

# The Killian Family Newsletter

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Published Twice a Year

OUR PAST PRESENT & FUTURE

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## WILLARD ISRAEL 1926 - 1998 RIN 19734 From Friends & Obituaries

For decades the Killians in Alabama struggled to find their relationship, if any, to **Andreas Killian**. Willard devoted years to collecting information about the Alabama Killians, and their relationship to each other. He examined records of the descendants of **Andreas Killian** to try to find a connection. Finally, he found the probable connection. With this link, and all the data he had accumulated about the **Alabama Killians** he published a book. Even in its lengthy title he acknowledges he is not absolutely certain of the connection to **Andreas**. However, other **Killian** relatives believe he is right. His book is entitled: *The Descendants of Daniel Killian 1790-1876 and Cain Killian 1799 (1808) -1895 Both born in North Carolina and died in DeKalb County, Alabama and Their Possible Descent From Andreas Killian 1702-1788 Arriving at Philadelphia, PA on the English Ship "Adventure" 23 September, 1732.*

His book has 403 pages and many pictures and essays about several individuals. Alabama Killians, interested in their roots, should have copies. The book may be purchased from Willard's sister: **Eleanor Woodruff** • 17890 AL Hwy 68 • Crossville, AL 35962. The price is \$35 a copy.

News of Willard's death was sent via e-mail, to many interested in Killian genealogy by **John H. Killian**<sup>27362</sup>, a Baptist minister, of Birmingham, AL and a fourth cousin one generation removed, to Willard. John's message follows:

"One of our finest family members has passed away. **Willard A. Israel** of Crossville, AL died in his home on the evening of 2 Mar 1998. Visitation will be tonight (3 Mar) at Carr Funeral Home in Boaz, AL. Funeral will be Wednesday, 4 Mar at 3PM at the Marvin Methodist Church in Crossville, AL.

"Willard was a superb genealogist and record keeper. He authored the book on the **Killian** family in North Alabama, which

was published in 1996. Willard signed on as sponsor for scores of gentlemen to join the *Sons of the American Revolution* and worked tirelessly to help people find their ancestors.

"Willard had served as Superintendent of the DeKalb Co. Schools as well as the Ft. Payne City Schools. He was an active Methodist layman and active in DeKalb Co. politics.

"I am Willard's cousin and knew him to be a godly man, a caring man and a true friend. I am saddened at this loss as will be many who will receive this post. I am comforted with the knowledge that I will see Willard again in Heaven.

"I heard from Willard only yesterday. He was, as usual, interested in his family and devoted to his heritage. Willard was an encourager. Thank God for the impact of Willard Israel on the lives of so many."

The Northeast Alabama Genealogical Society also paid Willard Israel a significant tribute and acknowledged his contribution to their society and the community.

Willard's contribution to his community is clearly acknowledged by the fact that the local paper included two pages concerning him and his accomplishments. Willard and his sister, **Eleanor**, had planned their funerals to be nearly identical to that of their parents. Willard never married and was living with his widowed sister, **Eleanor**. Together they were raising a niece, **Tasha**

**THE 1998 KILLIAN FAMILY REUNION  
Will Be Held Sun 13 Sep 1998 at 3:00 pm  
at Castanea Presbyterian Church, Lucia, NC  
The Church is about four miles north of the  
Catawba River, on the left side of Highway 16,  
as you go north from Charlotte, NC  
After the business meeting a picnic dinner will  
be held in the church fellowship hall.  
Please bring a covered dish to share.  
Drinks and other supplies will be furnished.  
No other notice will be sent.**

Willoughby.

The Killian Family Newsletter is published twice a year by The Killian Association of North Carolina to collect and distribute information about the descendants of Andreas Killian and to publish information concerning their meetings which are held each year on the **Second Sunday of September**. Articles and information contained herein may be reproduced for noncommercial purposes, if appropriate credit is given. Material suitable for publication is desired. Send typed text to the Publication Committee comprising: Helen & William D. Killian • 1995 Haywood Rd. • Hendersonville, NC 28791-1924 Ph (704) 692-3577 and George W. Killian • 17 Charing Cross • Fairport, NY 14450-3926 Ph (716) 223-4839. Subscriptions: There is no fixed fee. Contributions in support of the newsletter are respectfully requested. Write to any of the above. Make checks to: *Killian Family Association*.

