

Sally lived with Colonel Johnston's family for one year. Afterwards, Sally lived with Mrs. Ewing until finally making her home with the family of Jesse Miller. She lived with the Miller's until her marriage to James Kerr in 1818.

She came to Piqua in August of 1812 and was married in her eighteenth year. During her married life, she was the mother of eleven children. Her husband was a prosperous farmer and owned a good farm in Monroe township of Miami County. James Kerr died in 1863 and she lived on the old homestead with her son, Perry.

While she had no opportunity for an education, she learned to read and was fond of good books. She was a thrifty housekeeper, was a devout member of the Baptist Church and was loved and respected by the whole community. She was a good conversationalist, her neighbors and friends often gathered around her to hear her relate the thrilling events of her early life. Sally lived until eighty three years of age and died on August 28, 1883.

Typed from handwritten notes by Angie Robbins Balmer - 1954. This story has been passed down through the Kerr family. Balmer's mother was a Kerr. I think that the James Kerr in the story was Balmer's great grandfather. This is according to the old family Bible records.

Submitted by: Joe Balmer, Troy, Ohio.

Floyd Leroy Kessler Sr.

Floyd Leroy Kessler Sr. was born in Ludlow Falls, Union Township, Miami County, Ohio, the son of James Warren Kessler and Lena May Harshbarger on April 21, 1907. Floyd was schooled in Union and Concord Township and attended Troy High School. He married Jean Eloise Knife, the daughter of Raymond Knife and Belva Dehaven on June 27, 1927 by eloping to Covington, Kentucky because they were under age, Floyd being twenty years old and Jean being sixteen years old. They had five children being, Floyd Leroy Jr. born October 20, 1928, Sarah Jean born February 24, 1930, Phoebe Katherine born November 12, 1931, Rebecca May born June 6, 1933, Mary Esther born August 19, 1942.

Floyd attended Parker Cooperative High School and learned his trade in heating and sheet metal through A.J. Hoke Plumbing Company in Dayton, Ohio. He worked at the Hoke Company until the Great Depression hit and then was unemployed until he got a job at General Motors Corporation at Moraine City, Ohio in 1934. He was a welder and silver soldering man in making refrigerators for Frigidaire. He worked for General Motors until World War II and in 1943 he and his brother Harold bought out H.A. Peters Plumbing Company in West Milton, Ohio and they ran that business as the Kessler Brothers Plumbing and Heating Company until they broke up their partnership in 1952. They divided up and each ran their own business in West Milton, Ohio. Floyd established his business as Floyd Kessler Heating Service and ran that business until 1958 until he invested in buying the Joyland Drive-In Restaurant on State Route 48 between Ludlow Falls and Pleasant Hill, Ohio. He ran this business for about one year and then he sold it back to his sister and brother-in-law in 1959 due to his bad health.

Floyd was always engaging in the fishing hobby and spent his last few years in fishing at the Grand Lake St. Marys at the Cozy Campgrounds just outside of Montezuma, south of Celina, Ohio in Mercer County. He was also noted for taking avid sportsmen to Rifle River, Michigan every year to trap smelt fish and bring them home to the Hoovers' Bar and Grill for a big smelt fry party for the whole town of West Milton, Ohio. his was a yearly event for a long time. Floyd Kessler Sr. retired in 1969 and lived at the home of his daughter and son-in-law Ned Honeyman for the remainder of his life. Jean Eloise Knife died

on February 21, 1978 and was buried in the Kessler Plot at the Wheelock Cemetery, Union Township, Miami County, Ohio. Floyd Kessler, Sr. died on April 17, ~~1958~~¹⁹¹³ and was buried along side of his wife Jean with his parents, James and May Kessler on the other side of him.

Submitted by Floyd L. Kessler, Jr.

Henry Kessler

Henry Kessler was born February 21, 1813 in Miami County the son of John Bowman Kessler and Susannah Feese. Henry was raised on the farm and was a farmer all of his life. He married Serene Goings, daughter of Michael Goings and Mary Honeyman, on March 12, 1835. Henry farmed and owned farms in Union Township one being Section 14, Township 06 Range 05.

