



The Kentuckian

Journal of the First Families of Kentucky

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Fall 2014

Greetings from the Governor General

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer. It has been an especially beautiful one in Kentucky this year.



Our society is continuing to grow and prosper. Thanks to all of you who have proposed new members, attended our annual meetings and written stories about your ancestors for our newsletter. It

is because of your interest and participation that we are doing so well. We now have 265 members from 27 states, and 228 proven ancestors.

The Annual Banquet was a great success. Our speaker, Mr. David Stuart, Chairman of the Ward Hall Preservation Foundation, told us many interesting stories about this lovely and historically significant Greek Revival antebellum mansion in Georgetown, Kentucky and the fascinating family who enjoyed it. After his talk, we were pleased to present him with a check for \$500.00 toward the renovation of this wonderful property.

Our Annual Fall Luncheon is almost here! Invitations will be mailed soon. Please make plans to join us, and bring a friend. We'll look forward to seeing you.

Lynn Shea, Governor General

First Families of Kentucky

Luncheon

Saturday, the eleventh of October

Two thousand and fourteen

Lexington Country Club

2550 Paris Pike

Lexington, Kentucky

Luncheon at twelve noon

\$35.00

Program by

Janice Clark

"Historic Jack Jouett House"

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Founded 30 April 2005

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The Society of the First Families of Kentucky met at the Pendennis Club in Louisville, Kentucky, May 31, 2014 for their eighth annual banquet.

The Pendennis Club was established in Louisville in 1881. It was modeled after the English gentlemen's club and filled the role of a downtown businessmen's social club. The name comes from Thackeray's, *History of Pendennis* and means "high place". The first clubhouse was the former Belknap mansion. The first great banquet in that clubhouse was given for President Chester A. Arthur in 1883 while he was in town to inaugurate the Southern Exposition. The prestigious Pendennis club moved into its new Georgian building, located one block east, in 1928. Many Kentuckians found places to quench their thirst, during Prohibition, in long established private clubs. In the late twentieth century the club welcomed ladies and minorities into their male sanctuary.

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.

Please keep your address and e-mail current.

First Families of Kentucky Banquet



Anne & Bill Swinford



Fay Charpentier Ford & Jerry



Donna & Bob Hughes



Sharon & Dennis Withers



Diane & Stephen Collins



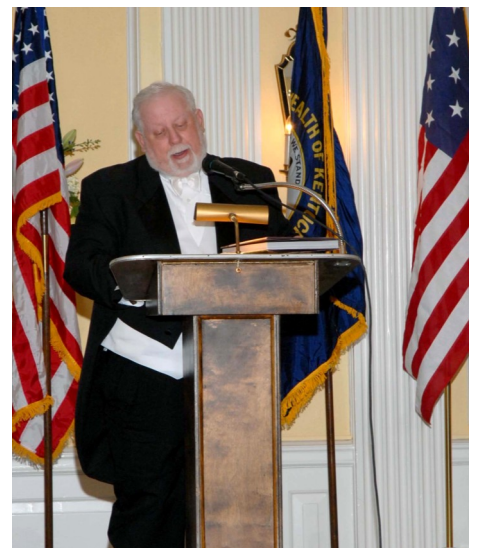
Laura S. Jones & Sallie C. Smith



Carol Winebrenner, Will Schrader



Lynn & Ron Shea



Speaker Mr. David Stuart



Nancy & Jack Early



William A. Buckaway, Jr. & Bette



Tim Spalding



Lynn Shea, Doris J. Tabb, Giles Light



Ron & Lynn Shea, Gregg, Sharon Collins, & Faye Oeltgen



Karen Emberton, Ted Kuster,
Becky Ragland, Betsy Kuster



Frieda & J. Murel Wheatley,
Lynn Shea



Brett & Leslie Miller, Laura Jones,
Bonnie Taylor



Art & Jean Dietz



Betty Meisner & Anne Rodick



Bob & Jane Wagel, Linda, & Gary Tanner



Steve & Diane Collins



Ted Kuster & Paul Smith



Bob, Mary Richardson, Fay & Jerry Ford



Terrell Black, Dennis Boyer, Lynn Shea, Will Ward, Bonnie Taylor,
& Ken Herrington



