

Notes on the History and Migration of Eugene Lee Kimball's Ancestors: (v.3)

Eugene Lee Kimball's grandfather, Henry Harris Kimball, was born in Cabarrus County, North Carolina. In the 1850 census, he was listed as a farmer with wife Margaret, daughter Leah, and son William living in the home. Henry Harris died in 1855 and Margaret continued to operate the farm with her children. The 1860 census lists her as a farmer and head of the house with four children: Leah, William, Darcus, and Harris. North Carolina's Legislators voted to join the Confederacy 3 days prior to William Wesley's 15th birthday in 1861. We have not determined the date that he enlisted, but we have found documentation that William Wesley Kimball fought for the Confederacy, serving in the 28th Infantry, Company D. In the census records of 1870, Margaret is listed as head of household in Township No. 6 of Cabarrus County, but her occupation is listed as keeping house, William is listed as a farmer, Darcus listed as at home, and Alex is listed at school. Leah is listed next door with her husband, Paul Penninger and daughter Mary. Two other entries in the 1870 census are unresolved due to the order they are listed in the household. Ida R. Kimball, age 3, is listed in the home after Margaret Kimball, and there is a Jane E. Kimball (age 24), listed after Alex, which, would normally indicate that she was Alex's wife, except he is still in school. The most likely scenario is that Jane E. Kimball was the wife of William (also age 24) and Ida is their daughter. Ida R. Kimball shows up in the 1880 census as the 12 year old daughter of William, along with his wife Mary C. (age 21) and two sons Charles and William. Also documented in the 1880 census, Harris A. Kimball (William's youngest brother) is living next door to William in Cabarrus County (Township No. 6) with his wife Josephine and three daughters, and his mother Margaret Kimball (age 57).

In the 1900 census, William W. Kimball and wife Margaret are living in the Salisbury Township of Rowan County (outside the city limits, south of the NC Railroad). William is listed as a farmer with 5 sons and 2 daughters: Charles, William, Martin, Henry, Gene, Mary, and Fannie. In 1910, the census enumerator didn't seem to be very good at spelling names. (Kimball is spelled Kimble, Zula is spelled Zulu, Mary looks like May, and Eugene L. is spelled something close to Gulius L.). William Wesley Kimball, now age 63, is still farming, with the help of his children, Luther, Eugene, Mary and Fannie.

We have not been successful at locating any of our Kimball ancestors in the 1920 census; however, in 1930, we find William Wesley Kimball living with the family of William Walter Kimball and Eugene Lee Kimball, his wife, Myrtle and family living on Steele Street in Salisbury. Eugene is listed as the proprietor of a barber shop.

The following are notes completed by Grace Laverne Kimball Kepley in February 2008:

Eugene Lee Kimball and Myrtle Ann Morgan were married June 20, 1915 at East Spencer Methodist Church.

1915: They began their life together on Boundary Street. Close by were many of Myrtle Morgan Kimball's family. I call it the Morgan compound. Papa ran a barbershop about a block away and also a pressing club. They joined Park Avenue Methodist Church, where some of the family still attend.

Helen, Gladys and Harold were all born on Boundary Street. Helen died in 1928 with a ruptured appendix. Sometime around 1923 Papa built a house out on East Innes Street just past the town Creek. Here Frank, Mary Louise, Hazel & Grace were born.

Gladys, Harold and Frank attended A. T. Allen School. Because we were outside the city limits, Papa had to pay tuition for them to go to school.

Things were going good for the family until the stock market crash of 1929 when Papa lost everything. At this time the family moved to Steele Street and Papa began renting the barbershop on North Main Street. At this time all the children were attending Henderson Street School.

The family moved to 14th Street about 1930; then they moved to North Lee Street. Ralph was born here 1/16/31. Dr. Ketchie delivered Ralph at home. Mama got sick with cancer and died 12/24/32.

1933: After her death, Papa moved us to South Ellis Street so all the children would be able to walk to school. The older ones were already at Boyden High School.

Hazel and Mary Louise went to Frank B. John and I went to Wiley. I was in the second grade and Miss Trotter was my teacher. I attended Wiley in the 2nd, 3rd & 4th grades but they sent me to Frank B. John in the 5th grade & 6th. All the children then attended Wiley for the seventh grade.

