

KELLEY

Richard Kelley and his wife Maria Gibbs emigrated to America in 1773. It is not known where they came from.

A decendant Edmund Levi Kelley states this in his biography in the Church History published by the Reorganized Church in Lamoni, Iowa. Published in 1903 his biog. is found in Vol 4, p726. Edmund Kelley made a trip to the southern states possibly around the turn of the century. He apparently found some sources which have not been rediscovered as yet. Reference to these will be indicated in these papers as E. L. K. Two Kelley sisters used this material as a basis for their applications to the D. A. R.

In doing research for our Austin Yancey it has come to our attention that members of the Kelley family were almost always found nearby. We find a Richard Kelley living close to Austin Yancey in the 1790 South Carolina Census. The only known son of Richard and Maria is Benjamin Franklin Kelley. However, as we proceed through the census records we find an Austin Yancey Kelley who was born 1790-1800. Until disproved, he could logically be classified a probable son of Richard and also to the idea that Richard was a neighbor to Austin in 1790.

In Lincoln County, Ky on the 9th of Jan 1805, Austan Yancy requests a marriage license for ~~his daughter~~ Nancy to Benjamin Kelley. Austin is found on the tax rolls of this county from 1800 through 1806. These tax rolls have not been checked for Kelley.

In 1810 Christian Co. Ky

Benjamin Kelley

Joseph Kelley

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(this is too much family for a 5 yr marriage)

Austin Yancey and Richard Kelley have not been found in the 1800 census. Kentucky was searched and there was no census for Tenn in 1810. There were no census records for either Kentucky or Tennessee in 1800. It seems likely that from 1805 to 1820 they were somewhere in Tenn.

In 1820 we find Both these men in Montgomery County, Tenn along with their families. Scanning the names in this county will produce many other familier names to be found in later census and other records in Williamson Co. Illinois. This move seems to have occurred about 1828/9 and a friend in Williamson County told me that a severe earthquake took place in Tenn. about this time and many people left. When they arrived in Illinois they were in Franklin County. In 1839 Williamson County was formed from Franklin and the part of the county they lived in became Williamson. The early records of Franklin County were destroyed by fire tho there could be some few records remaining. The records of Williamson County have also suffered losses but some remain and some searching has been done.

It would seem that the Kelleys settled in the south central part of the county near a small settlement called Pulleys Mills. My friend Lona Tyner told me some years ago that her gr. gr. grandfather was buried in a small cemetery near there and she thought there was a Kelley. She also told me that her Randolpf Casey son of Levi Casey had come from the Carolinas through Georgia, Tennessee and into Illinois. That some of her Caseys had married

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Kelley girls. It therefore follows that the Casey name should be watched for as more Kelley research is done and that Georgia (likely the northern part) would be a likely place to do some Kelley searching.

The names she gave me from the tombstones in the cemetery were,
Benjamin Kelley b 4 Mar 1784 - 11 Feb 1850 (check Mortality Records)
William C. Kelley d 17 Jul 1862 age 35 yrs
M. Casey (b abt 200 yrs ago 1760? this not on t. s.) *see map page 1*
Randolph Casey d 20 Oct 1874 78 yrs, 4 mo, 8 days
wife Mary (Graves) b Aug 26, 1793 d Mar 31, 1844
other names in cem were Smith and Eubanks.

The following is material abstracted from letters written by two Kelley brothers Hiram R. and John Kelley, sons of Leander Homer Kelley. 1917

Benjamin Kelley married Nancy Yancy. They had eight children. Seven boys and one girl.

1. The oldest whose name is not known but he was a cripple and said to be a wonderful spinner and weaver.

2. Christopher C. md Jane Bennett

ch Richard Y.

William Riley (Uncle Rile) uncle by marriage only

Nancy Jane md Elisha Webb

Telitha

Marina

3. Richard Y. md Frances Ralough (Ballowe) ^(L.B.). They lived in Johnson Co. Ill. until their family all born and then moved to Iowa where Richard died in 1862 and Frances in 1874.

ch Frank (left home abt 1897)

Jack (died abt 1917)

William H. d 1916

E. L. (Edmund Levi) lives Independence

George lives Nebraska

Parley P. d 1902

James banker-lives Independence

Mary md. John Rarison live Iowa

4. Nathan Hiram md Kurn Bennett (sis to Jane) They moved to Montgomery Co. Mo. in the early 1850s then to Barry Co. Mo. after the Civil War.

ch Christopher G. (Capt in C. W., farmer-preacher-studied med.)

