



History of the Illinois Quicksalls

*Compiled by Larry E. Quicksall from family records
June 23, 2001*

In the Beginning...

In the beginning, there were Quicksalls in the Nottingham County area of England. How many Quicksalls were there is unknown, but at least a few had strong religious convictions as well as an adventurous spirit, for at two different times over 100 years apart, Quicksalls crossed the Atlantic Ocean to settle in America.

The first Quicksall family apparently made the crossing in the 1680s and settled along Crosswick Creek in New Jersey. They were Quakers escaping religious persecution in England. **William Quicksall** made the first land records involving a Quicksall in 1689 when he purchased 300 acres of land. He named his new home "Boulones" and became known as "William of Boulones," as was the custom in those days. His descendants ventured away from Boulones, raised their own families, and many continue to carry the surname to this day.

Rev. Jonathan Erastus Quicksall

Another Quicksall ventured across the Atlantic over 100 years later and started another branch of the Quicksall family in America. According to a hand-written manuscript by **Matilda Caroline Quicksall Bishop** forwarded to me by her grandson, Jim Bishop of New York City, **Reverend Jonathan Erastus Quicksall** came to America *"from France during 18th century and settled near Richmond, Virginia. He married a young widow named Sarah Richards whose maiden name had been Clark of Maryland. To them were born nine children, six sons and three daughters."* Apparently, Jonathan ventured first from England to France and then to America.

According to Bettie Byrd Huffman St. Clair, a descendant by way of Jonathan's daughter Elizabeth, Reverend Jonathan Erastus Quicksall was a Baptist minister and became the minister of a congregation in Richmond, Virginia. *Note: At the time of his leaving France, the Baptist*

denomination was considered a cult in Roman Catholic France and was actively persecuted. Jonathan later rode legislative dispatches to the frontier of western Virginia and would frequent an area in Tazewell County known as Baptist Valley, where he would also do a little preaching. Eventually, he moved his family to Baptist Valley to live. Courthouse records show that he married several people in the area including his daughter, Elizabeth, whose descendants remain in Tazewell County, Virginia, today.

Laura Quicksall Hanks wrote the following in her manuscript entitled "Quicksalls" (c) 1988:

Hasting Court records of Richmond, Virginia, in Henrico County shows that on December 21, 1802, Jonathan Quicksall married Mrs. Elizabeth Richards, widow of George Richards. Her maiden name was Clark. Some family records show that Sara Clark Richards married Jonathan Erastus Quicksall, so her name possibly could have been Sara Elizabeth Clark.

From records, Jonathan and "Betsy," as she was nicknamed on the census, lived in Henrico County until circa 1819 and then moved a few miles west to Buckingham County. By 1830 they established themselves in the southwest corner of Virginia in Tazewell County with their married son, Jonathan Jr., living next door.

Three of Jonathan E. Quicksall's sons, James, Aaron, and Joseph, migrated to Kentucky in about 1847. James and Joseph died in Kentucky before 1860, but left offspring in the area. Aaron migrated on to Illinois in about 1860, and died in 1864. Another of Jonathan E. Quicksall's sons, Thomas, went to Kentucky in about 1867 and then later migrated to Texas in 1881.

The Quicksalls of Kentucky are apparently descendants of Jonathan E. Quicksall of Virginia through his migrated sons, although Quicksalls had entered the state in the late 1700s. After the deaths of Capt. John Quicksall, Jr., of the Revolutionary War, in 1783 and his wife in early 1784, John Hunt, the father-in-law, took the orphaned Quicksall children to Kentucky. The three Quicksall Girls, Sarah, Elizabeth, and baby Mary, married Kentucky men. The two Quicksall boys, Aaron and John, left Kentucky and went back to their home state and married New Jersey women.

The Bible names that Jonathan E. Quicksall selected for his sons indicates that he was a religious man, but most important, the names follow the same name pattern of the Quicksall families that lived in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The name pattern indicates a linkage to the families.

Jonathan E. Quicksall was born between 1771 and 1781. He either died on October 28, 1834, in Tazewell County, Virginia, or his will was proved at that time. Betsy was born around 1774, and it is thought that she was born in Maryland. She died February 7, 1852, in Tazewell County and most likely in the home of her married daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth (Quicksall) Hankins.

