



Killian Family Newsletter

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Message from the President



Hello Killian Cousins,

The reunion planning committee has completed this year's reunion schedule. We sincerely hope you and your family will join us this year as we celebrate our family's rich heritage. This will be a Friday night and Saturday event. Our goal is to make this reunion a meaningful occasion and a time of reconnecting and renewing relationships. Family unity is important to us. I want each one of you to seriously consider attending the reunion this year.

See you at the reunion.

Bill Killian

Andreas Killian Descendants Historical Association Reunion Celebrating 92 Years of Reunions

September 11-12, 2026

Schedule of Events

(All times Eastern Standard Time)

Friday and Saturday During the Reunion

Tables provided encouraging you to bring: AKDHA Table, Killian Books (Things I Remember, Forefathers of Andreas Killian, Family of Andreas Killian by AKDHA, The Andreas Killian Family Cookbook), Tables for photos; crafts; books; genealogy info; AKDHA website, items of interest; DNA info; self-guided tour booklets will be available; other family items to show (sharing books involved people bringing any books they no longer need or want. There would be no rules about exchanges or cost, merely take what you would be interested in reading with no obligation to return it/them.)

Friday, September 11, 2026

6:30 pm: **Social Gathering** at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church Family Life Center



[Mt. Zion Lutheran Church on Google Maps](#)

[Directions from Best Western](#)

7 pm: **Potluck Dinner** with delicious home cooked recipes prepared by local Killian cousins. Local descendants, it is suggested you bring enough food to feed your family and two guests.

After Supper opportunities to get to know your 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, cousins
Group photo, bring your photos a scanner will be available share your family photos
Show your talent or personal family story
Participate games or music (bring your guitar and/or instrument to play)

Late night



[Best Western on Google Maps](#)

[Directions from Mt. Zion Lutheran Church](#)

AKDHA Best Western Hickory guests and locals interested meet in the lobby area to continue enriching their family research, fishing and story tales, it's really just good old time of winding down and getting to know each other in a more personal and deeper way.

Saturday, September 12, 2026

9:00 am: 9:00 am until 11:00 am, we plan to meet and explore the Patrick-Beaver Library in Hickory.



[Patrick-Beaver Library on Google Maps](#)

[Directions from Best Western](#)

[Directions from Mt. Zion Lutheran Church](#)

Summer 2026

11:30 am: Lunch/Dinner at a local establishment

1:00 pm:



Killian DNA and Updates

James Walker Green, III

AKDHA DNA Co-Administrator

Break (including a group photo)



Ancestral Research

Robert Edward Lee Killian, Jr. "Eddie"

AKDHA Vice-President

Break

AKDHA Annual Business Meeting (required):

- Election & appointment of association officers
- Prizes for youngest, oldest, and farthest traveled, etc.
- Charles & Cheryl Mann Killian Scholarship Award (also known as the AKDHA Scholarship Award)
 - (descendant of Samuel C. Killian): Jared Daniel Palmer, Westerville, Ohio)

Supper at a local establishment

Sunday, September 13, 2026 (on your own)

10:00 am: Church service at Old St. Paul's Church, Old Startown-Conover Road



[Old St. Paul's Church on Google Maps](#)

[Directions from Best Western](#)

Or

10:30 am: Church service at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church



Reminders:

- Plan to come to upcoming Andreas Killian Descendants Historical Association Reunion, September 11-12, 2026
- Invite family and relatives to upcoming reunion
- Send your family history information, pictures, articles, etc. for the AKDHA newsletter or AKDHA website (Email: [Eddie Killian](#) and/or [Kim Sipe](#))
- Visit your/our: [AKDHA](#) website
- Join/Sign-up for AKDHA Email list at AKDHA website
- Looking for a person(s) to do newsletter and/or assist in getting the newsletter together & published

Killian Reunion (Hotel Gathering Place for One-on-One Learning Sessions)

(Submitted by James Walker Green III, AKDHA DNA Co-Administrator)

Best Western, Hickory I-40 Exit 125 1520 13th Ave Dr. SE, Hickory, NC 28602-5183 (828) 323-1150

BestWesternHickory@Yahoo.com

Includes:

- Weight Room; Pool; (open until end of Oct. from ~8 AM to 9, 10 PM or whenever last person leaves, no Lifeguard);
- Continental breakfast: (refrigerated biscuits, muffins, donuts, cereal, grits, sometimes boiled eggs, fruit (whole or cut up) & much more);
- no laundry; free ice.
- In evenings there's free coffee, hot chocolate, juice milk etc. & usually a snack of popcorn, cookies or cake until they run out.
- Cable TV, FREE Wi-Fi,
- Limited printing in the lobby from their computer from the web (One ink jet printer).

I asked Chanel, the General Manager the cost of rooms, if you say you are attending the Killian Reunion.

This year's rate is about \$124 per night.

Last year's rates:

- \$105 Killian Reunion rate Exterior rooms Double or King bed
- \$115 Killian Reunion rate Interior rooms 2 Queen Beds or a King bed
- \$134 Regular Interior Rate 2 Queen beds
- \$139 Regular Interior Rate 1 King bed
- \$124 Double bed \$129 King Size Exterior normal rates

Plus 13% Room Tax

Killian rates good until 2 weeks prior to reunion (or 1 Sept.) per Theresa, the Front Office manager

Pets are allowed only in Exterior rooms. There is a \$30 surcharge for Pets.

AARP & Senior (55+) discounts can't be combined with Killian rates & Killian rates are cheaper than AARP & Senior Discounts. Ordering rooms from other websites often puts you in an exterior, smoking room.

You might sign up for the BW Rewards or if you already have BW Rewards points, use your pts. By phoning BW Rewards at 800-237-8483, give them your name, zip, type room you want then phone B. West. Hickory at 828-323-1150 to have your room put in the Killian rooms Block with Killian Rate, then you show your credit card when you check in then check that the price is right on receipt when you check out.

Mercury Financial for BW: 866-805-1613

91st AKDHA Reunion Recap

Friday there was a social gathering and potluck dinner at the Mt. Zion Lutheran Church Family Life Center, and concluding with a group photo.

Saturday everyone met at the Mt. Zion Lutheran Church Family Life Center for Saturday's activities. There was an opportunity to request tour(s) of Killian points of interest, cemeteries (self-guided tour booklets), etc. However, there were no requests received.

A Genealogy 101+ Questions and Answers was presented by AKDHA Vice-President, Eddie Killian.

Hamburger & Hot Dogs were provided by the B.S.A. Troop fresh from grill with all donations given to support them! Several AKDHA attendees and officers donated monies to the BSA.

Booths/Tables were provided for AKDHA Table, Killian Books (Things I Remember, Forefathers of Andreas Killian, Family of Andreas Killian by AKDHA, The Andreas Killian Family Cookbook). Additional tables were provided for photos; crafts; books; genealogy info; AKDHA website, items of interest; DNA info; self-guided tour booklets were available; other family items to show (sharing books involved people bringing any books they no longer need or want. There were no rules about exchanges or cost, merely take what you would be interested in reading with no obligation to return it/them.)

