

MADISON COUNTY.

Interesting Sketch of Pioneer Days
in the Cradle of the Commonwealth.

**How the Fathers Engaged in Wars,
Lawsuits, Church-quarrels,
Just as We Do.**

Capt. Estill's Bloody Battle and the Noble
Daring and Endurance of
Joseph Proctor.

**Lists of all the Prominent Men--
Soldiers, Politicians, Hunters, etc.**

GLIMPSES OF DAN'L BOONE.

[*To the Editor of the Courier-Journal.*]

In 1871, while the writer was a resident of Madison County, at the request of some of its citizens, he prepared a historical sketch of some of the incidents connected with the early settlement of that portion of Kentucky. The county is perhaps more closely connected with the early history of Kentucky than any other in the State, and it is believed that even an imperfect account of its settlement will be of more than local interest. There are hundreds of citizens scattered throughout this State and Missouri whose ancestors came from that county and whose children and grandchildren naturally fell deep interest in the early struggles of the old pioneers of Madison. While Madison was not organized as a separate county quite so early as either Lincoln, Fayette or Jefferson, its history for a time was that of Kentucky, and the trials and struggles of its first settlers constitute such an important part of the early history of the Commonwealth that it is proposed to make a brief record of some of them through the columns of the *COURIER-JOURNAL*, as a sort of supplement to the history of pioneer days brought out by the recent Blue Lick centennial.

The history of Kentucky by Mr. Richard H. Collins presents an accurate account both of Madison and of the other counties of the State. The sketch of Madison given by Collins shows that the author was fully impressed with the historical importance of that section, and that he gave it all the consideration the nature of his book permitted. The citizens of that portion of the State recognize their obligations to Mr. Collins for rescuing from oblivion many of the incidents of their early history, and, after having made an examination of many of the detailed records of the county, it is a pleasure to the writer of this sketch to bear witness to the correctness of his narrative. In the present sketch it is the writer's purpose to make an imperfect record of some matters of general interest relating to the early history of Madison county. The county is

OLDER THAN THE STATE

of Kentucky. It was originally a part of Fincastle county, Virginia, but was subsequently embraced in the county of Kentucky, which was separated from Fincastle in October, 1776. By a later enactment of May, 1780, the county of Kentucky was divided into the three counties of Jefferson, Fayette and Lincoln, and Madison was then included in the county of Lincoln. As a separate county, Madison was established by an act of the Virginia legislature in 1785. It then included a large portion of Eastern Kentucky, and within its boundaries lay parts of Garrard, Clay, Estill, Rockcastle and Jackson. By enactments beginning in 1796 and ending in 1858 it has been reduced to its present limits. It was embraced in the deed of March 17, 1775, of O'Conistoto and other Cherokee chieftains, to Nathan hart, John Lutrell and six other citizens of North Carolina, who constituted the celebrated Transylvania Company. The address of Gov. Moorehead at Boonesborough shows that the entire tract of land so bought from the Indians cost about ten wagon loads of cheap goods. The first title to the ground thus came by purchase from the Indians. In a court of equity, owing to the inadequacy of the price and ignorance prevailing on the side of the grantors in the deed, this title would not have stood the test of a severe scrutiny by the Chancellor. Its validity was never assailed on that account, but it was soon successfully attacked on different grounds founded in the doctrines of the common law of England. Col. John Lutrell, one of the grantees in the deed, made his will a few days after the date of the deed, devising a part of the land included in the grant to Charles Buck. When the case went to the Appellate Court of Kentucky that tribunal decided that Col. Lutrell had no title to the land, and could make none to Charles Buck. The following is an extract from the opinion of the court on that subject:

"All purchases by individuals from Indians were expressly forbidden by the royal proclamation of 1763, which remained in force until the Revolution by which the American Colonies became independent States, and no sooner had Virginia thrown off the royal government and assumed the republican form than she adopted the same principle, and by an ordinance of the Convention of 1776 provided that no purchases should be made of the Indians but on behalf of the public and by authority of the General Assembly. And in May, 1779, the Legislature of Virginia expressly declared all notes and deeds, as well those which had been made as those which should hereafter be made by any Indian nation for the separate use of individuals, to be utterly void and of no effect."

Before the invalidity of the titles derived through Henderson & Co. was known in the county, some pieces of land had been bought of the company by the early settlers. This was especially the case as to lands on Silver Creek, Hart's Fork, Hay's Fork, and Otter Creek. Many of the early settlers made purchases from this company and lost all the money so invested. We are informed by Stephen Hancock, the founder of Hancock Station, and one of the leading Indian fighters, that no man received any remuneration from the Transylvania Company for the land so purchased and lost, and that there was a very general complaint in the county that entries in the books could not be seen.

