

U. J. M. Call.
Keft
Mr. Edwin White
2-16-1932

EXPLANATORY.

To any person who has attempted to make a careful genealogical record it will be unnecessary to make any explanation, but for those who have had no experience with such work it is proper to state that the Record herein given is not claimed to be complete—it is far from it—but so far as we have been able to verify the data it will be found correct.

Major E. R. Kearsley, of Bucyrus, Ohio, when a boy of six years of age, after the death of his mother, lived for some years with his grandfather, Captain Samuel Kearsley, at or near Harrisburg, Pa., and from his own recollection of the Kearsley, Cooper and Woods families got together such data as he had with a view of putting it in form for distribution among such members of the family as he knew.

Finding the work more onerous than his advancing years permitted he turned the data in his possession over to me, with request to put it into printed form. Inquiries in various directions brought further data, and the record has grown to about three times the size originally expected.

Mr. George T. Kearsley, of Radford, Va., who possesses the old Kearsley Bible with the record on page 6, has supplied the data for his branch of the family, as well as for the Henderson and Woods branches.

Professor P. H. K. McComb has supplied the data for the McComb branch. The writer has secured much other data from the records in Lancaster and Cumberland Counties, the Pennsylvania State Library, and the Pennsylvania Historical Society of Philadelphia.

Jonathan Kearsley (see memoirs page 7) came to this country, when a young man, as a fugitive, without acquainting his parents, and settled in Pennsylvania, and married his wife Jane there. From the notation in the Kearsley Bible, above referred to, that the child Robert was buried in the Calvinist burying ground at Lancaster town, Pa., it was supposed that he had settled in Lancaster county. A search of the records in that county fails to reveal his name, either in the assessment lists, marriage or death records, or elsewhere.

The earliest date at which we get any definite record of him is the year 1761, from the account books of John Agnew, Esq., a merchant of Carlisle, Pa., which shows that Jonathan Kearsley and his wife Jane were residents of Carlisle at that time. These account books of John Agnew are now in the possession of Mr. C. P. Humrich, attorney-at-law, of Carlisle.

From the fact also that he appears first in the assessment lists for the year 1762, and is on the list of lot owners for 1763, it seems probable that he lived elsewhere prior to 1761.

The records of Cumberland County are very complete, and show that he lived at Carlisle from 1761 down to 1779-80, when he removed to Shippensburg, where he died in 1782.

Jonathan Kearsley was evidently a man of strong character and high standing in Cumberland County; was a merchant, keeping a general store, and had in addition a very complete drug-store, as the inventory on page 12 shows. This likely accounts for his having the title of "Doctor." He was evidently a chemist of wide reputation, as the Colonial records show that Dr. Jonathan Kearsley was recommended by the prominent citizens of Carlisle to the Committee of Safety at Philadelphia as a competent person to manufacture salt-petre, during the Revolutionary war, and the Pennsylvania Archives contain a letter from Jonathan Kearsley to the Committee of Safety complaining of his inability to produce greater quantities and inquiring if they knew of any new process for making it, as he understood salt-petre was being made in Virginia.

The record of Deed Transfers for Cumberland County shows that he was a property holder of considerable proportions, and the wills of himself and wife Jane show that he left considerable property. Photo-engravings of the original wills made in 1782 and 1790 are herein given, the originals being in perfect state of preservation; although yellow from age the ink is clear and perfect.

The strong religious character of the family is shown by the "Death-bed Memoirs," and the letters given.

Many of the descendants in all branches of the family have been famous in the professions, the ministry and in business.

While most branches of the family have remained residents of Pennsylvania and Virginia, descendants are to be found in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and as far west as Nebraska.

It is greatly to be regretted that we have been unable to find in any of the records examined the family name of Jane Kearsley, the wife of Jonathan. Neither have we found the date of their marriage, nor anything to throw light upon the statement in his Memoirs that he came to this country as a fugitive, when a young man, without the knowledge of his parents, who had given him pious training, but it is presumed that it was simply his youthful desire for adventure and the fear that his parents would have withheld their permission. It seems evident that he came to this country about 1738-40, and was married about 1742-3.

