

THE EPHRAIM CONNECTION

By

Will W. Lake

An article by Penny Floyd and Bee Holmes in PP VI-2, and a later article in X-2 by Bob Sloan, dealt with Pennington migratory patterns and raised intriguing questions about a possible connection between Ephraim Pennington of New Haven in 1643 and the group of Penningtons who arrived in the Yadkin Valley of North Carolina in the 1750's.

These two splendid articles are among the very best that have ever appeared in PP and the hypotheses in them seem entirely credible to me. Somewhere in PP I have read some sage advice by either Bee or Bob to look for new facts, or look at old facts in new ways. Since I have no new facts, I have tried to look anew at old ones, specifically the cross-naming custom of the presumptive descendants of Ephraim of Connecticut. A pattern emerges from the old facts which has persuaded me that the Penningtons who were in North Carolina no later than 1753 could have come from no other place than the area in northwestern New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania where the descendants of Ephraim of Connecticut are known to have been living in the 1740's. (XV-1-38 & 40) and (XVIII-1-19.)

This Ephraim landed in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1640 and moved to New Haven in 1642 or 1643. According to A.C.M. Pennington's account, written in 1871, Ephraim might have been a son of Isaac Pennington, Lord Mayor of London, who died in 1643 (II-3-34). It is also speculated that he was the second son of Sir William Pennington who was created Lord Muncaster of Cumberland Castle, England, on June 21, 1676, and whose first son, William, remained in England. This is from an unsigned document in a library in Jackson County, KY. However, this cannot be correct, as this Sir William Pennington was born in 1655, and if his first son was named William, perhaps he died young, as Sir William's estate was inherited by his son, Sir Joseph Pennington, who died in 1743. Ephraim could have been a son of the William Pennington, Esq., who died in 1652 and who was the grandfather of Sir William.

In New Haven, Ephraim married Mary _____. They had a son, Ephraim II, ca. 1645, and daughter Mary, 1646. Ephraim I died intestate in 1660. On March 5, 1660-1 (Old Style) widow Pennington and her two children came into court. Ephraim II got two-thirds of the estate, Mary one-third, and their mother was guardian. Mary married Jonathan Tompkins in 1666 and in 1667 Ephraim II married Mary Brockett. In 1667 both families moved to Newark, a sub-colony of Congregational Connecticut. (IX-1-11) and (X-2-1, et seq.)

Ephraim II and Mary had Ephraim III sometime between 1668 and 1681, and their son Judah was born in 1682. Ephraim II died on Jan. 28, 1694-5 in Newark. Administration of his estate was granted to his widow Mary.* I speculate that Timothy, of the 1749 will, was also their son. We know that Timothy's three sons were all under 21 in 1749. (VIII-2-1 & 2 and VII-1-55.) His son Ephraem (sic) was most likely the one who became a captain in the Revolution and who died in 1816 at age 76; hence, born in 1740. The Ephraim who was a son of Samuel, 1725, served in the Revolution but could not have been born in 1740 when Samuel was only 15. (V-1-89.) Son Jonathan was probably the one

*N.J. Archives, XXL, p. 221, from Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New Jersey, Vol. XXI.

who was in Morris Township in 1772, under age 50, hence born after 1722. Son Elijah's age cannot be determined except that he was born later than 1728. He could have been the Elijah who was in court in 1758. Dr. Lott Pennington, b. 1812 in Somerset, NJ, could have been the grandson of one of these Elijahs. (II-2-85).

Son Ephraim appears to be the youngest of the three boys, all of whom were born between 1728 and 1740, which suggests that Timothy was a little younger than his brother Judah, and named one son after his father and another after his uncle, Jonathan Tompkins. (Son Jonathan died on Feb. 24, 1815 in Bernard's Twp., Somerset Co., NJ. He had bought a farm from a Johnathan Lewis, a name subsequently associated with the Penningtons.)

If the Elijah who was in court in 1758 was not the Elijah who was under 21 in 1749, he could have been a brother of Timothy born between 1670 and 1682, as it seems unlikely that Ephraim II and Mary would have had only three children in 17 years. If this is so, Timothy named all three sons for their uncles, as many subsequent Penningtons did. Ephraim's younger brother, Judah, had only one son, Samuel, who had nine children. All but William were given Biblical names, which further illustrates the strength of this tradition among the descendants of Ephraim I.

When the will *(1) of Timothy Peneton (sic) or Penetant (sic) was probated in Morris County on Feb. 25, 1749, one of those who owed money to the estate was Stephen "Osbron". Is this the earliest record of the association between the Pennington & Osborn families that endured for decades? (I-2-25 & VII-1-55). It is known that the Morgans, Bryans, Boones, Osborns, Tompkins & Plumleys moved from New Jersey and southeast Pennsylvania to the Yadkin River in North Carolina in the 1750's (X-2-5). Marriages between Penningtons and Osbornes are cited in VII-1-9 & 10, XI-2-30 & XVIII-1-29.*(2).

