

Memorandum

To: Ms. Mary Parrott

From: Don McMurray 

Date: October 30, 1998

Subject: Many McElroys

Dear Ms. Parrott:

Margaret Pyles sent me some information on 3rd great uncle, John McMurray. To my surprise, the information identified several McElroys who came to Ky. with John in 1789 from Va. You probably already have these documents and names but let me list them for you.

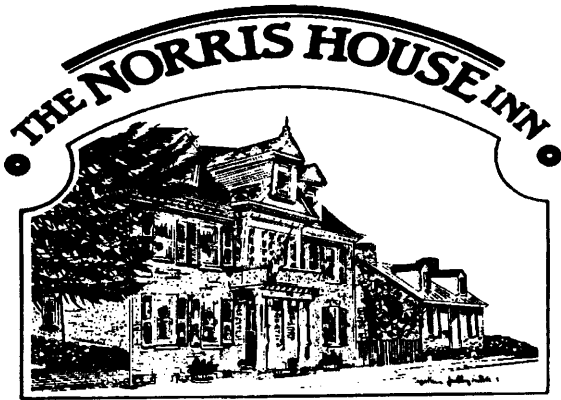
The first document is from the Bradfordsville (Ky.) Hist. Society and it refers to a Presbyterian Church that was built in Lebanon in 1789. The book, "Old Liberty Cemetery Book" lists several McElroys and my 3rd great uncle, John McMurray as follows:

P. 148; "In 1789, long before Bradfordsville or Lebanon were established as towns, a group of men consisting of James McBride, Samuel McElroy, James McElroy, John Simpson, Thomas Simpson, John McMurray, James Wilson, John McElroy and Rev. Thomas Clelland Sr., met at where Bradfordsville now is located and decided to build the first Presbyterian Church on Hardin Creek where later the Vaughn Hotel stood in Lebanon."

The second document referring to McElroys and John McMurray was found by Margaret in your library. It's from the "History of the Presbyterian Church" by W. T. Knott, A.B., PhD.:

P. 7; "This introduction brings us to the year 1789, when a colony of Scotch-Irish Presbyterians from *Campbell County, Virginia* crossed the mountains of southeastern Kentucky. ---. The colony of Scotch-Irish Presbyterians just alluded to, arrived October, 1789, and included among others, Samuel McElroy and family, James McElroy and family, Alexander Handley and family, John Muldraugh and family."

I certainly hope my 3rd great grandmother, Jean (or Jane) (McElroy) McMurray is related to one or all of the above McElroys. If so, I need to look for McElroys in Campbell County, Va. My McMurray gang was east of there in Augusta, now Botetourt Co., Va. Chances are the McElroys joined them in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia in the spring of 1789 and headed for Kentucky.



Memorandum

To: Ms. Mary Parrott

From: Don McMurray

Date: October 26, 1998

Subject: McElroy research

Dear Ms. Parrott:

Margaret Pyles, my newly found cousin, suggested I contact you. I understand you have done some research on the McElroys in your area. I believe I have a McElroy ancestor but have not been able to find her because of confusion in the last name. Some researchers say it is Janet Jane McElwee or McElmore based on published marriage books. My 3rd great grandfather, James McMurray, was married on 30 Dec 1790 in Lincoln Co., Ky. to, I believe, Jean or Jane McElroy. Since Jean is an unusual given name for the era I fudge a little and also include Jane. However, their great granddaughter confirmed in an old letter that the wife's maiden name was, in fact, Jean McElroy and this is all I have to go on.

Assuming the McElroy name is true, I know my relatives, James and his brother, John McMurray, were closely involved with a Hugh McElroy and I'm wondering if you have anything on this McElroy or any other McElroy that might help me. A Hugh McElroy's heirs are mentioned in the enclosed document, a lawsuit by the heirs is on the second of three pages near the top of the page in the right hand column. The pages were sent to me by a cousin because they also mention my 3rd great uncle, John McMurray. My cousin doesn't recall where she got the document but it looks like it came from the Kentucky State Historical Society's "The Register." I've sent an inquiry on the society in Frankfort to see if they can identify it.

In the meantime, I would appreciate your looking at your McElroy research to see if you can guide me in my search for Jean's parents. A copy of my Time Line (TL) for James is enclosed and Jean's estimated birth year of 1769 and the couples 1790 marriage is mentioned on pages 2 and 5 of the TL. Hugh McElroy is mentioned on page 9 of the TL. I will, of course, be happy to compensate you for your time and efforts. Let me know if you would like me to send you a deposit for your work.

Please let me know if there are any questions. If you have access to e-mail I can be reached at don@norrishouse.com. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Enclosures

If the library would like James (KX)'s TL, please give it to them. Also, I will be happy to send one for his brother, John McMurray (KX) who was on the same

Tel.: [REDACTED] 876-
E-mail: [REDACTED] Web site: <http://norrishouse.com>

Don

*ow Lincoln
Co. records
Bk - has
Jane
McElwee
& James
McMurray*

Time line

James McMurray of Kentucky (KY)

by D. E. McMurray 15 Sept 1989
108 Loudoun St.,SW, Leesburg, Virginia 20175-2909

TIME LINE

Circa 1758 (About 1760 *) (About 1762 **); James is born on the Cowpasture River Augusta Co., Virginia; second son of _____ (Unknown) (Janet Jane or Agnes ***) Agnes **** & William McMurray (VA):

(Botetourt Co., Va., "Will Book B", 29-30)

(M. C. McMurry 27 Dec 1911; E. I. Lewis 1939)

(* Wilcek 1931; W. Fletcher McMurry; W. F. Guy McMurry 1972, 6-7)

(* W. Ford McMurry 1937 & 1938; E. I. Lewis 1939)

(* Douglas, 38; W. F. Guy McMurry 1972, 7-8)

(** W. F. G. McMurry 8 Aug 1946)

(*** Reed; W. F. Guy McMurry 1972, 6)

(**** D.E. McMurray)

(DEM; Regarding James' age, his brother, John [KY]'s birth year is estimated to be between 1752 & 1754 while Thomas [KY] was born on 29 April, 1760 or Circa 1765. If John [KY]'s estimate is accurate, James, the second son, was born some time between them so I use "Circa 1758," a year that is close to the period favored by most researchers. James served in the Revolutionary War so he had to be at least 16 by 1776 period (Henning's Statute at Large, Vol. XI, 275), law is in Thomas [KY]'s file. In any case, a "bit" of uncertainty exists in birth dates for the siblings.

The location is probably William [VA]'s farm on the Cowpasture River where he settled in Augusta Co., a little east of what is now Clifton Forge, Botetourt Co., Va. The location is within three miles of the confluence of the Cowpasture and Jackson rivers which form the James River.

Moses C. McMurry is a grandson of Robert McMurray [IL]. Wm. Ford McMurry cited the statements of McMurry descendants; probably those of Moses and of James' great-granddaughter, Jessie Wilcek. Bishop William Fletcher McMurry is a great-grandson of John and grandfather of William Fletcher Guy McMurry.

My use of "Agnes" for William's wife is based on the record dated 12 Mar 1756 in William [VA]'s TL. Reed assumes her name is the same as one of the two "known" daughters, Janet Jane [MO] or Agnes [KY]. Marilyn Bone uses "Mary" relying on W.F.G. McMurry's letter to Ruth Thomas regarding the name "Mary." However, a note on his original letter [dated 8/31/53] corrects the

reference to "Mary" stating it is a river shown in a deed. I verified his find in this and several adjacent records.

Marilyn continues to believe Agnes' name is Mary because she found "Mary" in other records [I've found none of these to date]. This may sound trivial but naming patterns are very important, especially in Scottish clans. I have included a review of the subject in "McMurray, The Final Journey" with some examples, including how "naming ways" helped to connect gr-gr-grandfather, William McMurray [IA] with his dad, James. Perhaps these same patterns will help us connect the Virginia McMurrays to our clan in Northern Ireland and Scotland.)

Circa 1769; Jean (or Janet Jane) McElroy is born, daughter of Sally (Unk) & (Unk) McElroy. She is born in (Unknown - possibly Virginia) and is the future bride and mother of James' children including my 2nd great grandfather, William (IA):

(D. E. McMurray)

(DEM: I used 21 as her age at the marriage, rather than eighteen because James was thirty-two years old when married. I inserted the possible name of her mom based on the name of Jean's oldest daughter's name. If the Scots "naming way" holds up as it has so far this is correct.)

After 1776; James and his father, William McMurray [VA], fought in (the last part of *) the Revolution:

(Douglas)

(Wilcek)

(* W. Ford McMurry)

(DEM; it is more likely they were involved in the early to middle stages of the war - see below.)

07 Oct 1777; James' father, William McMurray (VA) serves as a private in Captain Parr's Company with "Morgan's Riflemen", under command of Colonel Daniel Morgan:

(Graham; O'Brian 1979, Vol. II, 304-308 & 312)

(Lossing, I, 61, 62 & 565; Ibid.)

(Neilson; Ibid.)

(DEM; I looked but found no trace of James (KY). He is 19 now and old enough to have been involved in the war.

The colorful and much feared Virginia long riflemen were in the second Battle of Saratoga in which, after a hasty retreat, General Burgoyne surrendered the "flower of the British army". Morgan's regiment, of which Parr's Company was the nucleus, were recruited in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. The Virginians wore caps and shirts on which appeared the words, "Liberty or Death" [Ibid.]. Parr's Company's specialty was picking off the British officers at a great distance.)

1781; James McMurry marries Janet McElwee in _____ (Unknown location):

(E.I. Lewis)

(DEM; Ernest Lewis is probably mistaken, at least in the name for the marriage, and perhaps for the marriage itself. If this marriage actually occurred, and I've found nothing to support it, it may have been to a Jane McClure. See entry below for James while he is in William [VA]'s household in 1787 as well as the entries for two marriages on the same day in 1790[.])

1787; James McMurry is listed separately but in the household of William McMurry (VA) in Botetourt Co., Virginia Tax List "B":

(Schreiner-Yantis & Love 1987, 213 & 218)

(DEM; in 1787 James is shown as without "tithables" [i.e.; farmland or home] and no family is shown. His dad, William [VA] is shown "charged with tax" for James. This record shows he's living with his father and probably unmarried, at least at the time the tax roll was taken. James is our ancestor, the father of William [IA], and this record supports the conclusion that my gr-gr-Grandfather William [IA], was born circa 1792 rather than 1782. See his TL for the resolution of the census discrepancy in birth dates.)

08 Aug 1788; James McMurrey and Robert McMurry (IL) were witnesses to sister Jenet (Janet *) Jane McMurry (MO)'s marriage to John Reed in Botetourt Co., Virginia. Consent by her father, William McMurrey:

(Gray & Baker; Davis 1983; Ikelman 1983, 24)

(Vogt and Kethley, Vol. 2, 503)

(* D.E. McMurray)

(Fall *) 1788 (Spring 1789 *); James McMurry moves to Nelson Co., Kentucky (at or near the mouth of South fork, on the south side of Rolling fork River, east of Bradford's Mill [now Bradfordsville, Marion Co.] *). The move is confirmed by following narrative; "John McMurry pre-empted 600 [1000 *] acres of land in the Kentucky wilderness in 1788 [preemption was in 1766 & move was in 1788 *], and took his wife and babe from Hampshire County, Virginia to his claim, accompanied by three brothers [one brother *] and a sister with their families. He proceeded at once to establish a home where he lived the remainder of his days, rearing a family of four sons and five daughters, all of whom lived to see their grandchildren.":

(Grey & Baker, Ibid.)

(John F. McMurry; Jean M. McMurry; Ikelman)

(* D. E. McMurray)

(DEM; I added the more specific "possible" dates for their move. Janet Jane was married in August, 1788 so, unless they left soon after, they likely waited until after the first of the year to arrive in time for planting in Kentucky.

