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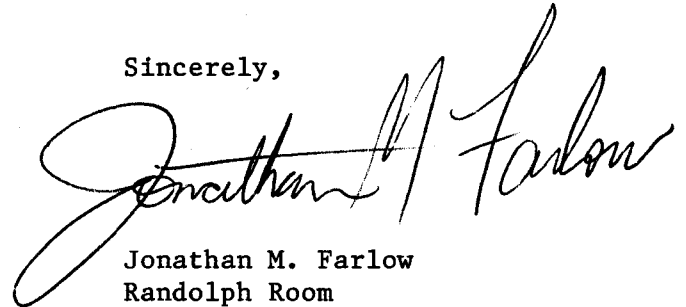
November 21, 1996

Mr. William D. Kivett  
9 Coachman Drive  
Taylors, SC 28687-4108

Dear Mr. Kivett:

Just a note to let you know that we have received the copy of The Kivett Family which you were kind enough to donate. We would just like to thank you for your generosity, and that we are sure that your book will be a valuable tool for those researching the Kivett line.

Sincerely,



Jonathan M. Farlow  
Randolph Room

# **The Kivett Family**

**(Introductory Pages Only)**

Compiled by

William D. Kivett

Copies available at the public libraries in  
Asheboro and Ramseur, NC

[No longer in print]

Reproduction of any part of this document for commercial purposes is strictly prohibited. However, sharing of information contained herein among interested family members and genealogists for private, personal enjoyment is encouraged. Such parties are urged to bring missing or erroneous data to the attention of the compiler for inclusion in future editions.

Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of the data, and to avoid any offensive or embarrassing references to any family member. Sincere apologies are offered to any reader who finds the material other than positively informative.

## INTRODUCTION

Genealogy is like dill pickles, you either can't get enough or you find the very mention of the whole subject totally repulsive. I can only assume that those in the latter category have decided not to read this far. But, sometimes people's interests change over time. I know mine did. For about 50 years I had grown up in the middle of a cluster of Kivetts in Randolph County, NC, and never bothered (or cared) to find out how the many Kivetts in that area were related. None of the five Kivetts in my 1957 Ramseur High School graduating class of thirty four claimed to be related to one another. With age and more time brought on by an early retirement, I decided it was appropriate to explore a bit more about how these Kivetts all fit together.

It soon became apparent that there were a lot more Kivetts out there than I had imagined, and they were not just all in Randolph County, NC. Much to my surprise, I discovered that a wealth of material on the Kivett family already existed. Over the years several people had been doing family research, and compiling information. Some prior attempts had been made to organize and publish the material. What was missing was a method to connect the piles of charts, record sheets, and general correspondence into a logical sequence of related individuals. By combining the past data with some personal research and a lot of long hours spent at a computer terminal, the Kivetts (and some other related families) began to fall into a large, and winding, family tree. Computer technology combined with patience and attention to detail made this work possible.

What is presented here is a computer listing of names, relationships, and basic facts about the Kivett family as descended from the generally accepted first Kivett in America, Pieter Kieviet (his spelling). The main section of this document is organized by separate sections for each of Pieter's children and their offspring. In the first section, behind the listing of Pieter's family, some background material on Pieter and his possible ancestors is included. Following the listings for each of his children's families is some general material of special interest and a bibliography. The code numbers in the bibliography are contained within a computer file for each individual, permitting identification of the hard-copy source of information.

