

The Knox Chronicles

Joseph Knox and his Family

By
Jane Knox and Janet Fearby



Knox Farm in Kirlish - Drumquin Co Tyrone Northern Ireland



Knox Home "Montargis" in Toongabbie NSW Australia

Contributions by:

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Based on original work

"The Knoxes and the Newcombes"©

By Peter Knox

Introduction - Jane Knox

Great Granddaughter of Joseph Knox

Jane Knox-Kieपुरa was born in Toorak, Melbourne, Australia to Peter Knox and Monica Knox (nee Newcombe) and grew up in England, Spain and Portugal. She moved to Washington D.C. USA in 1968 where she worked at the World Bank. In 1975 she moved to Paris, France returning to the United States in 1980. She lives in Manhattan and New Hampshire with her husband Marjan Kieपुरa.



Photo of Jane Knox during trip to Drumquin in December 2006 . Knox homestead in background.

Jane received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in International Studies, Magna Cum Laude, from Marymount Manhattan College in New York City. She now works as Vice President of an international aerospace company. As an avid researcher of her family history she was delighted to find that her cousin Janet Fearby shared the same passion. The initial goal was to complete Peter Knox's work that he had started in 1994 but was unable to finish before passing away in 1998. Since 1998 the internet has opened up whole new resources unavailable in those early days and Janet and Jane have pooled all their resources to complete the "Knox Chronicles".

Janet and Jane are related through their great-grandfather Joseph Knox. Joseph married Elizabeth Jane Drew, they had eight children. Janet's grandmother was Lilian Violet, the eldest child and Jane's grandfather was Errol Knox, the youngest. Pamela Knox O'Connor, Errol's daughter and sister to Peter Knox, has been the constant inspiration to complete the work. She has been tireless in her support. Janet Fearby's biography appears in these Chronicles.

Joseph Knox was born in 1845, emigrated to Sydney, Australia in 1863. He married Elizabeth Jane Drew in 1870. He lived in Montargis, Wentworthville N.S.W. with his wife and family from the early 1890's until his death in 1919.



Photo leaving Silver Birch Hotel Omagh Co Tyrone

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Peter Knox wrote *“The first identifiable Knox is my grandfather Joseph who was born in 1845 in Omagh, County Tyrone, in part of what is now known as Northern Ireland.”*

This was all the information my father had available, which had been passed on by Heather “Bill” Fearby, his cousin, the daughter of John Fearby and Lilian Violet (nee Knox). However, thanks to the great wealth of information available on the internet and through the incredible work done by the archivists in New South Wales, and Janet Fearby, co-author of these chronicles, we are able to give significantly more detail about Joseph’s origins and his life.



Photos of Drumquin in the early days.





Drumquin Market Day - 19th Century

Joseph Knox

The early days in the hills of Drumquin, Co Tyrone

Joseph Knox was born in 1845 in the midst of the potato famine, to Samuel and Margaret Knox (nee Frame). He was born in a small farming community in the Townland of Kirlish near Drumquin, Co. Tyrone, Northern Ireland. Drumquin is close to Omagh, which is the nearest major town. It appears he was the youngest of at least four children. It is unlikely that we will ever know the exact date he was born, it is even conceivable that he did not know this himself. Certainly the age he gave for himself at the time of the birth of each of his own children was inconsistent with his age at the time of his marriage. However, 1845 is the most probable year. We do know for sure he was born between 1844 and 1846. A brief glimpse into the life and world he was born to in Drumquin can be gleaned from the following account written by Lieutenant William Lancy in a letter to J. R. Ward in 1834.

This survey carried out by a young English army officer in 1834 paints a picture of Drumquin as a very poverty stricken place. This was of course before the terrible potato famine of the 1840's so one can only imagine the plight of the poor inhabitants by the time Joseph was born in 1845.

“The northern, southern and western parts of the Parish are wild and mountainous dominated by a mountain range known locally simply as the Longfield Hills. There are several picturesque and wild glens, the principal one being Carrich-a-ness which is situated 2 miles to the west of the town of Drumquin. The other glen is situated 3 miles to the west of Drumquin and is called Slevin glen. There are numerous water falls which combined with the ruined bridge and the wildness of the glen, have a very picturesque effect.

Two streams run through the parish, namely the Fairy Water and the Drumquin Water. The Parish is well served by fresh springs and if anything has too much water. The principal lakes in the Parish are Lough Bradan, Lough Lee and Lough Corr. The shores of these lakes are soft and boggy. Local tradition has it that these lakes are inhabited by wild horses.

