

The Kentuckian

Journal of the First Families of Kentucky

Volume 10 No. 1

Spring 2016



Greetings from the Governor General

You have survived the first year of my term of office as your Governor General. I thought after many years on the Council that I knew all that was needed to serve in this office, but I find almost daily new challenges, new aspects of our society which I either did not know about, or did not appreciate enough. But we made it, and I am looking forward to celebrating my first year anniversary at the annual meeting, which is scheduled for the Pendennis Club in Louisville on the evening of May 28.

I believe we have a program lined up for you which you will find both enjoyable and informative. Our principal speaker will



be Rev. Dr. Clyde Crews, Professor Emeritus of History at Bellarmine University. He will speak on the condition of the churches in Kentucky around the year 1800. I have heard him

speak many times, and I can promise you an interesting and entertaining talk. At that same meeting, we will be presenting our semi-annual donation to the historical society at Cane Ridge, which remembers the great revival which was so influential in the annals of American religion.

First Families of Kentucky

Annual Banquet

Saturday the twenty-eight of May

Two thousand and sixteen

Pendennis Club

218 West Muhammad Ali Boulevard

Louisville, Kentucky

Social hour at Six o'clock

Dinner at quarter past Seven

\$70.00 per person

White tie preferred

Black tie acceptable

Rev. Dr. Clyde Crews

"Wilderness Faith:

Antebellum Religion in Frontier
Kentucky"

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firstfamiliesofkentucky.com

Our numbers continue to grow. We passed the 300 mark in November. Thanks to our busy Registrar General, Sharon Withers, but thanks especially to all of you who are doing the recruiting among your relatives and friends. We have a multi-tiered admissions process, so it sometimes takes a while to reach the point when certificates and congratulations are sent to new members. We appreciate your patience.

Our newsletter editors tell me they are not getting as many submissions of articles as we would like. With all of us having stories about our Kentucky ancestors, and with our Commonwealth having an extraordinarily rich history, there is plenty to be written about, so get busy and put pen to paper (or finger to key board) and submit your story to Murel and Frieda for inclusion in a future issue.

I hope to see each of you at our annual meeting. As you know, our meeting time is set by our constitution on a Saturday close to 1 June for a reason. We celebrate the achievement of statehood at that time, and 2016 will mark Kentucky's 224th birthday as a state. Come celebrate with us.

William C. Schrader III, Governor General



Lt. Colonel Ronald James Shea, husband of past Governor General Lynn T. Shea, passed from this life suddenly on 25 January 2016. He was career Army, a life-long fan of ice hockey and a staunch supporter of Governor General Shea during her tenure of office.

