

Kathryn -  
I tried to find Mrs. Eslinger to correspond with her. The Filson Club gave me her Chicago address. She had moved. Columbia College in Chicago did not know where she had gone.

MIGRATION AND KINSHIP ON THE  
TRANS-APPALACHIAN FRONTIER:  
STRODE'S STATION, KENTUCKY

ELLEN ESLINGER

Frederick Jackson Turner believed that the American frontier produced a new and unique form of society whose source lay in migration to a region of "free land" isolated from civilization. This entailed a virtual break with the past as well as with the institutions and the interpersonal relationships that had patterned daily life. With a few minor exceptions, "unquestionably the move west shattered the social structure of which most pioneers had been a part and they had to fit themselves into another one."<sup>1</sup>

This idea of an abrupt break and a fresh start stands in contrast with another idea, also found in the frontier thesis, of migration patterns. The selection and channelling of migrants helped preserve primary relationships and contributed towards homogeneous frontier populations. Such patterns have long been recognized, and they have inspired efforts to discover a set of natural laws for migration.<sup>2</sup> The laws remain elusive yet it has become increasingly clear that certain factors do influence who migrates when and where. It is also clear that some of these factors operate widely and affect a major proportion of all migrations. One scholar suggests that "at least a quarter of all

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1 Allan G. Bogue, "Social Theory and the Pioneer," in Richard Hofstadter and Seymour Martin Lipset, eds., *Turner and the Sociology of the Frontier* (New York: Basic Books, 1968), 86.

2 Charles Tilly and C. Harold Brown, "On Uprooting, Kinship and the Auspices of Migration," *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 8 (1967): 139-64; Everett Lee, "A Theory of Migration," *Demography* 3 (1966): 47-57; D. B. Grigg, "E. G. Ravenstein and the 'Laws of Migration,'" *Journal of Historical Geography* 3 (1977): 41-54; G. J. Lewis, *Human Migration, A Geographical Perspective* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1982); G. W. Pierson, *The Moving American* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1973).

From Cindy Conser - San Diego, Ca.  
6 July 1992 to P.B.C.

From Peggy Chapman to Alice Hill 7/92  
1988] Strode's Station 53

moves are those linked in some way to family motives."<sup>3</sup> Turner's frontier is simply "a special case of a more general theory of migration."<sup>4</sup>

Studies of historical migrations in America lend credence to such theoretical concerns. Several historical studies indicate that, while many decisions to migrate may have been arbitrary and independent, many others were coordinated with neighboring relatives and friends for reasons both sentimental and practical.<sup>5</sup> Few of these studies deal specifically with migration to frontier settlements, but they imply that settlers did not usually pack themselves off to some strange new environment simply to sink or swim. In moving to a place with weak formal institutions such as existed on the frontier, interpersonal relationships were especially important.

This essay considers the preservation of interpersonal relationships in the migration to an 18th-century Kentucky settlement which involved a long-distance move over a hostile frontier. In late 1779 Colonel John Strode and several other men from Berkeley County, Virginia, set out from Boonesborough to a site approximately ten miles to the north (see Fig. 1). Strode had claimed the land on an earlier trip in 1776. In late November they were joined by a second party from Berkeley County, numbering six or seven men — a couple of whom brought families. This was the beginning of Strode's Station in modern day Clark

3 C. J. Jansen, "Migration: A Sociological Problem," in C. J. Jansen, ed., *Readings in the Sociology of Migration* (New York: Pergamon Press, 1970), 22.

4 Everett S. Lee, "The Turner Thesis Re-examined," in *Turner and the Sociology of the Frontier*, 66.

5 A. Gordon Darroch, "Migrants in the Nineteenth Century: Fugitives or Families in Motion?" *Journal of Family History* 6 (1981): 257-77; John W. Adams and Alice Bee Kasakoff, "Migration and the Family in Colonial New England: The View from Genealogies," *Journal of Family History* 9 (1984): 24-42; Robert E. Beider, "Kinship as a Factor in Migration," *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 35 (1973): 429-39; I. W. Hecht, "Kinship and Migration: The Making of an Oregon Isolate Community," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 28 (1977): 45-67; Larry Dale Gragg, *Migration in Early America, The Virginia Quaker Experience* (New York: UMI Research Press, 1980).

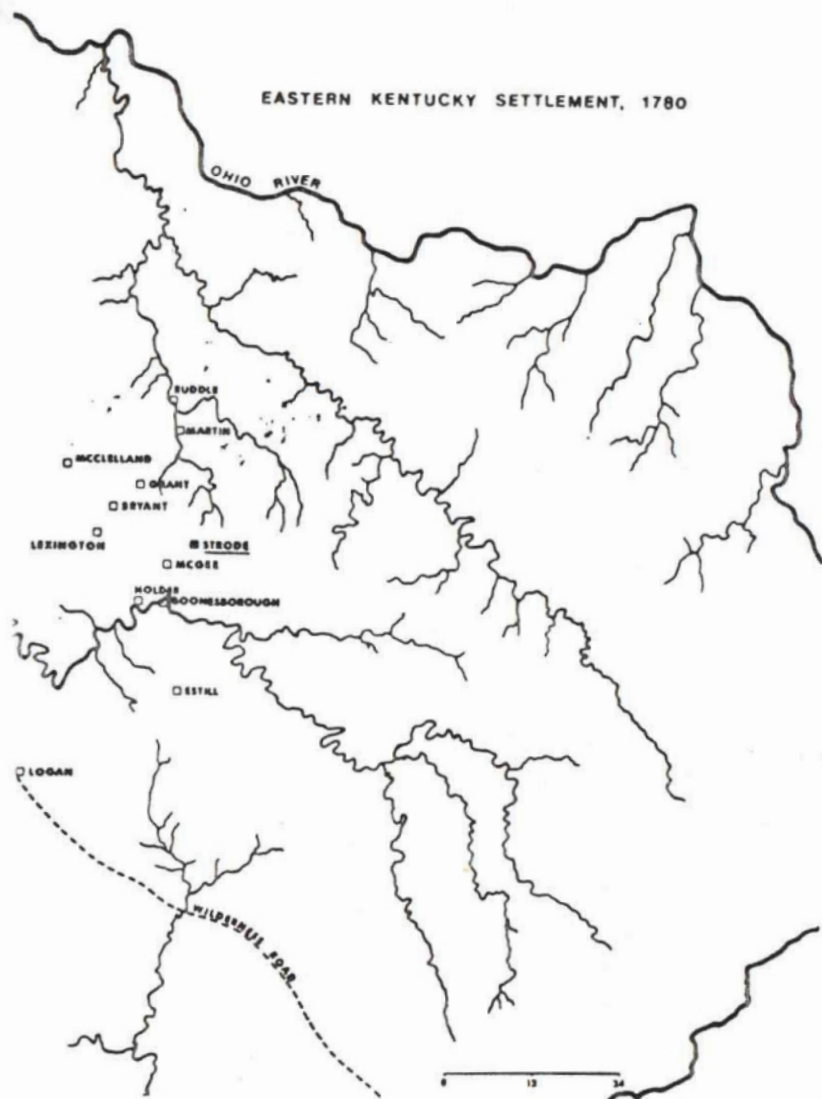


Figure 1  
Strobe's Station and Neighboring Stations

ounty. In the years that followed, the station developed from tenuous frontier outpost to a major base of support for an expanding area of settlement. Some people stayed in Strobe's

Station only briefly before moving on to other stations or farms. A significant number of people, however, lived there for periods spanning several years.

Strode's Station had a well-deserved reputation as a settlement of Berkeley County Virginians.<sup>6</sup> This was particularly true during the early years of the station's existence. At least thirty of the fifty-two men living at Strode's Station by 1781 were from Berkeley County. Some of the others came from places very near to Berkeley County, particularly from Frederick County and from the opposite shore of the Potomac River in Maryland.<sup>7</sup> Most of the Berkeley County men who went to Strode's Station hailed from Shepherdstown on the Potomac.

