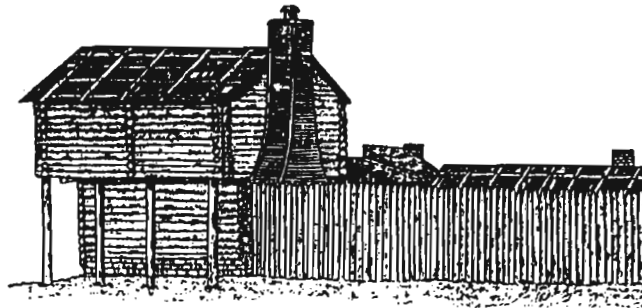


# ***James Harrod***

**The Man And His Family**



***“His deeds made possible the early settlement  
and security of the future state of Kentucky”***

# *James Harrod*

**The Man And His Family**

*By Rebecca Wilson Conover*

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#### A FOREWARD

The story of "James Harrod, The Man and His Family" was researched and written by Rebecca Wilson Conover. It was read before the Harrodsburg Historical Society in August 1965 and published in 1972 in the Harrodsburg Herald through the courtesy of the Harrodsburg Historical Society.

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# *James Harrod-The Man*

## PART 1

James Harrod, the founder of Harrodsburg, Kentucky was the son of John and Sarah Moore Harrod. John Harrod, came to America from England and settled in one of the New England states. At an undisclosed date, while John Harrod was away from his home, Indians burned his house and killed his wife. With his two young sons, he later moved to the Shenandoah Valley where he married Sarah Moore, the mother of Col. James Harrod. The family then moved to the "Big Cave" in what was then Cumberland County, Pennsylvania where James Harrod was born in 1742.

By 1772 James Harrod and his brother, William Harrod, were residents on Ten-Mile-Creek in Bedford County (now Washington County), Pa., ten miles below Old Fort Redstone on the western bank of the Monongahela River.

Thomas Harrod, half-brother of Col. James Harrod, settled in North Carolina. It is believed that while on a visit there Col. James Harrod met Daniel Boone and others and learned of Kentucky. Colonel Harrod's first visit to Kentucky was in 1773. At this time, James Harrod was at least 31 years of age and unmarried.

Unlike Daniel Boone, his contemporary, and at times his companion, James Harrod, made Kentucky his permanent home until his death. Thus, Kentucky can justifiably lay exclusive claim to him. Unlike Daniel Boone, Harrod's feats and deeds have not become as nationally recognized and his history is the more confused and the lesser written about. This is unfortunate for his deeds made possible the early settlement and security of the future State of Kentucky.

James Harrod was a natural born gentleman and leader of men. His unusually fine physical attributes, gentleness, concern for others, made men who refused to acknowledge any other leadership, rally about him. He was over six feet tall, muscular, well proportioned and of good features with very black hair and beard. His family background, his love of the wilderness, and his personal aspirations were similar to those of the men he led. Robert B. McAfee describes James Harrod as being "six feet, one inch high, dark eyes and black hair, and trim middle."

James Harrod and at least 32 men came to Kentucky in 1774. They made the trip in canoes down the Monongahela and Ohio Rivers, and up the Kentucky to a creek called Landing Run. They then traveled overland across Salt River to a big spring (the mouth of present town creek) where they made their

camp and founded Harrodsburg June 16, 1774, being the first to map out a town in Kentucky. They assigned one acre in lots on each side of a street running east and west, and ten-acre out-lots to each of the men. They proceeded to build four or five cabins on their in-lots and drew lots for cabins which were scattered over a wide territory from the "station camp", which they called "Lottery cabins."

Shortly after the original Harrod party arrived, they were joined by Isaac Hite's party of explorers and surveyors. While the men were busy planning their town, Lord Dunmore's messengers, Daniel Boone and Michael Stoner came to warn them of the Indian uprisings and to call them in to the settlements to take part in Dunmore's war. The men remained at Harrodsburg until July, 1774. They then went back, loyally, and were present at the Battle of Point Pleasant, October 10, 1774.

In March of 1775 Harrod and his company of men returned to Harrodsburg and found part of their cabins still standing. By September 8, 1775 the families had followed and found the few remaining cabins inadequate and insecure. Thus, a large fort was begun on what later became known as "Old Fort Hill." Near this historic site the reproduced fort was later constructed as a permanent memorial to those early Kentucky pioneers.

Fort Harrod became a stockaded stronghold for these pioneer families until they could settle on lands of their own. The fort also provided refuge for fortiers when Indians were on the warpath near their own weaker stations. George Rogers Clark planned his conquest of the northwest Territory within the narrow confines of Fort Harrod. Religion was practiced by the Rev. John Lythe and Squire Boone; education was provided by Mrs. William Coomes and industry was carried on by William Poage and Ann Poage who brought the first spinning wheel over the Alleghenies to this fort. Scores of famous pioneers occupied it at some time during its eventful years. Blackfish is on record as having attacked Fort Harrod.

