

# The Killian Family Newsletter

Volume 6, Number 1 — 1998

Published Twice a Year

OUR PAST PRESENT & FUTURE

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## THE LONGEST MARRIED COUPLE

In the last newsletter the 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of **William D. & Helen Killian** in Jun 1997 was acknowledged. Longer married couples with **Killian** ancestry were asked to identify themselves. **Wilburn Killian**<sub>12760</sub> and **Martha Hester** celebrated their 54<sup>th</sup> in Sep 1997. Has any couple been married longer? Please report. We would like to list the names of all couples who lived to celebrate at least a 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. And will anyone admit to being the oldest living person with **Killian** ancestry? At 73 I know I don't win the age contest!

## SCOUNDRELS

Through an E-Mail connection I asked if anyone could identify any **Killian** Scoundrels and received the following: In the case of 19<sup>th</sup> century Ireland, breaking the law would be considered heroic in some circles and being a scoundrel in other circles. So, with that proviso, here are two entries from the National Archives of Ireland per **Kevin Killian** who is of Irish descent:

**Thomas Killian**; Sentence: Death

Place of imprisonment: Co. Roscommon

Proceeding: Convict appealing his death sentence

Date: 29 Aug 1820 Document reference: PPC 1462

**James Killion** (or **Killian**), age 42

Family: "Convict has a wife and nine children (eldest aged 12 years)

Crime: Cow stealing

Trial: Co. Westmeath, 24 Feb 1840

Sentence: Transportation, 10 years. Document Ref TR 3 P 182

The "Sentence" of "transportation" refers to the practice of the English government of banishing Irish "criminals" to Australia.

A **Susan Cook** found the following in Fort Smith, AR records:

**William B. Killion** - - extortion

**Dick Killion**

**Jake Killion**

**Lee Killian** - - Larceny 1894

**Henry Killian** - - Murder 1873

**John Killian** - - Liquer

I have no information concerning the ancestry of any of these men. Do You? Can you name other scoundrels?

## KILLIAN CLAN SONG

Written by **John W. Killian**<sub>4464</sub>

to be sung using tune of *Faith of Our Fathers*

Faithful will I be to the **Killian** Clan enjoying the fruits of this great land

Do what I can to drive it to fame, never neglect nor send it to shame.

If we would be like our fathers of old, we could build values of love to behold

Andreas, he came from over the sea, preparing the way for you and me.

Now let us look to the Heavens above, where there will be both joy and love.

Faith to the clan I will always be, for there are many depending on me.

written by **John W. Killian**, son of **James Garfield Killian**, son of **William Littleton Coleman Killian** (b 1853), son of **Levi Elijah Killian** (b 1813), son of **Jacob Killian Jr.** (b 1789), son of **Jacob Killian** (b 1760), son of **John Killian** (b 1726), son of **Andreas** (b 1702).

## SOME KILLIAN HISTORY

by: **Del (Sweatt**<sub>26006</sub>**) Samac - Townsend**

My Grandfather, **Daniel Jackson Killian**<sub>19778</sub>, was the sixth child of eight children of <sup>1</sup>**Cain Killian** and **Margarette**. He was born 24 May 1847 in DeKalb Co., AL. ( **Daniel**'s oldest sister, **Louisa Killian**, was **Willard Israel**'s great grandmother). I do not know anything about the early years of my grandfather's life other than the story he told me about trying to enlist in the confederate

*The Killian Family Newsletter* is published twice a year by The Killian Association of North Carolina to provide and collect information about the descendants of Andreas Killian and to publish information concerning the annual meetings of the Association which are held annually on the **Second Sunday of September**. Articles and information contained herein may be reproduced for noncommercial purposes, if appropriate credit is given. Material suitable for publication is desired. Send typed text to the Publication Committee comprising: Helen & William D. Killian • 1995 Haywood Rd. • Hendersonville, NC 28791-1924 Ph (704) 692-3577 and George W. Killian • 17 Charing Cross • Fairport, NY 14450-3926 Ph (716) 223-4839.

Subscriptions: There is no fixed fee. Contributions in support of the newsletter are respectfully requested. Write to any of the above.

<sup>1</sup> Cain Killian is one of the starting persons in the Willard Israel book about many Killians in Alabama. Cain's father was Abraham, son of John, son of Andreas.

army after his 16th birthday. He was not accepted, but was given the opportunity to carry drinking water to the soldiers.