At the end of the record will be found data of two Drs. John Kearsley of Philadelphia. The elder of these was a famous physician and amateur architect, and made the designs for Christ Church as well as for the State-house and steeple (our famous Independence Hall), and at his death he endowed Christ Church with large sums, leaving the balance of his estate to his nephews and nieces in Sedgfield, England.

He was a member of the assembly and his speeches in favor of the colony were so acceptable to the people that they frequently carried him home on their shoulders. He was noted for his charity and good deeds, and died respected by all the people.

The second Dr. John Kearsley (nephew of the one above mentioned) also came to Philadelphia and practiced as a physician. During the Revolutionary War he was arrested as a tory and confined in the military prison at Lancaster, being later removed by direction of the Committee of Safety to the military prison at Carlisle, where he died. He left his property to his brothers and sisters in Sedgefield, England.

A careful search of the records in the Pennsylvania Historical Society at Philadelphia, fails to show any connection between these two Drs. John Kearsley and the Jonathan Kearsley, of Carlisle, but Dr. S. Weir Mitchell's father, Dr. John Kearsley Mitchell (1792-1858), of Philadelphia, told him that the two families were related and that he had documents which proved this connection which were destroyed in the fire when the Capitol at Washington was burned by the British in 1813. The papers were in possession of the clerk of the Supreme Court.

Dr. Mitchell thinks the family was originally English, but that Jonathan came to America from Scotland.

If any reader can supply further data than is herein contained, will he or she please send it to

ELMER L. WHITE, Pittsburgh, Pa.

THE KEARSLEY FAMILY IN AMERICA.

This record, and part of what follows, is taken from an old family Bible, printed in Edinburg, Scotland, by Evan Tyler, printer to the King's most excellent Majesty, in the year 1698; now in the possession of George T. Kearsley, of Radford, Virginia.

JONATHAN KEARSLEY, Originally from Scotland, married and settled in Pennsylvania with his wife, Jane Kearsley, at Carlisle, Pa. He was born in 1718 and died Dec. 26th, 1782, at Shippensburg, Pa.

JANE KEARSLEY, Was born in 1720 and died April 28th, 1801.

Children of above:

	BORN.	DIED.
I. ELIZABETH	Nov. 19, 1743	Oct. 8, 1829
II. JOHN (Judge)	Oct. 20, 1745	June 26, 1819
III. MARGARET	Jan 22, 1748	April 5, 1828
IV. SAMUEL (Captain)	Sep. 15, 1750	March 22, 1830
V. ROBERT	Feb. 17, 1753	July, 1753
VI. MARY	Nov. 2, 1755	Aug., 1826
VII. ANN	July 1, 1758	March, 1759
VIII. JANE	Mar. 18, 1760	March 28, 1835
IX. REBECCA	Aug. 30, 1762	Nov. 29, 1848
X. STILLA	Mar. 6, 1765	March 6, 1765
XI. JONATHAN (Jr.)	Mar. 6, 1766	—, 1804

NOTE.—Robert is buried in Calvinist burying ground, Lancaster town, Pa. Ann, born in Carlisle, Pa., July 1st, 1758; died March, 1759.

See "Short Memoirs of the last sickness and death of Mr. Jonathan Kearsley, 1782," pages 7, 8, 9, 10, which show the deep-seated religious character of the original members of the family in America. They were evidently strict Scotch Presbyterians.

II

7. Meta Burnett, Born Feb. 12, 1859; married A. K. Selden, Nov. 5, 1879. Children: Andrew Kenneth, George Kearsley, and Anne Rebecca.
8. Agnes, Born Oct. 21, 1860; married H. H. Cooke, April 27, 1892. No children.
9. Rebecca Ambler, Born Sept. 26, 1862; married H. H. Reese, Jan. 30, 1889. Children, Hubert Kearsley Reese, born April 21, 1891.
10. Charles Brice, Born Feb. 23, 1866, unmarried, resides Columbus, Ohio.
4. SAMUEL CRAMER
KEARSLEY, Fourth child of Jonathan and Anna H. Kearsley, born Feb. 11, 1828; died Dec. 28, 1878; married Leslie Thomson,. No children.