In February of 1778 at Logan's Station James Harrod was married to the widow Ann Coburn McDonald by Robert Todd, the chosen justice of the peace. Mrs. Ann Harrod had a two-year-old son, James McDonald Jr. whom James Harrod came to love as his own. After the marriage took place this little family lived at Fort Harrod until such time as Harrod could fortify his own preemption lands. These lands were at a place called "Boiling Springs," six miles southwest of Harrodsburg in what is now Boyle County, hereafter called Harrod's Station. No exact description of this station exists, but it is said to have consisted of several cabins surrounded by a stockade. Among the families known to have lived at Harrod's Station were the Henry Prathers; the Isaac Pritchards; Mrs. Harrod's parents, Samuel and Margaret Coburn, and her brother's family, the James Coburns; Jacob Kelly and several of James Harrod's nephews. The Harlans soon after had their own station nearby. 161

Some of the Low Dutch were also at Harrod's Station until they could move to their exposed lands in Mercer and Shelby counties. The so-called Dutch Station appears to have been on Harrod land. However, some of them, such as the Bontas, were on Davis land, when Harrod could no longer accommodate them all.

In addition to fortifying his station in 1779 and commanding a company in Bowman's campaign, James Harrod found time to make fine land entries with the Virginia Land court. On October 27, 1779, he entered 1,400 acres at "a place known by the name of Boiling Springs on Harrod's Run by improving the land in 1774 and raising a crop of corn in the years 1775 and 1776 and being a residence in this country ever since." The total acreage entered by James Harrod in 1779 in his station area was 2,818 acres.

Sometime in the month of September 1785, James and Ann Harrod's only child was born. She was named for Ann's mother, Margaret Coburn. It was also about this time that James Harrod built for Ann the large frame twin-chimney house within the Harrod Station stockade, the first of its kind in Kentucky. It must have been this same year that Ann Harrod became a faithful life-long convert of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Coburn family apparently were Presbyterians.

The new Harrod home -because of its spaciousness ( it held 65 guests comfortably), the hospitality of its owners, and its safe location within the fortified walls of Harrod's Station -became a preaching place and stopover for early Methodist itinerant preachers. The Methodist minister who most probably converted Ann Harrod was the Rev. Francis Clark. The Rev. Clark formerly was of Mecklenburg County, Va., and bought land and settled two or three miles from Harrod's Station in 1783.

\* The Harrod family also became interested in education about this time. Mrs. Harrod's son, James McDonald Jr., was ready to go beyond the 3 r's. Until then, this was all that had been available in the Kentucky forts outside Lexington.

The Harrod Latin School was opened in 1786. A young teacher named Malcolm Worley, from a Latin school near Lexington, was brought out to teach. One of the students was Nathaniel Hart and another was John Fauntleroy, then eight years old. John was the son of the widow Fauntleroy from the new town of Danville. The school only lasted one year. In November of 1787 young James McDonald Jr., wandered off into the woods where he was taken by Indians and burned alive at the stake. James Harrod was unconsolable at the tragic loss of his adored stepson. Unable to bear the sight and sound of his dead boy's mates, he closed the school. John Fauntleroy finished his education at the Lexington Latin School but later he was to return and marry the Harrods' only child, Margaret Harrod.

Between the years 1787 and 1790, James Harrod spent much of his time surveying and improving his land speculations on Green River. The year 1791, the year before his death, was a busy year in the courts for him. The records show James Harrod was doing everything possible to protect himself and his family from future land suits. However, lands suits were inevitable and the Harrods were pursued by many court battles. Yet because of their careful foresight and determination, their daughter, Margaret, was one of central Kentucky's richest heiresses when she married in 1802.

James Harrod wrote his last will and testament on the 28th day of November 1791, one year before the last of those solitary hunting expeditions of which he was so fond. In his will he leaves to his "beloved wife Ann" one half of the "manor plantation" to include the dwelling house, slaves, furniture and one-half of all livestock. To "my daughter Margaret" he leaves the rest of his estate-to include 300 acres of the manor plantation, all other lands and all debts owing him. In addition to this property, Margaret Harrod inherited through her half-brother, James McDonald Jr., "two settlements and preemptions," - which would total 2,800 acres.