Orson H.

Henry

Permalia Jane

Nancy

Maggie

Mandy (dead)

Rhody

5. Carl md Permelia Bennett (sister to Jane and Kurn)

no ch He died 1866/7 She md #2

Lawrence

6. Admond md Nancy Riley

ch Mary (Polly)

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7. Leander Homer (father of the two brothers who wrote these letters He did not list his family.)
 8. Permelia md. John Hyde. They lived in Johnson County Ill until John Hyde's death. One boy Edmond who with his mother moved to Kansas.

Most of the above material was taken from the letter written by Hiram R, son of Leander, to his son in Wyoming in 1917. In 1947 this letter was then sent to HIRAM's brother John and the material following is abstracted from his reply. Some of this appears to be in error.

Benjamin Kelley md Amelia, (dtr of Austin Yancy)

Joseph ~~Kelley~~^{Smith} md Nancy, (dtr of Austin Yancy)

We have of course found the marr rec of Nancy and Benjamin Kelley

No marr records^{are} found for Joseph Smith and (Amelia) but the census rec'ds in 1850 do have Joseph and Mahala and I believe this to be the correct name of the other Yancey girl --L. B.

He then goes on to say that the children of Joseph Smith are

one girl

Hiram md Martha Hyde

Joe md Morganny Hyde

Dick

Ike

John and HIRAM's father Leander Homer Kelley married Rhoda Webb and John goes on to tell of Rhoda's family-

Mitchel Webb married Lucy Elmore.

ch Frank md in Tenn-all the others in Johnson County

Jim

Allen

Sish - Kelley girl

Bill

Bart- Kelley girl

Tom

Dan

Nancy

Polly

Rhoda-md Leander Homer Kelley

Elizabeth-md W. R. Kelley

Abstract from the biography of Edmund Levi Kelley from the Church History before mentioned;

He was born near Vienna, Ill 17 Nov 1844. His parents lived there ten years and then moved to Mills Co. Iowa. His grandparents were Richard Kelley and Maria Gibbs who emigrated to America in year 1773. Their son Benjamin Franklin was married to Miss Nancy Yancey dtr of Austin Yancey of N.C., in the year 1805. They had 7 children, one of whom was Richard Yancey Kelley. Richard married Sarah Ballowe and their children were; Benjamin E. F., John Smith, William H., Mary J. H., Edmund L., George T., Parley P., and James M. Kelley.

The following is the Lineage Record of Harriett Martha Kelley France wife of Joseph Ernest France. Residence 1141 South 33rd St., Omaha, Nebraska. This is given on her application #219768 dated 18 Dec 1925, to the D. A. R.

Her Rev. War ancestor was Austin Yancey, b Tyson or Tryon Co. N. C. 29 Aug 1752. (His pension application states neither place of birth or date. (L. B.) His death occurred after 8 Oct 1833 (at which time he applied for his pension from Franklin Co., Ill where he lived. The pension application does state that his age was eighty one years, one month and ten days. (L. B.)

Harriett Kelley's father was William Henry Kelley b. 1 Apr 1841 d. 14 Aug 1915, md. Nancy Ellen Campbell Dec 1868. She b 28 Jan 1851 d. 20 Mar 1907.

William Henry was son of Richard Yancey Kelley b 23 Jan 1814 d 10 June 1861, md 31 May 1837 Sarah Elizabeth Frances Ballowe b 3 Jul 1814, d 18 Nov 1873

Richard Yancey Kelley was the son of Benjamin Franklin Kelley b 4 Mar, died after 1840, md Nancy Yancey b. Aug 1787 d after 1840.

Nancy was the daughter of Austin Yancey (as above) who md 11 Feb 1775 Sarah Garrison in Rutherford Co. N. C. (Have not been able to verify. L. B.)

