The Killian Family Newsletter

Volume 3, Number 1 — 1995

Published Twice a Year

OUR PAST PRESENT & FUTURE

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REMEMBERING CLETUS HUGO KILLIAN [RIN 5] 1891 — 1962

by his daughter: Margaret J. Killian Hesher

One of Cletus H. Killian's many interests was researching Killian family history. He was the main speaker at the unveiling of the Andreas Killian monument in 1952. He often stated he had 88 first cousins, an astounding and intimidating thought as we had only eleven first cousins, all on his side of the family. He was clearly fond of his siblings. We lived in New York City, and they in Missouri, but there was frequent communication and visiting.

Although he was absorbed with family statistics and distant relatives, he told, and wrote, little about his own family and events of his youth. Cletus was born 4 Mar 1891 in Perryville, Perry Co., MO (southeastern MO) to Mary Ann Schindler and James William Killian. The line is through John, Andreas' third child.

His childhood and adolescence were spent on the family farm. He was the second of nine children, and the first of only five who lived to adulthood. A sister, Olive, just under one year younger than he, died when Cletus was not yet eight years old. My brothers were seven and ten years older and there had been another brother between them who, like Olive, had died at age six several years before I was born. This brother was part of my childhood because the family talked about him and I was familiar with photographs of him in the family album. Cletus' family had been much larger than ours and several children had died. I can only surmise what his childhood must have been like as I do not recall him ever relating events from his childhood or teenage years. Did we ever express an interest in his childhood? I don't think I did. Would he have regaled us with tales about life on the farm or shenanigans with his siblings if we had asked? I am aware of only one anecdote about his early years and even that one is vague. We've been told by relatives that, even as a child, Cletus was a maverick and was recognized as an original thinker.

From my view his life began when he left the family farm for the University of Missouri. It was there that he met my mother but they were not married until 1919, several years after her graduation. It is my impression that they met in a Mathematics club, which I considered quite a dreary and unromantic start when I heard it. After marriage they left Missouri for Washington, D.C. In 1920 they moved to

Connecticut and a year later to New York State. Except for a twoyear period (1932-33) in Connecticut again, they spent the rest of their lives as New Yorkers, 34 of them in Brooklyn.

My earliest memory of my father is from an extraordinary photo, in the family photo album. It shows him holding his two small sons upside-down by their ankles. This photo fascinated me and somehow epitomized his unusualness to me. There were other standard family pictures, but to me they were not the real him.

It seemed to me everything about my father was different from other fathers. To begin with, his name was strange. Once in a very early grade in school, I asked the teacher's assistance in spelling his name and was all but accused of making it up. His occupation was strange. He was, I was told, an inventor. Yet I never saw anything that he had invented. During much of my childhood he was out of town, usually in connection with his inventions. When he was at home, my remembrance of him is mainly of a man ensconced in an easy chair, surrounded by piles of paper filled with incomprehensible symbols, scientific magazines, or perhaps engrossed in a crossword puzzle. His corner was "off-limits" to everyone and woe to anyone who might shift a paper's position in his absence. What looked to us like clutter and disarray, he claimed was his own filing system.

My childhood recollections are mainly associated with my mother and my brothers. Yet one of my clearest memories is of going, with my father, on the long subway ride from Brooklyn to the American Museum of Natural History. I loved these outings and have, because of them, nearly a photographic recall of the dinosaur halls, the whale suspended from the ceiling whose bottom looked more like a boat than an oceanic mammal, and the spectacular exhibits of African wild animals in incredible lifelike dioramas. We would visit the Hayden Planetarium where I would submerge my being under the incredibly starry skies or examine in wonder a huge meteorite. We would eat in the museum cafeteria and I loved every minute of it. He also introduced me to the Metropolitan Museum of Art where we investigated Egyptian artifacts and copies of Michelangelo sculptures. I cannot say whether he took me on these expeditions six or sixty times, but it was a very important part of my life.

During my adolescence I became painfully aware that he was not just different, he was eccentric. He loved to talk and his resonant voice, if not consciously directed to all within sight, was clearly heard by all. Embarrassment and humiliation were my lot as a young teenager when he demonstrated Michelangelo's extraordinary talent by pointing out leg dimensions on nude statues at the Metropolitan Museum. I believe I did my best to pretend I had no connection with him and my formerly loved expeditions became infrequent probably sullen excursions on my part.

