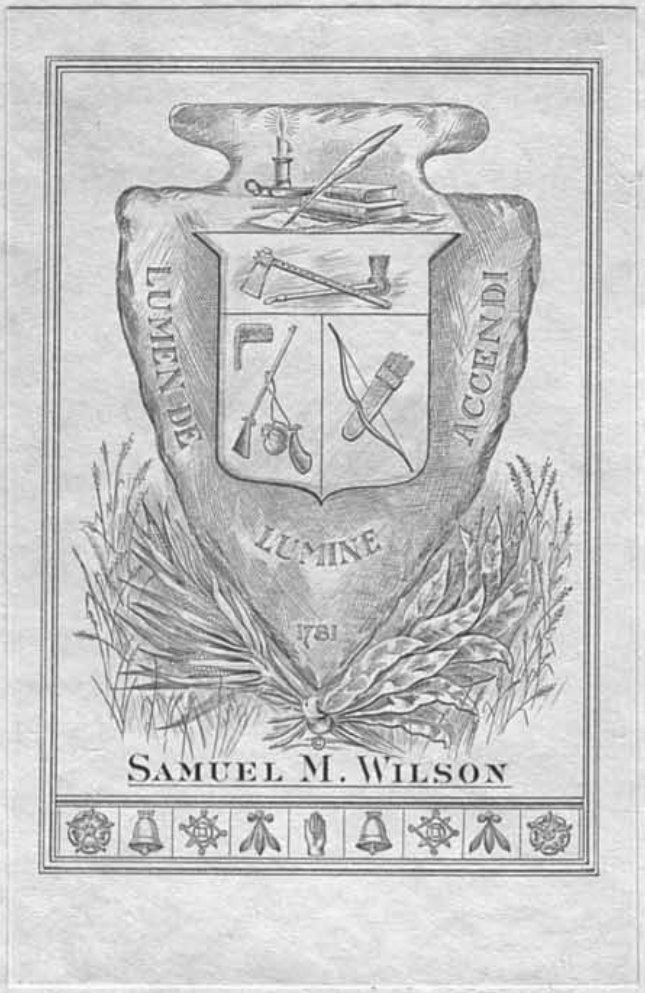
Irish Pioneers in Kentucky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SAMUEL M. WILSON

Irish Pioneers in Kentucky

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The True Discoverer of Kentucky.

Not Daniel Boone, as is Generally Supposed, but an Irish Pioneer named James McBride. Testimony of Impartial Historians.

Our Irish-American literary and historical associations could do no better work than turn the searchlight on the early records of Kentucky. Of all the original Thirteen Colonies, none presents a wider, more prolific or more interesting field for historical research than that portion of the Colony of Virginia, originally called Fincastle County, and which, in 1779, was formed into the State of Kentucky.

It may be said that the early history of Kentucky is contemporary with that of Virginia and the Carolinas. It was from those Colonies that the pioneers of the "Blue Grass State" set out in search of adventure and fortune in the unknown land beyond the great ranges of the Appalachians, and although historians invariably give the credit to the renowned hunter, Daniel Boone, as having been "the discoverer of Kentucky," we shall quote authorities to show that long before the valiant Boone ever saw the sky over fair Kentucky, another daring hunter from Virginia had blazed a path through that region and paved the way for the more famous explorers that succeeded him. And it is not the least bit remarkable to find that the first white man who traversed that region and made known its possibilities to a waiting world, bore an Irish name, James McBride. In all likelihood he was a native of Ireland.

Our authorities for this statement are no less than the eminent historians of Kentucky, Judge Lewis Collins and John Filson.

Collins is the leading authority on early Kentucky history. He was the author of "Kentucky, Its History, Antiquities and Biography." It is a graphic story of the early settlement of the West, vivid, enthusiastic and minute; compiled with a loving and reverent industry from original records, and from the letters and papers of the pioneers themselves. These he sought out and rescued "from moths and mice in the lumber rooms of original log houses of the backwoods, or taken from the aged lips of some surviving relics of the olden time." The details are interesting, not only to every Kentuckian for the sake of the abundant family history, but to every student of the part played by Irish immigrants in the early days of the great Southwest.

A French Traveler and Historian.

Filson's "Histoire de Kentucke, Nouvelle Colonie a l'ouest de la Virginie," preceded that of Judge Collins, and has served as a basis for all true accounts of that region that have since appeared. The author was a French traveler and hunter, who first passed through what is now called Kentucky in the year 1784. His history was published in Paris in 1785, and we have been fortunate in coming across a copy of this rare work, from which we quote.

Under the chapter entitled, "Decouverte et achat du territoire," Filson says:

"On croit que M. James McBride est le premier homme blanc qui ait eu connoissance de Kentucke. En 1754, accompagne de quelques amis, il descendit l'Ohio dans des canots, aborda l'embouchure de la riviere Kentucke, et y marqua trois arbres, avec les premieres lettres de son nom, et la date du jour et de l'annee; ces inscriptions subsistent encore. Nos voyageurs reconnurent le pays, et retournerent dans leurs habitations avec l'agreable nouvelle de la decouverte d'une des plus belles contrees de l'Amerique septentrionale, et peutetre du monde entier. Depuis cette epoque ce pays fut neglige, jusque vers l'annee 1767, que M. John Finley et quelques autres personnes, commercant avec les Naturels, penetrerent heureusement dans cette fertile region, maintenant appellee *Kentucke*, et connue alors des Naturels sous les noms de *Terre d'Obscurite, Terre de Sang*, et *Terre Moyenne*. Ce pays frappa beaucoup M. Finley; mais il fut bientot oblige d'en sortir, par les suites d'une querelle qui s'eleva entre les commercants et les Naturels; et il retourna chez lui dans la Carolina septentrionale ou il communiqua sa decouverte au Colonel Daniel Boone et a quelques personnes, qui, la regardant comme un objet tres important, resolurent en 1769 d'entreprendre un voyage, dans le dessein d'examiner ce pays. Apres une longue et fatiguante marche, a l'ouest, dans des lieux sauvages et montueux, ils arriverent enfin sur les frontieres de Kentucke; et du sommet d'une eminence, ils, decouvrirent, avec une surprise melee de joie, son superbe paysage. Ils y etablirent un logement, et tandis que quelques uns de la troupe allerent chercher des provisions, quils se procurerent facilement, vu l'abondance du gibier, le Colonel Boone et John Finley coururent le pays, quils trouverent fort superieur a leurs esperances, et ayant rejoint leurs compagnons, il les informerent de leurs decouvertes."

Translating this, it says:

Translation of the Foregoing.

"It is believed that Monsieur James McBride is the first white man who had any knowledge of Kentucky. In 1754, accompanied by some friends, he descended the Ohio in canoes, landed at the mouth of the Kentucky River, and there marked on three trees, the first letters of his name, with the date and the year, these inscriptions being still visible. Our travelers explored the country and returned to their homes with the agreeable news of the discovery of one of the most beautiful countries of North America, and perhaps of the entire world. Since that period, this country was neglected, until about the year 1767, when Monsieur John Finley and

several other persons, trading with the natives, fortunately passed through that fertile region, now called Kentucky, and at that time known to the natives under the names of *Land of Obscurity, the Bloody Country* and *the Middle Country.* The country much impressed Monsieur Finley, but he was soon obliged to quit it in consequence of a quarrel having arisen between the traders and the natives; and he returned home to North Carolina, where he communicated his discovery to Col. Daniel Boone and others, who regarding it a matter of great importance, resolved in 1769 to undertake a journey for the purpose of exploring the country. After a long and fatiguing march to the West, through wild and mountainous territories, they eventually arrived on the frontiers of Kentucky, and from the summit of a hill, they discovered with mingled joy and surprise, a superb landscape. There they erected a cabin, and while several members of the party went in search of provisions, which were readily procurable, there being an abundance of game, Colonel Boone and John Finley scoured the country, which they found to exceed all their hopes, and having rejoined their companions, they informed them of their discoveries."

Probably an Irishman.

It is seen from this that Kentucky was first explored in the middle of the eighteenth century and by one who, in all probability, was an Irishman. Of the incidents of his long journey there appears to be no record. We are only told that he had the hardihood to undertake a task from which all but the bravest shrunk, that he went far away into a wilderness hitherto untrodden by a white man, and that he set an example for the others who followed the same route several years after. The journey must have occupied many weeks, but no details seem to be obtainable from any of the historical works that we have examined, of the arrival of the pioneer and his companions at the Kentucky River or of their return to Virginia. We simply know that they were the first white men to penetrate a hitherto unknown country beyond the romotest frontiers of American civilization. Bands of Indians must have hovered round them and beset their every path, for the country was in sole possession of the red men, who resented the intrusion of the strangers.

At that time, and for several succeeding years, Kentucky was nothing more than a vast wilderness, where the savage Indian tribes roamed at will. From the very beginning they were hostile to the whites. The exploration and settlement of the territory was fiercely disputed, and many are the stories of daring and adventure that are told of the hardy pioneers from beyond the mountains who encountered the redmen in numerous bloody conflicts.

Route the Explorer Followed.

The only known route from the South and East by which this remote territory could be penetrated at that time was by means of boats on the Ohio River or its tributaries. McBride is said to have come down the Ohio to its confluence with the Kentucky and stopped where the town of Carrollton in Carroll County now stands. It was here that he cut his initials

on the trees, which Filson was able to read 30 years after. It is to be regretted that no more elaborate account of the romantic, and probably thrilling, adventures of this hardy pioneer of the West has been handed down to us by historical writers. But enough has been written by the premier historian of Kentucky, who himself traveled through the country in its primeval state, to warrant us in saying that the name and fame of this pioneer Irish-American should be better known to readers of American history. It is, perhaps, no misrepresentation of strict truth to say that it was unfortunate for his fame that he bore such a very Irish name.

Kentucky's Debt to M'Bride.

Some may be disposed to doubt the accuracy of this conclusion, or to think it overdrawn. But, if so, we should ask, how it is that the name of the first white man known to have come down the Ohio and Kentucky Rivers is not perpetuated in history? "The first known white man to explore these regions," as Collins describes him, is unhonored by the State of Kentucky, whose great possibilities he first made known to the world. Not a village, town, city or county in Kentucky; not a creek, river or mountain is named after this notable pioneer, the true "discoverer of Kentucky." The name of De Soto, the discoverer of the Mississippi; of Marquette, the pioneer of the great Northwest; of Boone, one of the pioneers of Kentucky, are deservedly inscribed on "imperishable marble," while he who may be said to have been the first to plant the seed grains from which the great State of Kentucky has sprung, is unknown to thousands of Americans. Who can measure the debt that Kentucky owes to the memory of this Irish-American pioneer; why has he not been allotted a place in the early history of our country?

The True Discoverer of Kentucky.

The Memory of James McBride is Unhonored by the Blue Grass State. The Irish Traders.

Readers may picture to themselves what this bold adventurer may have looked like. A forceful and pushing character, and no doubt in the prime of manhood; a robust, muscular frontiersman, accustomed to the woods and finding happiness in the excitements of forest life; not a "paleface," but tanned by constant exposure to the Southern sun; dressed in crude, unfinished leatherns and moccasins; rifle slung over his shoulder, and shot-pouch, knives and tomahawk by his side, ready for any encounter, whether with the Indians on the plains or the wild beasts of the forests. Or, perhaps, he was disguised as an Indian? Indeed, that is not improbable, for instances are found in Colonial history of hunters resorting to that subterfuge when penetrating unknown regions where the redmen held undisputed sway.

What, we wonder, could have induced him to leave the comparatively peaceful settlements of Western Virginia and depart in quest of a distant and unknown country, infested with wild beasts and enemies not less savage? Did he have no fears that in the magnificent sweep of the waters of the Ohio he might at any moment be hurled to destruction? Or, perhaps, that in the falling night, when he had tied up his birch-bark and sat down on the bank of the great stream to eat his frugal meal, he might be ambushed by the prowling savages, and an end put then and there to his dreams of the conquest of the wilds?

Discovered a Magnificent Country.

The further he traveled, the more he must have wondered at the wild grandeur and magnitude of the new country he had discovered, and, no doubt, still wondering, he went on and on, not knowing where and with no fixed destination, until, having reached the mouth of the Kentucky, feeling perhaps he had proceeded far enough on his initial attempt, he and his companions tied up their canoes and went ashore to explore this new and strange land.

The place whence he started on his long and perilous journey, or the names of those who accompanied him, seem to be unknown to the early historians of Kentucky. It is supposed, however, that he must have come down the Big Sandy River, which has its source in Virginia, to where it

joins the Ohio, and then proceeded westward along the great river, and after having exhausted his search, returned homeward to relate his exploit to his neighbors in the Virginia settlements.

In an effort to obtain more detailed information concerning this little known pioneer, the writer has examined all of the Kentucky, Virginia and Carolina records that are accessible to him. Inquiries have also been addressed to historical societies in Kentucky, but no positive information seems to be available, other than that contained in these meagre articles.

His career, subsequent to the period when Filson and Collins mention him as exploring Kentucky, seems to be shrouded in obscurity. After showing the way to other adventurous spirits, he seems to have disappeared from history, leaving no record of the tour of "the first white man we have certain accounts of who discovered this province." The wilderness which he traversed now blooms with the arts and refinements of civil life, amid which the name of this pioneer Irishman is unknown, "unhonored and unsung."

Other M'Brides Mentioned.

A James McBride appears on the records of North Carolina of the year 1734. According to the North Carolina Genealogical and Historical Register for 1900, there is on record in the office of the Secretary of State at Raleigh the will of Benjamin Coin of Pasquotank, dated January 14, 1734. In this will, the testator named his "son-in-law, James McBride, his daughter, Betsy and his wife Bridget," as his only heirs. Pasquotank County borders on Nansemond County, Va., and it is quite possible that McBride was located in the latter county. There is nothing to indicate, however, that he was in any way identical with the first Kentucky explorer referred to by the historian, Filson.

There are two James McBrides mentioned in early Kentucky history. One held the rank of Major and the other that of Captain of Kentucky Volunteers in the War of the Revolution. Major James McBride is mentioned by Collins as one of the settlers at the fort of Harrodsburg, in Mercer County, in the summer of 1775. Of course, he may have been the pioneer explorer of Kentucky, but there is nothing on record to authenticate this. Collins seems to think that James McBride, "the first white man we have certain accounts of who discovered this province," was the same whose name appears among "the first lotholders of Lexington, on December 16, 1781, when the plan of the town was adopted and the lots disposed of," an interesting old document which he discovered among the early records of the City of Lexington. In this list several Irish names appear, among them Stephen Collins and his two sons, William Hayden, James and Caleb Masterson, James McBride, Samuel Kelly, John, Hugh, Samuel and William Martin, Alexander, James, Francis and William McConnell, Francis McDermid, James McGinty, Samuel McMullins, John Morrison, James Morrow, and Francis, Henry, Hugh, James, John and William McDonald. The McDonalds were descended from Bryan MacDonnell and Jane Doyle from Wicklow, a sketch of whom appeared in this paper a few months ago.

James M'Bride, Revolutionary Officer.

Twenty-five years after McBride's expedition into Kentucky, a Major James McBride fought at the head of a band of Kentucky Volunteers in the War of the Revolution. At the battle of Blue Licks on August 18, 1782, between the Kentuckians and the savage allies of the British, McBride was killed while leading a company of Volunteers. The historian says "he was long remembered for his bravery."

The fighting Major of the Blue Licks, here mentioned, may possibly have been the James McBride spoken of by the historians as "the first white man who traversed these regions." Assuming that the explorer could hardly have been less than, say, 25 years in 1754, which would make him about 53 in 1782, his age would not necessarily have prevented him from taking part in a fight for the liberty and independence of his country, especially against a foe that may have been the traditional enemy of the land of his fathers.