Their children; Austin b 1776
Sarah
Mary
dtr (name unknown)
dtr (name unknown)
Nancy b 22 Aug 1787 d aft 1840
James b 1789

The above information possibly came from the family data compiled by Edmund Kelley from his trip to the southeastern states. So far there is no verification (L. B.)

The following is taken from a family sheet compiled by Wendell O. Kelley Kelley, William b 1 Apr 1841 Johnson Co. Ill d 14 Aug 1915 Lamoni, Iowa md 12 Dec 1868 in Minn /son of Richard Yancey Kelley and Campbell, Nancy Ellen Sarah Elizabeth Frances Ballowe b 28 Jan 1851 Dodge Co. Minn d 1 Mar 1907 Lamoni, Iowa- she the dtr of Francis & Mary Ann (Huckstep) Campbell Ch; Richard Cassius Marion Kelley b 15 Sept 1870 Haney's Corner, Ind d 12 Mar 1919 md 16 May 1894 Louise Grover William Orville b 29 May 1874 Haney's Corner, Ind - no death or marr James Edmund b 11 June 1879 Madison, Ind. d 4 Jun 1917 md 25 Oct 1907 Audentia May Hayer George Benjamin b 4 Feb 1883 Coldwater, Mich. d 2 Oct 1958 md, 17 Oct 1904 Samuella Bailey Ella Belle b 11 May 1885 Coldwater Mich md 28 Jun 1906 Oscar Anderson Mary Elversa b 6 Feb 1887 Kirtland, Ohio no death or marr. given Leander Gomer b 5 Jun 1889 Kirtland, Ohio d 28 May 1951 md 25 Mar 1913 Pearl Gladys Danielson * Harriet Martha b 23 Aug 1891 Kirtland, Ohio md Joseph Eugene France Ethel Farida b 22 Mar 1894 Kirtland, Ohio d 28 Mar 1919 md Silas Elliott Frances Loneita b 27 Aug 1897 Kirtland, Ohio d 24 Feb 1920

Following is part of a letter Papa wrote to me on February 11, at Powell, Wyo.

"I have a theory that our set of Kelleys came to New York with the large immigration of Irish in colonial times. Most of these immigrants went to the Carolinas, and from there our forefathers came to Tennessee. This last move, my father said, was as far back as he recollected hearing talked of.

"I do not know what my great grandfather Kelley's name was nor how many brothers and sisters, if any, grandfather Kelley had. I am sure though my father had cousins by the name of Kelley living in Williamson County, Illinois.

"My grandfather Kelley's name was Benjamin. He was married to Nancy Yancy. They had eight children, seven boys and one girl. Of the boys, the eldest or among the eldest boys was a cripple. I never heard my father speak of him and have forgotten his name. My grandmother often told my mother what a wonderful spinner and weaver he was. The next eldest was Christopher C. He married a lady whose family name I have forgotten if I ever heard it. Her first name was Jane. They had several children: Richard Y., William Riley (Uncle Rile). He was only uncle by marriage. Nancy Jane, (Uncle Elisha Webb's wife) Telitha and Marina.

"Uncle Christopher was a fairly educated man of his time. He was a teacher, I think. Grandfather's next oldest son was Richard Y. He married Frances Ralough. They lived in Johnson County, Ill., until their family was all born and then moved to Iowa, where Uncle Dick died in 1862. Aunt Frances died in 1874.

"The children's names are Frank, who went away from home about 20 years ago and was never heard from again, Jack who is dead, William H. who died last year, E. L. who lives in Independence, George who lives in Nebraska, Parley P. who died 15 years ago, James a banker in Independence, and Mary who married John Rarison. They live in Iowa.

"The next son was Nathan Hiram, the man after whom I was named. He married a sister of Uncle Chris's wife. Her name was Kurn. They moved to Montgomery County, Mo, in the early fifties and then to Barry county, Mo., after the Civil War. His oldest son's ^{name} ~~name~~ was Christopher G. He was uneducated except what he picked up but he had a giant intellect. He was a captain in the Civil War, drill master of the regiment, and loved military tactics. After the war he farmed, preached, and studied medicine which he was still practicing when he died last year.

