

Keeney Update

VOL I, Number 3

Roscoe C. Keeney, Jr.

JUNE 1984

KEENEY REUNION SET AUGUST 5

The Witcher Keeneys are planning another reunion...mostly the labor of sisters Hannah and Mildred Keeney and Aunt Sallie (Mrs. E.H.), who live next door along Orchard Ave.

These reunions, held regularly in the 1930's and 1940's, resumed on an annual basis in 1975. Originally they included the offspring of John S. (1849-1932) and Hannah Keeney (1853-1944), but also began to include the offspring and Grandpa John's double first cousin, the Rev. (Uncle) Thomas Y. Keeney, whose name appears on the marriage certificate of almost all the couple in the area married during the first half of the century.

John's father, Stires, and Tom's father, Michael, had married sisters, Mildred and Elizabeth Gatewood, whose family was the first to settle near the mouth of Cabin Creek.

The reunion program usually consists of lots of talk, lots and lots of home cooked food, introductions and special music.

This year there will be a memorial service for the hundreds of Keeney relatives at the Witcher Cemetery, at 1 p.m. Following this, everyone will be expected to join the reunion crowd.

Families in the area bring their own covered dishes and specialties. Those traveling greater distances may wish to bring pastries, drinks or non-perishable items. Those coming from great, great distances are expected to bring only themselves.

Travelers coming east should follow I-64 until it becomes Rt. 60 just east of Charleston and continue for about 8 miles on Rt. 60; the bridge which crosses the 4-lane east of the town of Belle means that the traveler has reached Witcher. Then take the first left exit to the cemetery or the first right exit to the reunion. Those traveling west can follow Route 60. After passing the new Quincy Mall, enter the 4-lane turn left at the third exit.

GRANDSON OF MICHAEL KEENEY, KENTUCKY BORN, RAISED IN OHIO, MIGRATED TO IOWA

(William S. Keeney Picture Missing)

Michael Keeney (1761-1790), who lived in the Greenbrier County log cabin with his bride, Catherine Lewis, died young and his family scattered. Nancy, a daughter, stayed in West Virginia as Mrs. Henry Montgomery, whose son is called the father of Montgomery, WV. His sons, John and William H.C., are first reported in Fleming County, Kentucky, but lived many years in Lawrence County, Ohio, just across the border from West Virginia.

WILLIAM S. KEENEY, one of at least two sons of William H.C. Keeney and Mary Crawford (born in Fleming County and moved with his parents to Lawrence County, Ohio during the winter of 1820, in time to be listed in the 1820 census there.

WILLIAM S. KEENEY married Jane C. Simmons (b. 4-18-1816 in VA) on March 23, 1838 and they were listed in the 1840 Ohio census. In the 1860's he served in the Civil War. In 1870 he and his wife, Jane, and sons Henry and John were listed in the Jackson County, Iowa census, following the path westward like so many other Keeney relatives, who were able to take advantage of land grants following the Civil War. Two other sons, Kimber and Taylor, also came to Iowa.

WILLIAM S. KEENEY died October 1, 1885 and was buried in Jackson County, Iowa. His children included:

POLLY A. KEENEY, B. 2-28-1839 in Lawrence Co., d. 3-11-1839

JAMES KIMBER KEENEY, (1840-1915), Civil War

veteran

MARTHA J. KEENEY, b. 1842; married a Spears; remained in Lawrence Co., OH

LANDON TAYLOR KEENEY, b. 1848; enlisted as drummer boy in Civil War at age 16; buried at Veterans Cemetery at Marshalltown, Iowa

HENRY M. KEENEY (1851-1937), buried at Mount Hope, Jackson Co., Maquoketa, Iowa

JOHN WESLEY KEENEY (1853-1921), married Addlaide Long in 1880

Children of John Wesley & Addlaide Long Keeney:

FRED KEENEY (1881-1963), m. Mary Thillens- 4 sons, 1 daughter

BYRON KEENEY (1882-1977), m. Lula Oberman- 2 sons

ETHEL KEENEY (1888-1955), m Henry Moeller (1882-1977) – 2 sons, and 2 daughters; one daughter, Marian Moeller, furnished this information and the picture of her great-great-grandfather

