

the Ashcraft family. He stated that the Ashcraft (Ashcraft, Ashcroft) line came originally from England, probably from the north of England, although some family tradition places them in Wales at very early times.

One Joel Ashcraft is recorded as having sailed from London on October 13, 1635 on the ship "Constance," with Clement Campion the master. Dr. Smith related that in 1752 one Jacob Ashcraft and his wife Mary Johnson Ashcraft, she a daughter of Peter Johnson, and born February 18, 1733 in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, were then living in that county. Two of their children were Pleasant Ashcraft, born November 15, 1752, and Rachel Ashcraft, born March 31, 1754. Rachel was a very commonly used name for females in the Ashcraft family in different generations.

One Ichabod Ashcraft built a fort for protection against the Indians at some point in Fayette County, Pennsylvania prior to 1750, near the site of present-day Smithfield. It appears reasonable to assume that some of the early-day Ashcrafts were involved in the French and Indian War and with fighting the Indians who infested that part of Pennsylvania. The road which was hacked through the forest for Braddock's army, enroute to the catastrophe in the woods near Monongahela on the hot afternoon of July 1755, traverses Fayette County. It is the route followed today generally by U.S. Highway 40, and it was through this same country that the year previous to Braddock's defeat, young Lieutenant-Colonel George Washington, then twenty-two years old, had led a company of Virginia troops and a few militiamen, by order of Virginia Governor Robert Dinwiddie, to demand the immediate withdrawal of the French forces from the territory of Virginia. Virginia at that time claimed some of the land in what is now Pennsylvania. In May 1754, young Washington and his small force attacked but were soon forced to withdraw and establish themselves in a small improvised fort, called Fort Necessity. The French with their greater numbers, forced a surrender; however Washington was afforded the honors of war and he and his men allowed to march out of the fort as paroled prisoners.

While Washington and his men had their lives spared and were sent away with instructions not to return again to French territory, the army composed of British regulars and American woodsmen, including young Washington, which marched back slowly through Fayette County in the summer of 1755, would not be so fortunate. A large portion of the force died in the ambush set up by Captain Beaujeu, the French commander, with 600 Indians, 36 French officers and a few cadets, a few regular French soldiers and about 150 Canadians.

The battlefield of the Great Meadows, where Washington and his small force ignited the French and Indian War, and the site of Fort Necessity are located in Fayette County. In the same area and near present Highway 40 is located the grave of Edward Braddock, one-time major general in His British Majesty's forces in America. Buried the day following the battle in which he received mortal wounds, he was buried in the roadway, in order that the retreating men with their equipment would obliterate the site and prevent the savages locating his body.

Fayette County, Pennsylvania was thus the center of action in those early days and the Ashcrafts living in that area would have, by necessity, been involved.

THE ASHCRAFTS

The pioneer Ashcrafts (Ashcraft, Ashcroft) were among the first families arriving in early-day Hard County and settling in a part of future LaRue County in future Meade County. Some information as to the Ashcrafts has been obtained from the papers of the late Judge Otis Mather, from Rev. George Ridenour's "Earl Days in Meade County," from a brochure prepared by Mrs. Charles L. (Edna Bloyd) Nichols of Hodgenville, and other sources. The Ashcraft Family has been represented in America for a period of approximately 350 years. Mrs. Nichols included in her work some material by David Smith of Louisville, now deceased, pertaining to

The late Judge Otis Mather, in writing about Phillip's Fort, listed four Ashcrafts as being at the fort, namely: Jediah, Daniel, John and Jacob during the period 1781-1792. Jediah, the father, born circa 1735/1745, killed by Indians near site of present Big Clifty bridge in Grayson County, and supposed to have been buried nearby; Daniel, the oldest son, born March 13, 1768, in Pennsylvania or Virginia, died June 6, 1842 in Richland County, Illinois, married Sarah Dye in Hardin County October 27, 1793, parents of eight children; John W. born March 25, 1779, died July 15, 1846, buried in Little Mount Cemetery in LaRue County, Ky., married March 1808 (marriage bond dated March 7, 1808, Hardin County Court Records) to Nancy Wallace, born June 22, 1788, died August 2, 1852, parents of ten children; and Jacob, born in 1785, died July 28, 1859, buried in Little Mount Cemetery in LaRue County, married February 1812 to Sarah Kennedy, born circa 1786, parents of eight children.

The other children of Jediah Ashcraft and his wife, Nancy Friend Ashcraft were as follows: Elizabeth, born circa 1766/1767, who married David McClure February 21, 1792 (Nelson County, Kentucky Court Records), [David and Elizabeth Ashcraft McClure are the great, great grandparents of the compiler of this sketch]. They were parents of thirteen children. (See McClure family sketch.) Susannah, born 1773, died 1838/1839, married July 13, 1791 in Nelson County, Kentucky to John Walters, Sr., born July 4, 1770, in Pennsylvania, died April 17, 1852, a son of Conrad and Nancy Redman Walters (Conrad Walters was one of the early pioneers at the Phillip's Fort, period 1781-1792). They were parents of eight children, Mary, born 1775, married November 19, 1795 in Hardin County to William Brownfield; Nancy, born 1779/1780, died between October 5, 1800 and December 9, 1806, married December 6, 1799 to Andrew Walters, born May 5, 1779, died October 28, 1855, a son of Conrad F. and Nancy Redman Walters, an example of sisters from one family marrying brothers from another family, which often occurred among pioneer families. Eleanor "Nellie," born 1782, died before December 9, 1806, when her husband, George Brownfield, whom she married March 3, 1803, married second time. Their daughter, Eleanor Brownfield married March 25, 1838 to William Walsh.

Jacob Ashcraft, the eighth and youngest child of Jediah and Nancy Friend Ashcraft, and his wife Sarah were the grandparents of John N. Ashcraft who died in Elizabethtown in 1935 and the great-grandparents of Ray Ashcraft, presently living in Elizabethtown and the last member of the John N. Ashcraft family. Their children were: Daniel Kennedy; John, who married Martha Ann Hampton; Nancy, born circa 1825; Mary, born 1829, married December 11, 1860 to George Redman; Elvira, married July 7, 1840 to Harrison Cline; Elizabeth, married December 21, 1846 to John Cravens; Susan, married

The descendants of the pioneer Ashcrafts are legion. It was a time of large families and the Ashcrafts were no exception. The writer, as one of those descendants, has felt an affinity for the Ashcrafts and will attempt to deal here with the lines of Jediah and Richard Ashcraft, brothers. Richard was dead and his widow and their children came to that part of Hardin County which is now Meade, while Jediah, according to Mrs. Nichols, came with his family and other pioneers to Phillips Fort in 1780.

