

# History of Kuykendall Family By George Benson Kuykendall

History of the Kuykendall Family

by George Benson Kuykendall

Call Number: CS71.K98

This book contains the genealogy and history of the Kuykendall family of Dutch New York.

Bibliographic Information: Kuykendall, George Benson. The Kuykendall Family. Kilham Stationery & Printing CO. Portland, Oregon. 1919.

Copyright 1919 GEORGE BENSON KUYKENDALL, M. D.

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF MY FATHER JOHN KUYKENDALL

Whose kindness, solicitude, watchcare and guiding hand, during the tender years of childhood and youth, whose fatherly counsels during young manhood, directed my purposes and kept me from straying. The memory of his nobility of character, his unswerving rectitude of principle and purpose, his devotion to right and splendid example, have been the guiding star of my life.

As time has sped by, as the world, times and men have changed, his character and life have towered, as a great lighthouse, above the mists of the years, and illumined the voyage of my life. To him, to whom I owe the most of all

I have ever been, or ever accomplished, of worth to myself or the world, I inscribe this volume,

In grateful remembrance.

## History of Kuykendall Family By George Benson Kuykendall

### CHAPTER XIX.

#### SOUTHWESTERN KUYKENDALLS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

We have a large number of people of the K family whose early ancestors lived in North Carolina, many of whom later migrated further south and west. Some went across the mountains into Kentucky and Tennessee, and from there on to Arkansas, Missouri and on to Texas. Others crossed the Ohio river from Kentucky into Illinois and Indiana. Some after getting across the mountains, spread along the valley on the west side down to Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and many of the descendants of these migrated to Texas. This last named state seems to have been, ever since its first settlement, a sort of gathering place for all branches of the family. The larger part of all these southwestern Kuykendalls are, I believe, descendants of Matthew and Cornelius Kuykendall, sons of Luur Jacobsen Van Kuykendaal, our first American ancestor.

Those Kuykendalls who now live in North and South Carolina, near where their fathers first located in that state, seem to have no memories or traditions sufficient alone to connect them with their earlier ancestors, who moved from the Minisink regions on the Delaware, to Virginia. One of the principal objects in presenting correspondence from the southwestern Kuykendalls is to show how it fits in with the old church records, and with the early records of North Carolina to show the continuity of the Kuykendall history from its early period in the Hudson and Delaware valleys, down to the present time. I think the proof is convincing that the larger part of the southwestern Kuykendalls are descendants of Matthew and Cornelius, and that a number of those whose baptisms are registered in the Dutch Reformed churches were among the first Kuykendall settlers of North and South Carolina.

The study of the history of those Ks who migrated in early times from the Delaware valley to the west and southwest is rendered more difficult by the fact of the great changes since, in the boundaries of the counties to which they moved. In nearly or quite every state, the counties were very large at first, and later were cut up into many smaller ones, so that places that were at first in a certain county, are now in one of a different name. The states of Indiana and Illinois were at one time counties of Virginia. To make the search of county records successful, one should be familiar with the geography and past history of the state and county, at the time in question, and know the changes that have been made in boundaries since the counties were first made. In reading letters from people whose ancestors lived in certain counties, we must know when it was, and how the county lines were at that time, for later they were very likely much different.

The first record of the Kuykendalls in the Carolinas that I have been able to discover is found in a deed from Samuel "Cobron" and wife to James Kuykendall, dated April 2, 1750, to a tract of land on Leeper Creek, Catawba county, but which at that time was in Anson county, N. C.

There are many deeds on record in the county register's office at Wadesboro, N. C., in which Kuykendall names appear, the earliest of which is the one mentioned above. The first record of the family found in the "Colonial State Records" says:

"At a council meeting held at New Bern, N. C., September 28, 1750, present his excellency, the governor and members of the council (names follow), James Innes read the following petitions for warrants of land."

## History of Kuykendall Family By George Benson Kuykendall

Among those applying were James Kuykendall, who asked for a grant of 600 acres in Anson county. New Bern is now in Craven county.

There are found in the minutes of this council meeting some very interesting side lights and clues to the history of the early Kuykendalls who settled there. Among these may be mentioned: The James Innes, who read the petitions, was probably one of the Innes family that lived near neighbor to the Kuykendalls in Minisink, on the Delaware river. The Innes family lived between one and two miles below the old Jacob and Matthew Kuykendall farms on the river. William Innes built a stone house there, which is still standing to this day. I took a picture of it in the year 1914. He was a one-armed man, a school teacher, who taught one of the first, if not the very first, school in that part of Sussex county, N. J., and doubtless there were some of the Kuykendall children instructed by him. It would be very interesting to know the whole history of the connection between these families, for it might show that some of the Kuykendalls and Innes people went west together from the old home in New Jersey.

There were a large number of land grants to the Kuykendalls in North Carolina; they owned in the aggregate many thousands of acres.

Who was this James Kuykendall that we have seen bought land from Samuel Cobron in 1750? Who were those Kuykendalls that shortly afterwards had grants from the state? What relationship was there between them? How were they related to their earlier ancestors who lived in the Delaware valley?

We have seen in a previous chapter that Jacob, Cornelius and Matthew, sons of Luur Jacobsen Van Kuykendaal, lived at Minisink on the Delaware, near the Minisink Islands, and that Matthew later went to Virginia and bought lands of Lord Fairfax, before 1749, which he sold in 1751. We find in the early records of North Carolina the names of the sons of Matthew and Cornelius, and that they secured grants of land and were among the first settlers of that part of the country. In order to bring the matter fresh to the minds of readers, part of the history of these sons and their families will be recapitulated, though this will necessarily cause some repetition of what has gone before. The sons of Matthew who were born before the family left the Minisink region were Simon, baptized 1716; Peter, baptized 1719; James (Jacobus), baptized in 1721.

The sons of Cornelius were Leur, baptized 1706; Johannes, baptized 1717; Abraham, baptized 1719, and Peter, baptized 1733.

Leur, the eldest son of Cornelius, married Lena Consalis, and four children were born to them before they left the Minisink country. Their names were: Comelius, Jr., baptized 1733; Manuel and Rebecca (twins), baptized 1736; and Joseph, baptized 1739. As no further record is found of these in that country, and as other of their relatives went to Virginia, we may safely conclude these went along with them, or followed soon after.

