

A RECORD
OF THE
DESCENDANTS
OF
JOHN ALEXANDER,
OF LANARKSHIRE, SCOTLAND,
AND HIS WIFE,
MARGARET GLASSON,
WHO EMIGRATED FROM COUNTY ARMAGH, IRELAND,
TO
CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA,
A. D. 1736.

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CHAPTER X.

ROSANNAH ALEXANDER, daughter of James Alexander and Rosey Reed Alexander, married JOHN TAYLOR, February 19, 1801.

She was born in Kishacoquillas Valley, Mifflin Co., Pa., April 15, 1784. Her husband was also born in the same valley, Feb 18, 1778.

After marriage they resided about five years in Kishacoquillas, on a farm belonging to Mr. Taylor, where three of their children, Alexander, William, and John, were born. But Mr. Taylor, having visited Ohio in the year 1800, sold his farm in Pennsylvania and started to Ohio on the 10th of September, 1806. The rough, tedious, and painful journey over the Alleghenies, was made in a large wagon with a team of four horses, of which her brother, Joseph Alexander, was the driver. They reached Wheeling, Va., after enduring many hardships, and found the citizens greatly excited by the arrival of government officers in quest of Aaron Burr. Here Mr. Taylor purchased a flat boat and put family, team, and baggage aboard to go by water to Cincinnati. After vexatious delays from low water and a leaking boat, they landed at Marietta. Here the

father, mother, and three children commenced a journey westward through the wilderness on horse-back, while Joseph Alexander proceeded in the boat toward Cincinnati. The order of the march was this: Mr. Taylor, shaking with ague or suffering with fever, mounted on one of the horses, with his little son William on before him, took the lead along the dark, and narrow trace. His wife followed on another horse, with one child before and another behind on the same horse, having charge of the saddle-bags with their money, and driving two other horses ahead. To her this proved a most troublesome and exhausting journey. The horses would often turn aside, and cause her to follow through dense undergrowth and compel them to return to the trace. At length they reached the house of Mr. Taylor's brother, Robert, in the Big Bend of the Miami River, and returned thanks to God, who had brought them through a long and weary pilgrimage. Here they found one of the most beautiful and fertile valleys on the continent; well watered, gently rolling, and covered with a noble primeval forest of the choicest varieties of timber. Wild fruits, fish, fowl, and other game abounded, and the country seemed to be all that the brave and hardy pioneer could desire.

Soon after their arrival they were surprised and welcomed by a visit from Mr. John Ewing, who had emigrated from Pennsylvania to Lexington, Ky., and thence to Ohio about three years before this time. Mr. Ewing's wife, Elizabeth, was the daughter of William Garner, who was brother to Mrs. Taylor's grandmother.

The first winter was spent in a rude and uncomfortable cabin, with clapboard roof and puncheon floor. In the following spring Mr. Taylor bought a fine tract of rich, well watered, and splendidly timbered land be-

tween the Big and the Little Miami rivers, on which he settled in the same year, 1807.

After residing that year in a pole hut which some pioneer had built and deserted, he built the first frame house in Washington Township, Montgomery county, in 1808, near the present site of Centreville. Having the means of hiring assistance in clearing the forest, his land soon began to yield abundant supplies.

As time moved on, new farms and settlements appeared; discouragements, inconveniences, and wants disappeared with the progress of improvements in mills, stores, villages, churches and schools. The rich, virgin soil bore abundant crops, and cattle, horses, sheep, and hogs ranged at large, and fattened on the wild and luxuriant pasture.

John Taylor died Nov. 29, 1843, aged sixty-five years, nine months, and eleven days. His widow, Mrs Rosannah A. Taylor, has survived him nearly thirty-two years, and yet lives, with three of her sons, upon the old homestead, at the advanced age of ninety-one years, the last of the heads of families who settled in Washington township in 1806, the oldest citizen of the community, and the only surviving child of James and Rosey Reed Alexander. She is the fourth daughter and the eleventh of twelve children. Though she did not remove to Ohio, until she had been married and had become the mother of three children, she has witnessed changes in her new home that seem almost incredible. During those seventy years the wild wilderness of almost unbroken forest, which seemed too vast for any power of men to subdue, has become one of the most productive, populous, and prosperous States of the Union, abounding, in every direction, with villages, towns, and cities, and enriched and adorned with the

mature results of almost every kind of culture, industry, and art.

For sixty-five years Mrs. Rosannah A. Taylor has been a consistent member of the Church of Christ; as a kind, loving, and faithful Christian mother she has carefully instructed her children and trained them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. There is reason to believe that this religious training, accompanied by her prayers and pious example, has been amply rewarded in the piety of her children, who have risen up to call her blessed. She was gifted with great conversational powers, a sparkling intellect, a ready and retentive memory, and quick perception, improved by much reading, especially in Scripture and ancient history. A strong power of reason and a sound judgment made her fond of discussion, in which she greatly excelled in her palmy days.

Now, at the age of more than four score and ten years, she is waiting and preparing for that great change which is soon to remove her to a heavenly home, to the presence of her Saviour and to many loved ones who have gone before.