

# Keeney Update

VOL III, Number 4

Roscoe C. Keeney, Jr.

SEPT 1986



FAMILY OF BLUFORD ABNER & ELIZA JANE WATSON KEENEY  
FAMILY OF BLUFORD KEENEY (850-191), TEXAS CO., MO  
ABNER KEENEY OF MISSOURI (father of Bluford)

## THE CYCLONE OF 1879

The terrifying tornado which Carl Carlson and seven others witnessed on their arrival at Randolph (see page 45) was chronicled in the Manhattan Nationalist of Friday, June 8, 1879.

### TERRIBLE CYCLONES

On Friday last, a portion of Kansas and Missouri was devastated by a terrific cyclone (or cyclones. A large number of people were killed or injured, and a great amount of property destroyed. S. M. Fox, of this city, visited Irving, in Marshall Co. immediately after the disaster and returned along the track of the destroyer to Fancy Creek, in the northern most part of Riley Co., and has kindly furnished us the following account:

The storm, after passing the town, crossed the Blue River. It lifted the long iron bridge from its piers and carried the twisted and shapeless mass some thirty feet up the river. It then continued its course to the northeast in the direction of Frankfort.

The second tornado came from the west, and many say it was

### PRAYER FOR GENEALOGISTS

By Curtis Woods

Lord, help me dig into the past  
And sift the sands of time  
That I might find the roots that made  
This family tree of mine.  
Lord, help me trace the ancient roads  
On which my father's trod  
And led them through so many lands  
To find our present sod.  
Lord, help me find an ancient book  
Or dusty manuscript -  
That's safely hidden now away  
In some forgotten crypt;  
Lord, let it bridge gap that haunts  
My soul when I can't find  
The missing link between same name  
That ends the same as mine.

even more terrible. It swept over part of the track of the former one, but lapped to the north, and destroyed many buildings, among others, the church and elevator. There were in all twenty-seven buildings destroyed. Thirteen persons were killed in std about Irving, and fifty-three seriously wounded. The following is the list of the dead: Mrs. W. J. Williams; Mrs. Susan Buckmaster and four children; Fannie Schwaka; W. R. Keeney; John Keeney and wife; Miss Emma Sheldon; Mrs. Fred Nowk; Mrs. Geo. Martin.

Many strange incidents are related illustrating the freaks the tornado indulged in. Arthur Taylor was picked up and carried eighty rods through the air, and mildly set down at the end of his aerial journey in a wheat field. Frank Fitch, a little fellow, eight years old, was carried half a mile, over tree tops, and left on the ground unharmed. A horse belonging to Mr. Williams was borne over a lumber yard, along the edge of the storm, and then gently set down in the river bottom, some distance beyond. And so on, instances innumerable -- and vouched for by men of undoubted veracity.

It seems impossible for anyone to depict what the horrors of those few minutes must have been. The bodies of many of the dead and wounded were entirely stripped of clothing. Mrs. Keeney was fairly driven in the earth so that her hair had to be cut away that the body might be removed. Mr. Armstrong's house, said to be the finest house in Irving, was literally wiped off the face of the earth - a portion of a lounge and a few pieces of lumber slivered and shapeless, are every vestige that has been found of it or its contents.

In the Light of this, it seems odd enough to be in a direct line between the elevator and church a dilapidated building that a boy could see over, standing unharmed. The schoolhouse was carried, together with its frame, some ten rods, and left standing upright on the ground.

Most persons in describing the cyclone say it was of an ashen color, and seemed to be trailed behind a terrible looking cloud, and swayed from side to side like the trunk of a huge elephant rending and crushing everything in its track.

## NEBRASKA KEENEYS

### 1880

SUPHRONIA KEENEY 68 (widow) - Clay County, born in Mass.

MERIAH H. KEENEY 31, housekeeper, married, born in PA.,

DAUGHTER, FLORA KEENEY, age 7, born in Nebraska

D.A. KEENEY, 33, farmer; Addie 28, Nellie 10, Laura 8, Ernest 5, Edward 2; D. A., born IL, Addie, b. NY; parents of D. A, Keeney born in Connecticut

E. H. KEENEY, 39, b. IL, parents b. NY, farmer; Alice 29 (b.IL), Alma 10, b. IL, Henry 8, & Albert 3, b. NE, Bertha 5 mos., b.NE

S. F. KEENEY, 40, b. NY, parents b. NY & MA, farmer; Julia 26, b. NY, Ida M. 15, b. NY, Minnesota 7, dau., b. MN, Edna E. 1, b. NE

