

Early Wills of Orange County, Indiana¹

(Abstracts and Notes)

By MRS. N. B. MAVITY

Ellexson, Jeremiah. Will—executed December 26, 1937—probated February 12, 1938—mentions wife, Winifred—daughters: Mary [Ellexson] Nail of Washington County, Indiana, Zilpha [Ellexson] Rogers, Elizabeth and Winifred—references to other children who are not mentioned by name.

Chandler, William. Will—April 23, 1837—probated May 8, 1837—mentions children: Elizabeth (eldest daughter), Robin, Catherine, Sarah, Isaac, Rachel, William—wife, Mary—Ambors Goff and rest of wife's children—executors: wife (Mary) and Joel Vandever.

Duncan, George. Will—December 9, 1838—probated February 21, 1839—mentions wife, Patsy D. Duncan—lawful heirs of daughter Emily B. Riley—"my body to be buried at the discretion of Alexander Wallace and Patsy D. Duncan."²

Reed, Joshua.³ Will—December 24, 1823—probated November term of court, 1838—mentions daughters: Rachel Phillipps, Martha Marts, Mary Mahan—"my body to be buried at discretion of Thomas Phillipps, Jacob Marts, and Peter Mahan"—witnesses: Alexander Wallace, Asa Burt, Edward Kearby.

Duncan, George, Sr.⁴ Will—June 26, 1832—probated March 23, 1839—mentions wife, Elizabeth—children: Luvina Vest, Sarah Kearby, Jane Boon, Polly Holmes, Fleming A. Duncan, George Duncan—witnesses: Alexander Wallace, Linzey Duncan.

Smith, Humphrey. Will—August 25, 1831—probated August 19, 1839—mentions wife, Abigail—sons of wife, Caleb and Jarvis—son of testator, Allen Smith, Caleb and Jarvis—testator's daughter, Malissa Smith.

Cunningham, William. Will—July 14, 1833—probated October 6, 1839—mentions wife, Deborah—daughters: Elizabeth Buckhanan, Anna Cunningham—son-in-law, John Buckhanan, and his son William.

Trimble, Jane. Will—June 21, 1839—probated October 11, 1839—mentions daughters: Mary, Margaret and Elizabeth Trimble, Sarah Martin, wife of Nathan—sons: Thomas and George—"My late husband, George Trimble."

Boswell, Ichabod. Will—August 21, 1840—probated September 11, 1840—mentions wife, and heirs (none by name)—"My worthy son Samuel Holaday to be executor of my will."

Noblitt, Abraham. Will—August 26, 1840—probated September 21, 1840—mentions wife, Amelia; sons: Vandever, William, and John T.; daughters: Nancy Lynch and Cynthia Noblitt.

¹ This is the final installment of a series of abstracts of Wills of Orange County, Indiana, prepared by Mrs. N. B. Mavity. See *Indiana Magazine of History* (September and December, 1938), XXXIV, 384-387, 501-504, for previous installments.

² George Duncan was buried at Stamper Creek Cemetery, Orange County, Indiana.

³ Revolutionary soldier. See Mrs. Roscoe C. O'Bryne, ed., *Roster of Soldiers and Patriots of the American Revolution Buried in Indiana* (Brookville, Indiana, 1938).

⁴ Revolutionary soldier. *Ibid.*, 130. He is buried in Stamper Creek Cemetery, Orange County, Indiana.

Hill, Joseph. Will—June 21, 1840—probated October 3, 1840—mentions legal heirs of daughter Elizabeth (late Elizabeth Dixon)—son-in-law, James Huston and Nancy his wife—son-in-law Busick Sanford and wife Jane—son Josiah Hill (daughter, Mary Ann Hill and wife, Nancy Hill)—second wife's children: Franklin, Margaret Jane, William, Joseph, Abigail.

Harmon, Edwin F.⁵ Will—October 5, 1839—probated November 11, 1840—mentions mother and father—sisters: Polina and Lavisa Merilla—brother, William Watson—Miss Betsey Brewer.

Sears, John, Sr. Will—April, 1840—probated June 19, 1841—mentions wife, Polly—children: Francis Asbury, Daniel Fletcher, Eliza Ann, Mary Jane, John, William, Franklin, Martha Talbott, Thomas Morris—children of a former marriage: James B. Sears and Elizabeth Gunton.

Featherkile, George. Will—January 1, 1835—probated March 19, 1842—mentions wife, Polly—children: Anna Johnson, Polly Tyler, George Featherkile, Adam Featherkile.

