

THE STORY OF THE GUNNS

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FOREWORD

All people are alike in that they have some interest in their forbears. Where they differ is in the location of the points at which the interest dies out. With some it will begin to wane with the immediate parents; while with others the interest will run back several generations, depending on natural inclination, family experiences, educational influences, and facilities for procuring information. Wherever the stopping place may be, either as to distance into the past or as to intensity with which the project is pursued, it can be made a wholesome, leisure-time activity; indeed it may in some cases stimulate a person to attain greater heights of achievement. The claim is not made that the writing of the history of a family tree is a contribution to society. Rather, when such is undertaken, it is hoped that members of the family, who are subjects of the study, will have the satisfaction of being wiser than Topsy, who gave the sum total of her knowledge of progenitors by saying, "I just growed."

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THE STORY OF THE GUNNS

INTRODUCTION

Motivated by a rather deep-seated interest in the paths trodden by the Gunns, the authors have undertaken to trace back through past generations the story of their direct ancestors. These people, generally characterized by an historical slant of mind, usually have an interest in the deeds of their forbears, but, as would naturally be the case where no written records exist, many of them have accepted legend and fancy as unqualified truth. In the attempt to clear up some of the uncertainties and to remove some of the unfounded claims made at times by members of this family, the authors have spared no pains. They have tried to give the reader, without undue eulogy, a true story of the Gunns. When statement of fact is made, it is based upon what - in the opinion of the writers - seems to be reliable authority.

PART I --- EUROPEAN BACKGROUND

The name "Gunn" first appears in Norwegian history, so far as any record can be found. The research of one man (Robert R. Gunn)¹ reveals that the Isle of Man, which later became a part of the kingdom of Norway, was ruled by King Olave, with his reign ending about the year 1237. This Olave (sometimes called Olaf) had three sons, the oldest of whom was called "Gunn". In the division of the estate this Gunn seems to have been sent over to Caithness, where he occupied a castle in kinglike style at Walberg, in Eastern Clyth. Keeping his given name as the foundation of a new family, he became the ancestor of the Scottish Highland Clan Gunn, in Caithness --- the most northern county of Scotland.

Another account of the origin of the family (related by Calder in his history of Caithness) states that a Gunn was banished from the Orkney Islands -- then a part of Norway -- that he went to Caithness where he occupied a position of power and wealth, finally becoming known as "The Great Gunn of Ulbster", with descendants becoming so numerous that he formed the Scottish Highland Clan Gunn. The two accounts differ somewhat in the details of the origin of the family, but they agree on the point of a Norse background and also on the story of the migration to northern Scotland. Both accounts also include the story of the formation of the Highland Clan by name of Gunn. So it would seem that there is sufficient documentation to give basis for accepting this story.

The Gunns In Scotland

The Gunns in Scotland were no doubt greatly affected by the influence of the clan. The clan was an institution of great importance in the Highlands of Scotland until abolished by royal decree. It was highly instrumental in developing loyalty to and pride in a family name. In the absence of law and order administered by a strong government, the clan often found it necessary to organize its fighting forces as a matter of self-preservation. Traditional enmity between clans was a natural result.

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¹ Robert R. Gunn, "THE GUNNS", p. 22. Crawfordville, Ga.: Clem G. Moore's Print Shop, 1925.

The circumstances that called for hard fighting and vengeance-seeking probably molded traits of character that ran for many generations among the descendants of the Scottish Highland clans.) The Gunns were no exception. Indeed, it requires little stretch of the imagination to discover those Scottish characteristics, so often found in history and literature, in many members of the family bearing that name at the present time. It seems that the Highland Clan Gunn came to an end in the year 1619. With its disbanding, each member went his own way as an individual Gunn. The Clan had had a stormy time, having had some half dozen enemy clans, among whom were the Keiths, the Gordons, the MacKays, and the Southerlands. Many pledges had been taken and many plans made to exterminate the Gunns, but, it seems they fought desperately and vigorously, holding on tenaciously until law and order was spread throughout the land. By such persistence and determination they were permitted to survive.

It is therefore evident that the Gunn history is closely woven into the history of Caithness (in Scotland). At Spittal, in Caithness, are, even today, to be found stones still standing that mark the burying places of many members of the Clan Gunn.

Scattering Of The Gunns

A scattering of the Gunns, traceable perhaps to the numerous factors, took place. The break-up of the Clan naturally released the strong bond that hitherto held them in close contact and had restricted them to the same vicinity. When they became individualists they, of course, began to migrate -- some out of mere wanderlust, some to find better economic opportunities, and some to get away from a scene that was a constant reminder of so many displeasures and hardships. Many undoubtedly migrated to England.

The evidence of migration to England is found in the appearance of the name often on English records.¹ The following is taken from "THE GUNNS", a history of the Clan Gunn, written at Falmouth, England, in 1890:

"A manuscript in the British Museum gives an account of an English Gunn in the time of Oliver Cromwell, running as follows: 'Know all men by these present, that I, William Gunn, of London, merchant, do hereby for myself....' Seal, Nov. 1, 1673 William Gunn." This Gunn is thought to have descended from a line of Norse kings who went to Caithness at a remote date."

Though the New World was the great attraction at the time of the break-up of the Clan, England, no doubt, caught many of these people. A tradition in Scotland has it that in the year 1635, nine Gunn brothers left for America. Though this story does not have historical backing, we do have a reliable account of a New England immigrant whose name was Gunn landing on the Massachusetts shores in that year.²

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¹ Sir Walter Scott, the novelist, gives a remarkable account of the Gunns, part of which is as follows: "Early in the last century John Gunn, a noted Catheran, a Highland robber, levied blackmail in the castle of that town and pay was usually transmitted in specie."

² Pressey's "History of Montague, Massachusetts".

PART II - COMING TO AMERICA

New England Branch

In New England at the present time are to be found hundreds of Gunns, probably springing from an immigrant by the name of Jasper Gunn, who, with his wife Ann, came to Roxbury, Massachusetts in the year 1635. This man was a physician, practicing first at Roxbury and later at Hartford, Connecticut. Later he became a school master, and a church deacon, as well as a sealer of weights and measures. This Jasper died in the year 1670, leaving five sons and one daughter. It has been found that two of his great grandsons were soldiers in the Revolutionary War, one of whom was a captain when discharged on October 3, 1778. Another great grandson was appointed by his fellow townsmen to serve on the Committee of Correspondence.

A History of Montague, Massachusetts gives much information about the prominent part played by members of this Gunn family in that part of New England during the Revolutionary period. There is evidence to show that they were ardent patriots in time of war and active community workers and builders in times of peace. One characteristic, found among the members of a branch of the Gunn family from the South also, was the engaging in the ministry, either as a side issue or as a main line of work. When the anti-slavery movement had taken definite form, some members of this family were found in the forefront, lending their support to abolition societies. One tradition states that Harriet Beecher Stowe numbered among her ardent sympathizers some of these people. Thus it is evident that the Gunns played a prominent part in the history of New England.

This brief account of the New England Gunns is given not because of any claim of relationship of the authors to them; rather it is quite likely that this division of the family (headed by Jasper Gunn) may have had close kinship back in the Highlands of Scotland with the founder of the Virginia branch of Gunns. Of course, it is only conjecture. At any rate, the two families (one starting, so far as America is concerned, in New England and the other in Virginia) have many traits in common. That does not prove they are related, however.

As civilization moved westward in America, these people in New England moved in the same direction, scattering their descendants in many states between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. It is really surprising to learn how frequently that name, though thought to be unusual, appears throughout the states between the Allegheny Mountains and the Mississippi River; and it is interesting to note that, when a Gunn meets a Gunn, they think they must somehow be related. When two persons bearing this name meet, they will -- far more than is the case with most other individuals -- take time out to compare ancestry. The name just simply seems to connote kinship. This kindred feeling may or may not be traced back to the Highlands of Scotland, where all people bearing that name were bound together by the closest of ties.

The Southern Branch

Using as documentary evidence the granting of land by the king of England, it is safe to conclude that another Gunn, simultaneously with the migrating of Jasper Gunn to the Massachusetts Colony, came to the Virginia Colony, in 1635. In that year, the King made a grant of 300 acres of land, located in Elizabeth City County, Virginia, to a Doctor Christmas. This grant, dated November 21, 1635, named a William Gunn as one of four men, each of whom was to receive fifty acres of land for accompanying the doctor to the New World. This grant is recorded in the public books of the State of Virginia. It would seem to be a safe inference that this William Gunn was the first Gunn to settle in the South and probably the second one to become domiciled in the New World.

