



The Kentuckian

Journal of the First Families of Kentucky

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Spring 2012



Greetings from the Governor General

Winter has come and gone. Since our last newsletter, I am pleased to report to you that your Society continues to grow. We now have 204 members on the rolls with biographies approved by our Registrar, Sharon Withers.



With the coming of spring, it is time to look forward to our annual meeting to be held on June 2, 2012 at the Pendennis Club located in Louisville, Kentucky.

This year we will present a Kentucky Chautauqua Program: *Billy Herndon – One Man's Lincoln*. This event is made possible by a grant from The Kentucky Humanities Council, an affiliate of The National Endowment for the Humanities. The presenter will be Robert Brock. Mr. Brock is the Artistic Director of Kentucky Repertory Theatre in Horse Cave, Kentucky. He also teaches part-time for Western Kentucky University's Glasgow campus. The program is based upon the research and writings of Billy Herndon who was Abraham Lincoln's law partner in Springfield, Illinois.

I look forward to seeing and greeting all of you at our annual meeting in June.

William A. Buckaway, Jr., Governor General

First Families of Kentucky

Sixth Annual Banquet

Saturday the second of June
Two thousand and twelve

Pendennis Club

218 West Muhammad Ali Boulevard
Louisville, Kentucky

Social hour at Six o'clock

Dinner at quarter past Seven

\$65.00 per person

White tie preferred

Black tie acceptable

Program by Robert Brock

"Billy Herndon

One Man's Lincoln

1818-1891"

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The program "Billy Herndon, One Man's Lincoln 1818-1891" is funded by the Kentucky Humanities Council, Inc. and the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Constitution Square Danville, Kentucky



On October 3, 2011, Gary Tanner, a member of The First Families of Kentucky and a descendant of David Tanner, attended the dedication of a historical marker for the Tanner Station in Nicholas County, Kentucky.

Lexington Country Club Luncheon



Art & Jean Dietz



Speaker: Al Cross



Henry & Charlene Head



Carol Winebrenner, Will Schrader, Shirley Settle



Ann Y. Franklin



Bette Buckaway, Al Cross, William Buckaway



Joan Mayer, W. Gay Reading



Mary David & Ed Myles



Laura Jones



Fay & Jerry Ford



Alexander Probus



Ashley Wagel, Jane & Bob Wagel



Ron & Jane Bryant



Paul & Susan Smith



Martha Layne Collins



Catherine Collins, Steve Collins



Libby Polack, Doris Siegrist, Jamia Jacobsen



Nancye & Jack Early



Dorothy & Donald Dulude



Lucille Gray



Tom Fuchs, Jerry Ford, Marilyn Fuchs



Ron & Lynn Shea



Clyde & Jane Hamm



Mary Overall



Georgia Clemons, Emily Utter, June Farris



J. Murel Wheatley



Frances Barr, Shirley Settle



Jeanette Wortham



Fay Ford, William Buckaway, Jr.



Sharlene Cooper, Nancy Lutz



Anne & C. William Swinford



Irvin Overall



Douglas Harper, Katherine Ratliff



Walter & Waldean Hammons



Don S Frye, Patricia Hughes

David Tanner

David Tanner was born ca. 1742 in Virginia to John and Dianah Tanner. Around the year 1757 his family moved to Edgecombe County, North Carolina. In 1769, David was given land by his father in Halifax County, North Carolina. David married Mary Barnes in Halifax County in 1773. From 1774 to 1779, David and Mary lived in Butte County, North Carolina. In January of 1775, David was commissioned a lieutenant in the militia in this county.

David Tanner and his brother, John, were in Fincastle County, Virginia as early as April of 1775. They were probably there, like many other pioneers at this time, looking for a suitable place in which to settle their families. David served with George Rogers Clark in March of 1780. His name is mentioned on several land entries from October of 1781 to June of 1782 in Lincoln County, Virginia (Kentucky). From October of 1782 until November of 1782, David Tanner served for a second time under George Rogers Clark. After his service David may have gone back to North Carolina for he was not mentioned in this area of Virginia until the summer of 1784 when he built Tanner Station. He also helped build several cabins, one of which he occupied, in an area known as Lower Blue Licks. This area was Fayette County, Virginia at the time and was a quarter of a mile from where the Battle of Blue Licks occurred in August of 1782. Tanner Station was built over a spring, and to protect the salt makers from Indian attacks. David's wife was there at this time making soap from the ashes of the salt-making process. The cabin that the Tanner family lived in represents the first ancestral home in what would become Kentucky eight years later. The salt-making business that David operated made him one of the first entrepreneurs in this part of Virginia. He rented out his kettles to settlers traveling through the Blue Licks area for half the salt produced or he would sell the salt out-right. A replica of Tanner

