

KENTUCKY KONNECTIONS

I have recently begun a journey into my past history of relations that have come down on my mother's lineage. It is a fascinating story of the pioneer settlers who left Virginia's tidewater area and migrated thru the western frontiers into what now is know as Kentucky. The sheer luck of the discoveries and thrill of finding these "konnections" has been a wonderful learning experience, and a sort of addiction that keeps one searching for more information. The past is history, and no amount of research is going to prove without a doubt, what transpired in the lives of our ancestors. The family trees are our best attempt to fill in the gaps in our knowledge. Many times we want to influence an outcome due to circumstances of our predecessors misdeeds and mistakes, but the past is the past and these people were just humans trying to exist in tough times.

I have found that we often now take for granted our freedoms that were so long ago paid for with the blood and grit of our forefathers. If the truth be know now, for what great price was paid for our freedom, and the unpleasant circumstances that befell the first settler's in the "Dark & Bloody Ground", we would have a newfound reverence for these souls.

Chapter I - My Introduction

David Duncan Sengel was born in Jefferson County Kentucky - Louisville - on September 28, 1957 to George Fred Sengel, Jr. and Mary Alice Duncan Sengel. Being the younger of two boys of a career football coach/history/physical education teacher, who advanced over the years thru the ranks of high school, into college level, and eventually into the Pros; I became intimately acquainted with the school of hard knocks. As often was the case, I was farmed out to my maternal grandparents in rural Anderson County Kentucky - Lawrenceburg - some thirty miles west of Lexington, KY - where we had come to live after father landed a coaching job in 1960, at the University of Kentucky, with the legendary teacher of football coaches, Blanton Collier.

Life on the farm was a continuous adventure for a young boy. Many a day was spent roaming the woods and streams in the area with my older brother "Tucky" (George F. Sengel, III) and our resident dogs, Mo Po and Jack. The pond and row boat were a constant escape from the seldom required chores. Sometimes we were recruited to bale hay or feed chickens or strip tobacco, etc. Most of the weekends we were shipped out via our uncle, Charles Talbot Duncan, Jr. who had employment in Lexington and enjoyed taking us over the "fun hills" along the Tyrone Pike (US 62) before the interstates were constructed. The days of youth along the fertile grounds of the Salt River were full of discovery and history.

The old farmstead that my grandfather worked was purchased while my mother & uncle were still in school. It had not been a family farm and passed down as was the case with the huge estates in

the “blue blooded” central region of our commonwealth, surrounding the thoroughbred plantations of the southern gentry. This one hundred acre cattle & tobacco operation was one of the best lying tracts in Anderson County and had been part of the McKee plantation prior to the civil war. The old house had a back stair case that led to an attic area that revealed log construction in this rear section of the dwelling. This “secret” space fueled the imagination of one already familiar with the verse of “Davy Crockett” and eager to tread the rock walls that partitioned the old fields and narrow country lanes in the area, keeping a sharp eye out for “injuns” and “bars”.

To supplement the seasonal income of the family farm my grandfather also drove a school bus route in the western part of that county. On these frequent trips I was put in charge of operating the electric stop sign of the school bus. The trips into the rural area of western Anderson County made me aware of the numerous cabins and ancient improvements still visible at this late date. The children that were picked up and delivered were often of the same Duncan surname, but I was told that they were not related. I did not think much of this at the time, but now in my research, it has come to bear on the missing links and fact gathering efforts of today’s “jig saw puzzle”.

Chapter II - Early Life

Growing up in Lexington was a happy beginning. The surrounding horse farms and affluent, educated population connected to the University of Kentucky, International Business Machines (IBM), and many other top notch organizations and institutions, was like a island surrounded by the rest of stereotypical Kentucky. The arts and entertainment was top drawer, and the college town provided venues for live acts, night life, sporting events, and social interactions unsurpassed in the region. The mix of people was cosmopolitan, with many absentee farm owners, royalty, etc. connected with the horse industry, and about as many people from north of the Mason Dixon line as there were with southern sympathies. Although, Kentucky had managed to remain neutral during the great war between the states, the landed gentry and “aristocracy” of central Kentucky still favored themselves southern genteel and modeled their social functions and entertainment style on those traditions. Since Kentucky did not have to go through the post civil war reconstruction process, and being a slave holding state with great numbers, constitutional laws were rewritten after the conflict to best protect the interests of the wealthy. This sympathy to the south and that grand tradition, along with deep rooted prejudices, were a method of continuing the war - with a form a self elevation and blatant bigotry.

My early years revolved around the public education system, church activities, and boy scouts. Some of the above was related to all three, with the church and scouts being hard to separate. As was the norm at the time prior to the Vietnam conflict, we were all aware of a possible nuclear threat, and were highly supportive of our federal government’s efforts to protect our life and liberties. The scouts were highly structured at that time with many similarities to the military. The uniforms were styled after the soldiers’, and bugle corps sounded assembly, retreat, etc. for group formations which were marched to like the real thing. The scouts became an extension of my early farm life activities such as hiking, fishing, and rowing boats. The addition of backpacking and camping fell in naturally. Since my

dad was usually busy with football, the scout leaders became a kind of surrogate father figure. Our overnight trips to interesting and historic places in the region began to take hold of me. We visited all the state parks, shrines, and natural areas within a hundred mile radius. Most of the time we were hiking trails such as the Micha Mokwa (thru the Cumberland Gap), Dry Canteen or Dug Road (Perryville Battlefield), or Wilderness Road. All of these locations had historic significance to our beginnings, and were a living history lesson every step of the way.

One memorial event we attended was the 200th anniversary of the founding of Fort Harrod. This activity included a reenactment of the voyage of James Harrod and his men from Fort Pitt to Central Kentucky via the Ohio and Kentucky rivers in 1774. I was to play a part of an indian chief in a canoe on the Kentucky River near Frankfort. How far was this from the truth, but in our late day of being politically correct, no one would have been amused by a stake burning or scalping party. In my recent reflections, there must have been some divine intervention that took me to this place where I received a symbolic “Key to the Fort” two hundred years after the first settlers made it to this spot.

Chapter III - Growing Up

The junior high years brought the chance to join cotillion club. This social school allowed young people within the region to meet others of well standing in the community with the numerous dances and formal affairs. This preparatory to the debutante balls to come in just a few years, for the right class of people, gave valuable life lessons into the haves and have nots of our economic diversity. The scouts had become more of a obsession since the earlier athletic activities had been curtailed due to a chronic knee condition. No more would the seasons be marked by a different organized team sport. In order to stay active to the best of abilities, hiking became the focus of my physical activities. Church was somehow not as important after the Vietnam Conflict became an all out war. It may have never been officially declared, but the dead friends of my brother, and lack of faith in our governments efforts to end it, caused a lot of young people to drop out of life.

The survival and woodsman skills acquired through the scouts now took on a different tack. Escape to Canada or Mexico if need be, that was the mission “to be prepared“ for now. Somehow this “ugly little war” ended with contemporary friends in possession of the last draft cards. The damage to the souls of many was already done, with respect for authority also ruined.

The driver’s test was the ticket to new found freedom. An old hand me down car, a part time job at a shopping mall, and a desire to escape lead to the highways and byways of our fair state. A rediscovery of those places traveled to with the previously mentioned groups (scouts, church youth group, school, etc.) became the destinations. The Red River Gorge, Daniel Boone National Forest, Smoky Mountains National Park, Cumberland River, Natural Bridge, Cumberland Gap, and Mammoth Cave National Park read like a tour group itinerary.

The next summer a job was arranged to be a junior counselor at the Boy Scout reservation.

This was a great opportunity to spend the whole summer in the woods. The job paid little, but then there was nothing to be purchased in the middle of the knobs of east central Kentucky. This opportunity moved the scouting experience to a new level. No longer was the activity centered on the church troop, but a more regional notoriety was experienced for the first time. Being in charge of younger troops had its ego building rewards as well. The leadership training was a side benefit. The weeks went by with all the required sessions till the weekend furlough of twenty four hours came. Most staff members were eager to get home to girl friends, home cooked meals, and laundry facilities. Others pursued the great outdoors that was close by for high adventure thrills such as rock climbing, white water canoeing, or exploring new backpacking trails.

Two more summers of summer camp staff were rewarded by being elected "Chief" of a fraternity of older scouts and adults who were chosen by their peers for being expert campers and hikers and for unselfish service to others. A core of highly capable leaders that ran this organization, which had as its main concern the upkeep and maintenance of the thousand acre scout reservation, became bonded together forever. A convention held at the University of California at Santa Barbara became the focus of a contingent of twenty four travelers. With a bus donated to take us where we wanted on the going and coming journey, we decided to tour the west, with no site left unseen. The next year, an even greater honor was obtained. A trip to the ranger training school at the largest backpacking school in the county (other than boot camp) located in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in northeast New Mexico. This Kit Carson program was a hand picked adventure for only one scout from each state each year.

The last year of high school was a challenge to keep in focus after the opening of eyes to a huge world beyond the horizon. The year was filled with trips when possible as had previous years, chauffeuring the professional football talent scout (father) to college campuses throughout the eastern states. This was a real football fans dream come true. The connections over the years had mushroomed from his days on coaching staffs with Blanton Collier, Bear Bryant, and Charlie Bradshaw. At one time I knew five or six head NFL coaches (and they knew me) that he had great relations with. All the college staffs knew him and made us feel at home. These trips were great bonding times for our family. Dad's love of history also made the trips an educational experience. One of his favorite characters of all times was George Rogers Clark. Our trips into the old indian country of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois would be navigated to include all the historic markers and sites we could squeeze in. The campus tours would also be highlights, as well as the state capitals, Civil War, French & Indian War, and Revolutionary War sites. We must have been to them all. Learning to drive the interstate highway system was also a great experience. The ability to read highway signs and merge traffic in unfamiliar territory is a valuable lesson in modern life.

One trip that was a highlight was to the Washington & Lee campus in Lexington, VA. The amount of historic sites in this area, the Virginia Military Institute, the tradition of the south, etc. reached out to me here. This was a place I could fit in. Unfortunately the tuition was unattainable and entrance requirements were too stiff for a easily distracted above average student. Somehow I knew there was a connection to this place. Had I dreamed of being there in a previous era? What was it with this town with the same highway signs (US 60), same interstate highway signs (I-64), same town name

(Lexington), and similar place and people names as back at home in Kentucky.

Chapter IV - College Days

Finally settling on a easy choice, the University of Kentucky, for a college education and having no idea about a life calling, no interest in fraternities, clubs, etc. dropping out was the next move. A full time job had been acquired as a research writer for a internationally renown horse pedigree magazine published weekly from Lexington. This job became a grind, each day proof reading galleys of print type in three languages. The glamour of the horse industry quickly faded with the first taste of a 9- 5, five day a week schedule. Several valuable lessons were learned from this experience. The opportunity to handle large amounts of numbers, facts, and tables became a future editors training ground. The ability to work with other talented writers was also a plus. Being closed up in a cubicle all day was not where it was at. Giving up the college was a mistake, because lost ground can never be recovered. The rewards for the efforts prior to, never equate at the same level after the achievement of a degree.

Back to school again. This time at Auburn Alabama. This little town was too far from home (and a girl friend), and again withdrawal was the course of action. Now a real hole had been dug. One almost impossible to climb out of. Back to the University of Kentucky with a new attitude and determination. After two years of probation due to the early failures and withdrawals, a break was again in store.

An interest in medical care took on the next course of study. A small school in x-ray technology at the neighborhood hospital was the ticket I hoped for. Several weeks into the two year program found the instructor absent almost daily and the five students working full time with no compensation. Having enough of this treatment, another full time job was obtained at the local YMCA.

During the summer I felt the call of the scout camp once more. This time as an adult, I had to be properly trained. Since I was to head the aquatic program, I had to have all the necessary certifications to instruct and sign off on all the waterfront skills. I was sent to a national camping school near the Goshen Gap in Virginia. This large reservation was home to the Washington DC council camp. The area around the camp was similar to areas in central Kentucky. The Jackson River and Cow and Calf Pasture were full of historic sites. Lexington, VA was just up the road and I had to return to this campus nearby that I had visited previously. With time to explore at my own pace I sought out the sites of Lee, Jackson, Houston, etc. The feeling of deja vu was strong here I remember thinking.

After another year of college, and preparing to return to the summer camp - a call came from the hospital, seeking a temporary worker such as myself who had been trained in the darkroom techniques of a radiology department. The lady who ran the darkroom was out on medical disability for six months. When it ended, by some miracle, a major manufacturer of X-Ray machines was interviewing for a technical support engineer that I was hired for. This job would cover all the area of Kentucky that I had become familiar with and would include the use of a company car. This was too much to believe.

During the next four and a half years a career as a medical technology support engineer took off. All of the major hospitals were expanding to install additional rooms of equipment, most notably the cat scan, invented by this company. The security and good pay associated with this endeavor allowed for the purchase of a first home. Marriage to Dawn Ellen Cahoon took place on December 10, 1983 in Lexington, KY. I had known her during junior and high school and became reacquainted while both were working at the hospital. In thirteen months we became the proud parents of our daughter, Lindsey Duncan Sengel, on January 10, 1985. While working and having a child, college was finished at night and graduation from the University of Kentucky came in the spring of 1985.

Chapter V - Adulthood

About the time of college graduation, a journey that took ten years, I began to prepare for my career as a real estate appraiser, consultant, and broker. Older brother had happened into this profession in Panama City Florida in the mid 1980's. He explained the advantages of being self employed, and the flexibility of hours, etc. This seemed like a occupation that I could enjoy. There was lots of travel time to the various surrounding counties. Time spent in courthouses looking of deeds and titles, visits to interesting homes, and a chance to use my writing skills and get paid for it. I also could work from my home office and use my computer to access files and repackage information and sell it. This simple activity has brought me a fair measure of success. I have helped numerous others learn this profession, have made many contacts, and friends in the business community, have gained respect at numerous banks and financial institutions, and made a good and comfortable living in the process.

My reflections of recent months have turned to the past. With the September 11, 2001 attack upon our county I have also been caught up in a revival of some of the most basic ideals that have somehow been swept under the constant drudgery of day to day existence in our hectic world. The ideals of religion, family, and patriotism have come rushing back up from within the vacuum of years where these have been relinquished to the back seat of my life. It may be the fear of an anthrax laced letter or another airplane attack or something else equally bizarre, but I don't want to continue along that same old path of just existing - or getting ahead, at all costs.

Seeing my daughter mature into a young woman, watching my parents slowly get old, and coming to grips with my own mortality has worked to change the priorities. As stated by a dedicated genealogist, Mary Powell Hammersmith, who researched our common relative, Hugh McGary, Sr. for her recent publication, "I didn't start tracing my roots until all my ancestors were dead." That makes it tough to begin a search, but it can be done with diligence. She should know because she had thirty one years invested into her research, and it is never finished and one hundred percent accurate.

Starting at the beginning, with my mother's people, who come to find out were some of the first white folks to settle in this state, before it was a state, and had to fight for the right all the way from back east, and longer just to get a foot hold in this promised land of Kaintuck.

