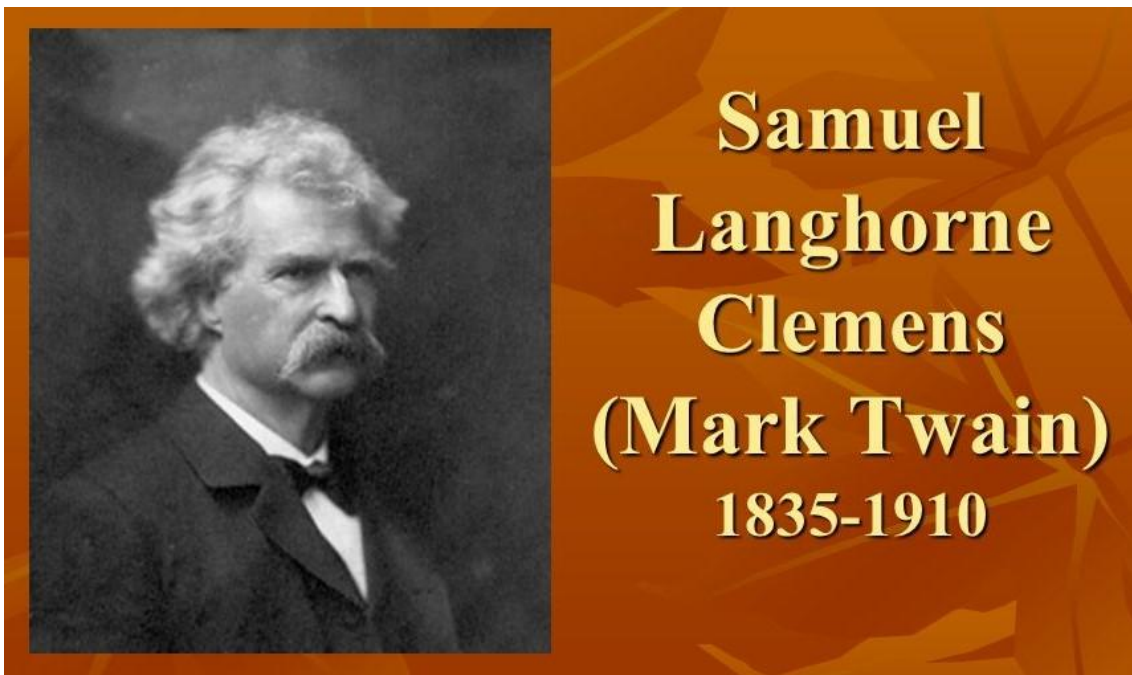


# The Casey Ancestry of Mark Twain

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky., 1989

The ancestry of Mark Twain, like that of any historic personage, has been the subject of great interest and speculation. Of the families of Mark Twain's grandparents - Clemens, Goggins, Lampton and Casey, probably less is known of his Casey ancestry. This article seeks to outline what is known about the Casey family and to set forth new evidence pertaining to the identity of Mark Twain's great-great-grandmother., Mrs. Margaret Casey.



Samuel Langhorne Clemens, alias Mark Twain, possibly the most widely known American writer, was born on 30 November 1835 at Florida, Missouri, to the union of John Marshall Clemens and Jane Lampton. His parents are buried at the Mississippi River town of Hannibal, Mo., where they had removed to in 1839; his father died on 24 March 1847 and his mother on 27 October 1890. While residents of Adair County, Ky., his parents had married on 6 May (ca) 1823. Shortly after their marriage they moved to Tennessee, where they resided in the counties of Jackson (at Gainsboro) and Fentress. In the latter John M. Clemens & a brother, Hanibal Clemens, and their families, were enumerated in the 1830 federal census. John M. Clemens, the son of Samuel R. Clemens & Pamela (Permelia) Goggins, and grandson of Adam Clemens & Agnes Johnson and Stephen Goggin, Jr. & Rachel Clark Moorman, was born about 1796 in Virginia. About 1809, he had left Virginia, with his mother, a widow & her four other children, and journeyed to Adair County, Ky. There on 25 May 1809 his mother married an old

flame, Simon Hancock, and in November 1822 John M. Clemens was granted a license to practice law.

Mark Twain's mother, Jane Lampton, a native of Adair County, Ky, born on 18 June 1803, was a daughter of Benjamin Lampton & Margaret Casey. Her father, a Virginian, was born in 1770; his parents, William Lampton & Patsy Schooler, had been residents of Page & Spotsylvania Counties, Va. and Clark County, Ky. In Green County, Ky. on 17 March 1801 Benjamin Lampton & Margaret Casey were married. They were residents of Adair County, Ky., upon its formation in 1802 from Green County. He was a merchant in Columbia, Adair's county seat; one of his residences still stands there near the Adair County Courthouse. His wife, "Peggy", died about 1817 in Adair County. To their marriage were born two daughters: Jane, wife of John M. Clemens, & Martha (Patsy), who was born 22 March 1807 in Adair County, Ky., she married John Adams Quarles of Overton County, Tenn. and died in July 1850 in Missouri. In Adair County, Ky. on 2 Feb. 1819 Benjamin Lampton married Mary (Polly) Margaret Hays. To this marriage one child, James Andrew Hays Lampton, was born.

