OUR ANCESTORS IN THE WAR OF 1812

The year 2012 is the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812. To commemorate this anniversary, the Fredonia Valley Heritage Society has chosen to prepare this booklet featuring “Our Ancestors in the War of 1812.” Some of these men may not have been Kentuckians at the time of their service, but they are “our ancestors.” The booklet also contains information about Kentucky’s significant contribution to the War of 1812.

The mission of the Fredonia Valley Heritage Society is to identify and promote awareness of and support the preservation of the history and heritage of the Fredonia Valley and to see the history of our community preserved for future generations.

The Fredonia Valley Heritage Society meets on the first Thursday of each odd numbered month. Prospective members are invited and encouraged to attend.

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Kentucky played a major role in the War of 1812, which lasted from 1812 to 1815. Did you know that 64% of the total casualties of the war were Kentuckians and that the Commonwealth suffered more men killed and wounded than all other states combined? It is an often unknown fact that the Commonwealth of Kentucky made this extraordinarily disproportionate contribution to the war effort. (kynghistory.ky.gov).

Nearly 25,000 Kentuckians had some sort of military service in the War of 1812. The conflict also placed national focus on Kentuckians who would become many of the state and nation's future political leaders. The War of 1812 was the first major event after Kentucky statehood that solidified the identity of the state. As the "Second American Revolution," the War of 1812 provided a national identity for the United States, as evidenced by the "Star-Spangled Banner." Kentuckians played a key role in creating this national identity. (history.ky.gov).

Below is the original “Star-Spangled Banner.” This flag flew over Fort McHenry during the Battle of Baltimore during the War of 1812, and it inspired Francis Scott Key to write the lyrics which would become our national anthem. It is among the most treasured artifacts in the collections of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.
The War of 1812 was a military conflict fought between the forces of the United States of America and those of the British Empire. The United States declared war in 1812 for several reasons, including trade restrictions brought about by Britain's ongoing war with France, the impressment of American merchant sailors into the Royal Navy, British support of American Indian tribes against American expansion, outrage over insults to national honor after humiliations on the high seas, and possible American desire to annex Canada.

When the War of 1812 broke out, Kentuckians formed volunteer companies even before and far in excess of that which was asked by the government. The most memorable battle of the war, as far as the Kentucky Militia was concerned, was that of the Battle of the River Raisin. This involved a detachment of 990 Kentucky militiamen who were ordered to attack Canadian troops at Frenchtown. On January 18, 1813, the Kentucky forces met the British and Indian troops who were compelled to retreat. However, unnoticed by the United States forces, 2,000 British and Indian troops reinforced existing enemy forces to overwhelm the United States regulars. Kentuckians, regardless of rank, united to bring these regulars under assault within the picket line but were unable to do so.

Not a Kentuckian who passed that picket line ever returned. The British who were in complete control of the situation offered terms of surrender, which were accepted. This surrender was later violated when an adequate Guard was not furnished by the British, as stipulated in the
surrender, for the protection of the wounded against the drunken and frenzied Indians. As the result, all the wounded were massacred, including a great number of Kentuckians.

When the news of the massacre reached Kentucky, the Legislature authorized Governor Shelby to personally take active command of reinforcements. This request from General Harrison to Governor Shelby asked for only 2,000 reinforcements, but 4,000 Kentucky volunteers were formed in Newport and immediately sent to General Harrison's aid.

Early in September of that year, Commodore Perry engaged and overcame the British Fleet, which gave Harrison command of Lake Erie and, with it, power to throw a large land force against the British then occupying Detroit. It was then that Governor Shelby, personally leading his Kentucky reinforcements, crossed Lake Erie to join the United States regulars and engage the Indian forces of Chief Tecumseh who was reinforcing the British forces.

Under the command of "Old Tippecanoe" William Henry Harrison, a Kentucky regiment of mounted riflemen led by Colonel Richard M. Johnson marched one hundred miles to conquer General Henry A. Proctor's British Regulars at Ontario, Canada, in the Battle of Thames on October 5, 1813. William Henry Harrison, at the time territorial governor of Indiana, received his commission as a Major General of the Kentucky Militia from the Kentucky General Assembly. Richard M. Johnson is credited with killing the great Indian war chief Tecumseh during the battle, he would go on to serve as Vice-President of the United States (1837-1841) under President Martin Van Buren.

The Battle of New Orleans found 2,500 Kentuckians composing one-fourth of General Andrew "Old Hickory" Jackson's army of regulars, Tennessee Militia Men, Creole Louisiana Militia, free Negroes, LaFitte's pirates and city volunteer militia. Even though Jackson's forces were outnumbered by the British, their determination and expert shooting ability, combined with the imaginative leadership of General Jackson, enabled them to handily defeat the superior British force. In 45 minutes the battle was over. Jackson forces had taken 500 British Redcoats as prisoners and killed and wounded 2,100 British as compared to 13 American dead. So ended the War of 1812 in which the Kentucky Militia had played so vital a role.

It is worth noting that not only did Kentucky provide the bulk of the men to prosecute the war, but Kentucky caves, Mammoth Cave in particular, were nearly the only source of nitrate used to make gunpowder
for the war after England placed an embargo on the United States at the outbreak of the war.

Of the approximately 25,000 Kentuckians who served during the war, 1,200 were casualties. Sixty-four percent of the Americans killed in the War of 1812 were Kentuckians. (Copied from kynghistory.ky.gov/history).

It is surmised that the flag pictured at left was carried by Kentucky militia serving under United States Army General, James Winchester, during the War of 1812 and at the River Raisin battle when it fell into British hands. Many volunteer Kentuckians perished during and after what has become known as the River Raisin Massacre. Some of the Kentucky militia and American soldiers who were wounded, captured or surrendered following the battle were later killed and scalped by Indians allied with the British. (1812kentuckybattleflag.com).

