



## *The Children of George Summitt<sup>1</sup> of Kentucky*

*by*

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The following work has been built upon not only my research, but on the research and efforts of the following individuals to whom I owe a debt of gratitude for their friendship: Paul C. Summitt, Glen Summit, Dan Summitt, DJ, Summitt, and John Allen Summitt. Without these five individuals, the Summitt Family Quarterly, and the research that it has accomplished would never have been possible.

George Summitt was born to Christian Summitt and Maria Stahlern in around 1765 probably in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania<sup>2</sup>. During the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, the area of the country that would become Kentucky and West Virginia was claimed by both Virginia and Pennsylvania, but actually more in the control of the Native Americans than anyone else. The need for defenses against Indian attack produced the Kentucky Station, or fort, system. In cooperation with his father, Christian, on property in Kentucky located in what is now Nicholas County, the two of them built Summitt Station. George married Rosannah Graham at the Snapp Homestead near

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1 I will be using a standard spelling of Summit through out this article. The reader may notice in the footnotes that the spelling varies and includes Sammet, Samet, Summit, Summitt, and Sommet just to name a few variations in the records.

2 In a deposition George Summit made and filed in Franklin Co., Kentucky, in November of 1805 he stated that he was forty years old and that he came to Kentucky in 1780. Source: Ardery, Kentucky Court and Other Records, Vol. 2, p. 141. [Franklin County was not formed until 1795] As the date of the deposition was November 11, 1805, this would suggest his date of birth fell some time between November 12, 1764 and November 10, 1765.

Summitt Station on October 2, 1789. Rosannah was born probably about 1766 also in Pennsylvania.

The first census found that George and his family show up in is the 1810 United States Federal Census for Nicholas County, Kentucky<sup>3</sup>. This census shows that George's household consists of one 45+ male, two 16-25 males, two 10-15 males, one 45+ female, one 16-25 female, three 10-15 females, and two under 10 females. Given that the the two adults over 45 fit the ages expected for George and Rosannah, this leaves four sons and six daughters to identify.

George and his family also appear in the 1820 United States Federal Census for Nicholas County, Kentucky<sup>4</sup>. This time there is one 45+ male that is George, one 16 to 26 male, one 45+ female that is Rosannah, and two 16 to 26 females.

The 1830 United States Federal Census for Nicholas County, Kentucky<sup>5</sup> also has an entry for George and his family. This listing includes one 60-70 year old male that is George, one 10 to 15 year old male, one 60-70 year old female that is Rosannah, one 30 to 40 year old female, one 20-30 year old female, and two 5 to 10 year old females.

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3 Year: 1810; Census Place: , Nicholas, Kentucky; Roll: 8; Page: 60; Image: 0181353; Family History Library Film: 00067.

4 1820 U S Census; Census Place: , Nicholas, Kentucky; Page: 123; NARA Roll: M33\_20; Image: 135.

5 1830 US Census; Census Place: , Nicholas, Kentucky; Page: 220; NARA Series: M19; Roll Number: 40; Family History Film: 0007819.

George dies 3 May 1838 but he leaves behind a will<sup>6</sup> and here is the first mention of the children's names we have. After mentioning his wife he mentions three daughters; Malinda Ashbrook, Cynthia Hook, and Charlott Wyatt. Next he mentions three sons; Jacob, James, and Elijah Summitt. Later he mentions another son, John, and his deceased daughter Tena West. He also mentions four grandchildren as the heirs of Tena West as well as a specific grand-daughter Ann Eliza West. In total, he has mentioned four sons and four daughters.

Rosannah is now the head of the household and while not found in the 1840 Census does show up in the 1850 United States Federal Census for District 2, Nicholas County, Kentucky<sup>7</sup>. Here we also have the first census that lists the members of the household. This census lists Rosanna G. Summit, age 84, Charlotte West, age 49, and Ann E. West, age 22. This would give Rosanna a birth year of about 1766, Charlotte a birth year of about 1801, and Ann E. West a birth year of about 1828. Rosannah dies about 1860. Charlotte, however, is listed in the 1860, 1870, and 1880 census. In the 1860 census<sup>8</sup>, Charlotte is listed as Sharlott West age 60 and as a farmer. Two others listed in the household include Harris Earlywine, a twenty-six year old blacksmith, and Emily Ashbrook, a thirty year old with no listed profession.

