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BIG CROSSING STATION, BUILT BY ROBERT JOHNSON

RECORDED IN
JOHN D. SHANE'S INTERVIEW WITH PIONEER
BEN GUTHRIE

BY MRS. WILLIAM H. COFFMAN

INTRODUCTION

John Dabney Shane, the writer of the manuscript notes of the Guthrie interview here published, was a Presbyterian minister whose field of labor was, during some years, in West Lexington Presbytery, Kentucky. The sketch of his life—"Shane, the Western Collector"—by Otto A. Rothert, which appeared in *THE FILSON CLUB HISTORY QUARTERLY*, for January, 1930, tells of Shane's absorbing interest in everything pertaining to early Kentucky history and of his indefatigable efforts, in spite of continued ill health, to preserve newspapers, scrap-books, letters, and notes on his personal interviews with old settlers. Shane gathered material on many historical subjects, but he specialized in the early history of the Presbyterian Church and in the everyday life of the pioneers.

After his death, in 1864, about half his notebooks were acquired by Dr. Lyman C. Draper. They form a valuable part of the splendid collection which Dr. Draper, in 1891, bequeathed to the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, where they are available to all students of history.

This interview with Ben Guthrie illustrates Shane's ability to secure from an apparently uninterested old pioneer—a farmer who considered the interview "unimportant" and "wo'dn't stop

from his corn to talk longer"—facts which illumine an important episode in early Scott County history, for Big Crossing Station was the first permanent settlement made in the county.

Such was Shane's skill, however, that we see old Mr. Guthrie warming up to his story, re-living his youth, rescuing from oblivion the names of early companions, and achieving for himself historical importance he never dreamed of. The little that is known today of the life of Ben Guthrie and his family is embodied in these notes pertaining to Big Crossing Station.

Though the first permanent settlement in Scott County, Big Crossing was not the first settlement; the first was begun by the McClellands at Floyd's Spring where Georgetown now stands. Judge Samuel M. Wilson, of Lexington, who has made a careful study of Kentucky pioneer history, presents the following facts on the beginning of these two stations:

In the early summer of 1774, Colonel John Floyd, deputy surveyor to Colonel William Preston, of Fincastle County, accompanied by a surveying party of three or four men, made a connected chain of military surveys on the waters of North Elkhorn, which extended to the headwaters of the main North Fork, and also of Cane Run, its principal southern tributary. The diary of Thomas Hanson, one of the party, gives a graphic account of their daily life, and of the discovery of the Royal Spring which Floyd included in his 1,000 acres.

The following year, after a preliminary survey of the Elkhorn country (made in the spring of 1775), John McClelland and his family, in all a party of about a dozen, late in October, 1775, left the neighborhood of Pittsburgh for Kentucky, "bringing with them, in addition to household goods, the first importation of horses and cattle into northern Kentucky." Their objective was the Royal Spring, "where they proceeded to build a large cabin in which they made their home until April, 1776, raising crops of corn, working and improving their location in the years 1775 and 1776. Because of renewed Indian depredations and renewal of hostilities, a battalion of militia of the inhabitants on the north side of the Kentucky River was formed and officers elected who were duly commissioned by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Some of the families from the mouth of the Kentucky River, from Hinkston's settlement on Licking, and from Drennon's Lick, united with the McClellands in building a fort at Royal Spring

which was known by the name of McClelland's Fort or McClelland Station. This was in May, 1776."

The fort, however, proved too exposed for safety, and after an attack by Pluggy and his Mingo warriors on Christmas Day, 1776, in which a number of the defenders were killed and others wounded, the fort was abandoned, the survivors retiring to the comparative safety of Harrod's Fort or Town. Shortly thereafter the abandoned site was again occupied and, in time, became Georgetown.¹

There is no record of any attempt at a settlement in this region in the interval between this disaster at McClellands and the building of the Big Crossing Station in 1783. Years of stress and strain for the settlers and their families and the frequent incursions of Indians made settlement outside the stations or forts extremely hazardous. However, with the opening of Colonel Thomas Marshall's office in Lexington in the year 1782, for the purpose of entering land warrants, there began, says Cave Johnson, "a mighty movement . . . among the people for entering and surveying. . . . The next year the people began to move and settle out on the lands."

In that year, 1783, Robert Johnson determined to move his family to his land on North Elkhorn, which he had purchased before his first trip, in 1779, to Kentucky, it being a part of Colonel John Floyd's survey made in 1774. On this land, as we shall see, he established Big Crossing Station.

Robert Johnson was not only the builder of this station but was also one of the leading men of his day and the founder of a family that became prominent in the political, religious, and social life of Kentucky. The story of Big Crossing Station is to a great extent the story of the life and times of its founder. More or less pertaining to the career of Robert Johnson is therefore embodied in this Introduction.

