

Collection #
SC 3430

**JEHU WILKINSON
LETTER, 12 APRIL 1910**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder

COLLECTION DATES: 12 April 1910

PROVENANCE: Typed copy made from a typed copy loaned by Robert Brant, Shelbyville, Indiana, June 1958

RESTRICTIONS: None

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RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1958.0607

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Leah Neiswanger (ca. 1759 or 1766–1821) was born in Wheeling, West Virginia. Her family was of German descent, and they were among the first settlers of the area. While living in West Virginia, her family experienced quite a bit of trouble with local Native Americans. One brother, John, was killed during a confrontation with a small band of Native Americans on the Ohio River. Another brother, Peter, was kidnapped by Native Americans at age twelve but managed to escape. Leah's first cousin was Lewis Wetzel (ca. 1763–1808), “the celebrated Indian Fighter” and frontiersman, today considered to be a lesser-known Daniel Boone.

Leah married John Wilkinson in 1789, and they had nine children together: Samuel, John V. and Elijah Cooper (twins), Mary, Elizabeth, Margaret, Leah, Catherine, and Rebecca. Shortly after their marriage, Leah and John moved to Rockingham County, Virginia. In 1795, they moved further west to Fort Washington (later Cincinnati), Ohio. Within a few years, the family moved to a farm fifteen miles north of Fort Washington, where Leah spent the remainder of her life.

Jehu Q. Wilkinson (sometimes Wilkison or Wilkinsin) was born to Elijah Cooper Wilkinson (1792–1875) and Elizabeth Hixson Wilkinson (1794-1866) on 26 October 1836 in Highland County, Ohio. The youngest of eleven children, he was the grandson of Leah Neiswanger Wilkinson. His wife was Louisa Belle Wilkinson, and they had at least five children: Leinore Fyffe, Edith, Alice Hattie, Carl Hixson, and Wilber. By 1870, the family lived on a farm in Bainbridge, Putnam County, Indiana. Jehu Wilkinson died on 2 July 1913 in Bainbridge and was buried in the Brick Chapel Cemetery in Putnam County.

Peter Henry Imel was born to George Imel (1793–1879) and Leah Wilkinson Imel (1800-1861) on 7 January 1839 in Johnson, Scott County, Indiana. He was the grandson of Leah Neiswanger Wilkinson and the cousin of Jehu Wilkinson. He married Caroline Mather in 1868 in Indianapolis; the couple lived in Fairland, Shelby County, Indiana, where they had nine children: Frank Leslie, Nellie Viola, Harry M., George John, Herbert G., Ivy I., Anna M., Ralph Waldo, and Paul Revere. He died in Fairland on 9 December 1918.

Sources:

Collection materials.

1870 U.S. Federal Census, via Ancestry.com

Indiana, Compiled Marriages, 1802-1850, via Ancestry.com

Indiana, Death Certificates, 1899-2011, via Ancestry.com

Indiana, Select Marriages Index, 1748-1993, via Ancestry.com

“Lewis Wetzel,” Ohio History Connection.

http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/index.php?title=Lewis_Wetzel&rec=405

U.S., Find a Grave Index, 1600s-Current, via Ancestry.com

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains a three-page typed copy of a letter written by Jehu Wilkinson of Bainbridge, Indiana, to his cousin, Peter H. Imel, of Fairland, Indiana, on 12 April 1910. The copy was typed in 1958.

In the letter, Wilkinson writes what he knows of “the history of our ancestral Grand-mother,” Leah Neiswanger Wilkinson. He notes that most of what he knows is family lore handed down to him by relatives who have since died. Wilkinson tells of the Neiswanger family’s troubles with Native Americans in West Virginia, as well as basic genealogical information relating to Leah Neiswanger Wilkinson (birth, marriage, children, death, etc). He also briefly relates the story of his and Imel’s uncle, Sam Wilkinson, who reportedly disappeared without a trace from his plantation in Louisiana sometime in the early 1800s.

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Peter H. Imel, of Fairland, Ind. 12 April 1910

CONTAINER

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