AMERICAN HISTORY AND THE SHOCKNEY FAMILY

An Honors Thesis (ID 499)

By

Steven J. Shockney

Thesis Director

Dr. C. Warren Vander Hill

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INTRODUCTION

The job of the historian is to recreate the past and put it into usable form, but too often history becomes the study of past heroes, those who helped determine a certain course of events. These heroes were the leaders of their time. In order to gain a more complete view of the past, however, one must also look at the lives of the common man and view history from the bottom up. This short sketch will view history, primarily American history, from just that perspective, more specifically through the lives of my ancestors, the Shockneys.

It is not my intention, however, to write a comprehensive study of either American history or my family. A great many people can result from the marriage of two people, especially a marriage that took place about two hundred years ago. For this reason I will focus, for the most part, on my direct ancestors, their immediate families, and events and circumstances with which they were directly involved.

Without the help of a great number of people, this paper would not have been possible. At the Shockney family reunion of 1977, names were mentioned, stories were told and impressions were made. But most of all I would like to thank Mrs. Zelda Frazier who provided a virtual storehouse of information, my grandfather and grandmother who helped fill in the holes, and my father and mother for the trip to Maryland and for being patient.
BEFORE THE BEGINNING

The descendents of King Daithi, the last pagan king of Ireland, are innumerable and include members of the O'Shaughnessy (O'Seanassaigh) family. This family has had a long, noteworthy history in Ireland. A few members of the family did gain some prominence, but most of them were content with lives as farmers or fishermen.

Having settled County Galway, otherwise known as "O'Shaughnessy Country," during the 1100's, they replaced the O'Cahills and the O'Clerys as the most influential family in the area for the next several hundred years. This was certainly true in 1731 when the defendant in a court case involving the O'Shaughnessy family asked for a change of venue. It seems that any jury formed in County Galway would not give a verdict unfavorable to a member of the family. The family's power began to wane soon thereafter.

The Sacred Crosier of St. Colman was a family possession for a number of generations and is now in the National Museum of Ireland. This bishop's staff, resembling a shepherd's crook, was believed to possess the power of returning stolen goods to its rightful owner. It came into the family during the 1200's through Bishop O'Shaughnessy of Kilmacdaugh.

Because of Ireland's geographic location and relative lack of resources, it was not very attractive for conquest. In fact, it was not until the 1500's that Ireland began to fall under foreign rule. At this time, Henry VIII of England was knighting clan chiefs in Ireland, and among the chiefs was Dermont O'Shaughnessy. This action eventually allowed King Henry to proclaim himself the first English King of Ireland.
And so the troubles of Ireland began.

As years passed, English rule became more bold, eventually leading to the land confiscations by Queen Elizabeth I, James I, Charles I, Cromwell, and William III. By 1750 Ireland was governed as a subject colony of England. The Irish were unable to trade with the rest of the world, not only because of their virtual isolation geographically, but also because they were excluded from the numerous Navigation Acts passed in England. Peasants were crushed by heavy rents and taxes. What little arable land that existed was converted to pasture under English coercion. Roman Catholics, who made up most of the population of Ireland, were excluded from the practice of law, political office, and service in the army. There was intense poverty and suffering. These conditions provided the basis for secret organizations with members working to rid Ireland of English oppression. Among these groups were the "Whiteboys," formed in 1761. While they mainly attacked farms at night, their significance was much more extensive. Their actions marked the beginning of armed uprisings against the English Crown.

In the midst of all this turmoil, Patrick O'Shaughnessy was born in County Cork. Sources vary on his childhood in Ireland, beginning with his birth somewhere between 1751 and 1756. The most reliable date is 1752, however. Described as a redhead and the youngest of thirteen children, it is safe to assume that his family was poor and farmed a small piece of land.

Whatever his life was in Ireland, Patrick chose to leave it. At the age of fifteen, he stowed away on a ship harbored in Baltimore, Ireland. After landing in New York City, Patrick wandered for several years until
he reached Philadelphia. He remained near here until the outbreak of the American Revolution.

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AND PRIVATE PATRICK SHOCKNEY

One can only speculate what Patrick did during those few years he spent in America before the Revolution. He did obtain some kind of education before the War, because he became a teacher soon after laying down his musket; but whether he received this education in Ireland, America, or both is not known.

The political atmosphere in which he was living is known, however. Conditions in America were quite similar to those he had left in Ireland. Both lands were colonies of mercantile England and subject to English needs. The Navigation Acts restricted the colonists' trade (and Ireland's since it was not colonized in the usual sense of the word), thus benefiting English merchants. The Crown levied numerous taxes on the colonies in order to provide military protection in these areas. The English Parliament passed laws limiting land use, land which those politicians might never have seen, for virtually all areas under English rule. In the case of both Ireland and America, these actions were greatly resented. And just as the Irish reacted with secret organizations, such as the "Whiteboys," Americans had the "Sons of Liberty." This resentment, inflamed by these secret organizations, led to war. In America the battle for independence took five years. For the Irish it
meant one hundred and eighty years of fighting.

Just two months before the Declaration of Independence was adopted, Patrick O'Shaughnessy enlisted in Captain Adams' Company of Infantry in Little York, Pennsylvania. When he signed the papers though, he wrote Patrick Shockney. This is the first time his name appears on any record here in the United States. There are many possible reasons for changing his name, such as trying to change his identity, but most likely he felt it sounded more American.5

Soon after enlisting, Patrick and the rest of Captain Adams' Company marched to Carlisle, Pennsylvania and mustered into the Seventh Regiment commanded by Colonel Irwin. Patrick was on his way to battle.

