

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

Place Names of Mason County

by

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A C K O W L E D G M E N T S

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PLACE NAMES OF MASON COUNTY

As the early traveler negotiated for transportation down the Ohio a common interview staged by loafers along the river front at Pittsburgh ran something like this: 'Where are you from? Redstone. What is your lading? Millstones. What is your Captain's name? Whetstone. Where are you bound? Limestone.' Similar to these questions asked by the pioneer has been the catechism followed in delving for the Place Names of Mason County. Your compiler's vocation has been judged to be anything from a book agent to a meddlesome woman who became something of a nuisance as she routed good citizens from a summer's afternoon nap. Her sources of information have been varied.

Years of interest in the life of and admiration for Simon Kenton have made the task easier. Simon Kenton is so closely interwoven with the beginnings of Mason county that it is difficult to recount the history of the one without mentioning the activities of the other. In 1771 Simon Kenton found the creek, which in 1773 Captain John Hedges named Limestone. Captain Hedges was in the company of nine men who had come down the Ohio from Pittsburgh seeking the best port on the river, the name of which port had spread even at this early date. Guided by the point of land which jutted into the river they had little difficulty in finding the cove which later became the Water Gateway to the rich canelands of Kentucky. 'Here the company of nine men camped for several days'--on the exact spot Maysville was later to cover.

Since that time Limestone creek has played an important part

in the settlement of Kentucky. Not only as the landing port for hundreds of flatboats bringing entire families with their goods and chattels from the East, but also as the creek upon the wooded shores of which General George Rogers Clark hid the 500 pounds of precious powder so necessary for the defense of the frontier stations.

In November or December of 1784 a settlement was made along the bank of this creek. A double log cabin and block house was built by Ned and John Waller. John O'Bannon, one of the early surveyors of these parts, also had a cabin on the west side of Limestone creek. These cabins were used for the accommodation of guests, the emigrant women and children who rested in them while their men went inland to choose a permanent home.

Simon Kenton, self-appointed host and guardian of the Northern Border, had a camp some three miles south of the landing port, up the hill and through the canebrakes. It was his custom to meet and welcome these fleets of Kentucky broadhorns. As he stood watching their approach Kenton was an outstanding figure--tall, lythe and sandy haired, dressed in a leather jerkin and hunting shirt and wearing the coonskin cap of the pioneer. We are told that his expression was dignified and pleasing. To these emigrants who had ventured both life and fortune to establish new homes in the wilderness, Kenton's presence brought security and assurance. Kerr writes: 'Without his aid and that of his scouts it is doubtful if Clark could have won [the Northwest territory], a contingency Clark himself was not slow to recognize'.

These settlers had landed at Limestone because it was here

they would find the Buffalo trace into the interior. The water route down the Ohio, next to the famous Wilderness Road, was the most favored way of entering Kentucky, although the most dangerous. Kenton persuaded many of these home-seekers to cast their luck and their lots in canelands adjacent to his station which he had established in 1774. Until after 1800 the landing port at the mouth of the creek was generally known as Limestone. It seems a pity that its name should ever have been changed. Man favors variation which is often falsely called progress.

Before passing on to the change in the name of the settlement at the mouth of Limestone creek we wish to call attention to Limestone warehouse which in October 1787 while the country was still a wilderness was established by the Legislature of Virginia. 'Limestone Warehouse' for the receiving and inspection of tobacco was the first tobacco warehouse in northern Kentucky. It was built on the lower side of Limestone creek on the lands of John May and Simon Kenton.

John May, clerk of the old Kentucky county, and clerk of the Land Commission, was sent out from Virginia in 1779 to hear disputes about western land and to settle them. As did many others deputized as business agents for the mother state, John May's record proves that while serving Virginia he did right well by himself. He was active in land deals and acquired valuable holdings.