As indicated in their TL's, James' brothers, John [KY] and Thomas [KY], were in North Carolina [now Tennessee] in 1780 with their relatives, Samuel McMurray [TN] and William McMurray [TN]. Prior to Oct, 1785, John [KY] returned to Botetourt Co., Virginia and at some point he, James and their sisters made the decision to move permanently to John [KY]'s land in Kentucky rather than return to his land in North Carolina [now Tennessee]. Imagine what might have happened if, instead, the family had decided to settle on the Cumberland, as did William [TN] and Samuel [TN] who were killed by Indians in 1782 and 1792 respectively.

Hampshire Co. [now in West Virginia] is on the Maryland border, well east of the McMurrays who were in Botetourt Co., VA in 1788. This portion of the narrative may be incorrect? I have no supporting documents showing John [KY] was in Hampshire Co..

Joy Ikelman states; "the three brothers that moved to Kentucky [still Virginia] with John [KY] were James, Robert [IL] and Thomas [KY]". On this move in 1788, John [KY] was definitely accompanied by James and their sister, Janet Jane and her husband, John Reed [MO]. Their sister, Agnes and her husband, John Wright [KY] followed the boys to Kentucky after her marriage in 1789. Thomas [KY], however, had already moved to the area by 1783 and married Catherine Robinson there in 1784. Robert [IL] stayed in Virginia and didn't move to Kentucky until 1805. Of course, all the McMurray boys probably went back and forth periodically before John and James [KY] left Botetourt Co., Va. for good in 1788.

I was in Bradfordsville, 20 Jun 1990, and there was no way to tell if the farm was east or west of town; I thought at the time, it was likely west because the Scanlands are buried in a cemetery west of town. A recent record surfaced, however, in which John's farm is shown to have been at or near the mouth of the South fork on the south side of the Rolling fork River. There is a map of waterways at the Kentucky Historical Society Library. Bradfordsville isn't located on the map but as near as I can tell the town is nestled between the North and South forks of the Rolling fork. If true, this places the McMurrays' property just east of town.

There's a sign at the edge of town; "Bradfordsville, Founded 1814". Prior to 1814, according to a Bradford descendant, the town was called Bradford's Mill for a grist mill established on the river in 1777. It's probable that this Bradford was with the McMurrays, John [KY], Samuel [TN], and William [TN] when they all staked their claims on the Rolling fork River in 1776.)

14 July 1789; James McMurry shows, with his brother, John McMurrey (KY), on List of Tithables in Capt. Wilson's Company in Nelson Co. *, Virginia (now Kentucky):

(Schroeder & Schroeder, 78)

30 Dec 1790; James McMurry marries Jane McClure in Lincoln Co., Kentucky:

("Lincoln Co. (Kentucky) Marriages.")

(DEM; this list is in the Kentucky Historical Society Library's "County Files" for Lincoln Co., Kentucky. The compiler's name is illegible, the list isn't dated, and it shows two marriages for James on the same date. It is possible that Jane McClure is the woman who married James in 1781 but, because of the similarity in names, it's far more likely the records are for the same marriage in 1790; see the following entry.)

Time Line James McMurray (KY), page 5

30 Dec 1790; James McMurry marries Jean McElroy (Janet [Jane] McElwee *) (McElmore **) in Lincoln Co., Kentucky:

(Wilcek)

(*Bright; W. F. Guy McMurry)

(*Bell, "Lincoln Co., Ky. Marriages 1780-1851", 44)

(*Dunn 1977, 24)

(*Ellsberry, 15)

(*McGhee, Vol. 3, 96)

(**McAdams, 115)

(DEM; in her letter, Jessie (McMurry) Wilcek stated her great-grandmother's name is Jean McElroy so I'll go with that for now but keep an eye on the McElwees. Tax records for 1792 to 1814 show ten McElroy families and two McElwee families in Washington Co. It's interesting to note no McElroys are near James in the 1792 Tax List but by 1794 he was inundated with them.

It's also noteworthy that the above compilers, who list the James McMurry-Jean McElroy marriage, do not mention the alleged "McClure" marriage that I found in the Kentucky Historical Society library.)

1791; James McMurry shows on List of Tithables in Captain James Muldrough's Company in Nelson Co., Kentucky:

(Schroeder & Schroeder, 115)

(DEM; his brother John McMurry [KY] shows on the same list.

Hugh and John Muldrough were with John [KY] and John's relatives, Samuel McMurray [TN] and William McMurray [TN], when they all staked out claims for 1000 acres on the Rolling fork River in Kentucky Co., Virginia [near Bradford's Mill, now Bradfordsville, Marion Co., Kentucky]. There's no indication James was with the group in 1776.)

Circa Fall 1791; Jean's & James' oldest daughter, Sally, is born near Bradford's Mill, Ky.:

(Green Co., Ky. Marriages 1790 - 1850. Holland, May 20, 1995)

(Pyles. First Little Record Book, Green Co., Ky.)

(DEM; the birth year is estimated based on her marriage record of 03 Feb 1830. At that time, James was not required to give his consent so Sally was of age [i.e.; over 18] when she married. If naming ways hold, this is the given name of Jean's mother.)

1792 (unknown *); William (IA) is born near Bradford's Mill, Washington Co. (now Bradfordsville, Marion Co.), Kentucky; oldest son of Jean (Janet Jane *) & James McMurray:

(D. E. McMurray)

(Kentucky State Library & Archives, Washington Co., Ky. "Tax Lists, 1792-1816", 1808 Tax List, 30)

(Ibid., 1814 Tax List, 48)

(* Bone, 87)

(DEM; the records provide the following information relating to James' son, William:

The 1808 tax record confirms a son, age 16, is in James' household. Previous tax lists show none prior to this year.

Bone states she believes James had a son named William but, unfortunately, she doesn't provide a source for this information.

The 1814 tax year confirms the birth year 1792 for James' son and that his name is William because he's listed with that name for the first time in the same time, James' son, who was listed as "above 16," disappears from his tax record.

Based on these records and those in file for my great-great-grandfather, William McMurray [IA], I have concluded Jean & James are our direct ancestors. The key information for William [IA] is as follows [see his TL for details]:

William [IA] was born Circa 1792 in Kentucky. This is based on his and his children's statement's in census records.

William [IA] had a son named James [CA] and he's believed to be the oldest son.

By 1820 William [IA] had left Kentucky for good and settled in central Illinois. Following this move, no further records have been found in Kentucky for him or for James' son, William.

James' son, Fielden [OR] came to Jacksonville, Morgan Co., Illinois, to be married. William [IA], his half brother, was living in town and owned a large farm four miles east of Jacksonville.

Before concluding that Jean & James are, in fact, William [IA]'s parents, I researched and followed the movements of every known William McMurray who were in Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia from 1776 to 1820. It was confirmed thereby, in a process of elimination, that all but William [IA] and James' son, William, are accounted for by the other records in file. See following TL's for details:

William McMurray [IL] [son of Robert {IL}]

William McMurray [IA] [son of James {KY}, "our boy"]

William McMurray [KY] [son of Thomas {KY}]
William McMurray [MO] [son of John {KY}]
William McMurray [TN] [son of {unknown} McMurray {VA}]
William McMurray [TN-1] [son of Samuel {TN}]
William McMurray [TN-2] [son of William {TN-1}]

Naming the first son William, after James' father, William [VA], is the general Scot's naming rhythm; first son after the paternal grandfather. It isn't an infallible rule, of course, but the pattern appears to have been followed by Deborah & William [IA] in naming their first son, James [CA]. The subject of "naming ways" is examined in more detail in "McMurray, the Final Journey". All the sons of William (VA) followed the Scots "naming way", with the possible exception of John [KY]. So far, the pattern seems to have been followed by most of our large McMurray family in the 1700's and early 1800's. This includes all of my direct line until Grandfather Byron named his first son Thomas Newton. As a result, at one point, we could have fielded a complete basketball team named William McMurray!!)

1792; James McMurry shows as "Person Charged with Tax" on Tax List for Washington Co., Kentucky. The list includes the following:

White males above 21;	1	White males 16 to 21;	2
Total blacks;	6	Blacks under 16;	4
Horses, mares, foals;	2	Cattle;	19
Acres of land;	0	Stud horses;	0

(Washington Co., Ky. "Tax Lists, 1792-1816", 1792 Tax List, 7)

(* Ky. State Hist. Soc., Early Ky. Tax Records 1984, 249 & 254)

(* Todd, 1965, 24)

(DEM; the 1792 tax record shows James with no farmland yet but he did have cattle and horses. The latter two records list only his horses, cattle and acres [if there had been any]. Apparently later that year he bought some land [see next entry]. Prior to this, the McMurray brothers and their wives were probably working together on John [KY]'s 1000 acre preemption with sisters Janet Jane [MO] & Agnes [KY] and their husbands.

James lists [as does John {KY}] two "White males 16 to 21". I suspect the brothers-in-law, John Reed [MO] and John Wright [KY], are among the four young men with James & John [KY] in the tax records. They came to Kentucky in 1788 with the McMurrays and in 1795 John Reed (MO) begins to show on tax lists.

I was in the area, 20 Jun 1990, and there was no way to tell if the farm was east or west of town; I thought at the time, that it was likely west because the Scanlands are buried in a cemetery west of town. A recent record surfaced, however, in which John [KY]'s farm is shown to have been at or near the mouth of the South fork on the south side of the Rolling fork River. There is a map of waterways at the Kentucky Historical Society Library. The town of Bradfordsville isn't located on the map but as near as I can tell the town is nestled between the North and South forks of the Rolling fork. If true, the McMurrays' property is east of town.

There's a sign at the edge of town; "Bradfordville, Founded 1814". According to a Bradford descendant, prior to 1814 the town was called Bradford's Mill for a grist mill established on the river in 1777. It's probable that this Bradford was with the McMurrays, John [KY], Samuel [TN], and William [TN] when in 1776 they staked their claims on the Rolling fork River.

While researching the tax records, I began the search for McElroy and McElwee families in an effort to locate the parents of our 3rd great-grandmother, Jean McElroy [or McElwee]. No McElroys or McElwees are in Washington Co. this tax year, but read on, they will soon surround Jean & James!)

30 Sep 1792; John McMurry [KY] (or James & Thomas McMurray [KY] *) (Samuel McMurry [TN] & Thomas McCrory **) were two of 20 riflemen who held off 280 Indians at the "Battle of Buchanan's Station" (on Mill Creek, four miles east of Nashborough [now Nashville, Tennessee ***]):

(Hulan)

(* D.E. McMurray)

(** Aiken; Hulan)

(** Acklen 1967, 259)

(*** Albright 1909, 105)

(DEM; Samuel [TN] was killed by Indians in March of 1792 so Hulan and I think the McMurray at the battle was James or John [KY]. I included Thomas [KY] because Thomas "McCrory" is listed as at the battle in Acklen's book. The boys are known to have been in the area previously and may have been there again in 1792 to assist Samuel [TN]'s widow or otherwise attend to his affairs. The battle took place at Buchanan's fort built in 1783 by Major John Buchanan and the Mulherrins, four miles east of Nashborough [now Nashville, Tenn.], near where the Lebanon branch of the Nashville, Chattanooga & Saint Louis Railroad crosses Mill Creek.)

1793; the 1793 Tax List for Washington Co., Kentucky is lost:

(Washington Co., Ky. "Tax Lists, 1792-1816")

(DEM; the 1795 Tax List confirms James paid taxes in 1793.)

06 Feb 1794; Court appoints James McMurry Overseer of the Road "to the top of Graham's Hill" in Washington Co., Kentucky:

(Washington Co., Ky. "Fiscal Court Orders", Book A-1, 53)

Circa 1794; Thomas (IL) is born near Bradford's Mill, Washington Co. (now Bradfordsville, Marion Co.), Kentucky; second son of Jean & James McMurray:

(Washington Co., Ky. "Tax Lists, 1792-1816", 1815 Tax List, 44)

(DEM; Thomas [IL]'s birth year and connection to his parents is based on the 1815 Tax List in which he is listed as a "White male above 21". This is the first time Thomas [IL] shows on the tax lists and he's directly below James. Also, Thomas [IL] served with his brother, William [IA] & their cousins in the War of 1812.

