

UNTANGLING THE NOTTS AND KENTS
OF EARLY WASHINGTON CO.

By BARBARA HARN COVEY

In attempting to solve some genealogical problems of people whose ancestors named Knott and Kent lived in Fulton County, Ill., in the 1840s and 1850s, I've found some answers in Washington Co., Ohio, in the 1820s.

In the process, I have created a few new questions. This is an invitation to readers of The Tallow Light to help me untangle the Notts!

Central to the dilemma are Dr. Thaddeus Nott and his wife, Celeste Kent. Working with the "Washington County, Ohio Marriages" under one elbow and the "Cemetery Inscriptions of Fulton County, Ill." under the other, I've found an intertwining of their families which involves many names from the early history of Washington County. These include the Van Cliefs, Johnsons, Evelands, Ackersons, and Evanses, to name just a few of the many which are probably familiar to readers of The Tallow Light.

Dr. Thaddeus Nott (whose name is spelled Knott in the 1850 Census for Fulton Co.), son of Samuel and Amy (Van Clief) Nott, was born 17 Feb. 1809, in Ohio.¹ On 13 March 1828, he (then being of Roxbury) was married to Selestia Kent of Waterford Twp., Washington Co., Ohio.² Samuel Nott, J.P., performed the rites.

Information on Dr. Nott's tombstone (spelled "Nott"), in Mt. Pleasant/Apple Cemetery, Liverpool Twp., Fulton Co., Ill., has been supplemented by the Inscriptions' researcher to include information from his death certificate. It says that he married Celeste (sic) Kent, was a Black Hawk's War veteran, was a minister and physician, and died 5 Aug. 1881.³

Celeste Nott's tombstone and death certificate say that she was born 7 June 1809, was the daughter of Jake and Catharine (Johnson) Kent, was widow of Thaddeus or Dr. Thomas Nott, and died 20 Dec. 1895.

¹ Clifford R. Canfield, The Descendants of Peter Van Clief and Mary Ann Dorsey, Kaiserslautern, Germany, 1981.

² Washington County, Ohio Marriages (1789-1840), compiled by Bernice Graham and Elizabeth S. Cottle, sponsored jointly by Marietta Chapter, DAR, and The Washington Co. Historical Society, Marietta, Ohio, 4 July 1976.

³ Cemetery Inscriptions of Fulton County, Illinois, Vol. 5, Orion, Banner, Liverpool Townships, prepared by the Cemetery Records Committee of the Fulton Co. Historical and Genealogical Society, October, 1980.

Barbara Harn Covey, "Kent family, Washington Co., OH,"
Tallow Light, Marietta, OH, July 1983, Volume 14, Issue 2,
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P.O. Box 2270, Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270, Code for
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Initially, my search was for Jake Kent, father-in-law of Dr. Thaddeus Nott, and I turned to "Washington County, Ohio, Marriages" for a clue. There are no male Kents in this document, but a listing of the female Kents' marriages follows:

Eleanor Kent m. Adam (Abram) Ackerson (both of Roxbury),
18 Sept. 1828 (James Rogers, JP).

Harriet Kent m. William Hutchinson (both of Wesley),
20 Jan. 1820 (Joseph Palmer, JP).

Katharine Kent m. Gilbert Olds (both of Waterford),
13 Dec. 1827 (Samuel Nott, JP).

Phebe Kent m. Tiffin G. Nott (both of Roxbury),
25 Dec. 1827 (Benjamin Brown, JP of Wesley Twp.).

Sally Kent m. Simeon P. Nott (both of Roxbury),
31 May 1821 (Thomas White, JP).

Selestia Kent of Waterford, m. Thadeus (sic) Nott of Roxbury,
13 Mar. 1828 (Samuel Nott, JP).

Also:

Phebe Nott (see above) m. Stewart M. Nott (both of Roxbury),
1 Nov. 1832 (Chas. S. Cory, JP).

Let us direct our attention to those individuals who were married in 1827 and 1828. Six of the eight are buried in Fulton County; one, Tiffin G. Nott, appears to have died before his wife's remarriage, 1832, but Stewart M. Nott is buried there. The eighth, Catharine Olds, had been in Fulton County in 1850, but I do not know where she was buried. She appears to have used the spelling "Katharine" when her last name was Kent.

Catharine Olds' age was given as 62 in the 1850 Census, and so we can learn that she was born in 1787/88 in New York. She was living with Stephen Olds (born 1809/10) in Ohio and his family. Also there was Nathan Eveland (born 1787/88, N.Y.)

Her marriage, as Katharine Kent, to Gilbert Olds (both of Waterford) on Dec. 13, 1827, was closely followed by three others in a ten-month period: 25 Dec. 1827, Phebe Kent to Tiffin G. Nott (both of Roxbury); 13 March 1828 Selestia Kent, of Waterford, to Thadeus Nott, of Roxbury; and 18 Sept. 1828 Eleanor Kent to Adam (Abram) Ackerson (both of Roxbury).

Katharine Kent's marriage in 1827 was when she was about 40 years old, and so we may assume Olds to be a second husband. Her residence in Waterford makes it likely that Selestia/Celeste was her daughter.

Since Celeste's death certificate says she was the daughter of Jake and Catharine (Johnson) Kent, I believe we can deduce from this that Katharine Kent Olds' maiden name was Johnson. (Note: It's "Catharine" in Fulton Co., Ill., and "Katharine" in Washington Co., Ohio.)

