knight.

<sup>180</sup> Ohio. Stark County. "Archive Search," digital images, *Stark County Recorder's Office* ([www.recorder.co.stark.oh.us/](http://www.recorder.co.stark.oh.us/)) : accessed 8 July, 2009), entry for Ada U. Knight, 31 August 1951, affidavit stating she was the same person as Ada U. Runser, Deed Book 1948: 399.

<sup>181</sup> She is listed as a wife in the 1930 U.S. census, Stark County, Ohio, population schedule, Alliance, page 217 (stamped), page 2851 (penned), dwelling 5, family 5, Frank E. Hoover, digital image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com>) : accessed 16 February 2009), citing National Archives microfilm T626, roll 1871.

<sup>182</sup> Ohio. Stark County. "Archive Search," digital images, *Stark County Recorder's Office* ([www.recorder.co.stark.oh.us/](http://www.recorder.co.stark.oh.us/)) : accessed 8 July, 2009), entry for Ada U. Knight, 29 June 1951, quit claim, Deed Book 1800: 626.

<sup>183</sup> Ohio. Tuscarawas County, Marriage Records 1952: 49394, Knight-Silver, 1952, Probate and Juvenile Court, New Philadelphia; and Ohio. Stark County. Clerk of Courts, Case Number D.R. 26791, Earl G. Knight v. Ann Knight, 5 September 1952.

<sup>184</sup> Ohio. Tuscarawas County, Marriage Records 1952: 49394, Knight-Silver, 1952, Probate and Juvenile Court, New Philadelphia.

<sup>185</sup> Ohio. Stark County. Clerk of Courts, Case Number D.R. 26791, Earl G. Knight v. Ann Knight, 5 September 1952.

<sup>186</sup> Ohio. Stark County. "Archive Search," digital images, *Stark County Recorder's Office* ([www.recorder.co.stark.oh.us/](http://www.recorder.co.stark.oh.us/)) : accessed 11 July, 2009), entry for Earl G. Knight, 7 May 1954, dedication plat, Plat Book 30: 78.

<sup>187</sup> Tuscarawas County, Ohio, Marriage Records 34: 164, Knight-Marstrell, 1954, Tuscarawas County Genealogical Society, New Philadelphia.

<sup>188</sup> "Marriage Index," *Tuscarawas County Genealogical Society* (<http://web.tusco.net/tcgs/Index%20marriages.pdf>) : accessed 7 July, 2009), entry for Pearch, Leonard O. and Marstrell, Marie K. Mrs. (Curtis), citing Marriage Book 5: 354.

<sup>189</sup> "Nuptials Read in New Phila," marriage announcement Mr. and Mrs. Earl Knight, *The Daily Reporter*, Dover, Ohio, 13 May 1954, page 7, columns 6-7.

<sup>190</sup> Ohio. Stark County. "Archive Search," digital images, *Stark County Recorder's Office* ([www.recorder.co.stark.oh.us/](http://www.recorder.co.stark.oh.us/)) : accessed 25 April, 2009), entry for Knight's Eden View Allotment, 30 July 1955, Plat Book 32: 3.

<sup>191</sup> Ohio. Stark County. Clerk of Courts, Case Number D.R. 39441, Earl G. Knight v. Marie K. Knight, 29 July 1961.

<sup>192</sup> "Earl G. Knight," obituary, *Massillon Independent*, Massillon, Ohio, 24 December 1963, page 3.

part.”<sup>193</sup> Carrie did not remarry and was living with her daughter, Viva G. Riffle, at the time of her death. She is buried in Eden Cemetery in Canton,<sup>194</sup> with her daughters, Donna Marie, Zella, and Viva.<sup>195</sup> Four rows separate Carrie’s resting place from that of her former husband, Earl G. Knight.