Upon reaching Philadelphia they received orders to reinforce American forces in Canada. By late May of 1776, Patrick and the others of the Seventh Regiment found themselves in Quebec under the command of General Sullivan. The British did not win this series of battles easily, but they eventually repulsed the Americans with the threat of British naval ships on the St. Lawrence River, and thus the Americans lost their hold in Canada. As the Seventh Regiment retreated back to Pennsylvania, the British attacked them at Three Rivers, Massachusetts. During this battle Colonel Irwin was taken prisoner and the command fell to Colonel Hartly.

For the next four and one-half years Patrick was involved in many more battles and skirmishes. Among them were the Battle of Brandywine, which allowed the British to occupy Philadelphia for the winter of 1777; the Battle of Saratoga, where Burgoyne surrendered and France joined us as an ally; the Battle of Germantown in October of 1777, as a last attempt to retake Philadelphia; Monmouth in 1778, an American victory;
and the Battle of Elizabethtown in New Jersey. At Elizabethtown Patrick fought under the command of General Anthony Wayne and received the wounds that would later incapacitate him. This was in June of 1780.

Patrick was discharged from his regiment on January 24, 1781 after serving four years and nine months, just nine months short of seeing the end. On October 19, 1781 the British, under the command of General Cornwallis, surrendered in Yorktown. There is an account which says that Patrick witnessed Cornwallis handing his sword to Washington, but this is unlikely. 6

THE CHANGE

America was in a state of flux. The War had brought the thirteen separate colonies together in their struggle for independence, but the fight had been more to end their reliance on England than to govern themselves. Few provisions had been made for self-government. A confederation seemed to be the answer.

While the state delegates were discussing the fine points of the Confederation, Patrick was searching for a new home. Finally he settled on a spot near Westminster, Maryland, and began to farm a small piece of rented land. 7 Nearly everyone was a farmer of sorts because a person's crops were his supply of food. At this time, crops and foodstuffs were typical mediums of exchange. Rent was paid with a portion of the crops, flour was ground for a portion of the grain, leather was tanned for a half of the hide, clothing was made in the home, and sugar was obtained from
the sap of maple trees. If you could not make it in the home, you probably did not need it. It is no wonder that Patrick and others like him had to supplement this income somehow. Many sold products made in the home. Patrick chose to be a teacher.

Patrick soon married a woman about ten years younger than himself, an English woman named Mary Nash. Their first child, David, was born the following year in 1783. This family grew over a period of about twenty-five years to include six sons and three daughters.

It was not unusual for a man to marry a younger woman. The American lifestyle, which included large families, was very hard on women. Their average age at death was much lower than a man's. American families tended to be larger than those in Europe. The development of this country would take a great number of people. Marriage was a relatively simple procedure. A couple need only exchange vows in the presence of a minister or other official; it was not necessary to register or obtain a certificate.

Towards the end of the decade it became apparent that the Confederation was not going to work. It had been denied a great many powers and was largely ineffective in attempting to meet the needs of the states. Talk of a stronger union was not out of the ordinary, but then neither was the fear of a strong central government. This is why the Constitutional Convention was kept secret. If the states knew what their delegates were doing at this convention, it would have ended very quickly. The results, however, were acceptable enough for eleven of the thirteen states to ratify it with few changes. Thus the Confederation became the United States.
During this time of experimentation with self-government, Patrick and Mary began raising a family. Children provided an indispensable labor force in the home. By age five, children would have responsibilities. David was born in 1783, Abigail about 1785, Samuel in 1787, Rachel in 1788, and John in 1790. A second group of children began with Charles, then William in 1801, Susanna in 1804, and Stephen in 1808. Mary had been eighteen when their first child was born and forty-three when she bore their last. The older children helped Patrick and Mary build a home; the younger children cared for them as they got old.

Like a child, the young United States began to feel growing pains; and if it was to grow, it had to be west. From 1791 to 1821 the United States added eleven states to its original thirteen of which only two, Maine and Vermont, were east of the Appalachian Mountains. Only three obstacles stood in the way of this westward advancement. East-west travel was hindered by the mountains and by foreign control of Mississippi River ports, first by the Spanish, and later by the French. The British still occupied forts south of the Great Lakes. Indians attempted to repulse this advancement. Under the Jefferson administration, travel became easier. When Louisiana was purchased, it not only doubled the size of American territory, but it also eased the traffic situation on the Mississippi River system. The War of 1812 alleviated the aggravations caused by British forts on American land, and it was the final blow to the Indians in the Northwest Territory. The first organized attempt by the Indians to rid their lands of encroaching whites was in 1795 under the leadership of Little Turtle. General Anthony Wayne suppressed this uprising at the Battle of Fallen Timbers. One of his lieutenants, William
Henry Harrison, later defeated Tecumseh, a lieutenant under Little Turtle, and his Confederation during the War of 1812 and ended the threat of Indian attacks on westward expansion into the Northwest Territory.

Patrick was a poor man all his life since neither farming nor teaching were profitable trades. Just three months after Congress passed the Pension Act of 1818 for Revolutionary War veterans, Patrick applied. He was already sixty-five years old and an invalid due to the wounds he had received during the War. No longer able to teach and dependent on his children to care for the farm, he stated that he "could not support himself without public or private charity and needed the money to pay rent for his farm land." His property consisted of:

- 2 cows worth about $20
- 1 old horse not worth $20
- some hoes, axe... not exceeding $5
- A small quantity of extreme ordinary furniture $8
- 3 hogs $4

$57

On March 4, 1819 he received his first payment — $67.46. This was the amount due him from the date of application to the date of receipt, to the penny. Every month thereafter he received $8.

