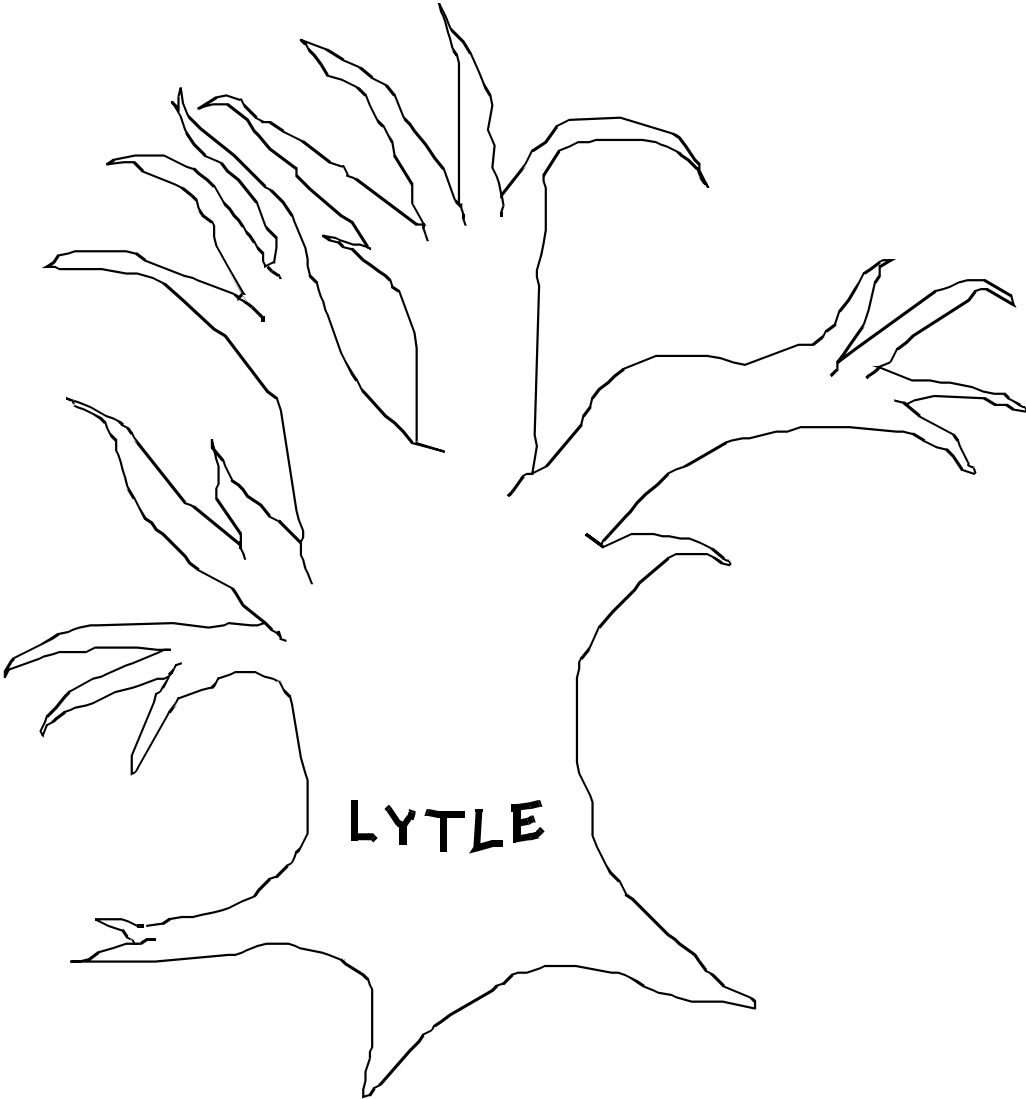


# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

Volume 4, Number 1

January, 1990



# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

January, 1990

Volume 4, Number 1

## Photographs

It's been over a year since I put any photographs here, so I thought that this would be a good time to show a few more.

First, my own great grandmother. It took years to find the picture, years to find her grave, and then I had a headstone put there.



My line of descent is:

Frank Lytle Francis Lytle married (#3) Martha "Patsy" Bulla

Luke Lytle married (#1) Elzira Jane Henson

Anna Lytle married David Robert Borrows

Harry Jay Hahn (adopted by aunt & uncle) married (#2) Mildred Reams

Margie I. Hahn married Charlie K. Vigeland

Rik A. Vigeland married Linda K. Manning

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These photos are from the Civil War era. Shown are Lewis Lytle (son of Albert and grandson of Frank) and his wife, Minerva A. Lee. Lewis died in the St. Louis Army Hospital in 1864.



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# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

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Recently, I was able to get together with two of our cousins who do research from California.

