

# Kentucky Ancestors

*genealogical quarterly of the* KentuckyHistoricalSociety



Mystery Photo Solved:  
The Rodgers Family

Certificates of Settlement  
and Preemption Warrants  
Database

Sergeant Proctor Ballard

# Kentucky Ancestors

*genealogical quarterly of the* KentuckyHistoricalSociety

## kentucky ancestors

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**on the cover:** Rodgers Family Reunion Photo.

# The Rodgers Family: A Mystery Album Photo Identified

By Mrs. Carolyn Rodgers

*Editor's Note: We periodically print two or three historical photos from our KHS archives that are listed as "un-identified" in the hope that someone among our readers will see a photo they recognize and let us know all about it. We had that happen with one of the photos from our Summer 2007 issue. I knew that the magazine had been mailed out on a Wednesday and the next day I had a call from Mrs. Carolyn Rodgers saying that she recognized one of the Mystery Album photos and had been doing research on the family for several years. In the next few days, we met and she provided not only the identification for most of the people in the group but also a lot of detailed family history. We want to share that photo with you again, this time with identification for those in it and the accompanying family history that Mrs. Rodgers put together.*

## Descendants of Henry Rodgers

### Generation No. 1

1. **Henry<sup>4</sup> Rodgers** (Nicholas,<sup>3</sup> George,<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) was born 20 September 1840 in Franklin Co., Ky., and died 31 March 1913 in Franklin Co., Ky.; buried in Lebanon Church Cemetery. He married **Martha Allison** 10 January 1861, daughter of William Allison and Nancy Rynearson.

Children of Henry Rodgers and Martha Allison are:

2. i. Alice Belle<sup>5</sup> Rodgers, born 21 November 1861, in Franklin Co., Ky.; died 14 October 1944 in Frankfort, Ky.; buried at Lebanon Church Cemetery. She married Charles Bourbon Baker, 30 March 1877, in Jeffersonville, In.

### Notes for Alice Belle Rodgers:

Information on Alice Belle Rodgers Baker family was provided by Ruby Baker Munson, Alice Belle Rodgers Baker family Bible, Kentucky Historical Society, and the online Social Security Death Index on William Edgar Baker's death.

3. ii. Rosa Ann Rodgers, born 4 October 1863 in Franklin Co., Ky.; died 25 April 1934, in Frankfort, Ky. She married Louis Shackelford, 2 October 1882.

4. iii. Louis Thomas Rodgers, born 24 June 1865, in Franklin Co., Ky.; died 23 September 1956, in Henry County, Ky.; buried at Pleasureville, Ky. He married 1) Mary Dillon, 2 May 1904. He married 2) Stella Roberts, 5 October 1949.

5. iv. William Curtis Rodgers, born 16 June 1868,

in Franklin Co., Ky.; died 8 July 1934. He married 1) Annie Belle Pulliam, 17 November 1887 in Franklin Co., Ky. He married 2) Nannie S., 1895. He married 3) Virgie Carter after 1900.

### Notes for William Curtis Rodgers:

William Curtis Rodgers and Annie Belle Pulliam had no children. Newspaper announcement of their wedding note 150 dinner guests at their wedding. His second wife was Nannie S. Federal census of 1900 listed them married for five years, so they would have married in 1895. His third wife was Virgie Carter.

6. v. James Leonard Rodgers, born 10 August 1872, in Franklin Co., Ky.; died 11 April 1947; buried at Bedford, Ky. He married Lacy Haight, 13 May 1896 in Grayson, Ky. (Carter County).

### Notes for James Leonard Rodgers:

The accomplishments of the children and grandchildren of Jim and Lacy Rodgers and their spouses are too numerous to record. (See note at the beginning of this article.)

7. vi. John Samuel Rodgers, born 7 September 1874, in Franklin Co., Ky.; died 6 April 1950 in Franklin Co., Ky. He married Jennovia Quire 1 January 1896.

8. vii. Lula Mae Rodgers, born 22 December 1876, in Franklin Co., Ky.; died 21 May 1961 in Los Angeles, Ca. She married 1) William Martin Wiley in 1894. She married 2) Charles Mount 1916.

## The Rodgers Family: A Mystery Album Photo Identified, *continued* \_



Photograph of the Henry and Martha Allison Rodgers family. Taken ca. 1911 in Flag Fork (Bald Knob Area), Kentucky. Those pictured are: 1. Mayme Rodgers Harrod, 2. Exie Harrod, 3. Lindsey Baker, 4. Alice Bell Rodgers Baker, 5. Louis Thomas Rodgers, 6. Clara Moore Baker, 7. William Curtis Rodgers, 8. Mary Dillon Rodgers, 9. John Samuel Rodgers (child unknown), 10. Jennovia Quire Rodgers, 11. and 25. Iva and Clare Rodgers (individual names unsure), 12. Annie Downey Baker (Leo Baker), 13. William Baker?, 14. Rosa Ann Rodgers Shackelford, 15. Martha Allison Rodgers, 16. Roger Wiley?, 17. Henry Rodgers, 18. Lacy Haight Rodgers, 19., 20, 23, and 26 children of James Leonard Rodgers, 20. James Leonard Rodgers.

### Descendants of Alice Belle Rodgers

#### Generation No. 1

Alice Belle<sup>5</sup> Rodgers (Henry,<sup>4</sup> Nicholas,<sup>3</sup> George,<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) was born 21 November 1861 in Franklin Co., Ky., and died 14 October 1944 in Frankfort, Ky.; buried at Lebanon Church Cemetery. She married Charles Bourbon Baker 30 March 1877 in Jeffersonville, Ind.

#### Notes for Alice Belle Rodgers:

Information on Alice Belle Rodgers Baker family was provided by Ruby Baker Munson, Alice Belle Rodgers Baker family Bible, Kentucky Historical Society, and the online Social Security Death Index on William Edgar Baker's death.

Children of Alice Rodgers and Charles Baker are:  
+ 2 I Lindsey Thomas<sup>6</sup> Baker, born 5 January 1880 in Franklin Co., Ky.; died 8 December 1962 in Frankfort, Ky.; buried in Lebanon Church Cemetery.

+ 3 ii. William Edgar Baker, born 16 September 1884 in Franklin Co., Ky.; died February 1964 in Oakland, Calif.

#### Generation No. 2

**Lindsey Thomas<sup>6</sup> Baker** (Alice Belle<sup>5</sup> Rodgers, Henry,<sup>4</sup> Nicholas,<sup>3</sup> George,<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) was born 5 January 1880 in Franklin Co., Ky., and died 8 December 1962 in Frankfort, Ky.; buried at Lebanon Church Cemetery. He married **Diana (Annie) Downey** 29 July 1898, daughter of Thomas Downey and Maggie Gordon.

Children of Lindsey Baker and Diana Downey are:

4. i. Flora<sup>7</sup> Baker, born 29 November 1899 in Franklin Co., Ky.; died 2 December 1973. She married James Nathan Floyd 20 December 1931.

ii. Alex B. Baker, born 3 September 1902, in Franklin Co., in Ky.; died 7 July 1988. He married Vivian Brown.

iii. Oscar C. Baker, born 6 August 1905, in Franklin Co., Ky.; died 27 October 1994 in Frankfort, Ky.

## The Rodgers Family: A Mystery Album Photo Identified, *continued* \_

He married Leora Kring 29 March 1926.

iv. Heise T. Baker, born 25 April 1908, in Franklin Co., Ky.; died 9 March 1975. He married Edrie Hall 14 April 1926.

v. Leo Lindsey Baker, born 10 August 1911 in Franklin Co., Ky.; died 28 January 1981. He married Eva Blackwell 15 April 1936.

vi. Ruby Belle Baker, born 9 June 1914 in Franklin Co., Ky.; died 24 July 2001 in Frankfort, Ky.; buried at Frankfort Cemetery. She married Samuel Magoffin Munson 16 July 1939 in Lawrenceburg, Ky.

vii. Edgar Wilson Baker, born 14 September 1916, in Franklin Co., Ky.; married Nancy Blackwell 11 April 1948.

viii. Virginia Baker, born 25 November 1918, in Franklin Co., Ky. She married 1) Alex Smither Jr., 24 October 1937. She married 2) Jake Henry Aft, 1952.

ix. James Keith Baker, born 6 May 1921, in Franklin Co., Ky. He married Dorothy Carrier.

x. Coleman C. Baker, born 23 October 1923, in Franklin Co., Ky. He married Lydia Calvert.

### Notes for Coleman C. Baker:

Coleman Baker and Lydia Calvert had no children.

**William Edgar<sup>6</sup> Baker** (Alice Belle<sup>5</sup> Rodgers, Henry,<sup>4</sup> Nicholas,<sup>3</sup> George,<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) was born 16 September 1884 in Franklin Co., Ky., and died February 1964 in Oakland, Ca. He married **Clara Moore** on 16 January 1906.

Child of William Baker and Clara Moore is:

i. Carnell<sup>7</sup> Baker, born 14 October 1906; died January 1969. She married Sam A. Thomas.

## Descendants of Rosa Ann Rodgers

### Generation No. 1

**Rosa Ann<sup>5</sup> Rodgers** (Henry,<sup>4</sup> Nicholas,<sup>3</sup> George,<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>1</sup>) was born 4 October 1863 in Franklin Co., Ky., and died 25 April 1934 in Frankfort, Ky. She married **Louis Shackelford** 2 October 1882.

### Notes for Rosa Ann Rodgers:

Rosa Ann Rodgers and Louis Shackelford had no

children.

## Descendants of Louis Thomas Rodgers

### Generation No.1

**Louis Thomas<sup>5</sup> Rodgers** (Henry,<sup>4</sup> Nicholas,<sup>3</sup> George,<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) was born 24 June 1865 in Franklin Co., Ky., and died 23 September 1956 in Henry Co., Ky.; buried at Pleasureville, Ky. He married 1) **Mary Dillon** 2 may 1904. He married 2) **Stella Roberts** 5 October 1949.

### Notes for Louis Thomas Rodgers:

Louis Thomas Rodgers was married twice but had no children.

## Descendants of William Curtis Rodgers

### Generation No. 1

**William Curtis<sup>5</sup>** (Henry,<sup>4</sup> Nicholas,<sup>3</sup> George,<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) was born 16 June 1868 in Franklin Co., Ky., and died 8 July 1934. He married 1) **Annie Belle Pulliam** 17 November 1887 in Franklin Co., Ky. He married 2) **Nannie S.** 1895. He married 3) **Virgie Carter** after 1900.

### Notes for William Curtis Rodgers:

William Curtis Rodgers and Annie Bell Pulliam had no children. Newspaper announcement of their wedding noted 150 dinner guests at their wedding. His second wife was Nannie S. The federal census of 1900 listed them married for five years, so they would have married in 1895. His third wife was Virgie Carter.

Children of William Rodgers and Nannie S. are:

2. i. Hattie<sup>6</sup> Rodgers, born 5 March 1900 in Franklin Co., Ky.; died 19 October 1900 in Franklin Co., Ky.; buried at Lebanon Church Cemetery.

## Descendants of James Leonard Rodgers

### Generation No. 1

**James Leonard<sup>5</sup> Rodgers** (Henry,<sup>4</sup> Nicholas,<sup>3</sup> George,<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) was born 10 August 1872 in Franklin Co., Ky., and died 11 April 1947; buried in Bed-

## The Rodgers Family: A Mystery Album Photo Identified, *continued* \_

ford, Ky. He married **Lacy Haight** 13 May 1896 in Grayson, Ky. (Carter Co.), daughter of Oscar Haight and Molly Leary.

### Notes for James Leonard Rodgers:

The accomplishments of the children and grandchildren of Jim and Lacy Rodgers and their spouses are too numerous to record. Their professions vary from farmers to bankers, lawyers, doctors, and to professional theater workers such as acting, directing, modeling, etc., to piloting teaching, and other professions including an inventor and a two-star general. The oldest daughter, Jewell, taught drama, entertained in World War II, had a radio talk show in the 1930s, and acted in such films as *Bachelor Father*, *Wells Fargo*, *Suspicion*, *Schlitz Playhouse*, and *Taproot*. (This information was given to me by various family members.)

Children of James Rodgers and Lacy Haight are:

2 i. Charles Raymond<sup>6</sup> Rodgers, born September 1899 in Trimble Co., Ky.; died 23 December 1968. He married Anna Voight.

3 ii. Fenella Jewell (Sondra) Rodgers, born 5 February 1903 in Trimble County, Ky. She married (1) Forrest Dunavan. She married (2) Gordon Bruce Darling 26 March 1928 in Trimble Co., Ky.

### Notes for Fenella Jewell (Sondra) Rodgers:

Fenella Jewell Rodgers and Forrest Dunavan had one child, William Thornton Dunavan. William's name was later changed to William Thornton Rodgers.

4 iii. Neville C. Rodgers, born 22 November 1905 in Franklin Co., Ky.; died 12 December 1979 in Carrollton, Ky. He married Edith Lee Pyles 7 October 1939 in Lexington, Ky. (Fayette County).

### Notes for Neville C. Rodgers:

Neville served in the U. S. Marines for several years, ten of them were in China.

### Notes for Edith Lee Pyles:

Newspaper obituary for Edith Pyles Rodgers said she died June 2 and was 77 years old. That would make her death date 2 June 1991. She was a retired schoolteacher, having taught in Trimble and Carroll counties. She was an active member of First Baptist

Church, Carrollton.

iv. Ruby Lucille Rodgers, born 29 May 1910, in Trimble County, Ky.; died 2 September 1987. She married John F. Young.

6. v. James Allan Rodgers, born 9 April 1912 in Trimble County, Ky.; died 11 February 1990. He married Laura Pyles.

### Notes for James Allan Rodgers:

James Allan Rodgers and Laura Pyles had no children.

7. vi. Richard Payne Rodgers, born 3 November 1914, in Trimble County, Ky.; died 18 July 1986 in Bedford, Ky., (buried IOOF Cemetery). He married 1) Emma Louise Nevile, 8 May 1936 in Trimble County, Ky.; 2) Jean Bishop 8 March 1947.

### Notes for Richard Payne Rodgers:

Richard was 72 years old the time of death. He was a WW II veteran, being a staff sergeant, a retired teacher, farmer, and businessman. His son Steve was living in Milton and his son Rick was living in McLean, Va.

8. vii. Gayle Elmore Rodgers, born 31 May 1917 in Trimble County, Ky. He married Shirley Meeks, 31 July 1944.

## Descendants of John Samuel Rodgers

### Generation No. 1

1. **John Samuel<sup>5</sup> Rodgers** (Henry,<sup>4</sup> Nicholas<sup>3</sup>, George<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>1</sup>) was born 7 September 1874 in Franklin Co., Ky., and died 6 April 1950 in Franklin Co., Ky.; buried at Lebanon Church Cemetery. He married **Jennovia Quire** 1 January 1896, daughter of Harry Quire and Lou Goins.

Children of John Rodgers and Jennovia Quire are:

2 i. Mayme<sup>6</sup> Rodgers, born 4 June 1895 in Franklin Co., Ky.; died 14 April 1962 in Franklin Co., Ky. She married Murrell Exie Harrod, 1 March 1911.

3 ii. Clara Rodgers, born 30 November 1896 in Franklin Co., Ky.; died 2 April 1973. She married Jerome Anderson 19 April 1916.

4 iii. Iva Rodgers, born 5 August 1898 in Franklin Co., Ky. Died 4 August 1978 in Franklin Co., Ky.; buried at Lebanon Church Cemetery. She married

# The Rodgers Family: A Mystery Album Photo Identified, *continued* \_

Arnett Watkins, 15 March 1916.

5. iv. James Howard Rodgers, born 6 April 1901 in Franklin Co., Ky.; died 25 June 1978. He married Ivie Belle Duncan.

## Notes for James Howard Rodgers:

James Howard Rodgers was married twice. His first wife was Ivie Belle Duncan. His second wife was named Fannie.

6. v. Orville Rodgers, born 26 June 1904 in Franklin Co., Ky.; died 18 December 1993. He married Mary Virginia Thomas in 1923.

7. vi. Audra Rodgers, born 7 December 1911 in Franklin Co., Ky.; died 30 March 1998 in Lexington, Ky.; buried at Frankfort Cemetery. She married James Dudley Richardson on 16 August 1930.

8. vii. Mabel Clay Rodgers, born 26 October 1919 in Frankfort, Ky.; died 27 October 1940 in Frankfort, Ky.

## Notes for Mabel Clay Rodgers:

Mabel Clay Rodgers died unmarried.

## Descendants of Lula Mae Rodgers

### Generation No. 1

**Lula Mae Rodgers** (Henry,<sup>4</sup> Nicholas,<sup>3</sup> George,<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) was born 22 December 1876 in Franklin County, Ky., and died 21 May 1961 in Los Angeles, Calif. She married (1) **William Martin Wiley** in 1894, son of Granville Wiley and Susan M. She married (2) **Charles Mount** in 1916.

Children of Lula Rodgers and William Wiley were:

2. i. Ocie,<sup>6</sup> born 6 May 1897 in Franklin Co., Ky.; died 10 August 1898 in Franklin County. Buried at Lebanon Church Cemetery.

3.ii. Roger Wiley, born about 1900. He married Betty.

## Notes for Roger Wiley:

Roger Wiley had no children. He was a jeweler by occupation. Roger had been crippled in his teenage years; the result of horses running off with him. Jim Wyrick tells many funny stories about his Uncle Roger, saying he was quite a character. Apparently Roger's mother got a bit distressed sometimes because of his antics but nothing seemed to bother Roger. He was a talented jeweler, specializing in miniature silverware; many made for movie sets or for miniature doll houses owned by collectors. His work was done to precise scale, including thickness, which was often overlooked. He had a shop which was open to customers wanting jewelry repair, but on his door was a large sign which said, "GO AWAY!" Roger dated a tall blond movie actress for a while but later married a lady named Betty. I haven't been able to locate her last name. Roger apparently went from one extreme to the other. From the tall blond actress he went to Betty, who Jim Wyrick tells me was tiny.

4 iii. Cora Gladys Wiley, born 16 March 1903 at 728 Dabney Street, Frankfort, Ky.; died 6 July 1964 in California. She married Ivan Monroe Wyrick, 11 July 1921.

# The Kentucky Secretary of State's Land Office Certificates of Settlement and Preemption Warrants Database

*(The second in a series of articles regarding the Internet availability of Kentucky Land Office records)*

By Kandie P. Adkinson, Administrative Specialist  
Land Office Division

It seems the Virginia General Assembly favored the alphabetical letter “S” when legislators developed procedures for land appropriation in eastern and western territories (including Kentucky). Soldiers, Settlers, and Speculators comprised the majority of persons for whom warrants were designed as payment for military service, meeting residency requirements, and promoting speculative ventures. (The list may be enhanced by adding the lesser-used authorizations for “Salt makers” and grants for “Seminar-ies”.)

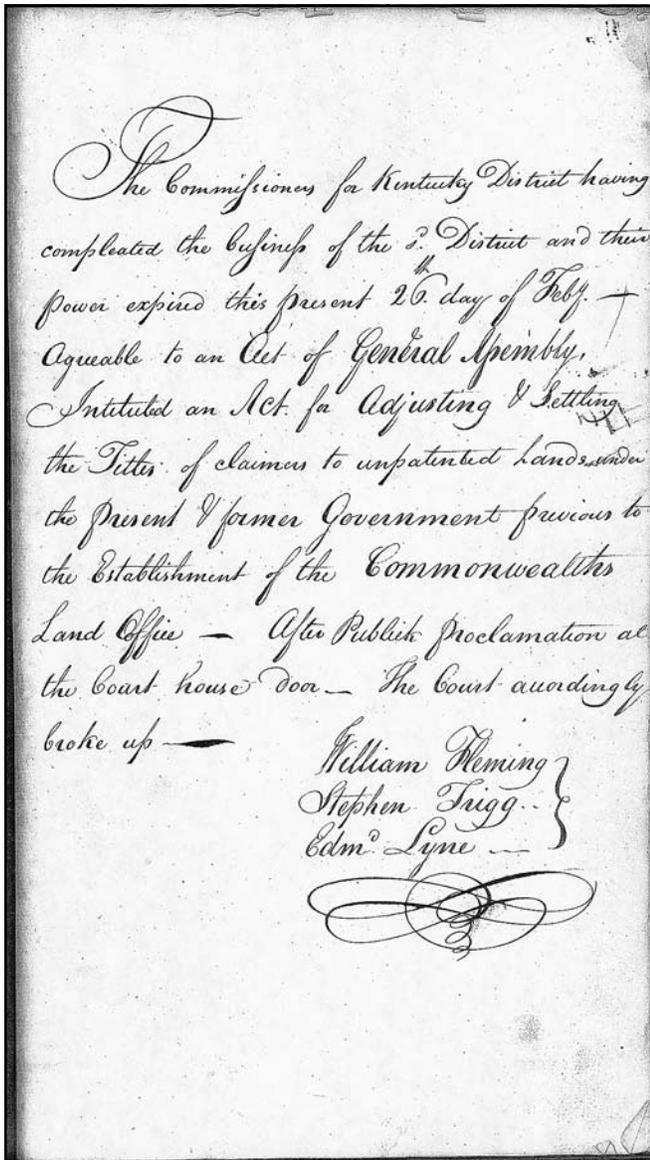
In the Autumn 2007 issue of *Kentucky Ancestors*, we discussed military warrants issued to Revolutionary War soldiers and the development of the Secretary of State’s “Revolutionary War Warrants Database.” In this article we will discuss the Internet availability of certificates of settlement and preemption warrants used by Kentucky’s earliest settlers or their assignees. A future article will feature the “Treasury Warrants Database”—a listing of warrants, many of which were (undoubtedly) purchased by speculators or their agents. The number of Treasury Warrants purchased by any one individual was determined by the amount of money in his purse—and his trust in his land locator to find available land suitable for development.

In May 1779, the Virginia General Assembly passed various acts that determined the method by which Kentucky land would be appropriated. In Chapter XII or “Land Law A” in the “Legislation” section of the online Land Office “Reference Library,” the legislature detailed the process “for adjusting and settling the titles of claimers to unpatented

lands under the present and former government, previous to the establishment of the commonwealth’s land office.” The rationale for such legislation is stated in the opening paragraph as follows: “Whereas the various and vague claims to unpatented lands under the former and present government, previous to the establishment of the commonwealth’s land office, may produce tedious and infinite litigation and disputes, and in the meantime purchasers would be discouraged from taking up lands upon the terms lately prescribed by law, whereby the fund to be raised in aid of the taxes for discharging the public debt would be in great measure frustrated; and it is just and necessary, as well, for the peace of individuals as for the public weal, that some certain rules should be established for settling and determining the rights to such lands, and fixing the principles upon which legal and just claimers shall be entitled to sue out grants; to the end that subsequent purchasers and adventurers may be enabled to proceed with greater certainty and safety, be it enacted . . .” With the passage of this act, the Virginia General Assembly declared lands would be appropriated by governmental authority—the same process employed by King George III of England prior to the Revolutionary War.

Land claims by Kentucky’s earliest settlers are addressed in Sections IV & V of “Land Law A.” In those sections we find the requirements for certificates of settlement and the various types of preemption warrants.

- Certificates of Settlement: “Bona Fide” settlers



Land Commissioners “completed [sic] the business” of the Kentucky District on 26 February 1780. (“Copy of the Land Commissioner’s Certificates,” Kentucky Secretary of State’s Land Office, Frankfort, Ky.)

“upon the western waters” prior to 1 January 1778 were entitled to 400 acres of land including their settlement. And to prevent doubts concerning settlements, the General Assembly declared in Section V “no family shall be entitled to the allowance granted to settlers by this act unless they have made a crop of corn in that country or resided there at least one year since the time of their settlement.”

• Preemption Warrants (1000 acres): “And if any such settlers shall desire to take up a

greater quantity of land than is herein allowed them, they shall on payment to the treasurer of the consideration money required from other purchasers, be entitled to the preemption of any greater quantity of land adjoining to that allowed them in consideration of settlement, not exceeding one thousand acres, and to which no other person hath any legal right or claim.”

• Preemption Warrants (400 acres): Persons who had settled “upon the western waters” after 1 January 1778 were entitled to a 400-acre Preemption Warrant claim which included their settlement.

