

Documents
A SKETCH OF THE LEACH FAMILY
By ELIAS LEACH

[This sketch, the original of which was written more than fifty years ago, was sent in by Mr. Roscoe R. Leak of Lizton, Indiana. The author of the sketch prepared it in 1879 at the age of sixty-four in response to the earnest solicitation of his daughter, Mrs. Eliza A. Foley. Enos Leach, brother of Elias Leach, writer of the brief family history, married Elizabeth Montgomery. One of the sons of this union, James Leach, had a daughter who married into the Leak family and became the mother of Roscoe R. Leak. It is also true that Elias Leach, the writer of the sketch, married into the Leak family, as stated in the narrative.—*Editor*.]

My great grandfather was a minister of the socalled High Church of England. Three of his sons, my grandfather¹ being one of the three, migrated to [what later became] the U.S.A. in or about the year 1760. Grandfather took up his residence in the state [colony] of Virginia either in Culpepper, Farquer [Fauquier] or Shenandoah counties, I do not remember which as I have heard father speak of living in all three, where he married my grandmother, a Dutch-English woman whose Christian name was Sarah, her maiden name I do not remember. They had five children, four daughters and one son, John leach, who was my father. The oldest girl, Aunt Jane never married but lived an old maid and died near where she was raised. Aunt Elizabeth married Roland Smith and removed to Scott County Kentucky near a post office called Stamping ground.² Sarah married a man by the name of Short. Neither of their Christian names do I now remember.

John Leach, my father, the only son, married Mary Hall, who was my mother, a woman of Dutch-English descent but mostly Holland Dutch as I have heard her say her mother was born in Holland and never spoke a word of English during her life, and indeed there were a great many words my mother could never speak plainly in English.

As to the two brothers of grandfather Leach I have no knowledge where they settled. I find the name scattered pretty well over the U.S.A.

As to the Hall family I never got very much information. Mother's parents died while she was small. I remember hearing my parents talk about the old Revolutionary Soldiers, especially my mother, she being some six years older than father, and have heard her speak about how hard the soldiers fared and and of seeing them marching over the frozen ground, numbers of them bare footed, and after the war was over they

¹ It is believed that the name of the grandfather of Elias Leach was William Leach, but there is no certain evidence.

² Stamping Ground, northwest of Lexington.

were well acquainted with some of the officers and lived neighbors to General St. Clair, Captain Mallery and others.³ The date of the birth of my father and mother and their marriage I have somewhere I think but can not find it now. Though they were married in the latter part of 1795 or perhaps in 1796 and settled in Farquer [Fauquier] County Virginia about the year 1802 when they moved to Bath County in the state of Kentucky where they resided until the fall of 1836 when they moved to the state of Indiana where they resided until death released them from the toils and cares of mortality.

Father died Oct. 9, 1837 about one year after coming to the state of Indiana, aged 70 years, 7 months, and 20 days and was buried on the place he had bought.⁴ Mother died in 1850 near thirteen years after father and she not being satisfied with the place where father was buried requested that he be taken up and removed to another place which was done and they were both buried in one grave about one and one half miles west of south from Lizton.⁵ They both lived and died fully pledged to the Regular Baptist faith. Father was leader in singing in church where they belonged from my earliest recollection and was a singer among singers and all his children except two could do their own singing, but somehow or other the tune has run out with some of the later generations of the family.

Now I will return to the genealogy. Father and mother had born unto them nine children, eight sons and one daughter, whose names and dates of birth are as follows to wit:

William	Born	July 31, 1797
Susan	"	February 12, 1799
Enos	"	December 12, 1800
Peter	"	September 13, 1802
John	"	March 22, 1805
James	"	September 25, 1807
Meredith	"	March 26, 1809
Anderson	"	July 23, 1811
Elias	"	May 10, 1815

William Leach married Judith Chasteen, settled in Morgan County, Kentucky, died there leaving a widow and four or five children. Susan married John Hines who died leaving her with four children, one of whom died afterwards, she with the other three moved to Hendricks Co., Indiana. Enos married Elizabeth Montgomery, settled first in Morgan Co., Kentucky, then moved to Hendricks County, Indiana, near Lizton and died leaving a widow and six children all of them married except

³ General Arthur St. Clair settled in Bedford, Pa., at an early date and a few years later moved to Ligonier Valley, Pa., where he built a small fort at Ligonier. This is now in Westmoreland County. According to an early census there were several Hall families in this county. In W. T. R. Saffell's *Records of the Revolutionary War*, pp. 186, 191, we find the names William Leach, Josiah Hall and Samuel Hall listed among the names in Col. Arthur St. Clair's Battery.

