

ALBERT A. SWOPE (1867)
FATHER OF ALBERT EDWARD SWOPE
FATHER OF ELNORA (SWOPE) FRANCE

Albert Asbury Swope, his wife Sarah Hornby Erskine Swope, owned a 150 acre farm. It lay between the Heinlin Road on the North, Catalpha (Baumgart) Road on the West, Old Petersburg Road on the South and East, near McCutchanville, Indiana. A long lane led down to the two story frame house and large log barn. This house and barn faced the South and was located on an elevation giving a beautiful view of the surrounding country side. This lovely old house was built by Andrew Erskine, the second son of the pioneer family, probably sometime in the 1820's. This original log house contained four rooms, two up and two down. Sometime later rooms were added in the back and the handsome two story porch was built all the way across the front from which there was a magnificent-- view.

The house when finished was mainly built in the Federal- style of architecture and was not common in this area. This house and farm passed into the Swope family through a series of untimely deaths.

In 1856 William H. Erskine, the oldest son of the builder of the house (Andrew Erskine) married Sarah Ann Hornby.

William and Sarah Erskine had one son, Henry. William died three years after the birth of Henry, at the age of 32. Now the grandfather of Henry (Andrew) died in 1364 leaving the property to Henry.

In 1867 Henry's mother (Sarah Ann) married Albert A. Swope. Before Henry reached his twenty third birth day he died, leaving the property to his mother, Sarah and his step father, A.A. Swope.

Sarah Ann Harnby Erskine Swope and A.A. Swope had one son, Albert Edward (A.E.) Sarah died when A.E. was still very young. A.E.'s father A.A. later married Margaret Whitehead and they had one son, Pollard and two daughters Anna and Clara.

A.A. was a Civil War Veteran and lived on the farm as A.E. was growing up. Later in A.A.'s life he moved to Evansville. A.E. apparently grew up on the farm but then went to Evansville. He attended Wabash College before his marriage. He married Kathryn Marie Young. They had two children, Mary Alberta (Mayme) and Ralph while living in a little cottage on the corner of Vine Street in Evansville.

A. E. SWOPE

Albert Edward Swope and Kathryn Marie, father and mother of Elnora Swope, lived in the country on a 150 acre farm. Their nicknames were Al and Kate.

His father's name was Albert Asbury Swope and his mother's name was Sarah Harnby Swope. Al had a half brother older by his mother's first husband. His name was Henry Erskine. Sarah died when Al was still very young. A.A. Swope later married Margaret Whitehead known as Maggie. They had one son Pollard and two daughters Anna and Clara, nicknames Dot and Tod.

A. E. wife's (Kate) mother's name was Harriet Lawrence Young, wife of Benjamin Young. They lived in a 4 room log house with one room up stair's located just off the Whetstone Road. Along the south side of the R.R. tracks at McCutchanville.

Albert A. was a Civil War Veteran and owned the farm to which his son moved. A.A- then moved to Evansville, Indiana.

Katie Young, as she was then called, attended McCutchanville School. A.E. also attended there as he was born on his father's farm, to which he moved later as a young married man. T'was at school and dances in the large hall above the two school rooms the two grew up together. In those days there were no cars and much of the courtin' was done by horseback or walking. The two often rode double on one horse.

A few facts about my father. He helped with the first telephones in our community, organizing a group to put up Poles, string wires, arrange for an exchange and Directory for the numbers of members. Had party lines and wall telephones, had to use crank to ring. Four long rings for emergency and telephone operator always helped locate stray animals, give information on sickness in the Ville and other general information.

My father was also Secretary-Treasurer of the Woodmen of World Treasurer of Farmer Mutual Ins. Co. many years.

He started planning of High School with Mary Johns, teacher, in McCutchanville, which was held two years. I was there. I began my High School days in 1907. I finished High School days at Central, graduating in 1911. I was next to the Youngest in our class that year. Emma Goldsmith next - (a boy was younger than we were). --Smarter.

