

# The Killian Family Newsletter

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OUR PAST PRESENT & FUTURE

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## OLD KILLIAN MILLSTONE

On the lawn of *Salem Church* there resides a millstone which was surely used at the Old Killian Mill more than 160 years ago. The mill and stone were probably washed away in the flood of 1916. The stone was found several years ago about six miles north of Lincolnton in the bed of Clark's Creek where the Maiden Salem Road (SR 1274) crosses it.

The stone is grooved and about four feet across. It is six inches thick with a six inch hole in the center. The stone was uncovered while excavating for a new bridge and was set upright and placed in cement and displayed in front of the DOT office on Prison Camp Road near Newton.

Since the stone was believed to have a historical connection to Lincoln County it was returned to Lincoln County and is now displayed at the *Salem Lutheran and Reformed Church*, which is celebrating a 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary and is our host for our 1996 Killian Reunion. Come to the reunion, inspect this visible and historic link to our ancestry.

The photo at the right was taken by **Bill Killian** of Hendersonville, NC.



## THE FIRST ANNUAL KILLIAN REUNION

*The following is copied from a 1935 newspaper account of the First annual meeting of the Killian Reunion. Unfortunately part of the article is missing, a part I would dearly love to see!*

The following is a history of the **Killian** family as related by **J. Yates Killian**, of Newton, NC, at the first annual Killian reunion held at Salem Lutheran and Reformed church on August 22, 1935, and reported in Lincoln Times of August 25, 1935. [Same place as our 1996 meeting.]

"On October 4, 1732 **Andreas Killian** landed in Philadelphia on the British ship "Adventure." His signature to the declaration of allegiance to the Colonial government, on a photostat copy of the page on which he signed his name, and the signature on a will made by **Andreas Killian** of Lincoln county, North Carolina, September 2, 1785 were made by the same person.

Sunday 8 September 1996  
is the date for the  
Killian Family Reunion  
We will meet at  
Salem Church  
which is celebrating their  
200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Salem Church is five miles north of Lincolnton, NC  
at intersection of SR 1005 and SR 1274  
Jacob Killian deeded Salem Church  
three acres in 1815

*Business meeting and Program at 3 P.M.  
Picnic follows.  
Please bring a dish to pass.  
Drinks, cups, plates etc. will be provided.  
This is the only notice of the meeting.  
Separate Invitations will not be mailed.*



Stone From Old Killian Mill



"Just what time **Andreas Killian** and his family crossed the Catawba river to the west side is not known, but the Colonial Council granted to **John Killian** 1,000 acres of land in Anson county on April 13, 1749 and on September 30, 1749 **John Killian** received another grant of 1,000 acres on Killian Creek, south side of the Catawba river. Also on the same date September 30, 1749, **Andreas Killian**, received a grant of 1,850 acres on Killian Creek, and **Leonard Killian**, also on the same date 1,200 acres of land on Killian Creek. Therefore it is evident that the Killians crossed to the south or west side of the Catawba river early in the year 1749 or before this year. We are of the

opinion that the **Sherrills, Henry Weidner, Simon Hass** and **Killians** came together to the east bank of the Catawba and crossed about the same time and moved in different directions to build their homes. Killian's Creek in Catawba county was named for the Killian family, on which stream this pioneer family lived until the latter part of the year 1754. For a few years when the Cherokee Indians began hostilities against the white settlers, and had some fighting with the **Forneys**, who, with the **Hagers** had entered land on Killians Creek in 1752-53, then **Andreas Killian** with his family moved back to the east side of the Catawba river.

"But in the year (June 26) 1776 **Andreas Killian** and his son, **John**, bought of **Mathias Beaver**, several hundred acres of land on both sides of Clark's Creek, which is the land on the Newton-Hickory road, near Saint Paul's church, a few miles west of Newton, adjoining the Crowdertown land, but **Leonard Killian** continued to live on his Killian Creek land.

"**Andreas Killian** sold his land on Killian Creek to the **Forneys** and other settlers about the year 1765, the deeds signed by him and his son, **Andrew**.

"Pioneer **Andreas Killian** probably was married twice as is evident

*Unfortunately the rest of the article is missing. Does anyone have the balance of the text? Also does anyone have a photo copy of Andreas signature on either of the documents cited in this article? See note at the very end of this newsletter.*



#### ANDREAS KILLIAN'S DESCENDANTS

For many years I have been accumulating data on any family who shares common ancestry with my children. As this is being prepared I have over 22,200 names in my computer files. A few years ago those with a Killian connection comprised at least 2/3 of the total. Now it is down to just under 62%. If you are getting this Newsletter you surely have a Killian connection. If the address on the mailing label does not have "RIN" followed by a number, under your name, I do not know your connection and you may not be included in the files. You should be!

