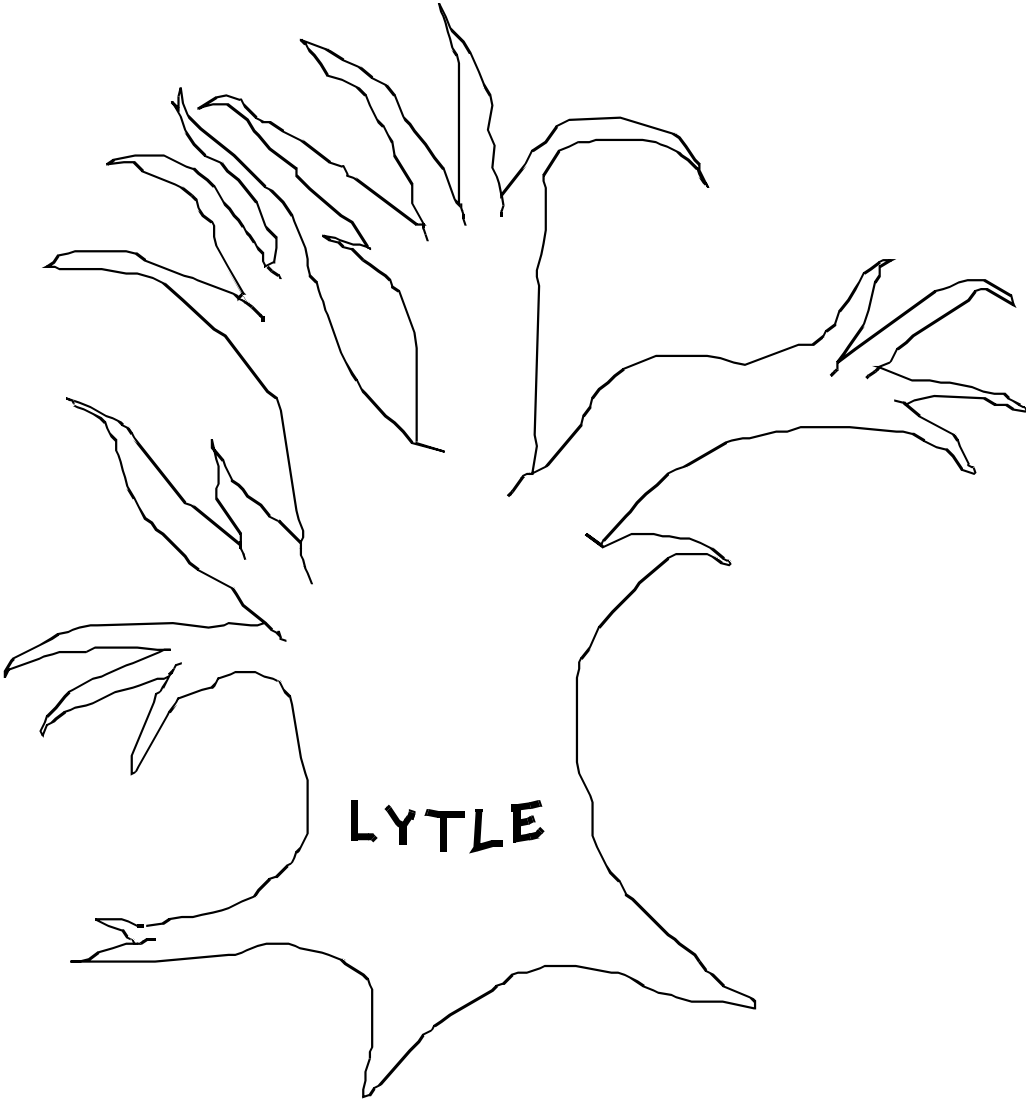


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Frank Lytle - Life, Times and Children in North Carolina

Most readers of this newsletter are descended from Frank Lytle (1773-1869) and many from his son Francis (Frank Jr., 1796-1880) who, with about 20 children living to adulthood, was the certainly the most prolific of Frank Lytle Sr.'s children.

In trying to get a more clear picture of the family's early life in North Carolina, indications are that the sons of Frank Jr. were perhaps very rough and rugged individuals. We can draw upon generalizations and facts about Francis in particular to try to see the type of man he may have been. By association, similar can be said of Frank Lytle's other children, though nowhere near as much written record of their lives exists as does for Francis.

Several factors may have led to spoiled childhood. Francis was the firstborn son and oldest child. He was named after his father, which could indicate favoritism towards him. The family that he was born into was still dealing with a quite new situation - freedom. Frank Sr. was officially freed from slavery little more than one year before Francis was born in 1796. The situation of slavery likely meant that Frank had no fatherly role model. Was he a strict father, or did he allow his children their own large measure of freedom?

Another possibility brought on by being raised as newly freed might have been a higher than normal attitude of self-importance. Francis and Albert grew up to be more than 30 years old and Alfred about 25 before several of the other slaves from the old plantation (possibly their blood relatives) were freed or sold. Wouldn't young men in their situation think of themselves as being that much better than these others, let alone other, darker slaves in the community?

To be free and "colored" was certainly to be set apart from much of society in some ways, both good and bad. In Randolph County, North Carolina, the free colored were accepted by an unusually tolerant community comprised mostly of Quakers. Nonetheless, Frank's children may not have had the benefit of a religious upbringing. There are no records to indicate membership in or burial by any church in the Randolph County area. Certainly Frank would have had no religious benefits during his slave days other than, perhaps, a brave circuit rider who took it upon himself to preach to the slaves. This may have remained the Lytles only religious contact for many years, if they had any at all to temper their lives.

Like most any other folks in those days, we can imagine the men and boys as being skilled in the woods. Early histories of Grant County, Indiana, relate stories of Francis and other early pioneers hunting a large variety of animals including bears and wolves.

A few other clues which indicate the lifestyle of sons Francis and Alfred are found in other state and county documents. Frank's estate papers relate that he purchased land and a horse for these sons, and that at least Alfred sold his portion to cover some sort of debts. What sort of trouble would involve so much debt - possibly gambling? How much money did Frank give his children from time to time? Consequently, these sons inherited nothing after their father's death, most of the estate was divided among Frank's three living daughters - Mary Laughlin, Dorcas Swaney, and Kate Lytle.