It is quite definitely established that this William Gunn had a son, James, living in Charles City County in 1688. This James had a son by the name of John Gunn, born about 1699. John was a builder of cities; he obtained a grant of land including a greater part of what is now the West End residential section of Richmond, Virginia. He apparently tilled much of the land now included in the present city of Richmond. Upon his death his place and all his property went to his son, John, and a daughter by name of Adrienne, who, so far as records go, were the only children. (John was born in 1765 and Adrienne in 1770.) Removal of the capital from Williamsburg to Richmond brought about the condemnation of much of this Gunn land for capitol purposes.

It would thus appear that the descendants of William Gunn were prominent land owners, and they must have been influential in promoting the growth of the city of Richmond.

(Whether or not William Gunn was closely related to Jasper Gunn who came to Massachusetts, in 1635, it is impossible to tell. The Massachusetts family may be traced directly to Scotland, while England, it is quite apparent, furnished the Gunns for the Old Dominion. In the Old World it is quite difficult to fill in the gap in any detailed way between the migration from Scotland and the localization in England. If a definite link could be established in Scotland between the progenitors of the New England and Virginia Gunns, the matter would be clarified. So far, no one seems to have found records sufficient to do that. They did come to America at about the same time, but that within itself would not prove a direct relationship.)

So far as records go, the next Gunn after William to come to Virginia was a Thomas Gunn. He was born in England in the year 1650 - fifteen years after the former had settled in Elizabeth City County. This fact would seem to cast some doubt on any claim of a close relationship between the two. This Thomas settled at a place where Petersburg now stands. He had a son, born in 1689, who bore the same name (Thomas Gunn), who in turn had a son named John Gunn.

(The second Thomas, referred to above, was the grandfather of a Revolutionary War soldier (Sterling Gunn), who is reputed to have been an eye-witness to the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown - such information being given on his tombstone in a cemetery in Caswell County, North Carolina. There were a number of other Gunns who served in the Revolution, one being a Captain James Gunn, who, it is believed, descended from William Gunn, of Elizabeth City County. Later he moved to Georgia, where he became the first United States senator from that state.)

After the Revolution there seems to have been a scattering of the Gunns, with, in some cases, only scanty records left behind. The states of Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, as well as the Carolinas, became filled with people bearing this name; most of them migrated from Virginia. Some went to Kentucky and Tennessee, while others headed for the North West, north of the Ohio River. One of the latter is of particular interest here.

One of the remote descendants of the Thomas Gunn, born in England in 1650, was David Gunn whose father, Elisha, served in the Revolutionary War as a member of the Virginia Militia, Second Regiment of Continental Lines from Pittsylvania County.* Research has authenticated the claim that this David was born in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, in the year of 1782, and that he migrated to Kentucky in the year of 1812.

This gives the present generation of Gunns whose names appear in this work some

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* John H. Gwathney - Dietz Press, Richmond, Virginia, 1938

basis for a claim of forebears having participated in the Revolution.

Why is this a basis of claim of kinship? The items of name, time and place of birth, and date for migration from Virginia to Kentucky of this son of a Revolutionary War soldier are exactly the same as those describing the undisputed fifth-generation ancestor of the authors. It seems highly improbable that the Reverend David Gunn who is the ancestor of the authors and who arrived in Indiana Territory in 1814, would in every respect fit the description of the David Gunn whose father, Elisha Gunn, was a member of the Virginia Militia if these were the names of two different men. The writers draw the conclusion that the same man is referred to in each case.

Another claim grows out of this research: If the two names of David Gunn under discussion in the preceding paragraph refer to the same individual (and the assumption is that they do), the writers then form a link in an unbroken chain running back to Thomas Gunn, born in England in 1650. As stated above, he settled - exact date unknown - in the vicinity of Petersburg, Virginia. Thus the authors believe they have found a satisfactory answer as to who their first American Gunn ancestor was, about when he migrated to the New World, and as to where he settled.

PART III - DAVID GUNN AND DESCENDANTS

David Gunn(1782-1860)

In the year 1812 David Gunn, with his wife Eleanor and three Virginia-born sons, loaded his belongings onto an ox-drawn wagon and took his departure from Pittsylvania County, Virginia, with the aim in mind of locating in the region beyond the Ohio River. Plodding his way through the future-famed Cumberland Gap and along the already blazed trail of the Wilderness Road, he arrived at the home of relatives in Mercer County, Kentucky (near Harrodsburg). Here about a year was spent and here his son Thomas was born.

Then, swept on by the current of westward migration, he continued along the trail that had for its western terminal the Ohio Falls. Here (at Louisville where the river was shallow) the stream was forded; this brought the family to a camping site on the north bank where the city of New Albany, Indiana, now stands. This was in the year 1814. (Tradition has it that only the original Scribner family and two others were then settled within the limits of the city as it stands today.)

After resting temporarily at this place, this pioneer scaled the knobs which formed a steep bluff overlooking the site of a future city and moved on westward about eight miles to a point of destination on what was later to be called the "Ridge Road," at a still later date, the "Elizabeth Road," and at the present time called "State Road No. 11." The exact point of this terminal (where a large log house was built) was near the present site of Mt. Zion Church -- about two miles from Lanesville, Indiana.

Thus were planted the roots of a pioneer family in Floyd and Harrison counties (Floyd County was not created until the year 1819) before the State was admitted to the Union, in 1816. Historically speaking, the name of David Gunn was written on the first page of the history of Floyd County. This fact gives his descendants the basis for the claim that their family has been part of that county since its beginning.

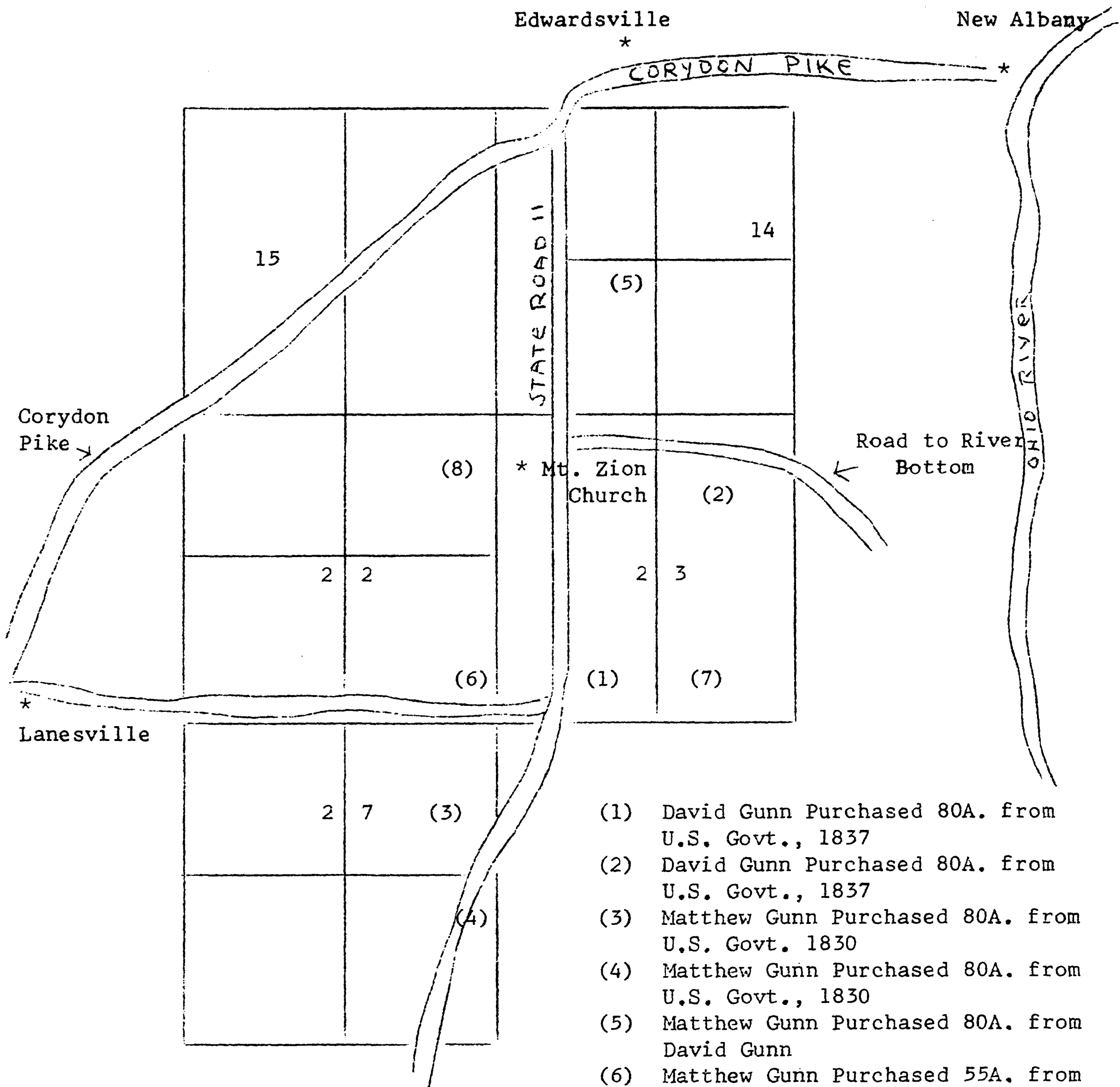
This David Gunn became a Methodist minister, acquiring the title of "reverend" and being known in the community as Reverend David Gunn. The time and place of his ordination are not known, however. He seems to have been a very religious man, with an impulse to preach the gospel (a trait apparently inherited by his son). Being of an emotional nature (deduced from the observation that his descendants seem to possess that characteristic generally) and living in a wilderness environment into which no organized church had at that time penetrated, he was no doubt inspired to supply the means of religious expression necessary to sustain these pioneer people. This is evidenced, in part, by the fact that his large log house (his residence) was used as a church house for a period of about twenty years. It cannot be established as a fact that David Gunn opened the first Methodist Church in what is now Franklin Township, Floyd County, Indiana, but there is proof for the statement that his name is closely associated with the early history of that church in that township; and it is quite probable that his log house was the first place of worship provided in that region.

