

Early Times in Clinton County

by Jack Ferguson

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It would be very difficult to express my appreciation to all those who have given me information in the preparation of this book. There have been so many who have been helpful in sharing family information, family Bible records, and the like that it would be impossible to name them all individually; however, I do take this opportunity to express to all those who have shared in one way or another in the gathering of the material for this book my sincerest appreciation. At different points in the book I have indicated my source of information and I hereby express to all those who have not received such credit my sincerest regrets that I was not able to do so in every instance.

The scope of the two present volumes of this book is to trace the history of Clinton county from the earliest times to the year 1900. I believe that the subsequent history of the county from that year to the present would be sufficient to fill another separate volume, and it is my hope that I, or someone more gifted, will some day have the opportunity to bring the county's history up to date.

One of the features of this book is family tables on various families that have figured in the history of the county. I am sorry that space does not permit all of the families of the county to be so treated; but there are other reasons, other than space, for the family names that were chosen. Some of our present families came into the county rather late and therefore may not properly belong to the scope of the present work. Others may not have figured as prominently in the historical affairs of the county.

The extent of the family tables has been limited in some respects by the scope of the book. Since it stops off at the year 1900, the family list—wife, sons, and daughters—of an individual born before 1900 will be included, even though his marriage and the births of his children occurred after that year. A father, born in 1895 for instance, would have his children listed, even though all of them would be born after the cut-off year, while a brother, born in 1901 for instance, would not have his family listed. I know that this is somewhat arbitrary but some degree of arbitrariness is necessary to keep the book within its limits.

A book like this will naturally contain errors. Some such errors are almost unavoidable. Much information is derived from Census records, which are very unreliable as far as dates are concerned. For instance, the year of birth for Calvin H. Dyer appears as 1822 in the 1850 Census; 1817 in the 1860 Census; 1818 in the 1870 Census; 1814 in the 1880 Census; and 1816 in the 1900 Census. Cemetery records are more reliable, but even they sometimes appear in error. Sometimes gravestone inscriptions are almost illegible from weathering and time and it is easy to err in reading them. I have tried to exercise every care to prevent errors but the nature of the source material has sometimes made that very difficult.

I would like to extend my thanks to the members of the Clinton County Historical Society who have been very helpful to me, with especial recognition to Mrs. Eva Conner, Mrs. Nannie Parrigin, and Mrs. Martha Brummett. I would also like to express my appreciation to Mrs. Charlette Koger, of the Clinton County Educational Department for her assistance with early school records.

After all the credits for help and assistance have been made, there is one final acknowledgement that I wish to extend. That is to my wife, Clara Koger Ferguson, whose patience and encouragement have been unending, without which I could not have written this book—and it is to my wife that I dedicate this work "Early Times in Clinton County."

I.

The pioneer days are gone. No more do the deer, wild and graceful and untamed, come down to the gravelly banks of the little streams to drink or to splash in the clear running water. No more is the early morning quiet broken by the gobbling of the wild turkeys in the aisles of the forest. Where once stretched endless woodlands now are farms and farmland; livestock grazing where once fed deer and elk. The game trails are now winding highways, wide ribbons of concrete or asphalt. Time and chance have relegated those days to the past, almost forgotten.

It is easy to shut out the present and go back in reverie to those early days, to see the thin wisps of blue smoke rising above the rough log cabins, to follow the settler in his unending struggle to wrest a living from the wilderness, to watch the stump-dotted clearings come, one at first, then two or three, then spreading into many. We see again that sturdy old pioneer, as far as we know the first settler in what is now Clinton county, who gave Stocktons Valley its name. We see again the wilderness, where now US Highway 90 comes down into the lowland at Cartwright, into which a young man from Boones Fort, pushing westward, came over a century and a half ago. Albany, with its courthouse tower once a landmark for miles around, fades away and we see again the apple orchard that long ago covered part of its site. It is easy to imagine that before the apple orchard there were deer trails leading down to the large springs in the cool of tall, spreading oak and beech trees, and to see in imagination the wild game feeding in the bottoms along the creek. Perhaps a dusky Indian, passing quietly through the forest, stopped to quench his thirst, or perhaps that German woodsman and his companions who hunted through Clinton county so long ago, camped at one of these springs. Perhaps some hunter, unknown or forgotten, venturing westward, stopped long enough to admire the scene presented by the rolling lowland and the tranquil Clear Fork, with its willows and canebreaks, and to see ahead in the future the town that would be there. Imagination is prolific and colorful but slowly the past recedes and we are again in the present. All too little of the story of those early days has endured with us. The pioneer is gone, swiftly being forgotten. But his story is an interesting, an engrossing one, the story of our own homes, our own families, and own ancestors.

II.