Here come the McElroys! The whole "famn damily" moved into Washington Co. Since 1792, ten McElroy families (& 2 McElwee groups) are now near James. Wonder why? At least we now know it wasn't a shotgun wedding. The folks just wanted to be near their daughter, right?)

03 Apr 1794; Court orders that James McMurray is to receive two shillings and one penny for one days attendance in court in "Thomas McElwee, appellant, against William Coppage, appellee" in Washington Co., Kentucky. McElwee to pay McMurray as a witness against Coppage:

(Washington Co., Ky. "Fiscal Court Orders", Book A-1, 62)

(DEM; The Coppages were friends of the McMurrays so James may have been a reluctant witness. If, however, James married into the McElwee family, would he insist on payment from Thomas? I don't think so!)

23 May 1794; James McMury shows as "Person Charged with Tax" on the Tax List for Washington Co., Kentucky. The list includes the following:

White males above 21; 1	White males above 16; 0	Total blacks; 0
Blacks under 16; 0	Horses, mares, foals; 4	Cattle; 7
Acres of land; 0	Stud horses; 0	

(Washington Co., Ky. "Tax Lists, 1792-1816", 1794 Tax List, 8)

(DEM; in this tax year, no "White males above 16" are shown as they do in the 1792 Tax List [John (KY) is not listed in this tax year, delinquent?]. James' sister, Janet Jane and her husband John Reed (MO) are apparently living in their own home now but he [Reed] paid no tax this year [unless he was delinquent]. In the tax year 1795 the Reeds show up for the first time in their own home near James and John (KY) on the Rolling fork River.)

04 Jun 1795; Court orders that Hugh McElroy be appointed Overseer of the Road in the "room" of James McMurry and "It is ordered that he with the tithes attested for the purpose do clear and keep `the same in repair according to law." Court was in session in Washington Co., Kentucky:

(Washington Co., Ky. "Fiscal Court Orders", Book A-1, 103)

(DEM; it isn't clear what the term "room" signifies. It is used often in orders of this type and may mean "to take the place of". Also, I suspect Hugh is a member of the McElroy clan that James married into when he took Jean McElroy as his bride.)

02 Jul 1795; Court records show "An indenture of bargain and sale between Issac Collett of the one part and James McMurry of the other part." in Washington Co., Kentucky:

(Ibid., 109)

19 Jul 1795; James McMurray shows as "Person Charged with Tax" on the Tax List for Washington Co., Kentucky. The list includes the following:

White males above 21; 1	White males above 16; 0	Total blacks; 0
Blacks under 16; 0	Horses, mares, foals; 3	Cattle; 14
Watercourse; Rolling fork	Quantity of acres (2nd rate); 72 1/4	
Amount of tax paid; 1 shilling, 10 pence.	In what years: 1792; --, 1793; yes, 1794; yes	

(Washington Co., Ky. "Tax Lists, 1792-1816", 1795 Tax List, 15)

(DEM; apparently James bought the 72 1/4 acres of land from Issac Collett because he had no land in 1794; see the previous record for 2 Jul 1795.)

28 May 1796; James McMurray shows as "Person Charged with Tax" on the Tax List for Washington Co., Kentucky. The list includes the following:

Acres (2nd rate); 72 1/2
Watercourse where land lies; Rolling fork (* on Pleasant Run)
Persons name in which the land was entered, surveyed and grant issued; Basil Prather
White males above 21; 1 White males above 16; 0 Blacks above 21; 0
Blacks above 16; 0 Horses, mares, foals; 3 Cattle; 0
Taxes paid for land; all tax paid

(Ibid., 1796 Tax List, 25)

(* Benemann, 20 May 1995)

1797; James McMurray may be listed in 1797 Tax List for Washington Co., Kentucky:

(Ibid., 1797 Tax List)

(DEM; tax list was almost illegible. I found John McMurry [KY] but was unable to find John Reed [MO] or James. They are still there, of course, because they show in future years.)

21 April 1797; James McMurray's grant of 900 acres is surveyed. His land is on Old Lick Creek in Washington Co., Kentucky as shown in "Old Kentucky Land Grants (1793-1856), Book 15, 537:

(Jillson 1971, Chap. III, Old Ky. Grants, 216)

(DEM; brother, Thomas McMurray [KY]'s grant of 28 3/4 acres on the Dicks River in Lincoln Co., Kentucky was also surveyed in the same grant list, Book 3, 32.)

Before 1797; Janet Jane is born in _____ (unk. location); daughter of James and Jean McMurray (McMurry *):

(D. E. McMurray)

(* Bone, 87)

(DEM; birth year is unknown, placed her here so she is recognized in James' TL.)

06 Oct 1797; James' wife, Jean (McElroy) McMurry dies in _____ (Unknown location):

(Wilcek)

(DEM; she probably died on the family farm near Bradford's Mill, Washington Co. [now Bradfordsville, Marion Co.], Kentucky. There is no indication that James ever moved the family from the farm near his brother, John [KY].)

07 Nov 1797; Court orders that James McMurry, Leonard Hamilton and Richard Hurmond find the most convenient way to build a road from the mouth of the South fork (of the Rolling fork River *) to Springfield and report to the court in Washington Co., Kentucky:

(Washington Co., Ky. "Fiscal Court Orders", Book A-1, 269)

(* D.E. McMurray)

05 Dec 1797; Court orders (again *) that James McMurry, Job Dean, Francis Graham, and Leonard Hamilton find the most convenient way to build a road from the mouth of the South fork (of the Rolling fork River *) to Springfield and report to the court in Washington Co., Kentucky:

(Washington Co., Ky. "Fiscal Court Orders", Book A-1, 276)

(* D.E. McMurray)

(DEM; the two preceding records are similar to some court orders involving James' brother, John [KY]. John [KY]'s land was at or near the mouth of the South fork, south side of the Rolling fork so it's likely James' land was near the same location.)

1797 or 1798; James McMurray sells land to Francis Coopage (Book B, 110), S. Richards (Book B, 111), and J. Blair (Book B, 175) in Washington Co., Kentucky:

(Washington Co., Ky., "Index to Deeds 1797-1803")

(DEM; I looked at the deeds but they were too faint to read. The sales must have involved the 72 ½ acres James owned in 1796 and the 900 acre grant he received in 1797 because in the 1799 tax year he is listed with only 450 acres on the Rolling fork.)

Time Line James McMurray (KY), page 12

1798; the Tax List for Washington Co., Kentucky is lost:

(Washington Co., Ky. "Tax Lists, 1792-1816")

Before Nov 1798; James McMurray's father, William (VA), dies in Botetourt Co., Virginia per statement of account filed by his sons, James and Thomas (KY) as Administrators of William (VA)'s estate:

(Botetourt Co., Va., "Will Book B", 29 & 30)

30 Nov 1798; James McMurray & Thomas McMurray (KY) complete their activity for their father as Administrators of the Estate of William McMurray (VA) in Botetourt Co., Virginia. They disburse funds and pay all bills including the cost of funeral expenses (the statement of account filed and accepted by the Court on 9 Mar 1803):

Ibid.

20 Jan 1799; James McMurry marries Margaret Priest Smith in _____ (Unknown location) ("Peggy" was born in Virginia of Irish parents" *):

(John F. McMurry)

(* Wilcek)

18 Nov 1799; Jane Lenette is born, probably in Bradford's Mill, Washington Co. (Lincoln Co. *), Kentucky; daughter of Jean (McElroy) (Margaret Priest [Smith] McMurry per data from cemetery records of Old Clayton Cemetery in Quincy, Adams Co., Illinois *) & James McMurray:

(D.E. McMurray)

(* Bone, 88)

(DEM; records show James and his family were on their farm on the Rolling fork east of Bradford's Mill, Washington Co. [now Bradfordsville, Marion Co.].

I looked at the marriage bond for Jane in 1816. The groom's father, Joseph Douglass, gave permission for his son, Joseph, to marry Jane but there is no indication that James did the same for Jane. If, in fact, he didn't have to do so, Jane is at least 18 at the marriage and this makes her the daughter of Jean & James since she was born before James and Margaret married.

27 Jul 1799; James McMurry shows as "Person Charged with Tax" on the Tax List for Washington Co., Kentucky. The list includes the following:

Acres (2nd rate); 450 * Watercourse where land lies; Rolling fork
Persons name in which the land was entered, surveyed, and grant issued; none indicated
White males above 21; 1 White males above 16; 0 Blacks above 16; 1 Total blacks; 1

(Washington Co., Ky. "Tax Lists, 1792-1816", 1799 Tax List, 17)

(* DEM; James apparently traded or sold his original 72 ½ acres and some or all of the 900 acre grant he had received 21 Apr 1797 for 450 acres near his brother John (KY)'s land on the Rolling fork [see entry "1797 or 1798"].)

07 Jan 1800; Court orders that James McMurry, Charles Dyer, Isham Hamilton, and John Dyer Sr., or any three of them, appraise estate of Thomas Simpson, deceased, and report to the court in Washington Co., Kentucky:

(Washington Co., Ky. "Fiscal Court Orders", Book A-2, 78)

1800; James McMurray is listed in the 1800 Federal Census in Washington Co., Kentucky:

(Clift 1966 , 190)

(DEM; Clift was Kentucky Historical Society's compiler and the Society's Assistant Secretary.)

Circa 1800; John C. is born in _____ (Unknown location), Kentucky; son of Margaret Priest (Smith) & James McMurry:

(Bone, 90)

12 Jul 1800; James McMurry shows as "Person Charged with Tax" on the Tax List for Washington Co., Kentucky. The list includes the following:

Acres (2nd rate); 450 Watercourse where land lies; South fork *
Persons name in which the land was entered and surveyed; Adam Sheppard
Persons name to whom land was patented; none indicated
White males above 21; 1 White males above 16; 0 Total blacks; 4
Blacks above 16; 1 Horses, mares, foals; 3

(Washington Co., Ky. "Tax Lists, 1792-1816", 1800 Tax List, 15)

(* DEM; apparently this is the year James took over Adam Sheppard's farm. South fork joins the Rolling fork east of Bradfordsville. This water course description is the only one that mentions South fork. It does, however, support the conclusion, based on "Fiscal Court orders, that James' & John [KY]'s farms were at or near the mouth of the South fork, on the south side of the Rolling fork of the Salt River. In future tax years the acreage remains the same but the water course description reverts to the Rolling fork.)

1801; the Washington Co., Kentucky Tax List for 1801 is illegible:

(Ibid., 1801 Tax List)

02 June 1802; George H., is born in _____ (unknown location), Kentucky; son of Margaret Priest (Smith) & James McMurry:

(Bone, 91)

20 Sep 1802; James McMurray shows as "Person Charged with Tax" on the Tax List for Washington Co., Kentucky. The list includes the following:

Acres (2nd rate); 450	Watercourse where land lies; Rolling fork	
Persons name in which the land was entered and surveyed; Adam Sheppard		
Persons name to whom land was patented; none indicated		
White males above 21; 1	White males above 16; 0	Total blacks; 0
Blacks above 16; 0	Horses, mares, foals; 3	

(Washington Co., Ky. "Tax Lists, 1792-1816", 1802 Tax List, 26)

Aug 1803; James McMurray is not listed on the 1803 Tax List for Washington Co., Kentucky:

Ibid., 1803 Tax List.

(DEM; his brother, John (KY), is also missing [delinquent?]. John Reed (MO) shows and James & John (KY) show up in subsequent years.)

03 Sep 1803; Court orders James McMurray, Charles Kinnigh, Charles Dyer, Uriah Grottin, or any three of them, appraise estate of Moses Coppage, deceased, and to report to the court per Fiscal court Order Book A-2, 273:

(Washington Co., Ky. "Fiscal Court Orders", Book A-2, 273)

10 Aug 1804; Jas. McMurray shows as "Person Charged with Tax" on the Tax List for Washington Co., Kentucky. The list includes the following:

Acres (2nd rate); 225	Watercourse where land lies; Rolling fork	
Persons name in which the land was entered, surveyed, and patented; none indicated		
White males above 21; 1	White males above 16; 0	Total blacks; 0
Blacks above 16; 0	Horses, mares, foals; 4	

(Washington Co., Ky. "Tax Lists, 1792-1816", 1804 Tax List, 30)

(DEM: seems to be the same land but fewer acres. Didn't find a sale and land is back to 400 acres in 1805 below. Maybe he cut a deal with the tax man.)