**Daniel Killian's** wife, **Louisa Rosson**, was born 16 Dec 1856 in Georgia. The **Rosson** family, parents of **Louisa Rosson**, probably moved to Alabama sometime in the early 1870s. **Daniel Jackson Killian** and **Louisa Rosson** were married in Alabama 24 Mar 1872 – **Daniel** was 25 and **Louisa** was 16 at the time of their marriage. Their first six children were born in Alabama. Sometime after 1892, the family moved to Mountain View, Arkansas. My mother, **Jennie Bell Killian**, was the youngest of the seven children and she was born in Mountain View 5 Jul 1897.

Granny Killian [**Louisa E. Rosson**] had a vivid memory of northern soldiers coming to her family's home demanding food during the Civil War. On one occasion, the family hid most of their food under a bed. One of the older girls got into bed and cold wet cloths were put on her head and several quilts were thrown over the bed. When the soldiers entered the house, the young woman began to groan and the soldiers were told that she had a very contagious fever. The soldiers left the house without further disturbance and without the family's supply of food.

My grandparents, **Daniel** and **Louisa Killian**, together with their daughter **Jennie** (my mother) and their son **George** and his family moved from Mountain View, Arkansas to Ellis Co. in East Texas about 1911. About 1917 the family then moved to Knox Co., which is in North Central Texas. They lived in the League Community (about 5 or 6 miles east of Munday, Texas) for several years before moving into the town of Munday.

My mother, **Jennie Bell Killian** and my father **Lloyd Cleveland Sweatt**, were married 18 Jan 1920 in Texas. I was born at 8:30 a.m. on Friday 19 Nov 1920 in my grandparents' home. My parents lived on a farm near Knox City, TX at that time and my **Killian** grandparents often kept me while my mother helped dad with farm work. My earliest memory was of being put on top of a trunk at Grandmother's in order to reach the telephone to talk to my mother.

About 1932, Granny and Grandpa's home burned. While trying to get out of the burning house, grandpa fell (he could have had a slight stroke). Granny would not leave him and fortunately a passing friend rescued them. As a result of the fall, grandpa was in a wheel chair for the remaining years of his life. He died in Jan 1935.

Grandpa **Killian** was interested and aware of the need of good nutrition and was very careful about not eating too much at one time.

Granny **Killian** told me stories about caring for the "sick" and of being called on for mid-wife services. One night a neighbor came for her to care for his wife who had gone into labor. The neighbor returned home to be with his wife because Granny insisted that she was not afraid to walk to his home alone. On the way to the neighbor's home, she had to walk by a cemetery. She told herself that there was no reason to be afraid but as she approached the grave of a recent burial, she saw movement on top of the grave. She was 'petrified' with fear, but knew she had to go on. Just as she was even with the grave the object, a cow, raised up and gave a big "Moo".

Granny was always ready and willing to help mother when we were ill and I was always impressed with her knowledge of folk medicine and how we always seemed to recover rapidly when Granny came to help.

My mother, **Jennie Bell (Killian) Sweatt**, had a close relationship with her parents and we usually saw Granny and Grandpa about once each week. I was always somewhat in awe of Granny because she meant business when she spoke to me. Grandpa was a warm, kind, and sometimes teasing grandparent who could be persuaded to tell stories of his early life. Many of the stories have been forgotten, but I do remember his telling about a great grandmother's bible which was printed in the German Language and he never learned to understand what she was reading. No known names for this great <sup>2</sup>grandmother.

I was in the 6th grade when Granny died and was in 7th grade when Grandpa died. I have always felt so fortunate to have known my grandparents and for them to have been part of my life.

During the summer of 1975, I repeatedly had the feeling that I should visit my Uncle **George**, the last of my mother's siblings, so that we could have a discussion about Granny and Grandpa. Because I had this feeling I flew to Lubbock, TX to attend a **Sweatt** Family Reunion and then rented a car and drove to Munday, TX to stay with Uncle **George** and Aunt **Lora**. We had a great visit and I said good-bye on Wednesday morning. Uncle **George** died in his sleep the following Saturday night. I have always been so grateful that I followed my intuition and made that trip.

