

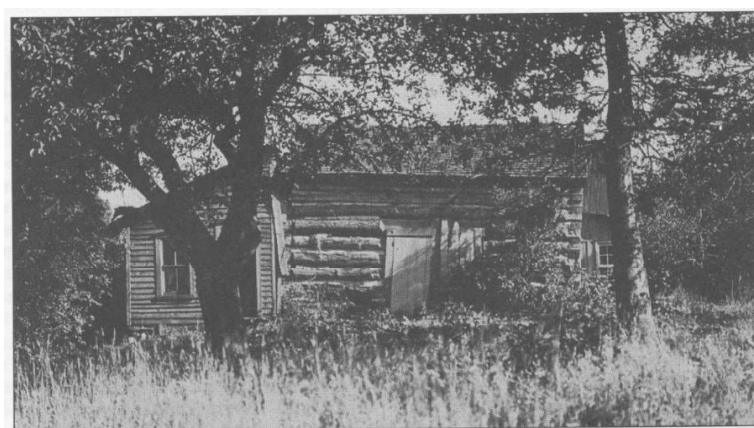
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INTRODUCTION

THE FAMILIES OF FIVE STAKES: A HISTORY OF TALBOTVILLE ROYAL 1811-1851

The story of Five Stakes, as Talbotville was called in pioneer days, begins in 1811 when Mahlon Burwell surveyed the North Branch of the Talbot Road. That year, Colonel Thomas Talbot obtained authority from the Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada to have a road surveyed from Port Talbot to the Westminster Township settlement. Mahlon Burwell was commissioned to make the survey and he began in August 1811 by surveying what became known as the Back Street. He laid off lots and side roads from the Dunwich Township line to a site which is now the main road intersection at Talbotville. There, he surveyed side roads east and south; to the north he surveyed the main road, which became known as the North Street.

The North Street was surveyed across Westminster to within a mile or two of the Thames River. That fall, Burwell returned to the site which is now Talbotville and surveyed a road in a southeasterly direction to a point where Kettle Creek intersects the Yarmouth-Southwold Township line. As a result, five stakes were pounded into the ground at the present Talbotville intersection each indicating an allowance for a future road - No. 3 Highway west of Talbotville (Back Street), the Talbotville Gore road to the south, No. 3 Highway east of Talbotville (a road once unofficially called Frog Street), No. 4 Highway north of Talbotville (North Street) and No. 4 Highway southeast of Talbotville (the connecting road to Kettle Creek). The hamlet that was to develop here had a ready-made name - "Five Stakes." ... The [post] office [opened in 1851] was named Talbotville Royal and a postmaster was appointed in August 1853...



THE CHARLES KNIGHT HOMESTEAD, LOT 37, SOUTH

Late Bramwell Saywell Collection

This view is of the old log home built in 1818-19 by Charles and Hannah **Knight**. It is most likely that Charles was assisted by his lifelong friend David Gilbert. The location was on the north half of the south half of Lot 37 SNBTR. To reach the house, one had to go down a long lane (opposite the present [1996] laneway of Albert Auckland) to the back half of the lot. It was known as the 'house in the middle of nowhere'. These are the only known surviving pictures of a primitive dwelling of one of the original settlers of Five Stakes.

Mr. Bramwell Saywell took the photos on Good Friday, 1910. He described the place some 60 years later. "Even at that time (1910) it was a relic of the pioneer days." He stated that it was "the most idyllic, peaceful, secluded and untampered-with place that I ever saw. It entranced me."

When Charles and Hannah retired to Talbotville (in the fall of 1862), his eldest son Samuel, who had been living since his marriage in 1851 in a frame house on the same farm, moved into this log house. At the time, Sam and Betsey had four children (two, Mariah and Charles, had died as infants). Sam and Betsey had seven children after moving, all born in the log house. All survived to adulthood.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam **Knight** left this place in 1897 and moved to Talbotville, south of the Corner, where Betsey died January 19, 1901. Sam died at Littlewood, November 22, 1904.

The homestead was never again lived in and was torn down about 1913. Frank Auckland helped to raze the old buildings. Although the house was old and small by today's standards, it was always kept very neat and clean. Every spring the inside walls received a fresh coat of whitewash. Mrs. **Knight** [Elizabeth Page] was a great gardener. Her fondness for flowers was evident all about the house, and the hillside behind, to the bottom of the ravine, was one mass of floral profusion. These flowers, since grown wild, were in evidence until very recent times.

SETTLEMENT

SETTLEMENT POLICY

For a time after 1760, government policy prohibited settlement in the western part of Quebec, the area that became Upper Canada. Following the American Revolution and the need to accommodate those Loyalists who preferred, or found it simpler to come to Upper Canada rather than go to Nova Scotia or elsewhere, the government began to develop settlement plans. At first, most attention was given to the military refugees; land was purchased from the Indians, a few concessions were surveyed and free grants awarded according to military rank. Free rations, tools, seeds and other essential items were provided.

Then, civilian Loyalists began to flood into Upper Canada. Loyalist settlements were developed along the upper St. Lawrence River near today's Cornwall and Brockville, back from Lake Ontario around Kingston and the Bay of

Quinte and at Niagara. Land Boards were established in each District to consider the petitions of the Loyalists and to award land to those who qualified. In 1791, the only other area of Upper Canada with settlers was near Detroit along the east side of the river. It has been estimated that the total population of Upper Canada that year was in the neighbourhood of 25,000 persons.

Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe arrived in Upper Canada in 1792. He realized that more settlers were needed and so he invited Loyalists who had earlier gone to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, to come to the province. Also, since he wanted settlers with land clearing and farming experience, he invited Americans to come. These immigrants were not given the privileges that the Loyalists and their children had obtained, but, by taking the oath of allegiance, they could obtain land quickly and relatively cheaply. Much has been written on land policy in Upper Canada and how the policies were interpreted and changed over several decades. The most complete review of the subject is that by Lillian Gates.