Although Filson and Collins agree that James McBride was the discoverer of this territory, Abbott, another undoubted authority, in his "Life of Daniel Boone, the Pioneer of Kentucky," states that he was not the first white man to tread the soil of Kentucky. Some Indian traders had passed through there before his time, and it is interesting to relate that the first trader who is said to have passed through the Southern portion of the State as now constituted bore the Irish name of Doherty. "As early as the year 1690," says Abbott, " a trader from Virginia named Doherty crossed the mountains into what is now Kentucky, where he resided with the Indians. He visited the friendly Cherokee nation within the present bounds of Georgia and resided with them for several years." In 1730, another enterprising trader from South Carolina, named Adair, made an extensive tour through the villages of the Cherokees and also visited the tribes to the South and West of them.

Many Irish Traders.

"Influenced by these examples," says the historian, "several traders in 1740 went from Virginia to the country of the Cherokees." The names of these traders are not given by the Kentucky historians, but it is stated that a number of them hailed from the Monongahela River district of Pennsylvania. Rupp, in his "History of Western Pennsylvania," shows that no small percentage of these itinerant merchants of the West and South were Irishmen. From the "Journal of Christian Post"—quoted by Rupp—who was sent from Philadelphia to Fort Pitt (Pittsburgh) in the year 1758 on a mission from the Governor of Pennsylvania to the Indians, to prevail on them to withdraw from their alliance with the French, we learn some interesting details concerning these Irish traders.

On September 1, 1758, during a conference with the Indian chiefs, Post told them that "there are a great many Papists in the country who have sent many runaway Irish servants among you, who have put bad notions into your head and strengthened you against your brothers, the English." He then exhorted them "not to believe these ill-designing Irishmen," and adds by way of a memorandum in his Journal: "There are a great num-

ber of Irish traders now among the Indians, who have always endeavored to split up the Indians against the English."

Rupp mentions two of these Indian traders by name, Dennis Sullivan and Thomas Ward, who, with three others, "signed a treaty with the Indians of the Six Nations at Logstown, on the Ohio, on May 28, 1751." Sparks, in his "Life of Washington," also refers to Indian traders from Western Pennsylvania named John McGuire and Barnaby Curran, who accompanied Washington on his journey through Pennsylvania from Virginia, in November, 1753, to deliver a letter from the Governor of Virginia to the Commander of the French forces on the Ohio. Washington also refers to McGuire and Curran in his Journal.

These traders carried on pack horses goods much valued by the Indians, which they exchanged for furs, and which were sold in Europe at an enormous profit. They kept up a friendly intercourse with the Cherokee nation, which, in after years, resulted in great advantages to the whites. They became acquainted with the country, as well as with the roads, such as they were, that led through the hunting grounds to the occupied territory of other tribes.

Irish Pioneers in Kentucky.

Irishmen Were Among the Leading and Earliest Colonizers of the Blue Grass State. The Hardships of the McAfees.

Many of the Irish pioneers of Virginia and Kentucky seem to have followed the trade of *coureurs des bois*, (forest guides), river pilots and surveyors. The latter profession was a very lucrative one in the early days. The Provincial Governors and land companies used to send out surveyors to ascertain the nature of the country, to map out the location and course of the streams, and to locate the forests, mountains and plains. On returning to their posts, they rendered reports to their employers, and these topographical guides usually directed the course which the migrating companies followed to reach the places of their intended settlement.

Thus we find that when Lord Dunmore, the English representative in Virginia in June, 1774, sent out a punitive expedition against the Indians, under the command of Colonel Angus McDonald, one Thady Kelly was selected to escort the troops. He piloted them up the Ohio and Muskingum Rivers as far as the present town of Dresden, Ohio.

Another noted surveyor was Lucas Sullivan(t), who was born of Irish parents in Mecklenburg County, Va., in 1765. He was a mere youth when he passed through the wilderness of Kentucky and the Southern portion of Ohio, surveying lands and marking places suitable for the establishment of future settlements. It was he who founded the town of Franklinton, in Franklin County, Ohio, and to where, after many adventures and encounters with the Indians, he returned in 1797 and settled down permanently. Among those who accompanied him to Franklinton are mentioned William Donigan, Arthur O'Harra and one McElvain. Sullivant's three sons became prominent citizens of Ohio, and the youth of Franklinton to the present day are taught in "The Sullivant School."

Other pilots and surveyors of Irish birth or descent, to whom we shall refer from time to time as we proceed, were John O'Bannon, James Flinn, Francis Dunlevy, John Reilly, Barney Curran, John Fitzpatrick, John Doran, Patrick and Garrett Jordan, Hugh Shannon, William Casey, and others of the "Kellys, Burkes and Sheas" who are mentioned so frequently in the early records of the West, but whose names and deeds are, unfortunately, but little known, or, if known to any but the historian, are now entirely forgotten.

M'Bride Followed by Finley.

The second exploration of Kentucky was undertaken in 1767 by John Finley, a daring hunter from the Yadkin River District of North Carolina, and who, if we are to judge from his name, may also have been an Irishman. Finley was the first white man to cross the Cumberland Mountains and the first to discover the famous Cumberland Gap.

"The country west of the Cumberland Mountains," says Abbott, "was considered by the inhabitants of Carolina and Virginia as involved in something of the same obscurity which lay over the American continent after its discovery by Columbus." Abbott and Collins both say that Finley organized a party and crossed the Alleghanies into Kentucky, made a thorough exploration of the country, and after the lapse of several months, "returned to the settlements on the Yadkin with a glowing story of the beauty and fertility of the country which they had seen."

Daniel Boone listened eagerly to his recital, "By the camp fires the wildest stories were told of the vast country that lay beyond the mountains, of the unexplored realms of the Indian tribes wandering there, of the forests filled with game, of the rivers alive with fishes, of the fertile plains, the floral beauty, the abounding fruit and the almost celestial clime. Finley and Boone sat hour after hour at the fireside talking of the newly discovered country, which resulted in a plan for the organization of a party to traverse those regions."

A company comprised of six picked men was organized by Boone, among whom were John Finley, John Stewart, John Holden, James Mooney and William Cool. Here again we observe the readiness of the Irish settlers to take part in a daring adventure, beset with the greatest dangers and privations.

Boone's wife was Rebecca Bryan, to whom he was married in 1755. Her brother, William Bryan, married Boone's sister, Mary, in the same year. They were the children of Morgan Bryan—who is said to have been of Irish descent. Boone was born in Berks County, Pennsylvania, and was the grandson of a Colonist from England, who came from a Norman family named Bohun, which had settled in Britain some years before. Boone's father was a Catholic and was one of the early settlers of Maryland. In 1750 he removed with his family to Alleman's Ford on the Yadkin River, in the same community where Morgan Bryan lived.

An Irish Schoolmaster.

Daniel was educated by an Irish schoolmaster, whose name, however, does not appear in any of the published lives of the great pioneer. He is mentioned particularly in Flint's "First White Man of the West," and by Abbott in his "Life of Daniel Boone." "There were no schools in those remote districts of log cabins," says Abbott. "But it so happened that an Irishman of some education strolled into that neighborhood, and Squire Boone engaged him to teach his children and those of the adjacent settlements. These hardy emigrants met with their axes in a central point of the wilderness and in a few hours constructed a rude hut of logs for a school-

house." Here Daniel Boone was first taught to read and write by the roving Irish schoolmaster. That was in 1734.

John Finley originally went from Pennsylvania to Virginia, thence to North Carolina. In the War of the Revolution, he was Major of the Eighth Pennsylvania Regiment of Continental Troops. His descendants now live in Nicholas County, Kentucky.

According to the narrative of Daniel Boone, dictated to John Filson in 1784 by the noted pioneer himself, Boone and his party set out from the Yadkin on May 1, 1769, and after surmounting many difficulties, they arrived on June 7 at a place supposed to be in the vicinity of Abington, in Laurel County, where Finley had previously been trading with the Indians. The party remained two years and traversed the whole region. They were harassed by the Indians, and Boone was captured, but managing to make his escape, he returned to North Carolina in 1771 and spread through the Western settlements of Virginia and North Carolina the most glowing accounts of the inexhaustible fertility of the soil.

In the second expedition of the celebrated pioneer, the ubiquitous Irishman was again represented in the persons of James Mooney, Joseph Holden, John Kennedy and William Boland. Two years after Boone's return, Virginia sent out surveyors to locate lands on the Ohio River. The first surveying party was under the command of Captain Thomas Bullitt, and accompanying him we find three brothers named James, George and Robert McAfee, afterwards to become famous in Kentucky history. On the arrival of the party at the confluence of the Ohio and Kentucky Rivers—noted as the place where James McBride disembarked nineteen years before, the McAfees separated themselves from their companions and descended the latter river as far as the Forks of Elkhorn, exploring the country and making surveys in various places. They were exposed to fierce attacks by the Indians, but invariably managed to keep the savage redmen in check.

Louisville Laid Out on Lands Owned by Irishmen.

That was in the summer of 1773. Perkins, in his "Annals of the West," says that the McAfees, John Higgins, and some others, "separated from the main party and went up the river, explored the banks and made many important surveys, including the valley in which the Capital City of Frankfort now stands." Portion of the Bullitt expedition went on up the Kentucky River to the Falls, and "laid out on behalf of John Campbell and John Connolly the plan of the present City of Louisville." The historians says that Campbell and Connolly were natives of Ireland.

Five years later, in October, 1778, Collins says the permanent foundations of the City of Louisville were laid, by the erection of a fort by Captain James Patton, Richard Chenoweth, John Tuel (Toole?), William Faith and John McManus. He also says that "two surveys were made before Louisville was laid out," and that "the second survey was made by William Peyton and Daniel Sullivan." In 1780, the Legislature of Virginia passed "an Act for the establishment of the town of Louisville at the Falls of the Ohio." By this Act, eight Trustees were appointed "to lay out the town on a tract of land which had been granted to John Connolly by the British

Crown and which he had forfeited by his adherence to the royal cause." Among the eight Trustees are mentioned "Andrew Hynes and Daniel Sullivan, Gentlemen."

The M'Afee Brothers.

Mann Butler, a Kentucky historian, says the McAfee brothers were the sons of James McAfee, a pioneer of Botetourt County, Va. "Fired by the glowing description of the beauty and fertility of Kentucky, they determined to visit it in search of a new home, and on June 1, 1773, they struck out across the mountains to the Kanawha River, about four miles above the mouth of Elk River, where, having sent their horses back by John Mc Cown and James Pawling, they descended the river in canoes." By previous arrangement, they joined Hancock Taylor, the leader of another surveying party, with whom they ascended the Kentucky River as far as Drennon's Lick. Here they found a white man named Joseph Drennon who had crossed the country one day ahead of the McAfees.

"The unted companies joined the expedition under Captain Thomas Bullitt, and the three parties proceeded together down the Ohio as far as the mouth of Limestone Creek, where the City of Maysville now stands. At the mouth of the Kentucky the companies separated, the McAfee party followed a buffalo trace and crossed the river below Frankfort at what is now Lee's Town. Here they turned up the river and surveyed for 600 acres at the place where the Capital City was afterwards located, this being the first survey on the Kentucky River."

Hardships of the Pioneers.

From the Kentucky they took a Southeast course across Dick's River, and soon found themselves in a barren and mountainous region. For days they went without food, their feet were blistered and bruised by the rocks; no water could be found and no game. At length, Robert McAfee, by a lucky shot, the last in his pouch, managed to kill a deer which had strayed far from the herd, and thus the party was saved from starvation. After passing through many privations and horrors, the ragged and forlorn party returned safely to their friends in Botetourt County.

It will be observed that the historians differ slightly as to the details of the tour of the McAfees. Butler's statement is probably more correct than that of the others, for he says that his information was taken from the Original McAfee family papers, which are said to be still preserved as part of the records of Providence Church, the first established in Kentucky. "These papers," says Butler, "embrace the adventures of that enterprising and bold family from 1773 to the final settlement of the family in peace and in the plenty of Kentucky." We shall later quote extracts from these papers concerning the adventures of this noted Irish-American family.

Irish Pioneers in Kentucky.

The McGarrys, Dentons and Hogans Formed the First Domestic Circle in Kentucky—The Brave, But Rash, Captain Hugh McGarry.

"In Captain James Harrod's company of adventurers who came to Kentucky in 1774," says Collins, "was John Lynch. He occupied a cabin at Harrodsburg when, on September 8, 1775, General James Ray, accompanying his mother, Mrs. Hugh McGarry, her husband and children, Richard Hogan and Thomas Denton with their families and several others, reached Harrodsburg." John Hayes, a boy of fifteen, was one of the party.

Among the "first Justices of the Peace appointed in Mercer County" were Hugh McGarry, Samuel McAfee, John Irvine and Samuel McDowell, all of Harrodsburg. And "among the early settlers of Harrodsburg," says Collins, "distinguished for their bravery, activity and enterprise, were Majors Hugh McGarry, Harlan, McBride and Chapline. The former was ardent, impetuous and rash, but withal, a man of daring courage, indomitable energy and untiring perseverance."

The McGarrys, Dentons and Hogans came from the backwoods of North Carolina, and no doubt, like Boone, were from the Yadkin River District. Butler says that after Boone had returned from his second expedition to Kentucky he had arranged with the McGarrys, Dentons, Hogans and other settlers to proceed to Powel's Valley, on the head of Holston River, where they would effect a juncture and go on to Boonesborough.

Boone's party, however, was attacked by Indians, several of his men were killed, and was thus prevented from joining his North Carolina neighbors. By common consent, McGarry was the leader of the party, and after waiting three months for Boone, they decided to go on alone. Arriving at the Dick River they became bewildered, and knew not which way to turn. Lofty, precipitous cliffs confronted them and barred their path. McGarry went by himself to explore the way, and by accident fell on the path between Harrodsburg and Harrod's Station. The party soon arrived at the latter place, from where they were led to the settlement of Harrodsburg.

The First White Woman in Kentucky.

Mrs. McGarry, Mrs. Denton and Mrs. Hogan were the first white women who are known to have lived in and formed the first domestic circle in Southeastern or Middle Kentucky. Collins says there were about fifty

Catholic families in the territory about this time, the majority of whom were at Harrodsburg. They were largely composed, no doubt, of the Irish settlers.

One of them, Dr. George Hart, is referred to in Bishop Spaulding's "Sketches of the Early Catholic Missions in Kentucky." Benjamin J. Webb, in his "History of Catholicity in Kentucky," says Hart was a native of Ireland, who settled first in Maryland, and in the Spring of 1775 emigrated to Harrodsburg. Hart and William Coomes and family, according to Webb, were "the first Catholics who are known to have settled in Kentucky." (The author was probably unaware of the fact that the McGarrys and Hogans had settled there previous to that time, as we assume from their names these were Catholics). Dr. Hart he describes as "an exemplary Irish Catholic." "He was one of the first physicians, if not the very first, who settled in Kentucky." He lived for many years at Harrodsburg, where he was engaged in the practice of his profession. He gave the ground for and built the first Catholic Church in Kentucky, at Bardstown.

Captain Hugh M'Garry.

Captain Hugh McGarry was a noted Kentucky soldier and pioneer. He fought under the famous Generals, George Rogers Clark and Benjamin Logan. In the War of the Revolution the Kentuckians, under the command of Colonel Daniel Boone, Majors Harlan, Edward Bulger and James McBride, and Captains John Bulger, John McMurtry, Hugh McGarry and other officers met the Indian allies of the British in several bloody conflicts.

In one desperate fight, on December 19, 1782, on the banks of Licking River, near Bryan's Station, 160 men of their command met a large force of Indians. The Kentuckians met with a severe reverse, and McGarry was blamed for the defeat. When the Kentuckians reached the river they found the enemy sheltered behind rocks and trees, and, notwithstanding their superior numbers, did not venture forth to the banks of the stream, preferring to await the crossing of the Americans, when they would swoop down like a vulture on its prey, and overwhelm the comparatively small band. The officers held a conference, and decided to wait the coming of Logan, who was then at Logan's Fort, several miles away, collecting reinforcements. "Two plans were proposed by Colonel Boone," says Butler, "one to divide into two parties and send one-half the men up the river, cross over and take the savages in the rear; the other to have the whole force remain intact and reconnoiter the ground well before crossing the river."