The only road of consequence passing through Longfield West is the road from Londonderry to Enniskillen, which passes through the town of Drumquin.

Drumquin is a poor looking place; the houses mean and out of repair. It has a weekly market on Thursdays and a daily foot post but has no trade of any kind to enrich it.

The dress worn by the inhabitants differs in no way from that of the surrounding Parishes. Their diet consists principally of potatoes and porridge made of oatmeal and sometimes a dinner is varied by the addition of a little bacon or greens. Their manners are generally civil and obliging. They complain much of the short leases and high rents and with justice (or the lack of it), if we may judge from the squalid and poverty stricken appearance of many of them.”

JOSEPH'S PARENTS

Samuel Knox (born between 1800–1810) and Margaret Frame

All we know about Samuel Knox is that when Joseph Knox's brother, John Knox got married on 21st October 1862 at the Presbyterian Church, Drumquin to Elizabeth Mellon, Samuel Knox, his father, was listed as “farmer from Kirlish”. The witness was his cousin Andrew McCrea who may well have been his closest relative (and a grandson of Joseph Knox). By this time, great-grandfather Joseph had probably already set off to Plymouth to find his way to Australia.

Samuel Knox was an Ulster Scots whose forebears had settled in the area like so many others in the 18th century. Searching through the very scant records that still exist in Northern Ireland and our research, it can be concluded that Samuel Knox might well be the son of Joseph Knox and Isabella of Camus, Strabane. Strabane is located in the North West of County Tyrone and straddles the border with County Donegal. We do know for certain that Samuel Knox had at least one brother, who was older, called Joseph Knox. This Joseph had married a Jane Thompson. This is all clearly documented in the Australian records. The only other information we have so far is that both Samuel and Margaret were listed as “dead” by the time Mary, their eldest daughter, emigrated to New South Wales on the Fairlie arriving on 29th April 1863.

Joseph further certified this when he emigrated to Australia on the Ironside on February 9th 1863 arriving in Australia on May 9th three months later. However, despite checking on all available Knox records there are no match-ups with any Samuel or Margaret Knox who could be Joseph's parents. It is possible they died along with so many between 1845 and 1850. We are not able to verify where they were born, married or died.

JOSEPH KNOX'S EARLY LIFE

It is clear that Joseph Knox grew up on the land. In fact there was a Joseph Knox, most likely an uncle to Joseph or possibly his grandfather, who had fourteen arable acres and six acres of bog that were leased by the Echlins. In the Tithe Collection Book for Longfield West, Townland of Kirlish, ref Fin/5A/204A dated 21st September 1826 the amount due was a tithe of 14 shillings 11 pence. Because it was so difficult to make a living from the land we see Joseph's older

brother learning the trade of a “shoemaker”. Perhaps where Joseph may have had an advantage over his parents was that in 1845, and certainly by the time he reached school age, Joseph was eligible for the National System of education, introduced in 1840.

On a recent trip to the Knox Farm in Kirlish from the main center of Drumquin I noticed it was a 15-20 minute drive by car along quite a steep hill. The trip by foot would be over an hour in good weather. I tried to imagine a six year old making this round trip every day in the bitter wind and rain. However, records reveal that Joseph Knox could read and write extremely well and had obviously received an excellent education.

The Knox family would have attended the Drumquin Presbyterian Church where his brother John Frame Knox got married. How else he spent his childhood is unclear. In those days children were often required to stay at home to help with the farm, especially during the harvest. There is no question that Joseph must have enjoyed very good health to withstand such a rigorous lifestyle. School, the Church and the farm probably dominated his life. Kirlish and Drumquin and the adjoining Townlands and Parishes were very tight-knit communities and it emerges later on in these Chronicles that the Knox cousins remained very close in their new homeland in New South Wales.

JOSEPH KNOX’S SIBLINGS

We know that Joseph Knox had at least one brother and two sisters. This information is based on New South Wales Passenger Lists and N.S.W. Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates. The following is what we know about his siblings.

