

UPDATED FEBRUARY 5, 2012

THE DANNER FAMILY HISTORY

This is a brief history of the particular branch of the Danner Family in America that descended down to my wife, Suzanne Marguerite Danner.

In this history, I try to trace the early Danners who left the area of the Rhineland in Germany in the early 1700s and came to William Penn's colony in America. The family moved into the Carolinas before the Revolution and then to Kentucky after the Revolutionary War and then into Indiana and the Mid West shortly after 1800.

The family has a rich and interesting history. I am basically covering the direct line descending down to Howard Danner, my wife's father. The addendum contains short histories of families that have married into and become a part of the Danner Family; The Bryants, Vandevveers, Pensingers and Samuels. The addenda also gives some very brief histories of other Danner Families in America.

THE DANNER FAMILY ORIGINS

The Danner Family comes from the Palatinate area of Germany. This section lies on the border with France and runs along both sides of the Rhine River, Hiedelberg is its principal city. Lying on the border of two powerful countries, the Palatinate was the scene of many bloody wars over the centuries. The land, however, was very rich and fertile and the hardy people who farmed it long felt more a part of their Palatinate than they did Germany itself.

There was a fierce war between France and Germany during the period 1663 to 1670 that devastated the area. To make matters worse, Germany was going through a great period of internal strife between Prussia and the Germanic Kings.

Religious persecution finally was the last straw to these independent people of the Palatinates. The people of the Palatinates were given two simple choices: Join the new German Church or die. The Danners and many others took a third choice and left for America.

At the time of all this unrest, another voice was heard. William Penn had established a colony designed to be free of all religious restrictions. Penn beckoned and welcomed all that would come to his colony. Germans came in droves by ships routed out of Rotterdam. Once they landed in Philadelphia, these immigrants headed to the country in the West to obtain their share of the plentiful land and in order to raise their families in the land of new found freedom.

From a Danner history I found a 'family tradition' that was passed down indicating that Jacob Danner and the other early Danners hated their mother country of Germany so much for its religious intolerance that it was forbidden to teach the German tongue to any of the children or grandchildren.

From the various ship lists, I have found some twenty-six separate Danner Families that arrived in the Port of Philadelphia by ship between 1727 and 1865.

THE FIRST DANNERS IN AMERICA

As best as I can determine, the first of our Danner Line, Jacob Danner, arrived in Philadelphia on the sailing ship *PATIENCE & MARGARET* on September 25, 1748.

I have searched and searched to determine the parentage of Joseph Danner who was born in Kentucky County, Virginia (what is now Lincoln County, Kentucky) in 1778. The best and earliest records I could find in Kentucky were the marriage records of not only Joseph, but of his older brother Jacob Danner.

I have found records and many descendants of other Danner Lines, but only a few on Joseph's line and they knew no more than I of his origins.

Working backwards was about the only way to attack the problem. Virtually everyone who was to be found in Kentucky in the 1780s came from the old Rowan County, North Carolina. At that time Rowan was a huge county covering what was referred to as the Banks of the Yadkin. The families that married into the Danner family, the Bryants and the Vandevveers, came from this area to Kentucky. It would seem that the Danners came from here as well.

In searching the records of Rowan, Davie and Surry counties, I did indeed, come up with several Danner Families. In the early records, many of the families had been recorded as Tanner. In the early colonial handwriting a capital 'T' was written like a capital 'D' with part of the vertical line missing. Also in German, the 'D' and 'T' are pronounced the same. Most early records were written out by court clerks and even their handwriting was generally marginal at best. It would be very easy to read Danner as Tanner. In fact, in the Pennsylvania records of newly arrived immigrants, most of this family were listed as Tanners rather than Danners. Jacob Danner was listed on those records as Jacob Tanner.

These early Danners and Tanners were the families of three sons of Jacob Danner the immigrant: Jacob junior, Frederick and George. All three served in the North Carolina Militia during the Revolution. I found histories of these families and, regretfully, there was no way our Joseph could have been a part of this family.

Then I hit paydirt. There actually were four sons of Jacob Danner who went to Surry County, North Carolina in the mid 1700s. One son, Samuel received a land grant on September 16, 1788 and then disappeared from North Carolina while the other brothers all remained there. It was at exactly this time that our Danners popped up in Kentucky. It is my feeling that Samuel Danner was the patriarch of the Kentucky branch of the family.

You will note from the Vandevveer History that many of the members of that family alternately listed North Carolina and Kentucky as their place of birth. Possibly the family returned several times to Kentucky, or more reasonably they simply were not very clear on record keeping at the time.