Mary died at the age of fifty-five in September of 1820 soon after Patrick completed his Pension Schedule. Patrick lived to be about seventy-five when he died February 2, 1827. He was buried somewhere in what is now Carroll County, Maryland.

Patrick lived through many changes. After leaving Ireland, he came
to a land that was then a colony of England. The transition from a colony to an independent nation was an abrupt one which he experienced first hand. He saw the United States first govern itself as a confederation and later as a constitutional republic. In his lifetime the United States paid its national debt, quadrupled its population, and doubled its area as well as the number of states. All of this was possible because of the thoughts of men like Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, and Albert Gallatin. But these thoughts would have never been realized without the labor of men and women like Patrick and Mary.

THE WAR OF 1812

Europeans believed that the United States would never survive in a world of old, established nations. Since the Revolution, England was waiting for the time when Americans would ask to re-enter the Empire. Europeans, especially the English, acted as if the United States was a second rate nation. As tension mounted, war became inevitable.

This war, the War of 1812, has since been referred to by historians as the second American Revolution. Americans had fought the first revolution to rid themselves of English rule, and although this was accomplished, England continued to meddle in American affairs. English forts continued to be maintained in the Northwest Territory. British captains impressed American sailors on the high seas. American trade was also restricted by England's Orders in Council. Although the United States was not guilt free, the English underestimated the power of angry Americans. Americans
fought the War of 1812 to put an end to English meddling. Where the first Revolution was a bid for independence, the War of 1812 was an attempt to achieve total sovereignty over American affairs.

Once again, war came to America. Tecumseh's attacks on westward expansion marked the beginning of this war, as the uprising was due, at least partially, to English agitation. Besides the use of Indians in the West, the English also planned to use guerrilla warfare along the coast, a most humiliating experience for Americans, and to divide the United States into three sections: New England, the West, and the remaining states. This was to be accomplished by a three-pronged invasion into the interior of the United States. The first was an invasion of New York which was stopped at the Battle of Lundy's Lane. The second was the invasion to Lake Champlain, but it had to be aborted since it required the backing of the British navy, which had just been defeated by Captain Thomas Macdonough and an American fleet half the size of the British fleet on the lake. The third invasion up the Mississippi River began after peace was declared, involved some of England's best troops, and ended at the Battle of New Orleans before it really got underway.

At least one Shockney, John, served in this war. In fact, he served three times by substituting for other men, who had been drafted. This was an accepted practice during this war and the Civil War. As a member of the Maryland Militia, he served to stave off British guerrilla attacks, the most infamous of which was the sacking of Washington.

John was in Bladensburg Races under the command of General Williaminder when the British marched on the Capital in August 1814. Bladensburg is on the outskirts of Washington and was the city's last hope of defense.
Winder, however, put up little resistance, handing the city over to an army nearly half the size of his own. It must have been most aggravating for John, only a private and into his third term of service, to see the Capital burned without putting up a fight.

John's military career was further highlighted by a case of the measles in December 1814. This is not a simple matter for a man twenty-four years of age, especially because his regiment was discharged when the War ended on December 24, 1814, while he was absent and hospitalized. Later in life, this case of the measles would keep him from getting either a land bounty or a pension for his service in the War. All he ever received was $56.97 in pay. 11

THE SHOCKNEYS IN MARYLAND

Patrick had chosen Maryland as his home thirty-three years earlier, and now, at the close of the War of 1812, it seemed that most of his sons and daughters were satisfied with the choice. Only David and Abigail, the two oldest, had left Maryland and moved to the West. 12 The rest of his children married and settled on farms, most of which were rented, in either Fredrick or Baltimore Counties, Maryland.

A good description of this area comes from a sermon delivered by William R. Boyer on November 14, 1976 at the Sandy Mount Church. This is especially significant since it was one of the first Methodist churches in the area, and at least a few of the Shockneys were Methodists. He states:

What was it like in these parts in 1827? Roads were almost
non-existent. Eventually the pike itself, that ran from Baltimore to Westminster, became a toll road, with a gate every so many miles where a traveller paid so much for each horse, each carriage, each head of sheep or cattle. It remained a toll road for many years, and was, in fact, the only reliable road in the entire area. Everything else was dirt road at best and footpath at worst. In the winter and spring almost every road was impassable. This was not Indian Territory in 1827. It was one step beyond that. The Indians who had inhabited this area were gone, but the white man’s settlements were extremely sparse and widely separated. They were a bold and independent breed of people; they cleared the land and made the soil pay them a living. Often they were the helpless victims of the weather and disease... look in the cemetery outside and see all the graves of young women and children.  

There were not many changes since Patrick first settled there. Atigal was the first of Patrick and Mary’s children to be married, although it was not recorded. She married a man named Rawlston before moving to Ohio.

It’s not likely that David, the oldest, ever married in the classical sense of the word.

The remaining children, with the exception of Rachel, married and recorded the event in the Baltimore Marriage Records. The first such marriage was between John Shockney and Jerusa (also spelled Jeruse and Jerushia) Anderson on December 21, 1820. At the age of thirty-nine, Samuel, John’s older brother, married Sophia Slaughter on February 9, 1826. This late marriage was probably because Samuel had a great deal of responsibility
on his father's farm, being the oldest son after David left. William was married by Reverend Garrettson to Rachel Oursler on March 5, 1830, and, just nine months later, Susanna, Patrick's youngest daughter, married George Zimmerman on December 7. Stephen, the youngest, married Barbara Numma (or Nummaugh) on November 14, 1834. The last of this generation to marry was Charles to Sarah Ogg on October 3, 1835. All six of these marriages took place after Mary had died, and only two were performed while Patrick was still alive.