Benjamin Lampton was listed in the tax books of Adair County, Ky. from 1802 through 1819. He was enumerated as a household head in the 1810 census of Adair County, Ky., his name was misspelled "Lambton". Five individuals were counted in his household: one male aged 26-45, 1 male aged 16-26, 1 female aged 26-45 & 2 females under the age of 10, they would have included. Benjamin, his wife, Margaret & their two daughters, Jane & Martha. Benjamin Lampton was absent from the 1820 census & tax list of Adair County, Ky., but he reappears there in the 1821 tax list. He was last listed in the Adair County tax books in 1825. In 1830 he was enumerated in the census of Overton County, Tenn. Benjamin Lampton died in March 1837 and was buried in the Florida Cemetery, at Florida, Monroe County, Mo.

Margaret Casey, wife of Benjamin Lampton, was a native of Kentucky, she was born about 1783 in what was then Lincoln County, Va. and which in 1792 became Lincoln County, Ky. She was a daughter of the noted Kentucky pioneer couple, Col. William Casey (1754-1816) & Jane Montgomery (1761-1844), both of whom are noted in the annals of Kentucky's early history.

Col. William Casey was an early Kentucky explorer, soldier & statesman. Casey County, Ky. was named in his honor. His name frequently appears in union with that of his brother-in-law, Col. Benjamin Logan (c1743-1802), who ranks with the likes of Boone, Harrod & Clark, as a leader in the earliest exploration and settlement of Kentucky. Casey & Logan's wives, Jane & Anne, were daughters of William Montgomery. Col. Logan & William Montgomery were residents of the Holston River settlement in Washington County, Va., where Col. Logan & his wife were married about 1773. In 1775 Logan came to Kentucky and in the early part of 1776 founded a station, St. Asaph's, where Stanford, Lincoln County, Ky. is presently located. Three years later in 1779 his father-in-law, William Montgomery, & others of his family, including his daughter Jane Montgomery, left the Holston and joined Logan at St. Asaph's. A few months later

Montgomery established "Montgomery's Station", about 12 miles from St. Asaph's. In March 1780 William Montgomery was killed in an Indian raid on Montgomery's Station; an account of the attack by Mrs. Jane Montgomery Casey was recorded by Lewis Collins in his 1847 History of Kentucky. Thomas Marshall Green in his book, Historic Families of Kentucky (Cincinnati, 1889, pp.133-4) wrote the following about Mrs. Casey:

Early one morning, in 1781, the elder William Montgomery stepped to the door of his cabin, a negro boy by his side, when both were fired upon, and instantly killed; the head of the negro fell upon the doorsill so that it could not be closed. Jane Montgomery, the daughter of the aged victim, sprang to the door, with a vigorous shove of her foot pushed out the dead boy's head, shut the door, called for her brother's rifle, and, with it in her steady hand, bravely defied the foe, who feared to approach the cabin. She afterward married the gallant General Casey, of Adair, and was the grandmother of "Mark Twain," the noted humorist. [ed. note: she was his great-grandmother].

In the book, Benjamin Logan: Kentucky Frontiersman, by Charles Gano Talbert (University of KY Press, 1962, p.189) it is stated that: "Late in 1782 Ann Logan's sister, Jane Montgomery, one of the few persons who had escaped capture at the time of the Indian attack on Montgomery's Station, was married to William Casey. Casey had been a member of Logan's party which rescued the prisoners taken at Montgomery's."

Lewis Collins in his 1847 History of Kentucky wrote the following about Col. William Casey in a chapter on Casey County:

Colonel William Casey, in honor of whom this county received its name, was a native of Frederick county, Virginia in company with two or three families, he removed to Kentucky in the early part of the winter of 1779-80; and during the intensely cold weather of that memorable winter, lived in a camp on the Hanging fink of Dick's river. He remained there until the year 1791; when under the influence of that spirit of adventure and change which marked the era in which he lived, he struck his tent, and removed to Russell's creek, a tributary of Green river. Here, at a distance of fifty miles from any white settlement, in conjunction with several families who pushed their fortunes with him, lie located and built a station. Though feeble in numbers, the hardy band of pioneers by whom he was surrounded, and who reposed in him unbounded confidence as a leader, maintained themselves, gallantly and victoriously, against several attacks of the Indians. His station was subsequently reinforced by several families, whose presence was instrumental in preventing any further assault on the part of the Indians. In one of the incursions, however, of a small band of savages, Mr. John Tucker, a Methodist preacher, together with his wife, were cruelly murdered.

William B. Allen in his 1872 A History of Kentucky penned the following sketch of Col. William Casey:

Colonel William Casey was a native of Frederick County, Virginia, and removed to Kentucky in the early part of the winter of 1779-80; and, during the intensely cold weather of that memorable winter, lived in a camp on the Hanging Fork of Dix River. He was one of the company who, with the Logans, Montgomeries, McClures, and Whitleys, established Logan's Station at Buffalo Springs, near the present town of Stanford. From this point Colonel Casey formed a company of some thirty hardy and well tried men, with the view of establishing stations south of Green River. In the spring of 1791, Casey, with his party, composed of the Butlers, Tuckers, Montgomeries, Dudleys, Fields, Lawsons, Harveys, Fletchers, and others, started down Green River, crossing at the mouth of what was afterward called Casey's Creek. At a large spring of most excellent water, now on a farm owned and occupied by Mr. James Callison, they erected a block-house and fort, which, in honor of their captain, they called Casey's Station. Here, at a distance of fifty miles from any white settlement, he, with the families who had pushed their fortunes with him, though feeble in numbers, maintained themselves gallantly and victoriously against many attacks from the Indians. His station was subsequently reinforced by several families, whose presence was instrumental in preventing any further assault on the part of the Indians. It was in one of the incursions of a small band of savages that Mr. John Tucker, a Methodist preacher, together with his wife and some others, were cruelly murdered at Tucker Station, which had been established about a mile from Casey's Station. Many of the inmates of this station were enabled to make their escape in safety to Casey's Station, where information was given of the attack, the marauders suddenly pursued, and overtaken just as they were in the act of crossing the Cumberland River on a raft. The Indians were fired upon by Casey's company and several killed, and some horses recaptured which the Indians had taken from Tucker's Station.

