

**John Knox Case Study  
Holmes County, Ohio**

- **08 Dec 1864.** John Knox sold ten parcels of land for \$3,500 apiece, one to each of his ten children.
  - This represented all of John’s land holdings.
- Each deed included the following characteristics:
  - “Thirty five hundred dollars in hand paid by...”
  - Premises were “...*free and clear from all encumbrances whatsoever...*”
  - Three witnesses: L. McMarrell, George B. Orner, and C. B. Ferrill.
  - An “X” for the mark of John Knox Sr., sealed.
  - Lawrence McMarrell, J.P., as the clerk confirming the identification of John Knox Sr.
- **14 Dec 1864.** John died (his wife had died in 1857).
- **22 Dec 1864.** Obituary published: “*John Knox, Sr. a highly respected citizen of Washington Tp. Died of general debility at the advanced age of 68 years, 43 of which he has spent in the township of his late residence.*”
- **11 Jan 1865.** County probate journal recorded the Letters of Administration to Lawrence McMarrell.
- **11 Jan 1865.** Administrator’s bond issued to Lawrence McMarrell, and 3 other men for \$2,000. A different version of administrator’s bond issued to same four men for \$10,000.
- **11 Jan 1865 through 09 Feb 1865.** The ten children’s deeds were presented for recording.
- **26 Jan 1865 through 16 Feb 1865.** Four Weekly notifications published in newspaper for probate.
- **08 Feb 1865.** County probate journal recorded the accepted resignation of administrator Lawrence McMarrell.
- No further probate records exist today (e.g. estate inventory, record of debtors and creditors, receipts).
- There appeared to be no further administrator appointed.

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**Your hypotheses from Simplification and Sharing:**

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Draw a part of a Mind Map here:

Why did John Knox  
Sr. sell land to his 10  
children six days  
before he died?