In Maryland John and Jerusa Shockney had eight children: (1) William Perry, born October 4, 1823; (2) Melinda in 1825; (3) Jesse, born April 19, 1827; (4) John, born April 21, 1829; (5) Sarah, born February 18, 1831; (6) Stephen D., born February 14, 1833; (7) Charles Henry, born July 4, 1835; and (8) Samuel, born April 19, 1837. It is interesting to note that Stephen was the only child born in Annapolis, Maryland. The others were born in western Baltimore County.

A possible explanation for Stephen's birth in Annapolis is that his father John studied law around this time. Although the study of law was not quite as involved as it is now, it did require some kind of training. For this reason, John would have to go to the city — Baltimore or nearby Annapolis — which might explain Stephen's birth there and would date John's training around 1833.

William seems to have been the only son of Patrick to have owned any land in Maryland. Having bought it from Arthur McHugh on January 21, 1835, it consisted of ten acres on

... a part of a tract of land called "Dawly's Range"... beginning...

at a bounded Red Oak tree standing on a hill to the southwest of the
head of a branch descending into Beaver Run it being a draft of the
great falls of the Petapsco and running thence south fifty-five
degrees, west eighty perches and then with a straight line to the
beginning.15

Because of the use of the metes and bounds system of surveying, this plot
of land has proven next to impossible to find.

The following year, William and Rachel's land moved from Baltimore
County to Carroll County. Although it didn't move in the usual sense of
the word, it was, nevertheless, bought in Baltimore County and later sold
in Carroll County. This can be explained by the fact that Carroll County
was not formed until 1836 and made up of portions of both Baltimore and
Carroll Counties. It was named in honor of Charles Carroll of Carrollton,
Maryland, the last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence.

By 1837, William felt the urge to move. After presenting John, his
brother, with a writ of attorney on April 1 to sell the land, he and his
wife packed their belongings and moved to Springfield, Ohio, where he rented
a piece of land and began to farm. Although preceeded by David and Abigail
with their moves west, this move marked the beginning of the Shockney's
venture west as a family.

MOVING WEST

David and Abigail had moved west before the War of 1812. Abigail and
her husband were never heard from after leaving Maryland. It is believed
that they were captured or killed by Indians in Ohio.16 David, however,
made it to his destination, Cincinnati.

After David arrived in Cincinnati, he became interested in the river. This led him to New Orleans where he and another man set up a business, presumably involved in river boat trade. David became more interested in his partner's wife than the business, and when the business failed, David and his partner's wife ran off together to Little Rock, Arkansas. He remained involved with river boat trade through the Civil War, had three sons, and later died in Vicksburg, Mississippi.17

In Maryland with a writ of attorney in hand, John completed the sale of William and Rachel's land October 29, 1838. This, along with the Neff case, which involved the settling of an estate, was probably the extent of John's law career; for upon the completion of this sale, John, Jerusa, and their eight children left Maryland and headed for Indiana.

The trip was made during the month of November on a wagon pulled by a team of horses. In this wagon they loaded a chest and several split bottom chairs. The chest was their most valuable possession, although Jerusa and the girls might argue this point since they got to sit in the chairs. John and the older boys sat on the chest to drive the horses, and in the chest were some bedding, their clothing, and the gold with which they hoped to buy land.

It was not an easy trip. John was forty-eight years old; Jerusa was forty-seven; William Perry, their oldest, was fifteen; and Samuel, their youngest, was one. Their route probably took them through the Cumberland Gap, and although it was not impassable during the winter, it was difficult travel. Most of all, Jerusa was two months pregnant with a child destined to be the first Shockney born in Indiana. Averaging about thirteen to
eighteen miles a day, they arrived in Springfield at William and Rachel's farm three weeks before Christmas.

Together the two families moved to Indiana, after William sold his crop in the field. (He must have been growing corn if it was still standing in the field in December.) They lived near Economy, Indiana for about a year, where David Crockett Shockney, the son of John and Jerusa, was born July 2, 1839. With one more move, they finally settled on a spot four miles southwest of Union City in Randolph County, Indiana.

Over the next few years, the remaining sons and daughters of Patrick, except Stephen who stayed in Maryland, moved from Maryland to Indiana or Ohio. Samuel, John, Charles, and William all lived in Randolph County. Rachel and Susanna moved west with their husbands, and it is not certain where they lived.

It must be remembered that the migration of the Shockneys to the West in the 1830's and 1840's took place during a time in American history, later referred to as the Jacksonian Era. With the election of Andrew Jackson as president, the West had become a political and economic force. No longer was there any need to fear the Indians, as had been the case when Abigail and David moved there. The Western farmer, the common man, became a first class citizen.

JOHN IN RANDOLPH COUNTY

John Shockney found the place he would live the rest of his life in Randolph County. He bought the land from Nathan Thomas, and this land
remained in the Shockney family for several generations.

Having purchased the land, the first order of business was to build a house. While the family camped, John and his older sons began cutting logs. Chancing to meet Jonah Feacock, a Quaker, John asked where he might find help building his cabin. Jonah replied that the next day was meeting day and he would ask the others to come and help. The morning of raising day, Jonah and his friends arrived with

... dinner for all... axes, saws, froes, hammers... They made boards, nailed them in, saved out a door and window, split lin, shaved it for facing, laid the floor on joists and sleepers... and went home before sundown saying, "If you need anything more, let us know."

