

The Dulings of Owen County

Descending from William Duling, Sr. of Devonshire, England

From a manuscript by Julian Duling who welcomes your input or corrections.

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William Duling, Sr. was born April 27, 1748 in Devonshire, Devon County, England, and died November 24, 1839 in Hampshire County, Virginia. He married first Sarah Ann Campbell in 1778 in Loudoun County, Virginia. She was a daughter of Sir Collin Campbell. She was born 1758 in Scotland and died in 1794 in Hampshire County, Virginia on their farm. In 1795 William married Mary Marsh.

Legend has it that there were three or four Duling brothers who originally emigrated from England. Aside from William, the other brothers' names are not known for certain. Albert and John have been mentioned. The English ancestors were said to be of sturdy stock. They were said to be yeomen, which means landowners or farmers.

Portions of a copy of a letter written by Dr. Edmund James, who was President of the University of Illinois, a grandson of Elizabeth Duling James, reads as follows: After many years of searching as to what area of England the Duling family descended, I finally have found some definite information regarding the place in which they lived. I have a copy of the will of John Duling, made the 2nd day of April, 1873, which is on file in the District of His Majesty's High Court of Visitations at Exeter, Devonshire England."

In the list of Devon wills there is a statement that in 1691 a letter of administration was granted for the estate of William Duling of Tiverton. In the Visitation of the County of Devon, for the year 1920, edited by F.T. Colby, it is noted under the heading of Newcourt Genealogy, that J. Newcourt married Elizabeth Duling, daughter of Nicholas Duling of Heaton Fouchard. Heaton Fouchard is a hamlet near the north bank of the River Taw in Devon County, about three miles west of Barnstaple and two miles west of the coast. It is near Brauton, a station on the Great Western Railway.

As the Duling name is very limited in other parts of England, it seems that most Dulings who came to America migrated from Devon County, a few miles north of Plymouth, England, point of debarkation for the Pilgrims. Documents from that era described the Dulings as "worthy and sturdy stock of yeoman."

William Duling, Sr. came to Caroline County, Virginia prior to 1778. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. After the war he went to Loudoun County where he met and married Sarah in 1778. She was a direct descendant of Sir Collin Campbell, a famous Scottish family of nobility. They moved to Hampshire County, Virginia in the Allegheny Mountains, near the Potomac River. They received a land grant near what is now Keyser, West Virginia. They cleared and farmed approximately 279 acres. They built a two-story log home along a small stream in a valley between two rolling mountains. The home was approximately one-fourth mile from the road.

In 1793, William's family donated a corner of his farm for the first Methodist Church in that area of Virginia. In 1855 the original log church was torn down and replaced with a larger log church. The church known as the Duling Meeting House was occupied by the Union Army at the beginning of the Civil War. During the war, the battle lines changed often, causing the church to be occupied several times by both the Union and Confederate forces. This Methodist Church continues to have an active congregation in 1999 and is still known as the Duling Meeting House.

The log home where William Duling and wife Sarah raised their family remains intact today. In the 1970s there was a fire around the fireplace; however the home survived and has been used as a barn to store hay for the last few years. In recent years, the house had siding put over the exterior; however, the logs are still visible inside.

In September of 1998 I, Julian, and my wife Faye Duling visited the original log home built by William Duling. We were given a hewing ax found near the foundation of the dwelling which may have shaped the logs for the original home. We also visited the Duling Methodist Church located on the southeast corner of the farm. William's and Sarah's graves are located in the cemetery on the north side of the church. In March of 2000 I visited Crediton and Tiverton, England in the County of Devon. I found one elderly lady just north of Crediton whose name was Ethel Duling. The Duling name is recorded several times in Parish records in the northern portion of Devon County. However, the records at the District of His Majesty's High Court of Visitation in Exeter, Devonshire, England, had no birth record for William Duling, Sr.