M'Garry Led the Charge.

But the impetuous McGarry would brook no delay. He insisted that to pause in the face of the enemy would be an act of cowardice; that their superior strength was only an imaginary danger, and confident that the Indians would flee on the first assault was unwilling to accept the more mature advice of Boone and his brother officers. While the Council was hesitating between the two plans proposed, McGarry suddenly spurred his horse into the stream and cried aloud: "Let all who are not cowards

follow me." The gallant band could not endure this taunt, coming as it did from one who was extremely popular among them.

"They dashed into the stream, each striving to be the foremost. They pressed forward in great disorder, with McGarry leading and followed by Boone, Harlan and McBride. They found themselves in a narrow valley. The ravines and rocks swarmed with Indians, who poured in a devouring fire." Majors Harlan, McBride, Gordon, Todd, Trigg, Bulger and other officers were killed, and "McGarry, although more deeply involved in the ranks of the enemy than any other officer, escaped totally unhurt." Sixty men were killed, a number wounded and seven captured and borne off by the enemy.

Although the impetuous Irishman is roundly scored by the historians for his rash act, Butler says: "It is due to the memory of McGarry to say that he had counselled a delay of twenty-four hours at Bryan's Station until Logan could arrive with his reinforcements." If his advice had not then been rejected the Kentuckians, in all probability, would have been saved a disastrous defeat.

Captain John M'Murtry.

Only very few of the killed and wounded were ever recorded, but among the few we notice the Irish names John Kennedy and Andrew McConnell. Four of the seven prisoners were slain by the Indians, and Captain John McMurtry was one of the three whose lives were spared through the timely intervention of an Indian chief. The prisoners were forwarded to Montreal, and in July 1783, were exchanged and sent to Ticonderoga, whence they reached their homes in Harrodsburg on August 28. McMurtry was in several engagements afterwards, and fell in the battle of Miami River, near Chillicothe, O., known as Harman's defeat, on October 22, 1790. Captain McClure, a Mr. McClary, and Major McMullin, who commanded the militia, are conspicuously mentioned as participants in this battle. According to a sketch of Captain John Rose, which appeared in the Harrodsburg *Central Watchtower* of February 28, 1829, written by General Robert B. McAfee, one of the historians of the War of 1812, "the brave McMurtry's name heads the list of the honored dead of Kentucky, engraved upon the Battle Monument."

John McMurtry went from Virginia to Kentucky, and was one of the earliest settlers at Harrodsburg. He built the first grist mill run by water power in Kentucky, near Shakertown, in 1782. His cousin, William McMurtry, was a noted Indian fighter. His biographer assumes, without having any knowledge of his antecedents, that he was of Scotch descent, but, as the name is just as Irish as it is Scotch, and indeed more so, we venture to include his name in this category of Kentucky's Irish settlers.

The McGarry family were prominent in the early days of Kentucky. They were land owners, and after the war were extensive dealers in horses. The records of the Court of Oyer and Terminer of August, 1783, show that Hugh McGarry was fined for betting on a horserace on the previous May 15th. For this very grievous offence the Court pronounced "that Hugh McGarry, Gentleman, be deemed an infamous gambler, and that he shall

not be liable to any office of trust within the State." An "infamous gentleman" is a term that may be difficult to define according to modern ethics!

Collins says that "in 1812 Hugh McGarry built a log cabin on the present site of the City of Evansville, Ind., which was the first dwelling erected by a white man in that section of the Indian Territory." Evansville was founded four years later.

Patrick Kennedy, Western Explorer.

We also find traces of Irish pioneers even further West about this time. In 1773, one Patrick Kennedy and several companions started from the French settlement at Kaskaskia, now in Randolph County, Ill., and explored the country along the Mississippi River from Kaskaskia to a considerable distance beyond the site of the present City of St. Louis.

In Imlay's *America* (published in London in 1797), the author refers to "the Journal of Patrick Kennedy, giving an account of an expedition undertaken by himself and several *coureurs des bois* in the year of 1773, from Kaskaskia village to the headwaters of the Illinois River." Kennedy's Journal is almost entirely devoted to the topography of the country, rather than to the results of the expedition which he commanded. The information contained in his Journal is admitted to have been of great value to the government and people of that section for many years.

According to Collins, "the first visitors to Boone County were the McAfee brothers, George Croghan, James McCoun, Joseph Drennon, William Bracken and John Fitzpatrick, who arrived there in July, 1773." Is it not remarkable that they all bore Irish names? Colonel Croghan was the father of Major Croghan, the heroic defender of Fort Stephenson, an account of whose great exploit we hope to give in a later paper. He was born in Ireland.

The first surveys in Bracken County were made by Bullitt and Fitzpatrick in 1773, and by John Doran in 1774. This was on Locust Creek.

In 1774, Boone returned to Kentucky, and in the following April he constructed a fort in what is now Clark County, and since called Boonesborough. In September, 1774, Colonel Richard Calloway and others, with their families, reached the settlement, and in March, 1776, Colonel Benjamin Logan, descendant of an Irish pioneer, brought his wife and family to Logan's Fort, near Stanford, in Lincoln County.

When Kentucky was formed into a county of Virginia, in 1776, Logan and Calloway were among the four Justices appointed. Logan was a General of the Revolutionary Army. Judge William Logan, his eldest son, "one of the most gifted and eminent of the early sons of Kentucky," was born in the fort at Harrodsburg on December 8, 1776.

Nearly 50 Per Cent. Gaels.

From "depositions and other authenticated statements," examined by Judge Collins, he shows that the following persons were residents of Harrodsburg during the year 1775: John Dougherty, John Cowan, William Crowe, William Field, James Gilmore, John Higgins, Henry Higgins, Richard

Hogan, Patrick Jordan, Garrett Jordan, Daniel Linn, John Lynch, James, Robert, George, Samuel and William McAfee, James McCown, John McCown, Hugh McGarry, John McGee, William McMurtry, Alexander McNeil, James Ray and Thomas Ryan. Of 54 families which comprised the entire settlement at that time 25 bore Irish names. Several of these were at Harrodsburg before Daniel Boone's party from North Carolina had yet reached Kentucky, and laid the foundations of Boonesborough.

An erroneous impression prevails that the first permanent settlement in Kentucky was at Boonesborough in 1775, but Collins shows that the earliest settlement was that of Harrodsburg in 1774, in which the Irish pioneers took part. When Boonesborough was established as a town, by an Act of the Virginia Legislature in October, 1779, trustees were appointed, among whom are mentioned Edward Bradley, John and Thomas Kennedy, and William Irvine, James Hogan is mentioned as having conducted a ferry across the Kentucky River at Boonesborough in 1785.

Irish Pioneers in Kentucky.

John Reilly and Francis Dunlevy, Sons of Irish Immigrants, Established the First Schools in the Settlements of the Ohio.

According to Collins, the present town of Columbia, on the Ohio, was laid out by a party of 18 men who came down that river in November, 1788, and landed at the mouth of the Little Miami, where they erected a log fort. Among the party, the historian mentions Captain James Flinn, John Reilly and Francis Dunlevy.

This John Reilly is distinguished as the first schoolmaster in the American settlements on the Ohio. There are many authorities for this statement, among them Collins' "History of Kentucky," Venable's "Beginnings of Literary Culture in Ohio," the "Magazine of Western History for February, 1888," and McBride's "Pioneer Biography of Butler County, O." He was also the first to establish a school in Cincinnati.

Reilly was born in Chester, Pa., on April 10, 1763. His father had emigrated from Ireland some years previously, and after spending some time in Philadelphia, settled on a farm near Chester. When the future schoolmaster was only six years old the family removed to Staunton, in Augusta County, Va. This part of Virginia was then a frontier settlement, and the Reillys, among others, were under the necessity of congregating in block houses or forts for security against the attacks of the savages.

At the age of seventeen John Reilly joined the First Virginia Regiment of the Revolutionary Army and served 18 months under General Greene. The young soldier received his baptism of fire in the battle of Guilford Court House on March 15, 1781, at which he had the satisfaction of seeing the enemies of his father's and his own country fly before the victorious American troops. His second engagement was at the battle of Camden, S. C., on April 25, 1781, in which he witnessed—and probably with shame and chagrin—the so-called "Irish Volunteers" under Lord Rawdon fighting on the side of his country's enemies. He was with the army of General Greene when in the following May it invested the town of Ninety-Six, which the British had fortified.

He fought at the battle of Eutaw Springs on September 18, 1781, in which we are told "he distinguished himself for his bravery." The result of this battle was that the enemy was crippled in the South.

After leaving the army, he returned to his home in Virginia, but becoming excited by the favorable accounts of the rich country in the West, he left his home in the winter of 1783 and set out to seek his fortune in the wilds of Kentucky. He was busily engaged in the vicinity of Danville for about six years as a manufacturer of machinery for the settlers and planters of that section. He also taught school at the same time.

Irish Among the First in Columbia, O.

Here he met the noted hunter and pioneer, Captain James Flinn, and his future friend and co-worker, Francis Dunlevy. In 1788 Flinn organized an expedition to the then Northwest Territory and proceeded to the Ohio River, where they erected a blockhouse on the spot where the City of Columbia, O., now stands. It is related that while the fort was being built some of the settlers had to stand guard while the others were at work. Among the little band of adventurers who first settled where Columbia now is, like a forlorn hope, and who preceded the mutitude who were to follow, were Captain Flinn, his father and two brothers, Daniel Griffin, Hugh Dunn, Cornelius Hurley, Patrick Moore, William Moore and James Manning, besides Reilly and Dunlevy.

The county histories of this section of Ohio indicate that Irish immigrants were among the first to settle there. There was one large settlement called Coleraine, seventeen miles from the City of Cincinnati, which was established in 1790 by a number of emigrants from Coleraine, in Antrim. In January, 1791, the settlers at Columbia were alarmed by the arrival of an express from Cincinnati of an Indian attack on Dunlap's Station at Coleraine. John Reilly and Patrick Moore hastily summoned a party of volunteers for the purpose of relieving Dunlap and his neighbors. Reilly and Moore went in advance of the main body to give notice in case the enemy should spring a surprise. The party proceeded cautiously until they reached Coleraine, where they met the Indians and drove them off.

The settlement was attacked on several occasions, and the author of "Pioneer Biography of Butler County" mentions Reilly and Captain Flinn as among the most eager in turning out and scouring the vicinity for traces of the Indians.

The First School in Ohio.

It was on June 21, 1790, that Reilly opened the first school in Columbia. In the following year, Dunlevy, who had in the meantime returned to Kentucky, rejoined Reilly. Immigrants came flocking into the neighborhood, making it necessary to enlarge the school, Dunlevy taking the classical department and Reilly the English. A warm friendship sprung up between the two Irish-American schoolmasters, which was terminated only by the death of Dunlevy at Lebanon, Ky., on November 5, 1839.

Dunlevy was born near Winchester, Va., of Irish parents, on December 31, 1761. When about ten years old, his father removed with his family to Pennsylvania. At the age of 14, we are told, Francis shouldered his rifle and served in a campaign against the Indians, continuing in the military service until the close of the Revolutionary War. He assisted in

building Fort McIntosh at the mouth of Beaver River in the Spring of 1778, this having been the first regularly built fort within the territory now comprising the State of Ohio. He was at the disastrous battle of the plains of Sandusky, where the commander of the American troops, Colonel Crawford, was tortured and burned to death by the Indians. Dunlevy and two others managed to make their escape through the wilderness to Pittsburgh.

In 1797, he again returned to Kentucky with his father and family, and settled down in Lebanon. He was a member of the Convention which framed the first constitution of the State of Ohio and a member of the first Legislature under the State Government, which met in 1803.

An Early Irish-American Judge.

When the Judiciary was first organized he was appointed Presiding Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, which office he held for 14 years, during all which time he is said never to have missed a single court in any of the counties comprising his circuit. "No obstacle prevented his attending to his duties," says the historian, McBride. "There were few roads or bridges in those days, and many a time he crossed the swollen streams, swimming either on his horse or by its side, rather than fail to be at his post." When his term on the bench expired, he practiced law for 15 years, after which he retired to private life.

In 1793 Reilly gave up his interest in the school to Dunlevy, and devoted himself to the more extensive cultivation of his land in Butler County, O. On September 16, 1799, he was elected Clerk of the first General Assembly of the Territorial Legislature. He was appointed by the Governor one of the first Trustees and Clerk and Collector of the town when Cincinnati received its charter on January 1, 1802. He promoted the establishment of the first library in Cincinnati on February 13, 1802, and was one of the representatives from Hamilton County at the Convention held at Chillicothe to form a Constitution.

In 1803, he was appointed Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, one of the Judges was James Dunn. He held the office of Clerk of the Court until March 14, 1840, a period of nearly 37 years. He was also Clerk of the Supreme Court, holding both offices concurrently. One of his predecessors in the latter office was Hugh Boyle.

First Judge of Butler County.

Between 1803 and 1811, he was Recorder of Butler County, having been the premier occupant of that office. In 1804 he was appointed by President Jefferson first postmaster of Hamilton, which office he held until 1832, when he resigned. In 1809 he became one of the Trustees of Miami University and was President of the Board until the reorganization of the College in 1824.

Notwithstanding all his multifarious business, he took an active interest in everything that made for the improvement and advancement of the settlements, particularly in the education of their youth. The old pioneer was one of the most beloved men in the State. Young and old

worshipped him. He was a man of the most strict and uncompromising integrity, and when he died at Hamilton on June 7, 1850, the Courts adjourned in respect to his memory.

Son of an Irish Immigrant.

And John Reilly, be it remembered, was the son of a poor Irish immigrant who had been exiled from his native land by the ever benign British Government.

Colonel Robert Reilly of the 75th Ohio Infantry, who distinguished himself in several battles of the Civil War, was his youngest son. He died of his wounds at the battle of Chancellorsville. His regiment has been highly praised by the historians of the war. Reid's "Ohio in the War," says: "To Colonel Reilly, more than to any other, belongs the credit of the fine discipline, conduct and efficiency of the regiment."

Irish Blood in Kentucky.

The County Histories Teem With Gaelic Names—Several of the Counties Called After Irish Pioneers.

In the county histories of Kentucky are mentioned a great number of Irish names, and the descendants of many of the early settlers from Ireland are shown to have become prominent in the history of the State. Collins takes up each county separately and goes into much detail concerning their early history. Several of the counties were named in honor of Irish pioneers or their sons.

Allen County is called after Colonel John Allen, who emigrated from Virginia with his father in 1780, in which year they made their first settlement at Dougherty's Station in Boyle County. The first white man mentioned in connection with Allen County is James McCall. Butler says that the following inscription, cut in a tree near Big Barren River in that county, southeast of Bowling Green, had been seen by many old settlers of that region, even during the lifetime of the historian himself: "James McCall dined here on his way to Natchez, June 10, 1770." McCall, no doubt, was one of the Indian traders already referred to.

In Green's "Historic Families of Kentucky" are found some interesting references to the family which gave its name to Allen County.

"James Allen was born in Ireland and was the son of James Allen, who lost his life in one of the political uprisings in that country. After his death, his widow and children determined to emigrate to the Colonies. She sold the small property which belonged to the family and transmitted the proceeds by an agent, to be invested in a new home in Pennsylvania, near the Virginia line. When the arrived here, they found that no deed had been taken for the land they had bought, and the widow and her offspring were without home or money among strangers. They were of the self-reliant sort, however, and, refusing to succumb to adverse fortune, with brave hearts and stout arms they all set out to win a new home and to wrest success from the hands of chance. In time, they found their way to the Valley of Virginia, where so many of their country-people had settled, and where they prospered, took root and put forth branches. Some of their descendants yet remain in Augusta and Rockbridge Counties.

