



WILLIAM S. KEENEY  
1816-1885

# Keeney Update

VOLUME I, Number 3

EDUCATION OF  
THE  
KEENEY FAMILY

June 1984

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

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 W. Virginia as Mrs. Henry Montgomery, whose son is called the father of Montgomery, W.V. 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 Co., Ky. 9-1-1787), was born on 12-29-1816 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 1850'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, Kinber 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., O.
  - LONDON 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., Maquo-keta, Iowa
  - JOHN WESLEY KEENEY (1853-1921), married Addie Mae Long in 1880
- Children of John Wesley & Addie Mae 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 (1862-1977) - 2 sons and 2 daughters; one daughter, Marian Koeller, 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.

### JOHN S. KEENEY

JOHN S. KEENEY, elder son of William H. C. & Mary Crawford Keeney, was born in Fleming Co., Kentucky September 12, 1811. He was married in Windsor Township, Lawrence County, O. on December 18, 1834 to Elizabeth Templeton Scott, daughter of Jehu and Martha Templeton Scott, who came from Montgomery County, Va. to Lawrence County in 1818. Elizabeth was born December 6, 1816. The children of John S. & Elizabeth and their families, most of whom stayed in Ohio, are listed on Page 129 of 2,597 KEENEY RELATIVES.

## 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. R.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. (1819-1932) and Hannah Keeney (1813-1944), 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 couples 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 Quince Mall, enter the 4-lane and turn left at the third exit.

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.

## 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.

Famly stories, information and suggestions should be mailed to Gayle at 1860 Pratt Road, Elmhurst, Ohio 45107.

4C Charleston Daily Mail WED. AUG. 13, 1975

## KEENEYS COME FROM FAR AND NEAR

West Virginia Family Reunions  
Resemble Fairs, Revive MemoriesBy ADRIAN GWIN  
Of The Daily Mail Staff

What is a family reunion in West Virginia?

It's the fairgrounds on opening day. It's an old-fashioned camp meeting with dinner on the grounds. It's a rock concert and gospel sing rolled together. It's a picnic in the grove and a clan meeting at the old homestead.

It's all of that and more.

The old folks grab each other and hold hands. Two boy and girl cousins are a little shy at first, but soon are as great-grandchildren who are third and fourth cousins eye each other suspiciously but soon are wallowing arm-in-arm like twin cub bears.

Everyone gets too much, and the tables spread from the carpet to far out under the apple trees down the yard still have food left when the sheets are spread over them to keep off the flies.

The old men sit around in the shade and chew tobacco or strike pipes, or tell why they quit either habit and how long ago it was, and reminisce about boyhood exploits that happened 50 or 60 years ago—quite beyond the imaginations of the children who

OUR  
MAN  
GWIN

stop by to eavesdrop on the old folks' conversations.

Young mothers look after everybody else's babies as well as show off their own to cousins they haven't seen in a year or five years or 20 years.

The yard-size kids keep up a continual shriek and high-pitched chatter as they play baseball or football or just chase each other around the tables, chairs, trees, in and out of the old house and down to the edge of the riverbank.

Clusters of older aunts, uncles and cousins sit in the house chairs and the borrowed folding chairs under the trees and at the edge of the lawn, and there are cars coming and going all the time.

It was that way last Saturday at the Keeney family reunion at Witches—the first Keeney reunion since Gramma Keeney of Witches died in 1944 at the age of 91.

They'd had a Keeney reunion off and on since Gramma and Grampa Keeney's Golden Wedding anniversary in 1921, but for some reason it was just discontinued after the death.

Roscoe Keeney of Cedar Grove started out last year to revive the Keeney Reunion, and sent out letters to as many cousins as he could locate. The word spread, and on the Saturday nearest Gramma Keeney's birthday (Aug. 8), they gathered at the home of Hannah and Mildred Keeney in Witches.

This was in deference to the two surviving sons of Gramma and Grampa—R. H. Keeney Sr. and Ebon Keeney who live with Uncle Bob. They live next door to Hannah and Milly.

Gramma and Grampa had 12 children—10 boys and two girls, and if Uncle Urah was alive today he'd be more than 100 years old.

