Riley Family
Ancestors and Descendants of Robert R. Riley - 1812-1899
Jackson County, West Virginia

With Notes on Some Related Families
Acree, Cleek, McGuffin, Staats

by
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College Park, Maryland

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Foreword and Acknowledgements

These genealogical recordings are principally about a group of Riley families who lived and grew up in Jackson County, West Virginia. Their forebearer was Robert R. Riley (1817-1875) who moved to the county about the time of its birth. He was a surveyor and one of those who surveyed and laid out the county townships. His father, Matson Riley, was of Scotch-Irish decent. He moved from Loudon County, Virginia to the Wilderness Country of Wood County probably in the late 1700's. There he raised a large family. Matson Riley died in Jackson County, Ohio.

A limited amount of information (Census of 1850) is given about other members of the Matson Riley family. Fragments involving and naming some of the maternal family lines are also included. These include the names Acree, Cleek, Dye and Staats.

The writer knows mistakes will be found and there are omissions that should have been included. It is hoped these errors and omissions will be criticized with good will. The writer's purpose is to record some of the information about her family that is in her possession. It is also hoped that this information may serve to give others aid in the further research of these and related families.

Many have contributed to this project and an indebted writer wishes to express grateful appreciation to all.

W. Wirt Riley (deceased), the writer's uncle, many years ago, gave her much of the information about the older family members. Later her brother, Dr. Robert H. Riley (deceased), turned over to her his limited collection of information about his immediate family. Avis Peterson McCoy has been most generous in making available her research on the families with the name McCoy, Acree, Cleek and Dye as well as Census data (1850) about a number of early Riley families. A sister, Alma Riley Burton (age 90 yrs) and a cousin Elsa Riley Jenkins have generously contributed personal memories and more, covering a period of more than eighty years. Equally generous with memory has been a sister, Mae Riley and my cousin, Daniel D. Riley.

Mrs. Dale Roose, the former Mildred Dawkins, is responsible for the information on Dawkins families and more. She prepared and made available a genealogical chart covering the ancestors and descendants of her grandmother Ada P. Riley who
married Daniel B. Dawkins. Likewise, Ruth Riley prepared and made available a chart covering the family and descendants of her father Robert R. Riley, II.

Last but not least, I wish to acknowledge the generous and able assistance given by my good husband, George S. Langford, Sr. Without it the book would never have been finished. I express to him my sincere thanks.

Mary R. Langford
The One-Room School
By Marguerite Mosby

I remember when I went to school—
Some of us walked; some rode a mule.
To that one-room house upon a hill
Went Mary and I, and Fred, and Bill.
Our one teacher had 40 scholars—
Her monthly wage was 60 dollars;
She taught eight grades from 9 to 4,
Then banked the fire and swept the floor.
Her subjects were not just two or three,
She taught them all from A to Z;
And then she taught us how to spell
In the one-room school we loved so well.
Seated two in a seat, our faces red,
We tried to grasp what the teacher said.
Lunch was a homemade sandwich or two—
No cafeteria to serve hot stew.
We needed no gym to make us strong,
The two-mile walk home was plenty long.
I'm told kids are learning more today
From specialized teachers with higher pay;
But I remember that one-room school
Where we all were taught the Golden Rule.

---From GRIT

REMEMBERING

Our Early Jackson County Schools

VII
DIED—RILEY—Near Ripley, on the 17th
day of February, 1875, Mrs. Elizabeth Riley,
wife of Robert R. Riley, Esq.

The subject of this notice was born in Bath
county, Virginia, October 7, 1817. When
quite young she removed with her parents,
Peter and Elizabeth Cleek, to the county of
Mason, and settled in the valley of Mill creek,
near where the county seat of Jackson has since
been located. Here she grew to womanhood,
without the blessings of schools, churches
and other advantages now enjoyed by the
youth of this day in the same locality. The
writer of this line has frequently heard, with
mixed feelings of pleasure, pain and surprise,
reminiscences of the hardships, toils and pri-
vations incident to life in this country in its
first settlement. Many years ago she became
a member of the U. B. Church and professed
the Christian religion, and from that time,
while her master permitted, lived a devoted
and exemplary christian.

Her lot in life was a hard one, by reason of
her circumstances, the time in which she lived,
and her affliction. All these were borne
however, in a manner which affords to all
those who witnessed her suffering, strong
proof of the incalculable value of "Faith in
One who is able to save."

She was the mother of fifteen children,
eight of whom, together with the ever true and
loving husband, are left to feel the weight of
this severe affliction. None of her children
can ever forget her good advice, prayers and
tears in their behalf; the recollection of the
pressure of an almost icy hand, and the burn-
ing kiss imprinted on the hand that writes this
line, will be cherished as long as life shall last.

Now that her spirit has gone to its reward,
may those frozen clods rest very gently on
her remains until re-united, they shall put on
immortality and bask in the sunshine above,
is the prayer of a sorrowing

AN EARLY SETTLER ON MILL CREEK
Our Grandmother Elizabeth Cleek Riley 1817-1875
From Jackson County Newspaper (reduced about 30%)

VIII
Grandfather Robert R. Riley 1812-1899 was a surveyor. This plat is one of his surveys. Plat reduced.
The Riley Family in Jackson County, West Virginia

The Beginning

Tradition and family records state that the Rileys of Jackson County, West Virginia originated from a Scotch-Irish immigrant named Robert Riley. He with his brother John, came to Virginia from Northern Ireland sometime in the mid-1700's. There are no family records at hand about brother John except his name has been carried through the generations.

Robert Riley appears to have settled in northern Virginia as one of his sons Matson, is known to have lived in Loudon County and another, Joshua, is said to have lived in Alexandria. Robert's children were:

1. Joshua Riley. He is said to have been a merchant in Alexandria, Virginia and to have had a son named James.
2. Rebecca Riley. She married a Mr. Shively and they lived in Ross County, Ohio.
3. Matson Riley. He was the progenitor of the Jackson County, West Virginia Rileys. He moved from Loudon County to Wood County, Virginia probably in the late 1700's. It is of interest to note that this was the area of the Great Kanawha River, the Wilderness Country to which the frontiersman, Daniel Boone turned in 1788, and who as a member of the Virginia Assembly from Kanawha County secured the patrol for the Ohio River border between Point Pleasant and Parkersburg for protection against Indians.

The Matson Riley Family

Matson Riley was the progenitor of the Jackson County, West Virginia Rileys. He came from Loudon County, Virginia, settling first in Wood County probably in the 1700's. There he married Mary Dye. The deed for his farm on the Little Kanawha River was recorded in 1813. But according to some of our older family members the farm was acquired long before that. Avis McCoy, the wife of Paul McCoy (1886-1963) and a genealogical researcher recently provided this writer with interesting information. She wrote that the records of Augusta County, Virginia by Lyman Chalkley, Volume II (page 168) show that 28,400 acres of land
at the mouth of Little Kanawha was patented to David Richardson and others on Dec. 1, 1773 in consideration of military service of patentees in Braddock's War in pursuance of Governor Dinwiddie's proclamation of Feb. 19, 1754. Much of this land had remained unoccupied and squatters had taken possession of part of it. A bill filed April 4, 1808 shows that a number of persons were petitioning to be made defendants as claiming title to some of the land. Matson Riley was among them. She said, "I feel sure the Matson Riley of 1808 must be yours." It is also of interest to note that George Washington was with the party of surveyors that laid out the land covered under Governor Dinwiddie's Proclamation. Worthy of mention at this time is the fact that the Riley family has always taken pride in the fact that Robert R. Riley (1812-1899), a son of Matson Riley and this writer's grandfather, did much of his survey work on land that had been surveyed by George Washington in earlier years.

Matson Riley was a farmer and blacksmith and at age 63 he was received in the Baptist Church and was immersed in midwinter in the icy waters of the Little Kanawha by his son John D. Riley who was a minister.

Mary Dye the first wife of Matson Riley and the mother of his children (herein named) was of German ancestry. She had five brothers and one sister. The brothers were John; Ezekiel; Thomas; Henry, a Baptist minister, and David. Her sister was named Hannah and she married a Johnson. She was the mother of Judge Okey Johnson, Col. Dan D. Johnson, David D. Johnson and Rev. Thomas Johnson.

Mary Dye, Matson Riley's first wife died comparatively young. His second wife was a widow Jane Farrow, whom he married in 1840.

Matson Riley (abt. 1774-1867) died in his 93rd year in Jackson County, Ohio. He had ten children by his first wife Mary Dye. They were:
1. Joshua Riley (b. 1805). He was a Baptist minister.
2. John D. Riley. He was a Baptist minister. He died at age 82.
4. Amos D. Riley.
5. George Riley.
6. David H. Riley.
7. Margaret Riley. She married George Barnett.
8. Mary C. Riley. She married Samuel King. They had a son Samuel David King who had a son, Hollis Haven King. Hollis Haven King married Brown Armstrong. They had a daughter Ann.
9. Hannah Riley. She married Zachriah Hickman.
10. Caroline Riley. She married Calvin Staats.

