

The Story of
The Robert P. Nixon Family
OF
BOOTHSVILLE, WEST VIRGINIA

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by
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Introduction and Acknowledgments

This booklet aims to give an account of the Robert P. Nixon family that was being reared in the State of West Virginia a century ago. On August 12, 1841, Robert Pugh Nixon of Boothsville, West Virginia, married Caroline Catherine Hayhurst. To this couple were born thirteen children, of whom ten grew to maturity.

The story of this family illustrates various aspects of American life during the period of its existence, and we trust that it may be of particular interest to the descendants of the ten children, all of whom married and left offspring.

What follows is neither a complete geneology nor a fully documented history. It is an account based on family Bibles, old letters and newspapers, as well as on memories of living descendants of the original couple. It contains some Nixon "lore" or tradition, but wherever possible, tradition has been checked by written records.

To the author of this booklet its preparation has meant both a labor of love and the partial discharge of a debt; for he owes a very great deal to this family, to his father, Harmon, first of all, who was one of the ten children, and to his father's brothers and sisters in whose homes the author spent many happy days across the years.

Mr. Harvey R. Nixon of Eureka, Illinois, one of the ten children, has written a brief account of the family. This account, printed in 1954, is reprinted here following Reflections and before References and Additional Family Data. The author was privileged to have several interviews with his Uncle Harvey shortly before the latter's death in August, 1957.

The following people have made available materials in their possession, or have given the author information without which the preparation of this booklet would not have been possible.

Mrs. John B. Norman of Springfield, Ohio

Mrs. Alice Nixon Jones of San Francisco, Cal.

Mrs. William A. Nixon, Mrs. O.G. Jones, and Mrs. Ruth Mitchell
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Miss Grace Robinson of Goodfield, Ill.
Mrs. Dorothy Patterson of Eureka, Ill.
Mr. Herbert Cornwell of Deer Creek, Ill.
The Misses Faye and Dee Nixon of Deer Creek, Ill.
Mrs. Forrest Lemons of Congerville, Ill.
Mrs. William Barkow of Antioch, Ill.
Mr. Russell Nixon of Tulsa, Oklahoma
Mr. Roy Nixon of Shinnston, West Virginia
Mrs. Romanza Hayhurst Jolliffe, half-sister of Caroline Catherine
Nixon of Morgantown, West Virginia.

The author would also express his appreciation to those who have filled out questionnaires, which have enabled him to prepare, as of this date, an approximately complete list of the living descendants of the Robert P. Nixons; and to Katherine Coulter who copied a number of the letters and records; and to Charles H. Nixon of Highland Park, Illinois, who saw the booklet through the press.

J. W. N.

Pioneer Background and Ancestry of the Robert P. Nixons

THE NORTHWESTERN VIRGINIA FRONTIER

The family that is the subject of this sketch was reared in what was once the back woods of northwestern Virginia. Its forebears were among the first white settlers to move into this region.

In 1754 Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia ordered the building of a fort at the junction of the Monongahela and Alleghany Rivers (Fort Duquesne), to protect the western part of the colony from the French, and from the Indians associated with the French. In order to encourage the settlement of the region and the recruiting of colonial forces to protect it, the Governor set aside 200,000 acres of land to be awarded volunteers, above their pay.

George the Third had other ideas about the use of the land. But during the Revolution (in 1779), the legislature of Virginia recognized the validity of Governor Dinwiddie's proclamations, and these became the basis of many land titles in the area.

It was not until 1772 that any permanent settlements were made. One of the earliest was that of Captain James Booth and Mr. John Thomas, on what became known later as Booth's Creek, on a site near the present village of Boothsville, the home of the Nixons.¹

Earlier attempts of white people to settle in this area had been prevented by Indian attacks. There was a respite from these attacks for about a decade following the French and Indian War (1765-1774).

Then the attacks broke out again. By this time there were no Indian settlements on the Virginia side of the Ohio River, but the Indians on the other side of the river considered this region their hunting ground. And they recognized that the coming of the white settlers meant that the region would pass out of their hands.

Accordingly, the years from 1774 to about 1795 are marked by Indian depredations, both sides, white and Indian, being about equally cruel in their assaults on one another. It was during one of the Indian raids (1778) that Captain James Booth was killed. This with other attacks in the vicinity, caused the temporary abandonment of the settlement on Booth's Creek. A number of settlers, however, continued the effort to cultivate their lands while keeping their families at various private forts which were built for their protection.²

Such was the character of the region into which the father and grandfather of Robert P. Nixon moved in 1785. The record from which the following quotation is taken, comes from the family Bible of Harmon A. Nixon, one of Robert's ten children, and is in Harmon's handwriting.

"George Nixon of English descent married Miss Arnold and lived in Hampshire County, Virginia, on the waters of the Big Caparon, a branch of the Potomac. To him were born two sons and three daughters, William, Johnathan, Sarah, Elizabeth, one name

forgotten. His (George's) first wife having died he married a Miss Thomas unto whom were born three sons. The oldest, William, filled various county offices, also represented the county of Hampshire in the legislature, and died at the age of 84.

"Johnathan, son of George Nixon by his first wife was born in Hampshire County in 1753. To him were born eighteen children, seven sons and eleven daughters. He moved to Harrison (now Marion) county in 1785 and settled on a preemption of 400 acres.

"George Nixon, eldest son of Johnathan, was born in Hampshire county, Virginia on the 24th day of May, 1776. He moved with his father to Harrison county when ten years of age."

Both Johnathan, as Jonathan, and George, his son, appear in the Dunnington "History of Marion County", to which we are already indebted. Jonathan is mentioned "among the settlers who came into the country about this time" (1780-85). He "located near Boothsville", and is the person "from whom the Nixons of this county are descended." He is also credited with being the discoverer in 1785 of Valley Falls of the Tygart Valley River.³

The following incident from the life of George is recorded in the Dunnington volume:

"Early in the month of March, 1786, Jonathan Nixon, with his oldest son George, then a lad of nine years of age, went from Edwards fort⁴ to his farm, for the purpose of building a house and improving the land. After working two days in the woods, late on the second evening, Jonathan started for the house of John Tucker, where he spent the night, and directed his son to go back to the fort, a distance of five miles. The boy started but soon lost his way, and wandering about in the forest for some time, he returned to the camp and lay down for the night. Next morning he awoke to find that a snow had fallen to a depth of eight or ten inches. After a second unsuccessful effort to find his way to the fort, the little fellow returned again to the camp and lay down, covering himself with a blanket.

"In the meantime, his father, on awakening at Tucker's and finding that the snow had fallen, concluded not to return to his work but to go hunting instead with Isaac Tucker. Sometime during

the day the hunters happened to come near the camp where George was, and observed the boy lying there almost frozen and unconscious." The boy was resuscitated but the exposure left him lamed for life.

The conditions under which the early Nixons lived must have been like those which prevailed among other settlers in the same area. It was an area in which the families used handmills, tanned their own leather and made their own shoes. The women operated spinning wheels and looms. Linsey was the commonly used cloth for clothing. After Marion County was formed in 1842, out of Harrison and Monongalia, its Senator in the Virginia legislature, Mr. Willey, would attend the sessions wearing the same type of clothing worn by his constituents. He appeared once in blue linsey breeches and a brown linsey hunting shirt.

There were plenty of wild animals for years, and they were an important source of the settler's food supply. Venison and wild turkey were welcome on every table, and at times bear meat served for food.

The last buffalo was killed in Harrison County in 1825, and the last elk in 1843. Panthers were there in small numbers, and wild cats were numerous, as also were wolves which were particularly ferocious. Rattlesnakes and copperheads were plentiful and feared by the people.⁵

The continuance of many wild creatures in the area is evidenced by an incident from the childhood experience of Mrs. John B. Norman, daughter of Sebastian Nixon. She spent a good deal of time in her early years with her grandparents, Robert and Catherine Nixon. One morning Robert called all the children to the window, saying, "Come, children, come quickly." What he wanted them to see proved to be a bear climbing a fence in the valley below the house.

The still earlier period was the age of the bridle path and the pack horse, the wooden plow and the flail. Every family had to rely on itself and its immediate neighbors for the necessities. For supplementary supplies, people had to journey across the mountains to the east.

THE ROBERT P. NIXONS

Such was the environment in which the Robert P. Nixon family had its origin. We do not know positively the date of Jonathan Nixon's death, but there is a stone in the Nixon cemetery on the old Jesse Nixon farm near Boothsville which is marked "in memory of Jonathan Nixon, Died July 4, 1806." It seems likely that this stone which was evidently placed some time after the death that it records, is a memorial to the original ancestor of the Nixons of this area.

George Nixon, Jonathan's son, married Margaret McCray on February 12, 1807. Margaret was the daughter of William McCray who seems to have come from Ireland in the latter part of the eighteenth century, and to have settled on Buffalo Creek. Of this union Robert P. Nixon was born.

Robert's wife was Caroline Catherine Hayhurst, a daughter of Benjamin Hayhurst who served in the War of 1812, and who became the owner of an improved farm of 350 acres, not far from Fairmont⁶, which shortly after Catherine's marriage, became the county seat of the newly formed Marion County.

Catherine was the daughter of Benjamin Hayhurst's first wife, Elizabeth Jolliffe, the daughter of William Jolliffe, a farmer of the Paw Paw district to the east.⁷

Lists of the children of Jonathan Nixon, George Nixon and Benjamin Hayhurst, are to be found in the notes for this chapter at the end of the booklet.⁸

It is evident that those who are interested in geneology have four ancestral lines to trace out, those from which descended George Nixon, Margaret McCray, Benjamin Hayhurst and Elizabeth Jolliffe.

NIXONS

All that is positively known of the Nixon line is recorded here or in the notes. There has been of late a question whether there is any connection between the Nixons of Marion County and the

ancestral line of Richard Milhous Nixon, as of this date Vice-President of the United States.

In the library of the University of West Virginia there is a manuscript entitled "A story of the Forebears of Richard Milhous Nixon," written by Raymond M. Bell of Washington and Jefferson College. The manuscript says that the Milhous family were Quakers who left County Kildare in Ireland and came to America, settling in Chester, Pennsylvania. "The origin of the Nixons" according to this paper, "is not known at present, although they likely came from Ireland, too." "The Nixons in the Vice-President's line came from Penna. or from nearby sections of Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey." "All except for one family were of British origin" and "over one-half of them Quakers."

There is no actual evidence of any connection in this country between the Nixons in whom we are interested here and the Vice President's line.

There has also been speculation amounting with some to a conviction, that George Nixon of Hampshire County, the first of the Nixons in our account, was one of three brothers, John, Jonathan and George, who came from Ireland in the eighteenth century and settled on the lands of George Fairfax in Virginia.

The three brothers are mentioned in Emily Emerson Lantz's narrative of the "Nixon Family in Unbroken Line from 1416 in Yorkshire England to Present Generation in America".

However, it is certain that the original George Nixon of our account, father of Jonathan, is not the same person as the George Nixon, one of the three brothers of the Lantz narrative. Jonathan Nixon, in our account, was born in Hampshire County in 1753. The George Nixon of the Lantz narrative came to Virginia in 1758. He moved later to Montgomery County, Maryland, and left large landed property. The property was left to his wife, Mary, ten children, and two grandchildren, but among them all is no Jonathan.

