

THE GRAYSON GENEALOGIES

by Richard Grayson

April 1984

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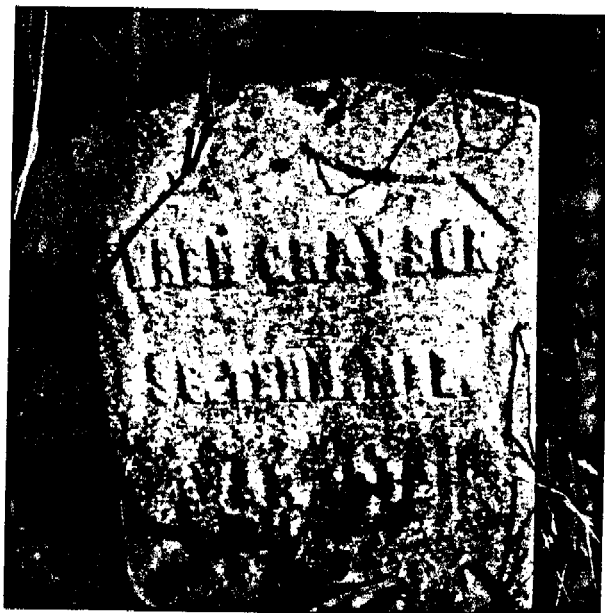
CHAPTER 1.

WREN GRAYSON, SENIOR 1782-1865

At Hovermale (Wyanoose) Cemetary, 4 miles North  
of Westport, Indiana. The gravestone of:

WREN GRAYSON SR.

3 E. TENN. MIL.  
WAR 1812



WREN GRAYSON, SR.

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

BY

RICHARD R. GRAYSON, M.D.

The progenitor of the Graysons of Madison, Indiana, and Decatur County, Indiana, was Wren Grayson. He was born in North Carolina in 1782 and died in the home of his son, Sanford, June 1st, 1865.

The earliest available document of his life is a tax list for Scott County, Ky., dated April 27, 1805: "GRAYSON, WREN: 1 white male above 21. No slaves. 2 horses." No land was mentioned. The tax lists do not show white females and therefore the presence of his first wife, Betsy nee Owens, is not shown. Surprisingly, he was not on the tax lists for previous years (to 1794) and for years after 1805. Other Scott County records are not extant because the court house burned with all records in 1838.

Wren Grayson was 23 years old in 1805 and possibly had migrated from North Carolina to Kentucky either on the Wilderness trail of Daniel Boone, who also came from North Carolina, or down the great water highway, the Ohio River. Three years earlier the father of his future daughter-in-law, Permelia, had arrived in Kentucky from a state as yet undetermined by way of the river. In the obituary of ANDREW CLARK CUMMINS, who died Jan. 1st, 1864, at the residence of his son-in-law, John Grayson, in Madison, Ind., it was stated: "He passed down the Ohio River in 1802 and stopped this side of Hanover and the men chased a deer."

The first child of Wren and Betsy was born six months after the tax list mention. This was JOHN WREN GRAYSON, born Nov. 2nd, 1805, in Scott County, Ky. He was the only one of eight children of Wren to be born in Kentucky, and 25 years later John's first child, Rebecca, would be the only grandchild of Wren to be born in Kentucky.

Let some of the next years fall directly from the pen of Wren's son, John, whose brief autobiography was included in his obituary published by the Madison Courier Feb. 1st, 1882:

"I was born in Scott County, Ky., the second day of November, 1805. My father's name was Wren Grayson and my mother's maiden name was Betsy Owens. I have six brothers and one sister: brother Lewis died in childhood and another, Henry, died after raising a large family. My other brothers are Wren and Sanford Grayson of Decatur County and Joseph and Benjamin Grayson of Tipton County, Indiana, all men of honest repute among those who know them. My only and beloved sister is Mrs. Nancy Hamilton, widow of William Hamilton of Decatur County.

"In 1807, when I was two years of age, my parents moved to Tennessee and settled in Bledsoe County. There I almost grew to manhood and was familiar with the scenes

and incidents attendant upon those early times, in adventures with Indians and wild animals in Sequatchie Valley and upon the Cumberland mountains."

Why did Wren Grayson move to Tennessee in 1807? For one thing, the grass looked greener to a great many people on the frontier at that time. Movement was common then as now, and if we think that the mobile society with its future shock began with the automobile, we should re-read the history of America. Bledsoe County was created at the time the Graysons were moving into it, making them among the first settlers there. The county was formed by an act of the legislature Nov. 20, 1807, from a part of Roane County and named in honor of Col. Anthony Bledsoe, a Revolutionary hero and a judicial and military leader in the formation of the state of Tennessee (1796).

By 1810 the population of this frontier county had grown to over 3,000 with more than 200 black slaves. Bledsoe was the only county in the Sequatchie Valley all the way down to the Alabama line until 1817 when Marion County was created at the lower end of the Valley. By 1820 the population of Bledsoe County was 4,000 with 400 slaves.

A description of the settlement of Tennessee from a history of that state suggests the method whereby Wren and Betsy with their little two-year-old arrived: "Home-seekers poured in from the Carolinas, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and even New England. They came with Revolutionary War land-grants, either earned in service or purchased from veterans or speculators. Many of them came simply as squatters. The old Wilderness Road and Avery's Trace were congested with movers during the summer months - great top-heavy Conestoga wagons drawn by oxen, broad-tired farm wagons piled high with household goods, and crude sledges with runners of hickory or oak; befrilled gentlemen astrid blooded horses, rawboned farmers on hairy plow-nags, immigrants too poor to afford horse or ox plodding through the dust clouds with their meager belongings and children on their backs - all moving toward the promise of land in Tennessee. Other thousands came by keelboats poled up the Cumberland and Tennessee from the Ohio."

By the time four of their children had been born, namely John (1805), Henry (1808), Wren Jr. (1812), and Joseph (1814), the War of 1812 had come too close for Wren to stay out of it. He traveled 100 miles to Knoxville at the age of 32 where he enlisted as a private on Sept. 13th, 1814. He was in Capt. James Tunnel's company of the East Tennessee militia in the 3rd (Johnson's) regiment.

Wren's obituary mentions that he was at the "Fall of Mobile". This was possibly Feb. 11th, 1815. Although the peace had been signed the war was continuing. At the end of January, 1815, the British decided to use their defeated New Orleans force to salvage something from their disastrous expedition. They attacked Fort Bowyer at the mouth of Mobile Bay. On the night of the 7-8 Feb., 600 British troops were landed three miles east of Fort Bowyer. It was decided to avoid losses by erecting batteries in a position to bombard the fort. These were completed by the 11th, and the American garrison surrendered. The American garrison consisted of less than 400 men along with a small number of women and children.

Before further operations could be carried out, Admiral Cochrane on Feb. 13th received news of the treaty of Ghent. Operations were suspended in order to await the news of the ratification of the treaty.

Wren was discharged from service May 3rd, 1815, after serving 7 months and 20 days, including 6 days travel time. He was paid at the rate of \$8.00 a month and received a total of \$61.33. This information is from copies of his military records on file in the National Archives.

Two other proofs of the Graysons' sojourn in Bledsoe County have been discovered: Wren signed a petition in 1815 in Bledsoe County "to delay enactment of the Land Law during the war between Great Britain and the United States" (his name was mis-spelled Ren) and his name also appears on a tax list for 1815. Again the fiery finger of fate inhibits our search for documents: the Bledsoe County courthouse in Pikeville burned with all its records in 1908 and the Marion County courthouse where Wren conceivably could have had records burned in 1922.

We know that the family stayed in Tennessee at least through 1824 because the last of the children, Sanford, was born in Tennessee that year as shown in later census schedules from Indiana. Sometime before 1829 they apparently left for Scott County, Ky., where that year John married Permelia Cummins.

It is not easy to speculate why the Graysons left Tennessee to return to Kentucky. Perhaps some day we shall know. Did they leave relatives in Tennessee? This question is of importance for future genealogical research into Wren's origins. We have a clue passed to us from Mrs. Winslow Price of Louisville. (Her mother was Maude, daughter of Salathiel Grayson, who was one of John Wren Grayson's three sons). Mrs. Price remembers her grandfather, Salathiel (b. 1837, d. 1916) saying that when he was about 11 (1848) "they visited relations in Tennessee". This is a most tantalizing tale because we know from the census and other historical records that there were many other Graysons in Bledsoe and Marion Counties. Even today many of their descendants still live in Marion County.

In 1830 the Federal census for Scott County, Ky., showed two Grayson families and one Cummins family grouped on the same enumerator's page and therefore neighbors:

ANDREW CUMMINS; male 1, 50-60; female 1; 50-60; 0 slaves  
JOHN GRAYSON: male 1, 20-30; female 1, 20-30; 1 under 5; 0 slaves

It is obvious from these first two census entries that John Wren Grayson, age 25 (1830) had married and moved out of his father's (Wren) house. He moved to his own domicile near not only his parents' home but also his in-law's house. Andrew Clark Cummins was living with his wife and no children. We know from his obituary that there was only one Cummins child, Permelia. We know also from later records that the first child to be born to John and Permelia was Rebecca and thus we can reconstruct the 1830 census and state categorically that John, Permelia, and baby Rebecca were living in Scott County.

Another interesting inference becomes possible regarding the name Rebecca. It is likely that Rebecca, the baby, was named after John's stepmother. Therefore, despite the absence of marriage records we can assume that Betsy Owens Grayson died sometime between John's birth in 1805 and baby Rebecca's birth in 1830, giving Wren time to remarry and John time to accept his new step-mother.

Two lines further down the enumerator's page in the 1830 census of Scott County, Ky., we find Wren's name (mis-spelled Wriqn Grayson). According to both the 1830 and the 1850 census, neither Wren nor Rebecca could read or write. However, the power of attorney note he signed in 1815 is signed in an experienced manner suggesting he could write at least in a limited way.

WREN GRAYSON: Males, 1 40-50 (Wren at age 48)  
 2 5-10 (Benjamin age 10, Sanford 6)  
 1 10-15 (Joseph 15-16)  
 1 15-20 (Wren, Jr., age 17)  
 Females, 1 40-50 (Rebecca age 41)  
 1 10-15 (Nancy age 11)

The one child not accounted for seems to be Henry Grayson, the second eldest. If his age was correct in his death notice in 1862 (age 54) he was born in 1808 and therefore would have been 22 years old in the 1830 census. It is possible he had left home to work elsewhere. A complicating factor, however, is the fact that Wren Grayson, Jr., stated in 1872 that he came to Decatur County, Ind., in 1827. He would have been only 14 years old at the time, however.

When and why did the Graysons remove to Indiana? We know that everyone in all three households did in fact go to Indiana even including Andrew Cummins. In regard to the question of when they moved, we have a number of fixed dates which set the time before May, 1832.

Fact one: John and Permelia's second child, Sarah, was born in Indiana May 12th, 1832.

Fact two: Wren Grayson, Jr., age 20, married Lucinda Williamson Dec. 11, 1832; the license was issued Dec. 3rd in Decatur County, Ind. He was the second of Wren's children to marry.

If we assume that John and Permelia would have avoided a move during the latter part of her second pregnancy, say the last five or six months, then it becomes possible to speculate that the Graysons moved to Indiana during 1831.

The second question, why did they move to Indiana, can be answered only in broad outlines. John Wren Grayson apparently decided to find his fortune in the largest city in the midwest, Madison, Indiana, while the others went 60 miles to the north of that city to settle in Sandcreek township of Decatur County. Madison is in Jefferson County. Whatever John did in Madison is not known, but he temporarily changed his mind in 1836 and entered land near his brother on April 8th, 1836. On Oct. 31st of that year he registered his stock mark (brand), a swallowfork. The answer to the question, then, is that these Tennessee farmers went to Indiana for land.

In 1820 a new land law had been passed by the Congress called the Land Law of 1820. This act provided that public lands would be offered for cash at public auction for not less than \$1.25 per acre and that if any lands remained unsold after the auction they could be sold at private sale for the minimum amount.

Sandcreek Township, where the Graysons all lived for a time after John joined them in 1836, was established in May, 1825. This township contains some excellent bottom lands on Sand Creek which meanders through its entire length north and south. It also contains a large amount of level, rich land, some very hilly and broken, and also some of the white, flat, poor woods land.

Decatur County was a new part of the American frontier - make no mistake about that. The first marriage and the first birth recorded were in 1819 and the first death in 1820. The first brick house to be built in Sandcreek Township was in 1834. The completion of that home must have been worth celebrating!

Nothing more is known of Wren Grayson and his wife, Rebecca, until the 1850 census

when they are found living on the 9th of October in dwelling 224. Their son Sanford and family were in dwelling 225, Joseph Grayson and family in dwelling 222, and Benjamin Grayson with his family in dwelling 226. All were in Sandcreek Township, including Wren, Jr., in dwelling 64. Son Henry was in Jennings County at this time, and John Wren had moved back to Madison. The daughter, Nancy Hamilton, was living next to brother Wren, Jr., in dwelling 65 with her husband and children. Wren, Sr., was listed as age 68, farmer, born North Carolina. Rebecca was listed as 61, thus establishing for the first time her birth year as about 1789, born Virginia.

The Westport Baptist Church, according to the Rev. John N. Cassaday, was constituted Jan. 4th, 1851. There were 24 charter members. Among these was Leticia Grayson, probably Benjamin's wife. She was received into the church by baptism and dismissed by letter in 1857.

Rebecca Grayson, three years before her death, was baptised in the Westport Baptist church Jan. 5th, 1855. Wren Grayson's name is not found in the records of this church. His son, Wren, Jr., however, was buried from the same church in 1887. John Wren Grayson, who had been converted to the Presbyterian faith, Cumberland church, at age 17 in Tennessee, and his wife Permelia are found in the records of the Trinity United Methodist Church of Madison, Ind.

Rebecca Grayson died "at an advanced age, near Westport, Ind., on Oct. 28, 1858" according to an old newspaper account on file in the Indiana State Library in Indianapolis. She was about 69 years of age.

No further records of Wren Grayson are available except for his obituary which appeared in the Madison Courier June 3rd, 1865, on page 4, column 1. It was written so poignantly I suspect that his grandson, Andrew Jackson Grayson, a printer for that newspaper, might have written it:

"A letter from Sanford Grayson, Esq., dated at Westport, Decatur County, Ind., informs us of the death of Mr. Wren Grayson at his home in that place on Thursday, June 1st, 1865. The deceased was the father of John Grayson, Sr., who is one of the old inhabitants of Madison, and at the time of his death was eighty odd years of age - nearly as old as the Declaration of Independence. He served his country as a soldier in the War of 1812 and was present at the fall of Mobile when that city was captured by the British. He had in early life some thrilling adventures as a pioneer settler among the Indians, the wild animals of the forest, etc, but he will relate those scenes to eager listeners no more; his earthly journey is ended forever, and many who loved him mourn."

AMEN

March 1, 1974  
St. Charles, Illinois



WREN GRAYSON, Sr.: Addendum.

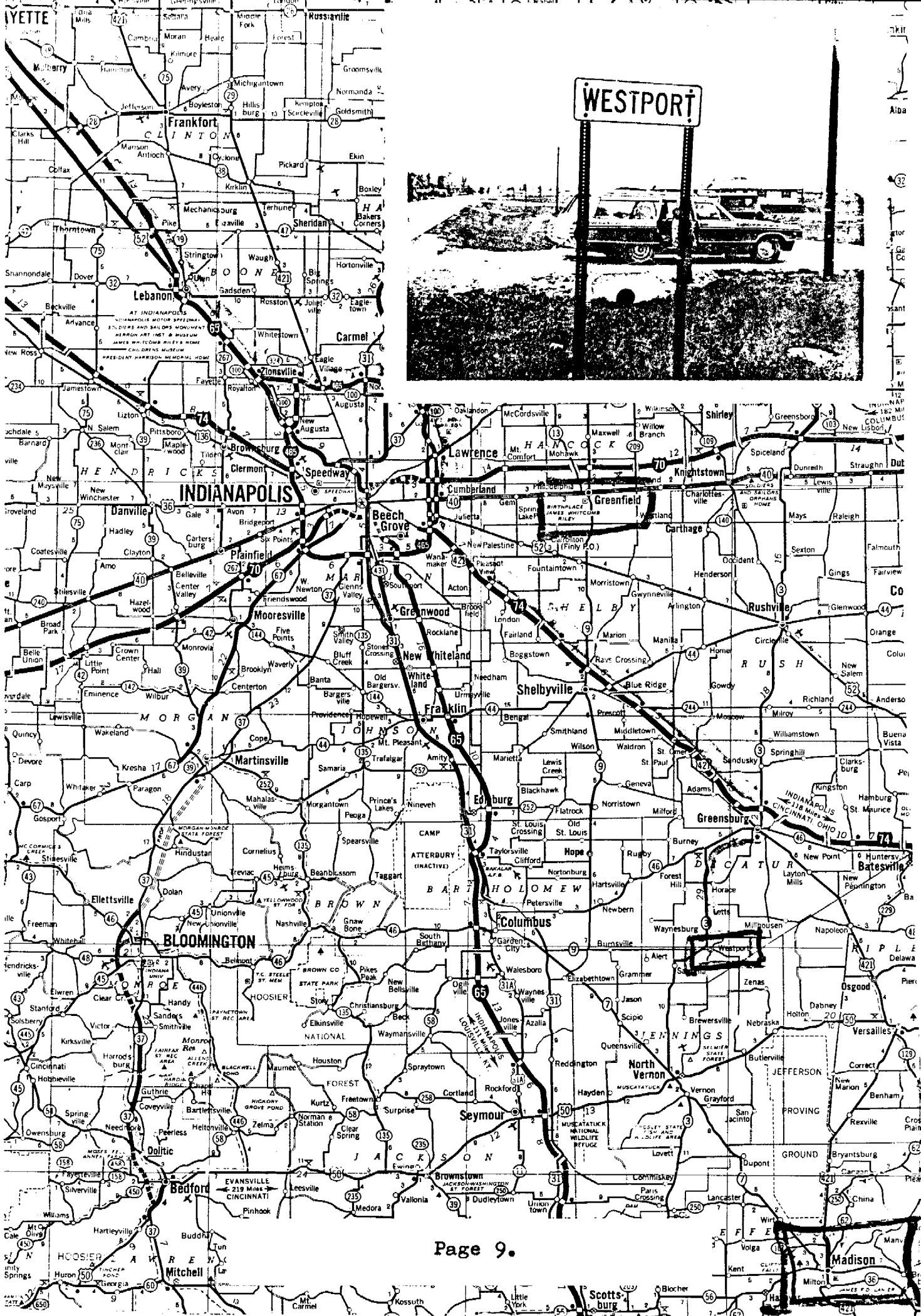
Wren Grayson's location in the year 1860 has been found; he was living with his son Joseph and their family in Decatur county, Indiana.

