

EDEN EPPERLY

Eden Epperly, son of John M. and Nancy Phares Epperly, was born in what is now Floyd County, Va. April 10, 1814.

In 1836, when Eden was 22 years old and his brother David was 20, they jointly bought 130 acres of land from their father. Four years later they bought another 50. Part of this land joined what was then the "Howard Mill" property.

Eden married September 11, 1845 in Floyd County, Virginia, to Leah Gilham, daughter of William and Maria Goodykoontz Gilham. The minister was Jesse Jones. Eden and Leah were both school teachers.

Eden's ancestors (on the Epperly side) were Lutheran as were Leah's. His mother, Nancy, had joined the Primitive Baptist Church and that is the direction Eden took. He served as clerk at West Fork Primitive Baptist Church for 22 years. The church disbanded, because of the condition of the building, sometime after 1932 and eventually fell down. The twin chimneys and the two sets of stone steps still stand. This is on Rte. 221 just past county road 807, (Huff Cannery Road - formerly Shelor's Mill Rd.). Eden's son, John William Epperly and his family were also members in later years.

Eden and Leah were the parents of eight children, five of them dying as children.

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| 1. David LaFayette Epperly | b. 3/27/1847-d. 2/25/1851 |
| 2. Nancy Adaline Epperly | b. 7/23/1848 d. 3/5/1851 |
| 3. James Madison Epperly | b. 9/8/1849 d. 3/7/1851 |
| 4. Mary Gilliam Epperly | m. John Thomas Agee |
| 5. Elizabeth Epperly | b. b. 7/17/1854 d. 3/6/1856 |
| 6. JOHN WILLIAM EPPERLY | m. NANCY ADALINE CANNADAY |
| 7. Drusilla Epperly | b. 2/3/1860 d. 8/3/1873 |
| 8. Rosetta E. Epperly | m. John Allison |

Their daughter, Mary G. Epperly, married very young, and for several years she and her family lived with Eden and Leah. In the 1870 census Eden was shown as 55, Leah 49, John 13, Drusilla 10, Rosetta 5, John T. Agee 23, Mary G. 18, Olivia 1, Mattie 2 months. Under Production of Agriculture for 1870 Eden had 75 acres improved land 40 acres woods, 3 horses, 3 milk cows, 3 other cattle, 12 sheep, 2 swine, 49 bu. wheat, 60 rye, 25 corn, 100 oats and 10 bushel buckwheat.

EDEN EPPERLY - continued

Eden Epperly died February 7, 1876 and was buried in the "Ballinger" cemetery on a hill above Floyd county road # 807 about 1/4 mile off route 8 south. The cemetery is on a farm now (1989) owned by Kyle Lee. It was near Eden's home.

The land Eden and David had bought together as young men had never been legally divided until after Eden's death. May 3, 1880 the division was made.

JOHN WILLIAM EPPERLY

John William Epperly, son of Eden and Leah Gilham Epperly, was born in Floyd County, Virginia June 29, 1856. I know nothing of his life prior to his marriage, at age 18 (about six weeks before his 19th birthday).

John married May 16, 1875 to Nancy Adaline Cannaday, daughter of Stephen H. and Elizabeth Lemon Cannaday. They were married in Floyd County by Minister Wilson H. Dodd of the Primitive Baptist Church.

Eden Epperly, father of John, died in 1875 and in May, 1880 the land he had owned was divided. John's share of this was 55-3/4 acres. In July, 1883 he bought 39-1/4 acres from C. T. and Sallie Lemon and in 1884 he bought 30 acres plus 70 poles from his sister and brother-in-law Mary G. and John Thomas Agee. In October 1899 John bought "eleven acres of land with the mill site and water and mill priviledges and rights thereto belonging and appertaining" from Maude L. Howard and Carrie Dobyms and known as the Ira Howard Mill property. I am sure John and Nancy owned more land as there are records of them having sold 49 acres to his sister, Rosetta, 31-7/8 acres to John T. and Mary G. Agee and 151 acres to his sons Arthur, Levi and Isaac. The land sold to his sons was described as beginning at a stake in Patrick Turnpike and joining lands of Thomas, Cannaday and Ballinger.

In April 1901 John mortgaged the mill property for a debt to Salem Machine Works for mill equipment. The deed of trust was released in December 1902 having been paid in full.

John and Nancy lived about 3 miles southwest of the town of Floyd in a large lovely home that was later the home of Floyd and Annie Smith. The road number is now (1989) county road 720 which is off state route 221 south. The huge mill still stands across the road and is owned by a relative of Floyd and Annie Smith. It was used for a while for a food co-op but now stands idle. Some of the mill machinery is still there.