One more bit on Francis' early life and "troubled times" is on the next page. No final settlement is shown, but this could be a case where Frank Lytle paid for some of his son's trouble.

State of North Carolina } County of Randolph } To any Lawfull Officer to speed & return

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Whereas Easter Lytle, a free woman of Colour complaineth on Oath to one Alexander Gray, one of the Justices of the peace for said County that on the day of May last a mare, the said property of her the said Easter and her Daughter Nansy was shot and severally wounded in the shoulder and that Next Week (to wit) on the day of May last one Dog the property of the said Ester was shot and killed by a gun and that she hath reason to believe and doth believe that both these offenses was Wickedly and Willfully committed by Francis Lytle Jr., a young man of Colour of said County, against the peace and Dignity of the State.

There are therefore to Command you in the name of the State to take the body of him the said Francis Lytle and him safely keep so that you have him before same Justice of said County to answer said Charge & to further deal with as the Law directs given under my hand & Seal the 9th day of August 1817

Alexr Gray JP {Seal}

Summons for the State Samuel Sumner, Jack Lytle and Joe Lytle	Summons for the Defendent Mary Lytel Rachel Morgen Mathew Simons
---	---

The State vs. } Francis Lytle Jr.	rec. of \$50 for his appearance at our next County Court to answer the Charge Contained in this Warrant. Aug. 23 1817 A. Gray, JP
The State vs. } Francis Lytle Jr. ----- Ex. by V. Johnson	Easter Lytle Prosecutor, Samuel Sumner & Jack Lytle Witness for the State \$20 each for their appearance at our Next County Court to Prosecute & give testimony on behalf of the State against Francis Lytle Jr. taken before me the 23rd Aug. 1817 A. Gray JP
State vs. Mathew Simons Francis Lytle Jr. Mary Lytle & Rachel Morgan	rec. of \$5 each for their appearance to give testimony in the above Case 23 Aug 1817 taken before A. Gray JP

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State of North Carolina } Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions County of Randolph } November Term,
1817

The Jurors of the State upon their Oath present that Francis Lytle Jr. late of the County aforesaid, being a person of wanton & mischivous disposition & disposed to break the public peace & injure in a sure and mischivous way one Easter Lytle and Nancy Lytle on the first day of November in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred & seventeen with force & Arms in the County aforesaid, did wantonly, wickedly, & mischivously shoot with a gun & severely wound one Dog kill one Dog the property of the said Easter & Nancy to the great injury of the said Easter & Nancy, to the evil example of all others in the like case offending, & against the peace & dignity of the State.

B.S. Mott C. Atty.

Family Names

The preceding articles have listed a few Lytles whose names don't appear very often here. Easter, Jack and Joe were, like Frank Lytle Sr., original slaves of Thomas Lytle. Frank may have been their brother. Nancy was the daughter of Easter. Because she was not yet born when Thomas Lytle died, she was not counted as one of his own slaves, and so was sold along with her children to Henry Humphreys around 1830.

The witness Mary Lytle could be Frank Lytle Sr.'s wife. There is no other Mary Lytle who could be old enough to be a witness. Frank's daughter Mary (Polly) was born about 1811 and Esther's daughter Polly (possibly Mary) was probably about the same age.

Note in the following article that the name Francis M. occurs for two of Frank's grandsons and two of his great grandsons. It was common in the 1800's for children to take the mother's maiden name as their middle name. Because it occurs so often, it is probable that it is "Moore" (as in Francis Moore Lytle, 1823-1913) and that Francis Jr. (1796-1880) may have had the same middle name, though no record shows this. So, it appears likely that Frank Lytle's wife may have been a Moore. Several Moores were near Frank in census and tax lists in the early 1800's.

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Cousin Frank? Which One?

There have been a lot of Franks in the family, with variations. Here's a list of 24:

Frank Lytle Sr. (1773-1869)

Francis (Frank Jr.) (1796-1880)

Francis Moore Lytle (1823-1913)

Irene Florella Lytle (1874-1976) m.1 William Hillebran

Francis Henry Hillebran (1888-1937)

Joshua Moore Lytle (1879-1978)

Francis F. Lytle m. Frank Smith

Winnie Lytle (1827-1907) m. Samuel Edgerton

Francis (Frank) Edgerton (1851-?) m. Jeanette (1863-?)

Mary Ann Edgerton (1852-1919) m. George W. Thompson

Susie Thompson m. Samuel Russell

Francis Russell

Anna Lytle (1830-?) m. Henry Brown (1804-?)

Francis M. Brown (1849-?)

Sarah Lytle (1834-1911) m. Reuben W. Huff (1834-1909)

Francis M. Huff (born & died 1862)

Henry Lytle (1844-1911)

Francis Lytle (1868-1914)

Demerious Lytle (1849-1939) m.1 Ezekial Robinett (1842-?)

Alonzo Robinett (1865-1957) m.1 Anna Ridgeway (1868-1897)

Oliver Franklin Robinett (1894-1979)

Francis Amon Robinett (1868-1956) m. 1 Stella Bates (-1907)

Frances Amy Robinett (1906-) m.1 Ralph McKinney

Louisa Lytle (1854-1923) m.1 George W. Breazeale

Franklin Breazeale (1873-1948) m. Della

Albert Lytle (1802-1871) m. Winnie Tucker (1801-1885?)

Francis Lytle (1820-?)

Alfred Lytle (1806-?)

Francis Lytle (1835?-?)

Dorcas Lytle (1810-1884) m. William Swaney

James Swaney (1829-1905) m. Mary Jane Blizzard (1834-1915?)

William Franklin "Frank" Swaney (1865-1940) m. Louisa Robbins

James Franklin Swaney (1894-1934) m. Mary McIntyre

Reuben Curtis Swaney (1832-1914) m. Cynthia

Francis Swaney (1860-?)

Franklin Swaney (1834-?)

Frances Swaney (daughter, 1850-?)

Mary Lytle (1811-1885?) m. Richard Laughlin

Doctor P. Laughlin (1838-?) m.1 Margaret Tallent (1841-1920)

Doctor Franklin Laughlin (1867-?) m. Julia Eskridge

Martin Luther Laughlin (1874-1958) m. Alice Willis

James Franklin Laughlin (1904-?)

