

OUR KIN

BEING A HISTORY
OF THE

Hoffman, Rhyne, Costner, Rudisill, Best,
Hovis, Hoyle, Wills, Shetley, Jenkins,
Holland, Hambright, Gaston,
Withers, Cansler, Clem-
mer and Lineberger
families

BY

LABAN MILES HOFFMAN
OF DALLAS, NORTH CAROLINA

PUBLISHED BY

DANIEL E. RHYNE, LABAN L. JENKINS
and L. M. HOFFMAN

1915



PRESS OF
QUEEN CITY PRINTING COMPANY
CHARLOTTE, N. C.

Preface

DEAR COUSINS: Before asking you to read and give credence to these genealogical sketches of our fathers who first settled in this section, and their long and numerous lines of descendants, it is perhaps necessary, and certainly proper that I should introduce to you myself and my motives and purposes in their preparation, as well as in a general way to indicate the sources from which I have derived my information..

In the first place I will apologize for the use of the personal pronoun "I" instead of the many usual conventional paraphrases such as "the writer of these sketches," or other third personal ways of saying "I." In my first notes I tried the roundabout way, omitting the direct and short way of designating myself so as not to appear egotistic. The paraphrases became of such frequent recurrence as to become very distasteful and impressed me as stilted and much more egotistical than the plain "I," so I am going to speak direct to you as being kinsmen and esteemed cousins as you are. And those who know will not think me egotistic. In fact, I think a little more of that attribute—a little more self-assertion—would have made my life not more peaceful, but more successful, as the world counts success. I have threshed out my own opinions and hold a few of them dearer than life, but with charity and toleration for those honestly differing. Among these firm opinions are the unshakable doctrines of the triune God and the vital orthodox doctrines of Christianity as taught in the Bible and generally believed and taught by our pioneer fathers. In other matters I am willing to be influenced in large measure by the opinions of others.

And who, then, am I?

I was born in Lincoln County, N. C., on the 19th day of October, 1846, in a three-room log house on Duharts creek, about two miles west of Lowell. Two months and two days later the same year, the southern end of Lincoln County, including my birthplace, was made Gaston County, in which I was reared and where I have lived most of my life in the vicinity of the first settlements of our German fathers. My earliest recollection runs back to the time when I was two years old. At that period father built a new two-story frame house about a quarter of a mile from my birthplace and we moved into the new house, and moved the old to the new for "Ann's house." Ann was the negro slave cook given to my mother by her father. I still can see myself a very small child dressed

in a madder dyed homemade checked linsey dress, standing in wonder watching the strong men push up the logs as they neared the top of the wall. And letting memory take free range it invariably turns as to a magnet to the central affection of my life—to mother; to the gentle, loving pious little woman who kept our house with so much quiet love, industry and frugality, but who, alas, in my boyhood was taken from us. I have sometimes felt her death robbed me of my youth. I was the second child and there being no girl in the family, and myself being small and not very robust, I was "mother's girl." I am glad to think that I either inherited or acquired her timid, modest disposition, and have had ambition to favor and please others rather than to seek honor or money for myself. I worked on the farm at a little of everything customary for the farm boy. I went to school most of the winters for about three months to the old log schoolhouse half a mile from where Lowell now stands, between Lowell and Spencer Mountain.

I developed some aptitude for books and graduated there under Miss Nancy Armstrong in the Winter of 1861-2. She was a good woman and a good teacher, and though she gave me the only whipping I ever had, I reverence her memory.

In the Fall of 1862 I entered the "Prep," the only department at Davidson College left by the Civil War. At school as everywhere else while a boy, I was simple enough to think I had to do my best everything I was asked to do by my superiors. I remained here till May, 1864, when I enlisted with the other seventeen year old boys in Co. C, 2nd Regt. of N. C. Jr. Reserves. We guarded Duplin Cross Roads and Rock Fish bridge, and participated in the small battles of Bellefield, Va., 2nd Kinston and Bentonville. I was Sr. 2nd Lt. in a company of nearly 200 boys from Gaston and Lincoln Counties. In the Winter of 1864-5 we were mustered into the regular Confederate service and designated Co. C, 71st N. C. Regt., C. S. A., and were attached to Hoke's Division, Johnston's Army. We surrendered with Johnston's Army to Genl. Sherman, near High Point, N. C., on Apr. 26, 1865. Having been a soldier, and helping on the farm through the Summer of 1865, I had about concluded that it would be going backward to turn school boy again, especially as I knew it would be a great strain on my father to pay the necessary expense. But in Nov., 1865, father said to me in his characteristic way: "Miles, you'd better gather up your duds and get back to school." I have never ceased to thank him for that order. I graduated (A.B.) at Davidson College in June, 1869. July 1st I was at work as bookkeeper in the office of D. A. Jenkins, State Treasurer, at Raleigh, where I worked at a salary of \$750 per annum till September, 1870. Mr. Jenkins several times offered to ask a raise of my salary but my work seemed so light and easy, I told him I wasn't earning more than I got unless he'd give me more work to do.

