

THE QUINN FAMILY

by

Robert W. Quinn

Preface to this online version

The original account of the descendants of John Quinn (ca1710-1777) was written by Robert W. Quinn in 1873. Robert W. Quinn was the great-grandson of John Quinn, grandson of Robert Quinn, and son of Gen. John Quinn. Robert W. Quinn was born in 1835 and was nine years old when his grandfather died in 1844, so he had some very clear recollections of the early Quinns. A handwritten manuscript is in the Preble County Library in Eaton, Ohio.

In 1925, Robert W. Quinn's son, Edmond F. L. Quinn, wrote an updated history of the family. He used his father's original material and added to it. The additions brought the genealogies up to date, filled in additional information and corrected some erroneous information. E.F.L. Quinn included an "edited" version of his father's account. The edited version includes some minor editorial changes, but also omits much interesting biographical information contained in Robert W. Quinn's original account. In some instances this editing appears to be a deliberate attempt to remove some of the more interesting personal— one might say unsavory — anecdotes concerning his ancestors.

This version of Robert W. Quinn's account has been transcribed from the handwritten text. Any comments added by me are shown as attached notes with the related text highlighted in **yellow**. Page numbers given on the original manuscript are shown for reference within the text as *{Page nm}*. Please noted that R.W. Quinn's account starts at page 36 and that I do not have pages 55 through 76 (his account of the Lacy's) or any pages beyond page 89 of his manuscript.

Transcribed by Jim Keller, 13 August 2000

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My great grandfather, John Quinn, emigrated from County Down in the north of Ireland to America in the year 1746. He owned property in Ireland, how much I am unable to say, was married and had two children. The name Quinn is undoubtedly Irish although there was a tradition that our family was of English origin, but one of them being engaged in a rebellion, fled to Ireland. It was said that before escaping he lay for three days concealed in a drift with his head alone above water. This I had from my father who got it from one of his uncles. How much truth there is in it I do not know.

When my great grandfather came to America he was near middle age and he came on a prospecting tour but on his return to Ireland not finding things at home as they should be [\[page 37\]](#) he turned over his property to his wife and children and again came to America in 1748. I do not know what became of his Irish wife and children. I have heard my father say that he had heard that he always talked of returning and reclaiming his property, but he never did so.

Sometime after coming to America, after the death or divorce of his Irish wife, he married a Miss Crooks of New Jersey, said to have been a relative of his.

Before leaving Ireland he had taken the oath of allegiance to the British government and for that reason refused to serve in the Continental Army although his sympathies were altogether with the Colonies. At one time he was drafted and a sergeant and a squad of men were sent to bring him in. They came to his house before he was out of bed in the morning and managed to get inside of his room. He sprang out of bed, gathered a stiele of wood and drove them out of the house [\[page 38\]](#) but afterwards surrendered himself, repaired to the American camp and was discharged but for what reason I have never been able to learn.

John Quinn had the following children by his second wife Miss Crooks of New Jersey. This list I copied from an old paper (now lost), many years ago. This paper was probably in the handwriting of his youngest son, Joseph Crooks Quinn.

Richard Quinn, born February 14, 1755; date of death not certainly known but about the year 1789

William Quinn, born November 28, 1756, died in the state of Georgia March 17, 1835

John Quinn, born February 2, 1759, died in the State of Indiana about the year 1840 or 1841

Robert Quinn, born February 24, 1761, died near Eaton, Ohio., April 19, 1844

James Quinn, born March 3, 1763, died in State of Illinois while moving to Iowa in 1838

Elizabeth Quinn, born January 22, [\[page 39\]](#) 1765, married to Stout Bennett, and died in the State of Indiana about the year 1855

Sarah or Sally Quinn, born August 29, 1767, married first to Jacob West, of the State of Georgia and after his death to Coleman, of the same state, and died there about the year 1836

Margaret Quinn, born March 4, 1770, died young but date of death unknown

Christopher Quinn born March 25, 1773, Date of death unknown but about the year 1795

Joseph Crooks Quinn, born June 11, 1775, died near Eaton, Ohio, September 20, 1837

Mary Ann Quinn, born August 9, 1777 (after her father's death) married to John West of the state of Georgia and died in that state about the year 1850.

The dates in the above list may not all be correct, those of the births alone being the only ones supplied; the rest, with the place of death having been obtained from other sources.

{page 40} The elder of the above named children down at least as far as my grandfather, Robert Quinn, were born in the state of New Jersey; the younger ones were born in Maryland (Frederick).

The emigrant John Quinn died prior to August 9, 1777, when his youngest child was born, but as to the exact date of his death I have no knowledge. He was a Freemason and a member of the Church of England and his children were baptized according to the ritual of that church. I understand that none of his sons ever joined the Masons and his family as they came of age all as far as I knew drifted into other churches.

