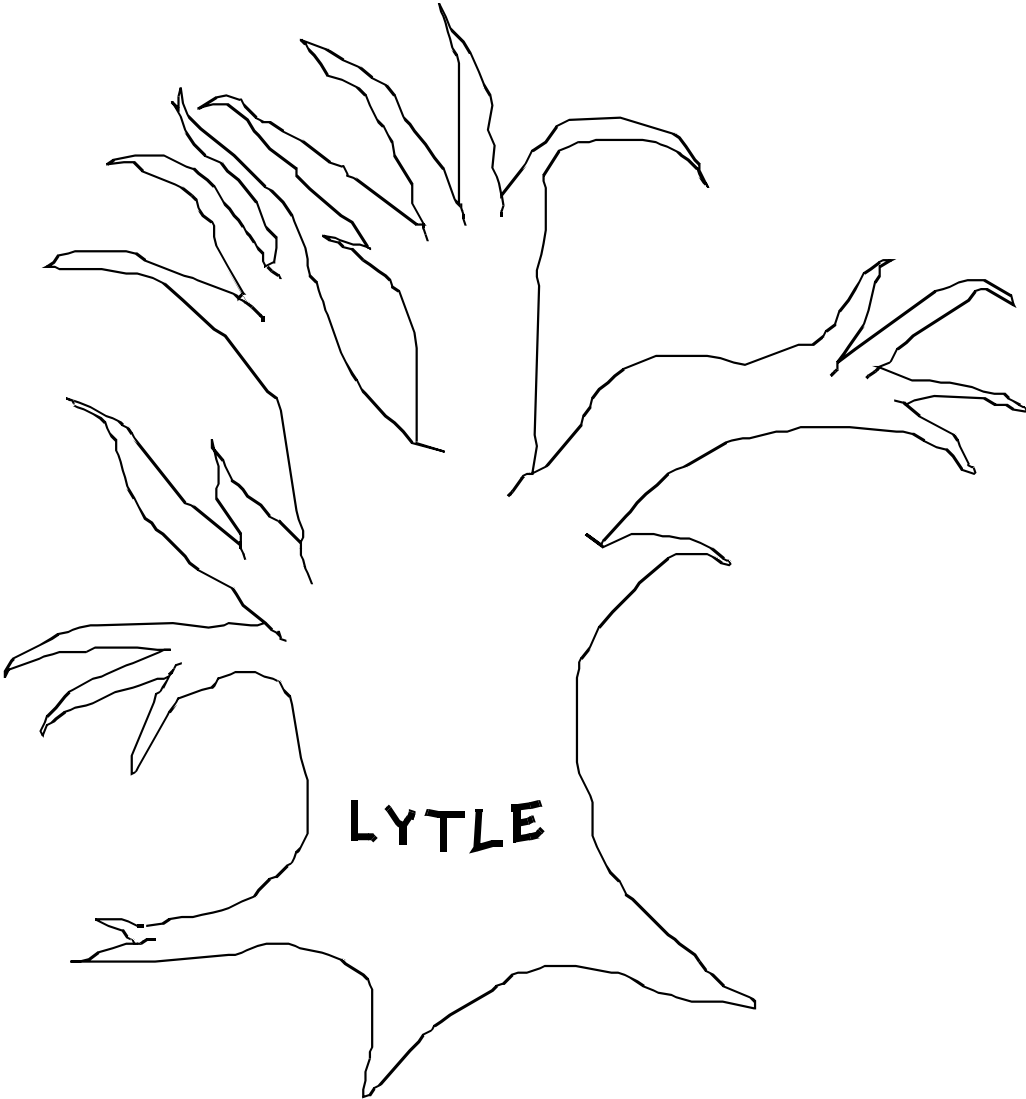


# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

Volume 5, Number 1

January, 1991



# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

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## “I’m My Own Grandpa”

That old song title is almost appropriate for some of the relationships found in the Lytle family. I have recently had opportunity to research the ancestry of the numerous people that married Frank Lytle’s children and grandchildren, and have found that many of them (these spouses) were already related or became related through other marriages.

I’ll start with one which may be the most difficult. Charity Mendenhall was a daughter of Aaron Mendenhall and Miriam Rich. Charity was a granddaughter of John Rich the 1st. Charity’s first husband was John Benbow. Two of their children were Evan and Moses Benbow.

Evan adopted a girl relative of his wife, Rocinda Hoggatt, when Rocinda’s father, Nathan Hoggatt, died. Evan’s wife and Rocinda’s mother were both members of the Scott family. Rocinda, then, was more or less an adopted granddaughter of Charity Mendenhall Benbow. Rocinda married John Rich the 4th, a cousin of Charity, and so became related to her a second time.

Now we get to the good part. Francis Lytle (1796-1880) married Charity Mendenhall Benbow after his wife Martha Bulla died. Charity died in May of 1858, and in August Francis married Charity’s double relative Rocinda Hoggatt Rich!

Here’s another close tie with all of these people: Moses Benbow, Charity’s daughter, married Jane Lytle, Francis’ daughter. This marriage occurred before they became step-siblings, however.

Charity also had a first cousin, Benjamin Mendenhall, who had two children marry grandchildren of master Thomas Lytle’s brother Henry.

And here’s another relationship: Francis Lytle’s son Thomas married Elizabeth Lowder. Her father was Samuel Lowder. Francis’ wife Rocinda was a daughter of Nathan Hoggatt. Samuel Lowder’s first cousin Matthew Lowder married Nathan Hoggatt’s first cousin Ruth Hoggatt.

All of these people or there parents lived at one time or another near the New Garden Friends Church (Quaker) which is within 20 miles of the old Lytle Plantation. Surely many of them knew each other in North Carolina, and perhaps even earlier in Pennsylvania, before moving to Indiana.