Recall that in 1850 Wren, sr. and wife Rebecca were living in their own household in Decatur county in dwelling 224 and that nearby lived sons Sanford, Benjamin, Joseph, and Wren, jr. John was in Madison. Henry lived in Jennings county in 1850.

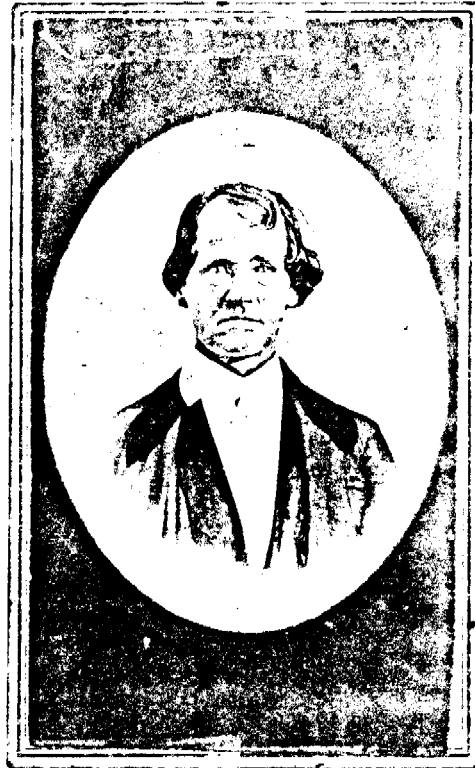
In 1855 Rebecca, wife of Wren, sr., died, leaving Wren alone. He then moved in with son Joseph and the 1860 census lists the family group thus:

Joseph Grayson	45	M	Farming	b. Tenn.
Matilda	"	43	F	Ky.
Rebecca	"	19	F	Domestic Ind.
Thornton	"	13	M	"
Permelia	"	11	F	"
Nancy	"	9	F	"
CaMarine	"	7	F	"
Ann E	"	4	F	"
WREN GRAYSON Sr.	79	M		N.C.

Note that Wren is listed as born in North Carolina as he was in the 1850 census, thus confirming that fact.



WREN GRAYSON, JR.



TOMBSTONE OF WREN GRAYSON, JR.

"BORN FEB. 14, 1813  
DIED APRIL 8, 1887  
74 Y 1 M 24 D"

## WILL GO TO GETTYSBURG.

### Another Tipton County Veteran Who Will Make the Trip.

There are two soldiers living at Sharpsville, who took part in the battle of Gettysburg. One of them Capt. W. B. Wilson, was given mention by the Tribune a few days ago. The other one is John T. Grayson. These are two two sole survivors of this fight now living at Sharpsville and both of them will attend the reunion on the battle field to be held this year.

Mr. Grayson was seventy-six years of age November 9, 1912, he being born in Decatur county, Ind., his father being Wren Grayson, a native of Tennessee and of Scotch-Irish parentage. His mother was Lucinda, daughter of William Williamson, also of Tennessee.

In the family of John T. Grayson's father, there were thirteen children, five boys and eight girls, twelve of whom grew to maturity.

The Grayson and Williamson families came from Tennessee to Decatur county in a very early day and it was there that the five boys grew to manhood, four of them enlisting for service in the army, the fifth being too young for duty. The grandfather Grayson fought in the war of 1812. His son, Wren, did not see any service, but furnished four boys for the civil war. Beryl Grayson went out with the 82nd vol. infantry, John T. was a member of Co. D. 7th infantry. Hiram belonged to the 52nd as did his brother, William H. Beryl, received a broken leg at Mission Ridge, this resulting from a gun

shot wound and it finally caused his death. The others fought through the war and were not wounded. They are living at this time.

John T. Grayson was the only one of the brothers who was in the army of the east and owing to that fact was the only one of the brothers taking a part in the fight at Gettysburg.

Mr. Grayson was in the fight at Winchester and helped to defeat Stonewall Jackson. He was at the second battle of Bull Run, Battle of the Wilderness, the latter May 6, 1864, and it was at that fight that he was taken captive along with forty others, including Col. Ira G. Grover, and they were sent to Andersonville. They remained there until it was reported that Sherman was marching on Andersonville, when he was removed, being sent to the prison at Florence. They remained there one month and were paroled. They were sent to Charleston and were exchanged. He says that transfer came to him with great pleasure as his prison life had been accompanied by many horrors. Much has been written about what the union men suffered at Andersonville and Mr. Grayson says that place was as black as it was painted.

Mr. Grayson was at the fight to the finish, but strange to say he did not get to fire a single shot. He was located along with a number of other soldiers in such a position that firing was useless, they being held in reserve. When Pickett made his famous charge, Mr. Grayson and his comrades were ordered into action, but before they could get into the fight, the charge was over and Pickett had retraced his steps through the bloody line. The union reserve was not needed.

The parents of Mr. Grayson died in Decatur county, and in 1866 he came to this county. November 1, 1866, Mr. Grayson was united in marriage to Lucinda, daughter of Harrison Smith, at that time a resident of Prairie township. There were five children born, two of them living at this time. They are Mrs. Seth Wheatley, of Tipton, and Mrs. Wallis Wilson, of near Newcastle.

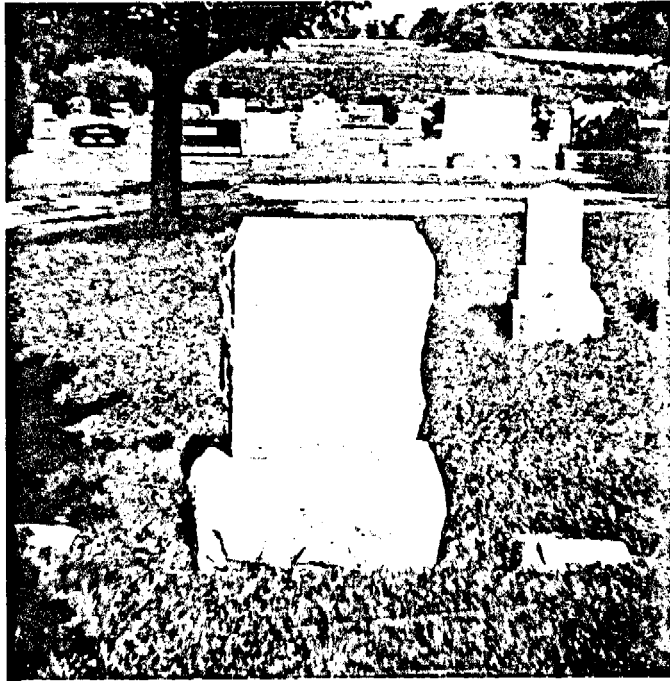
Mr. and Mrs. Grayson resided on a farm in Prairie township for many years, owning the farm of eighty acres at this time.

Twenty years ago he bought property in Sharpsville and has lived there since that time.

He is a member of the G. A. R. at Sharpsville and both himself and wife are devout members of the Methodist church. They are spending the afternoon of a long life in contentment, enjoying the esteem of all.

TWO MORE SONS OF WREN GRAYSON, SR.

JOSEPH GRAYSON



SANFORD GRAYSON



## Chapter 2

### THE TENNESSEE CONNECTION

of

WREN GRAYSON, SR.

by

Richard R. Grayson, M.D.

A letter\* written by Wren Grayson, Sr., dated April 6, 1847, has been discovered which proves that one of his brothers was Joseph Grayson of Marion county, Tenn. A second letter written by the sons of Wren Grayson, Sr., - Wren Grayson, Jr., Henry Grayson, and Sanford Grayson - to "Dear Cousins" and kept in the family of Henry Grayson, the son of the Joseph Grayson above, corroborates that the Wren Grayson, Sr., above, was the Wren Grayson of Decatur county, Indiana. Furthermore, both letters state that they were written at "Westport" (Ind.) The second letter is dated May 1, 1842.

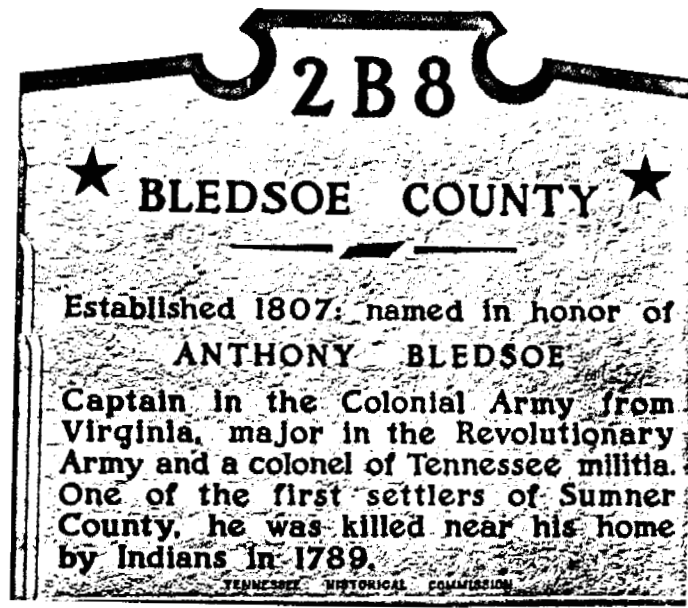
Letter number one above written by Wren Grayson, Sr., is directed to "Dear Nephew". The letter was in the hands of Henry Grayson, born Nov. 2, 1799, in Anderson county, Tennessee, the son of Joseph Grayson and Patsy Braizealle. Henry's son, Anderson Cheek Grayson, passed these and other letters down to his daughter, Myna Grayson, who is alive and lives with her daughter, Miss Bobbie Dykes, at 107 Brentwood Drive, Chattanooga, Tennessee. Miss Dykes owns the family Bible of Henry Grayson which lists the birthdates of Henry and Nancy plus their nine children. She has transmitted this information to me.

Wren Grayson, Sr., wrote the 1847 letter to his nephew, Henry, and, therefore, since Henry was the son of Joseph, Wren was the brother of Joseph. The letter by the sons of Wren, Sr., written to Joseph's son, Henry (and others), as Cousins further substantiates the conclusion that Wren and Joseph were brothers.

When Joseph married Patty (Patsy, Elizabeth) Brazeale on Dec. 10, 1798, the bondsman was Henry Brazeale (Knox county, Tenn., marriages, p. 415). Joseph Grayson paid \$500.00 to Henry Brazeal for 400 acres of land in Knox county, Tenn., on July (?) 20, 1801. (From copy of deed). Joseph Grayson also bought 400 acres of land from Stockley Donelson for \$400.00 on April 24, 1801. (From copy of deed).

Joseph Grayson was appointed one of the commissioners to select a place on the north bank of the Clinch River, between Isaac Ford and Samuel Worthington's home, for a court house, prison, and stocks for the use of Anderson county, which was created out of Knox county. The town was named Burrville, later

\* See end of Chapter 2 for copy of Letter.



changed to Clinton. The six other commissioners were William Lea, Kenza Johnson, William Standifer, William Robertson, Solomon Massengale, and Hugh Montgomery. The first court of pleas met in June, 1802, in the house of John Lieb where it continued to meet until the completion of the courthouse the following year (from History of Anderson county, Tenn.).

Joseph and Patsy Grayson came to Bledsoe county during their son Henry's childhood, locating in the neighborhood of Stephen's chapel. Later the family moved to Marion county. Marion county was created out of the southern part of Bledsoe county in 1817 (Compendium of Biography, publ. by Ogle Co., 1898).

Joseph Grayson, Sr., was said to be a blacksmith and a farmer and of English descent. (Biography of William H. Grayson, p. 341 in the Compendium above). He had two sons in addition to Henry (according to the History of North and West Texas, p. 105). They were Benjamin and Joseph Grayson, Jr. A land grant is recorded (Tenn. Archives) #22329, made to a Joseph Grayson for 70 acres of land in Marion county, Tenn., on Aug. 5, 1824. This must be Joseph, Jr., as the father apparently died in 1822-23. His will was probated in 1823 and is in the hands of Miss Dykes. The 1830 census furthermore places his death before that census in that Patsy Grayson was listed as a widow and as the head of the household in Marion county, age 50-59, with one man 20-29, one boy, three girls, and six slaves.

A Benjamin Grayson on April 5, 1824, claimed 90 acres of land in Marion county on the Sequatchie River next to the farm of Scott Terry. Was he the brother or son of Joseph Grayson, Sr.? There was a Benjamin Grayson in the 1830 Marion county census, possibly a brother to Joseph Grayson, Sr.: "Benjamin Grayson, oldest man 15-19 (father away?); five boys under 20, one woman 40-49; two girls under 15, eight slaves."

The two sons of Joseph Grayson, Sr., Benjamin and Joseph, Jr., "removed to Missouri where Joseph and his wife died, leaving a family of small children without means of support. Henry then went to that state and took the children back to Tennessee with him, caring for them until they were able to care for themselves." (History of North and West Texas, p. 105).

Another Grayson was in the 1830 census in Marion county:  
Jessie Grayson, age 50-59; three men over 19; three boys; one woman 50-59; three girls; ten slaves.

This undoubtedly is the same Jesse Grayson who signed the 1822-23 will of Joseph Grayson as a witness, making it certain that they were related. Since Jesse was born 1770-1780, and Joseph was born before 1777 (because of his marriage in 1798) the probability is that they were brothers.

Therefore, Wren Grayson, Sr., Joseph, Jesse, and probably Benjamin, all of Bledsoe and Marion county, were brothers; the first two proven, the last two probable. Two other brothers and two sisters of this group are suspected and are currently being traced through census and other records.

The father of Joseph and Wren Grayson is not known. However, it is stated in the biography of James M. Grayson, one of the sons of Henry, that his grandfather was Henry Grayson who came from England to Virginia. However, in this account (p. 105) an error is obvious, naming another Henry Grayson as the father of Henry Grayson who married Nancy Hixon, whereas we know conclusively that the father was Joseph. The suspicion remains, however, that if part of this account is correct, we might look for a Henry Grayson as the father or grandfather of Joseph and Wren, Sr.



Henry Grayson was married Sept. 11, 1820, to Nancy Hixon in Bledsoe county. She was born in Greene county, Tenn., July 22, 1799, died Nov. 10, 1881. Henry died Nov. 9, 1879. They had nine children:

1. Pleasant Grayson, b. Aug 3, 1821.
2. Louiza Grayson, Aug. 3, 1823.
3. William H. Grayson, April 12, 1826.
4. Patrick H. Grayson, Sept. 4, 1828.
5. James M. Grayson, May 16, 1831.
6. Sarah C. Grayson, Jan. 24, 1834.
7. Houston Grayson, June 8, 1837.
8. Joseph A. Grayson, April 24, 1839, d. July 1, 1840.
9. Anderson C. Grayson, Dec. 23, 1841.

(from the Henry Grayson family Bible through Miss Dykes).

Descendents of these Graysons with whom the author of this paper has spoken or corresponded so far (in early 1974) include:

1. Miss Bobbie Dykes, grand-daughter of Anderson Cheek Grayson, through Anderson's daughter, Myna Grayson Dykes.
2. Hallie Grayson Barker (m. Paul Barker), the daughter of Joseph Grayson, the grand-daughter of William H. Grayson. Address: 3613 Redding Road, Chattanooga, Tenn.
3. Miss Olive Grayson, Whitwell, Tenn., has brothers Roy and Oren Grayson; she is the daughter of William Grayson whose father was Marion Francis Grayson who was the son of William H. Grayson.
4. Otto P. Grayson, age 68, retired, in the field of public education and agriculture, son of James Moore Grayson, who was a son of Patrick H. Grayson. Address is Rt. 1, Whitwell, Tenn.
5. Frank W. Morrison, POB 462, Jasper, Tenn., states that E. Louisa Grayson, who married Joseph Burnette, is his grandmother four times removed.
6. Mrs. Lee Grayson, age 62, Rt.1, Whitwell, Tenn. Her husband, Lee Grayson, died age 81 in 1966 and they had no children. Lee was the eldest and only son of Joseph Anderson Grayson, who was the son of William H. Grayson.
7. Mrs. Walter C. Grayson, Rt. 1, Whitwell, Tenn. Her husband is deceased, was the son of William Grayson who was a son of Houston Grayson. They have 3 sons and 4 daughters.
8. Miss Mary Elizabeth Rogers, Rt. 3, Box 21, Whitwell, Tenn. Her mother was Edith Hudson who married Mr. Shirley Rogers. Edith was the daughter of Nancy Elizabeth Grayson who married Eliza H. Hudson. Nancy was a daughter of Houston Grayson. Miss Rogers wrote the "Houston Grayson Family Tree" of Marion county, Tenn.

Miss Rogers further stated that Henry Grayson (b. 1799) had two sisters:  
Patsy Grayson married Joe Rogers and they had one son, James Anderson Rogers.  
Jane Grayson married John Bailey.

March 18, 1974.

Addendum

Another piece of evidence linking Wren Grayson, Sr., to Joseph Grayson of Marion county, Tenn., and his descendants and other relatives lies in an affidavit made by Wren Grayson in 1850 when he filed for bounty land due him for serving in the war of 1812. Part of the document is quoted below, and was obtained from the National Archives, in Washington, D.C.:

"State of Indiana, County of Decatur: On this 2nd day of November 1850 personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace within and for the county and state aforesaid. Wren Grayson aged sixty year, a resident of the county and state aforesaid who being duly sworn according to law declare that he is the identical Wren Grayson who was a private in the company commanded by Captain James Tunnel in the Tennessee Regiment of Militia commanded by Colonel John Anderson in the war with Great Britain declared by the United States on the 18th day of June, 1812. That he was drafted at Knoxville in Knox county in the State of Tennessee on or about the first of September in the year of our Lord 1814 for the term of six months and continued in actual service in said war for the term of six months and was honorably discharged at Mobile in fort Charlotte, state of Alabama on or about the 20th of March, in the year of our Lord 1815, As will appear by the muster rolls of his company. The said Wren Grayson further states that he has lost his discharge above referred to by putting it in the hands of his brother Joseph Grayson who died shortly afterwards and never returned said discharge to the applicant which discharge is not now to be procured."