So, William Perry, Helinda, Jesse, John, Sarah, Stephen, Charles, Samuel, David, John and Jerusa moved into their new home.

It was here that John and Jerusa had their last two children. Rachel was born August 9, 1841, and Jane Caroline was born June 8, 1846. John had turned fifty-six years old just two months before Jane was born.

Like his father, Patrick, John was concerned about education. Although not a teacher himself, John and some of his neighbors built a log schoolhouse across from his home several years after he settled there. In it the seats were made from split logs with pegs for legs. Rather rough surroundings for a school, but it sufficed. The first teacher was Captain William B. Stone.

Not everything went well for the Shockneys in the West. In 1851 John (junior) died at the age of twenty-two. John (senior) could get neither a land bounty nor, much later, a pension for his service in the War of 1812 under the Land Bounty Act of 1850 or the Pension Act of 1871.
by 1860, politics about split the family.

The election of 1860 brought about a major family conflict. Abraham Lincoln, who opposed the extension of slavery, had won the Republican nomination. Many people misunderstood Lincoln and thought he was an abolitionist. The Democratic party, on the other hand, had been split. Stephen Douglas, who also opposed the extension of slavery, had been chosen only after the Southern delegation left the convention. The Southern delegates chose John C. Breckenridge as their candidate. John Shockney had been a Democrat since his decision to move west. His choice was Stephen Douglas for President. Stephen D., John's son, felt differently. In 1856, Stephen had moved to Tipton County, Indiana, where a great many Quakers were living. No doubt abolitionist feelings were stronger there. Having married a Quaker, Abigail Fellow, in 1857, he was greatly influenced by these feelings. His choice was Lincoln. The arguments between John and Stephen became so heated that John threatened to disown his son. "If you vote for Lincoln," John said, "You vote for war and shall not have a dollar of the estate." After the election, these two settled their differences.

When the Civil War came, none of the Shockneys were drafted. Two Shockneys from Indiana did, however, go back to Maryland and fought for the Confederacy. John had been right about one thing, "a vote for Lincoln was a vote for war." Chances are though, the war would have come even if Douglas had been elected.

Even during the Civil War, life continued on John's Indiana farm as it always had, as seen by the following letter from John to Stephen D. and his wife Abigail dated May 23, 1862:
I once more take the privilege of writing a few lines to you hoping the(y) will find you all in good health and spirits. I have not had the pleasure of reading all lines from you since I was out there nor do I know any cause why it is so except you thought hard of me for not sending Pheby Huffhine out there. I consulted your mother on the subject and she disapproved of it not that she wished to keep her but because she thought her unsuitable and thought after considering the case that she would not stay long there on account of being lonesome she being very fond of company. She left us soon after and went to Crist Heastons near Winchester — Your mother has been very sick for the last 10 or 12 days but is setting up part of the time now but eats very little. Jane has her hands full to get along with the housework and milking. The boys are getting along very slow. Jesse is done planting corn. Samuel and David has not commenced. David('s) wife brought forth a daughter Tuesday night she had a tedious time. Perry has not wrote for a long time. I have been poorly all spring but not laid up. People generally healthy but behind with their spring work. Wheat looks promising Samuel H. Shockney and Sarah Butt is married Caleb Manning and Susannah Zimmerman to. have thought some of coming out there nex month perhaps in three weeks. Henry and family was here on Tuesday all well John Frazier and family and David and Rachel Gettinger was here last Sunday - all - I cannot think of anything more that would be interesting to you therefore I must bid you both farewell for the present time. Remember me to my little children. Give my respects to thy Father and Mother. — John Shockney.
Still, his main concerns were how the family was doing, who was getting married or having children, and getting the crops out on time. He was not unlike many other Americans.

Many things happened in John's eighty-one years of life. Two of his sons died, John in 1851 and William Perry in 1863. His move west was only the beginning of a much greater westward expansion. The United States grew from the original thirteen states to a union of thirty-seven states. The country suffered two great wars on its own land. The first, the War of 1812, John was directly involved in. From it Europeans learned that the United States was here to stay. The second, the Civil War, tore the nation apart. Attitudes resulting from this war affect Americans, North and South, more than one-hundred years later. When John died July 28, 1871, it was in a much different United States than he had been born in. Jerusa died two years later in December 1873, and they were buried together on their farm.

LIFE ON THE FARM

Long before John died in 1871, he had given his two oldest sons, William Perry and Jesse, part of his land. Farming was the American way of life. John had settled on it after trying his hand at the legal profession, and, when William Perry and Jesse received their own land, they too chose to farm.

Jesse married sisters, one at a time. His first wife, Ellen Mitchell, bore him three children — Okey, Sarah Anne, and John K. — before she
died. He then married Elizabeth Mitchell Powell and had two more sons, Leonard Carlton and Frank.

Jesse must have prospered as a farmer since he bought several of the surrounding farms and donated an acre of land to Wayne Township. The acre of land was to be used for the district school and was located on the southeast corner of his property, just a half-mile from the log school house that John had help build. Some of the early included John A. Shockney, son of William Perry, and Hoscoe Getttinger, one of John's cousins.

By the end of the 1800's, Randolph County had its fill of several generations of Shockneys, most of them farmers at sometime in their lives. The United States had spread from coast to coast by the time of the Civil War, but few improvements had been made. Now was the time of development. "At the end of one hundred years of life under the Constitution, the frontier had gone, and with its going had closed the first period of American history. 21"

Leonard Carlton, Jesse's son, was known as Carl to his friends and family. He had many interests. After obtaining some land in Randolph County, he became a farmer. His first love, however, was his horses, which he raised for harness racing. Later, when the automobile came into vogue, he became a car salesman. But no one could tell him to "get a horse."

