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Penrod Family of Tobias Penrod of Mud River

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Penrod

(Revised 1991)

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Part 1
THE PENROD FAMILY
(The family of Tobias Penrod of Mud River)

By Bobby Anderson

Contrary to many popular beliefs, the community of Penrod in south Muhlenberg County was not named necessarily for the venerable veteran of the War of 1812, George Penrod. Nor for his father, Tobias, a soldier in the Revolutionary War, who was one of the first settlers in the Penrod-Mud River country.

Instead, it was named for a nondescript 25-year-old druggist-farmer, who had neither the heroics nor the colorful background of George or Tobias. Penrod was named for (or by) Henry Clay Penrod, who drew his given name from yet another colorful Kentucky statesman, Henry Clay, perhaps a hero to the Penrod family.

Henry Clay Penrod, often referred to as H. C. or Clay, was the grandson of George and the great-grandson of Tobias. His father was David. On May 19, 1885, Henry Clay Penrod was selected to be the new postmaster of the community and immediately the name of the community was changed to Penrod at his request. Now, more than 100 years later, that name lives on where earlier, two others names and an alias has graced the post office in the short span of just over 30 years.

The first post office was called Laurel Bluff and its location was a mile or so south of the present day Penrod. The first post office was granted to the area on May 1, 1852 under the name of Laurel Bluff, but many oldtimers referred to the community as Home Valley, and the school was called Cedar Dale. Later, in 1882, under postmaster Albrittain Drake, namesake of yet another early county legend, the post office was officially known as Albrittain. But in 1885, the name became Penrod through a man who was to serve only five years at the post office that bore his name. H. C. Penrod died on Dec. 18, 1890--but his name lived on as a community respected by its residents and its neighbors.

* * *

Because George Penrod spent his entire life in the area embraced by the Penrod community, it would not have been surprising had the community been named for him. Other than the years he spent in the Kentucky Militia during the war of 1812, and a prior service with General William Henry Harrison at the battle of Tippecanoe, George Penrod spent his entire 97--count 'em, 97 years, from 1795 to 1892, in the area now commonly known as Penrod.

His father, Tobias, was a soldier in the war against England to gain independence from the mother nation. Sometime prior to 1800, Tobias came from Pennsylvania, via North Carolina and settled in the Mud River country of Muhlenberg County. The area is generally embraced by the name "Mud River Mine", though the mine was not open when Tobias came to the area. The exact time is unknown, though George always listed himself in census records as having been born in Kentucky, and that date is set at 1795, indicating Tobias and family were in Kentucky as of that year, at least. If Tobias had children other than George, history does not favor us

with the information, yet there were other Penrods, of the approximate age to be Tobias' children, who lived in the Mud River Union, Buchanan Ferry and Paradise area of the county during that particular time frame.

Kentucky Family Records, Volume 4, No. 85 at Greenville's Harbin Memorial Library tell us that the belief is that Tobias Penrod originally was from Brothers Valley Township in Pennsylvania, and left there around 1785. However, the same volume says he died around 1800, but court records prove him to be alive in 1803, and a court document concerning his estate settlement almost assuredly sets his year of death as 1806.

For instance, on Jan. 28, 1801, court records show Tobias as a witness, and shortly after that a court record reveals his claim being established for 150 acres of land on Mud River. He was named as a hand to aid a surveyor in an Oct. 17, 1803 court record.

As to his death, a county court order on page 78 on Feb. 24, 1806 calls for appointment of an administrator for his estate. It almost without a doubt establishes the name of his wife as Catherine, for it was Catherine Penrod who filed a motion that Henry Rhoads and Solomon Rhoads be appointed to administer the settling of his estate, noting that Tobias Penrod was deceased. Gilbert Vought (or Vaught) and John Stom, Sr. were named as securities. Named to appraise the estate were Thomas Foster, Leonard Ston, Jacob Studebaker and David Rhoads.