In 1787 Limestone was finally successful in persuading the General Assembly of Virginia to establish the station into a town. Section I of the Act reads: 'Be it enacted by the general assembly, That 100 acres of land lying on the lower side of Limestone creek; in the county of Bourbon, the property of John

May and Simon Kenton, are hereby vested in Daniel Boone, Henry Lee, Arthur Fox, Jacob Boone, Thomas Brooks and George Mefford, gentlemen, trustees to be by them or a majority of them, laid off in lots of half acre each, with convenient street and establish a town by the name of Maysville.'

John May was honored by the new town's being called Maysville. His glory was short lived, for in 1790 when returning from a visit to Virginia he was killed on a boat which was attacked by Indians. It would seem (according to the account) but for two tender-hearted young ladies, the Misses Fleming of Pittsburgh, who were a part of the boat's company, the slaughter could have been avoided. Before leaving Point Pleasant, the party had been warned of the perfidy of the Indians and their white friends who would pretend they needed help only as a decoy to get the boat along the shore. This precise circumstance arose. May, after holding aloft his white nightcap as a flag of truce, was attacked and shot by the Indians.

William Wood, a Baptist preacher, probably from the state of New York, and Arthur Fox, a young surveyor from Virginia, were among the pioneers whom Simon Kenton welcomed at Limestone. To them Kenton sold a tract of 700 acres of land on a part of which these two men laid out the town of Washington. By an act of the Virginia legislature the settlement was incorporated into a town in 1786. Out of veneration for the late hero of the Revolution they called the place Washington.

In 1790 when the first census was taken in Kentucky--then a district of Virginia-- Washington ranked as the second largest town in the district. The newly incorporated town had the distinction of being the distributing office for the mail of the

entire Northwest Territory, consequently Washington was the first post office west of the Alleghenies. Records show that quarterly returns were made by Washington post office October 1, 1794, by one Thomas Sloe. Edward Harris, maternal grandfather of Albert Sidney Johnston, was the first postmaster. The small log building with its ancient pigeon holes for the mail is still standing.

Washington also had the distinction of receiving the first appropriation from the state for fire protection. An act passed by the General Assembly in January 1798, authorized a lottery of \$1,000 for the purpose of introducing water into the town from a public spring. This act resulted in the sinking of twenty-two wells which have since that early day provided 'water works' of the simplest sort for the benefit of its citizens. Five of these wells have been restored and are being used at the present time.

The activities of the early preachers in Kentucky contributed largely to the settlement of the state. Parson Wood came down the Ohio with his family in a flatboat. He 'gathered' Limestone Church at Washington and organized it in 1785. Together with James Garrard, who was also a Baptist preacher and later became the second governor of Kentucky, William Wood 'constituted' the Mayslick Baptist Church in 1789. Parson Wood served as pastor to the Limestone Church till 1788 when he became entangled in land speculation, and failing to give satisfaction to the church, he was expelled from its membership. After the Washington Church refused to reinstate him William Wood disappeared from Kentucky. We suspect that Ohio, as was the case later with Simon Kenton, became the haven of Parson Wood.

Lewis Craig, the old Stone Mason Parson of the Travelling Church, built the stone court house at Washington when that town became the county seat of the new county of Mason. The lintel of stone over the door bore his initials 'L. C.' and the date 1790. This courthouse was built of native limestone, an imposing edifice surmounted by a cupola and spire. There were clerks' offices at the side, a shipping post in the rear and at the side front the slave block. Imprevious to time, the old stone courthouse stood for a hundred and fifteen years. In its hey-dey it witnessed the growth of a flourishing town. 'About it there settled as pure Anglo-Saxon stock as may be found today in any shire in the heart of England.'

