

perament would have remained away from family and friends for many years. Of all the widow's sons, he had always been the most devoted to his family. Furthermore, Jim would not have been happy in hiding. To a person of his forthright temper self-concealment would have been positively distasteful. He had nothing to gain through anonymity. Why should a man give up all his life's gain at the age of forty-eight for a mere whim? One account had it that Jim was "miffed" by Ann's interest in other men, yet the teller of this story, like others before him, recalled that Jim never appeared jealous nor seemed to object to attentions his handsome wife received from other men.

Whatever the pioneers said about Jim, they always closed their statements with some high tribute. "Col. Harrod, besides possessing remarkable executive talent and other qualities of a great leader," wrote one of them, "was a man of the tenderest sympathy and a stranger to fear."⁸⁰ Another wrote, "Colo. Harrod was beloved—honorable—no seeker after fame; he served his country & race. He was a good soldier. . . ."⁸¹ Jim could have asked no better epitaph than these words, typical judgments of his copioneers.⁸²

⁸⁰ Collins, *Kentucky*, II, 615. See also Chap. XIX of this study.

⁸¹ Draper Collection, 12C24.

⁸² See also *ibid.*, 17CC192, 12CC45, 12CC112, 9J35 ff., 12C22-23, 4CC85, 4CC69, 48J10-11; James T. Morehead, *Address in Commemoration of the First Settlement of Kentucky* (Frankfort, 1840).

EPILOGUE

JIM HARROD had gone on so many long hunting and trapping expeditions that for months after his disappearance most of his friends and relatives half expected him to come strolling into town safe and happy with a fresh load of furs, branded and ready for trade at the Falls. Ann and her seven-year-old daughter Margaret waited a year before they gave up hope.¹

During this period, one of mingled anxiety and hope for Harrod's family, significant changes came to Kentucky. Old Virginia cut her apron strings at last, and on June 1, 1792, the new commonwealth was admitted to the Union as the fifteenth state.² Preparatory to admission, the tenth and final one of the historic Danville conventions met to draw up a constitution.³ The nature of the constitution had been thoroughly discussed in newspapers like the *Kentucky Gazette* and by organizations like the Political Club of Danville.⁴ One group, favoring slavery and property rights, pitted itself strongly against the "radicals" from Pennsylvania and North Carolina who advocated a one-house legislature and voting by ballot and opposed a bill of rights which would protect private property and slavery. The result was a compromise—an odd combination of "progressive democracy and staid conservatism,"⁵ with a strong kinship to the new Con-

¹ He made his will on November 28, 1791; it was probated in December, 1793. See Mercer County Will Book 1, p. 15.

² Thorpe (comp.), *Federal and State Constitutions*, III, 1264-77.

³ April, 1792; Butler, *Commonwealth of Kentucky*, 206, speaks of it as the eighth.

⁴ See Thomas Speed, *The Political Club of Danville*, Filson Club Publication, No. 2 (Louisville, 1894).

⁵ E. Merton Coulter, "Early Frontier Democracy in the First Kentucky Constitution," in *Political Science Quarterly* (New York), XXXIX (1924), 665-77.

stitution of the United States. For the first time in this country a state granted suffrage to all free male citizens over twenty-one years of age.⁶ This was a fortunate provision as well as a democratic one because, as one writer has observed, "land claims in Kentucky overlapped each other like shingles on a roof. . . ."⁷ Representation was to be based on population rather than on territorial units as in Virginia, and elections were to be held annually. The constitution guaranteed freedom of religion.

Eighteen years had passed since Jim Harrod founded the first Kentucky settlement. A rough census showed that the population was about 100,000 in 1792.⁸ Jim would have been proud of the growth of the frontier state.

When Harrod's will was probated a year later, everything was in order. He willed his entire estate, which was large and solvent, to Ann and Margaret. The mother was to serve as executrix and guardian.⁹ An inventory showed personal items valued at more than four hundred pounds—considerably above the average appraisal for that year, when only a few Kentucky estates had property valued at more than two hundred pounds.¹⁰

Ann had numerous agreements and an assortment of small debts to attend to, and it was natural that she should call on Will Harrod to assist her in these complicated matters. Will had visited his brother just before the fatal expedition¹¹ and knew and understood Ann far better than the other Harrods ever did. He called in his own son-in-law, who was a good lawyer, to help her straighten out the tangles.¹²

Between court appearances Will went hunting and trap-

⁶ *Ibid.*; Shaler, *A Pioneer Commonwealth*, 122.

⁷ Abernethy, *Three Virginia Frontiers*, 76.

⁸ Shaler, *A Pioneer Commonwealth*, 108.

⁹ Mercer County Will Book 1, p. 37.

¹⁰ Records of the Kentucky State Historical Society, Frankfort.

¹¹ Draper Collection, 12C24.