Station was built about 2002 by Jesse Mains and others, and is located just inside the Nicholas County line. David had a 1,000-acre tract of land surveyed in July of 1784 on Otter Creek in what was then Lincoln County, but did not receive the grant until 1786. This 1,000-acre tract was located between Otter Creek and Muddy Creek, five miles from Boonesborough.

David Tanner was a farmer/planter by trade and traveled to the Natchez District of the Province of Louisiana. In April of 1786 he sold his boat and probably the crops or items that he had on this boat. David returned to Kentucky and was involved in several land transactions between June of 1791 and July of 1795. He was last mentioned in January of 1799 in Madison County, Kentucky. In a suit brought in 1810 against Lawrence Owen, by the heirs of John Tanner, David's brother, Henry Clay was commissioned to represent the heirs. By the time the suit was settled both Tanner brothers were dead. The exact date and location of David Tanner's death is not known.

Although David Tanner did not get the notoriety that Daniel Boone, Simon Kenton, James Harrod, and others received in early Kentucky history, he achieved much in his life. He was an early explorer to Kentucky, a farmer/planter by trade, a Revolutionary War soldier, the builder of Tanner Station, an early entrepreneur, and a Mississippi River trader.

Gary M. Tanner

Tanner Station



Sinclair/St. Clair

John Sinclair (ca. 1708-1771) named five sons and five daughters in his Fauquier County, Virginia will. Three of the Sinclair children are known to have moved to the Kentucky District.

Robert Sinclair, son of John and grandson of Alexander Sinclair, grew up in Overwharton Parrish in Stafford County, Virginia, probably on his grandfather's tobacco plantation.

Robert Sinclair had 1,978 acres of land surveyed in Fayette County (Kentucky) located on a fork of the Hingston, off the south fork of the Licking River. The family was in the Kentucky District when their son Armstead was born in 1785. In 1791 Robert paid taxes on slaves and 24 stud horses in Fayette County. In 1793 Robert St. Clair was living at the mouth of little Davy's fork, near "Burnt Station" formerly John Craig's Station, when he found a stray horse. By the year 1795 Robert and wife Sarah Morehead Sinclair had moved to a 200-acre tract of land lying on the waters of McConnell's Run in Scott County. They joined the McConnell's Run Baptist Church by letter. This church later moved and became known as the Stamping Ground Baptist Church. In June of 1798 Robert Sinclair is listed as an early Kentucky distiller. When Robert Sinclair died in 1815 an executor's bond was posted in the amount of \$30,000-current money. Along with other items he left a number of slaves, two stills and appurtenances in his will. His wife Sarah was deceased by February of 1841.

Lucy Sinclair, daughter of Robert, was named in the Scott County will of her father. Lucy married John Redding. Several fires in the Georgetown Courthouse destroyed early records and the marriage date is unknown. Lucy and John Redding moved to Indiana between the years 1822 and 1825. The family had returned to Kentucky by 1831 when their fifth child was born. In the year 1846 Lucy is living in Owen County on 125 acres of land, lying on

the waters of Eagle Creek, left to her by her sister Elizabeth Triplett. Lucy Sinclair-Redding is deceased by 1852, when the property is inherited by her children.

Sarah Elizabeth, the first child of John and Lucy Redding, was born in Fayette County, Kentucky in 1822. Elizabeth married a Mr. Nelson and had a son named John born ca. 1837. No information has been found on Elizabeth's first husband but the child lived with Elizabeth and her second husband in 1850. It was in Marion County, Indiana that Elizabeth is thought to have met her second husband, John Logan Cottrell. The couple was married in 1839. By the year 1840 John L. Cottrell had built a house on the waters of Minor Branch in Scott County, Kentucky. The house set at the base of a steep hill on 204 acres of land located between Waterway Trail (Minor Branch Rd.) and LeCompte's Turnpike (now Owenton Rd.). The couple had 14 children. The Cottrells occupied this house for the next 80 years.