Col. James Harrod died mysteriously during one of his hunting trips in the winter of the year 1792. Because his body was never found and because of his prominence in the State, his death intrigued the public. Harrod's disappearance also gave rise to wild speculations and was taken advantage of by the malicious gossip of the old pioneers. The allegations-that Colonel Harrod's disappearance was in fact a "wilderness divorce"; -that his skeleton was found in a cave; or that he had been seen in several other states can hardly be true for several reasons. First, if James Harrod's skeleton had been found and identified, he would have a marked grave today! Secondly, James Harrod's desertion of his family would be completely out of character. Records and personal recollections show he was a doting parent to both his stepson and his daughter. Indeed, the death of his stepson was perhaps the greatest tragedy in his life. Nor, from all records cited, is there any indication that James and Ann Harrod were unhappy in their marriage. To the contrary, he appears to have been proud of Ann and most considerate of her well-being.

The records show, Col. James Harrod's death was accepted by his family, responsible members of the community, his associates, the law and his brothers and sisters.

Harrod's seat on the Harrodsburg Board of Trustees was declared vacant on the 30th day of August, 1793 because of his recent death. His will was produced before the open court of Mercer County on the 27th day of August, 1793 and finally, on the 28th of January, 1794 the will was recorded. The inventory and appraisal of Colonel Harrod's personal estate was recorded at the March Mercer County Court in 1794.



Mrs. Ann Harrod's testimony in her depositions for her Revolutionary War veteran's widow pension (which she never received) comes the closest to solving the mystery. Her husband was killed or died in a hunting expedition up the Kentucky River in the fall of the year 1792, and he has not been heard of since, a part of his clothing being found afterwards in the river .... Mrs. Harrod often told Col. Robert B. McAfee her conviction that her husband was killed by Bridges, who had a suit pending in which Col. Harrod was an important witness against him. Mrs. Harrod's conviction that her husband was killed by a man named Bridges was echoed by her son-in-law, John Fauntleroy, as recorded in the Draper Manuscripts: "Col Harrod went with Bridges to hunt the famous silver mine (Swifts' silver mine) in February 1792, and never returned, killed by Bridges, no doubt . . . the villain."

## *Ann Coburn Harrod*

Wife and Widow of Colonel James Harrod.

### PART II

Mrs. Ann Harrod was unique among the first pioneer women of Kentucky. Her marriage to Col. James Harrod united a couple who could have been the hero and heroine of a romantic novel, cast in historic roles during the bloodiest and most optimistically defiant era of our country's history.

Col. Daniel Trabue describes Ann as small and beautiful, of gentle upbringing and happy disposition, interested in those about her. Ann was, however, too cultured to fit into the rough environment in which she had to play her part. Therein lay her tragedy. Although Ann obviously tried to find acceptance and offered frontier society all that she had to contribute, to the typical frontier woman she was an affront set down in the midst of their crude and perilous world. Her marriage to the handsomest and most eligible militia captain in the settlements, after the luxury of a well-attended two year widowhood, was more than many of them could bear.

The envious among the frontier women and men used their most powerful and welldeveloped weapons to attack Ann -gossip and slander. Anyone who has read factual accounts of the early American frontier has found ample evidence of the extent and viciousness of this frontier foible. No one was free from accusation, and for Ann Harrod gossip continued long after her death. What is still repeated to sully her character can no longer cause Ann, deep in her forgotten grave, personal anguish. The whispers now merely add spice to this historic era. The matter could be dropped as folklore, except for the fact that her ene-

mies have unjustly robbed her of her rightful place in early Kentucky history and her place by her husband's side in local history.

James and Ann Harrod reached their goal of wealth in lands. Yet during this accumulation, they had more than their share of tragedy, especially Ann. As long as James Harrod was alive, she was sheltered under his protection. However, after his mysterious death, Ann became the unprotected victim of her implacable enemies' slander and open acts of vandalism. If in later years she became aloof, mistrusting and quick to offend-"The falcon-hearted dove" as Mrs. Maria T. Daviess describes her in her 85th year - the reaction was but natural.

Ann Harrod has now been dead for more than 130 years. Yet because of the local fame of Colonel Harrod, echoes of the vicious gossip, some of it unfortunately recorded, linger on. In referring to Ann Harrod, most published pseudo-historians have been content to call renewed attention to several items of unsupported and inaccurate gossip, preserved in the Draper Manuscripts. Rather than ignore this historically unsound evidence, most writers have concluded that the legitimacy of Ann's daughter, Margaret Harrod, is in doubt.

Perhaps to also keep clear of any controversy, most competent historians have largely ignored Ann and the important role played by her family. At a mature age, Samuel Coburn, Ann's father, left the security of a prosperous estate to join Daniel Boone's group in the founding of Boonesborough. Her only brother, James Coburn, a wellread man who also liked to bet on the first Kentucky horse races, devoted much of his life to the militia, protecting Kentucky from Indian incursionists until he died in the line of duty when only 50 years of age.