WASHINGTON KEENEY 45, b. MO, parents b. OH & MO., Surrena 46, b. IL, parents b. KY & IN Frances J. 14, b. MO, William A. 10, Liddie (dau.) 7, Wynona 4, all b. Iowa, Sarah E. I, b. Iowa

WILLIAM KEENEY 53, b. IN, parents b. VA, farmer; Philena 41, b. IN, parents b.08 & ED, John- 1B and Ross 14 b. Iowa, Benjamin 8, b. NE

ADA E. KEENEY, 18, b. IL, parents b. OH, boarder

### 1900

ALICE KEENEY 43, b.9-1856 in IN, parents b. IN, farmer, Glenn 21, b.5-1879 in NE, Earnest 18, b.4-1881 in IA, Edna 15, b. 9-1884, b.IA, Bessie 13, b.7-1886 in IA, Minnie 11, b.4-1889 in NE, Frank T, b.2-1893 in NE, Doris 2, b.5-1898 in NE (granddaughter)

JESSIE KEENEY 25, b.4-1875 in IA, parents b. IA & IL, Madge 22, b.10-1877, b. NE, parents b. IN, Harold 1, b. NE, William (father) 41, b. 2-1854 in IA(parents b. in TN & KY - ....

WALTER KEENEY 42, b.3-1858, b. PA, parents b. PA, farmer, Lucy 29, b.3-1871, b. MN, parents b. NH & OH, Henry 8, b.4-1892 in NE, Vera 2, b.10-1897 in NE

DON A. KEENEY 56, b.7-1843 in IL, parents b. CT, Addie 50, b.11-1849 in NY, parents b. NY, Eddie F. 21, Mett ie G. 19, b.8-1880, Arthur E. 16, b.7-1883, Katie L. 12, b.8-1887, Albert B. 7, b. 10-1893 all in NE

JAMES KEENEY 19, b.6-1861 in Ireland, Alice 30, B. 12-1869 in Ireland, Annie 6, b.1-1894, Nellie 4, b.3-1896, Michael 2, b.8-1897, Marie F.6 mos., all NE

SAMUEL F. KEENEY 60, b 5-1840 in NY, parents b. NY, insurance agent; Julia S. 56, b.8-1843 in NY  
 JASON KEENEY 58, b.11-1841 in NY, parents b. PA & NY, Mary E. 60, b.8-1839 in NY, parents b. NY  
 JOHN KEENEY 36, b.5-1864 in Iowa, parents b. IN; Rosa 28, b.5-1872 in NE, parents b. Ohio, William 13, b. NE,  
 Grace 8, b.12-1891, William W.(father), 73, b.5-1827 in IN, parents b. TN and NC  
 PAT KEENEY 48, widower b.1852 in Ireland, saloon keeper, Ann McAulley 73 (ML), widow, b. Ireland, Pat (son) 17,  
 b.6-1882, Anna 12, b.4-1888, Mary 10, b.8-1889, Nellie 7, b.2-1893, Katie 5, b.9-1894  
 PATRICK KEENEY 18, b.10-1881 in NE, parents born in Ireland, boarder  
 WILLIAM KEENEY 49, b.6-1850 in IN, parents b. IN, Mary C. 40, b.2-1860 in Iowa, parents b. Iowa  
 JOSEPH KEENEY 58, b.9-1841, in IN, parents b. KY, carpenter; Rosa 55, b.7-1844 in Ohio, parents b. NH & NY, Robert  
 F. 28, b.10-1871 in NE, Fred L. 26, b.6-1873 in NE; Merrick Co., NE

## A Day on New River



Down the rapids

(Original picture missing)

The gorge offers 18 major rapids like Lower Keeney, shown here. Rafters brace themselves and dig the paddle blades deep to keep from capsizing. The trips attract more than 80,000 rafters from around the country every summer.

### SUPPORT

This issue of KEENEY UPDATE is being paid for by a \$25 donation from *(names removed per request of R. Keeney).*

No names have ever been omitted from the circulation list except for the deceased, and this policy will continue long as the bills are paid.

NEEDED: Pictures, clippings, obituaries, charts for future issues; prefer pictures of Keeney descendants born prior to 1900.

Supporters could help greatly by going to state archives in their capital city and copy census records of KEENEYS, especially those 1900 and before.

