

AUNT HANNAH WYLIE'S

Family History

Commenced June 18, 1860

Dear Relatives:

I have often thought of writing a history of our family as far as I can trace back, thinking there might be some who may at some future date feel enough of interest to read over, perhaps when I am laid with those who have gone on before me.

Yet, times I feel as if it would be labor lost. There is so much selfishness, vanity and false pride in the world and I fear too much in our family. I fear there is a great falling off in our family, and I am afraid the high-minded, honorable and truthful principle that marked the character of our ancestors is not respected as it should be. There is selfishness and a great lack of moral courage in our family at this time. They don't respect each other as persons of the same blood should. They should be bound together forever and that which is the interest of one should be the interest of the others. I mean while they act right and they think any one is acting wrong, they should go to them and try to show them their error in a kind way, but never talk to another what you would not say to them. I have dwelt upon this subject much longer than I expected.

I will have to write as I recall things to my memory so you will not find much order.

Wylie History

I now commence with my father's family. My great-grandfather (1st) **Peter Wylie** married **Annie Hawthorne**. They came from Ireland, County Antrim. They, with the Kelseys and Mills, came over in the same vessell, not long before the Revolutionary War. Originally they were from Scotland (Scotch-Irish), but went to Ireland during the persecution of the Covenanters. My great-grandfather (1st Peter Wylie) had three sons and one daughter, namely:

Francis, William, James, and Margaret.

They were good Whigs during the Revolution.

My great-grandfather was a Covenanter, read much in his latter days, I think mostly religious books. And he also wrote some. There is a manuscript still extant, some rhyme, and I also think he wrote some on the Scriptures.

^{father}
I have heard my ^{father} say he remembered seeing him. He was a small man and very old. Father didn't remember his grandmother, she having died before his time.

Great-grandfather Kelsey

My great-grandfather Kelsey married a Mills. They all came here at the same time. I don't know the number of children they had. I think they had a large family. They were all Whigs in the Revolution.

My great-grandmother made herself of much use during the War. She, with some other young women, did the mowing in the neighborhood--the men all being in the Army. On one occasion she went with her friend Mary Mills to the battlefield some distance (Rocky Mount) to hunt ~~off~~ her sister's husband whom they supposed was killed there. (His name was Pagan). They found one they supposed to be him, having some articles of clothing on him which they ~~thought~~ they knew. It was considered a brave act for two young girls to travel through a country filled with cruel enemies to look among the dead for their friend.

Grandfather William Wylie

My grandfather William Wylie entered the Army when very young. He was taken prisoner twice during the War. Once he lay in jail in Winnsboro and another time he lay three months in the winter in Camden jail--part of the time chained to the floor with only one blanket between two prisoners--for having attempted to escape. One of the times he was taken prisoner a few miles below Chester by a Tory (Nickles).

He was married shortly after the close of the War to my Grandmother Isabella Kelsey. They had seven children (one to die while young), three sons and four daughters:

Peter, Kelsey and John Nicksey
Susan, Mary and Sallie. (Annie died when young.)

My grandfather Wylie was a very cheerfully disposed man. My grandmother was of a melancholy temperament, very religious. Her health was delicate, being troubled with asthma. I think she looked on the dark side of the picture. Grandfather inclined to drink when at public places, which caused her much uneasiness. He was always extremely kind to her and very indulgent to his family, especially to his daughters. My father remembered them with deep respect and the most tender affection for his mother.

They moved to Alabama some years before I was born, and Grandma did not live many years. After her death Grandfather married again, but only lived a few years, and died at about 72 years of age. From what I have heard, I don't think his last marriage very happy. Their children all went with them to Alabama except Pa and Aunt Jennie Walker.

My grandfather's

My grandfather's brothers and sisters were high-minded and honorable and had great respect for truth. I have heard Pa say that he believed Old Uncle Jimmie Wylie would have suffered his right arm to be cut off rather than tell a lie, and I have heard him often speak of a saying of Aunt Margaret's: "If you can say nae guid of a person, sae nothing." She married a Boyd, not a very highminded family.

