

**PRAYER FOR GENEALOGISTS**  
by Curtis Woods

Lord, help me dig into the past  
And sift the sands of time  
That I might find the roots that made  
This family tree of mine.  
Lord, help me trace the ancient roads  
On which my fathers trod  
And led them through so many lands  
To find our present sod.  
Lord, help me find an ancient book  
Or dusty manuscript  
That's safely hidden now away  
In some forgotten crypt;  
Lord, let it bridge the gap that haunts  
My soul when I can't find  
The missing link between some name  
That ends the same as mine.

# Keeney Update

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## THE CYCLONE OF 1879

The terrifying tornado which first touched and then utterly obliterated the town of Blufford (see page 4) was identified in the MISSOURIAN NATIONALIST of Friday, June 6, 1879.

### TERRIBLE CYCLONES

On Friday last, a portion of Kansas and Missouri was devastated by a terrific cyclone for cyclones. A large number of people were killed or injured, and a great amount of property destroyed. St. Mary, of this city, visited living in his hall room immediately after the disaster and returned along the track of the destroyer in Emory creek, in the northern part of Riley Co., and has kindly furnished the following account:

The storm, after passing the river, crossed the blue river. It lifted the Long Iron bridge from its piers and carried the twisted and unbroken mass some thirty feet up the river. It then crossed its course to the northeast in the direction of Frankfort.

The second tornado came from the west, and many say it was even more terrific. It swept over part of the track of the former one, but tapered to the north, and destroyed many buildings; among others, the church and elevator. There were 18 all twenty-seven buildings destroyed. Thirteen persons were killed in and about Irving, and fifty-three seriously wounded. The following is the list of the dead:

Mrs. M. J. Williams; Mrs. Susan Beckenker and four children; Fannie Schowka; W. H. Keeney; John Keeney and wife; Mrs. Yana Sheldon; Mrs. Frank Stock; Mrs. Jerry Martin.

Many strange incidents are related illustrating the freaks the tornado indulged in. Arthur Taylor was picked up and carried on a dry rock through the air, and finally set down at the end of his aerial journey in a wheat field. Frank Fisher, a little fellow a short year old, was carried by a water wheel, tree limbs, and left on the ground unharmed, a local boy belonging to Mr. Williams was blown over a lumber yard, along the edge of the storm, and then partly put down on the river bottom, some distance beyond. And on an instance where a few pieces of wood fell low by an unbroken window.

It seems impossible for my pen to depict what the horror of those few minutes must have been. The bodies of many of the dead and wounded were a filthy striped of clothing. Mrs. Keeney was fatally driven to the earth so that her hair had to be cut away that the body might be removed. Mr. Armstrong's house, said to be the finest frame in Irving, was literally blown off the face of the earth; one portion of it is to be seen and a few pieces of lumber, splintered and splintered, are every vestige that has been found of it or its contents.

In the light of this, it seems odd enough to see in a direct line between the elevator and church a single tree holding that the few of the such over, standing unharmed. The brick chimney bell was carried, together with its frame, some ten rods, and left standing upright on the ground.

Men pursued in searching the cyclone say it was of an urban color, and seemed to be trailed behind a terrible looking cloud, and swept from side to side like the trunk of a huge elephant, reading and reaching everything in its track.