Young Roscoe, son of Uncle Roscoe, was master of ceremonies at the "formal" part of the reunion, and passed out Bicentennial half dollars to the oldest and youngest and others who came the far-

most and so on.

Gramma and Grampa Keeney's oldest grandson and youngest son are the same age—Earl Keeney of Ashland, Ky., and Uncle Bob of Witches; both are now 79, and got special recognition.

The youngest Keeney was Christopher Lee of Cove Creek in Putnam County, son of George, and grandson of MacDonald who was the second son of Gramma and Grampa. Christopher is less than eight months old.

It is interesting to "outsiders" that in-law are generally considered the guests at other family reunions at the reunions—at least the ones who come are.

You marry into the clan, and you're one of them—part of the family because you are children or descendants of Gramma and Grampa.

It starts in the early afternoon, maybe—some of the reunions start in the mornings—and they keep coming all day. Never breaks to until dark.

Sometimes the big families have their meetings at the church or community buildings. Sometimes they're at a public park as playground. More often they're at the home of one of the older family members, like the Keeney clan gathering.

Everybody brings food—fried chicken, meat loaf, spaghetti casseroles, and the usual ran of a dozen different kinds of vegetables. Salads are rampant, as are cakes, pies and other goodies for dessert.

There's coffee (there better be at a Keeney reunion. No respectable Keeney ever refused a cup of coffee, and the pot is always on at a Keeney household), and seed tea and soda pop and Kool-Aid and there's always at least one dog thrashing his way from scrap to scrap around the "picnic grounds."

With the crowd always fluid, falling from angle level to frost punch to mud, falling to lawn chair, there's an atmosphere of carnival crowd and conviviality all day.

In the early hours you hear comments like "So you're Bertie's youngest girl! My, how you've grown. And this is your son! Well, I wouldn't have known you!"

And then in the evening you hear it like this: "Ad so there I was, stuck between a rock and a hard place. It was either have the operation or try to bear the pain of L."

It's a great old West Virginia tradition, the family reunion, and the younger generation finds it just as interesting as the old folks—which is as it should be. For soon the young folks will be the old folks at the family reunion and the old folks will be just a memory—like Gramma and Grampa Keeney who died in 1922 and 1944—but who were the remembered patriarchs at the Keeney reunion last Saturday.

FIRST  
COUSINS

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), Dorothy Keeney Gwin (McD.), Mary Susan Keeney Crawford (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 Rudnall (Fannie) and Roscoe C. Keeney, Jr. (Roscoe).

Grandpa John S. Keeney (1829-1932)  
Grandma Hannah C. Keeney (1851-1944)

# NOBLE FAMILY

ELIZABETH A. KEENEY  
NOBLE  
1841 - 1918  
DAVID ROSS NOBLE  
1837 - 1911



- 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 Frances Harvis 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 Missie in 1920 census at age 68
- n. David Ross Noble (b. 2-23-1837, 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
- n. 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
- n. John W. Eads
- 7.13a JOHN W. EADS - retired from C & P Telephone
- 6.68 DAVID ROSS NOBLE, b. 3-1877, died about 1982; buried in Maryland
- n. Edna Ferrell
- 7.13b DAVID ROSS NOBLE, JR., died at age 9 months
- 7.13c MARION NOBLE CENBRADGH
- 7.13d HELEN NOBLE NETZ
- 6.69 CHARLES FRSTON NOBLE, b. 7-1899, d. 1936; buried at London
- 6.69b ELYZABETH IONE NOBLE, b. 12-15-1901; resides at Hilltop Retirement Home in Charleston (called Tillie)
- n. 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
- n. George G. Burnette, Jr.
- 8.12a GEORGE GRIPPHITT BURNETTE III
- n. Wendy Bartlett
- 8.12b MARY ALICE BURNETTE
- 8.12c ELYZABETH FLORENCE (Betsy) BURNETTE
- 6.69c EUGENE McDONALD NOBLE, b. 1910; lives in Pineville, WV
- 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: Poecie
- 6.69d MARBLE NOBLE HEALY
- 6.69e NILS NOBLE
- 5.32 WILLIAM LEX NOBLE, b.3-6-1873, d.5-22-1941; buried at London
- n. Grace Irene Baldwin
- 6.69f RALPH WICK NOBLE, b. 1903, d. 1959
- n. Edna Ellen Sammons (b.1909, d. 1983)
- 7.13g JUNE PARKER NOBLE, b. 9-7-1926 at Kayford
- n. Archie Lee - no children
- 7.13h BARBARA KAY NOBLE, b. 5-11-1938 at Nevada
- n. 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 Tiskelwah School, in Charleston
- 6.69i ROSA LEE NOBLE, b. 9-11-1909; lives at Mount Hope, WV
- n. Charles R. Harnsberger (d.1972) - no children
- 6.69j RACHEL GRACE NOBLE, b. 3-15-1914, d. 10-25-1973
- n. Arthur Spinks
- n. James McGuirt

