

Gillespie - Royal Cemetery

Ohio County, KY

By Jerry Long

On Highway 54 at Friendship Church of Christ sign on south side of road turn north onto the Reynolds Station Road. About .4 mile stop at lane on the west side of road and follow path about 1500 feet. The cemetery began as the Royal family cemetery. William Royal (1776-1865) & his wife, Elizabeth Clifton, lived on the farm and were reported to be buried here. Later the farm was owned by Dr. Stephen A. Gillespie. On the death certificates of William Royal (1811-1911) and five Finley family members it was recorded that they were buried at the Gillespie burial ground. An 1884 obituary of Rebecca Lanham, who has a monument in the cemetery, states that she was buried in cemetery on the farm of Dr. Stephen A. Gillespie (1822-1900). An 1886 map of Ohio County, KY shows Dr. Gillespie as living near the location of the cemetery. Two of Stephen's sisters, Elizabeth F. White (1827-1885) and Sarah Jane Lanham (1830-1880) have gravestones in the cemetery. They were first cousins of Kit Carson (1809-1868), the legendary Western frontiersman, who was the son of Lindsey Carson & Rebecca Robinson. Stephen, Elizabeth & Sarah Jane's parents, William Gillespie (c1784-1853) & Araminta Robinson (c1788-1859), were also probably buried in the cemetery. The following transcription of the cemetery was made by Jerry Long on 23 April 1984.

Bellamy, Amos A. (s/o W. B. and A. C.)	18 Dec 1891	4 Jan 1892
[s/o William Benjamin Bellamy & Amanda Catherine Keown, who were married in Ohio County, KY on 30 January 1891]		
Finley, Charles B. [grave is unmarked]	15 Sep 1860	6 Aug 1949
[s/o Andrew Finely & Judah Daugherty; married Nettie Westerfield, 4 March 1890 Ohio County, KY and Nora Bell Seaton, 25 May 1909 Ohio County, KY]		
Finley, Charlie B. [grave is unmarked]	13 Oct 1916	17 Nov 1916
[s/o Charles B. Finley & Nora Bell Seaton]		
Finley, Flora [grave is unmarked]	9 Dec 1893	17 Sep 1942
[d/o John Seaton & Margaret Fraize; w/o Alton Wilson & Charles B. Finley, 28 February 1930 Ohio County, KY]		
Finley, Mandy Martha [grave is unmarked]	30 Jan 1910	24 Nov 1918
[d/o Charles B. Finley & Nora Bell Seaton]		
Finley, Jenetta [grave is unmarked]	1869	1906-1909
['Nettie', d/o William Henry Harrison Westerfield & Sinderilla Morgan; married Charles B. Finley, 4 March 1890 Ohio County, KY]		

Finley, Nora Bell [grave is unmarked] 31 Jul 1913 9 Oct 1917
[d/o Charles B. Finley & Nora Bell Seaton]

Finley, Thurman B. [grave is unmarked] 10 Nov 1923 10 Nov 1923
[s/o Charles B. Finley & Nora Bell Seaton]

Lanham, Betty [cannot read all of inscription] 1889
[Elizabeth, 'Betty' Bellamy, born 2 March 1856, died 4 April 1889, d/o
William Bellamy & Amanda Jane Phelps; married John Wesley Lanham
(1855-1927), 15 December 1874 Ohio County, KY]

Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY
Wednesday, 24 April 1889 p4

Elizabeth Lanham.
Elizabeth Lanham, wife of John W. Lanham, died at her home near Magan, Ky., Friday, April 5, 1889. Mrs. Lanham was a devoted christian, and was not afraid to die. She was married to John W. Lanham December 15, 1874. She leaves a husband, five children and a host of friends to mourn her loss. We extend our heart-felt sympathy to the husband and children. A FRIEND.

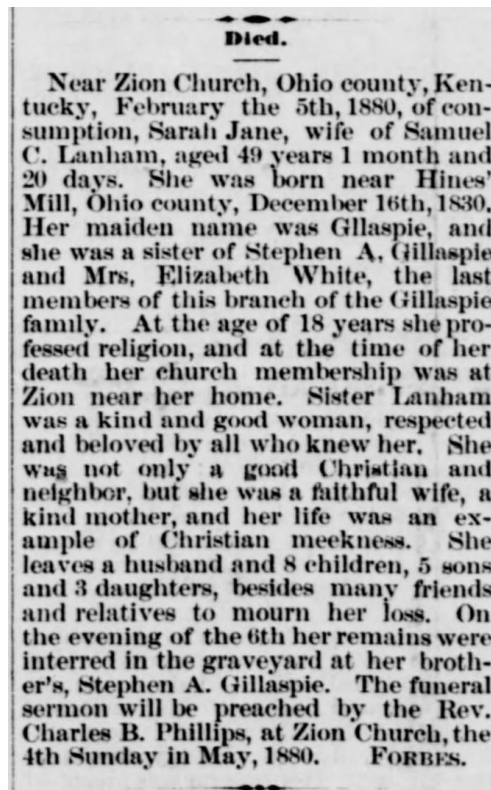
Lanham, Janie R. (d/o I. N. & S. A.) 8 Apr 1884 2 Oct 1884
[Janie Rebecca, d/o Isaac Napoleon Lanham & Sarah Adaline Wallace, who
were married in Ohio County, KY on 5 June 1873]

Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY
Wednesday, 22 October 1884 p3

DIED.
LANHAM.—Rebecca L. Lanham, little daughter of L. N. and Sarah A. Lanham, living near Fordsville, of pneumonia, on the 2d inst., aged about six months. The next evening the remains were interred in the grave-yard on the farm of Dr. Stephen A. Gillaspie. FORBES.