Mayslick was for some years oftener called May's Spring, after a large spring between fifty and one hundred yards from the town, near the roadside. An early deposition given in 1804 states that Mayslick or May's Spring, was in early days one of the finest places on the north side of Licking and as such was much talked of. We glean the following from Collins: 'John May, the same John May for whom Maysville was named, was one of the original owners of May's Lick. At his death 1400 acres of May's pre-emption at Mayslick were advertised for sale. The purchasers of this land were the first settlers of Mayslick and gave it its name. They were three brothers, Abraham, Cornelius, and Isaac Drake, sons of Nathaniel Drake of Plainfield, Essex County, New Jersey. They came together by boat landing in June 1788 at 'The Point', Limestone, which consisted of a few cabins only, where they remained a few days, thence to Washington which was something of a village of log cabins, thence in the fall to

their new purchase and future homes. The Drakes built their cabins on the north side of the little brook which crosses the road and the land was so divided that every subdivision had an angle or corner on the salt lick. Before winter the five cabins were finished, each one story high with port holes and a strong bar across the door, clapboard roof, puncheon floor and a wooden chimney'.

There is little available data about the ancient town of Murphysville. We assume it was named for the early comer of that day, William Murphy. A few miles distant from Murphysville stood McKinley's blockhouse built in 1785 on a pre-emption of 1,175 acres surveyed in the spring of 1777. This enterprising Scotchman, James McKinley, had in 1784 raised the first crop of wheat in Mason County. A part of this land is still owned and occupied by lineal descendants of James McKinley. In 1869 Murphysville boasted of a very fine and valuable acquisition in the shape of a factory known as the Murphysville Woolen Factory. We have been told by older residents that the yarn produced in this factory was of an exceptionally high grade. Murphysville's past glory, unlike that of Washington, is a forgotten record--a faded memory.

Hugh Shannon was one of the company of Kentucky hunters who gave Lexington its name in 1775. The next year he came into what is now Mason County and improved land on Lee's creek. Before the land court in session at Bryant's Station, January 14, 1780, Hugh Shannon established his claim by building a 'cabbin' and naming his boundaries. At Shannon, the village that bears his name, is found the flourishing Shannon Church. It is the village church of story book fame--a typical structure of brick placed in the midst of a grassy lawn surrounded by white tombstones, the entire

setting perched on a hill commanding a view of prosperous farming country. This church is one of the early landmarks of Methodism in Mason County. Here a small log meeting house was erected prior to 1806. A Society, a term used by Methodists in the organization of a group holding the tenets of Methodism, was formed at Shannon about 1797 and in 1801 the first church edifice was erected by Daniel Rees, Samuel Cracraft, Elias Cowgill and a few others.

∟ Daniel Rees was the first blacksmith in these parts. He made the Rees axe which had a large sale.∟ In 1821 this first building, probably of logs, was taken down and substituted by a commodious stone house of worship which in turn gave way to a beautiful brick edifice dedicated May 24, 1868. The church membership at Shannon has always been influential and embraced many names that should never be forgotten.

The founder of Sardis was Luke Dye. He was a soldier of 1812. The town was established in 1850. Whether Mr. Dye gave it the name of the ancient capital of Lydia or of one of the seven Cities mentioned in Revelation, we have been unable to determine.

In the eastern end of the county lie Orangeburg and Rectorville. The former bears the family name of an early settler of that community. Orangeburg is situated on Stone Lick creek. A few miles distant stands Stone Lick Baptist Church, a modest frame building. The original church was another of the early churches 'constituted' by Parson Wood. Its birth dates to the year of 1796. Stone Lick Church belonged to Elkhorn Association, the first association of Baptists in Kentucky, organized in 1785.

It might be well to elucidate on the word 'Association' as used by the Baptist denomination. These Associations were made up of the several churches in a given district. Each church

subscribed to the constitution of the Association to which it belonged. Bracken Association was formed in 1799 at which time Stone Lick Church withdrew from Elkhorn and became a member of the Bracken Association embracing the churches in its district.

Rectorville was named for two cousins, Albert Rector Glascock and William Rector Glascock, descendants of the Rector family who settled in Orange County, Virginia, prior to 1714. The Rectors belonged to the German Reformed Church, the great German branch of the Presbyterian family of churches.