THESE INVALID TTLES

covered some of the best lands in the county, and many of the early emigrants were prevented by them from selecting as valuable farms for their first location as might otherwise have been

chosen. Such titles also served to foster a spirit of litigation in the county and were productive of those heavy land suits which afterward brought large rewards for professional services to such men as Martin D. Hardin, George M. Bibb, William T. Barry, Samuel Hanson, and others. It is true that most of the early county land suits were largely due to defects in the laws of Virginia, but the seeds of litigation had already been sown in the early troubles springing from the defects in the titles derived from the Indians through the Henderson Company. At present it is generally believed that there were no Indians resident in Kentucky prior to the coming of Daniel Boone and others in 1775, but this opinion was not entertained by some of the early settlers of the county. Archy Woods says that the remains of an old Indian town stood near the place where the present court-house of Richmond is located, and that Town Fork of Dreaming Creek, which passes through the limits of Richmond, takes its name from that circumstance. This town may have been founded by the people who inhabited the county before it was claimed by the Indians, but it does not seem entirely certain that so intelligent a citizen as Archy Woods would not know the remains of an Indian town when seen by him. He was a prominent member of the Richmond bar for a number of years, and also well acquainted with the Indian customs and methods of living. We are informed by Collins that the county was

FIRST PERMANENTLY SETTLED

in 1775, but that it was visited by Daniel Boone and John Stewart in 1769, and by the McAfee brothers and Samuel Adams in 1778. The local records of the county show that Col. John Snoddy and William Ward visited the county in 1778, and that Michael Stoner was at Mulberry Lick in 1774. Although Daniel Boone was occupied a portion of the year 1775 in building a fort at Boonesborough and bringing his family and goods from North Carolina, still he must have traveled over the county considerably in 1775. From records in the County Clerk's office it appears that he was on Muddy creek during that year, and there "made an improvement for his friend James Wharton." It appears from the same testimony that he was also at the Wallace Estill spring in company with John Boyle, and that Boyle there "made an improvement and also planted a few peach seeds." In June, 1775, immediately after the building of the Boonesborough fort, Squire Boone built a cabin in the county at Jerusha's Grove, on Silver creek, and commenced building a mill at "Boone's old Mill" site. He was preparing to move his family to that place in October, 1775, when he sold the cabin to Joseph Benny, and the land adjoining to George Smith. In August or September of the same year John Kennedy built a cabin on the waters of Silver Creek, where John Campbell formerly lived. In June, 1775, Joel Walker built a cabin on Muddy Creek, which was long a place of resort for hunters and trappers in that part of the country. In the same month and year Richard Hinds built a cabin near Clay's ferry, on the Kentucky River. In the spring of 1776, James Yates built a cabin on Muddy creek, and, as this structure was doubtless a correct representation of all that were built in those early days, the following

QUAINT DESCRIPTION

of it by Stephen Hancock, an eye-witness who saw it in 1778, may not be uninteresting: "It was a small cabin covered with boards, having a mortar in the yard to pound corn, with two acres of ground cleared and planted near the cabin, with a brush fence around it, with a little spring cleaned out near it, with the corn badly worked." It will be observed that the cabins of

Squire Boone, Hinds, Kennedy and Walker were built prior to the capture of the daughters of Boone and Calloway, which did not occur until the 14th of July, 1776. Prominent among the early settlers was Nathan Hart, who build another station called "White Oaks" about one mile above Boonesborough in the year 1779. In the same year he cultivated a crop of corn on Hart's fork of Silver creek. He then hid his hoe and plow in the canebrake and went to North Carolina, whence he brought his family to the county in 1780. "On his way back he stopped upon Hart's fork and showed his family the field which he had cultivated the year before, and got the hoe and plow which he had hidden from the Indians." The farming implements of Madison county were then few in number and of the rudest character. A single incident will show how much they were prized by the early settlers: "Richard Epperson, of Boonesborough, had been working at the cabin of James Yates on Muddy Creek, in 1777, and left his hoe there in the loft of the cabin." He afterward "gave this hoe to a man named Hancock, who, accompanied only by his brother, and regardless of danger from the Indians, walked from Boonesborough to Muddy creek to get it." A place in the early history of the county, and next in importance to Boonesborough was

ESTILL'S STATION

situated not far from the present residence of Richard J. White. This station was settled by Col. James Estill, in March, 1780. In February, 1780, Capt. Estill cut his initials upon a hackberry tree, on little Muddy creek, and completed a cabin previous to moving there from Boonesborough. We are told that it took eight or ten days to build the cabin. The station was next erected, and was soon surrounded by large fields of corn and other produce. Among those known to have been there in 1780 and 1781 were James Estill, Peter Hackett, Thos. Warren, David Lynch, Nicholas Proctor, John Cattlepool, James Miller, George Robinson, Thos. Miller, Mike Sherley, Green Clay and Adam Caperton. There were in all about eighteen men and twelve women. Most of these persons "moved" from Boonesborough. Estill Station was always the most dangerous point in the county and had a strong hold upon the affections of the people. Long after the cessation of Indian hostilities it was still familiarly called "The Old Station." It seems to have been owned by James Estill and Samuel Estill in partnership. Much of the rents of the property were always required to pay the settlers to hold possession against the Indians. The first survey of the station property was made by Green Clay for Estill on the 6th of May 1781. Most of the stations and their localities are minutely given by Mr. Richard H. Collins in his history. Those established prior to 1781 are Boonesborough, Estill's Station, George Boone's Station, Hancock's Station, White Oak Station, Grubbs' Station and Holder's Station. Those subsequent to 1781 are Hoy's Station, Tanner's Station, Warren's Station, Wood's Station, Shallow Ford Station, Trotter's Station and Proctor's Station. The early settlers of the county endured the privations and dangers incident to pioneer