In the spring of 1779 Robert Johnson, his brother Cave, and William Tomlinson, started alone on their first trip to Kentucky, which has been so vividly described by Cave Johnson, then a lad of nineteen. Arriving at the Cumberland, they overtook the Bryans, Boones, and others. They traveled with them to Bryan's Station, where the two younger men remained, to help plant corn and build cabins, while Robert Johnson went in search of the land he had previously bought. Satisfied, he returned to Virginia

early in June and immediately began to make preparations to take his family to Kentucky. By fall all arrangements were completed, and with their four children, household goods, and slaves the Johnsons started for Redstone on the Monongahela River. The river being very low, they were detained there until spring, when, as stated by Cave Johnson, "he got into his boat and landed safe at the falls of the Ohio," going on to Beargrass, near the Falls of the Ohio, where he settled with his family on John Floyd's land, expecting to raise a crop and then go to Bryan's Station.

During this summer (1780) Robert Johnson went out with George Rogers Clark on an expedition into the Miami Country against the Indians. He also took part in an attack on the Indians who were waylaying and killing the settlers on the short trace which led from Beargrass Settlements to the Falls. While the Johnsons were living at Beargrass, their fifth child, Richard M. Johnson, was born.*

In pursuance of his plan, in the fall of 1780, Robert Johnson moved his family to Bryan's Station, where he built some cabins, making part of the fort. They remained there until his Station at Big Crossing was built. Meantime he was elected a member of the Virginia Assembly, and was absent at the time of the siege of Bryan's Station, August, 1782, but his wife and little daughter Betsy were among the women who helped defend the Fort. Tradition credits his wife, Jemima Johnson, with leading the women to the spring for water on the fateful day of the attack. He returned from Virginia in time to command a company in Clark's campaign in October, 1782.

The months spent at Bryan's Station, when fear of Indian attack had subsided, afforded Johnson ample leisure for acquainting himself with the country. His time seems to have been fully employed in making surveys of the land for himself and for others. The tract of land on which he chose to settle, lies on both sides of North Elkhorn, the eastern limit about two miles west of what later became Georgetown and embraced about two miles of the Buffalo Trace leading from the northwest to Blue Licks. The exact location of the Station—Big Crossing Station—was probably chosen because of the large spring—a spring which still affords an ample water supply for all needs. It was in sight of Elkhorn Creek and the big crossing of the Buffalo Trace across

this stream. Hence the name. The place was later known as Great Crossings, and gave the name of Great Crossings to the village which grew up around the Robert Johnson's or Big Crossing Station; and the same name was also applied to the church built on the Johnson land.

No description of the old station has been found. Traditions told today about its early events are vague. That the place was prepared for Indian attacks is indicated by a statement made by John T. Johnson who was born in 1788 and who about fifty years later said, "Indians committed depredations and murders in the vicinity of Great Crossing after my birth, and I distinctly recollect the stockading around my father's yard." Guthrie says, "It was picketed in."

All trace of the fort has now disappeared, though the fence which encloses the old frame dwelling house and the spring suggests the approximate size and parallelogram shape of the pioneer fort. In 1785 a church was organized. In time North Elkhorn was dammed, a mill was erected, a bridge built across the stream, some residences and shops arose to meet community needs, and Great Crossings became a thriving little village.*

Shane's notes on his interview with Guthrie pertain to Big Crossing Station and are here published in full. Words inserted in brackets and the footnotes have been added for this printing. Words in italics are Shane's memoranda of contents, written on the margin of his manuscript; they are here printed at the beginning of their respective subjects. The original manuscript is in the Draper Collection in the Wisconsin State Historical Society; a photostat copy is in the archives of The Filson Club. The document is designated Draper Manuscript 11 CC 253-57.

SHANE'S INTERVIEW WITH GUTHRIE

BEN GUTHRIE. Between the [Sublett or Shyroock] ferry turnpike, and the [Glenn's Creek] mill road. Wouldn't stop from his corn to talk longer. Unimportant [to Guthrie].

Coming out. Defeated family: [Ben Guthrie] Came to Ky., fall of 1783; and settled with Robert Johnson, Col. Dick's [Richard M. Johnson's] father. Came in Company with 16 horsemen and without any families. A family, on the way, was defeated—and next day we passed the place, but was not attacked. This was

the other side of Richland Creek [now in Knox County]. We camped on the Creek that night, after we passed the place of attack. This was about the last of October. Saw none of them (that is of the defeated Company). It was the night before, and was now getting late in the evening when we came to the place.

*Cave Johnson:*⁴ Cave Johnson, a brother of Robt. Johnson, was of our company.