There is one feature of the story of Richard Milhous Nixon's forebears and of the Lantz narrative that tends to confirm tradition in our family. Both speak of the considerable number of Nixons who came to this country who were Quakers. Harvey R. Nixon

speaks of the Quaker origin of the Robert P. Nixon family, and says that the family preserved a number of Quaker characteristics such as not giving nicknames to any member of the family.

McCRAYS

Nothing is known of the McCrays beyond what has been recorded in the text above. (Letter from Capt. J. B. Nixon.)

HAYHURSTS

We are fortunate in having access to the careful research into the origins of the Hayhurst family by Dr. Emery R. Hayhurst, formerly of Ohio State University. The mimeographed copy of his manuscript in my possession is dated April 3, 1916. Dr. Hayhurst collected material for this study for fifteen years. He found much of his data in the records of early Quaker meetings.

Dr. Hayhurst is of the opinion that "all Hayhursts who can trace their ancestry back for one hundred years in America", are the descendants of a common ancestor, a Quaker emigrant, Cuthbert Hayhurst, who came to this country with William Penn in the ship "Welcome", which arrived at New Castle on the Delaware River, October 27, 1682.

The original home of the family to which Cuthbert belonged, was in Yorkshire, England. The name Hayhurst is Anglo-Saxon-Jutish origin, and probably was descriptive of uplands covered with forests and grass. Individuals would then be called "Robert of Hayhurst", etc.

Cuthbert Hayhurst was a Quaker preacher held high in esteem by those who shared his faith. According to one of his Quaker associates, Nicholas Waln, Cuthbert "went through many exercises and imprisonments". He was "a true believer who followed the Lamb through many tribulations". He came with his wife and five children to America and secured a grant of 500 acres in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

The line of descent found in Dr. Hayhurst's narrative which leads to Benjamin Hayhurst, father of Caroline Catherine (Hayhurst) Nixon, is as follows:

(In this table the first figure is the month, the second the day, followed by the year.)

1st generation	Cuthbert Hayhurst.	Died 3-5-1683, when about 50 years of age.
	Married Mary Rudd.	Died 7-24-1686.
2nd generation	Cuthbert Hayhurst.	Born 2-29-1678. Died 6-22-1733.
	Married Mary Harker.	No record.
3rd generation	James Hayhurst.	Born 9-3-1733.
	Married Ann Spencer	4-7-1757 or 1767. (Both dates are in the records.) "They had six children and the whole family moved to Hartford Co. Maryland in 1774. The oldest child, named James, founded the Ohio and Indiana branches of the family. The fifth child founded the Virginia West branch; his name was David."
		Hayhurst mss. P. 13
4th generation	David Hayhurst.	Died about 1840, when he was 80 years of age.
	Married Sarah Warner.	Died 1851 or 1852.
5th generation	Benjamin Hayhurst.	Born 2-8-1789. Died 4-20-1883.
	Married Elizabeth Jolliffe.	Born 5-20-1795. Died 12-21-1860.
	Married Elizabeth Criss.	Born 3-30-1841. Date of death missing.

One of the most interesting features of Dr. Hayhurst's account is his description of how the connection between the western branches of the Hayhurst family and the Society of Friends was broken.

It occurred in what is mentioned above as the "4th generation". In that generation there were six children, the children of James Hayhurst and Ann Spencer. The names were James (2nd), Elizabeth, Ruth, Sarah, David and Hannah.

Elizabeth and James both married in accordance with Quaker customs. James, however, was afterwards excluded from the Meeting in 1790 because of his transgression of certain rules of Quaker discipline. The other children, Ruth, Sarah, David and Hannah, were all excluded for non-observance of rules in respect to marriage. Sarah was disowned because she married a man who was not a Quaker, the marriage being performed by "a Hirling Priest." Ruth also married a non-Quaker. David married a Quakeress, Sarah Warner, but the marriage was accomplished "by the assistance of a Baptist teacher," so both were excluded. Hannah was excluded on similar grounds associated with her marriage.

Dr. Hayhurst believes that "these measures of unusual discipline for trifling religious offenses, if they could be called such, were very largely responsible for the rapid loss of influence of the Society of Friends. Quakers of today, we may be sure, regret the measures in respect to marriage which were a major factor in cutting off from the Society so many descendants of one of the original Quaker families to come to this country.

Nevertheless, the Hayhursts remain, to the best of my knowledge, proud of their Quaker ancestry and their characters illustrate the persistence of some Quaker traits in those who are no longer members of the Society.

JOLLIFFES

Our knowledge of the Jolliffe line is limited to the following facts. Elizabeth Jolliffe (1795-1860), the mother of Caroline Catherine Hayhurst, was the daughter of William Jolliffe (born 5-30-1761, married Catherine Collins 8-1-1779 and died 5-4-1827). He was born near Uniontown, Pennsylvania, and served as a private in the Pennsylvania forces during the Revolution. He was wounded in service and received depreciation pay. (His name appears in the Pennsylvania Archives Series 5, Vol IV pp. 442 and 746 and in the D. A. R. lineage book, Nat. No. 39737.)

The Parents and Growing Children

Beyond noting that they came from pioneer stock and from ancestral lines that were originally Quaker, we have said little of what kind of people the R. P. Nixons were.

There is a passage in Alexis De Tocqueville's "Democracy in America," based on the famous Frenchman's visit to this country in 1831 that might be well to remember in this connection. De Tocqueville had been describing the primitive log dwellings of the pioneers on the frontier. He then says: "Yet no sort of comparison can be drawn between the pioneer and the dwelling which shelters him. Everything about him is primitive and unformed, but he is himself the result of the labor and the experience of eighteen centuries; he is acquainted with the past, curious of the future, and ready for argument upon the present; he is in short, a highly civilized being, who consents for a time, to inhabit the backwoods, and who penetrates into the wilds of the New World with the Bible, an ax, and a file of newspapers." (p. 207).

When I came across this passage, recently, I thought it fit grandfather and his family quite well. They lived through nearly all the years while many of the children were small, in a log cabin near Boothsville. I saw the outside of this cabin while I was a child, back in 1891, after the people had long since moved into a frame house.

According to Uncle Harvey, the cabin had two large rooms, two fire places, a chimney, and a loft. It was a high loft and was used by the children as a bedroom - - the boys sleeping at one end and the girls at the other. There was a stairway at each end. Cooking was done at the open fireplace. Off the living room grandfather built a small shed with two rooms where the parents and the little children slept. From 1874 on, the family occupied a frame house that gave them all much more room.

The family lived off farming. An additional source of income came from the fact that for about 20 years grandfather taught the

village school in Boothsville. This was a subscription school and ran from three to six months each year. There was a great need for elementary education on the frontier. On a deed conveying land to Robert, George, his father, has left his mark, not his signature. Evidently George could not write.

The farming land of the Nixons comprised at its greatest extent, about 200 acres. At the time of grandfather's death in 1895 at the age of 77, the holdings had been reduced to a little less than 50 acres.

There was never much in the way of cash about the farm. If grandfather was to lend a nephew \$100.00, he had to plan for it months ahead of time, and then everything was contingent upon the prices received for crops. It is interesting to go back over some of the old accounts the family had at stores in Boothsville. In a bill of sale on credit which ran for two years, '74 - '76, one finds every item down to five cent's worth enumerated, and the member of the family, either parent, Ella, Addie, Harmon, Willie, or John, to whom the item was delivered. Sugar, calico, buttons and thread, a cradle scythe, muslin, pie pans, ribbon, a hat, hair comb, pills, soap, balls of candle wick, slate and spelling book, coffee, shoes are among these items.

Payments were made on this account across the same period, with butter at 20¢ a pound, eggs at 12½¢ a dozen, oats at 50¢ a bushel, mutton at 8¢ a pound, loads of fodder at \$2.25 or better a load, lard at 12½¢ a pound -- and with cash covering about two-thirds of the bill.

There was an additional source of income from government service of grandfather and some of the boys during the Civil War. During the early part of the war this service was in the wagon trains. Later grandfather enlisted in Company O of the 6th Regiment of the West Virginia Volunteer Infantry. Adolphus also enlisted. Sebastian was believed to have enlisted, but when he sought a pension in later years, adequate papers were unavailable.

What kind of people the Nixons were can be determined in large part by their interests. A dominant interest was always the family itself. The members were concerned for one another's wel-

fare across the years. After two of the boys, Adolphus and Harmon, who wanted to be ministers, got off to college at Denison University in Ohio, their experiences made them eager to get their brothers and sisters out of West Virginia into more favorable circumstances. Sebastian, Ella, Willie, Alice, and Harvey, followed Adolphus into the Ohio region west of Columbus when Adolphus began to preach. And Addie, Alice, then Ella and John followed Harmon into the Illinois country between Bloomington and Peoria where Harmon was a pastor from 1879 on. Alice and Addie married substantial farmers in this area. Ultimately Ella, Sebastian, Harvey and Wayland, came into the same region.

Anyone with contacts with any of our recent immigrants who are trying to bring their people from the old world, recognized the trait in human beings that makes them want to continue the association with their family. In this family this trait was strongly developed. I can still hear Uncle Sebastian say, when after a visit to his home, he was seeing me off on a train, "My boy, never forget your family."

Another interest was the church. The Harmony Baptist Church in Boothsville was organized in 1840. In the old records of the clerk of the church there is a notation that R. P. Nixon and Catherine C. Nixon were received into the church July 10, 1842.

There are many Nixon names in the old records. Among them, in addition to Robert and Catherine, are Ruth, Lucinda, Samuel, Hannah, Nancy, Johnathan (not the first Johnathan), Sebastian, Harmon, Adolphus, Elizabeth, Sylvanus, and J. Truman Nixon, Sebastian's son.

When I visited Boothsville in 1947, Roy Nixon was clerk of the church. He had been clerk since 1912. He was the son of Sylvanus Nixon and came from the family of Samuel Nixon. Mrs. Roy Nixon was a Clelland, a family name that appears several times in Nixon geneological history.

Robert P. Nixon served for many years as Sunday School Superintendent. His prayers and hymn singing were a feature of church life. There is a reference in one of his letters to a nephew in 1854 to these church and Sunday School interests. He says:

“We have in Boothsville all kinds of orders and sects and societies. There is Baptist, Methodist, Episcopalian, Methodist Protestant, and occasionally Presbyterian and Congregationalist . . . We have two Sabbath schools, everyday school, and also a singing and debating school. We had a large Sabbath School celebration on the 4th of July in my sugar camp. The order of the day was 3 Sabbath Schools formed in procession double file and marched through the grove and took seats. Then the service was opened by prayers by Nixon, Poe and Potts . . . Then a Sabbath School address by Reverend James Clelland, then the audience partook of a numerous quantity of candies, cakes, raisins and lemonade. They then marched to town to receive presents. Sebastian and Adolphus each received a present.”

It was in the Boothsville Baptist Church that Adolphus and Harmon were both licensed to preach March 13, 1869. (Back cover of R. P. Nixon family Bible.) In 1890 grandfather offered to pay Uncle Sebastian's way back to West Virginia to attend the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Church.

It is probably correct to say that education was a major interest of the family, an interest that was not merely from cultural motives but also from the necessities of life. At the close of the Civil War grandfather is reported to have said, “We have nothing left but the land but education is important and we must get it”. Mrs. Love Norman also quotes him as saying, “Education is the finest endowment one can bestow upon one's children”.

