

Bernice G. Swain

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Mar 27, 1979

To the Librarian

I am doing a family history and hope you can help me. I expect to send a fee for your trouble.

The family I am searching for is Lime. Now James Lime was born in Ireland in 1794. He came to America sometime in the next 20 years or so.

He bought land in Washington Co., the area which later became Marion Co. I found him on a top list microfilm so he did own land. I believe they mentioned Salt Lick.

I can't get any records from Marion Co. Courthouse as they say it burned during the Civil War. I know there must be some records of them. His wife's name was Mary. I am not sure if they ever married in Md. or Ken. but I believe it was Ken.

Please help.

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PEDIGREE Clark, Logsdon

CHART

George R. Clark Jr.

Jeffrey Allen Clark

Birth 1/9/72

Death

Where

Married

Donna Jean Logsdon

Bernard Leroy Logsdon

Silas Green Logsdon

Mary Catherine Thompson

Daphne Blanche Simons

Courageous, Resourceful, And Brave

Big Joe Logsdon: An Unsung Kentucky Frontiersman

Author's Note: There is a little-known Kentucky frontiersman who was as courageous and resourceful as Daniel Boone and as brave as Simon Kenton. Like the aforementioned Kentucky heroes, Big Joe Logsdon immigrated to Kentucky from the east. He later moved westerly becoming a "regulator" in Illinois where he was killed apprehending horse thieves. This hulking pioneer was a pacifist in Kentucky; kept pioneer families replenished with game; was known to George Washington, being prominently mentioned in his diary; and led an attack against Indians threatening Meade County, Kentucky. Outnumbered two-to-one, he forced the hostiles to withdraw to Indiana. He moved against the Kickapoo Indians, forcing their withdrawal from a major village without firing a shot. He ordered his men to bulge (cross) the river while he held back advancing Indians earning the sobriquet "Bulger Joe." Procuring wild game for a Kentucky fort under siege, Joe Logsdon was ambushed by two Indians whom he fought in hand-to-hand combat, killing one and mortally wounding the second. This feat went unbelieved until Joe took a pioneer party to the site of the battle and the two Indians were found where they died and were buried. This is the story of Bulger Joe Logsdon.

By Gerald W. Fischer - 2016

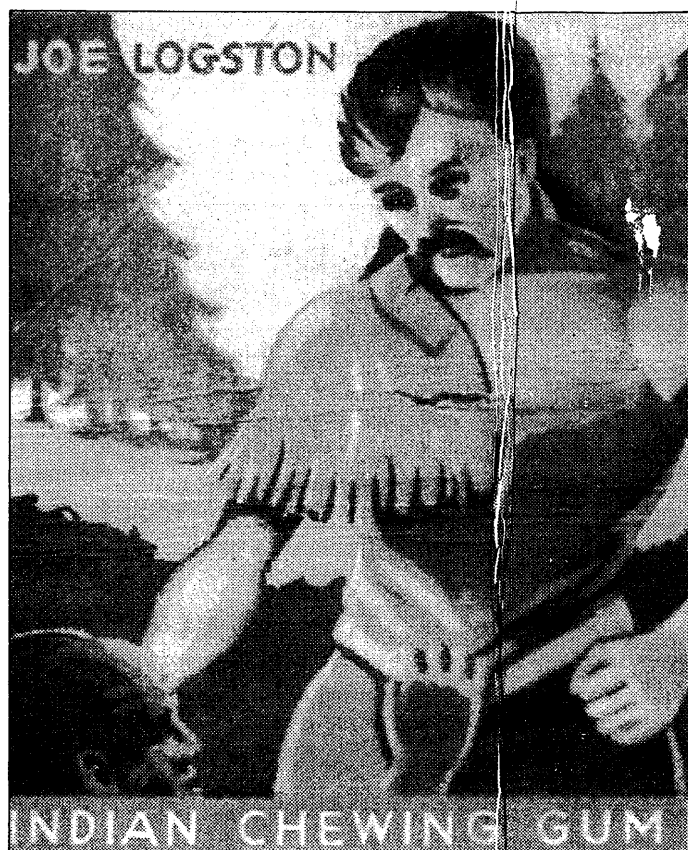
Logsdon, like so many Kentucky names, was spelled differently at different times. It is generally accepted and commonly spelled "Logsdon." However, it is also spelled Logston/Logsten/Logsdon. These variations came about because many people were illiterate, not knowing the correct spelling of their names, and others, like census takers, misunderstood and recorded the name incorrectly when they heard it phonetically. To confuse things a bit, the names Joseph and Thomas Logsdon were names commonly used in the family. Thomas was the name of Joseph Logsdon's father, but other ancestors and descendants bore those names. There were at least three relatives named Joseph Logsdon who were great Indian fighters. They were cousins, and since the family stories and written histories do not clearly differentiate between them, it is possible some of the events possibly belong to two different men. That being said it is possible, and some believe probable, that these stories all are about Big Joe Logsdon, aka Bulger Joe. Either way, the stories are true, and the Logsdon family was influential in settling Kentucky and winning the

West. Today there are families of Logsdon in the counties of Meade, Hart, Barren, and Ohio, as well as others dispersed across the United States.