*Richard Cave:*⁵ Dicky Cave, an Uncle, came out, and stopped too, at Gilbert's Creek [now in Clay County], where he lived, and had made a crop in 1782. Had gone in to settle his business. His family was out [to Kentucky], I think, in 1782. Cave Johnson had been out in 1782, also. Was then a single man.

Richard Taylor. Gilbert's Station. Crossings Station built. Bryan's Station. Dick Taylor was one of our company. Was a week or two at Gilbert's Station. Heard that Robt. Johnson intended to build a Station at the [Big] Crossings, and wanted some young men to help him. I then went over to Bryan's Station, and there remained till we got Big Crossings Station finished. It was picketed in. The Big Crossings were 15 ms. from Bryan's Station. The families at the Big Crossings were:

1. Robert Johnson;
2. Robert Bradley;⁶
3. Wm. Shortridge;⁷
4. John Suckett;⁸
5. David Herndon (called Hearn);
6. Thomas Herndon;⁹
7. Henry Herndon, single;¹⁰
8. Widow Herndon, their Mother;¹¹
9. Julius Gibbs;¹²
10. Jimmy Sturrett;¹³
11. Stephen Lowry.¹⁴

Harrison's Station. Riddle's Station. Harry Hearn [Herndon] & I went on down towards Harrison's Station [in Harrison County]. There was another station down there, Riddle's. [Ruddle's in Bourbon County]. Both had been defeated, and these 2 families, Jimmy Sturrett's & Stephen Lowry's, hearing we were coming for them, came out to meet and go with us to our Big Crossings Station.

Time of Settling Big Crossings Station. Mills at Crossings. These 2 last families were moved summer of 1784. The previous families came before Xstmas, 1783. A horse mill, was used at first (turned with horse-power), and then, in 1784, a water mill was built; but there came a fresh and washed it away, before any grinding was done.

*McConnell's Station.*¹⁵ *Water Mill.* Aunt Jane, &c.

(At McConnell's Station was the 1st water mill this side of the Kentucky. Aunt Jane Stevenson. McConnell's folly.)

Geo. Gibson,¹⁶ 1787. (See p. 15.) [*Sic.*] Geo. Gibson's family lived over on North Elkhorn, (just below New-town,) opposite to the bend in the Creek, just below the crossing, below Horn's, Hornback's, or Henry's Mill. In 1787, I think, Gibson was killed in his field.

Josiah Pitts.¹⁷ *George Town, 1st house, 1785.* Josiah Pitts was one among the 1st that built a house in George Town. Geo. T. was commenced before or after Xst-mas, 1785, &c. Pitts kept entertainment [tavern].

Ben McClennan [McClelland].¹⁸ 1785. *Bourbon McClennan* [McClelland]. *Settling out. 1784; 1785-6.* (1786, living with Cave Johnson). Ben McClennan settled in the neighborhood of Big Crossing about 1785. One McClennan [?] lived up in Bourbon, in a stone house. Was driven from it by the Indians 4 times. This side of Hinkston's fork. Millersburgh right the other side. We made one crop in 1784, at the Big Crossings, & then moved out. Some made 2 crops. A good many families came in about 1785, or '86, and settled about. Fall of 1786 Cave Johnson took me to live with him, 6 months, up 2 or 3 miles above here.

June, 1784, Licking Surveys. Col. Johnson had sowed some wheat up at Bryant's Station, fall 1783. In June 1784, 3 men, Alexr. McConnell, David Perry, Col. Perry, from Monongahela, met us, (while we were there to reap this wheat), just as we got there. They had engaged Col. Johnson to do surveying on Licking waters. Col. Johnson was with us. He had had more surveying to do, than he could accomplish, or had accomplished [promised], and couldn't go; but sent me to McGee's Station to get Ben Waller. Waller sent word that he would meet us at the Upper Blue Licks; couldn't come by. We started Wednesday. Thursday night we came into the neighborhood, about 4 ms., from the Lower Blue Licks, at which place one David Tanner was then making salt, & had a guard which was paid for, with a fort and countersign [necessary for admission]. We stopped and kindled up a fire, and the 2 Perrys went out to see if they could kill something. The Col. went up & David went down a small dreaan or branch, on a flat piece of ground. The Col. shot 3 times, so quick, we became alarmed. He had shot a buffaloe, and put in powder and bullit without wadding to finish the killing, when

his brother came in alarmed, and said he would go up and see if there were Indians, & if his brother was not killed, bring him in. If there were Indians he would hollow & we must put on the packs, cut loose the hobbles, and be ready to start. He went, & soon came back with his brother and called that there were no Indians, & that they would go back. They then went back, and in the short time of their absence, a bullit had been cut out, a piece taken off the shoulder, & the tongue taken out. They immediately returned & told us. By that time we had gotten up a smart fire, but determined immediately to go on to the fort. When we got there, they wouldn't let us in. We didn't know the countersign.