Clinton county is located in southern Kentucky, adjacent to the Tennessee line. To the east, north, and west lie the Kentucky counties of Wayne, Russell, and Cumberland, and adjoining it on the south is the Tennessee county of Pickett. It is a small but compact unit, comprising only 235 square miles. In regional formation it presents parts of two maturely dissected plateaus. Remnants of the higher, older upland are to be found in Poplar mountain, a spur of the great Cumberland range, which penetrates the county and terminates about two miles west of its center. It attains a maximum height of 1745 feet. Stocktons valley, made by the curve of Poplar mountain to the west, was the scene of the first white settlement in the county.

Poplar mountain, with the spurs known locally as Sewell, Grider, and Huddleston mountains, and the low ridge bordering the adjoining swamp lands and extending in a westerly direction to Cave Springs schoolhouse and Forest Cottage, mark the major drainage divide of the county. Willis, Salt Lick, Indian, and Hancock creeks and other lesser tributaries flow northward into Cumberland river. Ill Will, Sulphur, Spring, and Lick branch drain in a southerly direction into Wolf river.

Albany, the county seat, is located at the source of the Clear Fork creek, a tributary of Spring creek, on the lower regional level. It is a small but prosperous town of over 2,000 population, the business and trading center of an extensive farming area.

Albany is the only incorporated town in the county. However scattered around over the county are several communities or postoffices. One of these is Rolan, in the southeast corner of the county, at Beech Bottom church. This postoffice was named after Rolan Flowers, an early resident of the community. Huntersville, along the state line, was named for the family of that name. Cartwright, near where Governor Preston H. Leslie was born, was named after Dr. Walker F. Cartwright, one of four brothers who all became doctors. He married Mary Hurt, daughter of George W. (Wash) Hurt, who lived northwest of Albany on the farm that later became known as the John Maupin farm.⁽¹⁾

Seventy Six, near the center of the county, was settled by John W. Semple and was laid off as a town in 1817. Tradition tells us that the town was named from the height of the falls over which Indian creek plunges, but a more authentic record states that it was so named from the "station number" in the original survey, where the members of the surveying party had built a shop and lodging quarters.⁽²⁾ This was near the top of the precipice, which measured eighty-three feet in height. The postoffice at Seventy Six, the first in what is now Clinton county, was opened June 20, 1836, with William F. Ellis as the postmaster.⁽³⁾

Desda, in the upper part of the county, was named by Hiram Irwin after his sweetheart. The first postoffice there was established June 7, 1888, under the name of Ariadne, with David G. Orton as postmaster.

Elliott's Cross Roads, in the eastern part of Clinton, was established as a postoffice on April 24, 1837, with Ambrose S. Bramlette as postmaster. It was discontinued in 1840, re-established in 1850, finally being discontinued in 1856 while Harvey R. Ryan was postmaster.

Alpha, in the northeastern part of the county, was named after the Alabama-born wife of John M. Davis, the first postmaster. It was established January 28, 1852.

A postoffice was established on Ill Will May 29, 1839, with James Smith as postmaster. It was discontinued in 1841, re-established in 1880, and finally discontinued in 1918.

(1) George Washington Hurt was a grandson of William Hurt, who came from Spartanburg county, North Carolina with his wife Jenny Foster Hurt, in 1813, settling on the Little South Fork of Cumberland river in Wayne county. George W. Hurt married a daughter of Thomas Bristow; the farm on which he later lived was originally the property of his father-in-law. In the 1850 Census Hurt's wife is listed as Malissa; in the Clinton county birth records she appears as Felicia Ann. Two of their children were: Mary Susan (April 28, 1858) who married Dr. Walker F. Cartwright, and Lurissa D. (November 24, 1859).

(2) Wells, "History of Cumberland County."

(3) Ellis was postmaster until October 25, 1836, when James Crouch, Jr. became postmaster. He served until October 27, 1857, when Nancy Guthrie became postmistress. The postoffice at Seventy Six was discontinued because of the Civil War, July 31, 1863, and reinstated July 20, 1865, with John C. Andrew as postmaster.

III.

Clinton county has added its quota of names to the roster of fame. It has produced two governors of Kentucky, one of whom served as the governor of another state, Montana, as well as a third individual who also served as Montana's highest executive officer. Governor Thomas E. Bramlette was born about six miles southeast of Albany in the Maupin community. He was commissioned as a colonel in the Union Army at the outbreak of the Civil War, later as a Major General, and in 1863 he was elected governor of Kentucky, serving until 1867. Governor Preston H. Leslie, born near Cartwright, served as governor of Kentucky from 1871 to 1875. Later he was selected by the President to serve as the territorial governor of Montana from 1886 to 1889. Samuel C. Ford, born at Albany, married a granddaughter of Governor Leslie and served as governor of Montana from 1941 to 1949.

