

Genealogy of a Knauff Family from Adams County Ohio

The attached document was sent to me by Walter J. Knauff of San Francisco, CA in 1995. It is a copy of a partial genealogy of the descendants of apparent brothers John and Michael Knauff, who ultimately settled in Adams County, OH after first settling in Pennsylvania. The genealogy was written by Donald E. Fisher, but it is not known when it was written.

William V. Gehrlein
21 January 2019
Lewes, DE

The Descendents
of
John & Michael Knauff

From
Hesse, Prussia
to
Adams County, Ohio

A Genealogy
by
Donald E. Fisher

Was in
Marion CO, IA
moved
again

Bucher

Michael 2 in
ships landline record

I rec'd this from Walter E. Knauff
from old
Walt in
San Fran.
5105 Pumpkin Ridge Rd
W. Union, OH 45693
(513) 587-2044

"A generation of men is like a generation of leaves:
The wind scatters some leaves upon the ground, while
others the burgeoning wood brings forth - and the season
of spring comes on. So of men one generation springs
forth and another ceases."

Homer
c.700 B.C.

I don't know where this came from?!

- 1, Jacob Knauff (-)
Children of Jacob & -----(-----) Knauff
- *11. John Knauff (ca 1816-1906)
- *12. Michael Knauff (ca 1818-1906)
- 11, John Knauff (ca 1816-1906)
Children of John & Margaret (----) Knauff ✓
- *111. Nicholas Knauff (1842-1906) ✓
112. Caroline Knauff (ca 1842-)
113. Margaret Knauff (ca 1842-)
- *114. John W. Knauff (July 1859-)
- *115. Michael Frederick Knauff (Oct 1865-May 1950)
116. Sarah Knauff (ca 1876-)
(See household 91-87, 1870 Census, Jefferson Twp., Adams Co.)
- 12, Michael Knauff (ca 1818-1906) — Michael 2
Children of Michael & Mary (Garden/Gardener) Knauff
- *121. Adam Knauff (1845-1929)
- *122. Frederick Knauff (1848-1929)
- *123. Anna Knauff (1852-1933)
- *124. Michael Knauff II (ca 1854-ca 1918)
- *125. John Knauff (1856-1903)
- *126. Jacob Knauff (Feb.1859-1932)
- *127. Conrad Knauff (ca 1861-1940)
- *128. Katherine B. Knauff (1863-1925)
(See household #455, 1860 census, #404, 1870 census, and #167, 1880 census, Jefferson Twp., Adams County OH.)
(bur. East Liberty Cemetery, Brush Creek Twp., Adams County.
I did not find a death certificate for Michael Knauff at the
Adams County Health Dept., West Union OH. If there ever was
one, it must have been destroyed in the Courthouse fire.)
(Comment:)
(In the 1900 census of Jefferson Township, Adams County, Ohio,
household 132-132, Michael Knauff (der Alte), was living with
his son Michael (1854-1927) and Michael's wife, Phoebe (1860-
1912). He states that he was born in Germany and emigrated to
the USA in 1853, that he was not naturalized, that he could not
read nor write but could speak English. He is shown as age 81,
and as having been born September, 1818. The reader should
consider the circumstances. The elderly Michael may not have
fully understood the questions being asked by the census taker.
His son Frederick (1848-1928) stated that he, Frederick, had
been born in Pennsylvania. The son he was living with, Michael

*Look like
This son of
Nicholas & Anna
Knauff*

*

(1854-1927), stated that he, Michael, had been born in Ohio. It is likely that the 1853 referred to is the date that the Knauff families came from Pennsylvania to Ohio. DEF)

From the Peoples Defender, 18 Jan 1906:

Death of Michael Kanauff, Sr.

"The venerable Michael Knauff, Sr., died last Sunday evening, at the home of his son Michael, in Jefferson township. He had been an invalid for a number of years. Deceased was 87 years of age and was a native of Germany. He and his wife came to this country and settled in Pennsylvania. About fifty years ago the family located to this county, where they have resided ever since. The wife of the deceased has been dead about thirty years. Nine children survive, all residents of this county, as follows: Adam, Jacob, Fred, Michael, Jr., William, Mrs. Adam Wolfe, and Mrs. Oliver Campton. The funeral was held at Liberty Chapel Tuesday morning, Rev. W.M. Shiveley, conducting the services. Interment in the Chapel cemetery."

