

GENEALOGICAL NOTES ON THE FAMILY OF REV. WILLIAM TENNENT.

Compiled by Rev. Frank R. Symmes, Freehold, N. J. 1926.

Some Sources of Information are:

- 1 Log College, by Rev. Dr. Archibald Alexander.
- 2 Records of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.
- 3 Constitutional History of Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., by Dr. Chas. Hodge.
- 4 History of Presbyterian Church in America, by Rev. Richard Webster.
- 5 Annals of the American Pulpit, Vol. III by Dr. Wm. B. Sprague.
- 6 History of Bedford Church (New York) by Dr. Chas. W. Baird.
- 7 History of Neshaminy, Pa. Ch., by Rev. D. K. Turner.
- 8 The General Assembly's Missionary Magazine or Evangelical Intelligencer II.
- 9 Various References that may be noted in the above named publications.
- 10 History Old Tennent Church, by Rev. Frank R. Symmes.
- 11 New Jersey Archives. Address Sec. of State, Trenton, N. J.
- 12 Correspondence with many friends of the Tennent Family.

Abbreviations: b.-born d.-died s.-son dau.-daughter md.-married chldr.-children.

REV. WILLIAM TENNENT (1st) His forebears probably came from Scotland. He was b. in Ireland about 1672, and d. in Neshaminy, Pa. May 6, 1745; his grave was made in the graveyard of the Neshaminy Ch., Pa. Married in the County of Down, Ireland, May 15, 1702 Catharine, dau. of Rev. Gilbert Kennedy, of Ayrshire, Scotland, (said to be Kinsman to a member of the Westminster Assembly): she d. in Philadelphia, Pa., May 7, 1753 aged 70 years. He migrated to America, and, with his family, landed at Philadelphia Pa., Sep. 6, 1716 or 1718, and at first was entertained by James Logan, his cousin on his mother's side. He preached in East Chester, N. Y., 1718, in Bensalem Bucks Co. Pa., (?); in Bedford N. Y. he was pastor 1720-1726-7, and was pastor in the Presn. ch. Neshaminy, Pa. 1727-1742. He established and conducted a Latin School (called "Log College") in Neshaminy Pa., erecting the building on the 50 acres of land which his cousin, James Logan (who was Secretary of the Province of Pennsylvania), had presented to him in 1728. It is said that this Latin School of Wm. Tennent's was the virtual beginning of Princeton University. He had 5 chldr., 4 sons and 1 dau. as follows:—

REV. GILBERT TENNENT (s. of Rev. Wm. 1st.) b. in the County of Armagh, Ireland, April 5, 1703; d. July 23, 1764, and was buried in the churchyard of the Second Church in Philadelphia; and in 1853 his grave was removed to the Abington, Pa. churchyard. In the Secretary of State Office, Trenton, N. J. are the records of the settlement of his estate as follows:—"3731-3736 Monmouth, 4041-4066 Monmouth. Book K, p. 189. Will 1770. Intestate 1770. Inventory (2) 1773. Renunciation 1770. Account 1773." He md. first () ? and she d. a short time before 1740; he md. (second) Cornelia DePeyster (maiden name) widow of Matthew Clarkson of New York, and she died

Mch. 19, 1753 aged 57.—md. (third) Mrs. Sarah Spafford widow of a Mr. Spafford of New Jersey;—he had three chldr. by his third marriage:—

GILBERT TENNENT, who was lost at sea.

ELIZABETH TENNENT, who died early.

CORNELIA TENNENT, who md. Dr. William Smith, a respectable physician of Philadelphia.

REV. WILLIAM TENNENT (2nd) see below.

REV. JOHN TENNENT, s. of Rev. Wm. (1st.) b. in County of Armagh, Ireland, Nov. 12, 1707; d. Apr. 23, 1732 of consumption; and his grave is in Old Scots churchyard (5 miles East of Old Tennent), where he was pastor from 1730 to 1732. Only a youth and yet his session mourned his early death, saying that he was "the most laborious, successful, well qualified and pious pastor this age afforded."

ELEANOR TENNENT, dau. of Rev. Wm. (1st.) b. probably in Ireland, Dec. 27, 1708.

