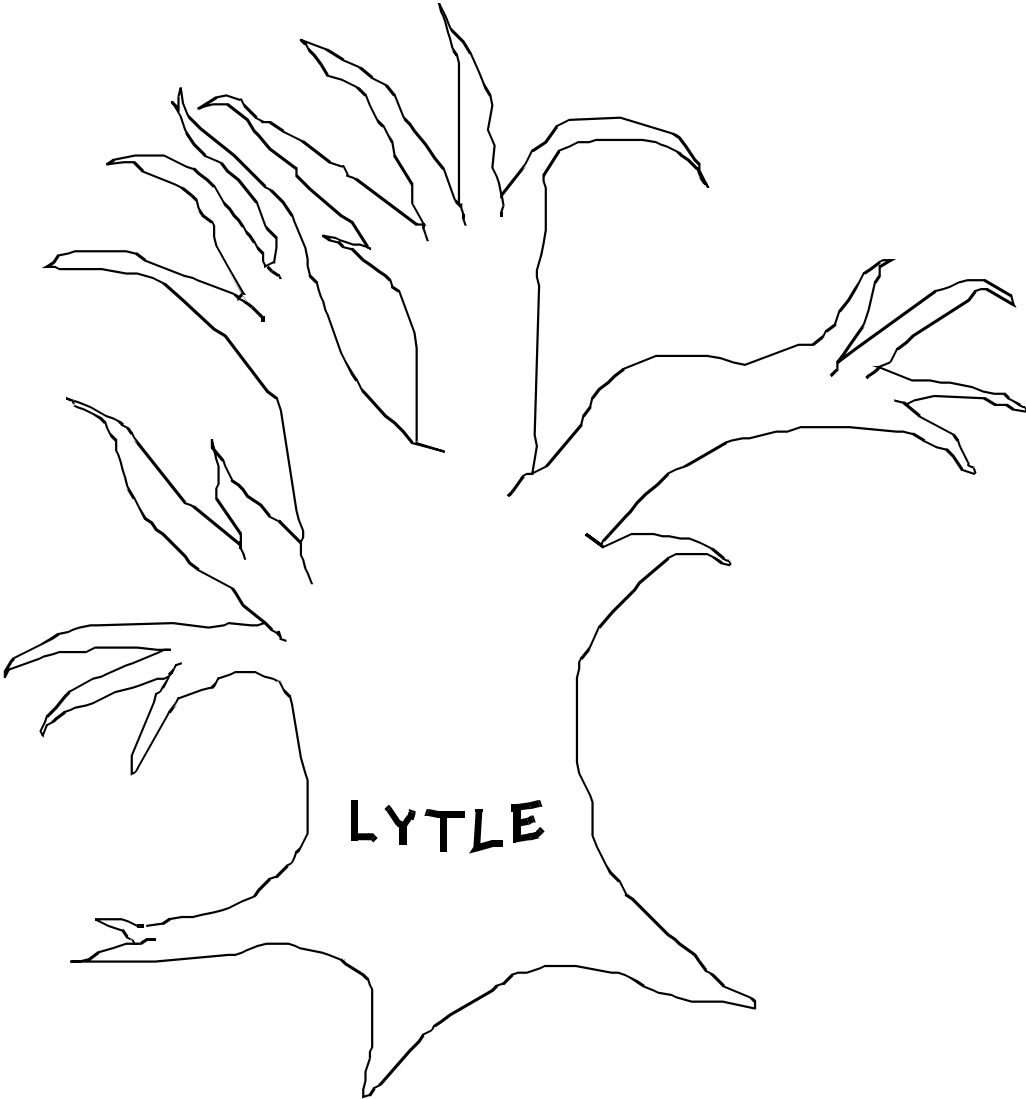


LYTLE PLANTATION NEWS

Volume VIII Number 1

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1994 - Lytle Bicentennial

Here it is, cousins: 1994. This month marks 200 years since Thomas Lytle made out his will in Randolph County, North Carolina. His death the following March started the chain of events that shaped the path of the descendants of Frank Lytle Sr. (1773-1869). It took over a year for the process of Frank's freedom to be officially completed.

Current plans are to hold a family reunion in honor of ancestor Frank Lytle's freedom sometime early in the fall. Your bulletin editor, Rik Vigeland is currently investigating possible locations for a reunion in the Randolph County area. Interest is growing and there could be quite a few folks show up. Labor day weekend is a possibility. Anyone and everyone with an opinion is invited to pass it along to Rik (see address back page).

There will likely be two or three days of activities planned both before and after the main reunion so that people can have time to meet and greet the relatives and spend some time together. This will also allow people to arrive early or stay late at their convenience and still have things to do with family members. North Carolina offers a wide variety of both historical and recreational activities.

200 Years Ago - What's Going On?

1794:

George Washington has been President for five years, with three to go. John Adams is V.P. Thomas Jefferson is succeeded by Edmund Randolph as Sec. of State

Jay's Treaty requires withdrawal of British troops from U.S.A.

U.S. Population: 4 million - blacks and whites. North Carolina: 394,000.

Vermont and Kentucky have joined the union, making 15 states.

The Whiskey Rebellion in western Pennsylvania is suppressed in September.

Inventions: Ben Franklin's bifocals are 10 years old. Eli Whitney's cotton gin is one.

Social items: The U.S. constitution is seven years old, the dollar has been established as our currency for two years, the U.S. Post Office and the New York Stock Exchange are also two years old.

1795:

The University of North Carolina became the first operating state university.

Pinckney's Treaty with Spain opens navigation on Mississippi River.

Washington poses for Stuart's portrait, which is now on our dollar bill.

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In Memory of Ed Lytle

Several of us cousins have had the good fortune to meet Ed Lytle in Wymore, Nebraska. It is with sadness that I report his passing, 43 years to the day after his father. Ed was the last living grandson of the Rev. James Lytle, and his sister Doris Twombly is James' last living granddaughter. Following is the obituary, which I received no less than four copies of from various branches of the family. Thanks to all of those concerned.