Joseph Danner probably felt he was born in Kentucky as that place would be the first that he would have remembered. He may have been born in North Carolina and then went to Kentucky long before he was able to remember such things. His father had died long before he reached manhood. In fact he may have been raised by another family who simply did not know where young Joseph and his brother Jacob had been born. The first tax records in Kentucky only list Joseph and then only from 1803 on after he was married.

The following is who I think the families were up to the birth of Joseph Danner Senior. I must stress that this is a belief only. Absolutely no proof exists, and it is doubtful that it ever will. From Joseph Danner on, we can 'officially' begin our Family History.

The following is what I consider to be only the early and *unofficial* portion.

JACOB DANNER

Jacob Danner was born in Germany sometime around the early 1700s. In a Genealogy I found reference to the fact he arrived in Philadelphia aboard the ship *PATIENCE and MARGARET* in 1748. On the other hand there are records of a Jacob Danner arriving in Philadelphia in 1752 and another Jacob Danner arriving in Maryland in 1768. If Jacob had actually come with his parents, he may have arrived much earlier.

From another genealogy, I get his wife as Catherine Shermer born February 6, 1755 and died in Yadkin County North Carolina on July 17, 1844.

The genealogy states one son, Frederick, was born in 1759 and possibly in Virginia. There were four male children all together. Records on females at the time were spotty at best. The boys were Frederick, George, Jacob and Samuel. If all were old enough to fight in the Revolution, then all would have to have been born by, say 1760 or so. This would probably make Frederick one of the youngest. Samuel was the only one not involved in fighting, or at least no record remains of this. He very possibly could have been too young to fight, putting his birth up into the mid 1760s or so. He was old enough to own land in September of 1778 so he was sixteen by that time. By then there was little fighting in that area.

We know nothing more about the father, Jacob Danner. Not when he married and not when he died. George Danner sold some lands in what is now Stokes County. The property was located on the South Fork of Muddy Creek. George reserved a half acre of this land to be a cemetery for himself and his spouse and his father and his father's spouse and other family.

We can only assume Jacob and his spouses lie in this tract in North Carolina. It is through his fourth son Samuel that I think our line descends.

SAMUEL DANNER

As shown above, Samuel would have been born sometime between 1755 and 1760. My guess would again be to place his birth somewhere in the Shenandoah Valley of southern Virginia. I have found records of another Danner family in Augusta County, Virginia, but again I cannot tie them together with ours. This was the general pattern the settlers took from Philadelphia down what was called The Great Wagon Road. This dirt path led from Chester County in Pennsylvania southwestward across central Virginia in the lee of the Shenandoah mountains to the north western frontier of North Carolina and eventually to the general area of Greenville, South Carolina where another road led on to the old Pendleton District of South Carolina.

The other Danner brothers fought in the Virginia Militia. I would assume therefore they were living in Virginia at the time as North Carolina had its own militia. After the war these three brothers applied for pensions as residents of Surry County, North Carolina.

Samuel acquired 200 acres in Surry County, North Carolina on the North Fork of Deep Creek on September 16, 1778. That is the last mention we have found of Samuel Danner.

It is my feeling he went west with Boone and Bryant, both of who became related to the Danners in Kentucky. In the 1770s the entire state was known as Kentucky County, Virginia and it was in Kentucky County that Joseph said he was born.

There are only three mentions of Danners in early Kentucky. There are numerous references after a few years in Muhlenberg County, Kentucky but this is a completely different family. Some details of this other Danner family are contained in the Addendum of this history.

The addendum also contains a brief history of Frederick Danner, another son of Jacob Danner. It was from this history that I feel I was headed in the right direction as far as the ancestors of Joseph Danner were concerned.

The references are several for Joseph who appears on early tax lists from 1803 to 1806 in what was Lincoln County at the time. Lincoln County also has two marriage records, one for Joseph and one for Jacob in 1797. In 1806 a Nathaniel Danner witnessed a deed in Livingston County, Kentucky somewhat further west from where Joseph was living.

Again, with absolutely no proof, I feel Nathaniel, Jacob and Joseph were probably brothers and all sons of Samuel Danner. In the 1770s and 1780s, Kentucky was an absolute wilderness and there were many battles with the Indians of the area. It was hard to live out a long life in those conditions. Also records were virtually non-existent up until Kentucky became a state in 1792.

All of the above is guesswork, but it does seem to be the only reasonable way by which Joseph Danner could show up and be born in the Kentucky in 1778 and marry Caty Briant there in 1802.

It is with this Joseph Danner Senior, that I begin the official portion of this Danner Family History.

JOSEPH DANNER SR.

According to his tombstone, Joseph Danner senior was born in the year 1778. From records of his daughter Rebecca Danner Hollowell and other sources we can hopefully place his birth in what is now the present State of Kentucky.