From grandfather's long teaching experience in the elementary school and from the fact that two boys got off to college and other children off to normal school, and that every one of the children but John taught school for a period, one must infer that the family undertook to practice what grandfather preached. My own father's passionate interest in seeing that his children got a college education would seem to have been born of grandfather's kindred interest. Mrs. Norman sums up this matter by saying, “The paramount issues in the family have been based from my earliest memory on school, church and state”.

The suggestion of "state" in Mrs. Norman's statement points up another interest. The family was concerned with county affairs and politics. It grew up in West Virginia, a border state where political feelings ran high. According to the Haymond "History of Marion County," the majority of the people in the Civil War period were strongly in favor of the Union, but an active minority, including many politicians, were in favor of seceding from the Union. Political parties were dissolved and families were divided. On June 11, 1861, a provisional administration was set up for the western area of Virginia, loyal to the Union.

The Nixons were active Unionists, with the father and several of the boys serving at various times with the Union forces in one capacity or another. The sentiments thus created affected their outlook throughout their life. In my childhood I always heard the Confederate forces referred to as "the rebels." Grandmother clear down to the end of her days (1921) would refer to the "late rebellion."

An extract from a quaint letter written by Grandfather to Mr. and Mrs. John Nixon in Kansas after the election of 1888, in which Benjamin Harrison was elected President on the Republican ticket, illustrates the strong partisan feeling in the family: "The election is over and the Republicans have beaten the Democrats so that they are not only sorrowful but mad. The next day after election they would run to Boothsville to hear the news and they would return with their heads like a goose that had been hit on the head with a wet cob . . . We Republicans can have everything our own way now."

The predominant Republican sentiment in the family did not, however, deter the members from political discussion. Independents and Democrats ultimately appeared particularly among younger people. My own father was a party prohibitionist. Nevertheless, with all the independence of thought and frank expression of opinion, there was tolerance of one another's views. I never knew differences in political arguments to provoke a rift in family affections.

Of course, in addition to these interests in family, church, education and of public affairs, there was a constant interest in making both ends meet -- in making a living. By the middle of the century frontier conditions were modified somewhat, turnpike roads were being developed and railroads projected. Nevertheless, each family was still under obligation to raise enough to see it through the winter. So with a bad season there was anxiety. One discovers this note in a letter of grandfather's to a nephew in 1854:

"The crop in this county is very light in consequence of the drought. There has been but little rain all this summer . . . Booth Creek has but little water in it. In some places in this state the people are very much afraid of starving. There is no fall pasture . . . but it is not worth while to be alarmed about a famine for the Scripture informs us that while the world stands there will be seed time and harvest time." Later in the letter to the John Nixons, quoted above, grandfather says: "We got our seeding done in good time and our corn husked and our beef killed and our pork. We have plenty of vegetables and fruit to do us." Then he adds a little of his philosophy for the benefit of the newly married, "I would fix some way to be out of debt. It is not required of a man to get rich but to make his own living. Comfort and peace are worth more than gold and silver."

Grandfather's later letters, '90, '93, '95, still tell of the stock he is keeping, the wet corn, getting the potatoes dug: "a fine lot of turnips and they are very large" -- with the recurrent, "we will have enough to do us."

How close to the soil these people lived, close to one another and close to God.

There is one feature of the old letters that is likely to impress a modern reader -- that is the sense of the precariousness and uncertainty of human life. This is not strange. The span of life has lengthened greatly in the last 100 years. We have had many advances in medicine. As we look back a century, we see so many women dying in childbirth, heavy infant mortality, and the average length of life 20 -- 30 years shorter than today. So the somber note

of the old letters is no occasion for wonder.

There are a couple of sentences out of a letter (1849) from the Phillip family (in family record of Jonathan Nixon) -- "we feel very thankful to the great Donor of all good that circumstances are not worse, yet...certainly God's afflicting hand has visited us"... "we look forward with glowing anticipation to that recompense of reward which is reserved for those who love and serve God". In another old letter we find, "I am now 45 and you are older than I am. We are both over the top of the hill".

Then there is a letter from grandmother to John and his wife Etna, less than three months after their wedding in 1888, and the reunion which occurred at that time: "We all were in (St.) Paris together and how soon three of them have been stricken by the hand of affliction. I felt forlorn when I was there and felt that we might never be together again". Then she speaks of serious illnesses that had come to Harmon, Harvey and Adolphus: "When we look back on our lives we can see that we have not improved our time as well as we should. Life is uncertain and death is certain. Life hangs on a little thread".

Actually the earliest of that group to pass away was grandfather (1895). Of the three boys who became suddenly ill, all lived over twenty years longer. But the uncertainty of life is a more constant state in the letters of the family than it is today.

Still the atmosphere of the family was a cheerful one. Mrs. J. B. Norman makes that clear in her memories of the family back in the 70's and 80's of the last century when she spent a great deal of time in their home. Sugar-making was a great event, with "Old Fanny" dragging the back-log for the fireplace into the kitchen, walking in one door and out another, across the porch, and all the children allowed to stay up and share in the testing of the syrup; and the great jars of golden brown sugar put away in the wardrobe upstairs -- and one must not forget the many maple cakes made just for the children.

Mrs. Norman thinks few families have had more resources for creating good times among themselves. After describing the sugar-making nights, she says: "Every evening was like an event as we

gathered around the fireplace or sat on the porch -- there were always stories, music, lessons or stunts -- each one had some part -- there were apples, nuts, pop-corn and in the winter a rare tid-bit. Grandfather would shave dried beef cut razor thin with a broad shoe knife -- and was it delicious and chewy? Grandfather's and grandmother's duets still ring in my ears. Can you hear them singing, 'Flow Gently Sweet Afton'? And last of all grandfather would say, 'Children read your problems, I'll have them solved when I awake in the morning'. And so he would. He was an expert in mental arithmetic and loved to do problems of arithmetic for which people today would use algebra''.

The people who gave the tone to this family were of course the mother Catherine and the father Robert. If one wants to know what kind of people the Nixons were, one has to find the answer in them.

We have spoken of their environment and interests. A word now about their personal traits. Grandmother always had the reputation of being the most practical member of the team -- practical along with generosity toward her children. Down until Grandfather's death in 1895 and beyond, she asked in her letters who in her family most needed a loan from her. She had to be warned that all her children were better off than she and to be sure and collect the interest from those who had her money.

She was always careful of her appearance and would talk to her grandchildren about how they looked. She was immensely proud of the peach-colored silk dress with "hoops" in which she married. The hoops stayed around the house and were used for "dress-up" purposes of the grandchildren for many years.

But she was a practical person with an eager mind. She never thought the past was good enough. She would ride in an automobile when her children were nervous about such adventures. She would read the books that were talked about. I remember back in the teens talking to her about Professor Rauschenbush of Rochester, one of the sponsors of the social gospel movement. She had read more about him and from his writings than her children had. She got Herbert Cornwell to read Tolstoy's "Resurrection". The last solid

work she read was Ambassador Girard's "My Four Years in Germany", written during World War I.

And all this the achievement of an old lady in her eighties and early nineties; who always referred to the Civil War as the "late rebellion"; who called the upstairs "the loft"; who said "blow out the candles" when she wanted the electric lights turned off; and who had used a horse collar for an entire generation as a baby-pen.

She remained always very dear to her children and one of the close friends of the family says that the only occasion when she ever heard grandmother's daughters speak harshly to one another was when one would say that it was time grandmother came and stayed with her.

Grandfather Nixon is to those who did not know him a more elusive character. Only two surviving members of my generation (the grandchildren) did know him at all well -- Mrs. J. B. Norman, daughter of Sebastian, and Mrs. Alice Jones, daughter of Adolphus. Both had lived in the West Virginia home for extended periods.

Careers & Descendants of the 10 Children

SEBASTIAN CLEON NIXON

1842 – 1926

Sebastian Cleon Nixon, born October 19, 1842, in Boothsville, Virginia, now West Virginia, was the oldest son of Robert P. Nixon and Caroline Hayhurst Nixon. He received his education from his father, who was a teacher and a farmer, and at the early age of 7 he joined a Baptist Church at Boothsville, was an active, faithful and devoted member at that church during his entire life. He was affectionately known as "Uncle Sebastian". He was a distinguished looking gentleman, six feet tall, white hair, always very friendly and active wherever he was -- took a leading part in all civic and community affairs.

When the Civil War broke out and war was declared, West Virginia seceded from Virginia, and Taylor County being a border county, became part of West Virginia, declaring its allegiance to the North.

Upon the declaration of war, Grandfather Robert enlisted in the Union Army and went to war leaving Sebastian at home to care for the family; he not only cared for the family but taught one of the first free schools in West Virginia. After a short time Grandfather Nixon returned home and Sebastian enlisted in a West Virginia regiment, but being too young to engage in battle, he was assigned to drive supplies to the Army. This took him into the Battle of the Antietam, Bull Run, and other battle fronts.

His younger brother, Adolphus, joined the Army. Grandfather Robert had Sebastian come home, he being the oldest son, to care for the family while he and Adolphus defended the Union.

One must remember that Taylor County, West Virginia, where the family resided, was in the very midst of the battleground. After the war was over, father began teaching school and married Virginia Harr. Of this marriage two children were born, James Truman Nixon, who died in 1930, and Lovelia Mae Norman, who still survives. Upon the death of Virginia, he migrated to Ohio with his children and located at St. Paris where he married Mary Wolcott, who lived only a short time. On April 26, 1886, he married Barbara Ann McMorran. Of this marriage, one son, Cleon Robert Nixon, was born, May 22, 1887, at St. Paris, Ohio. He now resides in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The family then moved to Goodfield, Illinois, in 1897, where father was engaged in farming until he retired in 1909, then moved to Deer Creek, Illinois. Mother Barbara Nixon died, February 13, 1924, and after passing, he married Elizabeth Wilgus of Troy, Ohio, who is now deceased. Father Nixon died at Daytona Beach, Florida, May 3, 1926, and is buried at St. Paris, Ohio, beside Mother Barbara.

Sebastian and Barbara were affectionately known as "Uncle Sebastian and Aunt Barbara", by the entire community. The table was always filled with food for any one who came to see them, and they were always welcome. Sebastian was a fine Christian

gentleman, a loyal citizen, vigorous in what he believed was right,
and a devoted father.

Cleon R. Nixon, son

Sebastian C. Nixon – 1842 – 1926

.married Virginia D. Harr Nixon in 1866 - she died 1876

.James Truman Nixon - 1868– 1930

.Love Nixon Norman – 1873

.married Mary Wolcott Nixon in 1878 – she died 1884

.married Barbara McMorran Nixon in 1886 – she died 1924

.Cleon Robert Nixon – 1887 –

married Natalie Peacock of Wash. D.C. – she died
1956

.Cleon Robert Nixon, Jr. – 1914 –
married Marie Krenzke Nixon

.Suzanne Marie Nixon – 1942

.Cleon Robert Nixon III – 1945

.Elizabeth Ruth Nixon – 1951

.William Hayhurst Nixon – 1916 –

married – Polly Wedderburn Nixon – 1918 –

.Eloise Wedderburn Nixon – 1945 –

.Nan Fielding Nixon – 1946 –

.Pollyanne Addison Nixon – 1952 –

.Jane Peacock Nixon – 1957 –

married Lydia Myra Nixon

married Elizabeth Wilgus Nixon –

ADOLPHUS B. NIXON

1846 – 1912

Adolphus Benjamin Nixon, 2nd son of Robert and Carolyn Nixon,
was born August 6, 1846, near Boothsville, Marion County, West
Virginia. He helped his father clear the virgin land and also helped
in the plowing and planting of the crops. When the Civil War came,
he volunteered with his father to serve in the regular army; drove
a wagon for a time, and then became a member of the 6th West

Virginia Infantry Co. D. He served his country in the war 3½ years, in the army, from which he was honorably discharged.