Osborn, Abraham. Will—May 23, 1842—probated July 18, 1842—mentions wife, Martha—sons: Abraham K., William C., Jesse—daughters: Abigail Holaday, Mary Wilson, Rebecca Phipper, Hannah Moorman, Elizabeth Hill, Achsah Osborn, and Sarah Ann Osborn—witnesses: Joseph Henley, Andrew Wilson.

Denny, Simon. Will—September 23, 1837—probated July 19, 1842—mentions sons, Samuel and Davis.

Cloud, John. Will—August 5, 1842—probated September 26, 1842—mentions wife, Hannah—after Hannah's death, property to be sold and funds to go to Lick Creek Monthly Meeting of Friends to be used in the promotion of useful education—witnesses, Aaron Andrew, Thomas Newlin—executors, Silas Dixon, Levi Woody.

Cornwell, Peter. Will—September 26, 1842—probated October 19, 1842—mentions wife, Elizabeth—children: Simon A., Nancy, William, Elizabeth.

Self, John. Will—August 15, 1843—probated September 12, 1843—mentions wife and children (not by name).

Atkinson, Thomas. Will—November 2, 1840—probated April 20, 1844—mentions children: Thomas, Robert, Arthur, Henry, Ann, Margaret, Ruth, Mary—sons, John and Arthur to be executors.

Busick, Benjamin. Will—April 18, 1844—probated September 2, 1844—mentions wife, Eliza, her heirs and assigns forever.

Ross—William. Will—August 28, 1844—probated December 11, 1844—property bequeathed to Polly, wife of John W. Sears.

Campbell, Robert. Will—February 19, 1845—probated May 27, 1845—certain tract of land where there is a family graveyard to be kept for that purpose—mentions sons: Robert A. M. Campbell (a

⁵ Edwin Harmon was a brother to William Watson Harmon who was given the contract for the carpenter work for the Orange County Courthouse. He also built the old Presbyterian church and the Simpson home on North Gospel Street at Paoli. The Harmon family came from Massachusetts. They are buried in the Paoli Cemetery.

minor), John H., Samuel, David M.—daughter, Nan Taylor—heirs of “my daughters who are dead.”⁶

Farlow, Joseph.⁷ Will—July 5, 1845—probated August 9, 1845—mentions wife, Ruth—daughter, Deborah Jones—sons, Jonathan and Nathan—son-in-law, Archibald Moulder and wife Hannah—daughter Mary’s children: Mary Ann, Thomas, and Mary.

Moulder, Jacob. Will—October 18, 1845—probated March 20, 1846—mentions wife, Elizabeth—daughter, Susannah Lindley—sons: John, William, Lewis, Archibald, Oliver—daughters: Sally, Lydia, Mary Ann—Betsy Jane and Archibald O. Moulder—children of Alexander Moulder—witnesses, Thomas Braxton and Thomas Newlin.

Throop, John.⁸ Will—December 28, 1846—probated February 8, 1847—mentions John S. Moore and Rebecca Jane Moore (“the children of my daughter Jane Moore”)—Jane Lefler (my adopted granddaughter)—children: Oliver M. Throop, Jane Moore, Sophia Throop, John T. Throop.

Scott, William. Will—December 14, 1841—probated May 28, 1847—mentions wife, Nancy S. Scott—grandsons, William A. D. Scott and Samuel T. Scott—Martha Jane McPheeters and her heirs—“I reserve one-fourth acre of land, where the graveyard now is, for a family burying place, never to be transferred out of the family.”—witnesses: Simeon Frost and Mary Frost.

Leonard, Thomas. Will—January 4, 1843—probated August 18, 1847—mentions wife (not by name)—Jonathan Leonard, Isaac Leonard, Jemima Harvey, James Leonard, Jane Seybold, Rachel Taylor, Nancy Seybold, Mary Compton, Baily Leonard, Jeruel Leonard, Jabez Leonard, and Martha Cox.

Meriam, Eliza.⁹ Will—July 8, 1847—probated September 25, 1847—mentions daughter, Helen M. Lewis and her children—mentions desire to be buried in the “burying ground” at Paoli, adjoining the grave of her husband (John Meriam)—executor, John Wise—witnesses: G. W. Wise and A. J. Simpson.

Cook, Jacob. Will—August 11, 1847—probated September 30, 1847—mentions wife, Catharine—sons: Absolem, Abraham, Valentine—daughters: Elizabeth Smith and Polly Underwood—minor heirs of Absolem McCabe (deceased)—grandson David R. Bledsoe.