(Continued on next page)

## Claire Keeney, Long-Time Area Actor, Writer, Dies

Claire H. Keeney, "Old 'Skin-Flint,'" "Once an Actor," "Pity the Poor Fish" and "Major Milliron Reports," f. published separately and then together, in 1953, in a volume titled "Certain Time."

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 writings included a book on theatrical make-up, lyrics for several songs and 15 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 a 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 two enthusiasms, 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 plays, virtually all of them comedies, included "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, niece, Frances W. Lepp, Neil Keeney Burston, Jane Keeney, and Mary Williams; and cousins Morton Bratow and Gene Handwerker.

Cremations was scheduled and a memorial service will be conducted at 1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18, in the mortuary chapel of Fox Hills Memorial Park, Whittier.



CLAIRE H. KEENEY (1900-1982), Whittier, Cal.  
Parents: James Madison & Mary Handwerker Keeney  
Grandfather: Andrew Jackson Keeney  
GREAT-grandparents: John Keeney, Jr. and Mary Ramsey Buckhalter  
GREAT-great Grandfathers: John Keeney, Sr., Greenbrier Co., Va.

## 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 Keeneey, South San Francisco; Les & Melvyn Money, Pacific; Stacy & Helen Keeneey, San Mateo; Kim Keeneey, Burlingame; Greg & Kris Keeneey, Montara; & Blanche Keeneey Stephens, Downey

COLORADO: Ruth Smith, Durango  
 GEORGIA: Robert E. Douglass, Lilburn  
 ILLINOIS: Susan Thomas DeRan, Mundelein

MISSOURI: Linda Keeneey and Mark Harris, Rolla

NEW MEXICO: John K. Gwin, Las Cruces  
 OHIO: Gayle Keeneey Rager, Blanchester  
 OREGON: Ralph R. Keeneey, The Dalles  
 WASHINGTON: Gwen Boyer Bjorkman, Bellevue

WEST VIRGINIA: Julia S. Moore, Rockley; Douglas R. Keeneey, Bloomington; Mr. & Mrs. R. O. Noble, Charleston; William H. Keeneey, Jr., Oak Hill

## Memorial

6-26 (p.53) WARREN McDONALD KEENEY, Jr., grandson of Robert H. (1834-1912) and Julia Kelley Keeneey, who went from Kanawha County, WV to Kansas; Warren McDonald, Sr. was born in Kanawha County in 1862

## Warren McDonald Keeneey

Former Salem resident Warren McDonald Keeneey 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, Masters and Board of Realtors.

Survivors include wife, Mary Dale; sons, Michael D., Salinas, Calif. and Warren M., Santa Clara, Calif.; daughter, Christy Ann Olson, Huntington Beach, Calif.; and 18 grandchildren.

Services will be Friday in San Jose.

## An American Leader

To the Editor:

The death of Dr. Barnaby Keeneey on June 28 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. Keeneey 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. JERRY DEWEY

Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities  
 Washington, June 20, 1980

## TRANSITION

8,16 (p.19) PAULA SUE KEENEY and Kenneth Shahan are parents of ALYCTA BROOKE SHAHAN, b.9-14-81

7,500 JOSEPH WILLIAM (Joe Bill) and Debbie Pratt Keeneey, parents of BRIAN JOSEPH KEENEY, born February 22, 1983

6,429 Grandchildren of WILLIAM H. KEENEY: Carolyn Beth, b.2-18-1980 and Michelle Ruth, b. 2-3-1982 to William H., Jr. & Joannie McKemm Keeneey; Benjamin Stires Keeneey, b.4-20-1981 to Roy D. & Linda Harman Keeneey; Andrew Douglas, born 3-3-1984 to Donelias R. and Anita Dawn Snodgrass Keeneey (married on 5-15-1982)

ODISSE KEENEY, b. 9-11-1897 at Andrew, Jackson Co., Iowa; only child of Frank & Nellie Keeneey; died on 1-1-1984 at Hollywood, California; a musician (Forrest Loan Cemetery)

8,519 DEBORAH JEAN PERKINS, daughter of Darrell & Gloria Jean Keeneey Perkins, was married to George Leonard Qualls on June 8, 1982.