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6 An original copy of this Last Will and Testament of George Summitt is in the author's possession.

7 Year: 1850; Census Place: District 2, Nicholas, Kentucky; Roll: M432\_215; Page: 405B; Image: 268.

8 Year: 1860; Census Place: District 2, Nicholas, Kentucky; Roll: M653\_389; Page: 420; Image: 420; Family History Library Film: 803389.

In 1870<sup>9</sup> Charlotte is again listed as Sharlott West and as head of the household but this time age 69 and keeping house. Two other members of the household are 65 year old Minta West and seventeen year old Isaac Pansel. Finally, the 1880 census<sup>10</sup> lists Charlotte as a widow head of household aged 79. This information makes Charlotte one of the two daughters under the age of ten in the 1810 Census.

We can also now find both Jacob and James in the 1820 United States Federal Census for Nicholas County<sup>11</sup>. Jacob is listed with one 26 to 44 year old male and one 16 to 25 year old female in the household. James is listed with one 26 to 44 year old male, one 16 to 25 year old female and one under 10 year old female. Jacob also is listed in the 1830 United States Federal Census for Nicholas County<sup>12</sup> with one 20 to 30 year old male, one 20 to 30 year old female, one 10 to 14 year old female, and one under 10 female. The 1840 Census<sup>13</sup> lists one 50 to 60 year old male, one 10 to 15 year old male, one 15 to 20 year old female, and one 10 to 15 year old female. The 1850 census<sup>14</sup> lists Jacob, age 60, Berthena, age 25, and

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9 Year: 1870; Census Place: Precinct 2, Nicholas, Kentucky; Roll: M593\_491; Page: 227A; Image: 458; Family History Library Film: 545990.

10 Year: 1880; Census Place: Head Quarters, Nicholas, Kentucky; Roll: 436; Family History Film: 1254436; Page: 394B; Enumeration District: 090; Image: 0211.

11 1820 U S Census; Census Place: , Nicholas, Kentucky; Page: 111; NARA Roll: M33\_20; Image: 123.

12 1830 US Census; Census Place: , Nicholas, Kentucky; Page: 220; NARA Series: M19; Roll Number: 40; Family History Film: 0007819.

13 Year: 1840; Census Place: Carlisle, Nicholas, Kentucky; Roll: 121; Page: 98; Image: 202; Family History Library Film: 0007831.

14 Year: 1850; Census Place: District 2, Nicholas, Kentucky; Roll: M432\_215; Page: 405B; Image: 268.

Soloman, age 20. The 1860 census<sup>15</sup> lists Jacob age 70, William Clayton age 36, Elisabeth Clayton age 33, George Clayton age 7, Edy F Clayton age 5, John L Clayton age 2, unknown Clayton age 4 months, Sarah Murphy age 15, and William W Murphy age 13. Interestingly, Charlotte is in the neighboring household. Finally, the 1870 Census<sup>16</sup> lists Jerremiah Lanson age 61, Berthena Lanson age 46, James N Lanson age 18, Ann E Lanson age 15, Emma Lanson age 10, Eugene Lanson age 6, Jarame Lanson age 4, and Jacob Summitt age 80. Again, Charlotte is listed on the preceding page in the census. From this census age information we can surmise that Jacob was born about 1790 and would therefore be one of the 16 to 25 year old males listed in George Summitt's 1810 Census listing.

James is missing from the 1830 census but shows up in the 1840, 1850, 1860, and 1870 censuses. In the 1840 Census<sup>17</sup> James is listed with one male 40 to 50, one male 16 to 20, one male 10 to 15, one male under five, one female 40 to 50, two females 20 to 30, one female 16 to 20, and two females 5 to 10. In the 1850 census listing<sup>18</sup> James is listed as age 58, his wife Maria age 54, their daughter Sarah Jane age 27, their son William age 21, and their son James age 14. His household appears in the census just a few pages preceding both Jacob and Charlotte. The

15 Year: 1860; Census Place: District 2, Nicholas, Kentucky; Roll: M653\_389; Page: 420; Image: 420; Family History Library Film: 803389.

