

MY MOTHER'S FAMILY

Shannon-Sill
Pennsylvania and Ohio

Hamilton-Robinson
Virginia and Indiana

Edith Attkisson Rudder

“One should have a certain pride in Heritage.

Out of the Past comes a priceless possession, a sense of dignity and well-being engendered by knowledge of one’s forebears.”

“The Sills were of Puritan stock, among the first in this country, a Henry and Mary Sill, who came to New England in one of the early sailing vessels.”

So wrote the daughters of Ford Sill, older cousins of my mother, in answer to her inquiry concerning the early family in America.

Others have record of John Sill, who came to America from England in 1636-37. Early descendants of this John settled in Cambridge, Mass.

According to the archives of Pennsylvania George Sill Sr., George Sill Jr., John Sill and William were living there as early as 1791. They were taxed in Allegheny county, the birthplace of my grandfather, William Sill.

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Westmoreland County, North Huntington Township, Pennsylvania, was the home of Samuel Thompson and his wife, Mary.

In his will he takes care to let us know that he names his children in the order of their birth. The first named is Susanne Thompson Shannon. He also leaves something to his granddaughter, Elizabeth Shannon. John Shannon of Butler County, Penn., married Susanne Thompson, eldest daughter of Samuel and Mary Thompson of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. Among the children mentioned in his will is his daughter, Anne, wife of Joseph Sill.

In Butler Register of Wills Office is the will of John Shannon, dated June 17, 1818. Probated Nov. 10, 1818, Butler County, Connoquenessing Township, Pennsylvania, Will Book A, page 72.

* * *

Butler, Chester and Allegheny counties, Pennsylvania, were originally one county.

Anne Shannon was married to Joseph (?) Sill about 1806. Their children, born in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania were: Ford², John³, Eliza Jane⁴, William⁵. Anne Shannon Sill was left a widow with these four children. We have no record of her beyond this Pennsylvania one. We have record of her sons, Ford and William, in McConnelsville, Ohio, and

of her daughter, Eliza Jane, who married and went to southern Indiana. No record of the son, John, except the Bible one of his birth.

* * *

McCONNELSVILLE, OHIO

Ford² and William⁵ Sill spent their lives from young manhood in McConnelsville, Ohio. Ford Sill married Ellen G. Robinson and established a comfortable home there. He served as trustee, postmaster and clerk of Morgan County, Ohio, courts. He was a property owner and taxpayer there earlier than 1836.

He also conducted a hardware business in connection with tinshops.

A number of men worked in the long shed back of the hardware store. From block-tin and copper, they made boilers, kettles, buckets and many articles now little known or used—candle molds, snuffers, dredge-boxes and nutmeg graters.

My grandfather, William Sill, had charge of this work, as his brother, Ford, was busy in his various public offices over a period of years.

Ford and William Sill were members of Corinthian Lodge No. 111 of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons.

The Shannons and Sills were Presbyterians. Great-Uncle Ford was an elder of the First Presbyterian church, McConnelsville.

William Sill, youngest child of the Shannon-Sills, was married Oct. 7, 1840, at New Albany, Indiana, to Harriet Jane Robinson, daughter of Josiah and Margaret Hamilton Robinson. He had gone down to southern Indiana for a short stay, probably to visit his elder sister, Eliza Jane, who had married William Murphy and was living in New Albany.

While on this visit he met his future wife. They lived in New Albany a short time. After the birth of their first child, Zerelda Catharine, my mother, March 5, 1842, they returned to McConnelsville, Ohio, where Zerelda C. Sill grew to young womanhood and where the other children of the William Sills were born.

On his return, William Sill resumed his work in the Ford Sill establishment. My mother remembered her father as a man of high ideals. Perhaps a bit stern and puritanical in his discipline, he had at heart the welfare and happiness of his family.

She regretted the loss of a collection of books he had prized highly, among them some rare histories.

Interested in good literature, he spent many of his leisure hours with these books he had so carefully selected.

William Sill died March 28, 1857, aged thirty-nine. He is buried in the Ford Sill lot, McConnelsville, Ohio, cemetery.

Memories of McConnelsville were very precious to my mother.

In a visit there a few years since, I found it as charming in reality as it had been in her dreams.

It is considered today a model town, as to plan of public square and streets. On one corner of this square stands the old court house, showing classic, colonial influence.

Many of the old residences are of substantial brick. Large forest trees, spacious lawns, well-laid sidewalks and an Indian mound within the town limits add interest.

The place seemed strangely familiar to me, so well she had described it. It was a real joy to find a well-kept town still showing the old influence. Malta, across the river, was in her day a busy port. The river, the Muskingum, was the scene of many a gala day, as well as being an important artery in early commerce. The old canal, locks and gates were still in use. My mother, as a venturesome child walked across these gates, pulling a small cart containing her sister, Fanny, and their tiny lunch basket. She did this in order to reach a shaded, grassy plot near canal and river, where they had their little picnics, all the more enjoyable because fraught with so much danger.

We found the old Universalist church still standing. It had a high ledge around which my mother used to walk, with nothing but the rough bricks for support.

All her play time was not devoted to such hazardous sports. She told me of a playhouse under a big tree at the back of their home. Her pride were some bright flowered broken dishes. It was one of these dishes that "Aunty" Ham-

mond, a neighbor, used to "try" her soft soap. My mother, thinking the soft soap had ruined her dish, planned revenge, which took the form of a sand pie to be fed "Aunty" Hammond's little daughter.

The Methodist Episcopal church, where she attended Sunday school, had been razed.