Rebecca Lytle

Frank M. Lytle

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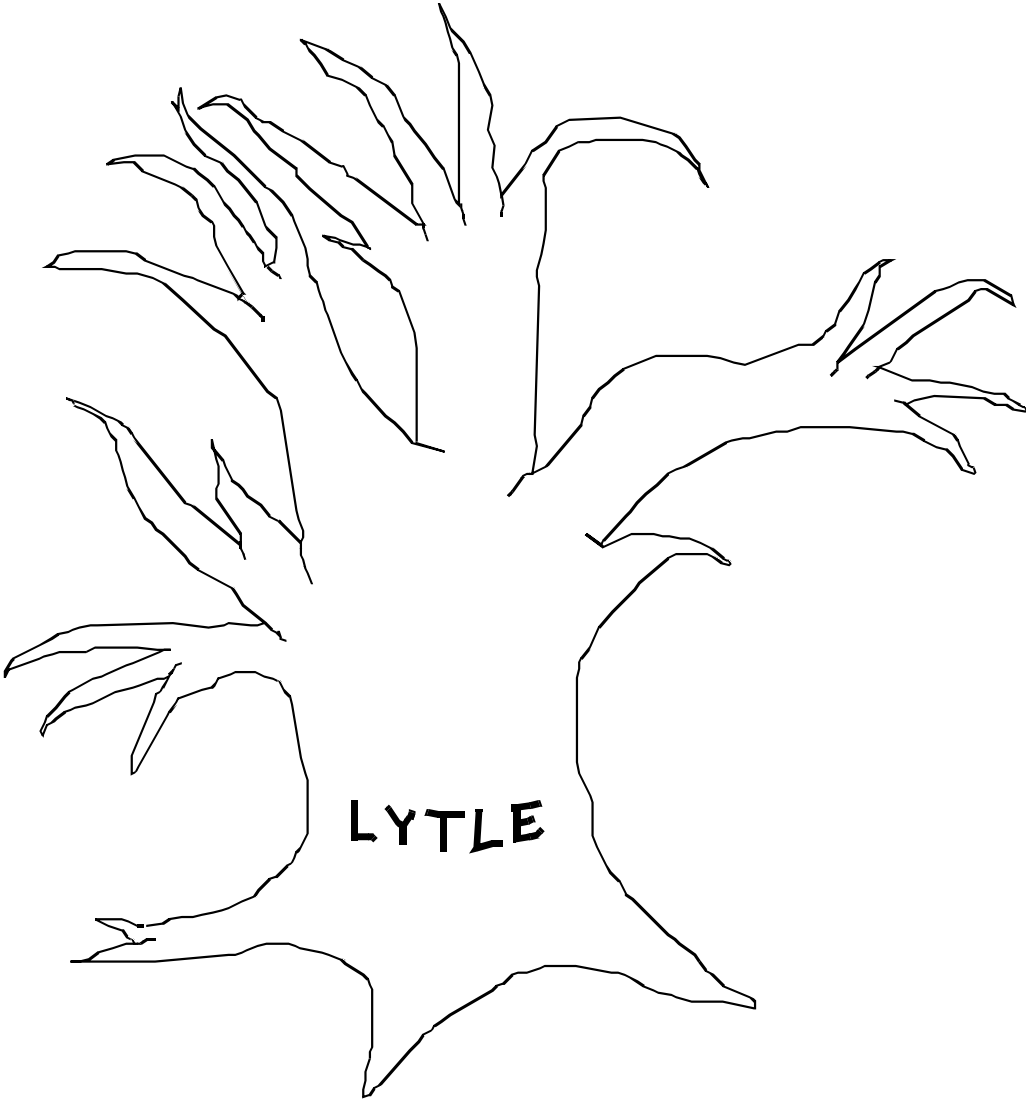
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Prairie Cemeteries - A Vanishing Heritage

It was a small, lost graveyard all that remained of the little settlement, wiped out by diphtheria over a hundred years ago. About a dozen weathered stone markers leaned and lay in a patch of original bluestem. Among the graves were those of a young mother and her children. It was part of an original time and place, and it held fitting memorials.

The prairie cemetery exists as one of several well scattered prairie relics along with roadsides, railroad right-of-ways and an occasional preserved remnant. As an area was settled, burial grounds became one of the social necessities. Life on the prairie was arduous and unhealthy, the land asked no quarter and gave none. Malaria was rampant in the wet prairies, dysentery, pneumonia, small pox, cholera, and dietary deficiencies took a heavy toll.

Childbirth was hazardous, doctors were infrequent and poorly trained, immunizations unknown and home remedies ineffective.

Burial plots originated in several ways: some were set aside on family farms, others were established as township cemeteries under local government authority; in later years, towns or villages and churches established separate plots. Most of these cemeteries ranged in size from one-half acre to five acres, some contained additional expansion area. Many of the early burial grounds were staked out in the open prairie among the native grasses. To provide security for departed loved ones the burial plots were usually fenced.

The municipal and church cemeteries were often well-mowed and manicured as maintenance responsibility was assumed by corporate bodies. Unfortunately, the expansion areas were less carefully attended.

Private and township cemeteries tended to be less well-maintained. Over sixty percent of the settlers in the mid 1800's "moved on" within ten years, and no one was left to tend the graves of their departed family members. As township government diminished the cemeteries under their jurisdiction tended to be neglected unless some dedicated citizen assumed maintenance responsibility as a public duty or out of reverence for burial grounds. These neglected old settler cemeteries are often the only prairie remnant for miles around.

Prairie cemeteries are special mementos. They preserve relics of our past landscape as the plow buried their surroundings. These small burial grounds provide substance to the otherwise wispy illusion of a heritage that we can no longer experience.

The prairie cemetery is an enduring memento. It is a relic in miniature with ghosts and stone markers of those who began the taming.

. Submitted by cousin Phyllis Friesner

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Reunion Plans

We are looking for ideas about holding a large family reunion in North Carolina in the spring of 1994, which should allow all of you to mark your calendars NOW to avoid conflict. After talking to several of the cousins it was recommended that the reunion NOT be held too close to any holiday, graduations, or the semi-annual gathering of the furniture tradesmen, usually in early to mid April. Also not too late in the season when it may be getting hotter, but some people may want to bring children after school is out. Somewhere in the March to June timeframe is still wide open, preferably later in the season for good traveling and sightseeing weather for those who will be driving.