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## THE EVOLUTION OF COMMUNICATION

Pony Express – US Mail – Air Mail – E-Mail

Over the years there have been several different ways to communicate. You might be surprised how much E-Mail communication there is. One of our own, <sup>3</sup>**James Green**, has formed an E-Mail "Club" with about 60 members all of whom have some interest in the **Killian** name. Because correspondence can be exchanged in an hour or less it is almost like a conversation, or a **Killian** Reunion, as many contribute their thoughts on the subject.

During the end of the summer there was a lively exchange concerning the identity of **Andreas'** father. As you know from a former newsletter we are not certain that it was the man we have presumed for several decades. One researcher found information that suggests **Andreas** may actually be the grandson, rather than the son, of the man that had been thought to be the father. Someday we may actually learn the facts. The "grandson" concept finally failed.

There has also been speculation concerning the range of the possible number of **Andreas'** descendants. As you may know **George W. Killian** has over 20,000 including spouses. The range is thought to be probably no less than 40,000 and perhaps as high as well over a million and if all families were as prolific as one in particular it would be over 2 million.

If you use a computer and would like to join this E-Mail group you may do so at no charge. To subscribe, send e-mail to the server [Killian-L-Request@RootsWeb.Com](mailto:Killian-L-Request@RootsWeb.Com) skip the subject & on the 1st line type *subscribe* It will send you further instructions.

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**2** If it was in the Killian line it was Elizabeth Zimmerman, wife of John, son of Andreas.

**3** James' direct E-Mail address is: [jameswgreen@juno.com](mailto:jameswgreen@juno.com)

## AN UPDATE ON ANDREAS' DESCENDANTS

When **John Yates Killian**<sup>4660</sup> wrote *The History of The Killian Family in North Carolina*, in 1939, he was unable to name descendants for half of **Andreas'** children. Now, in January 1998, there remains only one child, **Brina**, for whom we have no descendants. The increased number of descendants has been made possible through the help of others who collected data on their portion of the line. I could name in excess of a dozen people who have submitted data to add more than 100 names. I will not attempt to do so as it is inevitable that several would be omitted. However, it should be acknowledged that modern technology has played an important part in the increase. The use of computers, genealogy programs, the internet, E-Mail and the ready access to Genealogical Libraries have played an important part. These have combined to make information more available and easier to exchange. **James W. Green III** has been instrumental in implementing this by establishing an E-Mail group of people all of whom have interest in **Killian** genealogy.

To illustrate the rate at which the information has grown there is reproduced below a table illustrating data from July 1995, 1996 and January 1998.

	Andreas' Descendants Through:					
	Jul 1995			Jan 1998		
	Blood	Blood	Incl Sp	Blood	Incl Sp	
<b>Margaret</b>	713	841	1321	884	1390	
<b>Leonard</b>	2190	2200	3247	2822	4240	
<b>John</b>	2832	3138	4757	5846	9031	
<b>Jean</b>	57	63	111	72	129	
<b>Crate</b>	0	0	1	1223	1745	
<b>Andrew</b>	209	209	316	250	384	
<b>George</b>	17	17	32	17	37	
<b>Brina</b>	0	0	1	0	1	
<b>Daniel</b>	199	199	301	227	357	
<b>Samuel C2023</b>	2183	3324		2453	3755	
<b>Christiana</b>	11	11	12	168	246	
<b>Elizabeth</b>	0	46	78	326	455	

"Incl Sp" means Including spouses

Let us hope that a descendant of **Brina** finds us and adds information about her descendants.

## SOME DESCENDANTS OF ELIZABETH KILLIAN

Andreas' Last Child

by

**James E. Owen**<sup>18211</sup> (edited)

My ancestry from **Andreas** is through his daughter **Elizabeth**<sub>63</sub> who married **Michael Houck**. That is the end of the information on **Elizabeth** as published in **J. Yates Killian's** 1939 *The History of the Killian Family in North Carolina*. My pedigree line follows: **Enoch Houck**<sup>18228</sup> b 1799 son of **Michael & Elizabeth**<sub>63</sub> md **Mary McCurry**  
**Enoch Cummings Houck** b 1819 md **Selina Catherine Snider**  
**Granville Lafayette Houck** b 1843 md **Elizabeth Moates**  
**Rosa Emma Houck** b 1871 md **Joseph Jackson Owen**  
**Floy Ernest Owen** b 1897 md **Bessie Penina Murray**  
and I am **James Ernest Owen** b 1928 md **Estelle Bain**.