The relationship of Timothy of the 1749 will to Ephraim III makes for interesting speculation, but the question remains, "Who were the children of Ephraim III?" Bob Sloan in X-2-5, et seq., postulated an Ephraim as a brother to Timothy of the 1749 will and estimated his birthdate as 1689, mentioning that he was the right age to have been the grandfather of Micajah, 1743. The Ephraim who was in court in 1741 cannot be the son of Timothy, as this Ephraim was a child - probably an infant - that year. If it was Ephraim III, he would have been 74 that year, if alive. That suggests that there was probably an Ephraim IV who would have been about 50.

As I have stated above, I think Ephraim III who was probably born in Newark soon after 1667 (XIV-1-3) was Timothy's brother and that the postulated Ephraim of 1689 is more likely to have been Ephraim IV. He was the right age to have been the son of Ephraim III, about whose offspring A.C.M. Pennington is silent. (XI-1-28 & 29.) He was the right age to have been the father of Benajah, Sr., and Levy (who moved to Rowan County in the 1750's) and the grandfather of Micajah, 1743, and was the right age to have been declared

*(1)Will dated Oct. 30, 1749, was in Mendham Twp., Morris Co., NJ. Wife Mary to have dwelling till the youngest of three children (Elijah, Jonathan and Ephraim) will be of age. Mary and Joseph Dod, Executors; proved 22 Feb. 1749-50.

*(2)Also see "The New River System" by JoAnn White, professional genealogist, Salisbury, NC.

"aged and infirm" in Caleb Osborn's district in Rowan County, NC, in 1762. (1-3-17 and 1-4-60.) This is also recorded in the Colonial Records of North Carolina, Vol. 6, p. 829, which states, "Ephraim Pennington of Rowan County exempt from paying Public Taxes and doing public duties. Granted Wednesday, April 28, 1762, N.C., House of Commons." He was also the right age to have been the "Ephraim Ffenton" in Bucks Co. with Isaac in 1722 (XVIII-1-1). In addition, he was the right age to have been the father of the Ephraim, who I believe to be Ephraim V, who between 1761 and 1768 was in Morgan Bryan's district on the Shallow Ford of the Yadkin River, near Hannah Boone Stewart and her parents (VIII-1-55 & 56) and (I-3-17).

Benajah and Micajah were on the Yadkin River in Rowan County, NC, in 1753 (XIX-1-10) and several Penningtons were on the 1759 tax list of Rowan County. It should be remembered that in 1759 Rowan County had no western border, thus included what is now most of northwestern North Carolina. Benajah had 100 acres of land on the east side of the Yadkin River, some miles to the east of present-day Wilkes County.

In 1771 Benajah, Sr. and Jr., and Micajah were among the petitioners for a new county. Benajah probably had sons Micajah and William, and possibly Levi. (I-4-60.)

In 1777 Richard Pennington, b. ca. 1748, in Pennsylvania or Virginia,* married Hannah Boone Stewart, b. 1746, in Rowan County. Hannah was a sister of Daniel Boone and the widow of John Stewart who disappeared in 1770 on a hunting trip with Daniel. Richard died on Dec. 21, 1813, in Sparta, Tenn. Hannah died on Apr. 9, 1828, in Monroe Co., KY, at the home of her son Daniel. The uncertainty about Richard's birthplace leads me to suspect that the Penningtons left eastern Pennsylvania and western New Jersey at various times in the 1740's, but they all headed up the Shenandoah Valley and most of them settled in or near the Granville District of North Carolina. (The Shenandoah flows north, thus those going south are going "up" the Valley,)

In 1782 Micajah was on the Rowan County tax list. His name was spelled Peniton, as in the will of Timothy of New Jersey 33 years earlier. (I-4-60.) In 1790 Eaphram (sic) was in newly-formed Ashe County. Also there were Edward, Joseph and one of the Micajahs. (XI-1-22.) A query in XV-1-51 asked if Celia, ca. 1793, was a daughter of the Ephraim, ca. 1769-1770, who was in Ashe County from 1800 to 1840. These two Ephraims could have been Ephraim V & VI. Ephraim VI could have been the one who, at age 81, was living in Ashe Co. with Andrew in 1850. (XI-2-33 & 41.) Andrew had a son named Ephraim and so did Elijah who lived nearby. Andrew moved to Tennessee before 1860.