In the early days of American life, it was more common for first cousins to marry. This occurred within the Kivett family also, most notably the marriage of Peter (II) Kivett's son, John Gilliam Kivett to his cousin Rosanna Kivett, daughter of John Matthew Kivett. Hence, here we find many of the same family members in both the Peter (II) section and that of John Matthew, Sr. Kivett. Those offspring, including this compiler, have a "double dip" of Kivett in our distant background.#

Some words of caution for those who will use this document. First, errors are impossible to eliminate completely. Often conflicting dates, nicknames, and same names for different people show up in the submitted information. The compiler has struggled, sometimes unsuccessfully, to correctly spell names and not transpose dates. The families of Charity Kivett, Mary "Anna" Barbara Kivett, Elizabeth Kivett, and Henry M. Kivett have very little information listed because so little was available. In early America, females did not enjoy the present-day equality of opportunity. In fact, it was not until the mid-1800's that they were even listed in census records unless as a widow who headed a household. No genealogy work is ever complete. Shown here is what is available at this time. Expect unlisted Kivetts to yet appear and errors to need correcting.

Finally, some acknowledgment to a few of the key people who have gone before and made all this possible. Austin Warren Kivett is most appreciated for his 40+ years of careful research. An example of his work is shown in the last section here, in his unique handwritten letter format. John Sellers and William Larry Wall, past presidents of The Peter Kivett Family Association, originally solicited and collected much of the family record sheets. Ms. Francine Swaim and Mrs. Louise Hartgrove are recognized for their work as diligent genealogists with Kivett family ties. Current Family Association officers, Pete Kivett and Doris Stafford are thanked for their support and trust in the compiler's use of original Association records. Lastly to my wife, Nell, for her understanding in sharing me with my computer and listening to endless Kivett history stories.

She now also likes genealogy pickles, having completed her family research to qualify her for membership in UDC, and is close to completing her chain for DAR. Now I have to listen to her stories. But how much richer are both our lives for having discovered these stories of fascinating or ordinary people who have gone before us. It is now our mission to see that they are preserved for our children and others to proudly pass along.

## ADDITIONS

Since this project was begun in mid-1996, many additions and corrections have been made. These are primarily the result of the tremendous response from interested family members, and their unselfish contributions of new information about this large Kivett family. It is not possible to list the names of all these additional contributors here, but a few must be mentioned for their especially valuable efforts. First, the continued support and kind words of encouragement from The Peter Kivett Family Association President Forbis "Pete" Kivett, and their Secretary, Doris Stafford are greatly appreciated.

A previously unknown researcher, Philip Gene Kivett of Fresno, California was kind enough to allow addition of his considerable genealogy collection to this material. Excerpts from his scholarly analysis in his publication The Surname Kivett of possible European sources of the Kivett family have been included in these later editions, not to detract from his work, but to show how important his studies have been to debunk the many myths which continue to abound about our family. As the noted Austin Warren Kivett wrote in one of his many letters, "Some researchers were so anxious to find a prince among their ancestors that they were quick to jump to any sort of conclusion about our beginnings". He even commented that one of his esteemed Kivett attorney relatives "must have been smoking something very strange" when he wrote about some early Kivett connections. It is this compiler's belief that all are best served by only presenting what facts can be discovered, and pointing out likelihoods and possibilities, and referring to them as such, where facts cannot be determined.

The works of the late Willis Erwin Kivett have been added, thanks to the sharing of his files by his son, Everett McNeill Kivette of Burnsville, NC. Dolores Samons Harvell of Maryland provided copies of these records, as well as those of Katherine Elizabeth Kivett Samons' research. These contributions brought to light the fascinating stories about the branch that moved to Cumberland and Harnett Counties of NC. Mrs. Harvell, Mary Schiffilier of Oregon, and Dan Rhorback of Colorado are among the many dedicated contributors who were met through connections on the Internet, and through many subsequent communications provided critical information about the many Kivetts who left Randolph County for other places. With the advent of this powerful tool, family research can be speeded up dramatically. Now with the click of a mouse, Kivett relatives around the world can be contacted inexpensively, and written information can be sent and received almost instantaneously. The continuing need to add great volumes of new information from these sources makes any published edition quickly outdated.

Lastly, to my wife Nell and my family, thanks for continuing to allow me to spend the time necessary to trace down someone's line and reply to a request for information, or to load some new Kivett connection into my data base. With the help of many, The Kivett Family still grows.