Carl married India Engle, and they lived in Randolph County most of their lives, although later they moved to Greenville, Ohio. Together they raised a family of eleven children: Clarence was born July 6, 1896; Ethel, September 4, 1898; Paul, December 28, 1899; Robert, March 3, 1902; Adene, November 1, 1903; James M., April 5, 1905; Mary, December 12, 1906;
Rachel, April 18, 1909; Pauline (Betty), December 22, 1910; Virginia, November 10, 1912; and Marjorie Helen, May 1, 1917.

At the turn of the century, Jesse deeded a portion of his land to the family for a cemetery. In 1905 the family decided to build a memorial to John and Patrick Shockney on it. Stones for the memorial were gathered from around the home and the surrounding farms. Clarence and Paul, Carl's sons, helped gather these stones. John and Jerusa, their son John, and their granddaughter Indiana were all buried here. Later when Jesse and Elizabeth Shockney died, they too were placed in the memorial.

"Nervous energy," as Fredrick Jackson Turner called it, got Americans this far, but as he also pointed out, the frontier was gone. The frontier Americans, whether it be those who moved to Ohio or Indiana, or those that moved further west, were not innovators; they were improvisers. They made do with what they had. Almost all of them were farmers, using the same kind of tools all their lives. When the frontier disappeared however, the "nervous energy" had to be directed somewhere else.

The first hint of where this "nervous energy" was redirected may be seen in a trip Stephen D., his second wife Caroline, and daughter Henrietta made back to Maryland in October 1908. They went back to visit the family there and Patrick's old homestead. Stephen had not been back since his father had moved to Indiana when he was five years old. Henrietta kept a diary of the visit, and one of the things she noted was that they "went from Baltimore on the electric car to Reistertown where Jacob hired a spring wagon with two horses and drove us out through Westminster to the old home." The electric car — a far cry from the mud and toll roads of Patrick and John's time.
With the land settled, Americans became more technologically minded. Note that Carl, with the exception of David who had been involved in river boat trade, became the first Shockney in his family line to do something other than farm, that is, become a car salesman. Of his eleven children, only two, Adene and Ethel, lived their married lives on farms.

GROWING UP IN THE 1900'S

Carl's children grew up on farms in Randolph County, Indiana. Despite their rural background and their father's frequent moves, they all graduated from high school. Several went on for further schooling to become nurses and electricians.

My grandfather, James M. Shockney, tells me that Clarence was the "tough guy" in the family. He and another brother once discovered Clarence, atop a manure spreader with a board in hand, standing off four "city boys." When asked if he needed any help, Clarence replied, swinging his two-by-four, "No, I think I've got them cornered." People should have known better than to pick a fight with a Shockney when so many of them were around.

Everyone had work to do on the farm, and, like many other older daughters, it was Ethel's responsibility to help care for the younger children. The boys, along with Adene, helped their father with the farm. Adene helped her mother with the housework too, as did the other girls.

Produce was preserved by either canning or mounding it. Canning is still done today, but mounding is a lost art. The procedure was simple. After ditches had been dug in the yard and straw placed in the bottom of
it, the produce could be put in. Several layers of produce were usually put in the mound with a layer of straw between each and on top. Then the ditch was filled back in with dirt. Produce such as apples, pears, potatoes, and turnips could be saved through the winter in this manner.

When war broke out in Europe in 1914, it had little affect on the Shockneys in Randolph County, or for that matter, many other Americans. Gradually it became obvious that the United States was soon to be involved. When the United States finally entered the war, Carl Shockney's family helped the cause by complying with Herbert Hoover's Food Administration Policies and other programs designed to conserve different products for the war effort. None of his family was drafted since most of his boys were not old enough to serve.

The United States had grown a great deal since John Shockney's time. In 1840 the population was 17,069,453. By 1920 this number had increased to 95,710,620 (conterminous U.S.). The same was true for Indiana. In Randolph County the population density had quadrupled since John first moved there. In fact Union City, where Carl and his family lived in 1920, was large enough to support three teenage gangs.

These gangs, one of which included my grandfather, were rivals of each other. On several occasions they did coordinate their efforts, however. One such effort involved the dating practices of the six most popular girls in Union City. During the week they would date the hometown boys, but the weekends were reserved for their Winchester boyfriends. In 1922 Winchester and Union City were connected by an interurban, a kind of electric train which connected many Indiana cities. Since few people owned cars, it was the usual mode of transportation. One evening as six
Winchester boys arrived in Union City to pick up their dates, ten Union City boys boarded the interurban and wouldn't allow the intruders off. When the interurban reached the middle of town and turned around, ten more Union City boys got on. They all rode back to the city limits where the Union City boys bid their competition farewell — at least for a while.

Several years later James H. Shockney began working for a power company near Kent, Ohio. Because he lived near the normal school, there was always an abundance of women. On occasion he was known to buy a bottle of liquor for a girl or even himself, which would not have been unusual except that Prohibition was still in effect. It was here that he met his future wife, Martha Dunn, who was among the women studying to be teachers. They were married several years later on July 19, 1931.

THE DEPRESSION AND WORLD WAR II

After their marriage, Jim and Martha Shockney, my grandparents, moved to Greenville, Ohio, where his father Carl was now selling cars. My grandmother had to give up her teaching career, at least temporarily, since female teachers could not be married. She had been supporting her mother and her sister Dorothy, ten years younger than herself, and now that she was married, they depended on my grandfather. This was most easily managed if they all lived together. My grandfather had married one woman but ended up with a houseful.