He worked as a Postal Clerk several years after his marriage. A.E. and Kathryn had moved to the farm in 1894 Kathryn was to have her third child. As there were no cars or telephones at that time Albert rode horse back to get the Doctor in McCutchanville.

Dr. Wilbur Clippinger then lived at the corner of Petersburg and Kansas Road where the United Methodist parsonage is now. The Doctor's office was in a small building south of his home. Medicine bottles were lined up on both sides of the shelves. Callers waited on straight back chairs lined up in the small room. In back there was another small room having a table for examining patients or operating. Various equipment completed the furnishing of the room.

The doctor was always willing to make house calls and drove his horse and buggy around the Ville. I guess he made it down to the Swope home as the third child of Mr. and Mrs. A.E. Swope was born August 30, 1894.

The Doctor later moved to a large white house across the road west of the school which later (the school) served as T.V. Channel 9. The Office at this new place was also a small separate building with waiting room and then a small room with an examining and operating table in the back.

The Swope family gradually increased. The next girl, Laura Helen (McCutchan) arrived in 1900. Then came Kathryn Sarah (Riggs) and Alice Edna (Cooksey) and last, our baby sister, Anna Isabel (Germano-McKeeby).

My father wanted and really needed another boy as he had this large farm, but the girls came instead.

The three girls soon began to do outdoor jobs, feeding animals, herding cows on horseback down on the lower 50 acre field since there were no fences, etc. so my father gave them three boys nicknames -- calling them, Pete, Billy, and Johnny.

When watching the cows they would sometimes have races along the Catalpha road having so much fun they'd sometimes let the cows slip into the corn nearby. Then there was a chase.

Sometimes they helped with the mowing and raking hay.

One time Kathryn was driving the two horse mower to cut the clover and ran into a bees nest. The horse began to run, bees following them and her giving many a sting. Kathryn managed to drive the horses to the barn and ran to the house. Her face was swollen so much that when Dad came home he looked at her and greeted her with a "Good Mornin' How are you today," then realizing who she was. Tho the stings were painful we all had to laugh.

KATHERINE M. SWOPE **(KATHERINE MARIE YOUNG SWOPE)**

Katherine M. Swope, mother of Elnora S. France, was the daughter of Benjamin and Harriet Lawrence Young, was born April 27, 1870, and died September 25, 1939, the last of a family of seven children.

She lived in this neighborhood practically all her life with the exception of the first few years of her marriage which were spent in Evansville.

She was a faithful worker in the church and especially in the Ladies Aid of which she was president for 13 years. On April 10, 1889, she was united in marriage to Albert E. Swope. They celebrated their Golden wedding Anniversary spring of 1939. A large crowd of relatives and friends attended. Although she was ill that day she greeted each one with a smile and cheery word. During her long illness she never complained.

She had a happy and sympathetic disposition which endeared her to a large circle of friends. She was a loving and faithful wife and devoted mother making her home a gathering place for relatives and friends alike. Her mothering spirit included many young people who had been deprived of their own mother's guidance and love.

Those who remember her loving presence here are: The husband, Albert Swope, six daughters and one son.

Children

Ralph Henry Swope
Mary Alberta Swope Henry
Clara Elnora Swope France
Laura Helen Swope McCutchan
Kathryn Sarah Swope Riggs
Alice Edna Swope Cooksey
Anna Isabel Swope Germano McKeeby

Wife/Husbands

Margaret Whitehead
Robert
Ivan
Jason
James
Clarence
Guy, Bill

Her father was, Benjamin Young, mother, Harriet Lawrence Young.

Sisters/Brothers

Mary Jamison
Annie Young
Laura Goldsmith
Emma Goldsmith
Esther Wahl
Charles Young
Bob Young
Henry Young

Wives/Husbands

Charles
Walter
Jesse
George
Maggie
Carrie
Ella

Children

Emma, Charles, Mary, Walter
Jessie Mae, adopted
Fred, Elmer, Wilbur, Alvin, Robert
Edith, Dorothy
Clara, Walter, Laurence, Margaret, Edgar, Edwin
Harriet

Written bys Elnora Swope France, daughter of Albert E. and Kathryn M. Swope