Many Virginia Families of Irish Origin.

"There are numerous other families that trace their origin to ancestors who emigrated from Ireland to the Valley, who have the same given names and physical attributes, similar to those of the descendants of the Irish widow, but no connection is known to have existed between them.

"James Allen, attracted by the fame of the richer lands and wider field for enterprise afforded by Kentucky, converted all his property in Virginia into money, and in the year 1779, with his family in a wagon, set out across the mountains, braving the perils of the wilderness, and proceeded along the old road over which the earlier hunters and settlers had preceded him. He ended his toilsome journey at Dougherty's Station, a few miles from Danville. There he remained several months, where he formed a warm friendship for Joseph Daviess, who, like himself, was the son of an Irishman.

"Tiring of the confinement of a station, and anxious to remove their families from its rude associations, Allen and Daviess determined to hazard the perils of an exposed and isolated location further down Clark's Run, where they built two cabins, the first erected in that section of Kentucky outside a fort or station. There the stout-hearted friends lived for three years, remote from neighbors and in the midst of constant dangers from savage warfare. Seldom, if ever, have there sprung from two adjoining log cabins six more remarkable men than the sons of Joseph Daviess and James Allen—Joseph, Hamilton, Samuel and Judge James Daviess, and Colonel John, Joseph and James Allen.

Privations of the Allens.

"About the year 1784, James Allen bought a large tract of land near the present town of Bloomfield, Nelson County, and after building upon it a comfortable dwelling, returned to his cabin in Lincoln County for his family; but, when he had conveyed his wife and children to his new possessions, he found their intended home in ashes, the Indians during his absence having burned it and the sheltering fort near which it was built.

"With indomitable energy and unyielding will, another home soon occupied the site of the one destroyed, a commodious residence which stands to this day, and was until recently owned by his great-grandson, who bears his name. Here he lived to an extreme old age, in the midst of broad acres his rifle had helped to redeem from the Indians, and which had been converted by his labor from a wild canebrake into a blooming and fruitful garden; blessed with abundance, far beyond the rosiest dreams of the Irish lad who had crossed the ocean with his widowed mother nearly a century before; respected by all for the courage, strong sense, and incorruptible integrity which were his distinguished characteristics, and with the public praise of his offspring making sweet music for his ears."

Thus Green briefly describes the struggles and the fortunes of the Irish family which gave its name to Allen County, Kentucky.

Col. Allen, Lawyer, Legislator and Soldier.

Colonel John Allen, the son of the Irish immigrant, was born in Rockbridge County, Va., in 1771. He was a lawyer, and, "in the practice of his profession, he outstripped all competition and almost immediately placed himself in the front rank of the brilliant generation which then gave the Commonwealth a fame which still clings to her in tradition." He married the daughter of General Benjamin Logan, and was a Representative of Shelby County in the State Legislature. In 1807, he was elected to the Kentucky Senate from Franklin County. In 1811, he commanded as Colonel the First Kentucky Riflemen, the first regiment raised in that State to fight the British. His military career was short, for he fell mortally wounded at the battle of the River Raisin on January 22, 1813.

Among the first settlers of Ballard County is mentioned Daniel Doolin, who came there in 1818, and settled in Barlow City. In this county was Fort Jefferson, the scene of a battle with the Chickashaw Indians in 1782. Among the soldiers who defended the fort are mentioned Curry, Doyle, Montgomery, Piggot and Hughes.

In Barren County a family named McFerran settled at an early date, two of whose descendants were Judge W. R. McFerran and General John C. McFerran of Louisville, who distinguished himself in the Mexican War. Edmund Rogers, one of its pioneers, was born in Virginia in 1762 and came to Kentucky in 1783. He served in the campaign of 1781 which resulted in the capture of Lord Cornwallis. His brother, Captain John Rogers, also of the Revolutionary Army, "rendered valuable services to the State in locating and surveying lands." Butler says that James McCall passed through Barren County in 1770, where he cut his name in a tree on the Green River.

Francis Downing is mentioned among the early settlers of Bath County, where he lived in a fort in the year 1786.

In the early history of Bell County we find references to several Irish Pioneers. In 1769, we are told that John Rains, Robert Crockett and Humphrey Hogan, at the head of a company of 20 men from Virginia and North Carolina, passed through that region. They hunted through the neighborhood for a year and then returned home via the Cumberland and Mississippi Rivers. In the Fall of 1771, William Lynch, David Lynch, John Montgomery, William Allen, one Hughes and several others, comprised a hunting party that passed through this county, where some of them settled down permanently. They are described as daring men, who knew no hardships, and who maintained their position only by constant and unceasing vigilance.

Kidnapped From Ireland.

In Bourbon County were James McDowell in 1774, and James Kenny in 1776. Both came from Virginia. There were also McGuires, McConnells and McClanahans. Thomas Kennedy came there in 1776 and built a cabin on Kennedy's Creek. Collins says that his father, James Kennedy, lived for several years at Boonesborough Fort. He relates that when a

boy of seven years he was kidnapped in Ireland with several other boys, brought to Maryland and sold for a term of years, which they served out. In 1781, he was in practice as a medical doctor in Bedford County, Va., and in February of that year he was summoned to join a British draft for regular soldiers. He refused and was taken prisoner shortly after the battle of Guilford Court House, placed on board of prison-ship, and "literally starved to death." His son, Thomas Kennedy, was one of the first County Court Justices of Campbell County, and became a prominent member of the Kentucky Legislature. In 1792, he was appointed one of the five Commissioners to fix upon Frankfort as the seat of Government.

Irish Pioneers in Kentucky.

Butler County Takes Its Name From an Irish Family—Four of the Kilkenny Butlers Were Officers of the Revolutionary Army.

Boyle County was named in honor of Chief Justice John Boyle, who was born on October 28, 1774, at a place called Castlewoods on the Clinch River, in Virginia. In 1779 he went with his father, an Irish immigrant, to Whiteley's Station, Ky., from where he afterwards moved to a small estate in Garrard County.

He became a lawyer at Lancaster and was elected member of Congress in 1802. As a National Legislator, he is described as "dignified, vigilant and useful, commanding at once the respect and confidence of his associates." President Madison appointed him first Governor of Illinois. In 1809 he was elected to the Kentucky Court of Appeals, and in 1810 became Chief Justice, which exalted office this brilliant son of an Irish immigrant occupied until 1826. Chief Justice Boyle is referred to by Kentucky historians as one of the ablest lawyers that State has ever produced.

Breckinridge County is called after the distinguished lawyer and statesman, John Breckinridge, son of Colonel Robert Breckinridge of Augusta County, Va., who was born there in 1760 of Irish parentage. The date of his father's arrival from Ireland is not given. His ancestors came over from Scotland to Ireland in the early part of the seventeenth century. As a statesman, very few men of his generation occupied a more commanding position than John Breckinridge or had more to do with all the great questions of the day.

In Bullitt County lived a family named O'Bannon, one of whom, Colonel John O'Bannon, is mentioned as taking part in a fight with Indians near Jeffersonville, Ind., in 1786. One Kelly fought under him.

The O'Bannons are mentioned in the history of several of the Kentucky Counties. The town of O'Bannon in Jefferson County was named after this family. There are also places of that name in Ohio and Tennessee. Colonel John O'Bannon, as well as Presley B. O'Bannon, fought in the Revolutionary War. The latter was the engineer who surveyed the lands owned by George Washington on the Ohio and Miami Rivers, and which are now, and have been for many years, the subject of litigation before the Supreme Court of the United States.

Butler County Called After a Dublin Man.

Butler County was named after General Richard Butler of Revolutionary War fame. The family was from Kilkenny, but Richard was born in St. Bridget's Parish, Dublin, on July 1, 1743.

In previous papers, we have had something to say of this distinguished family of soldiers, and we shall now quote what Judge Collins had to say of them in his "History of Kentucky."

"Few of the prominent families of Kentucky have been so generously distinguished as this for their high military bearing and gallantry, genuine good sense and longevity; while no other is so singularly retiring and modest, and so free from political ambitions and desire for public position. The family is of Irish descent. The first Butler, most of whose descendants now live in Carroll County and in the cities of Covington and Louisville, was Thomas Butler, who was born in Kilkenny, April 8, 1720. Of his five sons who attained eminence in America, Richard, William and Thomas were born in Ireland, Percival (or Pierce) and Edward were born in Pennsylvania. All of them were officers of the Revolutionary Army, except Edward, who was too young, but who entered it before its close.

"Richard was Lieutenant-Colonel of Morgan's celebrated rifle regiment and helped to give it its high character and fame. He was afterwards Colonel of the Ninth Pennsylvania Regiment, and commanded the left wing in the memorable attack on Stony Point.

"After the war he became Superintendent of Indian Affairs, and in 1788 was appointed Justice of the Court of Common Pleas. In 1790 he was made a Major-General, and was placed second in command of an army organized by General St. Clair for an expedition against the Western Indians. He was killed while leading his forces at Fort Recovery, Ohio, on November 4, 1791."

Died in Thick of the Fight.

McBride's "Pioneer Biography of Butler County, Ohio," states that when a body of volunteers from the neighborhood of Columbia was formed by General Wilkinson in January, 1792, to proceed to the scene of St. Clair's defeat for the purpose of burying the dead that had been left on the field and to bring away valuable property, "they found the body of General Butler, where it lay in a group of slain where evidently had been the thickest of the carnage." Truly a fitting place for an Irish soldier to die.

Among the officers of the "Regulars" who were killed at Fort Recovery are mentioned Major McMahon, Capts. Doyle and Phelon, Lieutenants Cummings and Hart. Among the wounded were Major Thomas Butler and Captain Malarkie. In Howe's "Historical Collections of Ohio" we find the following reference to the gallant Major McMahon: "McMahon was a famous Indian fighter and Captain and was classed by the borderers of the upper Ohio with Brady and the Wetzels. He lost his life at Fort Recovery while gallantly defending the fort." (The Brady here referred to was the famous partisan, Captain Thomas Brady of Pennsylvania, of

whose romantic career we gave a brief description in our papers on Pennsylvania.) Major McMahon is described by other historical writers of Ohio as a splendid type of the Celt, six and a half feet tall, of "magnificent proportions," "great daring," and "a terror to the Indians." All the immediate descendants of the Butlers were engaged in the military service of the country in all the wars before 1800, while the survivors were in the War of 1812 and not less than nine of a younger generation were in the Mexican War.

The Irrepressible Thomas Butler.

An anecdote is preserved in a sketch written by General Findlay of Cincinnati, which shows the character of the race and that its military instinct was an inheritance. While the five sons were absent from home in the army, the old man took it into his head to go also. The neighbors collected to remonstrate against it, but his wife said: "Let him go! I can get along without him, and raise something to feed the army in the bargain, and the country wants every man who can shoulder a musket."

This extraordinary zeal did not escape the observation of Washington, and hence the toast he gave at his own table while surrounded by a large party of officers: "The Butlers and their five sons." General Lafayette too was an admiring observer of this house of soldiers, and in a letter now extant paid them this handsome tribute: "When I wanted a thing well done I ordered a Butler to do it."

General Percival Butler was born at Lancaster, Pa., in 1760. At 18 he entered the Revolutionary Army as a Lieutenant, was at the battle of Monmouth, passed through the rigors of Valley Forge and was at the taking of Yorktown. For a short time he was attached to a light corps under Lafayette, who presented him with a sword. In 1784 he settled as a merchant in Jessamine County, Ky., where he became Adjutant-General of the Army. He served in the War of 1812.

His son, Colonel Thomas L. Butler, who was born in Jessamine County in 1789, was aid to General Jackson at the battle of New Orleans, and because of his coolness and prudence was left by Jackson in command of the city to protect it against outbreaks. He became a member of the Kentucky House of Representatives in 1826 and also in 1848.

A Family of Soldiers.

Another son, General William O. Butler, also born in Kentucky, joined the army when very young. He fought in several battles of the War of 1812 and at the two battles of the River Raisin, in January, 1813, he signalized himself by his great bravery. He was wounded and taken prisoner. After his release he served as Captain of the 44th U. S. Infantry in the attack on Pensacola, General Jackson, in referring to his conduct at the battle of New Orleans, said: "He displayed the heroic chivalry and calmness of judgment in the midst of danger which distinguished the valiant officer in the hour of battle."

After his return to Kentucky he studied law, became a member of the Legislature, and was elected Member of Congress in 1839. In 1844 he was Democratic candidate for Governor, and subsequently received the honor of the nomination for Vice-President of the United States on the Democratic ticket with General Cass, but they were defeated by Taylor and Fillmore. In the Mexican War he was Major-General of Volunteers, and on February 18, 1848, succeeded General Scott in chief command of the United States Army.

The third son of General Percival Butler, Richard P. Butler, was Assistant Adjutant-General in the War of 1812. His fourth son, Percival, studied law and became eminent in his profession. He represented Fayette County in the Kentucky House of Representatives, and later as Senator from Louisville.

Of such were the Butlers of Kentucky, the sons and grandsons of the Butlers from "the old marble town of Kilkenny." They were the types of men who, like many of their countrymen and their sons, helped to wrest Kentucky from the savage, redeemed her waste places, carried the torch of learning into the wilderness, founded the State, and left the impress of their own characteristics upon the people. If in this country there are any families which can properly be called "historic," surely the Butlers, "the fighting Butlers," as they are sometimes called—may well be regarded as constituting one of those families.

Footsteps of the Gael in Kentucky.

A Remarkable Series of Papers, Showing That Irishmen and Their Sons Occupied a Prominent Place in the Early Days of the Blue Grass State.

Campbell County was named in honor of Colonel John Campbell, a native of Ireland, who, Collins says, came to Kentucky at an early period. He received a grant of 4,000 acres from the Commonwealth of Virginia and where Louisville now stands. He was a member of the Convention which formed the firm Constitution of Kentucky and was a Senator from Jefferson County in the State Legislature. He was the owner of a very fine estate.

The first Sheriff of Campbell County was Captain Nathan Kelly, who, in 1795, was also a Justice of the County. The City of Newport is in Campbell County, and Major A. M. Dunn was Postmaster there in 1795. The first charter of Newport was adopted on December 14 in that year. When the city was first planned, certain property was parcelled out into lots and streets and was vested in eight Trustees, among whom were Thomas Kennedy, Nathan Kelly, James McClure and Daniel Duggan.

Carroll County was named in honor of the famous Charles Carroll of Carrollton. The first white man who trod its soil was James McBride, the premier explorer of Kentucky.

Casey County was named in memory of Colonel William Casey, who was member of the House of Representatives from this district. Later representatives in the Legislature from this County were named Coffey and Murphy.

Colonel Casey was born in Frederick County, Va., of Irish parents. In company with two or three families, who pushed their fortunes with him, he removed into the district in 1779, and located and built a station on the Green River, near Russell's Creek. "Though feeble in numbers," says Collins, "the hardy band of pioneers by whom he was surrounded, and who reposed in Casey unbounded confidence as a leader, maintained themselves gallantly and victoriously against several attacks by the Indians. Casey's station was subsequently reinforced by several families whose presence was instrumental in preventing any further assault on the part of the Indians."

James Flanagan, Pioneer

In Clark County, James Flanagan is mentioned as the builder of the first mill. That was in 1800. One of the pioneer's sons, William Flanagan, graduated at the West Point Military Academy in 1827, "standing first in the class with General Albert Sidney Johnston, General Joseph Johnston, and other men who won such brilliant reputations in later yeears." Flanagan died in early life, "leaving," says Collins, "an enviable reputation for brilliancy, wit and repartee." For several years he was official surveyor and school commissioner in Clarke County. There is a town called Flanagan in that county which was named, no doubt, after the Irish miller or his son.

