

## **Kivett Bible Analysis, Conclusion, and Comments**

### **By William D. "Bill" Kivett**

Here are the beginning and last messages related to this subject only shared with a very few individuals until I could be convinced that this message subject is proven to my satisfaction. In between these messages, several other exchanges and sharing of photographic evidence has taken place in confidence between me and the private individual who has been in possession of this Bible for a number of years. We now know with a great deal of certainty the convoluted path this Bible took over many years to get from Peter Kivett's own hands into the present keeper. A warm and cordial relationship between the two of us was established and is still maintained. Comments on this analysis and conclusion from three trusted research contacts are included as opinions of others.

#### **Disclosure message to PKFA President Ronald Cheek:**

*Sat, May 22, 2021, 12:35 PM*

My name is [Redacted] and I have been researching my family ancestors. I have a very old bible which seems to indicate it was brought to America by a Kivett family. This bible came down to me through the Hendricks family so my first question is how it got from a Kivett to a Hendricks. The Bible has wood covered by leather as the front and back. Unfortunately, the story given to me was that it had been in a home set on fire when Sherman went through Atlanta so the front cover and part of the Old Testament burned away and water destroyed most of the writing inside which included family history. Some Kivett names I have are Peter, Johan and David. I am hoping either you or someone who will be attending the family meeting will know if there was a Kivett in Atlanta at the right time and if anyone knows of the Hendricks connection. Someone wrote in pencil about the Bible being brought here by a Kivett who settled outside Asheboro, NC and Deep river is mentioned. My cell phone is XXX-XXX-XXXX [Redacted]. I should probably also mention that the bible must date to late 1600 or early 1700. Any information you can provide would be really appreciated.

Thank you.

#### **1887/1888 entries writer identity analysis sent to current holder of this historic document:**

*Jun, 5, 2021, 6:16 PM*

Nell and I have been out of town since Tuesday visiting her siblings in NC and VA. We got back home to SC late yesterday. But before we left, I contacted an old research cousin of mine in FL who pointed me to a clue which may hold some answers about the "Kivett Bible". She had earlier sent me some copies of letters, along with accompanying attempted transcriptions, written by her Kivett ancestor David Lawrence Kivett - the one I proposed might be the David mentioned on the handwriting page in the "Kivett Bible". She found a pile of original

handwritten letters written by this David L. Kivett to his wife Elizabeth Hendricks soon after his arrival in Texas in early July 1887, and continuing for much of his several year stay there.

I am sending you the first one of her batch of letters, with its attempted transcription, and one additional one, also with attempted transcription, with more words to look at.

What I have come to believe is that the handwriting in these two examples MATCHES the handwriting on the "cherub page" of the "Kivett Bible" you sent me - the page where the Bible description was written by someone around the late 1800's.

I have attached a 4 page scan of these two letters and their transcribed words for your study:

[Letters:](#)

Please take particular notice of how the word "Dallas" is handwritten in the letters - particularly how the capital "D" that it begins with is composed with a unique flourish. You may want to pick out a few additional words for comparison that appear in both these letters known to have been written by this David Lawrence Kivett who went to Texas at this time - as the letters confirm. He wrote them to his wife Elizabeth Hendricks Kivett, who stayed behind in NC.

What I propose here by this is that the words written on the "cherub page" of the "Kivett Bible" were written by David Lawrence Kivett, himself - to his Hendricks maiden name wife.

So, I believe this adds credibility to it have been believed to have been a "Kivett Bible" at the time he took possession of it and transported it to Texas, and that it adds credibility to the probability that either before or after he died in Waco, TX on 22 May 1890 it reverted into the possession of his wife back in NC, the former Elizabeth Hendricks (1821 - 1902). She was the aunt of James L. Hendricks (1845 - 1913) who moved to IN and became a physician.

But you know all the rest, because he must have been the one who brought the "Kivett Bible" to IN with him from NC and passed it on through his daughter Gertrude (your grandmother) to YOU!

Take a look at these old letters and compare the writing to what you see in the "Kivett Bible" and get back in touch with what you think might be a next step for us.

Respectfully,  
Cousin-In-Law Bill

**Summary Bible analysis message sent to current holder of this historic document:**

*Sat, May 29, 2021, 7:00 PM*

Now I have for your consideration a set of Kivett family players - this one WITH a real connection by marriage to the Hendricks family that seems to make it plausible.

First, let's assume - later to be analyzed from the handwritten names of Kivett family members on the family records page that states at the top that this book was printed in Lancaster, England - this really was a Bible brought by our Kivett family immigrant we now call Peter Kivett to America. This page appears to maybe have been handwritten in the lifetime of Peter Kivett, and may be a listing of him and his children - perhaps in the Dutch Language. I need to sort out some date and event description information yet on that page. The other page with the cherub icon printed in the center contains a pretty understandable paragraph - no translation needed for that English handwriting. This paragraph may have been written by someone around the late 1800's, at least after they were aware of the Bible transfer from Warren Kivett to David Kivett. The place Peter settled in what later became Randolph Co. seems pretty accurate, but I thought he came from PA to NC maybe a little earlier than 1753 year, which is unsupported. Some of the first words may have been taken from other hearsay publications, about the Lancaster, England origin and him having a wife when he arrived in America. The 1743 arrival in America year might have been conjecture, not having seen the signature comparison match between that on Peter Kivett's will and the ship arrival in Philadelphia in September 1749 signature. The few words I passed through my electronic translator program from the printed Bible pages definitely say they are in the German language - not too surprising as they seemed to provide the earliest printed Bibles around Europe.