The children of William and Sarah Campbell are:

1. William Alexander Duling Jr., born April 5, 1779 King & Queen County, Virginia; died October 10, 1856 Hampshire County, Virginia. He married first Harriet Rudolph and second Elizabeth Dean.
2. Elizabeth Duling, born August 7, 1782 King & Queen County, Virginia; died 1818 Mansfield, Richland County, Ohio.
3. Collin Campbell Duling, born March 7, 1784 Hampshire County, Virginia; died October 1, 1851 Tuscarawas County, Ohio. He married first Lucy in 1804; and second Carrie Fannie Hayes in 1817.
4. Edmund Duling, born June 4, 1786 King & Queen County, Virginia; died June 18, 1860 Coshocton, Ohio.
5. Sarah Ann Duling, born July 1788 King & Queen County, Virginia; died March 10, 1864 Owen County, Indiana
6. Zachariah Duling, born April 7, 1790 King & Queen County, Virginia; died February 1820 Mansfield, Richland County, Ohio.

The children of William and Mary Marsh are:

7. Achilles Duling, born 1794 Hampshire County, Virginia; died 1863.
8. H. Ruth Duling, born April 6, 1796 Hampshire County, Virginia; died November 2, 1859 Owen County, Indiana.
9. Wesley Duling, born 1800.
10. Nancy Duling, born March 20, 1802.
11. Elijah Duling, born 1804 Hampshire County, Virginia; died June 26, 1881 Springfield, Illinois.

Collin, living in Franklin Township, Owen County, enlisted as a Civil War Private in Company F, 97th Regiment. He fought the Confederate Army in the siege of Lookout Mountain, Tennessee, the battle for Atlanta, Georgia, and the assault on Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia. His unit had three officers and fifty-one enlisted men mortally wounded. One hundred and seventy-two died of illness and disease. After the war Collin returned to farming near Freedom, Indiana. Owen County birth records indicate he had two children with his first wife, Lucy, and seven children with his second wife Fanny.

Elizabeth Duling married William B. James, a Methodist minister and a physician. They had eleven children. Their son, Dr. Edmund H. James, was a professor at the University of Texas. His son became the President of the University of Illinois. It is his statement you read in the third paragraph of this article.

Edmund, son of William and Sarah, married Mary Dean in 1810. She died in 1853. He married second Ama A. Payne April 11, 1858 in Owen County. Edmund and his wife Mary and his brother Elijah moved to Coshocton County, Ohio where he engaged in farming in Linton Township. A devout Methodist, his log home was often filled with ministers and worshipers who traveled through his community. He and Mary had fourteen children.

Sarah Ann Duling married John Dean. She and John moved to Owen County and are buried in Pleasant Bethel Cemetery. They had nine children.

Zachariah married Nancy (last name unknown) and they had one child.

Achilles married Susan Knabreshue in 1820 and they had ten children.

H. Ruth married William Gilmore Dean in 1823. Both are buried in Pleasant Bethel Cemetery, Owen County. They had a son Zachariah.

Elijah married first Anna Dean. They had three children. She died in 1834. He married second Jane Hawkins and they had seven children. His third wife was Hanna Hauk. They had three children.

Julian's line comes from Collin Campbell Duling and Carrie Hayes through their fourth child Electus Hayes Duling, born December 17, 1825 at Newcomers Town, Ohio, and died May 28, 1902 in Owen County. He married Sabina Knil January 10, 1848. She was born August 4, 1829 in Newcomers Town, Ohio, and died June 7, 1914. Both are buried in the Hicks Cemetery in Owen County. They had nine children: Eldridge, Collin, Hiram Jefferson, Isaac Hayes, Nathan, Edmund, Henry Elsworth, John Gilmore, and Mattie. Fifth-born Nathan was Julian's great grandfather. He was born August 23, 1859 and died February 9, 1902. He married Lillie Franklin March 4, 1883 at the Freedom Methodist Church. Lillie was born July 29, 1866 and died June 26, 1946. Nathan and Lillie had four children: James Mount, Ross Francis, Ralph Gantz, and Edith.

