

John N. Stiles
(c1818–aft. 1880)
of
Virginia, Tennessee, & Arkansas
Daughter of John Stiles Jr. & Rebecca Cooper
by Timothy Dean Hudson

John N. Stiles was born about 1818 in Surry County, Virginia [1]. Multiple pieces of circumstantial evidence indicate that he is the second eldest known child of [John Stiles Jr.](#) and [Rebecca Cooper](#) [2].

John N. Stiles is probably the young male aged 10–15 in Jack Stiles' 1830 household in Franklin County, Tennessee. In 1840, the household of John N. Stiles in Jackson Township, Union County, Arkansas adjoined that of his father, with the enumerator identifying the younger man as "*John Styles Jr.*" His household consisted only of himself and one young female aged 15–20, presumably his wife. We have no record of John's marriage, which may have occurred in Franklin County, Tennessee prior to his departure for Arkansas. By 1870, he was married to Sarah A., born about 1822 in Tennessee. It is not known if she were his only wife, or if they had any children [3].

John N. Stiles paid taxes in Union County, Arkansas in 1841 along with his father, older brother, and brother-in-law, Dennis Mires. The tax assessor identified him as "*Jno. Stiles Jr.*" and assessed him taxes on one white poll and one horse or mare over the age of three years valued at \$60 [4].

While his father, older brother, [Frederick C. Stiles](#), and brothers-in-law, [Dennis Mires](#) and [James Boatright](#), all paid Union County taxes between 1842 and 1849, John N. Stiles was not assessed Union County taxes in any year after 1841. His absence from tax records seemingly that he left Union County in late 1841 or early 1842. He has not been identified on the 1850 federal census or in any other record between 1842 and 1852, either in Arkansas or elsewhere, and it is unclear where he lived in the decade following 1841 [5].

On 13 July 1846, the Union County Court designated the southwestern corner of the county as Brown Township [6]. In late 1850 or 1851, John N. Stiles' siblings, presumably accompanied by Jack and Becca Stiles, all moved from El Dorado/Jackson Townships in the central portion of the county westward into Brown Township. In early 1852, the citizens of Brown Township elected Stiles' brother-in-law, James Boatright, as their constable. Prior to his taking his oath of office as constable, the law required him to post bond to secure his faithful performance of his duties. On

Tuesday, 6 April 1852, Boatright appeared before the court to post the required \$1000 bond. His brothers-in-law, John N. Stiles and [George T. Stiles](#), appeared with him as Boatright's securities on his bond. Probably because none of the three owned land or any other substantial property, the Court rejected the Stiles brothers as Boatright's securities. The justices ruled of the Stiles brothers:

...which securities are by the Court adjudged to be insufficient, said Bond is therefore hereby by the Court disapproved and rejected.

To approve Boatright as constable, the Court then issued an order,

...requiring the said James Boatwright to come forward forthewith and inter [sic] into Bond, with good and sufficient security, as such Constable, according to Law."

Although we do not know where John N. Stiles lived between 1842 and about 1851, this record suggests that he had rejoined his family in Union County, Arkansas in 1851 or early 1852 [7].

On 17 December 1852, a narrow vertical strip of western Union County, including Brown Township, was combined with portions of other surrounding counties and designated as Columbia County [8]. This made the extended Stiles family residents of Columbia, and in 1853, John N. Stiles and his siblings were all assessed taxes on horses and cattle as Columbia County residents. John owned one horse valued at \$80 and six cattle valued at \$110, gold watches and other jewelry valued at \$60, and "*money loaned at interest*" valued at \$110, giving him total taxable property of \$400 [9].

In 1854, John N. Stiles's horse or mare was valued at \$100, but he only owned one cow valued at \$12. He was again assessed taxes on "*money loaned at interest*," but this year valued at \$400 and for \$50 worth of gold watches and jewelry. His younger brother, George T. Stiles, together with Dennis Mires and James Boatright also all paid taxes in Columbia County [10]. In 1855, John was only assessed taxes on one horse or mare valued at \$65. Mires had moved across the state line into Louisiana, but George T. Stiles and James Boatright also paid taxes on livestock that year [11].