Oct 1804; James acts as Appraiser of Estate of Moses Coppage in Washington Co., Kentucky as shown in "Will Book A", 322:

(Sanders 1987, 9)

23 Jul 1805; James McMurray shows as "Person Charged with Tax" on the Tax List for Washington Co., Kentucky. The list includes the following:

Acres (2nd rate); 400	Watercourse where land lies; Rolling fork	
Persons name in which the land was entered, surveyed, and patented; none indicated		
White males above 21; 1	White males above 16; 0	Total blacks; 0
Blacks above 16; 0	Horses, mares, foals; 4	

(Washington Co., Ky. "Tax Lists, 1792-1816", 1805 Tax List, 32)

(DEM; James' brother, Robert [IL], is listed for the first time on the tax list, next to James. Robert [IL], having recently moved from Virginia, is listed without land.)

19 Jul 1806; James McMurray shows as "Person Charged with Tax" on the Tax List for Washington Co., Kentucky. The list includes the following:

Acres (2nd rate); 450	Watercourse where land lies; Rolling fork	
Persons name in which the land was entered and surveyed; Sheppard		
Persons name to whom land was patented; <u>McMurray</u> /Wright		
White males above 21; 1	White males above 16; 0	Total blacks; 0
Blacks above 16; 0	Horses, mares, foals; 2	

Ibid., 1806 Tax List, 26.

(DEM; James apparently picked up 50 acres from his brother, John (KY), as indicated here and in the 1807 tax list. John (KY)'s farm drops from 900 acres to 850 acres.)

04 May 1807; James McMurray, by oath, proves the last will and testament of Nicholas Lamberry in Washington Co., Kentucky:

(Washington Co., Ky. "Fiscal Court Orders", Book A-2, 453)

20 Jun 1807; James McMurray shows as "Person Charged with Tax" on the Tax List for Washington Co., Kentucky. The list includes the following:

Acres (2nd rate); 450	Watercourse where land lies; Rolling fork	
Persons name in which the land was entered, surveyed, and patented; McMurry/Wright		
White males above 21; 1	White males above 16; 0	Total blacks; 0
Blacks above 16; 0	Horses, mares, foals; 5	Stud horses; 0

(Ibid., 1807 Tax List, 21)

01 Jul 1808; James McMurray shows as "Person Charged with Tax" on the Tax List for Washington Co., Kentucky. The list includes the following:

Acres (2nd rate); 400 *	Watercourse where land lies; Rolling fork	
Persons name in which the land was entered, surveyed, and patented; Adam Sheppard		
White males above 21; 1	White males above 16; 1**	Total blacks; 0
Blacks above 16; 0	Horses, mares, foals; 2	

(Ibid., 1808 Tax List, 30)

(* DEM; acreage is probably 450 as it is in prior and subsequent years.

**Right on schedule, James oldest 16 year old son, now known to be William [IA], appears on the 1808 tax list. It was extremely fortunate because this year, 1808, was the last year "White males above 16" were listed in the tax records. William McMurray [IA] was born Circa 1792 which matches perfectly the age of James oldest son.)

This is an extremely important record find in my efforts to connect William [IA] to his father for the following reasons:

It supports William (IA)'s birth circa 1792, which only recently (1992) has been confirmed.

It verifies that James' oldest son was born circa 1792 because there is no "white male above 16" in James' household listed in any prior tax list.

James named his first son William as did all of the sons of William [VA] [see entry below for 1814 tax year]. This confirms that William [IA] is, in fact, Jean's & James' son and that he was born circa 1792.

I couldn't believe my good fortune because this record is so unique. This tax year was the last time in which the column "White males above 16" was used in the tax lists.)

12 Apr 1809; James McMurray shows as "Person Charged with Tax" on the Tax List for Washington Co., Kentucky. The list includes the following:

Acres (2nd rate); 450	Watercourse where land lies; Rolling fork	
Persons name in which the land was entered and surveyed; Adam Sheppard		
Persons name to whom land was patented; James <u>McMurray</u>		
White males above 21; 1	Total blacks; 0	Blacks above 16; 0
Horses, mares, foals; 4		

(Ibid., 1809 Tax List, 29)

Circa 1809; Clelland, born in _____ (unknown location), Kentucky; son of Margaret Priest (Smith) & James McMurry:

(Bone, 94)

Circa Aug 1810; James McMurray (McMursay *) is shown in 1810 Federal Census for Washington Co., Ky. (Tax List for 1810 for Washington Co., Kentucky is lost **). He is shown with the following census data:

Free Whites by age	Male	Female		Male	Female
Under 10;	4	1	10 to 16;	1	1
16 to 26;	1	1	26 to 45;	0	1
45 or over;	1	0	Other free		
persons, except Indians, not taxed;				0	0
Number of slaves;				0	0

(Kentucky. "Third Census-1810")

(United States. "1810 Kentucky Federal Census", 287)

(Jackson & Tepples, "Kentucky 1810 Census.")

(* Bell, "Third Census of the U.S., 1810, Kentucky." 1935)

(** Washington Co., Ky. "Tax Lists, 1792-1816", 1810 Tax List)

(DEM; William [IA] is now 18 and shows here as he did at age 16 in the 1808 Tax List. Also, for clarity, Jackson and Bell list only James' name and no additional data. I forgot to pick up the LDS film and page numbers so rechecked and confirmed data in the Ky. State Historical Society film.

James' brothers, John [KY] and Robert [IL], also show in the LDS film [page 290] and in Jackson's book. Robert [IL] moved circa 1805 from Virginia to Kentucky [Washington Co., Kentucky, Clerk, "1805 Tax List", 32].)

20 Apr 1811; James McMurry shows as "Person Charged with Tax" on the Tax List for Washington Co., Kentucky. The list includes the following:

Acres (2nd rate); 400	Watercourse where land lies; Rolling fork
Persons name in which the land was entered, surveyed, and patented; Adam Sheppard	
White males above 21; 1	Total blacks; 7 Blacks above 16; 1
Horses, mares, foals; 7	Stud horses; 0

(Ibid., 1811 Tax List, 31)

(DEM; his brother, John (KY), and brother-in-law, John Reed (MO), are still listed on the tax lists. Robert (IL), in early 1811, left with his family for Illinois and died there (scalped by Indians) in 1812 in St. Clair Co..)

1812; beginning of the War of 1812.

Time Line James McMurray (KY), page 18

(Circa Aug) 1812; James McMurray shows as "Person Charged with Tax" on the Tax List for Washington Co., Kentucky. The list includes the following:

Acres (2nd rate); 400 Watercourse where land lies; Rolling fork
Persons name in which the land was entered, surveyed, and patented; A. Sheppard
White males above 21; 1 Total blacks; 0 Blacks above 16; 0
Horses, mares, foals; 7

(Ibid., 1812 Tax List, 40)

18 Sept 1812 through

230 Oct 1812; James McMurray served as Lieutenant in Captain Edward Berry's Company, Second Regiment, Kentucky Mounted Militia, recruited in Washington Co., Ky. and commanded by Colonel John Thomas:

(U.S. "NNCC Military Service Records.")

(Wilder 1931, 8)

(Quisenberry 1915, 183)

(DEM; James was in the same company with William McMurray. This is probably his son, William [IA], but it could be his nephew, William [IL]. After Robert [IL]'s death, his widow, Elizabeth, moved her family back to Kentucky to be with the McMurrays. She relocated in Washington Co., Kentucky and she shows on the tax lists in 1813, 1815 and 1816. Robert [IL]'s son William [IL] was married to Elizabeth Clampit on 18 Oct 1817 in Washington Co..

James' brother, John McMurray [KY], or his nephew, John, son of Thomas McMurray [KY], was a private in Capt. James Sympton's Company of Kentucky Mounted Volunteers, on 26 Aug 1813 as mustered in at Winchester, Kentucky [Anderson Chenault Quisenberry, Kentucky in the War of 1812, 123].)

11 Feb 1813; Sally McMurray, daughter of Jean & James, marries James Taylor in Green Co., Ky. Rev. Nathen Hall performed the ceremony: (Witnessed by her brother, Wm. McMurray. Bond by James Taylor, her brother, Wm. McMurray, and parents, Peggy & James McMurry.*).

(Pyles. First Little Record Book of Green Co., Ky. 17?? - 1819)

(*Green Co., Ky. Marriages 1790 - 1850. Holland, May 20, 1995)

(DEM; this is a previously unknown daughter of Jean & James. Note that no consent was required so she is over 18 at this date. Also, Peggy (Margaret) is Sally's step-mother.)

Circa 1813; Mary is born in _____ (unknown location), Washington Co., Kentucky; daughter of Margaret Priest (Smith) & James McMurry:

(Maguire, Taylor, & Thompson, 66)

(DEM; Birth year is estimated based on her marriage record of 03 Feb 1830. At that time, James gave his consent so Mary was underage [i.e.; under 18] when she was married.)

(Circa Aug) 1813; James McMurray shows as "Person Charged with Tax" on the Tax List for Washington Co., Kentucky. The list includes the following:

Acres (2nd rate); a) 375 Watercourse where land lies; Rolling fork
(3rd rate); b) 500
Persons name in which the land was entered; a) A. Sheppard b) McMurray
Persons name in which the land was surveyed; a) same b) same
Persons name to whom land was patented; a) McMurray b) B. Gibbs
White males above 21; 1 Total blacks; 0
Blacks above 16; 0 Horses, mares, foals; 6

(Washington Co., Ky. "Tax Lists, 1792-1816", 1813 Tax List, 37)

1814; many records were destroyed by fire in 1814 for Washington Co., Kentucky:

(Ky. State Library 1990)

31 May 1814; Fielden (Fielding *) (OR), born in Bradfordsville, Washington Co., Kentucky; son of Margaret Priest (Smith) & James McMurray (McMurry *):

(Morgan Co., Ill. Court Clerk, "Marriage Book")

(* Bone, 95)

(DEM; see entry below for marriage of "Fielden" [OR] & Harriet, 30 May 1836. Fielden signed a document attached to marriage certificate clearly showing the spelling of his name as Fielden.)

(Circa Aug) 1814; James' son, William McMurry (IA) shows as "Person Charged with Tax" on the Tax List for Washington Co., Kentucky. List includes the following:

Acres (NA rate); NA Watercourse where land lies; NA
Persons name in which the land was entered, surveyed, and patented; NA
White males above 21; 1 Total blacks; 0
Blacks above 16; 0 Horses, mares, foals; 2 Value (total); \$ 40

(Washington Co., Ky. "Tax Lists, 1792-1816", 1814 Tax List, 48)

(DEM; 1814 is the first time any William McMurrays are listed on the tax lists as "White males above 21" and two of them show up. John McMurray [KY]'s son, William [MO], born 10 Dec 1795 [Bone, 66], is probably not one of them because he's only 19. I believe the two men are William [IL], born 29 Dec 1793 [Ibid., 158], and my great-great-grandfather, William [IA] who was born circa 1792. See their respective TL's for details.)

(Circa Aug) 1814; James McMurry shows as "Person Charged with Tax" on the Tax List for Washington Co., Kentucky. The list includes the following:

Acres (3rd rate); 400 Watercourse where land lies; Rolling fork
Persons name in which the land was entered; A. Sheppard
Persons name in which the land was surveyed; John McMurray
Persons name to whom land was patented; John Wright *
White males above 21; 1 Total blacks; 0
Blacks above 16; 0 Horses, mares, foals; 4
Value (total); \$ 1,550

(Ibid.)

(* DEM; probably John Wright, the husband of James' sister, Agnes Wright [KY]. It is the only record I've found for them, need to re-visit the film on next trip to Frankfort, Kentucky.)