Bill Kivett  
05 December, 1997

Most members of the Kivett family appear to have been just plain, hard-working farmers, merchants, or millers with nothing special to set them apart except the unique ability to be traceable back to Pieter Kieviet. To glimpse the few available facts or rumors about the early American Kivetts is to follow the Country's history from before its formation with Pieter Kieviet having signed the Regulator petition protesting colonial Governor Tryon's wasteful use of their hard earned tax money on the construction of the elaborate residence now restored in New Bern, NC as Tryon Palace. Peter (of Henry, I) Kivett and grandson of Pieter (I) was a Sgt. in the War of 1812.

Prior to the Civil War there was much agitation on the slavery question. The Kivetts, along with the concentration of Quakers in central NC, were generally anti-slavery. A number of Kivetts joined their Quaker neighbors and left for Indiana between 1830 and 1840. It is to be observed that many of the early Kivetts carried Biblical names, in keeping with the family's strong religious beliefs. This exodus to Indiana also corresponded to the death of Peter (II) Kivett in 1835. One contributor put it this way:

"--- I think Peter (II)'s death set off their migration out of NC. There are records that say he gave 'my son Eli' the farm, so I guess the rest were left to shift for themselves ! ---"

Kivetts are well represented as participants in the Civil War. Included here is a listing of Kivetts who were members of the very active Randolph Hornets. Warren B. Kivett was Captain of this company for a while before being wounded. A few Kivetts from prior migrations to the Midwest show up as Union Army soldiers.

Later migrations out of NC occurred in the late 1800's during the wretched period in the South following the Civil War. Remember, farms were lost - buildings were destroyed - Confederate money was worthless. It was a tough life, and there were relatives already living in the prosperous Midwest. From there they were off to the fertile lands of Iowa. Contained in this section is the poignant letter to a sister of a NC lady who journeyed in 1871 to visit relatives in Iowa. From Indiana and Iowa the Kivetts led America's move west to Texas, Missouri, Colorado, Oregon, and California. A Kivett has been heard from who lives in Homer, Alaska.

Other miscellaneous background documents are included in this section for illustration purposes:

- A 1981 article from the Courier Tribune documenting the McMasters cemetery restoration.
- A handwritten letter (of many) from Milwaukee attorney Austin Warren Kivett, showing his contribution to researching Kivett family history and his unique handwriting.
- A list of the estate of Jacob Kivett shows how people of the early 1800's valued their possessions.
- A handwritten letter chronicling an ordinary family's spread from the Midwest westward.
- A biography of the colorful Dr. John Kivett listing his many professions.
- A typical Personal Record Sheet illustrating the type of detail recorded and indexed for each Kivett.
- A 1981 article from The Fayetteville Observer with notes, about Zachary Taylor Kivett.
- Statement given by Jerry David Kivett, Secret Service agent on duty at John Kennedy assassination.

Some notable stories discovered, but supporting documentation omitted here include:

- Thomas Jefferson Kivett was killed when he fell off a load of hay.
- Vestal Kivett was killed when hit by a train while he was walking on railroad tracks.
- David Vestal Kivett left NC for Missouri at age 21, after three years there moved to Iowa, married in Iowa, homesteaded in Kansas. After his wife died he returned to Missouri and remarried.
- Robert Mitchell Kivett was born near Liberty, NC. Moved to Coffeyville, Missouri and married. He and his wife pioneered in Kansas and Colorado. In 1902 they sold out and moved to California where he worked for a tannery. In 1907 he moved to Idaho where he purchased a large timber claim. After 3 years he returned to California and until his death worked for the local telephone company. Left a large number of children who are responsible for most California Kivetts of today.
- William Larkin Kivett of Liberty, NC was a progressive farmer and plant developer. At the time of his death in 1915, he was working on a frost-resistant variety of cabbage. He died along with his teen-age son in an accidental dynamite explosion while clearing stumps.
- Alexander Lorraine Kivett joined the Confederate army at age 16. He was captured at Gettysburg, taken to Pt. Lookout, MD prison, where he died of smallpox at age 17.
- Talton Kivett was captured at the battle of the Wilderness - Confined at Pt. Lookout, MD prison - to prison at Elmira, NY where he died in 1864 of Variola.
- Andrew Jackson Kivett built "Kivett's Church", now Mt. Pleasant Baptist near Liberty, NC. He fell from a scaffold during church construction, was injured so severely that he later died.
- Henry (II) Kivett built the second (textile) factory in Randolph Co. at Franklinville in 1838.
- Fredrick Norman Kivette rose through the US Navy ranks to become Commanding Admiral of the US 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet.

