

The Family and Descendants of Uriah (Euriah) Kirby
Glendale Farmer

By [Clarence Crocker](#)

The surname “Kirby” has been prominent in the [Bivingsville/Glendale](#) area from its early beginnings. The 1860 Spartanburg/Bivingsville Census listed 70 households, five being Kirby households consisting of 29 members. All were South Carolina natives and were listed as farmers. Eight Kirbys are buried in the [Glendale Cemeteries](#). While I did not connect relationships, it appears to this writer that most, if not all, could have been relatives of Uriah whose family history I am trying to record.

Census Enumerators listed names and dates as they understood the registrant who oft times had little or no education which led to numerous errors in names, dates and ages. I have tried to copy the census as recorded, where errors occur, I apologize. Death certificates are not available for years before 1917 and Obituaries have not been put on microfilm for the years 1924 through 1929.

The Family of Uriah and Elizabeth Kirby.
Uriah Kirby married Elizabeth Littlejohn.

The 1860 Spartanburg/Bivingsville Census listed the household of Uriah Kirby as;
Uriah Kirby 50, husband/farmer/assets \$1825.00 Wife; Elizabeth; 43
Children; Robert 9 Vashti 7 Salathiel 5 John H. 4

The 1870 Spartanburg Township Census listed the household as;
Elizabeth Kirby 52, head of house/farmer
Children; Roberson 18 Vashti 17 Salathiel 16 Henry 14

The 1880 Spartanburg Township Census listed the household as;
Elizabeth Kirby 60, head of house/farmer
Children; Vashti 27 Henry 24

No death records were found.



The Family of Robert (Roberson) Kirby, son of Uriah and Elizabeth Littlejohn Kirby;
Robert Kirby married Della Littlejohn from Union, S.C.

The 1910 Spartanburg/Zion Hill Census showed they had been married 23 years and were the parents of 9 children, 8 living. The household was listed as;

John H. Kirby 54, farmer			Wife; Tolula 48	
Children; Edwin S. 22	Robert 21		Lizzie 18	Elbert 17
John Jr. 15	Leon 12		Estes 11	Lucile 8

The 1920 Spartanburg/Zion Hill Census listed the household as;

John H Kirby 64, husband/farmer	Wife; Lula 58
Edwin S. 32, carpenter/house contractor	Robert 30, cotton mill weaver
Elbert 25, mail carrier	John Jr. 24, machinist
Lucile 17, cotton mill	

The 1940 Spartanburg/Zion Hill Census listed the household as;

J.H. Kirby 84, head of household/widow	
Children; Leon 37, Carpenter	Estes 35/ cotton mill

Excerpts from the Obituary of Tallulah Smith Kirby published Friday, July 19, 1929;
“Funeral services for Mrs. Lula Kirby, 68, wife of J.H. Kirby, died at their residence yesterday morning after a short illness, will be conducted this morning at the Sloan’s Grove Baptist Church. Interment will follow in the Zion Hill Church Cemetery.

Survivors were; her husband, J.H. Kirby Sr.; six sons, E.S., R.H., E. L., Leon, Estes and J.H. Kirby Jr.; two daughters, Mrs. Newman Bobo and Miss. Lucille Kirby; six grandchildren.”

Excerpts from the Obituary of J.H. Kirby Sr. published Friday, April 3, 1942;

“Funeral services for J.H. Kirby Sr., 86, well know Spartanburg resident who died yesterday at his home near [Glendale](#) following a long illness will be conducted this afternoon at the Sloan’s Grove Baptist Church with interment following in the Zion Hill Cemetery. Masons will be in charge of the interment service.

Mr. Kirby was born and reared near [Pacolet](#), the son of the late Euriah and Elizabeth Littlejohn Kirby. For many years he had lived in the Glendale/Sloan’s Grove communities. He was a charter member of the Clifton Masonic Lodge and an honorary member of the Glendale Lodge. He had received his 50 years pin from Clifton Lodge some time ago. He was a member of the Sloan’s Grove Baptist Church.