Comment:

The obit says "nine children survive". Conrad Knauff is not listed above but was shown as being 9 years of age in the 1870 census. Who is the William shown above. When was he born? Where did he live in 1906? What township? Where is the John Knauff shown as 14 years of age in the 1870 census?

111,

Nicholas Knauff (1842-Sep 1906)

Children of Nicholas & Mary Ann (Tracy) Knauff (m. 24 Nov 1867)

1111. Leonidas Knauff (ca 1861-)

1112. John N. Knauff (1870-)

1113. William Franklin Knauff (187?-)

1114. Elbert N. Knauff (ca 1875-)

1115. Lizzie Maggie Knauff (ca 1878-)

(See household 84-79, 1870 Census, Jefferson Twp.)

(bur. Point Cemetery, Green Township, Adams County OH.)

(See -----, 1880 Census, Green Twp.)

(Mary Ann Tracy d/o Noah & Patience (Mason) Tracy)

(See obit, pg. 263, 1982 Thompson's Collections. Says "of Green Township, was born in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, in 1842. That his parents erected a German Lutheran Church in the neighborhood which was destroyed by fire about 1894, and that he enlisted with Co.G, 70th OVI, and served until August 14, 1865." It also shows five children named John, Will, Elbert, Maggie and Addie Knauff. It would appear that Leonidas did not survive childhood and that another child named Addie should be added to this family.)

(Nicholas Knauff was President of The Rome Board of Education.)

- 114, John W. Knauff (July 1859-)
See household 94-94, 1900 census, Jefferson Twp., Adams Co.)
- 115, Michael Frederick Knauff (Oct 1865-1950)
Children of Michael F. & Artie Florence (Grooms) Knauff
- *1151. Harvey O. Knauff (Aug 1894-1960)
(bur. Hamilton Church Cemetery.)
(See household 93-93, 1900 census, Jefferson Twp., Adams Co.)
(Artie F., b. April 1877-Ohio, married 6 years-one child.)
(Died at the home of his son, Harvey, near Hillsboro OH.)
(Artie Florence Grooms d/o James H. & Arminta (Piatt) Grooms,
and sister of Theodore Grooms who married Clara Wolfe (#1232)
the d/o Adam & Anna (Knauff, #123) Wolfe. See # 11251, The
Grooms Family file.)
(See obit, pg.396, 1982 Thompson's Collections.)
- 121, Adam Knauff (1845-1929)
Children of Adam & ----(----) Knauff
1211. Unknown
(bur. East liberty Cemetery, Brush Creek Twp., Adams Co.)
(No death certificate on file at ACHD, West Union OH.)
- 122, Frederick Knauff (1848-1928) *
- *1221. Children of Frederick & Elizabeth (Lamm) Knauff
- *1222. John H. Knauff (1870-1951)
- *1223. Louella Knauff (1873-)
- *1224. William D. Knauff (1876-)
- *1225. Wylie Sanford Knauff (1877-1941)
- *1226. Anna Ruth Knauff (ca 1881-ca 1917)
- *1227. Harry J. Knauff (1890-1975)
- *1228. *Roy Austin Knauff (1894-1963)
- Mary A. Knauff (1895-1926)
(See household #409, 1870 census, #124, 1880 census, Jefferson
Twp. Adams county OH.)(In the 1900 census, household 123,
Jefferson Township, Adams County, Ohio, both Frederick and
Elizabeth stated that they were born in Pennsylvania. In the
1870 census they had stated born in Ohio. Again, consider the
circumstances created by difficulties with the language.)
(bur. East Liberty Cemetery, Brush Creek Twp., Adams County OH)
(Death Certificate says b. 14 May 1848, in Pennsylvania, died
1 Jan 1928, in Jefferson Township, Adams County, Ohio. The
maiden name of Frederick's mother is illegible on this death
certificate.)
(Elizabeth (Lamm) Knauff (1850-1921) d/o John & Elizabeth
(Boehm) Lamm married Frederick Knauff 30 Mar 1869. See pg.22,
1982 Thompson's Collections.)
(Frederick Knauff's Obit, People's Defender, 5 Jan 1928.-----
" son of Michael & Mary (Garden) Knauff, was born in Butler
County, Pennsylvania, May 14, 1848. When he was five years old
his parents came to the Lynx neighborhood, Adams County, and
this is where he spent the remainder of his life. Many years