A preliminary confirmation of this assumption exists in the 1850 Census for Fulton Co., Ill. Catharine Olds' residence in Waterford Twp. was just a stone's throw from Selestia

Nott's in Liverpool Twp. (Remember that Thadeus Nott had now become Thadius Knott, Physician.)

Another stone's throw away, in Isabel Twp., was Sarah (Knott) Eveland (born 1806/7 in N.Y.), whose age, 43, and birth-place make her a good candidate for being Celeste (Kent) Knott's (41, N.Y.) sister. All I needed was evidence that Sarah Knott's maiden name might have been Kent. Sure enough: Sally Kent and Simeon P. Nott, both of Roxbury, were married on May 31, 1821, when Sarah would have been about 15 and still called "Sally". (Note: Above data recorded in "Washington County, Ohio Marriages.")

With Sarah (Knott) Eveland (43, N.Y.) were living her step-daughters, Celestia Eveland (1840/41, Ill.) and Catharine (1844/-45, Ill.). Sarah was the widow of William Eveland who died February 1850, before the census was taken; their marriage is shown in Fulton County records as 9 March 1848.

The mother of Celestia and Catharine Eveland, William's first wife, had been Adaline Johnson, born Jan. 7, 1815, to James and Mary "Pally" (Bunt) Johnson; her marriage to William Eveland occurred in Fulton Co., Ill., March 15, 1829, when she was barely 14 years old.

William Eveland (born 1806/07) was the son of John and Elizabeth (Jones) Eveland who, then being of Roxbury, Washington County, sold land on March 1, 1811.⁴ In 1814, then "of Deerfield Twp., Washington Co.," they sold⁵ a much larger place, presumably in preparation for moving West.

In Fulton County, Ill. today, John and Elizabeth (Jones) Eveland are celebrated as the "first settlers." Records are unclear as to where they spent the time between 1814 and 1820 when they landed at Waterford, Fulton Co., but a part of the time must have been in Madison Co., now Calhoun Co., Ill.

John Eveland, almost surely the same, received donation tract lands on Rainbow Creek in the early days, along with Levi Johnson and Simeon Nott. The latter may have been the individual who married Sally Kent, perhaps the daughter of Jake and Katherine (Johnson) Kent, on May 31, 1821. I know nothing about Levi Johnson, but suspect him to have been "kin."

Another individual who received donation tract lands on Rainbow Creek was Frederick Eveland Jr., my direct ancestor, who married Lois Evans, daughter of Nathaniel and Sarah (Thomas) Evans. One of her nieces, Elizabeth (Evans) Corey, widow of William Cory (sic), married a James Johnson on July 1, 1830. While their residence is not shown in "Washington County Marriages," hers had been at Roxbury on April 10, 1827 when she married William Cory of Waterford. One son of

⁴Deed Book 13, pp. 45-46, County Recorder, Washington Co., Ohio.

⁵Deed Book 15, p. 361, County Recorder, Washington Co., Ohio

Frederick and Lois (Evans) Eveland was Nathan, born 1787/88 in New York.

Since Elizabeth (Evans) Cory/Corey Johnson's marriages fall within the same period and at the same locations of those described earlier for the Kent women (one of whom was married by Chas. S. Cory, JP), it would appear that I have gone full circle and should stop.

The records in Illinois are replete with intermarriages among these families. Eleanor (Kent) Ackerson's niece married Phebe (Kent) Nott's son; Eleanor (Kent) Ackerson's daughter married Charles Nott, Phebe's grandson. Abner Eveland, son of John and Harriet (Newton) Eveland (who were married at Roxbury April 21, 1818), married Elizabeth Ackerson, niece of Eleanor (Kent) Ackerson; his brother Chandler married Elizabeth Ackerson's sister Catherine Ackerson and, by so doing, became my great-grandparents. But that's another story....

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Barbara Harn Covey of Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif., is a high school teacher and student newspaper advisor. She is the daughter of Jerry A. Harn, born 1894 in Fulton Co., Ill. A contributor to genealogical publications, her articles include: "Indian Ancestry," Illinois State Genealogical Society Quarterly, Vol. XIII, No. 3, 1981; "Let's Hear It for the Ladies," Ackerson-Eckerson Descendants Newsletter, Vol. III, No. 1, 1983; and "Sorting Out the Evelands Buried at Waterford," Fulton Co. Historical and Genealogical Society Newsletter, Vol. XIV, No. 2, 1983.

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ERRATA: TALLOW LIGHT, Vol. 14, No. 1

Page 15: Last paragraph on page:--The Deeds volume number is 126, and not 216 as stated. Also, the last line of this paragraph should read "(conveyed) by W. P. Dye, Sheriff," and not "to W. P. Dye."

Page 28: Max K. Sniffen of Woodfield, Texas, advised us that it was his grandfather William Alvin Sniffen who became a trustee of the Washington County Children's Home in 1902, and not Walter Allee Sniffen as reported in paragraph 5, line 3. Max Sniffen told The Tallow Light: "Walter left grandfather's employment in the Sniffen store in February, 1897, and probably never returned to Marietta except for visits. He was a young man at that time and eventually ended up with Magnolia Petroleum Co., in Texas as V.P. of Pipelines. William was still a trustee of the C.H. in World War I and used to take me there to ride the Shetland ponies."