A principle object is to make this data available to our descendants for years to come. About once a year I give a copy of my data to *The Family History Center of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*. They have the largest and most available genealogical library in the world. They have hundreds of local branches with state-of-the-art computers that will include my data. Thus, by sharing your data with me you will help to preserve it for your descendants who may become interested in their roots. Of course many millions of other names, submitted by other families, are included in the *The Family History Center* computers.

It was through the facilities of *The Family History Center* that I found some of **Margaret's** descendants a few years ago. And coincidentally, a little later some of her descendants, using *The Family History Center* facilities, contacted me to obtain information concerning her ancestry

As you know our original ancestor, **Andreas Killian**, arrived in 1732 and died in North Carolina in 1788. His will listed twelve children. A few decades ago we knew nothing of at least four of the children. Now there are only two for whom we have no descendants. Below is a listing of each of the twelve children, together with the number of known descendants of

each. Figures are given of blood descendants, and descendants including spouses. **Andreas'** children are listed in order of their birth.

Andreas' Children	Blood Descendants	Descendants Including Spouses
Margaret	841	1,321
Leonard	2,200	3,247
John	3,138	4,757
Jean	63	111
Crate	0	1
Andrew	209	316
George	17	32
Brina	0	1
Daniel	199	301
Samuel	2,183	3,324
Christianna	11	12
Elizabeth	46	78

If there is no "RIN", below your name, on your mailing label, please send information with you connection to a Killian ancestor to: **George W. Killian 17 Charing Cross • Fairport, NY 14450-3926**. I will probably write to you to show you what I have and to request additional information. Enclosing a stamped business envelope will be appreciated. Lets make this listing as complete and accurate as possible. Even if there is a RIN number with your name you may want to verify that what I have is correct, or add additional information such as new births, marriages or deaths.

The latest addition in my family is the birth of a granddaughter, **McKenna Nicole Killian** on 17 Jun 1996 to my son **Thomas G. Killian** and his wife **Kimberly Larsson Killian**. They also have a son, **Mark Thomas Killian** who was born 25 Apr 1994.



#### ANDREAS KILLIAN'S WILL

Written 22 Sep 1785 – Probated 1788

There may be a few who have not seen **Andreas'** will. The following is copied from a typed copy I have had for several decades. I have never seen a copy of the original. If anyone has a photocopy of the original I would appreciate a copy. In this text I have added some material in *Italic* type in square brackets [ ] to give some explanation or comments. Obviously these form no part of the original.

In the name of God I Andrew [*Andreas*] Killian of the County of Lincoln in the State of North Carolina, being sick of body but of sound and disposing memory, do make and ordain this my Last Will and Testament in manner and form as followeth (to wit)

After all my lawful debts are paid, which I allow to be paid out of the debts now due to me; I give to Mary my beloved wife the sole and proper use of the house in which I now live with the benefit of a garden one half acre of the tendable land, firewood, etc. Enduring her natural life together with the gray mare and colt and her choice of any of my milk cows with her calf and

wintering for the same on my plantation yearly as long as she lives, and also twelve bushels of wheat, seventy bushels of Indian corn, and two hundred weight of hog meat to be paid her annually by my sons Daniel Killian and Samuel Killian jointly as long as she lives, or otherwise enduring her widowhood, likewise her bed and furniture, spinning wheel, and such part of my pewter and dressar [*Sic*] furniture as she may desire, and such other part of my household furniture as she may reasonably need for housekeeping, these things to be for her only proper use and behoof forever.

I give to my son-in-law Michael Price the husband of my daughter Margaret one shilling sterling.

I give to my son Leonard Killian one shilling sterling.

I give to my son John Killian one shilling sterling.

I give to my son-in-law William Lewin [*Lawing*] husband of my daughter Jean one shilling sterling.

I give to my daughter Crate Hager [*The fact that the bequest is to her and not to her husband suggests that he is dead as in other cases the sums were willed to the husband.*] one shilling sterling.

I give to my son Andrew Killian one shilling sterling.

I give to my son George Killian one shilling sterling.

I give to my son-in-law James Prithet [*Sic in the copy; but the name is usually understood to be Pritchett*] husband of my daughter Brina one shilling sterling.

