

From the Editors

This edition of the *Armfield Family Newsletter* is brought to you by Susan Newman and her contribution of the work by Virginia Speck Marshall describing Sarah Armfield Speck's experience in Kansas during the Civil War. Virginia Speck Marshall, Susan's mother, submitted these stories for publishing in "*The Iddings & Their Forebears*" a history, published by The Iddings Association in 1993 and 2001. Sarah Armfield Speck is Susan's 2X great grandmother and Hannah is her 3X great grandmother.

Following the Civil War piece is another article about Sarah that was written by George Jacob Remsburg (G. J. R.) and published originally in the *Atchison Globe* newspaper dated 01 Dec 1905. Included is the story, "Writings of Benjamin Huff" from Hannah Iddings Armfield about her courtship and wedding to Julian Armfield. Susan wrote that her story is very detailed and quite interesting. Virginia (Speck) Marshall passed away on the 16 Jun 2014 at the age of 85 (Ed. Note: her obituary is included at the end of this newsletter). Susan related that her mother's last few years had been quite a struggle with Parkinson's disease, so her passing, even though hard for them all was peaceful with no more suffering.

Connie & Joyce

Civil War Times

From *The Iddings & Their Forebears*, Vol 1, 1993

Part II, pp 187-190

Fighting in the Civil War lasted from April 1861 to April 1865, but the effects were felt some years before and several years after. In this chapter we hope to reflect some experiences of the Iddings family during that period in American history. Iddings were involved in both side of the conflict, serving in the Confederate and Union Armies, fighting cousin against cousin. Information on our war veterans is contained in notes throughout the Interrelationship Charts in this book. This chapter will be about those who remained on the home-front.

These stories were recorded by family members living during that time and are edited from their accounts. Most of the mid-western area, where these events occurred, were still wilderness. Farming was the major occupation, and roads were only improved wagon trails. Travel was by horseback, foot and horse drawn vehicles. Trains were becoming a popular a way to travel. There was very few facilities for travelers. Exposure to the weather, and cooking and camping along the roads were common parts of the daily regimen.

Hannah (Iddings) Armfield

The first account begins in 1811 in Guilford County, North Carolina, with the daughter of James (g5) and Sarah (Haines) Iddings. (See page 43)

Hannah (g6) Iddings was born August 17, 1811, in Guilford County, North Carolina. This story was told in her own words and recorded by the Atchison Globe of Atchison, Kansas, on December 1, 1905.

In the late fall of 1815, Benjamin Huff, a Philadelphia Quaker, found himself sitting in the James Iddings home on Deep River, Guilford County, North Carolina. He had had the yellow fever in Philadelphia that summer, when five thousand sickened and died, and he had gone south to recuperate. Huff was a school teacher, and his handwriting was regarded with reverence and awe. As a form of entertainment, he proposed that he do some writing for his host. Homemade ink was produced that had been made from the root of a maple tree, with a little copperas mixed in, and Huff, by the light of a tallow dip and with many flourishes of a goose quill pen, began. The family watched with interest. All except one: Hannah, age four was playing on the floor, she jogged the table, and the writer scolded her.

This is the first recollection of Mrs Hannah Armfield, age ninety-four, now living at home of her granddaughter Mrs. Wilbur S. Adams, near Hawthorne, Kansas, and she told of the incident with the writings of the school teacher in her hands, as bright and legible as the day it was written. For the school teacher, with a happy insight for the future, had used his talent in compiling the family register. These are the first entries.

James Iddings
 Son of Joseph & Alice
 Iddings was born on Deep
 River, Guilford County
 North Carolina
 on the eleventh of August 1786.

Page 1

Sarah Iddings
 Formerly Haines,
 daughter of Joshua &
 Hannah Haines
 was born on Deep
 River, Guilford, N.C.
 on the 17th month of March A.D. 1789.

Page 2

James Iddings
 & Sarah Haines
 were married by John
 Crowell Esq. at her father's
 house, on the 14th of the 1st month
 A.D. 1810.

Page 3

Offspring of James and
 Sarah Iddings all born
 on Deep River, Guilford, N.C.
 as follows:
 1. Hannah Rich Iddings
 their eldest was born the 17th
 month of the eighth month One
 thousand eight hundred and eleven.
 2. Isaac Haines Iddings was
 born the second of the first month
 A.D. 1813.

Page 4

3. Joseph W. Iddings
 was born on the first day of the
 twelfth month one thousand
 eight hundred and thirteen.
 Elizabeth Haines was
 born on the 11th of the 1st month
 A.D. 1811.
 James Haines was born
 on the 11th of the 1st month
 A.D. 1810.