We visited the site of the old church, where as a wee girl she knelt on the dusty foot-benches trusting God would not let the dust soil her stiff-starched, lace-trimmed pantallettes.

If convenient, her Sunday school lessons were sometimes applied to her daily life with a most startling interpretation. Her parents were greatly distressed by the lesson she had drawn from Genesis 37th chapter, 31st and 32nd verses, when she decided that her sister, Mamie, was their favorite child and should be dealt with accordingly. A few weeks later, the incident forgotten by little Zerelda Sill, she proudly recited the Golden Text from Proverbs 15th chapter, 1st verse.

At an early age, Fanny Sill decided to change her "given" name. She had been christened Fanny Dana. The name was so written by her father, William Sill, in the old family Bible. Fanny thought the name, Almira, much lovelier than Dana. So she took the name, Fanny Almira.

This trait of changing proper names seems to have been characteristic of this generation of Sill women.

My mother, disliking the lovely name, Zerelda Catharine, used that of "Lella."

The name, Wilmina, was so written by William Sill in the family Bible. Wilmina was called "Willie"—and in the marriage records Wilhelmina. (Throughout the text I have used the name "Wilmina" as written by her father.) Mary Maria was known as "Mamie" except in the Bible record.

I remember that my mother was surprised and seemed to regret that her staid, prim Ohio cousins also changed their proper names.

Anne Eliza Sill, who was named for their grandmother, Anne Shannon, called herself "Miranda." Ellen, then began signing her letters "Ella." Maria soon followed with the name "Minnie."

I think our McConnellsville, Ohio, people really welcomed their cold winters.

As soon as Pink and Gage Hills were covered with snow, grandma and her children joined neighbors and friends for evening coasting parties. Sleds were few. They took the little straight-backed kitchen chairs, using the long ladder-backs as runners and the upturned rounds as seats. Some preferred these improvised sleds as they were easily managed and gained much speed. Grandma provided heavy home-knit mittens, fascinators, nubias, hoods and stockings, some quite gaily striped. They wore heavy wool knit socks over their high-top shoes, to prevent slipping while climbing the steep, icy hill. Wool balmorals were also a great protection from the cold winds.

In those days there were revival protracted meetings held nightly over a period of weeks at the Methodist Episcopal church. They were held during the coldest days of winter. Grandma decreed, coasting or no coasting, these meetings should be attended. The Sills, large and small, marched along, each with a hot brick well wrapped, for churches were cold and sermons were long.

There was one morning of the week when the family needed no breakfast bell. They had a nervous neighbor, who helped with the washing. Early on Monday mornings she would rush in announcing in strident tones, "Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, week half gone and nothing done." She was the one who walked around with her hat on while doing her housework, thereby warding off interruptions. "Anyone coming to the door," she said, "will think I am just ready to go abroad. In this way I can do three days work in one."

IN INDIANA

At New Albany and Salem

After the death of William Sill at McConnelsville, Ohio, March 28, 1857, Harriet Jane Robinson Sill took her children down to New Albany, Indiana, her childhood home.

On the flyleaf of a morocco-bound volume of poems, a bon voyage gift, are these nostalgic words. "My last look at old Mc——— was on the 12th of Sept. (Sunday) 1857—Steamer "Charlie Bowen"—that Sunday long to be remembered—Lell." A little double bow-knot was under the name. The trip was made on the Muskingum river packet, Charlie Bowen, from McConnelsville to Marietta, Ohio. Here they changed to another boat which took them on down the Ohio to New Albany. They had been there only a short time when grandma's younger sister, Margaret Robinson, who was making her home in Toledo, Ohio, wrote asking that her namesake, Margaret Wilmina,, make her an extended visit. Wilmina Sill was then ten years of age. She made the trip alone, traveling by boat from New Albany to Cincinnati, Ohio, thence overland to Toledo.

Among other advantages, she enjoyed the winter sports of this northern Ohio city. She became quite proficient in skating. Her aunt, Margaret, who was a skilled mantuamaker (in this day a modiste) made her a chic skating outfit—fur-trimmed cap and short jacket and gave her a splendid pair of Swedish skates.

After almost two years residence in New Albany, grandma removed her family to Salem, Indiana. She had heard glowing accounts of the thriving little county seat, where one could live more economically than in Falls Cities.

Zerelda Catharine Sill attended Asbury Female College at New Albany, later known as Depauw College. She taught her first school at Jeffersonville, Indiana. Soon after they came to Salem, she applied for a school. Two of the trustees objected because she danced.

She had joined a group of happy, gay young people who gave regular dances at the Persise House. They had supper in the comfortable dining room. The "Home Sweet Home" waltz was at an end as the clock struck twelve. Of the young

people of that group, I recall her mentioning Sallie, Addie, Caddie Persise, Lizzie Lockwood, Anna Browne, Omar Kendall, Mike Arnold, Wib Benton, Jack Lawler.

Since many frowned on teachers who danced, my mother turned to the German community where music and dancing was a part of their wholesome living. Jackson County, Indiana, adjoining Washington on the north is separated by a range of knobs. At that time this was quite a barrier. There was a stretch of old plank road in Washington County, a crude ferry across the Muscatatuck and deep sands in Jackson. At certain seasons the trip could be made on horseback only.

Zerelda Sill taught at Brownstown and Dudleytown, Jackson County, living in the pleasant home of the Rev. Walter Benton. She also taught a summer school at Livonia, Washington County,—the summer of the destructive tornado. Great forest trees were blown across the roof and around the school house. The storm passed quickly, there was no panic and no one was hurt. The sincere structural frame of the building stood firm against the storm. Another Livonia memory, of more moment to her children than the storm, was the fly and the cup. Her landlady chided her for throwing out the cup of coffee into which a fly had fallen.