THE FAMILY AND FORTUNE OF GENERAL JAMES RAY, PIONEER OF FORT HARROD

By KATHRYN HARROD MASON

In Kentucky's pioneer history the name of General James Ray of Mercer County is one of the most loved and respected. While today's historians may know him principally as a brave and enterprising boy whose heroic exploits embroider the legends surrounding Fort Harrod,¹ it is fitting that some attention be given to other aspects of his life, particularly to his family and business affairs.

General Ray came to Fort Harrod in 1775 at the age of 14 or 15 with his Mother, step-father, Hugh McGary, and his two brothers, William and John, after a long journey from North Carolina in the party headed by Daniel Boone. The chronicle of his long, useful life in the first years of Kentucky's history, is a heart-warming exception to those of other pioneers, less fortunate than he, less qualified to deal with the constant danger and strife that they found in the wilderness, and still less equipped to make the transition from Indian fighter to peace-time citizen. From the day he made his spectacular race with Blackfish's Indian warriors to sound a warning of danger that for seven years gave the settlers no peace of mind or body, James Ray led a charmed life, as it seemed to his fellow-frontiermen—a life which ended in peace and material comfort in his fine home on the brow of the hill only a short distance from the scene of that first race to the fort, fifty-eight years before.

This boy, who could not read or write, taught himself these essential arts, and prepared for a time when his physical talents would be the lesser of his assets. In the course of his life which was spent in Kentucky, General Ray achieved an unpretentious economic security. Among the many documents concerned with various aspects of his career, perhaps the most interesting are to be found in early court records in Mercer and Lincoln Counties. A study of his will, and the appraisalment of his estate, afford us a picture of Ray, the gentleman farmer, as well as a view of the last years of his life in this prosperous central Kentucky community.

Before examining these documents in detail, it might be well to go back many years, to the time of his arrival in Kentucky. Unfortunately practically nothing is known of his life in North Carolina, not even his father's name, nor the place of his birth. His mother, who was Mary Buntin before her first marriage, had three sons, James, William, and John.² Shortly before the family

¹For an extended discussion of his adventures and military services, as well as his contributions of a civic nature in the legislature and in Mercer county, see *The Filson Club History Quarterly*, 1946, "The Career of General James Ray, Kentucky Pioneer," by Kathryn Harrod Mason.

²Draper MSS., 12C17.

moved to Kentucky from the Yadkin River country, not far from Daniel Boone's home in North Carolina, the "Widow Ray," as she was called, married Hugh McGary, whose brave deeds and civic contributions are blotted out in the memory of his tragic part in the disaster at Blue Licks. But the rigorous life on the new frontier proved too much for the frail woman, and when her son William was killed by Indians that fateful March 6, 1777, she "took to her bed" with a long and serious illness which ended in her death in 1780.

It was the next year that James married Amelia Yocum, a daughter of Matthias Yocum who came to Kentucky in the fall of 1779 from Bottetourt County in Virginia.³ The young couple had two sons, William and Jesse. 'Milly' died in 1783 on the first day of December. The young widower remarried in 1785—the fifteen-year old Elizabeth Talbot, who bore eleven children. In 1810 Ray was once more a widower, but did not marry again.

For several months before his death in 1835, the General was confined to his bed, carefully watched over by his devoted family and friends. Colonel Thompson, his neighbor, remained at his bedside a large part of the time, while the faithful chronicler of that pioneer period, Dr. Christopher C. Graham,⁴ was in constant attendance. The will, which was dictated to Colonel Thompson a few days before Ray's death, is found in *Will Book*, No. 9, in the Mercer County records:

"I James Ray of the County of Mercer and State of Kentucky make this writing my last will and testament to have full force and effect as such.

"I give to my daughter Mary Duncan a negro girl named Joanne, this in addition to what I have heretofore given her, and which she has received. The negro girl or woman Johanna, with her future increase is given for the use of said Mary Duncan during her natural life. And at her death to go equally to the children of said Mary Duncan.

I have heretofore conveyed for the use of my Daughter Catherine Keller, by two deeds of Trust, the trustee in one being Benjamin F. Pleasant and in the other Joel F. Williams, certain property named in said deed. Now I hereby ratify and confirm the conveyance aforesaid, and at the death of my said Daughter Catherine my will is that the property thus placed in Trust, shall belong in absolute right to such of the children of said Catherine as may then be living—"

"I give to my Daughter Jane Wilson two negroes now in her possession, the one a woman named Martha Ann the other a girl named Sally, the Daughter of Martha Ann with the future increase of said negroes. Also twenty acres of land on which said Jane now lives, lying on the west side of the Shawnee run, to be laid off to include the Dwelling house and be bounded by the road on one side and the land of John Dean on the other, to her and her heirs—I give to my Daughter Martha Alfred during her natural life the use of two negro girls named Mary and Amanda—the former now in possession of said Martha Alfred, the other, Amanda, to be delivered at the end of one year from the time of my death, in the mean time to be kept at my home place—And at the death of my said Daughter

³ For a list of Matthias Yocum's children and information concerning the family, see Draper *Mss.*, 12CC136-137.

⁴ For documents see article on Ray's career, Mason, op. cit. See Aitsheler, Brent, "C. C. Graham, M. D., 1784-1835" in the *Elkins Club Etatery Quarterly*, Vol. 7, No. 2.

Family and Fortune of General James Ray

Martha Alfred; these two negroes and their increase to go to her lawful heirs—I give to my Daughter Lucinda Frost, one negro Woman, which she has now in possession named Margaret, Also my two hundred acres of land lying in Henderson's Tract in Henderson County to her and her heirs—

"I give to my son Harry Ray to him and his heirs, one hundred acres of Land to include his Spring and the house in which he now lives, and to be laid off to adjoin the land of John Dean and the land called the White House tract, lately purchased by Mr. Snell—This bequest is not to take effect till the expiration of one year from my death, then the right to be conveyed by my Executors or such of them as may qualify, in the mean time. I lend to my said Son Harvey the use of said hundred acres of land. I also lend to my Said Son Harvey for one year from my Death—the use of a negro man named Abraham. And at the end of said year to be the property of Said Harvey in absolute right.

"I give to my son James Ray my watch.

"I give to my son Jefferson Ray to him and his heirs the residues of the tract of land on which I live be the same, more or less—Also I give to Jefferson my negro man Washington and my negro woman Sally—to Said Jefferson I also lend for the term of two years from my death the use of my negro man Jim and the negro woman Lucy, to be kept on the plantation where I live, and at the end of the two years my will is that said Jim and Lucy be free. And I hereby emancipate them accordingly, their freedom thence to commence—

"Mr. Samuel Keller owes me three hundred Dollars, due about a year hence. This debt I give to be equally divided when collected between my three sons William Ray Jesse Ray and John Ray—

"My will is that my Executors pay all my just debts and funeral expenses, and to raise funds for this purpose, they are hereby authorized and directed to sell as much of my live Stock as will answer the purpose, upon such credits as they think proper and suitable—The balance of my Stock of every kind and all my Household & Kitchen furniture, and farming utensils, I give to my said Son Jefferson. This Son will have my home Place and the means in his hands to extend the kindness of a Brother to any of his Sisters who may happen to be in distress, And I confidently trust in his generosity and affection to do so —

"I hereby appoint my Friend George C. Thompson, and my son in law Samuel Keller Executors of this my will and hereby direct that when Mr. Keller qualify as such, no security be required of him.

"In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal this 7th day of May 1835.

witnesses

BENJAMIN DAVIS

JOHN H. THAYER

GEORGE C. THOMPSON

JAMES RAY (seal)

Mercer county Sct.
County Court 1835

"The foregoing last will and testament of James Ray Deed. was this day produced into Court and proved by the oath of John H. Thayer and George C. Thompson two subscribing witnesses thereto and ordered to be Recorded.
May 11th, 1835.

Atst. Tho Allin^{sr}

The references in the will to earlier land transfers may be traced through the Deed books in the Mercer County court house. On page thirty-six, *Deed Book No. 1*, June 26, 1787, is a record of the deed for land sold to Ray by his step-father, Hugh McGary, who, smarting under the continued attacks of his neighbors, decided to leave the State.⁶ At that time, McGary and his wife, Catherine,⁷ for "the sum of fifty pounds current Money of Virginia . . . sold and conveyed to James Ray one certain Parcel of Land containing one Hundred Acres lying on the Waters of Shawnee Run adjoining McGary's Settlement Survey."

On page sixty-seven of the same record-book, there is an entry for July 22, 1788, showing that for the consideration of fifty pounds paid by John Thompson, Ray and his wife transferred to Thompson a two hundred acre tract on Shawnee Run.

Ray, having been in Harrodsburg since the arrival of the first families, and having raised a "crop of corn" in 1776,⁸ was entitled to two hundred acres adjoining his step-father's property on Shawnee. He also claimed land in the Green River tract.⁹ In the *Deed Book No. 12*, pages 214 and 215, there is a record of an indenture, "Dated September 4, 1821, between James Ray and William Martin, for the sum of \$350 paid by Martin, conveyed by Ray a parcel of land on Chapline's fork of Salt river." The acreage is not listed. The indenture made in 1826, on March 27th, showed that Ray was beginning to parcel out his holdings among his children. The transfer was a "tract of land lying in Mercer on Salt river being where Mary now lives and containing one hundred and two acres and three fourths. . . ."¹⁰

While these holdings at no time represented the extremes in size, it must be pointed out that Shawnee Run contains some of the richest acreage in central Kentucky. Never in its history has this part of the State been the poor man's frontier.¹¹ From early times its value has been high, in marked contrast to the land in the Green River tract. From the air above the Harrodsburg area can be seen a lush green strip following the Shawnee springs district, running through the Blue Grass country like a fine velvet ribbon—directly on the land that once belonged to General Ray. In his later years he devoted much time to the development of his small but rich holdings. Today this land sells for as much as \$813 an acre, while even in the depression the price did not fall below \$250 an acre.¹² In 1827 Ray sold to John McAfee, for \$927, a piece of land on

⁶ Draper Mss. 3637. He died about 1808 in Indiana, and was buried just south of Princeton in Gibson County, according to this document.

⁷ Draper Mss., 18C186-187, lists McGary as the husband of Catherine Youns, sister to MIMI, Ray's first wife.

⁸ Draper Mss., 693387.

⁹ See Mason, *op. cit.*

¹⁰ Mercer County Court House, *Deed Book*, No. 14, page 247.

¹¹ Draper Mss., 18732, 33.

¹² According to George Chinn of Harrodsburg in conversation with writer on August 26, 1944, in Washington, D. C.

Salt river estimated at 103 acres,¹³ while in 1830, he sold a 102 acre tract to John L. Lillard, for \$2,000.¹⁴

It is interesting to study the county tax books. In the records of 1835, on page sixty-four¹⁵ Ray is listed as paying assessments on three hundred acres of first class land on Shawnee run, one-hundred and twenty-nine acres of second class land on Salt river, and two hundred acres of third class land in the Henderson's tract on Green river. This gives us an interesting comparison of soil fertility.

The inventory of Ray's estate is found in the Mercer County Court House, Will Book 10, on pages 313, 314, and 315.

Appraisement of the Personal estate of James Ray Deed.

1 Yoke oxen	\$25.00
3 steers 3 & 4 years old	40.00
2 Steers 2 years old	11.00
6 cows & calves and 2 dry cow	59.00
3 Heifers 2 yrs. old	12.00
2 Heifers 1 yr. old	8.00
1 Old black horse	40.00
1 Sorrel horse, Blaze face	45.00
1 Sorrel mare & colt	60.00
another Sorrel mare & colt	\$85.00
another Sorrel mare & colt	80.00
1 Bay filly 2 yrs old	55.00
2 Sorrel horses, 2 yrs. old	80.00
1 Sorrel horse	50.00
1 Sorrel mare Blaze face	30.00
80 head of sheep	45.00
20 Grown hogs	50.00
15 Shoats	4.00
11 Hives of Bees	33.00
1 Wagon	35.00
2 large ploughs	6.50
2 Shovel ploughs	5.00
4 Hoes	1.50
3 axes	2.00
2 augers	2.00
Handsaw, chisel and drawing knife	1.50
About 20 pounds Wool	5.00
1 Keg powder about 15 lbs.	5.62½
1 pr. Steelyard	2.00
1 Press	12.00
1 Bureau	10.00
1 Mantle Clock	15.00

Amount brought forward \$913.12½

¹³ Deed Book No. 15, Mercer County Court House, pp. 151-152.

¹⁴ Ray filed suit for damages and non-payment of debt against Lillard on June 17th, 1830. He asked \$1,500, was awarded \$281.96 in gold or silver. The record refers to this land as the tract where William Ray lived (evidently his oldest son) *Ray vs. Lillard*, Judgments Packet 8 25, Mercer Circuit Court Records. See *Filson Club Quarterly*, op. cit.

¹⁵ Kentucky State Historical Society Collection, Frankfort.

1 Sugar chest	5.00
1 Dining table	8.00
1 Small square table	1.25
1 Rifle gun and shot pouch	12.00
1 Small looking Glass50
1 Bureau and book case	10.00
another Dining Table	3.00
6 Windsor chairs	6.00
1 Curtain Bedstead, curtains, bed and furniture	20.00
1 Fancy Bedstead, Bed and furniture	18.00
1 Common Bedstead, bed and furniture	15.00
1 Common Bedstead, bed and furniture	14.00
2 Extra coverlids	4.00
1 Watch	25.00
26 Volumes of Old Books	2.50
1 Family Bible	2.00
1 Dictionary, 2 vols. History of the Revolution, of acts of congress....	1.50
1 vol. Life of Christ	3.00
1 Vol. Guthrie's Geography and two vols. 2.50 Journals of Legislature.	12.75
articles of table furniture	10.00
articles of kitchen furniture	4.00
1 Loom75
1 Coffee mill25
1 Grind stone	20.00
1 Mans saddle	31.52
About 394 lbs. Hemp	

"The undersigned having been appointed by the county court of Mercer for that purpose have proceeded to appraise the personal estate of James Ray, dec'd and being duly sworn respectfully report the above to the Court as a full and true appraisement of the Same, so far as it has been presented to us. Given under our hands this 6th day of June, 1835.

John Basey, George W. Clay, H. P. Horine.

The foregoing list of property with the addition of the following, the undersigned respectfully return to the court as a full and perfect inventory of the estate of James Ray, dec'd. as it has come into our hands, viz.

A note given by Noah G. Hayden payable 1st Sept. next.....	\$12.00
A note given by Robert Jones payable 11th April, 1834.....	10.00
A note given by Sam'l. Keller payable 5th May, 1836	300.00
Cash	40.00

GEO. C. THOMPSON
SAM'L. D. KELLER
Executors

Mercer Court 5th July County Court 1835

The foregoing Inventory and appraisement of the estate of James Ray dec'd. was this day produced into court and ordered to be recorded.

Attest THEO. ALLIN C. C."

Family and Fortune of General James Ray

While this list would appear quaint and perhaps meagre to owners of Mercer County land today, we must recall the fact that farming machinery had not reached a high degree of efficiency in the early nineteenth century. Furthermore, the great difficulty of transportation from New England manufacturing centers precluded the wide use of advanced types of equipment in Kentucky. Nearly all they had was made nearby with the tools that were available in this isolated district.

