



The Kentuckian

Journal of the First Families of Kentucky

Volume 3 No. 1

Spring 2009



Greetings from the Governor General

It has been an honor to serve as the Governor General of the First Families of Kentucky for 2007-2009. Through the support of the other officers we have continued to increase our membership in the First Families of Kentucky.

The luncheon at Spindletop in Lexington proved to be quite successful. The Executive Committee voted to continue this event on an annual basis.

The First Families of Kentucky as a lineage society has met the standards for membership in the National Gavel Society. As Governor General of FFK I will be inducted into the National Gavel Society on April 16, 2009 at the University Club in Washington, D.C.



We look forward to seeing you at the white tie/black tie dinner at the Pendennis Club, Louisville on Saturday, May 30. The speaker will be Ron Elliott, Teacher, Historian and Researcher. During the short business session, new officers will be elected for 2009-2011.

Again, thank you for the privilege to serve as Governor General of the First Families of Kentucky. May the God of our fathers and our God continue to bless America!

Jack J. Early, Governor General

First Families of Kentucky

Third Annual Banquet
Saturday the thirtieth of May
Two thousand and nine
Pendennis Club
218 West Muhammad Ali Boulevard
Louisville, Kentucky

Social hour at Seven o'clock
Dinner at half past Seven o'clock

\$60.00 per person

White tie preferred
Black tie acceptable

Program by Ron Elliott
"Frontier Humor"

Table of Contents:

Governor General Message	1
Announcements	1
2008-2009 Officers	2
2009-2011 Executive Board Slate	2
Spindletop Luncheon	3 & 4
Simon Hancock	5
Benjamin Berry	6
Robert Brumfield	7
Jonathan Harned	8
John Barnett Stagner	9
John Strode	9

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Founded 30 April 2005

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First Families of Kentucky
Executive Board Slate for 2009-2011

Governor General Mary David Myles
Deputy Governor General William Buckaway
Secretary General Judith Rawlings
Treasurer General Lynn Shea
Registrar General Ann Franklin
Chaplain General Shirley Settle
Historian General William Schrader
Chancellor General C. William Swinford
Honorary Governor Generals..... Jack J. Early
..... Ronald D. Bryant

The nominating committee has presented this slate of officer candidates, who have consented to serve, to the council at the business session preceding the annual dinner meeting.

Life members are entitled to vote in person or by absentee ballot. Absentee ballots must be received by the Secretary General no later than one week prior to the election at the annual meeting. The absentee ballot must be in a separate envelope in the mailing envelope, sealed with his or her signature across the seal. If the seal is broken, that vote will not be counted. Ballots are only used for any contested council positions.

Henry Head, Secretary General
4015 Mamaroneck Road
Louisville, Kentucky 40218

The first edition of the Kentucke Gazette was published August 11, 1787 in Fayette County.

Eskippakithiiki was a Shawnee palisaded village established ca. 1718 in Clark County.

The Long Run Massacre occurred in Jefferson County in 1781.

Second Annual Event



Speaker Isabell Yates



Spindletop Luncheon October 11, 2008



Col. Douglass Harper & Katherine Ratliff



Jack J. Early, Isabell Yates, Dixon Barr



Jerry Ford & Fay Charpentier-Ford



Barbara Bohn, Alberta B. Baker, J. Murel Wheatley



Frieda Wheatley, Ronald Bryant, Nancye Early



Katherine & Thomas House



Lynn Shea, James Hackney, Cora Potter



Charlene & Henry Head



Carrie Skaggs, William Buckaway



Betty Buckaway, Frances Barr



Fay Ford, Michael Christian, William Schrader

Simon Hancock

Simon Hancock, the son of William Hancock (1712-1791) and Anne Linton, was born ca. 1744, probably in Prince William County, Virginia. Much is known about Simon's ancestors. His paternal great-grandfather, Simon Hancock, came from England to Virginia ca. 1637 and settled on the Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River in Lynnhaven Parish. His paternal grandparents, Samuel Hancock and Johan Hancock were first cousins. Johan Hancock's maternal grandparents were Col. Thomas Ligon (aka Lygon) and Mary Harris, daughter of Thomas Harris and Adria Hoare.

On 4 February 1768, Simon Hancock of Loudoun County and Mary Smith of Culpeper County entered into a Prenuptial Agreement. Mary Smith was the daughter of Thomas Smith and Anne Fowke Mason of Truro Parish, Fairfax County.