The wording, “United We Stand”, is part of the current Kentucky motto, “United We Stand, Divided We Fall.”

“Kentucky’s War of 1812 veterans fought and died in the struggle for American expansion and independence. Men, like those who forfeited their lives in a ‘forlorn hope’ to break the Indian lines at the battle of the Thames, did so without reservation. Their monument is America, now stretching from ‘sea to shining sea.’ Without men of this ilk, America as we know it may not have ever happened.” (William “Bill” Otter).
HERVEY CHOATE


Mr. Choate was a sea captain. For many years he made voyages from Salem, Mass. to the West Indies. It was said he was a most genial, cheerful and social man. His return from a sea voyage was hailed with delight by the children of his neighborhood, for he brought to them tropical fruits and presents from remote places. He gave interesting descriptions of the islands and of the natives. He told marvelous stories of the sea. And says one, still living, who was among the children of the next house, that welcomed the return of Captain Choate sixty years ago, “For us his presence always had a romantic charm.”

In “An account of the Armed Vessels, privateers belonging to Salem, Mass. during the War of 1812” Capt. Harvey Choate appears as the commander of the schooner “Swift” which was manned by a crew of twenty-five men. Vid. Essex Institute Historical Collections, Vo. 2, p. 58 Excerpt from the book “The Choates in America”, p. 188.

Submitted by: Nancy Paris

ISHAM C. CLEMENT

Isham C. Clement was the gggg-grandfather of Rita Rogers Oldham and Anita Rogers Thompson on their mother's side. He was born February 6, 1781, in Amelia County, Virginia. Shortly after February 24, 1804, he married Sarah C. Rudd (born 1787) in Prince Edward County, Virginia.

He was drafted near the close of The War of 1812 and sent to Richmond, Virginia. He served in Sharp's and Green's Regiments in the Virginia Militia as a Private. He remained there four months until peace was declared.

In 1817, Isham moved to Henry County, Kentucky, for one year, then to Crittenden County. He settled on Clay Lick Creek where he bought 380 acres of land. He served in Crittenden County as a Magistrate for some 10 years and served as Sheriff for two years, by seniority.

Isham died of “old age and chills” on October 17, 1856. His wife, Sarah, died August 30, 1857. They are buried in the Clement Cemetery between Fredonia and Marion, just off the Crayne and Mexico Road. The land was owned by J. I. Clements, one of Isham's grandsons. (This cemetery was destroyed by former owners and was located not far from the family home, which is also gone. The only visible thing left close by is an old silo. (Taken from The Crittenden County, Kentucky Cemeteries, Revised Volume I, page 135.)
Isham and Sarah had a daughter, Elizabeth Booker Clement, who married Alexander Coleman. Their daughter was Mariah Henry Coleman. She married Thomas Smith and had a son named Thomas A. Smith. Thomas married Sallie A. Duncan, and they had a daughter, Nellie Coleman Smith. Nellie married William Roland Hard. Nellie, our grandmother, died in May of 1933 when our mother, Ruth Hard, was only 17. Mom and her two older sisters wore all-white dresses to the funeral and served as flower girls, as planned in advance. Their brother was only seven years old.

The great writer and humorist, Mark Twain, better known as Samuel Langhorne Clemens, is said to be related. Even Mark Twain was vague about his own genealogy. Further research shows that his father was Abraham, son of Ezekiel Clemens of Hunterdon County, New Jersey. The family goes back to the 1500’s. In a letter to Edward L. Dimmitt, July 19, 1901, Twain wrote: "Life would be infinitely happier if we could only be born at the age of eighty and gradually approach eighteen."

Submitted by:
Rita Rogers Oldham and Anita Rogers Thompson

SAMUEL FOSTER

The following is excerpted from Goodspeed’s, "History of Southeast Missouri". "In May and June, 1814, there was a company of mounted rangers recruited by Peter Craig, of Cape Girardeau Co., who with many of the company, had served under Captain Ramsey in the previous year. The company was enlisted for one year for service on the frontiers of Missouri and Illinois, and was attached to Col. William Russell's regiment. It was this company which fought the battle of the "Sink Hole", and did much other arduous service. Private Samuel Foster was among that company. The company was completed and mustered into service on the 2nd of July, and was engaged in guarding the frontiers when the battle of the "Sink Hole" occurred. The battle was fought in what is now Lincoln Co., Missouri, not far from Cap au Gris.

Fort Cap-au-Gris, also called Fort Independence and Capo Gray, was a temporary post built in the summer of 1813 near Troy, Missouri during the War of 1812. It was erected by Missouri Rangers upon the advisement of the inhabitants of Fort Howard to observe the Indian movements on the Mississippi River. Built under the direction of Nathan Boone, son of Daniel Boone, the fort was located about 18 miles east of Troy, Missouri. After the defeat of Fort Johnson, U.S. Army soldiers under the command of Zachary Taylor retreated to Cap au Gris in October 1814. The Battle of the Sink Hole was fought near the fort on May 24, 1815, after the official end of the War of 1812, between Missouri Rangers and Sac Indians led by Black Hawk. The Sac were unaware, or did not care, that their British patrons had signed the Treaty of Ghent with the U.S. The battle was fought in a low spot near the mouth of the Cuivre River near present day Old Monroe near Fort Howard and Fort Cap au Gris. An ambush by the Sac Indians on a group of rangers led to a prolonged siege in which seven Rangers and one Sac were killed. In 1824 the Sac and Fox finally gave up all claim to the region.

