

A TRAGEDY IN THE DYE FAMILY

The story of a terrible tragedy which occurred explains the circumstances which resulted in, and accounts for, the children of GEORGE L. DYE and BETSY ROBERTS becoming orphans, as is verified in Legal Guardianship papers dated August 27, 1849.

When the writers decided, in 1976, to compile this information concerning our family, we spent much time talking with two of our aunts, Lucille Elizabeth Dye Robertson, and Ruby Irene Dye (Clary) Catoe, both of whom are sisters to our late father, JAMES IRVING DYE. It was during one of these conversations with them that we first recall ever hearing about the tragedy which occurred in the household of GEORGE L. DYE and BETSY ROBERTS.

According to Lucille Elizabeth Dye Robertson and Ruby Irene Dye (Clary) Catoe, the story of the tragedy as told by their grandfather, THOMAS EDWARD DYE, was of how he, along with his brothers and sisters, "saw their father, (GEORGE L. DYE) while in a drunken state, shoot and kill their mother (BETSY ROBERTS)." As THOMAS EDWARD DYE told the story, "when his father realized what he had done, he then shot and killed himself." Being a child of about 4 or 5 years of age, THOMAS EDWARD DYE recalled how frightened he and the other children were; so much so, they "hid in the chimney corner." The other information these two granddaughters of THOMAS EDWARD DYE remember him telling about this tragic happening is that "the family of BETSY ROBERTS was much 'put out', and that they came to claim her body for burial, taking it back where they came from."

In the writer's notes taken when IRENE FEASTER DYE gave her account of the DYE FAMILY in 1961, there is no reference to this tragedy. The writers do not recall their father, JAMES IRVING DYE, as ever having made mention of it, either. It is certain, however, that they both knew the story of the tragedy as well as do Lucille Elizabeth Dye Robertson and Ruby Irene Dye (Clary) Catoe.

In 1982, Mary Doulware of Blair, S. C., did research for one of the writers on the DYE FAMILY. The writer asked if she knew anything about the tragedy. She stated that, being from the area, she had heard the story, but knew no details. After research work, she reported that she was unable to find any legal documents attesting to the murder-suicide deaths of GEORGE L. DYE and BETSY ROBERTS. So, the exact date of the tragedy remains unknown to us.

Note-Upon becoming aware that the writers were in the process of making this compilation (in 1976) several family members, who also had long been aware of the tragedy, having heard it told by their grandfather, THOMAS EDWARD DYE, contacted us and asked that the story not be included. They had not told it to their children, and did not want them to ever learn of it. After much thought, we, the writers, decided not to include the story of the tragedy along with the other information in the section relating to GEORGE L. DYE and BETSY ROBERTS, but, rather, to put it on a separate page, so that family members could delete this page should they so desire. (Janie D. Caughman and Betty D. Caughman)

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- Charles Hutchinson Dye of Washington, D. C. compiler and author
- Clair Albert Dye (b. 1889) of Ohio, educator
- Alexander Vincent Dye (b. 1876) of Illinois, Director of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce
- John Walter Dye (b. 1878) of Minnesota, Consul
- Joseph Alma Dye (b. 1892) of New York, author and scientist
- Leaman Dye, early 20th Century, of New York, mathematician
- Harold H. Dee of New York, historian
- Minnie Roof Dee, Oregon, early 20th Century, Oregon, poet

Coat of Arms used with numerous variations by the ancient and honorable Dye or Dee family of England is described in the heraldic terms as follows: Burke Encyclopedia of Heraldry, 1844 - Arms: Argent, a fess sable, in chief three mullets of the second. Another version: Argent, a fesse wavy azure between three mullets gules. Crest: On a ducal coronet or a swan with wings endorsed, ducally gorged proper.

Bibliography

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Material secured by Leon Lamar Dye of Garrett Park, Maryland (Washington, D. C.) from the material compiled by the Research Bureau of Washington, D. C.

Leon L. Dye was son of Thomas Jefferson Dye who was son of John M. Dye who came from Fairfield-Chester Co., S. C. via Ga. to Miss. in the early 1800

Copied by a granddaughter of Dr. David Dye, son of John M. Dye:

Blaine Tomar Reid Martin, dau. of
Ebbel Mae Dye, dau. of Dr. David Dye

they were ancestors of some of the line mentioned below. John Dye, (ancestry unknown) made his home in Richmond, N. I. about the middle of the 18th century. By his wife, Thankful Potter, whom he married sometime before 1761, he was the father of Richard, Samuel and others.

Richard, son of John of R. I., 1st married Zerniah Rogers by whom he was father of a son, Stephen. In 1803 he married his second wife, widow, Catherine (nee Greene) Spencer, by whom he had further issue: Sophia, Catherine, Annie, Charles, John and Kay.