Long before any white men had ventured as far west as Kentucky, it was claimed as a part of Virginia and was included in Augusta County, Virginia as early as 1784. In 1773 Daniel Boone moved his family from Rowan County, North Carolina into the Kentucky wilderness. The first permanent settlement in Kentucky was in 1774 at Harrodsburg. Boonesboro was established the following year, 1775.

In 1776 the area was designated as Kentucky County, Virginia and remained so until 1780 when it was divided into three counties, Fayette, Jefferson and Lincoln. By 1790 there were nine counties and in 1792 Kentucky became the 15th state to be admitted into the Union.

Joseph Danner was therefore probably born in Kentucky County, Virginia in the general area of what became Lincoln County, Kentucky. Unless as mentioned in the preceding section, he was born in Surry County, North Carolina and went to Kentucky as an infant.

Joseph married Catherine Bryant in Lincoln County in 1802 according to family sources. There is a record of the marriage taken from court records showing the marriage date to be September 14, 1814. This could not be right as the first children were born beginning in 1803 and there is no evidence of Catherine being a second spouse.

Catherine or Caty as she was listed was the daughter of William Bryant. She was born in Lincoln County, Kentucky on February 14, 1784. The spelling on the record was Briant, but the proper spelling should have been Bryant. William Bryant was related to Morgan Bryant who was an early settler in what is now Davie County but was then part of Rowan County, North Carolina. Morgan and his family lived about a mile away from my Jones family along Dutchman's Creek. Daniel Boone married Rebecca Bryant, daughter of Joseph Bryant, in Rowan County, North Carolina prior to heading off to Kentucky.

In a listing of early Kentucky Householders, a book by James Sutherland, Joseph Danner is shown as a taxable as early as 1803. The listing as taxable indicates he was married and over the age of twenty-one.

Joseph appears on the tax lists in Lincoln County in 1803, 1805, 1806, 1809 and 1811. William Bryant and his family appear on the lists as early as 1791.

Sometime around 1817, the family moved into southern Indiana to a farm in Stampers Creek Township near Paoli in Orange County. Joseph Danner junior was born in Kentucky in May of 1816 and Andrew was born in Indiana in 1818. It would seem that the move came between these two dates.

While living in Kentucky, Joseph and Catherine had the first seven of their ten children. The remaining three were all born in Orange County, Indiana.

Virtually all the early settlers in the vicinity of Orange County, Indiana had come from across the border in Kentucky and northwestern North Carolina.

Joseph Danner was apparently one of the leaders of the new community. The following is taken from Goodspeed's HISTORY OF ORANGE COUNTY INDIANA, published in 1884:

The United Brethren Church in the southwestern part of Stampers Creek Township was organized in the later part of the eighteen twenties, but the exact date is not known. The first meeting of the society that can now be learned of were held at the house of Joseph Danner who then lived on the farm now owned by Edward Mussear and the first minister was probably Samuel Haines. This church has had a gradual and uninterrupted term of prosperity and now has a membership of about sixty persons. The present house of worship was built in 1850 and is called Danner's Chapel. It is a frame structure and the original cost was in the neighborhood of \$300. It belongs to the Paoli Circuit and the present minister is Mr. John Richardson.

Danner's Chapel remains to the present day. It is a small white frame building. The following paragraph is taken from the first page of the Danner's Chapel Songbook:

Danner's Chapel church was organized by Rev. Aaron Farmer in 1829, it being the second one in the county. The class was organized in the home of Joseph Danner, and the class worshiped there until 1833, when they erected a log house to be used for school and church purposes. They worshiped in this log house until 1841, when they erected a small frame house. The deed for the church and burial ground was made by Joseph Danner on January 9, 1851.

A similar Baptist church was formed in the town in the year 1826 at the house of Charles Vandever. The Vandeveres came up from Rowan County, North Carolina to Kentucky and then into Indiana about the same time as the Danners. Joseph Danner junior was to marry Amelia Vandever, daughter of Joel Vandever. Also taken from this original history is the following section pertaining to the early schools of Stampers Creek Township:

I have not been able to learn the precise date at which the good people of Stampers creek determined to establish a school, but it is certain that about 1814 George Vandever, a crippled man, came with his family from Kentucky and made settlement near the head of Patoka Creek, where he soon afterwards opened a school. Patrons of this church were the Vandeveres, Danners, Hollidays and others. Mr. Vandever was succeeded as a teacher by Abram Pierson, who in the Fall of 1831 opened a school near where Danner's Chapel now stands. The Danner Schoolhouse, south of this, was built in 1832. Alexander Ralston was the first teacher. Patrons of this school included the Vandeveres and the Danners among others.