**Willard** was born in Rodentown, AL but spent most of his life in Crossville, AL where he was valedictorian of his class. He was a dedicated educator and even after retirement served 14 years on the County Board of Education. In addition he served in a variety of capacities in his church. In the early 1970's he became interested in genealogy and traced his **Killian** and other roots. **Willard** found Revolutionary War soldiers in his line and became a member of the *Sons of The American Revolution*. He traveled thousands of miles searching records and interviewing people. In addition to his **Killian** book he wrote books on the **Israels** and **Steels**. With two associates he extracted, compiled and indexed the marriages of DeKalb Co., AL from 1836 to 1916, a seven year project.

**Willard's** contribution to the collected knowledge of The Killian Family has been valuable. We will miss the opportunity to confer with him, and he will be missed at Killiam Family Association meetings. **Willard** will long live in the memory of those who were privileged to know him.

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## OUR PAST PRESENT & FUTURE

G W Killian

Our masthead implies we are concerned about our future. But most articles have related to our past or the present.

Are we concerned about our future generations? Do we want them to be responsible citizens and parents? Do we wish them a successful marriage? Do we hope they will never know poverty or want? WHAT ARE WE DOING TO ASSURE EACH OF OUR CHILDREN WILL ACHIEVE THEIR BEST POTENTIAL?

One of the most important things we can do is love each other, love our children and live an exemplary life. Here are a few comments garnered from reading the best selling book *The Millionaire Next Door*. These are some characteristics of the millionaire next door: [The Millionaire Next Door is a man that has a net worth of over one million dollars, but lives modestly. He makes, conserves and preserves wealth.] Here are some of typical characteristics:

- They are fairly well educated.
- Only 17% attended a private elementary or high school.
- 2/3 are self employed, and only 1/4 of these are doctors etc.
- Typical businesses are: welders, farmers, owners of mobile-home parks, auctioneers, etc.
- Half of the wives do not work outside the home.
- 97% are homeowners and have owned the same house. over 20 years. Most homes are mortgage free.
- Most did not receive any inheritance.
- 80% are first generation affluent.
- They live well below their means.
- Nearly half never received any college tuition from parents or other relatives.
- Many drive used cars; very few drive prestige cars.
- Very few are known, or want to be known, as millionaires. They do not aspire to, or try to live, the lifestyle of "The Rich and Famous", as portrayed on TV.
- As a group they comprise about 3.5% of the population.

Are these attributes you want for your children? Typically these millionaires have a happiness quotient well above average, they are solid citizens, and usually have stable marriages and children. Unfortunately German ancestry does not help assure entrance to the millionaire group! Russians have the highest

percent of their group as millionaires. Scottish and Hungarian are next. Germans are 9<sup>th</sup>.

If 3.5% of the general population are millionaires it means that among the group who receive this newsletter we should have at least ten.

Clearly an important route to millionaire hood is to live well below your means. Emulate the life style of the unknown millionaire next door. Learn about various types of investments. Invest in what you know. Budget, do not buy on credit (unless you pay in full each billing cycle). Most millionaires have Visa or Master Cards, but they do not pay any monthly interest charges. *There is no dignity quite so impressive and no independence quite so important as living within your means.* (Calvin Coolidge).

Live and teach these principles within your family. They are seldom taught in our schools. They certainly are not taught through advertising! Advertisers want you to live beyond your means.

Teach your children to be economically independent. It has been shown that children who are given "economic aid" by their parents are *less likely* to become millionaires than those who have learned to be economically independent.

One of the richest of American men was asked if he would leave his fortune to his children. He responded that he would leave them enough that they could do anything they wanted; but not enough that they didn't have to do anything.