Eddie R. Lytle WYMORE - Eddie R. Lytle, 83, Wymore, died Saturday, Nov. 6, 1993, at St. Elizabeth Community Health Center in Lincoln. He was born Oct. 6, 1919, at Wymore. He attended Lower Sicily School through the eighth grade and has been an area resident his entire life. He worked in the Civilian Conservation Corps, and was a tool setter for Dempster Industries during World War II. He was employed by the Gage County Highway Department from 1945 until his retirement at age 65. He married Martha Buresh on July 13, 1935, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Wymore. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church at Wymore. He enjoyed gardening.

Survivors: wife, Martha; daughters Mae Marie Schultze and husband Kenneth, Janet Sohl and husband Gary, all of Wymore, and Norma Fleege and husband Jon of Lincoln; sons Ronald Lytle and wife Glenna of Wymore and Ed Lytle and wife Linda of Fairbury; 13 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; sister Doris Twombly of Compton, Calif.; nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Sampson R. (on Nov. 6, 1950), and Margaret (Wolf) Lytle; sisters, Nellie Day, Goldie McPheron, Lillie Lewis and Gertrude Rebol; brother Carl "Pat" Lytle.

Funeral: 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 10, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Wymore, Father Dennis Hotovy officiating. Burial: Wymore Cemetery, Wymore. Visitation: at Laughlin-Hoebet Funeral Home, Wymore, until 10 a.m. Wednesday and not at the church. Rosary: 7 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Memorials to the church and the Wymore Rescue Unit with Laughlin-Hoebet Funeral Home, Wymore, in charge.

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“Lost” Branch Found in Oklahoma

The descendants of Rev. James Lytle (1818-1904) number the largest amongst all of the Lytle Plantation News readers. That branch of the family increased in known numbers with the addition of a branch formerly unknown to us. This branch of the family can be considered the “oldest”, as follows: Frank Lytle’s oldest son was Francis (Frank, Jr.), Francis’ oldest son was James, James’ oldest son was John, and John’s oldest son was James Edward Lytle, to whom this branch belongs.

Thanks to an extensive cooperative effort on the part of several other branches of the family (who have never met each other), we have established a connection to a group Lytles near Oklahoma City. This story is also wrought with coincidences and pure luck.

It began when (Mrs.) Jean Lytle of Oklahoma was looking for someone else entirely and was asked about her Lytle name. She was then put in touch with Leta Olson in Texas, who determined that Jean’s husband Owen appears to be a descendant of the Rev. James Lytle. Jean then contacted Rik Vigeland in Oregon to get the full scoop. The connection to James looked plausible but needed more information to firmly establish that the relationship was correct.

As stated, James Lytle’s oldest son was John. John was born in 1840 and died young in 1870, leaving a widow and four children: James, George, Tom and Lizzie. The oldest, James, was “missing” in that all of his siblings were raised around the Iowa-Missouri border, with no trace of James to be found.

Meanwhile, Owen Lytle’s line went as far back as James Edward Lytle from Grant County, Indiana. Our Lytles were in Grant County for many years, of course, but there were also unrelated Lytles in the same county. Also, most of our Lytles did not have middle names. So -- were we talking about the same James Lytle? Was our lost James the same James E. who was raised in Indiana?

One thing that the “two” James had in common was a sister named Lizzie. In Missouri lives Mearl Lytle, son of George and grandson of John. Mearl had given to Rik a picture of George, Tom and Lizzie together. In Oklahoma, Owen’s family also mentioned an aunt Lizzie (married name Johnson), but didn’t know about Tom and George. A letter from Mearl Lytle’s daughter Dena McKee in Virginia confirmed that Johnson was her great aunt Lizzie’s last name. The final answer to the question of brother James Edward Lytle came when Jean also sent a picture of aunt Lizzie to Rik in Oregon. The clincher is that in both pictures Lizzie is wearing the same dress!

One more player in the picture is Midge Bray, yet another descendant of Rev. James, who also lives in Oklahoma and has since been in touch with Jean. A big ‘Thank You’ to all who helped put the pieces together.

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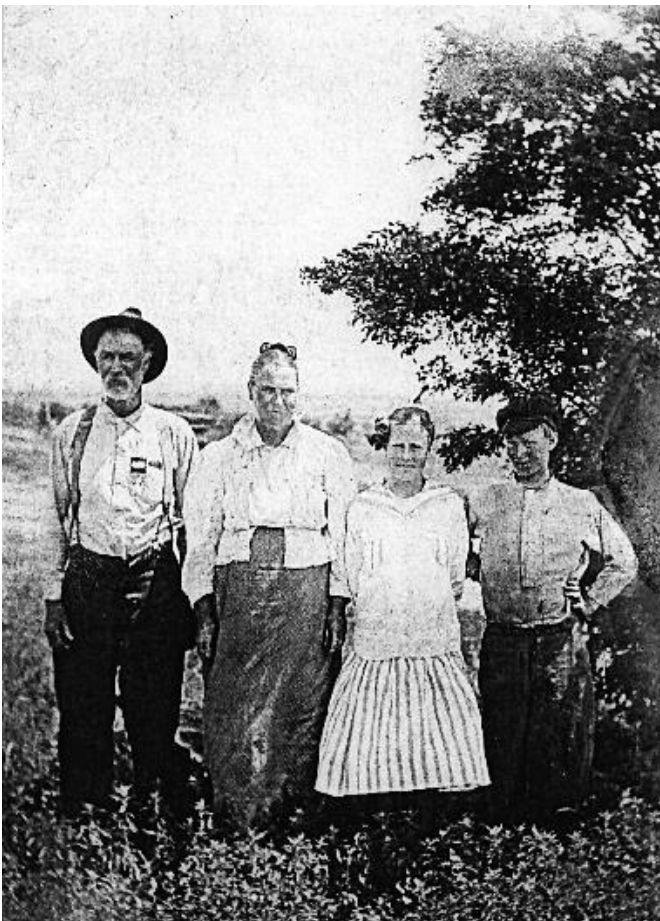
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Above: George Lytle, Lizzie (Lytle) Johnson, and Tom Lytle.

