

Kentucky Explorer
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McAfee's Memoirs Of Salt River During The Winter Of 1780-81

Fearing Indians' Hostilities Families Sought Refuge At McAfee's Station

Editor's Note: In 1773 there came into Kentucky a party of hunters and surveyors from Virginia. Among these were brothers, James, George, Robert, Samuel, and William McAfee; who later on became prominent in the new country. This visit was for investigation, and after selecting lands on the Salt River, in Mercer County, they made their way homeward, well-nigh exhausted by the trials of the journey. In 1779 the McAfees permanently relocated to the Salt River area.

Luther Davenport of Lawrenceburg, Kentucky, shares these memoirs written in 1843 by Robert B. McAfee, son of Robert McAfee.

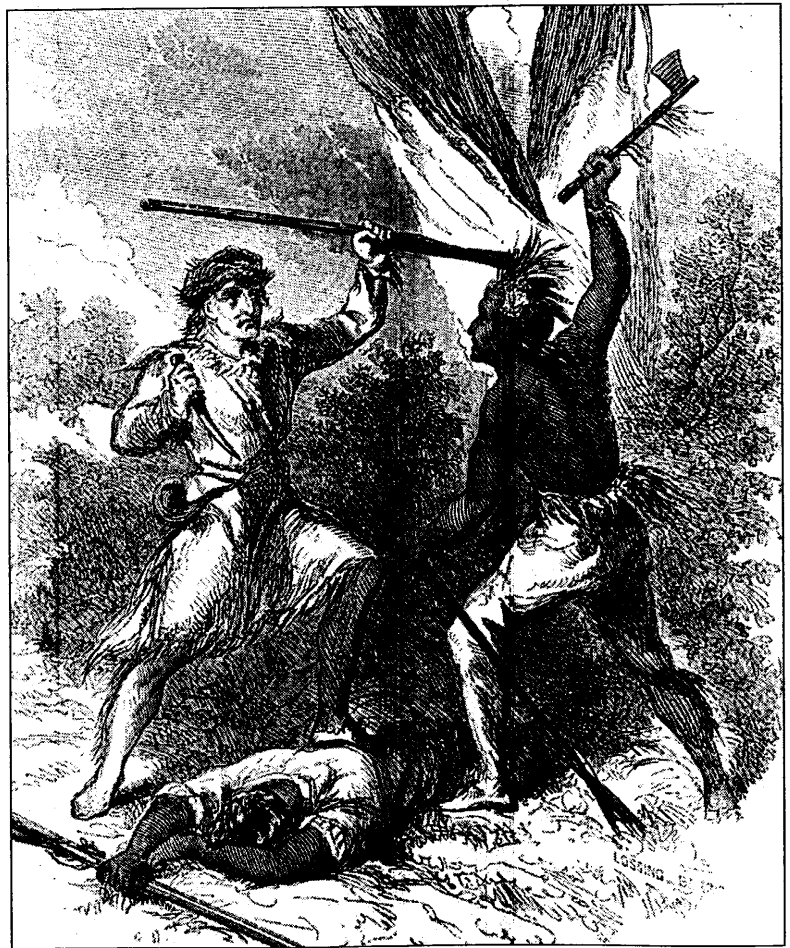
By Robert B. McAfee - 1843

The winter of 1780-81 was comparatively a mild one, and the people on Salt River had plenty of provisions. "My father, Robert McAfee, had increased his stock of horses and procured some sows and pigs from Whitley's Station, and everything appeared to prosper around him, but a reverse was at hand.

"My mother's youngest brother, Joseph McCoun, a youth of 17 years of age, on the 6th day of March 1781, early in the morning, went out to look after his father's milk cows and to check some traps he had set the previous evening. The Indians discovered and pursued him as he ran down Salt River on the west bank. After a chase of over a mile, the Indians, intent on keeping between him and the settlement, overtook and captured him in a small glade. Not returning, the family suspected some mischief and took his trail and followed until they found where he was taken. It was near evening before the alarm was given, and everyone gathered up family and a few articles and sought shelter at Uncle James McAfee's station. Early the next morning my father led several of the men and took out on the trail, following until they reached the Ohio River. They here concluded to return home, with hopes that since he was still alive this long that he would be spared and possibly ransomed. This was a vain hope, as years later liberated captives told how he was tied to a tree and

burned along the Mad River in Ohio.

"Fearing extended hostilities all the families along the Salt River now took refuge in McAfee's Station, which was fortified on three sides, with a common rail fence across the open end. In the month of April, Indians again made their presence known. In the late night several Indians stole into the stable and tried to steal the horses, but father and



Early Kentucky pioneers were constantly on guard, fearing Indian attacks. Many pioneers and Indians were killed when the white man settled in Kentucky.

Uncle James succeeded in saving the stock by leading them out one end, as the Indians were coming in the other. This effort was only a preparatory to additional trouble which led up to an all out attack.

"This attack came on May 9, 1781, about an hour after sunrise, at a time when only 13 men were in the station. It afterward appears that near 150 Indians had camped the previous night at the cabins of James McCoun who was inside the stockade. Early the next morning they had taken up position on all four sides of McAfee Station. The dogs and animals showed some sign of uneasiness, suspicion had lulled, and no attack was expected at this time. At first light four men left the security of the little fort. My father and Uncle James had gone out about 150 yards to clear land, and Uncle Samuel and Isaac Clunendyke were going to Samuel's cabin to retrieve some corn that was stored there. After going no more than a-quarter-of-a-mile and reaching a hollow, Samuel and Isaac were fired on from ambush. Clunendyke fell dead, and the horse he led broke away. Samuel, unhurt in this first volley, turned and ran towards the fort but had not gone but a few steps when a huge Indian blocked his way. Both raced at each other with guns leveled at point blank range and fired at the same time. My uncle's gun made a clean shot, but the Indian's only flashed. Samuel made good his escape over the dead Indian's body as bullets from others whistled past.

"Father and Uncle James, hearing the shots, seized up their guns and headed toward the action. My father, being younger and more active, soon outdistanced James. It was at this time James came under fire, as about seven or so Indians arose from behind a brush heap. Several bullets cut close around his head and pierced his clothes. He turned and took shelter behind a tree, but he had scarcely gained this position when several other Indians fired on him from another direction, cutting up dirt near his feet. Before any could reload he left his hiding place and raced to safety of the stockade. Father ran

on until he met Uncle Samuel, who told of Clunendyke's murder, and said that he should return to the fort. Notwithstanding, Father continued on until reaching the Indian Samuel had killed, where he watched as Clunendyke was scalped. Looking around at his own situation he noticed Indians had moved to cut off his path. He ran through the forest closely chased by a tall, fine-looking Indian with silver rings and moons in his ears and nose. After running some distance Father turned to make a shot at his enemy who took shelter behind a tree. The chase continued, and again Father tried to get off a shot and again the Indian took behind a tree. At length Father reached a rail fence and again turned. As the Indian hid behind a tree Father jumped over the fence and waited. After a moment the Indian poked out to see what had become of his quarry, and Father fired striking him in the head. He then reached safety of the fort.

"The attack now became general as the Indians pressed from all sides. The men kept up a steady fire whenever a target presented itself, while the women ran bullets and prepared patches. The attack continued almost without cease, as the Indians made several attempts to rush the defenders, but the men from inside the walls kept up such a hot fire that each attack was repulsed with little impression, and only one man was slightly wounded. At around



Orben Bach was only six years old when this photo was taken over 100 years ago in Breathitt County, Kentucky, on Hunting Creek. He was married to Nellie Taulbee, and they had five children: Hazel, Dersel, Alma, Edwin, and Junior. Orben was killed in a logging accident when he was 28 years old. Hazel Craft, 89 Memory Hill Lane, West Liberty, KY 41472, shares this photo of her father.

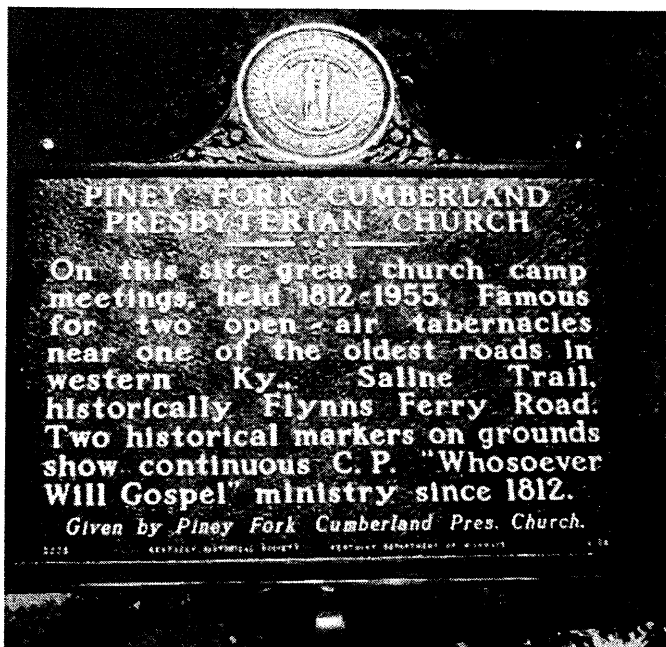
10:00 in the morning the fire began to slacken and soon a sound of distant thunder was heard from the direction of Harrodsburg. In a little time Col. Hugh McGary at the head of 45 horsemen approached at full speed from his station, Uncle William's station, and Harrodsburg. As the Indians withdrew to the west side of Salt River a short halt was made as the men from our station bridled horses to join the pursuit. At the river ford the little army was fired on, one man was killed, another wounded, and another injured when he was thrown from his horse. Still the white men pushed on and overtook the main body of Indians near James McCoun's cabin, where they had camped the night before; here the fighting resumed. A running battle was kept up for several miles as the Indians retreated from tree to tree, until they dispersed

and could be followed no more. Several more of the Indians were killed, but the whites suffered no more casualties after the river crossing.

"The prompt relief obtained from Harrodsburg and other settlements was on account of the stillness of the morning. The sounds of a battle were heard at Uncle William's Station, and express riders were sent to Harrodsburg and McGary's with orders to meet at a central location. Such was the state of preparation that all took up rifles without excuses and moved with one heart to aid their neighbors."

Luther A. Davenport, 1047 Jenny Lillard Road, Lawrenceburg, KY 40342, shares this article with our readers.

Kentucky Historical Highway Marker Placed At Piney Fork Cumberland Presbyterian Church



Kentucky Historical Highway Marker No. 2188

By Brenda Underdown - 2005

Located about seven miles from Marion in Crittenden County, Kentucky, on Highway 506, is the Piney Fork Cumberland Presbyterian Church. It is known as the first Cumberland Presbyterian Church organized in Kentucky. The denomination itself was formally organized in 1810 in Dickson County, Tennessee. The Cumberland Church was organized in dissent against the Presbyterian Church's

requirements for ordination of ministers and its policy of discouraging camp meeting revivals, which were sweeping the area west of the Appalachian Mountains at that time. The denomination traces its origin to camp meetings in Livingston and Crittenden counties.

Land for the first church at Piney Fork was donated by John Travis and George Green. The first building was located in what is now the church cemetery. Previously the congregation had met at the home of John Wheeler about four miles southeast of Marion.

The same year the first church was built and the first of Piney Fork's well-known camp meetings was held, with people coming from over 100 miles to camp in rude huts on the grounds and to devote every waking hour of almost a week to worship. Camp meetings continued to be held there well into the present century.

The church's first pastor was the Rev. Finis Ewing, who was born in 1773 and died in 1841. He was one of the original members of the first Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and was one of the three ministers who organized the denomination of the "Whosoever Will Gospel" denomination.

The Piney Fork Cemetery is as old as the church, with some graves antedating the first church there.

The church and cemetery lie near the end of Piney Creek Road between two forks in that creek.

The Kentucky Historical Society Highway Marker Program dedicated the historical marker for Piney Fork Cumberland Presbyterian Church on Saturday, September 17, 2005.

Brenda Underdown, 139 Oak Hill Drive, Marion, KY 42064; bunderdown@apex.net, shares this article with our readers.

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The Life and Times of Robert B. McAfee and His Family and Connections

Part Two

Beginning in January 1927, the Register of the Kentucky Historical Society began publishing transcripts of the papers of Robert B. McAfee, which had been loaned by McAfee's great-granddaughter "Miss Georgie McAfee, of Lima, Ohio, but formerly of Danville...." Robert Breckinridge McAfee (b. 18 February 1784, Mercer County, d. 12 March 1849) was a soldier, farmer, attorney, and state legislator. After his father's 1795 murder, the young McAfee became the ward of his father's friend, John Breckinridge (U.S. senator 1801-05, U.S. attorney general, 1805-06) and his uncle, James McCoun. After attending Transylvania University, McAfee studied law under Breckinridge and was admitted to the bar in 1801. He served as a member of the state legislature until the War of 1812, when he volunteered for service, eventually being promoted to captain. After the war, McAfee resumed his legislative career. He later served as lieutenant governor (1824-28), U.S. charge d' affaires to the Republic of Colombia (1833-37), and president of the board of visitors of the U.S. Military Academy (West Point) (1842-45). Obvious errors in the text have been corrected and the punctuation changed to modern form. Notes appear within brackets, and 1927 notes within parentheses.

1781

The winter of 1780-81 was comparative a mild one & the people on Salt River had plenty of provisions for themselves and families. My father had increased his stock of horses. He also procured some sows and pigs from Whitley's Station, and everything appeared to prosper round him. But a reverse was at hand.

My mother's youngest brother, Joseph McCoun, [was] a youth about 18 years of age. On the sixth day of March, early in the morning, [he] went out to look after his father's milk cows & concluded to go to some traps he had set the evening before at a cave high up on the bank in a cliff of Salt River above his father's cabin. The Indians discovered him and pursued him.

He ran down Salt River on the west side, and crossed over, the Indians keeping between him & his father's cabin. He ran nearly a mile before they caught him in a small glade now near the turnpike road north of the road leading from Vandike's mill to Armstrong's old ferry on the Kentucky River, now inside of Robert McAfee's wood pasture (formerly Meaux)....