a member of the Board of Education and other offices of trust. On March 30, he married Elizabeth Lamm, 8 children were born, as follows: John H., Willia D., Wylie S., Harry J., Roy A., and three daughters, Louella, Annie, and Mary. On Saturday evening he retired as usual in good health at his son John's home, and died quietly in his sleep." (Note: this is from a transcript, not the original paper. No year is given for the year he married. DEF)

(The article on Frederick Knauff, pg. 776, Evans & Stivers HOAC states "Frederick Knauff, of Blue Creek, was born May 14, 1848. His ancestors were among the first of the pioneers in Blue Creek Valley, settling there when the region abounded with bear and deer, and when bands of marauding Indians paid occasional visits to settlements along Scioto Brush Creek. The parents of Mr. Knauff, Michael & Mary Wolfe Knauff, came from Germany to Butler County, Pennsylvania, where Frederick was born, and thence to Adams County. Mary Knauff died April 7, 1892, and is buried at Liberty cemetery. Michael Knauff is yet living at the age of eighty-three years. Our subject was educated in the country schools in which he has always taken much interest, being at present a member of the Board of Education of Jefferson Township. He was married March 30, 1869, to Elizabeth Lamb, a daughter of John & Elizabeth (Boehm) Lamb, by whom he has had eight children. John H., Luella A., William D., Wylie C., (sic), Anna R., Mary A., Harry J., and Roy A. He is a Republican in his political opinions, but very tolerant in his views. He was raised in the Lutheran Church, but is not a member of any denomination at present.") (Please note that the wife of Michael Knauff is referred to as "Mary Wolfe Knauff", and that Evans & Stivers History of Adams County was published in 1900, well before the death of Michael Knauff in 1906. DEF)

123,

Anna Knauff (1852-1933)

Children of Adam & Anna (Knauff) Wolfe

*1231. Alice F. Wolfe (ca 1897-)

*1232. Clara Wolfe (1880-1921)

*1233. Mayme Wolfe (1882-1945)

*1234. Callie Wolfe (1885-1978)

1235. Esta Pearlle Wolfe (1889-1958)

(Adam Wolfe was the son of John & Margaret Wolfe, both of whom were born in Hesse, Prussia. Adam Wolfe (1853-1931) and his two elder brothers, John and William, were born in Pennsylvania. See household 419-398, 1870 census, Jefferson Twp.) (bur. East Liberty Cemetery.) (Death Certificate says Anna died 7 Nov 1933, in Brush Creek Township, Adams County OH. That she was 81 years, 5 months and 10 days of age, but no date of birth is shown. Her place of birth is shown as Pennsylvania. Her mother's maiden name is shown as Gardener by the informant, Pearl Wolf, Tulip, Ohio. The name is spelled Wolf, not Wolfe.)