Below: their brother James E., his wife Phoebe (Glover), their children Blanch and Isom.



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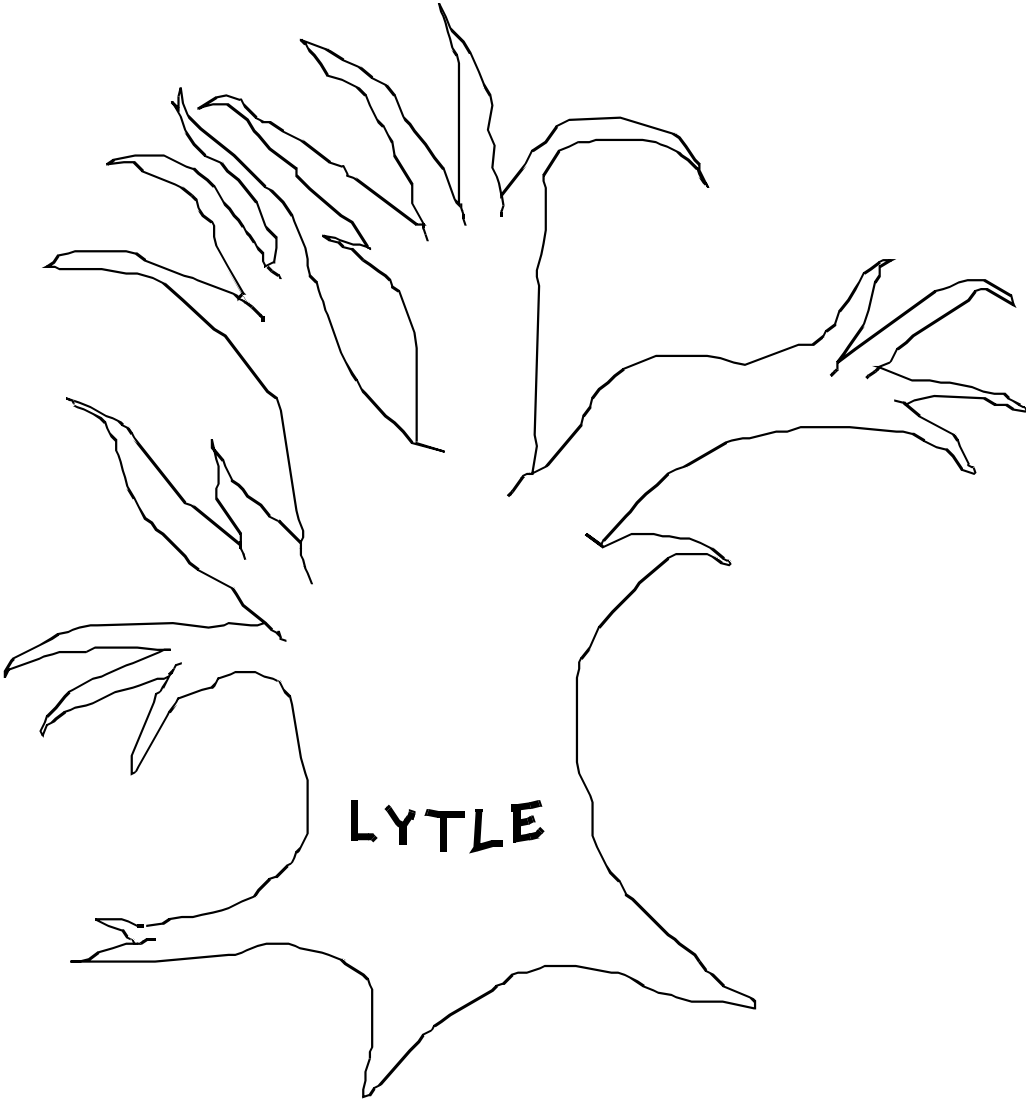
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Volume VIII Number 2

April, 1994



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The Further Life of Wesley Lytle

Contributed by Charlie Morris

In the Lytle Plantation News of April, 1993, part of the article pertained to Wesley Lytle. He appears to be the son of Elizabeth Lytle, who married Joshua Freeman in 1845. This was a second marriage for Joshua. The 1850 census of Grant County, Indiana, lists the family of Joshua and Elizabeth. Included in this list are 12 year old Wesley and 8 year old Mary Jane Freeman, who was the daughter of Joshua by his first marriage, to Mary Warwick.

Wesley Lytle and Mary Jane Freeman were married on May 8, 1859. The 1860 census of Union Township, town of Jerome, Howard County, Indiana, shows that Wesley Little (Lytle), 25, and Mary Jane, 20, were living two houses away from Joshua and Elizabeth Freeman. The next information on Wesley is when he enlisted in the 130th Indiana regiment on March 10, 1864. He was mustered out December 2, 1865, at Charlotte, North Carolina. Wesley and Mary Jane lived in Howard County until March, 1870, when they moved to Tipton County. The New Salem Monthly Meeting (Friends or Quakers) records show that Mary J. and Wesley were received into membership on May 30, 1868.

The 1870 census of Wildcat Township, Tipton County, lists Wesley Little (Lytle) as a 31 year old farmer with Mary J., 29, Elizabeth, 9, Mary E., 7, and Melissa E., 4 years old. In April, 1873, they moved back to Howard County and then to Logansport, Cass County, in March of 1874. The 1880 census of Logansport, Ottawa Precinct, Cass County, Indiana gives the following information: Wesley Lytle, 40, Mary J., 39, Marietta, 16, Melissa, 14, Elmer E., 10, and Rosella, 6 years old. The 1881 city directory of Logansport shows Wesley Lytle as a travel agent located on the southwest corner of Daisy and Garden Streets.