The census of 1810 lists Catherine Penrod as the head of a household in Muhlenberg County. This would lead one to believe that Catherine was a surviving widow, and that coupled with the fact that she was to make the motion concerning Tobias' estate, would give evidence that she was Tobias' widow--the only one with authority to relinquish the powers of administration of such property.

The present family members of Tobias Penrod believe the early settler was the son of John Penrod, Sr. though they, nor any other historian has data which proves this. There is also some belief, also with no evidence at all to support it other than conjecture on the part of a one historian, that Tobias was the son of Henry Penrod of Pennsylvania. Henry had children Jonathan, Peter, Solomon (a familiar name in Muhlenberg County at that time), Henry, Allen (married Patty Kimmell 2/28/1798), Anne, who married John Gilbert in 1808 and John, who married Jenny Biggs in Logan County Sept. 1, 1806. This man, Henry, was more than likely the progenitor of Logan and some Butler county Penrods.

Genealogist Edward Manley, always one for an interesting turn in a story, told this writer many years ago of the ultimate fate of Tobias Penrod. According to Manley, Tobias was plowing in a field near his Mud River home. This home was located near to what was later Mud River Mine and almost in the exact location of where the Mud River cemetery is located today. While plowing, he was shot from ambush and killed by a party unknown. His slayer was never discovered. Whether it was robbery or another reason for the dastardly deed, is unknown. The body of Tobias Penrod was buried almost in the exact spot where it fell and that was the beginning of the Mud River graveyard. The first grave, that of Tobias Penrod is unmarked, like so many which came after him. However, a plan is underway now to erect a memorial stone to mark the approximate place of his burial.

Continuing with the legend of Tobias Penrod, Manley, writing in

the Central City, Ky. Times-Argus in the 1950s, passed along information furnished by Jane Penrod Taylor and George Penrod of Waxahachie, Texas, descendants of Tobias, George and Mack Penrod.

They reported then that Tobias and his wife came to Mud River County when George was two years old, marking the year as 1797. The legend goes that while Tobias was plowing, the young son, probably George, asked Tobias if he could stop plowing so that the child could ride the horse (or mule). Tobias reportedly told his son, "When I make one more round of the field". That round was never completed. The fatal shot was fired and Tobias fell in the furrow. His wife heard a shot, investigated and found Tobias' body. Later she pointed out a tree where the body was found. At that spot, Tobias was buried.

At first it was thought an Indian had killed Tobias, but since there was no attempt to take the scalp, that theory was discharged. Family members always believe it was a white man who killed their ancestor, but no good reason was ever advanced as to why, nor was anyone ever apprehended for the crime.

Meantime, George who married Jeanette (Jane) Harper, a native of North Carolina, and the daughter of another revolutionary soldier, John Harper, would soon begin his own family. George and Jane were the parent of at least nine children, David, John Mathias, known as Mack, Lott, Samuel, William, Leander Tobias, Thomas, George Martin, called Mart and a daughter, Nancy J., who married David Russell, a Scotch immigrant coal miner.

George was born in Kentucky on April 6, 1792, and died near Penrod on Jan. 22, 1892. He is buried at Mud River. Jane was born in North Carolina, according to her marker, in 1803, though census records sometime reveal an age that would have placed her birth year at 1797. She died on May 15, 1865, and is also buried at Mud River.

During the second conflict with Great Britian, sometime known as the war of 1812, George enlisted in the Kentucky Detached Militia, commanded by Lt. Col. William Mitchusson. He was in a company commanded by Capt. Alney McLean of Greenville, one in which the legendary Ephriam Brank was a lieutenant. George's period of enlistment was from Nov. 20, 1814 to May 20, 1815. He was in New Orleans for the battle of that city on Jan. 8, 1815. The heroics of Brank and McLean's company of Kentucky militiamen is an oft-told tale.

Prior to this, he was under the command of General William Henry Harrison at the battle of Tippecanoe.