It has been definitely shown that Matthew Kuykendaal had land in Virginia, and that he sold it in 1750. Then we find that he and his sons acquired land in North Carolina in 1750 and later, so the conclusion is clear that they sold out and went to North Carolina.

Soon after the first appearance of Matthew Kuykendall's name in North Carolina records, as shown above, there appear the names of his sons, and one of the grandsons of Cornelius. These we find obtaining grants of lands and that they were

## History of Kuykendall Family By George Benson Kuykendall

engaged in business of various kinds connected with the public, such as being in the militia companies, in defense of the frontier, on safety committees, as being connected with erection of court houses, jail, stocks and settling boundary lines.

Now, if we examine the old Dutch Church registers, where the baptism of the children and grandchildren of Luer Jacobsen Van Kuykendaal are found recorded, we discover that there could not have been any other Kuykendalls living of same names and ages, that could be confused with those mentioned in the Carolina records. We naturally conclude that the Matthew, Cornelius, Simon, James, Abraham, Peter, John and Joseph mentioned in the Carolina records are the same persons as those mentioned in the Dutch Church records. Take James Kuykendall, who bought land of Coburn, April, 1750, there was no other James Kuykendall in existence that could have been buying land in N. C., than James, the son of Matthew.

Many if not most of these sons and grandsons must have been living at the time of the Revolutionary war, some of them surely late enough so that they would be remembered by the fathers of those living in Carolina where the Kuykendalls first settled.

If we take the children of Cornelius, Sr., we find that if they lived to the year 1775, Leur, baptized in 1706, would have been 69 years old; John, baptized 1717, would have been 58 years old; Abraham, baptized 1719, would have been 56. Peter, baptized in 1733, would have been 42 years old.

Taking the sons of Matthew: Simon, baptized in 1716, would have been 59 years old; Peter, baptized 1719, would have been 56 years old; James, baptized 1721, would have been 54 years old.

The ages of the sons of Leur, grandsons of Cornelius, would have been at that time as follows: Cornelius, Jr., baptized 1733, would have been 42 years old; Manuel, baptized 1736, would have been 39; Joseph, baptized 1739, would have been 36.

Here we have ten sons and grandsons of Matthew and Cornelius Kuykendall, all of whose baptisms are recorded in the old Dutch Church registers of the Hudson and Delaware valleys, where the family had formerly lived. Quite a number, if not most of these, were living when the families went to North Carolina, and we might reasonably expect to find many of them living at the beginning of the Revolutionary war. Several of them were yet in the prime of life. To bring the matter more forcibly before us, let us see what dates these would have lived to, provided they attained the age of seventy years. They would all be living in the period between 1786 and 1791, and Joseph, son of Cornelius, Jr., would be living still in 1803. As the tendency of these families was to live to a good old age (several of the later generations having lived to from 85 to over 100 years), it might certainly be expected that some of them would be living after the year 1800.

All the earlier members of the Kuykendall family, and most all other families, had only a single name, but by this time some of them had middle names. Often in signing papers, they signed one given name only, even when they had a middle name. In other cases their names were so modified that we might not recognize them today. Take as an example the name James. Our fathers first wrote it Jacobus, the Dutch or German for James; often the name was shortened to Cobus. The name James appears as Cobus in the census report of Pennsylvania for 1790, and in other places. Many similar illustrations might be given.

## History of Kuykendall Family By George Benson Kuykendall

We find among the Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, and even among the Texas Kuykendalls evidence in the names given their children, a generation or two ago, that some of them were names carried down from ancestors that lived in the Delaware valley. The name Manuel is one of these. This came, as has been previously explained, from the Gunsaulus family. Leur Kuykendall, son of Cornelius, married Lena Gunsaulus, and they named their first son Cornelius, for Leur's father, and the second son, Manuel, for Lena's father. The Gunsaulus family were noted as great Indian fighters, both in the Hudson river valley and in the regions about Mamakating, N. Y., up above Minisink. They were of that romantic, adventurous disposition that prompted them to be constantly moving into the outer frontiers, and to keep well in the van of advancing civilization.

The Kuykendalls had not been living in North Carolina long before they began to have trouble with the Indians. The Cherokees were particularly warlike and treacherous. The settlers were compelled to organize companies of rangers and scouts, and keep them out scouting and guarding the settlements, to prevent surprise uprisings, and murderous attacks. There were numerous outbreaks, especially in the summer time.

In Vol. XXII, page 820, Colonial Records of North Carolina, there is an account of a meeting at New Bern, N. C., of the "Committee on Public Claims," on the 18th day of March, 1760. At this meeting there were various claims presented by militia companies for services rendered as rangers, and among others there was the following:

"Captain John Kuykendall and his company, for ranging in 1759, 409ce 17s." This was to pay the company for services and perhaps also for subsistence. This Captain John could not have been any other than either the son of Matthew or son of Cornelius. The elder of these would have been only forty-five years, and the younger twenty-seven.

In Vol. XXII, page 820, "Colonial Records," there is a list of Samuel Cobrin's company, among which are found the names of John Kuykendall, Abraham Kuykendall and Corporal James Kuykendall. Peter Kuykendall is also mentioned.

It is evident we have here members of the families of Matthew and Cornelius, that we have been considering.

Shortly after the Revolutionary war steps were taken to build a court house for Tryon county, N. C. In Vol. XX, Laws of N. C., Chapter XII, page 964, we find an act for appointing commissioners for building a court house, prison and stocks, for the county of Tryon and for establishing a boundary line between the counties of Tryon and Mecklenburg. Among the commissioners appointed for the purpose there was Abraham Kuykendall. Abraham, son of Cornelius, was then 55 years old, and was therefore a man of the age, experience and judgment for such an important commission. The Revolutionary war broke out and the country was in a state of excitement and turmoil, and the court house building appears to have been for the time sidetracked, but in 1778 the need of the building was felt. Another commission was appointed, and Abraham Kuykendall was also appointed upon this, the commission was authorized "to appoint the place where the court house, prison and stocks should be, and to erect or cause the building to be erected."

The North Carolina Kuykendalls were all patriotic, and when they and their neighbors heard of the attempt of the British to enforce taxation, and heard how the Americans of Boston had dumped a shipload of English tea into the harbor, they

## History of Kuykendall Family By George Benson Kuykendall

were fired with enthusiasm, and highly endorsed the work of the Bostonians. On the 26th day of July, 1775, nearly a full year before the Jefferson declaration of Independence was signed, our North Carolina Kuykendalls with their friends and neighbors held a meeting in Tryon county to elect a safety committee. Among the committeemen for Captain Kuykendall's company was Abraham Kuykendall.

