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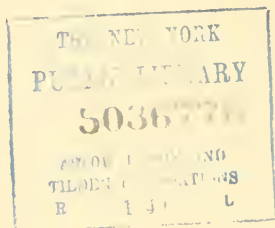
APV
(Kirkpatrick)
BIG HAM

4501
Major Abraham Kirkpatrick

AND

HIS DESCENDANTS

Compiled By
One of the Descendants



1911:
J. P. DURBIN, Printer
PITTSBURGH, PA.

DEDICATION

TO the younger members of the family this compilation is respectfully dedicated in the hope that it may prove of service for future reference and aid in perpetuating the memory of their distinguished ancestors, cementing the ties of consanguinity and supporting that honest and honorable pride in their lineage to which they are justly entitled.

I may say in explanation of this brochure that having been applied to by some of the younger cousins for data to qualify them for membership in the Societies of the Revolution. I found that verifying tradition by authentic reference was a matter of so much greater difficulty than at first appeared that it seemed well to put in permanent form what was obtained, realizing the more as the inquiry proceeded how much easier it would have been for a member of the last generation to have done this work and how much more difficult it would be for a member of the next generation, as the family traditions are becoming so indistinct with age and the vagaries of memory as to be of constantly diminishing value.

I wish also to express appreciation of the aid rendered by different members of the connection without whose assistance the genealogy could not have been brought down to the living present.

KIRK Q. BIGHAM.

Pittsburgh, May, 1911.

MAJOR ABRAHAM KIRKPATRICK

His military record during the war of the American Revolution is concisely given in the "Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army from April, 1775, to December, 1783, compiled by F. B. Heitman," of the Adjutant General's office, Washington, 1893, commonly referred to as Heitman's Register, in the Congressional Library, as follows (See Page 252):

Abraham Kirkpatrick, Va.

First Lieut. 8th Va., March 22, 1776.

Regimental Adjutant April 2, 1777.

Captain Aug. 10, 1777.

Transferred to 4th Va. Sept. 14, 1778.

Served to close of war.

In Saffel's Records (Congressional Library) page 399, Abraham Kilpatrick, Captain, appears in list of officers having claims against the state of Virginia for moneys advanced for clothing and sustenance for the troops. Page 424 Abram Kirkpatrick, Captain Va., appears in list of officers entitled to half pay, commutation and bounty. Page 504 Abraham Kirkpatrick is listed among officers receiving land warrants.

The Act of Congress of Sept. 20, 1783, provided that all officers in commission at the close of the war who had served for three years should be advanced one degree in rank. This made Capt. Kirkpatrick a major.

Major Kirkpatrick is always described as tall, rugged and of severe expression, wearing a cocked hat pulled down over his left eye, which was blind. The loss of this eye is explained by the note in Lieut. Feltman's Journal in the collection of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, written at Savage's farm near Bottom Bridge, New Kent County, Va., under date of Aug. 12, 1781: "This day a

soldier of the Virginia, 18 months' men, was executed for entering the tent of Capt. Kirkpatrick of Third Regiment and shooting him in the left eye."

The following sketch, written by James M. Christy in 1892, is based, as to some details, upon data furnished by Isaac Craig:

The family of Major Kirkpatrick were Scotch, and warm adherents of Prince Charles Edward, the Pretender to the throne of England, whose fortunes they followed up to the fatal defeat of their leader on the bloody field of Culloden in 1746. The family then fled to America and settled down at or near Elkton, Cecil County, Maryland, and are supposed to have brought with them to America sufficient means to enable them to live in a comfortable rural condition. Of how many members the family consisted is not now known by any of the descendants of Abraham Kirkpatrick, except of one sister, a Mrs. Glasgow, who lived in the State of Ohio; of her and of her descendants nothing is now known.

Abraham Kirkpatrick was born in Cecil County, Maryland, in the year 1749, and died in Pittsburgh Nov. 17, 1817. When a lad, 18 years old, he was attacked at the races, in Cecil County, by a drunken bully and gave him a good thrashing, whereupon the friends of the bully, claiming that it was not a fair fight on account of the bad condition of their champion, arranged that a fight should be had between the parties on the next day, at which time the fight took place with the result that the bully was again badly beaten, carried off the field and died the next day. On this happening, Kirkpatrick fled the settlement and made his way through the wilderness to Fort Pitt, then the ragged edge of civilization. That he then had some means is evident from the fact that in the same year—1767—he took out a patent for land now in Allegheny City, which he afterwards sold

to Hugh McGonnigle, in 1811, stating this fact in the recital of title in the deed.

Of his career at Fort Pitt for some years nothing definite is now known, but early in the Revolutionary conflict with the British, he was well known as an ardent patriot and was with the army as an officer at the battles of Stony Point and Princeton and the sieges of Yorkton and Charleston; he was an intimate friend of General Anthony Wayne, who died in his arms at Presque Isle, Erie, to which place Kirkpatrick had ridden from Pittsburgh on horseback to nurse his beloved friend in his last illness.

Major Kirkpatrick married Miss Mary Ann Oldham. She was a sister of Winifred Oldham, the wife of Gen. John Neville. The Oldhams were a Virginia family, tracing back their ancestry to the Scotch Earl of Sinclair; the Nevilles traced theirs back to Richard Neville, the great Earl of Warwick, the "King Maker" of the time of Edward IV. of England.

The children of Major Kirkpatrick were one son, John Conway Kirkpatrick, who died March 6, 1811, in the 21st year of his age; and three daughters, one of whom married Christopher Cowan, one married Dr. Joel Lewis, and the other married Hon. Charles Shaler. All of these, with their husbands, are dead. The husbands were noted and influential men in Pittsburgh.

Major Kirkpatrick at the time of his death had accumulated a large amount of real estate and was quite wealthy for that time, the then appraised value of his real and personal estate amounting to over one hundred thousand dollars. At his death he left a large amount of papers, correspondence, etc., but these were unfortunately burned up, and so what might have been vastly interesting to the public and his descendants was forever wiped out of existence.

Neville B. Craig, Esq., who was a grand-nephew of the Major's and knew him intimately, says of him in his

“History of Pittsburgh”: Kirkpatrick was a Marylander by birth, a soldier of the Revolution, as brave a man as ever drew his sword in the struggle for independence, of good English education, of strong native intellect, shrewd in argument and so fond of it that he would rather change sides than let discussion cease.”

In the Whisky Insurrection of 1794 the Major, with his friends, the Nevilles, was loyal to the Government, and became obnoxious to the insurgents. With nine soldiers from Fort Fayette he defended the home of Gen. Neville, who was the Government Agent for Distillers' Licenses, at Woodville, from an attack of several hundred insurgents, one of whom, named McFarland, was killed, and the insurgents set fire to the buildings, compelling the Major and his squad to surrender as prisoners, and the house, with the outbuildings, burned to the ground. The Major, a prisoner on a horse behind his guard, slipped off the horse when they were crossing Chartiers Creek, and by a circuitous route made good his escape to the town.

Referring to this incident, John Banniston Gibson, of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, in some observations on the trials resulting from the Whisky Insurrection, written shortly before his death and in the collection of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, says: “If there ever was a man who would not turn on his heel to save his life it was Major Kirkpatrick. Though he was not a lineal descendant of Archy Bell, the cat, his progenitors evidently belonged to the same clan. The writer has known many of the same name and the same stamp. The actual fact was related to him by Captain Coulter of the Washington County militia, a spectator of the scene and actor in it.

“When Kirkpatrick, with his dozen of regular soldiers from the garrison at Pittsburgh, surrendered the upper story of the house was in flames. They had literally been burned out. He was doomed to instant death but

was told to go with the insurgents to Mingo Creek Meeting House and be hanged. 'Well,' said he, 'where is the horse? I can't walk there.' Observing a man drawing a sharp sight on him, he remarked: 'What a fool you are to shoot me. Don't you know I am going to be hanged.' The man lowered his rifle. He was then put in charge of Capt. Coulter and a guard but suffered to escape by the way, at the penalty of Coulter's life.

Gibson.