A small village called Cap Au Gris (36 miles from St. Louis in Lincoln County, Missouri and about 16 miles east of Troy) grew up around the old fort and was officially laid
out in 1845. It soon boasted two stores, a school and a population of about 60 people. The town was incorporated in 1876 under the name of "The Inhabitants of the Town of Wiota;" however, the people never became accustomed to the new name, and continued to use the old name. It became an early day shipping point for Troy and became a town of some importance, boasting a number of businesses. However, when the railroads arrived, they took away the village's trade and by 1888, the town was entirely gone.

Samuel Foster (born October 23, 1785-March 6, 1879) was married to Sylvia (Savility) Travis on October 27, 1807. A daughter, Mary R. (Polly) Foster, (born October 5, 1808 in Livingston, Kentucky; died May 18, 1851 in Crittenden, Kentucky) married Samuel J. Crider. A daughter, Melvina Crider, became the wife of William H. Asher. Sarah Josephine Asher, a daughter, married Peter Hise O'Neal, great grandfather of Marjorie O'Neal Yandell.

Submitted by: Marjorie O’Neal Yandell

JAMES JOHNSON

James Johnson was born on June 15, 1785, in Prince Edward County, Virginia. In 1790, his family emigrated to Kentucky. In 1802, as a young man of 17, James left his father’s house and set out to seek his fortune in the wide world. He made his way to Louisville which was then just a trading village and military post. He became acquainted with General Clarke, who sent him on several missions through the Northwestern Territory, then inhabited by Indians, with a few French settlements. On one of those missions he landed his canoe at the mouth of Hurricane Creek and made his way to Centerville (on the Caldwell-Crittenden County line in what was then Livingston County). He served as a clerk in the store of a Mr. Woods for a short time. When he was only 18 years old, through the influence of several prominent men, he was appointed Sheriff of Livingston County. He held that office for six years. He then commenced the study of medicine with Dr. Stewart.

In 1806, James Johnson married Miss Jane Leeper of Livingston County. He soon commenced the practice of medicine, and he was a popular physician. In 1808, he made profession of religion and joined the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. About a year later, his wife made a profession of faith as well and became an unusually pious woman. She was a great helper to a good man.

In the War of 1812, he entered the public service as a volunteer and was made assistant surgeon of his regiment. He also served in the campaign of General Hopkins against the Northwestern Indians. James Johnson is but one of the many Kentuckians from our area who served in the War of 1812.

In April of 1818 he was received as a candidate for the ministry by the Logan Presbytery. He lost his wife on December 11, 1818. He was licensed as a minister in November of 1819, and was later ordained as a minister on April 2, 1822. He was occasionally ordered by his Presbytery to travel as a missionary through Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, or Arkansas, and he went cheerfully, preaching in the wilderness. At the time, Dr. Johnson had a family of several motherless children. He was said to love the Church, loved the ministry, and loved the brethren. He was always cheerful and hopeful.
In about 1820, Dr. Johnson married Mrs. Louisa Harman of Tennessee. After her death, he married his third wife, Mrs. Jarratt of Livingston County, Kentucky. He died a few weeks later on December 18, 1837. He died exhorting his ten children to meet him in heaven.


Submitted by: Don Boone

WILLIAM C. LOVE

William Calhoun Love was born in Knox County, TN in 1798, and moved to Caldwell County, Kentucky the following year, with 17 family members, both black and white. His mother was Esther Calhoun Love, a second cousin to John C. Calhoun, later Vice President of the U.S. The year the Loves moved to Kentucky, his father, Major William Carter Love, was murdered by the Harpe brothers near what is now Dixon, Kentucky.

W. C. Love kept lengthy notes on events in his life as they happened, and in 1868 began work on the memoirs. W. C. was a Cumberland Presbyterian minister and his signature is found on many of the marriage documents of his era in Caldwell County. William writes in detail about his life, including such events as the murder of his father, the New Madrid earthquake, the Battle of New Orleans, and the Civil War, in addition to many of the more mundane details of his life in the early days of Caldwell County.

In the latter part of 1814 a call was made on Kentucky and Tennessee for troops for the defense of New Orleans. Love wanted to go upon the expedition which followed the call, but knew that his mother would not give her consent, as he was only 16. He obtained her consent, however, to make a boating trip, but made his way directly to Smithland, Kentucky; hired himself as a substitute for a man who had been drafted for the service, and was soon on his way to the seat of war. On the 4th of January, 1815, the expedition landed four miles below New Orleans. He was involved in the terrible battle of the 8th, lost his bayonet in the conflict, and was very uneasy that the British be able to charge over the breastworks of the American lines, and he would be in an awkward predicament without a weapon. It turned out that he did not need his bayonet. He was one of the body of troops who were sent across the river to assist in recovering the ground which was supposedly lost there. Love eventually arrived at the home of his mother unhurt, but he had been involved in the burying of the two thousand soldiers killed. He was received as such wanderers are generally received by forgiving mothers. His own account was, "I met my mother and all the family at the gate, and such joy I had never experienced before as I experienced at that meeting. And, if I recollect and I think I do, it was about the 24th of April. The war was now over and sweet balmy peace had once more returned to bless our land and Mother and Malinda, my half- sister, and myself constituted all the white family. I should have been contented like the prodigal."

William Love, son of Esther Calhoun Love and William Love; died in 1872 and is buried at Piney Fork Cemetery. Esther Love is the ggggg-grandmother of Marjorie O’Neal Yandell.