Henry and Serene had twelve children: John W. born January 7, 1836, Mary Ann born August 18, 1838, David Andrew born July 28, 1839, Susan Elizabeth born May 14, 1842, Thomas Jefferson born March 23, 1843, Rebecca Ellen born July 12, 1845, James Henry born January 27, 1848, Michael Madison born January 31, 1850, Martin Scott born November 4, 1852, Charles Warren born August 11, 1855, Sarah Dora born November 9, 1857, Infant born September 16, 1860.

Henry died on his farm on January 12, 1878 and his wife daughter until she passed away on January 1, 1898. Henry and Serene are buried side-by-side at the Wheelock Cemetery, Union Township, Miami County, Ohio.

Submitted by: Floyd L. Kessler Jr.

James Warren Kessler

James Warren Kessler was born in the Hamlet of Kessler, Union Township, Miami County, Ohio on June 20, 1882, the son of Thomas Jefferson Kessler and Phoebe Ann Robbins. The traditional story goes that in 1881 & 1882 Thomas was erecting a new house next to their log cabin. In June they temporarily moved into the unfinished house in order that Phoebe could give birth to James and on June 20, 1882 he was born and then they moved back into the log cabin and finished building their new home.

James was raised as a farmer and married Lena May Harshbarger, the daughter of Joseph Henry Harshbarger and Hannah Catherine Rasor on November 28, 1900 in Union Township, Miami County, Ohio. James and Lena had six children: Harold Dewitt born August 11, 1901, Mildred Lenora born July 22, 1903, Floyd Leroy born April 22, 1907, Pauline Ruth born December 9, 1910, Meriam Katherine born April 16, 1913, and Betty Marie born April 2, 1921.

In addition to being a farmer, James was considered a jack-of-all-trades; he built cottages, houses, and barns, was a roofer, and drove a school bus for Milton Union Schools for many years. He was also a Union Township Trustee in the 1940s. He was also an avid sportsman. He hunted raccoon and raised raccoon hounds for at least fifty years and was a taxidermist. He also was a fishing guide up in Michigan at the Land of the Lakes. On his farm he started a clay pigeon trap shoot which later was formed into the Nashville Coon and Game Club.

In the latter 1940s James sold his property and moved to Ludlow Falls, Ohio for a small amount of time and then relocated to Skidway Lake, Prescott, Michigan. Lena May died there on March 28, 1956 and

was transported back and buried in the Wheelock Cemetery, Union Township, Miami County, Ohio next to her daughter Mildred Lenora Kessler. James then married Olive Rogers on September 5, 1956 in Prescott, Michigan and lived there for a while and then they sold their property and moved to Eljabean, Florida. He resided there and being an out-doors-man he hunted and fished, caught rattle snakes and enjoyed his later years. After being 93 years old he decided to come back to Miami County to die. He lived with his two daughters back and forth from Miami and Montgomery County until he died in Clayton, Montgomery County, Ohio on July 1, 1976 at the age of ninety four. He was buried in the Wheelock Cemetery, Union Township, Miami County, Ohio, next to his wife Lena and his daughter Mildred. His second wife Olive, remained in Florida and passed away but no information as to her death date or funeral was received by the family.

Submitted by: Floyd L. Kessler, Jr.

John Bowman Kessler

John Bowman Kessler was named in the will of his father Joseph Kessler as the oldest son. John was born November 12, 1786 in Wilkes (Ashe) County, North Carolina and married Susannah Feese, daughter of Jacob Feese, who was a Revolutionary Soldier. Susannah was born January 21, 1787. They were married in Ashe County, North Carolina on June 2, 1807. Their first son Israel Kessler was born on December 24, 1808 and their first daughter Mary Kessler was born on February 21, 1810 in Ashe County, North Carolina. The family moved to Miami County in 1812 and the remainder of their children was born in Miami County. They were Henry Kessler born February 21, 1813, Rebecca Kessler born December 22, 1814, Susan Kessler born 1812, Martin Kessler born November 13, 1816, Elizabeth Kessler born November 18, 1818, Catherine Kessler born January 4, 1821, Samuel Kessler born April 1827, Anna Kessler born January 22, 1828, and Rachel Kessler born December 20, 1831.