In the census of 1850, the first where enumeration of family members is by name, George was 55, Jane 53, and five of their nine children still lived at home. With George and Jane were George M. (Mart), 19; Leander T., 16; Nancy J., 13; Thomas D., 10 and Samuel, a river boat pilot, 33. Little else is know of Samuel, since he is not listed in subsequent census records. Lott, David, William and Mack were probably living in other households for varying reasons when this census was taken.

David, who was also a river boat pilot, was possilby married or away at work when the census was taken in 1850, since he is not listed, but Lott, was married and had one child, Henrietta, in the census that year.

The 1860 census reveals that George and Jane have only two children with them, Thomas, now 20, and Nancy, 23, who is now married to David Russell, but living in the Penrod household. Another son, George M. is married and lives nearby, while Lott,

David and Leander are listed in their own households.

George's Jane died in 1865, and after that time, George is listed in the succeeding censuses as a member of the household of David, his son.

The children of George and Jane Penrod were:

* * *

(1) Samuel Penrod, known to be a riverboat pilot. He was born in 1817, and is not consistent in the Muhlenberg County census. Neither is there record of marriage or death. Perhaps he traveled a good bit in his profession and established a home elsewhere.

However, a glimmer of light may have been shed on his death in a Muhlenberg County court records dated Oct. 27, 1851. On page 562 of the court record, George Penrod was appointed administrator of the estate of Samuel Penrod, deceased. Enos Hunt of the Hunt Settlement (probably lived nearer to Mud River Mine), was the security for George Penrod's bond of \$100. Martin Blain, also of the Mud River community, along with William and Phillip Smith (the latter the grandfather of Mahlon and Orville Smith, late of Drakesboro) and L. P. Whitney were named appraisers for Samuel's estate. That is not to say that this Samuel is George's son, but since no widow is listed, and no other relative involved, it might be safe to assume some relationship, and very possibly, it's his son, Samuel, who would have been approximately 34 years old at the time of this death.

* * *

(2) John Mathias, called Mack. Mack was born in 1818, and first married Mariah Martin Hunt in Butler County in 1841. She was the daughter of John and Ann Jenkins Hunt, the children of pioneer families. John Hunt was the son of Daniel, who was the son of John Hunt, and Ann Jenkins was of the Joel Jenkins family. There were said to be seven children, five of which died when Mariah also died, all with the flux in 1856. All are buried on the John and Ann Jenkins farm in Butler County later owned by Carlos Drake. Two children born to this union survived. Israel was born about 1842-43 and Nathaniel L., called "Sood", was born in 1856. Shortly thereafter, Mack married Armazinda Nourse, daughter of Abraham and Artimesia (or Arlimissa) Nourse of near Huntsville in Butler County. In fact, the Nourses and Mack Penrod lived for more than 20 years near each other, and adjacent to the Dr. Alexander Hunt farm near Huntsville, and across the river from Mud River Mine.

In 1860, John Mack was 44, and his wife listed as O. G., 27, would more correctly be A. G. for Armazinda. With them were Israel, then 17, and Nathaniel L. (Tood), 4. Her parents were nearby with four other children. In 1880, Mack was listed as 62, Armazinda 48, and they had Theodore 19, Mariah B. 18, John D. 13, Artemacia 10 and George T. 6. Near to them and the Nourse parents was the Israel Penrod family. Israel, now full grown, and 38, had a family of his own. His wife, Hettie, was 38 also. She had been previously married, and was Hettie A. Hendricks when he married her Aug. 19, 1870. Their children were Mae, Quihities (probably Quintus), Herbert and Jennie, ages 7, 5, 4 and one. Also with them was Hettie's daughter, Stella, 15.

The Jane Penrod Taylor and George T. Penrod in Texas, who gave Ed Manley his information on Tobias Penrod in the 1950s were probably the Artemacia (Jane?) and George T. Penrod in the Mack

Penrod home in the 1880 census. They were listed as children of Mack, and their ages would coincide with the "83 and just younger", Manley wrote about.