Submitted by: Marjorie O’Neal Yandell
ASA O’NEAL

Asa O’Neal was a son of Captain Peter O’Neal and Elizabeth Clark O’Neal, born about 1777 in Guilford County, Colony of North Carolina (later Rockingham County). Alternate names found for Asa are Asahel and Ezekial. He served in the North Carolina Militia from Hyde County, North Carolina, under the leadership of Lt. Colonel Simon Burton and 1st Major James W. Clark. Asa mustered in 30 September 1814 and out on March 1815. Organized August 1812, the second regiment was composed of men from Washington, Tyrell, Hyde, Beaufort, Craven, Carteret, Jones, Lenoir, Greene, Pitt, Martin, Edgecombe and Wayne Counties and was detached from the 2nd, 12th and 3rd Brigades. Commanding officers were: BURTON, Simon - Lt. Colonel TISDALE, Nathan - Lt. Colonel BLOUNT, Thomas H. - First Major CLARK, James W. - Second Major.

Asa O’Neal was a brother to Peter Clark O’Neal who also served in the War of 1812. He was a brother to Timothy O’Neal, g-g-g-grandfather of Marjorie O’Neal Yandell of Fredonia.

Submitted by: Marjorie O’Neal Yandell

PETER C. O’NEAL

Peter C. O’Neal was born about 1773 in Guilford County, Colony of North Carolina (later Rockingham County) and died on 16 Dec. 1845 in Montgomery County, Tennessee. He is buried at Little Hope Baptist Church Cemetery in Sango, Montgomery County, Tennessee. He married 4 Apr 1814 in Montgomery Co, TN, to Frances Cooke at the home of Frances' father, Stephen Cooke. Peter and "Franky" were the parents of 12 children.

Peter C. O’Neal served in the 1st Regiment of the Tennessee Volunteers under Captain James Hambleton (Hamilton) from 10 December 1812 until April 1813. He was then a sergeant in the service of Captain Hambleton and Colonel William Hall in the Volunteer Infantry of Tennessee. The men were mostly from Sumner, Davidson, Giles, Lincoln, Montgomery, Overton, Rutherford, Smith, and Wilson Counties.

Part of Andrew Jackson's expedition to Natchez, this regiment had a complement of about 620 men (the average company having between fifty and seventy soldiers). Each company was assigned a fife and drummer. After the abortive mission at Natchez, this unit was dismissed at Columbia, Tennessee (April 1814) but many of men later re-enlisted under Colonel Edward Bradley and joined Jackson in the first campaign of the Creek War.

Peter C. O’Neal was a son of Peter O’Neal and Elizabeth Clark. His father, Peter O’Neal, served in the Revolutionary War and much information is available on his role as Captain O’Neal. Peter C. was a brother to Timothy O’Neal, the g-g-g-grandfather of Marjorie O’Neal Yandell of Fredonia. His brother, Asa O’Neal, also served in the War of 1812.

Submitted by: Marjorie O’Neal Yandell
JAMES PARIS

James Paris, son of James, a Revolutionary War Patriot, and Elizabeth Paris, was born between 1779 and 1780 in Virginia. He married Sally Pindleton 24 October 1800 in Prince Edward County. James is listed in the 1810 Census in Prince Edward County. James has a service record in the archives as Private, 1st Regiment, Artillery Battalion for the War of 1812 from 1813 to 1814. His older brother Obadiah was commissioned as Ensign, 63rd Regiment, 11th Brigade, First Division of Prince Edward County Militia in 1811 and was later sworn in as Lieutenant. Their younger brother, Elijah, has a service record as a Private, 7th Regiment of Virginia Militia for the War of 1812.¹ (¹ Military notes posted by Kenneth Shelton on Rootsweb).

James and his brother, Obadiah, moved with their families to Smith County, Tennessee in 1815, where they engaged in agriculture south of the Cumberland River. On 1 May 1820, James purchased land there. On 13 May 1824 he purchased 63½ acres on the waters of the Dry Fork of Mulherrin Creek in Smith County. He died before 20 January 1849. At the time of his death, he owned 72 acres in the 17th District of Smith County.

James is the ggg-grandfather of Wm. Ralph Paris.

Submitted by: Wm. Ralph Paris

RICHARDSON ROWLAND

Richardson R. Rowland was born in North Carolina in 1791 and moved to Wilson County, Tennessee, with his mother, Sarah, and sisters, Sally, Rebecca, Kissiah, and Elizabeth before 1811.

He served two separate “hitches” of military service in the War of 1812. The first was when he joined General Andrew Jackson’s Tennessee Volunteers at Nashville on December 10, 1812. In the summer of 1812 when war broke out, President Madison called upon the Governor of Tennessee for 1500 volunteers for the defense of New Orleans. Andrew Jackson, who had never fought a battle, was given a commission as Major General of Volunteers and command of the expedition. Richardson was one of 2000 volunteers for that expedition. He joined Cavalry Troop 10 commanded by Col. John Coffee. They began their southward march on January 19, 1813. On February 16, 1813, they united with Gen. Jackson and the other men who had gone by boats down the Cumberland, Ohio, and Mississippi Rivers. They camped near Natchez, Mississippi, to await further orders. After a month, they received an order from the War Department for the volunteers to disband. Instead General Jackson led them back to Nashville at his own expense. They arrived back in Nashville on April 22, 1813, and thus ended Richardson’s first hitch of military service.
In the late summer of 1813, the Creek Indians of Alabama went on the warpath. Shortly afterwards, Tennessee called for volunteers and recruits for the army. Richardson returned to military service on September 24, 1813, by enlisting as a private in the 24th Infantry Regiment of the United States Army. He volunteered for a five year hitch. According to army records, he was described as 5' 8” tall with fair hair and skin and blue eyes. His regiment participated in the Battle of Longwood on March 2, 1814, near London, Ontario, and the unsuccessful attempt to recapture Fort Michilimackinac which took place on August 14, 1813. The regiment spent the winter of 1814-1815 at Mobile, Alabama. After the war was over, Richardson served as a private in Company H of the 7th Infantry Regiment guarding the Gulf Coast area of Alabama and West Florida. His five year term expired on September 24, 1818, and he returned to his home in Wilson County, Tennessee.

