

LEAH GILHAM

Leah Gilham was born March 22, 1821 and baptized May 12, 1821, as shown in the Zion Lutheran Church Register, Floyd, Va. She was the daughter of William and Maria "Polly" Goodykoontz Gilham and prior to marriage was a school teacher. I do not know if she taught after she married.

Leah married September 11, 1845 in Floyd County, to Eden Epperly, son of John M. and Nancy Phares Epperly. Leah's parents had been members of the Lutheran Church. Her husband was a member of the Primitive Baptist Church. I do not know which Leah attended.

Early in the spring before Leah married she sold her share of her inheritance from her parents to her brother Levi, for \$ 50.00. In December, after their marriage her husband bought the share back for \$ 50.00. Dr. Amos Wood in his book "Floyd County-It's People and Places" remarked that William Gilham had owned the farm later owned by Floyd Smith. I have to wonder if this is how the land John and Nancy Epperly's house was on, became Epperly property.

Leah and Eden were the parents of eight children. Only three of them lived to adulthood. Their first three children died within an 8 or 9 day period of "bloody flux".

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| 1. | David Lafayette Epperly | b.3/27/1847-d.2/25/1851 |
| 2. | Nancy Adaline Epperly | b.7/23/1848-d.3/5/1851 |
| 3. | James Madison Epperly | b.9/8/1849-d.3/7/1851 |
| 4. | Mary Gilliam Epperly | m. John Thomas Agee |
| 5. | Elizabeth Epperly | b.7/17/1854-d.3/16/1856 |
| 6. | JOHN WM. EPPERLY | m. NANCY ADALINE CANNADAY |
| 7. | Drusilla Epperly | b.2/1860-d.8/3/1873 |
| 8. | Rosetta Epperly | m. John Allison |

After the death of her husband in 1876 Leah and her youngest daughter, Rosetta, made their home with her son, John William Epperly, and his family.

Leah died March 7, 1901 and was buried at the Ballinger Cemetery which is on what is now (1989) Floyd County Rd. 807 on a farm owned by Kyle Lee. This is about 3 miles south of the town of Floyd, off State Rt. 8. The cemetery is on a hill and is not far from where Leah and Eden had lived.

OUR GUTEKUNST (GOODYKOONTZ) ANCESTORS

_____ GUTEKUNST m. MARGARET _____

MARIA "POLLY" GOODYKOONTZ m WILHEM GILHAM

LEAH GILHAM m. EDEN EPPERLY

JOHN WILLIAM EPPERLY m. NANCY ADALINE CANNADAY

LAURA EPPERLY m. JOHN TAYLOR AGEE

MARGARET GUTEKUNST (GOODYKOONTZ)

There are too many conflicting pieces of information as to the given name of our immigrant Gutekunst ancestor for us to unscramble. We have searched immigration lists, Oaths of Allegiance lists and the Daughters of the American Revolution Index and learned that there was a George Gutekunst, from Pa., in the American Revolution - b. 1732 d. 1782 married Anna Margaretha. This agrees, somewhat, with Dr. Amos Wood's book "Floyd County - Its People and Places". Elva Keith, a descendant of the Goodykoontz line also, has a book on the Goodykoontz family which shows a David as being the immigrant ancestor.

We have concluded that we all must agree that there was a Margaret Goodykoontz who, with most if not all of her children, came to what is now Floyd County, Virginia from Frederick County, Virginia. The first land record we found was that of Jacob Goodykoontz who bought land on the west fork of Little River in 1802.

The record of _____ and Margaret Goodykoontz's children shows:

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| 1. Mary M. Goodykoontz | m. George Phlegar |
| 2. Jacob Goodykoontz | m. Margaret Beaver |
| 3. George Goodykoontz | m. Mary Beaver |
| 4. Margaretha Goodykoontz | m. Abraham Phlegar |
| 5. Elizabeth Goodykoontz | ... No information |
| 6. MARIA "POLLY" GOODYKOONTZ | m. WILLIAM GILHAM |
| 7. Eva Goodykoontz | No information |
| 8. Catherine Goodykoontz | m. Christian Stipe |
| 9. Daniel Goodykoontz | m. Hannah Beaver |

Margaret Goodykoontz died in March 1819 and was buried in the Zion Lutheran Church cemetery, Floyd, Virginia. Records of her attendance, births of her grandchildren, etc. were recorded there in German and have been translated. These records have been made part of a book by Marjorie Fluor and Margaret Tise.

MARIA "POLLY" GOODYKOONTZ

Maria "Polly" Goodykoontz was born about 1779 and married in Frederick County, Virginia to Wilhelm Gilham.