This progenitor of the Gunns in southern Indiana was born on December 2, 1782, in the State of Virginia, presumably in Pittsylvania County. The records in Pittsylvania County Court House of Chatham, Virginia, show that he was married, in 1803, in that county to Eleanor Sparks of the same place, who was born in the neighboring county of Caswell (North Carolina) in 1771. This David Gunn died on October 3, 1860, and is buried in the Lanesville (Indiana) Cemetery. His wife Eleanor, dying on December 31, 1861, is buried beside him.

(Reverend David Gunn may not have been the first Gunn to migrate to southern Indiana from Virginia. Tradition relates that a brother of David, Elisha Gunn, preceded him to Indiana Territory (arriving about the year 1811) and that he performed services as a Baptist minister in the vicinity of Corydon, Indiana. This story is borne out by the discovery that the court house records at Corydon show that a minister by that name performed marriage ceremonies there in the year 1812. Whether this Gunn's coming had anything to do with David's migrating to Indiana and whether there was any association between the two brothers after the latter's arrival, is not known. They were only about fifteen miles apart, so it would seem, despite difficulties of travel at that time, that there would have been some contact between the two.

Whatever the part played by this Gunn in the early history of Corydon, it is quite evident that no roots were planted to sufficient depth as to give permanency to that name in the community. They must have left at an early date. One story is to the effect that Elisha Gunn migrated to Indianapolis, supposedly following the transfer of the State Capital from Corydon to Indianapolis.)

EARLY GUNN SETTLEMENTS IN HARRISON AND FLOYD COUNTIES



- (1) David Gunn Purchased 80A. from U.S. Govt., 1837
- (2) David Gunn Purchased 80A. from U.S. Govt., 1837
- (3) Matthew Gunn Purchased 80A. from U.S. Govt. 1830
- (4) Matthew Gunn Purchased 80A. from U.S. Govt., 1830
- (5) Matthew Gunn Purchased 80A. from David Gunn
- (6) Matthew Gunn Purchased 55A. from David Gunn, 1834
- (7) Matthew Gunn Purchased 10A. from David Gunn, 1858.
- (8) Site of Original Gunn Settlement.

Children of Reverend David Gunn

The children of Reverend David Gunn were Ira Willis, Matthew, Findlay, Thomas Sparks, and a daughter, Nancy (who married a Baggerley). A brief account of each follows.

Ira Willis Gunn - Ira Willis Gunn was born January 18, 1806, in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, and died in Floyd County, Indiana, in the year 1885. He is buried in the Lanesville, Indiana, Cemetery beside his father and mother (Reverend David Gunn and Eleanor Sparks Gunn). On March 9, 1826, he was married to Elsy K. Beach, who was born in Belmont County, Ohio, in the year 1808. His first wife having died on March 4, 1841, he was married the second time to Mary (family name unknown). His first wife, Elsy, is buried in the Gunn burying plot -- or what was originally intended as such but only to suffer from neglect and indifference at the hands of later generations -- located about three-hundred feet from Mt. Zion Church on a farm now owned by Virgil Gunn. (This farm was formerly owned by James McKindree Gunn -- an inheritance from his father, Ira Willis Gunn.) The second wife, Mary, is buried beside him in the Lanesville Cemetery.

From the time of his coming to Indiana, in 1814, to the time of his death in 1886, Ira Willis spent his entire life on the farm which he and his father cleared and improved. According to testimonials from his immediate descendants, he was, like his father, a hard-working, God-fearing man of great integrity and fortitude. There is evidence of much interest in church and schools on the part of this man, expressing itself in the donating of the land for the sites of the present Mt. Zion Church and the Number Three School House in Franklin Township.

Thomas Sparks Gunn - Thomas Sparks Gunn was born in the year 1813 in Mercer County Kentucky, while his family was temporarily delayed in their journey from Virginia to Indiana Territory. He was one year of age when he arrived, with his family, at his destination on the "ridge" where the Gunn claim for government land was later made. Obviously, this man possessed unusual natural ability. He served as a representative in the Indiana State Legislature from Harrison County for the years 1851-1852 (the first Legislative session of the State under its new constitution), and he was ordained as a Methodist minister in New Albany in 1834 when only twenty-one years of age (a probable result of his father's religious influence).

This Thomas left Indiana, moving with his family to Nicollett County, Minnesota, in 1856. They resided there until the great Sioux Indian Massacre of 1862, at which time they were driven out by the Indians; then they settled near Shakopee, Scott County, Minnesota. In 1866 this Gunn family moved to Minneapolis, later (in 1870) moving again to what is now the village of Montrose, Wright County, Minnesota. Thomas Sparks Gunn died in Cumberland, Wisconsin, on February 15, 1893, at the home of his daughter, Amanda Eleanor Gunn Huser.

Most of the Gunns who remained at New Albany maintained a keen interest in the Minnesota branch of their family, the interest being kept alive by periodic visits by some of the children of Thomas Sparks, particularly Amanda Eleanor. They always spoke as if this man had made a name for himself as a minister in the area of the Twin Cities.

Findlay Gunn - Findlay Gunn was born in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, but the date is unknown. There is little information to be had about this man. Apparently he made no land purchases, as his name does not appear on the public records of Floyd County, nor do the records of the Government Land Office at Jeffersonville (the agent for selling public lands in that region) show that he ever purchased any land. When a young man, he started with a boat load of cattle down the Ohio River, bound for New

Orleans, but he never returned, and no word of his whereabouts ever came back. The supposition was that he and his entire crew were either drowned or killed by robbers. (It is known that such voyages were considered very hazardous at that time.)

Matthew Gunn - Matthew Gunn was one of the Virginia-born sons of David Gunn. The date of his birth is unknown. He must have taken an active part in clearing the land in and around the settlement of his father, for the records show that he purchased one hundred sixty acres of land at the Government Land Office in Jeffersonville on March 2, 1830. In fact, the records reveal a preceding his father in purchasing land. This man lived to a ripe old age, but for several years preceding the end of his life he was disabled to the point where he was unable to walk.

Matthew Gunn was the father of four children, namely: Lucy Gunn, Ella Gunn, David Gunn, and Julia Gunn.

Nancy Gunn - The one daughter of David Gunn was Nancy. The date of her birth is unknown. She was married to a man by the name of Baggerley, and to this marriage was born a son by name of Silas Baggerley. This Silas Baggerley, for a number of years within the memory of the writers, operated a treadmill on the Corydon Pike about one-half mile from New Albany. Silas Baggerley has descendants, one of whom is Claude Baggerley, living in New Albany.