It is possible that Strode's Station had an unusually high incidence of people originating from a single area but evidence is readily found for similar patterns at other settlements. This is especially true for the Revolutionary War years when conditions in both the east and the west discouraged migration. For example, people at two other stations in the area also shared some common origins. At John Martin's Station (see Fig. 1), the people were known as being primarily from Botetourt and Rockbridge counties in Virginia. A few miles north of Martin's Station, Isaac Ruddle built a station "with several families, with him from Virginia."<sup>8</sup> Near Lexington, the Stevenson family chose to join McConnell's Station specifically because they had formerly lived near the McConnells and knew them to be decent, upright people.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Francis Cassidy Statement, 21S176, Lyman C. Draper Collection, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

<sup>7</sup> Tyler's *Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, 33 (1952): 136; Lucien Beckner, ed., "John D. Shane's Interview with Pioneer William Clinkenbeard," *The Filson Club History Quarterly* 2 (1928): 112; Lucien Beckner, ed., "John D. Shane's Interview with Benjamin Allen, Clark County," *The Filson Club History Quarterly* 5 (1931): 65 and 86; William McIntire Statement, 20S227, Draper Collection; George M. Bedinger Papers, Series A, Draper Collection.

<sup>8</sup> William McClelland Interview, 11CC181, Draper Collection; John M. Ruddell Statement, 22S41, Draper Collection.

<sup>9</sup> Mrs. Jane Stevenson Interview, 13CC135-43, Draper Collection.

Stations were not only bound by shared backgrounds but in many cases also by family ties. At this distance, of course, such ties are evident only through close genealogical research. The first step in investigating kinship at Strode's Station was to determine its population. The task involved using a number of sources, but the most important one was John Shane's notes of an interview with William Clinkenbeard, an original inhabitant.<sup>10</sup> The Clinkenbeard interview is the most complete source; it includes a detailed description of the station and a list of the inhabitants of each cabin. A few of the people named, such as "Granny West," appear in no other sources. Most names, though, do appear in other records. These were used to supplement Clinkenbeard's list and arrive at a more complete list of early inhabitants.

The objective was to include all white males associated by name with Strode's Station before the 1781 Indian attack. For instance, elsewhere in the interview Clinkenbeard mentions that Pressly Anderson's brother-in-law Cuthbert Steele came with the Andersons to Strode's Station. Steele is not mentioned in Clinkenbeard's description of the station cabins, but since Steele was unmarried he probably resided in the Anderson cabin. The revised list includes several such unmarried men, some of whom were minors. John Judy was only about sixteen years old when he was wounded in the 1781 Indian attack. Because Judy was old enough to help defend the settlement and also because no relatives are known to have been present, he is included in the list. Those youths specifically described serving in adult capacities were counted as adults. This rule was also followed because several young people did not know how old they were.

Station members who made return trips to the "settlements" were also included in the revised list. Such travel to get families, conduct business or to rejoin the Revolutionary forces has surely been underestimated, but it appears to have been a normal pattern. The high incidence of such travel is hinted at in young

<sup>10</sup> William Clinkenbeard Interview, 11CC55, Draper Collection.

James Nourse's diary.<sup>11</sup> As Nourse was travelling from Berkeley County to Kentucky in 1779, he encountered Colonel Thomas Swearingen (a Berkeley County justice) and James Duncan heading back home. Duncan would be back in Kentucky by the end of that year wintering at Strode's Station and then went back to Virginia several more times before bringing his family west in 1784.<sup>12</sup> Many Kentucky references to both Duncan and Swearingen belie the extent of their western activities. It would be misleading to exclude persons solely on the basis of frequent travel.

The next requirement for the revised list was date of association. Presence at Strode's Station by the time of the Indian attack in 1781 qualified one as an early inhabitant. This end date was convenient because the attack was a major, well-documented event. Moreover, it kept the number of inhabitants manageable and reduced the problem of including people from new stations as they were built nearby. All the men named by Clinkenbeard were automatically included in the revised list in addition to those specifically associated with early events at the station. George Reynolds, for example, was not included in Clinkenbeard's list of cabin owners, but Clinkenbeard relates that when Reynolds mutilated a finger in a gun accident, Patrick Donaldson cut it off for him. Since Donaldson died in the 1781 attack, Reynolds's connection with Strode's Station can be dated. Similarly, Enos Terry turned some wooden dishes for Clinkenbeard and his wife when they married in early 1781.<sup>13</sup>

By 1783 with the post-Revolutionary migration, Strode's Station included an estimated fifty men.<sup>14</sup> Along with more people to identify and investigate, the number of other settlements in the vicinity of Strode's Station increased also. The guidelines for

<sup>11</sup> Neal O. Hammon, ed., "The Journal of James Nourse, Jr., 1779-1780," *The Filson Club History Quarterly* 47 (1973): 258-66.

<sup>12</sup> Julia Spencer Ardery, *Kentucky Court and Other Records* (2 vols.; Lexington, 1932), II, 113.

<sup>13</sup> Beckner, "Shane's Interview with William Clinkenbeard," 108; *ibid.*, 98.

<sup>14</sup> William Sudduth Interview. 12CC62. Draper Collection.

qualification as a pre-1781 inhabitant had to be strictly followed if only in the interest of feasibility. The size of the resulting list is consistent with official estimates that Strode's Station had between twenty and thirty families plus some single men.<sup>15</sup> Thus the list appears as complete as possible.

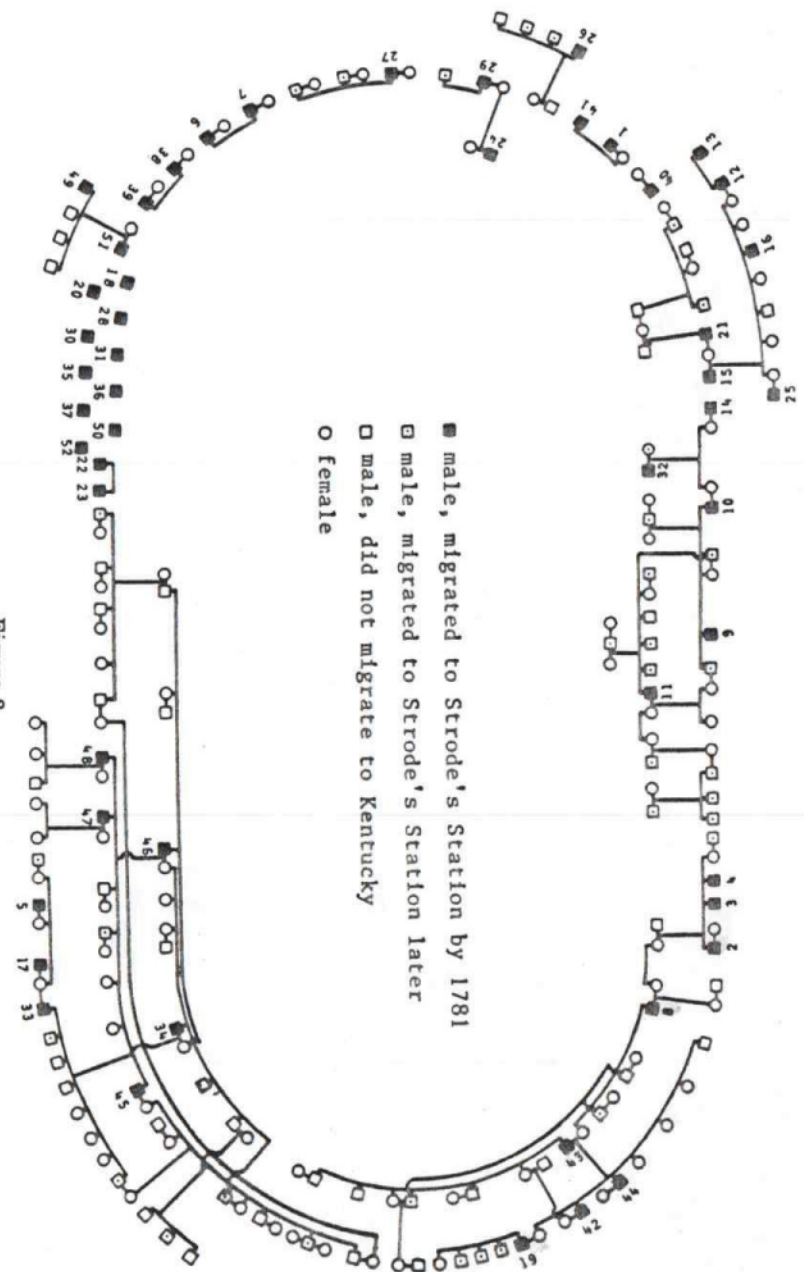
The search for relationships relied upon a variety of records. Some kinship ties were identified through descriptions in the Shane interviews, such as when Clinkenbeard refers to John Strode "and Jim Duncan, his son-in-law" or states that "Constant . . . and Hood had married sisters."<sup>16</sup> Knowledge of kinship was also established through wills, marriage registers, and family genealogies. Since these were people who had migrated from Virginia or Maryland and sometimes moved again later, the records, when extant, are scattered. Church records are unavailable. Many connections were nonetheless uncovered.