Lanham, Sarah J. (w/o S. C.) 16 Dec 1830 5 Feb 1880
Sarah Jane, d/o William Gillespie & Araminta Robinson, married Samuel C. Lanham (c1833after 1882), 30 December 1853 Ohio County, KY]

Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY
Wednesday, 18 February 1880 p2



Royal, Elizabeth A. (d/o Wm. & Mary) [Elizabeth Ann, d/o William Royal, Jr. & Mary Ann Lanham]	25 Jul 1834	15 Nov 1903
Royal, Eva L. (d/o J. S. M. & L. E.) d/o Joseph Samuel M. Royal & Lydia Elizabeth Harrison]	6 Mar 1888	27 Oct 1888
Royal, Lydia E. (w/o J. S. M.) [Lydia Elizabeth Harrison, married Joseph Samuel M. Royal (1852-1924), 7 June 1880 Ohio County, KY]	13 Nov 1852	2 Sep 1903
Royal, Mary (w/o of William) [Mary Ann, d/o Osburn Lanham & Margaret Jackson; married William Royal, Jr., 16 June 1830 Daviess County, KY]	27 Sep 1813	3 Oct 1886
Royal, Sallie M. (d/o J. S. M. & L. E.) [d/o Joseph Samuel M. Royal & Lydia Elizabeth Harrison]	24 Feb 1882	8 Jul 1882
Royal, William [s/o William Royal & Elizabeth Clifton; married Mary Ann Lanham, 16 June 1830 Daviess County, KY]	11 Jun 1811	12 May 1911

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY
Thursday, 18 May 1911

Mr. William Royal died of old age on Friday at his home near Reynolds. Mr. Royal, had he lived until the 11th of June, would have been 100 years old.

Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY,
Wednesday, 10 February 1909, p1

OLDEST MAN IN OHIO COUNTY

**Is Now Nearing Ninety-
Eight Years.**

MR. WILLIAM ROYAL THE MAN

**An Interesting Sketch of an
Old and Well Known
Character.**

William Royal, living near Reynolds Station, in this county, is perhaps the oldest person living in the county and the last living early settler of the community he resides in.

Mr. Royal was born in Hardin county, Ky., June 11, 1811, and was a son of William Royal, Sr., who came from Virginia to Kentucky during the early settlers of "The Dark and Bloody Ground."

William Royal, Sr., came to Ohio county when his son William was 9 years old and settled near what is now Beaver Dam. Mr. Royal now vividly recollects playing on the dam there made by the beavers and seeing the stumps of the small trees cut down by the teeth of the beavers in constructing the dam. William Royal, Jr., became an expert hunter and in one fall and winter he killed sixty-two deer and nine the next summer at one deer lick.

In the year 1824 Mr. Royal came to the northwestern part of the county and settled on an adjoining farm to the one he now lives on, on June 17, 1831. Mr. Royal married Miss Mary Lanham, daughter of a prominent early settler of that part of the county. To this union were born eleven

children—five sons and six daughters—all dead but one son, L. S. M., better known as Sam Royal, with whom he now lives. Mr. Royal has seventeen grandchildren, forty great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. In early life he professed a hope in Christ and he has lived a faithful and exemplary christian life. Though a prominent citizen and neighbor, he was always an unassuming one and appeared to be better pleased with the dictates of others than to take a part in the public and local councils. "Uncle Billie" as he is now familiarly called, likes to talk of the early settlers of this part of the State and of the days when the woods around his home were full of wild game and a visit to him brings a narration of the early settler life in Kentucky.

Mr. Royal has been for many years a prominent member and a deacon of the Christian church at Friendship, which is near his home, and the main entertainer of the people of that church. There is yet living many persons who speak kindly of the hospitality of this christian gentleman long before he became enfeebled with age. Though superannuated by so many years, at the present time, Uncle Billie's mind, hearing and appetite are reasonably good.

EDWIN FORBES.

Westerfield, Harrison (Co. A, Syberts Reg't, 1842 1910
Ky Cavalry, CSA)

[monument was erected in 1980 by great-grandson, Larry Dale Westerfield, (1943-) of Louisville, KY; William Henry Harrison Westerfield, died 22 November 1910 Ohio County, KY; s/o Joel Hayden Westerfield & Nancy Smith; married Sindrilla / Cinderella Morgan, 25 March 1869 Ohio County, KY and Mary Alice Morgan, 8 April 1880 Ohio County, KY]

Westerfield, Sindrilla (w/o W. H.; age 38 yrs.) 28 Sep 1879
[Morgan, married William Henry Harrison Westerfield, 25 March 1869 Ohio County, KY]

Westerfield, Sylvania [grave is unmarked] c1883 10 Dec 1904
[s/o William Henry Harrison Westerfield & Mary Alice Morgan]

Westerfield, Willie (s/o W. H. & Sindrilla) 24 Dec 1877 1 Jan 1878
[s/o William Henry Harrison Westerfield & Sindrilla Morgan]

White, Elizabeth F. (w/o J. S.) 25 Jul 1827 15 May 1885
 Elizabeth F., d/o William Gillespie & Araminta Robinson, married John S.
 White (1824-), 30 December 1850 Ohio County, KY]

Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY
 Wednesday, 27 May 1885 p3

WHITE.—At the residence of her husband, near Lyonia, Friday, May 15, 1885, of flux, Mrs. Betsy White, wife of John White. She leaves a husband and six children. Her remains were interred on Sunday at the Royal graveyard.