Jonathan and Betsy had ten children as listed below:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Sarah Quicksall b. c1803 Va | 6. Daniel Quicksall b. c1815 Va |
| 2. Jonathan E. Quicksall, Jr. b. c1805 Va | 7. Elizabeth Quicksall b. c1816 Va |
| 3. (daughter) b. c1807 Va | 8. Aaron Quicksall (1818 - 1864) |
| 4. (daughter) b. c1809 Va | 9. Joseph Quicksall b. c1821 Va |
| 5. James Quicksall (1811 - 1854) | 10. Thomas O. Quicksall b. c1824 Va. |

Aaron Quicksall

(The majority of this information was provided by **Laura Ann Quicksall Hanks** with additional information was provided by **Edward Quicksall**.

Aaron, the fourth son and seventh child of Rev. Jonathan Erastus and Elizabeth Quicksall, was born at Richmond, Virginia, in 1815, and probably on January 1st of that year. His tombstone shows he died October 13, 1861, being 47 years, 10 months, and 13 days old. Some family records show he died October 13, 1864, and according to some census records, he was born closer to 1818 instead of 1815. It is not known which is correct. Some tombstones are inaccurate on dates because of being erected many years later by descendants of the deceased.

On December 18, 1839, in Tazewell County, Aaron married Elizabeth Prater, with Reverend William McGuire of the Methodist Episcopal Church officiating. She also was a native Virginian and was born in Tazewell County on May 1, 1817. Along with two of Aaron's brothers, James and Daniel and their families, they migrated in 1847 and lived three miles south of West Liberty, Morgan County, Kentucky. After the death of the two brothers, Aaron moved his family from West Liberty to the small community of Paradise, Shelby County, Illinois, in 1860. At first they lived in a small two-story brick home that still stands today. In approximately 1862, they moved to a plot of land just south of the big spring (and next to what is now an old gravel pit) in Big Spring Township, Shelby County, Illinois. The property was formerly the home of John Witherspoon who had built the first water mill on the Little Wabash River in 1828, just a few hundred yards away from the cabin.

When the Union was drafting men for the war, they would go from farm to farm and enlist those of eligible age. The store goes that when a couple of soldiers visited the Aaron Quicksall homestead they found Minor cutting the hair of one of his brothers. When they approached him, Minor threatened them with the scissors and they left. Having just arrived from the South and with all of their extended family remaining behind, no Quicksall wanted to fight their cousins in the Confederacy. That same day Minor and a friend left home following the Little Wabash River to White County where the draft was already completed. The next day more soldiers returned with their guns, but Minor was gone. Minor and his friend slept in cornfields during the day and traveled at night. After a few weeks when it was safe, they returned home to their families in Big Spring Township. If they had been caught in what they were doing, they would have been hanged from the nearest tree. So many in the North and South lost their lives for of doing the same thing.

Aaron died in 1864, shortly after moving to Big Spring Township. In that short time he was elected as a director of the newly formed Wabash School District that replaced the old Spain (private) School. Many of Aaron's descendants attended the Wabash School that remained open until 1949. Four generations of Quicksalls served as directors and attended the Wabash School prior to its closing.

Elizabeth (Prater) Quicksall died August 29, 1873, and is buried beside Aaron in the Spain Cemetery just east of the Big Spring. It is interesting that a great-great grandson of Aaron's, Edward William Quicksall, still owns and farms the land that Aaron settled on in Illinois as well as owning the various properties where six generations of Quicksalls have lived. This great-great grandson has only one son, Larry Edward Quicksall. Larry married Shannon Lee Jones in 1991

and has two children: Aaron Minor Quicksall (b. 1996) and Jessica Grace Quicksall (b. 1998). It is rather interesting that Aaron Minor is an only son, of an only son, of an only son, of an only son! Aaron Minor is now the last descendant of "Old Aaron" who carries the Quicksall name to pass it on. If he does not have any male children, the Quicksall name will end on Aaron's line.

Children of Aaron & Elizabeth Quicksall

Matilda Quicksall

Matilda Quicksall married Jacob Ramsey, and they moved to Denison, Texas. They had two sons. One died in Texas. Matilda died when her second son, Charley Ramsey was born in 1878. He was a small boy. Her brother Marion Quicksall went to Texas and brought Charley back to Illinois and raised him. He married and lived in Decatur, Illinois. Many years later, he went back to Texas, but all of his other family members were deceased.

Minor Quicksall

Minor Quicksall (pictured right) was born near Richmond, Virginia, on March 22, 1845. He was about two years old when his parents migrated to West Liberty, Kentucky. When he was about 15 years old, his parents moved to Shelby County, Illinois. In Illinois, Minor met Mary Jane Turner who was a twin to Rachel Turner and the daughters of William and Lucy Turner. Jane was born October 4, 1841, in Tennessee and sometime in the 1850s her family moved to Illinois. Jane and Minor married on January 10, 1867, in Big Spring Township and established their home there. Sometime in 1913, they moved to Stewardson. Jane died January 11, 1917, which was the day after their 50th wedding anniversary. Minor died in 1925. They are both buried in the Spain Cemetery in Big Spring Township, Shelby County, Illinois.