Richard Quinn, his oldest son, was a soldier during the revolutionary war and was wounded, but in what battle I do not know. He was pensioned by the government and when the family moved from Virginia to Georgia about the year 1789 he started to go by the capital to have *{page 41}* his pension changed to the latter state and was never heard of afterwards. He was a very large man and considerable of a drinker, so much so that his wound never healed but formed a running sore. It is supposed he died somewhere on the road. .

William Quinn, the second son, removed to Georgia and I believe married there, though he may possibly have married prior to his removal. He had two sons and one daughter, all of whom lived to have families. His son William visited Ohio in 1860, and a grandson, Jeter, had been here about the time I was born. I never saw any others of the family. William Quinn, Sr., died in March, 1835 and his son William about seven months ago that is in March 1872. His brother and sister had died previously. Jeter Quinn is also dead, but I presume that there are numerous children and grandchildren of the two brothers and sister still living in the states of Georgia and Tennessee, in fact I still occasionally hear of persons there, who on meeting people from this county, inquire about and claim relationship with the Quinns of Eaton.

{page 42} John Quinn moved to Georgia and when over forty seven years of age married a wife said to be under fourteen. He came to Ohio in 1805 and entered two quarter sections of land on Banta's Fork creek in Twin township, where he lived most of his life. He filled the office of Justice of the Peace in that township for many years and in that capacity married a number of people. He laid off a graveyard on the farm on which he lived, known on the records of Preble County as the Quinn graveyard. But none of his family except one child, and none of the other relatives as far as I know, are buried there. Many of the neighbors were however, and about the year 1840 a frame church was erected near it. This building was never finished and was torn down about thirty years later. Many of the dead were removed and the yard fell into decay, but was afterwards cleaned up and refenced by the township trustees. It is on what is known as the Lexington road about 2 ½ miles east of Eaton. John Quinn sold his farm and moved to Delaware county, *{page 43}* Indiana with his family about the year 1837. He had previously sold his other farm. He came back to Ohio in 1838 and I have an indistinct recollection of seeing him. He returned to Indiana and died there about the year of 1839 and was buried in a graveyard near the little town of York in Delaware county of that state. I never knew any of his family though I have occasionally heard of some of his descendants. He was a bad financier and before he died had lost all or nearly all of his property.

Robert Quinn, my grandfather was born February 24, 1761. The family later moved to Frederick Md. Where his father died during the revolutionary war leaving his family in poor *{page 44}* circumstances and most of the boys learned trades. Robert Quinn learned the trade of a wheelwright originally but being ingenious during his life much of which was spent upon the borders of civilization he took up quite a variety of other trades being a blacksmith, wagon maker, chairmaker, cooper and shoemaker, and we had in our possession up to within the last few years both barrels and chairs that were made by him, and when I was small he made all our shoes. He served in the army for a short time during the Revolutionary war, having been called out probably as part of the Maryland militia to guard

prisoners who were held at Harper's Ferry. About the year 1787 he married Elizabeth Lacey of near Georgetown, Maryland, of whose family I shall speak more fully hereafter and thereafter give a further account of my grandfather but shall first briefly sketch the fortunes of his remaining brothers and sisters.

{page 45} James Quinn, the fifth son moved with his family from Maryland or Virginia and thence to Georgia and married there. He emigrated with his brothers John and Robert, to Ohio in 1805 and settled about five miles north east of Eaton on what is now the Lewisburg road in Twin township, Preble county, and just four miles north of my grandfather's farm. He lived there until about the year 1838 when he sold the farm and started to move to the then territory of Iowa. He was taken sick on the road and died and was buried somewhere in the state of Illinois, but I do not know the locality. His family continued the journey and settled in Scott county not very far from the city of Davenport. By his wife, whose maiden name was Crozier, and who was a niece of the wife of his brother, William, he had four sons, Joseph, John, William and James, and two daughters, Mary or Polly and Matilda. The only one of the family who may be alive is the youngest {page 46} son, James, who when we last heard from him lived somewhere in Missouri. If living (in 1873) he is well towards ninety years of age. Joseph, John and James married and had children. William died a bachelor. I have seen all except John and have met some of their children. Matilda Quinn married a man by the name of Craig and before the family left Preble county, leaving a son and daughter. The son, Seymour, went with his grandfather's family to Iowa, but afterwards returned to Ohio. The daughter remained with her aunt Polly, who had married Jacob Hart. She herself married Jas. Leedy, moved to Indiana and I believe afterwards to Kansas.

Polly Quinn, as I said, married Jacob Hart. By him she had three sons, John Crozier, Robert and Gideon. The family moved to Huntington county, Indiana in 1849. They are all dead except Robert, who at the last account (1873) was still living there. Crozier was twice married and left a {page 47} family. Gideon never married. Seymour Craig who had returned from Iowa, went with them to Indiana and when I last heard he was still living and I believe in that state.