When the extended Stiles family moved west from El Dorado and Jackson Townships in late 1850 or 1851, John N. Stiles' sister, [Jane Stiles Boatright](#), and her husband appear to have settled on a 160-acre tract of vacant land that lay along a prong of Big Corney Bayou about two miles west of its juncture with Little Corney Bayou, near modern Tally, Arkansas and just a few miles west of the Union County line. They probably made improvements to the vacant land, including clearing a few acres to plant crops and building a cabin. James Boatright did not initially buy the government land, possibly since it sold for \$1.25 per acre until 1854 [12]. It appears that John N. Stiles and perhaps his parents, Jack and Becca, also settled with the Boatrights at that location.

On 9 January 1854, the Columbia County Court officially recreated Brown Township with the same boundaries that it had earlier in Union County [13]. The following year, the Columbia Court met on Monday, 8 January 1855 at the courthouse in Magnolia and made many appointments, including:

It is ordered by the Court that James Boatwright [sic] be and he is hereby appointed overseer on the Camden & Minden road to work & keep up said road through Brown Township for & during the time prescribed by law.

and also

It is ordered by the Court that John Styles [sic] be & he is hereby appointed overseer on the Calhoun & Eldorado [sic] road from the Magnolia & Brown Township line to where said road intersects the Minden & Camden road to work & keep up said road for & during the time prescribed by law.

John N. Stiles was undoubtedly the man appointed by the Columbia Court as road overseer, as his father, John Stiles Jr., was then aged seventy-one years [14].

By the latter portion of 1855, something prompted John N. Stiles' sister, Jane Stiles Boatright, to leave Columbia County like their sister had the previous year. Jane and her family initially returned to Union County for a year before also moving across the state line, where they joined James Boatright's father in Union Parish, Louisiana. It appears that Jack and Becca Stiles accompanied their daughters to Louisiana, for they lived with Jane in 1860.

After their sisters had left Columbia County, the three Stiles brothers remained there together for several more years. On 18 February 1856, three months after Jane and her husband sold their land, George T. Stiles went to the regional government land office and paid \$40 in cash for an 80-acre tract of land about two miles west of Jane's former farm [15]. That year, George was assessed taxes only on his land and four cattle valued at \$55, while John N. Stiles was only assessed taxes for one cow valued at \$12 [16]. In 1857, John was not assessed taxes on any livestock, just one white poll, while George was again charged taxes for his eighty acres of land and four cattle [17].

By the end of 1857, the Stiles brothers had apparently decided to leave Brown Township, the location where their extended family had settled in late 1850. On 26 December 1857, George and his wife sold the land he had purchased the previous year in 1856 in Brown Township [18]. A month later, on 28 January 1858, [Rufus A. Stiles](#), the youngest Stiles brother, went to the new land office in Washington, Arkansas and paid \$60 for a 120-acre tract of land in modern Emerson, Arkansas, located some six or seven miles southwest of the old farms of George T. Stiles and James Boatright in Brown Township [19].

These records show that the Stiles brothers underwent a high degree of mobility during the 1850s, especially immediately after their sisters and parents moved away to Louisiana. Between 1853 and 1857, Columbia County officials had assessed John N. and George T. Stiles taxes each year, but Rufus had presumably lived in an adjoining county. However, after George sold his land in December 1857, he appears to have moved to an adjoining county for a few years, as he was not assessed taxes in 1858–1860. In 1858, John N. Stiles was assessed taxes only on one horse or mare valued at \$75, while Rufus was assessed for one horse or mare valued at \$50 [20].

After 1858, Rufus also moved away, leaving only John N. Stiles in Columbia. In 1859, John was assessed taxes on one horse or mare valued at \$75 and one cow worth \$15. John emigrated from Columbia County in late 1859 or early 1860, for the 1860 Columbia County tax assessment did not include any Stiles for the first time since the county's creation [21].