This writer has not researched the families of the sons and daughters of Matson Reilly. His son, Robert R. Riley (1812-1899) had settled in Jackson about the time of its formation. Tradition has it that one of his sons, probably John D. Riley, moved westward and settled in Oregon. Dr. Leonard Riley, a Baptist minister and a former President of McMinnville College, Oregon is said to have been a second cousin of Robert R. Riley's children. According to Alma Riley Burton and Elsa Riley Jenkins, Matson Riley had two grandsons, Amos and Frank Riley, who lived in Jackson County. They visited at the home of my father. As I remember they were first cousins of my father. The 1850 Census of Wood County, Virginia shows Matson Reilly, age 76 and his second wife Jane Farrow age 52 as living in that county. It also showed several other Reilly families. Matson's sons, Joshua, Amos, George and David were named in that census.

The following is, in part, from the Census record:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Joshua Reiley</th>
<th>Age 45</th>
<th>George Reiley (M)</th>
<th>Age 28</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sarah (F)</td>
<td>&quot; 44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary (F)</td>
<td>&quot; 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert (M)</td>
<td>&quot; 18</td>
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<td>John (M)</td>
<td>&quot; 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>George (M)</td>
<td>&quot; 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electa (F)</td>
<td>&quot; 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brainard (M)</td>
<td>&quot; 5</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amos Reiley</td>
<td>Age 32</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan (F)</td>
<td>&quot; 26</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Francis (M)</td>
<td>&quot; 9</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>George U. (M)</td>
<td>&quot; 7</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>William S. (M)</td>
<td>&quot; 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary (F)</td>
<td>&quot; 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cordelia (F)</td>
<td>&quot; 5/12</td>
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Robert R. Riley, the son of Matson and wife Mary Dye, was born on March 21, 1812 and died in his 87th year, 1899. He was the pioneer settler in the Oak Hill community of Jackson County, Virginia, on lands bordering Grass Run and Mill Creek in what is now Jackson County, West Virginia.

He came to the County about the time of its birth. There he married Elizabeth Cleek (Oct. 7, 1817-Feb. 17, 1875). Living conditions in the County at that time were simple and by today's standards would be considered primitive. He and Elizabeth began housekeeping in a one-room log cabin. Elizabeth often told of cooking on an open fire for her family and during harvest for an additional sixteen men who were working for Robert. Beds were provided on the floor for that number.

Robert Riley was a farmer, school teacher, and land surveyor. Throughout his life, he was active in the affairs of Jackson County. His wife Elizabeth, before marriage, was one of his early pupils. He surveyed on much of the land that George Washington had surveyed during earlier times. He was one of those who laid out the Jackson County townships. He held the office of County Constable and was for many years deputy surveyor for Robert Park, the County Surveyor. It is said when election to this office was by the County Court, he was defeated by his principal several times, but as many times was reappointed deputy. When the constitution was adopted in 1851 that allowed all to vote for surveyor, he was elected County Surveyor and was re-elected as long as he would accept the office. In 1864 he was elected Clerk of the County Court and served in that capacity until 1867. Two of his sons also served the County in that capacity. James D. W. Riley served from 1867 to 1871 and W. W. Riley served from 1879-1891. As a farmer he accumulated sizable land holdings. Each of his children were given farms or the equivalent after they reached adulthood.

According to information this writer received from her uncles, Robert R. Riley (my grandfather) was a brilliant man. His education was through his own efforts. As a child, I remember he had a very big bookcase loaded with books. My brother Bob, who later became a doctor, often worked for grandfather in the fields. He always used his noon hour or resting period reading grandfather's books as other workers lay
sprawled on the lawn resting. Bob said grandfather's books ranged from history to surveying with many technical books.

We are told that Robert R. Riley and his wife Elizabeth, were modest, plain and industrious. They enjoyed the confidence of those who knew them. It has been said every child of theirs who went out among the people of the County in search of friends found that all that was necessary to reach their homes, hospitality and confidence was to name their parents. They had a large family, fifteen children, six of whom died young. They were:

2. James D. Riley (Sept. 1, 1840–June 12, 1871).
12. Twin daughter (d. Feb. 1, 1885).
15. Infant. Died young.
James Douglas Woodward Riley
1840-1871

James Douglas Woodward Riley (Sept. 1, 1840—June 12, 1871) was a son of Robert Riley (b. 1812) and wife Elizabeth Cleek Riley. As a young man he served for three years in the Union Army during the War Between the States. He was promoted to Sargeant on May 8, 1862 and on August 31, 1862 to 2nd Lieutenant in Company K, 11th Regiment, West Virginia Infantry.

After the war he lived for a time on Round Knob Run of Parchment Creek, near the present Mt. Moriah United Brethern Church. While living there he succeeded his father Robert R. Riley as Clerk of the County Court and served in that office from 1867-1871. He appears to have died while serving in this office.

James Riley married Leathea Stewart in the eighteen sixties and they were the parents of four children, namely:

1. McClellan. He died when a young man.
2. Delia. She died at a young age.
4. Maude G. She never married, but lived to adulthood.

This is the only information I found for Uncle James Riley's family.
John Harper Riley (Aug. 2, 1842—July 27, 1919), a son of Robert R. Riley (b. 1812) and Elizabeth Cleek Riley was a well-known lawyer. He maintained his law office in Marietta, Ohio where he also lived.

This writer remembers her Uncle John as one who didn't visit in Ripley too often. But he generally came at the time of the "County Fair." The wives of the local Riley's would always prepare a good meal and Uncle John always brought the watermelons. When he visited, the writer was in her teens, and she found him an interesting person and one to whom she enjoyed listening. But she only remembers this. He said, with a twinkle in his eye, "The Rileys are fine people and I suggest the Riley girls not change their name when they get married."

During the War Between the States he served in the Union Army. He was commissioned a Captain on August 20, 1862 and his company was mustered July 23, 1863. The company had 57 volunteers from Jackson County and served with the 141st West Virginia state troops. Later he was promoted and served as Lt. Colonel. Prior to establishing his law office in Ohio, he was elected (about 1869) County Prosecutor for Jackson County where he served for at least one term. He was civic-minded and was associated with many affairs in Ripley.

On April 3, 1864 he married Melissa Jane Harpold (Feb. 23, 1845-Jan. 1903). They were the parents of four children as follows:

1. Willy (called Bill) Monroe Riley (b. July 31, 1866). On July 31, 1887 he married Emily Marks in Dodge City, Kansas. Bill Riley worked on the railroad as a conductor. His wife Emily, according to their daughter Edith, was the daughter of Irish emigrants who were born and married in Dublin, Ireland. Their parents (both families) opposed the marriage and as a result dis inherited them. They had been reared in Ireland with servants so when they came to America they came ill-prepared for work. In America her father served in the U. S. Army and at one time they lived in Fort Sill. She noted that her mother whose maiden name was Shaw had lived in a Catholic school until she was nine. This followed the death of her father and remarriage of her mother. She was unhappy at the
school and at home her stepfather was unkind to her. I know little about the rest of her life. The children of Bill and Emily Riley were:

a. Edith Gertrude Riley (b. Nov. 8, 1888 in Dodge City, Kansas). On May 4, 1914, she married Millard Earnest Farris (Dec. 9, 1884—Feb. 19, 1937). He was born in Montague County, Texas. They were the parents of a daughter Ilene Virginia Farris who was born May 26, 1917 in New York City. In August 1945, she married George H. Williams, II (b. Mar. 30, 1915) of Indianapolis, Ind. They had children: (1) George W. Williams, III who was born in Puerto Rico on Nov. 25, 1946, and (2) Judy K. Williams who was born in Prescott, Arizona on Nov. 1, 1948. Judy married Robert Fregin (b. Nov. 1946) of Connecticut. Their children were: (a) Mariah Fregin (b. Mar. 21, 1971), (b) Diedre Fregin (b. July 31, 1974), and (3) Robert Francis Williams born Mar. 30, 1950 in Prescott, Arizona.

b. Ralph Riley (b. Nov. 20, 1890). He married Martha Carper Roberts in Denver, Colorado on March 18, 1915. There was one child who died young. Ralph died in Denver.

2. Vena Riley (b. Oct. 17, 1869) was the oldest daughter of John H. and Melissa Riley. On Sept. 14, 1893, she married a minister, Friend I. Dye in Marietta, Ohio. They had one child who died an infant.

3. Minnie May Riley (b. June 7, 1872) was the second daughter of John H. and Melissa Riley. She was known as May. She married Charles F. Moore of Marietta, Ohio. There were no children. She traveled and lived in many places and finally lived for a number of years in Paris, France before her death.

4. John Henry Riley (Mar. 16, 1875—Nov. 24, 1902). He was the youngest son of John H. and Melissa Riley. He had a serious accident as a young man, from which he never fully recovered. He died a young man.
Mary Elizabeth Riley Rankin
1844-1929

Mary Elizabeth Riley (Jan. 26, 1844-Mar. 29, 1929) was a daughter of Robert R. Riley (b. 1812) and Elizabeth Cleek Riley. On March 24, 1881, she married George W. Rankin. He was a prosperous Jackson County farmer. They were the parents of two children.

She married and divorced Hubert Faber. There were no children.