Christopher Quinn, the sixth son, went with his older brothers and sisters to Georgia in 1787 and died there as I have heretofore stated about the year 1795.

Joseph Crooks Quinn, the youngest son, was born in Maryland in the year 1771. He never married. He moved with the family to Georgia and followed his brothers John Robert and James to Ohio about the year 1812. He entered two quarter sections of land in Lanier township Preble Co Ohio three miles east of Eaton on what is now the Dayton pike directly south of my grandfather's farm in Twin township. He spent part of his time in Ohio and part in Georgia. He also went out to Missouri and spent several years and what one of his farms sold for {page 48} working in the lead mines. He came back to Ohio and died at the home of his nephew, James Quinn (my father's brother) 20th day of 1837. He is buried in the Eaton cemetery, he and my grandfather being the only ones of the old set whose graves I have ever seen. All the old men were more or less eccentric my grandfather probably the least of any and all were wanderers not being satisfied to remain many years at the same place.

Joseph Crooks Quinn as I have said was never married. In 1812 however he was engaged to be married to a lady in Georgia, but on the wedding morning on some provocation, I do not know what, he got on his horse and started for Ohio. He went near enough to the house of his fiancée to see the guests assembled but took care not to be seen himself. He and his brother James were both high tempered (in fact the brothers were all very {page 49} choleric in temperament) used to have violent quarrels on politics, Joseph being a democrat and James a Whig. At one time they were both at my grandfathers about Christmas intending to spend the holidays there. The evening was long and the three brothers passed the time over their peach brandy and other drinks discussing politics until bed time. Joseph and James were to sleep in the same room but in different beds. A cousin of mine, Joseph W. Quinn, a boy of 10 or 12 years of age slept with his namesake. The discussion continued still continued until finally James losing his temper entirely sprang out of bed at about ten or eleven o'clock at night, put on his clothes and went off to my father's brother James Quinn who lived about a third of a mile distant. On the next morning another cousin of mine, John Lacey Quinn, who had gone to his {page 50} great uncle James to spend the night with his boys, some of whom were about his age, on returning home met him about halfway between the two houses boiling over with indignation talking to himself, shaking his cane and threatening vengeance on some one. He was so wrapped up in

his wrath that he passed him on the road without seeing him. When John Lacey Quinn reached home his great uncle Joseph questioned him about what he had seen and on being told took a hearty laugh over referring to his brother as a blamed old fool.

I have told this anecdote to show what manner of men my grandfather and his brothers were. Of hot hasty temper and overbearing disposition they quarreled frequently with each other though not often as far as I have ever learned with any of their neighbors. They all liked their liquor and kept it up as long as they lived and with [{page 51}](#) the exception of my grandfather were inclined to be superstitious.

Of my grandfather's sisters I cannot say a great deal. The oldest of them, Elizabeth or Betsey, married a man by the name of Stout Bennett, probably in Georgia. They came to Ohio and about the time I was born, moved to Indiana, where she died. I have no recollection of having ever seen her, nor do I know anything about her family.

Sarah, the second daughter went with the family to Georgia and there married Jacob West. By him she had several children, but of these John Quinn West is the only one of whom I have any knowledge. He died of a cancer about the year 1862 in Wilkes county, Georgia, where he had lived all of his life. I believe he was a local Baptist preacher. His father, David West, was stabbed with a pen knife in an offbray in Wrightsborough, Georgia, [{page 52}](#) and died a few days afterward from internal bleeding. I do not know the date of his death. Some time after the death of West, his widow married a man by the name of Coleman, but had no children by him. She died about the year 1836.

Margaret, the third daughter, died young, probably before the family left Maryland.

Mary Ann or Polly Quinn, the youngest child, accompanied her brothers and sisters to Georgia when a girl and there married John West, a brother of her sister Sally's husband. By him she had a large family of children, three sons, William, John and Charles, and at least two daughters and possibly more. Of the sons William and John were both very wealthy before the Civil War, owning large plantations and many slaves, but they lost heavily by the war. John sold what was left of his possessions and moved to Kentucky where he died from the effect of being thrown from his buggy [{page 53}](#) about the year 1870. He and my father kept up a correspondence until the war interrupted it and resumed it after its close. My father sent one letter through the lines to him during the war. . He lived in Stewart county, Georgia, most of his life. At the time of his mother's death he sent my father a ring in which was enclosed a lock of his mother's hair which ring I still have. John West's family remained in Kentucky and one or two of his sons have called on my brother in Cincinnati, but I have never seen any of them. William West was paralyzed about the close of the Civil war and while I have never heard anything, he no doubt died many years ago. Charles West, the youngest son, was a merchant in Cuthbert, Georgia, but in all probability, he also is dead, if not, he is very old. I do not know anything about the families of William or Charles, but I think both were married and had children. Of the daughters, one married a man [{page 54}](#) by the name of Thornton and one a Dr. Catching or Kitching. I think each had families, but I know nothing about them. If there were other daughters of Polly West I do not know their names. No doubt all are dead. Polly, or as her full name was, Mary Ann West, died about the year 1856 or 1857, at the age of about eighty years. Her husband had died before her.

