

## HISTORY OF THE PRESNELL FAMILY

The following family history was compiled by Elijah M. Presnell, W. R. Presnell, and J. Charles Presnell in January 1941. Additional letters were later attached that were associated with this family history.

I received my first copy of this family history in 1985 from my parents Clinton E. and Gloria J. Presnell, of Rugby, North Dakota, who received the history from cousins living in Nebraska.

The original manuscript, recopied many times, is now hard to read in places and certain names are illegible. For this reason, I feel it important enough to reprint this Family History. The date of this reprint is October 1991.

I am actively involved in the Presnell family history and have well over 3000 Presnell names and dates in my computer files. I could add dates and locations to most of the persons listed in this history, and could go back another five generations, but I have elected to re-print this manuscript word-for-word to preserve the original work conducted by the three men listed earlier.

The Presnell history is very interesting. I believe that Presnells are originally English. I have found parish records from England in the 1500's and 1600's recording christenings and marriages of the names Presnell and Priestnall. Presnells live in England still today. Presnells lived in Virginia and Maryland in the late 1600's. Presnells fought in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the Civil War. Most of the Presnell families ended up in Randolph County, North Carolina by the late 1700's. From North Carolina the family broke out into; South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida, and one large group of the family (the Quaker Presnells) moved into Henry County, Indiana (this family history is one of the Quaker Presnell families who emigrated from North Carolina to Indiana). Today Presnells can be found in nearly every state in the United States, they also live in Canada, Mexico, Australia, Germany, and England.

## **HISTORY OF THE PRESNELL FAMILY**

The following history was compiled by Elijah M. Presnell of Eagle Lake, Minnesota, W.R. Presnell of Chicago, Illinois, and J. Charles Presnell of Mountain View, California, the date of the present writing being January 20, 1941.

In a collection of the names and addresses throughout the States, the name has been found spelled in several ways but with one or two exceptions only, on investigation, the origin of the various families has always led to Randolph County, North Carolina.

Here we give the spelling of the names as found at different times and in different places: Presnal, Presnall, Pressnall, Presnell, Pressnell, and Pressnale. This last one is said to have been the original way. Since a larger number of the parties whom we have contacted in this research have spelled the name Presnell, we shall use that form in the following records.

Traditionally, it is well understood that the ancestors were of the French Huguenot class, many of them being members of the Society of Friends, better known as Quakers. There are still some of them holding to that belief or faith. Others have of later years accepted different teachings. The history here given deals principally with the families who migrated from Randolph County, North Carolina, to Henry County, Indiana, about the years from 1820 to 1830. Their descendants at the present time have been located in several states including: Indiana, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Montana, Washington, Oregon, Ohio, California, Missouri, Colorado, and Utah.

Some of the daughters were known to have married into families of the following names: Hiatt, Ratliff, Lewelling, Draper, Pearson, Thomas, White, Small, Reece, Moon, and Compton.

The families here mentioned were mostly residents of Henry County, Indiana but a few have been traced and located in the Central and the Pacific States. Some of the Moon and Compton families became, in the years of 1865 to 1875, residents of Blue Earth County, Minnesota. Some of the Lewelling family were among the early settlers in Oregon, some having located somewhere south of Portland.

In the making up of these records, some individuals have chosen to give a more detailed account of their immediate families. More of such details will be found on the closing pages of this work, such of which was furnished by the parents of the writer, and partly by his personal knowledge from acquaintance with the parties mentioned. Several parties residing in different states have been of assistance in the collection of those records and copies of their letters will be shown at the close of this history.

***Re-Printed by CPT Michael C. Presnell, 26 October 1991***

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1. Daniel Presnell, the first known ancestor, journeyed from France to England about the year 1750, and later sailed from England to North Carolina and settled on Little River, near Ashborough, the county seat of Randolph County. We are unable to find out at this time when he married, but he was the father of three sons, Viz: John, Steven, and Daniel, these sons being born in Randolph County, North Carolina.

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2. John Presnell, first son of Daniel Presnell, was born in Randolph County, North Carolina about the year 1770. He married Hannah Cox in Randolph County, North Carolina, and had four sons and five daughters, viz: Rachel, Martha, Daniel, Elizabeth, Mary, Jeremiah, John, Jehu, and Hannah.

3. Rachel Presnell, first daughter of John Presnell, married Henry Lewelling in Henry County, Indiana. Her husband died and she then married another man and they moved to Iowa, and later moved to Wayne County, Indiana, where she died. She had several children.

4. Martha Presnell, second daughter of John Presnell, married William Hiatt in Henry County, Indiana, and later moved to Oskaloosa, Iowa, where some of their children now live.