I had a most delightful time in Raleigh and made some very pleasant friends, but seeing little future for myself there and feeling the lack of

push and self-reliance, I resigned my position and determined to go west, away from the dear ones upon whom I had depended so long, where I would have to "root hog or die." Governor Holden offered me a clerkship in his office at a better salary if I would stay, but the storm then arising in governmental affairs was not to my taste, and I left in the late Fall of 1870 and went to Arkansas. I will say, though it may still be unpopular to do so, that I did sympathize with Governor Holden in all his efforts to suppress the Ku Klux outrages. He was not the bold bad man his enemies charged him with being, but on the contrary was a quiet, kindhearted, lovable man. As Governor he saw citizens, black and white, being outraged with scourgings, and murdered, to whom the law owed protection and the courts were powerless to convict the organized mobs. In the spirit of self-sacrifice he determined to protect all citizens at whatever cost necessary. In doing so he declared martial law, arrested the perpetrators, tried and convicted some of them by court martial. He broke the backbone of the secret political organizations, but gave his political life and citizenship to accomplish that result. He was impeached and removed from office for exceeding his constitutional powers in this unhappy incident in the State's history, for refusing to turn over his prisoners to the Civil Court for trial.

In Arkansas I visited around with the purpose of teaching and at the same time reading some law, till my purse was nearly empty. Somehow my country raising, assiduous attention to books and lack of independent dealing with men made me feel left-handed and a misfit in grappling with the problems of life, and I became apprehensive lest the home folks should get the laugh on my rooting ability and another call for help. That thought brought my nose to the ground in earnest. I happened to think there were thousands of bales of cotton in the fields to pick at \$1.00 per hundred pounds and I felt assured of a living at least. If I couldn't get a school to suit me, I could make cotton picking suit fairly well.

But I secured a private school at Lonoke and taught there in the year of 1871. In the Autumn of that year I obtained a position as assistant in the public schools of Jacksonport, Arkansas and the following year I was Principal of this school. Meantime at nights and during vacations I read law under the tuition and lectures given to a class of young men by four or five of the older lawyers of the Jacksonport bar. In the Summer of 1873 I was duly licensed to practice law.

After a few months effort to get clients, Col. L. C. Gause, who had been elected to Congress but counted out by the Republican "carpet baggers," asked me to become his partner and take charge of his office and large practice while he fought for his seat. He was absent most of the two years contesting for his seat, and for two succeeding terms he was elected beyond contest. That connection gave me more business and responsibility than I could handle with entire satisfaction to myself, having to take up important old cases by myself, cases that had been wrangled over for years. I practiced with Col. Gause till he died and then several years by myself till the Summer of 1883. Meantime in 1878,

having as I thought enough money and work to pay board and keep for two, I came back to N. C. and married Martha J. Jenkins, the daughter of my first employer.

I continued to do fairly well with my law and had good prospects for the future in 1883. My wife didn't much like the place, with its mud and frequent inundations, and I became almost sick with malaria and concluded that my health was ruined, and in an ill considered moment we decided to give up my work and prospects in Arkansas and returned to our native County in North Carolina. This was the great business mistake of our lives.

In North Carolina I have been busy enough, but my work has to a large extent been philanthropic in a small way rather than gainful. It is true for several years I worked as a laborer on my farm—my own prescription for eradicating my malaria. I assisted Mr. Geo. F. Bason for a short time with his law practice. I assisted in the building and management of the Dallas Cotton Mills until two of my friends holding County offices were defeated for re-election and I desired to retain them as citizens of Dallas, and so I resigned and turned over the management of the factory to them. About this time the Latin teacher in our struggling town school, Gaston Female College, left, and I volunteered to teach the Latin and Greek without compensation during its struggles for self-support. The Principal refused to charge me tuition for my three children and that was all my salary. This teaching for something like ten years was pleasant and interesting work, and suited my taste almost as well as any years of my life, one exception being the work of investigation and discovery connected with the preparation of this book which has been my recreation and pleasure for the last ten years.

Besides this I was for twelve years County Superintendent of Public Instruction of Gaston County at a nominal compensation, not exceeding an average of sixty dollars per annum. This paid expenses.

Of course I did not devote my whole time to the schools which were in session less than four months in the year. The teachers were poorly paid, the school fund too small and I made it my hobby that the school children should have the benefit of every available dollar to use in prolonging the sessions of their schools. When the funds increased I was urged to continue the work on a reasonable salary, but the time having come when the authorities had no trouble to get a Superintendent and pay him, I decided to retire from that work.

So I have been busy, but now at the age of 66 years, looking backward, it seems to me I have accomplished very little. It is something to feel that I have consciously injured no one and do not recall that I have ever owned a dishonest dollar, and all my life I have tried and meant to do some good. And if I can complete the publication of these family histories, and you, my cousins, shall be interested and benefited, I will feel that my life has not been altogether without worthy accomplishment. I grew up in the country home, and we talked little of ancestors and

