

# The Killian Family Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 1 — 1993

Our Past PRESENT & FUTURE

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## •<sup>1</sup>John Yates Killian<sub>4660</sub> by

William D. Killian<sub>2136</sub>

When J. Yates Killian was about forty years of age he said that he asked his father, William L. Killian<sub>4655</sub>, who his Grandfather was, meaning Yates' great grandfather. He said that his father replied that he wasn't sure. It was then that Yates decided that someone should study the family history and find out who we were and where we came from. Thus he spent some forty years of his life writing studying and tracing the Killian family history.

He used to laugh and say that his wife in commenting about their automobile would say that it knew when they passed a graveyard because the engine automatically slowed down.

Despite his prolific writing and collecting historical material about the Killians, he included very little about himself. Many who have procured the booklet THE HISTORY OF THE KILLIAN FAMILY IN NORTH CAROLINA know that it was compiled by J. Yates Killian but they know little about the author.

Yates<sub>4660</sub> was born in Catawba Co., NC on 5 Oct 1874, the son of William L. Killian<sub>4655</sub> and Eva •<sup>2</sup>Baker<sub>4658</sub>. His father<sub>4665</sub> was the son of Ephriam Killian<sub>1974</sub>, the son of David Killian<sub>1153</sub>, who was the 3<sup>rd</sup> child of Samuel C. Killian<sub>61</sub>, the 10<sup>th</sup> child of Andreas<sub>51</sub>. Yates' grandfather Ephriam married Susan Killian<sub>1975</sub>, a daughter of William Killian<sub>1154</sub> who was a brother of David Killian<sub>1153</sub>. David Killian was a son of Samuel C. Killian<sub>61</sub>. Therefore his grandparents were cousins.

By profession Yates was a nurseryman. He grew fruit trees, vines, evergreens and ornamentals for sale. This business was operated as the Killian Nursery on Rural Route No. 1, Newton, NC a short distance west of the town of Newton. This is the same farm on which his father<sub>4655</sub> operated a nursery. Yates' great uncle Laban Killian<sub>711</sub>, the

**1** The subscript numbers appearing after a name have been inserted by the editor. They are identification numbers in the genealogical computer program maintained by the editor. See the article Plans for this Newsletter for a little more information about the computer program.

**2** For genealogical purposes women are always identified by their maiden name, if it is known.

son of William Killian<sub>1154</sub>, was the pioneer nurseryman of that section of Catawba County.

As a nurseryman he was well known throughout the South. He served at one time as president of the North Carolina Nurseryman's Association and as president of the Southwestern States Nurseryman's Association.

He was very active in political and civic affairs of Catawba Co., representing Catawba Co. several terms in the NC General Assembly in the terms of 1909, 1915 and 1917. J. Yates Killian ran for Secretary of State in the 1924 election as a Republican but was defeated. Also at 21 years of age he was elected the County Surveyor of Catawba County.

I<sub>2136</sub> asked my Dad [David Coon Killian]<sub>1983</sub>, who was a strong Democrat, how the Yates Killian family became such strong Republicans. He said that it was because of the split in The Farmers Alliance. The Farmers Alliance was a very active farm rural organization. In 1892 it split. Ironically, the more conservative members stayed with the Democrat Party and the more radical members became members of the Populist Party which later aligned itself with the Republican Party. Thus the William L. Killian<sub>4655</sub> family became Republicans.

When I was teaching Agriculture in Alexander County NC my supervisor was Howard Gryder, who knew Yates Killian well. In addition to supervising Agriculture teachers, Gryder owned and operated a large apple orchard, and through the years had purchased large numbers of apple seedlings from the Killian Nursery. He said that one of Yates' favorite expressions when it came time for elections was "that it was the Republicans' time to tie on the feed bag".