These were hard times; a depression had hit the United States. By
1932 over fifteen million people were out of work. My grandfather was lucky. He was able to keep his job with the power company as a meter reader for the duration of the Depression. It was next to impossible to save money, but at least there was always food on the table. Others were not so lucky. Hobos frequented back doors asking for work and a meal. My grandmother told me that they were generally polite, working more than they had to, and eating less than they could.

The Depression affected the agricultural community. When prices of farm products dropped drastically, revolts were not uncommon. Herbert Hoover asked farmers to produce less in order to drive up the prices, but this proved ineffective. Franklin Roosevelt later took this idea one step further with the Agricultural Adjustment Act. With the incentive of subsidies, the farmer was asked once again to limit production of the following products: wheat, cotton, corn, hogs, tobacco, rice, and dairy. It too was largely ineffective and was declared unconstitutional in 1935 in the "Sick Chicken Case."

Roosevelt tried many, many programs to alleviate the problems caused by the Depression, but there seemed to be no answer.

Both my father, James D. Shockney, and his brother Joseph were born during the Depression. My father was born January 22, 1933, before the Depression had reached its lowest point; and Joe was born October 29, 1937, just before conditions started to improve.

Conditions improved as World War II approached. In December 1940 during a "Fireside chat," Roosevelt asked that America become the "Arsenal of Democracy," by supplying the Allies with money and equipment. When the United States finally declared war on the Axis Powers, my grandfather
joined the Civil Defense, and my grandmother got a job as a teacher, since so many men left the teaching profession to join the service. The war proved to be a blessing for the economy. In three years it did more than any of Roosevelt's programs could have ever hoped to do. Employment was at its highest, and production was up. Conservation was important, and depression-weary Americans were quite adept at that. When the war ended, there were many new ideas in the field of economics and international politics had changed drastically.

Despite the extreme circumstances, my father had a relatively normal childhood delivering papers, training his pigeons, playing with his dog, and protecting his little brother. Most children do not, however, have their mother for a teacher as he did in the fourth grade. For nine months she knew exactly what his homework was, so there were no excuses.

The prosperity the war had brought allowed James H. Shockney to set up his own business in 1946. By doing so, he did what many Americans only dream of — becoming your own boss. Shockney Sales and Service began doing electrical contracting on houses. Over the years, he expanded its capacity to include insulating and industrial contracting.

THE FIFTIES

A great many of the fears that Americans felt during the 1950's, fears which still exist today, were a direct result of World War II. After seeing Europe carved up and many of the countries placed behind the "Iron Curtain," as Winston Churchill referred to the invisible wall
that surrounded the Soviet-bloc nations, Americans feared that communism would spread worldwide, with one nation falling after another in much the same fashion that dominoes fall. Nuclear attack became a very real threat. With thoughts of Hiroshima and Nagasaki still in mind, the Soviet Union exploded an atomic bomb in 1949. Thus the arms race was on.

World War II had exploited technology. It made possible long-range missiles, the threat of devastating chemical and germ warfare, and the nuclear bomb. But technology demanded educated people, so when the war ended, people flocked to colleges and universities nationwide.

Upon graduation from high school in 1951, my father entered Purdue University to study electrical engineering. By 1954, however, he decided to join the Army. This was a big year for him. He also met Sue McCollum that year and, after a several month long engagement, married her in November.

Basic training led him and his new wife to New Jersey. From here it was to Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, where he served as a radar technician. I was born there in the camp hospital March 18, 1956.

After three years of service my father and mother and the new addition moved back to Greenville, Ohio, where he joined his father as an electrical contractor. The following year, my brother Doug was born on May 7, 1958.

The same year, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik, the first man-made satellite. This added yet another facet to the on-going, so called Cold War — the space race. Ever since World War II, U.S. - Soviet relations had been strained at best as they continue to be. However, since it is a diplomatic war, avoiding direct military conflict, it has been dubbed the Cold War.
The Fifties saw the beginning of many benefits and problems. Since the war, so many developments have taken place so rapidly that past experience has become less and less applicable to the present. While the standard of living has increased steadily, so has inflation. Convenience appliances have only increased the demand for more and more energy. New products add to our steadily growing mounds of trash. And the pollution index has become a standard part of the weather report in major cities.

AND ON

It is hard for me to imagine growing up during a time previous to the Sixties. Change takes place with such rapidity that many things become outdated by the time they are completed. This is true in all fields: government, science, industry, economics, culture and society. Violence has become so much a part of life that Lyndon Johnson found it necessary to set up a commission to study it. (This study, completed in 1969, is also outdated.)

American families have become extremely mobile. Much of this mobility has been related to the father's job, following it wherever it may lead, although in recent years, families have been taking a stand and refusing to move. My family has gone through two such moves. In 1966 my father began working for the Black-Clawson Company. This led us from Greenville to Hamilton, Ohio. We moved again in 1971 when he was transferred to Fulton, New York.

Television has been an important part of my life. Besides its
entertainment value, it has made me aware of a great deal of violence—from accidents to natural disasters, from campus and civil disturbances to Vietnam, and from murders to political assassinations. In my lifetime I have witnessed the results of more violent deaths than the first four generations of Shockneys in America.

I was in the second grade when John F. Kennedy was assassinated. We were dismissed from school soon after it happened. Although I had no concept of death (I had never known a person who died) I could not help but sense the finality when it was announced over the intercom that President Kennedy was dead. Through the television, I witnessed the deaths of two men, Kennedy and Lee Harvey Oswald, who was believed to have shot the president. Then there was the funeral... the riderless horse with the boots reversed in the stirrups... and the twenty-one gun salute...