Also in 1793 an Ephraim was born in Wilkes County. By 1850, he and his family were living in Perry County, KY, and so was Levi, b. 1810 in North Carolina. (I-1-20.) In 1795 there were two Ephraims on the Wilkes County tax list. (VIII-1-55 & 56.) The Penningtons had lived in western North Carolina for two generations by this time and were becoming numerous, as evidenced by Wilkes County land grants. Between 1785 and 1787 Benjamin received 100 acres and Micajah 95; between 1790 and 1792 Eliha (sic) received 100 acres and William 50; in 1795 and 1796 Levi received 100 acres and Eliha (sic) 50, and Micajah 150; and in 1798 and 1799 Micajah received 100 acres and William 300. Ashe County land grants between 1800 and 1812 included Micajah; Micajah, Jr.; William; Levi; Abel and Ephraim. William Pennington, possibly a son of Aaron

*In Dr. David B. Trimble's book, American Origins, it says: "1752 in Pennsylvania." (From Daniel Pennington's Bible Records). Editor.

was born in 1785 in Newark and moved to Ashe County where he had land grants #1248 and #1795. (I have lost the PP citation for this.) It seems to me that the most likely explanation for William's move is that he was joining his relatives who had preceded him. I can think of no other credible explanation.

The 1800 census of Ashe County included Ephraim and Ephraim, Jr. Also in this census were Micajah; Micajah, Jr.; Reuben; Wells; two Williams; and a Benjamin. (XIII-1-38). The Ephraim was over 45, thus born before 1755, as was Micajah. Ephraim, Jr.; Micajah, Jr.; and Levi were 26-44, and the others were 16-26. (I-4-15).

Ephraim and Ephraim, Jr., were still in Ashe County in 1810 (XI-1-22), and on the 1815 Ashe County tax list were Micajah, Ephraim, William, Levi, Reuben, Wells, and Benjamin. Still there in 1820 were Abel, Ephraim (sic), Edward, Joseph, Larkin, and Levi. (XI-1-12).

Between 1800 and 1815 an Aaron Pennington of North Carolina and his wife, a Coldiron, moved to New Harlan, KY. One of their children was Ephraim. (XIV-1-3).

In 1816, Andrew Pennington was born in North Carolina. He was in Johnson County, TN, in 1860 with a wife and seven children. All but one, age 4, were born in North Carolina. One son, age 18, was Ephraim. (XII-2-21).

The cross-naming pattern which was manifested by four generations of Ephraims in Connecticut, New Jersey and Pennsylvania was repeated for more than four generations by the Penningtons in North Carolina. No other Pennington group was so fond of the name Ephraim, or other Biblical names, for that matter.

The custom persisted among the Penningtons who remained in the north. (See V-1-28 & XIII-1-36). In Somerset County, NJ, in the 1830 census there were Ephraim, Elijah, James, John, Nathaniel and William. All of these but Nathaniel and William were still there in 1840. (XIII-1-47). Somewhat distant from both groups, and possibly unrelated, was the Ephraim of Yorktown who offered a reward on August 9, 1775, for the recovery of a runaway Irish servant named Margaret Thornton, age 19. (XVII-2-6).

The Penningtons in Virginia were part of the same extended family as those just across the state line in northwest North Carolina. In 1782, Timothy and William were in Brunswick County and Ephraim, Micajah, Timothy and Benajah were in Montgomery County (later to become Grayson County). By 1787 Timothy was in Wilkes County, NC. (XI-2-20). Sometime between 1782 and 1787, Richard joined them in Montgomery County (XIII-1-41) and Benajah, Ephraim and Timothy were still in Montgomery County in 1790. (XI-1-19). In 1793 Ephraim had 100 acres on the New River in Virginia. It was in Montgomery County, but by the time the survey was completed in 1798 it was in Grayson County. (XVIII-2-15).

In 1797, Ephraim Pennington and Ephraim Osborn signed the Pledge of Allegiance on the same day in Montgomery County. (VI-2-93). In 1810, Edward and Micajah were in Lee County; in 1820 and 1830, Samuel and James were in Grayson County. (XI-1-19).

In 1840, William, Andrew, Ephraim and Levi were in Grayson County (XI-1-19) and Ephraim was between 70 and 80 (VII-2-58).

Aside from the cross-naming pattern of the Penningtons in North Carolina which was so similar to that of their presumptive ancestors in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, there are other reasons for believing that the northern Penningtons moved through Virginia to North Carolina. To understand these reasons, it is necessary to understand the circumstances they faced in the north. Therefore, I will digress in the following paragraphs to present a very abbreviated account of the events that greatly affected the lives and migratory patterns of those in the north who sought free or cheap land in the 1740's. To do this I will have to give some background on the decades prior to 1740.