III

MARGARET KEARSLEY, Third child of Jonathan and Jane Kearsley, was born January 22, 1748; died April 5, 1828, aged 80 years; married at Carlisle, Pa., in 1769, to Matthew Henderson (who was second son of Daniel Henderson, who lived and died in Chester Co., Pa., before Revolutionary War), Deputy Surveyor of Cumberland and Franklin Counties, Pa.

Children of above were:

1. Daniel, 1770-1803. Succeeded his father as Deputy Surveyor of Franklin County, Pa. Unmarried.

III

2. Jonathan, 1772-1833. Married Mrs. Eleanor Capper, daughter of Edward Bartholomew, of Chester Co., Pa., late of Philadelphia, and studied law. Lived at Huntingdon, Pa., until 1806, then retired to farm in Centre Co., Pa., dying without issue.
3. John (Dr.), 1774, died about 1848; married in 1800 to Margaret Jamison, of Elizabeth, Pa. She died in 1804. Married second wife, Elizabeth Allison, in 1811. She was the sixth daughter of Col. John Allison, of Greencastle, Pa. He was practicing physician of Huntingdon, Pa., with reputation and considerable landed property.
4. Matthew, 1776-1817. Resided in Centre Co., Pa. Unmarried.
5. Robert Cooper, Born Feb. 9, 1784, died March 24, 1858; married first Mary Stewart, of York Co., Pa. Married second, his cousin, Sarah McComb, and resided near Columbus, O., since 1817.
- NOTE.—This is another instance where cousins married, viz., Robert Cooper Henderson married Sarah McComb. John Kearsley married Eliza Brice. William Campbell married Mary Duke.
6. Samuel, Born —, died 1793; unmarried.
7. Lydia, Born —, died 1801; unmarried.
9. Eliza, Born —, died —; married Robert Hays, of Bellefont, Pa.

III

10. Joseph,

Born about 1791, died —, married first Jane McClay, of Union Co., Pa.; married second Margaret Isenberg, of Mifflin Co., Pa. Received medical education. In 1812 engaged Regular U. S. Army, under Captain's Commission, and engaged in battles of Chippewa Falls, of Niagara, and the storming of Fort Erie. In 1832 was elected member of Congress of U. S. from district of Center, Mifflin and Huntingdon Counties, and re-elected in 1834. Resided at Lanestown, Pa.

11. Isabella,

1794-1871, married Rev. James Linn, of Bellefont, Pa.

Children of DR. JOHN HENDERSON and his first wife, Margaret Jamison, were:

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| 1. Jamison, | 1809-1823; unmarried. |
| 2. Daniel, | Born —, died in infancy. |

Children of DR. JOHN HENDERSON and his second wife, Elizabeth Allison, were:

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| 1. Matthew Allison, | 1814-1894. Married Margaret, daughter of Rev. Alex. Boyd, of Lock Haven, Pa. Practiced medicine at Lock Haven and was Surgeon in Civil War. |
| 2. Andrew Augustus, | 1816-1875. Married Mary Virginia, daughter of Dr. John Peace, of U. S. Navy. Graduated in medicine at Jefferson College, Philadelphia, Pa. En- |

III

gaged in Geological Survey of Pennsylvania. Commissioned as Ass't Surgeon in U. S. Navy 1841, as Surgeon in 1856, and Medical Director in 1871. Was in Everglades during Florida Indian War, present at storming of Forts on Canton River, China. On active duty ashore in Mexican War, and present at capture of New Orleans in 1862, and succeeding engagements on the Mississippi River. He was devoted to Natural Science, and an inventor of machinery.