Gen. John Neville and Major Abraham Kirkpatrick were bosom friends, comrades in arms, married sisters, and were closely allied throughout their lives. Prior to the Revolution John Neville was an officer of the Virginia troops on duty at Fort Pitt, and Major Kirkpatrick, then little more than a boy, is supposed to have served with or under him and that the intimacy between them dated from that time.

On the 7th of August, 1775, the Virginia Provincial Convention resolved that "Captain John Neville be directed to march with his company of one hundred men and take possession of Fort Pitt," and it appears that during 1776 Major Neville was still in command of Fort Pitt with his company of one hundred men. This was during the contest between Virginia and Pennsylvania for the possession of this section." (Rev. A. Lambing's Centennial History of Allegheny County.)

Their Revolutionary services were closely connected, as appears from the record as given in Heitman's Register, page 308:

John Neville, Virginia.

Lieut. Col. 12th Va., Nov. 12, 1776, to Dec. 11, 1777.

Colonel 8th Va., Dec. 11, 1777, to Sept. 14, 1778.

Colonel 4th Va., Sept. 14, 1778, to close of war.

Brevet Brigadier General Sept. 30, 1783.

Died July 29, 1803.

The prominent part played by Major Kirkpatrick in behalf of the Government during the Whisky Insurrection is shown by the papers printed in Pennsylvania Archives, Vol. IV., pages 11, 69, 73, 80, 101, 173.

The Major was commissioned as Judge of the Court of Common Pleas and Justice of the Peace Nov. 21, 1788, and served several terms.—(Pennsylvania Archives, 2nd series, Vol. III, pages 291-2.) At the first election of officers of the Borough of Pittsburgh in May, 1794, he was elected assessor; was one of the incorporators of the Bank of Pittsburgh in 1810 and a member of the first board of directors (Erasmus Wilson's History of Pittsburgh, pages 72-318), and his name frequently appears in the accounts of public affairs.

The following notices of his death are copied from the Pittsburgh Gazette:

PITTSBURGH GAZETTE, Friday, Nov. 21, 1817.

Died—On Tuesday morning last, in the 69th year of his age, Major Abraham Kirkpatrick.

PITTSBURGH GAZETTE, Tuesday, Nov. 25, 1817.

In our last we briefly mentioned the death of Major Abraham Kirkpatrick. We have since been furnished with the following obituary notice:

The deceased was among the small number of our Revolutionary worthies who have thus far weathered the storms of time. At an early period of his life, when the idea of opposing the oppression of Great Britain was first suggested, he stepped forward in the cause of independence with all the enthusiasm of youth, with all the ardour of the most undaunted courage. From the moment he joined the standard of his country until the complete success of her arms was acknowledged by the mother country, he never was absent from his duty. After the peace of '83, when the American army was disbanded,

he was among the first who emigrated to the West, and at the time of his death had been a resident of Pittsburgh for more than 33 years.

The difficulties and dangers which so eminently distinguished the American Revolution, on the part of the Colonists, probably tended to strengthen those traits which so strongly marked his character in after life and gave him the reputation of great eccentricity—but the eccentricity of Major Kirkpatrick was of no common stamp; it was not of that description that consists in mere exterior singularity, and which is only calculated for the joke of the moment; his was an eccentricity that displayed the most honest qualities of the heart, in a dress plain and unostentatious to be sure, but none the less sterling on that account. He was distinguished by an integrity the most undeviating, and by a perseverance the most unremitting; he was never deterred from the pursuit of an object by any difficulties, and opposition only served to strengthen the energies of his mind; his favors were extended without show, but they were none the less liberal on that account; his notions of honor were exalted and his feelings of friendship were most disinterested. As a soldier his character was that of the most undaunted bravery, and as a citizen it was that of an orthodox disciple of Washington. His acquaintance was numerous, and friends most sincere. And it may with great truth be said of him that his life “was without fear” and his memory “without reproach.”

Inscription on the tombstone of Major Abraham Kirkpatrick, first erected in Trinity Church Graveyard, on Wood street, Pittsburgh; afterwards with the body removed to the Allegheny Cemetery.

“This monument is erected to the memory of Major Abraham Kirkpatrick, who departed this life Nov. 17th, 1817, in the 68th year of his age;

“He was a patriot of the Revolution, a gallant soldier and an honest man. When retired to the vale

of private life, he carried with him that republican simplicity of manner and that unbending decision of character which had distinguished his military career; sincere in his friendships and inflexible in principles, his death was a source of regret, not to those alone to whom he was connected by the ties of consanguinity, but to such as had felt the beneficence of a hand open as the day to melting charity.

“Stranger, tread lightly on the ashes of the soldier.”

The Shaler family Bible contains this entry in the handwriting of Judge Shaler:

Major Abraham Kirkpatrick, the father of Amelia L. Shaler, was a Revolutionary soldier of great personal strength and undaunted courage. He was a native of Maryland, but for thirty-five years before his death, which happened in the fall of 1817, he resided in Pittsburgh. He left three children: Amelia Louisa, intermarried with Charles Shaler, a lawyer; Eliza M., intermarried with C. Cowan; Mary Ann, intermarried with Dr. Joel Lewis.

The maternal ancestor of these sisters was of the name of Oldham, a family respectable for its enterprise and exertions in the early settlement of the country.

The Oldhams were a distinguished family in Virginia and Kentucky. John Oldham emigrated from England in March, 1635. His son, Thomas Oldham, was the father of Col. Samuel Oldham, of Westmoreland County, Virginia; born 1680; died 1762. Married Elizabeth Newton; born 1687; died 1759. Their son, John Oldham, born 1705, married Anne Conway and had issue Winifred, who married Gen. John Neville; Mary Ann, who married Major Abraham Kirkpatrick; and Col. William Oldham, who married Penelope Pope. (American Ancestry, Pennsylvania Genealogies, page 478. Pennsylvania Historical Society.)

Col. William Oldham was first lieutenant of Nelson's Independent Rifle Company, Jan. 30, 1776; lieutenant colonel in the Kentucky militia, and was killed at St. Clair's defeat near Fort Recovery, Ohio, Nov. 4, 1791. (Heitman's Register.)

The maternal line was equally illustrious, as appears from the histories of the Virginia families in the Congressional Library: Mary Ann Oldham was a second

(Paste this on Page 15. Kirkpatrick Genealogy.)

Major Kirkpatrick and Mary Ann Oldham were married Nov. 23, 1786. The first marriage notice in the Pittsburgh Gazette appeared Dec. 2, 1786, as follows:

Kirkpatrick-Oldham.

Married, on Tuesday, the 23rd ult., at Woodville, the seat of General John Neville in Washington County, Major Abraham Kirkpatrick to the amiable Miss Mary Ann Oldham.

The Pittsburgh Gazette of Jan. 15, 1813, contains this notice of her death: Died, on Saturday last (Jan. 9, 1813) Mary Ann Kirkpatrick, consort of Major Abraham Kirkpatrick. This lady was greatly esteemed by all her acquaintances and her loss is irreparable to her family.

of private life, he carried with him that republican simplicity of manner and that unbending decision of character which had distinguished his military career; sincere in his friendships and inflexible in principles, his death was a source of regret, not to those alone to whom he was connected by the ties of consanguinity, but to such as had felt the beneficence of a hand open as the day to melting charity.

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The maternal line was equally illustrious, as appears from the histories of the Virginia families in the Congressional Library: Mary Ann Oldham was a second cousin to George Washington, being the daughter of Anne Conway, who was a daughter of Ann Ball, who was a sister of the half blood to Mary Ball, the mother of George Washington.

Mary Ann Kirkpatrick died in the summer of 1813. The date of her birth and marriage to the major have not been ascertained.

Major Abraham Kirkpatrick had one son, John Conway Kirkpatrick, on whose tombstone, now in the Allegheny Cemetery, is the following inscription:

"Here lies the mortal part of John Conway Kirkpatrick, the only son of Major Abraham Kirkpatrick and Mary Ann, his wife, who departed this life March 6, 1811, in the 21st year of his age."