REV. CHARLES TENNENT, s. of Rev. Wm. (1st.) b. at Colerain in the County of Down, Ireland, May 3, 1711; d. Feb. 25, 1771; he is said to have learned the trade of a saddler; he, like his brothers, was educated at Log College. He preached at White Clay Creek, Del. for about 26 years;—was pastor 1763 in Buckingham and Blackwater 4 years;—and then supplied Broad Creek and Little Creek, Del., about 2 yrs. until 1769. He md. (1st) Martha McKay; after whose death he was md. (2nd) to a widow lady in Philadelphia, a member of his brother Gilbert's church. By his first marriage he had 4 son:—

REV. WILLIAM MCKAY TENNENT, b. about 1749; d. about beginning of Dec. 1810; graduated at Princeton College 1763; was pastor of the Congregational Ch. in Greenfield, Conn. 1772-1781;—and pastor of the Presn. ch. in Abington, Pa. (near Philadelphia) 1781 until his death. He was a trustee of Princeton College; received the degree of D. D. from Yale College 1794;—and was Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presn. ch. 1797. He md. a dau. of the Rev. Dr. John Rodgers, of New York, (her brother was Dr. John R. B. Rodgers, an eminent physician of New York.)

Rev. Charles Tennent also had a daughter.

MARTHA TENNENT who md. Dr. David Rogers, and then following a direct line, these had a son, Dr. Charles Rogers, who md. Anna Munro;—and these had a son, David Rogers, who md. Henrietta Gleason;—and these had a dau., Julia Munro Rogers, who md. Robert F. Erwin;—and these had a son, Robert Munro Erwin, b. 1890, whose home is New York City. He is probably a cousin of Miss Florantine T. de Beixedon, Brooklyn, N. Y., who is a descendant of Rev. Charles Tennent. Mr. Erwin has a genealogical tree of the Tennent Family sent to him by a family in North Carolina descended from the Tennents.

Rev. Charles Tennent had a granddaughter, Miss Stewart, who died in advanced life, a few years before 1857.

REV. WILLIAM TENNENT (2nd) s. of Rev. Wm. (1st.) b. in the County of Antrim, Ireland, June 3, 1705; d. at

Freehold, N. J., Mch. 8, 1777; and was buried under the central part of the Old Tennent Church, which was erected about 1751, and still (1926) stands, observed by many visitors. He had a remarkable trance about 1723 at New Brunswick, N. J., when he was about 19 years of age, and after he had been ill with lung fever six weeks. He md. Aug. 23, 1738, Catharine (Van Brugh, maiden name) Noble, widow of John Noble;—she died at Pittsgrove, N. J. in her 82nd year. He had several chldr. that died in infancy, and also 3 sons:—

JOHN TENNENT, who was a physician died in the West Indies when about 33 yrs. of age.

WILLIAM TENNENT, the (3rd.) see below.

GILBERT TENNENT, who was a physician and d. at Freehold, N. J., 28 yrs. of age.

Rev. Wm. Tennent (2nd) was pastor of Old Tennent church 1733-1777, and lived in the old parsonage, on Monmouth battle ground, many years. He was an earnest patriot during the American Revolution. Old Tennent ch. was first called Old Scots,—then Old Freehold for over a hundred years,—and is now called Old Tennent. The church, and the village around it, Tennent, N. J., were named in honor of John Tennent and his brother William. In the Secretary of State Office, Trenton, N. J., are the records of the settlement of the estate of Rev. Wm. Tennent (2nd) as follows:—"4559-4562 Monmouth. Book 18, p. 460. Will 1777."

REV. WILLIAM TENNENT (3rd), s. of Rev. Wm. 2nd., b. at Freehold, N. J. in 1740; d. Aug 11, 1777, in the 37th year of his age. He was graduated at Princeton College 1753, and was ordained to the Ministry by the Presbytery of New Brunswick about 1763. He preached a short time in Virginia, and then 1764 in the Congregational Church in Norwalk, Conn. In 1772 he became pastor of the Independent Church in Charleston, South Carolina, and there he exerted great influence both in his church and in public affairs in the state. He was an ardent patriot, and was elected a member of the Provincial Congress. On his way north to bring his widowed mother from Freehold, N. J. to his Charleston, S. C. home, when he had reached the High Hills of Santee, about 90 miles from Charleston, he met his death suddenly by violent nervous fever.

