

ANDREAS KILLIAN 2001 NEWSLETTER

66TH ANDREAS KILLIAN NC 3-DAY REUNION

This past September 8 - 10th , 2000, I had the distinct opportunity to be a part of a great Andreas Killian Family Reunion. I can only surmise the pride our ancestors would have felt seeing their descendants coming together from so many far away places to spend the weekend together on ancestral soil. Reunion committee members Eddie Killian of South Carolina, James Green of South Carolina, Lee Killian of North Carolina, Linda Barkley Hoyle of North Carolina Ed Killian of Mississippi and reunion president Steve Killian of North Carolina spent countless hours and weekends planning for the 3-day reunion. I felt honored to work with such a fine group and will treasure all I learned in the process.

I was so impressed with the Killian Family Email list, that is online, years ago when I first got my computer I learned how fortunate the Andreas Killian Family is to have the highly capable and industrious family genealogist working on Killian history. For those of you not online the Andreas Killian Family has a wealth of fine, dedicated and hard working genealogists. Each in their own geographical area keeping records of the descendants of the children of Andreas Killian. Most of our genealogists, if not all, have their own web pages with their genealogy available to the virtual community on the world wide web. The excitement of bringing all of these great genealogists together on the land of their forefathers was almost overwhelming.

We began our kick-off at the Cross Country Campground at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, afternoon the 8th of September, 2000. A meal of grilled hamburgers and hotdogs was available for anyone wishing to partake. Lee Killian and wife, Brenda greeted guests, held registration, and sold Killian Family Reunion t-shirts and buttons. (We will still have t-shirts and buttons available at this years reunion for any of you who would still like a chance to purchase.)

Beginning at 8:00 Friday night Ed Killian of Natchez, Mississippi, was the moderator for the Question & Answer Forum. On schedule to speak was as follows: Tom Allman, TN, NC, and GA Killians; WS Bill Hinds, Graceville, FL..Leonard Killian; George W. Killian..Fairport, NY..John Killian...Missouri compilation; Wayne Milam..Southside, AL..Daniel Killian..Andrew & Alabama Killians; (Jo-Ann Pedigo..Lebanon, IN..Leonard Killian..Indiana, were unable to attend) Ed Killian, Natchez, MS..George Killian..MS & LA. I was unable to be present at the forum due to assisting Pat Killian, wife of Bob Killian of SC and Loretta Killian, wife of Eddie Killian of SC, with the on-going cookout.

94 year old Bessie Killian Hayes, who had traveled that day from Missouri, stood up and said at the close Friday night (about 11:00 p.m.) "I want to thank those responsible for this reunion for giving me the happiest time of my life. All of my life I have wanted to see the land where my ancestors settled and not until this 3-day reunion have I ever had the opportunity to do so." When Bessie K. Hayes made that statement it made all of our work and effort worthwhile.

On Saturday Sidney Holman of the Catawba County Museum conducted a daylong bus tour of historically significant sites in Catawba County with a BBQ lunch at Murray's Mill, a 19th Century grist mill. We toured the private museum of the Elmer Killian family at Killian's Hardware, St. Stephen's & Millers Chapel Cemeteries, the Catawba County Museum of History located in the old historic Catawba County Courthouse, the Bunker Hill Covered Bridge, a national civil engineering landmark and one of only two remaining covered bridges remaining in North Carolina and the last remaining example of Haupt Truss. We saw the old homes of Catawba, NC, the Yates Killian Home, Ball's Creek Campground and Mountainview Baptist Church at Killian's Crossroad our day tour ended about 4:30 allowing us time to get to Salem Lutheran/Reform Church (the last Union church in North Carolina) for our evening program & meal. The property where Salem Church & cemetery is located was donated to the church by Jacob Killian.

At Salem Lutheran/Reform Ch. we had a cemetery tour then a short program with Killian descendant Jennifer Louise Hoyle singing a solo in our ancestor's native tongue of German.

After a catered buffet meal, Ed Killian of Mississippi, by use of projected computer image, shared his extensive Killian research with us on his ancestor (George Killian and descendants of Mississippi and LA. Very late that night James Green, Wayne Milam, Eddie Killian, Ed Killian and others demonstrated night photography of difficult to read cemetery monuments.

Sunday morning Killian descendants worshipped in the Old St. Paul's Lutheran Church Building. This was a service in combination with the annual homecoming at Old St. Paul's. The service was held in the 1800 church building. Our ancestor Andreas Killian's Monument was just outside of the church building.

At 2:00 p.m. the Andreas Killian Family members gathered at Castanea Presbyterian Church in Lucia for family photographs. Then we celebrated with our traditional, annual Killian Family Reunion in the fellowship room of the church and ended this eventful reunion with our dinner together. I am happy to report that all comments about our first 3-day Andreas Killian Reunion were very positive and I don't believe there was a negative comment made. I personally want to thank everyone who attended the reunion because it took all of us to have made the reunion so successful.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Barkley Hoyle

3-Day Andreas Killian Reunion Committee Member