In planning and administering settlement, the York officials were charged with carrying out government policy concerning the Clergy Reserves. This policy called for every seventh lot, as each township was surveyed, to be reserved for sale for the "support of the Protestant Clergy" and was thus not immediately available for settlement. Also, hundreds of thousands of acres were set aside as School Reserves; many lots in Southwold were designated for this purpose.

TALBOT'S SETTLEMENT PRACTICES

Colonel Thomas Talbot arrived in Dunwich in 1803 with a grant of 5,000 acres and authority to bring in settlers. As a colonizer, Talbot was authorized to place each settler on fifty acres of his grant for which he, Talbot, would receive an additional 200 acres in Dunwich and later also in Aldborough. A few years later, under different arrangements, Talbot obtained authority to place settlers in other townships, including Southwold. In the township, and in others fronting on Lake Erie, Talbot gave prime attention to locating settlers along the newly surveyed Talbot Roads.

In administering settlement, Talbot used his aristocratic connections and political influence in the Colonial and other government offices in England, to circumvent, to a large extent, the settlement policies and regulations proclaimed by the Upper Canada officials at York. Talbot kept his own records and the York officials never had a complete knowledge of what progress was being made in his settlement; nor did the provincial officials receive the required settlement fees for some time. But, Talbot was a very successful colonizer and, after three decades or so, he had located thousands of immigrants on lots in twenty-nine townships while accumulating about 65,000 acres for himself. It was 1838 before Talbot was ordered by the Lieutenant Governor, with the support of the Colonial Secretary, to turn over his settlement affairs to the Province.

Immediately after the first Talbot Road was surveyed in 1809, Talbot began to receive requests for lots and in a very few years he had located settlers along its extent in Southwold and Yarmouth. During the spring and early summer

of 1811, even before the North Branch was surveyed, Talbot placed a few settlers on lots where he expected the new road would go. Realizing that the Church and School Reserves would probably remain vacant for some time, which would slow the development of his settlement, Talbot succeeded in getting exemptions from this policy for the lands along the Talbot Roads. Although there were some exceptions, Talbot was also able to largely avoid making grants to government officials and to other influential persons who had no intention of actually settling themselves. These absentee owners usually kept the land unsettled with the hope of making financial gains and this slowed settlement of the community.

To obtain a "ticket" for a lot on one of the Talbot Roads the prospective settler had to visit Port Talbot and convince the Colonel that he was worthy of becoming a settler. Some petitioners were descendants of United Empire Loyalists and had obtained orders-in-council from York entitling them to standard 200-acre lots. Other petitioners were ordinary immigrants from the United States, England, Ireland or Wales and had no special status.

After "locating" a settler, Talbot imposed three tasks for him to accomplish within five years - build a house measuring at least eighteen by twenty feet, clear ten acres of land and clear half the road allowance in front of the lot. Only then would Talbot issue a certificate which would allow the settler to apply for a "patent," that is a deed from the Crown for the property. On the other hand, if these conditions were not fulfilled to Talbot's satisfaction within his time limit, he simply rubbed the settler's name from his map. The settler would have to leave the lot and it would be given to some other applicant who might have to pay the original settler for the improvements already made. Most settlers fulfilled Talbot's conditions, but because fees were charged by the government for surveying and for patenting a lot, it was usually about a dozen or so years after settlement before a pioneer settler applied for his patent.

THE FIRST SETTLERS IN THE AREA

James Fleming, who brought his family to a lot near the Thames River in Aldborough in 1796, is usually considered to be the first white person to settle in what is now Elgin County. Fleming probably came up the Thames River from Detroit but only a few families followed to settle as far up the river as today's Middlesex and Elgin townships. A few squatters had settled on the Lake Erie shore, and after Colonel Thomas Talbot arrived on the lakefront in Dunwich in 1803, most settlers coming to Southwold arrived at the mouths of creeks and on the open shore of the lake. The first Southwold land patents had been obtained prior to 1800 for lots on surveyed concessions in the northwest part of the township. The patentees were absentee owners and there is no evidence that anyone actually settled there until after settlement had taken place on the Talbot Roads.

In Yarmouth, near the southeast corner of Southwold, Colonel John Bostwick received his patent for 400 acres of land in 1804 at the mouth of Kettle Creek, and in 1817, when he moved there from Long Point, he became the first settler in what is now Port Stanley. As the first Talbot Road was being surveyed

in 1809, David Mandeville and Daniel Rapelje, both of the Long Point settlement, petitioned for land and were granted adjoining lots at Kettle Creek, Mandeville in Southwold and Rapelje in Yarmouth. Here, on the bottom lands of the creek, a settlement began which was known as Stirling. As settlement spread eastwards up the hill into Yarmouth the general area became known as Kettle Creek, but in 1817, the hamlet was named St. Thomas.

In August 1811, even before Burwell commenced his North Branch survey, Talbot had placed a settler, Jacob Decow, on a lot that would front on the western part of the survey. On a map of his newly-surveyed road, dated 12th November 1811, Colonel Burwell wrote the names of a dozen settlers on lots one to seven, north and south - John Axford, Samuel McIntire, Samuel Axford, David McIntire, Samuel Harris, John Filpot, Samuel Green, John Boyd, Nathaniel Dedrick, Jacob Decow, Andrew Chute and Joseph Decow. The only other name on the Southwold portion of the map was that of Robert Stewart on lot 34 South, immediately adjacent to the Five Stakes area. By 1817, after the interruption caused by the war with the United States, all the lots from the Dunwich townline to today's Shedden had been ticketed to specific settlers. And, within a year or two, the remaining Back Street lots had been assigned.