relations and I learned nothing of most of my ancestors further back than grandparents and little of them except their names. I suppose it was approaching age that carried my mind backward and made me long to pry into the past and see and know my ancestors and redeem their names and something of their history from the oblivion that has nearly swallowed them up. I have strained my mind's eye to peer into the darkness of the past and grasp the facts and circumstances relating to our ancestors for over one hundred and sixty years when they as first settlers occupied this country, then a wilderness with no habitations save the wigwam of the savage Indian. But many of these facts are irrevocably lost. If I had begun my inquiry ten years earlier, my task would have been comparatively easy. Death has wrought with a trenchant scythe, harvesting the old men and women within that time. Even yet when I have purposed to go to see some old fathers or mothers, before I can do so they slip away from me. If the inquiry were not so fascinatingly interesting to me, I would long since have ceased to make myself a nuisance to everybody whom I suspect of knowing anything that would promote my purpose. I have sometimes spent months of search and inquiry to establish a single relationship. It has been a labor of love and patience. I have interviewed thousands of men and women and have been constantly writing to all parts of the country and I think I have found relations in every state of the Union excepting possibly a dozen. I have spent days and days in the offices of the Clerk and the Register of Deeds of the various counties and in some of the State offices at Raleigh. I have made several trips to the states west of us and have searched Church and Colonial records and visited old graveyards and old homes of our fathers, and at these last I could almost expect the old folks to come out of some of the rooms and greet me in their old German fashion. I almost fancied that the still crystal spring at which they quenched their thirst or the grand old tree which refreshed them with its beauty and shade was whispering to me of their habits of life, of their days of toil and hours of rest. In short I have endeavored from every thought of possible source to get information that would be of interest concerning our old fathers and their descendants even down to the youngest, so that if a hundred or more years in the future some one following us may be interested to do a like turn to our memory, it will be an easier matter than I have found this to be.

In the beginning I thought to investigate only my own family, the Hoffmans. My mother was a Rhyne and after finding out so much about the Hoffmans, I took up that family, and so I was almost unconsciously drawn into including all of my known fathers and mothers and their families. And then I couldn't stop without taking account of my wife's families and in the inquiry I found out so much about several families from which neither myself nor wife was descended but nearly all of whom by intermarriage were collaterally related so that I concluded to sketch these families as a whole also. The following diagram will show some of our ancestral relationships:

Considering the immensity of the undertaking I do not claim the work to be full and complete, and it is to be distinctly understood that there are doubtless many errors and omissions in lists of children. They all are made upon the authority of parents, relatives, or other reliable persons claiming knowledge of the families, or from wills, etc. But I have had *parents* to omit a child or two, and close acquaintance to confuse the names of friend's children. I am, however, surprised and delighted at the extent of the information gained. It could not be again reproduced if my account should be lost, for many family secrets have perished with their possessors since I interviewed them.

I have most gratefully and sincerely to thank nearly every person from whom I asked information and who so patiently gave it. I should have been still better satisfied if a few others had taken the small trouble to give me the lists of their descendants after having been repeatedly requested to do so.

It is no part of my purpose to make gain from this work. I had hoped to publish it in permanent form and distribute it among my friends as a present but it has grown to such proportions that that will not be practicable and I do hope that I may be able to sell enough copies at about cost to materially assist in the publication.

I do not claim that these good old people whose memories I am trying to preserve were great in worldly pomp or show or in brilliant achievement. They were just good honest, simple common people, contented to establish families in this wilderness and support them from agricultural, mechanical or other manual pursuits. I love them the more because they were the common people, the mainstay and support of the world. They never turned the world upside down, but they did a better thing, they did their full share in holding it level. They were *great* in their endurance and patience, their strong commonsense, their industry and frugality, and in their conscientious rugged adherence to principle and duty as they saw it. They were great in all the homely virtues of life and in their humanity and tender consideration of inferiors. The institution of slavery gained from them no part of its exaggerated reputation for inhumanity. Their slaves were comfortably housed and clothed and fed, at a different table, the same kind of provision served to the white folks. The doctor and the mistress of the house nursed them when sick. They were treated much like the hired white man or boy only they lived apart and received no pay in money nor did they need much money. And usually the negro man had his half acre to plant for his own and Saturday evening to work it. The grown ups were seldom whipped unless they were incorrigible.

The children were corrected just as the white child. Not many of the German fathers owned slaves, but some did. Peter Eaker provided for the manumission of some of his. Great grandfather Jno. Hoffman provided that his should have a certain house to live in and his son Peter to care for them if they became helpless. Jacob Costner also made provision for his. Grandfather Jacob Rhyne allowed his men to work for

themselves and pay him a small stipulated sum and in his will provided that his slaves should not be sold out of the family. My father had only four or five, and it is a day of horror to me yet when the owner of the husband of one of our women slaves sold him to the speculator to take him away. We children and mother all cried in anguish for the woman and father hastened and followed the speculator to buy her husband. He offered the purchaser a big profit but he couldn't buy him at any price. The vendor of that slave was not a German. The slaves were often taught to read by some of the whites of the family. The mother of the white family and the minister taught the negroes religion and they attended the churches of the whites and if they could be influenced they were members of the churches of the whites. I'm not defending the institution of slavery but among the German citizens of these parts the slaves were treated kindly and were free from the cruelty practiced on the large plantations sometimes in sections further south and west.