NOTE.—The "Death-bed Memoirs" of Jonathan Kearsley, page 7, were in possession of Dr. A. A. Henderson, when he was on duty at Brooklyn Navy Yard, in 1874.

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| 3. Jonathan, | Born —, died —, unmarried. |
| 4. William Wilkins, | Born —, died in infancy. |
| 5. Robert Joseph, | Born —, died in early manhood. |
| 6. William, | Born —, died —, married Mary Church, lived at Lock Haven, Pa; died in early manhood. |

Children of ROBERT COOPER HENDERSON and his wives, were as follows:

First wife, Mary Stewart, of York County, Pa.

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| 1. Margaret, | Born 1820, died 1845; unmarried. |
| 2. John, | Born 1823, died 1893, in Perry Twp., Franklin Co., Ohio; married, had two daughters. For twelve years a college professor. |

III

3. Joseph, Born 1824, died 1890; married, had ten children.

Second wife, Sarah McComb, who was born July, 1807, died Jan. 4, 1846; married Oct. 15, 1829. Resided near Columbus, Ohio. Their children were:

1. Jonathan, Died in infancy.
2. Rebecca, Died in 1878, unmarried.
3. Mary.
4. William McComb.
5. Matthew.
6. Ellen.
7. Daniel, Born 1842, died 1883; unmarried; served in Co. D 15th U. S. Infantry.

MARY HENDERSON, Third child of Robert Cooper Henderson and Sarah McComb. Born 1832, died 1895; married Flanegin. Their children were:

1. Mary.
2. Joseph.
3. Emily, Resides at Champlain, Ill.

WILLIAM McCOMB HENDERSON, Fourth child of Robert Cooper Henderson and Sarah McComb, born 1834, died Jan. 16, 1862. Graduated from Capital University, Ohio. Fitted for service as missionary. Master of seven languages. Enlisted, 1861, Sergeant Co. D 15th U. S. Infantry.

MATTHEW HENDERSON, Fifth child of Robert Cooper Henderson and Sarah McComb, born Oct. 31, 1836; married; resides at No. 460 Oak street, Columbus, Ohio. His children are:

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| 1. David Elmer, | Born 1866, married, has two sons; resides at Pittsburgh, Pa.; with B. & O. Ry. |
| 2. Florence Eugenia, | Married Paul Watkins, has three sons; resides at Winona, Minn. |
| ELLEN HENDERSON, | Sixth child of Robert Cooper Henderson and Sarah McComb, born 1839, died 1874; married, had two sons and three daughters. |

Children of ELIZA HENDERSON and Robert Hays, were:

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| 1. William Wallace, | Born 1822, died 1899; married Elizabeth, daughter of Dr. Wm. Magill, of Danville, Pa. Left one daughter. |
| 2. Alfred Armstrong, | Born —, married, lives in Missouri and has several children. |
| 3. Ellen, | Born —, died —, unmarried. |

Children of JOSEPH HENDERSON and his wife Margaret Isenberg, were:

(First wife left no children.)

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| 1. James Linn, | Born —, married twice, has several children. Practices medicine at Osceola, Fla. |
| 2. William Baird, | Born —, married, has several children. Practices medicine at Phillipsburg, Pa. |
| 3. Joseph, | Born —; unmarried; lives in Lewistown, Pa. |

III

Children of ISABELLA HENDERSON and James Linn, were:

1. Margaret Henderson, Married William P. Wilson, of Bellefont, Pa.

Children of MATTHEW ALLISON HENDERSON and his wife Margaret Boyd, were:

1. A. Boyd, Born ———; married, living in California.
 2. Anna, Born ———; married, living in California.
 3. Mary, Born ———; married, living in California.
 4. Margaret, Born ———; married, living in California.