We have four children and nine grandchildren. I was born in Jacksonville, AL and educated there. In 1949 I received a B.S. Degree in Secondary Education from Jacksonville (AL) State

Teachers College, Now Jacksonville State University). An M.S. Degree in Education from the University of Alabama in 1956 and a Doctor of Education from Auburn University in 1972. I taught for one year and in Dec 1950 I began serving two years of active duty in the Army during the Korean Conflict. After that I returned to teaching in the public school system of Alabama. After more than 40 years in Public education as teacher, principal, superintendent of schools, assistant state superintendent of education and deputy state superintendent of education in Alabama and as president of Chattahoochee Valley State Community College, Phenix City, AL during my last 12 years before retirement in August 1992. Since retirement I have enjoyed a little golf, some travel, lots of yard work and landscaping, civic club (Rotary) membership and service, retired teachers organization, local AARP organization, service on the foundation board of Chattahoochee Valley State Community College, genealogical research and visiting our children and grandchildren.

I have been interested in compiling information of my Houck ancestors for almost half a century. This interest began as a student in a high school sociology class when I was compelled to gather information from my grandmother, Rosa Emma Houck, concerning her ancestors. The information gathered in conversation with her, and from the family Bible, lay dormant for many years. From time to time I added to the collection information that I obtained from various relatives during family reunions, at funerals and other family gatherings. It was not until 1977 that I became seriously interested in compiling additional information on these ancestors. My interest was rekindled by an article in the Anniston, AL daily newspaper *The Anniston Star* concerning **Michael Houck** (husband of **Elizabeth Killian**) a Revolutionary War veteran who had once lived in Benton Co, now Calhoun Co), AL. I soon learned from my father, who had supplied the information for the article, that **Michael Houck** was his third, and my fourth, great grandfather.

I have now compiled information on about 300 blood descendants of **Elizabeth's**. Unfortunately the data is far from complete. In many cases the most recent descendant I have, in some lines, must now be grandparents and great grandparents. There is a long way to go, but I'm working on it and look forward to the completion of this project and publication of the results.

I believe my **Houcks** were Pennsylvania (German) Dutch. It is known that **Houk** or **Houck** is a common name in the Netherlands where, according to family tradition, the original **Houck** family lived prior to their emigration to America, sometime before 1755, the date **Michael** declared in his Revolutionary War pension application that he was born in Bucks, Co., PA. The stories associated with the transportation of the Pennsylvania Dutch people to America are not pleasant reading because many died enroute of disease and malnutrition. Many were indentured servants who were required to work many years to pay for their passage. In many situations families were split up to satisfy this requirement. It is not yet known on which ship the parents of **Michael Houck** may have come to America or what their wealth may have been, but the search continues.

In his will **Andreas Killian** gave to his son-in-law, **Michael Houck**, husband of his daughter **Elizabeth**, one seventh part of his "unbequeathed estate and outstanding debt". [Ed note: *The will leaves to his daughter **Crate** but for all other daughters the bequest is to the son-in-law. I had wondered if this distinction*

meant that the daughters were dead at the time Andreas wrote his will. However, this is not substantiated by **James Owens** data which gives **Elizabeth's** date of death as 15 Oct 1852].

In 1782 **Michael** and **Elizabeth** moved from Lincoln Co., NC to Burke Co., NC where they remained for almost 20 years. After 1799 they moved to Buncombe Co., NC for two years and to Haywood Co., NC for seven or eight years. In 1814 they moved to Blount Co., TN and in 1817 to Monroe Co., TN where they were living on 7 Jun 1832 when Congress passed the Act which provided pensions for individuals who had served in the Continental Army. It was on 19 Sep 1832 that **Michael Houck**, at age 77, filed an application for pension benefits in Madison, TN. He was awarded \$40 per annum. In 1833 new lands in AL were opened for settlement. **Elizabeth, Michael** and their son, **Enoch Houck**, migrated from TN to the new land with a number of relatives, friends and neighbors. When they arrived the Indians had only sold their land the previous year. However, no assignments of reservations had been made and the process of preparation for new settlers under the recently signed treaty, such as the survey of the land and taking the census of the Indians, designating heads of families by towns, had not been completely accomplished. Many of the early settlers had purchased their land from the Indians and later, when the land was ceded to the US Government and surveyed and made ready for sale by the Land Office, it was necessary for some of them to repurchase the land on which they had settled and built cabins.