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Reduced from actual size,
 originals pages believed to
 be about 9½ by 6 inches.

Writings of Benjamin Huff

Hannah grew from babyhood to womanhood, knowing little but hard work. When she was a little more than a baby she was propped on a pillow and handed the thread in an old hand loom. Her father [James Iddings] always said she began work earlier than anyone he ever knew. She wove a table cloth when she was eleven years old and a bed tick for her brother to sleep on. When she was six she went to school and studied out of Webster's school books in a log building. There was no such thing as a window pane in those days, and a log was sawed out of the building to let in the light. When ten, she was sent to a Quaker school, her father paying eight dollars. a year. It was built before the Revolutionary War, and in going to school the little girl passed long rows of Tory graves. While the Iddings were not Quaker, their friends and neighbors were, and the children were brought up in the belief that all pleasure was sinful. Hannah had one doll. It had a dress of French lawn [a sheer linen cloth}, a hand painted face and flax hair. She played the Jew's harp for music, and found some amusement in hoeing cotton. She didn't dare sing in fear that someone would hear her, and she never knew what it meant to dance. Such was too sinful to even talk about.

Judging from the good looks she still retains, she must have been a pretty girl, but if more than one man ever discovered it, Hannah never knew it, for it was unseemly in those days for a girl to have more than one beau. Julian Armfield, a neighbor boy, came over occasionally and did some courting in a shy strange fashion by a big log fire, with the rest of the family sitting in the same room. When the family got tired, they undressed and went to bed in the same room with the young couple "sitting up" by the fire. *[Most log houses had only one room for the entire family. If two rooms, first floor one room, the second floor or loft the second room.]*

One evening after exhausting the subject of crops, Julian said to her: "What would be the consequence if we should unite?" Hannah replied she would study about it. Armfield lived only three miles away, but it was three weeks before he came again. Then after the rest of the family had gone to bed, he said, as quietly as if no time had intervened since his first proposal: "There is nothing to hinder. I have rented a farm, and I have a house on it."

Hannah was so scared that she could never remember what she replied, but evidently it suited Julian, for he set the date for the following April. When a girl became engaged in those days, the marriage was arranged to suit the time of the worker in the field, for every well brought up girl was supposed to be ready for marriage at anytime after she was sixteen. Hannah, at the age of fifteen, had begun her preparation by picking feathers [to use for pillows and feather mattresses], which were carefully put away for her wedding day, and spinning sheets, a counterpane [bedspread] and three quilts. The summer that Hannah was sixteen, she taught school and earned \$7.50. A great many of her pupils didn't pay her, and she was under age and couldn't sue; she had to be grateful for what was given her voluntarily. This \$7.50 had been carefully put away with other nest eggs for bridal days, and now that Julian had set the day, she got it out. She bought a dress of white goods with a pink rose in it, paying \$1.50 for the material, a pair of slippers for \$ 1.75, and store stockings of cotton, a red ribbon for her cape and neck, a cap of bobbinet [cotton lace}, a red waist ribbon, and a red

scarf across her shoulders completed her outfit, and the \$7.50 paid for the trousseau of as pretty a bride as ever.

There were nine couples at the wedding, which was solemnized at the bride's home, and the bride and groom each had a "waiter." They call them best men and bride's maids these days, but waiter from the lips of a woman of ninety-four sounds so quaint and sweet. For supper they had fat pork, chicken pie, peach pie, custard and coffee, and they drank to the health of the bride in peach brandy with dried cherries in it. The bridal couple stayed there till the next morning, when all ten couples rode to the home of the groom's father and spent two days. When the bride went to her own home, she took with her two wedding gifts, but they were not wrapped in dainty tissue paper: they were a cow and a pig. The house in which Mrs. Armfield began housekeeping contained one room, and here they lived two and a half years. There was no window light in the house; a log was sawed out admitting both air and sunlight, and sometimes rain and snow. *[The parents of Mrs. Armfield migrated to Indiana in 1836; see note 7 on page 55. A few years later, in 1849, Julian Armfield and family followed them.]* Mrs. Armfield and her daughter of eighteen rode front, in a spring carriage hitched to a big black horse, and she drove 730 miles, over thirteen mountains. The two boys of thirteen and eleven, riding with their father in a wagon, followed them. The wagon contained utensils for camp life. They were forty days and nights on the road, and Mrs. Armfield became so skillful at camp cooking that she says she believes she can cook a better camp dinner now than any woman in Atchison County.