(Wren's brother Joseph Grayson died in either 1822 or 1823, as his will was probated in 1823. Wren Grayson left for Scott county Kentucky from Tennessee sometime during the decade 1820-1829. Possibly he left before Joseph died, thus making it difficult for him to recover the discharge paper.)

The age of Wren Grayson was not 60 years in 1850 and is in error in the above document. Many other documents are at hand indicating that Wren was born some time between 1780 and 1782. Therefore he was 68-70 years old when he applied for his land bounty in 1850.

*Richard R. Grayson, M.D.*

*Internal Medicine*

*Draft #1*

*24 Hour Telephone: 584-2250*

*103 West Main Street, St. Charles, Illinois*

CHAPTER 3

A SEARCH FOR THE ANCESTORS OF WREN GRAYSON, SR.

The North Carolina Connection

by Richard R. Grayson

4/28/74

The earliest land record of a Grayson in Wilkes County, North Carolina is recorded in the Land Book of Wilkes County, entry No. 530 dated 7th December 1778. The writing is difficult to read but appears to be for four hundred acres of land on Kings Creek adjoining the land of Edmond T. Estinding.

The second entry, even more illegible, appears to be also for Benjamin Grayson, dated June 19th, 1779. The entry is numbered 1038.

On page 651 of Deed Book D, dated 1784, the State of North Carolina granted 290 acres of land to Benjamin Grayson. This land was on Kings Creek and went West to "the dividing ridge between the county of Wilkes and Birk." The grant number was 544.

This was the same year that "Benjamin Grayson of the State of North Carolina, Morgan District, No. 4239," received nine pounds for militia service. Dated 31 July 1784. (Pay voucher on record at N.C. Department of Cult. Resources, Raleigh.)

The first two entries prove that Benjamin Grayson was a resident of Wilkes county before the time that Wren Grayson, Sr. said he was born in North Carolina (1782).

Since no other Graysons were in North Carolina at this time according to the records (see below re: Rutherford County), the evidence is compelling that the Benjamin Grayson of Wilkes County above was the father of Wren Grayson, Sr.

The N.C. State census, 1784-1787, confirms the presence of Benjamin Grayson in Wilkes County, Capt. Isbel's district, p. 176: Benjamin Grayson age 21-60, 5 white males under 21 and above 60, 3 white females, and no slaves.

THE LAND GRANT FOR BENJAMIN GRAYSON IN WILKES COUNTY, N.C.  
 GRANT NO. 544 FOR 290 ACRES ISSUED NOV. 9, 1784, ENTERED  
 JUNE 19, 1779 on KINGS CREEK



5<sup>th</sup> April 1782 Survey'd for Benj<sup>a</sup>  
 Grayson a tract of land lying in Wilkes County on Kings creek  
 Beginning at a pine Stake between some pine Pointers Near Com<sup>d</sup>  
 Gilley's corner Running Thence N<sup>w</sup>. Two Hundred poles to P<sup>o</sup>. N<sup>o</sup>. 4<sup>th</sup> Gum  
 on the Dividing Ridge Between the Counties of Wilkes & Burk Thence  
 S<sup>e</sup>. Seventy four poles to pine in the County Line Th<sup>e</sup>. with County  
 Line on the Dividing ridge S<sup>e</sup>. 54 E<sup>s</sup>. forty poles Th<sup>e</sup>. S<sup>e</sup>. 33 E<sup>s</sup>. sixty  
 poles Th<sup>e</sup>. S<sup>e</sup>. Fifty six poles Th<sup>e</sup>. N<sup>o</sup>. 25 E<sup>s</sup>. Ninety poles to some N<sup>o</sup>.  
 Saplings on the ridge Th<sup>e</sup>. E<sup>s</sup>. One hundred & fourteen poles to  
 pine on the side of the Punchey Mountain Th<sup>e</sup>. N<sup>o</sup>. to the first  
 Station Two hundred & Ninety Acres see the Plan

Edmond Gilley  
 Joseph Wooddall  
 J. C. Sparrers

Wm. Lledge Esq  
 J<sup>r</sup>. Weldon Esq

In 1790, one son had left home and one daughter, apparently; the 1790 census showed: Wilkes County; 9th company, p. 123; Benjamin Grayson; 3 males over 16, 2 males under 16, and 2 females.

The son who had left home was obviously the John Grayson of the 1790 census living nearby, listed as: 1 male over 16, and 1 female.

It must have been the above John Grayson who bought 100 acres of land for "60 pounds current money" from Thomas Shepherd on the middle fork of Kings Creek. The deed is dated 1st April 1791 and was "proved in court in the July term, 1791 by the oath of Benjamin Grayson." (Wilkes Co. N.C. Deed Book B-1, p. 148.)

John Grayson sold this same 100 acres of land for 55 pounds to Ann Wisdom on 16 Nov. 1794 (spelled ninty fore). The deed was not proven in the Wilkes County court until the January term in 1797.

The date of sale of the land by John Grayson in Wilkes County is too close to the date of a deed in Knox County, Tenn. to be a coincidence, for on 16 March 1797, a John Grayson bought land in Knox County. (Copy of deed from the county clerk.) This John Grayson, therefore, is the son of Benjamin Grayson of Wilkes County, N.C.

John Grayson also appeared on tax lists in Knox County, Tenn. in 1806, 1807, 1812, 1827 and 1828.

A Benjamin Grayson witnessed a will (Tenn. records, V.6) in Knox County 21 Nov. 1792. Benjamin Grayson was on tax lists in Knox County in 1802, 1806 and 1807. Was this the elder Benjamin Grayson of Wilkes County? Benjamin Grayson also was listed in 1802 in Capt. John Walker's company in Roane County, and was on the first jury in Roane County in 1805. Was the Roane County Benjamin the same person as the Knox County Benjamin? Roane County was established Nov. 1st, 1801, and extended from Anderson County and Knox County to the southern boundary of the state.

In Wilkes County, N.C. another mention of a Benjamin Grayson was in 1817 when will books 3 and 4 show Benjamin Grayson marrying an apparent widow with children, Mrs. Elizabeth Hubbard Kilby. The marriage is in the marriage book and Benjamin is listed as guardian for the children in the will books.

If it is assumed that the elder Benjamin went to Tenn. in 1792, then the 1817 Benjamin must be either his son or grandson. Elsewhere it is seen that there is no evidence for a son named Benjamin, so the 1817 Benjamin must be the grandson: a son of either John or William, but not of Joseph or Wren.

A third Benjamin Grayson exists which could be confusing: Benjamin Grayson, born in 1792 in North Carolina, married Nancy Regney in Knox County, Tenn., in 1815, was in the war of 1812, and was in Lawrence County, Indiana from 1836 and on. The date of his birth suggests he was the son of John Grayson (1790 Wilkes census) and the fact of his marriage in Knox County (where John went) would substantiate the notion. Therefore, the second Benjamin Grayson (who married Kilby in Wilkes County in 1817) must be the son of William Grayson. This fits the facts well, because William was the last one to leave Wilkes County, apparently selling out about 1824. (?)

Joseph Grayson married Patsy (Elizabeth) Brazeale on Dec. 10, 1798 in Knox County. Henry Brazeale was bondsman. (Knox County, Tenn. marriages p. 415.) Joseph Grayson paid \$500.00 to Henry Brazeale for 400 acres of land in Knox County on 20 July 1801. (from copy of deed.) He also bought 400 acres of land from Stockley Donelson 24 April 1801. (from copy of deed)

There are no land records for Joseph Grayson in Wilkes County, suggesting that Joseph came to Knox County with his father Benjamin when he was under age. There likewise are no land records in Wilkes county for Wren Grayson, suggesting the same. Wren would have been 10 years old in 1792 if that is when the family moved.

However, the possibility exists that the elder Benjamin Grayson did not move to Knox County in 1792. In the first place, Jesse Grayson did not buy any land until 1796 in Wilkes County, suggesting that he was home until then. He had other land transactions in 1798, 1804 and 1805, when he apparently moved to Knox County, Tenn. where he appeared on the 1806 tax list.

Furthermore, William Grayson first bought land in Wilkes County in 1799. There were other land transactions for William in 1800, 1801, 1809, 1810 and 1811. But what William Grayson was on a tax list in Knox County in 1807? There he was again in 1826. It looks as if William and Jesse bought their first land in North Carolina after the 1792 mention of their father Benjamin in Knox County. Perhaps Benjamin was scouting out the area in 1792 and then he returned home till about 1800-2, for he first appeared in Knox (and Roane) Counties in 1802.

A final argument showing Benjamin Grayson still in Wilkes County after 1792 is his name on the indenture for Jesse Grayson 16 August 1796 wherein Jesse bought land from a Mr. Coffey for 100 pounds on Kings Creek. Benjamin Grayson was a witness to this deed.

The importance of the name of Jesse Grayson lies in the fact that Jesse was a witness to the will of Joseph Grayson in Marion County in 1822. Jesse, therefore, links Joseph and his brother Wren to himself and this fact assures us that John and William and Benjamin were related. Furthermore, Jesse Grayson obtained 200 acres of land by grant from Tenn. on the NW side of the Sequatchie River on 9 June 1826 (grant #1613) and he and his family were in the 1830 census for Marion County.

The Benjamin Grayson of Knox County (1792, 1802, 1806 and 1807) and of Roane County (1802 and 1805) is the probable father of John Grayson of Knox County (1797-1828) and Jesse Grayson of Knox County (1807) who witnessed his brother Joseph Grayson's will in Marion County (1822). William Grayson also was in Knox County (1807-1826) and may have gone to Monroe County. If the Knox County Benjamin in 1805 was in Roane County, it seems likely that the Stacey Grayson who married William Brown in 1805 in Roane County (from early marriage records from Roane County clerk) was Benjamin's daughter. Stacey married 28 Oct. 1805.

The only other early female Grayson marriage in that region was Nancy Grayson who married John Edmondson 16 Sept. 1809 in Knox County. Therefore, Stacey and Nancy could have been the two daughters of the Wilkes County Benjamin Grayson. Stacey would have been born about 1785 and Nancy about 1789 or earlier. This may be wrong because one of the 3 females of the 1784-7 census had left home in the 1790 census of Benjamin in Wilkes County.

The importance of the Stacey Grayson marriage in Roane County lies in the name Stacey Grayson: there was a Stacey Grayson in Fairfax County, Va.: in the will of Ellzey Lewis (Fairfax Co. wills p. 47, 62), the daughter of Ellzey, a Stacey Lewis married 1st Burgess Berkeley, second a Benjamin Grayson. Their youngest children were 1. Benjamin 2. Susan 3. Sarah 4. Ann (Grayson).

The only record of a Grayson found by the clerk of Fairfax County, Va. (Jan. 1974) is an inventory of the estate of Benjamin Grayson from the county of Loudoun. The appraisal and inventory were sworn at a court in Fairfax County April 16th, 1760. The clerk was J.W. Wagoner. The appraisers apparently were Wm. Rush, Tho. Owsley, and Dan Jones. Witnesses were Ann Simons, Frances Dade, Edward Jones jun., Peter Terry, and William Burnett. A second inventory was appraised March 30th, 1760 and signed by Hen. Moore, H. Ross, and A. Henderson.

Apparently this Benjamin Grayson is from Loudoun County rather than from Fairfax County. Is he the same Benjamin who married Stacey Lewis? Does anyone know who that Benjamin was?

The dates on the Ellzey Lewis will are 1 Oct. 1786 and 19 Dec. 1786. What relationship could the Stacey Grayson of Roane County be to the Stacey Grayson of Fairfax County, Va.? This is the only lead available at present for tracing the Graysons of Wilkes County, North Carolina.

The John Grayson listed in the Wilkes County, N.C. census of 1790 was probably the oldest son of Benjamin Grayson. This John was probably the father of Benjamin Grayson, born in N.C. in 1792, who married Nancy Regney in Knox County in 1815, and was in Lawrence County, Ind. from 1836 on. John Grayson was in Knox County by 1797.

The 1830 Federal census in Knox County shows John Grayson and his wife living alone, both 60-70 years old. Presumably these are the same as the John Grayson first appearing in the 1790 Wilkes County census. If so, John's birth was 1760-1770, although if he married at 20, his birth was more likely about 1770, making him about 12 years older than his brother Wren.

Another John Grayson, probably son of William Grayson, appeared in the 1810 census of Wilkes County, age 16-25, 1 female 16-25, and 1 female under 10.

William Grayson, born about 1768, was in Wilkes County in the 1810 census, age 26-44 with 4 males under 16, 1 female 26-44, 1 female 16-25, and 4 females under 16. Who was the William Grayson on the 1807 tax list in Knox County?

William Grayson bought land in 1799, had a land grant in 1800, bought land in 1801 and 1807, had a land grant in 1815, and sold land in 1824 in Wilkes County, all on Kings Creek. Probably he is the same William Grayson who appears in the 1830 census in Monroe County, Tenn. living nearby are 4 other Grayson men who are probably his married sons:

1. William Grayson b. 1760-70 and family
2. Benjamin Grayson b. 1790-1800
3. John Grayson b. 1790-1800 and family
4. Joseph Grayson b. 1790-1800 and family
5. Henry Grayson b. 1800-1810 and family

Inferences: It would seem that Benjamin Grayson I, born ca. 1740-48, was in the N.C. Militia during the Revolution in Wilkes County; he received grants of land in 1778, 1779, and 1784. His first son was John, b. ca. 1770, married by 1790 who bought land in 1791 and who had children, one of whom was Benjamin b. 1792, (who married Nancy Regney in Knox County, Tenn. 1815).



Benjamin Grayson I had 5 sons and 2 daughters. Benjamin I went to Knox County, Tenn. and was last on a tax list in 1807. No other record of his exists after this year.

However, a mystery Benjamin Grayson family existed in the 1830 Marion County census. Consider:

Benjamin Grayson: oldest man 15-20. Oldest woman 40-50  
1 boy under 5, 2 boys 5-10, and 1 boy  
10-15; 1 girl 5-10; 1 girl 10-15.

Where was the head of this household? Was he a Benjamin Grayson, same age as the oldest woman (born 1780-1790)? Was he away or dead at the time of the census? There was no man present in this household who could have been old enough to be father to all the children. Let us consider all the Benjamin Graysons of the Wilkes County clan: 1. The oldest Benjamin was born perhaps 1740-1748 and would have been over 80 years old in 1830. 2. Benjamin Grayson who married Mrs. Kilby in 1817 was the probable son of William, and if so, was in Monroe County, not in Marion County in 1830. 3. Benjamin Grayson born 1792, son of John, married Nancy Regney 1815, was in Arkansas by 1824 according to the birthplace of a child in the 1850 census from Indiana. 4. Benjamin F. Grayson,<sup>3</sup> (son of Joseph<sup>2</sup> son of Benjamin<sup>1</sup>) was too young. 5. Benjamin, the son of Wren was too young. 6. Could there have been another son of Benjamin<sup>1</sup> named Benjamin? This could explain a Benjamin Grayson simultaneously in Knox and Roane Counties in 1802.

It will be interesting to see if there indeed was a "lost" brother of Wren Grayson named Benjamin who came to Marion County with Joseph and Jesse.

Benjamin's<sup>1</sup> sons followed him to Tennessee: John came first in 1797 to Knox County, possibly with Joseph, who married in Knox County in 1798. Jesse sold out in Wilkes County about 1805 and was on a tax list in Knox County in 1806. Joseph went to Anderson County, then to Bledsoe, and then to Marion County. Jesse Grayson went to Marion County before 1823. William Grayson went to Monroe County where 4 of his sons married and all 5 families were living in the 1830 census.

Meanwhile, Wren Grayson, Sr., probably the youngest of the 5 sons of Benjamin, born 1782, in N.C., left home for Scott County, Ky., before 1805, married Betsy Owens, and then came to Bledsoe County, Tenn. in 1807, with his first son, John Wren Grayson age 2, probably to be near his brothers Joseph and Jesse. There is no record available to show what happened to their father, Benjamin Grayson, but it is interesting that the last tax list mention of him in Knox County was 1807. This suggests that the father might have died or moved to Bledsoe County with Joseph and Jesse, there to meet Wren.

Where was this home that Wren Grayson, Sr. left before he was age 23? Was it in Knox or Roane County, Tenn.? Or was his father still living in Wilkes County, N.C.? No will has been discovered for Benjamin Grayson in either place.

John Abbott of El Dorado, Ark., reports a Joseph and a young Ben Grayson in the 1800 and 1810 census of N.C. in a county adjoining Wilkes.

What about the Rutherford County Graysons? We have not ruled out the possibility that Wren Grayson descended from that county. In the Colonial and State Records of N.C. 157-200 a Joseph Grayson witnessed a bill of sale in Rutherford County in the year 1782. This happens to be the year of birth of Wren Grayson, Sr.

Other records I have from Rutherford County are marriages in 1807: (Ruth. cty M. bonds, pp 109-110.): 1.) Joseph Grayson m. Lettice J. Melton 19 Mar. 1807; 2.) Isaac Grayson m. Polly Melton 20 Aug. 1807; 3.) Wm. Grayson m. Susanna Login 17 Oct. 1807; 4.) Joseph Grayson m. Rachel Vanzant 17 Dec. 1807.

The grantee index for Rutherford County lists many land transactions for Joseph Grayson from 1792 and on. The first entries for William Grayson and Benjamin Grayson are 1806, and for Issac is 1808. A Joseph Jr. is listed 1807.

Rachel Grayson's will is dated 7 June 1828. William Grayson's will is dated 1841. He mentions a son Benjamin, and 3 daughters, Sally Deviney, Patsy Queen, and Elizabeth Grayson. John M. Grayson was a witness.

The 1810 census for Rutherford County, N.C., shows 3 older Graysons and 2 younger, each head of a household:

1. Joseph Grayson: 1 free white male age 26-45, one 45 or older, and one free white female 45 or older, plus 5 slaves.
2. William Grayson: age 45 or older, one girl under 10 and 1 free white female age 26-45. No slaves.
3. Another William Grayson 45 or older, 3 girls under 10, and 1 female 45 or older. No slaves.
4. Benjamin Grayson age 26-45, 2 boys under 10, 2 girls under 10, and 1 female age 26-45. No slaves.
5. Isaac Grayson age 16-26, 2 boys under 10, 1 girl under 10, and 1 female 26-45. No slaves.