James Harvey Quicksall

James Harvey Quicksall was born in Virginia. He married Sarah McIntosh (1857-1932) in Illinois. Their son, Charles M. Quicksall, who lived in Oregon, had a great interest in the Quicksall genealogy and went to Virginia to do some research. Apparently, the records he hoped to find were lost. He visited his cousins several times in Illinois and talked about the family history.

Louesy Quicksall

Louesy Quicksall was born in Kentucky after her parents, Aaron and Elizabeth (Prater) Quicksall migrated there from Virginia. In 1860 her parents moved to Illinois where she died in 1861, unmarried.

Emma Zelle Quicksall

Emma Zelle Quicksall married a man by the surname of Ramsey. Her second husband was William Alfred Hennessee.

Miranda Jane Quicksall

Miranda Jane Quicksall married Nathan Henry Elam. She died in 1914 in Oklahoma. Nathan died in 1930.

Malinda Quicksall

Malinda Quicksall was born near West Liberty, Kentucky. Her parents moved to Shelby County, Illinois, in 1860. On the 9th day of April 1876, she walked to Hymen's altar and was joined in Holy Wedlock to Robert J. Elam. To this union one daughter was born, but Malinda was soon left a widow to care for herself and her baby. On the 13th day of November 1881, she married her second husband, Lars Johnson. To this union, eight children were born. Malinda died at her home in Prairie Township on May 23, 1894.

Marion Quicksall

Marion Quicksall was born in 1856 in Lewis Couty, Kentucky, and after arriving in Illinois he married three times. His first wife was Manerva who died in 1894 at the age of 31 years. They had one daughter named Perl who died in 1893. Marion's second wife was Cora Culver who died in 1899 at the age of 21 years, 8 months, and 27 days. They had two daughters: Blanche Quicksall who married Bruce Standerfer, and Mary E. Quicksall who married "Chinie" Standerfer. Marion's third wife was Elizabeth Watts. He had one son, Robert Quicksall, who died young in Chicago and never was married. Marion Quicksall died in Illinois in 1930.

Arminda Quicksall

Arminda Quicksall (pictured right) was born in 1858 in Mount Carmel in Fleming County, Kentucky, and after moving to Illinois she married William Baker. Together they had four boys named Sam, Paul, Minor and Roy. William died in 1927, and Arminda died in the St. Anthony's Hospital fire in 1949 in Effingham, Illinois. Historians note this fire as the worst hospital fire in US history. The below photo of Arminda and her sons was taken just prior to her death.



Mary Quicksall

Mary Quicksall was born in Kentucky and was carried to Illinois as a babe-in-arms. She latter married a man by the surname of Brown. Mary's birth and death dates are not known. A family picture is in the possession of Edward Quicksall of Effingham, Illinois. It shows five girls and three boys. The three youngest girls were Dora, Alice, and Eula. They would write and send cards to Frieda Quicksall until they died. In the late 1940s they visited Arminda Baker, and the relatives in the Stewardson, Illinois, area.

Minor Quicksall, Sr.

By Edward William Quicksall

(Minor was often referred to as Minor Quicksall, Sr. because his grandson, Joel Minor Quicksall (1894-1984) commonly went by Minor.)

Minor was born in 1845, so he would have only been around two years old when his family moved from Virginia to Morgan County, Kentucky. I don't know if they farmed or worked in the timber. He did talk to Dad about being in logging camps when he was a small boy. They the family moved to Illinois around 1860, and they lived in a brick house in the village of Paradise in Coles County, Illinois. Some of the Quicksall children went to school there.



During this time, Aaron was looking for a place to raise his family and farm. He looked at land around Sexton Corner, but came down by the Big Spring on the Little Wabash River. Here he bought land with a log cabin on it. The cabin was just north of the gravel pit that was dug by the men of the W.P.A. work project in the 1930s. Aaron signed the papers on June 22, 1863. He died on October 13, 1864. At that time Minor was nineteen and the oldest son. James just lacked ten days of being eighteen. I would think that would mean a lot of hard work for everybody, as there were ten children at home.

