

"The Bryan line"

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III. THE BRYAN-MORRISON HEAD

The surname "Bryan," originally "O'Brien," and variously spelled "Bryant," "Brian," etc., originated with "Brian Boru," king of Ireland, A. M. 1002-1014. A line of princes and chiefs descended from him, who, with their adherents, defended their national independence in Thomond, called "O'Brien's Country," with fierce contests for centuries against the Anglo-Normans and British. Of these Sir Francis Bryan, a prominent man in Ireland, about the middle of the sixteenth century, and probably President of Munster, is believed to have been the ancestor of the following Bryan line:—

GENERATIONS I AND II

Bryan No. 1

William Smith Bryan. A landholder in Ireland, probably Claire co., when Cromwell invaded Ireland in 1650; Transported as a "rebellious subject" to the American colonies, with his family of eleven sons and a ship's load of goods and chattels. He settled in Gloucester co., Va. Francis was the oldest of the 11 sons. Morgan 1st, who was in Norfolk in 1663, was probably one of his sons.

GENERATION III

Bryan No. 2

Francis Bryan. Returned to Ireland in 1677 to recover his hereditary titles and estates, but was so persecuted by the English government that he sought refuge in Denmark.

1 Morgan 2nd, b. 1687, m. about 1719, Martha Strode. Chester co., Pa. Later to present Frederick co., Va.

2 William 1st, b. 1685, m. Margaret . Sent his little son, Jno., to the woods to cut a stick for the handle of a hook used in weaving, and he was arrested for "poaching." After much trouble and expense he got him cleared and immediately sailed for America in 1789, where, as he said, "Timber is free and no constables." They were Presbyterians and lived at Ballyrony, County Down, the neighboring town of "Bryansford being named from some of the family. Other brothers also probably came to America.

GENERATION IV

Bryan No. 3

Morgan Bryan 2nd, d. 1763, m. Martha Strode. To present Davie co., N. C, about 1748, with all his

children, but Jos.

1 Joseph, m. Hester Hampden. Remained in Va. Daughter Rebecca, d. 1812, m., 1755-6, Dan. Boone, b. 1734-10-3, d. 1820-8-26. The pioneer of Ky. After a few adventures and settlements he took his family and others to Ky., in 1775, and built the fort afterwards called Booneville.

2 Samuel, n. m. A Loyalist; Col. of "N. C. Refugees;" with Cornwallis at Yorktown.

3 James 1st, m. Rebecca Enox. He and all his brothers except Sam., were in the American army in the Revolutionary war.

4 John 1st, m. Francis Battle.

5 Elinor, m. Win. Linville.

6 Morgan 3rd, m. Maximilian Simpson. One of the Committee of Safety for Rowan co., N. C, in 1775.

7 William 2nd, m. 1755, Mary Boone, sis. of Dan. Boone. He, Jas (and Morgan, later) went to Ky., in 1779, and founded Bryan's Station.

8 Thomas 1st, m. Sarah Hunt. Surgeon in army. Lived in Miss.; moved to Bryan's Cross Roads, N. C. His children and most of the descendants of Morgan Bryan went to Ky.; some later to Mo.

Bryan No. 4

William Bryan 1st, m. Margaret —; d. near Roanoke City, aged 104, in 1789. About 1745 he, with his son, Jas., and David Bryan, a son, or a brother, and probably others of the family, moved to and were the first settlers at present Roanoke. He settled at "Lake Spring" and David at "Big Lick," both now suburbs of Roanoke City. David later to N. C.

1 John 2nd, d. 1799, m. Mary Morrison, a Scotch-Irish Presbyterian. About 1745 moved to the Burden colony, near present Fairfield, Rockbridge co., Va., founded 1737, the furthest colony then in the valley of Va. A few years later to the Staunton river colony and settled where the town of Salem now stands.