LIFE AMONG THE INDIANS

The building of Twitty's Fort and the different attacks on Boonesborough are well detailed by Collins, and belong rather to the history of Kentucky than to that of Madison county. No extended notice of these will here be attempted. The last siege of Boonesborough by the Indians occurred in 1778, and the preservation of the fort on that occasion was due in some measure to the efforts of two boys named Samuel South and Peter Hackett, who were sent from the fort in the night to give the alarm at Logan's Fort and the other stations. Samuel

South afterward became a prominent politician in the county, and successfully appealed to the people for their suffrages by making a recital of the services rendered on this occasion. A narrative of the individual murders by the Indians in different parts of the county from 1775 to 1782 could easily be made from the local records. The killing of Thomas Twitty, March 25, 1775; that of John Kennedy and Richard Calloway in 1780; of Richard Hinds, in Hinds Bend, in 1781; of Peter Duree and John Bullock and wife, on Muddy creek, in 1781; of Christopher Irvine in 1780; of John Danforth and Hinds and McWilliams and Carpenter on muddy Creek, in 1782; the killing and scalping of Nathan Hart in 1782; the killing of Henry Duree and Daniel Duree, at White Oaks Station; the killing of Peter Cosshart at Boonesborough; the wounding of James Estill on Little Muddy Creek, in the Bonta fight, in April, 1781; the wounding of Mrs. Stevenson in 1792; the killing of the Indian by Samuel Estill on Wood's Fork, in June 1781; the capture of Richard Wilde and Nathaniel Brooks, at Boonesborough, in 1778, and their escape and return in 1781, are all fully recorded in depositions to be found in the county. We digress here to remark that this summary shows

BUT ONE WOMAN KILLED

and another wounded. The killing of three others will be mentioned in a subsequent part of this sketch. The capture and retaking of Fannie Calloway, Elizabeth Calloway and Jennie [sic] Boone, so graphically described by Collins, does not appear on the records of the county, so far as the writer has been able to discover. Numerous other incidents handed down by tradition are not on record in the county. The heroism of the early women of Madison is attested by the strongest internal evidence. It could well be said of them, as has been so beautifully said by the poet, Gallagher, of the mothers of the West -

"The Mothers of our forest land
On old Kentucky's soil,
How shared they with each dauntless band
War's tempest and life's toil?
They shrank not from the foeman,
They quailed not in the fight,
But cheered their husbands through the day,
And soothed them in the night."

The Indian battle which made the deepest impression upon the people of the county was that between the Wyandots and the settlers in 1782, generally known as

"ESTILL'S DEFEAT."

These Indians were among the most warlike and cruel then living in Northern Ohio. They made their appearance in Madison in 1782, and created great alarm. Early in March of that year they entered a cabin near Estill's Station and killed and scalped a woman and her two daughters. Their conduct, the battle with Estill and the events leading to it are so well described in an article by the Rev. W. G. Montgomery in the Southern Christian Advocate of May 9, 1845, that I copy it entire.

"On the 19th of March, 1782, Indian rafts, without any one on them, were seen floating down the Kentucky river past Boonesborough. Intelligence of this fact was immediately dispatched to Capt. James Estill at his station, fifteen miles from Boonesborough. Estill lost not a moment in collecting a force to go in search of the Indians, not doubting from his knowledge of their character that they designed an immediate blow at his or some of the neighboring stations. From his own and the nearest stations he raised twenty-five men. Joseph Proctor was of the number. Whilst Estill and his men were on this expedition the Indians suddenly appeared around his station at the dawn of day on the 20th of March, killed and scalped Miss Gass, and took Munk, a slave of Capt. Estill, captive. The Indians immediately and hastily retreated in consequence of a highly exaggerated account which Munk gave them of the strength of the station and the number of fighting men in it. No sooner had the Indians commenced their retreat than the women in the fort (the men being all absent except one on the sick-list) dispatched two boys - the late Gen. Samuel South and Peter Hackett - to take the trail of Estill and his men and, overtaking them, give information of what had transpired in the fort. The boys succeeded in coming up with him early on the morning of the 21st between the mouths of Downing creek and Red river. After a short search, Estill struck the trail of the retreating Indians. It was resolved at once to make pursuit, and no time was lost in doing so. On the ever memorable day of March 22, 1782, in the now county of Montgomery, in the vicinity of Mt. Sterling, Capt. Estill's party came up with the Indians. They proved to be Wyandots, and twenty-five in number, exactly that of Capt. Estill's band. The ground was highly favorable to the Indian mode of warfare, but Estill and his men, without a moment's hesitation, boldly and fearlessly commenced an attack upon them, and the latter as boldly and fearlessly (for they were picked warriors) engaged in the bloody combat. It is, however, painful to record that in the very onset Lieut. Miller, of Estill's party, with six men under his command ingloriously fled from the field, thereby causing the death of many brave soldiers. Hence Estill's party numbered eighteen, and the Wyandots twenty-five. Between these parties, at the distance of fifty yards, the battle raged for the space of two hours. Deeds of desperate daring were common. On either side wounds and death were inflicted, neither party advancing or retreating. 'Every man to his man, and every man to his tree.' Capt. Estill was now covered with blood from a wound received early in the action; nine of his brave companions lay dead upon the field, and four others were so disabled by their wounds as to be unable to continue the fight. Estill's fighting men were now reduced to four. Among this number was Joseph Proctor. The brave leader of this Spartan band was now brought into personal conflict with a powerful and active Wyandot warrior. The conflict was for a time fierce and desperate, and keenly and anxiously watched by Proctor, with his finger upon the trigger of his unerring rifle. Such, however, was the struggle between those fierce and powerful warriors that Proctor could not shoot without greatly endangering the safety of his Captain. Estill had had his right arm broken the preceding summer in an engagement with the Indians, and in the conflict with the Wyandot warrior on this occasion that arm gave way, and in an instant his savage foe buried his knife in Captain Estill's breast, but instantly the brave Proctor sent a ball from his rifle to the Wyandot's heart. Thus ended this memorable battle. It lacks nothing but the circumstance of number to make it the most memorable in ancient or modern times. The loss of the Indians, in killed and wounded, notwithstanding the disparity of numbers after the shameful retreat of Miller, was even greater than that of Capt. Estill. There is a tradition derived from the Wyandot town after a peace, that but one of the warriors engaged in this battle ever returned to his nation. It is certain that the chief who led on the Wyandots with so