2. Oscar Blaine Rankin (Apr. 28, 1884-Aug. 16, 1949). On Aug. 23, 1914, he married Icie Harpold (d. July 22, 1971). They were the parents of five children:
   a. William Wirt Rankin (b. July 22, 1915). He is a staff engineer (1974) with the Union Carbide Corporation in Charleston, an organization for which he has worked for more than 38 years. On Aug. 8, 1936 he married Esther Bertha Bergman. There was a daughter Anne Clayton (b. Mar. 19, 1950?) who on Nov. 21, 1970, married Hugh C. Moore, II.
   d. Robert Foster Rankin (b. April 8, 1921).
William Wirt Riley
1846-1928

William Wirt Riley (Jan. 19, 1846—Oct. -, 1928) was a son of Robert R. Riley (b. 1812) and wife, Elizabeth Cleek Riley. On Jan. 17, 1875 he married Laura Virginia Armstrong (b. Oct. 12, 1854) at the M. E. Church South in Ripley, West Virginia.

Wirt Riley worked for many years as the Cashier in the Ripley Bank. He also was Clerk of the Court in Jackson County, W. Va. from 1879-1891. He and his family lived in Ripley in their early years. But later he and his wife moved to Pt. Pleasant, W. Va. and spent their last days there. Their son, Fred or Winifred, was living at Pt. Pleasant at that time.

William Wirt Riley and Laura Virginia Armstrong Riley were the parents of seven children.
5. Mary Inez Riley (June 29, 1884-May 14, 1905). She married Rev. B. Martin Keith on June 29, 1904. There was one child who died in infancy.
6. Frances Eliza Riley (b. Aug. 11, 1886). * Frances married Frank Hobson Miller. One child, Virginia Elizabeth, was born to this marriage on Oct. 18, 1911. Virginia married first Joseph Lawrence who died Jan. 26, 1963 and second, on Aug. 31, 1969 she married Joe Lanier Upshaw. Virginia and her first husband were the parents of three sons, namely:
   a. Joseph Lawrence, Jr. (April 25, 1939). He is a graduate of the University of Virginia and is now a sales manager. He married Jo Ann Herr Coleman (Dec. 23, 1971). They live at Dundin, Fla.
   c. Frank McQuid Lawrence (Dec. 20, 1946). He graduated from Washington and Lee, and married Edith

Cotlin. They live in Charlottesville, Va. He practices law.

Prior to her first marriage, Virginia was employed in government in Washington, D.C. Her first husband was also in government at the time of their marriage. After his death Virginia was a teacher in the schools of Virginia for a number of years. Her second husband, Joe Lanier Upshaw, is in business in Lakeland, Florida.

7. Willia Armstrong Riley (Mar. 2, 1890). She was employed in banking first in Ripley, W. Va., later in Jacksonville, Fla. After retirement she and a girl friend went to South Carolina and bought a farm which they operated for several years. They had a beautiful home and a cattle farm. But labor became difficult to obtain and hold. Finally, the farm was sold and Willa is now (1977) living in Pickens, S.C. some twenty miles from Greenville.
Millard Filmore Riley
1850-1927

Millard Filmore Riley, call "Fil" was a son of Robert R. Riley (b. 1812) and Elizabeth Cleek Riley. He was born near Ripley, Jackson County, Virginia now West Virginia on Jan. 29, 1850. He died Jan. 22, 1927 in Hyattsville, Maryland where he was living at the time. For most of his life he was a farmer. After retirement he first moved into the town of Ripley and later to Hyattsville, Maryland. He was a good mechanic and often did carpenter work. He was among those who built the Oak Hill Church and School. Dan D. Riley, his nephew, claims facetiously that he and his Uncle Fil built the church.

As a youth during the War Between the States, he joined and served in the Union Army. It appears his first enlistment was in the 141st West Virginia Militia in 1864. He was much too young to join the Army. His father went after him and returned him to his home. In a few days he was off to another enlistment. This time his father let him stay. This enlistment was in Company "D" of the 7th West Virginia Calvary. On Aug. 16, 1867, he received a soldier's medal as a testimonial for this service in accordance with a joint resolution by the Legislature of West Virginia, adopted February first, 1866. He was a member of the Society of the Blue and Gray in Ripley. He was always eager to go to the encampments wherever they were. Each Memorial Day, we called it "Declaration Day," he always bought flags, Union and Confederate, and put them on the graves of the Blue and Gray.

On Aug. 11, 1878, he and Dora Helen Staats were married. She was born in Virginia on July 18, 1855 and died in Hyattsville, Maryland on Dec. 8, 1946 in her ninety-first year. She and her husband are both buried in Lorraine Cemetery, near Catonsville, Md. She grew up in the Parchment Community of Jackson County, West Virginia. Her mother died young and as a "teenager" she lived with her mother's sister "Lynnie" and brother-in-law Joel Sayre. Prior to her mother's death, Dora's father, Wilson Staats, spent time prospecting for gold in the west. Dora's youngest brother Warren Staats was reared from infancy and educated by "Lynnie" and Joel Sayre.

According to Jackson County history the first circuit court for Jackson County, then defined by law as "The Circuit Superior Court of Law and Chancery" was held on June 11, 1831
at the house of Joel Sayre. The Hon. Lewis Summers, Judge of
the Nineteenth Circuit in the Tenth Judicial District of Vir­
ginia presided. Business consisted of admitting two men to the
practice of law, the appointment of a clerk and deputy clerk of
the court and since there was no sheriff or crier, the court
appointed a "Tip Staff and Crier" and then adjourned. The
court again convened on Sept. 10, 1831 at Joel Sayre's house
and the Governor of Virginia, who was present, appointed the
first sheriff of Jackson County.

Filmore and Dora Staats Riley were the parents of four
sons and four daughters. They were:

was a well-known and prominent public health official. He
received his Baccalaureate and Medical degrees from the Univer­
sity of Oklahoma (M.D. 1913). Later he attended Johns Hopkins
University where he was awarded a degree in Public Health. For
a period of 41 years he was associated with the State Health
Department in Maryland and for 27 years was Chairman of the
Maryland State Health Board and Director of the Maryland State

He married (1) Willie Sloane Harris (1880—Sept. 15, 1939).*
She was born in Tennessee, but was living in Norman, Oklahoma
at the time of their marriage. They were the parents of a son,
Robert, and two daughters, Charlotte and Barbara.

a. Robert Hickman Riley, Jr. (b. June 1, 1913). He
graduated from Lehigh University in 1935 (in engi­
neering), was associated with Black and Decker in
Baltimore as an official until retirement. On Dec.
25, 1935, he and Jacqueline Alley of Reisterstown,
Md. were married. They make their home in Towson,
Md. and are the parents of a son, Robert Hickman
Riley, III (b. Aug. 3, 1943). In 1965 he graduated
from Lehigh University and in 1967 received his
M.B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania, Phila­
delphia. He had service, beginning Oct. 20, 1968,
as a commissioned officer in the Army. Currently
he is employed in banking in Chicago.


graduated from the University of Maryland at College

*Married in Shawnee, Okla. June 8, 1911.
Park and on May 30, 1943 married Clemens Gaines. They were the parents of three boys: (1) Christopher Clemens Gaines (b. Mar. 13, 1947 in Baltimore). He graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee in Dec. 1975 with a Bachelor of Business Administration. His present occupation is Nuclear Maintenance Supervisor with Commonwealth Edison Co., Chicago, Ill. On Sept. 23, 1978 he and Dorothy L. Shoemaker were married. They presently live in Morris, Illinois. (2) Clemens Weaver Gaines, Jr. (b. Nov. 7, 1949 in Baltimore). He graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Dec. 1975 with a Bachelor of Communication Arts. His present occupation is salesman in Colorado Spring, Colorado. (3) Gary Riley Gaines (b. Nov. 1, 1950 in Baltimore). He lives in Silver Spring, Md.

2. Clerc Riley (A.C.) (July 10, 1881—Mar. 16, 1926). He was born in Ripley, West Virginia and as an adult he worked for the railroad in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He never married. The writer asked him why and he replied that he couldn't find a girl who would come to the hills of West Virginia to live.

3. Paul (called "Fog") Riley (April 1, 1884—Nov. 2, 1961). He was born in Elba, Ohio, but grew up in Ripley, W.Va. As an adult he lived and farmed in Monmouth, Oregon. There, for many years, he was a member and rode in the "Governor's Posse." On Sept. 25, 1907 he married Devotee (called "Dee") Smith (Dec. 30, 1881—Sept. 25, 1934) of Monmouth, Oregon. She and her family had lived in Jackson County, West Virginia before moving west. She was the mother of his children. After her death he married Mrs. Velma Smith on Sept. 18, 1935. The children of Paul and "Dee" Riley are:
   a. Claudia Pauline (b. June 15, 1908). On June 10, 1934, she married Floyd Banks. They have their home in Carlton, Oregon. Pauline was an educator and taught school before retirement.

   b. Willie Greek (called Greek). She was born July 23, 1910. On March 12, 1934, she married Lowell E. Drullinger (now deceased). Greek lives in Junction City, Ore. Children are: (1) Charles Lee (b. Dec. 23, 1934) who married Phyllis Lance on Jan. 19, 1963. They live in Eugene, Oregon and have children named Jeffrey Lee (b. Sept. 12, 1965) and Janet


4. Greek Riley was the first daughter of Filmore and Dora Riley. She was born in Ripley, W. Va. on April 17, 1886 and died on Jan. 23, 1972, age 85. After local school, she attended normal school in Huntington, W. Va. After a period of teaching she went to Norman, Okla. where she attended college for a period.