The first white man known to have entered into the present bounds of Clay County was James Collins, who came there in 1798. He built his cabin upon the headwaters of Collins' Fork, and in 1800, from a salt spring which he had discovered while following a buffalo trail some time previously, he made the first salt ever made in that section.

Burkesville, the county seat of Cumberland County, was named in honor of one of the original proprietors, who migrated there from Virginia.

Brilliant Son of an Irish Exile.

Daviess County is called after Colonel John H. Daviess, who was born in Bedford County, Va., in 1774. His father was an Irishman and his mother Scotch. His biographer says: "The marked peculiarities of each of those races were strongly developed in the character of their son. The hardy self-reliance, the indomitable energy and imperturbable coolness, which have from the earliest time distinguished the Scotch, were his; while the warm heart, free and open hand and ready springing tear of sensibility told in language plainer than words that the blood of Erin flowed fresh in his veins."

When five years old, his parents removed to Kentucky and settled near the present City of Danville, then an almost unbroken wilderness. "He volunteered in the service of the army in 1792, in a corps of men who were organized to protect the transportation of provisions to the forts north of the Ohio River. Here he saw much service. When he returned home, he took up the study of law, became United States Attorney for the State of Kentucky, and in 1801 went to Washington, the first Western lawyer who had ever appeared in the Supreme Court of the United States." His speech in a celebrated case which he argued there placed him at once in the foremost rank of his profession. It was he who prosecuted Aaron Burr for treason.

In 1811, he joined the army of General Harrison in his campaigns against the Indians on the Wabash, and was fatally wounded in the celebrated battle of Tippecanoe on July 11, 1811.

He is described as a magnificent specimen of Celtic manhood, of a remarkably commanding and impressive personal appearance. "As an orator," says Collins, "he had few equals and no superiors. The Judges of his time declared he was the most impressive speaker they ever heard."

His death occasioned a great shock in the public mind throughout the State.

Among the early settlers of the County which took his name are mentioned Rileys, McFarlands and Devereauxs, some of whose descendants were later members of the Kentucky Legislature.

Pioneers of Lexington.

The first known white visitor to what is now Fayette County was John Finley, who came down the Ohio in 1773. In the same year, with some members of the McAfee party, Finley surveyed land in this county in the neighborhood of Frankfort. William McConnell explored the county in 1774, and in the following year "Patrick Jordan, Garrett Jordan and others met at Drennon's Lick in Henry County, and came to Elkhorn, where John Lee and Hugh Shannon joined them, thence up Elkhorn to the Forks to or near the place where Lexington now stands." These men headed an extensive exploring and surveying expedition all through that section of Kentucky.

Several other Irish names are mentioned in the early history of this county. The Jordans and McConnells, we are told, were "particularly active in making improvements, clearing out brushwood and laying claims." William Garrett, a surveyor, passed through there in 1775.

Lexington's first schoolmaster was John McKinney, "a man of refinement and learning," who established there in 1780. Among its "first settlers" are mentioned McGees, Collinses, McCallas, Barrys, Cartys, Lowrys, Pattersons, McCrackens, Hogans, McBrides, Morrisons, Shannons, Brians, McConnells and Mastersons. And among "the first lotholders of Lexington when the plan of the town was adopted and the lots disposed of," as quoted by Collins, we find such names as McDermid, McGinty, McDonald, Kelly, Hayden, McMullins and Morrow.

The first cabin ever built on the site of the future city was occupied in April, 1776, by William McConnell. "The building of McConnell's fort," to quote from an early description of Lexington, "sounded the death knell of the redmens' doom, although four years elapsed before a settlement could be made. In March, 1779, Colonel Robert Patterson set out from Harrodsburg at the head of 25 men and erected a blockhouse where Lexington now is. On the very spot where the blockhouse stood, a hallowed spot in Lexington's infancy, John Carty erected a fine house. John Morrison was the first person within the walls of the fort."

The John Carty here referred to is mentioned as "one of the most respected citizens of Lexington." He was born in New Jersey in 1764, emigrated to Lexington shortly after the close of the war and fought against the Indians at the battle of Fallen Timber under General Anthony Wayne. His son, John Carty, who was born in Lexington in 1806, is described as "the most successful (Kentucky) merchant of his time, a man of remarkable judgment and sagacity, generous and popular."

Irish Pioneers in Kentucky.

Judges, Legislators and Other Leading Citizens Descended From Some of the Early Irish Settlers of the Blue Grass State.

Bryan's Station, about five miles from Lexington, was established by four brothers named Bryan from North Carolina, who settled there in 1779. Their father's name was Morgan Brian or O'Brian, who is supposed to have been the son of an Irishman, but all his descendants spelled the name "Bryan."

A similar transformation in name took place in the case of the ancestors of William Jennings Bryan of Nebraska, who settled in this country.

The Colonial Records of North Carolina say that his original ancestor, William Brian, came to America from Ireland and first settled in Isle of Wight County, Va. He married Alice Needham. The date of his coming is not given, but that it was early in the Colonial period is seen from the fact that his son, Needham Bryan, was born on February 23, 1690. About 1722 William Brian, with two of his sons, Needham and John, went to North Carolina and settled in Pasquotank County.

William Jennings Bryan is directly descended from another son of the Irish immigrant, William, who remained in Virginia. Needham Bryan settled at Snowfield, Bertie County, N. C. He married three times and had a family by each wife. The genealogy of the Bryans is, therefore, quite complicated. It is given in full in the North Carolina Genealogical and Historical Register for October, 1900.

The descendants of the Irish pioneer seem to be scattered all over the South. They married into some very prominent Southern families, and the names of the several of them appear on the rosters of the army of the Revolution.

Morgan Brian, whose sons established Bryan's Station in Kentucky, may have been of the same family as the Bryans of Bertie and Pasquotank Counties. What a pity that they should have changed the princely patronymic of their Irish forefathers!

Bryans and Hogans.

"Bryan's Station was a frontier post," says Collins, "and, consequently, was much harassed by the Indians and was greatly exposed to the hostility

of the savages. The redmen were constantly lurking in the neighborhood, waylaying the paths, stealing horses and butchering cattle. At length it became necessary to hunt in large parties so as to be able to repel the attacks which were daily becoming more bold and frequent."

"On May 20, 1779, two parties set out, one in command of William Bryan and the other under James Hogan. Bryan was killed, and Hogan's party, after being pursued by a band of Indians, returned to the encampment which, in the meantime, another band of redskins had attacked." Hogan and his men soon put them to flight. On August 14, 1782, Bryan's Station was the scene of another fierce attack by 600 Indians, under the leadership of a notorious white man named Simon Girty, who is said to have been the son of an Irishman. The Indians were repulsed, one of the leaders in the defence having been Captain James McBride. Four days after was fought the famous battle of Blue Lick, in which, says the historians, "McBride was long remembered for his bravery."

Another conspicuous figure in frontier life was John Masterson, "who risked many a danger to render comfort to those he loved within the fort." Others who were prominent in assisting in the defense of Bryan's Station were the McConnells, "who took part in many thrilling adventures."

A Distinguished Irish-American.

According to Collins, Colonel James Morrison, "one of the most wealthy and influential citizens of Lexington," was born in Cumberland County, Pa., in 1755. "He was the son of a poor Irish immigrant, and his native strength of mind gradually elevated him above his humble origin. He served six years in the Revolutionary army and distinguished himself in one of Morgan's select corps of riflemen."

After the war he went into business at Pittsburg and became Sheriff of the County. In 1792 he removed to Lexington, where he was successively Land Commissioner, Member of the Legislature, Supervisor of the Revenue, and Quartermaster-General of the army in the war of 1812.

He was a bank president and chairman of the Board of Trustees of Transylvania University. He is described as "a man of commanding appearance, a typical Celt, stern but courteous, of great decision of character, native talent, wide experience and considerable reading. He acquired immense wealth, which he disbursed with elegant hospitality and the promotion of letters, the type of man who made Kentucky famous."

And this leading citizen was "the son of a poor Irish immigrant."

William T. Barry, who was born in Virginia on February 5, 1783, was a citizen of Lexington, to where he removed in early life. There is no reference made to his parents, but that he was descended from one of Virginia's Irish settlers there is no room for doubt.

Collins says of him: "Among the many distinguished men who reflected honor upon the West, William T. Barry ranks high for great ability and lofty virtues. No man has figured so largely in the well-contested field of Western politics, or ever left it with fewer enemies or a larger number of admiring and devoted friends."

Member of Jackson's Cabinet.

He continued to reside in Lexington, and between 1800 and 1805 was one of the foremost lawyers in Kentucky. He removed to Washington in 1829 to form a part of President Jackson's Cabinet, and in 1835 was appointed Minister to Spain. "During the war of 1812, when Governor Shelby led his countrymen to take vengeance on England and her savage allies for the massacre of the River Raisin and Fort Meigs, Barry had the post of one of his aides. He served as Major of Volunteers all through a severe and glorious campaign, which terminated in the capture of the British army, the death of Tecumseh, and the conquest of a large portion of Upper Canada." There is a monument erected to Barry's honor in the public square of Lexington.

In grouping the great lawyers of Kentucky, Collins puts in the front rank Barry, Rowan, Haggin and Bledsoe—one Indian and three Irish names, and all four called "Anglo-Saxons" by some of the historians of the Blue Grass State.

Dr. Charles Caldwell, "distinguished as a medical professor and as a vigorous and voluminous writer," was one of the early physicians of Lexington. Collins says he was the son of an Irish officer who had emigrated to Caswell County, N. C., where Charles was born in 1772.

"At the age of 14, he was a fine classical scholar and opened and taught in succession two grammar schools until he was 17." He graduated at the leading medical school of Philadelphia, and was U. S. Surgeon in the famous "Whiskey Insurrection" in Western Pennsylvania.

The Captain James McBride before mentioned, of Revolutionary and Indian war fame, erected a grist mill about 1785 on South Elkhorn Creek, the first in that section. In 1789 McBride was killed while surveying on the waters of Licking River, twenty miles from Lexington.

Irish Prominent in Fleming County:

Fleming County was named in honor of Colonel John Fleming, who removed from Virginia to Kentucky in 1787. In 1790, he settled Fleming's Station, where he lived till his death in 1794. He was in several Indian fights. One of his neighbors was William Keenan, who was a prominent man in the county. He fought under General St. Clair and "never entirely recovered from the terrible exertions of St. Clair's campaign of 1791."

In the Senate from Fleming County were Michael Cassidy, from 1800 to 1806; William P. Fleming in 1819, William B. O'Bannion in 1819, and from 1824 to 1827; and later, John S. Cavan.

In the House of Representatives from Fleming County were William Keenan in 1799, John Finley in 1800, William G. Lowry from 1805 to 1813, Michael Cassidy in 1798 and in 1808 and from 1817 to 1822; William B. O'Bannion from 1818 to 1822; Edward H. Powers in 1827, John A. Cavan in 1847, and Edward F. Dulin in 1850, all descendants of Irish settlers in that vicinity, with the exception of Cassidy, who was born in Ireland.

When we bear in mind that some of these men went to the Legislature at a time when the future policy of the yet infant Commonwealth had to be formed, when there was no beaten road, when new questions of finance had to be decided, and the relations of the State to her sisters and to the general Government had to be determined, they must needs have been possessed of the highest qualities of statesmanship, from which fact we can readily form an idea of the sterling worth of these descendants of the "Exiles from Erin," and of their usefulness to the then infant State of Kentucky."

Footsteps of the Gael in Kentucky.

Many Irish Pioneers Among Those Who First Penetrated the Wilderness and Built the Forts and Highways—The Kennedys.

William Kennedy headed an exploring party that passed through Lewis County in 1773. James Gilmore and a party passed through there in 1775. In the following year Colonel James Fleming, William McClary and two others descended the Ohio River and made improvements in this region. Captain Michael Cassidy is also mentioned as interested in lands in this county in 1780, as well as Henry Higgins, Samuel Moore and Andrew, Francis and William McConnell.

Among the Indian fighters who are mentioned in the history of Lincoln County were three young men named Davis, Caffree and Robert McClure. Robert's brother, Captain William McClure, who lived at Stanford, was one of General Logan's trusted officers in his Indian campaign.

The first court ever held in Kentucky was for Lincoln County, and was organized at Harrodsburg on January 16, 1781. A commission from the Governor of Virginia was produced which "appointed thirteen gentlemen Justices of the Peace to hold the County Court, and Commissioners of any Court of Oyer and Terminer for the trial of slaves." Among the thirteen Justices were Benjamin and John Logan, John Cowan, John Kennedy, Hugh McGarry, William Craig, William McBride and William McAfee.

"Butler's History of Kentucky" says that "John Reed, an Irishman, who emigrated to Virginia about the middle of the eighteenth century, was one of the pioneers of Lincoln County, where he built a fort in 1779." "There are," says Butler, "Many men in the State of distinguished talents, who trace their ancestry to this John Reed." His son, Thomas B. Reed, was United States Senator from Mississippi. Among the first regimental officers appointed to the patriot army from Lincoln County were John Logan, Lieutenant Colonel, in January, 1781, and Hugh McGarry, Major, in the following July.

One of the representatives from Madison County in the Kentucky Senate in 1792 was Thomas Kennedy, and in the Lower House in later years were Representatives William McClannahan, Joseph Collins and B. C. Moran, descendants of Irish settlers in that locality. Among the first explorers who are known to have set foot in Madison County were James

Mooney and Joseph Holden, who passed through there in 1773 with Daniel Boone. Its second known white visitors were some of the McAfee party in the summer of 1773. (From MSS, of the General and Natural History of Kentucky, by General R. B. McAfee, 1806.)

The Kennedy Family.

The story of the Kennedy family in early Kentucky history is a remarkable one. They are found at Harrodsburg in 1774, when the first permanent white settlement was established in that vicinity. They were the leaders of the "strenuous life" in Central Kentucky, and many incidents are related indicating that they were ever foremost in resisting the attacks of the Indians on the scattered settlements established by the white man. They were with Logan, and Clark and Wayne in the cruel border warfare that raged for many years during and after the Revolutionary period. There was hardly a battle or skirmish fought in Kentucky in which a Kennedy did not take some active part.

According to the published *Narrative of Felix Walker*, one of the companions of Boone, the first road, or "trace," as it was then called, built through Madison County was laid out by John Kennedy in the year 1775. It was "cut from the Long Island on the Holston River to Boonesbourough, on the Kentucky River." The building of this road, according to Walker's Narrative, "revealed to the explorers the unbounded beauties and richness of Kentucky, so that a new sky and strange earth seemed to be presented to their view." The news was spread around by travelers, and very soon settlers were attracted from the neighboring colonies, who penetrated through the central portion of Kentucky, bringing their families in caravans.

It is incidents like this that illustrate the worth of the hardy Irish settlers and their sons, who, in the early days of the great Southwest, pushed through the wilderness with a determination that soon conquered Nature in its wildest, primeval state. In the building of the roads, the clearing of the forests, the bridging of the streams; in the establishment of the first settlements and the erection of forts and stations for protection of the settlements against the attacks of the prowling savages, men bearing Irish names are mentioned with the other pioneers in almost every historical record of Kentucky.

We have endeavored to trace the nationality of John Kennedy, the first road builder of Central Kentucky, but are unable to find anything on record to indicate the place of his nativity. He was one of four sons of Thomas Kennedy, and it is probable that he was a native of either Kentucky or Virginia.

Kidnapped From Ireland.

A Thomas Kennedy, who was the son of James Kennedy—mentioned in one of our previous papers as having been kidnapped from Ireland, when a boy of seven and sold in Maryland for a term of years—and who was a very prominent settler of Bourbon County, may possibly have been the father of the pioneer roadbuilder. Bourbon and Madison are separated

only by Clark County. John Kennedy built a fort in Bourbon County, at a place now known as Kennedy's Station, situate about midway between the towns of Glenkenny and Doneraile.