Upon returning from the war to the farm, he realized the need for more education than he could obtain at home; besides, he wanted to get away from farm life, so he decided to go to Granville, Ohio, to attend Denison University, a Baptist College. There he worked his way through school by cutting and carrying wood for students, cutting hair and shaving students, and by teaching singing.

In 1873 he had a nervous breakdown and was compelled to rest for a while. He then took a less arduous job, joining a Baptist publishing house for a period, for \$60.00 a month. While there he met and married Alice Barnes. From this union two children were born, one dying in infancy, the younger, Alice, now living in California.

It was at this time in his life he decided to take up the ministry. To further his training, he and his wife went to the University of Chicago -- at that time the Union Morgan Theological Seminary. After completing his ministerial education, his ordination took place at Terre Haute, Indiana, at a Baptist Church.

Following his ordination he assumed the pastorates of churches at Lena, Ohio, and Casstown, Ohio, remaining at the Lena church 13 years, and Casstown, ten. He was also pastor at Tippicanoe City, Ohio, where he helped build the Baptist church. He also served as pastor for the Baptist church at West Jefferson, Ohio.

While serving as pastor at Casstown, on August 9, 1881, at the birth of his daughter, Alice, his wife died, leaving him this infant to rear. In the latter part of 1882 he married again -- Anna Jones of St. Paris, Ohio. They had four children; the son lived only a few months; of the three daughters, two are living in California, the other died several years ago.

After the second marriage, he moved to Alexandria, Ohio, had a successful pastorate, and was much beloved by the entire congregation. It was there he suffered a second nervous breakdown and had a severe stroke, incapacitating him for further active service, but he lived on for 24 years. While pastor at Alexandria, the Masons conferred upon him the 32nd degree. He was also a member

of the Odd Fellows Lodge.

He spent part of the last years of his life with his daughter, Alice, at the old home farm of his father, in West Virginia, reading and studying. Adolphus returned to Granville so his daughter might attend college, and lived there until she married, after which he lived at The Old Soldier's Home in Danville, Illinois, where he passed away February 17, 1912. He is buried by the side of his first wife in a beautiful cemetery outside of Troy, Ohio, near Cass-town.

His daughter, Alice, married Fulton Jones of West Jefferson Ohio. They had two sons, Malcolm the elder, is a physician in San Francisco, and is married to an Ohio girl, also a doctor. They have five sons, all receiving their education in different colleges. The younger son of Fulton and Alice, Gordon C. Jones, is a salesman for Protective Medical Insurance Co. He is married to a California girl, Ann Jones. They have one son, Robert, and reside in San Rafael, California.

This is the history of Adolphus Nixon and his offspring to the best of my knowledge.

Alice Nixon Jones, oldest daughter

Adolphus B. Nixon – 1846 – 1912

married Alice Barnes Nixon – she died 1881

.Alice Nixon Jones – 1881 – 1960

married Fulton Jones –

.Malcolm Jones – 1904

married Margaret Brooks Jones –

.Tony Jones – 1937 –

.Richard Nixon Jones – 1938 –

.Thomas Malcolm Jones – 1940 –

.Paul Michael Jones – 1942 –

.Jerry Travis Jones – 1943 –

.Gordon Charles Jones – 1913 –

married Anna Johnson Jones –

.Robert Michael Jones –

.married Anna Jones –

of this marriage four children were born, a son dying in infancy, and three daughters – two now living somewhere in Cal.

HARMON A. NIXON, SR.

1849 – 1916

Time has not erased the memory of my father though 45 years have elapsed since his death. I was just 18 at the time. Looking back now, I realize that his success was one of self-fulfillment, that he was ever an idealist, often a trailblazer and reformer as well as preacher and a guiding father.

To our immediate family, and perhaps to a wider group of relatives, he was especially important. For he, with his brother, Adolphus, decided to leave the West Virginia hills to go to Denison University at Granville, Ohio, for an education – which was the initial step in the westward trek of all his brothers and sisters.

At Denison the two boys lived on corn meal mush and milk – at least this was their mainstay at first – the corn meal they brought from home. Both taught singing to help defray their expenses. Father being too young, never got into the War Between the States, but drove a team hauling Union Army supplies.

While hardship was common in the Boothsville area, where father's family was settled, they never lacked for food or the necessities. There too was fun and gaiety in this large family. Grandmother told of a stream that the boys crossed often, and many times Harmon couldn't resist doing a jig on a rock out in the middle.

Education, so valued by both his parents, was a prize Harmon keenly sought, and he graduated from Denison in 1876. His father before him, in addition to farming had attended summer school at the University of Virginia at Morgantown, and taught in a subscription school. Father retained his interest in education, fostered by his parents, later moving to Granville, Ohio, where his six children received college degrees.

Upon graduating from Denison, father took his theological training in Chicago and supplied at The Deer Creek – Goodfield

Baptist Church in central Illinois. In 1878 he became the Church's first full-time minister. Later he wrote to some of his brothers and sisters, asking them to visit him here. This was the beginning of their marrying and settling in this area, a rich and fertile land in comparison with Boothsville, West Virginia. While in this territory, father met and married Eva Wroe, a Methodist, at Lexington, Illinois, July 31, 1884.

Having heard my father preach several times, I would say he was a speaker of power and forcefulness, as his oldest son Justin was later to become. He did a great deal of careful thinking in arriving at his conclusions; once arrived at, he not only shared them but asked for their acceptance and would argue for them effectively. Of Baptist faith, he preached the gospel he had learned from God-fearing parents. There was no espousing a faith without living it, attending church on Sundays, and doing whatever one chose on week-days, as modern church attendants are inclined to do. The disparity between preachment and practice by preachers and pew occupants was not winked at in father's day.

Father wrote a pamphlet, "The Tobacco Habit Immoral", published in 1913; and he belonged to the Prohibition Party much of his life. He should be around today to see and listen to all the cigarette and beer advertising! He would doubtless think we were contributing to the delinquency of our youth.

The impact of father and his brothers and sisters is felt today in many communities. This gives us all, and our children, the challenge to carry on the good fight, rooted in the right, with high purpose always.

Charles H. Nixon, youngest son

Harmon A. Nixon, Sr. — 1849 — 1916

.married Eva Wroe Nixon — 1884 — she died 1940

.Justin Wroe Nixon, Sr. — 1886 — 1959 — Rochester

married Ida Wickenden Nixon — 1914

.John Harmon Nixon — 1915 —

.Charles Robert Nixon – 1917 –
 married Margaret McCord Nixon – 1941
 .John Bennet Nixon – 1945 –
 .Margaret Carolyn Nixon – 1956 –
 .Elizabeth Nixon Johnson – 1919 –
 married Owen C. Johnson – 1944
 .Nicole H. Johnson – 1947 –
 .Deborah Johnson – 1949 –
 .Alice Wroe Nixon St. Clair – 1923 –
 married David William St. Clair – 1948
 .Judith Ann St. Clair – 1950
 .Mary Alice St. Clair – 1953 –
 .Helen Jean St. Clair – 1955 –
 .Patricia Nixon St. Clair – 1957 –
 .Justin W. Nixon, Jr. – 1929–
 married Anne (Nancy) Fletcher Nixon – 1955
 .William Harmon Nixon – 1956 –
 .Robert Edgerton Nixon – 1959
 .Esther Nixon Dixon – 1888 – 1947
 married Edward Dixon May 31, 1919
 .Patricia Dixon Riley – Jan. 30, 1922
 married Wilfred Riley – April 19, 1947
 .Michael Riley – Jan. 17, 1948 –
 .Bryan Riley – Jan. 30, 1950 –
 .Christine Riley – May 26, 1952 –
 .Geoffrey Riley – June 26, 1954 –
 .George Justin Charles Riley – Nov. 11, 1957
 .Harmon A. Nixon, Jr. – 1890 – 1948
 .Eva Nixon Williams – 1892 – 1959
 married George Burbank Williams – 1928
 .Samuel Burbank Williams – 1935 –
 .Robert P. Nixon – 1896 – 1937
 .Charles H. Nixon – 1898 –
 married Irma Johnson Nixon – 1929
 .John Charles Nixon – 1937 (Oct. 23) –

WILLIAM ALVIS NIXON
1854 - 1923

William Alvis Nixon was born June 13, 1854, at Boothsville, West Virginia, the fourth son of Robert Pew and Catherine Hayhurst Nixon. At the age of eighteen he joined his three older brothers, Sebastian, Adolphus and Harmon, in Ohio, and taught school near Troy, for seven years.

He came to St. Paris, Ohio, to visit his brother Sebastian, and there met and married Clara Adelaide Fromme, September 22, 1886. To this union were born three children: - Nellie, Herman, and Jessie all living. Their mother died October 9, 1903.

Nellie married O. Garfield Jones, a professor of Political Science in Toledo University, who published a manual on Parliamentary Rules of Order.

Herman became an executive with the Sunkist Association in Los Angeles, California, and married Isabel Simmons. They later adopted a daughter, Virginia. Herman is now retired. Jessie became a librarian in Columbus, Ohio, but is also now retired.

