

The Killian Family Newsletter

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OUR PAST PRESENT & FUTURE

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THE 2000 KILLIAN FAMILY REUNION IN NC

In keeping with the tradition of the last several decades the meeting will be held on “SSS” meaning the Second Sunday of September. In addition auxiliary meetings will start the previous Friday for the benefit of those who have special interests, who have traveled great distances to attend, and who have never before been able to walk where **Andreas** walked. Enclosed with this newsletter, or by a separate mailing, you will receive additional information concerning the details of the extended “SSS” meeting.

WHERE DO KILLIANS LIVE?

By George W. Killian

Andreas Killian came from Germany in 1732 and lived for a time in Pennsylvania. By 1750 he had migrated to North Carolina. Several of his children, and other descendants migrated to other locations. **Ed Killian** of Natchez, MS has shown us that **Andreas**' son **George** moved to Mississippi and later to Louisiana. Descendants of **Leonard**'s settled in Indiana and neighboring Illinois. **Andreas**' daughter **Margaret** married and went to Virginia. **John**, son of **Andreas** had a daughter who married a **Yount** and her descendants became pioneer settlers of the Napa Valley in California where there is a town named Yountville, in honor of the Yount family. Concentrations of **Killians** are also found in Missouri, Texas, Utah, Arizona and other locations.

Subsequent generations have spread around the world. Curiously I have record of only one, with the **Killian** name, who was born outside the USA. That is **James Hampton Killian** (born in England), son of **Ed Killian** of Natchez, MS. Searching **Andreas**' descendants I find over forty born outside the USA with 18 of these in Germany, 6 in Japan, 5 in Korea and lesser numbers in such countries as Israel, Australia, France, Italy and others. I do not have the birthplace of every individual. Other countries must be represented.

I have not checked each state, but did try some of the smaller states and found none born in Rhode Island. **Andreas** has descendants born in every other state, I tested.

My **Killians**, are descended from **Andreas**' son, **John**, and have been in Missouri since about 1806. This is less than 20 years after **Andreas** died and nearly 200 years prior to the

present. A total of well over 900 of **Andreas**' descendants have been born in Missouri.

There are **Killian** descendants (many, of course, with other family names) in three distinct sections of Missouri. One is in and around Perry County in southeast Missouri. Another is south of this area and the third in western Missouri. In general those in each section are not aware of the others except the few who are interested in genealogy.

CHARLES ALFRED KILLIAN (1852 - 1937)

This is a story about one of the Perry County, MO **Killians**, **Charles Alfred Killian** (RIN 1260, born 1852 and died 1937). Vol 3 # 2 page 2 of the 1995 *Killian Family Newsletter* included an amusing story of how his daughter, **Margaret Phyllis Killian** got her name. It also includes another reminiscence of him by a grandson. I (**George W. Killian**) doubt if I ever met **Charles Alfred Killian**, but after his death I knew and exchanged information with several of his eight children and their descendants. I must tell a story of my first meeting with some of his children. This is from my memory of an incident of at least fifty years ago. I (**George W. Killian**) was planning a trip to Perryville, MO to visit my grandparents and cousins. The **Killians** I knew were all Roman Catholic, my own father having been raised Roman Catholic. However, he became inactive before his marriage, although I believe he continued to abstain from meat on most Fridays, especially Good Friday. Before I left for Perryville my father told me about **Charles Alfred Killian** and suggested I should look up his family and get acquainted with them.

While I was in Perryville I did as had been suggested and

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went to the home where at least two of **Charles Alfred's** children lived. I introduced myself as my father's son and we stood at the doorway and talked a few minutes. The conversation seemed rather cool. As we talked it somehow came out that I was not Roman Catholic. The atmosphere changed instantly. I was welcomed into their home and they must have called other relatives to meet me as I recall several people being there. We had a long and very pleasant visit. What happened? **Charles Alfred** was born in 1852 in an area where there was strong slave and anti-slave sentiment. **Charles** had strong Republican beliefs. His family (if my memory is accurate) told me that he was in the Roman Catholic church one day when a priest said he would not give the last rites to a Republican. This infuriated **Charles Alfred**, he rose and said, "You will never have the chance to give them to me", and left the church. Most, but not all, of **Charles Alfred's** descendants are not Roman Catholic to this day.

The following information is abstracted and paraphrased from letters sent to me in the last few years by **Donna Marie McNew** (RIN 1798, married **Michael Thompson**). **Donna** is a great granddaughter of **Charles Alfred Killian**. It was **Donna's** father, **Donald McNew** a grandson, who wrote much of the following material abstracted from her letters.