Survivors are; three sons, John Henry Jr., Leon and Estes Kirby of Spartanburg; two daughters, Mrs. A. B. Newman of Woodruff and Mrs. J.B. Benson of Cliffside, N., C.; eight grand and one great grandchild”

Grave markers; John Henry Kirby, September 18, 1855=April 2, 1942

Nancy Tallulah Kirby, Wife of John H. Kirby, March 29, 1861= July 18, 1929



Erwin Spurgeon Kirby, son of John Henry and Tallulah Smith Kirby;
E. Spurgeon Kirby married Mollie Page.

The 1940 Spartanburg/Campobello Census listed the household as;

Mollie Kirby 51, head of household, widow/public school teacher.

Children; Nancy 15 Jane 10

Excerpts from the Obituary of Spurgeon Kirby published Thursday, December 15, 1932;

“Funeral services for Edwin Spurgeon Kirby, 45 year old veteran of WW1 and Federal Building Employee (Post Office) who died yesterday morning will be conducted at the Sloan’s Grove Baptist Church this afternoon, interment to follow in the Zion Hill Baptist Church Cemetery.

Mr. Kirby was born and raised in Spartanburg County and was for several years a merchant in [Glendale](#), moving to Spartanburg when the Federal Building was completed. He was an active member of the Spartanburg Post of the American Legion.

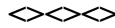
He is survived by his wife, Mollie Page Kirby; two daughters, Nancy and Jane Kirby; his father, J.H. Kirby Sr.; four brothers, R.H. Kirby, Gulfport, Miss., J.H. Kirby Jr., Leon and Estes Kirby, Spartanburg; two sisters, Mrs. A.R. Newman, Woodruff, Miss Lucy Kirby, Spartanburg; He was predeceased by a brother, Elbert L. Kirby.”

Excerpts from the Obituary of Mrs. E. S. Kirby published Wednesday, August 2, 1967;

“Funeral services for Mrs. Mollie Page Kirby, 78, to be held today at J.F. Floyd Mortuary with interment following in the Greenlawn Memorial Garden.

Native of Landrum: teacher in Spartanburg County 28 years: Widow of E. Spurgeon Kirby: daughter of the late Gabriel Cannon and Nancy Carruth Page: retired from the teaching profession in 1951: first teaching job was at Oak Grove School near Landrum and was teaching first grade at Roebuck at the time of her retirement. Other teaching positions were at Clifton, Pauline, Gramling and old Liberty School near New Prospect.

Survivors were; daughters, Mrs. W. Paul Skelton of Spartanburg, Mrs. Rusty Stephens of Columbia; brothers, L.R. and Irvin Page of Spartanburg, Ray Page of Roebuck; seven grandchildren.”

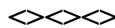


**Robert Kirby, son of John H. and Tallulah Smith Kirby.
No record of Robert ever marrying.**

**Excerpts from the Obituary of Robert Kirby published Wednesday, January 8, 1936;
“Robert Kirby, 46, World War I Veteran and well known resident of this county, died at the Veteran’s Hospital in Augusta, Ga. yesterday after a lingering illness. Mr. Kirby was born and reared in this county.**

He is survived by his father, J.H. Kirby and three brothers, Leon, Estes and J.H. Kirby Jr.; two sisters, Mrs. A. B. Newman of Woodruff and Miss. Lucille Kirby of Spartanburg. Funeral arrangements are to be announced.”

**Robert H. Kirby was buried in the Zion Hill Cemetery in his father’s square.
Grave marker; Robert H. Kirby, October 17, 1888= January 7, 1936**



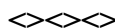
**The Family of Lizzie Kirby Newman, daughter of John H. and Tallulah Smith Kirby;
Lizzie Kirby married Andy Bobo Newman.**

**The 1940 Spartanburg/Woodruff Census listed the household as;
Andy Newman 54, husband/cotton farmer Wife; Lizzie 48
No children listed**

Andy Bobo Newman died at the age of 80 in October 1964.