Joseph Danner remained a prominent farmer in Stampers Creek Township for the rest of his life. He died on November 28th, 1855. Catherine had died there a year earlier in 1854. Both are buried at Danner's Chapel, Paoli, Indiana.

The following covers Joseph and Catherine Danner's children.

Children of Joseph Danner Sr.

This is the information that I have on the children of Joseph Danner Senior and his spouse Catherine Bryant Danner.

Elizabeth Danner

Elizabeth Danner was the eldest child. She was born in Lincoln County, Kentucky on August 20, 1803. On March 13, 1834 she married Nathaniel Mattox in Orange County, Indiana. She died June 28, 1872.

They had eight children:

**ANDREW JACKSON MATTOX
MISSOURI CATHERINE MATTOX
NATHANIEL SHREWSBURY MATTOX
FRANCIS MARION MATTOX
LAFAYETTE MATTOX
McDONALD MATTOX**

DeKALB MATTOX
VALENTINE MATTOX

Permelia Danner

Permelia was born in Kentucky on December 10, 1804. She married Benjamin Bosley in Orange County, Indiana. Permelia died on November 11, 1857. Benjamin died on May 21, 1880. Both are buried in Danner's Chapel Burial Grounds.

I have no information on children other than a few tombstone records in Danner's Chapel. It would seem that some of the children were:

ELIZABETH BOSLEY
SAMUEL BOSLEY
JAMES BOSLEY

James Danner

James was the eldest son. He was born in Kentucky on July 29, 1806. He married Sarah A. Key in Orange County, Indiana. James was a member of the 1840 state convention and was a state representative in 1847.

They had at least one child, George born in 1853. James died on December 12, 1873 and is buried at Danner's Chapel. I do not know what happened to Sarah.

Sarah E. Danner

Sarah was born in Kentucky in 1807. Sarah married Lewis Cox on June 24, 1824 in Orange County, Indiana. Both Sarah and Lewis died early in life. When Joseph Danner's estate was settled in 1855, a son Joseph Cox was listed as an heir and son of Sarah Cox deceased. Joseph Danner junior was made guardian of Joseph Cox who was only nineteen at the time.

Rebecca Danner

Rebecca was born in Kentucky on June 6, 1810. Rebecca was married twice in Orange County. She first married James Nathan Peyton on July 29, 1834 and after his death married Henry Hollowell on February 4, 1838.

Henry died on June 1, 1853. Rebecca died on December 13, 1904. Both are buried in Danner's Chapel. There were two children, one from each marriage. They were:

JAMES PAYTON 1833-1904
HENRIETTA HOLLOWELL 1853-1924.

Solomon Danner

Solomon was born in 1814 in Kentucky. He was married on May 8, 1834 in Orange County, Indiana to Sarah Cates. Sarah was born in Indiana in 1816. Solomon died before 1855 as only his heirs were listed in the estate settlement of his father.

There were four children that I know of:

MARY JANE DANNER Mary Jane married David Wade.

DAVID M. DANNER

ISAAC A. DANNER Isaac was killed in the Civil War while fighting with the Indiana Volunteers.

SARAH E. DANNER.

Joseph Danner, Jr.

Joseph junior was the last child born in Kentucky. He was born in Lincoln County on May 16, 1816. He married Amelia Vandever in Indiana. This is my wife's line. The life of Joseph Danner junior will be covered in detail in the next section.

Andrew Jackson 'Jack' Danner

Jack was born in Stampers Creek March 22, 1818. On March 6, 1845 he married Elizabeth Truax in Orange County. Elizabeth was born June 10, 1826 and died on November 20, 1872 and is buried in Paoli Old Town Cemetery.

After Elizabeth died, he married Mary Ann Byerly on August 16, 1876. I don't know when Mary died, but Jack died in 1901.

These are the children that I have a record of:

DAVID HUSTON DANNER born September 16, 1845. He married Jennie Cummings November 27, 1868. They had four children:

Clyde Delbert Danner

Gertrude Celeste Danner

Rufus Falco Danner born October 31, 1873. He married Louzeena Owen August 31, 1895. She was born May 20, 1879 and died November 25, 1950 in Bloomington, Indiana. Rufus died in Rochester, Indiana in 1966. Their children were:

Robert William Danner born February 21, 1896 and died March 3, 1970. He married Ida Stinson April 15, 1915. She was born December 6, 1892 and died January 30, 1960.

Grace Lorene Danner born April 8, 1898

Catherine Ethel Danner born March 26, 1900

Gladys Louzeena Danner born July 25, 1902

Malcolm Theodore Danner born October 28, 1904. He died in a stone quarry blast near Bloomington, Indiana August 10, 1928.