It appears that Wesley and Mary Jane moved to Wabash, Wabash County, Indiana, in 1885 due to the sale of real estate from Joseph W. and Kate M. Busick to Wesley Lytle on the 29th of August, 1885, for \$300.

The parcel is described as beginning at the southwest corner of Lot No. 10 in Caldwell's Brickyard Addition to the town of Wabash, running east 90 feet, north 50 feet, west to Manchester Avenue, then south along Wabash Street to the beginning. On the 4th of September, 1885, this property was conveyed to Mary J. Lytle by Wesley Lytle in consideration of the sum of \$1000. The Wabash Monthly Meeting shows that Mary J. and children Elmer E. and Rosella were received into membership from New Salem on June 19, 1886. These minutes also show that Mary J. transferred her membership to the Christian Church on May 18, 1889, and Rosella resigned the next day from New Salem.

The 1900 census lists Wesley in Grant County again, enumerated with the National Military Home, Marion Branch, as an inmate. He was 62 years old. His birthdate was given as July, 1838. Mary J. was found in Wabash County, Noble Township, living at 209 North Wabash Avenue. She was 57 years old, with her birthdate given as May, 1843. There is now a church standing at this location.

Wesley Lytle died on May 5, 1902, in the Veterans Home at Marion, Indiana. Although he was buried at Falls Cemetery in Wabash, no obituary was found in the Wabash paper. Two articles pertaining to his death were in the "Kokomo Daily Leader", the first in a section headed "Soldier's Home". It states, "The remains of Wesley Lytle, Company K, 130th Indiana, who died in the hospital last Monday were escorted to the gate by the band and firing squad Wednesday morning. The remains were shipped to

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Wabash.” The second article stated “The body of Wesley Lytle who died Tuesday at the Soldiers’ Home was interned yesterday at Wabash. Mr. Lytle was the father of Ella Nicholas whose prominence throughout the country reached its height several years ago. Mr. Lytle was an itinerant doctor, but gave up his practice with declining years to enter the Soldiers’ Home, he being a veteran and eligible to that institution.”

On the 19th of March, 1889 Mary J. Lytle acquired additional property from Joseph and Kate Busick for fifty dollars. It also began “at the southwest corner of lot No. 10 in Caldwell’s Brick Yard Addition to the town, now city, of Wabash.”

After the death of Wesley Lytle, Mary J. was given his original pension, which amounted to eight dollars per month. This notice was issued to her by the department of the Interior, Bureau of Pensions, on November 18, 1902. The next we find Mary J. as in 1910 when she bought lot No. 25 in Ross Heights Addition for \$120. This was purchased from the heirs of a McCrea estate. The 1910 census of Wabash finds Mary J. Lytle in Ward 4, house No. 66. She is listed as 67 years old, having six children with only one living at that time and her occupation listed as “own income”.

Mary J. Freeman Lytle wrote her Last Will and Testament on the 31st day of July, 1916, at Wabash, Indiana. She died on October 31, 1917.

At this time, her sole surviving heirs were listed as follows:

Helen Shesgreen	48	Daughter	235 W. 75th St., New York
David W. Shesgreen	9	Grandson	235 W. 75th St., New York
Burt Shields	35	Grandson	Indianapolis
Elsie Van Riper	31	Granddaughter	
Beatrice Dutre	31	Granddaughter	Los Angeles
Elizabeth Mills	24	Granddaughter	
Virginia Main	27	Granddaughter	Sandusky, Ohio

In trying to identify the descendants of Wesley and Mary J. Lytle, one needs to first go back to her statement in the 1910 census when she said that she had six children with only one surviving at that time. Referring to other records, we find that the oldest child was Elizabeth, followed by Marietta, Melissa, Elmer, and Rosella. None of the documents lists the name of another child. Following is the information gathered on these children:

Elizabeth A. Lytle married in Cass County, Indiana, on October 1, 1876, to George W. Shields. It is known that they had a child named Charles Arnet Shields, died in infancy and is buried in the Shields Family Cemetery on what is known as the Arnet Shields Farm on State Road 17 near Logansport, Cass County. Four other children were born to this union. Burt was born in March, 1881, George D. was born in August, 1882, and the birth of Elsie was in March, 1885. The name and birth of the other child is unknown.

Elizabeth Lytle Shields died October 18, 1890, at the age of 29 years, 3 months and 11 days. Her obituary appeared in the Wabash Plain Dealer on October 24 and read as follows:

Sudden Death - Mrs. George Shields, residing on East Street near Manchester Avenue, died suddenly on Saturday morning of apoplexy, aged twenty-nine years.

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Mrs. Shields removed with her family from Logansport to Wabash about six months ago. She had visited friends in the country the day previous to her death, and was then apparently in the best of health. Deceased was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Lytle, on North Wabash Street. A husband and four small children mourn her death.

The funeral occurred from the residence at two o'clock Sunday afternoon, Rev. Chas. Little conducting the services; burial in Falls Cemetery.

The 1900 census of Wabash County, Largo Township, lists George W. Shields, 41 years old, Irene Garrett Shields, his wife, and her two children, Ethel and Frank, plus his three, namely Burt, George D., and Elsie. Evidently George died before Mary J., as he was not listed in her settlement, but Burt and Elsie did benefit from their grandmother's estate. Burt Shields, of Indianapolis in 1917, was not found in the 1920 Indiana census index (soundex).

Marietta Lytle, known as Marie, Etta, and Effie, married Edwin W. Weatherbee on September 19, 1884, in Cass County. On the 16th of September, 1885, they had a daughter named Effie. Was Effie the Beatrice Dutre mentioned in the settlement of Mary Jane's will? Beatrice was listed as 31 years old in 1917, matching the age of this Effie.

The next information found pertaining to Marietta was her obituary in the Wabash Times dated October 29, 1897. It reads as follows:

Funeral for Mrs. Weatherbee - The funeral services of Mrs. Weatherbee will occur at the residence of her mother, Mrs. Wesley Lytle, corner of Wabash Street and Manchester Avenue, at 2:30 p.m. Friday. Elder Roberts, of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, at Jonesboro, will conduct the services. Interment in Falls Cemetery.

