Knights
of
Messongo, Virginia
KNIGHTS

of

MESSONCO, VIRGINIA

Mary Frances Carey
Genealogist
## Preface

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Foreword

The enclosed write-up of the Knight family of Messongo consists of only five generations. The researcher was surprised not to find five, six, or even seven, earlier generations on the Eastern Shore of Virginia and/or Maryland, as with other local families. After searching earlier records, without finding a clue as to such ancestors, it was debated if the whole project should be abandoned. It was on 25 October 1997, when one of Dunreath M. Knight's descendants gave information, handed down by his family, as to how the Knights came to Messongo. At this point, Mr. Marvin B. Bundick, who had commissioned the study, was contacted and it was his decision to complete the family history, giving the information that was being found. Mr. Bundick, of Marion Station, Maryland, is a grandson of Eugenia F. Knight.

The records searched were found in the Accomack County Circuit Clerk's Office, consisting of wills, deeds, orders, and marriages, and in the Eastern Shore Public Library, also at Accomack, Virginia, for Federal Census records from 1800 to 1910 (there is no 1890 census), the Accomack County Register of Deaths, 1854 to 1896, and the Accomack County Register of Births, 1854 to 1896, all on microfilm there. A number of family obituaries were also found at the library, as given in the Peninsula Enterprise, a newspaper published weekly at Accomac from 1882 to 1962. Two books published by Heritage Books, Inc., of Bowie, Maryland, were used for tombstone records: Mikhailka and Wilson's Graven Stones of Lower Accomack County, Virginia, and Carey, Miles and Miles' Tombstone Inscriptions of Upper Accomack County, Virginia. Since many people of upper Accomack County have always been married in the adjoining counties of Maryland, the marriage records of both Somerset and Worcester Counties have been searched for Knight marriages. All documentation in this write-up refers to Accomack County records unless otherwise stated. Undocumented births, deaths, and marriages in the section on Dawson James Knight have been taken from a family Bible. It should be remembered that census ages are
considered accurate only to within five years.

Of special interest to the writer is that Samuel T. Taylor, who owned land to the east of the Chase land and who administered the estate of Dunreath M. Knight, was a great-great-grandfather. His last home can be seen falling into disrepair directly across the road from the old Messongo Baptist Church graveyard. My father, Samuel L. Trader, was born in 1885 on the Samuel T. Taylor land, in another, older house, which is now gone.

An oddity was finding a Robert R. Night, 50 years of age, in the 1900 census, with five children but no wife, living among Messongo residents. The census indicates he was born in Virginia, as were both of his parents, but no prior record has been found of him, or later one.

A number of people have been contacted for information on the Messongo Knights. These include: Mrs. Mamie Holly Knight of St. Cloud, Florida, who died there on 29 November 1997, and her daughter, Ruth Knight Hill of Messongo; Mr. C. Willard Gladding of Mears, Virginia; Mr. Dorsey F. Knight, Jr., of Messongo; Mrs. Stewart Knight of Atlantic; Mrs. Eloise Knight Sage of Hampton; Mrs. Myrtle Knight Bernard of Bloxom; Mr. Carroll Lee Marshall of Sanford; Mr. Walter N. Donaway of Hallwood; Mr. William P. Trader of Accomac; and Mrs. Adron W. Knight of Pocomoke City, Maryland. My special thanks to each of these for their help.

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Dunreath N. Knight

An extensive search has been made for the ancestors of Dunreath M. Knight, without success. A number of his descendants, bearing the Knight name, have been contacted, none of whom know from whom or whence he came. Since there were no white Knight families in Accomack County, Virginia, in 1800, 1810, or 1820, it was assumed he, a waterman, sailed into Messongo Creek, where he met his wife, from one of the Virginia or Maryland counties bordering the Chesapeake Bay. There were early Knights in Northampton County, Accomack County, James City County, Northumberland County, Surry County and Westmoreland County in Virginia, and Somerset County, Dorchester County, St. Marys County, Kent County, Baltimore County and Cecil County in Maryland.

Dunreath M. Knight was issued a marriage license bond in Accomack County on 12 November 1823, to marry Elizabeth Marshall, daughter of Henry Marshall of Sampson, who was named as security on the bond (MLB 1806-1832, p. 73).

