

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

After writing Chapter Twelve, I wanted to learn more about the original land owner, David Leitch and his Land Grant or the Patent of 13,800 acres, part of which became the Steffen farm in Alexandria Kentucky. The A.W. White property was adjacent to the Steffen farm. I found these records that may help us to understand how part of Kentucke County Virginia became acquired through Virginia Land Grants.

Research printed here from:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~kycampbe/davidleitch.htm>

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Some of the text and composition has been altered or modified by this writer in 2005.

David Leitch

Information from research by Margaret S Hartman is on file at the Campbell County Historical and Genealogical Society.

David Leitch was born September 11, 1753, in Glasgow Scotland. At an early age he and his older brother James immigrated to America and went into business in Manchester, Virginia.

Leitch served in the American army during the Revolutionary War, where he attained the rank of Major. Even though there is no record that he was given a land grant, he did purchase considerable acreage in Campbell, Kenton, Pendleton, Lincoln, Fleming and Bath counties. Most of these investments were made in partnership with Joseph **Weiseger** and John **Fowler**.

When the partnership holdings were distributed among the owners, David received about 33,800 acres of land in Campbell County, consisting of most of what is known today as Wilder, Highland Heights, Cold Spring, Alexandria, Grant's Lick and much of southern Kenton County.

In 1789 he traveled to Fort Pitt (Pittsburgh) hoping to find people interested in settling the Kentucky region. David bought a raft and supplies and eventually 20 hearty souls agreed to accompany him. The group was made up of four couples, their eight children and four bachelors.

When the party arrived at Losantiville (Cincinnati) they found many hostile natives in the area, so they traveled up the Licking River for about six miles. There they dismantled the raft and built a blockhouse with a high picket fence and established Leitch's Station.

David Leitch sold 20,000 acres of his land to **Anthony Walton White** and had the remainder surveyed by **William Kennedy**, to whom he gave 4,600 acres as payment for his services. The land given to Kennedy was located along the Licking River and would extend from modern day Newport to the 1-275 bridge. This left David with 9,200 acres.

David kept 200 acres at Leitch's station for himself and offered the remainder for sale to the settlers. For those without money, he agreed to lease land, or let them earn 100 acres for each 10 they would clear from him.

Some of these settlers included Benjamin Archer, John Bartle, Samuel Beck, John Bird, Timothy Bull, Cader Edwards, William Edwards, Joseph Farrar, George Gordon, George Kelly, Joseph Kelly, Thomas Johnson, Thomas Lindsey, John Murnan, Thomas Rees and Edward Welch.

On December 27, 1784 at Danville, Leitch was sent as a delegate to Kentucky's first Constitutional Convention. One of the questions considered was whether Kentucky should cease being a Virginia County and become a separate State. The question was tabled for that year. Kentucky did not become a State until June 1, 1792.

In December 1790, at the age of 37, David traveled to Bryan's Station near Lexington, and met and married 17 year old Keturah Moss. She was born Sep 11, 1773 to Army Captain Hugh Moss and Jane Ford, and she was smitten with the handsome man from Scotland. The newlyweds came back to Leitch's Station where David's slaves built a log cabin for them.. David and Keturah and most of the people of Leitch's Station attended the Baptist Church at Columbia, now a part of Cincinnati until 1798 when they withdrew to form a Society on the Licking.

Because of his extensive land holdings, David traveled often to buy, sell and maintain his land. On one of these trips, David had to sleep outside in a cold rain, from which he caught a bad cold and then pneumonia. When he returned home, a Dr. Strong came from Fort Washington to treat him, but David died November 9, 1794. at the young age of 41. On his deathbed, he called in his lawyer and dictated his last will and testament, in which he left all of his holdings to Keturah.

Keturah and David did not have children. David was buried in the yard of the Leitch home. However, many years later in May of 1853, Keturah had his body moved to the Evergreen Cemetery in Southgate.

She had a monument erected with the following inscription:

**In Memory of
Major David Leitch
Who was universally beloved
For his
Benevolence, generosity
And many virtues
This monument erected
By his devoted wife
May 1853**



Photo by dab

On the north side of the monument is this inscription:

Major David Leitch

**Who was born at Glasgow in Scotland
Sep 11 A.D. 1753. At an early age he migrated
to America with an older brother and
settled at Richmond, Virginia.**

A brave and patriotic republican.

