

Rondina P. Muncy
Genealogical Research

Ancestral Analysis

2960 Trail Lake Drive
Grapevine, Texas 76051
817.481.5902
rondina.muncy@gmail.com
www.ancestralanalysis.com

July 16, 2008

Jane Doe
123 Oakridge Street
Dearing, Texas 12345

Dear Jane,

In a sketch of Concord Township, Miami County, Ohio by G. Volney Dorsey, published in 1880, he states that, 'David Jenkins, from South Carolina, cleared a patch and erected a cabin southwest of Mr. Peck's quarter-section in 1807. The same year, the little community was increased by James Knight, from Pennsylvania.' This information *may* have been provided by a member of the David Jenkins family. Mr. Jenkins owned property adjoining the original Jesse Gerard survey on which James settled.

Montgomery County was created in 1803 from Hamilton County. In the same year Warren (which included Clinton County), Butler and Greene counties were formed. The Smalley family has been proven in prior research by Paul Wilson, Jr. to have lived just west of the Clinton County line in Warren County on Todd's Fork. The next logical research step would be to complete a search of Montgomery County records, then extend the search to Warren and Clinton counties. This would be in line with the present evidence that William and Benjamin Smalley moved from Fayette County, Pennsylvania to Ohio. Records in Montgomery County will be searched for extant records on James Knight (Night) and the allied families of Fortner, Gerard (with its various spellings), Seals and Smalley.

The first volume of deeds in Montgomery County, Volume A (1803–1804) is not extant. This may mean that any copies of the deeds granted James Knight and Benjamin Smalley may be missing.

Another problem is that no microfilm of tax records can be located at the Dallas Public Library or the Family History Library, Salt Lake City for Montgomery County from its creation in 1803 through 1807, when James Knight was living in the newly created county of Miami. A derivative resource, a manuscript, 'Montgomery County Tax Lists, 1798–1809.'

The records below are recommended as a starting point to discover the existence of James Knight and his collateral families in Montgomery County. Special attention will be paid to the court records because he consistently served on the juries of Miami County. Land records will also be of special importance as the original property purchases from Jesse Gerard by both James Knight and Benjamin Smalley were not recorded in the Miami County deeds until the year of their sale.

- Esther Weygandt Powell, *Early Ohio Tax Records* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1971) 977.1 R4
- 'Montgomery County Tax Lists, 1798–1809,' manuscript, n.d. 977.172 R4m

- Shirley Keller Mikesell, *Early Settlers of Montgomery County*, 3 vols.
977.172 H2ms
- Ruth Bowers, *Gateway to the West*, 2 vols. (Baltimore, Genealogical Publishing Co., 1989).
977.1 D25g
- Index to deed books 'B' and 'C,' 1805–1813, Montgomery County, Ohio, DAR
FHL 317,453, item 1
- Lindsay M. Brien, *Miami Valley Will Abstracts for Counties of Miami, Montgomery, Preble, Warren and Butler, Ohio*
FHL 974,057, item 3
- Lindsay M. Brien, *An Index of Wills and Administrations, Montgomery County, Ohio (1803–1893)*
FHL 859,778, item 8 OR FHL Vault 974,059 (1975 copy)
- Judgment Index Court of Common Pleas, Clerk of Courts, Montgomery County, Ohio Judgment Index, vol. 1 (reverse) (1803–1858) and vol. 1 (direct) (1804–1861)
FHL 1,034,410, item 2–3
- Civil dockets, Court of Common Pleas, vol. A (1803–1806)
FHL 1,028,368
- Miscellaneous Records of Jefferson Township, Jackson Township and Miami Township, Montgomery County, Ohio
FHL 511,883
- Supreme Court, Montgomery County, Ohio, vol. A-1 (1804–1807)
FHL 1,034,699