I give to my son Daniel Killian one half of all my land in fair division, quantity and quality considered together with one seventh part of all the profits arising from the sale or division of my unbequeathed moveable estate and outstanding debt, whom I also appoint one of my Executors of this my last Will and Testament.

I give to my son Samuel Killian the one half of all my lands in fair division with his brother Daniel Killian together with one seventh part of my unbequeathed personal estate whom I likewise appoint one of my Executors of this my last Will and Testament.

I give to my son-in-law John Barringer husband of my daughter Christina [*Her name is normally given as Christianna*] one seventh part of my unbequeathed personal estate.

I give to my son-in-law Michael Houk husband of my daughter Elisabeth [*More normally given as Elizabeth*] one seventh part of my unbequeathed estate and outstanding debts.

I give to my grandson Andrew Killian son of my son Andrew Killian one fourteenth part of my unbequeathed personal estate.

I give to my grandson Daniel Killian son of my son Andrew Killian one fourteenth part of my unbequeathed personal estate.

I likewise give to my son George Killian one seventh of my unbequeathed personal estate.

I likewise give to my son-in-law James Pritchett one seventh part of my personal estate not heretofore bequeathed, etc.

Ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last Will and Testament, in testimony of which I have unto set my hand and seal in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-five on the twenty-second day of September, in the ninth year of the American Independence.

Andrew Killian  
Seal

Jacob Killian

Joseph Steel

Much theorizing has been done based on the language of the will. See, for example some of the italic notes above. Others have considered the age of each person and concluded who was the mother of each. Also, based on ages conclusions have been drawn concerning why some seemed to have received more than others.

## A CIVIL WAR LETTER

One of the early founders of the NC Killian Reunion Association was **Guy Coleman Killian** (1889-1970). **Guy** was famous for the lemonade he made for the reunions. **Guy** had uncles **Jacob F. Killian** born in 1843, and **John Killian** born in 1842. This made them the right age to be in the Civil War and it cost both of their lives in 1863. **Guy** and his daughter, **Evelyn Killian Parks**, have preserved a letter written by the soldier, **Jacob**. It is reproduced below. It is interesting to note that spelling was far less formal then and was very phonetic. Material in square brackets and *Italics* are my inserts.

Camp Near Winchester  
[*probably Virginia or Tennessee*]

October the 17<sup>th</sup> 1862

Der Mother and father  
[*Levi Elijah & Isabelle Wilkerson Killian*]

This evening I take my seat to drope you a fiew lines to let you know that I am still in the land of the Living and I hope when these lines come to hand that they may find you all well and harty. I have been looking for a letter from some of you ever since I left home tho I haven't had the plesure of reading a line from none of you since Wm. Mounday came down. I have been very aincious to here from you all for Fannia was so lowe the last time that I here from her that I am very aincious to here from her. I haven't any thing to wright this evening to interest you. The helth of the company is good at this time. We havent any sick other than .....Jacob Linebarger he is very lowe he was sent off to Winchester this morning and Cousin John Killian he is very lowe with something line the Pnemonia. They could not move him he is so lowe that he could not bair halling. We rose this morning at bout twelve oclock with the expectation of having a battle before knight. Last knight we had a fine rane I can tell you that it was very excepitble here in this country for the dust was about shoe mouth deape. Every wheir that the troops travelled we have had hard times here for the last fieve deays. We haven't ben drawing flour a nuf for one meale and that had to do one day, tho the boys take it cheerfully as if they had plenty to eat. I have ben pressing corne and griting it and making meale .....Mother I thought that I could never steal but necessity has drove me to hooking. I do not consider that it is any harme for one to take when we do not get something to eat for neather love nor money then I think that I am right.

Mother give my love to Henry, Luther and Colmond tell them that I would like to see them once more tho I haven't any of seeing them soon for this war seems that it has no end. I do wish that it would close and give our rights and then we could live in some satisfaction together.

I am sorry to wright to you that I haven't herd from John yet. I hope by the time this letter comes to hand that he will be at home.....enjoying life once more.

I want you to wright and tell me all about your corne crope and all so about John Purkens and give me all the nuse. I can tell you that I no less know than I ever knewe before for we air whair we cannot get a paper nor no nuse of any kind. Give Fannie my love and tell heir to wright soon and tell heir that I want all the nuse for I am ancious to here from all of the girls. Fannie give Miss R.G. my love and tell her that I would like to here from heir. So no more, only remane your true brother untell Death. Jacob F. Killian to Mrs Isabella Killian and to L. E. Killian.