To the children of Zerelda C. Sill it seemed quite ironical that in their day a kinsman of this landlady should serve as a health officer in Washington County.

My mother played beautifully on the guitar, as did her sisters, and this afforded them many happy hours.

Years after, in her Georgia home, she played for her children and friends the popular music of the day—lively schottish, waltz, Spanish dance and song. One favorite I recall, "The Years Creep Slowly by Lorena, The Snow Is On The Grass Again."

Late in the fall of 1859 Wilmina Sill returned from Toledo, Ohio, to her new home at Salem, Indiana. When the creeks froze over, she hurried to the ice, but was chagrined to find that girls in Salem did not skate. The family persuaded her to put away her beloved skates and take up knitting.

Grandma was more liberal in her views on sports for girls than most mothers of that day. However, she taught her daughters to "Sew a fine seam." She also taught them plain and fancy knitting, cooking and canning. In the fall there were many herbs to gather and fruits to dry.

Hop vines grew over the fences and posts in the back yards. Garden corners and borders were full of sage, rosemary, lavender, sweet marjoram, coriander, catnip, camomile and horehound. These were gathered and dried for winter use.

SCHOOLS

In the early day the John I. Morrison and the James G. May Academies were a boon to Salem people. Well established and known outside the state, they were attended by ambitious students seeking culture and a fuller life. Mary Maria (Mamie), Wilmina (Willie) and Fanny Almira Sill attended the James G. May Academy at Salem, Indiana. Mary M. and Wilmina taught in southern Indiana schools.

During their school days a lasting friendship was formed between Wilmina Sill and Gertrude May, daughter of Prof. James G. May.

One of Wilmina's pupils spelled u-r-n sugar bowl. I have been told that from urn to sugar bowl, he afterward became a senator.

* * *

Mary Marie (Mamie) Sill was married first to William Dunn in 1864 at Salem, Indiana. She was married second in Georgia March 8, 1869, to Dr. Nathaniel M. Calder of Texas.

Wilmina Sill was married August 25, 1870 at Salem, Indiana, to John Thomas Shanks.

* * *

George Ford Sill, the only son of the William Sills, was spoken of by my mother and her sisters as a most thoughtful and loving brother and son.

He enlisted while a mere youth in the Northern Army in the War Between the States. He was in service during this short period in Kentucky.

He was nineteen years of age at the time of his death, 1863. He is buried in Crown Hill cemetery, Salem, Indiana.

MORGAN'S RAID THROUGH SALEM, INDIANA

I remember hearing my mother tell of Morgan's Raid through Salem. A raid that was thought a terrible hardship by people of southern Indiana. It was as nothing compared to the suffering caused by the pillage and wanton destruction throughout the south by the Yankees. Mute evidence of this destruction is visible today as one motors through that beautiful county.

On that much talked of day, July 10, 1863, my mother had her half-brother, Eddie Gibbons, in a baby buggy, the type pulled by a tongue. She was near the site of the public library when Morgan's men came up Main street. As she lifted the baby from the buggy and turned to run, one of the men rode up. He told her she need not be afraid but to hurry home and keep off the streets.

The Confederate soldiers locked the Salem men in the court house under guard. After looting the stores, they ordered food. Great boilers of coffee and such food as could be hurriedly prepared, was unwillingly served. The next day as the Federal troops came into town after them, the Salem women enthusiastically served their choicest foods.

* * *

February 28, 1865, while Stephen Curtis Attkisson, then a commissioned officer in the Federal Army, was at Salem, Indiana, on a furlough, he and Zerelda Catharine Sill were married by the Rev. H. R. Saylor.

At the close of the War Between the States, they established a home near Atlanta, Georgia, where five of their children were born.

Early in the 1870's, Fanny Almira Sill, my mother's youngest sister, spent a year or more in our Georgia home. Here, the pretty, lively girl made many friends. Notwithstanding the possibility of a residence on Peachtree street, "Marse" John H. and the delectable "slice tater pie," she returned to Indiana.

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Much has been written of the old town, Salem, Indiana, as "The Athens of the West."

Little has been said of the picturesque characters. Of the many, I shall mention one in passing—one whom we saw and heard daily on our streets. As a Salem boardinghouse keeper, serving a twenty-five cent meal, looked with alarm at the fast disappearing butter pat, she said, “Mr. B——— do you realize that butter is thirty cents a pound?”

“Well,” drawled the tall, lanky one, reaching for another slice, “it’s wuth it Miss B, it’s wuth it.”

One day in the 1880’s as a late afternoon train pulled into Salem station, a curious passenger at an open window said, “How big is this town mister?” This same ubiquitous Davey replied with a nasal drawl and an habitual wave of his hand, “They’re all here stranger, just count ’em.”

SHANNON SILL LINEAGE

Samuel Thompson, North Huntington Township, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.	
wife Mary,	
Children:	Susanne, John, Jan, Elizabeth, Margaret, Agnes, Sarah, Mary, Martha, Rebecca, Samuel.
	married
	John Shannon of Connoquenessing Township, Butler County, Pennsylvania.
Children:	
	Samuel, John, Mary, Jean, Elisabeth, Susanne, Anne, (wife of Joseph Sill)

Anne Shannon
 married 1806.
 to
 Joseph (?) Sill.
 Children, born in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

Ford Sill married Ellen G. Robinson Children: Anne Eliza Ellen Maria Wilson Archer	John Sill no record born 1810	Eliza Jane Sill married William Murphy Children: John William Eliza Jane Caroline Wesley Sarah Anne Ford Harriet	William Sill married Harriet Jane Robinson Children: Zerelda Catharine George Ford Mary Marie Wilmina Harriet Fanny Almira (Christened Fanny Dana)
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Westmoreland County, Penna.
Samuel Thompson, of North Huntington Township.
To wife, Mary.