As was pointed out earlier in this paper, little is known of Ray's background. The only clue we have at this time is a letter written by Elijah Caloway, Walnut Grove, N. C., in which a brother of James Ray's father is mentioned. In reply to an inquiry from Dr. Lyman C. Draper of Madison, Wisconsin, Caloway stated that although there were many Ray families from that same branch of the family in the district of Walnut Grove, none of them seemed to know where Ray was born. The writer stated that they had come to Surry County, North Carolina from Augusta County Virginia, "originally." He added that Jesse Ray, the uncle of James, was "every a way a gentleman of worth."¹⁶

Following the Act by Congress which liberalized the pension laws for service in the War of the Revolution, the General applied and received a sizable yearly allowance.¹⁷ Among the papers on file in the National Archives Pension Records Office in Washington, D. C., are affidavits of Catherine Keller, John Slavens, and Benjamin Wilson, supporting Mrs. Keller's claim for reconsideration of her father's pension grant. While there is no record to show that the petition was granted, there is an appended list of James Ray's children as she gave it in 1852:

- William Ray (since dead)
- Jesse Ray, since dead
- Polly Duncan Ray
- John Ray
- Catherine Keller Late Ray
- June Wilson Late Ray since dead
- Patsy Alfred late Ray
- Jefferson Ray
- Harvey Ray
- Lucinda Frost, late Ray since dead.¹⁸

In comparing these names with those found in the will, we see that Catherine's list is not complete. For instance the names of James Ray, Jr., and

¹⁶ Written on June 19, 1846, Draper MSS, 6DD18-20. The date of Ray's birth is not established. While in his pension declaration made in July 7, 1822, he said that he was in "the 72d year of my age", he could have meant that he was seventy-one at that time. He was but twenty years of age at the time of the Battle of Blue Licks, according to Bowman, Draper MSS, 12C33. His son, Dr. John Ray, wrote (in: his father was "about 14 years of age" when he came to Kentucky in 1716, adding in the same letter that he was sixty years old in 1812, when he served under Hopkins (he undoubtedly meant Fry). The nearest to a definite date we are able to give, based on this data, is that Ray was born in 1760 or 1761; Draper MSS, 12C16.

Henry Ray, which appear in Ray's will, are omitted. Polly, evidently was a nickname for Mary Ray Duncan. The same is probably true of Patsy Alfred, who, was referred to as Martha Alfred, by her father. Altogether, twelve names appear in these lists, with the thirteenth child's name undisclosed. Dr. John Ray, one of the sons, stated positively in a letter to Draper that his mother had eleven children.¹⁸ There is good evidence that Amelia had but two. Considering the high infant mortality rate in those days, it would not be surprising if one of the eleven children died in infancy.

What became of this large family? While it is not possible to account for all of them, or for that matter, to give a complete chronicle of any one, some interesting facts have been unearthed.

Taking them in order as named in Catherine's list, William was the oldest, the first son of Amelia and James Ray. It is possible that he was named after that chubby, ill-fated brother of the General. Dr. John Ray, his brother, wrote that William died in 1841 in the State of Illinois, where he made his home; that he had raised a large family. The same correspondent stated that Jess, the younger of Amelia's children, was still living not far from Madisonville, Kentucky, in 1843. Nathaniel Hart recalled that William once tried to shoot his father—that the General bore the scar in his face the rest of his life.²⁰

The vicinity of Fort Harrod is rich in tradition about Mary Duncan or Polly Ray as her sister refers to her. A few years ago, Miss Neva Williams, a member of the staff of the *Harrodsburg Herald*, found occasion to gather some data on Mary Ray Duncan, largely from the lips of one of her descendants. In quoting from her manuscript we learn that

"Even to this day there are traditions of her beauty and loveliness of character. Early in 1800 . . . there came to Harrodsburg from Maryland a young man—Martin Duncan. From early fragments of his history one gleams that he must have had learning above the average for those days . . . being the possessor of books—that seems to have set people apart in those early days . . . being a noted 'fiddler.' This pronounced talent marked many of his descendants."

They were married and lived on the land deeded to Mary by the General—a farm located on the State road known as the Frankfort-Louisville pike. The house, still standing when Miss Williams wrote her article, was known in later days as the 'Harvey Woods place.' The children of this marriage were listed as:

Asa—died of cholera in Mercer, 1833, burial unknown.

Daniel—moved to Texas, married there.

Abner—moved to Iowa.

Martin, Jr.—unmarried. Very handsome, reputed to be handsomest man of his day. Died of typhus.

James—married in Kentucky. Moved west.

¹⁸Draper Mss., 12C17; see also, statements by Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Wilson, Draper Mss. 13J36.

²⁰Dr. John Ray to Lyman C. Draper, Draper Mss., 12C17; Col. Nat. Hart to Draper, Draper Mss., 11CC192

Maiden—married Sarah Wade Davis; no children; raised a niece, Mrs. N. H. Skiles, Lansing, Ohio.
 Green—very fleet of foot.
 Talbot—moved to Anderson County, Kentucky. Married; had son, Asa.
 Elizabeth (Patsy)—Married Henry Britton.
 Mary Ray Duncan—married Burton. Buried in Martin (or Talbot) burying ground. Very fleet of foot. Died of typhus as young woman.
 John Ray Duncan—married Eliza Graham, lived and died in Mercer; was in the Civil War, a Major. Prominent in affairs at Duncansville in Mercer. His parents lived with him in their last days and were buried in the Grapevine (Christian) Church cemetery.
 Children—Dr. Charles Talbot Duncan, no children; Mrs. Emma Duncan Gray, Harrodsburg and Miami Florida, 2 daughters.

Dr. John Ray was a physician. In the marriage records of Mercer County, 1785-1830, there is an item: "Ray, John, Hickley, Sarah, September 12, 1815."²¹ Farther down the page, we find: "Ray, John, Bunton, Mary, January 10, 1790."²² In his three long letters to Dr. Draper, the devoted son gives no information about himself, confining his remarks to legends and facts concerning his distinguished parent.²³ Since the letters are headed Madisonville, Kentucky, we may assume that he practiced medicine in that locality. The letters are written in a fluent style, with an amusing degree of under-statement, a fine objectivity, and sincerity. At one juncture, the insistent Draper called attention to what he considered an error in his statements; Ray, indignant over a shadow on his reputation, answered promptly that: "I now recollect that . . . you intimated that there might possibly be some clashing with my statement . . . in regard to William McBride and the Blue Lick battle. This is a matter about which you had it amply in your power to settle whilst in Kentucky last summer as to the facts . . . as detailed by me, there cannot be a shadow of doubt . . ."²⁴ At another point he remarked, "My father was a man of stern integrity and all matters emanating from him was considered unexceptionable."²⁵

Another entry as copied by the D. A. R. historian, concerned Harvey T. Ray and Eliza A. W. Cozine, who were married September 21, 1830.²⁶

Mariha, or Patsy, evidently married a physician, since her husband is referred to as "Dr. Alford" in Miss Williams' manuscript. The informant also said that Ray had four daughters, which would mean that the missing name is that of a boy.

James Ray, Jr., was licensed to practice law in 1810,²⁷ while the two youngest sons, Jefferson and Harvey, lived on the farms given to them by their father.

²¹ McAdams, Mrs. Harry Kennett, *Kentucky Pioneer and Court Records*, Lexington, 1924, p. 185. See also, *Kentucky Mercer County, Marriages 1785-1830*, as copied by Jane McAfee Chapter of the D. A. R., Harrodsburg, Kentucky, p. 53.

²² Draper MSS, 12C16, 12C17, and 12C18-19: see Mason, *op. cit.*

²³ Draper MSS, 12C17. See also, Mason, *op. cit.*

²⁴ Draper MSS, 12C14.

²⁵ *Kentucky Mercer County, Marriages 1785-1830*, *op. cit.* p. 53.

²⁶ *Kentucky Historical Society, Register*, Vol. 8, p. 30.

Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society

In view of the singular distinction attained by General James Ray, it is surprising that no more is known about his descendants. The little that has been established, however, helps to round out a reassuring picture. Certain we may be that this young boy, born and raised in the American wilderness, hoped for no more than he was able to provide his children--a secure and happy home with ample physical comfort, an opportunity for education and public usefulness, community respect--a just and satisfying heritage for which his Scotch-Irish ancestors had fought tenaciously over two hundred years, from Scotland to Ireland, to Virginia, to Carolina, and, finally, to Kentucky.

The previous article has appeared in both the Register of the Kentucky Historical Society and the later published book "Genealogies of Kentucky Families". Kathryn Harrod Mason wrote several histories of Mercer County including two on the life and family of General James Ray and her ancestor, James Harrod, who founded Harrodsburg in 1774.

Several things should be noted about the prior article. Since it was written in nineteen forty five several new items have come to light, and other statements have been added to. In general her research is solid. I did not have this piece of documentation in the beginning of my search. It has proved to be the final link, providing proof from the beginning of the tree to our family now. I believe if I had not stumbled on to this with my research, by the next generation no connection could have been made.

Working backward from our line of Duncans we have my mother Mary Alice Duncan Sengel, daughter of Charles Talbert (sic) Duncan b. 2/5/1900 d. 3/22/1985 and Virginia Wharton Duncan b. 9/16/1900 d. 8/24/1992 (from tombstone in Lawrenceburg cemetery). Charles T. Duncan (my grandfather) was the son of Asa B. Duncan b. 10/4/1863 d. 6/8/1945 and Alice ? Duncan b. 9/11/1871 d. 3/6/1951 (from same tombstone). This is where my research is still in need of support. I know from my childhood in Anderson County about my grandfather's farm on Powell-Taylor Road. This was not a family farm that had been passed down through the generations. I had heard reference to their prior farm being on the Mays Road in western Anderson County near where the Beaver Lake dam was built. Searching county maps I located a Duncan Road off KY 53 that connects to Mays Road near Edmonson Road. The Mays Road then changes name at this old cross roads and continues on toward the Mercer County line as the Leathers Store Road.

Near the intersection use to stand an old farm house that burned in the late 1970's. An old chicken house has now been converted into a residence. Across the old Duncan lane is a small family cemetery from the Leathers. A conversation with my grandfather prior to his death revealed that Asa B. Duncan had purchased this farm from the Leathers family. The Leathers had become undertakers in Lawrenceburg, and grand dad remembered them exhuming the grave of the old gentleman when he was just a kid. The Leathers family had built a large family crypt in the Lawrenceburg Cemetery since they were in the funeral business. They had their ancestor removed to this new location in town. I have found documentation of Dr. Charles A. Leathers, who after graduation from Kentucky Military Institute in 1879, studied medicine under Dr. J. L. Pope in the nearby Nelson County community of Chaplin. In 1881 he began practice at the Leathers Store (old post office in the neighborhood). By June of 1883 he had moved his practice to Lawrenceburg. It is interesting to note that both my mother and my uncle were born in this house according to the family tradition.

Prior to buying the Leathers old place at the cross roads previously mentioned, grand dad had told of their previous homesite near Ashbrook, where he had been born. This was another rural cross roads further south on KY 53 but within a mile of this later location. The topography of this area is hilly. A tributary to the Chaplin Fork of the Salt River flows around the later property. Grand dad related the story of an old steel bridge that had been utilized to cross the Salt River on KY 62 which was being retired (most likely during the WPA projects of the 1930's). Asa B. Duncan was able to obtain this old bridge for salvage value and install it over the Big Beaver Creek below his property and near Ashbrook

on KY 53. This new path became the Duncan Road on the map today. Years ago I was able to travel over this old steel bridge on Duncan Road before it was condemned and a new concrete bridge was built.

I do not have any indication as to which parcel belonged to Asa B. Duncan prior to his moving to the old Leathers estate. This was more than likely the home of his father, Mathew Talbot Duncan. None of this part of the research has been proven by county records as of this date. No marriage record or birth/death record appears for a Talbot or Talbott Duncan that I can find in Anderson County. I do have a list of Martin C. Duncan's and Mary "Polly" Ray Duncan's children from their will. Listed is a Mathew T. Duncan. Further research has revealed that this is indeed Mathew Talbot Duncan. He is listed in the above Mason article as having removed from Mercer County to Anderson County, and had a son Asa. A search for Mathew Duncan revealed more than one in rural western Anderson County. The other, a Mathew J. Duncan or Matthew J. Duncan had been born within a year of our ancestor. He also had been married and widowed at least three times. He appears to have had a brother named Mark. This family is part of a large group of Duncan's who settled in the Chaplin River basin nearby. They were more than likely distantly related thru common lines back in Virginia, but as grand dad had told me early on in life, these were not of the same family.

A couple of references were made to weddings held at the residence of M. T. Duncan's home in Anderson County. A Mary J. Duncan & Robert Stange (Jessamine County) were married Dec. 3, 1874 He was 21 years old, she was 23 and born in Anderson County, KY. Her father was born in Mercer County (this fits our research) and her mother was born in Garrard County. Another reference was made to a William T. Duncan & Mary Ann York being married at the home of M. T. Duncan on Sept. 18, 1879. Groom was born in Anderson County and his father was born in Mercer County, with mother born in Garrard County. Bride was born in Anderson County and her parents were born in Mercer County. Groom was 23 years old and bride was 18 years old. The only other reference I have to M.T. Duncan is a marriage record in Mercer County in 1863 to an Emily Jane Clark (3-80). If this is our man, it had to happen early that year since Asa B. Duncan was born by October 4, 1863.

The Mason article then links the family back from Mathew Talbot Duncan to his mother Mary "Polly" Ray who had married Martin C. Duncan in Mercer County in 1806. Martin C. Duncan had come from northwest North Carolina at the turn of the century (1800). He is listed on the 1810 census of Mercer County Kentucky as Martin Dunkin. By 1820 he was living in Shelby County and is included in that census there. By the 1830 census he was again in Mercer County. Martin C. Duncan's wife was the daughter of General James Ray. He was one of the most respected men in the early history of Mercer County. His second wife was Elizabeth Talbot Ray. Her brother Isham Talbot became an early US senator from Kentucky. Isham married Governor Garrard's daughter and became an early political leader in the state. He was first practicing law in Shelbyville in the early 1800's. This may be why Martin C. Duncan lived in this area early on, while most of the 11 children were being reared. It should be pointed out that James Rays mother was Elizabeth Buntin Ray. She had remarried Captain Hugh McGary in North Carolina prior to 1775. McGary was James Ray's step father, and an early long hunter in Kentucky with Henry Skaggs. In 1775 McGary, a brother in law named Denton, and several others from the Yadkin Valley came with Daniel Boone to Kentucky. This is the first record of white

women and children being brought into this country. It is rumored that the first bible came into this state with this group of women who were in the habit of recording the family histories into these books. When the party of twenty to thirty families reached the fork in the Wilderness Trail at Skaggs Fort (Hazel Patch) near the Rockcastle River, the McGary party split with Boone. Boone moving on to Madison County and the site of the fort that bears his name, and McGary going thru Crab Orchard to St. Asaphs (Stanford) and finally to Fort Harrod. A historic monument is dedicated in Harrodsburg to the first three women at the settlement, one who was Elizabeth Buntin Ray McGary. She is my great great great great grandmother through my mother's side.