Also buried here in graves marked by fieldstones with etchings:

Royal, William	10 Nov 1776	ca	1865
Royal, Elizabeth (Clifton; w/o Wm.)	10/19 May 1780	10 May 1869	
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A listing of the Royal Family Cemetery was made in October 1955 by Roscoe Mitchell Pierson. According to the book, The Royal Family of Ohio County, Kentucky, by Robert A. White, of Silver Spring, MD (1982, Appendix C; copy in Kentucky Room at the Daviess County Public Library, Owensboro, KY) Mr. Pierson wrote concerning the cemetery:

Situated on a hilltop midway between Kentucky highway 54 and the Illinois Central Railroad's tracks, about halfway between Fordsville and Deane field, Ohio County, approximately one half mile west of the dirt road that once lead to Reynold's Station, this old cemetery lies in the midst of a beautiful grove of trees. At this time, October 1955, no road leads to the graveyard, and any approach must be made by foot over scarcely marked trails up the overgrown hillside. No care has been taken of the site for many years and there are only faint traces left of the rusting wire fencing. Sweetbriars and poison ivy, fallen leaves and tree limbs cover the area, so that, together with the omnipresent weeds, the visitor's passage is impeded at every turn. The mortar joining the headstones has disintegrated and the stones are in various stages of toppling into the sunken graves of these who once were doughtly farmers, their wives, and their children. Perhaps less than half of the total number of graves are marked with manufactured tombstones, the rest have simple fieldstones, bearing no inscriptions, placed at the head and foot of each grave. Because the fate of this graveyard seems so uncertain, a copy of every marked gravestone follows...

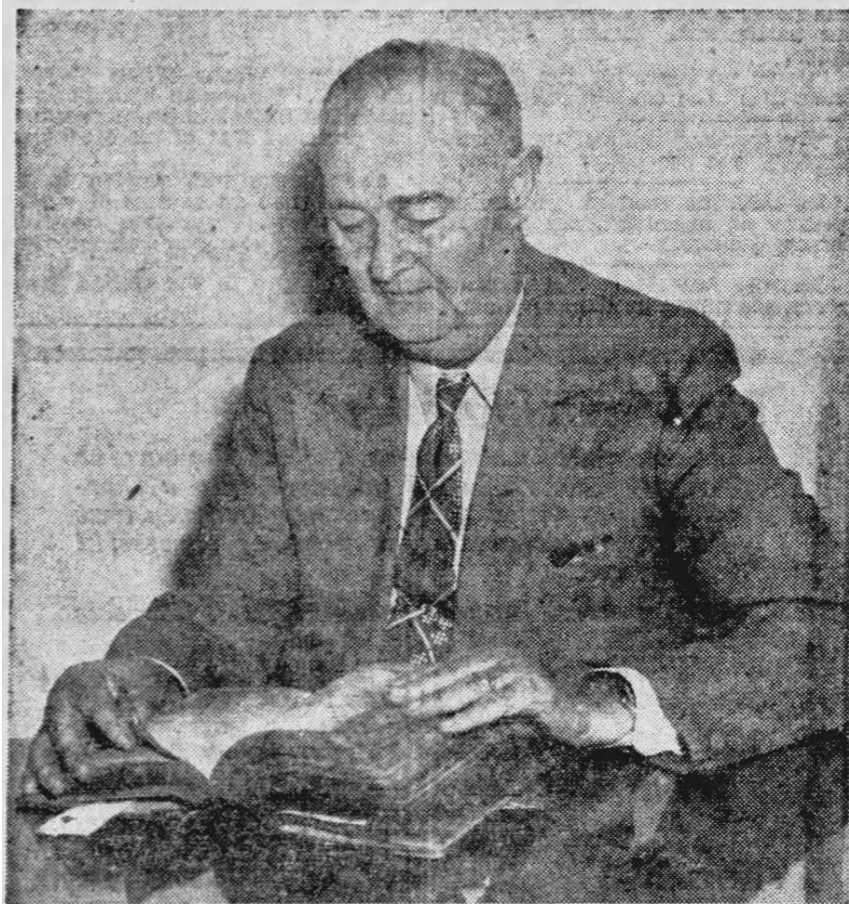
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A transcription of the cemetery was made by Lawrence & Betty Royal (801 Zephyr St., Plainview, Tx. 79072) in September 1977 and was published in the book, Ohio County, Kentucky Cemetery Records, Volume I (Ohio County Historical Society, 1981, p145). Mr.

Royal said that he was able to locate the gravestones of William Royal, Sr. and his wife Elizabeth. He wrote "If one stands facing the marker of little Sallie M., daughter of J. S. M. and L. E. Royal, then the grave of William Royal is about six feet south or left and Elizabeth's grave is about six feet south or left of William." In the book, The Royal Family of Ohio County, Kentucky, by Robert A. White, of Silver Spring, MD (1982, Appendix C), it was added that Lawrence Royal wrote that "We had to cut down a small tree, lots of briars and move some earth to get to them". Since the markings were etched into fieldstones, he had to darken the markings to make them legible. Lawrence and his wife Betty did an excellent job and have obtained some family information which could easily have become lost forever. Two pictures of these gravestones are shown on the next page."

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4-A—THE OWENSBORO MESSENGER—SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1945



OWNS RARE EDITION OF BIBLE—T. P. Royal, Fordsville, is shown above reading from a rare edition of the Bible, in his possession. A family Bible since the latter part of the 1700's, the book was published in England in 1740, and brought to the United States from England long before 1800, by Mr. Royal's great grandfather. Recordings of births, marriages and deaths were made in the Bible long before 1800, entries having been made with quill pens. The writing as well as the printing is very legible and the Bible in perfect state of preservation despite the fact that it is more than 200 years of age. There is only one other volume like it in the United States, Mr. Royal stated he was told by an authority, who recently visited him to examine the Bible and discuss its purchase for an institute the name of which was not divulged.

Fordsville Man Has Family Bible Published In 1740

A Bible published in England in 1740, is owned by T. P. Royal, of Fordsville, it became known recently when a search for rare editions was made. It was stated that there was only one other volume of the same edition in the United States.