The first Joseph Grayson of Rutherford County apparently stayed there and had a son named Joseph Grayson, Jr., who stayed there. I think the second Joseph Grayson (Jr.) is the one who married Rachel Vanzant. But who was the Joseph Grayson who married Lettice Melton the same year (1807)? Even though a Joseph Grayson witnessed a bill of sale in 1782 in this county, that does not prove he lived there. The first land records of 1792 suggest that no Graysons actually were in residence till 1792.

BENJAMIN GRAYSON, SENIOR, of Wilkes county, N.C..

By, R. R. Grayson, M.D.

Benjamin Grayson first appears on 7 Dec. 1778 in the Wilkes county land book, entry no. 530, where Benjamin entered 400 acres of land on King's Creek adjoining the land of Edmond Tilley.

It is of interest that in the same month and the same year, a Joseph Grayson entered land in the county adjoining, that is, in Burke county. On 31 Dec. 1778 Joseph Grayson entered 100 acres of land lying on both sides of a branch of the first Little Broad River in Burke county. (Grant no. 387, book 44, p. 153.)

The second record of Benjamin Grayson in Wilkes county was 19 June 1779 for entry of 150 acres of land next to Edmond Tilley, no. 1038.

In 1784 on November 9th, in file no. 544, the state of N. C. granted to Benjamin Grayson 290 acres of land in Wilkes county on King's Creek near Edmond Tilley's farm.

Mrs. Mary Hammersmith of Naperville, Ill., has done a reconstruction of the map of the area and has written that the farm of Benjamin Grayson of Wilkes containing 290 acres, was adjacent to Joseph and William Holt and to Edmond Tilley. Benjamin Grayson's land was on the then Burke-Wilkes county line. This area is now within Caldwell county.

On July 31st, 1784, the Board of auditors of the State of N. C. paid Benjamin Grayson 9 pounds for militia service in the Morgan district.

Tax lists from Wilkes county show Benjamin Grayson every year from 1785 through 1800. In the year 1799 he was listed as Benjamin Grayson, senior. In 1799 also, a Benjamin Grayson, junior, was on the tax list for the first and only time, with zero acres and 1 poll. Benjamin, sr., had 290 acres and no polls that year.

In the first census, 1787, Benjamin Grayson was listed as 1 male age 21-60; 5 males under 21, and 3 females. In the 1790 census, there were 3 males over 16, 2 males under 16, and 2 females.

In the same year, 1790, John Grayson appears in Wilkes county in his own household as 1 male over 16 and 1 female.

Joseph Grayson appears on the 1794 tax list for the first time, then Jesse Grayson appears in 1797.

In the 1800 census Benjamin Grayson is listed: 1 male over 45, 1 male 16-26, and 1 female over 45. John Grayson, Joseph Grayson, and Benjamin Grayson, jr. are gone in the 1800 census. Jesse Grayson was present as 3 males 16-26, 1 male under 10, 2 females under 10, and 1 female 16-26.



State of North Carolina Morgan District  
 No. 4239. This certifies that the Board of Auditors  
 have Allowed Benjamin Grayson Nine  
 pounds for Militia Service

---

Asquith to an act of Assembly in such case  
 made & Given under our hands this 31<sup>st</sup> Day  
 of July An. Dom. 1784.

By Order  
 Wm. Miller  
 Clerk

J. Miller  
 Wm. Grayson

REVOLUTIONARY WAR WARRANT:

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA MORGAN DISTRICT No. 4239.

THIS CERTIFIES THAT THE BOARD OF AUDITORS HAVE ALLOWED BENJAMIN  
 GRAYSON NINE POUNDS FOR MILITIA SERVICE....

31 July 1784

Page 2.

The birth year of Benjamin Grayson, sr., was sometime between 1727 and 1755. This is calculated as follows: In 1787 he was listed as under age 60 ( $1787-60=1727$ ) and in 1800 he was ~~under~~ <sup>over</sup> age 45 ( $1800-45=1755$ ).

A William Grayson first appeared in Wilkes county in the 1800 census as 1 male 26-45, 3 males under 10, 2 females under 10, and 1 female 16-26. In the 1810 census, William Grayson was age 26-45, and in the 1820 census of Wilkes county, William was over 45. William Grayson was therefore born sometime from 1755-1775. (Under 45 in 1800;  $1800-45=1755$ ; over 45 in 1820;  $1820-45=1775$ .)

William Grayson attested to the handwriting of Jesse Grayson 15 Sept. 1802 in a deed recorded in Wilkes county in the May term of 1806

A new John Grayson presumably the son of William Grayson, appeared in the 1810 census a few doors away from William: 1 male 16-26 (born 1784-1794).

A new Benjamin Grayson appears in 1820 near William and John born 1794-1804.

A new Joseph Grayson appears nearby in 1820, born 1794-1804, also.

Inferences: Benjamin Grayson, sr. entered land in Wilkes county the same year that Joseph Grayson, who was probably his brother, entered land in Burke county. Joseph Grayson became the patriarch of the Rutherford county Graysons.

Benjamin Grayson, sr., had 5 sons and 2 daughters. The sons were John, Joseph, Jesse, and Benjamin, jr., and one other. The names of the daughters are unknown. The 5th son was apparently at home in 1800 at the time when a William Grayson appeared with his own family in the Wilkes census. The 5th son in 1800 was aged 16-26. The 5th son was thus born 1778-1784. This age is compatible with the known birth of Wren Grayson, sr., born 1782. Wren Grayson is the probable 5th son of Benjamin Grayson, sr., therefore.

William Grayson of Wilkes in 1800, therefore is not a son of Benjamin, but might have been a brother. The "new Graysons", John, Benjamin, and Joseph, in 1810 and 1820, were sons of William Grayson.

## CHAPTER 4

JOHN WREN GRAYSON  
A Biographical Sketchby Richard Roland Grayson, M.D.  
7/8/1974.

"I was born in Scott County, Kentucky on the second day of November, 1805. My father's name was Wren Grayson and my mother's maiden name was Betsy Owens.

"I have six brothers and one sister; brother Lewis died in childhood and another, Henry, died after raising a large family. My other brothers are Wren and Sanford Grayson of Decatur County and Joseph and Benjamin Grayson of Tipton County, Indiana, all men of honest repute among those who know them. My only and beloved sister is Mrs. Nancy Hamilton, widow of William Hamilton of Decatur County.

"In 1807, when I was two years of age, my parents moved to Tennessee and settled in Bledsoe County. There I almost grew to manhood and was familiar with the scenes and incidents attendant upon those early times, in adventures with Indians and wild animals in the Sequatchie Vallie and upon the Cumberland Mountains.

"I was always physically strong, healthy, and hearty. At the age of seventeen, at a religious meeting held at the house of Richard Stone, I began to be conscious about my condition as a sinner. Mrs. Stone had been converted to God, embraced the faith of the Cumberland Presbyterians, a very earnest set of Christian people.

"Mr. Stone, as soon as he had found peace, constantly appealed to his friends and neighbors to 'flee from the wrath to come.' While listening to him I was deeply convicted, felt very bad indeed, and was glad when the meeting closed, remarking as I left that they would not get me back there again. But the spirit of the Lord had taken strong upon me, and I realized the necessity of yielding to the call of my Master, and led by his help, to a new and better life." (Copied from the Madison Courier, Feb. 1, 1882; "an autobiography of the deceased written by him some years ago and carefully placed away by him.")

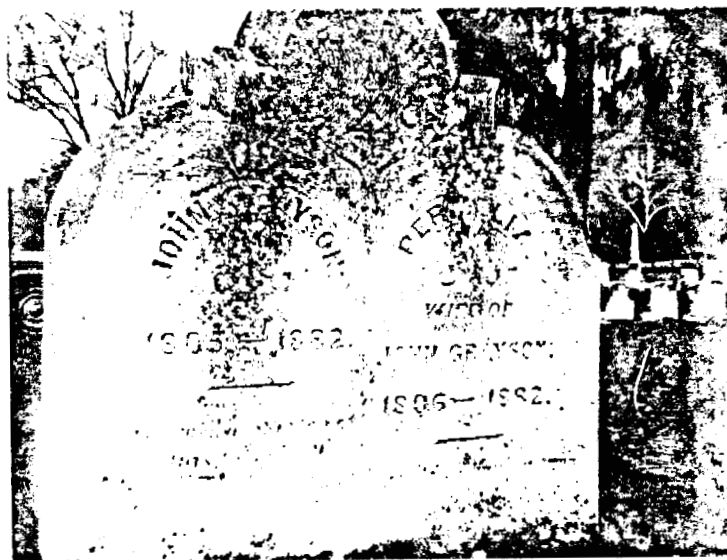
Records have not yet been found in Bledsoe County of the Wren Grayson family, so nothing more is known of these early years than the above. It is surmised that the family left Tennessee before John was 21, because he said "There I almost grew to manhood". If by that, he meant he left at the age 20, then the Wren Grayson family left Bledsoe County in 1825.

It is known that the family then moved to Scott County, Kentucky, from which they had left in 1807. The 1830 census shows:

(Page 156)	Males	Females	Slaves
Andrew Cummins	1, 50-60	1, 50-60	0
John Grayson	1, 20-30	1, 20-30	
		1 under 5	0
Wrign (Wren) Grayson	2, 5-10	1, 10-15	0
	1, 10-15	1, 40-50	
	1, 15-20		
	1, 40-50		



JOHN WREN GRAYSON AND PERMELIA



TOMBSTONES AT MADISON, IND.

# JEFFERSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

608 BROADWAY

P. O. BOX 204

TELEPHONE 265-2781  
265-2782

MADISON, INDIANA 47250

October 11, 1973

Richard R. Grayson, M.D.  
103 W. Main Street  
St. Charles, Illinois

Dear Dr. Grayson:

The only information concerning your ancestors is the date of death, cause, physician, and undertaker. It does not have the parents listed.

John Grayson  
Died; January 31, 1882  
age: 76 Born: Kentucky  
Cause: Malignant disease of stomach & lungs  
Dr. J.W. Conway  
Funeral Home; Vails Memorial, Madison, Ind.

Permelia Grayson  
Died: February 14, 1882  
Age: 76 Born: Kentucky  
Cause: Pul-consumption  
Dr. J.W. Conway  
Funeral Home: Vails Memorial Home, Madison, Ind.

This is all the information I have, I hope it is of some help to you. I'm not sending the death certificates so there is no charge. If you do want them at a later time, the fee is \$2.00 @.

*Deanna Smith*  
Deanna Smith, Registrar

ds

P.S. I called the Funeral Home and the only information they had was the same as ours. The more detailed information didn't start until around 1906.



John Wren Grayson married the only child of Andrew Cummins, Permelia. Her obituary stated that she "was born in Scott County, Kentucky, in 1806. Her maiden name was Cummins, she being the daughter of Major Andrew C. Cummins, who distinguished himself in the War of 1812. She was married to John Grayson in 1829, and removed with him to this state (Indiana) in 1837".

The 1810 census of Scott County, Kentucky, showed Andrew Cummins age 16-25, his wife, age 16-25, one daughter under 10.

Andrew Cummins had arrived in Kentucky by way of the Ohio River in 1802. He was born December 13, 1779, was a private (not a Major) in the 28th Ky. Regiment in the War of 1812, and fought at the Battle of the Thames in Michigan. He died at the home of John Wren Grayson January 1, 1864, age 84. ("Items from Early Newspapers of Jefferson County, Indiana 1817-86, p. 219, publ. 1945; Ind. State Library;" and Military Records, National Archives.)

Sometime between 1830 and 1832, the Graysons and Cummins left for Indiana. John Wren Grayson's first child was Rebecca, born in 1830 in Scott County, Kentucky, probably named after his stepmother, Rebecca (B. ca. 1781 in Virginia; 1850 census, Decatur County, Indiana, P.309). The next child was Sarah A. Grayson, born in 1832 in Indiana. The entire family is shown in the 1850 census in Madison, Indiana:

Census of 1850 Jefferson County, Indiana

P. 238	Dwelling 613; Family 645	5th Ward, Madison County, Indiana
	John Grason, age 48; (45?)	Carpenter, born Tennessee
	Permelia, age 43	born Kentucky
	Rebecca, age 20	born Kentucky
	Sarah A. age 18	born Indiana
	Mary C. age 16	born Indiana
	Celithia age 14 (M)	born Indiana in school
	Andrew age 13	born Indiana in school
	John R. age 10	born Indiana in school
	Jacob Merrick age 19, Moulder	born Indiana
	Samuel Brisbane, age 19, Moulder	born Indiana

John Wren Grayson and family came from Scott County, Kentucky, first to Madison, by 1832, but then "removed to Decatur County, Indiana; entered government land there; sold out and removed to Madison." (Obit.; Madison Courier, 1 Feb. 1882.)

He purchased land in Decatur County April 8, 1836: (Tract Book, Greensburg, Ind.): "John Grayson, Section 1, Township 8 N., Range 8 East, N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  38.29".

"John Grayson of Sandcreek Township. His stock mark is a swallow-fork in each year. Oct. 31, 1836." (Stock Marks registered in Decatur County; Clerk's office, Greensburg.)

Another land purchase is recorded in Indiana Land Entries, vol. II, by Margaret R. Walters (Indianapolis, 1949), p. 144: "John Grayson, 9 Jan. 1836; SE-NW-S23." Analysis shows this to be a 40 acre piece of land next to the land of John's brother, Benjamin Grayson; p. 144: "Benjamin Grayson, 31 Aug. 1835; 24 June 1836 (E-NE. SW-NES22; SW-NW-S23; E-SE-S22.)"

An entry from the tract book, Greensburg, Indiana, also shows John's brother, Joseph Grayson living near his purchase mentioned first, above: "Joseph Grayson, Section 2, Township 8 North, Range 8 East, NW¼ NE¼ 39.14 A". Dated 3/16/1837.

In 1840, the census from Decatur County, Sandcreek township shows John Grayson and his family living near the families of his father, Wren Grayson and bothers Joseph and Wren, Jr.

1840 Census Decatur County, Indiana:

John Grason

2 males under 5

1 male 30-40

1 male 60-70

2 females 5-10

1 female 10-15

1 female 30-40

1 female 60-70

Interpretation:

1. Salathiel, B. 1837, age 3
2. Andrew Jackson, B 1838, age 2
- (3. John W. not born till ca. 1842)
4. John Wren Grayson, B. 1805, age 35
5. Andrew Cummins, B. 1779, age 69
6. Sarah B. 1832, age 8
7. Mary B. 1834, age 6
8. Rebecca B 1830, age 10
9. Permelia Cummins Grayson B. 1806, age 34
10. Wife of Andrew Cummins

It is assumed that the father and mother of Permelia Grayson, Andrew Cummins and wife, were the elderly couple living with John Wren and family, because Andrew made an affadavit when applying for a war pension on 23 Oct. 1845 stating that he had resided in Decatur County for "14 years previous to his residence in Madison, Ind.", and that he had (in 1846) lived in Madison for 3 years." The figures are not exact, for the census showed him in Scott county later in 1830; one can infer that the Cummins' left for Decatur County directly from Scott County shortly after the 1830 census. Then, in 1835/6, when John Wren Grayson moved to Decatur County from Madison, they all lived together.

John Wren Grayson and his family moved back to Madison in 1841, according to the obituary of his son Andrew Jackson Grayson. Shortly after settling in Madison, John was appointed Sexton of the Springdale Cemetery (John Grayson's Obit., 1882.)

A letter is at hand from three of John's brothers, Henry, Sanford, and Wren, Jr. to their 1st cousin, Henry Grayson, son of Joseph in Marion County, Tennessee, which describes life in Decatur County, Indiana. The letter is dated May 1st, 1842 at Westport, and the original copy is in the hands of Miss Bobby Dykes of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Miss Dykes is a descendant of Henry Grayson, to whom the letter was addressed:

May the 1st, 1842

Dear cousins I take this oportunity to in form you that we are all well at present Except Wrens wife She has bin ill for some time we received your letter the 22nd day of April which gave us much satisfaction to hear from you all that you are all well your letter stated that some of our connection wer desceased and some of them has moved to Texas we would like to know some more about them when you write again you wish to know

about our country and land and grain You want to know about Aunt Nancy we heard from her last fall she is well and hearty except she is draud down like her Mother the rest wer all well as far as I know: as for our Country it is Healthy as any county that I know it is remarked by all person who have lived hear we have great prospect of a crop of wheat this fall our land is as productive as it is in kentucky it raises good corn wheat and oats and potatoes the land is generaly good and cheap as it can be wished and as for health it cant be beat by any country wich I know ther was a farm sold joining Father a few days ago that had a saw mill and griss mill on hit and a bout fifteen acres clerd for four hundred and fifty dollars a track of Forty Acres ther is land that is second rate that is vacant that he Enterd at one dollar on a quarter per acre and land that is second handed very cheap and good it woul be great consolation to us all if you would come to this country and by land and live in our country we would like to see you all face to face and injoy the sweet community of our long absence? as for the price of produce wheat is worth forty cents now and corn twenty cent per bushel and it is offering to in gage wheat after harvest at twenty five cents per bushel sault is cheap the Rail road cars comes with in eight miles of us salt is worth 3¼ cents per bushel and sugar is 5 cents per pound and coffee is eight cents per pound labor is (?) ther wages is generly fifty cents per day money is scearse and times is tolerable hard we wish you to come if you think it will soot you it would be the greatest consolation all your friends we want you to write write to us every month we feel willing to receive a leter any time and as many as you will send we wish you to write to our friends in texas and then write to us and find out the post office that we may write to them and them to us we all live at the same place that we did and expect to remain hear we have no notion of leaving this country we want you to write a bout all our old friends and how they all are doing and ther health and all. we want you to write if you do not move and if you think you will come it will be great satisfaction to us all and I think that you will be very well pleased with our country and satisfied with our state we wish you to come and see us any how it is not so far but what some of you will come and see us all we want you to not for get us no how if we should not meet in this world try to meet in the next wher parting is no more--is no more at present but remain your affectionate friends cousing until death

Present      Wren Grayson jr.  
                 Henry Grayson  
                 Sanford Grayson

John Wren Grayson was appointed Sexton of the Springdale cemetery of Madison in 1842 and performed the duties for several years before a successor was chosen. In 1852 he again accepted the position as Sexton and served until his death 30 years later.