The family suspected some mischief & took his trail and followed it until they found where he had been taken and tied with hickory bark. It was in the

evening before the alarm was given, and when my father heard at his cabins where I live, he only had time to pack up his household stuff and his children and reach James McAfee's Station about dark, burying a large chunk of lead in his yard which he never afterwards could find.

John Magee, Samuel McAfee and my grandfather's family all took shelter in the station that night, and next morning a party of men made pursuit under the direction of my father. The Indians had retreated with great rapidity & could not be overtaken before they crossed the Ohio above the mouth of Kentucky [River], some distance & the company returned, indulging hopes that as they had not killed him this side of the Ohio, that his life would be spared.

But it turned out a vain hope, as certain information was obtained a few years afterward from other

McAfee Descendants to Hold Reunion

The descendants of James McAfee will hold a reunion in Harrodsburg October 5-8, 2007. For more information, contact Luther Davenport at DAVKATS@bellsouth.net.

Robert B. McAfee and His Family and Connections, *continued*

prisoners that he was taken to a small Indian town on the headwaters of Mad River (a few miles beyond where Springfield now stands in the state of Ohio), where he was tied to a tree and burnt to death.

This was a heavy blow to my grandmother, for he was her darling son, as well as the youngest. She seldom afterwards was seen to smile and in a few years afterward sank to her grave.

All the families on the river except William McAfee's having now collected at James McAfee's Station, they commenced clearing additional ground to plant corn for their families, in common. Several other families also came to the station.

My uncle James McAfee occupied the northeast corner of the station & my father the southwest corner house next [to] the river.

As they were considered their main reliance in dangers James McAfee's cabin stood near the spot on which he afterwards built his stone house (in which my son William now lives) and the cabins extended toward the river near the head of his fine spring.

In the month of April the Indians attempted to steal their horses out of a stable near my father's cabin when he, in company with his brother James, took their horses out of one end of the stable while the Indians were in the other with their halters. This was late in the night, and by taking their horses into the yard of the station [they] saved them that time.

But this effort was only preparatory to additional trouble, which resulted in a serious attack on the station, which on the south side was partly open except a common rail fence. This attack was made on the ninth day of May 1781 in the morning about a half hour or hour after sunrise, at a time when there were only 13 men in the station, and the Indians expected an easy prey.

It appeared afterwards that about 150 Indians had lay the night previous at a cabin & corn crib built by James McCoun Jr., near a spring on the west side of Salt River about three fourths of a mile below the

station where James Vanarsdale [lived] [(Peter Vanarsdale formerly lived there)] and had before day next morning taken their posts on every side of the place, mostly on the east & south sides.

One man passed out of the station toward Harrod's Landing. He was advised by James McAfee to take the woods and strike the path some distance off. The dogs and cattle exhibited some signs of uneasiness in the morning but as no attack was made all suspicion ... lulled.

Samuel McAfee and a man by the name of Isaac Clunendike had taken a horse and a bag to go up to his place three fourths of a mile south for some corn, and Robert and James McAfee had gone out to

clear some ground for a turnip patch about 150 yards from the station, taking their guns with them, as usual setting them against a tree near where they were working.

Samuel McAfee & Clunendike had not gone more than a quarter of a mile when passing down into a hollow, [when] the Indians fired

on them and Clunendike fell dead and the horse he was leading broke loose and [ran] off to the station. Samuel McAfee turned to make his escape, but he had not [run] more than 10 or 15 steps before he met a huge Indian directly in his path.

Both rushed on toward each other with their guns at a level until within a few feet, and both attempted to fire at the same instant. My uncle's gun made a clear fire and the Indian's flashed as he fell and my uncle jumped over his body and made his escape amid the fire of several other guns. My father and Uncle James, hearing the firing, seized their guns and started toward it.

My father, being the most active, got ahead some distance.... My uncle discovered seven Indians rise from behind a brush heap and fired at him, which but close around his head & cut his clothes. He turned and took to a tree, but he had scarcely got behind it before six or seven other guns were at him from another direction and cut up the dirt near his

Samuel McAfee & Clunendike had not gone more than a quarter of a mile when passing down into a hollow, [when] the Indians fired on them and Clunendike fell dead and the horse he was leading broke loose and [ran] off to the station. Samuel McAfee turned to make his escape, but he had not [run] more than 10 or 15 steps before he met a huge Indian directly in his path.

Robert B. McAfee and His Family and Connections, *continued*

feet. He then turned and made good his retreat into the station.

My father ran on until he met his brother Samuel, who told him that Clunendike had been shot and not to go there. He, notwithstanding, pushed on until he came to where the Indian lay, and he saw others scalping him. He then began to look round, to examine his own situation. When found that the Indians had intercepted his path, he then took to the woods and was closely pursued by a tall, fine-looking Indian with silver rings and moons in his nose and ears.

After running some distance, he turned upon his enemy, who immediately halted & took a tree. My father then ran on & the Indian after him, upon whom he would again turn and the Indian would again take a tree and in this way he was several times closely pressed, both reserving their fire to the last extremity. At length, my father reached the turnip patch fence in the flat southwest of the station, where he again wheeled and the Indian again treed. My father then threw himself over the fence and waited for a few minutes and the Indian put his head out to see what had become of him....

My father fired and shot the Indian in the head and then made his escape into the station, to the great joy of him family and the others, for he had been given up as lost.

The firing now became general, and the Indians approached in every direction. The women ran bullets and prepared patches, while the men kept up a constant fire whenever they could see an Indian. Finding that they made but little impression on the station & [that] the horses and cattle [were] all running up round the houses, the Indians turned into killing them and several dogs who rushed out to aid their masters. A portion of the Indians were stationed on the west side of Salt River to prevent any escape in that direction.

The firing continued almost incessantly, the men in the station being protected by their cabins. [They] received but little injury, one man being slightly wounded. The Indians made several attempts to rush upon the station, but were invariably met with so hot a reception that the(y) retired in order to draw the men out, but the disparity was so great that my father and Uncle James McAfee, who assumed the command, forbid it, ordering the men to keep close and fire only when any Indians would show themselves.

In this way John Magee killed an Indian and several others also saw Indians fall after firing. The Indian killed by my father was believed to be one of their chiefs from the number of silver ornaments found on him, and his death no doubt discouraged the, about 10 o'clock a.m.

Their firing began to slacken, when a sound like distant thunder was heard in the direction of Harrodsburgh, and in a little time a tremendous yelling commenced and Col. McGary at the head of about 45 men were seen approaching on horseback at full speed, from his station, Harrodsburgh, and William McAfee's station, several of them without their hats to the great joy of the men, women & children, while the retiring yells of the retreating Indians were heard crossing to the west side of Salt River.

A halt of a few minutes was made until the men of the station could bridle their horses (saddling scarcely thought of) when pursuit was made, crossing the ford at the river below the station where the Indians killed one man and wounded another, the west bank of the river being very muddy one man's horse mired and he was thrown off, which threw him in the rear, which gave some cause for unmerited censure.

The main body of the Indians were overtaken at James McCoun Jr.'s cabins on the west side of Salt River, about a mile below the station, where they had camped the night previous, here the conflict again commenced, the Indians retreating and firing from behind trees. Two Indians were killed at the first onset, pursuit was made several miles, as far as George McAfee's or Lyons run, near where the Bloomfield road now crosses where the Indians dispersed and could be followed no farther, the whites sustained no further injury than was sustained at the crossing of the river.

The prompt relief obtained from Harrodsburgh and the other station six or seven miles distant was on account of the stillness of the morning with a gentle breeze from the north, the firing was heard at William McAfee's station (now Joseph Morgan's) about a mile below Harrodsburgh, an express was immediately sent to that place and McGary's Station with orders to meet about three miles below.

The men seized their arms and started instantly, such was the spirit and constant state of preparation by the early pioneers to aid their friends. No excuses were made; all moved with one heart. Several ludi-

Robert B. McAfee and His Family and Connections, *continued*

crous scenes took place on their rapid march, one of which I will relate. When approaching the station in full gallop, the horse of Jeremiah Tilford (the father of John Tilford, president of the Northern Bank of Kentucky) fell under him and tumbled him over his head in a cloud of dust. He held to the bridle of his horse and gun, which cut his hand badly, but lost his hat.

Nobody waited or looked after him, but Tilford remounted his horse and came in with the foremost in gallant style, bareheaded and covered with dust acting his part in the after-conflict to the no little amusement of his companions, having only taken time to tie a handkerchief round his head.

In the station during the attack, every man and woman [did] their duty, except one whose name was John Robertson, afterward known as "little Johnny." He was at first paralyzed and hid himself, but being reproached by his wife, he was forced to join in running bullets. I give his name here in order to relieve others from suspicion, as the Rev. Mr. Davidson finding the statement in the *Record of the N. Providence*, without a name suppos[ing] I had repressed it on account of his being a relation. Not so: he had none of the blood of the McAfees or McCouns in his veins.

After this attack on McAfee's Station, very little injury was done to the station on this part of Salt River. The people of this station, raised their crops in peace and in abundance of the substantials of life such as bread, milk & meat & in the fall of the year were joined by Robert and Alexander Armstrong, the oldest son of John, and William Armstrong, afterwards known as pillars of the N. Providence Presbyterian Church. John Armstrong's son [was] the father-in-law of its present pastor, the Rev. Doctor Thomas Cleland, whose daughter Margaret he married about the year 1801.

The winter of 1781-2 was comparatively mild and my father cleared about 10 acres of ground this winter and spring on the place where I now live (the field on the river adjoining the present bridge across Salt River). It was heavily timbered with oak, elm and sugar trees, but having less underbrush, he selected it on that account, cutting down the small timber and deadening the large by belting.

1782

This field he cultivated in corn in the year 1782,

while he lived with his family in the station. He always took his gun with him and set it against a tree about the middle of the row he was plowing in. He was, however, never molested by the Indians, who this year were very troublesome on the north side of the Kentucky River, stealing horses and attacking stations and murdering straggling travelers. ...In August a general attack was made on Bryan's Station, which eventuated in the disastrous Battle of the Blue Licks on the 19th of August in this year in which none of the men in James McAfee's Station participate[d], as they did not get notice in time to overtake the troops.¹

The inhabitants of James McAfee's Station continued to reside in the station, which they had stockaded after the attack already related, but cultivated their several farms, returning every evening to their fort, killing meat for their families on their route. Nothing of importance took place until about the middle or last of July, when a party of young people [young men and girls with one or two of the heads of the McCoun family, with whom I had two sisters] went down to my grandfather's place to pull a patch of flax. ...Having completed their work, [they] started back to the fort.

After crossing the dry branch near where they had been at work, my uncle John McCoun proposed to go up its valley & hunt for plums, to which they all agreed. After gathering as many plums as they could find, they returned to the station through the woods, passing to the east of North Providence church, where all arrived in safety.

Next morning, as my father & uncle James McCoun, with several others, returned to look after their flax, they found an Indian blind made of bushes cut down & stuck in the ground about a quarter of a mile from the flax patch at a point where the patch crossed a narrow ridge obliquely so that any person approaching it from below would not see it until within a few steps of the place. Behind [this] they counted the prints of eight Indians, who having discovered the party pulling flax, had gone to this place with a view of capturing or killing the whole party.

This event was always thereafter regarded as an extraordinary interposition of Providence in their favor, for which many heartfelt thanks were returned to the Almighty by the parents of these young people, who amid all their dangers did not forget to dance and

Robert B. McAfee and His Family and Connections, *continued*

amuse themselves in the station whenever they could get the opportunity.

Those who had no flax gathered nettles and made linen of it. My uncle James McAfee had an Irish girl bound to him by the name of Jane McMillins, who has often told me that she had spun many a dozen cuts from the lint of nettles, which was as fine as flax, but not so strong. She afterwards married a Mr. Joseph Lyon, lon(g) known as a worthy good citizen, which I will notice again.

I recollect of seeing the brush of this Indian blind still remaining when I was a child in my parents arms as we went to Grandfather McCoun's, and my father took special pains to impress the story on my mind & my mother observing: "See how good God was in preserving our lives."

During the fall of this year, Isaac Hite put up a small tub mill on the Fountain Blue Branch, about half way between the spring and the river, in which he placed a pair of hand mill stones.

This was the second mill ever built on the waters of Salt River, Mr. Andrew McConnell having built a mill of similar kind on the Town Branch in Harrodsburg in October 1777 in which he also had a pair of handmill stones. He would often set it to grinding and leave for hours to itself as it scarcely ground more in the day than half supplied the fort.

One morning, McConnell, having started his mill, went to breakfast and on his return found a large wild turkey (gobbler) taking his breakfast out of the hopper in such earnest order that McConnell caught him in the act, and made his dinner out of him. The turkey, no doubt, had been in the habit of helping himself, without regard to any of the laws of civilization, which in any wise encroached on his natural rights to take what he could find.

It has not been my intention to enter into the details of the history of the first settlers of Kentucky beyond what may be incidentally connected with my own family. Hence, I have not entered into the events connected with Colonel Daniel Boone beyond the year 1775 any farther than to show that Harrodsburg has the right to claim the priority of actual settlement as decided by our Court of Appeals in 1813.²

In [the] case of Thomas & others vs. Bowman, in which the court said: "Harrodsburgh is proven to have been settled as early as 1774 and its notoriety

from that period to the date of the Appellees entry is clearly and abundantly proven." I do not intend to notice any other matters farther than I have already done except in connection with events necessary for me to investigate.

1783

In the spring of this year my father moved out of the station to his own land where I live, and he now ascertained that Vincent Williams had filed a caveat against the issuing of the patent for his land the year before.

Thus he had the prospect of a long lawsuit, which was the second for the land on which he expected to raise his family and to which he believed he had clear and indisputable title. He, however, went to work clearing ground and planted his crop, and then went back to Botetourt to see my grandfather, to whom his children sent clothing and other necessities....