This thorough study of Ann Harrod, her family background and her life as the wife and widow of Col. James Harrod, is based on all data still available. This data is in the Kentucky Court records and other family records in possession of a descendant of Ann Harrod's only brother, Capt. James Coburn. Emphasis has been placed on those records that reflect Ann's character and those which refute the allegations specifically mentioned in recorded gossip. The picture of Ann Harrod which has emerged is incompatible with hasty sketches of her previously published; nor does the irresponsible gossip correlate with the facts and dates appearing in the old court records. The latter explains away much of the very basis upon which the gossip was fabricated. This sketch of Ann Coburn Harrod is as complete a reconstruction as can be attained in this second half of the 20th century.

Ann, the daughter of Samuel and Margaret Coburn, was born March 4, 1756 in Rowan County, N. C. She had only one brother, James Coburn, who was about 13 years her senior. As the second and youngest child, born after her prosperous parents had probably despaired of having another child, Ann was

given every advantage available to her parents' means, and she grew into a beautiful young woman of happy and pleasing disposition.

Ann's father, Samuel Coburn was the son of James Coburn, a well-to-do pioneer and first recorded slave holder in the Upper Valley of Virginia. In 1750 Samuel Coburn pioneered on the Catawba River in the then new County of Anson, later Rowan County, N. C. During the next 25 years, as the frontier retreated to the Holston, Samuel Coburn developed his properties and became prosperous. Despite his prosperity and his age, Samuel Coburn had Kentucky fever by 1775.

When Samuel Coburn learned that Captain Twitty was gathering a group of North Carolina men in Rutherford County to join the Transylvania Company expedition under Daniel Boone's leadership, he left his family and property in care of his son and joined the group. This group traveled to the site of future Boonesborough at the mouth of Otter Creek on the Kentucky River, where they waited for the Transylvania Company officers and the Henderson party.

The Henderson party brought provisions necessary to open a trading post for the men. Samuel Coburn opened an account with the company on the 27th day of June 1775 and James Harrod, over from his settlement at Harrodsburg, opened his account the same day. James Harrod, founder of Harrodsburg who later was to play such an important role in Ann's life, was situated about 50 miles from Boonesborough. Harrodsburg had been founded by Harrod in the spring of 1774.

Samuel Coburn returned to North Carolina for his family and arrived back in Boonesborough with them in the late fall of 1775. Known to be with him were his wife, Margaret, their daughter, Ann, and her new husband, James McDonald, and Patrick McDonald, the unmarried brother of James. Patrick McDonald brought out a herd of cattle and boarded with the Coburns. James Coburn remained in North Carolina to sell the Rowan County property. It is known from Ann's later depositions that James and Patrick McDonald were to return to North Carolina for more cattle the following spring. It was planned for James Coburn, with his young family, to accompany the McDonald brothers on their return to Kentucky.

Samuel Coburn soon quarreled with Daniel Boone, perhaps over the proprietary rights of the Transylvania Company, and moved his family in the dead of winter to Harrod's Fort, now Harrodsburg. In February of 1776, William Poage, with his family, was also moving to Harrodsburg. The Poage family found the Coburns, the McDonald brothers, and the Julius Sanders family camped on Gilbert's Creek of Dicks River. At this camp a snow storm overtook them and the families were without food. Their guide, young James Ray, killed a buffalo and supplied all the families with meat.

Patrick McDonald wintered his cattle at Harrod's Fort where many went to feed George Rogers Clark's troops stationed there. The Coburns and the

McDonalds wintered within Fort Harrod and in the early spring finished laying off their preemptions on Gilbert's Creek. Ann by now was carrying her first child, to be named James McDonald Jr., and stated that she helped her young husband plant a crop of corn.

The McDonald brothers were unable to finish surveying their lands because one of the men in the family had broken his leg. Perhaps because of the broken leg they agreed to postpone their journey back to North Carolina that spring for more cattle. Instead, James McDonald volunteered to join a group going on a salt expedition, because of the desperate need at Harrodsburg.

This salt-making party traveled to Drennon's Lick near the mouth of the Kentucky River. Still unknown to the new settlers Drennon's Lick was the northern Indians' most popular haunt. It is not surprising that the saltmaking group was attacked by Indians. In the attack, James McDonald was killed. Ann, age 20, was now a widowed mother. In a letter to Dr. Draper in 1845, John Fauntleroy stated that for years Ann kept the two arrows which killed her husband-"the Indians had laid them across his breast after they had scalped him. One of them was the most handsome arrow I ever saw." The arrows, along with Colonel Harrod's sword, were burned in 1833 when Mrs. Harrod's home was burned to the ground.

In the fall of 1777, after the death of his brother, Patrick McDonald returned to North Carolina to bring back more cattle. While there, he became ill and died that winter in the home of James Coburn in North Carolina. Despite this second blow, Ann McDonald at once busied herself caring for her baby son and doing her share of the work about the fort. The Indian incursions were now increasing and the forters were kept in a constant state of alarm by the numerous Indian raids.

