

The Killian Family Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 2 — 1993 Published Twice a Year OUR PAST PRESENT & FUTURE

	CONTENTS:	Page #
Reunions	by Frances Killian Hampton	1
The 1993 Killian Reunion		12 Sep 1993 3
Saint Killian		3
1790 Census Data		4
Text of Andreas Killian Memorial		4
Please Help		4

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REMEMBERING REUNIONS AND OTHER THINGS ABOUT THE ANDREAS KILLIAN CLAN

by: Frances Killian Hampton⁵⁷⁰⁷
Descendant of Andreas⁵¹ Through Samuel⁶¹

¹Superscript numbers are for footnotes; look at the bottom of the column. Subscript numbers are explained in the first footnote below.

It has been a long time since that first reunion of the Andreas Killian Clan held on 22 August 1935, at the Salem Lutheran and Reformed Church in Lincoln Co., NC.

This church, as reported in OUR ENDURING PAST (publication of the Lincoln Co. Historic Properties, Inc. in 1986), ***"is one of the two oldest church structures in Lincoln Co. It was built, as was Machpelah Presbyterian Church, in 1840. The roots of this congregation, however, go back to the late eighteenth century when it was organized by German, Lutheran, and Reformed parishioners."***

This book further states that, ***"the congregation was meeting in a log church on this site in 1814. This structure was repaired during that year, and in 1835, it was enlarged to accommodate people of color on days of public worship."***

The first reunion was held at Salem Church on a Thursday and I learned later that, at that time, only worship services were allowed to be held in the church on Sunday. Many of you reading this were there as I was, with my parents. What a memorable day for this seven-year-old! Particularly do I remember the enthusiasm of the late ²Guy Killian⁶⁵⁷⁹ who had been among those who worked so hard to bring it about.

Reunions have revealed some interesting things about our ancestry and it has been through the work and research of many of you that we have updated our genealogy. We've also learned that there were excellent cooks within the family as we partook of the good food at the reunions. (Maybe we should do a cookbook!) Sometimes there were special gifts of balloons for the children, provided by my late father, Jesse Claude Killian³⁹²⁰, and someone (I wish I knew who this was) would often bring a bushel of ³apples to those early reunions to share with the Killians after the supper.

1 Footnote numbers are placed in front of words. The associated footnote is at the bottom of the column. The editor, George W. Killian • 17 Charing Cross Fairport, NY 14450-3926 • Phone (716) 223-4839, maintains a computer genealogical data base with thousands of Andreas' descendants. The subscript numbers after a person's name are identification numbers for looking up that person in the data base to learn additional information about the person and his relationship to any other person.

2 I have Guy Killian in my computer with his wife; but no children. Can anyone add this information to our heritage?

3 Bill Killian often brought Henderson Co. apples.

Through the years I have served several terms as president, but it was during my vice-presidency that we celebrated the fiftieth reunion. That day I presided in the absence of the president, John Killian⁴⁴⁶⁴, and reminded those in attendance that we had learned a lot about our ancestry since that first reunion in 1935 and that one of those who had helped in research was Ray A. Killian²³⁵⁹ of Charlotte. Some years before he and his wife had traveled in Europe where they visited the Killian Chapel in the city of Wurzburg, Germany. This chapel, built over the grave of Saint Killian was named for him after he, a Missionary Monk, had been murdered in 689. Missionary Kilian was Roman Catholic, as were all Christians and churches until the Reformation of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

In my personal research on Christianity, I came across a book (A HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, Williston Walker, 1970) in which there was some information on "Missionary Kilian":

"Irish missionary efforts were carried to northern England, among the Anglo-Saxons of Northumbria. There, on the island of Lindisfarne, off the extreme northeastern coast of England, a new Iona was established by Aidan, a monk from Iona, in 634. Thence Christianity was widely spread in the region by him until his death in 651, and afterwards by his associates. Columbanus, or Columba the Younger (543-615), became a monk of the celebrated Irish monastery of Bangor, which was founded in 558 by Congall, a leader of learning and missionary zeal. Columbanus made his way to northern Italy, and there established in 614, in the Appenines, the monastery of Bobbio, in which he died a year later. Columbanus was only one of the earlier of a number of Irish monks who labored on the Continent—many of them in what is now central and northern Germany. Thus, Kilian wrought in Wurzburg and Virgil in Salzburg. One modification of Christian practice, of great later importance, was introduced on the Continent by these Irish monks."