Lastly, another relationship that I am still working on. The question: who is Wesley Lytle? Francis Lytle’s daughter Elizabeth married Joshua Freeman, and a man named Wesley Lytle married Mary Jane Freeman. The relationship between these Freemans is uncertain. Mary Jane may have been Joshua’s daughter from his first marriage or a sister to Nathan Freeman who married Anna Rich; these latter Freemans lived close to John and Rocinda Rich, Rocinda later being a wife of Francis Lytle, as mentioned before. Joshua and Elizabeth lived next to Wesley in 1860. The relation between John and Anna Rich is unknown. One more fact about Wesley Lytle - he joined the same unit in the Civil War as did Albert Lytle’s son Andrew. Was Wesley a son of Francis or of Albert or some other relation?

Wesley and the Riches lived, at times, just outside of Grant County in Howard County, whose seat is Kokomo. A man named Edward Lytle lived in this area and later lived in Jewell County, Kansas near Francis Lytle’s sons Newton, Henry, and Francis. Coincidence or relative?

# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

Volume 5, Number 1

January, 1991

## Old-time Plantation Proceedings

These depositions were taken from neighbors of Thomas Lytle's executors. The first, Brigadier General Alexander Gray, was the largest slave owner in Randolph County, with 118 slaves at one time. He was also quite active in pursuing freedom for slaves. One branch of the Manumission Society met at his place as early as 1817. Many of his slaves could be connected with the Lytle slaves, as his daughter Elizabeth married William

Alexander Hogan (later a state senator from Randolph County) whose father, William Hogan was an attorney for the plaintiffs in the Thomas Lytle estate (see bottom of next page) and bought most of the Lytle slaves. Another family connection note: Benjamin Mendenhall (see previous article) also had a daughter who married Alexander Gray's second cousin, William Gray.

The second, Elisha Mendenhall, was a first cousin of Charity Mendenhall Benbow's father (see previous article again).

Depositions taken to be used in the Suit pending in the Court of Equity for Randolph County wherein Agents did Johnston & Others as Complainants, the Executors of William Bell & Others as Defendants

In answer to the several Questions put by the Complainants Council, Alexander Gray, after being duly sworn deposes and answereth.

Q1 Were you acquainted with William Bell, John Beard and Samuel Milliken, Executors of Thomas Lytle dec'd, formerly of Randolph County? I was acquainted with them all.

Q2 Did the said Executors or any of them exercise any rights of ownership over the said Negroes bequeathed to them by Thomas Lytle?

A Yes, the Executors claimed them as their property under the will of Lytle and were in the habit of directing them as to their Conduct and Management of the business of the farm, and often Complain'd that they managed badly.

Q3 Did not the Executors permit the said Negroes to remain on the Lands of the said Thomas Lytle from the time of his death until the present time, and did not the Executors permit the said Negroes to exercise all the privileges of free persons of Colour?

A The Executors did permit the Negroes the principal part of their time to remain on the lands of Thomas Lytle dec'd; they Cultivated the Land and lived upon its production; but were not permitted to exercise all the privileges of free persons of Colour, but either took or were allowed greater liberties than slaves generally enjoy.

Q4 Did you ever hear the said Executors or any of them say that Lytle bequeathed the said Negroes to them for the purpose of having them emancipated, or anything to that effect?

A I do not recollect that I ever did hear either of the Executors say for what purpose the negroes was willed to them, but know they were anxious to have them Emancipated.

Q5 Did not the Executors present one or more petitions to the Legislature of this state, to have the said Negroes Emancipated?

A They did. While a member of the Legislature I laid one of their petitions before the Legislature myself.

# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

January, 1991

Volume 5, Number 1

Q6 Did the said Executors ever give in the said Negroes or Slaves and pay taxes for them, or ever require the said Negroes to give their time of them, or pay them any rent for the lands on which they lived?

A The Executors were in the habit of giving in the Negroes as taxables and paying their taxes. I heard Bell and Beard both say that the said Negroes did not make enough on the farm to support themselves & pay their taxes.

Q7 Did the executors ever treat said Negroes as slaves or exercise any Control over them, or devise and beneficial interest from them whatsoever?

A Mr. Bell told me that he had hired out some of the Negroes, and it comes within my own knowledge that one of them was in the Services of Mr. Gardner for some time.

Alex. Gray

Sworn to & Subscribed this 9th day of Feby 1825 Before

Wm. Hogan J.P.

John Clark J.P.

# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

Volume 5, Number 1

January, 1991

In answer to the several Questions put by the Complainants Council, Elisha Mendenhall, after being duly sworn deposed & answereth,

Q1 Were you acquainted with William Bell, John Beard and Samuel Millikin, Executors of Thomas Lytle dec'd formerly of Randolph County?

A Yes, but more particularly with Bell.

Q2 Did the said Executors or any of them ever exercise any right or ownership over the said Negroes bequeathed to them by Thomas Lytle?

A Yes. Mr. Bell after the death of Millikin and Beard claimed them as his own property. Upon inquiry being made of him, by this deponent why he suffered them to live in the way they did? Mr. Bell answered it was because he was Conscientiously bound to get them set free.

Q3 Did not the Executors permit the said Negroes to remain on the Lands of the said Thomas Lytle from the time of his death until the present time, & whether the said Executors did not permit the said Negroes to exercise all the privileges of free persons of Colour?

A The Executors did permit the Negroes to live upon the lands of Thomas Lytle dec'd and I do believe they enjoyed the profits arriving therefrom.

Q4 Did you ever hear the said Executors or any of them say that Lytle bequeathed the said Negroes to them for the purpose of having them emancipated, or anything to that effect?

A Yes, I heard Mr. Bell say in positive terms, the Negroes were willed to them for that purpose, and he was Conscientiously bound to endeavor to have it effected.

E. Mendenhall

Sworn to & Subscribed this 9th day of Feby 1825 Before

Wm. Hogan J.P.

John Clark J.P.

# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

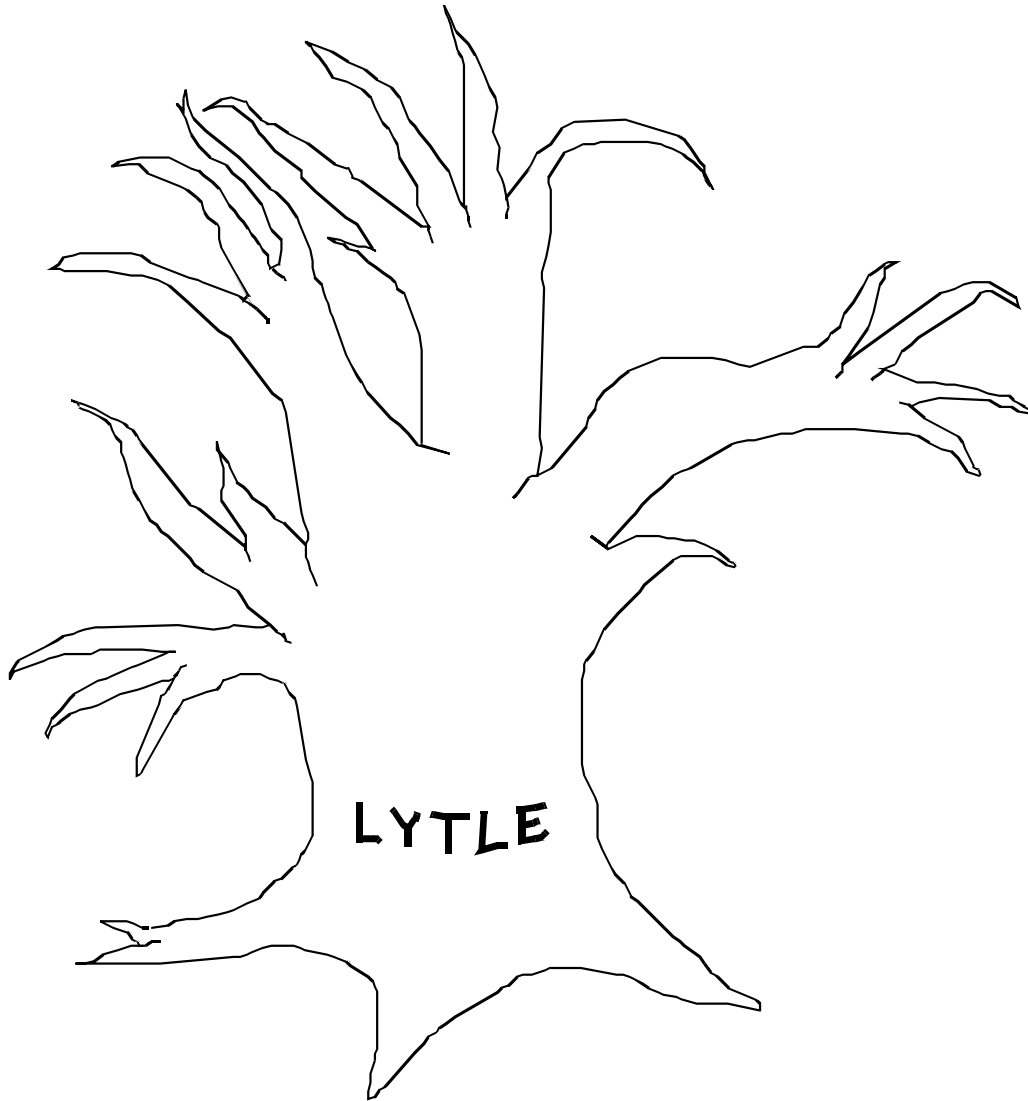
January, 1991

Volume 5, Number 1

# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

Volume 5, Number 2

April, 1991



# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

April, 1991

Volume 5, Number 2

## The Life and Times of Newton Lytle

A lot of the cousins I have met or corresponded with have heard of “Uncle Newt” Lytle, but mostly bits and pieces that their parents or grandparents mentioned in passing. And no wonder that little more was said. Newton is one of the most colorful characters in the Lytle family history, but may not have been on good terms with his family. Here is his story, as much as has been found.

Newton was born in Grant County, Indiana in Sept. 15, 1837, and was said to have been the first white child born in Fairmount Township. He was the second son of Francis and Patsy (Bulla) Lytle, or about 14th of all of Francis’ children. When he was about 17 his mother died, more than likely in childbirth (her 15th). It would appear that at this time he and some of the other Lytle siblings went and worked for their Bulla uncles in Wayne County, Indiana, being as he and younger brother Luke both married there. Newton and Luke married sisters, Elizabeth Jane and Elzira Jane, daughters of Solomon and Sarah (Small) Henson. In 1860 He was living near the other Lytles again, in Tipton County, immediately to the southwest of Grant County. His occupation was listed as Ox Driver, and his wife, two children, Charles W. and Sarah J. (“Jenny”) and his brother Stanford were living with him.

Like five of his brothers, Newt served in the Union Army during the Civil War. Newt and his brothers John and Stanford served in Company H, 8th Indiana Infantry. Also two nephews, Harmon (son of Harmon Sr.) and Thomas (son of James) served in the 8th, Thomas in Co. H with his three uncles, and Harmon in Co. C.

Of these five Lytles, only Newton and Thomas returned from the war.

Newton then followed older and younger brothers for many years, and trouble followed him, or perhaps it was the other way around in both cases.

After the war, when most of the family moved to the Iowa-Missouri border, Newton set up the first blacksmith shop in Milton, south of Rock Port, Missouri.

This small town no longer exists, save for a few scattered houses and a cemetery, but flourished in the 1870’s. Luke also set up a blacksmith shop in the area. It is not known if they competed for business, but trouble of some type broke out in January of 1872 when Newton and his step brother, Henry Rich (see previous bulletin about Rich family) conspired and attacked Luke with a knife. According to the court papers, it was Henry who wielded the knife “with intent to kill” and they, in fact, did beat and injure Luke. No more details have been found.