much desperation, fell in the action. Throughout this bloody engagement the

COOLNESS AND BRAVERY OF PROCTOR

were unsurpassed. But his conduct after the battle has always, with those acquainted with with it, elicited the warmest commendation. He brought off the field of battle and most of the way to the station a distance of forty miles, on his back, his badly wounded friend, the late brave Col. William Irvine, so long and so favorably known in Madison county."

The description of the battle given by Chief Justice Robertson in 5 J. J. Marshall, is also here inserted:

"The battle," says Judge Robertson, "was fought on the 22^d of March, 1782, in the now county of Montgomery, and in the vicinity of Mt. Sterling. It is a memorable incident, and perhaps one of the most remarkable in the interesting history of the settlement of Kentucky. The usefulness and popularity of Capt. Estill, the deep and universal sensibility excited by the premature death of a citizen so gallant and so beloved, the emphatic character of his associates in battle, the masterly skill and chivalric daring displayed throughout the action, 'Every man to his man, and every man to his tree,' the grief and despondence produced by the catastrophe, all contributed to give to Estill's defeat a most signal notoriety and importance, especially among the early settlers. All the story, with all its circumstances of locality and the fight, was told again and again, until even the children knew it by heart. No legendary tale was ever listened to with as intense anxiety, or was inscribed in so vivid and indelible impress on the hearts of the few of both sexes who then constituted the hope and strength of Kentucky."

Different accounts of this battle have been given, varying in details as to the numbers engaged and killed. After a careful examination of the evidence within his reach the writer believes the account given by Collins to be the most accurate yet published. He places the number killed at seven. The names of the eighteen men

WHO SURVIVED THE BATTLE,

as given by Collins in his history, are as follows: Col. William Irvine, Rev. Joseph Proctor, James Berry, William Cradlebaugh, David Lynch, Henry Boyer, John Jameson, David Cook and Lieut William Mitchell. The names of those who were killed were Capt. James Estill, Adam Caperton, Jonathan McMillen, Lieut. John South, Jr., John Colefoot, and _____ McNeally. With regard to William Miller, Mr. Collins adds: "That for over twenty years, David Cook watched patiently for William Miller to come to Richmond, swearing he would kill him on sight, but Miller prudently kept away. If he had met the threatened fate no jury in Madison county would have convicted Cook, so intense was, and is to this day, the admiration for those who fought, and the detestation of those who so shamefully retreated from the most desperate and deadly of all the frontier battles."

The eighteen men who escaped from Estill's defeat scattered to Boonesborough, Hoy's Station, Tanner's Station, Irvine's Station and Estill's Station. A draft was immediately made. Estill's Station was closely guarded for forty days and scouting parties were sent out in every

direction. But the next appearance of the Indians was in the lower part of the county, where they captured two boys from Hoy's Station. The fall of Estill was a severe blow to the emigration to the county. He was an exceedingly active man, and often traveled from Boonesborough to Cumberland Gap alone, to assist and direct pioneers crossing the mountains from North Carolina and Tennessee. Many

INCIDENTS OF HIS KINDNESS

to strangers moving into the county were remembered by the early settlers. A single illustration is all that we can refer to in this brief sketch. At Cumberland Gap Thomas Warren, who was on his way to Madison, was met by Estill. On a lame horse Warren had packed all his property. He and his wife, footsore and weary, were on the verge of starvation. Estill said to him: "I will kill you a buffalo, and place it in the trace near a spring, and lay some cane across the trace at the point where you ought to turn off to go to Boonesborough." When Warren reached the place named, he found the cane in the path, and the buffalo killed and ready to be eaten. He often stated that he was then so hungry that he did not take time to skin the buffalo, but cut out the tongue and ate it. The name of the Indian chief who commanded the opposing force at "Estill's Defeat" has never been known. The chiefs most celebrated in the county were Little Turtle, Black Fish, Red Hawk and Corn Planter, but history is silent as to who commanded this body of daring Wyandots. It is conceded by all acquainted with the facts in the case that this chieftain exhibited in miniature "an exquisite specimen of the military art." McClung, in his sketch of Western adventure, says "that a delicate manoeuver on the part of Estill gave an advantage which was promptly seized by the Indian chief, and a bold and masterly movement decided the fate of the day. The great battles of Austerlitz and Wagram exhibit the same error on the part of one commander, and the same successful step on the part of the other." Estill's Station was for some time afterward the object of Indian vengeance. One of the most painful incidents of the war was the murder at this station of Miss Jennie Gass, who went out early in the morning to milk the cows, and while her mother, who saw the Indians, cried from the station, "run, Jennie, run, the Indians are coming," her murderers, in mockery of the mother, jumped upon a log and shouted in response, "run, Jennie, run." Other and later incursions were made by the Indians as late as 1794, but we can not detail them here.

