This chapter is one of a series of 24 chapters which cover the lives and descendants of the pioneer Kenyon and Kinyon families of Cattaraugus Co, NY. Their Kenyon ancestors are traced all the way back to the first Kenyons to arrive in the Colony of Rhode Island. Hall, Champlin and Mayflower ancestors are also included.

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Silvester S. Kinyon (known as S. S. Kinyon) was one of the nine sons of John S. and Susan (Potter) Kinyon. He was born about 1818 in DeRuyter, Madison County, New York. His family nickname was “Vet”. The middle initial S. probably stood for Samuel. He spelled his first name Silvester rather than Sylvester.

By about 1835, probably with his parents, S. S. moved west and settled in Cattaraugus County, New York. There, he married Tenta Ann “Tenty” Root about 1837. Tenta was born April 14, 1814 in New York State. Her parents were Oliver and Zulema (Merrill) Root, pioneer residents of Franklinville, Cattaraugus County, who had moved there about 1818 and established the area's first sawmill.

S. S. and Tenta had 8 children. Viola and Emma married brothers John and Edward Shaw who also served in the Civil War.

S. S. and Tenta's first child John was born about 1837 in Franklinville, Cattaraugus County, New York, followed by George, Viola, Walter and Emma. They moved to Chicago about 1851 where Andrew and Isaac were born. In 1855 they moved to Newton, Jasper County Iowa, joining S. S.’s brothers Nelson S. Kinyon and Matthew S. Kinyon. A third brother, Madison S. Kinyon, arrived there from Cattaraugus Co in 1860. S. S. and Tenta’s last child, Orin, was born in Jasper County, Iowa, in 1856.

The couple were separated or divorced in the 1860’s, although the details are obscure. We know that in 1862 S. S. sold to Tenta the 85 acres of land that he had farmed in IA. Tenta remained on the family farm in Iowa with sons George and Orin, while S. S. moved to Wilton, Waseca County Minnesota, with son Andrew. S. S. switched from farming and became the proprietor of a drugstore.

In Minnesota in 1866 Lydia P. Dickerson assumed the position of the wife of S. S., calling herself Lydia P. Kinyon. Her maiden name was Jones. She was born about 1837 in Cattaraugus County, New York. She had been married to a man named Dickerson, but had not seen him for some years. She later testified in court:

Q. Where and in what way did you acquire the name of L. P. Kinyon.
A. In 1866. I did not assume it by virtue of any marriage.
Q. Was there ever any marriage ceremony between you and Mr. K?
A. No, only by God & me.

Lydia had a son named Sylvester Kinyon, born about 1861, who lived with her and S. S. in Wilton. He is not named as an heir in the probate files for S. S., so apparently S. S. was not the father of this child. Perhaps Lydia named him in honor of her partner.

The drugstore business was very successful, and S. S. became a prominent member of the community. On the morning of April 30, 1883, a shocking rumor swept through the county. The *Waseca County Herald* reported:

> Our community was startled last Monday morning [April 30, 1883] by the report that S. S. Kinyon, one of Waseca’s most respected citizens, had committed suicide at his son’s residence in Wilton. Coroner Young was summoned and found the report only too true. Mr. & Mrs. Kinyon went from there to visit their son a few days before and Mr. K. being quite ill, they remained several days. On the morning in question he went into the kitchen before the family had risen, ostensibly to get some water, but instead he deliberately took a razor and cut his throat, causing death in a very short time. The only cause that can be assigned for the terrible deed is that the great physical suffering he has endured for some years on account of ill health had become unbearable, and seeing no hope of relief he determined to thus end his life. He was in comfortable circumstances financially, owning one of the finest residences in this city. He was one of the earliest settlers of this county, has always been highly esteemed, and regret is universal for this most unfortunate termination of his life.

S. S. was buried in Wilton Cemetery, Waseca MN.
S. S. left no will. His estate was probated with his son Walter serving as executor. Neither Tenta nor Lydia was listed as an heir. Neither was Lydia’s son Sylvester Kinyon. Lydia filed a claim against the estate for $2,500 that she testified was money that S. S. had given her and later borrowed back to buy property. After hearing the testimony of bank officials, the court allowed her claim in full. The estate consisted mainly of real estate in Waseca County, and uncollectible notes from those to whom he had loaned money.

Tenta still lived in Jasper Co Iowa when S. S. passed away. In her old age, she moved to Waukee, Dallas County, Iowa, to live with her next-to-youngest son Isaac. She died there Oct 2, 1902, at the age of 88, and was buried in Waukee Cemetery, where her son Isaac and his wife Sarah were later buried.

**Children of S. S. and Tenta Kinyon**

The following is a brief overview of the children of S. S. and Tenta Kinyon. A full genealogy of the children, with source citations, is available from the writer.