5. Daniel Presnell, third child of John Presnell, married Henderson Lewelling in Henry County, Indiana, and moved to Oskaloosa, Iowa, where she died and he later remarried. They had several children, some of whom now live there.

6. Elizabeth Presnell, fourth child of John Presnell, married Henderson Lewelling in Henry County, Indiana (In Duck Creek Friends Church). They moved to Oregon, and settled on a river south of the Columbia River, which flowed Northwest into the Columbia. They had several children. They first settled in Iowa.

7. Mary Presnell, fifth child of John Presnell, married Isaac Ratliff in Henry County, Indiana, and they lived for many years near Clear Spring. They had two sons, John and Abner C., the former being on the farm of his birth, and the latter near there. They also had one daughter, Hannah Palmer, now residing in California.

8. Jeremiah Presnell, sixth child of John Presnell, married Miss Stanbrough in Henry County, Indiana, and they lived there until she died. They had several children. They widow lived near Cottonwood Falls, Kansas.

9. John Presnell, seventh child of John Presnell, died unmarried.

10. Jehu Presnell, eight child of John Presnell, married Eliza Durk, and they lived for many years near Clear Spring, in Henry County, Indiana. They had several children.

11. Hannah Presnell, ninth child of John Presnell, married Ephriam Draper in Henry County, Indiana. They had several children. One of the daughters married a Brookshire and now lives near Fairmount, Indiana.

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12. Steven Presnell, second son of Daniel Presnell (who came from France), was born in Randolph County, North Carolina, on September 11, 1773, and three daughters, viz: Nathan, Rachel, Elijah, Christina, Absalom, Sarah, James, and Reuben.

13. Nathan Presnell, first child of Steven Presnell, married Rebecca Cox and had four children by her: Elihu, Julia, Dempsey, and Rebecca. He married Hannah Reeves for his second wife, and had five children by her, viz: Clarissa, Rachel, Elias, Mary, and Hannah.

14. Rachel Presnell, second child of Steven Presnell, married Levi Pearson, and had two sons, Reuben and Enos.

15. Elijah Presnell, third child of Steven Presnell, died unmarried.

16. Christina Presnell, fourth child of Steven Presnell, married Elijah Thomas in Henry County, Indiana, and moved to Grant County, Indiana. They had three sons and one daughter, viz: Ezra, Elva, Henry P., and Reuben.

17. Absalom Presnell, fifth child of Steven Presnell, married Mary Binford, and they had five children, viz: Emily Sarah Jane, Joel, Lydia, and James. His second wife was Tamer Beauchamp, and they had six children, viz: Hannah, Rachel, Enos, Lindley M., Sylvanus, and Mary Alica. Absolum Presnell died in November, 1880, aged 52 years.

18. Sarah Presnell, sixth child of Steven Presnell, and twin of James, died unmarried.

19. James Presnell, twin of Sarah, was born near Ashborough, Randolph County, North Carolina, July 29, 1816. In 1826 his father, Steven Presnell, died, leaving the mother and several children in limited circumstances. In 1829 the family emigrated to Henry County, Indiana, and settled on Duck Creek, five miles west of Newcastle, on a farm now owned by Peter Shaffer. They resided there for a short time and then moved south to a farm near Greensboro. While living there, James supported his mother and sister Sarah on a rented farm, and consequently received a very limited education. His sister, Sarah, died while living near Greensboro, and he and his mother moved to a farm now owned by Cyrus Kendall, southwest of Cadia. By hard work and strict economy, James saved earnings to the amount of \$50.00 and in 1838 went to Indianapolis, walking the entire distance, and invested his earnings in a tract of Government land, containing 40 acres, and located one mile west of the present location of Kennard. Soon after his return home

he sold this piece, and bought another tract one mile east and two miles north of Kennard, which is now a part of the A.C. Ratliff farm, where he removed with his mother and began the work of clearing away the forest and making for themselves a home. On December 26, 1845, he was joined in marriage with Miss Anna Brown, with whom he spent a happy and prosperous life until December 16, 1885 when his companion was called to her reward. Thirty-one years of life on the farm, nine children were born to them, viz: Alfred, Martha, James L., Marie, Harvey, Mary M., Asbury, Sarah, Ellen, and Francis M. James Presnell died at Fairmount, Indiana, August 28, 1890, at the age of 74 years.

20. Alfred Presnell, first child of James Presnell, was born in Henry County, Indiana, October 8, 1847. On January 27, 1870 he married Phoebe J. Brandon of Windfall, Indiana. To this union four children were born, viz: Eva, now the wife of Robert Miller of Windfall, and three sons, all of whom died in infancy. He spent the most of his life at Windfall and Fairmount, Indiana, and died at the latter place on December 30, 1900, at the age of 53 years. Later his widow married Joseph Shawhan at Kokomo, Indiana.