The following are notes from the relative that Kathryn H. Mason quoted in her article as having given the most recent history on the Mercer County Duncan's to Neva Williams, who was a writer for the Harrodsburg newspaper. You can see from this information that it was heavily borrowed from in both Neva Williams text and in the later text of Mason's above.

Following these two sets of notes, the main article of James Ray is included, along with some early land deeds and maps of the Shawnee fortification where our family first lived in Kentucky on their own land. Last is a copy of the family tree as it comes down from David Duncan in old Virginia. A side note to the old English rule of inherited property. The oldest son or male family member (nephew) always received the whole estate. The other siblings usually got only some money or a slave, etc. This seems to have changed with the frontier settlers. David Duncan's oldest son Nathaniel got the plantation in tidewater Virginia. This was in the area known as the Northern Neck. It was Sussex, Surry, and Albemarle Counties depending on what period in history you looked. Part of that will indicated at tenement house at the college. It is presumed this is at William & Mary University. From this we can draw an image of the station in life these ancestors held. They had numerous slaves and hundreds of acres of land.

Several members of the family were ministers, including Martin C. Duncan in Mercer County, KY. Several references have been found of him performing marriages in the mid 1830's. As stated in the article they were educated better than most. Martin C. Duncan's son was a major in the Civil War (Union) and founder of Duncanville in northwest Mercer County. The little Grapevine Church stands on the banks of the Chaplin River. Martin C. Duncan, Mary "Polly" Ray Duncan, John Ray Duncan, and his son Dr. Charles Talbot Duncan (never married) are buried there. The tombstone of John Ray Duncan is a large obelisk which a Masonic level & square and letter "G". It is inscribed with the 19th Kentucky Infantry Volunteers on the stone as well. This little community is just a few miles via the Chaplin River to Cornishville where the McAfee Lodge of freemasons is located. Both Asa B. Duncan & Charles T. Duncan (grand dad) were masons. It is believed that all of these men from Isham Talbot, Hugh McGary, to James Ray were early Kentucky free masons. The town of Madisonville, KY was founded in Hugh McGary's sons house near there. They were all migrating further west. James Ray's son was a doctor in that area as well. He was interviewed by Draper, the historian who compiled the best documentation of the early history of the settlement area. The Dr. John Ray interview is perhaps the best original source of information for this research, and has been named by Mason, Chinn, and Hammersmith as well.

James Davis married a daughter of one of the Rays; Sister remembers it as Jeff; I thought Jeff was the father of Mrs Steels, Bettie, Jo and James.

A cousin of ours talked of Uncle James wife with her red head said she set the dog upon him for drinking her sugar-water. I never saw her but heard often in my childhood of her furious temper.

Mary ~~Ray~~ ~~the old General~~ married Henry(?) Burton. It was she that ran the race and defeated the runner who had come to run against Greens. It was thought that she could out-run Greens. Died a young matron, of typhoid fever. Story of singing Old Ship of Zion (one verse) and falling back dead in her husband's arms. Her mother shouted all the rest of the day.

It was the Harvey Woods place at which the elder Duncan lived. The farm was the patrimony of Mary Ray Duncan from her father, General James Ray. Sister does not remember that they "kept tavern" there but thinks it may be so.

Sister thinks Martin Duncan, Sr. was born in Maryland; not sure. Any way he came from Virginia alone. Story of "One Eyed Ryley" played by him on the road. Woman came thru the door backwards "hoking it down" etc. in mountains. Ger'l Ray had a fourth daughter or one was married twice. One married Dr. Alford; no children.

Story of first stage coach passed up the road. All family rushed out to see it except Talbert, who ate all the beets (new)

Martin was known as the handsomest man of his day. Never married. Died of typhus fever. All the family (except old ones (?) were down with measles. Had doctored him for measles also. Story of second doctor and smelling typhus. Martin died next day.

Greens could chase a rabbit and kill him (the rabbit) with a whip.

Mary Burton was buried at the old Talbert grave-yard. I think it was called the Old Martin Graveyard.

Dr. Aid. Thompson said he ~~was~~ (one of a committee of three) sent to see Ger'l Ray on some business. The General was out hunting and when he returned, cocked and ate 14 squirrels while they talked.

THE DUNCAN FAMILY IN MERCER COUNTY, KENTUCKY

Data collected by Neva Williams, Harrodsburg, Ky

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Recorded in Collins's History of Kentucky, page 606, under the caption of Mercer county, one reads that Mrs Richard Hogan, Mrs Thomas Denton, and Mrs McGary, wife of Hugh McGary (afterward Major McGary) were the first women in Harrod's party, arriving there March 8, 1780. McGary by a former marriage, William and James, two young youths still in their teens.

William Ray was killed by the Indians at the time James Ray made his famous run from Shawnee Springs, his stepfather's land grant several miles north of Harrod's Fort, and warned the forters of the Indians. (See Collins History, page 611.) This young man, afterward General Ray, was one of the most beloved, helpful and constructive men among the pioneer settlers at Harrod's town. There seems to have been no other children, and he inherited the large land grants of his stepfather about Shawnee Springs, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ granted to him by the Virginia Legislature, made him one of the largest land owners in this section. Gen. Ray is buried in an old family burial plot on the Shawnee Springs land, his grave being under an apple tree which a few years ago had decayed all except the main trunk of the tree. Gen Ray served in the State Kentucky Legislature from Mercer county in 1801-2-3-9-10-11-14-15-18

Only one of Gen. Ray's family needs to follow in this record. That was his daughter, Mary Ray. Even to this day there are traditions of her beauty and loveliness of character. Early in 1800, how or for what reason is not now known, there came to Harrodsburg from Maryland a young man— Martin Duncan.

From early fragments of his history one gleanes that he must have had learning above the average for those days, as an impression of him has come down to this day of being the possessor of books— that seems to have set people apart in those early days when books were rare in the frontier section. Martin Duncan was unusually talented in music, especially being a noted "fiddler." This pronounced talent marked many of his descendants.

Martin Duncan met and loved the beautiful Mary Ray. They were married and lived on a portion of her father's land grants— her inheritance— building a large frame and log house several miles from Harrodsburg on the "State" ,or Frankfort-Louisville pike, where they kept a wayside Inn. Martin Duncan's activities were preaching and teaching school. This old house is still standing, known now as the "Harvey Woods place."

The children of Martin Duncan and Mary Ray Duncan, as near as can be traced authentically, are as follows (not in the order of their births):

Asa, died of cholera in Mercer county during

the epidemic of 1835. Burial place unknown

Daniel, went to Texas, married and has a number of descendants in that State.

Abner went to Iowa and died there, could not find if he was married.

Martin, Jr., said to be an extremely handsome man, died unmarried. Grave unknown

James, married in Kentucky, went West somewhere.

Madden, married Sarah Wade Davis, no children, took her niece to rear. *Mrs. N. H. Skiles, of Lewis, O.*
Green-----

Talbot, moved to Anderson county, Ky., married and has many descendants there, among them a son Asa.

Elizabeth, or "Patsy" married Henry Britton

Mary Ray Duncan married ----- Burton. She is buried in an old cemetery in Mercer county known as the Martin (or Talbot) burying ground.

John Ray Duncan married Elisha Graham and lived and died in Mercer county.

John Ray Duncan fought through the Civil War on the Federal side and was commissioned Major before the war ended. He lived in the west End of Mercer, was prominent in affairs of that part of the county and a small village, Duncansville, is named for that him. In the old days when roads were bad or there were none at all, Major Duncan was the assistant County Clerk, making all the wills, writing the deeds and attending to other legal business for folk in that section. His parents, Martin Duncan and Mary Ray Duncan, lived with his family in their old age. They are buried in the little cemetery beside Grapevine (Christian) church, near

Duncansville, Major Duncan and his wife are also buried there, their graves nicely marked.

The children of Major Duncan and Eliza Graham were Dr Charles Talbott Duncan, deceased, no children. His wife moved into another state and is married again. Dr Duncan is also buried at Grapevine.

Mrs Emma Duncan Gray, of Harrodsburg, now at Miami Florida. She has two daughters, both married. No male of this direct line in Mercer, ~~xxxx~~

Data

It was characteristic of many of the descendants of old Martin Duncan that they inherited his musical talent. It is also a fact that Green Duncan and his sister, Mary Ray Duncan II, inherited the fleetness of foot of their grandfather, Gen James Ray, who outran the Indians and saved Harrod's Fort. It is told of Green that one of his feats was the ability to catch up with a running rabbit and kill it with a whip, striking it about the head. His reputation as a fast runner spread beyond the confines of Mercer county. On one occasion a young man in another county challenged him for a race, and came to Harrodsburg to run it. Much excitement was created among the sportsmen and bets ran high. The evening before the race Mary Ray Duncan II, dared him to race with her unofficially, and she won. The visiting runner was so over being beaten by a girl that he left mortified ~~the~~ without running the race with her brother, Green Duncan.

It is told of Mary Ray Duncan ^{the (narrative Mary Austin)} that as she was dying the song from a camp meeting not far distant was wafted to her on the breeze. She joined in the song "The Old Ship of Zion," and passed with the hymn on her lips.

THE FILSON CLUB HISTORY QUARTERLY

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Daniel Boone, Simon Kenton, and George Rogers Clark, to mention but three outstanding examples, learned to their grief that there were greater swamies than red men in this fertile hunting-ground. In Mann Butler's passionate words, "The troubles of Kentucky have been marked broad and deep in blood; and still deeper in the keen wounds of the heart. . . . These famous pioneers died poor. Men of action, they had given little thought or attention to the intricacies of Virginia land law, while James Ray, who was one of their most active collaborators, was able to enjoy a comfortable material reward for his contribution to the struggle against the Indians, as well as the satisfaction which came from prominence in peacetime affairs of the Commonwealth his own youthful exploits had helped to build.

Among Dr. Lyman C. Draper's manuscripts in the State Historical Society at Madison, Wisconsin, are three letters he received from Dr. John Ray, son of the pioneer, and several from Dr. Christopher C. Graham, for many years the Ray family physician. In addition there are notes taken by Mann Butler on his conversations with the General, together with a number of recollections and dispositions of various pioneers, including those of General Robert B. McAfee, Kentucky state and county records contain interesting and valuable material, as do the National Archives in Washington.

Since the letters from Dr. John Ray appear to represent the General's own recollections, and are vividly written, they have been used as a framework for the early portion of this study. The first letter, dated Madisonville, Kentucky, February 20, 1843, begins:

"In compliance with your request, I subjoin the principal historical facts of my father, most of which are quite familiar with me up to the present time. My Father was a man of stern integrity and all matters emanating from him was considered unexceptionable.

The late Genl James Ray of Mercer County Kentucky emigrated from the State of North Carolina (county not known) to Kentucky in the fall of 1775, was at that time about 14 years of age. He had a mother, a step Father, and two Brothers, all minors, his mother was then married to Col Hugh McCary."

THE CAREER OF GENERAL JAMES RAY, KENTUCKY PIONEER

BY KATHRYN HARRIS MASON
Washington, D. C.

EARLY YEARS OFFICER AND LEGISLATOR MILITARY SERVICES

1. EARLY YEARS

Early Kentucky historians are repetitions in their references to the pioneer James Ray. They relate only two or three well-known incidents, giving the interested reader a general impression that Ray was a teen-age Horatio Alger, a daring young man with wings on his feet, or, perhaps, a second Daniel Boone. While here and there we find brief references to his long career in the State Assembly and to the fact that he became a Major General in the militia, so well rounded picture stands out from these fragmentary episodes.

A closer study of sources now available to the inquiring student reveals forgotten and buried facts about General Ray. Not only are we able to recapture that impression of outstanding physical achievement, which is rightly responsible for his fame, but we find contemporary evidence yielding new examples of his skill and bravery; with additional facts about old ones, glimpses into his personal life, an understanding of his contribution to the Post-Revolutionary period in Kentucky, together with many evaluations of his services. Out of the manuscripts emerges a pioneer who was much more than a daring young man, more than a prominent military figure in his State. James Ray belongs to that small group of adventurers who remained in the place of their pioneering to become valuable civic servants in the days of peace and progress, to bridge the gap between the rough clearing and the settled plantation, to pass on to their children a security and universal respect which was the final reward for a life cradled in danger and bloodshed.

Apparently Draper was not satisfied with this meager historical background, for Dr. Ray opened his letter of July 4, 1848, also from Madisonville:

"The Father of Genl Ray I never knew any of his history. I do not know that I ever heard Genl Ray speak of him, nor in a way that he seemed to have but little knowledge of him, himself, having died when I think Genl Ray was only 5 or 6 years old. I do not know what his name was - nor at what age he died. He died in N. Carolina. His widow then married Col. McGary and in a few years after their marriage, they emigrated to Ky."

"As to Genl Rays boyhood history previous to his immigration to Ky I know nothing. I do not recollect of hearing the Genl say anything particular in relation to his boyhood. . . . I presume that he had pretty well forgotten early incidents. I never to my knowledge heard him say what county he resided in in N. C. but have often heard him remark that he lived on the Yadkin River (and I presume in Rowan county.)"

"Genl Ray was born of poor, but respectable parentage. . . . His Mother's Maiden name, Mary Buntin, she died about the year 1780, at the age of about 45 years." Genl Ray never had any sisters. The brothers were William and John. . . ."

"They set out from North Carolina in company with Col Daniel Boone and came to Kentucky together. Col Boone & Col McGary as their guide & leader. Genl Rays another came in company with the first white women that ever crossed the Mountains to the West. I think there were some twenty or thirty families in this company. After coming through the wilderness and arriving in the Kentucky valleys, The company divided. Col Boone headed his particular party and went on [to] . . . Roanborough. . . . And Col McGary pursued on with his . . . party to a place now the city of Harrodsburgh."

In his recollections to Mann Butler, General Ray elaborated on this portion of their journey. He said that the party kept their way, after leaving Boone who had given them directions, James was left with his cousin, John Denton, and John Hays under a shelving rock at the mouth of Gillert's Creek (on the east side of Dick's River) to "raid the stock." It was not until two weeks later that the boys were rescued; McGary

and the families "had got embarrassed at the mouth of Dick's river by the lofty impassable cliffs. . . ."