A HUNTER'S PARADISE

At the period when Boone and his companions first entered the county there were few weeds to be found, as they were mostly eaten down by the buffalo. The streams were full of fish, and the country abounded in buffaloes, deer, elk, wild turkeys, otters and other animals. The buffaloes were the first to leave the country. They lived upon the waters of Silver creek, Otter creek and Muddy creek, and, in fact, were to be found along all the streams in the county. One of the farms of Squire Boone, upon Silver creek, was so infested with them that it was known as the "Buffalo Shades" place. A buffalo was killed by Higgerson Grubbs upon Drowning creek in 1780. John Maxwell and his son shot a buffalo the same year on the branch that empties into Silver creek above Locust Bent. Buffaloes were killed on Muddy creek in 1780. The bear remained in the county much longer than the buffalo, and wolves were common in the neighborhood of Richmond even after the year 1800. In 1804 Thomas Miller killed a wolf after a severe fight near the present cemetery at Richmond. All the creeks and streams of the county were bordered by roads made by the wild game. As Boone's surveying party passed

down Otter creek to establish the fort at Boonesborough, they found the creek lined with otters, and from that circumstance it took its name. Elk Garden creek and Elk branch were the home of the elk. The licks of the county most frequented by game prior to 1780 were Poplar Lick, Clay Lick, Mulberry Lick, Joe's Lick, Blue Lick, Red Lick, and the springs at Boonesborough. The salt springs on the east fork of Otter creek were one of the most noted resorts of the buffalo. The hunting grounds mostly used by the people of Boonesborough and Estill's Station were Station Camp creek, and Muddy creek, Blue Lick and Joe's Lick, but the Boonesborough settlers often crossed over to the north side of the Kentucky river. It was many a year before the buffalo roads disappeared. They ran along the streams from one lick to another, and where the licks were much frequented, these roads, which were made by the buffalo and other animals, often ran several miles out into the range in every direction. The hunters and woodsmen prior to 1790 traveled almost exclusively along the roads made by the buffalo. The leading roads, or traces of the country, were Boone's trace, leading from Boonesborough and Otter creek, by Estill's Station and Blue Lick to Powell's valley; the trace from Boonesborough to Mulberry Lick, and Elk Lick on Muddy creek; the trace from Estill's Station to Mulberry Lick and Elk Lick. Hunters and woodsmen in search of game generally went to the licks first. It was not common to hunt in the thick cane country between Estill's Station and Silver Creek, as this was used for grazing stock kept at Estill's Station. It was called the "Stock Field Tract" at an early day. The best hunters and woodsmen of the county were Daniel Boone, Oswald Townsend, William Cradlebaugh, Higgerson Grubbs, Tom Warren, Peter Hackett, David Lynch, Richard Hinds, Thomas Brooks, Stephen Hancock, Joel Walker, James Estill, Christopher Irvine, Samuel Estill, Yelverton Peyton, Tarleton Embrey and Robert Boggs. These skilled woodsmen traveled the county in every direction and were acquainted with every hill, creek and lick within its bounds. They generally camped at night upon the open ground and marked the spot by cutting the initials of their names on the neighboring trees. Prior to 1783 some of the young hunters at Boonesborough and Estill's Station paid their board by bringing supplies of venison from their long excursions on Muddy creek and elsewhere; others paid by the protection which they gave to the inmates of the families in which they lived. In these cases the young men deemed it their special duty to protect the families in which they boarded when they were assailed by savages; others who were not hunters and fighters paid in weaving and other domestic services. It was the custom of the merchants at Boonesborough and old Milford to take pay for their accounts in buffalo hides, otter and deer skins. The market price for the best quality of buffalo meat in the county in 1782 was \$2.50 per hundred weight. Bear bacon was \$8.33 per hundred weight. Deer skins were worth one dollar each. Corn was worth \$4.16 cents per barrel, and whisky was worth 67 cents per quart. Witnesses and jurymen were paid in tobacco for their attendance upon court. When an old woodsman wished to turn a hunt for game into a search for Indians, he generally went to the mouth of Muddy creek, which was the most noted Indian crossing in the country.

