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LOCKYEAR - PORTER - MC DONALD GENEALOGY
PROGRESS REPORT

Over a year ago, many of you were approached in an effort to gather information in connection with family history. The response was very good. Understandably, however, most of those replying had very limited knowledge concerning their ancestry.

A great deal of the information gathered, to date, was obtained from Mrs. Grace Marie (Lockyear) Graeff, Oceanside, California, who has in her possession many priceless family keepsakes, including old family letters, vital data, photographs, etc. It was Mrs. Graeff's collection that sparked this writer's interest in genealogy, and started what has proved to be a very fascinating, and enjoyable hobby. Although Mrs. Graeff has not pursued genealogy, herself, her information regarding names, dates, locations, family relationships, etc. has been most helpful. This information, along with notes from conversations with the writer's late father, who had an exceptional memory for such data, made a fast start into the Lockyear genealogy possible.

Even though much information was gathered in a very short time, at the start of the search, additional information has been rather difficult to come by. In genealogical circles, it is a known fact that southern Indiana is a most difficult area to work. Very few books, of a genealogical nature, have been published concerning that area. Thus, there came the time when this writer switched his concentration over to his maternal ancestry, where exceptionally good progress has been made. Just recently, attention has turned back to the Lockyear, and connected, ancestry. It is, however, too early for these efforts to have brought forth results.

Now, to summarize the significant information. Christopher and Letitia Lockyear, with two young sons (Christopher Jr., born 1813, and John, born 1817 or 1818), and two small daughters (names and years of birth unknown) left England, for America, in 1818 or 1819. They, apparently, came from Portsmouth, or Southampton, in Hampshire County. It has been said that the day the sailing vessel docked in Baltimore, Maryland, John Lockyear was exactly one year old. The date was, probably, 26 July, 1819. It has been reported that the family purchased an ox and cart, and headed west over the rugged mountains of Pennsylvania. At Pittsburgh, they took passage on a flatboat, and traveled downstream on the turbulent waters of the Ohio River. They landed at Newburgh, Indiana, went in about ten miles and settled. One source stated that they were among the first twelve settlers in Evansville, but there is doubt concerning this statement. The 1820 U. S. Census schedules (first U. S. Census in Indiana) show the Christopher Lockyear family of 11 all foreigners, located at Evansville, Pigeon Township, Vanderburgh Co.

It is believed that the English spelling of the family name was Lockyer, the "a" inserted upon arriving, in America. It has been said that the famous English astronomer, Sir Joseph Norman Lockyer (1836-1920), was related in some way. The country of origin, of the family name, was France, but it has not been determined when the move to England took place.

Christopher Lockyear, Sr. was a farmer and blacksmith. After the family arrived in Indiana, two more sons came along (George, born 1824, and William, born 1828), and, at least, two more daughters (names and years of birth unknown). According to information presently available, which has not been verified, or documented, Letitia's maiden name was Porter. She was born, in England, 25 December, 1780. Christopher Sr., it has been reported, died in the major cholera epidemic of 1832, and was buried at the town of Inglefield, just north of Evansville. George Trusler became Letitia's second husband, and stepfather to the Lockyear

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children. They lived, for a time, in Vanderburgh Co., and later moved to adjacent Warrick Co. Gravestone inscriptions, provided by Indiana State Library, show Letitia's date of death as 7 February, 1867, buried at Asbury Church Cemetery, Campbell Township, Warrick Co., where many of the Lockyears were buried.

John Lockyear was married to Jane Johnson McDonald 21 November, 1839, in Campbell Township. Jane was born 17 April, 1821, in Warrick Co., the daughter of Joseph B. and Ellenor McDonald. Ellenor's maiden name was, probably, Johnson. There are discrepancies, in the census and other records, as to the state in which Joseph was born. There are, also, differences of opinion among family relations. Virginia, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina have been given. Ellenor, apparently, was born in Tennessee. Two books, published in the late 1800s, mention Joseph McDonald as one of the pioneers of Campbell Township, but, unfortunately, no detail was shown. It has been reported that the McDonalds had twelve children, eleven daughters and a son, named Johnson. Johnson McDonald, and at least one of his sisters, apparently, settled in Arkansas. The best information available is that Ellenor died at about age 50, while Joseph lived well into his eighties. It is not known where either Joseph or Ellenor were buried, but the location was, probably, somewhere in Campbell Township.

John and Jane Lockyear were the parents of, in order of birth:

Minerva m. Constantine "Cosh" Heim
Levi m. Veturia Geraldine Davis
Nancy Ann, never married
Lucy m. John Carter
William Albert, died at age 5
Elizabeth m. John "Jack" Olliver
Almira m. David Fisher
Joseph B., died at age 8 months
John Lunsford m. Annie "Sis" Putler
Sarah m. Joseph Stubbs
Charles m. Elizabeth Jane Wright
Edgar m. Sarah Perigo
Melvin H. m. (1) Ella Mabel Goodge
Elvin, died at age 1

(Melvin and Elvin were twins.)

In addition, at least two others died as unnamed infants. The family home was located near the small town of Welte, Campbell Township. John Lockyear was a farmer. He served as a member of the Board of Trustees of The Wabash and Erie Canal, beginning in 1856, and as Justice of the Peace of Warrick Co., commencing in 1858. This writer's prized possession, of a genealogical nature, is a very fine, large (11 x 14) professional photograph of the Lockyears, with their eleven surviving, mostly grown, children, taken about 1872. John died 2 March, 1879. As a widow, Jane lived in Evansville, where she died of cancer of the liver 28 October, 1900. Mrs. Graeff has a professional photograph of Jane, taken around the late 1890s, in her bedroom reading her Bible. This photograph is in excellent condition, with extremely good detail.

The search for ancestors is a continuing, never ending effort. It is the desire of this writer to share genealogical information with all interested persons. Hopefully, from time to time, and as long as sufficient interest warrants, there will be future progress reports.

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