**FAMILY OF BLUFORD KEENEY (1850-1931), TEXAS CO., MO**  
**ABNER KEENEY OF MISSOURI** (father of Bluford)

## NEBRASKA KEENEYS 1880

- SUPHRONTA KEENEY 68 (widow) - Clay County, born in Mass.
- MERIAM H. KEENEY 31, housekeeper, married, born in PA., Daughter, FLORA KEENEY, age 7, born in Nebraska
- D. A. KEENEY 35, farmer; Addie 28, Nellie 10, Laura 8, Ernest 5, Edward 2; D. A., born IL, Addie, b. NY; parents of D. A. Keeney born in Connecticut
- E. H. KEENEY 39, b. IL, parents b. NY, farmer; Alice 29 (b.IL), Alma 10, b.IL, Henry 8 & Albert 3, b. NE, Bertha 5 mos., b. NE
- S. F. KEENEY 40, b. NY, parents b. NY & MA, farmer; Julia 26, b. NY, Ida M. 15, b. NY, Minnesota 7, dau., b. MN, Edna E. 1, b. NE
- WASHINGTON KEENEY 45, b. MO, parents b. OH & MO, Surrens 46, b. IL, parents b. KY & IN, Frances J. 14, b. MO, William A. 10, Liddie (dau.), 7, Wynona 4, all b. Iowa Sarah E. 1, b. Iowa
- WILLIAM KEENEY 53, b. IN, parents b. VA, farmer; Philena 41, b. IN, parents b. OH & ND, John 18 and Rosa 18, b. Iowa, Benjamin 8, b. NE
- ADA E. KEENEY 18, b. IL, parents b. OH, boarder 1900
- ALICE KEENEY 43, b. 9-1856 in IN, parents b. IN, farmer, Glenn 21, b. 5-1879 in NE, Earnest 18, b. 4-1881 in IA, Edna 15, b. 9-1884, b. IA, Bessie 13, b. 7-1886 in IA, Minnie 11, b. 4-1889 in NE, Frank 7, b. 2-1893 in N., Doris 2, b. 5-1898 in NE (granddaughter)
- JESSIE KEENEY 25, b. 4-1875 in IA, parents b. IA & IL, Madge 22, b. 10-1877, b. NE, parents b. IN, Harold 1, b. NE, William (father) 46, b. 2-1854 in IA (parents b. in TN & KY)
- WALTER KEENEY 42, b. 3-1858, b. PA, parents b. PA, farmer, Lucy 29, b. 3-1871, b. MN, parents b. NH & OH, Henry 8, b. 4-1892 in NE, Vera 2, b. 10-1897 in NE (continued)

# A day on New River



Down the rapids

The gorge offers its major rapids like Lower Keeney, shown here. Rafter's brace themselves and dig the paddle blades deep to keep from capsizing. The trips attract more than 80,000 rafters from around the country every summer.



## SUPPORT

This issue of KEENEY UPDATE is being paid for by a \$25 donation from Robin D. Teagarden, Jr., Miami, FL, \$20 each from Phyllis Cunningham (WV), John H. Keeney (Peru, IN), Dale & Jean Johnston (Lisbon, IA), \$15 from Robert Douglass, Jr. (GA), and \$10 each from John E. Keeney (IN) and Herman Keeney (WA).

No names have ever been omitted from the circulation list except for the deceased, and this policy will continue long as the bills are paid.

**NEEDED:** Pictures, clippings, obituaries, charts for future issues; prefer pictures of Keeney descendants born prior to 1900.

Supporters could help greatly by going to state archives in their capital city and copy census records of KEENEYS, especially those 1900 and before.

## nebraska (continued)

**DON A. KEENEY** 56, b.7-1843 in IL, parents b. CT, Addie 50, b.11-1849 in NY, parents b. NY, Eddie F. 22, Mattie G. 19, b.8-1880, Arthur E. 16, b.7-1883, Katie L. 12, b.8-1887, Albert B. 7, b.10-1893 all in NE  
**JAMES KEENEY** 39, b.6-1861 in Ireland, Alice 30, b.12-1869 in Ireland, Annie 6, b.1-1894, Nellie 4, b.3-1896, Michael 2, b.8-1897, Marie F. 6 mos., all NE  
**SAMUEL F. KEENEY** 60, b. 5-1840 in NY, parents b. NY, insurance agent; Julia S. 56, b.8-1843 in NY  
**JASON KEENEY** 58, b.11-1841 in NY, parents b. PA & NY, Mary E. 60, b.8-1839 in NY, parents b. NY  
**JOHN KEENEY** 36, b.5-1864 in Iowa, parents b. IN; Ross 28, b.5-1872 in NE, parents b. Ohio, William 13, b. NE, Grace 8, b.12-1891, William W. (father), 73, b.5-1827 in IN, parents b. TN and NC  
**PAT KEENEY** 48, widower b.1852 in Ireland, saloon keeper, Ann McAvilley 75 (W), widow, b. Ireland, Pat (son) 17, b.6-1882, Anna 12, b.4-1888, Mary 10, b.8-1889, Nellie 7, b.2-1893, Katie 5, b.9-1894  
**PATHICK KEENEY** 18, b.10-1881 in NE, parents born in Ireland, boarder  
**WILLIAM KEENEY** 49, b.6-1850 in IN, parents b. IN, Mary C. 40, b.2-1860 in Iowa, parents b. Iowa  
**JOSEPH KEENEY** 58, b.9-1841 in IN, parents b. KY, carpenter; Rosa 55, b.7-1844 in Ohio, parents b. NE & NY, Robert F. 28, b.10-1871 in NE, Fred L. 26, b.6-1873 in NE; Merrick Co., NE