Later she returned to West Virginia and again taught. On June 17, 1914 she married John Amos Fleming (Jan. 5, 1881-Feb. 8, 1967). He was a farmer and gas and oil well driller. They lived in Cassville, West Virginia and were the parents of two sons.

a. John A. Fleming, Jr. (called Junior). He was born on Jan. 20, 1916 and for much of his life has been an invalid.

b. Joseph Waitman Fleming, the second son called Joe, was born on May 27, 1922. Most of Joe's life has been spent in the trucking business. On June 17,
1951 he and Helen Headlee (b. July 30, 1930) of Morgantown, W. Va. were married. Since college, Helen has been employed in Extension Education first by the University of West Virginia and then by the University of Florida. Joe and Helen live in Brooksville, Fla. There are no children.

5. Alma Riley (b. Feb. 11, 1888). She attended normal school in Monmouth, Oregon and then taught school in Oregon for a period. Prior to normal school, she had taught in West Virginia. Alma went to Huntington to school also. On June 5, 1918, she married Charles E. Burton (May 20, 1882-Oct. 9, 1965) of Herndon, Virginia, in Oregon where they met. Afterwards they returned to Washington, D.C. where he was first employed by the Sanitary Grocery Stores and later the Safeway Stores. During most of this time they lived in Hyattsville, Md. After retirement they moved to St. Petersburg, Florida where Alma now lives.

They were the parents of a son Fillmore Ernest Burton (Oct. 10, 1919-Feb. 28, 1942). He served in the Navy and lost his life on the Battle Cruiser Houston when it was sunk by the Japanese in World War II.

6. Warren Staats Riley (Jan. 16, 1890-Aug. 21, 1966). He served in the Army during World War I. As a young man he lived and worked in Ore. where he became an electrician. In the mid 1920's he came to Hyattsville, Md. and was employed in the Washington, D.C. Navy Yard until retirement (about 1955).

On June 16, 1928, he and Mary Miller Brown (b. Mar. 16, 1905) of Chestertown, Md. were married. She graduated from the University of Maryland in 1927 and for a period of several years taught Home Economics in the Hyattsville, Md. high school. Later and until retirement she owned and operated a cafeteria, the "Open Door: in Washington, D.C. There were no children.

7. Mae Riley. She was born January 25, and christened "Bessie May." She attended the local schools in Jackson County, West Virginia and then went to Spencer, W. Va. where she worked in a hospital and studied nursing. Following this she worked in hospitals in Washington, D.C. and Oregon. Later she lived in Colorado Springs, Colo., Washington, D.C. and St. Petersburg, Fla. where she now lives. Mae never married.
Mary Elizabeth Riley (b. April 20, 1897). She attended the West Virginia Normal School at Fairmount and taught school for a number of years. Later she attended the University of Maryland at College Park from which she graduated in 1926. Among the schools in which she taught were Fairview, Ripley, Follansbee and Charleston, West Virginia and Sparks, Baltimore County, Maryland.

On September 9, 1926 she married Dr. George S. Langford in Denver, Colorado. He was a native of South Carolina and an Agricultural Scientist (Entomologist), having received his education at the following institutions: B.S. at Clemson College, M.S. at the University of Maryland and Ph.D. at Ohio State University.

She and her husband lived variously in Fort Collins, Colorado, Columbus and Wooster, Ohio, and College Park, Maryland. As a mother and homemaker she was active in civic, community and church affairs and served as President of many organizations. As a member of the Hospital Guild, she did volunteer work at the Prince George's County Hospital for more than 25 years. For a period of 10 years and during World War II, she did volunteer work for the Red Cross. Her husband was, through the years, associated with the Colorado Agricultural College, Fort Collins; Ohio Experiment Station, Wooster, Ohio and the University of Maryland where he was a Professor, State Entomologist and Acting Director, Maryland State Board of Agriculture Programs.

Mary and George Langford are the parents of a daughter and a son. They are:

a. Marilyn Langford (b. April 20, 1930). She received higher education at the University of Maryland, B.S. 1951; Ohio State University, M.S. 1952; and Cornell University, Ph.D. 1959. Marilyn also studied in France, England and Italy. As a career woman, Marilyn taught at Ohio University, Athens, Ohio and Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. for a number of years. On June 24, 1967 she married Dr. R. Blake Reeves, a Physiologist, then an Associate Professor, now Professor, at the Medical School, New York State University, Buffalo.
My mother, Dora Staats Riley (1855-1946) had the best sense of humor. She always seemed so happy. She was a most friendly person and loved everyone and everyone loved her. She was especially fond of her nieces and nephews and they liked to come and visit her. Her children were entertained with funny songs and poetry. I remember as a child we would have great fun just with our names. I would say, "Mother, what is your name?" She would say, "My name is Isadora Helen Staats Riley." Then she would laugh and I would laugh. Her sense of humor was the best and ever present.

Mother's early life had to be hard. There were few conveniences where she began life and lived in her early days. She lived in rugged country nearby the Ohio River. Her home was against the hill. There was little level land and almost every move was either uphill or downhill. She reared eight children, cooking meals on a wood stove and doing the laundry outdoors, over boiling kettles and at harvest time cooking meals for extra men. But she never complained or seemed weary, though at times she must have been. She was a person of dedication and happiness.

Mother loved the outdoors and Dad always said she was a good gardener, but always added she puts her lettuce seed out too early. But she always had the best lettuce in the community, and she shared with her neighbors. Another thing I remember vividly was mother's brass kettle. She would bring it out when apples came in. Apples were peeled and seeded and then mother with bonnet to protect her from the sun, would put fire under the kettle, fill with apples, add sugar and stir. Oh, how delicious that apple butter was.

Mother's evenings were spent mostly, it seemed, knitting socks for the boys. She would knit way into the night.

Mother was a regular attendant at church. On Sunday mornings it was the United Brethern Church at Oak Hill near Ripley. On Sunday evenings she often walked to Mt. Moriah Church which was also nearby. When she moved to Maryland she became a member of the Methodist Church in Hyattsville. There is a story told about my Aunt Laura and my mother as a result of their efforts to congratulate a community drunk who had accepted religion in the Oak Hill Church and openly promised
to lay off drink. Shortly thereafter at a big get-together in Ripley, with baskets of food everywhere, this man took over and said Grace. There was long prayer after which mother and Aunt Laura proceeded toward him to give recognition to his recent association with church. Just then, someone cautioned, "You better stay away from that man. He is as drunk as a fool." Mother laughed over that incident until her death.

Mother loved all her grandchildren and they all adored her. My two children always seemed to live for a visit with grandmother. They would stay with her and their Aunt Alma for days without apparent concern for their parents.

Mary R. Langford
The State Board of Health yesterday received and accepted with regret the resignation of Dr. Robert H. Riley, its chairman for 27 years and a member of the department since 1914.

Dr. Riley, veteran of decades of service to the cause of public health, will relinquish his post as board chairman and State health director on January 1 of next year.

In August of this year he will reach his seventy-sixth birthday.

The letter of resignation, which received board action yesterday, called attention to "the very large increase" in the duties and responsibilities of the office and suggested that it be filled by a younger man.

Had Life Tenure Under Law

Dr. Riley mentioned specifically that the director of health now is responsible for the supervision of seven State hospitals and the administration of the medical care program in addition to the other duties of the head of the Department of Health.

Under a law enacted by the Maryland General Assembly, Dr. Riley was entitled to life tenure of office, without being subject to age limitations or action other than legislative.

His successor will be named by the State Board of Health, officials said yesterday, although as a matter of official courtesy Governor McKeldin was informed in advance of the step about to be taken.

At the end of yesterday's board meeting, which was prolonged by an exchange of cordial feelings between Dr. Riley and the members, the retiring health director said he planned first to "catch up on my fishing when the resignation becomes effective.

DR. ROBERT H. RILEY
Health chief to retire

He added that friends had suggested that he put into writing rich memories of long years in the promotion of public health.

The idea rather appeals to him, Dr. Riley admitted.

Native Of West Virginia

If he compiles his memoirs, Dr. Riley will have much to write about the modern public health program in Maryland—a program he himself helped to implement after its legislative authorization.

A native of West Virginia, with an educational and medical background first developed in Oklahoma, Dr. Riley already had clinical and public health experience when he arrived in Baltimore in 1914 to take a special course in what now would be called "clinical pathology."

But the late Dr. William H. Welch—one of the Johns Hopkins Medical School's "big four" was both professor of bacteriology and a zealous proponent of the new State Health Department program creating ten sanitary districts.

The program, representing a dramatic forward development, called for a fulltime deputy state officer who was a physician in each of the districts. This deputy state official was to direct and assist the county health officers, who at that time were practicing physicians able to devote only a part of their time to public health activities.