April 21, 1831 to John Roberts; and James W., born March 16, 1823, died December 20, 1878, married Lucretia Walters, born December 3, 1830, died May 26, 1878, a daughter of Andrew Walters and Sarah Bayne, on November 25, 1858.

Daniel Kennedy Ashcraft, son of Jacob and Sarah Kennedy Ashcraft was born (according to his father's Bible) October 8, 1822 and died April 20, 1898, buried in the Red Hill Cemetery at Hodgenville, Ky., married Nancy Jane Miller October 19, 1859, a daughter of David Miller and Nancy Anderson Miller. She was born April 2, 1837 and died February 24, 1875. It is of interest to note that David Miller was a son of Jacob Miller and Elizabeth Masterson, who were married in Pottinger's Fort in Nelson County at a very early date.

A son of Daniel K. and Nancy Jane Miller Ashcraft was John Newton Ashcraft born in 1869, died in Elizabethtown in 1935, spent much of his earlier life in LaRue County. He was a druggist at Hodgenville, when on October 21, 1896 he married Miss Bessie Botts, daughter of Seth and Mary Elizabeth Smith Botts at the handsome home of her parents in Glendale. Bessie was born in 1875. Mary Elizabeth Smith's mother was Hannah Ashcraft, daughter of Elijah Ashcraft, born October 1, 1784 at Chambers Mill, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. He married Elizabeth McWilliams January 12, 1810. Hannah Ashcraft married George Washington Smith, of the Mill Creek Smith family; he was a son of Washington Smith and Hannah McWilliams, daughter of James McWilliams, the Revolutionary soldier who settled on Mill Creek and died at his home in that community August 26, 1843.

Elijah Ashcraft was a son of Richard Ashcraft of Fayette County, Pennsylvania, who died there about 1791. Elijah came to early day Hardin County, with his mother, brothers and sisters about 1799. Thus John N. Ashcraft, a direct descendent from Jediah Ashcraft, married Bessie Botts, a direct descendent from Richard Ashcraft, brother of Jediah Ashcraft.

The John Newton Ashcraft family resided in Glendale until about 1918, when he became distributor in this area for the Gulf Oil Company, an association that has continued to the present time. (Ray Ashcraft and his son, John, are the present agents.) John N. Ashcraft had James W. Atwood as a partner for some years during the 1920's when Mr. Ashcraft was holding positions with the state government. He was at one time State Insurance Commissioner.

While residing in Elizabethtown, the Ashcrafts lived in a large handsome house on Churchill Court. Mrs. Ashcraft was killed in 1933 when the car in which she and her husband were returning to Elizabethtown skidded and overturned on a wet highway, on the hill just west of the Strickler bridge on the Leitchfield Road. Her death was a shock to all her acquaintances and contributed to the death of her husband two years later.

Mr. and Mrs. John N. Ashcraft were the parents of three children: William Seth, born in 1897, died December 28, 1969, attended schools in Glendale, was employed for a number of years by the State Highway Department in an engineering capacity, married first, Ruby McMurtry, born 1910, died in 1939, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. McMurtry. They had a daughter, Suzanne. He married second, Sallie Upchurch. Marie Bessie Ashcraft, born 1900, died in 1934, married James

Elizabeth Carr Ashcraft inherited some land from her brother, John Carr, who also came to Kentucky and had a warrant for land dated March 15, 1781 (500 acres) which was confirmed by James Garrard, Governor of Kentucky, on September 15, 1797. There was another brother, Moses Carr.

The children of Richard Ashcraft and Elizabeth (Betsy) Carr, brought by her to Kentucky, were as follows: 1. Abijah, who married Hannah Enlow. The sons of Richard Ashcraft were known in their part of the country as fighters, in fact, it has been reported that fighting with nature's weapons was one of the chief pastimes of the people of early Meade County. Not everybody took part, for the great majority were only interested spectators. Abijah was regarded as the most powerful of all of the older Ashcrafts, and was spoken of as the most physically powerful man in Meade and the adjoining counties.

Dr. David Smith has recorded that: "It was the custom of the noted fighters of the time to go the rounds of the towns at court terms and visit musters, three day election and the like, and after warming up a little with stimulants they would walk up and down the public thoroughfares, cry out their ability to rout all comers generally, capping the climax by declaring they could whip their weight in wildcats." It was a rare thing to find Abijah Ashcraft absent from one of these gatherings in his territory. The use of knives or pistols in such encounters was regarded as cowardly, if either of the fighters attempted to use such, the crowd turned on the fellow and he usually ended up with a bad beating. Stories of Abijah Ashcraft's fighting ability and his escapades furnished much folklore in the early settlements.

Abijah Ashcraft's name appears on the 1810 Federal Census for Hardin County, his age under 45, three sons, under 10 years, a daughter under 10 and his wife, under 25 years.

2. Abner Ashcraft married Ruth Finch. The 1810 Census lists him and his wife in the same age brackets as his brother, Abijah, their children in the same numbers and age brackets. He is spoken of as not being a large man, rather fond of fighting and not easy to handle. His death probably resulted from a lick in the side, received while fighting with John Shacklette.¹

3. Elijah Ashcraft was born near Chambers Mills, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, October 1, 1784, and married Elizabeth McWilliams January 12, 1810. The 1810 Federal Census lists only Elijah and his wife. He died January 6, 1829. They were parents of James, Polly, Hannah, Elisha and Elizabeth.

The two other sons of Richard and Elizabeth Carr Ashcraft were: 4. Absalom, who married Delilah Allen (he was said to have been like his brother, Elijah, quiet and peaceable); 5. Elisha, who married Rebecca Bowman. According to Dr. Ridenour, Abijah Ashcraft was known in Kentucky as the "old he-wolf" on account of his vindictiveness toward the Indians, expert in woodcraft and with the rifle, he was a terror on an Indian's trail. He removed to Indiana at an early date.