* * *

(3) David was born on Dec. 15, 1820, and married Elizabeth A. Newman who was born Dec. 15, 1829. Though David was not listed in the Muhlenberg County census of 1850 that may be explained by the fact that he was known to be a river boat pilot and may have been away from the county at the time the census was taken. In 1860, he was listed with his wife and a son, H. C., who was 11 months old. In 1870, he and Elizabeth had three other children, John J. C., 9; Mary A., 7 and Cordelia, 2. Cornelia was a favorite name of the Penrod family, it appearing frequently in other families as well. Also given the fact that the first son was named for Henry Clay, it might well be assumed that the other son, John J. C., was named for another statesman, John J. Crittenden. Father, George was now 76, and living in the David Penrod household. In 1880, Henry Clay was 20, and the others, John, Mary and Cornelia were still in the David Penrod home, as well as 85-year-old George.

We also know that David died on Aug. 30, 1886, six years before death claimed his father, and that Elizabeth died on Oct. 16, 1895. Both are buried in the Penrod family cemetery between the communities of Penrod and Gus.

Henry Clay, who was born June 30, 1859, according to his gravestone, died Oct. 18, 1890, at the age of 31 after serving just over five years as postmaster. In addition to being postmaster a short time, he operated a drug store in Albrittan (later Penrod) and for a while, was a school teacher.

John J. C. was born July 29, 1861 and died Feb. 19, 1907. He is buried in the family cemetery, near to Henry Clay. John's wife, Rachel, born Oct. 5, 1871, died May 28, 1920 and is buried beside him, as is an infant child, born in 1893.

Mary Alice was born Nov. 22, 1862 and Cornelia on Nov. 10, 1867. Mary married Jim Poyner of Penrod in 1882, and died Jan. 12, 1939. Cornelia married a Moore. She died May 27, 1924. Both are buried in the Penrod family cemetery, east of Penrod.

* * *

(4) Lott was possibly the more affluent of all of George's children, listing a wealth totaling \$5,200 in 1870. He was born Feb. 26, 1823 and died Oct. 18, 1874. His wife, Lydia D. Wood was born Oct. 30, 1826, and died Jan. 2, 1871. Both are buried in the Wood Cemetery east of Penrod beside three children, Samuel A., Mary F. and L. S. In 1850, he, Lydia and a daughter were censused near Mud River Mine. Henrietta, the daughter, later, Mrs. A. D. James, was one month old at the time. In 1860, Lott had land holdings worth \$4,000 and a personal wealth of \$2,000. He also had children Henrietta, Samuel, John T., William R. and Rebecca, ages 10, 7, 5, 3, and seven months, respectively. By 1870, he had moved nearer to the Laurel Bluff-Penrod area, and Henrietta had married Dr. A. D. James. The families lived in adjacent households, and two more children were in the family. One, Cordelia, seven, was later to be Dr. James' second wife, and a smaller child, Florence, was four.

Lott's family also had claim to Penrod postmasterships. Dr. James, his son-in-law was postmaster for a time, as was Dr. James' daughter, Annie, and a grandson-in-law, Lonnie Matherly, who married Dr. James' daughter, Corrina.

Many of Lott's descendants still live in the area, namely, the grandchildren of Dr. James. Harry Penrod James, son of Bradley James, and grandson of the doctor, lives on the James family land in Penrod, and some of Lon and Corrina Matherly's family live in Russellville, to name only a few.

* * *

(5) William Penrod is one of the real mysteries of the George Penrod family. While no date is found for his birth, it is not even sure just where in the line of children William falls. However, most families have him listed between Lott and Leander, which would make him the fifth child of George and Jane. No other information has been found by this writer, as to his birth, death, marriage or any other vital statistic--but would be most welcome, if anyone has this information.