In addition, John was a volunteer fireman. At his death in 1882 he was called "the oldest member of Western Fire Company #3 and in his days of vigor was truly a nobel fireman. For many years he was in such high esteem by the members that they gave the fire engine the name by which he was known among them: Pap Grayson." This tale is proven by the actual cast brass sign which is now in the possession of John's great-grandson, Roland Howard Grayson, the son of Howard and father of the author of this biography. The sign is curved to fit the stack of the old steam fire engine, and is to this day a work of art and beautiful

to behold. The sign was salvaged from the engine years later by Fred Friedersdorf, Sr., who gave it to George who gave it directly to Roland Grayson, his nephew, because he was the only male Grayson of that generation from the line of Andrew.

Fred Friedersdorf, Jr., of Madison, stated (telephone conversation, 1974) that his father, (Fred, Sr.,) was engineer on this same fire engine in 1900 and before, that it was pulled by two horses, that the twin steam-driven pistons pumped the water, and that the water came from cisterns which were located all over the town.

Andrew Jackson Grayson wrote a letter to the Madison Courier from Kansas City many years later in which he said, "In 1849, when I was but eleven years of age, my father was employed as a cupola tender in the Lewis and Crawford Foundry. When Western Fire Co. was organized and received its charter from the State of Indiana in 1850 the company's first engine house was a frame carriage house in the rear of Samuel Crawford's residence, now the home of the Hon. Manly D. Wilson, and the fire company's membership was employees at the foundry, which is now the McKim-Cochrane furniture factory.

"Among other prominent members that answered the tap of the foundry bell were George and Henry Armstrong, coppersmith, who had their shop near the northwest corner of Second and Elm streets, Louis and William Eddy, Joseph M. Crawford, George Saberton, and John Grayson, who was then acting as 'Messenger' in charge of the engine house."

Andrew Jackson Grayson wrote one other article concerning his father which tends to show that John was a man of unusual courage and physical prowess: "On Thursday, Sept. 3, 1846, a most sorrowful calamity befell the denizens of Crooked Creek Valley, causing great loss of life and property. It had been showery all day, but in the afternoon the rain poured down in torrents, flooding our streets...cellars...and even residences in the central part of the city.

"Crooked Creek rose to an enormous height, overflowing its banks from its headquarters down to the mouth, where it empties into the Ohio River, sweeping everything before it---houses, bridges, fences, and other property. The water was all over Springdale Cemetery and was fully five feet high in that enclosure. ---Twelve persons were drowned, seven of their bodies being found after the waters assuaged in a field at the foot of Wilbur's hill --- now the new addition to the Springdale Cemetery....

"John Grayson, the venerable Sexton of Springdale, who was then driving team for the late F. L. Thompson, was one of those who narrowly escaped from drowning. The waters had completely surrounded the home of old Aunt Lettie Stafford and she and her daughters, Becky and Lucy, were crying piteously for help, having taken refuge in the loft. Mr. Grayson put his horses in Aulenbasch's stable, and he and Charles Dugan, Sr., started to swim out to pacify or save them. Mr. Dugan found the current too swift and returned, but Mr. Grayson reached the house and assured the frightened colored folks they were not going to drown. Then striking out for shore, his strength proved insufficient to make it and he was borne down with the rapid current from a point just this side of what is now Butz's brewery to Ritchie's brickyard, above Bunker Hill Tavern, where he floated near enough to the bank to grasp a pole that was extended to him. It was first thought by everybody that he was lost,



and word to that effect was conveyed to his family."

(The above stories are from the Mary Hill collection of articles written by Andrew Jackson Grayson of Madison, Indiana, on file in the Genealogy Section of the Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, Indiana.)

Salathiel Grayson, the eldest son of John Wren Grayson, was born 1837 and died in 1916, married Mary Lackland, (B. 1837, D. 1895.) Salathiel was first a reporter, then the city editor of the Madison Courier, and finished over 60 years of faithful service with that newspaper. Their children were: 1) Charles Meriam Grayson, B. 1857 in Madison, Indiana, died 1931, married Josephine Dreiss. Charles was a printer for the Madison Courier. 2) Helen Grayson, Born 1861, Madison, died 1958, married Harry Martin Goold, B. 1856, died 1943; one son, Harry Grayson Goold, B. 1888, D. 1901. 3) Mary Francis Grayson (Mame), B. 1865, D. 1942, never married. 4) Gertrude Grayson B. 1868, died ?, married John Bernier. 5) Maude Grayson, B. 1881, D. 12 March 1968, m. 1st Cornelius DeWeese, 2nd, Percival Moore, children: 1. Mary Francis DeWeese, B. 1905, m. John Speed; 2. Cornelia DeWeese, B. 1908, D. 1968, m. John Miller; 3. Maude Winslow DeWeese, B. 1911 in St. Louis, m. James L. Price, now living in Louisville, Kentucky; 4. Gertrude Ann DeWeese, B. 1914 Carrolton, Kentucky, D. 1920; 6) Bertie Grayson B 1874, D. 1877 was a child, Willie, found present in the 1880 census. Sources: Mrs. Winslow Price, December 1973; tombstone inscriptions, Springdale Cem., Madison; newspaper clipping, Franklin Republican, Madison, 1914.)

John W. (Wren?) Grayson, son of John Wren Grayson born 1840 or 1842 in Madison, Indiana died 1901 age 60, married Lucinda Virginia Wilson B. ca. 1846 in Virginia, a second cousin of Pres. Woodrow Wilson. John W. was a printer (Census of 1880, Jeff. Co., Ind. p. 171) and in 1879 was assistant superintendant of the Springdale Cemetery when his father was the superintendent. (from the Madison, Ind. Directory p. 46.) Children: 1) Alice Virginia Grayson B. 1862, D. 1927 age 64 married Dr. George Eugene Bragdon of Canton N.Y.; her daughter is Mrs. E. D. (Grace) Thomas of Columbus, Ohio. 2) Stella Grayson B. 1864, married, no children; 3) Harry Grayson, B. 1867, had one daughter; 4) Bertha Grayson B. 1869, no children; 5) Joseph Grayson, B. 1872, had one son; 6) Luella Grayson, B. 1875, married, 2 children; 7) J. Herbert Grayson, B. after 1880, D. ca. 1964, had 2 sons. (Sources: 1880 census above; letter from Mrs. E. E. Thomas, 3/22/74.)

Andrew Jackson Grayson, son of John Wren Grayson, B. 26 December 1838, Decatur County, Indiana, D. age 74 on 22 July 1913., married Matilda Lawrence 18 August 1862 at age 22 between enlistments in the 6th Indiana Regiment in the civil war, fought at the Battle of Shiloh, served as Sgt. and as 1st Lt., honorably discharged 22 May 1862. Occupation, printer and writer for Madison Courier. Children: 1) William Morton Grayson, B. 13 June 1865, m. Bettie Turpin, June 1892. 2) Frank E. Grayson, B. 8 June 1868, m. Loretta; 3) George Edward Grayson, B. 5 August 1871, D. 21 January 1954 m. Mary Elizabeth (MAYFIELD) Jones; 4) Lotta B. Grayson, B. 25 March 1874, d. 1913-1920 m. John A. Jones; 5) Howard Grayson, B. 15 Oct. 1877 m. Una May Tasker. The descendants of these families will be recounted in a later chapter. (Sources: Military records, National Archives; family tradition.)\*

Sarah A. Grayson, daughter of John Wren Grayson, B. 12 May 1832, D 7 April 1896, married John W. McCoy, B. 25 Oct. 1827, D. 2 Nov. 1878. Their daughter, Jora E. McCoy, B. 18 June 1852, D. 2 Feb. 1886, married

\* 6) LAURA H. GRAYSON b. 6/13/1862 d. 1/20/1908 m. Albert J. Herrett

\* Betty Turpin  
b. 21 July 1877  
d. 14 March 1918

\* W died  
4 Sept 1946  
\* m d. ca. 1947  
12 Riverside,  
Calif.

James H. Smith. Jora McCoy is buried in the Springdale Cemetery, Madison, with "4 infant children." (Source: tombstone inscriptions.)

Rebecca J. Grayson, Born 1830 in Scott County, Kentucky, eldest child of John Wren Grayson, married William P. DeMent. A son, William DeMent, was born 1857, died 30 January 1860. (Item from Early Newspapers of Jefferson County, Ind., publ. by D.A.R., Ind. State Library, p. 162.)

\* "Aunt Kate,"

Mary C. Grayson, youngest daughter of John Wren Grayson, born 1834, married Sewell Lloyd on 30 July, 1860. (Source: *ibid.* p. 162.) Died 1913-1920. *Issue: son John, unmarried; 2nd son (name?) had 2 daughters, Goldie and Pearl, Live in Indianapolis.*

"The well known and venerable Sexton of Springdale Cemetery, John Grayson, died at the home of his daughter Mrs. S. Lloyd on Broadway at ten o'clock last night. The bells of different Fire companies tolled long for the departed, and among the firemen the words passed from lip to lip "Pap Grayson has gone at last". In the death of John Grayson Madison lost a good citizen; a kind neighbor; an honest faithful public officer and one who was regarded almost as a father to thousands in Madison from having performed kindly offerings for them in hours of sadness. He has been Sexton of Springdale Cemetery for many, many years. He was appointed to the place in 1842 and performed the duties for some years before a successor to him was chosen. In 1852 at the solicitation of Mr. C. Vail, has again accepted the position of Sexton and held the place with exception of one year intermission, from that time till his death. In the capacity of Sexton he placed the sod of the valley above fully five thousand people, and there is scarcely a family in Madison who has not had a representative interred by him; but his well worn spade is laid aside and another one has fromed for the "old Sexton" the windowless chamber where he will sleep and rest.

He was the oldest member of Western Fire Company #3 and in his days of vigor was truly a noble fireman. For many years he had been a messenger of that Company and was held in such high esteem by the members that they gave the fire engine the name by which the good old man was known among them "Pap Grayson."

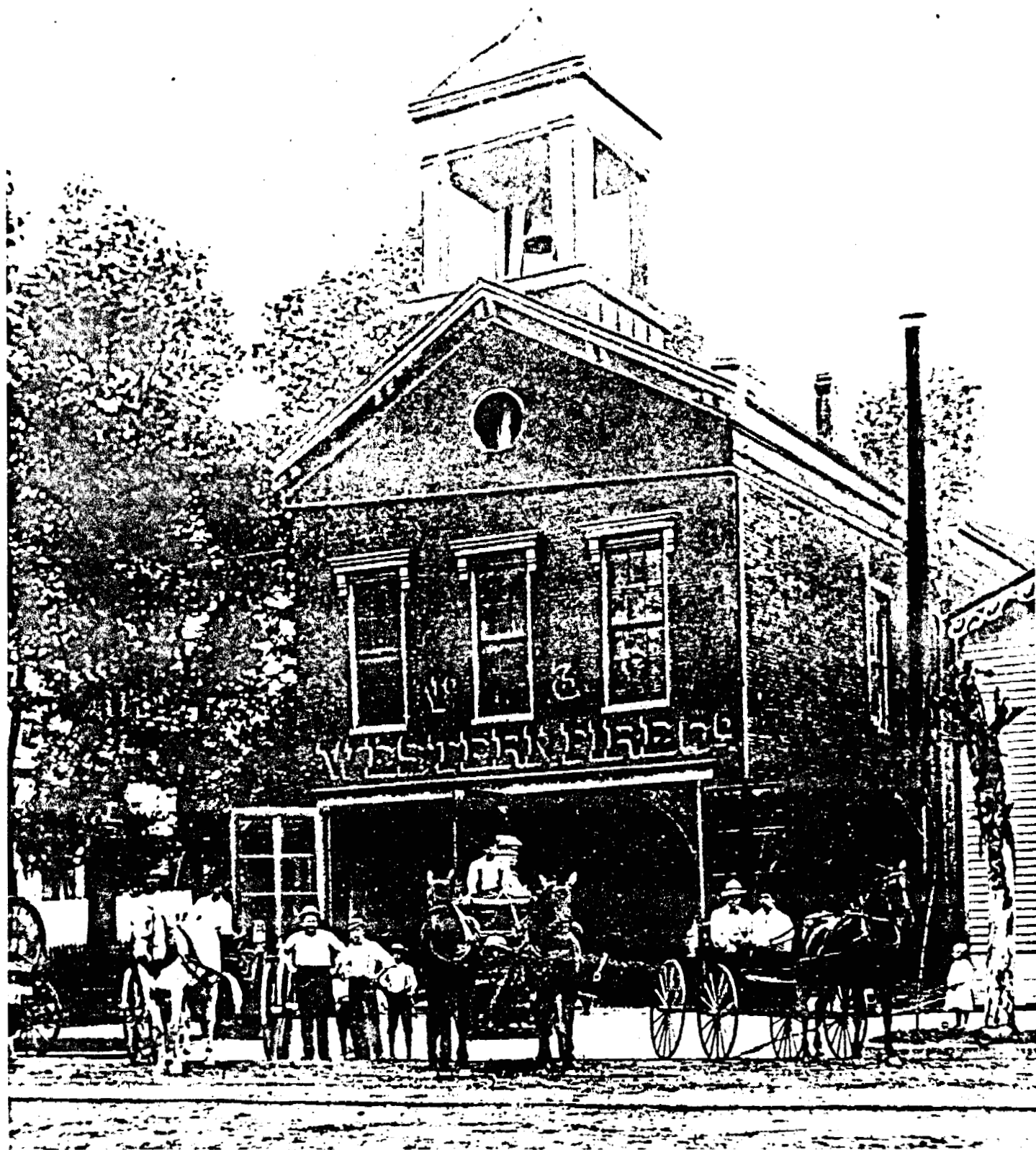
His venerable wife survives but is in very feeble health. Their six children are living, the yougest being past forty years of age. They are Mrs. Rebecca Dement, Mrs. Sallie A. McCoy, Mrs. Mary C. Lloyd and Messrs Salathial, Andrew J. and John W.

The deceased was a constant member of the Methodist Church and Rev. L. G. Atkinson will officiate at this funeral which will take place at two o'clock from Trinity Church.

In compliance with a request of the deceased he will be interred in a black walnut coffin. (Copied from the Madison Courier, Feb. 1, 1882.)

An article concerning John Wren Grayson's death was published in the Madison Courier Feb. 14, 1882: "Western Fire Company: At a meeting in the Western Fire Company last night, the following changes among the officials were made: Mr. Samuel Moses was elected Messenger, and resigned his post as vice-president. Mr. Salathiel Grayson was chosen vice-president. Lon Holding resigned his position on the standing committee and Mr. Henry Mabrey was appointed to fill the vacancy.

WESTERN FIRE COMPANY NUMBER 3 ABOUT 1850. THE SMOKE STACK OF THE FIRE WAGON HAD A SIGN "PAP GRAYSON" REFERRING TO JOHN WREN GRAYSON.





JOHN W. GRAYSON

The well known and venerable Sexton of Springdale Cemetery, John Grayson, died at the home of his daughter Mrs. S. Lloyd on Broadway at ten o'clock last night. The bells of different Fire companies tolled long for the departed, and among the firemen the words passed from lip to lip "Pap Grayson has gone at last". In the death of John Grayson Madison lost a good citizen; a kind neighbor; an honest faithful public officer and one who was regarded almost as a father to thousands in Madison from having performed kindly offerings for them in hours of sadness. He has been Sexton of Springdale Cemetery for many, many years. He was appointed to the place in 1842 and performed the duties for some years before a successor him was chosen. In 1852 at the solicitation of Mr. C. Vail, has again accepted the position of Sexton and held the place with the exception of one year intermission, from that time till his death. In the capacity of Sexton he placed the sod of the valley above fully five thousand people, and there is scarcely a family in Madison who has not had a representative interred by him; but his well worn spade is laid aside and another one has formed for the "old Sexton" the windowless chamber where he will sleep and rest. He was the oldest member of Western Fire Company #3 and in his days of vigor was truly a noble fireman. For many years he had been a messenger of that Company and was held in such high esteem by the members that they gave the fire engine the name by which the good old man was known among them "Pap Grayson."

We give below as an autobiography of the deceased written some years ago and carefully placed away by him.

"I was born in Scott county, Kentucky on the second day of November, 1805. My father's name was Wren Grayson and my mother's maiden name was Betsy Owens. I have six brothers and one sister; brother Lewis, died in childhood and another Henry, died after raising a large family. My other brothers are Wren and Sanford Grayson of Decatur county and Joseph and Benjamin Grayson of Tipton county, Indiana all men of honest repute among those who know them. My only and beloved sister is Mrs. Nancy Hamilton, widow of William Hamilton of Decatur county. In 1807, when I was at 6 years of age, my parents moved to Tennessee and settled in Bledsoe County. There I almost grew to manhood and was familiar with the scenes and incidents attendant upon those early times, in adventures with Indians and wild animals in Sequatchie Valley and upon the Cumberland Mountains. Was always physically strong, healthy and hearty. At the age of seventeen, at a religious meeting held in the house of Richard Stone, I began to be conscious about my condition as a sinner. Mr. Stone had been converted to God, embraced the faith of the Cumberland Presbyterians, a very earnest set of Christian people. Mr. Stone as soon as he had found peace, constantly appealed to his friends and neighbors to "flee from the wrath to come." While listening to him I was deeply convicted, felt very bad indeed, and was glad when the meeting closed, remarking as I left that they would not get me back there again. But the spirit of the Lord had taken strong

From the Madison Courier  
Madison; Feb. 14, 1882

Contributed by John and Lucille McGuire; Madison, Ind.

#### DEATH: Another Venerable Pioneer Gone

We are called upon to chronicle the death of another venerable pioneer--Mrs. Permelia Grayson, widow of the late John Grayson. Her death occurred at the home of her son in law, Mr. Sewell Loyd\*, on Broadway, at 6:00 O'clock this morning. She had been a sufferer for about one year with debility and a pulmonary affection, and her illness was rendered the more distressing by the illness and death of her life companion which occurred two weeks ago; yet she was patient in her sufferings, and calmly resigned the world to join her beloved husband who recently passed to the other shore.

They trod life's journey together for so many years, sharing with each other the joys and vicissitudes which fall the lot of man and wife and, at a ripe old age, after lives well spent, they sleep peacefully beside each other under the friendly sod of the valley.

Mrs. Grayson was born in Scott county, Kentucky, in 1806, and hence was in the 76th year of her age. Her maiden name was Cummins, she being a daughter of Major Andrew C. Cummins, who distinguished himself in the War of 1812. She was married to John Grayson in 1829, and removed with him to this state in 183\_?. The biographical sketch of Mr. Grayson "The Old Sexton" published in these columns two weeks ago, forms, in a great measure the biography of the one whose death we are now recording.