Opportunities to get to know your 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, cousins and participate in corn-hole games, horse shoes, card games, chess, checkers, dominos, music, children's games, door prizes throughout the day.

Killian DNA Program was presented by AKDHA DNA Co-Administrator, James Walker Green III. He encouraged everyone to download their autosomal DNA to a Gedcom file to find their family matches. You can upload your Gedcom file to MyHeritage.com, Ancestry.com, 23andMe.com to find your matches there. Do upgrades on your kits as sales occur. At the Fairfield County Genealogy Society Fairfield Families Project there are 1759 people/kits.

AKDHA Annual Business Meeting was conducted including election & appointment of association officers with no changes in the current officers. A motion was given, seconded, and approved for AKDHA to donate \$100 to BSA for their help. Cheryl Mann Killian reported that donations for 10 T-shirts brought in \$100 to the AKDHA. Angie and Rick Sigmon donated 8-9 items for the prizes for: youngest, Rennen Patrick Killian (10 yrs.), son of Robbie and Jenni Killian, grandson of Betty and Joe Killian, descendants of Samuel C Killian; oldest, Ray Pope (84 yrs.), husband of Doris Killian Pope; and farthest traveled, Charles and Cheryl Mann Killian from near Atlanta, Georgia (4 hrs.). The AKDHA Scholarship Award was presented to (descendant of Samuel C. Killian): Riley "Aiden" Killian, Conover NC. Descendants of Andreas Killian's children present: Andrew (1); Daniel (2); Samuel C. (13); John (2); Margaret (1). It was mentioned that we (AKDHA) needs to elect Executive Board again. This concluded the annual business meeting and 'A Racing Killian's' presentation was given by AKDHA Vice-President, Eddie Killian. AKDHA reunion attendee, Rick Killian local owner of Auto Sports spoke of his knowledge of local Killian race drivers. Saturday's activities concluded with a group photo and then planned trip to go to Hickory Motor Speedway to experience a race like when the Killian's raced in the 1960's, but it was rained out. Some of the AKDHA attendees then meet for supper at a local BBQ place.

Afterwards some returned to the Best Western lobby to talk, research, DNA and mingle.

Sunday, many AKDHA reunion attendees attended either church service at Old St. Paul's Church or Mt. Zion Lutheran Church or at another local church.



AKDHA Board and Scholarship Committee

Bill Killian	President
Eddie Killian	Vice-President
Kim Sipe	Corresponding Secretary & Historian
Loretta Killian	Recording Secretary
Eric Killian	Treasurer
Cathy Killian	Co-Treasurer
Doris Pope	Social Director

The AKDHA Scholarship Committee consists of the executive board of AKDHA. We would like to report to the association the following report for 2026.

First, we normally award a young man and a young woman each year; as long as monies are available and applicants apply. Basically two first place awards would be awarded by splitting the monies available for the current year evenly; i.e. \$1500 available awarded \$750 each.

Secondly, Charles and Cheryl Mann Killian of Atlanta, Georgia continued their generous support and this year toward the Charles & Cheryl Mann Killian scholarship fund (alias AKDHA scholarship fund). Thank you!

Thirdly, this year we received only one application, a descendant from Samuel C. Killian: Jared Daniel Palmer of Westerville, Ohio. He is planning to attend Otterbein University in Westerville, Ohio.

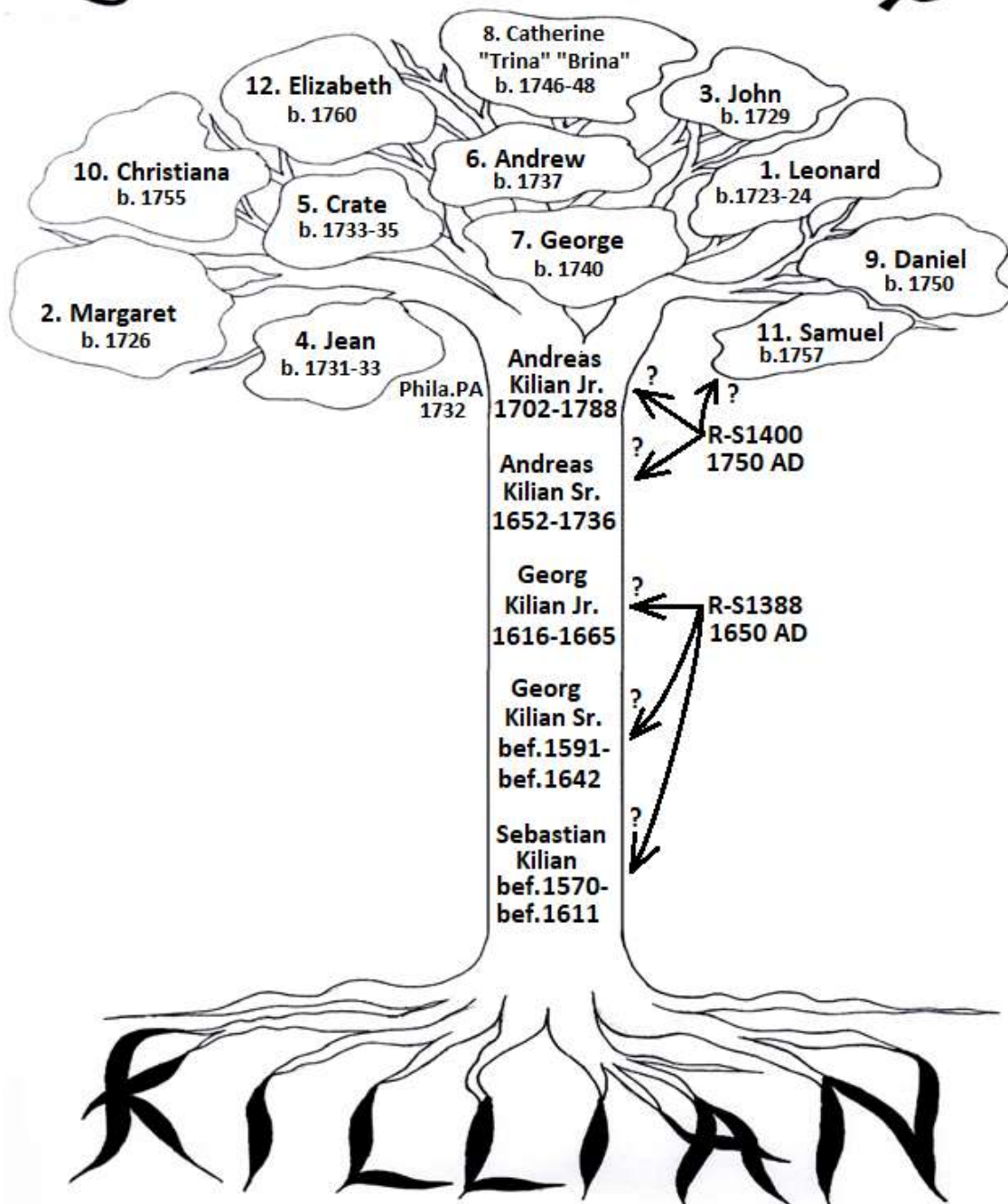
Now to the awards, the committee unanimously agreed that Jared would receive the top award of \$1,000. New clarification, AKDHA Scholarship Committee also agreed by unanimous vote that any applicant can apply every two years.

