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Our Yesterdays

KENAN—TORRANS—STANFORD, etc.

THOMAS KENAN, of County Antrim, Ireland, was among the earliest settlers in Duplin County. ... bers ... located ... a short time they moved to large tracts of land ... branch near the present Duplin-Sampson County line. ... family has been described as ... teemed, and ... concerning the public welfare. Thomas Kenan was a man of considerable means and prominence and took an active part in public affairs. He was a member of Colonel John Sampson's company of militia during the Spanish Alarm at Wilmington in September 1748, and served as ... in Captain Frederick Gregg's company of Duplin militia during the years 1745-1755. He was also a member of the Colonial court in company with Doctor William Houston, Colonel John Sampson, David Thomson, Andrew Thomson, ... Hicks, and other leading citizens of that time.

Thomas Kenan died at his home on Turkey about the year 1766. His wife was Elizabeth Johnston, an English ... ter the marriage. She died about the year 1780. Their children were as follows: (1) General JAMES KENAN an outstanding American patriot during the Revolutionary war and generally regarded as the County's most conspicuous and most ...

... (b) Colonel Thomas Kenan ... member of the U. S. Congress ... He married ... family and most of ... Dallas County, Alabama. Major Owen Rand Kenan ... died at Kenansville was one of the children of ... Colonel Thomas Kenan. (c) Owen Kenan, died young. (d) Catherine Kenan, married Thomas Routledge. They had a daughter named Sarah and ... (e) Susannah Kenan, married Colonel ... they had several children. (f) Elizabeth Kenan, married James Price and had a daughter named Catherine and probably others. (g) Sarah Kenan, married ... They had a son named George and probably others. (h) Jane Kenan, married Hall. They moved to Florida. (i) A daughter married Holmes and had a daughter named Sarah. Possibly one of the daughters of General Kenan, married ... and Sarah Holmes was her daughter. (2) Colonel OWEN KENAN, an outstanding leader for American Independence during the Revolution. He was killed in a skirmish with the Tories in Coharie swamp during the war. His wife was Nelle (Ellender) Routledge, and their children were: (a) Owen Kenan. (b) Catherine Kenan, married James Hall. (c) Susannah Kenan, married Kinnear. Possibly others. (3) Captain MICHAEL JOHNSTON KENAN, a staunch supporter of the American cause during the Revolution. He was a captain in the Duplin militia during the war and in the State militia, Wilmington district, after the war. His wife was Anne Holmes, a sister of Governor Gabriel Holmes and a daughter of Mary (Caison) and Gabriel Holmes, Sr. Captain Kenan moved to Jasper County, Georgia, and later to Hancock County, in that State, where he died in the year 1789. His widow died in the year 1816. Their children were: (a) Thomas Holmes Kenan, married Mrs. Amelia (Gray) Powell. (b) Mary Kenan, married Richard Carew and Mr. Curtis, no issue. (c) Gabriel Holmes Kenan. (d) Michael Johnston Kenan, Jr., married Mrs. Devereaux (nee Threatt). (e) Elizabeth Kenan, married Abram Boreland. (f) Owen Holmes Kenan, married Martha Marks, no issue. (g) James Kenan. (h) Hardy Holmes Kenan. (i) Ann Holmes Kenan. (j) Lewis Holmes Kenan. (k) Arabella Kenan, married Dr. William McClure and moved to ... (4) ARABELLA KENAN, married Andrew McIntire ... in Ireland and came to ... about 17... the term "Gentleman" usually appears after his name which is an indication that his family ranked next to the nobility. They had a son, James McIntire, and possibly others. Andrew McIntire ... near Kenansville and who represented Duplin County in the State House of Commons ... years ... (5) ... KENAN, married Colonel Thomas Torrans of Dobbs (now Lenoir) County. He was the Coroner in Dobbs County about the year 1773 and ... the Revolutionary war he was appointed ... in the American cause. In that service he remained for only a short time, changed his views, and became a leader among the Tories. At the close of the war his property was confiscated by an Act of the Assembly, with one tract reserved for the use and benefit of his family, and his wife's petition for his release was denied. Evidently he had strongly opposed the forces of American liberty. The time and place of the deaths of Colonel Torrans and his wife cannot now be given. Their children were (a) Nancy Torrans, mentioned in her grandmother Kenan's Will, 1790. No further record. (b) John Torrans, died prior to 1805 without issue. (c) James Torrans, died prior to 1816 without issue. (d) Samuel Torrans ... and left issue. (e) Alexander Torrans, married ... (f) Elizabeth Torrans, married Mr. ... daughter apparently married Mr. Shine. (h) Eliza... rans, married John Ryan. (i) Martha Torrans. (j) ... Kenan Torrans. (k) Margaret Torrans, married Reverend Samuel Stanford who was a leading Presbyterian minister and educator in Duplin County for more than thirty years. ... children were: Nancy, married Stephens; Elphenia, ... Moore; Samuel ... married Sarah Maxwell, and moved to Carroll County, Mississippi; Alexander Torrans, married Martha W. Dickson and Miss Sullivan; Thomas, Bishop; ... Margaret and Celista. (6) THOMAS KENAN, Jr., died young without issue. (7) ... KENAN, married General Richard Clinton. He was Register of Deeds ... an outstanding ... Revolution. He commanded a company of Duplin ... in the Battle of Moore's Creek in February, 1776 and was in active service throughout the war. After the war he was an officer in the State militia. The children ... Richard Clinton ... (b) Owen Clinton. ... Mary Eliza Clinton, married Alfred ...