

PETER LUKE

"Descendants of John Luke Jr. son of John Luke Sr. "

by Kenneth Luke

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Peter Luke born February 8, 1833, in Stark County, Ohio and is believed to have died sometime between 1890 and 1895, near Edon, Ohio, and is believed to be buried close to his parents in an unmarked grave in Liggett Cemetery near Edon, OH; m. May 15, 1858, probably near York, Steuben County, IN, to Ann Josephine Fetterhoff, daughter of Joseph and Caroline Fetterhoff, b. November 4, 1842 in North. Benton, Columbiana County, Ohio, baptized age 11, d. February 28, 1919 in the home of one of her younger sisters, and is buried near her parents in Powers Cemetery, York Township, Steuben County, IN. Their children were:

4-1 Ethan Alien Luke, 1860 - 1929

4-2 Burdette Michael Luke, 1862 - 1936 .

4-3 Caroline Luke, 1865 - unknown

4-4 Lizzie Luke, died in childhood

4-5 Albine Luke, died in childhood .

4-6 Warren A. Luke, 1876 - 1926

4-7 Clive John Luke, 1882 - 1931

Peter Luke was born in Starke County, Ohio, the fifth child of John and Wary Micum Luke's -nine children, eight surviving to adulthood. About 1834, shortly after the death of Peter's Grandfather, John Luke, Sr., his family migrated further westward to Williams County, Ohio where they settled permanently in Florence Township near a road intersection that later became known as Lukes Corners. Peter's father established a store at that intersection and later, on April 29, 1854, he established a post office and became its first postmaster. Lukes Corners was one mile North and one mile East of Edon, Ohio. In the 1850 census, 17-year-old Peter was still living with his parents; John and Wary, in Williams County, OH, his occupation listed as "farmer".

On May 15, 1858, 25 year old Peter married 15 year-old Ann Josephine Fetterhoff. According to the 1860 census, Peter, 27, and Ann, 17, lived in their own home. Their first child, Ethan Allen, was born July 20, 1860, but evidently arrived after the 1860 census had been taken for he was not listed. Since Peter and Ann didn't buy their farm until 1866 it is uncertain just where Ethan was born but probably at Peter's father's house or wherever Peter was farming at the time. At least two more children were born before Peter and Ann actually bought their own farm. There is the possibility that they rented and farmed the property they eventually bought, however, their exact circumstances are unrecorded.

Peter bought 40 acres for \$400.00. from Harry H. Wilcox and Ellen E. Wilcox, husband and wife, and, Elon Laugh and Sarah E. Laugh, husband and wife, according to a deed dated April 6, 1866. The land was described as the "Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 22, Township 7 North, Range 1 East, containing forty acres, more or less." Their ownership is shown on a Florence Township map dated 1874. According to that map, their home was located in the middle of the west edge of their forty on a public road running north and south. To shop in Edon, Ohio, Peter and Ann drove their wagon three-quarters of a mile due north to an intersection, turned west for about a mile, crossing the Wabash Railroad track and a creek before arriving in Edon.

In the 1870 census, Peter is 37 years old. and Ann, 27. Their children are listed as follows: Ethan 10, Burdette 9, Caroline 5, and Lizzie 2, By the 1880 census, Peter 47 and Ann 37, are listed but 20 year-old Ethan is not, indicating he'd left home permanently. The remaining children in their household were Burdette 18, Caroline 15, and Warren 4, Apparently Lizzie had died. What is not shown in the census data, however, is that during that preceding 10 year period, another daughter, Albine, was born April 19, 1874, but evidently she too died before the 1880 census for she was not listed. Her birth is recorded in the Bryan County Court House, however, none of the other children's births are so recorded.

Peter's father, John, Jr., died August 3, 1875 and his mother, Mary, died five years later on June 4, 1880. Just 3 months afterwards, on September 13, 1880, Peter and Ann signed a deed selling their 40. across to Hiram Hoadley, Jr. for \$900.00. After owning and farming the land for 14 years,- there is no indication why they sold the land nor where they lived afterward. . . .

There is also another recorded deed having to do with the sale of land formerly owned by Peter's father, John, Jr. Peter was one of the heirs along with his other brothers and sisters. The land, consisting of 21-3/4 acres, was sold to Peter's brother, Campbell Luke, for \$165.00. The deed was signed by Peter and Ann Luke, Harqaret R. Rummel

(sister) and her husband, Jacob Rummel; Silas Luke (brother) and his wife, Lois Luke; John *Luke, III (brother) and his wife, Rosetta Luke: and Wary Luke (sister).