⁴ Near "Little Eel River", close to the house now occupied by T. N. Kennedy. This is on the road from Indianapolis to Crawfordsville (now State Road 34) where the Government Land Office was located. The age given would make the date of birth, Feb. 19, 1867.

⁵ This was about three-fourths of a mile east of the north part of Pittsboro on "Little White Lick Creek."

the youngest who still lives with her mother [October, 1879]. Peter married Mary Ann Trumble, removed to Morgan Co., Ind. and then to Hendricks Co., Ind., and from some cause best known to himself, left his wife with four or five children and went west, perhaps died somewhere in the state of Missouri. He was a carpenter and bridge builder by occupation, was chief boss in constructing the old wooden bridge across White River at Indianapolis. John married Nancy Dale, removed to Putnam Co., Ind., lived there some years and removed to Bath Co., Kentucky, remained there several years and removed to Boone County, Ind., and now in 1879 has removed to Kansas. James married Mahala Montjoy and lived and died in Bath Co., Ky., had several children, two of his sons, I think were killed defending the Stars and Stripes in the Missouri cavalry in the late rebellion. Meredith married Eliza Allison, removed to Hendricks County, Ind., died there leaving a widow and several children. Anderson migrated to Hendricks Co. Ind. while single and there married Matilda Montgomery, died near Lizton, leaving a widow and five children. The widow is now dead [1879] and two of the children occupy the old homestead, one living a short distance south of the old home, one in Missouri and one unmarried lives with Mrs. Vieley, widow of Jesse Veiley. Elias Leach [writer of this sketch] migrated to Hendricks Co. Ind. in the spring of 1836, married Susan Leak, May 17, 1839, who departed this life September 23, 1875, having borne me six children, four girls and two boys, three of whom have long since gone to the spirit land and no doubt enjoying the felicity of celestial peace, while the other three are still here, one with me and the other two near by as sojourners and pilgrims in a foreign land awaiting the appointed time to leave the shores of mortality.

Now I am through with family history and it being requested that I should give some account of myself in particular of my youthful days. I will proceed to give a short sketch and I hardly know what in particular was wanted to be related back in my young days. I suppose like most children and young people when I was growing up, [I was] full of mischief as a matter of course, but I perceive a vast difference in the way children are raised and privileges given now and when I was a youth.

I never then saw boys running around with a cigar in their mouth and a bottle of whisky in their pocket. Such a thing as a boy being drunk was unknown, there was a few and but few, middle aged and old men in my knowing drank to excess. Now as to how I was employed and what I was doing in general from my earliest recollection is as follows to wit, About the first I distinctly recollect was sitting on my father's knee learning songs or hymns. I know several songs and tunes I well remember his taking me on his knee and have me repeat the words until I could repeat all and clearly, and while too small to do much on the farm, I had to stay at the house and help my mother, she being rather an invalid or cripple so that at times could walk but little.

Father owned a black woman⁶ but mother persuaded him to sell her, that she would rather do with what I could help her. So after I could

⁶ This was in Kentucky. The writer of the sketch lived in that state until he was twenty-one.

help on the farm, helped about the house of mornings and nights, done the milking and very often washing and cooking, and during the fall and winter I went to school and there I reaped well for I can truthfully say I never was corrected by any teacher, though I am sure I sometimes kneeded to have been, and came near being corrected once for fighting, the teacher caught me and rather made believe he would but finally said he would let me pass that time, but that only made me a little more careful for it is true I would at any time quit eating when hungry on very small provocations to fight, till about twenty years of age. I then concluded it was all folly, except in self defence [of] my person property or peculiar friends which I hold good to this day.