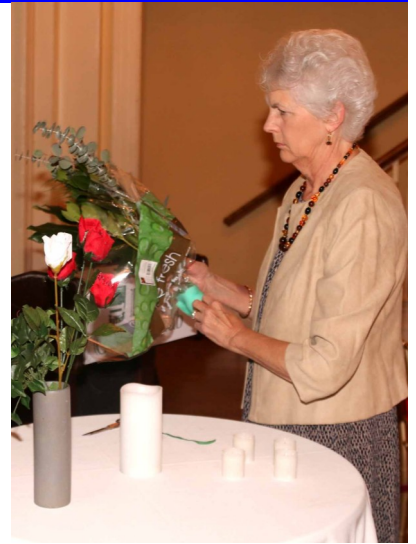
Lexington Country Club Luncheon



Dick & Nancy Lutz



Sharen & Larry Selby



Memorial Sharlene Cooper



Bill & Nancy Rybolt



Dottie & Reed Butler



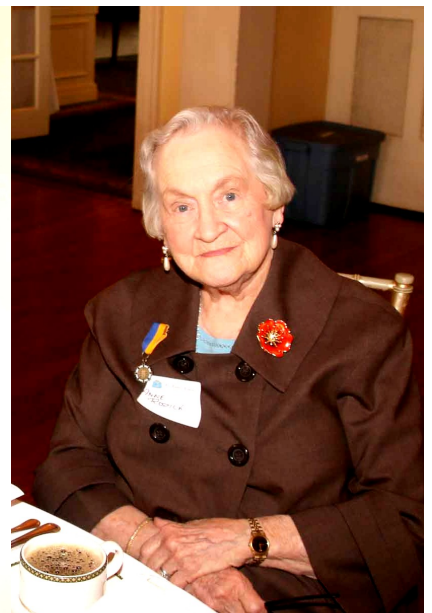
Bill Swinford



William C. Schrader, III



Speaker Donna Hughes



Anne Rodick



Skip & Pennie Redmond, Ann Franklin



Laura Jones, Leslie Miller, Margaret Shopshire



Chuck Bragg, Charles Grissett



Donna Hughes, Russell & Diane King



Sue McCracken, Ed & Kay Thomas, Frank McCracken



Frances Barr, Rod Swinford



Society of First Families of Kentucky October 24, 2015



Rogers Barde, Ann H. Morris



Joan Leseuer, Alex Leseuer, Alex Leseuer, Jr.



Vera & Chuck Bragg, William Schrader



Cora Potter, Jeanette Wortham, Mary David Myles



David & Edie McCaulley

Bryan

Joseph Bryan, Sr. was born in 1720 in Chester County, Pennsylvania. He was the first in his family to be born in America and lived there until 1734 when his family moved to Virginia. Morgan, his father, was a leader of the new Quaker settlement. He met and married his first wife, Hester, and had two daughters, Martha (Boone) born 1737 and Rebecca (who would become Daniel Boone's wife) born January 9, 1739. Although not much is known of Hester, it is believed she died before 1740.

Joseph later married Alice "Aylee" Linville about 1746 and had nine children, Samuel, Joseph Jr., Phoebe (Forbis), Mary (Howard), Susannah (Hinkle), Aylee (Howard), Charity (Davis), Elenor, and John but by 1755, he had moved to North Carolina where his brothers, William, Morgan, and James lived.

About 1775-76, brothers Morgan, James, and Joseph, led by William, set out for Kentucky. George W. Ranck says in *The Story of Bryan's Station: As Told in the Historical Address Delivered at Bryan's Station, Fayette County, Kentucky August 16, 1896* "All were elderly but stalwart woodsmen, and as each was blessed with a great family of children, in accordance with a striking feature of the day, and as the children themselves were nearly all grown, they felt prepared for straggling Indians at least, as with dogs and flintlock rifles, pack horses and cows they set out from the valley of the Yadkin." They settled in the heart of neutral ground for Northern and Southern Indians which was a rich hunting ground and Bryan's Station planted with 12-14 cabins built without nails or iron. It rested on an elevated point which gave clear view around it. A spring of ice cold water down the hillside, projected and provided an opportunity for heroism by Kentucky women. In 1896, Lexington DAR erected a monument to the pioneer women of Bryan's Station who left the safety of the fort to retrieve water from the spring.

They knew the Indians were watching, but by showing bravery, tricked the Indians into thinking the group did not know they were there.

Late 1779, Bryan's Station was bustling and land claims were being settled in court. It was while this court was in session that the Bryans, who believed they were the owners of the station land by right of settlement, met the first of a series of discouragements that caused them to abandon the place. First, the settlement was found to be in the boundaries of another person's property. Then there was a long spell of terribly severe weather and other adverse circumstances that made the winter a gloomy one at Bryan's. Food storages were depleted, meat was scarce. William Bryan and eleven other men ventured out about May 20th for meat and were ambushed. William was mortally wounded by three bullets, and died the next morning. The Bryans had talked of leaving the station when they found they were not the owners of the land, and after William's death they were more inclined to abandon Bryan's Station. Their return would not be easy because of the enormous cost. Land was cheap, but supplies were expensive. By the end of August, 1780, farewells were said to the few who remained, the conch shell was blown, and the Bryans and their party abandoned the station forever, returning to North Carolina.

In 1798, Joseph and Alice moved back to Kentucky, after he, his sons and son-in-law had acquired large plantations. He lived at Floyd's Fork in Shelby County until his death in 1805.