"The tears of his relatives and the poignant regret of an extensive acquaintance are a faint but genuine tribute to his virtues and a grateful though melancholy testimony of the loss society has sustained."

He had three daughters: Amelia Louisa, wife of Judge Charles Shaler; Elizabeth Maria, wife of Christopher Cowan; and Mary Ann, wife of Dr. Joel Lewis. (See deed of partition recorded in Allegheny County, Pa., in Deed Book 27, page 284, and records in Register's office.)

Since writing the foregoing some correspondence has been had with R. C. Ballard Thruston, a member of the Society of Colonial Wars of Louisville, Ky., and a gentleman of antiquarian tastes, a portion of which is as follows:

R. C. BALLARD THRUSTON
710 Columbia Building
Louisville, Ky.

Mr. Kirk Q. Bigham,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

January 22, 1911.

Dear Sir:—

A letter which I just received from the Rev. J. S. B. Hodges informed me that you are probably a descendant of Major Abraham Kirkpatrick of the Revolution, and of his wife, Amelia Oldham. I am myself a descendant of Lieutenant Colonel William Oldham, born June 17, 1753, killed at St. Claire's defeat, November 4, 1791, and I am trying to learn all I can regarding him, his brothers and sisters, ancestors, etc.

The information as I have it is to the effect that his father had six, possibly eight, children, three of whom were sons:—

Samuel, who came to Kentucky in 1784, and died there in 1823. It is told that he married twice, first Jane Cunningham, and second Ann Lipscomb.

The second son, Lieutenant-Colonel William Oldham, my ancestor. According to one account, he is said to have been born in 1745, but his family Bible, which says June 17, 1753, I think probably correct.

The third son was Conway Oldham, killed at the battle of Eutaw Springs, S. C., September 8, 1781, then a captain in the Revolution and unmarried. The land warrant for his services being made out to his eldest brother and heir-at-law, Samuel Oldham.

Of the daughters one of them named

Amelia, one account says her name was Mary Ann, married Major Abraham Kirkpatrick of the Revolution, and was, I understand, your ancestor.

Another daughter, Winifred Oldham, born November 19, 1736, died April 3, 1797, married August 24, 1754, General John Neville, both of whom are buried in the graveyard of the First Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, Pa., as is also their son-in-law, Major Isaac Craig.

Another daughter, Susanna, married Lawrence Ross, a Scotchman who in youth was captured by the Indians, was liberated at the age of 23, and died here in 1818. One account says he was at that time 85, another 98 years of age, which would place his birth somewhere from 1720 to 1733. If, however, I could obtain the date of his liberation at the age of 23, I think that we probably would have something more definite. They had quite a number of children, the eldest of whom was a son named Shapley, and the youngest named Presley Neville.

I am told there were two other daughters, one of whom—Abigail—married a Mr. Lisle or Lyle, and the other a Mr. Rector, but I am inclined to think the latter especially has been confounded with Susan, who married Mr. Ross.

In Hayden's Virginia Genealogies, page 527, is the statement that the wife of Lawrence Ross was the daughter of Colonel William Oldham, which would indicate that that was the name of the father of Mrs. Neville, Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Lieutenant Colonel William Oldham, etc.

From some letters from Judge John Oldham to Dr. Lyman C. Draper, in the Wisconsin Historical Society, he says that his grandfather was a farmer in middle circumstances in Berkeley County, W. Va. Judge Oldham was a son of Lieutenant Colonel William Oldham and a nephew of Mrs. Kirkpatrick.

I find in the Draper MSS., Vol. 37-J 114, filed in the collection of the Wisconsin Historical Society at Madison, Wis., a letter from Judge John P. Oldham to Lyman C. Draper, Esq., dated March 9, 1845, from which I quote:—

“My father, as I have always understood from persons who knew him well, omitted no opportunity of serving his country as a military man from 1775, when he joined Daniel Morgan’s Regiment, until he fell on the 4th of November, 1791. I was then but six years old, but afterwards learned much of his history from my mother, who was a sensible woman with an excellent memory.”

His father was Lieutenant Colonel William Oldham, his mother Penelope, daughter of Colonel William Pope.

Another letter (Vol. 37-J 115), dated May 26, 1845, from Judge John P. Oldham to Lyman C. Draper, Esq., from which I quote as follows:—

“William Oldham was born in 1752 in Berkeley County, W. Va. His parents were farmers in middle circumstances.

“Besides William, they raised two sons and four daughters. Samuel, the eldest, removed to Kentucky in 1784; settled near Louisville; acquired a good estate; raised nine or ten children and died at an advanced age.

“Conway, the youngest, entered the Revolutionary army in 1776; continued in it until the battle at Entaw Springs, where he fell (having then, I believe, the rank of major).

“The two eldest daughters removed early to Pittsburgh, one as the wife of General John Neville, and the other as the wife of Major Kirkpatrick.

“Another married Laurence Ross (who for many years of his youth had been a captive with the Indians), removed to the neighborhood of Louisville at an early day, raised a large family, and died in affluence at an advanced age. The other married a Mr. Lisle and remained in

Virginia until her death. They were respectable and in independent circumstances.

“William joined Daniel Morgan’s regiment as an ensign in 1776. Marched to Boston, some years afterwards to Canada. Suffered much from intense cold weather on this expedition. .

“Was in the battles of Brandywine and Monmouth; was actively engaged in both battles, and near being taken prisoner in the former.

“He resigned his commission in the army in the spring of 1779 (having then rank of captain), and came directly to Louisville, Ky.; joined and marched with Colonel Bowman the ensuing summer against the Indians at Chillicothe, and was often afterwards heard to say that the failure to capture the Indians at Chilliothe was not justly chargeable on Bowman, as some historian has alleged, but to the negligence or timidity of another officer to whom an important duty was committed by Bowman.

“It was while proceeding up the river on this expedition he first saw my mother, then not quite 11 years old, the daughter of Colonel William Pope, who was descending the river with some other families to settle at the falls. The parties meeting delayed a short time, and my father, being struck with the beauty and intelligence of little Penelope, said to her father that he should claim her for a wife when she attained to womanhood, to which her father assented, and four years afterwards he married her. My father was with George Rogers Clark in all his campaigns against the Indians which took place after his removal to Kentucky, generally commanding a company, and, as I have understood, a favorite of his commander.”

In another letter, dated July 26, 1846 (36-J 115), he says:—

“In a former letter to you I said ‘that my father went with Daniel Morgan to Boston in 1776 and thence

to Canada.' I should have said thence to Quebec, as he was in Arnold's command and assisted in the attack made on that town in the winter of 1776. He was also with Wayne when he was surprised at Paoli.'

From another letter (Vol. 37-J 115), dated September 13, 1847, I quote:—

“In an account I gave you of my father's services in the Revolutionary War I stated that he was attached to Daniel Morgan's command. In this I was led into an error by a deposition of a Mr. Williams, taken to establish his claim to land for revolutionary services, as I have recently discovered. My father was attached to an independent company commanded by Captain Nelson, raised at the same time and in the same neighborhood with the troops of Morgan, and marched in company with Morgan to Boston. This makes it probable he was not at the siege of Quebec, but it is certain he spent the winter of '76-7 in Canada and was on the Canadian frontier for some time after.”

March 6, 1911, he writes:

I have just returned from a recent trip on which I visited Washington, D. C., Martinsburg, W. Va., and Winchester, Va. The results from the trip are to be found on the enclosed pages, which I take pleasure in enclosing to you, as I think they establish beyond any reasonable peradventure of doubt the fact that Mrs. Neville, Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Lyle and Samuel, William and Conway Oldham were all children of John Oldham, of Prince William County. Whether or not the wife of that John Oldham was Ann Conway I am not prepared to state. His father may have been Samuel, but his mother certainly was not Elizabeth Newton, whom by some she is supposed to have been.

THE OLDHAM FAMILY

Lieutenant-Colonel William Oldham's family Bible states that he was born June 17, 1753, and was killed at St. Clair's defeat November 4, 1791. He married July 24, 1783, Penelope, daughter of Colonel William Pope of Jefferson County, Virginia, now Kentucky, and had four children:—

Judge John Pope Oldham, born February 28, 1785.