**While quite young he took part in the struggle for American
independence as an aide de-camp to General
Lawson. In the year 1785 he came to
Kentucky and settled near Lexington
subsequently he came to his estate
on the Licking River near Newport,
called Leitch's Station.**

**There he
erected himself a block-house to protect
himself and his associates against
the Indians at which place he died
Nov. 7th A.D. 1794.**

**He was also a member
of the first convention of Kentucky.**

To learn more about the early days of what we now call Northern Kentucky, I wish to refer you to a writing by Michael J. Hammons at WWW.taylormillky.gov/documents/HISTORY-OF-TAYLOR-MILL.doc

David Leitch Advertisements

*From The Kentucke Gazette, in
Lexington Kentucky published in*

Vol. I page 1 August 2, 1788

*Vol. I No. L page 1 Saturday, August 9,
1788*

*Vol. I No. LI, page 1, Saturday, August
16, 1788*

The subscriber proposes to establish a settlement within three miles of the upper Blue licks on the following terms, viz. one half acre lot in Town, and one five acre lot adjacent, given in fee simple gratis, to each settler, with the privilege of purchasing one hundred acres on the same tract at 30 pr. hundred payable in cattle, sheep, and good horses or mares; one half to be paid at the time of settling, and two years credit for the balance, on the purchasers giving the land in security for payment, the titles to be made to the lots, where the settlers obligate themselves to settle, on or before christmas next, and to maintain the settlement four years by themselves, or representatives.

There will be more land adjacent, for sale provided terms can be agreed on. It is unnecessary to say any thing respecting the advantages which the place will derive from its local situation, and richness of soil, as those who wish to settle will no doubt view it before they agree; there is a certainty of salt being made ensuing fall at the licks, as there are several companies determined to work them.

Those who wish to settle will make application in Lexington and some time in October will be fixed on for meeting on the land to view it.

Signed David Leitch 24 Jul 1788

The Kentucke Gazette, Vol. I No.

XXVIII, page 2,

Saturday March 17, 1789

The beautiful high bred horse, Slider, full fifteen hands and a half high, stands at my stable near Lexington, this season, and will cover mares at eight dollars, payable in beef cattle, cows and calves, pork, country made linen, or any other species of home manufacture at their cash prices, deliverable at my house, or inspected Tobacco at any Ware House within the district (provided that any of the above enumerated articles shall be delivered by the first day of November next, otherwise nothing but cash will be received in payment) or twelve shillings cash the leap.

Good pasturage gratis, but I will not be answerable for escapes or other accidents.

Slider was bred by Col. John H Cocke of Virginia, and got by the noted horse old Partner. Partner was got by Morton's Traveller out of Selima, both of which were imported from England and generally allowed to be of the best breed in that Kingdom, or that ever was brought to America.

Slider's dam was got by the much celebrated imported old Figure, his grand dam by the noted horse Fearnought imported from England by Col. Baylor of Caroline (Virginia) his great grand dam one of the highest bred mares of England imported by Col. Joseph Galloway of Maryland.

Signed David Leitch

Keturah Taylor

Cincinnati Daily Enquirer, January 31, 1866 page 2

On the 23rd instant, at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. K L Harris, in Newport, Ky. Mrs. Keturah M Taylor, widow of the late General James Taylor, in the 92nd year of her age.

Mrs. Taylor was one of the early pioneers of the West, having immigrated to Kentucky from Virginia in the year 1784 and settled near Lexington. In the year 1790 she married Major David Leitch; in

1791 moved to Leitch's Station where there was a stockade fort; but the Indians being troublesome in this vicinity, she returned with her husband to Lexington. In April 1792 Major Leitch again returned to Leitch's Station where they lived until his death. In 1795 the subject of this obituary was married to General James Taylor and has resided either at Belleview, Kentucky, the family residence, or with her daughter, Mrs. Harris, until her death.

Mrs. T was for many years a member of the Baptist Church and was remarkable for her generous hospitality and kindness to the poor, which will be long remembered by those who knew her.



Photo by dab



Home of General James Taylor
And
Keturah Moss Leitch Taylor
Newport, Kentucky
Built 1837