



# The Kentuckian

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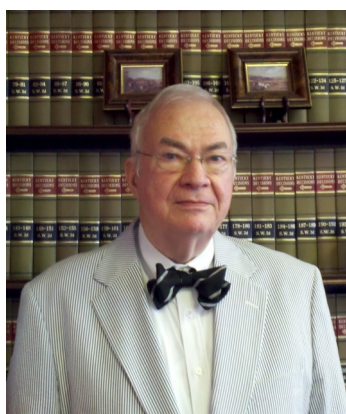


## Greetings from the Governor General

Greetings Pioneers!

I hope that you have been enjoying your summer in spite of the consistently hot weather that we experienced in early July.

Your society continues to grow. Our Registrar reports that as of May, we have eighteen (18) new members and another thirty-seven (37) working on their proofs and remain on the Prospect List.



We look forward to our fall meeting in Central Kentucky on October 13, 2012. We will assemble at Lexington Country Club for a fellowship luncheon and education. I hope

many of you can come and be in attendance, especially our new members. We want to meet and greet you and introduce you into our Kentucky Society of Friends.

Our speaker on this occasion will be Charles Bracelen Flood, a noted author of eleven (11) books, including *Grant and Sherman: The Friendship that Won the Civil War*. Charles Flood is a past President of PEN American Center and served on the governing bodies of the Authors League and the Authors Guild. Charles and his wife live in Richmond,

## First Families of Kentucky

### Luncheon

Saturday, the thirteenth of October

Two thousand and twelve

Lexington Country Club

2550 Paris Pike

Lexington, Kentucky

Luncheon at twelve noon

\$30.00

Program by

Charles Bracelen Flood

“Grants Final Victory”

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Kentucky.

Mr. Flood will speak to us about his new book hailed as a "Coda" to a remarkable life in the brisk, well-told history of the final days of Ulysses S. Grant, and styled *Grants Final Victory*. We have asked the author to have copies of his book available for sale at this meeting. I am sure that he will be pleased to sign and dedicate a copy for you.

Governor General William Buckaway, Jr.

We are sorry for any date conflicts with other organizations.



**Abraham Lincoln Birthplace**

National Historic Site

Abraham Lincoln was born February 12, 1809, in a one-room log cabin built on a knoll near Sinking Spring on a frontier farm in Hardin County, Kentucky, to Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln. The memorial was established as a National Park in 1916 and as a National Historic site in 1959. It is located three miles south of Hodgenville, Kentucky.

Preserve your ancestors' Kentucky history by sending his/her story to *The Kentuckian*. Stories should be approximately 600 words or less and 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 for the next newsletter to the Editor at 600 Hatherleigh Lane, Louisville, KY, 40222.



## First Families of Kentucky Banquet



Lynn & Ron Shea



Presenter: Robert Brock



Jean & Art Dietz



Ron & Jane Bryant



Douglas Harper & Kathie Ratliffe



Jeanette Wortham



Ed & Mary David Myles



Georgia Clemons, June Harris, John Venable, Emily Utter,  
Jane Brown





Karen Emberton, Joyce Collins



William, Anne, & Rodman Swinford



Frieda & J. Murel Wheatley



Giles Light, Doris Tabb



Maureen & William Lawrence



Barbara Bohn, Clyde Hamm, Jane Hamm, Ken Bohn





Bob & Jane Wagel



Allen Moore & Sharon Withers



Doris Tabb, Banning Lary,  
Lynn Shea



Paul & Susan Smith



Laura Jones



Laura Jones, Lynn & Ron Shea



Jean Dietz, Art Dietz, Tim Spaulding, Lynn Tanner



## Wash

Benjamin Wash was born February 25, 1738, in Virginia. About 1774 he married Jemima Peyton. He enlisted in the Revolutionary War under Captain James Franklin on January 7, 1777, for a period of three years. He was living in Louisa County, Virginia, at the time. He served in the Sixth and Tenth Continental Lines of Virginia as a corporal. During the Battle of Camden he received a leg injury that caused him pain the remainder of his life. He was on furlough about six months recovering from a fever but returned to service after recovery. According to family legend, he was also involved in the Battle of King's Mountain. Benjamin Wash served for over five years until the end of the war.