Just as there was some early settlement on the western part of the Back Street prior to any settlement at the "five stakes" (the name was originally spelled without capitals), there was also some early settlement in Westminster on the North Street. There, in September 1811, Jeremiah Schram, Thomas Pool and George Minard were assigned lots, and Burwell's map of that year shows a dozen names on lots centering on today's Lambeth. Abraham Patrick has been credited with being the first actual settler in that vicinity when he arrived on lot 71 West in May 1812. In 1815, when Talbot was required to provide a list of his settlers to the York officials, he did not claim any settlers on the Five Stakes lots. But, the 1817 and 1818 lists of settlers show all the Five Stakes lots to be taken.

THE FIVE STAKES SETTLERS

In this review of the settlement of Five Stakes, the area under detailed study has been limited to the lots fronting on the Back Street from lot 35 eastward to lot 40 (that is from the first lot west of the present Payne's sideroad eastward to the Talbotville intersection), on the North Street from Talbotville north to the Westminster townline and lots A, B, C and D to the south of the intersection. Pioneers settling on other Southwold concession lots to the north and east of the North Branch have not been included in this study; those lots were not settled, in almost every instance, until years after lots on the Talbot Roads had been occupied.

On the Back Street, in the immediate Five Stakes area, it was 1815 before the first pioneer, David Carle Gilbert arrived on lot 37 North. He returned to the Long Point settlement the following winter to be married and, soon after he and his wife came to the Five Stakes lot, fire destroyed their cabin and possessions. They returned to Long Point and it was 1818 before they came permanently to their lot. Their neighbour, **Charles Knight**, came in 1817 to his lot 37 South. He lived with the Gilberts and assisted them while he began his own

settlement duties. In the fall of 1820, after the birth of their first child, he brought his wife to the lot from Long Point...

THE FIVE STAKES FAMILIES (PART III)

KNIGHT

Charles Knight (1796-1875) was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and came to the Long Point settlement with his parents in about 1811. During the War of 1812 he became a member of the Lincoln militia, was captured by the Americans and held prisoner for the balance of the war. He came to Five Stakes in 1817 and Talbot located him on lot 37 South. For two years, Charles lived with and assisted the nearby Gilbert family in their settlement duties and in building their house and then rebuilding it after a fire. In 1817, at Port Ryerse, he married Hannah Tolman (also spelled Talman and Tallman). Hannah (1800-1889), a daughter of Samuel Tolman, was born in Prescott. Her mother, Eunice Lakin (1774-1873), had been born in Vermont.

Charles and Hannah Knight's first child, Chestina, was born at Port Ryerse in August 1820, and later that year, the Charles Knights occupied their lot 37 South. The lot was patented in 1840 and Charles then sold the south half of the lot to Edward Page who sold part to the Gilberts. At the end of the 1840s, Charles Knight sold the remainder of lot 37 South to his sons Samuel and Benjamin, retired, and in 1862 moved to the village where he died. His wife, Hannah, then moved to Yarmouth to be with her daughter Eunice Mann and she died there.

Charles and Hannah Knight had ten children, five daughters and five sons. They were Chestina, Eunice, Samuel, Benjamin, Adonijah, Phoebe, David, Hannah, Charles, and Sarah. Most of them married and remained in or near the Five Stakes community. The oldest, Chestina (1820-1913), sometimes referred to as Tiney (Tiny) or Christina, married Jacob Gilbert in 1842 and lived on the fourth concession of Southwold to the north of the Back Street. Eunice (1822-1892) married Henry Mann in 1843 and moved to Yarmouth. Phoebe (1836-1862) married (1856) Isaac Smith, son of Jonathan, and lived on lot 47 East until her death. Hannah (1842-1923) married David Penwarden (1842-1917), a local blacksmith and farmer, son of David (senior). Sarah (1832-1915) married Robert P. Mills (1824-1898) in 1850. Two sons of Charles and Hannah Knight left Five Stakes when they grew up but remained in Elgin County. David (1838-1922) married (1858) Susannah Smith (1840-1867) and after her death, Amelia Hunt (1850-1924). Charles (1844-1932) married Ellen Mitchell (1849-1910), daughter of Robert Mitchell. Three sons, Samuel, Benjamin, and Adonijah, remained in the Five Stakes community for at least part of their adult lives.

The Samuel Knight Family ... Samuel (1823-1904) was the oldest son in the family of Charles and Hannah. In 1851, he married Elizabeth (1829-1901), daughter of William and Maria Page. Samuel farmed fifty acres of lot 37 South and, in 1847 and 1850, he purchased village lots (parts of lot 41 East) from Charles Hannon and Isaac Bowlby. Samuel and Elizabeth Knight had twelve children. Two of these died as infants - Mariah (1852-1854) and Charles (1858-

1859).

The oldest surviving daughter, Rose Ellen (1855-1936), married William Kettlewell (1853-1898). Chestina (1861-1917) married Henry Kettlewell (1858-1942) and Eunice (1864-1933) married James W. Smith (1862-1932) in 1885. Another daughter, Mary Elizabeth (1866-1922) remained single. The oldest son was Samuel (1856-1905) who remained unmarried. The next son was Wesley (1857-1932) who married Amelia Maria Smith (1864-1931) in 1885. She was the daughter of John S and Elizabeth Smith. One of their sons, Fred, married his first cousin, Maude Kettlewell. He was a prominent thresher and contractor in the Talbotville area before his untimely death in 1934. The other sons of Samuel and Elizabeth were Leslie (Lett) (1860-1942), Henry (1863-1910), Frederick (1867-c1920), and Jonas W. (1870-1943). As adults, Samuel, Lett, Henry, Frederick, and Jonas migrated to the western parts of Canada and the United States and never returned to live in the Five Stakes community.

The Benjamin Knight Family ... In 1848, Benjamin (1827-1905) married Adelia (Delia) Boughner (1826-1865), daughter of Matthias Boughner and Catherine Smith. Benjamin was a blacksmith in 1851, but by 1855, he had become an innkeeper at Talbotville. A few years after 1868 he became the proprietor of the Orwell Hotel at what was then called Temperanceville or Catfish Corners. In the 1870s, he built another hotel at nearby Kingsmill. He and Adelia had six children. After her death, Benjamin married Mary Catherine Johnson and retired in Aylmer.