Nancy Gunn Baggerley is buried in the Lanesville Cemetery near the graves of her mother and father.

Children of Matthew Gunn

The children of Matthew Gunn -- grandchildren of Reverend David Gunn -- were Lucy, Ella, David and Julia. There is little available information about the lineal descendants of this man. Lucy, who was never married, is buried in Fairview Cemetery in New Albany. Little is known of Ella except that she married a man by name of Decker. David was the only son of Matthew who, in turn, had a son by the name of Grant, commonly known as "Pete". This Grant spent his life in and around New Albany but little was heard or seen of him. The fourth child (and third daughter) of Matthew was Julia but no information can be found as to birth, death or events of her life.

Children of Ira Willis Gunn

The children of Ira Willis Gunn and his first wife, Elsy Beach, were Mary Margaret, David Thomas, and Ira Clarke. To him and his second wife were born Andrew (who died in infancy), Sarah, James McKindree, Gilbert Polk, Elisha, Charles Willis, and Mahala Jane (who died in infancy).

Mary Margaret Gunn - Mary Margaret Gunn was born in Harrison County, Indiana, on March 27, 1831. She was married to a man by the name of William Snider, who soon after his marriage migrated to Charleston, Illinois. Here a family of Sniders was established, numbering among the immediate issue such persons as Henry, Thomas, Ira, and a Mrs. Heaston. There are a number of descendants of this family in Charleston at the present time. Until relatively recently, sporadic attempts were made by the members of this family to keep contact with relatives at New Albany, Indiana.

David Thomas Gunn - David Thomas Gunn, generally known as Thomas, was born in Floyd County in the year 1834 and died in New Albany in 1915. He was married to Sarah Black, but no children were born to this union. This man was engaged in farming practically all his life, in which he was quite successful. He was extremely proud of his Ohio River-Valley farm -- considered one of the best in the community. Retiring from

farming, he took up his residence in New Albany about the year 1900. "Uncle Tom," as he was generally called by neighbors and kinsmen, was a devout member of the Methodist Church, to which he gave a considerable portion of his wealth at his death.

Ira Clarke Gunn - Ira Clarke Gunn, commonly called "Clarke", (grandfather of the authors) was born near Lanesville, Indiana, in the year of 1837 and died in New Albany, Indiana, on February 19, 1904. He was married to Mary C. Daily in New Albany, Indiana, on August 9, 1858. To this union ~~was~~^{were} born nine children, two of whom died in early infancy, another (Frances) at seven years of age, and another (Ulysses) at three years of age. Aroused by the patriotic stir caused by the Fort Sumter attack, this man enlisted in the Union army on July 13, 1861, (age 24 years) for a period of three years. While marching and fighting down the Mississippi River toward Vicksburg, his first child to live to maturity (Ira Fremont) was born -- a child who was not to see his soldier father until he became two years of age. This soldier served two enlistments -- the first for three years and the second (as "veteran volunteer") for the duration of the war.

(As the year 1863 drew to a close, 956 volunteer regiments were about to go out of existence because of termination of enlistment periods (3 years). To have this happen would greatly weaken the Federal army. The Government had to act quickly. By means of the press and through agents sent to the battle areas it urged re-enlistments, offering as an inducement a thirty-day furlough, the designation of "veteran Volunteer" in contrast to the "volunteer" label of original enlistment (this to be marked by a chevron on the sleeve), and four-hundred dollars in money. Pride in the regiment (now sharing in the recently won fame of the Army of the Tennessee), plus the appeal made by the appellation "veteran volunteer", seems to have been an impelling force. At any rate, 136,000 battle-scarred, hardened "iron men" who had faced cold steel and bullets on hundreds of battle fields, who had marched thousands of miles through mud, rain and snow, enthusiastically signed up for the duration of the war.)¹

The army discharges read as follows:

FIRST DISCHARGE

Enrolled July 13, 1861, to serve three years
Discharged at Hebron, Mississippi, on January 4, 1864
Company "K", 23 Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry
Description: five-feet ten-inches in height, dark complexion, black eyes,
dark hair.

SECOND DISCHARGE

Re-enlisted as Veteran Volunteer on January 5, 1864
Company "K", 23 Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry
Rank: Corporal
Discharged at Louisville, Kentucky, on July 23, 1865.

This regiment had become an integral part of the ARMY of the TENNESSEE² - an army that is magnificently described by the author Bruce Catton in his depicting of the scene preliminary to the attack on Fort Henry. "But as they came ashore from the steamboats and streamed through the fields to select camping grounds and throw pickets forward, they were turning themselves into what would finally become one of

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¹Bruce Catton, THIS HALLOWED GROUND, (Doubleday & Co.), p. 318 ff.

²Bruce Catton, GRANT MOVES SOUTH, (Little, Brown & Co.), p. 142.

the great armies of American history--the informal, individualistic, occasionally unmanageable, but finally victorious ARMY of the TENNESSEE."

This man was extremely proud of his war record, and the feeling of justice for the cause for which he had fought sank deeply. Somehow, four years of life on the battlefield produced a feeling of sanctity for War associations, causing him to request that he be buried in the National Soldiers' Cemetery at New Albany (where he was given his last resting place). He was strong in his convictions in politics and religion. Endowed with a keen and alert mind, this man absorbed a surprisingly large store of information during the sixty-seven years of his life -- and this despite the limitations on formal school education. The story prevails to the effect that in his youth his handsome appearance plus his tall and portly bearing marked him as an almost perfect physique.

Sarah Vinyon Gunn - Born to Ira Willis Gunn and his second wife was a daughter, Sarah Vinyon, in the year 1858, in Floyd County. Her death occurred in the year 1904. She is buried in the Mt. Zion Church Cemetery, the last resting place of many Gunns. This lady was married to William Snider, to which union ~~was~~^{was} born the following children: Mary, Pearl, Walter, Irvin, and Guy (the last-named marrying Pearl Gunn, sister of the authors). (It so happened that the two daughters of Ira Willis Gunn married men by the same name, namely William Snider, and that two separate families of Sniders descended as grandchildren -- one localized at Charleston, Illinois, and the other at New Albany.)

James McKindree Gunn - Born to Ira Willis Gunn and his second wife was a son, James McKindree, on May 23, 1844, in Floyd County. He died in May, 1909, and is buried in Mt. Zion Church Cemetery. This man was married to Emma Nance, who died in 1933. "Mac", as he was generally called, was a Civil War veteran, having seen much hard fighting and having been wounded in battle. His army discharge reads as follows:

DISCHARGE OF JAMES M. GUNN

Private, Company D, Cavalry, 13th Regiment, Indiana Volunteers.
Enlisted in 1864 to serve three years or the duration of the War.
He was discharged the 18th day of November, 1865, at Vicksburg, Mississippi.
Personal Description: Five feet eight inches in height, dark complexion, blue eyes, dark hair.
Occupation at time of enrollment was that of farmer.
Discharge was signed by Jacob Conrad, Captain. Co. D., 13th Indiana Cavalry.

This man was a proud member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and a faithful member of Mt. Zion Methodist Church. Practically all his life he was engaged in farming, living upon and tilling some of the land entered by his grandfather, David Gunn, when that pioneer settler blazed a trail into that wilderness region in 1814. (Some of the grandchildren of James McKindree still own and operate part of this land, thus keeping the title in the Gunn name over a period of one-hundred twenty-five years.)

Gilbert Polk Gunn - Another son of Ira Willis Gunn was Gilbert Polk, born in the year 1846, in Floyd County. It is only meager information that can be gleaned about this man. One story is to the effect that he had the "war fever" so strongly when only fifteen years of age that his father had to keep him under lock and key at times to keep him from running away to go to war. He did, however, get into military service before the War ended, the evidence being the inscription on his tombstone (in Mt. Zion Church Cemetery), stating that he served in the 144th Indiana Infantry.

Charles Willis Gunn - Charles Willis Gunn was the youngest child of Ira Willis Gunn, born in Floyd County, Indiana, in the year 1851, with death at Sellersburg, In-

diana, about the year 1915. The maiden name of his wife was Susan Hanger, a member of a Hanger family who lived in the vicinity of Edwardsville, Indiana. The family lived for a number of years at Georgetown, Indiana, then moved to Sellersburg, Indiana.