Henry Marshall had married Nasha Chase in 1795 (MLB 1774-1806, p. 18). He and the Chases lived in the Cattail Creek/Messongo Creek area. Henry Marshall, a farmer, was listed as head of household 517 by the 1850 census for Accomack County, Accomack Parish, at 78 years of age. His wife was deceased, but his son Stephen, at 41, and his family were living with him. On 18 June 1859, Henry Marshall, "who is tenant for life" (meaning he had a lifetime interest in his deceased wife's property and then it was to go to their children), was joined by these children, Stephen Marshall and wife Patience, Francis Boggs and wife Ann, Edmond Trader and wife Rosey, Elizabeth Knight, and William Marshall's heirs (a deceased son), in selling 4 acres "near Mesongo Bridge", excepting a graveyard, to Marcellus Small, for $100 (Deeds 1858-1860, p. 258). This land was bordered on the east by land belonging to Samuel T. Taylor. The tract had been left to Egnasha (Nasha) Marshall by her mother, Betty Chase, in 1813, 4 acres "near Mesongo Meeting house" (Wills 1812-1814, p. 316). Betty Chase left the balance of her property to Henry Marshall, directing that he
"shall Bury me decently".

William Marshall, son of Henry, married Betsy Bloxom, daughter of Stephen, in 1820 (MLB 1806-1832, p. 92). William Marshall had died intestate by 27 October 1834, when John R. Drummond was named to administer his estate (Orders 1832-1836, p. 371). His children were William, Stephen, Narcissa, Sally and Rachel Marshall, when Dunreath M. Knight was named their guardian on 26 August 1845 (Orders 1845-1847, p. 14).

On 29 April 1863, Stephen Marshall, Elizabeth "Night", Ann Boggs, Rosey Trader, and Rachel Lewis (was she another Marshall sister or an heir of brother William Marshall?) sold to John L. White, 25 acres in Makeal Marsh (Michael Marsh on present-day maps), for $15 (Deeds 1862-1865, p. 113). This land was bordered on the west by Messongo Creek. Stephen Marshall (1808-1889), son of Henry and Nasha Chase Marshall, and brother to Elizabeth Marshall Knight, is buried with a tombstone in the Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery. No stones have been found for his brother, sisters, or their parents.

After his marriage in 1823, Dunreath M. Knight's name next appears on the 1840 census for Accomack County, Accomack Parish, where his age was given at 40 to 50 years. His wife was 30 to 40 years of age and they had four children: a son of 10 to 15, a son 5 to 10 years, a daughter of 10 to 15 and a daughter 5 to 10 years of age.

Only three months after Dunreath M. Knight was made guardian of his wife's nieces and nephews, he was deceased. On 24 November 1845, on the application of Samuel T. Taylor, "it appearing to the Court that the widow relinquishes in his favor", letters of administration for Dunreath M. Knight's estate were granted to Taylor (Orders 1845-1847, p. 53). On 23 October 1841, Dunreath M. Knight had bought 20 acres, for $85.00, from Daniel Boston (Deeds 1841-1843, p. 556). This land was sold back to Daniel Boston on 23 December 1848 by a special commissioner (Deeds 1848-1849, p. 356).
While nothing more has been found in the records of Dunreath M. Knight's parents, only all three of his sons indicating in the 1880 census that both of their parents were born in Virginia, just recently, one of his great-grandsons, Mr. William P. Trader, has related information he was told by his mother. She said Dunreath M. Knight, as a child, was found one night in the marsh. That it was not known whether he washed ashore after a shipwreck or had been abandoned. She did not know who found him or raised him, but that he was given his name for where and when he was found (Dun Reef Marsh Night?). She also said he was a waterman. He was apparently born circa 1800, since he was about ten years older that his wife in 1840, and would have been circa 23 when he married and circa 45 when he died.

His widow apparently moved in with her sister Rosey and her husband, Edmond Trader, where she was listed by the 1850 census at 41 years of age, with two of her children. Her oldest son was head of his own household in 1850, which included a younger brother, and two daughters had also married. Nothing more has been found on Elizabeth Knight.