Benjamin Logan, realizing the insecurity of his station in 1775, had moved his family to the fort at Harrodsburg. Later in the year of 1777, having been joined by others, he was determined to fortify his station. Soon afterward he was joined by several families from Fort Harrod. Because of the crowded conditions of Fort Harrod and because Logan's was closer to his improvements, Samuel Coburn decided to move his family to Logan's Station or St. Asaph's. Making the move with him was his wife, Margaret, his widowed daughter, Ann, and her baby son, James McDonald, Jr.

The Coburn family's arrival at Fort Logan is described in Trabue's Narratives preserved in the Draper Manuscripts. The arrival of this well-to-do pioneer family, mounted on their horses, caused a sensation in the new undermanned fort. Ann, well-dressed and beautiful, sat upon her horse like a gentlewoman. She contrasted with the ragged, work-worn women of the fort who gathered excitedly about the newcomers. Adding insult to injury, James Harrod, the most eligible militia captain in the country, continued to court the beautiful

Ann. Thereafter James Harrod nearly always volunteered as weekly courier between the two forts.

It was a year after the move to Logan's Fort before Ann decided to marry. In February of 1778, she and James Harrod were married by Robert Todd. Although James Harrod never gave up his long solitary journeys into the wilderness, the records amply testify that he devoted his life and loyalty to Ann and to her well-being. It was after his death that the latent hate and jealousies of her neighbors were expressed openly and she was plagued by acts of vandalism.

Soon after the marriage, Ann went to live at Fort Harrod with her new husband and her small son. Ann's parents, Samuel and Margaret Coburn, soon followed to join the couple because the Indians were around Fort Logan. They journeyed safely to Harrodsburg with the militia detachment from Logan's, who were on their way to the Falls of the Ohio. Several days later, Samuel Coburn returned to Logan's Fort for corn and household goods. On the return trip to Harrodsburg he was ambushed by Indians and killed. Until her death late in 1791, Margaret Coburn lived with her daughter, Ann, and her son-in-law, James Harrod.

By the fall of 1779 James Harrod had taken Ann to live at his station at Boiling Springs, six miles above and southwest of Harrodsburg. This same year Ann's brother, James Coburn, was in Kentucky in order to register in the Virginia Land Court the preemption inherited from his father.

In 1785 James and Ann Harrod's only child, named after Ann's mother, Margaret Coburn, was born sometime during the month of September. It was also about this time that James Harrod built for Ann the large twin-chimney frame house within the Harrod Station stockade. This same year Ann became a lifelong convert of the Methodist Church. Ann's interest in religion naturally led to an interest in education. She and her brother were well-educated for that time. Soon after Margaret Harrod was born, a Latin School was planned for Mrs. Harrod's young son. The school lasted only one year. It was closed because of the death of her son, James McDonald, Jr., then 12 years of age.

The year 1791 was another year of tragedy for Ann with the loss in the fall of her mother and with the loss of her husband the following February. While her husband's estate was being settled, Ann suffered yet another blow with the death of her brother Capt. James Coburn. Thus she was without the support of a mature male in her struggle to preserve her daughter's large estate.

Between the time of James Harrod's death and her daughter Margaret's marriage, Ann appears to have devoted herself to her work in the pioneer Methodist Church and to rearing her daughter as a lady. On the second day of May 1802 Margaret Harrod was married at the age of 17 to John Fauntleroy. The newlyweds lived in their own home on Margaret's share of the Harrod plantation lands. Ann was left alone in her large house to face a lonesome old age.

Ann Harrod's responsibilities were now over, but she was still a beautiful and relatively young woman of 46. Disastrously, she decided to marry the widower, John Tadlock. Ann and John Tadlock made out their marriage contract on the 22nd day of September 1803, the day after they were married. After seven months of marriage, Ann and John Tadlock were back in court, April 1804, seeking to annul their marriage. Because divorce was unheard of, except in lurid cases of flagrant adultery, Ann sought a simple annulment. As a legal loophole to end a mutually unhappy marriage she said she thought her former husband might still be alive ! The annulment was granted and Ann immediately resumed her former name of Ann Harrod. Not only was the divorce in itself a scandal, but her use of the legal loophole was more than her evil wishers could bear.

After the divorce, Ann apparently lived alone. On December 13, 1816 she had to take to court three young men who she said had forced their way on her property and committed many injuries against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth. They shot and killed her dog worth \$100 and, with force of arms, trampled and broke her grapes and all her other herbage. There were no witnesses on Ann's behalf and the court merely fined one boy one cent and found the others "not guilty."