THE INDIAN CAPTAINS

of the county prior to 1785 were John Holder, James Estill, Nathan Hart, John Snoddy, John Boyle, Daniel Boone, John Kennedy, Richard Calloway, Christopher Irvine and George Adams. Five out of these nine captains lost their lives by the Indians, and three were scalped. Capt. John Kennedy was killed in 1780. Capt. Richard Calloway was killed on the 8th of March, 1780, near Boonesborough, while constructing a ferry boat to run up the river at that place. Capt. Nathan Hart was killed and scalped by the Indians in 1782. Capt. James Estill was killed

at Mt. Sterling on the 23^d of March, 1782. Capt. Christopher Irvine was killed in 1781. The ancestors of many of the present families of the county came to the fort at Boonesborough in 1775, the same year that it was built by Daniel Boone. We give here a list of some of the names of the emigrants who came to the fort at Boonesborough in that year. It is as follows: Robert Boggs, Wm. Bush, Michael Stoner, Jesse Oldham, Joel Walker, John Snoddy, William Williams, David Gass, John Kennedy, James Estill, Nathan Hart, Pemberton Rollins, William Cooper, Samuel Woods, William Miller, Samuel Tate, John Bullock, Hugh Sefer, William Calk, Nicholas Proctor, David Robinson, William Robinson, Samuel Woodson, James Hays, Joseph Hughes, David McGee, Oswald Townsend, James Yates, John Martin, John Holder, Squire Boone, George Boone, Samuel Barker and Bartlett Searcy. Those who are known to have come to the country in 1776 were Christopher Irvine, William Cradlebaugh, James McMillen, Stephen Hancock, Joshua Phelps, Richard Patterson and Joseph Kennedy. Those who came to the county in 1777 are Richard Wade and David Crews. Those who came in 1778 are Joseph Proctor, Samuel Estill, Wallace Estill and George Phelps. Those who came in 1779 are Nicholas Henderson, George M. Bedinger, John Taylor, Ralph Morgan, Higgerson Grubbs, Peter Hackett, John South, Aquilla White, Thomas South, David Lynch, Samuel South, Jacob Starnes, James Berry, Yelverton Peyton, John Crook, Thomas Little, Matthew horn and John Fluty. Those who came in 1780 are Daniel Duree, John Anderson, Peter Duree, Henry Duree, Richard Searcy, Benjamin Quinn, Tarleton Embry, William Harris, Samuel Rice, Green Clay, Thomas Brooks, Charles Ballew, John Sappington, Nathan Lipscomb, Lawrence Thompson, Thomas Warren, William Hoy, John Barnett, John Tate, John Mourner, Joseph Ellison, John Martin, Thomas Brooks, Henry Bonta, Joseph Debon and James Scott. Those who came in 1781 are Hale Talbot, James Barnett, Archy Woods, John Daniel, Moses Bledsoe, William Irvine and Stephen Best. The names of many of the early settlers are perpetuated in

THE STREAMS OF THE COUNTY.

Hays' fork of Silver creek was so called in honor of William Hays, its earliest settler, who was a noted huntsman and Indian fighter of the county. Taylor's fork of Silver creek takes its name from Hancock Taylor, one of the earliest surveyors of the State, who was buried upon its head waters in 1774. Hart's fork takes its name from Nathan Hart, of North Carolina, who brought his family there in 1780, traveling mostly by night. Hart's fork was sometimes called Boone's fork, because Daniel Boone and Squire Boone each had a farm on its borders. Bedinger's branch on Muddy creek was named in honor of Maj. George M. Bedinger, who was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, a member of John Holder's company at Boonesborough, and a member of Congress in 1803. Holder's branch was so named in honor of Capt. John Holder, who lived two miles below Boonesborough, and was the senior Indian Captain of the county, and was doubtless a brother of Capt. Richard Holder, who headed a company from Madison in the War of 1812. Hinds creek was named in honor of Richard Hinds, who was killed by the Indians in 1780. Drowning creek is said to have been so called because Daniel Boone in a hand-to-hand fight killed an Indian there by drowning him in its waters. Dreaming creek is so called because Daniel Boone dreamed upon its banks that he had been stung by the yellow jackets. He interpreted this to mean that he would be wounded by the Indians, and in a few days he was severely wounded by them. The stations of Hancock, Hoy, Grubbs, Tanner, Holder, Warren, Irvine and Crews all take their names from men who were prominent and influential among the early settlers of the county. The prominent politicians of the county prior to 1800 were Higgerson Grubbs, James Barnett, Thomas Kennedy, William Irvine,

Thomas Clay, John Miller, John Sappington, James Anderson, Samuel Estill, Robert Caldwell. "Politicians then sought office much more upon merit and personal popularity than at present."

THE VARIOUS STATIONS.

While the station at Boonesborough was the largest, it contributed less to the population which settled the county than any other station of its magnitude. The greater part of the Boonesborough people settled on the north side of the Kentucky river, about the headwaters of Stoner, Hinkston, and Howard creeks. The place where Richmond now stands was settled in 1785 by John Miller, from Estill's Station, and the northern part of the county was settled mostly people from the stations of Hoy, Grubbs and Tanner. There were not many settlements outside the stations of Hoy and Tanner before 1787. Inside of these stations was the safest part of the county, and, prior to 1787, the land leased much better there than in any other part of the county. In 1784 there was not a single family settled on Otter creek from Boonesborough to Estill's Station. The first settlements then made were those of Portwood and Carpenter. The people did not generally settle in scattered families when they first went out from the stations, but in groups; and the settlers went out earlier and more rapidly from all the old stations north of the Kentucky river than they did from Estill's Station. Prior to 1790 Estill's Station was always regarded as the most dangerous part of the county, and guards and spies were kept there very much later than in any other part of the country. The old settlements of Archy and John woods, one and a half miles above Richmond, were the frontier settlements as late as 1790, and land owned by persons outside of them could not be rented to tenants prior to 1790. Boonesborough, Estill's Station, Wood's settlements and the Otter Creek settlement formed a line of protection to the people in the center of the county, and made that locality a safe and desirable place of residence prior to 1790. Lands were valuable in the neighborhood of Foxtown in 1790, owing to the safety of the locality as a place of residence, while the people above Estill's Station and at the mouth of Muddy creek were still troubled with Indians as late as 1792. A small station settled by Higgerson Grubbs on Muddy creek was deserted by its inhabitants for fear of the Indians as late as 1792.