A telegram received from the deceased woman's two sisters in New York City announce their inability to reach this city in time for the funeral.

The same newspaper had this announcement:

Wesley Lytle, of the soldier's home at Marion, was in the city Friday. He came over to attend the funeral of his daughter, Mrs. Weatherbee.

Marie Weatherbee's grave was located in Falls Cemetery through the plot number, but she has no headstone. She was 34 years old at the time of her death.

The daughter, Effie, of Edwin and Marie Weatherbee was not listed, by that name, as a granddaughter in the settlement of Mary Jane's estate.

Nothing has been found pertaining to Melissa. The best guess would be that she was known as Helen. The age given in her mother's settlement appears to be closer to that of Melissa than to any of the other known children. If Melissa was called Helen, then she was a Wainright in 1893 prior to becoming a Shesgreen. Should Melissa not be Helen, then it is assumed that Melissa died prior to 1893 and Helen is the sixth child mentioned in Mary J. Lytle's census record of 1910.

Elmer E. Lytle was born July 1, 1870 and died in Hamilton, Ohio, on March 2, 1893, when he was 22 years of age. The Wabash Plain Dealer on March 6, 1893, gave the following obituary:

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Funeral of Elmer E. Lytle - the funeral of Elmer E. Lytle, who was killed while coupling cars at Hamilton, Ohio, Thursday of last week, occurred from the family residence on North Washington Street, at two o'clock Sunday afternoon and was largely attended. Revs. C.E. Morgan and A.W. Lamport each made brief and appropriate remarks at the house. At the grave all who followed the remains, led by Rev. Lamport, repeated the Lord's prayer, a very pretty and impressive innovation in the burial service.

The following young men acted as pall bearers: Messrs. Seldon Brady, Amos Richards, Fred Schleimmer, Robt. Barrington, Harry Ball and Ed. Wilerson.

From the Butler County Democrat, Hamilton, Ohio, on Thursday, March 9, 1893, appeared the following:

Life Crushed Out of Brakeman Lytle last Thursday Between Draw-bars on the Panhandle - The Panhandle, which has escaped all accidents for some time had a fatality Thursday morning.

E.E. Lytle, a brakeman, running on a west bound freight, which left here at 11:30 o'clock Thursday, was attempting to make a coupling while the train was going around a curve at the west end of the passenger station platform. In some manner he slipped and his body was caught between the draw-bars. Life was crushed out almost instantly.

The patrol wagon was summoned and the man was taken to his boarding house on Court Street, near Third. Seybold & Bonner, undertakers, took charge of the remains, and prepared them to be taken to the deceased's home in Richmond, where he has family.

Note - Mary J. Lytle's brother, Richard Freeman, lived in Richmond, Indiana, at that time.

The last known child of Wesley and Mary Jane was Rosella, also referred to as Ella or Zella. She was Zella Robinson during the settlement of Elmer's estate in 1893 and in May, 1902, when her father died she was Ella Nichols or Nickolas. What was the reasoning behind the newspaper article at the death of Wesley, to state that she had been prominent throughout the country prior to 1902? At the death in 1897 of her sister, Mary Weatherbee, the obituary stated that she was in New York. Was she a Robinson or a Nickolas at that time?

Falls cemetery is located in the northeast portion of the town of Wabash. The Lytle plot has five known graves. Buried in these are Wesley, Mary J. and Elmer Lytle plus Marietta Weatherbee and Elizabeth Shields.

For anyone interested in pursuing the descendants of Wesley and Mary J. Lytle, neither Helen nor David Shesgreen were found in the New York soundex for 1920. They could have been living in Volusia County, Florida, at that time because Helen was there in December 1918, according to her mother's estate. On a recent note, the Social Security index listed a David Shesgreen who died in southern California in August of 1982. We are now trying to follow up on a lead to this man's widow and son.

The 1900 and 1910 New York soundex has not been checked for Rosella Nichols or Nickolas or Robinson. The 1910 New York soundex has not been checked for Helen Shesgreen nor the 1900 New York soundex for Helen Wainright.

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In looking for the grandchildren, Beatrice Dutre was not found in the California soundex of 1920. Was she there in 1910? Burt Shields was not found in 1920 Indiana and did not marry nor die at Indianapolis. Neither Elsie Van Riper nor Elizabeth Main were found. Where they were living is unknown. Research for Virginia Mills of Sandusky, Ohio needs to be started.

What were the maiden names of Beatrice Dutre, Virginia Mills, and Elizabeth Main? It appears that they were Weatherbee, Wainright, And Robinson or Nickols/Nicholas.

Finally, who was Helen? There was no mention of a Helen in the 1886 Wabash Monthly Meeting when Mary J., Elmer, and Rosella transferred their membership, but Melissa was also not mentioned. According to past census records, Melissa would have been about twenty years old in 1886. Was she married at that time? Did she die? Why was Helen not in the 1870 or 1880 census? According to the age that Helen gave in 1917, she was born in 1869 or 1870, but Elmer was born in July, 1870. Was she Melissa, born in 1866 or 1867?

Further research may turn up answers to these questions. If anyone wants to pursue these names, please contact Rik Vigeland to find out any updates.

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Reunion Finalized!!

200 years after the death of Thomas Lytle, we will be celebrating the events that followed and shaped the descendants of the Lytle Plantation. Descendants of Thomas and Henry Lytle and all others who lived on the Lytle Plantation are invited to come and meet each other.