Dr. Welch influenced the young Dr. Riley to resign public-health associations in Oklahoma and accept one of the new deputy positions in Maryland. One effective argument, Dr. Riley recalls, was that the newly enacted program would divorce the State Health Department from politics.

Posts Held In Department

Dr. Riley, the second fulltime director of the Maryland State Health Department, held these jobs between 1914 and the present:

Deputy State Health Officer—1914-1920.

Chief of the Bureau of Communicable Diseases—1920-1925.

Assistant Director—1925-1928.

Director and chairman of the Board of Health since the retirement in 1928 of the late Dr. John S. Fulton.

It was under the Riley Administration that Maryland became the first state in the nation to have full time health services, including trained health officers, in every county.
Senate Resolution

No. 46

SENATORS KIMBLE, GOLDSTEIN and TURNBULL

By the SENATE, March 25, 1955.

Introduced, read the first time and adopted.

By order, C. ANDREW SHAAB, Secretary.

Senate Resolution congratulating and commending Dr. Robert H. Riley.

The members of the Senate of Maryland have seen the announcement of the impending retirement of Dr. Robert H. Riley, for many years Director of the State Department of Health, and wish to record a testimonial of their appreciation of the devoted service Dr. Riley has given to the Health Department and to the State of Maryland.

Dr. Robert H. Riley has served with the State Department of Health since 1914 and has been its Director since 1928. He has been diligent and conscientious in the performance of his public duties and deserves the heartfelt good wishes of every citizen of the State of Maryland.

The members of the Senate of Maryland wish to record this expression of commendation to Dr. Riley for a long career of outstanding public service; now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate of Maryland, That this Body heartily commends and congratulates Dr. Robert H. Riley, Director of the State Department of Health, upon the occasion of his announced retirement from his many years of service as Director of the State Department of Health; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to send copies of this Resolution to Dr. Robert H. Riley and to the State Board of Health.
DR. R. H. RILEY
Dies, Aged 87

Was Director Emeritus Of State Health Department

Dr. Robert H. Riley, director emeritus of the State Health Department, died yesterday after a heart attack. He was 87 years old.

Dr. Riley, who worked 41 years for the health department, served as its director from 1928 until his retirement in 1956.

Under his direction, the department expanded virtually all of its services and pioneered a number of new ones.

1934 Campaign

In 1934—after a campaign in which Dr. Riley spoke in every county in the State—Maryland became the first State in the country to have a strong, local based public health unit in each county.

Under Dr. Riley's leadership, Maryland also became the first State to establish a medical care program for its indigent. That program was supplemented last year by the Federal Medicaid program.

Dr. Riley also helped Maryland to develop one of the first extensive chronic illness programs.

Log Cabin Birth

Born in a log cabin on a farm near Ripley, W.Va., he held jobs as a school teacher, country newspaperman, assistant postmaster and bank teller.

He earned his B.S. and M.D. degrees from the University of Oklahoma. While in Oklahoma, he worked at the State health department, where he became assistant State health officer.

He resigned in 1914, however, to take courses in bacteriology and pathology at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions.

At the Hopkins, Dr. William H. Welch, then president of the State Board of Health, persuaded him to start a public health career in Maryland.

Dr. Riley's first assignment, as a deputy State health officer, was to visit every home in areas of Dorchester county to teach people rudiments of sanitation.

In 1920, he was appointed chief of the department's bureau of communicable diseases, and five years later, became assistant director of the department.

In 1928, he was appointed to the directorship, and also became a faculty member of the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health.

Commission Member

Dr. Riley served on numerous commissions concerned with medicine, State planning, public health, nursing, hospital construction, and workers' compensation.

From 1937-1938, he was president of the Conference of State and Provincial Authorities of North America. He was a past president of the Baltimore County Medical Society, and chairman of the Maryland Board of Physical Therapist Examiners, the Maryland Post Mortem Examiners and the United States Surgeon General's Committee on Venereal Disease.

He was also active in several honorary fraternities and societies, and in the American Public Health Association and the American Medical Association.

Won Award

In 1953, Dr. Riley received the Arthur T. McCormack Award of the National State and Territorial Health Officers Association.

He was cited for being "a guide for health officers throughout the country in planning the organization and administration and medical services which have strengthened the total program of public health."

Dr. Riley and his wife, the former Marion Waters, lived at 100 Beechwood avenue, Catonsville.

Besides his wife, he is survived by a son, Robert H. Riley, Jr., of Baltimore; a daughter, Mrs. Barbara R. Gaines, of Baltimore; and four sisters, Mrs. Greek Fleming, of Cassville, W.Va.; Mrs. George Langford, of College Park, Md.; Mrs. Alma Burton, of St. Petersburg, Fla.; and Miss Mae Riley, of Washington.
Peter Matson Riley
1853-1927

Peter Matson, called Pete, Riley (July 16, 1853-Jan. 24, 1927), was a son of Robert Riley (b. 1812) and Elizabeth Cleek Riley. On May 25, 1884, he and Laura Frances Hughes (Feb. 3, 1863-Feb. 19, 1950) were married in the Methodist Church at Malden, Kanawha County, W. Va. The ceremony was performed by Laura's father, Robert E. Hughes who was the Methodist minister for that community. After the wedding he and Laura took a steamboat from Malden to Ripley Landing (now called Millwood and from there they traveled by hack to Ripley.

Peter Matson Riley was a farmer and for most of his adult life was a trial magistrate or Justice of the Peace in Ripley. He lived in the Oak Hill community.

Peter and Laura were the parents of five children; three boys and two girls, as follows:

1. James Hughes Riley (b. Mar. 21, 1885). He served in the Army during World War I. He married twice; first on June 12, 1912 to Laura Tole of Pittsburgh, Pa. To this marriage, there was a daughter, Laura Elmyra (b. May 28, 1913) who married Coulton Bracken. His second marriage was to Mary Hedges. He and Mary lived in San Jose, Cal. where James was an electrician. They were the parents of two sons and two daughters, namely, James H., Peter Matson, Dorothy and Jean.

2. Elsa Irene Riley (b. Aug. 25, 1889). Elsa was a schoolteacher and an outstanding one. This the writer can confirm because she was her pupil at Oak Hill. Elsa gives credit to Mr. Willey Sallez for much of her early educational training. He had lost his sight as a youth and had been educated at the West Virginia School for the Blind. He was an inspiration and the Riley families felt fortunate in having him for a teacher. He taught for a number of years in the Oak Hill area and nearby. Since there were no advanced schools nearby, not even a high school, it was difficult to get an education. Many teachers who taught under certificates during winter did go to Marshall College, Huntington, W. Va. during the Spring terms of school to get advanced training. Elsa and my two sisters Greek and Alma were among those who received higher education in that way.
On October 6, 1915 Elsa married George Washington Jenkins (b. May 25, 1887). He was a farmer, merchant and an excellent politician. For many years he was elected and re-elected in Kanawha County, W. Va. as a County Commissioner, and/or Superintendent of Schools. He and Elsa were the parents of four daughters and one son.

a. Frances Lynn (b. Mar. 21, 1917). She married Russell Van Cleve, a chemist with Union Carbide Corporation. The Van Cleve children are Margaret, Russell, John and Barbara.

b. Ernestine Riley Jenkins (b. Dec. 30, 1918). She married Howard Ullum, an engineer for Union Carbide Corporation. Howard retired in 1977. Their children are Thomas; Calvin who married Patricia O'Brien; John Stephen; and Susan who married Richard Abels, an engineer with Kaiser Aluminum. They have two sons, John and Jason.


d. Mary Hester Jenkins (b. Aug. 16, 1927). She married William E. Blevins, Senior Vice President of the Bank of Detroit. They are the parents of three children: Jaffrey, Jennifer and Bradley.

e. George M. Jenkins (b. Sept. 6, 1923). He married Stella Goering. Their children are Janie, Lou, Laura, George III and John.

3. Daniel Dawkins Riley (b. June 9, 1894). Dan, as he was called, was a school principal, educator and Boy Scout executive. Since retirement he has lived in West Palm Beach, Fla. He married first on Dec. 21, 1917, Essie Hollandsworth. She was the mother of his children.

Dan's second marriage on Sept. 28, 1957 was to Vaun Post and his third was to Mary Jo Blackburn Carson on July 25, 1962. She was a teacher having taught in West Virginia and Florida before retirement. She was born Sept. 1, 1912 and died Nov. 21, 1977 after a short illness. Dan and Mary Jo lived in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Dan and his first wife, Essie, were the parents of two sons and a daughter as follows:

a. Daniel Dawkins Riley, Jr. who was born Oct. 11, 1918, is said to have been the first World War I baby born
in St. Albans, West Virginia. On April 11, 1944, he married Janet Lloyd, a WAC Captain in Seattle, Washington. Dan Riley, Jr. was a Lieutenant in World War II. Dan and Janet live in Morris Plains, N.J. and are the parents of a son and daughter. The son, Peter Hollandsworth Riley (b. Sept. 18, 1947) is also the father of a son named Dan (b. Oct. 16, 1975). The daughter, Laura, on Feb. 11, 1978 married a Brandenburg and they live near Baltimore, Md.

b. John Watson Riley (Sept. 10, 1921—Dec. 31, 1957), the second son also served in World War II. He was given a medical discharge before the war ended. He died in N.J.

c. Ora Frances Riley, the daughter, was born in Charleston, W.Va. on Jan. 14, 1923. She graduated from Brothers College, Drew University. On Aug. 2, 1947 she married E.V. Archamhesen. They established their home in West Palm Beach, Florida in 1949 and own and operate the Au Bon Cont (?), a shopping club in Palm Beach off Worth Avenue. They are the parents of two sons, namely, (1) E. Victor (b. Mar. 29, 1954) who has a shop on Pawley's Island, South Carolina, and (2) John David (b. Aug. 16, 1960).