The Benjamin Knight children were Mercy Ann (c1848-1931), who married Isaiah Partlow; Loretta (1853-1907), who married Albert Secord; Lois Emily (1854-), who married A.W. Harris; Alonzo (1856-1887), who was accidentally killed as a young man; Amarantha (1858-), who married Robert W. Hill; and Benjamin (1862-1919), who married Elsie Millard in 1886.

The Adonijah Knight Family ...Adonijah (1830-1899) married Mary (1832-1887), daughter of William and Maria Page, in 1851. Adonijah was a labourer and the family was gone from Southwold in 1861 but returned to Five Stakes before the 1871 census. Adonijah and Mary had three children: Byron (1852-1943), Adelia M. (1854-1918) who married Hubbard Ellison (1854-1940), and Jonas W. (1858-1938). The latter gained fame as a professional baseball player. Adonijah Knight became a carpenter, lived in St. Thomas and is buried at Union.' (See Appendix 5 for a Knight family chart.)

COLLECTION OF PHOTOS OF FIVE STAKES PIONEERS AND THEIR
DESCENDANTS

by Don Cosens
(Used by Permission)

Eunice [Lakin] Tolman was born at Sandgate, Vermont in December 1774. She was a daughter of David Lakin and Anna Seeley and came to Canada (then the Province of Quebec) with the United Empire Loyalists. Her father, mother and her mother's parents, Augustus and Mary [Brisbin] Seeley were all Loyalists. They settled at Elizabethtown, (now Brockville).

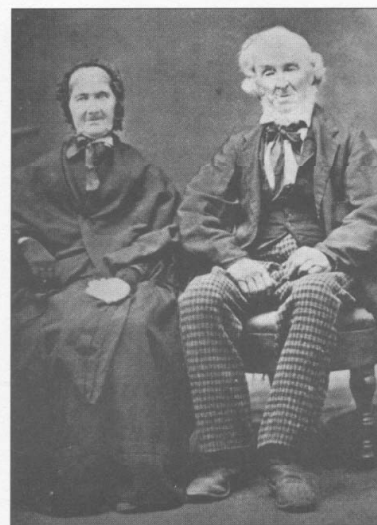
Eunice married Samuel Tolman about 1800 and about 1808 moved to Woodhouse Township in the County of Norfolk. Samuel died about 1832 and Eunice moved to Five Stakes in 1833, making her home with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. **Charles Knight**.

She had several children and at her death, in 1873, had 240 living descendants including several great-great-grandchildren. Her descendants today (1996) would number in the thousands, to the ninth generation.

Charles Knight was born at or near Philadelphia January 12, 1796. **Hannah Tolman**, daughter of Samuel Tolman and Eunice Lakin was born near Prescott, Upper Canada on May 9, 1800. Charles' parentage is yet unknown. He was in Upper Canada by 1811-land served in the War of 1812. His great grandson, Ernest Gilbert, in 1895 wrote that Charles "was taken prisoner by the Americans at Squaw Island, Niagara River. He was marched at the point of the bayonet to Green Bush, New York State. After the war he was liberated."

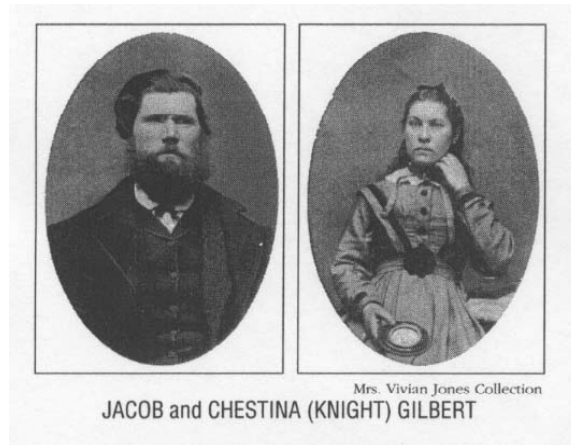
In the fall of 1862 Charles retired from the farm and moved to Talbotville where Charles died May 13, 1875, aged 79 years. Hannah then went to live with her daughter Eunice (Mrs. Henry) Mann on the Sixth Concession of Yarmouth Township where she died January 24, 1889, aged 89 years. Both are buried in the Talbotville Cemetery.

Shortly after Charles retired from the farm the Civil War began in the United States. Being interested in the progress of the war, he is reported to have travelled south and, while there, witnessed a battle between the north and south. His journey to the States was completed entirely on foot.



Donald L. Cosens Collection
CHARLES and HANNAH (TOLMAN) KNIGHT

Charles Knight, when he died in 1875, was the last surviving original settler of the first Five Stakes Community.



Jacob Gilbert born at Five Stakes, January 6, 1818, second son of David Gilbert and Elsey Buchner. Jacob may lay claim to have been the first white child born in the Five Stakes settlement. He would live his entire lifetime in this area. At age 24, on September 1, 1842 he married **Chestina Knight** and they were together for the next 60 years.

Jacob was a good farmer. While his father gave him a good start in his young life, he did not abuse the privilege, but prospered and was highly esteemed by his neighbours. He was noted as being thrifty. He made his own straw hats and would drive many miles out of his way to avoid paying a toll. But too, he loaned many a budding farm lad, the money to assist the boy, in giving him his opportunity in life.

Jacob died October 24, 1902, in his 85th year. His funeral took place from his old homestead back of Payne's Mills and he was buried in the St. Thomas Cemetery. The funeral procession was attended by over 200 vehicles.