John William Epperly was a farmer, miller, blacksmith, carpenter and quite skilled in all kinds of woodworking. He was, we are told, a stern disciplinarian and a staunch believer in the teachings of the

John William Epperly

Continued

elders of the Primitive Baptist Church. He and his family attended West Fork Primitive Baptist Church. The church has fallen down now but the twin chimneys and stone steps still stand.

After the death of Nancy in February 1928, John married her widowed sister Emmazetta Cannaday Weddle. He died December 31, 1931 and was buried in the "Ballinger" cemetery near his home on county road 807 (off state rt. 8 south) on a farm now owned by Kyle Lee. His parents, his wife, her parents and at least four grandchildren were also buried there.

John William and Nancy Adaline Cannaday Epperly were the parents of eleven children and for many years, after the death of his father, his mother and younger sister made their home with him. As far as I know, they spent their entire life in Floyd County.

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| 1. | Arthur Emanuel Epperly | m. | Sallie DeHart |
| 2. | Levi Gilliam Epperly | m. | Clara V. DeHart |
| 3. | Isaac Lafayette Epperly | m. | 1st. Linda Weddle
2nd. Nellie Witham |
| 4. | Etta Mae Epperly | m. | Daniel F. Smith |
| 5. | Callahill Minnis Epperly | m. | Linnie E. Cannaday |
| 6. | LAURA EPPERLY | m. | JOHN TAYLOR AGEE |
| 7. | Fitzhugh Lee Epperly | m. | Alzora Ratliffe |
| 8. | Giles Monroe Epperly | m. | Eugenia Draper |
| 9. | Leah Elizabeth Epperly | m. | Edgar Vernon Roop |
| 10. | Julia Epperly | m. | Lorenzo Dow Blair |
| 11. | Florence Epperly | m. | Coy Raymond Cole |

OUR GILHAM ANCESTORS

WILHELM GILHAM m. MARIA "POLLY" GOODYKOONTZ

LEAH GILHAM m. EDEN EPPERLY

JOHN WILLIAM EPPERLY m. NANCY ADALINE CANNADAY

LAURA EPPERLY m. JOHN TAYLOR AGEE

GILHAM

The only records of Gilham immigrants to America we have found were from the records of "The Monmouth Rebellion" (I failed to note the author) and "English Convicts in America" by Peter Coldham - vol. 1 and 2. This we did at the Dover Public Library in Dover, Delaware in 1983.

I - The Monmouth Rebellion - Many rebels were transported to America in 1685 as a result of them being followers of the Protestant James Scott, Duke of Monmouth in his attempt to unseat the Roman Catholic James II, Duke of York as King of England. James Scott was imprisoned and later executed and his followers imprisoned or deported. Among these lists we found:

1. Josiah Gillham transported to America, 1685.

II - In "English Convicts in America" we found the following:

1. William Gilham, page 107, sentenced 10/1757. transported 3/1758 aboard "Dragon" to America.
2. Peter Gilham, page 59, sentenced Nov. _____ transported 11/1762 aboard "Prince William" to America from Middlesex county.
3. Joseph Gilham, page 59, transported to Va. 1738.

We need to remember that these "convicts" and "rebels" were seldom guilty of any crime more serious than having a different religious belief or disagreeing with the opinions of those in "higher places".

WILLIAM GILHAM

William Gilham was born in Pennsylvania in 1775 and lived for some years in Frederick County, Virginia before coming to Floyd County and settling on Dodd's Creek. He had married in Frederick County to Maria "Polly" Goodykoontz, daughter of ? and Anna Margaretha Gutekunst (the spelling of the name changed).

William and Polly's first three children may have been born in Frederick County, Va. The births and baptisms for the last five were listed in the Zion Lutheran Church Register, Floyd, Virginia. These records were written in German and have been transcribed.

William Gilham was a member of the Virginia Legislature from Montgomery County before the formation of Floyd County in 1831. The first list of Land Tax prepared in 1831 for Floyd County shows that he owned 290 acres of land on the South Fork of Little River (Dodd's Creek).

The first Order Book of Floyd County shows that in the April, 1831 term of court William Gilham was commissioned as Sheriff by the Governor. In the June, 1831 term of court Ezeikel Gilham was sworn into office as a Constable.

William Gilham died in 1831. We do not know where he was buried.

William and Polly were the parents of:

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| 1. Isaac Gilham | m. Polly Slusher |
| 2. Ezeikel Gilham | m. Bianna Wade |
| 3. David Gilham | m. Mary Howell |
| 4. Drusilla Gilham | m. Mathew Cox |
| 5. Naomi Gilham | m. Carter Cox |
| 6. Levi Gilham | No info. |
| 7. Lydia Gilham | m. Fleming Jones |
| 8. LEAH GILHAM | m. EDEN EPPERLY |