When: Saturday, September 24th, 1994 Where: Family Life Center, Marlboro Friends Church, Randolph County, North Carolina Cost: will be approximately \$15-20 per person to pay for luncheon, promotion, information packets, more

Also: Bulla-Farlow-Millikan Reunion occurs same location, September 25th, 1994, 12:00-3:00 Cost: Donation & Potluck

Tentative events:

- o Friday, Sept. 23, 1994: County Tour - Lytle Land, Landmarks, and Cemeteries
- o Saturday, Sept. 24th (THE Reunion): Luncheon with speakers on historical topics

Meet the relatives, trade stories, show photos, and other family events

o Sunday, Sept. 25th: Bulla-Farlow-Millikan Reunion Descendants of Frank Jr.'s third wife Martha (Patsy) Bulla through their children Newton, Luke, Henry, Demerious Robinette Harris, Louisa Breazile Miller, also descendants of Frank Jr.'s children James and Mary through their respective marriages to Easter and Lindsey Buller (sister and brother) will want to come to this annual reunion.

o We are still open to suggestions for events before or after these listed!

Now is the time for all of you to get ahold of your relatives near and far and those you haven't spoken to in years and tell them that this is THE major event in the Lytle family. It's never happened like this before, we don't know when it will happen again. Tell your relatives to spread the word.

Final announcements will be mailed to everyone who receives this bulletin, as well as all others known to be eligible to attend. If you want your relatives to receive the official announcement, contact Rik Vigeland with their addresses.

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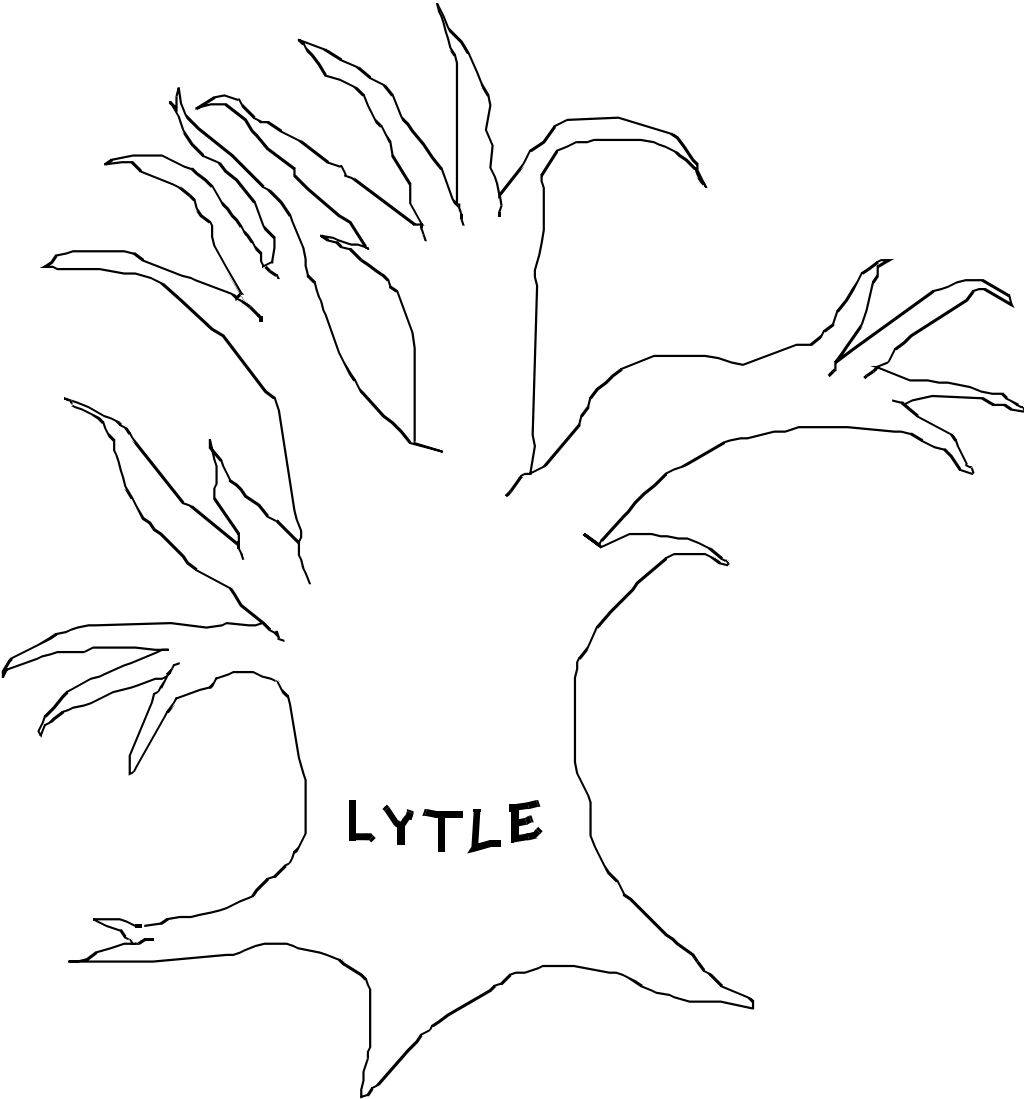
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Volume VIII Number 3

July, 1994



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Descendants of Wesley Lytle (part 3 in a series)

As the last issue of this bulletin was being printed and mailed, we made contact with one branch of Wesley Lytle's family. This was done by accessing a nationwide telephone listing for the name Shesgreen, of whom there are very few. The first phone call yielded a cousin of the line who put us in contact with the correct family. And now, the story of Melissa Helen (Lytle) Shesgreen and her family.

One of the questions first surrounding this daughter of Wesley Lytle and Mary Jane (Freeman) Lytle was whether or not Helen and Melissa were the same person, due to one name appearing in the census and the other in Mary Jane's estate papers of 1917. This has turned out to be the case.

Helen was married for a short time to a Mr. Wainright. There are no details of this marriage. Helen was working as an actress in New York City, and used Wainright as her stage name, but never did achieve fame or large, leading roles. She married secondly James (Jim) Shesgreen, who was a producer and manager of Broadway plays. Jim Shesgreen achieved moderate success in the early 1900's with several well-received productions, including "The Bat", by Mary Roberts Rinehart. He was a member of New York's famous Friar's Club, which exists to this day as an exclusive club for those in the theatrical world. He and Helen lived a high life and traveled extensively. It was into this life that their only child, David Warwick Shesgreen was born June 15, 1908, in New York City. The name Warwick comes from Mary Jane Freeman's mother, Mary (Warwick) Freeman.