• Preemption Warrants (1000 acres) for “chop claims” or “lottery cabins”: All those who, before 1 January 1778, had “marked out” or chosen for themselves any waste or unappropriated lands and built any house or hut or made other improvements thereon, were entitled to a preemption of no more than 1000 acres of unclaimed land. “But no person shall have the right of preemption for more than one such improvement; provided they respectively demand and prove their right to such preemption before the commissioners for the county to be appointed by virtue of this act within eight months, pay the consideration money, produce the auditor’s certificate for the treasurer’s receipt for the same, take out their warrants from the register of the land office within ten months, and enter the same with the surveyor of the county within twelve months next after the end of the present session of the assembly and thereafter duly comply with the rules and regulations of the land office.” (Note: Land Office records indicate as adventurers and surveying parties explored Kentucky’s unappropriated lands, they blazed trees and often built crude huts, frequently called “lottery cabins,” in an effort to establish land claims that could lead to land ownership. The planting of corn or actual residence as a “bona fide settler” determined whether their “improvement” qualified for the additional 400 acres under a Certificate of Settlement. The “consideration money” for a Preemption Warrant was the same as for a

Kentucky County Va. We do hereby certify that Henry Pinkerton is entitled to the Preemption of one thousand Acres of land at the State Price in the district of Kentucky on account of marking & improving the same in the year 1776. lying South of the stamping ground on the South side of the South Fork of Elkhorn about half a mile to include a sinking spring & his improvement given under our Hands at St. Asaph this 24<sup>th</sup> day of April 1780

John Williams Clerk of the County

Edmund [Signature]

Henry Pinkerton qualified for a 1000-acre Preemption Warrant for “marking and improving” the tract prior to 1 January 1778. Had Pinkerton planted a crop of corn or actually resided on the land, he would have qualified for an additional 400 acres under a Certificate of Settlement.

Treasury Warrant, i.e. forty pounds “of current money” per hundred acres.)

The Virginia General Assembly realized the various types of land allotments identified in Land Law A “may occasion numerous disputes.” In Section VIII the Land Law states commissioners in the respective counties would collect evidence, adjust and settle claims, and determine the titles of such persons as claim lands (in their district) in consideration of their settlements and preemptions. The counties on the western waters were allotted into the following districts: Monongalia, Yohogania & Ohio; Augusta, Botetourt & Greenbrier; Washington & Montgomery; and Kentucky. The governor of Virginia, with the advice of the council, was directed to appoint four commissioners under the seal of the commonwealth to serve as members of the county land commissions. The appointees could not be inhabitants of their assigned county or district. Three of the four members of each commission could decide claims. The commissioners were directed to review settlers’ claims for eight months from the end of the May 1779 session of the Virginia General Assembly; for a period of four months thereafter they adjusted claims of settlers on lands surveyed for “the sundry companies.” (Ref: Section VIII, Land Law A) Note: The General Assembly later extended the deadline for some county commissions, excluding the Kentucky District. (Ref: Laws of Virginia, May 1782, Chapter

XLIX, “An Act for further continuing an act for giving further time to obtain warrants upon certificates for preemption rights & returning certain surveys to the land office, and for other purposes,” Section I)

The May 1779 legislation further states “the said commissioners shall immediately upon receipt of their commissions, give at least twenty days previous notice by advertisements at the fairs, churches, meetinghouses, and other public places in their district, of the time and place at which they intend to meet, for the purpose of collecting, hearing, and determining the said claims and titles, requiring all persons interested therein, to attend and put in their claims, and may adjourn from place to place, and time to time, as their business may require; but if they should fail to meet at any time to which they shall have adjourned, neither their commission nor any matter depending before them shall be thereby discontinued, but they shall proceed to business when they do meet, as if no such failure had happened. They shall appoint and administer an oath of office to their clerk; be attended by the sheriff, or one of the under sheriffs of the county; be empowered to administer oaths to witnesses or others necessary for the discharge of their office; to punish contempts, enforce good behaviour in their presence, and award costs.” The commissioners had free access to the county surveyor’s books. The following provision was critical for properly determining settlers’ claims. “In all cases of disputes upon claims for settlement, the

## Secretary of State's Land Records Database, *continued*

person who made the first actual settlement, his or her heirs or assigns, shall have the preference. In all disputes for the right of preemptions for improvements made on the land, the persons, their heirs or assigns, respectively, who made the first improvement, and the persons to whom any right of preemption on account of settlement or improvements shall be adjudged, shall fix the quantity at their own option at the time of the judgment, so as not to exceed the number of acres respectively allowed by this act, or to interfere with the just rights of others."

The land commissioners were directed "to deliver to every person to whom they adjudged lands for settlement, a certificate under their hands, attested by the clerk, mentioning the number of acres and the time of settlement and describing as near may be, the particular location, noting also therein the quantity of adjacent land to which the person had the right of preemption."

Persons adjudged eligible for preemption claims also received a certificate from the Land Commission specifying the quantity and location of land, the cause for preemption, and a memorandum stating the last day the lands could be entered with the county surveyor.

Claimants paid the land commissioners the sum of ten shillings for every 100 acres of land contained in the certificates and ten shillings to the clerk of the

commission for each certificate granted. (The "consideration money" for a preemption warrant was a separate fee.)

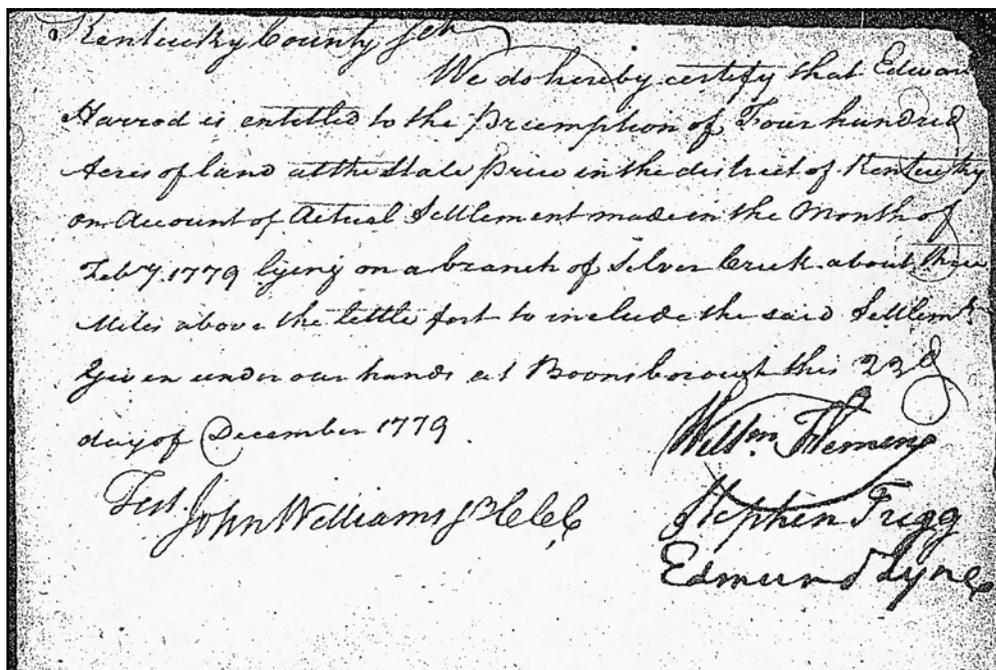
Upon receipt of the certificates of settlement and/or preemption warrants, settlers could proceed with the process of acquiring land title. An Entry (or Entries), filed with the county surveyor, reserved land for field survey and afforded landowners the opportunity to challenge a patent-in-process for potential shingling or overlapping boundaries. In those instances, an Entry could have been withdrawn or amended to resolve the conflict. The Field Survey depicted and described the tract or tracts in metes and bounds. The Governor's Grant, often called the "Patent Deed", finalized the patent by conveying title to the settler, his or her heirs, or assignees.

The Land Commission for the Kentucky District adjudicated land claims in five locations: St. Asaph (Logan's Fort), Harrodsburg, Boonesborough, Bryant's Station (near Lexington), and the Falls of the Ohio (Louisville). Commission members were William Fleming, Edmond Lyne, John Barber (Barbour), and Stephen Trigg (who replaced the original fourth appointee, James Steptoe).

In October 1779, the Virginia General Assembly approved legislation that affected the residency claims of officers and soldiers who were unable to attend the Land Commission hearings. The legisla-

On 22 November 1779, the Land Commission for the Kentucky District approved Squire Boone's claim for a 400-acre Certificate of Settlement and a 1000-acre Preemption Warrant. Boone had planted a crop of corn and resided in Kentucky County prior to 1 January 1778. The corresponding patent file is available on the "Certificates of Settlement and Preemption Warrants Database." (Note: Due to duplicate preemption warrant numbers, Richard Henderson's certificate is also included in Boone's certificate file.)

*Kentucky County* We do hereby certify that  
Squire Boone is entitled to Four hundred Acres of  
land in the District of Kentucky and also to a  
Certificate of Settlement made & raising a Crop of Corn  
in the year 1776 & residing in the County ever since  
lying on Silver Creek known by the Name of the  
Stockfactors a branch of Kentucky & that the said  
Squire Boone is also entitled to the Preemption of  
one thousand Acres of land adjoining his said Settlement  
Given under our hands at the Falls of Ohio this 22<sup>d</sup> of Nov<sup>r</sup> 1779  
Test John Williams Secy  
Wm Fleming  
Stephen Trigg  
Edmond Lyne  
John Barber



The Land Commission issued Edward Harrod a 400-acre Preemption Warrant for “actually” settling in Kentucky after 1 January 1778. His allotment would have been greater had he settled in the Kentucky District prior to 1 January 1778.

tion reads: “Whereas many officers and soldiers of the Virginia line, now in the continental army, may have claims to lands on the western waters from settlements or improvements made thereon, and have it not in their power to attend the commissioners appointed to adjust and ascertain such claims within the time limited for that purpose; for remedy whereof, Be it enacted, That all officers and soldiers of the Virginia line, now in the continental army, shall be allowed twelve months from the time they resign or are discharged from the service, to ascertain their respective claims to lands by settlements or improvements before the court of the county, wherein the lands they claim may be; and such court is hereby empowered and required to hear and determine such claims in like manner as is prescribed for the commissioners of the several districts on the western waters.” (Ref: “The Statutes at Large; A Collection of all the Laws of Virginia”, Vol. X, Chapter II, compiled by William Waller Hening, 1822) Note: To access a preemption warrant issued while the soldier was in military service, open the “Certificates of Settlement & Preemption Warrants Database” and search for Preemption Warrant 2611.

In 1782, the Virginia General Assembly expanded the filing opportunity to include others involved in the Revolutionary War effort with legislation stating “many good people . . . were prevented from proving their rights of settlement and preemption in

due time owing to their being engaged in the public service of this country.” Legislation authorized the county courts in which claimants’ lands were located to hear and determine disputes “as have not heretofore been determined by commissioners acting in that country under the act of assembly, taking for their guide and direction the acts of assembly whereby the commissioners were governed.” The Register of the Land Office was empowered and directed to grant titles on the determination of such courts in the same manner as if the original Land Commission had determined the same. (Note: Several Certificates of Settlement and Preemption Warrants on the Land Office website were issued by county courts. To access a preemption warrant issued for “public service,” open the “Certificates of Settlement & Preemption Warrants Database” and search for Preemption Warrant 2613.)

In 1786 the Virginia General Assembly revoked the power of county courts to grant certificates of settlement or preemption rights.

Additionally, in 1786, the Virginia General Assembly extended the deadline to 31 December 1786, for those persons who were prevented “by unavoidable accident from obtaining and entering preemption warrants before the Register of the Land Office was prohibited from issuing such warrants” to obtain and enter such warrants by 31 December 1786. Although the time period allowed for entering

## Secretary of State's Land Records Database, *continued*

Certificates of Settlement rights had also expired in 1786, the Virginia General Assembly deemed it lawful for surveyors to receive and enter all such certificates, or attested copies, and to proceed to survey the same as the law directed, provided the attestation was made by the commissioners who granted the original certificate, or by the clerk of the superior court for the District of Kentucky, or the Register of the Land Office. (Ref: *The Statute Law of Kentucky*, Vol. I, compiled by William Littell, pg 456)

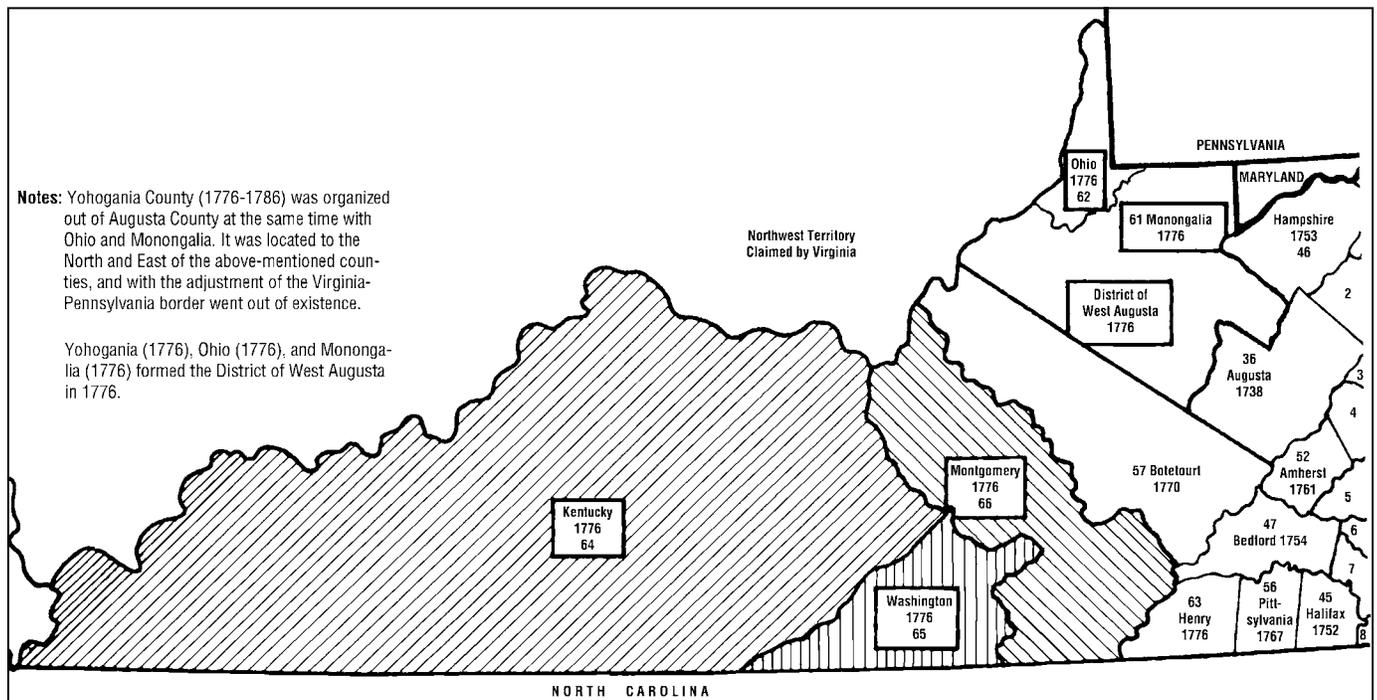
With the 1789 Compact with Virginia, Kentucky agreed to honor all patents issued by Virginia governors prior to Kentucky's impending statehood. Documents regarding Kentucky land title were transferred to Kentucky, thus eliminating the need for researchers to travel to Richmond, Virginia, to access patent files pre-1792.

In 1977 the Kentucky Secretary of State's Office initiated a records preservation project for all land patent files and books including patents authorized by Certificates of Settlement and Preemption Warrants.

Two Kentucky researchers visiting the Library

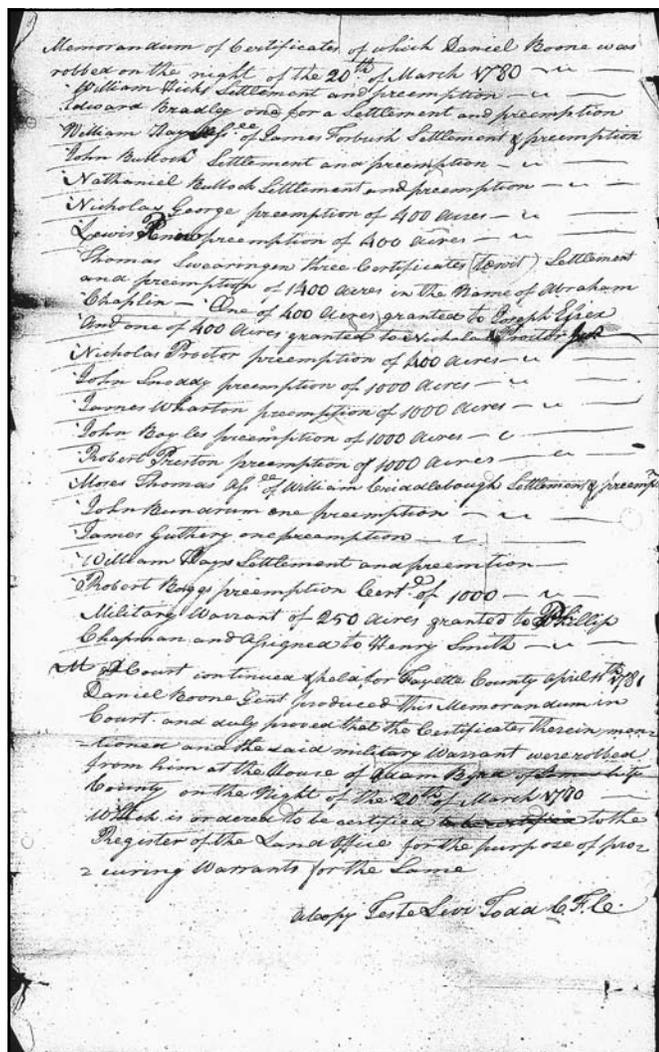
of Virginia in the late 1990s were granted access to original Land Commission documents. When it was determined the records included Kentucky's earliest land allotments, the documents were microfilmed in 1999 at the request of then-Secretary of State John Y. Brown III. Six rolls of microfilm were reproduced for indexing by the Kentucky Land Office; additional rolls were copied for selected Kentucky libraries.

Shortly after his election to the office of Kentucky Secretary of State, and with the permission of the Library of Virginia, Trey Grayson employed state-of-the-art technology when he ordered the digital transfer of Land Commission microfilm. On 25 April 2005, the newly formatted "Certificates of Settlement & Preemption Warrants Database" on the Kentucky Land Office website was enhanced by including the digitally-transferred images of 2700+ certificates issued by land commissioners and county courts. For the first time in 200 years researchers have access to original "corn and cabin" certificates, the justification for their issuance, signatures on assignments, and a memorandum submitted by Daniel Boone regarding lost land certificates. Researchers



The May 1779 Land Law authorized the appointment of county commissioners for Virginia's districts on "the western waters." The commissioners heard testimony regarding early land claims. The districts included: Monongalia, Yohogania & Ohio; Augusta, Botetourt & Greenbrier; Washington & Montgomery; and Kentucky. This map by Wendell H. Rone, Sr., depicts Virginia counties in 1776. (Wendell H. Rone, Sr., *An Historical Atlas of Kentucky And Her Counties*: 24)

## Secretary of State's Land Records Database, *continued*



In 1781 Daniel Boone submitted a memorandum to the Fayette County Court detailing the loss of several certificates of settlement, preemption warrants, and one military warrant. This record was found in Commissioners Certificates at the Library of Virginia. The digital image is now available on the Kentucky Secretary of State's Land Office "Certificates of Settlement & Preemption Warrants Database" by searching Preemption Warrant 1940.

can also access patent files authorized by the original certificates of settlement and preemption warrants.

### KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

Persons who had resided in Kentucky County prior to 1 January 1778, could patent 1400 acres if the Land Commission, or later the county court, approved their claim. Proof of planting a crop of corn or one year residence was required. The 1000-acre preemption claim had to adjoin the 400 acre claim. If 1000 acres was not available in one parcel, the

claimant patented less acreage or divided the 1000 acres into smaller parcels, such as 600 acres and 400 acres.

By studying the patent file researchers can determine when land claimants actually resided in Kentucky. If an individual—male or female—patented 1400 acres and no assignments were included in the file, the person who qualified for the 400 acre Certificate of Settlement was residing in the Kentucky District prior to 1 January 1778.

Certificates of Settlement and Preemption Warrants do not convey title. The entire patenting process, i.e. Warrant, Entry, Survey, & Grant, must be followed.

Certificates of Settlement & Preemption Warrants could be sold or assigned. Check the back of all documents associated with the patent file to determine if and when assignments were made.

Women were eligible for Certificates of Settlement and Preemption Warrants.

Certificates issued by various Land Commissions may be viewed on the Kentucky Secretary of State's "Certificates of Settlement & Preemption Warrants Database" at <http://apps.sos.ky.gov/land/nonmilitary/settlements/> The online database is not limited to certificates issued by the Land Commission for the Kentucky District.

Color scanned images of patent files associated with Certificates of Settlement and Preemption Warrants used in Kentucky are also available on the Kentucky Secretary of State's "Certificates of Settlement & Preemption Warrants Database" at <http://apps.sos.ky.gov/land/nonmilitary/settlements/>

Contact the Library of Virginia for further research regarding certificates issued by commissioners of the following districts: Monongalia, Yohogania & Ohio; Augusta, Botetourt, & Greenbrier; Washington & Montgomery. (Note: We have found a few instances in which Kentucky patents were authorized by commissioners from the other districts.)

Patents issued to "Certain Poor Persons" were inadvertently included on the database, however, the listing is incomplete. Eventually those records will be moved to a "Virginia" and "Old Kentucky" database now under construction.

The online Gazetteer linked to the "Certificates of Settlement & Preemption Warrants Database" identifies the county location for many of the areas

## Secretary of State's Land Records Database, *continued*

described in the Land Commissioners' Certificates.

Subsequent conveyances of patents are recorded on the county level with the county clerk's office. Many county records are also available at the Kentucky Department for Libraries & Archives in Frankfort. Remember to study county formation dates when tracing chain of title.

There is no master patent map that depicts the location of patents authorized by Certificates of Settlement, Preemption Warrants, or any other type of patent.

Researchers are reminded the counties identified as Washington and Montgomery are not the Kentucky counties with the same names. Washington County, Kentucky, was not established until 1792; Montgomery County, Kentucky, was not established until 1797.

The online database reflects Certificates of Settlement & Preemption Warrants as the required fees were paid and the Preemption Warrants were issued. Although the Commissioners' Certificate Book indicates the first claimant at St. Asaph's (or Logan's Fort) on October 13, 1779, was Captain John Logan "for and behalf of Isaac Shelby," Preemption Warrant #1 was issued to Daniel Hawkins. Shelby's "Knob Lick" claim may be found by accessing Preemption Warrant #18.

Certificates of Settlement & Preemption Warrants issued to officers and soldiers authorized patents for lands claimed by the soldier prior to the Revolutionary War. The patents were not issued as payment for military service, therefore the lands may be located outside the Military District.

Information on the "Certificates of Settlement & Preemption Warrants Database" may be accessed by county (use the drop-box for a complete listing); Preemption Warrant Number (if known); Name (includes persons qualifying for allotments and possibly their heirs or assigns and names in the "Note" field); Watercourse/Location (search for locations and other key words such as cabin, trace, or buffalo. Note: Additional information will be added as certificates are re-edited.