Charles Alfred Killian was 27, and his bride, **Matilda Catherine McAtee** was 18, when they married in 1879. They both were born, lived in and died in Perryville, MO. He was a lawyer, sometimes referred to as an "Attorney-at Law" commencing his career as a partner with his father, **Joseph Charles Killian** (1824-1884) in the firm known as "**Killian and Killian Attorneys at Law**". After the death of **Joseph**, **Charles** had various partners. One partner was **Samuel Bond**, the grandfather of US Senator **Kit Bond** of Missouri.

At one point in his career **Charles** sought (as a Republican) and was elected to the office of Circuit Judge and presided over County Courts in seven adjacent counties. He traveled the circuit with a horse and buggy and as a result he was away from his family more than he preferred to be.

Charles Alfred Killian was a large man, over six-feet tall, and wore a long white beard. When **Donald McNew**, a grandson, first knew his grandfather **Charles** was nearly bald-headed, requiring very few haircuts! **Charles** was a very trusting soul. If he had any money, he would loan it to almost anyone, no questions asked, and sadly enough, some of it was never recovered. He loved his wife and their ¹six children. When he returned to Perryville, from one of his court sessions, he would almost always bring some gifts; maybe flower bulbs or seeds, sometimes fruit, oranges or bananas; maybe a special kitchen utensil that he thought the women would like.

After his "falling out" with the Roman Catholic Church he never exactly wore deep ruts in the road going to any church, but he read his Bible diligently studying each chapter and verse. His wife once told **Donald** that **Charles** had read the Bible from Genesis to Revelations at least four times. He was very fond of children, not only his own but all children which leads me (**Donald**) to believe that he might have joined the Masonic Lodge because of their building so many Children's Hospitals around the country and not accepting one cent for the treatment of little children - regardless of their circumstances. He worked hard for that cause and contributed to it very generously.

Charles loved nature and once he gave me (**Donald McNew**) a sermon about cutting a tree. I (**Donald**) was to think

¹ There were eight children, but two died before maturity and marriage.

long and hard before ever laying an ax on a tree because it took God and nature fifty years or more to grow and it could be destroyed in a matter of a half hour. **Charles** liked to farm - but seldom got his hands dirty. He loved to play pinochle and to work cross-word puzzles. He smoked a pipe, something Grandma failed to break him of although she tried very hard. On occasion one could catch him "chewing tobacco" which also rubbed Grandma the wrong way, especially when the juices trickled into his beard.

By the time I (**Donald**) learned to know him he was getting very deaf. So severe was it that when we kids needed a little money we would have to take a piece of chalk and write him the message on the wooden side-walk that led to the "toilet". If we made the oral request sufficiently loud for him to hear it, Grandma would also hear it and the request would almost in every instance be denied.

Charles, being an attorney, loved to argue. He and his sons would sit around the dining table and have some great arguments - but he never used profanity. He had sufficient command of the language that he didn't have to use profanity to prove his point.

Very late in his career, as an attorney, he developed cancer on his right hand. First his thumb was amputated, later his entire hand, and still later his arm was removed just below the elbow. When he lost his hand, naturally he lost his ability to use the typewriter. Although I was very young, he let me type some of his court briefs for him.

At the time he practiced law, attorney fees were not nearly as intense as they are today, and Grandpa might have over-extended his ability to pay. As a result he died a poor man. However, he left no debts.

Donna Marie added, There is a lot of loving opinion in addition to the facts. I am sure you get this from every family.



LONG MARRIAGES

In prior issues of *The Killian Family Newsletter* there has been mention of couples that have been married for many years.

Clara Bell Houghland and **Ralph A Killion** were married 3 Oct 1929. If they are still living, they will have been married for 71 years this October. **Ralph's** ancestry goes back to **Andreas** through **Leonard** and the Indiana Killions.

Sara Juanita Durrance and **William Clinton Cloninger**, whose ancestry goes back to **Andreas** through **John** were married on 20 Apr 1931. They celebrated 69 years of marriage this year. Unfortunately **Sara Juanita Durrance** died on 26 June this year at age 90.

Thus it appears that **Ralph and Clara** still have the record, but **William Cloninger** is older as he was born in 1909 while **Ralph** was born in 1911.

Do we have anyone over 100 years of a age? A cousin of my mother's is 101 and still living alone in the house her parent built when she was an infant.