Helen and David, October 1917



Helen and David, 1918

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The Shesgreens spent summers in Connecticut, Chicago, and other places as well. They were good friends with Kenneth Landes, the first Commissioner of Baseball. When David was 13, they spent a year in France, touring with a production. He received some education in Switzerland, boarding schools, and military schools. David joined the army in and was a sergeant when he was married in Los Angeles in 1944. James Shesgreen passed away suddenly in the late 1920's in a Philadelphia restaurant, and Helen died in New York City in 1945.

David had no one occupation, which has been attributed to his frequent uprooting. His son and only child, David Jr., however, is active and successful in the film industry. David Sr. passed away in 1982 in southern California and his ashes were scattered in the desert, which he loved. His widow, Mary, still lives in California and provided much of this information and photographs. She also has a tintype photo of Wesley Lytle, which she will allow to be photographed. Hopefully, this photo can be successfully copied for preservation.

In the meantime, there are still other descendants of Wesley and Mary Jane that we hope to find.

Sixty-seventh Epistle to The Friars.



This interesting photograph of the "First Baby Friar" was taken at Friar "Jim" Shesgreen's farm at Wilton, Conn. (where Mrs. Shesgreen and the young Friar spent the summer), by Mr. Chas. A. Burnham, the well-known theatrical manager.

Friar Shesgreen is at present representing two attractions. It is whispered that he is holding one down until James Jr. is old enough to relieve Daddy.

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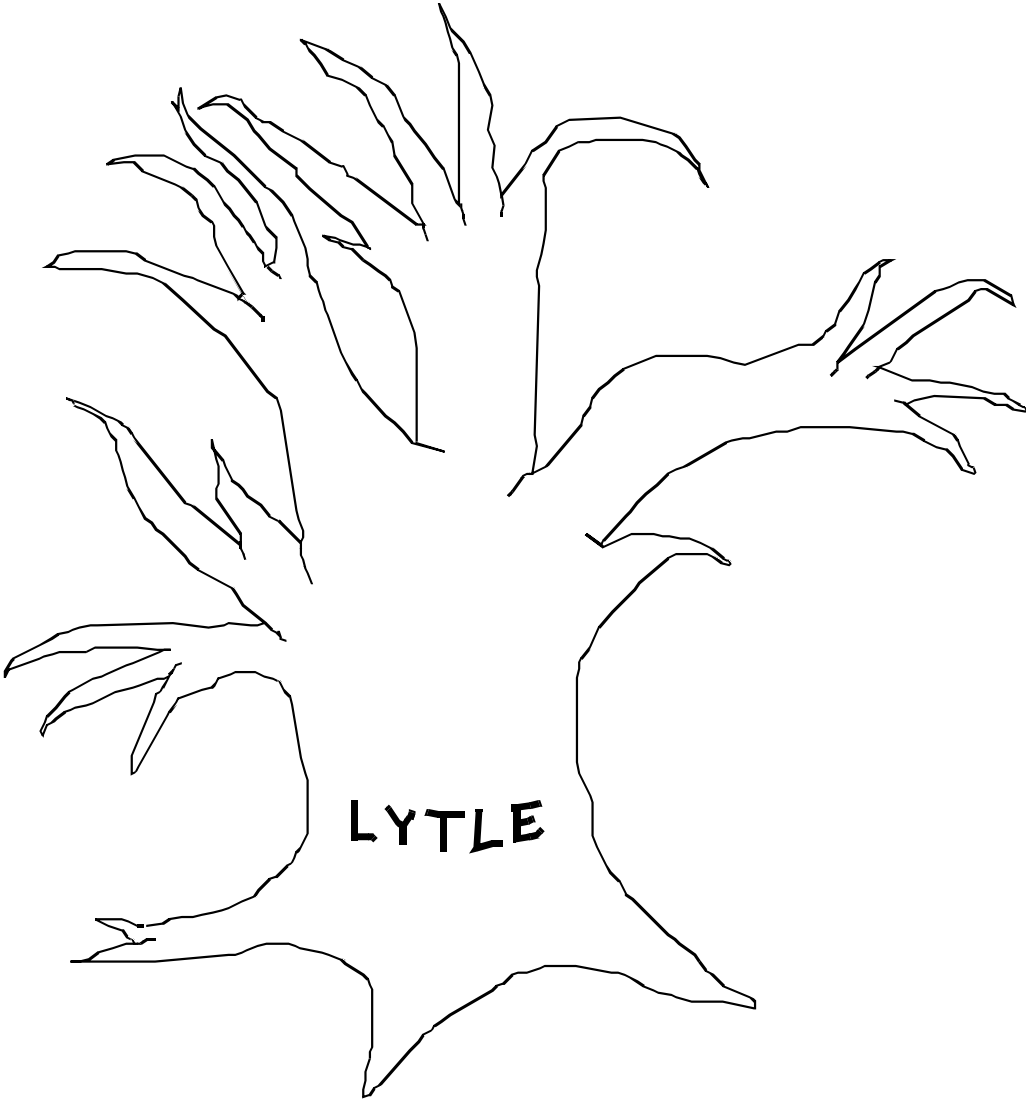
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October, 1994



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Reunion Report

Well, would you believe we finally did it? Considering that many of you were there, then likely so. We held our best and biggest Lytle family reunion ever, marking the 200th anniversary of Frank Lytle's freedom.

On Friday, the day before the main event, seven carloads of cousins went on a tour of northwest Randolph County, stopping at sites of Thomas Lytle's house, Frank Lytle's land, and a few churches and cemeteries. We found that the Bulla cemetery has been kept up nicely and a fine new wooden sign has been added by local resident Don Bulla. Perhaps the biggest impression was made on the three Lytle brothers, Dewey, Owen, and Vernon, who a year ago knew no further back than their grandfather's name, and now were standing on land going back seven generations. We were all glad to have these recently found cousins along, as they added a lot of fun.