During the last of February or first of March 1833, Ann lost at the hands of a young arsonist her large frame house, the first of its kind in Kentucky. In the fire she lost all her personal possessions, including her land records and leases. Apparently Ann caught the boy at the time of the fire, but again for lack of witnesses, she felt she could get little results if she brought the case to court. However, she twice publicly stated she saw the boy set fire to her house in broad daylight and the boy's father sued her for libel. Evidently the court was satisfied that Ann had seen or was justifiable in believing the boy did indeed set fire to her house, but she had the court cost to pay. The boy's parents were rewarded nothing for the boy's damaged reputation .

Ann Harrod made her last public appearance as the grand dowager during Harrodsburg's 66th anniversary celebration on the 16th and 17th of June 1841. A description of Ann's honored part in the ceremonies gave a sharp insight into the character she was forced to develop since that day she was described as the beautiful young gentlewoman riding through the gates of Fort Logan. She was described on this occasion as follows: "We cannot close this article without recording the interesting fact that the venerable Mrs. Harrod was present at the celebration. She is now well stricken in years, and to a great degree bedridden. Yet her eyes have the same eagle glance that they had when she looked on, undismayed at the deadly conflict between the Indians and the whites. Her spirit is unconquered and unconquerable."

On the morning of the 16th the celebrants gathered at Harrodsburg Springs and marched in an imposing procession composed of 14 military com-

panies on horseback, to Colonel Chiles' farm a mile and one half from town on the road to Shaker Ferry. According to the Rev. Mr. Henkle, Ann was placed in a splendid barouche drawn by white horses elegantly caparisoned and escorted by a company of cavalry mounted on white chargers.

Two months after the Harrodsburg festivities, Ann suffered her last great loss—the death of her daughter. Margaret Harrod Fauntleroy died the 25th day of August 1841, age 56 years. She was survived by her mother, her husband, seven sons and seven daughters.

Two years after the Harrodsburg celebration, in the year 1843, Mrs. Ann Coburn Harrod passed away. The Rev. Mr. Henkle said that upon her request he buried her Sunday the 16th, 1843, in what had been the inside of the old Harrod Station stockade. At that time he said the chimneys of the burnt house were still standing. Perhaps this spot, safe from Indians in earlier days, was the family burial plot where her father, her mother, her martyred son, her daughter and her only brother were buried. It is unlikely that the graves were ever marked with more than rough field stones, for the site is now a cultivated field. Assuredly, the graves could be found and respectfully marked.

The Rev. Mr. Henkle said that during her last days Ann told him, "Oh, we ought never to have left Carolina, for we were in good circumstances there, and since we have come here we had a great many hardships to undergo." Another time she talked of several pioneer women's skill with the rifle, but of herself she said, "Oh, I never could do much with a gun; I tried it often, but could never succeed. I did manage to kill a buffalo cow and a bear, or the girls would never have done laughing at me."

Of all the gossip concerning Ann Harrod, none has done her character more damage than that recorded by the Rev. John D. Shane and preserved in the Draper Manuscripts. The Rev. Mr. Shane was a Presbyterian minister who collected historical data on early Kentucky pioneers and the Presbyterian Church for the Presbyterian Historical Society. He must have realized that the material from some of his personal interviews was distorted by traditions and confused by personal grudges. It was the Rev. Mr. Shane who recorded Nathaniel Hart's statement that Ann's daughter Margaret was really the daughter of another man, whom he also named in the statement. New research provides ample evidence to disprove all of Captain Hart's insinuations against Ann. These records are too involved to include in this sketch.

Ann, according to the records, lived a consistent Christian life until her death. She was, from all records, a faithful daughter, wife, and mother. In her application for her pension, she shows her pride in her husband's achievements and standing in the community. Nor did she seem to complain of her husband's love of the wilds. Perhaps she understood a kindred spirit in her father and husband.

On Ann's death in 1843, two years after the death of his own wife, Major John Fauntleroy said, "There passed away the last of the female pioneers of Kentucky, beloved and regretted by her friends." The Rev. Mr. Henkle said Ann's death was "the last serene paragraph in a personal record of God's mercy-it was the last. She died a Christian."

## *James Harrod-Decendants*

of

Col. James and Ann Coburn Harrod; Margaret Harrod Fauntleroy and  
the Children of Margaret and John Fauntleroy

Margaret Harrod Fauntleroy was the daughter of James and Ann (Coburn) Harrod. Margaret was born in September 1785 at the Harrod plantation six miles southwest of Harrodsburg. In his will James Harrod bequeathed to his daughter a large estate. At her father's death Margaret was about seven years of age. When she married John Fauntleroy in 1802 at 17, Margaret was one of the wealthiest heiresses in Central Kentucky.