Just as his whereabouts are unknown for the period 1842–1851, John N. Stiles seems to disappear between late 1859 and 1868. We know that his parents and siblings remained in the general vicinity of Columbia County, with his parents living across the state line in Union Parish, Louisiana with John's sister, Jane, and his other sister, Elizabeth, living in adjoining Claiborne Parish between 1855 and 1865. Although George left Columbia County between 1858 and mid-1860, he returned at some point and purchased government land there on 2 August 1859. He made Columbia County his permanent home beginning in 1860 [22].

John's youngest brother, Rufus A. Stiles, left Columbia County, Arkansas after 1858, and neither he nor John are found on the 1860 federal census. It is unclear if they moved away together or separately. Records indicate that Rufus moved his wife and children west into Texas, where on 31 March 1862, he joined a Confederate military unit in Jefferson, Marion County, Texas, just across the Texas/Louisiana state line [23].

We do not know where John N. Stiles lived between late 1859 and 1867. In either late 1867 or early 1868, a "*John Styles*" settled in Carroll County, Arkansas, then a vast region in northwestern Arkansas along the Missouri border. He was not assessed 1867 taxes, but in 1868, he was assessed for one white poll tax, two horses or mares over two years of age valued at \$100, and four "*neat cattle*" aged over two years valued at \$100 [24].

It appears that it is our John N. Stiles who settled in Carroll County, Arkansas in northwestern Arkansas along the Missouri border in late 1867 or early 1868. On 9 April 1869, the Arkansas General Assembly put the eastern portion of Carroll County into Boone County. In 1870, John N. Stiles lived in Boone with his household consisting of his wife, Sarah A. Stiles, and a young black

boy aged seven years. The census enumerator indicated that John owned real estate valued at \$300 and a personal estate also worth \$300 [25].

Although a migration route from southern to northern Arkansas is atypical, it is precisely the route taken in 1860 by the family of John N. Stiles' uncle, Leroy Stiles. It appears that several families from Franklin County, Tennessee migrated to northwestern Arkansas, and although Leroy initially followed his brother to Union County, Arkansas, in 1860, he moved to northwestern Arkansas to join his son, Henry P. Stiles, and other relatives in Franklin County. It appears that John N. Stiles had married in Franklin County, Tennessee before their emigration from there, and his wife's relatives may have moved from there to northwestern Arkansas. In fact, John and Sarah Stiles may have moved from Union County to northwestern Arkansas during the 1842–1850 period when they disappeared from southern Arkansas.

We have no additional information on John N. Stiles in Boone County, and it is not clear how long he and Sarah remained there [26]. Sometime between 1870 and 1880, they had moved south near the Logan/Franklin County line, where they joined John's relatives, the widow and children of his late uncle, Leroy Stiles.

In 1880, John N. and Sarah A. Stiles lived in Six Mile Township, then in Logan County, and their household adjoined that of John's first cousin and aunt, William and Mary Gibson Stiles. John and Sarah's household included Luca J. Allison, described as John's niece, and Amanda E. Stiles, a boarder whose relationship to John is unknown. They lived only a few households away from another first cousin, Thomas A. Stiles, and from Permelia Frances Coker Bradley, the daughter of William and Thomas' deceased sister [27].

There is no record of John N. and Sarah A. Stiles after the 1880 federal census. All we know is that they died sometime after 1880.

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John N. Stiles, son of John Stiles Jr. and Rebecca Cooper, should not be confused with two other men also named "*John N. Stiles*" who lived in northern Arkansas. John Newton Stiles (2 Aug 1841–18 Aug 1917), was the son of Greenberry Stiles and Elizabeth Ray. This couple married in 1835 in Tennessee, and then moved to Mississippi about 1841, to Desha County, Arkansas in the latter 1850s, then to Drew County by early 1862, where John Newton Stiles enlisted in a Confederate military unit in February at Monticello. In the early 1870s, this family moved north to Jefferson County, and by 1900, they lived in Pulaski County [28].

The third John N. Stiles of northern Arkansas served in a Confederate military unit from Georgia and resided in Independence County between the 1870s and 1890s [29]. While the three have the same name, they are three distinct individuals.