2 James 2nd, settled near present Roanoke City, on Staunton River.

3 William 3rd, m. Margaret Watson, aunt of Philip Frenau, "The Poet of the Revolution;" related also to John Fanning Watson, the antiquarian, of Phila. He settled on Staunton River about 1745, and inherited the Lake Spring place. Some of their descendants went to Mason co., W. Va., the postoffice "Bryan"

being so called from them. Jas. sold the Lake Spring place, later called the Dr. Johnson place, and moved to Washington co., Mo. He and other Bryan families, six in all, took adjoining farms in the Belgrade Valley. Other children, unk.

GENERATION V

Bryan No. 5

John Bryan 2nd, m. Mary Morrison. Troubled by Indians, he traded his land on Staunton river for a pair of cart wheels and moved in 1763 to present Campbell co., Va.; bought 320 acres from Richard Stith on Molly's Creek and 43 9 from Benj. Arnold at its head and built a hut about 2 miles southeast of present Rustburg. A lot on this place was used for many years after the Revolution as a muster ground. Campbell court house was built about 1782 on 40 acres covering the spring which heads Molly's Creek, given by George Rust, soon after the county was cut off from Bedford.

1 William 4th, m. Mary Inherited the 32 acres; sold it in 1779 and moved to Bedford co., and died there.

2 Andrew Morrison, b. 1748-4-25, m. Mary Akers 1st. Presumably in the Revolutionary war. In 1773 he received 156 acres from the large tract on Molly's Creek.

3 Mary 1st, d. y.

4 Margaret, m 1 Daniel Mitchel. Kept tavern near the Bedford line. m. 2 Patrick Gibson. To Rockbridge co., Va.

5 John 3rd, m. Catherine Evans, b. 1766-5-8, d. 1850-11-19, youngest dau. of Reese Evans, a Welshman, and Bidy, his wife, of Campbell co., Va. From Reese and Bidy Evans are descended large families of Evans, Bryans, Booths, Gardners, Franklins and Robertsons, many of whom moved west at different times.

They had the following children:

1. Rees
2. Mary, (1791-1843)
3. Bridget
4. Agnes
5. Elizabeth
6. Catherine
7. John

John Bryan was a large man weighing over 350 at death. In the American army at battles of Eutaw Springs, Guilford Court House, Waxhaw and Yorktown, where he witnessed the surrender of Cornwallis. Once while at home to recruit he went turkey hunting on Long Mountain and in what is now called "Rust's Den," he spied 26 Tory horse thieves with as many horses stolen for the British. He went back without being seen and notified his Capt., who soon assembled his company and captured the entire band, among whom were George Rust and J. Barney Finch. He owned and lived on his father's home place in Campbell; had a distillery and blacksmith shop; owned many slaves and prospered.

6 Jane, m. Jno. Davison. Well off, owning slaves. Campbell co., Va.

7 Agnes 1st, b. 1763, d. 1849-1-29, m. 1 Jno. Akers 3rd. Farmer, Campbell co., Va. m. 2 Reuben Bagby, Campbell co., Va.

8 Catherine, m. Sam. Cole.

<https://familysearch.org/photos/artifacts/22436480>

BRYAN, A PIONEER FAMILY <http://knightsdebryan.freesevers.com/pioneer.htm>

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By Edward Bryan

Editor's Note: This article is verbatim as published in the Register of Kentucky State Historical Society, Volume 40, No. 132, pp. 318-322. C1974 KY State Historical Society-Frankfort. Edward Bryan, the compiler, is descended from Morgan Bryan. He was born in Louisville, but at the time of the publication, lived in Colorado.

The family most closely associated with the redoubtable Daniel Boone, and that one whose exploits most nearly parallel those of the picturesque explorer, was the family of Morgan and Martha Strode Bryan. So much has been written concerning the kindly and nomadic Boone, that his neighbors and kinsmen, the Bryans, might well be forgotten men, but for some scores of prideful descendants who, from generation to generation, continue to recount the adventures of their forefathers, and recall the role they played in the westward march of empire. Colleagues in the difficult and dangerous enterprise of settling Kentucky, the lives and fortunes of the two families are so inextricably interwoven that some genealogists have, for the sake of convenience, treated them very much as though they were one.