A year later, flashes began to appear on the screen from Vietnam. I was right in the battlefield with the dead all around me or the wreckage of a helicopter in front of me. Then the reporter with the helmet on his head and the microphone in his hand told me exactly how many were dead and who was winning the war.

In the spring of 1968 Robert F. Kennedy was shot, live on nationwide television. Several months later, demonstrators were beaten at the Democratic Convention in Chicago by Mayor Daley's police force. Robert F. Kennedy had hoped for an end to all violence, not only in Vietnam, but in America as well. He died in vain.

Television wasn't all violence. Every Sunday night it had been popcorn, ice cream, Walt Disney, and the Ed Sullivan Show. I always hoped that the mouse would be on. Then in 1964 the Beatles appeared on the
Ed Sullivan Show, followed by the Rolling Stones, Herman's Hermits and the Dave Clark Five; and music became a part of the Sixties and my life.

While living in Hamilton, Ohio, I was very close to the riots at Miami University. The demands ranged from changes in university policies to an end to the Vietnam War. What really impressed me was the long hair and the complete lack of respect for authority.

The "icing on the cake" came May 4, 1970 at Kent State University when four students were killed by National Guardsmen. When the Sixties ended, I stayed with them as best as my middle class upbringing would allow.

While my father worked in Fulton, New York, we lived in nearby Liverpool. High school here proved to be an extension of the Sixties. My class, the class of 1974, was one of the most active classes that school ever saw. Long hair was popular and individuality was a virtue. When the teachers demanded a wage increase, we backed them up. When the village park was placed under curfew, we built a youth center. Under this class's leadership, student government obtained a smoking lounge for students. Everyone was relieved when we graduated.

Through all of this, Doug and I grew up with very different values. Whereas my brother excelled in sports, I was more prone to academics.

Upon graduation from high school, I entered Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana with the intentions of becoming a Social Studies teacher. I had once told a high school teacher that he was so poor that he should be replaced, and I was going to do it. Now I am looking forward to graduation and have yet to find a job.
CONCLUSIONS

How is it that I differ from Patrick or my other ancestors? Perhaps the answer lies in the times in which we lived.

Patrick lived in America when it was governed as a colony, a confederation, and a constitutional republic. Such changes in government would not take place again until Franklin Roosevelt became president. Then the changes become much more subtle. The modern presidency was ushered in and bureaucracy became the new form of government. For about 150 years, however, change came slowly and steadily. Several generations of my family enjoyed smooth, stable lives under this government. In recent years intervention in the system has produced artificial results as well as questionable leadership.

Since the American Revolution and the War of 1812, wars in which the United States has been involved have steadily left our shores, with the exception of the Civil War. The Mexican War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War tend to occur farther and farther away. Since World War II, our military involvement has become increasingly questionable. This has led to a great deal of disillusionment among the American people. While Patrick and John could say that they fought because the English were "knocking at their door," it is hard to find any direct threat to Americans if the Vietnam War is studied in retrospect.

Transportation has become much more convenient. In 1849 it took 166 days to travel coast to coast in a covered wagon. By the 1870's a train could make the same trip in eleven days. Airplanes flew from coast to
coast in 1923 in twenty-six and a half hours. Now the 747 has reduced this to five hours. Today, little thought is given to getting in the car and driving somewhere. Patrick would have had to walk.

With the increasing ease of transportation, mobility patterns also changed. Land was a major concern of people in the 1800's. All of the Shockneys moved west to gain more land and, perhaps for the first time, own it. By the 1900's however, employment became a major concern. My grandfather and my father have moved to find jobs. Because of job demands, cities have grown. In 1850, 90% of the people in the United States were classified as rural, making their living by farming. By 1950, however, this figure had reversed and 90% of the population was urban.

The way people make a living also affects the size of their families. Farming families tend to be larger than their urban counterparts. Observe the successive generations of Shockneys. And, urbanization has not only decreased the size of the family, but increased the standard of living.

Never before has the mass media, television especially, had the effect that it does. It has become much harder to maintain an opinion when one is constantly being bombarded by new facts.

Different periods of history have produced different needs and demands. People are an active part of this. When F.J. Turner proclaimed that the frontier was gone, he was wondering where people would go. They went to cities. He had recognized certain characteristics of Americans on the frontier. Just as Americans were once shaped by the frontier, today's Americans are a product of a crowded, complex urban-suburban existence.
ENDNOTES


2 Edward MacLysaght, Irish Families: Their Names, Arms, and Origins (Dublin: Hodges, Figgis & Co. Ltd., 1957), pp. 265-266. This provides much of the material in the previous few paragraph.

3 Sources for this date include: Charles Gettinger, album. Stephen D. Shockney, notes, comp. by Roseland Shockney. Pension Schedule of Patrick Shockney, 14 Sept. 1820.

4 Charles Gettinger, album.

5 Stephen D. Shockney, notes. Charles Gettinger, album. There are no public records with his name as O'Shaughnessy, but these accounts provide the basis for the first chapter.

6 Charles Gettinger, album.

7 This must be assumed since there is no record of him owning land. Also, in the Pension Schedule, he claims that he needs the money for rent.

8 Stephen D. Shockney, notes.

9 Pension Schedule, 1820.

10 Ibid.

11 This is assuming that he was paid for his last term of service.

12 Dates unknown.


14 Stephen D. Shockney, notes.


17. Ibid.


22. Charles Gettinger, album.


24. NASA, chart, S-76-815.
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