A REVOLUTIONARY WAR POWDER HORN

By George W. Killian

Have you ever seen the TV program shown on the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) entitled *Antiques Roadshow*? It is an

interesting show wherein people bring in old items which are examined and appraised by experts. Items range from china, vases, lamps, musical instruments, furniture, and swords to books, manuscripts, letters, pictures, rugs, manuscripts, quilts, watches and virtually anything else that might be of unique interest or value. From time to time some things are exposed as fakes. Military items are often of special interest, especially swords, pistols, rifles, medals, and other items used in the various wars. If you have not seen the show you might like to check your TV schedules for it. [I was on the *Antiques Roadshow* in August 1998 with an Oriental Rug. It was broadcast in the Spring of 1999. Names are not used, but I have been amazed at how many recognized me.]

There is said to be a Revolutionary War "powder horn" that was first used by **Daniel Killian**, one of the sons of **Andreas**, the first American **Killian** for most of us. I (**George W. Killian**) have been told that the powder horn has been passed down from father to son going from **Daniel** (son of **Andreas**), to his son, **George**. Then to **George's** son **Daniel**, next to another **Daniel**, next to **Garnett** and last known to another **Daniel** born in 1947. Who and where is this last **Daniel**? I don't know!

What do I know, how do I know it, and why don't I know more? For more than thirty years I have collected family data and carried on correspondence. The papers and correspondence fill a few boxes and a four drawer file cabinet - and more than four megs of memory on my computer hard drive. There are papers and correspondence I know I have not seen in more than twenty years including many that are not filed in any order and whose contents I have entirely forgotten.

For about ten years I have been entering data in a computer and now have in excess of 37,000 names of which about two-thirds represent people in families whose children have **Killian** ancestry. The minimum data I want for each individual comprises the dates and places of birth, marriage, death and burial and of course the parents and children. The computer program I use also provides a place to enter a great deal of additional information such as (but far from limited to) biographical notes and the identity of sources of the information. There are notes on over one-third of the entries, and some are quite extensive. There are over five dozen separate sources of information listed. For much of the last year, as time has permitted, I have tried to review these notes and sources and improve my documentation concerning the information. I am not nearly done with this project.

Over a year ago I found a letter postmarked in 1979 which intrigued me and I wondered if I could get more story and perhaps a picture of the Revolutionary War Powder Horn to include in *The Killian Family Newsletter*. I have not succeeded, but perhaps one of you can help with this quest.

The 1979 letter included an undated typed text of 18 pages entitled *The History of the Family of Daniel Wilkinson Killian*. It was sent to me by **Madge Laurel Hall**, a granddaughter of **Daniel Wilkinson Killian**. The letter was postmarked from Oklahoma City, OK. I managed to find a phone number for **Madge Hall** in Oklahoma City and called her. Unfortunately it was a different **Madge Hall**. I was informed that she had heard of the other **Madge Hall** and that she understood the other

Madge Hall (the one I wanted) had died rather recently. Since she was born in 1906 I was not surprised.

The 18 page text had several additional notes, dates and places written in. Notes concerning deaths starting in 1959 were hand written, suggesting that the original may have been typed prior to 1959. With respect to a person born in 1927 it was stated that he was then "a second-year student at Oklahoma A&M after serving the required time for eighteen-year olds after the close of the war..." This suggests to me that the text may have been written in the early 1950s. The text starts with an acknowledgement that the direct ancestry of **Daniel Wilkinson Killian** was condensed from the **J. Yates Killian** *History of the Killian Family in North Carolina*"

In 1997 I (**George W. Killian**) received a copy of the same text from **Betty Jean Killian**, who is also a granddaughter of **Daniel Wilkinson Killian**. This copy did not include any of the handwritten notes that were on the copy from **Madge Hall**.

The following is abstracted from the text:

"**Daniel Killian** served as a soldier of the Continental Line during the Revolutionary war, 1776-1783. The following information is furnished from documents in the files of the Department of Archives, Raleigh, NC and is certified by that Department under the date of Nov. 15, 1948."

There followed two documents indicating payments to **Daniel W. Killian** for his military service.

"A powder horn, which was carried by **Daniel Killian** through that war, has been handed down through the line of descent in the following order:

- 1) **George Killian**, his son;
- 2) **Daniel W. Killian**, son of **George**;
- 3) **Daniel P Killian**, son of **Daniel W**;
- 4) **G E Killian**, son of **Daniel P**;
- 5) **Daniel Elliott Killian**, son of **G E Killian**."

I asked **Betty Jean Killian** if she knew about the powder horn and the last **Daniel Killian**. Unfortunately she had lost contact with the family and could not help. I phoned every **Daniel Killian** listed in Oklahoma City, but did not find the right one.

Is there any recipient of this newsletter that knows this **Daniel Elliott Killian**? He was born in 1947 in Oklahoma City, OK and I would expect he is still living. It would be most interesting to have his own family history of the powder horn, and a photo for *The Killian Family Newsletter*.