The old Indian war road which led from the mouth of Cabin Creek to upper Blue Licks passed through the town of Orangeburg on the Stone Lick, thence to Mayslick where it struck the Buffalo trace leading from Limestone to Lower Blue Lick. In the first records of this section of Kentucky one sees frequent references to this path or crossing which was used extensively by both the Indian and the white travellers.

Cabin Creek had received its name from the number of Indian huts found on its banks. Old Ebenezer Church in 1806 was located near Cabin Creek. One of the first Presbyterian preachers in Kentucky, Richard McNamer, was pastor of this church. It is interesting to know that McNamer's congregation participated in the great revival of the early eighteenth century. The Chesapeake and Ohio railroad has designated its stop at the mouth of Cabin Creek by the pleasant name of Springdale.

Mt. Gilead, bordering on the county of Fleming, was cut out of the Kentucky forest by the four Wallingford brothers--Nicholas, Joseph, Richard, and Mark--who came from Virginia at an early date and landed at Limestone. They were stalwart, outstanding men, Baptists in religious convictions, Hardshells at that. They called

their rugged home Mt. Gilead, the Biblical name indicating the land east of the Jordan. Half in Mason and half in Fleming sits the century old manor house. With the customary outbuildings and grounds, flanked by a brick storeroom and one-time post office, this old residence forms a group of buildings which are today the only remnant of Mt. Gilead.

In no other part of Mason are there such handsome well-built brick houses as are found in the western part of the county. One wonders at these until the records of the early land grants in this locality are studied. These emigrants came into the wilderness--most of them from the mother state of Virginia--with large grants of land, some of these grants running into thousands of acres. These grantees after living for a few years in log cabins, constructed homes of brick similar to those on Virginia estates, burning the bricks on their land and cutting the native hardwood, cherry and walnut trees from the primeval forests to provide the woodwork in their Georgian houses.

To reach the western end of the county one must travel the Germantown road. The editor of the Maysville Eagle, issue of April 1, 1874, describes a jog to Minerva on horseback. He writes of the beauty of the Germantown view of which good Maysvillians always tell strangers. Edward Everett, celebrated American statesman and president of Harvard College 1846-49, pronounced it one of the grandest on the continent and the editor slyly adds that Everett has stood high in the estimation of Maysvillians ever since. This writer rejoices over the absence of the nitro-glycerin works up Beasley's hollow which were to make Maysville rival Cincinnati by the spirit of enterprise they would awaken; he

mourns the desolation of the ruin of the Union Oil works which once gave food to 400 people. And as he rises to the higher benches on Germantown hill he rejoices in the glimpse of the Cabin Creek hills and those of Kinniconick overtopping them beyond. 'To our view', he writes, 'the river view is almost equaled by that in the ravine beyond the ridge; the dense shade of the thickets with their quiet beauty, the peaceful valley many feet below, and the noise of the rushing water of Lawrence Creek making one oblivious of the danger of stepping off places at one side of the winding road'. He mentions the old brick church, Pleasant Green Church (now Lawrence Creek Christian Church) at Moransburg, and the ancient stone church, the Methodist Church built in 1815, 'venerable with age around which cluster many recollections of the denizens of Lawrence Creek [the creek named by Lawrence Darnall for himself] and of Jersey Ridge [given that name by the emigrants from the state of New Jersey].'

A little beyond the top of the hill on the Dover road is Tuckahoe Ridge, named by the hardy old Virginians who settled there many years ago after the loved locality from which they came. Tuckahoe in Virginia took its name from the abundance of the American plant called tuckahoe, known as Indian bread and formerly used by the Indians as food. On Tuckahoe Ridge one is in the midst of a large and productive tract of land belonging to the Bacon estate-- a family 'descended from the sturdy republican and true lover of liberty who figured and died in old turkey cock Berkley's time'.