The known children of Earl George and Carrie (née McClure) Knight, all almost certainly born and died in Stark County, Ohio (unless noted otherwise) are:

- 14 i. ZELLA MAY KNIGHT, born 19 March 1911 and died 9 April 1935.<sup>196</sup> In 1930, she was enumerated as a daughter in her parents’ household<sup>197</sup> and also as a servant in the David B. Morrow home.<sup>198</sup> David B. Morrow was comptroller of the Berger Manufacturing Company<sup>199</sup> where Zella Knight was employed at the time of her death.<sup>200</sup> She did not marry. Her funeral services were held at the home of her parents and at Niesz Church.<sup>201</sup>
- 15 ii. ORREN WILLIAM KNIGHT, born 4 June 1912 and died 26 September 1982 in Bloomington, McLean County, Illinois.<sup>202</sup> On 24 November 1937 in Stark County, he married Marguerite Helena Gorman,<sup>203</sup> a daughter of George F. Gorman and Pauline Kloss. She was born 3 May 1913 in Canton, Stark County and died 27 April 2004 in Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan.<sup>204</sup> During the late 1940s, Orren and Marguerite established Knight’s Shoppe in Bloomington, Illinois.<sup>205</sup>

The child of Orren William and Marguerite Helena (née Gorman) Knight is:

<sup>193</sup> Stark County Chapter, The Ohio Genealogical Society, *Cemetery Inscriptions, Stark County, Ohio, Volume VI*, (n.p. : the society, 1985), page 137, entry for Earl G. Knight and cemetery description: Eden Cemetery is in Perry Township, location S36, 0.6 mile east of Shepler Church Rd., on north side of Richville Rd. by church.

<sup>194</sup> Ohio. Department of Health. Division of Vital Statistics, death certificate 025192, 1968, Carrie Z. Knight and “Mrs. Carrie Z. Knight,” obituary, *Massillon Independent*, Massillon, Ohio, 13 March 1968, page 3.

<sup>195</sup> Stark County Chapter, The Ohio Genealogical Society, *Cemetery Inscriptions, Stark County, Ohio, Volume VI*, (n.p. : the society, 1985), page 138, entries for Viva Riffle Loy, Carrie Z. Knight, Zella Mae Knight, and Donna Marie Knight.

<sup>196</sup> “Miss Zella M. Knight Dies in Mercy Hospital of Complication of Diseases,” obituary, *The Canton Repository*, Canton, Ohio, 10 April 1935, page 23; and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints [LDS], “Ohio Deaths, 1908-1953,” database, *FamilySearch* pilot site (<http://pilot.familysearch.org> : accessed 16 January 2009), entry for Zella Knight, 1935, citing death certificate 26742, Stark County.

<sup>197</sup> 1930 U.S. census, Stark County, Ohio, page 41, Earl G. Knight.

<sup>198</sup> 1930 U.S. census, Stark County, Ohio, population schedule, Canton, page 4647 (penned), dwelling 177, family 185, David B. Morrow, digital image, *Ancestry.com*, (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 24 February 2009), citing National Archives microfilm T626, roll 1870.

<sup>199</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>200</sup> The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints [LDS], “Ohio Deaths, 1908-1953,” database, *FamilySearch* pilot site (<http://pilot.familysearch.org> : accessed 16 January 2009), entry for Zella Knight, 1935, citing death certificate 26742, Stark County.

<sup>201</sup> “Miss Zella M. Knight,” funeral announcement, *The Canton Repository*, Canton, Ohio, 11 April 1935, page 23.

<sup>202</sup> Social Security Administration, “Social Security Death Index,” database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 January 2009, entry for Orren Knight, 1982, SS no 287-03-2953.

<sup>203</sup> Ohio. Stark County. Probate Records, Case number 46-409MB, Knight-Gorman, 1937, Stark County Regional Library, Canton, citing Stark County, Ohio Marriage Records 46:409.

<sup>204</sup> “Marguerite Knight,” obituary, *The Pantagraph*, Bloomington, Illinois, 30 April 2004.