Nothing is known about the personal attributes of Margaret Harrod. It is known, however, that Colonel Harrod had very black hair and dark eyes, and it is thought that Ann's hair was also dark. The only recorded information is that of Nathaniel Hart who, in his erroneous declarations, claimed that Margaret had red hair. Yet the Harrod estate records show that Ann bought her daughter more red dress material than would ordinarily be worn at that time by a red-haired girl.

The Harrod estate records in Mercer County show that Ann generously provided for her daughter, Margaret. There are bills for linsey, wool and cotton for everyday dresses; yards of fine silk, linen, and muslins for more formal wear. The accounts for Margaret also included slippers, shoes, hats, hair combs ribbons, fans, gloves and shawls. There were also silver scissors, necklaces and other jewelry; also, a fine bridle and girdle for Margaret's horse. Included in the records were expenses for private schooling and vocal lessons. Margaret's favorite colors seem to have been light blue, green and too much red-if she actually did have red hair.



Margaret's playmates and friends were her cousins, the children of her Uncle James Coburn. These included three girl cousins and one male cousin Samuel Coburn II. Young Samuel's name appears on the marriage bond of his cousin Margaret Harrod, to John Fauntleroy .

On the second day of May 1802, this marriage between Margaret and John Taylor Griffin Fauntleroy Jr. was solemnized. The marriage bond and consent are recorded in the Mercer County records. They were married in the large frame house that James Harrod had built for his bride, Ann. The newlyweds went to live in their own home on Margaret's share of the home plantation. Present day Gentry's Lane separates the Fauntleroy's former home and lands from the next plantation on the south, which was then owned and lived on by John Cowan.

John Taylor Griffin Faunt Le Roy Jr. was born in Queen Ann County, Md. in September 1775. He was the son of John, Sr. and Mary (Wadkins) Fauntleroy.

In 1784 the Fauntleroy family, which included John's mother and father, a sister and a brother, his grandfather "W. Keen", and 17 slaves, came to Kentucky. It is assumed that the grandfather was W. Keen Fauntleroy, father of John T. Fauntleroy Sr.

The Fauntleroy family first landed at Limestone ( now Maysville) where they found a cabin far back in the brush. From this place the family went to the "Blue Lick Fort," arriving in time for Christmas Day in 1784. They dined that day on buffalo meat and pumpkin pie. In a few days the family started through the woods by a one-horse path to Lexington, Kentucky. Having so much goods to move, they undertook the trek in a wagon-"we cut the first wagon road from Limestone to Lexington."

As the family neared Stoner Fork a deep snow fell and John Fauntleroy Sr., having been exposed to the weather, became ill with pleurisy. After they reached Lexington in January 1786, Mr. Fauntleroy died and was buried at Lexington. Thus the family was left without acquaintances in Kentucky.

Mrs. Mary Fauntleroy and her children soon after moved to the new town of Danville, then in Mercer County, Kentucky. In 1786, John Fauntleroy, aged ten years, and his brother, William, went to live with Col. James Harrod. They attended the Latin School there until it closed sometime after the year 1787.

After the Latin School at Col. Harrod's was discontinued, John Fauntleroy went to school at the "Big Spring in Georgetown." John later stated that this place "was then in the bushes and known as Elijah Craig's one little cabin school-the Indians about as thick as butter. Mr. Jones was our Latin teacher . . . a sad notion to send little boys away off among the Indians to study Latin. They had better have sent us to learn Indian."

Mrs. Mary Fauntleroy or the "Widow Fauntleroy" was married in 1788 to John Hunter. The marriage was recorded in the new county of Mercer. After

her marriage to Mr. Hunter, the family moved to Jacob Myers' Station, six miles from Danville in the neighborhood of the mouth of the Hickman. Mr. Hunter, step-father of John Fauntleroy, was the "first keeper of the Kentucky Penitentiary in 1800."

As a boy, John Fauntleroy often played at a place called Knob Lick. This remarkable and curious knob was about four miles south of Danville. On the sides of the knob, young Fauntleroy gathered round-like marbles of all sizes--"album made and slate." The owner of this land in 1845 was Samuel Moore, second cousin of Col. James Harrod

In 1798 John Fauntleroy returned to Danville to live. He came to know many of the old pioneers and was well acquainted with most of Harrod's company of 1774. Of Daniel Boone, Fauntleroy said: "He often took a drink of cider with me--moved to Missouri and died there." He goes on to describe that he had seen "two complete histories of Kentucky and the faces of Col. James Harrod, Daniel Boone, Gen. George Rogers Clark, Capt. Abraham Chaplin, Gen. James Ray" and others. Of Colonel Harrod, Fauntleroy said that "he was a brave man -- as brave as any man ever to come to Kentucky or to trod Kentucky soil--the best woodsman ever known."