8,129 MARGA K. WEAVER is married to Randolph Royett and lives on the ocean at Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; parents: Charles & Ella Burgrath  
 8,130 CHARLES HARRISON WEAVER is married to Marjorie Blanton and lives in Raleigh, NC; Marjorie is from Belle, WV.

6,226 WILLIAM M. (Bill) RICHARDS, son of Lewis & Sally Farley Richards;

grandson of Owen & Mary Keeneey Richards (L.8) and husband of Millicent Keeneey (7.26), died on 5-9-1984; born 7-20-1919 at Ohley

6,183 Klara Valeria Kelley Keeneey, wife of George Washington Keeneey, died 5-5-1984; retired cafeteria worker at W. Va. Tech; buried beside husband at London

(Brief announcements for this column are always welcome.)

RALPH R. KEENEY  
WRITES, PUBLISHES  
"WAGON RUTS WEST"

Keeneey historians will be delighted to know of another voluminous publication of family history, "WAGON RUTS WEST", published in 1984, by Ralph R. Keeneey, 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 Keeneey, 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 1840s and 1850's, settling in the Williamette Valley.

The book can be ordered in a soft cover for \$11 or in hard cover for \$19, plus \$2 for postage/handling.

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

## NOBLE FAMILY

(continued from last page)

6,696 ROSCOE OTEY NOBLE, b. 9-12-1916; retired from True Temper Corp.

n. Sarah Frances Kyle (b.5-23-1923)

7,131 DAVID ROSS NOBLE (Ph.D.), b.6-29-1944; teaches at Ohio U.

Belmont Campus; lives in Wheeling, WV

n. Susan Dudley Ewell - 2 children

7,132 KAY FRANCES NOBLE, b. 1-21-1947; lives in Pittsburgh, Pa.

n. Raymond Burton White - 2 children

7,133 NANCY KYLE NOBLE, b. 2-28-1953; lives in Chicago, Ill.

n. Marshall Staunton Peck - 2 children

6,691 REX KYER NOBLE, b. 12-13-1918, d. 12-25-1983; born at Acme;

lived at Dunbar; retired from CAP; veteran of World War II

n. Rose Lee Legg (b.8-26-1924)

7,131 MARGARET ANN NOBLE, b. 1-14-1943; lives at Big Flats, NY

n. Thomas Jenison - 5 children

7,134 WILLIAM LEE NOBLE (Dr.), b. 6-16-1947; lives at Wheeling, WV

n. Dorothy Rice - 2 children

6,694 RUDOLPH ROSENFELT NOBLE, b. 8-26-1926 at Red Warrior

n. Lucy Kaye Caldwell (b. 1929 at Coleman, Fla.)

7,130 EDWARD BALDWIN NOBLE, b. 3-4-1948; wife: Sandra; 2 children

7,130 JANET LEE NOBLE, b. 1-17-1951

n. Edward Krohn - no children

7,136 REBECCA LYNN NOBLE, b. 3-18-1954 at Red Warrior

n. Scott Wilson - lives in Burlington, WV; one child

7,134 MARK NOBLE - wife: Angela - no children

5,33 KERSHY M. NOBLE, b. 10-2-1875, d. 7-28-1912; buried at London

n. Betty E. Taylor (b.2-2-1880, d.5-5-1926) on 11-3-1903

BROTHERS AND SISTERS of Elizabeth A. Keeneey Noble: Mary Keeneey

Richards (b.1830), Eveline Keeneey Ruttraff (b.1834), Moses M.

Keeneey (b.1837), Milton Keeneey (1839-1859), Fannie Keeneey Johnson

(b.1843), Nori J. (Bud) Keeneey (b.1847)