In 1785 he was living in Amherst County, Virginia. Along with his wife, two sons, and two daughters, he came to Lincoln County, Kentucky in 1791. Their youngest child, Permelia, was born the following year. In 1791 Benjamin Wash made a settlement on Salt River opposite the mouth of Hammonds Creek in what was soon to be Washington County. Later it became a part of Franklin County, and even later it became Anderson County due to boundary changes. Benjamin Wash died February 1819, and his widow Jemima lived until 1838. Benjamin and Jemima Wash are buried in the Wash Family Cemetery on their farm, which is about seven miles west of Lawrenceburg, Kentucky. Their log home is on the National Register of Historic Places. I am a fourth-great grandson and am descended from Permelia Wash and her husband Henry McKee, Sr.

Allen W. Moore

## Humlong

George Omelong (Humlong) was born August 7, 1764 and was baptized at Holy Trinity Lutheran

Church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania on September 30, 1764. His parents, Christopher and Wilhelmina Odermannin, were married in the same church January 24, 1763. Christopher was from Liethasen, Hannover Germany. His service to the Revolutionary



cause was both military and patriotic – he served in the Pennsylvania militia, he signed an Oath of Allegiance and he paid supply tax. His death occurred after December 25, 1781, probably in 1782 or 1783.

Shortly thereafter, George and his mother set out for Kentucky, because in “History of Kentucky and Kentuckians” it is noted that they settled about 1785 at Buchanon Station with little money. Family tradition says that they came about 1782.

George married Elizabeth Harmon, daughter of Michael and Margaret Coval Harmon, also residents of Bracken County. They were the parents of six children: Mary married Henry Fronke, Susan married Josiah Walton and died one year later, Margaret then married Josiah Walton, John married Mary Hollis, Catherine married Park Walton, George married Eliza Walton and later Amanda Roberts, and Elizabeth married Hiram Gregg.

Josiah Walton was the son of Rev. Simeon and Agnes Hester Walton. Simeon was a Revolutionary War patriot from Amelia County, Virginia where he served as Clerk of the Commissioners, a position he later held in Bracken

County.

George became a substantial land owner in both Kentucky and across the river in Brown and Clermont counties, Ohio. In his will he provided for the distribution of about 2000 acres. He was listed as a Justice of the Peace in Bracken County in 1800-1804.

George Humlong, though baptized Lutheran, was of the Dunkard faith, a group of German Baptists in Kentucky. He spoke, read, and wrote German and was proficient in the English language. He kept his accounts in pounds, shillings and pence. He never shaved and in his old age his beard came to his waist. He used a wooden block for a pillow – to warrant against illness and laziness. Politically he was a democrat.

Elizabeth Harmon Humlong died February 13, 1850 and her husband's death occurred two years later on June 10, 1852. Both are buried at the Humlong Cemetery (#17) in Bracken County on Highway 10 west of Asbury Road on the Brooks side of the road.

In 1911, grandson J. R. Humlong wrote a poem about his grandfather entitled "Kentucky in the Wild." Some of the verses are included:

The Dame sought out the favor clime  
On which to stow her grace  
For wealth of soil and scene sublime  
Kentucky was the place.

Hundred years and more have passed  
Since Grandpa built this home  
With proper care it may yet last  
A hundred years to come.

Grandpa George is said by those who knew  
Was of model men and build,  
Alert and wise, peculiar though,  
And firm in what he willed.

Scriptural, sincere, just and plain  
And unassuming in pride,  
Were those old folks of the German strain;  
Their souls in heaven abide.

Martha Rosenberger Zimmerman

## Whittle

John W. Whittle, Sr. was born ca. 1757, probably in Amherst County, Virginia, to Matthew Whittle and Elizabeth Warren. Elizabeth Warren's family has been traced to the early 1600s in the Jamestown, Virginia area. John died April 22, 1816 in Casey County, Kentucky (formed from Lincoln County in 1806) and is presumed buried in the Whittle/Fair Family Cemetery, behind the log home he built ca. 1800, on the part of the farm still in the family. The home was dismantled in the 1980s. In 1779 John married Sarah Josling in Amherst County, Virginia, daughter of Revolutionary War patriot, John Josling, who also moved to Lincoln County, Kentucky. John W. Whittle furnished gunpowder to the Militia of General Nathaniel Green on February 26, 1781, for which he filed a claim on land that is now in Rockcastle County, in April 1782. John and Sarah had five known children: Mittice married Clayburn Duncan in 1794 in Lincoln County; Sophia married 1. John East in 1798 and after his death married 2. Carter Drake; John, Jr. born 1781 in Amherst County, married Margaret Fair in 1802. Margaret was the daughter of Captain Edmund Fair of Kings Mountain Battle fame in the Revolutionary War and a pioneer at Boonesborough with Daniel Boone. Edmund and his wife, Silence, a Revolutionary War patriot in her own right, lived in Quaker Meadows, Burke County, North Carolina during the Revolutionary War and later moved to Kentucky and died on their family farm in Casey County, near the farm of John W. Whittle, Sr. Vincent Whittle married his cousin, Sara

Josling, in 1806; Ninian Whittle returned to Amherst County Virginia and married Oney Kennedy in 1801.