Simon Hancock signed the Loudoun County Resolution at a Meeting of the Freeholders and other inhabitants of the County of Loudoun, in the Colony of Virginia, held at the Courthouse in Leesburg, the 14th of June 1774, to "consider the most effectual method to preserve the rights and liberties of North America, and relieve our brethren of Boston, suffering under the most oppressive and tyrannical Act of the British Parliament..."

Simon was appointed a Captain in the Loudoun County militia on 9 September 1777. He served in the militia alongside his brother-in-law, William Smith. Captain Simon Hancock was present at the surrender of Lord Cornwallis on 19 October 1781 at the Battle of Yorktown. He is listed as a Loudoun County, Virginia taxpayer in 1782-87.

Simon and Mary Hancock had these children: Samuel Hancock, Elizabeth Hancock, William Mason Hancock, Ann Hancock and Susannah Hancock. Simon and Mary made a Bill of Sale in Loudoun County on 11 September 1789. Mary appears to have died not long afterwards as no further record of her

has been found. Simon and his family traveled through, and/or resided in Mason, Woodford and Franklin Counties, Kentucky before finally settling in Henry County, where Simon acquired large tracts of land. Early Mason County records show the presence of Simon's sons, William Mason Hancock and Samuel Hancock. It is possible that Simon's family was a part of that group of former Loudoun County militiamen that came to Kentucky on or about the 1st of October 1789.

The following is taken from an account given on 2 October 1895 by Richard J. Spurr, the grandson of Captain Richard Spurr of the Loudoun County militia.

"Captain Richard Spurr along with about 30 other families packed up their possessions and traveled to a place on the Monongahela River in the vicinity of Redstone. There they set about building flatboats for the journey to Kentucky. As the river was too low they had to wait some time for rains to sufficiently fill the river for the journey. The trip down the Monongahela and Ohio Rivers was uneventful until the party reached the mouth of the Muskingum River. There they were attacked by Indians in canoes... Injuries to the settlers were minor. Two or three horses that were injured had to be shot to keep from sinking the boats. The settlers disembarked at Limestone (now Maysville) in Mason County, Kentucky and traveled overland to Athens Pct., Fayette Co., Kentucky, where they settled on the land that had been granted to them, presumably for their service in the Revolutionary War."

Simon is listed as a property owner in Woodford County, Kentucky, 1791-1794, and in 1795 lived in Franklin County. On 3 January 1792 there was a Letter of Attorney action from Simon Hancock in Woodford County to his "friend Samuel Hancock, Gent. Of Bedford Co., Va. to recover debts due." (Samuel was Simon's first cousin.)

In April 1796 Simon married his second wife, Martha "Patsy" Bartlett, in Woodford County. Martha was the daughter of Captain Thomas Bartlett

and Mary Foster of St. George Parish, Spotsylvania County, and later of Henry County, Kentucky.

Simon and Martha had these children: Mary "Polly" Foster Hancock, Martha "Patsy" Hancock, Thomas Bartlett Hancock, Emily Hancock and Jane/Jensy Hancock. The family appears in Henry County in the 1810 Federal Census.

Simon and Martha Hancock died in Henry County, he in 1830, and she in 1834. The writer's descent is through their son Thomas Bartlett Hancock who was born on 26 October 1799, and his

wife Lucy Coombs Hancock (1802-1878). Thomas and Lucy Hancock are also buried in Henry County.

By: James R. Hancock



Thomas Bartlett Hancock



Lucy Coombs Hancock

Benjamin Berry

Benjamin Berry served as a private in Virginia during the Revolutionary War, lived to be 83 years of age, and fathered 17 children by two wives.

He was born February 21, 1755 in Virginia and moved to (now) Woodford County (Kentucky) ca. 1780 after his marriage to his first wife, Mary Allen.

Woodford County was created from a portion of Fayette County by an act of the Virginia legislature in 1788 as a result of a petition filed by citizens living in the area known as Woodford. Benjamin Berry signed this petition as an early settler of the area.

Children born to Benjamin and Mary Allen Berry were Samuel Berry, Jr. born December 1, 1781 (Susanna Hiett), Zacarah born 1784, Mary Polly born March 15, 1786 (Lewis Utlerback), Lily born 1789 (William Campbell), Sarah born September 27, 1792 (John Ford). This is my line. Benjamin, Jr. born 1793, Elizabeth born 1797 (Merritt Lee Young), and John born 1797 (1.Catherine Stoner, 2.Mary Ann Sallee).

After the death of Mary Allen Berry, Benjamin married Mary Blanton on March 5, 1804 in Woodford County, Kentucky. The couple had seven children.