The Casey farm was the first farm opened south of Russell's Creek. The Fletcher and hunt farms, all in what is now Adair County, were opened to some extent, and houses built, several years before their owners dared to occupy them.

Colonel Casey was a man of strong natural mind, of great benevolence and goodness of heart. No man was ever more beloved by his acquaintances, or deservedly more popular. When the election came up for delegates to the convention of 1799 to remodel the Constitution of Kentucky, he was elected by a large majority over all opposition. In this capacity Colonel Casey served the people ably, and with entire satisfaction. After the county of Adair was stricken from Green, Colonel Casey's residence then being in that county, he was by them often honored with high and responsible trusts, and lived to the age of more than four-score years, leaving an only son (Green Casey) and several daughters, all of whom inherited, in a good degree, the good sense and moral worth of their father, and occupied a high stand in the community in which they lived. Colonel Casey, in person, was large and corpulent, and of prepossessing appearance. His forehead

was prominent, his eyes black, keen, and piercing, and voice stentorian. He made no pretensions to oratory, yet he spoke with power, and never failed to interest his auditory and to carry his point, though this result, perhaps, was more from the unbounded confidence of the people in him as a sincere and honest man than from any other cause.

William Casey served as a lieutenant in the Lincoln County [KY] militia under Col. Benjamin Logan. In the fall of 1782 Lt. Casey was with Gen. George Rogers Clark in his campaign up the Miami River against the Shawnee. In 1791 Casey left what is presently Lincoln County and led a party of settlers that ventured into what is now Adair County, Ky. There on Russell Creek near the present town of Columbia, he erected a settlement, named Casey's Station. The area, then a part of Lincoln County, in 1793 became part of Green County and in 1802 part of Adair County. William Casey was listed in the first extant tax books of three Kentucky counties: Lincoln, 1787; Green, 1795-1801; & Adair, 1802-1816.

On 18 December 1792 William Casey was commissioned a Lt. Col. of the 16th KY Regiment. Along with William Buckner & Elias Barbee, he served as the first judges of the Green County Quarterly Court. In 1795 he was elected to represent Green County in the Kentucky House of Representatives. He was selected to represent Green County at the Second Constitutional Convention of Kentucky, held at Frankfort on 17 August 1799. In 1800-1802 he again served in the Kentucky Legislature, this time representing Green County in the Kentucky Senate. In 1802 when the town of Columbia became the county seat of Adair he was appointed a town trustee. On 14 November 1806 the Kentucky legislature honored Col. Casey by naming its 49th county after him. Casey County officially began on 4 May 1807. In the 7th U.S. presidential election in 1813 Col. Casey was selected as one of Kentucky's 12 electors, all of whom cast their ballot for the incumbent, James Madison, who was reelected.

William Casey appeared in the 1810 census of Adair County, Ky., in his household were listed: 1 male over 45, 1 female over 45, 1 male 16-26 & 1 female 16-26; they were probably William, his wife Jane, & their unmarried children, Green & Ann. Col. Casey was one of his county's most affluent citizens, at the time of the 1810 census he was listed as owning 16 slaves and in the 1816 tax ledger he was assessed on 6 tracts of land, totaling 1200 acres. Col. William Casey died in Adair County in December 1816 (see Jane Clemens: The Story of Mark Twain's Mother, Rachel M. Varble, Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, NY., 1964, p.39); he was buried in a family cemetery near the Columbia-Burkesville Road. He wrote his will on 31 August 1816 & it was recorded on 6 January 1817, in Adair County Will Book B, p.235. Commemorating the site of Col. Casey's home a Kentucky State Historical Marker was erected on KY Highway 80, about 3 miles southwest of Columbia, Ky. In Casey County, Ky. another historical marker was erected in honor of William Casey.

William Casey & Jane Montgomery reared a family of five children, they were: Margaret, born c1783, Jane, born c1784, Mary, born 1784-1800, Ann, born c1790, & Green,

born 6/8 January 1793. Margaret became the wife of Benjamin Lampton. Jane (Jennie) Casey married Robert Paxton in Adair County, Ky. on 2 March 1803. She was left a widow with six small children, when her husband was killed at the Battle of New Orleans on 28 February 1815. Mrs. Jane Paxton was enumerated as a household head in the 1820 & 1830 censuses of Adair County, Ky. Mary (Polly) Casey married John Creel in Adair County, Ky. on 10 July 1804. In the 1810, 1820 & 1830 censuses of Adair County John Creel was listed; the census abstracts suggest he may have had about 10 children. Ann Casey married her cousin, John Montgomery, on 25 October 1810 in Adair County, Ky.; they had one child, Lucinda, who was born c1812 and married Peter Anderson c1832. Mrs. Ann Montgomery was listed as a household head in the 1830 census of Adair County, Ky. and at the time of the 1850 census she was living with the family of her daughter, Lucinda Anderson, in Green County, Ky. (p.107). In the latter record, Ann, was listed as being 60 years of age & her place of birth, and that of her daughter, was recorded as Adair County, Ky. Green Casey on 5 December 1814 married Jane Patterson in Adair County, Ky. Green Casey was enumerated in the 1820 & 1830 Adair County, Ky. censuses and he died about 1837 in Sangamon County, Ill. William Casey's widow, Jane Montgomery Casey, died on 30 January 1844 at West Point, Lee County, Iowa, where the family of her deceased son, Green, had located (Society of Kentucky Pioneers, McDowell Publications, Pleasant Ridge, Ky., file of member #703: Florence Marie Casey Sellen, daughter of William Patterson Casey, son of Joseph Allen Casey, son of William Patterson Casey, son of Green Casey, son of William Casey.)