Not long after this, Newton had moved to Kansas, settling first in Jewell Center (later Mankato), the county seat of Jewell County, by 1873. His older brother Francis M. Lytle moved here after his first wife died in February of 1873 in Rock Port, Missouri. Newton’s brother Henry was here, too, as well as Henry Rich, John Rich, and other cousins of these Lytles. Francis was married in November of that same year to the widow Harriet (Bentley) Bolster. Newton’s son Charles married her daughter Sarah in 1879, and Francis’ own son Jasper married another daughter, Mary Jane, in 1878.

In Jewell Center, Newt became a business partner with Charles Pettigrew and Lewis Horne in C.W.

Pettigrew and Company. This was a general store selling dishes, soap, fabric, foods, and so forth and faced the town square. Also on the square, these men operated a livery stable, a stone office and a butcher shop. Several of the Lytle family have been both butchers and blacksmiths. The company was sued in 1874 for merchandise not paid for, presumably bought on credit for resale. Newton was not located by the county officials for quite some time.



# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

Volume 5, Number 2

April, 1991

Once again, Newton was on the move. He appears to have lived in two or three places at once, probably due to a wide ranging cattle business. His name still appears from time to time in Jewell County until about 1884. He appears mostly in Sheridan County, Kansas in the mid to late 1870's with some of its early settlers. Newt and his brother Frank (Francis M. Lytle) were in Sheridan Township near the last Indian raid on Kansas, the Dull Knife Raid, when the Cheyenne rode up from Indian Territory (Oklahoma) in April of 1878. Several of them congregated near Frank's place, meanwhile the homesteaders gathered at Newt's place and nearby neighbors. The Indians moved on a ways and raided a few houses. The whole affair was over when Chief Dull Knife and some of his men were shot, the rest taken back to Indian Territory.

The township of Adell is named for a long-gone town of the same name that Newton started in 1879. This was in the northeast corner of the Sheridan County. The town of Adell started out as a frame shack with a saloon. This saloon was to open on Monday, but a preacher named Weller from Buffalo Park asked to preach there on Sunday.

Much whiskey and beer was inside, but Newton allowed him to preach, provided he didn't drink any of the beer, so the keg was the pulpit. This was recorded as the first preaching in Sheridan County. By 1881 Adell had grown and a temperance hall was organized. Newton likely found this a bit intolerable. Also at this time Newton and Elizabeth show up on census records with a step-daughter, Hattie Miller. Nothing more is known about her.

It was while in Sheridan County that Newton's son Charles was married to his step-cousin Sarah Nevada Bolster. They had five children, but were eventually divorced in the late 1890's. Charles then enlisted in the Spanish-American War, and died either in the Philippines or Puerto Rico.

Newton also shows up in Sundance, Wyoming from about 1882, when he, along with Levi Wells and J.S. Harper captured 21 buffalo calves and held them in an overnight cabin at what is now Cabin Creek. They were divided up for breeding stock, but Newton bought out the lot of them two years later. They were eventually sold as zoo exhibits back east, shipping out through Fort Pierre, South Dakota.

By about 1885 Newton moved his family permanently up to the area of Sundance where his brother Henry had moved 4 years earlier, and his sister Ellen with Husband Frank Miller prior to that. His sister Demerious Robinett also moved there in this time period from Rock Port, Missouri. Newton at one time owned land near the large formation which is now the Devil's Tower National Monument (seen in the movie "Close Encounters"). This was the well-known Campstool ranch, which was sold with the buffalo to J.C. Ryan.

The last definite word on Newton was in 1887, when he sold a large amount of land and cattle. With the proceeds, \$4,000 in cash, he disappeared with one Mary Sellers, leaving his family behind. The Crook County Court in Sundance granted his wife, Elizabeth, a divorce in August of 1889 and awarded her the few small remaining properties and household goods.

Elizabeth then married Newt's older brother, Thomas, but they were estranged. Elizabeth was living with her granddaughter, Lottie (Charles' daughter) and her new husband Ezra J. Tuttle in the 1900 census in Page County, Iowa, just north of Missouri. Elizabeth and Thomas were finally divorced in 1902 at Rock Port, Missouri. Here she married Lije Courtwright. They both passed away in Rock Port in 1915.

Along similar lines, Demerious Robinett was divorced from here husband, Nathan Ezekial Robinett, in Sundance, also in 1879.

# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

April, 1991

Volume 5, Number 2

Of Newton, the rest is rumor. But consistent rumor. Descendants of three or four of Newtons brothers have vague recollections, along the line of "Grandpa's brother went crazy and ran off to Montana or the Dakotas, lived with some squaws and had a bunch of Indian kids." And I have heard that there are Indians named Lytle in Montana!

Amongst the pension records of the United States, there is none for Newton Lytle. Two types generally applied for are "disability", when the soldier gets older, and "widow's", after the soldier dies. The possible conclusion is that Newt may never have remarried, and that he may have died before being eligible for the disability pension. So, wherever he went, we might not ever know more about "Uncle Newt".

On a upbeat note, I was contacted by the family of June (Lytle) Shambaugh while about half way through getting this written. She is a granddaughter of Newton's son Charles, and lives in Buffalo, Wyoming. These descendants of Newt's are doubly related to descendants to Luke Lytle and his first wife, Elzira, and doubly to descendants of Francis M. Lytle and his son Jasper by way of their wives.

These are the first of Newton's family I have ever known of in the present day.

They, too, though, are still looking for him!