Major Richard Oldham, born March 13, 1787.

Abigail Oldham, born May 1, 1789.

William Oldham, born 1791, died in infancy.

After his death his widow and daughter married two brothers, Harry and Samuel Churehill, both long since dead.

As one of his descendants, I have long been trying to locate his antecedents. My first authority (Miss Idelle Keys) gave his parents as John Oldham and Ann Conway, and his paternal grandparents as Samuel Oldham and Elizabeth Newton of Westmoreland County, Virginia. Investigation proved that this Elizabeth was the daughter of Nehemiah Storke, and widow of Thomas Newton (who died in 1727) before she married Samuel Oldham, and that she had no Oldham children. A correspondent says the above was taken from Dr. Eagle's Notes and Queries, which I have not consulted.

My second authority (Mr. Samuel Oldham of Zanesville, Ohio) makes Lieutenant-Colonel William Oldham a son of Isaac Oldham by a first marriage.

My third authority (Mrs. Danske Dandridge, in her "Historie Shepherdstown") makes him a son of Samuel Oldham of Berkeley County, Virginia, now West Virginia.

He is claimed by too many lines to suit me and so I started a systematic search to ascertain, if possible, the truth, with the following results:—

In the Draper manuscripts in the State Historical Society at Madison, Wis., (Vol. 37-J, page 114, etc.) are four letters from Judge John Pope Oldham, dated 1845 to 1847, in which he states that his father, Lieutenant-Colonel William Oldham, "was born in 1752 in Berkeley County, Va. His parents were farmers in middle circumstances."

"Besides William, they raised two sons and four daughters. Samuel, the eldest, removed to Kentucky in 1784, settled near Louisville, and died at an advanced age" (died in 1823). "Conway, the youngest, entered the Revolutionary Army in 1776, continued in it until the battle of Eutaw Springs, where he fell, having then, I believe, the rank of major." (Note: He attained the rank of captain not major, his military record being as follows: Conway Oldham, Va., 2nd Lieut., 12th Va., Dec., 1776; 1st Lieut., April 2, 1777; regiment designated 8th Va., September 14, 1778; Capt., 1780; killed at Eutaw Springs, September 8, 1781. (See Heitman's Register, 312.)

"The two eldest daughters removed early to Pittsburgh, one as the wife of General John Neville, and the other as the wife of Major Kirkpatrick."

"Another married Lawrence Ross (who for many years of his youth had been a captive with the Indians), removed to the neighborhood of Louisville at an early day, raised a large family, and died in affluence at an advanced age. The other married a Mr. Lisle and remained in Virginia until her death."

"William joined Daniel Morgan's regiment as an ensign in 1776, marched to Boston," etc., etc., was in the battles of Brandywine and Monmouth, was actively engaged in both battles and near being taken prisoner in the former. "He resigned his commission in the army in the spring of 1779, having then the rank of captain, and came directly to Louisville, Ky." etc., etc.

“In 1791 was appointed to command the Kentucky troops.”

“My knowledge of the facts, I have stated, was derived from my mother and others intimately acquainted with my father. I think there can be no question as to their accuracy.”

That one of his sisters, who married Colonel John Neville, was Winifred (also Winny in deeds) Oldham, born 1736, married August 24, 1754, died 1797, and buried in the old Presbyterian churchyard in Pittsburgh, Pa.

His sister, Mary Ann Oldham, was the one who married Major Abraham Kirkpatrick (born in Cecil County, Md., 1749, was in the Revolutionary War, and died in Pittsburgh, Pa., 1817).

Another sister, Susan Oldham, born January 1, 1746, married about 1762 (their eldest son, Shapley Ross, was born February 12, 1763). Lawrence Ross (born 1722, died 1818) moved to Kentucky where they lived near Louisville. She died between 1818 and 1822. Hayden, on page 527 in his *Genealogies*, says that Mrs. Lawrence Ross was a daughter of Colonel William Oldham of Jefferson County, Ky., whereas she was his sister.

From other sources I learn that General Daniel Morgan married into the family, one saying that he and General John Neville were brothers-in-law. General Morgan's wife was named Abigail. (See *History of Frederick County, Va.*, by Cartmell, page 271.) She was probably the Abigail Oldham who with William Oldham, Conway Oldham and others witnessed deeds from John Neville and wife to the Rev. Charles Mynn Thruston, April, 1775 (See Deed Book 3, pages 406 to 408, Martinsburg, Berkeley County, W. Va.), and doubtless was another sister of Colonel William Oldham unknown to or overlooked by Judge John P. Oldham in his letter to Dr. Draper.

In the Pension Office at Washington (Bounty Land Claim No. 503) I learn that Samuel Oldham was "the heir-at-law of Conway Oldham," who was killed at the battle of Eutaw Springs. S. C., 1781, and that said Samuel Oldham was living in Jefferson County, Ky., in March, 1807.

From the deed records at Martinsburg, Berkeley County, W. Va., I learn that the Samuel Oldham who was deputy sheriff, tax collector, etc., there bought three tracts of land in 1773, 1775 and 1777. These he sold in 1779, 1780 and 1784. He does not appear on these records after that date, that being the year when he removed to Kentucky.

Berkeley County was formed in 1772 out of Frederick County, Va. In the Frederick County Court deed records at Winchester, Va., Vol. XV., pages 77 and 78, under date of August 5th and 6th, 1770, there is a deed from "Samuel Oldham of the County of Frederick and Colony of Virginia, son and heir-at-law of John Oldham, late of the County of Prince William, deceased," to Christian Grove of the same county, conveying a certain tract of land in Frederick County (formerly Augusta), containing 400 acres, "the same being granted to the said John Oldham, deceased, by deed from under the hand and seal of the Right Honorable Thomas Lord Fairfax, proprietor," etc., etc., "bearing date the 24th day of November, 1752."

SUMMARY.

Judge John Pope Oldham was from 33 to 38 years old when his aunt, Susan Ross, and his uncle, Samuel Oldham, died. They had been near neighbors of his from about

the date of his birth and he knew them well. I think, therefore, it was reasonably certain that his father, Lieutenant-Colonel William Oldham, was brother to Samuel Oldham and Conway Oldham, Mrs. Neville, Mrs. Kirkpatrick and Mrs. Ross, and probably Mrs. Lyle also.

Samuel and William Oldham and their sister, Mrs. Ross, came to Kentucky from Berkeley County, Va., (now West Virginia), and whilst I have no absolute identification of the Samuel Oldham of Frederick County, Va., in 1770, with the Samuel Oldham of Berkeley County, in 1773 to 1784, he could very readily have been the same without even changing his residence, since Berkeley County was formed from Frederick in 1772, and I feel that it is not an unwarranted assumption to class them as one and the same individual, in which assumption local historians agree with me.

R. C. BALLARD THRUSTON.

Louisville, Ky., March 3, 1911.

March 27, 1911, he writes:

Referring to the data which I sent you on the Oldhams recently, my attention has been called to the statement which Mr. T. K. Cartmell makes in his "History of Frederick County," on page 270, in which he says that in 1773 Daniel Morgan gave a mortgage on a certain tract of land to pay for certain debts and "to improve and establish a home for his family. He had then married his only wife. This was Abigail Bailey."

This led to a further investigation, and through a correspondence with Mr. Roger Earl Watson, an attorney-at-law, of Martinsburg, W. Va., I learned that Abigail

Oldham married one John Lyle, and that they were married prior to the year 1795, which is the date when their marriage records first begin.

Furthermore on June 11, 1791, John Lyle and wife Abigail made a mortgage on a tract containing 100¼ acres of land to one Hugh Lyle, recorded in Deed Book 11, page 434; and later on, December 15, 1795, they gave another mortgage on a tract containing 58 acres and 19 poles to one Joseph Plummer, recorded in Berkeley County, Deed Book 12, page 375.

With regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

R. C. BALLARD THRUSTON.

THE SHALER FAMILY

Charles Shaler was born in New York City February 28, 1789, and educated at Union College, Schenectady. His father was one of the commissioners to lay off the Western Reserve in Ohio and Charles went to Ravenna in 1809. He was admitted to the bar there and removed to Pittsburgh and was admitted to practice here in 1813.

He was Recorder of the Mayor's Court of Pittsburgh from 1818 to 1821, President Judge of the Courts of Allegheny County from June 5, 1824, to March 4, 1835, when he resigned; was associate law judge of the District Court of Allegheny County from May 6, 1841, to May 20, 1844, when he resigned, and in 1853 was appointed United States District Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania under the administration of President Pierce. He died in Newark, N. J., March 5, 1869, at the home of his son-in-law, the Rev. J. S. B. Hodges, D.D., and was buried in the Allegheny Cemetery. His death was announced to the Courts March 8, 1869, by Thomas McConnell and P. C. Shannon, esquires, and Court adjourned for the funeral.

In early life he was a Federalist, afterward an ardent admirer of Henry Clay, then a Polk and Dallas Democrat. He had a quick, impulsive temper but a kind heart and a high sense of honor. His reputation as a lawyer and a judge was high and he clearly deserved it. In his arguments to the Court he was clear, brief and characteristically deferential. Before a jury he was eloquent and forcible, respectful to opposing counsel, with an occasional stroke of wit or sarcasm which fell with crushing force upon the victim. As a political orator on the stump he was a wonderful power. (Bench and Bar of Pennsylvania, Vol. 2, page 815.)

We find in the Shaler Bible the following entry in Judge Shaler's handwriting:

“Entered May 21st, 1820.

My father, Nathaniel Shaler, was a native of Middletown, in Connecticut, and the son of Captain Reuben Shaler, a brave and experienced seaman, who perished in the Gulf of Mexico in the year 1751 in a tremendous hurricane.

“My father died in the summer of 1817, leaving eight children; three sons, Charles, Egbert, and William Denning, and five daughters, Lucy Ann, the wife of Com. Thomas McDonough, the victor of Champlain on the memorable 11th of September, 1814; Augusta, intermarried with Mr. Rutledge, a clergyman belonging to Charleston, S. C., and Charlotte, Louisa, and Amelia, still unmarried.

“William Denning, my maternal grandfather, a native and highly reputed citizen of New York, died suddenly in the fall of 1819 at a very advanced age. Egbert Shaler died June 3, 1823. He was married to a girl by the name of Hutchinson, left her a widow but had no children. William D. Shaler was married in the latter part of 1821 to a Miss Smith of Warren, Ohio.”

Amelia L. Kirkpatrick was married to Charles Shaler Nov. 28, 1813. They had the following children: Ann, wife of Frederick R. Smith; John Conway Shaler, Louisa Shaler, Clarence Shaler and Augusta R. Shaler. See partition of the Estate of Amelia L. Shaler, dec'd, at No. 35 Meh. T, 1839, in the Orphans' Court of Allegheny County:

1. Mary Ann Shaler, born September 6, 1814; died May 23, 1852. Was married to Frederick R. Smith and had two sons, Charles Shaler Smith of St. Louis, and Frederick R. Smith of Baltimore, both civil engineers of prominence.

2. John Conway Shaler, born July 20, 1816; was married to Sena Reninger and had a son and a daughter: John Conway Shaler, Jr., born October 13, 1843; died

January 22, 1897; was married November 4, 1869, to Nellie R. Bratt, born February 17, 1846.

Augusta L. Shaler, born January 29, 1846; died November 19, 1908, unmarried.

John C. Shaler, Jr., left the following children:

Edward Conway Shaler, born June 9, 1871; was married November 22, 1905, to Ruth Campbell.

Henry Gibson Shaler, born February 12, 1873; died July 17, 1908; was married May 20, 1903, to Theodosia Otte.

William Denning Shaler, born November 29, 1876.

3. Louisa Amelia Shaler, born February 5, 1819; was killed July 16, 1839, by being thrown from a runaway horse while out riding with Samuel W. Black.

4. Clarence Shaler, born in August, 1820; died October 3, 1901; was married in 1863 to Margaret Vickers, born August 12, 1846. They had two sons and two daughters:

Charles Shaler, born June 27, 1864.

Edith Amelia Shaler, born December 24, 1866; was married in February, 1898, to Charles Howard Durham, born in August, 1865.

Augusta Margaret Shaler, born August 19, 1868; was married March 15, 1906, to George Sheldon Orth, born July 31, 1851.

James McGonigle Shaler, born July 19, 1875; was married in 1902 to Sarah Edgar, born in 1878.

5. Augusta Rutledge Shaler, born July 31, 1824; died at Panama of yellow fever April 24, 1903.

Judge Shaler was married twice. His second wife was Mary Ann Riddle, a daughter of James Riddle, Associate Judge of the Court of Common Pleas from 1818 to 1838, by whom he had Col. James R. Shaler, Superin-

tendent of the Panama Railroad ("King of Panama"). Lucy, wife of the Rev. J. Sebastian B. Hodges, D.D., of Baltimore, Elizabeth Shaler and Eleanor Shaler, who, with their sister, Augusta R. Shaler, while on a visit to their brother at Panama, in April, 1903, died of yellow fever, General Charles Shaler of the United States Army, and Louisa, wife of John Allen, Esq., of the New York bar.

THE COWAN FAMILY

Christopher Cowan was born in the Townland of Shaloney, County of Termanagh, Ireland, in 1780, and died March 12, 1835. See tombstone in Trinity Churchyard, Pittsburgh.

Christopher Cowan seems to have had a brilliant, even meteoric career. He was a dealer in dry goods, hardware, tobacco, bacon and general supplies and a pioneer in the iron business. Coming as an Irish lad, presumably without means or friends, he worked his way in business with such success that in 1810, when but 30 years of age, he was the second largest dealer in iron at Pittsburgh and handled during that year the enormous quantity of 350 tons. (Navigator 1811.) The first rolling mill in Pittsburgh was erected by him in 1812 at a cost of nearly \$100,000. (Louisiana and Mississippi Almanac, 1813.) From this date until his death he appears to have been prominent in the business life of the community and his name frequently appears as a captain of industry and a prominent participant in current events. He required large quantities of Juniatta and Centre County iron for his rolling mill and in 1814 advertised in the Pittsburgh Mercury for from 20 to 50 wagons to haul iron from the furnaces and forges near Bellefonte and stated that 20 or 30 of them would be employed to haul iron by the year. (Erasmus Wilson's History of Pittsburgh, 151-258-259.)

John Newton Boucher, in "A Century and a Half of Pittsburgh and Her People," says, Vol. 2, page 16: "The first rolling mill of Pittsburgh was built by a Scotch Irishman in 1811 and 1812. It was called the Pittsburgh Rolling Mill," and quotes from Cramer's Almanac: "C. Cowan is erecting a most powerful steam engine to reduce iron to various purposes. It is calculated for a 70 horse-power, which will put into complete operation a rolling mill, a slitting mill and a tilt hammer, all under

the same roof. With these Mr. Cowan will be enabled to furnish sheet iron, nails and spike rods, shovels and tongs, spades, sythes, sickles, hoes, axes, frying pans, cutting knives, etc. In addition to Mr. Cowan's extensive nail business, he makes a great supply of chains, plough irons, shingling hatchets, claw hammers, chisels, screw augers, spinning wheel irons and smith's vices of superior quality." This extensive mill stood on the corner of Penn street and Cecil alley and was later known as the Stackpole and Whiting mill.

The Bank of Pittsburgh, N. A., at its centennial reception threw open its old books and pointed with pride to the account of Christopher Cowan who, in 1813, was carrying a cash balance of \$40,000, and was then a member of the board of directors.

Having amassed wealth, for those days, he practically withdrew from business without waiting for old age to overtake him, and established his home on a beautiful tract of some 1,000 acres at Woodville where he conducted farming operations on a large scale, lived in greater comfort than the neighboring farmers, entertained his friends in good style, was usually spoken of as Lord Cowan by his acquaintances and the countryside generally and treated with great deference. He died at the age of 55 years. By his will, dated April 6, 1833. (See Will Book 4, page 204) he provided for the comfort and maintenance of his old servants and leaves his estate to be disposed of according to law.

