

North American Family Histories, 1500-2000

THE CLENDINEN, MYERS

AND

MILLS FAMILIES

And Various Related Families in the South

Compiled from Family Records, Official Documents,
Original Letters, and Other Sources.

By

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and

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This record is dedicated to the memory of our mother, Mrs. Dr. Thomas J. Catchings, nee Nancy McNees (or McNeice) Clendinen. The greater portion of our data has been procured from old family records furnished by kind relatives. It is to be regretted that the work was not begun before the demise of the generation having a knowledge of the early history of the original immigrants to America, and their connection with the branches in their native lands.

The search for family ancestry is often intricate, after the lapse of years, but it is commendable. In Nehemiah 7:64, we find: "These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but it was not found. Therefore, were they as polluted, put from the priesthood." In the Old Testament, the Jews kept a minute record of each generation of their families. Jacob gives in the forty-ninth chapter of Genesis a description of his children; their character and future outlook. The lineage of the Savior's family is traced to David in the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, and in Luke's Gospel, third chapter, His lineage is taken back through David to Adam.

There are several coats of arms of the Clendinen and other spellings of the name, which are not at present accessible. See Burke's Genealogies, with crests and arms.

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"According to tradition, the name Clendinen was originally Glendonyn or Glendowyn of Welsh origin, and belonged to the Glendowins, the royal family of that country. The Glendowins, in turn, took their name from the place called Glyndeor or Glydwydy - Glyorglen, meaning a vale. Of these Glendonwyn is the most ancient and honorable. Owen Glendower, in the eleventh century, was the last Welshman who assumed the title of Prince of Wales, and led the Welsh in their only attempt to regain their freedom after their subjugation by Edward I. He did not found the Glendonyn family, who before his day settled in Scotland. The changes in the name through centuries have been Glendowyn, Glendonwyn, Glendnyning, Glendoning, Glendining, Glendenning, Glendennig. In time, "C" was substituted for "G" - for example, Clendennenge, Clendenning, Clendennig, Clenon, Clendenen, Clendenon, Clendinning, Clendinen, Clendennin, Clandinnig, Clandinen. There may be other variations. Records begin in 1150, with William of Glendonyn or Glendenning, son of Douglas, who owned large estates, the name of one being Glendenning, consisting of portions of Esdale, Liddendale, and Teviotdale, Scotland. Robert de Glenonwyn, for valor at the battle of Largo, 1261, was awarded by Alexander III, a large land grant in Ayrshire. We also read of the Glendonyns of Partoun. At the end of the thirteenth century, the Chief Justice of Scotland was Sir Adam de Glendonyn of the Douglas branch of the family. His son, Sir Adam, was a follower of the Bruce and a Crusader. In Hume's History, we read of the son of the Crusader Simon, who was killed at Otterbourre and buried with military honors in Melrose Abbey. His sword is treasured as a precious relic of Partoun, the family residence in Kirkendbrightshire. One of the most powerful lords of Scotland was Simon, sixth Baron, knighted by James II, and invested with almost regal power within his own lands of Glendennig. He was one of the generators of peace with England in 1440. The Glendennings date their downfall in Scotland from 1644, for adherence to the royal Stuarts, Sir John.

"Sir Adam Glendening, third Baron, was general receiver of the Earl of Douglas' rents. He died in 1397. He had brothers, Simon, Matthew, and John. Simon and the Earl of Douglas were killed side by side at Otterbourne 1388: both interred in Melrose Abbey: family residence Kirkenburgshire, Partoun."

From Humes' History of the Douglas Family.

"John Clendenin, Lancaster County, Pa., one of the three brothers who landed in Baltimore in 1746, was a Revolutionary soldier under Washington. His children located in Pennsylvania and Maryland. The two other brothers of

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John were Charles and Archibald, West Va."

"In the old Scotch cemetery, Lancaster, Pa., is the grave of Adam Clendenin of Ayre, Scotland."

"One Adam Clendenin died June 19, 1717. He married Esther Hall, Philadelphia. Their daughter, Jane, married Andrew Heaslet."

From Clyde's History of the Scotch in Pennsylvania.

"Little Rock, Ark., April, 1914.

