

CAN ONE TELL WHERE HE'S GOING
UNTIL HE KNOWS WHERE HE'S BEEN ?

THE
WILDERMUTH/FLEMING HERITAGE

BY
ROBERT EARL WILDERMUTH

1 January 1990

DEDICATION

To my dear, departed parents, Sadye Irene Fleming and Earl Adam Wildermuth, for my very being; my name; my care and nurture and my long line of German, Scotch and Irish ancestors who did so much to settle and build this great Land of ours.

To my dear wife, Dorothy Marie Davis, who spent many long hours waiting for me to finish my poring over old court records and documents in my quest for my "roots".

MEANINGS OF FAMILY NAMES **

Usually family names are based on one's place of residence or occupation. Practically all of the European family names were derived in one or other of the following ways:

- (1) From the head of the household's place of residence;
- (2) From the head of household's occupation;
- (3) From the father's name; i.e. Johnson - son of John;
- (4) From a descriptive nickname.

BOESHAR --

BOURTINE --

HOFMAN -- (German) One who worked a large farm either as owner or manager; the farm or manor servant.

JUNG -- (German) One who is younger than another with whom he is associated, such as a son; (younger than his father) also glory.

SCHLICHER --

SCHMIDT -- (German) A worker in metals; a smith or blacksmith.

WEYRICH --

WILDERMUTH -- (German) Derived from Wildermut (unrestrained spirit); the joyous gay spirited man; one who exhibits unpredictable behaviour.

YOUR NAME

You got it from your father,
 'twas the best he had to give.
And most gladly he bestowed it,
 It's yours the time you live.
You may lose the watch he gave you
 And another you may claim
But remember when you're tempted,
 To be careful of this name.
It was fair the day you got it,
 And a worthy name to bear,
When he took it from his father,
 There was no tarnish there.
Through the years he proudly wore it,
 To his father he was true,
And that name had no dishonor,
 When he passed it on to you.
Oh, there's much that he has given
 That he values not at all.
He watched you break your toys
 In the days when you were small.
You may have lost the knife he gave you
 And you scattered many a game
But you'll never hurt your father
 If you're careful with his name.
It is yours to wear forever,
 All the many years you live
And it's yours perhaps some morning,
 A baby boy to give.
And you'll smile as did your father
 With a smile that all can share,
If a good name and a clean name,
 You are giving him to wear !

PRELUDE

Early in my adulthood, I was fascinated with my family heritage and often wondered where my old German ancestors had come from and why they came to America and particularly why they had chosen Marietta in Washington County, Ohio which seemed to me to be an out of the way sort of place far removed from the Atlantic seaboard where immigrants first set foot on the shores of America.

What motivated them to leave their homes in Europe and how and when did they journey across the vast ocean and then almost four hundred miles inland? Most of all, I wanted to know the names of my aunts; my uncles; my cousins; my grand-parents and the particular towns in Europe where the Wildermuth and Flemings originated. My father always said he was from the "hard-headed Dutch" and that they had come from the Rhine River area of Germany. My mother claimed to be of Welsh-Irish extraction but she never seemed quite sure.

Finally late in the year of 1971 I decided the time had come for me to undertake this formidable task of sorting out the Aunt Emmas; the cousin Marys the grandpa Johns and the Germans from the Irish and to see just how far back I could carry our family lines. At the outset, I didn't have the slightest idea of what a fascinating journey through history I was going to have and just how totally the interest in my pursuit would become. There were so many avenues to explore and each little piece of information uncovered only whetted the appetite to search further and further with utmost haste and anxiety. I soon found myself anxiously awaiting the coming of the postman to see what new discovery I had unearthed in my queries to distant court houses and keepers of records.

One of my early pursuits was to write to my parents and get them to tell me all they could about their ancestors and relatives so late in December of 1971, I wrote a letter to my mom and dad who were still living in the old home town of Marietta and told them of my project and asked for all of the family information they could give me.