After his return in the summer of this year, my grandmother McAfee departed this life while living with my aunt, Mary Guant, who had lost her husband, Thos. Guant. [Guant had been] killed by the Indians while out hunting on the west side of Salt River opposite where (he) had built a cabin four miles from Harrodsburg on the same day of the Battle of the Blue Licks last year. [My grandmother] was buried by the side of her son-in-law at the place I have already described.

In the fall of this year, my father, seeing and feeling the great difficulty in grinding their corn and wheat, of which he had raised a fine crop, he, with the assistance of his brothers Samuel & James and one or two hired hands, built a log dam across Salt River. [They] put up a small tub mill, which afterwards done a good business for many years, and settlers from Benson near Frankfort often came to his mill with packhorses loaded with grain, yet the inhabitants had no market for their produce except to [immigrants] who began to flood the county. [The immigrants] generally brought money with them, which kept in brisk circulation.

The preliminaries of peace having been signed with England, the people of this then remote region began to hope that they would enjoy the blessings of peace, but in this they were greatly deceived, as will

Continued on Page 164

Vital Statistics, *continued*

... Schener officiating. Mr. and Mrs. Gibbons will make their home in Louisville.

The wedding of Miss Virginia Blackberby and Mr. Gus W. Leep took place at 6 o'clock Tuesday evening at the Broadway Christian Church. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. W.N. Briney. ...

Miss Mildred Ramsey Lockwood was flower girl. The ushers were Messrs. Floyd Smith, Stanley Smith and Baird and Yager Blackerby. A reception was held at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Blackerby. ... Mr. and Mrs. Leep ... will make their home at 1244 East Broadway.

Endnotes

¹ According to the 1900 U.S. Census of Montgomery County (14 June 1900, E.D. 65, p. 11B, by Charles G. Pangburn), William Porter (b. July 1853, Ky., father b. Va., mother b. Ky.) was 46 and a "pedler," who rented a house on East Main Street in Mt. Sterling. His wife, "Feby" (?) (b. May 1847, Ky., parents b. Ky.), was 53 and the mother of four children, two living. The couple had been married 22 years. Also in the household were Eddie (b. February 1893, Ky., father b. Virginia, mother b. Ky.), listed as a daughter, 7; and Maranda Johnson (b. July 1861, Ky., parents b. Ky.), 38 and single, a sister-in-law and a servant; in addition to Johnson's children Hallie (b. January 1883, Ky., parents b. Ky.), 17, single and blind; Sherman (b. 1885, Ky., parents b. Ky.), 15, single, and a "pedler"; and Feby (b. January 1892, Ky., parents b. Ky.), 8 and single.

Robert B. McAfee and His Family and Connections, *continued*

Continued from Page 133

appear in the sequel.

It was now believed that Kentucky had at least 30,000 inhabitants, which were rapidly augmenting by new arrivals anxious to secure a home in a land which they were told was "flowing with milk & honey."

Land warrants, called "Treasury warrants" had been issued to the amount of many millions of acres, by which Virginia took her paper money which had issued during the Revolutionary war. It was believed that a large portion of the state of Kentucky was covered three times over by different entries of warrants, which involved the people in tedious and expensive lawsuits for many years, of which my father was destined to have his share.

The(y), however, had abundance to live on and their stock of hogs & cattle as well as horses increased rapidly. The cane, pea vine, and wild grass and clover, called Buffalo clover (a large white kind)

supplied them with pasturage with little feeding (except salting) both winter & summer.

It was usual for those who had surplus stock to drive the same to the rand (or wood) & cut down a large three and cut small troughs or notches in it, to salt their stock in, which they called a "lick log" and then once a week supply them with salt, which was procured in small quantities from Bullitt's Lick, in Bullitt County at the price of \$3 per bushel & sometimes as high as \$5 in silver.

(June 3d 1784, my grandmother McCoun died & Rev. David Rice preached funeral next day.)

Endnotes

¹ McAfee, as others of his generation sometimes did, referred to Bryan's Station as "Bryant" Station. The station was built by brothers William, Morgan, James, and Joseph Bryan, relatives of Daniel Boone's wife Rebecca, whose maiden name was Bryan. In his reference to the Battle of the Blue Licks, McAfee uses a double negative, stating that "none of the men of James McAfee's station did not participate," but his meaning is clear.

² McAfee cited his source as "3d Bibbs reports, page 128." The Kentucky Court of Appeals was renamed the Kentucky

Kentucky Ancestors
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The Life and Times of Robert B. McAfee and His Family and Connections

Beginning in January 1927, the Register of the Kentucky Historical Society began publishing transcripts of the papers of Robert B. McAfee, which had been loaned by McAfee's great-granddaughter "Miss Georgie McAfee, of Lima, Ohio, but formerly of Danville...." Robert B. McAfee (b. 18 February 1784, Mercer County, d. 12 March 1849) was a soldier, farmer, attorney, and state legislator. After his father's 1795 murder, the young McAfee became the ward of his father's friend, John Breckinridge (U.S. senator 1801-05, U.S. attorney general, 1805-06) and his uncle, James McCoun. After attending Transylvania University, McAfee studied law under Breckinridge and was admitted to the bar in 1801. He served as a member of the state legislature until the War of 1812, when he volunteered for service, eventually being promoted to captain. After the war, McAfee resumed his legislative career. He later served as lieutenant governor (1824-28), U.S. charge d' affaires to the Republic of Colombia (1833-37), and president of the board of visitors of the U.S. Military Academy (West Point) (1842-45). Obvious errors in the text have been corrected and the punctuation changed to modern form. Notes appear within brackets, and 1927 notes within parentheses.

It is very often a matter of amusement as well as instruction to future generations to hear an authentic account of the origin and progress of any family or individual who has at any period filled a portion of our country's history.

With this view I have been induced to give my own biography as well as that of my family. That our posterity may know from whence they came and how they got along in this changeable world of ours, in which we have enjoyed much pleasure, many blessings from an All-wise Providence as well as some pain and adversity.

I have also been further led to write these sketches because the McAfee family were among the first settlers in Kentucky as well as the earliest pioneers of the West, who crossed the Alleghany Mountains from the State of Virginia to occupy the banks of that after celebrated stream called "Salt River."

When and how they accomplished this will be the object of this history as well as to trace the mysterious workings of Providence which led the family first from Scotland to Ireland and thence to America which has become their present home.

It is impossible to give more than a general outline of my family ancestors previous to their removal to North America as all I know about them has been derived from traditions which must in some measure be inaccurate as to dates.

According to my father's family register I was born on the 18th day of February 1784 on the banks of Salt River, near where my mill now stands, about fifty yards above a large cave spring and about four miles northwest of the town of Harrodsburg in an humble log cabin, and was rocked in a cradle made out of peeled hickory bark. I do not know that anything extraordinary took place at my birth except there was a deep snow on the ground and my mother's sister, Mrs. M. Magee, presided over my advent.

I was the eighth child of my mother and a second son by the name of Robert, a brother of the same name having died only twelve days previous, viz., on the 6th day of February 1784, and my father despaired of having any more sons was anxious for a man, it was immediately bestowed on me with the addition of the letter "B" for his friend John Breckinridge, afterward a celebrated lawyer in Kentucky and at his death in 1806 attorney general of the United States under President Jefferson.

My father's name was Robert McAfee, my mother's name was Anne McCoun before she was married.

Paternal

My father's name was Robert McAfee

My grandfather's name was James McAfee

My great grandfather—John McAfee

My great great grandfather—John McAfee

The Life and Times of Robert B. McAfee, *continued*



KHS Collection

Robert B. McAfee—lieutenant governor of Kentucky from 1824 to 1828—heard the stories of his family's pioneering in what would become Mercer County and even interviewed relatives for genealogical information. The land his father settled beginning in 1778, near Salt River was his home throughout his life.

My mother's name was Anne McCoun
My grandmother's name Jane McMichael
My great grandmother—Elizabeth Montgomery

Maternal

My mother's name was Anne McCoun
My grandmother—Margaret Walker
My great Grandmother—Molly Campble
My grandfather—James McCoun
My great grandfather—James McCoun

Paternal Grandparents

James McAfee and Jane McMichael
Margaret Walker

Great-Grandparents

John McAfee and James McCoun
Mary Rogers (paternal)
Molly Campble (maternal)

My great grandfather married Elizabeth Mont-

gomery near Glasgow, Scotland. The father of my grandmother, Jane McMichael, was Malcolm McMichael. Their families originally lived in Scotland between Edenboro and Glasgow, and shortly after the restoration of Charles II, my great (great) grandfather, John McAfee, removed to the North of Ireland, settled in the county of Armah, where he became the owner of a small farm upon which his son, John, my great grandfather, afterwards built a stone house, which was occupied by the family for many years, some of their descendants living in that county to this day.

The McAfee family can only certainly be traced back to Scotland where they resided during the time of Cromwell, but after the restoration of Charles II part of them availing themselves of the liberal grants of land in the North of Ireland, emigrated to that country about the year 1672 and the persecutions of James II against the Presbyterian covenanters soon after drove many others after them including the Campbles, Montgomerys, McMichael and McCouns, who were more or less connected by marriages. This was in the year 1676.

When the revolution in England took place under King William and Mary in 1688, John McAfee, the patriarch of the family, and my great grandfather then a mere boy took part with King William and were soldiers in the battle of the Boyne in 1690 which was often the boast of my grandfather who was born in Armah County, Ireland on the 17th of October 1707. He was one of the ten children, viz., four sons, John, James, Malcolm and William, and six daughters, whose names I have not been able to procure. The family name, (reasoning from Analogy), is part Scotch and part Spanish, and originated in Scotland. The remote ancestors probably came from Normandy as the old stock were very large athletic men and women; many of them with the Spanish black eyes and hair, but this is all conjecture and is only drawn from the appearance of the different races of men connected with their family name.

My great grandfather James McCoun was of Danish extraction. The whole family feature the clear blue eyes and fair or auburn hair both men and women. He emigrated to Ireland, settled in Antrim County, adjoining Armah when quite young. He did not marry until he was pretty much of a bachelor—had a son, James, my grandfather, who was

The Life and Times of Robert B. McAfee, *continued*

born in the year 1717. His father kept a small store and occasionally acted as an itinerant pedlar.

About the year 1735 my grandfather James McAfee, married Jane McMichael. His father dying soon after, in 1739, leaving a large family who had married off, the division of the patrimony being insufficient to satisfy all, he turned his attention to N. America as opening to him better prospects for himself and family.

In accordance with this determination he with is wife and three children, viz., John, James and Malcolm, then an infant, together with his aged mother who was willing to accompany his fortunes, embarked at Belfast, Ireland, in the Spring of [1739], and after a tedious passage landed at New Castle on the Delaware River on the 10th of June in that year, his son having died a few days before landing, which was a severe blow to his mother so soon after entering into a new and strange land.

His resources being limited, his wife and himself were compelled to follow weaving for their support, reserving his small stock of money to purchase land, which he accomplished that fall in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania on Octorara creek where he purchased one hundred acres of land. [He] went to work to clear and cultivate it, here by industry and close economy he maintained his family in equal standing with his neighbors, who were very kind to them. Here his other children were born, viz., George, Margaret, Robert, Mary, William and Samuel, also one other daughter who died young.

Robert, my father, was born on the 10th of July 1745. My grandfather James McAfee was a large square-built man, raw boned Scotch Irishman, strong passions and great decision of character, dark hazel eyes, six feet in height. When aroused he was ready for any danger or enterprise.

My grandmother, Jane McMichael, was a woman about middle size, tall, mild and dignified, with a remarkably fine face and open prominent forehead, indicative of great goodness of heart [and] sensitive feelings, with dark gray eyes and black hair. Her mild, decided, and conciliatory looks could always silence the old man when in a passion.

Malcolm McMichael, the father of my grandmother, Jane, came to N. America some years after, in 1746, with four other daughters, viz., Anne, who afterward married James Campble; Mary, who mar-

ried Alexander Ferguson; Margaret, who married Samuel Ewing; and Elizabeth, who married first, a Mr. Keath and after his death, a Mr. Rogers. All which marriages took place after he came to Pennsylvania, where he settled near my grandfather and lived until he died leaving one son, Daniel McMichael, after he settled in Lancaster County. Another daughter, Sarah, married John Montgomery.

My grandfather, James McCoun, came to Virginia from Ireland when a young man, and landed at Norfolk in company with another young man by the name of William Adams in 1742. They engaged for some time working at the loom and farming until he procured money enough to buy himself a small package of goods. Then he went to peddling in the back and frontier counties which at that time did not extend farther than the lower counties on the Roanoke, but as the settlements extended, James McCoun and William Adams married and some years afterward settled on the Cataba in Bedford County.

These marriages took place in 1744, about two years after they arrived in Virginia, having met with Margaret and Mary Walker, who came to N. America about the same time with their brother Samuel Walker and landed at Charleston, South Carolina, with an uncle by the name of Thomas Clark, who had married their mother's sister.

Their family moved to Virginia, and settled on Roanoke, where James McCoun married Margaret, the eldest sister who was said to be a remarkably handsome near Irish girl who proved to (be) one of the most tidy housekeepers in their neighborhood and I have now in my possession a plain common rocking chair which she used to sit in previous to her death in March 1784.

James McCoun in his trading rambles occasionally visited Philadelphia to get his goods. Thomas Clark returned to Ireland and again came back to Charleston where he took sick and died before he reached his family. Samuel Walker, hearing of his death, went to see after his affairs and was never heard of afterward. It was supposed that he was murdered or that he had taken sick and died at or near Charleston.

My grandfather, James McCoun, was married April 1744 and had the following children: James, born March 11, 1745, who married Nancy Tilford; Ann, (my mother, born August 1st, 1746, married Robert McAfee Dec. 10th, 1766); Samuel, born Oc-

The Life and Times of Robert B. McAfee, *continued*

tober 20th, 1748, died young and unmarried; Mary, born August 13th, 1750, married John Magee, moved to Monroe County, Missouri, and died in 1837; Susan, born April 7th, 1752, married James McCoun (no relation, from South Carolina); John, born March 28th, 1754, married Elizabeth Tilford (sister to James' wife); Jane, born May 1st, 1756, married James Woods and afterward Samuel Adams; Margaret, born April 15th, 1758, married to ____ Kerr; Elizabeth, born February 7th, 1761, married James Ledgerwood; and Joseph, born February 19th, 1763, taken prisoner by the Indians 1780 and burnt to a stake on head of Mad River in Ohio.