In Vol. X, page 120, Colonial Records, we have it recorded that an "Association was formed to consider the barbarous and bloody actions committed by the British on our Boston brethren, near Boston, on the 19th day of April, 1775, and May last, etc."

On this occasion these forefathers discussed the hostile attitude of the British troops to the Americans near Boston, passing resolutions declaring their intention to resist British aggressions, as follow:

"We, therefore, the subscribers, freeholders and inhabitants of Tryon county, do hereby faithfully unite ourselves, under the most sacred ties of religion, honor and love to our country, to firmly resist force by force, in defense of national freedom and constitutional rights, against all invasions; and at the same time do solemnly engage to take up arms and risque our lives and fortunes in maintaining the freedom of our country, etc."

Among the signers were Joseph Kuykendall. This Joseph was doubtless the son of Leur, grandson of Cornelius Kuykendall, he having been born and baptized 1739, was at that time 36 years old, and in the prime and vigor of manhood. There was no other Joseph Kuykendall living at that time, of which we have any record, surely none old enough to be taking part in such weighty affairs.

Here is undoubtedly another person who is mentioned in the old Dutch Church registers, and also in the Colonial State Records of North Carolina. By the time of the meeting of the safety committee held on the fourth Tuesday in January, 1776, the whole country was aroused, a large number of militia companies had been organized, and at this meeting there were thirteen companies represented. Below are given the names of the captains and of the members of their company, who formed part of the safety committee. Perhaps a little comment, showing who some of these people were, and how they were associated and sometimes related to the Kuykendalls, will be interesting to some of their descendants, and may possibly be the means of unraveling some of the tangles connected with their genealogy.

The names of the captains and members representing the committee from the companies are given. Comments will follow with facts and inferences that will throw light on the subject.

For Captain Beaty's Company, David Jenkins.

For Captain Carpenter's Company, John Dollinger, Nicholas Friday.

For Captain Coburn's Company, Robert Alexander, lieu of James Coburn and Francis Armstrong. For Captain Hardin's Company, James Hardin and Benjamin Hardin.

For Captain Hambright's Company, Frederick Hambright, James Logan.

For Captain Hampton's Company, Andrew Hampton, John Morris.

For Captain Barber's Company, Alexander Gilleland, Robert Park.

## History of Kuykendall Family By George Benson Kuykendall

For Captain Magnee's Company, William Graham, James McAffee.

For Captain Aaron Morris' Company, John Walker, Esq., Robert Porter. For Captain Baird's Company, James Baird, Robert Armstrong.

For Captain McKinney's Company, John McKinney, Thomas Townsend. For Captain Kuykendall's Company, William Yancey, John Ashley.

Those of the Kuykendalls living in North Carolina will be interested in knowing that their own people, with their friends and neighbors had such a patriotic part in the Revolutionary war, and doubtless there are descendants of many persons on this list who yet live in the country where the events were taking place.

We take up first the names of Beaty and Coburn. In the original minutes of the meeting the name of Coburn is wrongly spelled Cobrin. In my possession there is a copy of a deed made by Sarah Kuykendall to Samuel Kuykendall, under date of 1797. Samuel was of the county of Mecklenburg, and Sarah was of the county of York. One being in N. C., and the other in S. C., near the line. This deed recites that a part of the land was conveyed to Charles Beaty, the 23rd of February, 1754, and conveyed by him to Samuel Coburn. This deed shows that the Kuykendalls, Beatys and Coburns were living in that neighborhood twenty-seven years after the time of the meeting of the safety committee mentioned above where their names appear. According to the North Carolina census for 1790, we see that there were living in the Morgan district, Lincoln county, Sam Kikendal, with one female in his family, "sixteen years of age and upward, including head of the family." Sam and his wife were probably young people.

Over in Rutherford, Morgan District, lived Abraham Kirkendal, Jr., with one male in the family, over sixteen years of age, two males under sixteen and four females, "including head of the family." Abraham evidently had a wife, two sons and three daughters. Sam is the one that J. Clarke Kuykendal says, on page 192, settled where the Chester and Armstrong Ford crosses big Fishing creek. It is probable that the Samuel mentioned in the deed and the one mentioned in the census return were the same person. Of course it is possible that one might have been father of the other. Some of the Coburn family settled in very early days on the south branch of the Potomac, in Hampshire county, Virginia, a few miles above Romney. The first mention of the name in the records of that county is at the December term of court of Frederick county, Virginia, 1743, when Jonathan Coburn and Peter Kuykendall were appointed by the court to "mark and lay off a road," etc. Here we have the Kuykendalls, Coburns and Hamptons mentioned as neighbors in Virginia. It has been shown that this Peter was a son of Matthew, who had land on the "South Branch," across the river opposite to Coburn's tract. Both Coburn and Matthew Kuykendall bought their land of Lord Fairfax; Matthew's deed, and probably Coburn's also, bore date of June 15, 1749. Shortly after getting a title to his land, Matthew sold out, as has been shown. Coburn sold his land to John (Johannes) Kuykendall, great great grandfather of the writer, who built a mill there.

We see here the close association of the Coburns, Kuykendalls and Hamptons as neighbors at this early date. We find the Hardins mentioned as belonging to the safety committee, and as neighbors of the Kuykendalls. Later the Kuykendalls and Hardins were neighbors in Kentucky and Tennessee. Both families had members in the campaigns of George Rogers Clark, in Kentucky and Ohio, and the Kuykendalls and Hardins intermarried in Kentucky.

## History of Kuykendall Family By George Benson Kuykendall

There were two Hambrights in the list of members of the safety committee that we have been considering. The Hambrights were from Pennsylvania, and there were three of them in the Revolutionary war that served with distinction. Some of the Hambrights are living yet, in the country not far from King's Mountain, of Revolutionary fame. One of them was recently postmaster at the King's Mountain post office. Col. Hambright was in the battle of King's Mountain, where he was wounded.