THE KELSEYS

The Kelseys were a highly respectable family and good Whigs during the Revolution. I have often heard Pa speak of Grandmother's dislike for the Tories. Grandfather was more forgiving. I have often heard Pa telling about the ~~Tore~~ Tories--Huck and his gang going to get Great-grandfather Kelsey and abusing and threatening to kill him for not answering questions. He was deaf and could not hear a word scarsely they said. This they did not believe, thinking that he was pretending so as to keep from answering their questions.

Yet Grandmother talked very boldly to them. I remember hearing Pa speak of her bravery. While Huck was there a pigeon flew along and he cut its head off with his sword. She said to him, "Dear me, that was a great act--to kill the poor thing that was doing you no harm". He told her if she did not mind her head would be next. She defied him and told him he didn't have powder to do such a thing, that God Almighty would strike him dead. Huck was then on his way to Brattons, and before he stopped at Great-grandfather Kelsey's he, with his men, killed a poor boy named Strong who had heard the Tories were in the neighborhood and know-in they would destroy everything they could find belonging to the Whigs, the boy was carrying some harness, having already hidden the wagon. When the Tories came in sight, he ran and jumped into a wheat field. They leaped the fence with their horses and cut the boy down and continued to run him through the body until his mother got to him and threw herself over the body. It was said Grandmother Kelsey was with Mrs. Strong, and in their distraction to get to the boy, Grandmother tore a gate off the hinges--the fence being high.

Grandfather was a modest man--never being the least inclined to speak of any merit which his ancestors had a right to claim. I would have liked so much to have written this in his life time and suppose if I had persevered, I might have persuaded him to give me a history which would have been a great satisfaction as his memory was very good.

My grandfather's stepsons and sisters were always
kind and generous and had great respect for their
father. I have heard that he believed in the same
and would have suffered his right arm to be cut off
than tell a lie, and I have heard him often say of a
man of good character: "If I can say any more of a
person, see nothing." He married a boy, not a very
highly educated family.

The Kelasys were a highly respected family and good
Whites during the Revolution. I have often heard a man
of Grandmother's family for the Tories. Grandfather was
more forgiving. I have often heard Pa believe that the
Tories--Huck and his gang going to get Grandfather
Kelsey and abusing and threatening to kill him for not
answering questions. He was hurt and could not bear a word
acrossly they said. This they did not believe. I believe
that he was pretending as to keep from answering their
questions.

Yet Grandfather talked very boldly to them. I remember
hearing Pa speak of her bravery. While Huck was there a
certain time alone and he cut his head off with his sword.
He said to him, "Dear me, that was a good cut--to kill the
cock thing that was doing you so much harm." He told her if she
did not cut her head would be next. She defied him and told
him he didn't have power to do such a thing. That God
almighty would strike him dead. That was then on his way
to London, and before he started at Great-grandfather
Kelsey's he, with his son, killed a man her name Sidney
who had heard the Tories were in the neighborhood and from
in they would destroy everything they could find belonging
to the Whites. The boy was carrying some harness, having
already hidden the weapon. When the Tories came in sight, he
ran and jumped into a wheat field. They loaded the fence
with their horses and cut his way down and continued to
run his through the body until his mother ran to him and
threw herself over the body. It was said Grandfather
Kelsey was with Mrs. Strong and in their situation he was
so the boy Grandfather tore off the harness--the harness
before him.

Grandfather was a great man--never pain the least
inclined to speak of any man who his ancestors had a
right to claim. I would have liked so much to have written
this in his life and suppose if I had discovered, I
might have persuaded him to give me a history which would
have been a great satisfaction as his name was very good.

THE EVANS FAMILY

I will now speak of my mother's family. My grandfather Richard Evans had three brothers

John, Isiac and Owen and one sister named Hannah.

They were all Whigs and in the Army of Revolution. They attended the Whig meeting at Old Justice Gaston's and volunteered their services. They, and I think Walkers, were all the Whigs on Sandy River--it being a hot bed for the Tories.

Grandfather married Katherine McCarter of a highly respectable family. I think her father was considered a very intelligent man. He had a newspaper controversy with John C. Calhoun's father. They were married before the War and had several children.

Grandmother was very much distressed and annoyed by the Tories. At one time they came and took everything she had--(all the beds) and destroyed them and turned their horses on her grain which she had hauled up. I heard Ma say Grandma said she didn't know what she would have done if it had not been for the kindness of a British officer. The Tories gave her family the smallpox, which caused her much trouble and distress.

