

GRANDPA and GRANDMA and the DUNKARD CHURCHby Mary Benham Harvey from the book *The Goshorns of Owen County*

Editor's comment: The "Grandpa and Grandma" in Mary's story were Robert Robison Goshorn born November 7, 1833 in Huntingdon County, PA, and Julian Sommers, born April 22, 1828 in Fayette County, PA. On November 7, 1853, Robert bought one hundred acres of land in Owen County and they lived in a log cabin with an earthen floor. Over the years they cleared the land, built a two-story house, large barn and carriage house. Julian died following a stroke October 2, 1899. Robert died of a heart attack on his way to church September 23, 1909 in Clay City. Their eight children were Lydia Jane, Josiah Samuel, Benjamin F., George V., Flora Alice, Ezra Nicholas, Martha Etta, and Martin Riley. All grew to adulthood. *Virian Zellinger*

Grandpa was tall, stockily built, square-shouldered, a full beard. Never in a hurry, never angry unless at some stray animal or balky horse. Then he might say, "Confound you" or "Consarne it all." I never heard him say a bad word, never. He never argued, never scolded, neither borrowed nor lent, never voted but once in his life, he did not criticize, for they were right or wrong in Grandpa's opinion. He liked them or he did not, but he saw some good in everyone. He had hosts of friends and at harvest or hay time there were plenty of folks anxious to help Robert Goshorn.

Grandpa was born in Pennsylvania of a strict Presbyterian family. For years he carried on with that faith and my mother told me that in her earliest childhood their Sundays were tiresome days for the children. They had to sit quietly all day, not run or laugh, above all, not sing or whistle. Grandpa was so stern they were afraid not to do so. The horses must rest, too, and Grandma had busy Saturdays for she had to prepare all the food for Sunday as she "must not work on the Sabbath Day."

After a few years like that, Grandma started another way. She didn't like it herself and above all it was not her idea of the way to rear her children. Grandma had been a Dunkard in Ohio before she came to Indiana, soon after her marriage.

Grandma started going to the Dunkard church at a little crossroad town known as Denmark, two miles from home. She had to walk alone, but she didn't mind; she loved to walk and she always saw something new each trip. Some new flower or weed, the wild grapes or strawberries turning ripe, a rare beautiful bird or white fleecy clouds. Grandma saw the beautiful things of life.

At first the children were not allowed to go with Grandma, but after a few Sundays Grandpa tired of taking care of them alone, and one by one they were allowed to walk with her to church.

Sunday School classes were organized and Grandma was a teacher. She loved the work and her children and neighbor children for miles around loved to go to church. Grandpa fumed a little, thought she was wearing herself out over foolishness, but he didn't discourage her. The hot weather never stopped her, but sometimes a sick child needed her at home and she'd stay, but send the other children on.

Grandma and the children were enjoying something Grandpa knew nothing about, so one day he calmly said, "Julia, I'm going with you. The boys may hitch Snap and Dick to the wagon." Well, something interested Grandpa, for he kept on going to church.

He was chosen Elder, Deacon, then became Minister of that little Dunkard church at the crossroad of Denmark, Indiana. Ministers those days were ordained to preach and they stood up and preached the Bible as they studied and believed. Grandpa was a learned man and he studied long and persistently. He was a good speaker without shouting as most of the ministers did, though he did get very interested in telling his message. Grandpa gave much of his time to the church, all without pay. His living was made from the farm and all his church work was given in the name of the Lord and for the good of mankind and he was happy in the work.

The little white frame church at Denmark had a large front door, a wide center aisle, long straight hard seats that reached almost to the outside walls on either side. A large cannon stove sat in the middle of the room, summer and winter. There were three extra long benches just in front of the pulpit for the ministers. On the right hand side of the ministers and the pulpit were four shorter benches where the sisters sat. The same number and same sized benches on the other side of the pulpit were occupied by the Brethren, husbands or sons of the sisters. There was a door by the sisters' benches that led to a quiet little room where they could take their fretful babies and care for them at ease, even take them out in the cool shade. And I was always glad when one of my younger brothers or sisters grew fretful enough to be taken to the outer room. I could slip away too, perhaps even go outside and sit quietly under a big shade tree. I

Testament making Void all former Wills. Leaving my beloved wife Polly and William Lynn my Sole Executors in Witness Whereof I have here unto set my hand and fixed my Seal this 11th April 1828 in presence of us Witnesses: Benjamin Wooten, William Wooden.