For his service during the War of 1812, Richardson was issued a patent or grant for land lying in the military bounty land district in the State of Illinois. His patent was for 160 acres. Like most veterans, Richardson probably never even visited the land granted to him, but instead soon sold it for the modest sum of $1.00 per acre.

After his military service, he married Mary “Polly” Neal, daughter of Joseph Neal, in 1819. Their twelve children were born in Wilson County, Tennessee. Richardson was a farmer, carpenter, and cabinet maker. He and his family were active members of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church. Richardson and most of his children migrated to northern Caldwell County, Kentucky, about 1855, and settled on the waters of Donaldson Creek.

In 1866, Richardson and his second wife, Permelia Avery, lived on a farm in the Walnut Grove community about 12 miles from Princeton with a Fredonia address. He was awarded a monthly pension of $8.00 because of his son, William’s death in the Civil War. Later he became eligible for a pension based on his own service but died in August 1872 before receiving it. A few months before his death, Richardson sold his farm to E.B. Blackburn. His exact burial place is unknown. In 1965, Richard Sheridan obtained a V.A. marble headstone for him which was placed in the Rowland Cemetery with the approval of Aubrey Rowland, cemetery caretaker.

Richardson’s children were a girl born about 1819 and died young, Joseph, Wiley (1822-1867), Elizabeth Rowland Lane (1825-1914), Jackson (1826-1872), Jesse (1828-1913), David (1831-1888), Mary Ann Rowland Eskew (1833-1916), Sarah Rowland Morse (1836-1871), Benjamin F. Rowland (1838-1914), William (1843-1865), and Riley.


Richardson Rowland is the ggg-grandfather of Dot Rogers and the gggg-grandfather of Pam Faughn.

Submitted by: Pamela Rogers Faughn and Dorothy Riley Rogers
ELHANAN WINCHESTER SMITH

Elhanan Smith was the Orderly Sergeant of Captain Peter Hayes' Capital Guards, of Virginia, during the War of 1812 (History of Union County, page 221, Courier Company, 1886). According to Webster's Dictionary, an orderly sergeant is the first sergeant of a company with the duties of conveyance of orders. Elhanan was around 17-18 years old at the time he held this position.

Elhanan Winchester Smith was born April 12, 1795 in Fauquier County, Virginia to Rowley Smith (born May 5, 1952) and Elizabeth Betsy Woodward/Hord (born March 15, 1754). He married Eleanor Franks November 18, 1815 in Shenandoah County, Virginia. Elhanan died in July 4, 1852. He was the father of Hiram Smith, the father of Emma Jane Smith Simpson, grandfather of Marybelle (Mamie) Simpson O'Neal. Mamie was the grandmother of Marjorie O'Neal Yandell of Fredonia, Kentucky. Hiram H. Smith (born 1816, Shenandoah Valley, Virginia - died February 22, 1888, Union County, Kentucky) was married to Sarah "Sally" Wallace (born 1818 - died October 13, 1876). Sarah Wallace was a daughter of a veteran of the War of 1812, Captain James Wallace, a ggg-grandfather of Marjorie O'Neal Yandell of Fredonia.

The 1850 Union County, Kentucky Census, District 2, reveals the following:

E W Smith, 54-M-W, Farmer, 800 acres
M L Smith, 56-W-W, none, VA
Hiram Smith, 34-M-W, none, VA
Sarah Smith, 32-F-W, none, KY
Marian Smith, 10-F-W, none, KY, attending School
Nancy Smith, 9-F-W, none, KY, attending School
Elenor Smith, 7-F-W, none, KY
Harvy Smith, 4-M-W, none, KY
R D Smith, 2-M-W, none, KY

Elhanan’s father, Rowley Smith, was a first lieutenant in the Virginia Militia in the Revolutionary War (J. W. McAllister, Virginia Militia in the Revolutionary War, page 201).

Submitted by: Marjorie O’Neal Yandell

JOHN STEVENS

John Stevens lived near Tradewater, Shady Grove, and Quinn in Caldwell County, Kentucky. His wife was named Sarah (Sally). Their daughter Elizabeth was born 8 April 1806 in Christian County, Kentucky. Elizabeth married Samuel P. Ramsey. Elizabeth is the ggg-grandmother of Wm. Ralph Paris.

In October 1812 he was appointed and sworn as constable in Caldwell County. John was a soldier in the Kentucky militia and distinguished himself at the battle of New Orleans 8 January 1815. He was again appointed and sworn as constable the following February. He died between February and October, leaving a wife and five small children in very indigent
circumstances, indebted to the Commonwealth of Kentucky for 200 acres upon which they resided. The land upon which they resided had been entered by John Flint in Livingston County on 5 December 1803. In October 1815, the Caldwell County Court granted letters of administration to Sarah & Elijah Stevens upon the estate of John Stevens, deceased.

The inventory of the estate of John dated 22 November 1815 reported a value of $100.25: Sally purchased at the sale held the same day 2 beds and furniture, the pewter, knives and forks; the tin cups; the pail and sifter; the flax; the pair of cards; the wheel; the reel and 1 cow. By act of the General Assembly dated 1 February 1817, for his service and the inability of his wife to pay, the Commonwealth remitted the price of the land and directed the Land Office to issue a patent to them.