10 Nov 1814 to 09 May 1815; Jean & James McMurray's sons, Thomas (IL) and William McMurry (IA) served in the War of 1812 as privates in Capt. Edward Berry's Company, 15th Regiment, Kentucky Detached Militia, commanded by (Lieut. - *)Col. Gabriel Slaughter. (Regiment organized Nov 10, 1814 for the New Orleans campaign and fought at the Battle of New Orleans * [January, 1815 **]):

(U.S., "NNCC Military Service Records.")

(Bone, 60)

(Wilder 1931, 8)

(* M.C. McMurry, 27 Dec 1911)

(* Quisenberry 1915, 195)

(** D.E. McMurray)

(DEM; the Battle of New Orleans was fought on 8 Jan 1815 to 18 Jan 1815 under the command of General Andrew Jackson. General Jackson was in Florida fighting the Creek Indians. When the New Orleans battle was imminent, Jackson recruited reinforcements from Kentucky and Tennessee for his army. There is some doubt as to the identity of this William McMurry so the service record has been placed in the following TL's:

William McMurry [IL] [son of Robert (IL)]
William McMurray [IA] [son of James (KY)]
William McMurray [MO] [son of John (KY)]

William McMurray [KY], son of Thomas [KY] was arbitrarily assigned a different service record in Capt. Sterrett's Company.

James McMurray and his son, William McMurray [IA] served in this Captain Berry's Company in Sep-Oct 1812 [see William {IA}'s TL]. At least 3, and perhaps all four William McMurray cousins served in the Nov 1814 to Apr 1815 period; one in Captain Thomas Sterrett's Company

and two, again, in Captain Berry's Company. Looking at the military records, there is no way to be certain "who's who in the zoo". My guess, however, it's James' and John [KY]'s sons in Captain Berry's Company [recruited in Washington Co.], and Thomas [KY]'s son in Captain Sterrett's Company.

Family tradition says all the "William" McMurrays met and dined the "night before they fought the battle". James's son, Thomas [IL], was also in Captain Berry's Company [1814-1815]; chances are he shared a bottle with his cousins, and perhaps his brother William [IA], in New Orleans the night before the battle. Since the battle lasted several days, one might ask which nights and how many bottles?)

1815; end of the War of 1812.

(DEM; many historians consider the war to have ended in 1814 prior to The Battle of New Orleans which took place in January, 1815. The British in Jamaica, unaware that the war had ended, attacked New Orleans and were soundly defeated. One of the few successes the US forces enjoyed in what was a disastrous war for our country. We lost everywhere except in the negotiations in Europe and at the Battle of New Orleans.)

1815; James gives his son, William (IA), some time off so he can help his future in-laws, Sally & Samuel Taylor (KY). Their personal needs are handled over the next four years as William performs services such as rounding up and handling the stock, cutting and stacking fire wood, and other similar services. In addition William built the couple a house and did repairs on the plantation. He is compensated for this work on 18 Dec 1819 after Samuel's death:

(Wright. Pyles, Ibid. Green Co., Ky. Settlement Book, 1835-39, pp 495)

(DEM: Crafty William; he started the courting routine with Deborah by ingratiating himself with her folks. I listed the settlement book dates [1835-39] verbatim from Barbara Wright's notes. My guess is it should be 1815-39 because the settlement took place from 1819 through 1822.)

04 May 1815; James McMurray was an appraiser of Estate of Alexander Newman in Washington Co., Kentucky, Book B, 26:

(Sanders, 26)

(Circa Aug) 1815; James' son, William McMurry (IA) shows as "Person Charged with Tax" on the Tax List for Washington Co., Kentucky. The list includes the following:

Acres (NA rate); NA	Watercourse where land lies; NA
White males above 21; 1	Total blacks; 0 Blacks above 16; 0
Horses, mares, foals; 0	Value (total); \$ 0

(Washington Co., Ky. "Tax Lists, 1792-1816", 1815 Tax List, 44)

(DEM; William, for the 2nd year in a row, is on list, as is cousin William [IL], Robert [IL]'s son. His Aunt Elizabeth, Robert [IL]'s widow, is also on list with no "White males above 21" listed.)

(Circa Aug) 1815; James McMurry shows as "Person Charged with Tax" on the Tax List for Washington Co., Kentucky. The list includes the following:

Acres (3rd rate); 300	Watercourse where land lies; Rolling fork
White males above 21; 1	Total blacks; 1 Blacks above 16; 1
Horses, mares, foals; 4	Value (total); \$ 980

(Ibid.)

(DEM; this year's tax list did not include information regarding land "entered, surveyed & patented" for James or any other members of the growing family of "tax payers". Seven McMurrays are listed, James, William [IA], John [KY], John Jr., William [MO], Elizabeth [widow of Robert {IL}] and James' son, Thomas [KY]. Young Thomas [KY] served with all the William McMurrays including, perhaps, his brother William [IA], in the War of 1812. John Reed [MO] is also on the tax list but not Agnes' husband, John Wright [KY].)

1815; H. A., is born in _____ (unknown location), Kentucky; may be a child of Margaret & James McMurry:

(Bone, 109)

18 Jan 1816; Jean's & James' son, William (IA), marries Deborah Taylor in Green Co., Ky. (Rev. John How performed the ceremony.):

(Green Co., Ky. Marriages 1790 - 1850. Holland, May 20, 1995)

(Pyles. First Little Record Book of Green Co., Ky. 17?? - 1819)

Est. 1816 (unknown *) (Before 1812 **); _____ (Unknown) (Wilson **) Smith is born in _____ (unknown); son of Margaret Priest (Smith) & James McMurry:

(D.E. McMurray)

(* E. I. Lewis)

(** Bone, 924)

(DEM; I estimated his age assuming he was at least 20 at marriage in 1851 to George Ann Parish in Hopkinsville, Christian Co., KY.)

Time Line James McMurray (KY), page 23

(Circa Aug) 1816; James McMurry shows as "Person Charged with Tax" on the Tax List for Washington Co., Kentucky. The list includes the following:

Acres (3rd rate); 300	Watercourse where land lies; Rolling fork	
Persons name in which the land was entered, surveyed, and patented; Sheppard		
White males above 21; 1	Total blacks; 1	Blacks above 16; 1
Horses, mares, foals; 4	Value (total); \$ 2,350	

(Ibid., 47)

(DEM; this is the last year of tax lists for this particular film. I plan to review Marion Co. records on the next trip.)

19 Aug 1816; Jean (Margaret Priest [Smith] *) & James' daughter, Jane Lenette, marries Joseph Douglass (Douglas *) in Washington Co., Kentucky. Consent by the father of the groom, Joseph Douglass. Surety by the groom and the father of the bride, James McMurray:

KY State Lib. & Arch., eds., "Marriage Bonds".

(* Bone, 88)

(DEM; note the absence of a consent letter by James but one was provided for Joseph by his father. I used this fact to place Jane's birth as "before 1797"; if this is correct she is the daughter of James' first wife, Jean.)

After 1816 *; Corbin is born in _____ (unknown); son of Margaret & James McMurry:

(Ibid., 109)

(* D.E. McMurray)

(DEM; Bone did not indicate a date so I used 1816, following the other children, so he could be placed in James' TL.)

1820; James McMurry shows in Federal Census in Washington Co., Kentucky:

(U.S. "1820 Kentucky Federal Census", 28, line 12)

(Jackson & Teeple, "Kentucky 1820 Census Index", 100)

(Heritage House, Vol. 1, 53)

(DEM; James' brother, John [KY], also shows nearby, page 29 of the Federal Census as well as in Heritage House. Thomas [KY-1] may be in Union Co., KY page 148 of the Federal Census. Then we have Thomas [KY]'s sons, Samuel McMurray and William McMurray in Warren Co., KY, 29 & 58, respectively, of the Federal Census.)

Time Line James McMurray (KY), page 24

1820; James' son, James McMurry (KY) shows in the 1820 Federal Census in Washington Co., Kentucky:

(Jackson & Teeple, "Kentucky 1820 Census Index", 100)

Before 1826; Margaret & James McMurry's son, John C., marries Mary P. _____ (unknown surname) in _____ (unknown):

(Bone, 90)

(DEM; probably in Kentucky. John had moved to Illinois by 1826.)

10 April 1827; Margaret & James McMurry's son, George H., marries Elizabeth Waller in _____ (unknown), Kentucky:

(Ibid., 91)

22 Oct 1827; James McMurray assigned as guardian to orphan Miletus Simpson per Washington Co., Kentucky, Court Clerk, "Will Book D", 287:

(Sanders 1987, 61)

11 Feb 1830; Margaret & James McMurry's daughter, Mary, marries Thomas Brooks in _____ (unknown), Washington Co., Kentucky. Consent by father, James, and witnessed by her brother, Clelland McMurry.:

(Maguire, 66)

(DEM; since she is underage based on consent for marriage by James I used estimated age of 17 at Mary's wedding. See entry above Circa 1812 for her birth. If correct, Mary is probably the daughter of Margaret.)

27 Dec 1830; James McMurry assigned as guardian for Hezekial Simpson per Washington Co., Kentucky, Court Clerk, "Will Book D", 526:

(Sanders, 72)

26 Mar 1832; James McMurry is Appraiser for Estate of Samuel Vaughn per Washington Co., Kentucky, Court Clerk, "Will Book E", 111:

(Ibid., 76)

Circa 1832; James McMurry dies near Bradfordsville, Marion Co., Kentucky. (James may be buried next to his brother, John [KY], in Old Lick Cemetery near Bradfordsville. This cemetery is also where John [KY]'s daughter, Margaret & her husband, John Scanland are buried. John [KY] is near them and there is an illegible grave marker next to John [KY]. The cemetery and land for the old log church was donated by John [KY].*)

(E. I. Lewis)

(*D.E. McMurray)

(DEM; Lewis indicates James had 11 children and this TL now shows all 11 children. Two children are included in this TL that are not in Lewis' work or in Marilyn Bone's McMurry Family; they are Thomas McMurray [IL], son of James and Jean and Mary McMurray, daughter of Margaret & James.

James almost surely died on his farm on the south side, at or near the mouth of the South fork of the Rolling fork River east of Bradfordsville where he and relatives settled when they came to Kentucky. When I was there in May 1990, I met an elderly farmer, a descendant of the Bradfords, who said his ancestor had located a grist mill on the river in 1777 and the tiny settlement was known as Bradford's Mill. He took me to Old Liberty Cemetery, the only official cemetery in Bradfordsville. He said many people are in family plots on their farms or in cemeteries near the town of Lebanon, about 10 miles north of Bradfordsville.

I would love to know exactly where James' farm was located. I know it's near John [KY]'s land and he's probably buried in the same cemetery plot as John [KY] who donated land, presumably part of his preemption, for the cemetery "near the Old Church" [J. F. McMurry]. Incidentally, James is alleged to have died in the same year as John [KY], wonder if this is true? I will see what I can do to locate John [KY]'s 1000 acre preemption & James' land in a future trip to Kentucky. I may be able to trace the preemption through "Certificate Books" in the Kentucky Historical Society Library.

In Old Liberty Cemetery, I found the grave of John [KY]'s daughter, Margaret (McMurry) Scanland [1787-1844] next to her husband, John Scanland Sr [1778-1840]. I searched but found no other family graves. There are many unmarked grave sites near Margaret & John and I suspect more McMurrays may be buried there. The cemetery's on Route 1157, overlooking the Rolling fork River, 0.4 mile southwest of State Highway 49, west of Bradfordsville.)

Mar 1833; Margaret McMurry sells the farm she and James owned on the South fork of the Rolling fork near Bradfordsville, Washington Co., Kentucky. She then moved (most of *) the family to Adams Co., Illinois:

(Ibid.)

(Bone, 87)

(* D.E. McMurray)

(DEM; Margaret located in Adams Co., 2 counties west of Morgan Co., where William [IA] had settled by 1821. It's possible Margaret and the kids settled on land William [IA] previously bought in Adams Co. because I can find no record of sale for his land there. In 1815 & 1817 he bought land in Madison Co. [now Pike or Brown Co.] on the west bank of the Illinois River as

well as a parcel in what is now Adams Co.. By 1824 William [IA] had moved to an area just east of what is now Jacksonville, Morgan Co.. He purchased about 400 acres there between 1821 & 1834 and farmed it until 1841.