Having followed the fortunes of my grandfather's brothers & sisters and their families down to the present time I shall now go back to him and before saying anything further I shall relate the history of my grandmother's family down to the time of her marriage with my grandfather which I have said took place about the year 1787 near what is now Washington, D.C.

[{page 55}](#) - [{page 76}](#)

[{page 77}](#) The Quinn Family Continued My grandfather settled near Wrightsborough, Columbia County Georgia where my father was born on the 25th day of the following January (1790. I have heard my father say that when his father first settled here he was very poor and after buying his land had not money enough to set him up farming

properly and that in making fences he used a one horse sled in hauling rails and would I put seven I believe rails on his sled and take one on his shoulder and lead the horse to the place where he wished them deposited. My grandfather lived in Georgia for about sixteen years and there all of his children except one were born, and there likewise one, Lacey, died and was buried. My grandmother's father also died there as I have heretofore stated about the year 1794. *{page 78}* My father who is now nearly eighty-three years of age, says he can just remember him and that he was the first dead person he ever saw.

About the year 1804 my grandfather sold his farm in Georgia and made preparations for coming north again. He however waited for about a year and spent the time in prospecting for a new home. He looked through Tennessee, but did not like it sufficiently well to move there.

Although hearing a great deal about Ohio and some of his neighbors who were Quakers being about to move there on account of slavery not being permitted in that state, he, without ever seeing the country, concluded partly for the same reason, to go with them. According on the 1st of March 1805, they started in wagons on their *{page 79}* long journey of five hundred miles, a great portion of the way through an almost unbroken wilderness, crossing mountains and rivers on their route. One of their neighbors who had started for the same destination a week or two in advance of them had a sick daughter, a young woman who was anxious to come to Ohio, perhaps thinking she would regain her health. They had taken her out riding in a wagon on the Sunday before starting to see if she would be able to stand the journey. She thought she could and they started, but on the road she became worse and died and I have heard my father say that as they came along over the same route they saw her grave by the road side in a *{page 80}* lonely spot amidst the Cumberland mountains.

Our folks made the trip safely and after about seven weeks of travel arrived in Ohio. They crossed the Ohio river at Cincinnati and came up to the neighborhood of Germantown, Montgomery county, and there rented a farm for a year. At the end of that time my grandfather moved to what is now Lanier township in Preble county, and rented the farm now owned by George T. Potterf and situated at the point where Banta's Fork crosses the Winchester and West Alexandria turnpike. While living there he entered the farm now owned by my father in Twin township, three miles east of Eaton on the Dayton pike, being the southeast quarter of section 31 in that township, and the next spring 1807, moved on it and there remained until he died in April, 1844, a *{page 81}* period of about thirty-seven years. He brought with him from Georgia six hundred dollars in gold and silver four hundred of which he got for his farm there and the rest he had saved while living there over and above his family expenses. He found the soil of Ohio much richer than that of Georgia but, at the same time, the climate was colder. He had come from a civilized community, and had come to a wilderness and although two of his brothers had come with him, he had left two brothers, his sisters and many of his most intimate friends behind. He became remorse and dissatisfied and would probably have returned to Georgia had circumstances favored it. As it *{page 82}* was he spent most of his time hunting of which he was very fond and the work of the farm devolved upon my father who was then seventeen years of age and his brother James, two years younger. My grandfather was however a natural mechanic and constructed or bought (I do not know which) a turning lathe and made all of their own furniture such as chairs, tables, bedsteads etc. and also a considerable amount which he sold to neighbors; being a wheelwright he made a great many wheels both large and small; as almost all of the goods the people wore in that day both winter and summer spun and wove by the female members of the family and when a daughter married her outfit was *{page 83}* not considered complete without a spinning wheel. He also made most of the farming utensils such as ploughs, harrows and wagons and as I have before said he was also a shoemaker and at least did the family mending. It is thus seen that the whole circle of the necessary trades was then compressed within the limits of the family, as in addition to what I have already mentioned he at times worked at blacksmithing, coopering and tanned his own leather.