Children of DR. ANDREW AUGUSTUS HENDERSON and his wife Mary Virginia Peace, were:

1. John Augustus, Born 1853; unmarried. Graduated as Mechanical Engineer, entered U. S. Navy in 1876, retired for physical incapacity in 1884. Recalled to service at Navy department during late war with Spain; now resides near Lamont, Pa., on farm originally taken up by Matthew Henderson in 1768 from John Penn, grandson of William Penn.
 2. George Andrew, Born 1855; unmarried, lives in Montana.
 3. Virginia, Born 1859; married first Berkeley Wolcott, of England, leaving one child, Henderson Wolcott. Married second, Richard F. Perkins; resides near Westchester, Pa.
 4. Robley Dungleison, Born 1861, died 1864.

III

Children of WILLIAM JOHN HENDERSON and his wife Mary Church, were:

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| 1. Daughter, | Died in infancy. |
| 2. William Church, | Born 1853, entered U. S. Army as Surgeon; resigned; died at Hermoselle, Mexico, of yellow fever. |

Page 252, Rev. C. P. Wing's History of Cumberland County.

CAPTAIN MATTHEW HENDERSON.

"A meeting of the inhabitants of Cumberland County was held at Carlisle on the 12th of July, 1774, at which large numbers from various portions of the county were in attendance.

"There were about 30 representatives from Shippensburg, some of whom went to Carlisle on foot.

"One of the committee appointed at that meeting, Dr. John Colhoon, was a resident of this place.

"When the people began to find that war with the mother country was inevitable, and when at last, on the 17th of June, 1775, the reverberations of the British cannon were heard from Breeds and Bunker Hills, the hardy, resolute men of Cumberland County exhibited a spirit of which their descendants need never be ashamed.

"One company was promptly raised in Shippensburg, by CAPTAIN MATTHEW HENDERSON. Captain Matthew Scott undertook to raise a company also but only partially succeeded. Captain Henderson's company numbered 104 men, but the number raised by Captain Scott I have not been able to learn. The rolls of both companies have either been destroyed or lost, but that numbers of them were not members of the place must be clear and well known. A village of 500 or 600 inhabitants in a rural district could not have furnished so large a number of men.

"It was said, however, by one who was a member of one of the organizations, that there was scarcely an able bodied man in the place who was not enrolled in one or the other of the organizations."

Matthew Henderson, just prior to the Revolutionary War, was one of a company to start a cutlery factory at Shippensburg, under the direction of two Englishmen who had worked in cutlery factories in England.

Matthew Henderson was a Deputy Surveyor in the County of Cumberland and was the first County Surveyor of the County of Franklin, organized about 1784; and in Franklin County Register's office is the work of the first county surveyor, a model of neatness and correctness unsurpassed in any county in the state.

IV

CAPT. SAM'L KEARSLEY, Fourth child of Jonathan and Jane Kearsley, was Captain in Revolutionary War, to whom General Washington presented the sword which he had worn at Braddock's defeat. Captain Kearsley was born at Lancaster, Pa., Sept. 15, 1750; died March 22, 1830, at the home of Mr. John Cooper (husband of his daughter, Jane Kearsley) at Middle Spring, Pa., and is buried in the lower graveyard connected with the Presbyterian church at that place.

married

SARAH KIRKPATRICK, Born at Middletown, Dauphin Co., Pa., March 27, 1754; was married to Capt. Samuel Kearsley, April, 1774, by Rev. John Roan, the New Side preacher of Derry, Pa. Died February 25, 1826, and is buried at Paxton, Pa. (near Harrisburg).

Children of above were:

Jonathan,	Born Jan. 19, 1775, died in infancy.
Margaret,	Born Feb. 29, 1776, died May 19, 1845; Mrs. Brice.
Jane,	Born Oct. 15, 1778, died (no record); Mrs. Cooper.
Elizabeth,	Born Nov. 12, 1780, died (no record); Mrs. McKee.
(Major) Jonathan,	Born Aug. 20, 1786, died Aug. 31, 1859; buried at Detroit, Mich.
John,	Born Sept. 13, 1788, died (no record).
Ann,	Born Jan. 15, 1790, died (no record); Mrs. Sedgwick.