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Notes

1. 1870 Boone County AR Federal Census, Jefferson Township, P. O. Mt. Pleasant, p. 437b/7, Dwelling #51, line #14: "Jno. N. Stiles" (age: 51; Farmer; born: "Va"); #15: "S. A. Stiles" (age: 48; House Keeper; born: "Va"). 1880 Logan County AR Federal Census, Six Mile Township, ED #98, p. 292a/58, Dwelling #518, line #29: John N. Stiles (age: 62; Farmer; born: Virginia); #30: Sarah Stiles (age: 58; Keeping house; born: Tennessee). The circumstantial evidence placing John N. Stiles as the son of Jack Stiles and Becca Cooper is given below. He arrived in Union County, Arkansas with them in 1840 and was listed with Jack on the 1840 federal census, followed by the 1841 tax list. This was prior to Leroy's arrival in late 1841 or 1842. John was then listed in court records and tax lists with Jack and Becca's other children, and he moved with their children to Brown Township.
2. Various pieces of circumstantial evidence identify John N. Stiles as the second eldest son of Jack and Becca Stiles, including:
 - a. 1830 Franklin County TN Federal Census, p. 64, line #21: "John Stiles Senr;" #26: John Stiles. The younger man's household includes a male aged 10–15, matching the age of John N. Stiles.
 - b. 1840 Union County AR Federal Census, Jackson Township, p. 222, line #7: Dennis Myres; #8: "Ja^s. Dunbar;" #9: "John Stiles Senr;" line #10: "John Stiles Jr."
 - c. 1841 Union County AR Tax List, LDS Film #8339821, Images #759–760, line #16: Dennis Myers; Images #766–767, #23: "Stiles Frederic;" #24: "Stiles Jno. Sen;" #25: "Stiles Jno Jr."
 - d. Union County AR County Court Record D, p. 226 (James "Boatwright" Bond as Constable, 6 April 1852; securities: George T. Stiles, John N. Stiles); LDS Film #8197438, Image #593.
 - e. 1853–1858 Columbia County AR Tax Lists. References for these are given above and below. They show John N. Stiles living in the same area as George T. Stiles, Rufus A. Stiles, James Boatright, and Dennis Stiles.
3. 1830 Franklin County TN Federal Census, p. 64, line #21: "John Stiles Senr;" #26: John Stiles (this is our John Stiles Jr. and his father, John Sr.). 1840 Union County AR Federal Census, Jackson Township, p. 222, #9: "John Stiles Senr;" line #10: "John Stiles Jr." (this is our John Stiles Jr. and his son, John N. Stiles, but the enumerator listed them as "Sr." and "Jr." based upon their respective ages).
4. 1841 Union County AR Tax List, LDS Film #8339821, Images #766–767, #23: "Stiles Frederic;" #24: "Stiles Jno. Sen;" #25: "Stiles Jno Jr."