There are definitely some sights to see in the area, so weather is probably a factor. Major events would best be planned indoors to accommodate as many people as possible anyway. We will be looking for recommendations for events and activities.

Please consider letting someone on the board of directors know your preferences.

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Lytle Plantation Accounts

Following are some samples of numerous papers copied from the Thomas Lytle estate papers on file in the North Carolina State Archives at Raleigh. Some 15 to 20 pages of this material exist. This includes data about the hiring out of the plantation slaves for the years 1822-1827. Thomas' widow, Catharine, lived until 1812. If you would like copies of the originals, contact Rik Vigeland.

State of North Carolina Court of Equity Randolph County Randolph County Fall Term 1833

William Hogan & others vs. Andrew Means' heirs

To the Honourable Court of Equity for Randolph County --

In obedience to the order of the last term directing me "to report to this Court the amount of taxes paid by William Bell, Executor of Thomas Lytle, on account of the lands of said Lytle and also the amount paid by Robert Walker and William Welborn, executors of said Bell since his death, distinguishing the amount paid by each," I caused due notice to be served on William Hogan and Robert Walker and the administrator of Welborn that I should take said account at my office on the 10th of August last and I report that Wm. Bell in his lifetime paid for taxes on the estate of Thomas Lytle, the following sums --

Taxes for	1806	paid by Wm. Bell for Catharine Lytle	\$1.00
do	1807		3.90
do	1808		2.00
do	1809		1.80
do	1810		3.40
do	1811		3.60
do	1812		2.60

Amt. paid by Wm. Bell for Catharine Lytle --

\$18.20

Taxes paid by Wm. Bell for the estate of Lytle 1813 \$4.90

do	1814	7.00
Direct tax	1814	14.70
do	1815	8.12
do	1816	28.00

Amt. paid by Wm. Bell for said estate --

\$62.72

The following taxes were paid in the lifetime of Wm. Bell by his agent Robt. Walker

1816	\$2.55
1817	2.11
1818	2.52
1819	2.16
1820	2.70

Amount paid by Walker as agent for Bell -- \$12.04

Total amt. paid by Bell in his lifetime -- \$74.76

The following taxes were paid by Robert Walker, one of the executors of William Bell --

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1828	\$5.58
1822	12.22
1823	5.04
1824	5.40
1825	5.95
1826	7.38
1827	5.94

Amt. paid by Walker as executor of Wm. Bell \$47.51

The foregoing calculation have been made from Sheriffs receipts which have been exhibited before me and which are filed with this report. I have endeavored to ascertain whether any part of the amount for which those receipts were given was for taxes on the personal estate of Thomas Lytle, but upon examining the tax lists in the County Court Clerk's office I cannot find Wm. Bell made any distinction in giving his taxable property between his own estate and that of his testator. But as the Lytle negroes were reported to be free I presume they were not given in by him and consequently that the whole amount of the receipts is for the land tax.

William Hogan alleges that a considerable part of these taxes was paid to Wm. Bell by the Lytle negroes, and it is admitted by Robert Walker that they did pay all up to the year 1816 when Walker commenced paying the taxes as an agent for Bell, but no proof on this matter was offered before me except a clause in Wm. Bell's will in which he "disclaims title to the negroes and lands willed to him by Thomas Lytle further than what monies he had paid for said estate."

All which is respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Worth, CME

By the Hand of Wm. Bell

*Received this twenty-second day of November
1814 from Thos Lytle Estate the sum of four hundred
Dollars and twenty Cents, for direct tax upon the
property of Thos Lytle Estate — in the County
of Randolph in the tenth collection district in
the State of North-Carolina, under the act of congress
passed the 2d August, 1813, to lay and collect a direct
tax within the United States.*

Dolls. ~~14~~ 70 M Goodman & Co

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1809

April 13th -- Received of Catharine Lytle by the hand of Wm. Bell \$2 in full for her tax for 1808.

1822

Received of Isaac White Eighteen Dollars for the hire of Tom part of a year.

Three dollars from Joshua Craven for Caty, short time.

1824

Oct. 4th Isaac White for Black boy Tom to visit & medicine \$2.75

Oct. 6th to visit & medicine 2.00 Oct 14th to visit & medicine 1.00

Received payment by J. White \$5.75 by me John Parker

I do hereby certify that the Boy Tom which I hired of Robert Walker, died¹, was taken sick about the 26th of September 1824. I paid said Walker in proportion to the time from the 13th of January 1824 til the time he took sick \$21.33. J. White

Esther Lytle, Black woman to Dr. John Parker, med. acct.

May 29	to visit & medicine	\$2.00
31st	to visit & medicine	2.00
June 3rd	to visit & medicine	2.00
4	to visit & medicine	2.00
5	to visit & medicine	1.50
	to money for spirits	.50
8	to visit & medicine	2.37 1/2
12	to visit	1.00
		<hr/>
		\$13.27 1/2

1825

March 25th - Ann Lytle, yellow woman to Dr. John Parker to visit & medicine -- \$2.00.

1828

North Carolina }

Randolph County } This day came before me, Larkin Arnold, One of the county Justices of the peace for & in said County & made Oath that the above act as it stands stated against Easter Lytle, dec'd., of thirteen Dollars, 37 1/2 Cents & of Two dollars against Ann Lytle is Justly due him after giving all Just Credits. Sworn to & subscribed before me, this 5th Febry., 1828 John Parker L. Arnold

Rec'd. of James Robbins Five Dollars, it being in full of my Demands for my visits & medicine to attending on Pol, one of the Black women of the Lytle estate as hired to said Robbins in which case he became responsible to me for my fees. Rec'd. by me Sept. 18, 1828. John Parker

¹ It appears that the boy Tom did die about October, 1824. He does not appear on the hire sheets from 1825 on, and is listed as deceased in 1828. His mother Esther appears to have died earlier that year.