Fielden McMurray [OR], Margaret and James' son, married in Jacksonville in 1836. Also, William McMurry [IL], son of James' brother Robert [IL], moved to Illinois and by the fall of 1820 was living in Sangamon Co., the county adjacent to and east of William [IA]'s farm. Both Williams moved to Illinois in 1820 +/- but William [IL] first moved back to Belleville, St. Clair Co., where his dad, Robert [IL] was killed by Indians. William [IL] later moved to Sangamon Co. where he and William [IA] farmed within 20 +/- miles of each other.)

Before 1836; Margaret & James McMurry's son, Clelland marries Lucy Laughlin in _____ (unknown location):

(Bone, 94)

2 Feb 1836; Margaret & James McMurry's son, Wilson Smith, marries George Ann Parish in Hopkinsville, Christian Co., Kentucky:

Ibid.

31 May 1836; Margaret & James's son, Fielden McMurray (OR), marries Harriet Riggs in Jacksonville, Morgan Co., Illinois:

(Morgan Co., Ill., "Marriage Book.")

(DEM; two affidavits are attached to the marriage certificate; in one document Scott Riggs, Harriet's father, consented to his daughter's marriage to Fielden McMurry [OR] [perhaps the document was needed because marriage was in county other than where the kids resided?]. In the other document Fielden McMurray [OR] [signature clearly legible] certified he was over 21 and Harriet was over 18. The actual marriage certificate show his name as Fielding McMurray [OR].)

This is the record that convinced me our William [IA] was connected to James but it took a couple of years to prove it. Fielden came over from Adams Co. to marry in the town in which William (IA) is living.

1850; Margaret McMurray is listed in Federal Census in Clayton Township, Adams Co., Illinois, 41:

(Jackson & Teeple, "Illinois, 1850 Census Index", 100)

(DEM; step-son, Thomas McMurray, may be nearby on page 37.)

21 Jan 1855; Margaret McMurry dies in Clayton, Adams Co., Illinois. She is buried in the Old Clayton Cemetery per the cemetery records:

(Bone, 87)

End of Time Line.

quiet, sensible, honest man, not a little deferential to his wife. He was a typical backwoodsman, brave and hardy." From Little, too, comes a glowing estimate of Sarah Hardin, wife of Benjamin and mother of the distinguished Ben. He says she possessed great personal beauty and a superior intellect. Even in old age, nearing ninety, she held her head erect, and her clear blue eyes were bright and glowing. As a young woman she was a superior marksman with a rifle, often killing squirrels from the tops of the tallest trees. In old age, she was yet a better shot than many of the younger generation.

Little says that Sarah Hardin, when she was old, was a good story teller. She would relate to the children, as well as to grownups, stories of revolutionary times, that developed strong-hearted women as well as brave men; of war with the Indians; of Braddock's defeat in the French and Indian War; and of the War for American Independence. In speaking of the latter, in that struggle, she would always add, "There was not one Tory among them all!" In Virginia, she had known Benjamin Washington, and had frequently met him in the social circle, where she was often his partner at the whist table. (Mrs. Kate Riley.)

When the family of Benjamin Hardin settled in the wilderness of Washington County, Sarah Hardin planted seeds and raised fruit trees, and her orchard was known near and far. She was a friend to the other folk in the country, especially in times of sickness, when they resorted to her for advice. This advice and service she freely gave until a young physician came into the neighborhood, and then, when she became acquainted with him, and found that he was qualified to administer the healing art, she refused further aid to the sick. When they came to her she would tell them that they had a doctor now, and that they must go to him, and pay him, too, or he would not be able to remain among them. (Lucinda B. Helm, in the Lebanon Times.)

Besides Ben Hardin, there were several other children born to Benjamin and Sarah Hardin. One of their daughters (Rosa) married James McElroy. One son (Martin) lived to middle age in Kentucky and then went to Texas where he fought in the Texas War for Independence, and spent his last days there. Another son (Warren) lived in Meade County, Kentucky, until after the Civil War.

Little says that Benjamin Hardin died about the year 1830, and Sarah Hardin about the year 1832.

The Distinguished Ben Hardin

When Ben Hardin was old enough to begin his elementary studies, his father entered him in the school kept by an early school teacher named Ichabod Rodley. Later, he sent Ben to Bardstown to pursue a classical course under the guidance of Dr. James Priestly, one of the most celebrated teachers of his day in Kentucky. (Collins.) There he was a classmate of several boys, all distinguished like himself, in after life. (The school kept by Ichabod Rodley was probably located on the land of Benjamin Hardin. Dr. John B. Smith, a physician of Springfield, once said he was reared in the neighborhood of the Hardin home and that he went to a school kept on the land owned by Benjamin Hardin.)

Finishing his classical course, Ben Hardin went to Richmond, Ky., in 1803, to study law in the office of his kinsman, Martin D. Hardin. In 1805 he was back in Bardstown in the office of Felix Grundy, where he completed his studies under the guidance of that great man of the bar and bench. He married in 1808, and settled in Elizabethtown, where he practiced law for about two years.

There is an interesting story which relates the reason for Ben Hardin's leaving Elizabethtown and going back to Bardstown to practice at the bar here. We give the substance of it.

Some friends of Wm. Bray, under arrest in Hardin County on a charge of murder, employed young Ben Hardin to defend him "until the big law." Hardin sensed the full meaning of that expression and his qualified employment at once. He went home, told his wife they must pack up immediately and remove to Bardstown, or he would never be called a big lawyer. Before Bray was indicted, at a spring term in 1808, Mr. Hardin was a resident of Bardstown, and continued to live there until his death.

At the death of his father, Ben Hardin inherited much of his parent's estate in Washington County, including the old home on Cartwright's Creek. Though he never made his home there after beginning the practice of law, he did make frequent trips to visit his mother while she yet lived, a widow, at the old home. On one of these visits, when his mother lay dying, he promised her that at his death that he was to be buried beside her and his father. This promise he kept, delivering the instructions to his wife a few hours before he died, being careful to state that once buried beside his parents, his body was never to be removed. His instructions were faithfully carried out by his wife, and in the face of strong pleas by numerous friends of her husband, that they be permitted to remove his remains to the State Cemetery in Frankfort, where they might rest in company with those of many other distinguished Kentuckians, would not renege and permit the removal. A plain granite shaft, bearing the brief inscription "Ben Hardin of Bardstown," marks his grave.

Fall From Horse Fatal

In later years, after his daughter, Emily, had married Dr. Robert C. Palmer of Washington County, and Ben Hardin used to ride horseback to and from Bardstown to visit his daughter and her family. It was on one of these trips, in the summer of 1852, that he was badly crippled by a fall from his horse. He was confined for a time at his daughter's house, but later was removed to his home at Bardstown, where he died, September 24, 1852, aged 65. In the funeral procession, slowly making its way from Bardstown to the old home in Washington County were many friends and admirers. As the cortege passed through Springfield, others joined in the procession, until the carriages, buggies, and persons on horseback, formed a line of great length.

A few years ago the writer, while searching through some old records in the office of the Clerk of the Washington Circuit Court in Springfield, found a deposition made on May 2, 1852, by Dr. John B. Smith, then a resident of Owenboro, but formerly a physician in Springfield. Dr. Smith and Dr. Palmer were partners in the practice of medicine in Springfield, and brothers-in-law, Smith having married Palmer's sister.

In his deposition, Dr. Smith had the following to say about Ben Hardin: "Mr. (Ben) Hardin was a lawyer by profession, and so far as I know or believe, he stood distinguishedly high in his profession. Mr. Hardin several times talked to me about his difficulties with Mr. Helm and Mr. Elroy, and more of his difficulty with Governor Owsley. Ben Hardin was a peculiar man when speaking of his family. He has very often talked with me, or rather to me, about his children; told their faults or good qualities, upon which occasions he would tell of his advancements to them and the extravagance of his son Rowan, and the amount he paid for him. He told me more of these things when he and I occupied the same room at Doctor Palmer's at night."

The public services of Ben Hardin, his success as a lawyer, and his taste for recital here. Suffice to say that he was a son of old Washington County, whose tall and commanding personality, keen and penetrating eye, and striking countenance, made him at once, wherever he went, a man of public attention. Proud indeed, should all Washingtonians be, that the soil of their country cradles the dust of his mortal remains.

(To Be Continued)

(Continued From Last Week)

First Settlements in the County

In the early settlement of the county which was called and known as Washington in the year 1792, the southern section was populated with greater rapidity than any other. The reason for this is quite obvious.

The first white men to invade the wilderness southwest of Harrodsburg were game hunters seeking meat for that settlement. They sought the buffalo, elk, deer and bear, and these were not to be found promiscuously in the forest. Their chief places of resort were the salt licks where they congregated in great numbers, their "roads" leading to such places from all directions. The hunters would strike these buffalo roads and follow them, sometimes for many miles, and there to find the coveted wild game in profusion.

The salt licks of Washington County were in the main situated in the neighborhood of the Rolling Fork of Salt River. There were a few small licks, of which Walton's Lick, located near where the little hamlet of Polin was the most prominent, in the northern section of the county. In comparison with the licks on the waters of the Rolling Fork, however, the Walton's Lick and the others in the north were of little notoriety. Thus the first white persons to invade the county were drawn to the southward. They came primarily, in search of wild game, but while there, being fascinated with the country, they selected for themselves and their friends back home, choice parcels of land, with the view to future permanent settlement.

From certain old and highly informative depositions now in the office of the Clerk of the Washington Circuit Court at Springfield, Kentucky, we

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learn that the more prominent salt licks of the Rolling Fork country were discovered and named before the year 1779. Lewis Thomas, Mark Hardin, William Stewart, David Glenn, and others, comprising a company of land hunters, came upon a large chain of salt licks lying upon the Rolling Fork near the mouth of the small stream which for many years has borne the name of Cherry Run, in May, 1773. Thomas said it was the first week in May that they first saw the place, and that the company named it the Cedar Lick, "to distinguish it from the other licks round it," and because "there was a great amount of cedar growing there."

The nearest settlement to the Cedar Lick in the year 1773 was Harrodsburg (now Harrodsburg), according to Lewis Thomas. The company he was in probably came to Kentucky early in the year 1775. Their starting place back East was the Monongahela Country of Pennsylvania, and their destination in Kentucky was Harrodsburg. This was probably the company which Col. John Hardin (see earlier sketch) purposed to lead, but did not do so because he decided to remain in the East and help the Colonies fight the war that was about to begin with the Mother Country. Mark Hardin, his brother, however, was in the company, as we learn from a deposition made by him in 1818. He said he had known Lewis Thomas "since we were boys." Thomas said he and Mark Hardin "were in company together every day" during the years 1775 and 1776 while they were in Kentucky.

In 1780, five years after Lewis Thomas, Mark Hardin, and the others of their company of land hunters, discovered and named the Cedar Lick, David Glenn saw it, "the last week in April or the first week in May." William Stewart was with him and told him that he had been there in the years 1775 and 1776. Glenn said that in the year 1780 "the nearest large settlement was Harrodsburg." There were several "settlements on Salt River in the neighborhood of Buell's Lick and also Harbison's Station."

Cartwright's Not Named

Strange as it may seem, Glenn did not mention Cartwright's Station, said to have been built in the year 1779. This station was not more than ten miles from the Cedar Lick. Nor did he mention Sandusky's Station, built in the year 1776, on Pleasant Run. John Muldrow, for whom Muldrow's Hill was named, did not know of any settlement near the Cedar Lick then the one "where the widow Harbison now lives which is about 25 or 30 miles." Glenn mentioned "the Pottenger Creek Settlement, consisting of two men, and Linn's Station, comprised of one family," as being the nearest to the Cedar Licks in the year 1780. Harbison's Station was situated where Perryville now is. Pottenger's Settlement, according to Samuel Pottenger who built it, was on Pottenger's Creek. He said (May 28, 1812), that he "built a cabin and covered it in the latter part of 1778 or the beginning of 1779 on what is now called Pottenger's Creek."