Thomas Kennedy's four sons were a noteworthy set of pioneer brothers, One of them, "Dave" Kennedy, was known as a "bully." Collins says he was "a man of remarkable physical development, whom few would have the hardihood to encounter." He lived at a small place called Milford, in Madison County, where the courthouse was. In 1789, when the court was ordered to be removed to Richmond, a bitter feeling of opposition was manifested by the people. "They gathered together to the number of 300, headed by Thomas Kennedy and his four sons, '"Dave"' Kennedy offered to whip anybody who was in favor of the removal. At last, William Kerley was found, who consented to fight him in the stray pen if nobody interfered." The fight was a memorable one in that section, and, although "Dave" Kennedy, the local pride of Milford, exerted all his prowess, he was unable to conquer his adversary from Richmond, and after the contest was declared "a draw" a compromise was arranged about the removal of the courthouse, and the bully's brother, Joseph Kennedy, was appointed the first Sheriff of the county.

A Celebrated Irish-American Jurist.

One of the neighboring counties to Madison was Boyle, called after Chief Justice John Boyle, and it is curious to observe, in examining the records, that the name of this celebrated Irish-American lawyer is mispelled "Bowles," and was mispronounced in that way for many years throughout Kentucky.

John Boyle is noted as having been the first to plant peaches in Madison County, in October, 1775. The first school in Boonesborough was taught by Joseph Doniphan in 1779, when 22 years old. He was the grandfather of Chancellor and Joseph Doniphan, of Augusta, Ky., and father of General Alexander Doniphan, of St. Louis. He went to Madison County in 1778 from Virginia, and returned in 1780. He was a Justice of the Peace in Stafford County, Virginia, in 1787, and some records now in possession of his descendants (in Indianapolis) show that George Washington was several times a litigant before him, suing for small sums. We have not the slightest doubt but that "Doniphan" is a corruption of the Irish name, Donovan.

Colonel William Irvine and his brother, Captain Christopher Irvine, established themselves in Madison County in 1778 or 1779, near where Richmond now is. In 1876, Christopher raised a company and joined an expedition against the Indians under General Logan, and was killed. Colonel William Irvine fought at the battle of Little Mountain in 1782, where he was severely wounded. He is referred to as "a man of estimable character and high standing." He was Clerk of the County Courts and served in the Virginia Legislature before Kentucky was formed into a State. The Irvines are supposed to have been of Irish descent. General William Irvine, of the Revolution, as is known to our readers, was a native of County Fermanagh.

Magoffin County was named in honor of Beriah Magoffin, who became Governor of Kentucky. He was born at Harrodsburg in 1815, on a farm inherited from his father, who came from County Down. His mother was a granddaughter of Samuel McAfee.

William McElroy, "one of the first settlers of Marion County," was also the son of an immigrant from County Down. He came to Kentucky in 1788 in company with his father and two uncles and their families—fifty-four persons in all. They settled in the neighborhood of Lebanon.

The early records of Mason County indicate the presence of a number of its pioneers who bore Irish names. Several companies of adventurers and explorers visited what is now Mason County in 1773, among them the McAfee brothers, and the company of Captain Thomas Bullitt's surveyors and assistants, in which were John Fitzpatrick, Joseph Drennon and John Doran. The papers left by the McAfee brothers show that these companies came down the Ohio in June, 1773, and camped for several days at the place where the City of Maysville now stands. In July following John Finley passed through the eastern part of the county with General William Thompson's party from Pennsylvania. This course of surveys was quite extensive, and embraced the richest lands in that section.

In 1774 and 1775 several companies of "Improvers" came to Mason County selecting and surveying the rich cane lands—among whom are mentioned the McConnell brothers, McCellands, Mastersons, several of the Kennedys, James Gilmore and Fitzpatrick and Doran. In June, 1775, we find mention of John Lafferty and Hugh Shannon, who were members of the company which in that month gave the name of Lexington to the spot where that beautiful city now stands. In 1776, Lafferty and Shannon were joined by Bartholomew Fitzgerald, who selected a site and built a mill dam, which evén to this day is known as Fitzgerald's Mill.

Numbers of other pioneers are mentioned in the early history of this county, bearing Irish names, such as Patrick Jordan, James Kelly, William Kelly, John Fitzgerald, John McGrew, Thomas White, William McClary, John Fleming, John Lyons, William Graden, and Henry Boyle. These were among the very first improvers and surveyors that passed through the wilderness of this section of Kentucky, and some of whom later returned and settled down permanently in the rich lands which they had laid out. There certainly is no dearth of Irish names among the pioneers of Kentucky.

Irish Settlers in Kentucky.

Amusing Story of Michael Cassidy Outwitting the Indian Warriors—Kean O'Hara, Father of the Famous Kentucky Poet, Was a United Irishman.

The early emigrants to Kentucky had many difficulties and dangers to surmount before effecting a permanent settlement. They carried their lives in their hands. The Indians gave them no rest night or day. "From the date of their first permanent settlement in 1773," says the historian, "to that of Wayne's decisive victory and the subsequent treaty of Greeneville in 1795, a period of over 20 years, Kentucky was a continual battle-ground between the whites and the Indians, the latter ceaselessly endeavoring to break up the Colonies, and the former struggling to maintain their position."

The early settlements were generally undertaken by men with families, voluntarily formed into small emigrating companies and usually without the authority of or aid from the Government. When they arrived at the place of their destination, their first work was to select a suitable site, where they built cabins for the accommodation of their families. These cabins were so arranged as to form a kind of fort for their protection and defence. These places were called "stations" and generally received their names from the leader of the party

Thus we find, among others, such stations as Rice's, Kenny's, McGuire's, McCormack's, Mullins', Kennedy's, Sullivan's, Daniel Sullivan's, McGarry's McGee's McKinley's, McConnell's Collins', Masterson's, Gilmore's, McFadden's, Casey's, Kelly's, Finn's, Hynes', Cox's, Feagan's, Bryan's, Dougherty's, Drennon's, Fleming's, Higgins', Lynch's, Cassidy's Station, and so on, indicating that many Irishmen were among the leading soldiers and settlers of early Kentucky.

Michael Cassidy, Indian Fighter.

Michael Cassidy, who established Cassidy's Station, was a noted settler and Indian fighter of Fleming County. After the war, he educated and fitted himself to take a prominent place in the Legislative halls of his adopted State. We shall quote what Collins' "History of Kentucky" says of this noted Irishman.

"Michael Cassidy was a native of Ireland, whence he emigrated to the Colonies in his youth. At the breaking out of the war, he enlisted and

served for several years in the ranks of the patriot army. After leaving the army he went to Kentucky and attached himself to Strode's Station, in what is now Clark County. Thence he removed to Fleming County and settled at Cassidy's Station.

"He was remarkably small in stature, and there are many amusing stories told of his contests with Indians, who looked upon him as a boy. On one occasion while encamped in the woods with two other friends named Bennett and Spohr, three Indians attacked their camp and killed Bennett and Spohr at the first fire. Cassidy sprung to his feet, but was soon overpowered and made prisoner. The Indians, supposing him to be a boy, and proposing to relieve the tedium of the night, selected the smallest of their number to *carve* him up with a large butcher knife for their diversion. Cassidy, whose fiery spirit little predisposed him to suffer an unresisting martydom, grappled with his antagonist and flung him several times with great violence to the earth, greatly to the amusement of the other Indians, who laughed immoderately at their companion's defeat by one seemingly so disproportioned in strength.

The two Indians, finding that it was growing a serious matter, came to the rescue of their companion, and with several strokes of their war clubs felled Cassidy to the ground. Fortunately, Cassidy fell with his hand upon the knife which his competitor had let fall, and arising, brandished it with such fierceness that the Indians fell back, when he stepping to one side, darted rapidly into the woods. The darkness of the night enabled him to elude his pursuers, until he came to a deep pool of water overhung by a large sycamore. Under the roots of this tree, up to his neck in the water, he remained concealed until the Indians, flashing their torches around him in every direction, gave up in despair. He carried to his grave the marks of the Indian clubs to testify with what good will they were given.

Irish Wit Succeeds.

"Upon another occasion, while hunting on Cassidy's Creek, in what is now Nicholas County, he very unexpectedly found himself in close proximity to a powerful Indian in a place quite free from timber. Each observed the other about the same time and both leveled their guns. But Cassidy, to his consternation, found that his pocket handkerchief was tied around the lock of his gun so as to prevent its being cocked, and he feared to untie it, lest the Indian, perceiving it, should fire. They remained pointing their guns at each other in this manner for some time. The Indian not firing, Cassidy suspected that something was the matter with his gun also and began to take off his handkerchief, when the Indian fled to a tree. Cassidy followed at full speed, and taking a circuit so as to bring the Indian in view, fired and wounded him in the shoulder. Drawing his knife, he made toward the wounded Indian, in whose gun he now perceived the ramrod. When Cassidy approached the Indian (lying on the ground) extended his hand, crying 'brother.' Cassidy told him he was 'a damned mulatto hypocrite, and he shouldn't claim kin with him. Saint Patrick! but he would pummel him well!" After a desperate con-

flict with the Indian, who, though deprived of the use of his right arm, proved no contemptible foe, and whose nakedness afforded no tangible hold, Cassidy succeeding in despatching him.

"Cassidy was in upwards of 30 Indian fights, and so many were his hair-breadth escapes that he was commonly said to have a charmed life. He served in the Legislature repeatedly, lived respected and died regretted at his station in the year 1829."

In Franklin County the first surveys were made by Hancock Taylor, whose party consisted of himself, Matthew Bracken and Joseph Drennon. Bracken County and Drennon Creek in Henry County were named after these pioneers. John Fitzpatrick and John Doran made two surveys in 1774 of all the land now embraced in the Capital City of Frankfort. These surveys were made for Robert McAfee. William Dougherty, a laborer, was "tried and convicted for robbery" in this county in 1799, and "sentenced to be hung" on April 2 of that year, but the verdict was set aside and Dougherty was released.

Collins says the Frankfort surveys were abandoned by the McAfees for others in Mercer County. Each of the brothers, John, George and Robert McAfee, kept a journal which are still preserved at Providence Church. The leading facts of their journeyings were preserved therein and in several court and sundry depositions by members of the company.

Many Irish-Named Places.

In this vicinity there are several old places called by Irish names, such as Doylesville, Nolin, Riley, Brannon, McAfee, Conway, O'Bannon, Powers, Keene, Connersville, Duganville, Nevins, Murphy, McCormick, Fagan, Irvine, Donnelly, McCracken, Keavy, Joyce, Ward, Gauley, Welchburg, Boyle, Dunnville, McKee, McKinney, Curry, Flanagan, Blake, Casey Creek, Sexton's Creek, Moore's Creek, Coffey, Mayo, Tyrone, Waterford and Doneraile. It would be well to know how these places came by their names, and perhaps, in later papers, we may be able to narrate some interesting details concerning their origin, for the information of our readers.

Among the women of Franklin County mentioned by Collins was Ann McGinty, who is referred to as "a woman of great energy and self-reliance, who brought the first spinning wheel to Kentucky and made the first linen in that section of the country from lint of nettles and buffalo wool." She is mentioned by Collins as "very ingenious." The land and court records of Franklin County indicate that she and her husband, James McGinty, were possessed of lands there. She died in 1815. Her tomb can be seen in the Old Fort Cemetery near Harrodsburg. She lived for a time in the Old Fort, called "Kentucky's first settlement." Her nationality is not given, but that she may have been an Irishwoman may be judged from her knowledge of the primitive operation of fabricating such simple materials as nettles and the wool of the buffalo into linen suitable for ordinary use.

William Dunn and family lived in Franklin County in 1791 in a settlement on South Elkhorn Creek. He is on record as taking part against an Indian invasion at that place in 1792.

Irish Pioneers in Gallatin and Grant Counties.

Among the "early settlers of Gallatin County" are mentioned Henry Dougherty, Richard Masterson, Martin Hawkins and Percival or Pierce Butler, the last of whom was the son of Thomas Butler of Kilkenny. A descendant of the first Dougherty, Robert S. Dougherty, was a Representative from Gallatin County from 1827 to 1829, a Senator in 1830, and again a Representative in 1835. Other Representatives in the Legislature from this county were William O. Butler in 1817, Thomas S. Butler in 1826, and E. Hogan in 1869, all of whom were descended from early settlers in the vicinity.

In the official records of Grant County we find mention of the McGills, McCanns, Goughs, and particularly of the O'Hara family. Major James O'Hara and Kean O'Hara, with their father and one other brother, came from Ireland to Maryland in the year 1798. Collins, the eminent historian of Kentucky, refers to Kean O'Hara as "one of the most distinguished of Kentucky educators, having taught school in that State for more than 50 years." He relinquished teaching for the law, and settled in practice at Williamstown, where "he attained an enviable position as a professional lawyer and able advocate." He was the father of James O'Hara, Judge of the Covington Judicial District, and of Theodore O'Hara, the distinguished poet, journalist and soldier, the author of the immortal composition, "The Bivouac of the Dead."

Kean O'Hara, or Kane O'Hara, as he is more frequently referred to in the Kentucky records, was a United Irishman. What part he took in the Rebellion has never been recorded, but, after the arrest of Lord Edward Fitzgerald, he was obliged to fly the country and seek asylum in America. He married into one of the most distinguished families in Maryland, his wife having been descended from one of the earliest settlers of that Colony who had come over with Lord Baltimore. Soon after his marriage he settled in Danville, Ky., from where he later removed to Woodford County, and thence to Frankfort.

O'Hara the Greatest Kentucky Poet.

Theodore O'Hara, his son, was the greatest poet Kentucky has ever produced. When a very young man he entered the law office of the famous John C. Breckinridge, who afterwards became Vice-President of the United States, and on whose staff O'Hara in later years served through the Civil War. About 1845 he entered the employ of the Government, and during the Mexican War served as an officer in the Second U. S. Cavalry.

We take the following from an article on O'Hara, which appeared in a recent issue of the *Kansas City Star:*

"The occasion for writing 'The Bivouac of the Dead' was closely connected with the events of O'Hara's own life. The Kentucky troops buried their dead on the field of Buena Vista, but a few months later the State brought home the ashes of the principal officers to rest in the cemetery at the capital. They were accorded the most magnificent funeral ever witnessed in Kentucky. A little later the State erected a handsome

monument, occupying a central position in the cemetery, in honor of all Kentuckians who had fallen while battling for their country. It was at the dedication of this monument that Theodore O'Hara first read his famous poem. He seemed to have had in mind, however, only Colonels McKee and Clay and the other officers who fell at Buena Vista, as all of his references are to that engagement.

"The poem itself is an almost flawless work of poetic genius and has been pronounced by competent critics to be perhaps the most perfect of its kind in the English language. The first verse is by far the most widely known and quoted, but among all the similes with which the poem is enriched surely none is more beautiful than that in which Kentucky is likened to a Spartan mother who, as she handed him his shield on his departure for war, would say: 'Come back with this or upon it.' And thus the poet says of Kentucky:

"She claims from war its richest spoils—
The ashes of her brave."

"That the poem, as has been said, is one which strikes a note of universal human sympathy is best evidenced by the wide use which has been made of it outside of Kentucky. The national Government has used it extensively in the cemeteries at Gettysburg, Arlington and Vicksburg, the entire poem being reproduced on separate blocks of stone in the latter instance. It is also significant that 'The Bivouac of the Dead' should have been inscribed on the monument erected by the British Government in honor of those soldiers who died in the Crimea.

