

INDIANA GENEALOGY

Pioneers of the Surber Family

MAUDE SURBER SWISHER

Isaac Surber and his wife, Artemacy Mayfield Surber, were pioneers of Owen County, Indiana. The Surbers originally came from some province of Germany. The family lived there in prominence until after the Reformation in the sixteenth century. Then the family gave up titles and possessions during a struggle for existence while suffering from persecution and repression. Finally they fled to Holland and from that country migrated to America. The first of the Surbers to cross the Atlantic, sailed from Rotterdam on May 29, 1735, on the ship *Mercury*. At this time came Henry Surber, fifty years old, Hendryk, sixteen, and Varena, five. Others who came to America later were: Hans Surber, who left Rotterdam on the ship *Priscilla* on September 11, 1742, and Johannes, who left on the ship *Halifax* on September 22, 1752.

The writer's branch of the Surber family settled in Virginia, Captain Adam Surber and Colonel Jacob Surber being the first of this line. Both served in the Revolutionary War. After the War, members of the family migrated to Pulaski County, Kentucky. Isaac Surber was born in Virginia. He married Artemacy Mayfield in Kentucky in 1829. They came to Owen County, Indiana, settling on land near Gosport. Here they lived for the remainder of their lives, and here on their farm they reared their family.

The Mayfield family, that early settled in Virginia, came from England. The Mayfield Coat of Arms dates back to 1684. It may be described as a lion's head cut off and holding in the mouth a mayflower, golden or bright yellow. In the front crest are small perpendicular, but bright red, lines. The honor was bestowed because the Mayfields had helped to feed the people in a crisis. There are several old manor houses in England, located in Sussex, Derbyshire, and West Surrey that once belonged to Mayfield families.

Mayfield in Sussex is a very old town with the ancient row of timbered buildings, beautifully designed. The Archbishop's Palace, with the tradition of the famed St. Dunstan (925 to 988 A.D.), clinging to it, is there. Dunstan, when

Archbishop of Canterbury, crowned princes at Mayfield.¹ John Mayfield, Sr., who served as a soldier throughout the Revolutionary War, was born in Albemarle County, Virginia. He died in Pulaski County, Kentucky, in 1816. He was the father of Artemacy Mayfield Surber, whose mother was Clarinda Pleasants Mayfield (1749-1821). The marriage of Clarinda and John Mayfield took place in 1767.²

Isaac Surber was born in Wythe County, Virginia, in 1789, and died near Gosport in 1849. His wife, Artemacy Mayfield Surber, was born on October 9, 1804, in Pulaski County, Kentucky. The marriage occurred on November 3, 1829, in Pulaski County. They came to Owen County in 1830. Mrs. Surber outlived her husband by fourteen years, dying on February 9, 1863. Both are buried in the cemetery near Gosport, where a monument marks their graves.

*Children of Isaac and Artemacy Surber:*³

1. Elizabeth Surber—b. Jul. 12, 1830; m. Richard Mugg, Oct. 16, 1851; d. Mar. 27, 1883. Children of Richard and Elizabeth Surber Mugg (all born near Quincy, Owen County, Indiana, were: Jeremiah, Joseph Thomas, Isaac Newton, John H., George McClellan, Riley Morton, Belle V., Benjamin Franklin, Charles Surber, Henry Mayfield.

2. Mary Surber—b. Oct. 5, 1832; m. Joel Ogles, Oct. 18, 1861; d. Jan 15, 1891. Children of Joel and Mary Ogles: James I., Elmer E., Iviena, Ulysses Surber. All deceased.

3. Thomas Surber—b. Dec. 76, 1834; m. Nancy Montgomery, Nov. 9, 1863; d. Jan. 28, 1909. Children of Thomas and Nancy Surber: Charles, Frank, Oda, John, Curtis, Gurd, Samuel.

4. Thessa J. Surber—b. Feb. 15, 1837; m. W. M. Walters, Oct. 16, 1852; d. Sept. 7, 1865. Children of this family unknown.

5. Henrietta Surber—b. Feb. 15, 1837; m. (1) Frederick Stierwalt, Dec. 10, 1864, and (2) Rev. Runyon. Henrietta died March 28, 1928, leaving no children.

6. Sarah E. Surber—b. Nov. 30, 1841; m. Thomas Seay, Dec. 25, 1859; d. Sept. 14, 1867. Children of Thomas and Sarah Seay: Lillie, James.

7. Clarinda Surber—b. Feb. 22, 1844; m. William Riley Mugg, Dec. 10, 1864; d. Feb. 13, 1926. William Riley Mugg was a brother of Richard Mugg, who married Elizabeth, sister of Clarinda. Children of William R. and Clarinda Mugg were: Jarvis, Mandiza, Mary Maude.

¹ Reuben Newton Mayfield, "History of the Mayfield Family," *Compendium of American Genealogy: First Families of America*, edited by Frederick Adams Virkus, II, 122. See also references to Mayfield family *ibid.*, III, IV.

² The Pleasants were from Virginia where they intermarried with the Randolphs. Artemacy Mayfield Surber had a brother, John Mayfield, Jr. (1768-1813), who married Mary Wolfe (1790-1748).

³ These records were filed in the State Library (Genealogy Section) by Miss Ura Sanders of Gosport, Ind. Miss Sanders is a descendant of Isaac Mayfield (brother of John Mayfield, Sr.) who was also a Revolutionary soldier. Names and dates of births, marriages, and deaths, are given as far as known.

8. Henry Clay Surber—b. Nov. 30, 1846; m. Mary Elizabeth Day Mallicoat, June 6, 1868; d. Sept. 14, 1885. Children of Henry Clay and Elizabeth D. M. Surber: Maude, Artemacy Gertrude, Claude Clay, Parker Albert. Maude (or Mary Maude) and Claude Clay Surber are yet living, the last in Indianapolis, Ind. (P.O. Box 706). Maude married James A. Swisher and lives at 411 N. Main Street, Paris, Ill. She compiled the records of this family and also placed a tablet in their memory in the Riverside Cemetery, Spencer, Indiana, where Henry Clay and Mary Surber, her parents, are buried. She is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution through the service of John Mayfield, Sr. (Number 270639).