I do not know what year William and Polly came to Floyd County. They settled about three miles southwest of the town of Floyd. Dr. Amos Wood, in his book "Floyd County - Its People and Places" said the Gilham farm was now (1932) owned by Floyd Smith. This would indicate that it is the same land later owned by Eden and Leah Gilham Epperly and still later by John W. and Nancy A. Cannaday Epperly.

William and Maria Goodykoontz Gilham were the parents of:

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| 1. Isaac Gilham | m. Polly Slusher |
| 2. Ezeikel Gilham | m. Bianna Wade |
| 3. David Gilham | m. Mary Howell |
| 4. Drusilla Gilham | m. Mathew Cox |
| 5. Naomi Gilham | m. Carter Cox |
| 6. Levi Gilham | Never Married |
| 7. Lydia Gilham | m. Fleming Jones |
| 8. LEAH GILHAM | m. EDEN EPPERLY |

I do not know when Maria died or where she was buried.

OUR LEMON ANCESTORS

ISAAC LEMON, SR. m. VINA RICHARDSON

ISAAC LEMON, JR. m. 1st. SALLY YOUNG
2ND. Susan Short Turner

ELIZABETH LEMON m. STEPHEN CANNADAY

NANCY ADALINE CANNADAY m. JOHN WILLIAM EPPERLY

LAURA EPPERLY m. JOHN TAYLOR AGEE

ISAAC, SR. and VINA RICHARDSON LEMON

Isaac Lemon (Sr.) was born about 1753. He married on May 1, 1786 in Franklin County, Virginia to Vina Richardson. Surety for the bond was David Jones.

In 1786 Isaac bought land from Elijah Jones in the west end of Franklin County, Virginia on Pigg River. On September 5, 1791 he purchased 110 acres on Pigg River adjoining lands of Peter Young and James Greer. This is shown in Franklin County Deed Book 2, pages 265 and 266.

Isaac, Sr. and Vina Richardson Lemon were the parents of several children. We only have information of one of them.

1. ISAAC LEMON, JR. m. SALLY YOUNG

We do not know where Isaac and Vina died nor where they were buried.

ISAAC LEMON, JR.

Isaac Lemon, Jr., son of Isaac, Sr. and Vina Richardson Lemon, was born about 1806. He married Sally Young, daughter of Joshua and Nancy Walker Young.

Isaac and Sally settled in the eastern part of Floyd County, Virginia, about 5 miles southeast of the courthouse. This was near Joshua and Nancy Young's home.

Isaac was a farmer, blacksmith and a wagonmaker. He and Sally were the parents of:

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

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

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|----|---------------|----|--------------|
| 1. | Minerva Lemon | m. | Samuel Rakes |
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Isaac Lemon died about 1896. We do not know where he or either of his wives were buried.

ELIZABETH LEMON

Elizabeth Lemon, daughter of Isaac, Jr. and Sally Young Lemon, was born in Floyd County, Virginia in 1833. She married in Floyd County February 18, 1846 to Stephen Cannaday, son of William and Martha Wright Cannaday, of Patrick County.

Elizabeth and Stephen lived southwest of the town of Floyd on lands adjoining that of the Epperlys and the Ballingers.

Elizabeth died in 1886 and was buried beside her husband in the "Ballinger" Cemetery on what is now (1989) Floyd County Road # 807, off Route 8 South. The cemetery is on a hill on the farm of Kyle Lee.

The were the parents of:

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| 1. | Tazewell H. Cannaday | m. | Julia Ann Foster |
| 2. | Isaac L. Cannaday | m. | Emma Jamison |
| 3. | Stuart Cannaday | m. | Nannie O'Brian |
| 4. | NANCY A. CANNADAY | m. | JOHN WM. EPPERLY |
| 5. | Emmazetta M. Cannaday | m. | 1st. Elkanah Weddle
2nd. John Wm. Epperly |
| 6. | Laura M. Cannaday | m. | John Weaver |
| 7. | Eliza Cannaday | m. | Will Epperly |
| 8. | Sarah Emaline Cannaday | | No information |

OUR PHARES ANCESTORS

AMARIAH PHARES m. ELIZABETH BEHELER

NANCY PHARES m. JOHN M. EPPERLY

EDEN EPPERLY m. LEAH GILHAM

JOHN WILLIAM EPPERLY m. NANCY ADALINE CANNADAY

LAURA EPPERLY m. JOHN TAYLOR AGEE

AMARIAH PHARES

Amariah Phares was born in New Jersey in 1755 and was a soldier during the American Revolution, both in the Middlesex County Militia and in the Continental Line. When he enlisted in the Continental Line May 23, 1778 he gave his residence as Cross Road: age 23 years: height 5' 8": light complexion: light eyes: brown hair. He was discharged February 23, 1779.