A letter from J. Bolivar Scott, who lives near Yorkville, about twenty miles from King's Mountain, wrote me recently that:

"The Hambrights and Kuykendalls were related, but I do not know just how, but it was handed to me from my grandparents. The father of Fred Hambright, the postmaster, above mentioned, was named James Kuykendall Hambright, named after my grandfather, showing some family relationship." Mr. Scott's mother was a Kuykendall.

The destiny of the Kuykendalls and Hamptons was brought together again in Kentucky, Tennessee, and later in Texas, where Captain Abner Kuykendall had in his company a Hampton, and several Kuykendalls of that branch of the family had sons Hampton. Many interesting and curious coincidences could be produced where the descendants of the early Delaware valley, Virginia, and Carolina Kuykendalls met the descendants of the friends of their forefathers in Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas and other western states. Sifting out the old records and studying them, so as to learn the relations socially and otherwise, of the people mentioned in them, brings many curious and interesting coincidences, and also many pleasing surprises.

Mr. J. Bolivar Scott, mentioned above, sent me some time back some excerpts from the county records of York county, S. C., and copies of inscriptions on tombstones in the cemeteries of that vicinity. Some of these will be helpful in showing the relationship of those Ks now living in that region, to those mentioned in the census report of 1790, also their relation to those earlier ancestors who lived in the farther east regions.

"Excerpts from public records and old graveyards in York county, South Carolina, relating to the Kuykendal family."

(1) At the April term of the court for York District, one PETER KUYKENDALL, late of Camden District, S. C., conveyed to WILLIAM BARRON three tracts of land on Fishing Creek, being parts of land granted by the state of North Carolina to George Cathey, on April 3, 1753, recorded January 29, 1796, in Auditor General's Office (Raleigh, N. C.), in Book L, No. 11, page 498, and part of a tract granted to PETER KUYKENDALL, November 15th, 1762, and a tract surveyed to ABRAHAM KUYKENDALL and conveyed to PETER KUYKENDALL, June 6th, 1768. Deeds recorded in York county, S. C.

Consideration 12,000 pounds. Deed Book A, page 178.

(2) At the April Court, 1787, same district one ABRAHAM KUYKENDAL and wife Elizabeth, convey to Thomas Bridges a tract of land, 133 acres, on Buffalo Creek, in Camden (York) district, for 310 pounds sterling. Deed recorded in Book A, page 178.

(3) At the January Court, 1788, one PETER KUYKENDAL conveys to James Wilkinson, Sr., a tract of 200 acres on Fishing Creek, S. C., for 600 pounds.



## History of Kuykendall Family By George Benson Kuykendall

(4) At the January Court, 1788, one JOHN KUYKENDAL, of Washington county, N. C., conveys to Wm. Jenkins a tract of land, 200 acres, on King's Creek, S. C., York county.

(5) On the 22nd day of November, 1803, one Jonathan Kuykendall and Mary Carroll convey to Samuel Kuykendal a tract of land, 77 acres, on Fishing Creek, York county, S. C., a part of the land willed to James Kuykendal, Jr., and coming to grantee by descent, being part of lands granted to James Kuykendal, Sr., for 90 pounds.

(6) On the 18th of December, 1805, one James Armstrong conveys to Samuel Kuykendal, a tract of land, 250 acres, on Fishing Creek, being part of land willed to James Kuykendal, Jr., and coming by descent to James Armstrong of Georgia, and others by descent, adjoining above tract and being part of a grant to James Kuykendal, Sr., for 35 pounds.

(7) By will dated July 8, 1806, one Susan Kuykendal bequeaths and devises her property to her sons, Samuel and Jonathan Kuykendal, and her grandson, Samuel Kuykendal, Jr.

(8) On the 24th day of November, 1818, one Susan Kuykendal conveys to her son, John C., a tract of land in York county, S. C.

(9) On the 22nd day of May, 1825, one Joseph Kuykendal of Tryon, N. C., conveys to Alexander Flemming a tract of land, 285 acres, on Fishing Creek, being part of the land granted to John Kuykendal, Sr., by North Carolina, on the 31st day of August, 1753.

(10) On the 16th day of December, 1843, one Andrew McConnell conveys to James Kuykendal, a tract of land, 76 acres, on Fishing Creek, York county, N. C.

We are often reminded of the unreliability of the human memory in regard to dates, and when it comes to dates of events very far back, there are very few persons whose memory can be relied upon. We are often puzzled at the contradictory statements given by different parties in regard to the very same events, both as to their date and otherwise. Where records and statements from memory clash with records we are bound to stand by the record.

Letters will now be introduced from Kuykendalls whose ancestors went, in an early day, to North Carolina, and will begin with the descendants who have remained in the regions where their forefathers first located. Some of these people lived across the line in South Carolina.

The following is an extract from a letter from J. Bolivar Scott, mentioned above, who lives near Yorkville, S. C.

"The Kuykendals once owned thousands of acres of land on Fishing Creek, as you see by the transactions mentioned in the excerpts I am sending you. I live within one and a half miles of Fishing Creek. I visited the Kuykendal burying ground, and found one of the slabs marking their graves, which reads, 'On the 16th day of November, 1810, Samuel Kuykendal of York county, S. C., departed this life, aged 59 years.'"

"I don't know, but I believe he was my grandfather. On this same slab, 'In December, 1811, was buried Jesse Kuykendal,' the same year, 1811, also one Samuel

## History of Kuykendall Family By George Benson Kuykendall

Kuykendal. There were once a number of Kuykendals around in this country, but they are all gone except a few younger ones, in Rock Hill, S. C. The Kuykendals around Matthews, Mecklenburg county, N. C., are of the same family. Their great grandfather Isaac and their grandfather Elias were raised in York county, on Fishing Creek. Fishing Creek is a medium sized creek in the southeastern portion of the county. It is not far from my home. There are thousands of acres of bottom land on the creek and none of it in cultivation; it is subject to overflow. The uplands adjoining the creek are comparatively level and are considered to be among the finest in York county.

These lands before the war were owned by large farmers who did not live on them themselves, but had on them negro quarters, and the lands were managed by negro overseers, who did not take care of the lands as they should. Since the land has passed out of their hands, it has been taken care of better, but still not as it should have been. There are no houses on the lands that were occupied by the old Kuykendals.

"Near the family burying ground, you can see signs of a settlement, and I am confident that my great grandfather lived there, as he is buried there, in this old graveyard. These lands are worth from \$40 to \$60 an acre now."