**Excerpts from the Obituary of Lizzie Kirby Newman published November 19, 1982;
“Mrs. Lizzie Kirby Newman, 91, widow of Bobo Newman died Saturday in the General Hospital after a brief illness. Native of Spartanburg County: daughter of the late John Henry and Lula Smith Kirby: retired school teacher of Spartanburg and Greenville School Systems: member of Emma Gray Methodist Church, Woodruff.**

**Survivors were; daughter, Mrs. Josephine Watson, Spartanburg; two grandchildren.
Graveside services at the Bellview Church Cemetery.”**



**Elbert Kirby, son of John H. and Tallulah Smith Kirby;
Elbert never married;**

Excerpts from the Obituary of Elbert L. Kirby published Tuesday, November 24, 1931;
“A warrant charging Dr. I.C. Taylor, Clifton Druggist with the death of Elbert L. Kirby following an inquest into the automobile accident in which Elbert L. Kirby, Spartanburg Letter Carrier, suffered a broken neck early yesterday morning. The automobile in which they were riding left the highway near Thickety, crashed into an embankment and turning over, pinned Mr. Kirby’s head under the machine.

Mr. Kirby’s body was taken to the home of his father, J.H. Kirby, near Sloan’s Grove Church from which the Funeral Services will be held this afternoon. Mr. Kirby served 18 months during the World War I. He was a member of the American Legion and a Mason. He was 38 years old and had been connected with the Spartanburg Post Office 15 years as a mail carrier. He was not married.

Survivors were; his father, J.H. Kirby, a prominent farmer of the Zion Hill section; brothers, E.S., R.H., J.H. Jr., Leon and Estes Kirby all of Spartanburg; sisters, Mrs. A. B. Newman, Woodruff, Miss. Lucille Kirby, Spartanburg.”

He was buried in his father’s square in the Zion Hill Baptist Church Cemetery.
Grave marker; Elbert L. Kirby, December 11, 1892= November 23, 1931



The Family of John H. Kirby Jr., son of John H. and Tallulah Smith Kirby.
John H. Kirby Jr. married Dovie Gardener.

The 1940 Spartanburg/Ben Avon Census listed the household as;

John Henry Kirby Jr. 45, husband/	cotton mill	Wife; Dovie 39		
Children;	Nellie 18	Edith 16	Hazel K. 14	Ada 13
	John Henry 6			

Excerpts from the Obituary of John Henry Kirby published Sunday, October 13, 1946;
“Funeral services for John Gentry (error) Kirby, 57, who died at the Veterans Hospital in Columbia Friday night, will be held today at the M.W. Bobo Funeral Home with interment following in the Zion Hill Cemetery. Members of the [Glendale](#) Masonic Lodge will serve as Honorary and active pallbearers.

Born and reared in Spartanburg County, he was the son of the late John Henry and Tallulah Smith Kirby. He was a World War I veteran, a Mason and a member of the Sloan’s Grove Baptist Church.

Survivors were; his wife, Mrs. Dovie Kirby; one son, John Henry Jr.; four daughters, Mrs. R. L. Hawkins Jr., Mrs. L.E. Turner, Mrs. J.E. Sammons and Miss Hazel Kirby, all of

Spartanburg; two brothers, Leon and Estes Kirby of Spartanburg; two sisters, Mrs. A. B. Newman of Woodruff, Mrs. Joe Benson of Cliffside, N. C. “

Excerpts from the Obituary of Dovie Gardener Kirby published Tuesday, July 10, 1973;
“Mrs. Dovie Gardener Kirby, 72, widow of John Henry Kirby, died Monday in the Spartanburg General Hospital after a brief illness. She was a native of Spartanburg County: daughter of the late John B. and Ada Robbins Gardener: member of the Ruth Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Survivors were; son, John H. Kirby; daughters Mrs. Edith K. Turney and Mrs. Ada Sammons of Spartanburg, Hazel Kathryn Kirby of Clinton; brothers, Fred Gardner of Spartanburg, Thomas W. Gardener of Gaffney and John Vernon Gardner of Clifton; seven grand and seven great grandchildren.”