[*David*] *Tanner at Blue Licks.* They, (the guard that was on the outside), went to the fort and asked Tanner. He said to question well, and do what was proper. [Tanner feared they were Tories.] The Perrys had been there before, on their way up, and that helped us to get in. The evening before we got there, 2 young women & a $\frac{1}{2}$ grown boy were tomahawked, & scalped just below the ford of the Blue Licks. It was not more than 300 or 400 yds. from the Fort to the ford. They survived. The rest that were with them escaped. The Indians were in such a hurry, they did not stop to kill those they got to attack. They went on to McGhee's Station where they had relatives. Ben Waller never came, and these men went on to Pa.

March 6, 1784. Licking Surveys. March 6, 1784, was the time we started to make those Licking Surveys, and staid. The snow went away very fast, in a day or two before.

Surveying on North Fork of Licking. Middle April, 1784. Kenton, April, 1784. Middle of April, 1784, Austin Easton, Wm. Henry, Humphrey Marshall, Ben Waller, Simon Kenton spy, surveyed on the North fork of Licking, north-side. Somewhere about midnight of the 2d night of our encampment, Kenton told us there was a large camp of Indians he had watched a good while—& he had no doubt that they had discovered us, and would attack us between then and morning. The 4 cos. [companies] had agreed to be together of nights, and just united and went in back.

April, 1784, Survey in Fleming. Col. Boone, 1784, April. In April, 1784, Col. Robt. Johnson went out surveying in Fleming County. Daniel Boon was pilot. Crossed at the Upper Blue

Licks, where we saw 600 buffaloes. Dan'l Boon, & Col. (then Capt.) Johnson, stood by the river and counted 300 that we, (4 or 5 of us) drove over to see them swim the [Licking] river. And they thought as many were left behind on this side yet. Danl. Boon knew where we were to begin: 7000 [acres] for John Edwards; 1000 for Wm. Sharp; 1000 for Wm. Neville; 1000 for one Webber; 500 for one Alcocke.

Fall, 1784, road to Blue Licks. In Sept. or Oct., 1784, we cut out the road from Bryan's Station to Blue Licks. There were along, a good many from Bryan's Station and all the men from the Big Crossings. It had been cut out before, only to Bryan's Station. After that they followed Buffalo traces, which were as plain as roads, after they got out of the cane.

Johnson's expedition, 1789, Aug. A large body of Indians were camped on the other side of the Ohio, and were continually coming over, and doing a good deal of mischief. Robt. Johnson took a company; 2 Grants [Samuel and Israel] were killed there. Grant was looking from behind a tree, to get to see an Indian, and was shot. Israel Grant, his brother went to see if he really was killed, and an Indian shot him.

*Shipp's Station, the Dock Yard.*¹⁰ Leyburn Shipp's Station, 5 ms. above Geo. Town, called the Dock-Yard, (a play on his name) 2d house this side of Henry Mill crossing, between Krumbaugh's & Henry's Mill. He had settled there the year before I went there—the latter part of the year 1785. Staid there 1786. And in Feb. 1787 I moved here.

Geo. Gibson (see p. 14) [sic]. After I moved Geo. Gibson was killed. It was said but 4 Indian tracks were seen. They often went in 4's. A company was raised, and pursued, but didn't overtake them.

*Geo. Town.*¹⁰ *Removals.* Where Geo. T. is, was all a cane-brake. I staid at Cave Johnson's 6 mos., then went to the Dock-Yard. There got married, and moved up here in 1787.

*Genl. [Charles] Scott.*²¹ General Scott was just building, I think, then. His son killed while fishing, that year or the year after.

*1786, Road, Lexington to Geo. Town.*²¹ In the fall of 1786 a road was cut from Geo. Town to Lexington. Had buffalo traces before that.

1786, *Clark's Campaign; Todd, Logan.* In 1786, Clark's Campaign. Levi Todd commanded on this side, and Ben Logan on the south side of the Ky.

Frankfort. Genl. Wilkinson. 1786. In 1786 I had an order filled at Genl. [James] Wilkinson's store, in Frankfort. Only store there then. Afterwards, in 1788, Stephens, a saddler in Fkft., for Wilkinson, and Castleman had a tan yard up towards Mortonsville, 6 miles from Versailles, on Clear Creek.

*Andrew Miller.*¹³ One Andrew Miller, lived over on the Hanging-Fork of Salt River. Went out with some others, and was killed by the Indians while trapping. This before I came out. Had this pre-emption right [the one upon which Guthrie then lived].