Cletus had a love of learning; he was a fount of information. I recall no topic about which he could not give a long lecture. This was also true about my mother but the difference was that my father gave the lecture; my mother did not. I soon learned that to

Printed by: George W. Killian
on: Tue 11 Nov 2003 Please do not make copies

Page 1 of 24 NL Printed for: Name ask him a question was to initiate a discourse that told me far more than I wished to know.

My parents sometimes played a spelling game in which each would test the other. Dad would search for long obscure words with totally non-phonetic spelling. Mother would challenge him with more familiar but tricky words.

One exception to his reticence came when I was a young adult. We were discussing my brother, Ralph, the second of three boys. He died at age six, before I was born, from peritonitis after an appendectomy. Dad told me how he used to visit Ralph in the hospital and, while there, would visit with other children. His

love for children was always evident, so I was not surprised, but when he said he always felt guilty, after Ralph's death, that he had not returned to visit the other children, I was impressed that this still weighed on his mind.

One of his loves was astronomy and he used to work on an astronomical enigma that had been unsolved for centuries. I know he wanted to solve the problem and be entered into the annals of recognized scientific geniuses. encouraged us to look at the skies. There were children's books on astronomy on our bookshelves. A two-edged family tale is that of Dad taking his boys to New England to view an eclipse in the early 1930's, certainly an exciting event and a trip above and beyond the average father's family outing. Unfortunately, the day of the eclipse coincided with the family's move from Connecticut to Brooklyn. I was barely a toddler at the time. Thus, what was a highlight for the men in the family, was surely a day of fatigue and probably drudgery for my mother.

During World War II both of my brothers were in the Army. Jimmie worked on a secret device to be used in a bomb. On one furlough, he brought a piece of a model home, showing it briefly to me and to our mother. My father was not permitted the smallest glimpse because Jimmie was convinced that he would immediately understand its principles.

My father did not like to go to the movies except to see biographical films like *Juarez* and *Louis Pasteur*. He would, however, require that I tell him the plots of movies I saw. He might also ask me to relate any dreams I had. I knew, even then, that he was not particularly interested in either the movies or the dreams; he was teaching me to relate things in an orderly sequence. He would ask penetrating questions to force me to organize my thoughts. Amusement in our family often consisted of our competing with each other to solve a mathematic or logic puzzle. I remember how proud I was the first time I was the winner of one of these contests. As the youngest, and probably the least mathematically minded, I relished this event which was very seldom repeated.

Long before I was born Cletus conceived principles that were the precursors of the modern computer. For years he worked on this invention and improvements. During my teens, I began to think that he would achieve worldly success, he was so optimistic about his work. Unfortunately, his plans never came to fruition and we believe this brought deep disappointment in his last years. Years later, we, his children, were very pleased when we learned that his pioneer concepts were recognized and that his contributions were to be acknowledged in a chapter on the history of the development of the computer in a book called *Forces of Production* by David Nobel who described Cletus as "a brilliant and iconoclastic engineer, mathematician, and physicist."

As I look back upon my father, I recognize some of his influences on me. His eccentricities, which so embarrassed me as a

teenager, eventually gave me the courage to follow my own drummer occasionally. I had thought my deep love for classical music had its origin in Walt Disney's Fantasia. I now recall that my father nearly always had the radio tuned to a classical music station. As I work on the New York Times crossword puzzles, I remember my father working on them. There always seemed to be an aura of love for, and pride in me, which I took for granted. Now, more than thirty years after his death, I appreciate some of the great gifts he passed on to me. I am sorry he did not realize his own dreams, but I am certainly thankful for the heritage he left. Dr. Noble's quotation is indeed true, but I think I would add that he was a gentle patient man and had a kind heart.



Cletus H. Killian age 56

Comments by George W. Killian a son of Cletus'

Cletus' father was a farmer, but he taught in the local school system briefly. Cletus and all his brothers went to college. The eclipse trip was a disaster,

it was obscured by clouds. Mother saw it better from the roof of an apartment in NYC, although NYC was not in the path of totality. Cletus' employment was primarily as a Patent Attorney. Jimmie's "secret work" was on an antiaircraft proximity fuse that would cause a bomb to explode when it was proximate to the target; a direct hit was not required. Cletus worked on crossword puzzles in ink! He died 7 Oct 1962 at 71 years 7 months & 3 days. Mother lived another ten years I think Margaret has provided an exceptional summary of our father's character and brilliance.