21. Martha Presnell, second child of James Presnell, was born October 28, 1848, in Henry County, Indiana. She married John White and moved to Windfall, Indiana. Two children were born to this union, Charles F., now living at Indianapolis, Indiana, and John N., now living at Boulder, Colorado. Her husband died in 1869, and she later married Abner B. Ratliff, and had lived for 38 years on a farm north of Kennard where she was born. She had six children by her second marriage, five of whom are living.

22. James L. Presnell, third child of James Presnell, was born in Henry County, Indiana, on June 7, 1850. He is unmarried and lives at Missoula, Montana.

23. Marie Presnell, fourth child of James Presnell, was born in Henry County, Indiana, March 7, 1852. She married C.R. Small of Wabash, Indiana, where they lived until her death in May, 1913. One daughter, Effie, the only living child, married Jasper Winslow of Greenville, North Carolina, where she now resides.

24. Harvey Presnell, fifth child of James Presnell, was born in Henry County, Indiana, November 3, 1854.

He married Gertie Wilson of Kentucky and settled at Fairmount, Indiana, where the only child, Lutie was born (She married Frank Stewart and now resides at Terre Haute, Indiana). His wife died while living at Fairmount, and he remarried and lives at the same place.

25. Mary M. Presnell, sixth child of James Presnell, was born in Henry County, Indiana, August 16, 1857. She married Albert Reece and lived at Kennard, Indiana, until her death in May, 1913.

26. Asbury Presnell, seventh child of James Presnell, was born in Henry County, Indiana, June 26, 1859, and died in infancy.

27. Sarah Ellen Presnell, eight child of James Presnell, was born in Henry County, Indiana, November 6, 1863, and married Martha J. Beals of Fairmount, Indiana, and now lives at Marion, Indiana.

28. Francis M. Presnell, ninth child of James Presnell, was born in Henry County, Indiana, November 6, 1863, and Married Martha J. Beals of Fairmount, Indiana, and now lives at Marion, Indiana.

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29. Daniel Presnell, third son of Daniel Presnell, (who came from France), was born in Randolph County, North Carolina. He married Pleasant Modlin in North Carolina. They had five sons and two daughters, viz: Nancy, Benonah, John, Daniel, Mary, and Henry.

30. Nancy Presnell, first child of Daniel Presnell, and grand-child of Daniel Presnell (who came from France), married Nathan Compton of Cincinnati, Ohio, and made their home in Henry County, Indiana. To them were born five children: XXXXX, Calvin, Allen, Levi, Evan, and Lydia. The first three named sons and the daughter remained in Indiana and we have no further record of them at this time except that Lydia married a Mr. Weaver of Henry County. The other two sons, Levi and Evan, were of the early settlers of Minnesota, having located not far from their uncle, Nathan Presnell. Levi married Eliza Modlin while in Indiana and they were well known to the writer in their home in Minnesota. They were the parents of four sons and two daughters: Martha, William, Charles, John, Lewis, and EXXX. Of this family, but two are living at this writing, John and Louis, both of Eagle Lake, Minnesota. Evan Compton married Melinda Johnson of Minnesota, and they were the parents of two children; Losetta and Charles.

31. Benonah Presnell, second child of Daniel Presnell, married Jane Moon in Ohio, and moved to Henry County, Indiana. They had several children, one of whom, Jeremiah, went to Kansas. Also, Henry, Ruth, and Mary. The sons and daughters of Benonah Presnell: Jeremiah died in Kansas, William died at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, James died at Scranton, Iowa, Henry died in the Old Soldier's Home at Marshalltown, Iowa, John died at Cambridge, Iowa, Zimeri died at Nevada, Iowa, Lydia (Mrs. M.W. Beach) now living at Carroll, Iowa. There were also Mary (Mrs. Bromley), buried in Old Peoria, Iowa, cemetery, Ruth and Sarah.

32. John Presnell, third child of Daniel Presnell II, married Nancy Cockeran. To them were born three children, Sarah, Jonathan, and David. After the death of Nancy Cockeran Presnell, John Presnell married Barbara Snyder, and to this couple were born four children: Oscar, Abigail, Mary, and Marsis. Of these children of John Presnell we have records only of the son Jonathan.

33. Jonathan Presnell, second child of John Presnell, married Emily Haskett of Henry County, Indiana. She died before two years of married life. To them was born one child,

Amy, who married Thomas Sinn in Henry County, Indiana, where they resided until about the year 1885, and then moved to Blue Earth County, Minnesota. Amy died in September, 1925, and is buried at Eagle Lake, Minnesota. For his second wife, Jonathan Presnell, married Mary Elizabeth Leavell of Cadiz, Indiana. They became the parents to four children: Alva, Charles, Lynn, and Ada.