My grandfather, James McCoun, was a person of ordinary size, about five feet, nine or ten high, heavy made, and became fleshy before he died in 1800; grey eyes, heavy eyebrows and finely rounded forehead, a man of extraordinary strong mind with a great fund of cheerfulness and good humor, in which the Irish character predominated. He was an excellent farmer and (a) great economist, fond of his friends and much attached to his sons, especially the eldest. He could never get clear of his idea of primogeniture and was a Presbyterian of the Seceder denomination.

My grandmother was a remarkable woman, neat and spare made of the ordinary height, lively temperament, and beloved by all her children and friends.

My paternal grandfather's family and history may be summed in a short summary: his mother, whose maiden name was Mary Rogers, came with her son to N. America and lived with him on Octorara Creek in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, to the advanced age of 84 years, when she died. And of her children, John was killed at the ford of Rudy Creek near New River in Virginia about the year 1768.

James married Nancy Clark, the daughter of Thomas Clark, who is mentioned above as the uncle to my grandmother, and had children as follows:

Mary, who married David Woods and had three children. Woods died and she ... married Samuel Woods, his nephew, and had four more children, viz., Harry, Anne, Sally and Woodford;

John, who married Margaret Ewing, the daughter of Samuel Ewing, and granddaughter of Samuel Ewing, who married Margaret McMichael as already stated;

James, who died in his bed suddenly one night, a

young man, after they had removed to Kentucky in 1783;

Elizabeth, who married William Davenport; Nancy, who married ... (her cousin) Alexander Buchanan; George (who died unmarried in 1804); and Margaret, who married John McKamey.

Thomas Clark McAfee married Nancy Greathouse of Shelby County, Kentucky.

George and Susan (Curry) McAfee family

My uncle, George McAfee married Susan Curry, daughter of William Curry, and had children—viz.:

John, who lived to be an old bachelor, and died in South Carolina (trading);

James, who married Nancy McKamey (and), moved to Missouri in 1826;

Margaret, who married Abraham Irvine, now of Boyle County, head of Salt River;

George, who married Anne Hamilton;

Susan, who married Robert McKamey, brother of John above mentioned.

George and Margaret (McAfee) Buchanan family

My aunt Margaret McAfee married George Buchanan, a cousin to the father of the present Secretary of State of the U. States¹, James Buchanan. (George Buchanan) had issue as follows:

John, who married his cousin Margaret Guant and lived in Green County, Kentucky;

James, who married Rebecka Armstrong, lived near Salt River west of Salvisa and afterward moved to Clark County, Indiana;

Mary, who married Mr. Purviance and moved to Indiana;

Alexander, who married his cousin Nancy McAfee and settled on Salt River at his mill;

Margaret, who married William Ewing, and moved to Indiana;

Jane, who married Wm. McCampble and moved to Indiana;

Nancy, who married Thomas Gilkerson, moved to Indiana;

Anne, who married Joseph Woods, lived adjoining me in Mercer County;

Dorcas, who married Joseph Woods, cousin of the above named Woods, moved to Fleming County and lived on Licking River.

The Life and Times of Robert B. McAfee, *continued*

Robert and Anne (McCoun) McAfee family

Robert McAfee, my father, married Anne McCoun, December 10th, 1766, and had issue as follows:

Margaret, who married Nathan Neeld;

Jane, who married Mathew Forsythe of South Carolina, descended from the same paternal stock of John Forsythe, former Secretary of State of the U.S.²;

Sally, who married James Curran;

Samuel, who married Mary Cardwell, daughter of John Cardwell;

Mary, who married Joseph Adams;

Robert, who died at six years of age, February 6th, 1784;

Anna, who married John R. Cardwell, brother of Mary Cardwell named above;

Robert B., who married Mary Cardwell, daughter of James Cardwell (cousin of the above);

John, who died unmarried at 20 years of age.

The foregoing are my father's family and marriages from whom they may know their ancestors in future, all of whom settled in Mercer County, Kentucky.

Mary McAfee Poulson Guant and her families

My Aunt Mary McAfee married John Poulson and had issue—one daughter, Margaret, who married William Ewing, one of the grandsons of Samuel Ewing the elder. Mr. Poulson having died, my aunt ... married Thomas Guant, and had issue—Margaret, Jane, John and Mary, the first of whom married her cousin John Buchanan. (Her son) John married _____ Darland, and (her daughter) Mary married Henry Eccles.

William and Rebecca (Curry) McAfee family

My uncle William McAfee married Rebecca Curry, sister of George McAfee's wife, and had issue—he was a captain and (was) killed by Indians on Clark's Campaign in 1780³ as follows:

Anne, who married Elijah Craig, who lived at the mouth of the Kentucky River⁴;

Margaret, who married Thompson Jones. She died in Indiana, opposite Yellow Banks⁵;

Mary married Willis A. Lee, clerk of the Senate of Kentucky and general court.⁶ After Mr. Lee's death she lived in Frankfort until 1843, when she moved back to Mercer County in Salvisa and now lives there with her sister Anne, both widows (since dead June

4th 1847).

Samuel and Hannah (McCormick) McAfee family

My uncle Samuel McAfee married Hannah McCormick and had issue as follows:

John, who married Margaret McKamey;

Anne, who married Thomas King of Shelby county, Kentucky, and died there;

Robert, who married Pricilla Armstrong (he was sometimes deranged);

Jane, who married Beriah Magoffin, a merchant of Harrodsburg⁷;

Hannah, who married Capt. Samuel Daviess, attorney and senator of Mercer County;

William, yet unmarried and a merchant in Harrodsburg (afterward married a widow Lowery, February 1849);

Samuel, (who) died a young man and unmarried in Harrodsburg;

Mary, who married Thomas P. Moore, a member of Congress and Minister to Columbia in South America from 1829 to 1833.⁸

I have thus given the name and marriages of my father's and mother's family as far back as I get from tradition as given to me by my uncle, James, the eldest branch of our family, and from Anne Hillis, who was a daughter of Samuel Ewing the elder and who was in the 84th year of her age in 1831 when I conversed with her.

I will now return to the history of my grandfather McAfee's life while he lived in Pennsylvania. His children were all born at his residence on Octorara Creek. ... Having six sons besides Malcolm, who died on his way to North America, and three daughters, his little farm was not sufficient to keep them all employed. He began to look around him where he could get more land and more room, about 1752 he sold his land and removed to a place on the Conococheague in the west of Pennsylvania, where he remained one year. ... In 1753, he moved across Virginia into North Carolina in the vicinity of the Cowpens, where he did not remain more than two years. ... He moved back to Virginia, where he bought land and settled on the Cataba River. ... He remained (there) until the family moved to Kentucky. ...

During the old man's residence in Pennsylvania and after he went to Virginia, the celebrated preacher

The Life and Times of Robert B. McAfee, *continued*

Whitefield visited America. And my grandmother McAfee became much impressed and interested to hear him and went several miles for that purpose, which gave the old man much uneasiness. ... He had not a good opinion of his (Whitefield) earnest zeal and being a seceder, and somewhat of a Pharisee and his ideas of toleration being contracted, he forbid the old lady going to hear him. ...

(This) had such a serious effect on her that he was compelled to withdraw his objections, with the exclamation, "Well Jenny do as you please, but don't let him come about me." Yet the old man was a strict Seceder Presbyterian in his own way. I gave this story as a specimen of the ideas of toleration held by our ancestors.

1763

After the close of the French War, in this year, my grandfather removed to the county of Augusta, and his children having generally married—his sons generally soon after they became of age, and his daughters before that age. ... Land was easily procured and wild unsettled wilderness before them, the first thought of the young men as soon as they arrived of age, was to look out for suitable companions, which in those days was not hard to obtain as there was a great equality in the circumstances of the back settlements. ... All had little farms with the necessary stock to cultivate it the young women had health and industry and many of them a reasonable share of Beauty.

There was no looking after fortunes or dependence on fathers or father-in-laws for support. Each felt that upon their own industry with the blessing of heaven depended their future destiny. All were ambitious to excel and prove their capacity to maintain a family.

My father, having reflected a short time upon his future prospects, cast his eyes into the family of my grandfather James McCoun, who at that time had two or three marriageable daughters, and having met my mother at a neighborhood quilting, which was the fashionable place of the meetings of the young people in those days, was not long in concluding a match, as both had youth, health and industry, which constituted the principal portions of their fortunes.

They were married on the 10th of December 1766. The whole of my father's property at that time consisted of his clothes, a horse and a good rifle gun. My mother had her clothes, a bed well stocked with

blankets and rugs, a cow and a calf and young mare. With which they started out cheerful and happy.

In the spring of 1767 my father moved into North Carolina, near where my grandfather first settled, but the next year he returned to Virginia and went up into Botetourt County and settled on Sinking Creek, and in two years after, in 1770, he bought an additional tract of land upon the mountains near the head of Sinking Creek called the cove.

My uncles and grandfather also bought land and settled in that part of Botetourt County, where they lived in great peace and harmony, farming and hunting alternately to supply their families. It was about this time that my father, having killed a very extraordinary large elk, had the skin dressed and with the aid of my mother made a most beautiful rug of many colors by sewing woolen yarn into it, which alone was an ample winter covering for a bed, under which I have often slept.

It has descended as an heirloom to my eldest brother Samuel and is now in the possession of his widow and family. When a boy we used to call it "Old Ellick" and many struggles I used to have in keeping "Old Ellick" on the bed, especially if the skin side was next to the bed. It was, however, as pliant and soft as the neatest dressed deer skin.

Exploring Kentucky, 1771-2

In these years the fame of the "Long Hunters" as they were called, of Finley, Dr. Walker, Daniel Boone and others began to circulate that there was a rich and delightful country to the west on the waters of the Ohio. My father and uncles often held councils together and talked over their future prospects, all of whom being in the vigor of manhood and full of enterprise and adventure, longed to see for themselves, as they could not think of being confined to the sterile mountains of Virginia, where only small parcels of fertile land could be found at any one place.

The governor of Virginia, having also issued his proclamation for grant of 400 acres each to soldiers of the French and Indian Wars, in which they had nearly all participated, and also having understood that surveyors were going out to survey these claims called Proclamation Rights, determined early in the Spring of 1773 to visit this land of promise.

Accordingly, having made provision for the cultivation of their little farms, having first planted their

The Life and Times of Robert B. McAfee, *continued*

corn about the 10th of May, in the year (1773), the company, consisting of the following individuals: James McAfee Jr., George McAfee, Robert McAfee, James McCoun Jr., and Samuel Adams, being my uncles, and father, except Samuel Adams, who was a neighboring young man, who had volunteered to go with them.

(They) left their residence on Sinking Creek and Cataba in Botetourt County in the colony of Virginia for the purpose of exploring the western waters of the Ohio River, and seeking out their future homes, taking with them my uncle John McCoun and another young man, James Pawling to take back their horses.

They were fully aware of the dangers and difficulties to be encountered. But to men (i)nured to hardships, bold and enterprising, the prospects of making future fortunes, and the honor of being among the first adventurers in the western wilderness consoled and supported them; together with a firm reliance upon an overruling Providence, whose protecting arm they did not doubt would be with them in their long and dangerous journey.

They were all married and had families, except Samuel Adams, who was then not more than 19 years of age, and had received deep religious instructions from a pious mother who had offered up her prayers for their safety. They felt doubly armed in their hazardous undertaking.

This company was afterwards known by the name of the "McAfee Company."

They struck across the country to the Great Kanahway, then known by the name of the New River and arrived at it about the middle of May 1773 about 120 miles by water above its mouth, having sent back their horses, they spent about a week in selecting suitable trees and dug out and prepared two canoes to carry their baggage and clothes, the former consisting of their rifles, ammunition, tomahawks,

butcher knives, blankets and fishing tacking, including a few fish gigs, etc.

They then descended New River to its mouth on the Ohio River, where they arrived on the 29th of May and remained to the first day of June (the 29th being Saturday). About 20 miles above the mouth, they met Capt. Thomas Bullitt, Douglas and Hancock Taylor, surveyors and their company, who were going down to the falls of the Ohio to survey Proclamation rights of 1763. While there, they measured the Ohio River, which was then found to be 400 yards wide, and the Kanahway or New River 200 yards at its mouth.

On the first of June, Capt. Bullitt was chosen their commander, and he determined to visit Chilicothe, the chief town of the Shawanoe Indians on the Scioto, with three of his own men and two Delaware

Indians, who with several others were going down the Ohio to hunt. Capt. Bullitt proceeded across the country by land. The balance of the companies proceeded down the Ohio in a boat and canoes.

Robert McAfee, and one or two others considered their best hunters, spent a part of every day out on the south side of the Ohio hunting and generally

returned with the necessary supplies, and on the 10th of June the company reached the mouth of the Big Sandy river, where they camped and stayed all night.

My father, in his excursions, struck Little Sandy and discovered the salt springs on that creek, and on the 11th of June they arrived at the mouth of the Scioto. ... On the next day, my father, Robert McAfee, ascended the high ridge below the mouth of the Scioto on the north side of the Ohio from which he had a good view up and down both rivers.

He also examined the bottom on which Portsmouth now stands, and also passed to the south side opposite the mouth of the Scioto, where he found an old French town of 19 or 20 houses, some of which were of hewed logs and clapboard roofs, but vacant

They were fully aware of the dangers and difficulties to be encountered. But to men (i)nured to hardships, bold and enterprising, the prospects of making future fortunes, and the honor of being among the first adventurers in the western wilderness consoled and supported them; together with a firm reliance upon an overruling Providence, whose protecting arm they did not doubt would be with them in their long and dangerous journey.