Now I want to impress upon you all the following explanations of the plan and method of these writings. I realize the great difficulty of making the relationship of so many thousands of people clear and easily grasped without much prolixity and repetition. To avoid this, I have used figures arranged in order of the generation. Possibly for the sake of brevity I have sacrificed clearness. I think, however, by close attention to this explanation you will be able to see the meaning and relationship:

The first known common ancestor is numbered 1; his children are numbered 2; his grandchildren are 3; his great grandchildren are 4; and so on down the generations. These numbers are attached to each individual, except where groups of the same generation are given in one paragraph when it is attached to the first name only, but when each individual of that group is mentioned following, the number is then attached. The numbers attached to each name mentioned for the first five generations are printed in bold face type before the name, in order that they may be more easily referred to. After the fifth generation and number (except where generations run down to the 9th, 10th, 11th, etc., when bold face type will be used to within three generations of the last) it is supposed generally there will not be so much difficulty in connecting the names, and the numbers are attached to the names wherever they happen to occur on the page. Then if you happen to lose connection look at the number of the person being considered and then look for the name of the person first preceding with a number *one less*. That will be the parent. For instance, if in reading you forget the parent of a number 6, and you wish to trace him back say to the common ancestor. 6 will be child of first preceding 5; 5 will be child of first preceding 4; 4 will be child of first preceding 3; 3 will be child of first preceding 2; and 2 will be child of 1, the subject of the chapter.

I have used many abbreviations also, for the sake of brevity, again sacrificing exact propriety. Most of these abbreviations are such as are in general use and not peculiar to these sketches except perhaps in the manner of their use. A few are peculiar to this writing, to-wit: (c) fol-

lowing a name or couple means "childless"; m. means "married"; d. means "died"; b. means "born"; s. means "single."

Again, owing to intermarriages, the same family may belong to two or more of the 17 chapters here described. As a rule I give the descendants of couples in the first chapter in which they are reached, and occurring later again, I simply refer back to first description. A few times I have deferred full description to a subsequent chapter in which they also occur, and made reference forward. This has the merit of brevity, and time saving, but more important it shows the relationships of both sides of the family.

Very truly yours,

Dallas, N. C., January 1, 1913.

L. M. HOFFMAN.

August, 1915.

By the generosity and family spirit of Daniel E. Rhyne and Laban L. Jenkins, I have been enabled to associate these gentlemen with me as co-publishers of this book. I, however, assume all responsibility for authorship.

L. M. HOFFMAN.

Chapter 15

CANSLER (GENSELER, Etc.)

The Cansler family was and is a large and influential one in Gaston, Lincoln and other counties of North Carolina and in other sections of the South to which they moved from this locality in the past years. The name has been variously spelled as above in its gradual transition from the German to the English language. Some claim that the family origin is Norwegian, others Dutch and still others German. From the fact that the pioneer of the family came to the south with our other first settlers from Pennsylvania and that he used the German language and taught it to his children I take it to be a fact that he was of German origin from whatever country of Europe he may have come. Philip W. Cansler and his son, Philip, left wills signing their names in German.

1 Philip W. Cansler was the pioneer and common father and founder of the family here. In 1767 he had some land in the vicinity of High Shoals. He first settled, I am told, near where the town of Lincolnton was later established on what is still known as the Cansler place. About the time of the founding of the town of Lincolnton he, by sale or gift, transferred this home place to his son, Philip Cansler, and he himself with his family moved to Leeper's Creek in the Rudisill-Arndt neighborhood where he built his house and a mill on the west bank of the creek on the slope of the hill facing the creek and adjoining the lands of the Rev. Jno. Godfrey Arndt and in the neighborhood of the ancestral home of the Rudisills. His house was of the regulation style for those Indian days with a high basement wall of stone and the upper house built of very large hewed logs. This house stood till recently when it was torn down and a new and more modern one erected on the same site. The old logs of the house were moved a short distance from their old position and

rebuilt as a barn or some sort of outhouse. The mill is still in use. In later years it has been known as the Hammerschold Mill.

From information obtained, purporting to come from records of the family Bible of Michael Rudisill I find that Barbara Rudisill, daughter of Michael, the pioneer Rudisill, married ——— Cansler. Then I found a distinct tradition that the wife of the pioneer Cansler was Barbara Rudisill. These, with other indications, led me to conclude that the whole Cansler family and myself had common kinship through the Rudisill blood (See Chapter 4—Rudisill, Barbara, page 330). And on this assumption I gathered facts and notes for a meagre sketch of the family as a whole. It seems to me that the ages of the parties concerned would better suit if Barbara Rudisill had been the wife of Philip W. Cansler than that of either his son, John, or Conrad (Coonie). But I think it established that Philip W. Cansler's wife who survived him was Uly Devepaugh, so that if Barbara was ever his wife she must have been a first wife. And just recently I have been informed by letter from an old helper in East Tennessee that Conrad Cansler's wife was Barbara Rudisill. I feel that is probably the real solution of the trouble

With this changed conclusion this Chapter also does not belong in these sketches according to the original plan of the work; but since I have collected some facts worth preserving and even a skeleton outline may be interesting to many worthy people and also so many of this family are collaterally related to me I will continue the sketch and arrange in order the notes I have made of this family.

Philip W. Cansler, the pioneer, died at his home on Leeper's Creek in 1804, and is buried at a private and neglected burial ground on his home farm about half a mile northwest from his home. A marble slab marks the grave of this worthy man. By his side is buried his wife whose grave is shown only by rough undressed and unlettered stones—no name nor date. Near by lies his son, George Cansler, and the wife of George.