Edmund Roe. Drennon's Lick. Edmund Roe lived at the Big Crossings, from 1784 to 1787, or '88. Was Col. Johnson's overseer. Got a parcel of hands (Col. J.) and went down there to dig, try to make salt. This Roe was to manage there, & he got killed, & that broke it up. Some black men were there, but they escaped.

Richard Searcy's Wife killed. In 1788, Dick Searcy's wife was killed up here between this & Ky. River. Searcy [Searcy?] had gone to mill. Was middling late when he got home. She had gone to spend the day with Billy Hill's wife, his near neighbor. The Indians way-laid the house, and killed her, as she came on home. He started to go over, to see if she was there, & heard something groan, and found her, a little way from the path, not yet dead.

[Garrett] *Demint Story.*¹⁴ Sunday evening, a young man, "Crutchfield," an apprentice to Danl. James, cabinet maker, who lived a little above Frankfort, was killed just this side of Frankfort, 1789 or '90. Danl. James had gone to Va. He had charged them, if the Indians became troublesome, not to neglect his wife and children. At the time that the Indians came, this young man Crutchfield had gone out on the top of a hill, to see a neighbour. 4 Indians met him, on the top of a hill, in the road, walking along in the road, & shot him. The alarm of this came up here, and I went over to Cave Johnson's, and he came along 3 or 4 hours before day. We got down to Richardson's, 1-½ ms. this side of Frankfort, a little after sunrise. The place of rendezvous was at Richardson's. The women and children had gathered in that evening, & all that night, to this Richardson's and to Billy

Haydon's, who lived (a little way from) in the neighborhood of Frankfort. It was found the next morning, (the 1st, the morning I got there) that Mrs. James hadn't been thought of. (It was after I got there that they thought of Mrs. James.) It was wanted that some one should go for her. Of 4 or 5 who were wanted to go, none were willing. See page 17. [See "Referred to from p. 16."] At last Garrett Demint said he was better acquainted than any of the rest, and went. He made his home with John Demint, their nearest neighbor. Garrett Demint was a single man. Richardson's was 2 miles this side of Frankfort, and Mrs. James' 1 mile, & it might be 2-½ or more between them. Shortly after Demint had left, we heard a gun, and knew it must be Indians that had shot at him. He had gotten nearly to Mrs. James'. There were 4 Indians. They missed him; he ran, and they took after him. They penned him in on a steep bank, and when he jumped down the bank, they were so close, they jumped down, & caught him, before he had time to recover. They led him up the river, in the water's edge, some 200 or 300 yards, as a blind; so that when the men came they didn't know whether he had swam across the river or what. Mrs. James had shut up the doors, & kept close in the house. Next morning those in pursuit took her away.

Referred to from p. 16. [Page 16 of this Ms. There marked, "See page 17."] At last it was proposed that 4 or 5 should go. When Demint got willing, it was then proposed—Some one said: Who will go? Well, said Demint, if nobody else will go, I will go. Col. Woodfork and Richardson, both said, Gentlemen, will none of you go with Garrett Demint? Must he go by himself? And none spoke, (he took his gun, and went on.) & Garrett just went on.

They [the Indians] carried Demint on up, tied with a buffaloe tug, and one Indian holding it by the end, and another holding a tomahawk over him, and another some distance behind, to tell of the approach of the pursuers. The company passing up the [Kentucky] river, fell on their trail where it came out of the river, but never could overhaul them. It got so late they turned back to Lewis Yesterday's, about 4 miles on the road to Versailles, (2 or 3 ms. above Richardson's) where some women and children had also gathered; the place was so full, the men turned their horses into a pound, and went, most of them, into the still-house loft.

(Old Mr.) Wm. Worley, Jimmy Dupuy, old Mr. Willhoit, were all in this company. While they were there, they heard the Indians come & get all their horses; but not knowing their numbers they were afraid to trouble them. The whole country was aroused. Some thought they were going to take Frankfort. One company went up, and one down, on each side of the river, and neither met with any Indians. The Indians lengthened Demint's tug, and made him go in and catch the horses, and then made on for, & crossed the Ohio, before they were come up with.

[*Death of Robert Todd.*] Col. Woodfork and Cave Johnson (Captain of Militia) were crossing to go up and down the river on a scout, when our boat going over, met (this) a boat, bringing over this Robt. Todd, who lived above Geo. Town, about 3 miles from Newtown. He had been down on Green River, surveying, & selling some lands, & had stopped the night before at some man's house, about 2 miles from Frankfort. In the morning, this man advised him of the danger, and not to attempt to come on. But Todd was so near home, and so anxious to get there, he must venture. While coming down the hill, when he had gotten into the bottom, the Indians had there put up an ambush, & shot him right thro' the hips. He had on a pair of shoe-boots. Suppose the blood all went into them, & prevented the Indians from trailing him by it. His horse went down the bottom a piece & he fell off dead. His horse went on a little piece farther, & dropped the saddle-bags. The gun was heard in North Frankfort (there was not a house then in S. Fkft.) and the company we met had immediately gone over, fell on his trail, & brot him over, horse & all. The Indians had not gotten him. He had a good deal of money in his saddle-bags.