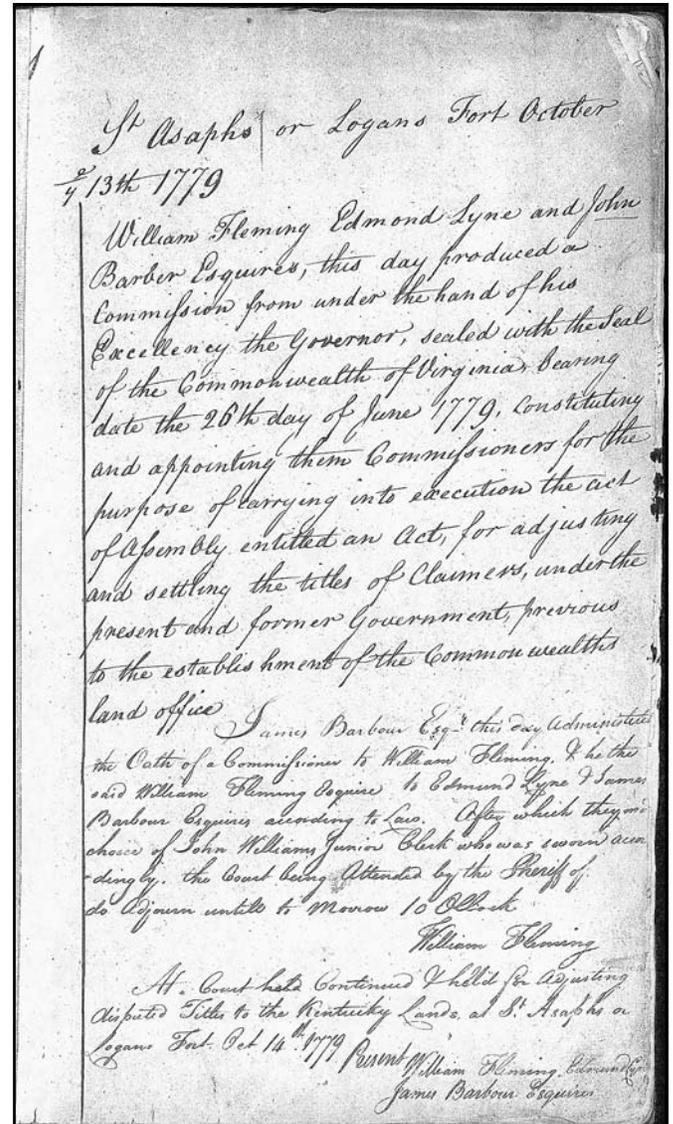
Patents authorized by Certificates of Settlement and Preemption Warrants are identified in the "Authorized" field. Additional patents may be added as certificates are reedited.

Complete text of early Virginia land laws may be

researched by accessing the "Land Office," "Reference Library," "Legislation," then "Virginia & Old Kentucky" pages on the Kentucky Secretary of State's website at <http://sos.ky.gov>.

Documents appearing on all Land Office Web sites may be printed or saved to personal files. Payment is not required to access these records.

*Continued on page 108*



On 13 October 1779, at St. Asaph's or Logan's Fort, William Fleming, Edmond Lyne, and John Barber (Barbour) identified themselves as land commissioners for the Kentucky District. On 28 October 1779, at Harrodsburg, Stephen Trigg was added as the fourth member of the Land Commission. He replaced the former appointee, James Steptoe. ("Copy of the Land Commissioners Certificates," Kentucky Secretary of State's Land Office, Frankfort, Ky.)

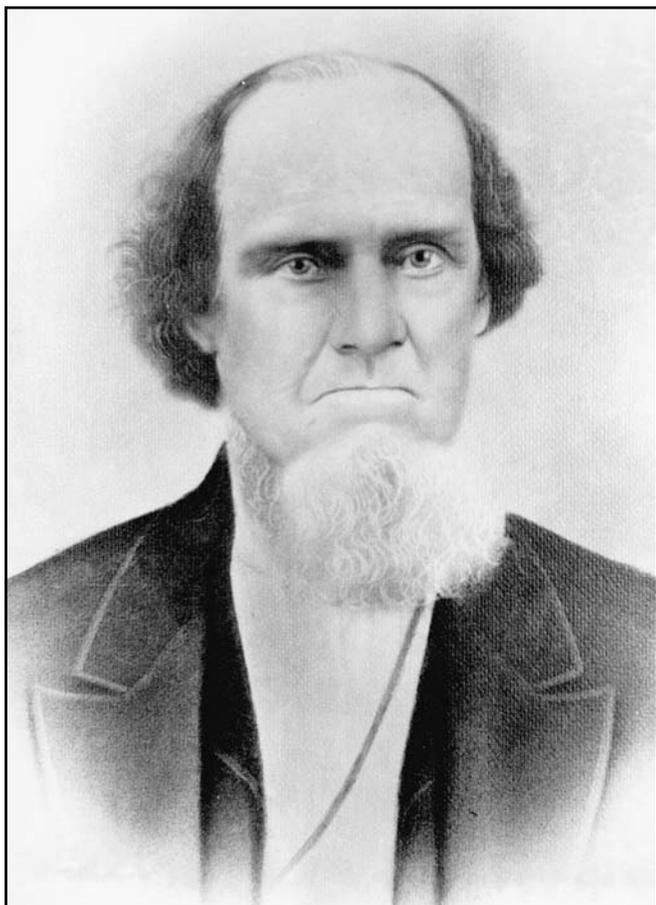
# Sergeant Proctor Ballard (ca.1755-1820)

By Roger H. Futrell

*Editor's note: This article replaces the researcher's earlier work, "The Other Ballard," which appeared in The Filson Club History Quarterly in 1969; in recent years records have surfaced which provide new insights into Sergeant Proctor Ballard's life.*

Proctor Ballard was a native of Virginia. He served in the Virginia state militia during the Revolutionary War and came to the Falls of the Ohio River with General George Rogers Clark in 1779. Proctor initially settled on Corn Island at the falls near Louisville, but moved to Bardstown in 1782. He reenlisted with General Clark in 1782 and fought in the infamous "Expedition Against the Shawnee." He was an early surveyor, slaveholder, and he petitioned the Virginia state legislature in 1784 to carve Nelson County from

Jefferson County, Virginia. He paid tax in the newly formed Nelson County, Virginia, in 1785. Proctor bought two of Bardstown's original town lots, and built one of Bardstown's earliest homes. He moved about six miles south of Bardstown to a farm on Gilkey Run in 1785 or 1786 and he was appointed captain of the Nelson County militia in 1789. He was a justice of the Nelson County court from 1804 to 1818, and he was appointed Nelson County sheriff in 1818. He served in that capacity until shortly before his death in the spring of 1820.



Thomas Ballard (1811-1885). He filed a bounty land claim on his father's Revolutionary War service.

## Virginia Family

Proctor Ballard was of the Ballard family of Spotsylvania County, Virginia;<sup>1</sup> he was the son of John Ballard and grandson of the first Bland Ballard. The elder Bland Ballard died at Spotsylvania County in 1791;<sup>2</sup> Bland's son, John Ballard, moved from Spotsylvania County to a portion of Culpeper County, Virginia that became Madison County, Virginia in 1792.<sup>3</sup> John Ballard died in Madison County; John's will, written in 1823, stated that his son Proctor was dead when the probate was drafted.<sup>4</sup>

R.C. Ballard Thruston (1858-1946), one-time president of Louisville's Filson Club, researched the Louisville Ballard family for over sixty years.<sup>5</sup> Mrs. Margaret Morris Bridwell, librarian at the University of Louisville's Hite Institute, analyzed Mr. Thruston's findings and edited a paper on the Ballards for *The Filson Club History Quarterly* in 1939. She wrote: "In 1779, James Ballard, together with his uncle Bland Ballard, his cousin Major Bland W. Ballard, and Proctor Ballard, enlisted in a company organized in Virginia by Captain Ben Roberts and came to Kentucky with Major Slaughter's battalion."<sup>6</sup>

Proctor Ballard married Elizabeth Hammett in Virginia, c.1775;<sup>7</sup> their marriage date is estimated

## Sergeant Proctor Ballard (c. 1755-1820, *continued*)

Know all men by these presents that we Proctor Ballard  
and Isaac Thralls are held and firmly bound unto  
Christopher Greenup Governor of Kentucky in the sum of fifty  
pounds current money to be paid to our said Governor and his suc-  
cessors to which payment well and truly to be made we bind  
ourselves our heirs executors jointly & severally by these presents  
sealed with our seals and dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of August 1786.

The condition of the above obligation is that if there should  
be no legal cause to obstruct a marriage intended shortly to be  
solemnized between the above bound Proctor Ballard & Miss  
Mary Woodard daughters of both being above the age of twenty one  
years  
When the above obligation to be void else to remain in full force

Witness  
Benjamin

Proctor Ballard  
Isaac Thralls

Nelson County Marriage  
Bond of Proctor Ballard

from the known birth year of their oldest child, Mrs. Catherine Ballard Dawson (1775-1838).<sup>8</sup> Proctor consistently signed his name “Proctor Ballard” in the daily public records of both Virginia and Kentucky.

### Clark’s Illinois Regiment

Proctor Ballard enlisted as a sergeant in Captain Benjamin Roberts’s infantry of Virginia state militia on 20 November 1779.<sup>9</sup> Roberts raised his unit at Culpeper County, Virginia, in the fall of 1779;<sup>10</sup> soon thereafter, he and the men marched from Culpeper County west to the Falls of the Ohio near present-day Louisville, Kentucky;<sup>11</sup> Roberts’ company was under Major George Slaughter’s command; the company was attached to General George Rogers Clark’s Illinois regiment.<sup>12</sup>

General George Rogers Clark was known as both the “Founder of Louisville” and the “Washington of the West.”<sup>13</sup> He is credited with saving the North-west Territory; his efforts extended the nation’s boundaries west to the Mississippi River and north to the Great Lakes.<sup>14</sup>

### Falls of the Ohio

General George Rogers Clark, his battalion, and a party of sixty civilian settlers arrived at the Falls

of the Ohio on 27 May 1778 and founded the first settlement at Corn Island near the Kentucky shore;<sup>15</sup> Clark and the group immediately built a fort on the seventy-acre island. The civilians moved from Corn Island to the Kentucky bank in the fall of 1778 and established a village that they called Louisville by 1779.<sup>16</sup> Clark and his troops remained at Corn Island for a time after Louisville was settled.<sup>17</sup> Old maps show that Corn Island lay at the head of the Falls near the foot of Louisville’s present day 12<sup>th</sup> Street. The island was submerged by floodwaters from the Ohio River when a dam was built at the Falls in the 1920s.<sup>18</sup>

Clark maintained his military headquarters at Louisville; his troops remained on Corn Island until Fort Nelson was completed in March 1781 to bolster the defense of Louisville.<sup>19</sup> Fort Nelson Park—north of Louisville’s present Main Street, between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Streets—commemorates the site.<sup>20</sup>

Proctor Ballard arrived at Clark’s military outpost at the Falls in 1779;<sup>21</sup> since he was in Slaughter’s battalion it is fair to assume that he helped build Fort Nelson; he was at the Falls on 4 October 1780 when he was issued thirty-eight rations for the men of Captain Benjamin Roberts’ company;<sup>22</sup> he remained at the Falls until sometime in 1781,<sup>23</sup> and he

## Sergeant Proctor Ballard (c. 1755-1820), *continued*

was discharged from Clark's Illinois regiment on 26 October 1781.<sup>24</sup>

### Louisville

Proctor Ballard obtained a 325-acre land grant on Round Stone Creek in Jefferson County in 1780.<sup>25</sup> Round Stone Creek, in present Hart County, was the only Round Stone Creek within Jefferson County's original boundaries. Proctor was listed on the 1781 Jefferson County tax rolls;<sup>26</sup> he appeared twice on a list of delegates for Jefferson County in 1781.<sup>27</sup>

Proctor Ballard remained in Louisville for a time after his tour of duty with Clark's Illinois Regiment ended.<sup>28</sup> According to a *History of the Ohio Falls Cities and Their Counties*, in 1782, the men of Louisville included, among others: Proctor Ballard, Squire Boone, General George Rogers Clark, Isaac Cox, Colonel John Floyd, and George Slaughter.<sup>29</sup> Proctor left Louisville in the spring of 1782 and moved to Bardstown, some forty-five miles south of the Falls of the Ohio.

### Bardstown Settlement

Proctor Ballard testified in a deposition that he moved to Bardstown, Kentucky in March 1782,<sup>30</sup> but for years historians have, mistakenly, stated that he settled at Bardstown in 1775 or 1776.<sup>31</sup> That incorrect assumption was based on an undocumented article in *The Nelson County Record, An Illustrated Historical & Industrial Supplement*, published in 1896.

Proctor testified in a Nelson County Circuit Court land dispute on 25 March 1812 and indicated: 1) that he was about fifty-seven years of age [which placed his year-of-birth about 1755]; 2) that he moved to Bardstown on 18 March 1782; 3) that Bardstown was called Salem when he arrived in 1782; and 4) that he lived in Bardstown until 1785 or 1786.<sup>32</sup>

Proctor's testimony leaves little doubt that he came to Bardstown in March 1782. William Bard's writings indicated that Proctor was among the first thirty-three to settle in the Nelson County seat which was settled in 1780 by families from the Falls of the Ohio.<sup>33</sup> Bardstown was first called Salem, but became commonly known as 'Bard's Town.'<sup>34</sup> Bardstown's settlers were sold lots through a lottery system that required them to build houses at least sixteen feet square on their individual parcels.<sup>35</sup>

Proctor owned two of the original Bardstown town lots; his lots were numbers seventy-seven and



Fort Nelson at the Falls of the Ohio

seventy-eight.<sup>36</sup> His home, which was built before September 1785, was one of the first houses erected in Bardstown;<sup>37</sup> it was situated on lot number seventy-eight, adjacent to the "old town square."<sup>38</sup> The site is currently a parking lot for Wilson & Muir Bank on the northeast corner of East Stephen Foster Avenue and Court Square.<sup>39</sup>

### Indian Expedition

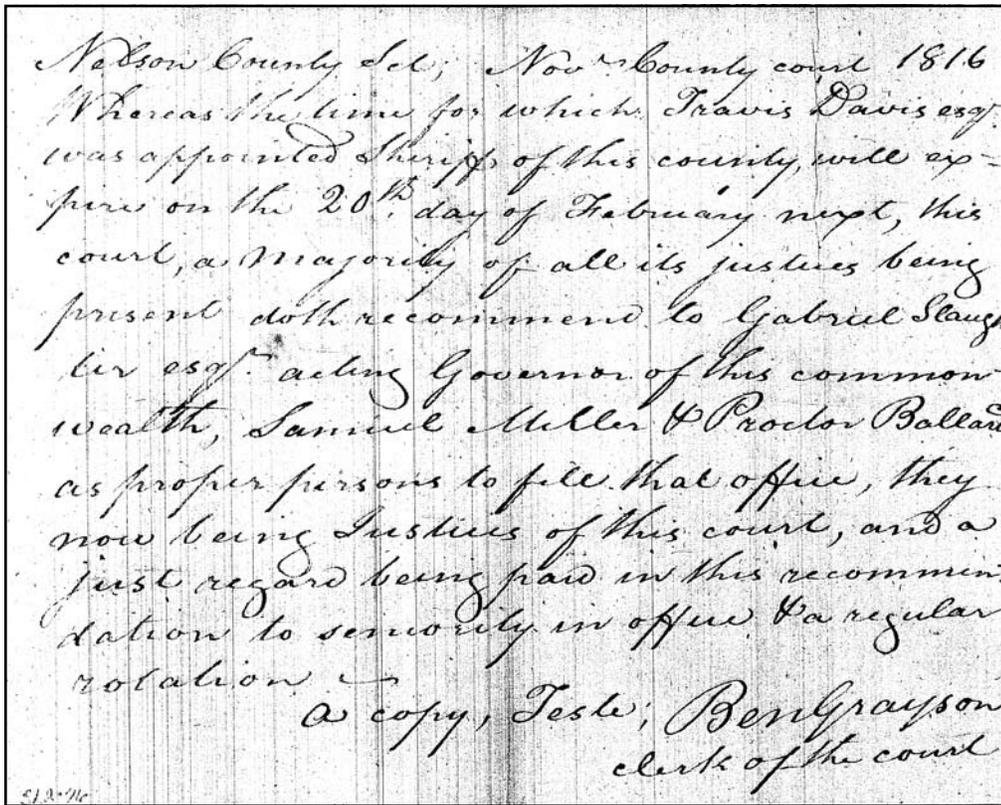
General Clark called for every man on the Kentucky frontier to volunteer for the invasion of the Shawnee country in 1782. He and 1,050 men invaded the Ohio country so fast that the Shawnees had no time to summon their allies. They burned the Indian villages and lay waste to their crops. Clark proved to all Kentuckians that they must assume full responsibility for their own defense.<sup>40</sup>

Proctor Ballard re-enlisted with General George Rogers Clark's troops as a sergeant in Captain Charles Polk's militia during the "Expedition Against the Shawnee in 1782."<sup>41</sup> He served under Louisville's Colonel John Floyd from 19 October 1782 to 25 November 1782.<sup>42</sup>

### Nelson County's Formation

Proctor returned to Bardstown after Clark's victory over the Shawnee. He was one of the signers of a petition to the Virginia State legislature in May 1784 that called for the establishment of a new county for those Kentucky settlers who lived south of the Salt River. The petition suggested that Salem (later Bardstown) be the seat of the new government.<sup>43</sup> The legislature concurred and created Nelson County out of Jefferson County in November 1784.<sup>44</sup> Proctor was on the list of tithables for the new district in 1785.<sup>45</sup>

## Sergeant Proctor Ballard (c. 1755-1820), *continued*



Nelson County del; Nov. County court 1816  
Whereas the time for which Travis Davis esq.  
was appointed Sheriff of this county, will ex-  
pire on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of February next, this  
court, a majority of all its justices being  
present doth recommend to Gabriel Staugh-  
lin esq. acting Governor of this common-  
wealth, Samuel Miller & Proctor Ballard  
as proper persons to file that office, they  
now being Justices of this court, and a  
just regard being paid in this recommen-  
dation to seniority in office & a regular  
rotation  
a copy, Teste; Ben Grayson  
clerk of the court

Petition of the Nelson County Court to appoint Proctor Ballard county sheriff.

Proctor and Elizabeth (Hammett) Ballard had six children: Catherine Ballard, James Ballard, Nancy Ballard, Lucy Ballard, John Ballard, and Ann Ballard.<sup>46</sup> Proctor and his family were members of the Presbyterian Church;<sup>47</sup> they remained in Bardstown until 1785 or 1786.<sup>48</sup>

### Gilkey Run Plantation

Proctor Ballard testified that he lived in Bardstown until 1785 or 1786;<sup>49</sup> he then moved to a plantation on Gilkey Run about six miles south of Bardstown on the Holy Cross Road.<sup>50</sup> He added a forty-acre tract to the place in 1805; the deed indicated that the land adjoined "Ballard's Plantation."<sup>51</sup> Tradition holds that Proctor was a distiller and operated "Ballard Distillery" on the Gilkey Run farm.<sup>52</sup> In later years the place was known as the Cate Downs farm;<sup>53</sup> today it is situated at 7064 Loretto Road (KY-49), Bardstown, Ky.

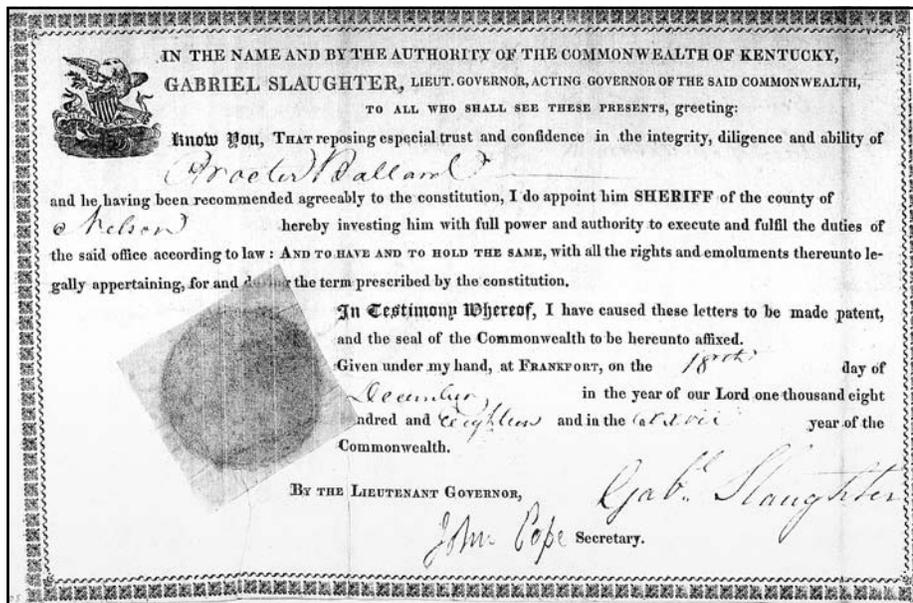
Proctor obtained a Nelson County land grant for the three hundred-acre tract on Gilkey Run in February 1786;<sup>54</sup> he was a surveyor in Nelson County in March 1786.<sup>55</sup> He petitioned the Virginia legislature in 1787,<sup>56</sup> and, again, in 1789, asking for the establishment of tobacco ports on the Beech Fork

Creek near "Bairdstown;"<sup>57</sup> Governor Randolph appointed him captain of the Nelson County militia in September of 1789;<sup>58</sup> and he obtained two tracts of land known as the "Old Kentucky Grants" in 1795, one for 500 acres on Pottinger's Creek in Nelson County,<sup>59</sup> and a second for 325 acres on Stone Creek in Hardin County.<sup>60</sup>

Proctor and Elizabeth Ballard consented to the marriages of daughters Nancy Ballard to John Greenwell on 7 March 1804 and Catherine Ballard to George W. Dawson on 27 February 1805.<sup>61</sup> Mrs. Elizabeth (Hammett) Ballard died at Gilkey Run sometime between February 1805 when she and Proctor gave consent for Catharine's marriage and August 1806 when Proctor remarried.

Proctor Ballard married Mary Ann Woodward on 4 August 1806 at Nelson County.<sup>62</sup> Father Stephen Theodore Badin, the first Roman Catholic priest ordained in the United States, witnessed their vows.<sup>63</sup> Proctor and Mary Ann (Woodward) Ballard had six children: Willis Ballard, Proctor Ballard, Thomas Ballard, Stephen Bland Ballard, James Madison Ballard, and William Ballard.<sup>64</sup> The boys' births were recorded on blank spaces in the back of a copy of *The Acts of the General Assembly* published in 1818.<sup>65</sup> No

## Sergeant Proctor Ballard (c. 1755-1820), *continued*



Gen. Gabriel Slaughter's appointment of Proctor Ballard sheriff of Nelson County.

doubt Proctor used the *Acts* while a Nelson County public official.