Moorman, Zachariah. Will—August 9, 1847—probated August 25, 1847—mentions wife, Nancy—children (not by name)—lot No. 84 in Paoli to be sold.¹⁰

⁶ See sketch of W. C. Campbell, *History of Lawrence, Orange, and Washington Counties, Indiana* (Chicago, 1884), 605.

⁷ Joseph Farlow was a large landowner south of Paoli in the vicinity of the Beech Grove Friends Church.

⁸ The Throop family settled at an early date in Orange County, having migrated from Stafford County, Virginia. Miss Sophia Throop is said to have been the first woman teacher of Orange County. Miss Jennie Throop, a granddaughter of John Throop, was a well-known teacher for many years.

⁹ Eliza Meriam, wife of John Meriam, died on July 15, 1847, at the age of sixty-one. She was a Prentiss (Prentice) of Vermont. John Meriam was one of the men who founded the town of Hindostan of Martin County, Indiana, one of the famous Hoosier “ghost towns.” He came later to Orange County, established a tavern known as “Mansion House,” on the public square in Paoli. Mrs. Meriam continued the tavern after her husband’s death.

¹⁰ The date of death given on Zachariah Moorman’s tombstone in the Paoli Cemetery (August 10, 1843) is incorrect.

Chastain, William. Will—undated—probated December 11, 1847—mentions wife (not by name)—sons: James M., William, Isaac.

Shirley, Henry. Will—December 22, 1847—probated January 4, 1848—mentions wife, Catherine—children: George, Garrett, John, Westly, Susannah, Harriet, Margaret Hertsel (formerly Shirley), Henry Brassie, heir of Ann Brassie (formerly Ann Shirley), "my scholarship in Indiana Asbury University"—executors: Andrew Wilson and George Shirley.

Porter, James. Will—February 6, 1847—probated February 28, 1848—mentions two eldest sons, Thomas B. and James S.—daughter Mary Hix—youngest son David—executor, James P. Campbell.

Gillum, John. Will—December 3, 1847—probated April 15, 1848—mentions wife, Susannah—children: Mahala, Areana, Cameliza, Leer [Leah?], Seth, Thomas, James, Osburn, William, John Westly—witnesses, Thomas Newlin and Michael Mavity.

Piggott, Jacob Jackson. Will—December 7, 1848—probated December 1848—mentions wife, Nancy—four sons—three daughters (not by name)—brother-in-law, Elijah Frazier, to be executor.

Williams, Francis. Will—July 6, 1846—probated February 29, 1848—mentions daughter, Catherine Boyden—son William—children of deceased daughter Anna Gherkin—executor, William Boyden.

Finley, David. Will—March 25, 1834—probated September 26, 1848—mentions wife, Elizabeth—heirs of son Jefferson Finley: Josephine, Samuel, Elizabeth.

Thornton, Thomas Volney.¹¹ Will—December 4, 1848—probated May 29, 1849—mentions wife, Clarinda C. Thornton—brothers: Joseph, George, Jefferson C.—sisters: Elizabeth M. Thornton, Caroline T. Woolfolk, Harriet M. Norris—half-brother Henry P. Thornton—Joseph, son of sister Caroline—nephew and namesake, Thomas V. Thornton, son of George.

William, John. Will—May 26, 1849—probated July 19, 1849—mentions wife, Rachel—sons: Isaac, Robert, John—grandson, William Bloomer Carter.

Towell, Jesse H. Will—May 18, 1849—probated August 7, 1849—mentions wife, Elizabeth—witnesses: Thomas Newlin and John Dixon, son of Simon.

Cosgrove, Patrick.¹² Will—March 15, 1849—probated August 14, 1849—mentions wife, Charity—two sons, John and James.

Self, Thomas. Will—August 19, 1849—probated January 12, 1850—mentions son, Thomas A. Self—Hannah Stout, an heir—the heirs of Elizabeth Ferguson, to wit: Joseph S. Ferguson, John M. Ferguson—other children: William A., Thomas, John, Phillip, George, James Alexander—executors: son, James Alexander Self, and "my esteemed friend William Holoday"—witnesses: William Pierson, John B. Cartwright.

¹¹ Thomas Volney Thornton was a prominent lawyer of Paoli. His wife, Clarinda Thornton, "married against discipline," as shown by the minutes of the Lick Creek monthly meeting, held in Orange County, February 19, 1835. The Simpson home on North Gospel Street, Paoli, was built for them and the site for the Presbyterian church of Paoli was given by Mr. Thornton.