DANIEL BOONE

made two clearings in the county, and some surveys in its limits. There is no record evidence known to the writer that Boone ever lost any of his land in the county by adverse litigation. He was charged by some parties with making fraudulent surveys of land on Silver creek, but the examination of the charge in the Court of Appeals of Kentucky proved it to be groundless. When Kentucky county was divided into Lincoln, Fayette and Jefferson, in 1780, we find that Daniel Boone became a Lieutenant Colonel of Fayette county, and he seems to have taken more interest in the settlement of the county north of the Kentucky river than in the settlement of Madison county, His name is not left impressed even upon a single stream or creek in the county. Blue Lick, in Madison county, was at first called Boone's Lick, and was visited by him the year before Boonesborough was settled, but as early as 1780 it lost that name.

Most of the larger streams in the county were named by Daniel Boone as early as 1780, and many of them prior to that time. No stream in the county has retained its original Indian

name; if there was any such name to any stream it has been lost. One of the branches of Wood's Upper fork, on Muddy creek, was for many years called Indian branch, because Samuel Estill killed an Indian there in 1782, but even that name has been lost. The first settlers who came to Boonesborough with their families generally

TRAVELED IN THE NIGHT

for fear of the Indians, and frequently reached the fort just before daylight. But little of the personal property owned by the emigrants from Virginia and North Carolina was brought into the county until after the close of the Indian wars, in 1790. Articles of all kinds were then brought in upon horseback through Powell's valley. "Feathers, candle-sticks, buckets and other things were brought in this way." The house of Thomas Hendren of Hawkins county, Tenn., was a place of much resort for the emigrants from Virginia to Kentucky. He cared for all personal property left with him for safe keeping. Many of the men

WHO CAME IN WITH BOONE

and were with him at Boonesboro, afterwards became prominent leaders in the county. Higginson Grubbs represented the county six times in the lower house of the Legislature. Thomas Kennedy was a member of the first Constitutional Convention of Kentucky and also of the Legislature. Samuel South represented the county for thirteen years in the Legislature. John Harris became a Judge of a Circuit Court. Thomas Warren represented the county in the Legislature. Green Clay became a General of the United States in the war of 1812, and also represented the county in the Legislature. William Irvine and Thomas Clay became members of the conventions which framed the first constitution of Kentucky. Archy Woods became a prominent lawyer in the county. Samuel Estill represented the county in the lower house of the Legislature. John Snoddy, who assisted Daniel Boone in moving his family to Boonesboro in 1775, became a Justice of the Peace and an influential person in the Silver creek country. George Boone, the founder of Boone's Station and the brother of Daniel Boone, was a Baptist preacher, and his station was for many years the leading center of trade in the county. It was sometimes called "Trading Hill." William Hoy, who lived at the same station, was a large landholder, and traded in all parts of the State. He was intimate with Simon Kenton, and Kenton was largely indebted to him at the time of the death of Hoy in 1790. Oswald Townsend, William Cradlebaugh, Peter Hackett, David Lynch and other companions of Capt. James Estill lived until long after the county became peaceable and prosperous, and their intimate acquaintance with the early settlement made them valuable witnesses in all contested land suits in the county. John Crooks was the trusted County Surveyor in all those suits, and was often called upon to survey the creeks of the county. In one suit he measured Muddy creek three times from its source to its mouth and noted every branch that emptied into it, both on the right and left. He was perhaps more intimately acquainted with the location of the old forts, traces, and licks of the county than any other man in it. The best idea of the location of Boone's Trace, Mulberry Lick, Blue Lick, Clays Lick, Twitty's Fort and the stations of Estill, Boone, Hancock, Warren, Holder, Trotter, Tanner and others can be formed from his surveys, and his plats and maps of those localities are almost indispensable in tracing the history of the county. Joel [Joseph] Proctor was an old Indian fighter at Estill's Station, and joined the Methodist church in 1787, while stationed at one of the forts in the county, and for more than fifty years labored as a local preacher of that church. The Providence Methodist

church of the county was first called Proctor's Chapel, in honor of Joseph Proctor. Nicholas Proctor, another Indian fighter and hunter of the county, married the widow of Capt. James Estill, and the old Estill Station was sold at his house in May, 1800, for the sum of \$1,002. The

EARLY POLITICAL SENTIMENT

was strongly Democratic. Madison county was represented by Green Clay and William Irvine in the Virginia Convention which ratified the Constitution of the United States. The settlers of the county at that time were deeply interested in the free navigation of the Mississippi river, and as some of the speeches of Patrick Henry and other leaders made it doubtful whether freedom of trade would be safe under the new Constitution the Madison delegates voted against it, and doubtless correctly represented the sentiments of their constituents.