Col. William Casey was a son of John Casey, also an early pioneer of Lincoln County, Ky., having settled there between 1779-1784, possibly arriving with his son in the winter of 1779-1780. In the first order book of Lincoln County, Ky. (1781-1791, p.189) it was recorded that on 18 June 1784 John & William Casey, served together on a jury. In the earliest tax list for Lincoln County, 1787, three Caseys were listed: John, William & James Casey. The latter two were sons of John as proven by the will of John Casey, written on 28 April 1790 and recorded on 20 July 1790 in Lincoln County, Ky. Will Book A, p.189. In his will, John Casey named his wife, Margaret, and four children: William, James, Agnes & Marthere (Martha); the married names of his two daughters were not stated. John Casey appointed his friend, Hugh Logan, as the executor of his will.

Agnes Casey, daughter of John & Margaret, was born in Virginia in the 1760's. In the marriage records of Lincoln County, Ky., it is recorded that Agnes married Robert Fletcher on 29 March 1788. Robert Fletcher appeared in the 1820, 1830 & 1840 censuses of Adair County, Ky. In 1820 he & his wife were listed as being over the age of 45, in 1830 he & his wife were listed as being aged 60-70, and the 1840 census lists him as being aged 70-80 & suggests his wife was then deceased. In 1830 he resided near Jane Paxton, Green Casey & Ann Montgomery, all children of Col. William Casey. Robert Fletcher's will, dated 11 December 1847, named the following children: Green, Silas, John, Lewis, Robert, William, Margaret & Lucinda. James and Martha Casey, children of John & Margaret Casey, will be referred to later in this report.

William Casey according to the 1810 census was born prior to 1765. His earliest appearance in several Virginia records, cited below, suggest he would have been born about 1754-1756. Little has been written about Col. William Casey or his father, John Casey's, Virginia background. Lewis Collins statement that Col. William Casey was a native of Frederick County, Va. appears to be authentic by the fact that it was written in 1847, when members of Col. Casey's immediate family were yet living.

In the period of 1774-1779 one William Casey resided in the Holston River settlement, in what was successively Fincastle & Washington Counties, Va. (in 1770 Botetourt was formed from Augusta, in 1772 Fincastle from Botetourt, & in 1776 Washington from Fincastle.) In this same neighborhood Col. William Casey's brother-in-law, Benjamin Logan, & father-in-law, William Montgomery, as well as numerous other settlers at Logan & Casey's early Kentucky settlements, had resided. Collins in his 1847 History of Kentucky recorded that both William Casey & William Montgomery came to Kentucky in 1779, it is possible they departed the Holston in the same company. It is the conclusion of this writer that Col. William Casey is the same William Casey of Fincastle & Washington Counties, Va. Records in these Virginia counties indicate that the mother of Col. William Casey, Margaret, wife of John Casey, is Margaret Blackburn Casey, of the Blackburn family, who were also residents of the Holston River settlement and whose names are closely linked to the William Casey of Fincastle & Washington Counties, Va.

In the records of Fincastle & Washington Counties, Va. the names of three Caseys have been located, viz: William, John & Margaret Casey. In Fincastle County, Va. order book 2, p.25, it is recorded that on 5 May 1774 was filed a suit of Abraham Bowman vs. John Casey, concerning the payment of a debt, which the defendant claimed to have paid. In Washington County, Va. court orders it was recorded that John Casey was present in court on 16 June 1779 (Annals of Southwest Virginia, Summers).

A company of 52 volunteers from Fincastle County, Va., under the command of Capt. Evan Shelby, served in Lord Dunmore's War against the Indians in 1774. The name of William Casey appeared on a roll of this company, returned on 7 October 1774 (Virginia Colonial Soldiers, Lloyd Dewitt Bochstruck, Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, 1988, p.153). William Casey was with this company, when three days following this roll, on October 10, they fought at the Battle of Point Pleasant. Reference to this was made in the book, The King's Mountain Men (Kathrine Keoghwhite, Joseph K. Ruebush Co., Dayton, Va., 1924, p.157), in which the following passage appeared:

William [Casey] fought at Point Pleasant under Captain Shelby. Two years later, he with his sister Nancy, Arthur Blackburn, and Arthur Harrold were on their way to Rev. Charles Cummings [a pastor in the Holston River settlement] to bring some books and other articles to the fort in the vicinity. They were attacked by Indians, Blackburn was shot and scalped, but his body was recovered.

As Casey was running for his life, he saw the Indians in hot pursuit of his sister. He called to Harrold to help him, and the latter complied although there were from four to six of the foe. By keeping between them and Nancy, the Indians were beaten off, the men firing alternately.

In the order books of Washington County, Va. it is recorded that William Casey was appointed an ensign of the militia on 26 February 1777 and on 26 November 1777 he was listed on a road order. The name of William Casey was last located in the records of Washington County, Va. on 20 August 1779, when he served on a jury (Annals of Southwest Virginia, Summers). It is recorded that Col. William Casey moved to Kentucky in the early part of the winter of 1779-1780.