The Logsdon family was cut from rough cloth. Some say they were not comfortable around other people. Joseph "Big Joe" Logsdon once found he had a neighbor six miles away and decided that was too close and decided to move. He pulled up stakes, decamped, and moved, saying he would hear the crack of his own rifle and no one else. The Logsdons would move in, clear out a patch, build a cabin, hunt out the area, and move on to a new place, always moving further west. They were the best center shots with a rifle. They loved to lift, wrestle, fight, foot race, and brag. Being six feet, three inches in height at a time when five feet seven or so was average, they stood out in the settlements. Daniel Boone was considered tall at five feet, ten inches.



This image of a wood cut regarding Big Joe "Logston" was found in the New York Public Library. It depicts Joe Logston's fight with an Indian.
(Photo courtesy of Craig Warner)



This Joe "Logston" trading card (front side, left; back side, right) was issued by the Goudy Gum Company of Boston, Massachusetts, under an Indian Chewing Gum subsidiary in 1933.
(Photos courtesy of Craig Warner)

— No. 66 —

JOE LOGSTON

The largest and strongest of the early pioneers living in the Alleghanies. When a neighbor moved in six miles away, he felt he was too crowded and moved on further West to the banks of the Barren River. While picking grapes, he was attacked by two big Indians. He killed one with his rifle and quickly ducked to let a murderous tomahawk fly over his head. With one punch he felled the second Indian and killed him with the dead Indian's own knife.

This is one of a series of ninety-six cards. More cards illustrating romantic America to follow.

INDIAN GUM

The World's Greatest Penny Value

Goudey Gum Co. Boston

The Logsdons were good natured and never sought a quarrel. They were handsome men, and the women were not only beautiful but also strong and determined.

Thomas Logsdon moved his family from the Westminster area to the westernmost and remote section of Maryland, along Stony River and the north bank of the Potomac where he established a home. The Logsdons knew Gen. George Washington, Col. William Crawford (later burned by the Shawnee Indians in Lord Dunsmore's War), the Engles, the Gists, and others. Thomas' son, Joseph, rode as a scout and on spy missions with Washington and William Crawford.

For some reason, likely patriotism for the American colonies, the Logsdons were anti-English during the Revolution. Washington wrote in his diary (1777-1799) Vol. II, 1771-1785, pages 309-311: "From Friends I passed by a spring (distance three miles) called Archy's from a man of that name, crossed the back bone and descended into Ryan's glade. Thence by Thomas Logston's (the father of Joseph) the way and distance as follows...from Lemon's to Old Logstons there is only friend and young Logston living on the track I came and none of it for 20 miles below him—but in general I could gather from them, especially from Joseph Logston, who has (he says) hunted along the water course of the river there is no fall in it—that from Fort

Cumberland to the mouth of Savage River..." Young Joe Logston guided for Washington and moved to Kentucky in 1790.

Big Joe lived for a while in Green County, Kentucky. In 1792 he was the first person tried for high crimes in Green County. The offense was stealing a horse, the property of William Vance. He was brought to trial and sundry witnesses were called, and he testified in his own defense. Afterward, the court found him to be not guilty, and he was discharged. Sometime before or later, he was on the little Barren River when he had his famous fight with two Indians.

The Indians had besieged a fort at a settlement and everyone was "forted up." Big Joe became restless and insisted in going out to hunt up the cattle or game to replenish the fort. None of the men in the fort, knowing the danger, would go with him. While out alone riding a trail he came upon a fine stand of grapes and picked them and carried the grapes bundled in his shirt. He stopped his horse to water at a stream when he was fired on by two Indians. Joe was slightly wounded and his horse killed. The Indians moved rapidly upon him, and Joe, grasping his rifle, tried to escape on foot. One Indian was big and the other smaller. Joe leveled his rifle at the closer smaller Indian who jumped behind two trees to confuse his aim. The Indian was jump-

ing back and forth behind the trees. Joe waited until the time the Indian jumped and shot him in the part of his body left exposed. That Indian was down and out of the fight. The big Indian then came at him with his tomahawk raised. Joe and the warrior were facing each other when the Indian threw his tomahawk which Joe ducked under. They grappled with each other, with Joe holding the Indian's arm to prevent him from drawing his knife. With his other hand, Joe grabbed the Indian's knife from its sheath and stabbed the Indian to death. Joe then turned his attention to the other Indian whom he had shot. He was found behind a log badly wounded and could not rise up even using his rifle as a crutch. Joe let him live. The fort was a few miles away and Joe walked there seeking assistance. He returned with a party the next day after the men in the fort accused him of lying about the fight. When they got to the site there was blood and signs of a battle. They found the second Indian had killed himself with his own knife. This event happened in Hart County, Kentucky. One story states the Indians were buried by the settlers.