The children of Charles Willis Gunn were: Margaret, who was born and reared in Georgetown, and later moved to New Albany, where she became the wife of Rennie Marlowe; Harry, who located in Louisville, Kentucky, where he became an interior decorator; Herbert, who followed the occupation of teamster in New Albany for the greater part of his adult life until his death in 1925; John, now deceased; and Edna Grace, who married a Sellersburg man by name of Bottof. Edna Grace died in the year 1921 at Sellersburg.

The only living child of Charles Willis Gunn is Harry Gunn, named above. His children are Harry, Jr., Oscar, Georgia Mae, Emily, and Annie Lee.

It is known that there were three other children of Ira Willis Gunn, but it is believed that they died in infancy. They were as follows: Mahala Jane - 1855 to 1859; Andrew J. - born in 1843 but dying at age of five months; Elisha - no record of date of birth or death but a probable death in infancy.

Children of Thomas Sparks Gunn

By marriage (October 19, 1837) to Mary D. Robertson (who died June 13, 1847)

David McKindree Gunn	1839 - 1873
Elizabeth Caroline Gunn	1841 - 1939 (approximately)
Greenbury Fisk Gunn	1844 - 1844 (died at age 11 mo)
Amelia Anne Gunn	1845 - 1939

By marriage (August 29, 1847) to Mary Jane Patterson

William DeLa Fletcher Gunn	1848 - 1930
Philander L. Gunn	1850 - 1851 (died at age 15 mo)
Lorenzo Scott Gunn	1851 - 1935 (approximately)
Matthew Simpson Gunn	1853 - 1930 (approximately)
Frances Isabel Gunn	1856 - 1938 (approximately)
Amanda Eleanor Gunn	1858 - 1953
George Willis Gunn	1860 - 1905
Thomas Gunn	1863 - 1940 (approximately)
Sarah Adeline Gunn	1865 - 1903
Charles A. Gunn	1867 - 1868 (died at age 11 mo)
Jacob Edward Gunn	1869 - 1939

David McKindree Gunn - The following account of David McKindree Gunn is taken from Wylie's HISTORY OF INDIANA UNIVERSITY; "Born in Floyd County, Indiana, on December 17, 1839, and died at Montrose, Minnesota, on May 22, 1873. He was educated in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and he received the degree of bachelor of science at Indiana University in 1868. His vocation is listed as that of teacher and civil engineer." Additional information is to the effect that this man (who was never married) took part in the Civil War, serving as an army officer with General Sherman as he marched through Georgia; also, he is credited with having helped to locate the Northern Pacific Railroad.

Thus it is observed that the life of this young man, already marked by signal steps toward unusual achievement, was brought to an untimely end in his thirty-fourth year. The fact that he was a university graduate and trained in two vocations in a young and growing section of the country must be considered as evidence that a bright

future lay before him. It is not difficult to conjecture that a distinguished role would have been played, had he been permitted to live out the normal span of life.

Elizabeth Caroline Gunn - Elizabeth Caroline Gunn, the oldest daughter of Thomas Sparks Gunn, was born on August 7, 1841, in Lanesville, Indiana, and died in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1939. With the transfer of the family from Indiana to Minnesota she settled in Chowen's Corners (a suburb of Minneapolis), where she married Joseph Chowen on March 5, 1873. This lady was the mother of three children, namely: Mack, Louis, and Anne. The two boys have families all living at Chowen's Corners.

Amelia Anne Gunn - Amelia Anne Gunn was born at Lanesville, Indiana, in the year 1844, and died at Bloomington, Indiana (where she spent a great part of her life), in April, 1939, at the advanced age of 95 years. She was married to a man by the name of Robertson, to which marriage was born four children, namely: Milton, Homer, Joseph, (the name of the last is unknown). All were married, but all are now dead. Homer has a daughter married to a Virgil Reed.

William De La Fletcher Gunn - The following account is given of this third son of Thomas Sparks Gunn: Reported to have been a mechanical and inventive genius, this man was a millright by trade. He built about 250 flour mills all over the United States. Recognizing this unusual gift, the tycoons of the flour milling industry sent this young man to Russia where he studied the Russian process of grinding flour. William De La Fletcher was, like his older brother, David, a Civil War veteran, going in at the early age of sixteen years.

This man was born in Lanesville, Indiana, in the year 1848 and died in Minnesota in the year 1930.

Lorenzo Scott Gunn - This fifth son of Thomas Sparks Gunn was born in Lanesville, Indiana, in the year 1851 and died in San Diego, California, in 1935. Having been reared in the vicinity of Minneapolis, he made his home in that city for awhile, moving later to Montana, then Idaho, and finally to California. This man was a carpenter by trade. As for his family, information has been obtained to the effect that he was married to Julia Marsh on June 24, 1880, and that there were born to this marriage three children, namely: Myrtle, who married a Moore (and lives in Delano, California); Anita, who married a DeCamp; and Isola, who married a Traub. Myrtle is the mother of three children, whose names are Nita, Virginia, and LaVera. Anita has one child, Lorraine; and Isola has three, namely: Jack, Donald, and Dorothy.

Matthew Simpson Gunn - Matthew Simpson Gunn, the sixth son of Thomas Sparks, was born August 9, 1853, in Montrose, Minnesota, and died in Los Angeles, California, in the year 1930. Apparently following the path of his older brother, Lorenzo, he became a carpenter, and migrated to the Pacific coast. On August 2, 1884, he was married to Mary Kraus, and they became the parents of three children, namely: Everett (now deceased); Bertha, who married a man named Eisler (now living at 1431 West Street, Oakland, California); Chester (now living in Newark, California) who has two children named Tommy and Rosemary Anne.

Frances Isabel Gunn - Frances Isabel Gunn was born in Lanesville, Indiana, on February 19, 1856, and died in Long Beach, California, about the year 1938. Leaving Minnesota, she lived for a time in South Dakota, then moved to California where she spent the rest of her life. On May 19, 1879, Frances married Albert Lowery, to which union were born three children. They were Mary Bell, who married a Ferrell; Harry Lowery, and Rose Lowery, who married a Rushton. Frances Bell Gunn had twelve grandchildren, namely: Albert Ferrell, Sherman Ferrell, Grace Ferrell, Edwin Ferrell, Loreen Ferrell, Thomas Ferrell, Thelma Lowery, Roberta Lowery, Maxine Lowery, Frances Lowery, Dorothy Rose Rushton and Frederick Lowery Rushton. The daughter, Rose Lowery

Rushton, resides at 1361 Peterson Avenue, Long Beach, California.

George Willis Gunn - George Willis Gunn was born in Swan Lake, Minnesota, on August 21, 1860, and died in Stillwater, Minnesota, on October 3, 1905. A railroad yardmaster, this man lived and worked the greater part of his life in Albert Lea and Montrose, Minnesota. In 1892 he was married to Josephine Houlihan, and they became the parents of one child -- a daughter named Marie Gunn. This daughter - now Marie Dunham - lives in Cumberland, Wisconsin, where she has been postmaster for a number of years.

Thomas Gunn - This eighth son of Thomas Sparks Gunn was born in Minnesota on June 1, 1863, and died in Long Beach, California, about the year 1940. This Thomas, having risen to the rank of captain in the Spanish-American War, chose the military as his career, which he followed to the period of retirement.

Sarah Adeline Gunn - Sarah Adeline Gunn was born on May 19, 1865, in Shakopee, Minnesota, and died in Montrose, Minnesota, on April 29, 1903. She moved from Shakopee to Minot, North Dakota, where she married one William Stacey and had one daughter, Lorena. This daughter is now Lorena Stacey Van Horst, and she resides in Minot.

Jacob Edward Gunn - The youngest child of Thomas Sparks Gunn was Jacob Edward Gunn, born July 19, 1869, in Minnesota, and died in Seattle, Washington, in February of 1939. Jacob Edward Gunn was a railroad man, having served for years as a conductor on The Northern Pacific Railroad. He was the father of three children, namely: George, Edward, and Ella, who married a McCall.