Marilyn Sanders (left) is related as follows:

Frank Lytle

Francis Lytle married Winnie Blizzard

Sarah Lytle married Reuben W. Huff

Minnie S. Huff married Worley W. Clark

Amy S. Clark married Bert Blaine Jennings

Marilyn C. Jennings who married Thomas L. Sanders

Louella Touriel (center) is related as follows:

Frank Lytle

Francis Lytle married Winnie Blizzard

James Lytle married Easter Buller

Elizabeth Lytle married William H. Reeder

James W. L. Reeder married Nora Smith

Genevieve L. Reeder married Jesse Andrew King

Luella L. King married Victor Touriel



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## FAMILY REUNION?

Marilyn and Louella will be traveling to the Midwest later this year and wonder,

- WOULD YOU COME TO A FAMILY REUNION in the Rock Port, Missouri area?
- Do you have relatives that would like to come?
- The reunion would be held either Memorial Day weekend or the weekend after that. Which would you prefer?

There are lots of motel rooms close by or within 20 miles all \$20 to \$35 per night. Rock Port is 60 miles north of St. Joseph, Missouri, 75 miles from Lincoln or Omaha, Nebraska, 175 miles from Des Moines, Iowa, and 500 miles from all of you near Indianapolis.

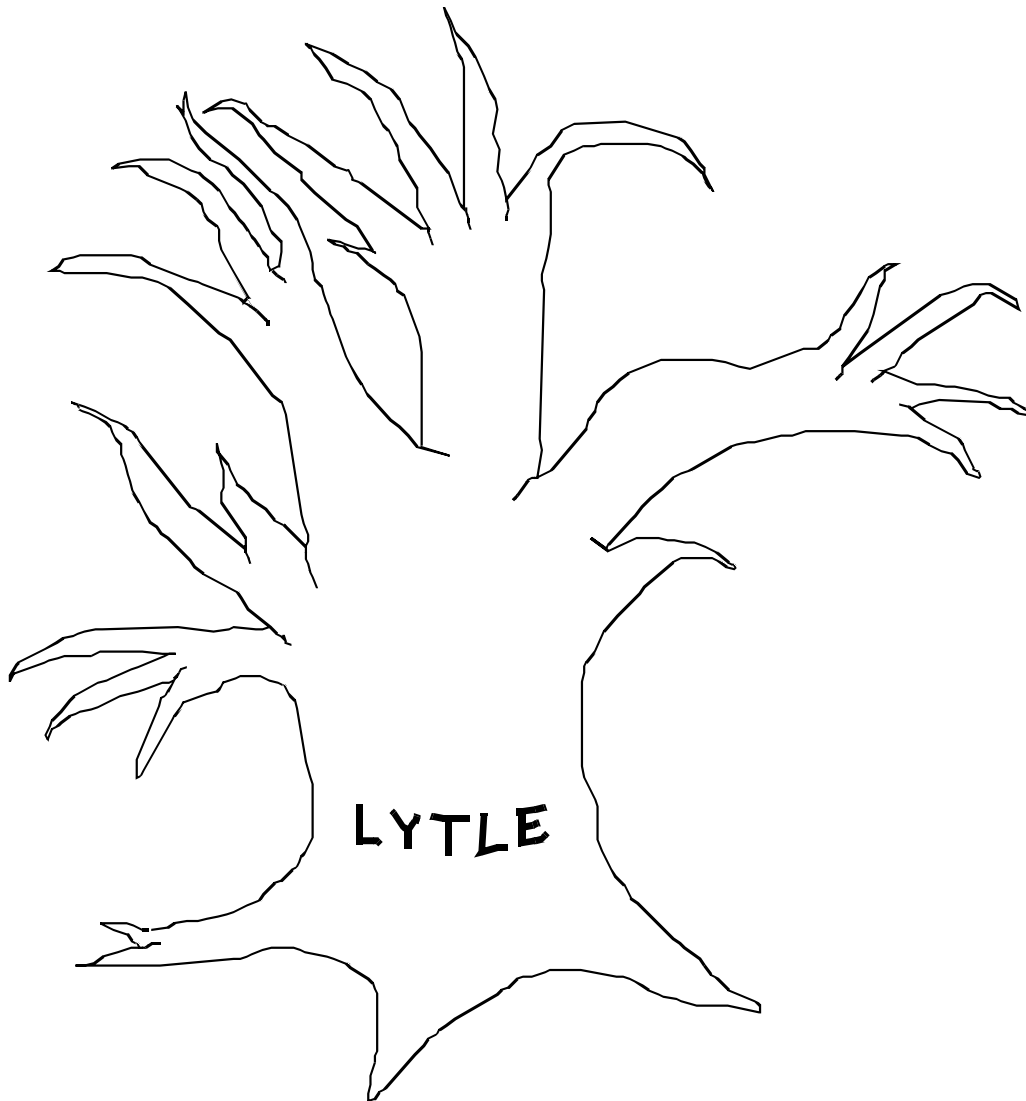
The reunion would be one day of family gathering, picnic, get acquainted, and share stories, pictures, etc. The second day would consist of touring the area. Francis Lytle is buried in nearby Shenendoah, Iowa. Many of his children lived and worked throughout this area, doing farming, blacksmithing, and running two hotels.