The Life and Times of Robert B. McAfee, *continued*

and deserted, apparently built some 12 or 15 years before, which were no doubt the first houses ever built by Europeans in the now state of Kentucky, and previous to the surrender of Fort Duquesne (Pittsburgh).

June 13 (Sunday), Capt. Bullitt met them from Chilicothe with a letter from a white man by the name of Richard Butler, who had been living with the Shawanoes several years. As this letter may be interesting to the antiquarian in after times, and may show the means by which an All-wise Providence opened the way for the exploration and settlement of the western country, I will give it as found in my father's journal:

Chilicothe, June 10th, 1773

Gentlemen:—

I have been present as a witness and interpreter between Captain Bullitt and the Shawanoes and a part of the Delawares; I believe (and not without some surprize I acquaint you) that his progress in treating with these people has exceeded the expectations of most people, as they claim an absolute rite (right) to all that country you are about to settle, That it does not lye in the power of those who sold it to give this land; and as I am a well wisher to your undertaking I can do no less in justice to Capt. Bullitt than to acquaint you that it is my opinion that it lyes in your power to fulfill every engagement he has made in your behalf by endeavoring to make good order among you, and a friendly countenance to your present neighbors, the Shawanoes. I do assure you that it lies in your power to have good neighbors or bad, as they are a people very capable of discerning between good treatment and ill. They expect you to be friendly with them, and endeavor to restrain the hunters from destroying the game, and that the young men who are inclined to hunt will be regulated by the law of the colony in the case, and as I dare say it is not to hunt the land but to cultivate it that you are about to settle it, it will be an easy matter to restrain those that would hunt and cause your infant settlement to be disturbed, although I am at present a stranger to you, all I beg leave to subscribe myself your well wisher and humble servant.

To the gentlemen settlers, below the mouth of the Sciota.

RICHARD BUTLER.

Captain Bullitt's speech to the chief of the Shawanoe Nation, made in the council house in Chilicothe, June 9th, 1773.

Brothers:—

I am sent with my people to settle the country on the Ohio River as low as the Falls. The King has bought of the Northern and Southern Indians, and I am desired to acquaint you and all people of this great country that the English are and intend to live in friendship with you all and expect the same from you and them, and as the Shawanoes and Delawares are to be our nearest neighbors, and did not get any of the pay given for it, it is proposed and agreed by the Principals of those who are to be the owners of the land to contribute to make your two tribes a present to be given you the next year and the year after. I am appointed to live in the country; I am sent to settle it in order to keep proper regulations, and as I expect some more principal men out of my country in a short time, there will be something more to say to you. And the governor was to come through this country last year had he not been taken sick, so that he may not be out this or next year, as he is desirous of seeing you and the country. I will have a belt of wampum against we have anything more to say as the King did not buy the country for any other purpose than his people to live on and work to support his country. Therefore we shall have no objections to your hunting or trapping on it we shall expect you will live with us as brothers and friends. I shall write what you say to my Governor and expect it to be a good talk.

The answer of the Chief Cornstalk (next morning).

Old Brothers of the Big Knife: We heard you would be glad to see your brothers, the Shawnees and Delawares, and talk with them, we are a little surprised that you sent no message before you, but came quite near us and then through the woods and grass a hard way without our knowledge, till you appeared among us quite unexpected, but you are now standing among your brothers, who think well of you and what you have said to us, we have considered your talk carefully and we are pleased to find nothing bad in it, or no ill meaning, but what seems pleasing, kind and friendly. You have mentioned to us of your directions for settling of people over the river on the opposite side of us, and that it is not the meaning of your King and Governor to deprive us the hunting of the country as usual, but that your directions are to take proper care that we shall not be disturbed in your hunting, for which we stand in need of to buy our clothing, all of which is very agreeable to your young brothers, your young men we desire will be strong

The Life and Times of Robert B. McAfee, *continued*

in the discharge of your directions toward us, as we are determined to be strong in advising our young men to be friendly, kind and peaceable to you. This spring we saw some wrong by our young men in disturbing your people by taking their horses, but we have advised them to the contrary and have cleansed their hearts of bad intentions, and expect it will harkened to by them as they are pleased with what has been said.

Notwithstanding their friendly speeches the day before Capt. Bullitt arrived at the mouth of the Scioto, the company who were waiting for him saw four Indians swimming seven horses across the Ohio from the south side with saddles and packsaddles on them, which they had no doubt of being taken from the white people. The Indians appeared much alarmed at seeing so many of the whites who did not disturb them, as they made their escape as soon as possible. There is no doubt that a knowledge of their young men being absent to steal horses as this and previous times, was the cause of the allusion in Cornstalk's speech to the conduct of their young men, and also of their astonishment, and suspicion upon the arrival of Captain Bullitt at Chillicothe. As he reached the suburbs of that place on the 5th of June, and as soon as his approach was known, he was immediately halted, and confined by a guard in a wigwam at the outer edge of the town; where he was detained several days, until the chief could hold a council, during which time there were many exhibitions of hostility, but through the influence of Richard Butler he succeeded in quieting their fears, as he made no complaint against their stealing horses.

It was finally agreed that he should be admitted into their council, to make a speech, and explain his views. Accordingly, on the morning of the 9th of June, he was escorted by upwards of 100 Indians, painted, yelling and brandishing their tomahawks, into the town, and council house, where he made the speech I have already given, after which they assumed a friendly attitude.

Bullitt, having procured two canoes, descended the Scioto to its mouth, where he found his company awaiting him. ... On the 14th, the company left the Scioto and camped again in about four miles, and the next day proceeded slowly down the river, in order to give their hunters time to procure meat. ... On the 17th, they reached the mouth of Salt Lick

Creek, where Vanceburg now stands. ...

About (a) half mile up this creek they found a small salt pond or spring which had been much used by the buffaloes, deer and elk and at which the Indians had made salt, at this place the first Military surveys were made by (them) for Abraham Hempenstall and James MacMahan.

From this the company proceeded slowly down the river, making occasional entries and surveys. One of the surveyors by the name of Kennedy was left at the mouth of Salt Lick Creek and laid off a town. The McAfee company and the other companies occasionally separated, each one examining the country for themselves. James McAfee and Robert McAfee were generally out hunting—sometimes remaining out several days.

On the 24th, the company reached a creek called Limestone. Here, Robert McAfee went out to examine the country, and as far as I can judge from his journal he passed out the North Fork of Licking and then down through a part of Bracken county, and went down a large creek to the Ohio and found the company had passed on. ... He was compelled to make a Bark canoe, in which he went down the Ohio river until the moon set, where he camped on the shore and at daylight continued his route and found the company at the mouth of the Licking River on the morning of the 27th of June. He hunted up Licking next day 30 or 40 miles, but was not pleased with the land.

Mr. Douglass, one of the surveyors, remained at the mouth of Licking to make surveys, while Bullitt and the McAfee Company proceeded down the Ohio, every day making laborious and fatiguing excursions to examine the land. Their description of the face of the country and the land is accurately made in my father's & uncle James McAfee's journal.

On the first day of July, 1773, the company arrived at the mouth of the Big Miami, and examined the large bottom land on the south side of the river, where they attempted to make some surveys, which was given up on account of some difference of opinion as to their form.

The surveyors insisted upon making them in squares, while others only wished to take in the good land. The McAfee company, (which) wanted to find springs and streams for mills, were not pleased with the Ohio bottoms, never once thinking of the future

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discovery of steam power and its influence on commerce.

Well, exclaims one, what a pity all these things were not known to the first adventurers on the Western country. If we had only known that the Ohio River would one day be the Main Street of some five or six great states, what fortunes we could have made!! Do not murmur at Providence, my dear friends, you were nearly all dead before the discovery was made, and your children have already run through much of what you did secure, so that it is much the best for us that we cannot see into future events, which would only make us unhappy.

On the second and third (of) July, the company proceeded down the Ohio and passed Big Bone Lick about 10 miles without knowing it. ... (On the) next day, having discovered their error, they returned and arrived at the Big Bone lick on the 4th of July, 1773, where they camped, making use of the short joints of the back bones for stools and seats & their ribs for tent poles to stretch their blankets on.

My father in his journal says of this place, "It was a wonder to see the large bones that lie there which has been of several large big creatures. The lick is about 200 yards long and as wide." Here they met with a Delaware Indian, apparently about seventy years old who was asked if he knew anything about them. He answered that when he was a boy they were just so as you now see them.

The company remained here during the 5th and 6th of July and on the 7th started down the Ohio to find the mouth of the Kentucky River, then called Levisa (spelled in my father's journal *Lewvisa*). They went on until eight o'clock at night & camped, and started again about an hour before day and reached the mouth of Kentucky at daylight on the morning of the 8th July 1773.

Here Capt. Bullitt and his company parted from the McAfee company and went on the falls of the Ohio. Hancock Taylor, surveyor, went with the McAfee company up the Levisa or Kentucky River. They proceeded up to the mouth of Eagle creek and camped there that night (it was then named Eagle creek on account of their seeing several eagles hovering round its mouth).

The next day they proceeded up in their canoes to the mouth of Drennon's lick creek, where they found the river closed in to about 10 yards wide by a bar

created by the creek. At this place, the McAfee company left their canoes (as we hear no more of them) and went up that creek to the lick.

Here they found two men of Bullitt's company, one by the name of Drennon & Mathew Bracken. Having heard of this place from the Delaware Indians while at the Big (bone) lick, (he) had crossed the country by land and arrived two days before them, laid claim to the lick. ... (This) so displeased the company that they were not permitted to proceed farther with them. It does not appear that either of these men ever enjoyed any benefit of their discovery made in violation of an implied understanding.

The number of buffaloes, elk, deer, beaver and wolves at this lick was astonishing. The roads round were as much beaten as in the neighborhood of a populous city. The country round was trod so much for several miles that my father's journal says, "That there was not as much grass as would feed one sheep."

The company remained at this place until the 15th July examining the lick and killing game. They also made several surveys.

While engaged in this business, James McAfee and Samuel Adams had a perilous adventure, in passing round the outskirts of the lick, some of the party fired at a large gang of buffaloes, which alarmed them and they broke in the direction, where they were standing, and such was their rapidity that Adams had only time to scamper up a leaning Mulberry tree, while James McAfee, not being so young and active, took shelter behind a tree about two feet in diameter and there by close pressing sideways he stood while the horns of the buffaloes scraped the bark on both sides.

The storm being over, he turned to look for Adams, who he found hanging to the Mulberry like a coon eyeing his friend's condition, unable to give him any aid. This incident furnished many an evening's amusement for many years after.

July 15th. Early in the morning, they left Drennon lick, and as their journals state, took a small buffalo path about the side of the road leading out of Williamsburgh (then the capitol of Virginia), which went a southeast course. They traveled some 30 miles as near as they could guess, and on the next morning in about five miles they struck the Kentucky River, where the buffalo road crossed it at a ripple where lock No.

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4 stands, just below where Frankfort now is.

From this point, they passed up a branch and down the valley in which the penitentiary stands to the river bottom in which Frankfort now is. Here my father made two surveys: one 400, the other 200, including the head of the branch where they left a tomahawk and fish gig in a fine spring & marked a gum saplin(g) at the spring. These surveys included the whole of the penitentiary valley & the town of Frankfort except the low ground north of the capitol square as well as the spring, which is known as McAfee spring to this day.

The last corner made was on the edge of the low bottom, near the three story brick house occupied by Mrs. Sharpe about 80 or 100 yards northwest of the present capitol & camped that night about where the capitol stands under a large beech tree. This was the 16th of July Friday 1773, which was the first survey ever made on the Kentucky River.

My father never completed his title to that land, although he had ample time after the land offices opened, under the belief that others had taken it up.

Next day, July 17th, they left their camp without dreaming that they had slumbered on Kentucky's proud capitol grounds, and passed up the ridge on which the Lexington road now runs and the day being very warm & dry after going about eight miles and not meeting with any water they turned toward the river and crossed about seven or eight miles above their camp at a place where there were high cedar cliffs and little bottom land on either side.

Thence passing through the now county of Anderson across the head braches of Hammond creek found good land but water scarce. The next day, the 18th, they proceeded a south west course and found the Cove Spring where Thomas Lillard afterwards settled on the turnpike road from Harrodsburg to Frankfort, now occupied by Mr. McCall where they camped all night, which they made their rendezvous until the 21st.

On the 19th in the morning they were alarmed by the sound of a gun which they supposed was by Indians. Robert McAfee and James McAfee this day crossed to the Kentucky River and went up and across it for five or six miles but was not pleased with the land. The next day James McAfee had two four hundred acre surveys on the spring and up southwest

& east, and on the 21st they searched west and found Salt River, which they called "Crooked Creek," and went down the same to the mouth of Hammond Creek and commenced surveying by making surveys for James and John McCoun, and again continuing up Salt River made several more surveys, including Lucto and above.

Being now pleased with the size of Salt River for miles good land and water they determined to make their final surveys and locate for a future residence.

They continued their surveys up the river on the 22d, 23d and 24th for Sam'l Adams, William Adams, George McAfee and others. The 25th being Sunday the day was kept in camp at James McCoun's spring a mile below Providence Church. The 26th & 27th James McCoun & James & Sam'l McAfee's land was surveyed as well as John Magee's and the land I now live on and where I was born, as all were highly delighted with the land and water.

When my uncle James McAfee found his spring, which is on the tract including the Providence Church, he took Hancock Taylor's (surveyor) Jacob's staff & stuck it down on the bluff above the spring and addressing his brother observed, "Men, you may hunt for as much land as you please but for my part I intend to live here my days out with the blessing of Providence." To which my father replied, "Well, James we will try and find as good places near you"—and sure enough the fine cave spring near which I live was surveyed the same day.

On the 28th they surveyed the land above where I live & surveyed several more tracts of land, and on the 29th lay all day at the mouth of Harrodsburgh branch & platted their different surveys, and on the 30th made surveys for Wm. McAfee, including the mouth of the branch also for John & James Curry and Jeremiah Tilford & one for my father two miles above, including Wilson Station & the bridge over Salt River leading to Perryville, and again camped at the mouth of the town branch.