The associations along with this committee are excited about this year's applicant and eagerly award this young aspiring second year college student and hope the best for his future and his endeavors. It is not required for Jared to be present at the AKDHA Annual Meeting at the reunion. However, we would like to see him if possible and at least hear back from him how he is doing in his new adventure.

AKDHA Killian Tree Revised

(Submitted by James Walker Green III, AKDHA DNA Co-Administrator)

Our Roots Run Deep



short-form	R-DF88	>	R-FGC11833	>	R-S4281	>	R-S4268	>	R-Z17112	>	R-Z21380	>	R-S1401	>	R-S1388
long-form	R1b1a1b1a1a2e1		?		?		?		?		?		?		?
mutated	2150 BC		1900 BC		1600 BC		1450 BC		1450 BC		1250 BC		650 BC		1650 AD

Local Killian Attractions

Old St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sharing Christ for 250 Years

1757 – Present

The history of Old St. Paul's congregation must be told by a piecing together of details from meager sources of information. It is about pioneer Pennsylvania German (Deustch) people who came down through the Shenandoah Valley to the wilderness of the Carolina colony in the 1740's and 1750's. These farmer folks, seeking fertile land to support themselves and their families in the New World, discovered that the best land in eastern Pennsylvania was already bought. As they married and left the family farmstead they migrated south. Encouraged by the enthusiasm of trapper/explorer Heinrich Weidner, they purchased land in this region from the agents of Lord Proprietors in England.



Newer Building

This heavily wooded land in the Catawba Valley was obtainable for as little as fifty cents an acre!

Weidner was born a Prince in Germany but as a second son would never have ruled that principality unless his older brother had died young. He decided to face the pioneer challenges and sail for America. Having the strength of a Christian faith he was able to meet those challenges. Also since his family was wealthy he bought over 10,000 acres of land in this area. Two rivers flowed through this land; these he named for his sons, the Henry and the Jacob's Fork!

In this migration of Germans there were two significant factors different from most other settlements in America. First, they came here without a spiritual leader. The pastors in Pennsylvania had enough work just gathering the new European immigrants into congregations. Secondly, no additional Germans came from either the old country or from their first settlements in the New World.

Probably Andreas Killian was typical of those first settlers west of the Catawba River. He sailed into the port of Philadelphia in 1732 and fifteen years thereafter brought his family to a homestead on Clark's Creek. Between Adam Sherrill's ford at the Catawba River and Weidner's place on the South Fork, the soon-after-constructed Deustch Meeting House was the center of the German settlement. This meeting house was built to serve two groups of believers, the Lutheran and the Reformed. Without a pastor, these families assembled to worship, sing, pray, and listen to a sermon read from a book. Their first log structure was erected close to the old cedar trees in the back of the cemetery. It was very narrow and probably held no more than one hundred people. It is very natural to conclude that together the two congregations did not comprise more than two hundred souls. From this small start have stemmed tens of thousands of Americans who can trace their ancestry back to these God-fearing forebears.

After several years that little log hut was struck by lightning and burned. Then they decided to build a bigger, better structure and put it up on the wagon road. The likely year was 1757, for a reliable report says a Reformed minister named Martin preached to the congregation during his travels in the year 1759.

After already using the land for burials and buildings for a goodly number of years, the church leaders went to the effort of recording the deed to the property in Rowan County in 1771. Paul and Frony Anthony conveyed the land to the Lutheran and Presbyterian Christian Churches for the payment of one-pound sterling from each of the parties. The tract contained ten acres and was laid out most easily as an east-west, north-south, and rectangle straight on the compass points.

John Gotfried Arndt traveled west from the Lutheran settlements near Salisbury in August 1776 and gave first communions. It would not be until 1785 that he was made missionary full-time to the region west of the Catawba River. Not until Arndt arrived here did people get rid of a sad superstition of never marking gravestones with their names. For these pioneers wrongly held that the devil would harass them until Resurrection Day if he could identify their location. Immediately after Arndt's pastorate began all graves were inscribed in German with names and personal data. Native German Arndt preached in that language and common speech among these folks remained that way until Arndt grew old and virtually blind. The assistant pastor called to accompany Arndt on his rounds of serving the eight to ten scattered flocks was young Phillip Henkel. He was born in New Market, Virginia where he grew up speaking English. The veteran circuit rider Arndt died in 1807. The immediate influence of Henkel is evidenced by the usage of the English language on the tombstones in 1808.

Many family names had been altered by British record keepers aboard ships that brought our forefathers to America. Hence when they were administered the oath of allegiance to the British crown they came out with Anglicized or even translated surnames. Those that did not get changed then did so on property deeds or marriage bonds. Hardly any Carolina Germans escaped with the original spelling of their names. Even Weidner and Wolfgang became Whitener and Wilfong. Under the Lord's blessing these families multiplied and occupied more land. They grew numerous enough by the 1790's to mother some new congregations in the area such as Grace, Zion, and St. John's Lutheran. After the turn of the nineteenth century the Deustch Meeting House became known as "South Fork Church."



Additionally, as individuals they acquired more acreage and therefore began buying slaves to share in the booming cotton economy. So, these people decided to tear down the one-story church and build a two-story church having a slave gallery on the second floor. The usable logs were retained from the one-story church and used in the two-story building.

Probably in 1818 Henry Cline was given the job of constructing a very plain but practical log church. This building, sealed by boards, is still standing solidly against the sky in our midst. As a carpenter, Cline was a genius, realizing a seating capacity in the small structure of 250 people. He used steep narrow stairwells and high steps to the tiers of the balcony achieving a space-saving specialty. For a reminder of the old country a canopy, or sounding board, was placed over the head of the preacher in the pulpit. The seats downstairs were designed to have an opening for the hoop skirts or bustles which were the lady's fashion at that time. Only the pews in the center had solid backs to seat the church board. Cline was sure that there could never be a woman on the church council, but that day has come to Old St. Paul's congregation. Thankfully we can now rejoice that the talents of all God's people can be recognized and utilized.

For some unexplained reason a second deed was drawn for the historic church in 1818 as the third edifice was constructed. It is signed by John Smyre and made out to trustees John Propst and John Wilfong for the two congregations.

After the civil war slaves no longer occupied the balcony so the young men and boys were shifted to that section. They were as bad to carve names in school desks and church pews as youngsters today. In the soft wood of the upstairs seating, initials and even a few names abound!