When Sarah Berry married John Ford she became a member of another old Virginia family. Her father-in-law, James Ford (Lucy Shipp), fought in the Revolutionary War as did Lucy's father Thomas Shipp (Rachael). It is not known when James Ford moved from Caroline County, Virginia to the Woodford County area but he died there June 21, 1845 at the age of 88 years.

By: Nancy Ann Rupp, the 3rd great granddaughter of Benjamin Berry.

Preserve your ancestor's Kentucky history by sending his/her story to the Kentuckian. Stories should be approximately 600 words or less and all stories will be edited for clarity and length. Please send photos and articles for the next newsletter to the Editor.

Robert Brumfield

Pioneers Robert Brumfield and Richard Berry (my 5th great grandfathers) came into Kentucky about the same time that Captain Abraham Lincoln arrived in 1781 to survey land. They were followed by their families. They purchased land on Beech Fork, a tributary of the Rolling Fork and Salt River, in Lincoln County (later Washington County) 35 miles east of Elizabethtown.

My great grandmother Angeline Brumfield Clark's father, William Brumfield and grandfather, Richard Brumfield, passed on many family stories that Angeline and her sisters and brothers remembered and they occasionally shared them when the family was together.

Pop Richard said, "The first English settlement in America, Jamestown was founded May 14, 1607, 13 years, seven months before the Pilgrims founded the first English settlement in America. The settlement listed a boy, James Brumfield, among the 92 of the 105 known settlers from England listed by Captain John Smith (ab. 28, born in Lincolnshire, England). It is likely that James was accompanied on the ship by one or more adults, possibly his parents, who were not mentioned on the list. Only 30 had survived by June of the following year when more men and supplies arrived on the island (James City Co., eight miles from future Williamsburg, near the mouth of James River, and 45 miles from the mouth of Chesapeake Bay).

James Brumfield and wife Pessie (Peshee Sutton) and a Thomas Brumfield came to Rappahannock County (Blue Ridge & Rappahannock River area), Virginia on May 17, 1672 as a transportee to Robert Taliafero. James and Pessie were Kentucky pioneer Robert Brumfield's grandparents. They were members of the Gloucester, Virginia, Abingdon Church located 20 miles northeast of Williamsburg.

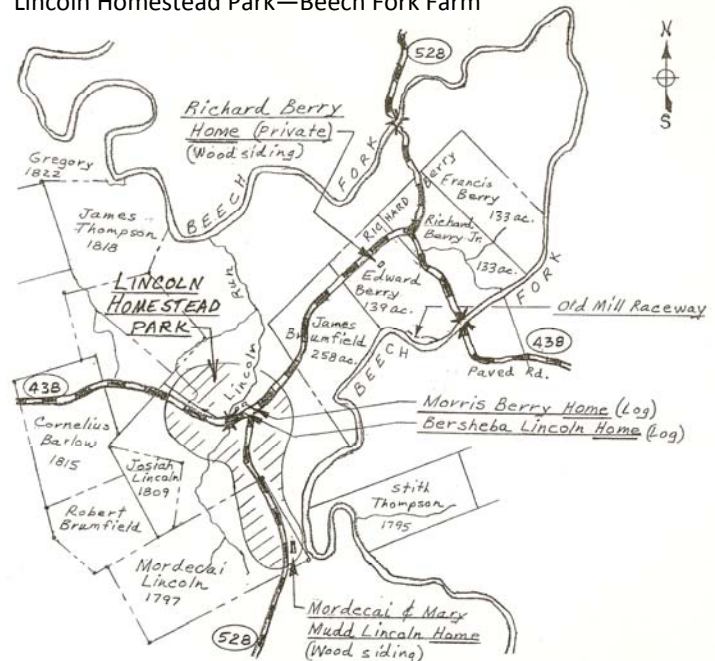
Angeline Brumfield Clark's great grandfather James Brumfield, son of Kentucky pioneer Robert,

enlisted under Colonel Abraham Brinkerhoff, New York, Dutchess County Militia, 2nd Regiment and fought under General George Rogers Clark in battles north of the Ohio River. Captain Joseph Horton, Ensign Charles Hoffman and Privates Clark, Berry, Huffman and Thompson were also in the 2nd Regiment. James and several other enlisted soldiers from the same regiment served in the Dutchess County Militia Minutemen Regiment under Colonel Jacobus Swartwout. The minutemen were volunteers ready to fight the British on a minute's notice.

William and Job Brumfield, brothers, also served in the American Revolution under George Rogers Clark. William also served in Virginia as did Kentucky pioneer Captain Abraham Lincoln and Israel Boone.