Eliza Maria Kirkpatrick, born in 1789, died July 19, 1822; was married September 29, 1810, to Christopher Cowan, born in 1780; died March 12, 1835.

They had seven children :

Mary, wife of John F. Wrenshall; James Cowan, John Cowan; Elizabeth, wife of William Ebbs; Margaret Cowan, Amelia L. Cowan, Richard Cowan. (See partition

of the Estate of Eliza M. Cowan, dec'd, at No. 43, December T, 1836, in the Orphans' Court.

1. Mary Ann Cowan, born March 25, 1812; died January 20, 1896; was married September 19, 1832, to John F. Wrenshall, born February 13, 1802; died January 19, 1862.

They had seven children:

John C. Wrenshall, civil engineer, of Baltimore; born July 1, 1833; was married in 1867 to Letitia Young.

Charles C. Wrenshall, civil engineer, of Lincolnton, N. C., born December 6, 1836; died August 17, 1910; was married in 1865 to Jane Noble.

Edward Wrenshall, born December 9, 1838; died March 15, 1904; was married in 1875 to Elizabeth Ryan, born in 1858.

Mary B. Wrenshall, born December 11, 1840.

Elizabeth M. (Bessie) Wrenshall, born May 22, 1843; died June 18, 1904; was married October 24, 1878, to Abraham G. Barnett, born October 22, 1844.

Richard C. Wrenshall, born November 6, 1845; was married April 2, 1885, to Myra McCleery.

William E. Wrenshall, born September 12, 1848; was married May 31, 1892, to Sarah Steel, born June 24, 1871.

2. James Cowan, born November 14, 1813; died in February, 1873.

3. John Conway Cowan, born August 28, 1815; died February 28, 1838, at Havana, Cuba.

4. Elizabeth M. Cowan, born August 8, 1817, died August 14, 1878; was married July 18, 1836, to William Ebbs, who died July 18, 1861.

They had the following children:

Alice Ebbs, born May 24, 1837; was married February 5, 1863, to Joseph B. Dillingham and had issue:

Elizabeth Cowan Dillingham, born December 24, 1863.
 William Henry Dillingham, Born February 1, 1865.
 Charles Chauncey Dillingham, born August 15, 1866.
 Alice Ebbs Dillingham, born October 4, 1867.
 John Conway Cowan Dillingham, born June 24, 1869.
 Florence Dillingham, born December 30, 1870.

Arthur Ebbs, born June 25, 1842, was married November 12, 1868, to Mary Y. Hickman, and died November 7, 1872, without issue.

Florence Ebbs, born July 1, 1845, was married October 18, 1866, to Major D. C. Phillips, and died February 4, 1870.

Walter Ebbs, born July 18, 1846, was married to Florence Alderdice, but died without issue.

Bessie Ebbs, born November 24, 1849, was married June 18, 1879, to H. P. Norris, who died February 16, 1892, and had issue H. P. Norris, born July 10, 1881.

5. Margaret Cowan, born September 17, 1819, died in January, 1899; was married in December, 1846, to Judge John Thompson Mason of Hagerstown, Maryland, born May, 1814, died March, 1873.

They had one son, John Thompson Mason, R., who was born in January 1853, and died in December, 1899; unmarried and two daughters, to wit:

Louisa Mason, born February, 1848; was married in October, 1873, to Admiral Silas W. Terry, born in 1842, died February 9, 1911, and had one son, J. T. Mason Terry, born in December, 1875, and one daughter, Eleanor Terry, born in January, 1879.

Elizabeth Mason, born in March, 1851, died in July, 1899; was married in January, 1875, to Commodore Theodric Porter, born in December, 1848, and had the following children:

Georganna Porter, born November, 1875, died June, 1899.

Marguerite Porter, born in May, 1879.

Rosalie Porter, born in December, 1880.

Bessie Porter, born February, 1884, died October, 1892.

6. Richard Cowan, born August 25, 1821, died June 11, 1878, unmarried. He and Amelia were twins.

7. Amelia L. Cowan, born August 25, 1821, died March 27, 1904; was married to Marshall Swartzwelder, born March 14, 1819, died September 30, 1884, and had issue as follows:

Libbie Swartzwelder, born August 5, 1850, died November 14, 1888; was married May 19, 1875, to George N. Beckwith, born June 30, 1842, and had issue:

Amelia L. Beckwith, born November 18, 1876, died January 6, 1906.

James Scott Beckwith, born January 5, 1879.

Marshall Stewart Beckwith, born May 20, 1880.

Anna Mary Beckwith, born March 28, 1883.

Mary G. Swartzwelder, born ~~Dec~~ 17. 1854

Richard C. Swartzwelder, born July 14, 1857.

Amelia L. Swartzwelder, born March 14, 1859, died January 31, 1900; was married to Charles Gilpin.

THE LEWIS FAMILY

Dr. Joel Lewis was of Quaker family, a native of Christiana, Delaware, and son of Joel Lewis, formerly Marshal of the District of Delaware, who was born May 7, 1750, died February 3, 1820; married in Philadelphia by Friend's Ceremony at Market and Second street Meeting House, 10th month, 6th day, 1772, to Amy Hughes, born January 7, 1754, died October 5, 1826.

They had the following children :

1. John Lewis, born March 19, 1774, died May 7, 1841; was married to Eliza Clewrough, daughter of Capt. Clewrough of the English Navy. He went to Russia while a young man and established the first American dry goods commission house in St. Petersburg, made a large fortune, took up his residence in England, and was the father of John Delaware Lewis, who became a member of the British Parliament.

2. Abigail or Abbie Lewis, born January 17, 1776, died December 24, 1834; married Benjamin Patterson, and was the mother of Susan Patterson, who married David Kirkpatrick, M.D., of Westmoreland County, Pa., and was the mother of John Frank Kirkpatrick, born 1826, died April 26, 1878.

3. Eliza Lewis, born September 28, 1778, died January 10, 1861; was married to Dr. John Vaughan, who died July 7, 1834, in his 32nd year.

4. Thomas Lewis, born October 2, 1786, died November 6, 1824.

5. Joel Lewis, born March 29, 1790, died March 28, 1824; was married July 8, 1814, to Mary Ann Kirkpatrick.

6. William D. Lewis, born September 22, 1792, died April 18, 1881; was married June 8, 1825, to Sarah Claypole, who died January 31, 1870. He went to England

in 1814 as private secretary to Henry Clay, with the Commissioners, who went to enter into a treaty of peace, the war of 1812 then being still on; went to St. Petersburg and entered into partnership with his brother John and in 1825 returned to Philadelphia, established himself in business, was a leading member of the Union League and prominent in the financial, political and business affairs of the city and an ardent patriot and supporter of the Government during the Civil War.

During the Revolutionary War Joel Lewis, the elder, although a good Quaker, equipped and put into the field at his own expense a company of soldiers, for which act he was read out of meeting and his sons never became real Quakers.

Dr. Joel Lewis was a pupil of the famous Dr. Chapman, was a university graduate, and it has frequently been said by old residents that Dr. Joel Lewis was the first college M. D. or regular medical graduate in practice west of the mountains. This is probably a mistake as Dr. Bedford had been a surgeon in the English army and several of the earlier physicians are believed to have held diplomas.

Erasmus Wilson, in his History of Pittsburgh, page 607, says of him: A brilliant, though unfortunately brief, career was that of Dr. Joel Lewis, who was born at Christiana, Delaware, March 29, 1790, graduated at the University of Pennsylvania in 1811, and settled in Pittsburgh the same year. He was a skillful surgeon and his worth and ability were accorded prompt recognition. He was an ardent patriot and was in 1822 made Brigadier General of the First Brigade, Fifteenth Division, Pennsylvania Militia. In the same year he was elected president of the Pittsburgh Medical Society. He

died March 28, 1824, at the early age of 34 years. In the Directory of 1815 his name appears on the staff of The Pittsburgh Chemical and Physiological Society as lecturer upon Anatomy.