In April 1663, as partial payment for the debts he had incurred, King Charles II granted the lands between 31 degrees and 36 degrees north latitude to eight proprietors whose only restrictions were that they had to govern with the consent of the freemen and religious liberty had to be granted. The northern part of this grant (which eventually became North Carolina) had already been colonized by immigrants from Virginia. Malcontents from Virginia continued to settle there, growing tobacco. However, these and other immigrants did not prosper under proprietary rule. In 1729, seven of the eight proprietary shares were sold to King George II and North Carolina became a crown colony. The remaining share had been inherited by John Lord Carteret, the first Earl of Granville.

In 1744, by a special grant from King George II, Carteret was given right and title to all vacant lands within the Granville District. This district was a strip of land sixty miles wide bounded by the Virginia boundary on the north. (This boundary had not been surveyed at this time and some immigrants were uncertain as to whether they lived in Virginia or North Carolina.) The western boundary of the Granville District was the Haw River in 1746, the Rocky River in 1766, and the western mountains in 1774.

Until 1759 a tract of any size could be taken up for an entry fee of three shillings sterling, collected twice yearly. After 1759 the fee was raised to ten shillings. When Lord Granville died in 1763, the District was inherited by his oldest son who had little interest in the North Carolina lands. Following the Revolution, the still vacant lands in the District were confiscated. The Granville heirs made a vain attempt to recover their lands or obtain compensation for them, and the Granville District disappeared. While it lasted it was a magnet for all those who sought cheap land.

During this same period, things were happening in the northern colonies. In 1664, James, Duke of York, paid some of his debts by giving John Lord Berkeley and Sir George Carteret the land between the Delaware and Hudson Rivers. This land became known as New Jersey in honor of Carteret's home on the Isle of Jersey. It had a governor, an assembly, and provided for religious freedom. In 1674, Berkeley sold his interest to the Society of Friends, better known as Quakers. In the meantime, the sons of Ephraim Pennington of New Haven had moved to New Jersey when the Puritan outpost now known as Newark was established.

The same year that the Penningtons moved to Newark, William Penn was converted to Quakerism in England. He sought a place where his fellow religionists would be free from persecution. In 1681, Penn and eleven other Quakers

bought East Jersey from Carteret's heirs, and it also became a refuge for Quakers. (See also XI-2-4.) The population had been doubling every 25 years and by 1750 it exceeded one million. As the coastlands had been taken by earlier settlers, the later ones tended to move to the advancing frontiers. As 90 percent or more were farmers, cheap or free land was of great importance.

One part of the frontier was of great interest to a group of Virginians. In 1749 (the year of the will of Timothy Pennington in New Jersey) Lawrence Washington, the older half-brother of George Washington, and some speculating friends were planning a bold project for an "Ohio Company." With the help of the Duke of Bedford, the Company received a grant of 200,000 acres on the Ohio River from King George II, plus the possibility of another 300,000 acres.

The Ohio project's purpose was to attract settlers and secure the frontier along the Ohio River against the possibility of French who might come down from Canada to occupy that area. The junction of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers was selected as an ideal site for a trading post where the larger part of the fur trade could be captured before the French got it. The project did not proceed well for several reasons, one of which was the declining health of Lawrence Washington, who died in 1752. More importantly, the French had already sent the Chevalier de Bienville to the Ohio Valley to assert the French claim to that region and to warn the Indians against the English. Immigrants to western Pennsylvania went there at their peril. By 1753, the French had established forts from Niagara to Fort Duquesne (now Pittsburgh) to block western movement of the English which threatened to breach the natural line of communication between the St. Lawrence area and the French colonies on the Gulf Coast.

This was the situation when young George Washington with 300 Virginians went to the Ohio Valley to expel the Frenchmen - an expedition that was a complete failure. In 1755, General Braddock with 1400 English regulars and Lt. Col. George Washington with 450 colonial militiamen repeated the attempt and failed again. This defeat almost destroyed British prestige among the Indians, thereby inclining them toward the French. The entire western frontier of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia was exposed to Indian raids, encouraged by the French, and massacres of settlers became commonplace.

For those in New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania, such as the Penningtons, Boones, Osbornes, Morgans and others, moving west would have been foolhardy. No help could be expected from the Pennsylvania government, dominated as it was by pacifist Quakers. Those who wanted land had only one option - to go south. The Granville District in North Carolina offered the land at low prices and minimal risk. The Shenandoah Valley was a relatively safe route. By 1758, the western parts of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia became reasonably secure when the French abandoned Fort Duquesne and Fort Pitt was rising from its ashes, but by this time the cluster of families that included the Penningtons was in western North Carolina.