On their arrival the party found that the fort was not completely abandoned. Ray told McAfee that there were only four old soldiers in the cabins built the year before by Harrod's men, and that all the other men were out hunting, in proving their claims, or returning to the settlements for their families.⁴

"Everyone," wrote John Kay, "seemed to enjoy himself with a great deal of pleasure & happiness. Ample reward seemed to be promised for their toil. They raised some crop the next season after their arrival [spring and summer of 1776] . . . and occasionally an immigrant would arrive & station with them, in this way a little strength accumulated."⁵

A few months after Ray's arrival the fourteen- or fifteen-year-old boy was sent "on business" to Logan's Station, a distance of some twenty miles from Harrodstown.⁶

"On his way back he got lost, and after shooting 3 of his bullets at a buffalo which he killed, and a wild-cat for his skin to make moccasins out of, he discovered he had a little powder to kindle a fire (November & rainy), he took a few pounds of the meat, more for the dogs than himself; after seven days in the woods sometimes thirty miles from H. T., he met with a fine fat bear, which his dogs attacked and fensed up a tree. Ray followed the bear up the tree, which forked very nearly parallel; he had but a knife with him, which he formed into a spear by splitting a piece of wood with his knife, and fastened it with a leather string. As soon as he stabled the bear, he was again attacked by the dogs. R. then got down, and again attempted to stab the bear, when his knife doubled and the bear took to the tree; this tree routine was repeated, and the bear again took to the tree. That evening Ray struck Salt River 20 miles below H. T. He then shot of the Ken [Kennedy River] and crossed over the country near Leland's springs; this led him to Harrod's landing, where he had formerly been; and then recovered his path, got to town and was received by Col. A. Hiltz. The dogs were nearly as worn out as the horses, which packed on."⁷

From this incident we see that the boy soon learned his first hard lesson as a woodsman, acquiring readily a familiarity with the forest which served him well in the years ahead. It did not take long for the North Carolina boy to assume a man's role in the new settlement.¹⁰ Perhaps the well known story of his accidental meeting with George Rogers Clark in the forest, four miles from the fort, will serve to illustrate this point. Since Butler appears to have received his version of the incident directly from General Ray, the story as he relates it is worth quoting.

It illustrates the hardy privations of the times, and the free and generous spirit, in which all the little alleviations of these hardships, were shared with a fellow hunter in distress. "I had come down," said the General, "to where, now I see, (about four miles north of Harrodsburg,) to turn some horses out in the range; I had killed a small blue wing duck, that was feeding in my spring, located near the top of the hill, a short distance from the famed Big Shawnee Spring (his dwelling), and had roasted it nicely on the brow of the hill, about twenty steps east of my house. After having taken it off to cook, I was much surprised on being suddenly accosted by a fine soldierly looking man, who exclaimed, "How do you do my little fellow? What is your name? Ain't you afraid of being in the woods by yourself?" On satisfying his inquiries, I invited the traveler to partake of my duck, which he did without leaving me a bone to pick, his appetite was so keen; though he should have been welcome to all the game I could have killed," said Ray, "when I afterwards became acquainted with his noble and gallant soul." After satisfying his questions, he inquired of the stranger his own name and business in this remote region. "My name is Clark," he answered, "and I have come out to see what you brave fellows are doing in Kentucky, and to lend you a helping hand if necessary." The General, a boy of sixteen, then conducted Clark to Harrodsburg.

This noble anecdote, so familiar to Kentuckians, is also interesting for the light it throws on Clark, his relations with the settlers, as well as the enduring devotion he inspired among his followers. Ray's surprise that the Major should think his situation dangerous springs from the fact that during this first win-

ter, the newcomers were unconscious of the hostility their Indian neighbors would soon show.

From the time of their arrival in the country up to the 6th March 1777, they had remained unmolested—they had not seen a foe the yellowskin. They were entirely unacquainted in their intercourse & transactions, for they did not even dream of Indians being in the vicinity. Every man of them was at his different station making his improvement. . . . Genl Ray and his Brother William . . . and a young man 22 or 23 . . . and rather an elderly man . . . were . . . at work . . . clearing a tract of land about four miles northwest of the Fort, at the headsprings of the Shawnee Run. There were a great many sugar maples in that vicinity, and McCarty had established a small camp there, where the boys liked to go for sugar. At about noon on this spring day, the two Rays & Thos Sturges feeling somewhat tired labouring repaired to the camp to rest, leaving the elderly man still at work in the clearing."

"They had come & were lying down, and . . . some noise was heard . . . they could not account for, yet it did not seem to excite them, but as it became more plain they cast a look . . . where to their great surprise they discovered a party of 47 . . . Shawnee Warriors running in single file with trailed Axes within a few yards of them. . . ."

"Wm. Ray had his Gun at the camp. Genl Ray had left his in the clearing, upon the approach of the Indians, they all three sprung up at once. The Genl seemed to possess much presence of mind. He pointed out a course for them to run and . . . he started a different direction . . . to get his Gun . . . he had not progressed but a short distance till he found this the case, the Indians were between him and his gun he then turned his course the way he had directed William and the young man to run. . . ."

"He soon overtook William Ray, but the young man was not then with him. He and William then ran together for some distance. But Wm. being a fleshy young man & having a heavy Rifle to carry, could not make the speed. . . . He was not active & was not an expert runner. . . ."

"The Genl said that . . . being sensible that his Brother would soon be taken or shot, He told him . . . to throw down

his gun and give himself up. . . . This it appears he was determined he would not do. But as the Indians approached pretty near him he turned round and aimed to shoot. . . . But an Indian . . . fired . . . at the crack of the gun William fell, Genl Ray . . . then set out at full speed and in running something near a mile, he found that his leather leggings . . . was crumpling his knees. . . . As he ran, he drew his Butcher Knife . . . he sprang behind a large tree . . . cut lose his leggings . . . and turn them both off. While he was thus consulting the Indians . . . passed on ahead of him . . . He sprang forward . . . They then commenced firing at him as he ran, and throwing their war clubs—making a desperate effort to slay him—He soon out ran them so far that they finally gave up the chase and turned back. After he found they had given up pursuit, he turned back . . . when he got back to site of the camp again. He wished to ascertain if he could, what disposition they were making of his brother, he staid lurking about for some time, but could not see. . . . He now set out with all speed to the Fort of Harrodsburg, distant about four miles, which place he reached a little before night, the alarm was then sent out. . . . They were all got in that night and the fort strengthened. . . ."

In relation to the little skirmish with the Savages on the 7th Mar . . . It was a hasty momentary transaction, no previous organization took place as I understood. Genl Ray was one of that band that ran out to engage the Indians when they fired on the out-cabins . . . Col. McCary was shot through his Arm . . . the Indian who wore Win Ray Hat & hunting shirt was killed. . . ."

John Cowan's Journal has an entry for April 29, 1777: "Indians attacked the Fort, killed Mr. McConnell's. This brief reference to one of James Ray's most exciting adventures is expanded by Dr. Ray with some interesting details:

"Whilst everybody was strictly confined to the Fort, danger being apparently at hand at all times some gentleman of the Fort was inclined to believe his Gun did not shoot correctly. So about noon day he fixed himself a Target about an hundred yards distant from the Fort gate again a large tree and shot out of the Fort gate at his target. He had shot some 3 or 4 times. He had just fired again and was walking on to his target when Genl Ray stepped up to the gate where he shot from . . . halloed to him to know where his Ball had struck. The

Genlman then exposed his Body a little around the Tree and putting his finger to the bullet hole, at this instant, he was fired upon by an Indian in ambush, and shot mortally. Genl Ray then having his gun in his hand, immediately sallied out, meeting the wounded man on the way, merely passing him and keeping his eye strictly on the place where he saw the smoke of the Indians gun rise from. As he progressed he discovered the position of the Indian, but was not yet far enough to make a sure fire, having his Gun in a shooting position and walking on. But before he could see enough of him to shoot at, he was fired upon by a platoon of guns, he thinks not less than two hundred, none of which hit him. He wheeled and ran toward the Fort. When he reached it they had closed the gate and shut him out. The Indians pursued him and commenced a heavy firing upon the Fort. The Genl was now in the most hopeless condition. He ran around to the opposite side of the Fort and hid behind a stump. . . ."

According to Madfess, Ray was forced to lie in this spot, with the Indians' bullets striking the ground near his legs, while the wounded McConnell lay behind another log in excruciating pain, dying shortly after his rescue at sundown. Ray, having called to his mother inside the fort to dig a hole under the wall, was taken inside."

Mrs. Sarah Graham, in relating this incident, claimed that this expedient would have been impossible had it not been for a seasonal spring that had run off the earth from "between the 2 picketings. I was there often when it was picketed, and saw the place after the man was hauled in." Continuing she said, "The man [Ray] had thrown himself behind a log, & from there got into a ditch that was on the outside. This they made deeper, and tried to get him in by the feet but couldn't—they then dug again and took him in by the head; turning it & pulling him in. . . ."

When it became obvious to the hostile tribes that storming the forts would not accomplish their purpose, they decided to starve the settlers from the Indian hunting ground. Accordingly, a tribe from north of the Ohio River established a camp a half-mile from Fort Harrod, making it possible for them to keep a constant watch. So successful were they in the summer of 1777 that no corn was planted in that vicinity.

while nearly all of the livestock brought across the mountains was either stolen or killed.¹⁰

"It was soon settled that they could not long subsist in this way. Genl Ray who was the most expert an celebrated hunter belonging to the Fort, proposed an expedition for relief. He kept within the Fort a noble horse, Achva and powder, that he would leave the Fort at a dead hour in the night . . . put spurs to his steed and ride with rapidity till he thought he was out of reach of the Indians . . . he would then kill as much meat as his horse could . . . carry, leaving his rifle always hanging to his arm whilst butchering his game—he would then sally up within some 2 or 4 miles of the Fort and stop, keeping a sharp look out till a little before day break, he would then sally up and when coming on the dangerous ground . . . just around the Fort, he would again spur his horse and charge . . . in a brisklope. . . ."

"In coming one night with four Deer on his horse . . . one of his deer fell off, he noticed . . . [and] immediately resolved . . . that he would make an effort to recover his Deer, struck a circle, not letting his horse brake his former gale, came along near where his Deer was lying spring from his horse, threw up the Deer across his saddle, spring on again and brought all his meet in the fort gate in safety. He said the saving of the meat, was not the great object, but thought perhaps cowardice might be imputed."¹¹

"After he had been performing his kind of services for some months alone, two other men . . . proposed that they would perform that service a while, if he had no objections, stating that it seemed a hardship to burden him with all this service. He was willing if they were. They accordingly fixed themselves and set out a little before day break. . . . There was a platoon of guns heard fire in the direction they were to travel. Those men never returned. . . . The Genl was then in necessity compelled to resume his former occupation . . . until it was known the Savages had raised the siege . . . there seemed to be at all times squads of Savages lurking in the country. . . ."

Captain Anthony Crockett gave an interesting account of another incident.

"During one of his hunting excursions Ray would have been taken prisoner . . . but for his unparalleled swiftness of

foot, he was returning late in the evening . . . with a good supply of Buffalo meat, when he was met by four or five Indians—suddenly he dropped his meat . . . the Indians . . . raised the war whoop and pursued, after him, but after running some two or three miles . . . they turned back upbraiding each other for letting a boy out run them. . . . his not coming in that night convinced those in the fort he must . . . have been killed and every one young and old male and female were lamenting his untimely fate, the next evening . . . about ten o'clock Ray knocked at the [fort] and was admitted amid shouts and acclamations . . . He brought with him a fine load of Buffalo and deer meat.

"One day during the siege an Indian had crept up within about one hundred and fifty steps of the fort and had concealed himself behind a stump over which he was examining the fort as well as he could. Ray observed him and remarked to some of his friends that if his gun would give him a clear shot it would be some time before that Indian left that stump, so saying he left the fort and crawled along on his hands and knees about fifty yards through a flax patch which was nearly grown until he reached the fence and taking deliberate aim fired clear—his ball entered the head of the Indian exactly between the eyes, he was never removed by his companions— that night the siege was raised—the next day the distance that Ray shot was measured by several it was found to be over a hundred yards. . . ."

During the first years, when the settlers were largely confined to the Fort,

"The Genl. one day sauntering about, viewing passing events, espied an Indian crawling along on his side, with his gun, adjacent to the Fort. He discovered to an instant his object. The Indian had discovered a Lady washing at the Fort spring, which was locked by a kind of temporary wall adjacent to the Fort. The Genl saying not a word to any person—stept back into the Fort, picked up his gun, and slyly, awaited till he approached within gun shot. He fired at him, and at the crack of the gun the Indian rived over on his back and continued to throw up his arms and feet for some time, as if in the agonies of Death . . . the Indian's aim was to shoot the Lady at the spring. The Indian remained where he was killed till night and was then removed by his savage friends.

"A little Dutchman who was attached to this Fort whose name was Barney Stagnoy, had often used the expression, that the Indians could not kill him, that they had often shot at him unsuccessfully—One day when the Indians were pouring a tremendous fire upon the Fort, Genl Ray said to Barney, Now Barney you say the Indians can't kill you, suppose we hold you on top of the Fort now and see what will be the consequence, Barney begged to be excused. He sometime after this, sauntered out of the Fort for some purpose. The Indians killed him and cut off his head.

"He [Ray] was very often employed in pursuing the Indians when they had murdered or stolen horses. Then one day whilst in the field plowing, need intelligence that the Indians had stolen some Horses out of a neighborhood 4 or 5 miles distant. He started forth—with in pursuit of them, leaving his horse hitched to the plow and did not return again for nine or ten days."

In attracting to the military services of Thomas Moore, General Ray claimed that he and Moore had served together under Colonel Clark in the capture of Kaskaskia and Vincennes. Ray was also active in Bowman's campaign against Old Chillicothe in 1778. Mann Butler noted that in this expedition, "Gen Ray was close to B [Bowman] carrying his wounded cousin John Denton before him, when the attack was made. Ray believes that B. behaved like an officer, never heard him censured in his time." In his discussion of the charge that Bowman mismanaged the campaign, Butler adds a footnote: "Gen. Ray thinks differently from the current account, and believes the attack failed from the vigorous defense by the Indians, which prevented Bowman getting near enough to give Logan the signal agreed upon. Gen Ray gives full credit to Bowman on this retreat, as well as on other occasions."

The years 1778-79 saw many new settlers arriving in a seemingly perpetual stream. The reports of the first peaceful year and a half in Kentucky had trickled back to the restless friends of these first pioneers, while the growing peril to the already established stations such as McAfee's, Logan's, and Bryant's, in addition to the ones at Harrodsburg and Bouquet's, was not a matter of common knowledge in the older settlements.

When Bryant's Station began to weaken from the onslaught, the county lieutenant, Colonel John Bowman, sent a relief detachment under Captain Charles Colville, with Ray as his lieutenant. This tour lasted three months. Ray served as Captain during a large part of the time when Colville returned to his home. As soon as the enlistments expired, Ray returned to Harrodsburg, where he was assigned to scout and guard duty at McGary's Station."

The description of James Ray's part in the Battle of Blue Licks provided by his son gives an interesting sidelight on this famous disaster:

"The first high ground after crossing the Licking River was occupied by the Savages. The River at that time was very deep fording—The Whites crossing at the same place where the Indians had crossed it. By the time the whites were fully across the River, The Indians commenced a fire upon the front. The Indians being placed in an eligible situation and doubling the whites in numbers, produced an appalling attack to the whites. Genl Ray commanded a Battalion in front. At the first fire of the Savages, Genl Ray dismounted, having a Rifle, took a position at a Tree and fired twice. The second fire was deliberately aimed at a certain large Indian in the act of running down his flank. He knew it was with the desired effect as the shot seemed to double him. . . . The Indians were perceptibly advancing upon him, which caused him to take a glance at his own party. And to his astonishment found them retreating with precipitation, & all in disorder. . . . His only alternative was then to retreat also. After consulting his retreat, he found a great number of the Savages before him & between him and the ford of the River (Here was his perilous situation, It did not look like there was any possibility for him to escape through a crowd of the enemy.) He jumped off his horse at the first onset and let him go. He was pursuing on his Course toward the ford of the River . . . many Indians ahead of him induced him to think there was no chance for him to escape under Heaven."