4. Roy Jackson Riley (July 13, 1899—Apr. 4, 1964). Jack, as he was called, was for much of his life a school principal or teacher. Later he followed his father's footsteps and became a trial magistrate or Justice of the Peace in Ripley, W. Va.

On August 12, 1928 he married Janet Vannay. She was an educator and for many years she taught in the Ripley schools. She is now (1977) living in Huntington, W.Va. where she is a receptionist at the Y.M.C.A. She says her contacts with people where she works keeps her interested and happy.

Janet and Jack had one child, Roy Jackson Riley, II. He was recently retired from the Air Force. They now live in Blacksburg, Virginia where he has a position with Radford Valley Rehabilitation Services. Their children are as follows:

a. Samuel who is in his last year of college at the University of Northern Colorado at Greely (1977).


c. Patty and her husband, Lt. Bill Nash, were in Del Texas where he finished his flight training in 1977.
5. Elmyra Elizabeth Riley (b. Oct. 29, 1901). She was called "Peg." Prior to marriage, she taught school. She married Ira R. Halstead of Catlettsburg, Kentucky who first worked with the railroad, but later with Union Carbide in Charleston, West Virginia. He is now retired. They married April 5, 1924.

They were the parents of a daughter Betty Ann (b. Feb. 16, 1925), and two sons, Peter Matthew (b. June 16, 1926 and Charles Earl (b. Mar. 3, 1928).
Robert R. Riley, II  
1856-1932

Robert R. Riley (Mar. 26, 1856—June 26, 1932) was a son of Robert R. Riley (b. 1812) and wife Elizabeth Cleek Riley. On Sept. 2, 1894 he married Norma Mae Davis (Nov. 13, 1875—Oct. 29, 1939).

Robert R. called Bob, early in life was an educator in the schools of Jackson County. He also spent many Sundays as a Sunday School Teacher in the Oak Hill community. His brother, Filmore always thought he was one of the best farmers around. He was the only one that could build a haystack to please Filmore.

His wife, Norma, was noted for her good cooking and good housekeeping. She was a seamstress and the writer can remember the pretty little dresses her children wore to Sunday School.

Robert and Norma were the parents of six children:


3. Elizabeth (Bess) Riley (b. Mar. 9, 1902). She married, on Apr. 4, 1925, James Samuel Waggener (b. Sept. 18, 1900). They at one time made their home in Columbus, Ohio but recently moved to Tampa Florida. Their children are:
   a. Betty Jean Waggener (b. Jan. 29, 1930). She is an Executive Secretary for a medical group in Tampa, Fla.
   b. James S. Waggener, Jr. (b. Nov. 2, 1935). He is a Colonel in the U.S. Air Force and teaches in the Naval Air Force at Newport, Rhode Island. He was married to Sandra Sloan Shumate (b. Feb. 25, 1936) on March 11, 1957, now divorced. James and Sandra had 1 child (b. Mar. 17, 1959) named Elizabeth Sloan Waggener. Elizabeth makes her home with her father at Newport. She is now (1978) in college and attends Denison University, Granville, Ohio, where she is
majoring in drama. In summer she is tour guide and "bellringer" at Trinity Church which is one of the tourist attractions at Newport.


5. Virginia Riley (b. Feb. 10, 1905). She never married and is now retired.

6. Ruth Riley (b. Sept. 1, 1910). Ruth was a Technician in Research and Statistics, in state government in Charleston, W. Va. before she retired (1976). She attended Mason College of Music and Fine Arts at North Carolina University. She graduated from Morris Harvey College with a Degree in Fine Arts and has been painting and exhibiting her art work for many years. She now (1978) looks forward to a new undertaking as Director of Art, Gallery 4 in Charleston, W. Va.
Hester Isabelle Riley (May 4, 1859-Apr. 25, 1930) was a daughter of Robert R. Riley (b. 1812) and Elizabeth Cleek Riley. On Sept. 11, 1879, she married Joseph Webster (Web) McCoy (Oct. 9, 1847-July 25, 1937). They first lived in the Oak Hill area near Ripley in Jackson County. Later they moved to Mason County, near Point Pleasant, W.Va. When they died they were buried in Point Pleasant.

Webster McCoy was a descendant of William McCoy (1740-1795) who born in Scotland of royal lineage and who was a Lieutenant of Virginia Militia at the Battle of Point Pleasant (Oct. 1774). This William McCoy later settled in Greenbrier County, Virginia (now W.Va.). His son, William J. McCoy, Jr., the grandfather of Webster McCoy, lived at Williamsburg, W.Va. Webster's father Joseph McCoy, lived in Mason County. He died in 1915—age 99 years, 4 months, 14 days.

Webster and Hester Riley McCoy were the parents of three sons and two daughters.


2. Opher Leon McCoy (Nov. 15, 1881—Aug. 20, 1904). He died a young man.


4. Paul Edgar McCoy (Oct. 30, 1886-Jan. 22, 1963). Early in his career he was an educator, but later devoted his life to cattle raising.

He was a graduate of the University of West Virginia and often reflected on the fact and told how he graduated from high school and college the same year. There was no high school in Paul's community in the early years when he finished common
school. But early in life he became a teacher by obtaining a certificate through examination and attending Normal School during the summer months. Later, he decided to attend the University of West Virginia. He was permitted entrance on his Normal School credits but was required to attend and to take high school work at the same time at the Morgantown High School. So at the time he graduated from the University of West Virginia he was also awarded his high school diploma. After graduation from college he became a Vocational Agriculture teacher. Later he became Assistant State Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture with an office in the State Capitol, Charleston. In that position he supervised the teaching of vocational agriculture in the high schools of northern West Virginia.

On November 30, 1933 he and Avis Jenkins Paterson were married. Soon after marriage Paul bought his father's home which was adjacent to another farm that he (Paul) owned. After this purchase he gave up his educational work and developed a Hereford Cattle farm of some 312 acres in Mason County.

Avis Paterson was from the west. Early in life she homesteaded with her family in South Dakota. After college she became an educator and taught for a number of years. She is an accomplished writer and genealogical researcher. Her writings included a book entitled, "Dakota Homestead."

Mae Riley, my sister and Paul's cousin, takes credit for introducing Paul to Avis Paterson. Mae lived for a period in a vacation cottage in Colorado Springs, Colo. that was owned by Avis' father and mother. There Mae met Avis. Later Mae lived in Washington, D.C. It was there that Avis and Paul met.

Avis and Paul McCoy were the parents of a son, George Webster McCoy, who was born on Sep. 7, 1934. George Webster married first Mary Inez Rainey (b. Dec. 19, 1935) and second, Peggy Jane Weir (b. May 12, 1921). George Webster's second marriage was in San Diego, Cal. He and Peggy Jane live in Anchorage, Alaska. George Webster was the father of four children by his first wife, Mary. They are: Paul William (b. Aug. 16, 1953), Marilyn Rae (b. Nov. 6, 1955), Jacquelyn Chloe (b. June 22, 1957) and Patricia Ann (b. Feb. 12, 1959).

5. Willia Belle (called "Bill") McCoy. She was born June 4, 1897. On September 3, 1927, she married Lester Charles Selby (b. Dec. 25, 1897). He was an engineer and his specialty was
bridge building. They were the parents of a son, Lester Max Selby (b. Dec. 5, 1929). Willia before marriage was employed in the Bank of Point Pleasant. She and her husband lived in Pittsburgh.
Ada Pocohontas Riley Dawkins
1861-1895

Ada Pocohontas Riley (Dec. 19, 1861—Nov. 25, 1895), was a daughter of Robert R. Riley (b. 1812) and Elizabeth Cleek Riley. On Jan. 1, 1884 she married Daniel Birkley Dawkins (Dec. 25, 1885—Nov. 1939). They were the parents of children as follows:


2. Nina Leota Dawkins (b. April 28, 1886)* She married Charles E. Baker. He was in the banking business and at one time was Sheriff of Jackson County, W. Va. They had an adopted son, Charles, Jr. After retirement Charles and Nina Baker lived in Florida.


4. Rufus Dawkins (Aug. 23, 1891—April 8, 1911). He never married. He was killed in a railroad accident.

*Nina died Apr. 29, 1977.
Maternal Ancestors

In the early 1920's this writer had a discussion with her uncle, W. Wirt Riley, about family ancestry. He provided me with a bit of information about some of our relatives that had origins on the distaff side of Riley families. He outlined for me in some detail our relationship to Cleek families in the neighborhood. This information has been updated and is here reviewed along with such information on Acree families to which the Rileys are also related.