Celia Frances Danner born November 30, 1906

Clyde Huston Danner born March 23, 1909

Claude Ray Danner born August 12, 1911

Hannas Doyle Danner born June 9, 1914.

Walter Danner

Jennie died in the childbirth of Walter and died a short time later. David then married Elizabeth Jane Parks on July 14, 1878. She was a daughter of John Allen Parks and Julia Ann Stockinger. They had three more children. David died April 1, 1910 and Elizabeth died October 28, 1938. Their children were:

Ivan Erastus Danner born November 30, 1880.

Clarence Iden Danner born September 30, 1887.

Cora Lee Danner born January 16, 1890 and died November 13, 1898.

MARTHA ANN DANNER born April 16, 1847 and died single in 1865.

MARY CATHERINE DANNER born February 27, 1849.

WILLIAM BLUMER DANNER born February 8, 1851.

ZEBULUM TRUAX DANNER born April 18, 1858.

MARGARET ELVY DANNER born May 4, 1860.

Lucinda Danner

Lucinda was born in Indiana in 1823. She married Nehemiah Tower in Orange County on September 22, 1853.

I do not have any other information on the family. I feel they may have moved out of the area.

Samirah Danner

Samirah was born in Orange County in 1826. She married Benjamin Holiday in Orange County on January 29, 1861. I have no other information on this family. There are several Holidays buried in Danner's Chapel, but I do not know their relationship.

The next section covers the life of Joseph Danner's son, Joseph Danner junior.

JOSEPH DANNER, JR.

Joseph Danner junior was the last of his parents children to be born in Lincoln County, Kentucky. He was born there on May 16, 1816. After moving to Indiana as an infant, he grew up in Stampers Creek Township of Orange County, Indiana.

He went to the early school founded by his father near his home. He helped on the family farm until he was a young man. On August 31, 1837 he married Amelia Vandever in Stampers Creek. Amelia was the daughter of Joel and Rachel Moore Vandever. I have enough information on the early **VANDEVEER FAMILY HISTORY** to include a section in the addendum to this history.

Joseph and Amelia remained and farmed the land until the late 1870s when they moved to Daviess County, Indiana and settled near Raglesville, Indiana. Daviess County is only a few miles to the northwest of Orange County in southern Indiana.

I do not know the reason why the Danners moved to Raglesville. Joseph would have been in his sixties and that seems a little late to start up in a new area.

Very shortly after arriving in Daviess County, Joseph Danner died on January 3rd, 1879. Amelia continued to live in Raglesville until her death in 1895. Both are buried in Raglesville, Indiana.

Joseph Danner, Jr. and Amelia Vandever Danner had eight children, all born in Stampers Creek, Orange County, Indiana. The next section is what I know about these children.

Children of Joseph Danner, Jr.

This section contains the information that I have on the eight children of Joseph and Amelia Danner.

Caroline Danner

Caroline was born in 1846. She married William Doane on November 20, 1862 in Orange County. They moved to Harrison County, Indiana.

Joel Franklin Danner

Joel was born August 28, 1848. On October 9, 1870 he married Mary Ellen Mahan in Orange County. He was a schoolteacher in Odon for 18 years. He moved to Elnora Indiana in 1888 and opened a drug store. He died September 18, 1921 in Elnora, Daviess County, Indiana.

Their children were:

CORA DANNER born July 28, 1871. She married William Henry Bunch. Their children were:

Joel Bunch
John Bunch
Alice Bunch

RUFUS DANNER born September 23, 1873. He married Dorothy Jacobs. Their children were:

Robert Danner
Rufus Danner

GERTRUDE DANNER born June 28, 1879. She married Clarence J. Freeman. Their children were:

Mary Louise Freeman
Jane Freeman

LILLIE DANNER born January 23, 1888. She married Arnold Irwin, and had one daughter:

Sarah Elizabeth Irwin

SAMUEL JAMES DANNER born September 28, 1891 and died in Groveland Florida in 1963. He married Agnes Gardner. Their children were:

Ellen Danner born in 1908 and died in 2000. She married Ralph Alton Wentzel.
Richard Danner
Edith Danner

Rachel Catherine Danner

'Caddie' was born on July 11, 1852. She remained single and died on March 7, 1934. She is buried in Raglesville near Odon, Indiana.

Mary Jane Danner

Mary Jane was born August 14, 1853. She married Walter Best Bogle in Orange County on December 25, 1872. They then moved to Terre Haute, Indiana.

Mary Jane died on February 15, 1930 and is buried at Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Terre Haute, Indiana.

The children were:

JOSEPHINE BOGLE

PEARL BOGLE

BLANCHE BOGLE

HERSCHEL BOGLE

Alciem Palmer Danner

Alciem was born on July 17, 1855 and died unmarried in Raglesville, Indiana on October 22, 1880 at age twenty-five.

