

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

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Price Pike And Its People  
1800 - 1950

By

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A paper presented to the  
Boone County Historical Society

July 17, 1957

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In searching for the history of Price Pike through the court records of three counties, Campbell, Kenton, and Boone, it could all be summed up in a few words taken from the will of Albert Price. It was built by and named for him.

The records of the land owners through which the pike ran proved so intriguing, the writer felt a few who are here today would be interested in the mere mention of names of the past century, while others of the last half century will learn more of the early pioneers of this part of Boone County.

To find the first Price owners, a trip was made to Campbell county Courthouse, Alexandria, Kentucky. Here one of the earliest recorded deeds (October 5, 1798) containing the names Graves was my starting point because the names Graves has always been closely linked with Price and the deed read as follows: Bennett Bartlett of the County of Albermarle, Virginia, and Abraham Graves of the County of Campbell, State of Kentucky, for the sum of 174 lbs current money of Kentucky, parcel of land being part of tract of 2000 acres, surveyed by Clark and Harvee at Bullittsburg on the Ohio. Deed Book "B", page 320. 1800, Wm. Graves of County of Campbell to John Graves of the county for 175 lbs current money of Kentucky, 350 acres.

Kenton County had no early records so on the to Boone County Court House at Burlington, Kentucky. The earliest indenture here in Beed Book "A" was in 1785 as follows: John Craig 20400 A in Boone County, granted by Commonwealth of Virginia by patent.

1806 - Thomas Corneal for \$450 in hand, parcel of 5000 acres at headwaters of Dry Creek and Gunpowder Creek in name of Wm. Peachy. (This name Peachy appears later on property line of Price's)

1808 - On death of Wm. Graves (father), John Graves and wife Peggy each received one-half of estate; one negro woman named Dinah, one negro boy named Stephen, two negro girls Linda and Phoebe, livestock, furniture, and tools. Names of witnesses: Absolom Graves, Joseph Graves, Pugh Price.

Florence Cemetery \* Elizabeth Bartlett Graves, wife of Major Bartlett Graves, born in Matheson County, Virginia. Died 1867. Three sons of B. Graves are buried here; ages 29 years, 18 years, 1 year.

in 1781



1817 - Pugh Price and wife Elizabeth, to Ephriam Utz, 50 acres on Woolperts Creek. Book "C" - deed of gift between Bird Price of Fayette County and Pugh Price of Woodford for love and affection, 300 acres. (Pugh was son of Bird Price)

The name of Williamson T. Price occurs in several transactions of small parcels of land (125 acres, more or less). Deed Book "H", page 171. Pugh Price to Wm. T. Price of Boone County, 100 acres on Woolperts Creek.

1831 - Deed Book "H", page 388. Wm. T. Price of the town of Covington, County of Campbell, and Pugh Price of the town of Burlington, garner to Wm. T. Price.

1832 - October 3. Between the State of Kentucky, of one part and Wm. T. Price of same county, both become security for said Pugh Price.

William T. Price had two sons, Andrew and Albert, and one daughter, Ann Price. In his will, recorded at Burlington Court House, the sons were to share equally in the home-stead. Daughter Ann Price my tract near Burlington. If they should arrive of age before the death of wife Nancy, wife Nancy will give to either or all of them such slaves as she may choose, being particular at the time to ascertain value so as to enable parties to have equal distribution of final division of estate.

The inscription on the monument to William T. Price, in Florence Cemetery, reads: Wm. T. Price born August 5, 1780; died May 1830. Wife Nancy Starkes Price born Sept. 1800; died Nov. 1839.

1836 - Bertram Corneal of Cincinnati, Ohio, party of the first part to John Graves and Ben Dulaney in County of Boone and Campbell and on Dry Creek Run for sum of \$1500, 1600 acres excepting 90 acres to John Griffith and 100 acres to Wm. Goodrich.

1849 - Book "Q", page 36. Deed between Bird Smith (son-in-law of Mary Price) to Albert Price (\$ 3750.00) farm formerly owned by Wm. T. Price and on which said William was living at the time of his death. Farm containing 535 acres lying and being on road from the town of Florence, Boone County, to the mouth of Dry Creek, beginning at stake near sugar and buckeye tree to corner of lands of H. Stuck, John and Joshua Souther, to corner of Allen Barlow's purchase, corner of Peachy's 5000 acres, then with line of Crisler's purchase with line of Harrison's 1600 acres survey. Signatures: Bird Smith, Ann Smith.

September, 1851. Book "R", page 325. For faithful services performed by my yellow man, Thomas; his general fidelity to me, my



father and mother and sister, requests he shall be set free and emancipated on the first day of August, 1854. In consideration of \$10.00 paid by L. L. Youell.

Perry Allen of Florence, Kentucky, relates that eight or ten slaves were buried on his father's farm which adjoined the John Fisher place on Price Pike.

1852 - Book "R", page 563. A. Finch to Joseph Scott of Bourbon County for \$5000 in County of Boone on waters of Dry Creek along lines of Ben Dulaney, Husin Peachy's old line, Stuck heirs to a stone in center of road leading from Florence to mouth of Dry Creek then with said road and a line of Albert Price's to a corner of Stuck's heirs containing 100 acres.