[Notes around top of letter]

Tell Ant Molley that Marcus is well and harty; he sends his love to Emame. Johnny and all the rest of his kinn and he says he will wright just as soon as he gets a letter from them.

I intended to do the same thing but I had such a good chance to send this right home by Dock Fourmound. I intended to wright...you till I got ancer. give all the Darkes my best wishes.

*Jacob was killed on 3 May 1863 at the Battle of Chancellorville. His brother John, also a soldier, died of wounds on 1 November 1863]*

The year after **Guy Coleman Killian's** death a flag pole was dedicated in his memory at Gastonia Elks Lodge No. 1634. Extracts of some comments: Guy was a man who was a devoted husband and father, ... had a deep and abiding faith in the powers of Almighty God.

#### GEORGE KILLIAN'S IRISH RED

Have you seen and wondered about *George Killian's Irish Red Ale*? For about 15 years the Coors Co. has been making it. When they began production I was still working in the Patent & Trademark profession. When a name is used as a Trademark the registrant must make such assertions as it is a fictions name, or their own name etc. When Coors made their application they stated that "**George Killian** is not the name of a living individual". One of my office mates noted the application, made a copy and put it on my desk with the notation that he was sorry to learn about the state of my health!

About the same time a niece, **Wendy Heshner**, and a girlfriend were touring in France and were in a pub and she saw a small pasteboard sign for the product. Since she had an uncle **George Killian** she could not resist temptation and stole the sign and presented it to me, it is in French.

Notwithstanding the product's claim to an Irish heritage I have never met a Killian who says, "I'm Irish, I know I'm Irish and I can prove it." Some who don't know their heritage assume they are Irish. Don't ask me for an opinion on the quality of the ale, I'm not old enough to drink it!

If you saw the movie *Gremlins*, several years ago, it included a bar scene in which *George Killian's Irish Red* was prominently displayed. One of their logos includes a horse head which is displayed on their delivery trucks. One correspondent, in Florida, saw one of these trucks and asked if we were in the horse business. They assumed it was a large horse trailer. Sometimes when I give my name on the phone the person at the other end pauses – and asks how my business is doing or perhaps volunteer that they like it. Others assume I am not giving my real name. Once I called a cousin at his office. He was not in and a secretary answered. I asked her to tell **Bob Killian** that his cousin, **George Killian**, had called. She paused and said,

"You're putting me on." I assured her I really was **George Killian**. The problems of notoriety!

My son-in-law found some *George Killian* mugs at a distributor and got a few which we use for ice water or root beer.

#### THE KILLIAN FAMILY NEWSLETTER

This is the end of the fourth year for *The Killian Family Newsletter*. Several complementary letters have been received and there has been adequate financial support, although not all recipients have made a contribution. **More than financial support is required if this Newsletter is to survive and be interesting.** What is needed, even more than money, is text, and pictures, to include in the Newsletter. Many of you must have old, or new, newspaper clippings that would be of general interest. How about old Wills, or military records? Some of you may have letters from grandparents or great grandparents. Perhaps someone would like to write an "open letter" to their grandchildren.

Please send financial support to: **Robert L. Killian • 5115 Freedom Drive • Charlotte, NC 28208.**

Please submit text, pictures, newspaper clippings etc to: **William D. Killian • 1995 Haywood Road • Hendersonville, NC 28791-1924.**

Genealogical information, or questions about the family, may be sent to: **George W. Killian • 17 Charing Cross • Fairport, NY 14450-3926.**

#### A KILLIAN FAMILY BOOK

Those few who may be interested in more comprehensive Killian family data, than can be included in this Newsletter, may be interested in knowing that **George W. Killian** has put together a 300 page text of material including essays and articles written, forty to fifty years ago, by **J. Yates Killian**, of NC; **Thomas Daniel Killian** of GA; and **Cletus H. Killian** of NY. There are over a dozen different articles, including some with recent discoveries and information. The pages are formatted very much like this Newsletter. Each copy is individually printed from his computer and personalized with the recipient's name at the bottom of each page. The price is \$75 per set of pages. Copies, or additional information, may be obtained by writing to: **George W. Killian • 17 Charing Cross • Fairport, NY 14450-3926 • Phone (716) 223-4839.**

***William D. Killian has the rest of the text of the First Annual Killian Reunion and hopes he will be able to get a copy of the original Andreas Killian will with signature. Both can be included in a future Newsletter if there is an expression of interest.***