John Alexander Danner

John was born on January 9, 1858. He was married four times and widowed four times in Daviess County, Indiana and remained there until his death in Odon, Indiana on March 3, 1940.

He first married Emma Elmore on February 13, 1882. They did not have children.

He remarried to Sarah Edwards on October 4, 1885 and they had three children:

ELLA DANNER

TRESSA DANNER who married Eugene Resler

BLANCHE DANNER

He remarried on August 15, 1897 to Mary Ward and they had two children:

ALCIEM DANNER who never married

JOHN DANNER

His last marriage was on August 5, 1916 to Gertha Steele. They had two boys whose names I do not have. John died on March 3, 1940 and was buried at Walnut Hill, Odon, Indiana.

Emma Amelia Danner

Amelia was born on March 24, 1861. She married Wilson Seward Smiley in Daviess County on April 10, 1879.

Emma died on July 15, 1911 and is buried at Walnut Hill in Odon, Indiana. They had five children:

CURTIS SMILEY

IRWIN SMILEY

ADDA SMILEY

IVY SMILEY

RALEIGH SMILEY

William Joseph Danner

William Joseph Danner was born in Orange County on December 19, 1862. He is in my wife's direct line and his life is detailed in the next section.

WILLIAM JOSEPH DANNER

William Joseph Danner was born in Stampers Creek, Orange County, Indiana on December 19, 1862. He moved with his parents to Odon, Daviess County, Indiana around 1878 or 1879. There he met and married Sarah Alice Elmore on October 16, 1881. She died, possibly in childbirth in 1883 in Odon. They had one daughter, Ola Danner.

On December 24, 1885, he remarried to Susan Ellen Pensinger. Susan Ellen was the daughter of Taylor and Sarah (Seneff) Pensinger. For more on her family, see **THE PENSINGER FAMILY HISTORY** in the addendum of this history.

William Joseph ran a general store in Odon, Indiana until shortly after 1900. At that time, he moved his family to Terre Haute and opened an early Department Store. The business, DANNER DRY GOODS COMPANY, was located on Lafayette Avenue in an area known as Twelve Points. The business flourished until the Great Depression.

William Danner lost everything, his business and his house. He and Susan moved in with his son, William Ernest Danner in 1940 and remained with then until his death.

In 1945, William Danner fell on the back steps and broke his hip and died a short time later in the hospital at age eighty-two on May 16, 1945. Susan remained with her son until her death on December 7, 1955. Both are buried at the Highland Lawn Cemetery in Terre Haute, Indiana.

In his first marriage with Sarah Elmore, William Danner had one daughter.

Olie Afton Danner

'Ola' was born on March 18, 1883 in Elnora, Indiana. She married Levi Matthews in Odon on October 4, 1903. The family moved to Lansing, Michigan. After Levi died, Ola remained there for a few years, and then moved in with her mother and her brother William. She died there on May 11, 1976.

William Joseph and Susan Ellen Danner had five children. One child was born and died on April 2, 1898. The following is what I know of the other four, all sons.

Claude Everett Danner

Claude Everett Danner was born in Odon on November 29, 1886. He married Edith Samuels in Oregon on August 12, 1911. He died in Terre Haute, Indiana on December 3, 1918. This is our line, and his life is covered in the next section.

Walter Scott Danner

Walter Danner was born on April 28, 1891 in Odon, Daviess County, Indiana. He received a Law degree from Indiana University, and returned home to join the firm of Hamel, Hickey, Evans and Danner in Terre Haute. On October 18, 1917, he married Ola Dell Morrison.

They had one daughter, Madelyn Danner, born on August 13, 1922. Shortly afterwards, Walter contracted some strange illness. He was one of the first patients at the new Mayo Clinic, but they never could find a cure. Walter Scott Danner died on March 29, 1925 and was buried in the Highland Lawn Cemetery in Terre Haute. The disease was pernicious anemia, for which there is now a cure.

Ola and her daughter returned to live with her parents in Paris, Illinois. She became a seamstress for her brother, Frank Morrison in his dry cleaning business. When her daughter married and moved to Colorado, she accompanied them. She continued making drapes and other things until she was seventy-two. She never remarried. At age eighty-six, she moved in with her daughter's family and remained there until her death on October 24, 1986 at the age of ninety-four.

Their daughter was:

MADELYN PATRICIA DANNER born August 13, 1922 in Terre Haute. She married Robert Boland in Paris, Illinois on June 19, 1948. They lived in Indianapolis, Indiana and had twins. The family currently lives in Aurora, Colorado as of 1991.