Please WRITE ME and tell me if you would be able to come here. If enough people are interested, more details will follow soon! Please say if you or your relatives would come, and which weekend is preferable. We really hope to hear from you!

# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

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# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

April, 1990

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## **Lytles and Johnsons**

The families of Lytle, Johnson (sometimes Johnston), and several others share some common history in several localities. There are many families well documented who came from Northern Ireland (Scotch-Irish) and settled in and around Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in the very early 1700's. Their religion was Presbyterian.

In the 1750's to 1770's, these families were neighbors both before and after a large migration to what is now Randolph County, North Carolina. There is marriage after marriage between them, and by today anyone related to one family is usually related to most of them. Much of this is documented in one book from 1955, Johnsons and Their Kin of Randolph. Other sources document Branches of the Lytle family in Pennsylvania, Ohio,

Tennessee, and Texas. In North Carolina, Presbyterians became Quakers, Methodists, or Baptists since the Presbyterian Church was not established there for many years.

Largely ignored is Thomas Lytle who moved to North Carolina and freed Frank Lytle. This is likely for two main reasons. First, Thomas' father, Thomas Sr., died very early and there are but few records of him. Second, Thomas Jr., in North Carolina, and his wife Catherine, had no children. Thus, it is effectively a "lost" branch. The circumstantial evidence that his slave Frank was his son continues to grow, however.

Thomas Jr. had one full brother, Henry. Two of Henry's daughters married Johnston or Johnson brothers, John and Joseph. The third married a Merrill. The Johnsons owned land about one mile south of Frank Lytle's land. There was a large family burial ground where many of the Johnsons were laid to rest, and possibly Henry Lytle, perhaps even Thomas. The Johnsons married into the nearby families who had also been neighbors in Pennsylvania, including the Mendinhalls. Frank Lytle Jr. later married Charity (Mendinhall) Benbow when many of these families had migrated together again to Indiana.

Thomas Lytle Sr. was probably a brother to one Robert Lytle, son of Christopher and Mary Lytle, an immigrant who moved to Hillsboro, N.C., which is about thirty miles northeast of where Thomas Jr. and Frank lived. Robert's son William owned land in Randolph County, close to Frank and the Johnsons. William Lytle went on to found Murfreesboro, Tennessee and part of this family later founded the cattle town which is now Lytle, Texas.

Another brother, John, had a grandson William who moved to Ohio, founded Williamsburg, and then lived in what is now Cincinnati. There is a Lytle Park where his home used to be. John's son Joseph (probably a first cousin of Thomas & Henry Lytle) served under Capt. Johnston (later Henry's son-in-law) in the Revolutionary War.

There are many other connections, to be sure, but one fact is clear: these people all shared a common bond across several states and several generations.



# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

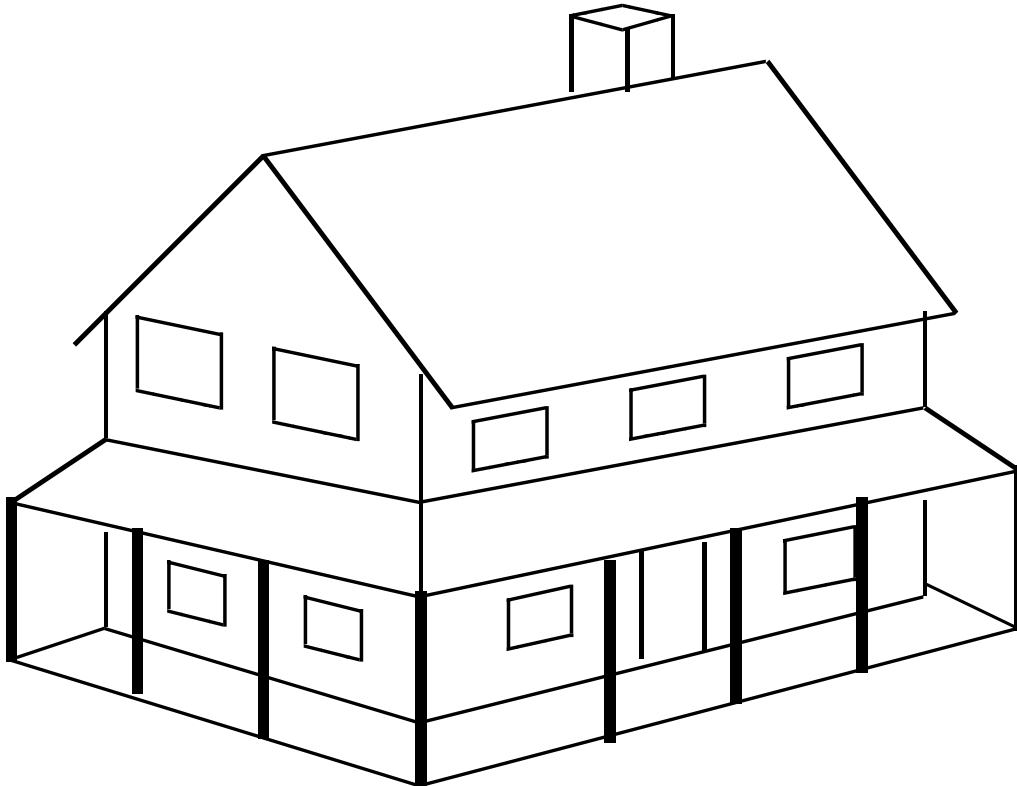
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## Visiting the Plantation