Dr. Clarence M. Kuykendal of Rock Hill, S. C., wrote me, saying:

"To begin with I will give you a copy of a letter written to my sister by Uncle J. Clarke Kuykendal, in response to a request for information as to our family." Below will be found this letter.

"The Kuykendals are American for generations, settling first, as I understand, near York, Penn., and moving south through Virginia and the Carolinas. The name as I understand it is Dutch, and the Rev. Robert Lathan once told me that it means 'Church in the Valley.' Be this as it may, the first of our name so far as I know, in South Carolina, was my grandfather, Sam Kuykendal, and his brother, Jonathan, who came from Virginia with Gen. Greene's army during the Revolutionary war. After the war they settled in York District, S. C., Sam settling where the Chester and Armstrong Ford road crosses Big Fishing Creek, and Jonathan settling a mile or two west on a place belonging to D. A. Gordon, when I left that country. My father's mother was Miss Susan Hartgrove, a native of Mecklenburg county, N. C. She was twice married, her first husband being a Mr. Harris. Peter Harris married Sallie Edwards, by whom he raised a large family. His eldest two sons, John and Richmond, came to Texas in an early day, took part in the Texan Revolution of 1838, and located their bounty land in what is now Crimes county of this state, about 4,600 acres each. Since the death of Uncle Peter and his wife, the remainder of his family emigrated to this state. He lived and died on the place owned by Mrs. Nan Curry, when I left the country. Fannie Harris married David Carson, the uncle of Bill and John Carson. She raised two daughters, Susie and Peggie. Susie died in young womanhood unmarried, and Peggy married Le Roy McElhany, whom if you have ever seen, you may recollect.

"Uncle Davis and Aunt Fannie lived during my earliest recollections on a place belonging to Jack Lindsay, the father of Dr. J. F. Lindsay, in a hundred yards of the house in which 'Mammy Amy and Pap Dennis, colored,' lived, when I was in that country.

"Three of my father's sons, Jonathan, John Coburn, or Jack, and my father grew up together to manhood. Jonathan settled in Boulder county, Alabama, where he raised

## History of Kuykendall Family By George Benson Kuykendall

his family. Jack settled in Mocksville, Tenn. Only one child, a daughter, grew to maturity. He became wealthy, but for many years was an invalid from rheumatism. His daughter, it was said, had many suitors, of whom she married the fool.

"My grandfather's brother, Jonathan, raised one son, Isaac. He married Betsy Stedman, to whom were born four children, Elias, Calvin, James Williams, Mary and Racinda. Jonathan Kuykendal also raised three daughters, two of whom married and settled in Alabama, before my recollection.

One of his daughters married E. B. Smith (Abe). They raised a large family, James Harvey, who became wealthy, during and after the war, settled at Chester Court House, where he died a few years since. Sam Brown and William were both killed in Lee's army; Adeline and Eliza married in Alabama after the removal of their parents to that state, about 1855. Margaret married a Mr. Cross, in Alabama, and returned with her husband to Chester, C. H., after the war, where she lived until her death. Another sister, Lorna, married Dan Steadman, in Alabama, but returned to Chester after the war."

"Your grandfather Kuykendal was in the war of 1812, our second war with Great Britain. I have heard him speak of the march to Charleston, and of his trip from Charleston home, and also of being stationed at Hadderal's point, near the city. The levy to which he was attached was called to the flag for the purpose of defending Charleston, but as Charleston was not attacked he saw no fighting.

"In all the troubles in which our country has been involved, our name has come to the front, offering its services in the cause of right against might. My mother was Sallie Clarke. Her father or grandfather, I forget which, had to leave Ireland to save his neck, perhaps in consequence of some complicity with an uprising at Caracferges, if I mistake not, against the crown. So you see we are rebels against oppression on both sides of the house. In the struggle between the crown and the colonies, so far as I know, our family were whigs.

After the adoption of the constitution our family accepted the Jeffersonian interpretation of the constitution, instead of the centralization idea of Hamilton, in other words none of us has ever been a Tory or a Republican."

"The above was written, as stated in my letter to you, by my uncle, J. Clarke Kuykendal, the following is about all I know concerning our immediate family:

"My grandfather's name was James Kuykendal, who lived in this, York county, S.

C., was clerk of the court, elected, as was the law those days, for life or good behavior, and served until his death. He married Sallie Clarke, and there was born to them ten children, Samuel, Jesse, Bolivar, J. Clark, Louisa, Sallie, Evalina, Captain Cooper, Sarah Anna and my father, John Chambers, who is the youngest. Sam Kuykendal married a Miss Chambers, and there were born to them three children, one daughter named Sarah, who died of typhoid fever about 1871; she lived with my father during almost all her life. John, who is, I think, a Baptist preacher, living in Texas, and James is, I hear, a lawyer living in Oklahoma. Jesse and Bolivar died when they were about grown.

"J. Clarke was never married, moved to Texas after the war, on account of Ku Klux troubles (he belonging to the Klan), taught school there almost the remainder of his life, but came out here in the fall of 1910 and died here at the home of J. Bolivar Scott, who is a son of Louisa Kuykendal. Bolivar's father died before my

## History of Kuykendall Family By George Benson Kuykendall

earliest recollection. Bolivar lives on the old place where my grandmother lived and died. Sallie Kuykendal died quite young.

Evaline married Minor Jones and moved to Gonzales county, Texas, where his descendants live. Robert Cooper was a physician, and together with Uncle Sam and my father, served through the war. After the war he moved to Gonzales county and built up a very large practice, and was quite well off when he died. He married Miss Eliza Coe, a native of Texas, and they raised one child, a daughter, Claudia, who married a man named Staten Gillett. They have four children, a girl and three boys. Sarah Anna Kuykendal never married, and lived with her mother and sister until her death, about 1900.

"My father married Sallie McFadden in 1866 and there were born to them five children, the oldest, Cora Lee, has never married and is now living here with me. I am the second child, born in 1868. Louisa, the next born, was in 1872, and died in 1873. Pointset Johnson, the next, was born in 1874 and died in 1876, and Sallie Coburn, the youngest, was born in 1879 and died in 1890.

"My mother died in 1882 and my father married, 1884, to Miss Belle Williams, of York county, who is still living. My father was a druggist and conducted a drug business for more than thirty years, in Yorkville, S. C., where he died in 1896.