16 Year: 1870; Census Place: Precinct 2, Nicholas, Kentucky; Roll: M593\_491; Page: 227B; Image: 459; Family History Library Film: 545990

17 Year: 1840; Census Place: Carlisle, Nicholas, Kentucky; Roll: 121; Page: 98; Image: 202; Family History Library Film: 0007831.

18 Year: 1850; Census Place: Precinct 2, Nicholas, Kentucky; Roll: M593\_491; Page: 227B; Image: 459; Family History Library Film: 545990.

1860 census<sup>19</sup> lists James as age 67, his wife Mariah age 64, and their daughter Sarah I. Age 39. Finally, the 1870 census<sup>20</sup> lists James at age 74, Mariah age 70, and Sarah J. Age 48. From this census age information we obtain probable birth years of 1792, 1793, and 1796. The 1796 birth year would, however, not allow him to be 26 to 44 as cited in the 1820 census data. The most probable birth year then is somewhere about 1793 and would therefore make him probably one of the 16 to 25 year old males listed in George's 1820 census listing.

Elijah is found in the 1830 United States Federal Census for Nicholas County<sup>21</sup> with a listing of one 30 to 39 year old male, one 30 to 39 year old female, one 10 to 14 year old male, two under 5 year old females, and one under five year old male. The 1840 Census<sup>22</sup> lists Elijah as between 40 and 50 and the remainder of the household to include one male 10 to 15, one male 5 to 10, one female 30 to 40, two females 10 to 15, one female 5 to 10, and two females under five. The 1850 Census<sup>23</sup> lists Elijah as Elizah age 54. The rest of the household include Nancy age 44, Rachel A. Age 22, Oscar E. Age 20, Abi L. Age 17, Jonathan G. Age 15, Mary

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19 Year: 1860; Census Place: District 2, Nicholas, Kentucky; Roll: M653\_389; Page: 404; Image: 404; Family History Library Film: 803389.

20 Year: 1870; Census Place: Precinct 4, Nicholas, Kentucky; Roll: M593\_491; Page: 256A; Image: 516; Family History Library Film: 545990

21 1830 US Census; Census Place: , Nicholas, Kentucky; Page: 220; NARA Series: M19; Roll Number: 40; Family History Film: 0007819.

22 Year: 1840; Census Place: Carlisle, Nicholas, Kentucky; Roll: 121; Page: 98; Image: 202; Family History Library Film: 0007831.

23 Year: 1850; Census Place: District 2, Nicholas, Kentucky; Roll: M432\_215; Page: 396B; Image: 250.

H. Age 12, Sarah M. Age 10, and Lucilla S. Age 6. The 1860 census<sup>24</sup> lists the household as containing 65 year old Elijah, 54 year old Nancy, 28 year old Abi T., 20 year old Sarah M., and 16 year old Lucilla S. A listing of Bourbon and Nicholas County Kentucky tombstones<sup>25</sup> lists Elijah as having been born 6 Nov 1795 and his death 27 Jan 1864. Based on this data Elijah would be one of the 10 to 15 year old males in George's 1810 household.

The first daughter mentioned in George's will is Malinda Ashbrook. No documents are available concerning Malinda other than her marriage in 1820. Family tree data available on Ancestry.com lists Malinda as being born in 1796. Given this birth year, Malinda must be one of the 10 to 15 year old females in George's 1810 household.

Next, Cynthia Ann Summitt Hook is listed in the will. She and her husband, James Hook get married in Nicholas County, Kentucky on 25 October 1821<sup>26</sup> and are in Columbia, Boone County, Missouri in 1826<sup>27</sup>. This probably means that Cynthia Ann is one of the two 16 to 26 year old females in George's 1820

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24 Year: 1860; Census Place: District 2, Nicholas, Kentucky; Roll: M653\_389; Page: 456; Image: 456; Family History Library Film: 803389.