Several months ago, cousin Gladys Betenbaugh, a descendant of Waldens and Blizzards, happened to meet Mr. Ken Johnson, one of Henry Lytle's descendants, who lives on land that was on or very close to Frank Lytle's plantation. Mr. Johnson had seen what was left of Frank's old house. So, on a trip to Randolph County last month, I went with Gladys and another relative, Margaret Thompson, her first cousin, to see where Frank's house had been.

It is hard to imagine today exactly what it all had looked like, as the site is in a subdivision of large, new homes. However, the place is on the top of a gradual rise in the land, so as to afford a view in all directions. Carraway Creek, which ran through Frank's land, is about 3 or 4 hundred yards to the west. About 100 yards to the east is a low ridge which runs north and south. This may have been the eastern line of the old property. There is nothing left of the house. Mr. Johnson did say that it was a very large two-story house, facing south, with a porch around the front and both sides. A well stood quite close to the house.



While most of the subdivision is housing and mowed lawns, a small section had been left unimproved for some reason, so we managed to pick up a few loose stones. Upon later examination, one turned out to be aged cement, crude, round, about 5 inches across and a half inch thick. It had probably been used to line the well. Did a slave or one of Frank's family make this? Almost certainly. This is the only item I know of that ever belonged to Frank Lytle.

Another note on the Johnson family: Mr. Ray Johnson, Ken's father, was kind enough to sell his copy of Johnsons and Their Kin of Randolph

# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

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Volume 4, Number 2

## **FAMILY REUNION!**

There has been a sufficient response to make a small family reunion possible over Memorial Day weekend in Rock Port, Missouri. We expect as many as 50 people or more! Special thanks to Mrs. Louella Touriel, originally from Rock Port, for helping with details. We will gather at the Rock Port Public Park

Make your reservations as soon as possible if you need to. Anyone needing more information can write or call me. Rock Port is 60 miles north of St. Joseph, Missouri, 75 miles from Lincoln or Omaha, Nebraska, 175 miles from Des Moines, Iowa. There are lots of motel rooms close by or within 20 miles all \$20 to \$35 per night.

Saturday, May 26, will be the potluck picnic to get acquainted and share stories, pictures, etc. This day was chosen as we were able to reserve the adjacent Senior Center that day only, in case of poor weather. Officially, we will start the picnic at 11:00 in the morning, but come early if you like and visit.

Sunday, May 27, we will tour family home sites and cemeteries, by car-pool. Most people attending are descended from Francis (Frank) Lytle Jr., who is buried in nearby Shenendoah, Iowa. Many of his children lived and worked throughout this area, doing farming, blacksmithing, and running two hotels.

If you are coming, we are asking those close enough to bring hot dishes or salads. Attendants from far out of town, please bring soft drinks, chips, garnishes or the like, which can be bought locally. Anyone arriving in Rock Port at the last minute may contact Mrs. Genevieve King, if necessary, at 808 S. Main St., 816-744-2538.

Just as important to our family gathering are your old photographs, newspaper clippings, bibles, and the like. Please bring them. We want to get to know our ancestors, as well as each other!