Minor married Mary Jane Turner on January 10, 1867. That meant a log cabin had to be built, and he was only twenty-one at the time. Dad has told me some of the things about him in those days. Minor would fasten the soles on shoes with wooden pegs. He would do this for his family as well as for the neighbors. He also would make homemade nails for their own use. When one of the neighbors died he often made the coffins, and another neighbor named "Houchin" made the linings. Minor also had portable molasses cooking equipment, so he could go right to the farm where the cane was and cook the molasses. After Minor quit farming he would haul milk into Stewardson everyday. Sometimes Dad would ride along, as he was a small boy then.

In 1913 Minor and Mary Jane moved from Big Spring to a brick home in Stewardson. Mary Jane died on January 11, 1917. Minor lived in his home making garden and canning fruit, vegetables and jelly. Mom said he was proud of his canning. Minor died in his home on October 20, 1925.

Together Minor and Mary Jane had seven children as listed below:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. James Aaron Quicksall (1867 - 1947) | 5. Nicey Quicksall (1877 - 1881) |
| 2. Sarah Isabel Quicksall (1869 - 1943) | 6. Mary Milinda Quicksall (1880 - 1894) |
| 3. William Henry Quicksall (1872 - 1966) | 7. Nora Quicksall (1884 - 1958) |
| 4. Lucy Quicksall (1874 - 1950) | |

William Henry Quicksall

*By Edward William Quicksall
(William Henry Quicksall always went by the name of Henry)*

Henry was born in Big Spring Township in Shelby County, Illinois on April 19, 1872, the third child and second son of Minor and Jane (Turner) Quicksall. He spent his early years helping to develop the farming land in the Little Wabash River bottom, as the timber had to be cut and some of the stumps dug out by hand. They would then have log rollings when the neighbors would all come over and help pile the logs up to burn. Henry would describe these log rollings almost like a party. After the land was cleared they would begin digging ditches and putting in tile to get the fields ready for farming. Henry went to school at the Wabash School located on the corner of what was then the farm of Marion Quicksall. At present that farm belongs to Edward William Quicksall.



On November 28, 1895, Henry married Amanda Josephine McAnally. They lived with his parents for a while, including the birth of their first child, Joel Minor Quicksall. Then they moved to what I know as the Ferguson farm and then the Marion Quicksall farm. Finally, in 1904, Henry purchased the Houchen farm, where he and his wife raised five children: Joel Minor, Mary Isabelle, Hazel Mildred, Grace Lucille, and Beulah Mae.

Henry made several improvements to the homestead. Those that I remember include the bedroom on the east side of the house, the summer kitchen with a cellar under it, a big screen porch that extended from the house to the summer kitchen and then on the east side of the summer kitchen to the small bedroom. The house also had a cement floor and a cistern under the roof. Henry had a gasoline engine belted up to a line shaft to pump water, and I think he also used it to run the washing machine. In the winter he used the engine to saw wood. For the farm operation, Henry built a large horse barn, a shed on the side of the cow barn to raise hogs, a chicken house, and two brooder houses for raising small chickens. Sometimes they would raise over 500 chickens.

During those years all the farming was done with horses. However, Henry was the first farmer in the area to buy a tractor. I believe that it was around 1919 when he purchased a Fordson tractor, plow and disk. Sometime in the 1930s he bought a 1020 International Tractor from Ed Pardieck.

Henry also built a shed west of the horse barn. He had room to store his Model T Ford and Fordson tractor on the south side of the shed, and a workshop on the north side. In his workshop he had a bench, vice, cheese box, and other wooden boxes with bolts, nuts, and odds-and-ends in them. On the east end he had a forge and anvil. North of the forge was a pie safe where he kept his Borax to clean the iron when he was welding in the forge. I don't remember what else he had in the shed, but I always enjoyed cranking the blower when Grandpa and Dad were working there.

I believe that his first automobile was a 1919 Model T Ford. The next one was a 1928 Model A Ford. The road past the house was always dirt until the late 1940s and early 1950s when it was oiled. In the winter the road was muddy and full of ruts, so it was hard to get in and out. Their mailbox was by the Wabash School, so they had a long way to go after their mail (approximately 1/2 mile).

As Henry got older he shelled and ground corn for the chickens, gathered the eggs, hoed in the garden and mowed the yard. On washday he would build a fire under the copper kettle to heat all the wash water, then he helped Grandma wash clothes with a hand washing machine.