* * *

(6) Leander Tobias, namesake of the grandfather, is next in line. Forebears of most of the Penrods around the Beech Creek-Wyatt's Chapel area was Leander T. Penrod. This son of George was an early boatman also. In 1860, he was listed in the census in the home of William Bell on Mud River. In 1870, with two children, Cordelia, 6 and George, 5, he is simply known as Lee. The mother of these two children, and Leander's first wife, was Mary Ann Hoskinson, probably the Mary A. who was the daughter of H. J. and Elizabeth Hoskins(on). They were Kentuckians, but their daughters, Mary A. and Martha were born in Iowa. They were living in the Paradise census area in 1850. Also, Mary Ann was probably a sister to Billy Hoskinson, the preacher-teacher who was prominent in the latter half of the century around Mud River Mine and Greenville. Mary Ann's death date is not certain, but she is buried at Mud River. Her children, George and his sister, Cordelia (Delia Vick) left many of the Penrods and Vicks later at Beech Creek, including the well-known retired teacher, Mary Penrod Gilbert who still lives near Ebenezer.

If Leander's son George was born Oct. 7, 1865 (Cordelia in 1864), then we know Mary Ann died after this. So it may have been around 1870 that Leander remarried, this time to Matilda Francis Latham, called Fannie. She was born Dec. 31, 1850 to James and Mary Latham (census spelled it Lathrum) in the general area of Myers Chapel.

In 1880, Lee becomes Leander again. His wife is Fannie, 27, (possibly 30) while Leander is listed as 45. With Cordelia, now 15, and George, 14, other children by his second wife are Hettie, 7; Nim, 5; Mary J. 3 and a son, unnamed, (This is Theodore) now a year old.

His eldest daughter by the second marriage was Hettie, who married Mathy Anderson, just two farms away from where the Penrods lived. Hettie and Mathy also spent many years at Beech Creek. Their children, Amos, Bessie, Jim, Mary and Wilda Anderson left many offsprings of the Penrod family in the area. One, Bessie, granddaughter of Leander, still lives at Beech Creek, as does a great-granddaughter, Edna Lee (Mrs. Donald) McKinney, near Ebenezer.

Leander's entire family by the second marriage includes Hettie (Dec. 30, 1872); Nim, (Oct. 12, 1874) who married Martha Garbet and died in Harrisburg, Ill.; Mary J. (May 18, 1876), married Warren Martin; Theodore, (Feb. 18, 1879), married Addie Jenkins and died 1951; Leona, (Feb. 13, 1881), married Netter Hunt, died 1956; Lydia (Jan. 29, 1882), married Abner Arnold, died 1908;

Willie (May 10, 1885) died as an infant; Ollie, (1886) died as a child; John (Jan. 22, 1890) married Ida Steele; and Iva, (Aug. 16, 1893), married Will Wooldridge, and died in Detroit.

Leander's first two children, products of Mary Ann Hoskinson, lived long and useful lives, leaving many children in the Beech Creek area. George, born Oct. 7, 1865 at Mud River, married Virgie Euberta (Bertie) Vick, daughter of Robert and Amanda Grayson Vick on Jan. 1, 1882. His sister, Cordelia (Delia) married Bertie's brother, John Vick Oct. 18, 1891.

Leander's George and his wife Bertie produced:

Arthur (9/26/1892), Florence (1/1/1895) and Robert Clyde (2/10/1897) while living at Mud River. Arthur married Katie Free, Florence, Millard Wood and Clyde, Mabel Shemwell.

While following his coal mine profession, George lived a short while in Aberdeen in Butler County. There, Cordelia was born Nov. 25, 1900. She was married to Oscar Blaine and later Herschel Arnold.

At Island Station, (in McLean County) where he also was a miner, George and Bertie became the parents of Susan Elizabeth Feb. 10, 1904 and Gertrude on June 24, 1906. Susan married Clarence Buchanan, and later Andrew Vincent. Gertrude married Vernie Engler, descendant of the revolutionary soldier, David Engler. They have many descendants in the Muhlenberg County area.