The May, 1780 Tax List for New Brunswick, South Ward, Middlesex County, New Jersey showed him to be a single man. However, on June 17 (or 19th) 1780 he obtained a license to marry Sarah Van Zant. Security was posted by Amariah Phares and Aaron Van Pelt.

Amariah's daughter wrote (in 1879) that Sarah had died leaving a small daughter. Amariah left his little daughter in the care of his brother and made his way to Franklin County, Virginia where he married on January 13, 1791 to Elizabeth Beheler, daughter of David and Elizabeth Beheler. Family legend is that Elizabeth spoke only German and Amariah only English when they met. Amariah was a school teacher and his daughter wrote that he was unable to fill all the positions he was offered.

When Floyd County was formed in 1831 Amariah was shown as owning 75 acres of land on the waters of Little River. His residence was shown as Floyd County. The land was further described as adjoining lands of Kitterman on Pine Creek. This land was sold in 1831 by his wife and 6 of their children to their son-in-law and daughter, John M. and Nancy Phares Epperly. The other son had apparently died by this date.

Amariah Phares's military record (from the New Jersey Archives) shows his death date to be January 1, 1834, although the sale of land would indicate 1831.

Amariah and Elizabeth Beheler Phares were the parents of 8 children, 6 girls 2 boys, as written by their daughter, Nancy, in 1879.

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| 1. NANCY PHARES | m. JOHN M. EPPERLY |
| 2. Sally Phares | m. John Sowers |
| 3. John B. Phares | m. Rachel Rupe |
| 4. Elizabeth Phares | m. Henry Rutroff |
| 5. Mary Phares | m. Martin Walters |
| 6. Rachel Phares | m. John Beckett |
| 7. Hannah Phares | m. Jonathan Iddings |
| 8. Son- unknown | No information |

NANCY PHARES

Nancy Phares was born May 13, 1794 in the part of Franklin which became Floyd county in 1831. She was the daughter of Amariah and Elizabeth Beheler Phares.

She married March 10, 1814 to John M. Epperly, son of Jacob and Catherine Saur (Sowers) Epperly. The license was registered in Montgomery county. Nancy and John first bought 75 acres of land that had belonged to Nancy's parents. This land is on the Floyd-Franklin county line. They apparently lived there until they bought 130 acres from Ira Howard and another 130 acres from William O'Brien in 1835. This land is south-west of the town of Floyd and at least part of it was sold from father to son through four generations of Epperlys.

In 1879 Nancy wrote "a few lines of my past life and experience" in which she described her struggles and trials in trying to live the life she felt she should. She set very high standards for herself and since she had had no religious training as a child it would seem very difficult. At the time she wrote this manuscript she was living with her son Jesse (a minister) and his family in Montgomery County, Va. She was almost 85 years old.

In 1836 Nancy and John used their land and other property as collateral for a purchase from "Deskins & Thomas Merchants". A list of their property was: one mare, 2 cows and a calf, 1 yearling, 2 three year old steers, 19 geese, 1 patent plow, 1 shovel plow, 2 mattocks, 2 hoes, 2 horse gear, 1 cutting axe, 1 stable shovel and fire shovel, 3 grain tubs, 1 scythe and cradle, 1 gunn, 1 clock, 1 chest, 1 big wheel and 1 little wheel, 5 beds, 1 loom, 3 slays, 5 chairs, 3 little chairs, 1 big and 1 little pott, two ovens, two skillets, 1 fish pan, 1 kitchen cupboard, 2 water pails and a churn, 3 pewter dishes, 1 bason, 15 plates, 1 set cups and saucers, 4 bowls, 1 pitcher, 4 tin cups, 2 coffee pots, one tea pott, 6 tumblers, 6 tablespoons, 6 teaspoons, 3 axes, 4 coverlids, 7 bed quilts, 1 side saddle and 1 mares saddle. Also 1 _____ (looks like cumberbund).

Nancy and John were the parents of eleven children:

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| 1. EDEN EPPERLY | m | Leah Gilham |
| 2. David Epperly | m | 1st. Ursula Mangus
2nd. Sarah Stigleman |
| 3. Ruth Epperly | m | Burwell Hatcher |
| 4. Sarah Epperly | m | b. 1821 - d 1854 -no info. |
| 5. Luana Epperly | m | Henry B. Howell |
| 6. Soloman Epperly | m | b. 6/9/1826 d. 6/19/1826 |
| 7. Jesse Epperly | m | Caroline Akers |
| 8. Nancy Epperly | m | William Altizer |
| 9. Margaret Epperly | | b. 5/23/1824 d 3/13/1855 |
| 10. Samuel Epperly | | b. 1/27/1837 no info. |

NANCY PHARES - continued

11. Andrew J. Epperly b. 5/27/1838 d 7/18/1855.

Nancy Phares Epperly died January 21, 1881 and was buried in East View Cemetery. This is on county road 714 a short distance off route 8 south of the town of Floyd. It is on a hill on the farm of Palmer Tolbert. Nancy's husband, John, her son David, his wives and several children were also buried there.