Mrs. Jacob Gilbert, the former **Chestina Knight**, was born at Port Ryerse, August 27, 1820 and at six months of age, came to Southwold with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Knight. She was the eldest child. Nine children would follow - four girls and five boys.

In 1842 she married Jacob Gilbert and they had two children, Hannah, born June 15, 1843 and Absalom, born January 28, 1846. She lived her entire life in the area. She was a frequent vendor over many years at the St. Andrew's Market in St. Thomas.

'Tiny' as she was always known, died March 5, 1913 in her 93rd year and was buried with her husband, Jacob, in the St. Thomas Cemetery. She was survived by her daughter and son, eight grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Absalom, son of Jacob Gilbert and **Chestina Knight**, was born on the family farm north of Payne's Mills, January 28, 1846. Absalom, though born into a family of considerable affluence, was a man of high intelligence and sound judgment and like his father Jacob, was willing to assist young people to get their start. Absalom was well liked and greatly respected and served on the Southwold Township Council from 1904 to 1911, being deputy reeve for one year and reeve for two years.

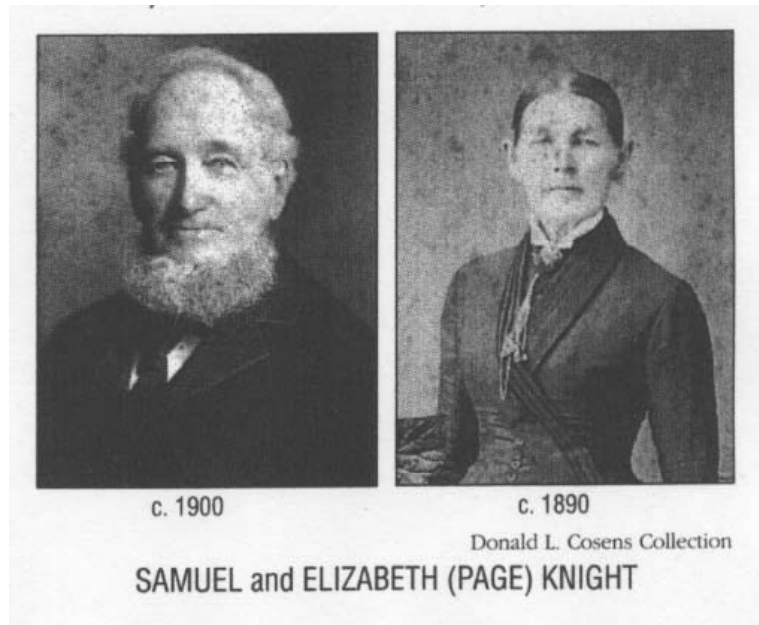
Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert retired to St. Thomas in 1917 and from then until his death on December 4, 1931, they resided at 48 East Street. Emiline, daughter of William Campbell (1819-1893) and Sarah Ann Mills (1825-1897) was born in Southwold Township, November 1856.

On June 5, 1878 she married Absalom Gilbert. Five children were born of this union: Ernest Campbell Gilbert (1879-1949), Louisa Gilbert (1883-1895), Florence May Gilbert [McBane] (1886-1959), Vila Maud Gilbert [MacKenzie] (1890-1960), and Lena Bell Gilbert [Blackwell] (1896-1981).

Mrs. Gilbert died September 13, 1929 and with her husband Absalom they are buried in the St. Thomas Cemetery.



Eunice Knight, second child of Charles Knight and Eunice Tolman was born May 16, 1822. She was the first of the Knight family to be born at Five Stakes. She married Henry Mann of Yarmouth, June 1, 1843 and moved to the Sixth Concession of that township where she lived for the remainder of her life. The Mann's had no children of their own but raised three of their nephews, including Leslie B. (Lett) Knight, son of Samuel. Eunice died April 22, 1892 in her 70th year and is buried in the St. Thomas Cemetery with her husband Henry (1819-1897).



Samuel Knight, eldest son of Charles Knight and Hannah Tolman, was born on the Back Street, Lot 37 South, on February 2, 1823. On October 19, 1851 he married Elizabeth Page. They had 12 children. Two, Mariah and Charles, died in infancy. He farmed on the lot where he was born until he was 74 and then in 1897, with his wife, retired to Talbotville.

When Elizabeth died on January 19, 1901, Sam moved to Littlewood where he lived with his daughter, Mrs. Henry (Tina) Kettlewell. He died at Littlewood in Westminster Township on November 22, 1904 and is buried with his wife in the Talbotville Cemetery. Sam Knight, when he died, was the last property owner who was listed as an owner (in this section) on the 1851 census.

Descendants living in Talbotville today (1996) include Mrs. Harold [Marguerite Knight] Clarke, Mrs. Donald [June Clarke] Stuart, and Howard Kettlewell.

Mrs. Samuel Knight, the former Elizabeth Page, was the tenth child of William Page and Maria French. She was born in the Parish of South Newington in the County of Oxford, on November 9, 1829. She came to Southwold Township with her parents, two sisters (Mary and Maria), and a cousin, Thomas H. Page, in the mid-40s, settling at Five Stakes.

She was called 'Betsey' and was well-known for her beautiful gardens. She and her sister-in-law, Mrs. Jacob Gilbert were regularly seen on the old St. Andrew's Market in St. Thomas.

Between 1885 and 1890, five of her six surviving sons left home and went west in search of their fortunes. Henry, Fred, and Joney, her three youngest

boys, (Joney was only a teen-ager when he left), never returned to this area nor did they ever again see their mother or father. Sam, the eldest son returned regularly, and Lett came back twice to see his aging parents. Wes was the only son to stay in the area.

Betsey's daughters, Tina (Mrs. Henry Kettlewell) and Rose Ellen (Mrs. William Kettlewell), went to Michigan in the early 1880's after their marriages, but both returned in the late 90's before their mother and father died. Daughters, Eunice and Lizzie (who was born after her mother had a stroke and was mildly handicapped), remained in the area.