James Semple,⁽⁴⁾ charge d'affairs of New Grenada, 1837 to 1841, practiced law in Clinton county for several years. His brother, Robert Semple,⁽⁵⁾ went to California in 1845 and was one of the leading pioneers there. He was president of the California Constitutional Convention. Edward Cross, who was brought to Clinton county by his father Robert Cross as a baby of six months,⁽⁶⁾ moved to Arkansas in 1826, settling at Washington, Hempstead county. In 1832 he was appointed by President Jackson as Judge of the Superior Court of the territory of Arkansas; in 1852 he was appointed by Governor Drew as Special Judge of the Supreme Court of Arkansas. He was elected to Congress in 1838, serving three consecutive terms. Samuel Bell Maxey, an eminent lawyer of this county, served in the Civil War as a Brigadier General for the Confederacy, and later served as United States Senator from Texas for twelve years. Delaney R. Carr, a brilliant lawyer and jurist, was a native of this county, later moving to Glasgow. He served in the State Legislature as representative from 1865 to 1867. Major John A. Brents, editor of Albany's early newspaper, *The Albany Banner*, was born in the old Wago community. He was one of the leading lawyers of southern Kentucky, was a Major in the Union army during the Civil War, and was a member of the Kentucky Constitutional Convention of 1891. One of the county's early pioneers, Major William Wood, represented Cumberland county in the State Legislature for nineteen years, while Clinton county was a part of his district. Ambrose Bramlette, father of Governor Thomas E. Bramlette, represented Cumberland county in the State Legislature in 1832 and was a Senator for two terms, 1833-1837 and 1845-1848.

Clinton county has produced doctors and preachers as renowned as her lawyers and soldiers. Rev. Isaac T. Reneau, born on Wolf river, and Rev. John Smith, who came to the county at the age of eleven, were among the ablest exponents of the Christian church doctrines in southern Kentucky. Rev. William D. Sewell, a pioneer Baptist preacher of this county, and Rev. Isaac Denton and his son, Rev. Joseph C. Denton, were among the most influential of the religious leaders of this area. Dr. Robert Chilton, an eye specialist, was born near Albany, went west to Texas, and later achieved fame in his chosen profession.⁽⁷⁾

(4) James Semple, son of John W. and Lucy Semple, was born January 5, 1798 in Green county, Kentucky. He studied law in Louisville, was admitted to the bar and practiced law in Clinton county for some years. He moved to Edwardsville, Illinois in 1827. He was a Brigadier General of the Illinois militia in the Black Hawk war, was a member of the Illinois House of Representatives from 1832 to 1838, serving as speaker of the House from 1834 to 1838, during which time both Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas were members of the Illinois House. He was an associate justice of the Illinois Supreme Court from January 16 to August 16, 1843; he was elected to the United States Senate, December 4, 1843 to March 3, 1847. He died December 20, 1866.

(5) Robert B. Semple was born at Mount Radiance, near Burkesville, in 1806 but spent his early years at his father's home at Seventy Six.

(6) Cross was educated in the primary schools of this county, clerked for a while in Charles Campbell's store at Paoli with Elijah Hopkins, began studying law at the age of twenty-one; after two years he was admitted to the bar and started practicing law at Monroe in Overton county.

(7) Dr. Robert Chilton, son of Joshua and Martha Chilton, married Sally Harrison, a daughter of William F. Harrison, a merchant of Albany.

Chapter One

CLINTON COUNTY'S EXPLORERS

When the first white men came to Clinton county they found there no human habitations, no signs that it was inhabited by Indians. But in ages past Indians had lived in the county. Occasionally arrowheads and other artifacts are found or turned up in plowing, attesting to the fact that the Red Man once roamed through the county, hunting the game and fighting fierce battles with his brethren foe.

In the excavations made for the Wolf Creek Dam, in Russell county just north of Clinton county, evidence was found which indicated that the Cumberland river valley near that site was one of Kentucky's most densely populated areas in prehistoric times. This area undoubtedly embraced much if not all of the present county. Professor William C. Haag, curator of the University of Kentucky Museum of Anthropology, supervised the excavations of Indian mounds on the site. His conclusions from a study of the archeological remains were that two different peoples once resided in this area. The first was a group of primitive agriculturists, probably members of the Indian civilization common in the eastern United States from 900 to 1500. They were succeeded by a tribe who migrated from the south, possibly Mexico, and settled on the Cumberland river where they remained until about 1700. This second group belonged to the type of Indian culture encountered by such early explorers as Fernando de Soto, according to Professor Haag.⁽⁸⁾

It was these later people who built "temple mounds," a sort of flat-topped pyramid used as a foundation for community meeting houses. This practice has given this race the name of "Mound-builders."