GOLDA KEENEY, b. 1891, m Frank Smith; Golda, the only surviving child of John Wesley Keeney, was 93 years old on May 20, 1984

Please report all Keeney reunions this year to KEENEY UPDATE, with appropriate pictures, especially of the oldest direct Keeney descendants. Mail pictures and information by August 20 for the September UPDATE

(Pictured in the original UPDATE was the grandchildren of John S. and Hannah Frazee. I have not been able to find that picture so here are John, Hannah and their children. MJW)



John S. Keeney Family of Witcher, WV, ca. 1906

Front, seated, l-r: John S., Catherine, Uri, Mack; standing, l-r: Flem, Nick, Ebon, Katie, Fannie, Bob, Dan, Roscoe, Walter, and Johnny; absent; Daisy (firstborn, 1872; d. 1874).

Grandchildren of John S. & Hannah Frazee Keeney were photographed at the 1975 Keeney reunion, representing eight families. First row: Hannah M. Keeney (McDonald), Patty Keeney Langdon (U.Z.), Lillian Keeney Douglass (Flem), Frances Hill Scruggs (Fannie), Julia Keeney Arthur (Roscoe), Helen Keeney Cline (Nick), and Rosalie Keeney Burris (John S. , Jr.); second row: Mildred A. Keeney (McD.), Tom Keeney

(Bob), A.M. (Bus) Keeney (McD.), Bill Keeney (Roscoe), Robert H. Keeney, Jr. (Bob), Floyd W. Keeney (John S., Jr.), Doris Keeney Hall (Bob), George M. Keeney (McD.), Anna C. (Tootsie) Hill Howard (Fannie), Helen Louise Hill Hudnall (Fannie) and Roscoe C. Keeney, Jr. (Roscoe)

NOBLE FAMILY

- 4.12 ELIZABETH A. KEENEY, b. 2-27-1841, d. 11-11-1918, daughter of David A. and Catherine Jarrett Keeney, granddaughter of Moses and Francis Harris Keeney; lived in a log cabin house at London, adjacent to Montgomery Memorial Park, at London, where she and her family are buried; listed as Lizzie in 1910 census at age 68
 m. David Ross Noble (b. 1-23-1837, d. 10-6-1911), Captain in Union Army during Civil War; listed on 1890 veteran pension list; worked as a teacher and farmer; married 6-11-1863
- 5.29 NERI JORDAN NOBLE, b. 7-1864, d. 1942; buried at London; lived at Longbranch, near Page, in Fayette County; named for his mother's brother, Neri Jordan (Bud) Keeney
 m. Mary Frances (Molly) Ferrell (b. 6-25-1873, d. 8-4-1955); lived in Charleston 19 years; member of Baptist Temple, Charleston
- 6.67 BERTHA MARION NOBLE, b. 10-1894
 m. John W. Eads
 7.13a John W. Eads – retired from C & P Telephone
- 6.68 DAVID ROSS NOBLE, b. 3-1897, died about 1982; buried in Maryland
 m. Edna Ferrell
 7.13b DAVID ROSS NOBLE, JR., died at age 9 months
 7.13c MARION NOBLE CENEARAUGH
 7.13d HELEN NOBLE METZ
- 6.69 CHARLES PRESTON NOBLE, b. 7-1899, d. 1936; buried at London
- 6.69b ELIZABETH IONE NOBLE, b. 12-15-1901; resides at Hilltop Retirement Home in Charleston (called Tillie)
 m. Barney Williams (b. 1894, d. 10-20-1935 at age 40)
 7.13e GENE HAL WILLIAMS, b. 1928-has served twice as Adjutant General of West Virginia
 7.13f MARY FRANCES WILLIAMS
 m. George G. Burnette, Jr.
 8.12a GEORGE GRIFFITH BURNETTE III
 m. Wendy Bartlett
 8.12b MARY ALICE BURNETTE
 8.12c ELIZABETH FLORENCE (Betsey)
- BURNETTE
 6.69c EUGENE McDONALD NOBLE, b. 1910; lives in Pineville, NY
- 5.30 JOSEPH WITTON NOBLE, b. 7-29-1866; 13 in 1880 census
- 5.31 CHARLES L. NOBLE, b. 6-20-1870; 9 in 1880 census, 30 in 1900 census; wife: Posie
 6.69d MARBLE NOBLE HEALEY
 6.69e NILE NOBLE
- 5.32 WILLIAM LEE NOBLE, b. 3-6-1837, d. 5-22-1941; buried at London
 m. Grace Irene Baldwin

