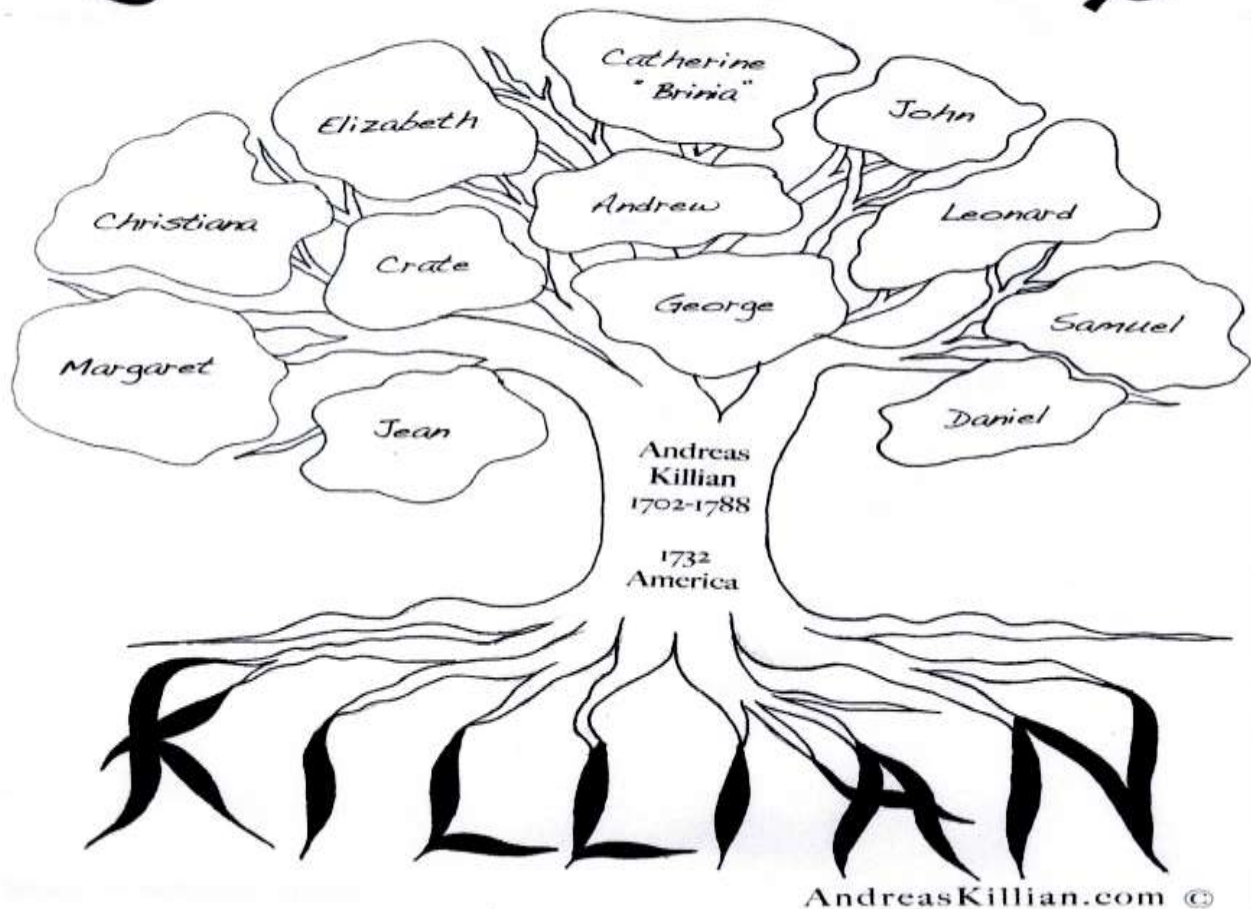


The Andreas Killian Descendants Historical Association of North Carolina

AKDHA

Our Roots Run Deep



Celebrating 92nd Year Reunion
September 11-12, 2026
Conover, North Carolina



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ADKHA Association Officers for 2027-2028 (2-year + terms)

President	Eddie Killian (SC)
Vice-President	Bill Killian (TX)
Secretary	Loretta Killian (NC)
Co-Secretary	Kim Sipe (NC)
Treasurer	_____
Co-Treasurer	_____
Historian	Kim Sipe (NC)
Newsletter Publisher	Eddie Killian (SC)
Webmaster	Eddie Killian (SC)
DNA Administrator	Cheryl Mann Killian (GA)
DNA Co-Administrator	James Green III (SC)
Book Editor & Sales	Cheryl Mann Killian (GA)
At Large	Lee Killian (NC)
At Large	_____
At Large	_____
Programs/Projects Director	_____
Cemeteries Project Director	_____
Welcome Committee	_____

Please help support this group, plan meetings, participant in setting up meetings, etc. Together a Team Effort can keep our reunion going each year, planning each year, and making it a successful event and family gathering among kinship folks.