The late Rev. Julius H. Shuford, quoted in a genealogical report by the late J. Yates Killian⁴⁶⁶⁰ in 1939,

noted that ***"the Killians are an ancient family and can be traced back to the year 1537. During the time when Martin Luther undertook the Reformation of the Church in Germany, there was one John Killian, a licentiate (one licensed to preach or practice a profession) in the Eufort College, who took a very active part in that great movement and made himself very conspicuous in the eyes of Luther's enemies."***

In her lengthy research in 1973, Wanda Woolwine McElveen⁶⁶⁸¹ (also descended from my Samuel⁶¹ line), traced our ancestry back to the birth of Bartholomus ⁴Kilian¹³⁹⁷ in 1548 (who was the son of Hans¹⁴⁰¹ and Ursula¹⁴⁰² Killian). Bartholomus was married in 1577 to Maria ⁵Pfeyffelmann and they had one child, Wolfgang Killian¹³⁹³ (born in 1581) who had a son named Philip¹³⁹⁰ (born in 1628). Philip had a son, Johannes Philip Wolfgang Killian⁹³⁷ (born in 1654) who was the father of Andreas Killian⁵¹, our ancestor born in 1702. This is the Andreas Killian who came to America in 1732 on the ship ADVENTURE.

4In Germany the names of these people is clearly documented with one "L" i.e. Killian.

5 Different translations of German records often spell many of these names different ways.

Last year's reunion was held at the Castanea Presbyterian Church in Lucia (Gaston Co.) which has a number of Killians among its members and this year's (1993) will be held there again on the Second Sunday of September, the 12th, beginning at 3 p.m. Supper will follow at 5 p.m.

The Castanea Church was originally organized in 1853 under the leadership of Dr. Robert Hall Morrison, who was one of the founders of Davidson College. The church, in its early days, was called Castanea Grove Presbyterian Church and the congregation worshipped in a white frame building in the midst of a chestnut grove. (Castanea means "chestnut.")

It was not until 1876, however, that the land on which the church was built was actually given to the church by Sidney X. Johnston. "in consideration of his love and affectionate interest in said church." It was noted that on that day of 1 March 1876 that "there was snow on the ground." Later that same year (December 21, 1876), Dr. Morrison married Peter Osborne Alonzo Killian³⁷⁹⁶ and Mary Keziah Derr³⁹¹⁴ at the Derr residence on what is now Killian Road in the Riverbend Township of Gaston Co. These were my grandparents.

In 1930 the building at Castanea collapsed and the church floundered for a few years before being reorganized in 1939 and a new building of native stone was erected. Among the members during the reorganization were many Killians, all descendants of Samuel C. Killian⁶¹, tenth child of Andreas Killian⁵¹. Some of these and their offspring are still attending Castanea.

Killian Reunions have also been held at St. Paul's Church near Newton, NC where, in 1771, an eleven-acre tract of land was deeded to the Lutheran and Reformed denominations to be used for Church and School purposes. A HISTORY OF CATAWBA COUNTY (PUBLISHED IN 1954 by the Catawba County Historical Association, Inc.) notes that St. Paul's was the first church west of the Catawba River. The exact date of the church's founding is not known, but there was preaching there in 1759 and, in 1764, there was a pastor named Dupert of the Reformed faith. On May 29, 1819, fifty-three members signed a pledge for the preacher's salary and, among the surnames, was Killian. Earlier, according to this book, the name Killian had been listed in the 1790⁶Census.

Further information from A HISTORY OF CATAWBA COUNTY shows that, before 1842, the church was located in Lincoln Co., but in 1842 a bill was introduced by Nathaniel Wilson to⁷ divide Lincoln Co., by "laying off and establishing a new county, Catawba." Opposing the "equal division of Lincoln Co." was John Killian³⁸⁸⁵, great grandson of Andreas who had settled in what is now Lincoln Co., in 1749. Approval, however, came on 12 Dec 1842 and it was also noted that Wilson's "first speech in favor of a division of Lincoln was made upon a log at a point near St. Paul's Church."

The division of Lincoln and Catawba went through Killian's farm and his house wound up in the new county of Catawba. It is said there were no hard feelings but Killian, who had been elected to the General Assembly in 1838, never again ran for public office. His son, Jesse⁴⁶⁸⁷, however, served as Catawba Co. sheriff from 1902 to 1906.