On 17 January 1972, my father wrote back (a copy of his letter is included in this family history). He gave me an excellent rundown on his side of the family and an excellent starting point. Unfortunately, my mother could offer nothing saying that she just didn't know anything of her family since there was seldom ever any discussion of her relatives by her family.

A little background here might help explain my father's response and my mother's lack thereof. Throughout his life, my father was an extremely family oriented man. Not only with his own immediate

family but with his brothers and sisters and his father. Throughout my early childhood, I have fond memories of my mother and dad packing big basket dinners and going off on the week-end to visit one of his sister's happy and large families. My cousins and I had many happy visits. The same was true with my mother's only sister who chose to remain in Marietta and raise her family but most of the Flemings had settled in or around Columbus and Newark, Ohio and in the late 1920's and 30's those towns were a long journey from Marietta so I never had much contact with those aunts, uncles or cousins. My father's family on the other hand stayed in or near Marietta for many years and thus were readily accessible for visits. I got to know them all very well and the Wildermuth family seemed like one big, close-knit happy clan.

With my dad's starting place and with his giving me his grandfather's name, John, I was ready to start my search for Wildermuths. My first starting place was the local library in Orlando, Florida. This library had the reputation of having one of the finest genealogy departments in the south-east and after having used it for many years and having visited many, many others throughout the eastern United States, I must agree that it is the best. Very early in my search in the local library, I found that there was a family genealogy on file in the Ohio State Library of Congress in Columbus, Ohio for a Johann David Wildermuth. At first, I thought I had found a bonanza !! Someone had already traced the John Wildermuth family and their work was on file. Immediately, I wrote to the Library of Congress and asked for extracts of the genealogy on file. In reading through it, I found many of the same given names for Wildermuths that I would be interested in but after several weeks of study and cross checking, I sadly admitted to myself that this Johann David Wildermuth was not my great grandfather Wildermuth. I couldn't be so lucky. However in Appendix A of this genealogy was a statement by an old German, Dr. Hans Wildermuth, that " the Wuerttemberg Wildermuths have their origin in the village of Fleidelsheim and Rielingshausenshausen near the small town of Marbach in the northeast of Stuttgart." I filed this bit of information away in the back of my mind for future use when I should know more about my great grandfather Johann (John).

In the local library, I also found in the Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, First Edition Volume 3 by P. William Philby and Mary K. Meyer, a listing for a John M. Wildermuth who had arrived in Philadelphia in 1852. My dad had said that his grandfather had come from Germany to Philadelphia. Maybe this was the one I wanted. I also found in the Philadelphia Naturalization Records, Book II, a listing for John M. Wildermuth from Germany in which he had made a declaration of intention and/or oath of allegiance on the first day of November 1852. If this was the man that I was looking for there must be immigration papers on file in Philadelphia that would give me his place of origin. Maybe I was making progress.

I next turned to the copies of the various censuses on file in

the Orlando library and looked through the one for Washington County, Ohio for the census year 1860. Sure enough among the Free Inhabitants, 3rd Ward, Marietta City in the County of Washington, State of Ohio, there was a John M. Wildermuth, age 29, a shoemaker from Wuerrttemberg, Germany and he was living in the household of one William Rossar who was a shoemaker also. Mr. Rossar, age 38, was from the Duchy of Baden, Germany but his wife Frederika was from Wuerrttemberg. Perhaps she was John M.'s sister.

I checked again in Philby's books and found an entry for Mr. Roeser and it appeared that the Roesers and John M. Wildermuth were traveling together and had arrived in Philadelphia at the same time. Now I had my great grandfather traced from Marietta back to Philadelphia and I knew his middle name (Germans were among the first to use middle names and they placed a lot of significance to the middle name) started with M. Now if there were other Johann Wildermuths, I could discard all of those whose middle name started with something other than M. Marriage, children's births and finally the death records for Johann M. Wildermuth were easily found in the Probate Court records on file in the Washington County Court House and I began to gather together a more complete background on my great grandfather. I still needed, however, the immigration records and especially the citizenship records in order to find Herr Wildermuth's place of origin in Germany.