34. Alva Presnell, second child of Jonathan Presnell, died at age of twenty-three, not having been married, and is buried at the village of Eagle Lake, Minnesota, by the side of his parents. Alva was an intelligent, Christian young man, honored and respected by all who knew him.

35. Charles Presnell, second son of Jonathan Presnell, married Alma Cross in April, 1891, at Lincoln, Nebraska. In May, 1931, they located in Washington D.C., and remained there until November 1935. After visiting relatives in Colorado, they located in Mountain View, California, where they now reside. Galen Presnell, their only son, married Alta Martindale of Broadwater, Nebraska. They have two sons, Elevelyn and Harold and now reside in Mountain View, California. Galen Presnell was graduated from the Colorado State University with a degree of Ph.D. He has been a college teacher for several years, but is now employed as head of the laboratory section of the Henry J. Keiser Magnesium plant at ParaXXXXX, near San Jose, California.

36. Lynn Presnell, third child of Jonathan Presnell, married Rilla Sheppard of Madison Lake, Minnesota. They became the parents of two children, Clyde and Ethel. They settled on a farm in XXXXX County where Rilla and the con, Clyde, now reside. Lynn died in December 1926, and is buried at Eagle Lake.

37. Ada Presnell, only daughter of Jonathan and Mary Presnell, married Marshall VanKirk. They made their home in Oklahoma City for several years, also in Denver. They had no children of their own, but had an adopted daughter, Marie, who married Dr. Heatherington of Oklahoma City, where they now reside. Ada VanKirk died in Denver in May 1940, and was buried at Oklahoma City.

38. Jonathan Presnell, died at Eagle Lake, Minnesota, in April 1908 at the age of seventy-four. Mary Leavell Presnell, his wife, died in Denver, Colorado, in November, 1933, at the age of ninety-three. Both are buried at Eagle Lake, Minnesota.

39. Daniel Presnell, fourth child of Daniel Presnell II, and grandson of Daniel Presnell (who came from France), married Catherine Mundon in Henry County, Indiana. They became the parents of the following children: Elijah, Samuel, William, Sussanah, Mary, Daniel, and John.

40. Elijah Presnell married Susan VanMeter. They were the parents of five children: Newton, Rilla, Nolla, Etta and Joe. Elijah's second wife was Elizabeth Sheppard. Their children were Frank, Hattie, Russell, and Mary.

41. Samuel Presnell married Elizabeth McCormack and to them were born eight children: Mary, Melvin, Phebe, Aldora, Lulu, Martha, Hattie, and Lissa. This family was among the early settlers of Blue Earth County, Minnesota, and a number of their descendants still reside in the state. The first child, Mary, never married.
42. Melvin Presnell, the only son of Samuel Presnell, married Anna Fester in Blue Earth County, Minnesota. They were the parents of five children: Minnie, Purl, Bertha, Lulu, and Elmer. Early in married life Melvin with his family made his home at Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.
43. Phebe Presnell, third child of Samuel Presnell, married G.M. Williams at Eagle Lake, Minnesota. They located at Alberta, Canada, and were the parents of six children: IdXXX, Herbert, Mattie, Etta, Hattie and Mern.
44. Lulu Presnell, fourth child of Samuel Presnell, married Mirsa Wells of Madison Lake, Minnesota, where they resided for a number of years. They had no children. Mirsa died in 1934.
45. Hattie Presnell, fifth child of Samuel Presnell, married Willard Odell. They had three children: Horace, Willard, and Eva. This family were residents of Minneapolis for some years after moving from Blue Earth County.
46. Martha Presnell, sixth child of Samuel Presnell, married George Norris. They had no children. She is a widow, and has resided in Fargo, North Dakota, with an adopted son.
47. Lissa Presnell, youngest child of Samuel Presnell, married Edward Barnard of Mankato, Minnesota. They were the parents of but one child, Floyd. After the death of Edward Barnard, Floyd and his mother have resided in Minneapolis. Floyd is a graduate of the Minnesota State University, and a music teacher in the school of Minneapolis.
48. William Presnell, third child of Daniel Presnell, married Sarah Collins in Henry County, Indiana. To this union were born fifteen children: Mary, Samuel, Olen, Emma, Leonidas, Vincent, Julia, Ernest, Effie, Clinton, Luther, William, Grace, Joseph, and Lora. This family settled in Northern Kansas after the close of the Civil War and we have no further records of them at this time.
49. Susannah Presnell, fourth child of Daniel Presnell, married George Lindiwood. To them were born four children: Leander, John, Mary, and Ora. For her second husband, Susannah married Brazilla Wall. They had two children; Janetta and Mamie.
50. Mahala Presnell, fifth child of Daniel Presnell, married David Powers. Mahala died at the age of twenty-seven, leaving one son, Jesse.
51. Susannah Presnell, third daughter of Daniel Presnell, married Ezra Collins. They had six children; Lulu, Charlie, Kinnie, Raymond, Hattie and Cecil.