## From NUTMEGGER

from THE NUTMEGGER, December 1980

KEENEY, Ezra, b. Lucasville. PA, 15 August 1806 m. (2) Almira Dexter 15 March 1848 (born in Bradford or Wyoming Co., PA 4 July 1824

MARGARET (Mary) KEENEY, b.1786, d.28 Aug 1825, daughter of Alexander Keeney, m. Jeremiah Woodruff (b.1785 Farmington, CT, d.1826 Berlin, CT, married 30 September 1805

ASAHEL KEENEY, b. 2 November 1776, d: 12 August 1841 (of New Britain, CT), m. Theodosia Woodruff, (b.7 August 1787, d. 27 June 1869 - St. Clair, MI

## DEATH NOTICES

**Dennis B. Keeney**

Dennis B. Keeney, 64, of 16 132nd St. Chesapeake, died June 26, 1986, in Memorial Division, CAMC, after a long illness.

He was retired from Owens-Illinois bottle plant and was a member of the Church of God, Chesapeake. He was a veteran of World War II.

Surviving: wife, Catherine; daughter, Connie M. Holcomb of Davidson, Conn; son, Larry Lanham of Florida; mother, Mrs. Ruby Keeney of Chesapeake; sisters, Ruby Mooney of Chesapeake and Alma Adkins of Shrewsbury; brothers, James of Titusville, Fla, Edgar of East Bank; five grandchildren; four great grandchildren.

Service will be 2 p.m. Monday at the Church of God, Chesapeake, with the Rev. Ron Wilfong, officiating. Burial will be in Montgomery Memorial Park, London. Friends may call from 5 to 9 p.m. today at Leonard Johnson Funeral Home, Marmet, and at the church one hour before the service.

Dennis B. Keeney (6.302, p.77) was a son of Cassius Clinton & Ruby Massey Keeney; family line of Russell L. Keeney is unsure; Thomas James (6.375, p. 93) is a grandson of Stires Keeney & Mildred Gatewood Keeney; Robert E. Douglass was married to Lillian Mae Keeney, daughter of Flem D. & Ida Keeney (6.417 p. 105)

**Russell L. Keeney**

Danville, Ind. - Russell Lowell Keeney, 85, Danville, died Thursday in Hendricks County Hospital. A self-employed upholsterer, he had retired from Keeney Upholstery. Born in Pittsboro, he had lived in Danville many years. He was the widower of Lurene Leak Keeney. Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday in Baker Funeral Home, with calling from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. today. Survivors: sons, David, Allen and Roy Keeney; daughters, Marjorie Britt, Barbara Ross and Lynann Storm.

**Thomas W. James, Sr.**

Thomas W. James Sr., 81, of Oak Hill, father of Fayette Tribune employee, Thomas W. James Jr., died July 10 at Beckley Hospital of an apparent heart attack. Service was held July 13, at the Oak Hill Church of the Nazarene with the Rev. Leroy Hostutler in charge. Burial followed in High Lawn Memorial Park.

Born Nov. 16, 1904, at Oak Hill, he was the son of the late William & Goldie Keeney James, a former Fayette County teacher, dairyman and Oak Hill merchant, a member of the Oak Hill Church of the Nazarene where he served as the Sunday school superintendent and teacher for over 20 years, treasurer, and member of the local church board. He also served as the state advisor of the Board of the Nazarene Church.

Other survivors include his wife, Elizabeth Shuck James; son, Howard Dale of Woodbridge, Va.; a daughter, Clara Vivian Rushing of Odessa, Tex.; nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Robert Edwin Douglass**

Robert Edwin Douglass, 77, of 1914 Orchard Ave., Bella, died Friday in Memorial Division, CAMC, after a long illness.

He was a member of Witcher Baptist Church and Knights of Pythias. He had lived most of his life in Kanawha County.

Surviving: wife, Lillian; son, Robert E. Jr. of Lilborn, GA; daughter, Mrs. Phyllis Tummelty of Trumbull, Conn; brothers, Richard of Charleston, Frederick of Bell, Glenn of Laling, La, Wayne of Evansville, Ind; four grandchildren.

**WEST VIRGINIA KEENEYS ORGANIZE**

BYLAWS were adopted and a Board of Directors was selected at the 12th annual KEENEY REUNION, held on Sunday, August 3, at Witcher. Almost 200 Keeney descendants and friends registered. Balloting for officers resulted in the election of Mildred Keeney (2000 Orchard Ave., Belle, WV 25015. 949-4579) as president. The Board of Directors will be made up of the officers and one representative from each of the families of children of John S. Keeney and the Rev. Thomas Y. Keeney. All other Keeney families are entitled to name a representative or volunteers can contact the president.