While at the time of the coming of the first settlers no Indians lived in the county, for quite some time prior bands of Indians had been accustomed to coming into the area to hunt for game. These were the Cherokee Indians from the western part of North Carolina. Bands of these Indians would come down the Cumberland river valley where wild game abounded and hunt for months, possibly years at a time. A permanent camping site was located on Indian creek in this county, which was so named because of the remains found along its course. Good flint was available along this creek for their arrowheads, and on the West Fork of this creek there was an important salt lick where wild game such as buffalo and deer would congregate by the thousands to lick the salty water oozing from the rock wall.⁽⁹⁾ There were other salt licks which attracted game. An old deed⁽¹⁰⁾ speaks of such a lick on Smith creek. These salt licks, plus the lush natural forage of the area, made this an attractive feeding ground for wild game, which in turn was the reason it was a popular hunting area for Indian bands.

The power of the Indians had been broken before Clinton county began to be settled and thus the early history of the county is relatively uneventful, without those tales of Indian fighting, of bravery and daring, which makes other early Kentucky history so interesting. This fact, together with the almost total lack of records of our early explorers, make this the least known period in the history of the county.

(8) AP press release, *Courier-Journal*, January 29, 1949.

(9) Wells, *History of Cumberland County*, Standard Printing Co., Louisville, 1947, p. 9.

(10) Cumb. Co. Deed Bk. F, p. 323, deed dated September 27, 1827 from James C. Anderson to Thomas Stockton for 25 acres of a 100 acre tract sold Anderson by Joseph Smith, calling for a line "up the creek to the middle of the lick."

The first white man recorded to have visited or to have seen a portion of the present Clinton county was a Frenchman, a deserter from Marquis de LaSalle's forces, named Martin Chartier. He married a Shawnee Indian woman and journeyed with this tribe south, reaching the Shawnee settlement at the old French Lick now known as Nashville. Chartier lived three years on the Cumberland, and as early as 1692, he went up the Cumberland to a point below Cumberland Falls, and thence overland through Cumberland Gap into Virginia. ⁽¹¹⁾ By following the river, Chartier had to go around Wells Bottom; we do not know whether he stopped and went ashore at any point in the Bottom but at least he was the first white man to view a portion of the present Clinton county.

In 1761 eighteen men from Halifax and Pittsylvania counties of Virginia came into the upper Cumberland region to hunt and explore. William Blevins, John Blevins, and William Harrillson hunted along the Wolf and Obey rivers, thus it may be concluded that they hunted over the present Clinton county also.

In 1766 Captain James Smith and his party of three other whites and an eighteen-year-old mulatto slave came into southern Kentucky through the Cumberland Gap. When they reached the Cumberland river they floated down its entire length to the Ohio, which means that they also passed the northern tip of the county. Smith's company thus reversed the trip made by Martin Chartier.

In the summer of 1769 a party of hunters from Virginia and North Carolina, under the nominal leadership of a German woodsman named Kasper Mansker, crossed the mountains to make a long hunt in the western wilderness. One of the party was Uriah Stone, who had been with Captain James Smith. They made their first continued camp at a great flowing spring in Wayne county, about six miles from the present Monticello. These hunters, who became known as the "Long Hunters" because of the length of time they were away from home, were the first white men of whom we have definite record who hunted and explored over the entire region of which Clinton county is now a part. They hunted over Wayne, Clinton, Cumberland, and adjoining counties, going as far out as Green and Hart counties and Dix river.

During this year, three of these hunters were encamped in what is now Stocktons valley. They were Mansker, Joseph Drake, and Robert Crockett. They hunted and explored in that valley and along the many creeks that drain the county. Game was plentiful and they had ample opportunity to explore the county. Nature had made this a region of rare beauty. The magnificent forestland that covered the hills and valleys was broken now and then by grassy open spaces or meadows where deer and buffalo grazed peacefully. The little streams that wind their way toward Cumberland river or Wolf river had along their courses great stretches of canebreaks where bear and other game abounded. Undoubtedly these early hunters were greatly impressed by the wild primeval country they found.

After some time in Stocktons valley the three hunters broke camp and floated down the Wolf and Obey rivers to what is now Overton county, Tennessee. Here they established another camp and hunted until Crockett was killed by a hostile band of Indians; then Mansker and Drake, alarmed, returned to Stocktons valley.

The Long Hunters remained in Kentucky for more than two years. At the end of this time the party broke up, some of the hunters returning home, some going north to the Kentucky river country, while some built rafts and loading them with skins and furs floated down the Cumberland to the Ohio, thence to the Mississippi, and on down to New Orleans.

(11) Byrd Douglas, *Steamboatin' on the Cumberland*, Tennessee Book Co., 1961, prologue xii. Also see Harriet Simpson Arnow - *Seedtime on the Cumberland*. The McMillan Co., New York, 1960, for fuller information on Chartier.