To children according to their births as follows:

Daughter, Susanne Shannon.

Daughter-in-law, Martha Thompson, and to my grandsons, Samuel and John Thompson, provided my daughter-in-law remains single, if not to devolve to her two sons.

Daughter, Jane Jeffries.

Daughter, Elizabeth Oliver.

Daughter, Margaret Campbell.

Daughter, Agnes Fulton.

Daughter, Sarah Simral.

Daughter, Mary McGrew.

Daughter, Martha McLucas.

Daughter, Rebecca Botherton.

Son, Samuel Thompson.

Granddaughter, Elizabeth Shannon.

Wife and friend, Samuel McCury, to be executors.

Witnesses: John Thompson, Samuel Thompson, Joseph Caldwell, John Caldwell.

Dated: September 10, 1800. Probated April 23, 1808.

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Butler County, Penna., Will Book A, p. 72.
John Shannon of Connoquenessing Township.

To two sons, Samuel and John Shannon, land he now lived on.

To daughter, Mary Dodds, wife of William Dodds.

To daughter, Jean Newton, wife of Nathan Newton.

To daughter, Elizabeth.

To daughter, Susanne Welsh, wife of James Welsh.

To Anne, wife of Joseph Sill.

William Dodds and James Welsh, executors.
Witnesses: Thomas Sullivan, George King.

Dated: June 17, 1817. Probated November 10, 1818.

* * *

Anne Shannon married about 1806 to Joseph (?) Sill.

Their children: Ford², John³, Eliza Jane⁴, William⁵.

Ford² Sill born 1808, Allegheny County, Penna.,
died April 27, 1876, McConnelsville, Ohio.

married

Ellen G. Robinson, born 1809, died Oct. 15, 1894.

Children:

2² Anne Eliza

3² Ellen

Twins, unmarried.

4² Maria, wife of one Dr. Bowers of Columbus, Ohio.

5² Wilson Archer

married

Mary Seaman, daughter of Milton Seaman, of Morgan County, Ohio.

Children:

1. Elizabeth (called Bessie) married.

2. Geneive, married Emory Barr, their daughter was a writer, late of London, England.

3. Florence (called Bonnie) married.

4. Norman Ford, married, lived in Ohio.

John³ Sill, born 1810, Allegheny County, Penna. (No other record.)

Eliza Jane⁴ Sill, born Nov. 18, 1812, Allegheny County, Penna., died April 4, 1849, in southern Indiana.

married

William Murphy of Virginia.

Children:

John William 2⁴, born Oct. 21, 1835, Indiana; died June 7, 1861.

Eliza Jane 3⁴, born Feb. 11, 1837; died Aug. 21, 1859.

Caroline 4⁴, born Feb. 22, 1839; died April 10, 1865.

married

Ellis Bunch, 1 child.

Wesley 5⁴, born 1841; died ———; married Mary Summers, 1 child.

Sarah Anne 6⁴, born July 20, 1843, in Indiana; died Aug. 10, 1911.

married first

John W. Martin

Children:

William B. Martin

married first

Pearl Kepley

married second
Mrs. Alice Tyler
married second
John H. Tyler—children:

Lawrence Tyler
married
Edna Murphy

Ford 7⁴ Murphy, born 1845 in southern Indiana,
died in the Army in War Between the States.

Harriett 8⁴ (Murphy), born June 24, 1848;
died Dec. 11, 1922, Indiana.

married
John Monroe Utz

Children:

1. Volney Curtis
2. Jane, called "Jennie"
3. Archer Garrett, married Aug.
25, 1904
to
Ada Pearl Johnson
4. Nola May
married
Arthur Benson Tevis

William 5 Sill, born Dec. 25, 1818, Allegheny County, Penn-
sylvania; died March 28, 1857, McConnelsville, Ohio.

married Oct. 7, 1840, at New Albany, Indiana.
to

Harriet Jane Robinson, daughter of Josiah and Margaret
Hamilton Robinson.

born Feb. 23, 1821, at New Albany, Indiana.

died Oct. 1902 at Salem, Indiana.

Children of William Sill and Harriet Jane Robinson:

Zerelda Catharine 2⁵, George Ford 3⁵, Mary Maria 4⁵,
Wilmina 5⁵, Harriet 6⁵, Fanny Almira 7⁵.

Zerelda Catherine 2⁵ Sill, born March 5, 1842, New Albany,
Indiana; died Sept. 22, 1923, Salem, Indiana.

married Feb. 28, 1865, by the Rev. H. R. Saylor
to

Stephen Curtis Attkisson, son of Alexander Attkisson and
Jemima Douglas Oglesby.

Born Oct. 10, 1832 at Salem, Indiana.

Died Oct. 23, 1903 at Chicago, Ill.

Was Captain of Company D 38th Regt. Indiana Vol. and
Co. C 144th Regt. Indiana Vol. Infantry in War Be-
tween the States.