During my tenure as an agriculture teacher in Alexander County it was my pleasure to know a farmer in the community by the name of Ransom Sharpe. When Mr. Sharpe was sixteen years of age he had an appendectomy performed on him at his home by Dr. Robert B. Killian<sub>4657</sub>. This is reported to be the first appendectomy ever performed in North Carolina [on 16 Jan 1896]. Dr. R. B. Killian was J. Yates Killian's uncle, and a great uncle of mine.

Despite his interest and activity in politics it in no way kept him from serving unselfishly in many civic leadership roles in Catawba Co.

Yates was educated at Catawba College in Newton, NC and at Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory, NC. He was chairman of the Newton City System School Board for twenty-two years; Vice President of Shuford Bank for ten years and a director for twenty years. He was treasurer of the South Fork Baptist Association and held various offices in the First Baptist Church of Newton, NC. He was a charter member and the first President of the Catawba Co. Historical Association. He was also a member of the Newton Masonic Lodge.

One of Yates' favorite stories was about John Killian<sup>3885</sup>, son of Jacob Killian<sup>45</sup> who gave the land upon which Salem Lutheran and Reformed Church was built. John Killian was the great grandson of Andreas<sup>51</sup> by way of Andreas' son John<sup>42</sup>. John Killian<sup>3885</sup> had been elected to the North Carolina General Assembly from Lincoln Co. in 1838 and was running for election against a Nathaniel Wilson. The issue was whether to divide Lincoln Co. and create Catawba Co. Wilson won the election and Lincoln Co. was divided, creating Catawba Co. When the County line was finally run, it ran between Killian's house and barn, placing his house in Catawba Co., cutting him off from his home county. Politics could be rough even back then. This incident is well recorded in The History of Catawba County, 1954.

Yates was married twice. He first married the former Mary Applewhite<sup>8674</sup> of Scotland Neck, Halifax Co., NC, an English teacher at Meridith College, Raleigh, NC. She died in 1922. One daughter, Kathryn<sup>8675</sup>, was born from this marriage. Kathryn married Robert Stinnette<sup>8676</sup> of Pageland, SC and they had five daughters.

His second wife was the former Elyda Lohr<sup>8677</sup>, a Newton teacher, who died in 1939.

Yates Killian was an energetic, decisive type person. He was an entertaining and interesting conversationalist, but when his visit was over you needed to say good-bye quickly because he would leave in a hurry.

His last appearance at a reunion of the Killians was at the unveiling of the Andreas Killian Monument 19 October 1952 at Old Saint Paul's Lutheran Church about two miles west of Newton, NC. Although in failing health, he gave the dedication of the monument that day. He died at his home in Newton on 24 September 1953.

The Killian Clan is greatly indebted to this remarkable individual who donated so many years of his life to compiling historical records of the Andreas Killian family and organizing the first reunion in 1935.

As he acknowledged, what he wrote was not a complete history, but was designed as a skeleton, or frame-work, on which others could build a more complete history of Andreas Killian's descendants. Without his pioneering effort I doubt seriously if we would have started an Andreas Killian Reunion in NC.

*William D. Killian<sup>2136</sup>, the author of this article, is a retired educator. He is the founding President of Blue Ridge Community College, Hendersonville, NC having served as President of that institution for 18 years.*

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WHO WERE  
JOHN YATES KILLIAN<sup>4660</sup> &  
THOMAS DANIEL KILLIAN<sup>3999</sup>?  
by George W. Killian<sup>1</sup>

The above title could include Cletus Hugo Killian<sup>5</sup>. John Yates Killian was better known as J. Yates Killian. Thomas Daniel Killian was best known as T. D. Killian. Cletus Hugo

Killian did not care for his name and went by C. H. Killian. J. Yates lived in NC; T.D. in GA and C.H. in NY although he was born in MO. J. Yates' years were from 1884 to 1953; T.D. from 1881 to 1963 and C.H. from 1892 to 1962. Their common interest was in genealogy. C.H. and J. Yates met in 1952. To the best of my knowledge T.D. never met the other two. They all corresponded and exchanged information. In 1934 T.D. wrote an essay on his Killians and other ancestors of his family. In 1939 J. Yates wrote his THE HISTORY OF THE KILLIAN FAMILY IN NORTH CAROLINA and shortly later C.H. began his extensive research. He wrote several essays about his research and discoveries.