The book is in an almost perfect state of preservation, despite its more than 200 years of use. The printing, in English type of that era is clear and legible.

Mr. Royal stated the Bible was owned by his great grandfather, James Royal, and was brought to the United States sometime in the latter 1700's, James having been a native of England. It passed into the hands of his grandfather, William Royal, who died in 1912, twenty-nine days before he would have reached his 100th birthday. His own father, W. H. Royal died in 1898. At the death of the grandfather, the Bible passed out of the hands of the family. However, ten years ago, when it was publicly announced that a \$50,000,000 estate was being held in England for the heirs of the Royal family, Mr. Royal started a search for the Bible, found it and purchased it. From the family recordings of births, deaths and marriages, made with quill pen in the Bible, some of them long before 1800, he traced his lineage. However, he never made any attempt to claim any of the estate.

The Bible is quite different from the present King James version, known to Bible readers, although it bears a flyleaf that dedicates it to "Prince James." Apparently being an edition that was printed to use in the English church, the forepart of the book is devoted to prayers of the church of England, the collect, epistle and gospel, prayers for communion and baptism, confirmation, of the dead and churching of women. Then there is a section devoted to prayers for commination, (denouncing of God's anger and judgments against sinners); the sayings of Solomon, some of which are also placed at the end of the Bible; and a number of pages devoted to prayers to be used at sea, for "gunpowder treason," and for King Charles the Martyr.

Then comes the old testament proper, opening with Genesis and following the books of the old testa-

ment, as the present day version through the book of Job.

At the close of the book of Job, comes a page designated at the "Apocrypha," after which appear the books of Esdras, I and II. Then follow the books of Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Sechariah and Malachi, just as they do in the present day King James versions, however, of the books that follow the page designated "Apocrypha," only the two books of Esdras are really apocryphal books, the Apocrypha being writings or statements of doubtful authorship or authority, and therefore not incorporated in most of the Protestant editions. Just why the books of Esdras followed the book of Job could not be determined and local students of the Bible were unable to account for the fact. One minister ventured the opinion that in years gone by the Bible might have been rebound by someone who was not perfectly familiar with the books of the Bible and placed the two books of Esdras in the wrong place.

After the book of Malachi, the final book in the old testament, come the books of the Apocrypha, another book of Esdras, Tobit, Judith, Wisdom of Solomon, Ecclesiasticus, Baruch and Maccabees.

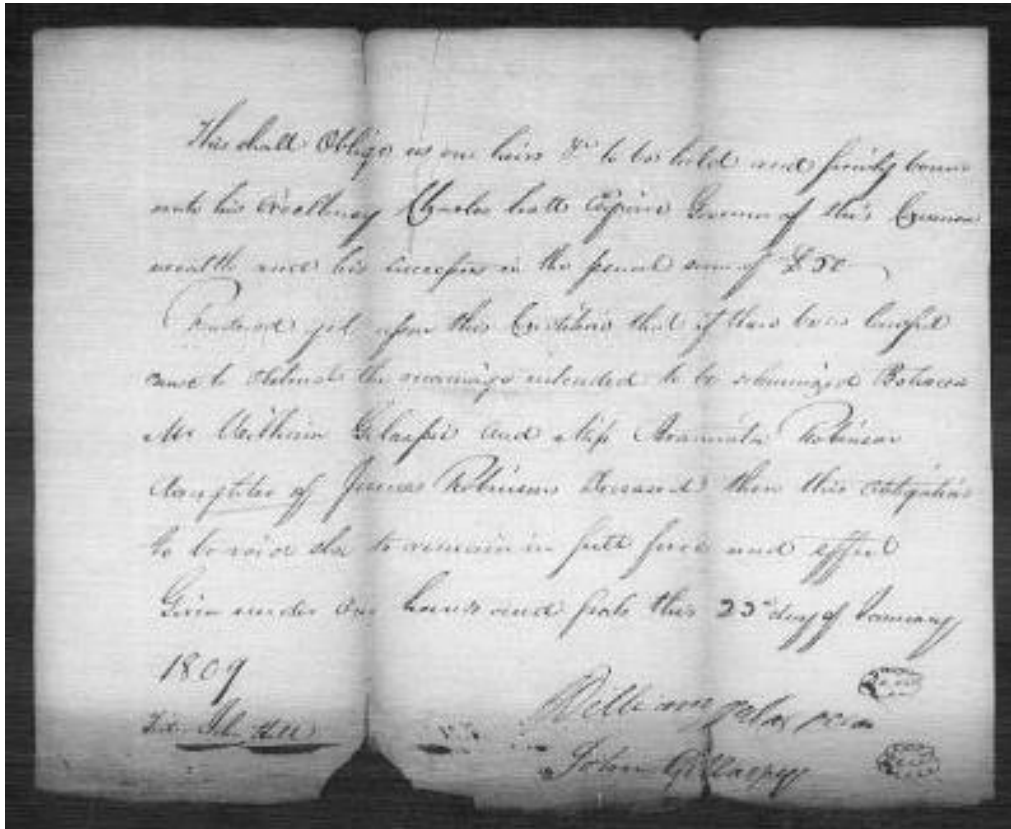
The New Testament books follow in the order of the revised King James version, and at its conclusion are more psalms of David.

Between the Old and New Testament are pages devoted to explaining scriptural weights, measurements, money and time, with the English counterparts.

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Sketch of William & Araminta (Robinson) Gillespie Family by Jerry Long

William Gillespie son of James Gillespie & Isabel Gillespie was born 1783-1785 Southwest Virginia. In Shelby County, KY on 24 January 1809 he married Araminta Robinson, the daughter of James & Elizabeth (Fulton) Robinson, she was born c1788 Virginia.