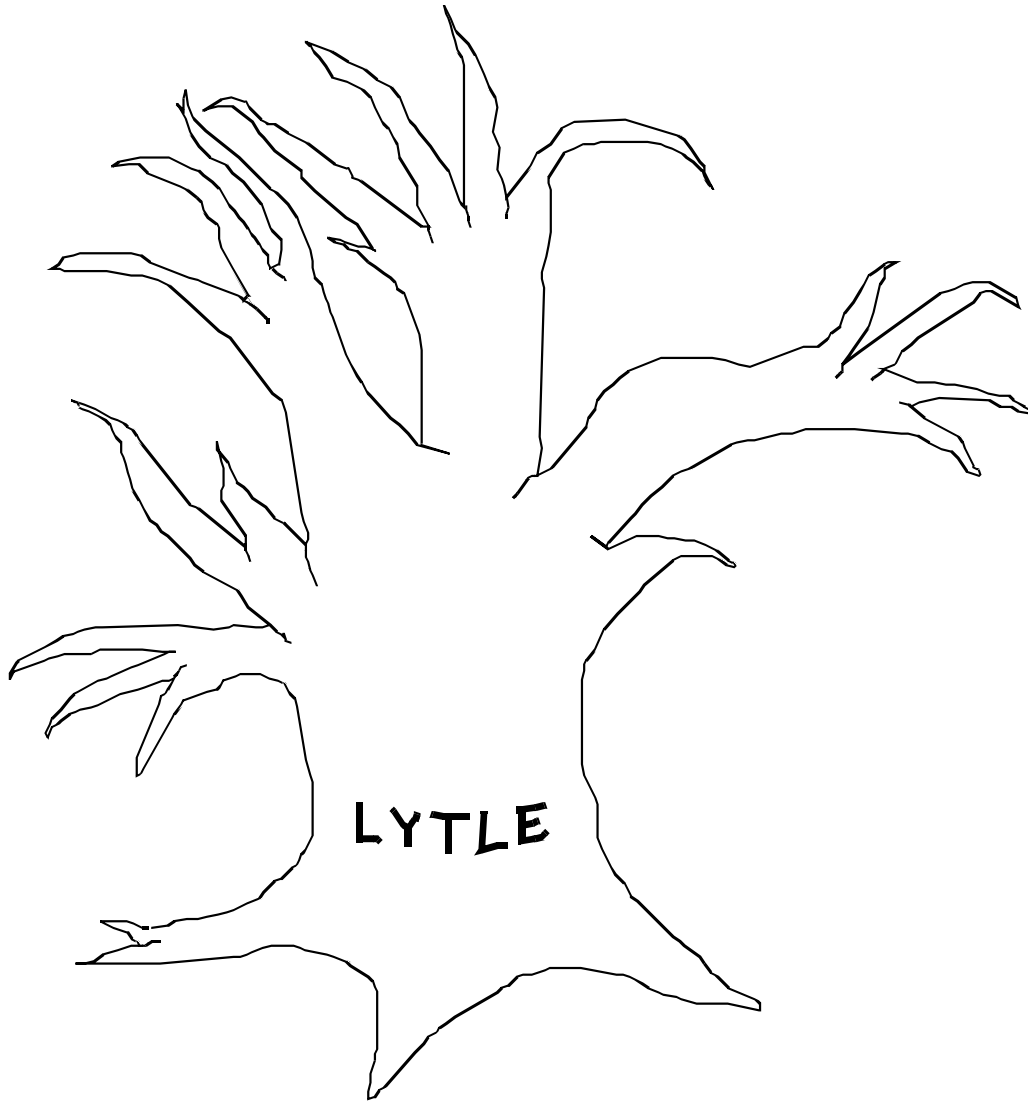
## **Next Reunion?**

Several west coast cousins are talking about another get-together around Labor Day in Oregon, possibly in Salem. Please let me know if this would be of interest to you or others in your family!

# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

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July, 1990



# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

July, 1990

Volume 4, Number 3

## Reunion News

We had a very nice Lytle family reunion in Rock Port, Missouri and the surrounding area on May 26th and 27th. Descendants of five of Frank Lytle's grandchildren were present to make about 30 persons, altogether. Those branches were from: Francis Lytle's children James, Sarah, Luke and Henry, and Albert's son Lewis.

Special thanks to Jenny King, Louella Touriel and Marilyn Sanders for getting everything to come together.

On Saturday, we met for a potluck dinner in Rock Port, Missouri. Everyone had a good time getting acquainted and finding out that we share some common stories amongst our distant branches of the family. Many people brought pictures and other records of their families.

Sunday saw several of us on the road visiting some cemeteries. In Shenendoah, Iowa, we all had a group photograph of two taken. We were at the grave of Francis (Frank Jr.) Lytle. Several of his descendants are also buried near him. We discovered more writing on his headstone. Near the top, near a hand pointing upward, appear the words "Meet me in Heaven." Fainter words appear at the bottom, but we were unable to make them out. Similar marks were on a grandsons headstone, and may be the words of a hymn.

Some of us, especially Marilyn and Louella who drove from California, met other relatives and did research as well. A few new branches of the family were located, notably those of Francis Lytle's daughters Jane Benbow, Winne Edgerton, and Louisa Breazeale, his youngest child.

Now, guess what, we are planning on doing it again, very soon. In fact, mark your calendars for Saturday, September 8, of this year to come to the Molalla River State Park in Canby, Oregon, for another get-together of Lytle descendants. This is a very nice place for a picnic, and we will start at 11:00 in the morning and keep going till we're worn out. There's plenty for the kids to do, too.