Having been born during the reign of George IV, she died January 19, 1901 (the same day that Queen Victoria died at Osborne). She is buried at the Talbotville Cemetery with Sam.



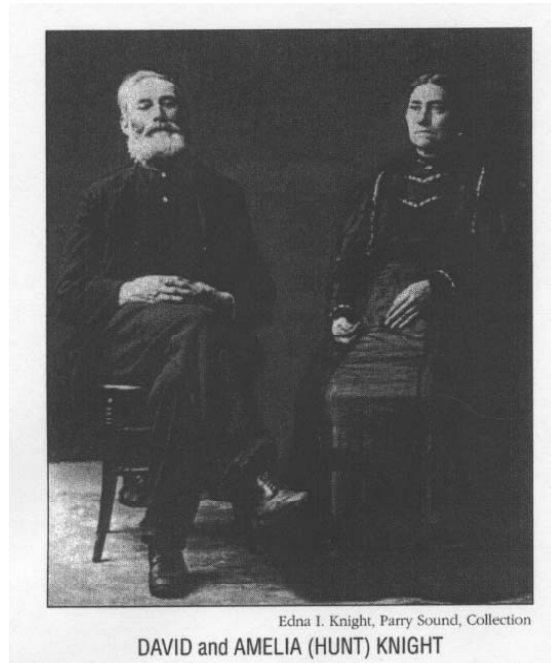
Benjamin Knight was the fourth child and second son of Charles Knight and Hannah Tolman, and was born at Five Stakes, west of the Corner on January 27, 1827. He was first married to Adelia Boughner, in 1848. She was a daughter of Matthias Boughner and Catherine Smith, and was born July 24, 1826. Ben and Adelia had seven children, six of whom grew to maturity.

He was a man of many parts. He was a farmer, storekeeper, hotel owner, policeman, blacksmith, and veterinary. Ben operated a hotel at Five Stakes in the 1850s and in the early 60s moved to Orwell where he ran the hotel, as well as a general store. Adelia died at Orwell in August of 1865, and in Nelson Conrad's diary it is recorded on Tuesday, August 22, 1865 "...Benjamin Knight's wife's funeral was today. She was buried out to the Five Stakes." She may have died in childbirth.

The 1901 census, describes him at age 74, as a "handyman", and that pretty well sums up Ben Knight. He was a veteran of the Fenian Raid of 1866. He kept a diary for 58 years prior to his death. In politics he was a Conservative and he was also a staunch Orangeman.

He was secondly married to Mary Catherine Johnson. In the 1880's Ben and Mary Catherine were operating a general store in Mapleton.

Ben died at Aylmer on July 26, 1905 and is buried in the Aylmer Cemetery.



David Knight was a younger son of Charles Knight and Hannah Tolman, and was born January 14, 1838. His first wife was Susannah Smith, daughter of Jonathan and Lydia [Hunt] Smith. There were four children of this marriage. Thursa (1858-1942) and Samuel (c 1861-c 1948) were born at Five Stakes. The family removed to Orwell in the early 60s at about the same time as Ben Knight. Ben's wife, Adelia, was a first cousin of David's first wife, Susannah, Adelia's mother, Catherine, being a sister of Jonathan Smith.

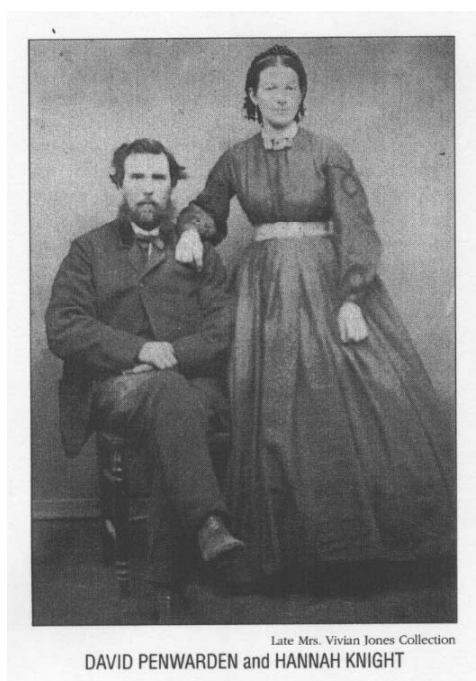
Nelson Conrad's diary records that on January 30, 1867, "Dave Knight's wife is confined." She gave birth to a son (Arthur Leighton) on January 31. And further on March 14, 1867, Conrad states, "David Knight's wife is dead."

After the death of Susannah, David's family were dispersed. His ageing parents, Charles and Hannah, took the eldest three, Thursa, eight; Samuel, five; and William Willoughby, less than two years. Arthur, the infant, was adopted out to the Aaron Leighton family of Port Stanley. Arthur always considered himself a Knight and kept in contact with his sister Thursa and brother Sam.

In 1875 when Charles Knight died, Hannah went to live with her daughter, Eunice Mann, in Yarmouth, and Thursa went to live with her Aunt Sarah [Knight] Mills. By 1891, Thursa, and her first cousin (and a bachelor), William Mills were living together. They were both 33 years old. William was a farmer and Thursa was his housekeeper. Thursa stayed on with Billie until he died in 1935. She died in 1942. They are buried together in the St. Thomas Cemetery.

Sam Knight, son of David, at age 11, in 1871 was working as a servant with the Brower family. He was not going to school at the time. He was married in 1883 to Henrietta Westover and later went to Chicago where he died about 1948.