The family moved on their newly entered land in February, 1807 and first constructed merely a camp to live in until they could build a more substantial house. While they were living there came what is known among the early settlers of Ohio, as *{page 84}* "Cold Friday," said to have been the coldest day ever experienced in the Miami Valley. Birds were frozen to death and were picked up in numbers as soon as the weather moderated sufficiently to permit people to venture out of doors.

In the year of 1811 the log part of the main house, now standing on the farm, was erected. It is two story twenty-eight by eighteen feet and is composed entirely of hewed poplar logs from eighteen inches to two feet over, notched at each end and fitting so closely together that but little space was left requiring chinking and daubing. On the night after this house was erected, happened the earthquake on the Mississippi, the shock of which was distinctly felt by my grandfather and grandmother. I have heard my father say that on the next *{page 85}* morning while some of them were standing in the yard talking about it a second shock was felt which rattled the skids which had been used in rolling up the logs on the day previous and which were still standing leaning against the house. Prior to the building of this house there had been two other log houses erected for dwelling, one of which known in my day as "the old shop", as it was then used as a place for keeping tools of all kinds, stood on the spot where it was originally erected until about twenty years ago. It had a stick and mud chimney and a fireplace I think at least six feet wide; the upper part of the chimney however had been torn off and in my time it only reached about to the eaves and to my recollection I never saw a fire in it. *{page 86}* The other house had disappeared long before I can remember, but the corner stones are still there showing where it all stood.

My grandfather had entered the N.E. quarter of section 18 in the same township but sold it a year or two afterwards to an old friend of his who had followed them out from Georgia named William York.

Matters thus passed on the first few years; between the farm, the shop, clearing new fields, making sugar, for they were dependent upon the sugar maple for their sweetening, and such other work as pioneers are compelled to do they were kept pretty busy.

Then the war of 1812 broke out and a storm of Indian hostilities was threatened on the northern and western frontier. Preble county at that time contained a little *{page 87}* over three thousand inhabitants and was really on the border although some settlements had been made about Greenville and perhaps in other portions of Darke county. My grandfather although in many respects well suited for pioneer life was always somewhat timorous in regard to Indians, at **A**t one time as I have heard but whether before or after the war I cannot now say when a party of them straggled into the neighborhood of his dwelling he became greatly alarmed, but grandmother, who had spent her early womanhood amid scenes of constant danger from Tories and cowboys was not to be frightened by a few redskins, went out and demanded of them their business, and on being informed that they only wanted something to eat supplied *{page 88}* them and sent them on their way. I do not know certainly whether this happened in Georgia or Ohio. About the beginning of the war, but if I ever heard I do not now recollect the year, my grandfather set out the old apple orchard, many of the trees of which are still standing and bearing fruit, although all of the best of them have decayed and fallen mostly within my time. The trees were all seedlings but many of them were equal to the best grafted fruit, the orchard was especially rich in sweet cider apples and up perhaps to the year 1850 it was equal if not superior to any in the neighborhood as a cider orchard.

The first year of the war does not appear to have affected much change in the routine on the farm but in the spring of 1813 my uncle, James Quinn, *{page 89}*

(Ed. Note: I have not copied further pages of the handwritten account of R.W.Quinn. The remaining pages are as given by E.F.L. Quinn in his book and contain whatever deletions, additions or changes he made to his father's original manuscript.)

was drafted in Lt. James Black's company of Ohio militia. The draft was for six months. He went out and served about thirty days when he was detailed to come home with a sick comrade, Milner, who died shortly after he reached his home. Instead of returning my uncle had my father go out in his place and remained about four weeks longer at home. He then returned to his post and remained a month or so longer, when he again came home on a furlough and sent his younger brother, Robert, who served out the remaining portion of the time, hacking a few days, when James, who had in the mean time served in Capt. Joseph C. Hawkins' company, returned to Black's company and was discharged with it. He then went back to Hawkins' company and served out the rest of the time there. They seemed to have made very little account of trained soldiers and to have had a way of substituting in the war of 1812, entirely novel to us who have seen service in the great rebellion.

My father was drafted in Hawkins' company, which draft took place about the 28th of September, 1813, and served the entire six months, returning in the spring of 1814. After that none of them were in the army, and peace was made the following winter. None of them ever saw a hostile enemy while out, I believe, but in other ways they experienced considerable hardships. The Indians never penetrated as far as where our folks hived, although there were several white persons killed between there and Greenville in Darke county, a distance of twenty-five miles.