Thank You---Cheryl Killian, Charles Killian, Eddie Killian, Dan Sipe, Sandy Phillips, Eddie Killian, Bill Hinds, William McCreight, Wayne/Catherine Milam, Wayne Setzer, Eric/Cathy Killian, Lee/Brenda Killian, Doris/Ray Pope, Linda/Steve Killian, Steve/Phyllis Killian, Bill Killian, Bill Hinds, Gene Killian and all that have contributed to the Descendants of Andreas Killian Organization (AKDHA).

If I've missed acknowledging anyone, please let me know, Thank you!

We could not do this without all of you - your knowledge, expertise, advice and time. Thank you and many blessings to you all.



Andreas Killian Descendants Historical Association Reunion

Celebrating 92 Years of Reunions

September 11-12, 2026

Schedule of Events

Our goal is to create a fun, informative and affordable event.

All information and any changes to the schedule will be available on our website at:

[Andreas Killian Descendants Historical Association \(AKDHA\)](#)

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.)

Locations:

- Mt. Zion Lutheran Church Family Life Center, 4420 County Home Road, Conover NC 28613

At all events:

- Reunion Schedules and maps available
- **Purchase your AKDHA Reunion Cookbooks, Killian Historical books, cookbooks etc.**
- Place your orders for Killian T-Shirts from last .

Friday, September 11, 2026

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

Potluck Supper 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 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 until about 11:00, we plan to meet and explore the Patrick-Beaver Library in Hickory.

11:30 am: Lunch at a local establishment, then return to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church Family Life Center

1:00 pm: **Killian DNA and Updates** by James Walker Green III, AKDHA DNA Co-Administrator

Break (including a group photo)

Ancestral Research by Eddie Killian, AKDHA 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) presentation (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: Service and Homecoming at Old St. Paul's Church, Startown-Conover Road, Newton, NC

10:30 am: Service at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, County Home Road, Conover, NC

Others See Below

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

(Eddie Killian: fairfieldgenealogy@truvista.net and Kim Sipe: kimbosipe@charter.net)

- Visit your/our AKDHA website: <https://www.fairfieldgenealogysociety.org/Family-Associations/AKDHA>
- Join/Sign-up for AKDHA Email list at AKDHA website
- Still looking for a person(s) to do the newsletter and or assist in getting the newsletter together and published

Killian Reunion (Hotel Gathering Place for One-on-One Learning Sessions)(Submitted by James Walker Green, III) (Submitted by James Walker Green, III)

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);

► From WEST on I-40 take exit #125 to Hickory. Turn right at Lenoir Rhyne Blvd. Turn quick left at 13th Ave. Dr. SE/NC-2267

► From EAST on I-40 take exit #125 to Hickory. Turn left at Lenoir Rhyne Blvd. Turn left at 13th Ave. Dr. SE/NC-2267

Cross Country Campground of Denver (800-852-4840) is available for those who wish to camp. The rate for full hookup is \$45 per night. Let us know ASAP that you intend to camp and we can contact the campground with a total site count for the group rate of \$40 per night. Call Eric Killian (828) 217-4488 or email at blademannc@yahoo.com.

For Meals on Your Own

The Best Western offers continental breakfast and you will have many choices near the hotel, including the Cracker Barrel, Golden Corral, Outback Steakhouse, Panera Bread, Applebee's, Valley Hills Mall Food Court, Longhorn Steak House, Texas Roadhouse, etc.

Cookbooks: Andreas Killian Cookbook (for sale, raise funds for Scholarship and the Association).