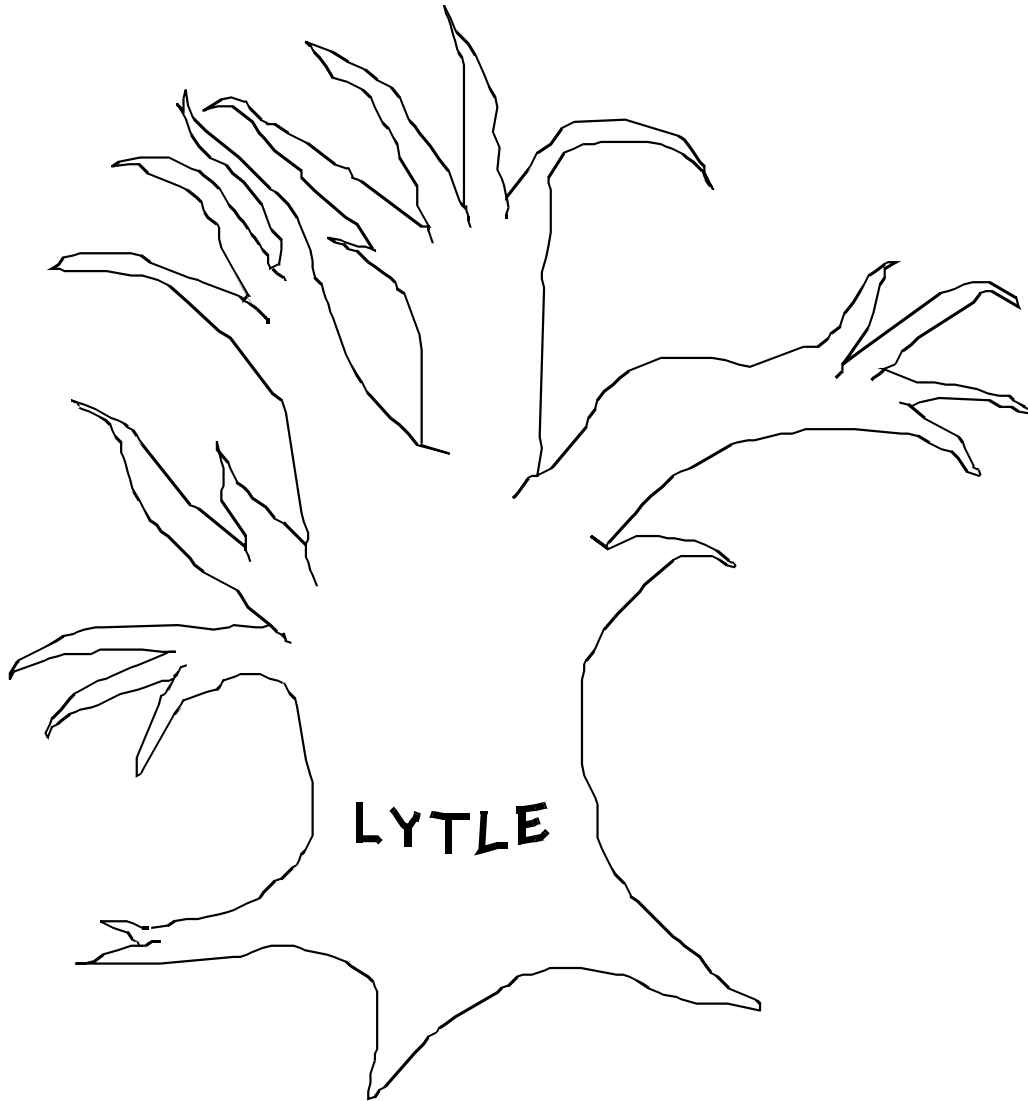
## **Do You Have a Story?**

If you have a Newton Lytle story or any others which would help to write articles like this one, please send them in! Most of this information comes from public records and histories in Wyoming, Kansas, and Missouri. Special thanks to Louella Touriel, Marilyn Sanders and Dennis Lytle for doing the digging.

# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

Volume 5, Number 3

July, 1991



# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

July, 1991

Volume 5, Number 3

## **NGS Conference**

May 29 thru June 1 was the National Genealogical Society's annual "Conference in the States" and was held in Portland, Oregon. I had the pleasurable company of cousins Marilyn Sanders and Louella Touriel, who drove up from California to attend with me. For four days we listened to seminars on a whole range of topics regarding the search for ancestors.

Each day there were five or six one-hour time periods, each of which offered about six or eight topics to choose from. We each wished we could attend all of the sessions! Fortunately, a crib sheet or two for each was written and all of them bound together for easy reference.

You wouldn't believe all the things folks are doing with computers these days! And I even work with them all day. Lots of vendors and book sellers were in the display hall. Probably the most impressive things being done now are related to the mass storage available on those small compact disks (CD's). Each one can hold over 600 million printed characters. Some of this is used up by making indexes of the material that a computer can quickly scan in order to find the appropriate page of text or persons name, but as one demonstrator put it, "We can fit 300 books of 500 pages each on just one of these portable disks." Lots of services are springing up to sell or lease these disks to anyone who has a home computer and the CD reader (as cheap today as \$800 and \$400, respectively). By the looks of things, I predict that you will probably find all county histories ever published for a particular state available on one disk in the next five years, and fully indexed, I might add.

I also overheard that genealogy has surpassed stamp and coin collecting to become the number one hobby in the United States. No surprise that some of these computer folks realized a quick way to make a buck. I just hope that they respect the nature of our work on families instead of just so much printed data.

## **Reunion?**

When asked, my response has always been that the next family reunion should be in Idaho or Wyoming, as there are quite a few folks there from several branches who have never met.

The last one was held in Oregon the weekend after Labor Day. It is about as simple to organize as this: find a park with picnic tables, find a place in case of rain, and announce a potluck! I can take care of publicity if someone wants to help with location.