Children:

1. Georgia, born April 5, 1866, Salem, Indiana;
died July 3, 1867, Cumming, Georgia.
2. Fanny, born Feb. 11, 1868, Cumming, Georgia;
died Dec. 24, 1871, Salem, Indiana.
3. Edith, born July 29, 1870, Cumming, Georgia;
married Oct. 26, 1898 at Salem, Indiana by the
Rev. Enoch Wood to William Hiram Rudder, son
of William Rudder and Nancy Elizabeth Purlee of
Washington County, Indiana.
4. Claude Oglesby, born March 20, 1873 at Cumming,
Georgia; died Aug. 22, 1888, at Salem, Indiana.
5. Daisy, born Jan. 6, 1875 at Cumming, Georgia;
died May 17, 1939, at Indianapolis, Indiana.
married Sept. 29, 1916, at Los Angeles, California
to
Eugene Adelbert Norris, son of William Badger
Norris of Androscoggin County, Maine, and San
Diego, California, and Anne Margaret Wither-
spoon, who was born in Vermont, of the family
of John Witherspoon, signer of the Declaration
of Independence.
6. Harriet Estella, born March 31, 1882, Salem, Ind.
married Oct. 14, 1909, at Salem, Indiana by the
Rev. J. U. Browne.
to
Otto Peter Frick, son of Jacob Frick and Elise Car-
oline Risch of Alsace-Lorraine and Dubois County,
Indiana.

George Ford 3⁵ Sill, born Feb. 10, 1844, at McConnelsville,
Ohio. Served in the Northern Army in War Between the
States. Died 1863, Salem, Indiana.

Mary Maria 4⁵ Sill ("Mamie"), born Dec. 3, 1845 at Mc-
Connelsville, Ohio; died in Texas.
married first in Indiana, 1864.

to

William Dunn, no children.

married second in Georgia, March 8, 1869

to

Dr. Nathaniel M. Calder of Texas, who practiced many years in Navarro County; in Dresden and Corsicana.

Children: Born in Texas—Wilmina ("Willie"), Nathaniel ("Than") and Fanny.

Wilhelmina 5⁵ Sill, born Oct. 7, 1847 at McConnelsville, Ohio;

died Sept. 7, 1910, Salem, Indiana.

married Aug. 25, 1870, at Salem, Indiana, by the Rev. John H. Lester.

to

John Thomas Shanks, born March 27, 1830, in Indiana.

Died March 7, 1908, at Salem, Indiana. The son of the Rev. William Shanks and Hannah Evelyn Cravens. He was in the War Between the States, of the Illinois Vol. Co. C 143 Illinois Infantry.

Children of John Thomas Shanks and Wilhelmina Sill:

1. Alice Eudora, born Nov. 11, 1871, Salem, Indiana; died Feb. 27, 1919, Minneapolis, Minn.

2. William Carey, born May 21, 1874, Salem, Indiana. married June 23, 1897 at Salem, Indiana

to

Mary Lena Clarke, daughter of John Berkey Clarke and Cora Alice Paynter, Salem, Indiana.

3. Harriet Evelyn, born March 9, 1876, Salem, Indiana married Jan. 16, 1907, at Salem, Indiana.

to

Amos Young, born Sept. 21, 1875, at Sittingbourne, Kent County, England. Son of Alfred Young and Eliza Scott of England.

Harriet 6⁵ Sill, born June 19, 1849, McConnelsville, Ohio, died July 5, 1850.

Fanny Almira 7⁵ Sill, born May 18, 1855, at McConnelsville, Ohio; died Nov. 14, 1915, Campbellsburg, Indiana.

married May 2, 1876, Salem, Indiana.

to

William Alexander Attkisson, born May 11, 1855, Salem,

Indiana; died March 16, 1900, Campbellsburg, Indiana.
Son of Major Horace Newland Attkisson and Mary Anne Thomas, Salem, Indiana.

Children of William Alexander Attkisson and Fanny Almira Sill:

1. Frank Curtis, born Aug. 9, 1877, Salem, Indiana.
married March 23, 1904, Campbellsburg, Indiana.
to
Zella Blanche, daughter of Wesley Polson Holliday and Elizabeth Jane Richards of Indiana.
2. Mabel Azalea, born July 4, 1880, Salem, Indiana;
died Nov. 25, 1906, Campbellsburg, Indiana.
married Sept. 17, 1899 at Campbellsburg, Indiana.
to
Edward S. Child, son of O'Bannon L. Child and Katherine Russell of Bardstown, Ky., and Campbellsburg, Indiana.
3. Blanche Florence, born May 20, 1883, at Joppa, Indiana.
married first December 7, 1901.
to
Asbury Benson King, son of Zachary Taylor King and Sarah Adaline Barrett.
married second November 22, 1918.
to
Claude Chester Clark, son of Edward and Ella Clark
4. Archer Sill, born July 31, 1885, Salem, Indiana.
married Aug. 1, 1912, at Campbellsburg, Indiana.
to
Martha Jane, daughter of John Sumption Reynolds and Lydia Josephine Thompson.
5. Horace William, born Sept. 16, 1887, Salem, Ind.
married April 25, 1915.
to
Nola Lawyer of Terre Haute, Indiana.

HAMILTON ROBINSON
In Scotland and America

HAMILTON IN SCOTLAND

"The Hamiltons came from a very ancient and far-reaching family of Norman descent. First coming to England with William the Conqueror, 1066. They were conspicuous in their loyalty to Queen Mary and judging by the number of marriages between members of the different branches, they were also loyal to their own race.

Throughout their history one hears little of the violent deeds which characterized so many of the early families in power.

In hereditary and personal honors, they reached the highest ranks."

The cinquefoil on a bloody shield, seems from an early period to have been the Heraldic bearing of the Scottish Hamiltons.

HAMILTONS OF GRANGE

Arms: Gules, a lion rampant argent; betwixt 3 cinquefoils ermine.

Crest: An oak tree proper.

Motto: In an escroll above, "Viridis et Fructifera."