Samuel, younger son of John of R. I. resided in Madison Co., N. Y. He was father, by his wife, Anna Rogers (sister of his brother's first wife) of a son Daniel and probably others.

Joshua Dye was born in Kent, Conn. in the latter half of the 18th century, parentage unknown. Shortly after the Revolution he removed with his wife, Salome Morgan, to Poultney, Vermont. Joshua was believed to be father of Daniel, Charlotte and 8 other children. Of these, Daniel md. Betsy Ensign and was father by her of George R., Kollin G., Elivar and Adeline E.

Walter Dye of Monongahela Valley, about the end of the 18th century is believed to be the descendant of an ancient Va. family, possibly one of the aforementioned immigrants, of the 17th century. By his wife, Agnes Fox he had Walter, John F., George, Ihebe, Mary and Fannie. Of these, George made his home in Harrison Co., West Virginia and left issue there.

Reuben Dye, of Prince William Co., Va. in the latter part of the 18th century was father by his wife, Mary, Denis, John, William, Benjamin and others. Of these sons, Denis made his home in Ritchie Co., West Virginia and was father by his wife Mary Webb, of Benjamin, David, William, Jane, Martha, Drusilla, Harriet, Nancy, Mary, Agnes and Elizabeth. John, son of Reuben, settled in Ohio. William and Benjamin are believed to have gone west to Texas.

About the beginning of the 19th century or before, John Dye, ancestry unknown, settled in Chautauqua Co., N. Y. He was the father of John, Avery, Asa, Harry, George, Elias, Daniel, Iedgard, Joseph, Lafayette, Abel, Thomas A. Jackson, and Elisha. Descendants of this line settled in Pa., Indiana, Illinois and Kansas.

The Dyes and Dees in America may be described as conscientious, earnest and sincere, of considerable intellectual abilities, and possessed of kindness, high integrity and devotion to duty.

Among those who fought in the War of the Revolution were Lt. Jonathan Dye, of Va., William Dye of N. Y., Amos, Daniel, James, John, Joseph, Lawrence and Thomas of New Jersey, Isaac, John, Richard and William of Va, Andrew, Benjamin, Isaac and John Die of Va, John Dye or Dee of Pa., Enoch Dye of Pa and numerous others from the various states of that period.

Robert, Reuben, Thomas, Richard, Samuel, Daniel, James, George, John, Denis Benjamin and Joseph are some of the Christian names favored by the family for the male progeny.

A few of the many members of the family who have attained distinction in recent years are:

John S. Dye, early 19th century of Pa. and N. Y., historian and author
 William McIntyre Dye (1831-1899) of Pa., military officer and author
 John H. Dye of New York, physician and author
 John T. Dye (1835-1913) of Indiana, author

The name was probably derived from the residence of the first bearers who lived on the banks of the River Dee, and it is certain that the names Dee and Dye were used interchangeably-Day and Die, also were traced from this same name. In fact in ancient England and early American records the name is found in several forms, namely: Dy, Dye, Die, Dicy, Dee and Dye.

Families of that name were resident at an early date in the English counties of York, Chester, Sussex, Salop, Surrey, Suffolk, Norfolk and London. It appears they were British landed gentry and yeomanry, for the most part. Yorkshire was believed to have been the principal seat of the Dyes, for the earliest records of the family mention Robertus or Robert Dy and Williamus or William Dei, of that place, about the year 1379. Other early records concern Thomas Dye of Yorkshire who married Jane Woodhouse in 1560, and Emmate Dye of Yorkshire in 1595. No direct line has been established, however, connecting these to the early immigrants to America.

One of the earliest records of the name of Dee in England is that of Bede Dee, called "The Great" who was standard bearer to Lord de Ferrare at the siege of Tournay, about the year 1513. From Bede Dee was descended Rowland Dee, Gentleman Sewer to King Henry VIII in the early 16th century. This Rowland married Johanna, daughter of William Wild and was father by her of Dr. John Dee of County Surrey, who became Chancellor of St. Paul's and Warden of Manchester College. He married Jane, daughter of Bartholomew Froumound of Co. Surry, before 1579 and was father by her of Arthur, John, Robert and others.

Arthur Dee or Dye, eldest son of Dr. John and Jane Dee, of Surrey, died in 1651, leaving issue by his wife Isabell, daughter of Edward Prestwyck of Arthur, Jr., Rowland, William, John, Margaret, Maria, Jane, Frances, Isabell, Anna and several who died young. Of these ch. Rowland left issue, at London, by his wife Jane of Duncan; Rowland, Mary; Duncan also resided in London and died there about 1721, leaving issue by his wife Mary - Rowland, Duncan, Henry, Charles and Jane.

