

## No. 49 In A Series

## Strictly Kentucky Genealogy

Various Materials To Aid In Family History Research.

## Wade

William Wade was born ca. 1737 in Maryland. He may have been the son of Zephaniah Wade and Verlinda Pottenger of Prince George County, Maryland. He was the grandson of Robert Wade, the great-grandson of Zachary Wade, and the great-great-grandson of Richard Wade. He died ca. 1816, south of West Union, Adams County, Ohio. He married Mary Shephard ca. 1761, probably in Augusta, County, Virginia. She died in Adams County, Ohio. She was a French woman. He spent a great deal of his life in the trans-Allegheny region of Virginia and was a skilled frontiersman. He came to Mason County, Kentucky, in the early 1790s and settled with his family at the fort in Manchester, Adams County, Ohio, with Nathaniel Massie, who he took up north of Manchester on Eagle Creek near West Union, Adams County, Ohio.

Children of William Wade and Mary Shephard:

1. Mary, born ca. 1763, in Virginia, married Joseph Wethington, and died in Kentucky.

2. Margaret, born ca. 1765, and married James Moore. They both died in Highland County, Ohio. Some of their children moved to Villisca, Iowa.

3. Zephaniah, born 1767, married Mary Washburn March 1, 1795, and died January 1, 1838, Gift Ridge, Adams County, Ohio. He was the eldest son of William Wade. In these early days there were no marriage vows in Ohio, and those desiring to enter into that relation had to cross the Ohio River and get the ceremony performed in Kentucky. Such was the case with Zephaniah Wade and Mary Washburn. Zephaniah being one of the contracting parties of the Massie's Colony was entitled to his bounty of 100 acres of land in the county back of Manchester, and John Yokum both wanted the same lot on account of a fine spring that was on it. To decide which should have it they agreed to shoot at a mark. They placed a target against an oak tree and shot at it. Zephaniah got the land. This oak tree against which this target was placed is still standing, healthy and vigorous, with the scars

where the bullets were chopped out 85 years ago distinctly visible. Zephaniah built his cabin at once, and he and his young wife were soon into their new home in the wilderness with life's rugged journey just beginning. Here they cleared up and improved to make a good farm and beautiful home, on which they lived and died and were buried. Their remains now mingle with the soil and their happy, pleasant home is now owned by strangers. They will soon be forgotten.

They were parents of 15 children: Christena (Mrs. Trenary of Manchester), William (known as Captain Wade), Zephaniah, Ahaz, Margaret, Lydia, Nathan, Cynthia, Ann Edmond, Mahala (pronounced as Ma k la), and twins Theresa and Lafayette. Eight of these children still survive, four sons and four daughters, but only three remain in Adams County, Ohio. They are: Christena, William, and Lafayette. Christina was born on Gift Ridge November 29, 1795. She was the first white child born in Monroe Township, and it is believed the first one born in the county outside of the fort at Manchester. She is now in her 85th year but is as sprightly, bright, clear-minded, and young-looking as half the women at 50. Lafayette lives near Wrightsville. Captain Wade is the best-known member of this large family, in fact he is one of the most remarkable men in the county. He was born in 1798 and is therefore in his 82nd year, like his sister, Mrs. Tenary, he retains his physical and mental activity to an unusual degree.

Captain Wade's grandfathers, both paternal and maternal, served in the Revolutionary War. His maternal grandfather, Mr. Washburn, was at the taking of Ticonderoga by the Americans May 10, 1775. He was also in the War of 1812 and was given up as a prisoner of war to the British by Hull's surrender of Detroit, Michigan. He was once a captive among the Indians. For six years while with them he learned something of the art of doctoring with roots and herbs; perhaps he practiced the profession some after his release, for he was ever afterwards called Doctor Washburn. The captain claims to be the oldest native voter in Adams County. He is Democratic in politics and

was in 1878 elected coroner of the county which office he still holds. He acted as sheriff a short time in the latter part of 1879 to fill out the unexpired term of the regular sheriff who had resigned. It is believed that Captain Wade is the oldest person in Ohio performing the duties of a county office. May his remaining years on earth be many and pleasant ones.

4. Josiah, born ca. 1769, married Mary Duncan December 18, 1809, and died at Eagle Creek, Adams County, Ohio.

5. George, born 1771, died 1791. He was killed by Indians while building a cabin outside the fort at Manchester.

6. Edmond, born 1773, married Lucinda Duncan, and died in Mattoon, Illinois.

7. Joseph, born May 20, 1776, in Virginia, married Mary Baldwin December 12, 1800, and died August 1868, Adams County, Ohio.