I have been told Grandfather Evans said the sweetest morsel he ever ate was some cold mush when he was in the War, having had nothing to eat for so long. They had five

They had five sons

John, Samuel, James, Isaac and Moses, four daughters Mollie, Hannah, Katie and Anna, my mother.

As it may be a satisfaction to some, I will tell the names of some of the persons whom our uncles and aunts married. I will

WYLIES

I will first name the Wylie brothers and sisters of my father.

Uncle Kelso Wylie married a McNeel.

Don't remember who Uncle John N. Wylie married first, but I think a Nelson. His second wife was a Miss Pepper.

Aunt Susan Wylie married Alexander Walker.

Jennette Wylie married William Walker, a brother of Alexander Walker.

Mary Wylie married D. Hamilton.

Sallie Wylie married William Morrow.

They all moved to Alabama except Aunt Janette and my father (Peter).

EVANS

I will now give my mother's brothers and sisters (Evans). I don't remember who **Uncle Mose** and **Uncle Isaac** married, but Uncle Mose was married three times. Aunt **Katie** married **John Kennedy**. Aunt **Hannah** married **William Curry**. **Mary, John and Samuel** died single.

see Evans history

PETER WYLIE AND ANNIE EVANS WYLIE

I will now give an account of my father and mother's family. They had twelve children:

Richard Evans, Isabella, DeKalb, Catherine (who died when nine months old), **Alexander Pearson, Katherine, William, Hannah, Susan, Mary**, and two infants (a daughter who lived a few hours and a son still born).

1. **Richard Evans** married **Rachel**, daughter of **Samuel McCollough**, a very estimable woman who died in the Spring of 1858. *They had* three sons, **John D.**, **Peter**, and **Thomas**.

2. **Isabella** married **Jacob Fox Strait** and they had eleven children. Six are living, viz:

Sallie, Lafayette, Henrietta, Jefferson, Arsonia and William Francis.

Anna, Peter, Richard, Leonard and Susan all dead and buried at Fishing Creek Cemetery.

3. **DeKalb** married **Jenny Ross** and they had seven children, viz:

Antonia, William, Peter Kelso, Abraham Ross, Richard Evans, Mary, Susan and Lafayette.

4. **Alexander** married **Juliet Gill**. They had nine children viz:

Annie E. (an infant daughter who lived only a short time); **Jane, Walker Gill, Peter Kelso, Mary, Isabella, Alexander, Harry and Robert Hawthorn.**

5. **Katherine** married **Joseph Baskin**, a very worthy man who died a few years after their marriage. They had three daughters (two having died before his death) leaving only **Anna C.**

6. **William** married **Amanda Johnson**. They had three children, viz: **Mary, John Edward, and Annie Amanda**. **Mary** died in her seventh year and her mother died in a few weeks afterward.

7. **Mary** married **Dr. William Mobley** and they had no children. She died Oct. 5th, 1857 and her sister **Susan** died on the 7th of same month. She never married.

*3 died
Hannah*

My dear father died June 26, 1855, having had bad health for several years. He had an attack of paralysis several years before his death and was often threatened with a similar attack. He was respected by every one who knew him. He abominated dectet and falsehood of every kind and had the greatest regard for truth and sincerity. He was kind to the poor people.

Feb. 22, 1877

It is near seventeen years since I wrote the foregoing. Something called me off at the time I was writing and I never finished. I will now endeavor to go on as near as I can recollect.

After our great heart-rending bereavement, our family thought it would be best for Ma to sell our old home and move to William's. So we moved in the fall after Pa's death. She had not been in good health and that winter had a bad spell of pneumonia and was never very well afterwards.

Katherine *Hannah*
Sis and I also had a spell at the same time, and Mary *Mobley* came and stayed with us for some time. She seemed in pretty good health--cheerful and happy as usual and when we all got better, Dr. Mobley came down for her.

They were boarding at Cornwell's Hotel in Chester, and I think it was Monday or Tuesday when they went back, and soon after getting back, she took dysentery; and the following Saturday Dr. Mobley sent for Susan saying Mary was very ill. She went and Mary continued very ill. So the next Wednesday William, *Alexander* *Hannah* Anna and I went up.