### Nelson County Justice

Proctor was a justice of the Nelson County court from 1804 to 1808 and,<sup>66</sup> again, from 1814 to 1818.<sup>67</sup> The court had eighteen justices in December 1816, including Proctor Ballard and John Rowan, the patriarch of Bardstown's Federal Hill [My Old Kentucky Home].<sup>68</sup> The justices presided over court, swore witnesses, took depositions, seated juries, settled disputes, and performed marriages. Proctor served through 1818.<sup>69</sup>

### Nelson County Sheriff

Kentucky's early governors appointed county sheriffs for two-year terms. In November 1816, the Nelson County court petitioned Governor Gabriel Slaughter to fill a forthcoming vacancy for Nelson County sheriff; the incumbent's term was set to expire in February 1817 and members of the court asked the governor to rotate the sheriff's post between Justices Samuel Miller and Proctor Ballard. Governor Slaughter concurred, and, appointed Samuel Miller as Nelson County sheriff in 1817 and Proctor Ballard as Nelson County sheriff on 18 December 1818.<sup>70</sup>

Proctor Ballard resigned as sheriff on 21 February 1820 and Governor Slaughter immediately named Henry Gore to complete Proctor's unexpired term.<sup>71</sup> Shortly after he left office, Proctor filed a civil suit

against a former deputy, French G. Slaughter, to recoup fees Slaughter had collected in 1819 and had not turned over to either the sheriff's office or the state treasury.<sup>72</sup>

### Proctor Ballard's death

Proctor Ballard died at the Gilkey Run Plantation sometime between 18 March 1820 when he signed a Nelson Circuit Court petition and 20 May 1820 when his son, James Ballard, acted as administrator for his estate.<sup>73</sup> Proctor was buried in the Old Bardstown Municipal Cemetery at the corner of Fourth and John Fitch Avenue.<sup>74</sup> A memorial marker citing his service in Clark's Illinois Regiment was placed in the cemetery in 1967, though the exact location of his grave is unknown.<sup>75</sup>

Proctor was a slaveholder. He had eight slaves at the time of his death: Miley, John, George, Lewis, June, Mathew, Nelson, and Harry.<sup>76</sup>

Mrs. Mary Ballard, Proctor's widow, received "the house and plantation where she and Proctor lived and he died," as part of her dower on 9 February 1822;<sup>77</sup> she was named guardian "for her children, the orphans of Proctor Ballard" on 15 April 1822.<sup>78</sup>

### Bounty Lands

In 1833 the Commonwealth of Virginia enacted legislation to provide land grants to the men of Clark's Illinois Regiment or their descendants; Sergeant Proctor Ballard was named on a list of non-commissioned officers eligible for the bounty lands.<sup>79</sup>

## Sergeant Proctor Ballard (c. 1755-1820), *continued*

On 7 April 1834, two of Proctor's sons and one of their neighbors filed an affidavit with the Owen County, Kentucky court and certified Proctor's military service and gave a partial listing of his heirs.<sup>80</sup> It is neither clear why they filed the affidavit in Owen County nor why they only named some of Proctor's children. Thomas Ballard, James Ballard, and John Clayton certified: 1) that Proctor Ballard served as a sergeant in the Illinois Regiment of the Virginia State Line during the Revolution; 2) that Proctor Ballard died in 1820; and 3) that Proctor Ballard's only children were Thomas Ballard, William M. Ballard, Stephen P. Ballard, and James Ballard.<sup>81</sup>

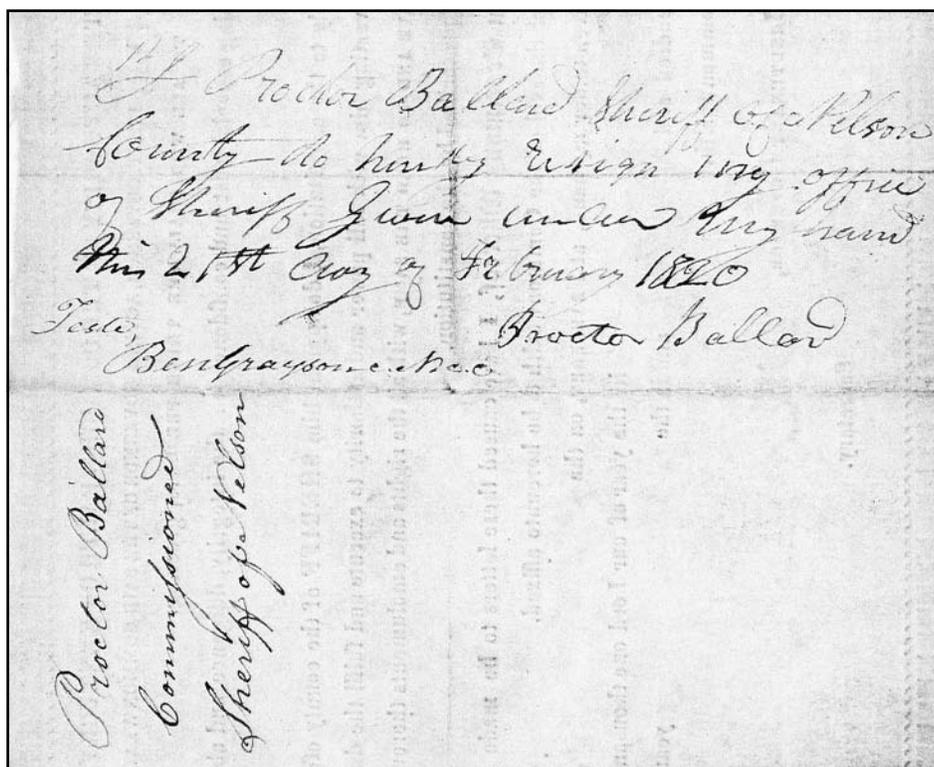
The next year, three of Proctor's children filed a claim with the Commonwealth of Virginia for a land grant based on his military service, but their claim was ultimately rejected.<sup>82</sup> Mrs. Ann (Ballard) Norris and her husband John Norris, William P. Ballard, and Willis Ballard filed the required paperwork, including documentation from the Nelson County, Kentucky court to support their claim.<sup>83</sup> A Nelson County court order, dated 12 January 1835, certified: 1) that Proctor Ballard was a Sergeant in Clark's Illinois Regiment; and 2) that Proctor Ballard's only heirs were: James Ballard, John Ballard, Catherine Ballard, Ann Ballard, Lucy Ballard, Willis Ballard,

Proctor Ballard, Thomas Ballard, Stephen B. Ballard, James M. Ballard, and William Ballard.<sup>84</sup>

### Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> R.C. Ballard Thruston, "Ballard Family Tree," compiled 18 March 1898; Ballard surname file 1Ba1, Filson Historical Society, Louisville, Ky.
- <sup>2</sup> Spotsylvania Co., Va., Will Book E:1130.
- <sup>3</sup> Roger H. Futrell, "The Other Ballard," *Filson Club History Quarterly*, 43 (1969): 158.
- <sup>4</sup> Madison Co., Va. Will Book, 4:225.
- <sup>5</sup> Margaret M. Bridwell, "Notes on One of the Early Ballard Families of Kentucky, Including the Ballard Massacre," *Filson Club History Quarterly*, 13 (1939): 1.
- <sup>6</sup> "Notes on One of the Ballard Families," 5.
- <sup>7</sup> *DAR Patriot Index* (Baltimore, 2003), 1:125.
- <sup>8</sup> Catherine Dawson tombstone, old Samuel Holloway farm in the Belmont community, Bullitt County, Ky.
- <sup>9</sup> Margery H. Harding, *George Rogers Clark and His Men, Military Records, 1778-1784* (Frankfort, 1981), 37.
- <sup>10</sup> Benjamin Roberts Revolutionary War pension file, no. S31343.
- <sup>11</sup> Bartlett Asher Revolutionary War pension file, no. W23465-B; & John Smoot pension file, no. S1252.
- <sup>12</sup> E.M. Sanchez-Saavedra, *A Guide to Virginia Military Organizations in the American Revolution, 1774-1787* (Richmond, 1978), 127-29.
- <sup>13</sup> "A Guide to Cave Hill, Louisville's Premier Historical Cemetery," n.d.
- <sup>14</sup> "George Rogers Clark," *World Book Encyclopedia* (Chicago,

Proctor Ballard's resignation as Nelson County Sheriff.



## Sergeant Proctor Ballard (c. 1755-1820), *continued*

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1970), 4:499.

<sup>15</sup> John E. Kleber, ed., *The Encyclopedia of Louisville* (Lexington, 2001), 220.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, 279.

<sup>17</sup> John E. Kleber, ed., *The Encyclopedia of Kentucky* (Lexington, 1992), 228.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>19</sup> Kleber, *Encyclopedia of Louisville*, 198, 312.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, 312.

<sup>21</sup> "Notes on One of the Early Ballard Families," 5.

<sup>22</sup> "Abstract to the George Rogers Clark Papers, the Illinois Regiment;" microfilm roll no. 4, document 7747-4-1365-66.

<sup>23</sup> John H. Gwathmey, *Historical Register of Virginians in the Revolution: 1775-1783* (Richmond, 1938), 36.

<sup>24</sup> Proctor Ballard, (sergeant, Clark's Illinois Regiment), *Compiled Service Records . . . Revolutionary War . . . Virginia State Troops* (Washington: National Archives).

<sup>25</sup> Jefferson Co., Ky. Deed Book A:163.

<sup>26</sup> Jefferson Co., Ky. Tax List, 1781.

<sup>27</sup> Jefferson Co., Ky. County Court Minute Book A, 1781-1783:12.

<sup>28</sup> H. A. and K. Ford, *History of the Ohio Falls Cities & Their Counties* (Cleveland, 1882), 1:185.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>30</sup> *Conrad Curtz vs. Hill, Owing, & Bard*, Nelson Co., Ky. Circuit Court 'Compiled Records: 1800-1817, Land Disputes, District Court': 427-28.

<sup>31</sup> Futrell, "The Other Ballard," 159.

<sup>32</sup> *Conrad Curtz vs. Hill, Owing, & Bard*, 'Compiled Records: 1800-1817':427-28.

<sup>33</sup> Kleber, *Encyclopedia of Kentucky*, 51.

<sup>34</sup> Dixie Hibbs, *Bardstown: Hospitality, History & Bourbon* (Charleston, 2002), 7, 12-14.

<sup>35</sup> Hibbs, *Bardstown: Hospitality*, 12-13.

<sup>36</sup> Minutes of the Board of Trustees of Bardstown, Kentucky, 1789-1827; entry dated 30 October 1789; Archives, Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Nazareth, Ky.

<sup>37</sup> Nelson Co., Ky Deed Book 1:15-16.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>39</sup> Sarah B. Smith, *Historic Nelson County, Its Towns & People* (Bardstown, 1982), 313.

<sup>40</sup> Harding, *George Rogers Clark*, 160.

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*, 160-61.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>43</sup> *Kentucky Genealogist*, 9 (1967): 85-86.

<sup>44</sup> William H. Henning, *The Statutes at Large; Being A Collection of All The Laws of Virginia* (1823), 9:469-70.

<sup>45</sup> Nelson Co., Ky. Tithable List, 1785-1786.

<sup>46</sup> Nelson Co., Ky. County Court Order Book B:7.

<sup>47</sup> Interview with Cleophas F. Ballard (1967, Loretto, Ky.); Ballard was a great-grandson of Sergeant Proctor Ballard.

<sup>48</sup> *Conrad Curtz vs. Hill, Owing, & Bard*, 'Compiled Records: 1800-1817': 427-28.

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>50</sup> Virginia Grants, Kentucky Land Office, Frankfort, Ky.; Book 11:308.

<sup>51</sup> Nelson Co., Ky. Deed Book 6:401.

<sup>52</sup> Interview, Cleophas F. Ballard (1967).

<sup>53</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>54</sup> Virginia Grants, Kentucky Land Office, Book 11:308.

<sup>55</sup> Nelson Co., Ky. County Court Order Book A:189.

<sup>56</sup> *Kentucky Genealogist*, 11(1969):18-19.

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid.*, 24-25.

<sup>58</sup> *Calendar of Virginia State Papers*, 1885, 5:26.

<sup>59</sup> Old Kentucky Grants, Kentucky Land Office, Book 11:169.

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*, Book 12:13.

<sup>61</sup> Nelson Co., Ky. Marriage Register, 1785-1859: 57, 78.

<sup>62</sup> *Ibid.*, 22.

<sup>63</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>64</sup> Nelson Co., Ky. Administrators, Executors & Guardian Bonds Book 4 (1822-1825): 3-4.

<sup>65</sup> *Kentucky Ancestors*, 22 (1987): 163.

<sup>66</sup> Nelson Co., Ky. County Court Order Book, 1804-1808: flyleaf.

<sup>67</sup> Governor Gabriel Slaughter papers, Civil Appointments, 1818-1820, Box 3, folder 48, document SL3-210; and folder 59, document SL4-102; Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Frankfort.

<sup>68</sup> *Ibid.*, Civil Appointments, 1816-1818, Box 2, folder 23, document SL2-39; KDLA.

<sup>69</sup> *Ibid.*, Box 2, folder 25, document SL2-76; KDLA.

<sup>70</sup> *Ibid.*, Governor Gabriel Slaughter papers, Resignations, 1818-1820, Box 4, folder 65, document SL4-205 [Nelson County Sheriff's appointment]; KDLA.

<sup>71</sup> *Ibid.*, [Proctor Ballard's resignation handwritten on the back of his appointment]; KDLA.

<sup>72</sup> *Proctor Ballard vs. French G. Slaughter*, Nelson Co., Ky. Chancery Court case files (Box 32), March Term 1820.

<sup>73</sup> Proctor Ballard probate (1820); Nelson Co., Ky. County Clerk 'Estate Settlements,' loose papers, Box B-2.

<sup>74</sup> Interview, Cleophas F. Ballard (1967).

<sup>75</sup> *Kentucky Standard* [Bardstown, Ky.], Thursday, 15 June 1967, page 2, column 1.

<sup>76</sup> Nelson Co., Ky. Will Book D: 258-59.

<sup>77</sup> *Ibid.*, D:422.

<sup>78</sup> Nelson Co., Ky. Administrators, Executors & Guardian Bonds Book 4 (1822-1825):3-4.

<sup>79</sup> *Journal of the House of Delegates of the Commonwealth of Virginia*, 1833 [Doc. No. 32]:12-13.

<sup>80</sup> Owen Co., Ky. County Court Order Book C: 259.

<sup>81</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>82</sup> William L. Hopkins, *Virginia Revolutionary War Land Grant Claims, 1783-1850, Rejected* (Richmond, 1988), 10.

<sup>83</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>84</sup> Nelson Co., Ky., County Court Order Book B: 7.

# Letters Remaining in the Post Offices at Bardstown and Elizabethtown, Kentucky, July 1825

*(Editor's Note: Numbers after a name indicate the number of letters for that person)*

*Western Herald*  
Bardstown, Kentucky, July 6, 1825

Gunn Rev. Wm.

A List of Letters  
Remaining in the Post-Office in Bardstown,  
Kentucky, on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 1825.

			G
			H
	A	Abel Daniel	Harpam Hugh
Ambrasy Lewis			Hynes W. R.
Albin William			Hughes Edward
	B	Ballard James	Hibbs Jonathan
Brewer William H.		Bennet Samuel	Howell D. S.
Byrnes William		Bruner Peter	Hagain Ig's.
Bennet Isaac		Byrne H. S.	Holden E. M.
Beauchamp Costin		Byrns Nase	Hubbard Bethelin
Brashear Lydia L		Benedict Bishop	Howley Heary
Bissett Thomas H			
Bell Jane			J
	C	Crome Squire	Johnston Moses
Carrico David		Cotton William	Jonston Robert
Carpenter Samuel		Coombs John Sr.	
Cotton Henry		Crume Jessce	K
Colborn Henry			King James
	D	Davis col green c 2	Jacyntha King
Duval W. P.		Delery Boisclair	L
Dant Elizabeth			Landers Nathaniel
Duncan Benjamin			Lutes William Law Robert
	E	Eastburn Hannah	Lemmon John 2
Eden John			M
Etielin James			Mason Basil
	F	Foster Dolly	Mitchell Thomas
Fox John			Moore Thomas G
Faherty Michael			Medcalf Eleanor
			Mattingly Richard
			Medcalf Ignatius
			Mastison John O
			Murphy Richard
			Milton John
			McQuowm Wm.
			May William
			M'Manus M'Mockin
			M'Attee John R.

# Letters Remaining, July 1825, *continued*

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*Western Herald*

Bardstown, Kentucky, Wednesday, July 20, 1825

## A List of Letters

Remaining in the Post Office at Elizabethtown on the first day of July, 1825, and if not taken out by the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Oct. next, will be sent to the General Post Office as dead letters.

Nelson Ann E	N	Neil William		
Nichols James		Norris Lewis F.		
Nicholls Katharine				
Peak Elizabeth	P	Pottinger Samuel		
Philips Wm. 2		Price Joseph		
Read Philip	R	3 Richey William	Atterbury T.	A
Richardson P.		2 Reed John	Arnold Mary Miss	Rev. Anderson Shere
Roberts Marg't. 2		Rhodes Ignatius		
Summers Joseph	S	Summers Abigail	Brownfield Jed	B
Slaughter Jas. Jr.		Smiely S. & H. 2	Bailey William	Brunk John
Smith Roger		Smiley James	Bard Jacob	Buckanan Simeon
Summers Samuel		Slaughter Lewis	Busket David	Brown John C.
Slaughter Eliz'th			Beddlecomb Dan	Bogard Jacob
			Barlow Christoph'r	Belts Asa
			Buzan William	Brown David
				Bard Taylor
Terril Edward	T	Tailor James		C
Thompson Tho. L.		Thompson Chas.	Carlton Kemble	Chapeze Ben
Toole Archibald		Thornsbury Seth	Cl_ Hardin c. 2	Chenoweth M H
			Crassman J. R.	Cofer Lawrence
Vittitow Wm.	V	Villars Gaston 4	Cooke Windie	
Wantyn Richard 2	W	Wickliffe M. H. 2	Devore Mary 2	D
Wooley Thomas		Wickliffe Nat 2	Duncan Mason	Dodge Israel Esq
Whillock Charels		Wilson Alethia	Dane G W Esq	Darb, P H Esq
Washer Henry		Weisiger Joseph	Dix Henry	Davis William
Willet Griffith q		Weller Philip		E
Weller Henry		Williams Alcy	Edlin James	
Warren James				F
			Fryrier Jerry	French Thomas
			Ford Moses	
				G
			Gillelan James	Garlinghouse G
			Gunning Hugh	Gratlin Spencer
			Green Charles	Geohegan J H 2

Persons calling for any of the above letters, will please say they have been advertised.

JOHN ROBERTS, P. M.

## Letters Remaining, July 1825, *continued*

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	H		R
Hines Isaac L		Hawkins John	Roberts Mark
Helm Sally Mrs		Helm Thomas	Royalty Daniel
Haycraft S__Jr		Hines John	Ridgeway Paul S
Helm J L Esq		Helm Ben Maj	Riddle Ben 3
Hanks John		Hubbs Jared	
Helm Charles		Harris _____	
Hardin John Esq			S
			Simons John
			Smith John
	J	Jeffries Hugh	Stout Robert
Johnson T Esq 2		Jones _____ G	Southern Simeon
Johnson Hugh		Johnson Elisha	Singleton M L Mrs
Johnson James D			Scamahorn Nat
James William			
			T
	K		Thomas J W 2
Kilpatrick David		Kandes Mag. Miss	Tull Nicholas
Kandee A Miss 2			
			V
	L		Varble Philip
Lindsey George			
			W
	M		Wright David
M Williams James		Merryman J or B	Woldridge Daniel
McLure R H		Morrison John	Washam Robert
Meddleton Doc't		Middleton Elliot	Warfield Caleb
Mason M		Mathis George	
Morris John		Morgan W Col	
May Richard			Y
			Young John
	N		H.G. Withersmith, P.M.
Nichols Joseph 2		Noll John	July 1 <sup>st</sup> 1825
Newhill Edward		Newman George	
Noyes Thomson		Neel Thomas	
			People calling for the above letters will please say they are advertised.
			H.G.W.
	P		
Parker L B		Parsley Henry A	
Parker Benjamin		Parcels Thomas	
Phillips Asahel		Percefull James	
Parcels W 2			

# The Life and Times of Robert B. McAfee and His Family and Connections

## Part 5

*Beginning in January 1927, the Register of the Kentucky Historical Society began publishing transcripts of the papers of Robert B. McAfee, which had been loaned by McAfee's great-granddaughter "Miss Georgie McAfee, of Lima, Ohio, but formerly of Danville . . ." Robert Breckinridge McAfee (b. 18 February 1784, Mercer County, d. 12 March 1849) was a soldier, farmer, attorney, and state legislator. After his father's 1795 murder, the young McAfee became the ward of his father's friend, John Breckinridge (U.S. senator 1801-05, U.S. attorney general, 1805-06) and his uncle, James McCoun. After attending Transylvania University, McAfee studied law under Breckinridge and was admitted to the bar in 1801. He served as a member of the state legislature until the War of 1812, when he volunteered for service, eventually being promoted to captain. After the war, McAfee resumed his legislative career. He later served as lieutenant governor (1824-28), U.S. charge d' affaires to the Republic of Colombia (1833-37), and president of the board of visitors of the U.S. Military Academy (West Point) (1842-45). Obvious errors in the text have been corrected and the punctuation changed to modern form. Notes appear within brackets, and 1927 notes within parentheses.*

### Religious Opinions

I will now take some notice of my religious opinions. My Grandfathers & Mothers as well as my own Father and Mother as I have already stated were Scotch Presbyterians of the Seceder denomination, and for a time acknowledged the Genl Assembly when formed in 1789. But when the division took place in 1791, or 2 under Mr. Adam Rankin on the question of using Watts version of Psalms & Hymns, instead of the old Scotch version (of Rouse) my Father and mother united with the Revd Mr. Rankin branch of the church, which pretty equally divided N[ew] Providence, although my father seldom if ever communed, as Mr. Ranking generally spent an hour in what was called guarding or fencing the communion table. My feelings were of course with Mr. Rankin and while I lived in Lexington I always attended his church. My good Mother had taken great pains to give me religious instruction & to leave me the catechism of the church, and also always when I retired to bed, to commit myself to the hands of my Creator, and when I rose to repeat the Lord's prayer, which I generally done, yet my heart was not touched. After the death of my Parents I

felt my desolate condition and the need of committing myself into the hands of a kind Providence. I recollect being one day in my father's house after all of us had been removed away. It was solitary and alone and in passing I had taken refuge from a heavy Thunderstorm & rain, while standing in the door watching the dark rolling clouds, the flashing of Lightning and the loud lumbering Thunder, that my lonely and desolate situation, seemed to press upon my heart with Peculiar force. I looked back into [the] house and rooms which were dark and solitary. The contrast between this and the happy days when all my sisters, father, and mother were together was too great to contemplate without emotion. I also Thought of our unfortunate Landsuit & what I would do, in case my home, the place of my nativity, was to be taken from me! It was too heavy a load for my heart to bear and I burst into Tears and for the first time in my life I put up a prayer which came from my heart. I prayed for divine Protection, and wisdom to direct my ways, and that I might live to return again to my home in peace and safety, and then committee myself to the Mercy of a Merciful Savior. This Prayer, my dear children, was answered. I have often looked to it as the turning point of my

## The Life and Times of Robert B. McAfee, *continued*

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early days. It matters not what unbelievers in Divine Providence may think; I have given the True state of things at the time & although I wandered far out of the way in Trying to disbelieve in the doctrine of the Special influence of Providence, yet all things worked around to prove to my mind, that almighty God directs our ways.

While I lived in Lexington, and in some instances violated the Sabbath day in company with other bad boys yet my age saved me from all other heinous vices, yet I began to think that there were as good people in other denominations as my own people. Mr. Ayers was a Baptist and was among the best of Men & having an opportunity of hearing Baptist ministers often preach & also heard them in Private conversation, I began to conclude that they were as near right as any others. In short, I became strongly prejudiced in favor of their views. When I returned to Mercer County again & went to school to the Revd. Mr. Mahan on Salt River I was in a great measure brought back to my Presbyterianism, and when I went to Read Law with Mr. Breckenridge Maj (or rather Genl Russell as he was soon after I went to live with him promoted) being a zealous Methodist, and his house being a preaching point for the Circuit Riders, I had an opportunity to frequently hear them, and among the rest the Revd Mr. Burke (who was a long time Postmaster of Cincinnati under Genl Jackson) he was considered the ablest Preacher & had a voice like Thunder, and during the Summer of 1800 an Extensive Revival of Religion commenced at Cane Ridge in Bourbon County among the Presbyterians & at Bryant's Station among the Baptists and in many places all over Kentucky among the Methodists who were Just beginning to spread in Kentucky. I also had the Arminian Magazine to read which together with frequent discussions with Genl Russell and the Circuit Riders I became greatly attached to the Methodists, and fully believed they were right in their doctrine. My objections were alone to their church organization.

### 1801

During the winter of 1800-1, which was exceedingly mild, the Religious excitement increased and extended over Kentucky. The Presbyterians had an immense meeting for a week or two, commencing the first week in August, and also near Harrodsburgh

at Hite's Springs the excitement continued to increase and widen over the state during the year 1801 & for several years afterwards. The whole attention of the people was turned to religious subjects, and many excesses and extravagancies were the consequence, although thousands of true converts were made. My own mind was deeply affected with the truth of the Christian religion, the necessity of obtaining it, and the importance of enjoying it in preparing for a future State. Indeed the Spirit of God seemed to strive with me, until frequently I was almost induced to yield & make a profession of Religion. I scarcely ever neglected to attend preaching on every Sabbath day, which were kept up in succession by the Presbyterians, Methodists, and Baptists. I was at Bryant's station when the Revd. Ambrose Dudley Senr Baptized fifty three persons in one day. All these things had a powerful influence on my mind, and I was constant and punctual in my Private devotions, but I was reading law, and it was firmly impressed on my mind that a person could not be religious and a Lawyer at the same time. No Lawyer in the State except Col. William McDowell had ventured to profess Religion and he was looked upon with jeers and derision, being thus drawn off. I resisted all my religious feeling in Public but still adhered to my private devotions as a compromise with my conscience. Not long after this Paine's "Age of Reason" fell into my hands & greatly shook my faith as to the Truth of Christianity and I eventually settled down in the belief, that there was no such thing as The Special Providence of God. That he made man, as well as the material universe and had enstamped upon their nature certain laws instincts which governed them and that so long as man obeyed these laws of nature he was doing his duty and would be accepted by his creator. These absurd notions which were contrary to every day's Experience stuck to me for many years, when events transpired under the good Providence of God to open my eyes as to his dealings with his creatures in this world which I will notice in its proper place.