Richard and Elizabeth Carr Ashcraft were parents of four daughters: Mary, who married James Dotson and moved to Indiana; Elizabeth, the oldest daughter, married General Ben Shacklette in Pennsylvania before the migration of the Ashcrafts and Shacklettes to the future Meade County (the Shacklettes were members of an old

McMurtry March 13, 1926, they had no children. Ray Ashcraft presently living in Elizabethtown, married Eise Harned August 14, 1947, they have two children: John, born September 22, 1948, associated with his father in management of their business and Karol, born July 23, 1952, a graduate in 1974 from the University of Kentucky as is her brother. Karol Ashcraft was married January 5, 1974 to Ernie Lewis.

Ray Ashcraft in younger days was an outstanding amateur athlete, in high school playing football and basketball. He still plays low score golf, and has been champion in tournament play at the local country club. His contemporaries will remember him as a high school basketball referee of almost a half century ago. He might chuckle now in recalling some experiences of those days when basketball at the high school level was a rather new sport. Some of the schools had not yet built gymnasiums, others had, and those fortunate enough to offer indoor facilities for their teams, supporters and "rooters" in most cases had small unheated buildings.

The rooters in their rabid support of their local team in some towns meant that the game officials when calling fouls against the home team might be subjected to threats of violence, in addition to the verbal abuse. Ray Ashcraft remembers "leaving town in a hurry" in some instances, of officials being the target for thrown objects or the fist of some "bully-boy" rooter. Fans are more civilized nowadays.

RICHARD ASHCRAFT, BROTHER OF JEDIAH (JEDIDIAH)

Richard Ashcraft was born circa 1746 and died February 1792, freezing to death by falling in a creek at Chambers Mills, Pa. His birthplace is not definitely known, but was apparently somewhere in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, as he sold his interest in the birthplace in this county in 1767: 340 acres on the banks of the Monongahela River, opposite the mouth of 10 mile Creek, for 20 pounds, Pennsylvania money.

He served as an Indian scout in western Pennsylvania along the Monongahela River and the record of his service in the Revolution is to be found in the State Library at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania which shows him as serving in Captain Basil Bowell's Company, the Muster Roll being in the D.A.R. Library Unpublished Records for Fayette County, Penn. vol. I, 1940.

According to family history, Richard Ashcraft was a son of one of two brothers, Absalom or Elisha Ashcraft. He had brothers named Joel, Jediah and Absalom.

In Pennsylvania Richard Ashcraft married Elizabeth Carr, born circa 1748/1750, who came to Kentucky in 1799, seven years after her husband's death. She died in Meade County, Kentucky October 16, 1846 and was buried on "The High Ground of Hill Grove" where her grave was marked with a simple rough stone, engraved E.A. 1846, October 16.

Elizabeth Carr Ashcraft's will mentioned children as: Abner, Abijah, Elijah, Elisha, Absolem (Absolom), Delilah Ross, Elizabeth Shacklett, all having departed this life and "my other daughters living," Mary Dotson and Rachel Shacklett. (Rachel Shacklett was the wife of General Blancet Shacklett. She is buried with her husband to her mother.)

Jediah Ashcraft came to Kentucky around 1780. He had been granted land for Revolutionary War service under George Rogers Clark in the campaign against the British and Indians in the Illinois territory. He took up land on Bear Creek in Grayson County (Jefferson County at that time) and later bought land in what is now Hardin and LaRue counties. He was killed in an Indian fight in 1794 near the present location of the Big Clifty highway bridge. He was buried near that site. History tells that the last Indian fight in Hardin County occurred in 1794; there is a possibility that the raiding party that took Ashcraft's life was the same involved in the fight near Elizabethtown (on the Leitchfield road near the site of the present old power house), very few details of which are available.

Jediah Ashcraft's will was filed in Hardin County Court August 26, 1794 and indicated that he had considerable property for that time. The known children of Jediah and Nancy Friend Ashcraft are a son, Daniel, who married Sarah Dye; John W. who married Nancy Wallace; Jacob, who married Sally (Sarah) Kennady, and daughters, Nelly, who married George Brownfield; Susanna, who married John Walters; Mary, who married William Brownfield; Agnes, who married Andrew Walters; and (Nancy) Elizabeth, who married David McClure February 21, 1792 in Nelson County.

EARLY DAYS IN THAT PART OF HARDIN COUNTY WHICH IS NOW MEADE COUNTY

Meade County was formed in 1823 from Hardin County and Breckinridge County, the latter having been formed from Hardin in 1799. Most of the settlers in that portion of the country arrived by way of the Ohio River and located on some of the water courses, Otter Creek, Doe Run, Wolf and Spring Creeks. Perrin's *History of Kentucky* (1886) in describing Meade County discusses the hills, knobs and groves: "The Indian Hill on Otter Creek, Jennie's Knob, Bee Knob, Buck Grove, Jackey's Grove, Hill Grove, Indian Grove and Hogback Grove—these places lie very nearly in a range a few miles back or south of the Ohio, and stretch from the mouth of Salt River to the mouth of Sinking Creek (in Breckinridge County) a distance of forty miles by land and eighty miles by river. These knobs and groves, being well-known to many individuals before the settlement of the county, especially to the spies, they became points of observation with the view of detecting the approach of Indians, and giving the alarm to the settlements in Hardin County. The spies sent out from these settlements were directed to traverse the country lying between the Salt River and Sinking Creek, these knobs and groves serving as places of observation, and giving direction of their course; and thereby they were enabled to discover the trails of the Indians as soon as they crossed the Ohio River, on their route to attack the settlements. In this way the Indians

Huguenot family, most likely originally from France); her sister, Rachael, married Blancett Shacklette; and Delilah, married first to James Ross, second to Benjamin Stillwell.

Ben Shacklette, who married Elizabeth (Betsy) Ashcraft, October 9, 1792, was born in Pennsylvania in 1774.