The children of Dunreath M. Knight and his wife, Elizabeth Marshall Knight, were:

1. William Samuel Knight, born circa 1825 (1850 census).
2. Margaret A. Knight, born circa 1827 (1850 census), died 29 August 1895 (Reg. of Deaths), married 25 January 1848, William P. Trader (MLB 1847-1850, p. 15).
5. Dawson J. Knight, born circa 1841 (1850 census).
6. Nathalie W. Knight, born circa 1845 (1850 census). She was living with her mother and brother Henry in her uncle Edmond Trader's household in 1850. No other record.
William Samuel Knight

William Samuel Knight, the eldest son of Dunreath M. Knight and Elizabeth Marshall Knight, was born circa 1825. He was listed as 25 years of age by the 1850 census, head of household 981 of Accomack Parish, Accomack County. He would have been the son in his father's household in the 1840 census, aged 10 to 15 years. While no marriage record has been found, later records show William S. Knight had married Charlotte Taylor, daughter of James B. Taylor and his wife, Henrietta Lucas Taylor, circa 1847.

In 1850, William S. Knight's wife Charlotte was 23 and they had a daughter, Mary J. of 2 years. His younger brother "Darson" Knight was living with the family. The 1860 census shows William Knight, 36, head of household 225/257, with wife Charlotte, 34, daughter Mary J. at 13 (12?), son William Riley (Royal?) Knight at 9 years of age and daughter Elizabeth of 6 years. In 1870, William Knight, 44, was a retail merchant, head of household 560/560. Wife Charlotte was 43, son Riley (Royal?) Knight was 20 and daughter Elizabeth was 16. By 1870, William Samuel Knight was 55, a dealer in general merchantize, head of household 409/408, with wife Charlotte at 53. Their children had married by 1880, but a granddaughter, Roberta Godwin, 13, was living with them.

William S. Knight lost his wife on 20 April 1891 (1890?) of bronchitis (Reg. of Deaths). Her tombstone gives Charlotte's birth on 20 May 1826 and death on 20 April 1890. The death record names her parents. William S. Knight, born 20 September 1824, died on 29 September 1902, according to his tombstone beside that of his wife, in a family plot on Holdens Creek, just north of Makemie Monument Park.

The children of William Samuel Knight and his wife, Charlotte Taylor Knight, were:

Holdens Creek, near Pocomoke Methodist Church at Grotons. It states she was born 14 November 1847 and died 22 October 1868, the daughter of W. S. and Charlotte Knight and wife of J. D. Godwin. It was her daughter, Roberta Godwin, who was living with her parents in 1880 and with the Cullens in 1933.

2. William R. Knight, born circa 1851 (1860 census). He was called William Riley Knight by the 1860 census and Riley in 1870, but later records speak of him as William Royal Knight and just Royal Knight. He has no tombstone, but his obituary states he was buried in the family burying ground near Jenkins Bridge (Pen Ent. 11 December 1926 issue). It states he died on 4 September 1926 at 76 years, leaving a wife Margaret, to whom he had been married for 55 years, four daughters and three sons. William R. Knight, 22, merchant, married Peggy M. Cullen 19, daughter of Jacob and Sally Cullen, on 1 February 1872 at Messongo (Mar. Reg. #3, p. 33). The 1900 census gives William R. Knight's age as 50, his wife was 44, in household 312/312, next door to his father. They had had seven children (8?), all of whom were living, five of them in their household. In 1920, William R. Knight, in household 327/328 on Belinda Road, was 58, his wife Margaret M. was 56. Only two sons were living with them and a 12-year-old grandson, Estelle D. Knight. The children of William R. Knight and Margaret M. Cullen Knight were:

A. Mary E. Knight, born 10 May 1874 (Reg. of Births). Mary E. Knight, 17, "daughter of William R. and Peggie Knight", married William Morris Kelly, 19, on 12 April 1893 at Temperanceville (Mar. Reg. #3, p. 120).

B. Hattie S. Knight, born circa 1875 (1880 census). Hattie S. Knight, 20, married W. T. Davis, 21, on18 November 1900 in Somerset County, Maryland (LES, MD, Rec, p. 256). Hattie Davis and her husband, Warner T. Davis, were divorced and he remarried. Her tombstone is in Grotons Cemetery. It gives her birth in 1882 and death in 1967.

C. Exodus Knight, born 3 June 1878 (Reg. of Births). Exodus Knight, 18,
married (1) Joel C. Onley, 21, on 7 August 1898, in Somerset County, Maryland (LES, MD, Mar. Rec., p. 256). She was called Mrs. J. H. Auld of Richmond, when her father died in 1926 and Exodus Auld of Washington, when her brother Andrew died in 1947. Exodus apparently had a son Estel Onley, who was raised by her parents and was known as Estel Knight.