Amanda Eleanor Gunn - Amanda Eleanor Gunn was born on July 9, 1858, in Swan Lake, Minnesota, and died in Cumberland, Wisconsin, on October 12, 1953. Her life was spent in Shakopee, Minneapolis, and Montrose, Minnesota, and later, after her marriage, in Cumberland, Wisconsin. This daughter of Thomas Sparks Gunn was married to Emil Huser in Minneapolis in 1880, and became the mother of five children, named as follows:

Edna Isabelle Huser, born June 12, 1881
Thomas Everett Huser, born January 1, 1887
Francis Edward Huser, born August 20, 1889
Mildred Gunn Huser, born October 10, 1895
Walter Simpson Huser, born January 12, 1897

Previous to her marriage Amanda Eleanor Gunn taught school (between the ages of sixteen and twenty-two) in the rural schools of Minnesota. Her interests outside the home seem to have been intense and variegated, expressing themselves in cultural, religious, and civic activities. This is evidenced by the fact that she was active in the Ladies Aid of the Methodist Church, was superintendent of the Sunday School for nineteen years, was a charter member of the Woman's Club, and organized the W.C.T.U. in her community -- later aiding in county and state work. Also, this lady was instrumental in bringing the Chautauqua to Cumberland, Wisconsin. Breaking through the confines of her own state, she went as a delegate from Wisconsin to a peace conference held at Washington, D.C., during the administration of William Howard Taft. One can risk the conclusion that Amanda Eleanor Gunn inherited some of the energy and ability of her father, Thomas Sparks Gunn.

Children of Amanda Eleanor Gunn Huser

Edna Isabelle Huser - This oldest daughter of Amanda Eleanor Gunn was born on June 12, 1881, in Montrose, Minnesota but has spent a great part of her life in St. Paul. Recently, however, she has been living in Cumberland, Wisconsin (since her

mother's death). A graduate of Hamline University (St. Paul), she taught English in high school for many years prior to her marriage (which occurred on August 31, 1905) to a university professor by name of James S. King. She has three children, named Eleanor, Mildred, and Edna.

Thomas Everett Huser - Thomas Everett Huser was born on January 1, 1887, in Cumberland, Wisconsin, and died in Kensico, New York, on November 23, 1949. He was a graduate of Hamline University and of Columbia University Law School, in 1913. Trained for the law profession, he practiced in New York City. On April 15, 1922, he was married to Mildred Smith and was the father of two children, named Thomas Huser, Jr., and Ellie Lou Huser.

Francis Edward Huser - Francis Edward Huser was born on August 20, 1889, in Cumberland, Wisconsin. He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Agricultural College and the owner of farms in Comstock and New Richmond, Wisconsin. This man is the father of four children, namely: George, Francis, Marion, and Roger.

Mildred Gunn Huser - Mildred Gunn Huser was born on October 10, 1895, in Cumberland, Wisconsin. Later, from time to time, she has made her home in Chicago and Evanston, Illinois, and in Akron and Cincinnati, Ohio - the last named being her present abode.

The collegiate education of Mildred Huser has consisted of attendance at Hamline University and graduation from Northwestern University, in 1918. Prior to her marriage (in 1922 to Frederick W. Giesel) she took an active interest in social work in Chicago and in the Army Nursing program. She is the mother of two children - Frederick W. Giesel, Jr., and Roger Gresham Giesel.

Walter Simpson Huser - The youngest child of Amanda Eleanor Gunn is Walter Simpson Huser, born on January 12, 1897, in Cumberland, Wisconsin. Like some other members of his family, he, also, is a graduate of Hamline University, St. Paul, Minnesota. Being a veteran of World War I, he, for a number of years, was employed by the American Legion as Service Officer in Barron County, Wisconsin. At the present time he is running an orchard grove in Scappoose, Oregon. Walter Huser was married to Claire Dearing and has one child, Elizabeth Huser.

Children of Isabelle Huser

Eleanor Huser King - This first child of Edna Isabelle Huser was born on October 30, 1908, in St. Paul, Minnesota. The extent of her educational achievement is as follows: A graduate of Hamline University, of the Yale School of Nursing and the recipient of the degree of master of arts at Johns Hopkins University. For a while she was employed by the Nevada State Welfare Department; now she is Associate Professor of Public Health at Yale University.

Mildred Huser King - The second child of Edna Isabelle Huser is Mildred King, born in St. Paul on September 9, 1917. Married to Vergil Walzer, she is the mother of two children, namely: Jimmy and Mary Lou. She, like her mother and sisters, is also a graduate of Hamline University.

Edna Huser King - Edna Huser King was born in St. Paul but now lives in Mobridge, South Dakota. Her first marriage was to one John Pennin, in 1938, to which marriage was born one child, Stanley. The second marriage was to William Richardson. This lady is a graduate of Hamline University, and engaged in school teaching previous to her marriage.

Children of Thomas Everett Huser

Thomas E. Huser, Jr. - This son of Thomas Everett Huser was born in New York City on September 30, 1924. This man took the baccalaureate degree from Harvard University, graduating Summa Cum Laude. His occupations have been those of reporter for the Memphis Press Scimitar and the Cincinnati Post, and an executive of the Socony Oil Company. In 1953 he was married to Juanita Pinckley of Memphis, Tennessee, and he has one child -- a daughter one year of age.

Ellie Lou Huser - This daughter of Thomas Everett Huser was born in New York City in 1929. She is a graduate of Vassar College and later received the degree of master of arts from Columbia University. This accomplished young lady made her debut in New York City in 1947. Now living in California, she is the wife of John Kirk, the son of the President of Columbia University.

Children of Francis Edward Huser

George Huser - The oldest child of Francis Edward Huser is George, born in Comstock, Wisconsin, in the year 1920. Like his father, his college education led into the field of agriculture, causing him to graduate from the College of Agriculture of the University of Wisconsin. He is now a dairy technician. George Huser is married and the father of four children, two of whom are named Barbara and Marcie.

Francis Huser - Francis Huser, born in the year 1925, is the second son of Francis Edward Huser. This man also attended the Wisconsin Agricultural College but later pursued pre-law courses at the University. Unmarried, he is living at the home of his parents in New Richmond, Wisconsin.

Marian Huser - The third child of Francis Edward Huser is Marian, born in the year 1928. After attending Hamline University, she was married to Douglas Kohl, and is the mother of two children. Her home is in Osseo, Minnesota.

Roger Huser - Born in the year 1937 in Comstock, Wisconsin, Roger Huser is the fourth child of Francis Edward Huser. Pursuing college education, he is at the present time a student at the River Falls Branch of the University of Wisconsin.

Children Of Mildred Gunn Huser Giesel

Frederick W. Giesel, Jr. - On May 8, 1925, was born Frederick W. Giesel, Jr. - the oldest child of Mildred Gunn Huser Giesel and Frederick W. Giesel. Prior to his graduation from the University of Cincinnati, in 1949, he spent three years (during the War) in Europe in the Army Combat Engineers. Becoming interested in newspaper work, this man acquired the ownership of three weekly newspapers in southern Michigan; now he is associate publisher of a weekly newspaper in Fort Stockton, Texas. In 1950 Frederick Giesel was married to Helen Geis, and he is the father of one child -- Stephen Frederick Giesel.

Roger Gresham Giesel - Roger Gresham Giesel, the second child of Mildred Gunn Huser and Frederick W. Giesel, was born in Evanston, Illinois, on January 27, 1928. He is a graduate of Northwestern University, class of 1950. Choosing the profession of medicine as a career, Roger Giesel took his professional training at the University of Cincinnati, receiving the degree of doctor of medicine in 1954. After finishing his internship at the Cincinnati General Hospital, he went into military service. A captain in the medical corps of the U.S. Army, he is now stationed in Germany.

On June, 18, 1954, Dr. Giesel was married to Roberta Wente, of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Children of Ira Clarke Gunn

Born to Ira Clarke Gunn, who married Mary Daily of an old pioneer family claiming descent from a Revolutionary War soldier in Ethan Allen's Green Mountain Boys, were nine children. Two died in infancy, however. Living to maturity were Ira Fremont, Elsie, Oliver Morton, Benjamin Delbert, and Cora.

Ira Fremont Gunn - Ira Fremont Gunn was born on October 22, 1862, in Floyd County, Indiana, and died within three miles of his birthplace on November 13, 1933. At the time of his birth, by the circumstances of war, a then popular figure - namely John C. Fremont, moved in such an aura of romance that it became fashionable for anti-slavery families to name new-born sons after this idol of the moment.¹ So, there seems to be basis for the inference that this new-born son of Ira Clarke Gunn received his middle name, "Fremont", as a result of the awe and admiration shown for this politician with stars on his shoulder straps. At any rate, Ira Fremont Gunn was born while martial music filled the air, his birth occurring while his father (a soldier under General Sherman) was fighting the campaign down the Mississippi River to Vicksburg.

