

The Killian Family Newsletter

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OUR PAST PRESENT & FUTURE

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THE ONE-ROOM KILLIAN SCHOOL IN PERRY CO., MO

by George W. Killian based on recollections of
Linnet Nesslein Killian Loiseau [RIN 113]

Philip Killian [RIN 32], born 1766 in NC and a grandson of **Andreas'** through **John** [RIN 42], was the first **Killian** in southeast MO arriving in 1806, just after the 1805 census. As the years passed there were many descendants and schools were needed. These early descendants, like a few of us, and most of our ancestors went to one-room country schools. Many **Killians** lived in the same community and farmed adjacent tracts of land.

It is speculated that **John Killian** [RIN 20] born in 1827, a grandson of **Philip's**, donated the land on which the one-room school, which came to be known as *The Killian School*, was built. It was known as *The Killian School* because it was on **Killian** land, had many **Killian** students and **Killian** relatives and a **Killian** (or a relative) was frequently the teacher. I have a picture of the children at *The Killian School* on the last day of school in 1904. The picture has 67 people, 20 of whom are **Killians** and 19 of whom are **Schindlers** all of whom are related or eventually married into the **Killian** line. That makes 58% of the group with only two names. Clearly *The Killian School* was an appropriate name.

Mary Linnet Nesslein (she has always used the name **Linnet**) was 16 when she finished her second year of high school and she was asked if she would teach. This was during the time

that boys were enlisting in WWI, or being drafted. She was given a book on Pedagogy, took the teacher examination, and taught for five years. She boarded in the school neighborhood. There was a lot of snow her first teaching year, in the winter of 1917, and only once since has there been as much, in Feb 1978.

By today's standards the **Killian** School was austere, There was no carpet, and no plumbing or artificial light. There was a wood stove near the middle of the room and a small library at a corner in the rear. However, they had one thing that is seldom seen in today's schools, pictures of **George Washington** and **Abraham Lincoln!** There were two front doors; the boys used one door and that side of the room, while the girls used the other. Two pupils sat at each desk. There were shelves for lunch pails and coat racks in the front corners. Between the doors was the teacher's desk and in front of that a long bench for the class that was reciting.

My sister, **Margaret**, made an interesting observation about one-room schools after attending one for a week (as a guest student). "It was a most impressive experience for me. The teacher, as I recall, was only about eighteen; I had the

impression that she had not had any college training though that seems rather odd. I have often looked back and thought what an advanced system the one-room school really is, with each pupil advancing at his own speed. You could be in third grade reading and fifth grade math. You finished school when you had finished all the grades. I also thought that the students must have acquired a good ability to concentrate with so much extraneous activity going on around them as the teacher taught other groups. Bright students could absorb much advanced work. On the negative side, one always had the same children around year after year, just losing the graduates and gaining the new first graders. I suspect it was easier for children to get stuck in categories: quiet, bossy, troublemaker, etc."

Linnet says: "There was an average of five or six children in each grade, and maybe 40 or 45 in the room. When one class was reciting, the other pupils were studying, preparing for their turn at recitation. Those who needed more time to study took their books home. There were some disadvantages in having these small schools. Some students were distracted by other classes, and often there was not enough money for adequate library facilities. If the teacher was a poor teacher, everything about the school suffered. The school year lasted seven months." The short school year was to allow the boys to be available to help on the farm during the busy season.

One of the older pupils, or a family, did the janitor work, cleaning, bringing in the wood and building the fire. They were