Family branches are mostly in Boise and Pocatello, Idaho, and Sundance and Cheyenne, Wyoming. There are also lots of us spread around with close relatives in this area, so I think a reunion is possible, but I can't set it all up from here. If any of you cousins in these states would like to let me know what dates would be possible for you to attend or help organize, let me know and I'll get you in touch with each other. I'd also like to know how far you would be willing to travel for a one day reunion. Any of the above named cities, or their neighbors are potential. And for the rest of you readers, if you want to go, let me know, so that a mailing to the entire family (60+ households) is not required. There will be no further notices! The next bulletin will come out in October, after the fact. Any takers?

# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

Volume 5, Number 3

July, 1991

## Bicentennial Reunion?

Thomas Lytle died in 1794, beginning the path to freedom for our ancestor, Frank Lytle (1773-1869). The freedom was completed by an act of the North Carolina State Legislature in 1795. We should pick 1994 or 1995 to hold a freedom bicentennial of our own in Randolph County, NC. Mark your calendars, think about going (none of you have plans yet, right?) and let's see what we can do to get there from here!

Relatives, Relatives!

This is another story to show how interwoven are the branches of our family tree.

Thomas Lytle's wife was Catherine King, who had one brother and four sisters. Two of these sisters, Mary and Elizabeth married brothers Stephen and William Alexander, respectively.

Elizabeth then had a daughter Elizabeth Alexander who married Robert Laughlin. Robert's brother, Richard Laughlin married Frank Lytle's daughter Mary (Polly).

Then there was William King Alexander (not sure yet whose grandson he was, but one of these ladies) who married Susan Johnson, a great-granddaughter of Thomas Lytle's brother Henry. So chalk up Kings and Alexanders as ones to watch if you're nosing around in North Carolina!

## Ongoing Research

Still tracking down Wesley Lytle. The original question was: Is he a son of Francis (1796-1880) or his brother Albert (1802-1871)? He was born about 1838 in Indiana, apparently in Grant County. He served in the Civil War with one of Albert's sons.

The problem is, according to census records, we have accounted for all of Albert's sons (still need to find a couple of daughters). And according to Bible records, which look to be accurate, there is barely enough time between Newton and Eunice for Wesley to be born, and he is not in the Bible records at all, while the other children of Francis and Martha are (Albert, 1836; Newton, 1837; Eunice 1839, Luke 1840; and several more following) and are all about 18 months apart. A good genealogist's rule of thumb is 18 to 24 months; any more gap than that and start looking for a deceased child. Lastly, Wesley is not listed with Francis or Albert or any other Lytles in the 1850 census.

Now there are a few more things we do know about Wesley. A big help was Joshua Freeman's will, which was recently sent to me by & discussed thoroughly with Betty (Freeman) Sellers. Joshua has a boy Wesley living with him in 1850, age 12. But the whole household was listed under the name Freeman. Is this our Wesley Lytle? Yes. Joshua was married to Elizabeth Lytle in 1845. Joshua had no son named Wesley, but his will treats Wesley Lytle much like a son, without really stating his relationship. Wesley married Mary Jane Freeman, who was a daughter from Joshua's first marriage. Wesley and Mary Jane were married two months after the will was dated. The marriage was performed by a witness to the will, C.P. Baldwin.

We conclude that Elizabeth Lytle, daughter of Francis, had a son Wesley out of wedlock when she was 17, which may be why she was so much older in marrying than her sisters were. If we are right, then the only records which could prove otherwise (death certificate, county history, or obituary) are probably silent on this point, if they exist. Keep watching!

# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

July, 1991

Volume 5, Number 3

## Will of Joshua Freeman

In the Name of God Amen. I Joshua Freeman of the County of Howard and State of Indiana of the age of Forty four Years and being Sound in mind & memory do make Publish & declare this my last Will & Testament in manner following that is to say,

1st I will that my funeral Expenses and all my just debts be first paid by me Executor herein after mentioned out of my Estate

2nd I give and devise to my wife Elizabeth Freeman the following tract of Land Situated in the County of Grant and State of Indiana and being the North West Quarter of the South East Quarter of Section Thirty Three in Township Twenty three North of Range Seven East Containing 40 acres with all the appurtenances & Privileges thereto belonging during her natural life at her death to go in Equal proportions to her children by me or the survivor of them & which is to be accepted & received by her in lieu of her Interest in my other Real Estate and I give & bequeath to her all my household and kitchen Furniture & one years support out of the provisions & produce on hand at the time of my decease if so much shall be growing & on hand & if not then so much as shall be.

3rd I give and bequeath out of the balance of my personal Estate if any be left after the above provisions To my Son William W. Freeman Five dollars & my son Richard C. Freeman Twenty five dollars, to my son Nathan Freeman the sum of five dollars, to my daughter Mary Jane Freeman the sum of Twenty five dollars and to Wesley Lytle the sum of twenty five dollars; and should there not be Remaining sufficient for the above and then that Each takes their proportion according to the above Specific Amounts of the remainder as above provided.

4th I give and devise to my sons Lindsey Freeman, David Freeman and Oliver Freeman the following Real Estate situated in the county of Howard and State of Indiana and described as follows (to wit) the North half of the North West Quarter of Section No. Twenty Five in Township Twenty three North of Range five East containing Eighty Acres together with the appurtenances & Privileges thereunto belonging.

5th I give and bequeath to my daughters Nieces<sup>1</sup> Jane Freeman, Sarah Freeman and Winnah Freeman the following described Real Estate situated in the County of Grant & State of Indiana & being all of the North East Quarter of the South West Quarter of Section Thirty Three in Township Twenty Three North of Range Seven East (Except so much though as heretofore sold by me to William Brewer together with all the Privileges and appurtenances to the Same belonging.

6th That should there be any of my Estate left after the Above provisions that the Balance Real & Personal or both one Third Thereof Shall go to my wife & the remaining Two Thirds Shall be equally divided among my Children by her.