Pastor Arndt and his congregations helped form the North Carolina Synod in 1803. In 1820 the influence of the Henkel's for confessional Lutheranism caused most of the western North Carolina flocks to shift to the Tennessee Synod. But in 1846 Adam Miller Jr., an uncompromising opponent of innovation in doctrine or discipline, was convinced that the Tennessee Synod had also become too liberal and formed the Tennessee Synod (Reorganized). The new grouping of Lutherans applied after the Civil War for admission into the Joint Synod of Ohio. In 1884 they were received into that church body with Ohio headquarters and in the 90's convinced said assemblage to start a seminary in Hickory. This school, known as St. Paul Practical Seminary, served as ministerial training base for Carolina pastors until it closed in 1910.

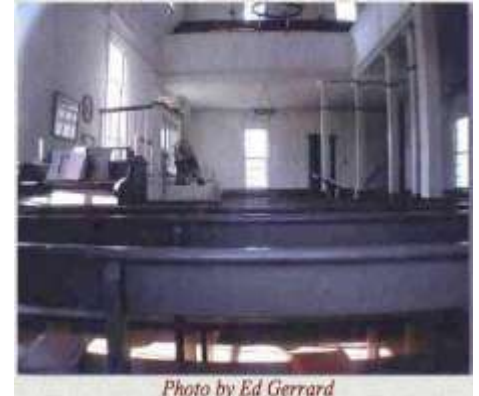


Photo by Ed Gerrard

The church building was shared by the two Lutheran and Reformed denominations until 1901 when the Reformed congregation built their own house of worship three miles south at Startown. A few years later in 1905 the Lutheran congregation split over synodical affiliation differences and one group moved several miles south and became known as St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Startown in the Tennessee Synod. Since both St. Paul's were on the same mailing route ours came to be distinguished as Old St. Paul's congregation. Perhaps the most prominent pastor in service of Old St. Paul people was George Luther Hunt. Tutored by Adam Miller Jr., he arrived here after the War Between the States. He bought a sizeable portion of land and remained for the rest of his lifetime. He stemmed from eastern Tennessee stock and often rode his little black mule, "Coaly", that far in his circuit riding ministry.

A church history book in German form 1901 says St. Paul's Church near Newton had 100 communing members. That must have dropped substantially in 1905 when St. Paul's at Startown was formed. Membership in 1952, when the present brick building was built across the road, was about 150 communicants.

A significant step was taken in 1956 when after a dozen years of sharing Pastor Schillinger with St. Paul Lutheran Church in Hickory, a parsonage was built and Calvert Love was called to become our first full-time pastor.

The years have taken their toll on our old church building and in 1994 a "Friends of Old St. Paul's" committee was formed to completely restore the structure.

Researched by Rev. Luther Knuaff

The historic building is open to the public for Sunday afternoon tours during the months of April through October. Tax-deductible contributions for restoration and upkeep of this structure may be sent to:

Summer 2026

Friends of Old St. Paul's Church
2035 Old Conover-Startown Road, Newton, NC 28658



Old Saint Paul's Lutheran Church Cemetery
2038 Old Conover-Startown Road, Newton, North Carolina 28658
Known Killian Burials



[Amy Gross Killian](#)
[13 Mar 1803 – 2 Oct 1825](#)
Plot: Row 6 #336



[Amy Killian](#)
[21 Sep 1825 – 8 Oct 1825](#)
Plot: Row 6 #335



[Andreas Killian](#)
[1702 – 1788](#)
Plot: Row 5 #287



[Anna Geneva "Jennie" Propst Killian](#)
[24 Oct 1870 – 6 Mar 1916](#)
Plot: Row 1 #69

[No grave photo](#)
[Barbara Hager Killian](#)
[1760 – Apr 1847](#)

[No grave photo](#)
[Mary "Kline Beaver" Cline Killian](#)
[1735 – 1785](#)
Plot: Row 11, #558



[Candis L Killian](#)
[15 Dec 1870 – 4 Jul 1884](#)
Plot: Row 11 #557



[Catherine Lutz Killian](#)
[11 Dec 1804 – 1 Jul 1868](#)
Plot: Row 11 #563



[Catherine Elizabeth Settlemyre Killian](#)
[5 Jul 1916 – 29 Dec 2016](#)
Plot info: Row 6 #322



[No grave photo](#)
[Anna Elisabeth Zimmerman Killian](#)
[1730 – 1802](#)



[Francis A Fry Killian](#)
[31 Oct 1846 – 20 Jun 1884](#)
Plot: Row 11 #560



[Harvey McCoy Killian](#)
[21 May 1914 – 17 Aug 1944](#)
Plot: Row 6 #322



[Johannes Killian](#)
[14 Apr 1788 – Jul 1797](#)
Plot: Row 6 #342

[No grave photo](#)
[Johannes Leonhard "John" Killian](#)
[Sep 1729 – 1799](#)

[No grave photo](#)
[Magdalena Margaretha Maria](#)
["Margaret" Fischer Killian](#)
[1696 – 1757](#)
Plot: Row 5 #287



[Leonhardt "Leonard" Killian](#)
[15 May 1723 – 6 Jun 1795](#)
 Plot: Row 6 #341



[Mary C Killian](#)
[27 Feb 1875 – 26 Jun 1884](#)
 Plot: Row 11 #558



[Noah W Killian](#)
[17 Feb 1873 – 24 Jul 1884](#)
 Plot: Row 11 #561



[Noah W Killian](#)
[1837 – 14 Dec 1863](#)
 Plot: Row 11 #567



[No grave photo](#)
[Samuel Killian](#)
[1762 – 3 Jan 1808](#)
 Plot: Row 11, #559



[Samuel E. Killian](#)
[9 Sep 1842 – 22 Mar 1919](#)



[Sidney Lafayette Killian](#)
[19 Jul 1866 – 2 Mar 1937](#)
 Plot: Row 1 #68



[William F Killian](#)
[Apr 1839 – 15 Feb 1873](#)
 Plot: Row 12 #583

Mt. Zion Lutheran Church

4420 County Home Road, Conover, NC 28613
 (828) 256-2123

In 1892, area families who had moved to North Carolina voiced a desire to have a church of their own. They had been traveling eight to ten miles on horseback, on foot, by buggy or wagon, to worship at other Lutheran churches.

Out of pastoral concern for these families, the Reverend J.H. Rexro other neighboring congregations, started holding services in the fa the old Charity School House on the County Home Road. The scho corner of the plot of land on which Ned Sipe's home is presently lo

In August, 1893 the cornerstone for the first church building was laid. The church was erected on a half-acre parcel of land given by H. Adolphus Herman, located where the present-day Mt Zion bus garage stands today. The wood frame building was a mere 30 by 50 feet, and much of the labor and materials were donated by the members. Ten months later, on June 3, 1894, the small congregation dedicated the first sanctuary. A month later, on July 1st, the congregation of Mt Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church was formally organized with thirteen families that made up the charter membership of the church. There was no organ or piano available to start with- hymns were started with a pitch pipe. The men sat on the right side of the church and the women and



Humble beginnings for the church, as seen in this 1893 photograph. Courtesy of James Yount.

children were placed on the left.

With the congregation now settled in the new church building, new souls were continuously added to the roster, and finally, the group issued its first call for a permanent pastor. The Reverend Lawrence Propst answered this first call in 1895, serving his term for thirteen years. During his founding tenure, the congregation continued to grow and a parsonage was built.