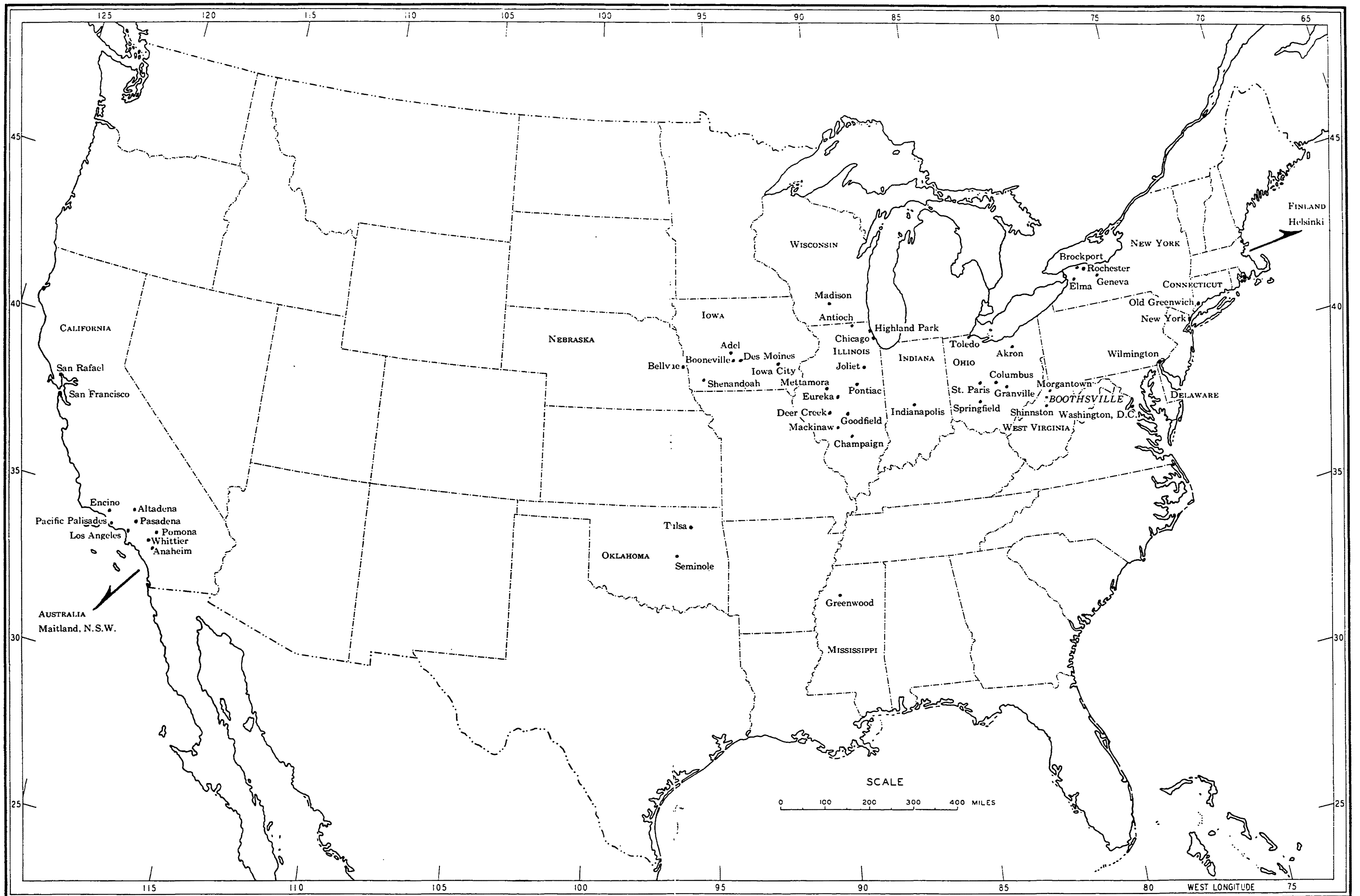
In 1907 William married Susie Nitchman, and to this union were born twin daughters, Ruth Virginia and Mary Lucile, both married, and Lucile had twin girls.

Shortly after my father's marriage to Clara Fromme, he entered the furniture and undertaking business of his father-in-law, Frederick Fromme, in a partnership with his brother-in-law, Albert Fromme. For thirty years he engaged in this occupation, retiring in 1920.

He was a member of, and active in the First Baptist Church of St. Paris, where he served as a deacon, Sunday School superintendent, and teacher of a young men's class.

He was interested in civic affairs and served in turn as a member of the town council, treasurer, and member and president of the school board. He passed away Christmas Day, 1923.

Nellie Nixon Jones — oldest daughter



FROM THE HOME IN BOOTHSVILLE, WEST VIRGINIA THE CHILDREN AND DESCENDANTS SCATTERED TO THE AREA SHOWN ON THE MAP. DIRECTORY INDICATES WHERE MANY ARE NOW LOCATED.

William A. Nixon – 1854 – 1923

.married Clara A. Fromme – 1886 – 1903

.Nellie Nixon Jones – 1887 –

married O. Garfield Jones –

.Herman W. Nixon – 1889 –

married Isabel Simmons Nixon

.Virginia Nixon –

.Jessie Mae Nixon – 1891 –

.married Susie Nitchman – 1907 –

.Ruth Nixon Proctor – 1909 –

married Roger F. Proctor – deceased

.Lucile Nixon Berry – 1909 –

married Richard R. Berry –

.Jan Nixon Berry – 1934 –

.Patricia Ann Berry – 1943

ELLA NIXON ROBINSON

1857 – 1939

My mother, Ella Columbia Nixon, the oldest of three daughters of the Nixon family, first attended a “subscription school”, taught by her oldest brother, Sebastian. Later she attended normal school at Lebanon, Ohio, where her brother William was studying. Then she taught in Braxton Co., West Virginia. Her brother Harvey, then twelve years old, went with her to their uncle’s home, where she boarded – riding horseback both ways, double going, she returning alone.

Popular with the young people, Ella had several suitors, but chose John Homer Robinson of Shinnston, West Virginia, whom she met at a reception for his sister, Elmyra, who had married a distant cousin of Ella. Rev. Murray of the Boothsville Baptist Church married the young couple at her parents’ home; a reception followed at Grandmother Robinson’s home near Shinnston. Uncle John Nixon told me how proud he was of his sister whom he took to Fairmont to buy her wedding “finery.”

My mother was very skillful in sewing, and had a knack for style and for cutting a full garment from a seemingly too-small piece of cloth. At family dinners my cousins reminded each other to "take a piece of Aunt Ella's pie now — it's so good it won't last long." Her canned tenderloin was a favorite with Justin, as was also Dad's wonderfully cured ham. Dad drove a fine team, and always loved horses. Mother had a great interest in natural phenomena — the formation of clouds, the beauty of a sunset, electrical storms, eclipses, and falling stars — an interest her father had fostered. She enjoyed people of all ages and was able to find a common interest. An active member of the Baptist Church from early childhood, she was always interested in all its activities -- a charter member of The Dorcas Circle, a member of The Goodfield Home Economics Club, The Letitia Stevens' Chapter of The American Revolution, in Bloomington.

While we were still living in West Virginia, my sister Pearl was born. After a few years we moved to a farm near St. Paris, Ohio, where I was born. Our next move was to Goodfield, Illinois, and then on to Boonville, Iowa, where we lived for a number of years. My sister and I went to Des Moines College, a Baptist School where Pearl continued her study of music until ill health forced her to leave. At Goodfield, she was assistant organist at the church when she was twelve. She taught during the years before her marriage to Charles Cameron Cook at Boonville, Iowa, where she lived till her death. My mother and father greatly enjoyed their five grandchildren, John, twins Robert and Virginia, Mary, and Helen. After I finished college I taught in Iowa, Illinois and Indiana, 38 years in all.

Following a Nixon family tradition of helping one another, my parents invited Uncle Harvey to stay with them while attending High School at St. Paris. Aunt Alice stayed with us while she taught near here. It was in our home that Aunt Alice and Uncle Henry were married.

From the older generation, a great uncle, George Nixon, of Shenandoah, Iowa, my grandfather Nixon's brother, visited our home in Boonville, Iowa, more than once. He was a Methodist preacher

who "rode the circuit" in his earlier days. In our generation, Hazel and Faye stayed with us while they were in school or teaching. John Cook, the oldest grandchild, lived with his grandparents the four years he attended high school at Goodfield.

Mother and Dad were at Charley Cook's in Boonville for mother's last Thanksgiving, and a few days later greatly enjoyed the wedding of their grandson Robert, to Elizabeth Fitz in Des Moines. Mother slipped away two days after returning home, December 6, 1939.

Grace Robinson, daughter

Ella Nixon Robinson – 1857–1939

.married – John H. Robinson – 1879

.Pearl M. Cook – 1880–1934

married – Charles C. Cook – 1906

.John Myron Cook – 1908

married Helen Blothenberg Cook

.Robert Sherman Cook – 1912 –

married Mary Fitz Cook

.Charles R. Cook – 1941 –

.James S. Cook – 1944 –

.Virginia Grace Cook – 1912 –

.Mary Ella Cook – 1917 –

married Maxwell Dean Edwards (Divorced)

.Helen Louise Cook – 1920 –

married Michael Hakeem –

.Grace Virginia Robinson – 1886 –

JOHN S. NIXON

1859 – 1940

The character of John Smith Nixon is best expressed by his belief that a man's attitude toward life is the sum of his experiences and the spirit in which he met them. He grew up in the turbulent Civil War period and the reconstruction days that followed. Living on

the border of the two Virginias, where he was aware of the failure of the slaves to reach freedom, he personally witnessed the shooting of a Negro dragged from under a corn crib.

Being a sturdy boy and the middle child, it fell to him to farm the West Virginia hills for his school-teaching father. The responsibility of helping to bring up the younger children gave him training in leadership that stood him well throughout his life.

At twenty-one, already a good-looking man with grey eyes, deeply tanned skin, and heavy brown hair, his father gave him \$100.00 and sent him to Ohio to join his older brothers and sister. There for several summers he helped on the farms and later sold a patent medicine brought out by his brother William called "pain killer". In this work he said he learned to meet people and to sell. In the winter months he went to Normal School where he met Etna Ford, the girl who became his bride and our mother. There, also, he met James and John Sparks, with whom he went to Kansas in 1885 to set up homesteads. After three years the claims were "proved up", and they all went back to Ohio for their brides.

The first year in Kansas was a drought year, and they literally lived on peaches, rabbits and biscuits. Despite their meager resources, the three families interested the scattered neighbors in organizing a literary club where they debated the political problems of the day. At the Sunday School my father acted as superintendent, mother led the singing, and John Sparks, who later became a minister, taught the lesson.

The second year a grasshopper scourge took the crop. The third year the corn was so plentiful it sold for 10¢ a bushel; cheaper than coal, it was burned for fuel. All this influenced father to take his wife and two children, Faye and Dee, to Deer Creek, Illinois, where several members of the family had settled. Here again some farming disasters occurred. Cholera took all the hogs except one old mother sow. Another time, twenty horses foundered – the very winter mother went to the hospital and we children had the mumps. Early in this period, two infant children died. Rollin Sebastian, was born in 1899, the year father bought his first farm. Father helped organize the county farm bureau,

worked for good roads and markets. He was township supervisor and served on committees for highway survey and county farm management, building committees of the Courthouse and Tuberculosis Sanitorium.

When his brother-in-law, Henry Robinson, died in 1914, father assisted in administering the estate of 7000 acres, later managing the twenty or more farms for the family. Busy years these, yet he found time for his church which honored him for his leadership and devotion by making him "Deacon for Life." A young farm boy when asked why he wanted to join the church said, "Well, Mr. Nixon is a good man; he belongs to the church and I want to be like him."

When the first World War came, Rollin volunteered and problems began to multiply. Father, mentor for the community, said, "Don't think too much about yourself, think of the other fellow." His diabetes, a lame leg, and hearing difficulties, were all to be endured, never emphasized. The depression years in the thirties hit the hardest, and father told us, "he couldn't take cattle to market and get enough to pay his debts, except in dribbles."

As Mayor of Deer Creek he worked for W. P. A. projects. He paid tax bills so homes would not be lost, did without an overcoat to pay the preacher, turned back two of his farms to mortgage companies.

At 78 he fell from a cattle feeder and broke his hip. He then decided to deed his remaining property to mother and us, and lived just two more useful years. In February, 1940, following a day at a farm sale, he contracted pneumonia and died within the week. As we stood at his grave, a young friend said to me, "I wish I could have talked to him once more. Now all that wisdom is gone."