FROM AN OLD SCOTTISH RECORD

XIII John Hamilton of Grange, who married Elizabeth Craufurd, daughter of Laird of Craufurdland, by whom had 2 sons and 6 daughters. One of whom, Margaret, was married in 1675 to Robert Hunter of Kirkland. John Hamilton of Grange was succeeded by his eldest son, John.

XIV John Hamilton of Grange, who in 1677 was retoured heir of his father, John, married Rebecca Cuninghame and in 1685 acquired the barony of Stevenston-Cuninghame from the Glencairne family; the mansion house of which, Kerilaw, under the name of Grange became the residence as well as the title of the family.

He had issue: Janet, who married Warner of Ardeer and an only son.

XV Alexander Hamilton of Grange, who succeeded him and married, about the year 1730, Elizabeth Pollock, eldest daughter of Sir Robert Pollock of that Ilk, by Annabella,

daughter of Walter Stewart of Pardovan, by whom he had issue:

Children of Alexander Hamilton and Elizabeth Pollock,
Scotland. Married 1730.

1. John |
2. Robert | successively Lairds of Grange.
3. Alexander, M. Rachel Cuninghame, daughter of Jas. Cuninghame of Collellan, by whom he had a son, Alexander and four daughters.
 - 2 | Elizabeth, married Robert Cuninghame of Auchendarvie and had issue.
 - 3 | Margaret, married Rev. Thos. Pollock and had issue.
 - 4 | Joan, married Ed. McCormick Esq., late sheriff depute of Ayrshire and had issue.
 - 5 | Jane, died unmarried.
4. James, a proprietor in the West Indies and father of Gen. Hamilton, the celebrated statesman and patriot in the U. S., who fell, greatly regretted in a duel with a Mr. Burr.
5. Walter |
6. George | both died unmarried.
7. William, married Jean, daughter of Robert Donald Esq. and had issue.
8. Joseph.
9. Elizabeth, married Alex. Blair Esq. and had issue.
10. A daughter who died in infancy.

Note that the Scottish Alexander Hamilton Laird of Grange, who married in 1730 Elizabeth Pollock, had a son, Alexander, also two grandsons, Alexander, one of whom was the General Alexander Hamilton, statesman, of the United States of America.

As was the custom in noble families of early Scotland, the eldest son assumed the title. The second son often became head of the Abbey. The younger sons were usually soldiers or followed the sea.

“James Hamilton, born in Scotland, fourth son of Alexander Hamilton and Elizabeth Pollock, was an owner of merchant vessels and became a proprietor in the West Indies. While on one of these trips to St. Nevis, he became acquainted with Rachel Faucette. She was the daughter of Dr. John

Faucette, French Huguenots of noble descent. They had taken refuge on the isle following the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes.

“Soon after coming to St. Nevis, Rachel Faucette married a wealthy Danish merchant, Levine, but on account of her youth the marriage was annulled. She was married the second time to James Hamilton of Scotland.

“Their children born on the Isle of St. Nevis were Alexander, born Jan. 11, 1759, lived later in New York.

“James, the second son, born 1764, lived later in Virginia.

“Since the church did not sanction nor recognize divorce, Rachel Faucette Hamilton was buried on the Isle of St. Kitts under the name Rachel Levine.”—Notes from an article written by A. Mc. L. H.

HAMILTON IN AMERICA

My mother's maternal grandmother, Margaret Hamilton Robinson, was said to be in some way connected with the Alexander Hamilton family.

According to the eldest child of Margaret Hamilton (—) by a former marriage, her mother's family at Ayrshire Scotland was of Grange and belonged to the Cambuskeith branch of Scottish Hamiltons.

Some say she was the daughter of James, second son of James Hamilton, who was the fourth son of Alexander Hamilton and Elizabeth Pollock of Scotland. Others that she was the daughter of William, seventh son of Alexander and Elizabeth Pollock Hamilton. The latter seems more probable since the names William, Elizabeth, Margaret, Jane and John occur in both families.

Margaret Hamilton lived in Virginia before coming to New Albany, Indiana. She was twice married. Left a widow with one child, Elizabeth, she married the second time to Josiah Robinson of Virginia. Their children born in New Albany, Indiana, were: William, Harriet Jane, Mary Anne, Josiah, Margaret Penina, John Hamilton and Hannah.

Margaret Hamilton Robinson named her last daughter for two close friends, co-workers in the First Presby'rian church, New Albany, Indiana—Mrs. Hannah Marcell and

Mrs. Hannah W. Shields. The name Penina was given her third daughter, Margaret Penina, for another near friend, Mrs. Penina Winstanley.

* * *

Excerpts from an old letter written by Mary Aiken Taylor, late of Kentucky, a granddaughter of Margaret Hamilton Robinson:

"Aunt Eliza (Elizabeth) was ma's half sister. Their mother was Margaret Hamilton (Robinson). Aunt Eliza was about ten years older than ma, which would make the date of her birth 1813.

"I have heard them talk about the family belonging to the same as the Alexander Hamilton (Statesman) family. At the time of Aunt Eliza's visit, I was about sixteen years of age and not at all interested in such things, much to my regret later."

In 1847 or '48 grandma's aunt, her mother's sister, visited them in McConnelsville, Ohio. Her son, Peter Hamilton, drove her over from Newark, Ohio, in one of those high buggies with no top. My mother was only five years of age at that time and could not recall her great-aunt's name. She said she doubtless recalled the name of her mother's cousin, Peter Hamilton, because he brought her the best lollypops she had ever tasted and because his hair was so light in color.