Jane, the eldest child of Robert Quinn and Elizabeth Lacey Quinn, born in Virginia in 1788, married Finley Hart about the holidays of 1811. By him she had eight children who lived to be grown, all of whom married with but one exception. Isaac, the oldest, now lives in Kansas. He has four or five children, mostly grown and some married. Robert, the second son, died in Illinois some years ago, leaving a considerable family. One daughter married Dr. Younkers and now lives in Leavenworth, Kan. She is the only one of Robert's children that I have seen since they were small. Part of them live in Illinois and part in Kansas. John, the third son *{page 15}* of Jane and Finney Hart, married and died in Preble county about the year 1846 or 1847, without children. Samuel, the youngest son, never married. Of the daughters Elizabeth the oldest, moved to Illinois with the family in 1849 and there married a man named Ross. Mary Ann, the second one, married William Wyatt shortly before the family moved west. He died in a year or two, leaving her a widow with one child, a son. After her husband's death she followed her family and now lives near Abingdon, Knox county, Illinois. Her son has lately married. Esther, the third daughter, married a man named Stephen Prats a year or two after they moved west and now lives in Peoria county, Illinois. She has a large family of children. Matilda Caroline, the youngest, also married in Illinois. Her husband's name is Joseph Harris. They live adjoining Abingdon, Illinois. Aunt Jane died near a little town named Rochester, (Elmore post office) Peoria county, Illinois, about the year 1863, but I do not now remember the exact date. She was in the neighborhood of seventy-five years of age. Her husband had died several years younger.

My father was the second child of Robert and Elizabeth Lacy Quinn.

Next younger than my father was James. About the year 1817 he married Sarah Glines and by her had seven children who lived to be grown, all of whom except one are still alive. John Lacey, the oldest, is now in the grain and tobacco business in Eaton, Ohio. He married Louisa Hewitt June 25, 1840, and has one son, Nelson J., who is in partnership with him. John Lacey Quinn was born on the 29th day of February, 1820. His son is about thirty-one years of age, is married and has a large family. Robert Marion Quinn, the second son and third child of James Quinn, also lives in Eaton. He has a large family, and is about forty-nine years of age at this time (1873). James Harvey Quinn, the third son, lives at Abingdon, Illinois and is engaged in the stove and hardware business. He is married and has a large family. His age is about forty-six or seven years.

William D. Quinn, the fourth son, lives in Eaton with his brother John Lacey. He was postmaster at Eaton during all of Lincoln's and part of Johnson's administration. He has always been very popular and was this fall elected county clerk of the court by 242 majority over the regular Republican nominee, while at the same time the county gave the Republican state officers 426 majority over their Democratic opponents. He is however and has always been a Republican and the contest for clerk turned on local matters. My own opinion was and is that his running was a mistake, *{page 16}* for while he has himself secured an office which may or may not prove profitable to him, he has to

some extent compromised his entire family connection with a party with which it has always acted and out of which none of them can feel at home.

Joseph H. Quinn, the youngest son, died of consumption the year of 1851, at the age of about twenty-two years, and is buried in the Eaton cemetery. He is the only one of the family to die of that disease. Of the daughters, Eliza Ann was born, I think, in 1822, and was married to George Irvin, I believe, in 1842. She has one son and two daughters, all grown and the daughters married. The oldest married a man by the name of Cramer. Eliza Ann and George Irvin live in Winchester, Randolph county, Indiana.

Sarah Jane, the youngest daughter and child of James Quinn, was born, I think, in the year 1837. About the year 1853 or 1854 she married Sylvester Irvin, a brother of her sister's husband. They also live in Winchester, Indiana, and have a large family.

My uncle after his marriage, first settled on Banta's Fork on what is known as the "forty foot pitch," where his eldest children were born. I have heard my cousin, John Lacey Quinn, say that when a boy he had picked up a great many relics of Wayne's army, as that was one of its camping grounds. He afterwards moved down on my grandfather's farm where he built a house on the hill across the second branch from the home dwelling about seventy-five yards west of the "Quinn free turnpike." The house was gone before my recollection. While living there my uncle and my father went into the distilling business and built a still house across the branch from my father's dwelling at the place where the hill north of that branch runs down to a point. The house was built at the south side of this point and abutting against the hill. They brought their water in wooden pipes from the spring now used by the family. There was an excellent peach as well as apple orchard on the farm and they made both peach and apple brandy as well as whiskey. They abandoned the business long before I was born and I can just recollect the old house as it originally stood and the sale of the old copper still to James Kilkenny, a tinner in Eaton. When they quit the distilling business my uncle bought a farm of about sixty acres adjoining my grandfather's on the east, moved on it and lived there the remainder of his life. His uncle, Joseph C. Quinn, lived with him most of the time after his return from Missouri and died at his house. On his death he willed to him one hundred and thirty-five acres adjoining my grandfather's farm on the [\[page 17\]](#) south. James Quinn died a year or two after his uncle, I believe in September, 1839, at the age of about forty-seven years. I can just recollect him being about four years old at the time of his death. He was a great favorite with both his own and my father, being of a turn to please almost everybody. He being only two years younger than my father and they having worked all of their lives together, they were consequently very much attached to each other. After his death his family continued for many years to reside on the old home farm, but it has now been sold and is in the hands of strangers. Aunt Sallie Quinn, uncle James' widow, is still living and spends part of her time in Winchester, Indiana, with her daughters and part of her time in Eaton. My uncle is buried in the Eaton cemetery.