On 26 March 1818 Sarah appointed Wm. Prince her attorney in fact to call in persons appointed by law to pay widows and orphans to deceased soldiers and to receive all monies coming to her. She signed the power of attorney by mark.

On Monday, 15 July 1822, the Caldwell County Court ordered that Jesse Stephens be summoned to appear before them and to show cause why the infant children of John should not be bound out as apprentices. The next day he did so and the cause was continued. On Monday, 21 July 1823 the court ordered that Jesse, Sally and Elijah Stevens be summoned to show cause why those children, except the one living at James Satterfield's should not be bound, and that they bring the children with them. On Monday, 18 August they appeared. Showing no good cause, in the court's opinion, they were ordered to be bound.

Sarah died between 18 August 1823 and August 1831. On 23 August 1831, a survey was made for the heirs of John Stevens (the widow being dead), 200 acres on Tradewater River in Caldwell County, Kentucky, 1½ miles above the mouth of Donaldson's Fork near Duncan's rock. The certificate was in conformity to an act for the relief of the widows and children of William Harrol, John Stevens and William Harris. The grant for the 200 acres was signed by Governor Robert P. Letcher 1 Dec. 1840. The children conveyed the 200 acres to William Morse 20 January 1842.

Submitted by: William Ralph Paris

JAMES WALLACE

A long neglected and very old cemetery with green ground covering, edged with trees in Webster County, Kentucky, is the final resting place of a veteran of the War of 1812, James Wallace. He died on 17 Nov 1849 in Union Co., Kentucky, and is buried in Granny's Hill Cemetery, near Wheatcroft on the Old Blackford to Wheatcroft Road, is on the land grant to James Wallace, recorded in Henderson County. Kentucky Land Grant Book No. 1 in 1803. James Wallace is the ggg-grandfather of Marjorie Yandell.

James Wallace was the son of Samuel Wallace and Sarah Hardin Wallace. Samuel Wallace was born: circa 1754 and died circa 1794 in or near present day Nashville, Tennessee. His widow, Sarah, then moved with her six children into Kentucky, settling first in Logan County, then eventually settling in the area that would become present day Union County and Webster County.
Most of the eleven graves in Granny's Hill Cemetery are unmarked or marked with native stones weathered to the extent of no visible lettering. The tombstone of James Wallace is marble, with a military insignia. The tombstone has fallen over. Close by is the grave of Nancy Cook Curry Wallace, his first wife. Born in 1787 in Georgia, Nancy died before 1832 in Kentucky. Her parents were Edward Curry (1748-1836) and Lucy Cook Curry (1760-1831).

James and Nancy married on 6 August 1804 in Livingston County, Kentucky. They had 8 children. James Wallace remarried Kesiah Williams on 3 March 1832 in Caldwell County, Kentucky. No record has been found of children born to the second union. Upon the death of James Wallace on 17 November 1849, in Union County, his widow moved to Caldwell County.

James Wallace (born 16 October 1780 Tennessee) and Nancy Wallace were the ggg grandparents of Marjorie O’Neal Yandell of Fredonia, Kentucky. Their daughter Sarah married Hiram H. Smith with the resulting birth of Emma Smith Simpson, the mother of Mary Belle (Mamie) Simpson O'Neal, Marjorie's grandmother. Sarah "Sally" Wallace was born on 15 May 1818 in Union County. She married Smith on 7 November 1839 in Union County, Kentucky. She died on 13 October 1876 and is buried in Ark Royal Lodge Cemetery, near Caseyville, Union County, Kentucky.

James Wallace was known as "Captain", having served in the 76th Regiment of Kentucky Militia. Prior to the War of 1812, on 30 January 1809, the 76th Regiment of the Militia, of Hopkins County, Kentucky was formed from the 41st. Regiment of Henderson County. Because Kentucky did not have to commit manpower to defending fortifications, most Kentucky troops campaigned actively against the enemy. A total of 25,010 Kentuckians fought in war, with five out of six men of military age fighting the British and/or the Indians. The men were in 36 regiments, four battalions, and twelve independent companies.

Submitted by: Marjorie O’Neal Yandell

JAMES YANDELL

James Yandell was a doctor and a Captain in the War of 1812. In the War of 1812, many doctors practiced medicine without any formal training. Hospitals were often in barns, but if available, were in tents. Medical supplies and equipment were limited.

Living conditions in the camps often produced malnutrition and exhaustion. Hygiene was lacking. Communicable diseases were rampant. Soldiers often contracted flux, an all encompassing term for diarrhea; "lake fever" or typhoid; pneumonia, influenza, tuberculosis, dysentery, fevers or the measles.

Battle injuries were less common but terrifying. A bullet in the head, chest or abdomen meant almost certain death. A bullet in a limb meant almost certain amputation. Overworked surgeons performed a limited number of operations, almost all without sterile instruments and anesthesia. Liquor was the most common anesthesia available. A soldier might hoard his daily ration of alcohol and consume it shortly before surgery, in order to deal with the pain. Doctors, when amputating a limb, would saw through the limb as quickly as
possible, suture the wound, and pack it with dry lint. However, the typical deceased soldier died from germs, not from battle injuries. Infectious disease caused at least three-quarters of the estimated twenty thousand deaths of the soldiers, Native Americans, women and children who died in the camps.

Each battalion, of anywhere from 300 to 1,200 men, typically had only two medical practitioners attached to it, the surgeon and his mate. The doctors were also responsible for the medical care of the camp followers. Usually there were six women per 100 men plus their children who were with the battalion to do cooking, laundry, act as nurses, etc.