Before coming to Miami County, John was with his grandfather Ulrich and father Joseph Kessler in Montgomery County, Ohio where they all built the first wind mill (Fanning Mill) for the farmers to dry their harvested grain. The family was also wagon builders. Their religion was still affiliated with the Dunkard Brethren (German Reformed). John B. Kessler was a large land owner in Miami County, Ohio and at one time owned over one thousand acres of farms in Concord, Union, and Monroe Counties. He was in real estate sales and farming. John transferred over to the Methodist religion and was a minister of a congregation where he built his own chapel that once stood in the NE corner where Monroe Concord and Nashville Roads intersect. He also owned a business property on the Troy Public Square.

Susannah Feese Kessler died on June 3, 1850 and was buried at the Wheelock Cemetery in Nashville Hamlet, Union Township, Miami County, Ohio. After her death John B. married Sarah M. Moray on October 17, 1850. John Bowman Kessler died in Troy on September 22, 1866 and was buried at Rose Hill Cemetery located in Troy. In his will filed May 31, 1867 case #4336, book C, page 161, he left the Troy Public Square property to his daughter Elizabeth Kessler, who had no issue, for her lifetime. Then he willed approximately \$45,000 to the Troy Methodist Church and \$15,000 to the College in Delaware, Ohio.

His second wife died in 1893 and was buried next to John B. Kessler at Rose Hill Cemetery. Later her family was dissatisfied with the settlement of his estate and they moved her from the Rose Hill Cemetery to a family plot in the Forest Hill Cemetery in Piqua.

Submitted by: Floyd L. Kessler, Jr.

Joseph Kessler

Joseph Kessler was born near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on February 17, 1767, son of Ulrich and Anna Kessler. His father Ulrich came with his father and sister from Switzerland about 1751 at the age of ten. During their voyage across the Atlantic Ocean, Ulrich's Mother died and was buried at sea. Ulrich's father did not have any resources so the family was split and each sold and went to different buyers in order to pay for their transportation. Ulrich was sold to a sturdy well-to-do German Amishman. While Ulrich was with this Amish family he received a very limited education but was strictly trained in habits, industry, and thrift, and toiled on the loom to gain his experience. After eleven years he was set a free man. Then he set out for a search for his father and sister. After many months with no success he gave up.

Ulrich then set out to grapple his future and set up a business in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with the use of his loom experience and earned money to own a home. Ulrich married Anna, whose maiden name is unknown, in Philadelphia, and they had five children, Joseph Kessler born February 17, 1767, John Kessler born July 9, 1768, Henry Kessler born 1771, Daniel Kessler born 1775 and one daughter, name unknown. As Ulrich and Anna were raising their family, a sharper swindled him out of his money, pleasant home, about 53,240 dollars in Continental Money was paid to him and which he said, became worthless in one night. They were left penniless. Also about this same time frame they lost a son, Henry and their only daughter.

Ulrich and Anna moved to Rockingham County, Virginia and remained until the children were all grown and then set out for Wilkes County, North Carolina where he was the first person in his congregation to buy property. This was about 1785. Later his congregation moved on down with him and began purchasing property. Ulrich was a minister in the Dunkard (German Reformed Church).

Joseph was born in Wilkes County, North Carolina in 1776. On February 4, 1786 he married Mary Steel (Stihl) who was born November 12, 1768. Joseph and Mary Steel Kessler had eleven children while they were in North Carolina. They were John Bowman Kessler born November 12, 1787, Henry Kessler born November 12, 1789, Catherine Kessler born May 8, 1791, Mary Kessler born December 22, 1792, Anna Kessler born November 22, 1794, Susannah Kessler born March 8, 1796, Elizabeth Kessler born November 16, 1797, Joseph Kessler born May 6, 1801, Samuel Steel Kessler born March 13, 1804, Benjamin Kessler born April 12, 1807, and Jonathan Kessler born July 7, 1809.