William Gillespie is listed in the 1810 & 1820 censuses of Shelby County, KY and 1830, 1840 & 1850 censuses of Ohio County, KY. William is last listed in the Shelby County tax lists in 1821 and is first shown in the Ohio County tax lists in 1822. A record of his death was entered in the 1852-1861 vital statistics kept by the state of Kentucky – William Gillaspy, age 70, died Ohio County on 31 July 1853 of old age, he was a farmer, born Virginia, parents James & Isabel Gillaspy. Araminta, was recorded in the 1860 federal census mortality schedule – Eramitta Gilesby died September 1859 Ohio County, KY, Adam's Fork District, age 68, born Virginia. Children of William Gillespie & Araminta Robinson were:

1. Margaret, born 1810-1820; married James T. Gillespie, 29 December 1831 Ohio County, KY; James T., born 25 January 1809, was the child of William Gilaspy, who married Leah Connell in Shelby County, KY in 1808 and who settled in Brown County, IN. In William & Araminta's household in the 1820 census there are four female children, born 1810-1820, it is possible that Margaret is the fourth female child, along with Nancy, Lucy & Julia. James T. is in the 1840 Ohio County census and 1850 census of Brown County, IN. In the 1850 census listed in his home were - James T. (42 born Ky), Margaret (38

Ky), Mary A. (18 Ky), John W. (16 Ky), George H. (12 Ky), Stephen (10 Ky), Henry (7 Ky), Nancy J. (5 Ind) and Willis (1 Ind).

2. ?? George T., born 1810-1817 KY; some have listed him as a son of William & Araminta but other records suggest he may be the son of William Gillaspie & Leah Connell). George T. was born 3 March 1813 Shelby County, KY married Sarah Ann Staples, 29 July 1837 Oldham County, KY, died 16 March 1869 Brown County, IN; George T. is listed in the 1840 census of Ohio County, KY, 1850 census of Trimble County, KY and 1860 census of Brown County, IN. In the 1850 census in his household were – George (38 Ky), Sarah E. (28 Ky), William (13 Ky), John (11 Ky), Sarah E. (9 Ky), Leah K. (7 Ky), Joann (5 Ky) and George W. (2 Ky), 1860 census listed in his household were – G. T. (42 Ky), Sarah (40 Ky), Sarah (19 Ky), John (21 Ky), Leah C. (17 Ky), Jemiah (13 Ky), George (11 Ky), Andrew J. (10), Charles (7 Ind) and Mary F. (8 Ind).
3. Nancy A., born c1815 KY; married Richard R. Royal (c1816 KY, son of William Royal & Elizabeth Clifton, died after 1885), 2 March 1837 Ohio County, KY; moved to Perry County, IN; Nancy died 1850-1855. Their children included –Julia E. (1838-1868, married Ira Burk Scott, 1853; Mary Frances (1840-1878, married Andrew Joseph Creek, 1862), Matilda A. (1842-1899, married Andrew J. Oglesby, 1861), Lucinda (c1843-after 1880, married Ephraim H. Hix, 1870, James H. (c1845-after 1867, married Margaret Simpson, 1867), America E. (1848-1919, married Calethiel Creek, 1871. Richard Royal married 2nd Elizabeth Jane Miller, 30 October 1851 Crawford County, IN, their children were – Drucilla J. (1853-1926, married Benjamin L. East, 1878), Lucina C. (1855-1911, single), Howard Malcomb 1856-1932, married Mary H. Batson, 1880), Richard E. (1859-1943, married Mary A. Mills, 1885), Amos R. (c1862-after 1880) and Eli P. (1863-1917, married Margaret Bell Whitmer, 1885).
4. Lucy, born 1815-1820 Shelby County, KY; married Benjamin McKinley (c1805, died 1850-1855), 3 May 1840 Ohio County, KY; died 1840-1842 Ohio County, KY. Her husband married 2nd Charlotte Bozarth, 20 April 1842 Ohio County, KY. Lucy was survived by one child – Mary F. McKinley (1841-1900, married John Wray Kirk).
5. Julia F., born c1816 KY; married John S. Kelley, 6 January 1841 Ohio County, KY and Jonathan Bozarth, (24 April 1815 – 18 December 1882, son of John Bozarth & Charlotte Rose); Julia Bozarth died 1870-1878; her husband, Jonathan Bozarth, also married Sallie Jones (1820-1845), 24 April 1838 Daviess County, KY and Martha J. Comer (1828-1905), 16 April 1878 Ohio County, KY, he was buried in the Richardson Jones Cemetery near Habit in Daviess County, KY.
6. Stephen Allen, born 3 August 1822 Shelby County, KY; married Ann Crow (8 October 1826 – 7 January 1852, daughter of John Crow & Pricy Boswell, buried Cap Cemetery, Beech Valley, Ohio County, KY), 29 October 1846 Ohio County, KY. Stephen married 2nd Mary Ann Medcalf (25 January 1836 – 19 June 1914, Ohio County, KY, daughter of Charlees Medcalf & Sarah Carrico, Mary was buried John Haynes Cemetery, Reynolds Station, Ohio County, KY. Stephen was a physician and began his practice in 1859. He

died 5 March 1900 Reynolds Station, Ohio County, KY and was buried at the Midkiff (Cap) Cemetery, Beech Valley, Ohio County, KY. He left no children.

Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY
Wednesday, 7 March 1900 p3

Dr. S. A. Gillespie, of Reynolds, died Monday, of old age and a complication of troubles. He was a well known and well liked citizen of the county and will be greatly missed.

Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 28 March 1900 p4

Dr. S. A. Gillespie

Died, March 4th, 1900, at his home near Reynolds Station, of consumption of the lungs. He was born and raised in this county and had been a member of Zion church for seventeen years. He was a Baptist of the first degree and he always stood up for the doctrine. He was also a Mason and he always said that the Masonic Lodge was the next thing to the church. He was a Demo-

crat and stood up to his principles. He never was known to cast any kind but a Democratic vote. He was kind to the poor and always ready to lend a helping hand. So dear friends and kinfolks and neighbors, weep not, for uncle Stern is at rest. He can see his way now, but when on earth he had to be led around by some friend. X. Y. Z.



7. John Robert, born c1824 KY and died after 1870; married Sarah Ann (Royal) White (c1824 – after 1870, daughter of William Royal & Elizabeth Clifton), 12 October 1844 Ohio County, KY. His wife married 1st William E. White, 7 August 1842 Ohio County, KY. John R. & Sarah lived Daviess County, KY; he was a minister and doctor. Their children were – Stephen Ray (c1845-1883, married Nancy Jane Wells, 1867), Mary E. (1848-1871, married Aray Newton Wells, 1867), Frances E. (c1852-1879, married Stephen Hall Harrel, 1873), John T. Nathaniel (1853-1886, married Elizabeth Scott, 1873 & Nellie Pottinger, 1877), Nancy J. N. (1855-1856), William Caleb (1857-1933, married Mary E. Winnans, 1893), Minnie M. (1861-1895, married James Nicholas Berry, 1879), Benjamin J. (c1862-1887) and Clarence Vernon (1869-1934, married Elizabeth Mitchell, 1886 & Martha J. Williams), 1897.
8. Elizabeth F., born 25 July 1827 KY; married John S. White (1824 – after 1885, son of Brockman White & Sarah Combs), 30 December 1850 Ohio County, KY. Elizabeth died 15 May 1885 Ohio County, KY and was buried at the Gillespie – Royal Cemetery, Ohio County, KY. Their children – Baxter (1852-1919, married Sarah Belle Keown, 1881 & Mrs. Nancy E. Cravens White, 1900), Sylvester (1853-1912, married Sarah Josephine Royal, 1880), Mary Etta (1856-1939, married Frank B. Miller, 1880), William J. (1859-1880/1885), Narcissa Florence (1861-1902, married Rufus Ansel Stinnett, 1882), Frances Zelmar (1866-1949, married James Hillary Day, 1893) and Portis Alonzo (1873-1928, married Elizabeth Eliza Kellley, 1896-1897).



9. Sarah Jane, born 16 December 1830 Ohio County, KY; married Samuel C. Lanham (c1833-after 1882), 30 December 1853 Ohio County, KY; Sarah died 5 February 1880 Ohio County, KY and was buried at the Gillespie – Royal Cemetery, Ohio County, KY. Samuel C. Lanham in Ohio County in 1882 was convicted of incest and was sentenced to the penitentiary in Frankfort for a term of six years. He had allegedly had a child by his 14-year-old daughter, Nora. He is not the Samuel C. Lanham, who was the son of John Wesley Lanham & Letitia Jackson and who died at Masonville in Daviess County, KY on 15 January 1906; they are two different men! Sarah Jane & Samuel's children were – John Wesley (1855-1927, married Elizabeth Bellamy, 1874, Mrs. Delia Murphy Dunn, 1891 & Mrs. Sallie Bates Bland, 1916), Isaac Napoleon (1856-1924, married Sarah Adaline Wallace, 1873), Frances Josephine (1858-1884, married Charles Joseph Wallace, 1873), James M. (1861-1925, married Mary Elizabeth Huff, 1888), Joseph Ray (1862-1937, single), Lee Allen (c1865-1880/1924), Nora A. (1866-1905, married Tarlton L. Lloyd, 1890) and Mary Emaline (1872-1934, married Noah Webster Baize, 1897).



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The book The Royal Family of Ohio County, Kentucky, by Robert A. White (16 Woodmoor Drive, Silver Springs, MD 20901, June 1982) contains family recollections of the author's grandfather, John Thomas White (1881-1970), son of Sylvester White (1853-1912 & Sarah Josephine Royal (1861-1951) and grandson of John S. White (1824-1898) & Elizabeth F.

Gillespie (1827-1885) and John Thomas Royal (1832-1871) & Nancy Jane Westerfield (1843-1919):

The genealogy research of the ROYAL family has been relatively easy due to my grandfather's excellent memory and records, and the fact that this family lived in the same general area of Kentucky for many, many years. Until recently, the earliest history that I had on the ROYAL family came from two letters written by my grandfather John Thomas WHITE; one to my father John Aubrey WHITE, and one to Mrs. G. F. PATTERSON, a granddaughter of Dr Elias Green ROYAL. I have taken some editorial liberties in inter-splicing these letters together for ease of reading, but the text of the letters is repeated below without any editorial comments.

In compliance with your request, the following is substantially the story of my maternal ancestors as I have been able to piece it together from the records I have seen and the stories passed along from generation to generation, in the ROYAL family. I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to my cousin, Mrs. E. P. ADAMSON of Grants Pass, Oregon, and my aunt, Mrs. Dove FUQUA of Louisville, Kentucky, for their valuable help in preparing this outline of our family history.

I have always felt very proud of my ancestors, as they were a hardy lot who dared to face- the perils of an almost unbroken forest to carve out for themselves and for their descendants a home in a new world. Perhaps the best version of the story of our ancestors is the version I learned from our Uncle Sam ROYAL. Uncle Sam taught school for most of his active life, and was accustomed, therefore, to explaining everything in language his listeners could understand, and the following is a rough outline of the way he explained it to me many years ago.

Our Great-Great-Grandfather, William ROYAL and his wife, left England shortly after the Revolutionary War, and, during the reign of George III - 1760 to 1820 - it took about six weeks in those days for the old sailing ships to cross the Atlantic, and they must have suffered terribly.