"I graduated in medicine in the University of Maryland in 1890, was married to Miss Mary Elliot Ruff, of this place, in 1894. We have had three children; our oldest, a girl, died at the age of about 8 months. We have two sons living, aged about 16 and 14 (1911). The oldest is Clarence M. and the younger is named Fletcher Ruff. J. Bolivar Scott is our nearest kin in this section. He has two sons and two daughters living. The eldest son, Rodney, is married and has one child. The eldest daughter, Annie, is married and has one child; the other son, John, and daughter, Mary, are single."

It appears from the letter of J. Clarke Kuykendal above that the people of this branch of the family understand their forefathers. Samuel and Jonathan Kuykendal, were the first of the K family to settle in that country, and that they went there from Virginia with General Greene's army during the Revolution, and that after the war closed they went back there and settled. It seems strange that there should not be with the Kuykendals living in that region today any traditions or history of those Ks who acquired land in Anson and Catawba counties, in the period from 1750 to 1765.

In the foregoing excerpts from the public records of York county we see that in 1787 Peter Kuykendal, "late of Camden District," sold several tracts of land on Fishing Creek, that had formerly been held by grants to Peter and Abraham Kuykendal as early as 1762.

If Samuel and Jonathan did not settle there until the close of the Revolutionary War, the date of their settlement must have been between 1783 and 1790. The war closed 1783, and being in Greene's army they would have had to have time to go back home to Virginia (if that was where they had lived) and get ready and move. It is highly probable that they did not move to Carolina earlier than 1784 or 1785 or even later, but must have gone there before 1790, for the census taker found Samuel there when the census was taken. If Samuel and Jonathan both moved there together, the question would arise why he was not put on the census roll also. We have seen that at that time, there were living in the Morgan District, Lincoln County, Sam

## History of Kuykendall Family By George Benson Kuykendall

"Kikendall," and in Rutherford county, only a few miles west there were "Abraham Kirkendal, Jr." "John Kirkendal," Mat and Simon.

In the excerpts from York county, November, 1803, is the earliest notice we have of Jonathan Kuykendal in that region, and that was thirteen years after the 1790 census where Samuel's name appears. It would be very interesting to know more about the early history of Samuel and Jonathan, and the exact relationship they bore to those other Kuykendals, Abraham, Jr., John, Matthew and Simon.

There are several things that are noticeable in regard to these families of Samuel and Jonathan Kuykendal. 1st. The date of their settlement in the country, as claimed by their descendants. 2nd. The statement that they went there first with Gen. Greene's army, from Virginia during the Revolutionary war, and by inference came back and settled there because of having been some way favorably impressed with the country. 3rd. The manner of spelling the last syllable of their name, using only one l. This is, so far as I know, the only branch of the family that now spell it in this manner. 4th. The absence of any memory or traditions among them of the earlier Kuykendalls that first settled there nearly thirty years before Samuel and Jonathan did, provided their descendants of today are correct as to the time their forefathers settled there. We know that Kuykendalls continued to live there since

their first settlement, for Matthew Kuykendall, who was a pensioner in Kentucky, for Revolutionary war service, gives a definite account of his life and military service. He states that he was born in Mecklenburg county, N. C., 1758, joined an expedition against the Cherokees when he was about 18 years old, in 1776. He entered a company commanded by his uncle, probably the same Captain Kuykendall spoken of as being present at the meeting of the Safety Committee, mentioned at meeting in January, 1776. He also served under Captain Joseph Hardin, who was at this same meeting. After the Cherokee expedition he resided in Burke county and raised a company against the Tories, was in the battle of the Cowpens and wounded, and after some time moved to Davidson county, Tennessee, a part of which was afterwards a part of Butler county, Kentucky.

The labor of digging out the history of these families and branches would be considerable, but it is apparent that much could.

"My great great grandfather's name was James Kuykendall. He was grandfather of John Ephraim, my uncle, at whose home I now am. He and IJ are sending you this letter; he is older, and we can do better than either alone. As to my great great grandfather, I cannot give the name of his wife or his brothers. He lived and died in N. C.

"My great grandfather, Abraham Kuykendall, was born in Buncombe county, North Carolina, but came with his family to Georgia and died in Cherokee county. He lived to be about a hundred years old, dying on Christmas day, about forty years ago, and is buried at Carmel Church cemetery. His wife's name was Betsy Kuykendall, she is buried at the same place. They were both Dutch people. It is about one mile from Woodstock, Ga., to where they both are buried. His brother, Peter Kuykendall, came from North Carolina, and lived in Georgia several years. He was a Primitive Baptist minister. Later he went to Sand Mount, Alabama, after the Civil war. The names of the sons of Abraham Kuykendall were as found below:

## History of Kuykendall Family By George Benson Kuykendall

"JAMES KUYKENDALL'S wife's name was Sallie A. Bly; she died in Alabama about fifteen years ago. CORNELIUS married Miss Simpson, went from Georgia to Arkansas in 1848, has been dead about twenty years. JESSE lived and died in Georgia. WILLIAM-- We know nothing about the families of either William or Jesse. JOHN was born in 1818, in North Carolina, married Mattie Tate. He died about two miles from Woodstock, Georgia, about twenty-two years ago, and was buried in the Carmel church cemetery.

EDMUND KUYKENDALL, my grandfather, who was Cousin Ephraim's uncle, was born in BucoLa county, N. C., and lived and died in Georgia. He was born 1820 and died nine years ago, about 83 years old when he died. His wife's name was Jerusha Snellgrove. THOMAS JEFFERSON was born in Georgia, 1822, and died (???). His wife's name was Frances Duke. He has been dead about 25 years. He died at Sand Mount, Alabama.

"The sons of James Kuykendall, son of Abraham, were: William, Charles, George, Calvin and Tabe. Calvin was in the Civil war.

"The sons of Jesse, son of Abraham, were: Washington and David Kuykendall.

"Sons of John, son of Abraham, were: John Ephraim, and William Fleming Kuykendall. John Ephraim is still living at Woodstock, Georgia. He was born September 27, 1848. His wife's maiden name was Frances Tyson.