Among the most valuable farms in the county were those located on the Kentucky river, and the trade with New Orleans was an object of the greatest importance. The boatmen and old river men were a controlling influence in the county politics. Among their number were to be found many of the most intelligent citizens of that portion of the State. The Kentucky river skirted the entire border of the county, and few at the present time are aware of

THE EXTENT OF THE TRADE

carried on down the Kentucky river from that section of the State between 1794 and 1814. Large warehouses were built at Boonesborough, the mouth of Jack's creek, and other points along the border. Large flat boats, with fanciful names and valuable cargoes, constantly glided down the Kentucky into the Ohio, and thence by the Mississippi to the Gulf. Often they went in groups, and always on board was to be found the fiddle and the boatman's horn. Says a late writer who has described these voyages: "For days and nights they journeyed, urged along only by the current of the beautiful river whose banks gave no signs of civilized life. Occasionally a flock of wild turkeys in the underbrush or a startled deer at the water's edge would draw the fire of the riflemen from the boats, and now and then the dusky form of an Indian would be seen darting into the forest. The tedium of the voyage was occasionally relieved by the sound of the fiddle and the boatman's horn. Doubtless it was while listening to the echoes of such music that Gen. William O. Butler wrote these beautiful verses:

"Oh, boatman, wind that horn again,
For never did the listening ear
Upon its lambent bosom hear
So wild, so soft, so sweet a strain."

These voyages were full of startling incident and daring adventure. Returning home, the old boatmen recited to their friends and neighbors the peril and dangers of the trip. Before going to rest at night they always discussed the alien and sedition laws, English outrages on American commerce, the free navigation of the Mississippi, and the political doctrines then current.

THE KENTUCKY RESOLUTIONS

of 1799, drafted by the elder John Breckinridge, embraced the political faith of the county at the time of their publication, and many voters carried their provisions with them and camped on the ground at the political meeting held in Lexington to ratify these resolutions. The people have always been patriotic, and have liberally responded to all calls for the service of the country. The soldiers of the county participated in the defeat of John Harmer in 1790, and that of Gen. St. Clair in 1791. Volunteers from the county under Capt. Richard Holder and Thomas DeJarnette took part in the war of 1812. In 1792 the first

QUART OF QUARTER SESSIONS

was held in the court-house at Old Milford. The Judges were David Gass, John Miller, Richard French, George Adams, John Snoddy, Archy Woods, Joseph Kennedy, Aaron Lewis, Thomas Kennedy and Moses Dooley. Any two of these gentlemen constituted a court for business. They tried common law and equity cases and also the smaller felonies. Those of a higher grade were sent on for further trial to the Court of Oyer and Terminer, at Lexington. All the law business of the county was done at Milford prior to 1792. The local lawyers who practiced were Martin D. Hardin, George Walker, Jeremiah Shropshire, and the non-resident lawyers were George M. Bibb, William McDowell, Robert Wickliffe, William T. Barry and Thomas Todd. Mr. Todd afterward became one of the Judges of the United States Supreme Court. It is said that he made his first effort at Milford. "His horse, saddle and bridle, and thirty seven and one-half cents in money constituted his whole means at the commencement of the court, and at the close of the term he had made enough to meet his current expenses and return to Danville with bonds for two cows and calves, the ordinary fees of the day." Martin D. Hardin, who was the oldest lawyer at the Milford bar, afterward moved to Frankfort, and became a reporter for the Court of Appeals of Kentucky. He was subsequently Secretary of State under Gov. Shelby, and served one term in the United States Senate in 1816-17.

THE OLDEST CHURCH.

The old Tate's Creek Baptist church was the oldest, largest and most influential church in the county. Its records as preserved at present begin in 1798. It had at that time members in all parts of the county, and was the parent stock of many smaller churches. The churches on Dreaming creek, Clear creek, Calloway's creek, Station Camp creek and at White Oak pond were all branches from the parent stem at Tate's creek. There were many religious difficulties among the churches in the years prior to 1800. The influence of Tate's Creek church in settling these troubles was wide and beneficial. Its advisory committees were sent to all parts of the country, and the ministers ordained by this church were scattered throughout the State. It embraced in its membership some of the most prominent pioneer families of the county. Squire Boone and George Boone, both brothers of Daniel Boone, were members of this church. Archy Woods, Isaac Newland, Joshua Barton, Andrew Tribble and John Woods, and many other well-known citizens were among its honored communicants.

IN CONCLUSION.

Here this rambling narrative is brought to a close. Many of its statements are made from depositions on file in the Madison Circuit and County Courts. For some of them the writer is indebted to the late Col. William Rhodes, who was a trusted officer of the county, and familiar with all its records. For others he has consulted the history of Collins. Notwithstanding every care has been taken to secure correctness of names and dates in this hurried sketch, it is highly probably that some errors and omissions have been made, but it is hoped that the reader will remember the difficulties attending the proper treatment of the subject. A correct and full narrative can only be made from living actors; and so many of her old men have already passed away that it is only occasionally that we can find a man from whose lips we can gather the facts connected with the early history of the county.

If this imperfect sketch should elicit a more correct and detailed narrative of the early events of the county, the object of the writer will be accomplished.

Wm. Chenault

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