"Uncle Hiram's next son is Orson H., a very large man and very pleasant. His next son's name is Henry. He is still alive, I think. The daughters' names are Permalia Jane, Nancy, Maggie and Rhody. Mandy is dead and the others are living in Arkansas and Missouri unless they have died recently. Uncle H. and Aunt K. are dead.

"Grandfather's next son's name was Carl. He married a sister of Aunt Jane and Aunt Kurn. Her name was Permelia. They had no children. Uncle Carl was a child lover and a school advocate and was the only laborer I ever knew who never soiled his clothes at work. He was a fine mechanic and had many friends.

"I am sending your letter to Hugh but stipulating that he send it back to me of course. For several years he was working along that line. He was trying to prove that Kelley was not an Irish name, for some reason he did not want to be Irish. He was traveling quite a bit then and came across a man who told him the original KeKleys were O'Kelleys. That cooked his goose. He has not done much about it since. But he will be interested in the letter his uncle wrote to you.

"I want to say a few words about the other side of the Kelley clan, that is the Webb side. You know that you are as much Webb as Kelley. I have already told you that I know nothing about Grandfather Webb. I don't know whether he had any brothers, sisters, or any other kin. That certainly is an amazing ignorance for any man to admit about his origin. My grandmother's maiden name was Elmore. My grandfather raided two families but I never did know where the first stopped and the other began. I got the impression a long time ago that this first and his second wife were sisters. But Uncle Dan Webb told me that they were not and he didn't give me any information on it. The children were all born in the Cumberland mountains in Tennessee. They moved to Illinois and settled near Mt. Vernon. I never heard what her name was and I never heard any of them say a word about her.

"There were eight boys and four girls. The boys were Frank, Jim, Allen, Sish, Bill, Bill, Bart, Tom and Dan. The girls Nancy, Polly, Rhoda and Elizabeth. I never knew there was a Nancy till I was grown. I heard my mother speak of her sister Nancy Just once and I don't know now what she said. So I know nothing about her.

"Uncle Frank was married in Tennessee. All the others were married in Johnson County. Sish and Bart as you know married Kelley Girls. Mitchel Webb, Uncle Frank's oldest child, a sister and Uncle Allen's oldest son whose name was Frank married a half sister who was born to Aunt Jane after Uncle Christopher's death. So you see there was quite a mix up of Webbs and Kelleys in that. Still I have left out some of them. My mother who was Rhoda Webb and who was a sister of two of the Webb boys and half sister of the other two married my father who was a Kelley and an Uncle of the Kelley girls. Still more, W. R. Kelley who was a brother of the Kelley girls married Martha Elizabeth Webb who was a sister of my mother. All these people raised big families. Besides Allen, Jin, Bill, Tom and Dan all married and settled down in that community. They also raised big families all bearing the name of Webb; hence the name of Webbtown.

"I know the sketch I have given you is very brief and incomplete but maybe I have told you a few things that you did not know about your progenitors. The Kelley-Webb clan is made up for the most part with only ordinary people. But I believe it would be hard to find a clan whose members on the whole have lived cleaner or more law-abiding lives than that clan.

Then Uncle John makes a promise that he will never write me such a long letter again. What is the matter with that man? Doesn't he know I love his long letters?

Below is a copy of part of a letter Uncle John Kelley wrote me on August 29, 1947 after he had gotten a copy of the letter that Papa wrote me in February of 1917.

"I was surprised at how many more things your father knew than I ever knew about. To begin with, however, I think he had some of it wrong. He mentions only one Yancy girl; but I have it that there were two; and that the Kelley family sprang from one (Amelia) and the Smith family from the other (Nancy). Amelia was the one that was married to Benjamin Kelley. Their first child was a girl, also named Amelia. She was the one who married John Hyde.

"Nancy married Joseph Smith; to them was born one girl and several boys, Hyrum, Joe, Dick and Ike.

"Now these two families began to mix. Hyrum Smith married Martha Hyde and Joe the second married the younger one who was named Morganny. If you will figure that out you will see that the Hyde girls and the Smith boys were second cousins. I was called on last year at the Webb Cemetery on Memorial Day to make a littletalk on the genealogy of the Webb community because I was the oldest person there and the only one there when the first grave was made there. I began by saying that the Webbs and the Kelleys sprang from two families or more directly from two persons, Mitchel Webb and Benjamin Kelley; that I did not know anything about Mitchel Webb's ancestors; that his wife's name was Lucy Elmore; and about all I knew about Benjamin Kelley was that his wife's name was Amelia Yancy.