"The sons of my grandfather, Edmund Kuykendall, are: James, who is about 54 years old, living in Cherokee county, Ga. The second son, Abraham Kuykendall, lives in Cobb county, Ga., and is about 50 years old. His wife's name was Martha Walker. The third son, John Daniel Kuykendall, was born September 25, 1859, and died 1904. He was my father. His wife is still living; her name before her marriage was Mary Louisa Walker. The fourth son, Hezekiah Kuykendall, lives at Powder Spring, Ga. He is about 50 years old. The fifth son, Calvin Jasper Kuykendall, lives at Acworth, Ga., and is about 48 years old. His wife's maiden name was Lillie Reddings.

"THOMAS JEFFERSON'S sons' names were Lee and Belton.

"The sons of JOHN EPHRAIM KUYKENDALL were William, Obadiah and Levi Allen Kuykendall (now in Oklahoma), Robert Anderson K., George Ephraim and Archibold Forest Kuykendall.

"The sons of WILLIAM FLEMMING KUYKENDALL are William, F. K., Jr., and Frederick Kuykendall.

"The sons of James Kuykendall are George Edmund, John Daniel, James and Belton. "The sons of ABRAHAM are Edward and Allen Curley Kuykendall, Calvin Jasper and Henry Kuykendall.

"The sons of JOHN DANIEL KUYKENDALL, my father (deceased), are William Henry, George Washington, Ernest Eugene, Franklin Benjamin.

"The sons of HEZEKIAH KUYKENDALL are: Emmett Henry, Claude, Almon and Arthur. "The sons of CALVIN JASPER KUYKENDALL are: Jesse Hiram, Harry and Lucius.

"This is as correct a statement as we can give at the present time. If we can find anything more, we will send it later."

## History of Kuykendall Family By George Benson Kuykendall

Dr. J. L. Kirkendol, of Millen, Ga., is of this family. He is mentioned elsewhere in this volume, says his people changed the spelling of the name from Kuykendall to Kirkendol. A few extracts will be given from letters from him, enough to show plainly that his family and that represented by Miss Cora M. Kuykendall, of Marietta, Ga., spring from the same ancestry. The relationship is best shown by a chart of the families.

He writes in part as follows:

"My father's father was Jesse, and grandfather's father was Abraham. Abraham's only brother, of whom I am able to find any record, was Peter. As I am informed, the said Peter was a "Hardshell Baptist" preacher, and an active man at his death, at 105 years of age. Brothers of my grandfather were Edmund, John and Jefferson, long since dead. Abraham lies buried in a spot about eleven miles from Acworth, Ga., on the line of Cobb and Cherokee counties.

"Abraham Kirkendol came from North Carolina, probably the western section. At that time North Carolina was a vast territory, covering several states. Neal Kirkendol was my father's uncle, a man of a great deal of wealth, owning some fifteen hundred negroes. He had a large family, in early days before the war, moved to Alabama. Don't know what became of him, but I think many of the southwestern Kirkendols sprang from this Neal. Dr. Clarence Kirkendol, formerly of Yorkville, S. C., I am informed, is living in Rock Hill, S. C. I am informed that Mr. J. B. Scott, of Yorkville, S. C., knows a good deal of the southern branch, and is much interested, is an interesting man to correspond with. His mother was a Kirkendol.

"As to language, my great grandfather spoke Dutch, both he and his wife. My father remembers that very clearly. I have been told that my great grandfather came from Virginia and located in Georgia."

Many of my correspondents mention the fact that their forefathers spoke Dutch.

It is certain that many of the older ones of those who first went to Virginia and North Carolina spoke that language, for some time after they went to those colonies. The older ones, while understanding both English and Dutch, preferred the Dutch and used it in conversation between themselves, while the younger ones generally spoke English.

It has been seen that Miss Frances J. Kuykendall, of Enid, Miss., said her great grandmother's name was Elizabeth Van Zandt. The excerpts from records at York county, South Carolina, show that at the April term of court in 1787, Abraham Kuykendall and wife, Elizabeth, sold to Thomas Bridges, a tract of land on Buffalo Creek, in Camden District, S. C. Inasmuch as the forefathers of Miss Frances were living at that time in that region, it seems certain that the Elizabeth Kuykendall mentioned in the record, was the Elizabeth Van Zandt Kuykendall her great grandmother.

It is an interesting fact also, that in the Delaware valley, where the Kuykendalls came from to Virginia, there were living Van Zandts also. It is not at all improbable that the Van Zandts in the Carolinas were of the same families as those in the Delaware valley, and it would be no matter of surprise if investigation would show that the two families, Ks and Van Zs, went west about the same time, and possibly together.

## History of Kuykendall Family By George Benson Kuykendall

The facts presented in this chapter certainly will be interesting to those Kuykendalls whose connection with the earliest North Carolina settlers is shown, and whose fathers lived in still earlier days in the Minisink region of the Delaware valley. Clues are here presented, which, if followed out, would be sure to clear up the line of descent of these families back to 1650.

Data is here put in print to form a permanent record, that otherwise would almost certainly be lost. I hope that some one will take up the research and carry it on further, and that what has been presented will aid in the work.

We notice that in giving his account of his family history, Mr. John Chambers Kuykendal says his father married Miss Elvira Chambers, whose grandfather, Chambers, was a captain in the Revolutionary war. It is interesting to note that during that war, there was a prominent and well known Captain Chambers who lived near the old Kuykendall home by the ancient village of Minisink, N.

J. It would be well worth while to make investigations to determine whether the Captain Chambers there, was not the Chambers, whose granddaughter was J.

C. Kuykendal's mother. The Kuykendals at Rock Hill, and around there, have a tradition as stated that their ancestors went to that country with Gen.

Greene, during the Revolutionary war, and that after the war they came back and settled in the King's Mountain region. General Pulaski was sent to South Carolina from the Minisink region, where the Kuykendalls lived, and a number of the K family were in the army at Minisink at the time.

We have here a number of decidedly interesting clues, that if followed up would undoubtedly lead to very interesting discoveries.