Except for a brief period when his father moved to Massac County, Illinois, soon after the close of the Civil War, this man spent practically his entire life in Floyd County, as a farmer. In 1889 he was married to Amelia Doan, a descendant of a family of Doans who migrated from Pennsylvania to the region of Hardinsburg, Indiana, about the year 1825. A man of positive convictions and dauntless courage, he was known in his community as an indefatigable fighter. With a mind characterized by brilliance, he was able to overcome, to some extent, the limited educational opportunities of his childhood. This appreciation of education motivated him in his desire to see his children pursue formal school opportunities as far as possible.

The immediate descendants of this man are Virgil, Chester, Clarence, Pearl, and Herbert.

Elsie Gunn - Being the second child to live to maturity, Elsie Gunn was born March 5th in the year 1869 in the state of Illinois, though she spent practically all her life in Floyd County, Indiana. At present she resides in New Albany. Having been twice married -- the first time to John Riley and the second to Sterling Price Williams -- she was the mother of four children. To the first marriage were born two children, one of whom died in infancy; the other is Rosa Riley who, never having been married, lives with her mother. By the second marriage there were two children -- namely: Ira Williams and Mary Williams, the latter having married Jesse Crain, who resides in Louisville, Kentucky.

Oliver Morton Gunn - Oliver Morton, the second son to live to maturity, was born in Floyd County, Indiana, on February 24th in the year 1874 and died in New Albany, Indiana, in the year 1937. Urged by his father to attend school beyond the elementary level, he planned in his youth to prepare for the teaching profession and thus attended a normal school at Lebanon, Ohio. Though procuring a license for this work, Oliver Gunn never did any teaching; instead, he took up the skilled trades, becoming an iron worker and painter. For several years he was the operator of a furnace in the Ohio Falls Iron Company at New Albany. Married the first time at Charleston, Illinois, he was the father of two sons, namely: Harry and Roy, both born at that place. The second marriage was in New Albany to Lulu Williams, but no children were born to this marriage.

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¹ Carl Sandberg, LINCOLN -- THE WAR YEARS AND PRAIRIE YEARS (one vol.)
(Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1954), p. 278.

At the time of Oliver's birth, in 1874, the man acclaimed as Indiana's most illustrious son was Oliver P. Morton, the State's great Civil War governor. It is not surprising, therefore, that Ira Clarke Gunn, to whom the War had become a hallowed cause, would bestow the name of some ennobled spirit of that conflict on his son. Thus the name "Oliver Morton Gunn".

Benjamin Delbert Gunn - Benjamin Delbert Gunn, commonly known as "Dep", was born in Floyd County, Indiana, on August 19th, in the year 1876 and died in New Albany, Indiana, on November 25, 1944. He is buried in the National Soldier's Cemetery in New Albany. This man was a veteran of the Spanish American War, following which conflict he re-enlisted for regular army service, and went to the Phillippine Islands to help put down the Insurrection. While there he was wounded in battle while fighting the natives.

For a few years Delbert Gunn was employed as a guard at the Indiana Reformatory at Jeffersonville, Indiana; then he migrated to California, where he was for a number of years an employee of a lumber company. Finally he returned to New Albany, where he spent the closing years of his life, working as an iron worker, a farmer, and a tool grinder.

Cora Gunn - The youngest child of the family of Ira Clarke Gunn and Mary Daily Gunn is Cora, born in Floyd County, Indiana on February 23, 1879. She was married to Walter Strack, who for the major part of his working years was an employee in the U.S. Post Office at New Albany. Her husband having died in 1939, she now resides, as a widow, at her home at 125 Cotton Avenue, New Albany, Indiana. No children were born to this marriage.

Children of James McKindree Gunn

James Garfield Gunn - James Garfield Gunn, the only son of James McKindree Gunn, was born in Floyd County, Indiana, on July 29, 1880, and died at the place of his birth in the year 1940. It is interesting to note that prominent political figures furnished names for some of the Gunns in this area.

(Some significance is attached to the fact that James A. Garfield was nominated for the Presidency of the United States in the Republican National Convention on June 5, 1880.) Ardent Republican that he was, James McKindree was moved by the results of the proceedings of this convention to bestow the name of the nominee on his son when born a few days later. Throughout his life this man, commonly called "Gar", was a sturdy, self-reliant, and prosperous farmer. A tiller of the soil, it was his lot to live upon and operate a farm which composed part of an original Gunn purchase made by his great grandfather David Gunn in 1837.

Garfield Gunn was married to Kate Simler, of Lanesville, Indiana, to which marriage were born four children, namely: Virgil, Hazel, Robert, Mildred. The grandchildren are Forest Virgil, James, Dorothy, Ethel, Robert, Mildred, Margaret, and Mary Ruth.

Cora Gunn - Cora Gunn, the oldest daughter of James McKindree, was born in Floyd County, Indiana, in the year and died in New Albany in 1947. She was married to Grant Boman, a member of an old pioneer Floyd County family. The children born to this marriage were Alberta, Charles, Curtis, Chester, Lyda, Maurice, Kenneth, John, and Audrey.

Laura L. Gunn - Laura Gunn was the third child and second daughter of this family. She was married to Frank Mayfield, a member of one of the old families in the neighborhood. Laura Gunn Mayfield died on June 21, 1908. She was the mother of one child, a daughter by name of Lillian Mayfield.

Children of Charles Willis Gunn

Margaret Gunn - Margaret Gunn, now deceased, was the oldest daughter of Charles Willis Gunn. This daughter was born and reared in Georgetown, Indiana. She later moved to New Albany, Indiana, where she became the wife of a Rennie Marlowe, a business man of that city. No children were born to this marriage.

Harry Gunn - Harry Gunn, the oldest son of Charles Willis Gunn, was born in Sellersburg, Indiana, but now resides in Louisville, Kentucky. He is an interior decorator by trade. This man is the father of five children, namely: Harry Gunn, Jr., Oscar Gunn, Georgia Mae Gunn, Emily Gunn, and Annie Lee Gunn. Harry Gunn is the only living child of Charles Willis Gunn at the time of this writing.

Herbert Gunn - Herbert Gunn was born in Sellersburg, Indiana, and died in New Albany, Indiana, about the year 1924. For a number of years he worked as a teamster for the Thorn and Shine Transfer Company of New Albany. He was married and the father of one child, Thelma.

John Gunn - John Gunn, the third son of Charles Willis Gunn, was born in Sellersburg, Indiana, in the year 1881 and died at the same place on September 20, 1912.

Edna Grace Gunn - Edna Grace Gunn was the second daughter and youngest child of Charles Willis Gunn. She was born in Sellersburg, Indiana, and died at the same place in June of 1921. Married to a man by the name of Buttof, she was the mother of several children.

Children of Ira Fremont Gunn

Virgil Roy Gunn - Virgil Roy Gunn, born on May 30, 1891, is the oldest child of Ira Fremont Gunn and Amelia Doan Gunn. Graduating from the New Albany (Indiana) High School, he pursued college education by taking the degree of bachelor of arts from the Indiana State Teachers College and the degree of master of arts from the University of Chicago. This man was trained as a teacher and has spent most of his life in that profession. Starting in the rural schools of Floyd County, he continued on, serving as high-school principal at Linton, Indiana, and at Santa Fe, New Mexico; as instructor in junior colleges in Temple, Texas, and in San Angelo, Texas, and as faculty member at the University of Texas. He is now retired and lives at 2737 Harvard Avenue, San Angelo, Texas.

In 1923 Virgil Gunn was married to Ellen Wright, of Salem, Indiana, to which marriage was born one child, Pauline Ann, in May, 1928. His first wife having died in 1935, he was married the second time, in 1937, to Chell Shelton, of Temple, Texas. He has four grandchildren, surnamed Chitwood. They are Rebecca Sue (who died in infancy), Linda Lee, Jo Ann, and John Bruce.

Virgil Gunn is a veteran of World War I, having served in the 335th Infantry until a later transfer placed him in the 826 Aero Squadron, with which he served overseas for fifteen months.

Chester Earl Gunn - Chester Earl Gunn, the second child of Ira Fremont and Amelia Doan Gunn, was born on June 14, 1894, in Floyd County, Indiana. Paralleling that of his older brother, Virgil, his education took him - after graduation from the New Albany (Indiana) High School - through the Indiana State Teachers College and the University of Chicago. The latter institution conferred the degree of master of arts in 1926.