Street Address and Phone Numbers

Best Western (828) 323-1150
1520 13th Ave. Dr. SE
Hickory, NC 28602

Old St. Paul's Church
(Saturday evening/ Church Service Sunday)
1714 St. Paul's Church Rd.
Newton, NC 28658

Killian's Hardware Museum
(Closes Saturdays at 12 noon) (828) 256-2147
3790 Springs Rd., NE
Hickory, NC 28601

St. Stephens Lutheran Church ELCA
(Saturday Evening at 5pm, Sundays 2 services)
2259 12th Ave. NE
Hickory, NC 28601

Catawba County Museum of History
30 N. College Ave.
Newton, NC 28658
(828) 465-0383

Hart Square Village (828) 320-9461
5029 Hope Road
Vale NC 28168

St. Peter's Lutheran Church (828-256-2970)
6175 St. Peters Church Road
Conover NC 28613

St. John's Lutheran Church (828-464-4071)
2126 St. Johns Church Road
Conover NC 28613

Billy Graham Library (704) 401-3200
4330 Westmont Drive
Charlotte NC 28217

Boxcar Grille (828) 459-9287
(Friday night dinner and speaker)
3140 N. Oxford St.
Claremont. NC 28610

Mt. Zion Lutheran Church
(Church Service Sunday) (828) 256-2123
4420 County Home Rd.
Conover, NC 28613

Andy Killian's Auto Sports
(Saturday a.m.) (828) 256-2155
2570 Springs Rd., N.E.
Hickory, NC 28601

Murray's Mill (828) 241-4299
1489 Murrays Mill Rd.,
Catawba, NC 28609

Bunker Hill Covered Bridge
Off US Hwy 70
Claremont NC 28610
(14 miles east of Claremont NC)

Kings Mountain Historical Museum
100 E Mountain St. (704-739-1019)
Kings Mountain NC 28086

Castanea Community Church
14815 Lucia Riverbend Hwy
Stanley NC 28164
(704) 827-3551

Where the Reunions Began...

Salem Lutheran Church 3410 Startown Rd, Lincolnton NC 28092

Salem Church was founded by Joseph Killian, Anthony Hallman, Henry Cressamore, Jonas Rudisill, Henry Gross, Jonas Hedrick, John Cline-(Lutheran) and John Ramseur, Henry Ramseur, and Daniel Carpenter-(Reformed). Dr. L.L. Lohr states that "an organization was effected in 1796." Records indicate that the original organization took place in a log structure, but an exact date as to when the structure was built has not been found. The building was a community "Meeting Place" which was common among the German pioneers in their early settlements. The original structure could have been built around 1750.



The original log structure was situated on a tract of land owned by Jacob Killian. On July 19, 1815, Mr. Killian deeded the tract to the Commissioners "for the purpose of encouraging schools and a place for public worship." In 1835, an addition was built "to accommodate the people of color on days of public worship." In 1848, the decision was made to erect a new brick building on the Salem site. Although the Reformed had no organized congregation at the time and would not have for another 25 years, some Reformed families had buried their dead in the existing Salem cemetery. This prompted the Lutheran church leaders to make an unusual and compassionate decision to continue Salem as a union church. The new church building, completed in 1849, was dedicated in 1850 "to the use of the Lutheran and German Reformed Churches. The Lutheran congregation assumed 3/4th of the cost and the Reformed congregation 1/4th. Note—this proportionate



basis of sharing expenses for the union church arrangement has essentially continued to the present. A well was dug in 1928 to provide Salem Church with a good supply of water. Improvements were made over the years with due respect for preserving the "Country Church" atmosphere. Salem Lutheran Church was affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Tennessee Synod at the time of its original organization in 1796. This affiliation continued until May 2, 1921 when the Tennessee Synod was merged into the United Evangelical Lutheran Synod of North Carolina. At that time, Salem Lutheran Church became a part of the North Carolina Synod. With due consideration and respect for the important work of pastors known and unknown at Salem Lutheran Church prior to 1855 and after 1884, a giant step forward for the spread of Lutheranism in western North Carolina took place under the able and devoted efforts of the Rev. Alfred J. Fox, M.D. The Rev. A. J. Fox was ordained into the Lutheran ministry at a session of the Tennessee Synod at Salem Lutheran Church on September 13, 1838. He undoubtedly preached at Salem on many occasions prior to his call to Grace Lutheran Church (Lincoln County) and Salem Lutheran in 1855. It was typical at the time for many Lutheran congregations to hold worship services once a month. Congregations were so small that no single church could provide a living wage for a full-time pastor. At one time, Rev. Fox had responsibility for ministering to as many as eleven congregations. On top of his medical practice, this seemingly impossible task required him to cover the areas of Lincolnton, Newton, Hickory, Gastonia, Kings Mountain, and surrounding areas along with excursions into Tennessee on synod



