



The Blakeneys
1828

FROM
BOURBON CO. KY.

TO
VERMILION CO. ILL.

Blakeney

A veil covers much of the family tree America. The Blakeney family was driven out of Alsace, a province of France, during religious prosecution, where they were known as "de Blakeney." They settled in Ireland and became the Blakeney family. The Blakeney name is found in the Encyclopedia Britannica concerning one William Blakeney who became a Baron due to his gallant defense in battle. He was born at Mount Blakeney, Limerick, Ireland, and lived from 1672 to 1761. The persecution by the Catholic Church in Ireland caused manner to flee to America to seek religious freedom. Among them young was John Blakeney who came to Maryland. Some settled in the Carolinas. Another John Blakeney, who also served in the Revolution from Carolina, was born about 1732 at Mount Blakeney, Limerick, Ireland, and died in 1832 in South Carolina. His daughter Elizabeth married into the Beaver family of North Carolina, which was the home of my husband's great-great-great-grandparents Martin Beaver and Susannah Knox Beaver, who came to Lawrence Co., Indiana, before 1817. Other Blakeney families were in Pennsylvania.

Nyal Royce found that the old records of limerick Ireland, before 1800, were placed in the paper drive during World War II. My family history of the descendants of great-great-great-grandfather John Blakeney, who came from Limerick, Ireland, where he was born, begins in the State of Maryland. At the Hall of records in Annapolis, Md., in the archives of Maryland, Vol. 18 beginning on page 56; is found the record of his enrollment in the Revolutionary War in the summer of 1776, aged twenty years. My mother had written in her records that he served seven years. He considered most of his service as a gift to the country which could offer him freedom. One Pennsylvania record was found where he, or some other John Blakeney, had been given two payments for service in the Revolutionary War. John was born in 1756 and died before 1809. He was short of statue and not up to the height of his son John T., who was a very large man.

The next record we found was the census of 1790 in Allegheny-Washington Co., Penn. John had two sons under sixteen years and his Wife, Martha. The family left Northumberland Co., Penn, and moved to Kentucky. In the tax list of 1800 we find in Harrison Co., Ky., where the south fork of Licking flows from Bourbon Co. In the tax list of 1807 he was in Bourbon Co. and had three horses. In 1809, Martha Blakeney had three horses and three colts; by this we surmise that John had died and she was the widow. The census of Bourbon Co. in 1810 lists Martha Blakeney as head of household with two sons, one between 10 and 16 years, and another between 16 and 26 years. Martha was under 45 years of age. John T. Blakeney, her son, was also listed as head of household in the 1810 census. This was census was finished in 1811 and he was listed as between 16 and 26 years of age, as was his wife. Also listed was a daughter under 10 years.

John T. Blakeney had one mare on the tax list of 1810. In 1811, two horses were listed. William Blakeney also had two horses in the tax list of 1811. His age was given as 21 years. William was evidently the other son mentioned in the 1790 census in Pennsylvania.

The census of 1810 in Bourbon Co., gave this record of where Martha and John T. lived. The area was that part of Bourbon Co. that lies on the north side of Stoner Creek which flows into the south fork of Licking, and also on the south side of Stoner Creek which flows into the south fork of Licking, and also on the south side of Stoner between said creek and the main road from Paris to Georgetown and the Scott, Fayette, and Clark lines. Listed in the census of 1820, William Blakeney had one son under 10 and two daughters. They were located in the area beginning at Paris and running up Stoner Fork of Licking to the Clark line, then along a line to the Montgomery line, the Nicholas line, along a line to the limestone road, then north to Paris.

Somewhere in Kentucky lies our soldier, John, and Martha. A genealogist in Paris told me that the burying grounds of early settlers were in their front or back yards; some are fenced in. As you travel through that part of Kentucky, you may see little islands of trees and bushes fenced in within a pasture which are family grave sites that haven't been plowed up. In an old history of Bourbon Co., Ky., the writer said that the event that shaped the county was the Cane Ridge meeting that began on Friday, before the third Lord's Day in 1801, in a grove not far from Paris in the vicinity where John T. spent around twenty or twenty-five years. To those who have never heard of it, it was a soul shaking event. The folk in Paris can tell several stories of the meetings. People came from away and camped in the groves during the meetings. People were shook up spiritually. We saw the head stone of Barton Stone's grave, on the old meeting site. He pleaded for denominations to cease and for all to become one in Christ Jesus. It had an impact on the county. Our John may have attended as they were nondenominational Christians.

Many of the families listed in the tax records and the census were later found in the records of Vermillion Co., IL near the salt licks. Besides the name of Blakeney were Spicer, Bowen, Black, Scone, Brooks, and Ashby.

The 1830 census of Vermilion Co., IL listed John T. Blakeney and Hugh Blakeney. The 1840 census listed Hugh Blakeney with the following children; two sons between 10 and 15 years of age, one son between 20 and 30 years of age. Hugh was under 50 years. His girls consisted of one under 5 years, three under 10 years, and one under 15 and one less than 20 years. His wife was under 50 years. The 1850 census lists Anna Blakeney as head of household, born in Virginia in 1795, with daughter Emily Frances born in IL, in 1835. Anna was William's widow.