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The Penningtons who migrated from the Carolinas to Georgia were an interesting group. They include several Ephraims, and at least three of the Ephraims were ministers of the Gospel. In the following pages I will quote or paraphrase several items from Pennington Pedigrees and then try to connect them into a hypothetical account of their migrations.

Rev. Ephraim Pennington settled in South Carolina before the Revolution. His wife Mary died in Troupe Co., GA, on Oct. 11, 1847, in her 33rd year. (This must have been a 2nd or 3rd wife, or a typo. His first wife would probably have been in her 83rd year in 1847.) They (?) had a son Thomas, b. 1802 in Warren Co., GA, brought up in Jasper Co., and d. in Mertwether Co. in 1842. He married Elinda Phillips in 1823 and they had four children. (I-4-66).

Just south of Warren Co. are Burke and Jefferson Counties, where two Thomas Penningtons were heads of households in 1850. One of them may have been the father of the Ephraim who was orphaned before 1825. William Pennington was appointed as guardian. (I-3-14). Sion and William Pennington were in Jefferson Co., GA, as early as 1802. Both of them died in the 1820's. (I-4-20 and 21).

Ephraim Pennington was in the Cherokee Land Lottery of GA in 1832. He was a soldier between the years 1784-1797, thus probably born ca. 1760. (XIV-1-12).

An Ephraim Pennington was in Troup Co., GA, in 1840 (XII-1-9).

Ephraim Pennington, b. 1794, lived in Jasper Co., was a private in Capt. John Smith's Company, Major Wootton's Detachment, GA Militia, in the Creek War, 1814-1815. John and Nathan Pennington were also in the GA Militia. (I-1-51 & 52). This Ephraim was a son of Rev. Ephraim. Ephraim of 1794 was probably in Fayette Co. in 1830, and Campbell Co. in 1850. (IV-1-88). I can find no Campbell Co. Was it an earlier name for Coweta Co.?

This Ephraim was married to Lucy Brown in 1820 in Jasper Co., GA. Their eight children included Ephraim, b. Jan. 6, 1835, and James Oscar, b. Nov. 22, 1839. James Oscar was the one who, as a Confederate soldier, was captured and imprisoned in Pennsylvania and subsequently settled in New Jersey, the home of his ancestors. (I-2-48 & I-3-13).

Parks Pennington of GA (was this Abraham Parka?) moved to Texas in 1859. He had a son Ephraim, born 1863. (IV-2-64).

Lucy, wife of Ephraim Pennington, died June 24, 1872, Gatesville, TX. (This must be Lucy Brown Pennington who married Rev. Ephraim Pennington, II, in 1820). (III-1-17).

One Ephraim Pennington, according to the 1850 census, was born in N.C. He lived in Campbell (?) and Coweta Cos., GA. About 1860 he went to Texas with some children. While he was there, his wife died and the children remained there. (This is inconsistent with the report that Lucy died in 1872. A more credible version is that Ephraim died soon after the Civil War started and that Lucy and daughter Eliza went to Texas before the war. (X-2-17). He is buried in New Hope Cemetery near Palmetto, GA. His stone lists: "Born 7-20-1794, died 12-24-1862." He was a Methodist minister. (Palmetto is in Fulton County, near Fayette Co.) (I-2-48).

From the above quotes from PP, we can construct a rough family outline. The elder Rev. Ephraim Pennington was born in North Carolina before 1760. He could have had brothers or cousins named Thomas and Sion (Simeon?), both of whom died in the 1820's. Rev. Ephraim went to South Carolina before the Revolution (followed by Abel I a few years later who went to Greenville). (Could he have been the Ephraim who evidently enlisted in Enoch Osborn's Company of

the Virginia Militia, but then changed his mind? (X-2-6). He settled in Wilkes Co., GA, and soon thereafter moved to adjacent Warren Co. by 1802 where son Thomas (named for his uncle?) was born. Son Ephraim was 8 years old at that time and if he was born in North Carolina, Rev. Ephraim must have returned to N. C. before moving to Georgia, and may have been the Ephraim who was back in Wilkes Co., NC, who got the land grant in Wilkes Co., GA, in 1797. (X-1-7).

By 1814, the family was in central Georgia where son Ephraim joined the Ga. Militia. The John and Nathan Pennington who also joined the Militia could have been brothers or cousins. Other children of Rev. Ephraim were Abraham, Samuel and Anna.

In 1820, son Ephraim married Lucy Brown and in 1823, son Thomas married Elinda Phillips. Son Ephraim moved to adjacent Baldwin Co. a few years later, and at some point he became a Methodist minister, which may indicate that his father was also a Methodist.

In 1832, the elder Rev. Ephraim was in the Georgia Land Lottery and may have acquired land in Troupe Co. in western Georgia where his wife Mary died in 1847. Son Thomas died in Meriwether Co. in 1842. (Meriwether is adjacent to Troupe Co. Also adjacent to Meriwether is Talbot Co., where a Henry Pennington lived in 1840. (PP-I-4-20).

