

Rockcastle Recollections

By John Lair

Several Rockcastle families have given me much trouble in searching out their past—more than my own. Of these it has been especially difficult to hook up loose ends and arrive at definite conclusions concerning the Lawrences, Frenches, Crawfords and Lavenders. This resume of known facts is given in the hope that some reader of the Signal can add something to what is already known and will be kind enough to pass this knowledge along to me.

I am now engaged on the third approach to the origin and history of John Crawford, who married Elizabeth Adams—only daughter of "Devil Bill" Adams and Rebecca Lawrence. I first considered him as a possible descendant of Colonel William Crawford, boyhood companion and lifelong friend of George Washington, who taught him surveying and had him run out several tracts for him in pioneer Kentucky. This was the same William Crawford who died such a horrible and long prolonged death under Indian torture when his army was routed by them in the area of Upper Sandusky. There are a few more gruesome accounts in history than that given of this event in a book written by an eyewitness, a copy of which is in my library.

One thing which led us to believe that the Rockcastle Crawfords might possibly be descended from this man was the similarity in family names mentioned. He had a brother named Valentine, a fairly unusual name for a man, and W.T. "Mode" Crawford remembered a "Valentine" in his family background. This Valentine Crawford who was a brother of Col. William was also a surveyor, and several years ago W.T. Crawford and other Crawford heirs were notified that many thousand acres of unclaimed land issued to Valentine Crawford would be reclaimed by the State of Kentucky unless the proper heirs showed up within a specified time.

Much of this was coal land in the Kentucky Mountains, which has since become extremely valuable. W.T. Crawford had a sister named Ella. Col. William Crawford had a daughter who had the same name spelled and pronounced in the same way.

Col. William Crawford's only son, John Crawford, was with his father's troops but escaped capture and death at the hands of the Indians. He later moved with his family and settled in Adams County, Ohio. A careful search of records there might possibly establish the line of descent coming down to the Rockcastle Crawfords but I have never had time to make the trip. I understand there has recently been published in a magazine or pamphlet, a rather complete account of the Ohio line coming down from Col. William's son. I hope to acquire a copy of this in due time.

Other than this one item, I believe I have everything published on Col. Crawford, back to eyewitness accounts of his torture, as well as a fairly complete history of his life, including his early friendship with young George Washington, who boarded in Crawford's home while making extensive land surveys in earlier days. The sickening accounts of his inhumane torture will not soon be forgotten by anyone who reads them. They will not be inflicted, in full, upon the present reader of these lines. The British Capt. Coldwell, writing to his superior officer a brief account of the tragedy has this to say: "Simon Giltry arrived last night from the upper valley, who informed me that the Delawares had burned Col. Crawford and two captives at Piquetown after torturing them a long time. Crawford died like a hero; never changed his countenance though they scalped him alive and then laid hot ashes upon his head; after which they roasted him in a slow fire."

Another lead on a possible ancestor for the local Crawford family came several years ago from a grandson of "Devil Bill"

who told me it had long been a tradition in the Adams' family that the John Crawford who married Elizabeth Adams was a brother to the husband of the woman upon whom Dr. McDowell performed, at Danville, Kentucky, the first ovariotomy in medical history. This I have never been able to prove.

Andrew Crawford, a very knowledgeable researcher from Fairborn, Ohio, has a history of a Crawford line exhibited in census reports in Pulaski and Rockcastle Counties. He has written me several times about a John Crawford who was a son of Dr. Adams Crawford and who practiced medicine in Rockcastle and Pulaski Counties between 1820 and 1860. This could not have been the John Crawford who married Elizabeth Adams, as he was not born until 1824, at which time she would have been sixteen years old.

Now he reports finding in Rockcastle tax records a John Crawford living in Rockcastle County in 1820 and 1826. This could not have been the John Crawford who married Elizabeth Adams, as he was not born until 1824, at which time she would have been sixteen years old. Now he reports finding in Rockcastle tax records a John Crawford living in Rockcastle County in 1820 and 1826. This could not have been the John Crawford who married Elizabeth Adams, as he was not born until 1824, at which time she would have been sixteen years old.

My grandmother Lair's mother was Charity Lawrence, who married Will French. She and her sister, Rebecca Lawrence, who married "Devil Bill" Adams, were daughters of William Lawrence and his wife, the former Charity French. This is an unbroken line from William Lawrence back to Scottish and English nobility, and even back to Lord Lawrence, of Rome. Included in early American ancestors were George and Rebecca Lawrence, who gave the ship "fame, six officers of the American Revolution and a governor of New Jersey, under the British Crown.

found no trace of him. I recently came across a William Lawrence who had been the founder of Lawrenceburg and had hopes that I had discovered a trace of him. I had Linda Ashley make a trip to Lawrenceburg to look into his history, but he turned out to be the wrong William Lawrence, and I am no nearer to a solution than before. Anybody will stumble upon a hidden clue some day that will open the way to a successful search for our William Lawrence, an English Silversmith.