Six years after Susannah's death, in 1873, David married Amelia Hunt, daughter of Isaac and Anna Hunt, of the Township of Bayham. Four more children were born, all in Yarmouth. By 1880, the family was living at Yarmouth Centre. In 1905 David, Amelia, and their children, Amy [McLean] (born 1874), Lorenzo (born 1876), and Charles (1889-1943), moved to Antler, North Dakota. They never returned to Ontario. David died in March, 1922 and Amelia, October 31, 1924. Their youngest son, George Ernest Knight (1884-1964) went to the Parry Sound district about 1910 and remained there all of his life. William W. was the only child of David by his first wife to live with the second family. In 1881 at age 16 he was with David and Amelia. He was accidentally killed in 1883. There are very few descendants of David Knight's eight children, though some of Arthur Leighton's adopted family are still in the area.



David Penwarden was born in Devonshire, England about 1840, the youngest child of David and Margaret Penwarden. As a small child in 1842, he came with his parents to Canada and settled immediately in Five Stakes. In 1863

David married **Hannah Knight**, youngest daughter of Charles and Hannah Knight. She was born June 18, 1842. As a child, barely into her teen years, she worked in the hotel at Five Stakes operated by her older brother, Ben.

Following their marriage David and Hannah left Five Stakes, first moving to Usborne Township, north of London, where several of their older children were born. In the early 1880's, the family moved to London, where they were to remain. Peter, the last of this family, died in 1971 at 95 years. Peter was, in fact, the last of the 50 grandchildren of Charles and Hannah Knight - a generation that started with the birth of Jacob and Chestina Gilbert's daughter Hannah in 1843. David Penwarden died in 1917 and Hannah in 1923. Both are buried in London, Ontario.



Left to right, back row:

Leslie B. (Lett) (1860-1942) He was raised by his aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mann of Yarmouth. He left this area about 1887 and returned twice in 1892 and lastly in 1897. He was, for many years, the deputy-sheriff of Boulder, Montana. He died at Whitehall, Montana, May 30, 1942. He had one son Leslie F. Knight.

Rose Ellen (1855-1936) She was married at the Knight homestead on the Back Street on March 27, 1878 to William Edwin Kettlewell of Metcalfe Township. They lived in Melvin, Michigan until William died July 22, 1898. Rose Ellen returned to Talbotville with her five children, the eldest Ethel Maude was 14 and the youngest William Richard was six months. Two children died in infancy in Michigan. Though the years after her return were hard, she did not remarry and remained here until she moved into St. Thomas in 1928. Her home in Talbotville is now (1996) occupied by Mr. and Mrs. David Brown. Rose Ellen died in St. Thomas, April 11, 1936 and is buried in the Talbotville Cemetery.

Wesley (1857-1932). He lived his entire life within a mile of the Corner. He was married in 1885 to Amelia Maria Smith. Wes was a farmer. Like his grandfather, Charles Knight, he had 'double teeth' top and bottom and with these, it is reputed, both were enabled to crack walnuts! The Knight home is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bates. Wesley and his wife are buried in the Talbotville Cemetery. Mrs. Harold [Marguerite] Knight, Wes and Amelia's oldest granddaughter, lives (1996) immediately south of the Wesley Knight home.

Eunice ('Eunie') (1864-1933). She was married in 1885 to James W. Smith, a brother of Amelia. After her marriage she moved to the Smith farm 'Distant View', Lot 47 WNBTR (opposite the Ford Plant and now owned by the Clinton family). Eunice and James had two children, Eva (1887-1954) and Viola (1894-1938). They moved to Talbotville in March, 1916 and J.W. with his son-in-law, William J. Milton, took over the general store from E. P. Boughner. Barely a year later on April 7, 1917 the store was sold to John R. and Frank Auckland for \$5,050.00.

J.W. and Eunice were at the store long enough for their youngest daughter, Viola, to be married there, on October 25, 1916 to Roy Cosens of St. Thomas.

They moved to a 'cottage', still standing (1996) though enlarged and much altered, being the first house north of the Corner on the west side, (for many years the Samuel Roy Turner house). They remained until 1920 when they removed to St. Thomas to live with their daughter Viola. James died in 1932 and Eunice in 1933.

Henry (1863-1910). He left this district and headed to the western states in the late 1880's. He prospected in the Klondike in the 1890's. Henry died on the eve of his wedding on December 23, 1910 and was buried in Whitehall, Montana.

Left to right, bottom row:

Mary Elizabeth (1866-1922). She lived her entire life in and around Talbotville. Before Lizzie was born, her mother, Betsey, suffered a stroke. This caused Lizzie to be mildly handicapped from the time she was born. After her mother's death in 1901 she cared for her father and after his death in 1904 all of her parents' estate went to care for Lizzie until her death 18 years later. She lived mostly with her sisters, Rose Ellen and Eunice, who were financially compensated to look after her. She died at Rose Ellen's, February 11, 1922 and is buried in the family plot in the Talbotville Cemetery.

Samuel (1856-1905). Sam, the eldest son, left for the west in the mid-80s. He prospected for a while, finally becoming a partner in the salmon-fishing business in British Columbia. He seemed to have found the success that eluded his brothers. His trips back home were quite frequent and were eagerly anticipated by his young nieces and nephews. He died suddenly at Bellingham, Washington on July 20, 1905. There was a lingering rumour of foul play, but nothing ever came of it. Sam's 'fortune' went to his partner. He was never married.

Mrs. Samuel Knight (Elizabeth (Betsey) Page) (1829-1901)

Jonas W. ('Joney') (1870-1943). He was the youngest of the 12 children of Sam and Betsey Knight. He was only a teen-ager when he left this area in 1887. He never saw his mother or father again, though he did return for a visit about 1910. Joney and his older brother, Lett, lived close to one another and eventually became partners in a silver mine at Whitehall; Joney managed the mine. When he died at Boulder, Montana on July 26, 1943, he was the last of the Sam Knight family of 12 children.

Mr. Samuel Knight (1823-1904).