"It is even now thrilling to think of that scene in the cemetery at Frankfort that summer's day sixty years ago. The State's great dead lay around him under the primeval forest trees which crown a beautiful bluff of the Kentucky River. In a close circle around the newly-erected monument lay O'Hara's own comrades of the Mexican War. The monument itself was impressive and bore the names of battles and of the Kentuckians who had engaged in them. Some had fought the Indians at Point Pleasant, at Boonesborough and in the disastrous battles of 'Blue Licks' and 'Estill's Defeat.' They had participated alike in the defeats of Harmar and St. Clair and the brilliant victory of 'Mad Anthony' Wayne at Fallen Timbers. Others had fought the British at King's Mountain during the Revolution, where Ferguson, Cornwallis's best lieutenant, was defeated and killed, and at New Orleans in the War of 1812. Last of all came the names of those who had fallen at Monterey and Buena Vista. Deeply moved by the events which had just transpired, who can think what a flood of emotion must have flowed through the mind of Theodore O'Hara as for the first time the expectant multitude heard the impressive measure of that beautiful verse:

"The muffled drum's sad roll has beat
The soldier's last tattoo;
No more on life's parade shall meet
That brave and fallen few.
On fame's eternal camping ground
Their silent tents are spread,
And glory guards with solemn round
The bivouac of the dead."

Irish Pioneers in Kentucky.

Exiles From Erin Were Among the First Surveyors and Improvers—Simon Kenton, Called One of the Fathers of the West, Was the Son of an Irish Emigrant.

One of the early surveyors of Jefferson County was Peter Casey, who, according to Collins, settled there in 1775. In this vicinity, at various times, are mentioned descendants of Irish settlers who assisted in making the laws of their native State. Among them we find such names as Moore, Denny, Hughes, Butler, Melone, Harney, Logan, Bryan, Irvine, Downing, Cassilly, Kearney and Campion. In the first exploring party that ever passed through this region were John Fitzpatrick and John Doran (1773), and Matthew Bracken and Joseph Drennon of the McAfee party (1774).

"The first encampment of regular settlers," as Collins describes them, "comprising, among a few others, the families of Captain James Patton, John Tuel (Toole), and John McManus, was in 1778 on Corn Island opposite the present City of Louisville, but since all washed away. The island was so named because these settlers first planted and raised corn on it in that year, the first ever raised within a radius of 25 miles around."

The names of some of the early stations of Jefferson County indicate the prominence of Irishmen in that region. Members of the Sullivan family erected several stations between 1779 and 1782, to which they gave their names. The original proprietor of the land where Louisville now stands was Dr. John Connolly, a native of Ireland. He was a surgeon in the royal forces. On December 16, 1773, Collins relates that Connolly received a patent for a grant of 2,000 acres in that part of Fincastle County, Va., now Jefferson County, Ky. In 1774, Connolly purchased 2,000 acres adjoining his original patent. Colonel John Campbell, "an Irish gentleman," in honor of whom Campbell County was named, was Connolly's nearest neighbor. Connolly lost portion of his great estate in 1780 "on account of his activity in the royal cause." The first church erected in Louisville was in 1811. It was a Catholic Chapel, and was erected chiefly for the Irish settlers and their families.

Simon Kenton, an Irish-American.

One of the most celebrated pioneers of the West was General Simon Kenton, after whom Kenton County is named. He was born of obscure

parents in Faquier County, Va., on April 13, 1755. Collins and Lossing both say his father was an Irishman.

"When a youth of 16," writes Collins, "he had an encounter with a rival for the affections of his sweetheart, and Kenton, thinking he had killed his rival, thought himself ruined beyond redemption. The wilderness of the West offered him a secure asylum and he plunged at once into the woods. After much suffering, he arrived at Ise's Ford on Cheat River in April, 1771, where he gave his name as Simon Butler."

Thus at the age of 16, this man who, in the hands of the Almighty, was so instrumental in redeeming the great West from the savages and opening the way for the stream of civilization which has since poured over its fertile plains, desolate in heart and burdened with a supposed crime, was thrown upon his own resources to struggle with the dangers and privations of the wilderness.

In the Fall of 1771, he accompanied a party down the Ohio River as far as the mouth of the Kentucky and landed at the identical place where James McBride, the premier explorer of Kentucky, had embarked 17 years before. Here the party hunted and trapped with great success and lived a free and unrestrained life until the spring of 1774. The trouble with England was brewing, and the Indians, being excited against the Colonists, the settlements were attacked by the redmen, the white settlers suffering dreadful hardships. Several of them were lost in the woods, among them Fitzpatrick and Hendricks, whom Kenton rescued and brought to his station near Washington, Ky.

All Western historians offer generous testimony to the valiant services rendered Kentucky and to the cause of the patriots by this celebrated Irish-American pioneer. "He battled with the Indians in a hundred encounters," writes Collins, "and at the head of his brother pioneers ranged the pathless forest in freedom and safety." "He was a noble pioneer in the march of Western civilization," says Lossing; "became the companion of Boone, and with him and his co-laborers wrested Kentucky from the redmen."

In 1778, he joined the forces of General George Rogers Clark at the Falls of the Ohio, and after the surprise of Kaskaskia he returned to Boonesborough. Toward the close of that year he was captured by the Indians, and finally became a prison laborer in the hands of the British at Detroit. Aided by a trader's wife, he escaped in company with two fellow-prisoners, the renowned Captain Bullitt and Lieutenant Coffee, and arrived at the Falls in July, 1779. He subsequently joined Clarke in his expeditions.

Revisited His Father.

In 1782, learning that he had not killed his rival in love, and that his old father still lived, he went to Virginia, and, after spending some time among the friends of his early youth, he returned to Kentucky, taking his father and family with him. On the way the old man died; the remainder of the family reached Kenton's settlement in safety. From that period, until Wayne's expedition in 1793, Kenton was much engaged in Indian warfare.

Lossing, in his "Field Book of the American Revolution," relates a pathetic story, showing how in the closing days of his checkered career, this celebrated pioneer was destined to feel "the bitter effects of wrong, ingratitude and neglect."

On account of some legal matters concerning his lands in Kentucky, he was imprisoned for twelve months upon the very spot where he built his cabin in 1775. In 1802, beggared by lawsuits and losses, he became landless. Yet he never murmured at the ingratitude which pressed him down, and in 1813 the veteran joined the Kentucky troops under Shelby, and was in the battle of the Thames. In 1824, when 70 years old, he journeyed to Frankfort, in tattered garments and upon a miserable horse, to ask the Legislature of Kentucky to release the claims of the State upon some of his mountain lands. He was stared at by the boys, and shunned by the citizens, for none knew him. At length General Thomas Fletcher recognized him, gave him a new suit of clothes and entertained him kindly. When it was known that Simon Kenton was in town, scores flocked to see the old hero. He was taken to the Capitol and seated in the Speaker's chair. His lands were released, and afterwards Congress gave him a pension of $240 per year. He died at the age of 81 years, in 1836, at his residence at the head of Mad River, in Logan County, Ohio, in sight of the place, where, 58 years before, the Indians were about to put him to death.

We wonder how many Kentuckians of the present generation know that Simon Kenton, one of the most celebrated pioneers of their State, who is famed in song and story, the boast of Kentucky and the pride of the West; who had battled with the Indians in a hundred encounters and "wrested Kentucky from the savage," was the son of an obscure Irish immigrant?

Irish Settlers in Covington.

Many of the early settlers of Covington, in Kenton County, bore Irish names. The first known white man in that vicinity was James McBride (1754). John Martin settled there with his family in 1795, near Ruddle's station. He was born on the high seas in 1723 while his parents were on a voyage from Ireland. They first located at Beesontown (now Uniontown), Pa. From there they went by water to Limestone (now Maysville), Ky., in 1791, with other families, guarded by a few soldiers. The Irish family established a settlement on the road between Cincinnati and Lexington in 1795. There are still a great many Martins in that section of Kentucky, who are noted for their large families, and who are descended from the Irish immigrants of 1723.

A family named Mullins settled early in Kenton County, where they established a station, called by their name. Other old settlers were William Mackoy and his three sons, John, William and Robert; Robert Fleming, William Cummings, John Donovan, Thomas Kennedy and his three sons, Samuel, Joseph and Robert, and his three grandsons, and Robert Kyle and five sons. Patrick Leonard settled in Kenton County some time after the Revolutionary War. He was the second husband of the famous "Captain" Molly Pitcher, the Irishwoman who immortalized herself at the battle of

Monmouth on June 16, 1778. John Bulger, a noted Indian fighter under Logan, settled in the county about 1779.

Most of the land now embraced in the City of Covington was known as Kennedy's Ferry previous to 1813. Thomas Kennedy had a large estate there, and up to 1829 his descendants operated the ferry. Thomas conducted the ferry on the Kentucky side and Francis Kennedy on the Ohio side. It was the principal crossing for travel from Lexington to the interior of Kentucky, and the Kennedys proved themselves extremely useful in transporting the soldiers of the Indian expeditions during the War of the Revolution and for many succeeding years.

Covington was established by an Act of the Legislature, approved February 8, 1815, on 150 acres of Thomas Kennedy's farm, which had been purchased from him the previous year. One of its streets was named after him. He occupied the only stone house in Covington for many years. It is described as "an elegant stone residence with panelled rooms." The first factory in Covington was erected by Charles McAllister and William Yorke. There is also mention of a family named Doniphan, who came over from Clermont County, O., and who on one occasion sheltered General Simon Kenton while sick from his arduous campaigns against the Indians.

In 1788, we find mention of William Connell, Samuel Mooney, Sylvester White and William McMillan among the pioneers of Kenton County. These, with several other settlers left Limestone on December 24, 1788, to form the settlement of Losanteville (the original name of Cincinnati).

The First White Child in Cincinnati.

The first white child of Losanteville is said to have been John Cummins, who was born there on December 18, 1788. The first house ever built on the site of Losanteville was erected in July, 1780, for the purpose of sheltering the men of Captain Hugh McGarry's company, who were wounded in an attack by the Indians. McGarry's party had been detached from General George Rogers Clark's army, which had been marching along the Kentucky side of the Ohio. McGarry was detailed to reconnoitre the position of the enemy on the Indiana side. Others who are mentioned among those who located early in the settlement at Losanteville were Francis Kennedy, with his wife and seven children, and families named McConnell and McHenry.

The first settlement near Covington was on November 18, 1788, at Columbia, on the north side of the Ohio. The party passed through Kenton County and were mostly immigrants who had come from Brownsville, Pa., via the Monongahela River. They were headed by Captain Flinn, and among the 40 colonists who pushed their fortunes with him were Flinn's father and two brothers; the premier schoolmasters of Ohio already mentioned, John Reilly and Francis Dunlevy; Joseph Cox, Daniel Griffin, Cornelius Hurley, John Manning, John McCullough, Patrick and William Moore, John Reynolds, and John Ferris. These names are all taken from the "Journal of Judge William Goforth," one of the first Territorial Judges appointed by Washington.

Less than a month after its first settlement, Captain Hugh Dunn, his wife, three brothers and one sister, came down the Ohio in their family boat, and after many adventures with the Indians joined the settlers at Columbia. Dunn established Dunn's Station at the mouth of the Great Miami in 1793. "A census taken after the arrival of this little company showed a total population of 56 men, women and children. These were all the white people then known to be in the present State of Ohio west of Marietta." (From a sketch of Judge Isaac Dunn, in the Lawrenceburg, Ind., *Press*, July, 1870.)

Irish Footsteps in Kentucky.

The Western Settlements Largely Undertaken by Irishmen—Notable Record of the Steele Family, Natives of Newtown-Limavady, County Derry.

In the histories of Graves, Grayson, Green, Greenup, Hardin and Harrison Counties, several representatives in the Legislature during the first quarter of the nineteenth century were descendants of Irish settlers, such as William M. Cargill, John and Jeremiah Cox, William L. Conklin, R. W. Brandon, James W. and Peter Barrett, B. G. Burke, John M. McConnell, William Connor, Joseph D. Collins, Edward F. Dulin, Joseph Patton, William Conway, T. W. and James W. Hayes, J. B. Hayden, John H. and Thomas S. Geohegan, George L. McAfee, William K. Wall, Stephen B. Curran, William W. Cleary, H. A. Ward, Thomas J. Megibben, John Givins and J. C. and N. P. Coleman.

One of the first settlers of Hardin County was Colonel Andrew Hynes, who located where Elizabethtown now stands and who built a fort in 1780, which is said to have been one of the first three settlements which existed at that time between the Ohio and Green Rivers. Andrew Hynes was the founder of the town of Elizabethtown, which he named in honor of his wife's Christian name.

Peter Kennedy is prominently mentioned in accounts of Indian warfare in Hardin County about this time. He "proved himself a hero in a conflict at the Ohio River near the mouth of Salt River." He lived to a very old age and "left a numerous and clever progeny." Other settlers in this county in 1793 were Isaac Hynes and one Nolan, after whom Nolan Creek was called.

Irish Pioneers of Harrison County.

Among "the visitors to and improvers of Harrison County," are mentioned John Haggin, Daniel Callahan, Patrick Callahan, Matthew Fenton, William Hoskins and William Shields. "These, with six or seven others," says Collins, "came down the Ohio in March, 1775, and up Licking River in canoes in search of lands to improve, and landed near where Falmouth now is." It was called Hinkson's Company, having been commanded by John Hinkson. Howe, in his "Historical Collections of Ohio," says that Hinkson was a native of Ireland, whence he had emigrated in early life. He settled in Kentucky and established a station near the junction of

Hinkson and Stoner. Here he brought up a family. His son, Colonel Thomas Hinkson, fought under General Harmar in 1791 and with Wayne in 1792 against the Indians. He became a Judge and Member of the Legislature, also fought in the War of 1812.

After some little time exploring Hardin County, Hinkson's company proceeded up Licking River to near the Lower Blue Licks, and "in the neighborhood between Paris and Cynthiana, they improved lands, made small clearings, built their cabins and named the streams and stations after some of the company. It was a flourishing settlement in 1776."

About the same time, a body of 14 men, known as Miller's Company, traversed this region, where they joined Hinkson's party. In Miller's company were "Paddy" Logan, William Flinn, William Nesbitt, Joseph Houston, William Steele, Alexander Pollock. William McClintock and Richard Clark, some of whom were natives of Ireland. The two companies stationed themselves at Blue Licks, from where they sent out parties of explorers.

The Irish Vanguard.

In the fall of 1775 Peter Higgins and Robert Shanklin passed through Harrison County surveying lands. Others who are mentioned "among the earliest settlers" of this county were William Kennedy, James McGraw, Thomas Moore, Robert Keen and John, James and Samuel McMillan, who came into the county and "made improvements" in 1776. Thomas Dunn is noted as having been the first to raise corn in this county (in 1776), and James Kenny, Thomas Kennedy and James Galloway were among those who made "improvements."

In May, 1776, came John Lyons' company of ten men from Pennsylvania, two of whom were the brothers James and William Kelly. They joined Hinkson's station and took up lands in the vicinity. These settlers, under command of Hinkson, offered a brave resistance in the Summer of 1780 to a combined British and Indian force which had fiercely attacked the settlements between Lexington and Bryan's Station. "Higgins' blockhouse made a brave resistance," writes Collins.

The Kelly brothers, James and William, are mentioned in Howe's "Historical Collections of Ohio" as "among the early settlers of Mason County, Ky." They were killed in a fight with the Indians on the Ohio River near the mouth of the Big Guyandotte, while defending the settlements.

Major William K. Wall was one of the leading citizens of the county. His father, John Wall, emigrated to Kentucky in 1791. William was a lawyer and a member of the State Legislature for many years. He fought in the War of 1812.

Henderson County sent to the Legislature James McMahon (1815), Daniel McBride (1827), and John E. McAllister (1843). John W. O'Bannon represented Henry County from 1834 to 1838; Hugh McCracken and S. P. McFall, Hickman County in 1822 and 1832 respectively; Andrew Sisk from Hopkins County in 1829, and as Senator from 1832 to 1836. All of these were descendants of Irish pioneers in their respective localities.