Dr. Joel Lewis was married July 8, 1814, to Mary Ann Kirkpatrick, born October 19, 1798, died February 11, 1826. They had the following children:

A. Kirkpatrick Lewis and Maria L. Lewis, who survive Eliza Lewis deed, see partition of the Estate of Mary Ann Lewis, deed O. C. No. 25, December T, 1842.

Eliza Lewis was born May 28, 1822, and died October 17, 1841, unmarried.

Abraham Kirkpatrick Lewis was born August 24, 1815; graduated from Kenyon College, Ohio, in 1835; studied medicine but finding that not to his taste turned to the law, registered as a student with Judge Shaler August 7, 1840, and was admitted to the bar December 23, 1843. About this time, partly on account of his health demanding a more active life, his studious habits having seriously affected his eyes, and partly by reason of having become interested in the mining of coal then in its infancy, he abandoned a professional career and, devoting his whole energy to the coal business, in a short time was recognized as the leading coal operator here and, in conjunction with William Philpot and John M. Snowden, Jr., was the first to establish a market and furnish a regular supply of Pittsburgh coal to New Orleans and the intervening cities, sending out a fleet on each rise in the river. In those days the coal was floated down with the current in boats of rude construction, steered by long oar blades at each end like a raft which, when unloaded, were sold for lumber, not being considered worth towing back up stream, and, so great were the risks of navigation, that if one-half of the boats arrived at their destination it was considered a good average.

Kirk Lewis, as he was always called, was a man of scientific attainments and a lifelong student. He was original, ingenious and bold in his conceptions and, in addition to his medical, chemical and legal knowledge, was possessed of considerable native ability as an engineer, strong common sense and great executive force. Thoroughness and efficiency were his leading characteristics. Whatever he did he always did well. He was the first operator here to handle coal by inclined planes, box shutes being then in use for getting the coal down the hill. He built a check house, inclined plane to the river, and tipple a little west of where the Duquesne Inclined Plane now is, of substantially the same design as is still in use today. He drove an entry from the head of this plane through to the Saw Mill Run Valley, a distance of nearly a mile, so straight that daylight could be seen from one end to the other, laid a tramway and hauled the coal out in cars with ponies to the check house, where the cars were run down the plane to the river and dumped into the boats.

His residence, where Holliday Park now is, was supplied by a hydraulic ram with water from a spring half a mile distant, and with ice from his own ice house. His greenhouse and nursery were operated on a commercial basis in connection with a stand in the market. The farm was a model for clean fields, well-kept fences, fertility of soil and productiveness. He used fertilizers and practiced what is now called intensive farming, kept a daily record of the temperature, barometric pressure and rainfall, a diary of current events, had a deer park back of the house with a small herd of deer and some fawns in it, was noted for the quiet elegance of his turnouts and his fine horses and cattle, and last but in the writer's memory not least, kept a donkey and donkey cart for the children.

Kirk Lewis was a member of the vestry of Trinity, a devout churchman, a careful and conscientious busi-

ness man, punctilious to a fault in all the relations of life, a disciplinarian, rather severe with the children and exacting with his subordinates but with a due appreciation of faithful service and the faculty of attaching to himself trusty and useful men, who made his interests their own and under his skillful guidance conducted his business with great success.

He built a tramway from the river up to the Little Saw Mill Run Valley, a distance of some two miles, which was known as the Horse Railroad, being operated by horses, over which he hauled the coal from his mines and loaded it on barges at the mouth of Saw Mill Run until the building of the Little Saw Mill Run Railroad in the early fifties, after which time the coal was carried over that road by steam power. Having bought tract after tract of coal land, at the time of his death he owned nearly all the coal abutting on the Little Saw Mill Run Valley, was operating half a dozen mines, had fleet after fleet of coal boats all the way from here to New Orleans, and had he lived ten years longer would have been a very rich man, but unfortunately the magnitude of his operations involved the carrying of considerable floating debt and business paper and his death at forty-five years of age and the consequent enforced settlement of his business while yet in the formative or growing stage involved such sacrifices that about all that was left for the children when everything was closed up was the home farm, which at that time was not of great value. Undoubtedly Kirk Lewis planned for a longer life. His success was marvelous, he was an organizer, constructor and a man of achievement. Starting without capital other than the coal itself under the home farm, he had in fifteen years built up a business of such proportions as would be notable even in these days of larger affairs, and doubtless expected in fifteen years more to work out his coal, close his mines and retire, a millionaire. Such is life

Abraham Kirkpatrick Lewis, born August 24, 1815, died November 10, 1860; was married April 16, 1846, to Mary Orth, born June 26, 1822, died December 18, 1853. They had four children:

1. William D. Lewis, born July 14, 1847; was married in 1874 to Ida Baker and died in 1895.

2. Lueretia O. Lewis, born June 20, 1849; was married October 5, 1869, to Dr. Frank LeMoyne, born April 4, 1839.

3. Mary A. Lewis, born August 26, 1851; was married December 30, 1880, to Robert Nelson Clark, born March 5, 1848, died March 17, 1894.

4. Orth Lewis, born December 9, 1853, died April 13, 1861.

(Paste this on Page 41, Kirkpatrick Genealogy.)

Maria Louisa Lewis, born June 8, 1819, at 8:30 A. M., weighing 6½ pounds; was married Dec. 30, 1846, in Trinity Church, by the Rev. G. Upfold, D.D., to the Hon. Thomas J. Bigham, and died Oct. 14, 1888.

THE BIGHAM FAMILY

A notable character in the public life of Pittsburg, who with voice and pen was always active in the promotion and encouragement of any and every movement tending to develop the higher life or advance the material interests of the community, was the Hon. Thomas James Bigham, born near historic Hannastown, Westmoreland County, Pa., at the residence of his grandfather, James Christy, February 12th, 1810. His parents, Thomas Bigham, born April 18th, 1784, died October 31st, 1809, and Sarah Christy, born October 27th, 1785, died August 6th, 1811, who were married April 4th, 1809, were farming people of Scotch-Irish ancestry and Revolutionary stock on both sides.

The name Bigham is a corruption or changed form of Bingham, and as far as known the Bingham and Bighams in this country are derived from the same north of Ireland family and supposed to be descendants of Sir John de Bingham, who came over with William the Conqueror, was knighted for his valiant services and allotted estates near Sheffield, Yorkshire, England. One of these Bighams (Thomas) according to traditions, about 1480 emigrated from Sheffield to the north of Ireland and there founded that branch of the family which seems so fully represented in this country. Be that as it may, the subject of this sketch, upon comparison of family history, considered himself akin to the Bighams of Philadelphia and Ohio, the Bighams of Adams and Mercer Counties, Pennsylvania, and many other Bighams and Bingham throughout the country.

His father having died before his birth, and his mother so soon thereafter, Thomas J. Bigham was brought up by his maternal grandparents and went through the experiences common to farmers' boys at that period, without any educational advantages save the short term country district school in the winter, and the long, all-

day Sunday preaching which the Covenanters of that day so thoroughly appreciated. Naturally bright, ambitious and possessed of an unusually retentive memory, he read everything that came within his reach and what he read and heard rarely passed from his memory so that he soon became locally noted for his fund of information and his ability in recital. His one great desire was a college education, and feeling himself qualified, he endeavored before reaching his majority to induce his grandfather to use for this purpose a small sum of money left by his father, but without results, as the grandfather, a good sensible man, considered the money much better expended in setting him up at farming, and absolutely refused to squander it upon education. Upon coming of age however, he took his little patrimony, which, added to what he was able to earn by working during vacation, tutoring, etc., proved sufficient to carry him through a full course at Jefferson College, Canonsburg, where he graduated with honors in the class of 1834. During his course at college he distinguished himself by a readiness of speech, quickness of wit, power of repartee, earnestness of purpose, and fund of general information, which led to his frequently being called upon to uphold the honors of his college in debate, and in the course of events being dubbed "Thomas Jefferson Bigham," a sobriquet which stuck to him during life, and is supposed by a majority of his associates to have been his proper name. After graduation he taught school at Harrisburg for a year, during the winter delivering a course of lectures upon scientific subjects. The following year he came to Pittsburg, where he continued to teach and lecture and at the same time took up the study of law, was admitted to the Allegheny County bar, September 4th, 1837, and became associated in practice with Judges Veach and Baird, old-time lawyers of distinction, later with W. O. Leslie as Bigham and Leslie, and about 1870 with his oldest son, Joel L. Bigham, as T. J. Bigham and Son. In the disastrous fire of April 10, 1845, both office and lodgings were destroyed,

and he lost his entire office furnishings, library of law, scientific and general works, notes, papers and memoranda.