The above are excerpts from the book "Lincoln & Clark – Kings, Kin & Kentucky Pioneers," written by George Earl Meyers. (Net profits of 1st edition go to NSSAR) Robert Brumfield, his 5th generation great grandfather, was a Kentucky pioneer and a patriot in the American Revolution. He and Rachel Shipley and Richard Berry, also 5th generation great grandparents, settled in Washington County, Kentucky in 1781. (www.lincolnanclark.com)

Lincoln Homestead Park—Beech Fork Farm



Washington Co., Ky. map by George E. Meyers

Jonathan Harned

Jonathan Harned was born in Locktown, Sussex County, New Jersey between the years 1725-1730 and died in Vertrees, Hardin County, Kentucky before 12 April 1813. A son, Enos, was named administrator of the estate on that date, and the estate was appraised on 10 May 1813. He was a descendant of Edward Harnett, Jr. that came to Salem, Massachusetts in 1637 aboard the ship, Hercules, from Ramsgate near Canterbury in Kent County, England. He was a tailor. In 1639, he was given a grant of land and was admitted to the "First Church" in 1643. He married Elizabeth Porter, the daughter of Jonathan and Eunice Porter of Salem. He and Elizabeth later became friends of the Quakers and left Salem because of this affiliation. They moved to Huntington, Long Island, New York in 1658.

Edward, Jr. and Elizabeth had a son, Jonathan, who was baptized 17 November 1650 in Salem and died in 1714 in Huntington, Long Island where he was a cordwainer (shoemaker). He married Rebecca Jones. The Harned spelling was first used when Jonathan witnessed a farm deed on 10 November 1682.

Jonathan and Rebecca had a son, Edward, who was born in 1700 at Huntington and died in 1774. Edward married Rebecca ____, born in 1704 and died in 1775. In 1735 they were living in Hunterdon County, New Jersey, on 200 acres of land and were the parents of Jonathan Harned, an early settler in Nelson County, Kentucky.

Jonathan Harned became a member of the Kingwood Baptist Church in Locktown, N.J. in 1749 and married "his Catherine" in 1750. (There is a question as to whether her maiden name was Bean or Smithers.) They moved to Washington County, Pennsylvania where some or all of their nine known children were born. Jonathan and his family were in Nelson County, Ky. in 1780. He signed a petition to

Congress from the Kentucky settlers on 23 August 1780. On 15 December 1782 he received a land grant of 400 acres on Beech Fork River in Jefferson County. He received two more land grants in Nelson Co. on the Froman's Creek, a branch of the Beech Fork River on 16 December 1785 and 20 January 1788. On 8 July 1788 he was appointed surveyor of roads from the mouth of Beech Fork to Bardstown according to court minute books. He owned tracts of land in Nelson Co. on Lick Creek, a branch of Beech Fork, and Rolling Fork before leaving Boston in Nelson County.

In 1800, Jonathan and most of his family moved to Vertrees in Hardin County, Ky. Jonathan was a charter member of the Union Baptist Church and was buried in the church cemetery.

Jonathan and Catherine's son, Benjamin (3 July 1774 – 22 May 1849), was my great, great, great, great-grandfather. He married Hannah Calvin on 19 February 1801 in Nelson County. Hannah was the daughter of James Colvin/Calvin and Barbara Decker, another family of early settlers in Nelson County. Benjamin received a land grant in Hardin Co. on 27 September 1798 and a land grant in Christian Co. on 15 April 1804. He also received a land warrant on 7 March 1816 in Christian County. Eight of their nine known children lived their entire lives in this county.

Benjamin's son, William (my 3rd great-grandfather), received land warrants on 28 April 1826 and 22 November 1826 in Christian Co. William and his wife, Mary Meacham, died young. They left their son, Isaac (my ancestor), following in the footsteps of his ancestors and enjoying farming as a way of life in the great state of Kentucky.

(Jefferson Davis' birthplace is a mile from the Harned farm and burial site for Benjamin and Hannah.)