James returned home after the War to his wife, Jane Leach, whom he had married 16 May 1809, in Maury County, Tennessee. James Yandell (Andrew Yandell / Martha Walker, Henry Yeandall / Agnes Mears) was born about 1783 in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina and died before 1850. He is in the ancestral line of Van Yandell of Fredonia. Following Jane's death about 1825, James married 2) Malinda Kelso on 11 September 1826, the daughter of Walter Kelso and Mary Walker. She was born 1804 in Virginia.

James had five siblings, Andrew, Jr., John, and three others. John moved to Hopkins County, Kentucky and was the father of twelve children, including Bartus V. Yandell, John Augustus Yandell, Freeman Yandell, and James Nathaniel Yandell, who all settled in western Kentucky.

Submitted by: Marjorie Yandell

JOHN YANDELL

"The rebel guerrillas recently stole from Old John Yandell of Gibson County, all his horses, except one which was worthless and the clothing of his daughters. Yandell is between 75 and 80 years of age and a soldier of 1812." The Nashville Union, 10 November 1863.

John Yandell was born 19 March 1784 in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, to William Yandell and Martha Wilson Yandell. He died 1 January 1866 in Gibson County, Tennessee. He was married to Judith Pitts on 13 March 1809 in Mecklenburg Co., Virginia.

He was an Ensign in the 15th Regiment of the Tennessee Militia. In November of 1814-commanded by Colonel Edwin Booth, the regiment began its march from Knoxville / Lookout Mountain in present-day Chattanooga to Fort Strother in Alabama, and finally to the area of Mobile, Alabama. These units were sent to the vicinity of Mobile to protect that region from Indian and/or British offensive activities. Many of the men are thought to have been stationed at Camp Mandeville, a military post located outside of Mobile. Most of the companies were dismissed at Mobile after the war around May of 1815. The men were mostly from Anderson, Bledsoe, Blount, Hawkins, Knox, Rhea, Roane, and Sevier Counties in Tennessee. The State of Tennessee was nicknamed "The Volunteer State" because of the many volunteers in the War of 1812.

John Yandell was the son of William Yandell, and an ancestor of Van Yandell of Fredonia.

Submitted by: Marjorie Yandell
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Remembering

the Raisin

KENTUCKY’S ROLE IN THE WAR OF 1812

By Ron Soodalter

The War of 1812, fought between the fledgling United States and its old enemy Great Britain, was a far-ranging conflict. For three bloody years, it was fought on land and sea, raging from the Great Lakes, up and down the Eastern Seaboard, across the mountains into the Old Northwest Territory, and from the Canadian interior south to the Gulf of Mexico. Today, it ranks as one of our least-remembered wars, though at the time it was called—not without some justification—our “Second War of Independence.” Although the underlying causes involved British interference with American shipping on the high seas, every American state and territory was involved, some to a greater extent than others. And although no battles were fought on her native soil, Kentucky contributed nearly 26,000 volunteers to the fight.

Nowhere in America was the rhetoric bolder, the pro-war sentiment deeper, or the commitment to fight stronger than among Kentuckians. Inspired by eloquent War Hawks such as Henry Clay, and convinced that the war could be won in a single short campaign by a numerically superior army of citizen soldiers, Kentuckians of all ages and social strata left their homes and jobs to stop what they saw as the British threat to their newly won liberty, and to American expansion in the West. Victory, however, would be neither swift nor easily won. At the end of hostilities in 1815, Kentucky’s casualties were higher than those of all the other states combined. Although Kentucky’s volunteers comprised less than 5 percent of the Americans who fought in the war, she could claim a staggering 64 percent of the casualties.

Indian Uprising

Although the American forces in the coastal states were mainly fighting the British army and navy, it was not only the Redcoats who posed a threat to the Americans on the frontier, but also their Indian allies. Settlers in the frontier states and territories needed no formal declaration to place them on a war footing with many of the local tribes. Hostilities had been rife since the French and Indian War of the 1750s, with offenses and outrages perpetrated by both sides. The Indians had the most legitimate grievance: the constant whittling away of their homeland by interlopers, scofflaws and representatives of the U.S. government, who systematically made deliberately confusing or misleading treaties, and then proceeded to break them. It took little British encouragement to instigate all-out war.
The Indians did not observe the traditional European methods of combat. For them, war was not about rules of engagement. They often struck from ambush or staged lightning raids, targeting villages as well as military patrols, and killing civilians with no regard to age or gender. The mere whisper of a possible Indian attack was sufficient to terrify entire communities. Although the term “psychological warfare” had yet to be invented, the Indians were natural masters of it. Even though many of the Kentucky volunteers were experienced frontiersmen, they suffered a series of staggering defeats and massacres at the hands of the British and their native allies, before finally breaking the back of the Indian resistance.

Enter Isaac Shelby

One of the earliest and bloodiest of these battles occurred in January 1813 at the River Raisin in southeastern Michigan. The previous August, just two months after the declaration of war, American forces under the aged and inestgen William Hull surrendered Detroit and 1,100 men to the British (an act for which he was later court-martialed), thereby giving up a vital launching site for an American invasion of upper Canada. Two other forts, Detroit and Michilimackinac, had recently been lost to the British as well, and now the Illinois and Indiana territories were open to British and Indian invasion. It was imperative to close the gap.

William Henry Harrison—Indians territorial governor, commander of the Northwest Territory, and hero of the battle of Tippecanoe—had recently been brevetted brigadier general of the Kentucky Militia, and Gov. Isaac Shelby made Harrison’s first order of business the recapture of Detroit and the seizure of the nearby British Fort Malden.