The 1995 Andreas Killian Reunion
will be held
Sunday 10 September 1995
at the
Castanea Presbyterian Church, Stanley, NC
Located on NC Hwy 16 at Lucia
(15 miles northwest of Charlotte)
Business meeting and Program at 3 P.m.
**Picnic follows. Please bring a picnic supper.
Drinks, cups, plates, etc. will be provided.**
Please bring an updated Family Group
Record
and/or a Pedigree Chart.
*This is the only notice of the meeting.
Separate Invitations will not be mailed.*

paid by the trustees. During the day the teacher and pupils kept up the fire and got water from a cistern, using a hand pump. The boy's and girl's outhouses were at opposite corners of the school grounds. Most students walked to school, some as much as three miles. Many had morning chores to do before going to school, the school day ended at four. A bell was rung to indicate time to start classes. The students lined up on their respective sides according to where they were seated, the ones in the front seats going in first. The day was begun by calling the first grade to class. Besides using the first grade reader, part of the work was done on the board. Then the second grade reading class was called, etc. Arithmetic was next until all were heard. Other subjects included language, grammar, geography, history and spelling. Additional subjects were worked in for 7th and 8th grades. In mid-morning and mid-afternoon there was a fifteen minute recess. At noon there was an hour for lunch and play. Lunch might comprise a meat or egg sandwich, sorghum molasses and butter mixed and made into a sandwich and a cup of canned fruit. There was no playground equipment, the students played in small or large groups as suited their fancy. Games such as kick the can, crack the whip, hide-an-go-seek, blind man's bluff, fox and geese, and ring around the roses. [Who can tell us what *fox and geese* was?]. After lunch they often sang a song or two.

When it was time to go home assigned monitors gathered the coats and lunch pails and distributed them, and at a signal all marched quietly out of the room.

Linnet says that during her years at **Killian School** they had a big celebration on the last day of the school year. The whole district turned out, parents and families, children and past graduates. They brought baskets of food for a feast. The food was placed on a long table and each one helped himself. After the meal the pupils, with help from the teacher, put on a program of songs, dialogues, and recitations. It was a fun day. In the 1904 photograph virtually every child is wearing a hat, or bonnet and most boys have coats. Some of the people in the 1904 picture look a little old to be students, perhaps they are some of the "past graduates".

Mary Linnet Nesslein married **Fintan O. Killian** [RIN 14] and had five children. He died of a heart attack in 1939. In 1943 she married **Louis Loiseau** and lived in Perry Co., MO. Where she and both husbands were raised. A few years ago she went to live with her daughter **Lillian Killian** [RIN 115] **Nelson** in Los Gatos, CA. She has a clear mind and for decades has been a great help to me by providing information on the **Killians** of Perry Co., MO.

John C. Killian [RIN 1775] is a third cousin to **George W. Killian** [RIN 1]. John made an interesting observation about **Linnet**. He stated: "I recall how completely curious and appropriate that this lovely woman, **Linnet**, named after a tiny songbird, should eventually marry a Frenchman whose last name **Loiseau** could be translated 'The Bird'. I thought only **Charles Dickens** was capable of conjuring up such a delightful combination. Every time I think about her I have to chuckle."

I have known this story for so many decades I do not recall who told it to me, but I believe it was told in her presence, if not by her herself.

When she was born in 1897 she was the last of eight children, she looked sickly and was not expected to live. As a result no name was chosen, and they called her "Little Sister" or "Lil' Sis" for short. However, she did live, but by the time they knew she was not going to die they were used to the name "Little Sister" and did not bother with another name. When "Lil' Sis" started school the teacher said that she should have a real name. The class participated in giving her a name by putting suggested names in a hat. When all had made their contributions "Lil' Sis" pulled out two names and became, on the school rolls, **Margaret Phyllis Killian**. She used **Margaret Phyllis** on official documents, but was known by siblings, relatives and neighbors as "Lil' Sis" all her life.

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ANDREAS' DESCENDANTS

I have some data on 8,263 known direct descendants of **Andreas'**. The number for each of his twelve children are listed below.

