

A History of the Juniata Valley and its People Under The Editorial Supervision of John W. Jordan, L.L.D. Librarian of Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa., Volume III, Illustrated, New York, Lewis Historical- Publishing Company, 1913



*Thos. E. Africa*

The family which bears the name of **Africa** is well represented in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, and it has been connected with important public matters for several generations. The name is of German origin, and the spelling is almost identical with the German form.

(I) **Andrew Jackson Africa**, a lineal descendant of the emigrant ancestor, **Christopher Africa**, was born in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, 1822, and died March 2, 1904. During the earlier portion of his life he was engaged in the trade of shoemaking, but later became the railway agent at Cove Station, a post he occupied for a period of thirteen years. Returning to Huntingdon, he was made a car inspector, in which position he served very efficiently until he lost one of his arms, when he was appointed to the position of night caller, in which he served until incapacitated by old age. He was retired, and was "on relief" for a period of twelve years. He was Republican in his political views, and a member of the Baptist Church. He was

married by the Rev. Jesse Williams, October 28, 1852, to **Maria Duffield Peebles King**, born January 19, 1827, died January 28, 1892 (see King line forward). Children:

1. **Martha Belle**, married, April 13, 1875, **William C. Bartol**; children: **Mary**, married, June 5, 1903, **Lewis E. Theiss**; **Belle**; **William A.**; **Helen King**; they live in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.
2. **William Carey**, resides in Huntingdon, where he is a hardware merchant and also manager and part proprietor of the store operated by Africa Brothers.
3. **Thomas Edgar**, see forward.

4. **Vinton Zimmerman**, hardware merchant.

(II) **Thomas Edgar**, son of **Andrew Jackson** and **Maria Duffield Peebles (King) Africa**, was born at Cove Station, Perry County, Pennsylvania, February 3, 1858. He acquired a sound, practical education in the public schools of his township, and supplemented this by assiduous study at home, so that he was easily enabled to pass the necessary examination for admission to the eligible list of those who desired to become members of the clerical force of the post office. May 11, 1874, he entered upon the duties of his position as a clerk in the Huntingdon post office, and the following October he was appointed assistant postmaster. He was railway postal clerk from 1879 to 1882 on the trip from New York City to Pittsburgh, a very important section of the road. He resigned from this position, returning to Huntingdon, and assuming the duties of his former position as assistant postmaster, and is still engaged in this at the present time (1913). During his tenure of these various offices **Mr. Africa** has seen a great revolution in post office methods. The local post office has been brought up to a high state of efficiency. Rural Free Delivery has been added to the service, and the parcels post and the postal savings have been introduced. **Mr. Africa** takes an active part in a number of other business enterprises, among them being: Director in the Union National Bank and the Franklin Building and Loan Association. He is also the junior partner in the firm of Africa Brothers. He affiliates with the Republican Party in politics, and is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Improved Order of Heptasophs. He and his wife are members of the Baptist church.

**Mr. Africa** married, May 15, 1884, **Anna E.**, daughter of **Henry Snare**, of Huntingdon.

Children:

1. **Henry**, graduated from Bucknell College, took a post-graduate course at Columbia University, New York City, and is now studying sociology in Berlin, Germany; he is a very fine musician, and is considered an artist in his performances on the pipe organ and piano.
2. **Walter T.**, educated at Bucknell College and the Banks Business College of Philadelphia; he is now bookkeeper for the Colonial Pine Lumber Company, Wilson, North Carolina.

(**The King Line**).

(I) **Alexander King**, from whom the Kings of Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, trace their descent, is described by those who knew him as a Scotch-Irishman, a strict Scotch Presbyterian, in personal appearance a man of medium height and weight. He came from Ireland to America in 1773 or 1774. On January 10, 1776, he enlisted at New London Crossroads, Chester County, Pennsylvania, as a soldier of the revolutionary war, under Captain Henry Darby, in the Delaware regiment commanded by Colonel Haslett. He was then a young man, presumably twenty-five years of age, and served under these officers for one year, during which time he was in the disastrous battle of Long Island, after which, retreating with his regiment, he fought at White Plains, under Washington. Here he received a slight wound in the hand from a Hessian's bayonet. He continued with his regiment in the perilous flight through New Jersey, and was at the taking of the Hessians at Trenton, after the famous crossing of the ice-filled Delaware River. The time of his enlistment having expired, **Alexander King** remained at home for one month, and then, February 10, 1777, re-enlisted in Captain Benjamin Fishborne's company of the Fourth Pennsylvania Regiment, commanded by Colonel William Butler. Under Fishborne and under