I have a little booklet which says that ail by this name, no matter how spelled, are of our family originally ; and that three brothers landed or settled first in Baltimore and then went to Pennsylvania. A stranger saw my father's name (Judge John Joseph Clendenin, Supreme Court, Ark.) in a Boston Journal, and sent a little book of the Clendenin family to me.

Jane Clendenin Royston."

"Charleston, W. Va., March 16, 1896. Mrs. M. C. Torrey.

Bear Madam:

George Clendenin built a fort here in 1786. The name, in the official calendar and State papers of Virginia, is spelled in three different ways. On the same page are Clendenin, Clendenin, and Clendenen. George Clendenin spelled it himself as Clendenin. There are now no descendants of this old family in Kanawha county. Col. Miller from Mason county, whose mother was a Clendenin, pointed out to some citizens here, the burial place of Charles Clendenin, on the bank of the river above the fort. There is a Charles Clendenin of Gallipolis, Ohio, of that family, and Dr. John P. Hale, author of "The Trans-Allegheny Pioneers," says there are descendants in Logan Co., W. Va. This book contains as much concerning the above family as anything we have. There is a picture hanging high up on the wall of our Historical Room, but it is inaccessible and too long range to give a very good sketch of it, of Col. William Clendenin. I do not know who presented it. Dr. W. J. Bland of W. Va. married a descendant of Gov. Return Jonathan Meigs. She entertained me one evening with an exhibition of the family heirlooms, among which was a life-sized portrait of Geo. Washington, presented by him to Gov. Meigs. Also a manuscript invitation in his own handwriting from Thomas Jefferson to Gov. Meigs to dinner.

John Cole, Clerk Co."

There is extant "An Account of the Coming to America of three Clendenin Brothers from Scotland," compiled by Capt. Joe Vincent Meigs, a descendant; from data of Mrs. Della Agnes McCulloch, Regent Col. Charles Lewis Chapter

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D. A. R., Pt. Pleasant, W. Va. That work tells of three brothers, Archibald Clendinen, who was killed at the Muddy Creek Massacre by the Indians, June 27, 1763, in which other members of the family were also killed; Charles Clendinen, who was on the Ben Burden Grant in 1753, and who left many descendants in West Virginia and the Ohio Valley; Thomas Clendinen, whose line has been traced in this volume.

"Mrs. McCulloch, Historian, found this method of spelling the name, in the old family Bible of William Clendinen, which he and George brought with them from Scotland when they emigrated. This Bible is now in the possession of Mrs. Geo. Wallis, nee Elizabeth Clendinen, m. April 6, 1892. (Note - I, J. V. M., am the great-grandson of George Clendinen, brother of William.) (Mrs. Sophia Elizabeth Wallis is a great-granddaughter of William Clendinen, and daughter of James Ed. Beale Clendinen, and lives in Mason Co., W. Va.) "This old Bible was printed by Mark and Charles Kerr, His Majesties' Printers - 1791. Edinburgh: - appointed to be read in the churches." The first page is dedicated to the most high and mighty Prince James, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain and France and Ireland. Defender of the Faith," as copied by Mrs. McCulloch. (The reign of James II began in 1685 and ended in 1688. The Bible printed in 1791 was in the reign of George III, which began 1760 and ended in 1820. (J. V. M.) Mrs. Stephens has the signature of her great-grandfather William C., spelled Clendinen. "Charles Clendinen, pioneer immigrant, was an old man when he emigrated with his family, and George took care of him. He died in the block house. He came to America with four boys and a daughter." Mrs. McCulloch states that "Mrs. Edith Clendinen Miller Stephens, from whom much of the above was obtained, knows more of their history than anyone else; also of their connection with the Meigs, Bryan, Miller and McCulloch families. Mrs. A. McCulloch states that the Clendinens were "Pioneer - Indian Fighters - Block House and Town Builders." "There is a tradition in the family of Thomas Clendinen (emigrant) that his sister was scalped by the Indians, while taking food to him, during their warfare." There is a minute, detailed chart by Mrs. McCulloch, giving the descendants, the births, marriages, and deaths of the above pioneers, but it is too lengthy to copy in this history."