8. Abbie and John, born 1778 and 1780, died at the age of 16 and 18, buried southwest of West Union on old homestead now owned by Mr. DeAtley.

Child of William Wade and Nancy Ann Groves, widow, married March 26, 1814, in Adams County, Ohio.

1. William Andrew Jackson, born 1815 in Adams County, Ohio. He was small when his father died in 1816. His half brother, Edmond, who moved to Illinois, took and reared him. William died October 19, 1870, Mattoon, Illinois.

Notes for William Wade:

Sources of information on the pedigree: Fairfax County, Virginia Land Records; Fairfax County, Virginia Probate Records; Prince George County, Maryland Land Records; and Adams County, Ohio Historical Society. It was researched by Sharon Johnson and Beverly Anderson.

*The First Settlement On The Kentucky Side Of The Ohio River.*

*A History of Kentucky by William B. Allen (1872).*

*The History of Kentucky* contains an account of the early settlement of the state, including Mason County, in which Limestone, what is known as Maysville, and Washington are situated. It states that Limestone at the mouth of Limestone Creek was founded in 1784 and established as a town in 1787 by the Virginia Legislature, it being in the Virginia Military District.

Daniel Boone lived at Limestone in 1787 - 1788 and visited the place after that time before going into Missouri in 1798.

Washington, located three and one-half miles south and west of Limestone was laid out as a town in 1786, by act of



Mary Jo Disney, 6685 E. County Road 1100N., Sunman, IN 47041, shares this photo of the Joe and Dollie Franklin Wells family, taken on Irishman, Knott County, Kentucky (where Carr Creek lake is now), in 1927. L-R: Samuel, Hilda, Joe, Norman (in front), Billie, Dollie, Mary Jo. and Mildred. See photo on next page.

the Virginia Legislature. As early as 1790 Washington is said to have had 460 inhabitants. It was the county seat of Mason County until 1847. It overshadowed Limestone, what is now Maysville, from the beginning until many years afterwards. It had a newspaper as early as 1797.

Simon Kenton, almost as famous as Daniel Boone, located at Drennon's Spring, or Kenton's Station, in 1784, but stayed there only a short time. Drennon's Spring was three miles southwest of Limestone and one mile from Washington. A number of other small settlements, many of them called "Licks," were made in the vicinity before 1790. During this time there was a large immigration from the east into Kentucky, which preceded the immigration into Ohio.

Tecumseh, the celebrated Indian chief in the War of 1812, was often seen around Limestone and Washington in his early days. It was at Washington where William Wade and family had been living for

sometime before joining Massie to find Manchester in 1790.

*First Adams County Survey Was Made By John O'Bannon*

(This article was printed in the *Peoples' Defender*, Thursday, July 10, 1969. Written by Judy Fields Stevenson)

Adams County made up the largest part of the Virginia Military District. From the old stockade at Three Islands (Manchester), Nathaniel Massie along with Beasley's, Washburns, McDonalds, Leedom's, Wades, and Edgington braved the savage beasts and more savage men. Together they explored the remotest regions, surveying its richest valleys and fertile plain. The land between the Scioto and Little Miami rivers were to be given to veterans of the Continental lines in the Revolutionary War. They were to be given lands as follows: private, 200 acres; non-commissioned officer, 400 acres; subaltern, 2,000 acres; captain, 3,000 acres; major, 4,000 acres; lieutenant colonel, 4,500 acres; colonel, 10,000 acres; and

major general, 15,000 acres.

Surveyors were hired to locate the land for individual soldiers. The first survey in the county was by John O'Bannon in November of 1787 on Three Mile Creek in Sprigg Township. Another was for 1,000 acres in the name of Philip Slaughter. This was located opposite Maysville. On November 17th, 1,000 acres were surveyed for Mac Clements at the mouth of Eagle Creek. All of those were then in Adams County before the formation of Brown County in 1818.

Deputy surveyors for this region were: John O'Bannon; Arthur Fox; Nathaniel Massie; John Beasley; William Lytle; Cadwallader Wallace; Allen Latham; Robert Tod; Benjamin Hough; Joseph Riffs; E. V. Kendrick; James Taylor; Joseph Kerr; James Poage; John Ellison, Jr.; John Barritt; William Robe; and G. Vinsonhaler.

The largest survey entry made was by Arthur Fox in the name of Thomas Hill in 1793. This was for 5,333 1/3 acres, now Liberty Township on Hills Fork of Eagles



Mary Jo Disney of Sunman, Indiana, also shares this 1995 photo of the Wells family, possibly taken in Sunman. Sitting, l-r: Mildred, Samuel, Dollie, and Norman. Standing, l-r: Hilda, Billie, and Mary Jo. See photo on previous page.

