

deep distress and then I thought perhaps that sentence was passed to be cast into outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

I tried to pray that the Lord would have mercy on me. I remained in trouble for some time but after a while it seemed the sin of omission, that I had hid what the Lord had done for my soul. It appeared to be a sin for not making it known to the world what the Lord had done for my soul. I then felt it my duty to join the church and I told my husband but he did not want to hear me talk about it. But I could not put it off. The impression was so great that I could not be put off though I knew I intreated him often and was sorry to have to talk to him as I knew he did not want to hear it.

But after a while, he said to go and join the church and say no more about it for you will never be satisfied till you do. My thought ran on this scripture, "Fear not them that kill the body but after that have no more that they can do, but fear Him that is able to destroy both soul and body in Hell."

I saw a great deal of trouble about that time, as I hated to displease him, which I feared it would if I joined the church, but have reason to be thankful, for he never mistreated me or threw it up to me.

About that time on New Year's Day I was at home alone and composed a little piece of poetry which is this:

I dread to see the year commence
 In sorry grief and woe
 O! when will all my suffering cease
 And I shall sin no more
 When will the Lord in mercy come
 And all my foes subdue,
 Before another year shall run
 Create us all anew
 Then let us seek the kingdom first
 And all things he will add
 For the blest Lord himself had said
 He would all things provide
 My dear companion go with me
 Forsake all sinful ways,
 Lest God should angry be with us
 For trampling on his Grace.

And I joined the Dunkard Church and was rejoicing as I went home, saying to myself (gathered in to the fold with God's people enrolled with God's people to live and to die). But I am such a stumbler that it appears I am not worthy to be counted among christians, for after a while I became dissatisfied as they took them into the Church without having any experience as one of them told me, and I thought how can we call each other Brother or Sister when we have little or no hope of their being changed from nature to Grace. They are very kind, they visit around every year, but never asked about my experience and if I said anything about it they gave me but little answer.

Saying it was a secret between the Lord and myself, which it was, but I felt I must tell it to the church.

And I will tell a little about some of my trials. I have been pressed upon so often and in different ways that my memory would fail though I can say that I prayed night and day, yet I had to go to such and such a place to pray.

When my children were all in bed and I thought asleep, I had to go and kneel by each one and pray for them. Sometimes when I was busy at work or about to sit down to eat, I had to go to such a place and pray first. One time I had to go where the lightning had struck a tree, once I went to a place I had been called before, and when I started to the house it seemed to impress my mind that I must go to all the places I had frequented and I think I stood still grieving about leaving the children so long, or dreaded the journey round, but these words came to my relief. Hitherto shalt thou come and no farther and here shalt thy proud waves be stayed. Then I was glad and went home.

At another time we had been abroad, and not more than half a mile from a place we had lived at, it seemed that I must go to a place and pray where I used to go, but we passed on and that night later I cried and told Him all about it, for I thought something dreadful would happen for my disobedience but he told me to pray where I was would do as well, but the next day my little sister came and I asked her if she would stay with the children till I went on some business. She said she would and I went to that place which was three miles, and when I reached the place I knelt down but could not stay, for I was so frightened, it seemed as if a bear was ready to devour me, but I believe it was old satan that drove me away.

But with all my trials and temptations I enjoyed some precious promises. Once I was in a deep distress about my husband and the words came to me that J_____ would be the means of turning him, but I will leave that to the Lord, for he knows all things. And sometime after that these words came in my mind, Blessed is she that believeth for there shall be a performance of the things that was told her from the Lord. At another time the words came with joy. If God the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.

So after awhile I joined the Baptist Church where I have remained till now, as it appears we can see eye to eye and speak the same things, but the half has never been told and what I have told is in such a blundering manner that I fear it can't be understood, for I have run over it in such haste and did not take time enough to explain it all as it ought to be done.

I will give a description of my parents as I understood it from them. Amariah Phares was my father's name. He was born in New Jersey. He said he was married when he was about 19 years old and his wife died a left a little daughter only six weeks old and the war came on and he was 5 years off and on the Revolutionary War. He said when he left home he gave his brother John 20 pounds to educate his child if he never returned. After the War was over he taught school from one place to another, and came to Franklin County where he married Elizabeth Beheler of German descent.

They had 8 children, 2 boys and 6 girls. My father taught school most of his time and could not fill all the places he was requested to fill. He had very good education for those times. He died in his 72nd year. Mother was 20 years younger and died in the 72nd year also.

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I have written a small portion of my experience for the benefit of my children and grandchildren, if it pleases the Lord to bless my labours it may do good, which I hope it will through the mercy of our God.