Minutes, financial reports and announcements will be sent to all dues paying members. Dues (\$2. for a household,





David Keeney, 73, does more than spin his wheels when on his custom-made bike  
(Tribune photo by Royce Vibber)

(Original picture missing)

May 23, 1986

It's Beltman - Beltman, also known as David Keeney, and a Converse Elementary School third-grader demonstrate a chair in which youngsters can practice buckling a seat belt. Keeney, 66, a Fisher Body retiree, travels around the state presenting a seat-belt safety program to school children. He lobbied for Indiana's seat-belt legislation.

## David Keeney & Beltman team up to encourage safety

\$1 for seniors of 70) should be sent to the treasurer, Rev. James Hill, 330 Sky Dr., Rt. 1, Belle, WV 25015.

(pictures missing)

Herman A. & Elaine J. Nevin Keeney, Nasalle, Washington (6.434, p. 112)

GEORGE W. & GRACE Evelyn KEENEY PRICE, Melbourne, Florida (6.443, p. 113)

MILDRED KEENEY (left) and Hannah M. Keeney (right) reunion organizers, with Linda Harless Bailey (p.100-1)

COUSINS David, George, Herman, Phillip, Thomas Oakes & John Elbert KEENEY (of Galveston, Indiana)

Gordon Palmer, great-grandson of WOODFORD W. KEENEY & Julia Ann Bowles Keeney (4.32, p.53), with his wife, Amelia Walker Palmer.

## WILBUR KEENEY FAMILY - Lawrence County, Ohio

The March 1986 KEENEY UPDATE carried a detailed listing of the Michael Keeney/Catherine Lewis family. The following is a listing of the Wilbur Keeney (oldest son of Oran C. & Augusta M. Keeney, page 8, column 2) family.

WILBUR KEENEY, b.3-6-1903, m. Gladys Irene Gibson, b. 3-7-1911, daughter of Miller & Blanche Freeman Gibson; their children: GLENNA AUGUSTA KEENEY, b. 5-11-1933, m. James Tucker, b. 5-28-1922, daughter. EVELYN TUCKER, b. 12-12-1953, m. David Zeurich, B. 12-26-1952. MARGARET LOUISE KEENEY, b & d. 6-11-1936, buried at Tabor Cemetery. WILBUR RAY KEENEY, b. 7-3-1937, d. 2-3-1984, m. Joyce Gilley, daughter of Isaac & Gladys Fouch Gilley; children: Richard Allan Keeney, b.7-27-1959, Pamela Jane Keeney, b. 4-1963. PAULINE FAYE KEENEY, b.2-19-1943, m. Thomas C. Born, b.5-14-1940 on 11-11-1961, son of Daniel T. & Alice Hagg Born, sons: Charles T. 7-12-64, Jeffrey A. 2-15-69, Todd Michael, 9-18-1973. JAMES CREIGHTON KEENEY, b.2-20-1952 (The Kokomo Tribune 11 Feb 1990 Page 25)

(picture missing)

BILL, DENZIL and WARREN KEEENEY, Jr., sons of WARREN McDONALD & Minnie McLaughlin KEENEY, Salem, OR in 1917, the day Bill left for the U. S. Army (p.83, KEENEY RELATIVES)

He's Beltman and he's been delighting and educating elementary pupils since September about the importance of buckling up. Buckling up becomes mandatory in Indiana on July 1, 1987.

Retired General Motors worker, David Keeney, 69, Marion, made his 81st presentation of Beltman to pupils at Boulevard School. He made his 80th presentation in Marilyn Pries' third-grade class at Elwood Haynes School.

Keeney presented a similar program on bicycle safety for eight years in the Marion schools. Then he was approached by the state's traffic safety division about doing Beltman on a regular basis.

Most of his programs have been in the state, though he did venture out of state once. Keeney said his presentation is free to any teacher or school that contacts him.

Keeney said he enjoys the presentations, which is evident by the giggles he cannot suppress when he talks about pupils' reactions to Beltman.

Each pupil at the presentation gets a sticker to put on the seat belt. After a card is returned, signed by an adult, certifying that the sticker is on the seat belt, Keeney said he gives the pupil an iron-transfer of Beltman. Each pupil also receives a color autographed poster of Beltman in his bright blue tights, red cape, yellow gloves and white wings.

#### IN GOD WE TRUST

True patriotism acknowledges the law of God in national affairs. It's not by accident that our coins tell the world: "In God We Trust."