Susan was still there, but very unwell and she went around to Alexander's that night and returned next morning real sick, vomiting and purging all through the day. That night she went back to Alexander's and took her bed.

Katherine
Ma and Sis came Thursday and Ma came around to the Hotel, but lay in bed most of the day. Mary still continued very ill all the time. Richard came Friday and Ma went around to Alexander's and never saw Mary again.

Jane *Katherine* *Hannah*
Bella was then staying with Mary and Sis, and I with Susan. Saturday night Alexander told Sis and I that both Susan and Mary would die. Imagine our agonizing feelings, Ma lying completely prostrate and the terrible shock that our dear sisters were both going to die. We were obliged to suppress our feelings on account of our Mother's condition. Oh, how vividly that agonizing time rised before me.

Our dear Mary died Monday morning about five o'clock Oct. 5, 1857. Susan about 12 o'clock on the 7th. Oh what

a heart-rending bereavement and a terrible shock to our Mother.

Mary's health had been delicate for years. Susan always delicate in health, suffered for years with her stomachache. Oh! God, what a trying time on me. They and I being the youngest had never been separated long at a time, and were much attached.

Mary, having no children to bind her at home, came often to see us all--especially Pa and Ma and was a great comfort to them in their ill health.

Poor Susan, having bad health, caused her to be melancholy. She was very self-sacrificing and nursed Mary as long as she could and gave up when unable to go any longer, which I suppose was the cause of the disease going hard with her.

Ma lay for three months before she was able to move home and was in very delicate health a long time. She rarely left home, but spent a tolerably pleasant life--reading a good deal and doing anything she was disposed to do. She was taken with a chill on Dec. 11, 1859, and suffered much. She thought it was a return of chills, but before the next morning, she was spitting up bloody foam. William was at home, having returned from the West a short time before; and we sent for Alexander and they decided she could not recover. Oh, My God! I can never forget my feelings. She died on the 18th and her living children were all with her. No one can form a conception of the agony of seeing a dear parent breathe their last unless they have had the same experience. *died Dec. 18, 1859*

Aunt Jenny Walker died the following Spring.

DeKalb moved to Arkansas Oct. 1860.

THE WAR

And the War came on in '61. I have often thought there was something to be thankful for with all our bereavement. Our dear ones escaped the severe trials of the horrid War and which I fear the death knell of our once great and beloved country. Although most of our family were opposed to the cause that brought on the War, they considered it their duty to go and fight on the Southern side.

William went and remained fourteen months as Sargeant of the 17th Regiment. His health failed.

Lafayette Strait went a Captain of the Catawba Guards 6th Regiment where he served for quite a while. Next he served as Assistant Surgeon of the 17th Regiment. While serving there he took sick with dysentery; came home and died October 18th, 1863.

~~All three of Richard's sons went into the Army.~~

All three of Richard's sons went into the Army. John D. was Captain of the 5th Regiment. I think Tom was wounded at Seven Pines Battle. He came near dying of loss of blood and lack of proper medical attention. He came home and when able, returned to the Army and continued until his health failed entirely. He came home and never recovered and died in 1865. Peter went into the Army in '61 and remained several months on the Coast and had to give up on account of ill health caused from pneumonia. He lived several years, but never able to walk.

MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Richard married the second time (Mrs. Crawford) in 1864 and died on the 14th November 1875. He left two small children, Tom and Mary Evans.

William was also married the second time to Miss Mary Jane Barber on the 6th of Sept., 1864 and died June the 9th, 1868, leaving two small children, William DeKalb and Mary.

Alexander's son, Peter, being on a visit to Lancaster, went out hunting taking a little Negro boy with him. In climbing the creek bank with gun in his hand, it accidentally went off and killed him--a terrible shock to the family. He was a very bright boy of 14 years of age and his death took place the 14th of August, '64.

It will be a satisfaction to know the cause of brothers William's and Richard's deaths. William's health had been bad for years, suffering from his stomach and head. It was found that his stomach was ulcerated and I think bowels were also affected at last.

Richard was taken with apoplexy or paralysis and never was able to speak distinctly afterwards. His left side was also paralysed. His health had not been good--had a severe spell about a year before. He had a hard life practicing medicine.