

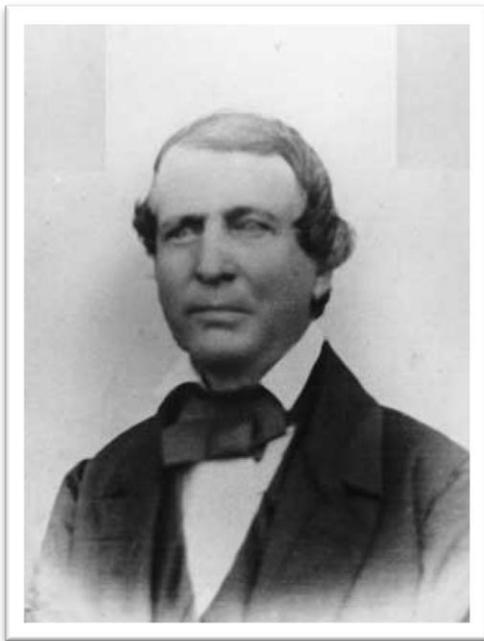
Fry Family Summary: Philip Slaughter Fry  
By Aubin Clarkson Hutchison; 22 February 1999  
Updated June 2013, by Pamela Hutchison Garrett

Our ancestor in this generation of the Fry family is Philip Slaughter Fry. Quite a bit is known about him as he served as Clerk of Orange County from 1844 to 1859, and upon his death his son Philip Henry served as Clerk of Orange for twenty-eight years until 1888, with the exception of an ouster during post Civil War "reconstruction".

Frederick Johnston, in his book "Memorials of Old Virginia Clerks" (published before 1893), gives a nice account of Philip Slaughter Fry and his son Philip Henry Fry. He makes a few questionable remarks, but portions of his account are helpful:

*Philip S. Fry entered the clerk's office under his predecessor, Reynolds Chapman, on the 4th of March, 1817, the day of the inauguration of President James Monroe, of which incident he was very proud, for he was a great admirer of Mr. Monroe, and often referred to it . . . He married, in August 1833, Miss Parmelia Anderson, a daughter of Edmund Anderson, who at one time was a prominent and successful merchant of Richmond . . . He wrote a splendid hand with great rapidity, and easily read; was also a fine commissioner in Chancery, and withal a first-rate judge of law . . .*

Philip S. Fry didn't marry until he was 32 years old. It appears he spent several years in Kentucky just before his marriage, or at that same time. Several of his relatives did move on to Kentucky earlier so possibly he had prospects there. But his license to marry Parmelia M. Anderson is recorded in Orange county Virginia on 31 July 1833, with W.M. Chapman as bondsman. They were married at Stanardsville, Orange county Virginia.



So far as we know Philip Slaughter Fry and his wife Parmelia Anderson lived all their married life in Orange County. The "History of Orange County Virginia" by W.W. Scott (1907) records that Philip S. Fry

was deputy clerk of Orange County in 1821, Justice in 1834, and elected clerk in 1844 by the full bench of Justices with eighteen votes for Fry and one for Chapman. (Chapman was the son of the earlier clerk who had trained Philip). Philip was among petitioners in 1832 to pave roads in the (Orange) Courthouse Village. The author Scott, himself a soldier of the Confederacy, lists men he often saw on the courthouse green, including Philip Slaughter Fry. And he also lists numerous Orange County Newspapers, including "The Reporter" (1830), and "The Orange Express" (1831) which we would probably find very interesting to consult.

Occasionally relatives shared some Fry family information with my father, Albert Luther Clarkson, and letters from Macon Fry told him that hanging in the Clerk's Office in Orange, Virginia are two big portraits, one of Philip Slaughter Fry and one of his son Philip Henry Fry.

Philip S Fry and Parmelia Anderson had seven sons, their youngest "Maury", died in childhood. It seems likely that Philip was very close to a Maury family, maybe that of one of his two sisters who each married a Maury. How very sad that Parmelia lost her husband and little son in 1859, and another son in 1862, fighting for the Confederacy.