Ken & Barb Bohn, Sallie Smith,
Sharlene Cooper

Ephraim Dicken

Ephraim Dicken was born ca. 1762, in Culpeper County, Virginia, and was one of eighteen children born to Capt. Christopher Dicken and Sarah Pulliam. Capt. Christopher Dicken was born ca. 1712 and died 1778 in Culpeper County, Virginia. Sarah Pulliam was the daughter of Thomas Obediah Pulliam and Winifred Holloday. Ephraim Dicken lived near the head of Robinson River near Doubletop Mountain until the Revolutionary War.

Ephraim Dicken served in the Culpeper County, Virginia militia during the Revolutionary War. He filed for his Revolutionary War pension application on December 4, 1832, file S 30980, while living in Monroe County, Kentucky and stated his age as 70 years. He was drafted in January or February 1781 and served three tours of duty. He was marched to Williamsburg and later to Jamestown where he contacted smallpox. He was wounded by a sword and taken prisoner by the British forces. After being exchanged, he served again in September 1781 as a substitute for his brother-in-law, John Burdine. He was present at the siege of Yorktown, and at Cornwallis' surrender. He later went to guard the British prisoners at Winchester for three months. Ephraim Dicken witnessed the will of his brother-in-law, John Burdine, in Culpeper County which was proved April 1786. Mr. Dicken moved to Nelson County, Kentucky (then VA) during the summer of 1786. He served a tour in 1786 against the Mawsuee Indians, under General George Rogers Clark in the company of his brother, John Dicken.

On December 18, 1787 a marriage bond for Ephraim Dicken to marry Ann Peake, and written permission by William Peake for his daughter Ann Peake to marry Ephraim Dicken was filed in Nelson County, Kentucky. (I have a copy of both.) Ann Peake was born ca. 1770 in Faquier Co., Virginia and died ca. 1824 in Monroe County, Kentucky. Her parents were William Peake and Barbara Carter.

Ephraim Dicken was an original member of Mill Creek Baptist Church (Old Mulkey Meeting House) in Monroe County. Ephraim and Ann moved from Nelson County to Green County, Kentucky by the year 1792 tax list. They lived in Cumberland County from 1800 to 1819. The tax records of 1820 show them living in Monroe County where Ephraim Dicken died after September 20, 1837, which was the date of his last Revolutionary War pension payment.

Ephraim had many Kentucky Land Grants. He received 550 acres of land on September 8, 1798 on Cumberland River and Sulphur Lick Creek in Green County. He later received 13 land grants in Kentucky, up to the year 1819, that were south of the Green River. Eight of the land grants were in Cumberland County. He owned approximately 2,000 acres of land on or near the Cumberland River. He built the first tobacco warehouse in 1807 on the Cumberland River in Cumberland County, and acquired a permit to operate the original ferry across the Cumberland River (now Monroe County).

The children of Ephraim Dicken and Ann Peake were: Nancy Elizabeth (b) 1791; Landon (b) 1793 and in War of 1812; Mary Frances "Fanny" (b) 1795; Isham D. (b) 1797; Hannah (b) 1799; and Martha "Patsy" (b) 4-15-1801. I descend from daughter, Mary Frances, called Fanny, (b) 1795 and died September 20, 1834. She married William (Billy) Kidwell in 1818. Ephraim Dicken, wife Ann, and some of their children are buried on his farm in Monroe County and called McMillion, Chappell, and Dicken Cemetery. On October 17, 2008, I went to the grave marking and dedication for a SAR military tombstone for Ephraim Dicken in the cemetery by the Old Mulkey Church in Monroe County, Kentucky.