He md. Susanne Vergereau (granddaughter of Jean Vergereau, "natif de Bender en Annis," who md. Marie Mahault in the French Church of New York City June 16, 1697. Their s. Pierre Vergereau md. Susanne Boudinot, dau. of Eli Boudinot and wife Mary Catherine Berand; so Pierre and Susanne were the parents of Mrs. Tennent, and she was the cousin of Elias Boudinot the Philanthropist and Statesman.) They had 5 chldr.—

1 **SUSANNE CATHARINE TENNENT** b. 1766; d. Sep. 1840; md. Oct. 23, 1783 Charles Brown, of Georgetown, S. C.

2 **CHARLES TENNENT** b. Nov. 20, 1774; d. Nov. 1, 1806; md. Anne Martha Smith, and had 2 sons (so far known)

(1) **WILLIAM TENNENT** b. 1808; d. 1863; md. Eliza Smith Hoppens; and then following a direct line, these had a son, William Tennent who md. and lived in

Charleston, S. C.:—and these had a dau. Elizabeth Tennent md. M. Chappelle Heath, and reside at Heath Wood Hall, Columbia, S. C., and have 2 daus. Elizabeth Tennent Heath, and Katharine Tennent Heath.

(2) **JAMES EDDINGS TENNENT** b. in Charleston, S. C., md. ? and had 4 chldr. John Tennent, Chas. Tennent, Gilbert Tennent and Dorothy Smith Tennent she md. J. M. Janitschek and reside at Tena-fly, N. J. She says their family "use the Smith coat of Arms of Exeter England, recorded in the Herald's College in the Visitation of 1619 for County Devon. This was granted by Edward IV to Robert Smith when Mayor of Exeter in 1459. There is also a Tennent coat of arms."

3 **MARY TENNENT**, md. Sunday Nov. 12, 1786, Dr. Joseph Hall Ramsey.

4 **WILLIAM PETER TENNENT**, see below

5 **CAROLINE CATHERINE TENNENT**, md. Samuel Smith. They left one dau. Elizabeth Smith, who d. unmarried.

WILLIAM PETER TENNENT s. of Rev. Wm. (3rd) and Susanne (Vergereau) Tennent, md. Martha Middleton, of Abbeville District, Edgefield Co., S. C. He and his wife are buried in Long Cane Cemetery, Abbeville, S. C. They had 7 chldr.

1 **DR. WILLIAM TENNENT**, md. Catherine Calhoun.

2 **DR. GILBERT TENNENT**, md. Caroline Graves;—had a dau. Caroline, who was maternal grand-mother to Cecilia T. Chalmers. Abbeville, S. C.; she is a cousin to Miss Cornelia Tennent.

3 **JOHN TENNENT**, md. Charity Clark. These are the grand-parents of Miss Cornelia Tennent, of Tarboro, N. C.

4 **ELIZA TENNENT**, md. William Somax.

5 **SU-ANNE TENNENT**, md. William McCalla.

6 **CAROLINE TENNENT**, md. George Graves.

7 **MARTHA TENNENT**, md. Dr. Yarbrough.

Mrs. S. S. Tennent, Atlanta, Ga., is the widow of Samuel S. Tennent deceased, son of the late Gilbert Bourdenotte Tennent, of Charleston, S. C.;—she has 2 chldr., Gilbert B. and Emma S.. Her husband had many first cousins in Asheville, N. C. and in Spartanburg, S. C.

Mr. E. S. Tennent, Spartanburg, S. C., is a cousin to Mrs. M. C. Heath, Columbia, S. C. His great grand father was Rev. Wm. Tennent (3rd).

Mr. Wm. Tennent Houston, Augusta, Ga., is a connection; his mother's name originally was Elizabeth Smith Tennent, and her great g-and father was Rev. Wm. Tennent, (3rd).

Mrs. Alfred Battey (Therese Dugas Battey), Augusta, Ga., is in the family lineage; her mother was Caroline Tennent of South Carolina.

Mrs. W. W. Battey, Jr. (Virginia Battey), Augusta Ga.—is a great, great, great grand-daughter of Rev. Wm. Tennent.

Miss Mary A. Tennent, North Carolina College for Women, Greensboro, N. C. is the great grand-daughter of Rev. William Tennent (3rd). Her grand-father went to North Carolina immediately after the Civil War: several of his children still live in Asheville. Possibly Dr. Galliard S. Tennent of Asheville is of that line.

Corrections and more complete data is solicited from the family friends by the writer of these notes.