The family moved to Beech Creek around 1908 or 1909. Born there were Ollie (3/31/1909), who married M. D. Shemwell; Leander Tobias (5/21/1911) who married Verna Shemwell; George (Little George) (11/13/1913), who married Henrietta Wells, and the aforementioned Mary Ann, on Nov. 23, 1917. Mary married James Gilbert.

* * *

(7) The child listed consistantly as Martin, is George Martin and is called Mart on most occasions. He was born Nov. 14, 1832, and in the 1860 census is shown married to a Susan M. (Williams), 22 (born April 5, 1838). Their children were Mary J. 3, Nancy 2 and Lydia, three months. The location of their home in the 1870 Muhlenberg County census appears to be in Green River country, or possibly near Ennis, owing to the familiarty of names in that area. In 1870, Mart was 36, Susan 29 (not consistant with ages given 10 years earlier) and children included Mary J. 13, Nancy 11, Lydia 9, Corrella 7, William L. 6, Lakey B., 5 and George D. 1. In 1880, in the same area, Mart's age was 39. (He had aged just 11 years in the past 20 the census covered.) Susan was now older than he at 41, which is probably near to her correct age. The children are Nancy 20, Corilla (the spelling by census taker) 17, William 15, Lakie 13, George 11, Nettie 9, Ruth 7, Isaac 4 and Samuel, 1.

George Martin Penrod (Mart) died Jan. 7, 1896, and three months later, his wife, Susan, died on April 10, 1896. They are buried in the Williams-Newman cemeter, east of Belton, toward Mud River Union. Several of their children are buried there also, as are many of the Williams family, apparently ancestors of Susan.

Following the family into the 1900 census, we find a son, Ike, now 24 (That would be Isaac, born October, 1875) as head of the household, and with others of Mart's children, Margaret (Nancy), 40; Ruth 27, Samuel 21, Bird 19 and a niece, Iva Turner, 12, living in the household which once was the Mart Penrod home. Iva would be the daughter of Corrilla Penrod, who married J. W. Turner, and who died in 1888

* * *

(8) Thomas, another son, was born in 1839-40, and with his wife, Mary J., 29, was listed in the 1870 census with children, William S. 9; Mary E., 7; James F., 4; George P., 2 and an unnamed child, five months old. Other than that, no information is presently at hand.

* * *

(9) Although she is apparently the eighth child, Nancy is always listed ninth on most family charts. Perhaps that is because she is the only female in the family. Nancy J., the only daughter, was born in 1837. She married David Russell, a Scotch immigrant coal miner sometime prior to 1860. He was listed in the census that year as 30 years old, and he and Nancy lived in the George Penrod household. That is the only year they are listed in the census. One Russell child, Agnes, born July 16, 1879, is buried beside George and Jane at Mud River. The child was listed as the daughter of Walter and Jane Russell, indicating this may have been Nancy's child and that David preferred to be called Walter and Nancy J. "Jane" in honor of her mother. The child's death was listed as March 18, 1894.

* * *

One footnote to the story is that revolving around Dr. A. D. James, son-in-law of Lott Penrod. Dr. James was perhaps Penrod's most illustrious citizen. He served as a doctor, postmaster, state senator, state representative, U. S. Congressman and federal marshal. He first married Henrietta Penrod (2-27-1850 to 1-8-1881), Lott's daughter. They had four children, Mary J. (1871), Annie (1873), Clarence K. (1875) and Maud (1878). When "Miss Hettie" died in 1881, her younger sister, orphaned by the death of Lott and Lydia, was a member of the James household. She was 16 or 17 at the time. She and Dr. James married later, and she was both mother and sister to her nieces and nephews. She and Dr. James were the parents of five children, including sons Godfrey and Bradley, and daughters Gertrude, Corrina and Teddie. (Author's note: See Joseph Wood family of this series for a more indepth look at the Lott Penrod family and the James family.