Jane Turner Hamm

Check out our Members Only page
on our web site
firstfamiliesofkentucky.com

Caleb Wallace

Caleb Wallace was born in 1742 and raised in the vicinity of one of the western (Charlotte County/ Prince Edward County) Virginia Presbyterian colonies known variously as Caldwell Colony (after one of the founding families) and Cub Creek Colony (referring to its location). He was the son of Samuel Wallace and Ester Baker; his mother was the daughter of another of the early families in the settlement, that of Caleb and Martha Brooks Baker. Judge Wallace, as a Presbyterian minister, was among the protagonists in the struggle for religious freedom in late-colonial Virginia whose writings on the subject had a now-little-known but far-reaching influence in the development of provisions for freedom of religious choice, especially in Virginia, through the influence of Thomas Jefferson. While it does not appear that Wallace enjoyed Jefferson's favor, it is likely that his work reached Jefferson through a mutual acquaintance with James Madison.

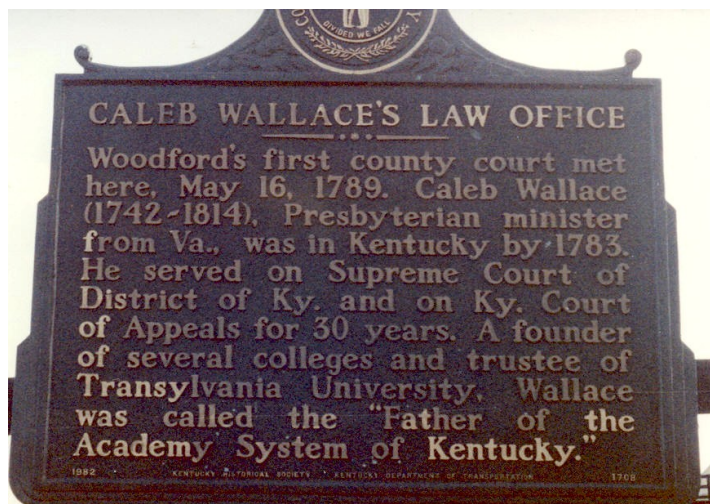
Caleb Wallace graduated among a class of twenty-two from the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) in 1770. In the year preceding his graduation he was among the founders of the American Whig Society. He continued, after his graduation, in the study of theology, was licensed to preach on May 28, 1772, and was ordained on October 13, 1774.

As the conflict with Great Britain grew toward open revolution, the young minister, having eventually returned to his childhood home, became, at the direction of his Presbytery, active in the causes of both religious freedom and education. The association of his name with the advancement of education continued throughout his life; Wallace was among the founders of Prince Edward Academy (which has become Hampden-Sidney College); of Liberty Academy at Lexington, Virginia (now Washington and Lee University); and, in Kentucky, Transylvania Seminary (Transylvania University,

Lexington, Kentucky). He is now remembered as the Father of the Academy System in Kentucky, having conceived and brought to fruition an early version of land-grant subsidized education in that state. It is also probable that he was the author of the enabling legislation which provided for the establishment of these academies, supported by conveyance of ownership of public lands, in each of the counties in existence at the time (1798) within the new state.

After the death of his first wife, daughter of his cousin and mentor Samuel McDowell, Sarah McDowell Wallace, he married Rosanna Christian, daughter of Israel and Elizabeth Starke Christian, whose brother, William, married Anne, sister of Patrick Henry. Caleb and Rosanna named their first-born for Caleb's first father-in-law - Samuel McDowell Wallace, and the McDowells named a later son Caleb Wallace McDowell.

Wallace left both the ministry and Virginia for an appointment to the Commission for the Adjudication of Western Accounts in September of 1782, at about which time he moved his family to Kentucky. This evolved into appointment to the Virginia Supreme Court-District of Kentucky on Nov. 3, 1783. He also served briefly as a Kentucky representative in the Virginia legislature in 1783.