Captain Thomas Church, in whose company in the Fourth Pennsylvania he also fought, he served with some distinction, being promoted, February 11, 1780, from corporal to sergeant of his company. He fought in the battles of Brandywine and Germantown, and afterward at Monmouth on the memorable sultry day in June. Marching with his regiment to Schoharie, New York, where the winter was passed, he was ordered the following summer to join the expedition under General Sullivan against the Indians in Genesee County, same state, and upon his return he, together with his company, joined the main army. He remained in the service until the month of January, 1781, when he was discharged by Colonel Butler on account of sickness, and returned to his home. His application for a pension states that he had been wounded in the hand by a Hessian bayonet and was afterward injured in the foot. He made his application for a pension April 14, 1818, at which time he was residing in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, and was sixty-four years of age. His pension was allowed for five years actual service as corporal and sergeant during the period of the revolutionary war.

Family tradition says that he came to America from the north of Ireland, where he and his wife, **Nancy Jackson**, were married. In the first United States census, taken in 1790, **Alexander King** is listed as living in New London Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. He came to Huntingdon not later than 1796, a proof of this being an entry on the county records which gives **Alexander King**, of Huntingdon, as the purchaser of Lot No. 181, on January 30, 1797. He probably removed directly from Chester County to Huntingdon County. He died August 8, 1826, and was buried in the Riverview cemetery, Huntingdon, his younger son, **Thomas**, being buried in the plot with him. The graves are unmarked at the present time, but the exact location is known to members of the family. **Alexander King's** watch fob, his cane, and a thimble which had belonged to **Thomas** are in the possession of members of the **King** family. **Alexander King** was admitted to membership in Lodge No. 56, Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons, at Huntingdon, Pennsylvania June 24, 1800, and was buried with the usual Masonic honors. **Alexander King** married, in Ireland, **Nancy Jackson**, who died in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, June 30, 1825, and is buried beside her husband. They had sons:

1. **John**, probably born at London Crossroads, Chester County, Pennsylvania, settled in Bedford County, Pennsylvania; married **Christine Berkstresser**; children: **William R., James, Harry S., Caroline, John, Margaret, Thomas, Nancy, Alexander** and **Elizabeth**.
2. **Thomas**, see forward.

(II) **Thomas Sr.**, son of **Alexander** and **Nancy (Jackson) King**, was probably born at London Crossroads, Chester County, Pennsylvania, in 1779. He removed to Huntingdon County with his father and spent the remainder of his life there. Like his father, he was a tailor by occupation, and was also a member of the Presbyterian Church and a member of the Masonic fraternity. He served a short three months' time in the War of 1812, under Captain Robert Allison. **Thomas King** was married in Huntingdon, 1803, to **Martha Norris**, by the Rev. John Johnston, and their children were:

1. **William Henderson**, born August 22, 1803, married **Mary Ann Dobbins**.
2. **Ann**, born March 29, 1806, died October 17, 1871: married **George Glazier**.
3. **Margaret**, born May 14, 1808, died July, 1878: married **Joseph Hayes**, of Wilmington, Delaware.

4. **John**, born July 1, 1810, died May 8, 1818.
5. **Mary**, born August 5, 1818, died August, 1880: married **Christian Long**.
6. **Martha**, died December, 1822, in childhood.
7. **Elizabeth**, born November 6, 1820, died January 28, 1896: married **William Johnston**.
8. **Sarah**, born July 18, 1823; married **Peter Shaver**.
9. **Maria Duffield Peebles**, see forward.

(III) **Maria Duffield Peebles**, daughter of **Thomas Sr.** and **Martha (Norris) King**, married **Andrew Jackson Africa** (see **Africa I**).

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