George & Arthur Blackburn in their wills, recorded in Washington County, Va. in 1778 & 1782, name as their sister, one Margaret Casey. The same documents indicate that this family included at least one other brother & two sisters, William Blackburn, Martha Rogers & Mary White. The Blackburn family of the Holston River settlement in Washington County, Va. had earlier resided in Fairfax and Frederick Counties, Va.; it was in the latter that Col. William Casey was born about 1754-1756. On 3 January 1755 Lord Fairfax made a grant of land to "Arthur, George & William Blackburn of Fairfax County, Va." The land was on Mulberry Run in Frederick County, Va. (Land office at Richmond, Va., Book H, p.594; "Some Descendants of Lieutenant William Blackburn", by Annie Noble Sims, Tyler's Quarterly Historical & Genealogical Magazine, Vol.2, No.4, April 1922, p.263). The Blackburns named on the 1755 land grant according to Annie Noble Sims, in her article on Lt. William Blackburn, in Tyler's Quarterly (April 1921), were brothers and at a much later date removed to what is now Washington County, Va. On Frederick County, Va. documents where the Blackburns appeared are frequently found names closely associated with them later in Washington County, Va., such as members of the Vance and Black families.

By 1772 the brothers, Arthur, George & William Blackburn, had moved to the southwest Virginia frontier. They settled along the Holston River (Beaver Creek), in the area through which many pioneers, moving from Virginia and the Carolinas to the frontiers of Kentucky, passed through. Abingdon, the county seat of Washington County, Va. is about 90 miles east of the Cumberland Gap, the gateway to the "dark and bloody ground". Numerous references in the Annals of Southwest Virginia by Lewis Preston Summers, show that the Blackburns were prominent in the political, religious and social life of their community. In 1772 the congregations of the Ebbing & Sinking Springs Churches, on the Holston River, in Fincastle County, Va. (in 1776 became Washington County), invited the Rev. Charles Cummings to accept the pastorate of their churches, the first to be organized in that region. Among those who signed the invitation were Arthur, George & William Blackburn (Annals of Southwest Virginia 1769-1800, Summers, Abingdon, Va., 1929). Other signers also included Benjamin Logan and members of the Montgomery family, who were later in-laws of Col. William Casey.



William & George Blackburn were among those directed by the court of Fincastle County, Va. on 8 September 1773 to clear a road from Samuel Briggs on Eighteen Mile Creek to James Bryan's on Eleven Mile Creek (Fincastle County, Va. order book 1, p.122; on the same order were Samuel Briggs & his brother-in-law, Benjamin Logan, Briggs was the great-grandfather of the first lady, Mary Todd Lincoln). Arthur Blackburn on 4 January 1774 had 130 acres surveyed, which was part of the Loyal Company Grant on the waters of the middle fork of the Holston River (Fincastle County, Va. plat book A, p.19); he transferred the same to John Branden on 7 September 1774. John Blackburn had 78 acres surveyed on 21 February 1774, a part of the same grant, on the waters of Beaver Creek, a branch of the Holston River (Fincastle County, Va. plat book A, p.51). On the same date a survey of 220 acres belonging to William Blackburn was also made, it bordered John Blackburn's survey and was part of the Loyal Company Grant (Fincastle County, Va. plat book A, p.158).

George Blackburn served as a Justice of the Peace in Washington County, Va. He wrote his will on 21 April 1778 and it was recorded in Washington County, Va. Will Book 1, p.13, on 18 August 1778. He directed that his estate was to be divided between: his brothers, Arthur & William Blackburn, his sisters, Margaret Casey & Mary White, brother-in-law, Samuel Vance, Andrew Colvil, and his daughter, Sarah Blackburn (Annals of Southwest Virginia, Summers, p.1342). On the same day that George Blackburn's will was recorded the will of Samuel Vance was also recorded. Vance willed his estate to his wife, Sarah, & his children: Margaret Lusk, Elizabeth Blackburn & Samuel Vance; executors were Samuel Vance & George Blackburn, & witnesses were John Cusick, Arthur & John Blackburn (Summers, p.1344, Washington County, Va. Will Book 1, p.64). Daughters of William Blackburn married into the Vance, Lusk & Cusick families.

George Blackburn's brother, William, served as a lieutenant in the Washington County, Va., militia having been recommended to that office on the 26 February 1777, on the same date William Casey was recommended as an ensign of the militia. William Blackburn was one of the heroes who were killed in the Battle of King's Mountain on 7 October 1780; he served as a lieutenant in Capt. Robert Craig's company, in the Virginia Regiment of Col. William Campbell (King's Mountain and Its Heroes, Lyman C. Draper, 1881, p.304; The King's Mountain Men, Kathrine Keoghwhite, Joseph K. Ruebush Co., Dayton, Va., 1924, p.148; & DAR Lineage Books). An inventory & appraisal of the estate of William Blackburn, dec'd, was made on 23 November 1780 & on 24 November 1780 letters of administration were granted to his widow, Elizabeth Blackburn, & John Blackburn (Washington County, Va. minute book I, p.97). The final settlement of his estate was not recorded until 20 December 1796 (Washington County, Va. Will Book 2, p.105). The heirs named in the settlement were his widow, Elizabeth Blackburn, and six daughters: Mary wife of Samuel Vance, Jean wife of Joseph Cusick, Elizabeth wife of John Lusk, Margaret wife of David Evans, and Patsey & Sally Blackburn.