## **ANNA BARBARA**

### **and sample contributions by**

#### **Austin Warren Kivett**

With all the discoveries from research done over the years on the Kivetts, no definite record has been found to positively identify the maiden name of the wife of Pieter Kivett. She is listed here as Anna Barbara, Barbara being one possible maiden name. Remember, females were not considered important enough to individually document in this era.

No record of Pieter and Anna's marriage has been located. Were they married in Holland or England prior to emigrating to America? Was she an unmarried daughter of another family who Pieter met on the voyage to America. Did he meet and marry her as a prior immigrant living in the Philadelphia area when he landed and spent some time there before moving on to North Carolina? Was she part of a family already living in central North Carolina who Pieter married when he arrived to claim his original grant of land from the King of England? Were they ever married?

It is reported in several places that Pieter brought with him a Dutch family Bible. As late as the 1930's this Bible was reported to be in the possession of "The Kivett Family". Unfortunately, no single family member has been discovered to know of its resting place. Perhaps in this lost, but possibly still existing, document the maiden name of Anna Barbara is recorded. Until it surfaces, all that can be said is based on speculation.

The search for Anna's heritage was a continuing challenge for researcher Austin Warren Kivett. His dogged attention to detail and insistence for documented proof was put aside to allow his advancement of two unsupported theories. These from a man who steadfastly refused to contribute to a new headstone for the Kivett patriarch unless the name spelling was identical to that shown as his signature on his will. Excerpted from his letter of July 23, 1982 (#8.021):

" --- The signature on Peter's will now on file at Raleigh is very clearly PIETER KIEVET. He was probably very proud of the fact that he was one of only a very few people who could sign his name in the locality at the time. I believe that if he had the opportunity to do so he would select his real name for his stone. I believe this so strongly that I will contribute only if his real name is carved on the new stone. ---"

His first theory is that she was originally a McMasters - what better reason for all the Kivetts being buried in the McMasters family cemetery. See this comment in his letter of October, 11, 1979 displayed in the last section of this document.

A more exotic theory is contained in his long handwritten letter of January 18, 1980:

" --- There is a very remote possibility that Anna Barbara's name was Blickley. It is hardly more than a suspicion. My information is so remote that I am reluctant to mention it. As a trial lawyer I realize that a mere suspicion, when related, can become an accepted fact when it reaches the ear of some distant listener. In 1746, Anna Barbara Blickley was indentured to a man named Jacob Shiromire, of Germantown, Pa. Our Anna Barbara would then have been 17 years of age. Our Anna Barbara named one of her sons 'Jacob'. ---"

Other records (#18) show a "Peter Kuwit" as one of a list of foreigners arriving in the port of Philadelphia on board the ship Edinburgh from Rotterdam by way of Portsmouth, England, and taking the "usual Oath to the Government at the Court House in Philadelphia, Friday the 15th 7ber 1749." This could put Pieter in this area about this time.

But, in deference to Austin's principles, she will for now remain just "Anna Barbara."

Wm. D. Kivett's paraphrasing of  
"Our True Heritage"  
from THE SURNAME KIVETT  
by Philip Gene Kivett

Phil Kivett in this work examines the many popular theories of the origins of the Kivett name. He systematically shows how unlikely it is that it came from French, German, Scottish, Irish, or English origins.