7th I do hereby nominate and Constitute my wife Elizabeth Freeman my lawful Executive for this my last Will and testament hereby revoking all previous will made by me. In Witness whereof I the said Joshua Freeman Testator aforesaid do hereby set My hand and affix my seal this 1st day of March AD 1859.

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<sup>1</sup> The term "daughters Nieces" may be a mistake; pension papers show them as daughters

# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

Volume 5, Number 3

July, 1991

## From Pension Application of Joshua's Widow and Children

State of Iowa, Fremont County

On the 9th day of April, 1871, personally appeared before me, Samuel Holmes, a Notary Public duly commissioned and qualified in said County: Ester Lytle<sup>2</sup> whom I certify to be respectable and entitled to credit who being first duly sworn says she knew Joshua Freeman and Elizabeth Freeman; that she was present at the birth of Sarah Freeman, legitimate child of said father who was born on or about May 17, 1853; that she lived near neighbor to said Joshua Freeman when the following named children were born, to wit: David Freeman, who was born on or about Feb. 11, 1849; Jane, who was born on or about Feb. 24, 1851; Winnie O. and Oliver W., who were twins born on or about Dec. 1st, 1857, and Hannah M., who was born on or about Feb. 15, 1862; That said Joshua Freeman and his wife Elizabeth Freeman were cohabitating together and that Elizabeth Freeman suckled and raised all of the above children at her breast and that Joshua Freeman and Elizabeth acknowledged them all to their legitimate children; That the said Joshua Freeman left no other child under 16 years of age at the time of his death; That her post office address is High Creek, Fremont County, Iowa, and that she has no interest in the prosecution of this claim.

her  
Ester (X) Lytle  
mark

Witness: Lindsey Buller  
James Lytle

Subscribed and sworn to b Ester Lytle before me and in my person this 9 day of July 1871 and I hereby certify that the contents of the foregoing affidavit were read in the hearing of the affiant and the same fully made known to her before signing and that I have no interest credit or interest in the prosecution of this claim.

{SEAL}

Saml Holmes  
Notary Public

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<sup>2</sup>Easter (Bulla/Buller) Lytle, wife of Elizabeth Freeman's brother, the Rev. James Lytle

# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

July, 1991

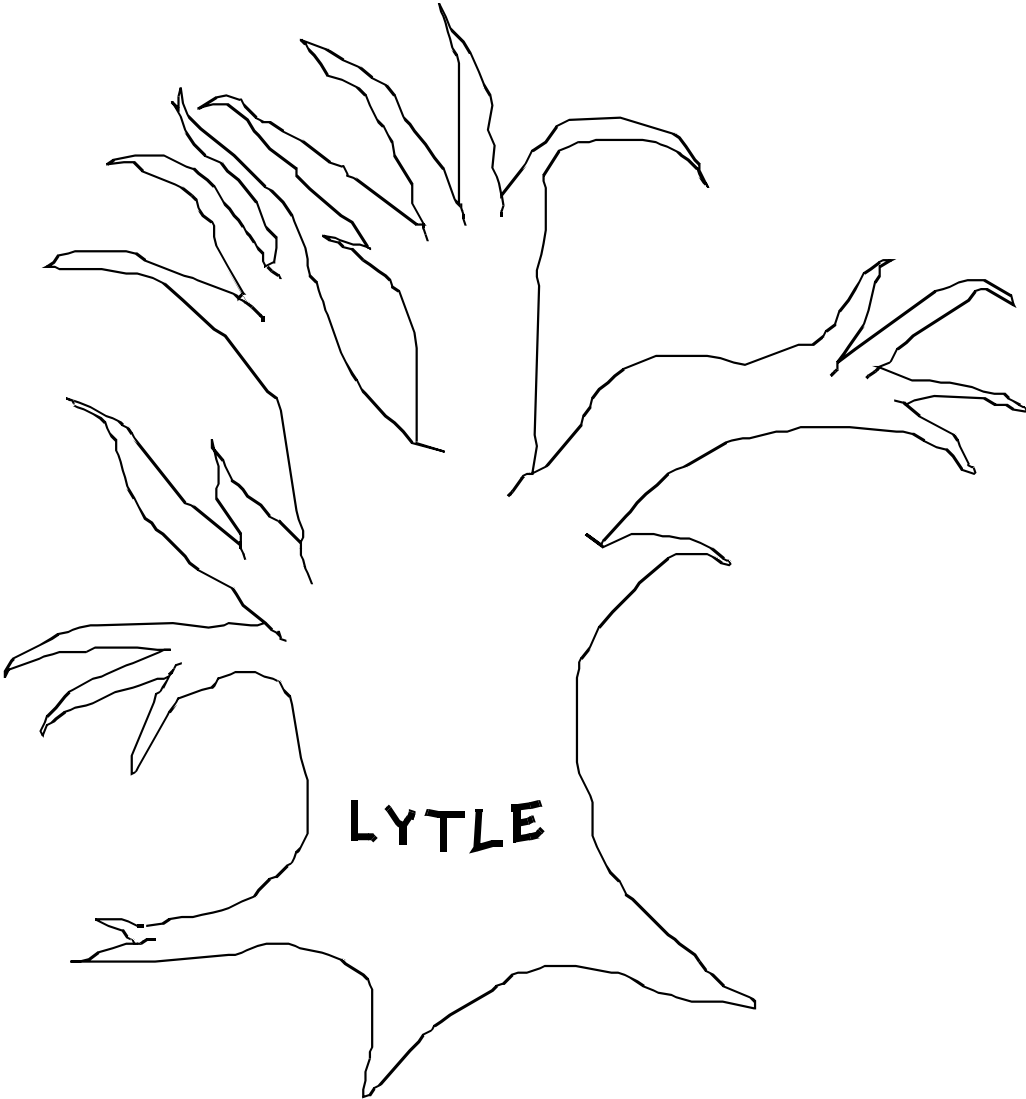
Volume 5, Number 3



# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

Volume 5, Number 4

October, 1991



# LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

October, 1991

Volume 5, Number 4

## **Five Years of Bulletins**

This bulletin marks the completion of five years of Lytle Plantation News. How time flies! Certainly a lot of new information has been discovered in this time, largely due to finding more cousins with pieces of the puzzle. It is probably time to send bound copies to pertinent libraries and societies where the Lytle descendants have lived over the years.