Margaret [RIN 53]	713
Leonard [RIN 54]	2,190
John [RIN 42]	2,832
Jean [RIN 55]	57
Crate [RIN 56]	0
Andrew [RIN 57]	209
George [RIN 58]	17
Brina [RIN 59]	0
Daniel [RIN 60]	199
Samuel C. [RIN 61]	2,023
Christianna [RIN 62]	11
Elizabeth [RIN 63]	0

Note that these are direct descendants and does NOT include spouses. Unfortunately we do not know any descendants for three of **Andreas'** twelve children. Only a few years ago we had no descendants for either **George** or **Margaret**. When I found that **Margaret** went to Virginia and recorded this in the *Family History Center* files several of her descendants contacted me and provided more information. Perhaps we will eventually know more about **Crate**, **Brina** and **Elizabeth**. It is suspected that this data includes a little less than half of **Andreas'** total descendants. There is a long way to go.

If your mailing label does not include a RIN number under your name I do not know who you are. Please provide information. If you would like to see what information I do have on your family please send a request, your RIN number and a return envelope. Probably you can add a lot of additional information.

Ed Killian: Can you add additional descendants for **George**?

We ought to be able to get more for **Andrew** and **Daniel**. Perhaps they are the elusive ancestors of the Alabama **Killians**.

●

ELMORE ATMAR MARTIN, JR. RIN 4410
Andreas' 4th great grandson through **Samuel C**
 by: Himself

The article about **James R. Killian Jr.** [RIN 4387] in the last *Killian Family Newsletter* was of interest. I visited him at MIT several times.

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THE KILLIAN SCHOOL AND
 THE NAMING OF MARGARET PHYLLIS KILLIAN
 [RIN 1660]
 by **G. W. Killian**

A bit of information on myself. I graduated from the University of South Carolina in 1934 with a degree in Journalism and edited a house newspaper for a year. Then I studied at Tulane & USC graduate school before going to UCLA, getting a PhD in Psychology in 1946, after four years in WWII in US Navy in Africa, Italy & English Channel.

I went to Idaho as Chief Psychologist for state mental health. Won American Psychiatric Association award as "Most Improved Hospital in US", in 1954. Came back to SC as Chief Psychologist at SC State Hospital where I led movement to "treat" all the 7,000 patients "warehoused" there. We started a Vocational Rehabilitation program for mentally disabled which placed thousands of patients in jobs winning 2 or 3 awards as best rehab program in U.S.

In mid 60s worked with poverty program in California, first with thousands of young men 16-22 in Job Corps. We civilized thousands of violent and withdrawn men. Then worked as Associate Professor at San Francisco State University training Poverty Boards for San Francisco area projects in Chinatown, the Mission district, several black ghettos like Hunters Point and Western Addition, place Oakland and many others around Bay Area. Then, for seven years I was Chief Psychologist for Pennsylvania Office of Mental Health, then back to SC where I retired in 1981. I went back to work with children's unit of Wm S. Hall Psychiatric Institute in Columbia for three years. Helped train dozens of psychologists and psychiatrists, and many hundreds of psychiatric nurses over the years. In Sep 94 a daughter died so I came back to SC to assist her children.

Daughters **Dana** and **Tina** won Miss Columbia beauty contests in 1959 and 1964. **Dana** married psychiatrist **Herman Langner** and has worked overseas many years in Tonga, Algeria, Japan and Spain. Now teaching English as a second language at San Francisco City College.

We are all struggling for a bit more democracy in America.

JAMES R. KILLIAN JR.'S NAME

by his daughter

Carolyn Killian [RIN 4414] Staley

My father is probably smiling over all the confusion about his name! His birth certificate reads **James Robert Killian Jr.** His Social Security card was **James R. Killian Jr.** To my knowledge he never legally changed his name and simply replaced the **Robert** with **Rhyne** and never bothered to drop the "Jr." Perhaps this was his way of satisfying both parents which would have been typical of him. **Rhyne** to please his mother and the "Jr." to please his father. My mother and other family members always called him "**Rhyne**" but professionally he was called "**Jim**". He always signed **James R. Killian, Jr.** I believe that his death certificate reads **James Rhyne Killian, Jr.**

CHARLES ALFRED KILLIAN [RIN 1260]

"Judge Killian"

1852 — 1937 in Perryville, MO

by **John Charles Killian [RIN 1775]**

a grandson

Charles Alfred Killian was a great grandson of the **John Killian** mentioned in the "One-Room **Killian** School" article. His grandson, **John Charles Killian** (the one who pointed out the amusing feature of **Linnet's** name) provided the following

information about "**Judge Killian**", as he was known in Perryville, MO.