business. His travel was made on horseback – never being late for appointments regardless of the weather for twenty-eight years. Rev. Fox was elected president of the Tennessee Synod on five occasions. He was one of the first to open Sunday Schools in the Lutheran Church. He died quietly on June 10, 1884 with the words “I know that my Redeemer liveth” on his lips. Rev. Fox was buried in the Salem Lutheran Cemetery – beside the Church he loved and where he had been pastor without interval with Salem Lutheran for twenty-eight years of service to the church.

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 (Deutch) 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. 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 Deutch 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 Gottfried 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 Deutsch 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

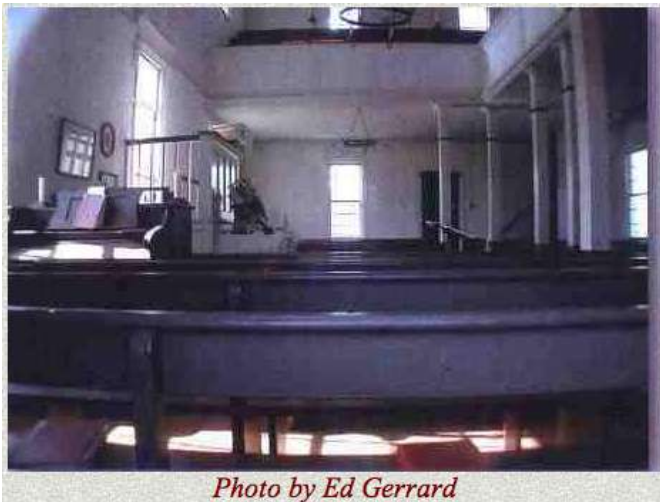


Photo by Ed Gerrard

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.

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.

Research 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:

Friends of Old St. Paul's Church

2035 Old Conover-Startown Road, Newton, NC 28658

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. Rexrode, who was serving St. Stephens and other neighboring congregations, started holding services in the fall of 1892. The first services were held in the old Charity School House on the County Home Road. The school house was located in the northwest corner of the plot of land on which Ned Sipe's home is



presently located.

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 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.



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

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."

Killian's Hardware

3790 Springs Rd. NE, Hickory NC 28601



Since 1953, the third generation of Kilian's proudly operates the business in the spirit of

grandfather Emory, founder-father Elmer, and children Sharon and Susan. Kilian'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.



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.

The Catawba County Museum of History



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. 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, marbleized 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



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. Martin 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.



Back to Andreas Killian 1702 - 1788

Our pioneer ancestor came from Germany on the ship Adventure. Landing at Philadelphia where he took the oath of allegiance September 12, 1732. He came to North Carolina about 1747 and later established a home about two miles northwest of here (Old St Paul's Church).

The following is a suggested format to take you from Andreas to yourself.

My family line to Andreas Killian.....

1. **Andreas Killian** B: 1702 Germany D: 1788 North Carolina

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

Please add any information you are willing to share with your Killian Cousins:

Your Name and Address:

**Leave Information with Kim Sipe, Historian or President Eddie Killian, or Eric Killian, Doris Pope.*

How Are We Related?

1. **First person:** Go to the top ROW and find the Column heading that defines your relationship to Andreas Killian.
2. **Second person:** Go to the first COLUMN and find the Row title that defines your relationship to Andreas Killian.
3. **Find the cell** where the column and row intersect. This is your relationship.