Probably the next company to visit the Cedar Lick on the Rolling Fork, after Thomas, Hardin, and company, were there in 1775, was that which John McMurtry spoke of in a deposition taken at the house of John Calhoun, in Springfield, Kentucky, August 15, 1816. He stated that in the

year 1775 he and eleven others "were patrolled from Harrodsburg by Wm. McAfee to the waters of the Rolling Fork." The object of this "patrolling" was "the improvement of land." Others in the company with him, as he then "recollected," were James Cloyd, John Muldrow, John Simpson, Henry Brewster, Samuel McMurtry, Samuel Lawrence, John Lawrence, Solomon Lawrence, and David Lawrence. This company set out from Harrodsburg and proceeded to the Rolling Fork, striking that stream, "they proceeded down" the same until they "came to the place which is now called the Cedar Licks a small distance below the residence of Mr. John Muldrow (as it was situated in 1816)." When they reached this place, McMurtry said, "in a lick under the Bank of the Rolling Fork and on the opposite side lying upon the sand Bar two of the company shot at the same instant and killed two Elk." Not knowing that the place had been previously named, McMurtry and those who were in company with him, "called that place the Elk Licks and it went by that name with the company aforesaid until they left this country which was in June 1778."

When McMurtry "returned to this country which was in 1783," the place "was called the Cedar Licks or Lick, he could not be certain which of the two."

Was It Cedar Lick or Licks?

The Cedar Lick, or Licks, as it was often called both in the singular and in the plural, for reasons which we shall shortly state, was by far the largest lick or chain of licks in the Rolling Fork country. McMurtry considered "there are a number of distinct licks, having some of them more than one suck in them and the licks are some distance apart from each other." He estimated that the licks covered about eight or ten acres. James Handly, whose residence was within two miles of the place, disagreed with McMurtry. He "always considered it one lick with a number of sucks in it." John Muldrow lived "within three miles of the Cedar Lick since 1784." He said "it is a very large lick and was greatly resorted to by buffalo and other wild animals in early times." Henry Prather, first acquainted with the Rolling Fork country in 1776, and for whom Prather's Creek was named in 1779, thought the place should always be spoken of "in plural number." He said "there are a great number of licks, one large and many smaller ones covering between fifty and one hundred acres or perhaps more." Continuing his description he said "the largest and principal lick of the group was on the North side of the Rolling Fork." He could not be sure "whether on the Bank or not," but "there was a chain of licks." General James Ray, who was first at the Cedar Lick in 1774, and later hunted on Prather's Creek in 1777, said "there was a large Knob Lick with small licks adjoining about 100 yards North from the Bank of the Rolling Fork." The whole "might have covered 40 or 50 acres, or perhaps more."

A. Hill, of Nelson County, with Ben Hardin questioning him, Charles A. Wickliffe, listening, and John Rowan sitting as a Justice of the Peace, said he had "heard the Licks called Cedar Licks and also Cedar Lick." He said further that "there was a number of sucking places," and "it seemed to be one continuous lick but many sucks in it."

There were "trees, hills, and hollows, but no running water between the licks."

Whether the place was rightly called the Cedar Lick or the Cedar Licks is of little consequence now. In the early 1800's, however, it was a question of grave importance. The outcome of a suit at law in the Washington Circuit Court, prosecuted from 1807 to 1817, with the heirs of Hugh McElroy, Sr., as plaintiffs, and the heirs of Joseph Ray as defendants, depended greatly on whether there was one lick or several. Ben Hardin represented the McElroys, and his cousin, Charles A. Wickliffe, afterwards Governor of Kentucky, was the attorney for the Ray heirs. (See sketches of lives of Hardin and Wickliffe in earlier chapter of this narrative.) From the depositions taken in the course of this suit, we glean much valuable information relative to the Rolling Fork country of Washington County. There are a number of surveyor's reports and plats accompanying the depositions, and from these we learn the names of several of the more important watercourses of the Rolling Fork country.

Principal Creeks Named

The principal tributaries of the Rolling Fork of Salt River in early times in the neighborhood of the Cedar Licks are given by John Muldrow in his deposition taken May 17, 1810. He said Stewart's Creek, named for William Stewart, "empties into the Rolling Fork of Salt River about one mile below the Cedar Lick." Prather's Creek is located by Muldrow as being "about five miles below the Cedar Lick emptying in on the North side." Mark Hardin confirmed Muldrow's statement about Stewart's Creek saying, "It is the first creek running into the Rolling Fork on the North side below the Cedar Lick, about one mile below, and it is not a large one." The next stream, said he, "is Cherry Run, still smaller, and then comes Prather's Creek, a tolerable large creek, about five or six miles below the Cedar Lick." Continuing on down the Rolling Fork, "the next is Sulphur Lick Creek a small creek about nine or ten miles below the Cedar Lick, and then there is no creek of any size until we come to Pottenger's Creek about fifteen miles at least below the Cedar Lick." Henry Prather said Prather's Creek "is the first large creek emptying into the Rolling Fork on the North side below the mouth of Stewart's Creek," and that Stewart's Creek and Cherry Run "were then (1779) called large branches." Stewart's, in his opinion, "is the largest." He was not sure whether Cherry Run was "large enough to be called a creek," though he thought "some might call it a run and some a creek," depending upon "the quantity of water at the time." Obadiah Carter, in his 66th year when he deposed in 1811, said he "knew Pottenger's Creek in the year 1779," and in 1783 he "knew Prather's Creek." Of the two creeks, Pottenger's "is the largest at the mouth."

(to Be Continued)

(Continued From Last Week)

Buffalo in Profession

Felix Walker, an early Kentucky adventurer, told Colonel James Henderson in 1775, that one of the most "interesting and romantic sights" of the country, was to watch "a number of buffaloes, of all sizes," at a salt

Emment

annual
McMurtry

John returns
to his Rx
claim after
serving in
N.E. militia
w/ Samuel (M)
and W. Ham (M)



John
McMurtry

lick. He described one occasion when, coming upon the animals at a certain lick, "they made off from the lick in every direction, between two and three hundred of them, some running, some walking, other loping slowly and carefully with young calves skipping and bounding through the plain."

Of such a sight as Walker described for Col. Henderson, John Muldrow must have been thinking when, on May 17, 1810, he deposed "on the Rolling Fork of Salt River about 60 poles below the mouth of Prather's Creek." He was describing the Cedar Lick, which "in early times was greatly resorted to by buffalo and other animals." The lick could be "very easily found," said he, "by the roads which were made to it by the buffaloes, elk, deer and other animals." On one occasion he had "seen a large number (near one hundred) of buffaloes in it at one time."

Confirming Muldrow's statement that the Rolling Fork country of Washington County teemed with buffalo roads in early times, Mark Hardin said he knew many such roads, and described one in particular. It was "the one leading from the Clay Lick on the south side of the Rolling Fork, and crossing the same at what is now called Cherry Run." From that point, Hardin said, the road went to the Cedar Licks, and he saw it in the year 1787. "It was a well traveled road and had the appearance of having been used for a number of years."

Gone are days when the buffalo, elk and deer roamed the country watered by the Rolling Fork, the Beech Fork, and their tributaries—the country that was wilderness when the sturdy forebears of many present day Washington Countians first saw it. Forgotten are those once notorious salt licks and the buffalo roads leading to them—brought back to memory to live again for a brief moment, by the aged, yellowed depositions taken more than a century and a quarter ago. Silent are the heavy, trusty rifles of the hunters, long since gone to their graves—but not before they had taken their heavy toll of the buffalo, elk, deer, bear, and other wild animals that made annual pilgrimages to the salt licks of Washington County.

It would be next to impossible for one to estimate the number of wild animals wickedly and wantonly slain in pioneer days in Kentucky, by hunters of "arched and wanton disposition who would kill three or four or half a dozen buffalo and not take a half a horsehead of them all." (Col. Henderson.) There were good hunters and bad, in those days. The one who "could not shoot well" would merely cripple the game. Some loved to hunt "much better than work," and if they were good shots, they were valuable assets to the settlements which depended upon them for their meat supply. Such hunters were Thomas Denton, Henry Prather and Samuel Pottenger. They were skillful men, and what Mark Hardin said of Pottenger, namely, that "he was a good woodsman and a good hunter," he might have said also of Denton and Prather, and other of their character and ability, had the occasion demanded. Denton had a meat house on the waters of Hardin's Creek; Prather had a similar house on Prather's Creek, and that stream "took its name from that circumstance." (Henry Prather's deposition, June 8, 1815.)

Timber and Other Licks

The timber of the Rolling Fork section of Washington County in early times was principally cedar and pine. It grew in abundance along the river and its tributaries and about the numerous salt licks. David Glenn, unintentionally of course, and in unpolished language, drew a word picture worthy of a master of brush and colors, when he described "a remarkable high Knob clothed with cedar timber, adjoining the Lick above, where the buffalo and other wild beasts resorted in great numbers." (David Glenn, deposition March, 1811.) And if the artist were so inclined, he might transfer to his canvas along with Glenn's "remarkable high Knob clothed with cedar timber," the two men who, "lying upon the an Bar shot at the same instant and killed two Elk." John McMurry's deposition, August, 1815.)

Other notorious licks of the Rolling Fork country, none of them quite so large as the Cedar Lick, but resorted to by buffalo and other beasts, in early times were: Prather's Licks, once called the Knob Licks, at the head of Prather's Creek; Plantation Lick, a mile or two north of the Cedar Lick; Mud Lick, between Prather's and Plantation; Clay Lick, near the head of Cartwright's Creek, about ten or twelve miles from the Cedar Lick; Indian Lick, about four miles from the Cedar Lick; Burnt Lick, previously unnamed for many years, about three miles below the Cedar Lick, not immediately on the Rolling Fork, at which there is no cedar. (Mark Hardin's deposition, May 17, 1810.)

The Early Stations

The few scattered early settlements in the Rolling Fork country of Washington County in the year 1780 and earlier were: Linn's Station, located by Mark Hardin as being "about sixteen miles from the mouth of Prather's Creek;" Goodwin's Station, "about twelve miles from the same place," and Rogers' Station, "about twenty miles." To these must be added Pottenger's Settlement near the mouth of Pottenger's Creek, dating from 1778-79.

Linn's Station, sixteen miles below the mouth of Prather's Creek, consisted of one family in the year 1780. By the year 1784, however, it had grown to include several families, one of the number being that of Philemon Waters. In a deposition taken in 1812, Waters stated that his "first place of residence after coming to this country was Louisville in 1780 and part of 1781." In the year 1782, while he "was on Cartwright's Creek," probably making the improvement upon which he afterwards settled, he was "taken by the Indians," and when he returned from captivity and joined his family they "resided at Linn's Station until 1784 and then returned to the waters of Cartwright's Creek about ten or eleven miles from the Cedar Licks."

Navigability of Rolling Fork

The value of the Rolling Fork as a navigable stream was a matter of individual opinion, even in early times. That it was navigable for "Orleans boats" for some distance above its mouth is quite evident from the fact that there were numerous warehouses and shipping ports situated along its banks. Many of these were as far up stream as the mouth of Hardin's Creek, and a few even above that point.

John Maxwell, age 35 in the year 1812, said he became acquainted with the Rolling Fork country in the year 1777, and that in the year 1795 he settled about five miles from the Cedar Lick. He was residing at that place in the year 1812. To his knowledge the Rolling Fork had been "navigated from five or six miles above the Cedar Licks," as one might measure by land, "but how far by water he did not know." He thought the distance from five or six miles above the Cedar Licks to the mouth of the river "by water upwards of one hundred miles."

John Simpson, who first knew the Cedar Lick country in the year 1774, and who had lived not more than ten miles from the lick since 1780, was as uncertain as Maxwell. He "thought the Rolling Fork navigable for about twelve miles by land, the nearest course above the Cedar Licks for Orleans boats, but how far by water from there to the mouth" he did not know. He added, however, that "it is a great distance."