¹² A soldier of the Mexican War. His wife was Charity Underwood, widow of Benjamin Underwood.

Pound, Joseph. Will—November 20, 1849—probated April 16, 1850—mentions son-in-law to be executor—wife Hannah—children and their heirs (not by name)—witnesses: Alfred Elliot and Abraham Tegarden.

Trimble, Moses. Will—January 31, 1848—probated June 15, 1850—mentions James Jackson Trimble, John Dixon Trimble—Jane Belcher's children—Isabell Wolfington to have \$30, and her living from the farm while she remains single—Lucinda Leonard and William Trimble to have money—executors: William Marley and William Leonard.

Irvine, William.¹³ Will—September, 1846—probated October 18, 1850—mentions sons: William W. and Jesse A.—daughters: Sarah Jeter, Anna Baker, Eliza Spear, Martha McLane—children of deceased daughter—Lucinda Tegarden—"my unfortunate daughter, Jane Irvine."

McCracken, John. Will—September 14, 1850—probated May 29, 1851—mentions wife, Margaret—sons Ansil and Daniel—Azra Cobb's heirs—witnesses: James Clark and John P. Davis.

McDonald, William. Will—April 11, 1851—probated June 18, 1851—mentions grandchildren: William M. Hobson, Rachel Hobson, Hiram Hobson—executors: Eli Allen and Clement McDonald—witnesses: Jonathan Palmer and Harmon Hobson.

Roberts, Andrew. Will—June 16, 1851—probated August 25, 1851—mentions wife, Nancy—sons (not by name)—witnesses: Arthur J. Simpson and James C. Holmes.

Hardman, Daniel. Will—July 17, 1851—probated September 29, 1851—mentions six oldest children: Washington, Mary, Lumenious, Leonard, Abraham, John—other sons: David and Marion—wife Elizabeth—house and lots in town of Salem (the property of Margaret Hardman, deceased)—executors: Lumenious Hardman and son-in-law—give youngest children named: David, Marion, Margaret, Peter and Mary Evaline.

Lindley, Martha.¹⁴ Will—November 30, 1830—probated November 27, 1851—to my daughter Gulielma, "the watch which was left to me by her father"—mentions six children: Hezekiah Henley, John Henley, Joseph Henley, Henry Henley, Mary [Henley] Braxton, Rebecca Henley—executors: sons Joseph and Henry Henley—witnesses: Thomas Newlin and Owen Thompson.

Reed, Jesse. Will—October 1, 1851—probated January 7, 1852—mentions wife, Elizabeth—children: Henry, Jeremiah, George, William, Margaret.

Scott, Eliza. Will—February 6, 1852—probated March 8, 1852—mentions mother-in-law, Nancy Scott—children: Emily, Martha Ann, William D., Samuel C., Margaret, Hannah C. Hill—executor, Samuel R. McClain [McClane].

McClane, William. Will—January 28, 1852—probated March 8, 1852—mentions wife, Caroline—daughters: Marthy Ann, Mary Elizabeth, Rachel Catherine—brother Samuel R. McClane to be executor—witnesses: Levi Gifford, Sr., and Abraham Wells.

¹³ See *Roster of Soldiers and Patriots of the American Revolution Buried in Indiana*, 203.

¹⁴ Martha Henley Lindley was the second wife of Jonathan Lindley. She was a widow whose maiden name was Saunders. Gulielma Lindley was the only child of this marriage.

Lewis, John M. Will—April 20, 1837—probated April 30, 1852—mentions wife, Elizabeth—son, David S. Lewis, to be executor together with wife. Codicil dated January 18, 1843, names Joshua Lewis co-executor with David Lewis—codicil dated March 22, 1852—to son Abraham J. Lewis and his heirs, the share of my real estate which would have descended to son George W. Lewis and his heirs.

Magner, Elizabeth Jane. Will—June 18, 1852—probated September 6, 1852—mentions sisters, Mary Ann Magner and Martha Sarah Magner—two brothers who are at home with “my mother,” James H. and Orin M. Magner—“brother John, having left home, is not to receive any portion”—witnesses: John Baker and Sarah Magner.

Corrections (“Indiana Genealogy,” December, 1938):

Line 24, p. 493. Change to read (*Van Cleefe*) instead of (*widow of — Cleft*).

Line 30, p. 495. Change date *1825* to *1852*.

First query, p. 496. Change heading from *Gray Family* to *Byrn Family*.