(Picture Missing)

Elizabeth A. Keeney Noble

1841-1918

David Ross Noble

1837-1911

NOVEL FEATURING KEENEY KIN PLANNED

Gayle Keeney-Rager, daughter of D.W. and Ruby Bailey Keeney, is making plans to write a book-a novel, based on historical events of early Keeney generations, with emphasis on the godly heritage of early relatives.

Family stories, information and suggestions should be mailed to Gayle at 1860 Pratt Road, Blanchester, Ohio 45107

- 6.69f RALPH WICK NOBLE, b. 1903, d. 1959
 m. Edna Ellen Sammons (b. 1909, d. 1983)
- 7.13g JUNE PARKER NOBLE, b. 9-7-1926 at Kayford
 m. Archie Lee- no children
- 7.13h BARBARA KAY NOBLE, b. 5-11-1938 at Wevaco
 m. Robert Duffield- 3 children
- 6.69g WILLIAM RUSSELL NOBLE, b. 1905, d. 1921 at age 16
- 6.69h RUTH VIVIAN NOBLE, b. 3-9-1907, d. 12-3-1971; unmarried; taught at Tiskalwah School, in Charleston
- 6.69i ROSA LEE NOBLE, b. 9-11-1909, lives in Mount Hope, WV
 m. Charles R. Harnsbarger (d. 1972) – no children
- 6.69j RACHEL GRACE NOBLE, b. 3-15-1914, d. 10-25-1973
 m. Arthur Spinks
 m. James McGuirt
- 6.69k ROSCOE OTEY NOBLE, b. 9-12-1916; retired from True Temper Corp.
 m. Sarah Frances Kyle (b. 5-23-1923)
- 7.13i DAVID ROSS NOBLE (PH.D.), b. 6-29-1944; teaches at Ohio U Belmont Campus; lives in Wheeling, WV
 m. Susan Dudley Ezell – 2 children
- 7.13j KAY FRANCIS NOBLE, b. 1-21-1947; lives in Plattsburgh, PA
 m. Raymond Burton White – 2 children
- 7.13k NANCY KYLE NOBLE, b.2-28-1953; lives in Chicago, IL
 m. Marshall Staunton Peck – 2 children
- 6.69l REX KYER NOBLE, b. 12-13-1918, d. 12-25-1983; born at Acme; lived at Dunbar; retired from C&P; veteran of WWII
 m. Rose Lee Legg (b. 8-26-1924)
- 7.13l MARGARET ANN NOBLE, b. 1-14-1943; lives at Big Flats, NY
 m. Thomas Jenson – 5 children
- 7.13m WILLIAM LEE NOBLE, b. 6-18-1947; lives at Wheeling, WV
 m. Dorothy Rice – 2 children
- 6.69m RUDOLPH ROOSEVELT NOBLE, b. 8-26-1926 at Red Warrior
 m. Lucy Kaye Caldwell (b. 1929 at Coleman, FL)
- 7.13n RONALD BALDWIN NOBLE, b. 3-4-1948; wife: Sandra; 2 children
- 7.13o JANET LEE NOBLE, b. 1-17-1951
 m. Edward Krohn – no children
- 7.13p REBECCA LYNN NOBLE, b. 3-18-1954 at Red Warrior
 m. Scott Wilson – lives in Huntington, WV; one child
- 7.13q MARK NOBLE – wife: Angela – no children
- 5.33 KERSEY M. NOBLE, b. 10-2-1875, d. 7-28-1912; buried at London
 m. Betty E. Taylor (2-22-1880, d.5-5-1928) on 11-3-1903
- BROTHERS AND SISTERS of Elizabeth A. Keeney Noble: Mary Keeney Richards (b. 1830), Eveline Keeney Rutroff (b. 1834), Moses M. Keeney (b. 1837); Milton Keeney (1839-1859), Fannie Keeney Johnson (b. 1843), Neri J. (Bud) Keeney (b. 1847)