There are no specific records during the years 1802 to 1831 concerning the family life of Margaret and John Fauntleroy. It is assumed that they were enjoying their parenthood of seven sons and seven daughters. John Fauntleroy was also active during these years in the Kentucky Militia.

As children, the Little Fauntleroy's had, as a play-toy, a round silver plate about the size of a saucer, with a bear engraved on it. The children's grandfather, James Harrod, had taken the plate from an Indian while on an expedition up the Cumberland River. The plate had been in Margaret's possession for years until the children "finally destroyed it."

By 1831 Ann Harrod's good and faithful son-in-law, John Fauntleroy, had involved himself in bad business ventures. In order to protect his wife's property, the lands were put in the names of their sons, William K. and James H. Fauntleroy. The transferred property consisted of 500 acres on Harrod's Run, as well as 11 slaves and equity of three mortgaged slaves.

When Ann Harrod's home was burned in 1833, she went to live in the Fauntleroy home. She remained there, among her 14 grandchildren, until her death in 1843.

On August 25, 1841, Margaret Harrod Fauntleroy died at the age of 56. The family of Margaret and John can be reconstructed from Ann Harrod's will, Mercer County Marriage Records, and later deeds of sale recorded in Boyle County. All of the sons and daughters, who lived until adulthood, can be listed, except for one of the seven daughters. The children of John and Margaret (Harrod) Fauntleroy were:

1. William K. Fauntleroy, at least 21 years of age in 1833 (no other information). 2. James H. Fauntleroy, married March 13, 1836 in Mercer County, Ky. to Mary S. Clark, daughter of James Clark.

3. Griffin T. Fauntleroy, living in Mercer County in the Mercer County 1850 census: then 39 years, a farmer, married to Mary who was 23 years; son John, 3 years, and daughter Catherine, 4 months.

4. John H. Fauntleroy, died in Buchanan County, Mo., in 1849, unmarried; his estate left to his sister, Elizabeth Davis, to invest in land on which she should live and record in her own name.

5. Mary Ann Fauntleroy, married - Ray; daughter, Elizabeth Ray born by 1843.

6. Emily Fauntleroy, married Jonah Moore, Dec. 24, 1835 in Mercer County; died before 1842, leaving two sons.

7. Elizabeth Fauntleroy, married Charles W. Davis, Nov. 4, 1835 in Mercer County, Ky.; removed to Buchanan County, Mo. about 1843; her father was living with her in 1845.

8. David E. Fauntleroy, moved to Platte County, Mo. (no other information).

9. Maria W. Fauntleroy, married William H. Martin, 1832 in Mercer County, Ky. (no other information).

10. Margaret Fauntleroy, married William G. Beckett of Marion County, Ky. in Mercer County on August 31, 1841.

11. Robert Fauntleroy (no information).

12. Daughter (name not known -no information).

13. Frances Ophia Nancy Fauntleroy, born in 1823 in Mercer County, Ky.; died in Brenham, Texas; married in Cadiz, Trigg County, Ky. to William S. Slaughter; married a second time in 1854 to J. L. Ammons in Washington County, Texas. By William Slaughter, she bore four children: Mary Emily married Enoch Kennedy; Sam Slaughter married Anna Hinton (no issue); William Slaughter Jr., died without issue about 1831; Addie or Annie married Riley Condron, died in 1881, survived by six children. By Joese Louis Ammons, there were three children: Louis F. married Tannie Hynes (no issue); Robert L., never married; and Frances Hunter married James Sloan Giddings.

14. Samuel Fauntleroy, youngest of the 14 children; according to his father, was 17 years old in 1845 and then attending an academy at Cadiz, Trigg County, Ky.

On the 11th day of September, 1850, the Fauntleroy heirs apparently sold the remaining 316 acres of the Boiling Springs or Harrod plantation lands. The tract was sold for the sum of \$11,068.75. Samuel, the youngest child, was then 22 years old. Their father, John Fauntleroy, must have died, prior to the making of the deed, as his name does not appear on the list of heirs. It is most likely

that he died at the home of his daughter, Elizabeth Davis, Buchanan County, Mo. His death occurred after January, 1845 and prior to September, 1850.

In 1843, John Fauntleroy had removed from the Harrod home lands to Platt County, Mo. He purchased land "again among the Indians, the Keepapoes at Weston." In 1845 he was living at the home of his daughter in Buchanan County. Writing from there in September of 1845, the 67 year-old Fauntleroy remembered his father-in-law, Col. James Harrod:

"I have in my possession his old company book of 1774 — it is before me now containing the names of those men who came to Kentucky with him in 1774. He was a soldier every inch-every way. He served his country fully, and it has forgotten his memory and neglected his heirs. Peace be to his ashes, they are gone where the tomahawk, scalping knife and the fatal rifle are heard no more. Old Father Time has also pointed his finger at me as much as to say -be ye also ready."