Uncle Wirt also named a number of other families which he said have kinship with the Rileys. But I have not had the opportunity to trace relationships. Some of the names are here mentioned in the interest of future research. They are: Fuller, Beach, Dana, Brohard, Corner, Smith, Ruell, Weeks, Gear, Garrett, Skeen, Fisher, Counts, Ray, Johns, Polsley, Paxton, Rankin, McCoy, Dawkins, Hill, Stewart, Rhodes, Litton, Thomas, Casto, Parsons, Hunter, Hatcher, Hopkins, Caldwell, Cross, Farrell, Bebee, Leach, Willis, Clay, Halderman, Whitlach, Stockman, Reger, Heaton, Miller, Straley and others.

Uncle Wirt noted that his brother, John H. Riley, once said that, "We are of German, Scotch and Irish blood and I see no objection to the mixture." "The following," he said, "will show where the Scotch comes in. Robert McGuffin married Elizabeth King. They were of Scotch blood and came to Rockingham County, Virginia shortly after the Revolution. They were the parents of the following children:

1. James McGuffin who served as a soldier in the War of 1812. He was married to Elizabeth Irwin, a daughter of Robert Irwin, a Revolutionary War Soldier.

2. Elizabeth McGuffin (your great grandmother) who married Peter Cleek (your great grandfather).


"James McGuffin was a man of means and influence. He and his wife Elizabeth Irwin, were the parents of the following sons and daughters:

1. John
2. Robert who lived in Jackson for many years. He married Peggy McKnown and they were the parents of:
   (a) John who was a civil engineer
   (b) Richard who was a successful physician
   (c) James who was a lawyer and businessman
   (d) Betty who married Watt Hogg and lived in Point Pleasant.
3. Samuel
4. Nicholas
5. Givens
6. David
7. Nancy
8. Elizabeth
9. Mary
10. Anna. She married W. G. Ayres. They had sons named H. G. and John and daughters Fannie who married Samuel B. Greer and Eliza Jane (my wife's mother) who married Jacob L. Armstrong. So you can see my wife and I are cousins and we both have McGuffin blood."

Uncle Wirt continued, "You have now no doubt discovered that by adding your mother's side of the house (the names Staats, Kay, etc.) you have quite a few kinfolk, many of them you know not of."
The Jacob Cleek Family

Elizabeth K. Cleek (Oct. 17, 1817-Feb. 2, 1875), the daughter of Peter Cleek (Oct. 20, 1779-Nov. 14, 1876) was the wife of Robert R. Riley (Mar. 21, 1812-d. 1899).

The forebearer of this Cleek family was Jacob Cleek, who came from Germany to Rockbridge County, Virginia probably before the Revolution. His wife's name was Christena Crowley. They were the parents of the following children:

1. George Cleek. He first lived on Mill Creek, now Jackson County, West Virginia. Later he moved to the Wabash country. He had a daughter who married a Craig (a river pilot). They lived in Louisville, Kentucky.


4. Jacob Cleek.

5. Peter Cleek (Oct. 20, 1779-Nov. 14, 1856). He was the father of Elizabeth Cleek (Oct. 7, 1817-Feb. 17, 1875) the wife of Robert R. Riley. See Peter Cleek family.


7. Margaret Cleek. She married a Potts and lived in Wirt County.

8. Catharine Cleek. She married a McLachlin and lived in Wirt County.

9. Christina Cleek. She married a Hartman and lived in Wirt County.
The Peter Cleek Family

Peter Cleek (Jan. 20, 1779–Nov. 14, 1856) was the father of Elizabeth K. Cleek (Oct. 7, 1817–Feb. 17, 1875) the wife of Robert R. Riley (Mar. 21, 1812–d. 1899).

Peter Cleek was married twice; first to Jane (Jennie) Corbett and second to Elizabeth McGuffin (Oct. 20, 1779–Oct. 20, 1859). Peter's children by his first wife Jennie Corbett were:

1. Mary Cleek (Aug. 19, 1802–Aug. 18, 1843). She married Lewis Acree. They were the parents of Elizabeth Acree known to all in the Robert R. Riley family as "Cousin Liz" – see Acree family.


4. George Cleek (b. July 14, 1811). He married Bridget King and lived on Mill Creek.


Peter Cleek's children by his second wife, Elizabeth McGuffin (Oct. 20, 1779–Oct. 20, 1859) were:

1. Nancy G. Cleek (Feb. 28, 1816–Mar. 3, 1908). She married Benjamin Baker. There was a daughter, Isabel, who was born in Dec. 1837.


From 1860 Census—Jackson County, Virginia Post Office, Fishers Point: Notes furnished by Mrs. Paul E. McCoy:

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The Lewis Acree Family

Lewis Acree was born in Bedford County, Virginia in 1783 and died July 13, 1844. His wife, Mary Cleek, was the daughter of Peter Cleek (1779-1856) and wife, Jane Corbett. This Mary Cleek, who was born August 19, 1802 and died Aug. 14, 1843 was half-sister of Elizabeth Cleek, another daughter of Peter Cleek by his second wife, Elizabeth McGuffin. Elizabeth was the wife of Robert R. Riley (1812-1899).

Both Lewis Acree and his wife, Mary, died in Jackson County. The children of this Lewis and Mary Acree were:

1. Mary Acree (Feb. 5, 1826-Oct. 23, 1850).
2. Peter C. Acree (b. Mar. 19, 1829). On Jan. 21, 1878, he married Nancy Paxton who was born Jan. 25, 1852 in Kanawha County. Their marriage was by Elder Jonathan Smith and took place in Roane County where she was living at the time of marriage. Her parents were John and Mary Vineyard Paxton. The father, John Paxton, was born in Kanawha, Va. in 1817 and died in Roane County July 28, 1879. They were residents of Roane County when it was organized. Peter C. Acree and wife Nancy Paxton Acree were the parents of two children, namely, Mary Frances (b. May 12, 1879) and John Lewis (b. Nov. 7, 1881).
4. Elizabeth Acree (b. June 7, 1833). Never married. She was the "Cousin Liz" who was so close and well-known to the Robert R. Riley family.
6. George C. Acree (b. May 12, 1837). He had two daughters and a son who was also named George.
7. Francissa Acree. She married (1) a Paxton and (2) a Hammock.
8. Adam Acree (b. Sept. 20, 1841). There were 3 daughters and 2 sons.

Lewis Acree and his wife Mary Cleek Acree had three sons who served in the War Between the States. Two, George and Adam,
were in the Confederate Army and one, Charles G., was in the Union Army. Adam was captured several times but each time made his escape and served through the entire war. George was taken prisoner and sent to a camp near Rock Island. He was exchanged and again volunteered near the end of the war. Charles who served in the Union Army was a volunteer in the Ohio Heavy Artillery and was honorably discharged at the end of the war at Memphis, Tenn.
Cousin "Liz" Acree

Cousin Liz Acree was loved and the best known cousin in the Robert Riley (1812-1899) family group. She was highly respected and made good company when she visited. All our families were indebted to her. Yet, she was a figure that the families enjoyed talking about. Some of her activities made for them lots of innocent fun. Long after death some of Cousin Liz's peculiarities were told and retold in family conversations. She was a lovely character known and respected by all.

Cousin Liz was very tall, straight and quite handsome. She never married. She was a tailor by profession and the best seamstress in the community. Once a seam was completed a day's work was required to rip it out. Late in life she made her headquarters at my grandfather Robert R. Riley's house. From there she circulated among his sons and daughters, giving them assistance, principally in making clothes.

Cousin Liz was born in 1835 and spent her life in antebellum style. This lack of change made for the many fun stories family members enjoyed telling about their Cousin Liz. She never changed from her early days with hoop skirts and six-petticoat frocks. Each quaint frock she would carefully line. She even wore such attire to the garden. This, with early morning dews, would create a talked about and unnecessary laundry problem. Cousin Liz wouldn't be "caught dead" it was said, in a short dress.

A story was told about Cousin Liz and one of her experiences in a silk hoop skirt. This was a happening that even Cousin Liz enjoyed reminiscing about. The night was dark and the crowd was returning home from a country church. A shortcut through the fields was decided upon. She had to climb over a "worm fence" which wasn't easy with a hoop skirt. But with help, Cousin Liz had made it. But at that moment a gay youth leaped the fence and landed inside the outer hoop of Cousin Liz's silk skirt. That commotion and entanglement that followed resulted in many fun stories about Cousin Liz and her hoop skirt.

Cousin Liz's inclination for making dated dresses often caused distress among young family members. I had a personal problem. Cousin Liz made me a school dress, but much to my disgust it was dated and not in keeping with my life style. Rather than offend our cousin mother made me wear it to school
one day. That was a day I feigned illness at school and remained in my desk all day. I never wore the dress again.

While sewing, every one marveled at Cousin Liz's ability to use her lower lip as a pin container. She seemed to store dozens of pins there. One morning as she sat down to breakfast, she said, "Oh, fiddlesticks" and removed some dozen pins from her mouth. She had slept with them all night.