The Christmas Hollidays I spent with my friends in Mercer and in attending to indispensable Business. Early in January 1801 I returned to Genl. Russell's and resumed my studies, in company with Mr. D. Allen. I had nothing to trouble me and I spent this time as happily as I have ever enjoyed in a long

## The Life and Times of Robert B. McAfee, *continued*

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life. Many amusing anecdotes and events transpired which it would be too tedious to repeat. Genl Russell and family were kind to me and my days and nights passed smoothly along. But this world will change. In the month of May 1801, Genl Russell and family went to Virginia (Shenandoah county) to visit Mr. Russell's father and my room mate Mr. Allen returned home, and I was again left alone, having agreed to remain & keep house with an old Gentleman by the name of Kincaid. Capt William Moore who lived in sight had a large family of sons with whom I associated & spent many happy nights with them. We had an amusing scene with old Mr. Kincaid one night who was in the habit of taking Ginger dram for the colic. During this summer I attended court in Lexington once a month, and was informed at the June court that my uncle Saml McAfee had died on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of June 1801. I was deeply affected by this event as he was the only uncle who had given me advice and I had calculated that he would have aided me still farther when I commended the practice of law. Mr. Breckenridge's law students still kept up their debating society and our moot court was held regularly every two weeks and I generally made speeches when ever I had a chance to the great gratification of our Tutor who at all times would give me a private lecture. The great error in my speaking was too rapid utterance without regular method (The fault of most young men). There were several of the students who never would speak, and the result was that they were never heard of afterwards; nature had not intended them for public life, having neither energy or perseverance. I was indefatigable in my studies. Having taken a regular course in history on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of Sept. 1801, I finished reading the laws of Kentucky and closed my studies and returned all the Books I had to Mr. Breckenridge & was examined for the last time, and on the 9<sup>th</sup> my Brother came for me and I returned to his house in Mercer county where I remained a week. Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> I returned to Lexington & applied to the county court for a certificate of my moral character which I obtained at a word. One of the Justices observing that if I was an honest young man it was a pity that I should be a Lawyer. He had been a candidate for the Legislature against Lawyers. After I had obtained my Certificate I rode out to Genl Russells (who was one of the Justices) and staid all night at Capt Moores

and was introduced to Humphrey Marshall for the first time. On the 16<sup>th</sup> I went to Mr. Breckenridge's and spent the night with him. I consulted with him as to my getting a License to practice law. I did not tell him my age, and he did not ask me; he, however, advised me to continue to read, and promised to meet me in Lexington to introduce me to the district Judge on the next Monday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>, to which time I remained in the neighborhood. On Monday, not meeting with Mr. Breckenridge, I got another friend to introduce me to Judge Saml McDowell Senr, who had been President of the First Ky. Convention in 1791, who knew my family. We returned to a room in a Tavern East of the Court & after examining me closely as to what kind of suit I would bring under a supposed case, he signed my License and gave some good advice and parted with me in the kindest manner, and I left the room with a light heart. About a month afterwards I was again examined by the Hon[orable] Stephen Ormsby in Danville who signed my license which I had now obtained previous to my being eighteen years of age. It was one of the Great errors of my life to press on so early into Public life before my Judgment was sufficiently matured. I felt this to be the case but the necessity of my situation being wholly dependent on my own exertions was my excuse and finally decided my course. My whole fortune was nearly at stake in a law suit, which although twice decided in our favor was still renewed again. I was well grown of my age so that I could have passed at any time for being of full age, although our laws had not prescribed at what age Licenses might be obtained. But, in order to show the confidence Mr. Breckenridge had in me, I was immediately employed by him to bring an important land suit in our court. As was employed in several cases soon after I was sworn into our county, the first being in charge of Bastards by an individual near Salvisa.

In November Genl Russell, having returned home from Virginia, I went to the house to settle with him for my Board, and he fell in my debt thirteen dollars for which I took an order in James McCoun's store which was all the means I had to get me a suit of clothes to start out in the world with. This outfit was scarcely enough yet I made it do. My brother

*Continued on page 86*

# Kentucky Historical Society

The Kentucky Historical Society, founded in 1836, has long been the state's storehouse of history. Today it is the home of the 167,000-square-foot Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History in downtown Frankfort. The state-of-the-art facility, which opened in April 1999, is the centerpiece of a campus that offers numerous learning opportunities to students, historians, genealogists, and anyone else interested in Kentucky history.

## Museums

The Kentucky Historical Society operates three unique sites in downtown Frankfort that tell the story of our state's history. At the Frankfort facilities and through the Society's outreach programs, the Kentucky story stirs the hearts of over a quarter-million people every year.

**Kentucky History Center**—Home to the Society, this building



contains the state history museum, changing exhibits gallery, research library, gift shop, rental facility, and the Society's educational and publications programs.

**Old State Capitol**—Completed in 1830, this site is a national historic landmark. Its House and Senate chambers, graced by Kentucky paintings and sculpture, tell the story of state government in the commonwealth.

**Kentucky Military History Museum**—Two centuries of Kentucky's military heritage are traced through an extraordinary collection of weapons, uniforms, flags, and photographs. Housed in the 1850 Old State Arsenal, the museum operates in conjunction with the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs. (Closed temporarily for upgrade).



*The Kentucky Military History Museum (left) houses a collection of artifacts from the state's military heritage. It was built in 1850 as the state arsenal. Union and Confederate troops fought to control it during the Civil War. The Old State Capitol (right), completed about 1830, is a gem of Greek-Revival architecture. Designed by Gideon Shryock, it was the first state capitol of its type west of the Appalachian Mountains. It is today operated as a museum and is open for tours.*

# Kentucky Historical Society

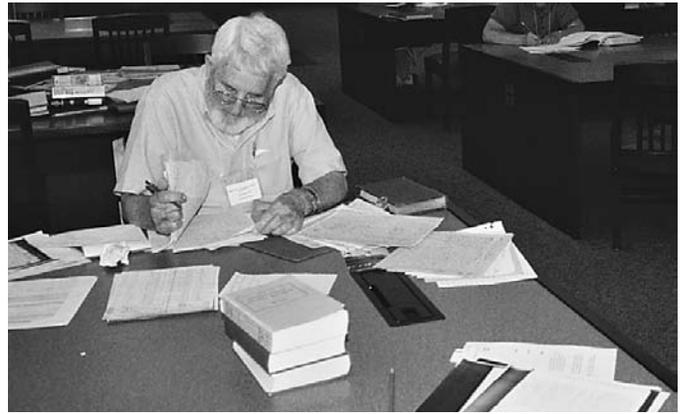
# Library & Special Collections

Thousands of researchers blaze their own trail through the historic landscape each year with the assistance of the Society's research facilities. Here genealogists can trace an ancestor's path aided by family histories, census, church, and cemetery records, family Bibles, and land ownership and military service records.

In addition, the Society's Special Collections house hundreds of thousands of manuscripts, photographs, maps, rare books, oral histories, pioneer accounts, diaries, albums, personal recollections, and more—all helping researchers come face-to-face with Kentucky's distinctive heritage.

## Publications

The Society publishes books and periodicals that meet the needs of genealogists, historians, and scholars alike. The publications program produces two quarterlies: *The Register*, a journal of scholarly research in Kentucky history, and *Kentucky Ancestors*, a genealogical magazine providing statewide coverage for family history researchers. The Society also publishes *The Chronicle*, a membership newsletter offering information on Society events, exhibitions, and programs.



*The Library and Special Collections facilities contain the stories of Kentuckians and their families, from the 1700s to the present. Researchers have access to hundreds of thousands of books, records, and photographs.*

## Education

Every year thousands of people travel to Frankfort from all across America for hands-on tours, interactive exhibits, touch carts, historic character reenactments, family workshops, theatrical presentations, symposia, and festivals that celebrate Kentucky's history. In addition, the education program offers Kentucky history curriculum materials to teachers for use in their classrooms. The Society's outreach programs help people from Ashland to Paducah discover Kentucky's unique past. These programs include the Kentucky Junior Historical Society, Museums To Go, and Historical Highway Markers. Grant and technical assistance activities sponsored by the Folklife, Local History, and Oral History programs give citizens the tools to document and present their own history.

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## Hours and Admission

<b>Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History</b>	
Museum	Tues-Sat (10 a.m.-5 p.m.)
Martin F. Schmidt Library	Tues.-Sat (8 a.m.-4 p.m.)
Special Collections	Tues-Wed by appt (8 a.m.-4 p.m.) Thurs-Fri (8 a.m.-4 p.m.)
<b>Old State Capitol</b>	Tues-Sat (10 a.m.-5 p.m.) <i>On-the-hour tours begin at the Center for Kentucky History; last tour starts at 4 p.m.</i>
<b>Kentucky Military History Museum</b>	Closed for upgrades

Tickets will be sold at both the History Center and the Kentucky Military History Museum and will include admission for all three museums. No ticket required for genealogical research library and 1792 Store. Parking is FREE.

Ticket prices:

- **Kentucky Historical Society & Kentucky Junior Historical Society members FREE (must present membership card)**
- Active military and veteran discounts (must present service ID)
- Adults \$4
- Youth (ages 6-18) \$2
- Children 5 and under FREE
- School groups (\$2 per person, students and adults; school group scholarships are available)

## The Life and Times of Robert B. McAfee, *continued*

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could not help me; he was in debt himself for his land, and our wretched law suit swallowed up all the money we could raise from my plantation rents, which we had to take in corn, wheat & oats & then sell again. The land my father had left to my brother on Hammond creek (300 acres) was covered with other claims and he was afraid to settle on it, and was Thus compelled to go in debt for a place to live on, and being on the whole not very energetic in the management of his affairs, I was therefore left wholly to myself, without means to get a fair start in my profession, as during the whole period I was reading law at Genl Russell's, I was totally destitute of a single dollar in money, yet I struggled many times without clothes to go into company or mingle with society. I was in fact a perfect Hermit so far as general society was concerned. I state to encourage young men to persevere, as I scarcely can conceive a more embarrassing condition than that in which I was placed. Tis true I was interested in several large tracts of outlands, some of which were unpatented & my Brother had never looked after them; they were unimproved & could not be sold at anything like a fair value. I was also without law Books or any kind of a Library except my novels which during my absence had been pretty well distributed in loans by a young man who lived with my Brother. In this state of my affairs I laid my case before my cousin James McCoun who kindly undertook to procure such books as I needed and wait with me for the money which was the first debt of any magnitude I had ever created. The Books were ready on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December when I went to Lexington and had them packed home on Horseback in Sacks. I kept my horses with my friend Ayers, having no means to provide for them in a Tavern. When I was about to part with Mr. McCoun he handed me seven dollars in money without solicitation to help me along. Never was any money more welcome and my heart has often swelled with gratitude with the remembrance of it as it was a kindness I did not expect. I now had quite a respectable law Library with some history, indeed much larger than most lawyers generally have. But this debt hung like a millstone around my neck; tis true Mr. McCoun did not press me for it. I let him have all the money I could spare and finally paid it

off in acting as his agent in surveying his land, selling in small tracts which lay on the Salt River. My personal services fully covered the whole debt and indeed I was thankful for the employment. I now had a sufficient Library and the world before, and the next subject of inquiry was, "What shall I do?" There was no Lawyer then living in Harrodsburgh and there was the place I ought to have gone, but it was even then doubtful whether a professional man could live in that place, as I do not now recollect that there was even a doctor in the place and old Mr. Augustus Passmore had a Blacksmith down below Town, (but within its limits) on the Town Branch and only two stores, Mr. Beriah Magoffin's & Philip Bush's, on opposite sides of the public square along the north side of which some years before the public race course ran. But what was worse than all, I had no money to pay my board, or even to put my horse in the Tavern when I went there, and such was my abhorrence to running in debt that I gave up the idea of going there which I think was another great error in my life, as I soon after felt confident that I would have done well, but I was young and had no enterprising friend to direct my course. The consequence was that soon after James Haggin & Isaac Lansdale Esqs (Lawyers) settled in Harrodsburgh and soon obtained a good practice, while I remained at my Brother's ten miles from town, in one of the most quiet neighborhoods in the county & of course could not look for much business, while I was constantly harassed with the large fee bills of our interminable land suit. I had energy & perseverance enough, but having been lost to society while attending my Studies I did not know how to direct it. I concluded to read closely & qualify myself well until age gave me experience and in this situation I remained at my brother's until March 1805 when I removed to my present residence, being then twenty one years of age. In the meantime I attended to what little practice I got and also attended the Franklin Circuit court where I got some business through the influence of Mr. John J. Mitchell who was then sheriff and had been my school mate while I went to school to Mr. Dunlavy in 1793. I was also taken by the hand by Col John Allen who treated me to his house when I attended the courts in Frankfort. It was a noble train in Col. Allen's character which lasted with me until the day of his death at the Battle

## The Life and Times of Robert B. McAfee, *continued*

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of the River Raisin in January 1813.

In order to keep my self employed, I made public speeches on all occasions, on such questions of public interest which frequently occurred, such as the contemplated Division of Mercer county, which was then urged and had been from the year 1799 & on also at 4<sup>th</sup> July Barbacues. My first public speech was made at William Adams' Spring about a half a mile N. E. from Lucto, long before that place was thought of. I was also active in all Elections and was supposed to have considerable influence with my friends. Of course, my interest was coveted by the candidates & in this way I soon rose into notice. I also volunteered my services in defending the unfortunate, when ever I could get a chance, as I believed that a young Lawyer must first prove that he can speak before he can get Business. In this way I soon obtained more business than I expected, which convinced me that if I had gone to Harrodsburgh at once I would have acquired Distinction and practice much sooner than I did, as I was ardently ambitious and determined to rise before the public as soon as I could. I had a large family connection, all of whom were quiet peaceable people who did not seem to aspire to office or notice. I could not bear the idea of being cast in the background with such advantages in my favor. In 1802, we had a severely contested Election, in which the question of our country division came up, in which the lower end of Mercer united with Danville in order to get a county Below. Capt Saml Gray was the candidate of the Lower end of the county & Col William McDowell, near Danville while Genl Adair and Genl Ray were the candidates of Harrodsburgh. The people of Danville disappointed the lower end and Capt Gray was defeated. I was too young to vote but was the friend of Capt Gray who had been promised the votes of Danville, but did not receive many of them. This event produced a reaction below and in my own mind and the people were ever afterwards opposed to Danville and the division.

The Religious excitement still continued in Kentucky. The Revd Saml Robertson was chosen as Pastor of N[ew] Providence and was a warm & zealous preacher. It was no unusual thing to have two or three Thousand people present at his Sacramental meetings, the people coming in Waggons & carriages & camping on the ground from twenty

& thirty miles around, and although often pressed I still declined yielding my public assent to what I believed to be my duty and began to feel myself sliding Back to a careless & thoughtless condition as I still thought that Lawyers had no business with religion, and I had a great abhorrence in pretending to be what I was not. However, I did not neglect my private devotions yet my proud heart would not publicly acknowledge our Saviour. This was another great sin of my life. If I had at that time become a member of the church I would have been saved from many errors, but the great God knew my frailty and perhaps it was for the best.

During the year 1802 I was very active in stirring up the people in the lower end of the county to assert our equal right to the offices of the county. We had but two Justices of the peace from Harrodsburgh to the Franklin line at Lillard cove spring and Senators, Representatives, Judge of the Quarter Session court & Justices of the peace were all from Shawanoe run or towards Danville. This inequality had been so glaring that I soon awakened up the people, and in a short time we got two more Justices of the peace and they began to see and feel that they had equal rights with the Balance of the county.

I now had to encounter other difficulties. I was necessarily thrown into Female company as young and inexperienced as myself, and soon involved myself in difficulties, from which it took years to extricate myself, not by making use of deception, but often unintentionally exciting hopes & expectations which were never realized. After one year's experiment I again debarred myself from all marked attentions, and determined never again to bestow special attentions until I was in a condition to get married. This induced me to reduce to writing my rules of life which I determined to observe the balance of my life as follows.

I now took an active part in organizing a debating society which we called

"The Republican Society," our first meetings were in a school house—west of Salt River near Buchanan's run in the vicinity of Capt John H. Gibson, afterwards one of Genl Jackson's Colonels in the late war at the Battle of N[ew] Orleans, (who had married a cousin of mine) who lived on Buchanan's branch. I was elected Clerk of the Society and after holding two or three meetings without having a suf-

## The Life and Times of Robert B. McAfee, *continued*

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ficient number of members to make our meetings interesting, we moved it to a school house on the road to McCoun's ferry about a half mile east of the present Frankfort Turnpike road. Our society now flourished greatly as we had near forty members from every part of the country round and some from Shawanoe run, of whom Major Geo C Thompson. Our meetings were regularly kept up until 1805 and my uncle John McCoun was generally our chairman, and I was one of the leading debaters. This Society was of essential benefit to me as I had a chance of extending my acquaintance and making many friends which have continued ever since.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of Sept. Mr. Joseph Bryant, the original founder of Bryant's station staid all night at my Brother's from whom I obtained some singular facts. He was about 84 years of age and while Boone (who had married his daughter) was a Prisoner with the Indians he had moved back to North Carolina, and was now on his way with his family to settle in Shelby county, where he died a few years after. It was in 1778 that he returned to No[rth] Carolina. He had been with several of his family, a Tory from the Revolutionary war, and he assigned as a reason why Col. Daniel Boone always escaped and was never killed when taken by the Indians, was on account of his having a Colonel's commission from Govr Dunmore which he kept in a leather Bag round his neck and always had it ready to exhibit in emergency, and was the true Reason why he was treated so well at Detroit and ransomed from the Indians. Col. Boone always acted with the Whigs, although there was a time when Col. Calloway suspected him for an intention to surrender Boonesborough, at the famous Treaty he held at that place when two Indians were permitted to take hold of one white man. This fact I obtained that it was a subject of conversation at the time, however, without impeaching the Patriotism of Col. Boone, There is an evident consistency in what old Mr. Bryant said, as he always contrived to escape from the Indians & in fact left Kentucky in 1778 himself and did not return until about 1781.

### 1803

On the 14<sup>th</sup> April at night my uncle George McAfee departed this life. I had written his will and on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April he was buried by his request at New Providence, being the First person ever buried

there. His Executor Capt Saml Gray employed me as his attorney which placed in my hands an additional collecting business for which I felt under many obligations. In the month of May I agreed with Mr. William Hunter, Editor of "the Palladium," and public printer that my Brother John should live with him and learn to be a printer, and he accordingly went to Frankfort to live. Although I was increasing my practice yet I had many troubles and difficulties, my expenses at court generally eat my fees, and I was often in great straits for money, yet I still adhered to my resolutions not to go in debt, yet I never was so happy as when I was at home reading, Difficulties seemed to crowd upon my Brother, the Bond he owed for his land -- about 105 pounds -- was assigned to Capt Peter Casey, and he expected to be broke up and I sharing in his feelings. But instead of the ruin he had apprehended, It was the most fortunate event that ever happened to him. Capt Casey was kind to him and he paid off his note with a horse, cattle, &c and never felt it. My Brother now appeared to be happy and brighter days appeared in prospect.

At my leisure hours I occasionally wrote poetry and sketches of History and also began to write a piece on the various controverted points of religion. This I regard as labor lost, except so far as I was induced to Search the Scriptures in order to sustain my Theories which were Methodistical. This work I never intended to have published, as much of it is mere speculation. We had the Louisiana Treaty discussed in our Society, which I advocated in a lengthy speech which I wrote out at length and still have by me. I also wrote a piece in favor of Religious Toleration which shows my opinion as to this matter at that day. I never was possessed of a good voice, and in order to remedy it I pursued the plan of Demosthenes. On every pleasant day I retired to a thick Brushy ridge about a quarter of a mile East of my Brother's house, where I had a walk made about fifty yards long, and declaimed to the Trees, often filling my mouth with pebbles and in this way I improved my delivery and strengthened my lungs by exercise so that I could speak two hours with not much fatigue.

I also engaged in a Friendly correspondence with a lady somewhat advanced in years but very intelligent, being well educated, and wrote a good hand. Our

## The Life and Times of Robert B. McAfee, *continued*

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professed object was to improve ourselves in writing, we kept it up for nearly a year, when I concluded that there were some symptoms of danger, when our correspondence gradually declined & she moved away.

There was another severe context this year in relation to a division of the county I happened to be in – Danville – when a public speaking was held on the subject & Col William McDowell addressed the people in favor of the Division and I made a speech against it. When the house divided I had but a small minority, but the news flew over the county and I was much applauded by the Harrodsburgh people for standing up against them in their stronghold. This was not forgotten in after times – when the election came on, the contest was a severe one, but the members against the division succeeded.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> Sept I accompanied My Cousin Geo. McAfee & his sisters to Lexington & four miles N. E. on Cane Run to see him married to Miss Anne Hamilton, where we arrived a short time before night. They were married about dark by the Revd Mr Welsh a Presbyterian Preacher. Here I saw Missy Mary Hamilton, his wife's sister, and was much pleased with her. I had visited her mother's house while I was reading law with Mr. Breckenridge and knew the family as a highly respectable one of the Presbyterian denomination. There were several brothers, Robert, James & Joseph. The two latter were students in Transylvania, but my thoughts were then otherwise employed & I had made no particular impression, and only visited the house to see one of my Brother students Mr. Fowler & the young men. On the next day we returned to Mercer & I contrived to ride with Miss P. H. and was much pleased with her conversation & intelligence, and of course I was not backward to let her know it. This was my first serious attempt to get a wife, although I was not yet twenty years of age, yet I concluded that I would have to spend some time in courtship, which would bring my land suit to a close and I could move to my farm, on which I had made up my mind to settle for life. I met with some encouragement, and was induced to continue my attentions which were protracted under various considerations for several years. She was cautious, and disposed to consult her friends and I was not very anxious to hasten the matter until my law suit was ended and I could get possession of

my farm, which I could not conveniently do until I arrived of age. It had however one good effect. It withdrew my attention from all others which I found a very difficult matter to do. As I had already excited expectations in another quarter which was the cause of much unhappiness to me as well as disappointment to the hopes of an amiable relation, which I have always viewed as the great error of my life which like Franklin I would correct if I had to pass over again this period of my life, hence I have ever since advised all young men never to excite hopes in the breast of a female which you cannot fulfill. It is cruel beyond description. The female heart, when driven to despair can never again recover its original position, a kind Providence however punished me in much mercy in the end.

On Sunday the 23<sup>d</sup> day of October in this year an unpleasant occurrence took place at N[ew] Providence church, which made a final breach between the seceders or the associated Reformed members, and the Genl Assembly Presbyterians. On this day my old class mate Joshua L. Wilson (now the Revd Doctor Wilson of Cincinnati) having been licensed to preach, happened to attach church at that place, together the Revd Mr. Risk of the associate body, both denominations wished to hear their own preacher, and The Elders, and Friends of Doctor Wilson proposed to the others that Mr. Risk should preach in the forenoon, and the Revd Mr. Wilson in the afternoon. To which proposition no direct answer was given except "we will see about it." The Revd Mr. Risk went on to preach and at the close of his sermon gave notice that the congregation might expect another discourse in about half an hour, which of course excluded Mr. Wilson, whereupon notice was given that the Revd Mr. Wilson would preach to the people in the bottom a little east of the well in ten or fifteen minutes. The consequence was that four-fifths of the people repaired to the designated spot and Doctor Wilson preached to them, and Mr. Risk preached to the balance. For my part I went with Doctor Wilson and felt much displeased with my friends on the other side, a large portion of both sides were my family relations. This event led to the erection of another church about a mile below at my Grandfathers gave year on a lot of two acres donated by my relation James McCoun of Lexington to whom it had been willed. The house was built

## The Life and Times of Robert B. McAfee, *continued*

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by the Joint labors of both churches by an amicable arrangement.