Unfortunately we have very little actual evidence of hunters and explorers in the present Clinton county during this period and their presence here is to a great degree inferential. William Wood's case is a notable exception. The situation is markedly different with regard to the neighboring county of Wayne in the east where the presence and dates of some groups of hunters may be ascertained with certainty. It was in Wayne county that the first permanent white dwelling was erected in this section of Kentucky. Sometime in early 1775 Benjamin Price and a small company retraced the Mansker party's path and established a camp in the "Great Meadows," an open grassland near the present Mill Springs. Because in a few years after the opening of the nineteenth century there was considerable litigation involving land grants in this area, requiring the depositions of witnesses, quite a large amount of information has been preserved concerning Price's settlement.⁽¹⁵⁾ One of those who gave their testimony was an erst-while companion of Price—Nathaniel Buchanan.⁽¹⁶⁾ He testified that sometime in 1775, he, Price, and some others launched a canoe into the Cumberland above the mouth of "Meadow creek"—later known as "Lick branch"—and crossed the river to the south side. Because Price was in charge of the company of hunters the place was ever afterwards known as Price's Landing. An old Indian trace led from the Landing to what later became known as the "Great Meadows" or "Price's Meadows," an open grassy glade or valley free of trees which extended in a northeasterly direction from where Price later established his camp. Initially the hunters camped in a large salt petre cave near the meadows. Buchanan testified that he marked out a new trace from the salt petre cave to Price's Landing, which was a more direct route, intersecting the old trace some distance above the river cliff. He asserted that his party used the new trace from February until the following July. Apparently they then erected a log house near the meadows—Buchanan testified that he assisted in building "this cabin"—apparently, as far as the records indicate, the first settler's dwelling erected in this part of the Cumberland valley. According to Buchanan, no one else was hunting in "these woods" at that time, but later Michael Stoner, a man named Green, and some others came to them at the "Great Meadow."⁽¹⁷⁾

Several miles upriver from Price's camp a hunter named Gist, possibly Nathaniel,⁽¹⁸⁾ had a hunting camp, called Gist's Station Camp, in Pulaski county, on the southern side of the river nearly opposite the mouth of Pitman creek. A trace led from Price's camp to Gist's Station Camp, which was generally used by Buchanan's companions—"It was our crossing place when we came to or returned from Price's Meadows."

John McClure⁽¹⁹⁾ testified that he and some others wanted to trap along the Cumberland in the fall of 1783. They were told that they could find Price's Landing by the noise made by the fall of the creek near its mouth. They followed Buchanan's trace from the landing to the salt petre cave where they camped about seven or more months.

After a cabin was erected at Price's Station, the camp was enlarged and a blockhouse built. In 1777—"the year of the bloody sevens"—when all of Kentucky was aflame with Indian hostilities, only Price's Station, Harrodsburg, and Fort Boonesboro survived.

(15) Wayne County Deed Bk. A, pp. 204-220.

(16) The name is transcribed in the depositions as "Buchhannon."

(17) Price's camp was about seventy or eighty yards from the mouth of the small glade which was called "Price's Meadows."

(18) Nathaniel Gist, by his Indian wife Wurteh, was the father of Sequoyah, the inventor of the Cherokee Indian syllabary.

(19) In the deposition his name is transcribed as "McCluer."

Price, Buchanon, McClure, and the other hunters with them were an insatiable breed whose curiosity about the wilderness around them could not be satisfied with a small area on the Cumberland and it may be accepted that they ranged far out from Price's Station, exploring the virgin wilderness of Wayne and the adjoining counties. An old trail, used by buffalo as well as Indians, came through the gap in Poplar Mountain where Highway 90 now descends into the lowlands at Cartwright, and provided easy access into the interior of the present county. Although there is no record of their doing so, it may be accepted without question that they and others, unnamed, hunted and explored over the area of the present Clinton county during this period.

Price and his companions were venturing into Indian country. The Cherokee tribe, who had earlier been driven by their Indian neighbors from north of the Ohio, settled in the Great Smokies, and their hunting parties ranged over all of the country south of the Cumberland which they claimed as their own. North of the Cumberland their hunting parties shared the land with the Shawnees. On March 17, 1775 Richard Henderson and Nathaniel Hart, as agents for the Transylvania Company, at Sycamore Shoals, near the present Elizabethton, Tennessee, negotiated with the Cherokee chiefs, purchasing all of the land lying north of the Cumberland river to the Ohio. The Cherokees really had no right of possession to this area, but the treaty was important because it delineated the land south of the Cumberland as Cherokee land. The present Clinton county was thus recognized by Henderson and Hart as belonging to the Cherokees.