Ross was born in Franklin Township January 26, 1886 and died November 11, 1969. He married Bertha Burkett

February 22, 1905, daughter of Daniel and Della (Porter) Burkett. Ross and Bertha had four children: Frances Hazel, Russell Nathan, Howard Gilmore, and Mary Wilma. Ross farmed in the early years of his adult life east of Freedom in the river bottom adjacent to White River. He also worked for the state highway department as a road supervisor. In 1934 he and Bertha moved to Spencer, and along with their son Howard, they built a small gasoline service station on West Morgan Street. Through the years this business grew into a successful auto service center. In 1962 he retired, spending much of his time farming for his son Russell and his grandson, James. Ross was a 32nd Degree Mason, Freedom Lodge. The four children of Ross and Bertha were; Frances Hazel born August 27, 1906; Russell Nathan born September 19, 1907; Howard Gilmore born June 15, 1910; and Mary Wilma born September 7, 1914.

Frances married Theodore R. Maudlin in Freedom. They had three children.

Russell Nathan married Nettie Louise Fiscus. He worked at Johnson's Creamery in Bloomington until 1951 when he joined his father and brother in owning and operating Duling's Service Station on the west side of Spencer. In retirement he helped his son James operate a large farm and Duling Soil and Grain east of Spencer. Russell and Nettie Louise had two children.

Howard Gilmore Duling married Martisha Elizabeth Jones, daughter of Alva and Bessie (Goss) Jones. Howard also worked at Johnson's Creamery. He and his wife picked up and tested cream from farmers in the Freedom//Newark area. In October of 1934 he and his father decided to come to Spencer and build a small filling station. During the same year he started selling automobile insurance to his customers. The service station expanded into a larger tire, battery, and accessory business with two locations, one uptown as well as the original location. In 1950 he sold his portion of the business to his brother, Russell, keeping the uptown location which also included appliances and insurances. Those businesses expanded into three locations, an insurance office, a G.E. Appliance Store and Goodyear Tire Shop. In 1952 he sold the tire shop to Robert Raper. In 1955 he sold the appliance store to his son Julian. He remained active in the insurance agency until his death in 1968. He had a heart attack and died instantly while fishing with his wife and his pastor and wife on Lake Monroe near Bloomington, Indiana. Besides Julian, the contributor of this story, Howard and Martisha had a daughter Janice.

Mary Wilma, the fourth child born to Ross and Bertha, married Truman Beryl Townsend in Freedom. She and Truman established Townsend Lumber Company in Spencer and built many homes for resale. They had two children.

Julian compiled the information after visiting several communities and cemeteries associated with the Duling Family, such as: Devon, Devonshire, England; Crediton, England; Tiverton, England; His Majesty's High Court of Visitations, Exeter, England; William Duling Se. Farm, Hampshire County, Virginia; Keyser Library, Keyser, West Virginia; and Owen County, Indiana. He also compiled information from family and friends plus eight genealogists: Dr. Edmund James, LaVonne Duling, Eleanor Duling, Paula (Shear) Jackson, O.E. "Bud" Duling, Hank Duling, and others. If you would like to make corrections or additions or would like a copy of the entire manuscript please contact Julian Duling, P.O. Box 406, Spencer IN 47460, or e-mail jduling@dulingins.com.

Yes, There Was a Devore Telephone Company

Owen County Archives Box 381, not dated

Telephone Franchise

To The Honorable Board of County Commissioners Greeting:

The Devore Telephone Company of Owen County Indiana petition said Board of County Commissioners for a franchise to build a telephone line along the public high ways in Owen County Indiana to wit:

Commencing at Millgrove and running South on the public highway to the Residence of Jerry Devore, and from thence to Quincy Indiana, along the Spencer Quincy and Gosport Pike Road to the last named place.