25 "Scott's Papers: Kentucky Court and other Records" Compiled by Hattie Marshall Scott. Published by The Kentucky Historical Society, 1953.p. 14.

26 Dodd, Jordan. Kentucky Marriages, 1802-1850 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 1997.

27 A history of the pioneer families of Missouri, with numerous sketches, anecdotes, adventures, etc., relating to early days in Missouri : also the lives of Daniel Boone and the celebrated Indian chief Black Hawk, with numerous biographies and histories of primitive institutions by Wm. S. Bryan and Robert Rose (1977) p. 400.

household. The 1830 Census<sup>28</sup> has them in Callaway County, Missouri and has the household consisting of one male 30 to 39, one female 30 to 39, two females 5 to 9, and two females under five. The 1840 Census<sup>29</sup> finds the family in Montgomery Township, Benton County, Missouri and consisting of one male 40 to 49, one female 40 to 49, two females 10 to 14, two females 5 to 9, and two females under 5. With James death in 1850, Cynthia is the 53 year old head of household in the 1850 Census for Alexander Township, Benton County, Missouri<sup>30</sup>. Other members of the household included 27 year old female C. K. Hook, 25 year old female L. C. Hook, 22 year old female Mary A Hook, 21 year old female Hester Hook, 19 year old female Nancy Hook, and 16 year old female Julia Hook. Cynthia and her family are missing from the 1860 census but show up in Bourbon Township, Callaway County, Missouri in the 1870 Census<sup>31</sup>. The head of the household is 27 year old James Ficklin who is married to 38 year old Mary Ann Hook Ficklin. Also living in the home are Cynthia Ann Hook, age 70, and 31 year old Nancy J. Hook. Cynthia last shows up in the Fulton, Callaway County, Missouri 1880 Census<sup>32</sup> taken 7 June 1880 and Cynthia died 3 August 1880. She is listed as 83 years old. Also in the

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28 1830 US Census; Census Place: , Callaway, Missouri; Page: 70; NARA Series: M19; Roll Number: 73; Family History Film: 0014854.

29 Year: 1840; Census Place: Montgomery, Benton, Missouri; Roll: 220; Page: 59; Image: 124; Family History Library Film: 0014855.

30 Year: 1850; Census Place: Alexander, Benton, Missouri; Roll: M432\_392; Page: 293B; Image: 131.

31 Year: 1870; Census Place: Bourbon, Callaway, Missouri; Roll: M593\_764; Page: 258B; Image: 74; Family History Library Film: 552263.

32 Year: 1880; Census Place: Fulton, Callaway, Missouri; Roll: 677; Family History Film: 1254677; Page: 541A; Enumeration District: 029; Image: 0504.



household are James W. Ficklin age 37 and Nancy J Hook age 47. Mary Ann Hook Ficklin died 30 August 1879<sup>33</sup>. Using the age data for Cynthia in these census reports, the best estimate for her birth year would be about 1797 making Cynthia one of the 10 to 15 year old females in George's household in 1810.

John Summitt married Margaret Ricketts in 1814 and her birth year was around 1793 making her around 21 at the time of the marriage<sup>34</sup>. Found in Fleming County, Kentucky, his household in the 1830 Census<sup>35</sup> consists of one 40 to 49 year old male, one 30 to 39 year old female, one 15 to 19 year old male, two 10 to 14 year old males, two 5 to 9 year old females, one 5 to 9 year old male, two females under 5 and one male under 5. Still in Fleming County for the 1840 Census<sup>36</sup> the household now consists of one 50 to 59 year old male, one 40 to 49 year old female, three 20 to 29 year old males, three 15 to 19 year old females, one 15 to 19 year old male, two 10 to 14 year old females, and one 5 to 9 year old female. Both the 1830 and 1840 census data provide a 1781 to 1790 range for John to have been born in. The 1810 census provides a 1786 to 1795 window. The only year that works for all three windows is 1790. If we accept this information this would make John one of the 16 to 26 year old males in George's 1810 household.

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33 Ancestry.com. Web: Missouri, Find A Grave Index, 1812-2012 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012.