Do you have any suggestions for helping our future generations attain financial independence combined with family solidarity? Please submit them.

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## JOHN HUME KILLIAN RIN 32167

From News & Obituaries

Dr. **John H. Killian** of Asheville, NC, an ophthalmologist, was killed 10 Apr 1998 in an automobile accident. He was the first fellowship-trained ophthalmologist in Western, NC, the first to do cataract surgery with a 'phaco' machine, and had been on the Duke University Eye Center faculty since 1976 as a consulting professor of ophthalmology. He had been a leader in eye care, and helped develop a specialty practice for retinal disease, including bringing the first laser for diabetes treatment for the eye.

He was a strong advocate for public schools, formerly serving on the Asheville City Schools Foundation board, had worked with youth soccer and as a member of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church and contributed to many good causes. He was an avid racquetball player and fly fisherman.

**John** enjoyed *The Killian Family Newsletter* and recently made a very generous contribution towards its continued publication.

**John Hume Killian** is descended from **Andreas** through **Daniel Sr.**, **George**, and **Daniel W.** who was born in 1834, and his son **Paul B.**, and **Frank M Killian** was the father of **John Hume Killian**.

**John Hume Killian** was only 56 years old. He leaves a wife, **Fran**, and sons, **John Hume Jr.**, and **Frank Andreas**, both of whom are in their 20s. From **Frank's** middle name, "**Andreas**", one may presume his father had an interest in his ancestry. So far as is known no descendant of Pioneer **Andreas Killian** has been named **Andreas**, as a first name, and there have been only six **Andreas**.

The staff of *The Killian Family Newsletter* extends its sympathy to **John Hume Killian's** family.

Any one married longer? Who is older? Is there another family with more than three couples married over 50 years?

## LONG MARRIED COUPLES & OLD KILLIANS

A Report by G W Killian

The winner for longest married, so far as known at this time, is **Ralph A. Killian**<sup>4325</sup> and **Clara Houghland** who have completed 68 years of marriage having been married at age 19 in 1929. Note that **Ralph** is a **Killion** not **Killian**. Picture below with them and their seven children: **Sonya, Daniel, Kenneth, Beth, Steven, Vonda & Ronald.**

**Minnie Stewart Lail**, a descendant of **Andreas'** through **Samuel C.** said three of her brothers have been married for more than fifty years. They are:

- **Fred Yount Stewart**<sup>6021</sup> & **Alma Stafford**  
md 9 Aug 1940 = 58 years this year;
- **Thomas B. Stewart**<sup>6019</sup> & **Jackie Rockette**  
md 25 Jul 1941 = 57 years this year; and
- **Carl W. Stewart**<sup>6021</sup> & **Audrey Welch**  
md 24 Dec 1947 or 51 years this year.  
**Minnie** turned 83 in May 1998 and her sister, **Annie**, was 85 in January.
- **Douglas Fairbairn Jones & Sarah Margaret Hendren**<sup>17331</sup>  
(of **Killian** line) md 29 Dec 1942, so 56 years this year.
- **Sam Ernest Killian**<sup>26063</sup> and **Jackie (Lacy)**  
celebrated 62 years of marriage on 15 Feb 1998. Six of their seven children are living, eleven grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren. Many live near Mabank, TX.
- **Eugene (Gene) Killian**<sup>11266</sup> & **Kathleen (Katy) Humphrey**  
were married 51 years on 24 May 1998. **Gene** is the son of **Carl E. Killian**. **Gene** wrote an article about his father that was in Vol. 2 #2 of *The Killian Family Newsletter*.
- **Evelyn Wilson Killian**<sup>10312</sup> a descendant of **Andreas'** through **John** is the daughter of **Guy Coleman Killian**<sup>6579</sup> (1889-1970), one of the early members of the *Killian Family Association*. **Evelyn** and **Harry Robert Parks** were married 58 years when **Harry** died in 1995.
- **Evelyn's** parents **Guy Coleman Killian** and **Annie Lee Winget** were married 3 months short of 60 years.
- Seven of **Evelyn's** cousins, all children of **James Garfield Killian**<sup>4456</sup>, were (or still are) married from 51 to 61 years. These were: **Ware Lafayette Killian, Ruby Killian, James Robert Killian, Elizabeth Margaret Killian, John Wilson Killian, Frances Madora Killian, and Carolyn Isabel Killian.**
- **Evelyn's** sister **Sara Elizabeth Killian & Jesse W Cooke** have been married for 57 years. And **Evelyn's** in-laws were married 65 years.