Judge William L. Kuykendall, late of Saratoga, Wyoming, was much interested in the past history of the Kuykendall family, and we corresponded on the subject, occasionally for years. Excerpts from this correspondence will now be given:

"My great grandfather lived in South Carolina, near the foot of King's Mountain, where my grandfather was born. The former was killed in the battle of that name, his house and household goods, and the family records were burned soon afterwards, by the Tories, followed directly afterwards by the death of my great grandmother. My grandfather, Richmond Kuykendall was, at the time, a very small boy, absolutely poverty stricken and too small to remember afterwards, whether or not he had any relatives in that part of the country. A kind neighbor cared for him, and very soon afterwards moved to Barren county, Kentucky, where my grandfather reached maturity, married, and where my father was born and grew to almost maturity, before my grandfather moved to Garrard county, Kentucky. By this time, 35 or 40 years had intervened since my grandfather left South Carolina. Father commenced an investigation, as soon as he could, after reaching manhood, and found that all the Kuykendalls that he could hear of in North and South Carolina, especially those living near King's Mountain, spelled the name as you and I do, and that it was pronounced by some Kikendall and by others Kirkendall, which accounts for my father and his next older brother spelling the name correctly, as you and as I do, while his two younger brothers spelled it Kirkendall. I have no doubt whatever that the King's Mountain Kuykendalls of the present time, one of whom (Dr. John C. Kuykendall), of Yorkville, S. C., are distant, if not comparatively near relatives of mine. You will notice that they have dropped one l from the name.



## History of Kuykendall Family By George Benson Kuykendall

My grandfather's name was Richmond, and my father's name was James. The latter had three brothers, John, Jacob and Joseph. They are long since dead, and I know nothing of my uncle's families. My father, James Kuykendall, and mother, Celia (Thompson) Kuykendall's children were: ELIZA A., SARAH J., RICHMOND, WILLIAM L., and ROBERT G., all of whom are dead except myself. My brother James M. left only one son named John, who had a son named James M., born about 1891. My sons are John M. and Harry Lee, both of whom live in Denver, Colorado."

WILLIAM LITTLEBURY KUYKENDALL was born December 13, 1835, and after reaching maturity he was always prominent and actively connected with public affairs in every community in which he lived. He held numerous offices and places of trust. He was Justice of the Peace, County Clerk, Deputy Clerk of the District Court, United States Commissioner, Judge of Probate, and was a member of the legislature several times. He held the position of Grand Sire of the I. O. O. F. of the World, and was Grand Secretary of the A. F. & A. M. of Wyoming for over twenty-five years.

The Judge led a varied and active life, and all of it was in the frontier parts of the country, of which he was no small factor in the development. He was in Kansas during the stirring and stormy events preceding the Civil war.

His superabundant energy always found him "doing something." In 1870 he organized a large expedition for prospecting the Big Horn country. This expedition was stopped by the United States troops, but in 1876 he organized and led another company into that country that was successful, and that led to the opening up of the rich mines of the Black Hills country.

Though in the Civil war he was found on the side of the South, there was no man, perhaps, that was more glad to see sectional bitterness pass away and the country united again. He was a man of great energy, strict integrity and great force of character, and wielded a potent influence in the building up of the country wherever he lived.

MR. JOHN M. KUYKENDALL, of Denver, Colorado, son of Judge W. L. Kuykendall, like his father, has been very much interested in the history of the K family.

The tragic fate of his great grandfather and mother, and the great obscurity connected with their earlier residence in South Carolina, would naturally arouse his interest and create a wish that he might know more of those worthy ancestors. His branch of the family like nearly all the others have from the beginning, been path makers for civilization. Mr. John M. inherited from his father a large measure of energy and business capacity, which he has used with marked success in life. He was born in Platte county, Missouri, April 25, 1860. He attended the public schools of Cheyenne, Wyoming, and later completed his education in Racine College, Wisconsin. His first experience with the business activities of life was with his father in the sheep business, during about twelve years. His first business undertaking of considerable magnitude was in 1875, when he organized the Wisconsin-Wyoming Land and Cattle Company, of the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Co., with a capital stock of \$145,000, J.

I. Case as President, and J. M. Kuykendall as General Manager. Ten years later he organized a cattle company operated on Medicine Bow, in the same county, which was known as the J. M. Kuykendall Company, with a capital stock of \$60,000, of which he was President and General Manager. In the year 1892 he organized the Columbia Coach Company, capital stock, \$60,000, which was operated in Chicago during the World's Fair. Of this company he was President and Manager. In the year 1890, he organized

## History of Kuykendall Family By George Benson Kuykendall

the Denver Omnibus and Cab Company with a capital of \$100,000 and in 1910 he reorganized the Denver Omnibus and Cab Company under the laws of Wyoming, and increased the capital stock to \$525,000, and since then has increased the assets of the company to over \$1,000,000. The business has gone on increasing from year to year, and he still continues to be president and manager. He has besides these, business interests in other large enterprises in mining and irrigation operations.

While he has been engrossed in business he has found time to look after social amenities. He is director of the Denver Club, the Overland Park Country Club, Denver Athletic Club, Chamber of Commerce, and numerous other organizations.

He was elected in 1887 member of the Territorial Legislature of Wyoming, when he was about twenty-seven years of age. His first experience in a legislature was as page of the first Territorial Legislature of Wyoming, when he was nine years old. He saved up a little money this way, and put it into sheep with his father's business.

He married Miss Anna Thomason, in Cheyenne, Wyoming, January 1, 1889, who was at the time an orphan, the daughter of Zechariah Thomason, one of the pioneer cattle men of Wyoming. They have never had any children.

All Mr. Kuykendall's life has been spent in the west, mostly on the frontier.

He has been successful in his business undertakings and naturally feels a great attachment to the Colorado country. He sees Denver as the fairest spot in all the earth to him, and believes in its future and the future of the great state of which it is the metropolis. Here he has put in the best energies of the prime of life, and has seen a great and beautiful city spring up from a mere village and become a charming metropolis, the center of trade of an inter-mountain empire. He is happy to have done his part in the great transformation.

## History of Kuykendall Family By George Benson Kuykendall

```
##### # # ##### ##### # # ##### ##### # #  
# # ## ## # # ## # # # # # # ## ##  
# # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # #  
##### # # # # ##### ##### # # # # # # # #  
# # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # #  
# # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # #  
##### # # ##### ##### # # # # # # # # # #
```

Transcribed from original documents by Brent R. Brian & Martha M. Brian.

This document and others can be found on our website:

[BMGEN](#)

We claim **COPYLEFT** on the documents that we publish that are our original work.

COPYLEFT "rules" can be reviewed on the web site:

[GNU Free Documentation License](#)

In short, use what you like. But if you use our stuff, mention us as the source.

Brent R. Brian  
Martha M. Brian  
[BrianMitchellGenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:BrianMitchellGenealogy@gmail.com)