I wrote to Philadelphia for the court records listed in Mr. Philby's Immigration Index and the only record on file was the intent to become an American citizen and according to the record keeper in Philadelphia County Herr Johann M. Wildermuth either didn't take out citizenship in Philadelphia or as many immigrants he simply did not complete all of the steps necessary. A check in several other Federal Court houses (Chicago, Pittsburgh etc.) provided no records. For several months, I checked all of the ship's passenger lists for ships arriving in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1847 that I could find but found no listing. At this point, I was stymied and could think of no other place to look for records. At least, I had traced the patriarch of my Wildermuth clan back to his port of entry into the United States. Until I could think of someother place to search, I now turned my attention to the elusive and shadowy Flemings.

My mother had always said that she was born in Waverly, Pleasant County, West Virginia and many times as we were going east on old Route 7 along the Ohio River to visit my Aunt Margaret Wildermuth Clark who lived in Newport, Ohio, my mother would always point across the Ohio River just below St. Marys, West Virginia and say that that was where she was born and raised. A check with the Pleasant County Court House showed no birth certificate for Sadye Irene Fleming and the same was true in Wood County, the adjacent county to Pleasant County. In fact my mother could never find a birth record on file in any of the nearby West Virginia Counties and at the time of her becoming eligible for Social Security

proof of date of birth was most difficult and had to be done through friends of the family attesting to her birth. One must remember that travel throughout rural West Virginia in 1900 was extremely difficult. The hilly terrain, the lack of adequate roads, the fording of countless streams made rural travel most difficult. I remember going with my family in the 1930's back in the hills of West Virginia to attend a burial in the Fleming family cemetery, only a few miles from our home in Marietta and the trip was most arduous taking all day and we had to ford good sized streams, climb steep slippery red clay hills and it was like being in the forests of pioneer days. It is easy to understand why births in rural West Virginia never got recorded. There were no doctors in attendance at the birth (mostly mid-wives) and word of a birth was primarily spread by word of mouth with no one taking official notice. In later years, I did find most of my mother's younger brother and sister's births recorded in the Wood County Court House in Parkersburg, West Virginia but I never found my mother's.

I must say that the census takers in West Virginia did an outstanding job because it was through the old censuses that I was able to trace my Fleming ancestors from the time they entered Virginia (now West Virginia) from Maryland and traveled west along old U.S. Route 50. Having established their presence at a given census year, I was then able to visit the many county court houses and obtain copies of birth, marriage, death, wills and land records to make my family genealogy as complete as it is. Every date and/or location from John Fleming of Montgomery County, Maryland in the 1750's to my mother's time has been documented by records. Information prior to John Fleming of Montgomery County has been gained primarily from my good pen-pal and fellow Fleming genealogist, Mr. Michael G. Roberts, 682 Springwater Drive, Akron, Ohio 44313 whom I have never personally met. I have closely checked all of his information and except for the John Fleming who came from Ireland (he was Scotch however -- Scotch Irish or a Scot living in Northern Ireland) I have verified all of the information.

In August 1986, almost three years after my last correspondence with the archivist for the city of Philadelphia and with no intervening word, I received a letter explaining that after telling me there was no Record of Naturalization for Johann Michael Widermuth that one had been found and it was subsequently sent to me. How the archivist remembered the name after three years is a mystery to me but I was most grateful to receive it for it showed me that Johann had not come into the Port of Philadelphia but had actually landed in New York. Now someday, time permitting, perhaps I can check through the ship arrivals in New York City to find the ship and its port of debarkation in Germany. Sometimes ship's passenger lists give a physical description of the passenger. That would be interesting for I have no picture of Johann. In the meantime, I wrote a letter to the burgermeisters (mayors) of Marbach, Pleidelsheim and Rielingshausen, Germany seeking any records of a 17 year old Johann Michael who may have

left their city for the United States in 1847. All responses came back negative. I had also used the records of the Latter Day Saints in Salt Lake City and from a computer print-out I found there were also some Wildermuths who lived in a village called Grossaspach so out of desperation I wrote to that city's mayor. He passed the letter along to a genealogist in that city and by checking old church records they found that Johann was in fact born in Grossaspach. Going back three more generations the grand patriarch of my line of Wildermuths, Herr Andreus Wildermuth, did originate in Rielingshausen where Dr. Hans Wildermuth had said the Wuerrttemberg Wildermuths had their origin.