ANDREAS' PARENTAGE IS IN DOUBT

In May of 1994 I (George W. Killian, Editor) had the great good fortune to hear from Diane Davenport Miller who is descended from Andreas through his son John. Diane has a great bond of friendship with a German lady and they have visited in each other's homes a few times. During the summer of 1994 Diane spent a few weeks in Germany with her friend and determined to search records to find and identify Andreas and/or determine if Johannes Philip Wolfgang₉₃₇ is indeed the father of Andreas. Her research reveals there is serious doubt, but still a

chance of it being true. I believe the best way to convey the results of her search is to copy liberally from her letter of 18 Sep 1994.

"I have returned from a wonderful trip, but with disappointing news. I found the •¹three "mystery" children of Wolfgang Philipp Kilian; they were all girls.

"I went to the Stadtarkiv in Augsburg, and with considerable help from my German friend, soon had in my hands a copy of one of the books you cite: "

Die Augsburger Kunstlerfamilie Kilian", by Albert Hämmerle, 1922, and two lovely old books with handwritten records. (And on the wall behind me was a large and old print of the city of Augsburg by Wolfgang Philipp Kilian!) The records showed the marriage of Wolfgang Philipp Kilian to Anna Dorothea Warnberger. Only two pages of the Hämmerle book were relevant to Wolfgang Philipp; it said he and Anna Dorothea left Augsburg and moved to Nürnberg in 1703 (information that I don't think you had in your data), then in 1724 they and their three children moved to Königsburg. It said nothing was known of the children.

"Then we went to the building next door — the Lutheran church's records. There we found the record of the marriage in the church (apparently there were two ceremonies, civil and religious), July 23, 1696. Then we searched for children and found a girl, Elisabeth, born to them (or more likely christened) on October 28, 1697. We searched through 1711 and found no other births recorded to them. (We did find two children born to Jeremias: Georg Philipp, March 10, 1698, and Susanna Rosin, March 2, 1701: and three born to Georg: Georg Christoph, Jan 4, 1709, Maria Katarina, Jan 30, 1710, and Maria Barbara, Feb 15, 1711.)

Then we went to Nürnberg and looked at the Lutheran records there. There were three other children born to Wolfgang Philip and Anna Dorothea:

Margareta Barbara, Feb 16, 1706 Margareta, August 20, 1709 (died Sep 16) Maria Regina Elizabeth 1712

"So you have three surviving children, all daughters. The only Kilian deaths listed between 1702-1724 were an Anna-Maria, Hieronimus, and Johann Thomas. I didn't look for their ages or parentage, as I was only interested in the survival of those daughters until 1724.

"I see only one thread of possibility that a son, Andreas, could have been born to him — there is an intriguing sentence in EU#90: '...in 1724 he went *back* to Königsberg...' (This apparently came from a translation of the *Thieme und Becker* book.) Was he there before? Perhaps during the 6 year span between the births of Elisabeth in 1697 and Margareta Barbara in 1706? In that case you have to kill off Elisabeth to go back to three children — that death could also have been in Königsberg.

"Conversely, you could say the information we have, much of it from several old books, is incomplete—there may be other births not mentioned in the books. For instance, I found a marriage record of a Philipp March Kilian, copper engraver, in Nürnberg, to Anna Magdalena Friedrich, in 1714, and a daughter, Anna Barbara, born (or baptized) Oct 2, 1717. Then a death record for Philipp Marcus on Feb 6, 1719. Who was he? I can't

find his name in your records, unless he was Max Philipp, son of Wolfgang Philipp (Listed as dying in 1716 in Nürnberg.) And there is the conflict in names: Johannes Philipp Wolfgang vs. Wolfgang Philipp — are they possibly different people? And even when you are looking at the actual records instead of relying on the books, there is the possibility that some records simply didn't get recorded or have been lost, although the way they were kept it seems unlikely. I do know it takes a lot vigilance to sort through these old records and come away with notes that are not confused. It takes the help of a record person to read the old handwriting, and you go from a book listing a birth or marriage to another giving the details. It is possible that Andreas could have been a child of Bartholomus by an earlier marriage than the one that produced the only offspring we know about: Rosina and Johann Jacob Balthasar. Or even that one of Philipp Wolfgang's older sons could have been the father. (The name Andreas was given to one of Georg Martin's sons.)