## from NUTMEGGER

from THE NUTMEGGER, December 1980

**KEENEY**, Ezra, b. Lucasville, PA 15 August 1806 m. (2) Almira Dexter 15 March 1848 (born in Bradford co Wyoming Co., VA 4 July 1824  
**MARGARET (Mary) KEENEY**, b.1786, d.28 Aug 1825, daughter of Alexander Keeney, m. Jeremiah Woodruff (b.1785 Farmington, CT, d.1826 Berlin, CT, married 30 September 1805  
**ASABEL KEENEY**, b.2 November 1776, d. 12 August 1841 (of New Britain, CT), m. Theodosia Woodruff (b.7 August 1787, d.27 June 1869-St. Clair, MI

## IDEATH NOTICES

### Dennis B. Keeney

Dennis B. Keeney, 64, of 1122nd St., Chesapeake, died June 28, 1986, in Memorial of LANSING, CANC, after a long illness.  
 He was raised from Owen-Illinois settlement and was a member of the Church of God, Chesapeake. He was a veteran of World War II.

Surviving wife, Catherine; daughter, Connie M. Holcomb of Ewingsville, Ohio; son, Larry Lasham of Florida; mother, Mrs. Ruby Keeney of Chesapeake; sisters, Ruby Mayne of Chesapeake and Alma Adams of Newberry; brother, James of Transwell, Fla.; Edgar of East Base, Iowa; grandsons, four grand-grandchildren.

Services will be 3 p.m. Monday at the Church of God, Chesapeake, with the Rev. John Walling officiating. Burial will be in Memorial Municipal Park, Loudon. Friends may call from 9 to 9 p.m. today at Leonard Johnson Funeral Home, Newark, and at the church one hour before the service.

### Russell L. Keeney

Danville, Ind. — Russell Lowell Keeney, 84, Danville, died Thursday in Hendricks County Hospital. A self-employed upholsterer, he had retired from County Upholstery, 808 N. Hirsborn, he had lived in Danville many years. He was the widower of Lucretia Leak Keeney. Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday in Baker Funeral Home, with calling from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. today. Survivors: sons, David, Allen and Roy Keeney; daughters, Marjorie Britz, Barbara Ross and Lynnann Storm.

Dennis B. Keeney (6.302, p.77) was a son of Cassius Clinton & Ruby Massey Keeney; family line of Russell L. Keeney is unsure; Thomas James (6.375, p.93) is a grandson of Stiles Keeney & Magdred Gatewood Keeney; Robert E. Douglass was married to Lillian Mae Keeney, daughter of Plem D. & Ida Keeney (6.417p.105)

### THOMAS W. JAMES SR.

Thomas W. James Sr., 81, of Oak Hill, father of Fayette Tribune employee, Thomas W. James Jr., died July 10 at a Beckley hospital of an apparent heart attack. Service was held July 13, at the Oak Hill Church of the Nazarene with the Rev. Leroy Hostetter in charge. Burial followed in High Lawn Memorial Park.

Born Nov. 16, 1904, at Oak Hill, he was the son of the late William and Goldie Keeney James, a former Fayette County teacher, dry-goods and Oak Hill merchant, a member of the Oak Hill Church of the Nazarene where he served as the Sunday School superintendent and teacher for over 20 years, treasurer, and member of the local church board. He also served as the state advisor of the Board of the Nazarene Church.

Other survivors include his wife, Elizabeth Shuck James; son, Howard Dale of Woodbridge, Va.; a daughter, Clara Vivian Rushing of Odessa, Tex.; nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

### Robert Edwin Douglass

Robert Edwin Douglass, 77, of 1314 Orchard Ave., Belle Glade, died Friday in Memorial of LANSING, CANC, after a long illness.  
 He was a member of Webster Baptist Church and Knights of Pythias. He had lived most of his life in Kansas City.

Surviving wife, Lillian son, Robert E. Jr. of Lubbock, Ga.; daughter, Mrs. Phyllis Tansley of Tumball, Conn.; brother, Richard of Charlotte, Frederick of Belle Glade of Loring, La.; Wayne of Evansville, Ind.; grandchildren.

# WEST VIRGINIA KEENEYS ORGANIZE



HERMAN A. & ELAINE J. NEVIN KEENEY  
Nasalls, Washington (6.434, p.112)



GEORGE W. & GRACE EVELYN KEENEY PRICE  
Melbourne, Florida (6.443, p. 117)



MILDRED KEENEY (left) and HANNAH M.  
KEENEY (right), reunion organizers,  
with Linda Harless Bailey (p.100-1)



Party!