Nancy Epperly

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Nancy Phares Epperly was two months short of her 85th birthday when she wrote this. Six of her eleven children had died and her husband John M. Epperly had been dead 21 years. She was living with her son Jesse and his family in Christiansburg. Nancy died less than two years later on January 21, 1881.

This manuscript was copied from the original by her great granddaughter, Mary Kyle Allison Williams, December 1968. Nancy Epperly's daughter must have had the original, as Mary K. Williams mentioned having visited Aunt Nancy Altizer. Nancy Altizer was the daughter of John M. and Nancy Phares Epperly. She had married William Altizer. I do not know if this is an exact copy of Nancy's manuscript or if punctuation, spelling or grammatical changes have been made.

Eugenia Callison Agee

1989

OUR SOWERS (SAUER) ANCESTORS

JOHN SAUER m. SOPHIA _____

CATHERINA SAUER m. JACOB EBERLE, JR.

JOHN M. EPPERLY m. NANCY PHARES

EDEN EPPERLY m. LEAH GILHAM

JOHN WILLIAM EPPERLY M. NANCY ADALINE CANNADAY

LAURA EPPERLY m. JOHN TAYLOR AGEE

JOHN AND SOPHIA SAUER (SOWERS)

John and Sophia Sauer (Sowers) were living at Manor Hundred in Frederick County, Maryland on December 31, 1784 when John wrote his will. They were German and signed all documents in German.

John left his plantation and all the income thereof to his wife, Sophia, until his youngest child, Philip, was 15. At that time his property, both real and personal, was to be sold and divided - 1/3 to his wife and 1/6 of the balance to each of his children:

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|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. John Sower | m. Catherine Morricle |
| 2. Catharina Sauer | m. Jacob Eberle, Jr. |
| 3. Jacob Sower | No information |
| 4. Margaret Sower | m. Philipp Kappel |
| 5. Juliana Sower | No information |
| 6. Philip Sower | No information |

John Sower had died by February 19, 1785. His will was recorded in Frederick County, Maryland Will Book GM 2, page 143.

CATHARINA SAUER

Catherina Sauer was born in Frederick County, Maryland and married there April 5, 1785 to Jacob Eberle, Jr., son of Jacob, Sr. and Elizabeth Eberle. They were married in the Monocacy Church in Frederick County, Maryland. This was all recorded in German and later translated.

"April 5, 1785 - Jacob Eberle and Catherina Saurin proclaimed 3 times. Witnesses: George and Christina Eberle. Johann and Jacob and Margreth Saur". The "in" added to Catherina's last name indicated unmarried female.

Jacob and Catharina Sauer Eberle were the parents of thirteen children, the first 6 born in Frederick County, Maryland. The other seven after they had migrated to what is now Floyd County, Virginia between 1792 and 1795.

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|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Eliz. "Betsy" Epperly | m. George Spangler |
| 2. Catherine Epperly | m. William Lampe |
| 3. George Epperly | m. Sally Sowers |
| 4. JOHN M. EPPERLY | m. NANCY PHARES |
| 5. Jacob Epperly | m. Polly Howery |
| 6. Juliana Epperly | b. 4/16/1795 d. by 1849 |
| 7. Soloman Epperly | b. 5/14/1797 d. by 1849 |
| 8. Maria Epperly | b. 2/12/1799 d. by 1849 |
| 9. Philip Epperly | m. Rhoda _____ |
| 10. Polly Epperly | m. Jacob Sowers |
| 11. Margaretha Epperly | b. 12/9/1803 -No info. |
| 12. Sarah "Sally" Epperly | m. James P. Lawrence |
| 13. Daniel Epperly | m. Elizabeth Lawrence |

Catherina was dead by 1849 when her husband, Jacob, wrote his will. I am told that she, her husband and four of their children were buried in Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery. We have not located the graves.

JOSHUA and HESTER WRIGHT

Joshua and Hester Wright were the names given as parents on the death certificate in Patrick County, Virginia of Martha Cannaday. The Wrights reportedly came from Rockingham County, North Carolina. We have learned nothing more about them.

MARTHA "PATSY" WRIGHT

Martha "Patsy" Wright, daughter of Joshua and Hester Wright, was born April 8, 1792. She married at the age of 12 to William Cannaday, son of James and Elizabeth Raikes Cannaday.

Patsy's death was reported by her husband to be December 28, 1857. She died in Patrick County, Virginia of Palsey at the age of 65 years 8 months. At the time of her death she and William lived on Smith's River.