## ALEXANDER (LEX) KILLION RIN 4621

by his Great Grandson Alexander RIN 4325

**Ralph** and his wife **Clara Houghland** are the current winners of the longest married couple, 68 years. His ancestry going back is through his father **Ralph Alexander Killion, Sr., Nathan E., Alexander Killion, and William Killion**. This **William Killion** is the son of **Mathias Killian**, a son of **Leonard**, the son of **Andreas**. **William** was born in NC in 1788, but his son **Alexander** was born in Indiana in 1822. In the article "A Honey Story" mention is made of **Gene Killion**, who is also a descendant of the same **William Killion** named above.

**Ralph** states that he and **Clara** are the parents of four boys and three girls, of whom they are very proud. There are eighteen grandchildren and twenty-nine great grandchildren, and all are in good health.

**Ralph** sent an article that appeared in the Indianapolis News on Tues 22 Apr 1902 about the death of his great grandfather, **Alexander Killion**. It is:

"**Lex Killion**, the land king of southern Indiana, dropped dead at his home, ten miles north of here, yesterday afternoon. He was born in this county seventy-nine years ago. His parents were poor, but he left an estate valued at \$300,000. He owned more land than probably any other man in the south part of the state. He never speculated, but obtained his wealth by buying land and holding it until its value increased many times.

"He was married when a young man and took his bride to a 'lean to' that he had built against a large log in the forest along Prairie Creek. The log formed one side of the

house and the roof was of tree tops and straw.

"**Assessor's First Call:** Here it was that the township assessor made his first call on **Killion**, but found no taxable property. On his second call the assessor valued **Killion's** property at a dollar. By thrift and industry **Killion** then began to accumulate property. He bought land from \$1.25 to \$5 an acre and held it until it became worth \$40 to \$75 an acre. At the time of his death he owned 2,000 acres in Daviess Co, over 1,000 acres in Knox Co, about 1,500 acres in Dubois and Pike Counties, and strips of land in Greene and other counties. His taxes last year amounted to about \$2,000.

"**Ambition To Own land:** His ambition seemed to be to own land, and it made him an object for a number of sharpers, and he had numerous dangerous adventures with them. About twenty-five years ago, while **Killion** was going home from Washington on horseback, he was chased by a man who tried to shoot and rob him.

“He was sued for breach of promise by a young girl to whom he had written some ardent letters, and she obtained \$1,700 damages against him. **Killion** frequently said that the case cost him several times that amount.

“A Newberry citizen tried to get \$500 out of him by threatening to burn his property, several years ago, but **Killion** did not pay the money, and nothing came of the threat.

“About a year ago he received a letter, commanding him to place \$1,500 in a culvert, near his home, under penalty of having his children murdered. He was preparing to carry out the command, when his family interfered. His children went into camp at the homestead, and for about three weeks the house looked like a fort, but nothing came of the attempt to get the \$1,500.

“**Killion’s Christmas Gifts:** One of the peculiar habits of the old man, and one which made him much sought as a father-in-law, or an uncle, was a habit he had of giving each of his children \$1,000 in cash on each Christmas day, and often extending the line of gifts to his nephews and nieces. In the last four years he has given away to his children about 2,000 acres of land, estimated to be worth over \$100,000. The land was given exclusive of the regular Christmas gifts.

“His family consists of his wife, three sons and two daughters.”