On March 29, 1882, Clive John Luke (my father) was born to Peter and Ann near Edon. His birth is recorded in the Williams County Court House in, Bryan, Ohio. At that time, Peter was 49 and Ann 39. After this event, knowledge of Peter becomes very obscure. Ann Fetterhoff Luke's path follows a pattern much different from that of Peter and his parents up to their marriage. Her father, Joseph, was born March 25, 1820, the seventh

child of 17 children born to Jacob and Magdalene Fetterhoff, both of German descent. Joseph's father, came to America being one of the Hessian soldiers hired by the British to fight the revolutionists. At the conclusion of the war, most of those German soldiers were given the choice to remain in America, many choosing to live in Pennsylvania. Among them was Ann's Grandfather.

Ann's mother Caroline was the daughter of Horace and Wary Harper Gould. Her grandfather, John W. Gould, was said to be from the same lineage as Jay Gould, the much despised but very wealthy railroad baron. Ann's Great Grandmother, Wary Harper, and her Great Grandfather, Samuel Harper, sailed with family from England, arriving at Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, in 1805. At that time, both Virginia and West Virginia were all one

colony named Virginia. The part that later became known as West Virginia split away early in the Civil War. Samuel Harper bought the ferry and operated it until his death at age 90. He had also been a soldier in the War of 1812 and was wounded in that conflict.

It is unknown exactly when Joseph Fetterhoff migrated to Columbiana County, Ohio, but Ann's mother, Caroline, was born there. She was baptized by Barton A. Stone when she was 14 years old. Joseph, 21, married 19 year-old Caroline on December 30, 1841. About a year after their marriage, Ann Josephine, was born, the first of 14 children born to Joseph and Caroline Fetterhoff. It is also recorded that, Joseph was baptized by John Schaeffer in 1848. . . ?

By 1853, Ann's family was living in Williams County, Ohio and by 1855 they had moved to Steuben County, Indiana. It is believed that they lived near York community in York Township. Several of Ann's brothers and sisters were born at York Center. On the back of two small portrait pictures of Joseph and Caroline is an order to deliver the pictures to, "A.J. Luke, a 16 X 29 of each (just as it is), 2 miles South of York." Presumably 2 miles south of York is where Ann's parents lived. In the photographs, her parents look quite old. Caroline died November 11, 1888 at age 65 and Joseph died March 25, 1893, age 73. Both are buried in York Cemetery in Steuben County, Indiana. At my request in 1979, two cousins visited that cemetery on separate occasions and verified this information from the head stones. One, Kenneth A. Luke, took pictures and described the cemetery as "a very pretty place with a beautiful church close by,"

Peter and Ann's daughter, Caroline, gave birth to her son, Ralph, in 1884 and son, Burdette, married in 1886. It appears that Ann, with her two younger sons, Warren and Clive, lived in Steuben County, IN for a while, perhaps with her parents at York, But probably after her parents died, she moved to Lagrange, Indiana, just a few miles further

west of Steuben County, this based on the fact that Lagrange is where Warren and Clive grew up, considering that location home, certainly not Edon, Ohio where they were born. According to the 1910 census, Ann, a widow, lived in a mortgaged home in Bloomfield Township, Lagrange County, IN. Also listed as living in the same household were Clive J. Luke (my father), age 28, and Ralph Luke, (Caroline's son), age 26. Both were listed as working as a salesman in a Billiard Hall with no indication as to what they were selling. Warren married his first wife in 1904 at age 26, however, she died just six months later, cause unknown but thought to have been due to one of the numerous sudden illnesses that were not treatable back in those days. He married at least one more time, probably two, both times to widows, however no direct descendants from Warren are known to exist. There is also evidence that Warren and Clive invested in real estate in Lagrange and both maintained ties to Lagrange, It is also known that Grandmother Ann visited her eldest son, Ethan, and his family in Oklahoma about 1905. There are a number of photographs showing her with Ethan's family. In her later years, it is believed that Ann probably lived with a younger sister or brother in the Ashley, IN area, where, she died on February 28, 1919. She is buried in the same cemetery as her parents, Powers Cemetery, York Township, Steuben County, Indiana. This was also verified by those same cousins who visited that cemetery and saw the headstone on her grave. There are other Fetterhoffs buried in that same cemetery as well, probably some of Ann's brothers and sisters.

But what of Peter Luke?

There are several stories about Peter, all indicating there definitely was a break-up of the marriage between Peter and Ann sometime after the birth of Clive John in 1882. Thereafter, both followed separate paths. It is less than clear precisely what happened. What follows are several stories, more like fragments of information, none of which can be verified.

From Kenneth A. Luke, 1979-81

"I cannot understand the story I heard as a child several times that Peter married an Indian woman and it had to be your ancestor if maybe his wife died (she didn't) he did marry an Indian woman and was also supposed to have had many children by her and moved to Oregon and my sister said she met one of his descendants in Bryan who looked part Indian and had moved back here so he may have moved out there and came back later and died here."