Creek.

The longest entry was in the name of Charles Scott in Green Township. It contained 2,000 acres and extended from Sandy Springs along the Ohio River bottom to the mouth of Ohio Brush Creek. It was eight miles long and one-half-mile wide. This was made by Massie April 10, 1793.

In the winter of 1790 Massie and a few brave men made the first settlement in the Virginia Military District. They erected rude cabins for shelter opposite the lowest of the three islands and enclosed them with strong pickets driven into the ground, forming a rude kind of blockade for protection from the Indians. From here Massie and his men ventured forth to make their surveys. They were one in the following manner to insure as much safety as possible.

Massie usually had three assistant surveyors, each surveyor was accompanied by six men. The whole party amounted to the total of 28 men. Every man had a prescribed duty to perform. In front went the hunter who kept in advance of the surveyor by 200 or 300 yards. He looked

for game and was ready to give notice of any danger from the Indians. Then followed the surveyor, the two claim men, the markers, and the packhorse man with baggage. They all kept near one another for defense from an attack. Two or 300 yards behind came the spy, to make certain of no attack from the rear. Each man carried his rifle, blanket, and other needed supplies. The packhorses were carried the cooking utensils and other necessary equipment. When Massie gave the signal the whole party would leave the warm fires, carrying their blankets with them. Carrying firearms and baggage they walked several hundred yards away. There they scraped away the snow and huddled down together for the night. They would spread half of the blankets which were fastened together with skewers to prevent them from slipping apart. The whole party crouched down together with their rifles in their arms and their pouches under their heads for pillows.

Among the chairmen and markers for O'Bannon were: John Nealey, J. Britton, Sylvester Munroney, George Abed, William Hood, William Christie,

John Williams, Thomas Palmer, and Josiah Stout. For Arthur Fox they were: William Leedon, George Edgington, Robert Smith, Duncan McKenzie, James Thompson, Robert Walton, James McCutlin, and John Reed. For Massie there were: John McIntyre, Edward Walden, Zephaniah Wade, William Colvin, William Campbell, Thomas Kirker, Duncan McArthur, David Lovejoy, John Riggs, John Beasley, Jim Yochum, and Nathaniel Hart.

*Survey Of The Virginia Military District Founding Of Manchester, Ohio 1790. "William Wade"*

A *History of Brown County, Ohio* was published by W. H. Beers & Company, Chicago, 1883, and also a *History of Adams County*, published about the same time, from which the foregoing *Sketch of the Wade Family* is taken, contain accounts of the founding of Manchester, Adams County, Ohio, on the north bank of the Ohio River, in the winter of 1790-1791, by a colony of about 25 families recruited at Washington and Maysville, Kentucky, and headed by General Nathaniel Massie.

As preliminary to the account the histories explain that when, following the Revolutionary War, the Thirteen States, by common agreement ceded to the United States government the Public Lands by them, stretching from the Alleghenies, west to the Mississippi, and beyond; the state of Virginia in making her cession in 1784, reserved certain territory on both sides of the Ohio River, Kentucky, and Ohio, for the purpose of payment of land warrants to her troops in the Revolutionary War. The necessity of reserving the lands for this purpose on the Kentucky side of the river was never questioned. It was not until August 1790 Congress recognized the necessity of the reservation on the Ohio side of the river.

The Reservation was known as the Virginia Military Lands or District. The part on the Ohio side of the river extended from the Little Miami on the west (which empties five miles above Cincinnati), to the Scioto on the east (which empties at Portsmouth), and as far north as the source of the Little Miami. Included in this is Adams County, which at that time took in a part of Brown County on the west of Adams County.

In 1787 Virginia took steps to have the lands north of the river surveyed. The first surveyor sent out was James O'Bannon Creek. Adams County is named after him. The best-known among those sent out to survey these lands was Nathaniel Massie, and expert surveyor, of rugged character, of the Daniel Boone type. Massie had already made a reputa-

tion in Kentucky. Until 1790 surveying on the north side of the river was very dangerous. An account of Indian hostility and the surveys made by O'Bannon and others was made by stealth. Massie decided to organize a settlement to be used as a base for his operations.

The Brown County History says: "The first permanent settlement between the Little Miami and Scioto was made by General Nathaniel Massie at Manchester, Adams County, five miles east of the present Brown County line."