John Killian and Nathaniel Wilson, at the time of the county's division, were members of the same Thessalonica Baptist Church.

It was in the St. Paul's Church Cemetery that, on 19 Oct 1952, a Memorial to Andreas Killian was dedicated. Young members of

the Andreas Killian family—⁸Robert Mayo Hefner and Roslyn Reid—did the unveiling for the beautiful granite monument depicting Andreas Killian's trip to America and showing the names of his children. It is also noted that he took the Oath of Allegiance on 23 Sep 1732 in Philadelphia, later coming to NC about 1747 where he established his home about two miles northwest of St. Paul's.

At the time the memorial dedicated at St. Paul's, ⁹officers of the Killian Clan were Jesse C. Sigmon, Sr., President; Odus C. Carpenter, Vice-President; and John F. Carpenter, Secretary-Treasurer.

Working with the cooperation of the Catawba Historical Association, Inc. was ¹⁰Raymond L. Hefner²³³⁶, Chairman of the Memorial and Finance Committee responsible for the monument, and his committee of twelve person from within the Killian Clan.

¹¹J. Yates Killian⁴⁶⁶⁰, who served the Killian Clan so nobly until his death in 1953, was the first president of the Catawba Co. Historical Association and their book mentioned earlier (A HISTORY OF CATAWBA COUNTY) was dedicated to him and the Association's second president, Raymond L. Hefner, a primary force in the work of the Killian Clan until his death, also in 1953. Both men contributed greatly to the Association in the recording of the county's heritage.

The book, OUR ENDURING PAST, referred to earlier in this story, is a SURVEY OF 235 YEARS OF LIFE AND ARCHITECTURE IN LINCOLN COUNTY, NC and was published in 1986 by the Lincoln Co., Historic Properties Commission, chaired at that time by the Rev. Gaither E. Shrum of Lincolnton.

Collaborating in putting this book together were Marvin A. Brown of the NC Division of Archives and History, who spent a year working on the pictures and related copy, and Maurice C. York, with the Edgecomb County Library of Tarboro, NC, who authored the section about the economic and social history of the county.

It was my privilege to personally set this book in print by computer and, during those six weeks it took to do this, I learned more about Killian ancestry. Also, I had previously taken a course in Lincoln Co. history taught by Rev. Shrum wherein we traveled around the county and viewed some of the places outlined in this book.

In the Daniels community of Lincoln Co. I learned from this book about the home of Amzie Adolphus Killian¹⁹⁷⁶ (1850-1922). The house which he built had passed on to his son, David Killian¹⁹⁸³ (1884-1976); then to David's son, Frank²¹³⁴, and I believe it is still in his family. Our current president, Dr. William D. Killian²¹³⁶, is a descendant of this particular line.

Also in the Daniels vicinity, Shrum showed us the ¹²Dr. R. B. Killian⁴⁶⁵⁷ home on one of our tours. Dr. Killian was the son of Ephriam Killian¹⁹⁷⁴ (brother of Amzie mentioned above) and was born on a farm in Catawba Co. in a section known as Jacob's Fork. He performed the first appendectomy, in NC, in 1876. He had first

8 These children are not in the editor's data base and should be added. Can anyone help?

9 None of the officers named are in the editor's genealogical data base. Information would be appreciated.

10 His ancestry is included in the genealogical data base, but not his wife or descendants. Can anyone help?

11 See an article about him in Volume 1 Number 1 of this Newsletter.

12 See Volume 1 Number 1 column 2 for more information about this Dr. Killian and the operation he performed.

6 The 1790 Census lists several Killians.

7 See also the text of this Newsletter Volume 1 #1 column 3 for more information.

witnessed the operation for appendicitis in NYC eight years earlier while in post graduate school.

On one of our class trips, Shrum took us by the Salem Church where we saw a Killian millstone on the front lawn. Shrum had heard about the millstone some years before when nearby residents discovered it in Clark's Creek. The stone was first taken to the Department of Transportation office near Newton and later moved to the Salem Church after research indicated it came from the old Killian Mill, built around the 1830s. It was reported at the 49th reunion in 1983 that "it is believed to have been washed away in the flood of 1916, having become embedded in the creek then." The grooved stone measures about four feet across and six inches thick with a six-inch hole in the center.