Daniel Boone married a Bryan, his brother, Edward, married another, his sister, Mary, a third, and these Boone-Bryan alliances were continued into following generations. Joseph, eldest son of Morgan Bryan, taught young Dan'l to ride and to handle a rifle. Friends and neighbors in Pennsylvania, the two families continued their close association on the Yadkin River in North Carolina, and in time blazed the trail together to settle the land of blue-grass and rhododendron.

Morgan Bryan, progenitor of the Bryans of central Kentucky, was born in Denmark in 1671. He came to America as a young man, settled at the present site of Reading, PA, thence in 1730 to what is now Winchester, VA, thence in 1748 to a point near the present town of Wilkesboro, NC. Here, some sixty miles from the nearest habitation, he founded what came to be known as the "Bryan Settlements," and here he devoted himself to fighting off the Indians, raising fine horses, and rearing a sizeable family of children.

Much of what is known concerning the ancestry of Morgan Bryan has been gleaned from the family papers of the descendants of his brother, William, who also came to the colonies.

While the immigrant ancestor of William and Morgan Bryan migrated to these shores from Ireland, he was of Anglo-Irish stock, being descended from Francis Bryan, an Englishman who was sent to Ireland in 1548 as Lord Lieutenant. Some of the writers who have compiled papers on the genealogy of the pioneer Bryans have stated that Morgan Bryan was descended from Brian Boru, an Irish monarch of the tenth century, and great-stem of the royal Irish house of O'Brien.

While this is true, this statement, without a word of explanation, is indefinite and misleading. Sir Francis Bryan of Buckinghamshire, and ancestor of Morgan Bryan, married Joan, dowager duchess of Ormond and heiress of James Fitz-Gerald. Joan's mother was the daughter of Turlogh O'Brien, and of that branch of the clan known as the "Mac-I-Brien-Ara."

Thus do the Bryans descend from the house of O'Brien and from the mighty Boru, but only through the wife of Sir Francis Bryan, and not in the direct male line. The Rev. J. W. Shearer, another of the family historians, appears to have succeeded in tracing the ancestry of Morgan Bryan to Sir Francis, but he too, falls into the error of assuming that the later was a Dalcassian.

A comparative study of the armorial bearings of the Irish O'Briens and the English Bryans reveals that the Brayns of Carolina and Kentucky inherit and display the coat of the English Bryans. This device, described as "Or, three piles in point, azure," was first displayed by Guy, Lord Bryan, at the siege of Calais, 1345. His lordship "le bon Guyon" as he was sometimes called, was descended from a long line of Guy Bryans who settled in Devon since very early times. While there is only heraldic evidence, their name is believed to be a place name, and from the ancient Chateau de Brienne in the former province of Champagne. The generations which intervene between Lord Guy and Sir Thomas Bryan (grandfather to Sir Frances) are missing, and it is stated by Beltz (Order of the Garter) that the family of the former became extinct, but it is a matter of record at the College of Arms that Sir Thomas bore arms: three piles in point, and difference from those of Lord Guy only in the matter of color.

The earliest of the Bryan grandsires of whom there is authentic record is Sir Thomas, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas from 1471 until his death.

His will, proved December 11, 1500 mentions his son, Thomas, Thomas' wife and an illegitimate daughter. The son - Sir Thomas Bryan of Chedington, Bucks, was knighted by the seventh Henry in 1497. His wife, the Lady Margaret Bryan was a sister of John, Lord Berners, and daughter of Sir Humphrey Bourchier and his wife, Elizabeth Tylney. Through this marriage the Bryans claim descent, on the distaff side, from the houses of Bourchier, Bohun and Plantagenet.