Quoting from a volume of *Biographical Sketches* by one John McDonald, The History continues:

Massie in the winter of the year 1790 determined to make a settlement in order that he might be in the midst of his surveying operations and secure his party from danger and exposure. In order to effect this he gave general notice in Kentucky of his intention and offered to each of the first 25 families, as a donation, one inside and one outside lot and 100 acres of land, provided they would settle in a town he intended to lay off as his settlement. His proffered terms were soon closed, upwards of 30 families joined him. After various consultations with his friends the bottom of the Ohio River opposite the lower of the Three Islands was selected as the eligible spot. Here he fixed his station and laid off into a town, now called Manchester, about 12 miles above Maysville, Kentucky. This little Confederacy with Mallis at the helm (who was the soul of it) went to work with a spirit. Cabins were raised by the middle of March 1791. The whole town was enclosed with strong pickets, firmly fixed in the ground, and with a blockhouse at each angle for defense.

Thus was the first settlement in the Virginia Military District and the fourth settlement in the bounds of the state of Ohio, effected. Although the settlement was commenced in the hottest Indian War it buffered less from depredations, or even in interruptions, than any settlement previously made on the Ohio River. This was no doubt owing to the watchful band of brave spirits who guarded the place; men who were reared in the midst of danger and inured to perils, and as watchful as hawks. Here were the Beasleys, the Stouts, the Washburns, the Ledoms, the Edingtons, the Denings, the Ellisons, the Utts, the McKenzies, the Wades, and others who were equal to the Indians in all the arts and stratagems of border war.

As soon as Massie had completely prepared his station for defense, the whole population went to work and cleared the



Sylvia Morrical, 2129 E. 100 N., Portland, IN 47371, shares this photo of her father (a Kentucky native), John Thomas Stevens (on the left) and Watson Caudill. It was taken ca. 1935 while serving with the CCCs in May, Idaho.

lower of the Three Islands and planted it in corn. The area was very rich and produced heavy crops. The woods with a little industry supplied a choice variety of game. Deer, elk, buffalo, bears, and turkey were abundant, while the river furnished a variety of excellent fish. The wants of the inhabitants, under these circumstances, were few and easily gratified.

When this station was made the nearest neighbors northwest of the Ohio were the inhabitants at Columbia, a settlement below the mouth of the Little Miami, five miles above Cincinnati, and at Gallipolis, a French settlement near the mouth of the Great Kanawha.

The following contract between Massie and his associates, in the establishing the settlement, illustrates the dangers which were apprehended and the necessity of rewards to those who were willing to face the dangers:

#### The Contract

Articles Of Agreement Between Nathaniel Massie: Of one part and several persons who have hereunto subscribed, of the other part, witnessed; that the subscribers hereof duth oblige themselves to settle in the town laid off, on the northwest side of the Ohio River, opposite the lower part of the Three Islands; and make said town or the neighborhood, on the northwest side of the Ohio River, their permanent seat of residence for more than two months at a time, and during such absence, he shall furnish a

strong able-bodied man sufficient to bear arms at least equal to himself; no subscriber shall absent himself the time above mentioned, nonsubscriber shall absent himself in case of actual danger, or if absent, he shall return immediately. Each of the subscribers duth oblige himself to comply with the rules and regulations that shall be agreed on by a majority thereof for the support of the settlement.

In consideration whereof, Nathaniel Massie duth bind and oblige himself, his heirs, etc., to make over and convey to such of the subscribers, that comply with the above conditions, at the expiration of two years, a good and sufficient title unto one in lot in said town, containing five poles in front and 11 back, one outlet of four acres convenient to said town in the bottom, which the said Massie is to put them immediate possession of; also, 100 acres of land which the said Massie has shown to a part of the subscribers; the conveyance to be made to each of the subscribers, their heirs, and assigns.

In witness whereof each of the parties have hereunto set their hands and seals this first day of December 1790: Nathaniel Massie, John Ellison, John Lindsey, Allen Simmeral, William Wade, John X McCutehen, John Black, Andrew X Anderson, Samuel X Smith, Mathew X Hart, Jessie X Wethington, Henry X Nelson, Josiah Wade, James Allison, Robert Ellison, Thomas Stout, Zephaniah Wade, and George Wade.

Done in the presence of John Beasley and James Tittle.

I have said that this agreement was drafted and subscribed at Kenton's Station near the town of Washington, Kentucky. It is probable that it was drafted at Limestone and subscribed there. However, the settlement was begun immediately, the town was laid out into lots and named Manchester, after Manchester in England, the home of the ancestors of its founder. The new settlement was known for years as Massie's Station.

#### Who Was Nancy Groves' Widow?

Somehow the two names that keep popping up are Nancy Rayn or Nancy Runyon. Nancy Runyon went by the name of Ann. Somewhere there is a clue but to this day it seems to evade us. Somewhere there has to be a Mr. Groves who died around the same time of that year. As harsh as this land was at this time, women alone with a family to support did not survive unless they remarried or moved back in with their parents.

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