¹² Court records of Mercer and Lincoln counties. See also Draper Collection, 27C18. His name was Isaac Miranda, and he was a member of an old trading family of Lancaster, Philadelphia, and Caracas, Venezuela.

ping in Kentucky or returned to militia service in his own Pennsylvania county, where he held a colonel's commission.¹³ Sometimes he was stationed far out on the frontier, substituting for one of his men who found duty inconvenient at the time, or organizing commissaries and calling elections for minor offices.¹⁴ He found time to vote in civil elections, too, and with his brother Levi once signed a petition to the governor of Pennsylvania, protesting a fraudulent election.¹⁵

Now and then he went over to the Muddy Creek store to buy supplies. One account shows a purchase of two yards of calico and a silk handkerchief. At another time he signed a note for his son William who bought a velvet-jacket pattern, one stick of mohair, a skein of silk, two yards of black ribbon, a handkerchief, and four flints. Will finally invested in a pair of spectacles for himself.¹⁶

But Will still had a hankering for Kentucky, and when his beloved Amelia died soon after Jim's estate was settled, he sold his home, "Drowl," and moved to Kentucky to live with his son William, near old friends and neighbors from the Ten Mile area. He had been high up on Fish Creek when news of Amelia's death came, and his self-reproach over not having been at her deathbed was such that he could no longer bring himself to call Ten Mile home. For the next eight years, until his death in 1801, Will roamed the Kentucky woods, hunting, trapping, and fishing, occasionally expressing his opinion on some political question, but for the most part living quietly with his children.¹⁷

Thomas, the eldest of the Harrods, had moved west into Tennessee, although his son James was still living in Kentucky. One day while Tom was plowing on the large farm

¹³ Draper Collection, 4NN83.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ T. L. Montgomery (comp.), *Pennsylvania Archives*, Ser. 6 (Harrisburg, 1907), 41.

¹⁶ Muddy Creek Ledger, original, in collection of H. L. Leckey.

¹⁷ Draper Collection, 37J168-74. The William Harrod Papers, Draper Collection, Ser. 4NN, contain several political tracts.

which he had bought close to the frontier, an Indian crept up to the clearing and killed him.¹⁸

There was consequently only one of the widow's sons living now: Levi Harrod, Sr., the youngest and proudest of them all, had stayed on in the Monongahela country, moving easily from strenuous military service in the Continental line and the Virginia and Pennsylvania militias, to the position of first justice of the vast Washington County, where he read marriage and burial services and served in court for thirty years. Levi was the only one of the Harrod boys who became an active religious leader. In the records of the Goshen Baptist Church from 1781 to 1811, Brother Levi Harrod and his wife, Rachel, continuously appear among the faithful. Levi served as trustee; he was on a committee to judge whether one of the members was a "lyer" and on another "to exclude a sister for swearing and drinking to excess." Brother Harrod reported "that a Difficulty had arose betwixt Sister Jane Rose and Mary Jones and In order to accomodate the matter the Church" had appointed him to head a committee to straighten it out and report. Levi settled his church dues in cash, too, while most of the others paid in grain. He served as treasurer, moderator, and messenger, and on one occasion chose a pastor.¹⁹

Finally, when most of their children were well settled in the new Ohio country northeast of present-day Columbus, Rachel and Levi became restive. It was hard for an old woman to be away from her children and grandchildren, especially when they wrote glowing letters about their fine farms and growing prosperity. Levi, too, declared he could stand the Monongahela country no longer. Neighbors as thick as bees in molasses made a country civilized, but they also made for very poor hunting. So Levi asked the Goshen Baptist Church for letters of "dismission," explaining that he

¹⁸ Swainson records.

¹⁹ Record Book of Goshen Baptist Church, copy typed from the original by Mrs. Howard L. Leckey, Waynesburg, Pa., in collection of H. L. Leckey.

would live no longer in a country where he could not get his "fresh b'ar meat."²⁰

Levi, the substantial citizen, man of property, civil and religious leader, returned to his own kind.

One of the pioneers who went out to this part of Ohio with Levi was Abraham Thomas. In his reminiscences Thomas evaluated life as he knew it on the Ohio and Pennsylvania frontiers, and it is unlikely that a single one of the Widow Harrod's sons would have disagreed with what he said. "We were again," he wrote, "in the midst of Indians, who daily visited our cabins; but I felt no other sentiment towards them, than pity for subdued and dejected foes. We lived harmoniously together until they followed the game to remote forests. In our new residence, fat turkeys everywhere abounded, and at all seasons of the year, venison and bear meat, were for a long time our common fare.

"We raised houses full of healthy children; our stock gave us no trouble. We enjoyed the best state of social intercourse with our neighbors, and newcomers. We knew none happier than ourselves; and I have yet to learn, of any higher state of substantial comfort, than [that of] the frontier backwoodsman."²¹

The Harrods were always seeking good land. Farming and land speculation offered the best opportunity for young men in a predominantly agricultural country. Although originally they had aspired to become gentlemen farmer-planters like their rich relatives back in Virginia and Maryland, this first generation of Ohio Valley Harrods were forced to spend most of their time in Indian fighting and in locating and clearing land. Each of the widow's sons achieved a measure of success beyond the average for his time. But it was James, the founder of Kentucky's first settlement, who became the traditional hero of the family, and his name was passed on to

²⁰ Papers of the late Hiram Hiller, excerpts made by Bernice L. Swainson, ca. 1938, at Waynesburg, Pa.