At least some of the family of Rev. Ephraim and Lucy moved to Texas shortly before the Civil War, but for some reason Rev. Ephraim remained in or returned to Georgia where he died (from a reaction to smallpox vaccine) in 1862. He had many descendants. (IX-1-15, et seq., & X-2-17).

The foregoing account of the migration of this family across central Georgia over two or three generations is without regard to the formation of new counties. Possibly the family moved less often than I have suggested. Georgia census records before 1820 were lost or destroyed. However, a five-volume index to Georgia tax digests has been published by the Reprint Co. of Spartanburg, SC. These volumes include Wilkes Co. from 1791 through 1816. Perhaps some of the Georgia cousins have access to these, plus a record of county formation, and can improve the foregoing. A list of Pennington marriages in Georgia was published in XIX-1-54. Interestingly, all but four of these marriages occurred in the band about 60 miles wide across central Ga. where the Ephraims migrated.

There was another Rev. Ephraim Pennington in Georgia. Again, I quote or paraphrase items from PP. Thomas Pennington who married Leatha Beall was a son of Thomas Pennington of Surry Co., VA (Group X). The marriage was on Mar. 29, 1796, in Rowan Co., NC. Leatha was a daughter of Thaddeus Beall, a Brigadier General in the Revolutionary War. The children of Thomas and Leatha were William B., Mary, Thomas 1805, Thaddeus, Ephraim, Frederick 1798, and Augustus 1825. Thomas died in 1825 in Jasper Co., GA. (There was another Thomas in GA as early as 1784, VI-2-19). (PP-VI-2-19).

Ephraim Pennington was born Feb. 9, 1809, in GA, and lived in Monroe Co. He married Mary Ann Phillips and had three wives altogether. His father was Thomas, b. 1750-1775 in MD, VA or NC, and died in Jasper Co., GA, in or about 1825. Ephraim died Nov. 23, 1862, in Louisiana. (IX-2-5 & X-1-6 & 7).

Ephraim Pennington, age 41 in 1850, b. in GA, was in Claiborne Parish, LA, and was a licensed preacher. He was at the Lisbon Methodist Church in 1856. In 1850, he was with a second wife, Eliza, and had one child by her, plus five children, ages 5 to 16, by his first wife, all born in GA. He was still there in 1860 with a third wife, 4 children at home, and 23 slaves. (PP-XV-2-15).

This family seems to belong to Group X. They were in Jasper County when the father of the family, Thomas, died in 1825. The "other" Rev. Ephraim and family were there also (from 1814 when son Ephraim joined the GA Militia until he moved to Baldwin Co.). It is possible there were three Rev. Ephraim Penningtons in Jasper Co. at the same time.

Even though the two Pennington families in Jasper Co. in 1825 were from different Groups, they had much in common, including the frequent use of biblical names and a strong interest in religion. The fact that both families were there at the same time seems more than coincidental, and it buttresses the case made so convincingly by Robert Sloan that Groups X and XI were really part of the extended family descended from Ephraim I of New Haven.

The only county that Thomas Pennington's children lived in that the "other" Ephraim's family did not live in is Monroe Co. However, Monroe is adjacent to Jasper and in the middle of the broad path across Georgia traversed by the migrating Ephraims.

The Ephraims who moved into Kentucky and Tennessee are difficult to group into distinct families. These movements began about 1800, and this generation of Penningtons would have been the grandsons and great-grandsons of Ephraim IV and his contemporaries. Some of them are listed below:

Ephraim was the father of Aaron, b. 1786, and d. in 1861 in KY. (IX-2-5).

James, who settled in Warren Co., KY, in 1817 had a son named Ephraim. (VI-2-86).

Ephraim Aaron, b. 1814 and d. 1865 in Clay Co., KY, had a son named Ephraim Aaron. (V-2-49). (Also see V-2-1 & XI-1-3 thru 12).

Aaron, son of Ephraim, b. in Harlan Co., KY, in 1876. (I-4-11).

Samuel, b. 1800, was a son of Ephraim, who was a son of Thomas. Samuel had a brother Ephraim and a sister Anna. The brother Ephraim had children Tom and Nancy. He moved to Monroe Co., KY, to be near Forsyth and died there. (IV-2-61).

Ephram (sic), age 57, b. NC, was in the 1850 census of Perry Co., KY. He lived next to Levi, b. NC, age 40, and Justice Boling, b. NC, age 60.

Ephraim was in Monroe Co., KY, in 1850. Also, there were Boone, Daniel, Isaac, Wilson, and Samuel. (I-2-3 & XI-1-3 to 12).