1. Andreas Killian (Common Ancestor)	2.Child	3.Grandchild	4.Great Grandchild	5.Great Great Grandchild	6.Great Great Great Grandchild	7.Great Great Great Great Grandchild	8.Great Great Great Great Great Grandchild	9.Great Great Great Great Great Great Grandchild
2.Child	Sibling	Niece or Nephew	Grand Niece or Nephew	Great Grand Niece or Nephew	Great Great Grand Niece or Nephew	Great Great Great Grand Niece or Nephew	Great Great Great Grand Niece or Nephew	Great Great Great Grand Niece or Nephew
3.Grandchild	Niece or Nephew	First Cousin	First Cousin Once Removed	First Cousin Twice Removed	First Cousin Three Times Removed	First Cousin Four Times Removed	First Cousin Five Times Removed	First Cousin Six Times Removed
4.Great Grandchild	Grand Niece or Nephew	First Cousin Once Removed	Second Cousin	Second Cousin Once Removed	Second Cousin Twice Removed	Second Cousin Three Times Removed	Second Cousin Four Times Removed	Second Cousin Five Times Removed
5.Great Great Grandchild	Great Grand Niece or Nephew	First Cousin Twice Removed	Second Cousin Once Removed	Third Cousin	Third Cousin Once Removed	Third Cousin Twice Removed	Third Cousin Three Times Removed	Third Cousin Four Times Removed
6.Great Great Great Grandchild	Great Great Grand Niece or Nephew	First Cousin Three Times Removed	Second Cousin Twice Removed	Third Cousin Once Removed	Fourth Cousin	Fourth Cousin Once Removed	Fourth Cousin Twice Removed	Fourth Cousin Three Times Removed
7.Great Great Great Great Grandchild	Great Great Great Grand Niece or Nephew	First Cousin Four Times Removed	Second Cousin Three Times Removed	Third Cousin Twice Removed	Fourth Cousin Once Removed	Fifth Cousin	Fifth Cousin Once Removed	Fifth Cousin Twice Removed
8.Great Great Great Great Great Grandchild	Great Great Great Great Grand Niece or Nephew	First Cousin Five Times Removed	Second Cousin Four Times Removed	Third Cousin Three Times Removed	Fourth Cousin Twice Removed	Fifth Cousin Once Removed	Sixth Cousin	Sixth Cousin Once Removed
9.Great Great Great Great Great Great Grandchild	Great Great Great Great Great Grand Niece or Nephew	First Cousin Six Times Removed	Second Cousin Five Times Removed	Third Cousin Four Times Removed	Fourth Cousin Three Times Removed	Fifth Cousin Twice Removed	Sixth Cousin Once Removed	Seventh Cousin

Who Did You Meet at the Reunion?

Put an (X) in the corresponding box of the cousins you met today!

1. Andreas Killian (Common Ancestor)	2.Child	3.Grandchild	4.Great Grandchild	5.Great Great Grandchild	6.Great Great Great Grandchild	7.Great Great Great Great Grandchild	8.Great Great Great Great Great Grandchild	9.Great Great Great Great Great Great Grandchild
2.Child	Sibling	Niece or Nephew	Grand Niece or Nephew	Great Grand Niece or Nephew	Great Great Grand Niece or Nephew	Great Great Great Grand Niece or Nephew	Great Great Great Great Grand Niece or Nephew	Great Great Great Great Great Grand Niece or Nephew
3.Grandchild	Niece or Nephew	First Cousin	First Cousin Once Removed	First Cousin Twice Removed	First Cousin Three Times Removed	First Cousin Four Times Removed	First Cousin Five Times Removed	First Cousin Six Times Removed
4.Great Grandchild	Grand Niece or Nephew	First Cousin Once Removed	Second Cousin	Second Cousin Once Removed	Second Cousin Twice Removed	Second Cousin Three Times Removed	Second Cousin Four Times Removed	Second Cousin Five Times Removed
5.Great Great Grandchild	Great Grand Niece or Nephew	First Cousin Twice Removed	Second Cousin Once Removed	Third Cousin	Third Cousin Once Removed	Third Cousin Twice Removed	Third Cousin Three Times Removed	Third Cousin Four Times Removed
6.Great Great Great Grandchild	Great Great Grand Niece or Nephew	First Cousin Three Times Removed	Second Cousin Twice Removed	Third Cousin Once Removed	Fourth Cousin	Fourth Cousin Once Removed	Fourth Cousin Twice Removed	Fourth Cousin Three Times Removed
7.Great Great Great Great Grandchild	Great Great Great Grand Niece or Nephew	First Cousin Four Times Removed	Second Cousin Three Times Removed	Third Cousin Twice Removed	Fourth Cousin Once Removed	Fifth Cousin	Fifth Cousin Once Removed	Fifth Cousin Twice Removed
8.Great Great Great Great Great Grandchild	Great Great Great Great Grand Niece or Nephew	First Cousin Five Times Removed	Second Cousin Four Times Removed	Third Cousin Three Times Removed	Fourth Cousin Twice Removed	Fifth Cousin Once Removed	Sixth Cousin	Sixth Cousin Once Removed
9.Great Great Great Great Great Great Grandchild	Great Great Great Great Great Grand Niece or Nephew	First Cousin Six Times Removed	Second Cousin Five Times Removed	Third Cousin Four Times Removed	Fourth Cousin Three Times Removed	Fifth Cousin Twice Removed	Sixth Cousin Once Removed	Seventh Cousin