The park is at the north end of Canby, just short of the ferry which crosses the river. Head north on Holly Street from downtown. The streets are alphabetical tree names and the park is easy to find.

In case of rain, we'll move it to my place, but in any event, if you can make it please bring food and a place setting. Hot dishes if you can, or call me if you want a suggestion (my address and phone number on page 4).

Sure hope to see you there!

# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

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July, 1990

## Family News Update

As a result of various types of research, correspondence, and family visiting, we have gained about 300 more names of Frank Lytle's descendants and picked up quite a bit of history on the children of his son Francis. Here's a rundown of the latest, including a few surprises:

**JAMES LYTLE (1818-1904):** James was the oldest, and was a Wesleyan minister. Although he owned farmland, all of that work was done by his wife and children. He went on the circuit in his buggy and would be gone for a week at a time. When he died, he left everything to the church.

**THOMAS LYTLE (1824-1909):** Thomas and his sister Winnie Edgerton were the earliest members of the family to migrate to Iowa from Indiana, and it was ten years before the rest of the family caught up. Thomas was well liked in the community, but very strict and severe on his wives and children. He accused his second wife, Catherine, of adultery, and they each filed for divorce, but never followed through. After Catherine's death he married his brother Newton's ex-wife in 1890, but separated for several years and divorced her in 1902.

**JANE LYTLE BENBOW (1823?-?):** She married Moses Benbow. We still don't know much, but have found descendants in California. There are still many branches of her family missing.

**WINNIE LYTLE EDGERTON:** We finally found some of her descendants, in Iowa and Idaho. Winnie died in 1907 and is buried in Adams, Nebraska by her husband Samuel.

**NEWTON LYTLE (1837-?):** Newton married Elizabeth Henson, and her sister Elzira was brother Luke Lytle's first wife. Newton and a step-brother, Henry Rich, tried to kill Luke with a knife in 1872, for unknown reasons. He was found guilty of conspiracy and had to pay large fines, but Henry Rich was given most of the blame and skipped town. Newton later deserted his wife for another woman in Sundance, Wyoming, in the late 1800's, and is rumored to have had children who were either Black or Indian. Elizabeth married Thomas Lytle for a few years, was divorced from him and married thirdly Elijah Courtwright. She died shortly after him in 1915, in the county home in Rock Port Missouri. Her sister Elzira died in 1873 and is also buried in Atchison County, but in a remote, overgrown cemetery in the southern part of the county.

## This Just In!

With the new indexes to North Carolina state censuses, I finally located Frank Lytle's daughter Mary (or Polly) and her husband Richard Laughlin. Through census I traced their family up through 1910, into western North Carolina. Well, some of them ended up just about where cousin Bob Kiger's backyard is (or at least the same county)!

Bob was kind enough to check the county seat and a cemetery or two and sent me names of about 150 of Polly and Richard's descendants plus their spouses, many up to the present day!

Thank you very much, Bob!