With the attainment of statehood in 1792, the Kentucky Court of Appeals was constituted, composed of Harry Innes, Chief Justice; Benjamin

Sebastian, Second Judge, and Caleb Wallace, Third Judge. Wallace remained in this position until his resignation was pressed in 1813, the year before his death. He had amassed a substantial estate of some twelve thousand acres near what is now Midway, with other holdings in northern Kentucky and southern Indiana. Nearby is the Kentucky Horse Park, a state park which occupies three thousand of the nine thousand acres granted to Wallace's brother-in-law, Col. William Christian in 1777 in settlement for service in the Indian wars and in the Revolution.

Judge Wallace was a perennial delegate to Kentucky's several constitutional conventions, in whose behalf he frequently sought the advice and intercession of his younger friend, James Madison.

Dennis Boyer

A Question Without An Answer

One of our most famous and popular Kentucky products has always been whiskey. It has been a part of our story since the first settlers came into the Kentucky District of Virginia in the mid 1700s. Every pioneer land owner had a still - it was the most practical way to use the excess corn. It was discovered that corn, mixed with other grains, and water from the limestone springs of central Kentucky, produced a superior product. It had a different taste and color than all the other whiskeys being distilled farther east and in Europe. It was sweeter in taste and had a lighter color. It quickly became the most sought-after and appreciated whiskey, and enjoyed a growing popularity. Until the early 1800s, it was all just referred to as whiskey, and no one thought to give it a name.

In the late 1700s Reverend Elijah Craig, the fifth child born to Polly Hawkins and Toliver Craig, was an ordained Baptist minister in Virginia. He was having difficulties due to his fiery preaching style. He had been jailed at least once before the American

Revolution, in Fredericksburg, Virginia, for preaching without a license, and was imprisoned in South Carolina for disturbing the peace with his sermons.

In 1781, seeking religious freedom, Elijah Craig and his brother Lewis decided to migrate to Kentucky. Their "Traveling Church," numbering about 600 people, including slaves belonging to the Craigs and other families, walked to what is now called Lynchburg, then to Roanoke. From there, they crossed the Blue Ridge Mountains, came through the Cumberland Gap, and stopped in the first settlement they came to in the pioneer Kentucky District. It was Boonesborough. The next year, 1782, Rev. Craig bought 1,000 acres in Scott County, where he planned and laid out the town of Lebanon, which was incorporated in 1784. Rev. Craig preached at several churches in the area, and became the pastor of Great Crossing Church, which is still active today. (In 1790, Lebanon was renamed George Town in honor of George Washington, and it finally became known as Georgetown.

In 1787 he established the first classical school in Kentucky. It later became associated with the Rittenhouse Academy, which he also led. He donated land for the founding of Georgetown College, the first Baptist college west of the Allegheny Mountains. Elijah Craig became a productive businessman and a local industrial magnate, providing many jobs in the community. He built the first fulling mill for cloth manufacturing, and the first paper mill, lumber mill and grist mill at Georgetown.

In about 1789 Rev. Craig founded a distillery amid hundreds of small farmer-distillers throughout the central and south-central regions of what would later become the Commonwealth of Kentucky. His prominence in the area is probably the basis of the legend that he was the first to give his whiskey the brand name of "Bourbon". However, he did not own land or live in the area of Virginia that later became Bourbon County, Kentucky. That county was named

for the Royal House of Bourbon in France, in appreciation of their assistance in winning our independence from England. No proof has ever been found to support the idea that Elijah Craig was the first to call his whiskey bourbon. This urban legend, started about a hundred years later, has been given credibility by being included in an encyclopedia. The Heaven Hill Distillery also dubiously makes this claim in the advertising of their Elijah Craig Super-Premium Bourbon.