The stone of our pioneer is inscribed as follows: "Hier ruht ein Vater vieler kinder, ein Menschen freund u *Christ*: der recht durch Kreuz nunmehr vollender *ist*: er ist uns wohl bekannt; er diente Leut u *Land*; er heist mit aller *Ehr*; der Vater Philip W. *Genseler*, who died Oct. 7, 1804, aged 63 years." Translated

this means: "Here rests a father of many children, a friend of men and a Christian; who through the Cross is now perfect; he is well known to us; he served his people and (land) country; his name is with all honor the (our) father, Philip W. Cansler." The above inscription is rather illegible and indistinct. I could not decipher it correctly. I am indebted to my grandnephew, Orestes P. Rhyne, a brilliant student now taking his Ph. D. course at Johns Hopkins University for the above version. He suggests that it is meant for poetry and rhymes with words in italics.

Mr. Cansler left a will, the original being on file in the Clerk's office of Lincoln County, N. C. The following is a copy thereof:

"In the name of God, Amen. I, Philip Cancelor of the County of Lincoln and State of North Carolina, being sick and weak in body but of perfect memory and sound understanding, and calling to mind the mortality of my body, do make, constitute, appoint and ordain this to be my last will and testament, and as touching my worldly estate desire to dispose of it in manner and form following:

"1st. I desire that my debts should be paid and that I may be buried in a decent Christianlike manner at the discretion of my executors hereinafter named.

"2nd. I give and bequeath to my well beloved wife, Uly Cancelor, as much of the furniture belonging to the house as she may choose and likewise of my stock of horses and cattle as she shall choose during her widowhood and the remainder to be sold with all my movable property to me anyways belonging.

"3rd. I give and bequeath to my daughter, Catharine Cline, one hundred acres of land on the waters of Indian Creek and forty pounds of money arising from the Vandue.

"4th. I give and bequeath to my daughter, Margaret Devepaugh, one hundred and twenty acres of land out of a tract on waters of Leeper's and Hoyle's Creeks and forty pounds.

"5th. I give and bequeath to my daughter, Caty Finger, same as the above daughters.

"6th. I give and bequeath to my daughter, Mary Garden, the same as the above.

"7th. I give and bequeath to my daughter, Elizabeth, the same as above.

"8th. I give and bequeath to my daughter, Barbara, the same as above; and I also do give to my two last named daughters three cows apiece.

"9th. I give and bequeath unto my son, John Cancelor, five shillings.

"10th. I give and bequeath to my son, Philip Cancelor, five shillings.

"11th. I give and bequeath to my son, George Cancelor, three hundred and fifty acres of land more or less lying on Leeper's Creek, including the place whereon I now live.

"12th. I give and bequeath to my son, Conrade Cancellor, two hundred and seventy-five acres more or less lying on the waters of the South Fork, near Lincolnton, on the pine field branch and twenty pounds. And the remainder of my whole estate to my aforesaid wife during her widowhood and then to be equally divided between my aforesaid wife and all my children equally. And I do appoint my wife and Philip Cancelor, my son, executors of this my last will and testament and I do disannul and revoke all wills and testaments by me heretofore made and confirm this to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 25th day of May, 1801.

Witness:

PHILIP GANTZLER.

Jos. Abernethy

Philip Devepaugh."

Those children to whom nominal legacies were given had been previously provided for.

From this it will be seen that Philip W. Cansler, the pioneer, had ten children, as follows:

- 2 Catharine, m. ——— Cline;
- 2 Margaret, b. Oct. 31, 1759, d. May 2, 1833, m. Philip Devepaugh, b. 1751, and died June 29, 1825;
- 2 Katie, m. John Finger;
- 2 Mary, m. ——— Garden;
- 2 Elizabeth, I think, died single;
- 2 Barbara, m. Henry Troutman, 1802;
- 2 John, m. ———, and moved to Rutherford Co., N. C.;
- 2 Philip, m. Mary Quiggle (Quickle);
- 2 George, m. Margaret Finger, daughter of Peter Finger;
- 2 Conrad, m. Barbara Rudisill.

2 I have not had time and opportunity to find and trace the descendants of Catharine Cline, Mary Garden, Katie Finger, Elizabeth and Barbara Troutman, daughters of Philip W. Cansler, pioneer. I think it would not be difficult to get trace of the Cline, Garden and Finger and Troutman descendants, as the names are familiar in this section still Elizabeth, as already said, probably died without family and unmarried.

2 Margaret Devepaugh had children as follows:

3 Catharine, m. Henry Etters; Elizabeth, m. John Earney; John, m. Sarah Martin; Uly, m. Benjamin James; Lydia, m. Reuben Reynolds; Peggy, m. Wm. Douglas; Philip, m. ———; Mary Ann and Daniel.

2 Philip Cansler, son of Philip W. Cansler, the pioneer, lived on his father's homestead near Lincolnton. He was an influential citizen of considerable intelligence and wealth. His wife was a member of that other prominent family of Lincoln County—the Quickle family, the mother of which family was a Freytag—Friday—sister to the pioneers of that family, Nicholas and Martin Friday. Philip Cansler had only two children, one son: **3** Henry, who married Fanny Shuford, a granddaughter of John Hoyle, and his wife, Margaret Costner. The other child of Philip Cansler was a daughter: **3** Elizabeth, who married Philip Rudisill, a brother to "Gentleman" Jonas Rudisill, and son of Philip Rudisill 2nd.