Robert Quinn, the fourth child of my grandfather, married Sarah Wasson, by whom he had four children. Joseph Wasson Quinn, his oldest son, was born on the 10th day of March, 1823. He has been twice married; first to Selina Hewitt, by whom he had one daughter, Elizabeth Quinn, (who married my brother, James Lacey Quinn) born in 1843, and two sons, Calvin Lacey and William Harvey. After the death of his first wife, Joseph W. Quinn in 1856, married Katherine Waymire and by her he had eight children, seven living and one dead. He resides in Eaton and for the last four years has been coroner of the county. Robert Lacey, the second son of Robert Quinn, died young and the third son died an infant. Nancy Jane Quinn was the fourth child of Robert Quinn and Sarah Wasson. After the death of her mother she lived first with my father and then with her brother. In 1848 she married G. W. Christman and in 1854 they removed to Whitley county, Indiana, and have since lived in that and adjoining counties. She has a large family of children. Robert Quinn never remarried after the death of his wife. He is now (February 4, 1873) living about four miles northwest of Eaton on the Richmond pike and is about 78 years of age.

Margaret, the second daughter of my grandfather, was married to Peter Aten about the year 1830. By him she had five children, two of whom died in infancy. The three children living are named respectively Austin Cunningham,

Adrian Robert and Aaron P. Austin was born in August, 1832, Adrian in January, 1835, and Aaron in June, 1839. Peter Aten resided on the farm west adjoining my father's in Twin township where he died some time after 1840. After his death the family continued to live there until the fall of the year 1849 when they moved to Peoria county, Illinois.

Austin returned in 1853 and married Katherine Dunlap, [\[page 18\]](#) a daughter of the man who purchased their farm, and took her to Illinois with him. By her he had a large family. They now reside at Abingdon, Knox county, Illinois.

Adrian, the second son, lives near Rochester, Peoria county, Illinois. He married a Miss Prats, a sister of Esther Hart's husband and has several children.

Both Austin and Adrian were out during the rebellion in the 77th Illinois Infantry. They were in quite a number of hard fought battles and returned uninjured. Adrian was in a hospital and while there his regiment was sent farther south. On his recovery he was assigned to a battery and participated in Grant's Chattanooga campaign and the battle of Lookout Mountain. He then rejoined his regiment in Louisiana and took part in Banks' Red River expedition. Austin went through the Vicksburg campaign, being engaged in all the battles and in the unfortunate assault of the 22nd of May, 1863, where so many of our men were slaughtered to no purpose. Both Austin and Adrian were at the capture of Mobile and served with their regiment until the close of the war.

Aaron, the youngest brother, is now a professor in Abingdon college, Illinois. Aaron has been married twice, first in 1860 to Miss Kinkade, a distant relation of my mother, by whom he had one child, a boy, now about 10 years old. She died prior to 1870, and in June, 1873, he married Miss Emma Crawford, of Abingdon. Aunt Margaret never remarried but lives with her children. She has visited Ohio several times.

Elizabeth Quinn, the third daughter, married Samuel P. Wilson and by him had a large family of children, many of whom died young. The living children are Luther B., Mary, Jane, Katherine and Ambrose. They all at this time live at Muncie, Delaware county, Indiana. Samuel Wilson at the time of his marriage, lived on a farm close to my grandfather's. He then moved to Eaton where he lived up to 1857 or 1858. He owned twenty or twenty-five acres at the east end of town and was also engaged in the grocery business.

His eldest son, Luther B., was a captain in the 19th Indiana Volunteer Infantry and was wounded either at the second battle of Bull Run or the battle of Antietam. After the close of the war he was in Washington for several years as secretary to Senator O. P. Morton. He was appointed by President Johnson as Fourth Auditor of the Treasury but failed of confirmation by the senate. A year or so ago he returned to Muncie, Indiana, and is now employed in the bank at that place. He is about forty-two years of age and has never married.