In 1838, at age 83 and while living at White Plains Station in what was then Benton Co., AL in his application for a transfer of his \$40 annual Revolutionary War Service Pension **Michael Houck** stated that he had moved to AL because he was "getting old and decrepit" and "was not healthy". He said that his children had mostly moved to AL and that it was important that he should be among them for protection in his old age and also for both he and his wife, **Elizabeth**, to be in a more temperate climate. **Elizabeth** (age 90) and **Michael** (age 95) were enumerated in the census as living in the home of their son **Enoch** and his wife **Mary**. **Michael** gave his occupation in the 1850 census as "a Revolutionary".

**Michael Houck** died 5 Feb 1852 and his wife, **Elizabeth Killian** died nine months later on 15 Oct 1852.



## FAMILY HISTORY

Since the start of the publication of *The Killian Family Newsletter* I have urged you to write a personal and family history. I believe one of the best ways is to write numerous brief essays about interesting incidents. As an illustration I shall copy below an incident about which my mother wrote in her memoirs. My brief explanations are in [ ].

**Cletus** [*her husband, my father*] and I now had a triple reason for an Ithaca visit -- one son's [*my*] graduation, the other son and his wife in their first home, and our [*first*] grandson. I went by bus [*NYC to Ithaca, NY*], arrived there Saturday a.m. January 29, and stayed to Sunday p.m. February 6. **Cletus** went by train and was there only February 1 - 3. **Jimmie** and **Junerose** had an apartment down town and **George** lived at 223 Eddy Street. Between was a steep hill. With snow on, it was scary to me, but the college students didn't seem to mind it a bit. I had a nice visit with **Jimmie** and **Junerose** and of course I enjoyed making the

acquaintance of my grandson. I spent the nights at 223 Eddy, although Mrs. **Seaman** [*my landlady*] was away, in Arkansas. Graduation was February 2 at Bailey Hall, with all us **Killians** there except **Margaret**. The week was well filled. **George** took me to a movie that evening. Next evening **Jimmie** and **Junerose** and **George** and I went to a concert at Bailey Hall -- Golden Gate Quartet and **Tom Scott** with ballads and guitar. **Jimmie** and **Junerose** took me to see Macbeth at Willard Straight Hall [*Cornell Student Union*]. Saturday Mr. **Kuchler** [**Junerose's** father] took **Jimmie** and **Junerose** and me to Lehigh Valley Hotel for a steak dinner. One night when I had caught the last bus up to **George's**, he had ice cream in the refrigerator and pineapple upside-down cake in the oven [*I am known for a sweet tooth and learned to bake desserts*]. Sunday morning **George** and I went to church; **Jimmie** and **Junerose** had **Roger** christened by their pastor, Dr. **Christie**. I invited **George** and **Jimmie** and **Junerose** and Mr. **Kuchler** for dinner at Willard Straight, but asked **George** to handle the money -- and we both forgot the change, which happened to leave me with almost none. Only when Mr. **Kuchler** and I left on an afternoon bus for New York did I realize that I had only 11¢ in my purse. He bought us each a chocolate bar, and how I wished I had a nickel instead! But I suppose foolishly, I wouldn't ask for a loan. It was 11:20 when we arrived in New York. The dime paid my subway fare. At Beverly Road, with a suitcase, I did want a 2¢ transfer to the Cortelyou bus, but I had only one cent. I was in the habit of carrying a few stamps in my purse, so I explained my predicament to the woman at the subway window and asked if she would give me a transfer for a 3¢ stamp and she did. [*End quote from my mother's memoirs*]

I wonder if I ever did give her the change from the dinner costs. Mother doesn't mention eating the ice cream and cake. I served it to her in the morning for breakfast stating that this is what I had always wanted as a child. She ate it with gusto. Mother was always very fond of ice cream and could usually eat a pint at nearly any time. This was a taste I shared with her. This is not a vital story in our lives, but it shares several little incidents and memories and reveals something of our various characters. Such essays may not have wide interest, but can create many memories in a family.

Write your memoirs!