Congress Grant. Widows Mitchell & Stuckers. Congress gave the 3 women, widow Mitchell, (mother of John Mitchell) & the 2 widow Stuckers, [Jacob and David], 1200 acres of land, in consideration of the services rendered by their husbands. Place called Germany [Germantown, near Maysville?].

Draper MS 11 CC 253-257

¹In 1784, the year after Big Crossing was started, another group of settlers came in to Scott County under the leadership of Elijah Craig, established themselves at the Royal Spring and proceeded to build a town near the site of the old McClelland Station. Elijah Craig, an eloquent Baptist preacher, was one of three brothers who, fleeing from persecution and imprisonment in Virginia, sought in the western country freedom of thought and larger opportunity. These pioneers came largely from

Virginia, were intelligent, well-to-do, religious people, and under the enterprising leadership of Craig soon built up a settlement and called it Lebanon. In 1790 the name was changed to George Town, and it later became the county seat of Scott County. From the arrival of Craig until his death in 1806, he and Robert Johnson were associated in all community movements, both being men of remarkable qualities of leadership.

Royal Spring is now known as Big Spring. It is and long has been the source of the water supply for Georgetown. Overlooking the bluff from which the spring flows is a monument marking the site of McClelland's Station, erected in 1920 by The Big Spring Chapter D. A. R. of Georgetown. ("Historic Old Royal Spring," by John Owen, *Kentucky Progress Magazine*, March, 1930.)

¹Robert Johnson was a son of William and Elizabeth Cave Johnson, of Orange County, Virginia; they were the parents of nine children, of whom Robert was the oldest: (1) Robert (1745-1815) married Jemima Suggett. (2) Nancy (1747-1810) married William Rogers. (3) Hannah (1749-?) married first Thomas Montaigne, second Robert Bradley. (4) Benjamin (1751-1801) married Betsey Barbour. (5) Mildred (1753-1785) married John Sebree. (6) Elizabeth (1757-1832) married Rev. George Eve. (7) Cave (1760-1850) married first Sally Keene, second Ann Keene, third, in 1784, Elizabeth Craig. (8) Sally (1762-1785) married Laban Shipp. (9) Valentine (1765-1848) married first Nancy Bennett, second Elizabeth Cave, third Mrs. Ann (Pendleton) Brown. Six of them (1, 2, 3, 6, 7, and 8) subsequently came to Kentucky in the pioneer period. The Virginia homestead, Montebelle, maintained by the youngest son, Valentine Johnson, was the birthplace of Zachary Taylor, and has only recently passed from the possession of the family.

Robert and Jemima Suggett Johnson were the parents of eleven children: (1) Betsy (1772-1845) married Gen. John Payne. (2) James (1774-1826) married Nancy Payne. (3) William (1775-1814) married Betsey Payne. (4) Sally (1778-1846) married Gen. Wm. Ward. (5) Richard M. (1780-1850) never married. (6) Benjamin (1784-1849) married Matilda Williams. (7) Robert (1786-1812). (8) Rev. John T. (1788-1856) married Sophie E. Lewis. (9) Joel (1790-1846) married Verlinda Offutt. (10) George W. (1792-1810). (11) Henry (1794-1862) married Betsey J. Flournoy.

²In 1785 Robert Johnson and Jemima Johnson became charter members of the Great Crossings Baptist Church. The church was built on his land, and the minutes of its early meetings reflect his wise guidance. At the first meeting of the trustees of Transylvania at John Crow's Station in November, 1783, we find Robert Johnson, along with Benjamin Logan, Levi Todd, and others, preparing for the advancement of education. He was a member of the conventions which framed the first two constitutions of Kentucky, the first Senator from Woodford County, and was eight times in the House of Representatives from Scott County. In 1796 he was appointed a commissioner, with Judge John Colburn, of Mason County, to run and settle the boundary line between Virginia and Kentucky. He was one of five commissioners appointed by President John Adams in 1798 to value lands, dwelling houses, and slaves in Kentucky. About the same time he appears as a commissioner to draw a plan for a bridge over the Spring Branch (letting the contract to Elijah Craig) as one of the Gentlemen Justices of Scott County, and a trustee of Rittenhouse Academy at Georgetown. About 1808 his energies were turned toward establishing another settlement—this time on the Ohio River. The town which he called Fredericksburgh was laid off, lots were sold, and it was one of the thriving river towns when, in 1831, the name was changed to Warsaw. There Robert Johnson built a home, and it was there that he died October 15, 1815. His body, however, rests beside that of his wife, Jemima Suggett Johnson, in the family burying ground at Great Crossings.