In the search I found a Matthew Blakeney, who paid tax on 150 acres in 1781 in

Muncy Township in Northumberland Co., Penn. John and Martha left Northumberland Co. and traveled toward Kentucky. In later years a traveling worker asked one of John T's sons if he had a brother in Pennsylvania. When he replied no the man said, "you sure have a double back there". Goldie Neild visited Northumberland Co., and found their court records had burned. There are ten volumes (not indexed) of Pennsylvania history in the State Library at Frankfort, KY. Anyone who desires can look further for the Blakeney branches.

Tree Roof of Home

*Underneath the old rood tree,
The roof of home,
Is where I'll always long to be,
The roof tree of home.*

*That's where the sun and clouds shine,
Where I survey all that's mine.*

*There's where welcome lights twinkle
And where tears and laughter mingle.*

*Baby voices are lifted there.
Hearts are full of peace and prayer.*

*Pain and joy blend with our task.
Just to be there is all I ask.*

*Flowers bloom gaily and birds sing
Under the roof tree of home.*

*I'll never trade it for anything,
My own roof tree of home sweet home.*

Grace Glaspie

Note 1:

Northumberland County's existence originated after the French and Indian War when settlers and soldiers began migrating along the Susquehanna River seeking land. Northumberland was the tenth county to be organized in Pennsylvania. Established in 1772, Northumberland County was created from an 8,000 square mile tract of land lying northwest of Lancaster, Cumberland, Berks, Northampton, and Bedford Counties. The land area of Northumberland County eventually increased to 15,000 square miles, covering the Susquehanna Valley,

including all the land west of the Lehigh River to the Allegheny River and all of the land south of the New York State border to Juniata County. Twenty-nine counties in Pennsylvania stem from the 15,000 square miles that once constituted Northumberland County, distinguishing Northumberland County as the "Mother of Counties".

Muncy Township, named for the Munsee tribe, was the first township in the county north of the West Branch Susquehanna River to be formed (predating even Lycoming County itself). It was originally formed as a part of Northumberland County on April 9, 1772.[4] Muncy Township, as one of the seven original townships of Northumberland County was once an immense township. It had an indefinite northern border. The southern border of the township was the West Branch Susquehanna River.

The eastern boundary may have been Muncy Creek and the western boundary was, like the northern boundary, indefinite. Loyalsock Township was the first township to be formed from Muncy Township in 1786. This division encompassed the land between Loyalsock and Lycoming Creeks. The township was divided several more times. Muncy Creek Township was formed in 1797, Shrewsbury Township in 1804, Penn Township in 1828, Wolf Township in 1834 and lastly in 1878 when Mill Creek Township was formed.

Note 2:

Allegheny County, PA was officially created on September 24, 1788 from parts of Washington and Westmoreland counties. It was formed due to pressure from settlers living in the area around Pittsburgh, which became the county seat in 1791. The county originally extended all the way north to the shores of Lake Erie and became the "mother county" for most of what is now northwestern Pennsylvania. By 1800, the county's current borders were set.

Washington County, PA is a county located in the U.S. state of Pennsylvania and is part of the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area. As of 2000, the population was 202,897. It was created on March 28, 1781, from part of Westmoreland County. Its county seat is Washington[1]. Both the county and the city were named for American Revolutionary War leader George Washington, later to become the first President of the United States. The county is home to Washington County Airport, located three miles (5 km) southwest of Washington, Pennsylvania.

Harrison County, KY the seventeenth county is located in north central Kentucky. It is bordered by the counties of Bourbon, Grant, Nicholas, Pendleton, Robertson, and Scott and covers an area of 310 square miles. Formed on December 21, 1793, out of portions of Bourbon and Scott counties. Harrison was named in honor of Colonel Benjamin Harrison of Pennsylvania, who settled in Bourbon County and wrote part of the constitution of Kentucky.

Cynthiana the county seat was built on a 150 acre tract donated by Robert Harrison and named for his two daughters, Cynthia and Anna. The Cynthiana area was first settled in 1775, by Captain John Hinkston and a group of fifteen men from Pennsylvania. The site was abandoned and reoccupied in 1779 by Isaac Ruddle and named Ruddles Station.

Vermilion County, IL, an eastern county, bordering on the Indiana State line, and drained by the Vermilion and Little Vermilion Rivers, from which it takes its name. It was originally organized in 1826, when it extended north to Lake Michigan. Its present area is 926 square miles. The discovery of salt springs, in 1819, aided in attracting immigration to this region, but the manufacture of salt was abandoned many years ago. Early settlers were Seymour Treat, James Butler, Henry Johnston, Harvey Lidington, Gurdon S. Hubbard and Daniel W. Beckwith. James Butler and Achilles Morgan (buried at Bock Cemetery) were the first County Commissioners. Many interesting fossil remains have been found, among them the skeleton of a mastodon (1868). Fire clay is found in large quantities, and two coal seams cross the county. The surface is level and the soil fertile. Corn is the chief agricultural product, although oats, wheat, rye, and potatoes are extensively cultivated. Stock-raising and wool-growing are important industries. There are also several manufactories, chiefly at Danville, which is the county-seat. Coal mining is carried on extensively, especially in the vicinity of Danville.