Martha (Patsey), daughter of William Blackburn, married Robert Houston and in the book, Genealogy of the Houston Family, by Rev. Samuel Rutherford Houston (Elm Street

Printing Co., Cincinnati, Ohio, 1882, pp.221 & 223) it is written that William Blackburn's wife, Elizabeth, was a sister of Captain Joseph Black, a noted pioneer of Washington County, Va. Joseph Black was a neighbor of the Blackburns and frequently appeared on the same documents with them. He was in the Washington County, Va. militia and was present at the Battle of King's Mountain. The city of Abingdon, the county seat of Washington County, Va., is located on the site of the pioneer fort, "Black's Station", which was built by Capt. Joseph Black. After the Revolution he located another Black Station in Blount County, Tenn., where William Blackburn's daughter, Jean Cusick's family had removed prior to 1800. Annie Noble Sims in her article, "Some Descendants of Lieutenant William Blackburn" (Tyler's Quarterly, April 1921, pp.264-265), wrote that Jean Blackburn, daughter of William & Elizabeth, was born 28 September 1771 & died 1 September 1838 and her husband, Joseph Cusick was born 19 February 1772 & died 15 October 1854. The principal street of Maryville, the county seat of Blount County, Tenn., was named "Cusick Street". Following 1819 they left Tennessee & moved to Edgar County, Ill., where they are buried in the old Presbyterian Cemetery (now called the New Providence Cemetery), near Sanford. Their children were: Marietta (married William Gray Simms), Joseph Blackburn, Martha, David, Jane, John Black & Samuel Newell Cusick. In the Lineage Books of the DAR it is recorded that Mary, daughter of William Blackburn & Elizabeth Black, was born in 1779 & died in 1852 and her husband, Samuel Vance, was born 1778 & died 1840.

Arthur Blackburn in 1774 served in Lord Dunmore's War against the Indians. His name appears on a roll of Capt. Evan Shelby's company of volunteers from Fincastle County, Va., dated 7 October 1774. On the same roster was William Casey (Virginia Colonial Soldiers, Bockstruck, p.153). Arthur Blackburn was with this company when they fought in the victorious Battle of Point Pleasant on 10 October 1774. He was at the Battle of King's Mountain on 7 October 1780. Arthur Blackburn wrote his will on 10 July 1782 & it was recorded in Washington County, Va. Will Book I, p.82, on 20 August 1782. He left his estate to his sisters: Margaret Casey, Mary White & Martha Rogers, and to John Blackburn (relationship not stated). He appointed as his executors John Blackburn & John Berry. Witnesses to his will were: Jenet Blackburn, James Douglass (on 7 March 1775 Arthur & George Blackburn had been witnesses to the will of a John Douglas), Elizabeth Black & William McElwin (Annals of Southwest Virginia, Summers, pp.1345-46). One Arthur Blackburn in an Indian attack in the Holston River area was reportedly shot & scalped. In the company of William Casey, Casey's sister Nancy, & Arthur Harold, Blackburn was going to see Rev. Charles Cummings, a minister in the area (The King's Mountain Men, Keoghwhite, p.157). This allegedly occurred two years after the Battle at Point Pleasant, which would place it about 1776-1777, apparently it was thus another Arthur Blackburn.

John Blackburn was possibly a nephew to Arthur, George & William Blackburn. On 21 February 1774 he had 78 acres surveyed on Beaver Creek of the Holston River, adjoining William Blackburn. In the will of George Blackburn in 1778 he was not named but he was

named in the will of Arthur Blackburn and he served as co-administrator of the estates of William & Arthur Blackburn. John is the only. Blackburn appearing in the 1782 tax list of Washington County, Va. John Blackburn died between 28 August 1782, when he was appointed an administrator of Arthur Blackburn's estate, and 28 October 1782, when a division of the estate of John Blackburn, dec'd, was ordered to be made between his widow & child (Annals of Southwest Virginia, Summers, Washington County, Va. order book).

Martha Rogers, sister of Arthur, George & William Blackburn, is believed to be the wife of Col. James Rogers, an early pioneer of Nelson County, Ky., who founded one of the first settlements, Roger's Station, in that county, in 1780. A grandson of Col. James & Martha Rogers, James Madison Rogers (1808-1892), in 1891-1892 transcribed a record of the Rogers family (see "Colonel James Rogers (1742-1828), Nelson County Pioneer", by Ion B. Rogers, The Kentucky Genealogist, Vol.III, Jan.-Mar. 1961, pp.13-14). In this record he wrote that his grandmother, wife of James Rogers, was Martha Blackburn and she was born in April 1741 & died on 30 April 1818.

The family of Col. James Rogers, born in March 1742, like the Blackburns, appears to have been residents of Fairfax & Frederick Counties, Va. in the period surrounding 1750. His father, Matthew Rogers, on 10 June 1749, received a grant of 379 acres, of Lot B, Patterson Creek Manor, from Thomas Lord Fairfax. At the time it was part of Frederick County, Va. but in 1753 it became part of the new county of Hampshire. In the 1760's James & Martha Blackburn Rogers lived on Patterson Creek in Hampshire County, Va., where they bought land in 1767. They sold the same in 1772 and about that time moved to what became Yohogania County, Va. in 1776. In 1779, about the same time members of the Casey family were traveling to Kentucky through the Cumberland Gap, James & Martha Rogers moved their family to Kentucky by way of the Ohio River. They landed at the Falls of the Ohio (Louisville) and after wintering there crossed over land to Nelson County, Ky., where they were community leaders for the next three decades. In their later years they resided for a time in Grayson County, Ky., where several of their children had removed to. Following the death of his wife James Rogers moved to Mercer County, Ky., where he died on 24 March 1828.

James Rogers & Martha Blackburn reared a family of 8 children, they were:

1. William, born 1760-63, died October 1823 Ohio County, Ky., married Martha (? Casey).
2. Matthew, born 8 March 1764, died 5 February 1842 Owensboro, Ky., Daviess County, Ky. married Eleanor Carter.
3. Mary (Polly), born 15 April 1769, died 10 April 1857 Grayson County, Ky., married Charles Lynch, married 2<sup>nd</sup> James Casey, married 3<sup>rd</sup> Vincent Dunn.
4. Evan, born 16 September 1773, died January 1854 Boyle County, Ky., married Sarah Braxdale.