In the latter part of this month a young gentleman, Henry F. Delaney, a son of Mr. Joseph Delaney, came to read law with me, as I had a good Library and was getting a Tolerable business. He played elegantly on the violin and was a most pleasant companion. He lived (at) my brother's, and read with me nearly two years. He afterwards obtained license to practice law and moved to Union county & obtained an extensive practice. When he united with the Cumberland Presbyterians and became a distinguished preacher in that body, and with his aid I drew the First charter of their college at Princeton, Caldwell county, while I was a member of the Ky. Legislature. He was a most excellent man, with Talents above mediocrity, warm hearted and sincere in every act of his life, and a friend who could be confided in.

The meeting of Congress on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in December produced great excitement, on account of the acquisition of Louisiana. Troops had been ordered to hold themselves in readiness to march to N[ew] Orleans, in case any opposition was made. I took an active part in this movement & held myself in readiness to go with the foremost. I wrote several pieces in favor of the acquisition of that Territory as well as made several set speeches on the subject. The whole state was alive to this matter and not a voice was raised against it in Kentucky. As far as I ever heard all applauded Mr. Jefferson's foresight and it gave him such a popularity in the Western country that it was irresistible.

I had now solemnly determined to press forward in my profession & never cease struggling until I had arrived at distinction and the consequence was that I began to feel the shaft of envy from sources I did not expect, yet it did not discourage me.

### 1804

I still remained at my Brother's during this year, my business increased, and on account of having a land suit of my own, I was employed in most of the land suits as well as in defense of persons charged with felonies which were profitable. I also began to attend to my land claims, examining the several tracts & making arrangements to finally settle myself at home. I found my land claims greatly with

other claims, to which I gave my personal attention. This with my other business kept me almost daily employed. I attended our courts assiduously, and although my fees were pretty good, yet my necessary expenses kept me always hard pressed and some times without a dollar in my pocket which compelled me to go into the country from Town every night yet I persevered and began to attract some notice, especially among the Politicians. We had this year another contest in relation to our county. A new question was started to consolidate Mercer and Lincoln and make Danville the seat of Justice. We had some four or five candidates opposed to it and only two to elect. The Danville people had but two, Col Wm McDowell & John L. Bridges Esqr. This made it necessary to select candidates out of those in favor of Harrodsburgh and I was selected as one among nine to settle the matter. We accordingly met in Harrodsburgh and selected Col Wm Starling and Majr Geo C. Thompson as our candidates, and at our July court I was invited to attend a public meeting in Danville on the 28<sup>th</sup> of that month. I attended and Col McDowell & Mr. Bridges addressed the people & declared themselves in favor of a consolidation of the two counties & I made a speech against it, but when the vote was taken I was in the minority, which I had expected as a matter of course. But my efforts were much talked of and gave me a still stronger hold on the people of Harrodsburgh as well as brought me into Genl notice which was all I expected at the time. The consequence was that I was greatly courted by the candidates. I was always open and fearless in expressing my opinions, which insured me the confidence of my friends, yet it enabled my enemies in after life to often take advantage of my candor. I was also ardent & impetuous asserting and defending my views regardless of consequences. It was the result of youth & inexperience. I thought every person I met equally candid, and of course took no pains to conceal my sentiments. I still believe I was right, yet I have often felt much annoyance and disappointment in placing confidence in the hypocritical professions of pretended friends.

I still occasionally paid attention to Miss Hamilton, and thought I had made some advances in her estimation yet I had powerful rivals to contend with, and several disagreeable events crossed my path. Notwithstanding all my care, and caution, I still re-

## The Life and Times of Robert B. McAfee, *continued*

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mained involved in my former indiscretions, through which I often thought I never could get. This often made me low spirited, and sometimes I was unsuccessful in my law cases, which to a young man of my ardent temperament, almost made me despair of final success. Upon the whole this was a busy year with me. The previous year had been one of unparalleled prosperity to the farmers, in productions of all kinds which was followed by a cold and disagreeable winter with snow during the month of January 1804 followed with cold and disagreeable February and a dry summer.

The Religious excitement still continued followed with what was called the jerks (strong spasmodic excitement) dancing & falling down during sermons at N[ew] Providence & the churches generally. This now began to excite the fears of the most intelligent preachers and the study sober portion of Society, much disputation grew out of this state of things, and eventually laid the foundation for a new Set of fanatics to build up their various sects, which it does not come within my intention to detail. My business is with myself alone and with such events as I was myself individually connected, my sole object being to leave a few Beacon lights to my descendants, by which they may avoid my errors, and at the same time see the difficulties which I have had to encounter in my Journey through life.

The year 1804 was an extremely sickly year. Geo. McAfee Junr, the favorite son of my uncle James McAfee, after three or four weeks sickness departed this life on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March. He was one of nature's choicest sons, and the favorite of our whole family connection. If he had lived he could have obtained almost any post he had have desired. His loss was much deplored, and all the hopes of his father seemed to have been buried with him.

I was also employed in writing Historical notes on the First Settlement of Kentucky and obtained from my uncle James McAfee an account of my ancestors and family connections which has enabled me to write these sketches. I also examined some old Forts on Salt River about four miles above Harrodsburgh on the land of my aunt Guant, (then occupied by her son John) also on the land of Henry French about one mile above. There was a mound on Mr. Guant's land on the west side of Salt River about ten feet high on which the timber was of the same

size as in any other part of the Forest, out of which many human bones were taken and under the roots of a large Hickory tree, which had blown up, many pieces of crockery ware were found. I got one piece with the handle to it which I kept for many years. When I afterwards went to South America in 1833, I found similar crockery ware among the Indians of that country, which at least proves the same advance of the ruder arts in North America, and probably by natives from the same regions ion the Eastern continents.

In October I visited my father's old residence, and slept all night in the house which I had not done for seven year[s] before, and made arrangements with Mr. James Cardwell (the then occupant & my future Father-in-law) to move to the place next spring and board with him. I agreed with him to make some changes in the house. This was the 1<sup>st</sup> day of October, and for the first time I saw my future wife, not then twelve years old. I thought her a very pretty little girl, but had no farther thoughts about her as my whole prospects were in another direction. I still kept up our debating society, which was generally well attended & made considerable progress in public speaking. I also wrote many fugitive pieces and my Brother being in the "Palladium" office at Frankfort, I could occasionally get my pieces published, which greatly improved my style of writing. I also had my mind continually upon finally settling myself for life, accordingly on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October again visited Miss H., intending to bring the matter to a close, but about dark a negro boy taking a candle with him to the barn to catch some chickens for Breakfast next morning, set the straw on fire & the whole was in a flame before we knew it and it was with several adjoining stables & stacks of grain totally consumed before we could get any help. This was a flaming damper to all my hopes, and after retiring to bed, I sincerely wished I had been a thousand miles away, as I was certainly the innocent cause of all the ruin which fell in the family, I considered it a bad omen and of course could not sleep any. Next morning the family received me as kindly as possible but I soon discovered that I was considered an unfortunate visitor; I however seized the first opportunity to broach the object of my visit, and soon discovered that my hopes were all burnt up with the Barn. We parted on friendly terms & I started home

## The Life and Times of Robert B. McAfee, *continued*

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feeling like a sailor upon the wide ocean without chart or compass to steer. I was at the end of anticipations and did not know what to do. The unlucky event soon spread and I was jeered unmercifully by my friends & my enemies rejoiced over it. I took it all patiently and in less than ten days, in company with my cousin, Susan McAfee, paid a visit to Mr. Abraham Irvine (who had married her Sister Margaret) who lived in Washington county near where Lebanon now stands. He advised me to see Miss E. McElroy who lived near him. We went there next day and I was much pleased with her but it was not so easy as I had expected to rub Miss H out of my heart. She had a deeper hold than I expected. Of course, I was on a troubled ocean and felt the uncertainty of all our hopes in this world. I returned home and applied myself closely to my business as the best cure.

I visited Frankfort twice this fall in November & December to attend to my land suit & to see my brother who was sick. The Genl Assembly was in Session & I attended several days to see their proceedings. The Establishment of a Bank was much talked of, Mr. Buckner Thruston was elected to the Senate of U[nited] States on the 15<sup>th</sup> November, & at the Presidential Election for Electors a few days before, I voted for Mr. Jefferson's ticket what was the first time I exercised the Election Franchise. But at that time as I have stated before we had no division in Kentucky. Nearly all were democratic Republicans and the state held a high rank in the estimation of her sister states which I hope yet to live to see her restored to.

### 1805

In January Miss H. came over to see her sister within a mile of my Brother's. I did not call to see her for several days, but at last concluded to do so. I found her as uneasy as myself. She had been influenced to expect an offer from a relation of mine whose prospects appeared better than mine and I much incensed with some of her friends, who afterwards lived to see that they had committed an egregious blunder. We however restored matters to their former state with an understanding that matters should not be pressed until we could see the times more propitious. I was young without any established character except that I was viewed as being

attentive to my business, of sober and some promise as I was beginning to excite some attention, beside the uncertainty of my prospects, my land suit like an incubus round my neck, if I lost it my all was gone and I would have to live upon the public breath to support me. This I candidly explained to her, and we parted once more good friends.

I now made serious preparations to move to my present residence, my native land. On the 18<sup>th</sup> of February I arrived of age; I procured a bed from my sister Forsythe, a Bookcase and bedstead from John Armstrong Esqr, and other necessaries and during the last of this month moved my Books & papers. I also sold 103 acres of land on Hammond's creek to John Ray & T Bunton and got a good riding horse and two mares to Begin farming as I intended to cultivate it myself, and on the 2<sup>d</sup> day of March 1805, I finally moved home where I have lived to this day. I made new and solemn resolutions to pursue a correct course, and attend strictly to my business. I had a room upstairs and boarded with Mr. Jas Cardwell who was kind to me and put himself to some inconvenience to accommodate me. My Brother Saml as guardian for my Brother John and myself now proceeded to divide the home tract of land. The house and that part of the Farm East of the west bank of Salt River fell to my part. The west side of the River to my Brother John and 78 acres in the N.E. corner of the land on the East side. We completed the division and on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of March signed the agreement and executed releases on both sides. The black man Cornelius was also allotted to me, and I moved him home from Harrodsburgh and he set up a shoe makers shop in order to work at his trade.

I had now returned to the land of my Birth after being exiled for ten years and my fortunes seemed to have taken a settled course. I now had time for reflection, and to look back upon the kind dealings of Providence with me, who had conducted me through many difficulties to a place to which my heart has always been most strongly attached.

In April I was unanimously elected Capt of the company in which I resided and was commissioned soon after, which I also moved my black man & his wife from Harrodsburgh & commenced farming and worked myself in repairing my fences. I only cultivated Ten acres. Mr. James Cardwell rented the Balance of my farm. The spring was cold & wet and

## The Life and Times of Robert B. McAfee, *continued*

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of course we did not succeed very well as the dry weather in June and July cut our crops very short. I had read Doctor Franklin's life and had determined to follow his example in everything and keep out of debt, which was in the end a most fortunate thing for my future prospects.

Mr. Henry F Delany soon after came to board with me and continued his studies. This Circumstance with the many friends I had, as well as those who had business with me very much inconvenienced Mr. Cardwell's family, and if he had not been one of the best men in this world as well as his wife he would have soon been tired of me, but as it was we got along extremely well.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of June my sister Mrs. Adams called to see me, and noticed Mr. Cardwell's daughter Mary (who I afterwards married) & observed to me that she was my girl & would make me a fine wife. She was then only twelve years old. The remark struck me with great force at the time, which caused me to take more notice of her than I otherwise would, but I had no idea then that she was to be my wife, yet I was much pleased with her beauty, and took occasion to converse with her. I was astonished at her intelligence as well as the ease with which she conversed with me, which was with as much steadiness as if she had been twenty years of age & her language seemed to be far above her age, being not only correct but elegant. I soon viewed her as a being of superior order to most females I had met as she would reason & argue with me on many subjects I had supposed she had never thought of.

During this year I attended closely to my business, as well as reading with all the assiduity as I could command, which soon brought me into notice. I was engaged in several land suits and many criminal cases which brought me money enough to keep me easy. I still kept up my correspondence with Miss H whose friends were laboring to make another match for her. I was also involved with another young lady, whose affections had been placed on me deeply from which I could not extricate myself without wounding a heart for whom I had the highest respect, while Providence was leading me in a different way from all my calculations. I had employment for all my time in attending to my own affairs and the uncertainty which hung over my home kept me in a continual agony of mind. I attend the Franklin

Circuit Court regularly where I got some business & extended my acquaintance with the world.

### 1806

During this year I extended my practice to Springfield, Washington county, where I obtained a reasonable share of practice, an amusing occurrence took place during the first court I attended which I will relate. I was employed in a case between a Tailor and constable in relation to some disputed accounts and during the trial the court had great difficulty in keeping the parties silent. When the client of my opponent stepped out and soon returned with a handful of money (in silver) and laid it down on the bar before his lawyers when my client not to be out done in this way ran out & soon returned and when I rose to address the Jury he slapped down his handful of money on the bar before me, to the great amusement of the court, and Jury, but before I could lay my hands on it another gentleman of the Bar, Mr. Cosby, swept it off and put it in his pocket. My client looked daggers at him, and in an undertone said to him "It was not for you, and if you don't give it up I will whip you." The bystanders were convulsed with laughter & the court & Sheriff loudly commanded silence. In the meantime I went on and succeeded in the case. When the court adjourned, Mr. Cosby handed me the money, but I had some difficulty in preventing my client from making a personal attack on him.

I have forgotten to say that during the winter of 1805-6, Majr Saml McCoun lived at Mr. Cardwell's with me and read History and Geography, and we sat up every night until near one o'clock next morning. I employed myself in reading law, and History as I was anxious to master my profession. In my Journeys to Springfield, much of my road was through the woods and on my first trip old Mr. Noah Haydon, who lived at Haydon's lick S W of my house went across Chaplin with me and blazed my way with a Jack leg Pen knife. Our rout[e] lay across Chaplin, about a half a mile below Brewer's Mill, Then across the ridge to Trace creek and up that creek to the old Harrodsburgh Road, to a Mr. Wilkinson mill below the Forks of Glenn's (?) creek. I usually staid all night at Mr. John McKittrick's, who owned part of the land upon with Macksville was afterwards built, and then crossing the Beach

## The Life and Times of Robert B. McAfee, *continued*

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Fork at the mouth of Pleasant Run I often rode over these Hills solitary and alone on Sunday evenings in order to be in Springfield early on Monday to court.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 1806, Mr. Cardwell moved across Salt River on my Brother John's land, leaving me alone, with a small nephew of mine (Ben Nield), I had hired a black woman & a negro boy, I commenced housekeeping as a Batchelor or I might rather say "*in forma pauperas*" as it was in a fact a poor way of living. But I had determined to get a wife as soon as I could, notwithstanding I had been somewhat baffled in my prospects this far, yet I wished to be ready when ever I could find a help mate of the right kind – during this Spring in the month of April I visited Miss E. McElroy having previously seen her and being strongly solicited to do so by my friend & relation Mr. A. Irvin and on a second visit we arranged the preliminaries rather to my surprise & next day we attended the Hardin's creek (now Lebanon Presbyterian church) where the Revd Doctr Cleland then preached. I thought everything was going on smoothly, but it seems that a former suitor who had been absent for some time had on that day returned and in the evening I received a note from Miss E. M. saying that she feared we had been too precipitate and asking for further time for consideration. I was soon apprized of the real cause, my Pride was somewhat affected but a few moments reflection reconciled me to submission as upon examining my own heart I was soon Satisfied that my affection was not as strong or as sincere as I

had hoped or expected, and I returned home entirely satisfied that she was right and had acted candidly toward me. But in a few weeks her expectations were blasted as the young man was taken sick and died. The field was again open before me and I was again urged by my Friend, Mr. A Irvin, to return no doubt with her consent. But my pride and romantic notions of love forbid my ever seriously thinking of it, and in addition my present wife and Miss H. now began to divide my attention and I determined to take my time.

The summer of 1806 was extremely dry in the months of June and July, scarcely a shower of rain until the 28<sup>th</sup> of July, which saved the corn from total destruction. I had a tolerable crop which greatly discouraged me as a farmer. In June there was nearly a total Eclipse of the sun, and dust in the public road was several inches deep, the corn withered in the sun & much of the vegetation perished & many religious congregations held fast days.

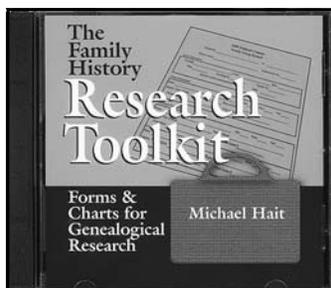
This summer was famous for the excitement of Burr's supposed conspiracy to dismember the union. He had been arrested, and was to have his Trial in Frankfort, and in December I attended the courts in that place. The General court in which my land suit was then pending, Court of Appeals, the Federal court & Legislature being then in Session attracted a great crowd to Frankfort, especially on account of the Trial of Col Burr.

The End.

# BOOK NOTES

*Books on Kentucky genealogy and history contributed to the KHS library by authors, publishers, and compilers*

*The Family History Research Toolkit: Forms & Charts for Genealogical Research.* By Michael Hait. (2008. CD-ROM. \$19.99. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 260, Baltimore, MD 21211-1953 or from the Internet at [www.genealogical.com](http://www.genealogical.com))



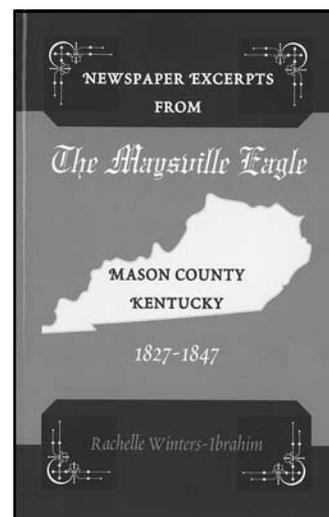
This handy CD-ROM contains a variety of helpful charts and forms to assist in your genealogy and family history research. There are a total of twenty-two different PDF files that will help in documenting specific census information for 1850 through 1930 and forms that will help the genealogical researcher analyze census information from 1800 through 1840. The CD also contains forms that will help document research information gathered from books, the World Wide Web, and microfilm document sources. All of the documents on the CD-ROM can be printed off and reproduced for multiple uses.

*Abstracts of the Testamentary Proceedings of the Prerogative Court of Maryland.* Volume XV: 1719-1721. Libers: 24, 25 (pp. 1-87). By V. L. Skinner, Jr. (2008. Pp. 286. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc.)

The Prerogative Court was the single point for probate in provincial Maryland. This volume is fully indexed and covers the abstracts for the period indicated: 1719-1921.

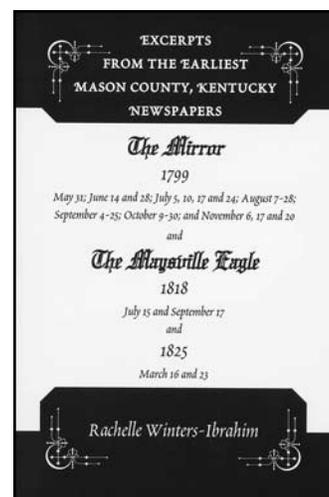
*Newspaper Excerpts from The Maysville Eagle. Mason County, Kentucky: 1827-1847.* By Rachelle Winters-Ibrahim. (2007. Pp. 124. Indexed. \$20.50. Available from Heritage Press, 100 Railroad Avenue, Suite 104, Westminster, MD 21157 or Customer Service 1-800-876-6103)

*The Maysville Eagle* was edited by Lewis Collins, journalist and historian, who later published the popular *Historical Sketches of Kentucky* (1847). This volume contains abstracted articles from the antebellum period which contain names, dates, and events throughout Kentucky as well as the Mason County and Maysville area. The book is fully indexed for names found in the items.



*Excerpts from the Earliest Mason County, Kentucky Newspapers: The Mirror (1799) and The Maysville Eagle (1818 and 1825).* By Rachelle Winters-Ibrahim. (2006. Pp. 119. \$20.00. Available from Heritage Press, 100 Railroad Avenue, Suite 104, Westminster, MD 21157 or Customer Service 1-800-876-6103)

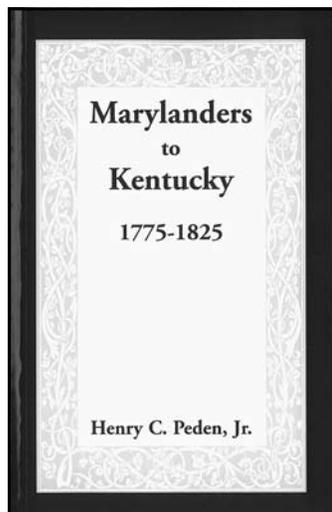
This volume of newspaper abstracts for *The Mirror* and *The Maysville Eagle* from 1799, 1818, and 1825 contains various newspaper abstracts covering political topics, lifestyle, and other stories that were important for that period. The names of people mentioned in the items are fully indexed.



## Book Notes, *continued*

*Marylanders to Kentucky, 1775-1825.* By Henry C. Peden, Jr. (1991, reprint 2007. Pp. 202. \$22.00. Heritage Books, Inc., 65 East Main Street, Westminster, MD 21157-5026.)

This book is a useful resource for genealogy research about Marylanders who moved to Kentucky in the fifty years after 1775. The sources used to produce this book included Revolutionary War pension abstracts, land, marriage, and cemetery records, newspaper advertisements, and genealogical journals. The research value of the book is enhanced with a comprehensive index of every name mentioned.



*Greenup County, Kentucky Marriages: The First 100 Years, 1803-1903. Volume 2: L-Z.* By Patricia Porter Phillips. (2007. Pp. 706. \$50.00. Order from: Heritage Books, Inc., 65 East Main Street, Westminster, MD 21157-5026)

Volume II of a two-part reference documenting marriages in Greenup County, Kentucky, from 1803 to 1903. This resource provides additional information on the bride and groom (age, status, birthplace, father, and mother, if available), location of the wedding, name of minister conducting the wedding, name of person giving consent, and the names of witnesses. All names are indexed at the end of the book.

*The Big Sandy Valley: A History of the People and Country from the Earliest Settlement to the Present Time.* By William Ely. (1887, reprint 2007. Pp. 507. \$37.50. Order from: Heritage Books, Inc., 65 East Main Street, Westminster, MD 21157-5026.)

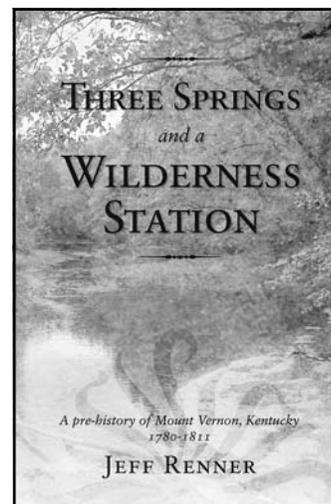
William Ely's *The Big Sandy Valley* is a classic history of that region of eastern Kentucky from "the earliest settlement to the present time." The book was originally printed in 1887, so this volume covered roughly a century of the earliest history of the eastern part of the state. *The Big Sandy Valley* contains a lot of family history, and this reprint edition is augmented with a comprehensive index of all the personal names mentioned.

*Early Virginia Families Along the James River: Their Deep Roots and Tangled Branches. Vol. I – Henrico County-Goochland County, Virginia. Vol. II – Charles City County-Prince George County, Virginia. Vol. III – James City County – Surry County, Virginia.* (1974. Reprint 2007. Pp. I – 138, \$21.50; II – 199, \$24.95; III – 159, \$22.50. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 260, Baltimore, MD 21211-1953 or from the Internet at [www.genealogical.com](http://www.genealogical.com))

This three-volume set provides an excellent resource for understanding the early history of settlement in the counties along the James River in Virginia. Each book is broken into a historical section, "Backward Glances," with most of the book containing abstracts of land patents, followed by a comprehensive index to the land patents by the name of the landholder.