Ulrich and his family all moved to the Miami Valley in 1812. His sons Joseph, John, and Daniel and their families migrated to Montgomery County and Miami County in 1812, with the exception of Daniel who stopped off in Kentucky to raise his family. It was unknown where Daniel raised his family until only recently his family descendants were found residing in the Louisville, Kentucky area.

Upon their arrival to Montgomery County, Ulrich and his son Joseph and grandson, John B. Kessler constructed the first wind mill (Fanning Mill) in this county for the farmers to dry their harvest. Ulrich Kessler passed on about 1820 and was buried on a plot in Butler Township just East of Union, Montgomery County, Ohio on the Martindale Road.

Joseph and his son, John B. Kessler moved to Miami County about 1813 with their families and Joseph bought property in Monroe Township, NW Quarter of Section 24 Township, Range 5, which was the original Land Patent issued by James Madison, President of the United States, on June 25, 1816. Joseph Kessler sold this property later to his son John Bowman Kessler on August 15, 1817 and moved back to Montgomery County, Ohio and died August 21, 1840 and his wife Mary Steel Kessler died on September 22, 1843. Both are buried in the family plot on the Martindale Road along with Ulrich in Butler

Township. Joseph Kessler's will was probated in Montgomery County, Ohio on September 28, 1840 but doesn't mention his wife Mary Steel Kessler. The names of "John B. Kessler, my oldest son and Jonathan, my youngest son" and states that property division has been made in file #1632.

Submitted by: Floyd L. Kessler, Jr.

Thomas Jefferson Kessler

Thomas Jefferson Kessler was born in Union Township, Miami County, Ohio on March 23, 1843 and was a farmer all of his life with the exception of being in the Army as a Private in Co. D 147th Regt. Ohio National Guard Infantry from May 2, 1864 to August 30, 1864, during the Civil War.

Thomas resided in Union Township when he married Phoebe Ann Robbins, daughter of Wilbur and Elizabeth Robbins, on December 22, 1863. After Thomas returned from his tour in the military he and his wife raised fourteen children, Susan Elizabeth born October 17, 1864, Lydia Leona born April 17, 1867, Grant Luellen born March 10, 1868, Sarah Dora born December 20, 1869, Henry William born November 12, 1871, Lester Watson born March 3, 1876, Mary Jeanette born February 24, 1878, Thomas Franklin born March 16, 1874, Ercy Oddis born May 13, 1880, James Warren born June 20, 1882, Serene Belle born January 4, 1885, Gracie Dell born March 23, 1887, Benjamin Harrison born May 30, 1889, and Bessie Ann born December 2, 1891.

Thomas and Phoebe raised their family at the Hamlet of Kessler. Kessler was named after this family since they were working at the first rail road station built there in 1898 and the first station agent was from this Kessler family.

Thomas died June 14, 1908 and Phoebe Ann lived on her property with her daughter until she died on January 21, 1916 at Kessler and they were buried side-by-side at the Wheelock Cemetery at the Hamlet of Nashville, Union Township, Miami County, Ohio.

Submitted by: Floyd L. Kessler, Jr.

George H. Kirk

George Henry Kirk was born May 9, 1901, the fourth child of Harry Kingsley and Emma (Nesbitt) Kirk. His older brother, Harry Leon, was born February 13, 1894 and lived just one year and 21 days. He had two sisters, Mabel, born December 24, 1895, who married Alva Lloyd Hilliard November 4, 1915 and she died March 13, 1965. His sister, Mary Lois, born October 21, 1898, married Earl Bright on March 7, 1918 and she died September 19, 1993.

His younger brother Ralph was born February 24, 1910. He married Betty Eloise Moore of Springfield on October 7, 1936 and he died February 24, 1984.

George Kirk married Dorothy Moyer of Troy on June 22, 1922. They parented 6 children. Betty Louise was born March 3, 1924, and died April 4, 1931. David Kingsley married Joan Jones now living in Troy. Roger Harold married Nancy Burton and they live in Casstown. Donald Thurman married Faye Chronaberry and they live in Medway, Ohio and Florida. Charles Bernard born in 1932 was killed in Korea on June 4, 1953. Thomas K. married Betty Lou Spears and they live on the home farm in Lostcreek Township. Tom is now a township trustee.