An inventory of the estate of John Ashley:

One hundred and five acres of Land one Cow and Calf one yearling 13 head of Hogs 6 head of Sheep one Bed and furniture one falling Leaf Table 1 Small Chest a pale and 2 piggins 5 Chairs three Wheels and 1 Loom one Cut Reel 1 pair for dogs Shovel and Tongs Two pots one Oven a Small Skillet 2 pair of pot hooks 2 Earthen dishes and 3 tumblers 3 pitchers 4 bowls and two Bottles 4 plates 1 mug one Canister one razor 2 tin pans one Set of Tea Cups and Saucers 2 waters two Tea Bords 4 peuter plates and one peuter dish 1 pair Candlemole one Sausage Stuffer 1 pair sheep shears one flax hackle 4 knives and fork 6 spoons one trumpet one pair of Small Stelyards and one Coffee mill 5 Crocks 2 pair Cotta Cards one Looking Glass 3 Books one Candle stick one Bedstead one Rifle Gun 2 shot pouches, 2 ploughs and swingletrees, 3 ___ Rings 2 Clevises 2 pair drawing Chains one ax and tomahawk 2 hoes one Iron wedge and one Log Chain one hand Saw and one auger one Sythe and cradle and Cutting knife one pair stretchers and one mans saddle 2 Tin Cups 3 gimblets and one taper bit one Small Kegg 2 Small Barrels 2 Bells one Set of Spools a small chunk of Iron.

The entire inventory including land sold at auction for \$209.22 ½.

Rachel Ruth Ashley, my great great great grandmother, was born in North Carolina, apparently moved with her father and siblings to Pulaski County, Kentucky sometime after the 1790 census which found the family still in North Carolina.

She was married on July 28, 1804 to Alexander Evans, probably born in Virginia although this is uncertain. I have a copy of their marriage bond issued in Pulaski County and signed by her groom and her father John Ashley. Rachel and Alexander probably spent the first several years of their marriage in Kentucky before showing up in Indiana where Alexander eventually became the owner of 168 acres of purchased government land in Washington Township, Owen County. Family legend says that the family, including children Malinda and James, walked from Kentucky to Indiana. Malinda was 9 years old and in charge of herding the flock of geese on the trip. James was said to be four.

They farmed their land for many years and were some of the first settlers in the area. They had a large family — I have seen a list of 11 children including Malinda, my ancestor. The 1850 census lists Alexander as blind as he was for several years before his death.

Rachel died on February 17 or 18, 1863. Alexander survived her by 10 years dying on September 19, 1873 at the home of his daughter Malinda and her husband Abner Franklin. One census shows the two families living next door to each other. I have a picture of Rachel's tombstone in the Chambersville Cemetery, Washington Township, Owen County, Indiana. Alexander's tombstone is no longer there having mysteriously disappeared. There is apparently no probate record for Alexander. He may have given away all his assets before he died. A court record some 3 years before he died lists Jane Evans as his guardian. I believe this Jane Evans was Jane Franklin, Abner's sister who also married into the Evans family

Editor's note: The entire manuscript includes a chapter on the Franklin family, Mills family, and Kay's parents' story. You may see this valuable work in the Owen County Public Library Genealogy Room.

**1874 was known as "The Panic of 74"
and William White was having a Going Out of Business Sale**

Owen County Journal March 5, 1874

Good News for everybody! The New York Store to be closed out at Cost! Having concluded to quit the mercantile business, I this day have thrown my entire stock of goods upon the retail trade at wholesale prices. This is a rare opportunity, considering the "tight times," for everybody in Owen and adjoining counties, to get goods for a small amount of money, as I have a large stock of Boots and Shoes, Dress Goods, Prints, Muslins, Notions, Queensware, Crockeryware, and Groceries; all of which except Flour, Sugar, and Coffee, will be sold at cost for Cash or Produce. Come farmers, mechanics, laborers, teamsters, professional men, grangers, and everybody else.

DINNER ON THE GROUNDS at NEW HOPE CHURCH

photo contributed by Terresa Thompson, 58 Heritage drive, Spencer IN 47460; e-mail: tethomps@bluemarble.net

It was a summer Sunday afternoon at the New Hope Baptist Church in the mid-30s. The folks lined up with their plates to enjoy another delicious spread and fellowship with their neighbors and relatives from that Franklin Township community. Terresa Thompson believes the fourth man from the left is her grandfather, Joseph Allen "Joe" Franklin. His daughter, Gretchen, was Terresa's mother. The sixth man from the left, the one in the very back, was Terresa's father, Roy Thompson. She believes the man on the far right is Charlie Johnson. Can you identify others?