July 31st (Saturday). This morning the company held a council as to the road they were to return home, whether to go back and get their canoes & return up the Ohio with Capt. Bullitt or take the most direct route home. The McAfee company decided to go up the Kentucky River and pass out of some of its branches into Powell's valley. It was a difficult and hazardous way, but upon the whole they preferred

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it to the difficulty of going back to the Ohio. They had also heard that Dan'l Boone had found plenty of game & had passed very well high up on this river.

Hancock Taylor and two other men who had joined them at the mouth of the Kentucky river determined to join Capt. Bullitt at the falls. Accordingly, about ... noon the party separated: the McAfee company marched directly towards South East for their course and the others in a contrary direction towards the Falls of the Ohio.

It is worthy of note that although a survey made for Sam'l Adams included the mouth of the Fontaine Blue branch and one of its corners stood within 200 yards of the spring, they did not discover it, although it is one of the finest springs on the waters of Salt River or indeed in Kentucky.

The course of the McAfee company lead them across the northern part of the town of Harrodsburgh and that night they lay under some remarkable shelving cliffs on Dick's river, a few miles above its mouth as it commenced raining upon them and continued to rain very hard until near night. Next morning, the first of August, they passed on through the now counties of Garrard & Madison, crossing Sugar creek, Paint Lick & Silver creek, and it still continued showery during this day & the next.

On the third day of August they came in sight of the mountains and then in about eight miles struck the Kentucky River and went up it with great difficulty, crossing its many bends and on the 5th reached its main Fork without finding much game to live on. The mountains & spurs of ridges they had to occasionally cross were covered with pine laurel, green briars & brush so that it was with much pain & labor they could get along.

They took the main North Fork and in 12 or 15 miles the river forked again. They still kept the left hand or North Fork & had to raft the river several times. On the 8th, James McAfee killed a buck elk, which was the first game of much account they had met with. It was a prize for which they were deeply Thankfull.

The river became very crooked and they were greatly annoyed in passing over the green briar spurs of the mountains, as it was impossible to keep on its banks. This day they came to another fork, and they took the right hand fork, which is the fork which comes down past Perry Court House, "Hazzard."

It was on this fork James McAfee killed the elk. Their troubles now seemed to be just commencing. They had to cross the river nearly 20 times a day. On the 10th, they attempted to leave the river, [but] the mountains were so full of brush and green briary, they returned to the river and kept up in 20 miles, and on the 11th August, they continued up the river until 2 o'clock and then left the river as Robt. McAfee's journal says.

We traveled across the worst Laurel mountains that I ever saw about 20 miles, and cempt with little to eat, and on the 12th we traveled over the same kind of mountains, which seemed to us that we should never get out of them. This looks a *little discouraging*.

They were in a region of country which seemed to be the abode of desolation, nothing but barren rocks on every hand, & silence and solitude reigned supreme, not a living animal was to be seen, beside themselves, even the Feathered Tribes had fled, and starvation, and death, was staring them in the face.

Their feet blistered & legs & thighs [were] raw with the scratches of green briars & [the] rubbing of the hems of their shirts. In the midst of a region of craggy rocks and cliffs under a broiling sun was a scene which appalled the stoutest heart, all day no change for the better. The sun was going down behind the western mountains without [them] having seen a living thing that would furnish food. They were passing to the head drains between the waters of the Kentucky, Cumberland & Clinch rivers and no water to quench their parching thirst.

When George McAfee and Sam'l Adams, exhausted and dispirited, halted and lay down, declaring they could go no farther, and they might as well die at once, they were urged to go on a little longer, but to no purpose. At length, Robert McAfee, who was always the most cheerful and athletic of any of his brothers, as a last effort of despair, determined to proceed on across the point of the next ridge to see if he could find anything to kill while James McAfee remained with the others to try and revive their spirits, while James McCoun always cheerful tried to follow Robert who soon out walked him.

The sun by this time was gilding the highest peaks of the eastern mountains by [its] setting rays. When

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That Almighty Hand which sustains, guides, and directs the affairs of this world as well as the destinies of men, interposed in their behalf.

Robert McAfee had not proceeded more than a quarter of a mile across the ridge and was approaching a small branch when he discovered a small spike buck about 50 yards before him! Joy! Anxiety and desperation all flashed over at once, and being an excellent hunter he fired and the buck fell and in a moment after he was on him, himself, with his knife. He had scarcely finished killing him by cutting his throat, when he saw the balance of the company hobbling along to the place.

The sound of his gun inspired new life and in a few minutes they had a fire kindled with meat and water from the little branch in abundance. The joy & hunger combined made it the finest they ever had and Robert was considered as the Joseph of his brethren while heartfelt thanks were returned to a kind Providence.

This affair was never forgotten by these men and ought long to be remembered by their children, that little venison had preserved the lives of their fathers in the wilderness on their return from "the land of Promise." Thus we may trace the workings of an all wise God who amid the highest points of our Western waters preserved a handful of men who were destined to be the pioneers of civilization & Christianity in the great valley of the Mississippi, now numbering many millions.

August 13th, cheered & strengthened, they travel[ed] across some bad laurel ridges at a slow pace and next day reached the head of Powell's valley and on the 15th got to the house of a Mr. Castlewood at the Ford of Clinch river and after resting a few hours went on eight miles farther to David Gist's, where they remained all night and the next day they traveled on five miles farther to Capt. Russell's, an old acquaintance, with their feet so blistered that they could go no farther.

Here they remained several days to recruit, and then in a week afterwards they all arrived at home to the great joy of their families, who had not heard a word from them after they embarked on New River, which they found all well but deeply anxious for their safety, & soon after my father's return viz., on the 19th September 1773 my elder brother Samuel was born, which being my father's first son, having

three daughters before was the cause of great joy in the family.

They met Colonel Boone in Powell Valley on his way to Kentucky with his family & party, but the Indians soon after attacked them & killed the eldest son, which broke up his trip.

1774

[In] the year 1774, the above company intended to return to Kentucky to improve and look after their lands but previous to their getting ready to start, hostilities broke out with the Northern Indians (Shawanoes, Mingoos, and Delawares) on account of the murder of Logan and his family on the Ohio River, which eventuated in a war, and James & Robert McAfee & George McAfee joined the troops under Colonel Shelby and marched to the aid of General Andrew Lewis, who had a battle with Indians at the mouth of the Great Kenhaway called "the Battle of the Point," on account of its being at the point between the two rivers.¹⁰

But while then absent, another company under Colonel James Harrod, consisting of about 41 men in all, Harrod, having about 30 men with him, was afterwards joined by another company of 11 men on the Ohio, they pursued nearly the same route as the McAfee company had, only they ascended the Kentucky river in canoes to the mouth of Landing run (then so called) in the month of May nearly opposite the new village of Salvisa, at a place now called Oregon¹¹ & from thence they passed over on Salt River & made other improvements on portions of the land made by the McAfees, who had deadened trees and made brush heaps on the most conspicuous places on their several surveys one of these was claimed to have been made by a Mr. David Williams on behalf of his brother Vincent Williams within 100 yards of my father's improvement where he had cut the initials of his name on a white oak tree at the Elm Spring (R M F) where I now live which gave my Father & myself much trouble in a long & expensive law suit which I did not get finally settled until June, 1820, it having gone through the several courts in this state.

This company also found Fontaine Blue spring, which was claimed by Isaac Hite, one of Harrods Company, who finally held it by a compromise with Sam'l Adams. Colonel Harrod's company also dis-

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covered the big town spring of Harrodsburgh, which they made their Headquarters & on the 16th of June 1774 laid off a town on the south side of the town branch below this spring and built some five or six cabins & called it "Harrods Town."

From this point they made their excursion to make improvements by deadening trees and making brush heaps and while there Colonel Daniel Boone found them on his way to the falls of [the] Ohio, sent by the Governor of Virginia to warn the companies & surveyors of the hostilities of the Indians and had a cabin built in company with a Mr. Hinton, which afterwards went by this name. About the middle of July, Mr. James Cowan, Jacob Sodowsky & two other men being at Fontaine Blue, Mr. Cowan, having got some of his papers wet, took them out and was drying them in the sun, and while thus employed was fired upon by the Indians & killed. Sodowsky and one of the others made their escape towards the falls of the Ohio and having made canoes descended that river and the Mississippi to New Orleans & returned home by sea. The other man escaped to Harrodstown and gave the alarm to the balance of the company who as soon as they could collect their stragglers broke up camp & returned home by the Cumberland Gap, with the determination to return next spring and maintain their ground. In Harrods company were several men who afterwards became conspicuous in the settlement of Kentucky and its history.

The following names I have obtained from Colonel Harrod's company roll by Abraham Chaplin.

(Names not given. Ed.)

1775

Early in the year 1775, the McAfee company prepared to visit their land in Kentucky. Accordingly about the 20th of February they again left their homes with the addition of David Adams, Wm. McAfee & John Higgins, an apprenticed servant to my grandfather James McAfee, and came through the wilderness by "the Cumberland Gap" & arrived at James McAfee's spring on Salt River on the 11th day of March 1775.

On the 15th of March, Colonel Harrod, with a reinforcement of his company, passed them on their way to Harrodstown again, where they again located at their headquarters. The McAfee Company cut

down the small timber in about two acres of ground, piled & burnt the brush, and made a fence of brush round it. [They] planted some corn, peach stones and apple seed[s], and my father also planted peach stones and apple seed[s] at a sink hole near my cave & Elm Springs.

Also, the same was done at James McCoun's spring, about a mile below where N. Providence church now stands. [McCoun was also] intending to plant more corn, preparatory to moving to the country either that fall or next spring.

My father was somewhat astonished & uneasy at finding a pair of poles about six feet high near his improvements & within 10 steps of the white oak in which his named was marked. George McAfee & William McAfee also cleared a small piece of ground at a spring running into the town branch a short distance below the Harrodstown boundary at this time (now in the possession of Jos. Morgan Esq.).

About the 10th of April the company concluded to return home, leaving John Higgins and Lucien Poulson at Harrodstown to plant more corn and warn other companies of their land, which was faithfully attended to by Higgins, who made additional improvements by cutting down the brush and piling it at the springs where I now reside.... My father intended to settle his father at this point and to make his settlement on the river above Harrodstown.

The balance of the company then continued their journey toward their homes, and on the 21st of April met Henderson and his company at the crossing of Scaggs [Skegg's] Creek (a branch of Rockcastle River), coming on to settle at Boonesborough and grant settlement right claims to land by virtue of [the] Watauga treaty of the 17th [of] March previous with the Cherokees.¹²

Henderson was from North Carolina & claimed the greater part of the present state of Kentucky by virtue of this purchase notwithstanding the treaty with the six nations (Mohawks) made at Fort Schuyler. Here a hasty council was held & Henderson laid his plans before the McAfee Company and urged them to return with him and he would grant them land and allow them to make entries.

James McAfee resisted his proposition and told his brothers, that Henderson's claim could not be valid, as he had made his purchase without the sanction of the government, and if they sought protection under

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him they would be deceived.

Notwithstanding this wholesome and correct advice, such were the allurements held out by Henderson, that his three brothers—Robert, George, and William—turned back with him to Boonesborough, then for the first time occupied by Colonel Boone (about 10 days previous) who had preceded Henderson to open a road. Soon after Henderson's arrival he sent for the Harrodstown people and held his famous convention in the month of May of which my father Robert McAfee was sergeant at arms.

The whole scheme afterwards proved abortive as predicted by James McAfee as far as related to the entries of land made on Henderson's books, but which eventually secured their settlement rights by raising corn.

Robert George and William McAfee remained about two months with Henderson and then returned home, and again in the month of September 1775, the same men in company with John Magee, David and John McCoun (and John Higgins, who had returned home in July to help them) came back to Harrodstown & Salt River, now for the first time called by that name (on account of Capt. Bullitt having discovered saltwater on it at a place afterwards known as Bullitt's Lick) & brought with them 40 head of cattle, which they took down to James McCoun's land on the river about a mile below N. Providence Church & turned them in the cane [cane] & occasionally salted them, commenced clearing ground & building cabins.

John Magee built a cabin assisted by William McBrayer on a point between two branches about a mile below my present residence. John McCoun, with a part of this company, remained during this winter and cleared about 15 acres of ground in the flat adjoining James McCoun's spring & planted it in corn in April 1776.

Their cattle kept in good condition during the winter on the cane. They ploughed their corn once and in June having discovered & heard the Indians round them one night they broke up and returned home, expecting to aid their families in moving to the country in 1776.

Early this spring, the several McAfee and McCoun families with their friends and relations, the Adams, Currys, John Magee, including sons and sons in law, commenced preparations for moving to Kentucky.

Their wives and daughters had been employed

day and night in making a surplus stock of linen, blankets, flannel & bed clothes of all kinds including rugs, and also extra clothing enough for several years until they could raise supplies at their new home, calculating that the corn they had planted would supply them with bread and the cattle they had sent to the country would be sufficient to give them milk & also to begin with in a new country. The only difficulty seemed to be how they were to take their goods and chattels.

It was at length agreed upon to take their heavy & bulky household stuff by water & up the Kentucky river with part of the company and their families on pack horses through the wilderness by way of the Cumberland Gap.

Accordingly, in May 1776 they packed up the greater portion of their household property and farming utensils, also kegs of flour, corn and other seeds in the middle of which they put a bottle of whiskey for safe keeping (which however proved their ruin, as we will see as has often been the case since with others).

With these on packhorses, they proceeded across the country to Brown's Ferry, on Green Briar (or Gaully River as it was then called), where they made canoes & put all on board on the 11th of June and proceeded down the river. But the season having been dry, they had great difficulty in getting along over the falls & rapids of the river. After several overturn[ed] their canoes, they were compelled to stop about 15 miles above its mouth and build a log cabin on a ridge, in which they deposited all their goods & covered it well with bark, intending to return for their horses and transport it back to go by land, but by the time they got home, the Cherokee war broke out and the men had to go on that expedition which eventuated in burning their towns at Nicajack.

