



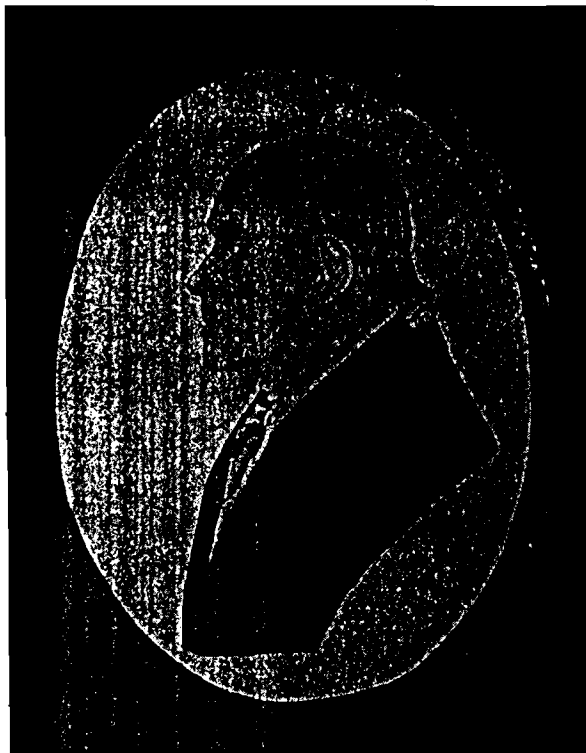
THOMAS CLAYTON WOLFE
ASHEVILLE, N. C.

SOME OF THOMAS WOLFE'S QUAKER CONNECTIONS

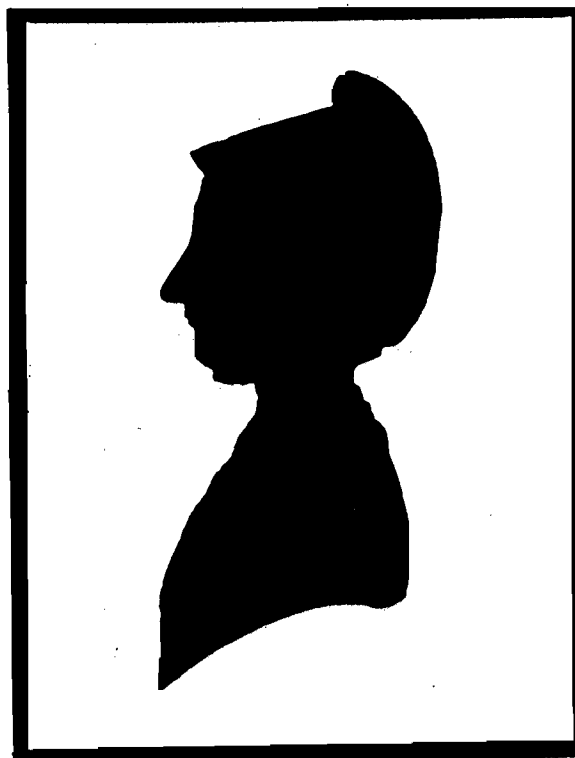
By William Perry Johnson

As the years go by, North Carolina's celebrated author, Thomas Wolfe (1900-1938), is ever increasing in stature in the literary world, and will no doubt take his place among the all-time greats. He was born 3 October 1900 at Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina, the son of William Oliver and Julia Elizabeth (Westall) Wolfe. In 1920 he received an A.B. degree from the University of North Carolina, and an A.M. degree from Harvard in 1922. He taught at New York University 1924-30. Wolfe wrote several novels and numerous magazine articles, and is best known for three of his books: Look Homeward, Angel (1929), From Death to Morning (1935) and Of Time and the River (1935).

Although Wolfe's own religious affiliation was Presbyterian, he had some Quaker ancestry, and numerous Quaker connections. His paternal grandmother was Eleanor Jane Heikes (d. 1912, age 97), a daughter of Emanuel and Sarah (Wierman) Heikes. Two hundred years ago the Wiermans were a Quaker family in what is now Adams County, Pennsylvania.