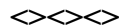
Both are buried in John Henry’s father’s square in the Zion Hill Baptist Church Cemetery. Their daughter, Hazel Kirby and their unnamed infant son are also buried in the Zion Hill Baptist Church Cemetery.

Grave markers; John Henry Kirby, February 14, 1895= October 11, 1946

Dovie G. Kirby, October 17, 1900= July 9, 1973

Son of J.H. and Dovie Kirby, January 21, 1930

Hazel Kirby, June 2, 1925= March 10, 2003



Leon Kirby, son of John H. and Tallulah Smith Kirby.

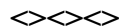
Leon never married.

Excerpts from the brief Obituary of Leon Kirby published March 14, 1980

“Leon Kirby died Thursday, March 14, 1980. Graveside services in Zion Hill Baptist Church Cemetery”

He is buried in his father’s square.

Grave marker; Leon Kirby, September 27, 1896= March 13, 1980



Estes Kirby, son of John H. and Tallulah Smith Kirby.

Estes never married.

Excerpts from brief Obituary of Estes Kirby published May 9, 1971;

“Estes Kirby died in the Veteran’s Hospital in Columbia after a long illness. He was the son of John Henry and Lula Smith Kirby and was a Veteran of WW 2, a member of the [Glendale Methodist Church](#) and a retired textile worker.

Services were held in the M.W. Bobo Funeral Chapel with interment following in the Zion Hill Baptist Church Cemetery”

He is buried in his father’s square.

Grave marker; September 20, 1898= May 8, 1971



The Family of Lucille (Lucy) Kirby Benson, daughter of John H. and Tallulah Smith Kirby. Lucille Kirby married Joe S. Benson.

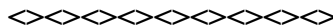
Excerpts from the obituary of Lucille Kirby Benson published Monday, April 26, 1971; “Mrs. Lucille Kirby Benson, wife of Joe S. Benson, died Sunday in the General Hospital after a brief illness.

Native of Spartanburg County; daughter of the late John Henry and Lula Smith Kirby: retired school teacher having taught at Duncan High, Rutherford, Cleveland and Spartanburg counties for many years: member of Liberty United Methodist Church, WSCS, Board of Admissions, member and chairman of Evangelism: received her AB degree at Winthrop College.

Other survivors were; sister, Mrs. Lizzie Newman of Woodruff; brothers, Leon and Estes Kirby of Spartanburg.

Funeral services to be held at Liberty United Methodist Church with interment following in the Greenlawn Memorial Garden.”

No record of Joe S. Benson’s death was found.



Writer’s comments; John Henry Kirby owned a large farm on the Glendale/Fernwood Farm road about a mile from this writer’s home place. They became one of the community’s outstanding farmers. His son, Spurgeon, owned and operated the [Kirby Grocery Store](#) (first known as McKinney Grocery) located across from the [Glendale Community Cemetery](#) for a number of years.

John Henry and his family had a beautiful large two story house with a full length porch which was the envy of the community. They were highly respected and appreciated in the community, contributing much to its growth and preservation.

Following the death of Mr. John Henry Kirby, the farm was sold to George Shea, another farmer and businessmen who rented or leased the property to others. On my way home one

day, spotting the roof on fire around the chimney, I picked up 3 or 4 men at a service station and went to the house to do what we could. There were no fire departments nearer than the city of Spartanburg at that time. The rental family had just lost a child to flu and the mother and another child were in bed sick at the time. We were able to get all the family out and saved most of the furniture and clothing, even the kitchen wood cook stove, but the house was a total lost. The farm land has been resold and converted into one of Spartanburg's upscale housing developments.

All Census and Obituary records courtesy of Spartanburg County Library.
Researched and written November 2013.

[Clarence E. Crocker](#)