He was pursued by Savages and his rout before him full. In this hazardous condition there came running by him nearly at full speed a fine large Bay mare, having lost the saddle, and the bridle lying over her neck, seemed to be terrible frightened. As she ran by him he made a desperate effort, caught his hand

In the name and lit upon her back with his gun still in possession. Thus mounted he placed his gun and bridle both in his left hand, with his right he drew from his belt a long knife. And as he would pass the Indians who were before him he would brandish his knife to deter them. He literally took over many of them before reaching the river. He was fired at by an Indian before reaching the river at so close a distance that its powder burnt his face. When arriving at the foot of the river, the scene appeared awful.—The Indians commenced hawking and butchering the whites at an awful rate. He plunged into the water in the midst of the slaughter, and passed through in safety.

"After crossing the river he discovered that many of the savages had crossed before him and were still pursuing the whites. He had not read far after recrossing the river till he overtook Capt. Wm McBride who called to him and asked if he could help him. . . . McBride said that he was run down and the Indians in close pursuit. Ray replied that he would help him, told him to step to a log which lay near and get up behind him. He took McBride by the hand, who was nearly exhausted, and pulled him up behind him, carried him out of the reach of the enemy—put him down and directed him the course to travel. . . ."

"The next morning after this battle, whilst the whites and Indians were still scattered in a confused situation, Genl. Ray reconnoitering the forest for the purpose of trying to collect his men, espied an Indian on horse back coming . . . toward him. As soon as the Indian discovered that he was a white man, wheeled his horse . . . and dashed off. . . . The Genl. . . soon came up with him, with his sword drawn. . . . striking at him. . . . in the neck, the Indian seemed to keep his eye winked on the Genl's motion. . . . he would throw up the muzzle of his gun, glancing the stroke of the sword over his head. . . . At length the Indian ran himself in the midst of a company of the whites. . . . the Genl. . . said Boys this is my pet take care of him. Upon this the Indian. . . sprang off his horse and raised his gun. . . . Said Genl. Ray, take care boys there is danger to him. He seemed to point his gun first at one and then at another, without firing they began to think his gun was not loaded. At length he pointed his gun at a Major Gray who wheeled his horse round, turning his back to the Indian. The Indian fired. . . . Gray fell a dead man. The Indian was then despatched forthwith. . . . Upon examining the gun it

was found that the Genl. had cut a full of squabs with his sword."⁷⁴

The Battle of Blue Licks marked the high tide of Kentucky tragedy in these early years. In the numerous expeditious and encounters during this period, James Ray participated in assigned and voluntary tasks with skill and ingenuity. In an article published in the *Constituent* in 1883, H. C. Woods wrote: "It was at this juncture that a youth . . . evinced an amount of courage and daring which won the admiration even of old veterans in brave exploits. This was James Ray, whose inheritance escapes and cool intrepidity . . . won him . . . a reputation second only to that of Boone in the annals of Kentucky history."⁷⁵

2. OFFICER AND LEGISLATOR

The news of the defeat at Blue Licks, with the loss of nearly one-half of the men engaged, came as a great shock to the settlers, preoccupied as they were with land and farming problems. For a time many people doubted that they would have the spirit to retaliate, and when George Rogers Clark met with his council of superior officers in September to plan an expedition, some of them agreed that a draft of men would be necessary. But they had not reckoned with pioneer temper and loyalty. The settlers volunteered in great numbers, eager to avenge the slaughter, while those who were unable to do military duty for one reason or another offered beavers, pack-horses, and other supplies in abundance.⁷⁶

In reading published accounts of this expedition, today's students are impressed with the apparent smallness of the effort. Only when we recall the magnitude of the Blue Licks defeat in terms of the available fighting-power are we able to appreciate the tremendous effort Clark's "Eighty-Two" campaign required.⁷⁷

James Ray, who was among the first to offer his services, was a Captain in a battalion commanded by Colonel Benjamin Logan, in which Hugh McGary was Major.⁷⁸ Ray told Butler that in this march to New Chillicothe he commanded the advance guard, that they killed "three or four Indians."⁷⁹ In

during his long chronicle of General Ray's Indian adventures, his son wrote: "He was at all times active in the prosecution of the Indian War, till its termination which lasted seven years. And what was the most surprising, had never rec'd the slightest wound during the whole of his adventures."

Before discussing Ray's activities following the Revolution, it seems advisable to evaluate his contributions from the year 1775, when he came to Kentucky as a boy, to the end of the "Eighty-Two" campaign. Perhaps the best sources available to us for this purpose are contained in his pension applications, together with their appended documents."

When on June 7, 1832, Congress approved a law granting pensions for service by Revolutionary officers and soldiers, James Ray was among those who presented petitions under this legislation. His first declaration made on July 7th of that year listed briefly his military activities up to the close of the War, including his work as an Indian spy and scout for two years, the "tour" at Bryant's Station, his command under Gatliff, Logan, Clark, and Bowman. Attached to the petition are several affidavits. One of them, by John Critton, who served under Ray in Clark's '82 campaign, closed with the remarks, ". . . and I know that he acted as a faithful officer to the close of the war and peace was made in 1783, but which did not give peace in the Western country, and s'd Ray was engaged in nearly every campaign until the peace with the Indians after Genl Wayne's Battle in the year 1794." I further state that Genl James Ray is a respectable citizen . . . in whom I have implicit confidence. . . ."

Thomas Moore swore that "Genl. Ray's services . . . was a matter of General notoriety . . . that he was one of the most active spies and officers in the service of the Virginia militia. . . ."

On the 17th of October, 1832, Ray was granted a pension of one hundred and sixty dollars a year, dating from March 4, 1831. In August, General Robert B. McAfee, who forwarded the application, sent two additional depositions "of Respectable old men" to prove that Ray's services were greater than those for which the pension had been allowed. On November 20th, the General made a second declaration, giving a list of his services during the War in more detail, purporting

to show that he was "on constant duty." George L. Waingh, received the sworn statement at the Menoer Courthouse, adding the following observation: "Sworn to before me this day by Genl James Ray whose infirmities make it very painful for him to ride so as to attend court. . . ." Four days later Ray sent a letter to Colonel Richard M. Johnson, the Menoer representative in the Lower House at that time:

"Sometime Last Summer I sent on my Claim to the Board of War to obtain for my services During the Revolutionary War they Granted me a small one for which I feel most sincerely thankful. But I am of Opinion if they had been properly Informed of my services they would have Given me more. I have thought proper to send back my Certificate with Some additional Statements with a hope that they will Give me a re-hearing. I have written to Genl Adair more fully on the subject I wish you to see his letter from me and to do for me what you think Right—I am with sentiments of Highest Respect Yours,

James Ray"

To support Ray's claim for reconsideration of his Pension allotment, General Robert B. McAfee wrote the following letter:

"Dear Col.
Harrodsburgh, Nov. 28th 1832

I have promised myself that, in enclosed claims of Genl James Ray, will be the only additional case that I will trouble you personally to attend to. I will try and manage any others myself but if I get into a difficulty you must let me call on Herricks—I enclose a letter from Genl Ray also one to Genl Adair, and as soon as you receive them take Genl Adair with you and call upon Genl Cass and give him a personal explanation of Genl Rays case, the ballance of the papers including McCullochs and Wilsons depositions will explain all—when I prepared Genl Rays papers at first I did not do him Justice—I only embraced his claims as an Indian spy from 1775 up and the particular expeditions ordered out of the state under Clark and Fournier and one Tour at Bryants station—I did

not understand as was really the case That Genl Ray was a Lieutenant from 1780, was constantly on duty at McGary's station, McAfee's Station, M'Murrys and on continual duty against the Indians, who were making depredations every week or two. This goes known for I believe you were born in Kentucky, and you also know that the people were forced up until after 1783—and indeed in many places until 1788—Genl Ray was a young man and was always called on and always foremost in the pursuit of the enemy—my old uncle James McAfee used say—you may rely upon it that, that little Ray has a sharpe eye, and his Gun never sleeps when there was an Indian to shoot at.

"In this way Genl Ray was on constant duty, and if ever Kentucky [gived] more to one man than another it was to James Ray. I made a Genl Question you know as to all the claimants of the west there are now but few alive.—The Secretary of War decided on the General Question that there must be actual service as other quarters might complain, I did not complain of his decision, but when any officer was constantly in a station on Guard . . . and was actually called on in more than one hundred cases to pursue Indians who had killed our Citizens or stolen their property, then Genl Ray has a right to claim his pension equal to any other officer who was on Garrison duty or on the March against the British in the East. I have enclosed Genl Rays pension certificate and I have prepared an additional affidavit to substantiate his case—two depositions sent on fully Establishes This fact but if more is required I can procure more, but I do hope that you and Genl Adam can satisfy Genl Cass that Genl Ray ought to receive the pay of a Lieutenant at least—please to attend to this business . . . and if a new Certificate is Granted enclose it to me at Franklin—you know that Genl Ray is a host in himself, you can show this letter to Genl Cass if you please—as explanatory of Genl Rays former declaration

"Your friend, Robert B. McAfee
Addressed to Honble Rh. Johnson
Washington City (Congress)

"Claim of James Ray for Reconsideration"

Representative Johnson forwarded the letters and additional depositions to the Honorable Lewis Cass, the Secretary of War, with a brief note suggesting that he take a few minutes

to decide whether anything could be done. On the back of this note is a pencilled statement, "Nothing more can be allowed," dated February 1838, Pension Office.

More pressure must have been brought on the War Department, because the case was reported reopened, with the result that Ray was granted an additional sum, bringing his pension to \$820 in all—one of the largest granted to a Kentuckian for service in the Revolutionary War.*

It should be recalled in this connection that numerous scouting trips, minor expeditions, and Indian encounters were not listed in the pension declaration.† Nor did the applicants include all of their regular militia commissions. When Lincoln County was formed in 1781, provision was made for a militia service under the direction of a county lieutenant. From that date on through the reorganization in which Mercer County was cut off from Lincoln, Ray held a succession of commissions, several of which were granted after the War and, naturally, omitted in the pension declaration.**

In John Critton's brief but poignant words, "the close of the Revolutionary War did not give peace to the Western country." Continued sporadic Indian attacks kept the settlers on edge, diverting their attention from farm and civic problems.† In order to put a stop to these invasions, General Clark was called upon in 1786 to plan another expedition. The venture proved disastrous. While many writers have discussed the reasons for its failure, a complete picture of the 1786 campaign is lacking. Ray told Butler that Clark was in tears when it broke up. In answering the charge that the General was intemperate at the time, Ray replied that while he was aware of the runner, the fact was "not known" and that he personally had stood by the General's orders. Lyman Draper made an effort to clear up some of the fog surrounding this campaign by asking Dr. C. C. Graham a direct question about Clark.†† Graham replied that while he had often heard Ray speak of Clark with admiration, he did not recall anything further.†††

Two brief but noteworthy campaigns again called Ray into active service. He led a battalion of Kentucky Militia to reinforce General Harmer in his 1790 campaign, which ended in an unfortunate victory for the Indians. From Ray's own state-

ment we learn that they arrived too late to give assistance, meeting Colonel Havidu on his return from the defeat. In this expedition he was a Major. His final military contribution came many years later when honors of a civilian nature had increased his prestige. Ray's son wrote: "In 1812, he joined the ranks a non-com soldier, and joined that portion of the army commanded by Genl Hopkins, destined for the Florida Towns. Genl Ray was then 80 years of age. Upon Genl Hopkins finding him attached to the Army, immediately gave him a promotion to his first Major General. This campaign was the last Military services of his life."¹

In spite of the heavy demands made upon his military talents in these early years, Ray found time for domestic activities. In 1781 he married a fifteen-year old neighbor girl, Amelia Yoakum.² The daughter of Matthias Yoakum, who had brought his family to McGary's Station shortly after it was completed, Amelia died December 1, 1783, leaving Ray two infant sons, William and Jesse.³ On February 7, 1787, he married Elizabeth Talbot, the sister of Isham Talbot, who served in the Kentucky Legislature with Ray and later became a United States Senator.⁴ By his second marriage, which lasted until Elizabeth's death in 1810, Ray had eleven children.⁵

In James Ray's brilliant early years there was no time for book-learning. He is quoted as saying that he never went to school a day in his life. However, we may assume with a degree of certainty that he was brought up with a profound respect for mental attainments, since he belonged to the Bible-reading Scotch-Irish to whom the rudiments of book learning were a gateway to Heaven. Captain Anthony Crockett, with whom Ray was associated in Harrod's Fort, has this to say:

"A more brave intrepid and active soldier than James Ray never lived . . . he never went to school a day in his whole life, and yet he was a very good English scholar, he obtained his knowledge by practicing on his father's bedding chest . . . he came to write a very fair hand. . . ."