²¹ Draper Collection, 27CC33.

succeeding generations of Harrod pioneers. While the contributions of his brothers merged with those of thousands of other frontiersmen to form the warp in the ever-widening fabric of frontier civilization, Jim Harrod's became part of the pattern threads. The town that he founded remained the center of pioneer activity during the early years; and today it is a busy trading and tourist center, where a memorial park, a national monument, a reconstructed fort, as well as a number of fine examples of southern architecture, perpetuate his fame.

The story of this first settlement and its founder is also the history of a vital period in the life of the frontier and the nation. Jim Harrod's early occupation, apparently without financial or political backers of any sort, of a region hundreds of miles from older, well-established frontiers, was an achievement of heroic proportions. But the credit for this achievement does not belong to him alone; there were other resourceful, equally brave leaders who left the comparative safety of old frontiers for the excitement and promise of the distant Kentucky wilderness.

In spite of their physical isolation, Jim Harrod and the other Western pioneer leaders managed to keep in touch with their families, friends, and, to a lesser degree, with governmental authorities in the older settlements. These vital contacts formed a reservoir of strength, matched only by their own community of efforts. Kentucky owes her beginnings to no royal or colonial charter, to no one speculative group, to no individual, but to the efforts of "many men and many companies of men," whose talents and primitive resources merged to form one of the most exciting chapters in the nation's history.

APPENDIX

Original members of James Harrod's Company, 1774.

Blackford, Joseph ^{1,2} , Pa.	Harmon, John Valentine ⁴ , Va.
Blair, James ^{3,4} , Pa.	Harrod, Levi ⁴ , Pa.
Brown, James ^{1,2,3,4} , Pa.	Harrod, Thomas ^{3,4} , N. C.
Brown, John ¹ , Pa.	Henton, Evan (John?) ^{3,4} , Va.
Campbell, Arthur ¹ , Va.	Hite, Abraham ³ , Va.
Campbell, Wm. ^{1,2} , Va.	Hogan, Henry ² , Va.
Chapline, Abraham ^{1,2,3,4} , Va.	Kerr, James ^{1,2} , Pa.
Clark, John ^{1,2,3,4} , Va.	Martin, Wm. ² , Pa.
Cowan, Jared ^{2,3,4} , Pa.	Mortimer, Wm. ^{1,2}
Cowan, John ^{1,2,3,4} , Pa.	Myers, Wm. ^{1,2}
Crawford, John ^{3,4} , Pa.	Ooley, Peter ⁹
Crow, John ^{1,2,3,4} , Va.	Poage, Geo. ^{3,6} , Va.
Crow, William ^{1,2} , Va.	Quirk, Thos. ^{4,5} , Va.
Davis, Azariah (Annasias) ^{1,2,3,4} , Va.	Rees, Azor (Azaria?) ^{1,2,3,4}
Davis, James ^{1,2,10} , Va.	Sanders, James ^{1,2} , Va.
Doran, Patrick ^{1,2} , Va.	Shelp, John ^{1,2,3,4} , Va.
Dugan, Henry ^{1,2}	Smith, John ^{1,2} , Va.
Fields, Wm. ^{1,2,3} , Va.	Sodousky, James ^{3,7} , Va.
Garrett, Wm. ^{1,2} , Va.	Stull, Martin ^{1,2} , Va.
Glenn, David ^{1,2,3,4} , Pa.	Venable, Wm. ^{1,2}
Glenn, Thomas ^{3,4} , Pa.	Wiley, James ^{1,2,3,4} , Va.
Harlan, Elijah ^{1,2} , Va.	Williams, David ^{1,2} , Va.
Harlan, James ^{3,4} , Va.	Wilson, John ^{3,4,8}
Harlan, Silas ^{1,2,3,4} , Va.	Zane, Andrew ⁴ , Va.

F. P. Strickler, M.D., of Louisville, Kentucky, in a conversation with the author, August 17, 1949, asserted that he had seen

¹ Draper Collection, 12C24, letter of John Fauntleroy, son-in-law of James Harrod. The list is, according to Fauntleroy, incomplete. Harrod's Company Book was in his possession.

² *Ibid.*, 14J128, Robert B. McAfee, who had copied names from Harrod's Company Book.

³ Collins, *Kentucky*, II, 517, 422, 750.

⁴ Lucien Beckner, "James Harrod's Company," *Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society* (Frankfort), XX (1922), 280-82.

⁵ Draper Collection, 36J23-28.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 4CC113-14.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 4CC69.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 7ZZ8-22.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 12CC146.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 3QQ61.