The Steeles From Newtown-Limavady.

One of the most noted families of Jefferson County is that of Steele, and one which has left its mark all over Kentucky and the adjacent States. According to the Registers of the Kentucky Historical Association, the pioneers of the family were Richard and Andrew Steele, who emigrated from Ireland in 1745 and landed on the eastern shore of Maryland. Both were born in Newtown-Limavady and were educated at the University of Dublin. They were the grandsons of Sir Richard Steele, who resided in the castle of Ballyedmund, near Rathdowney.

Soon after his arrival in Maryland, Richard Steele received a grant of 1,000 acres, which he located in the beautiful country near Mercersburg, Pa. There he raised a family of eight children, some of whom are mentioned as among the most prominent and useful of the early settlers of Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Kentucky.

The boys received their earliest lessons in patriotism at their father's knee, and when old enough hurried to join the contingents which were forming in their neighborhood to aid the patriot army. General John Steele, who, according to the American Historical Register of February, 1896, was a member of Washington's family and field officer of the day at Yorktown, was a son of Richard Steele, the emigrant from Newtown-Limavady. His brother, Richard, also saw service in the Revolutionary Army.

According to the Kentucky Historical Association's Registers, "the frontier was in need of brave and tried men, and Virginia offered large grants of land in the Western counties to go and protect her borders from the ravages of the Indians and the British. Richard Steele was one of those who answered the call. In 1780 he organized a handful of brave souls, who traveled on flatboats down the Ohio River, amid constant dangers from the lurking Indians who were then on the warpath. They landed on Corn Island, at the Falls of the Ohio, where they were compelled to stay for nearly two years on account of the attacks of the savages. Here they suffered much hardship. One of the party was the father of United States Senator John Rowan, and Corn Island afterwards became part of the Rowan estate. In time they moved over to the mainland and built a stockade and fort on Beargrass Creek (the site of the present City of Louisville)."

An Irishwoman's Unflinching Courage.

In one of these attacks, at Floyd's Station, seven miles from the Steele settlement, Richard was shot over the heart by an Indian. When the news was brought to the fort, Mrs. Steele, who was also a native of Ireland, "on being told of her husband's terrible wounds and condition, determined to hurry to his side, notwithstanding the persuasion of her friends, who pointed out the almost certain death she would court in venturing on so perilous a journey. She made them bring a horse, mounted it with a nursing babe in her arms, and rode out in the night through the

wilderness, passed the Indians safely through the gate of the stockade, and nursed her husband back to life and health."

In 1784, Richard Steele and his family moved to a plantation which he had acquired near Lexington, and in 1788 his name appears among the list of delegates to the General Assembly. In the land office at Frankfort can be found records of several land grants to Richard Steele in ten different couties of Kentucky, all for distinguished military services.

In a paper on "Captain Andrew Steele, a Revolutionary Soldier," by Mrs. J. C. Morton, Secretary of the Kentucky Historical Association, and published as part of the records of the Society, the author pays a glowing tribute to this gallant Irishman. In 1776, he moved from Mercersburg, Pa., to Kentucky, with a company of seven men. "He took part in the awful border warfare, and was at the defeat of Bryan's Station, and in the famous battle of Blue Licks."

In the Calendars of Virginia State Papers (volume 8) are found eloquent and thrilling letters from Andrew Steele to the Governor of Virginia, describing the perils and dangers to which the Kentuckians were exposed, and describing the battles with the Indians and the resultant sorrow and suffering. These eloquent petitions are regarded as among the finest specimens of writings of the day.

In recognition of his services in "the rear-guard of Kentucky"—as Kentucky border warfare is styled—he was given large grants of land in that State. The patents are on record in the land office at Frankfort, the largest having been one of 1,000 acres in Fayette County—(Book one, page 244).

Some years after the Revolution, Andrew Steele returned to Ireland and there married his second wife, Ann Carr, but died on the return voyage. His children are mentioned among the pioneers of many places in Kentucky.

An Irish and American Patriot.

"Andrew Steele," writes Mrs. Morton, 'never lost his love for his native land, the Emerald Isle, and thought with the poet:

> " 'Immortal little island,
> No other land or clime
> Has placed more deathless heroes
> In the Pantheon of time.'

"Yet, oppression and tyranny will drive a proud spirit from earth's fairest Paradise to seek liberty, justice and happiness in a less-favored spot of earth. Andrew Steele believed in American Independence; he fought for it, worked for it in Kentucky, and eventually found his reward and became a man of high position and influence."

He is described as "Captain Andrew Steele" in Perrin's History of Kentucky. Perhaps the title was given to him by courtesy, as we have been unable to verify it on any record in the Land Office at Frankfort. Besides his extensive holdings in Fayette County, he had many valuable tracts of land in Bourbon, Mason, Scott, Woodford and Franklin Counties. His

two brothers-in-law lost their lives in the battles of Boonestown and Bryan's Station. One of the handsomest avenues in the Capital City, Steele street, was called for William Steele, a cousin of Andrew. A large number of his relatives settled near him in Kentucky, between whom there were the most affectionate family relations. Their descendants are now scattered far apart in almost every State of the Union. Many of them are bankers, doctors and lawyers. They were always ready with purse and rifle to aid the cause of their country, for which their Irish ancestors fought so well. They were distinguished for their courage, their endurance and well-known ability, whether in the front or as civil officers, or in the rearguard in the terrible border warfare along the Ohio River, and on the south shore line of Pennsylvania, Virginia and Kentucky.

Another Kentucky pioneer was Thomas Steele, who, as well as his wife, Eleanor Moore, were natives of Newtown-Limavady. He was Andrew's younger brother, and joined him about 1787, locating in Woodford County.

Irish Pioneers in Kentucky.

Large Irish Catholic Settlements in the Early Days of Bardstown and Other Places—The Need for Systematic Research.

Among the descendants of Irish pioneers of Mason County who represented that section in the Kentucky Legislature, between 1792 and 1815, were John Maher, John McKee, James W. Coburn, James Ward and Michael Dougherty. Michael Cassidy, a native of Ireland, was sent to the House of Representatives from this county in 1797.

The first frame house in Maysville was built by Charles Gallagher. He also kept the first store in that city. The first brick house was built by Simon Kenton. The first white child born in the county was Joseph Logan, son of John Logan. He was born at McKinley's block house on September 27, 1785.

In the early part of 1790 John May, from whom Maysville took its name, came down the Ohio, embarked at Kelly's Station on the Kenawha River, whence they proceeded to Point Pleasant, where they were joined by a man named Flynn, who, with two sisters, named Fleming, had come from Pittsburgh. The party came up with a roving band of Indians, with whom they had a desperate fight, in which several of the white men were killed. Flynn was a terror to the red men, whom he had put to flight on several occasions when they attacked the white settlements. They accordingly vowed vengeance on him, and when captured at Point Pleasant, put their terrible threat into execution by burning the unfortunate Irishman at the stake.

Colonel Timothy Downing, an Irishman, was a well known pioneer of Mason County. On his return on one occasion from Lexington, where he had been on a trading expedition, he was captured by Indians near Blue Licks. They crossed the Ohio with him at Logan's Gap, but after a most thrilling experience, he escaped and returned to Maysville.

A Captain Richard McCarty is mentioned among the pioneers of Mason County. It is thought he was one of the Virginia family of that name, who, like so many others, were attracted to the rich country to the West. There is nothing on record to indicate that he settled down in Kentucky, but his name is mentioned in several old records and narratives of the military expeditions under General George Rogers Clark as taking part in expeditions against the Indians. It is related that in a

conflict with a band of Indians near the River Raisin in the Spring of 1793, Captain McCarty commanded the Kentuckians. He was taken and led into captivity, but was purchased from the Indian chief on the restoration of peace. He and a Captain Baker were the only two of the captives to escape, the remainder having all been tomahawked.

One John Coburn came to Kentucky from Philadelphia in 1784. He was first a merchant in Lexington and in 1788 was admitted to the bar. In 1794 he settled in Mason County. He became Judge of the District Court and later of the Circuit Court. President Jefferson appointed him Judge of the Territory of Michigan, which office he declined, but subsequently accepted the appointment to the judgeship of the Territory of Orleans and held court at St. Louis. He is described as a man of great ability and much respected. Collins says he was "one of the most indefatigable, efficient and accomplished political writers of his day." There is no reference to his nationality, but his name warrants us in placing him in this category of Kentucky's Irish-American pioneers.

The Fighting Race.

McCracken County was named after Captain Virgil McCracken, a native of Woodford County, Ky., whose father was one of the first adventurers in that region and who lost his life on November 4, 1782, in the expedition of General Clark against the Piqua towns to avenge the terrible battle of Blue Licks. Captain Virgil McCracken raised a company of riflemen and at the battle of the River Raisin, on January 22, 1813, "fell while bravely fighting at the head of his company."

Meade County was called after another native of Woodford County, Captain James Meade, of Irish descent. When quite a youth he volunteered his services in the Wabash expedition and fought at the famous battle of Tippecanoe, where he was promoted to the rank of captain for his bravery. Like McCracken, Meade met his death at the battle of the River Raisin while leading his company.

Menifee County was named in honor of Richard Menifee, who probably was of Irish origin. He was born in Bath County, Ky., in 1810. He was a school teacher and afterwards a lawyer. He had a brilliant career, which was prematurely checked at the early age of 31. "Over the whole State," says Collins, "his death cast a gloom. It has been the fortune of but few men of the same age to achieve a reputation so splendid. Born in obscurity and forced to struggle in early life against an array of depressing influences, sufficient to crush any common spirit, he had rapidly but surely attained an eminence which fixed upon him the eyes of all America as one of our most promising statesmen. At 27 he was elected to Congress. His efforts in the House, bearing the impress of high genius and commanding talent, soon placed him in the front rank of debates at a time when Congress was remarkable for the number of its able men."

His father, Richard Menifee, represented Montgomery County in the Kentucky House of Representatives from 1801 to 1806. James McElhenny was a Senator from Montgomery at the same time. Montgomery County

was called after the distinguished general of the Revolution, Richard Montgomery, from Donegal.

In Nicholas County there was a flourishing settlement known as "Irish Station," about six miles South of the Lower Blue Licks, on the road to Lexington. It was so called after a group of Irish people who settled in the vicinity some time after 1775. A man named Lyons established himself near there and carried on a large trade in general merchandise.

Irish Catholic Settlements.

Benjamin J. Webb, in his "Catholicity in Kentucky," refers to a large number of Irish settlers who located in 1785 at Pottinger's Creek, about fifteen miles Southeast of Boston, in Nelson County. He relates that in 1785 a "league of sixty families was formed in St. Mary's County, Md., who were all Catholics, each of whom was pledged to emigrate to Kentucky within a specified time." Twenty families left Maryland in 1785, the remainder following within a few years.

Among the leading Irish Catholic families of this vicinity are mentioned those of Ignatius Byrne, Henry McAtee, Ignatius and Randal Hogan, William Mahony, Bernard Nally, Henry Norris, James Mollihone, Jeremiah Brown, Philip and Henry Miles, Thomas Bowlin, James Queen and Francis Bryan. Mrs. Monica Hagan had been there since 1782. She settled at New Hope with her three sons, Clement, James and Edward.

In 1790 Thomas McManus, with his wife, Mary, and four children, left Lancaster, Pa., to make their home in Bardstown, Ky. McManus and his wife were both natives of Ireland and had settled some years before in Lancaster, where their children were born. They embarked on a flatboat at Pittsburgh, with a number of other Catholic emigrants, whose names are not mentioned, but who, without doubt, were largely, if not wholly, Irish. In our articles on Western Pennsylvania we have shown that a large percentage of its earliest inhabitants had emigrated from Ireland.

Descending the Ohio River at that time was like running the gauntlet between two files of savages. The redmen usually laid in wait in large and formidable parties for the boats floating down the river, and many a death struggle took place between them and the boatmen. The McManus party was fired on and Thomas McManus and a number of his companions were killed. This terrible misfortune checked their journey, but after religiously burying their dead, and the savages having decamped, the remainder of the party proceeded down the river. Mrs. McManus first settled near Winchester, in Clark County, but subsequently removed to Bardstown. She met with many misfortunes, but being a truly courageous woman, she overcame them all, and lived to a very old age. She died at Bardstown in 1825. One of her sons, Charles McManus, was the leading merchant of the town and one of its most honored citizens. He married a noted Kentucky beauty, Priscilla Roby. Mary McManus married Edward Hayden, one of the principal purveyors in Kentucky for General Andrew Jackson's army.

The town of Bardstown was once called "the Athens of the West" by Henry Clay. "One hundred years ago," says a writer in the *Sun*, "it was mentioned in the same class with New York, Boston and Philadelphia. To-day it is a village of 1,800 people, a picturesque community scattered over one of Kentucky's cave-punctured bluffs and boasting its chief waterway in Pitch Fork Creek. Once known as one of the centers of American learning, with its Jesuit College, its seminaries, its massive cathedral, its proud gentry and its beautiful women, Bardstown is known to-day only as the county seat of Nelson County, and alone distinguished for its product of "Old Nelson Rye." "From learning to liquor," as Governor Johnson once described it.

John Reynolds was one of the earliest emigrants to Bardstown. One Prendergast was there in 1777. There were several families named Hogan there in 1812, all Catholics.

Colony Headed by an Irish Priest.

Rev. Mr. Whelan, an Irish Franciscan, was sent from Maryland to Kentucky by Bishop Carroll. He arrived in Bardstown in 1787 with a new colony, and "the Catholics met him with open arms." When Father Whelan left Kentucky in 1790 and returned to Maryland, he was succeeded by Rev. William de Rohan, who was born in France of Irish parentage.

Bishop Spalding, in describing the journey of Fathers Badin and Barrieres, two French priests, who in 1793 had been assigned by Bishop Carroll to the distant Kentucky settlements, relates that they celebrated divine service at the house of Dennis McCarthy, an Irish Catholic, in Lexington. McCarthy had been a clerk in the commercial house of Colonel Stephen Moylan, the Corkman who distinguished himself as the organizer and commander of the Fourth Dragoons, popularly called "Moylan's Dragoons," in the Revoluntionary War.

Benjamin J. Webb, author of "Catholicity in Kentucky," says there was a large number of settlers of Irish birth among those who first located at Hardin's Creek, "more, possibly, than were attached to any Catholic settlement in the State, with the single exception of the wholly Irish settlement on Cox's Creek, in Nelson County." The Hardin's Creek settlement was established in 1786, and that at Cox's Creek in 1795. Among the Irish families whom he mentions are those of the Hogans, Flannigans, Mollahones, Raneys, Hoskins, Maddens, Bryans, Gannons and Hughes. Their descendants are still numerous in Marion and adjoining counties.

In 1800 a family named Kelly came from Ireland and settled in Bardstown. Other Irish Catholics who are mentioned among the early settlers at Bardstown, and who are supposed to have come with Father Whelan in 1787, were named McArdle, McGill, McAtee, Rogers, Moore and Harkins. James McGill and his wife, Lavinia Dougherty, were both natives of Ireland. Among the Irish residents of the town about 1810 are mentioned Patrick Donohoo, Simon and William McDonough and William and George Dougherty. The last two became lay teachers in the celebrated college of St. Joseph at Bardstown.

As we have already pointed out, our Irish-American literary and historical societies will find in Kentucky one of the most fruitful and interesting fields for historical research of any in the United States. If a systematic and exhaustive examination were made of the early records of the State, sufficient material of a most reliable character could be found to fill several volumes. The researches made by the writer of these articles have, for want of time and opportunity, been circumscribed and unmethodical; but it goes to show what an organization, formed for the purpose, can accomplish. If this work were done one-half a century ago, we would hear less to-day of the "Anglo-Saxon" and "Scotch-Irish" twaddle that is handed out to us from time to time, "when the wine is red."