"But I am intrigued and I will try to dig some more. I will let everyone know if I find anything, pro or con.

Best regards"

A comment by George W. Killian: Notice that in the list of the three girls listed above that the second has the same first name as the first girl. This name identity is rare but not unknown. Usually it means that the first child had died and the name was used again. Thus, I suggest there is a chance that both girls named Margareta, died and are not counted as three surviving children. The first child, Elizabeth, was born in 1697. then there is a gap until 1706 until the next child is born. This gap is unusual, and it covers exactly the years in which Andreas is believed to have been born. Diane has cast considerable doubt on the presumed parentage of Andreas. I still believe it is not conclusive that Andreas is not a son of Wolfgang Philip and Anna Dorothea.

REMEMBERING JAMES R. KILLIAN [RIN 4387]

 $1904 - 1988\,$ Samuel C. Killian line by his daughter: Carolyn M. Killian Staley

My first memories of my father include his lifelong love of gardening. He was so proud of his Victory garden during WWII. I remember him bringing Mother big green tomatoes and Mother would bread them in cornmeal and fry them; my introduction to "Fried Green Tomatoes" reminiscent of their Southern backgrounds. Although my Dad was not what one would ever call a "jock", he did enjoy mountain climbing and hiking, but he made sure that my brother and I were introduced to a multitude of sports-tennis, skiing, ice skating, horseback riding. He loved music, particularly Gilbert & Sullivan. I remember jigging around the living room singing along with the record, "I am the very Model of a Modern Major-General" or "Three Little Maids from School". In this day of gender consciousness, I never remember being treated "like a girl". He expected me to do well in school and train for a career. I think he secretly hoped that I might go to MIT [Massachusetts Institute of Technology] (I chose Mount Holyoke). When I was in college and asked his advice as to what I might major in, he said, "It didn't matter as long as I took all the literature, art and music appreciation courses that my schedule would allow". Those courses would stay with me a lot longer than any math or science courses that I might take. He was not a strict

¹ German books on the Kilian artists state that three children were born to W.P.K. by his third wife around 1700, but no names or sex were given. Various circumstantial facts (and perhaps some wishful thinking) have suggested that one of them might have been Andreas.

disciplinarian but his discipline was constructive and creative. After attending a PTA meeting when I was in kindergarten and learning that the other children were making their beds as part of their household chores, he told me that it was time for me to begin making my bed. Being independent and ornery, I said I didn't want to and if I had to begin making my bed, I didn't want a bed. Guess what? He went down to the cellar and got his wrench and screwdriver and dismantled my bed. For several days I thought it was great as I had all this extra room in my room but eventually the floor got hard and I contritely went to my Dad and asked for my bed back—on his terms.

Big decisions were always decided around the dining room table. I was in high school when Dad was asked to be president of Duke University (he was a student there when it was called Trinity). Each member of the family had a sheet of paper divided into two sections, pro & The pros won (I was already looking forward to being a southern belle) but when Dad went to tell Dr. Karl Compton, then president of MIT, Dr. Compton requested that he delay his reply to Duke until the MIT Corporation had a chance to convene. After meeting, the Corporation asked Dad to be president of MIT. A dilemma and back to the dining room table. We all know the decision that was made.

Dad lived his life with grace and principle. He was modest about his achievements but continually persevered to leave "the campground in better condition than he found it" I think his proudest achievement, besides his family, was being the Father

Additional Notes Re James R. Killian, Jr.

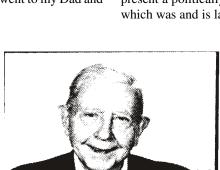
of Public Television. I am happy and proud that he was my Dad!

His name is sometimes given as James Rhyne Killian, Jr. Rhyne was his mother's maiden name. But with "Rhyne" he would not be a Jr. His father was James Robert Killian, so I assume his name was also James Robert Killian.