*Three Springs and a Wilderness Station: A pre-history of Mount Vernon, Kentucky, 1780-1811.* By Jeff Renner. (Xenolith Press, 2008. Pp. 103. Order from [www.jeffrenner.net/3springs](http://www.jeffrenner.net/3springs), \$11.95, or by email at [jeff@jeffrenner.net](mailto:jeff@jeffrenner.net))

Author Jeff Renner has written an excellent monograph on the early history of Rockcastle County, Kentucky, and the pioneer station



## Book Notes, *continued*

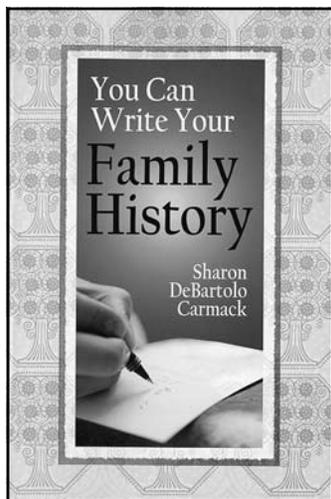
established by Stephen Langford that was the predecessor for present-day Mount Vernon. The history is well documented and describes the early land interests as well as the life experiences of those who settled the area in the early days of Kentucky.

*Twelve Virginia Counties: Where the Western Migration Began.* By John H. Gwathmey. (1937. Reprinted 2007. Pp. 469. \$39.95. Indexed. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 260, Baltimore, MD 21211-1953 or from the Internet at [www.genealogical.com](http://www.genealogical.com)).

*Twelve Virginia Counties* covers the early history of Albemarle, Augusta, Caroline, Essex, Gloucester, Hanover, King William, King and Queen, Louisa, New Kent, and Orange counties in Virginia. Not only is each county discussed and various information provided describing its settlement and then migrations further west, but there are additional chapters which cover methods of westward transportation, Revolutionary War officers, and Virginia's chief executives from 1609 through 1934.

*You Can Write Your Family History.* Fourth Edition. By Sharon DeBartolo Carmack. (2003, reprint 2008. Pp. 245. \$19.95. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 260, Baltimore, MD 21211-1953 or from the Internet at [www.genealogical.com](http://www.genealogical.com)).

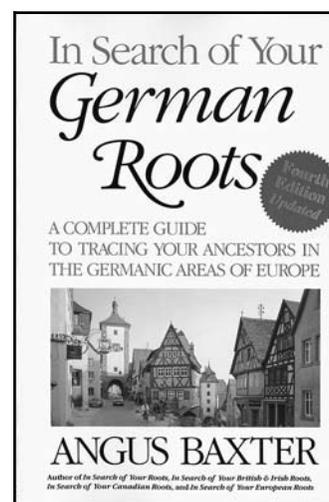
Sharon DeBartolo Carmack's popular how-to book on writing your own family history has been published in its fourth edition. This helpful guide takes the family historian from the initial stage of deciding to do more with your genealogy research than just fill out a family tree through all of the research, organization, and writing



steps that can result in an family history that places your ancestors in the social history and context in which they lived and worked. The book is filled with numerous practical examples and explanations for the step-by-step process of producing your family history.

*In Search of Your German Roots.* Fourth edition. By Angus Baxter. (1987, reprint 2008. Pp. 122. \$16.95. Genealogical Publishing Co. Inc., 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 260, Baltimore, MD 21211-1953 or from the Internet at [www.genealogical.com](http://www.genealogical.com)).

If you have ancestral roots in Germany, Angus Baxter's book is a concise and helpful tool to get your family history research oriented to pursue genealogy information inside Germany. The book begins with a brief history of the Germans and Germany, and then provides several chapters that will guide the researcher to the primary archives and sources of information on German ancestors, both in Germany and in the United States.



### Ordering Information for Materials from Genealogical Publishing Co.

Change in Fees for Postage and Handling  
Please note that, due to increases in postal rates, our fees for shipping and handling have also changed as of June 1, 2008. U.S. rates will be \$5.00 for the first book (or volume of a set) and \$2.50 for each additional book (or each additional volume of a set). Rates for UPS Ground Service will be \$7.00 for the first book and \$2.50 for each additional book. Any orders totally \$10.00 or less will be charged \$6.00. Please contact the publisher for international shipping rates.

# National and International Historical and Genealogical Journals

*(Active KHS Library Periodical Subscriptions)*

Compiled by Sally Bown, periodicals manager  
Martin F. Schmidt Research Library, Kentucky Historical Society  
Frankfort, Kentucky

These historical and genealogical journals are all available for research at the KHS Research Library.

## State Historical and Genealogical Journals

### Alabama

Northeast Alabama Genealogical Society, Inc.  
*Northeast Alabama Settlers*

### Arkansas

Arkansas Historical Association  
University of Arkansas  
Fayetteville  
*Arkansas Historical Quarterly*  
*Arkansas Historical Association Newsletter*

Melting Pot Genealogical Society  
*The Melting Pot*

### California

Genealogical Society of Riverside  
*Lifeline*

### Colorado

Boulder Genealogical Society  
*Boulder Genealogical Society Quarterly*  
*Boulder Genealogical Society Newsletter*

### Connecticut

Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc.  
*The Connecticut Nutmegger*

### Florida

Pinellas Genealogy Society  
*The Pinellas Genealogist*

### Georgia

Southwest Georgia Genealogical Society, Inc.  
*Genealogical Gazette*

### Illinois

Decatur Genealogical Society  
*Central Illinois Genealogical Quarterly*  
*Central Illinois News*

The Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois  
*Saga of Southern Illinois*

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency  
Springfield  
*Journal of Illinois History*

Illinois State Historical Society  
Springfield  
*Illinois Heritage*

Kishwaukee Genealogists (Boone Co., Ill.)  
*Kishwaukee Genealogists Newsletter*

Johnson County Genealogical and Historical Society  
*Johnson County Heritage Journal* (published monthly)

Knox County Genealogical Society  
*Knox County (Ill.) Genealogical Society Quarterly*

Moultrie County Historical & Genealogical Society  
*Moultrie County Heritage*

Richland County Genealogical and Historical Society  
*Foot Prints: Past and Present*

## National and International Journals, *continued*

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Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society  
*Rock Island County Illinois Genealogical Society Quarterly*

Sangamon County Genealogical Society  
*Circuit Rider*

South Suburban Genealogical & Historical Society  
(South Cook & East Will counties)  
*Where the Trails Cross*

### Indiana

Indiana Historical Society  
Indianapolis  
*The Hoosier Genealogist: Connections*

Scott County (Ind.) Genealogical Society  
Scott County Historical Society  
*Scott County Genealogical Society, Inc. Newsletter*

South Bend Genealogical Society  
Livingston County  
*South Bend Area Genealogical Society Quarterly Newsletter*

Southern Indiana Genealogical Society  
*Southern Indiana Genealogical Society Quarterly*

### Iowa

Iowa Genealogical Society  
Des Moines  
*Iowa Genealogical Society Newsletter*

State Historical Society of Iowa  
Iowa City  
*Annals of Iowa*  
*Iowa Heritage Illustrated*

### Kansas

Kansas State Historical Society  
Topeka  
*Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains*  
*Kansas Heritage*  
*Reflections* (newsletter)

Montgomery County Genealogical Society  
*The Descender*

The Wichita Genealogical Society  
*The Ark Valley Crossroads*

### Kentucky

The Appalachian Center of Berea College  
*Appalachian Heritage*

The Kentucky Historical Society  
Frankfort  
*The Register*  
*Kentucky Ancestors*

Kentucky Genealogical Society  
*Bluegrass Roots*  
*Kentucky Genealogical Society Newsletter*

KYOWVA Genealogical Society  
*KYOWVA (KY, OH, West Virginia)*

### Louisiana

Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Inc.  
*The Genie*

Louisiana Historical Association  
University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
*Louisiana History*  
*Louisiana History Newsletter*

Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Society, Inc.  
*Kinfolks*

Terrebonne Genealogical Society  
*Terrebonne Life Lines*  
*Terrebonne Genealogical Society Newsletter*

### Maryland

Maryland Historical Society  
Baltimore  
*Maryland Historical Magazine*  
*MDHS News*

### Michigan

Berrien County Genealogical Society  
*The Pastfinder*

### Minnesota

Minnesota Historical Society  
St. Paul

## National and International Journals, *continued*

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*Minnesota History Interpreter*  
*Minnesota Preservation Planner*

Minnesota Genealogical Society  
St. Paul  
*MN Families*  
*Minnesota Genealogist*

### **Missouri**

Genealogical Society of Central Missouri  
Columbia  
*GSCM Reporter*

Missouri Historical Society  
St. Louis  
*Gateway*

Ozarks Genealogical Society  
*Ozar'kin*

Platte County Historical Society  
*Bulletin: Platte County, Missouri Historical and Genealogical Society*

St. Louis Genealogical Society  
*St. Louis Genealogical Society Quarterly*  
*News 'n Notes*

The State Historical Society of Missouri  
Columbia  
*Missouri Historical Review* (journal)  
*Missouri Times* (newsletter)

### **Montana**

Great Falls Genealogy Society  
*Treasure State Lines*

### **New Mexico**

New Mexico Genealogical Society  
*New Mexico Genealogist*

University of New Mexico  
*New Mexico Historical Review*

### **New York**

New York Genealogical and Biographical Society  
*The New York Researcher*

### **North Carolina**

The Forsyth County Genealogical Society  
*Forsyth County Genealogical Society Journal*

Genealogical Society of Rockingham and Stokes Counties  
*Journal of the Genealogical Society of Rockingham & Stokes Counties, North Carolina*

Guilford County Genealogical Society  
*The Guilford Genealogist*

North Carolina Genealogical Society  
*North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*

Old Buncombe County Genealogical Society, Inc.  
*A Lot of Bunkum*

Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society  
*Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society Quarterly*

Pitt County Family Researchers, Inc.  
*Pitt County Genealogical Quarterly*

### **Ohio**

Cincinnati Museum Center & Filson Historical Society (publishers)  
*Ohio Valley History*

Ohio Genealogical Society  
*Ohio Civil War Genealogy Journal*

Ohio Historical Society  
Columbus, OH  
*Echoes: Membership Newsletter of the Ohio Historical Society*

### **Oklahoma**

Oklahoma Genealogical Society  
*Oklahoma Genealogical Society Quarterly*

Oklahoma Historical Society  
Oklahoma City  
*Chronicles of Oklahoma, The Mistletoe Leaves*

Tulsa Genealogical Society  
*Tulsa Annals*

## National and International Journals, *continued*

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*Tulsa Genealogical Society Newsletter*

### **Oregon**

Genealogical Forum of Oregon

*Bulletin of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon*

*The Forum Insider*

### **Pennsylvania**

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania

Philadelphia

*Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*

Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania

*Western Pennsylvania History*

### **South Dakota**

Bismark Mandan Historical and Genealogical Society

*The Dakota Homestead*

Rapid City Society for Genealogical Research, Inc.

*The Descender*

### **Tennessee**

Benton County

*Benton County Genealogical Society Quarterly*

East Tennessee Historical Society

Knoxville

*Tennessee Ancestors*

Fentress County

*Fentress County Historical Society Newsletter*

Greene County Genealogical Society

*Greene County Pioneer*

Maury County Historical Society

*Historic Maury*

Overton County Historical Society

*Overton County Historical and Genealogical Society  
Newsletter*

The Pellissippi Genealogical & Historical Society

*The Pellissippian*

Sullivan County Genealogical Society

*Sullivan County Genealogical Society Journal*

The Tennessee Genealogical Society

*Tennessee Genealogical Magazine*

Tennessee Historical Society

Nashville

*Tennessee Historical Quarterly*

Tennessee Valley Genealogical Society

*Valley Leaves*

Union County Historical Society, Inc.

*Yesteryears*

Watauga Association of Genealogists

*Bulletin: Watauga Association of Genealogists (WAG)*

### **Texas**

Central Texas Genealogical Society, Inc.

*Heart of Texas Records*

Fort Worth Genealogical Society

*Footprints Quarterly Journal*

### **Vermont**

Vermont Historical Society

Montpelier

*Vermont History*

### **Virginia**

Prince William County Genealogical Society

*Kindred Spirits*

Southwestern Virginia Genealogical Society

*Virginia Appalachian Notes*

Tidewater Genealogical Society (Hampton County)

*Virginia Tidewater Genealogy*

Virginia Genealogical Society

*Magazine of Virginia Genealogy*

Virginia Historical Society

Richmond, VA

*Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*

*History Notes*

Washington County

*Bulletin: Historical Society of Washington County, Virginia*

## National and International Journals, *continued*

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Wise County Historical Society  
*Appalachian Quarterly*

### Washington

Tacoma-Pierce Genealogical Society  
The *Researcher*

### Wisconsin

Wenatchee Area Genealogical Society  
*Appleland Bulletin*

### Regional Historical/Genealogical Journals

Midwest Region  
The Midwest Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc  
(Kansas)  
*Midwest Historical and Genealogical Register*

NARA (National Archives and Records Administration)  
*Prologue*

National Genealogical Society

*National Genealogical Society Quarterly*  
*NGS News Magazine*

New England  
New England Historic Genealogical Society  
Boston  
*New England Ancestors*

Southwest Region  
*Journal of the Southwest*  
*Southwestern Historical Quarterly*

### International Historical/Genealogical Journals

Scotland  
Scottish Genealogy Society  
*The Scottish Genealogist: Quarterly Journal of the Scottish Genealogy Society*

*Continued on page 111*

# QUERIES

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*Questions about Kentucky families submitted by Society members*

### Craig

**Rogers, Johnson, Acuff:** Need the correct date of death of Nancy [Johnson] who married **William Rogers**, ca. 1764 in Orange Co., Va.; lived in Scott Co., Ky., sister of Robert and Cave **Johnson**, etc., mother of William **Rogers Jr.** (Boone Co., Ky.) and Joseph **Rogers**, who married 1) Mary **Acuff**, and 2) Martha Wilson. Mother-in-law of Jacob Stucker and William Kemper of Montgomery Co.

Marilyn [Hill] Craig  
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McMinnville, OR 97128-2443  
503-472-6292  
mjrcraig@onlinemac.com

### Jeffries

Seeking location of "lost" **Jeffries** family graveyard(s). The family members were: (spouses) William M. (1804-1867) and Catherine "Kittie" A. (Williams) Jeffries (1816-1893); (Spouses) Shel-

ton B. Jeffries (1830-1866/68); (Children) Mary B. (1851-1865), Charlie T. (1856-1878), Mattie L. (1861-1882), and Kattie W. (1872-1880). (Children of Anderson and Louisa (Perry) Jeffries): Watty (1868-1870) and Ida E. (1870-1872). Source: *Cemeteries in and Near Hardin Co., Ky.*, page 69, Vol. VI, by Mrs. E. Dykes and Mrs. D. Pates (196?) [No location given]

Two additional daughters of (above) Shelton and Sarah, Josie (c. 1866-1887) and Grace (ca. 1863-1889), lack location of gravesite. Source: *The Larue Co. Herald*. Josie's residence was Red Mills vicinity (Hardin Co., Ky.); Gracie's was that of Eagle Mills (Larue Co., Ky.). Grace was supposedly buried in the family burial ground. Catherine Jeffries (above) was also a Red Mills resident. Other family members have inscribed stones at Big Spring Church Cemetery, near Eagle Mills, Larue Co., Ky

Steven Jeffries, 4800 Erie St.,  
College Park, MD 20740.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## ***Kentucky Land Records*** **available on CD-ROM**

Kandie Adkinson, from the Kentucky Secretary of State's Land Office, spoke at the 10 May 2008 KHS/KGS Family-History Workshop on Kentucky land records. She mentioned some of the books that are very useful in researching Kentucky land records. Unfortunately, most of the books are presently out of print in hardcover. The good news is that Kentucky genealogy researchers can obtain five of those land record resources from Genealogical.com on a CD-ROM entitled, "Kentucky Land Records: 1774-1924."

The five land records books contained on this CD-ROM are:

*The Kentucky Land Grants: A Systematic Index to All of the Land Grants Recorded in the State Land Office at Frankfort, Kentucky, 1782-1924*, by Willard R. Jillson

*Old Kentucky Entries and Deeds: A Complete Index to All of the Earliest Land Entries, Military Warrants, Deeds and Wills of . . . Kentucky*, by Willard R. Jillson

*Early Kentucky Landholders, 1787-1811*, by James F. Sutherland

*A Calendar of the Warrants for Land In Kentucky, Granted for Service in the French and Indian War*, by Philip F. Taylor

Check the Genealogical Publishing Company for further details about each volume on the CD.

*Kentucky Land Records: 1774-1924* is available online from genealogical.com or by mail at: Genealogical Publishing Company

3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 260  
Baltimore, Maryland 21211

Phone: To place an order or for problems with your order, 1-800-296-6687

Fax: 1-410-752-8492 or 1-800-599-9561

Orders: sales@genealogical.com

General Info: info@genealogical.com

*Kentucky Land Warrants for the French, Indian, & Revolutionary Wars* is still available in a reprint edition. It may be obtained from the Southern Historical Press, Inc., P.O. Box 1267, 375 West Broad Street, Greenville, SC 29602-1267 for \$32.50. Telephone: 864-233-2346.

## **Kentucky Genealogical Society and Kentucky Historical Society Family-History Workshops 2008**

All workshops at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History, Frankfort.

August 2

9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Kentucky Genealogical Society Annual Seminar

"War of 1812—Genealogy Resources,"

Speakers: Tom Kanon and Brandon Slone

August 9

10:30 a.m. "Smith vs. Jones, et al., A Closer Look at Court Records," J. Mark Lowe

12:30 p.m. "Tic Tac Toe with Historic Legal Basics, Legal Terminology," J. Mark Lowe

September 13

10:30 a.m. "Early Kentucky Forts and Stations," Don Rightmyer, KHS

12:30 p.m. "Kentucky Irish Pioneers," Jim Kastner

October 11

(rescheduled from March due to adverse weather)

10:30 a.m. "Online Databases for Genealogy Research," Ivan Baugh, Louisville

12:30 p.m. "LDS Records for Genealogy Research," Valerie Edgeworth, KDLA

November 8

10:30 a.m. "Researching African American Business Records," Ann Butler

12:30 p.m. "Using Family Folklore to Bring Genealogy to Life,"

## Announcements, *continued*

alogy to Life,” Bob Gates, KHS

December 13

10:30 a.m. “Genealogy Basics,” Deborah Lord Campisano

12:30 p.m. “Genealogy Basics (cont.),” Deborah Lord Campisano

Lunch is available at 11:30 a.m. at each meeting for all who register by noon on the Friday preceding the workshop. Cost for lunch is \$6.00 (payable at the door).

For more information about the Kentucky Genealogical Society and its programs, go to [www.kygs.org](http://www.kygs.org)

### Kentucky Genealogical Society’s 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Seminar, August 2

Theme: “Researching Your War of 1812 Ancestors: History and Genealogy” for the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. For further information, contact Doyle Mills 502-330-6156; [dmills@fewpb.net](mailto:dmills@fewpb.net); 1212 Hopi Trail, Frankfort, KY 40601-1696.

### Additions to the KHS Research Library Collection

The Martin F. Schmidt Research Library at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History added over 630 books to its “Kentucky County Section” in the General Stacks since 31 May 2007. These books have been obtained either through donations or purchase to add as many local history and genealogical research books as possible for use by KHS library customers.

The library also received twelve reels of microfilm containing the Kentucky death certificates for the year 1957. This latest shipment arrived in late June.

Thanks to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, several rolls of newspaper microfilm were also received that contain the following: *Lexington Observer and Reporter* (1850-1883); *Kentucky Statesman* (Lexington – 1860); and *Louisville Weekly Journal* (1860-1865).

If you have not been to the KHS research library

in the last year, you owe it to yourself and your Kentucky genealogical research interests to visit again and see the new additions. All of the books in the library’s general stacks are catalogued and can be located on the Kentucky Historical Society’s Web site: <http://history.ky.gov>

### Lincoln-Davis Symposium Set for September 2008

Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis: Contrasts, Commonalities, & Conversations.

Date: September 20, 2008

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: New Auditorium, Elkton, Ky.

(Check [www.toddcounty.ky.gov](http://www.toddcounty.ky.gov) after mid-July to verify date and to get additional information. To be added to mailing list, call 270-265-9966, ext. 5)

### Cumberland Gap Site of October 2008 Lincoln Program

Cumberland Gap National Historic Park will be the site of “Pioneer Roots of Our Nation’s Destiny: The Lincoln Family Moves West,” October 24-26.

Abraham Lincoln inherited the pioneer spirit from his grandfather. Did you? The Cumberland Gap National Historic Park is highlighting “The Pioneer Spirit” with a three-day event in October focusing on the heritage and family history of those whose ancestors came through the Cumberland Gap route into Kentucky.

For information, call 606-248-2817, check their website ([www.nps.gov/cuga](http://www.nps.gov/cuga)), or email [Pamela\\_eddy@nps.gov](mailto:Pamela_eddy@nps.gov)

The Pioneer Spirit

He inherited it from his grandfather...Did you?

Millions of Americans carry in their blood a pioneer spirit passed down from ancestors who bravely migrated west through the Cumberland Gap in the 18th century.

Lincoln and Boone, we remember.

Others are long since forgotten...Women who turned a wilderness into a homeland, African-Americans who helped tame the howling frontier, doctors who mended broken bodies, missionaries who saved souls, tombstone carvers whose rocky memorials remind us of forgotten forebears.

Your forgotten forebears.

"Pioneer Roots of Our Nation's Destiny: The Lincoln Family Moves West"

October 24th, 25th and 26th, 2008

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park  
Middlesboro, Kentucky

# Kentucky Families in Congressional Pension Claims: The Cases of Sarah P. Cully and Sarah Maynard

By John P. Deeben

Most people associate the business of Congress with legislative matters of national importance, but records about the lives and activities of individual citizens also populate the voluminous files of the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives. Since the formation of the Federal government in 1789, Americans under the auspices of the First Amendment regularly petitioned Congress regarding private and public matters, using the national legislature as a court of last resort to obtain justice or recompense for alleged grievances after exhausting all other legal and administrative options.<sup>1</sup> The resulting petitions and accompanying paperwork of these private claims reflect not only Federal policies, but how those policies affected people. In the process, they often contained pertinent family information.

Private claims covered the gamut of personal issues and topics, with requests for military pensions comprising the most common type. Most citizens typically submitted such claims to Congress because they failed to obtain benefits through the regular application process to the Bureau of Pensions. Rejected applications usually failed to document a veteran's service record or prove that disabilities stemmed directly from active duty. Since widows and dependents in particular needed to provide detailed evidence of their relationship to a deceased soldier, records documenting those relationships are prevalent.<sup>2</sup>

Sarah P. Cully of Big Springs in Hardin County, Kentucky, probably led a simple, unassuming life in the relatively wild environs of early nineteenth-century Kentucky. In 1826, approaching middle age, she married an older man named Thomas Cully, a veteran of the Revolutionary War. Cully was already an invalid by the time of their marriage, his health

allegedly damaged from the rigors of military life. "[E]xposure during the war was the cause of his affliction," Sarah later reported, "And more than half the time during our wedded life he was confined to his bed by rheumatic pains and other complicated diseases." Thomas eventually died around 1846, bedridden, paralyzed, and unable to speak.<sup>3</sup>

Prior to his death, Thomas often voiced a desire to apply for a military pension, a benefit he felt himself entitled to for his Revolutionary War service. The debilitating effects of his ill-health, however, prevented Thomas from applying. As Sarah wrote, Thomas "often talk[ed] of applying for his pension but he was a man that lacked energy to put through his resolve and would let his best interests pass. And I am satisfied this condition existed from his bad health."<sup>4</sup> Following Thomas's death, Sarah relied heavily upon the financial charity of neighbors and a widowed niece named Elizabeth Wisehart. After almost thirty years of such an existence, she decided to pursue her husband's claim for a pension.