In A HISTORY OF CATAWBA COUNTY there is detailed information about how the millstone was used for grinding the grain. Two round stones were needed, **"with the bottom one being stationary and the top one moveable by means of a wooden screw that could be raised or lowered."** The book further explains that the stones were grooved and **"the ground grain fell down into the center of the stones and was thrown onto a sieve or bolting cloth where it was sifted."**

In Denver, NC there is a Greek Revival-Style home now owned by Lee Killian⁵⁵²¹ that was built shortly before 1850 which is included in the book, OUR ENDURING PAST. Lee is the great great grandson of the builder, Levi Elijah Killian⁴⁴⁵³ (1813-1876). The house was passed through Luther Alexander Killian⁴⁵⁶² (1849-1895); then to Jacob⁵⁴⁹² and Levi Elisha⁵⁴⁹³ (two of Luther's sons) lived there before the next occupancy by Lee's late parents, Sinclair⁵⁵¹⁹ and Janie (Beatty⁵⁵²⁰) Killian.

Both OUR ENDURING PAST and A HISTORY OF CATAWBA COUNTY are excellent sources of information on the Killians and, if you have other sources for Killian history, please let us know.

This is just a small "look-back" at past reunions and some of the places and people associated with the history of the Killian Clan.

You may write to Frances Killian Hampton at: 1600 Killian Road • Stanley, NC 28164 • phone (704) 827-8987

THE 1993 KILLIAN ASSOCIATION REUNION

Will be held:

Sunday 12 September 1993

at

Castanea Presbyterian Church

**Route 1, Box 546, Stanley, NC
Highway 16 at Lucia**

—————
Please bring a picnic supper
Drinks, cups, plates etc will be provided

SAINT KILLIAN

From New Catholic Encyclopedia
1981 Edition Vol 8 page 179

KILIAN of Aubigny, St., Irish hermit in France d 670 (feast, 13 Nov). Little is known of the career of Kilian (originally CHILLEN). He is said to have been returning from a pilgrimage to Rome when he met S. Faro, Bishop of Meaus, who found him a site for a hermitage at Aubigny near Arras. Here Kilian spent the rest of his life and was later venerated as a saint. This same St. Faro was responsible for settling the Irish St. Fiacre in the same part of France.

KILIAN of Wurzburg, St., bishop and martyr; b Ireland (According to strong local tradition, at Mallagh, County Cavan). c. 640; d Wurzburg, Germany, 8 July 689 (feast, 8 July). According to the older and more trustworthy **passio** he was already a bishop when he left Ireland with 11 companions and reached the residence of the pagan Thuringian Duke, Gozbert, at Wurzburg. Having decided to evangelize this region, he reputedly traveled to Rome for papal approval in autumn 686. The account of this journey and of his meeting with Pope Conon is certainly unhistorical. He converted many in Franconia and Thuringia, including Duke Gozbert, whom he persuaded to separate from Geilana, his brother's widow. In revenge Geilana had Kilian murdered along with two of his fellow missionaries, the priest Coloman (Kolonat) and the deacon Totnan. Their relics were solemnly transferred by Burchard, first bishop of Wurzburg, to the new cathedral on 8 July 752, and are now enshrined in the Neumünster, erected over the spot where, according to tradition, the martyrdom took place. Much controversy has centered on the dating and reliability of the **Passio Prima** and **Secunda** that deal with the saint's life, but A. Bigelmair dates the **Passio Prima** to 752 and accepts it as historical, though with an accretion of legend.

Other Writers & Sources include the following:

In Würzburg St. Kilian came into conflict with the local Duke, Gozbert, who had married his brother's widow, Geilana. As the church forbade such unions, Kilian demanded that Gozbert and Geilana separate. Gozbert, faced with the choice between his love for his wife, and obedience to the church, chose the latter with a heavy heart. But the lady, furious at the decision, waited until Gozbert was away on a military campaign to have Kilian and his two companions decapitated and given a rather hasty burial. When Gozbert returned he was told that the Irishmen had left the country, but it was not long before he found out the truth for himself. Later tradition avers Geilana went mad and Gozbert was himself murdered by one of his own servants.