This has been a fascinating journey for me back through some two and a half centuries and genealogy has been a most rewarding hobby for me. After some eighteen years of pleasurable but at times frustrating and almost maddening work, I have only one regret. That regret is that I did not start early enough to be able to share my findings with my dear parents whom I am positive would have been as interested and fascinated as I.

I am now leaving copies of this my great hobby to my sisters; my children; a copy to the Latter Day Saints' Library in Salt Lake City, Utah and a copy to the local library here in the city of Orlando, Florida. To any future family genealogists I say there is still a lot of work to be done; a lot of questions to be answered and a lot of rewarding records to be found by someone who is inquisitive enough and interested enough to dig, dig, dig. HAPPY HUNTING !!!!!

DIE FAMILIEN WILDERMUTH

As Dr. Hans Wildermuth, son of Johann David Wildermuth stated "The Wuerttemberg Wildermuths have their origin in the villages of Pleidelsheim and Riedenshausen (Rielingshausen) near the small town of Marbach in the North East of Stuttgart." The International Genealogical Index on file in the Church of the Latter Day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah lists countless Wildermuths in the towns of Pleidelsheim, Rielingshausen, Grossaspach and Neckarskreis. These small towns about 20 kilometers northeast of Stuttgart and lying midway between National Road 14 and the Fast Traffic Route 81 just west of the fairly large city of Backnang were the centers of my queries to the burgermeisters (mayors) of each city. Only from Grossaspach did I get a positive answer concerning great-grandfather Johann Michael.

Along the way, I learned that there is a Wildermuth Strasse (street) in Tublingen, Germany also in this general area. This street is named after Ottilie Wildermuth, wife of Dr. Johann David Wildermuth a German high school professor. Ottilie was quite a famous poetess.

The earliest Wildermuth that I have found to date and one who had his origin in Rielingshausen is Andreus Wildermuth. Andreus was born in Rielingshausen in about 1745. I have not attempted to find anything out about Andreus simply because my goal at the outset was to trace grand-father Johann Michael back to his origin. I am sure that Andreus' records are in the Protestant Church Books in the town of Rielingshausen and time permitting, I will probably try to get all the information about him that I can at a later date. One must keep in mind that doing research in Germany when one doesn't read or write the language is a slow and difficult task. Of Andreus, our fourth great-grandfather I do know that he was the father of Adam Wildermuth and that he was a Weingartner (vineyard gardener) in Rielingshausen where his son Adam was born in 1768.

DOROTHY MARIE DAVIS

It was a typically cold February day in Southeastern Ohio, when baby Dorothy Marie was born. She made her appearance at 11:15 A.M. on 24 February 1925 as the second daughter born to Homer Edward and Bessie Marie (Hill) Davis. This young family shared a large duplex type farm home in Waterford, Washington County, Ohio with Dorothy's grandfather William Armstrong Davis and his second wife Elizabeth (Hagerman) Davis. To this day, this old farm home is still standing and it is occupied.

At the age of five, Dorothy and her family moved to the Devol's Dam area just north of Marietta, Ohio. A year later, the family moved to Unionville on U.S. Route 21 just outside the city limits of Marietta. The following year, Dorothy started her formal education at the Unionville School.