One of the land marks on Tuckahoe Ridge is the Beasley Church. This church was formed from the membership of the pioneer Baptist Church known as Lee's Creek Church. It was composed of a small congregation and was admitted a member of Elkhorn Association in

1798. Soon after the debate of Campbell and McCalla which was held in Durrett's woods at Washington in 1823, the majority of the members of Lee's Creek church followed the lead of their pastor, Blackstone L. Abernethy, and adopted the views of Alexander Campbell. The old log house on Lee's Creek was thereafter deserted and the converts of Campbellism built a brick church at the head of Big Beasley creek. In many instances a church derived its name from the creek which ran in the vicinity of the site chosen, thus the new church was called Beasley. The name Beasley occurs frequently in the environs of Plugtown--the old name for the west end of Maysville. Here one finds the old deserted graveyard of the Beasley family. It lies close to Little Beasley creek which directs one to the hollow of the same name leading to the Lexington road. John Beasley was one of the early citizens of the district. His name appears on the petitions asking for the establishment of Mason county.

Passing on to the fertile fields surrounding the village of Minerva one finds another veteran church known as Bracken Church. It was a Baptist church organized by the famous Lewis Craig by whom it was 'constituted' in the summer of 1793. Lewis Craig belonged to the interesting family of Toliver and Polly Craig, who produced three pioneer Baptist preachers. The three brothers were conspicuous in 'gathering' the early Baptist churches in both Virginia and Kentucky. Elijah associated with Great Crossing in Scott county, was conceded to be the greatest preacher of the three; Joseph, the youngest, who probably came into Kentucky with his brother Lewis, was the least known of the Craigs. Lewis was jailed many times in his native Virginia for preaching the Baptist faith. Undaunted, he preached through the bars of his jail and finally

left Virginia bringing the Traveling Church of Spottsylvania County along with him. He established the first Baptist church in Kentucky on Gilbert's Creek in Lincoln county, now Garrard, in the spring of 1781. As many another of the pioneer preachers, he became involved--unsuccessfully--in land deals, and from chagrin he moved to Minerva (in 1792). The original Bracken Church, probably built of logs, stood a mile or more west of the present building. Lewis Craig built with his own hands the structure which today stands in the village of Minerva. It is little short of vandalism that the building was sold and dismantled of its eighteenth century furnishings--the old style highback pews with doors; the chandeliers arranged with holders for candles; the gallery for the accommodation of slaves. The building is now used for the housing of tobacco. Many such old churches in the East have been restored. Would that Mason county would do likewise!

Besides the old Bracken Church Minerva at an early day supported a College or Seminary. It was the custom of the landowners to meet at the college building on Friday evenings to debate on the topics of the day. We are told these farmers made excellent speakers. Among them were the forebears of Associate Justice Stanley Forman Reed who still owns ancestral acres in this neighborhood and who, no doubt, claims Minerva as his early home.

The honor of the name goes to the first white woman living in the village, Minerva Green. The log house in which she lived is now covered with clapboards and has been converted into a comfortable cottage.

Leaving Minerva one passes the land owned by Lewis Craig. His residence is gone but the graveyard with the usual growth of weeds lies close to the road. It has been inclosed by an iron

fence. Soon one descends the hill leading into the town of Dover. Here the topography offers a double view of the Ohio--views of equal beauty, one toward the east, the other looking toward the west. At one's feet lies the town of Dover named by Arthur Fox, Sr., for the town of Dover, England, from whence Fox emigrated to Virginia. There this young Englishman became the friend of George Washington, who sent him to Kentucky Territory to look after the land interests of the gentlemen of that state. Fox amassed enormous land holdings in Kentucky. To his son of the same name he gave 2,200 acres of land in the Dover bottoms, building a most attractive mansion, 'Webster', which today stands down Fox's lane under a group of ancient pines. The mansion offers to one's imagination a picture of old-time Kentucky hospitality.