Even more frustrating continues to be the search for history of Will French, who married Charity Lawrence, as previously stated. Few families in the early history of Kentucky rated ahead of the Frenches. Coming in with Daniel Boone, they were long prominent at Boonesborough and figured largely in the early activities of pioneer Kentucky. They were among the biggest landowners and every generation produced judges and prominent legal and business figures. The principal family residence seems later to have been in the area of Mt. Sterling.

When I learned that my great-grandmother, Charity Lawrence, had married Will French, "from over around Mt. Sterling," I naturally assumed that he was a descendant of the original settlers of that name. When I got into family records, however, I could find no mention of a Will French and I remember distinctly my grandmother saying her father's name was Will French, which had also been his father's name. Most of the French family records were easy to follow out. There were few sons and many of them died without issue. The only possible chance for Will French existed on a record of one of the French settlers having had two sons whose names were not given. Unless he was one of these, Will French could establish no claim to descent from this branch of the family.

I remember as a child hearing many tales of Will French's temperance. My grandmother said it was his habit to set a cedar pail partly filled with whiskey beside his bed at night, with a gourd dipper handy, so he could take a drink anytime during the night when he awoke and felt the need for it. Such a life as I

Mental Health Matters Learning New Skills

Sometimes parents expect a child to learn a new skill all at once. They may lose patience if he doesn't. They think the child is not paying attention, that he is not trying hard enough, or that he is lazy.

The truth is that the mastery of a new skill takes practice and practice takes time! The learner successively masters a chain of steps, which, when linked together, form a complete, newly learned skill. This is true for the kindergarten learning the alphabet as well as for the adult attempting to master an athletic skill.

The process of teaching a new skill in a step-by-step manner can be successful with all types of people, including the emotionally disturbed and retarded. First—break the task into small parts. Require the learner to do only the first part. Reward him for attempting or accomplishing it; then move on to the next step. In shaping behavior, the most important ingredients are small steps, followed by frequent reinforcement.

Learned about seems to have been taken up with drunken spree and prolonged absences from home. My recollection is that he and his wife were often separate and were in that state at the time of their death. They were buried side by side in the Renfro Valley Burying Ground in unmarked graves. Also beside them is one of their daughters, who had come to be with her mother during a seizure of typhoid, contacted the disease herself and died a few days before her mother. I have long wanted to erect a marker to these ancestors of mine, but have not been able to do so for the lack of necessary information. Charity and her daughter's birth and death dates are well known; neither date is available for Will French.

Could it be that the proud French family completely disowned him on account of his status as the black sheep and wastrel?

generous amounts of praise for even minute successes. Learning requires an abundance of practice and teaching demands patience. The adult who teaches children must keep these facts in mind.

Down On The Farm

By Roy G. Brown
Assistant Vice-President
Cumberland PCA

The year 1977 is swiftly moving on, we are now in the month of June. Which reminds me that June is Dairy Month and June 25 is Dairy Day here in Rockcastle County. We have Dairy Day to recognize our dairy farmers and other related dairy industries, for what they have been to the economy of our county.

This is a very busy time for all farmers as there is so many things to do. Most farmers have completed corn planting. We are now in the middle of tobacco setting, and hay harvest, as most of us know, is a real hot job. Tobacco plants are scarce with some farmers. So if you have extra plants take care of them so that everybody will get their tobacco out.

There seems to be plenty early hay, so be sure to take care of it, as most of you know how scarce and high it was last winter. Most people have extra hay on their pasture fields that can be used for hay and help make better pasture too. The old saying of years past that a dry June is a good crop year—giving you a chance to cultivate the growing crop.

Down on the Farm.
The roller skate was invented by J. L. Plimpton in 1863.

Real Estate For Sale



4 BEDROOM HOUSE on the Old Somerset Road in Mt. Vernon. House has 2 bedrooms, dining room, kitchen, utility room and bath downstairs and 2 bedrooms upstairs. There are hardwood floors downstairs with wall to wall carpet upstairs, storm doors and windows, washer and dryer hook-up, double fireplace, gas furnace and city water. The house is situated on a large lot measuring approximately 100x200. **OVERCROWDED?? THEN LET US SHOW YOU THIS HOUSE.**

1974 LIKE NEW 14x70 HOLLY PARK MOBILE HOME on Poplar Street in Mt. Vernon. The home has 3 bedrooms, kitchen with built-in cabinets, dining room, large living room and bath. There is also wall to wall carpet and hardwood floors throughout, air conditioning, inter-com, fuel oil furnace, washer and dryer hook-up, city water and sewer and is situated on a lot measuring approximately 80x130. **EXTRA NICE.**