Uncle Sam didn't know just where they landed, but it was probably in the vicinity of Williamsburg, Virginia, since they took the southern trail west to the frontier in Kentucky. The only way they could have possibly reached Kentucky at that time was by wagon over some 700 miles of primitive trails across Virginia and through The Great Smokies, over Cumberland Gap, and then by Boone's old Wilderness Road to Harrodsburg, Kentucky. Through the forests, they finally managed to reach the little settlement of Elizabethtown, and here they settled down for a few years while our Great-Great-Grandfather worked at his trade of millwright, building dams, waterwheels, and gristmills in Kentucky and Southern Indiana. Here on June 11, 1811 our Great-Grandfather, William ROYAL, was born.

A few years later the family moved to Ohio County, where William ROYAL bought 5,000 acres of land. This tract of land started at Smiths Creek, about 2-½ miles west of Fordsville, and extended west about 3-½ miles to Panther Creek near Deanfield. It started just south of the present village of Reynolds Station, and extended south about 2-½ miles. My father

pointed out to me the approximate boundary of this immense tract many times when I was a lad, and I still remember it pretty well.

Our Great-Great-Grandfather ROYAL built his home a short distance South of the present village of Reynolds Station, on a tract I knew when a lad as the Dr. GILLISPIE Farm, as my father's Uncle, Dr. Steve GILLISPIE, owned this farm when I was a lad. William ROYAL and his wife lived on this farm until their deaths. This farm has changed hands a number of times during the past sixty (60) years, and I don't know who owns it now, but I know where it is located.

My great-great-Grandfather William ROYAL (Englishman, millwright) and his wife Elizabeth (Scotch-Welsh ancestry) had nine children of whom I have a record. They were:

Isaac ROYAL - A Methodist Minister,
William ROYAL - my great-grandfather - was a Farmer,
John ROYAL - Farmer,
James ROYAL – Farmer,
The girls were, to use their married names:
Susan HICKS,
Lana TAYLOR,
Letta BRANDON,
Hester Ann PEARSON,
Sally WHITE / GILLESPIE.

I remember my great-grandfather and two of his brothers, James and John, but his brother Isaac died before I was born. I never saw either of his sisters. The oldest record I have seen of my maternal ancestors was contained in an old bible that was printed in England before the Revolutionary War. This old bible was brought to America by William ROYAL, and contained records of marriages, births and deaths of members of the ROYAL family recorded in England before the Revolutionary War. At the death of William ROYAL, the old bible went to his daughter, Sally GILLESPIE. Sally first married a man named WHITE **[note by J. Long – this was William E. White, who died 1842-1844]**, who was no relation to my father. Mr. WHITE lived only a short time, and he was the first person buried in the old GILLESPIE graveyard where most of our oldest ancestors are buried. After Mr. WHITE's death, Sally married my father's Uncle, Dr. John GILLESPIE, and at Dr. John's death the old bible went to his son, Vernon GILLESPIE, and at Vernon's death, Peyton ROYAL bought the old bible at a public sale of Vernon's household effects. At Peyton's death, I understand the old bible went to his son Lawrence, whom I presume has it now.

My great-great-grandfather, William ROYAL, in addition to being a mechanic and master woodsman, must have also been a favorite of "Lady Luck", since he discovered about one and one-half miles south of where he settled in the forest, the only salt spring within many miles of this location. When I was a lad, this old salt spring was known locally as "The Black Lick", so called perhaps from an outcropping of shale at this point. I have been told by my uncle, William ROYAL, that my great-great-grandfather made salt at this old spring when he was unable to obtain it otherwise. The Lick was a favorite hunting spot of my great-grandfather, as deer came

here in droves for their daily ration of salt, as salt formed from evaporation below this old spring. The last time I visited this old spring, about thirty years ago, it was still active. It is located at the foot of the hill just north of Friendship Church, in Ohio County, and about one and one-half miles east of Deanfield, just off Kentucky 54 Highway. My great-grandfather said that he once killed about fifty-six deer here in one fall and winter, which was perhaps almost enough meat to supply his large family for a year.

Wild turkey were plentiful, and formed a considerable part of the diet of the early settlers in Kentucky. The story of the wild turkey is really fantastic. They were natives of Mexico, and were discovered by the early Spanish Explorers and carried back to Spain, where they were domesticated. They were introduced into England from Spain, and brought back to America by the English emigrants, who settled at Jamestown in Virginia. Many of these domestic turkeys must have strayed off into the forest, for here, having few natural enemies, within two hundred years they had spread west through Virginia and across the Cumberland Mountains into Kentucky, where there were thousands of them at the time Kentucky was first settled. There were still a few wild turkeys in Ohio County when I was born, and my father used to point out to me the spot on our farm where he killed his last one in 1882.

A bit of documented history of the early settlement of Kentucky might be appropriate in this narrative at this point, as the dates are interesting for comparison. The first settlement made in the part of Kentucky where all of my ancestors lived some one hundred and forty (140) years ago was made at the present town of Hartford on Rough River in Ohio County where some hunters built a small fort about 1790. A little settlement grew up around the fort, and on Feb. 3, 1808 Hartford Station was established. My ancestors settled about twenty miles north of Hartford, near the present village of Reynolds Station.

As I remember it, my great-grandfather, William ROYAL, told me he accompanied his father to Owensboro with a winters catch of furs when he was eight years old, which would have been in 1819, and that there was one or two stores there at that time. The records of The Kentucky Historical Society show that a store was opened in Owensboro in 1812, and the place was called Rossborough. Previous to this, the steamboat landing at this point was called "Yellow Banks". I am unable to say when the name of the town was changed to Owensboro.