Claire Keeney, Long-time Area Actor, Writer, Dies

Claire H. Keeney, author, actor and a Whittier resident for approximately 40 years, died Sept. 3 in Chapman General Hospital, Orange, after suffering a stroke July 12. He was 82.

A grandson of pioneers who emigrated from Illinois in ox-drawn covered wagons, Keeney was born in Jasper, Ore., and educated at the University of Oregon.

His published writing included a book on theatrical make-up, lyrics for several songs and 17 one-act plays, two of which were first produced at Whittier High School. He was a member of ASCAP-The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers – and had served as board member of the Hollywood Authors Club.

As an actor, he appeared with West Coast stock companies and little theaters including the Whittier Community Theater. He had a bit role in the famed World War I movie, “All Quiet on the Western Front.”

These twin enthusiasm, writing and acting, Keeney successfully pursued as sidelines during a 30 year career with the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Bureau of the U.S. Treasury Department.

His play, virtually all of them comedies, included “Old ‘Skin’-Flint,” “Once an Actor,” “Pity the Poor Fish,” and “Major Milliron Reports,” first published separately and then together, in 1953, in a volume titled “Curtain Time.”

Among his other plays were “For the Love of Mike,” 1966 and “Begone, Begonia,” 1976. “Pity the Poor Fish” and “For the Love of Mike” had their premiere performances at Whittier High School.

“Old ‘Skin’-Flint” won first prize in a national contest conducted by a Midwestern Writers’ Conference in Chicago.

Keeney’s wife, the former Katherine (Kay) Bush died in 1974.

He leaves a nephew, Dr. Oscar K. Williams; nieces, France W. Leep, Nell Keeney Burlison, Jane Keeney and Mary Williams; and cousins Morton Bristow and Gene Handsaker.

Cremation was scheduled and a memorial service will be conducted at 1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 10, in the mortuary chapel of Rose Hills Memorial Park, Whittier.

(Published in the “Whittier Daily News” 9-6-1982)

TRANSITION

- 8.16 (p.19) PAULA SUE KEENEY and Kenneth Shahan are parents of ALICIA BROOKE SHAHAN, b. 9-14-81
- 7.500 JOSEPH WILLIAM (Joe Bill) and Debbie Pratt Keeney, parents of BRIAN JOSEPH KEENEY, born February 22, 1983
- 6.429 Grandchildren of WILLIAM H. KEENEY: Carolyn Beth, b. 1-18-1980 and Michelle Ruth, b. 2-3-1982 to William H., Jr. & Jeannie McMann Keeney; Benjamin Stires Keeney, b. 4-20-1981 to Roy D. & Linda Harman Keeney; Andrew Douglas, born 3-3-1984 to Douglas R. and Anita Dawn Snodgrass

(Picture Missing)

CLAIRE H. KEENEY (1900-1982), Whittier, CA
 Parents: James Madison & Mary Handsaker Keeney
 Grandfather: Andrew Jackson Keeney
 Great-grandparents: John Keeney, Jr. and Mary Ramsey Buckhalter
 GREAT-great Grandfather: John Keeney, Sr., Greenbrier, CT

RALPH R. KEENEY WRITES, PUBLISHES “WAGON RUTS WEST”

Keeney historians will be delighted to know of another voluminous publication of family history, “Wagon Ruts West”, published in 1984 by Ralph R. Keeney, of The Dalles, Oregon.

Almost 200 large pages, the history contains data from publications, public and personal records, genealogical charts and stories of the travels and experiences of the John Keeney, Jr. family from Tennessee to Indiana to Missouri to the Great West.

The Keeneys were among the first to traverse the trail into Oregon Country in the 1840’s and 1850’s, settling in the Willamette Valley.

