

Monument Remarks

Eddie Killian, past president

September 12, 2009

The Killian clan was organized formally on August 22, 1935 at Old Salem Lutheran Church and German Reformed Church six miles north of Lincolnton, N.C. near the Lincoln-Catawba County Line. It was decided then to have a reunion there on the second Sunday of September. Since that time only two years have been missed during World War II. The meeting places have varied over the years at several different churches.

At this spot on Sunday October 19, 1952 the Killian Clan unveiled the monument you see today.

It was dedicated by J. Yates Killian with Jesse C. Sigmon, president of the Killian Clan, Rev John Koons, Robert Mayo Hefner, Rosalyn Reid , Hon Charles R. Jonas, Cletus H. Killian father of the late George W. Killian and C. H. Killian of Brooklyn, New York. In attendance were approximately one thousand descendants and friends. The monument cost approximately \$1500.00 and was paid for by donations from the Killian Clan and friends.

Officers of the Killian Clan were:

Jesse C. Sigmon Sr., President, Newton, N.C.

Odus C. Carpenter, Vice President, Lincolnton N.C.

John F. Carpenter, Secty-Treas, Maiden N.C.

The memorial committee was composed of:

Raymond L. Hefner, Chairman, Hickory N.C.

John F. Carpenter, Sr., Maiden N.C.

Viola Mayo Hefner, Hickory N.C.

Sally Fisher Carpenter, Maiden, N. C.

J. Yates Killian, Newton N.C.

Doris Rhodes Carpenter, Dallas N.C.

Thomas E. Rhodes, Lincolnton, N.C.

Jesse C, Sigmon Sr, Newton, N.C.

Sarah Herman Rhodes, Lincolnton, N.C.

Anne Killian Sigmon, Newton, N.C.

Guy C. Killian, Gastonia, N.C.

Miss Gladys Stine, Hildebrand, N.C.

Annie Winget Killian, Gastonia, N.C.

The speaker was Cletus H. Killian who had corresponded with Raymond L. Hefner to obtain a copy of his first book, *The History of the Killian Family in North Carolina* written by Yates Killian. This book and friendship with the N.C Killian's was instrumental in Cletus becoming a vital part of the Killian Clan and it's interests. Cletus' speech was a look back at the important dates and occasions in the life of Andreas. Much of which lacked current day verification but a moving speech none the less.

A detailed description of the marker was made by Cletus H. Killian to better understand its significance.

The top is about 20 degrees from horizontal with an unfinished or rough hewn border provided.

At the top is a map of the Atlantic Ocean with America and Europe. A star indicates the county of birth, Germany; a dotted line represents the route of travel; a cross, represents the death and burial; a sailing ship represents the type in which he came to America; a rising sun is symbolic of his life in a new country. Below are listed his twelve children and special inscriptions.

As descendents of Andreas, we are proud to stand here 221 years after his death to honor his name and heritage. As we have placed this wreath of honor and appreciation let us be thankful of all that's come before us as Andreas' descendents. Not too many families can have the claim to fame as we are experiencing here today. We remember the vision of those who came before us to establish the SSS reunion. We owe each of them a large debt of gratitude for their hard work and dedication. Thank you for all your efforts to be here today. I challenge you today to assume the torch of your history as it relates to our Pioneer Father Andreas Killian. Our association is challenged today more than ever before to continue this great tradition. Come join us in the efforts this will require.

Closing Prayer-----Major Max Sipe

"Our Father,

Thank you for our grandfather Andreas Killian. Thank you for his determination of a better life in these United States. Thank you for permitting us to carry on his vision here today. Bless us as we continue to learn and grow in our efforts to uncover information and the truth of our past.

Amen"