5. 1842–1846 Union County AR Tax Lists, LDS Film #8339821. 1848–1849, 1851, 1853, 1854, 1856–1860 Union County AR Tax Lists, LDS Film #8339822. The 1850 Union County, Arkansas federal census enumeration is notoriously incomplete and missed numerous people documented as residing there in 1850. It is unclear if this is due to the remoteness of the region or incompetence of the enumerator.
6. Union County AR County Court Record Book A (1830–1846), p. 311 ("Brown Township established," 13 July 1846).
7. Union County AR County Court Record D, p. 226 (James "Boatwright" Bond as Constable, 6 April 1852; securities: George T. Stiles, John N. Stiles); LDS Film #8197438, Image #593.
8. Baker, Russell Pierce. *Arkansas Township Atlas: A History of the Minor Civil Divisions & each Arkansas County*. Revised ed. Arkansas Genealogical Society, 1987, p. 197.
9. 1853 Columbia County AR Tax List, LDS Film #8343025, Image #420, #11: "Ja^s Boatright;" Image #437, #11: "Denis Myres;" Image #446, #10: "John M. Stiles" [sic]; #11: "George Stiles;" LDS Film #8197448, Image #13, p. 6, #15: James Boatright; Image #35, p. 28, #12: "Dennis Myres;" Image #60, p. 39, #6: John N. Stiles; #7: George Stiles. Multiple versions of Columbia County tax assessments from the 1850s survive, and references to both are listed.
10. 1854 Columbia County AR Tax List, LDS Film #8343025, Image #481, #9: "James Boatwright;" Image #514, #16: George Stiles; Image #515, #10: J. N. Stiles; LDS Film #8197448, Image #152, #9: "James Boatwright;" Image #187, #16: George Stiles; Image #188, #10: J. N. Stiles.
11. 1855 Columbia County AR Tax List, LDS Film #8197448, Image #234, p. 9, #4: James Boatright; Image #287, p. 60, #17: George T. Stiles; Image #290, p. 63, #3: John N. Stiles.
12. United States Bureau of Land Management Tract Books, Vol. 69, LDS Film #7110448, Images #205–213, Township 18 South, Range 19 West.
13. Columbia County AR County Court Record Book A (1855–1858), p. 32 (Creation of Brown Township, 9 January 1854).
14. Columbia County AR County Court Record Book A (1855–1858), p. 93 (Court session 8 January 1855); p. 94 (James Boatright and John "Stiles" appointed road overseers, 8 January 1855).
15. Champagnolle, Arkansas Land Office, Cash Entry #4225, George T. Stiles, 18 February 1856 (\$40 for 80 acres @ \$0.50/acre, for the W½ of SE¼ of Section 1, Township 18 South, Range 20 West).
16. 1856 Columbia County AR Tax List, LDS Film #8343025, Image #651, #19: "John M. Stiles" [sic–John N. Stiles]; LDS Film #8624749, Image #127, p. 119, #18: "John N. Stiles;" Image #219, p. 84, #8: "George Stiles;" Image #234, p. 86, #16: "J. N. Stiles;" Image #317, #19: "Jno. M. Stiles" [sic].
17. 1857 Columbia County AR Tax List, LDS Film #8343025, Image #759, #7: "George Stiles;" Image #751, #13: "J. N. Stiles;" LDS Film #8197448, Image #506, p. 74, #7: "George Stiles;" Image #508–509, p. 76, #13: "J. N. Stiles."