I, <sup>3</sup>George W. Killian<sup>1</sup>, am a son of C.H. and in 1969 I collected the essays of these three men and published some of them in a book I entitled THE KILLIAN FAMILY AND PARTICULARLY THE ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS OF ANDREAS KILLIAN 1702 — 1788. This work mentions about 1,200 people and includes an index with a citation to each paragraph in which the person is mentioned. The book is now hopelessly out of date.

Since 1989 I have been entering genealogical information in a computer. It is a massive project. I now have nearly 9,000 names and have more to enter. New data and corrections are always welcome. I want the collection to include any person who looks to Andreas Killian as an ancestor, and the spouse of such person. I am also updating my book by putting it in the computer and entering the index number of any person mentioned in the text, as I have done in this newsletter. By this means anyone reading the text, and having a copy of my computer base, can look up details and relationships of any person.

It is curious that all three of these men failed to include much about themselves in their writing. As shown in the first article some information about J. Yates has been acquired. A following essay will give some additional information about T.D. Killian. Since C.H. is my father you can be sure I will tell you about some of his accomplishments in genealogy and other fields.

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#### PLANS FOR THIS NEWSLETTER

The future of this newsletter, and its contents, will be determined by your interest. We expect it to include information and announcements about any Killian reunion. We want to include information about anyone with Killian ancestry no matter what their surname is now. In addition to North Carolina There are Killians with deep roots in Arkansas, Indiana, Georgia, Tennessee, Missouri, Texas, Alabama, South Carolina and other locations. We would like to include information about them.

Also we would like to include information about notable and colorful Killians. James R. Killian, who died a few years

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**3** I am the editor of this Family Newsletter. My address is: 17 Charing Cross • Fairport, NY 14450-3926 • Phone (716) 223-4839.

ago served as technical, or science advisor, to President Eisenhower. His sister has given me information about him.

We would like to include events that centered around Killians. Remember, the last name does NOT have to be Killian, to be a member of the Killian Clan.

One objective is to continue to build the data base of people who look to Andreas Killian as an ancestor, and the spouse of any such person. The data is kept in a computer and periodically a copy of all the data is contributed to the largest genealogical library in the world. Thus, any who are, or may become, interested will have copies of the data available long after the death of the compiler.

We would like to note the contributions of some of our predecessors in their communities. We would like to document some events. For example, we have Andreas' ancestry back to 1516, or do we? There is a weak link between him and the man who may be his father. Somewhere, someone may know the facts.

*This newsletter can NOT be a success without many members of the expanded Killian family contributing data, and even a little financial support. Contributions (\$2 to \$5 is suggested) may be made to: Andreas Killian Reunion Group and sent to:*

Robert L. Killian • 5115 Freedom Drive • Charlotte, NC 28208.

Information, suggestions and articles may be sent to William D. Killian • 1995 Haywood Road • Hendersonville, NC 28739 • Phone (704) 692-3577.

The computer data base should include the birth, marriage and death of all who look to Andreas as an ancestor. Please send information to the editor: George W. Killian • 17 Charing Cross • Fairport, NY 14450-3926.

In a future issue I tell you how to get a copy of the data base, or how to get access to the data in a genealogical library.

Please advise William Killian of other things you would like to see in this newsletter. Among other things what name would you like for this newsletter?

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## ANDREAS KILLIAN REUNION IN NORTH CAROLINA

The next meeting of the Andreas Killian reunion will be on 12 September 1993. The meetings are always scheduled for "SSS", the Second Sunday of September. The meeting will be held at 3:00 pm at the Castanea Presbyterian Church. Be there. Bring a dish to pass. Bring information. Share your thoughts about this newsletter. How often do you want it published? Will you help support it? See suggested contribution in Col 5.