Benjamin Franklin Cottrell (B.F.), the fifth child, married Elizabeth Wainscott in 1870 in the county of Owen. The couple had eight children. B.F. (1848-1915) and Elizabeth (1853-1896) are buried in the Georgetown, Kentucky Cemetery.

The Pleasant Hill Church, located near Minorsville, split ca. 1906 when approximately 30 members left and started meeting in a brush arbor on the property of B.F. Cottrell. This meeting grew into the (present) Caesarea Church of Christ.

Sarah (Sallie) Belle Cottrell, my grandmother, was born in 1880 to B.F. & Elizabeth. Sallie attended the nearby log school on Minor Branch and also Lemons Mill School in Georgetown. Sallie, 16 years old and the only girl in the family, had to take over the



Sarah Cottrell

care of the house and four younger brothers when her mother died. Sallie married Wister Maple Curtis in 1897. The couple had 12 children.

Frieda Curtis Wheatley

Charles Gatliff

In 1750, when Charles Gatliff was two years old, his family moved from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Botetourt County, Virginia, which was near a wilderness area inhabited by Indians. Consequently, Indian raids were a common occurrence and witnessed by Charles at a very young age. His father, James Gatliff, was a lieutenant in the Virginia Militia and was killed during the French and Indian War when Major General Edward Braddock was defeated by the Indians. Charles was ten years of age when his father was killed.

Charles married Christina McGuire in Botetourt County, Virginia in 1772, at the age of 24. At the age of 26 he was appointed an Indian spy for Fowler's Fort, which was located at New River, Virginia. Spies were paid five to eight times as much as regulars because of the extreme danger involved in that type of military service. As an Indian spy he usually traveled alone or with one other individual deep into hostile territory. Spies were the first to encounter the enemy, and if captured would be killed and scalped. Charles was never captured and was wounded only once.

In 1779 Charles ventured into the western area of Virginia, which later became known as the Kentucky frontier and settled with his family in Logan's Fort, near present day Stanford, Kentucky. He assisted in the erection of Ruddle's Fort and Martin's Fort. Both forts were near present-day Cynthiana. He was appointed Captain of Martin's Fort, which was five miles to the southeast of Ruddle's Fort. As Captain he commanded a group of men who often pursued and engaged the Indians and British, thereby maintaining the defense of the

fort and surrounding area. In 1780, while Captain Gatliff was out hunting for provisions for the two forts' inhabitants, both forts were attacked by the Indians and British. Some inhabitants were killed and others were taken as prisoners by the British. Among those taken prisoners of war were his wife, Christina, and their four children. The prisoners were taken to Detroit, Michigan and on to Montreal, Canada. After the surrender of the British at Yorktown the family was reunited near Staunton, Virginia in May 1783 and shortly thereafter returned to Kentucky.

Captain Gatliff was one of the many prominent pioneers who came to Kentucky. He served in all of the Revolutionary War campaigns in Kentucky except the Battle of Blue Licks. During that battle he was accompanying Daniel Boone and Benjamin Logan to the Virginia Legislature. In 1780 Captain Gatliff was in charge of a party of 60 men, including Daniel Boone and his son, Israel, who were in pursuit of the Indians who had killed Daniel Boone's brother, Edward.

Captain Gatliff died June 30, 1838 and is buried in the Maple Creek Cemetery in Whitley County, Kentucky, near Williamsburg.

Captain Charles Gatliff was a contemporary of the first Governor of Kentucky, Isaac Shelby, Daniel Boone, George Rogers Clark, Simon Kenton, Benjamin Logan and many other prominent Kentucky frontiersmen who came together at an important time in the history of our country. Daniel Boone and Simon Kenton stated that Captain Gatliff was a man of great courage and judgment. If the courageous acts of these great Kentucky pioneers had not taken place this great country we call the United States of America might consist of only a small territory on the east coast.

Lindsey Cook Brock

Please notify the Society of all address, telephone, and e-mail changes. Thank you.

Michael Stoner

Michael Stoner was born George Michael Holstein, the second son of Leonard and Barbara Holstein in 1748 on the Schuylkill River, near what is now Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His family had come from Rheinisch Bavaria in Germany, emigrated to England, then to New York, and on to Pennsylvania in 1728. His father began to write his name as Steiner, and Michael anglicized his name to Stoner. He was only four or five years old when his parents died.