First Settlers on Rolling Fork

As to the first settlers on the Rolling Fork in Washington County, only painstaking search through old records would reveal their names. Many "improvements" were made as early as the year 1776, and some corn was planted in that year, but the number of persons actually settled and growing crops on their lands prior to the year 1782 was small. Samuel Pottenger was undoubtedly among the first, he having "built a cabin and covered it in the latter part of 1773 or the beginning of 1779." He probably did not have his family with him for several years afterwards, for David Glenn knew the Pottenger Settlement in the year 1780, and he said at that time there was but two men there.

John Muldrow, one of the most prominent and highly respected citizens of the Rolling Fork country of Washington County in early times, became acquainted with that country in April, 1778. He was in company with James Cloyd, John Simpson, John McMurry and several others, and they had been sent out from Harrodsburg by Wm. McAfee to make "improvements" along the Rolling Fork. Of the company, Cloyd, it seems, remained on the land which fell to him by lottery, and with the aid of the others, planted corn thereon. (See deposition of John McMurry, July, 1798.) This land claimed by Cloyd afterwards passed into the hands of Robert Abell, and that gentleman with his family, was residing there in 1798. Muldrow, after being on the Rolling Fork with Cloyd, McMurry, and the others of their company in 1778, returned to Harrodsburg. Whether he remained at that place or returned shortly to Virginia, we do not know. In 1780 he was in Kentucky, living "about three or four miles above Danville," but he "hunted on the Rolling Fork" in the vicinity of the Cedar Licks, and he may have made some "improvements" on the land which he drew by lottery in 1773. In 1784, having taken unto himself a wife, one of the daughters of Hugh McElroy, Sr., who came to Kentucky from Virginia to settle in Washington County, Muldrow moved to his preemption about three miles from the Cedar Lick, and resided there the rest of his life.

(To Be Continued)

Peggy McMurry married John Seauland
Feb 28, ~~1855~~ 1855. Lived and died on farm near
Brooksville, Ky. Born to them ten children! - Two little girls
died in infancy. Eliza married Micajah Wilson, June 11, 1825,
Deia married George Dunn Dec 9, 1829, Louisa married
Ben F. Purdy Aug 20, 1835, Amanda married Samuel
Hocker Nov 28, 1838, W F Fletcher married Label Nantz
Aug 14, 1840: Susan A married Dr A. Morrison Feb 23, 1853
Barnett Seauland died June 18, 1834: John Wesley
Seauland died Oct 20, 1839
W F Fletcher Seauland married 1840.
W F Fletcher Seauland died in Chullicoth, Mo. Feb 5, 1875.
Rev A. A. Morrison died in Denver, Colo, Aug 8, 1884.
Susan A Morrison died in Denver, Colo.
March 8, 1907 age 77 years -

Peggy Scantland, oldest child of John and Elizabeth
 Mumy, born in Virginia, County not known, July 15, 1787.
 Married John Scantland, who was born in Virginia
 March 9, 1778. Peggy Mumy & John Scantland
 were married Feb 28, 1805. Lived and died on a
 farm near Bradfordsville, Ky. Mary Co. There
 were born unto them ten children: two little girls
 died in infancy. Eliza married Micaga Wilson
 June 11, 1825; Dica married George Dunn, Dec 9,
 1829; Louisa married Ben F. Purdy Aug 20, 1835;
 Amanda married Samuel Hocker, Nov 28, 1838; W.
 Fletcher married Isabel Nantz Aug 14, 1840; Susan
 A. married A. A. Morrison Feb 23, 1853.
 Bonnet Scantland died June 18, 1834. John
 Wesley Scantland died October 30, 1839; Louisa
 Purdy died Aug 20, 1838. Peggy Scantland
 died October 15, 1844. John Scantland died Aug 7, 1849.
 Amanda Hocker died March 26, 1852; Isabel
 Scantland died Dec 20, 1854; Dica Dunn died May
 8, 1864; Wm F. Scantland died Feb 5, 1875;
 Eliza Wilson died in Texas Sept 14, 1883; Rev A. A.
 Morrison died in Dunn, Mo. Aug 8, 1884.
 Harwood Wm F. Morrison died March 8,
 1907, in Dunn, Mo., age 79 years.
 All the above, except the three last named, died
 in Kentucky, near their birthplace - W. F. Scantland
 died in Chillicothe, Mo. These were all
 first class people, as credit to the
 community in which they lived.

Introduction to the McMurray Time Lines

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A series of documents are being compiled for help in writing "McMurray, the Final Journey", the story of the adventures of our pioneering McMurray family. The documents, or Time Lines, concentrate on the sons and daughters of our Scottish patriarch, William McMurray who came to America from Ulster, Northern Ireland, with his sons and daughters. Special emphasis has been placed on my direct ancestors, William's son and daughter-in-law, Agnes & William of Virginia. This introduction explains the method used to compile a Time Line ("TL").

The TL contains documented information on the family members as well as "family traditions" handed down by the descendants of Agnes & William. They are intended to be "works in progress" to which information will be added as it becomes available.

In some cases, an Introduction is included and, where appropriate editorial comments are added to an entry. These are identified by ("DEM;") and are intended to provide clarity, expand understanding of the raw data, identify questions for further research and, to help prove or disprove various theories as information is added. The TL's and the Bibliography will be included in the Appendix of the book.

The McMurray name is often spelled McMurry in records. This shorter version became popular and is used by several existing family groups. Its clear, however, that the former spelling was used by our family in the 1750's in Virginia. When the change occurred is unknown, so the "McMurry" spelling is used as desired by existing descendants. For accuracy's sake, the name as spelled in the TL is it is in the record. And, since the "McMurry" version is common (lazy clerks?), any other spelling variation will be underlined to indicate the spelling as contained in the record.

One major task was keeping the players straight. Our ancestors had a sense of humor or a one track mind (I prefer to think the former) and given names were incessantly repeated. Seriously though, our McMurrays followed the typical Scot's "naming way" of the era, carefully perpetuating a clan's given names. The result was a "plethora" of men named James, John, Robert, Samuel, Thomas and, above all, William. For women, Agnes, Elizabeth, Jane, Janet, and Margaret topped the list of favorites. What's more, Scottish naming patterns are repeated, for the most part, in each family at least up through the early 1800's.

In an effort to maintain sanity, a system is used to identify people with the same name. Individuals for whom a TL has been prepared, are assigned U.S. postal initials for the state where they are last known to have been located. For example; our patriarch's son, William McMurray of Virginia, died there so he is William McMurray (VA). His son, James, who died in "Old Kantucke" (sic), is James McMurray (KY). If there is more than one with the same name in the state, they will be James (KY), James (KY-1), James (KY-2), etc.. So, when a reference is made to a McMurray, other than in their own TL, I will try to remember to include the identifying initials. As for William (VA)'s dad, our patriarch William (Va the Elder), please excuse me. The (VA the Elder) moniker is used to avoid making 'ol Don go back and change all the TL's containing William (VA) to (VA-1).

Several McMurray descendants, and relatives, have researched our clan. Ernest Irving Lewis was apparently the first to become curious about our ancestors. Another was (William) Fletcher Guy McMurry and these two spent many years in this effort. We owe them our gratitude for their work because they provided the foundation on which those of us who followed added to the mass of information about our family. Curiously, until recently, descendants of Jean (McElroy) & James McMurray (KY), my 3rd great-grandfather, were conspicuously not among the researchers. Several have since surfaced and as they do they will be added to those listed below.

Researchers

Gage (1913 - 1992) and Wilma (1916 -) Biren; Gage is a descendant of Jean (McElroy) & James McMurray (KY).

Joy Benemann (1943 -); descendant of Margaret (Priest Smith) & James McMurray (KY).

Marilyn Ann Bone (1936 -); wife of a descendant of Elizabeth (Loague) & Robert McMurray (IL).

Frances Ruth Davis (1912 - deceased); descendant of Elizabeth (Loague) & Robert McMurray (IL).

Dr. G.G. Douglas (deceased); relationship unknown.

John Lawler Drye (1949 -); descendant of Elizabeth (Bowen or McClellon) & John McMurray (KY).

Martha Frances Henry (1899-deceased); descendant of Janet Jane (McMurray) & John Reed (MO).

George Holland II (19 ? -); descendant of Margaret (Priest Smith) & James McMurray (KY).

Richard H. Hulan (19 ? -); descendant of Simpson McMurry, the illegitimate son of Sarah (Kincaid) McMurray.

Joy Hagen Ikelman (19 ? -); the wife of a descendant of Elizabeth (Bowen or McClellon) & John McMurray (KY).

DeAnne Grace Kassik (1939 - 1997); descendant of Jean (McElroy) & James McMurray (KY).

Sheri Lee Kelting (1945 -); a descendant of Elizabeth (Loague) & Robert McMurray (IL).

Lawrence Lee (19 ? -); descendant of Elizabeth (Loague) & Robert McMurray (IL).

Researchers (continued)

Ernest Irving Lewis (1873-deceased); great-great-grandson of Catherine (Robinson) & Thomas McMurray (KY).

Claudia McMurry (deceased?); relationship unknown.

Jann McMurry (? -): wife of a descendant of Catherine (Robinson) & Thomas McMurray (KY).

John F. McMurry (deceased); grandson of Elizabeth (Bowen or McClellon) & John McMurray (KY).

Sally McMurry Barker (? -): descendant of Catherine (Robinson) & Thomas McMurray (KY).

(William) Fletcher Guy McMurry (1897-1973); great-great-grandson of Elizabeth (Bowen or McClellon) & John McMurray (KY).

William Ford McMurry (? - 1939); relationship unknown.

Donald Edgar McMurray (1931-); descendant of Jean (McElroy) & James McMurray (KY).

Michael Alan McMurray (1955 -); relationship unknown.

William Dudley McMurray, Jr. (1950 -); descendant of Sally (Kincaid) & Samuel McMurray (TN).

Waller Luckie Reed (1858 - deceased); great-grandson of Janet Jane (McMurray) & John Reed (MO).

Harold Rollins (19 ? _); relationship unknown.

DeLynn Strebel (19 ? -); descendant of Elizabeth (Bowen or McClellon) & John McMurray (KY).

One final note; the length of documentation for an event may place an event in the TL on one page while some of the confirming records will be on the following page. When this occurs, the two pages should be read as one. And so, to begin.....

Source Unknown. Taken from hand written sheets in Vertical File-Ky.--Lebanon Drawer; Bradfordsville folder.

Copied word for word:

page 37 - Pegg McMurry Scanland-

Peggy Scanlan, oldest child of John and Elizabeth McMurry, born in Virginia, County not known, July 15, 1787. Married John Scanland, who was born in Virginia March 9, 1778. Peggy McMurry and John Scanlan were married Feb. 28, 1805, lived and died on a farm near Bradfordsville, Ky. Marion Co. There were born unto them ten children: two little girls died in infancy. Eliza married Micaja Wilson June 11, 1825; Dica married George Dunn, Dec. 9, 1829; Louisa married Ben F. Purdy Aug 20, 1835; Amanda married Samuel Hocker, Nov. 28, 1838; W. Fletcher married Isabel Nautz Aug. 14, 1840; Susan A. married A. A. Morrison Feb. 23, 1853. Brunette(?) Scanlan died June 18, 1834. John Wesley Scanlan died October 30, 1839; Louisa Purdy died Aug. 30, 1838, Peggy Scanland died October 15, 1844. John Scanlan died Aug. 4, 1849. Amanda Hocker died March 26, 1852; Isabell Scanlan died Dec. 20, 1854; Dica Dunn died May 8, 1864; Wm. F. Scanlan died Feb. 5, 1875; Eliza Wilson died in Texas Sept 14, 1883; Rev. A.A. Morrison died in Denver, Colo. Aug. 8, 1884. Mrs. Susan A. Morrison died March 8, 1907, in Denver, Colo. aged 79 years.

All the above except the three last noted, died in Kentucky, near their birthplace. W. F. Scanlan died in Chillicothe, Mo. These were all first class people, a credit to the communities in which they lived.