Pascal E. Bailey

Please share 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 publisher and author. Mail to the Editor at 600 Hatherleigh Lane, Louisville, KY, 40222.

Gen. Benjamin Logan

The celebrated Kentucky pioneer and soldier, Gen. Benjamin Logan, was the companion of Daniel Boone, and Simon Kenton. He was a native of Augusta County, Virginia. When of age he removed to the banks of the Holston in Tennessee; accompanied the celebrated Dunmore expedition against the Indians in 1774, and in 1775, in an adventurous spirit, moved to the wild forests and canebrakes of Kentucky. Here he built Logan's Fort, in what is now Lincoln County, and soon became particularly distinguished. In all those days of constant and perilous warfare with the Indians Gen. Logan was noted for his conspicuous bravery. He commanded the Kentuckians on a number of perilous expeditions against the Indian tribes in Ohio. The most noted of these was his attack upon Chillicothe, in 1779, where he displayed rare courage and superior generalship. No more marked instance of personal heroism in sudden warfare was ever witnessed than that displayed by Gen. Logan during the siege of his fort by savages in 1777. He rushed forth, through a shower of rifle balls, which was poured upon him from every spot capable of concealing an Indian, seized a wounded man in his arms, and running to the fort with him, through the same heavy fire, entered unhurt, although the gate and the picketing near him were riddled with bullets, and his hat and his clothes pierced in several places. The fort was closely blockaded, and the siege pressed with savage fury. The little garrison was in imminent peril from the scarcity of ammunition, and no supply could be had closer than the distant Holston settlement in Tennessee. Logan took upon himself the almost fatal office of courier, crawled through the Indian encampment on a dark night, and, shunning the ordinary route, through Cumberland Gap, arrived at Holston settlement, through bypaths which no white man had as yet

trodden, through canebrake and thicket, over tremendous cliffs and precipices, where the deer could scarcely obtain foothold. Having obtained a supply of powder and lead, he returned through the same paths to the fort, which he found still besieged and now reduced to extremity. The return of their leader inspired the defenders with new courage. In a few days, by the appearance of a rescuing party from a distant fort, the Indians were compelled to retire. After assisting for years in conquering the wilderness, and driving the savage tribes from dark and bloody ground, Gen. Logan removed to Shelby County, then just redeemed from its primeval forest, and entered a large body of land on the banks of Bullskin Creek, five miles west of Shelbyville, which, as a remarkable fact, has continued in possession of his family for more than a hundred years. Here he devoted himself to the civil affairs of his country, which, succeeding war, had begun to assume an important aspect. Here, in the pursuits of peace, in the midst of his family, he ended his days in 1802 at the age of sixty, and lies buried in the family cemetery, on the banks of the creek near his old home.

The above story was taken from *Kentucky: A History of the State*, Battle, Perrin & Kniffin, 6th Edition, 1887, Shelby County. The dramatically "enhanced and embellished" 1887 version of this rescue found above is basically true. It is also mentioned in *Benjamin Logan, Kentucky Frontiersman*, by Charles Gano Talbert. The incident took place on May 30, 1777. The injured man was Burr Harrison, who died of his wounds two weeks later on June 13th, and was buried at the fort.

The Benjamin Logan family cemetery, located on his Shelby County farm, is on a rise overlooking Bullskin Creek and the present day Brunerstown Road. It was restored by the Shelby County Cemetery Preservation Board, and a Pioneer Cemetery Dedication was held on Saturday, October 31, 2015.

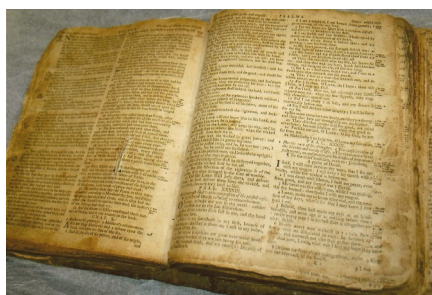
Lynn T. Shea

VanMeter

Jacob VanMeter, Sr. organized a group of over 100 people from the Ten Mile Country of Pennsylvania to move to "Kaintucke," about the year 1779. They loaded 27 houseboats with livestock, household goods, family members, and friends. They were ready for the long and treacherous journey down the Ohio River.