<sup>205</sup> “Orren W. Knight,” obituary, *The Pantagraph*, Bloomington, Illinois, 27 September 1982, page C3, column 3.

- i. Living Knight, born 17 April 1945, Williamsport, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania.<sup>206</sup>
- 16    iii. VIVA GLADYS KNIGHT, born 14 January 1915 and died 23 May 1969.<sup>207</sup> She married (1) John Riffle, Jr.<sup>208</sup> and apparently married (2) [—?—] Loy.<sup>209</sup> John Riffle, Jr. was born 20 July 1889 and died in October 1957.
- 17    iv. ARTIE J. KNIGHT, born 24 November 1918 and died October 1992 in Williston, Levy County, Florida.<sup>210</sup> On 15 July 1938, she married Adolph Peterson, a son of Russell and Elizabeth (née Johnson) Peterson.<sup>211</sup> He was born 12 February 1909 in Ohio and died 13 March 1983 in Stark County. Artie and Adolph apparently divorced.<sup>212</sup> On 30 July 1971, in Miami-Dade, Florida, she married (2) Harmon F. Martin.<sup>213</sup> Artie was likely named Ardith, as family records show, but no document using that name was located.
- 18    v. LEROY M. KNIGHT, born 9 February 1920 in Perry Township and died 12 May 2004.<sup>214</sup> On 17 September 1946, he married Josephine Cairns, a daughter of William and Susan (née Shank) Cairns.<sup>215</sup> Josephine was born about 1921 in Navarre, Stark County and died there 24 March 1990.<sup>216</sup> Leroy Knight was a life-long electrician and

<sup>206</sup> "Hospital Notes," *Gazette and Bulletin*, Williamsport, Pennsylvania, 18 April 1945 and personal communication, K.L. (née Knight) Schmitt to P.L. Brinegar, telephone interview, May 2009.

<sup>207</sup> "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1932, 1938-1944, and 1958-2002," database, *Ancestry.com* and *Ohio Department of Health* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 13 January 2009), entry for Viva G. Loy, 23 May 1969.

<sup>208</sup> "John Riffle, Early Auto Dealer and Wholesaler, Dies," obituary, *The Canton Repository*, Canton, Ohio, 28 October 1957, page 12, says he is survived by his widow, Viva G. Riffle "of the home," a daughter, Mrs. Joseph A. Born, of Canton, and a grandson. An obituary published the following day does not mention his survivors: "John Riffle, Jr.," *The Canton Repository*, Canton, Ohio, 29 October 1957, page 10.

<sup>209</sup> The caption for her estate reads "Viva G. Riffle AKA Loy AKA Vi Gladys Loy," Ohio. Stark County, Probate Court General Case information, case number 84428, closed 12 October 1971.

<sup>210</sup> Social Security Administration, "Social Security Death Index," database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 January 2009, entry for Artie J. Martin, 1992, SS no 274-09-8981. SSDI says 25 November, but various family records say 24 November 1918.

<sup>211</sup> Ohio. Stark County. Probate Records, Case number 47-110MB, marriage application, Petersen-Knight, 1938, Stark County Regional Library, Canton, citing Stark County, Ohio Marriage Records 47:110.

<sup>212</sup> "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1932, 1938-1944, and 1958-2002," database, *Ancestry.com* and *Ohio Department of Health* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 28 May 2009), entry for Adolph Peterson, 13 March 1983 and Social Security Administration, "Social Security Death Index," database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 28 May 2009, entry for Adolph Peterson, 1983, SS no 287-05-2978.

<sup>213</sup> "Florida Marriage Collection, 1822-1875 and 1927-2001," online index, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 31 July 2009) entries for Artie Peterson and Harmon F. Martin, volume 3082, certificate 043185, citing *Florida Marriage Index 1927-2001*, Florida Department of Health, Jacksonville.