COUSINS David, George, Herman, Phillip,  
Thomas Oakes & John Elbert KEENEY (of  
Galveston, Indiana)



GORDON PALMER, great-grandson of WOODFORD W.  
KEENEY & Julia Ann Bowles Keeney (4.32, p.53),  
with his wife, Amelia Walker Palmer

BYLAWS were adopted and a Board of Directors was selected at the 12th annual KEENEY REUNION, held on Sunday, August 3, at Witcher. Almost 200 Keeney descendants and friends registered. Balloting for officers resulted in the election of Mildred Keeney (2000 Orchard Ave., Belle, WV 25015, 949-4579) as president. The Board of Directors will be made up of the officers and one representative from each of the families of children of John S. Keeney and the Rev. Thomas Y. Keeney. All other Keeney families are entitled to name a representative or volunteers can contact the president.

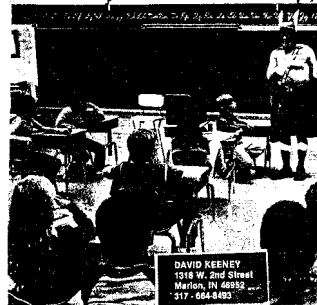
Minutes, financial reports and announcements will be sent to all dues paying members. Dues (\$2. for a household, \$1 for seniors over 70) should be sent to the treasurer, Rev. James Hill, 350 Sky Dr., Rt. 1, Belle, WV 25015.

## WILBUR KEENEY FAMILY - Lawrence County, Ohio

The March 1986 KEENEY UPDATE carried a detailed listing of the Michael Keeney/Catherine Lewis family. The following is a listing of the Wilbur Keeney (oldest son of Cran C. & Augusta M. Keeney, page 8, column 2) family:  
WILBUR KEENEY, b.3-6-1903, m. Gladys Irene Gibson, b.3-7-1911, daughter of Miller & Blanche Freeman Gibson; their children:  
GLENN AUGUSTA KEENEY, b.5-11-1933, m. James Tucker, b.5-28-1922, dau.-EVELYN TUCKER, b.12-12-1953, m. David Zeurich, b.12-26-1952  
MARGARET LOUISE KEENEY, b.&d. 6-11-1936,

buried at Tabor Cemetery  
WILBUR RAY KEENEY, b.7-3-1937, d.2-3-1984, m. Joyce Gilley, daughter of Isaac & Gladys Fouch Gilley; children: Richard Allan Keeney, b.7-27-1959, Pamela Jane Keeney, b.4-1963  
PAULINE FAYE KEENEY, b.2-19-1943, m. Thomas C. Born, b.5-14-1940 on 11-11-1961, son of Daniel T. & Alice Hagg Horn, sons: Charles T. 7-12-64, Jeffrey A. 2-15-69, Todd Michael, 9-18-1973  
JAMES CREIGHTON KEENEY, b.2-20-1952

# David Keeney and Beltman team up to encourage safety



**IT'S BELTMAN** — Beltman, also known as David Keeney, and a Covance Elementary School third-grader demonstrate a chair in which youngsters can practice buckling a seat belt. Keeney, 66, a Fisher Body retiree, travels around the state presenting a seat-belt safety program to schoolchildren. He lobbied for Indiana's seat-belt legislation.

He's Beltman and he's been delighting and educating elementary pupils since September about the importance of buckling up. Buckling up becomes mandatory in Indiana on July 1, 1987.

Retired General Motors worker David Keeney, 66, Marion, made his 81st presentation of Beltman to pupils at Boulevard School. He made his 80th presentation in Marilyn Price's third-grade class at Elwood Hayes School.

Keeney presented a similar program on bicyclist safety for eight years in the Marion schools. Then he was approached by the state's traffic safety division about doing Beltman on a regular basis.

Most of his programs have been in the state, though he did venture out of the state once. Keeney said his presentation is free to any teacher or school that contacts him.

Keeney said he enjoys the presentations, which is evident by the smiles he cannot suppress when he talks about pupils' reactions to Beltman.

Each pupil at the presentation gets a sticker to put on the seat belt. After a card is returned, signed by an adult, certifying that the sticker is on the seat belt, Keeney said he gives the pupil an iron-on transfer of Beltman. Each pupil also receives a color autographed poster of Beltman in his bright blue tights, red cape, yellow gloves and white wings.



**BILL, DENZIL and WARREN KEENEY, Jr., sons of WARREN McDONALD & Minnie McLaughlin KEENEY, Salem, OR in 1917, the day Bill left for the U. S. Army (p.83, KEENEY RELATIVES)**

## In God We Trust

True patriotism acknowledges the law of God in national affairs. It is by accident that our coins tell the world: "In God We Trust."