Since these initial days, the congregation of Mount Zion Lutheran has continued to be truly blessed. Over the course of more than a century, we have stayed the course of God's word even while continuously building, razing, rebuilding, remodeling, and altering the facilities as required by the times and people. As a June 23, 1894 article from The Lutheran Standard reported, "... a Mt. Zion for themselves and their children and all true believers."

Most of the Killian known burials and/or memorials are in Catawba County **487**; Counties surrounding Catawba are Alexander **22**; Burke **11**; Caldwell **30**; Cleveland **4**; Gaston **68**; Iredell **4**; Lincoln **105**; Mecklenburg **54**.

(Elmer) Killian's Hardware & Automotive

3790 Springs Rd. NE, Hickory NC 28601

(Submitted by Eric Killian, AKDHA past-President, Treasurer)



Killian's Hardware & Automotive Advertisement on Side of Race Car
Car is Part of Elmer Killian Collection at Killian's Hardware, Hickory, NC



Since 1953, the third generation of Killian's proudly operates the business in the spirit of grandfather Emory, founder-father Elmer, and children Sharon and Susan. Killian's is always changing with the times and is at least a step or two ahead! Customers come to shop. Customers come to visit and enjoy old-fashioned popcorn. In addition, on a few very special days of the year, tour our collection of antique cars, area history, and memorabilia from eras past.

(Killian) Women Run Hickory Hardware Store Hits Nearly 70 Years in Operation

[Queen City News, Hometown, Women Run Hickory Hardware Store Hits Nearly 70-years in operation](#)



How do we stay small and sell big? It's simple: over 50 years of experience. At Bob Killian Tire Inc., our mission is to offer you the latest in parts and products at the best prices, and with unparalleled service. Bob Killian Tire has been serving the Unifour and beyond with the largest selection of tires and wheels. Our business is truly a family affair with three generations of the Killians to serve your every need. We take pride in providing years of expertise, combined with hands-on service at competitive prices.

Whether your need is a lawn mower, ATV, car, truck, or classic car; if the issue is tires or wheels, we have got you covered. We generally have the most popular tire brands in-stock and ready to install on your vehicle. We also keep the most extensive line of custom wheels on hand to satisfy almost any taste.

We pledge our best efforts to make your experience both beneficial and enjoyable. Once you try us, we're sure you'll be back for more!

Andy Killian's AutoSport Car Collection

2570 Springs Rd. NE Hickory NC 28601



Our legacy began with our Father, Bob Killian, and a 1940 Ford Deluxe Coupe, one of his favorite cars of all time. After 40 years of buying, selling, and trading, the Killian family has accumulated a very nice collection of classic automobiles. Our specialty has always been buying and selling Mustangs although we have owned many other makes and models. We have bought and sold over 5000 cars, classic and late model, with over 600 being Mustangs. We were lucky enough to have kept a few along the way. We take pride in preserving the authenticity of original, low mileage automobiles when possible. If beyond preservation, we have the knowledge and capability to restore vehicles back to factory specifications with show winning results. Auto Sports is a family run dealership that was started in 1985. We began selling and restoring classic cars in the mid 70's, which then expanded into selling later model cars. We have restored, raced, and worked around cars our whole life. Our experience has given us as much knowledge about cars as anyone out there. Auto Sports is in the beautiful foothills of North Carolina in Hickory, the home of Lenoir Rhyne University. We are close to I-40, Hwy. 321, Hwy 16, Hwy 127, and more. We are about one hour from Charlotte, Asheville, Boone, Blowing Rock, Winston Salem, Greensboro, and many others. At Auto Sports we are different from most dealerships. Our atmosphere is low pressure and there's no BS. We have nice newer used cars with low mileage at a bargain. We do not have salesman, you talk to the owners! We have sold over 15,000 cars and have a lot of repeat customers. Our showroom is full of exciting things to look at, including many classic cars on display. Come to Auto Sports in Hickory, a unique place to buy your next car. Andy and Andrew are always available, call anytime 828-308-8103 or 828-485-7394.

The Catawba County Museum of History

30 N College Ave, Newton, NC 28658



The Catawba County Museum of History offers testimony to the hardy settlers of the Catawba River Valley and their resourceful descendants who carved a world-renowned furniture and textile empire out of the backwoods.

It is the story of the American Dream as perceived by the self-sufficient Scotch-Irish, German, English, and African peoples who followed the Native American trails along the Catawba River in search of a place to call home. The story is artfully displayed in the unique setting of the former Catawba County Courthouse, an imposing National Register Renaissance Revival structure built in 1924, on the square in downtown Newton.

The collections include agricultural tools and implements forged from hand-dug iron ore, and handcrafted household cupboards, wagon benches, beds, tables, chests, cradles, plantation desks, a firkin, and miniature furniture samples shown by "drummers" or early salesmen.

There are treasured military uniforms, including a British Red Coat from the Revolutionary War era (one of the few such coats in existence). A major repository of Civil War objects, the museum displays the Clinton A.

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Cilley Collection, including this distinguished colonel's field desk; firearms, notably a Colt 45 swiped from Stoneman's Raiders by a Newton boy and handed down through his family; and an 1861 locally hand-made and hand-dyed First National Flag of the Confederacy, the "Stars and Bars."

Two full-scale, original antebellum parlors have been reconstructed and preserved in the museum, the Shuford-Jarett from 1830, featuring deft molding-plane embellishments—in the time before power tools—and pegged muntins, and the Munday Parlor from 1840, with trompe l'oeil dentils, marbled wooden baseboards, and a hand-painted dazzling central medallion. Visitors can also walk through Dr. Hambrick's 1920s medical office, containing his ice-cold stainless-steel examination table and an extensive variety of instruments from the period.

Illustrative of the Catawba Valley's long tradition of alkaline glazed stoneware, the pottery exhibit includes a ten-gallon Daniel Seagle and other late nineteenth century pieces by Thomas Ritchie and Sylvanus Hartsoe. Also, on display is a piece by Craig, who presides over the exhibit in a 1997 panoramic photograph by Benjamin Porter. Part of "Panoramic Catawba," the CCHA's on-going photographic documentary project, the late Burlon Craig is pictured outside his pottery shed, at home in Vale.

Textiles include hand-stitched quilts, pioneer's homespun, the jeweled frocks and hats of Twenties' flappers, and, made by local women, a detailed and colorful tapestry depicting the county's history in celebration of North Carolina's 400th anniversary. Visitors will also find a gallery of looms and spinning wheels devoted to early weaving techniques and one with a number of industrial machines used to make socks in a local knitting mill.

A 1930's racecar, which roared around the county fairgrounds, is complemented with a photograph gallery of the first race at the Hickory Motor Speedway, in 1951, rich bootleggers (the rumors are true) having funded its construction.

Perfect for learners of all ages—or for those seeking entertaining educational gifts—the Museum Bookstore offers the CCHA's extensive selection of publications, as well as prints, cards, videos, the 1886 Yoder Map, and other items pertaining to county history.

