

# The Killian Family Newsletter

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OUR PAST PRESENT & FUTURE

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## Setting The Record Straight

One of the early members and founder of the **Killian Association** was **Guy Coleman Killian**<sup>6579</sup> (1889-1970). His daughter, **Evelyn Wilson Killian Parks**<sup>10312</sup>, provided some information with respect to the data given in the last paragraph of page 1 of the last issue of *The Killian Family Newsletter*. More specifically she pointed out that an **Isabelle Wilkerson** married **Levi Elijah Killian**, her great grandfather. It was this **Levi** and **Isabella** who had sons **John** & **Jacob** that died in the Civil War, as told in Vol 4 #2 of this newsletter. There is no **John** who married an **Ibby Wilkinson** as stated in Vol 5 #1 and footnote #9.

## WELCOME TO FROG LEVEL POPULATION 55

**Evelyn Killian Parks** sent an interesting article from *The Gastonia Gazette* for Sunday 18 Oct 1981. A welcome sign, per above title is pictured and another with **Norma Jean Killian**<sup>7834</sup> near the old **Killian** house, and a picture of how it used to look. The following is a very brief abstract from the article, with inserts of G W Killian's in [ ]:

Frog Level has no post office, place of business, or governmental offices. Finding it isn't easy. Go to Lucia, turn north on Highway 16 and right at Clyde's Superette onto **Killian Road**. Cross the railroad tracks and a bridge ...Continue another mile. By looking carefully you will see the sign. ... **Bill Killian** lives 200 yards off the road. [It is believed this is **Rufus Connor Killian, Jr.**] who says, "This place has been called Frog Level

ever since I can remember". He 'kinda thinks' the loud croaking of frogs that could be heard from nearby river banks and lily pads might be a reason for the name. [ **Peter Osbourne Alonzo Killian**, married **Mary Derr** and acquired the land through the **Derr** family. **Peter's** son **Jessie Claude Killian** (1887-1975) was nicknamed "**Shug**". He inherited the store from his father and operated it for a number of years.] **Norma Killian, Rufus'** daughter, looks at this place as a legacy that has come down through many generations. She wants the land to be kept intact.

**Evelyn Parks** had a note that in 1860 Lincoln Co. Had a population of 8,195 including 2,196 blacks. That left only 5,999 white men, women and children. The County sent 1,311 soldiers to the Civil War.

## HELP - ANSWERED

In the last Newsletter we published a request for information from **Sue Mercer Thompson**. **Nora Henry Garrett** was delighted to be of help and had information for her. Never underestimate the power of information exchange with others.

**Nora Henry** provided an interesting story. Her great grandfather was **Robert Lafayette** (nickname "Fate") **Killian** of Georgia. A grandson of Fate's asked him where they came from. The answer was "We came from Georgia, left there in the middle of the night. That is all I will tell you and you are never to ask again." Fate's children were born in Arkansas.

**THE 1997 KILLIAN FAMILY REUNION**  
will be held at 3:00 p.m.  
**Sunday 14 September 1997**  
at the Lucia, NC  
**Castanea Presbyterian Church**  
which is approximately four miles north  
of the Catawba River, on the left side of  
**Highway 16, as you go north from Charlotte,**  
NC  
**After the business meeting a picnic dinner**  
will be held in the church fellowship hall.  
**Please bring a covered dish to share.**  
**Drinks and other supplies will be furnished.**  
**No other notice will be sent.**

## THE DESCENDANTS OF DANIEL 1790 - 1876 AND CAIN KILLIAN 1799 - 1895 BY WILLARD ISRAEL

The above entitled book has been published by **Willard Israel**. Both **Daniel** & **Cain Killian** were born in NC but died in DeKalb Co., Alabama. **Willard Israel** has devoted a great deal of time to a study of their relationship to **Andreas**. He has prepared a 405 page text and index as well as 28 pages of pictures and charts etc. It is hard cover 8½ by 11 inches. He has tried to include a complete listing of the known descendants. This should be a great addition to the collected knowledge of **Andreas'** descendants. The book was released in May. The price is \$30. Write to **Willard Israel** • 17890 AL Hwy, 68 • Crossville, AL 35962 to order a copy.

On 1 Jan 1998 the price increases to \$35.

**Willard Israel** believes that **Daniel** and **Cain** were brothers, sons of **Abraham Killian** who, in turn was a son of **John**, the third child of **Andreas**. However, he points out that some doubt remains about the exact relationships.

**Willard** produced his text with the aid of a genealogy program for a computer. This has several advantages and some disadvantages. One problem is that it produces a stylistic and repetitive recitation of descendants. Unfortunately some errors of spelling and dates have crept into the text. [This editor is painfully aware of how difficult it is to find and remove all errors.]