John W. Whittle, Jr. and Margaret Fair had eight known children: Elizabeth married 1. William Napier, who died leaving her with two baby daughters, she then married 2. Jephtha Lucas; Edmund (he and his sister Elizabeth's family went to Missouri where they died); Levi, Silence, and Rebecca Whittle died in Illinois; John Whittle III, who fought in the Mexican War, and two daughters who stayed at home with their mother, Margaret Fair Whittle (who lived to be 91 years old and is buried with her husband in the Whittle/Fair Cemetery on the family farm); Naomi never married; and Luticia married William Smith Fair, a cousin, ancestors of Charles Aaron Fair (deceased), whose daughters still own the farm and burial plot that has been in the family over 200 years. John W. Whittle, Jr. served in the War of 1812 from September 18, to October 30, 1812 in Capt. Rowland Burke's Company of Kentucky Mounted Militia. His grave was marked by the Kentucky Society Daughters of 1812.

Elizabeth Whittle and Jephtha Lucas children: William, born in 1831 and died in Missouri in 1897; Mary Ann, born 1835; John born 1839; Naomi born 1841 and died 1912; and Sarah Ann born 1842 and died 1870 in Casey County. Sarah Ann married James William Thomas in 1857 in Casey County, Kentucky. They are buried in Trace Fork Cemetery in Casey County, by his parents and grandparents. Their children: Margaret born in 1859 and died 1906, married Alexander Stanberry; John Evan born 1865 and died 1941, married Melissa Jane Thomas in 1890; and Francis Marion born 1868 died 1942 married Amanda Davidson.

John Evan Thomas married Melissa Jane Thomas of Wayne County, Kentucky in 1890. Both are buried in the Contown Cemetery in Casey County. Their children: Marion Franklin born 1892 died 1975 married Lillie Hampton; James Fountain born 1898 died 1977 married Mary Hoskins; Charles

Bryan born 1900 died 1975, married 1. Opal Combest, and after her death, married 2. Myrtie Kean; Ada Ann born 1903 died 1975 married Ben Hatter; Ollie Mae born 1907 died 1936 married Orville Perkins; Otis Oral born 1909 died 2004 married Elaine Huffaker; and Doretta Ethel born 1911 died 1998 married Herbert Russell in 1929. They are buried in the Glenview Cemetery in Liberty, Kentucky.

The children of Herbert and Ethel Russell, of Liberty, Kentucky, are Gary Russell who married Mary Patria Lee; and Jeanette Russell who married Glenn Collins in 1953 and after his death in 1969, Jeanette married Francis L. Wortham in 1971. Francis died in 2010. Their children are Susan Jeanette and Patrick Glenn Collins. Patrick married Elizabeth Anne Arrigo and their two daughters are Alexandra Constance and Jennifer Anne Collins.

Jeanette Russell Wortham

## Varble

Philip (Warble, Wirble) Varble II, was born in 1755, Whitehall twp., Northampton (today Lehigh), Pennsylvania. His father Philip Varble I, had arrived in this country from Germany by way of Rotterdam aboard the sailing vessel *Europa* in 1741. Sometime in the late 1750s the family of Philip Varble I, along with in-laws, migrated to Rowan County, North Carolina where there was a large settlement of German immigrants. There they purchased land and settled in the best they could with the turmoil that was going on in our very young country.