"Treasury Dept., Washington, D. C., 1896. Office of Internal Revenue. Memorandum for Representative T. C. Catchings:

The Clendinens resided upon Borden's Grant as early as 1753, Augusta County, Va. Two brothers, Archibald and Charles, were there about that time. A third brother settled in Maryland. Archibald and family perished in the

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Green River Massacre of 1773. Charles went west of the Alleghanies to reside about 1780. His children were George, William, Robert, Alexander, and Mary Ellen. George, son of Charles, was Colonel Commandant of the Kanawha region in 1791 he established the fort of Charleston, now the capitol of W. Va., and named it after his father, Charles Clendinen. George's daughter, Parthena, married Return Jonathan Meigs, Governor of Ohio. George's wife was Genevieve McNeale, sister of the wife of the late Thomas Ewing of Ohio. William Clendinen became Colonel William Clendinen; a prominent citizen of Kanawha, afterwards of Macon County, Va., and was in the Legislature. George represented Kanawha County in the Legislature in 1790, 1791-92-94-95; Daniel Boone being his colleague in 1791. William Clendinen represented the same county in 1790-91-93. Robert Clendinen was a Justice of the first court organized in Kanawka County in 1789, as was also William Clendinen. The military organization of the county at that time was: George Clendinen, Commandant; Daniel Boone, Lieutenant-Colonel; William Clendinen, Major; Alexander Clendinen, Ensign. Joseph Miller."

1 - Thomas Clendinen, born 1741, came from Scotland and settled in America in Cecil Co., Md. Before the Revolutionary War he moved to Fishing Creek, York District, S. C. He fought gallantly as a private under Gen. Francis Marion. He was a devoted Presbyterian and was found dead April 20, 1817, in his chair with the Bible open upon his lap. Buried at Bethesda Presbyterian Church, Fishing Creek, S.C. He was a great Whig.

Thomas Clendinen obtained ninety-six acres, 1791, on Fishing Creek, S. C.; had lands at that time adjoining this on two sides. He also obtained a grant in York District of 477 acres in 1814. D. W. McLaurin, State Land Agent, Jan. 23, 1912.

"Book 43, p. 632. Obtained 1000 acres; 132 acres; 17 acres; and 1000 acres in York District. D. W. McLaurin, State Land Agent.

"Thomas Clendinen, in his will made Jan. 20, 1817, appointed his sons, Robert and James, as his executors. plantation on Fishing Creek "joined the lands of Dr. John Bratton, the heirs of Joseph Sadler, Hugh Wells, Robert Love, the heirs of Thomas Bratton, and the widow Watson." "He possessed large herds of cattle and stock. He also left to his heirs "a square of two acres in Columbia, S. C., bounded by Upper and Lumber, Marion and Bull streets." He lived in great comfort and independence and was truly a God - e Christian gentleman." - Chancery Clerk, Yorkville,

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"In 1693 that portion north of Santee was called North Carolina and the four counties south were called South Carolina. In 1778 the commission ran a line between North and South Carolina." From Wheeler's History of North Carolina.

"Upon the Revolutionary Rolls of the soldiers of South Carolina the following names are given: "Thomas Clendinen, Capt. Wallace, and Matthew Clendinen, Capt. Martin Sumter." It is not known who Matthew Clendinen was. Copied from the records of Bethesda Presbyterian Church, Fishing Creek, York District, S. C.

Thomas Clendinen m. second wife, Mrs. Armstrong, nee Nancy McNees or MecNeice, a Scotch woman of South Carolina.

May 1, 1911; Union, S. C.

My grandfather, Andrew McNeace, d. here Jan. 1906, at the age of 104 years. He had an older brother, John McNeace, who went West. All trace of him was lost. My father was named for him. My grandfather had a sister Nancy. John and Nancy have been names in the family for generations. My grandfather was b. and reared in the northeast part of this county, just across Broad River from York Co., formerly York District. Several generations ago, the name was spelled McNees but was later changed to McNeace. F. M. McNeace." (Not related to Mrs. T. Clendinen, as is known.)

Moultrie's Memoirs of the American Revolution, p. 17, states: "John McNees represented the district between Broad and Saluda rivers in the first Provincial Congress, S. C., begun and holden at Charleston, Jan. 11, 1775."

"Robert McNees was Superintendent of Education in South Carolina in early days."