The aforesaid Telephone Company agrees that if said petition is granted, the County Board and their respective secretaries shall have free use of said line for all County business transacted on said line.

The Devore Telephone Co.

SKILLEHEAD

by Vivian Zollinger

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They called him Skillethead, his friends and family did. That was his Indian name. He was believed to be a full-blooded Cherokee. He was James Johnson in all written records.

Little is known of his early years. He was born about 1793 in Eastern Tennessee or Kentucky or North Carolina or Virginia, depending upon which record you look at. He came to Indiana Territory very early, but exactly when is unknown. He may have come with the Light family in 1807 to what is now Harrison County. There on March 3, 1814, he married Hester Light, the barely thirteen-year-old daughter of Tice and Polly (Moore) Light.

It is interesting to note the last massacre of Whites in Indiana by local Indians occurred at Pigeon Roost in Scott County when twenty-four men, women, and children were killed on September 3, 1812. Fear and distrust of Indians would have made life extremely hard for Skillethead back then.

By the spring of 1818 Skillethead and Hester and their two little girls homesteaded 160 acres in Owen County in Franklin Township and built a mill on Raccoon Creek. The mill was not successful. The land was assigned to Zachariah Glover, and the Johnsons moved to Putnam County near Hester's brother Israel. By 1832 they were in Salem, Washington County, but shortly returned to Owen County where they lived near her brothers Hugh and Abner.

Shirley Henderson of Lakin, Kansas, who contributed the material for this story, tells of sitting at the bedside of her aged grandmother Jennie (Johnson) White in 1943 and asking her about her ancestors. Grandma White named her father's brothers and sisters and their spouses faster than Shirley could write them down; said her grandmother's maiden name was Light; but said she couldn't remember her grandfather's given name. Grandma White knew intimately everything about her relatives, even those who had died before she was born. But she couldn't remember her grandfather's name, James, the same as her own father's. It was twenty-five years later that Shirley learned the name "Skillethead" from other distant relatives. Grandma White knew her grandfather only by his Indian name and didn't want to say it - didn't want to answer the question "what kind of name is that?" Prejudice against Indians and half-breeds was something she knew about;

and Indian blood was something to be hidden, even from her own children.

There were some fond memories of that kind old man. Leona Lewis of Freedom wrote, "Skillethead would go to church, lean on his cane and pat his foot to keep time to the music." After Hester's death, Skillethead lived in Missouri with son James Lawrence and wife, as they traveled from place to place trying to make a living. Rhoda wrote "Grandpa is here with me all the time and he is a good to me as any father could be to an only child." And just before he died, "Grandpa is getting a long very slow." Skillethead died sometime that year,

What kind of name is that

1868, and is buried without a headstone in Burton Cemetery near Freedom.

The nine known children of Skillethead and Hester were: Lucretia (1814-1873) who married Thomas R. Pickard and lived in Greene County; Elizabeth 'Bessie' (1816-1857) who married John McBride; William R. (c1826-1886) who married Micca Ann Vaughn; Mary Ann (1829 or 1831-1884) who married Thomas Arter/Arthur; James Lawrence (1832-1903) who married first Rhoda Ellen Dean and second Matilda A. Locke; Abner L. (1835-1871) who married Henrietta Putnam; Louisa Ellen (1836-1907) who married William Blair Burton and moved to Newton Co.; and Martha (c1838-1886) who married Wilson Zellars. James Lawrence and Abner both suffered from illnesses contracted in the Civil War.

While doing research for this story I was able to find Hester's gravestone, broken and partially covered with sod, in the Leach Cemetery. There are few descendants with the name Johnson. Shirley Henderson descends from James Lawrence Johnson, her great-grandfather. She has meticulously researched the family. At the time of the writing of this story in August, 1992, her address was North Star Route, Lakin KS 67860. I am sorry to say I have lost contact with her and don't know if that address is still valid.

Vivian Zollinger