Abraham VanMeter, son of Jacob, had a land grant located near present-day Shelbyville in Shelby County, Kentucky. He and his family were living at Squire Boone's Station, sometime referred to as Painted Stone, as early as June 28, 1780, when a letter containing a list of the 23 Indian fighters at Painted Stone was sent to Col. Bowman by Squire Boone. On the list was Abraham VanMeter. Abraham was grazed by an arrow during an Indian attack at the station and died several days later.

In April of 1781, the white renegade Simon Girty led a band of Indians to attack Squire Boone's Station on Brashear Creek, and Boone was wounded twice. Maj. Bland Ballard warned the Beargrass and Boone Stations of many Indian signs in the area and suggested that Boone abandon his isolated station and move to the more secure Linn Station. On September 14, 1781, all of the Boone Station families started toward Linn's Station, about 29 miles distant, with the exception of Squire Boone's family, and Widow Hinton (Mary VanMeter Hinton) and her two children. They stayed behind as there were not enough packhorses to carry all of their belongings. The fleeing men, women, and children, as well as cattle and horses, were scattered along the trail when they were suddenly ambushed about eight miles from Linn's Station. Family tradition places Lettie (Letita), the nine-year-old daughter of the deceased Abraham



VanMeter, along with her widowed mother and three sisters, at the tragic Long Run Massacre in Jefferson County. The pioneers had been instructed that in case of an Indian attack along the way, the women and children were to dismount and hide behind trees, so that the men were free to fight off the attack. Evidently young Lettie remembered to do this, but at some point slipped and fell into the creek. Nearly drowned, she was pulled out by her mother, Elizabeth. The men soon realized they were badly outnumbered by approximately 50 Miami Indians, and orders were given to remount and make a run for Linn's Station. Many of the casualties occurred in the confusion and panic of the retreat. Varying reports are given as to how many pioneers died in this massacre. The Indians followed as the survivors hurried to cross the swollen streams of Long Run and Floyd's Fork Creeks but turned back to ravage the possessions abandoned along the way. Most of the survivors arrived at Linn's Station that night. The next day a contingent of 27 mounted men led by Col. John Floyd headed for Boone's Station, but upon reaching the Long Run area, they encountered a large party of approximately 200 Indians. The Hurons, led by British Capt. Alexander McKee, had joined the Miami and suddenly Floyd found himself down to nine men fleeing for their lives. After Floyd's Defeat, a force of 300 men from the Falls of the Louisville area arrived to bury the dead and rescue the families remaining at Boone's Station. Among the remains of the scattered possessions was found a VanMeter *Bible*, printed ca. 1700, lying on the ground. An Indian spear had been thrust through the *Bible*, and a bloody footprint remained on the cover where an Indian had placed his foot to withdraw the spear. The *Bible* was later given to Lettie VanMeter, who married Thompson Ashby. In 1917 a descendant gave the *Bible* to the

Iowa State Historical Library in Des Moines where it is on display. Frieda Curtis-Wheatley
(permission from *Kentucky Explorer* magazine)

Montgomery

There are many branches of the Montgomery family of Ulster, but the one of interest to me is that of James Montgomery, who was born about 1690 near Donegal in Northern Ireland, and moved with his family to America about 1733 with his wife, Anne, and their children. James is a brother of the Catherine Montgomery who also immigrated at that same time with her husband, Patrick Calhoun, who are the ancestors of the famed Senator from South Carolina, John C. Calhoun. In 1746 James is recorded as living at Chestnut Level in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. In that year, through his sons Robert and John, he acquired 654 acres on Catawba Creek in what was then Augusta County, Virginia (now Botetourt County) for twenty pounds. James served as justice of the peace of Augusta County and a captain of militia, as well as an officer of the New Derry Presbyterian Church. He died in 1756, with his estate appraisal recorded on 16 March 1757.