D. William Andrew Knight, born 17 June 1881 (Reg. of Births). Andrew Knight, 24, married Mary Northam, 21, on 11 February 1900 in Wicomico County, Maryland (LES, MD, Mar. Rec., p. 256). William A. Knight, husband of Mary A. Knight, was born in 1882 and died in 1947, according to his tombstone in Grotons Cemetery. His obituary (Pen. Ent., 27 June 1947 issue) gives his death on 14 June 1947. He had stopped his car, while driving between Sanford and Jenkins Bridge, and apparently died there of a heart attack. He was survived by his wife Mary (Pen. Ent., 20 June 1947 issue), no children, three sisters, and three brothers. One brother was named as Estel Knight of Washington, who had to have been a nephew, since he was not named at all in William Andrew Knight's list of heirs (Wills 25, p. 202). In the 1910 census, William A. Knight, 28, and wife Mary R., 28, in household 331/332, had a 9-year-old son, Walton F. Knight. His tombstone, in Grotons Cemetery with his parents, gives his birth in 1900 and death in 1946. Apparently, he was unmarried.

E. Cecile Lee Knight, born 3 July 1880 (Reg. of Births). Cecil Knight, 19, married (1) Corbie Drummond, 22, on 4 August 1905, in Somerset County, Maryland (LES, MD, Mar. Rec., p. 256). She was Mrs. Ben Satchell when her father died in 1926.

F. Fletcher J. Knight, born circa 1889 (1900 census). He was called S. J. Knight in his father's obituary in 1926 and was living in Colonial Beach, Virginia. He married, circa 1935, Pearl Satchell, daughter of George O. Satchell and wife, Missouri F. Mears Satchell, and sister to Benjamin F. Satchell (no local record of their marriage, see The Satchell Lineage, by Mary Frances Carey). His widow married Hershal Butler (this could have been her first husband). Fletcher Knight had no
children of his own, according to his niece, Ruth Satchell Wood, daughter of Benjamin F. Satchell by his first marriage. He was living in Fredericksburg in 1947.

G. Nora May Knight, "daughter of William A. and Margaret", died 19 January 1891, aged 9 months. Her mother gave this information (Reg. of Deaths).

H. Harold H. Knight, born circa 1894 (1900 census). Harold Knight married (1) 9 August 1911, Nina B. Furniss in Pocomoke City, Maryland (Wor. Co. Mar. Rec. #4), (2) 27 December 1937, Sallie Mae Martin in Princess Anne, Maryland (Som. Co. Mar. Rec., 1921-1937). Mr. Harold H. Knight died at his home in Saxis, Virginia, on 12 November 1956, at 60 years (obituary in Pen. Ent., 15 November 1956 issue). He was a waterman and "the son of the late Royal and Peggy Knight" and was buried in Dennis Cemetery, Saxis. He was survived by his widow Sally, three daughters, Miss Mary Rose Knight, Mrs. Joe Bernard and Mrs. Robert Somerfield of Baltimore, and two sons, Mayland Knight of Saxis and Edward Knight of Baltimore. Harold Knight and his first wife lost a daughter, Helena, on 29 September 1926, at 3 years 6 months of age (Pen. Ent., 9 October 1926 issue). She had sisters Hilda Knight and Myrtle Knight and one brother, Wayland (Mahlon) Knight. They had also lost two other children, Edward J. and Malissa Fay. Mary Rose Knight was a daughter of the second marriage. She married Leon Ward of Deep Creek.

3. Elizabeth A. Knight, born circa 1854 (1870 census). Elizabeth Knight, 24, married 13 December 1873, John S. Cullen, 24 (LES, MD, Mar. Rec, p. 256). Elizabeth A. Cullen was born in 1854 and died in 1933. Her husband was born in 1849 and also died in 1933 (tombstones in Downings Methodist Church, Oak Hall). An article on the front page of the 11 February 1933 issue of the Peninsula Enterprise, states that John S. Cullen died Sunday night, 5 February 1933, as a result of breathing coal gas. He, his daughter Mrs. Jesse Mason, sons Edward and Neal Cullen, and his wife, were also rendered unconscious. The family was sitting up with his wife, who was sick in her bed in the room, and were found the next morning by Miss Bertie
Godwin (Roberta Godwin, niece of Elizabeth A. Cullen), who lived with them. The others regained consciousness between midnight Monday and noon on Tuesday and were expected to recover.
Henry Washington Knight

Henry Washington Knight, the second son of Dunreath M. Knight and Elizabeth Marshall Knight, was born circa 1834. He would have been 11 years of age when his father died in 1845. He was listed as 16 years of age by the 1850 census, in the household of Edmond Trader. He would have been the son in his father's household in 1840 at 5 to 10 years of age.