Members of the Phillip Jenkins family, together with the Ashcrafts and Shacklettes, all arriving at about the same dates in that part of Hardin County which is now Meade, comprised a large portion of the community and first, second and third generations of those families made up much of the population there for a number of years; however, like all the pioneer families, their descendants are now scattered over the nation.

The National Archives contain records of one John Ashcraft who served in the Revolution, enlisting under a Captain Ashcraft in the spring of 1781, and marching to Fort Pitt (Pittsburg) where he joined General Clark's expedition to Wheeling. There he was put in a company under a Captain Cline, with whom he marched to the mouth of the Kanawha. He was discharged at that place, having completed his six months' enlistment.

The records state that John Ashcraft was no relation to the Captain Ashcraft referred to, however Captain Ashcraft was from Fayette County Pennsylvania and the writer would be inclined to think that there was some relationship there. When the old soldier, John Ashcraft, applied for military pension July 28, 1832, his age was stated as being ninety-five years. He would thus have been born in 1737 and at time of enlistment in 1781, he would have been forty-four years old.

When John Ashcraft applied for pension he was living in Harrison County, Virginia (now West Virginia—Clarksburg is the county seat of Harrison County); a son Uriah Ashcraft was sixty-seven years of age and signed his father's application. Quite likely the old soldier was living with his son. Mrs. Nichols states that Jediah Ashcraft was in Harrison County, Virginia in 1755; "that he was born in Pennsylvania, moved to Harrison County, Virginia and to Kentucky."

Fayette County, Pennsylvania, where the colony of Ashcrafts was established at some time in the early 1700's, and where Ichabod Ashcraft built the fort near Smithfield at some date prior to 1750, is not too many miles from Harrison County, Virginia, approximately fifty miles. Considering the dates and ages involved, the writer would consider it logical to consider Jediah (Jedidiah) and John Ashcraft as possibly being brothers, or cousins at least, and with communities of Ashcrafts in both Fayette County, Pennsylvania and Harrison County, Virginia. At that date both were located in areas claimed by Virginia; the former was established as being part of Pennsylvania when the boundaries were settled in 1780 and Harrison County, Virginia was located in West Virginia, when that state was formed from Virginia in 1863.

JEDIAH ASHCRAFT

Many members of today's families of Walters, Brownfields, Ashcrafts and McClures are descendants of Jediah Ashcraft and Nancy Ann Friend who were married some time around 1760 (this date based on the known birth-dates of some of their children), she being the daughter of John Friend, Jr., and his wife, Elizabeth, of Friends Cove, Pennsylvania.

widow and the children. The children were named in order, as follows: Sarah Jenkins (born 1772); Benjamin (born 1774); Priscilla, (married Thomas Horne); Katherine, (married Enoch Davis); Polly, (married first, Thomas Mills, second to Ben Fulton); Hannah, (married Daniel Hayden); John, born 1784 (married Rachael Wimp in 1801 or 1802); Blancet, born 1787, (married Rachael Ashcraft); Sophia (married Jacob Hayden); Jesse (married Sallie Dodson).

Captain Solomon Brandenburg gave the Meade County town its name. (See the sketch in *Who Was Who in Hardin County*, by Will H. Henton.) From Dr. Ridenour: "At Solomon Brandenburg's Landing and Ferry in 1814, the steamboat 'Elizabeth' was built. This was three years after the construction of the first steamboat, the 'Orleans' or 'New Orleans' at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the first steamboat built in the west. The 'Elizabeth' was owned by a company of Hardin and future Meade County citizens; it was not a success. Ben Shacklett was captain when the boat was sold in New Orleans. With him on that trip were George Helm, father of Governor John L. Helm, and Absalom Brandenburg."⁵

were generally discovered and routed, and the settlements protected from their incursions."¹

Enoch Boone, son of Squire Boone, and nephew of Daniel Boone, settled in what was to be Meade County about 1816 and died in 1862, at age eighty-five. He married Lucy Galman February 8, 1798 and they lived together for sixty-two years. Other early and prominent families settling in that area included the Ashcrafts, the Fairleighs, Moormans, Woolfolks, Richardson, Jenkins, Wimps, Dowells, and Shacklettes, according to Perrin.

The following information pertaining to early days in what is now Meade County has been obtained from Dr. Ridenour's *Early Times in Meade County*: The land along the Ohio between the mouth of Doe Run and mouth of Otter Creek was entered by General Henry Crist.² In 1784 Richard Stith (born 1727) and Lucy Hall Stith settled in Stith's Valley. They were married in Virginia, December 28, 1756, and parents of twelve children. Their son, Joseph Stith (born September 6, 1759) was a soldier of the Revolution.³

Philip Jenkins lived on Doe Run before 1800. The first settler in the Hill Grove was a man named Allen. He was buried in the old grave yard in Hill Grove. In 1789 Philip Jenkins, Jr. purchased 700 acres in this grove. He sold Benjamin Allen 150 acres of this land. On February 2, 1808, Philip Jenkins and his wife, Jane, sold the Hill Grove land to Abisha Ashcraft (see Ashcraft sketch). Jonathan Simmons came in 1800.⁴

Ben Wooley Shacklett (the name appears to have spelled also as Shacklette) says: "Our family was am the earliest settlers, as I get from record. My father and mother emigrated from Fayette County, Pennsylvania in the year 1796. They took water at Redstone, with their small effects on a flatboat and floated down the Ohio River and landed at the mouth of Beargrass (creek), at the Falls of the Ohio. He lived their two years, assisted in building the first mill that was built on Beargrass in Jefferson County; it was called Higers Mill, as he informed me. In 1798 he dropped down to Tobacco Landing and settled in Jackey's Grove, near the center of Meade County, with two boys and a girl."

Several other families settled in the vicinity of Jackey's Grove, eight miles west of the Big Clay Lick. John Jenkins was the second white child born in Meade County, and was born on the old Joseph Woolfolk place in 1798. The first white child, a girl, was born in 1797 at the Tobacco Landing on the Ohio River. The Shackletts are said to be of French origin.

From family Bible records: — John Shacklett, born in England 1678; his son, Ben Shacklett, born in England 1710; his son, John Shacklett, born in Pennsylvania 1747; his son, Ben Shacklett, born in Pennsylvania 1774; his son, John, born in Kentucky 1796. Ben Shacklett and Elizabeth Ashcraft were married in Pennsylvania October 9, 1792.