"John McNees or McNeice obtained two grants of 150 acres each in 1771 and 1773 in Craven Co. in the upper part of S.C. John McNees or McNeice obtained grants in 1770 of 100 acres, and in 1773 of 150 acres, ali in 96th District, Reedy River Section." D. W. McLaurin, State Land Agent, Columbia, S. C., March 8, 1916.

Fishing Creek, York District, S. C.

Epitaph from Bethesda Cemetery, copied July, 1910.

(1) "Sacred to the memory of Thomas Clendinen. Who was born 1744, and died 20th of April, 1817. Also his second wife Nancy Clendinen, who died 1786.

(2) Sacred to the memory of Robert Clendinen, who was born 7th of March, 1784, and died 29th August, 1830, in the forty-seventh year of his age.

(3) Sacred to the memory of Catherine Clendinen, who was born 21st May, 1822, and died 18th Sept. 1822; also Phalby Clendinen who was born 25th of Dec., 1823, and died 21st of June, 1825. Both infant daughters of Robert and Mary Clendinen.

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(4) Sacred to the memory of Robert Clendinen, Jr., son of Robert and Mary Clendinen, who was born Dec. 3rd, 1825, and died Sent. 26th, 1826.

(5) Here lies the body of Lydia Clendinen and her child: wife of Thomas Clendinen. who died March 7th, A. D., 1781. age 36 years.

(6) Col. J. Clendinen."

Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, have the old-fashioned broad slabs, resting on four marble pillars, in very good condition. No. 5 has a small headstone badly weather-stained, and sunken. No. 6 is a neat square block of marble, bearing only the name. The entire grave is covered with small rocks.

The following is a copy of a letter written by Thomas Clendinen to his son, William Haslett Clendinen, then a medical student at Maryland University, Baltimore.

"My dear son:

I have just heard that Bob [his son Robert] has started to Statesville, N. C., on his way to Baltimore, and I have only a few minutes to write, while John Armstrong is here. waiting to carry these [the letters]. I have never had but one letter from you since I saw you, which often has been much concern to me, to think that my affection has been so much set on you and that you should decline in your respect to me in my old age; but my love for you will not fail while I live. I am blessed with a good state of health. I have no complaint of any kind more than when I was young. My boys are industrious and always [word rubbed off], the one healthy and stout. But I had considerable of a loss last fall - one negro woman, a good mare, and four head of cattle, all died in one month, but we are entirely out of debt and have enough to live upon comfortably. I hope I need not remind you, though it be my duty to warn you, to keep near to God and trust His providence in all your undertakings. If you should turn from the ways of virtue and truth, you will entirely disappoint my affections. We all join in my respects to you all.

I am your affectionate father until death.

York District, May 8, 1807." Thomas Clendinen.

"Mr. Merideth married a daughter of Dr. Hazlett of Cecil County, Maryland, who was a sister of Mrs. Thomas Clendinen (the first) nee Lydia Hazlett or Haslett. Their son, Judge Jonathan Merideth and his sister, Miss Emily Merideth, lived in Baltimore; also Gilmore, son of Judge Merideth. Gilmore Merideth was famed in the Confederate Navy. Eliza S. Clendinen, 1913," Baltimore.

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"Guthriesville, S. C., Aug. 18, 1913.

I find the Clendinens owned the land which belongs to Dr. J. R. Bratton's estate. Before Bethesda Church was built on present site, a few people were buried on the old Clendinen plantation. This was closed up and the present site used. - D. P. Curry, Sexton, Bethesda Church."

"On July 12, 1780, the battle of 'Huck's Defeat' was fought at Brattonsville, S. C. Then and there a body of four hundred cavalry and well-mounted body of Tories were defeated by 183 Whigs under command of Col. William Bratton. This victory, though small in itself, was far-reaching in its effect upon the future of South Carolina. The Tories were regular trained forces of the Royal Army. The little band of Whigs were untrained men, fighting for home and country. Among the number was Thomas Clendinen. At a celebration of this battle on the fiftieth anniversary, the following toast was offered, "Memory of Thomas Clendinen, James McRandall, Robert Bratton, and Edward Martin. They were married to liberty, and faithful, honest husbands did they make." Above references are from "Proceedings of a Celebration of Huck's Defeat;" "The Making of South Carolina," page 122, White; "The Story of the Revolution," Vol. II, page 47, Henry Cabot Lodge.