The Accomack County, Accomack Parish, census of 1860 lists Henry Knight, 27, an oysterman, as head of household 345/346. His wife was then called Serina, aged 18 (25?) and they had a daughter of the same name, who was 7 months old. In 1870, Henry Knight, head of household 360/360, was 39 (36?), and still oystering. His wife Serena was 31 (35?) and they had four children: Elizabeth at 12 years, Samuel of 8 years, Eugenia at 4 years, and an unnamed infant of 6 months. By 1880, Henry Knight, at 47, head of household 184, was farming. Wife Serena was 39 (45?). Son William H. Knight was 18, daughter Eugenia was 15 and daughter Charlotte was 12 years of age. The 1900 census (there is no 1890 census) shows Henry Knight, head of household 117, at 69 (66?), with no occupation. He was living alone with his second wife, his children having married. He reported that he had been married for 40 years and had had four children, all of whom were living. His second wife, Nancy Knight died 12 Oct. 1905 (Pen. Ent.). Henry Knight apparently died before 1910, but no record of his death has been found.

The children of Henry W. Knight and his wife, Arenea/Serena/Rena/Rennie Marshall Knight, were:

1. Elizabeth Serena Knight, born circ 1859 (1860 census). Elizabeth Knight,

2. William Henry Knight, born 10 March 1869, died 24 November (Thanksgiving Day) 1949 (obituary in Pen. Ent., 2 December 1949 issue). The 1870 census called him Samuel Knight (an error) and indicated he was born in 1862, a birth date substantiated by his age on his marriage record and the 1900 census. His obituary gives his parents as Henry Washington Knight and Rennie Marshall Knight. He died in Berlin, Maryland, having moved there from Pocomoke City in 1926. He was born in Accomack County, Virginia, and moved to Pocomoke in 1918. He was buried in the Salem Methodist Church Cemetery in Pocomoke. He was survived by his wife, three daughters and six grandsons, who were his pallbearers. William H. Knight, 30, "son of Henry and Rena Knight", married Sally C. Hall, 20, "daughter of George E. and Sally D. Hall", on 30 March 1892, near Belinda (Mar. Reg. #3, p 115). The Accomack County, Atlantic District, census for 1900 lists William H. Knight, 37, head of household 73/73, a farmer. He and his wife Sallie C., 27, had been married 8 years and had had three daughters, all of whom were living: Lennie R. at 6 years, Vesta A. of 5 years, and 2-year-old Sallie D. Knight. The children of William H. Knight and his wife, Sally C. Hall Knight, were:


B. Vesta Adonia Knight, born circa 1895 (1900 census). She married, 25 September 1919, Walter Lester Donaway of Worcester County, Maryland (Mar. Reg. #4, p. 27). The marriage record calls him Walter Lester Daisy, an obvious error, since William H. Knight had a daughter, Mrs. Walter Donaway, in 1949 and two Donaway grandsons, Walter and Lennie (named for his deceased aunt, Lennie R. Knight White?).
C. Sally D. Knight, born circa 1898 (1900 census). She married (1) circa 1918, William T. Matthews, whose tombstone in Salem Methodist Church Cemetery gives his birth in 1898 and death in 1942. His widow was Mrs. Sally M. Roach of Ocean City, when her father died in 1949. She had a son, Jesse A. Matthews of Exmore, Virginia, the sixth grandson of William H. Knight.

D. Myrtle Knight. William H. Knight's obituary in 1949 lists "Miss Myrtle Knight" as a daughter. Family members relate that she married a Coulbourne. While no marriage record has been found, a tombstone in Salem Methodist Church Cemetery states: Myrtle K. Coulbourne, born 1915, died 1964.