52. Daniel Presnell, sixth child of Daniel and Catherine Presnell, married Jennie Folger. To them were born two children; Essie and Howard. Essie died unmarried. Howard married Grace Van Sandt in Indiana, where most of their near relatives continued to reside.

53. John Presnell, youngest of the family of Daniel and Catherine Presnell, married Fannie Linville. To them were born four children: Ella, Ida, Lyman and Goldie. John Presnell became a Wesleyan minister and an evangelist.

*NOTE: All the foregoing, beginning with Number 40 was obtained from Lulu Presnell-Wells, of Eagle Lake, Minnesota. She is still living at this date (1942). Mirza Wells, her husband, died in March, 1934. In the records sent me by Lulu Wells, the name was spelled "Pressnall" which is true of most of the families who settled in Blue Earth County, Minnesota.*

54. Mary Presnell, fifth child of Daniel Presnell II, married Samuel Moon in Henry County, Indiana, March 31, 1825. They located in Ohio for a time, but later moved to Blue Earth County, Minnesota, not far from her brother Nathan Presnell. These two families were the first of the relatives to settle in Minnesota, the time being April, 1865.

Samuel Moon and Mary Presnell became the parents of fourteen children: Nancy, Enos, Henry, Jeremiah, Hannah, Ruth, John, Calvin, Daniel, Allen, Zimri, Edom, Jane and Elvira. We have records of only a part of this family. Samuel Moon, the father, died April 5, 1885, in his 80th year. Mary Presnell-Moon died December 11, 1883, being 74 years and 4 months of age. They are buried in the old Burgess Cemetery one and a half miles southwest of the village of Eagle Lake, Minnesota.

Enos Moon had three sons; Charles, Arthur and Luther.

John Moon had two children; Harry and Bertha. John and his brother Henry were residents of Winona County, Minnesota.

Ruth Moon married John Teas. They had three sons; Samuel, William and Daniel.

Jeremiah Moon married Dorinda Steuart and they became the parents of seven children; Ella, Levi, Hannah, Effie, Estella, Harvey and Urban. Four members of this family died in Minnesota; Ella and the mother at Chatfield, Hannah in Winona County, and Estella at Eagle Lake. The latter is buried near her grandparents in the Burgess Cemetery, having died in her 17th year.

Allen Moon married Philinda White. They had but one child, Grace (adopted). After the death of Philinda, Allen located in Oregon and remarried.

Zimri Moon married Cornelia Wait in Minnesota where they resided for several years, later locating in Wisconsin where they remained for a number of years and then moved to Northern California. This couple became the parents of six daughters and two sons; Clara, Rose, Lura, Mary, Irene, Bernice, George and Pearl.

Edom Moon, the youngest son of Samuel and Mary Presnell-Moon, married Libbie Carpenter in Minnesota, and later moved to Northern California. They were the parents of several children.

55. Henry Presnell, seventh child of Daniel Presnell II, married Miss Lowder in Henry County, Indiana, and moved to Fulton County, Indiana, where some of their children now live. After the death of his first wife, he was remarried to Mary DeLon of Henry County, Indiana. To this union were born four children, viz; Elmer, Francis M., Ida E. and William R.

56. Nathan H. Presnell, sixth child of Daniel Presnell II, and grandson of the Daniel Presnell who originally came from France, was born in Randolph County, North Carolina, on February 25, 1818. He came with his parents to Henry County, Indiana, when he was about six years old. He married Mahala Munden on the 20th of February 1837. Nathan and his brother Daniel married sisters. To this union were born 15 children; five of whom died in infancy. The other ten children were as follows; Ellis P., Nancy Ellen, Catherine, Pleasant, Alexander H., Elijah M., Mathew C., Mary Louisa, Rosana Matilda and Arlistus.

57. Ellis Presnell, first child of Nathan Presnell, was born in Henry County, Indiana, January 23, 1842. He grew to manhood and married Margaret Rix at Cadiz, Henry County, Indiana, on January 25, 1861. To them were born five children, one of whom died in infancy, the other being; Alonzo, Clinton, Jollta and Leuther.

58. Nancy Ellen Presnell, second child of Nathan Presnell, and twin to Ellis, was born on January 23, 1842. She married Joachim Lethultz in the year 1858. Their children were Laura, Millie, Maudie, Essie, Martin and Charles. This family made their home in Indiana for a few years, and then moved to Blue Earth County, Minnesota.