Researchers and family historians will enjoy the museum's Library & Archives.

Murray's Mill Historic Site

1489 Murrays Mill Rd, Catawba, NC 28609



A ten-minute hop, skip, and a jump from I-40, the Murray's Mill Historic District, in the rolling countryside of eastern Catawba County, nestles just as it was a century ago along the banks of Balls Creek. It's perfect for an

afternoon picnic or a quick leg -stretcher. A placid pond slips over a mill dam, and the 28' waterwheel of this National Register Historic Site makes its slow way around. Nailed to a door-frame in the general store, an old coffee can catches bottle-caps, and a porch swing awaits you out front, as does a chat with a friendly guide before beginning your tour.

Preserved intact are the 1913 mill itself, the 1890s Murray & Minges General Store, the 1880s Wheathouse, used as an exhibit gallery, the 1913 John Murray House, furnished to the period, and numerous outbuildings. Run by three generations of the Murray Family, who abandoned operations in 1967, the picturesque structures and surrounding land form the last milling complex in the county, meticulously preserved and interpreted by the Catawba County Historical Association since 1980 when restorations began, Governor James G. Mart in attending the opening ceremony in 1986.

The centerpiece of the historic district is Murray's Mill, built by John Murray, whose father, William, had operated a mill on the site since 1883. In 1906, William deeded the property to his sons, John and Ollie. In 1907, John Murray acquired a 5/6 interest from his brother Ollie, who would take over operation of the general store. In 1913, John replaced his father's mill with the current two-story structure, adding a 22' overshot waterwheel, in lieu of the former turbine. Making room for the mill's expansion, the Murrays moved the general store at that time to its present location. In 1938, John's son, Lloyd, raised the dam six feet and installed the 28' waterwheel (it's said that William's original wooden dam stands beneath the surface of the present pond).

Inside Murray's Mill, visitors will find William's original, one-ton French buhr millstones, for grinding corn, as well as a Eureka roller mill that John installed for grinding wheat into flour. All of the mill's storage bins, each partitioned by tongue and groove sheathing, have been preserved, too. When the CCHA overtook the mill's restoration in 1980 the bins still held flour from the day Lloyd Murray, John's son, shut the doors due to bureaucratic red tape and increasing taxes.

The Murray & Minges General Store



Inside "the mercantile department of O. D. Murray and Company," the two-story, gable-front general store (later assuming an additional name, Minges, through a marriage), and visitors can crack the lid of an antique Coca-Cola refrigerator and grab a drink in the bottle. The store is also stocked with old-fashioned wooden toys, such as yo-yo's and finger tops, as well as pioneer folk toys. Sweet tooth will find B ·B ·Bats, Cow Tails, Striped Pure Coconut, Candy Buttons, Root Beer Balls, and rock candy in assorted flavors. Old-fashioned soaps and salves and Happy Home Flavorings (some popular with fish, according to the fisherman who stop in), are joined by Pointer brand overalls, aprons, and hats, and Murray's Mill tee-shirts, hats, and mugs. The store is also a convenient way to pick up one of the CCHA's many historical publications. Bead -board

ceilings and walls are notable architectural elements, as is the ceiling's octagonal opening, used by Murray to keep an eye on the register while re-stocking the upstairs Murray and Minges General Store.

Bunker Hill Covered Bridge



Designated as a National Civil Engineering Landmark in 2001, the Bunker Hill Covered Bridge is the only remaining example in wood of the Improved Lattice Truss patented by General Herman Haupt. One of only two original remaining covered bridges in North Carolina, the other being Mt. Pisgah in Randolph County, the Bunker Hill Covered Bridge was built in 1895 by Andy L. Ramsour. Catawba County Commissioners in 1894 had called on nearby owners of Bunker Hill Farm to build and maintain a bridge that would cross Lyle's Creek on the old Island Ford Road, a former Native American trail. The landowners hired Ramsour, keeper of the Horseford covered bridge that spanned the Catawba River north of Hickory. He likely found Haupt's design in a popular book on bridge building.



Originally constructed as an open span, the Bunker Hill Covered Bridge, whose roof is ninety-one feet long, was covered in 1900. In 1921 its wooden shingles were replaced with a tin roof. (Bridges were covered to protect their timbers from the elements; travelers enjoyed a reprieve from rain and snow only as a consequence.) Bolick Family members donated the bridge in 1985 to the Catawba County Historical Association, which restored it in 1994 with the expertise of Arnold M. Graton, a master bridge wright from Ashland, New Hampshire.

The Bunker Hill Covered Bridge has significant associations with the American Revolution. Of the Island Ford Road, on which the bridge rests, Dr. J. E. Hodges, President of the Catawba County Historical Association in the 1950s, writes in 1959 that following the Battle of Cowpens in 1781, General Morgan detached 531 British prisoners under guard of Colonel William Washington's dragoons and Colonel Charles McDowell over the Island Ford Road. The men crossed Lyle's Creek at the Bunker Hill Ford on their way to the Island Ford of the Catawba River, where they were received by the Commissary of Prisoners and conveyed to the interior of Virginia.

**Andreas Killian Descendants Historical Association
Books Available While Supplies Last**

**THE HISTORY OF
THE KILLIAN FAMILY
IN**

NORTH CAROLINA

ASSOCIATION OF DESCENDANTS OF
PIONEER ANDREAS KILLIAN
ORGANIZED SALEM CHURCH, LINCOLN COUNTY

August 22, 1935

published 1939-40

by J. Yates Killian

ASSOCIATION OF DESCENDANTS OF PIONEER ANDREAS KILLIAN
Organized Salem Church, Lincoln County, August 22, 1935

(None Available, Online at Website)

This copy of the original "The History of the Killian Family in North Carolina" by J. Yates Killian, was scanned in using an OCR program. The copied scanned was very bad so a lot of manual corrections had to be made. I have tried to keep all spelling and punctuation the same as the copy scanned even through some spellings in the original were obviously incorrect. WL Setzer

**THE HISTORY OF
THE KILLIAN FAMILY
IN**

NORTH CAROLINA

by

J. Yates Killian

published 1939-40

ASSOCIATION OF DESCENDANTS OF
PIONEER ANDREAS KILLIAN
Organized Salem Church, Lincoln County

August 22, 1935

(None Available, Online at Website)

Reprinted by J. Yates Killian in 1955
(PDF version)

The New 2009 Andreas Killian Book

[Book by 'AKDHA'](#)

Available by mail from editor for **\$30.00**

This includes handling and shipping.

Order by: Mail or Fax 770-506-7157 or

Email: [Cheryl K.](#)

Make check payable AKDHA & mail to:

Cheryl M. Killian

130 Rowan Rd

Ellenwood GA 30294



The Forefathers of North Carolina Pioneer Andreas Killian'

by William McCreight

Available by mail from the editor for only **\$45.00**.

This includes handling and shipping. All proceeds from the book going to AKDHA.