Following the unhappy death of Anne Boleyn, Lady Margaret was made foster-mother to the princess Elizabeth, and in recognition of this service the king created the Barony of Bryan. She died in 1551, whereafter her peerage, conferred only for life, is heard of no more. An interesting account of Dame Bryan's training and her relationship to the little princess, is contained in Agnes Strickland's "Lives of the Queens of England."

Her son and heir - Sir Francis Bryan, had a prominent place at the court of Henry VIII. Together with Sir Thomas Wyatt, George Boleyn and Nicholas Carew, he was one of a coterie, the members of which were the companions of the sovereign. Sir Francis was educated at Oxford, was M.P. for Buckinghamshire from 1542 to 1544, and a member of the Privy Council until the close of Henry's reign. At the beginning of the reign of Edward VI, he was given large grants of land, which through the dissolution of the monasteries had reverted to the crown. In 1520 he was knighted, and during this year attended Henry at the Field of Cloth and Gold.

The circumstances under which he removed to Ireland are curious and interesting. In 1548, James Butler, Earl of Ormond, an Irish noble whose powerful influence was obnoxious to the government at Dublin, died in London of poison. Thereupon his widow, Joan, daughter of James Fitz-Gerald, sought to marry her relative Gerald Fitz-Gerald. To prevent this marriage, which would have united the leading representatives of the two chief Irish noble houses, Sir Francis was induced to prefer a suit to the lady himself. In the autumn of that same year, he married the widowed countess, was shortly nominated Lord Marshal of Ireland, and sent to Dublin. He died in February, 1550, at Clonmel, and was buried at Waterford.

The data concerning the ancestry of Sir Francis Bryan is based on research done by The Society of Genealogists, London. Much of this material is also contained in "The Dictionary of National Biography" and "The Complete Peerage."

For the line showing the descent of Morgan Bryan from Sir Francis, the write is indebted to the late Gordon M. Ash, Esq. Of Frederick, MD, a Bryan descendant, and lately genealogist to the Society of Descendants of Knights of the Garter. It has also been published in Carter R. Bryan's, "The Bryan Family," Armstrong's "Notable Southern Families," J. W. Shearer's, "The Shearer-Akers Family," and various articles on the ancestry of Morgan's brother, William.

Sir Francis Bryan was twice married, first to Phillippa Montgomery, by whom he had a son, Sir Edward Bryan. By Lady Joan, he had a son, Francis, who married Ann, daughter of Sir William Smith. From his mother, the second Francis Bryan inherited estates in County Clare. His son, William Smith Bryan, attempted to gain the throne of Ireland, and in 1650 Cromwell deported him as a troublesome subject. Together with eleven sons and a shipload of chattels, including horses and other livestock, he landed at Gloucester Beach, Virginia, and his twenty-one sons and grandsons settled Gloucester County. An article in "The Thoroughbred Record" credits him with being among the first to bring horses to America.

In time the eldest of his sons, Francis Bryan III, returned to Ireland and tried to regain the Clare County estates, but being persecuted by the government he was obliged to seek refuge in Denmark. He was born about 1630, married Sarah Brinker, a cousin to the Princess of Orange. He was permitted to return to Ireland about 1683, and is said to have been standard bearer to William of Orange at the battle of the Boyne. He died in Belfast in 1694. He had two sons, William, born in Ireland, and Morgan, born in Denmark. Both came to America.

William was the first to settle at the present site of Roanoke, and died there at the age of 104. Many of his descendants are listed in "The Shearer-Akers Family," heretofore referred to.

From the time of his arrival until his marriage in 1719 to Martha Storde, not much is known of the movements of his brother, Morgan Bryan. Martha Storde's parents had migrated from France to escape religious persecution. Her mother died at sea, leaving three children, who were provided for by their shipmates until they came of age. Martha died in Virginia in 1747, and it was about a year later that Morgan Bryan began his epic journey through the Blue Ridge to the Yadkin Country, to found what

came to be known as the Bryan Settlements in Rowan County, NC. His route was afterward called "Morgan Bryan's Road." It is related that at one point he was obliged to take his wagon apart, carry it piece by piece over a mountain, and reassemble it on the other side. He died about July 1763. A copy of his will is contained in Mr. J. R. Cooper's "The Bryan Families of Fayette County," and it is apparent from this document that he had prospered at the Settlement.