My great-grandfather, William ROYAL, and his wife, Polly Ann ROYAL nee LANHAM had seven children - four boys and three girls as follows:

John Thomas ROYAL - my grandfather - Methodist Minister and farmer.

Elias Green ROYAL - A Physician.

William Harvey ROYAL - School Teacher and Farmer.

Joseph Samuel Marion ROYAL - School Teacher and Farmer.

The girls were, to use their married names:

Elizabeth Ann ROYAL - Spinster,

Mary Catherine CROW,

Sarah Emerine CHAMBERLAIN.

My father's uncle, Dr. John GILLESPIE, was a violinist and taught my father to play. After Dr. John's death, his wife Sally gave his violin to my father. This occurred before my father and mother married, and father kept the violin for a number of years. He tried to teach me to play but I had no talent for violin playing and when I was about 12 years old, my dad sold the violin to a man who was working for him that year. Dr. John GILLESPIE, had a son, Vernon, about dad's age, who played the bass violin and when I was a lad, our next door neighbors in the country, Buddy CROW and Ben BELLAMY, both played the violin. I could play a chord accompaniment on the guitar, and frequently this bunch would meet at our house. With three violins, a bass and a guitar, we could give a fair imitation of "Grand Old Opry", at least we thought we could, but this was some 30 years before Grand Old Opry came on the scene.

I was there the night my father's uncle, Dr. Steve GILLESPIE, passed away, and the men who were sitting up with Dr. Steve that night sent me to get Uncle Sam ROYAL to come and supervise preparing Dr. Steve for burial, as Uncle Sam always acted as a sort of funeral advisor when any of the neighbors passed away. He was so good at it that he came to Owensboro after Aunt Lydia died and worked for a time for the largest undertaker in town, James Gillison. Uncle Sam boarded with my mother and sister while he was working here.

Since I am making a book out of this letter, I may as well tell you an interesting story my father told me about my great-uncle, Dr. Green ROYAL. It was substantially as follows: About the time of the Civil War a fad grew up in Kentucky and Indiana that was to last for a hundred years. This was the fad of Health Resorts, and they sprang up everywhere. They all had one thing in common, and that was a spring of mineral water, some of it so foul tasting a thirsty cow wouldn't drink it.

About this time some promoters decided to capitalize on a spring of foul tasting water, which they named Sulphur Springs. You may have been there many times, as the little village is located a couple of miles South of Dundee, on the road to Hartford. These promoters built a large hotel at this old Spring in the forest; they chopped out bridle paths through the woods, built a number of small rowboats suitable for fishing on Rough River, which teemed with fish at that time, and the forest was full of game of many kinds, all attractive to visitors to this wilderness spa. My dad said, according to the ads put out by these promoters, this water would cure practically everything from a bald head to fallen arches.

Dr. Green ROYAL was a smart young doctor, and at that time had just recently married. He knew there was no medicinal value in this mineral water, but he reasoned, and correctly, that the glowing ads put out by these promoters and circulated through Kentucky, Indiana and Tennessee, would lure a lot of people to this wilderness spa, most of them perhaps suffering from nothing more than an enlarged pocketbook and a yen to boast to their less affluent neighbors that they had been visiting a famous "Health Resort in Kentucky".

My great-uncle also reasoned that there would be a lot of really sick people visit this resort hoping for relief from some curable ailment, so he figured this would be a good place to hang out his shingle and get ready for the rush, as many people visiting this resort would of necessity have to have plenty of money, as it was at that time an expensive place to reach,

requiring long carriage rides over almost impassible roads. He had guessed correctly, for after a few glasses of this sulphur water, sick folks were sick enough to pay almost any price for relief.

Dr. Green ROYAL built a house near the Hotel, hung out his shingle and was in business, and was soon as well known as Sulphur Springs itself. This house was still standing a few years ago, and I presume it still is, and the old Hotel has been converted into a church with living quarters attached. Tragedy soon struck, however, as his wife died when their daughter (Mrs. G. F. Theoclia PATTERSON's mother) was born, and our Uncle Sam and Aunt Liz, who were young folks at the time, took her and reared her to womanhood. When she married, they opened a store at the crossroads at Friendship Church, and she sold me the first pocketknife I ever owned. She picked me out one with a red handle, and I was as proud of it as I would be now of a new Cadillac.

My grandfather, John Thomas ROYAL, and his wife, Sarah Jane ROYAL, nee WESTEEFIELD, had six children - five girls and one boy, as follows:

William David ROYAL - Farmer.

The girls were, using their married names :

Sarah Josephine WHITE - my mother.

Catherine Elizabeth MILLER,

Almeda Florence FUQUA,

Lilly Ann WALLACE,

Zanada Dove FUQUA.

I believe I told you personally that my maternal ancestors spoke a Scotch-English idiom I have heard spoken only in our country neighborhood and around Cumberland Gap as the Gap section of Kentucky and Virginia was settled by folks from England and Scotland, as was the neighborhood where I grew up. One of their oddities was that they never called a "PANTHER" by that name. They called it a "PAINTER", and they also called a "CREEK" a "CRICK". So the most familiar stream in my boyhood became "PAINTER CRICK" instead of "PANTHER CREEK". My father, who was of Irish ancestry and never spoke this idiom, had a heck of a time breaking me from this pronunciation.

The year before I was born, 1880, was the coldest Dec. 21 on record - minus 5 degrees. I remember mother telling how she made dad a coonskin coat from furs he had trapped and dressed, and a cap of otter fur. Dad leaned to dress fur from a man who operated a tannery on part of great-grandfather ROYAL's farm. This man also made boots and shoes, and made dad's wedding boots which he kept until I was LU or 12 years old."

/s/ J. T. WHITE