It was autumn by the time Harrison marched his Northwest Army for Detroit. Shelby also had ordered a force of some 2,000 Kentucky volunteers under Maj. Gen. Samuel Hopkins to proceed toward Detroit, penetrate hostile country, and draw the enemy’s attention away from Harrison’s march. Hopkins had no trouble attracting volunteers, but when the campaign dragged on well past the intended period without a trace of hostile Indians, and the untrained Kentuckians found themselves ill-equipped for northern weather, their ardor waned, and they turned around and returned home, trailing a frustrated and helpless Hopkins.

Harrison fared little better. He split his force into three columns, ordering each to take a different route, and to meet up at the Rapids of the Maumee River, where they would combine for their assault on Detroit. However, the late autumn rains, snow and freezing temperatures soon turned the roads and paths to mud and made marching all but impossible. The 1,300-man column under Gen. James Winchester broke down well short of its destination—and there remained, poorly provisioned, from October into January 1813. Winchester finally built sleds to convey his men and equipment down the frozen river to the Rapids and the designated rendezvous point.

Upon his arrival, Winchester received word that some 50 Canadian militia and 100 Indians were guarding British provisions at nearby Frenchtown on the River Raisin—site of present-day Monroe, Mich. Harrison had not yet arrived, so Winchester made a decision: He ordered two of his colonels—John Allen and William Lewis—to march 650 Kentucky militiamen 35 miles through heavy snow to Frenchtown and capture the British stores.

The Kentuckians arrived at Frenchtown on Jan. 18, and—driving the Canadian-Indian force into the nearby woods—they occupied the small town. Lewis requested reinforcements from Winchester, who then led an additional force of regulars and militia to Frenchtown, bringing the total American presence to around 1,000. Meanwhile, word of the fight had been carried to the British at Fort Malden, and as the Americans lay asleep on the night of Jan. 21, a superior force of British regulars under Gen. Henry Proctor and Wyandot warriors under Chief Roundhead assumed positions outside the town. When dawn broke, the British opened up with the three field pieces they had brought, catching the Americans by surprise.

The only cover afforded the Americans was a row of wooden pickets that partially encircled the town. It could shelter only so many men; those Kentucky infantrymen who occupied the nearby field were without protection and soon were shredded by grape shot and canister. With the river at their backs, there was nowhere to run, and in a short time the Indians and Canadian militia outflanked them. Hundreds were either killed and scalped or taken prisoner. Allen was slain, and Lewis and Winchester were captured. Meanwhile, the militia force behind the pickets, under a courageous Maj. George Madison, still held out.

Given assurances by Proctor that the remaining Americans would be treated as prisoners of war, the captive Winchester sent a missive ordering Madison to surrender. His ammunition nearly gone, Madison complied, and by noon, the firing ceased. Proctor assembled the ambulatory prisoners and marched them off toward Fort Malden, leaving some 80 wounded Kentuckians at Frenchtown to await transport. Along the march, the Indians harassed, beat and tomahawked many of the prisoners and carried others away to their villages as captives, while the British did nothing to stop them.

But the cruelest fate awaited the wounded. After the battle, the Indians discovered a store of whiskey among the provisions. With only a few British soldiers left behind to guard them, the wounded prisoners fell victim to the drunken Indians, who slaughtered most of them in their beds, set fire to the houses in which they lay, and spirited away the few still alive. It is estimated that some 400 Kentuckians died during or following the battle, while an unknown number were taken as captives by the Indians. It was one of the most stunning American defeats of the war.

Bitter Pill for Kentuckians

Harrison, deprived of an entire wing of his army, was forced to postpone his plans for the recapture of Detroit. The country—and especially Kentucky—was shocked by the news of the defeat and massacre at the River Raisin. For the Kentuckians, who had envisioned a brief war and a glorious victory, reality was a bitter pill. The war would be long and tedious, and the end, when it finally came, would be inconclusive.

Yet, despite profound disillusionment, still they volunteered, fought and died. According to historian James Wallace Hambroek Jr., “Between four and five of every six eligible men in the state saw some service during the War of 1812.” Late in 1813, marching once more under William Henry Harrison, Kentucky’s regulars, militia and volunteers crossed again into Canada to confront—and defeat—the British and their allied Indian Confederacy at the Battle of the Thames. Kentucky’s participation in the War of 1812, costly though it was, firmly established the young state’s identity in the minds of Americans and served as a proving ground for many of its citizens who would go on to attain high office. More than 30 of Kentucky’s 120 counties are named after native sons who distinguished themselves, or died trying. And to this day, Kentuckians take pride in the battle cry that inspired their ancestors for the duration of the war: “Remember the Raisin.”

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OTHER INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE WAR OF 1812

Uncle Sam (initials U.S.) is a common national personification of the American government that according to legend came into use during the War of 1812.

Women during the War. The women that were in the camp during the War of 1812 were wives of the soldiers. They were chosen by a lottery system. Only six wives were allowed in camp for every one hundred soldiers. The women were employed as seamstresses, nurse maids, laundry maids, and scullery maids. It is said that the women were given the hard jobs, and the men looked after the dangerous jobs. The women also had to cook and clean for their own families. The life was very hard and the women were very much respected by the men. If a woman's husband was killed or died, she had three to six months to grieve, and then she had to re-marry or leave the camp. Most re-married for the security. There are at least two reports of women who married four times in five months because their husbands died.

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Much of the information for this booklet came from the following sources:

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Ky. National Guard History eMuseum (kynghistory.ky.gov/history).

Kentucky in the War of 1812 Narrative by Bill Otter (www.kentuckybattleflag.com).


Other sources as shown in individual stories.