John Jenkins and Sarah (Shacklett) Jenkins came to Meade County before 1800. There are two Phillip Jenkins (Sr. and Jr.) on the 1800 Hardin County Tax List, but only one Benjamin Shacklett of the Shacklett family. At that time the settlers had to go to Severns Valley "mill." They got their salt at Bullitt's Lick. Salt coasted a bushel; it was wet and would drip all the way to pioneer's cabins. At that time, salt was a luxury.

John Shacklett's will was probated in Fayette County, Pennsylvania October 27, 1809. The will provided for the

this place in August next, and that Robert W. Washington be appointed clerk of said election."

An election at that time was held for a period of three days. Every man in the county had to vote at the court-house which was John Rush's House. Elections and regimental musters were the scenes of much "fist and skull" fighting. In these encounters men fought to determine the best man in the county. The man who used a weapon was ever after disgraced and branded by the stigma of coward. The title, "the best man in the county," was gained with a man's fists. This honor carried with it more distinction than the decorations of a modern soldier.

On election days each candidate had his fighting men hurrahing for him. It was a time when public questions were often determined by personal combat. On the last day of an election a fight was generally staged for the remaining votes. The remaining votes were usually cast for the winner's candidate.

At this first election held at John Rush's, Dan Shacklett (Gentleman Dan) fought a pitched battle with Isaac Vertrees. Probably this was the hardest fight in Meade County. A large crowd formed a ring around the contestants and allowed no interference. They fought over an acre of ground for thirty-seven minutes.

Old Jesse Shacklett and Benjamin Shaver had two contests. In the first fight Shaver took undue advantage of his opponent by biting off a part of Shacklett's ear. As Shacklett did not fully approve of such proceedings he challenged Shaver to a second fight at a later time. In this contest to even up the score Shacklett bit off a part of Shaver's ear. Both battles were fought to decide which was the better man.

farms purchased from Solomon Brandenburg: Joseph Atwill, Esquire, Henry Shoptaugh, Frederiek Mauck, Nicholas Shoptaugh, John Huffman, Henry Yeaky, Gabriel Wathen, William Richardson, Andrew Habersfield, Charles Source, William Fairleigh, Thomas B. Enlows, Waters F. G. Lausdale, James Smith, Leonard B. Parker, and Judith Chaffin.

From an old blacksmith's account book beginning November 12, 1833, the following names appear:

Joseph Woolfolk	Dannel Mathes
Lewis Richardson	Orlando Stinnet
James Reed	<u>John Shacklett</u>
Ezra Shaver	Thomas Toben
Thomas Rush	Dannel Fulton
John Wimp	Jesse Howl
Hugh Isler	Samuel Overton
John Long	George Frymire
Lewis Darnell	Lewis Alexander
<u>Benjamin Shacklett</u>	John McBrown
Lerite Clark	Flemmon Edmon
James Wimp	William C. Michal
David Smith	William Roberts
Heli Kendall	John Williams
John Rush	Dick Payne
John Stinnet	Thomas Roberts
Leon Cooper	Jacob Ragon

Jesse Shacklett produced his commission from the governor as coroner. He gave a bond of one thousand pounds signed by Richard Stith, George Humphrey and Samuel Brown.

The following order of the county court was passed, June 28, 1824.

"Ordered that William Ditto and William Garnett, Esquires, be and they are hereby appointed Judges to superintend the Meade General election to be held at

At Solomon Brandenburg's Landing and Ferry in 1814 the steamboat, Elizabeth, was built. This was three years after the construction of the first steamboat, the Orleans, or New Orleans, at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, the first steamboat built in the west. The Elizabeth was owned by a company of Meade and Hardin County citizens. The boat was not a financial success. Benjamin Shacklett was captain when the boat was sold at New Orleans, Louisiana. With him on that trip were George Helm, father of Governor John L. Helm, and Absalom Brandenburg.

In 1816 the steamboat Hornet was built at the Brandenburg Landing. October 9, 1821, Hayden and Atwill listed "two shares in the Steamboat Hornet at \$100 each." In litigation styled John Welch vs. Hornet Steamboat Company the names of the following appear: William L. McGehee, Solomon Brandenburg, Edward Hayden, residents of Kentucky and Lewis Carroll and Caleb Morton, "not inhabitants of this Commonwealth." This court's proceeding has a final word, "Dismissed."

The third boat built at Brandenburg was the Grecian constructed in 1822. The owner's names are unknown. All these steamboat ventures ended in financial failure. While General Benjamin Shacklett, Solomon Brandenburg, Joseph Atwill and others were experienced flatboat men they were not successful with steamboats. The three boats built at Brandenburg were some of the earliest boats constructed in the West where there were so few transportation facilities.

On one of the steamboat trips Benjamin Shacklett had as his pilot, his brother, whom the boatmen called "Old Choc." "Old Choc" had lived among the Indians on the lower Mississippi.

In 1819 Luther Rice came into the territory of the Salem Association bearing the news of gospel triumphs in Burma. Leaven was working in the mass even before his coming. While there were no church organizations itinerant preachers went long distances to visit the new settlements. John Shacklett was one of these little known ministers.

Hill Grove Baptist Church grew out of the pioneer conditions. Otter Creek, Union and Wolf Creek were the nearest organized bodies of Christians. There were no other organizations.

Accordingly, Elizabeth Ashcraft Shacklett, Rachel Ashcraft Shacklett and Sallie Shacklett Jenkins used to meet in their cabins in cold weather and at a spring in warm weather for divine services. With Bible and hymnal they were faithful unto the Redeemer. It was a time when other than consecrated women would have given up. After many months passed the men were willing to help in gathering the Hill Grove Baptist Church. Elizabeth Ashcraft Shacklett gave the world Brother Ben F. Hagan and Brother Daniel Fulton Shacklett;

Joseph Woolfolk, Senior, came from Virginia over the Wilderness Road to Jackey's Grove. He bought 253 acres of land in this grove from Leonard Burch, June 16, 1808, for \$6,000. At that time there was a large, old-fashioned brick house. This land had been patented in the name of John Floyd. Abisha Ashcraft and Benjamin Shacklett had deeds to this very same land. However, under all the circumstances they made a deed to Joseph Woolfolk for the land. Old Aunt Harriet Burch, one of the Woolfolk slaves, used to relate incidents of the long trip overland from Virginia. She was a small girl at that time.