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Amount of what the Negroes belonging to the estate of Lytle hire for the year 1828

Negroes name	Hiring Name	\$ & Cts.
Girl named Ann & child Ruffin, Alex	William Brown	9.35
Rebecca	James Laughlin	18.35
Lydia	Ahi Robbins	19.75
Silvey	John Welborn	8.75
Charles	Ahi Robbins	38.50
Sandy	William Gray	25.00
Polly & Reuben	Spanner Marsh	3.25
Caty & Easter	Richard Elder	2.50
Fanny & Zenith	Levi Stephens	10.20
George	William Robbins	26.05
John	Alex Robbins	28.00
Sally, Saml., Synthia, Andrew, Frederick, Ben, Henderson	David White \$19.85 gets for keeping	
Nance, Polly, Branson, Henry, Sarah Jane, Letty Ann, Easter, Alford	Robert Walker \$50 gets for keeping	
Betsy & Child Saml.	Robert Walker \$2	3.24
Margaret, Ebelina, Sally	James Montgomery Refund to comply with the conditions and they the negroes returned & set up a second time and Robert Walker is to have four dollars for keeping them.	5.00

1829 April -- Nance Lytle, yellow woman, to Dr. John Parker, By order of Robert Walker, Randolph County To visit and medicine \$2.00 To medicine her children .50

1830 Benj. Elliott, Clerk & Master of Randolph To advertising Thos. Lytle's negroes in Western Carolinian \$1.00 Rec'd. payment in full by the hands of Col. Benj. Elliott, Clerk & Master of Randolph County, Aug 28, 1839, J. White

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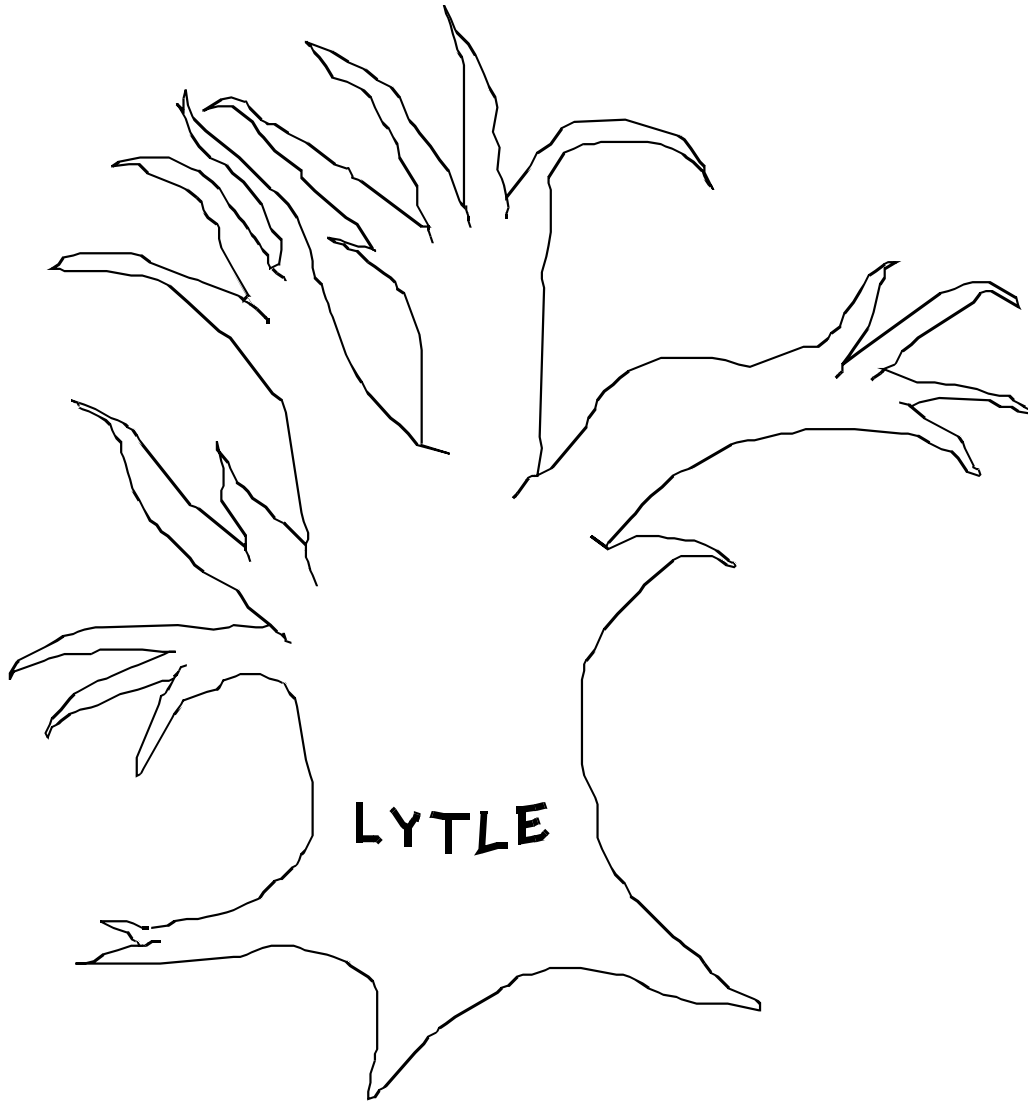
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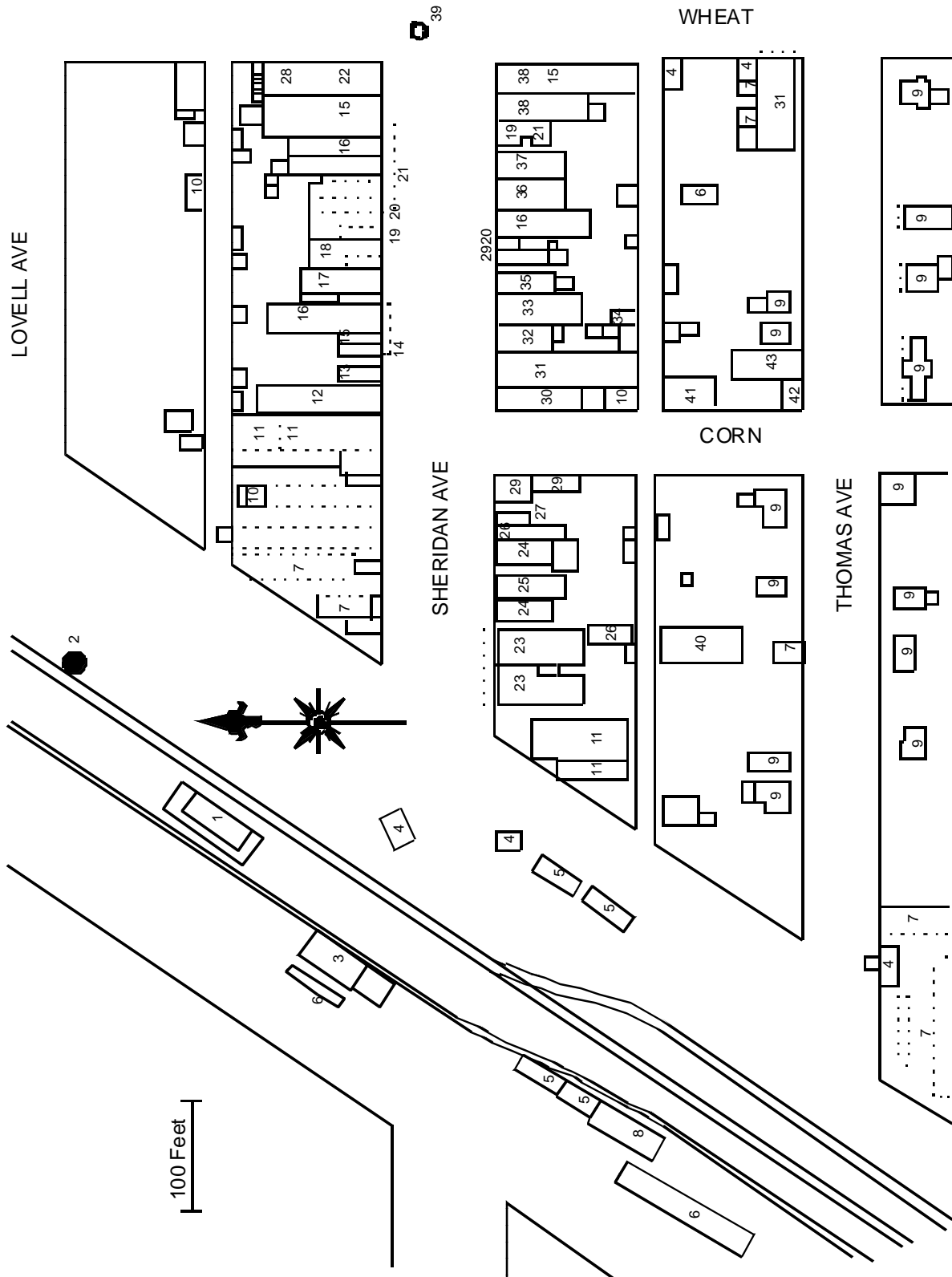
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Old-Time Shenendoah

