

HISTORIC KNIGHT HOUSE

The log house preserved on this site was built by Lewis Knight in the mid-nineteenth century, probably c. 1850, and was situated on an 83-acre agricultural parcel. Lewis Knight shared the home with his wife, Roberta, and their nine children; Sarah, Wesley, William, Uriah, Henry, Martha, John, Lucy, and Mary.¹

Knight appears to have been a farmer of modest means, and in 1860 owned two horses, three milk cows, eight cattle, and 10 swine. Twenty-five pounds of tobacco, 250 bushels of Indian corn (typically used for livestock feed), and 100 bushels of corn were produced on Knight's farm the same year.² Court documents indicate that Knight also grew wheat.³ In 1885, the house that stands before you was valued at \$100.00, with a modern equivalent, due to inflation, of approximately \$2,400.00.⁴

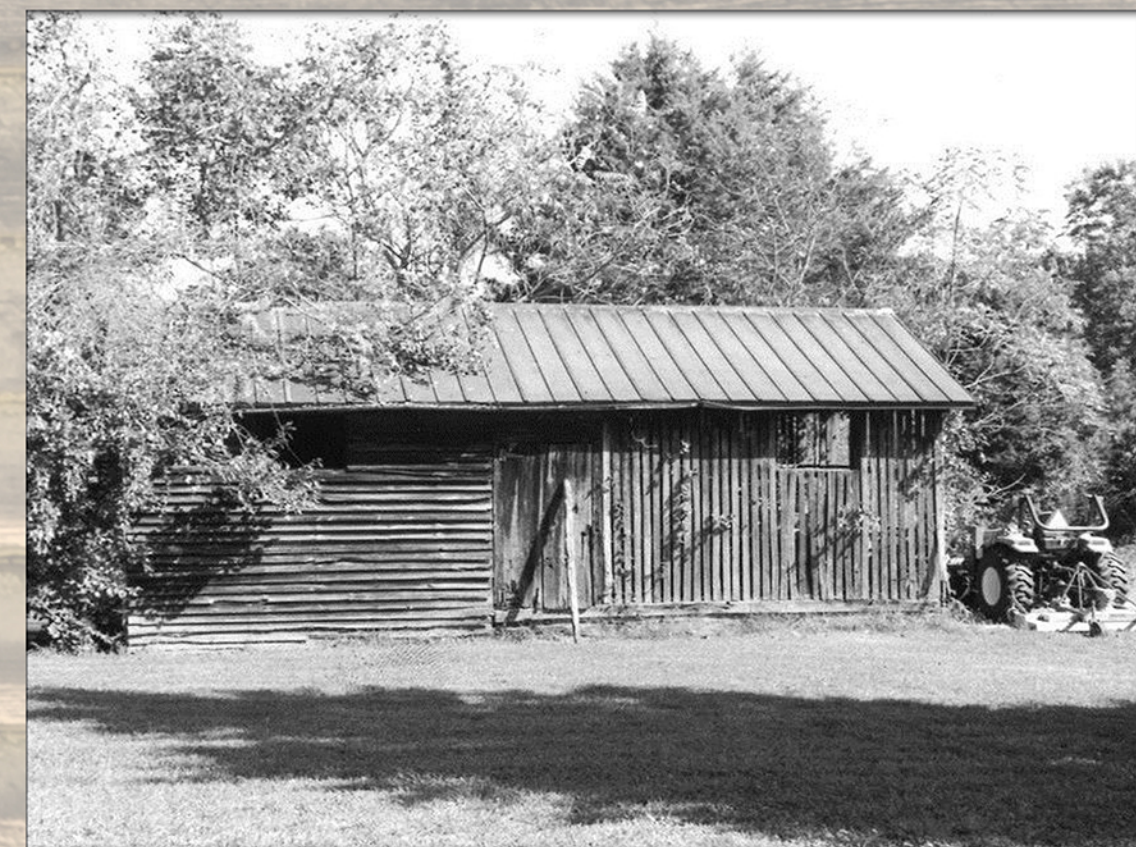
Jackson Musselman, son-in-law to Lewis Knight and also a farmer, became owner of the property after Knight's death in 1893. Musselman had married Lucy Knight, the youngest of the Knight children, in 1883. Jackson and Lucy had four children; Olie, John, Bell, and Rosser.⁵ The parcel was later transferred to Jay Musselman, the last of the Knight family descendants to own the property.



Knight House c. 1939 with a one-story addition - Photograph Courtesy: Richard Knight



1864 Map of Stafford County⁶



Corn Crib - Photograph Courtesy: Virginia Department of Historic Resources



The house constructed by Lewis Knight is a one-and-a-half story, log, hall-and-parlor plan dwelling supported by an Aquia (ah qui'ah) sandstone foundation. The logs walls, which were later clad in the weatherboards that are visible today, are constructed with dovetail joints at the corners.

The interior was originally painted with whitewash over the logs, which had accumulated into thick layers prior to the installation of lath and plaster. The type of lath used (sawn) and the nails (small wire brads)



attaching the wood lath to the logs, and then plastered, was likely installed between c. 1890 and 1920.

¹ United States Federal Census, 1850 & 1860; Stafford County Chancery Cause 1899-002 (Library of Virginia, Richmond).

² United States Federal Non-Population (Agriculture) Census 1860.

³ Stafford County Chancery Cause 1899-002 (Library of Virginia, Richmond).

⁴ Stafford County Land Tax Records, 1885 (Library of Virginia, Richmond); Stafford County Personal Property Tax Records, 1884 (Library of Virginia, Richmond)

⁵ United States Federal Census, 1910; Virginia Select Marriages, 1785-1940)

⁶ Blackford, B. L., et al. Map of Stafford County. [Virginia: Chief Engineer's Office D.N.V, 1864.] Map. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <<https://www.loc.gov/item/2012589231/>>.