Mary Knox

Mary was born c. 1839 in County Tyrone as stated in Australian immigration, marriage and death records. She emigrated to Australia on board the Passenger Ship the Fairlie arriving in New South Wales on 29th April 1863 (see Reel 2139, 2481). The Passenger List shows her age as 23, a “house servant” from Kirlish, County Tyrone. Unlike the rest of her family she shows her religion as Church of England and not Presbyterian. Her “state of bodily health, strength and probable usefulness” was listed as “good”. It stated she could “read” only, indicating that she was unable to write. She was “assigned” to her cousin, Andrew Knox of Charles Street Sydney who paid £3.00 as sponsor. (Joseph Knox was later living at 31 Charles St. so perhaps this was Andrew’s address). The other passengers on the Fairlie appeared to be predominantly female, including other young ladies from County Tyrone. There is no indication that any of them are related although there was a young lady sponsored by a McBaron who may have been related to Mary’s future husband. On the Passenger List, Mary indicates that both her parents were deceased.

Mary married John Baron (also listed as McBaron), a bachelor, on 4th February 1873 at Elizabeth Street, Sydney according to the rites of the Presbyterian Church. The officiating Minister was James Fullerton. She shows her age as 33 at the time of marriage and her birthplace as Ireland. No occupation is shown. John Baron was a farmer aged 39 from Ireland. The witnesses were Hugh McBaron and Margaret J. Bell.. It is strange that none of her immediate family were witnesses.

Mary died on 31st December 1896, aged 57 at “Fern Vale” near Robertson. Her parents are shown as Samuel Knox, farmer, and Margaret Fraim. It also shows that she had been 31 years

in N.S.W. and 35 years old at time of marriage (note age shown on marriage certificate as 33). Here the name Baron is shown as McBarron. Mary was buried at the Church of England Cemetery in Robertson by a Wesleyan Minister. Mary and John had no children.

It is not really known how close Mary might have been to her siblings. More research remains to be done on her early life in Australia.

John Frame Knox

John Frame Knox was born in County Tyrone, Ireland c. 1841 to Samuel Knox and Margaret Frame. He married Elizabeth Mellon, daughter of William Mellon of Tullyard and Sarah Knox at the Drumquin Presbyterian Meeting House on 21st October 1862 – copy of this marriage certificate is available, as noted in Omagh Book 1 p. 58. At the time of his marriage he is listed as “shoemaker”. “John Knox full age, bachelor, shoemaker of Kirlish, son of Samuel Knox, farmer of Kirlish in the presence of Andrew McCrea and William Watson.” Andrew McCrea appears to be the brother of Ann McCrea married to a Joseph Knox, farmer, son of Joseph Knox of Slevin. Because of the close association with McCreas later on in Australia, there is a strong possibility that great-great grandfather Samuel had a brother Joseph (this theory is reinforced by Australian records) thus allowing for the possibility that our Joseph’s grandfather was Joseph Knox, farmer of Slevin.

John and Elizabeth emigrated to Australia on the Peerless in 1866, arriving in New South Wales on 6th June 1866. He travelled with two infants Isabella, aged 2 (she became Eliza B or Lizzie B) and Margaret who was born on 16th June 1865 in Drumquin, Co. Tyrone, Ireland. He was listed as “shoemaker” from Drumquin, County Tyrone. His religion was listed as Presbyterian and records show that he could “read” and “write”. His wife, Elizabeth, could “read” only. They were both listed as aged 25. His parents, Samuel and Margaret Knox, were both listed as deceased. Elizabeth listed her mother (Sarah Knox Mellon) as deceased and her father, William Mellon as living in Tyrone. Most interesting of all is that he was sponsored by Joseph Knox of 31 Charles Street, Sydney, his brother. Charles Street was also the address of their cousin Andrew Knox. This is the area where Joseph Knox would later invest in real estate and no doubt where he was living when according to Peter Knox, he had his job as an upholsterer in the Civil Service Stores. John Frame Knox was listed as Bootmaker in Gladesville in 1890. He died on 25 September 1895, aged 55 years, in Camperdown, N.S.W.

THE CHILDREN OF JOHN AND ELIZABETH

Isabella - (born c. 1864 in County Tyrone) aged 2 when her parents emigrated on the Peerless in 1866 (see reels 2140, 2484); see Lizzie B or Eliza B in later NSW death certificates. A great point of interest is the name Isabella which reinforces the possibility that she was named after her grandmother.