This map is a portion of Shenendoah, Iowa, in the mid 1880's. Near the center of the map is #23, the Lytle House, a hotel established by Thomas Lytle (1824-1909) in 1874 and run by him until about 1882. Thereafter, it was the Park Hotel. Several of his family, including sons and daughters-in-law, worked at the hotel during Thomas' ownership. Thomas' father Francis Lytle died there December 29, 1880. A drawing of the Lytle House as it appeared under that name has appeared in an earlier bulletin.

Corn Avenue has become Elm Street and Wheat Avenue has become Blossom Street in the intervening years since this map was drawn. It was common in the not-so-distant past to have insurance maps drawn for towns and cities across the United States.

Key:

1. Train Depot	23. Lytle House Hotel
2. Water Tower	24. Restaurant
3. Grain Elevator	25. Pumps and Windmills
4. Office	26. Laundry
5. Coal Bin	27. Paint Store
6. Corn Crib	28. Opera House (2nd Floor)
7. Shed	29. Harness Shop
8. Grain Warehouse	30. Hardware 31. Agricultural Implements
9. Private Dwelling	32. Restaurant & Bakery
10. Warehouse	33. Drugstore
11. Livery Stable	Telephone Exchange (2nd Floor)
12. Engine House	34. Bakery Ovens
City Hall (2nd Floor)	35. Post Office & Book Store
13. Confectioner's	36. Bank
14. Tailor	37. Groceries & Queensware
15. Boots & Saddles 16. Grocer's	38. Dry Goods
17. Billiards Hall	39. Public Well
18. Butcher	40. Bus Barn
19. Shoe Shop	41. Blacksmith Shop
20. Barber Shop	42. Wagon Shop
21. Jewelry Store	43. Wagon Warehouse
22. Dry Goods	

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Lytle Slaveowners in North Carolina

I have been working recently with a woman who traced her black ancestry to a Lytle family in western North Carolina. Although I do not know of any connection between these Lytles and ours of Randolph County, I feel that they should be identified in order to clarify researchers who may follow along at a later date and confuse the two groups of Lytles.

One main problem in the possible confusion is that the Lytles of western North Carolina, mainly Buncombe, Burke, and McDowell counties, is that their entrance into this state also starts with a Thomas Lytle, in Maryland. It is possible that all of the early Lytles in Pennsylvania and Maryland come from the same stock. The furthest back Lytles of Pennsylvania originally arrived in Maryland around 1723, and the father of "our" Thomas Lytle (ca. 1740-1794) may eventually be identified and tied in.

Appearing in Baltimore records is the estate of a Thomas Lytle who died in 1764. Among his children: James (19), George (16), Elizabeth (14), Henrietta (12), Margaret (9), Thomas (7) and Mary (5). His wife's name was Eleanor. This younger Thomas Lytle was at one time alleged to be the same Thomas Lytle who appears in North Carolina records at the time of the Revolutionary War, but there are some age discrepancies, so he could be a nephew, instead of a son of the older Thomas, or perhaps not even related. This is currently unclear. The military records show an earlier birthdate (1750) and place (Rowan Co., NC, part of which later became western Randolph County).

In 1772 this latter Thomas Lytle was married in Rowan County to Susannah Perkins and in 1776 was a captain there, both of which would be unlikely for someone so young as the 7 year old Thomas of 1764. His pension file of 1833 indicates an age of 82. Because of his military service, Thomas Lytle was given land grants in 1790 near Old Fort, Burke County, which then became part of McDowell County. This is where his family then settled down. Thomas died there May 31, 1835, and was buried at the Bethel-Cherry Springs Church, near Old Fort. This grave has been marked by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Greenlee Chapter.

Thomas Lytle's children were: John, born 1774; George, born 1785; Millington, born 1789 and married Polly Pattillo; Thomas, born 1791 and married Jennie McEntyre; and Elizabeth, who married John Burgin.