When Big Joe moved into Kentucky he boasted, "I can out run, out jump, out hop, throw down, drag out, and whip any man in the country." Once Joe hid and as an Indian came by, he sprang upon him and was surprised to find he was evenly matched and the smaller Indian was getting the better of him. As they rolled across the ground Joe suddenly discovered something about the Indian, and with good upbringing he gave the Indian wider berth and a way of escape. And, escape "she" did. His boast did not include Indian women. When Big Joe made his way to the fort he was badly scratched, bleeding and bruised, but much wiser.

Probably in 1795 Big Joe had moved to Meade County, Kentucky, just across the river from Indian Territory called Indiana. At the river a natural gap between two hills divides Brandenburg, Kentucky. The cut or gap between the hills leads from the high ground to the Ohio River on a north to south line. The two hills were named east and west hill. East hill was covered with a large grove of black walnut trees that formed a grove stretching a mile or so to the south and perhaps half that distance east. This area was known as Walnut Grove.

Big Joe and five pioneer hunters were scouting for game and keeping an eye out for marauding Indians. From their vantage point they saw a dozen Indians beach their canoes in Flippen's Run, a small stream fed by a spring that forms Buttermilk Falls and flows into the Ohio River. They took positions and waited for the Indians to climb the hill, and they opened fire. A fierce fire fight began, and the Indians saw several of their number killed. The frontiersmen pushed the Indians toward their canoes, forcing them back across the river. When the pioneers got to the river's edge, Big Joe leveled his rifle on the last Indian, as he exited the canoe on the Indiana shore. The Indian was wearing a British Red Coat showing he was aligned with the Tory and the renegade Simon Girty. Angered by the Indian's English alliance, Logsdon fired, killing the last Indian.

During this time period the Indians were being pursued in Illinois, Ohio, and Indiana in order to better protect the Kentucky settlements. In this campaign to pacify the Indians, Big Joe's men encountered a large force of Indians that pushed his men back to a flooded and swollen river. The men, with their backs to the raging water and hostile Indians to the front, looked to Big Joe. He and perhaps a few others held back the Indians with rifle fire, and Joe ordered the men to "bulge" the river. This meant to plunge in swimming and boldly defy the current. They did, and escaped while the Indians were too afraid or too smart to follow. From this engagement on, Big Joe earned the sobriquet of "Bulger Joe." Capt. Joe Logsdon or perhaps his cousin, Joe Logsdon, and Captain King were fighting under Major Barbee, directed by General Scott to subdue the Kickapoo Indians in Illinois. Scott was leading a force of 750 volunteer infantry and 800 mounted men. Joe Logsdon's men swam and canoed the river and marched south to the Kickapoo town, while the others moved north in a pincer movement. Indian scouts must have spied Joe's men, for by the time they got to the village the Indians had vacated and moved. The village was taken without a shot being fired.

Sometime later Bulger Joe moved to Illinois and became a regulator. The frontier communities needed police protection, because they were at the mercy of outlaws like Big and Little Harp, river pirates, and renegade Indians. Regulators were a part-time pioneer police force designed to rein in this hard-bitten criminal element so the citizens could live in relative safety. It is no wonder that Big "Bulger" Joe would volunteer for this service. He was pursuing two horse thieves someplace in Illinois when he was shot to death by the men he was trying to apprehend. His burial place is unknown. Big Joe was a true Kentucky hero.

In 2014 I received a call from a man who had gotten my telephone number from the local chamber of commerce because of a story I had written on their website. It was about Big Joe Logsdon's Indian fight in Walnut Grove. I met this man in April of 2015 and showed him around Brandenburg and where the Indian fight happened. His name is Craig Warner, a United Airline pilot and navigator. Shortly before that meeting, I met Charlie Logsdon a wildlife biologist for the state of Kentucky. Both of these men are descendants of Big Joe Logsdon. They both, like Big Joe, are tall and sturdily built with winning smiles and are affable. While different from each other, they are very much alike. Both have contributed to this story, and both I am proud to call my friend. Recently Craig has applied for a historic marker to be placed to commemorate Big Joe's contributions to the settlement and protection of Kentucky, not to mention aiding this founding nation when scouting for George Washington.

Thanks Craig and Charlie you're both credits to Big Joe.

Gerald Fischer, 560 Roach Road, Webster, KY 40176; fischer@bbtel.com, shares this article with our readers.