On 14 September 1872, Sarah drafted a petition to U.S. Congressman William B. Read of Kentucky that detailed her entitlement to compensation. Her application provided useful information about herself as well as her husband's military service. Acknowledging that she was "know [*sic*] in my Eighty Sixth year [*sic*] of my age," Sarah identified her birthdate as 12 September 1787. She also declared that her maiden name was George, and that she had married Thomas Cully on 15 February 1826, in Hardin County, Kentucky. "I married him in his old age," Sarah related, "and lived with him some twenty years till his death." To verify their marriage, Sarah submitted an official copy of their marriage license and certificate, both obtained from the Hardin

## Kentucky Families in Congressional Pension Claims, *continued*

County courthouse.<sup>5</sup>

Sarah declared that Thomas had enlisted as a volunteer in the Revolution from the state of New York, had served under Gen. James Clinton as an orderly sergeant, and fought at the battles of Brandywine and Saratoga. (A supporting statement submitted by family acquaintance Richard Cox of Hardin County verified these details.) Relating an interesting anecdote about Thomas's military experience, Sarah stated that she had "a pair of pinchers in my possession he said was given to him to repair Shoes and Boots with when off of duty during the war." Sarah could not produce documentation of Thomas's service, but asserted that she had seen his discharge papers, which Thomas kept "carefully in a tin box for many years and he took delight in showing them to his friends when talking of his battles." Those papers were lost at some point when "a weak minded boy about the house got holt of them and destroyed them in playing soldier as he called it."<sup>6</sup>

Through no fault of her own, Sarah Cully ultimately failed to obtain her pension. On 13 January 1873, Congressman Read introduced private bill H.R. 3426 on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, which authorized the Secretary of the Interior to place Sarah Cully's name on the pension rolls, with compensation to date retroactively to 1 January 1870. After two readings on the floor, the House referred the bill to the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions and War of 1812. Sarah's petition and other documents accompanied the bill. While the paperwork sat in committee, however, Sarah died on 25 November 1873. Read learned of Sarah's death on 4 December from Leonard Duvall, justice of the peace of Meade County, who sent along a copy of her will in the hope that Read might still fulfill Sarah's last wish to "get her pension and pass it into the hands of her nease [*sic*] Mrs. Elizabeth Wisheart, who has taken care of her for thirty years."<sup>7</sup>

Read dutifully resubmitted the Cully claim on 26 January 1874. The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, however, declined to approve the pension, citing a reluctance to grant compensation "ad infinitum" to relatives and heirs of a deceased claimant.<sup>8</sup> Despite the negative results, Sarah Cully left behind a useful record of herself and of her husband's Revolutionary War service.

In the aftermath of the Civil War, Sarah Maynard

of Pike County, Kentucky, found herself in a financial dilemma. Her husband, Thomas Maynard, had died on 2 October 1864, while serving as a civilian in the U.S. military. Several months before his death, Thomas had been recruited by Col. George W. Gallup of the 14th Kentucky Volunteer Infantry as a "secret service man" to watch and report the movements of roving Confederate guerrillas in eastern Kentucky. Gallup also authorized Maynard to raise a company of men for the 39th Kentucky Mounted Infantry. While recruiting volunteers along the West Virginia border, Maynard fell into Confederate hands near Peach Orchard, Kentucky. The rebels carried him across the border to Wayne County, West Virginia, where they promptly executed him. When Sarah Maynard traveled to Wayne County to retrieve her husband's body, she discovered him "shot through the breast apparently with a musket ball."<sup>9</sup>

With the loss of her husband, Sarah suddenly found herself bereft of financial support. After the war, she applied for a widow's military pension on 10 January 1867. After considering the application for some time, the Pension Bureau rejected Sarah's claim on 19 September 1871. The grounds for rejection cited the apparent lack of proof that Thomas Maynard had ever served in the U.S. military or that he died while in the line of duty. A statement from Frank Wolford, Adjutant General of Kentucky, bluntly asserted: "There is no evidence on file in this office of the enrollment, muster, service, duty, and cause of death of Thomas Maynard, who is alleged to have been a Captain recruiting in 1864 for the State of Kentucky."<sup>10</sup> A report from the Adjutant General's Office in Washington, D.C. likewise failed to locate Thomas Maynard among the list of known recruiting officers in Kentucky.

Undaunted, Sarah immediately turned to the U.S. Congress for help. On 29 January 1872, she submitted a petition to the House of Representatives that outlined her needy circumstances as well as her futile attempt to obtain a pension. To underscore that she "was left very poor and had a large family to support," Sarah provided a complete list of her eight children, along with their birthdates. Arranged from eldest to youngest, the list included:

Richard K., born 15 May 1848

Elizabeth, born 19 October 1849

## Kentucky Families in Congressional Pension Claims, *continued*

Vicey, born 27 July 1851  
Nancy J., born 17 June 1853  
Caroline, born 5 February 1855  
Moses, born 23 December 1856  
Jacob, born 1 May 1859  
Amey, born 4 May 1861<sup>11</sup>

That evidence, together with testimony from Colonel Gallup asserting Maynard's employment as a secret scout and recruiting agent, swayed the opinion of the Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom Sarah's petition had been referred. On 24 April 1872, the committee recommended passage of private bill H.R. 2550 to grant Maynard a pension. The Senate, unfortunately, sided with the opinion of the Pension Office and rejected the bill on 6 February 1873.<sup>12</sup> Even though her immediate objective failed, Sarah Maynard in her efforts to obtain compensation left a valuable personal account of her family in the public records of the nation.

The private claims records of Congress comprise part of the holdings of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). They are located in Record Group 46, Records of the U.S. Senate, and Record Group 233, Records of the U.S. House of Representatives. Both record groups are in the custody of the Center for Legislative Archives (NWL) at the National Archives building in Washington, D.C.

As a component of the Records of Legislative Proceedings for each house, private claims follow several different arrangement schemes according to specific periods. Claims for each Congress from 1789 to 1865 are filed among the papers and reports of each claims committee as well as in a separate series of petitions and memorials that Congress referred directly to the committees. House private claims from 1865 to 1903 are separated into an artificial series called the Accompanying Papers File, although some additional claims still appear among the petitions and memorials. The Senate maintained a similar series from 1887 to 1901, called the Supporting Papers File. After 1903, all private claims fall into a more systematic filing scheme of bill files and related papers, arranged numerically by bill number.<sup>13</sup>

Two key government publications provide published indexes for the claims of both houses from 1789 to 1909. The *American State Papers*, a thirty-eight-volume compilation of congressional docu-

ments from 1789 to 1837, contains a single volume on claims (Volume 36) with all the petitions and related documents submitted to the first seventeen Congresses from 1789 to 1823, and includes an alphabetical name index. A modern index to these claims is also available in Phillip W. McMullin, ed., *Grassroots of America: A Computerized Index to the American State Papers: Land Grants and Claims 1789-1837* (Salt Lake City: Gendex Corporation, 1972). Arranged alphabetically by last name, *Grassroots of America* provides volume and page references for each entry.<sup>14</sup> In some instances, these indexes reference early claims for which records no longer exist.

The second government publication includes the *U.S. Congressional Serial Set*, an ongoing collection of House and Senate reports issued since 1817. Several volumes of the *Serial Set* comprise special indexes to private claims arranged alphabetically by the name of the claimant. The indexes show the nature of the claim, the Congress and session into which the claim was introduced, the committee of referral, the nature and number of any committee reports, the number and disposition of any related bills including the dates when the bills passed both chambers, and the date the president approved the bill.<sup>15</sup> These publications are available at the Archives Library Information Center in the National Archives Building as well as many public, university, and Federal depository libraries. Armed with these finding aids and the assistance of National Archives reference staff, determined researchers can easily find the valuable family information that resides within these often overlooked congressional records.

### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Chris Naylor, "Those Elusive Early Americans: Public Lands and Claims in the *American State Papers*, 1789-1837," *Prologue: Quarterly Journal of the National Archives* 37 (2005): 60. A legal explanation of the First Amendment and Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution may be found at the Cornell Law School website at [http://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/index.php/First\\_admendment](http://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/index.php/First_admendment).

<sup>2</sup> John P. Deeben, "Veterans and Private Claims: Finding Pension Information in Congressional Records," *NGS NewsMagazine* 32 (2006): 35.

<sup>3</sup> Statement of Sarah P. Cully, March 14, 1873; Sarah P. Cully Folder; Accompanying Papers File [43A-D1]; Records of Legislative Proceedings; 43<sup>rd</sup> Congress; Records of the U.S. House of Representatives, Record Group 233 (RG 233); National Archives Building, Washington, DC (NAB).

## Kentucky Families in Congressional Pension Claims, *continued*

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<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

<sup>5</sup>Sarah P. Cully Petition, September 14, 1872; in *ibid*.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid.

<sup>7</sup>Leonard Duvall to William B. Read, December 4, 1873; in *ibid*.

<sup>8</sup>“Report on the Matter of Sarah Cully, Widow of Thomas Cully, Soldier of the Revolutionary War,” undated; Harvey Crittenton Folder; Accompanying Papers File [43A-D1]; Records of Legislative Proceedings; 43<sup>rd</sup> Congress; RG 233; NAB.

<sup>9</sup>Affidavit of Linza Maynard, January 17, 1871; Sarah Maynard Pension File, No. 140.300; Case Files of Disapproved Pension Applications (Civil War and Later Widows’ Originals); Civil War and Later Pension Files, 1861-1942 (Civil War Files); Records Relating to Pension and Bounty-Land Claims, 1773-1942 (Pension and Bounty-Land Claims); Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15 (RG 15); NAB.

<sup>10</sup>Report of Frank Wolford, Adjutant General of Kentucky, May 14, 1869, in *ibid*.

<sup>11</sup>Petition of Sarah Maynard, January 29, 1872; Sarah Maynard Folder; Accompanying Papers File [44A-D1]; Records of Legislative Proceedings; 44<sup>th</sup> Congress; RG 233; NAB.

<sup>12</sup>Petition of Sarah Maynard; Sarah Maynard Pension File, No. 140.300; Civil War and Later Widows’ Originals; Civil

War Files; Pension and Bounty-Land Claims; RG 15; NAB; U.S. *House Journal*, 42<sup>nd</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> sess., 24 April 1872, 750; *Senate Report* No. 398, 42<sup>nd</sup> Cong., 3<sup>rd</sup> sess. (1873).

<sup>13</sup>Schamel et al, *Guide to Records of the House of Representatives*, 75-85; Robert Coren, Mary Rephlo, David Kepley, and Charles South, *Guide to the Records of the United States Senate at the National Archives, 1789-1989* (1989: Senate Document 100-42, 100<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> sess., Serial 13853), 54-58.

<sup>14</sup>Chris Naylor, “Those Elusive Early Americans,” 60-61; Anne Bruner Eales and Robert M. Kvasnicka, *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives of the United States*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (Washington, DC: National Archives & Records Administration, 2000), 307-8.

<sup>15</sup>Serial Set volumes with indexes for House claims include Vols. 653-55 (1st to 31st Congress, 1789-1851), Vol. 1574 (32nd to 41st Congress, 1851-71), Vol. 2036 (42nd to 46th Congress, 1871-81), and Vol. 3268 (47th to 51st Congress, 1881-91). Indexes for Senate claims appear in Vols. 1945-1946 (14th to 46th Congress, 1815-81), Vol. 3175 (47th to 51st Congress, 1881-91), Vol. 3881 (52nd to 55th Congress, 1891-99), Vol. 4433 (56th to 57th Congress, 1899-1903), Vol. 4917 (58th Congress, 1903-05), and Vol. 6165 (59th to 60th Congress, 1905-09).

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## Secretary of State’s Land Records Database, *continued*

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### *Continued from Page 71*

For optimal printing results, click “Hide All Options” then submit. The document will be “branded” with the abbreviation of the patent series (VA = Virginia Series & OK = Old Kentucky Series) and the patent file number. The document may also be saved in photo software.

Copies of patent files may be requested by contacting: Kentucky Secretary of State’s Land Office,

Room T40, Capitol Annex, Frankfort, KY 40601; Martin F. Schmidt Research Library, Kentucky Historical Society, 100 W. Broadway, Frankfort, KY 40602; or the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Coffee Tree Road, Frankfort, KY 40601.

Next article in this series: “Lincoln Entries Database”



*New KHS Online Exhibition*

## *Our New Kentucky Home: Immigrant Experiences*

What's your story? Who were the first Kentuckians in your family? Where did they come from? Why do immigrants choose Kentucky as their new home?

Are they pulled to Kentucky by the American dream? Or pushed out of their native home? Do they hope to obtain land? Give their children greater opportunity? Enjoy religious freedom? What are their stories?

While each family is different, there are clear connections among Kentucky's immigrant stories. Come

look for clues that tell your family's story.

This Kentucky Historical Society exhibition gives you perspective on why new Kentuckians of all eras uproot established lives to embark on uncertain futures. Be inspired by accounts of courage and tenacity in *Our New Kentucky Home: Immigrant Experiences*.

To view *Our New Kentucky Home: Immigrant Experiences*, go to [history.ky.gov](http://history.ky.gov) and click on the image at the top of the homepage.

# What Is Your Story?

By Don Rightmyer  
Editor, *Kentucky Ancestors*

My life's path has taken me over a lot of this globe, but I now find myself thoroughly enjoying the challenge facing me as the newest editor for *Kentucky Ancestors*. Growing up in Harrodsburg (Mercer County), Kentucky, I have always been interested in the history of our state and the people who have lived here. Living for eighteen years in the shadow of Fort Harrod and coming to know the experiences of the people who lived there and experienced the pioneer and settlement period, the antebellum years, the Civil War, and various other major experiences through over two hundred years of Kentucky history, I have never tired of reading, researching, and learning about the history of our commonwealth and the people of this state.

My great-grandfather Rightmyer was an immigrant into western Kentucky after his service as a Union infantryman during the Civil War. My maternal grandfather, Howard Holtzclaw, served with the U. S. Army in France during World War I. My paternal grandfather, Harry D. Rightmyer, was a barber on post at Fort Knox for more years than I can remember, and there is no way to number the young men whose lives he touched as they passed through Fort Knox for training and preparation to serve their country somewhere else. My father was an officer in the U. S. Navy during World War II and the Korean War, and I had two uncles who served during the Korean War, one in the infantry and one in the U. S. Air Force. Then came my turn and I answered my country's call to serve and spent twenty-four years in the U. S. Air Force after completing my initial training and studies at the U. S. Air Force Academy in Colorado.

During my years in the Air Force, I was stationed in South Korea, England, Germany, and Spain, and I spent assignments in five different states (Idaho, Florida, California, Virginia, and the District of

Columbia/Maryland) as well. No matter where I was sent by Uncle Sam, however, my heart was always back in Kentucky because my family and my wife's family were still living here and because of my interest and love for this wonderful state. As a trained historian, my two primary interests have been our country's military history and the history of Kentucky.

I consider becoming the newest editor of *Kentucky Ancestors* a great honor. I follow in the footsteps of countless people through the years who have richly mined the history of Kentucky and shared it with the rest of us. What a fantastic opportunity this is for someone who loves Kentucky history and finds it forever interesting. I hope to not only share my own love of Kentucky's heritage with you, but also to pique your interest and give you the knowledge and tools you need to pursue your own family history and heritage.

One of the themes that we continually emphasize to our visitors to the Center for Kentucky History is "What's your story?" What IS your story? If you really do not know your family's history and genealogy, there is no better time than now to start digging to find out. We stand ready here at the Kentucky Historical Society to assist you and make your search easier as we find out what your story and that of your family members before you has been in the overall history of this state and of this country.

On Boone Day, 7 June 2008, we unveiled a quotation by Dr. Thomas D. Clark on the southeast corner of the Center for Kentucky History named after him. The quotation says, "... so all Kentuckians may discover their roots in time and place." That's why the History Center is here and that is why we publish *Kentucky Ancestors*—so you may find your "roots in time and place." Please join us as each of us tries to find out more about our own Kentucky story.

# Kentucky Ancestors Author Guidelines

## Manuscript Preparation

*Kentucky Ancestors* is the quarterly Kentucky family-history and genealogy publication of the Kentucky Historical Society. Review of past issues will give authors an idea of the kinds of materials that would be of interest. Submission of material providing primary source genealogical material is always of interest as well as family-history articles detailing the experiences of people moving from other states into Kentucky and those who left Kentucky and moved on to the West or other parts of the country.

Please prepare your manuscript in Microsoft Word. Endnotes should follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 15<sup>th</sup> Edition, and use the genealogical standard format of day/month/year, such as 10 May 1842. Manuscripts should be submitted by either email to don.rightmyer@ky.gov or on CD to: Editor, *Kentucky Ancestors*, Kentucky Historical Society, 100 W. Broadway, Frankfort, KY 40601-1931.

Our publication schedule will be January, April, July, and October of each year. Authors should submit their prospective manuscript for review and consideration at least six weeks prior to the quarterly publication dates.

Five copies of the magazine in which an article is published will be provided to the author upon publication.

## Image Scanning Guidelines

Here are some guidelines for scanning your photographs. Scan photos as grayscale (black and white). If you will be sending them to us on a CD (preferred), save them as .tif files. If you will be sending them by email, save them as .jpg files. The following chart is suggested as **minimum** resolutions (DPI).

Email		CD	
Original	DPI	Original	DPI
8x10	150	8x10	300
5x7	200	5x7	400
4x6	300	4x6	600
3x5	350	3x5	600
2x3	500	2x3	800

Following these guidelines allows the production staff to resize the images as necessary to enhance their accompanying article.

Questions? Please contact the editor, Don Rightmyer, at 502-564-1792, ext. 4435, by mail at the Kentucky Historical Society, Attn: *Kentucky Ancestors*, 100 West Broadway, Frankfort, KY 40601-1931, or by email at don.rightmyer@ky.gov.

## National and International Journals, *continued*

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### *Continued from Page 102*

United Kingdom

The Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies  
*Family History: The Journal of the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies*

Society of Genealogists Enterprises Limited  
*Genealogists' Magazine: Journal of the Society of Genealogists*

### General Genealogy

*The American Genealogist*  
*Everton's Genealogical Helper*  
*Family Chronicle*  
*Family Tree Magazine*  
*Confederate Veteran* (Sons of Confederate Veterans)

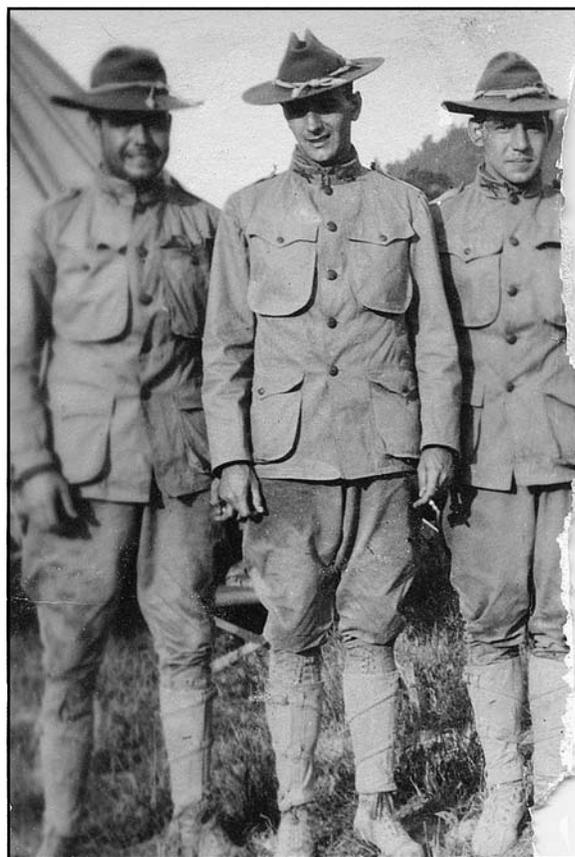
### General History

*American Historical Review* (American Historical Association)  
*American Legacy: The Magazine of African-American History & Culture*  
*Blue & Gray Magazine*  
*Catholic Historical Review*  
*Civil War History*  
*History News* (American Association for State and Local History)  
*Journal of American History*  
*Magazine of History* (Organization of American Historians)  
*21st Century History Review* (previously titled *Modern History Review*)  
*William and Mary Quarterly*

# MYSTERY ALBUM

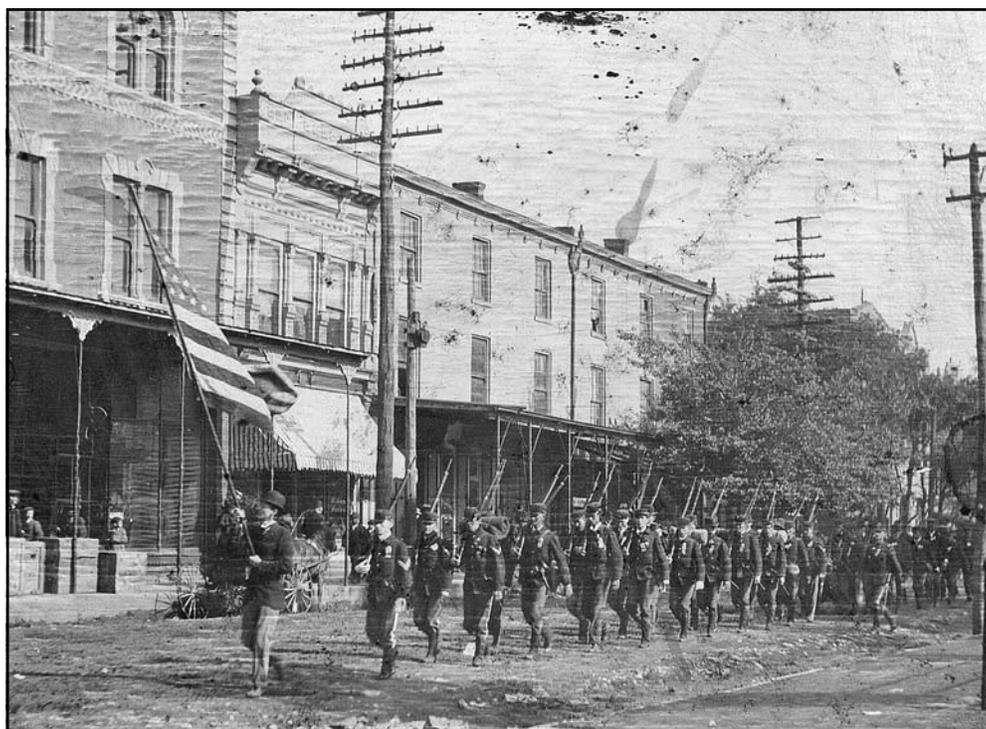


Group of friends climbing a telephone pole, Clay, Ky., ca. 1910s.



Three unidentified soldiers, ca. 1916. Believed taken on Punitive Expedition into Mexico, 1916.

If you recognize those pictured or can provide any information about them, please contact *Kentucky Ancestors* at 100 W. Broadway, Frankfort, KY 40601-1931, or call 502-564-1792, ext. 4435, or email: [don.rightmyer@ky.gov](mailto:don.rightmyer@ky.gov).



Soldiers marching down the street of an unidentified Kentucky town, 7 May 1898.

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## Membership Categories and Rates

Each annual membership category includes:

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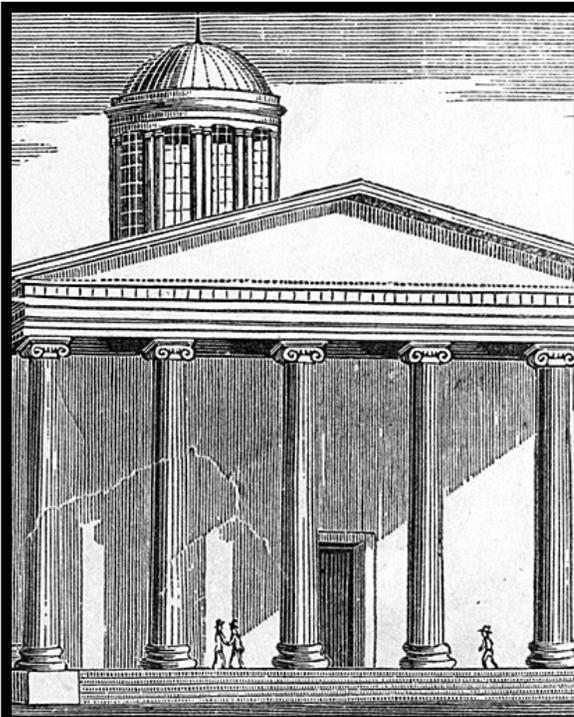
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Since 1965, *Kentucky Ancestors* has preserved the heritage of our forebears through the publication of records and research concerning early Kentucky families. Recognizing the importance of this area of our history, the Society has provided *Ancestors* to its thousands of members across the nation and beyond who unfailingly contribute to and support the genealogical quarterly.

You are cordially invited to join the Society and aid us in the continued pursuit of Kentucky ancestors. As a member, you can participate in the preservation of your own Kentucky family history by submitting information about and photographs of your ancestors. Membership is open to anyone interested in the history of Kentucky. To join, please contact:

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KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
100 West Broadway  
Frankfort, KY 40601-1931