Figure 2 is a diagram showing the kinship ties of the fifty-two men at Strode's Station during the first two years of its existence, late 1779 to the Indian attack in March 1781 (for list, see appendix). An extensive network of family ties is immediately apparent. Not only did most inhabitants have some kin at the station during this early period, but additional kin followed later. It made practical sense to settle near family and friends. For only ten of the fifty-two men associated with Strode's Station were no kinship ties with other station inhabitants discovered. A problem in Figure 2 is that the genealogical literature is biased in favor of the more prominent lineages. The Swearingens, Strodes, Bedingers, and Morgans formed part of the well-documented Berkeley County elite. Fewer family genealogies exist for the men of modest means; this problem is aggravated by the poor condition of early public records in both Berkeley County and Kentucky. Biases and gaps in the records notwithstanding, Figure 2 pro-

<sup>15</sup> Depositions of Aquilla White and Robert McMullen in Charles R. Staples, comp., "History in Circuit Court Records, Fayette County," *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* 32 (1934): 10-11.

<sup>16</sup> Beckner, "Shane's Interview with William Clinkenbeard," 105, 113.

Figure 2  
Diagram of Kin Relatives among Inhabitants of Strode's Station, 1779-1781



vides minimum knowledge. Additional links between people, if they existed, remain concealed.

In times of trouble many pioneers could turn to relatives for help just as they could in the Atlantic states. This was very important for by 1785 six of the forty-six men at Strode's Station were dead, three were wounded and two were captured. Fortunately their wives and children could usually turn to other relatives in the station. For example, "Jimmy" Beathe was wounded and captured by Indians while hunting and then kept prisoner in Detroit for three years. Unaware of her husband's fate and burdened with five children, Mrs. Beathe would have liked to remarry.<sup>17</sup> Also at Strode's Station was Mrs. Beathe's sister, already a widow with three children, whose husband had been killed in battle the summer of 1782. Both families were supported during this time by the husband of a third sister. This tragic sequence is a reminder that the bonds between women, while much more difficult to uncover, were nonetheless fully respected.<sup>18</sup>

Support in times of trouble also came from friends in the station. The experiences of the Allen family at Stephen Boyle's Station about one mile from Strode's Station is an excellent example. James Webb, a young single man from Virginia, had been living at Boyle's Station when he was drafted for Josiah Harmar's campaign in 1790. As he prepared to go, Webb had a gloomy premonition that he would die on the campaign. Deciding at the last minute to make a will, Webb turned to Stephen Boyle, the senior man at the station. The other witnesses were one Robert Ellison and the young schoolmaster named Ogden.<sup>19</sup> This done, Webb paid a brief call at nearby Strode's Station to see a man just arrived from Berkeley County with news, and then he left with the militia and went to his death.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>17</sup> Ibid., 109.

<sup>18</sup> Otto A. Rothert, ed., "John D. Shane's Interview with Pioneer John Hedge, Bourbon County," *The Filson Club History Quarterly* 14 (1940): 181.

<sup>19</sup> Bourbon County Will Book A, p. 11.

<sup>20</sup> Daniel Deron Interview, 12CC239, Draper Collection.

Webb's beneficiaries were two teenage brothers, Benjamin and Thomas Allen. Webb wanted Ben to have his clothes and the younger brother Tom to have his stallion. There is no evidence that the Allens were related to Webb. In a later interview, Benjamin Allen refers to Webb either formally as "James Webb" or impersonally as "This Webb."<sup>21</sup> Webb's bequests probably stemmed from sympathy and concern because Mr. Allen had recently been killed by Indians, only a few months after bringing his wife and six children to Kentucky. In Benjamin's words, they were left with "nothing to begin life with — horse, dog, cat, not even a mouse." Stephen Boyle had been well acquainted with the Allen family and had written to Mr. Allen encouraging him to bring his family to Kentucky.<sup>22</sup> Webb was surely aware of this connection between the Boyles and the Allens when he made Boyle the executor of his will.

The Allens also received aid from other friends. Joshua and John Baker were nephews of Mrs. Boyle and had known the Allens in Virginia. The Allens had attended John Baker's wedding back in Berkeley County. The Bakers were not related to the Allens, but they came forth as true friends after Mr. Allen's death. Joshua Baker went to considerable trouble to find young Ben (who had been captured at the time his father was killed), care for him, and deliver him safely home to his mother. His brother John Baker also responded to the Allens' plight. John had moved for a time to a neighborhood some miles south of Lexington. Benjamin Allen visited there the following winter, and Baker sent him homeward with a present. Benjamin recalled that Baker "gave me a hog, suppose it weighed a hundred pounds, and I brought it all the way, about thirty miles, to Bile's [sic] on my horse, [driving it] before me."<sup>23</sup> Such acts of friendship enabled the Allens to avoid the shame of becoming public charges.

Figure 3 illustrates the importance of friendship among the inhabitants of Strode's Station. Friendship was inferred from

<sup>21</sup> Beckner, "Shane's Interview with Benjamin Allen," 68.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid., 67-68.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid., 87.

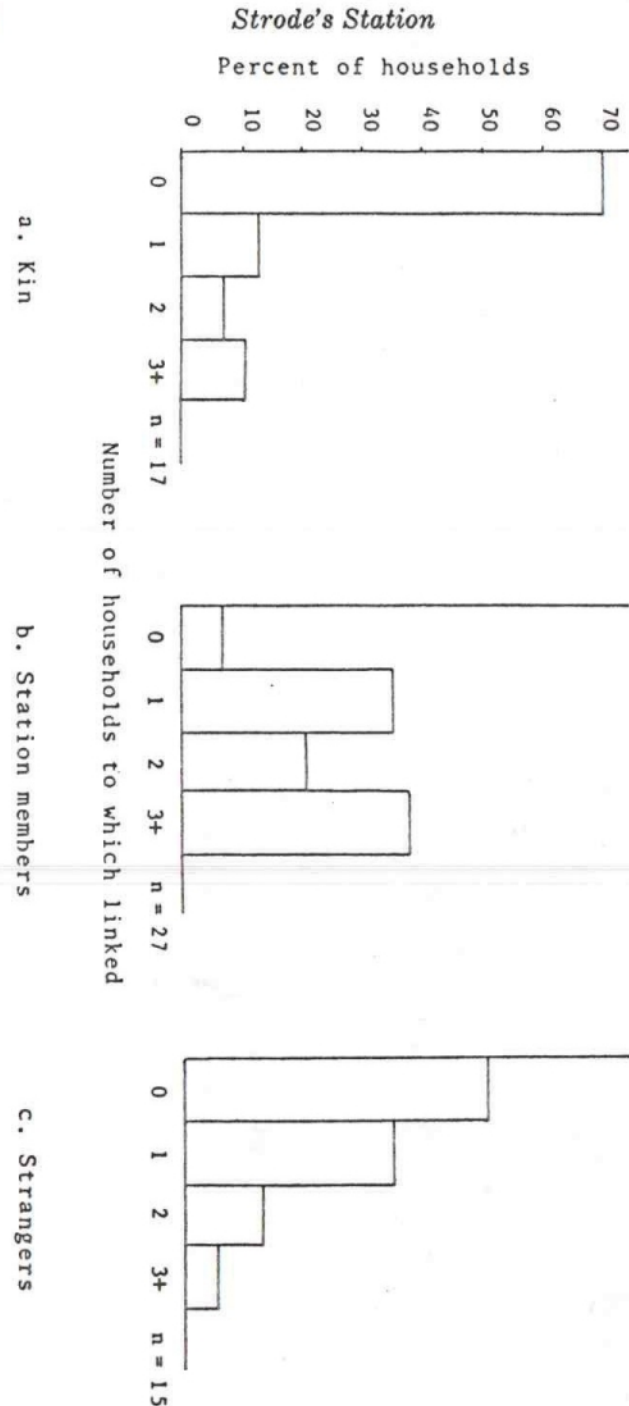
legal records by extracting heads of households at the early station who appeared as witnesses, bondsmen, attorneys, executors, and guardians in the Bourbon County Court Orders from the first court in 1786 through 1795. Economic and political relationships were excluded from consideration.<sup>24</sup> The category of "Station Members" included unrelated men who were at Strode's Station by 1781. "Strangers" is a residual category for men who had no known association by that time.