5. James, born 1 October 1774, died 13 March 1843 Nelson County, Ky., married Mary Snider.
6. Nancy B., born 15 September 1776, died 8 May 1870 Grayson County, Ky., married George White.
7. Jonathan, born 7 Sep 1781, died 28 May 1844 Ohio County, Ky., married Elizabeth Ray.
8. John, born 6 January 1786, died 13 April 1849 Grayson County, Ky., married Sarah (Hobbs) Briscoe.

"Blackburn" was frequently used as a middle name among the descendants of James & Martha Rogers. Of their children, Nancy B. named a son William Blackburn White, John named a daughter Martha Blackburn Rogers, and Jonathan named children Joseph Blackburn & Martha Blackburn Rogers.

The name of the husband of Mary White, sister of Arthur, George & William Blackburn, is not known. He may have been John White. In Yohogania County, Va. on 27 April 1778 Matthew Rogers, a brother of Col. James Rogers, transferred land to a John White; and in the same county Matthew Rogers testified in behalf of John White in his suit against Joseph Wherry (Virginia Court Records in Southwestern Pennsylvania: Records of the District of West Augusta and Ohio and Yohogania Counties, Virginia, 1775-1780, Vol. II, Boyd Crumrine, Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, 1974, pp.216, 218, & 231). George White (1780-1812), a son of Mary Blackburn White, in Nelson County, Ky. in 1804, married his cousin, Nancy B. Rogers, daughter of James Rogers & Martha Blackburn.

John Casey of Lincoln County, Ky. in his will in 1790 named four children, William, Agnes, James & Martha. Evidence suggests that James & Martha Casey, children of John & Margaret, may have married their cousins, Mary & William Rogers, children of James Rogers & Martha Blackburn. James Casey was listed in the Lincoln County, Ky. tax rolls in 1787, 1788 & 1789; in 1790 & thereafter he was not listed there. In Nelson County, Ky. on 15 September 1792 Mary, the widow of Charles Lynch and daughter of James Rogers & Martha Blackburn, married James Casey. On their marriage bond it is written that William Casey, brother of James Casey, gives consent. James Casey first appears in the Nelson County, tax books in 1791 and is listed through 1794, during this time no William Casey is shown as being a resident in Nelson County. It appears highly probable that the William signing consent was Col. William Casey of Lincoln County, Ky., who had a brother, James, and who were also cousins to Mrs. Mary Rogers Lynch. James Casey died in 1795. On 11 August 1795 an appraisal of the estate of James Casey, deceased, was recorded in Nelson County, Ky. will book A, pp.291 & 337. His brother-in-laws, William & Matthew Rogers, acted as his administrators. From his estate monies were paid to William Casey. One child was born to James Casey & Mary Rogers, Martha (1793-1861), who married James Downing and resided in Grayson County, Ky. & Lincoln County, Mo. Mrs. Mary (Rogers) Casey married Vincent Dunn on 21 October 1795 in Nelson County, Ky. and died in Grayson County, Ky. on 10 April 1857.

John Casey in his will in 1790 did not state the married names of his daughters, Agnes & Martha. Agnes had married Robert Fletcher two years prior to her father's will and thus Martha may also have been married prior to 1790. Martha Casey may have married her cousin, William Rogers, son of James Rogers & Martha Blackburn. William Rogers' wife was named Martha, she was born 1765-1770, and they would have been married about 1783, he was then a resident of Rogers' Station, Nelson County, Ky. Rogers' family researchers have previously suggested that Martha Rogers maiden name may have been Casey. This suspicion was then based only on the prominence of the name "Casey" among the descendants of William & Martha Rogers. Their theory had been postulated without the knowledge of the Rogers family's relationship to members of the Casey family of Washington County, Va. & Lincoln County, Ky., set forth for in this report.

William Rogers served four one year terms, in 1799, 1800, 1801 & 1806, in the Kentucky Legislature representing Nelson County Ky. In 1800-1801 one of his fellow legislators was Col. William Casey of Green County, Ky. William & Martha Rogers resided in Nelson County, Ky. until about 1809 when they moved to Ohio County, Ky. William Rogers served as a justice on the Ohio County Court and in 1819-1823 he was sheriff of Ohio County. His sons, John C. & James C., also served as sheriffs of Ohio County, and his son-in-law, Charles Henderson, served as county court clerk of Ohio County for 40 years. William Rogers died in Ohio County, Ky. in October 1823 and his wife, Martha, was still living there in 1839. William & Martha Rogers reared a family of 12 children, they were: James C., John C., Margaret, Elizabeth, Martha, Evan, Jonathan, Lewis, William Casey, Nancy, Milton & Thornton P. Their second son may have been named after Martha's father, John Casey, and their oldest daughter, may have been named after Martha's mother, Margaret Blackburn Rogers.

The records of Lincoln County, Ky. need to be investigated further for possible documents pertaining to the settlement of the estates of John & Margaret Casey. Hopefully, if there are such records, they may contain the evidence needed to substantiate this writer's belief that John & Margaret Casey's children, James & Martha, married their cousins, Mary & William Rogers.