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Wilson corroborated the statement concerning his lack of schooling, his being self-taught, and a

good English scholar, adding that "few could equal him in penmanship . . . He learned to write with a stick in the dirt, & by scratching on rocks."⁶

The older books of Lincoln and Mercer counties contain numerous testimonials to his work in civic affairs. In addition to jury duty, he directed work on roads, helped to "view roads," and appraised estates. Frequently he was called to testify in land suits. But perhaps his greatest contribution of this nature was his long service in the Kentucky Assembly. A study of the *House Journals* for that period provides some significant, if not spectacular, information. While not all the journals for the span of eighteen years of his representation of Mercer County are available, several facts stand out. First of all, he was not an aggressive member of that body. That he was considered competent by his constituents there is no doubt. In addition to numerous testimonials to that effect,⁷ there is the telling fact that Ray served in all sessions of the House from 1801 to 1818 inclusive, excepting those of 1804 to 1806, and the 1813, 1816, 1817 sessions, being elected twelve times to represent his home county. Another over-all impression to be obtained from a reading of the *Journals* is that he kept a watchful eye on the public's pocketbook. Several times he was chairman or member of a joint House and Senate Committee to examine the State Treasurer's books.⁸ He frequently voted against appropriations for such purposes as arsenals, turn-pikes, and raises in salaries for State officials.⁹ While in 1807 he voted in favor of a bill to prevent future migration of free Negroes to Kentucky,¹⁰ in 1810 he also voted against a bill to prohibit the bringing of slaves into the State. He voted with the majority to oppose a bill regulating the behavior of slaves.¹¹ From the record it would appear he introduced few bills, although he certainly had the welfare of Mercer County at heart when he voted to move Transylvania University to Harrodsburg.¹² It may have been patriotism, nepotism, or recognition of ability which induced him to nominate his brother-in-law, Isham Talbot, to the office of Clerk of the House.¹³

In the several heated controversies concerning the changes of dateably made against some of his colleagues, Ray appears to have taken no active part. He did not vote on the resolu-

tion exonerating Humphrey Marshall on charges of land fraud,²² but voted against a resolution asking George Muter to resign.²³ In the beginning of his legislative work the Mercer representative voted more consistently with the majority, while in later years he did not hesitate to vote the unpopular side on some important issues. When William Logan resigned as Speaker of the House, four men, namely Henry Clay, Samuel South, Henry Davidge, and James Ferguson, were nominated to take his place. Three votes were finally taken before Clay was elected—Ray voted for South all three times.²⁴

There were numerous attempts to change the location of the State Capital. In an effort to bring a compromise and thus put an end to these time-consuming controversies, Ray introduced a bill to ascertain the center of the State, but was voted down by his less economical colleagues.²⁵ Several times Ray was chairman or member of committees on privilege and election, claims, militia, courts, and religion, serving at least once as chairman of a committee to propose a revision of the Statute Law of Kentucky.²⁶ In the final session before his retirement from legislative work, the General voted "ray more frequently than 'aye.'" The last record of his vote in the House was "nay" on a rider which would have provided that all money or property won at any game of hazard should be recoverable in court.²⁷

In 1833 Ray was called out of retirement to represent his district in the convention which ratified the present Constitution of the United States—winning a career of long and varied public service.²⁸

Anyone who is familiar with early Kentucky court records can testify that most of the well-known early pioneers had more than a visitor's knowledge of court procedure. The early arrivals paid heavily for their land, if not at money, then in frequent and prolonged litigation that often cost them large acreage. The case of James Ray is an outstanding exception. In the records of Mercer County, there is but one suit in which he was involved, and that one he started. He asked \$1,500 for non-payment of debt in a sale of 102 acres of land for \$2,000. A settlement was made, the court finding for the plaintiff.²⁹ In the Lincoln County records, we find a suit begun in 1783,

charging Ray with trespass. The jury decided that the defendant was "in no wise guilty."³⁰

It should not be assumed from this meager court record that General Ray was not interested in acquiring his share of the central Kentucky soil. The Certificate Book of the Virginia Land Commissioners of 1776-1780 contains this entry:

"James Ray this day claimed a right to a settlement and preemption to a Tract of Land lying on the head of Salt River known by the name of the big Boiling Spring by improvement made on the premises & raising a Crop of Corn at Harrodsburg in the year 1776 & residing in the country ever since satisfactory proof being made to the Court they are of Opinion that the said Ray is entitled to a settlement of 400 Acres including the said improvement & the preemption of 1000 Acres of Land Adjoining and that a Certificate issue for the same."³¹

The Mercer County tax lists³² show that he also held two hundred acres in Henderson's Green River Tract, while the Mercer Deed Book No. 1 contains a record of the transaction between Ray and his step-father Hugh McCary, dated June 26, 1767, showing that for the "consideration of the sum of fifty pounds current Money of Virginia to said McCary in hand paid, has sold and conveyed to James Ray one certain Parcel of Land containing one Hundred Acres lying on the Waters of Shawnee Run . . ."³³ The next year Ray sold John Thompson a 200-acre tract in the same vicinity.³⁴ Ray also owned land on Chapline's Fork of Salt River, which he sold to William Martin in 1821.³⁵ In succeeding years he conveyed large portions of his holdings to his various children.³⁶

In comparison with the frequently enormous land holdings by his contemporaries, Ray's could not be considered large. However his son wrote that although he was never very wealthy, he was in easy circumstances at all times, adding that "He did not seem to thirst for Wealth."³⁷

After a long illness General Ray died on May 9, 1835, at his home on the Shawnee Run. He was in his 74th year.³⁸ Colonel George Thompson, who lived approximately a mile and a half away, frequently stayed with him in his last days, and wrote his will, wherein Ray parceled out his remaining land holdings, personal property, and slaves among his chil-

dron. Written two days before his death, it is a clear, dispassionate document reflecting good will and thoughtfulness for the welfare of his descendants. Under its provisions, two of his slaves were to be freed, and he admonished his son Jefferson, who was to receive the family home, "To extend the kindness of a Brother to any of his Sisters who may happen to be in distress, and I confidently trust in his generosity to do so. . . ."

The appraisal of Ray's estate listed houses, cattle, sheep, bees-hives, farm tools, household furniture such as "Fancy bedsteads," a mantle clock, Windsor chairs, etc. and, of course, "1 Family Bible." In addition there was a one-volume edition of the *Life of Christ*, another not mentioned, a geography, a dictionary, a two-volume history of the Revolution, unnamed bound volumes containing the acts of Congress, two volumes of legislative journals, and twenty-six miscellaneous volumes of "Old Books." This was a remarkable library for that period in Kentucky.

Dr. Graham, who was the family physician from the time of his arrival in Harrodsburg in 1814 until the General's death in 1835, was closer to him, perhaps, than anyone outside his immediate family. His letters and recorded interviews contain many affectionate references to James Ray. In the Doctor's tireless efforts to make succeeding generations conscious of their pioneer heritage, there were many occasions for referring to Ray: "He was so neighborly," he wrote. "Kind and pleasing in his manners, that I often spent nights with him, as a friend. He was unassuming and modest in his manner, and a kind, [er] and better hearted man never lived. . . . Being the oldest general in the state and in command, he attended ministers up to the date of his sickness which lasted him [at] . . ."

In combing the present study it is fitting to point out that among the hundreds of documents examined in search for information on the career of James Ray, neither in these nor in the traditions of his State did there appear the suggestion of a shadow on his personal or public life. "Among the numerous fine tributes to his character and contributions, one from his son, Dr. John Ray, who has been so frequently quoted in these pages, expresses the general estimates most fittingly.

"He was literally a self-made man . . . by the dint of exertion and industry, he was able to soar above mediocrity. He was quite a business man. He appointed himself both as a Legislator, & Military officer, with honour to himself and credit to his country. . . ."

"He was truly a pluck-and-go-getter, never appearing to be as well satisfied & happy, as when performing acts of kindness to his fellow men. The string of his Door latch was never found pulled in."

Following this brief estimate of his father's ability and character, Dr. Ray concludes with this statement: "My opinion is that he died without leaving any human being his enemy."

3. MILITARY SERVICES

The following tabulation presents James Ray's military services from 1777 to 1812. Each of the sixteen records here cited shows, in sequence: Year, Commission, Service, Authority.

1777. Spy. Kentucky County Militia. (National Archives, S 31314, and Draper Ms. 1A213.)

1778-1779. Lieutenant. Vincennes and Kaskaskia. (Draper Ms. 12C17 and Ray deposition, cited in "Proof of Revolutionary Soldiers Deaths in Mercer County, Kentucky," copied from Old Minute Books, Kentucky State Historical Society Collection, page 49.)

1779. Captain. Bowman's Expedition. (National Archives, S 31314.)

1780. Lieutenant and Captain. Bryan's Station and vicinity. (National Archives, S 31314.)

1780-1781. Lieutenant. McCoy's Station and vicinity. (National Archives, S 31314.)

1781. Ensign. Lincoln County Militia. (Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society, Vol. 20, page 170, "History of the County Court of Lincoln County, Virginia, Now Kentucky," by Lucien Beckner.)

1782. Lieutenant. Lincoln County Militia. (Order Book No. 1, Lincoln County, June Court, 1782.)

- * Draper Mss. 23106-57.
 * Draper Mss. 16190. The Rev. co. Lillard pocket contains eleven receipts signed by Ray, with a note of six years' dues, specimens of his writing, a blue, blank style, manual for ironmaking. His letters to directors of Col. John T. Bell, written in 1836, is above the register in structure. Draper Mss. 1622-26-33 (copy). See also, Draper Autograph Collection, Signature of James Ray.
 * For example, Draper Mss. 18218, 18196, 23106-57, and 182318E.
 * House Journals for 1810, 1811, and 1818 (published in Frankfort).
 * 1861, 1840, 1818.
 * 1862, 1831, 1810.
 * 1862, 1831, 1810.
 * 1862, 1807.
 * 1861.
 * 1861, 1849.
 * 1861, 1897. It is interesting to note that he voted against Clay in his contest against the abolition William Logan for Speaker of the House in the session of December 15, 1808, 1816, 1828.
 * 1861.
 * 1861, 1877, 1878, 1811, 1814, 1815 IRIN. Under an Act for the addition of Washington County, annex up the County of Bath, approved, January 15, 1811, Ray was named a commissioner to fix the boundaries. William Lillard, *The Statute Law of Kentucky* (Frankfort, 1814), Volume 4, page 218.
 * House Journal, 1811.
 * Draper Mss. 18025.
 * Ray vs. Lillard, Mercer County Records.
 * William Dorell against James Ray, filed August, 1788, in Lincoln County Court, *Order Book*, No. 1, 1783-1788.
 * The Registers of the Kentucky State Historical Society, Vol. 21, 1323, page 25.
 * Mercer County Tax Book, 1835, page 64.
 * Deed Book No. 1, Mercer County Court, page 98.
 * *Ibid.*, page 97.
 * Deed Book, No. 12, Mercer County Court, page 214-15.
 * See Ray vs. Dorell, Deed Book 1, V. 14, Mercer County, page 247, and Deed Book No. 15, Mercer County, pages 185-87, Ray vs. Keller's trustee.
 * Draper Mss. 18018.
 * Draper Mss. 18138-37 and 1700195.
 * Will Book No. 8, Mercer County, pages 744-46.
 * Will Book No. 10, Mercer County, pages 212-13.
 * Draper Mss. 18231.
 * The interviews by Rev. John D. Stone (Draper Mss. volumes 1800 to 1820) invariably read some statements by persons or their descendants that probably include a 1816. Query: At what time did the clerk's references cease to occur, and possibly recorded as such by the clerk in the 1816-1820 period? The references to the interviews by Rev. John D. Stone by Mr. Smith Graham, in 1881, are printed on page 1844.
 * Draper Mss. 18217.
 * Draper Mss. 18210.

* The Family and Commerce of Cassius James Ray, Forester of Four Counties, by Arthur Hiram Mason, appears in *The Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society*, Vol. 45, No. 123, January, 1919, page 99-98.

THOMAS CRITTENDEN CHERRY OF BOWLING GREEN

THE SIXTH OF NINE STRONG SONS

By ALFRED TAYLOR CRAIG
George Peabody College for Teachers
Nashville, Tennessee

The beginnings of the human spirit are inscrutable. They reach back into vast unpassable sources and into what unrecoded times. A man has two parents, each of whom had two parents, and so backwards runs a man's history, all the time diverging, possibilities and influences accumulating with the speed of geometric progression, until in the end a man comes from everywhere and is the inheritor of the traits of an uncounted army of ancestors. It is this vastness and divergency of influences which unfinds the biological prophets. It is too bewildering and these petty rules which men have set up partly to please their vanity but more because it is his way to search untravelling for the truth and with childlike faith to put his finding into "rules," do not seem to serve much.

'Tis the Fabius Crittenden ChERRY, for instance. How did he become that way? He was the sixth of nine sons. There were certain fundamental similarities to be sure. They were strong men, affirmative men. They bore certain physical like-nesses, and that was all. They presented an amazing range of attitudes and aptitudes. All the major types were represented by these nine strong sons. Where did their differences come from? Did a unidentified Allic ancestor give to Thomas Crittenden his classic bent? For he, first of all, is a classic. He has conducted teachers' institutes, taught psychology, administered a school system, recoded history, and now past fourscore years he raises strawberries, sweet potatoes, and general provender. But not for a moment does he lose his audience. These are merely gestures at modernity. He is a classic. His features are classic. They carry the indomitable shrewdness of the pioneer Yankee, the mysticism of the Cal-

22-425: 15 Aug. 1840, Martin C. Duncan and wife Mary B. to John L. Lillard, \$315, 10 acres on Salt River, being detached from northern boundary of tract whereon said Martin C. and Mary B. Duncan now live, adj. land of said Lillard, corner Buchanan. No wit. (FHL film 191,821)

24-386: 29 Jan. 1844, ~~Ann Duncan~~ and wife Polly (X) of ~~Dubuque Co. IA Territory~~, late Polly Short of Green Co. KY, appoint Allen Short (son of said Polly) of Sangamon Co. IL, attorney to receive of admrs. of Ann Stone late of Mercer Co. KY, decd., all such estate as said Polly Duncan late Polly Short may be entitled as one of children, heirs and devisees of said Ann Stone late of Mercer Co. KY, decd., named in will of Ann Stone. Wit. M. Lewis, John Thompson. Rec. Dubuque Co. IA. (FHL film 191,822)

24-383: Whereas on 29 Jan. 1844, ~~Ann Duncan~~ and wife Polly late Polly Short of Green Co. KY made power of attorney to Allen Short: and authorized Allen Short to appoint another attorney ... now Allen Short appoints Henry L. Mudd of Green Co. KY attorney. (pg.384 not microfilmed) (FHL film 191,822)

28-460: 19 Sept. 1853, William Dunkin and wife Letitia (x) to James Donovan, all Mercer Co. KY, 375, 3 acres on Chaplains fork of Salt River, no neighbors given, beg. at a stone standing five feet south of a post oak tree. No wit. Rec. 19 Sept. 1853 (extract from Jean Harper, also FHL film 191,824)

28-501: 19 Sept. 1853, Ludwell C. Cornish and wife Mary to William Dunkin, all Mercer Co., (money not given), 131-7/8 acres bounded by middle of Chaplin opposite Cornishes Elm Spring, Joseph Corn, Meeting House, Harrodsburg Road. /s/ L.C. Cornish, Mary Cornish. Rec. 19 Sept. 1853. (FHL film 191,824)

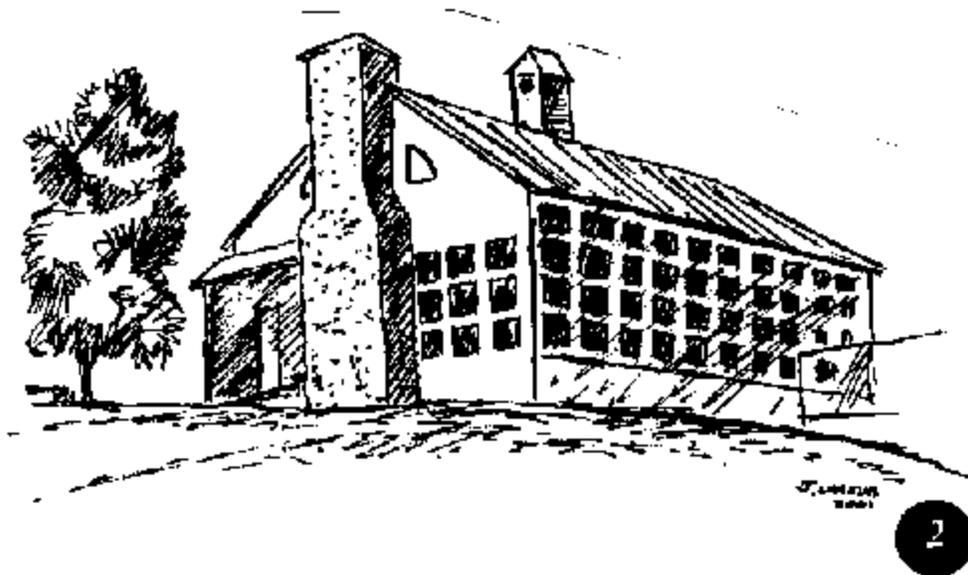
29-139: 24 May 1854, To Abraham M. Vanarsdall, slaves John aged about 13 years, Lewis about 12 years, and Milo about 11 years old, for \$2100 paid and secured to be paid by note of same date, and the undersigned Martin C. Duncan and his wife warrant and defend title to the slaves for the lifetime of the wife of said Martin C. Duncan, and the undersigned children of said Martin C. Duncan and wife having each an interest of 1/8 in said slaves subject to the life estate of said Mary B. Duncan do separately warrant their undivided interest of 1/8, to said Abraham M. Vanarsdall and his heirs; and the undersigned Lucy Jane Pritchett and her husband Isaac V. Pritchett, the said Lucy Jane being a

granddaughter of the said Martin and Mary Duncan and entitled also to an interest of 1/8 in said slaves subject to the life estate aforesaid, warrant their 1/8 as aforesaid; /s/ 24 May 1854, Daniel C. Duncan by Mary B. Duncan, Martin C. Duncan, Mary B. (X) Duncan, Mathew T. Duncan, Edward R. Burton, as guardian for A.B. Burton, Martin C. Duncan Jr. by James Taylor his atty in fact, Champness M. Duncan, John R. Duncan, Martin C. Duncan Sr., Isaac V. Pritchett & Lucy Jane Pritchett his wife by James Taylor their attorney in fact, Abner M. Duncan by James Taylor his agent.