34 Source number: 483.000; Source type: Electronic Database; Number of Pages: 1; Submitter Code: MP1.

35 1830 US Census; Census Place: Eastern Division, Fleming, Kentucky; Page: 75; NARA Series: M19; Roll Number: 36; Family History Film: 0007815.

36 Year: 1840; Census Place: Division 3, Fleming, Kentucky; Roll: 110; Page: 233; Image: 475; Family History Library Film: 0007825.

Tena, or Christina, married John Duval West October 21, 1819 in Nicholas County, Kentucky<sup>37</sup>. John West and his household are listed in the 1820 census<sup>38</sup> as consisting of one 26 to 44 year old male, one 16 to 25 year old female, one male under 10, and three females under 10. The 1830 Census<sup>39</sup> find the family in Callaway County, Missouri and consisting of one 20 to 29 year old male, one 20 to 29 year old female, and one male under 5. Christina dies on January 16, 1831 and John West travels back to Nicholas County, Kentucky and weds Sarah Boulder on April 3, 1831. Examining the age data possibilities for Christina, if she was 20 to 29 in 1830, then in 1820, in order to fit in the 16 to 26 year bracket she had to have been between 16 and 20. This would make her 6 to 10 in George's 1810 household. Taking a look again at the George Summitt household as it consisted in 1810 then, the two 16 to 25 year old males are Jacob and John, in that order. The one 16 to 26 year old female is an unknown. The two 10 to 15 year old males are James and Elijah, again in that order. One of the three 10 to 15 year old females is an unknown. The other two are Malinda and Cynthia Ann. Finally the two under 10 year old females are Christina and Charlotte.

Many family trees on Ancestry.com include two other males in George's household. These two are Christopher and George W. Christopher is supposed to

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37 Dodd, Jordan. Kentucky Marriages, 1802-1850 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 1997.

38 1820 U S Census; Census Place: , Nicholas, Kentucky; Page: 106; NARA Roll: M33\_20; Image: 117.

39 1830 US Census; Census Place: , Callaway, Missouri; Page: 78; NARA Series: M19; Roll Number: 73; Family History Film: 0014854.

have been born around 1790 and to have died around 1800 so there is a good likelihood that he wouldn't show up in the George Summitt 1810 Census household. George W. Summitt, however, has a birth date of 10 October 1792 in Bourbon County and a date of death sometime in January 1816 in Hardin County, Kentucky, so he should actually be present in the household. He would have been 18 and therefore one of the 16 to 26 year old males. But then, one of the other males has to have left by 1810.

Jacob was the oldest son born on January 23, 1790 according to family trees on Ancestry.com. This birth year does fit our estimated birth year calculated earlier. He married Minerva Storey on October 24, 1819 in Bourbon County. Jacob is named first in George's will.

The next oldest son would be John Robert Summitt, Sr. Based on the earlier calculations, we've estimated that John was also born in 1790. Family tree data from Ancestry.com gives him a birthdate of 23 December 1790. John only receives \$100 from his father's will. John is in Fleming County and marries Margaret Rickets on March 16, 1814<sup>40</sup>. John would have been 23 at this point in time. Even though no census data for him has been found in Fleming County for the 1810 census, it is possible that he had moved there and was working for someone and not being the head of the household would not have been listed. This would allow George W. to

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40 Source number: 483.000; Source type: Electronic Database; Number of Pages: 1; Submitter Code: MP1.

be in the household in 1810 as the two 16 to 26 year old males might then have been Jacob and George W. But as we will see below, there is still a problem.

Next in the 1810 household we have two unknown females, one 16 to 25 and the other 10 to 15. We have no mention of them in the will. But, then again, why would we? Tena, or Christina, is mentioned but only because George is going to leave her heirs money. Neither Christopher nor George W. are mentioned and the reason I believe, as with these two possible daughters, is because they left no heirs. The next oldest child would be James H. and here again we have a problem with George's 1810 Census household. Our earlier calculations estimated his birth year about 1793. Family trees on Ancestry.com give a Oct 1792 birth date, the same birth date given in family trees on Ancestry.com for George W. Summitt, James' supposed brother. Given the calculations we have made for the other brothers, the results leave us with four brothers who fit the 16 to 26 year old age range. With John Robert we can see how he may have already left George's household by this time but this still leaves three brothers whose ages fit the age range where there should only be two.