Margaret was born on 16th June 1865 - this is the first of many sad stories. According to her death certificate she died on 6th January 1886, at Hawlong Station. She was documented as Margaret Knox, female servant aged 20 years and the cause of death was accidental drowning. Her father was registered as John Knox, Shoe Maker. The certificate was signed by Joseph Lenox, who was apparently no relation. A Magisterial Inquiry was apparently held. Particulars of Registration, 9th January 1886, Hay. Margaret was buried on 9th January 1886 at Hay Cemetery by Geo. H. Harrison, Undertakers. At the time of her death she is shown as “unmarried”, place of birth was Ireland and she was listed as having lived fourteen years in

the Australian colonies. We still need to investigate and research the story of Margaret and the circumstances of her death. The above information was obtained from the official death certificate Registration No. 1886/006781. It is sad that she seems to have died without any family around her.

When Peter Knox was in communication with Heather Fearby, granddaughter of Joseph Knox, she related the story of Margaret drowning at Hay, believing Margaret to have been a sister of Joseph, not a niece. However, the evidence is now clear. She was the second daughter of John Frame Knox and Elizabeth Mellon Knox, who came to a very tragic end.

Sarah Knox was born in 1867 and died aged 9 months on 1st April 1868 at Campbell Street. The informant was Andrew Knox who registered himself as “uncle”, of Charles Street. This is strange, as we now know that Andrew Knox was a cousin, not an uncle. It is interesting to note however, that he was still living at Charles Street in 1868, unless it is a different Andrew Knox, who may well have been an uncle or great-uncle, since Sarah Knox’s grandmother was called Sarah Knox and may have had a brother Andrew. As mentioned earlier, this street seemed to be the Knox family headquarters in that period of time.

Edith Rebecca was born in 1869 - she married Charles Alfred Weston on 1st June 1893 at St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church, Balmain - a witness was our great-aunt Aurora Myrtle Knox, daughter of Joseph Knox and Elizabeth Jane Drew Knox. Edith died on 30 September 1943 at Morrison Road, Gladesville. Her five children were:

| | |
|-----------|---------|
| Charles | b. 1894 |
| Gladys | b. 1896 |
| Stanley A | b. 1897 |
| Milton | b. 1898 |
| Jean | b. 1902 |

Emily - born 1871 - died aged 16 months on 27th August 1872 at Belvoir Street, Strawberry Hills.

Samuel Joseph - born June 1873 - died on 21st August 1873 at Belvoir Street, Strawberry Hills.

Louisa Jane - born June 1873 - died 1873 (twin of Samuel Joseph).

Emil - born 1874 - died 1875.

Amy - born 1876 - died 1882.

John Frame Knox died on 25th November 1895 at Prince Alfred Hospital, Camperdown - his occupation was listed as “Bootmaker” and age given as 55 years, living 28 years in N.S.W. Both dates confirm approximate date of birth as 1840. He is survived by two children, Lizzie B aged 31 - see Isabella on the Peerless in 1866 and Edith Rebecca - born in N.S.W. in 1869. Informant of his death was his brother Joseph Knox. At time of death, he shows he married, aged 22, Elizabeth Melon (see below) - with one “1”. Certificate shows 1 male child, 6 females deceased - this is probably wrong as Margaret may not have been included and it should read 7 females deceased. However, there could also be a wrong entry and one Surname: Knox should read: Frame.

Elizabeth Knox (née Mellon) wife of John Frame Knox was the daughter of William Mellon of Tullyard and Sarah Knox. Her death certificate states that she was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, and that she had been in the Colonies 53 years - A curious entry states she was 30 at time of marriage making her 8 years older than John Frame. However, age given on the Peerless in 1866 is 25 years - same age as her husband. Elizabeth Knox died on 16th December 1918 at the home of her granddaughter Edith P. Weston at Reigate in Ross Street, Gladesville. She is buried at the Presbyterian Rookwood Cemetery.

Sarah Knox (1843-1918)

Sarah Knox was born in Drumquin, County Tyrone, c.1843 to Samuel Knox and Margaret Frame - no record exists of her birth. She embarked on the Hornet, Passenger Ship, which arrived on 25th January 1865 in N.S.W. This is a very curious situation as there were two Sarah Knoxes from Drumquin, travelling together. Both were "house servants" and show their native place as near Drumquin. Sarah Knox aged 19 - House Servant - from Drumquin, County Tyrone, Ireland, daughter of Joseph and Jane Knox - father dead, mother living Drumquin - religion Presbyterian - could read - relative in Australia - sister Isabella Knox in Service in, Sydney. They were both sponsored it appears, by sister Isabella of Sydney. Sarah Knox aged 20 - ditto for everything - except that she could read and write. This scant information creates a problem - obviously one of the Sarahs is the daughter of Samuel and Margaret - sister of Mary, John and Joseph - and is remembered by the family as "Aunt Tare" who lived with Joseph Knox our great grandfather. It is interesting that different rules were applied according to ships. It didn't seem to bother anybody that there could be two sisters one year apart with the same name. The other Sarah, sister of Isabella and daughter of Joseph and Jane Knox (née Thompson) is also sister of Andrew and Samuel. An interesting note is that here again all the passengers on the Hornet appeared to be female. No mention is made of sponsorship fee. Sarah Knox (Aunt Tare) died on 22nd September 1918 aged 75 years - indicating date of birth as 1843. Her death certificate states she had been in the Colonies 52 years, confirming the 1864/1865 passage.