3. Eugenia F. Knight, born circa 1866 (1870 census). William H. Taylor, 22, a sailor of Accomack County, "son of John W. and Ellen Taylor", married (1) Genie F. Knight, 22, "daughter of Henry and Arena Knight", on 11 May 1890, at Mappsville, Virginia (Mar. Reg. #3, p. 324). William H. Taylor, 34, a widower, married (2) 10 August 1902, Ella Dana Holly Andrews, 20 (30?), widow of John W. Andrews and daughter of Benjamin T. Holly (Mar. Reg. #4, p. 76), and (3) 15 October 1933, at Messongo, Jency L. Collins, widow (Mar. Reg. #5, p. 36). "Mrs. Eugenia Taylor, a lady of lovable character, wife of William Taylor, died at her home in Messongo, April 28, 1901" (Pen. Ent., 4 May 1901 issue, under Hallwood news). While this obituary did not name her children, the William H. Taylor household 316/316 in 1900 gives his age as 30 and his wife Jeanie also 30. They had been married 10 years and had had three children, all of whom were living. Daughter Beatrice Taylor was 9 years old, son William was 8 years of age, and daughter Virginia was 5. The 1910 census shows William H. Taylor, 40, head of household 355/356, with his second wife, Ella D. Taylor, 35, and his father, John Taylor, a widower of 65 years. The eldest daughter, Anna Beatrice Taylor (1890-1960), had married Severn Stacius Bundick, of Marion Station, Maryland, on 23 September 1908 (family Bible). The Taylor household in 1910 included three other children whose mother was Eugenia F. Knight Taylor: William at 17; Edna V. at 15 (she married (1) Edward Smith, (2) Mr. Neal Taylor of Withams,
Virginia, as his second wife); and Daphine Taylor at 9 years of age. Apparently Daphine's mother died at her birth and family records indicate Daphine died in 1921, although her tombstone in Knights Cemetery gives no dates. William H. Taylor had several children by his second marriage, who would have been half brothers and sisters to Eugenia F. Knight Taylor's children. They include: Garland Taylor, born circa 1903 (1910 census), died 1918 (family records); Thomas Taylor of Chester, Pennsylvania; Lena Taylor Powell, wife of Ralph Powell of Millsboro, Delaware; Ethel Taylor Rantz, wife of John Rantz of Pocomoke City, Maryland; and Irvin M. Taylor of Millsboro, Delaware. William H. Taylor died 3 March 1944, "aged seventy-five years", according to his obituary in the Peninsula Enterprise (10 March 1944 issue). He was buried in Knights Cemetery, Messongo, but his tombstone has no dates. A Marvin H. Taylor also has a child-size stone nearby in Knights Cemetery, with no dates. He had to have been another son of William H. Taylor, who died young, and whose name does not show on census records. Family members relate that William H. Taylor had one other daughter by his second wife, who has not been found in Accomack County records.

Blanche Taylor married William Churn, who worked for the railroad, and they lived in Millsboro, Delaware, directly across the street from her sister, Lena Powell. Blanche had no children and apparently predeceased her father, for she is certainly not named in his obituary with his children, nor as one of his heirs when his estate was settled (Wills 24, p. 389). See note below.


Note: Since completing the above, this researcher has found at the Accomack County Clerk's Office, in Marriage Register #4, p. 186 - Willie Churn, 21, married Blanche May Andrews, 18, at Hallwood, Virginia, on 27 December 1911. This record states that Blanche was the daughter of John Andrews and his wife Ella. This shows that Blanche was not a daughter of William H. Taylor, but rather, a daughter of his second wife by her first husband and would have been a half-sister to the Taylor children of this marriage. She was not related to the Knights at all or to their descendants.
Dawson James Knight

Dawson J. Knight, the third and youngest son of Dunreath M. Knight and Elizabeth Marshall Knight, was born circa 1841. He was listed as a 9-year-old in his brother William's household by the 1850 census. He would have been only 4 years of age when his father died. His name has not been found in the 1860 census for Accomack County.

Dawson Knight, 21, oysterman, "son of Dunreath and Elizabeth Knight", married Elizabeth Hall, 20, "daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Hall", on 27 December 1865 (Mar. Reg. #3, p. 17). The census for 1870, Accomack County, Wetompin Township (District), lists "Derson Night", a 28-year-old farmer, head of household 587/609, with wife Elizabeth, 26, and a 1-year-old son, James (Demond J.) Knight. By 1880, D. J. Knight was a 38-year-old farmer in household 345 of Atlantic District. His wife was 36 and they had four children between 2 years and 12 years. In 1900, Dawson J. Knight was 58 years old, head of household 118/118 in Atlantic District. He was again a farmer, his wife Elizabeth was 55 and son Thomas (Staton T.), at 20 years, was living with them. They had been married 33 years (35?) and had had seven children, five of whom were still living. In 1910, Dawson J. Knight was 67, head of household 374/375 in Atlantic District. His wife Sarah E. Knight, was 66 and they had been married 42 years (45?). No others were in their household.