In Figure 3 the fundamental importance of friendships within the station is readily apparent. Although most of the men in the station had some kin nearby, they did not have many. According to Figure 3, when someone was needed to perform a public role such as bondsman or executor, 70% of the people did not turn to kin. In part, this pattern reflected legal requirements for more than one witness. For instance, when Stephen Boyle conveyed power of attorney to his son Henry, Van Swearingen and John Burns served as witnesses. Swearingen was from Strode's Station, but Burns's background is unknown.<sup>25</sup> Approximately half the time, the men from Strode's Station turned to "strangers." This probably reflected convenience or friendships that had developed since leaving the station. One of the more interesting aspects of Figure 3 is not how often these people turned to outsiders for support, but how densely they continued to interact after leaving the confines of the station. Very few of the householders had links with more than one kinsman or one stranger, but well over half of them had a connection with more than one person from Strode's Station. For instance, Stephen Boyle can be linked to one kin household but to two households of former residents at Strode's Station. In 1788 he granted power of attorney to Henry Boyle. Two years later, he helped prove the nuncupative will of James Webb, the man who left his possessions to the two Allen boys. Boyle also served as one of the

<sup>24</sup> Darrett B. Rutman and Anita H. Rutman, *A Place In Time, Explicatus* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1984), 107-110.

<sup>25</sup> Bourbon County Court Order Book A, 146.

Figure 3  
The Number of Strode's Station Household Heads Linked to other Household Heads, 1786 to 1796



witnesses when David Hughes bought some land from John Fleming and his wife.<sup>26</sup>

The relationships between the people of the station possessed an enduring strength for the Bourbon County Court Orders do not begin until 1786 when most of the original inhabitants of Strode's Station had already left. This pattern would gradually change over time as the number of kin in Kentucky increased. Meanwhile, personal relationships may actually have converged upon the station to an even greater degree than indicated in Figure 3. One reason is that many kin were also inhabitants of Strode's Station. Secondly, the data on "strangers" has a conservative bias because some of these people had some sort of association with the station. Several of them, in fact, are known to have lived at Strode's Station after the time of the Indian attack in 1781. It should be added that after 1792 Strode's Station was in Clark County near the border with Bourbon County. If the early Clark County records were completely available, more definite conclusions might be reached.

These personal connections took on an added importance in the mid 1790s as the Bourbon County Court turned towards unravelling conflicting land titles, a state-wide problem of overwhelming proportions. These cases involved several former Strode's Station men. Time and again they and other former station inhabitants made depositions concerning early activities and landmarks.

Thus John Donaldson, a teenager when his father Patrick Donaldson was killed at Strode's Station in 1781, called upon his father's old friends to help defend his land title. Patrick Donaldson had purchased one thousand acres entered in the name of John Taylor, another early resident of Strode's Station. In 1792 Thomas Kennedy deposed that he was with Taylor when Taylor had made the improvement to secure the claim. Aquilla White deposed that in 1779 Taylor had taken him to the land and showed him the improvement. John McIntire deposed that in

<sup>26</sup> Ibid., 146, 353, 388.

April 1780 he was at this same spot in the company of Thomas Swearingen, one of the men who had been present when Taylor made the improvement. Swearingen had mentioned to John Constant that the improvement had been sold to Donaldson. All of these men had resided at Strode's Station except White who had been at nearby McGee's Station.<sup>27</sup>

In a similar series of depositions, Malachi Couchman called upon James Duncan who said that in late 1782, while hunting with John Constant, Constant had pointed out the beginning of the Couchman survey. Benedict Couchman deposed that his brother Frederick had surveyed five hundred acres for their father on Clear Creek and marked a tree with the initials FC. John McIntire said that he had been with Benedict Couchman when the entry was made.<sup>28</sup> And so the testimonies followed with Jesse Hedges coming forth for James Beathe and James Beathe coming forth for Stephen Boyle.<sup>29</sup> The depositions for land title disputes form an intricate web, continuing into the nineteenth century. Again and again it was necessary to recall carefully the events and people of station times.

Station settlements were necessary on most Kentucky frontiers with daughter stations branching off as the frontier expanded. These settlements were small, isolated, and under external stress. The danger and distance of moving to Kentucky during this period strongly encouraged families to combine resources and make the move a joint undertaking. For the same reasons, settlers who came later often chose their final destination according to where relatives and friends had located. These personal connections structured and ordered the station settlements in which the formal institutions of government and religion were yet absent. The early settlements changed dramatically as frontier conditions improved. Some, such as Strode's Station, ceased to exist. Yet the personal bonds that the station had contained survived, leaving permanent imprints in the developing communities.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid., 510, 512, 518.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid., 233, 265.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid., 218, 228.



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Jean C. Richardson  
128 Northview Heights  
Smithville, Missouri 64089

June 27 1980

Dear Mrs Owen;

I recently moved to Smithville Mo from K.C. and have talked on telephone with Mrs Edythe Sims of Trimble Mo. She and I are descendants of Capt John Strode Sr. of Va. and Ky. My line is from daughter Letitia and her line is from son Stephen.

Two years ago I was doing some work at Independence Mo. Library and found very interesting files of Mrs Nanon Carr of K.C. She had willed her files to the Library and did research on many families of Va. and Ky. In her Strode family file I read a newspaper copy on excavation cemetery. It was not dated and your picture was there. It was very interesting.

I am interesting<sup>ed</sup> in DAR marking for John Strode grave but the Winchester Cemetery did not answer my letter of several months ago. I wrote them about present location of the grave. DAR National has no record of it being DAR marked. Can you tell me its present location.

In your letter of May 19, 1968 you mention Abijah Brooks and am sure you know he was son-in-law. He married Nancy Anne Strode May 1770 but probably died young as she had second husband, Jacob Wilson. Letitia married William Lander and Stephen married Mary Storms.

Can you give me parents Mary(Polly) Boyle who was wife of Capt Strode? She married Capt Strode Nov. 1758. b 25 Feb 1739 -d 10 Jan. 1829. Had 13 children who lived to maturity. I have heard she had brother Stephen and brother John.

Your letter also mentioned book "Old homes and Landmarks of Clark County" and I would like to order copy if you can advise where to order.

Will appreciate your help and any grave inscriptions you can send me. Please advise charges for all as the newspaper says you are Genealogist.

At present I am working on Grasty family of Trigg Co. Ky. John Grasty was Revolution soldier from Va.S.C and Ky. If you have anyone intested in Grastys I have some material.

Very truly,

Jean Richardson

Jean C. Richardson  
128 Northview Heights  
Smithville, Missouri 64089

August 26 1980

Dear <sup>Kathryn</sup>~~Catherine~~;