In her letter with her notes about her Dad Carolyn said "It is impossible to list his many accomplishments and I have enclosed a copy of the *New York Times* obituary and will let you decide what space will allow. (This is called passing the buck!)" She added "He was very proud to have served Eisenhower as the first Science Advisor. Actually Dad was not a scientist. He was a Business Administration major at MIT and although he received many honorary doctorates, he himself earned only a bachelor's degree. At MIT he did much to inject humanities into the curriculum." She also mentioned having visited St. Kilian's Cathedral in Wurtzburg Germany in 1972 and arriving on a day they were having a "Kilian Day" festival. She plans to go again in 1995.

Abstracted from the New York Times obituary:

As chairman of the Carnegie Commission on Educational Television from 1965 to 1967 and chairman of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting in 1973 and 1974, Dr. Killian came to be considered the father of public broadcasting.



James R. Killian, Jr.

Eisenhower stated "Dr. Killian helped me follow through on the program of scientific improvement of our defenses as well as expediting the US space program".

Moving briskly but coolly, Dr. Killian began laying the groundwork for the creation of NASA, which became what he defined as a "civilian-directed and civilian-oriented space science and exploration program". The chief reason NASA was born as a civilian agency, space historians have concluded, is that General Eisenhower wanted it to be that way, mainly in order to have it present a politically telling contrast to the Soviet space program, which was and is largely controlled by the military.

After stepping down as MIT's president and becoming corporation chairman,...he continued his government service in the Kennedy Administration as chairman of the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. After the Bay of Pigs fiasco ... historian and Kennedy aide, Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. wrote "the President, consulted closely with James Killian" and other board members.

Despite Dr. Killian's long eminence in various fields, a friend said in the late 1960's, "he's never forgotten that he was a South Carolina farm boy."

Over the years Dr. Killian won many awards, was given 39 honorary degrees, and served on the boards of many organizations.

End abstracts from obituary In June 1974 "Killian Court", at

MIT, was named in honor of James R. Killian, Jr.

In the early 1970's I (George W. Killian) corresponded with James R. Killian, Jr. and we talked on the phone. He obtained a copy of the *Andreas Killian* book I did in 1969. He attended at least one of the NC Killian Family reunions.

What is the RIN Number on my Address Label?

by George W. Killian

For over thirty years I have collected data on the ancestors and descendants of our Pioneer Ancestor, Andreas Killian. At present I have data for over 8,000 direct descendants of Andreas', over 12,000 if spouses are included. What good is this information? Can others use it? If so how?

The largest genealogical library in the world has made it possible for people like me to share their information with any interested party. All I have to do is contribute a copy of the data, on computer diskette, and they will combine it with data on millions of other people and make it available, free of charge, to anyone who uses their facilities. I contribute a copy about once a year. This largest genealogical library is *The Family History Center* of *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*. They have over 2,200 family history centers across the world. Most have state-of-the-art computers which may be used without charge. Thus, for decades to come, your children and grandchildren can use these facilities and find the data, if you have shared it with me. They will find exactly how they are related. You never know which of your descendants will become interested in his/her

ancestry. When you send your data you are helping to make it available to your descendants and all who share Killian ancestry. Please help me help your relatives.

How can you find a Family History Center? Look in the white pages of your phone book under "Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints" then look for a subheading: "Family History Center" and call the listed number. Family History Centers are usually staffed by volunteers. Most have at least some evening hours. You may have to call a few times to find the days and hours they are open. There is no charge for using the facility. There may be a charge to cover supplies if you make copies.

What is the RIN number with your address label? My computer assigns a Record Information Number [RIN] as each individual's data is entered. The "RIN" number is a computer index to each individual. If there is a RIN number on the line following your name on the address label it means there is at least some data about you in my computer. If there is no "RIN" number it means you are not in my computer, or that I can't identify you from your name and address alone. Please help make more information on your family available to your descendants. A form is included as the last page of this Newsletter which you may copy and use for submitting data. Write to me (return address stamped envelope please) if you want information on what I may already have on your family. Include your exact name, date of birth, and that of your Killian line parent and grandparent. Include the RIN number on your address label if there is one. Write to: George W. Killian • 17 Charing Cross • Fairport, NY 14450-3926. Or phone (716) 223-4839.