Philip Varble II, grew up in Rowan County, was married, and for some unknown reason did not serve in the Revolutionary War; however, he had one older brother and one younger brother who did serve. It is well known that our country paid the troops and also some patriots with free land after the war. Both of the fighting brothers migrated to Kentucky for their land and it is my guess that Philip



seized the opportunity to travel to another part of the new world. All three brothers would have traveled across the Cumberland Gap into the wild country called “Kaintucky”. According to the first Kentucky census of 1790, Philip was living in Fayette County. By his will, which was probated on August 12, 1832, we know that Philip was a well-to-do farmer and slave owner. According to his will he left “to his wife Caty, with his son Jacob, to oversee the land, livestock and farming equipment, also two old negroes named Ayles and Mingo during their lives”. He also left \$350, a sizeable amount at that time, to one daughter, a new colt to one granddaughter and various other bequests to the rest of his children. (I am told that only Kentucky Varbles spell the name with an “a”.) Exact land records were destroyed by fire but according to tax records it is believed that the farm was located near Shelby’s Branch or Hickman’s Creek close to the Fayette/Jessamine county line. If available, deed records would likely determine the farm to be one of the several idyllic horse fields of Fayette County.

Philip II’s son, Daniel, my great-great-great grandfather, married John Boone’s granddaughter, Catherine Clifford. John Boone was a cousin to Daniel and was, in fact, raised with Daniel in North Carolina. Philip’s brother, Henry, was one of the Revolutionary soldiers who settled in Henry County, now Oldham County, Kentucky. Daniel and Catherine came to Oldham County where Daniel and his uncle Henry owned several pieces of property in West Port and Oldham County.

From the immigrant Philip I, the Varbles have been farmers, merchants, river boat captains, school teachers, politicians, military men, law enforcement men and women, but mostly strong people who have endured. The Varbles came to Kentucky for land and perhaps the adventure, and left their footprint upon the land.

Betty Varble Konkle

Although both Samuel Lawrence’s birth year, estimated to be 1744, and birth place, probably Virginia, today remain educated guesses, there is no doubt that he was an active adventurer, explorer, and surveyor in the western flank of Old Virginia prior to either the creation of the District of Kentucky in 1783 or Kentucky Statehood on June 1, 1792. He and Rosanna Russell (b. pre-1765, probably Virginia) lived as man and wife, but were unmarried.

There are many references to Samuel in records found in Augusta County (later Botetourt Co.,) Virginia, but the earliest known reference to my third great-grandfather in what is now Kentucky dates to the spring of 1776 when he and eleven others (including his brothers John, Solomon, and David) set out from Harrodsburg to the waters of the Rolling Fork on the Salt River, coming “to the place which is now called Cedar Licks.” The purpose of this mission was to “improve the land,” a necessary precondition to entering land claims. Each brother subsequently claimed 1000 acres of that area. Approximately four years later, Samuel’s father, James (b. ca. 1723, probably Augusta Co., Va.), accompanied by wife, Elizabeth (b. ca. 1725, probably Pennsylvania, maiden name unknown) and other family, came to the area via the Wilderness Road and Cumberland Gap and founded Lawrence’s Station on 1400 acres at the head of Hickman’s Creek in what is now the town of Danville in Mercer County. This was one of the earliest “stations,” or fortified groups of cabins and other structures, erected in the area to protect against the ever-present threat of Indian attacks.

Samuel continued to add to his land holdings in the area, but in August, 1782, his peace-time pursuits were suspended by a British/Indian attack on nearby Bryan’s Station. That attack proved ineffective, but the fleeing British and Indian

contingent hunkered down on a craggy hill overlooking the Blue Licks ford on the Licking River. Kentucky militiamen soon reached the area. Daniel Boone, an officer in the militia, feared an ambush from the elevated ravines and advised a flanking maneuver. But the militia pushed on into a highly vulnerable area – and to the inevitable ambush. Seventy-two Kentuckians died, including a son of Daniel Boone. Payroll records for the Lincoln County militiamen ordered to bury the dead show that Samuel (and brother, Solomon) were paid 12 pounds for nine days of service to bury 43 of the dead. In October-November, 1782, Samuel appears on another payroll roster for taking part in an “expedition against the Shawnee Indians” led by George Rogers Clark. Included with Samuel as

Revolutionary War soldiers from Virginia (ref. H.J. Eckenrode, 1912) were brothers Isaac, Solomon, and Joseph.

When Kentucky became a state in 1792, Samuel owned 200 acres in Mercer County, (purchased from James and Ann Harrod and adjoining land of James Speed), 2363 acres in Nelson County and 3000 acres in Madison County. He also owned cattle, horses and Negro slaves. In 1792 Samuel’s son, Samuel Russell Lawrence, was born in Mercer County.

(to be continued)

William Everett Lawrence

**Please keep addresses current.**