He was apprenticed to a saddler in Hickorytown, now Lancaster, but had a more adventurous life in mind. When about 16, following a quarrel with his master, he left Pennsylvania and went to the New River area of Virginia, where he met Daniel Boone, and developed a friendship that lasted throughout their lives.

In 1774, Governor Dunmore of Virginia commissioned Boone and Stoner to warn a surveying party in Kentucky of the Indian outbreaks. They made the trip from the Clinch River in Virginia to the Falls of the Ohio, a journey of 800 miles, in 62 days.

In the spring of 1775, Stoner joined Boone in marking and cutting out the road to Fort Boonesborough, which he helped build and defend. He was wounded at the siege of Boonesborough. In 1780 he went on a visit to North Carolina and took part in the Battle of King's Mountain. At the Battle of Blue Licks he was wounded and fell from his horse. He hid until the next day, when he was rescued by General Logan's forces. He was present at the taking of Vincennes by General Clark, and was out with Logan in 1786.

About 1786 he married Frances Tribble, a daughter of Reverend Andrew Tribble and his wife, Sarah Ann Burris. They settled in Clark County, where they began their family. In 1797 they moved to the Cumberland River in Pulaski County, and eventually to Wayne County, near Monticello. They

had eight children; I am descended from the oldest, George Washington Stoner.

George Washington Stoner was said to have spoken English with a heavy German accent all of his life; sometimes he could hardly be understood, especially when he was excited.

Perhaps my favorite story about Michael Stoner was his visit with Daniel Boone to the Yellowstone in 1810. Daniel was in Missouri by then, and James Bridges and Michael Stoner were on their way to explore and hunt in the upper Missouri. They talked Daniel into coming with them, and formed a party with Flanders Callaway and Will Hays, Jr. and Callaway's slave, Mose. They were gone for six months. They returned to Missouri with several skin boats filled with furs and carried their cargo to St. Louis to get the best prices.

Stoner died in 1814 in Wayne County, and it is said that Lake Cumberland flooded the area of his burial. His wife is buried in the Mt. Sterling cemetery, along with many Stoner relatives.

Rogers Roseberry Barde'

Joseph Wright

Joseph Wright was born in Virginia, probably between the years 1725 and 1730, and is first found in Culpeper County, Virginia. While it is believed that he was there at least by 1760, he does not appear in the records until November 3, 1775 when he purchased some items at the estate sale of Henry Threlkeld. Joseph and his wife, Frances, had seven children, John, Jr., Nancy, Frances, Francis, William, Elizabeth, and Isbel.

During the Revolutionary War, farmers sold goods to the army and submitted claims for payment. Joseph Wright put in a claim in October 1780 for ten bushels of rye. He put another claim in November of 1781 for 600 pounds of beef. Joseph Wright is also listed in the tax lists of the time.

In the 1930s, researcher and author Bessie Taul Conkwright identified Joseph Wright as having survey dealings with Daniel Boone in Fayette County, Kentucky Survey Book C, page 295, which states that Daniel Boone surveyed 562 acres for Joseph Wright on Four Mile Creek on March 8, 1784, in Treasury Warrant #12814. "Daniel Boone, D.S.F.G.; Thos. Marshall; Joseph Shull (Schahl), Edward Callaway, chairman; William Wright, marker."

Joseph Wright and his family moved to Kentucky by 1790. In that year he was on the tax list of Fayette County. *The Kentucky Gazette*, an early newspaper, noted that on July 1, 1791, Joseph Wright found a steer on the waters of Four Mile Creek in Fayette County. Kentucky was made a state in 1792, and Clark County was formed from Fayette County at the same time. Joseph Wright's will was

written and proved in 1804 in Clark County, Kentucky.

The facts gathered in this submission are credited to Mr. Jim G. Faulconer of Kettering, Ohio, also a descendant of Joseph Wright.

Jack Paul Bess, Jr.

Preserve your ancestor's Kentucky history by sending his/her story to *The Kentuckian*. Stories should be approximately 600 words or less. All stories will be edited for clarity and length. Copyright material must be accompanied by a signed release from the publisher and the author. Please send photos and articles to the Editor at 600 Hatherleigh Lane, Louisville, KY 40222.