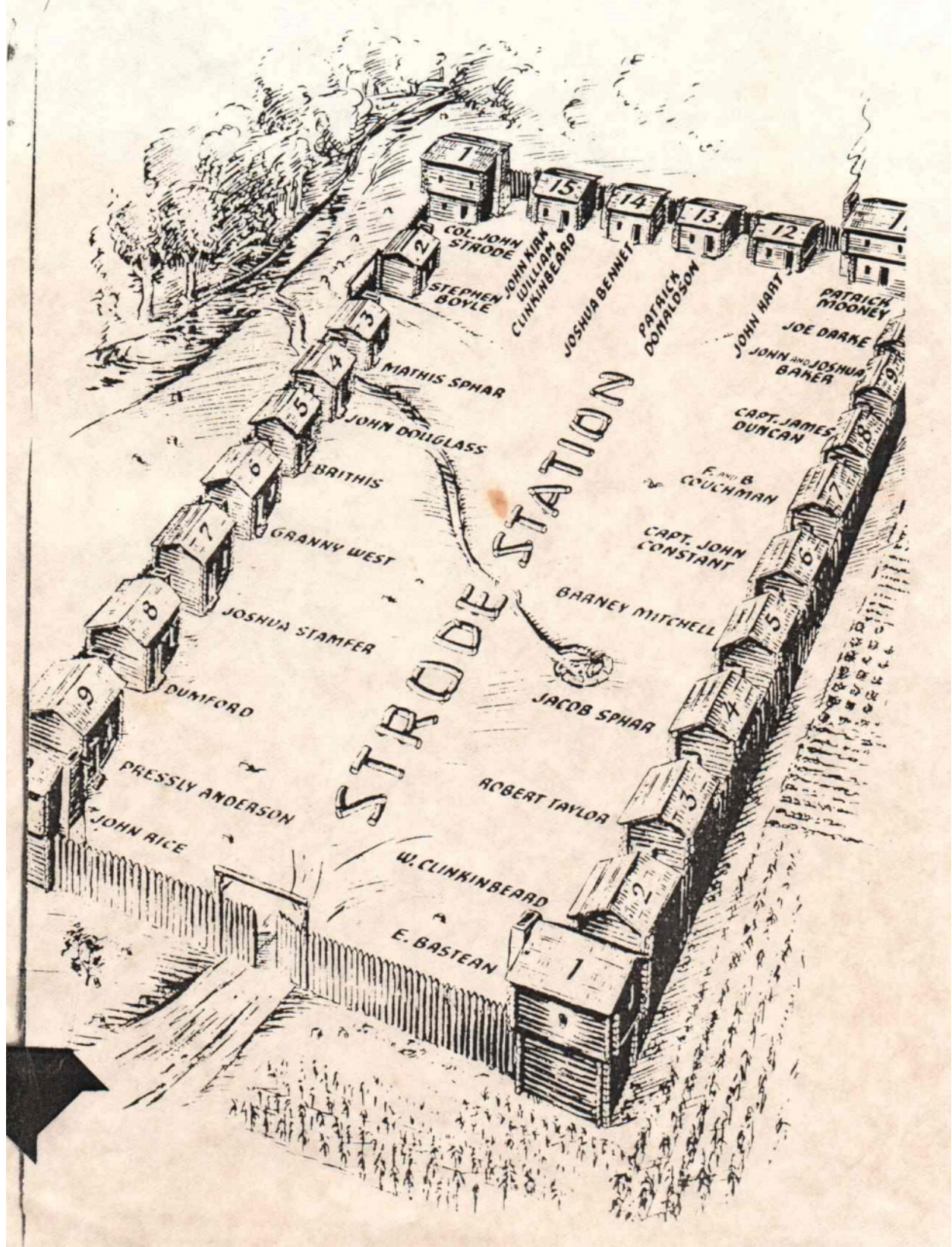
In a letter from you several weeks ago you mentioned you need children of William Lander and Letitia Strode. At the time I was ashamed I did not know them and recently found some records per enclosed copies from a Strode Family book and a Skinner Family book. There is a Lander family book but I have not seen a copy.

I have been looking for proof parentage Hannah Skinner who married Henry Lander . A cousin in Madisonville would like Hugenots but we havent founds proof parents Cornelius Skinner Sr. You may know my cousin Lila Kington age 88 of Madisonville and Mortons Gap Ky.

I also wrote you I am looking for parents Mary(Polly) Boyle and have made a little progress but not certain yet . Will let you hear. About Grasty material for Frankfort I plan to send soon as can get written

Very truly,

Jean



# STRODE STATION

- 1 COL. JOHN STRODE
- 2 STEPHEN BOYLE
- 3 JOHN MARK W. CLINKINBEARD
- 4 JOSHUA BENNET
- 5 PATRICK DONALDSON
- 6 JOHN HART
- 7 PATRICK MOONEY
- 8 JOE DRAKE
- 9 JOHN AND JOSHUA BAKER
- 10 CAPT. JAMES DUNCAN
- 11 E. AND B. COUCHMAN
- 12 CAPT. JOHN CONSTANT
- 13 BARNEY MITCHELL
- 14 JACOB SPHAR
- 15 ROBERT TAYLOR
- 16 W. CLINKINBEARD
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From Peggy Chapman, Lubbock, TX to Alice Hills  
7/92

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## A Visit to Boonesborough in 1779: The Recollections of Pioneer George M. Bedinger

Edited by William Dodd Brown

*For the men, women, and children of Boonesborough who had suffered so much from attack and constant harassment, the year 1779 proved to be a turning point. George Rogers Clark's conquests in the Illinois country and his capture of Lieutenant Governor Henry Hamilton in February helped to blunt for a time the threat of attack from the British. The Indians still remained a deadly menace, but the flow of immigration into Kentucky was increasing. By the spring of 1779, Boonesborough had become a stopping place for the companies of settlers and land speculators that were coming into the country.<sup>1</sup>*

*Among those who came to Boonesborough this season was a young man named George Michael Bedinger. Born of German parentage in York County, Pennsylvania, on December 10, 1756, Bedinger grew up in Shepherdstown, (West) Virginia, where his father kept an inn. He first enlisted as a soldier in the American Revolution in 1775, and during the early years of the war fought in the Battle of Germantown and hauled clothing and blankets to the American army at Valley Forge.*

*Bedinger's only purpose in coming to Boonesborough was to search for land, but he soon got caught up in the day-to-day affairs of the fort. He became a hunter for the garrison, served as commissary, took part in Bowman's Campaign,<sup>2</sup> and, for the seven months that he lived at Boonesborough, helped defend the fort against the Indians.*

*Bedinger located the land he wanted and went back to his home in Virginia, but he never forgot his first experience with Kentucky. Reentering the army, he attained the rank of major*

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<sup>1</sup>George W. Ranck, *Boonesborough* (Louisville, 1901), 110.

<sup>2</sup>In May 1779, Col. John Bowman led a force of nearly three hundred men across the Ohio River and struck at the Shawnee town of Chillicothe. The Kentuckians plundered and burned the Indian town and returned home with a considerable amount of booty. Shawnee Chief Blackfish was mortally wounded in this engagement.

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and took part in the Siege of Yorktown. After the war, he went into the milling business, made several return visits to the Bluegrass settlements, helped survey the Green River country, claimed more land, and finally settled permanently in Kentucky.

As a resident of Bourbon County, he was elected to the Kentucky legislature in 1792 and 1794, and from 1803 to 1807 he served in the U. S. House of Representatives. When in Congress, Bedinger asked the House to name a committee to draft a bill to prohibit the importation of slaves into the country. Through the efforts of Bedinger and others, a bill was finally passed and signed into law.

Major George M. Bedinger — one of Kentucky's earliest pioneers and an honored statesman — was in his eighties and living at his home at Lower Blue Licks, in 1843, when he was visited by a young historian named Lyman Draper. Bedinger was an important source of information on the frontier and the frontier experience because he had actually been there; he had lived it. Draper was interested in everything Bedinger had to say, and as Draper frantically filled page after page of his notebooks, the old pioneer told him about his early youth, his Revolutionary War service, and his visit to Boonesborough in the spring of 1779.<sup>3</sup> The following text is taken word for word from Draper's interview notes.

#### Traveling to Boonesborough<sup>4</sup>

In 1779 on the 1st March, Major Bedinger, Col. William Morgan and his son Ralph Morgan, Maj. Thomas Swearingen and his brother Benoni, John Taylor, John Strode, James Duncan, John Constant, Samuel Dusee, and two Negroes belonging one each to the Swearingens left Berkeley County, Virginia and started for Kentucky via Powell's Valley and Cumberland Gap and thence the old trace on to Boonesborough.

It is necessary to state, in order to get a better understanding of the [following] events . . . , that Boonesborough had been in constant apprehension from Indians loitering around the fort.

<sup>3</sup>For a detailed account of Bedinger's life, see Charles G. Talbert and Clifford C. Gregg, "George Michael Bedinger 1756-1843," *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* 65 (1967): 28-46.

<sup>4</sup>This heading and those that follow are the editor's.

They [the people in the fort] were reduced to great strait[s] — the men few nor could they risk any great hazard as the life of each was too precious and their families too dear. Stratagem had to supply the place of greater strength. Each night a horse was placed a proper distance from the fort with one [of] his hind feet securely fastened to the root of a sapling and three good marksmen in ambush near by. One night, a small party of Indians seeing the horse made up towards him, but half suspecting the rat in the meal tub, they cleared themselves and thus narrowly escaped. These Indians remarked to their fellows that the Long Knives must be fools to think of catching them like so many beaver. A white prisoner, who heard the remark, soon after escaped and reached Boonesborough where he related the circumstance. . . .

Soon after midday of about the 6th April, Bedinger and his party, . . . when within some fifteen miles of Boonesborough, very luckily missed the path and wandered along through the thick, tall cane perhaps half a mile before again falling into the trail. . . . A short distance before striking the path, it was observed that the horses snorted and appeared very much alarmed. . . . When they struck the trail, they discovered the fresh tracks of a party of some 30 or 40 persons altogether, picked [up] a broken bow, and saw other signs of Indians. They were fully convinced a party of Indians going south had passed along the trail while they had lost their way and were groping their way through the cane.

Seeing no Indians, Bedinger's party pursued on until near dusk.