The funeral will take place at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  O'clock from the residence of Mrs. Loyd, on Broadway, Rev. L.G. Adkinson conducting the religious exercises.

\* also Lloyd

## Chapter 5

### ANDREW JACKSON GRAYSON a biography

by Richard Roland Grayson, M.D.

December, 1975

My great grandfather, Andrew Jackson Grayson, by all accounts from those who knew him, was a remarkable man. In order that his achievements not be forgotten by his descendants and in recognition of the fond memories of him by those yet alive who remember him, it seems appropriate to commit to paper a brief story of his life.

John Wren Grayson and his wife Permelia (nee Cummins) had lived in Indiana only 8 years and had been married 9 years when their 5th child, Andrew Jackson Grayson was born. The place was at the family farm near Westport in Decatur county, Sandcreek township. The whole Grayson clan was in Decatur county at the time, and included about 7 other families. Andrew was born the day after Christmas; Dec. 26, 1838. (As I write this, the 137th anniversary of his birth approaches.)

When Andrew was born, he had 3 older sisters and a brother: they were Rebecca, age 8; Sarah, 6; Mary, 4; and Salathiel, 1. The other brother, John Wren Grayson, jr., was born in 1842, making a neat family package of 3 boys and 3 girls.

When Andrew was 3, the family sold the farm and moved 60 miles south to Madison, Ind.

Some anecdotes from his youth still are with us: between 1881 and 1900 Andrew published many stories in the Madison Courier and the Madison Herald. These stories were collected and are on file at the Indiana State library in Indianapolis. Below are reprinted some selected paragraphs from these stories to give us an idea of Andrew's childhood and adolescence:

"The old Third street cemetery, now John Paul Park, was originally much larger, reaching across what is now Third street. The city in opening up the street cut off a part of the cemetery on the south side and never removed the bones of all the departed. Among those now lying about the center of the street, or on the south side, are the bones of "White" who was shot and killed by "Sheets" near Poplar Lane and Second streets. In 1846-1849, when father lived across the street from the old cemetery, the youngsters would try to locate the spot where different ones, that were not removed, were still lying.

"I used to be afraid of dead ones, like all children. All such foolishness vanished as I grew old. Never fear the dead ones, but always be on the alert and keep an eye on those rascally live ones."

"In 1849, when I was but 11 years of age, my father was employed as cupalo tender in the old Lewis and Crawford Foundry. When Western Fire Co. was organized and received its charter from the State of Indiana in 1850, the company's first engine house was a frame carriage house in the rear of Samuel Crawford's residence,



HOWARD

FRANK

WILLIAM

GEORGE

LOTTA

MATILDA

GRAYSON

JACKSON

ANDREW

LAURA

now the home of Hon. Manly D. Wilson, and the fire company's membership was employees at the foundry, which is now the McKim-Cochrane furniture factory. Among other prominent members that answered to the tap of the foundry bell were .....and John Grayson, who was then acting as "Messenger" in charge of the engine house...

"I never hear that bell ring but what I think of the Whedon boys and Andy McManaman, the old time railroaders in Madison's palmy days. When the new regime came about, the old time ways were wiped out and you had to carry a watch or get left if you didn't keep a hand or an eye on it."

"Where are the billions of passenger pigeons that in the early fifties annually passed over Madison?....Immense flocks would pass over Madison like a rain-cloud in their migrations, darkening the sun for hours, and breaking down trees by their weight in their roosting places."

According to Andrew's obituary in the Madison courier (22 July 1913), "he started to work when quite young, so that his education so far as going to school was exceedingly limited. His long service at the printing trade, however, ...equalled...a collegiate course in the fundamental branches of knowledge, history, close study of the bible, historical and other works, with his exceptionally bright memory, made him a most entertaining and interesting, witty, and instructive writer."

On the 20th day of April, 1861, it is recorded that Andrew Jackson Grayson officially enlisted as a Sergeant in Company E of the 6th Regiment of the Indiana Volunteers. It is notable that Fort Sumter had been fired upon only 8 days earlier, April the 12th, and President Lincoln had issued his call for 75,000 3-month volunteers on April the 15th. Andrew later (perhaps 1864) published a 52 page book recounting in detail his service in the 3-month campaign in West Virginia. A photocopy of this book has been obtained from the Indiana State library at Indianapolis. Sergeant Grayson saw much action in that campaign and luckily escaped wounds and sickness. He and his company of Madison men were mustered out August 2nd, 1861. Andrew was 22 years old.

Wasting no time before Company E was reorganized for further fighting, Andrew applied for an d was issued a marriage certificate on August 13th, 1861, for marriage to Matilda Lawrence. They were married August 18th following. Matilda was 18 years old.

To digress regarding Matilda Lawrence: according to her obituary (in the July 29, 1899 Madison Courier), she was born in Burlington, Iowa, on January 16, 1843. "Her parents removed to this county when she was 8 years old."

One month after his marriage, on 20 September, 1861, Andrew enlisted as a Sergeant in E company and as Lieutenant in D company 6th Regiment, Indiana Volunteers. (War records from National Archives, Washington, D.C.) Prior to his mustering in, the record shows that he "joined for duty and enrolled Aug. 26th, 1861, in North Madison."

Nothing is known about his next 6 or 7 months of military service but one article written by him concerning his memories of the battle of Shiloh. The story is taken from the Madison Courier of

May 9, 1883. It is signed by "Phelix Adair", which was his frequent pen-name.

"THE OLD MADISON BAND. HOW THEY FOUGHT THE REBELS AT SHILOH WITH "YANKEE DOODLE". ...When the 6th Indiana disembarked from the steamer Hill at Pittsburg Landing at daylight on the 7th of April, 1862 and moved up to the top of the bluff, Klein's band was in the lead playing Yankee Doodle Dandy. The regiment halted long enough for Col. Crittenden to tell the boys what Indiana expected of them, when "forward" came again and into the thickest of the fray marched the band, still at the head of the regiment, all the while firing their Yankee Doodle battery in to the rebels' ears while the notes of the grand old tune re-echoed across the Tennessee River, only drowned for a moment by the roar of the eleven-inch guns on board the gun boats Lexington and Tyler, which kept up a constant shelling of the woods in our front and to do this had to fire over our heads, the projectiles cutting off the limbs of the trees, which fell upon our soldiers injuring a great many....."

The battle of Shiloh, or Pittsburg Landing, was fought on Sunday and Monday, April 6 and 7, 1862. It was the first large conflict of the civil war. In the book Ohio at Shiloh it is recorded that the Fourth Brigade (Rousseau's) formed in line of battle at 8 a.m., April 7, 1862, in front of the camp of the 3rd Iowa, in the following order: the 6th Indiana (in which was A.J. G.) on the left....at 9 a.m. the brigade advanced across Tilghman Creek and engaged Trabue's Brigade until about 11 a.m., when Trabue retired and Rousseau advanced to Wolf field, where he found a force of the enemy on the west side. His ammunition being exhausted Rousseau retired and Kirk's Brigade took his place in first line. As soon as ammunition was supplied Rousseau took position again in front line and engaged the enemy until he retired from the field."(p.149-150.).

The battle of Shiloh was one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War; over 20,000 men were killed or wounded in the two days fight.

Andrew Jackson Grayson, Lieutenant in company D, 6th Regiment of the Indiana Infantry, age 22, resigned and was honorably discharged on May 22, 1862 at Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee, according to his war records in the National Archives, Washington, D.C. In a pension application in 1884 he stated that "he contracted varicose veins of the left leg while on a seven days forced march to join General Grant at Pittsburgh Landing," and thus incurred disability.

At the time of the above declaration in 1884, his physical description was listed as: Height, 5 feet 8-9 inches; light complexion; dark hair, hazel eyes. In the 1910 biography is this: "...and his dome of thought requires a No. 7½ hat .... evidence of his great mental capacity."

Following the Battle of Shiloh, Andrew returned to Madison where he returned to work at the Madison Courier Newspaper. He worked at the newspaper for over a half a century all told, "filling all positions from devil to foreman, and doing his work well." (Ref.: his obit.)

In 1864, he published a series of sketches of the 6th Indiana regiment in West Virginia, the last of which appeared in the Dec. 3rd issue, 1864, of the Madison Daily Courier. Following this, he revised, rearranged, and put the entire work in book form. He was foreman of the Courier office at the time. "These articles have been eagerly sought for and read with a remarkable degree of interest by the public"...according to an account in the Courier at the time..."Jack has the happy faculty of taking us with him, and we see everything that occurred as plainly as if we were actually living the whole thing over again. We are glad to learn that Mr. Grayson contemplates putting it in book form, and if he does so, we hope that every citizen of Jefferson county will secure a copy, as it will be put at a mere nominal sum, in the reach of all."

There are 4 items of his writing in the Indiana State Library; they are: 1. Jennie Lind at Madison in 1851; 2 The Boy Surgeon, a Military Character Sketch; 3. The Spirit of 1861. History of the 6th Indiana Regiment in the Three Month's Campaign in Western Virginia; 4. Collection of about 40 articles he wrote for the 2 newspapers in Madison from 1881-1900.

Less than a month after Andrew was discharged from service, he and Matilda had their first child; Laura H. Grayson was born June 13, 1862.

Five other children were born to the couple; they are listed, in Andrew's own handwriting on a pension application dated May 4, 1898: William M. Grayson, July 22, 1865; Frank E. Grayson, June 8, 1868; George E. Grayson, August 5, 1871; Lotta B. Grayson, March 25, 1874; and Howard Grayson, October 15, 1877.

In the 1879 Madison business directory were listed 5 Graysons:

1. Andrew J. Grayson, foreman News Room Courier, residence 3rd w Depot
2. Charles M. Grayson printer Courier (eldest son of Salathiel)
3. John Grayson supt Springdale Cemetery (Andrew's father)
4. John W. Grayson asst supt Cemetery (Andrew's brother)
5. Salathiel Grayson, compositor & correspondent Courier (Andrew's brother)

The Grayson family seems to have been almost all in the printing trade, although Andrew was part journalist; in the 1887-8 Madison City Directory were listed 14 Graysons, of whom 6 were printers. These were 1. Andrew, 2. his son Frank, 3. his son George, 4., his brother John W., 5., his brother Salathiel, and 6., his son William. All 3 sons and Andrew were listed as living at 724 W. Third Street.

"Besides being an A No. 1 printer", according to an article about him in the Madison Herald in 1910, he was a member of Western Fire Company, senior member of the Madison Lodge of Odd Fellows, President of No 8 Building Association, and served for several years as Justice of the Peace.

Edna Freese, one of his son William's daughters, remembers Andrew telling her of officiating at weddings as a justice of the Peace, and singing "My Old Kentucky Home" for the wedding parties.

Mabel Burkhart, a sister of Edna's says that "Grandpa Andrew Jackson Grayson was a squire on the Ferry boat that went from Madison to Kentucky and he married couples on the boat, mostly runaways and eloping. He used to tell us funny stories about it all." According to Webster's dictionary, one definition of "squire" is: 'a title of respect commonly applied to a justice of the peace or similar local dignitary, as in a rural district.'

The 1910 Herald article goes on: "In addition to this varied career, when a young man he made two or three trips to New Orleans on flatboats, before the era of fast steamboats and trains, and in describing these dangerous, yet fascinating trips to the young men of those days, we have heard him facetiously epitomize them as walking from Madison to New Orleans with a big log of wood on your shoulder, referring to the fact that the crew would have to work at the oars of the flatboat and make the long sweeps by walking hour after hour, in order to make the trip in as quick time as possible."

Matilda Grayson, his wife, died at age 56 on July 28, 1899. The Courier devoted almost a full column to her obituary the following day. Besides her children she left 2 sisters and 1 brother: Mrs. John Pollock of Battle Creek, Mich., and Mrs. Thomas McNutt, near Wirt in Jefferson County, Ind. The brother, Oliver Lawrence, lived in Dayton, Ohio. She "was of a lovely and loveable disposition, devoted to home and fireside." she was a member of the Trinity M. E. Church. Her 4 sons and 2 sons-in-law served as pall bearers. "She was the center of a beautiful homelife which she created and held together. She lived to realize the brightest and best reward that can come to womanhood---the satisfaction of seeing her family grown to maturity, filling honorable stations in life, respected and useful."

Ward M. Jones, son of Andrew's daughter Lottie Jones and her husband John Jones, remembers that his family moved to Kansas City, Mo. from Indianapolis about 1906 when Ward was 5, and lived at 3300 Wampool Avenue. He says that Lotta invited her father to live with them because he was getting old, so Andrew moved in with them and lived there till about 1910, when he moved back to Madison and stayed with his son George.

Shortly after, he moved to Franklin, Ind., to live with his son William, where Will's daughters Faye, Edna, Esther, and Mabel learned to know him. Esther recalls, "everyone who knew him loved him and they called him Jack. I was 13 when he died...he lived with us; he kept very little of his pension money for himself. Sent it to old friends who were in need, whom he kept in touch



with and who were in the army under him. He used a cane for walking and made 2 trips a day, about a mile, to town and would sit on the ledge at the courthouse. I had to pass it coming home from school and I'd say, come on Grandpa, let's go home...and he'd say, is that you Esther? It's not 12 yet. Then the clock would strike and he would take out his watch and say, Right on the dot."

Edna Freese recalls, "Grandpa Grayson said the Graysons came from Ireland and the Lawrences from Scotland."She has no idea why he said that, "but that is what he always said."

Mabel said that Grandpa "also told us all about the war. He had his suit and American flag all folded in a suitcase and my, so proud of them. He used to say he was only here on a visit as Heaven was his home, and point up to the sky with his cane."

Andrew Jackson Grayson died at the age of 75 at the home of his son William in Franklin, Ind., July 22, 1913. In one of his obituaries is recorded, "Dear old Jack; his lips are dumb, but his spirit will linger long in the hearts of those who knew and loved him, and will ever bring memories, sweet with hours and days of good cheer and joy. He never searched for the unpleasant things in life, nor recalled sad and sorrowful hours of man's existence. His motto was that of the sun dial; he recorded only the days of sunshine. His friends were legions and their faces that were once wreathed in smiles at the mention of his name were tinged with sorrow and regret when told of his death.

"It may be that his life was not a success as the world views it, for he filled not his coffers with silver and gold to be cast on the threshold of eternity, nor strove for power that passes away like perfume of early dawn; he built no monument of brick and mortar to perpetuate his name, as if to mock the living God, but leaves an inheritance rich with good humor and full of sunshine which neither summer's sun nor winter's blast can decay."

Addendum to Chapter 5:

Cousin Mabel Burkhart writes of Andrew Jackson's dying words: "I wanted to tell you, the morning Grandpa passed away--it was very hot and us girls took turns sitting by his bed and fanning him. He knew us all up to the last, and I saw him die. His last words I'll never forget: he looked up and said 'Matilda, I'm coming.' And that was it; he went easy.

"Yes, Granda was quite a guy; he was liked in Franklin; everyone knew him and called him either "Jack" or "A.J."

"Oh yes, when he was ill in bed you see, he lingered a while. Well, the town sheriff roped the street from one corner to the other to keep it quiet. The street was roped in until he was sent to Madison for the funeral. I always thought that was nice. I must have been 18 then, or near that.

"I know my mother was good to him and he was treated like the rest of us. I think about that now--my mother so kind. Other children now put their parents in nursing homes..."

## Remembrances of Andrew Jackson Grayson

Every one who knew him loved him and they called him Jack. I was 13 when he died---he lived with us--he kept very little of his pension money for himself. Sent it to old friends who were in need, whom he kept in touch with and who were in the army under him. He used a cane for walking and made two trips a day, about a mile, to town and would sit on the ledge at the courthouse. I had to pass it coming home from school and I'd say, "come on Grandpa, let's go home," and he'd say--is that you Esther? It's not 12 yet. Then the clock would strike and he would take out his watch and say--"Right on the Dot." Abig watch on a chain--

--Esther Knight

I have no idea how or why Grandpa (A.J.) thought they came from Ireland and Scotland but that is what he always said. You know he was a justice of the peace in Madison, and I remember him telling of officiating at weddings and singing "My Old Kentucky Home" for them. He and I used to take the train at Franklin (He lived with us) and go to Madison and visit with George and Frank' s.

--Edna Freese

Grandpa Grayson said the Grayson's came from Ireland and the Lawrences (Grandma Grayson) family from Scotland.

--Edna Freese

Grandpa Andrew Jackson Grayson was a Squire on the Ferry boat that went from Madison to Kentucky and he married couples on the boat, mostly runaways and eloping. He used to tell us funny stories about it all; you see Grandpa lived with us until he passed away at our house. He also told us all about the war. He had his suit and American flag all folded in a suitcase and my, so proud of them. He used to say he was only here on a visit, as Heaven was his home, and point up to the sky with his cane when he said that.

--Mabel Burkhart

JOHNSON CO. HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
Franklin, Indiana

Certificate Of Death

This Certifies, THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THIS DEPARTMENT SHOW THE FOLLOWING:

Name Andrew J. Grayson Age 74 Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Married  Single   
Widowed  Divorced

Place of death Johnson County Date of death July 22, 1913

Cause of death Uremia poison

Signed by J. H. Lanam, M.D. Date of burial (not listed)  
(Physician, Coroner, Health Officer)

Funeral home Henderson Flinn Address Franklin, Indiana

Name of cemetery (not listed) Address Madison, Indiana

Date issued February 9, 1977 Recorded book No. CH-5 Page 29

Seal

Signed Wm D. Parnell M.D.  
Johnson Co. Health Commissioner

Cousin LUCILLE McGUIRE AT TOMBSTONE OF

ANDREW JACKSON GRAYSON

Madison, Ind.



Richard Hear.

I am sending you a note written by your  
great grand father to me telling me he  
was not to Home for dinner. This is the  
last writing he ever wrote before he  
died. Its the last writing of your  
great grand father - I will send  
you a beef sake before long. some  
thing that was in use before the  
Civil War. Its a solid silver snuff box  
shaped like a egg. bottle end screws  
off that where the snuff was put.

From Betty E. Turpin Grayson, wife of William Grayson the son of Andrew;  
Danville, Ind. 1940.

Dear Betty:

I am feeling bad. The sun is so  
hot I cant make the trip. I will not  
be there for dinner.

Grandpa.

Read the death of Margaret  
He was afflicted with the  
1913

LAST THING Andrew J. Grayson  
ever wrote

## A. J. GRAYSON

One of Our Best Known Citizens

Died at the Home of His Son in Franklin This Morning.