* * *

Today, there are Penrods and Penrod descendants scattered the world over. Many have roots in south Muhlenberg, especially around the community of Penrod, named for one of their own, individually--or perhaps, more appropriately, for many of them, collectively.

Part 2
THE PENROD FAMILY
(The family of Tobias Penrod of Mud River

By Bobby Anderson

Since the series of articles on the family of Tobias Penrod appeared in the Leader-News (Jan. 18, 25 and Feb. 1, 1989), many comments, calls and letters have been received. Some of them bring to light new and additional information about one of the Mud River country's earliest settlers and his family.

Among those heard from are Mary Penrod Gilbert of Beech Creek, Pamela Penrod Reynolds of Belton, Betty Kimbrell of Elizabethton, Tenn. and Joanne Miller of Detroit, Mich., all direct descendants of Tobias Penrod. Information from them includes:

* * *

From Mary Gilbert, who descends from Tobias to George, to Leander, and then to another George to become the great-great-granddaughter of Tobias, comes information on William Penrod, Samuel Penrod and Thomas D. Penrod, all sons of the venerable old George Penrod, who lived through the parts of two centuries to become 97-years-old before his death in 1892.

Samuel Penrod, as noted in the original articles, was a riverboat pilot (on the Green River among others), was born in 1819 and was George's first son. He died in 1851, killed by a horse, according to Mrs. Gilbert, at Kincheloe Bluff, near Central City. That area was probably known as Lewisburg at that time. George Penrod, Samuel's father, was named administrator of the estate on Oct. 27, 1851.

William Louis Penrod was probably the fifth child of George and Jane Penrod, though no birth date has been found. According to Mrs. Gilbert, he too, must have been a river boater, since his death was recorded as having been on a river boat. Mrs. Gilbert also informs us that William was never married.

Thomas D. Penrod, the eighth child of George and Jane was listed in the 1870 Muhlenberg County census. But now Mrs. Gilbert favors Leader-News readers with a complete chart on Thomas D. Penrod.

Thomas D. Penrod was born July 8, 1838, according to records, but his age was listed as 45 in the 1880 census, which would mark his birth year at 1835. However, the 1838 years is probably more accurate. One chart even lists him as being born in 1840. His wife was Mary Jane Ward (born Oct. 7, 1840) Note: One family chart says Jane was a Buchanan. No marriage record has been found. However, the Ward line can be traced through James Frances and Frances Kimmel Ward, through the Kimmel family and the early Wood family. Thus, it is highly probable that Jane was a Ward prior to marriage. Thomas and Mary Jane lived the most of their married life in the Paradise area.

The list of children, arrived at through census reports, and from a family chart given to Mrs. Gilbert by Sue Penrod Wood, who compiled her list in 1977 from family records and others sources, includes:

Sam, born Nov. 5, 1861; Mary Elizabeth, Nov. 19, 1863; James, Nov. 24, 1865; George Polise(?), Feb. 11, 1868; John L., Jan. 4,

1870; Pink, Dec. 14, 1873; Florence, Jan. 22, 1876; an infant, not named at one month old when the census was taken, was probably Pearl, born May 4, 1880, and the last child, named Eugene Pritchett, was born Nov. 30, in a year not documented.

Mary Elizabeth, their daughter, known as Molly, married John Edmond Nanny, the son of Stephen H. Nanny and Louisa England (?), who after Stephen's death married a Maddox.

Sue Penrod Wood was the daughter of Ike Penrod, son of Mart and was married to Lee Wood of Penrod.

* * *

Pamela Penrod Reynolds of Belton is the daughter of Melvin Penrod of Muhlenberg County, and is married to Carl Reynolds, son of Claude. She lists the Rev. John Penrod, late of Beech Creek, as a son of Leander (and Matilda Frances (Fannie) Latham) Penrod. Rev. John Penrod was born Jan. 22, 1890 and on Aug. 25, 1912, married Ida Steele. Pamela did not list the date of John Penrod's death, nor his burial place. However, the children of John and Ida include Melvin, Andrew, Henry, David, Roy and Charles. Ida Steele Penrod was the daughter of A. A. (Uncle Dolph) and Sarah Elizabeth McPherson (Aunt Em) Steele.