Unionville is a unique community consisting of about five or six houses; a service station and a small country store. It is little more than a wide place in the once busy highway that was the main route from Cleveland, Ohio to Miami, Florida. Another item that adds to Unionville's uniqueness is the Unionville School. It is a one room school, approximately twenty feet by thirty, in which grades one through eight were taught simultaneously and by one teacher. It was heated by a big pot-bellied stove and it had no indoor plumbing. The students there however, received excellent instruction and suffered no handicap in their education. They had no problems in their later schooling.

In 1938, while the Davis family was away from home, they suffered a tremendous calamity. Their home caught fire and burned to the ground with all of their possessions. This was a real tragedy but with the help of relatives and their good neighbors in Unionville, the family perservered. They all moved into a detached garage that was not damaged in the fire while their father set about building a new house. Living in a poorly insulated, poorly heated, one room garage throughout the cold winter presented many hardships for this struggling family of five.

With the new home completed, a house that is still standing and occupied, Dorothy and her two sisters, Mary one year older and Betty one year younger, continued their education at Unionville until they completed the eighth grade. At that time they were then bused into marietta to attend the much bigger High School. Here Dorothy graduated in June, 1943.

Upon graduation, Dorothy took a position as a bookkeeper with the Citizen's Bank where she remained until after her marriage. On the day before Easter, 20 April 1946, Dorothy married Robert Earl

Wilderdmuth a local young man who had just returned to civilian life at the close of World War II. Robert was enrolled at Marietta College and Dorothy continued to work at the bank until June 1947. At that time, Robert transferred to Stanford University in Palo Alto, California and these two newly weds started their long adventuresome and sometimes Nomadic life of a young college couple and later as members of the military service in the United States Air Force.

Upon graduation from college, Robert took a job with the Container Corporation of America in Oakland, California. It was here that Dorothy presented him with their first born, a daughter Terrie Lee. Nineteen months later and clear across the country in Marietta, Ohio, daughter number two -- Sandra Sue came along. By this time, Robert was in the Air Force preparing to go overseas to Korea for the Korean War was in full force. After a transfer back to California for some flying training and then a transfer back to Langley Field, Virginia, Robert received his orders for overseas shipment. Dorothy and their two daughters rented an apartment in Marietta, Ohio and settled down for their husband and father to complete his one year tour of duty in Korea.

In June 1953, while stationed at Camp Stoneman in California, Robert was involved in a near fatal accident just outside Martinez, California. Like a true military wife and with the perseverance of the old pioneer wives, Dorothy gathered up the two small children and what household necessities she could handle and flew to her husband's bedside. After a long, ten month convalescence, it was back to active duty for Robert with an assignment to Scott Air Force Base, Illinois where he attended a Staff Communications Officer Course. Upon completion of that one year course, orders were once again received for an unaccompanied tour of duty to Korea. A short vacation in Florida prior to departing convinced Dorothy that she would like to stay there to await Robert's return so they bought a small house in Holly Hill, Florida in which she and the two girls could live.

Upon Robert's return from Korea, orders were received to transfer to Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. After about a year at Tinker, Robert returned to aircrew duty and as you might guess this meant a new assignment. This time it was to Mather Air Force Base, Sacramento, California. The year was 1958 and on 1 January of that year, Dorothy presented Robert with daughter number three, Debra Jean. Debra instantly became Miss Folsom County of 1958 for she was the first baby born on New Year's Day. A celebrity in the family at last !!!!

After several more assignments over the length and breadth of the land, the year 1965 (President Kennedy's assassination year) found Dorothy and her family in Dallas, Texas. Robert was assigned to the Air Force Institute of Technology and was in school at Southern Methodist University. While stationed there, baby number four (a son this time) came along, Robert Earl Jr. Shortly thereafter, Robert Sr. had finished his studies and a new assign-

ment was in order. This time the longest travel of all and with a new babe in arms. Really a difficult condition for a new mother but it was off to Itazuke Air Base, Fukuoka, Japan some 7500 air miles away. Dot and her brood cleared Japanese customs on a hot afternoon after this long flight.