"Gladys Yoders thought Peter Luke died at Silas Luke's house. Although

I have often heard Peter Luke's name mentioned, some of it must have been

mixed up with another Peter Luke. My sister, Ethel Lorene, said she had met a lady in Bryan who was descended from Peter Luke and that there were others around there also." "I gave you some mis-information on Peter Luke.

I had been wanting to talk to the last of the older generation of Lukes, Lizzie Luke Humbarger, but she was in the hospital in serious condition so I did not get to talk to her until last week. But, to my surprise she stated that My Grand-father and Grandmother, Cyrenius and Esther Snyder Luke, had been paid to care for him in his old age in their home on their farm near Lukes Corners until his death."

One of Ann's grandchildren wrote that she'd been told that Peter Luke became an alcoholic and took money (probably the \$900 from the sale of their farm land) and disappeared. Still another wrote that she thought he was an alcoholic or addicted to drugs and was very abusive to his wife, Ann and that following one such conflict, his four sons came together and exiled him from her home and presence forever, telling him emphatically to never return to their mother's home and he was never heard from afterwards. Unfortunately, the possibility of incest looms also. Nowhere is there any explanation of who fathered sister Caroline's son, Ralph Luke, there being no recorded marriage or person named nor different last name associated with her child. This situation would certainly be appropriate to assemble Caroline's brothers together to protect their mother and support their only living sister. There is also a complete absence of information about Caroline. The only recorded reference to her is in the Fetterhoff genealogy papers, stating that she died in South Dakota while visiting her brother, Burdette, who operated a farm near Redfield, SD. It is intimated that she died from one of the numerous non treatable diseases so prevalent back then, like flu or T.B. Yet one of Burdette's descendants was asked about Caroline's visit and she stated she had never heard of Caroline nor did she remember her visiting their home. She even visited some of the local cemeteries around Redfield looking for any evidence of Caroline being buried there and could find nothing. So Caroline's life and ending is still a mystery.

But, continuing with Peter, another cousin from Wisconsin, Karen Anderson, made a trip to Bryan County, Ohio in the late 1980's and visited that same oldest living relative, Lizzie Luke Humbarger, that Kenneth A. Luke had visited. Karen received much the same story told to Kenneth A. Luke previously. But Karen recorded their conversation and sent a copy to me. The following is a quotation from Karen's letter:

"While in Ohio, I visited Lizzie Luke Humbarger, a delightful 93-year old lady, and she mentioned Peter Luke. She is the daughter of Cyrenius Luke and granddaughter of Silas Luke, one of Peter's brothers. She stated

unequivocally that Peter died at her parent's home when she was a very young girl. She said that her Aunt (Great Aunt), Wary Dietrich, had been taking care of him and paid her father to look after him. She remembered the night he died that Peter saw visions of his daughter, Lizzie, (who had died in childhood) on the floor in front of him and that he said, 'Can't you see her? She's right there.' She also said that he wanted to walk and the night he died they walked him outside around the house. She thought he died of T.B."

Karen Anderson, 1987

Lizzie Luke Humbarger was born August 31, 1887 and was said to have an excellent memory for her age, especially of her younger years. She has previously stated many other facts known to have been correct beyond any doubt. Assuming what Lizzie said was true, Peter was still living at least until 1887 when Lizzie Humbarger was born. Being old enough to remember, she described herself as a "very young girl" when she recalled that Peter was kept in her parent's home. From that description, if she was between 5 and 10 years old, that would put Peter's death between 1892 and 1897, or around 1895 when he died at about age 62. So Peter Luke most probably died in or around Edon, Ohio and is probably buried in Liggett Cemetery where his parents are buried. Obviously he died penniless, dependent on other relatives so because of that, his grave is no doubt unmarked. One cousin has made listings of just about every cemetery in Williams County but among those listings, there is no Peter Luke. This is a composite of the information about Peter and Ann Luke as presently known. It is subject to correction and additions from any source, including those who can contribute, whether fact, hear-say, or conjecture.

In addition to the information about the family of Peter and Ann Luke, there is additional data about the ancestry of Ann Josephine Fetterhoff Luke that those of us descended from her as well as Peter can become familiar with. It is most interesting and is included at the end of the John Luke, Jr. genealogy so that it will not be lost.

The Petterhoff genealogy essentially comes from a work compiled in 1941 by P.D. Gray concerning the Joseph Fetterhoff ancestry and descendants to that date. It is believed that most of Gray's data came to him by word-of-mouth and by letter from Petterhoff people and that very little came via public record. If you should have one of the original typed copies of the Fetterhoff genealogy, it is one that my mother typed for P.D. Gray in 1940, just before WW II began. I have the original hand-written notes my mother used to type those copies. There was an interesting purpose in putting together a Fetterhoff genealogy back in 1941 and the story is told along with the family as was then known genealogy back.