Next, how did it get passed down in the Kivett generations? Here's what I think was that path, as indicated by the handwriting on the page with the cherub image.

1. Peter Kivett (1726-1794) brought it to America ( 1743 or 1749 yet to work out)
2. His son John Matthew Kivett (abt 1755-abt 1843) may have inherited it from Peter - It stayed in Randolph Co., NC
3. His son John A. Kivett (1806-1844) may have inherited it from John Matthew Kivett - again, it stayed in Randolph Co., NC
4. His son Warren B. Kivett (1835-1901) may have inherited it from John A. Kivett. - once again, it stayed in Randolph Co., NC - it may have stayed with his wife Alvira "Alva" Kivett while her husband was off fighting for the Confederacy as Company Commander for the "Randolph Hornets". Him having survived and become a folk hero, it may have been logical that he keep the Kivett ancestral Bible.

John Matthew Kivett (above) had a brother named Henry Kivett (1793 - 1882). He was the first "Kivett industrialist", having built a dam across the Deep River and started a textile mill with

some partners. He also sired 16 children with one Quaker wife - all but one who died in NC. One of these 16 was named David Lawrence Kivett (1821-1890). He was also quite a business man. With the onset of the Civil War and Reconstruction that followed, he and his father Henry Kivett had to give up their belongings in Randolph Co.. Their family moved to near Fayetteville, NC and worked to build a new bridge across the Cape Fear River and establish a textile bobbin factory. This burned down and David was so depressed that he decided to try his luck out West. In June 1887 a record shows him spending the night in a hotel in Fort Worth, TX. Before he left, according to the handwritten paragraph in the Bible (not stating why), he was given this Kivett family heirloom to take with him to TX by the Warren B. Kivett shown above (his 1st cousin). Although he established the Waco Medicine Co. in Waco TX and seems to have been successful in this new career. It appears that he may have returned at least once to NC, before he died in Waco, TX in May 1890. His wife - here's the connection to your family - Elizabeth Hendricks (1821-1902) is thought to have only visited him once in TX. Although he was buried in Waco TX after he died there, either his desirable belongings (like the historical Bible) were sent back to NC, or he brought this treasure back to NC himself on one of his short returns to NC. Because she lived until 1902, it is assumed that the widowed Elizabeth kept this priceless Bible in NC until she gave it to her nephew James L. Hendricks - only son of her brother Thomas Alston Hendricks (a cotton manufacturer) and his 1st wife Pamela Johnson, who died bef. 1849.

Now, you are very familiar with this James L. Hendricks who was born 31 Dec 1845 in NC, but grew up to be a physician in IN where he married there in 1866 and was seen there in the 1900 and 1910 census records. Could this Bible have been thought to insure good travel fortune for loved ones, as it seemed to have done to Peter Kivett as he came to America, and given to David Lawrence Kivett as he made his trip to TX? James L. Hendricks was already living in IN when his aunt Elizabeth' husband died in Waco, TX. Could he have he returned to NC in 1890 for a comfort visit to her, and that's when she gave him the Kivett Bible to take back to IN with him? That's kind of what this series of "passings of the Bible" to beloved relatives seems to me to imply.

So, in summary:

Peter Kivett (possible first owner of this Bible) after journeying to America, had it passed down within his own family to his great-grandson in NC Warren B. Kivett - the Civil War hero of Randolph Co., all who lived near where Peter Kivett first settled.

Warren B. Kivett gave it to his own 1st cousin in NC David Lawrence Kivett, as he was about to make a journey to Texas.

Elizabeth Hendricks, widow of David Lawrence Kivett, gave it in NC to her nephew (first child of her brother Thomas Alston Hendricks) James L. Hendricks, exactly when and why is unclear.

Then James L. Hendricks who had married and moved to IN passed what was originally a historic Kivett family Bible down to his youngest child, Gertrude Hendricks. Somehow, you may know just how, This Bible got from Gertrude Hendricks in IN to her only child Mary Louise [Redacted] (who was only 2 years old when her mother died..

Finally, Anne Elizabeth [Redacted] (YOU) now have this priceless Kivett heirloom right there in your house!

But, of all these "Bible Handlers", you are the most important one - you cared enough to try to let the story of its existence be believably known to this old Kivett family researcher who, himself, cares enough to see to it that the remains of this ancient Bible is preserved in the best accessible archive, and the story behind it never goes untold for the benefit of future generations of TWO families - both the Kivetts and the Hendricks'.

Many thanks to you and your photography skilled daughter - and your Purdue University Boilermaker engineering graduate husband who allows such stuff to go on in his house, too.