By: Barbara Oatts Smith

Sources: Early Ky. Settlers, Nelson Co. Marriages, Who Was Who in Hardin Co., Ky. Entries & Deeds, Residents of Nelson Co. 1785-1791, 1792-1794, Nelson Co. Deeds, Ky. Land Grants, Harneds of N. America, Huntington N.Y. Records, Christian Co., Gen. of Ky. Families, Family Tree Maker CD 504

John Barnett Stagner

John Barnet Stagner, birth name, Johann Bernhardt Steigner, was born in Germany in 1714. He married Anna Elizabeth Findler ca. 1732, while residing in Oberauerbach. The Stagners sailed from Rotterdam on the Brillander Thistle, arriving in Philadelphia on October 28, 1738. He and his wife were among the earliest settlers in Rowan County, North Carolina in 1753. Stagner and neighbor, Daniel Boone, were commissioned to lay off a road from the Shallow Ford on the Yadkin River to Salisbury, North Carolina, July 13, 1763. When Boone was preparing to leave for Kentucky again, Stagner decided to accompany him to the frontier and arrived at Boonesborough September 8, 1775. The next year old Barney, as he was called, moved on to Fort Harrod where he was assigned by Captain James Harrod to guard the fort springs. On June 22, 1777, Stagner was killed by Indians who cut off his head and stuck it upon a pole outside the fort. Afterwards, rumors abounded that Stagner's ghost haunted the spring. He was buried in the old Fort Harrod Cemetery in present day Harrodsburg. His surviving children included John, James, Sarah,

James Barnett Stagner, son of John Barnett Stagner, was born in North Carolina ca. 1753. He came to Kentucky ca. 1778 and enlisted in Captain John Holders Company, June 10, 1779, as a defender of the Fort of Boonesborough. On February 7, 1780, he inherited 1,400 acres of land in present day Mercer County, based on his father's residence there in 1776. By 1778, Stagner lived in Madison County, Kentucky. Barney, as he also was called, returned to Rowan County, North Carolina and married Sarah Prather on August 27, 1778. In 1792, he bought land on Otter Creek, south of Richmond, Kentucky and was appointed Captain of the Madison County Militia. According to family tradition, he bought timber to help build the Courthouse in Richmond. James Barney Stagner died January 21, 1821, leaving his wife Sarah and children: John, Jesse Barney, Anna, Sarah, Neddie, Barney Thomas, Rebecca, Eleanor and Richmond.

By: Norma Farmer Brumback

Sources: Filson Club Publication #16, Madison Co., Ky. Wills & Deeds, Rowan Co., NC Wills & Deeds, Collins History of Ky. Vol. II, Brillander Thistle Passenger List, Draper Manuscripts.



D.L. Hoff

Christiana, Barbara, Mary, Elizabeth, and Dorothy. Christiana married Hugh Wilson and they named their first born Harrod Wilson, in honor of Captain Harrod. The Draper Collections and other accounts claim that this was the first white child born in Kentucky.

John Strode

John Strode was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania in 1729 and migrated toward the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia where he met and married Mary "Molly" Boyle and settled in Berkeley County. As the Revolutionary War was beginning in 1776, Strode came to Central Kentucky and scouted out the area. Having determined that he would return to the area, he built a "half-face cabin" on his 1000 acre preemption. In 1779 Strode, followed by other Berkeley County families, headed to Strode's land located two miles from Winchester and eight miles from Boonesborough in what today is Clark County. There Strode erected a fort, which became known as Strode's Station.

Strode offered land to settlers that would clear the land and agree to stay nine years. By the year

1780, 30 families were living at the station. For three or four years Indian confrontations and horse stealing raids were common. Settlers moving into the area first stayed at the fort making it a center of early county activity.

John Strode died in 1805. He and Molly were buried at the Strode Station Cemetery, where the Winchester by-pass and I-64 are located. When development of the by-pass came through the area their remains were relocated to the nearby Winchester Cemetery. Only a stone marker remains today at the location of the early Kentucky settlement.

At the death of John Strode (who had 12 children), his daughter, Nancy, inherited his farm and the home on the farm. She married Massachusetts native Abijah Brooks, a Revolutionary War patriot, in 1791. In addition to Nancy's land, they had farmland in Bath County. It was there that Abijah died in 1812. Nancy died in Clark County in 1855. Both were buried in the family burying ground adjacent to Strode's Station. With the construction of the by-

pass, their remains were also moved to the Winchester Cemetery along with other members of the Brooks family.

The Strode/Brooks line continues with Nancy and Abijah's son, Samuel Brooks, and his second wife, Elvira Scott a Bourbon County native. Their daughter, Alice Brooks, married Ben Woodford and his daughter, Mary Woodford, married James Dodge. Their daughter, Alice Dodge, married Eddie Reynolds. The latter were the parents of Betsy Reynolds (Mary Elizabeth) who married Theodore Roosevelt Kuster. With the exception of Samuel Brooks, born in Clark County, the rest of this line were born and lived in Bourbon County, Kentucky.

By: Betsy Reynolds Kuster

First Families of Kentucky

Editor Frieda Curtis-Wheatley

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