Another case can be made for Jacob Spears, who owned 800 acres of prime bluegrass land, 80 mules, 30 horses, and three stills located near Paris, Kentucky, in 1789. Both Collins' *"History of Kentucky, Vol. II"*, and Thompson's *Kentucky Tradition, Vol. IV*, recognize Jacob Spears as originating bourbon. They say, "It is pretty generally recognized that the name "bourbon" is derived from the product of the distillery of Jacob Spears, a Pennsylvanian who settled in Paris, Kentucky, and was actively plying his trade in 1790. His was the first distillery in Bourbon County."

"Spears Old Whiskey" and "Spears Prime Whiskey" were of superior quality and much sought after by merchants and consumers. Thompson says, "He, Jacob Spears, called his whiskey bourbon after the county and, by subsequent transferal, bourbon was applied to any mellow, heavy-bodied corn whiskey with a deep amber color." Richard Gehman, in *True Magazine*, says, "Kentucky Bourbon, the All-American whiskey, got its name from Bourbon County. In the booming settlement of Paris in 1790, Jacob Spears set up a distillery. His product, called "bourbon" was considered the finest on the frontier". A contemporary citizen wrote that "A man can run, shoot, and jump better after one drink of that noble fluid". Today, by an act of Congress, Bourbon can only be manufactured in Kentucky.

So - the question is: How did Kentucky Bourbon Whiskey get its name? And the answer is: Nobody knows!

Lynn Shea

The male forebear living in Kentucky before 1792 was Peter Lee, born in Richmond County, Virginia in 1750 and baptized in the North Farnham Parish Church. Richmond County is a sparsely populated rural area; its county seat, Warsaw is tiny (about 1400 people), and the church, founded in 1683, still stands. When Peter was twenty-four, he joined his brothers, Richard and Mark, to fight in Lord Dunmore's War on the Shawnee and Mingo Indians, who had been raiding and killing colonists on the western frontier. The war ended at the Battle of Point Pleasant (Oct. 10, 1774). Two years later, when the Revolution started, Peter joined as a private in the Virginia State Line. In 1778, during a dark and uncertain year of the Revolution, he married Rebecca Taylor at Patterson Creek, on the upper reaches of the North Branch Potomac River, now in West Virginia, and the couple remained in the area until at least 1783, after which they moved first to Lincoln County and then to Nelson County. At the age of forty, he received a warrant for 100 acres of land for three years of service in the Revolutionary army. In Nelson County, he settled on Pitman's Creek, near his brothers, William and Mark. Family historians believe that the children of Peter's father, William Lee (1704-1764), including Richard, William, Charles, Peter, John, Mark, and Nancy Lee Hanks, all migrated to Kentucky about 1783/1784, settling eventually in what was then Nelson County. Most settlers had left the area between 1781 - 1784 because of Indian depredations. It seems likely that Peter Lee's farm was near William Pitman's second station, founded after 1784 a few miles west of Greensburg. By 1796, Peter and his family had joined his brother, Mark, in Louisiana. Peter Lee died in LaFayette Parish, Louisiana in March of 1823, at the age of seventy-three.

It is important not to underestimate the contributions made by the women who faced the

hardships of life and childbirth in “the West.” Rebecca Taylor Lee was the daughter of Simon Taylor and Anna Marie Hite, whose father was Col. John Hite, the county lieutenant of Frederick County, Virginia. Col. Hite’s sister married Col. Abraham Bowman, a Revolutionary soldier, Kentucky pioneer, and one of the founders of Fayette County. Col. Bowman is the ancestor of fellow-member Joan Pursley Mayer. Rebecca’s cousin, Isaac Hite, had arrived in Kentucky in 1773, before the Revolution. Her great-grandmother, whose Christian name she bore, was Rebecca Van Meter, a member of another family that provided early settlers for what would become the Commonwealth. Rebecca Van Meter’s nephew, Jacob Van Meter, and several of his children came to Kentucky from Frederick County, Virginia in 1779. Their surnames, Bowman, Hite, and Van Meter, figure prominently in the history of the Commonwealth and are commemorated in many sites around Louisville. Rebecca Lee died in Louisiana some time after 1830.

Joseph R. Jones