**COME TO THE  
LYTLE FAMILY REUNION!**

**Saturday, September 8, 1990**

**Molalla River State Park**

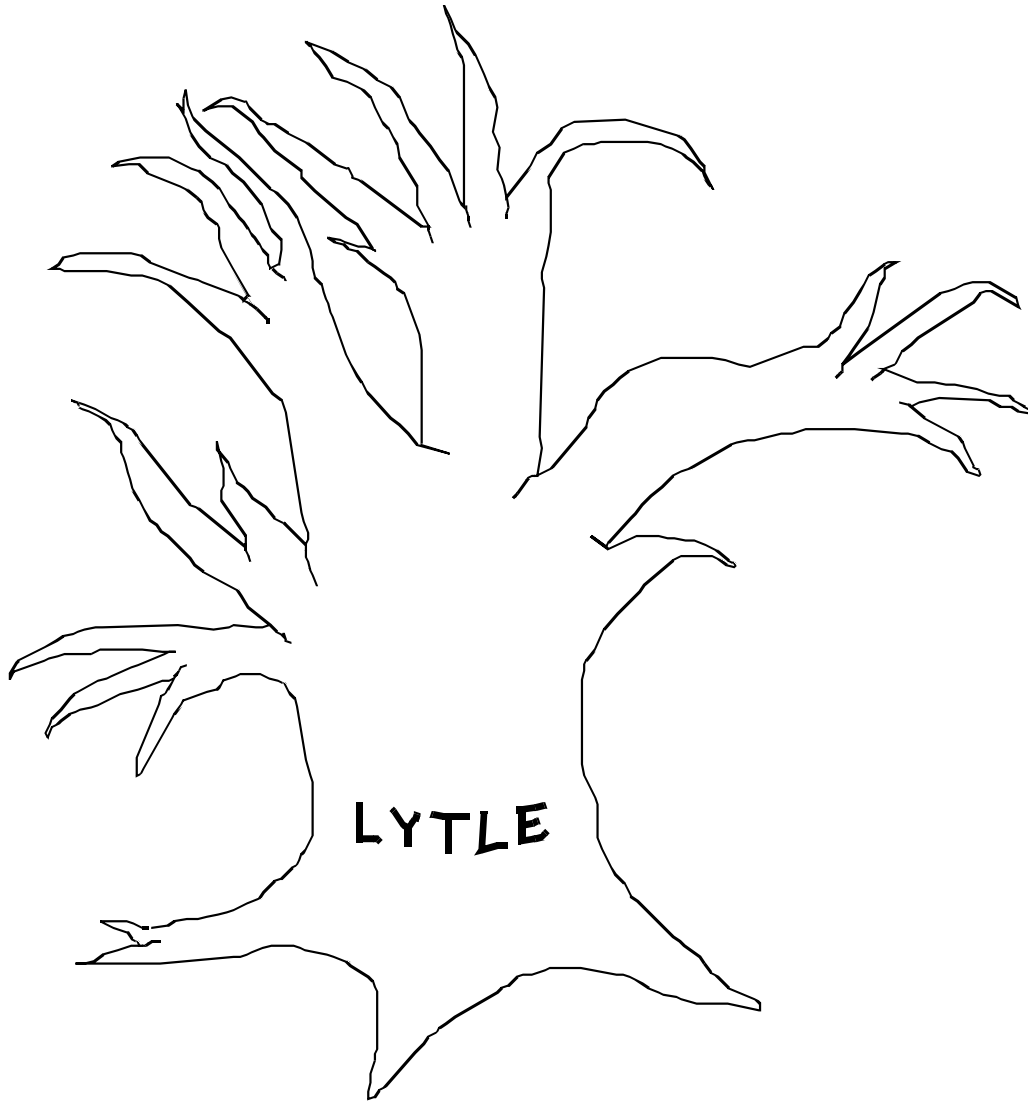
**Canby, Oregon**

Write or call the bulletin Editor for details!

# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

Volume 4, Number 4

October, 1990



# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

October, 1990

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## More Reunion News

We had a second family reunion this summer. This one was held out here in Oregon on September 8. All those attending were descendants of Francis Lytle Jr. (1796-1880), representing three branches of Thomas Lytle's family, two branches of Sarah (Lytle) Huff's family, and two branches of Luke Lytle's family. Family members were mostly from Oregon, and one cousin from each of California and North Dakota. Most of the twenty or so adults who came had not met any of the others, but we found that we had many common stories and family features to discuss. Everyone had lost of fun. It was a perfect mild and sunny day, centered about a potluck which ran from about 11 in the morning to 5 in the evening.

Many of you cousins have asked about future gatherings. I am open for suggestions.

Two areas that come to mind are Indiana or Idaho/Wyoming. There are many branches of our Lytle family in each of these areas who have not met each other, but are close by. For the most part these are all descendants of Francis Lytle Jr., as he had more than twenty children.

## Kinship

I am often asked how I can find relatives, or how I know that certain branches are related. It's not always easy, but it seems that the more relatives that are found, the more evidence comes up that we are all related.

Large parts of establishing relationships come from the U.S. Federal Census, taken every 10 years. Starting in 1850, the census lists the name of all people, not just the number of people in a house. Starting in 1880, the relationships are also shown in the census, as well as the birthplace of everyone's parents.

The 1890 census was destroyed by fire, but censuses are available for 1900 and 1910. Most any time that I find a "possible" relative in these later censuses, the first thing to check is whether the persons parents were born in North Carolina or Indiana, where our Lytle family comes from.

If a researcher is lucky, additional information will verify and add to census information. Some examples:

- Wills and Estates. Frank Lytle's estate papers list all of his 9 children, which are living or deceased, and where they were living.
- Bible records. Descendants of Demerious (Lytle, Robinett) Harris had Bible records listing most of the children of Francis Jr. and his with Martha.
- Obituaries. Those of Luke, Demerious and Louisa list other living relatives. Children's names are typical, but often parents, brothers and sisters and possibly others are also mentioned.
- County records - land, marriage, divorce records. Relatives often bought and sold amongst themselves, sometimes listing kinship. In Atchison County, Missouri, Francis Lytle (1796-1880) and his son Francis M. Lytle were referred to as "Sr." and "Jr." to keep records straight.
- Photographs. I received a photograph which is supposed to be Francis Lytle Jr., and expect to get one which definitely is soon. The one I do have bears a strong resemblance to his sons James and Thomas, especially, as well as photos of his other children. Watch for it here in an upcoming bulletin!



# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

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## Will of James Lytle, 1818-1904

James was the oldest son of Francis Lytle, Jr., and oldest grandson of Frank Lytle. His life as a Wesleyan minister has been discussed in previous bulletins.

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I, James Lytle of Riverton, Fremont County, Iowa, of sound mind and memory, desirous of making a distribution of my property that may become effective after my decease, do make, publish and declare this to be my last Will and Testament. I direct that all my just debts shall be paid, including my last sickness and funeral expenses. That it may be of some benefit to my Executor whom I shall herein name, I may state that I have at this time no outstanding obligations of any kind whatsoever. I have disposed of all my Real Estate and therefore this Will refers to Personal Property only. I direct that all my Household objects shall be sold at Public Sale, to the end that any relative may have the opportunity to purchase, relieving my Executor of any embarrassment of choosing between two or more at a Private Sale. The other Property, consisting principally of Promissory Notes, shall be collected and together with the proceeds of any other property belonging to me shall be divided into ten (10) equal parts of which my Daughter, Elisabeth Reeder, shall receive one (1) share, my Daughter, Mary Jane Mortimer, shall receive one (1) share, my Daughter, Sarah Ann VanFleet, shall receive one (1) share, my Son, Charles William F. Lytle, shall receive one (1) share, my Son, Alford S. Lytle shall receive one (1) share, my Son, Sampson R. Lytle, shall receive one (1) share, the heirs of the body of Simon L. Lytle, Deceased Son, one (1) share, the heirs of the body of Job D. Lytle, Deceased Son, one (1) share, the heirs of the body of John Lytle, Deceased Son, one (1) share, and to the heirs of the body of Thomas Lytle, Deceased son, one (1) share to be divided as follows, viz:- Mary Ivy Green the sum of five (\$5.) dollars and to Sarah Ellen Grape the balance of the share that would have gone to Thomas Lytle if living at the time of my decease. I appoint Emanuel Smith of Riverton, Iowa, as Executor of this Will and request that he be not required to give Bond for the execution of said trust.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of A.F.

Kidd and H.C. Byars, this tenth day of December, A.D. 1901.

Signed, sealed, published and declared by James Lytle, as and for his last Will and Testament in presence of us, who at his request and in his presence and in presence of each other, have subscribed our names as witnesses hereto, this tenth day of December 1901.

On this 8th day of October 1904, I desire to add a Codicil to the above last Will and Testament, to the end that Mary Iva Green shall receive the same amount as her sister, Sarah Ellen Grape, share and share alike.

Signed in the presence of A.F. Kidd and G.R. Meek

# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

October, 1990

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## Obituary of Joshua M. Lytle

This article was found in the Enid, Oklahoma Newspaper. Joshua Moore Lytle was the son of Francis Moore Lytle (1823-1913) and Harriet Ellen Bentley.

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When the patriarch of the Lytle family died here Wednesday, he left a staggering total of 203 living descendants. He was 99-year-old Joshua M. Lytle of 1409 N. 17th, whose funeral will be Saturday. The Rev. Howard Snell will officiate at the rites in the Chapel of the Henninger-Allen Funeral Home at 10 a.m. Burial will be at 2 p.m. in the Hope Cemetery at Chester. His survivors include 4 sons, Gene Lytle, Ernest Lytle and Hullman Lytle, all of Enid, and Elsworth Lytle of Canton, two daughters, Mrs. Lucille Haight and Telma Campbell, both of Enid.

Lytle is also survived by 47 grandchildren, 76 great-grandchildren, 42 great-great-grandchildren and 32 great-great-great-grandchildren. Lytle was born March 14, 1879, Sheridan Co., Kansas, and lived there until he was 18 when he moved to Mitchell Co. After his marriage to Grace Robinett in 1900, they came to Oklahoma where he farmed until his retirement in 1962.

Lytle had homesteaded in Major Co. before moving to a farm south of Seiling in 1915. He moved to Enid a few months ago. His wife, three sons, and three daughters preceded him in death.

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Editor's notes: Francis M. Lytle was first married to Eliza Robinett (1840-1872) in Rock Port Missouri, where Demerious Lytle married Ezekial Robinett (1842-?). Eliza and Ezekial were brother and sister, the 7th and 8th children of Amon Robinett. Joshua's wife, Grace Robinett, was their niece, making three known marriages between the two families. Much of this information comes from the Robinett Family Association of America, which is comprised of descendants of Allen Robinett, a great-great-grandfather of Amon Robinett. Several Lytle and Lytle related families were all neighbors in Sheridan and Jewell counties in Kansas, and had been in Indiana, Iowa, and Missouri as well. Joshua Lytle's cousins George and Enoch Lytle, sons of Albert, also moved to Oklahoma around the turn of the century, and all of these Lytles have many descendants there today.