A telegram has been received announcing the death of Andrew Jackson Grayson at the home of his son, Will, in Franklin, at 8:30 o'clock this morning, where he had been for some time in feeble health, and though his death was not unexpected, the news was received with regret by his many friends in Madison, where he has been one of the best known residents for many years.

A friend, who had been associated with him for about a third of a century in newspaper work and always looked upon him as a marvel in mind and ability, thus briefly sums up his attainments and furnishes a glowing tribute to his memory.

"Jack" Grayson is gone. That genial soul that the world knew will be known no more but in memory. Peace to his ashes. In him lived the spirit of wit and humor, a veritable fountain that sparkled in the days of his existence like the sunlight reflected upon the dew of the early morn, bringing happiness and gladness to the thousands who knew him.

Dear old Jack; his lips are dumb, but his spirit will linger long in the hearts of those who knew and loved him, and will ever bring memories, sweet with hours and days of good cheer and joy. There will be no clouds to darken the path as they recall him.

He never searched for the unpleasant things in life, nor recalled the sad and sorrowful hours of man's existence. His motto was that of the sun dial; he recorded only the days of sunshine. His friends were legions and their faces that were once wreathed in smiles at the mention of his name were tinged in sorrow and regret when told of his death.

It may be that his life was not a success as the world views it, for he filled not his coffers with silver and gold to be cast on the threshold of

eternity, nor strove for power that would away like perfume of early dawn; he built no monument of brick and mortar to perpetuate his name, as if to mock the living God, but leaves an inheritance rich with good humor and full of sunshine which neither summer's sun nor winter's blast can decay.

A. J. Grayson was born on a farm near Westport, Decatur county, Ind., December 26th, 1838, and with his parents he came to Madison in 1844, since which time, until within the past year or so, this city has been his home, and he has resided almost constantly in it since, with the exception of the time he served in the army and for the few months he worked at Columbus and Indianapolis.

Besides being an A No. 1 printer, he was, at the time of his death, the oldest member of Western Fire Company No. 3, the senior member of Madison Lodge of Odd Fellows, a veteran member of the Grand Army of the Republic, was President of No. 8 Building Association for years and served for several years as Justice of the Peace.

He was also a member of the 6th Indiana regiment during the civil war, and being a writer of marked ability he published a history of that regiment in the three months campaign which received much favorable comment. He also furnished many articles to The Herald on Madison and her citizens fifty years ago, which were read with pleasure by The Herald's many patrons.

Mr. Grayson's wife died a number of years ago, but is survived by the following children: William, of Franklin; Howard, of Chicago; Mrs. John Jones, of Kansas City, Kan., and Frank and George, of this city. He also leaves a sister, Mrs. Mary Lloyd, of Indianapolis, and a brother, Mr. Salathiel Grayson, of this city.

The remains will arrive in Madison on the noon train tomorrow for burial in Springdale cemetery tomorrow afternoon. The body will be taken to the home of the decedent's son, Mr. George Grayson, east second street, where funeral services will be held at 4 p. m.

## LIEUT. ANDREW JACKSON GRAYSON.

"If you have a friend worth loving,  
Love him; yes, and let him know  
That you love him ere life's evening  
Tinge his brow with sunset glow.  
Why should words ne'er be said  
Of a friend--till he is dead."

The above half-tone engraving, in which we are indebted to the courtesy of Mr. W. W. Crozier, is from a good photograph of Lieutenant Andrew Jackson Grayson, taken a few years ago at a reunion of veterans at which the Lieutenant was on the program for the rendition of his favorite song, "My Old Kentucky Home," and whose letters to The Herald the past few months, mainly in reference to recollections and reminiscences of and about Madison and her people some fifty or sixty years ago,

have been read with much pleasure by old and young, not only in this city, but in many cities

Those casually acquainted with our talented correspondent would not deem his life as one out of the daily routine of the average citizen, yet when that life becomes better known it will be found that it has been one of varied, and, we might say, full of romantic and exciting events, not allotted to many who have traveled on life's journey in our quaint, quiet little city.

Lieutenant Grayson was born on a farm near Westport, Decatur county, Ind., December 26th, 1838, and with his parents he came to Madison in 1841, since which time, with the exception of the time he spent in the army and for the few months he worked at Columbus and Indianapolis.

For over half a century he has been employed upon the Courier, filling all positions from devil to foreman, and doing his work well. He started to work when quite young, and those who have been reading his letters to The Herald will recollect that he has said that his education, so far as going to school was concerned, was exceedingly limited, but his long service in the printing trade, which is looked upon by many as equalling a col-

legiate course in the fundamental branches of knowledge, his close study of the Bible, historical and other works, with his exceptionally bright memory, has made him one of the most entertaining, interesting, witty and instructive of writers.

This has been marked in his previous articles and literary efforts, for soon after his return from the army, in which he served during the war of 1861-62, he published a book containing a complete history of the Sixth Regiment during the three months campaign in West Virginia, and also many articles under the nom de plume of "The Dixie Advertiser," which attracted considerable attention for their originality and excellence.

He is now aged 70 years, but is still as vigorous and active as ever. He is well known and remembered so well and so accurately the many incidents of his life, and that his mind of course requires a No. 7 hat is evidence of his great mental capacity, and we believe, had a college course been added to his printing office career, that he would have reached the highest pinnacle of fame in literary, scientific or political lines, according to which ever he had devoted his energies.

Besides being an A No. 1 printer, he is now the oldest living member of Western Fire Company No. 3, the senior member of Madison Lodge of Odd Fellows, a veteran member of the Grand Army of the Republic, was President of No. 8 Building Association for years and served for several years as Justice of the Peace.

In addition to this varied career, when a young man he made two or three trips to New Orleans on flat-boats, before the era of fast steamers and trains, and in describing these dangerous, yet fascinating trips to the young men of those days, we have heard him facetiously epitomize them as walking from Madison to New Orleans with a big log of wood on your shoulder, referring to the fact that the crew would have to work at the oars of the flat-boat and make the long sweeps by walking hour after hour, in order to make the trip in as quick time as possible.



## ANDREW J. GRAYSON.

A dispatch from his son, William Grayson, Esq., stated that Andrew Grayson died at Franklin at eight-thirty this morning. Lieutenant Grayson was born on a farm near Westport, Decatur county., December 26, 1838 and with his parents he came to Madison in 1841 since which time he has resided almost constant with the exception of the time he served in the army and for the few months he worked at Columbus and Indianapolis. For half a century he was employed on the Courier filling all positions from devil to foreman and doing the work well. He started to work when quite young so that his education so far as going to school was concerned was exceedingly limited. His long service at the printing trade, however, which is looked upon by many as equalling a collegiate course in the fundamental branches of knowledge, history, close study of the Bible, historical and other works, with his exceptionally bright memory, made him a most entertaining and interesting, witty and instructive writer.

Soon after his retirement from the Army he published a monograph containing a complete history of the Sixth Regiment during the three months campaign in West Virginia. He also wrote many articles, under the non de plume of Philix Adair, which attracted considerable attention for their originality and excellence.

Had a college course been added to his printing office career, he could have reached the high pinnacle of literature, science or political lines according to which ever he had devoted his energy. He was a fine printer, the oldest member of Western Fire Company #3, the senior member of Madison Lodge of Odd Fellows, a veteran member of the Grand Army of the Republic. Was President of #8 Building Association for years and served several years as Justice of the Peace.

He was a son of the late John & Farnelia Grayson of whose six children only two survive. Mrs. M. C. Lloyd, Indianapolis and Salathiel Grayson of Madison. He leaves four sons, William G. of Franklin, George and Frank of Madison and Howard of Chicago and one daughter, Lottie (Mrs. John Jones) of Kansas City. The latter and son William were with him when he passed away. His wife and eldest daughter are buried in Springdale Cemetery, this city, where his remains will also find a last resting place.

Lieutenant Grayson's army service included Gen McClellan's successful campaign in West Virginia, the march to Pittsburg Landing, Tenn., and the battle of Shiloh. He then resigned because varicose veins developed by the forced march to Shiloh.

The body will be brought in on the noon train and be taken to the home of his son, George, 624 E. Second St., where a short service will be held by Rev. Virgil Thompson at 4:00 P. M. The interment will be in Springdale Cemetery.

\* JOHN WREN GRAYSON  
1805-11-2 - 1882-1-31  
son of Wren<sup>6</sup>, Benj<sup>7</sup>

4  
JANE  
REBECCA J GRAYSON  
1830 \*

m. 1829

PERMELIA CUMMINS  
1806 - 1882-2-14  
daughter of Andrew Cummins

SARAH A GRAYSON  
1832-5-12 - 1896-4-7  
m. John W. McCoy  
(1827-10-25 - 1878-11-2)

1. 1830 Census, Ky, Scott Co, p. 156, line 2

JOHN GRAYSON  
0- 5- 10- 15- 20- 30-  
M 1  
F 1

CATHERINE  
MARY C GRAYSON  
1834 \*  
m. Sewell Lloyd 1860-7-30  
See Note II.

(neighbor to Wren<sup>6</sup>)

2. 1850 Census, Indiana, Jefferson Co,  
Madison, 8<sup>th</sup> Ward, p. 238, #613#645

JOHN GRAYSON	45	TENN	Carpenter
PERMINA	43	KY	
REBECCA	20	KY	
SARAH A	18	IND	
MARY C	16	IND	
CELITHA	14	IND	
ANDREW	12	IND	
JOHN R	10	IND	

SALATHIEL GRAYSON  
1837 - 1916 \*

ANDREW J GRAYSON  
1838-12-26 - 1913-7-22 \*

3. 1834-5-25 Ind, Decatur Co:  
witnessed a deed for Joseph.  
(see Joseph<sup>5</sup> Grayson)

JOHN W GRAYSON  
1840 \*

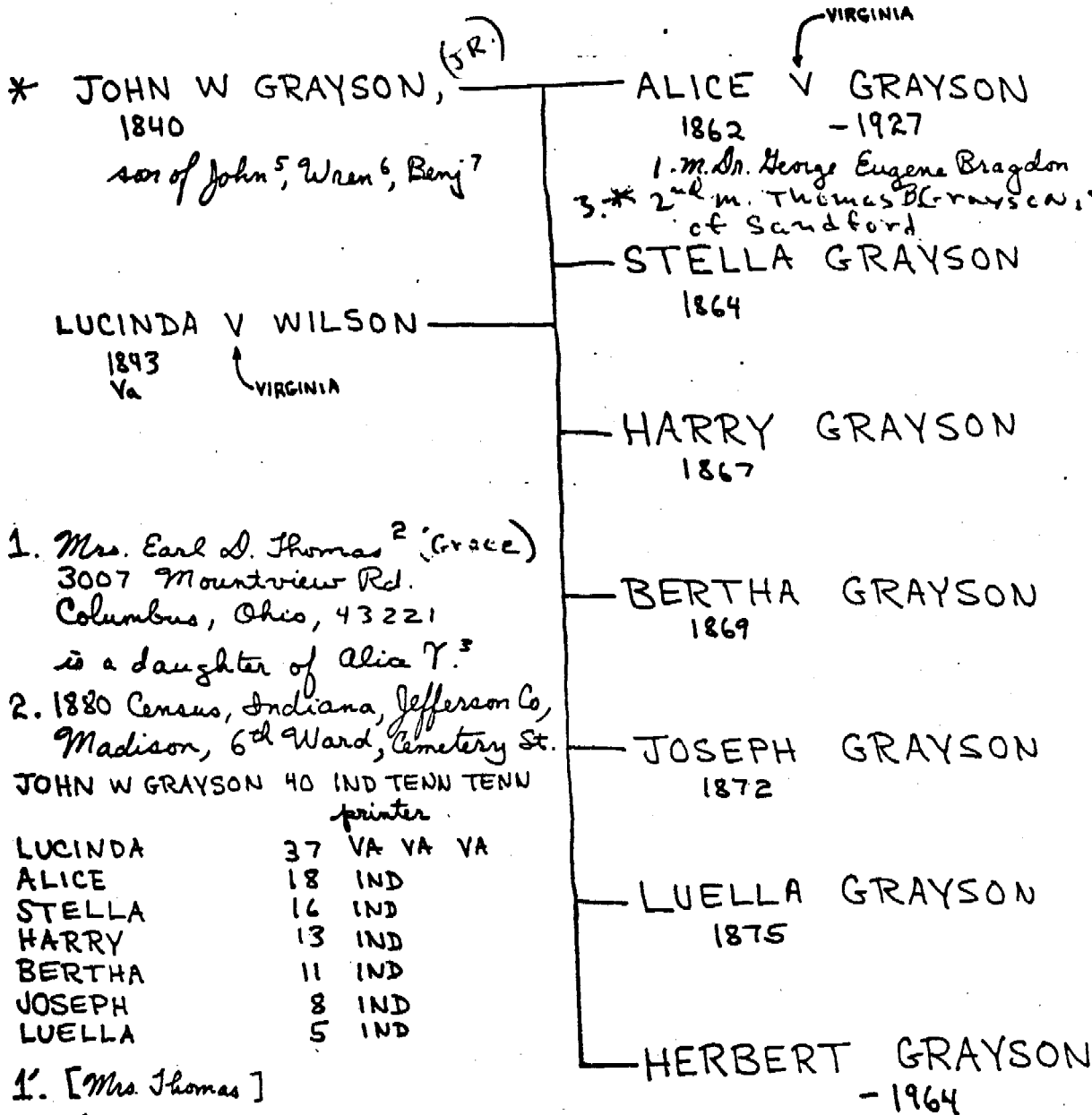
4. 1840-1-23: Ind, Decatur Co, deed, [original - photocopied]  
John Grayson from Charles and Amy Owens  
\$125/40 acres NE $\frac{1}{4}$ . NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 12 twp 8 N of Range 8 E.  
(this land was entered by Charles Owens at the Jefferson Land Office  
1837-10-13)

5. 1882-1-31 died John Grayson, [Jefferson Co, Ind, death certificate]  
age 76, born Ky,  
cause: malignant disease of stomach and lungs  
Dr. J W Conway, Vail's Memorial funeral home, Madison, Ind.  
1882-2-14 died Permelia Grayson [ibid]  
age 76, born Ky,  
cause: pul - consumption, Dr. Conway, Vail's Home.

6. gravestones in Madison, Ind, Springdale Cemetery.  
JOHN GRAYSON 1805-1882 FOR 30 YEARS SEXTON OF THIS CEMETERY  
PERMELIA, wife of John Grayson, 1806-1882

7. 1836-1-9, Ind, Decatur Co, deed, John Grayson bought 40 acres SE $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  adjoing land of Benjamin<sup>5</sup> Grayson.

8. 1836-10-31, Ind, Decatur Co, Sandcreek Twp, a stock mark registered by John Grayson



1. [Mrs. Thomas]

Lucinda was a second cousin of Pres. Woodrow Wilson.

3 \* Related by Gertrude Sherman, 11/9/74

4. 1870 census, Jefferson county, Ind.

Grayson, John Jr. 30 painter, b Ind 2-132

Jane 26 k house, b Va

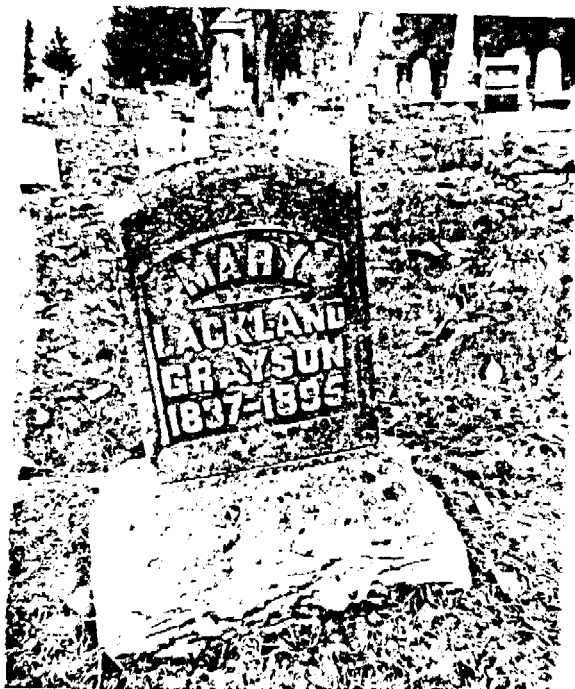
Alice 8; Stella 6; Harry 3; Bertha 1; home, b Ind

# SALATHIEL GRAYSON

1914

## A Veteran of the Tripod.

Thursday, Nov. 11th, Salathiel Grayson, brother of Col. A. J. Grayson, finished sixty years of service on the Madison Courier, faithful service, too, if we understand aright. Mr. Grayson began as a boy around the old Courier office and worked at the press several years before starting out as a reporter. He then became city editor, which position he still fills, and fills well as the columns of the Courier testify. Mr. Grayson used to make his rounds and then go to the case to "stick" what news he had gathered, a thing most city editors would not do if they could. He is still very active in mind and body and is a well known figure in Madison. In his 60th year Mr. Grayson is still a force for good in his home city, and the Courier would probably be lost without Mr. Grayson's presence. His brother, A. J., was on the Courier for forty-five years as compositor and foreman, and he can tell many an interesting story of the old days down in Madison. — Franklin Republican.



\* SALATHIEL GRAYSON — CHARLES MERRIAM GRAYSON  
 1837 — 1916 1857 — 1931  
 Ind Ind  
 son of John<sup>5</sup>, Wren<sup>6</sup>, Benj<sup>7</sup> m. Josephine Dress

MARY LACKLAND —  
 1837 — 1895

HELEN GRAYSON \*  
 1861 — 1958

1. 1880 Census, Indiana, Jefferson Co,  
 Madison, 6<sup>th</sup> ward, Cemetery St.  
 p. 191 # 135 # 143

SYLATHIEL GRAYSON 43 IND KY KY

MARY 43 IND KY KY

CHARLES

WILLIE

MAMIE

GERTRUDE

WILLIAM GRAYSON

MARY FRANCES GRAYSON  
 1865 — 1942

no issue

see photo  
 #15

2. [letter from Sylvia (Mandelbaum) Grayson<sup>2</sup>  
 ]

Bertie 1874-77 was a son of Salathiel.

2. [letter from Maude to W. Price:  
 ]

Bertie 1874-1901, born in Madison, was a  
 son of Salathiel.