<sup>214</sup> Social Security Administration, "Social Security Death Index," database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 January 2009, entry for Leroy M. Knight, 2004, SS no. 280-12-4233 and "Leroy M. "Cappy" Knight," obituary, *The Canton Repository*, Canton, Ohio, 30 October 1934, 17 May 2004.

<sup>215</sup> Ohio. Stark County. Probate Records, Case Number 9-132MB, Knight-Cairns, 1946, Stark County Regional Library, Canton, citing Stark County, Ohio Marriage Records 57:329.

<sup>216</sup> Josephine M. Knight," obituary, *The Massillon Independent*, Massillon, Ohio, 26 March 1990, page 6.

also farmed until 1957, when he advertised that he had started an electrical business and would sell at auction his "livestock and chattels."<sup>217</sup>

- 19 vi. WARREN EARL KNIGHT, born 20 January 1921 in Perry Township and died 29 July 1993.<sup>218</sup> On 10 April 1948 he married Alberta Louise Choffin, a daughter of August and Maude (née Beck) Choffin.<sup>219</sup> She was born 9 April 1923 in Stark County and died there 18 February 2008.<sup>220</sup>
- 20 vii. LIVING KNIGHT, born 18 April 1922. On 17 February 1942, she married Lawrence George Fete, a son of Linus and Mary (née Pillot) Fete.<sup>221</sup> He was born 17 May 1921 and died 15 May 2008 in Canton.<sup>222</sup>
- 21 viii. DONNA MARIE KNIGHT, born and died 1 June 1926. She was buried 2 June 1926 in Eden Cemetery, Canton.<sup>223</sup>
- 22 ix. DOVA JEAN KNIGHT, born 8 October 1927 and died 9 March 2003.<sup>224</sup> On 11 May 1946, she married Jack A. Williams, a son of Isaac and Blanche (née Moore) Williams.<sup>225</sup> He was born 15 May 1925 in Stark County and died there 14 February 2002.<sup>226</sup>

<sup>217</sup> "Public Auction," *The Evening Independent*, Massillon, Ohio, 27 March 1957, page 37.

<sup>218</sup> "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1932, 1938-1944, and 1958-2002," database, *Ancestry.com* and *Ohio Department of Health* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 13 January 2009), entry for Warren Knight, 29 July 1993 and Social Security Administration, "Social Security Death Index," database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 January 2009), entry for Warren E. Knight, 1993, SS no 274-30-1716.

<sup>219</sup> Ohio. Stark County. Probate Records, Case Number 60-129MB, Knight-Choffin, 1948, Stark County Regional Library, Canton, citing Stark County, Ohio Marriage Records 60:129.

<sup>220</sup> "Alberta Louise Knight," obituary posted to *findagrave.com* by Pamela Holton, no citation given, *findagrave.com*, (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 28 February 2009).

<sup>221</sup> Ohio. Stark County. Probate Records, Case Number 51-387M, Fete-Knight, 1942, Stark County Regional Library, Canton, citing Stark County, Ohio Marriage Records 51:387.

<sup>222</sup> Social Security Administration, "Social Security Death Index," database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 13 September 2009), entry for Lawrence George Fete, 2008, SS no 280-16-7052.

<sup>223</sup> Ohio. Department of Health. Division of Vital Statistics, death certificate 2382, (1926), Female Baby Knight; family records and tombstone give the child's name as Donna Marie Knight.

<sup>224</sup> Social Security Administration, "Social Security Death Index," database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 January 2009), entry for Jean D. Williams, 2003, SS no 280-22-6221. She was also known as Dova Jean (Knight) Williams and Jene (Knight) Williams.

<sup>225</sup> Ohio. Stark County. Probate Records, Case Number 56-432MB, Williams-Knight, 1946, Stark County Regional Library, Canton, citing Stark County, Ohio Marriage Records 56:432.

<sup>226</sup> "Ohio Deaths, 1908-1932, 1938-1944, and 1958-2002," database, *Ancestry.com* and *Ohio Department of Health* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 13 January 2009), entry for Jack A. Williams, 14 February 2002.