The book can be ordered in a soft cover for \$14 or in hard cover for \$19, plus \$2 for postage/handling.

Orders should be sent to Ralph R. Keeney, 214 E. 13th St., The Dalles, Oregon 97058.

Keeney (married on 5-15-1982)

- ODETTE KEENEY, b. 9-11-1897 at Andrew, Jackson, Iowa; only child of Frank & Nellie Keeney; died on 1-1-84 at Hollywood, California; musician (Forest Lawn Cemetery)
- 8.519 DEBORAH JEAN PERKINS, daughter of Darrell & Gloria Jean Keeney Perkins, was married to George Leonard Qualls on June 4, 1982
- 8.129 MARCIA K. WEAVER is married to Randolph Boyett and lives on the ocean at Ft. Lauderdale, FL; parents: Charles & Ella Burgraph
- 8.130 CHARLES HARRISON WEAVER is married to Marjorie Blanton and lives in Raleigh, NC; Marjorie is from Belle, WV
- 6.26 WILLIAM M. (Bill) RICHARDS, son of Lewis & Sally Farley Richards: grandson of Owen & Mary Keeney Richards (4.8) and husband of Millicent Keeney (7.26), died on 5-9-1984; born 7-20-1919 at Ohley
- 6.183 Elsie Valeria Kelley Keeney, wife of George Washington Keeney, died 5-5-1984; retired cafeteria worker at W. VA Tech; buried beside husband at London
- (Brief announcements for this column are always welcome)

SUPPORTERS

Twenty Keeney kin have made contributions for the publishing of KEENEY UPDATE since the last issue, with a total of \$63 in contributions. This means that we're in the black.

New supporters are:

- CALIFORNIA:** Robert R. Massey, Ontario; Ray & Janet Keeney, South San Francisco; Les & Melody Money, Pacifica; Stacy & Helen Keeney, San Mateo; Kim Keeney, Burlingame; Greg & Cris Keeney, Montora; Blanche Keeney Stephens, Downey
- COLORADO:** Ruth Smith, Durango
- GEORGIA:** Robert E. Douglass, Lilburn
- ILLINOIS:** Susan Thomas DeRam, Mundelein
- MISSOURI:** Linda Keeney and Mark Harris, Rolla
- NEW MEXICO:** John M. Gwin, Las Cruces
- OHIO:** Gayle Keeney Rager, Blanchester
- OREGON:** Ralph R. Keeney
- WASHINGTON:** Gwen Boyer Bjorkman, Bellevue
- WEST VIRGINIA:** Julia S. Moore, Beckley; Douglas R. Keeney, Bloomingrose; Mr. & Mrs. R.O. Noble, Charleston; William H. Keeney, Jr., Oak Hill

Memorial

6.326 (p.83) WARREN MCDONALD KEENEY, JR., grandson of Robert H. (1834-1912) and grandson of Julia Kelley Keeney, who went from Kanawha County, WV to Kansas; Warren McDonald, Sr. was born in Kanawha County in 1862

Warren McDonald Keeney

Former Salem resident Warren McDonald Keeney, Sr. 72 of San Jose, Calif., died Wednesday at his residence.

He was born and raised in Salem. He worked as a shoe salesman at Montgomery Ward for a number of years. He was a member of the Elks Lodge, Masons and Board of Realtors.

Survivors include wife, Mary Dale; sons, Michael D. Salinas, CA; daughter, Christy Ann Olson, Huntington Beach, CA; and 10 grandchildren.

Services will be Friday in San Jose.

AN AMERICAN LEADER

To the Editor:

The death of Dr. Barnaby Keeney on June 18 is a great loss not only for those who knew him personally but for all who shared his commitment to scholarship and the humanities.

He was an eloquent, determined leader both as president of Brown University and as the first chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The wise decisions he made about the direction and administration of the endowment in its early years have stood the test of time.

Dr. Keeney was a man who valued patriotism and hard work and who had a love for learning. He served the academic community and the nation well. He will be missed.

JOSEPH DUFFY
Chairman, National Endowment
For the Humanities
Washington, June 20, 1980