Charles' parents were both **Killians**, first cousins. His father was **Joseph Charles Killian [RIN 30]** a brother to the **John Killian [RIN 20]** who gave the land for the **Killian** School. **Joseph's** wife was **Almira Josephine Killian**. Their common grandfather was **Philip Killian**. **Almira's** father was **John Killian [RIN 34]**, a grandson of **John**, the son of **Andreas**. **Almira's** father, **John**, was the first **Killian** to join the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormons). He went west in the 1840s and has hundreds of descendants in the west. **Judge Killian** was educated in Perryville public schools, St. Mary's Seminary and "the academy at Arcadia". He studied law under his father and was admitted to the Bar in April 1876. He served three terms as Prosecuting Attorney and in 1904 was elected Judge of the 27th judicial circuit, serving for six years. He and his wife **Matilda McAtee** had eight children, the last of whom was '**Lil Sis**' mentioned above. I (referring to the grandson who provided the information) have many childhood memories of **Judge Killian**, my grandpa. He died when I was only 11 years old. He loved pinochle and he and grandma and my Aunts and Uncles (this would include **Lil Sis**, although the grandson refers to her as '**Aunt Sis**') played almost nightly. Grandpa had lost one hand and the thumb and pinky of the other hand to cancer. He had rigged a small box to hold his cards and it was my duty to play the card which he indicated. I had to sit on his lap to do so.

The last time I was allowed on his lap was the time when a cousin and I mounted his lap as he slept and, with grandma's sewing shears, cut away exactly half of his luxurious beard! I shall never forget what happened to us.

I helped grandpa work crossword puzzles. My love of crossword puzzles endures to this day and I can't wait for my grandson to reach the age of inquiry. I shall find a way to let him help me.

Aunt Sis had only one daughter that died in 1932 at age nine when I was six. I was close to **Aunt Sis** and her husband, **Hank**, was my fishing buddy. **Aunt Sis** was totally devoted to her parents and siblings. She cared for them all in their illness and ultimately buried them all.

When the depression struck, **Judge Killian**, who was a director, and I believe founder, of the First National Bank in Perryville, lost everything when the bank failed. Furthermore he assumed responsibility personally for many of the losses suffered by his friends and associates who had trusted their life savings to the bank.

I have a letter from my father, **Ralph [RIN 1654]**, in which he states that the last of grandpa's debts were finally paid off. The family was on the rocks financially and the whole family lived in grandpa's large house. This included Grandpa, Grandma, **Aunt Sis**, Uncle **Hank**, Aunt **Bertha**, my father, my mother myself and my brother and sister as well as a cousin. They also rented one room. All of this without indoor plumbing or central heating!

My parents had their own cooking and living space but **Aunt Sis** cooked for everyone else, and kept house, and shopped, and cleaned, and god knows what. All the while having me under foot because I much preferred to be around grandma and grandpa.

Aunt Sis was a marvelous person and I can't recall ever hearing her complain. I have her portrait and she was a gorgeous

woman in her younger years. As she aged and grayed she bore the marks of toil and worry, but she was still the classy dame.

John made the following comments after reading about **Cletus Killian** in the last *Killian Family Newsletter*.

My father, **Ralph**, and I visited **Cletus** in Brooklyn, NY, I can't remember when. **Cletus** was a brilliant man, no question, and somewhat eccentric, if that's the proper word. Without seeming to denigrate his talents, he could talk on any subject, hence his propensity to talk on any subject without necessarily being invited to talk. This coupled with his dedication to wearing the baggiest of khaki shorts in Perryville, where no respectable male wore ¹shorts, branded him as eccentric. My father enjoyed **Cletus** no end. Dad had similar propensities, fortunately not in conflict, so they were really a pair when they got together.