While in Japan, Dorothy hired a Japanese housekeeper and seamstress and her lifelong hobby of sewing and making clothes under the tutelage of a Japanese seamstress who spoke little English got its start. In addition, she and her husband traveled throughout Japan and in 1968 while traveling from Tokyo to Osaka, Dorothy got the trainride of her life on the Japanese "Bullet" train at about 300 miles per hour, the fastest train in the world.

From Japan, the next assignment was to the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. While here, Dorothy and her family lived in Beltsville, Maryland. Finally after approximately twenty-eight years of service, Dorothy and Robert decided it was time for him to retire. After a very short retirement ceremony on 31 May 1970, it was back to civilian life in sunny Florida where the family had chosen to live.

In 1979 while residing in Casselberry, Seminole County, Florida (a suburb of Orlando), Dorothy went to work for the Southeast Bank. She was back to her first love of bookkeeping. After eleven years with that firm, on 1 May 1970, Dorothy retired to do as she pleased for the rest of her life. To keep somewhat busy, she still helped out at the bank one day a week and in addition enrolled in a quilt making course. She is currently engaged in making a large queen sized quilt that will ultimately become a family heirloom. A lot of travel and sight seeing is planned with time spent in Atlanta, Georgia (Sandra's home) and in Marietta, Ohio (Terrie and the only grandchild's home) Perhaps on the horizon is a trip to Hawaii and maybe to Europe.

MARGIN RESERVE FOR BINDING
THIS CERTIFICATE SHALL BE PRINTED IF
N. B.—In case of more than one child, a birth, a separate return must be made for each, and the numbers of each child, in order of birth, stated.

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

COLUMBUS

CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH

Department of Commerce — Bureau of the Census

DOCUMENT#1

DAVI-1

Reg. Dist. No. 1344
Primary Reg. Dist. No. 6064

State File No. _____
Registrar's No. _____

1. PLACE OF BIRTH:

(a) County Washington
(b) Waterford Twp., Waterford, Ohio
(City, village, township)
(c) Name of hospital or institution: _____
(If not in hospital or institution, give street or location)
(d) Mother's stay before delivery: _____
In hospital or institution _____ In this community _____
(Specify whether years, months, or days)

2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF MOTHER:

(a) State Ohio
(b) County Washington
(c) City or village Waterford, Ohio
(If outside city or village, write RURAL)
(d) Street No. _____ (If rural, give location)

3. FULL NAME OF CHILD

DOROTHY MARIE DAVIS

4. DATE OF BIRTH Feb. 24, 1925
(Month) (Day) (Year)

5. Sex: <u>Female</u>	6. Twin <u>Triplet</u>	If so—born 1st, 2d, or 3d _____	7. Number months of pregnancy <u>9</u>	7a. Weight at birth _____	7b. Congenital Malformation _____	8. Is mother married? <u>Yes</u>
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FATHER OF CHILD

9. Full name Homer E. Davis
10. Color or race White 11. Age at time of this birth 25 yrs.
12. Birthplace Ohio
(City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)
13. Usual occupation Truck Driver
14. Industry or business _____

MOTHER OF CHILD

15. Full maiden name Bessie M. Hill
16. Color or race White 17. Age at time of this birth 19 yrs.
18. Birthplace Ohio
(City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)
19. Usual occupation Housewife
20. Industry or business _____

21. Children born to this mother not including this child 1
(a) How many other children of this mother are now living? 1
(b) How many other children were born alive but are now dead? 0
(c) How many children were born dead? 0
(The total of a-b-c should equal Item 21)

22. Mother's usual mailing address:

Waterford, Ohio

Do not write in this space

23. I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child who was born alive at the hour of 11:15 AM on the date above stated and that the information given was furnished by _____ related to this child as _____