* * *

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

New Albany, Indiana

From Mrs. Anna Shields Bare, wife of the late Dr. John Bare of Salem, Indiana, and the daughter of Mrs. Hannah W. Shields of New Albany, Indiana, I first heard of my great-grandmother's work in this church. From Falls Cities Histories the following:

"First Presbyterian church, New Albany, Indiana.

"During Mr. Hamilton's ministry the Female Bible society was organized at the home of Mrs. Phoebe Scribner, Sept. 20, 1824. The first officers were: Mrs. Margaret H. Robinson, directress; Mrs. Ayres, treasurer; Mrs. Hannah W. Shields, secretary; Mrs. Joel Scribner, Mrs. Abner Scribner and Mrs. Jones constituted the executive committee. The

names of sixty-six ladies appear upon the original list of members.

"Mrs. Hale, Mrs. Ayres, Mrs. Robinson and Mrs. H. W. Shields met at Mrs. Hale's on High street to organize a Prayer meeting, in July, 1827.

"The Rev. John Hamilton became stated supply until February, 1828, when he removed to Louisville, Ky., to take charge of a school. Here he engaged in preaching and teaching, coming to New Albany, Indiana, to preach once a month.."

We have no record of any kinship between the Rev. John Hamilton and Margaret Hamilton Robinson. Both were zealous workers in this church during its formative period.

* * *

Margaret Hamilton Robinson died at New Albany, Indiana, June 14, 1832, aged 36 years.

After her death Josiah Robinson took their eldest child, William, and went to Mississippi. He left the other children with friends in New Albany until he could establish a home for them in the south. He acquired valuable Yazoo valley lands, but died before the home was in readiness for his children.

Papers were sent up to New Albany concerning this Yazoo valley plantation, but lack of funds and the greed of unscrupulous attorneys cheated these young orphans of their heritage. William Robinson, my grandmother's eldest brother, who went to Mississippi with their father, married later and remained in the south where he prospered. My mother could remember a visit he and his wife made them in their New Albany home.

My grandmother, Harriet Jane Robinson, was a child of eleven at the time of her mother's death. She was taken into the home of Mrs. Penina Winstanley, a friend of the family. While in this home she became a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Although her mother's family and the Sill-Shannon family, into which she later married, were Presbyterians, she never changed her faith.

Of all her good advice, moral and spiritual, it is strange that a practical, homely bit comes to my mind as I go about my daily work.

"If hurried and late with a meal, take time first to put on the tablecloth and if possible set table. It appeases the restless, impatient men-folk no end, whilst they wait."

* * *

THE VIRGINIA ROBINSONS

In looking over old Virginia records I found the family in Shenandoah Section; from head springs of Robinson's rivers, which are found east of the Blue Ridge referred to in Lord Fairfax's grant as his starting point.

"The Robinson family came to this country through the influence of Scottish-Irish element that settled in the valley, 1734-'38. A few names familiar in the Back Creek Section during the 19th century commencing with Andrew A. Robinson, who was born in 1781 include those of his children: Archibald, Jackson, James, Mary, Jonathan, Jane, David, Josiah, William, Andrew A.

"Old war records give the names of many Robinsons as soldiers in the Revolution, the War of 1812 and the War Between the States. The early Robinsons were British subjects and many were loyal to their king."

* * *

THE McCONNELSVILLE, OHIO, ROBINSONS

Robert Robinson, a soldier in the War of 1812 was born in 1780, died June 19, 1863. He is buried in the Ford Sill lot at McConnelsville cemetery. There may have been a relationship between the wives of the brothers, Ford and William Sill. Both were Robinsons and there was a close tie between the two families.

Ellen G. Robinson was the wife of Ford Sill.

Harriet Jane Robinson was the wife of William Sill.

Hiram H. Robinson, brother of Ellen G. Robinson Sill, was living with residence at Broadway and Franklin streets in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1846. In the Cincinnati directory for 1856 appears the name Hiram H. Robinson, U. S. Marshall.

He was always interested in newspaper work and job printing and was early connected with the Cincinnati Enquirer, a paper that began publication in April, 1841.

In 1853 Hiram H. Robinson became editor of the Cincinnati Enquirer in which capacity he served until 1861.

He was the father of Elizabeth (Sister Angela), Mary, who married a Mr. English and lived in Indiana. One son called "Horrie", probably Horace.

Elizabeth, eldest child of Hiram H. Robinson became Mother Superior of a convent in Chattanooga, Tenn. She was Superior here for some time, but with the exception of that period she spent most of her religious life at the Mother House in Nashville, Tenn., as teacher or Directress of Studies.

I received a beautifully written letter from Mother Reginald of St. Cecilia's, in which she spoke highly of Elizabeth, who as Sister Angela had been her English teacher before she (Mother Reginald) had taken the order.

Elizabeth Robinson (Sister Angela) died Sept. 17, 1924, aged 82. She is buried at St. Cecilias Academy, Nashville, Tenn., "where she is greatly revered."

While in her father's Cincinnati home, she spent her summer vacations with her kinspeople the Sills, at McConnelville, Ohio. These were here carefree, girlhood days. One could not imagine this serious minded woman and my quiet, sedate mother as hoydenish girls, Lide Robinson and Lell Sill, poling a raft over fences during a flood, getting into the current of the river and drifting down stream until rescued by men in a skiff.—All this merely in the spirit of fun and adventure.

Turning again to the old Shenandoah Record I read:

"The Robinson's homes in the early day were attractive and unstinted hospitality prevailed."

After reading the names: Josiah, Jane, Andrew A., Joseph, Mary and William, this last statement about "unstinted hospitality" attracted my attention. That characteristic certainly came down to my grandmother, Harriet Jane. I remember a story told of an unexpected visit in her home that proved almost too much for her unstinted hospitality.