William G. Beall related the following account of Ben Wooley Shacklett:

"I saw him strip all to his drawers and socks to fight part of his own clan, when attacked by several of his own clan, and that he was the most splendid specimen of a 'prize fighter' that I had ever seen."

Ben Wooley was a grand juror at a circuit court at Brandenburg. He had left his horse at Daniel Stark's. Stark also ran a grocery (the name for a saloon at that time). Shacklett was putting on his overcoat when Vincent Nelson challenged him for a fight after a short scuffle. They adjourned to the road before Stark's place. Shacklett struck one lick. The result was a fractured jaw and leg credited to the account of Vincent Nelson.

At that time every county had its fighting men. These contests even at their worst were more humane, less strenuous and less brutal than a modern game of football. Then strong men ruled.

The old Shackletts were not rough and ready men of the border. They were polite and mild mannered men who zealously insisted and demanded the keeping of law and order.

The Honorable Robert Triplett of Daviess County tells of a visit to General Benjamin Shacklett's home. At that time men who acted as agents for large landholders were looked upon with suspicion and distrust. In some localities it was almost worth a man's life to act in that capacity. Triplett's friends warned him of danger from the Shackletts if he surveyed in Meade County.

Triplett concluded to pay General Shacklett a visit and explain his business before making any surveys.

Ben Wooley Shacklett was the best man in his day in the county. He was born in Jackey's Grove in Meade County (then Hardin County), March 15, 1805. He was the son of General Benjamin Shacklett and Elizabeth Ashcraft Shacklett. Ben Wooley grew up in Meade County. His early life was filled with the adventure of the border. He says, "After my recollection the Indians were troublesome, and crossed the river and drove off the settlers' horses."

He was a great fighting man at elections and musters. He fought and whipped every man that tried him.

At an election at the old court-house on East Hill the farmers were showing their fine horses. Dan Basinger had a blooded stallion which injured an old man in the crowd. In protection of the old man a young man, Fulton, struck the stallion on the forehead with a heavy cane.

Basinger let go of the horse and severely whipped Fulton with a horse whip. Ben Wooley remonstrated with Basinger. But Basinger was in a fighting mood and Shacklett either had to fight or run. The ring was formed on the public square and after more than a half an hour's fight Basinger cried, "enough."

Because the men were all on Shacklett's side Basinger challenged him to a second battle. Shacklett with some dread accepted the challenge. This fight took place at the Sweat spring in a wheat field owned at the time by Daniel Richardson. This was the most noted contest in which Ben Wooley took part. It lasted fifty-six minutes. In his old age Shacklett said of this fight:

"I had an easier time than I had expected. We were always good friends after that, to the day of his death."

Swan Brandenburg died of cholera June 30, 1851, and is buried in the Walker burying ground on East Hill. This was the year that many of the citizens died of this awful scourge. Ben Gager Shacklett wrote for Ben Wooley Shacklett to come to Brandenburg. When Ben Wooley arrived Ben Gager and his wife and oldest son and a negro woman were dead. The only survivor of the family was the youngest son who was away visiting. Swan Brandenburg and many others were buried that night.

before her father killed the bear. The child suffered for many weeks but she finally recovered. In later life she and her husband, William Saunders, lived near Brandenburg.

Small game was abundant. Squirrels in companies, troops and regiments abounded in the timber. On one occasion in the fall an early resident of Meade County said that he and other boys killed scores of red squirrels under the large beeches near his father's cabin with no weapons other than stout beech cudgels.

When the pioneers came, great flocks of large white swans could be seen every spring and fall. Wild geese and ducks abounded on every water course. Song birds were without number. Passenger pigeons came in great flocks. They would bend young timber to the ground with their great weight. Strong branches of great poplars in the bottoms would be broken by the passenger pigeons that have long since vanished from the earth.

In speaking of General Benjamin Shacklett the Honorable William G. Beall says:

"I remember seeing him but once, and stayed all night with him in 1832, and questioned him about the state of the country when he first settled it; especially about the abounding of game in the county. Seeing I had hunting on the brain, never having bagged anything larger than a squirrel, being then fresh from the city, he took pleasure in gratifying me with a full detail. The number of deer and quantity of game in the county would almost seem incredible to persons of the present day. Indeed, Hill Grove and vicinity must have been a very paradise of hunters."

Early . . . Meade County, Kentucky. 31

After the death of my grandfather, my father, Ben Shacklett, went back to Pennsylvania and settled up the estate of my grandfather, and brought down the river a flatboat load of castings, bar irons, axes, hoes, reaping hooks and some square box stoves, the first that were ever introduced in the county."

General Benjamin Shacklett, an early settler in the Hill Grove, leaves the following account of the great numbers of deer.

"As to deer we thought no more of going out to kill one, when wanting one, than we did of going out to wring the neck off a chicken."

Hoard Withers was fond of telling about the abundance of game, especially of deer. He said, "No one

planted more than three acres of ground because we didn't need any more."

The settlers had to guard their corn while in roasting ear to keep the deer from destroying the ears. General Shacklett often told of seeing deer tracks in patches of corn in the Hill Grove as thick as ever he had seen the tracks of hogs in a hog lot. In certain weather the deer would assemble in the Hill Grove in numbers that now seem incredible. Early settlers did not hunt them because powder and lead were too expensive. In the falls when there were heavy beech masts wild turkeys would get so fat that if they fell a great distance after being shot their breasts would burst upon striking the ground.

General Blaneet Shacklett was a great bear hunter. His wife, Rachel Ashcraft Shacklett, was fond of telling about their finding a bear and her two cubs in a cave. General Shacklett persuaded his wife to hold a torch for him while he shot the bears. He assured her that she was in no danger as bears would always shun the light and squeeze themselves into the smallest places—"Without," she said, "they were wounded. And I depended on the old man to kill them and not let them kill me."