John E. French had formerly laid out town lots in this locality and had called his corporation Frenchtown. In 1874 the town was spread out to include Frenchtown and the intervening tract between that and the old corporation of Dover. Collins states that Dover was second in importance to Maysville both commercially and politically. The town was incorporated in 1836.

Lying half in Mason, half in Bracken county is the town of Germantown. It was laid out in 1795 on three hundred twenty acres of land belonging to Philemon Thomas. A group of German families of some consequence were living on 'Dutch Ridge' in Bracken county and in compliment to these families the town was called Germantown. Many handsome old brick residences are found in the village. James Savage gets credit for having built more than one of them. The second house was erected by Dr. Anderson Donophan, the first physician in Germantown. This house stands back from the street

and has a yard while the other old residences --all in good condition--are built after the English custom, right on the street.

Three men owned practically all of the land around Germantown. Robert Dimmitt, a tanner and farmer who emigrated from Fauquier county, Virginia, in 1810, owned all of the land reaching to the North Fork. Elijah Currens owned land reaching as far as the 'Dutch Ridge', and James Savage's land reached to the vicinity of Fernleaf. James Savage was a Methodist preacher, one of the early ministers of the gospel who amassed a large estate. He, too, was born in Virginia. For two years he traveled the Limestone circuit and the second year was appointed the 'agent to solicit funds for Augusta College'. (Was this Bracken Academy which Mrs. Marion Lauderback states became in 1821 the first endowed Methodist College in the world?) He resided in Germantown where his house was a home for the preachers and where with but little aid he erected a Methodist Church. He preached throughout the surrounding country. Incidentally, both Robert Dimmitt and Elijah Currens are ancestors of the present regent of Limestone Chapter.

It would be unpardonable for a Mason countian to write of Germantown without mentioning the Germantown Fair, advertised for almost a century as the 'Old Reliable Fair'. It was organized in 1854 when citizens of Mason and the adjoining county of Bracken formed the Union Agricultural Society for the purpose of promoting a county fair. The first fair was held on the site of several acres in an open field (~~on the land of Andy Kilgour~~) across the old State Road from the present fair grounds. In the early life of the fair an improvement company was organized which sent out a special committee to England to buy purebred shorthorn cattle; to France

to buy sheep and draft horses and to Spain to buy jacks. These famous strains imported from Europe were bred and raised on the farms of the bordering counties. Unfortunately the advent of the automobile with its shortening of distances and with its lengthening of time has abolished the great (the word is used advisedly) picnic dinners--whole trunks of them--which dinners were so pleasant a part of a day spent at the Germantown Fair.

Clift, in his History of Maysville and Mason County, states that the spring of 1789 found the most thickly explored, most enthusiastic and busiest frontier in Kentucky. The great flat-boats were coming down the Ohio and landing at Limestone at the rate of thirty each day. They brought now such luxuries as furniture and household treasures. The shores along Limestone front were thick with expectant, eager welcomers and excited, sometimes exhausted arrivals.

Many of these arrivals settled throughout Mason County. George Lewis resettled Clark's Station and called it Lewis' Station. This station had earlier been established on the North Fork, in 1787, by George Clark. His settlement at first did not prove popular but later, after Clark's return, it became a fair sized station. In 1795 on seventy acres Lewisburg was established on the lands of George Lewis. As the trustees of this new corporation were men who became prominent in the county, it may be of interest to give their names. They were: Thomas Young, Jesse Hoard, Alexander S. Marshall, William Triplett, William Derrett (note spelling) and Duval Payne.

So far as we know Lewisburg is the only place in Mason county which is known by three names; Lewisburg, the name of the village; North Fork, the name of the post office; Marshall, the name of the

railway station. The three names signify the same spot. The origin of the first name has been given; the second originated from the stream of water upon which the village lies; the origin of the third is from the name of the owner of the land, Alexander S. Marshall, upon whose farm the railway station was placed.