124. Michael Knauff II (1854-1927)
 Children of Michael & Phoebe (Shirey) Knauff II
 1241. Vianna (?) Knauff (1880-) (census difficult to read)
 1242. Miner B. (?) Knauff (1881-1941) (census difficult to read)
 *1243. Gertrude Louise (a ?) Knauff (1884-)
 *1244. Frank Knauff (1886-1959)
 *1245. Robert D. Knauff (1888-1951)
 *1246. Ralph Knauff (1891-1927)
 (See household 425-404, 1870 census, Jefferson Twp. See household 132-132, 1900 census, Jefferson Twp. Michael II says he was born in Ohio in September, 1854. Phoebe said she was born in Pennsylvania in August, 1860, and that they had been married 20 years, having had six children, all living.) (bur. Copas Cemetery. Both Michael Knauff II and his son were "killed in a scuffle for the possession of an automatic revolver with which young Knauff had been threatening his family". See copies of stories in county papers which are a part of this file.) (automatic revolvers ??? DEF)
 (Phoebe (Shirey) Knauff was a sister of Eliza Jane (Shirey) Knauff, the wife of Jacob Knauff (#126.))
125. John Knauff (1856-1903)
 Children of John & Alice Angeline (McClaren) Knauff
 *1251. Bertha Knauff (1884-1966)
 *1252. Mary Ethel Knauff (1885-1962)
 *1253. Edith Knauff (1890-1963)
 (bur. Fisher Cemetery, Brush Creek Twp.)
 (Alice A. McClaren (1854-1939) d/o Andrew McClaren (1799-1881) and Angeline McClaren (1811-1858), and sister of Ann (McClaren) McNeilan (1837-1916), the w/o Rev. James McNeilan (1832-1904) who was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, and emigrated to this country in 1840.
 She was also the sister of Narcissa (McClaren) Semple, the w/o the Robert James Semple (1852-1913) who is shown living in the home of Andrew McClaren in the 1870 census (Household 386-355, Jefferson Twp.). and who was born at Oma, Ireland. They were the parents of Myrtle, Mable, Will, and Ella Semple. Will E. Semple married Nettie McGovney, the d/o Cary & Sarah McGovney. Their son, Donald McGovney Semple, served as Adams County Commissioner from 1964-1972, and his son, Robert D. Semple, has served as an Adams County Commissioner since 1981. Another son, William Eugene Semple, was killed in action in Viet Nam in 1969. See pgs. 242, 253, 282, 1982 Thompson's Collections and pg. 236, 1989 HOAC.)
 (Sarah Angeline McNeilan (1863-1949) was the d/o James & Ann (McClaren) McNeilan, and the niece of Alice Angeline (McClaren) Knauff, and she married Dr. Daniel Ellison, who practiced in Dunkinsville for several years before moving west to Colorado. She returned to Adams County after the death of Dr. Ellison in Colorado. See obits, pgs. 253, 456, 1982 Thompson's Collections.)
 (Alice Angeline McClaren's mother (the wife of Andrew McClaren)

was Angeline Hood, the d/o John Hood (1769-1814) b. Ireland of Scotch parentage, and Hannah (Page) Hood (1779-1863) b. Monmouth County, New Jersey, d/o Joseph and Ann Page. They left Connelville, Pennsylvania, and moved to Adams County in 1806, when West Union consisted of about a dozen houses. John Page Hood (1813-1879), a s/o John & Hannah (Page) Hood, and the brother of Angeline (Hood) McClaren, married Sarah Jane McFarland, the d/o Andrew Duncan & Nancy Jane (Forsythe) McFarland. See pg.456, 1982 Thompson's Collections and pages 567, 568, 569, Evans & Stivers HOAC. Sarah Jane McFarland was the sister of John E. McFarland, my g-g grandfather.DEF) (Another of Angeline (Hood) McClaren's siblings was James Hood (1802-1890), who was Treasurer of Adams County from 1832 till about 1844, when his son-in-law, Andrew Smalley, became Treasurer. It was all in the family.)(See pgs. 567-570, Evans & Stivers HOAC)

126,

Jacob Knauff (Feb.1859-1932)

Children of Jacob & Elisha Jane (Shirey) Knauff

*1261. Carey Todd Knauff (Nov.1881-1964)

*1262. Robert Floyd Knauff (Feb.1884-)

*1263. Roby F. Knauff (Mar.1894-1932)

(See household 144-147, 1900 census, Jefferson Twp. Eliza Jane said that she was born in Pennsylvania in September 1862. The birthdate shown for Roby F. does not agree with the date shown on his headstone at Copas Cemetery, which is 1890-1932. The census also says they had been married 19 years.)

(Death Certificate- Jacob Knauff-states that he died 31 Jan 1932, in Jefferson Twp., and that his father was Michael Knauff, born in Germany, and that his mother was Mary Gardens, born in Germany. The last letters beyond Gard are difficult to read on the death certificate. The informant was Jacob's wife, Elisha (Eliza) Jane (Shirey) Knauff. Her signature was "Jennie" Knauff, Wamsley Ohio Rt.1. See copy .)

(Eliza Jane (Shirey) Knauff later remarried. Her second husband was Oliver Campton, whose first wife was Katherine B. Knauff (#128.). See below.)