Mr. Armfield opened a woolen factory (powered by a water wheel) upon reaching Peru, Indiana, and it was here he died in January 1875. Mrs. Armfield's genius for hard work never left her. While her husband worked the factory, she cleared \$50 every summer selling pea fowl fly brushes, which she made herself.

In 1879 she came west to make her home with her daughter, Mrs. A.S. Speck, near Hawthorne, but stayed only a year and a half, going back to Danville, Indiana *[near her first cousin, Joshua Iddings]*, where in fourteen years, by renting rooms, taking boarders and building and renting houses, she cleared a small fortune. It cannot be said of many women that they accumulated a fortune when passed sixty years of age, and without aid.

Our tale continues with Hannah's and Julian's daughter, Sarah. This account is edited from the memories of Hannah's granddaughter Mary Speck.

Sarah [Sarah Eleanor Armfield] was born in [December] 1830. One of her earliest memories was sitting in her front yard on Pike Road in Guilford County [North Carolina) watching columns of slaves being driven by to southern markets. The sight of their sorrow and misery would sadden her so much that she would cry. Her mother Hannah would befriend the slaves by every possible means. If they were passing at evening, Hannah would gather many of the sore footed mammies and take them into her house and let them sleep on the floor in front of the fireplace.

When Sarah was eighteen years old her parents decided to move to Indiana. [*Her grandparents, James and Sarah Iddings, had moved there in 1836.*] Her parents settled near Peru, Indiana. Her father bought a woolen mill powered by a water wheel. The mill became obsolete when machinery replaced water for power.

Sarah taught school for \$3.50 a week and boarded with others. On April 20, 1850, she married Archimedes S. Speck. He was born in Kentucky and came to Indiana in 1842 at the age of twelve as an orphan. In 1855 the couple started for the territory that would soon become Kansas. With a team of horses pulling a covered wagon they, with their three children, arrived in late September at Atchison, Kansas. They settled in Mt. Pleasant township some three miles south of Atchison.

The Civil War had been going for one year when in July 1862 the 13th Kansas Infantry was organized at the call of President Lincoln. Archimedes joined them and was appointed a captain.

Susan's mother submitted stories, letters and articles to Raymond L. Iddings for his book and Susan saved the several letters of correspondence dated 1993 between Raymond Iddings and her mother. Virginia Speck Marshall also supplied many Iddings photos for the Iddings book. *The Iddings & Their Forebears*, Volume 1, 1993, Library of Congress # 93-83689 ISBN)-9629929-2-5. This book can be found in the Family History Library in SLC, Utah, call #929.273, Id2id, 2001.

*The next event is extracted from George Jacob Remsburg (G. J. R.) and published originally in the Atchison Globe newspaper dated 01 Dec 1905. **Remsburg Scrapbook, the 13th Kansas Volunteer Infantry**, Volume 2, page 101.*

Mrs. Sarah E. Speck

One of the bravest of the brave women, of whom Atchison County had a goodly number in the exciting days of border warfare, was Mrs Sarah E. Speck of Mt. Pleasant township. With her husband, Capt. Archimedes S. Speck, she emigrated from Indiana to Kansas sixty-eight years ago this month and settled on a claim near Stranger Creek in Atchison County. Both Mr. and Mrs. Speck were avowed and outspoken anti-slavery advocates, and they were beset with difficulties at the hands of the pro-slavery border ruffians from the very start. These ruffians had declared their intentions of ridding the Territory of all abolitionist and Free State advocates, and Captain Speck was made one of the chief targets of their threats and intimidations. He was warned to leave the Territory or pay with his life, but he gave little or no heed to their admonitions.

One day a party of about thirty ruffians, under the leadership of "Jim" Adkins of Port Williams, who was a officer in the Kickapoo Rangers, rode up to the Speck home and

planted the famous Kickapoo¹ cannon on a knoll in front of the house. One of the men was sent to the door to ascertain if Mr. Speck was at home. Mrs. Speck appeared, and when the ruffian asked if her husband was there, she replied: "If he was here he would never send his wife to talk for him." The men tarried in conference for awhile and then left. That night they appeared again and started a search of the premises. Armed with an axe, her only weapon, Mrs. Speck met them at the door. As one of the men was about to enter she demanded the pistol which he held in his hand. At first he refused to yield the weapon, but Adkins, with an oath [*curse*], told him to give the gun and they would see that he was not harmed. A search of the house was made, but the object of their search and vengeance could not be found. Again they left, leaving the Speck children crying in terror. Fearing their return, Mrs. Speck kept a vigil outside the cabin door with a baby in her arms, the rest of the night. Soon after this incident, Qauntrell² (*sic*) and his gang of renegades made the infamous raid on Lawrence and Capt. Speck hurried [*with the Kansas Infantry*] to the relief of the sufferers. On the same afternoon that he left, the ruffians returned to his home, not knowing of his departure. One of them demanded of Mrs. Speck to turn over any firearms that might be about the premises. She handed them a gun, and while he was examining it she quickly produced another which she had concealed behind her, and fired it at the intruder. He fled toward his companions, who were standing around the cannon on the hill. Presently they saw some settlers herding cattle in the distance and thinking it was a company of men coming to capture them, they retreated in haste.