3. **Viola Kinyon** Born Feb 12, 1843 in Franklinville, Cattaraugus Co, NY. Died Oct 27, 1929 in Waukee, Dallas Co, IA. Buried in Waukee Cemetery. Married Apr 4, 1870 in Newton, IA to John Shaw (the brother of Edward Shaw, husband of her sister Emma) who was born Jan 17, 1844 in Steuben Co, NY, died Aug 21, 1917 in Waukee, Dallas Co, IA, and was buried in Waukee Cemetery. John was a Private, Company G, 7th Reg't IA Infantry during the Civil War. He operated a harness and shoe repair shop in Waukee. Eight children.

4. **Walter E. Kenyon:** Born Nov 21, 1847 in NY. Died Apr 3, 1910 in Waseca Co, MN. Married Feb 13, 1876 in Wilton, Waseca Co, MN to Priscilla Garrison Ayers who was born Mar 14, 1853, and survived her husband. Seven children.

5. **Emma Kinyon:** Born Jan 22, 1850 in Franklinville, Cattaraugus Co, NY.

6. Andrew H. Kenyon: Born in Chicago, IL, Jan 21, 1852. Died Sept 16, 1935, in an auto accident near Kasson, MN, and buried in Woodville Cemetery, Waseca Co, MN. Married May 19, 1881 in Waseca, Waseca Co, MN, to Agnes Barbara Kerr who was born May 17, 1861, in Wilton, MN, died Dec 30, 1937 at Brookings, SD, and is buried at Woodville Cemetery, Waseca Co, MN. Andrew was the proprietor of a general store in Bruce, SD, and was postmaster there for 11 years. Two children.

7. Isaac A. “Ad” Kinyon: Born May 1, 1854, Chicago, IL. Died Dec 12, 1944. Buried in Waukee Cemetery, Dallas Co, IA. Married Mar 13, 1873, in Colfax, Jasper Co, IA to Sarah Elizabeth Fultz, who was born in Brooklyn, NY, Aug 31, 1842, died in Waukee, Dallas Co, IA, Jun 23, 1921, and is buried in Waukee Cemetery. Sarah was previously married to her husband's uncle M. S. Kinyon. For detailed information, see Chapter 1, M. S. Kinyon, and the chapter on Sarah and Isaac “Ad” Kenyon available from the writer.

Chronology

c. 1815  Silvester born in NY, probably in DeRuyter, Madison Co, where his parents and their family were found in the 1820 census.

c. 1836  Marries Tenta A. Root
1837  Son George born May 21, 1837 in Franklinville, Cattaraugus Co, New York. Might have been 1838.
1840  Not found in census indices.
1843  Daughter Viola born Feb 12, 1843 in Franklinville, Cattaraugus Co, NY.
1847  Son Walter born Nov 21, 1847 in NY.
1850  Daughter Emma born Jan 22 in Franklinville, Cattaraugus Co, NY
1850  Silvester has not been found in the 1850 census indices (including a wide range of variant spellings). Perhaps he was in transit to IL.

c. 1852  Son Andrew born in Chicago, IL.

c. 1854  Son Isaac born in Chicago, IL
1855  Moves to near Newton in IA.
1855  Buys first land in Jasper Co, IA
1856  Son Orin born in Jasper Co, IA
1856  Enumerated in Newton City by 1856 IA census
1860  Enumerated in Malaka Twp, Jasper Co, IA by 1860 federal census.
1862  Sells land in Iowa to Tenta, Mar 21, 1862. No mention of Tenta being his wife.
1866  Buys land in Waseca Co, MN.
1866  Lydia P. Dickenson assumes the position of wife and adopts the surname Kinyon.
1870  Enumerated in Federal census in Wilton, Waseca Co, MN, living with Lydia P. Kinyon age 36, son Andrew H. Kinyon and a Sylvester P. Kinyon age 9. Tenta Kinyon was enumerated in Malaka, Twp, Jasper Co, IA, living with sons George and Orin.
1880  Enumerated in Federal census in Wilton, Waseca Co, MN, under the name of Samuel M. Kinyon, living with Lydia P. Kinyon. Tenta Kinyon was living alone in Jasper Co, IA.
1883  Silvester dies in Wilton, Waseca Co, MN on Apr 30, 1883.
1884  Lydia P. Kinyon testifies in court as to her relationship with Silvester S. Kinyon, in connection with her claim against the estate.
1902  Tenta dies Oct 2, 1902, in Waukee, Dallas Co, IA, at the home of her son Ad.
Questions, Corrections and Additions
I welcome questions, corrections and additions. I can be contacted at the e-mail or postal address at the top of page 1.