Ephraim, b. 1795 in NC, was in Monroe Co., KY, in 1850. (VI-2-28). The same Ephraim as the one next above?

Ephraim was in Russell Co., KY, in 1830 and 1840 when he was 60-70. (I-1-31 & XI-1-3 to 12).

Ephraim was listed next to Samuel in the 1850 census of Monroe Co., KY. Was he a Cherokee? (XIII-1-9).

Ephraim was a cousin to the children of Robert, and played with them in Russell Co., KY. These children were Prior and 5 others. (I-1-45).

Abel was in Knox Co., KY, in 1810. In 1820, Abel, Sr., and Abel, Jr., were in Clay Co.; also William. In 1820, Aaron and Micajah were in Harlan Co. In 1830, Ephraim and Aaron were in Clay Co. Another (?) Aaron was in Clay Co. in 1870, also a Timothy and a William. (XI-1-6 to 12).

Ephraim Burch Pennington, b. Jan. 9, 1826, TN, was in Clark Co., Ark., in 1860 next to A. J. Pennington, b. in Ala. Ephraim served in the 2nd Arkansas Mounted Infantry. He d. Oct. 17, 1911, in Mo. (II-1-10 & VI-1-6). (A different version is in XII-2-66 & 67).

Ephraim, age 65, a cooper, b. NC, was in Jackson Co., TN, in 1860. Also, there were Samuel, age 68, b. in KY, a son of Simeon of NC, Wilcon (sic), age 51, and Nicholas, age 36, both b. in KY, and Timothy, age 64, b. in VA, and D. B., age 54, b. in KY. (I-1-38).

In 1840, Ephraim was in Jackson Co., TN, with family of one son and four daughters. Also, there were Anthony, Samuel, Uriah, William, Wilson and Timothy. (XVIII-1-40). (I-2-6 gives the same information, but lists a Whitson instead of Wilson).

In the 1850 census of Jackson Co., TN, there were William, James, Samuel, Uriah, Timothy, Judah, Sarah and Nancy. In 1860, there were Samuel, Timothy, Efram (sic), William and others. (XI-1-16).

Sorting out these Ephraims is too difficult for me, but their existence, along with the Samuels, Timothys, and even a Judah, clearly indicates the persistent cross-naming custom that had endured for eight generations by the middle of the 19th Century. They were a restless lot, moving frequently, but usually in groups.

One of the most interesting Ephraims, and one of the earliest in KY, was born in Rockbridge Co., VA, in 1785, the son of Timothy and Mary Trousdale Pennington. Timothy was a son of an Ephraim who married a Miss McCallister. In 1787 Timothy, Mary and their family (including a son named Ephraim) moved to Crab Orchard, Lincoln Co. (then still part of VA, and since 1792 part of KY). Timothy died in 1801. On Sept. 17, 1812, his son Ephraim married Elizabeth Vardiman. Their children included Ephraim, William, Sally, James, Isabella and Levicy. (XI-2-23, XIV-1-1, XIV-1-45). Ephraim, Jr., married Jane Clemons on May 19, 1846, in Crab Orchard (I-4-29). William, b. 1792, lost his left hand in the War of 1812 at Lower Sandusky, Ohio. He was pensioned and moved to Boone Co., MO, to be with friends and relatives. He lost his pension papers and filed for replacement. His witnesses included Ephraim. (IV-1-37).

The fascinating aspect of Ephraim, 1785, is that he was the son of a Timothy who was the son of an Ephraim. The young Ephraim of the 1749 will was also the son of a Timothy who might have been (and, I think, was) the son of an Ephraim. In both cases, Timothy's wife was Mary. Is it just a striking parallel situation? I think not. The young Ephraim of the 1749 will was, I think, the one who died in 1816 at age 76, hence, born in 1740. Did he have a son named Timothy, born in the 1760's? If so, did this Timothy head up the Shenandoah Valley, homestead for awhile in Rockbridge County (which has the same boundary now that it had in 1790) where Ephraim of 1785 was born, and then head west into Kentucky instead of south into the areas of western Virginia and North Carolina where his cousins had gone a generation earlier? It seems reasonable since Kentucky, which was largely unknown in 1753 when the Penningtons went to North Carolina, had been explored by Daniel Boone and others by 1787 when Timothy moved there.

If Ephraim of 1740 did have a son, it is not unlikely that he would have given his father's name to him. The timing fits. Thus, it seems quite probable to me that Ephraim, 1785, is one of the Group I Penningtons whose origins were not obscured by living a generation or two in the raw frontierland of the Smoky Mountains where his older cousins had settled.