3 Henry Cansler was for years Sheriff of Lincoln Co., N. C., and was a leading citizen and represented Lincoln County in the General Assembly. For his descendants, see Fanny Shuford Cansler, page 441.

3 For descendants of Elizabeth Cansler Rudisill, see page 291, et seq.

2 George Cansler, son of Philip W. Cansler, by will of his father succeeded his father in the ownership of the Cansler home on Leeper's Creek and lived there the rest of his life. He was born in 1770, died, 1830, and sleeps with his father and mother in the burying ground on the place. His tombstone bears this inscription: "George Cansler was born Jan. 31, 1770, died Oct. the 2nd, 1830, aged 59 years, 8 months and 2 days." His wife's tombstone by his side has this inscription: (Name broken off) "was born, 1776, departed this life Dec. 23, 1832, aged 56 years,

6 months and 30 days." The foot stone has on it, "M. C." George Cansler's children were: 3 Philip, m. Evaline Smith, sister to Madison Smith; Dan'l, m. Sallie Smith, sister to Philip's wife; Henry, m. Mary Arndt and Mary Hinson; Margaret, m. Aaron Goodson; Peter, m. Nancy Rozzell; John, m. Cynthia Brown; Barbara, m. John Heedick; Mary, m. Dan'l Haynes; Ann, m. Drewry Abernethy; and Jacob, m. Rebecca Green, Ga.; ten in all.

3 Philip Cansler moved to Villa Rica, Carroll Co., Ga. His children were: 4 James, Robert, Thos., "Sis," Mary and Roxanna.

4 Thomas Cansler, son of Philip Cansler, moved from Ga. to Miss. and thence to Texas in 1883. He was a Methodist minister and lived near Itasca. He died at Hillsboro, Tex., Mar. 17, 1913, aged 75 years. He was twice married: first to Cetinda J. Stone, in 1848, and next to Lizzie Lloyd, 1882. His children by 1st wife were: Dr. H. K. Cansler of Hillsboro, Texas; E. V. Cansler, Gary, Oklahoma; H. S. Cansler, Travis, Tex.; S. W. Cansler, Fort Worth; Mrs. M. D. Banister, Sentinel, Okla.; Kelly Cansler, Fort Worth; and Mrs. T. S. Wooten, Hillsboro, Tex.; and by his second wife: Mrs. Guy Hooker, Hillsboro, Tex.; Mrs. H. C. Pondram, Dallas, Tex.; and Thos. L. Cansler of Hillsboro, Texas.

3 Daniel Cansler moved to Smith Co., Texas, so named from Robert Smith, his wife's brother. I haven't learned of his descendants.

3 Henry Cansler's children: 4 Mary, by 1st wife, m. Caney Lorance (see Mary Arndt Cansler, page 330); and by 2nd wife: Sarah, m. Rev. Aug. Benick (Presb.); Pink, m. Beni Ramsaur; Margt. A., m. Logan Warlick; Frances, m. Jacob A. Seagle; Jno. J., m. Margt. Robinson; Emma, m. Abram Miller; Henry, m. Claudia Helderman.

4 Mary Lorance lived at Catawba Station and has children.

3 Margaret Cansler Goodson's children: 4 Geo. W., m. Catharine Lehman; Mary, m. John Michael; Margaret, m. Robert H. Ballard; and Frances died young. 3 Margaret Goodson died Sept. 19, 1897, aged 80 years, 9 months and 16 days. Her husband had died Mar. 24, 1877, aged 68 years, 5 months and 18 days.

3 Peter Cansler was for a long time a prosperous and prominent citizen of the River Bend section of Gaston Co., N. C. His children were: **4** Mary E., m. Wesley Davenport; Margaret C., m. Sidney Rankin; Geo. W., d. s.; Richard T., m. Sallie Abernethy; James I. and Martin L. (Sug), twins; Martin L., m. Elizabeth Abernethy; James I., d. s.; Gerard, d. s.

4 Mary E. Davenport's children: **5** Zanie, m. Chas. Rozzell; Ida, m. Dick Thompson; Nannie, m. Lock Wilkerson; R. K., m. Birdie Fay; G. W., m. ———, Birmingham, Ala.; Dora, m. C. E. Hutchinson; Eunice, m. Luther Nims.

5 Zanie Rozzell's children: **6** Bessie, m. ——— Fay; Ida, m. ———; Richard, Dowd, Henry, Keith and Charles.

5 Ida Thompson's children: **6** Not learned.

5 Nannie Wilkinson's children: **6** Gage, Frank; Lucy, m. ———; and others.

5 R. K. Davenport is County Commissioner of Gaston Co. and once represented the county in the Legislature. His children are: **6** Fay, Ralph, Richard, Harvey, Esther, Allen, Madge and Harry.

5 G. W. Davenport's children: **6** Richard K. and a daughter, both married.

5 Dora Hutchinson's children: **6** Eunice, Mary and Edward. C. E. Hutchinson was also a member of Legislature of N. C.

5 Eunice Nims' children: **6** Horace, Boyden, Dorcas and another.

4 Margaret C. Rankin's children: **5** Geo., d. s.; Mary, Nancy, m. James Jenkins (c); Alice, m. Mat Jenkins; Lee P., m. Emma Farrar; J. A.; Ida, m. Hill Abernethy; and Bernice, s.