Judge JOHN WIERMAN (1759-1851)

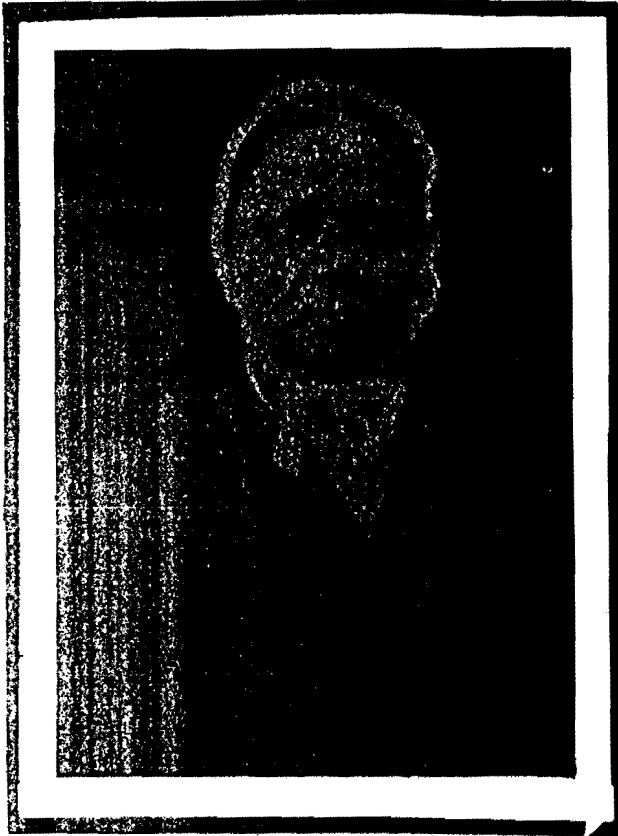


RUTH (COX) WIERMAN (1756-1827)

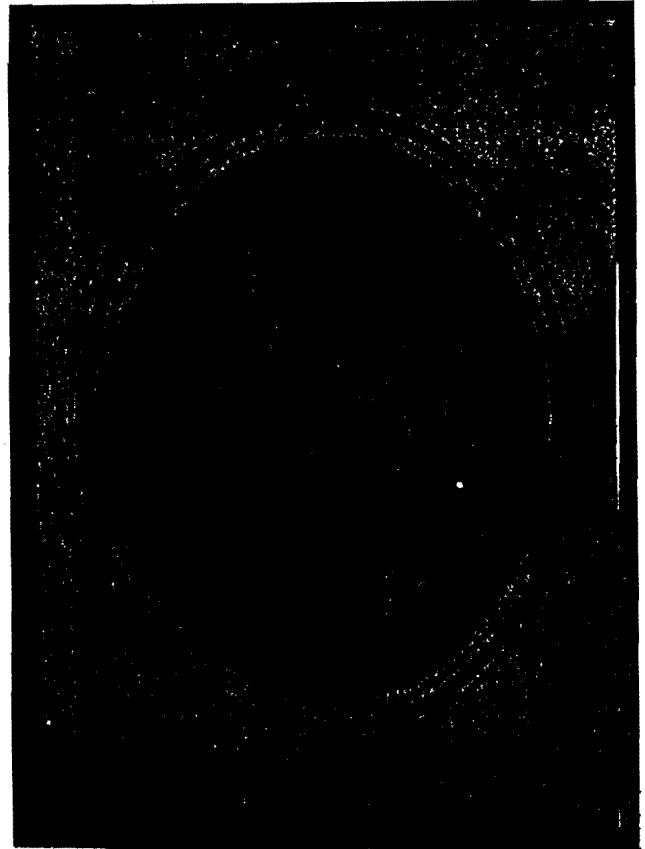
The immigrant ancestor, William Wierman, a blue dyer by occupation, was a native of Germany, according to tradition, and removed to Holland where he was married to Gertrude Seitman (Sateman, Leitman, Lateman?) and soon thereafter sailed for America. The fact that this couple possessed a family Bible printed in Dutch is strong evidence that at least one of them was a native of Holland. As early as 1717, William and Gertrude Wierman were living at Germantown, Pennsylvania, and were probably members of the Mennonite church. In 1723 the family removed to the Mennonite settlement on Skippack Creek, in present Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, where William Wierman purchased 57 acres of land and engaged in farming as well as his original occupation of blue dyer. He purchased 137 acres more in 1729, adjoining the oldest of the Mennonite meeting houses. In 1737 William Wierman and family settled on Bermudian Creek, Huntington Township, Lancaster (later York, now Adams) County, Pennsylvania, and it was apparently about this time that they joined the Quakers. William Wierman died, testate, in 1765. The inventory of his estate suggests that he owned and operated a store; his real estate amounted to over 1,000 acres.