In deepest respect,  
Bill Kivett

**Conclusion message sent to current holder of this historic document:**

*Sat, June 19, 2021, 6:12 PM*

**Subject: It's Peter Kivett's Bible and he was Dutch**

Today's Subject sums up where I am as of now. Please see the attached excerpt from variants of the Dutch words for "birth" [\[Attachment #1\]](#). Also see the attached examples of the way our Immigrant Peter Kivett signed his name upon arrival in 1749 in Philadelphia and again in a less steady hand on his 1793 will [\[Attachment #2\]](#). Compare the variation of the Dutch word for "birth" used several times between the listed names and the few available dates on the Kivett Bible family records page [\[Attachment #3\]](#). Also, as a "smoking gun" compare the two particular encircled examples of the surname on the Kivett Bible family records page and the two examples known to have been our Peter Kivett's signature. Note that a closer match can be made between what is seen on the Kivett Bible family records page and his earlier "off the boat" signature of a younger man.

Still unknown for sure to any of us about the Kivett Bible obtained in mid-year 1887 by David Lawrence Kivett from his 1st cousin Warren B. Kivett in Randolph Co., NC (as stated in David Lawrence Kivett's handwriting on the Cherub Page of that Bible) are:

1. Where and when did parts of the subject Bible get burned? It likely was not in Atlanta.
2. Why did David Lawrence Kivett (who further stated on the family records page the age and source location of the Bible in what is also probably his handwriting) in 1888 (probably while he was still in Texas) let the Bible be delivered either before or after his 1890 death in Waco, Texas to his wife Elizabeth Hendricks Kivett back in NC, rather than to any of his Kivett children or other Kivett family members?
3. Why are the dates on the listing page of the Kivett Bible not more easily matched to the believed birth dates of Peter Kivett's family members? Only one seems to match any known Peter Kivett children names and her tombstone dates.

All we can say with any confidence about these two factual and one speculative items are:

1. The Bible did get burned (as you confirm).
2. The Bible is now in your hands - reportedly directly passed down from your grandmother, grand niece of Elizabeth Hendricks Kivett - widow of David Lawrence Kivett.
3. Whoever wrote the scattered dates on that records page did not know many actual birth dates.

So where should we go from here - maybe some more public disclosures of the discovery of the identity of this historic document [PROBABLY ONCE HELD IN OUR PETER KIVETT'S OWN HANDS], at least. If you agree - how would you like to begin?

In awesome respect of your dedicated cooperation in this historic matter,  
Cousin-In-Law  
Bill Kivett

**Comments received from Dr. Robert M. Black:**

*Sun, Jun, 27, 2021, 10:17 AM*

Wow. I am impressed.

The person who shared this is to be commended, and the research you have done to date is impressive. Well done.

Regarding its provenance, I think that such a well-researched (even if somewhat speculative) report should accompany this book at all times. And my core belief is that documents as old and important as this should be safeguarded in a *public* repository, uppermost in my mind the North Carolina state archives. It seems the only way to ensure that it is available multi-generationally and to all.

That said, original (as opposed to photocopied) pages can be scanned with different forms of light in order to make the writing more distinct. We could perhaps arrange for that before it is deposited?

If there are funds needed to secure this volume and to ensure its proper conservation, prior to its placement in such a repository, I feel certain that other members of the PKFA would join me in contributing.

Now as for birthdates, I would not fuss about that. The habit of celebrating exact birthdays is a very late tradition. I can think of many, MANY examples in all my lines of birthdates being "remembered" well after the fact, which disagree markedly with documentation made at the actual time. And it is these earliest sources that are most valuable for historical research. Again, well done. A bit of a miracle.

RMB

**Comments received from Susan Kivett Robinson (researcher of Dutch Peter Kivett Family):**

*Sun, Jun, 27, 2021, 11:33 AM*

Dear Cousin Bill

This is great news and such a surprise, I did not think I would be hearing something like this. It is amazing really that it is still in existence after so many years, a testament to Kivett family members wanting to preserve the family history. A great big thank you to all of them.

The Dutch word for birth appearing in the Bible is another bit of evidence regarding Peter being from the Netherlands, which is very pleasing.

Keeping the Bible safe is important and the North Carolina State Archive, as suggested sounds like a sensible place to me.

Thank you for sharing this important information with me.

Hope you and Nell are finding yourselves living a more back to normal life. Here we still have some restrictions but it is all much more bearable.

Best regards  
Cousin Sue

**Comments received from Roberta Whiteside (widow of long time PKFA DNA Director):**

*Sun, Jun, 27, 2021, 3:23 PM*

Oh my goodness Bill. This is wonderful news. I always knew Warren was special, people come back from generations and I think the Kivett's did. He would be so out of this world happy about this it's amazing. I know you are over-the-moon yourself. Thank you for sharing this with me. I could use some good news right now. This Wednesday I am going to Johns Hopkins to have surgery. I will be staying with my daughter in Maryland for several days while I recuperate. Kirsten will be thrilled with this news also.

Please keep me posted about the ongoing results. Warren and those others of Kivett heritage have been working upstairs to see this outcome. My best to you and Nell, and once again thank you for letting me know of this revelation. Good job!  
love and hugs,  
Bobbie