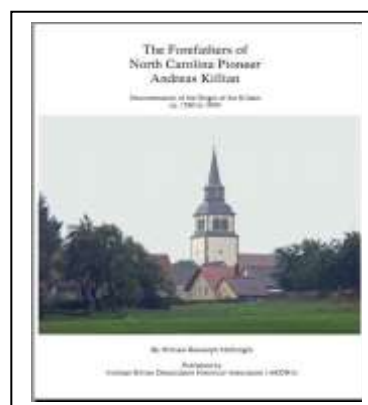
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Make check payable AKDHA & mail to:

Cheryl Mann Killian

130 Rowan Road

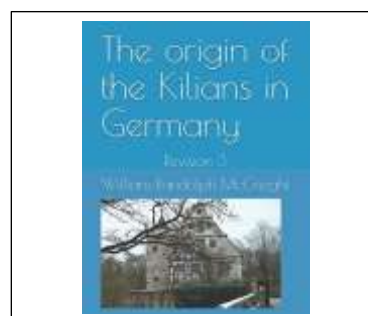
Ellenwood GA 30294



The Origin of the Kilians in Germany (Revision 3)

by William McCreight

[Now available at Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

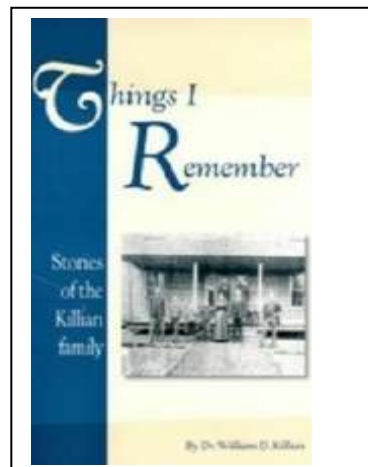


'Things I Remember...

by Dr. William D. "Bill" Killian of Hendersonville, NC'

Before his death in 2019, Dr. Bill Killian donated nineteen copies of his book to the organization he supported. AKDHA still has a few copies available for sale. All proceeds from the sale of books goes to AKDHA, a 501c3 Nonprofit Organization. AKDHA has no paid staff or employees and depends entirely on volunteers and donations which Dr. William D. "Bill" Killian was a promoter.

Book available by mail from the editor, Cost: \$20.00 Check Payable: Andreas Killian Descendants Historical Association or AKDHA Mail to: Cheryl Mann Killian, 130 Rowan Rd, Ellenwood, GA 30294. For more details about these books phone me at (770) 337-5310 or email: Cheryl K.



'The Family of North Carolina Pioneer Andreas Killian' (1702-1788)

'Andreas Killian Family Cookbook

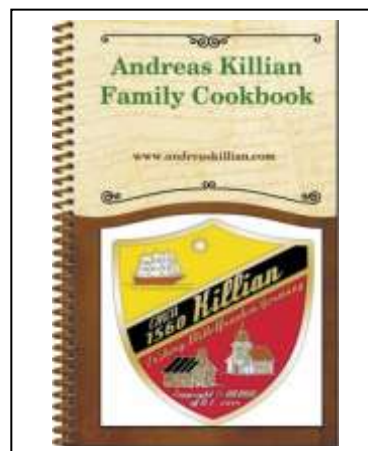
This Andreas Killian Family Cookbook will make a wonderful keepsake to pass down to family members. The cookbook is filled with 299 family recipes, family histories, helpful hints, and much more...from descendants of Andreas Killian.

Cost: **\$15.00** per copy, plus **\$3.50** for handling & shipping.

Please indicate how many cookbooks you are ordering.

Order by Mail or Email: Kim S.

Make check payable AKDHA & mail: AKDHA P.O. Box 3272 Hickory NC 28603



Submitted Obituaries

[Explore featured memorials, Killian in Newspapers, Killian in Military Records, View more records for Killian at Ancestry.com, Discover more with a simple DNA test, More about the Killian family name](#) By Ancestry®, [Birth Records, Marriage Records, Death Records](#) By Ancestry®



No grave photo

[Steven Vernon "Steve" Killian](#) (Husband of Linda Killian, AKDHA past-Reunion Welcome Committee)

[23 Aug 1943 – 26 Jan 2026](#), Conover, Catawba County, North Carolina

Mount Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery, Conover, Catawba County, North Carolina

Steven "Steve" Vernon Killian, age 82, passed away on Monday, January 26, 2026. Steve was born in Catawba County on Friday, April 23, 1943 to the late Roy E. Kilian and Beulah L. Killian.

Steve was a good man who loved his family and friends. He was a veteran of the US Army. Steve retired from Hickory Chair after 50 years, where he worked as upholster. Steve always had a big garden that he was very proud of. You could walk through his garden and would never see a weed. He loved to go fishing whenever he could, especially when he was on his boat. Steve and Linda enjoyed taking day trips. They rarely missed a home game at Hickory Crawdads' stadium, and they enjoyed taking trips to Dollywood. Steve was a member of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church.

Those left to cherish Steve's memory are his beloved wife of 46 years, Linda McCaslin Killian; brother, Leroy J. Killian; as well as many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

A funeral service with military honors will follow at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church on February 3, 2026, at 12 p.m., with Reverend Dr. Deborah Frye officiating.

Burial will take place following the service at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery.

The Killian family has entrusted funeral arrangements to Drum Funeral Home & Cremation Services in Conover, NC.

Killian Deaths After 7/31/2025 and in 2026 at FindAGrave.com

No grave photo

[Benjamin Harris "Benji" Killian](#)

[26 May 1972 – 25 Oct 2025](#), Noble, Sabine Parish, Louisiana

Cassel Cemetery, Noble, Sabine Parish, Louisiana, USA



[Betty Jean Fritts Killian](#)

[3 Jun 1936 – 24 Nov 2025](#), Bloomfield, Stoddard County, Missouri

Missouri Veterans Cemetery at Bloomfield, Stoddard County, Missouri

Plot: Sec 1 Row 31 Site 520

Summer 2026



[Billy Joe "Bubsey" Killian Jr.](#)

[Memorial ID](#)

[31 Dec 1955 – 14 Dec 2025](#), Bakersfield, Kern County, California

Hillcrest Memorial Park, Bakersfield, Kern County, California



Bobby Allen Killian

10 Aug 1930 – 16 Aug 2025, Riverside, Riverside County, California

Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, Riverside County, California

Plot: Section AN Row B Site 11



[Christine Marie "Chris" Muller Killian](#)

[26 Jul 1956 – 15 Dec 2025](#), Farmersville, Collin County, Texas

Farmersville Odd Fellows Cemetery, Farmersville, Collin County, Texas



[Daniel Louis Killian](#)

[25 May 1956 – 31 Aug 2025](#), Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

Restland Memorial Park, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

No grave photo

[Dempsie Pearl Killian](#)

[31 May 1937 – 14 Dec 2025](#), Granite Falls, Caldwell County, North Carolina

Oak Grove Baptist Church Cemetery, Granite Falls, Caldwell County, North Carolina



[Gabrielle Briana Killian](#)

[21 Dec 1992 – 17 Oct 2025](#)