[\[page 19\]](#) Mary, the oldest living daughter, is about thirty-nine years of age. She was married when she was 17 to John W. Burson, at that time teller of the bank at Eaton, and about seventeen years her senior. He built the house now known as the Brooke house on east Main street, adjoining her father's. They removed from Eaton to Cambridge City, Indiana, in 1854 and from Cambridge City to Muncie, Indiana, in 1858. His father-in-law and family also moved to Muncie. Burson's one object was to get rich and in that he succeeded. He was not miserly but spent freely on his family and his friends. When the Democrats carried the Indiana legislature in 1862 and refused to appropriate money to pay the expenses of the state, Burson organized a syndicate that financed the state for Gov. Morton for two years until the Republicans carried the legislature and reimbursed them. On February 10, 1865, he organized The Muncie National Bank with a capital of \$50,000. The capital was increased to \$200,000 on June 1, 1865 and to \$300,000 in 1871. He died in 1872, leaving a fortune estimated at from two hundred and fifty to five hundred thousand dollars. He and Mary have two children, John Edward and Elizabeth, aged (1873) respectively about twenty-one and seventeen years. John Edward is in the bank at Muncie, a great portion of which is owned by his father's estate. Through Burson, his father-in-law got into the bank and managed to make considerable money.

Jane, the second daughter, married Charles Moore, an attorney at Muncie. She is now about thirty-seven years of age and has two children.

Katherine, the youngest daughter, is unmarried. She is about thirty-four years of age and lives with her father and mother.

Ambrose, the youngest child, is about twenty-eight. He is, I believe, the cashier of the bank at Muncie and was married last winter to Miss Hoover, of New Castle, Ind. Both Samuel P. Wilson and his wife are still living.

Aunt Mary or Polly, my grandfather's youngest child, never married but died on the 29th of September, 1830, when she was about twenty-five years of age.

My grandfather, Robert Quinn, died on April 10, 1844, in his 84th year. His widow, Elizabeth Lacey Quinn, survived to August 10, 1849. Robert Quinn was a farmer all his life and was for many years Justice of the Peace for Twin Township. He was very fond of hunting all his life.

His eldest son, General John Quinn, my father, was born on the 25th day of January, 1790, and was consequently in his sixteenth year when the family moved to Ohio, and [\[page 20\]](#) in his eighteenth year when they settled on the farm where he spent most of his life.

After the close of the war of 1812 my father remained on the farm most of the time until the year of 1830, but during this period made two trips to Georgia and one to Missouri. The first trip was to Georgia and I believe, in the year 1815 and he remained about six months. The second trip to that state was made, I believe, in 1824 and was with a drove of horses which he and others had purchased. He did not make much out of it and he never engaged in that kind of business afterwards. I do not know the date of the trip to Missouri. It was probably shortly before or after the last one to Georgia. It was made while his uncle Joseph C. Quinn was engaged in lead mining and while his cousin, James K. Lacey, was also living in that state, and with the intention of removing there if he liked the country. He found Missouri very different from what he had been led to expect and returned thoroughly disgusted with the state. All of these trips were made on horseback, the only mode of traveling at that time.

In early life he engaged in distilling with his brother James for a few years, but for the rest of his life he was a strong advocate of temperance. He was a large man, being six feet and one-half inch in height and well proportioned. He was fine looking and when young was very fond of dress and a leader of the amusements in the neighborhood. He was a fine horseman and was very fond of riding. He purchased for his family the first or one of the first carriages ever in Preble county, but for himself he continued even to old age to prefer the saddle.

About 1820 he was elected brigadier general of the Ohio militia, which office he filled for several years.

Shortly after 1820 he was made a Mason in Bolivar lodge, No. 82, F. & A. M., which had just been established and in 1830 he was elected sheriff of Preble county and re-elected in 1832.

Gen. John Quinn was married on July 19, 1831, to Mary Ann Pottenger of Butler county, Ohio. At the time of his marriage he was in his 43rd year and his wife in her 28th.

While sheriff my father lived in the sheriff's residence, a building standing south of the present location of the court house, the cellar of which constituted the jail, one part of which was partitioned off for the dungeon. The prisoners were of three classes—first, persons accused of crime; second, prisoners for debt; third, insane or idiotic paupers. I remember as a boy, being taken there by my father (after his term as sheriff had expired) and my older brother [\[page 21\]](#) and I looked down into the dungeon, the trap door being raised. My brother thought he saw a man and I suppose he did, as there was one or two in at the time. I saw nothing.

Thomas Pottenger Quinn, the brother of whom I have just spoken, was born in the sheriff's residence on July 6, 1832.

After his retirement from the sheriff's office my father moved with his family to his father's farm in Twin township, where he continued to live except during the period he was at Columbus on the board of equalization and in the legislature, until he removed to Eaton in 1872. His father deeded him the north half of the farm and willed him the south half at his death.

Note—This is the end of R. W. Quinn's narrative except a description of the home farm, buildings, etc. It is sufficient to say that the dwelling was a two story frame and timbered house about 60 ft. by 28; that it stood back from the road about 300 yards on the edge of about 40 acres of woodland. The house is still standing, although built in 1811 and is occupied as the farm house. There is however but little woodland left on the farm, all the good timber—sugar, ash, and oak, as well as the beech, having been cut down and sold.