127,

Conrad Knauff (1861-1940)

Children of Conrad & Sarah Elizabeth (Grooms) Knauff

1271. Winona Knauff (-) (may not be correct birth sequence.)

1272. Helen Knauff (-)

1273. Edgar Knauff (1898-)

(Conrad's Death Certificate shows him as having been born 23 Feb 1861, in Ohio, and the date of death as 2 Dec 1940, in Meigs Township, Adams County OH. His mother's maiden name is shown as Mary Gardner. The informant was Wm. Tumbleson, R.D. Peebles OH.)

(bur. East Liberty Cemetery.)(m.24 Oct 1895)

(Sarah Elizabeth Grooms (d. 15 Jan 1957, bur. Dayton OH.) d/o Hiram Connell & Eliza Jane (Cooper) Grooms, g-d/o Eli B. Grooms and Jane (Black) Grooms (1801-1877, bur. Stone Chapel), the d/o

Samuel Black, Sr. (b. 1764, in Ireland) & Hester (Connel) Black (1769-1865). Samuel, Sr. was the s/o James Black, an Irish immigrant who was one of the original signers with Nathaniel Massie to settle Manchester OH. See pgs. 63-67, 1982 Thompson's Collections.. See pg. 52, Evans & Stivers HOAC.)
(Winona married Bill Thompson and Helen married a Tumbleson.)

128,

Katherine B. Knauff (1863-1925)

*1281.

Children of William Oliver & Katherine B. (Knauff) Campton
Ollie Pearl Campton (1888-1979) (b. Lynx, Adams County OH)

*1282.

William Preston Campton (1890-1975) (b. Lynx, Adams County OH)

*1283.

Orval E. Campton (1893-1953) (b. Lynx, Adams County OH)

*1284.

Irene Mary Campton (1895-1971) (b. Lynx, Adams County OH)

*1285.

Shelby C. Campton (1902-1966) (b. Lynx, Adams County OH)

*1286.

Beatrice Ione Campton (1904-1983) (b. Lynx, Adams County OH)

Children of William Oliver & Eliza Jane (Knauff) Campton
No issue.

(bur. Moore's Chapel Cemetery.)

(Comment:)

(This William Oliver Campton was a descendant of Robert Campton, who married Sarah Fletcher. Robert was killed in the War of 1812, scalped by Indian allies of the British.

Sarah Fletcher was the sister of Rebecca Jane Fletcher, who married John Fisher. They were my g-g-g grandparents. DEF.)

(William Oliver Campton was my 3rd cousin-twice removed. His children are my 4th cousins-once removed. DEF)

(As mentioned earlier, Eliza Jane (Shirey) Knauff was the wife of Jacob Knauff (#126.), and after his death 31 Jan 1932, she became the second wife of Oliver Campton, after the death of Katherine B. (Knauff) Campton.) (Eliza Jane's death certificate shows her date of birth as 10 Sep 1862, in Armstrong County, Pennsylvania. Her father is shown as Joseph Shirey (b. Penn.) and her mother as Isabel D---- (b. Penn.). (Last name illegible.) She was bur. at Copas Cemetery. The informant was Carey Knauff, her son, address Buena Vista OH.)

(I was unable to find a death certificate for Katherine B. (Knauff) Campton at West Union OH.)

(Oliver Campton was the undertaker at Blue Creek for a number of years. The old horse-drawn hearse used by him was found in a collapsed barn on Churn Creek, but was beyond repair.)

(Wm. Oliver Campton's mother was Laura Hayslip (1841-1895), bur. East Liberty Cemetery, d/o James Wheeler & Margaret (Easter) Hayslip. James Wheeler Hayslip (1812-1864) was a soldier in Company G, 70th Regt. OVI. and died at Rome, Floyd County, Georgia (Pg. 348, Evans & Stivers HOAC.) He was a member of General Sherman's army on the drive from Peachtree Creek to Atlanta (17 July-2 September 1864), during which time the Union Army withstood the desperate efforts of the Confederate General Hood to prevent Sherman from cutting the Confederate rail supply lines, culminating in the furious meeting engagement at Ezra Church on 28 July, of which the Confederate General Hardee later stated: "No other action of the

This goes on for 60 pages!