Dolph was the son of John and Rebecca Julian Steele, and Em the daughter of John and Sarah McPherson, and a descendant of Rosewood pioneer Jesse McPherson.

* * *

Perhaps the most interesting letter came from Joanne Miller of 15310 Fordham, in Detroit, 48205.

She said a cousin in Owensboro sent the three-part Penrod article to her. She identified herself as a descendant of Nancy Jane Penrod Russell, the only daughter of the first George Penrod.

By way of background, Nancy was the eighth of nine children of George and Jane Harper Penrod. Just prior to the 1860 census, young Jane married David Russell, a Scotch immigrant, who came to Kentucky as a coal miner. David and Jane were living with George and Jane at census time.

Little else was known of them by the remainder of the family, except that a child, listed as possibly theirs, is buried at Mud River. The child, Agnes, born July 16, 1879, is buried beside Jane and George, its grandparents.

Then came Joanne Miller's letter early in February:

"It is six a.m. and I am up early to get this letter in the mail as I leave for work. Yesterday, I received your three-part article on the Penrod family from a cousin in Owensboro. She knows I am interested in the family history. I was very excited to read your articles and read parts of them to my mother over the phone. I will take them for her to read after work today. My mother is Lillian Russell Groves Bittern, 81. Her mother was Margaret Russell Groves".

A rough chart drawn on the letter indicates that Margaret Russell Groves was the daughter of David and Nancy Jane Penrod Russell, making Mrs. Miller a great-granddaughter of Jane Penrod Russell, and a direct descendant of George and Jane, as well as of old Tobias and his wife, Catherine.

Mrs. Miller also stated that her mother has a "lovely painting

(portrait) of Nancy Jane", painted in her later life.

A request has been made, and perhaps another letter from Mrs. Miller will tell us of the trails the family of David and Jane Penrod Russell took in four generations from Mud River to Detroit.

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Betty Kimbrell of 314 Race St., Elizabethton, Tenn. descends from Tobias Penrod through this line: Tobias, George, David, John C., and Nora Penrod, who married Cecil Welborn. Peggy Penrod (Mrs. Bill) Eades of Central City, descends through the same line, with her father, Walter B. Penrod, being a brother of Nora Penrod.

Cecil Welborn was of the Moses Wickliffe Welborn family of Laurel Bluff (Penrod), the son of S. P. (Bud) and Georgia Welborn. Cecil Welborn and family moved to Texas about 1920. He married Nora Penrod in Muhlenberg County. Nora and Walter B. Penrod were two of the three (Nellie was the other) children of John J. C. Penrod (b. 1861) and Rachel R. Russell (b. 1870), who may have been born in Scotland. At least she was of Scotch descent. John J. C. Penrod was the son of David Penrod (b. 1820) and Elizabeth A. Newman (b. 1829), David being the son of George, son of Tobias. Rachel Russell was the daughter of Walter Russell (b. 1843 in Scotland) and Jennie (Jane) McDougal (b. 1849, Scotland). Her parents were John and Jane McDougal, he a coal miner who migrated to America, and then to the coal fields of Muhlenberg County. The McDougals also once operated a store in Penrod, across the rails from the old depot.

Peggy Penrod Eades married Bill Eades, son of Hershel Eades, who operated the Eades Bread and Cake Co. in Central City for many years. Bill is now deceased. Peggy lives in Central City.

Efforts to tie the two Russell families together, that of Nancy Penrod (Mrs. David Russell) and Rachel Russell (Penrod) have been unsuccessful, as no Penrod heard from has information concerning a connection between the two families.

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Anyone with further information on the Penrod family, or any corrections, is invited to contact the writer at 7965 Ridgewood Road, Goodlettsville, Tenn. 37072 (615-876-4404).