This story related by Carl Price of Georgetown, Kentucky, about Mr. Stuck, adds its bit to history. During the California gold rush Mr. Stuck left his family at Florence, went west and was never heard from again. Mr. Bob Brown, of Florence, verifies this story and Mr. Yealey has papers dated 1842-45 stating that Mr. Stuck was a coffin maker by trade. He was the second man to join the Christian Church at Florence and was also Judge of elections held at Florence precinct, August 6, 1845.

John Fisher, colored, who worked for the Prices, gave me this information. He said the Price Pike extended 1.7 miles beyond the cross roads and that he worked on it when the surveying and building was being done. John Fisher, now 84 years of age, came to Boone County at the age of 17 from Bourbon County, Kentucky, and recalls seeing Civil War soldiers returning home. He was born on the farm of Samuel Clay, Bourbon County, Ky. Living at the crossroads were these colored families: Fisher, Cleveland, Murray, and Foster.

When the writer moved to the Jos. Graves farm in 1891, Price Pike was a mud road from the Wm. Albert Price farm to the crossroads. Later the farmers hauled stone or contributed one or two dollars or two days work to improve the road when the county took it over.

In the will of Albert Price, Sr., recorded in Boone County Court House at Burlington, he stated that an amount be subscribed and appropriated out of the estate necessary or sufficient to complete the Florence and Anderson Ferry turnpike road to the forks of the present county road near where a mill formerly stood known as the Allen Barlow saw mill. The pike was named for this Albert Price, Sr.

When the toll house came into being it was located across ~~from~~ the road from what is now known as the Butler Carpenter farm. Perry Allen, resident of Price Pike says that Frank and Mary



Murray were its first keepers. Other keepers were Bob Brown, Schwybalds, Portwoods, and Lails. Later it was moved nearer the junction of Price and Burlington Pikes where the Daugherty property now is and was kept by a Mrs. Stevens. Carl Price says it was moved back to the old place when she died and the Lails were the last to keep it. To the Writer's recollection the fee for each time of passing through was never more than five cents. Carl Price says ten cents for a two-horse wagon, and three cents if on horseback were the fees.

Albert Price, son of William T. Price, was born March, 1822 and died in 1874. His wife, Frances Souther, was born in 1827 and died in 1905. To this union were born three sons and one daughter. They were Williamson E., Andrew, and William Albert. The daughter, Ann Matilda, married John Carpenter and later became Mrs. Carpenter Smith.

The epitaph on the grave stone of Albert Price is, "A lovely follower of the Lord above, while here on earth his soul was bent. His word was kindness, his deeds were love, his spirit humble and his life well spent. These, these and not this stone shall be his monument!"

By his will dated 1874, his estate was surveyed by M. L. Rice and divided into four lots. Each lot containing 220 acres more or less; one lot was given to his daughter. For each of his sons he built on their tract a two-story frame house using the same plan and style of architecture. (Carl Price says this was about 1870) Each house contained eight very large rooms and halls. Surrounded by huge maple, beech, and evergreen trees, with their large barns, out buildings, and white-washed fences made them show-places long to be remembered. Later these places were owned by John and Joseph Graves, Wm. Albert Price retaining ownership of his the longest. Wm. Albert was married to Anna Graves, daughter of Milton Graves, whose farm joined that of Joseph Graves. Wm. Albert and Anna had two sons, Carl M., and Alonza (deceased). Later they moved to Erlanger, Kentucky, where Wm. Albert became president of the Erlanger bank. He died in 1929. His wife Anna died in ~~1938~~. 1938.

Carl was married to India Hance of Big Bone, Kentucky. They lived for a few years on his father's farm, then moved to Petersburg, Kentucky, and later to Georgetown, Kentucky, where they now reside. To them were born five children: Anna Lucille, Kathleen, Warren, Hance (deceased), and Milton. Anna Lucille is now Mrs. Shropshire and Kathleen is the wife of Dr. Frank Smith.

The years from 1885 to 1910 brought to the Pike other farmers and land owners; thrifty, energetic, ambitious Irish, German, English, and Scotch pioneers they were too. The Sniders, O'Haras, Millers, Allen, Schwartzs, Culbertsons, Carpenters, Clutterbucks and Tanners. Here dreams were made and took flight, leaving a new

generation of 1950 to carry on: the Scotts, Foltzs, Bohs, Terlaus, Morris, O'Haras, and others.

About 1950 the last of the Price houses was torn down. One previously and the other was destroyed by fire. The homestead of Williamson T. Price still stands, estimated age being 135 years. Carl Price says Ashbrook built it.

Price Pike should be justly proud of its past history and exceedingly proud to get the fine new Boone County High School completed this year 1954. It is located on the land once owned by the grandfather of Mrs. Perry Barlow (Robert Snider, 1851) and later owned by the Prices.

There is a greatly improved Price Pike leading to the Greater Cincinnati Airport located a few miles away in Boone County.

To the present generation of Prices and residents of Price Pike may your watchword be, "Continued all-round progress"