59. Catherine Presnell, third child of Nathan Presnell, was born in Henry County, Indiana, March 17, 1844. She married Henry Martin in Henry County, Indiana. They had five children; Ella, Minnie, John, William and Henry. After leaving Henry County, Indiana, this family located for a short while in Blue Earth County, Minnesota, and from there they made their home in Nodaway County, Missouri. We have no further records of them at this time.

60. Pleasant Presnell, fourth child of Nathan Presnell, was born in Henry County, Indiana, January 30, 1846. She married Henry Hinshaw in Henry County, Indiana. They had several children. She died while they lived in Henry County, Indiana.

61. Alexander H. Presnell, fifth child of Nathan Presnell, was born in Henry County, Indiana, February 5, 1850, He grew to manhood and married Lydia Burris in Henry County, Indiana. They had six children, viz; Minnie (dead), Lola Mae, James, Ellie, Ada and Ida (twins).

62. Elijah M. Presnell, seventh child of Nathan Presnell, was born in Henry County, Indiana, on October 6, 1852. In 1865 at the age of 13 years he emigrated with his

parents to Blue Earth County, Minnesota. He married Mary J. Reeder of Eagle Lake, Minnesota. To this union were born three children, viz; Grace A., Effie Mable and Harold R.

63. Mathew C. Presnell, seventh child of Nathan Presnell, was born in Henry County, Indiana, March 10, 1855. He came to Blue Earth County, Minnesota with his parents in 1865. He married Fannie Cook in Eagle Lake, Minnesota.

union were born eight children, viz; Ida (dead), Gertrude, Bertha, Elizabeth, Faith, Lola May, Captolia and John the only son.

64. Mary Louisa Presnell, eight child of Nathan Presnell, was born in Henry County, Indiana, June 21, 1857. She came to Blue Earth County, Minnesota, with her parents in 1865. She married Plinn Lebdell of Saint Clair, Minnesota. They had several children, one of whom, Frank, is married and is a respected citizen of Redwood Falls, Minnesota. Mary Louisa died in Mankato, Minnesota (year and date unknown by this writer of this history).

65. Rosana Matilda Presnell, ninth child of Nathan Presnell, was born in Henry County, Indiana, October 1, 1859. She came with her parents to Blue Earth County, Minnesota, in 1865. She married Harrie Eastman of St. Clair, Minnesota, in 1876. They had one daughter, Maude. After his death she remarried a man by the name of S.W. Callahan of Eagle Lake, Minnesota. Two daughters were born to this union, Mamie and Madge. Rosana now lives at Jamestown, North Dakota.

66. Arlistus Presnell, tenth child of Nathan Presnell, was born in Henry County, Indiana, October 8, 1864. He emigrated to Minnesota with his parents in 1865. He grew to manhood at Eagle Lake, Minnesota and was married to Ella Matteson at Eagle Lake, Minnesota. They had seven children by this union of which two died in infancy, the others being; Myrtle, Archie, Maud, Powell and Teddie.

67. Nathan H. Presnell (See Paragraph 56) By error, this name was omitted from paragraph 29 which states that Daniel Presnell II had five sons. He was a brother of John Presnell, the grandfather of the writer. (See paragraph 32) For many years he was a resident of the Village of Eagle Lake, and was known by his home of his son, Elijah M. Presnell, October 3, 1899, at the age of 81. Mahala, his wife, died a year or two later, the date we do not have. They are buried in the cemetery one mile east of the village.

68. Ernest C. Presnell, an orphan boy reared from the age of three to manhood in the home of Charles and Alma Presnell (See Paragraph 35). He attended Union College and State University at Lincoln, Nebraska. Enlisted in the U.S. Army at the beginning of the First World War, served to the end of the war, and was mustered out as First Sergeant. He now holds, and has held for twenty-two years, a position as head of office force with a large business firm in Kansas City, Kansas. Though of no relation to the family, applied to court, and was granted the name Presnell.

69. James Frederick Presnell, born in Story County, Iowa, March 22, 1867, son of Doctor James Presnell and Mary Hurst-Presnell. Mr. Presnell's great-grandfather, Daniel Presnell, fought in the Revolutionary War. His mother was an earnest worker in the Methodist Church and one of the early members of the WCTU. Mr. Presnell was graduated with the Medical Class at the University of Iowa in 1889, and married Gertrude Impey, October 8, 1890, at Iowa City, Iowa. Doctor Presnell practiced medicine in Omaha, Nebraska from April 1889 to 1894, and in Lake View, Iowa, until he entered the Spanish-American War in 1898. He served in the Cuban Occupation and Philippine Insurrection from 1898 to 1903, and was mustered out as Captain of Volunteers at Chicago. He was a professor of surgery and clinical surgery in the Illinois Medical College 1903-1908, and continued his practice in Chicago until 1918, when he again entered the Army and remained in the Regular Army as a Major in the Medical Corps. He was the founder and first president of the Lake View Hospital, Chicago, member of the Red Cross, Past Chancellor of the Knights of Columbus, a Mason, a member of the York Rite, Scottish Rite, Shriners, and a Life Member of the Press Club of Chicago. (The last information we have regarding this individual located him in the State House, Lincoln, Nebraska, as Major, U.S. Medical Corps. See Paragraphs 29,31, also copy of letter to Zimri Moon at Lodi California).