When within 6 miles of Boonesborough, they were about camping [when] some one proposed that they should for safety go a little off the trace and sleep without fires. . . . [Upon hearing this] Col. William Morgan, who had seen some service as well under Braddock as in the war then existing, dryly remarked that they need not trouble themselves so much for they wouldn't die until their time came. The others, not wishing to be thought cowardly, did not call the colonel's philosophy in[to] question. Their horses were made fast to the surrounding saplings — a goodly quantity of rich, juicy cane cut and placed before them. A large, bright fire was soon struck up, and having partaken of their simple repast, they nestled down in their blankets before



Colonel Samuel Estill. In his narrative Bedinger related that Estill and another spy had gone out from Boonesborough in search of Indians. Just a mile or two from the fort, their fears were realized, as they came upon a party of fifteen Indians. From Z.F. Smith, *History of Kentucky* (1895).

the cheerful blaze. The next morning, they arose and had proceeded but a few rods when to their astonishment they discovered where an Indian party, seeing the large fire in the night and the party and horses so boldly encamped on the trail, had evidently mistaken extreme carelessness for stratagem and [had] gladly shunned the distrustful spot.

### Arrival at the Fort

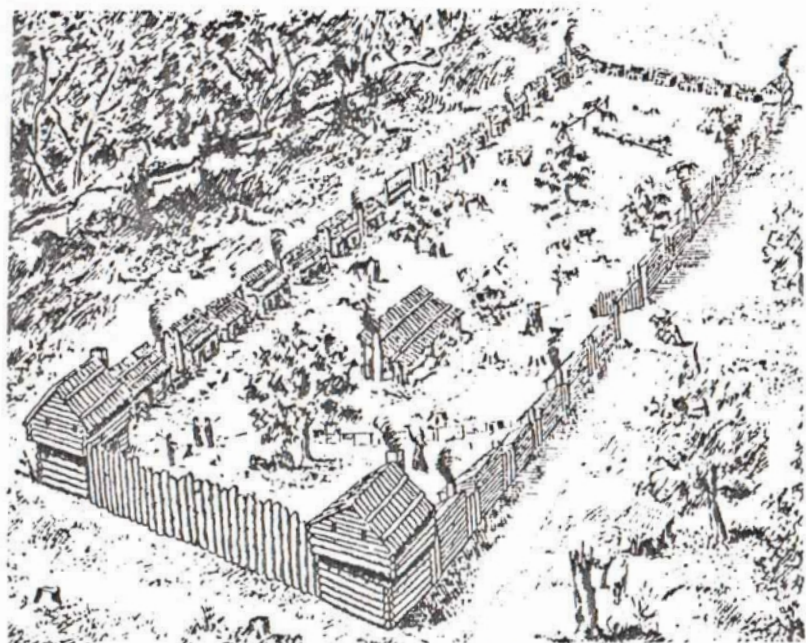
Bedinger and his companions soon reached Boonesborough to the infinite gratification of the inhabitants. [A day or two before, a party of ten or twelve men under Captain Starns had left Boonesborough to go to the eastern settlements. Neither Daniel Boone nor Richard Callaway was at the fort, and Capt. John Holder<sup>5</sup> was in command.] The loss of their late companions was now fully replaced and this was a sufficient cause for extravagant expressions of joy. With Holder were some 15 or 20 men only, and next in point of influence to Holder at this time was Capt. David Gass<sup>6</sup> and Capt. James [Estill]<sup>7</sup> and Col. Samuel Estill.<sup>8</sup> Bedinger and his party learned that . . . near night of the day preceding Sam Estill and one other spy [w]ent out to see if

<sup>5</sup>John Holder came from Stafford County, Virginia, to Boonesborough early in 1776. In July, he took part in the rescue of the three Boone and Callaway daughters from the Indians and a year later married one of the young women he had rescued, Fanny Callaway. He took part in the Great Siege of Boonesborough of 1778 and led a company from Boonesborough in Bowman's Campaign of 1779. In August 1782, he led a group of riflemen against the Indians and was ambushed in the Battle of Battle Run. Ranck, *Boonesborough*, 51, 108; John Bakeless, *Daniel Boone: Master of the Wilderness* (New York, 1939), 139, 217, 268-70.

<sup>6</sup>First coming to Kentucky in 1774, David Gass "was out 11 times before he came to live" in 1777. He was at Boonesborough in July 1776, when the Boone and Callaway daughters were captured and, along with a nephew John Gass, took part in their rescue. Sometime around Christmas 1777, he brought his wife and children from Castle's Woods, Virginia, to Boonesborough. He took part in the Great Siege of Boonesborough of 1778 and Bowman's Campaign of 1779. In 1781, he and his family moved to Estill's Station. Here, his daughter was killed by the Indians in an attack that took place just prior to Estill's Defeat in March 1782. In 1786, Gass moved to a place six miles from Estill's, and in 1794, he and his family removed to Bourbon County, Kentucky, where he died in 1807. Draper MSS, 11 CC 11-15 (microfilm edition, 1980, reel 76), State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison; Ranck, *Boonesborough*, 255.

<sup>7</sup>James Estill was killed in March 1782 in Estill's Defeat while leading a company of twenty-five men against the Wyandot Indians. Estill County, Kentucky, is named in his honor. He was a brother of Samuel Estill. Otis K. Rice, *Frontier Kentucky* (Lexington, 1975), 105; "Kentucky Close-Up: Estill County," *The Bulletin of the Kentucky Historical Society*, 14 (February 1988): 5.

<sup>8</sup>Born 10 September 1755 in Augusta County, Virginia, Samuel Estill came to Kentucky in 1778 and served as a guard and Indian spy at Boonesborough under Capt. David Gass and Capt. John Holder. In May 1780, he was appointed a first lieutenant in Captain Holder's company. (He received the rank of colonel in later life.) He was in George Rogers Clark's 1780 and 1782 expeditions against the Shawnee Indians. About 1784, he brought his wife Jane Feas (Teas?) from Virginia, and they settled at Estill's Station. A resident of Madison County, Kentucky, Colonel Estill in time became one of the largest landowners in the county and a member of the Kentucky legislature. He died 9 February 1837 at the home of his daughter and son-in-law in Roane County, East Tennessee. Revolutionary War pension application of Samuel Estill, Va., S12876, Records of the Veterans



Fort Boonesborough, just before the famed siege of September 1778. From George W. Ranck, *Boonesborough* (1901).

they [could] discover any [In]dians. About sun-set and but a mile or two from the fort, they espied [an] Indian party of some 15 in number and [quickly] dodged into the thick cane. The Indians scattered in pursuit. One passed within a few paces of Estill who lay crouched with his trusty rifle in hand ready for use. Estill felt confident that the Indian looked him boldly in the face but most probably he did not. At all events, the tawny warrior bounded away and both Estill and his comrade reached the fort in safety. This Indian party was doubtless the one that [had] so cautiously shunned the camp of Bedinger's party that very night. . . .

Not more than two hours after the arrival of Bedinger and his friends, Jacob Starnes [Starns], a young man, a son of the captain, came in with the melancholy tidings that [the members

Administration, Record Group 15, National Archives, Washington, D.C.; William E. Ellis, H. E. Everman, and Richard D. Sears, *Madison County: 200 Years in Retrospect* (Richmond, Ky., 1985), 43.

of] his father's party were attacked the night previous some twenty or 30 miles from Boonesborough, and all save himself had doubtless fallen a prey to the Indians. Some few others were subsequently said to have escaped under cover of the night, but at best it was a most dismal massacre.

The two successive escapes of Bedinger and his party were very justly considered singularly fortunate, while some thought they saw in them a most striking providential interposition. . . .'

### The Hunters of Boonesborough

The men in the garrison were divided into hunting squads of 4 or 5 each. Bedinger, Thomas and Benoni Swearingen, Ralph Morgan, and John Haweson formed one party. This party on one occasion left the fort singly just at the dusk of evening and crossed the river a short distance above, where they by preconcert met and went on a few miles and camped without fire.

The next morning a fine young buffalo crossed their rout[e], and it was proposed that it be shot to provide meat for their breakfast. Maj. Thomas Swearingen reproached them for their *boyish* conduct; that their scalps would surely be the forfeit of their rashness as Indians were around and that they ought to exhibit more self denial and fortitude and act like men.

"Well, Brother Tom," said Benoni Swearingen, "I'll tell you what it is. We'll see who the *boys* are and who evince[s] the most fortitude for *you* shall be the first to say when we shall slay and eat." (Here it should be remarked that the hunting parties . . . made it a practice [never] to kill game until near night, then pack and return by night to the fort.)