5 Alice Jenkins' children: **6** Lily and Ben.

5 Lee P. Rankin's children: **6** Anne, m. Alex Rhyne; and Bertie, s. See Alex Rhyne, page 140.

5 Ida Abernethy's children: **6** Fanny May.

4 Richard T. Cansler's children: **5** See Sallie Cansler, page 224.

4 Martin L. Cansler's children: **5** See Bettie Cansler, page 224.

3 John Cansler's children: **4** Alfred A., s., killed by lightning; Abel J., m. Rosa Rhyne; Geo. W., Jas. K. P., Adolphus, Martha, Mary and Alice.

- 4** Abel J. Cansler's children: 5 See Rosa Cansler, page 142.
- 3** Barbara Heedick's children: 4 Not learned.
- 3** Mary Haynes' children: 4 Macon and others, lived at Newton, N. C.
- 3** Ann Abernethy had children: 4 One, Margaret, m. Stephen Decatur Stowe.
- 4** Margaret Stowe's children: 5 Martha, m. Dr. Wm. L. Crouse; Washington, m. ———; Irene, m. Robert Henderson; Nina B.; m. Sam'l Patrick; Hardaway P., Wade H. and Wm. Jasper.
- 5** Martha Crouse's children: 6 See Wm. L. Crouse, page 304.
- 5** Irene Henderson's children: 6 Pearl, Mamie and Clair.
- 5** Nina B. Patrick's children: 6 Not learned.
- 3** Jacob Cansler, son of George Cansler, married Rebecca Green and lived in Carroll Co., Ga. His descendants are still in that section. His children were: 4 Lafayette, O. O., and Joseph, sons, and Jane and Margaret, daughters, all married, but they do not send names of their families.

2 John Cansler was probably the oldest son of our pioneer Cansler and may have been born as early as the last of the year, 1760. His sister, Mrs. Devepaugh, being born Oct. 31, 1759; but his birth has been thought to have been about 1765. He entered some land as early as 1792 indicating that he was of age before that date. He was provided for before his father's will was executed and when he sold his land to Frederick Hoke on Jan. 12, 1799, he was already a citizen of Rutherford County, N. C. I have been unable to ascertain the name of the wife of John Cansler. He may have died in Rutherford Co. or possibly went westward. This part of my investigation has come late and I have been unable to pursue it by a search of the Rutherford and Burke Co. records and have been able to enlist little interest in descendants or relatives in those counties. So far as learned the children of Jno. Cansler, son of Philip W., pioneer, were:

3 Philip, married Miriam Johnson in 1820, and died, 1838; Conrad; Ula, m. ——— Depriest; Betsy, m. ——— Johnson; James, m. ———; and Katy, m. ——— Carson. Hon. Mr. Carson, lawyer and legislator, is said to be from this couple.

3 Philip Cansler moved to Macon Co., N. C., in 1836 or 1837, and died very soon afterward. His children were:

4 John, James, Philip, Mary, Martha, Barbara, Amanda and Clarinda. I have not learned definitely of the further descendants of John Cansler, son of the pioneer, except that Mrs. J. B. Collins of Macon Co., is a descendant through his son, James, and that the Carsons in Rutherford Co., N. C., are probable descendants of his daughter, Katie Carson. It is altogether probable that John Cansler had other children than five above named.

2 Conrad Cansler, supposed to be youngest son of Philip W. Cansler, pioneer, I think married Barbara Rudisill, daughter of Michael Rudisill, the first. He sold his land in Lincoln County, N. C., in 1814, and moved to Rutherford or Burke County where he seems to have lived some time and then moved to Monroe Co., Tenn., about 1837. He purchased land in 1843 from John Carson, but I think several years prior to that time he was living near Hiawasse College where he died in 1848, and is buried there. He was noted as an extremely large man and could scarcely be understood in his use of English, and the report is that he employed an English-speaking woman to live in the family so that his children might learn English. He was an old man when he died. His daughter, Catharine, was born about 1800, and she was the 5th of six daughters, and Conrad himself seems to have been about contemporary with the Rudisill family, probably a little younger, and the report from Tennessee is that his wife was Barbara Cansler, all these and other circumstances make me conclude that this Tennessee Conrad was the son of Philip W. Cansler, pioneer, and not his grandson Conrad, son of John Cansler.

2 Conrad Cansler's children were all daughters, six in all to-wit: 3 Barbara, m. Adam Nichols; Clarissa, m. Willis Woody; Sallie, m. Cornelius Welch; Betsy, m. ——— Allen; Catharine; Ula, m. James Long. Conrad Cansler and his wife separated. I think the daughters above except Catharine who lived with her father, lived in Fannin Co., Ga., and Mrs. Cansler lived and died with Ula Long, her youngest daughter there. She survived her husband a few years. These children of Conrad Cansler raised families but I haven't obtained the names of them except as follows: L. C. Woody and W. R. Woody, of Swan, Ga., are sons of Mrs. Clarissa Woody and 3 Catharine Cansler had six children, all sons to-wit: 4 Robert, a soldier of the Mexican War; James, Van, Henry, H. Lawson and Jackson, all said to have

had families—some of whom are still living in East Tenn. Henry's daughter, Margaret, married James Kiser and other children of his were Katharine, Cinda, Jackson, Sallie, Martha and Miniffee.