Sarah Knox (Aunt Tare) never married but no doubt worked very hard as she lived with her brother Joseph and one assumes helped her sister-in-law Elizabeth Jane bring up the eight children including our grandfather Errol. In 1884, Sarah is undoubtedly the "Miss Knox" who is the informant of her nephew's birth, along with her brother's mother-in-law, Mrs. Annie Drew.

During this time the Knox family was living at 95 Hereford Street, Glebe, where Errol was born. Soon afterwards the family moved to "Montargis" at Binalong Road, Wentworthville, Shire of Blacktown where Sarah died. Errol's father Joseph certified the death certificate. Sarah is buried at the Presbyterian Cemetery, Western Road in Paramatta. Unfortunately we do not have any photos of her that we know of. Cousin Margaret Alexander who is the daughter of Joseph Milton H. Knox, son of Joseph Knox, was our source of information about the existence of Aunt Tare. Up until then we had misidentified the witness on Joseph's wedding certificate as "Frank" and it was a while before we realized there was no brother Frank but a sister Sarah. We do not know why Sarah is buried at the Presbyterian Cemetery in Parramatta and not at Rookwood with her brother and cousins.

JOSEPH KNOX SETS OFF TO AUSTRALIA

When Peter Knox wrote his account of his grandfather, he was not aware that Joseph embarked to Australia completely on his own accord. It emerges that Joseph Knox embarked on the Ironside on February 9th 1863 and arrived in New South Wales on May 9th 1863. His name appears on the Passenger Listing as John Knox, Bootmaker aged 22 years. Whether he deliberately assumed his brother's name, age and profession on the emigration we do not know. However, in the immigration the age appears as 18. Perhaps his cousin Andrew Knox had arranged sponsorship for John but in the meantime he got married and Joseph took his place. Joseph would have been on 18 or 19 when he set out, his sister had gone out a few months earlier, also sponsored by cousin Andrew Knox of 31 Charles Street Sydney. The "Particulars" of the Vessel showed the following:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Name of Vessel: | Ironside |
| Tonnage of Vessel: | 898 tons |
| Number of Deaths on the Voyage: | 1 Female (this was Mary Reidy aged 18) |
| Number of births: | 1 female, 1 male |
| Date of Departure from Plymouth: | 9 th February 1863 |
| Date of Arrival at Sydney: | 9 th May 1863 |
| Number of days on Voyage: | 89 Days |
| Contract price for Statute Adult: | £14.13.5 |
| Master's Name: | Captain Cuthbert Vaux |
| Surgeon's Name: | J. P. Chunnell |
| The ship carried: | 22 Males – Married 26 Females -Married 137 Males – Unmarried 127 Females – Unmarried |

Including children and adults the total number of emigrants landed was 340. The Manifest reads: 340 Souls equal to 322 Statute Adults. It does appear that Joseph arrived as a Government Immigrant, albeit listed under the name of John showing his age as 18 – shoemaker from Kirlish on the Immigrant Documents but as 22 on the Emigrant listing of the ship. Most of the passengers appeared to have relatives sponsoring them in Australia and there were many passengers from Tipperary and Galway.

When Joseph Knox arrived in Sydney he was no doubt living with his cousin Andrew, who was listed as a Bootmaker, at 26 Charles Street in 1866. By 1868 Andrew had moved next door to 28 Charles Street.