However tales brought back to Virginia and North Carolina by hunters of the wild virgin wilderness south of the Cumberland proved too enticing to adventurous white men, who tended to view such treaties as of no consequence. By about 1778 Robert Parmley built a log blockhouse on a high point of land on the Little South Fork around which Parmleysville eventually grew up. Surveying parties began to venture into the area to locate military grants; all grants up to 1797 were military. In 1784 Virginia awarded Gen. George Rogers Clark several thousand acres of land in the general area of Price's Station; the first deed recorded in the new county of Wayne in 1801 was from Clark to Jacob Vanhoozer for land from this tract. On May 12, 1788 200 acres of land were marked out for Andrew Tribble in the same area. Michael Stoner testified that he was present when certain trees were marked as the beginning corner for Tribble's tract. ⁽²⁰⁾ In October, 1793, Stoner, Robert Todd, Charles Smith, George Turner, William Henderson, and others made a survey of 1800 acres near Price's Meadows. Smith recalled that the survey was for the heirs of Robert Todd, deceased, but later he stated that it might have been for Thomas Young. It was not long before the surveyors were followed by actual settlers. Jonathan and James Ingram came into the present Wayne county in 1796; Cornelius Phillips came in around 1798.

By this time the Cherokees had ceded away all of their claims to the area of the present Wayne and Clinton counties. On November 28, 1785 the Cherokees met at Hopewell, South Carolina with American representatives to delineate further the Indian lands. They drew up a new boundary line, the Treaty Line of 1785, which was drawn around the settlement at Nashville and was to proceed northeasterly toward the mouth of the Big South Fork river. It came just south of where Cookeville, Tennessee now stands, from there it angled further to the east, and then northwardly toward the Obeyes river. Crossing the Obeyes and then the Wolf river, it veered east of Price's Station and Parmleysville, leaving them outside the Indian lands, to bisect the Big South Fork just below the mouth of Cowhorn creek. From there it continued northeasterly until it reached the Cumberland at a spot almost directly opposite the mouth of Rockcastle river. It continued with the Cumberland then until the Wilderness Road was reached. This treaty line left the present Clinton county entirely outside the Indian claims.

In October, 1794 the long warfare between Indians and whites was ended when forty Cherokee chiefs signed a final treaty of peace at Tellico Blockhouse. After this the fear of Indian hostilities was no longer a deterrent to white settlers who may have listened with enthusiasm to the glowing stories of hunters and others of the virgin wilderness south of the Cumberland.

(20) Michael Stoner's wife was a daughter of Andrew Tribble (Wayne County Deed Bk. A, pp. 204-221).

When the first land grants were entered for Clinton county lands in 1798 and 1799, many of the county's creeks and other natural features had already been explored and named. Spring creek, the Clear Fork, Poplar Mountain, Indian creek, and other places appear on the earliest records. Caney Gap, just north of Albany, was so named because of the almost impenetrable thickets of wild cane that grew there. When the first settlers came through the Gap they found the cane-brakes so dense that it was difficult to cut trails through them for their wagons and carts. It was a natural thing that the Gap was named for this feature. Early settlers gave their names to localities or creeks on which they settled, as in the case of Smith creek and Willis creek. Other geographical features were named from traditional happenings in the pioneer days. Such was the case in the naming of Ill Will creek. According to tradition a band of hunters were encamped on the creek. The majority of the group wanted to return; one lone individual wanted to continue westward hunting and exploring or at least to remain where they were. However he bowed to the desire of the rest of the band, but in a spirit of protest he remarked, "I'll go back, but with a damn ill will." Such was the traditionary origin of the name, Ill Will.

There are indications that the Ill Will area was not as well explored as early as other parts of the county. Moses Colgan's certificate for 200 acres on September 10, 1798 mistakenly identifies Ill Will as "a branch of Spring creek." The same year, John Reneau's settlement on Wolf river was thought to be at the mouth of Ill Will creek; when it was surveyed the next year it was found that he had settled at the mouth of Lick branch instead. This area of the county was broken country, very rough, and the brakes along the creek were very thick and presented a difficulty to foot travel up and down the creek. As a result this area of the county lagged behind other parts of the territory in exploration.

Another physical feature of the county is the high elevation of Poplar Mountain to the east which is now known as "Jenny's Knob." This elevation was so named after Virginia Smith, the wife of Robert Smith, grandson of the pioneer George Smith, who lived at the foot of the mountain.⁽²¹⁾

(21) "Jenny" Smith was a daughter of Edward Luster, who came to Virginia from Scotland. "History and Genealogy of Helen Huffman Beatty and Alexander Van Beatty" - Oren A. Beatty, 1971.

Chapter Four

SETTLERS SUBSEQUENT TO 1799

One of the early settlers of the county was William Snow who, early in 1800, came to the Indian creek country from Virginia, where he was born around 1768. His son, Samuel Frost Snow, who was a year old baby at that time, was living on Indian creek in 1837. According to the Wayne county marriage records he married Sarah "Sally" Hall, daughter of John Hall, Sr., May 26, 1819. He had eighteen children through two marriages. One of these was Oliver Hazard Perry Snow, a prominent farmer of the period around and after the Civil War.