### MARY GOODWIN

**Mary Goodwin** is an interesting and early name in our **Killian** line. **J. Yates Killian** mentions **Mary Goodwin** in his work and states that **William Killian** married **Mary Goodwin** in 1788. **Leonard Killian** had a son **William** and many have thought that it was **William**, son of **Leonard**, that married **Mary Goodwin**. However, there is excellent evidence that **Mary Goodwin** married a **William Killen** (not **Killian**). Indeed the book *Marriage Bonds of Tryon and Lincoln Counties NC* specifically lists the **Killen** marriage as a marriage of **William Killen** and **Mary Goodwin**. This book also lists a marriage of **William Killian** and a **Weaney Beal** in 1787.

My computer lists 19 direct descendants of the **Killen-Goodwin** marriage and 434 direct descendants of a **Killian-Goodwin** marriage. The question is which is right, or are both right? Both **Williams** were born in about 1767. Both report **Mary Goodwin** born from 1760 to 1767. The **Killen** marriage was in 1788 but no children are listed until 1796. The **Killian** marriage date is not known, but there is a child in that marriage born in 1790. The August 1788 marriage would fit this well. The **Killian-Goodwin** marriage lists only the one child born in 1790. The **Killen-Goodwin** marriage lists 8 children born starting in 1796.

The list of children make it quite possible that **Mary Goodwin** is indeed the wife of both men. One can presume that she married **Killian**, had the one child in 1790, that **William Killian** died and she married **William Killen**.

The one child born in 1790 is named **Goodwin Killion**. This strongly suggests that his ancestry includes **Goodwin**, and that it might well be his mother's maiden name. Note too that **Goodwin** uses the surname **Killion** ["o"].

**Goodwin Killion** is shown as being born in SC and the second and third children of the **Goodwin-Killen** marriage were born in SC.

Can anyone shed any light on **Mary Goodwin**, her husband and her children? If you claim **Mary Goodwin** as an ancestor I would particularly like to hear from you.

### MOODY CEMETERY, IZARD CO., ARKANSAS

**Bill Hinds**, of Florida, (who is especially interested in **Killions**) sent a list of names in various Arkansas cemeteries. On one list there was an interesting note:

"There are 56 more graves that are unmarked. One of these graves is turned crosswise to all the others. It is rumored that a murderer named **Henson** is buried in this grave. However, this may be the grave of **Bill Wagoner** from Missouri, who was

thought to be a horse thief and was killed by **L.M. Lackey** down the creek from the old Dr. **Lackey** home place on 22 Nov 1895."

### BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

#### EDMOND DWAIN REYNOLDS [RIN 11,505] A SEVENTH GREAT GRANDSON OF ANDREAS THROUGH ANDREAS' SON LEONARD

I was born in 1936 in Daviess Co., IN, the first of four children of **John Reynolds** [*The Killion/Killian line*] and **Lillian Meurer**. I was always around older relatives, therefore had greater learning experiences. My father was a truck driver, driving a bulk gasoline truck. At age ten I was diagnosed with polio. I was rushed to a hospital in Indianapolis and treated for several months. With the early diagnosis and excellent care, I recovered completely, with no crippling. My only other hospitalization was from a shattered ankle, when a large stack of lumber fell on me, two days before Christmas when I was 45.

After high school I joined the Air Force, then went to Air Traffic Control School. I spent four years in the Air Force, then in Air Traffic Control at Indianapolis for several years. After that I worked in southern IN as machine room supervisor for a furniture Co. for 21 years. By that time our four daughters were married and I went "trucking", and have been doing this for ten years.

While I was in the Air Force I wrote to a cousin who sent me a picture of some of her coworkers. I asked my cousin to have **Susan** write to me. The rest is history. We met three months later and were engaged in another four months and were married 18 Oct 1958. Our first child, **Les Michele**, was born on Valentine's Day 1960. By 1966 three more daughters, **Christina Louise**, **Dana Monae** and **Lora Denise** completed our family. While the girls were little, **Susan** made all their clothes, including matching outfits for their dolls. How times have changed! Our grandchildren play with computers, not dolls. Three of our daughters live on land we gave them from our farm.

Our family line retains a full head of hair, not turning grey until late in life. Most are thin, spry, above average intelligence and have a great sense of humor. All are decent, honorable, church going, family oriented, with a great love of life. An aunt and her husband celebrated a 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in Jan 1997. My parents celebrated a 49<sup>th</sup> a few months before my father died at 70. Several in the **Killion** line lived well into their 70s. One is still spry at 87; she had no children but served as a school principal.

From my view the biggest improvements we have seen since our youth are: Electricity, running water and an indoor "pot", in that order. Tough times make us appreciate what we have today.

