

The following biographical sketch and record of the births and marriages of the Carroll Clan was read at the reunion held at the Windy Gap Church grove on September 19, 1890. To this has been added a later record of the births and marriages of the Clan up to this time, but not in any sense as a history. the births and marriages of Hamilton Carroll family has been added by Carroll Hamilton, son of Beatrice Carroll, Hamilton Carroll's youngest daughter.

About 1760, ROBERT CARROLL and his wife, MARY, together with his two brothers, JOHN and HAMILTON, and his sister, JANE, who afterwards married ALEXANDER BURNS, emigrated from Ireland and stopped at a place called Mingo, in Western Pennsylvania. They stayed there but a few years, and about 1765 or 1770, removed and settled on one of the branches of Wheeling Creek, on the farm now owned by James Montgomery, near the place where the Joint School house now stands in East Finley Township in Washington County, Pennsylvania. At that time, County organizations did not exist as at present. Here ROBERT, assisted by his wife, sister, and two brothers, made his tomahawk improvements, clearing the land by cutting down the forests; and built perhaps the first log cabin in that settlement. Like all the settlers of that day, he lived and ran the risk of life at the hands of the red men, and endured the hardships of a backwoodsman and worshipped God in his first temples.

In 1781, hostilities broke out among the Indians, and Washington County was founded. In the summer of that year, JOHN and HAMILTON, the brothers of ROBERT who lived with him, went out one morning to get some wood with which to build a fire. When but a short distance from the cabin, both were shot down by the Indians. Robert's wife, who was in the cabin, heard the reports of the shots. The boys had no firearms with them, and she knew that the Indians had fired the shots and that she and her two children would be killed or captured if she remained in the cabin.

She took the babe from his rude couch, and with him in her arms, and with her other son, a child of about four years of age running by her side, escaped into a cornfield nearby, where she still was when the Indians reached the cabin. The faithful dog remained on guard, and the Indians had to kill him before they could enter the cabin, which they robbed, and left taking with them the scalps of the two brothers.

The mother in the cornfield, hearing the shots that killed the dog, knew when his barking ceased that the cabin was being plundered, and took advantage of the opportunity to flee with all possible haste with her children to the fort, where Prosperity now stands, a point about five miles from where the cabin stood, although she had to travel much farther to reach it. She reached the fort in safety with her two children, James and Robert.

Her husband, Robert, was absent during all of this trouble. He had gone a day or two before to a mill up along the Monongahela River. When he returned to his home and saw the evidences of the murdering and plundering, he thought that his wife, children and brothers had been murdered or captured. With anxious and sorrowful heart, he made his way to the fort, and was rejoiced to find his wife and children safe; but heard with horror the fate of his two brothers.

In a few days, a party of men left the fort and found the dead bodies of the two brothers, and buried them in what is now called "The Old Carroll Graveyard." From this interment, the place takes its name. The burying ground is but a short distance from where the cabin stood.

A few days later, after all trace of the visiting Indian party had disappeared, ROBERT returned with his wife and children to the lonely cabin, and lived there unmolested the rest of his days, and died at the age of 96 years. His remains being interred near the resting place of his brothers, John and Hamilton.