Kilian is not one of those early Irish monks who was responsible for founding monasteries either in his own or in his adopted country, but as one of the very few early martyrs which Ireland ever produced, his fame will last as long as Christian saints are venerated, and he provides a precious link between two European nations which have always felt a special affinity with one another ever since his death over thirteen hundred years ago.

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Selected Data
From the 1790 Census in NC and PA

Killians and other selected names in the 1790 Census in North Carolina and Pennsylvania. The 1790 Census listed only the name of the head of the house. Others were classed as:
 "Males over 16 including head of family"
 "Males under 16"
 "Females including head of family"
 "Slaves"

Males over 16	Males under 16	Females	Slaves	County	Name
1	1	4		Lin PA	Killian, Adam
1		1		Bur NC	Killian, Jacob
1		1		Lin NC	Killian, David
1		2		Wil NC	Killian, Henry
1	2	1		Lin NC	Killian, Jacob
1	3	1		Lin NC	Killian, John
3	1	2		Lin NC	Killian, John
1	1	2		Lin NC	Killian, John
4	1	3		Lin NC	Killian, John Sr.
2			1	Lin NC	Killian, Leonard
1	3	4		Lin NC	Killian, Mathias
1	2	3		Lin NC	Killian, Samuel
1				Wil NC	Killian, Shadrach
3				Lan PA	Killian, Abraham
1	2	2		Nor PA	Killian, John
3		1		Lan PA	Killian, Nicholas
1		1		Lan PA	Killian, Philip
	1	2		Lan PA	(widow)
2	3	4		Ch PA	Killiard, Guy
1		1		Lin NC	Cresemore, Jacob
1	1	5		Lin NC	Hopper, Adam
1	1	2		Lin NC	Yount, Abraham
1	2	2		Lin NC	Yount, Philip
2		2		Lin NC	Kline, Michael
1	2	3		Lin NC	Cline, Jacob
1	3	3		Lin NC	Yount, Jacob
1	3	3		Lin NC	Yount, Peter
2	1	7	7	Lin NC	Hoskins, John

Bur = Burke Co. NC
 Ch = Chester Co. PA
 Lan = Lancaster Co. PA
 Lin = Lincoln Co. NC
 Nor = Northampton Co. PA
 Wil = Wilkes Co. NC

It should be noted that members of a household may have included in-laws or other relatives.

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The text of the Andreas Killian Memorial follows. It reproduces the original as nearly as can be done on a computer.

IN MEMORY OF
ANDREAS KILLIAN

1702 - 1788

HIS WIFE MARY, AND TWELVE CHILDREN
AS NAMED In HIS WILL

MARGARET	GEORGE
LEONARD	BRINA
JOHN	DANIEL
JEAN	SAMUEL C.
CRATE	CHRISTIANN
ANDREW	ELIZABETH

OUR PIONEER ANCESTOR CAME FROM GERMANY ON THE SHIP ADVENTURE, LANDING AT PHILADELPHIA WHERE HE TOOK THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE SEPTEMBER 23, 1732.

HE CAME TO NORTH CAROLINA ABOUT 1747 AND LATER ESTABLISHED A HOME ABOUT TWO MILES NORTHWEST OF HERE.

ERECTED BY DESCENDANTS WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE CATAWBA COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
— 1952 —

PLEASE HELP

Your financial and data contributions are needed if we are to continue this Killian Family Newsletter. Please send financial contributions (\$2 to \$5 is suggested) to: **Robert L. Killian • 5115 Freedom Drive • Charlotte, NC 28208.**

Data contributions (births, marriages, deaths and stories) may be sent to: **William D. Killian • 1995 Haywood Road • Hendersonville, NC 28739 • Phone (704) 692-3577** or **George W. Killian • 17 Charing Cross • Fairport, NY 14450-3926 • Phone (716) 223-4839.**

Do you want information about an ancestor? If he or she looks to Andreas Killian as an ancestor George W. Killian might be able to help. Please send a stamped addressed envelope. Give as much information about the person as you can. Don't just ask about John Killian, I have 44 John Killians! Please send information about your family so the data base can be as complete as possible and help more people.

Does anyone have interesting copies of the wills of some early Killians? I would like to include some of these in the book I am assembling on the Killian Family.

We would appreciate your comments about the type used in this Newsletter. It is slightly smaller than the first issue. Can you read it easily, or should it be larger? This smaller type allowed about another full column. Is the Newsletter too long or too short? Will you contribute text for an article?

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