70. Samuel Presnell, son of Henry Presnell (See Paragraph 55) was one of the early settlers of Blue Earth County, Minnesota, and was known as "Big Sam." At that time he was a young married man, and purchased a piece of land about one mile east of what is now the Village of Eagle Lake. This place was known later as the Fox Farm. This young man was taken ill and died suddenly, leaving his young wife and one child. She returned to Indiana with the child and we have no further account of them. Samuel was a man of splendid form and features, good to look upon. He was buried at, or somewhere near, Mankato, the county seat of Blue Earth County.

*NOTE: On the following pages we record letters and parts of letters from individuals who have shown an interest in this work. In some of these cases, we have been able to discover their direct connection with the Presnell family, but we make the records trusting that they may be of help to some others in tracing their ancestry.*

# CONCLUSION

A large part of this history was compiled previous to 1926, but since that time more information has come to light which raises a question on the statement in paragraph one (1) which says that Daniel Presnell, who came from France after 1750, was the first ancestor.

A letter received from Mrs. Sarah Presnell-Porter of Salt Lake City, Utah, who has taken four year's training in Genealogical and Historical Research, gives the following:

Daniel Presnell (mentioned in paragraph 1, page 2, as the first known ancestor) was the son of James Presnell born in Virginia in 1708.

James Presnell was the son of Jacques Presnell (born in Virginia in 1684) and Marie Maupin (born in 1686).

Jacques Presnell was the son of James Presnell (born in France) and Sarah ? (Last Name Unknown).

Marie Maupin was the daughter of Gabriel Maupin (son of Amos Maupin, a French General of noble family) and Marie Spencer (daughter of Lord John Spencer of England).

It has been said that Gabriel Maupin was a very religious man. The vessel on which they were sailing to America sprang a leak and they were in danger of sinking. Fellow passengers requested Gabriel Maupin to pray for Divine Assistance. The leak was stopped. When the company landed, a large fish was found tightly wedged in the opening.

The records show that the first Presnells to take up land in Randolph County were:

Daniel Presnell, 19 August 1793  
Stephen Presnell, 24 August 1793

Among the taxtables there in 1790-1793 were:

William Presnel  
James Presnel  
Stephen Presnel

There were Presnells in Virginia who were members of the Church of England. Their names were spelled Priestnal.

During the Revolutionary War several Presnell families moved south and settled near King's Mountain, South Carolina. After the war, some of them returned to North Carolina. Others remained there and drifted into Georgia and Alabama. The latter seemed to have kept good records of the Presnell family, and furnished helpful contributions. Mrs. Porter states that her great-great-grandfather Jonathan (John) Presnell, was in Randolph County, North Carolina, during the 1790's. The war records show that he was born in Virginia.

NOTE: With this we bring these records to a close, hoping that all who may be interested in the family history will derive some pleasure in perusing these pages and that others who wish to continue a research may find this work helpful, in doing so.

J. Charles Presnell  
234 Palo Alto Avenue  
Mountain View, California

28 January 1943

State Capitol  
Lincoln, Nebraska  
October 23, 1926

Mr. Zimri Moon  
Lodi, California

Dear Cousin,

On a recent visit to Minnesota on official business, I visited Elijah Presnell at Eagle Lake, and there learned for the first time the resting place of Sammy and Aunt Polly Moon. Uncle Sammy was a brother to my Grandmother, Jane Moon Presnell Pearson, and the only member of the Moon family we ever knew anything about. We knew he moved to Minnesota in an early day but never knew where he lived.

I am the son of Doctor James Presnell, one of the sons of Jane Moon. Since nearly all the older members of the family are gone or passing, some of us have thought it would be well to gather together the history of the family and preserve it for our children, I decided I would write you for some information as to about the Moon family. Can you tell me: Where your father was born? The date? Who was his father and mother, and when they were born?

Any tradition as to the origin of the family in America and what was their nationality before coming to America, whether or not any of them fought in the Revolutionary War; and if so, who, and where did he live at the time? Do you know the brothers and sisters of your father's generation?

Besides Uncle Sammy and Grandmother, I never knew any of them, so any information you can give me of them or their families, or anyone who have kept a family history, will be greatly appreciated by me.