THE 1994 KILLIAN REUNION IN NC

Members of the Killian Association of NC met on Sunday September 11th. The regular meeting date is the Second Sunday in September, so the

1995 Reunion Date is Sunday September 10th Put it on your calendar now.

The Killian Family Association was invited to meet at Salem Lutheran and Reformed Church in Lincolnton, NC for their **1996** reunion on September 8th 1996. The group voted to accept the invitation. 1996 will be the 200th anniversary year for Salem Church. Salem is also the "home" for the Andreas Killian reunion as the first meeting was held there on 22 Aug 1935. Jacob Killian, grandson of Andreas Killian, deeded three acres of land to Salem Church in 1815.

John W. Killian • 611 Gray Drive • Charlotte, NC 28213 was elected President of the clan for 1996 and 1997.

George Killian explained briefly how he makes Killian genealogical data available to our descendants. Those who were interested could view their names, ancestors and other data on his computer. See the article above for a little more information.

This Newsletter was discussed and it was decided to continue its publication. Two things are needed to support the Newsletter: Finances and Articles about YOUR family. If you find the Newsletter interesting please provide your financial support. A contribution of about \$5 is welcome. We would like to know which articles have been of the most interest. Please send an interesting story about a colorful person in your family. We all have some good ones! Send funds and articles to: William D. Killian • 1995 Haywood Road Hendersonville, NC 28739

After the meeting a delightful "Share-a-Dish" supper was provided. Some of the cooks have graciously shared their recipes. Here they are:

Chess Pies-Banana or Pineapple

From Brenda Hines Killian [RIN 8480] an original recipe from her grandmother

Mix in blender:

3 eggs, blended

2 stick margarine, melted

3 medium bananas, in chunks, or

1 small can undrained crushed pineapple

1 box light brown sugar

2 Tbsp. flour

Combine ingredients in preceding order. For banana pies, you may want to add 1 teaspoon vanilla and sprinkle each pie with cinnamon. Pour mixture into 2 unbaked pie shells and bake at 350° for 30 minutes.

* ** * ** * Chicken 'n Dumplin's

From Amelia L. Killian [RIN 8348]

8 chicken breasts 1 tsp salt 2 egg yolks

1 Tablespoon salt 1 cup chicken broth (or cold water)

4 cups all purpose flour 1 can cream of chicken soup

Day before you plan to serve: Boil chicken in 3 quarts salted water until meat falls off bone (about 2½ hours). As water evaporates, add more to cover chicken. As broth comes to a boil, skim off foam. Remove cooked chicken, debone and remove skin when cool enough to work with. Tear into bite size pieces and when cool pour about a cup of broth over chicken and put in a covered container in the refrigerator. Strain broth and pour into quart jars, allow to cool and then refrigerate. When fat congeals on surface of broth remove and discard.

Next day (about 2 hours before serving time): Mix flour, salt and egg yolks, blending with a wooden spoon. Add broth or water to form a sticky dough. Allow to rest at least 10 minutes or longer.

If dough is too sticky, sprinkle more flour on top and work into dough. Divide into 4 sections and roll out with a rolling pin, one section at a time, very thin. All the while keep working area well floured. Cut roll-out section into 2" strips. Pick up each strip by hand, pull off in pieces and drop into 3 quarts of broth to which I always add a can of cream of chicken soup. Bring this to a good boil and proceed to drop the pieces of strips into the boiling broth. Stir gently and continue to repeat this process until all the dumplin's have been added to broth. Boil gently for 10 minutes, uncovered. Add bite size chicken that has been refrigerated and let simmer 10 minutes more. Serve hot. 8 to 15 servings. *Always good for Killian Reunion*.

FAMILY GROUP RECORD

Date:		FAMILY GROUP RECORD make copies of this form if required	Page 1 of	
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Please send completed forms to: George W. Killian 17 Charing Cross Fairport, NY 14450-3926 Phone: (716) 223-4839 Please identify which child of Andreas' is your ancestor, if known.

Please give all dates as 4 Jul 1776 or Jul 4 1776 so there can be no doubt about the month. Please provide at least one of Birth or Chr. (Christened) dates. Be sure to enter sex at the left for each child.

For Place please give: 1) city, town or village; 2) County; 3) State & 4) Country. USA may be omitted. Spell out all names.

Please write clearly or use block letters.