The third day rolled around and no buffalo. A fine deer temptingly passed in their way, and Major Swearingen could stand it no longer and very readily ordered it to be shot. They scarcely gave it time to die ere its hide was off, a little fire hastily kindled in some low, concealed place, and a delicious repast quickly prepared. . . . Except [for a] short allowance of [some] parched corn meal, they had eaten nothing for three days, and as might be

\*Draper MSS, 1 A 12-15 (microfilm edition, 1980, reel 1). (Unless otherwise noted, all Draper MSS references are to this edition and reel.) Elements of style (capitalization, punctuation, abbreviation, and paragraphing) have been corrected without comment. The spelling of Boonesborough has also been corrected without comment.

expected, this meal, simple as it was, [was] relished mighty well.

That evening they succeeded in killing a noble young buffalo. While one or two dressed it, the others stood guard. In fifteen minutes they were ready for starting, each with about one hundred pounds [meat] clear of bone placed either in a bag brought from the fort or [in] one made of the buffalo hide . . . hastily stitched together with tugs and swung across the horse. Then taking the ridges, [they] started for Boonesborough, perhaps 15 miles distant.

The great danger was in nearing the fort for they knew from the 2 or 3 deserted fresh Indian camps they had seen, the distant reports of their guns, and other fresh signs that there were different parties prowling about. And on the north side of the Kentucky, opposite to the fort, [there] were high cliffs on which the Indians could secrete themselves and watch the movements in the garrison. But [the hunters stole] up some unfrequented way and got into the gate ere the [Indian] sentinals discovered them.

These hunting parties were sometimes absent six or eight days, though generally not so long, and would ramble off many miles. [Jesse] Hodges,<sup>10</sup> on one occasion, killed a buffalo at the Lower Blue Licks in the summer of '79, packed two hundred weight of choice pieces of meat on a fine, strong horse, and, though 40 miles from Boonesborough, that night he made his way in and reached the fort in safety. . . .<sup>11</sup>

### Making Improvements

Bedinger and all his companions save [one] together with Capt. John Holder went out early in May and commenced preparing for raising a crop of corn at Bush's Settlement. . . .<sup>12</sup> Either

<sup>10</sup>Originally from Goochland County, Virginia, Jesse Hodges came to Boonesborough as a private in Captain Charles Gwatkin's company in the autumn of 1777. In February 1778, he barely missed being captured with Daniel Boone and the saltmakers. In the spring, when Captain Gwatkin's company returned to Virginia, Hodges stayed on. "He continued to do duty as a soldier guarding the fort, spying for Indians, and hunting for meat for the people in the fort." He took part in the Great Siege of Boonesborough of 1778, Bowman's Campaign of 1779, and George Rogers Clark's 1780 and 1782 campaigns against the Shawnee Indians. Hodges was a longtime resident of Madison County, Kentucky. Revolutionary War pension application of Jesse Hodges, Va., S31143; Draper MSS, 11 C 62' (microfilm edition, 1980, reel 5).

<sup>11</sup>Draper MSS, 1 A 17-18.

<sup>12</sup>Bedinger and his friends raised their crop on the south side of the Kentucky River on land that had once been cultivated by Capt. William Bush but had been abandoned



The slave Monk Estill likely came to Kentucky with James Estill in 1775. During the Revolution, his skill at making gunpowder proved vital to the defense of Boonesborough. From Smith, *History of Kentucky* (1895).

a few years before. Bush's Settlement was located on the north side of the river, near Boonesborough, in what is now Clark County. Draper MSS, 1 A 4; Willard Rouse Jillson, *Pioneer Kentucky* (Frankfort, 1934), 75.

Bedinger or Benoni Swearingen marked out a claim on [Muddy]<sup>13</sup> Creek [on] May 4, 1779, and so cut the date on a tree. . . .<sup>14</sup>

#### Seeds for the New Land

Major Bedinger brought out fully a quart of apple seeds; gave them to old Monk,<sup>15</sup> a Negro of Estill's, to raise trees upon shares. He made a fine nursery, and though Bedinger got none, they were a great benefit to the country.

#### Commissary of the Fort

Major Bedinger, when at Boonesborough, was appointed commissary to deal out salt brought up from N. C. for the settlers and keep an account of it. A drove of hogs was in the woods — the originals brought out by Boone — now so wild that even the wolves dared not attack them. Now and then one was killed by the hunters and brought in, placed in the commissary's hands, salted and placed in the old "ware-house," and kept for use when the supplies of fresh meat should fail. . . .<sup>16</sup>

#### The Lost Horse

One day John Bankman requested Bedinger and James

<sup>13</sup>"The Certificate Book of the Virginia Land Commission of 1779-80," *Register* 21 (1923): 112-13. Bedinger's claim to four hundred acres of land on Muddy Creek was granted by the commission.

<sup>14</sup>Draper MSS, 1 A 15-16.

<sup>15</sup>Monk most probably came to Kentucky with James Estill in 1775. During the Revolution, his skill at making gunpowder proved vital to the defense of Boonesborough. In the late winter of 1780 and on several other occasions, when the supply of eastern-made gunpowder at the fort came close to running out, it was Monk who made more. In 1782, he was living at Estill's Station and took part in the events leading to Estill's Defeat. Monk, Jennie Gass, and a black man named Dick were working outside the fort in March 1782, when the Indians attacked. Dick reached the fort in safety, but Jennie was killed and Monk captured. The Indians quizzed him about the size of the garrison. He so exaggerated the strength of the fort that the Indians decided to withdraw. The Indians were pursued by Capt. James Estill and twenty-five men who caught up with them about twenty-five miles from the fort. During the battle, Monk made his escape and joined Estill's party, where he was put in charge of guarding the horses. After the battle, he carried a badly wounded James Berry most of the way back to the fort. Over the years, he had three wives and a large number of children. His son Jerry was the first black child born at Boonesborough. Monk was a longtime resident of Madison County, Kentucky, and died there about 1835. "Land Commission Certificate Book," 76; Ranck, *Boonesborough*, 113; Bessie Taul Conkright, "Estill's Defeat or the Battle of Little Mountain," *Register* 22 (1924): 313-19; Z. F. Smith, *The History of Kentucky* (Louisville, 1895), 194.

<sup>16</sup>Draper MSS, 1 A 19.

Berry<sup>17</sup> to go with him to catch his horse. . . . [They] had proceeded but half a mile, perhaps, outside a cornfield which lay adjoining the river above the fort when they were unexpectedly fired on by a party of Indians in ambush. Three balls pierced Bankman through the heart. Bedinger and Berry dashed into the cane at different points and escaped unhurt. Bankman's body was brought in — stripped of his entire scalp. . . .<sup>18</sup>

#### White and the Indians

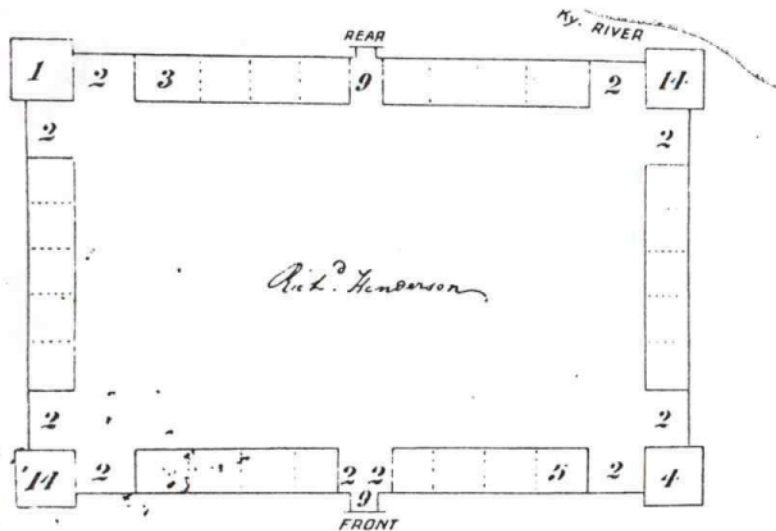
Boonesborough could boast of no better defender or more successful hunter than \_\_\_\_\_ White. Yet he had his failing: his lack of sufficient prudence and his careless and unnecessary exposure of himself to danger [which] was deemed more thoughtless than fool-hardy.

John Cradlebaugh, a noble fellow, as cautious as he was brave, seeing White and another of the garrison wending their way of a summer afternoon to bathe in the river, concluded he would see if he could not, by a little stratagem, put a stop to this heedless imprudence. Soliciting the aid of a fellow hunter, [Cradlebaugh and his friend], with their guns and blankets and a small quantity of paint, made their way to a ford up the river, crossed, bedaubed their faces with paint, and adjusted their blankets in good Indian style. . . . [Then they] stole upon their unsuspecting comrades bathing in the stream near the north shore. A little rustling around among the bushes attracted the attention of White and his companion who looked with stupid amazement upon the supposed Indians.