Historians accredit the creation of Mason county to three men, Simon Kenton, John May and Ignatius Mitchell. We have referred to Simon Kenton as the host and guardian of the northern border; we have mentioned the extensive land holdings of John May. We shall introduce Ignatius Mitchell as the man who promoted Charles Town near the mouth of Lawrence Creek. He came into Kentucky in 1775. The following year he returned and established his claims on Lawrence Creek. One has only to gaze upon Charleston bottoms, (known to successive generations as the home of choice watermelons) to understand why this locality appealed to Mitchell and his associates. Broad flat lands lie between the hills and the stream; it is here that the Ohio justifies its appellation of 'beautiful river'. Due perhaps to Indian troubles, the auctioned lots of Charles Town failed to produce the dream city.

The four years from 1784 to the advent of Mason County were busy ones for Kenton and his co-workers. Four years of work, and Simon Kenton through his station, his trained boys and his own ceaseless vigilance had transferred the face of Kentucky's northernmost frontier from an unsettled wilderness to a county. In the petition to Virginia bearing signatures of men from Limestone, Washington and contiguous stations, was set forth the danger incurred 'in having to attend the transactions of their County Business at the distance of 40 miles from their habitation'--a journey for the most part 'surrounded with all the dangers of a Savage Enemy'. In

answer to the third petition Mason county was cut off from the county of Bourbon in 1788. The new county, in honor of the Virginia statesman, George Mason, was given the name of Mason. On May 26, 1789, was held at Washington the first Mason county court. Robert Rankin was appointed clerk. Henry Lee was recommended to the professors of William and Mary College and to his Excellency, the Governor of Virginia, as surveyor of the new county. Henry Lee also produced a commission appointing him County Lieutenant. Colonel Thomas Marshall, father of the Chief Justice, John Marshall, had prior to this in 1780 held the appointment of Surveyor-General of the lands in Kentucky appropriated to the officers and soldiers of the Virginia line. Following a list of further appointments and recommendations by the court the landowners were granted individual markings for their live stock, such as a swallow fork in each ear of the beasts of Simon Kenton, from which action we are reminded of the absence of fences.

It would be impossible to give the names of all the distinguished men who have had a part in the development of Mason county. The account, however, is incomplete without the name of George Mefford who lies in an unmarked grave near the site of the station that bore his name. He built Mefford Station in 1787 and was the first settler to live with his family outside a blockhouse. In 1785 he came down the Ohio in a flatboat, landing at Limestone. He occupied for a time one of the eighteen cabins at Kenton's Station. George Mefford was a gunsmith--tradition says he made guns for the Revolutionary Army. Because he knew how to work with iron and wood, he was able to build the floors of his cabin at Mefford's Station out of the timbers of his flatboat. How he ever

succeeded in transporting these heavy timbers up the mile of steep hill over Smith's undeveloped Wagon Road remains a mystery. This 'flatboat house' stands today two miles south of Maysville. It is thought to be the only one in existence. These houses built from the flatboats were to be found only in river towns. The 'Traipsin-Woman', Jean Thomas, author of a number of books dealing with the mountain people of Eastern Kentucky, is a great-granddaughter of George Mefford.

In preparing this paper there has frequently come the temptation to mention the name of every family that has contributed to the history of the county of Mason. People make places; without the people there would be no places, but the roster of the early settlers is too large to inflict upon you. One more word, however, about the people who produced Mason County and the tale is told. Shaler states that as soon as the settlements along the Ohio had taken firm root, there came into Kentucky a considerable emigration from the northern states. Settlers from Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New England found homes in Mason county. The effect of their presence, especially of those from Connecticut, was the rapid development of education in this section. Mason county became the best schooled county in the state and from it came a remarkably large number of teachers, editors, and other scholarly men. The total emigration of New England people probably did not amount to over fifty families, but it was an important contribution to the life of the county.

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