Prepared for teaching, he has held positions in regular gradation from that of

rural school teacher (in a school building erected on the land donated for school purposes by his great grandfather, Ira Willis Gunn) to that of superintendent of Schools and of instructor on a college faculty. This career has included administrative service as principal of schools in both elementary and high schools at Fairbanks, Indiana, and at Redmon and Quincy, Illinois, and as superintendent of schools at Jasonville, Indiana. At the present time he holds the position of principal of a junior high school at Chicago Heights, Illinois. Majoring in History, this man has taught in that department in the Indiana State Teachers College in summer school for a period covering eight years.

Married to Sabra Drake of Fairbanks, Indiana, on June 10, 1923, he is the father of two children, namely: Geraldine Gunn and Chester Allan Gunn. The first grandchild, David Lee Madden, was born on July 25, 1955; the second Laura Lynn Madden was born on May 7, 1960.

Chester Earl Gunn is a veteran of World War I, having served from September 20, 1917, to March 20, 1919. Sent to France in September of 1918, this soldier was detached from his regular organization (the Eighty-fourth Division), when it moved into action for the purpose of assignment to an officers' training school at La Valbonne, France.

Clarence Gunn - Clarence Gunn is the third child of Ira Fremont and Amelia Doan Gunn. He was born on January 20, 1897, in Floyd County, Indiana. He also is a graduate of the New Albany (Indiana) High School. One summer was spent in a normal school at Winona Lake, Indiana, and one term at Indiana State Teachers College, but the teaching profession was not pursued by this man.

** Clarence Gunn is also a veteran of World War I, at the close of which he enlisted in the United States Navy, serving two enlistments. Unmarried, he lives at the home of his mother on a farm comprising the estate of Ira Fremont Gunn.

Pearl Marie Gunn - The fourth child and only daughter of Ira Fremont and Amelia Doan Gunn is Pearl Marie, born on September 18, 1902, in Floyd County. In 1937, she was married to Guy Snider. She is the mother of one child, Patricia Snider, born in May of 1947. Pearl, like the rest of her family, is a graduate of the New Albany (Indiana) High School and of the Indiana State Teachers College. For a number of years previous to her marriage she was a teacher, first in the rural schools of Franklin and New Albany townships, and later, in the New Albany City Schools. Her husband, Guy Snider, is employed at the United States Government Depot at Jeffersonville, Indiana. She resides at the present time in Floyds Knobs, Indiana.

Herbert William Gunn - The youngest child of his family is Herbert William Gunn, born on February 11, 1906, in Floyd County. Following in the footsteps of his older brothers and sister, he, too, graduated from the New Albany High School, and then entered the Indiana States Teachers College, where he received a two-year diploma. He was engaged in teaching when called into military service, in 1942.

This man, as a soldier, was trained in the 101 Airborne Division, participating in the D-Day Invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944. Later he was transferred to the 82 Airborne Division and was sent into Holland, where, in the midst of the heavy fighting, he was captured and made a German prisoner of war and held as such until liberated by the American forces at Munich, Germany, on April 30, 1945.

** Deceased January 15, 1957.

Children of Virgil Roy Gunn

Pauline Ann Gunn Chitwood - The only child of Virgil Gunn is Pauline Ann, born in Austin, Texas, in May, 1928. She was educated in the schools of Temple, Texas, and in the junior college of San Angelo, Texas. Pauline was married to Joseph Chitwood of San Angelo, Texas, and is the mother of four children. These children are Becca Sue (who died in infancy), Linda, Jo Ann, and John Bruce. At the present time she resides, with her family, in Abilene, Texas.

Children of Chester Earl Gunn

Geraldine Gunn Madden - To Chester Earl Gunn and Sabra Drake Gunn was born a daughter, Geraldine, on September 19, 1925, at Terre Haute, Indiana. After graduating from Bloom Township High School, Chicago Heights, Illinois, Geraldine attended the University of Iowa for two years; then transferred to Northwestern University, where she received the degree of Bachelor of Arts in the year 1947. In college she chose Speech and Dramatic Art as a major. Going to New York City after graduating from college, this young lady pursued theatrical work, joining the Equity 'Players' Guild of New York. For a few years she played in stock companies in New York and the New England states, and later played on a coast-to-coast tour with the Stanley Wolff Company of New York. On December 17, 1949, Geraldine was married to Lee Madden. She is the mother of two children: one, a son (David Lee Madden), who was born in Chicago on July 25, 1955; the other, a daughter (Laura Lynn Madden), born in Evanston, Illinois on May 7, 1960.

Chester Allan Gunn - On June 2, 1936, Chester Allan Gunn, the only son of Chester and Sabra Gunn, was born at Harvey, Illinois. Graduating from Bloom Township High School (where he was valedictorian of his class of six hundred students) he entered higher education at Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota.

Because of his high-level school record, he was selected by his college to take the last half of the junior year at the American University at Washington, D.C., where he studied certain phases of the United States Government in seminar fashion. Returning to Carleton for his senior year, Allan was selected as a representative from his school to appear before the Minnesota Board of Review for a Rhodes Scholarship.

As a climax to a consistent, high-level scholastic record, Allan Gunn was elected to Phi Beta Kappa at Carleton College and graduated with magna cum laude honors. Having been awarded the Root-Tilden law scholarship (a highly competitive award), this young man entered the Law School of New York University in the fall of 1958 and graduated in the Class of 1961, with Law Review distinction. Previous to his having been admitted to the bar, on November 28, 1961, he was employed by the law firm of Seyfarth, Shaw, Fairweather and Geraldson, of Chicago. This association was interrupted by a call to military service covering the period from January 6, 1962, to July 6, 1962.

Back from this stint in the service, he is now a definite fixture in the Chicago Loop law firm.

PART IV - SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

It may be that certain significant facts stand out when this STORY OF THE GUNNS is studied. As for the European background, the important point to be noted is that the Gunns are from Northern Europe originally, having in the remote past a Norwegian setting. This may or may not be accountable for certain distinctive characteristics purportedly marking this family. (Admittedly, environmental factors count for so much in shaping mores of a people that the so-called "family" traits have a tendency to disappear after several generations come and go.) Nevertheless, some dominant qualities do seem to run through members of the Gunn family.

From David Gunn on down it would seem that there are peculiar family tendencies appearing at times. For example, there is the strong religious impulse, expressing itself at times by the choosing of the ministry, either as a side issue or as a profession. On the vocational side, the skilled trades are followed to some extent, although, on the whole, it does not seem that they have been especially gifted with mechanical aptitude.

To say that the Gunns are of Scotch derivation is historically true, though certainly an individual Gunn, as a result of the multiplicity of marriages of his ancestors into other nationality groups, might show no signs at all of embodying the characteristics generally found among the Scotch people. But it should be of interest for a Gunn to know that his ancestors once roamed the Highlands of Scotland and were members of a Scottish Highland clan.

Reverend David Gunn must have reflected the "back country" of Old Virginia, the region removed from the luxuries of the plantation feudal system -- the region where independence of spirit, rugged individualism, hatred of slavery, and loyalty to God and country were in the air. If all the living descendants of this man could be brought together in one assembly, some of the virtues named would, no doubt, be found missing with many of the living group. Yet, judging from those known personally to the authors and from those about whom authentic information has been given, it would seem safe to conclude that by a decided majority these descendants would stand up as living examples of some of the fine traits of character exemplified by Reverend David Gunn.

It must be admitted that this Gunn history is not adequately treated. Some names have been omitted entirely and others limited to a mere mention of the name, this because of dearth of information. Quite naturally, the authors know more about the members of the branch to which they are immediately related; consequently, they are able to give more detailed accounts of these people.

The Thomas Sparks Gunn branch being removed geographically, it has not received as extensive treatment as the others. Having become scattered, the members of this branch are not easily reached. It is only fair to say, however, that Walter Huser and Roger Giesel (respectively grandson and great-grandson of Thomas Sparks Gunn) have been quite helpful in supplying information on this family.

Where errors have been made, it is hoped that the reader will appreciate the difficulties encountered in undertaking a piece of work of this kind and will make allowances. There has been no intention of slighting or of misrepresenting any one.

DESCENDANTS OF
REV. DAVID GUNN (M) ELEANOR SPARKS