In later years the old general's fondness for bear was the cause of a painful accident to his little daughter, Sophia. He had captured a cub which he kept chained to a post in the yard. After the bear was full grown it broke loose one day and raided the spring house. After causing much damage the bear returned to the yard. Sophia was playing about the house. The bear attacked the little girl. Nearly all the skin was torn from her head and she received other painful injuries

Benjamin was appointed one of the executors and was sworn, March 1, 1810. After the estate was settled the children emigrated to Meade County. They landed at Solomon Brandenburg's Landing and Ferry, which was called "Buzzard Roost," bringing their household goods, stock and supplies with them. They "paid for their land with bar iron, castings and mill stones, the latter quarried and dressed by themselves at their father's quarry in Pennsylvania, (Laurel hill).

With them came John Wimp and his family. John Wimp married Roxina, or Rosina, Kirkpatrick in Ireland. He served as a sergeant in Captain James Floyd's Company of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, (April 23, 1779) in the Revolutionary War. Their children were: Daniel (married Rachel Welch), Polly (married George Dowell), Ben, Ephraim, and Rachel (married John Shacklett, after his death, married James Ross, March 8, 1830).

John Wimp was well educated. He joined the Masonic order in Europe. "He frequently spoke of having met General Washington in the lodge at Fairfax, and had a Masonic Medal which he greatly prized, having brought it from the old country, which was tied about his neck and buried with him as requested, at Hill Grove." He died at the age of ninety-eight.

Ben Wooley Shacklett tells the following: "After the death of my grandfather, my grandmother rode on horseback from near Beasondown, Pennsylvania, to where her children lived in Kentucky, with her youngest son, which was a trip of upwards of 500 miles; her age about 64 at that time. She was 97 years of age when she died. She was buried on the high ground of Hill Grove.

the camp from a scouting expedition with his shot pouch full of scalps. He spoke the Indian dialects and was familiar with the Indian character. Once he was captured but made his escape. His brother, Jed Ashcraft, was killed by the Indians about 1799 in what is now Grayson County, Kentucky.

The Ashcrafts built a fort, or station, in what is now Fayette County, Pennsylvania. It is related that Mrs. Rachel Ashcraft, hearing a turkey gobbler call, was instantly on the alert with a rifle. Presently she heard the call again and then she saw an Indian peeping around a tree near the fort. The Indian fell with a rifle bullet through his head.

Apsalom and Abisha Ashcraft, whose mark was a capital A, were early settlers in Meade County. Abisha was a son of the old Indian fighter, Richard Ashcraft. Ben Shacklett's wife, Elizabeth, and Blaneet Shacklett's wife, Rachel, were his daughters. Neither knew what fear was. Abijah Ashcraft was known in Kentucky as the "old he wolf" on account of his vindictiveness towards the savages. Expert in woodcraft and with the rifle he was a terror on an Indian's trail.

John Shacklett's will was probated in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, October 27, 1809. The will provided for the widow and the children. The children were named in the following order: Sarah Jenkins (born 1772), Benjamin, Priscilla Horne (married Thomas Horne), Katherine Davis (married Enoch Davis), Polly (married first, Thomas Mills, second, Ben Fulton), Hannah (married Daniel Hayden), John (born 1784 and married Rachel Wimp in 1801 or 1802), Blaneet (born 1787), Sophia (married Jacob Hayden), and Jesse (married Sallie Dodson).

Several other families settled in the vicinity of Jackey's Grove eight miles west from the Big Clay Lick. John Jenkins, the second white child born in Meade County, was born on the old Joseph Woolfolk place in 1798. The first white child, a girl, was born in 1797 at the Tobacco Landing on the Ohio River.

December 17, 1800, Richard Barbour sold George Oldham the Falling Springs tract of 3,000 acres. The present court-house stands on the site of the first house, a log cabin, ever built at Brandenburg.

The Shackletts are said to be of French origin. The following names and dates are taken from a copy of the record in a Bible owned by Ben Woolley Shacklett.

John Shacklett, born in England, 1678; his son, Ben Shacklett, born in England, 1710; his son, John Shacklett, born in Pennsylvania, 1747; his son, Ben Shacklett, born in Pennsylvania, 1774; his son, John Shacklett, born in Kentucky, 1796. Ben Shacklett and Elizabeth Ashcraft were married in Pennsylvania October 9, 1792.

John Jenkins and Sarah Shacklett Jenkins came to Meade County before 1800. At that time the settlers had to go with pack-horses to Severn's Valley to mill. They got their salt from the salt works at Bullitt's Lick. Salt cost a dollar a bushel. It was wet and would drip all the way to the pioneers' cabins. At that time salt was a luxury.

The Carrs came early from Pennsylvania. Elizabeth Carr Ashcraft (born in 1750) came in 1799. Her husband, Richard Ashcraft, was a noted Indian fighter in Pennsylvania. On account of the Indian atrocities in the valleys of western Pennsylvania he formed a bitter enmity against the Indians. He was a scout during the American Revolution. Usually he would come into

Calvin Hurd and Jesse Brown bought Essery's mill on Doe Run. At the death of Calvin Hurd his estate was sold to Joseph Woolfolk, Senior, \$71. At the sheriff's sale the land was bought by Daniel S. Richardson. This deed calls for a "white oak marked S. B. six poles above a large deep spring and an old hunting camp thereby." This was the spring Squire Bone discovered in 1778.

Philip Jenkins lived on Doe Run before 1800. March 15, 1798, Michael, Sarah and Charles Campbell sold 3,610 acres of land on the Ohio River below the mouth of Doe Run to James Dickey and James Buchanan for one dollar an acre.

The first settler in the Hill Grove was a man named Allen. He was the first man buried in the old graveyard in Hill Grove. In 1798 Philip Jenkins, Junior, purchased 700 acres of land in this grove. He sold Benjamin Allen 150 acres of this land. February 2, 1808, Phillip Jenkins and his wife, Jane, sold the Hill Grove land to Abisha Ashcraft. Jonathan Simmons came in 1800.