Among the many children of James and Anne Montgomery, two are of particular interest to this article, sons Robert and John.

Robert Montgomery was born about 1717 near Donegal in Ireland, and came to America with his family about 1733. He was the eldest son, and entrusted with his brother, John, with the purchase of land in Augusta County, Virginia, for the family. About 1740 he married Mary White, probably in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He was one of the founders of Sinking Creek Presbyterian Church in Augusta County in 1761. In 1771 he acquired 500 acres on Reed Creek from his cousin, John Calhoun, of Long Cane settlement in South Carolina. In 1782 Robert and his sons, William and James, moved to Lincoln County, Virginia (now Kentucky), where they

acquired 1,000 acres on the Dix River. Robert Montgomery signed his will on 15 May 1789, which was probated on 16 March 1790. Among the children of Robert and Mary Montgomery were sons, William and Robert.

William Montgomery was born about 1745, and by 19 June 1790 was the owner of 106 acres on Clear Creek in Lincoln (now Garrard) County. William and his wife, Jean, were the parents, among others, of Anne Montgomery, wife of General Benjamin Logan; of William Montgomery Jr., a member of the 1792 Kentucky Convention; and of Jane Montgomery, wife of William Casey, and great-grandmother of Samuel Langhorn Clemens (Mark Twain, 1835-1910).

Robert Montgomery, son of Robert and Mary, was born about 1752 in Augusta County, Virginia. He married his cousin, Esther Montgomery, daughter of his uncle, John, about 1774. About 1782 he moved with his father and brother and their families to Lincoln County, where he owned land on the Dix River. He died in 1793, although settlement of his estate was not complete until 1799. In 1807 the children of Robert and those of his brother, James, jointly bought 1,400 acres on Tygert's Creek in Greenup County from Simon Kenton.

Meanwhile, John Montgomery, son of James and Anne and brother of the elder Robert, was making quite a reputation for himself. John was born about 1725 in Ireland, and moved to America with his family about 1733. With the family, he moved from Pennsylvania to Virginia, where he married Agnes Crockett on 28 November 1753. John Montgomery served as justice of the peace in Botetourt County, and was a Captain of militia in the French and Indian War under Maj. Andrew Lewis, and served in Lord Dunmore's War. From 1774 to 1776 he served on the Fincastle County Committee of Public Safety. In 1775 he was one of the signers of the Fincastle Resolutions, addressed to the Virginia delegation to the Continental Congress,

which was the first public statement urging armed resistance to British infringements on American liberties. In 1776 John Montgomery enlisted in the fourth Virginia Regiment in the Continental Army. He also served as sheriff of Fincastle County and, when it was divided into Kentucky, Botetourt, Montgomery, and Washington counties in 1777, he later became sheriff of Montgomery County in 1778. He served in the Virginia legislature as a representative of Montgomery County in 1777. In 1780 he proved that he was entitled to 3,000 acres under the terms of the Proclamation of 1763 for his services in the French and Indian War. John Montgomery made his will on 4 July 1798, which was probated on 14 August 1805.

Agnes Crockett, wife of John Montgomery, is also of interest. Born 4 February 1755, she was a daughter of Samuel Crockett and Esther Thompson. Her grandfather, Rev. John Thompson (about 1690 to 1753), was an influential Presbyterian minister

very much involved in the controversies around the Great Awakening. The Crocketts were a Huguenot family who came to America by way of Bantry Bay, Ireland. Samuel Crockett was first cousin to William Crockett, the great-grandfather of the frontiersman David Crockett, who died at the Alamo on 6 March 1836.

Among the children of John and Esther Montgomery was the daughter, Esther (1755-1843), who married her cousin, Robert, and moved to what became Garrard County, Kentucky. Robert and Esther Montgomery were the parents of Mary (Polly) Montgomery (1791-1874), who married Smith Stone and was the mother of Esther Stone. Esther Stone married William Onstott, and was the mother of Mary Ann Onstott, who married John Montgomery Craig, and became the mother of Sarah (Sallie) Ann Craig, who married James Washington Calvert, my great-grandparents.

William C. Schrader