As soon as this campaign was over, still determined on moving, they collected their packhorses and went after their goods, which was early in September. When they arrived at their cabin expecting to find everything safe, what was their astonishment and chagrin to find the roof thrown off, and their rugs, blankets & kegs lying scattered in various directions entirely ruined & broken open, some of their finest rugs lay under the shade adjacent trees or cliffs of rocks which when attempting to lift them they found rotten.

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They had apparently been used by some person to sleep on. The kegs, which had been broken and found to contain their whiskey had been evidently destroyed for that purpose. The feelings of the company were at once enraged to find all their valuable property and the labor of years of toil thus destroyed, at a time when it was so much needed. They had also kegs of coffee, sugar, spice, tea, etc., which they had laid up for special use, as they did not expect to get such things in Kentucky for several years.

It seemed to them that Providence had frowned upon them as all their plans & efforts were frustrated, so it appeared to them, but no doubt a wise Province overruled all these things and saved many valuable lives which would have been destroyed if they had reached their new and dangerous homes in this year. It was no doubt for the best. However, they did not then feel so. After a short consultation, it was first supposed to be done by Indians, but seeing no signs of that kind, this opinion was given up and it was believed to be done by some straggling white man.

They determined to search round to see if they could find the culprit, the company divided off two together, and James & Samuel McAfee took a small track, which led towards the river and down it. ...

In a short distance they met (as James McAfee said) a little diminutive red-headed white man, who appeared much confused. He was immediately charged with doing all the mischief, which he denied. But James McAfee, discovering some of their clothing on him, on a sudden impulse of passion struck at him with the pole of his tomahawk, which, glancing off the side of his hat, laid him on his back quivering. [James] then drew his knife jumped at him to finish. But his brother Samuel seized his arm and said, "Stop, James, do not kill the man."

This admonition, recalled reflection, and his life was spared. His name was Edward Sommers, a bound servant who had ran away from his master down low in Virginia and was endeavoring to get to the Indians when he accidentally found this cabin. ... Finding good rugs and clothing, he had made it his headquarters for two months & breaking open one of the kegs to see what was in it, found a bottle of whiskey.... [This] induced him to break the others, upon which he got drunk and rioted like another savage without care or thought for the future, not even attempting to preserve anything from destruction.

The conduct was so wanton and outrageous that as soon as he came to, he was helped up and conducted back to the cabin.... As soon as the company were collected, a council was held over him, and he was permitted to explain his conduct, which was so malignant & indefensible that it was decided that, according to their opinion of the laws, he had forfeited his life and ought to be hung.

This sentence none of them would agree to execute, and by this means his life was saved a second time. James McAfee [observed] that "if Sam had let him alone, there would have been no further trouble with him."

They now collected such of their farming tools and some few other articles not injured and returned home to commence anew their laborious preparations. But the blow fell heavy upon every family and prevented any farther attempt to move [in] the succeeding years of 1777 & 1778. [It was] the continuation of the Revolutionary War, in which the most of these men heartily engaged in the Virginia Militia.

James McAfee served as a lieutenant. The others were content to serve in the ranks as they were called on. Botetourt County was almost unanimously ardent friends of the Revolution and staunch Whigs. Their principal services were, however, on the frontiers, and to down to Williamsburgh.

The McAfees ranked as brave soldiers who could be relied on, but none of them aspired to distinction or office of any kind. Their education [was] confined to reading, writing & figures as far as the rule of three. My uncle James, judging from his journal, wrote an excellent hand for the times, or indeed at any time, superior to many men in high office.

My father, Robert, wrote a good strong hand and read well, being much inclined to reading. He was well informed upon all the current subjects of the day. He always took the leading newspapers then published in Virginia & the Kentucky Gazette from its first establishment until his death. He was, however, deficient in figures, which he often regretted, although he could do his own calculations. This was one reason he often assigned for his determination to educate his children, male and female.

My uncles Samuel & William also wrote excellent strong hands & were better versed in arithmetic than any of their brothers.

Some of the company visited Salt River in the fall

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of 1777 to look after the cattle, but by this time they had run wild or were killed by hunters from Harrodstown, so that not more than two or three were ever heard again.

1779

This was an important year for the McAfee family and their friends, as well as for the settlement of Kentucky. The Virginia Legislature passed a land law & commissioners were appointed to sit as a court to examine and grant certificates of Settlements & preemptions, amounting to 1,400 acres of land. [This court] met in Harrodsburg on the 13th day of October in this year.

Of course, it became necessary for all those who had claims to land to come to the country and make their claims. My father and uncles & grandfather McCoun & his family, with the Adams[es], Currys, etc., consisting of three or four patriarchal families, having made extensive arrangements, left their home in Botetourt County, Va., on the 17th of August for Kentucky.

[They left] George McAfee's wife, who had just been confined [for childbirth]. [She was] to follow on as soon as she was able to ride, which she was in three days after. The company moved slowly and halted at the ford of New River for George McAfee to return for his wife, who, to his great surprise, he met coming the next morning.

The company were all on packhorses and came by the Cumberland Gap, and after a long and painful march, arrived in safety at Wilson's Station on Salt River, about two & a half miles from Harrodsburgh on the 27th day of September.

Next day, a part of the company went on to James McAfee's Station. My father stopped at Wilson's Station and put up a double cabin for his family as he claimed the land adjoining. When the commissioners met at Harrodsburgh, Wilson contested his claim and the court decided in favor of Wilson.

The surveyor's office was kept by Mr. May in my father's house and his brother taught a school part of that fall and winter. When my father lost his claim, he entered his settlement right on the river about a mile below. His beginning corner stood on the east bank of Salt River at the crossing of the old road, leading to Harbison's Station (now Perryville).

Wilson's Station stood on this high ridge on the

east side of Salt River, just below the mouth of the Dry Fork. There being no good land adjoining my father's settlement, he declined claiming his preemption of 1,000 acres, which was an error which he afterwards had great cause to regret.

In the month of November, he came down Salt River & built a cabin on the bank of the river, near my present mill and moved to it as the winter set in, having made an arrangement with John Magee, his brother in law, to divide his preemption with him, which afterwards gave him great trouble and expense.

The winter of 1779-80 proved to be one of great severity. It commenced the last of November & continued until the 15th or 20th February during which time the snow lay on the ground, and there was continued cold freezing weather. Salt River was frozen in many places to the bottom, a large portion of their cattle & many of their horses perished. My father lost 10 head of his horses, so that he had but one yellow horse he called Chicasaw & one brown mare left in the spring.

Many buffaloes and wolves as well as beavers, otters & turkeys were frozen to death. [Desperate ones] would frequently come up near the cabins at James McAfee's Station and where I live with the tame cattle.

The people were reduced to the utmost extremity for bread, one "Johnny cake" (bread baked on a long board before the fire) had often to be divided according to size and number of the family & that only once or twice each day, and even this failed toward the close of winter and for many weeks nothing but meat could be obtained and that poor enough, unless a bear could be found in some hollow tree, which would furnish a feast, with wild turkey for bread. Thus their first winter was spent.

James McAfee's cabins were considered headquarters on Salt River, and among the persons who remained there that winter, we find Robert Ewing and Baker Ewing, and Joseph Lyon, besides James McAfee's family and James McCoun Sr., his sons and sons in law.

My grandfather James McAfee declined moving with them to the country on account of his age and difficulties of the road. His family made ample provision for (him) in the family of a Mr. Montgomery (a relation) and a Mr. McDonald, where he remained until his death in 1785.

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Cheerful and contented, my grandmother would not separate from her children and came with them, living a part of the time with my father and a part with my aunt Mary Guant, where she died in 1783 and lies buried with her son in law Thos. Guant on a high hill on the southeast side of Salt River & about half a mile a little south of west from the mouth of the dry fork now in the farm of Archibald Adams and also half a mile northwestwardly from the Mudd meeting house (now so called).

I am thus particular that the place may be identified. It is the only high ground near and Salt River runs around it on the west and north, commanding a fine view to the east, north & west. And there to repose the mother of the McAfee family in the new western world to which she had brought her children. It is about three miles southwest of Harrodsburgh.

It may also be worthy of notice that when my father and uncles ... reached their land in September 1779, they found a good crop of peaches and a few apples on the trees grown for ... seed planted in the spring [of] 1775, so rapid had been their growth, and I have now on my farm two apple trees of the same stock, which never failed to bear every year since my recollection, making good the old Scotchman's remark: "When ever you can find nothing else to do, plant a tree of some kind, it will pay you or somebody else."

1780

As already remarked, the spring of this year opened early, about the 20th of February, after which a succession of fine pleasant weather inspired them with new life and hopes. The first thing attended to was [food]. My [father] and uncles went to the falls of Ohio, having heard of the arrival of some corn from "Red Stone" old fort.¹³

It was important [for the men] to procure seed and some bread for their families

and, on their arrival, they procured some indifferent corn at \$60 per bushel continental money. My father purchased seven bushels & packed on his two horses home all he had for bread and seed until he could raise it, and this was ground on hand mills constructed by themselves.

Tin cups were a luxury and [they had no] gourds. My father, who was a good self made mechanic contrived with the few tools he had to supply the deficien-

cy by making what was called "noggins," which he hollowed out of a knot of a tree or with small staves and hoops to hold about a pint. ... Each child had one. ... "Necessity, the mother of invention" found means to provide the necessary family utensils. Yet, with all this deprivation, they were happy and contented, and at the station of James McAfee they enjoyed themselves with dancing several times each week.

[Dancing] was not then considered criminal & it kept up their spirits and cheerfulness in the wilds of the West, and it must be admitted that it added to the health ... & happiness of the young people and indeed it was not believed to be inconsistent with their religious duties, but after times proved the necessity of limiting this amusement.

As soon as they possibly could, each family moved to their land and commenced clearing land. My father and John Magee lived for some time together in a cabin in which I was afterwards born. My father cleared and planted some five or six acres north of the elm spring on which my orchard now grows. ...

Early in June of this year, James Thompson, surveyor of Lincoln county, surveyed the settlements & preemptions on the river belonging to the McAfee company. But a difficulty took place, which involved my father and John Magee in a tedious law suit with Mr. Vincent Williams, who this spring claimed before the Court of Commissioners preemption by virtue of an improvement made in 1774 as one of Harrod's Company by his brother David. But the court decided that, having already granted a preemption to John Magee for the same land, they could not grant one to him.

It was unfortunate that John Magee ... he claimed his preemption, made on the faith of an improvement made in 1775 instead of 1773, under the impression that the improvements made in that year were void as well as their surveys. [This] was a great mistake & gave cause for much trouble thereafter.

Indeed, all the McAfee company had made their claims in the same way, believing that Harrod's company had not interfered with them. [This] was not the fact, although John Higgins & Poulson had notified them of the McAfee improvements in 1775, which prevented all other interference except by William & Isaac Hite, the latter of whom wisely compromised with Samuel Adams, while Williams finally failed as will be seen in the sequel after expending 10

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times the value of the land in that day.

The Indians during this year annoyed the station by killing & scalping stragglers and stealing horses on the north side of the Kentucky River, while those on Salt River were comparatively left in peace on account of Harrodsburg containing a respectable population and a company of soldiers. Yet occasionally, that section of the country was assailed.

It may be a matter of some curiosity to give the census of Harrodsburg ... taken from the journal of John Cowan in the year 1777, which will prove its importance at that time & since. [It was] taken on the first day of May in that year, after the arrival of Colonel Bowman—

Men in service	81
Men not in service	4
Women	24
Children above 10 years old	12
Children under 10 years old	58
Slaves above 10 years old	12
Negro children under 10 years old	7
	198

In the year [1777] this population had greatly increased, which, in addition to continual influx of temporary & travelers looking for land, made it even in that day the principal town of the state.

But to return to the events of [the year 1780]: In consequence of the depredation of the Indians, General George Rogers Clark, with Colonel Ben Logan, determined to attack the Shawanoe Indians at Old Chillicothe on the little Miami (now in the state of Ohio), about three or four miles north of Xenia.¹⁴

With this view, General Clark was to move up the Ohio River in boats with the regular [troops] and militia in the vicinity of the Falls of Ohio to the mouth of Licking River. Colonel Logan was to descend the Kentucky River & meet him at the mouth of that river. The troops from Lexington, Bryan's Station & other places north of the Kentucky were to go on direct to the mouth of the Licking.

In consequence of this arrangement, the troops from St. Asaph's, Harrodsburgh, McGary's & James & William McAfee's stations met at various points on the Kentucky River. The main rendezvous was at a place called Warwick, in the first large bottom above the mouth of Landing Run (Harrod's Landing of 1774) and prepared canoes and collected provi-

sions for that purpose.

With this expedition the men from James McAfee's Station generally went, leaving only enough to cultivate a field of corn of about two acres, which and been cleared in common in the valley east of the station, and to defend the station, which reduced them to six or seven men only, besides their women and children.

My uncle William McAfee commanded the company thus raised from Harrodsburgh & this and the other stations. This expedition started about the first of July. Captain Elliston ... commanded [a] company from the other stations.

These troops laid in provisions to last until they reached the mouth of Licking, expecting to get a supply then from General Clark at the public expense. But when about to march from that point, two pounds of flour per man and a small quantity of meat was all that could be had. Notwithstanding, they were in high spirits and made no complaints, as General Clark had done the best he could.

The only draw back on the army was that one man deserted before they crossed the Ohio and went to the Indian town and gave them information of the approach of Clark's army, so that when they arrived at Old Chillicothe, they found the town deserted and burnt and still smoking in its ruins. But the army pushed on to another town call Piqua a few miles distant, they found that the Indians had taken refuge in a block house and a small stockade fort.

It was about 10 o'clock in the morning and General Clark divided his army into four divisions and directed the leader of each to march so as to enclose the town on four sides. The Indians, perceiving this movement, sallied out and formed in the timbers on the west side of the town and were ready to receive the whites.