In the fall and winter I put in a good portion of time in filling quills and assisting father in putting warps in the loom as he used to weave almost all of the time during the fall and winter, also during spring and summer. I generally went fishing once or twice a week, there being a good sized creek running along one side of the farm, which here [Indiana] would be called a river, it being almost as large as White River, and afforded water for a good part of the year for two or three iron works mills.

About five miles off was what was called State furnace where they melted the crude oar [ore] as it was dug out of the ground, some was melted in kettles and all kind of iron vessels, and some was run out in slugs about three feet long and weighing about one hundred pounds which was sent to the forge. This was drawn out into bar iron by a hammer, weighing about a hundred that was run by water power.

And by the by for pass time I went with the girls considerably of Sundays and odd times, such as Maria Thompson, a beautiful blond, her hair being red enough to light a candle. Julia Kincaid a beautiful brunette, and a number of others such as Casander Nichols, Rebeca Robertson, Julia Ragland, Tabitha Stephens. In the spring of 1836 I concluded to come to Indiana [from Bath County, Kentucky], father having been here the fall before and concluded to come out and make arrangements to move the next fall, so we started the first of March and landed in Hendricks Co. the first day of April. There being no railroads and but little of any kind except mud [roads]. Making the journey on horse back most of the way we had a very pleasant time till we crossed the Ohio River at Madison on Monday morning, soon after a steady rain commenced, though we still traveled on to a town called Marion,⁷ there we put up, and still rained untill next day about 11 o'clock when we again journeyed and landed at brother Enos Leaches on the first day of April, having been through and over lots of mud and water.

In a few days after I went to teaching school. Taught three months and then took up [school] for six months in a cabin near Lizton, I think about the south east corner of the yard where the Alexander house burnt west of the creek, and having taught about four months was taken down with inflamitory rheumatism and had to quit. Father having then moved out and settled near Eel River about two miles below where Liz-

⁷ Not the county seat of Grant County. Probably New Marion, about thirty miles north of Madison.

ton is, I went there it being about the twentieth of December 1836, and was never able to get out untill the middle of March 1837. As soon as being able, I then went over on White Lick east of where the widow Warrick now [October, 1879] lives. Father having died a short time after my school was out, I went there and stayed that winter and during the summer of 1838 and worked on farm and officiated as constable, being elected to that office in April 1838, and having taught the first school ever taught in the north part of Hendricks Co. on the east fork of Eel River, and the second on the west fork of White Lick.

Having entered the land where D. A. Baker now lives and also where Abe Strickland lives, I concluded after crop time in 1838 to build a cabin where Baker's stable lot now is and kept batch about eight months before I married, which as before stated was the 17th day of May 1839.

Now to return to what I was doing for a livelihood after marriage. I generally worked on the farm in summer and taught school in winter, cleared some ground and hired some cleared. And several years officiated as constable untill 1848. Having learned the use of tools, commenced work in cabinet shop in Pittsboro with Aaron V. Keith for one year. In 1849 moved to Pittsboro and ran a cabinet shop and sometimes done jobs of house carpentry.⁸ Was justice of the peace for four years and constable sixteen years⁹

THE CIVIL WAR DIARY OF WILLIAM M. MACY

[The author of the diary, portions of which are printed below was a soldier in Company I of the Ninety-fourth Regiment of Illinois Volunteers. This regiment was recruited during the summer of 1862 in McLean County, Illinois, of which Bloomington is the seat of government. Macy volunteered on August 11, 1862, and was sworn in on the twentieth. The regiment left Bloomington on the twenty-fifth. The first entry in the diary was written on January 1, 1863, at Springfield, Missouri. The diarist was very faithful in regard to his journal for more than a year. He missed thirty-one days between July 26 and August 31, 1863, but otherwise he recorded something on every day from January 1, 1863 to February 22, 1864. There are many entries between this date and August 1, 1865, when the last was recorded, but there are also many gaps, some of them for long periods. The writing was all done with ink, and is easily read. The little book in which the soldier set down something from day to day is 3 x 7 inches, and is covered with black leather with a flap and narrow tongue of

⁸ Part of his work was the making of coffins for the dead.

⁹ A few lines at the end are mutilated.