Tina ('Tiny') (1862-1917). She was married in the early 1880's to Richard Henry Kettlewell. They lived in Melvin, Michigan until about 1900 when they returned to Canada and bought a farm at Littlewood, in Middlesex County. In 1910 they went to Western Canada where they remained the rest of their lives. Three sons and three daughters were born to Tiny and Henry. Tiny died January 9, 1917 at Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, where both she and Henry are buried. Henry survived until 1942. Charles Kettlewell, a son, returned early from the west and lived in his later years at Talbotville. Charles' son Howard is living yet (1996) in the (Berdan-Kettlewell) family home across from the church.

Frederick (1864-1920). Fred was the last of the five Knight boys to leave the parental roof. He left about 1890 and never returned home. He too, seeking his fortune, prospected in the Klondike. Little is known of Fred, not even his date of death; however, he settled in Seattle and was married and had a family, rather late in life, it is thought. Some of his children could still be living.

The fact that between 1885 and 1890, five of the six Knight sons left home for the west, was a devastating blow to their mother. Sam came home regularly; Lett twice. The three youngest, Henry, Fred, and Joney never returned, even for a visit, to see their ageing parents. Betsey died heartbroken.

APPENDIX 5: FAMILY CHARTS

THE KNIGHT FAMILY

Charles Knight (1796-1875) was born in Philadelphia and came to Canada with his family early in the 1800s. He was located on Five Stakes lot 37 South in 1817. His wife was Hannah Tolman (1800-1889); she came to their lot with their firstborn child in 1820.

Sons and daughters of Charles Knight and Hannah Tolman

1. Chestina (1820-1913) m 1842 Jacob Gilbert (1818-1902)
- Ch 1. Hannah (1843-1924) m-1 Isaac Brock Couse (1840-1892)
m-2 Leonard Thompson (c1844-1924)
 2. Absalom (1846-1931) m Emeline Campbell (1856-1929)
2. Eunice (1822-1892) m 1843 Henry Mann (1819-1897), lived in Yarmouth
3. Samuel (1823-1904) m 1851 Elizabeth Page (1829-1901)
Farmed lot 37 South.
 - Ch 1. Mariah (1852-1854)
 2. Rosellen (1855-1936) m William Kettlewell (1853-1898)
 3. Samuel J. (1856-1905) never married
 4. Wesley (1857-1932) m 1885 Amelia Smith (1864-1931)
 5. Charles (1858-1859)
 6. Leslie B. (Lett) (1860-1942) m Clara A.
 7. Chestina (1861-1917) m Henry Kettlewell (1858-1942)
 8. Henry (1863-1910) never married
 9. Eunice (1864-1933) m 1885 James W. Smith (1862-1932)
 10. Mary Elizabeth (1866-1922) never married
 11. Frederick (1867-c1920) m Barbara K.
 12. Jonas W. (1870-1943)
4. Benjamin (1827-1905) m-1-1848 Adelia Boughner (1826-1865)
m-2 Mary Catherine Green Johnson (c1826-1907)
Blacksmith, innkeeper.
 - Ch 1. Mercy Ann (c1848-1931) m 1869 Isaiah Partlow (-1920)
 2. Loretta (1853-1907) m Albert Secord (-1882)
 3. Lois Emily (1854-) m 1876 Albert W. Harris (- 1926)
 4. Alonzo (1856-1887)
 5. Amarantha (1858-) m Robert W. Hill
 6. Benjamin (1862-1919) m 1886 Elsie Millard (1864-1939)
 5. Adonijah (1830-1899) m Mary Page (1832-1887)
 - Ch 1. Byron (1852-1943) m Ellen Ferguson (1854-1936)
 2. Adelia M. (1854-1918) m Hubbard Ellison (1854-1940)
 3. Jonas William (1858-1938) m Mary Burns (1864-1930)
 6. Sarah (1832-1915) m 1850 Robert Page Mills (1824-1898)
 - Ch 1. Phoebe Ann (1852-1947) m 1875 John Maynard (1844-1915)
 2. George A. (1853-1926) m Jennette Secord (1857-1929)
 3. Hannah Jane (Jennie) (1855-1935) m Stephen Gurnsey Mills
 4. William Henry (1857-1935) lived with Thurza Knight
 5. Robert B. (1860-1923) m Annie Russ (1867-1928)
 6. Charles Albert (1862-1947) m 1893 Ida Rear (1870-1959)

7. John Wilson (Wilsey) (1864-1872)
8. Andrew (1867-1962) m Cordelia Jane Russ (1868-1955)
9. Ben (1872-1936) m Annetta Smale (1876-1965)
7. Pheobe Ann (1836-1862) m 1856 Isaac Hunt Smith (1831-1904)
- Ch 1. Lydia (1857-1943) m-1 John Martin (1847-1917)
m-2 Henry Elliott (1849-1934)
2. Jonathan Henry S. (1860-1933) m Sarah C. Stokes (1866-1934)
- 8..David (1838-1922) m-1 Susannah Smith (1840-1867)
- Ch 1. Thurza (1858-1942)
2. Samuel (c1861-c1948)
3. William Willoughby (1865-1883)
4. Arthur (1867-c1952) Adopted by Leighton family, Pt. Stanley
- David m-2-1873 Amelia Hunt (1849-1924)
1. Amy (1874-) m Hector McLean
2. Lorenzo (c1876-)
3. Charles (1878-)
4. George Ernest (1884-1964) m Susan E. Whitehead (1879-1963)
- 9..Hannah (c1842-1923) m1863 David Penwarden (c1842-1917)
- Ch 1. Eva (1867-) m Boyd
2. Lucy (1869-) m Bright
3. John (1871-) never married
4. Ida (1873-) m Campbell
5. Peter (1875-1969) never married
6. Robert (1878-)
7. Effie (1881-1963) m McRoberts
8. William David (1883-)
- 10..Charles W.(1844-1932) m Ellen Mitchell (1849-1910)
- Ch 1. Charles Edward (1867-1934)
2. Annie E. (c1869-1918) m - Wilhelm
3. Maggie E. (1873-) m Fenn M. Durkee