The most important point of confusion between this Thomas of western North Carolina, is that he and all of his sons were slaveowners. It is likely that almost all black Lytles in the United States descend from these slaves. The censuses of the 1800's show that this Thomas Lytle, his sons, and grandsons were large slaveholders. In the 1850 census, the Lytles appear in Buncombe and McDowell Counties, and together owned 83 slaves. I have not checked the 1860 census, but the number was likely significantly increased.

So, a word of caution to any and all Lytle researchers - there are two distinct groups of Lytles in North Carolina who used the name Thomas and who were slaveowners. Let the record state that as of this point in time there are no known connections between these two groups.

- Rik Vigeland

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Family Histories

Two recent family histories have caught my attention and deserve a word of mention in this space.

First, our cousins Floyd and Dorothy (Swaney) Ryel of Warren, Ohio, have completed an excellent work on the Swaney family. There are evidently many hundreds of hours of research and writing poured into this work. It documents the Swaney ancestry back into the 1600's and traces the family forward. Much of the work covers descendants of Frank Lytle's daughter Dorcas (ca.1810-1884) and her husband William Swaney. Congratulations on a fine piece of work, Floyd and Dot!

Another broader piece of work is Free African Americans of North Carolina, by Paul Heinegg. Of over 150 free black households in North Carolina prior to the Civil War, Mr. Heinegg has documented nearly all of them in this book. Included are numerous Walden families, many of which I had previously assumed to be related, but which are documented in great enough detail to show early origins of each. In addition are Walden-connected families such as Blizzard, Chavis, and Gowen/Goin. And yes, Frank Lytle's daughter Elizabeth (1799-1834) who married William Walden is here as well.

Mr. Heinegg was kind enough to send copies of these pages to me. He is a member of both the North Carolina Afro American Historical Genealogical Society (as am I) and the national Afro American Historical Genealogical Society, both of which have given space in their publications to our Lytle family based on information which I have submitted to them.

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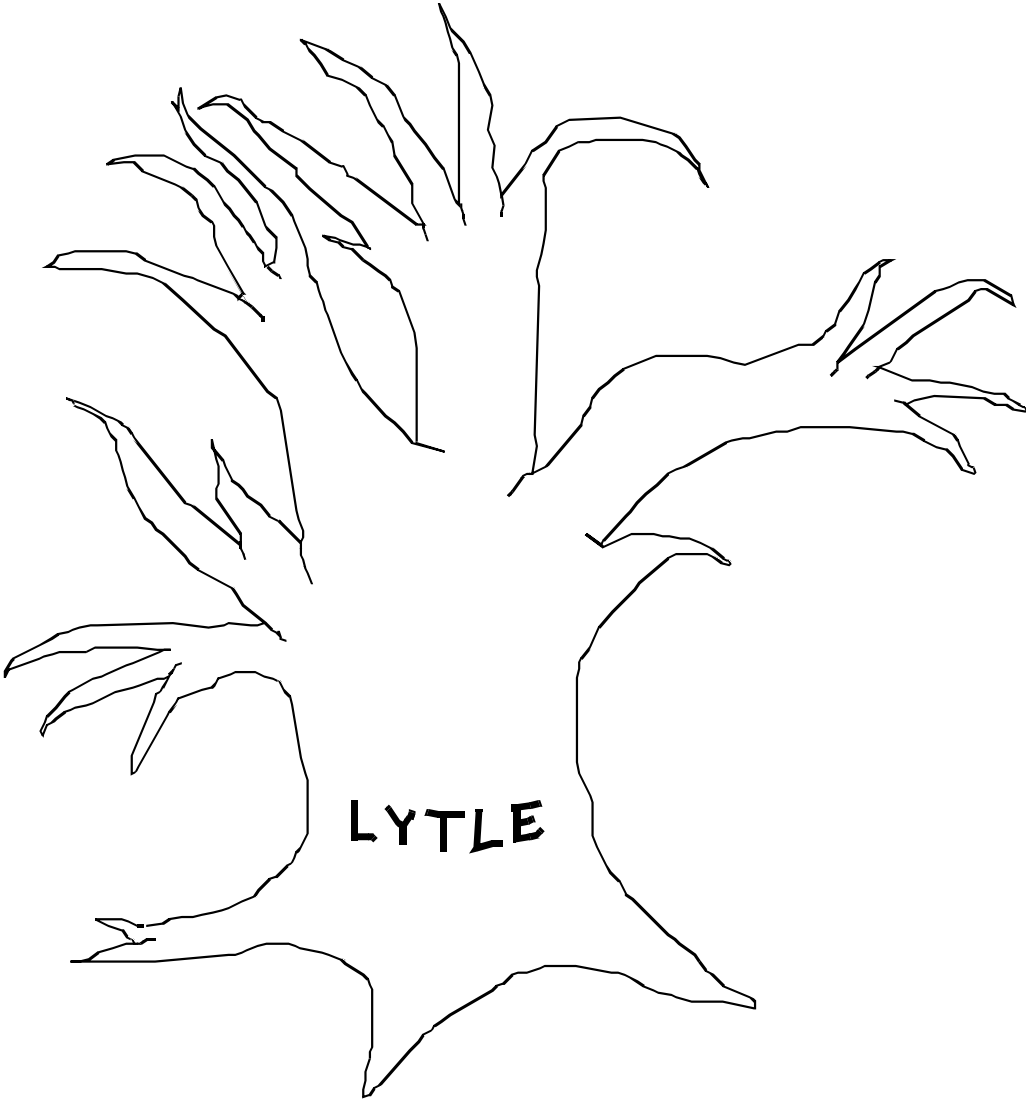
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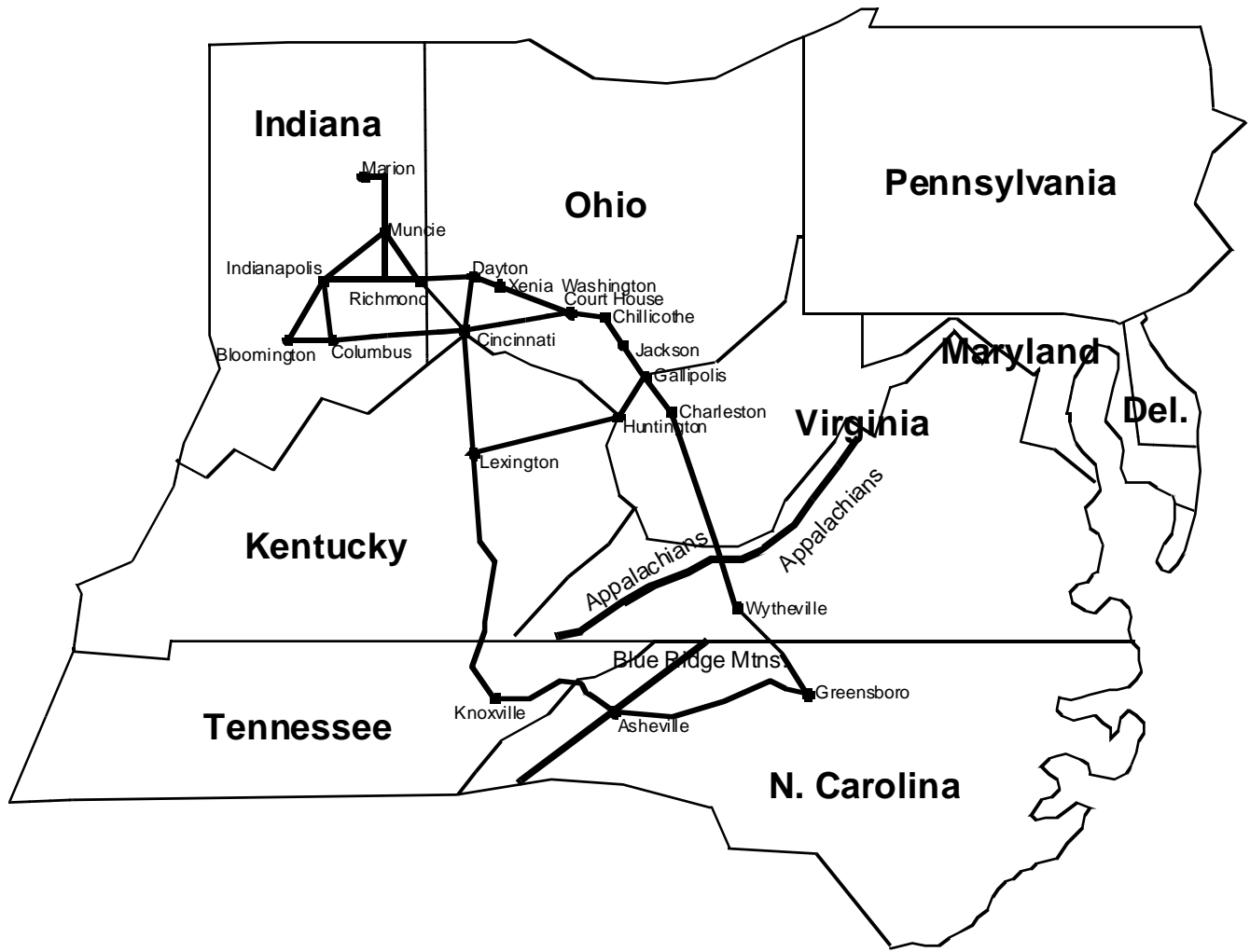
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Routes to Indiana