Cremated

Summer 2026



[George Walter Killian Sr.](#)

[14 Dec 1935 – 27 Nov 2025](#)

Cremated



No grave photo

[John Francis "Jack" Killian](#)

[13 Aug 1934 – 17 Oct 2025](#)

Burial Details Unknown

No grave photo

[Kenneth Darrell Killian](#)

[21 Nov 1934 – 9 Dec 2025](#), Denver, City and County of Denver, Colorado

Fort Logan National Cemetery, Denver, City and County of Denver, Colorado

Plot: Section 8 Site 614



No grave photo

[Kenneth Edwin Killian](#)

[18 Jul 1942 – 14 Dec 2025](#), Bozeman, Gallatin County, Montana

Sunset Hills Cemetery, Bozeman, Gallatin County, Montana



No grave photo

[Linda Davis Killian](#)

[4 Jun 1942 – 20 Aug 2025](#), Lawton, Comanche County, Oklahoma

Letitia Cemetery, Lawton, Comanche County, Oklahoma

No grave photo

[Lula Darlyn Hanes Killian](#)

[21 Jan 1946 – 22 Aug 2026](#), Julian, Guilford County, North Carolina

Dr. Clyde M. Gilmore Memorial Park, Julian, Guilford County, North Carolina



No grave photo

[Marilyn Haefner Killian](#)

[13 May 1944 – 5 Dec 2025](#), Wisconsin Rapids, Wood County, Wisconsin

Forest Hill Cemetery, Wisconsin Rapids, Wood County, Wisconsin

No grave photo

[Mary Killian](#)

[1937 – 31 Jan 2025](#), Harold's Cross, County Dublin, Ireland

Mount Jerome Cemetery and Crematorium, Harold's Cross, County Dublin, Ireland

Plot: A060-00562

No grave photo

[Mary Frances Killian](#)

[2 Nov 1944 – 11 Oct 2025](#), Pelham, Shelby County, Alabama

Southern Heritage Cemetery, Pelham, Shelby County, Alabama



No grave photo

[Melanie Reese Killian](#)

[5 Apr 1944 – 5 Oct 2025](#), Fairview Heights, St. Clair County, Illinois

Lake View Memorial Gardens, Fairview Heights, St. Clair County, Illinois



[Novella June Johns Killian](#)

[20 Jun 1933 – 27 Dec 2025](#), Eagle Point, Jackson County, Oregon

Eagle Point National Cemetery, Eagle Point, Jackson County, Oregon

Plot: SECTION 32 SITE 572

No grave photo

[Odessa Childs Killian Hall](#)

[Memorial ID](#)

[19 Feb 1935 – 20 Jul 2026](#), Catawba County, North Carolina

Southside Cemetery, Catawba County, North Carolina

Summer 2026

No grave photo

[Patricia Jean Matkins Killian](#)

[23 Apr 1936 – 28 Jul 2026](#), Gastonia, Gaston County, North Carolina

Gaston Memorial Park, Gastonia, Gaston County, North Carolina



No grave photo

[Patricia "Patti" Killian](#)

[3 Sep 1958 – 18 Sep 2025](#), Bensalem, Bucks County, Pennsylvania

Resurrection Cemetery, Bensalem, Bucks County, Pennsylvania



No grave photo

[Regina O. "Jean" O'Connor Killian](#)

[19 Dec 1934 – 27 Aug 2025](#), Springfield, Delaware County, Pennsylvania

Saints Peter and Paul Cemetery, Springfield, Delaware County, Pennsylvania



[Robert Joe "Bob" Killian](#)

[18 May 1938 – 30 Oct 2025](#), Bloomfield, Stoddard County, Missouri

Missouri Veterans Cemetery, Bloomfield, Stoddard County, Missouri

Plot: SECTION I ROW 31 SITE 520

No grave photo

[Stephen Wayne Killian](#)

[3 Oct 1951 – 25 Apr 2026](#), Hickory, Catawba County, North Carolina

Catawba Memorial Park, Hickory, Catawba County, North Carolina



No grave photo

[T'Kenya Gayle Killian](#)

[25 Oct 1981 – 2 Sep 2025](#), Delhi, Richland Parish, Louisiana

Mount Zion Cemetery, Delhi, Richland Parish, Louisiana

Summer 2026

No grave photo

[William Harold Killian](#)

[5 Dec 1947 – 8 Nov 2025](#), Union County, Georgia

Ebenezer Baptist Church Cemetery, Union County, Georgia

No grave photo

[Wilma Louise Killian](#)

[31 Jan 1931 – 10 Aug 2025](#), Maryville, Blount County, Tennessee

Old Mount Tabor Cemetery, Maryville, Blount County, Tennessee



No grave photo

[Geneva Hodges Killian Kilgore](#)

[3 Oct 1935 – 6 Sep 2025](#), Skyline, Jackson County, Alabama

Sanders Cemetery, Skyline, Jackson County, Alabama



No grave photo

[Bobbie Burgess Killian Mooneyham](#)

[26 Mar 1931 – 18 Aug 2025](#), Clayton, Johnston County, North Carolina

Knollwood Memorial Park, Clayton, Johnston County, North Carolina



No grave photo

[Wilma Louise Bolinger Smith Killian](#)

[31 Jan 1931 – 10 Aug 2025](#), Maryville, Blount County, Tennessee

Old Mount Tabor Cemetery, Maryville, Blount County, Tennessee



No grave photo

[Twyla Cox Killian Towt Pittsinger](#)

[9 Jan 1928 – 19 Dec 2025](#), Ephraim, Sanpete County, Utah

Ephraim Park Cemetery, Ephraim, Sanpete County, Utah

Summer 2026



What to Bring to DNA Table at Reunion

(Shared by AKDHA DNA Co-Administrator, [James Walker Green III](#))

DNA talks with Q&A sessions followed by workshops downloading & uploading your DNA & Gedcoms from Ancestry.com, FTDNA, Wiki-Tree, Living DNA, Ged-Match, & more to FTDNA, Wiki-Tree, Living DNA, Ged-Match, y-tree Y-Full, & more.

Bring your laptop or other device if you know how to use it, with downloading & uploading & to get codes sent to your email or phone.

Bring kit# or email address to login & passwords to login into your kits at all companies where you have your DNA already.

Log in to make sure you know how and to make sure a company has not changed password requirements or instituted 2-step logins where you have to enter a code sent to a phone # or to an email address you can get into.

Print a few copies of your pedigrees, Y-DNA matches, Big-Y Block Trees, & autosomal matches.

We may have a few kits to sell cheap e.g. Ancestry.com kits for \$45 & laser printer copies. I may have Kit #'s & passwords for kits in projects I manage. Join your Killian Y-DNA kits to the Killian project & join project at FTDNA Y & autosomal kits to the FF-Killian DNA project at FTDNA.

Phone me (James Walker Green III) at 803-402-3710 well before the reunion to try to work out some of these details before you come to bring to share download of your DNA from Ancestry.com to upload your DNA to MyHeritage.com.

Summer 2026

Summer 2026