Flags or Flowers

Each year our Vice-President would do the honorable task of placing a single flag on Killian graves among several local area churches. For the 87th Reunion, with some help, Eric hopes to place over 100 flags on Killian graves in the following Church Cemeteries. If you would like to restart this again, please let the Killian Reunion Association know and if you could help that would be great. If you have a connection in the plastic floral arrangements, let us know. Thank you.

Mays Chapel Methodist

1707 Mays Chapel Church Rd. Maiden, NC 28650

Millers Lutheran

2280 12th Ave. NE, Hickory, NC 28601

Mountain View Mennonite

5252 Hwy 10 W, Hickory, NC 28602

Mt. Zion Lutheran

4420 County Home Rd., Conover, NC 28613

Old St. Pauls Lutheran

1714 St. Paul's Church Rd., Newton, NC 28658

Salem Lutheran & Reformed

3410 Startown Rd., Lincolnton, NC 28092

St. John's Lutheran

2126 Saint John's Church Rd., Conover, NC 28613

St. Peters Lutheran

6175 St. Peters Church Rd., Conover, NC 28613

St. Stephens Lutheran Missouri Synod

2304 Springs Rd., NE, Hickory, NC 28601

St. Stephens Lutheran ELCA

2259 12th Ave., NE, Hickory, NC 28601

Wesley's Chapel UMC

2613 Wesley Chapel Rd., Newton, NC 28658

Zion Lutheran

1911 Zion Church Rd., Hickory, NC 28602

Down to Business!

Andreas Killian 92nd Reunion - Business Meeting Agenda Saturday, September 11, 2026, Mt. Zion Church

Invocation:

Call to Order: President

Prayer:

Recognition:

- Thanks to those involved in planning and execution of this year's reunion
- Remembrances of those who passed since last reunion (see if someone wishes to offer a remembrance not otherwise listed in the newsletter)
- Additions/Births to the Killian Family since last reunion (see if someone had a child or got married)
- Who Traveled the Greatest Distance for the Reunion (_____)
- Oldest Attendee (_____)
- Youngest Attendee (_____)
- Family Represented (in parentheses is last year's count)

Leonard_____ (____)	Samuel C._____ (____)	Jean_____ (____)
Elisabeth_____ (____)	George _____ (____)	John _____ (____)
Christianna_____ (____)	Andrew_____ (____)	Margaret _____ (____)
Daniel_____ (____)	Crate_____ (____)	

Old Business:

- Approve prior year's Minutes to Business Meeting (Loretta)
- Treasury Report (Eric/Cathy)
- Newsletter Editor's Report (Eddie, Cheryl/Charles)
- Webmaster's Report (Eddie Killian)
- Historian's Report (Kim Sipe, Mentor: Cheryl K)
- DNA Report (James Green or Cheryl Killian)
- Publications Report (Books, etc.) (Cheryl Killian)
- New Projects Report (Project Director)

Business Meeting Agenda

New Business:

The Elections will take place next year for President, Vice President, Secretary, Welcome Committee Chair, Treasurer, Newsletter Publisher and any other office being vacated.

1. Election of Officers: **Current (years served)** **Nominees** **Elected**

President: _____ (Serve 2 years)

Vice President: _____ (Serve 2 years)

Secretary/CoSecretary: _____ (Serve 2 years)

Treasurer: _____ (Serve 2 years)

Historian: _____ *

Webmaster: _____

Welcome Committee Chair: _____

Any New At Large Members?

Any new 501(c)(3) Board?