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The 1996 Reunion

Next year, in 1996, the Killian Reunion will be held at the Salem Lutheran & Reformed Church on the Startown Road. This is the 200th anniversary of the church and **Jacob Killian** gave the land for the Church. We expect to have an interesting program and hope that you will plan on attending this event on the Second Sunday of September 1996, i.e. on September 8th.

Please send subscription contributions to support *The Killian Family Newsletter* to: William D. Killian • 1995 Haywood Road • Hendersonville, NC 28791.

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ALABAMA KILLIANS

a Letter from John H. Killian

...enclosed is a donation for the *Killian Family Newsletter*. It is a joy to receive news of our kinsmen.

My Great-Great-Great Grandfather, **Daniel Killian**, was born in North Carolina, moved to Hills Creek Tennessee in the early 1800's, having served in the War of 1812 from NC. He is buried in the **Killian** Cemetery near Fort Payne, AL. However, we have had difficulty proving who his father was. Likely possibilities are the following sons of **Andreas: John, Daniel** and **Andrew**. For years we all thought that it was **Daniel**, son of **Andreas**. However, the Georgia **Killians** who do trace back to Daniel, son of **Andreas**, have pretty well debunked that idea.

Much brighter individuals than I have come up short on determining our line back to **Andreas**. Perhaps, someday we will find the missing piece of the puzzle.

My father, **Robert H. Killian**, of Birmingham, AL will be eighty years old on 1 December 1995, We had planned to attend the reunion on 10 Sep 1995. However, I serve as a Baptist minister at the Boldo First Baptist Church in Jasper, AL and will be preaching a revival that Sunday. My desire is to attend one day.

Again, thank you for the newsletter. Keep up the good work.

Comment by George W. Killian, Editor

1 Note by George W. Killian, son of Cletus. I know that a couple times Cletus visited in Perryville for a few weeks before the death of his father. I had no idea he wore shorts, I never saw him wear them in Brooklyn. However, it was not unusual for him to strip to his underwear on a hot day. If the doorbell rang mother had to race him to the door to keep him from answering in his underwear.

As many of you know I have some data on thousands of Killians in my computer. I have worked a little with a few of the Alabama Killians to try to identify their connection, if any, to **Andreas**. Hopefully, I may be able to help more. Would some of the Alabama Killians please send me their best pedigree charts and oldest family group records. Let's see if together we can find the elusive connection. Although most Killians look to **Andreas** as an ancestor we should not forget that other **Killians**, probably including brothers of **Andreas**'s, also came to America. Perhaps the Alabama **Killians** are not **Andreas**' descendants! Suggestions from others would be most welcome. Write to: **George W. Killian** • 17 Charing Cross • Fairport, NY 14450-3926. Stamped envelope for a reply, please.

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SOME OF THE MOST COMMON AND LEAST COMMON GIVEN NAMES

Although I have 8,263 direct descendants of **Andreas**' many of them now have last names other than **Killian**. There are approximately 1,800 with the last name **Killian** and 750 with the name **Killion**. Here are some of the most common given names in my computer, and their frequency of use. Also some that are surprisingly rare. you should understand that some of these may not have **Killian** ancestry as about 40% of the total number are on my maternal and wife's sides. Some names may also include the name as a family name. For example, both **Henry & Thomas**, and others, appear as last names.

Name	Number	Name	Number
William	531	James	429
Ann	428	Elizabeth	405
Robert	296	Charles	287
Thomas	284	George	242
Henry	208	Sarah	192
Joseph	189	Marie	185
Jane	177	Margaret	164
Edward	154	Lynn	149
Susan	95	Samuel	88
Leonard	44	Elijah	17
Suzanne	14	Juanita	9
Moses	9	Ulyses	4
Cletus	4	Dianna	3

Also one each of: Sherri, Hezekiah, Adalada, Jude, Rosalee, Amzi, Fintan, Linnet, Garry, Bulah and others.

—END—