## **Confederate Relatives**

Thanks to a tip from Floyd Ryel of Ohio, the Confederate records show that four grandsons of Frank Lytle Sr. (1773-1869) served in Company B of the 48th North Carolina Infantry. These four were brothers, all sons of Dorcas (Lytle) Swaney and William Swaney. They were: James (1829-1905?), Reuben (1832-1914), Alfred (1840-?) and Hiram (1843-1919). Further investigation may reveal the length of their enlistments in this Confederate company.

One wonders about the motivation of these young men to join the southern cause, when their grandfather, still alive, was born into slavery. It is likely that there was much more political incentive which outweighed any racial concerns.

## **Computer Database Established**

A thousand thanks to Lowell Goar, California, who entered the list of Frank Lytle's descendants into his computer and shipped them to Rik Vigeland, who recently purchased his own PC compatible with the central database. Anyone out there wanting to swap information with PAF or GEDCOM compatible data should contact Rik, who urges all the computerized cousins to send either 3.5" or 5.25" floppy disks of family data to him. Counting spouses, there are more than 6,000 names entered, and Rik will begin filling in any missing details as they become available.

## **Connections**

It turns out that the Mendenhall family of North Carolina, which the Lytles have some connections with, is also counted among the ancestry of our 37th President, Richard M. Nixon. Descendants of Jane (Lytle) Benbow, daughter of Francis Jr. and wife of Moses Benbow, can count themselves as blood relatives to the Mendenhalls and President Nixon. See the next page for a diagram.

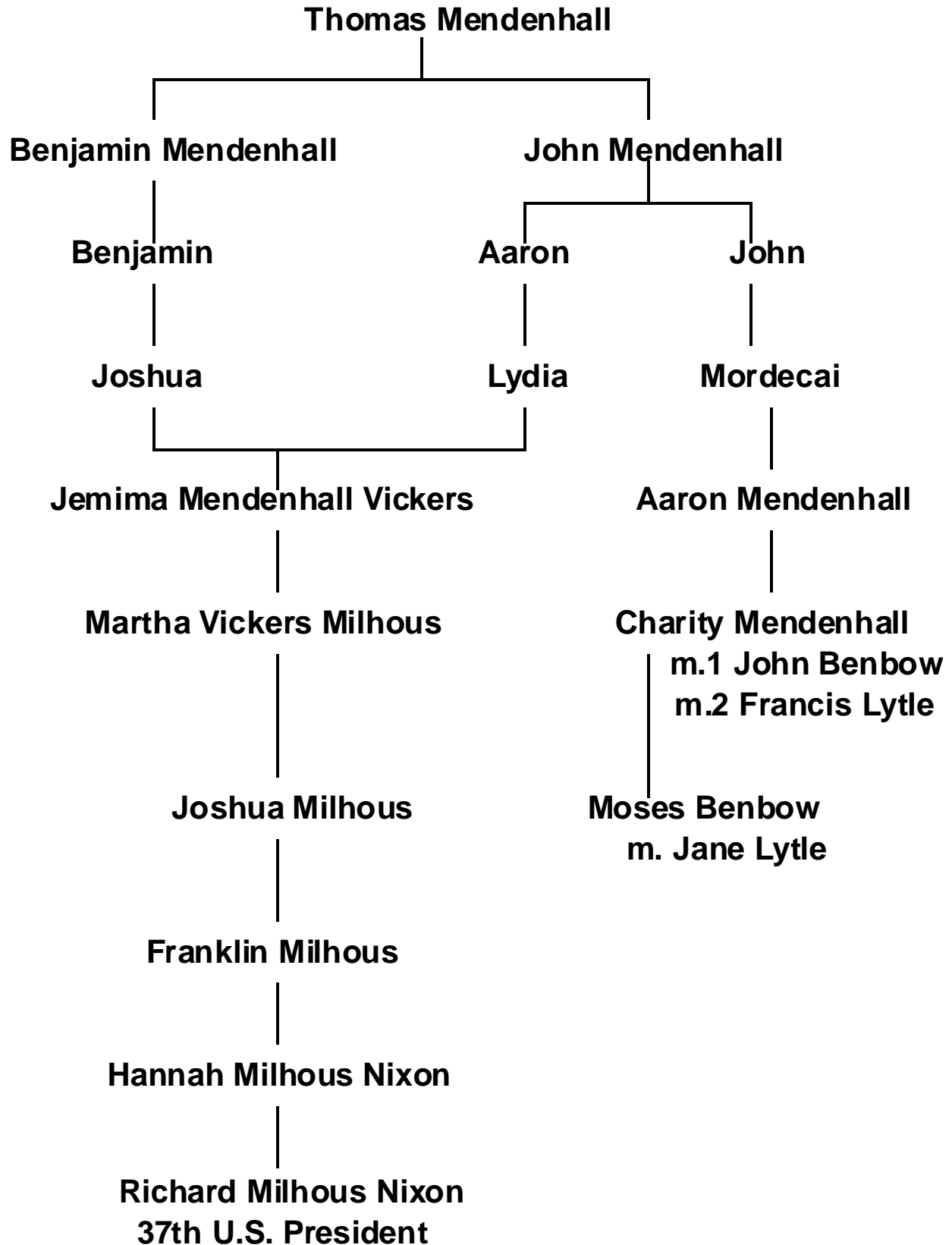
## **Next Bulletin:**

Francis Lytle - Convicted Criminal?

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Volume 5, Number 4

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