A severe battle now commenced, and a running tree firing was kept up. The Indians [were] still retreating as the second division of General Clark's army joined in the combat. The other two divisions, which were to cross opposite the town, could not get down the banks of the river and went nearly three miles to cross & of course did not get engaged in the battle.

After the first and second division had kept a running fight for nearly two hours, they lost sight of the Indians entirely. ... Not hearing anything of the other portion of the army, they collected together

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and marched round toward the river above the town & discovered an Indian in a treetop.

Captain William McAfee & Elliston took the same tree. McAfee, being outside, turned round to look for another tree to shelter himself when the Indian fired and shot him through the breast. He did not fall immediately, but sat down. When a Mr. James McBride discover[ed] the Indian by the smoke of his gun, [he] fired at him and killed him on the spot, which closed his exultation.

A portion of Captain McAfee's company being left to take care of him, the balance marched round the point of a ridge and halted & sat down to listen for the balance of the army. But all was silence, for near half an hour, when suddenly a body of Indians came down the bottom of the Miami below them and commenced tremendous war whoop yelling, both parties apparently about equal.

The white troops immediately rushed down upon them and, each party taking a tree, a heavy fire commenced. But the Indians soon retreated toward their town and blockhouse, pursued by the whites, who for two miles followed them so that when the whites reached to [the] top of one ridge the Indians were ascending another. When the Indians reached the high ground above the bottom, where their town was located, they formed in line of battle & took trees. ...

Here the battle really commenced as the Indians in the fort united with their brethren. ... The renewed firing having been heard by the detached company they arrived in time to aid in the conflict. After the battle had continued some time and several had been killed on both sides, the Indians broke and ran down the hill into their fort and cabins, where the conflict was renewed.

General Clark now ordered up a small three-pounder cannon, which he [had] taken with him on a pack horse, and opened fire upon their block house, from a point below the town, while the other troops fired upon the Indians, as they could occasionally be seen running from their cabins towards the river. ... In this way the firing was kept up until after sundown. ...

Nearly all the Indians had made their escape to the river & ascended under its bank up to a small branch that put in above the town, and in this way got off. ... Some of them were met by the other division of the army, which was all the share they had in

the conflict. Some 15 or 20 Indians were killed in this last conflict and nearly as many white men, and a great many wounded.

The army encamped in the vicinity of the town & next day destroyed all [of the Indians'] corn & houses.

Captain William McAfee, although shot through the breast, did not appear to be mortally wounded. He was carried part of the way on a litter between two horses to the Ohio, at the mouth of Licking and thence down to the Falls of Ohio and out to Floyd Station, where (he) remained alive until his wife went from his station near Harrodsburgh to see him. His wound at last produced mortification, and he died in August 1780, leaving his wife ensient with a third daughter (afterwards Mrs. Mary Lee).¹⁵

Thus closed the life of a second uncle by the hands of the Indians, and a braver spirit never lived. He was beloved by all his friends, while his loss was deeply felt by his family, consisting of a wife and three infant daughters.¹⁶

My uncle George McAfee, who had married Captain William McAfee's wife's sister, became the guardian of the children and the protector of the widow.¹⁷

Such were the difficulties incident to the first settling of Kentucky, which have been deeply impressed on my mind and very probably influenced many of my opinions & feelings during a long and eventful life.

The south side of the Kentucky River had peace the balance of this year. Sometime this fall, my uncle John Magee moved to his cabin about one mile below my father's on Salt River. ...

The men were generally engaged in tending & fathering their crops, surveying their land and killing meat to feed their families, having to bring what salt they used from the Falls of Ohio at an exorbitant price. My mother and elder sisters gathered nettles in the fall, from which she manufactured a piece of linen enough to clothe some of the children, and an old black woman by the name of Frank & a negro boy called Cornelius. The former [my father] had purchased of my grandfather McCoun and the latter he had purchased when a child & brought both to Kentucky with him. ... [This was] his whole stock of servants he ever owned.

Endnotes

¹ President James Buchanan (b. 23 April 1791, Cove Gap, near Mercersburg, Penn., d. 1 June 1868, Wheatland, near

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Lancaster Penn.), a son of James Buchanan and Elizabeth Speer, served as U.S. secretary of state under President James Knox Polk from March 6, 1845 to March 7, 1849. James and George Buchanan were at least second cousins, since George's father, James Buchanan, was born on 7 October 1766 in Botetourt County, Va., and the president's father, James Buchanan, was born in 1761 in Lancaster County, Penn.

²John Forsyth (b. 22 October 1780, Fredericksburg, Va., d. 21 October 1841, Washington, D.C.), served as U.S. secretary of state under presidents Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren from July 1, 1834 to March 4, 1841. Forsyth was also a six-term congressman who served two terms in the U.S. senate and was governor of Georgia from 1827 to 1829. He married Clara Meigs (b. 18 September 1784), a daughter of Josiah Meigs and Clara Benjamin.

³William McAfee commanded a company in General George Rogers Clark's 1780 campaign against Shawnee towns in Ohio. He was shot "through the body" near Piqua, Ohio, but his brothers brought him back to Floyd's Station in Jefferson County, where he was able to speak with his wife before he died. See Lewis Collins, Richard H. Collins, *History of Kentucky*, Volume 2 (1874, Reprint 1966, Frankfort, Ky.: Kentucky Historical Society), p. 619.

⁴Elijah Craig (b. about 1764, Spotsylvania County, Va., d. 14 October 1813) married Anne McAfee about 9 September 1794, the date of the marriage bond, in Mercer County. The couple apparently lived near what would become Carrollton, Carroll County, Ky. Craig served as a captain during the War of 1812 and was killed at the Battle of the Thames in October 1813. Craig may, or may not, have been a son of John Hawkins Craig and Sarah Page.

⁵Yellow Banks was the original name of the site of the present city of Owensboro, Daviess County.

⁶Mary McAfee was born in 1780, after her father's death that August. She died in Salvisa, in Mercer County, on 4 June 1847. Willis Lee (b. 16 August 1745, Warrenton, Fauquier County, Va.) was a son of Hancock Taylor Lee II, an early Kentucky explorer and member of the celebrated Virginia family, who founded Leestown, Franklin County, Kentucky's oldest settlement, as early as 1775. His mother Mary Willis was born in Fredericksburg, Va., on 5 August 1709. Willis was referred to as having the military rank of major, and his middle name may have been Atwell. See Lewis Collins, Richard H. Collins, *History of Kentucky*, Volume 2 (1874, Reprint 1966, Frankfort, Ky.: Kentucky Historical Society), p. 619.

⁷Beriah Magoffin and Jane McAfee became the parents of Beriah Magoffin (b. 18 April 1815, Harrodsburg, d. 28 February 1885, Harrodsburg), who served as governor of Kentucky from August 30, 1859 until August 18, 1862, when he resigned under pressure because of his presumed Southern sympathies. See Kleber, John E., editor, *The Kentucky Encyclopedia* (Lexington, Ky.: University Press of Kentucky, 1992), pages 603-4.

⁸Thomas Patrick Moore (b. 1797, Charlotte County, Va., d. 21 July 1853, Harrodsburg, Ky.) attended Transylvania University in Lexington and was as a major in the War of 1812

before his election to Congress, where he served from March 4, 1823 to March 3, 1829. Moore was appointed "Minister Plenipotentiary to New Grenada" by President Andrew Jackson and served from March 13, 1829 to April 16, 1833. He was a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Dragoons during the Mexican War and a delegate to the state constitutional convention of 1849-50. Moore married Mary McAfee on 16 April 1818, in Harrodsburg. The couple's children included James Johnson, Mary Lock, Hannah Ellen, and Thomas C. Moore. See *Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1949* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1950), p. 1584 (or <http://bioguide.congress.gov>).

⁹County seats were often referred to simply as the site of the court house. Both Perry County and its seat, Hazard, were named for War of 1812 hero Oliver Hazard Perry, who won the Battle of Lake Erie. Perry County was established in 1820, a year after Perry's death. The present-day third-class city of Hazard was founded by Elijah Combs Sr., in 1821. The post office there was begun in 1824 under the name Perry Court House, but was changed to Hazard in 1854. The city was incorporated in 1884.

¹⁰The 10 October 1774 Battle of Point Pleasant, was fought at the confluence of the Ohio and Kanawha Rivers, at the site of present-day Point Pleasant, Ohio. The battle marked the last large scale clash between Virginia and Indians before the beginning of the Revolutionary War. See "Manufactured History: Re-Fighting the Battle of Point Pleasant," *West Virginia History*, Volume 56 (1997), pages 76-87.

¹¹Oregon remains on modern maps as near the site of a boat ramp on the Kentucky River, in northern Mercer County, along its eastern boundary.

¹²The 17 March 1775 Treaty of Watauga, also known as the Transylvania Purchase, was one of the first steps in Colonel Richard Henderson's plan to purchase land in Kentucky for settlement. Daniel Boone's clearing of the Wilderness Road, the establishment of Fort Boonesborough, and the first meeting of a representative body in Kentucky, all which occurred in 1775, were the result of the efforts of Henderson and his Transylvania Company. The effort was doomed, however, when Virginia and the Continental Congress refused to recognize the company or its land claims. See John E. Kleber, editor, *The Kentucky Encyclopedia* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1992), p. 894.

¹³Redstone Old Fort was a prehistoric Indian mound overlooking the eastern shore of the Monongahela River in present-day Brownsville, Fayette County, Penn. The ancients' placement of large red sandstone blocks atop the mound, coupled with the pioneer's term "old fort," in reference to prehistoric fortifications, gave the site its name. English explorers built a wooden fort there about 1759, which pioneers defended against Indians when necessary. Redstone was also a common rendezvous site for explorers and families heading for Kentucky, including James Harrod, founder of Harrodsburg.

¹⁴Josiah Morrow identified the site of Old Chillicothe as "about three miles north of the site of Xenia" in 1882. Old Chillicothe was one of five Indian towns along the two forks

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of the Miami River, which also included Pickaway, New Chillicothe, Will's Town and Chillicothe. It was described as being constructed like a Kentucky "station," in a "hollow square" design. According to Morrow, "a long council house extended the entire length of the town, in which embassies were received and the chiefs met to consult on grave questions. Some of the houses are said to have been covered with shingles or clapboards." See Josiah Morrow, *The History of Warren County, Ohio* (Chicago: W.H. Beers Co., 1882; Reprint Mt. Vernon, Ind.: Windmill Publications, 1992), p. 220.

¹⁵ Mary McAfee (b. 1780, Mercer County, Ky.), a daughter of William McAfee and Rebecca Curry, married Willis Atwell Lee (b. 29 May 1773, Culpepper County, Va., d. 6 October 1824, Frankfort, Franklin County, Ky.), a son of John Lee and

Laetitia Atwell, on 3 October 1797 in Franklin County.

¹⁶ The three daughters of William McAfee and Rebecca Curry were Anna, Margaret, and Mary. Their mother, Rebecca Curry (b. 8 October 1740, Botetourt County, Va.) was a daughter of William Curry (b. about 1714, Lancaster, Penn.) and Mary McAfee (b. about 1718, County Armagh, Ulster, Northern Ireland). She later married Robert Brown.

¹⁷ George McAfee (b. 13 April 1740, Octoraro Creek, Lancaster County, Penn., d. 14 April 1803, Mercer County, Ky.) married Susannah Curry (b. 8 October 1740), a daughter of William Curry (b. about 1714, Lancaster, Penn.) and Mary McAfee (b. about 1718, County Armagh, Ulster, Northern Ireland). The couple's daughter Mary (b. between 1765-70) married Robert Armstrong on 21 February 1791.

Questions about Kentucky families submitted by Society members

E-mail: michele38m@yahoo.com

Venard, Craig

Mary "Polly" Venard married Henry VanMeter Craig in 1838 in McDonough County, Ill. She was a daughter of John Venard of Harrison County, Ky. How was H.V. Craig's father, who is said to have been born in Kentucky.

*Marilyn Hill Craig, 835 NW 18th Place,
McMinnville, OR 97128
mjcraig@onlinemac.com*

Sprinkle

Looking for information on Jacob Sprinkle, who discovered a silver mine near Lewis County, made his own coins and in 1841 was charged with counterfeiting silver coin. Sprinkle was found not guilty. Nicknamed "the silver dollar man," Sprinkle is said to have paid his attorney with 50 of his silver coins. Sprinkle is listed on 1830 Morgan County census as age 40-50, and, in 1840, as 50-60 and living in Lewis County.

*Martha Sutton, 3744 Kentucky 39N,
Crab Orchard, KY 40419*

Smith, Tull

Looking for ancestry of William Smith Sr. of Woodford County, who married Anna Merrill Tull, daughter of Handy Tull, in 1819. William and Anna moved to Jefferson County, Ind., in the 1820s.

*Michele Morgan, 527 Leawood Drive,
Frankfort, KY 40601*

Anderson, Bayer, Baskerville, Borders, Blackford, Harris, Moore, Tharp, Westerfield

Information needed on the following deceased Pentecostal minister in Kentucky: A.G. Anderson, E.J. Bayer, C.P. Baskerville; Floyd Borders, Opal Blackford, Sherman Harris, Thomas F. Moore, Manuel Tharp, Luther Westerfield.

*Lloyd Dean, 6770 U.S. 60 East,
Morehead, KY 40351*

Tolliver, Wagner, Lowe, Lucas

Looking for information on: 1. Jones Washington Tolliver (b. 1858, perhaps Nicholas County), who married Mahulda Angie Wagoner; 2. John Henry Elijah Lowe (b. Carter County), who married Katherine Maggibelle Tolliver; 3. Mary Louise Lowe Lucas, who lived on a shanty boat on the Ohio River. Her father, Albert Lucas, was from Carter County. Also working on Montgomery, Burriss, Kitchen, Lester, Waldren, Dixon, and Gallagher. Any help appreciated.

Martha Sutton, 3744 Kentucky Highway 39N, Crab Orchard, KY 40419