He reared seven sons and two daughters, namely: Joseph, born c. 1720; Eleanor, born c. 1722; Mary, c. 1724; Samuel, c. 1726; Morgan, c 1728; John, c. 1731; William, c 1733; James, c. 1735; and Thomas, about 1737.

Researchers who have delved into the Kentucky pioneer period of the Bryan annals have found their task somewhat less arduous than those who have searched out and listed the Morgan Bryan ancestry. Interest in the brothers William, James and Morgan, founders of Bryan's Station, and in Rebecca Bryan, wife of Daniel Boone, has uncovered the wealth of material to be had from the Fayette County records, family Bibles, gravestones, and two notable collections of family papers, known as the "Shane and Draper Collections." Thanks to these sources, present day descendants of Morgan and Martha Strode Bryan are enabled to complete their lines of descent from their immigrant ancestors, of whom the Bryans, unlike most families, have two.

When in the autumn of 1773 Boone made his first attempt to settle Kentucky, the Bryans were among the "forty well-armed men" who joined him in Powell's Valley. After being attacked by Indians as they approached Cumberland Gap, and having several of their number slain, and after retreating forty miles back on the trail over which they had come, most of the company rested a while at Blackmore's fort on the Clinch River, before moving back to North Carolina.

The Bryans, however, remained at the Clinch settlement, and again joined Boone when he returned there in 1775 to take his family to Boonesborough. Thence they moved on northward to the Elkhorn, where during the autumn and winter of 1775 they built the stockade fort, which bore their name. The siege of Bryan's Station and the subsequent battle at the Blue Licks, were of national as well as local importance, since they constitute what was, in fact, the final battle of the Revolution.

Friends and kinsmen in the several colonial communities in which they lived, it is a curious circumstance that the ancestors of both the Boones and the Bryans were long settled in Devonshire, and that both families claim decent from the ancient Norman house of deBohun, the Bryans through a collateral line.

Humphrey, founder of the house, and surnamed "with the beard," came into England with William the Conquer, Henry duBohun, great-grandson of Humphrey, joined the barons who obtained the concession of Magna Carta, and was one of the twenty-five appointed to insure it's Observance.

When in 1799 Boone, finding Kentucky too crowded for him, sought "elbow room" in what is now Missouri, he was not long separated from the Bryans. Shortly thereafter, Jonathan, son of James Bryan, as if to continue the Boone-Bryan tradition, followed him to the Femme Osage region and settled within

half a mile of him. "However, for the most part, the Bryans were content to remain on the dark and bloody ground. The restlessness, which had so long characterized both families, appears to have ended for them once their roots were embedded in Kentucky's rich limestone soil.

Rebecca Ann (Bryan) Boone (January 9, 1739 – March 18, 1813) was an American pioneer and the wife of famed frontiersman Daniel Boone. No contemporary portrait of her exists, but people who knew her said that when she met her future husband she was nearly as tall as he and very attractive with black hair and dark eyes.

She was born near Winchester, Virginia. Her father was Joseph Bryan, Sr. but there is no clear documentation as to her birth mother. Some say her mother, Hester Hampton, died in childbirth, and that Alice (or Aylee) Linville, Bryan's second wife, raised her.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rebecca_Boone

When she was ten, Rebecca moved with her Quaker grandparents Morgan and Martha (Strode) Bryan, to the Yadkin River valley in the backwoods of North Carolina. Meanwhile, the young Daniel Boone's family settled near the Bryans in North Carolina. Rebecca and Daniel began their courtship in 1753 and married three years later.

Rebecca married Daniel Boone in a triple wedding on August 14, 1756, in Yadkin River, North Carolina at the age of 17.