The victory of Huck's Defeat is marked by a handsome granite and bronze monument erected by King's Mountain Chapter, D. A. R., in 1903. Virginia Mason Bratton. July, 1910."

Mrs. Virginia Mason Bratton, Ex-Regent of the D. A. R. Society of South Carolina, and who lives at Guthriesville, S. C.; cousin of Rt. Rev. T. D. Bratton, of Miss., kindly contributed the above account of the battle of "Huck's Defeat."

Robert Clendinen, b. S. C., Fishing Creek; m. Mary Ellen Myers of South Carolina; d. Aug. 29, 1830, in the fortyseventh year of his age. He is buried at the Bethesda Presbyterian Cemetery, Fishing Creek, York District, S. C., about ten miles from Yorkville, beside his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Clendinen, and three infants: Catherine, Phalby, and Robert Clendinen, Jr., children of Robert C. and wife, M. E. Myers.

"Tully in Orator, speaks of a middle species of oratory, which has neither the keenness of the utmost polish, nor the thunder of the most rough. Of this character was the eloquence of Mr. Clendinen. He received from nature much quickness of intellect and sound judgment, which by judicious application in youth he had made most effective instruments to his success in after life at the bar. He had also a good person and agreeable manners; was pleasant

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A DECEMBER DAWNING

I watched from my southern window
The cold sky at break of day -
Its bow] o'erturned was reaching low
Over trembling mists of gray.

The tracery of my sycamore
Shone cut the dimmest white,
The spotted wealth it upward bore
Outlined in the coming light.

'Gainst the silver through this armor
Loomed a dark empurpled bar,
Through the shiftings of its splendor
Faintly glimmered - one white star.

O'er this glory of the heavens
As if by a spirit blown
Came the rosy palpitations
And the sky was - Corot's own.

Nannie Hemingway Savage. 1922.

"Culpepper C. H., Va., Aug. 15, 1861.

"My dear Children:

"Major Drane leaves for Canton, Miss., tomorrow and will mail this as soon as he gets home. * * * I had no idea before I came here, how much bone and sinew it requires to enable a soldier to perform his duties efficiently, and the Southern army must discharge a large number of boys upon this score alone. The amount of sickness in the army is appalling. I suppose the Yankees are suffering to the same extent. There is a rumor that on yesterday a portion of our army attacked 1700 Yankees on this side of the Potomac, above Leesburg, and killed 300, taking the rest prisoners. * * * * Soon after the great battle I went over the battle grounds. It was a horrid sight, beyond all power of description. I have a god many relics picked up on the field after the battle. Joe Peebles had a hole shot in his shirt sleeve. He is said to have behaved very bravely. Capt. Wellborn says that Clay Robinson is a noble boy and a brave soldier. Tommy and Silas have been sick. They are anxious to be at home to enjoy the peaches and watermelons. Poor boys! They are much reduced and have been through the rubbers.

"Your affectionate father, "Thomas J. Catchings."

Misses Mary and Nannie Catchings, care Mr. C. G. Redfield, Jackson, Miss."

THOMAS CLENDINEN AND LYDIA HASLETT

"In the marriage records of the First Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, Penn., Thomas Clendinen and Lydia Haslett were married Nov. 8, 1769." - -D. W. Clendinen, Historian, Nov. 2, 1899.

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It is said that she was a daughter of Dr. John and Sarah Haslett.

CHILDREN OF THOMAS CLENDINEN AND LYDIA HASLETT

- 34 - Dr. William Haslett Clendinen (1) m. Elizabeth Belt (2) m. Jane Dashiell
- 35 - Elizabeth Clendinen (1) m. Andrew Hart.
- 36 - Martha Clendinen (1) m. Joseph Stevenson.
- 37 - Jane Clendinen (1) m. William Black.

CHILDREN OF SECOND WIFE, NANCY McNEES AND THOMAS CLENDINEN

CHILDREN OF THIRD WIFE, MARGARET AND THOMAS CLENDINEN

- 39 - Dr. Alexander Clendinen (1).
- 40 - James Clendinen (1).