18. Columbia County AR Deed Record C (1857–1859), pp. 295–296 (George Stiles and Mary Ann Stiles to David M. Emerson, 26 December 1857). George and Mary Ann Stiles sold the precise tract that he had purchased in 1856 at the Champagnolle Land Office.
19. Washington, Arkansas Land Office, Cash Entry #13089, Rufus A. Stiles, 28 January 1858 (\$60 for 120 acres @ \$0.50/acre, for the W½ of NW¼ & SE¼ of NW¼ of Section 14, Township 19 South, Range 21 West).
20. 1858 Columbia County AR Tax Record, LDS Film #8624749, Image #446, p. 91, #14: "*J. N. Stiles*;" Image #452, p. 97, #16: "*R. A. Stiles*."
21. 1859 Columbia County AR Tax Record, LDS Film #8343026, Image #178, p. 106, #6: J. N. Stiles. 1860 Columbia County AR Tax Record, LDS Film #8624749, Images #609–619, surnames beginning with the letter "S." There are no Stiles names listed on the 1860 tax assessment.
22. Washington, Arkansas Land Office, Cash Entry #14459, George T. Stiles, 2 August 1859 (\$20 for 40 acres @ \$0.50/acre, for the SW¼ of SE¼ of Section 1, Township 19 South, Range 21 West). 1860 Columbia County AR Federal Census, p. 262/48, Dwelling #321, line #39: George Stiles (age: 34; Farmer; born: Tenn); #40: Mary Stiles (age: 26; born: Ala).
23. Compiled Military Service Records, Rufus A. Stiles (private), Co. D, 19 Texas Infantry, Civil War (Confederate).
24. 1867–1868 Carroll County AR Tax Lists, LDS Film #8343022, 1867, Image #369 (1867 cover page); Images #406–412, names beginning with "S" (no Stiles listed); 1868, Image #421 (1868 cover page); Image #469, p. 47, #6: "*John Stiles*."
25. 1870 Boone County AR Federal Census, Jefferson Township, P. O. Mt. Pleasant, p. 437b/7, Dwelling #51, line #14: "*Jno. N. Stiles*" (age: 51; Farmer; race: white; born: "*Va*"); #15: "*S. A. Stiles*" (age: 48; House Keeper; race: white; born: "*Va*"); #16: "*Bill Stiles*" (age: 7; race: black; born: "*Va*").
26. Although the enumeration of John N. Stiles' household in 1870 implies that he owned real estate, we have no record that he owned land. There was a John Stiles who owned land in Carroll County, the parent county to Boone. On 13 November 1871, John and Elizabeth Stiles of Carroll County sold a large tract of land for \$1000 (Carroll County AR Deed Book A, pp. 174–175). This man is not our John N. Stiles, as he continued to reside in Carroll after Boone was cut off from it in 1869.
27. 1880 Logan County AR Federal Census, Six Mile Township, ED #98, p. 292a/58, Dwelling #517, line #22: William Stiles (age: 47; Farmer; born: "*Tenn*"); line #28: Mary Stiles (age: 70; Mother; widowed; "*At Home*;" born: Tennessee); Dwelling #518, line #29: John N. Stiles (age: 62; Farmer; born: Virginia); #30: Sarah Stiles (age: 58; Keeping house; born: Tennessee); #31: "*Luca J. Allison*" (age: 17; "*Niece*;" born: Arkansas); #32: "*Amanda E. Stiles*" (age: 14; border; born: Arkansas); p. 292b/59, Dwelling #528, line #29: Thomas A. Stiles (age: 34; Farmer; born: Arkansas); Dwelling #530, line #36: James W. Bradley (age: 36; Teamster; born: Kentucky); #37: Permelia F. Bradley (age: 29; wife; Keeping house; born: Arkansas). The enumerator recorded that John N. Stiles' parents were both born in Virginia, while Sarah's father was born in Tennessee and her mother in South Carolina. The manner in which Luca J. Allison is related to John N. Stiles as his niece is unclear. The connection of Amanda E. Stiles is also unknown, but presumably, she is the daughter of one of John's first cousins.
28. Lawrence County TN Marriage Bonds & Licenses (1830–1839), LDS Film #4538798, Image #977 (Greenberry Stiles to Elizabeth Ray, 31 March 1835). 1850 Lauderdale County MS Federal Census, p. 396a, Dwelling #989, line #20: Green B. Stiles (age: 33; Merchant; born: "*NC*"); #21: Elizabeth Stiles (age: 38; born: "*Ga*"); #25: "*Jno N. Stiles*" (age: 9; born: "*Mi*"). 1860 Desha County AR Federal Census, Bartholomew Township, P.O. Florence, Arks, p. 43/15, Dwelling #100, line #14: G. B. Stiles (age: 46; Farmer; born: "*Tenn*"); #15: J. N. Stiles (age: 12; Farm Laborer; born: "*Tenn*"); #16: Elizabeth Stiles (age: 48; Housekeeper; born: "*Tenn*"). Drew County AR Deed Book G (1860–1863), pp. 418–419 (John W. Bartlett to G. B. Stiles, 6 May 1862). Compiled Military Service Records, J. N. Stiles (private), Capt. Owens' Battery, Arkansas Light Artillery, Civil War (Confederate). Arkansas Confederate Pension Application #8822, John Newton Stiles, filed 13 August 1903, Little Rock, Pulaski County, LDS Film #4664540, Images #379–388. Halstead Cemetery (Little Rock, Pulaski County AR), tombstone of "*J. N. Stiles*" (2 Aug 1841–18 Aug 1917).
29. 1880 Independence County AR Federal Census, Black River Township, ED #121, p. 166a/12, Dwelling #147, line #35: John N. Stiles (age: 41; Farmer; born: "*N Carolina*"). Arkansas Confederate Pension Application #5530, John N. Stiles, filed 1 July 1893, Independence County, LDS Film #4664540, Images #363–3878. Hopewell Cemetery (Cord, Independence County AR), tombstone of John N. Stiles (24 Mar 1839–30 Jul 1903).

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