24. Date received by local registrar 3-10-25

25. Registrar's signature H. B. Yarnall

26. Date on which given name added _____

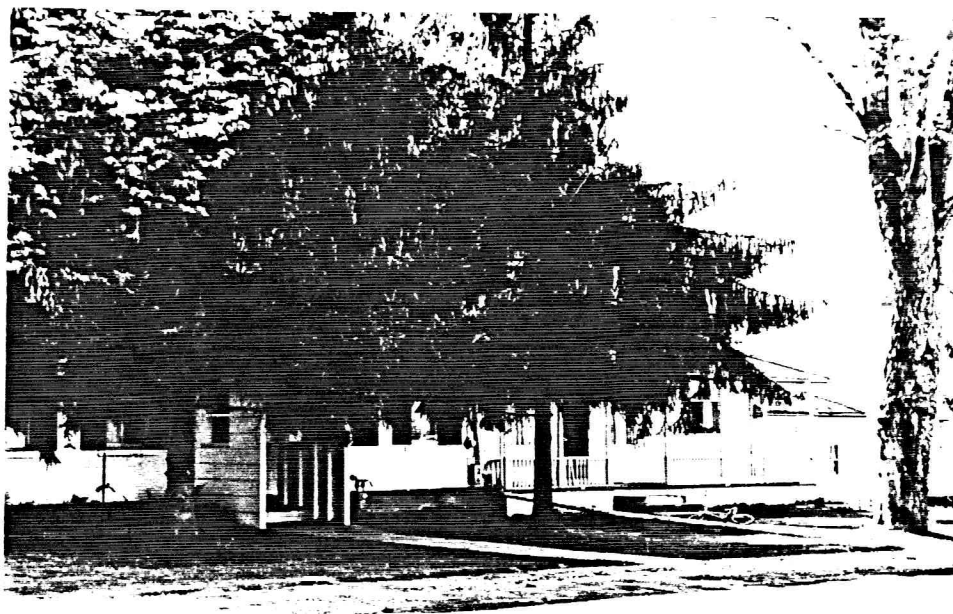
By _____

(Title)

Signature H. E. Dickson, M. D.
(Specify if physician, licensed midwife or other)

Address Waterford, Ohio

Date signed _____



Home in Waterford, Washington County, Ohio where
Dorothy Marie Davis was born.



From the left:
Mary Davis age 5
Dorothy Davis age 4
Petty Davis age 3



From the left: Mary Davis - age 6; Dorothy Davis - age 5 and Petty Davis - age 4

Why so glum ?



From the left: Dorothy Davis - age 6; Petty Davis and Mary Davis.

Cute little puppies and cute little bare feet.



DOROTHY DAVIS IN 1943



DOROTHY DAVIS IN 1944



ROBERT EARL and DOROTHY MARIE (DAVIS) WILDERMUTH - Picture taken at Itazuke Air Base, Fukuoka, Japan in 1968.



Left to right in back:

Sandra Sue and Terrie Lee Wildermuth

In front:

Debra Jean, Robert Earl Sr., Dorothy Marie
(Davis) and Bobby Jr.

circa: 1968



Dorothy Marie busy at her hobby making quilts.

circa: 1988

INTRODUCTION

The name of Fleming is as old as any of the many time honored family names of Scotland and has worthy connection and honorable mention in numerous important events in Scottish history that have passed into song and story. The Fleming name has its origin in that part of Scotland known as Lowland Scotland, a belt approximately thirty miles wide lying across the mid-section of Scotland. Within this narrow strip of land, most of the population of Scotland can be found. Scotland's two biggest cities, Glasgow and Edinburgh, the former on the west coast and the latter on the east coast are located in Lowland Scotland. Outside the cities there are fertile fields for farming and vast stores of iron ore and coal. Scotland is a very rugged country and even the lowlands of Scotland are rugged peaks and valleys. This area however, is more level than the Highlands to the north and the Uplands to the south.

Scotland is on the same island mass as Great Britain, which borders on the south. It is separated from Ireland to the west by the Irish Sea. For centuries Scotland was a separate and independent country from England and the English had very early given up its attempts to conquer the fierce Scottish warriors. At the time of the Roman conquest of England, the Romans figured that trying to conquer the Scots was not worth the effort and they erected a stone wall across the southern border of the country to keep the Scottish tribes out of England.