² *Quantrell is William C. Quantrill, an infamous Confederate guerrilla leader. With his gang of followers, Quantrill made destructive raids throughout the mid-west from 1863 until he was killed in Kentucky in 1865.*

These are only a few of the episodes in the life of this brave little woman. Her superior courage in that darkest period of Kansas history is vouched for by old neighbors who knew her and saw her tried. To such heroines Kansas owes much, and her memory should be honored in a fitting and lasting way. Mrs. Speck passed away at the old homestead near Highbridge, in 1904, and her husband three years earlier." G. J. R.

Source Information

The compilation of personal letters from Mary Speck, Sarah's daughter, Hannah's granddaughter; Susan Newman's mother had the original letters which are now in Susan's possession. She and Archimedes had 12 children, 8 lived to adulthood. This included two set of twins (being premature- only one of each set of twins lived). Archimedes Speck was 1st Lt. of Co. F, 13th Kansas Infantry. She also has several pictures. One is of Hannah and Julian Armfield c1848 taken in North Carolina. It was used in the Iddings book, but submitted by her mother. She also has several of Sarah and of Sarah and Archimedes Speck's homestead in Atchison Co., KS. Their home was razed in the 60's after the property was sold. You can contact Susan at snewman1781@gmail.com

The piece on Mrs. Sarah Speck was cited in the Iddings book; it was written by George Jacob Remsburg (G.J.R.) and appeared in the Atchison Globe dated 14 Sep 1923. The

¹ *The Kickapoo Cannon was named after the war with the Kickapoo Indians. Their original trible (sic) home was Wisconsin. These indians (sic) were very successful warriors. Their remaining descendants are now located in Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas.*

original article was published in the Atchison Globe dated 01 Dec 1905. Remsburg Scrapbook, the 13th Kansas Volunteer Infantry, v 2, p 101. Susan does have photo copies of the two original newspaper articles.

In Memoriam

Davidson Funeral Home

Virginia Marshall

(February 17, 1929 - June 16, 2014)

Virginia Marshall, 85, of Topeka passed away Monday, June 16, following a long illness. She was born February 17, 1929 in Nortonville, Kansas to Claude and Helen (Bushey) Speck. Virginia graduated from Atchison County High School (Effingham) and Washburn University Where she had a science scholarship. At Washburn she was elected to the prestigious NONOSO organization, which recognizes outstanding students in both scholarship and leadership. She was president of the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. While in Washburn graduate school she was an intern at Lattimore-Fink laboratories and worked at Stormont-Vail Hospital. On November 11, 1951, she married James Marshall at First Presbyterian Church in Topeka, and then moved to Larned, Kansas. Virginia was the first qualified laboratory technician for Larned State Hospital. They later moved back to Topeka where she was employed as a lab technician for doctors Bedford and O'Neil. After starting a family she was an efficient and loving homemaker and was involved in community, school and church activities. She was PTA president, church school teacher, superintendent and on the governing board of Second Presbyterian Church. Her family credits her as being the "family organizer" who planned family trips, and special activities. She was the family historian and did much genealogy research, particularly in Massachusetts, where her Balch grandfather was one of the first settlers and has the oldest existing house in the United States. Besides spending time with her family, Virginia loved camping, photography, classical music and traveling to various places in the United States, Canada and Europe. Virginia was a longtime member of Second Presbyterian Church, Zeta Alumni Association, Balch Foundation, and Daughters of the American Revolution. She was preceded in death by her parents, and did daily caretaking of them for years, and her sister Geraldine Lloyd Bassett. She is survived by her husband Jim, sons; Marc (Janey) and Keith and daughters; Susan (Frank) and Laurie (Joe), and seven grandchildren. Burial (is)...at Round Mound Cemetery in Cummings, Kansas.



Interesting Links

From Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, June 2014 was a link for a YouTube video explaining the mysteries of great-great-aunts, great-great-uncles, and of second cousins once removed. You can view the video at http://youtu.be/PM79Epw_cp8

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