Faye M. Nixon, oldest daughter

John S. Nixon – 1859 – 1940

.married Etna Ford Nixon – 1888

.Faye M. Nixon – 1889 –

.Dee E. Nixon – 1890 –

.Rollin S. Nixon – 1899 –
married Mildred Kessler Nixon
 .Joan Nixon Brown – 1922 –
 married Elwyn S. Brown –
 .Beverly Nixon Poore – 1927 –
 married Harold K. Poore –
 .Michael H. Poore – 1951 –
 .Karen Dee Poore – 1954 –
 .John R. Nixon – 1929 –
 married Virginia Reyes Nixon

ADDIE NIXON CORNWELL
1862 – 1944

Addie Mary Nixon was the seventh child and second daughter in the Nixon family. Her early childhood was spent in the family home in Boothsville, West Virginia. She went to Granville, Ohio, to attend the Seminary there, and then at the suggestion of her brother, Harmon, who was preaching for The Deer Creek Baptist Church in Illinois, came on to Illinois to keep house for him and teach school. Uncle Harmon had been living with my Grandmother, Susan Cornwell, and her sister Sarah. Here mother met my father, James Cornwell, and they were married in St. Paris, Ohio, in 1885, at the home of Uncle Sebastian, Uncle Harmon performing the ceremony.

As I write this, mother with her full life, floods my mind with rich memories. She was such a helpful person, exceedingly industrious, and had great ability in managing and accomplishing her tasks. She really was quite ingenious in many ways, matching her thoroughness with a quick and agile step. Planning and working for her family, her church and her community, was her life. With ideas and convictions, it can be said, she planned her work and worked her plan.

Grandmother, who lived with us a great deal, gave me a vivid picture of mother's childhood. She often told me how mother was always at her elbow; a very domestic little girl with a natural

inclination for all household tasks. Today she is remembered by her son-in-law as one who had the next job in mind before the last was scarcely finished.

Her devotion to the church was evident throughout her life. She never allowed anyone within her responsibility to escape or neglect his duty in this regard. A sort of silent pressure was brought to bear on the entire household, and all activities were organized in this direction. In short, friends, relatives, and guests in her home, found themselves going to church.

Like all of us, mother had her sorrows and joys. One of her greatest sorrows, was the death of her oldest daughter, Ruth, at age 42. She was a brilliant, talented and versatile person, and mother's constant companion and consultant. One of the great joys of her life was the birth of her first grandson, James, named for my father. It always seemed to me, mother had a special fondness for boys. She took great pride in her grandchildren who meant ever so much to her.

An illustration of mother's helpfulness was shown at the time of the sudden illness and death of Uncle Henry Robinson. I was nine years old. When word came of Uncle Henry's illness, he was on a business trip to Iowa. Mother dropped everything and had father drive her to the Robinson home where she helped to get the entire family on the train, and then stayed on to prepare for the large funeral at the Robinson home. I remember, too, the times she took the horse and buggy, and went calling to solicit for our community Thanksgiving dinner. All the food was donated and served by the various churches. Mother was an expert in carrying out the winter butchering, and baking homemade bread. My father's cured ham and mother's sausage were always a treat when the cousins came to visit. She had many of the family Christmas dinners, for Grandmother usually spent winter months with us. Grandmother felt she could help in small ways, and enjoyed the activities of our busy home.

I couldn't close this without a further word about Grandmother; the times she scrubbed our hands and faces, combed my hair for school – the mending she did – the way she taught me to "clear

the table.” It was Grandmother who taught me the little embroidery stitches and the first simple sewing lessons.

It seemed both mother and Grandmother were never bored but always had a project. My mother’s life was so useful in so many ways, that she endeared herself to her own and all who knew her.

Dorothy Cornwell Patterson, youngest daughter

Addie Nixon Cornwell – 1862 – 1944

.married James Little Cornwell – 1885

.Ruth Cornwell – 1889 – 1931

.Herbert P. Cornwell – 1893 –

married Marie Wolf Cornwell – 1922 – she died 1955

.Meriel Cornwell Morgan – 1923 –

married James H. Morgan –

.James D. Morgan – 1945 –

.Barbara A. Morgan – 1947 –

.Tom H. Morgan – 1950 –

.Diana M. Morgan – 1954 –

.Scott Morgan – 1959 –

.Norma Cornwell Hendrickson – 1925 –

married Robert Hendrickson –

.Eric L. Hendrickson – 1947 –

.Jan M. Hendrickson – 1950 –

married Clara Phillips Cornwell – 1959 –

.Howard Cornwell – 1901 – 1902

.Dorothy Cornwell Patterson – 1904 –

married Maurice L. Patterson – 1938

.Loren Nixon Cornwell – 1904 –

married Frances Denman Cornwell – 1930

.James D. Cornwell – 1931 –

married Rhea Oppenzeller – 1956

.Keith Cornwell)

.Kent Cornwell) twins – 1958

.Mary Frances Cornwell – 1959 –

.Bruce L. Cornwell – 1934 –

.Rodney A. Cornwell – 1936 –
married Sandra Kopp Cornwell – 1961
.Carol F. Cornwell – 1941 –
.Susan R. Cornwell – 1948 –

ALICE NIXON ROBINSON

1865 – 1937

Alice Catherine and Harvey R. Nixon, twins, were born in Boothsville, West Virginia, September 20, 1865, the 10th and 11th children of Catherine Hayhurst and Robert Nixon. Alice had a lovely soprano voice and could be usually heard singing as the twins went about their chores, bringing water from the spring, carrying in wood, and other tasks. Of course they sometimes got into mischief, such as the time they ate the frosting off the wedding cake when their brother Sebastian was married. The children attended the local schools and were drilled in spelling and other subjects at home, by their father during the long winter evenings. Alice went to Denison University at Granville, Ohio, which some of her brothers had attended. She then taught school at St. Paris, Ohio, where her older brother, William, and also her sister, Ella, lived.

Her brother Harmon was preaching at Deer Creek, Illinois, and through him and her sister Addie, who married James Cornwell, she met Henry Robinson, when he came with them to a family reunion. (Henry was a cousin of James and owned and operated large tracts of land in Illinois.) Alice and Henry were married at the home of her sister and brother-in-law, Ella and John Robinson, near St. Paris, and then went to Illinois to make their home in Goodfield.

This was a very busy household with a great deal of business and social activity. Henry operated about 5000 acres of land, as well as supplying the equipment, and many men had to be employed to carry on this work. Later he sold some Illinois land and bought in Iowa, where valuable land could be obtained very reasonably; but all draining had to be done, all buildings constructed, and families found to perform the work. Henry was an intelligent man,

but not strong physically. Alice guarded his health and helped him with the paper work. It was always said "she could find anything," and she retrieved many a valuable paper given up as lost.

Alice was a devoted wife and excellent mother for the eight children. The oldest, Eulalia, was actually the daughter of Henry's first wife, who died when she was a baby, so the little girl knew no other mother. The other children were Launa, Wayland, Edith, Mary, Rowena, Raymond, and Marjorie.

The Robinsons were always active in the church and took a great deal of interest in the Christian as well as the academic education of their children. As the children grew and attended college, they often brought their friends home, and the young people from the universities and the neighborhood, enjoyed horseback riding, tennis, croquet, and other pleasant pastimes. There were many gatherings of relatives, neighbors and friends, and many business acquaintances to entertain, so the years passed quickly. Alice had a sunny disposition, was a gracious hostess to all, and had a kind word for everyone. In 1914, when Henry was on a business trip to Iowa, he contracted pneumonia and passed away there.

Two years later, in order that the children might receive a better education, the family moved to Bloomington for the school year. This was a happy home with some of the children in school, and others teaching or married but always returning to Bloomington. Alice not only tried to do all she could for her own children, but invited a nephew and a number of nieces to stay with her while attending college. She was on the board of the Y. W. C. A. and very active in the organization; she took an active part in church work, and contributed to many other affairs of the community. As was true in the country, Alice was much loved by the people in Bloomington, for her pleasant way, which soon won many friends to her. She lived there until the last few years of her life when she stayed with her daughters, and passed away in 1936 at her daughter's home in Chicago. Her family and friends will always remember her lovely character which made life more pleasant for all who knew her.

Marjorie Robinson, youngest daughter

Alice Nixon Robinson – 1865 – 1937

.married Henry M. Robinson – 1888

.Eulalia Robinson – 1886

(daughter by Henry M. Robinson's first wife)

.Launa Robinson Coulter – 1890 – 1937

married Isaac H. Coulter in 1918

Catherine M. Coulter – 1920 – 1960

Kenneth Coulter – 1922 –

married Madeline Schurter Coulter

.Colleen Coulter – 1949 –

.Sherileen Coulter – 1950 –

.Kenneth M. Coulter – 1953 –

.Kevin J. Coulter – 1957 –

.Mary Coulter Bade – 1927

(raised by the Barkows after Launa's death)

married Richard E. Bade in 1950

.Wayland T. Robinson – 1892 – 1893

.Edith Robinson Barkow – 1894 –

married William F. Barkow – 1922

.Henry M. Barkow – 1926

(son of Raymond Robinson adopted by Barkows)

married Ruth Ryan Barkow

.Nancy Barkow – 1955 –

.Susan Barkow – 1957 –

.Patricia Barkow – 1960 –

.Mary Robinson Jarrett – 1898 – 1940

married James Bruce Jarrett – 1920

.Martha Jane Jarrett Bade – Dec. 1920

married Edward L. Bade – 1941

.Lynn Diane Bade – 1944 –

.Bruce E. Bade – 1949 –

.James Bruce Jarrett, Jr. – 1923 –

married Lillian Seften Jarrett – 1947

.Debra Jarrett – 1956 –

.Lori Jarrett – 1960 –

.Rowena Robinson Lemons – 1899 –
married Forrest W. Lemons – 1923
.Henry Raymond Robinson – 1901 – 1957
married Idelle Skinner Robinson in 1925. They were
separated and their son, Henry M. Robinson adopted
by Barkows.
.Marjorie Robinson – 1905 –

HARVEY R. NIXON
1865 – 1957

Harvey Robert Nixon, twin to Alice Nixon Robinson, was born to Robert Pugh Nixon and his wife, Catherine Hayhurst Nixon, September 20, 1865, in Marion County, West Virginia.

I remember my father telling of many incidents of their childhood there, of the seven older brothers and sisters, and a younger brother, and three who died in infancy; of the farm work with the tools of that time; the sugar camps, and carrying the grist to the mill on horseback to be ground into flour for their own consumption; of their gathering in the family circle in the evening to hear their father read aloud while their mother mended; of visits with anyone who brought news from outside the area – the teacher of the subscription school who was boarding “round”, the itinerant peddler of pots, pans, and sewing materials; the shoemaker and scissors-grinder, the visiting preacher and politician.

For the interests of the family were, first the family, and then all those things that would contribute to character-building, a deeply personal and active religion, a continuing interest in bettering the education of each generation and a political atmosphere which could either facilitate or interfere with these goals.

So when Harvey was twenty years old his father gave him a newly-broken colt to ride from the home near Boothsville, West Virginia, to Delphi, Indiana, to board with his brother Harmon, pastor of the Baptist Church, and go to High School – as did his sister, Alice, some time later, I believe.

He taught school in both Ohio and Illinois for fifteen years, and during summer vacations sold a patent medicine, "Nixon's Pain Cure", or books. Then he took up farming near Goodfield, Illinois, continuing till 1934 when he and mother moved into Goodfield.

My father and mother were always faithful in attending the Baptist Church, of which both were members from an early age until their deaths in 1957, at 91 and 82 respectively. Both were Sunday School teachers and tradition is that my father was instrumental in starting the Sunday School at Goodfield.

I have the temperance pledge signed by my father in 1875, and some of the teaching certificates issued him in the 1800's. His family has continued many traditions. All like to read. All three daughters taught school, and my brother married a teacher. One daughter married a Baptist minister, and two married farmers. My brother is a farmer, and at least two grandsons plan to farm. The next generation -- his grandchildren -- include teachers, farmers, a skilled mechanic, a librarian, and an industrial designer.