Robert Dee or Day or Dye, son of Dr. John and Jane Dee of Surrey, settled in Norwich, in the County of Norfolk, and was father, by his wife Sarah Skinner to Priscilla, George, Joseph, and Sarah. Of these, George Dee or Dye married Anne, daughter of Christopher Godslave, and had by her, at least two children, Francis and Anne.

About the middle of the 16th century one David Dye or Dee was living in Shropshire. He is called "one of the grandchildren of the Great Bede Dee". David married Martia or Marcia, dau. of John Rogers or Ropers in 1577 and was father by her of: Francis, John, Daniel and Sybylla. Of these Francis resided in County Sussex and first married Susan, dau. of Nicholas de Poroque. He was father by her of Adrian and Mary. By his second wife, Elizabeth Winter-no issue. John, second son of David of Shropshire, settled in Co. Middlesex, left issue by his wife, Elizabeth Hinckes, one child, Jane. Daniel, youngest son of David of Shropshire was the father of John, Lawrence, Denis and Elizabeth Dee, all of whom were living in 1638.

Other early records of the name in England include those of David Dee or Dye that registered at the University of Oxford in 1572; one William Dee of Worthensbury, in Cheshire, before 1608; Richard Dee of Worthensbury about 1608 and Randle Dee of County Chester in 1614.

The first in America of the name was Robert and John Dye of Virginia, of whom the first settled there in early 1650 and the latter was resident of Northampton County in 1655. Neither of these left any definite records of their immediate families or descendents. It is considered, probably,

GEORGE L. DYE AND BETSY ROBERTS

GEORGE L. DYE (b. ; d. 1849) married BETSY ROBERTS (b. ; d. 1849. She was the daughter of _____ and _____.

GEORGE L. DYE and BETSY ROBERTS made their home several miles up the road from Antioch Methodist Church, toward the Chester County line. It was near what was known as the "old Dr. McClurkin(McKlirkin) place." (The writers, as well as other family members, have visited this site a number of times, the latest being October 4, 1986.)

We have little information regarding the early lives of either GEORGE L. DYE or BETSY ROBERTS. We do know that legal documents verify that they both were deceased as of August 27, 1849. Legal Guardianship papers were filed on that date for the "five minor children of GEORGE L. DYE." The orphaned children named in those papers were as follows:

Nancy E. Dye
Mary J. Dye
James L. Dye
THOMAS A. DYE (Note- should be THOMAS E. DYE)
Charles A. Dye

Family tradition is that some of the orphaned children were reared by "Dr. McClurkin and his wife", who were neighbors of GEORGE L. DYE and BETSY ROBERTS. The Legal Guardianship papers named Mary Dye, a sister of GEORGE L. DYE, as one of the three legal guardians. The 1850 Census for Chester County, S. C., shows the following information:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>
Mary Dye	40
Nancy Dye	38
William Dye	13
A. Dye (male)	10
THOMAS E. DYE	5
C. A. Dye	3

The 1850 Census for Chester County, S. C. also shows Mary Jamima Dye listed in the David Crosby household, according to Mary Boulware, of Blair, S. C.

Note- The William Dye (age 13) and the A. Dye (male, age 10) as listed in the 1850 Census were not named in the Legal Guardianship papers, but they were minors in 1849. There is apparently some discrepancy here. The writers surmised that perhaps the daughters of GEORGE L. DYE and BETSY ROBERTS were reared by friends or family other than their two aunts, Mary Dye and Nancy Dye, who evidently did raise the boys.

Note- The "A. Dye (Male) Age 10" is probably an error - perhaps it should be the listing for James Lemly Dye since he is not shown here at all.

FROM: OFFICE OF PROBATE JUDGE OF CHESTER COUNTY

ELISHA DYE

CHILDREN:

THOMAS	WELDON
SOPHIA	WILMOTH
JAMES	ELIZABETH MEEKEY
LEWIS	
WILLEY	

GRANDCHILDREN:

ELISHA	LOTT	
JOHN	LOTT	
PATSY	SANDIFER	LOTT

JULY 2, 1821

BENEFICIARIES OF SOPHIE & PHILIP DYE

MELINDA
 THOMAS
 JAMES
 SHELBY
 NANCY WYLIE
 LUCY DYE
 LEWIS DYE
 WILLIAM RATAREE
 NANCY RATAREE
 MINERVA NICKELS
 JANE NICKELS
 REBECCA NICKELS

~~JULY 12, 1821~~

WILLIAMS

LUCY THORN, DAUGHTER OF MARY THORN, MARRIED A DYE . CHILDREN WERE: WELDON S. ; LEWIS GREEN ; JAMES T.