Gregory Scott Boland born July 22, 1952

Cynthia Boland born July 22, 1952

Russell Elvin Danner

Russell was born in Odon, Indiana on October 8, 1893. He died at age two on February 12, 1896.

William Ernest Danner

William Danner was born on October 26, 1899 in Odon, Daviess County, Indiana. He graduated from Rose Polytechnic College in 1922 and promptly married Willa Frances Mendenhall of Terre Haute on September 3, 1922.

They lived in the house that his father had built before moving to his second house. He worked at his father's store until about 1940, when he joined Commercial Solvents Company as an electrical Engineer. He remained with the company until he retired in 1969.

William and Willa had purchased a farm in Vigo County, Indiana in 1953 and retired there in 1969. It was here that Ola Matthews, his sister, came to live.

Willa died of a brain tumor on July 14, 1982. William died two years later on December 17, 1984.

William Ernest and Willa Danner had three daughters. The following is what I know of them.

MARJORIE JANE DANNER was born on November 11, 1923. On January 25, 1942 she married Edward Boothe Turner in Terre Haute. They had three children:

Deborah Jane Turner
Carole Ann Turner
Pamela Sue Turner

WILLA JEAN DANNER was born on March 23, 1926. She married Theodore Cecil Berry on January 31, 1948. They had two children:

Laura Lynn Berry born January 13, 1950
Catherine Anita Berry born August 7, 1954

SHIRLEY ANN DANNER was born on March 5, 1935. She married Donald Ray Richards on July 31, 1954. They had one son, Donald junior. Shirley died on October 25, 1964. Donald Richards later remarried. The son was:

Donald Ray Richards, Jr. born February 4, 1963 in Terre Haute, Indiana and is still around in 2004.

CLAUDE EVERETT DANNER

Claude Danner was born on November 29, 1886 at Odon, Daviess County, Indiana. He attended Purdue University, where he was student director of the band. He graduated in 1909 with a degree in Civil Engineering. He took a job in Portland, Oregon right out of college.

His school sweetheart, Edith Samuels, made the trip to Oregon a few years later and they were married there. They were married in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon on August 12, 1911. Edith Maude Samuels was the daughter of Joseph Samuels and Adda Mattox Samuels. For more on her parents and their families, please see the **SAMUELS FAMILY HISTORY** in the addendum of this history.

Their first child, William Joseph Danner, was born in Portland in 1913.

Shortly afterwards, they returned to Indiana. Claude was employed as the City Engineer in Bloomington, Indiana. Here their second and last son, Howard Samuels Danner, was born in 1915.

The family then moved to Terre Haute, where Claude took an engineering job at a large wheel works company.

In the early winter of 1918, a massive flu epidemic swept the country. Claude died of influenza on December 3, 1918 after an illness that lasted only two days. He is buried in the Highland Lawn Cemetery in Terre Haute.

Edith Samuels Danner returned to Indiana State University, obtained her degree and taught school until about 1928. In 1926, she remarried to Harold Seymour Coates. Harold had come from Detroit to manage the Liggett Drug Store in Terre Haute. In 1929, he bought his own Drug Store and built a new house.

The Crash came and Harold lost the store. Harold worked at another drug store as a pharmacist and Edith returned to teaching. Most of their income at the time came from two apartment buildings that her parents had willed her. Later, Harold started another drug store.

Edith died, while on vacation in Honolulu, in 1968. Harold remained in Terre Haute and died there in 1983. Both are buried with Claude Danner in the Highland Lawn cemetery.

The following is what I know of their two sons.

Howard Samuels Danner

Howard was born in Bloomington, Indiana in 1915. He married Dorothy Elizabeth Canaday in 1938. These are my wife's parents. Their lives are contained in the next section.

William Joseph Danner

William Danner was born while the family was in Portland, Oregon, on September 15, 1913. He graduated from Purdue University in 1936 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He went to work for Seagram's Distilleries in Lawrenceburg, Indiana and was soon transferred to their plant in Salisbury, Maryland.

In Maryland, he met Elnor A. Schroedetski of Baltimore. They were married in Baltimore on January 20, 1939. From Maryland, he was transferred to Louisville, Kentucky. During the mid 1940s, he returned to Indiana and worked for the Indianapolis Power and Light Company. He remained in Indianapolis for the rest of his life.

Bill Danner died in Indianapolis in 1983. Elnor was still alive in 1987.

Their one son was:

WILLIAM JOSEPH DANNER, JR. born in 1940.

HOWARD SAMUELS DANNER

Howard Danner was born after his parents returned to Indiana. He was born in Bloomington, Indiana on April 4, 1915. He graduated from High School in 1933 and then from Northwestern University in 1938.