Dr. William Haslett Clendinen was b. Cecil Co., Md., 1772, d. at his residence, Walnut Grove. Wednesday, Oct. 6, 1839. sixty-seven years of age, buried in the Faith Second Presbyterian Cemetery. Oct. 8, 1839. at 4 p. m.. a Mr. Gatlin officiating ; the pastor, Mr. Breckinridge. being absent. His remains were afterwards removed ta Green Mount Cemetery, Baltimore.

The records of the Bethesda Presbyterian Church (S. C.) has this note: "Dr. William Hazlett Clendinen begun to practice in 1805, and subsequently went to Baltimore to live at a point in the city known as Fell's Point and where he had a large practice.

He was educated in South Carolina, but graduated in medicine at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. He then settled in Baltimore and practiced his profession there till he died. "Walter Belt and Ann Browne were married in London, England, in 1750. He died Feb. 12, 1798, in his home in Fell's Point, Baltimore: was an officer of the Customs and was interred in St. Paul's churchyard, attended from residence by the Society of Free Masons. He possessed many honest and manly virtues. From the Baltimore Federal Gazette, 15th May, 1798.

Elizabeth, daughter of Ann Browne, of London, England, and Capt. Walter Belt, of the Navy, m. Dr. William H. Clendinen, Oct. 11, 1810, d. March, 1816.

Dr. William H. Clendinen m. second, Jane Dashiell, daughter of Capt. Henry Dashiell and his wife, Mary Leake, Baltimore. Capt. Dashiell was very wealthy. He was b. Nov. 9, 1769, d. Oct. 4, 1830. He m. on Jan. 24, 1799, Mary Leake, who was b. April 17, 1780, d. May 9, 1869. Jane Dashiell was b. in 1804, d. March 21, 1887, and was buried in Baltimore beside her husband and children. She was elegant and literary, loved to read and repeat poetry and was thirty years her husband's junior. Verv handsome portraits of each, painted in oil by Peel, are possessed by their children. She inherited a large estate from her father and they lived in a lavish manner, rich velvet carpets, etc. There are also oil portraits of Capt. and Mrs. Henry Dashiell (nee Mary Leake). Their son, Dr. Nicholas Dashiell, owned large, valuable estates in Baltimore, which were inherited by his descendants.

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CHILDREN OF DR. W. H. CLENDINEN AND WIFE, JANE DASHIELL

Mary Dashiell Clendinen was a superior noble woman, d. 1887. Being the oldest she was the adviser and referee for the entire family, who depended upon her wise counsels.

Dr. William Haslett Clendinen, Jr., was a very distinguished and excellent man, d. 1893: did an extensive practice in Baltimore.

Jane Clendinen was handsome and cultured, d. 1903. She m. Dr. William Thomas Haddaway Ross, eastern shore of Maryland, he d. young. Her only child was Frederick Petrie Ross, of the firm of Hill, Ross, and Hill, Attorneys, with offices in the Kevser Building. He was a fine man in every sense: b. 1859. d. at 526 N. Charles street, Baltimore, Nov. 6, 1917, interred Green Mount Cemetery, Baltimore, in lot No. 18 Area. was very gentle, considerate and affectionate.

Jane was the only one of the children of Dr. William H. Clendinen and Jane Dashiell who married. It was said that their brother, Dr. W. H. Clendinen, Jr., thought no man was good enough for any of his sisters.

Alice Anne Dashiell Clendinen, d. Oct. 11, 1912, funeral from home, 2733 St. Paul's street, conducted by Rev. Mosby Murcey, Rector of St. Bartholomew's Church, on Monday three P. M.

Henry Clendinen d. after reaching manhood, at the age of twenty-two.

Nicholas Clendinen, named after his uncle, Dr. Nicholas Dashiell, d. in infancy.

Zenobia T. Clendinen d. 1897. An oil portrait of her is extremely beautiful and graceful.

Lousia Clendinen d. 1891.

Eliza Stuart Clendinen d. 1903; was exceedingly intelligent and attractive. Just prior to the secession of the South she came to Mississippi on a visit to her sister, Mrs. John Henderson, of Attala Co., and other relatives; consequently she was entirely cut off from her home in Baltimore, and did not return there until hostilities ceased. All became much attached to her, especially the family of Dr. and Mrs. T. J. Catchings. She espoused the Southern cause and was a devoted Confederate in all respects. All of the above are interred in Green Mount cemetery, Baltimore.

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