³Cave Johnson: See his "Reminiscences" in *Register Kentucky State Historical Society*, May, 1922, pp. 206-212.

⁴Richard Cave: The name of William Cave heads the list of the sixteen charter members of the Great Crossings Baptist Church when organized in 1785. He "was a member of Lewis Craig's Gilbert's Creek church, and was a preacher of the gospel. He was moderator of Elkhorn Association in 1788, and continued a member of Great Crossings Church until March, 1796, when he and his wife were dismissed by letter." (J. N. Bradley, *History of Great Crossings Church*.)

⁵Robert Bradley: Married in 1779, Hannah Johnson Montaigne, the third child of Colonel William Johnson and Elizabeth Cave, and a sister of Robert Johnson. Hannah Johnson married Thomas Montaigne about 1767 and moved to Boone County, Kentucky, where her husband died, and she married Robert Bradley. She and her husband Robert Bradley moved to Scott County where they spent the rest of their lives. (From unpublished record and family history of Tom L. Johnson.)

⁷William Shortridge: Three tax receipts of John Bradley (brother of Robert) for the years 1809, 1810, 1811 are signed by William Shortridge, deputy sheriff of Scott County. He was a deacon in Great Crossings Baptist Church in 1801.

⁸John Suggett: A brother of Jemima Suggett Johnson, who, with his father, James Suggett, his wife, Mildred Davis Suggett, and family came into Kentucky about the same time as the Johnsons; possibly with them. James Suggett, incorrectly called Davy, figures in Joseph Ficklin's story of the siege of Bryan's Station. (Draper MSS, Shane interview, 16 CC 257-85.) In 1832 John Suggett made application for a pension for services in the Revolutionary War, which was granted. John Suggett's distinguished son, James, was a small boy at the time he lived at Big Crossings. (See *The Battle of The Thames*, Young, The Filson Club Publications No. 18, p. 168.)

⁹Thomas Herndon: Major Thomas Herndon's name appears in Collins' *Kentucky* under Woodford County, as "one of the most active and reliable men in the defense of the North Elkhorn frontier." (See also Captain Herndon, under Scott County, and Major Herndon, under Woodford County, in Collins' *Kentucky*, and "Circuit Court Records," *Register* of the Kentucky State Historical Society, April, 1930, pp. 185, 188; also Perrin's *History of Bourbon, Scott, Harrison and Nicholas Counties* (1882), p. 631.)

¹⁰Henry Herndon: Mentioned as head of a family by Mrs. Polly Hawkins in B. O. Gaines' *History of Scott County*, 1905, Vol. 2, p. 233.

¹¹Widow Herndon: The names of Katy Herndon (or Bohannon) and of Jane Herndon appear on the list of charter members of the Big Crossings Baptist Church, organized May 28, 29, 1785.

¹²Julius Gibbs: Lived in Scott County in 1831 when a Revolutionary pension was granted him. He was a charter member of the Big Crossings Baptist Church.

¹³Jimmy Sturrett: "In Jan. 1776, a company of 'improvers'—Col. Robert Patterson, John McCracken, Stephen Lowry, John Lowry, Benj. McClelland and James Sterritt (all of whom came to this country in Nov. or Dec., 1775,)—was busy in Fayette county." (Collins' *Kentucky*, under Fayette County, p. 178.) In Certificate Book of the Virginia Land Commission is a copy of a certificate issued to James Sterrat for 1,400 acres of land issued on account of Sterrat's proof that he had raised, in 1776, a crop of corn on land "lying on the waters of Dry Run on the North West side of the North fork of Elkhorn about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a Mile from the Mouth about $1\frac{1}{2}$ Miles from McClellens fork to include an improvement made by John Lawrey." (*Register Kentucky State Historical Society*, September, 1923, p. 313.)

¹⁴Stephen Lowry: Came from Derry County, Ireland, settled in Pennsylvania, and came from Pittsburgh to Kentucky in 1776. Record and Pension Office, Washington, D. C., shows that Stephen Lowry served as a private in Richard C. Anderson's company, 5th Virginia Regiment, commanded by Col. Josiah Parker, Revolutionary War. This information furnished by a descendant, Mrs. Ruby Lowry Arnsperger, Paris, Kentucky. (See also Collins' *Kentucky*, Vol. 2, p. 178, and *Register Kentucky State Historical Society*, September, 1923, pp. 279, 292.)