Delia Rankin was our cook and housekeeper and she also took care of Ralph, who was retarded. Papa would go get Delia on the mornings that it rained. Otherwise she walked to work. On Monday Delia's sister, Martha, would come & help wash clothes. They would build a fire under a large black pot in the backyard, boil the clothes, rinse them in bluing, and hang them on clothes lines to dry. We never thought about Delee (which was the name we called her) being black. Delee stayed with us until Mary Louise graduated from high school. Then Mary Louise stayed home, cooked, and took care of Ralph. Of course, when Hazel graduated she stayed home and Mary Louise went to work. Gladys was working at McClellens dime store until she went to work for a doctor. After that she went to Cannon Mills #7 as a clerk in the supply room. Eventually she was promoted to supervisor. She was the first woman supervisor in Cannon Mills' history. She continued to work there until she retired.

1942: The family moved to Council Street. Papa had a nervous breakdown and didn't work for a long time. From Council Street, we moved to a house on Cemetery Street and Papa went back to work at the barbershop on Park Ave.

1945: Gladys & Papa bought the house on 625 East Liberty St.

When I graduated in 1942, it was my time to stay at home with Ralph and keep house, so Hazel went to work as a time keeper at Cannon #7.

1948: Papa had a blood clot hit his heart and he died instantly.

1949: When Jack and I got married, Hazel and Bubby came to live with Gladys & Ralph.

1949: Jack and I moved to Gastonia. He had gotten a job with Swift & Co (meat) as a salesman. I went to work at Belks.

1951: Jay was born on 7/21/51. We were living at the McLean's garage apartment, Jack had gone to work for Watson Insurance Co in Gastonia.

When we found out I was pregnant with Bill, we decided we would like to move back to Salisbury. Jack went to work for Julian Carpenter Insurance Co. We moved to a house on 2nd St. and lived there for about a year or so.

Jack decided to open his own insurance office, with help from Uncle Esby. So we moved to Uncle Esby's upstairs apartment and lived there until I got pregnant with Kim. At that time, we bought the house on Parkview Circle, where we lived until we moved into the house on Lincolnton Road in 1966.

Additional information is organized under the following surnames:

Cress/Kress, Harris/Turner/Tomlin/Lundy, Kimball/Kimbold, Misenheimer, Penninger/Binager/Binnicker, and Wood/Kendrick

Cress/Kress- Barbara Cress was Mary Penninger's Grandmother. The Cress/Kress family was in the area that is now Cabarrus County when it was still part of Rowan. Our records show that Johann Nicholas Kress was married in Rowan County in 1750. He migrated here from Prussia a few years earlier. Our records also showed that he died in Prussia, which I think is unlikely that he would go back to his homeland from America. Early Rowan records also show that there was also a Daniel Cress and a Phillip Cress in Rowan before 1800. Perhaps they were sons of Johann Nicholas. The Kress family was in Prussia for at least 100 years prior to Johann Nicholas's departure.

Harris/Turner/Tomlin/Lundy- Martha Harris was the wife of Buckner Kimball (great-grandfather of William Wesley Kimball). Her parents were West Harris and Mary Turner, early Montgomery County settlers that migrated from Isle of Wight County, Virginia, where their ancestors had lived for several generations. These early ancestors were all of English origin.

Kimball/Kimbold-Our records indicate that about 1650, this family immigrated to Massachusetts from Suffolk, England, where the names actually evolved from the surname Kembold. About 1700, Joseph Kimball immigrated to Surry County, Virginia; then his son, Peter, moved to Granville County, NC about 1730. Peter's son Buckner, who served as an officer in the Revolutionary War, settled in the area that became Montgomery County, NC about 1770.

Misenheimer-The first wife of Henry Harris Kimball, was Margaret Misenheimer. We have not yet determined the parents of Margaret; however, she probably is a descendant of Johann Jacob Misenheimer. He came to Pennsylvania from Germany in 1743 and later, about 1775, moved to present day Mt. Pleasant, North Carolina with his family. The family worshipped in nearby St. John's Lutheran Church. In 1999 the Misenheimer Descendants erected a granite and bronze memorial to Johann and his family in the church cemetery.

Penninger/Binager/Binnicker-William Wesley Kimball married Mary A. Catherine Penninger in 1876. Her father, Paul Glenn Penninger, was born on Rockingham County, North Carolina and her grandfather, John Mathias Penninger, was born in Cabarrus County. His grandfather, Erasmus Amos Peninger, emigrated from Germany to the area that is now Mecklenburg County around 1750. In Germany, the name was spelled starting with a "B".

Wood/Kendrick- Dorcas Lee Wood was William Wesley Kimball's grandmother. Her father, William Wood, immigrated to Edgecombe County, NC from England in about 1760. Later the family moved to Randolph County. Dorcas Lee's mother, Martha Kendrick was also from Edgecombe County. Her father William Kendrick was probably of Scottish descent.