He went to work for the Schaeffer Pen Company in Fort Madison, Iowa. To this day, Howard wonders why he took the job at the end of the earth. He quit six weeks later. He returned to Chicago and took a job in sales with the Toledo Scale Company.

On June 12, 1938, Howard married Dorothy Elizabeth Canaday in Terre Haute, Indiana. They had known each other growing up and fell in love while both were attending Northwestern University. After a one day honeymoon, they returned to Chicago.

After a short stint in advertising, Howard went to work for Standard Oil company in Indianapolis in January of 1939. Their first child, Suzanne Marguerite Danner, my wife, was born there in 1941.

Six months later, World War II broke out and Howard tried to enlist, but was turned down on the eye exam. He was incensed and wrote a letter stating this to Frank Knox, the Secretary of the Navy. It was of no use, and, further, his job was classified as essential to the war effort.

Dorothy's asthma was getting worse, so the family moved to California. Howard went to work for the Packard Motor Car Company in Los Angeles. It was here, their second child, Richard John Danner, was born in 1945.

Howard then went into the milk and food business. It was in this field that he was to remain for the rest of his career. He moved to Atlanta, Dallas and Fort Lee, New Jersey with Golden State that later was merged with Foremost Dairies. In 1954, he went with Eskimo Pie Company and the family moved to Richmond, Virginia. In 1959, the family again moved, this time to Stamford, Connecticut. It was here that I met and married their daughter.

In 1965, it was off to San Francisco and a return to Foremost. Howard then went to Chicago in 1967 to join the H. C. Christians Company. This firm was bought out by Land-O-Lakes. Howard and Charles Christians then started their own firm, DRY MILK PRODUCTS in Chicago in 1970. Two years later, Howard bought out the three other partners in DMP. He moved to Decatur, Illinois a few years later where he opened his own processing plant.

In 1981, he sold the company to DMI Industries in Louisville, Kentucky. As part of the deal, he and Dorothy, who was sales manager of DMP, moved to Louisville on a three year contract to ease the consolidation. Once this period was over in 1984, Howard and Dorothy retired to Atlanta, Georgia. Their son, Richard, was living there and they liked Atlanta.

Howard died in Atlanta on Monday April 25, 1994. Dorothy died there March 26, 2009.

The following are their two children.

Suzanne Marguerite Danner

Suzanne was born in Indianapolis on May 3, 1941. She, of course, traveled all over America with her parents. Richmond, Virginia was really where she grew up and graduated from high school. She went to William and Mary for a year and then moved to Connecticut with her parents.

Here she met and married William Byrnes Putman II of Greenwich, Connecticut. They were married in Riverside, a part of Greenwich, on July 22, 1961. Bill was working with Gulf Oil and they moved to New Rochelle, New York. Suzy worked as an account administrator with McCann Erickson, then the world's largest advertising agency, in New York City.

She was compelled to quit due to the birth of their only son, William Byrnes Putman III, who was born in Greenwich, Connecticut on June 26, 1963. They moved to Stamford, Connecticut and then Philadelphia and then back to Darien, Connecticut while Bill was being transferred by Gulf. Another move brought them to Hingham, Massachusetts, a suburb of Boston in 1968.

Suzy started up her own business designing and appliquéeing clothing and Garment and duffel bags. The firm is called 'TreeTops.' Soon, her spouse joined her and they ran a small *cottage style industry* from their home.

Their son went to University of Colorado and then moved to Atlanta in 1986. He currently lives near his father in Yarmouth, Massachusetts. He married Eileen Sullivan, from here on Cape Cod.

On August 6, 1987, Suzanne suffered a sudden and critical asthma attack and died an hour later at the emergency room of the South Shore Hospital. She was buried in the Putman Family plot at the St. Paul's Church in Riverside, Connecticut. This was the same church she was married in twenty-six years earlier.

Her spouse (me) lives on Cape Cod in Hyannis Port Massachusetts, where he operates a bed and breakfast inn, *The Simmons Homestead Inn*. She was only forty-six when her highly creative life ended in tragedy.

Richard John Danner

Richard was born in Los Angeles, California on August 20, 1945. He graduated from High School in Stamford, Connecticut and from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

In his senior year at Vanderbilt, he married Diana Refsland on November 22, 1969. Diana was also a student there and came from Montana. They moved to Atlanta where both were sociology professors at colleges there.

They were divorced in 1980. There were no children. Richard then went into real estate development. He currently is renovating older buildings and making condominium conversions in the Mid Town section of Atlanta. For several years in the late 1980s and 1990s, he made the annual trek to Spain to run with the bulls in the streets of Pamplona each July.

He remarried in Atlanta to Susan Pinson of Augusta, Georgia on November 10, 1990.