The children of Philip and Parmelia, from a family record:

Philip Henry Fry; born Jun 1834; married Oden

Edmund Mortimer Fry; born 6 May 1836; unmarried; died 1 Sep 1862

Thomas Slaughter Fry; born 23 Feb 1838; married Mary Shorter, 6 Dec 1865

Charles William Fry; born 1 May 1842;

Luther Conway Fry; born 17 Nov 1844; unmarried;

Reuben Macon Fry; born 2 July 1847; married Eliza B Hutchins, 15 Jan 1873; died 3 Feb 1905

Alexandra (Alexander?) Maury Fry\*; 8 Nov 1849; died 15 Nov 1859 (1858?)

Philip Slaughter Fry is shown in both the 1840 and 1850 Orange County census. In 1850 he is shown as born in Virginia and Clerk of the Court, with real estate valued at \$2000. Wife Parmelia Mary, born in Virginia, is age 40, Philip H, age 15, Edmund M, age 14, Thomas, age 12, William, age 8, Luther C, age 5, Reuben M, age 2, Maury, age 9 months, all born in Virginia. The four oldest children are in school.

Ten years later in 1860 daughter Maury had died and so had her father Philip Slaughter Fry, leaving Parmelia and her six sons. Two, Thomas and William, were elsewhere when the census was taken, but Parmelia's twin brother, a dentist, was residing with her (census was taken 21 Aug 1860):

1860 Census of Orange county Virginia

Permelia M Fry; 50 (1810) Virginia; \$8575 - 8300

Philip Fry; 26 (1834) Virginia; clerk

Edmund Fry; 24 (1836) Virginia

Luther Fry; 15 (1845) Virginia

Reuben H Fry; 13 (1847) Virginia

John M Anderson; 50 (1810) Virginia; \$500; dentist

Records seem to indicate that eldest son Philip Henry Fry (county clerk) is the only son who did not participate in the Civil War during the next few years after this census. According to family stories, even the youngest son, Reuben Macon Fry (our ancestor) served in the war as a drummer, but this is questionable. The one son who died in the Civil War was Edmund Mortimer Fry. Several years after the

war Pamela Anderson Fry was still a resident of Orange county Virginia, and her brother was still in the household:

1870 Census of Orange county Virginia, Orange Court House

Philip H Fry; 35; farmer

Pamline Fry; 57

John Anderson; 60; dentist

Hopefully we can find more information on this pivotal generation of our Fry family if we have the opportunity to search Orange County newspapers, especially during the 1850s and 1860s.

According to Macon Fry (a great-grandson), Philip Slaughter Fry died 15 Aug 1859 and was buried in the Fry Family Cemetery adjacent to the "old family home" in Orange County. I have conflicting dates on their youngest son Maury\*, but he either died in November the year before, or November after his father's death in 1859, and is buried at the same site. The next burial there was second son Edmund Mortimer Fry, who died 1 Sept 1862. Finally Parmelia Mary Anderson Fry joined them there when she died on 20 March 1873. Macon wrote that "the home is now destroyed but it was still standing in 1915 and served many years as an apartment building. It was demolished sometime before 1974.

At the University of Virginia there is a small collection of Philip Slaughter Fry's Papers for the years 1846-1847. It includes eighteen items. The brief collection description reads:

*Includes indenture, 1846, for the sale of 160 acres of land in Warren County, Mississippi; and correspondence, 1846-1847, of Philip S. Fry, regarding decedents' estates, lottery tickets, the hire of a slave, and legal cases involving financial matters.*

The Frick Art Reference Library has record of a portrait of Philip Slaughter Fry. About 1968 it was in the possession of his granddaughter, Ethel Fry of Mobile Alabama. A black and white digital copy appears in the Frick Digital Archive, and descendants will enjoy the opportunity to see it. The identity of the artist remains in question, but the portrait color description reveals:

*Brown hair, blue eyes. Black coat and waistcoat, white stock, collar and jabot, a gold and diamond pin on his jabot. Olive brown background, brown column at the left. In the lower right is a brown wooden chair back decorated with red lines.*

\*note – There has been disagreement as to whether the youngest child in this Fry family was male or female. In a family record the name is given as Alexandra Maury Fry, suggesting a female. But, the 1850 census shows the newborn child, Maury Fry, as a male. We also have a photograph of a little boy with the inscription "Maury", which may be this child. Update March 2017 – A recently located obituary confirms this child as male.

Do you want to know more?

[Link to Philip Slaughter Fry in database](#)

[Obituary of Philip Slaughter Fry](#)

[Obituary of Alexander Maury Fry \(son\)](#)