IX

REBECCA KEARSLEY,
married

Ninth child of Jonathan and Jane Kearsley, born August 30, 1762; died November 29, 1848.

WILLIAM McCOMB,

Born 1757; died February 10, 1835.

William McComb was a soldier in the war for independence and a prisoner on board the British prison ship "Jersey." He and his wife settled in Washington County, Pennsylvania, in which state all their sixteen children were born. They emigrated to Ohio in 1818. They spent their first winter in a house owned by Col. Culberson, at Franklinton, just west of Columbus, and finally settled on a tract of land lying on Big Walnut creek, eight miles east of Columbus. As soon as the seed for a crop was in the ground, a church was built on land dedicated for that and cemetery purposes by William Patterson, husband of the eldest daughter and child. This church yard was consecrated by the burial therein of the grantor's own wife, Jane McComb Patterson, the first interment. The church was called "Truro."

Rob't. C. McComb,

Fourteenth child of the above, born in Washington County, Pa., Jan. 12, 1806; died Aug. 24, 1856, at "Cottage Farm," Walnut Hills, Cincinnati, O.; married on May 4, 1841, Ann Spencer Kemper, third child of Peter Hathaway and Rhoda Lockwood Kemper, born at Walnut Hills, Cincinnati, Ohio, March 23, 1813, and died Aug. 5, 1873, at Dayton, Ohio. Issue:

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| 1. Peter H. Kemper, | Born Nov. 29, 1842. |
| 2. Kearsley Grier. | Born June 5, 1844; died March, 1862. |
| 3. Wood Sherman, | Residence, Webster Groves, Mo. |
| 4. Jessie Annette, | Residence, Webster Groves, Mo.
Married W. H. Simmons. |
| 5. Arthur Millington, | Residence, Haddonfield, N. J. |
| P. H. K. McComb, | First child of R. C. and Ann S. McComb, was born in London, Ohio, Nov. 29, 1842, and married Virginia Bell Hackett, first child of James Bennett and Harriet McCulloch Hackett, June 10, 1869, at New Bloomfield, Pa.
Issue: |
| 1. Ernest Hackett Kemper, | Born Feb. 15, 1873, at Macomb, Ill. Principal of High School, Bucyrus, Ohio. Married June 22, 1899, Irene W. Fisher, Bucyrus, Ohio. |
| 2. Virginia Mary, | Born Louisiana, Mo., April 19, 1876; resides at Hanover, Ind. |
| 3. Harriet Spencer, | Born Webster Groves, Mo., Oct. 9, 1878; resides at Hanover, Ind. |
| 4. Lois Kemper, | Born Webster Groves, Mo., Oct. 3, 1886; resides at Hanover, Ind. |

NOTE.—Rev. P. H. K. McComb is the Professor of History and Political Science in Hanover College, Hanover, Ind. The genealogy of the McComb family as far as it has been worked out, is in his hands. Any person wishing to give or receive information in regard to the above, is requested to correspond with him.

IX

SARAH McCOMB,

Fifteenth child of William and Rebecca McComb, was born July, 1807; died Jan. 4, 1846; married, October 15, 1829, to Robert Cooper Henderson, fifth child of Matthew Henderson and his wife, Margaret Kearsley, child of Jonathan and Jane Kearsley; he was born Feb. 9, 1784; died March 24, 1858; resided near Columbus, Ohio. Their children were:

1. Jonathan,
2. Rebecca.
3. Mary.
4. William McComb.
5. Matthew.
6. Ellen.
7. Daniel,

Died in infancy.

Born 1883. Never married; served in Co. D 15th U. S. Infantry.

NOTE.—Robert Cooper Henderson, married twice; first to Mary Stewart, of York County, Pa. They had three children.

1. Margaret, Born 1820; died in 1845; unmarried.
2. John, Born 1823; died in 1893, in Perry Twp., Franklin Co., O.; married, had two daughters; for 12 years a college professor.
3. Joseph, Born 1824; died in 1890; married, had 10 children.