

## JOHN AND SARAH (SALLY) MESSICK TINGLE OF MARYLAND AND MISSOURI (1780-1851)

John Tingle was one of the twelve children of Caleb Tingle (ca 1730-1797) and Elizabeth Fassitt Tingle (ca 1734-1806), both born in Somerset County, Maryland. The area in which they were born became Worcester County in 1742. John was, therefore, a great grandson of Hugh Tingle, the progenitor of this branch of Tingles in Maryland.

The birth of John Tingle was recorded in the "Register of St. Martin's in Worcester Parish," the date being 13 April 1780.<sup>i</sup>

His father, Caleb, died in 1797 and in his will left numerous bequests to his children. John received part of the ancestral land including the house where his father lived.<sup>ii</sup>

On 8 Jan. 1801 a marriage license was issued to John Tingle and Sarah Messick at the Worcester County Courthouse in Snow Hill, Maryland.<sup>iii</sup> He was not quite 21. Her date of birth is estimated as 1784.

Some six years later, 27 Feb 1807, John and Sally Tingle sold 67 ½ acres of the land he had inherited, then known as *Double Purchase* to his brother, Daniel. And on 8 Nov 1809 John Tingle sold 158 acres of Gunshot Ridge to another brother, William. On the same day this tract was resold by William to Sarah Tingle, wife of John.<sup>iv</sup>

In April 1837 John and Sarah (Sally) Tingle left Maryland for Missouri, settling in Shelby County the following month. Apparently most, if not all, of the children, married and single, came with them.

The married life of John and Sally Tingle was evidently not always peaceful. On 12 August 1839 she filed on a bill of complaint for divorce with the Clerk of the Circuit Court in Shelby County, Missouri. The petition, submitted at the Nov. 1839 term of court, stated "that she has resided in the State of Missouri more than two years during which time her husband has been a notorious drunkard and has treated her with insult, indignity and abuse," etc.<sup>v</sup> I refrain from quoting further details of this public record. I could not find a record of the divorce being granted, so I retained Ms. Teresa L. Blattner of Fulton, Missouri, a professional genealogical researcher, to investigate further. She reported as follows:

"I find it very unlikely that Sarah ever got her divorce. Sad as her life must have been, she did not have grounds for a divorce in Missouri during this time frame. It was considered a husband's right to beat his wife and children any time he wanted. Another thing is that he did not have to support them."

"The only grounds for divorce were: infidelity, desertion, and habitual drink. And even with that, the situation had to continue for two years. In other words, the spouse could take off

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<sup>i</sup> Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

<sup>ii</sup> Will of Caleb Tingle, Liber JW 18, folio 334, Maryland State Archives.

<sup>iii</sup> Marriage Licenses, Worcester County, Maryland 1795-1865 by M. B. & V. Long.

<sup>iv</sup> Land Records, Worcester Co., Maryland, 1666-1810 by Ruth T. Dryden.

<sup>v</sup> Petition of Sarah Tingle, by her solicitor, Alexander L. Slayback to the Judge of the Circuit Court in Chancery, Shelby County, Missouri.

for a year and 362 days and come back home, and it was not considered desertion. They could also stay drunk as much as they wanted, as long as they were sober one day out of two years.”

The date of death for John Tingle has not been ascertained but on 13 August 1851 the will of Sarah Tingle was filed for probate in Shelby County, Missouri. The will was made on 3 July 1851 and the name of John Tingle, her husband, is not mentioned.

John and Sally Tingle were the parents of eleven children. Their names are listed below, not necessarily in the order of birth. Here is what is known about them at this writing:

1. TINGLE, G. W. (initials may stand for George William or George Washington); died before 1851 - his name is not mentioned in his mother's will. He left two minor children whose name and whereabouts are unknown.
2. TINGLE, WILLIAM S. Born 1812, died prior to July 1851 when his will was entered for probate in Marion County, Missouri. Married Julia Ann \_\_\_\_\_; had two children - Mary Adelaide, born 1847 and Ellen born 1848. The 1850 Census for Hannibal, Marion County, Missouri, lists his occupation as “teamster.”
3. TINGLE, MARTHA She was first married to Elisha Powell per marriage license issued 7 Jan. 1825 in Worcester County, Maryland<sup>(see note 3)</sup> Four sons were born to this marriage: G. W. Powell, John Powell, James Powell and Stephen Powell. After their father's death, Martha married John Davis. They had two children: David Davis and Ruth Davis. Martha Tingle Powell Davis apparently died before July 1851 when her mother made her will, as her name is not mentioned.
4. TINGLE, HESTER ANN - known as “Hetty:” she was born ca 1810 in Maryland.<sup>vi</sup> On 2 March 1830 a marriage license was issued in Worcester County, Maryland to Shelby Rain and Hetty Tingle.<sup>(see note 3)</sup> Seven children were born to this marriage: Sarah, Elizabeth, Nancy, John, Frances, Martha and George. The first three were born in Maryland, while the last four were born in Missouri.<sup>(See note 6)</sup> Shelby Rains's occupation was listed as “laborer” and he owned real estate valued at \$400.
5. TINGLE, JUDEA CATHERINE born ca 1813 in Maryland. On 12 April 1831 she and Solomon Evans secured a marriage license in Worcester County, Maryland.<sup>(see note 3)</sup> Eight Children were born to this marriage: Sarah, John N. and Mary E., were born in Maryland,<sup>(see note 6)</sup> while Rufus L., Martha C., Charlotte C., Louisa D. and Caleb G. W. were born in Missouri.<sup>(see note 6)</sup> Solomon Evans occupation was given as “farmer” on the 1850 census for Shelby County, Missouri with real estate valued at \$400.<sup>(see note3)</sup>
6. TINGLE, LOUISA born ca 1804 in Maryland. On 30 Aug. or 30 Oct 1837, she married John T. Lister in Shelby County, Mo. He was a widower, born 12 May 1803 in Worcester County, Maryland, who had previous been married to Louisa Truitt of Worcester Co., in 1829 or 1830.<sup>(see note 3)</sup> They emigrated to Missouri where she died 11 January 1837. John T. Lister and his second wife, Louisa Tingle, were parents of seven children, all born in Missouri.<sup>vii</sup>

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<sup>vi</sup> 1850 Census of Shelby County, Missouri

<sup>vii</sup> Information from Family book by Howard A. Thompson, received from Mrs. Ellen Marie Hanlon

7. TINGLE, MARY E. Born ca 1816 in Maryland. On 31 Jan 1838 she married Francis Franklin in Shelby Co., Missouri.<sup>viii</sup> The 1850 census of Hannibal, Marion County, Missouri lists them with two children: Caroline, born 1839 and John W., born 1847. Francis Franklin's occupation was given as "laborer" and his worth as \$150.<sup>ix</sup>

8. TINGLE, SARAH M. B. Born ca 1825 in Maryland.<sup>(See note 6)</sup> No further data.

9. TINGLE, THOMAS born ca 1827 in Maryland <sup>(See note 9)</sup> He married Mary E. \_\_\_\_\_ who was born ca 1828 in Pennsylvania. They had two children according to the 1860 Census for Hannibal, Marion County, Missouri. They were Martha A., born 1856, and John O., born ca 1858. Thomas Tingle's occupation was listed as "carpenter." Also living with this family was John L. Sheety, age 22, born in Missouri, occupation "carpenter."<sup>x</sup>

10. TINGLE, DANIEL the 1860 Mortality Schedule of Shelby County, Missouri states that he died in November 1859 of internal injuries (cause not stated) at age 35, occupation "teamster,"<sup>xi</sup> His brother, Thomas, was appointed administrator of Daniel's estate. The Mortality Schedule would indicate he was born in 1824, but the 1850 Census for Shelby County, lists his age as 21, indicating he was born in 1829.<sup>(See note 9)</sup> It has not been determined if he was married.

11. TINGLE, AMELIA born ca 1831 in Maryland.<sup>(See note 6)</sup> On 29 November 1853 she married Henry Norbeck and they had one son, George, born in 1854. Amelia Tingle died young, ca 1855.<sup>(See note 7) xii</sup>

In closing this lengthy, but rather sad article on some of the history of the John and Sarah (Sally) Messick Tingle family, I want to express my thanks to Ms. Teresa L. Blattner, 185 State Street, Fulton, Missouri, 68251 for her detailed research. I am happy to recommend her to others who seek family information in that state.

Certainly the life of Sarah Messick Tingle was no "bed of roses." Her husband, John, did not live up to the good name of Tingle, judging from the record. But in researching family history, there are "pluses" and "minuses" and the name TINGLE bears testimony to that fact. Fortunately, the former greatly outweighed the latter.

J. Seeger Kerns, Winter 1993. Editor of *Tingle Descendants*. [He retired in 1994/5 and his nephew became editor, and the last issued I saw was like 1995]

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Morrison. 18 family members worked on assembling the data.

<sup>viii</sup> Missouri Marriages before 1840, compiled by Susan Ormesker, published 1982 by Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, p. 080.

<sup>ix</sup> 1850 Census of Hannibal, Marion County, Missouri

<sup>x</sup> 1860 Census of Hannibal, Marion County, Missouri

<sup>xi</sup> 1860 Mortality Schedule of Shelby County, Missouri.

<sup>xii</sup> 12. Letter: Mrs. Ellen M. Morrison, Conewango Valley, New York, July 1992.