4 Hugh Lawson Cansler, son of Catharine Cansler, married Louisa A. Scott and still lives in Knoxville, Tenn., in his 78th year. His children are: 5 Wm. J., m. Agnes Reynolds; Nanny E., m. Floyd Broady; Chas. W., m. Lillian Webber; Lee R., m. Luella Cash; Hugh L., Jr., m. Mabel Gudger (c); Carl C., s.; Henry Conrad, m. Cynthia Greenway; Fritz P., m. Ruth Porter; Elmer H., m. Trula Coffin. These have children and are mostly teachers of note, lawyers, blacksmiths and other honorable occupations—living some in Knoxville, Tenn., Maryville, Tenn., Los Angeles, Cal., etc.

The evidence secured regarding this Conrad Cansler is so elusive, indefinite, fragmentary and contradictory, and positive dates are so lacking, that I cannot be entirely sure that he was the elder Conrad or the son of John Cansler and nephew of the elder Conrad. One grandson writes speaking of his grandmother as Barbara and an old resident of the neighborhood says she was Barbara Rudisill, while another grandson seems to say that his grandmother was Clarissa Dellinger, whose mother was a Holdsclaw.

It may be we haven't really heard of the elder Conrad Cansler and that he is the ancestor of a set of the Canslers who lived near Englewood, Tenn., and whom after diligent and long extensive search we have been unable to connect into their place in the family. This set consisted of Wm., m. Eliza ———, and both died childless at Mineral Wells, Tex., about 1900; Sarah, m. Louis Hale; Martha (Patsy), m. Lemuel Chapman; Nathaniel Henderson, b. Sept. 15, 1822, died at Rolla, Mo., April 24, 1879, married Hannah C. Reynolds; John married ———, died in Maries Co., Mo.; Ann, m. ——— Moon.

Sarah Hale's children were: Granville, Wm.; and Martha, m. W. R. Dickey, Independence, Va.

Patsy Chapman's children were: Mary A., b. 1840; Sarah J., b. 1843, and Nancy J., b. 1845. Mr. Chapman died and one report is that Patsy moved to Adams Co., Ill., and some think she moved to Maries Co., Mo., with her brother, Nathaniel Henderson Cansler, in 1852.

Nathaniel Henderson Cansler's children were: James Henderson, b. Feb. 8, 1840, died April 13, 1885, Rolla, Mo.; Mary S., b. Mar. 10, 1847, d. Jan., 1913, in St. Louis, Mo.; Martha E., b. Oct. 19, 1850, d. Nov. 29, 1912, Little Rock, Ark.; Mildred, b. Nov. 6, 1866, m. P. R. Van Frank, Little Rock, Ark. Mr. Van Frank has searched as hard as I have to establish the connection (which I think undoubted) with our Cansler family but we have had to give it up. We have found it impossible to ascertain the name of Mrs. Van Frank's grandfather Cansler.

John Cansler, brother to Nath. Henderson Cansler, had children, one of whom was named John.

Mrs. Ann Moon probably had a family but data is wanting.

There was also another set of Canslers near Englewood, said to have been cousins to the above and I think the above named Wm. Cansler, was grandson to some of them. Their names were in part: Nelson, Carroll and Thomas.

There was also another set of Canslers living in Christian County, Ky., and from the similarity of names, I infer they may have been a branch of the ancestor of the Englewood, Tenn., set. Mr. Jas. K. P. Cansler of Enid, Okla., furnishes the information concerning this set. He thinks that his great grandfather was *John* Cansler and his grandfather, James Cansler, who had children as follows: Plinny, m. Tempie Renshaw; John, born May 5, 1800, m. Matilda Renshaw and died July 4, 1854; Henderson, m. Polly Long; James, m. Marian Goodlow; Golden, m. Betsy McCord; and Betsy, m. Wiley Renshaw.

Plinny Cansler's children were: Mary, m. E. Adams; Nancy, m. A. J. Adams; Jno., m. Sylvia Adams; and Wm. H., m. Mollie Cranor.

John Cansler, brother to Plinny, had following children: Artemissa, m. ——— Cooksy and T. A. Key; Nancy M., m. W. V. Croft; Emily S., m. A. W. Brasher; Martin V. B., m. M. G. Hamby and M. J. McCord; Joab C. F., d. infant; Mary M., m. O. J. Hamby; J. K. Polk, m. E. A. Boales; Scelina L., s.; and Jno. W. O. B., s.

Henderson Cansler's (brother to Plinny) children: James Henderson, m. ———; Jane, m. Lill Dunning; Sarah, m. Bunah Dunning; and others. James Cansler, brother to Plinny, had children: Bristow, Carry, McKee, Lycurgus and others.

Golden Cansler, brother to Plinny, had children: Thos. Benton and others. The dates in this Ky. set would indicate that the first named ancestor, John, was probably a brother to our old Philip W., pioneer, especially as the tradition is that this John Cansler also moved from Lincoln Co., N. C. This is a very unsatisfactory conclusion of the Cansler sketch but I have thought it was worth writing to be of possible benefit to some one more favorably situated to take up the matter and make the proper connection.