Affectionately known as "Uncle Perry" in later life, Oliver Hazard Perry Snow married Rebecca Ellen Zimmerman, who came from a family of six girls and four boys. Their grandparents came from Germany. One of Snow's sons was Horace Parks Snow, who was the grandfather of the noted war correspondent and author Edgar Snow. A daughter, Glanora Elizabeth, married William Ford and became the mother of Samuel Clarence Ford, who served as Governor of Montana.

Sometime just before the opening of the Civil War, Snow bought the farm in Caney Gap long known as the Killis Huddleston farm. John C. Andrew and his wife Hannah came from Overton county, Tennessee in 1845 and bought this farm. He built a house on it and made it his home for several years, until he sold it to Snow. Snow wanted to build a new and larger house. He built it on the site where the old Killis Huddleston home later stood. It was built of hewed logs, on a site where there was hardly two hundred feet of level ground between the two mountains. The old road from Albany through the Caney Gap passed in front of it. Snow's daughter, Melissa Healen Shelley, described the building of this house in her "Recollections." "The next year (after buying the farm) Pa had poplar trees cut to make a house. The logs were eighteen feet long. He had them hewed; they was about eighteen to twenty inches wide. He tore down the big house (the Andrews home) as it was cold; just left the kitchen for to live in. It had a fireplace. We cooked and ate and slept in it, until he got the other built. He hauled in the logs, called in his neighbors to raise the walls. I remember the day. Mother made some sort of table arranged and fed the men in the yard. The county road ran through the place. The land sloped back to the hills. The place was three miles from Albany, the county seat. He had cut saw logs and hauled to Albany with oxen team, had flooring made and then it was dried in a dry house on the farm. He had walnut sawed for the doors and chair-panel and boarded and ceiled the hall and dining room with walnut. The stairs were made from walnut cut from the farm. Most all the lumber was made from the farm, even the shingles was made on the farm. I very well remember when Pa got his paper from Louisville and read about the South seceding. He said that means war. The carpenters were there at work. He said to them next morning, I want you to fix so we can live in it and that is all, for it may be burned down. I won't put any more money in it. He bought pine floor for the two long rooms and hall and stair floor. The kitchen and dining room were oak floor from the farm. After the war was over he finished up the house. We had no windows in time of war in the house. The hall was finished with black walnut panel; the doors and chairboard of paneled walnut and three stone chimneys. Had all the lumber sawed at Albany and had a dry house on the farm and dried it by himself."⁽¹⁾

"Uncle Perry" Snow was skilled in orchard husbandry; it is said that he had the largest apple and peach orchard in the county. Sometime just after the Civil War a tornado ripped through a walnut grove just north of the house, devastating it. Snow planted fruit trees on the site. It is said that he had a practice of setting out two or three new fruit trees every year.⁽²⁾

(1) Snow's daughter, Vianna Isobel, married Abel J. Parrigin and they lived in this house until 1903 when the Parrigins sold the farm to Killis Huddleston. In 1904 Huddleston had a new house built, using lumber from the original house. It is said that this house was built for \$500.00.

(2) This information was furnished by Mrs. Nannie Parrigin, Albany, Kentucky.

THE SNOW FAMILY

TABLE NINETEEN:

- (7) James L. M. Snow - Nancy Piercey
- (28) Samuel M. (October 25, 1857)
- (29)
- (30) Hiram (July, 1861)⁽⁷⁾
- (31)
- (32)
-
- (10) Oliver Hazard Perry Snow - Rebecca Ellen Zimmerman (April 21, 1821-June 29, 1909)
(October 9, 1843)
- (33) Irena Francis (January 11, 1845-November 4, 1862)⁽⁸⁾
- (34) Samuel Almarine (February 10, 1846-July 4, 1861)
- (35) Dorinda Goudlock (August 9, 1847-April 5, 1864)
- (36) Horace Parks (1849)
- (37) Malissa Healen (August 4, 1852) m. Lewis L. Shelley 1/20/1869
- (38) Glanora Elizabeth (September 2, 1855) m. William Ford 11/7/1875 *
- (39) Alvis Frank (January 26, 1860-January 4, 1939)
- (40) Vianna Isobel (September, 1864-1926) m. Abel J. Parrigin 9/11/1879
-
- (15) Franklin Green Snow⁽⁹⁾ - Martha I. Ryan
- (41) Alonzo (1854)
- (42) John R. (January 8, 1856)⁽¹⁰⁾
- (43)
- (44)
-
- (28) Samuel M. Snow - Alice _____ (January, 1872)⁽¹¹⁾
- (45) Elmer (May 9, 1884)
- (46) Gertrude (December, 1887)
- (47) Emma (July, 1892)
- (48) Anderson (April, 1894)
- (49) Annie (March, 1896)
- (50) (daughter) (September, 1898)

(7) This listing is tentative.