Ben Woolley Shacklett says: "Our family was among the earliest settlers as I get from record. My father and mother emigrated from Pennsylvania, Fayette County, in the year 1796. They took water at Redstone, with their small effects on a flatboat, and floated down the Ohio River and landed at the mouth of Beargrass, at the head of the Falls of the Ohio. He lived there two years; assisted in building the first mill that was built on Beargrass in Jefferson County; it was called Higers Mill, as he informed me. In 1798 he dropped down to the Tobacco Landing and settled in Jackey's Grove, near the center of Meade County, with two boys and a girl."

1727) and Lucy Hall Stith (born 1736) settled in Stith's Valley. They were married in Virginia, December 28, 1756, and were the parents of twelve children. Their son, Joseph Stith, (born September 6, 1759) was a soldier in the Revolutionary War.

In 1792 James N. Ross settled near the head of Doe Run. James Tibbs built a round log cabin at the Blue Spring and Walter Finch at the Buffalo Spring. Each of these settlers had rude stockades about an enclosure as a protection from the Indians and wild beasts. The cabin was usually built in one corner of the stockade. The roof of heavy clapboards sloped to the inner side as protection against the Indians' throwing fire upon it. The chimney usually was built at the end of the cabin within the enclosure.

The first corn mill in Meade County was an undershot cornercracker built by Jonathan Essery just below the mouth of Blue Spring Branch on Doe Run. Jonathan Essery bought this mill site from Philip Jenkins, September 22, 1824, Justus Hurd and Zadock Hurd.

executed a note for \$75 in round silver, borrowed money, to William Berryman with Daniel S. Richardson, Samuel Root and John Stone securities, also mortgaging two water grist mills and one saw mill on Doe Run.

William Berryman was a good mechanic and accumulated a large estate in land and slaves. Samuel Root and John Stone operated a large tannery on Doe Run.

James Overton built the first flour mill on Otter Creek. At this mill a business place sprung up called Plain Dealing. Soon after a tavern was built by Fleming Woolfolk. He and John Overton were the early business men of this town.

Richard. Whar.1789	Ichabod. Geor.1786	William. Whar.1786
Thomas. Whar.1789	Ichabod. Geor.1787	Askrin
William. Whar.1789	Ichabod. Geor.1793	Richard. Whar.1788
Arskins	Ichabod. Geor.1794	William. Whar.1788
John. Unio.1787	Ichabod. Geor.1795	Askrins
Arties	Ichabod. Geor.1798	John. Whar.1788
Isaac. Fran.1796	Ichabud. Geor.1788	Aspy
Artis	Ichabud. Geor.1789	George. Mena.1786
Isaac. Dunb.1799	Ichobod. Geor.1799	Thomas. Fran.1788
Isaac. Fran.1798	Jacob. Geor.1786	Thomas. Fran.1789
John. Fran.1798	Jacob. Geor.1788	William. Tyro.1786
Artman	Jacob. Geor.1789	Assbel
Jacob. Germ.1790	Jacob. Geor.1793	Benjamin Jr.
John. Germ.1785	Jacob. Geor.1794	Fran.1795
John. Germ.1786	Jacob, single.	Benjeman. Fran.1795
John. Germ.1787	Geor.1787	John. Fran.1795
John. Germ.1788	James. Geor.1788	Astell
John. Germ.1790	James. Geor.1789	- see Astel.
Artmon	Jedediah. Geor.1789	Fran.1785
Jacob. Germ.1789	Jediah. Geor.1794	Astiron(?)
John. Germ.1789	John. Geor.1785	Ralph. Fran.1796
Asbell	John. Geor.1786	Asyman(?)
Benjamin Jr.	John. Geor.1787	Christian.
Fran.1791	John. Spri.1788	Germ.1799
Benjamin Sr.	Judiah. Geor.1788	Atcheson
Fran.1791	Levi. Spri.1788	Thomas. Fran.1791
sh	Phelix. Geor.1794	Atkinson
Charles. Whar.1788	Phelix. Geor.1795	John. Fran.1798
Charles. Whar.1789	Phelix. Geor.1798	Ralph. Fran.1797
Ashby	Richard. Geor.1786	Ralph. Fran.1798
George. Mena.1785	Richard. Geor.1788	Atling
Ashcraft	Richard. Geor.1789	Casper. Bull.1788
----. Geor.1789	Richard. Geor.1793	Augustus
Daniel. Geor.1785	Uriah. Spri.1788	Joseph. Spri.1786
Daniel. Geor.1788	Asher	Joseph. Spri.1787
Daniel. Geor.1793	Anthoney. Geor.1789	Joseph. Spri.1788
Daniel. Geor.1794	Anthony. Mena.1785	Aulton
Daniel. Geor.1795	Anthony. Mena.1786	Benjamin. Germ.1788
Daniel. Geor.1798	Ashman	Benjamin. Germ.1789
Daniel. Geor.1799	Michael. Germ.1795	Erosmus. Germ.1797
Daniel, single.	Askin	Mary. Germ.1788
Geor.1786	John. Whar.1785	Ausbourn
Daniel, single.	William. Whar.1785	Jonathan. Mena.1788
Geor.1787	Askins	Ausman
Elizabeth.	Thomas. Whar.1785	Christian.
Geor.1794	Thomas. Whar.1788	Salt.1799
Ephraim. Geor.1785	Askran	Austin
Ephraim. Geor.1786	Richard. Whar.1787	Moses. Tyro.1798
Ephraim. Geor.1787	Thomas. Whar.1787	Moses. Tyro.1799
Ephraim. Geor.1788	William. Whar.1787	Avey
Ephraim. Geor.1789	Askren	Jacob. Unio.1789
Ephraim. Geor.1793	John. Whar.1786	Ayers
Ephraim. Geor.1794	Richard. Unio.1786	Ezekiel. Geor.1798
Icabode. Geor.1785	Thomas. Whar.1786	James. Fran.1797

Ashcroft Fayette County Taxes

Georges Township

Daniel 1789, 1785, 1788, 1793,
1794, 1795, 1798, 1799, 1787, 1786

Elyzeth 1794

Ephraim 1785 1786 1787 1788
1789 1793 1794

Uchabode 1785 1786 1787 1793
1794 1795 1798 1788 1789 1799

Jerob 1786 1788 1789 1793 1794

Jemes 1788 1789

Jedah 1789 1794

John 1785 1786 1787 1788

Judich 1788

Lewi 1788

Phely 1794 1795 1798