I take the within bill of sale upon my personal examination without any warranty of soundness, May 24, 1854. /s/ A.M. Vanarsdall.

Mercer Co., May 24, 1854, ack. by Daniel C. Duncan by Mary B. Duncan his attorney in fact, Champness M. Duncan, John R. Duncan, Martin C. Duncan Sr., Mary B. Duncan, Mathew T. Duncan, and Edward R. Burton as guardian for A.B. Burton, and on 26 of same month and year, ack. by Martin C. Duncan Jr. by James Taylor his attorney in fact, J.B. Pritchett and Lucy Jane Pritchett his wife by James Taylor their attorney in fact and Abner N. Duncan by James Taylor his agent and also the memorandum annexed was ack. by A.M. Vanarsdall, /s/ Tho. Allen, Clk.

Rusk Co. TX, Daniel C. Duncan, a resident of Co. & state aforesaid, appoint Mary B. Duncan of Mercer Co. KY my attorney to dispose of at public or private sale a certain undivided interest I have in negroes: Lewis a boy about 12 years of age, John 13, Miles about 11, said negroes now being in the possession of my said attorney in Mercer Co. KY, 1 Feb. 1854, /s/ Daniel C. Duncan, wit. Jno. McCarty, E.H. McClarty, ack. in Rusk Co. TX, rec. Mercer Co. KY May 24, 1854. (FHL film 191,825 and extract from Jean Harper) (MAD: Lucy Jane Duncan mar. Isaac Pritchett 6/22/1848 Pike Co. MO; dau. of James R. 2d. 1840 Pike Co. MO) Duncan



The Spring House Anderson Circle Farm

High on a bluff overlooking Shawnee Springs, the Spring House is built around the framework of an early timber-frame barn. The original mortise and tenon construction has been kept intact and the joints fit perfectly when it was moved and reconstructed after one hundred fifty years. The pegs that tie the joints together are visible.

It was built by Samuel Keller who had married a daughter of General James Ray.

General Ray came to Kentucky with his mother, his step-father Hugh McGary, and his brother William. They traveled as far as the Hazel Patch with Daniel Boone and his family, then branched off to Harrod's Fort. While other settlers moved on or were killed by the Indians, General Ray stayed to become one of the most important men of this area. The foundation of his mansion house lies only 25 yards from where his son-in-law's barn has come to rest.

Present owners: Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Anderson



THE RAY BURIAL CHURCH

After the death of General James Ray in the late 1820's, people came from all parts of the Commonwealth to pay homage to the old warrior. The crowd was so large that the casket containing the remains was placed under a large elm tree that stood in front of the house and near the bank of Shawnee Run, so that the people might hear the words of the discourse.

As he had requested, Ray was buried in his orchard, on a knoll overlooking Shawnee Spring.

GEORGE CHINA - 1974

Through Time to Good Years
 A History of
 the
 3. Moore Co. Ky
 Burial Ground
 1774 - 1974

MELISSA WILSON SOCIETY - PUBLISHED

Descendant Register, Generation No. 1

1. David DUNCAN died 1745 in Albemarle Parrish, Surry Co., Virginia. He married ELIZABETH.

1745 = ca 1745

See Will Book 9, B 506
Sussex Co. Va. was rec.
July 17th, 1744 or 1745

Children of David DUNCAN and ELIZABETH are:

- 2 i. David DUNCAN,
- 3 ii. John DUNCAN,
- 4 iii. Peter DUNCAN,
- 5 iv. Kenneth DUNCAN,
- + 6 v. Nathaniel DUNCAN was born 1723 in Virginia, and died 1774 in Sussex Co., Virginia. *oldest son*
- + 7 vi. Daniel DUNCAN was born ABT. 1733 in Surry Co., North Carolina, and died 1782 in Caswell Co., North Carolina. *w/ Post under 21 yrs. old*

Descendant Register, Generation No. 2

6. Nathaniel DUNCAN (David DUNCAN¹) was born 1723 in Virginia, and died 1774 in Sussex Co., Virginia. He married AGNES 1743 in Virginia. *land & plantation*

Children of Nathaniel DUNCAN and AGNES are:

- 8 i. Mary DUNCAN was born 10 FEB 1746. *f*
- 9 ii. Agness DUNCAN was born 21 MAY 1747. *f*
- 10 iii. Boyce DUNCAN was born 6 AUG 1749. *f*
- 11 iv. Miler DUNCAN was born 1 APR 1753. *oldest male*
- 12 v. Amy DUNCAN was born 26 SEP 1755. *f*
- 13 vi. Sarah DUNCAN was born 4 NOV 1760. *f*

- 15 viii. Nathaniel DUNCAN was born 1793, and died 3 DEC 1865.
 16 ix. Daniel DUNCAN was born 30 APR 1766.

7. Daniel DUNCAN (David DUNCAN¹) was born ABT. 1733 in Surry Co., North Carolina, and died 1782 in Caswell Co., North Carolina. He married MARY. She died 1796 in Caswell Co., North Carolina.

Children of Daniel DUNCAN and MARY are:

- 17 i. Nancy DUNCAN. She married Daniel MERRIT.
 18 ii. Nathaniel DUNCAN. He married Nancy RAINLY 6 NOV 1782.
 19 iii. Frances DUNCAN. She married Champness M. DING.
 20 iv. Mary Polly DUNCAN. She married Benjamin RAY SLIMM.
 21 v. Abner DUNCAN.
 22 vi. Elizabeth DUNCAN.
 23 vii. Sally DUNCAN. STANTON
 24 viii. Martin C. DUNCAN was born 1781, and died 1865.

Descendant Register, Generation No. 3

24. Martin C. DUNCAN (Daniel DUNCAN², David DUNCAN¹) was born 1781, and died 1865. He married Mary Polly RAY 15 SEP 1806 in Mercer Co., Kentucky, daughter of General James RAY and Elizabeth TALBOT. She was born 1787, and died 1871.

Children of Martin C. DUNCAN and Mary Polly RAY are:

- 25 i. Lysa DUNCAN was born 1800, and died 1833.
 26 ii. James R. DUNCAN was born 1804. He married Lucretia JEROME 1829 in Mercer Co., Kentucky.
 27 iii. Green DUNCAN was born 1806.
 28 iv. Champness Madder DUNCAN was born 1806 in Mercer Co., Kentucky. He married Sarah Wade DAVIS 5 DEC 1855. She was born 1825 in Mercer Co., Kentucky.
 29 v. Elizabeth DUNCAN was born 1808. She married Henry BRITTON.
 30 vi. Abner N. DUNCAN was born 1810 in Mercer Co., Kentucky. He married Mrs. S. COZINE 8 AUG 1836.
 + 31 vii. Daniel C. DUNCAN was born 1811 in Mercer Co., Kentucky, and died 1882 in Rusk Co., Texas.
 32 viii. Matthew G. DUNCAN was born 1818 in Mercer Co., Kentucky.
 33 ix. Ann DUNCAN was born 1823 in Mercer Co., Kentucky. She married Ewan R. BURTON 11 DEC 1848. He was born 1820.
 34 x. Martin C. Duncan, Jr. was born 1826.

35. xi. John Ray DUNCAN was born 5 OCT 1828 in Mercer Co., Kentucky, and died 26 JAN 1895 in Mercer Co., Kentucky. He married Eliza A. GRAHAM. She was born 1835 in Kentucky.

Descendant Register, Generation No. 4

31. Daniel C. DUNCAN (Martin C. DUNCAN², Daniel DUNCAN², David DUNCAN¹) was born 1811 in Mercer Co., Kentucky, and died 1882 in Rusk Co., Texas. He married Margaret YATES 18 FEB 1833, daughter of James YATES and Sarah SANFORD. She was born 1813 in Orange Co., Virginia, and died 28 JUN 1883 in Rusk Co., Texas.

Children of Daniel C. DUNCAN and Margaret YATES are:

- + 36 i. William M. DUNCAN was born 1832 in Mercer Co., Kentucky, and died 1882 in Kaufman Co., Texas.
- 37 ii. John DUNCAN was born 1835, and died 1884.
- 38 iii. Nathaniel Cayton DUNCAN was born 1837. He married Mary A. BERRY 14 APR 1851.
- 39 iv. James H. DUNCAN was born 1841. He married Sybil M. THERMOND 23 AUG 1865.
- 40 v. Daniel Folk DUNCAN was born 1843.
- + 41 vi. Izabelle DUNCAN was born 13 JAN 1843, and died 23 FEB 1916.
- + 42 vii. George Washington DUNCAN was born 13 MAR 1846 in Mercer Co., Kentucky, and died 12 FEB 1919 in Henderson, Texas.
- + 43 viii. Margaret C. DUNCAN was born 11 FEB 1848 in Mercer Co., Kentucky, and died 18 NOV 1878.
- + 44 ix. Juanita M. DUNCAN was born 1852 in Rusk Co., Texas, and died 1881.
- + 45 x. Charles L. DUNCAN was born 1855.
- 46 xi. Andrew J. DUNCAN was born 1859. He married Margaret BERRY.

Descendant Register, Generation No. 5

36. William M. DUNCAN (Daniel C. DUNCAN⁴, Martin C. DUNCAN³, Daniel DUNCAN², David DUNCAN¹) was born 1852 in Mercer Co., Kentucky, and died 1882 in Kaufman Co., Texas. He married Elizabeth THERMOND 17 DEC 1857. She was born 1838, and died 1870. He married Polly Mary MASON 8 AUG 1872. She was born 1 JAN 1836 in Rusk Co., Texas, and died 2 FEB 1929 in Rusk Co., Texas.

Children of William M. DUNCAN and Elizabeth THERMOND are:

- 47 i. Henry James DUNCAN was born 1859.



SHAWNEE SPRINGS

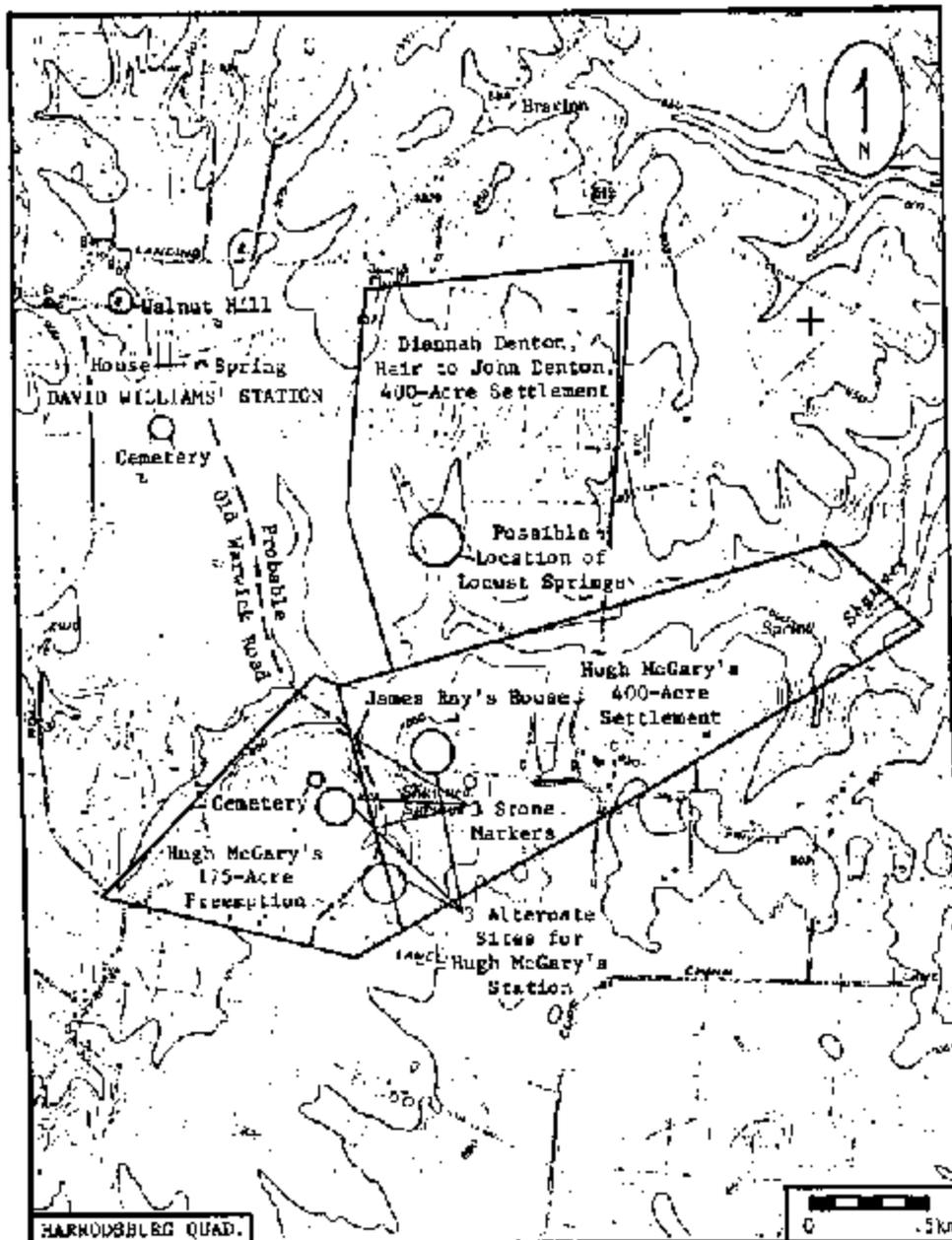


Figure IV-76. Land tracts of Thomas Denton and Hugh McGary, and David Williams' station, Mercer County.