Whenever Cradlebaugh would level his rifle, White with the quickness of a wild duck would make a great splashing in the water, [dive under], and swim toward the southern shore. White, when he could stand it no longer, would rise to the surface to take breath and Cradlebaugh's threatening rifle would again cause

<sup>17</sup>Prior to coming to Kentucky, James Berry belonged to a company of rangers in Greenbrier County, (West) Virginia. By 1779, he was living at Boonesborough and took part in Bowman's Campaign against the Shawnee Indians. In 1782, he was a private in Capt. James Estill's company. He fought in Estill's Defeat, receiving several severe wounds from which he never fully recovered. On 28 March 1783, he married Sarah Grubbs in what is now Madison County, Kentucky. He was a longtime resident of Madison County and died there 12 February 1822. Revolutionary War pension application of James Berry, Va., R799; Ranck, *Boonesborough*, 255.

<sup>18</sup>Draper MSS, 1 A 18.



A plan for Fort Boonesborough in the handwriting of Judge Richard Henderson, who indicated in detail the functions of each section of the fort. From Ranck, *Boonesborough* (1901).

him to seek safety beneath the river's surface. In this way White finally reached the southern shore; and his comrade, filled with the greatest consternation, swam the stream, but so weak was he from fear that in ascending the bank he fell backwards and had they been actual Indians neither White nor his fellow would have escaped. . . .

The garrison was greatly alarmed and a party went out in pursuit. Cradlebaugh and his friend washed the paint from their faces and secretly returned to the fort in time to join in search of the Indians. For a long time Cradlebaugh and his comrade kept their secret.

White, who was one of the best hunters in the fort and often brought in more than his share of meat, finally lost his life while on a hunting tour north of Kentucky River. . . .<sup>19</sup>

#### Backwoods Baptism

Among the new comers that came to Boonesborough this season was a simple-hearted fellow who knew little of the back-

<sup>19</sup>*Ibid.*, 1 A 16-17.

woods or its wild inhabitants. When out one day near the fort, some waggish companions pointed out to him a pole-cat with the assurance that it was a young cub. Wishing doubtless to distinguish himself in the way of bold and daring exploits, he made a dash at young bruin intending to make him his prisoner. It is hardly necessary to add that he of the white and black spots suddenly and effectually worsted his adversary to the infinite amusement of the company present.

Subsequent experience added to a genuine love of daring made this simple-hearted recruit one of the bravest and best of hunters and Indian fighters in the country. . . .<sup>20</sup>

#### Looking for Land

Sometime in July 1779, three men from Virginia were at Boonesborough; [they] wished to locate good land. A young Calloway went with them to the waters of Elkhorn. When within a few miles of Boonesborough on their return on the trail [down] Howard's Creek, Calloway advised them to leave the path for safety. They [scoffed at] the idea. They didn't fear Indians and boasted of their bravery. Calloway left them.

When within 3 miles of Boonesborough and in ambush opposite to a five acre field of corn . . . , [the three men] were fired on by a party of Indians. Two were taken, one if not both of whom were wounded, and the other — one Smith — escaped and came dashing and hallowing into Boonesborough. . . . Capt. James Estill with Bedinger, Holder, young Calloway, and some dozen others seized their rifles and dashed off (first failing to get Smith to accompany and show them the spot).

When they reached the spot it was near night. No Indians were to be seen. Some buffalo tugs and other small articles lay scattered around and some slippery elm bark, which they generally carried with them for use in case of wounds. It was ascertained that [the members of] the Indian party from the several hiding places they had occupied were about 21 in number. . . . It was deemed prudent to return being too weak [weak] to venture pursuit and too near night and there was danger that they might be intercepted. Their little party comprised the effective force of Boonesborough, and they could not hazard too much.

<sup>20</sup>*Ibid.*, 1 A 16.

It was ascertained the next morning by the spies that the Indian[s] . . . had evidently not gone more than one or two hundred yards from where they had attacked Smith and his two comrades and had chosen a well selected position to waylay any pursuing party which they knew pretty well would follow. . . . Had Estill's [party] once got into the trap, but few more could have escaped.<sup>21</sup>

*Bedinger left Boonesborough in November 1779 and returned to his home at Shepherdstown.<sup>22</sup> The other members of his party — the Morgans, the Swearingens, Taylor, Strode, Duncan, Constant, Dusee, and presumably the two black men — left Boonesborough to form Strode's Station.<sup>23</sup>*

<sup>21</sup>*Ibid.*, 1 A 4. The two captives were Ambrose White and Moses McIlwain from Bedford County, Virginia. For additional information, see Chester Raymond Young, ed., *Westward into Kentucky: The Narrative of Daniel Trabue* (Lexington, 1981), 69-70, 174.

<sup>22</sup>Draper MSS, 1 A 31.

<sup>23</sup>Ellen Eslinger, "Migration and Kinship on the Trans-Appalachian Frontier: Strode's Station, Kentucky," *The Filson Club History Quarterly* 62 (1988): 52-66. Strode's Station was located about ten miles north of Boonesborough in what is now Clark County.

Jacob STARNs  
 Dr. M. Jeremiah  
 Strode.

### Appendix

#### The Defenders and Hunters of Boonesborough, 1779 (according to George M. Bedinger)<sup>24</sup>

Jno. Holder  
 Jas. Estill  
 Sam Estill  
 Capt. Dav. Gass  
 Maj. Thos. Swearingen\*  
 Benoni Swearingen\*  
 Col. Wm. Morgan\*  
 Ralph Morgan\*  
 John Taylor\*  
 Sam. Dusee\*  
 John Strode\*  
 Jas. Duncan\*  
 John Constant\*  
 Jesse Hodges  
 John Gass  
 Wm. Cradlebaugh  
 Jacob Stearns [Starns]  
 Old Nicholas Proctor, and his sons Joseph and Reuben  
 Old John South, and his sons Tom and Jack  
 Another John South, a distant relative  
 John Martin  
 John Calloway  
 James Bathe [Beathe]  
 James Berry  
 John Bankman  
 John Haweson  
 Chas. Edward Lockhart  
 Aquila White  
 Joseph Doniphan

\* Came into the country in summer of '79

<sup>24</sup>Draper MSS, 1 A 69.

Trimble, Mo.  
May 10, 1968

Kathryn Owen  
423 East Broadway, Winchester, Ky.

Dear Kathryn:

I received a list of Books and Maps for sale from the Kentucky Historical Society and listed was Old Homes and Landmarks of Clark County.

Many of our people came from Winchester or Clark County. I believe Brooks and Strodes are buried in Winchester cemetery.

I have wanted to get to Winchester for years but as my husband isn't interested I may never make it.

Would you happen to know where I can obtain a record of the burials in the Winchester Cemetery? There was an article in a newspaper some years back of finding an old Brooks and an Old Strode Cemetery when a new road was put through and the remains being re-buried in Winchester.

Abijah Brooks and Capt. John Strode were gr-parents several times removed.

Also, there are Calloway's, Hoys, Brown's etc. from that section of Kentucky.

If you know of any books that might obtain information I need on any of these lines I would appreciate knowing which ones.

Also, how much is your book on Old Homes and Landmarks of Clark County?

Yours truly,

*Edith Sims*

Mrs. Lee Sims  
Trimble, Mo. 64492

Clark Circuit Court  
Packet # 529

Bill of Complaint

Peter Snider complains of Constant Strode in a plea of trespass vi et armis For that the said defendant on the        day of        in the year of our Lord 1841 with force of arms etc. made an assault upon the said plaintiff to wit at the county of Clark and then and there with great force and violence seized and laid hold of said plaintiff and pushed and knocked him down and then and there with his fists gave and struck the said plaintiff a great many violent blows and strokes upon his body in divers places, and also then and there with great force and violence shook and pulled him the said plaintiff and cast and threw him the said plaintiff down upon the ground at a certain pile of wood and then and there with force and violence gave and struck him a great many other blows and strokes. By means of which said several premises the said plaintiff was and became sick and sore and lame and was deprived of doing and following his business and necessary affairs for the space of        weeks all which is against the peace and dignity of this commonwealth and to the damage of the said plaintiff \$500.

Wherefore he brings suit.

Smith for plaintiff.