MARCH 11, 1879

With a trembling heart and hand, I set myself to write a few lines of my past life and experience. My parents were poor people, though I believe were honest, truthful and industrious, but not professors of religion. They gave their children good advice and a little education so as to read and write though indifferently.

When I was young, I was sinful as all children are, and looked forward with almost impatience to be old enough to dance, as I thought there was so much pleasure in it. But before I was old enough to enjoy dancing, I had more serious thoughts.

One day a schoolmate of mine asked me which I would rather do, stay in Hell till a little bird would come once in a thousand years, with a little sand in its mouth, till it would build a mountain of sand or to stay in Hell forever. As well as I can remember, I told her that I would stay till the mountain was built for that would end sometime but eternity would never end. But it made but little, if any, impression on my mind but sometimes I would try to get to the end by saying, forever, forever, forever, repeating it often, but could not see the end.

So time passed on a few years, and I became in bad health, and thought I could not live long, and was in a great deal of trouble for I felt myself a great sinner and I tried to pray for mercy for I thought if I died then I would be lost.

I was in so much trouble that I could not sleep, and it seemed that I could hear bells ringing in my ears and I thought it was death bells. After a while my health was better, but my convictions remained with me. I tried to pray to God for mercy, but thought I did not know how to pray.

One day Mother and me went to see a sick man. He was in a rack of misery and walked the floor with his hand to his head saying, "Lord my love, Lord my love", repeating it often. As he was a good man, I thought perhaps that was the right way to pray.

After than, my trouble was still with me. One evening late, I felt very bad and thought I was going to die. I took the hymn book out but it was too dark to read, so I came back to the house. As I came to the steps, my fears were so great I cried out, "Lord my love." I went in and told Mother to send for somebody, but she said I was scared, and I was, for I thought I was going to die.

And many such things I went through. But after awhile as I prayed often and as I thought God had forsaken all my sins, I began to think I was a christian, for I thought christians could do no more.

I was then 16 or 17 years old. My parents sent me to Franklin County to stay with one of my half uncles to help them fix for moving to the West. I stayed seven weeks, but I was in trouble all the time I stayed there. When they started on their journey, I was to go

with them to my home. We stayed all night at his brother-in-law's. There were some young people who came with a fiddle but there was none to dance with them. They soon left, then we all went to bed, but whether I slept or not I can't say, but that dreadful feeling came on me with more power than at other times.

I got up out of bed. It was dark in the house. I knelt to pray. I was all in a tremble. After a little while, I thought it would wear off and I went to try to lay down again but had not more than laid down till I felt it with such power that I thought I was sure that I would die in a little time, and I saw a horrible pit.

I can't describe the horror of that place. I wanted to go out and die in a swamp I remembered seeing, but did not know how to open the door, so I knelt down rather behind the door and while I was there the Lord seemed to be near me, and said my sins were forgiven. There what joy, what pleasure O! the happiness and thankfulness that I such a poor unworthy being as I was to be so blessed. O! the joy, the glory and praise to God for his love and mercy to me such a poor worthless worm, tongue cannot express, much less my pen, what God has prepared for those that love him.

It seems the Lord loved me and as I thought said that I would not die then, and when I did die I would go to heaven.

After a while I went to bed, but could not sleep for joy and gladness. For some time then I slept a little. My first thought when I awoke was my great deliverance. I loved the Lord with my whole heart and rejoiced in his Holy name. I got home but said nothing to anyone of what I felt, and so time passed on.

I was sometimes rejoicing in the Lord, and sometimes I would be in trouble. When anything like omitting my duty, for not praying as I ought for the scripture says, "Pray without ceasing," but my trouble would not last long, till I could rejoice again.

One thing I did which caused grief and perhaps may have caused many a tear, it was this: There was an old man that had the palsy. He always came in the meeting house with his hat on his hand that was always above his head. Once I went in the kitchen and at that time saw an old hat and put it on my hand, and came in the other and went in the house to make them laugh, which it did. Not thinking any harm of it at the time but was sorry afterwards, and ashamed of it to this day.

I was with other people and played but would not dance. I married in my 19th year and saw a great deal of worldly trouble as my husband had to go to war but through the mercy of God he came home again. Sometime after then I was reading the 25th chapter of Matthew where it gives account of the talents that each one had, and the first gained five, the second two, but when it came to the third, he hid his Lord's money and I thought that was me, for I had not told anyone only my mother and she was no professor at that time. She did say but little about it. I also told an old man. He said that was good experience and I ought to join the church. But this talk was before I read that in Matthew and when I considered it, I was in