Thirty-eight attendees from eight different states attended the main event on Saturday, with thirty-two present for the 5:30 catered dinner. Most of the day was occupied in just finding out who's who, which was aided with a large family tree, drawn to show all the major branches of Frank Lytle's descendants. Cousins descended from three of Frank Lytle's children (Frank Jr., Elizabeth Walden, and Dorcas Swaney) plus one from the Johnson branch of the family (descendants of Henry Lytle, 1735?-1786?) were in attendance. Two of the local guests were "friends of the family" -- members of the Randolph County Genealogical Society, namely Mrs. Carolyn Hager and Mrs. Betty Brown. Everyone present enjoyed meeting their cousins, most for the first time, and comparing family features and stories.

To our surprise (and hers) we found that cousin Edith Simmons, from the Swaney branch, currently lives on the land which was the original 200 acres willed to Frank Lytle. Sorry to say, it hasn't been kept in the family all these years, it's just a coincidence. While we're on the subject of Swaney's, both the youngest and oldest attendees were local cousins from that branch. Timothy Drissom, age 28 and Lou Etta Wichum, 92, took these honors.

The dinner was preceded by a game of "LYTLE", which is like BINGO only trickier with two L's. The first round's prizes were North Carolina refrigerator magnets, followed by a round with North Carolina books as prizes. In the third and final blackout round, we gave away some Randolph County pottery, a famous local commodity.

Following dinner were the speakers. Carolyn Hager spoke on the history of Randolph County, setting the stage for our family. Charlie White, of Hanover, North Carolina, then spoke on the Johnson branch of the family and their influence on the estate and slaves of Thomas Lytle (1740?-1794). Rik Vigeland finished up with a short discourse on the branches of Frank Lytle's family and some of their more interesting facts. Then, we finished the day with family photos. Hope yours turned out nice!

Special Thanks

As part of his talk, Rik Vigeland thanked several of the guests for their contributions over the years, including Marilyn Sanders for major amounts of research and contributions, Louella Touriel for research and various favors and errands, Carolyn Hager and Betty Brown for sharing Randolph County data and knowledge, Gladys Betenbaugh, Joel & Margaret Thompson, and Bob Kiger for contributions on Walden and Laughlin contributions, Charlie Morris for work in Indiana, and Linda Vigeland for being a "genealogy widow" during much of the research and preparation for the reunion. (Another

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voice in the crowd thanked Rik's parents for having him in the first place!) Gloria Crail, who was unable to attend, was thanked in abstentia for her donation of the Lytle Reunion buttons which everyone wore. Also, we missed Betty Niles of Esbon, Kansas. She and her husband were unable to attend after she broke her leg two weeks before the reunion. Hope you're doing better, Betty.

Thanks to anyone that was missed and to all those who came. We'll have to do it again sometime!

Here are those who attended:

Midge & Jim Bray
Del City, OK

Betty Leach Brown
Archdale, NC

Janet Grissom
Sophia, NC

Carolyn Hager
Asheboro, NC

Bob Kiger
Shelby, NC

Owen & Joan Lytle
Maud, OK

Charlie & Jenny Morris
Cadiz, KY

Marilyn Sanders
Oroville, CA

Edith Simmons
Sophia, NC

Jack & Irene Swaney
Sophia, NC

Louella Touriel
Orinda, CA

Rik & Linda Vigeland
Canby, OR

Lou Etta Wichum
Trinity, NC

Gladys Betenbaugh
High Point, NC

Roger Clark
Urbana, IL

Timothy Grissom
Sophia, NC

Margo Bray Hirschman
Del City, OK

Dewy & Sharon Lytle
Beaumont, TX

Vernon & Doris Lytle
Tulsa, OK

Elaine Swaney Price
Sophia, NC

Henry & Donna Schultz
Council Bluffs, IA

Dock & Kathleen Swaney
Asheboro, NC

Margaret Blizard Thompson
Greensboro, NC

Margie & Charlie Vigeland
Springfield, OR

Mr. & Mrs. Charlie White
Concord, NC

Bev & Merle Wright
Missouri

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Research Notes

While at the reunion, some interesting tidbits came up:

Fanny (Swaney) Peacock, who tended the cemetery on what was Frank Lytle's land is buried close to Dorcas (Walden) Blizzard in the Caraway Church Cemetery. Gladys Betenbaugh pointed her out about 20 feet from where we were standing when asked about her! Irene Swaney, wife of Jack, went with her as a little girl and helped tend the cemetery. Locals simply knew it as a "colored cemetery", though it has Johnsons buried there, too, and perhaps others. This site is probably where Frank was buried, and several descendants as well. It has been gone for about 40 years and is on private land. The current owners have been there for more than 30 years without seeing any sign of it.

Maude Swaney was the last person living in Frank's old house. After it was gone, the chimney was used as the foundation for a barn (no word yet on the barn).

One week after the reunion, Rik Vigeland and Louella Touriel were to be found in Walnut Creek, California, at the home of Mary Shesgreen, photographing some old tintypes (and an older ambrotype). These old photographs were of Wesley and Mary Jane (Freeman) Lytle. Wesley was the son of Elizabeth Freeman and a grandson of Francis Lytle (1796-1880). The oldest picture was the glass ambrotype of Mary Jane's mother, which is at least 150 years old.

Charlie Morris visited the North Carolina State Archives in Raleigh following the reunion and came up with a few useful items. A "bastardy bond" names Frank Lytle Sr. as the father of a child born to Jincy Dunning (spelling hard to read) in or by 1826. Haven't been able to find anything about this child. In another document, William Bell is listed in a deed with Archibald Lytle of Orange County, NC. William Bell was an executor of our Thomas Lytle's estate of 1794. He was also the sheriff and one of the richest men of Randolph County. It would be nice to tie Thomas in with these other Lytles; all of them came from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.