"There is no side line to the Webb family in Johnson County. But there is a side line to the Kelley Family. My mind has become a little hazy about the name of the one that Joe Smith married. One of his granddaughters was there and without saying anything about forgetting her grandmother's name I asked her what it was. She said it was Nancy. Hite Smith and Joe Smith, Jr., were the sons of Nancy Yancy and Martha Hyde and Morganny Hyde were the granddaughters of Amelia Yancy. Can you figure out that relationship? Still another angle (she is still living) and is a granddaughter of Nancy Yancy and a great granddaughter of Amelia Yancy.

"I was very much surprised to know of the cripple in the family. I had never heard of him before. Your father said that he had forgotten her (Aunt Jane's) family name if he ever knew it. At the same meeting at the cemetery I asked one of her grandsons what it was. He said it was Bennett. I was surprised to learn from his letter that Uncle Christopher, Uncle Carrol and Hyrum had married sisters. I never knew that before. I cant remember any of my uncles except Hyrum on the Kelley side of the family. He says he was sure our father had cousins by the name of Kelley in Williamson County, Ill. I do not think so. He had some cousins in that county but their family name was Yancy. I had occasion to board with one of them one winter when I was teaching in that county. I remember one time at the table she asked me to have some soup. I said "No, I have quit eating slop. That digression was to convince you that I know the cousins in Williamson County were not Kelleys.

"It is surprising to me to know that your father got all the facts he told about in his letter to you. But when one comes to think about it he was born several years before I was and that helps out. Most of the information he gives is new to me. There is quite a difference in our understanding of the origin of the Kelley family and I don't know of any one who really knows about it.

"The next son's name was Admond. He lived at our house when I was a boy. He married Nancy Riley. He was not strong and my father was very much opposed to the marriage. Of course, he said but little but that little was enough to estrange them and Uncle Ad came to our house very seldom after he was married. He died in 1866 or 1867 leaving one daughter, Mary whom her folks called Polly. She was at our house a few times. I am sure she was a nice girl. She married a man by the name of Lawrence. She died when Willie was a baby and her husband was at our house when you were a baby to induce us to adopt her little boy and girl. But I found out later from his talk that he wanted them out of the way of his second wife, and if I had ever thought of such a step that would have blocked it at once.

"The next son was my father, Leander Homer. He was the youngest child and might have been fairly well educated if the schools had been a little bit better. He was the ~~youngest~~ champion speller in the country and a splendid reader of narration and description, much the best I ever heard. He taught school some when he was young.

"The daughter's name was Permelia. She married a man by the name of Hyde. They settled in Johnson County, Ill., improving the Simmons farm, a farm near the Grace farm where you were born. Uncle John Hyde died there and Aunt Permelia and her son, Edmond moved to Kansas. She died there and Ed moved to Mills County Iowa, and then to Rogers, Mo. They had two daughters. They both married Smiths.

"Grandfather Kelley was a slave overseer in his younger days and had the tact to have been among the first in the business had he left drink alone. I have heard it said that when Ben Kelley was overseer that the negros obeyed to the scratch but no better than the master. He would never allow a master to whip his slaves nor had an occasion to chastise them himself. But he was a masterful man and his negroes learned to love him for it was apparent even to them that he could not be trifled with.

"I do not think you can rely on the writing of Kelleys to indicate relationship. While most of our set write cramped hands, they all do not. E. L. Kelley was at our house when he was just 21 and had come recently from Poughkeepsie Business School (In the Adirondack Mountains in New York). He then wrote the most beautiful hand I ever saw. Christopher G. Kelley once showed me his retained copy of his report of the company to the War Department. I never saw anything equal to it. Of course it was on parchment and writing looks beautiful on it, yet when you think his knowing was nothing except what he picked up and also think that not one captain in a hundred would dare to make his own report to the War Department and always employed an expert, you get some idea of how resourceful he was.