So time moves on, and we in turn can achieve immortality in the memories we leave our children, as we emulate the example those left us through trials, failures, successes, and rewards.

- Kathryn Nixon Kern, daughter

Harvey R. Nixon - 1865 - 1957

.married Annie Marshall Nixon -

.Hubert S. Nixon - 1899

married Ruth Smallwood Nixon - 1933

.Donald L. Nixon - 1934

married Anita Moore Nixon - 1953

.Debra Jean Nixon - 1953

.Michael Lynn Nixon - 1956

.Hazel Nixon Taylor - 1901

married Robert Taylor - 1933

.Robert C. Taylor - 1935 -

.Margaret Anne Taylor - 1936 -

married Leslie Walden - 1958

.Kathryn Nixon Kern - 1904 -
married Scoville M. Kern - 1931
.Linda May Kern - 1937
married Raymond H. Moore - 1959
.Jerri Ellen Moore - 1960
.Robert S. Kern - 1940
married Constance Love Kern - 1961
.Elsie Nixon Bechtel - 1906 -
married Sam B. Bechtel -
.Doris Bechtel Houser - 1936 -
married Woodrow E. Houser - 1959
.Woodrow E. Houser II - 1960 -
.David S. Bechtel - 1945 -

WAYLAND LOMAN NIXON
1870 - 1950

Wayland Loman Nixon was the youngest of thirteen children of Robert and Catherine Hayhurst Nixon. Father was born and reared in West Virginia, receiving some of his early education at the old Nixon School where his father taught, later attended Normal, receiving his teaching certificate.

After I grew to early manhood, father always wanted to return to his homestead for a visit, which we did. I remember his telling me about the small pasture, and the big pasture, and where they made maple sugar. But when we once again looked at the two pastures, all he could say was, "My, my, how the country has shrunk!" And after living out in the west as we have, they were just small patches of ground, and I could visualize how difficult it must have been to raise a family so large as his father and mother did.

Having tried his hand at teaching, he moved to Illinois as a young man, and there engaged in running a number of grain elevators, one at Goodfield, and one at Lilly -- and Cleon said he had another some place else.

Father was always energetic and never satisfied with just starting a business; he looked ahead to start another. He ran the

furniture store in Deer Creek, at the time I was born. Later he became interested in a land development that was in New Mexico, at Deming, where he and mother homesteaded 160 acres, and bought an additional 160 acres. But while we were on a vacation in the mountains, our house which they had built, burned. Very discouraged, they sold out and came to Tulsa, in 1908, where father resided most of his life.

Father was a builder -- built many houses. At the time of his death, he owned business and residential properties, as real estate had been his best interest. However, he had a good bottom farm, raised cattle -- always interested in farming although we never lived on a farm, but ran it from town, making it a good place to spend week-ends, ride horses, and look after cattle.

At one time, father had the first bus business in Tulsa for a number of years. He also owned several laundries and dry cleaning plants. Still, real estate was the livelihood. Father was a member of the First Baptist Church here in Tulsa, a Mason of the Scottish Rite Masonic Lodge #71, Tulsa.

He was a tall man -- over six feet -- weighed over 200 pounds, but carried himself very straight. Because of his friendly manner, he had many friends, and was interested in people around him; he was deeply devout in his belief in the Bible and the Church, very outspoken when it came to religion or politics, which I believe is a true Nixon trait, and one of which to be proud.

Russell L. Nixon, son

Wayland L. Nixon -- 1869 -- 1950

.married Viola Ikins Nixon -- 1903

.Russell L. Nixon -- 1904 --

married Willa Donovan Nixon -- 1929

.Colleen Nixon Bethell -- 1933 --

married Jerry R. Bethell -- 1956

.Russell Wayland Nixon -- 1935 --

married Patricia Coby Nixon -- 1955

.Phyllis Ann Nixon -- 1957 --

.Norman Lee Nixon – 1939 –
.Harold E. Nixon – 1944 –
.Mildred Nixon – 1907 – 1913

Reflections

These journeys into the past have been undertaken to make a matter of record this family story, and to point us to the future. They too, may aid us in becoming the kind of ancestors readily identified with the worthy ones who preceded us. Often, family has amounted to so much, with some, you might say, “the best part of them is buried in the past.” Even a small geneological study such as this, should make us both grateful and humble and incite us to continue the courage and character here revealed.

While repetitions occur here and there, they may serve to impress on us the varied experiences which helped to build character, though quite unlike those we face today.

In this story we feel there is something well worth preserving, a strain that must be projected into the infinite future, the simple strain of goodness – and like red hair or the red edging in a beautiful blossom – it will die if not continued and developed by oncoming generations.

We believe members of this family had this character of goodness, not unique with them, for it is present in many American families, and exists in all nationalities and races; but such a characteristic will die out among all if not preserved. And while the biological urge will continue the race of man, “What characteristics,” we may ask, “will vanish, and what remain? Will man be more bent on success and be more self-seeking, or will a concern for others and co-operation be substituted as motivating guides?”

The answer is with us and our children.

C. H. N.

A Short History of the Family

by

HARVEY R. NIXON

About the year 1840 or 1841 Robert P. Nixon was returning from the State University at Morgantown, West Virginia, where he had taken a summer course in mathematics and surveying. On his way home he stopped off with a Baptist family near Fairmont, West Virginia.

He fell in love with a rosy-cheeked girl of sixteen, and after being married, they moved near his old home on an 80 acre farm with a good double log cabin and a wonderful spring and milk house almost in the yard of their new home. Robert's old home was in sight of their new home, where lived a large family of boys and girls — many of the girls marrying and living near Boothsville.

Robert's family was of Quaker origin with many of their characteristics — one of which was never to give nicknames to any member of the family. They believed in the dignity of the individual, yet with great simplicity.

Robert began clearing the land, farming in the summertime, and teaching subscription school in the winter. He kept that up for twenty years until the Civil War came, and the western part of the state would not rebel against the Union as did the "Old Dominion," so became a separate state (West Virginia). After the Civil War, free schools were instituted, then many of their children began teaching in them, as father and mother saw to it that all the children understood and could teach the "common branches."

From this union 13 children were born, 10 of whom lived to mature manhood and womanhood. The oldest, Sebastian, married Jennie Harr, and farmed just east of the home place. To them were born Truman and Lovelia. While they were quite young, their mother, Jennie, died, and Sebastian was compelled to come back home with the two children. Then he went to Ohio where his brother, Adolphus,

was pastor of a Baptist Church at Lena, and there married and settled down to farming.

Truman, the older, married in West Virginia, and went to farming on his Grandfather Harr's farm, afterwards left to the grandchildren. He was there a few years, and went to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he sold real estate till he died. His father, Sebastian, also farmed for a time. Meanwhile, his second wife died, and he married Barbara McMorran and moved to St. Paris where he went into the undertaking and furniture business with his brother, William.

They sold out, and Brother Sebastian came to Deer Creek, Illinois, to farm for Henry Robinson, our brother-in-law, who had married my twin sister, Alice.

Ella was the oldest of the three girls at home and was usually the winner in the spell-downs between schools. She taught two years in Braxton County where our cousins lived, later teaching where Aunt Jane Cordon lived. She was father's sister and lived about ten miles east of our home. I took Ella on horseback to school riding behind her, up and down hill. Sometimes she would say, "Harvey, what would happen if the saddle girth would break?" Among Ella's suitors, she chose John Robinson of Shinnston. They farmed some years in West Virginia and moved to Ohio, where they also farmed near St. Paris. I went there and attended high school, took their daughter, Pearl, to the primary school. It was a happy time for all.

Soon nearly all the family were moving to Illinois, following Brother Harmon, who was the Pastor at the Deer Creek Baptist Church. All prospered and formed a happy circle of brothers and sisters.

The trek began with my two older brothers who were studying for the ministry. Brothers Adolphus and Harmon went to Granville, Ohio, to College. After graduating, they came to Morgan Park, Illinois, to a theological school later absorbed by the University of Chicago. Adolphus was called to a church at Lena, Ohio, and was pastor there thirteen years. He married, leaving one daughter, Alice, who married Fulton Jones, now living in San Francisco, California, with a son who is a very successful doctor. Another

son, Gordon Jones, is in the insurance business there.

Harmon, after graduating from the theological school, came to Deer Creek, Illinois, to a newly-organized Baptist Church, located in the country. There he preached for six years, and was greatly beloved. While at the Deer Creek Church, sister Addie taught two years in Deer Creek and married into the Cornwell family – a very happy marriage. Brother Harmon married Eva Wroe, and they went to Delphi, Indiana, where he became pastor of the Baptist Church. I went to High School at Delphi, and enjoyed it very much. Brother Harmon was always trying to help the various members of our family at home, in every way he could. On his visits, he saw the need of more good reading. We had the "Journal and Messenger," now out of print, and the Sunday School papers, but he wanted us to have something of a wider scope, so he paid for "The Youth's Companion," and we loved it. I took it for my own children as long as it was published.

The land at home in West Virginia was very unproductive, and though father worked hard and cleared it, it would not produce crops – was only suitable for grass. Father gradually quit trying, and raised stock of all kinds, which suited us boys, as we loved to break and ride the colts. An example of father's thoughtfulness – I remember him telling me of one time when they were grinding corn at home, and Sebastian was a small boy (12 or 14). He got between the frame of the mill and the sweep, and as the sweep came around it pressed his head down on the frame, mashing out his front teeth. They grew back again and remained as long as his other teeth. Both the Nixons and the Hayhursts were of Quaker stock and very conscientious about everything, and believed in religion and education. (Father married Catherine Hayhurst, August 12, 1841.)

All schools were subscription schools as there were no "free schools" in West Virginia till after the Civil War. Father taught subscription school for twenty years before that war. Sister Alice went to Granville, being helped by Brother Harmon, and all the brothers and father and mother. Then she went to Ohio and taught school one year. Henry Robinson went to St. Paris to one of our family reunions, met and married Alice, the next year.

Henry Robinson was one of the finest men I ever knew. He loved our whole family, and many were the times we met at his house, singing together and enjoying ourselves. A number of folk came from Ohio to our family reunions.

After teaching fifteen years, I went into farming for thirty years, passing through some very hard times. But I loved it, especially raising stock – and what is more beautiful than a waving wheat field? It makes one feel you're working with the Creator of all good things. And what is more satisfying than seeing an intelligent colt grow and become so tame and friendly that it will take you on its back and carry you wherever you wish? Brother Wayland and I each rode a colt to Grafton, fifteen miles from home, to a Memorial Day Celebration. The colts played and pranced all the way there and back. Neither boys nor colts got tired.

An amusing incident occurred to Harmon when he was a boy. He went out to milk a cross old cow, Old Cherry, and had barely got over the fence when the cow turned on him and threw him back over the fence. Harmon said he just came down reaching for rocks.

When the Civil War came, father and one of the boys (Harmon) took horses and wagons and hauled for the government, in long trains under a wagon boss. One of the older boys always remained at home with mother. This continued until about the close of the war, when father and Adolphus volunteered for the army and received \$500 each. At this time, father bought the 80 acres across the creek North, and 40 acres we always called the "Watkins Place." There was a good white frame house on the 80, and mother was greatly pleased. She could do her work with the utmost ease and dispatch of any person I ever knew. The last three of the children who survived, were born in the new home – Alice, I, and Wayland.