Willy Hawkins' Horrible Accident

Owen County Journal March 14, 1879

Yesterday a very sad accident occurred at an old mill, eight miles south of here [Spencer], known as the "Old Cooper Grist Mill." The mill is owned by William Hawkins, and as it is one of the oldest style water mills, most of the machinery is made of wood, and the trunnel head and the cog wheel which runs it is made of the same material. Mr. Hawkins' son Willie, a lad of 17 years, was trying to drive a wedge in the trunnel head to tighten a loose cog while the mill was running. He made a miss lick and the wheel caught his arm and drew him in between the large cog wheel and trunnel head, so badly crushing his arm and breast that he died from his injuries later in the day.

Ashley Family

JOHN ASHLEY, an old Revolutionary War veteran and his Owen County daughter, Rachel

Contributed by Kay Schurr, 16 Greenwood Avenue, Lehigh Acres, FL 33936-6704

Kay Schurr set out to learn about her mother's ancestors. Her research uncovered documents about a distant relative, her great-great-great-great-grandfather. From his will and inventory we peek into the life of a Kentucky farmer, wounded veteran of the Continental Line, father of twelve. At least three of those children came to Owen County, Indiana. Kay's story introduces us to one of them, Rachel.

John Ashley was born about the year 1755 in North Carolina — most likely in the Mecklenburg area. His father was very probably Francis Ashley who was born in North Carolina in 1735 and whose wife was Rachel Touchstone. His grandfather was likely John Plowman Ashley born in 1705, dying in 1750. John married twice. There is no record of the name of his first wife, but we do know that there were children of that marriage. His second marriage was to Mary "Polly" Hardin in Kentucky on December 16, 1797.

John's children were John Jr., Francis, Peggy, Sally, Rachel, Charles, Daniel, Andrew, Uriah, Nancy, Polly, and Mariah. My ancestor was Rachel Ruth Ashley born on June 25, 1787 in North Carolina. John's name appears in the 1790 U.S. Census living in Mecklenburg in North Carolina.

John enlisted in the American Continental Line on May 15, 1781 from the Hillsboro area of North Carolina for a period of 12 months. He was in the 10th Regiment of the North Carolina Regulars. His rank was Sergeant Major, and he left service on May 5, 1782. His name appears in the *Roster of Soldiers from North Carolina in the American Revolution*. Files in the North Carolina State Archives show payments made to John for his service and expenses. He is also listed in the DAR Patriot Index.

In a letter, one of his grandsons states: "My grandfather's name was John. He served under Washington in the Revolutionary War, was an officer. His horse was shot under him in a battle in South Carolina. His horse fell and broke grandfather's leg and he was a cripple the rest of his life. He died many years before I was born, but I got this information from father."

He appears in the 1810 U.S. Census living in Pulaski County, Kentucky where his daughter Rachel was married. He died on April 11, 1828 in Warren County, Tennessee.

John's Will:

In the name of God Amen, I, John Ashley of the County of Warren and State of Tennessee being of perfect mind and memory but Calling to mind the mortality of man and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament. First of all I recommend my soul to the hands of the Almighty God who gave it my Body I recommend to the earth to be Buried in a deasent manner at the discretion of my Executors all my Just debts to be paid out of money arising out of the sale of my property here after mentioned first of all I give to my beloved Wife Polly Ashley the following property to wit: one cow and calf two Beads and furniture one flax and one Cotten Wheel two head of sheep one Sow and Seven piggs also one years old Barrow one kettle one small pot and Skillet and her Saddle one Smothing Iron one Chest four peuter plates and four delph plates one set of Tea Cups and Saucers one Water pale piggen and milk Churn and Tin Bucket also 2 Chaires three knives and three Crocks one Coffee pot and Soop Spoon three Tin cups one peuter dish and one delph dish also one square table and one pot Trammel and Washing tub 2 Tumblers and two mugs.

Item 2, I give unto my son Francis Ashley one Broun mare Saddle and Bridle also one Cow and Calf and one sow one Barrow also Ewe and Lamb and one plough and axe and hoe and Rifle Gun.

Item 3, I give unto my daughter Sally Abrell fifteen dollars Worth of my property the rest of my Children having received their poportionaable part my Land and all the balance of my property to be sold at twelve months credit and the money arising from the Sale after paying my debts to be divided between my Wife Polly, my daughter Peggy Colville, my daughter Rachel Evans, my daughter Ingram, my son Charles Ashley, and my son John Ashley, my daughter Sally abrell, my son Daniel Ashley, my Son Uriah Ashley and my son Andrew Ashley, my daughter Nancy Allison and my daughter Mariah Lynn and my son Francis Ashley all to Shear and Sheare alike - ratifying and confirming this my last Will and