Newsletter Publisher: _____

***Please Volunteer to do the newsletter. We need your assistance and help.**

2. Next Year's Annual Reunion (93rd AKDHA)

When? Second Sunday in September is: **Sept. 10-11, 2027** Where? **Mt. Zion Church**

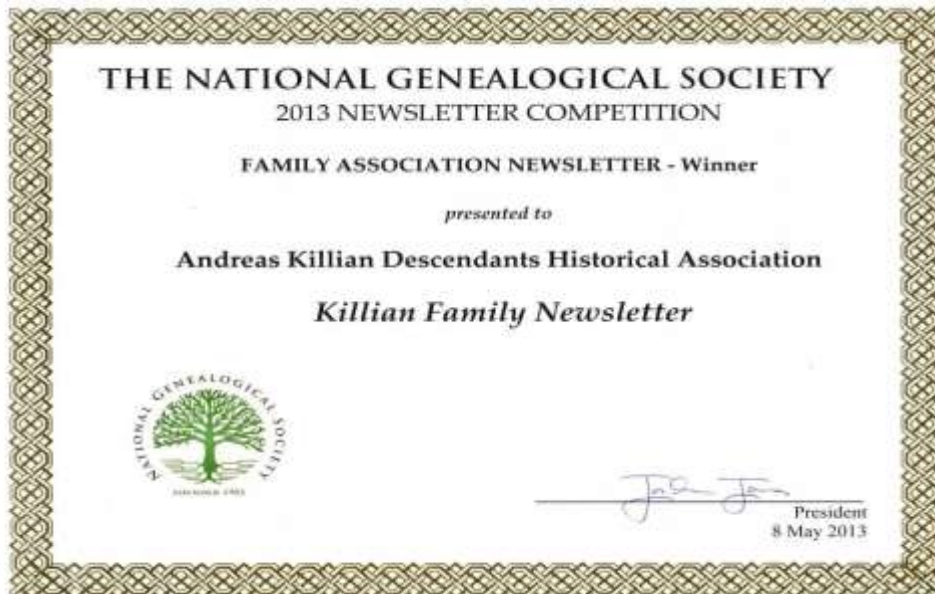
Chaplain gave Thanks/Prayer for a successful family gathering and bid everyone a safe and healthy year.

Meeting adjourned, **Respectively reported by Secretary Loretta Killian** (original signed)

THANK YOU! Those who Donate & Volunteers your Time and Energy each year to the Killian Reunions, Newsletters and the Andreas Killian Descendants Historical Association. We appreciate all of you and your patronage to the AKDHA.

Carlton & Ruth Darnell, Albuquerque NM
Duke Energy (Dan Sipe)
Maribeth Zay Fischer, Indianapolis IN
James Green, Winnsboro SC
Bill Hinds, Florida **in memory*
Ann Jenkins, Lincolnton NC
Suzanne Price Jones, Blacksburg VA
Bryce Killian, Hickory NC
Nancy Kerr, Elizabethtown TN
Bill Killian, Hendersonville NC
Charles & Cheryl Killian, Ellenwood GA
Eddie & Loretta Killian, Gaston SC
Eric & Cathy Killian, Hickory NC
Joe Killian, York SC **in memory*
Lee & Brenda Killian, Denver NC

Steve & Linda Killian, Conover NC
Steve & Phyllis Killian, Hickory NC
Tim & Sue Killian, Hickory NC
Wayne & Catherine Milam, Southside AL
William & Anjte McCreight, Germany
Sandy Phillips, Cornelius NC
Doris & Ray Pope, Conover NC
Jimmie L Price, Blacksburg VA
Wayne & Ginger Setzer, Charlotte NC
Dan Sipe, York SC
Kimberly Sipe, Conover NC
Brent Stapley, Meza AZ
Kandice Waller, Winston-Salem NC
Pete Whitener, Newton NC **in memory*
Glen Killian, Alabama



Family Association Newsletter: Winner: **The Andreas Killian Descendants Historical Association Newsletter**, edited by **Charles D. Killian & Cheryl Mann Killian** of Ellenwood, Georgia.

“We have been blessed to have had ancestors with the foresight and ability to establish The Andreas Killian Association and I believe it is our duty and privilege to carry on out of respect for them and for the benefit of future generations.” ~ Charles D. Killian

New Relatives/Friends:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Killian, News/Notes.....