We had a happy home. Our parents were considerate and helpful. Mother taught us to read and recite many simple rhymes, a number of which I remember to this day. Father told us humorous stories and anecdotes about the war.

During the war, when Father and Harmon drove teams, one night around the campfire, the men were discussing what their

wagons carried. Harmon said his was loaded with anvils up to the bows. Naturally these are extremely heavy, and the captain of the wagon teams said he wanted to see the boy's wagon loaded with blacksmith's anvils. He discovered it was loaded with blacksmith's bellows, and so the laugh was on Harmon.

All the children were compelled to leave home as there were no opportunities for advancement in that territory. But they took with them a legacy in honesty and integrity, the value of which cannot be estimated, and a thorough knowledge of books beyond high school. Our school at home was quite tough and hard to handle and would run out many teachers. Sebastian could master them and was also a good teacher. All the children taught school except John, who early went to farming and later into farm managing. His warm, friendly, counseling, endeared him to all his relatives.

Such, in brief, is the history of our family. After father's death in 1895, Mother came to Illinois, where we all were, except brother Willie, located in St. Paris, Ohio, where he later died. Brother Wayland was in business and married here, then moved to Oklahoma, where he was in real estate till he died at the age of 81. Mother lived to be 96 – twenty-six years in Illinois with her children.

Now of the ten children who grew to manhood and womanhood, all are gone but me, and I am 88 and looking forward to meeting them on the other shore.

The year 1954.

*Mentioned in the text and previously printed in booklet form.



Lower Center Robert P. Nixon and Catherine Hayhurst Nixon

Second Row Harvey, Alice, Addie, Ella and John

Last Row Adolphus, Sebastian, William, Wayland and Harmon

Taken at a Reunion September 12, 1888 on the occasion of John Nixon's wedding in St. Paris, Ohio.

Family Record

Robert P. Nixon born Jan. 10, 1817, died June 29, 1895, aged 78 years.

Catherine Hayhurst Nixon born May 23, 1825, died September 7, 1921, aged 96 years.

Their Children

Sebastian Cabot Nixon born October 19, 1842, died May 3, 1926 aged 83 years.

Sophonia Nixon, born Oct. 16, 1844, died Oct. 23, 1845

Adolphus B. Nixon born Aug. 6, 1846, died Feb. 12, 1912, aged 65 years

Harmon A. Nixon born Mar. 25, 1849, died Mar. 4, 1916, aged almost 67 years

James Truman Nixon, born Nov. 26, 1851, died July 14, 1862

William A. Nixon born June 13, 1854, died Dec. 25, 1923, aged 69 years.

Ella Columbia Nixon born Feb. 8, 1857, died Dec. 6, 1939, aged 82 years

John S. Nixon born Sept. 4, 1859, died Feb. 4, 1940, aged 81 years

Addie M. Nixon born Jan. 23, 1862, died Sept. 25, 1944, aged 82 years

Alice C.

and Nixon, twins, born Sept. 20, 1865.

Harvey R.

Alice died, Mar. 6, 1937, aged 71. Harvey died Aug. 5, 1957, aged 92.

George Nixon born July 4, 1868, died Jan. 9, 1869.

Wayland L. Nixon born Dec. 28, 1869, died Aug. 28, 1950, aged 80.

References and Additional Family Data

1. G. A. Dunnington, "History of Marion County, West Virginia" (Fairmont, West Va. 1880) pp. 16, 18, 19.
2. Ibid. pp. 38, 51.
3. Ibid. pp. 52, 57.
4. Ibid. p. 60.
H. Haymond, "History of Harrison Co. West Virginia" (Acme Publishing Co. Morgantown, West Va.) p. 182.
5. Haymond op. cit. pp. 168f.
6. See sketch of Benjamin Hayhurst in "Biographical and Portrait Cyclopedia of Monongalia, Marion and Taylor Counties, West Virginia" (Rush West and Co. Philadelphia, Penna. 1895). Some dates and names in this sketch are incorrect.
7. See sketch of Benjamin Hayhurst mentioned above.
8. The following lists of members of the families of Johnathan Nixon, George Nixon and Benjamin Hayhurst, are taken from the family Bible of my father, Harmon A. Nixon, son of Robert P. Nixon. The material was written down in Harmon's handwriting. The ultimate sources of these lists must be Robert P. and Caroline C. Nixon.

Family of Johnathan Nixon (1753 – 1806?)

"Johnathan, the father of George, married Sarah Pugh . . . William the brother of Johnathan moved from Hampshire to Preston County and was killed by the Indians. All the family were killed except two children, a boy and a girl."

Johnathan's children as listed in this record were:

Polly Tucker

George Nixon married Margaret McCray

Jesse Nixon married Miss Martin (Jessie died 2-28-1853,
aged 75 years, gravestone record)

Robert Nixon married Katie Sap

Hannah Phillip

Elizabeth

Samuel Nixon married a Hursher

John Nixon married a Holt

Sarah Myers

Millie Veach

Nancie Nixon

Rachel N. Sparks – Washington Sparks

Johnathan Nixon married a Nixon, one of William's descendants

Six other children died in infancy. (Including these six the above adds up to nineteen.)

“Nancy Pugh wife of Johnathan Sr. died Sept. 10, 1831, aged 91, 3 months, 25 days.” We assume this is the same person as Sarah Pugh above.

(Note omission / Isaac and Levi – Harmon's record)

Family of George Nixon

Father – George Nixon b 5-24-1776 d 11-29-1844

Mother – Margaret McCray b 2-10-1786 d 2-19 or 23-1843
(gravestone has 19)

Sarah b 11-7-1807 d 2-22-1872

Jane b 5-7-1809 d 8-31 or 9-9 in 1888

Hiram A. b 7-8-1811 d 12-12 or 13 in 1847

Ellet M. b 2-13-1813 d in Feb. 1888 or 1889

Mary b 1-23-1815 d 6-29-1895

Robert P. b 1-10-1817 d 6-29-1895

Hannah A. b 12-5-1818 d 3-3 or 4 in 1879 or 1880
(3-4-1880 on gravestone)

William C. b 2-11-1821 d 10-9-1890

George J. b 3-14-1823

Peggy Ann b 1-25-1826 d 2-23-1835

John B. b 4-6-1826 d in 1898

Family of Benjamin Hayhurst

Father – Benjamin Hayhurst b 2-8-1789 d April, 1883

Mother – Elizabeth Jolliffe b 5-20-1795 d 12-21-1860

Nancy b 5-9-1821

Orlando b 9-21-1822

Charlotte b 1-6-1824

Caroline C. b 5-23-1825

John b 1-6-1828

Elizabeth b 2-28-1830

Benjamin b 3-6-1833

James b 10-20-1835

Sarah b 3-8-1837

Mother – Elizabeth Criss b 3-30-1841 died

**(according to Romanza Hayhurst Jolliffe)
in 1891**

Inis (Inez) b 3-26-1875

Romanza b 7-28-1876

**(The gravestones to which reference has been made are in the
Nixon cemetery on the old Jesse Nixon farm off Route 250 near
Boothsville.)**

Directory

- BADE, Edward (Jane Jarrett) Mrs.
1907 Cynthia St., Champaign, Ill
- BADE, E. Richard (Mary L. Coulter) Mrs.
804 Farragut, Joliet, Ill.
- BARKOW, Henry M.
871 Spring Water Dr., Akron 13, Ohio
- BARKOW, William (Edith Robinson) Mrs.
Box 283, Route 4, Antioch, Ill.
- BECHTEL, Sam (Elsie Nixon) Mrs.
Eureka, Ill.
- BETHELL, Jerry R. (Colleen Nixon) Mrs.
671 Pine St., Greenwood, Miss.
- BERRY, R. Randolph, (Lucille Nixon) Mrs.
2404 Barrington Dr., Toledo, Ohio
- BROWN, Elwyn (Joan Nixon) Mrs.
R. F. D. 3, Elma, N. Y.
- COOK, Charles C.
Booneville, Iowa
- COOK, John Myron
850 Geary St., San Francisco 9, Cal.
- COOK, Mary Ella
Booneville, Iowa
- COOK, Robert S.
1402 Rapids St., Adel, Iowa
- COOK, Virginia Grace
Booneville, Iowa
- CORNWELL, Bruce
R. F. D., Deer Creek, Ill.
- CORNWELL, Herbert
R. F. D., Deer Creek, Ill.
- CORNWELL, James
Mackinaw, Ill.
- CORNWELL, Loran
R. F. D., Deer Creek, Ill.

CORNWELL, Rodney,
R. F. D., Deer Creek, Ill.

COULTER, Kenneth
Goodfield, Ill.

HAKHEEM, Michael, (Helen Cook) Mrs.
530 Orchard Dr., Madison, Wisc.

HENDRICKSON, Robert (Norma Cornwell) Mrs.
21 Hillcrest Pky., Brockport, N. Y.

HOUSER, Woodrow E. (Doris Bechtel) Mrs.
926 Davenport, Iowa City, Iowa

JARRETT, J. B.
410 Bright St., Whittier, Cal.

JOHNSON, Owen (Elizabeth Nixon) Mrs.
16792 Oak View Dr., Encino, Cal.

JOLLIFFE, Romanza, Mrs.
c/o L. P. Stanley, 35 West St., Morgantown, W. Va.

JONES, Alice Nixon, Mrs. (deceased)
659-43rd. Ave., San Francisco, Cal.

JONES, Gordon
23 Dellwood Ct., San Rafael, Cal.

JONES, Malcolm
659-43rd Ave. San Francisco, Cal.

JONES, O. Garfield (Nellie Nixon) Mrs.
133 E. Walnut St., St. Paris, Ohio

KERN, Robert Scoville Jr.
Mettamora, Ill.

KERN, Scoville (Kathryn Nixon) Mrs.
Mettamora, Ill.

LEMONS, Forest (Rowena Robinson) Mrs.
Goodfield, Ill.

MOORE, Raymond (Linda Kern) Mrs.
2029 Midwood Lane, Anaheim, Cal.

MORGAN, Jane H. (Muriel Cornwell) Mrs.
2613 Hancock, Bellvue, Neb.

NIXON, Charles H.
264 Central Ave., Highland Park, Ill.

NIXON, Charles R.
1147 Galloway St., Pacific Palisades, Cal.

NIXON, Cleon R.
 1148 S. Evanston, Tulsa, Okla.
 NIXON, Cleon R. Jr.
 7105 Fulton St., Chevy Chase 15., Md.
 NIXON, Dee
 Deer Creek, Ill.
 NIXON, Donald L.
 Eureka, Ill.
 NIXON, Faye
 Deer Creek, Ill.
 NIXON, Herman
 1973 N. Craig Ave., Altadena, Cal.
 NIXON, Hubert
 R. R. 2, Eureka, Ill.
 NIXON, Jessie
 60 E. Norwich St., Columbus, Ohio
 NIXON, John C.
 264 Central Ave., Highland Park, Ill.
 NIXON, John H.
 345 E. 52nd St., New York 22, N. Y.
 NIXON, John R.
 611 West St., Shenandoah, Iowa
 NIXON, Justin W., Mrs.
 900 E. Harrison St., Pomona, Cal.
 NIXON, Justin W. Jr.
 79 Halsey Dr., Old Greenwich, Conn.
 NIXON, Rollin S.
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