The Children of Joseph and Elizabeth Jane Knox
during the Montargis years



Ivy, Errol & Milton Knox
Approx. 1895



Errol Knox
Approx. 1902



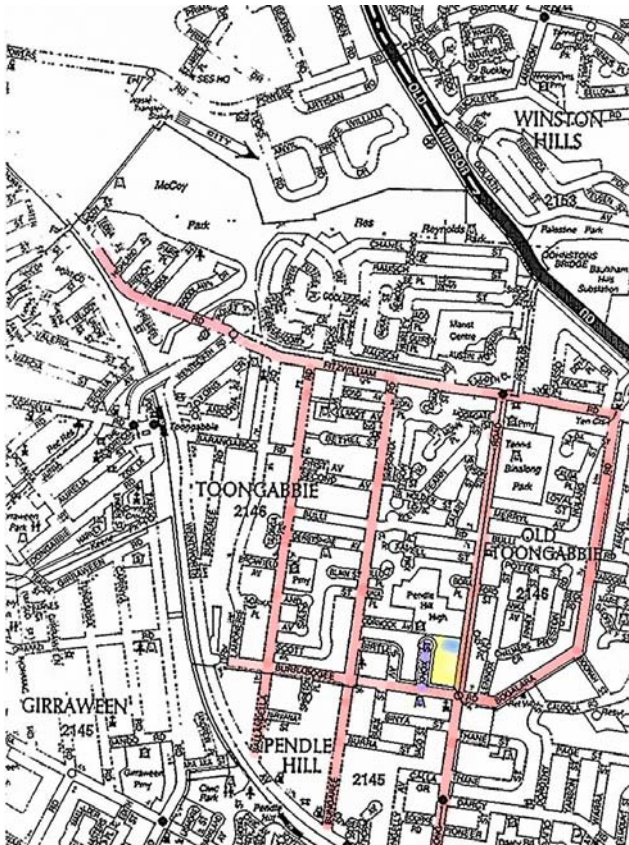
Joseph Milton Knox
Approx. 1902



Ivy Knox



Possibly John Calvin
Approx. 1902



Joseph Knox Park, Pendle Hill, Sydney
 Tom Fearby, great grandson of Joseph &
 Elizabeth Jane nee Drew



Janet & Tom Fearby (great grandchildren of Joseph
 Knox) on Knox Street, Pendle Hill, Sydney.
 The street was named after Joseph Knox who had a
 house and orchard running onto Knox Street.



Val Fearby at Knox Park

Peter Knox, when writing his account of the family, had learnt through Bill Fearby that Joseph appears to have started work as an upholsterer when he arrived in Sydney and then switched to working in the grocery section of a department shop called Civil Service Stores in central Sydney.

Peter Knox wrote, “*On 13 June 1870, aged 25, he married my grandmother, Elizabeth Jane Drew. On the Drew’s side the links with Australia go back, through marriage, to the very early days of settlement there.*”

Elizabeth’s mother, born Annie Reese, my great-grandmother, was born in New South Wales on 16th January 1821. She was of Welsh descent and must have been quite a character. Great-grandfather Drew took himself off to California to join in the gold rush there in the late 1840s. Apparently he sent one letter saying that he would be returning to Australia and was never heard of again. Annie worked as a midwife to bring up Elizabeth and her two brothers. They lived in Surry Hills close to the centre of Sydney. As she grew up Elizabeth worked for a dressmaker.

It was in Surry Hills at 13 Edward Street, that Joseph and Elizabeth set up home after their marriage in 1870. Grandfather Joseph seems to have prospered as the colony of New South Wales grew in importance and Sydney asserted itself as the main town in Australia. He used his knowledge acquired in the Civil Service Stores to set up his own grocery shop in Forest Lodge, still close to the city centre. For at least one year in 1871 they were living in Rose Lane, off Campbell Street in Sydney. We know this because that is the address shown where Lilian Violet was born that year. It is interesting to note that both Andrew Knox, cousin of Joseph and Andrew McCrea another cousin of both Andrew and Joseph were also living at Campbell Street, having apparently moved from Charles Street.

Miss Fearby reports “he must have done very well, as he bought seven houses in the locality of Surry Hills and rented them.” The properties appeared to be at:

- 87 Hereford Street
- 111 Hereford Street
- 94 Hereford Street – Joseph Knox’s grocery shop.
- 10 Creek Street
- 12 Creek Street
- 167 Wigram Road
- 177 Wigram Road



Creek Street, Glebe

By 1874 Joseph and Elizabeth were living at 95 Hereford Street in Glebe next to their grocery store. This can be gleaned from the birth certificate of their son John Calvin. The electoral rolls show this address in 1878 and they were still there in 1893 as indicated by the address written in the old hymn book of Lilian Violet Knox dated January 16, 1893.