"Mr. Dawson Knight, a respected and worthy citizen, died at his home near Messongo, Virginia, Tuesday, May 9th, 1922" (Pen. Ent., 27 May 1922 issue). He was survived by his widow and five children and was buried in Knights Cemetery. His tombstone there gives his birth in January 1842 and death in May 1922. His wife, Sarah Elizabeth Hall Knight, was born 20 December 1846 and died 3 March 1930. The family Bible states he was born January _____, 1841 and that he and Elizabeth were married on 25 December 1865. Their children were:
1. Pamela J. Knight, born 2 October 1866, died 17 February 1868.

2. Denard James (called Jimmy) Knight, born 10 March 1869, died 30 May 1949 (tombstone in Knights Cemetery), married 5 December 1897, at 27 years of age, Lovey C. Hall, 25, daughter of Robert and Susan Hall, at Messongo (Mar. Reg. #4, p. 20). Her tombstone in Knights Cemetery gives her birth on 9 August 1872 and death on 19 September 1944. The 1900 census lists Denard J. Knight, a 31-year-old farmer, head of Atlantic District household 263/263. His wife Catherine was 27. They had been married for two years and had a 1-year-old daughter, Monia M. Knight. The 1910 census shows two other children in this Knight household, Denard, Jr. of 7 years and Timothy M. at 4 years. Not only did Denard James Knight and his wife leave their family Bible, but Knights Cemetery apparently got its name from him. On 12 January 1894, Denard J. Knight bought a 50-acre farm from William S. Smith and wife Margaret for $1,400 (Deeds 66, p. 524). This land was near Marsh Market, bordered on the north by Thomas Cope's land, east by ______, south by Benjamin T. Holly, and west by the public road. The tombstone of Thomas Copes stands in a field north of Knights Cemetery. The children of Denard J. Knight and wife, Lovey Catherine Hall Knight, were:

A. Monia M. Knight, born circa 1899 (1900 census), married circa 1917, James Cutler Franklin (1894-1953). She was born in 1899 and died in 1958 and is buried with her husband in J. W. Taylor Memorial Cemetery, Temperanceville. They were the parents of J. P. Cutler.

B. Denard J. Knight, Jr., born 1902, died 1972 (tombstone in Parksley Cemetery), married 6 January 1933, Clara Evelyn Mitchell of Parksley (Pen. Ent., 6 January 1934 issue). She, born 1913 (tombstone), was listed as his only heir (Wills 32, p. 465). Denard J. Knight's widow Clara still lives on the family farm his father bought in 1894, where Knights Cemetery is located on Messongo road.

C. Timothy M. Knight, born 1905, died 1987 (tombstone in J. W. Taylor Cemetery), married 24 December 1927, Mamie Holly, who was the daughter of William M.
Holly and granddaughter of Benjamin T. Holly (1848-1930 - tombstone in J. W. Taylor Cemetery). Benjamin T. Holly's will, written 14 March 1925, and recorded on 7 August 1930, named four sons, daughter Ella Dean Taylor, and several grandchildren, one of whom was Mamie Holly. Timothy Knight and his wife, Mamie Holly Knight, had an only daughter, Ruth Knight, who married Frederick Hill.

3. John W. Knight, born 9 January 1872, died 19 January 1965, married (1) 26 December 1894, at 23 years, Elizabeth A. Andrews, daughter of John and Rachel Andrews, at Marsh Market (Mar. Reg. #3, p. 128). They had an only son, Dollie Knight, born 17 February 1896, died 4 September 1896, at 7 months (tombstone in Knights Cemetery). John W. Knight married (2) 30 November 1935, Josie Chesser, widow, and daughter of Louis R. Baily and wife Anna Pecor Bailey (Mar. Reg. #5, p. 44), and (3) 9 January 1943, Celia Turner Gaskill, widow (Won Co. Mar. Rec. #6, p. 100). He and his first wife are buried in Knights Cemetery with stones, but no dates on them.