They made this their home until Grandma's death on November 29, 1955. Henry stayed by himself for over a year after her death, and then he stayed with all the children for several years. Finally, he moved to Shelbyville and stayed in a private home with 4 or 5 elderly folks. He lived in Shelbyville until his death on July 10, 1966. His funeral was held on July 12, 1966, at 2:00 p.m. at the Christian Church in Stewardson, Pastor Harry G. Kaye officiating. Mrs. Perl Stevens was the organist, and Harold Brown sang "Beyond the Sunset" and "Good Night Here, Good Morning Up There." Pallbearers were his grandsons: Dale Quast, Edward W. Quicksall, Charles W. Kessler, Glen L. Kessler, Donald D. Kessler, and David Goddard. Burial was in the Stewardson Cemetery.

Amanda Josephine McAnally

By Edward William Quicksall

(Amanda Josephine McAnally was commonly known as "Josie.")

Amanda Josephine McAnally was born on April 26, 1874, in Brookville, Franklin County, Indiana. She was the oldest of eleven children born to Joel and Mary Wendelena (Becker) McAnally. She moved with the family from Indiana to a farm northeast of Sigel in 1880. She lived there until she married William Henry Quicksall on November 28, 1895. She then lived in Big Spring Township, Shelby County, about five miles northeast of Stewardson. She raised their five children: Joel Minor, Mary Isabelle, Hazel Mildred, Grace Lucille, and Beulah Mae. Josie loved to milk the cows, work with the chickens, hoe in the garden and take care of the flowers.

She was a real good cook, as well. I can still see the bread dough rising behind the heating stove in the winter and smell the bread baking in the summer kitchen in her old wood cook stove. It seems she always had ginger bread or spice cake on hand, and in the summer she fried a lot of young chickens. When we farmed with horses and were there at noon, we stayed for dinner. I remember eating a lot of meals with Grandpa and Grandma. I think we all remembered Thanksgiving and Christmas best. Josie was a charter member of the Busy Bee Sewing Circle, a member of the Christian Church at Stewardson, and a hard worker with the Ladies Aid.

She passed away at her home near Stewardson, Illinois on November 26, 1955, at the age of 81 years and 7 months. Her funeral service was held on November 29, 1955, at 2:00 p.m. Reverend David Watts conducted the service, Mrs. Sam Elliott played the music, Mrs. James Parish was the soloist, pallbearers were her grandsons, and the granddaughters were in charge of flowers. Burial was in Stewardson Cemetery.

A Few Items Maybe of Interest

By Frieda (Pardieck) Quicksall (1900-1988), wife of Joel Minor Quicksall (written 1987)

For several years the McAnally family would come to the Henry and Josie Quicksall place around Thanksgiving time. This also was near to their wedding anniversary, which was November 28. They would come with baskets of food and would eat on the big porch situated between the main house and the house built over the cellar. This was her kitchen and she loved that kitchen, even if they had to walk across the porch to get to it from the main house in zero cold weather. Grandpa would get up and have a good fire going in the cooking stove.

Her sisters and their families would come with baskets filled with food. Pet (a family member) would come with her usual black iron cooking pot full of chicken and dumplings. Maurine (a family member) brought baked apples for one thing. Aunt Della was famous for her persimmon puddings. Everybody brought something. Grandma liked to make chicken and noodles and dressing made from old hens, which made it richer. I can't think now what I took, but I took several things, not always the same thing.

Grandpa had a long wooden shelf along the east side of the porch. The men would fill their plates and head for the shelf. They would stand up to eat their food never bothering to sit down. Of course the shelf was kind of high for that.

Whenever rabbit law was in, the Wilson boys and Uncle Don Stephens would usually come and kill a lot of rabbits, dress them and take them home and put them in their freezer. Those fellows are all gone now. For several years we didn't see any rabbits, but now in 1987 we saw quite a few around here. Of course in those years times were a little higher to buy meat, but some people just naturally like rabbits.

Together Henry & Josie had 5 children as listed below:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Joel Minor Quicksall (1897 - 1984) | 4. Grace Lucille Quicksall (1912 -) |
| 2. Mary Isabelle Quicksall (1900 - 1963) | 5. Beulah Mae Quicksall (1918 -) |
| 3. Hazel Mildred Quicksall (1910 - 2000) | |



In photo to the left:

Henry & Josie are seated, Joel and Mary are standing in the back, Hazel & Grace are on the left, and Beulah is the infant. Photo taken in 1918 just before Joel was to go into the army for WWI, which ended approximately two weeks prior to his enlistment.

The Quicksall Reunion

The Quicksall Reunion held at the Stewardson Park every June is a reunion of the descendants of William Henry Quicksall and Amanda Josephine McAnally. Below is a chart showing the descendants of Rev. Jonathan Erastus Quicksall through the grandchildren of William Henry Quicksall.