¹⁵McConnell's Station: "Settled by Wm. McConnell in 1783 or earlier at the Royal Spring near (now in) Lexington, was not so fortified as to be a regular station, and was soon merged in Lexington." (Collins' *Kentucky*, Vol. 2, p. 24. See also "Certificate Book," *Register Kentucky State Historical Society*, 1923, p. 104.)

¹⁶George Gibson: Draper MSS 11 CC 94-104 gives the Shane narrative of John Rupard, who was sent from Big Crossing Station to guard the family of one Gibson, living on North Elkhorn, whose son had been killed by Indians.

¹⁷Josiah Pitts: "The first tavern keeper in Georgetown was Josiah Pitts. He was granted a license to keep a tavern at the June term of the County Court in 1793. The order was as follows: 'On motion Josiah Pitts be and is allowed to keep an Ordinary in George Town whereupon he together with Elijah Craig his security entered into bond as the law directs.'" He married a daughter of Elijah Craig and was one of the most prominent men in early Georgetown and Scott County. (See B. O. Gaines' *History of Scott County*; also Dr. Stephen F. Gano's sketch of Georgetown in Perrin's *History of Bourbon, Scott, Harrison and Nicholas Counties*.)

¹⁸Benjamin McClellan or McClelland: "Benj'n McClellan by Rob't Johnson this day claimed a settlement and preemption to a tract of Land in the district of Kentucky on Acc't of raising a Crop of Corn in the Country in the year 1776 lying on Buckhen Run a branch of the North fork of Elkhorn Creek to include his improvement Satisfactory proof being made to the Court they are of Opinion that the said McClellan has a right to a settlement of 400 Acres of land to include the above Location & the preemption of 1000 Acres adjoining & that a Cert. issue accordingly."

(*Register Kentucky State Historical Society*, 1923, p. 293.) "Old Ben McClelland used to live in Fayette County. He was not more than 5 ft 6 inches high—but a very active man—very little, more like a flour barrel." (17 CC 6-25 Shane Collection, Captain John Wilson Narrative.) Benjamin McClelland came to Kentucky in January, 1799, and settled at McClelland's fort, which had been established by his brother John McClelland. He left Kentucky in the same year, returning in 1780 and settled at Beargrass, where he lived several years, after which he moved "to where he now lives on Cane Run." ("Circuit Court Records," *Register Kentucky State Historical Society*, April, 1930, p. 184.) He was a private in Captain David Todd's company at the Battle of the Thames. (Young's *Battle of the Thames*, The Filson Club Publications No. 18, p. 211.)

¹⁹Shipp's Station, the Dock Yard: Mrs. Mary Shipp Hawkins, in her reminiscences says, "I reached Kentucky with my father and mother in April 1785, landing at Maysville. . . . My uncle, Laban Shipp, came to Kentucky the year previous and built a fort near Haun's Mill. Col. Johnson the progenitor of the present race of Johnsons came the year before Laban Shipp did and erected a fort at Great Crossings." (B. O. Gaines' *History of Scott County*.) Robert Johnson's youngest sister Sally married Laban Shipp in Orange County, Virginia, in 1780; she died in 1785, leaving two children, John and Betsey. "Sally Johnson Shipp emigrated with her husband to Kentucky and settled in Christian County." (Tom L. Johnson family history.)

²⁰Georgetown: The date of the permanent settlement of Georgetown varies between the years 1784 and 1796. B. O. Gaines' *History of Scott County* says: "In 1784 the Virginia Legislature incorporated what was then known as McClellan's Station and named it Lebanon." It was settled by Elijah Craig, a Baptist preacher, one of three brothers, who, persecuted for their religious faith in Virginia, came to Kentucky, accompanied by other families of the same sect. In 1790 the village of Lebanon was incorporated and its name changed to George Town. It was so called in honor of George Washington.

²¹General Charles Scott: A distinguished officer of the Revolution; a native of Cumberland County, Virginia, became a resident of Woodford County in 1785; commanded troops in three campaigns against the Indians, culminating in Wayne's Campaign in 1794. He was elected governor of Kentucky in 1808.

²²Road from Lexington to Georgetown: See B. O. Gaines' *History of Scott County*, Vol. 1, p. 103; Vol. 2, p. 227.

²³Andrew Miller: See *Register Kentucky State Historical Society*, September, 1923, p. 281. "The name of John Andrew Miller was attached to Miller's Run"—Judge Samuel M. Wilson.

²⁴Demint Story: See Collins' *Kentucky*, under Woodford County. Also *Register Kentucky State Historical Society*, May, 1916, p. 57.