Thomas Kevett was ennobled by the grant of arms in 1558. He was made an Esquire, the first rank of nobility, and served King George III's Colonial Court in Salisbury, Crown Colony of North Carolina. This like-sounding name became a reported part of our heritage, although no genetic link to Thomas has been found.

Despite the fact that we have been associated by some with that noble old family name, it is likely not ours. Our true heritage likely is from a name that seems as foreign to most of us as does the language of which it is a part. Yet it provides a link with the past that surpasses by more than 700 years our link with the English name Kevett. We are most likely of Dutch stock, not English. These ancestors lived in the area that is now the Netherlands at least as long ago as 1000 AD at the time that surnames arose. Beyond that we can determine by relatively sound analysis our origins at least as accurately as can most other human beings, since only about 1% are able to trace their ancestry to any point in time before family names existed. In fact, we can "trace" our origins beyond the Netherlands area after a fashion since it is known by whom this area was first settled.

The Batavi, the Frisi and other Germanic and Celtic tribes first settled the marshy Rhine and Meuse delta areas of the "Low Countries". Of these original inhabitants, however, apparently only the Frisi remain to this day as an identifiable group. In prehistoric times of uncertain date, the tribal Frisians migrated into the area and ousted the Celts, and in the 4th century the Salian Franks displaced the Batavi. From the 1st to the 5th Century AD, the Frisi were more or less tributary to the Romans; their land was infiltrated by Angles and Saxons on the way to England and subsequently conquered by Franks under Charlemagne. In light of the fact that the Frisi settled primarily in the northern part of what is now the Netherlands, it seems at least an even bet that Pieter (I) Kieviet was descended from primarily Frisi stock with perhaps some contribution to that gene pool having been made through ancestral contacts with remnants of the ousted Batavi and Celts, as well as with the occupying Romans, the conquering French and the migrant Angles and Saxons. Even if no such contribution was made at all by the Romans, we may owe our very existence to their ingenuity and industry. It was they who developed the canals and dikes, making possible the ensuing population growth in that area, a condition whose absence might have worked to exclude the birth of some specific ancestor of ours, and therefore us.

In modern times the Frisians have become most famous for their cattle. Records from as early as the 1st Century BC suggest their considerable cattle raising and agriculture. Traditionally, they were also a seafaring and commercial people and had one of the largest textile industries of Medieval northwestern Europe. In fairness though, no definite record has been found connecting Pieter (I) Kieviet to any parents in this area.

Our true heritage from late colonial times in America to the present, in many ways tracks faithfully some of the major changes in direction of the development of America, itself. Large families in early America, were the rule. Early America was an agrarian society. The first five generations of Kivett families had large families and were almost exclusively farmers. As times changed, we find the Kivetts with fewer offspring, involved in factories, mills, construction, and in recent generations law, aviation, and engineering. Pieter (I) was politically active at the outset of our revolution. He was outlawed in 1768 by Governor Tryon for his Regulator connections. Twenty years later all of Pieter (I) sons signed a petition urging North Carolina politicians to ratify the United States Constitution. The War Between the States pitted family members against one another in many instances. Many served and died in pursuit of their beliefs, be they for or against State's Rights or slavery. Later generations served their country proudly in other conflicts.

Thus our true heritage has and continues to evolve along with the course of mainstream America, and the world. Rooted in a probable mixture of ancient Western European tribes who settled the present day Netherlands area when it was barely habitable by human beings, later generations built and fought for a better America. Driven by strong convictions of faith and the desire for a better life, some spread out of Randolph County into Tennessee, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. From these Midwestern points it was off along the Oregon trail for some, to begin Kivett families in the far west. Yet today descendants of these pioneers, most who have scant knowledge of their heritage, continue to populate and help build a better world. We remain a tough, resilient, and sometimes ingenious clan.