Martha "Patsy" Wright Cannaday was the mother of 24 children which included three sets of twins. Her grave-site has not been found.

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| 1. Nancy Cannaday | m. Anderson Taylor |
| 2. Mary Cannaday | m. John Randolph Hall |
| 3. James B. Cannaday | m. Charlotte Agnew |
| 4. Martha Cannaday | m. John Moran |
| 5. Fleming Cannaday | m. Susannah Thomas |
| 6. Pleasant Cannaday | m. Deborah Hall |
| 7. Delilah Cannaday | m. James S. Moran |
| 8. William Cannaday | m. Elizabeth Hylton |
| 9. Joshua Cannaday | m. Lydia Short |
| 10. Constantine Cannaday | m. 1st. Sarah Hall
2nd. Elizabeth Martin |
| 11. Susan Cannaday | m. Lewis Burnett |
| 12. Jacob B. Cannaday | m. Ellender Cannaday |
| 13. STEPHEN CANNADAY | m. ELIZABETH LEMON |
| 14. Randolph Cannaday | m. Mary Jane Via |
| 15. Marshall P. Cannaday | m. Ann Sumpter |
| 16. John Cannaday | m. Sally Bartlett |
| 17. Elizabeth Cannaday | m. Reuben Rakes |
| 18. Mahala Cannaday | no info. |
| 19. Hester Cannaday | no info. |
| 20. Burwell Cannaday | no info. |
| 21. Ira Cannaday | no info. |
| 22. Granvel Cannaday | no info. |
| 23. Tommy Cannaday | no info. |
| 24. Died at birth | |

PETER and MARY YOUNG

Peter and Mary Young lived in the western portion of Franklin County, Virginia as shown on the tax lists of that county in 1786.

On January 27, 1792 Peter bought from Benjamin Hale 190 acres of land on the South side of Pigg River. This is recorded in Franklin County Deed Book 2 on pages 402 and 403.

Only four of the names of their eight children are known to us:

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| 1. William Young | m. Jane _____ |
| 2. Sally Young | m. James Cannaday, Jr. |
| 3. JOSHUA YOUNG | m. NANCY WALKER |
| 4. Peter Young, Jr. | m. 1st. Malinda Mosley
2nd. Elizabeth Galasspy |

JOSHUA YOUNG

Joshua Young, son of Peter and Mary Young, was one of the early settlers of Floyd County, Virginia. He married November 14, 1798 to Nancy Walker, daughter of John Walker.

Joshua and Nancy lived east of the town of Floyd. In 1831, when the county was formed, they owned 428 acres of land on Little River.

They lived, died and were buried on their farm. Their son, George, later spent his entire life on the same farm and was buried in the same cemetery.

Joshua and Nancy Walker Young were the parents of:

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| 1. George Young | m. Nancy Jane Agnew |
| 2. John Young | m. Delphia Turner |
| 3. Elizabeth Young | m. Pleasant Cannaday |
| 4. SALLY YOUNG | m. ISAAC LEMON |
| 5. Mary Young | m. 1st. Anderson Jones
2nd. Stephen Hill |
| 6. David Young | m. Sally Fisher |
| 7. William Young | No information |
| 8. Jennie Young | No information |

SALLY YOUNG

Sally Young was born in 1811 to Joshua and Nancy Walker Young. She married Isaac Lemon, Jr., son of Isaac, Sr. and Vina Richardson Lemon.

They lived in the eastern part of Floyd County, Virginia about 5 miles southeast of the town of Floyd.

Sally and Isaac were the parents of:

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|-----|-----------------|----|---------------------|
| 1. | Nancy Lemon | m. | Naaman Shortt |
| 2. | Amanda Lemon | m. | Col John Williams |
| 3. | ELIZABETH LEMON | m. | STEPHEN CANNADAY |
| 4. | William Lemon | m. | Martha Jane Short |
| 5. | Crawford Lemon | m. | Sally Albright |
| 6. | Thomas Lemon | | Killed in Civil War |
| 7. | John Lemon | | No information |
| 8. | America Lemon | m. | Burwell Young |
| 9. | Malinda Lemon | m. | Haden Epperly |
| 10. | Eliza Lemon | m. | Andrew Weddle |
| 11. | Emmeline Lemon | m. | Caleb Tice |
| 12. | James Lemon | m. | Margaret Moore |

After the death of Sally Young Lemon in 1862, Isaac married Susan Shortt Turner. They were the parents of:

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| 1. | Minerva Lemon | m. | Samuel Rakes |
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