Acknowledgements
This chapter was mainly researched the old-fashioned way, years ago, when “Internet genealogy” was in its infancy. Many thanks to the following for their indispensable help: the late Ray Eychaner, Helen Whannel, Richard Reid Kenyon, and Margaret Sinn of the Waseca County Historical Society, The Huntington Beach Family History Center of the LDS Church, The U.S. National Archives, and Cattaraugus County Historian Kenneth Kysor.

This document was originally completed in 2006, at which time I was unable to locate the place of burial of S. S. Kinyon. In early 2013, I found him on findagrave.com, with a gravestone photo by Mike Linnahan, and text by Julienne Thornberg and Marilyn Kenyon. I am grateful to these people for helping me complete the story.

Sources:

Birth of S. S.: The birth date was calculated from his date of death and age at death, inscribed on his gravestone, and online at the Minnesota Cemetery Inscription Index. His age in census records is inconsistent. His father lived in DeRuyter, Madison Co, NY when S. S. was born.

Spelling of name: Legal documents consistently give the spelling Kinyon (rather than Kenyon) for Silvester, his brothers, and his ancestors. His first name, when used, is consistently spelled “Silvester” until the 1880 census, when it becomes “Sylvester.”

Nickname “Vet:” From a photo captioned “George Kinyon, Uncle Vet’s boy” in an album of photos from the household of S. S.’s brother M.S. Kinyon, in the collection of the late Ray Eychaner, St. Joseph, MO. The photo depicts George and his family, and was taken in Newton, IA between 1887 and 1895, based on which of George’s children appear in the photo. The caption was added by M.S. Kinyon’s daughter Ella, to whom S. S. was an uncle. S. S. was the only Kinyon in Jasper Co having a son named George.

S. S. Kinyon in the census:
1840 and 1850 Federal census: Not found.
1856 Iowa census, Newton city, Jasper Co, page 39 (ink) or 254 (stamped).
1870 Federal census, Malaka Twp, Jasper Co, IA, p 22, dwelling 148, family 141, Tenta Kinyon. S. S. is not present
1870 Federal census, Wilton Twp, Waseca Co, MN (Roll M593-717, p 5, stamped sheet number 715, family 35. S. S. is now living with Lydia. The probate record of the S. S. Kinyon who lived in Waseca makes it clear that this is our subject.
1880 Federal census, Wilton Twp, Waseca Co, MN, ED 259, p 6B, family of Samuel Kinyon [sic]. We know that this is our subject because Lydia Kinyon was keeping house and his occupation was druggist.
1900 Federal census, Waukee, Walnut Twp., Dallas Co, IA. ED 19, p 15.
“Parents of S. S.:” See chapter 20, “Identifying Madison Kinyon’s father . . .” and Chapter 22, Identifying M. S. Kinyon’s brothers”.

**Birth date of Tenta:** From Waukee Cemetery records, Dallas County, Iowa, Cemeteries—Vol. XIV, Boone and Walnut Twps., Iowa Genealogical Society publication 678, 1988, p 37.


**Tenta’s parents:** Petition for Letters of Administration for the estate of Oliver Root, box 129, Cattaraugus Co Surrogate Court records. Tenta is there identified as Tenta Ann Kinyon, daughter, of Newton, Jasper Co, IA. Additional information on Oliver and Zulimma, including her maiden name, is given by Adams, *Biographical Memorial and Historical Gazetteer of Cattaraugus County, New York*, 1893, p 667. The spelling Zulimma is from court records for her estate and her husband's. Other sources use variant spellings including Zulama, and Zulemma.

**Places lived:** From census records and the known places of birth of his children.

**Sale of farm to Tenta:** Jasper Co IA Deeds 21:11, S. S. Kinyon to Tenta Ann Kinyon, filed Mar 21, 1862. Tenta appears in the census in Malaka Twp, Jasper Co, IA, in 1870 (as T. A. Kinyon,) and in 1880 “widowed or divorced”.

**Residence in Wilton:** Census 1870 and 1880, Wilton Twp, Waseca Co, MN. Probate file of S. S. Kinyon, Waseca Co file 381, FHL film 1839528. No divorce record was found in Jasper Co during the period 1859 through 1990, despite a careful search at the courthouse by Helen Whannel of West Des Moines, IA.

**Lydia P. Kenyon:** Testimony of Lydia P. Kenyon in Probate Court, Waseca County, Sept 10, 1883, S. S. Kinyon probate file.


**Probate of S. S. Kinyon estate:** Kinyon, Silvester S., File 381, commenced May 7, 1883. The complete 170 page file is on FHL film 1839528.


**Identification of children:** All children are named in the probate files of S. S. and Tenta.

**Sources for children:** Available from the writer as a separate document.