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THOMAS DANIEL KILLIAN<sup>3999</sup>  
Born 30 Nov 1881—Died 8 Oct 1963  
by his nephew

Edward Franklin Killian, Jr

Thomas Daniel Killian attended Georgia Tech and when he graduated he was the youngest man to graduate at Tech at that time.

When he graduated jobs were scarce and he went to work as a messenger boy for the Western Union Telegraph Company.

When delivering a telegram to Mr. Robinson of the Atlanta Office of the American Book Depository, (they sold school books in and around Atlanta, GA) a letter in French was delivered. Mr. Robinson's secretary could not read the letter and he told her to find someone who could read French. Mr. Killian, who read and spoke German, French and Spanish read the letter for Mr. Robinson. He was hired on the spot. In time he became the office manager for the Book Depository.

He worked there until his Aunt Jane Grant<sup>3900</sup> died in 1912. He had lived with her and she left him all her assets so he quit to pursue a music career. He played the piano and the violin.

He was a violinist in the Atlanta, GA Symphony Orchestra and the Philadelphia Harmonic Orchestra for a number of years.

Thomas D. Killian lived with his mother, Amaryllis Bomar<sup>3966</sup> Killian; her mother, Sarah Elizabeth Lumpkin Bomar; his brother Charles H. Killian<sup>3905</sup>; his sister Julia Killian<sup>3998</sup>; and a cousin Charles G. Harris; on Woodward Avenue, Atlanta, GA.

In April 1919, when Amaryllis B. Killian<sup>3966</sup>, Thomas D. Killian's mother and in October 1919 when his grandmother, Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth Haynes Bomar, died; he and his sister moved to Tallulah Falls, GA. They lived in the Tallulah Falls Hotel and he had an orchestra that played dinner music at the hotel. They also played at lunch, and after dinner at night for dancing. In the early part of 1921, they moved back to Atlanta and resided at 1012 DeKalb Avenue until the early part of 1936. From 1921—1936 he taught violin and piano to various students. Each summer his orchestra played at the Tallulah Falls Hotel. In 1923, Mr. Killian (who couldn't drive a car) borrowed a model T Ford and had <sup>4</sup>Ned Killian (his nephew) drive him all over north Georgia, eastern Tennessee, western South Carolina, western North Carolina, and the tidewaters of Virginia. He did this to research the Killian family and all the interlocking families of his brother's (Edward F. Killian) wife's family. They again retraced some of these locations in 1934 and spent considerable time in churches, courthouses, and cemeteries.

He then published a Georgia Killian family history. He shared a lot of this information with J. Yates Killian, Miss Pearl Little, Mrs. D. M. Carpenter, Mr. J. M. Ballard. They also helped him with the information they had acquired in their search for Killian family history. When Gone With The

4 "Ned" Killian is Edward Franklin Killian, the author of this article.

Wind was filmed he supplied a lot of information used. His Aunt Jane's husband, Colonel L. P Grant<sup>4923</sup>, was the engineer who built the old Union Station. Mr. Killian had the original mechanical drawing for erection of the station. He also had the original and copies of the fortifications for the various battles of the Civil War around Atlanta, GA. He also had a letter to Colonel Grant from General Sherman that if the confederates had stayed in the fortifications, he would have to starve them out.

Colonel Grant had devised and drawn these up. He lent these plans and others to a friend, Wilber Kurtz, who had the job of seeing that the film was authentic.