3. gravestones in Madison, Ind:  
 MARY FRANCES GRAYSON  
 1865 - 1942

SALATHIEL GRAYSON  
 1837-1916

GERTRUDE GRAYSON  
 1868

m. John Bernier

BERTIE GRAYSON  
 1874 — 1877 or 1901

MAUDE GRAYSON \*  
 1881 — 1968-3-12

4. [Madison Courier, 1914 ? ]

Salathiel Grayson served the paper for  
 60 years, and is editor now at age 77.

5. 1870 census Jefferson co Ind.

Grayson, Salathiel, 32 printer b Ind 2-56

Mary, 32 K house, b Ill Charles 11, school, b Ind  
 Nellie 8; Mary 5; Gertrude 2; home, b Ind.



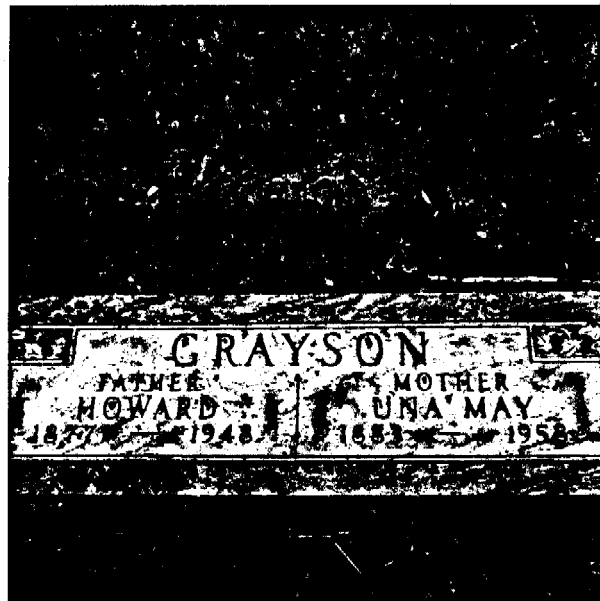
Howard Grayson  
1920 - 42 yrs old

Brothers

WILLIAM GRAYSON

HOWARD GRAYSON

GEORGE GRAYSON



\* ANDREW JACKSON GRAYSON ————— LAURA H GRAYSON \*  
 1838.12.26 — 1913.7.22 1862.6.13 — 1908.1.20  
 Ind  
 son of John<sup>5</sup>, Wren<sup>6</sup>, Benj<sup>7</sup>

m. 1861.8.18  
 MATILDA LAWRENCE ————— WILLIAM MORTON GRAYSON \*  
 1843.1.16 — 1899.7.28 1865.7.22  
 Ia

1. 1880 Census, Indiana, Jefferson Co.  
 Madison, 6<sup>th</sup> Ward, Cemetery St.  
 p. 10 #100 #104 — FRANK E GRAYSON \*  
 1868.6.8

A J GRAYSON	40	IND	IND	IND	printer
MATILDA	37	IA	IA	IA	
LAURA	18	IND			
WILLIAM	15	IND			
FRANK	12	IND			
GEORGE	9	IND			
LOTTIE	6	IND			
HOWARD	2	IND			

— GEORGE EDWARD GRAYSON \*  
 1871.8.5 — 1954.1.21

2. Civil War file [Co. D, 6<sup>th</sup> regiment]  
 served 1861.4.20 — 1861.8.2  
 as a Sgt in Co. E, 6<sup>th</sup> reg. Ind. Vols,  
 served 1861.9.20 — 1862.5.21 (age 22)  
 as 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut, resigning due to  
 varicose veins on left leg caused by  
 a forced march from Columbia, Tenn.  
 to Pittsburgh Landing 1862.4.4. (a seven day march)

— LOTTA B GRAYSON  
 1874.3.25  
 m. John Jones,  
 — HOWARD GRAYSON \*  
 1877.10.15 — 1948.11.17

1884.4.28: Indiana, Jefferson Co, Madison,  
 filed a pension claim, age: 45 height: 5'8" complexion: light  
 hair: dark eyes: hazel occupation: printer; he was 3/4 disabled due to  
 varicose veins.

1898.5.4: answered a questionnaire for pensioners. wife: Matilda Lawrence,  
 married 1861.8.18 in Madison Ind by Rev Burrese.

children living:

LAURA H	born	1862.6.13
WILLIAM M		1865.7.22
FRANK E		1868.6.8
GEORGE E		1871.8.5
LOTTA B		1874.3.25
HOWARD		1877.10.15

1912.6.1: Indiana, Johnson Co, Franklin,  
 filed a pension claim (according to the acts of 1912.5.11) — he is now totally disabled  
 1913.8.11: dropped from the pension roll — died 1913.7.22

3. Andrew wrote for the Madison Courier under the pen name Phelix Adair.  
 According to one of these articles, he lived at 3300 Walnut Blvd, Kansas City,  
 Mo, sometime between 1881 and 1900.

4. [gravestone: Madison, Ind.]  
 LT. ANDREW JACKSON GRAYSON  
 Dec 26, 1838 — July 22, 1913



SHORT ILLNESS  
IS FATAL FOR  
GEO. GRAYSON

George E. Grayson, a retired letter carrier and formerly a city councilman, died yesterday afternoon at 3:45 at his home, 624 E. Second street, after an illness of two week's duration.

Mr. Grayson was 82 years of age and a native and life resident of Madison. He was a son of the late Andrew J. and Matilda Lawrence Grayson and the last member of his immediate family.

When a young man he accepted a position with the U. S. postal service and served as a letter carrier 43 years, having retired 20 years ago last month.

Mr. Grayson was interested in civic affairs and served the public in several capacities during his later years. He was elected to the city council and served as chairman of the board of public works and safety under the late Mayor Marcus R. Sulzer.

During the disastrous 1937 flood Mr. Grayson was head of city activities, and was in charge of a vast cleanup and rehabilitation program that followed.

As board of works and safety chairman he also supervised construction of Crystal Beach the following year. A tablet in the ~~pool~~ stone pool bath house wall at the pool bears the name of Mr. Grayson, Mayor Sulzer, Paul Dowell, then city attorney; George H. Shaffer, superintendent of construction (WPA representative) and Lester Routt, architect.

Mr. Grayson had served on the county board of tax adjustment and also for some years was deputy assessor in the city.

At the time of last illness and death he was a member of the county alcoholic beverage board, a position he held for a number of years. He was also a member of the United Evangelical Church, Modern Woodmen of America, and was secretary-treasurer of the Jefferson Association, and organization of members of the former Knights of Pythias lodge in Madison.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Grayson; a daughter, Mrs. John E. McGuire, of this city, and a grand-daughter Miss Mary Elizabeth Demaree, also of Madison. Another daughter, the late Mrs. Gladys M. Demaree, preceded him in death last March.

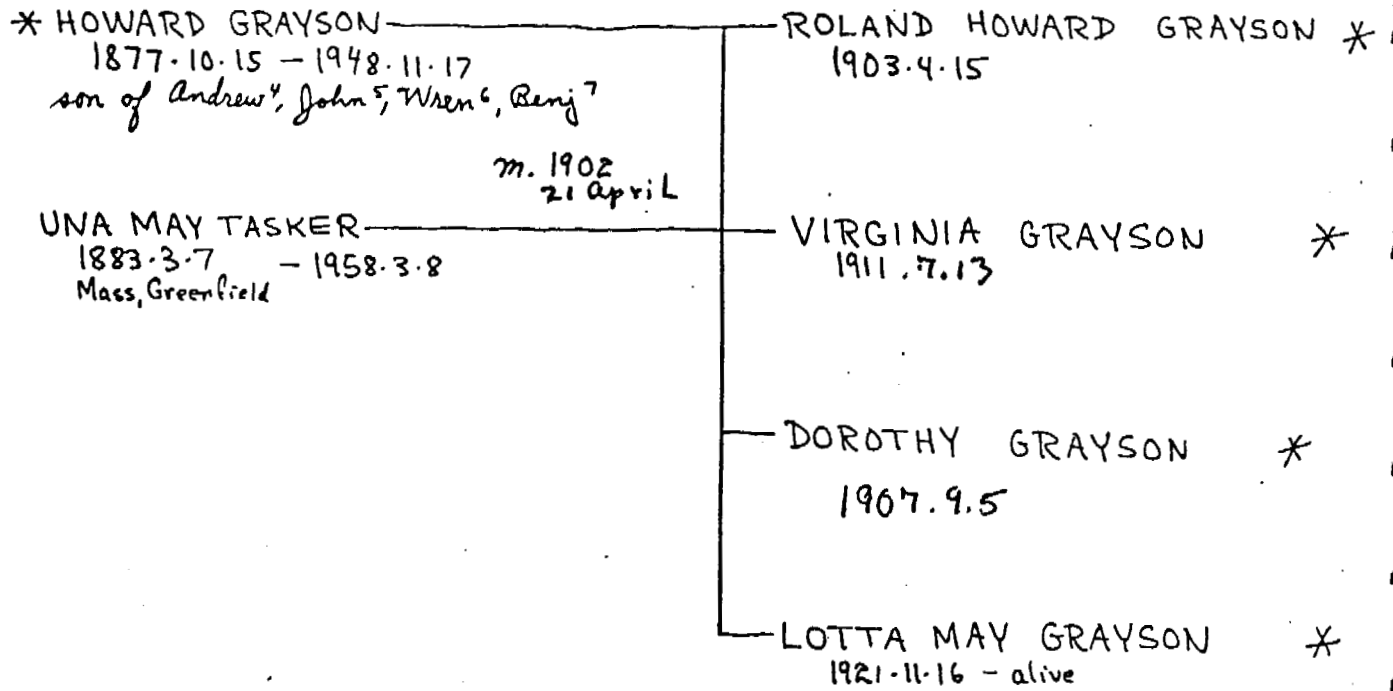
Funeral services will be conducted Sunday afternoon at 2:30 in the Gans Funeral Home, and burial will be in Springdale cemetery. Friends may call at the residence until Sunday.

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THE HOWARD GRAYSON FAMILY  
1938



Fred Smith	Jim Seiler	Haakon Danielsen	Howard Grayson	Una May Grayson	Roland Grayson
	Lotta May Seiler	Virginia Danielsen	Dorothy Smith	Sylvia Grayson	
	Marylin, Danielsen	Nancy		Patricia, Grayson	Dick



LAURA AND LOTTA

GRAYSON



\* LAURA H GRAYSON  
1862.6.13 - 1908.1.20  
Ind

daughters of Andrew<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>5</sup>, Wren<sup>6</sup>, Benj<sup>7</sup>

allied of MERRITT

<sup>Alene</sup>  
FAYE MERRITT \*

half sister:  
Mrs. Elizabeth Kileen  
120 Taff Drive  
President of Estates  
Madison, Ind.  
47205

2

1

\* FAYE MERRITT  
1885.8.19 - 1958.5.1

Vernon I. REED  
2nd husband:

Harry F. HARMS

JANE HARMS REED (?)  
or JANE FAY  
md. Lloyd Stewart  
2 ch. → Jane & Lloyd

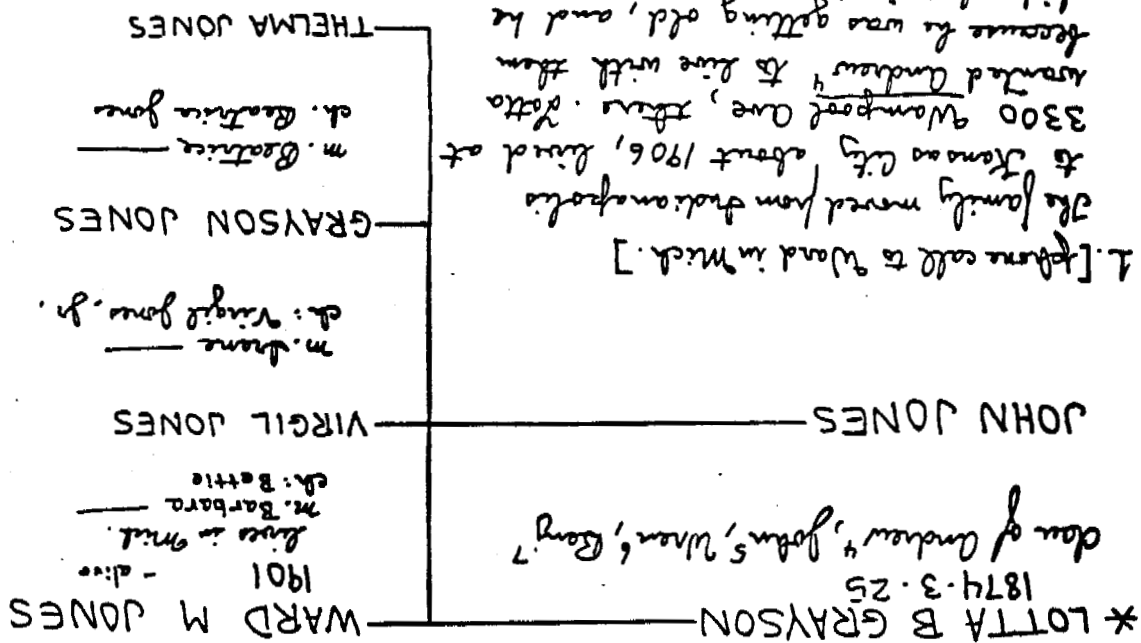
MERRITT <sup>Vern</sup> HARMS REED  
md.  
→ David Bruce Reed  
→ Frederick Vern Reed

Merritt Reed  
9115 Neptune Dr.  
Indianapolis, Ind  
46229

is married, and claims that Andrew<sup>4</sup> J. Grayson  
had debates with the editor of a paper in N. or S.  
Carolina & those debates are in the Library of Congress  
He also says that we are related to Cary Travers Grayson  
is this a fact?

LOTTA GRAYSON





2. Lotta Jones<sup>1</sup>  
1824 Pennson  
Plymouth, Mich. - a daughter of Ward.  
Ward's should be Waldron  
Andrew<sup>4</sup> was in Kansas City before 1900. (?)

1. [Name call to Ward in Mich.]  
The family moved from Indianapolis to Kansas City about 1906, lived at 3300 Wampart Ave, then Lotta married Andrew<sup>4</sup> to live with them because he was getting old, and he did, but in 1910 moved back to Madison and stayed with George until his death in 1913. John got a job with the Hoover vacuum cleaner co. in Chicago, so they moved there, where John<sup>3</sup> got Roland<sup>2</sup> (son of Howard<sup>3</sup>, Andrew<sup>4</sup>) his first job at age 15 repairing and selling. The small business. Andrew<sup>3</sup> also worked at

## Golden Wedding.



THE WILLIAM GRAYSONS.

\* \* \*

## GRAYSONS TO OBSERVE 50TH WEDDING YEAR

Mr. and Mrs. William Grayson, formerly of Franklin, will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary Sunday at their residence at 403 South Tennessee street in Danville.

Mr. Grayson was born at Madison 75 years ago and for 31 years was employed with The Franklin Star. He is now manager of the Polar Ice station at Danville, having been with the company 20 years.

Mrs. Grayson was born in Franklin and is 67 years old. Before her marriage she was Miss Bettie E. Turpin. Both Mr. and Mrs. Grayson are in good health.

They have four daughters, Mrs. Edna Freese of Granite City, Ill., Mrs. Esther Knight of Shelbyville, Mrs. Faye Knight and Mrs. Mabel Burkhardt, both of Indianapolis. They also have seven grandchildren.

The Graysons will hold open house in the afternoon.

The birthdays of Mr. and Mrs. William Grayson were celebrated with a picnic dinner at the park. Mrs. Grayson's birthday fell on July 21; Mr. Grayson's was on July 22. The Grayson recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at their home here. The four daughters of the couple and their families were here for the picnic dinner. They were Mr. and Mrs. Gilford Freese of Granite City, Ill., Mr. and Mrs. Ed Knight and son of Shelbyville, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Knight and two daughters, and Mr. and Mrs. Glen Burkhardt of Indianapolis.

## William M. Grayson

William M. Grayson, 81 years old, former printer 30 years for the Franklin Star, died Wednesday night in his home, 134 West 21st Street.

Mr. Grayson, who had lived here three years, was born in Madison, was a member of the Knights of Pythias in Madison and Franklin, Methodist Church in Shelbyville and Modern Woodmen of America in Franklin.

FUNERAL services will be held at 1:30 o'clock Saturday afternoon in Wald Funeral Home and burial will be in Crown Hill Cemetery.

Survivors are the widow, Mrs. Betty Turpin Grayson; four daughters, Mrs. Edward M. Knight of Shelbyville, Mrs. Gilford Freese of Granite City, Ill., Mrs. Glenn H. Burkhardt and Mrs. J. Frank Knight, both of Indianapolis, and three brothers, George Grayson of Madison, Howard Grayson of Chicago and Frank Grayson of Riverside, Cal.



BENJAMIN GRAYSON

1. 1784-7 Census  
Wilkes Co, NC p.176  
Capt. Labels district  
BENJAMIN GRAYSON  
1 male age 21-60  
5 males  
3 females
2. 1790 Census  
Wilkes Co, NC p.123  
Morgan's district  
BENJAMIN GRAYSON  
3 males age ≥ 16  
2 males age < 16  
2 females
3. In #1 are 6 males, in  
#2 are 5 males. The  
missing son is John, for  
he is a neighbor in 1790.  
(see John<sup>6</sup>).
4. [Roster of Soldiers from N.C. in the  
American Revolution] Benjamin  
Grayson in the Militia 4239,  
Morgan district N.C., p. 381.
5. 1784.7.31 29 earned for  
military service, NC, Morgan  
district, Benjamin Grayson.  
[photocopy]
6. 1778-12-7 Wilkes Co, N.C. [photocopy, partly illegible]  
Grant # 530 Benjamin Grayson  
400 acres lying on King's Creek adjoining the land of Edmond Talley.
7. 1779-6-19 Wilkes Co, N.C. [photocopy, illegible,  
Grant # 1038 Benjamin Grayson name Edmond Talley(?) ]
8. 1784 (date via Mr. Abbott)  
Wilkes Co, NC. Book D, p. 651, # 544  
27 q/ for 290 acres paid by Benjamin Grayson to State of N. C.  
This land adjoins Edmond Talley's Corner, Berk Co & the  
dividing ridge, & Bresskey Mountain. (photocopy attached)
9. 1796. 8-16 witnessed a deed in Wilkes Co. (see Jesse<sup>6</sup>)