(8) Irena Francis Snow married John Guthrie September 10, 1861. He was a son of Abijah and Martha Guthrie and was a farm laborer on her father's farm.

(9) Franklin Green Snow served as a doctor in the Confederate Army. He died in service.

(10) John R. Snow moved to Paris, Texas.

(11) The dates for this family are from the 1900 Census. Apparently Alice Snow's birth year is incorrect, since she would hardly have been married at the age of twelve, or else she was a second wife and not the mother of the first child.

Jacob Holsapple, Sr. came to this county around 1808. He was born in Darmstadt, Duchy of Hesse, Germany in 1755. The family name was originally "Holtzapfel." He came to America with the Hessian soldiers to aid the British in the American War of Independence. He was supposed to serve three years, but was among the Hessians who were surprised and captured by General George Washington at Trenton, New Jersey in 1776. He refused to return home and settled in America after the war, apparently in Pennsylvania because it was in that state that he married Catherine Van Meter (1765) in 1783. They had eleven children; Jacob, Jr., William, and Peter were the youngest. By the time Jacob, Jr. was born in 1800 the Holsapple family had moved to Washington county, Virginia. Jacob Holsapple, Sr. remained in Clinton county only a few years; he moved to Washington county, Indiana where he died in 1816. His widow, Catherine, wanting to be near one of her sons, moved back to this county, where she lived until her death in 1825.⁽¹¹¹⁾

We have no information as to which family members came to Clinton county with the exception of the three younger brothers, all of whom show up later in the county. Jacob Holsapple, Jr. (January 19, 1800-January 6, 1864) joined the Clear Fork church in May, 1818, transferring by letter from his old church in Virginia. He married Nancy Hopkins, daughter of Elijah Hopkins, and settled in the vicinity of the later Seventy Six church. He was one of the first three deacons of the church when it was organized. He later moved to the lower Clear Fork; the 1837 tax list shows him living on that stream. He and Nancy Holsapple had at least four children: Catherine (December 30, 1826-February 2, 1861) who married William Burchett; Elizabeth (1835); Vienna (1837), and William C. (1841). Sometime before the Civil War Jacob Holsapple, Jr. moved with his family to Missouri, where he died.

William Holsapple, born in Virginia, May 6, 1805, took up several small tracts of land on Willis creek. He married Nancy Bristow (August 29, 1811-October 14, 1882). He died in this county, April 4, 1886.⁽¹¹²⁾

Peter Holsapple had a 100 acre farm on Spring creek. He married Elizabeth Ford.⁽¹¹³⁾

(111) Information furnished by Mrs. Betty Jackson, 1422 Alpowa, Moscow, Idaho.

(112) William and Nancy Holsapple had a daughter, Martha (May 17, 1832-November 4, 1910) who married Robert Higginbotham (May 5, 1829-February 19, 1891) and raised a family of seven sons, one of whom was Robert L. Higginbotham, a long-time businessman of Albany. It is a curious circumstance that all of these sons had middle names beginning with the letter "L." They were: Joseph L. (1853), Edward L. (1856); William L. (1857); James L. (December 6, 1858-February 12, 1880); Crawford L. (1861); Robert L. (1862-1956); and Thomas L. (1864). Someone once asked one of the brothers what the "L" stood for and was laughingly told that it stood for "laziness." Robert Higginbotham, who married Martha Holsapple, was a son of Robert (1789-1855) and Mary (Wilborn) Higginbotham (1800-1863). This Robert was in turn a son of Oglesberry and Elizabeth (Miller) Higginbotham.

(113) Peter Holsapple (April 23, 1808-September 20, 1877) married Elizabeth Ford (March 16, 1813-August 14, 1874). One source of information gives her name as Elizabeth Hartman, but this must represent a misunderstanding. William Ford's will mentions Elizabeth Harper, "daughter of Anna Harper, now wife of William Ford." Mrs. Jackson, above, concludes that her name was Harper but that she took the name Ford, since Peter Holsapple's family Bible gives her name as Elizabeth Ford. Their children were: Catherine (March 16, 1831); William (August 1, 1833); Nancy A. (January 20, 1836); Cyrus W. (January 16, 1839); a son unnamed (February 11, 1841-February 22, 1841); Ambrose Bramlette (May 7, 1849-November 11, 1928); Carroll L. (October 6, 1851); and Aaron Burr (November 17, 1854-October 16, 1874). (The names and dates of birth were taken from the Peter Holsapple family Bible.)