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Lytles go to Indiana

Francis Lytle Jr. (1796-1880) went to Indiana as early as 1834, when he was married in Monroe County (county seat Bloomington). By 1836 he was in Grant County (county seat Marion). There is no story left in the family as to how his family joined him there. Oftentimes, the husband would move west two or three years ahead of his family in order to both travel more quickly and to prepare land and home for his family's arrival, and return home whenever possible, usually in winter. Francis' daughter Sarah was born March 11, 1834, in North Carolina, by all evidence. It is not known whether or not he was in Indiana when Sarah was born and her mother died. Francis was married in October that same year in Monroe County to Martha Bulla.

Francis' family was with him by 1836, as evidenced by land records and marriage records for his older children. His brother Albert (1802-1871) apparently did not follow until about 1842. His name is still in the North Carolina census records for 1840, and there are no land records for Albert before this time. This also helps to establish that Elizabeth and Mary were Francis' children, not Albert's, as they had children born in Indiana in 1838.

It would be unusual for a traveler to journey alone. Groups of neighbors would travel together. The land and census records from both ends of the trail show that the old adage that you always have the same neighbors holds true for the 19th century. Most of the people living around the Lytles in Indiana were also from Randolph County, NC. Grant County's biographical histories also reveal the same birthplace for almost every resident of Fairmount Township.

Travelers would often try to follow natural features in the land such as valleys, rivers and streams. Sometimes these were also barriers that had to be dealt with - crossing a river or mountain range. A smaller meandering stream might be crossed several times in one day just to stay on the easiest route. After crossing the Appalachians, the New River could be followed from the Virginia - North Carolina border through to Charleston, (West) Virginia, joining the Kanawha River, which then continues to the Ohio River and Ohio border.

Traveling on horseback, a man would go about 30 miles each day in good country and make the entire trip in three to four weeks. Traveling with a family could take twice as long. Note that the present county seats Gallipolis, Jackson, Chillicothe, Washington Court House, Xenia, Dayton, and Richmond are all approximately 30 miles apart. This was the most popular route up from the south after crossing through Virginia. (West Virginia didn't exist as a separate state until the time of the Civil War.) Richmond, seat of Wayne County, Indiana, is one of that state's oldest cities, and the first Quaker meeting of that state was formed there in 1808. Some of the Bulla (or Buller) family of Randolph County, which has several connections to the Lytle family were among the earliest settlers there and became active in the Underground Railroad. Francis' sons Newton and Luke, sons of Martha, apparently were working in that area for their uncles for some time after her death, as they married sisters there, Elizabeth and Elzira Henson, of a Kentucky family.

On a return trip from Indiana, a traveler would often take a different route, through Kentucky and Tennessee to take advantage of the waterways. The Miami River runs from Dayton to Cincinnati, where it joins the Ohio, and could be traveled quickly by boat. From there, the trip through Kentucky to the Knoxville area is relatively easy, with no mountain ranges to cross. From Knoxville, the French Broad River can be followed all the way to Asheboro, North Carolina. Then, once across the Blue Ridge Mountains, the land was easily traveled to reach home.

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