December 30, 1846, he married Maria Louisa Lewis, daughter of Dr. Joel Lewis, a member of one of the oldest and most prominent families of this State, and in 1849 built a substantial residence upon a wooded knoll on his wife's property on Mt. Washington, south of the city, where the family have resided ever since. Mrs. Bigham was a granddaughter of Major Abraham Kirkpatrick, a Virginia officer in the Revolutionary army, who was paymaster at Fort Pitt, located here permanently at the close of the war and with Gen. John Neville, his brother-in-law, was a conspicuous figure in upholding federal authority during the so-called "Whiskey Insurrection" of 1794. Major Kirkpatrick purchased, in March, 1794, from John Penn, Jr., and John Penn, heirs of William Penn, farms 10 and 11 in the Manor of Pittsburgh, south of the Monongahela River, containing 714 acres, and comprising the territory known locally as Mt. Washington and Duquesne Heights. After his death this property was divided among his three children, Eliza M., wife of Christopher Cowan, taking the easterly portion; Amelia L., wife of Judge Charles Shaler, the westerly portion, and Mary Ann, wife of Dr. Joel Lewis, the middle part, which subsequently was divided between her children, Abraham Kirkpatrick Lewis, who died November 10, 1860, and Maria L. Lewis, later Mrs. Bigham.

Mrs. Bigham was distinguished for her charm of manner, warm impulses, strong religious convictions and life-long efforts to uplift and improve the moral, intellectual and spiritual tone of all within the sphere of her influence. Her work among the young, in the various ladies' societies, the Sanitary commission during the war, Grace church and Sunday school, and in the establishment and management of the Mt. Washington Free Library and Reading Room Association, which resulted

finally in its place being taken by a branch Carnegie Library, will not soon be forgotten by the community in which and for which she lived and labored.

Mr. Bigham was prominent in the political affairs of the State, even more than he was as a lawyer, and soon became one of the most widely known citizens of Pittsburgh. He had too much taste and aptitude for public affairs to be content in the narrower walk of professional life. His strong voice and clear enunciation made him easily heard, and his well stored mind, genius for statistics, power of repartee, ready wit, unfailing good humor and sunshiny disposition added much to his popularity as an off-hand speaker, and brought him into constant demand at all public gatherings, where his presence, his voice, and his utterances combined to render him prominent among the men of his day and made him a leader of political affairs. His wonderfully retentive memory enabled him to carry and recall the history of political, financial and industrial affairs so readily that he earned the sobriquets "Old Statistics" and the "Sage of Mt. Washington." Frequently he was compared to famous "Bill" Allen of Ohio, on account of his vocal powers. For so many years was he called upon to read the returns election nights to the crowds at Republican headquarters that he came to be regarded as one of the features of an election, and it was difficult for any one else to hold the stage. His announcements of returns were always accompanied by a running fire of comments and comparisons from memory with former figures which gave a very fair idea of the trend of results. So earnest and emotional did he become that his very appearance, as he came forward with each report would indicate its nature before it was read, and the crowd would take the cue accordingly. In politics he was a Whig, Abolitionist, original Fremonter, and steadfast Republican. He became widely known as an Abolitionist at a time when that cause was not popular, and not only aided with his tongue

and pen, but for years maintained at his home on Mt. Washington a place of refuge for the footsore fugitive slaves escaping from their masters, called in the vernacular of those days a "Station of the Underground Railway." The nurse for his two oldest children, born in 1847 and 1851, was a black girl, Lueinda by name, who never went outside the house by daylight and always fled to the attic whenever a stranger was reported in sight.

In 1844 Mr. Bigham was elected to the House of Representatives and served from 1845 to 1848, 1851 to 1854, 1862 to 1864, and in the senate from 1865 to 1869, serving upon the ways and means, railroads and canals, judiciary, and other important committees. He was always recognized as a sound, capable and judicious legislator, and was the author of some of our most important laws. Among them may be named the married woman's act of 1848, the general railroad law of 1867, and the acts extending the municipal powers of the city of Pittsburgh, known as the consolidation acts of 1867 and 1869. His attention was early directed to the financial and revenue system of the commonwealth, and he drafted and promoted the passage of many of the laws imposing taxation upon corporations to raise the needed revenue for the maintenance of the state government and the removal of the tax for state purposes upon land. He was a member of many commissions appointed under state authority at different times to investigate and report upon matters affecting the public interest and welfare. The appointment of commissioner of statistics of the state of Pennsylvania, which office he filled from 1873 to 1875, was tendered him by Governor Hartranft, not as a political reward, but as a recognition of his great ability and attainments especially directed toward the industrial, manufacturing, agricultural, mining and mercantile interests of this great state, and the reports made by him have always been considered of special value. Few citizens of the state have shown more devotion to its interests than has he. In

1851 he was elected to the board of managers of the Pennsylvania Reform School, to which for many years he had been a contributor, and continued to act in that capacity until disabled by the infirmities of age. He was the founder and chief supporter of Grace Episcopal Church, Mt. Washington, which grew out of a mission Sunday School started by him and his wife in 1849, and was carried on almost wholly at their expense for many years, until it became a flourishing congregation. He was the proprietor for years of the *Commercial Journal*, and one of the founders of the *Pittsburg Commercial*, both now merged with the *Pittsburg Gazette*, and was identified with all the public enterprises of his day. From 1878 to 1882 he was a member of the councils of the city of Pittsburg, where his industry and energy in looking after every measure introduced, that it might be strictly for the public good, made him a notable figure, and rendered many meetings of that body lively and interesting. Mr. Bigham devoted much time to scientific and historical studies throughout his entire life. His favorite historical researches were connected with the annals of the state of Pennsylvania, and especially of the western settlements. Many valuable contributions from his pen have been published and are familiar to those who have given attention to the subjects treated. His work is characterized by large natural ability, patient industry in research in the field to which his tastes attracted him, and sound and discriminating judgment in all matters, particularly those of public concern. Socially he was frank and entertaining, and very instructive in conversation, but decided in his views, into the expression of which he carried the enthusiasm which attends thorough conviction and an earnest nature. Brusque in manner, with little regard for outward appearances, but of a generous nature and kindly disposition, with his wit and bright conversation, he was very companionable and always formed the center of an interested group.

His death occurred November 9, 1884, and he was laid to rest in the Allegheny Cemetery, of which he was in 1844

one of the charter members, and the first secretary of the corporation. He was survived by his wife, Maria L. Big- ham, who died October 14, 1888, and the following children: Joel L. Bigham, born November 6, 1847; married Sarah Davis, November 14, 1872, and died January 20, 1892; was a lawyer of recognized ability. He is represented by his two sons, Thomas J., in the Episcopal ministry, born March 23, 1875, and Joel Lewis, of the U. S. Navy, born February 28, 1877.

Kirk Q. Bigham, born March 17, 1851, unmar- ried, is a member of the Allegheny County Bar and for many years represented the Thirty-second ward in city councils.

Mary A., born March 29, 1854; was married April 7, 1885, to Melville L. Stout, born June 2, 1849.

Eliza A., born January 31, 1857, died June 23, 1902; unmarried; was noted for her warm-heartedness and love for children.

Kirk Q. Bigham and Mr. and Mrs. Stout, with their children, are still living in the picturesque old homestead among the forest trees, surrounded by the lands inherited through three descents from their great-grandfather, the greater part of which they still own.

54