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Pr. 33:12).

## Mrs. Syble Phillips

ROANOKE, Va. — Mrs. Syble Keeney Phillips, 84, of Roanoke, formerly of Charleston, W. Va., died Aug. 1, 1986, at home.

Surviving son, H. Michael Phillips of Roanoke; brother Vincent Keeney of Franklin, Ariz.; sisters, Mrs. Denver Bird, Mrs. W. W. Moore and Mrs. Jerry Jackson, all of Charleston, three grandchildren.

Services will be 11 a.m. Wednesday at Beckwith Funeral Home, Williamsburg, Va. Burial will be in Cedar Grove Cemetery, Williamsburg. In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorials to the American Cancer Society.

Syble Keeney Phillips was the oldest daughter of Frank Keeney & Beasie Meadows Keeney. Her father was the noted leader of the UMWA, involved in the mining wars in the early years of this century. His biography was carried in the September 1984 UPDATE.

Syble traveled widely with her husband, Cabell Phillips, who was a member of the staff of the NEW YORK TIMES.

May 23, 1986

## Kanawha county births

The following KEENEY births have been recorded in Kanawha County, WV since the publication of 2,597 KEENEY RELATIVES in 1978:

GINA KAYE KEENEY, b.2-27-1978, p-Floyd Randolph and Sherri Kaye Ward Keeney - Hughston  
JENNIFER NICOLE KEENEY, b.9-6-1978, p-Gary Wayne and Deborah Lynn Carter Keeney - Hurricanes  
STEVEN JAY KEENEY, JR., b.10-4-1978, p-Steven R. and Leslie Ann Stanley Keeney - Cedar Grove  
STEVEN VERNON KEENEY, b.11-11-1978, p-Michael Lane and Melissa Gaye Pyles Keeney - Sylvester  
COURTNEY ANN KEENEY, b.10-15-1978, p-Terry Lee and Carolyn Sue Phillips Keeney - Eskdale  
CRYSTAL GAYLE KEENEY, b.1-14-1979 - St. Albans  
CRAIG DWAIN KEENEY, b.5-2-1979, p-Kent Dwain & Sherry Ann Payne Keeney - Belle  
CHRISTOPHER DAVID KEENEY, b.5-6-1979, p-David Phillip & Diana Jean Kamm Keeney - Rand  
ANDREW WILLIAM KEENEY, b.1-3-1980 - p-Steven R. & Leslie Ann Keeney - Cedar Grove  
BRIAN LEE KEENEY, b.8-6-1980 - p-Terry Lee and Carolyn Keeney - Eskdale  
FLOYD RANDOLPH KEENEY, JR., b.6-11-1980, p-Tiffany R. & Sherri Keeney - Hughston  
TERRY DAWN KEENEY, b.10-31-1980, p-Don Darrrell & Elizabeth Ann Davis Keeney - Spencer  
MISTY ANN KEENEY, b.11-9-1980, p-Michael Lane & Melissa Gaye Keeney - Sylvester  
KRISTIN CAROLINE KEENEY, b.6-17-1982, p-Timothy Allen & Terri Lu Hilligoss Keeney - Charleston  
JESSICA LEE KEENEY and MONICA MARIE KEENEY, b.



## New Babies

12-29-1982, p-John Scott & Ada Irene Plantz Keeney - Charleston  
ANDREW DOUGLAS KEENEY, b.3-3-1984, p-Douglas Ross & Anita Dawn Snodgrass Keeney - Boone Co.  
FRANK LEOH KEENEY, b.4-1-1984, p-Charles McDonald & Patricia Dawn Wheeler Keeney - Hurricane  
CRYSTAL RENEE KEENEY, b.1-9-1985, p-Johnnie Wayne & Marlene Dona McDougal Keeney - Charleston  
DANIELLE KRISTIN KEENEY, b.12-25-1985, p-Dana Edward & Vera Etta Washington Keeney-Charleston  
JODI LYNN KEENEY, b.2-16-1985, p-Joseph William & Deborah Lynn Pratt Keeney - Elkview  
CYNTHIA JEAN KEENEY, b.3-23-1985, p-David P. & Diana Keeney - Rand  
KIMBERLY LYNN KEENEY, b.4-13-1985, p-Timothy Allen & Terry Keeney - Charleston  
SARAH JANE KEENEY, b.5-30-1985, p-Robert Howery & Jennifer Jean Osburn Keeney - Cross Lanes  
ASHLEY DAWN KEENEY, b.7-31-1986, parents - Douglas & Anita Keeney, Glasgow