These, and many other items, are now in the City of Atlanta's Historical Museum. They were donated by Mr. Killian, Mr. Killian's mother's father, Dr. B. F. Bomar, who was the second mayor of Atlanta. He was on the first city council and was in on the formation of the first government. He and another councilman proposed and bought the property for the City's Oakland Cemetery. The Killian-Bomar lot is the 4<sup>th</sup> lot on the left from Oakland Avenue gate. There are five (5) generations of Killian-Bomar family members buried there. T. Grant Killian's two daughters, their husbands, and E. F. Killian's daughter plan to be buried there also. Thomas Daniel Killian was a member of long standing of the First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta, GA.

[The text provided by the author includes a chart of the descendants of Thomas Daniel Killian's father. It is believed that considerable data could be added. The chart may be published in this newsletter when more data is available. Data from the editor's data base may be obtained from him. If you do not provide new data for him there may be a charge of about 15¢ per page.]

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### EDWARD FRANKLIN KILLIAN, JR,<sup>4960</sup> by Himself

I was born in Atlanta, GA, 15 July 1907, on my father's<sup>3977</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. I was the second of six children.

My father was Edward Franklin Killian<sup>3977</sup> and my mother was Julia Wright<sup>4958</sup>. I am descended from Andreas Killian<sup>51</sup> his son Johannes (John)<sup>42</sup>, Jacob<sup>45</sup>, Daniel<sup>3980</sup>, Charles H.<sup>3905</sup> and Edward F. Killian.

I lived in Atlanta, GA, until I was four years old, in my grandmother's (Amaryllis Bomar Killian's<sup>3994</sup>) home. My father's brother, Thomas Daniel Killian<sup>3999</sup> [See earlier essay on Thomas Daniel Killian] also lived there.

I then moved to a suburb of Atlanta - Kirkwood, GA. I lived there until I was 14 years old. I then moved to a dairy farm near Panthersville, GA. I lived there until I was about 19 and had finished high school.

I then moved to Jacksonville, FL, and worked for Texaco and Pan Am oil companies until 1928. I was manager of the wholesale oil plant. I then moved to Memphis, TN. In Memphis I was in business with three men selling and servicing radios and phonographs. The depression caused us to go out of business in 1930.

From 1930 until 1936, I worked for Shell Oil Company as plant manager and salesman. This was in Durham and Burlington, NC.

In 1936, I moved to Atlanta, GA, and worked for the State of Georgia and the federal government on tabulating equipment. I did this type of work until 1975.

I then worked for Remington Rand as a salesman. I attended schools in New York and Connecticut to be trained in all phases of Univac computer equipment.

In 1947 I moved to Charleston, SC. I worked for West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company as superintendent of computer operations. I stayed with them until I retired in 1972. I was then hired as a consultant by West Virginia Pulp and paper Company to put all operations on their various computer installations.

On 4 June 1938, I married Nina Grace Bass<sup>8678</sup>. She was born in Leslie, GA, and raised in Orlando, FL. We had two children, Edward Franklin Killian, III<sup>8679</sup>, and Lynda Gail Killian<sup>8650</sup>. My wife passed away on 21 April 1988—several weeks before our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

My son, Edward Franklin Killian, III, married Myrna Weeks<sup>8681</sup> and has one daughter, Sharolyn Killian who is 21 and a nursing student. They live in Columbia, SC.

My daughter, Gail, married William Smith Heaton<sup>8683</sup>, and has two children. A son, William Smith Heaton, Jr.<sup>8684</sup>, 23, in the US Marines for six years and stationed in Okinawa. A daughter, Leah Heaton<sup>8685</sup>, who is 21 and married to Andrew Moore<sup>8686</sup>. They all live in Anderson, SC.

I am very much interested in genealogy and am a member of the South Carolina and Charleston Genealogical Society. I am also an active member of the North Charleston United Methodist Church, West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company Retirees Association, North Charleston Senior Citizen Club (where I call bingo every week). I am also actively involved (and have been for 50 years) in several credit union associations—having served as President, Manger, Board of Directors, and Chairman of the Supervisory Committee.

I am currently researching the history of my ancestors and those of my wife's family.

*End Volume 1 Number 1 1993*