My saddest moments were the loss of my parents and a sister all of whom died of cancer. My best times were meeting and marrying my wife, **Susan**. Next is the birth of our daughters and six grandchildren, five girls and one boy.

The first **Killian/Killion** ancestor to live in Daviess Co., IN was **Mathias** who came in the early 1820s. We have several other lines which were in America well before 1700 and some lines going back to **William the Conqueror**. My wife is the genealogist. I enjoy old movies, stamp & coin collecting, model airplanes, talking, old guns, scale models of old tractors and walking on our 200 acres 3 miles north of Santa Claus, IN.

We have a computer, but do not go "on line". Three of our daughters work in furniture factories as my wife and I did for many years. We made all the cabinets for our kitchen and bath. Our home was originally built by **Susan's** father during the 1920s. We also made some of our children's furniture and a three story doll house.

Occupations of my cousins vary. One graduated from nursing school, then from law school. After the birth of her second child she devoted all her time to parenting. Another is an engineer, one, a nurse, spent time in Bosnia helping with medical services. Another works as a Nanny after graduating from Indiana University.

An aunt has had knee replacement surgery, heart valve replacement, and a pacemaker. An uncle served on a mine sweeper during WWII, another was an airborne radio operator. Another (who was 4F) built airplanes and now owns a plumbing business.

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### 1996 OLYMPIC TORCH BEARER

On 16 Jul 1996 **George Lane Killian** (b 1960) was chosen as an Olympic Torch bearer in Rome, GA. He carried the torch to the stage set up for the week of celebration in Rome and lit the Cauldron starting the celebration. **Andreas** is his 7<sup>th</sup> great grandfather. He was All Marine Boxing Champion 1979, 1980 and 1981. In 1981 he was the Interservice Champion. In 1980 he was in Olympic Trials in Atlanta, GA but did not go to Moscow because **President Carter** pulled the US teams from the 1980 games. After leaving the Marines he turned pro and had a record of 28 wins and 4 losses. **George Lane Killian** is now married and has two children.

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### MISSING INFORMATION

If the line following your name on the address label does not start with "RIN" and followed by a number it means I have no idea who you are or how you are related to the **Killian or Killion** line. If this is your case please send appropriate information. If you have a RIN number (RIN stands for **Record Identification Number**) and it is followed by any of: "?" "\*" or "c" it means I would like to have more information. A "?" means I am uncertain of your identity, and have just taken a guess. A "\*" means that at least some information is missing in your data. Very often it is a date or place of birth or marriage. If a "c" is included it means I suspect the data I have on your children is incomplete. Perhaps your children have married since I first got your information, or perhaps they now have children.

If any of these marks are on your mailing label Please send me data on your family. I may write for more information. A stamped return envelope would be appreciated. Write to: **George W. Killian** • 17 Charing Cross • Fairport, NY 14450-3926. Thanks for your help.

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### BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

**FRANCES KILLIAN SCHATMAN** [RIN 7913]

#### HER STORY

My descent from **Andreas** almost seems to stutter. It is: **Andreas, Andrew Jr., Andrew III, Lawson Alexander, Lawson Bedford** and **Bedford Fuller Killian**.

My father, **Bedford Fuller Killian**, was born in Texas in 1887. He was the 1<sup>st</sup> of 13 children. His mother was **Susannah Dill Fuller** of Pittsylvania Co., VA. All the children grew to adulthood, except one daughter who died at age 7. The first six children were born in Pickens Co., GA, then five in TX, and the last two in CA.

I was born in CA in 1919, married at 18, had three children, divorced in 1955. I remarried, but no additional children. My daughter and one son live in CA, the other son is in Washington state. Each has been divorced, and it seems divorce was common even in my generation. My parents were also divorced, remarried, and remained in Southern CA. I have seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren, none of whom live nearby.

Following high school I attended college and pursued a career as secretary for many years. I am the 2<sup>nd</sup> of four children. My older brother and younger twin brothers all served in the military during World War II.

Accompanying my present husband to Japan for the Navy for a three year tour gave me an opportunity to know another country and its people, learn the language and travel freely around the Tokyo/Yokohama area. Being married, holding a job and raising three children, I did not pay much attention to my "older generation" relatives. However, I recall that in 1948 there was a serious question about the drowning death of one of my father's brothers, so much that the family had his body exhumed and many witnesses re-examined. They thought there might have been foul play. The final verdict was accidental drowning following a heart attack.

There is some kidding in our family about "the **Killian** nose," though to me it does not seem overly prominent. Our **Killians** are about average height, no one excessively overweight, and most kept their hair. I consider they are long lived, as my father and one sister died at 91 and most of his other siblings in their 80's. There seemed to be no common cause of death, other than "old age," though two brothers died of heart attacks in their later years.