The Methodists were holding a conference or camp meeting at Livonia in the late 1850's. At the close of the meeting, five of the preachers from a distance, came to Salem to entrain for their respective homes.

They arrived long after the hour of retiring. Undaunted, the five went to the home of my grandmother. arousing

the family, the spokesman of the group said, "Now Sister Sill, don't go to any trouble at all, just give us a bit of pie."

* * *

Harriet Jane Robinson Sill was married the second time to Harvey J. Gibbons at Salem, Indiana, June 28, 1860, by the Rev. John J. Stallard.

Their children, born in Salem, were: Edward (called "Eddie") and Frank E.

Harvey J. Gibbons was a skilled blacksmith and wheelwright. He operated a smithy in Washington county before going to Joppa, near Mooresville, Indiana.

He and his brother, David, also a wheelwright and an inventor of some wagon device, opened a wagonworks and blacksmith shop in Joppa.

Well-to-do farmers of Johnson and surrounding counties depended on these shops for their many needs and this little business prospered.

One of step-grandpa Gibbons' helpers lived in their home. He was a good workman, but surly and taciturn, whether in shop or at meals. After supper on bitter cold winter evenings, his self-appointed chore was to fill up the big wood stove, pull his chair behind it and fall asleep. When the stove reached the red-hot stage he would awaken suddenly. Quite bewildered he would utter his only sentence of the day, "It's moderating!"

Today, one looks in vain on map and highway for the hamlet of Joppa, Indiana; so changed are modern methods of business.

From his father, Frank E. Gibbons learned his trade, that of blacksmith. While working at this trade on boats plying from Louisville, Kentucky, to New Orleans, Louisiana, he was drowned in the Mississippi river in a disaster near New Orleans.

HAMILTON ROBINSON LINEAGE

Margaret Hamilton of the Cambuskeith branch of Scottish Hamiltons.
born 1796; died June 14, 1832; lived in Virginia and New Albany, Indiana.
married first _____

1 child, Elizabeth, born 1813.
married second 1815-'16.

to
Josiah Robinson of Virginia.
Children of Josiah Robinson and Margaret Hamilton:

William born 1817 married & lived in Mississippi No record of children.	Harriet Jane born 1821 married 1st William Sill Children: Zerelda Catharine George Ford Mary Marie Wilmina Harriet Fanny Almira married 2nd Harvey J. Gibbons Children: Edward Frank E.	Mary Anne born 1823 married John J. Aiken Children: Elizabeth Mary (Molly) Omar William Harriet	Josiah born 1825 No other record.	Margaret born 1827 married Carroll Schenck Children: Hope Nellie Charles	John Hamilton born 1829 No other record.	Hannah born 1831 married Calvin Gibson Zerelda Andrew A. Caroline Weslely And others.
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HAMILTON

ROBINSON

Josiah Robinson and Margaret Hamilton—of Virginia married 1815 or 16 lived in New Albany, Indiana.

Children: William², Harriet Jane³, Mary Anne⁴, Josiah⁵, Margaret Penina⁶, John Hamilton⁷, Hannah⁸.

William² Robinson born April 19, 1817, New Albany, Indiana, married in Mississippi, where he went as a youth with his father, no record of children.

Harriet Jane³, born Feb. 23, 1821, New Albany, Indiana; died Oct. 1902, Salem, Indiana.

married first Oct. 7, 1840, at New Albany, Indiana
to

William Sill of the Shannen-Sills, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Children:

Zerelda Catharine, George Ford, Mary Maria, Wilmina, Harriet, Fanny Almira. (See Sill-Shannon record.)

married second June 28, 1860, at Salem, Indiana, by the Rev. John J. Stallard.

to

Harvey J. Gibbons of Indiana.

Children:

Edward (called "Eddie"), born 1863, Salem; died 1865, Salem.

Frank E. born about 1865-'67 at Salem, Indiana.

married

Ellen Kousler of Louisville, Ky.

Children:

Harriet, wife of Thomas Weatherly of Detroit, Michigan. Nora of Louisville, Ky.

Mary Anne⁴, born Aug. 12, 1823, New Albany, Indiana, married John J. Aiken of Kentucky.

Children:

2⁴ | Elizabeth, married first a Mr. Lindsay; married second a Mr. Lindsay, a cousin of her first husband.

3⁴ | Mary (cousin "Molly") married a Mr. Taylor.

4⁴ | Omar, married, lived in Louisville, Ky.

5⁴ | William, married, lived in Louisville, Ky.

6⁴ | Harriet died young.

Josiah Robinson Jr.⁵, born April 27, 1825, no other record.

Margaret Penina⁶, born March 7, 1827, married Carroll Schneck, lived in Glen Mary, Tennessee.

Children:

2⁶ | Hope, died in young womanhood in Tennessee.

3⁶ | Charles, lived later in Santa Ana, California.

4⁶ | Nellie, studied medicine in Cincinnati and the east, practiced last at Long Beach, California.

John Hamilton⁷ Robinson, born Sept. 13, 1829, New Albany, Indiana, no other record.

Hannah⁸, born May 6, 1831, New Albany, Indiana, married Calvin Gibson, lived during late 1860's and '70 in Jeffersonville, Indiana.

Children:

2⁸ Caroline, 3⁸ Zerelda, 4⁸ Andrew A, 5⁸ Wesley and others.

“Heart take thine ease.
Man hard to please.
Thou haply mayst offend.
Though one speak ill
Of thee, some will
Say better: There an end.”

RECORD

RECORD

RECORD

RECORD