Good Business Opportunity in Mt. Vernon. Drapery, fabric and upholstery shop in a building measuring 16x40 with a 10x12 storage building. The building is insulated, air conditioned, heated by a fuel oil stove and is situated on a nice lot measuring approximately 95x100 feet. **Be Your Own Boss and Reap the Profits!**

ALMOST NEW BRICK HOME located approximately 3 miles southwest of Mt. Vernon. House has 3 bedrooms, sunken living room with fireplace, kitchen, formal dining room, den, bath and half basement. It also has wall to wall carpet and vinyl floors throughout, built-in cabinets, patio, sun deck, paneled walls, washer-dryer hook-up, is insulated, total electric with city water and is situated on approximately a 1 acre lot. **Fresh Air and Room to Roam!**

5 ROOM HOUSE on Silver Creek Drive in Berea. House has 3 bedrooms, eat-in kitchen, living room, bath and utility room. House also has wall to wall carpet and vinyl floors throughout with washer and dryer hook-up, city water and sewer. In addition to the house, there are 2 outbuildings, a small corchard and is situated on an approximately 1 acre lot with ample space for a garden. **Why Rent?**

4 ROOM HOUSE on Highway 150 in Mt. Vernon, 2 bedrooms, living room, eat-in kitchen and bath. House also has carpet and vinyl floors throughout, storm doors and windows, aluminum siding and is situated on a large lot with ample space for a garden. In addition to the house, there are 2 small outbuildings. Heaven for two! Has city sewer and water.

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Delinquent Tax (Cont'd from P-10)

Sparks, Bonnie Jean, No. 5602	8.38
Sparks, Herbert, No. 5605	4.19
Sparks, Joseph, No. 5608	20.45
Spikes, James R., No. 5614	16.75
Spines, Martha Francis, No. 5618	9.22
Spoonamore, Joe, No. 5626	8.38
Spoonamore, Joey, No. 5627	8.38
Spoonamore, Lorine, No. 5629	2.52
Stalworth, Charles, No. 9639	15.51
Stallsworth, Samuel T., No. 5648	10.05
Stamper, Wallace L., No. 5650	28.32
State Siding and Roofing Co., No. 5659	73.21
Stevens, Jenny L., No. 5679	21.37
Stevens, Kenneth No. 5682	1.61
Stevens, Orville, No. 5684	12.14
Stewart, Dewey Lee, No. 5697	1.87
Story, Charles S., No. 5727	6.80
Sturgill, Hardin, No. 5734	1.87
Sufferidge, Vivian, No. 5741	2.52
Sutton, Tony & Betty, No. 5752	43.98
Swinney, Glen, No. 5758	1.87
Taylor, Billy Ray, No. 5781	25.14
Taylor, Bobby Lee, No. 5784	25.14
Taylor, C.E., No. 5785	41.25
Taylor, G.T., No. 5800	5.0
Taylor, Kenneth, No. 5819	69.31
Taylor, Malvina, No. 5823	23.45
Thacker, Jesse W., No. 5847	3.78
Thomas, Donnie, No. 5881	29.32
Thomson, Ronnie, No. 5881	7.13
Thompson, Georgia, No. 5899	16.75
Thompson, Linda, No. 5909	16.13
Thompson, Mable, No. 5911	11.10
Toney, Phyllis, No. 5941	23.05
Towery, A.L., No. 5942	8.38
Towery, Gary, No. 5945	15.19
Turner, Charles A., No. 5969	25.55
Tucker, Lee, No. 5965	8.25
Underwood, Richard D., No. 5973	2.52
Vason, Barbara, No. 5976	1.67
Vanhook, Barry, No. 5982	25.14
Vanhook, Wilmer Gene, No. 5988	9.22
Vanzant, Roger, No. 6031	1.87
Vaughn, Bertha, No. 6035	2.75
Vaughn, Lillie Bell, No. 6038	1.87
Vigeant, Ronald M., No. 6048	177.17
Ward, Lee, Jr., No. 6082	32.66
Weaver, William R., No. 6093	7.74
Whitaker, Keith, No. 6122	7.74
Whitaker, Norman G., No. 6129	12.38
Whitler, Elmer T., No. 6144	35.81
Whitman, David, No. 6150	10.05
Wilburn, Faye, No. 6154	16.75
Wixson, Frank, No. 6156	16.75
Wilmot, Elmer, No. 6178	45.75
Winters, Bob, No. 6181	5.98
Wilson, Eddie, No. 6190	18.01
Woodall, James, No. 6239	18.01
Woodall, Jerry, No. 6240	35.18
Woodall, Mary, No. 6243	1.87
Woodall, Ray, No. 6246	5.03
Wright, Michael, No. 6282	2.52
York, George Jr., No. 6289	6.70



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