4. Annie E. Knight, born 12 May 1874, died 13 May 1885.

5. D. Francis Knight, born 12 May 1876, died 24 October 1961, married 10 October 1898, at 22, Oceanna/Anna Taylor, 19, daughter of Stansbury B. Taylor and wife, Elizabeth Trader Taylor (Mar. Reg. #4, p. 30). The 1900 census calls him Dawson F. Knight, as does the 1910 census. His tombstone in Knights Cemetery gives his name as D. Francis Knight. He died testate, naming his surviving children (Wills 28, p. 133). He mentioned six chairs that his father had purchased two weeks before Christmas 1865 at a sale. He left them to son Adron and wanted them kept in the family. He and his wife had ten children:

A. Mary Elizabeth Knight, born 3 September 1899, died 8 April 1977, married 2 December 1917, Clarence McClellan Gladding. They kept a store at Mearsville and were the parents of C. Willard Gladding, Norma Gladding Godwin (Mrs. Gene E.), and Calvin Reed Gladding.

B. Finney Mason Knight, born 7 February 1902, died 10 January 1971, married circa 1921, Cecie Byrd Ross (1885-1967 - tombstone in Grotons Cemetery), widow of
E. T. Ross, Jr., who died in 1919. Finney Mason Knight was living in Bowers Beach, Delaware, when his brother died in 1960 and is buried in Delaware. He and his wife had two sons: Finney Mason Knight, Jr., born 7 December 1922, died August 1985, living in Chester, Pennsylvania, when his mother died in 1967 (Wills 30, p. 327); and William Francis Knight, born 1 August 1930, married 23 November 1949, Minnie Joyce Brittingham (Wor. Co. Mar. Rec. #7, p. 100), and lives in Orange, California.


E. Stella Knight, born 16 April 1909, married Julius Peyton Stewart of Hampton, Virginia.

F. Adron Waters Knight, born 11 April 1911, died 22 August 1991 at 80 years, married 22 December 1934, Estelle Dickerson. They lived in Pocomoke City, Maryland, and had three children: Adron Wilson Knight, born 30 August 1945; William Edward Knight, born 10 May 1948; and Margaret Knight, born 18 July 1952, died 10 May 1997, married Ralph Edward King.

G. Kathaleen Knight, born 26 November 1913, died 6 November 1997, married (1) Vernus Linton of Saxis, (2) Stewart Kirkwood of Hampton.

H. Woodrow Wilson Knight, born 31 March 1917, died 26 July 1926 at 9 years (tombstone in Knights Cemetery).

I. Anna May Knight, born 14 December 1919, died 31 January 1920 (tombstone in Knights Cemetery).

J. Eloise A. Knight, born 9 February 1923, married 1939, James A. Sage of
Hampton, Virginia, son of Lucille Sage and her first husband.

6. Staten Thomas Knight, born 18 May 1879, died 1966 (tombstone in Downings Cemetery, married 13 January 1901, Lelia Smith, in Somerset County, Maryland (LES, MD, Mar. Rec., p. 256). She was the daughter of James H. and Cecelia Hall Smith and died 2 June 1947, aged 64 years (obituary in Pen. Ent., 4 June 1947 issue). They had three children:

A. Lillis Knight, born 1903, married C. Jack Chase, born 1895, died 1972 (tombstones in Parksley Cemetery).

B. Clifford S. Knight, born 1909, died 1986 (tombstone in Downings Cemetery). He married Mabel Darby. They lived in Atlantic, Virginia, and had no children.

C. Stewart T. Knight, born 8 September 1915, died 24 January 1953 (tombstone at Downings). He married Ethel McDaniel of Cokesbury, Maryland, on 3 June 1933 (Wor. Co. Mar. Rec. #5, p.156). They were living in Cape Charles when his mother died in 1947 and had a daughter, Patricia Knight. This family later moved to Atlantic.

7. Pamalia/Amelia S. Knight, born 5 August 1882, died 16 February 1964, married (1) Luther T. Ball (1876-1919) on 14 December 1898 (Mar. Reg. #1, p.32); (2) George Edward Smith (1865-1940) on 5 September 1920 (Mar. Reg. #4, p.282). Her survivors included a son Clifton L. Ball and two stepsons (obituary in The Eastern Shore News, 20 February 1964 issue). She was buried in Knights Cemetery, with her two husbands, after a funeral service at Halls Chapel Baptist Church at Messongo. Her tombstone states she died in 1964, an obvious error.
Picture taken in 1951, on the 75th birthday of D. Francis Knight, showing him with two brothers and a sister.

Left to right: Amanda S. Knight Ball Smith, Staten T. Knight, D. Francis Knight, and John W. Knight. A fourth brother, Denard James Knight had died in 1949.