The next oldest should be Elijah. Based on his tombstone, we have a date of birth of November 6, 1795 and the census data supports a date around this time. This birth year would make him one of the two 10 to 15 year old males in George's household in 1810.

The next in line would be Malinda with a given birth year of 1796 and therefore she must be, as stated before, one of the 10 to 15 year old females in George's 1810 household. Cynthia Ann would be the next oldest of the daughters with an estimated birth year of 1797. Christina we have already calculated must have been one of the daughters under 10 years of age as must Charlotte.

So here is our proposed list of children for George and Rosanah.

1. Jacob Summitt, b. 23 Jan 1790, (Bourbon) Kentucky, d. 26 Sept 1871, (Nicholas) Kentucky, m. 24 Oct 1819 to Minerva Storey b. 28 Mar 1804 Delaware, d. 1 Jun 1833 (Nicholas) Kentucky.
2. John Robert Summitt, Sr., b. 23 Dec 1790 (Bourbon) Kentucky, d. 6 Jul 1844 (Fleming) Kentucky, m. 16 Mar 1814 to Margaret Ricketts b. 20 Jun 1793 Pennsylvania, d. 7 Jun 1876 (Fleming) Kentucky.
3. Possible Daughter b. About 1790, d. Before 1820.
4. Christopher Summitt, b. About 1790. d. Before 1800
5. George W. Summitt, b. 10 Oct 1792 (Nicholas) Kentucky, d. Jan 1816 (Hardin) Kentucky.
6. James H. Summitt, b. 10 Oct 1792 (Nicholas) Kentucky, d. Oct 1879 (Mercer) Missouri, m. 18 Oct 1818 to Mariah Barnett b. 30 Sept 1794 (Nicholas) Kentucky, d. 2 Jan 1878 (Nicholas) Kentucky.

7. Elijah Summitt, b. 6 Nov 1795 (Bourbon) Kentucky, d. 27 Jan 1864  
Millersburg (Bourbon) Kentucky, m. 21 Sept 1825 to Nancy P. Johnson b.  
1806 d. 8 Dec 1872 (Nicholas) Kentucky.
8. Possible Daughter b. About 1795 d. Before 1820.
9. Malinda Summitt b. About 1796 (Bourbon) Kentucky, d. Before 1896. m. 5  
Mar 1820 (Nicholas) Kentucky to Andrew A. Ashbrook Sr. b. About 1805  
(Bourbon) Kentucky, d. 27 Aug 1853 (Harrison) Kentucky.
10. Cynthia Ann Summitt b. About 1797 Kentucky, d. 3 Aug 1880 Fulton  
(Callaway) Missouri, m. 25 Oct 1821 (Nicholas) Kentucky to James Hook  
b. 10 Jun 1793 Kentucky, d. 15 Mar 1850 (Benton) Missouri.
11. Christina Summitt b. About 1801 (Nicholas) Kentucky d. 16 Jan 1831  
(Callaway) Missouri, m. 21 Oct 1819 (Nicholas) Kentucky to John Duval  
West b. 18 May 1796 Paris (Bourbon) Kentucky, d. 29 Jun 1881 (Callaway)  
Missouri.
12. Charlotte Summitt b. About 1801 (Nicholas) Kentucky, d. Before 1901  
(Nicholas) Kentucky. m. 31 Jan 1816 Carlisle (Nicholas) Kentucky to  
Michael West b. About 1801 (Nicholas) Kentucky d. Before 3 July 1824  
(Nicholas) Kentucky. m. 3 July 1834 (Nicholas) Kentucky to John Smith  
Wyatt b. 20 Sept 1796 (Warren) Missouri, d. 11 Oct 1854 Missouri.

As can be seen, four of George's children went on to settle in Missouri. And so, a Kentucky pioneer's children moved on to become pioneers of a new state.