Not all the Penningtons went south. When the Northwest Territory opened in 1788, large numbers of land-hungry easterners, including the Penningtons, headed there. Again, I quote or paraphrase items from Pennington Pedigrees.

Ephraim, son of Stephen, was born in St. Stephen's Parish, Cecil County, MD, on April 9 1738. (I-1-24).

Ephraim, born October 20, 1766, died October 4, 1855, buried in Butler Cemetery, Fulton County, Ohio (which borders Michigan). (XIV-1-7 & XV-1-11).

Ephraim, private in Captain Lewis Bissell's Company, Illinois (?) Infantry, 1812-1817, was born in Maryland and was a cooper by trade when he enlisted at age 21 (thus born 1791). He received bounty land. (IV-1-88 & 89).

Ephraim was in Wayne County, Ill., in 1830, age 40-50. Also in Wayne Co. in 1830 were Daniel, 20-30, and Timothy, 30-40. (I-2-29). (There were no Ephraims, Daniels or Timothys in Ohio in 1830, and no Penningtons in Fulton Co. that year.)

E. T. Pennington was born in Warren County, Ohio, on Aug. 21, 1843, a son of Ephraim. (VII-1-58).

Ephraim was in Company B. 61st Infantry, Ill. Volunteers. He enlisted in Green County, Ill., in 1861 at age 18. (Was he E. T.?) (IV-2-32).

What inferences can be drawn from this series of names, dates and places? We can surmise that Ephraim of 1738 was the father of Ephraim 1766 who was the father of Ephraim 1791, and of Timothy and Daniel.

There is some question as to whether Captain Bissell's Company was part of the Illinois Infantry. Illinois did not become a state until 1818 - neighboring Indiana did not become a state until 1816, but Ohio had been a state since 1803. Fulton County, Ohio, where Ephraim of 1766 homesteaded is not far from Lake Erie, therefore close to the action in the War of 1812.

When young Ephraim of 1791 enlisted, I think it likely that he was the eldest son of Ephraim of 1766, whose sons Timothy and Daniel were too young for the War, but later moved to Illinois with their brother Ephraim when he claimed his bounty land.

Whatever the relationship of these Ephraims to each other, all were born in Maryland. The information given by Louise Throop on Cluster "C" in XVII-1-50 makes it clear that Ephraim of 1738 was not a descendant of Ephraim of Connecticut, but it is not so clear as to his possible relationship to Ephraim of 1766. Some of these Maryland Penningtons lived in Cecil County, which is adjacent to Pennsylvania, and not too far from the area where the Group I Penningtons lived. One wonders. In any case, these Maryland Penningtons seem to be exceptions to Robert Sloan's general statement that Group IX Penningtons seldom used Old Testament names. (X-2-5).

At this point I wish to acknowledge that Fran Laaker, in XI-1-46, includes the Ephraim who was in Wayne County in 1830, plus brothers Timothy and Daniel, among the children of Joshua Pennington, Sr., who was born before 1756, and who was on the Wilkes County, NC, tax list in 1787. Fran's reasoning is based on the locations where this Ephraim lived with other Penningtons who she is fairly sure were Joshua's children. I have corresponded with Fran on this question and she says I could be right. I, in turn, admit that Fran could be right.

There is no question about the Ephraim who enlisted in Captain Bissell's Company on June 16, 1812. It is a matter of record that he was born in Maryland. The only question is, "Was the Ephraim in Wayne County, Ill., in 1830 the one who was born in Maryland, or was he a son of Joshua?" Maybe some of the Illinois Penningtons have the answer. If Fran's theory is correct, we have one more Ephraim in the group that gathered in North Carolina. If my theory is correct, we have a little more information about an Ephraim in Group IX.

When looking at the panorama of Ephraim Penningtons across a span of two centuries and in a dozen states, one cannot help being impressed by the continuity of the cross-naming custom. I do not think it necessary or possible to prove that all of the Ephraims are descendants of Ephraim of New Haven. But, it was more than coincidence that so many were given that name. It was a powerful family tradition - and it is convincing.

I think that Ephraim IV was the grandfather of Micajah and Abel I and their brothers and sisters, and that there is no other credible explanation of their line of descent. In fact, there is not a shred of evidence I have seen that points in any other direction.

If I am correct, in my line Abel III and his wife Elizabeth "Betsy" Bolling (who was the grand-daughter of Micajah, 1743) were second cousins. I have long wondered about this, and feel better for having made up my mind about it.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge that this essay contains a great deal of conjecture and speculation. I readily admit that the inferences I have drawn may be in error. I am much indebted to the many cousins whose contributions to Pennington Pedigrees have been so helpful, and I hope that they will forgive and correct my errors.

Will W. Lake
2400 Brook Run
Birmingham, AL 35244