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A LITTLE PHILOSOPHY

Money can buy a house, but not a home.
Money can buy medicine, but not health
Money can buy fun, but not happiness.
Money can buy sex, but not love.,
Money can buy a church, but not heaven.
(From AARP Jul-Aug 2000)

A Father is...
Respected because he gives his children leadership...
appreciated because he gives his children care...

valued because he gives his children time...
loved because he gives his children the one thing they treasure most - himself.
(Roy Lessin - on a bookmark given to Fathers on Father's Day)

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A LEGACY FOR YOUR CHILDREN

When you think of a legacy you may think of money or property. It can, and *should*, be much more! Review the above **Little Philosophy**. Money will not buy your children the things you most desire for them. ...*The one thing they treasure most is you*. Give of yourself in life and in death. Write your personal and family history. Write of your youth, your hopes and aspirations. Write of your early marriage, write of your own ancestors. Write of the emotion you felt when your children were born. Write of your pride in their achievements. Write on your pictures. Write about your family heirlooms. No success in life can compensate for your failure to create and preserve family bonds. Do It.

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A SWAN SONG

by George W. Killian

A "Swan Song" is a farewell or terminal appearance, declaration, or work. This newsletter represents the final presentation of **George W. Killian** who has been the editor of *The Killian Family Newsletter* since the first issue in 1993. It has been an interesting and educational experience. The mailing list has grown to well over 300 and at least some copies have been placed on the Internet which has served to bring many more into the **Killian** Association and expand the collective knowledge of our ancestry and inter-relationship. For many years I had been collecting information on any family whose children share common ancestry with my children. During the time *The Killian Family Newsletter* has been published the number of names in my computer has grown from under 12,000 to over 37,000. **Jim Green** estimates that it is unlikely that this represents as much as 10% of **Andreas'** descendants.

During this time **Jim Green** started an E-mail Association of those who have an interest in **Killian** genealogy and this has greatly increased the exchange of **Killian** information. **Ed Killian** of Natchez, MS has expanded our knowledge of **George Killian**, son of **Andreas**, who was unknown to **John Yates Killian** a publisher of Killian information in 1939.

The **Killian** Association of North Carolina appreciates the several generous contributions that have sustained the publication of *The Killian Family Newsletter*.

Now it is time for a younger and more vigorous editor who has expertise and experience, in modern communication and research techniques, to continue and advance our collective knowledge of our **Killian** roots.

I believe that **J Yates Killian** of NC, **T D Killian** of Georgia and my own father, **Cletus H. Killian** of MO and NY would be pleased with the progress made since they did their work fifty and more years ago. At the end of *The History of the Killian Family in NC* J Yates Killian said *I present to the Killian Clan these compiled historical records of Pioneer Andreas*

Killian and his descendants - not a complete history of the Killian family, but rather a skeleton or frame-work on which to build a complete history of Andreas Killian's descendants. We are not nearly done. There is much flesh to be added to **J Yates'** skeleton which he left for us to build on. It is time for the next generation to take the reins

With the new technology available a new editor, with the cooperation of all **Killians** (by whatever their name may be now), will be able to expand the knowledge of past and present **Killians**. When **J Yates** wrote, in 1939, he knew nothing of **Margaret, Crate, George, Brina, Christianna or Elizabeth**. Now **Brina** is the only one for whom we have no descendants. There are over 1,200 for both **Margaret** and **Crate**. Over 300 and nearly 200 for **Elizabeth** and **Christianna**, respectively. And **Ed Killian** has expanded the knowledge of **George** by a few thousand.

What a great opportunity for the new editor working with the rising generation.

As your prior editor I wish to extend my personal thanks to the many who have contributed to *The Killian Family Newsletter* to make it more interesting and useful. Especially I want to express my appreciation to those who contributed to the data base of **Killian** ancestors and descendants by providing information about their families. For many years *The Family History Center of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* was the largest depository of such information and, from time to time, I gave them copies of the data I had accumulated. Now the Internet has burst forth and an enormous amount of data is available on the Internet. Perhaps the most notable example of **Killian** information on the Internet is that contained in the work of **Ed Killian** of Natchez, MS who has made available many pages of text, maps, and related data about **George Killian**, son of **Andreas**. His data may be reviewed by going to the following address on the Internet: <http://www.familytreemaker.com/user/k/i/I/Ed-R-Killian> The use of capitals, where indicated, is critical, and must be used. No doubt the new editor will explain much more about how to obtain information from traditional sources as well as from the Internet. Old Editors never die they just fade away.