The word "fiddlesticks" served her on all manner of occasions. She could use it expressing disgust, sarcasm, amusement and pleasure. Cousin Liz had a way of managing recalcitrant children. As a child I didn't like parsnips, so I thought. The facts were I had never tasted them. Cousin Liz came to dinner one day. Parsnips, crisp and golden brown were served on my plate. I immediately announced that I didn't eat them and asked that they be taken from my plate. With her steel blue eyes Cousin Liz looked over her glasses and said, "There ain't no sense in a youngin saying what she likes and what she don't like." The parsnips were eaten. Mother left the room to laugh.

It was told that Cousin Liz had great antipathy for men and cats. Most men were "intolerable" and she found no excuse for them. My grandfather, her cousin Robert, was the only one who dared to oppose her. She used his home for her home and she always seemed fond of him, but when they did not fully agree she would say, "Robert you are the contrariest man I ever knew." She would use the broom on cats to vent her feelings. Yet on several occasions she was found to be slipping "nice morsels of food" to "Hercules" the pet cat in the family of her cousin.

Cousin Liz's sleeping posture was often a topic of discussion, especially by the young girls who often slept in the same room with her. She always slept in a tiny night cap and a long sleeved, high neck gown. She lay straight in bed with her gown carefully tucked around her, and with one arm carefully folded over the other across her chest. Her posture never seemed to change during the night. Why? "One never can tell," she would say, "one might die in her sleep and I want to look proper."

Mary Riley Langford
Staats Family

Beginning in the early 1800's there were Staats families moving into what is now West Virginia and later Westward into Ohio. Several with the name married Rileys. Matson Riley (1774-1867) had a daughter Caroline, who on December 13, 1842 married Calvin Staats (b. Oct. 27, 1817). There was a Benjamin Staats (b. Mar. 16, 1840) who on Dec. 4, 1865 married Cordelia Riley a daughter of Amos Riley who was a son of Matson Riley (1774-1867). My mother Dora (Isadora) Staats Riley the wife of Filmore Riley was the daughter of Wilson Staats (June 7, 1826-Dec. 17, 1915) and his first wife Mary Kay. She and Wilson Staats were married Feb. 24, 1848.

Early Staats Families

Mrs. Corinne Fisher of Ripley, W. Va. and Miss Mary H. Staats of Coshocton, Ohio furnished me with information on the early Staats families in West Virginia. Mrs. Fisher's notes state that some of her information was taken from a book entitled "Staats Family" by Harold Staats. They also show that Abraham Staats (1750-1826) and his wife Ann King (1755-1811) both of whom were born in Delaware, purchased 200 acres of land in 1806 at the present site of the community of Evans in Jackson County. Another Staats named Isaac purchased land in Wood County, Grant District in 1803. According to Mrs. Fisher, it appears, though not definitely proven, Isaac Staats was a first cousin of Abraham Staats' sons, Cornelius Staats (b. 1790) and Elijah Staats (b. 1793). All three came to western Virginia, now West Virginia from Harrison County, Virginia together.

Abraham Staats

The will of Abraham Staats (1750-1826), the great grandfather of my mother Isadora Helen Staats Riley is on file in Mason County. It was probated in 1827, Deed Book G., Page 85.

The will of Abraham Staats names his children as:

1. Cornelius Staats (1790-1815). He married Ann Carney and they were the parents of a son Isaac and a daughter Mary who married James Chancey.

2. Abraham Staats, Jr. (b. 1792).
3. Elijah Staats (b. Oct. 12, 1793). He was my mother's grandfather. See Wilson Staats.

4. Jacob Staats
5. Anna Staats
6. Catherine Staats
7. Sarah Staats
8. Rebecca Staats
9. Hannah Staats
10. William Staats
11. John Staats

William and John Staats received the home farm, but when they became of age they sold it to their half-brother Elijah Staats.
Elijah Staats

Harold Staats in his book "Staats Family" gives a resume of the M.F. Riley family. He stated the Riley information was given to him by Mrs. M.F. Riley "Isadora Staats, daughter of Wilson Staats, Granddaughter of Elijah Staats and Great-granddaughter of Abraham Staats---etc." This shows her father was a son of Elijah. The data comes from the Staats book and Mrs. Fisher's notes.

Elijah Staats (Oct. 12, 1793-1876) son of Abraham Staats (1750-1826) was married three times; first on April 1, 1813 to Sally Marvin (1796—1828), second on Dec. 14, 1829 to Ann Evans (Feb. 11, 1811-Jan. 5, 186—) and third in 1852 to Sarah Parsons. Elijah is indicated as the father of twenty children. The first eight (1 through 8) by wife Sally, the next eleven (9 through 19) by wife Ann, and child number twenty by wife Sarah. His children:


4. Matilda Staats (b. March 18, 1820). On Dec. 9, 1841 her first marriage was to Jacob Hughes. Her second marriage was to Benjamin Flowers.


6. Catherine Staats (b. Apr. 19, 1824—d. before 1860). On March 24, 1842 she married Nicholas Bonnett. Nicholas Bonnett's second wife was Catherine's half sister, Sarah Staats.

7. Wilson Staats (June 7, 1826-Dec. 17, 1915). He first married Mary Kay on February 24, 1848. He was married four times. See page 48.


11. Sarah Staats (b. June 1, 1835). She was the second wife of Nicholas Bonnett, the husband of her deceased half sister Catherine. Sarah's second husband was W. Robert Scott.


19. Jonathan Staats (Jan. 16, 1848–April 16, 1862?).

20. Laverna Staats (Mar. 3, 1853–May 18, 1878). She married Ben Poling on March 9, 1870.
The Wilson Staats Family

The notes that follow as told by my mother and remembered by me and my sisters Alma and Mae, briefly outline the family of Grandfather Wilson Staats and his first wife, Grandmother Mary Kay Staats. There may be errors. It appears that Grandfather Wilson Staats on at least two occasions went west to seek a fortune as a gold miner. At the time of his first trip his daughter, Dora, my mother was a teenager and her brother Warren was a very little boy. While he was away on this trip his wife Mary Kay died. As a result my mother Dora and her brother Warren Staats lived with and grew to adulthood with Joel Sayre and his wife Linnie Sayre. I can remember Aunt Linnie and Uncle Joel visiting mother in our home. As I remember we were told that Aunt Linnie Sayre was a sister of Grandmother Mary Kay Staats and that Grandmother and Aunt Linnie had a sister Nancy who married a Harpold. She was probably the mother of Jim and Wirt Harpold. They were mother's cousins and visited at our home often.

The children of Wilson Staats and his first wife Mary Kay were:

1. Dallas (J.D.) Staats. He raised a family near Joplin, Missouri. Mother corresponded with him throughout his life. He and his wife were the parents of two boys and two girls. One girl was named Ella, the other I believe was named Mary. One of the girls visited mother when she (mother) lived in Hyattsville, Md. but I do not remember her name. The names of the boys were Warren and Carl.

2. Dillie (Cordelia) Staats. She married Lewis Warren. They lived in Elba, Ohio. I visited their home several times and fished with Uncle Lew. Uncle Lew worked in the oil fields. Aunt Dillie and Uncle Lew were the parents of a girl named Merty and three boys. Two of the boys were named Don (Donald?) and Tilton. The other son, whose name I believe was Nelson, was killed in a nitroglycerin explosion. He was a well blower in the oil fields.

3. Eva Staats. She married Paul Wise and died at the birth of her first child.
4. Dora (Isadora) Helen Staats. She married M.F. Riley on July 27, 1878. They were the parents of eight. See Riley family page 12.

5. Warren Staats. He married Susan Couver and they lived in Ross County, Ohio. Uncle Warren was a schoolteacher. In his late years and after the death of his wife he spent from four to six weeks each summer visiting his sister, my mother Dora Riley in Hyattsville, Maryland. He died at age 87. After his wife's death he made his home with his daughter Maude and her husband Jake S.S. Riley a lawyer in Greenfield, Ohio. He and his wife Susan Couver had a big family. Their children were:

a. Maude Staats. She married Jake S.S. Riley. They lived in Greenfield, Ohio and were the parents of thirteen children.

b. William Arthur Staats. He married Lucetta Starts. They lived in Ross County, Ohio.

c. Florence Staats. She married Ernest Sexton.

d. Lorin C. Staats. He was a professor at Ohio University, Athens. He married Esther _______?

e. Dwight Staats. His wife's name was Sue _______? They lived in Greenfield, Ohio.

f. Mabel Staats. She married Emmett Sexton. They lived in Athens, Ohio.

g. Everett Staats. He married and reared a family.

Wilson Staats my grandfather, was married four times. Except for his first wife Mary Kay, I do not remember the names of his wives. He had a daughter named Vesta by his second wife. I visited in her home with mother once as a child. I believe she lived in Roane County, but cannot remember her married name. His third marriage it appears was in the west. I was a teenager when he returned to Jackson County with her. Their first winter on return was spent with mother and dad. With the advent of spring they moved into the town of Ripley where she later died. His fourth marriage was to a woman who lived, I believe, near Evans. I took mother there once for a visit and had a nice lunch. I was told she remarried following grandfather's death. There were no children by his last two wives.

Mary Riley Langford
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