For many centuries, the Scots had their own king, their own language and most important of all, their own religion. Their religious preference was that of Protestantism with Presbyterianism being the religious sect. England on the other hand wavered for centuries between Catholicism and Protestantism. In the 17th century, the English rulers finally made their break from the Roman Catholic Church dominated by the Pope in Rome. The Episcopal Church of England was established. This was important because England then became strongly dedicated to wiping out the Catholic influence in the British Isles and the long strife with Ireland that goes on to this day got its start. It was during the 17th and 18th centuries that the political and religious strife reached its peak in Scotland. In these two centuries, persecution on account of religion was prevalent and it was in one of these periods when reason and justice were supplanted by prejudice and wrong that four brothers (Flemings) were driven by church tyranny to the North of Ireland.

Ireland lying off the west coast of England was and is an independent republic, however, the English royalty and large corporations in London bought and own the northeast portion of Ireland known as Ulster. The Irish of this region were mostly hunters and fishermen and they detested tilling the soil. To make their investments more lucrative by increasing the crops and agriculture

so additional taxes could be levied while at the same time counteracting the Irish Catholic influence in Ulster, the landowners in London lured, enticed and recruited Scotchmen who were industrious farmers to migrate to Ulster. Here our Fleming lines began.

Author Charles Bolton in his book, "Scotch Irish Pioneers in Ulster and America" followed the migration of the Scotch Irish from Northern Ireland to the three main settlements in America - New England, Maryland and South Carolina. Mr. Bolton was an eminent scholar, thorough researcher and an avid genealogist. He was fascinated by the migrations of the Scotch Irish to America for these emigres became noted clergymen, statesmen, Indian fighters and frontiersmen. Bolton zeroed in on only those Scotchmen from Northern Ireland and in so doing he became an eminent authority on the Ulster Scotchmen. His original book, cited previously was published in 1910 and in my research I have used a recent reprint.

In this book, Bolton lists a John Fleming as an early pioneer to America. This listing shows him to be a ruling elder in his church in the town of Ballyclare, Antrim County in the province of Ulster. Bolton shows the Flemings coming to Maryland's Cecil County in the early 18th century and this corresponds with our Fleming family tradition. The Flemings settled in the northeast corner of Maryland an area whose ownership was being disputed by both Lord Calvert of Maryland and the William Penn enterprises of Pennsylvania. The first John Fleming of our ancestry has been shown as dying in Chester County, Pennsylvania from which one would assume that he had migrated up into Pennsylvania. This may not necessarily be the case for when the boundary disputes between Penn's Colony and that of Lord Calvert's was finally settled by the establishment of the Mason-Dixon line in about 1763 part of old Cecil County, Maryland became Chester County, Pennsylvania. It was here that the Fleming patriarch, John, had died. There was a large Presbyterian Church, the Upper Octarara Church, organized in 1720 in Chester County and Flemings were listed as members before the middle of the 18th century.

For my earliest information on my Fleming line in America, I am deeply indebted to Mr. Michael Roberts of Akron, Ohio (great grandson of Eli B. Fleming); the late Mr. Arch K. Fleming former West Virginia State Representative (grandson of Eli B. Fleming). Arch Fleming did family genealogy from the 1930's to the late 1950's and it his research notes on John Fleming Sr. that indicate sources of information as: family knowledge and old family wills. I have not personally verified Arch's early research with the exception of some family wills dating to 1795 but I have checked his research on subsequent generations and all of this research proves to be valid.

Other family information has been provided by Mrs. Josephine (Fleming) Cox, my mother's cousin; Mrs. Laverna (Fleming) Raison, my mother's only living sister, age 83 and other fellow Fleming

genealogists who are still actively looking for "roots" at this time.

I would like to express my thanks to the dozens of Clerks of County Courts from eastern Maryland to southeastern Ohio who made their records available to me and who took the time to answer my floods of correspondence. Without their help and cooperation, I would have been stymied on many occasions.