If all the above is too much to ask of you, just do not do it, but write me of yourself. If you have a family record or history, and need to have a stenographer copy it, I will gladly pay for it. At any rate, I would greatly appreciate a letter from you.

Very sincerely and cordially yours,

James F. Presnell  
Major Medical Corps  
U.S. Army

Salt Lake City, Utah  
March 9, 1940

J. Charles Presnell  
234 Palo Alto Avenue  
Mountain View, California

Dear Mr. Presnell:

I was glad to hear from you, and hope you will send me all available information regarding the Presnell families. In our genealogical library here we have Quaker records from several counties in North Carolina. Among them were several Presnell families who moved from North Carolina to Indiana, over a hundred years ago.

My father was Daniel Foster Presnell, the son of Elijah Colbert Presnell and Sarah Louisa Shearer, (for whom I am named). Elijah Presnell was the son of Daniel Presnell and Sarah Pool, (grand-daughter of Sir Richard Pool and Mary Plantaganet, great-grand-daughter of Edward III of England).

This second Daniel Presnell was the son of Jehu or Jonathon Presnell and Christian \_\_\_\_\_. He fought in the Revolutionary War and was living in Randolph County, North Carolina, but the war records say that he was born in Virginia. In that early day a portion of North Carolina was called Virginia. Counties have been divided many times since then so family traditions will probably help quite a lot in tracing our ancestry. From what I can glean, the Presnells were French Huguenots. I can trace them in Pennsylvania to about 1700 A.D. when they arrived in America, but cannot trace relationship to them. I have some aged relatives in North Carolina that might be able to give information. I want to go see them as soon as I can afford the trip.

I am very much interested in family records and in family history and would be delighted to do all that I can to get a printed record. I have taken about 200 lessons in genealogy by Virkus in the three volumes. It is also called "Who's Who in Genealogy," published by the Institute of American Genealogy and it is in all libraries of America and

14 "B" Street  
Ashland Oregon  
July 31, 1940

Mr. J. Chas. Presnell  
Mountain View, California

Dear Mr. Presnell:

Some time ago our son, C.C. Presnell, who has been located in Washington D.C., for over two years forwarded your letter to us in regard to our relations to the Presnalls. My father's name was Elihu Presnall and he came from the state of Indiana before I was born, some seventy years ago. He had a brother by the name of Dempsey Presnall who located in Iowa. My parents located in Wisconsin.

When we came to Oregon I found two cousins of my father at Salem, Oregon, who came from Indiana. Their names were Sylvanus Presnall and Enos Presnall, also another cousin at Seattle Washington. His name was Linley Presnall, and I was told that he had a family record running back several hundred years.

I have been told that many years ago the name was spelled DePresnall, the French way. My mother died when I was thirteen years of age, and I being the youngest of the family and all but one of the sisters were married, our home was broken up and I lived with a good family until of age.

The above information is all I have to send to you, and I hope it may be helpful in some way. One thing I do hope above all else, is that we may, by the help of God, be able to meet in Heaven.

With the very best wishes for you, I close.

C.C. Presnall

Cincinnati, Ohio  
July 7, 1942

Mr. J. Charles Presnell  
Mountain View, California

Dear Mr. Presnell:

. . . . I am very much interested in the Presnell history. For a number of years I have been trying to find more of the family history, so you may imagine how glad I was to hear from you.

. . . . While I do not yet know the date of my grandfather's birth, his marriage date may help to place it. My grandfather, John Alexander Presnell, was married December 3, 1867, to Mary Bette Gilmore. They had three children:

William Gilmore Presnell, Springfield, Missouri, Sept. 11, 1868 - Oct. 1, 1868.

Frank Gilmore Presnell, Springfield, Missouri, August 19, 1869 - Feb. 19, 1911.

Ralph Wendell Presnell, Springfield, Missouri, Sept. 30, 1871

Of these three, my father was the only one who had any children. He was married in Clinton County, Illinois, to Kate Foster Koehne.

Their children are:

Frank Gilmore Presnell, Jr., Torreon, Mexico, June 24, 1906 -  
Alexander Koehne Presnell, Torreon, Mexico, December 29, 1909 -

My brother is not married. On June 20, 1935, I married Alice E. Kiehl, in Cincinnati, and we have one child, Elaine Elizabeth Presnell, born here May 14, 1939.

My grandfather's marriage date is followed by "first wife" so he may have had other children.

August 9, 1942

. . . . My grandfather, John Alexander Presnell, was born in Nashville, Tennessee, and died in Salt Lake City in 1893. In addition to his wife, of whom I previously wrote, he married Anne Baker in Missouri. They had two children, Charles and Lena, whose last known address is Miami, Florida.

Cordially yours,

(Dr.) Alexander K. Presnell