After retiring from the navy in 1970, my husband and I lived in Kalispell, MT seven years, then moved to Washington State. I do not attend organized church services, but find what I need in UNITY literature. My favorite hymn is "How Great Thou Art". Dixieland and big band music are my preferences, and Mexican and Chinese food have great appeal. Major hobbies are golf, genealogy and quilting. My immediate ancestors are all buried in CA, but I do not plan on burial for myself, preferring cremation. (Later generations will find no tombstone to "rub").

It seems to me that **Killians** are above average in intelligence and education as opportunity presents itself, and I feel blessed in the life that has been allotted to me.

[Note by G. W. Killian **Frances Killian Schartman** lives in Oak Harbor, WA which is on one of the many islands in the Strait of Georgia in north west Washington and not far from the town of Victoria on Vancouver Island, Canada. It is not a large city, but it is the home of two of **Andreas'** descendants who receive this newsletter, and there is a third descendant there too. Do they know something we don't?]

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### FAMILY HISTORY CENTERS

by George W. Killian

From time to time I have mentioned that all the information I have gathered about descendants of **Andreas** can be found in the

*Family History Centers of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.* This is true, but with limitations and exceptions. For example information is not shown for living people unless the person himself/herself submitted the data. As an example if you examined the family records showing me as a child it would list four children, but for two of them it would just say "LIVING". My name would be there as I submitted the data. A brother would be included as he is deceased. Will my "LIVING" brother and sister, and their children, ever be included? At present the answer is no, or at least not until such time as the FHC is informed of their death. These omissions are to protect the right of privacy of living individuals. I have the impression that if a death date is not given, as the data is submitted, but that more than 110 years have passed since the birth date, that they might list the person's name. For example if the submitted data indicates that a person was born in 1863, but there is no death date, the name might be displayed in the computers in *The Family History Center*. Thus, one searching for ancestors in a *Family History Center* should start with the name of a person who is surely dead.

There is another matter that must be considered as you examine records in *The Family History Center*. As an example (but not necessarily an actual illustration) lets say you search for data on **Andreas Killian**. You might find data on him under any of the following: **Andreas Killian; Andreas Kilian; Andrew Killian; Andreas Killion** and other variations. This results from the fact that his name may have been submitted by several people and if there is any variation in the name, or other data, it is entered as a different individual. It would be possible for someone to examine all the variations and determine that they are in fact all the same person and have the records combined into a single entry.

Another thing that will cause problems to one trying to trace ancestors is that the data in the files is not guaranteed to be accurate. For example if you told me your great great grandfather was born 6 Apr 1830 this is what I will enter. But another great great grandchild might submit data that says the same person was born 8 Apr 1830. It is likely that this will result in two records in *The Family History Center* computer. Double entry of an individual also results when the data is submitted by different individuals and one attributes the person to a specific man and wife. While another submission attributes the individual to the same man, but a different wife.

As you use *The Family History Center* to obtain genealogical information you should use the information you find in their computers in *Ancestral File* with caution and verify data about people of importance to you, using additional files and records in *The Family History Center*

Each *Family History Center* has many other records and access, through films, to millions of records that may help you. There are records of births as recorded in many hospitals, counties, churches and other sources. Many census records are available. There is a Social Security Death Record, All sorts of Military and Pension records. Marriage, death and burial records. All of these things, and much more, from many states and countries. The information is bewildering. There are volunteers in *The Family History Center* who can help you find and use the best sources for your needs. Many written family history books are available. For example I recently sent them a copy of my 300 page text on **Andreas Killian**. Eventually it will be microfilmed

and copies of the film can be ordered from any FHC. It may well be two additional years before the film is ready.

Those who use computers, and would like to keep family data in a genealogy program, may be interested in knowing that *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* has issued a new genealogy program for DOS it is PAF 3.0 This is a new program, not an update of their prior PAF program. The price is \$15. You can call (800) 346-6044 for ordering information. It has advantages and disadvantages over the prior PAF program. I have converted to the new one.

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### E-MAIL

Some people like using E-Mail better than writing letters. I am trying the use of E-Mail, so, for at least a little while you can send E-Mail to **George W. Killian** at:

Killian-GW@Juno.COM [be sure to include the hyphen]

You can use AOL, or any other service, to send mail to this address. "Juno E-Mail" is a free service, no fee or requirement to be "on line". If you are interested I can send you details or someone who is on line can get information from the Web for you.

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### CONGRATULATIONS to William D and Helen Killian

on the occasion of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in June.

Has any couple been married longer? Please help us find the longest married living couple with **Killian** ancestry.

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### INFORMATION PLEASE

*The Killian Family Newsletter* can not continue indefinitely without your help. Information and stories are urgently requested. They may be sent to: **George W. Killian** • 17 Charing Cross • Fairport, NY 14450-3926. Or use the E-Mail address given above.