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." (Ps. 33:12)

## Kanawha County births



The following KEENEY births have been recorded in Kanawha County, WV since the publication of 2,597 KEENEY RELATIVES in 1978:

GINA KAYE KEENEY, b.2-27-1978, p-Floyd Randolph and Sherri Kaye Ward Keeney - Hugheston

JENNIFER NICOLE KEENEY, b.9-6-1978, p-Gary Wayne and Deborah Lynn Carter Keeney - Hurricane

STEVEN RAY KEENEY, JR., b.10-4-1978, p-Steven R. and Leslie Ann Stanley

Keeney - Cedar Grove

STEVEN VERNON KEENEY, b.11-11-1978, p-Michael Lane and Melissa Gaye Pyles Keener - Sylvester

COURTNEY ANN KEENEY, b.10-15-1978, p-Terry Lee and Carolyn Sue Phillips Keeney - Eskdale

CRYSTAL GAYLE REENEY, b.1-14-1979 - St. Albans

CRAIG DWAIN KEENEY, b.5-2-1979, p-Kent Dwain & Sherry Ann Payne Keeney - Belle

CHRISTOPHER DAVID KEENEY, b.5-6-19-9, p-David Phillip & Diana Jean Kamm Keeney - Rand

ANDREW WILLIAM KEENEY, b.1-3-1980 - p.Steven R. & Leslie Ann Keeney - Cedar Grove

BRIAN LEE KEENEY, b.8-6-1980 - p. Terry Lee and Carolyn Keeney - Eakdale

FLOYD RANDOLPH KEENEY, JR., b.6-11-1980, p. Floyd R. & Sherri Keeney - Hugheston

TIFFANY DAWN KEENEY, b.10-31-1980, p. Don Darrell & Elizabeth Ann Davis Keeney - Spencer

MISTY ANN KEENEY, b.11-9-1980, p. Michael Lane & Melissa Gaye Keeney - Sylvester

#### Mrs. Syble Phillips

Roanoke, VA - Mrs. Syble Keeney Phillips, 80, of Roanoke formerly of Charleston, W.Va. died August 1, 1986, at home.

Surviving: son, B. Michael Phillips of Roanoke; brother, Vincent Keeney of Phoenix, Ariz.; sisters, Mrs. Denver Bird, Mrs. W. W. Moore and Mrs. Jerry Jackson, all of Charleston; three grandchildren.

Service will be 11 a.m. Wednesday at Bucktrout Funeral Home, Williamsburg, VA.

Burial will be in Cedar Grove Cemetery, Williamsburg. In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorials to the American Society.

Syble Keeney Phillips was the oldest daughter of Frank Keeney & Bessie Meadows Keeney. Her father was the noted leader of the UMWA, involved in the mining war in the early years of this century.

His biography was carried in the September 1984 UPDATE.

Syble traveled widely with her husband, Cabell Phillips, who was a member of the staff of the NEW YORK TIMES.

KRISTIN CAROLINE KEENEY, b.6-1--1982, p-Timothy Allen & Terri Lu Hillegass Keeney - Charleston  
JESSICA LEE KEENEY and MONICA MARIE KEENEY, b. 12-29-1982 p. John Scott & Ada Irene Plantz Keeney - Charleston  
ANDREW DOUGLAS KEENEY, b.3-3-1984, p-Douglas Ross & Anita Dawn Snodgrass Keeney - Boone Co.  
ERIN LEIGH KEENEY, b.4-1-1984, p-Charles McDonald & Patricia Dawn Wheeler Keeney - Hurricane  
CRYSTAL RENEE KEENEY, b.1-9-1985, p-Johnnie Wayne & Marlene Dona McDougal Keeney - Charleston  
DANIELLE KRISTIN KEENEY, b.12-25-1985, p-Dana Edward & Vera Etta Washington Keeney-Charleston  
JODI LYNN KEENEY, b.2-16-1985, p-Joseph William & Deborah Lynn Pratt Keeney - Elkview  
CYNTHIA JEAN KEENEY, b.3~23-1985, p-David P. & Diana Keeney - Rand  
KIMBERLY LYNN KEENEY, b.4-13-1985, p-Timothy Allen & Terry Keeney - Charleston  
SARAH JANE KEENEY, b.5-30-1985, p. Robert Howery & Jennifer Jean Osburn Keeney -Cross Lanes  
ASHLEY DAWN KEENEY, b. 7-31-1986, parents - Douglas & Anita Keeney, Glasgow