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### WANTED: MORE RECORDS

G W Killian

What living person had the most children and/or the most descendants? I don’t suppose this would win but I have a brother and two cousins with eight children each. They are:

- **Jimmie W. Killian**<sup>7</sup> and **Junerose**;
- **Audrabelle Roy**<sup>133</sup> **Sutterer** and **Frank**; and
- **Merle Francis Killian**<sup>116</sup> and **Frances**.

When I was a child I recall my father, **Cletus H Killian**<sup>5</sup> saying he had over eighty first cousins. This was a modest claim! Including his siblings, and any who died in their youth, there were over 100. More than half were on his mother’s side. Who can beat that record?

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### A HONEY STORY

Abstracted and paraphrased from the *Beacon News* of Paris, IL of 27 Jan 1998 and a letter from **Gene Killion**<sup>11266</sup>, son of **Carl Killion**<sup>11047</sup> whose story was told in *The Killian Family Newsletter* Vol 2 #2.

**Gene Killion** (now retired and married 51 years), like his father, **Carl**, has been a honey producer for many years. He has served the Illinois Department of Agriculture as the state’s chief apiarist, and superintendent of the Apiary Department of the Illinois State Fair. He was an Extension Specialist in bee keeping for 12 years for the University of Illinois.

Two of his entries in the American National Honey Show held in Colorado Springs, CO won blue ribbons and trophies. The 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> such honors for the family. Entries were received from throughout the US, Alaska and Canada. **Gene** was surprised to win, as his best honey was stolen from it’s storage place.

**Gene’s** son **Mark** does not participate in the honey business due to his being allergic to bee stings. However, **Mark** was interested in honey producing procedures. Together they produced a 90 minute video taking the viewer through the whole season

showing preparing the colony, controlling swarming, removing the comb and preparation for market. Word got out in the beekeeping industry and many wanted a copy of the film and they decided to market it. It sells for \$45 postpaid. Write him at 502 E. Jasper St.; Paris, IL 61944 if you want a copy.

**Gene** says there is a Honey Bee Festival in Paris, IL each September and this has kept him from attending the **SSS Killian** Association meetings.



### A LONG PASTORATE

Abstracted from a letter sent by:

**Karol Killian McCracken** RIN 17111

My uncle **Glyn Killian**<sup>12224</sup> has been pastor of the Philadelphia Baptist Church in Warren Co., TN since 1961. Prior to that **Glyn’s** father, **Burl Franklin Killian**<sup>12222</sup> had been its pastor for 36 years. And **Burl’s** father-in-law, **John W. Gross**<sup>12174</sup> (also of **Killian** ancestry), had served with another man as pastor of the same church for many years before that.

**Karol** had a busy 1997, both of her children were married in the spring and now she is expecting a grandchild from each. **Karol** and her husband trained their children in music so they could sing all four parts in the car on family trips. Her children are considering names from their ancestry for the anticipated children. **Karol’s** daughter, **Casey**, was named for her grandfather **John Casey Killian**<sup>12223</sup>.

**Karol** enjoys quilt making, music, singing and her family. Sounds like she will be a doting grandmother.



### JEAN KILLIAN DAUGHTER OF ANDREAS

A Report by G W Killian

A few days after the last issue of *The Killian Family Newsletter* was completed **George Killian** received information about additional descendants of **Jean’s** to nearly triple the number of her descendants from 129 to over 300. Now it is only Brina for whom we have no known descendants. Can anyone help? She married **James Pritchett**. In 1985 a **Dennis Lee Pritchett** married a girl descended from **Margaret**, daughter of **Andreas**. Is James related?



### GEORGE KILLIAN SON OF ANDREAS

**Thomas R. Curtis**<sup>30761</sup>, a descendant of **George**<sup>58</sup>, son of **Andreas**, provided more of **George’s** descendants to increase the number from 37 to 1,163, including 403 spouses. Members of **Tom’s Curtis** line were neighbors of **George** in the Natchez district.