William and Gertrude Wierman had six children: Henry (b. 10 of 8 Mo. [Oct.] 1721, m. 1st to Priscilla Pope, and 2nd to Elizabeth Ross), Nicholas (m. 1745 to Sarah Cox), Hannah (m. 1747 to Samuel Cox), William (m. 1753 to Amy Cox), Gertrude (m. 1st in 1754 to Samuel Wright, and 2nd to - Ferguson) and John (m. to Mary Morrow). Henry Wierman, by occupation, was a tanner; Nicholas was a miller. Some of these children, and several of the grandchildren, settled in North Carolina.

John Wierman, son of Henry and Priscilla (Pope) Wierman, remained in Pennsylvania and became a judge. He married Ruth Cox, daughter of William and Naomi (Garretson) Cox. Sarah Wierman (1785-1858), daughter of Henry Wierman by his second wife, Elizabeth Ross, was the great-grandmother of Thomas Wolfe.



GULIELMA (COX) REEDER (1809-1880)



HARMON WIERMAN (1780-1865)

Mary Wierman, daughter of Henry and Priscilla (Pope) Wierman, married Jesse Cook, and their son, Henry Cook, was the great-grandfather (maternal) of Albert Cook Myers, (b. 1874), noted historian and genealogist, of Moylan, Pennsylvania. Myers is best known for his The Immigration of the Irish Quakers into Pennsylvania, 1682-1750.

Another Wierman descendant who made a name for himself in the literary world was Leroy Scott, a native of Indiana. He was born 14 May 1875, Fairmount, Grant County, Indiana, a son of Eli J. and Eleanor (Reeder) Scott; died 21 July 1929, New York State. His wife, whom he married 24 June 1904, was Miriam Finn, daughter of Moses and Gittel (Seletchnick) Finn, born 9 August 1882, in Russia (see Who's Who, Vol. 22). Among Scott's novels were: Counsel for the Defense, To Him That Hath, The Walking Delegate, The Shears of Destiny, No. 13 Washington Square.

Leroy Scott's maternal grandmother was Gulielma Cox (m. Spencer Reeder), daughter of John William and Lydia (Littler) Cox, Quakers of Randolph County, North Carolina. John William Cox was son of Samuel and Hannah (Wierman) Cox, and a grandson of William and Gertrude Wierman, of Pennsylvania.

Thus, Judge John Wierman was a grandson of William and Gertrude Wierman; Henry Cook (great-grandfather of Albert Cook Myers), Harmon Wierman (son of Henry and grandson of Henry and Priscilla), Eleanor Jane (Heikes) Wolfe (grandmother of Thomas Wolfe), and Gulielma (Cox) Reeder (grandmother of Leroy Scott, and great-great-grandmother of William Perry Johnson), were all great-grandchildren of William and Gertrude Wierman, Pennsylvania Quakers.