The husband of Mrs. Margaret Casey is not named in the wills of George Blackburn in 1778 and Arthur Blackburn in 1782. Possibly in the records of Washington County, Va. there may be some record that would give verification of the husbands of Margaret Casey, Martha Rogers & Mary White, sisters of Arthur, George & William Blackburn; and/or that would provide further evidence that the William, John & Margaret Casey of Washington County, Va. are the same William, John & Margaret Casey of Lincoln County, Ky. In the article, "Some Descendants of Lieutenant William Blackburn", by Annie Noble Sims, in Tyler's Quarterly (April 1921), it is written that the husband of Margaret Blackburn, sister of Arthur, George & William Blackburn, was William Casey. Mrs. Sims does not indicate her source for this statement. She may have reached this conclusion based on the fact that in the records of Fincastle & Washington Counties, Va. the name of William Casey frequently appears and in several sources his name and members of the Blackburn family are linked. I believe Mrs. Sims'

statement was in error. The records discussed herein lead this writer to conclude that William Casey was a nephew of the Blackburn brothers and was a son of Margaret Blackburn and her husband, John Casey. Also that the William Casey of Fincastle & Washington Counties, Va. is the celebrated Kentucky pioneer, Col. William Casey, the great-grandfather of Mark Twain.

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Published in Kentucky Pioneer Genealogy and Records, Vol. 10, Society of Kentucky Pioneers (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1989), 60-71.

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## **THE CASEY FAMILY**

### **OF HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, VA. & UNION COUNTY, KY.**

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky., 1989

John Casey, who married Margaret Blackburn (by 1754) and who resided in Frederick, Fincastle & Washington Counties, Va. and Lincoln County, Ky., may have been related to the Casey family of Hampshire County, Va. When Hampshire was formed from Frederick County in 1753 the families of Matthew Rogers (father of Col. James Rogers, who married Martha Blackburn) and Peter Casey Sr. (c1715- 1787) were neighbors on Patterson Creek. In the 1811 & 1813 tax books of Ohio County, Ky. William Rogers, referred to above, is shown as being taxed on 200 acres on Highland creek in Union County, Ky., initially surveyed & patented by Peter Casey. The latter Peter Casey (1760-1827) was a surveyor & Judge in Union County. A native of Hampshire County, Va., he was born 26 October 1760. Allegedly he was the son of Nicholas Casey and in the records of Hampshire County, Va. he was referred to as Peter Casey Jr. Because of William Rogers' relationship to the Casey family, his wife was seemingly Martha Casey and his uncle & aunt were John & Margaret Blackburn Casey, one wonders if Peter Casey Jr., from whom he had acquired land, and the Caseys of Hampshire County, Va., were not also related.

George Brown Simpson in his Biography of Judge Peter Casey (N. & M. Printing, Sturgis, Ky., 1981, p.9) says that the Caseys migrated from Tyrone County, Northern Ireland. The following was said of Peter Casey Jr.'s ancestry in the History of Union County, Kentucky (Courier Co. Printers, Evansville, Ind., 1886, p.43): "Peter Casey's ancestry were Irish. Three brothers, Benjamin, Nicholas and another, whose name is not known, came to America before the Revolutionary War. The oldest brother, Benjamin, was a soldier and killed in the War for Independence. The next oldest moved West, and the family lost sight of him. The third was Nicholas, the ancestor of the Union County family. He settled in Virginia, and was the father of Peter Casey."

Peter Casey Jr. in 1775 visited Kentucky as a member of the surveying party of Col. Abraham Hite. Around 17 December 1775 Casey, Rite & others surveyed lands on Harrods Creek, in the vicinity of Harrodsburg, the first settlement in Ky. (Kentucky Ancestors, Vol.6, No.4, April 1971, "The Descendants of Colonel Abraham Hite", Helen Hite Sallee, p.186; Filson Club History Quarterly, Vol.55, No.3, July 1981, "Pioneers in Kentucky, 1773-1775", Neal O. Hammon, p.282). Peter Casey Jr. was interconnected with the family of Col. Abraham Hite in both Virginia & Kentucky and they may have been related. Benjamin Casey, reportedly the uncle of Peter Casey Jr., according to the DAR Patriot Index, was born 21 January 1731, died 4 April 1779, married Julia Carson & was a Captain in the Virginia Line. Simpson in his Biography of Judge Peter Casey says that Benjamin Casey was single & his nephew, Peter Casey became his sole heir, ... "Benjamin Casey entered the American Revolution as a first lieutenant on September 9, 1776. Later, on September 1, 1777, he extended his military obligation as a captain. On April 14, 1779, the brave and courageous Captain Benjamin Casey died of wounds received in a military engagement." He was in the 8th Virginia Regiment. Peter Casey Jr. became the administrator of the estate of Benjamin Casey. On 26 September 1781 Peter Casey Jr. of Hampshire County, Va. sold 400 acres on Patterson Creek to Jonathan Purcell of the same. The tract probably is the same 400 acres which Benjamin Casey of Hampshire County had acquired from Peter Casey (Sr.) on 31 March 1777 (on both deeds Abraham Hite was a witness) and which Peter Casey Sr. had bought from Vincent Williams on 8 April 1771.

In the 1782 tax list of Hampshire County, Va. are Nicholas & Peter Casey. The latter was Peter Jr., Peter Sr. by this time had removed to Hardy County, Va. In the 1784 tax list of Hampshire County, Va. only Nicholas Casey appears. Peter Casey Jr. about 1783 had moved to Kentucky, where he made his home near Harrodsburg, in Mercer County. Peter Casey Jr., an heir at law of Benjamin Casey, received 4000 acres on Casey & Highland Creeks, in what is now Union County, Ky., 5 June 1783, granted by virtue of Benjamin Casey's 3-years of service in the Va. Line during the Revolutionary War. In Hampshire County, Va. a Power of Attorney was recorded whereby Peter Casey (Jr.) of Mercer County (Ky.) on 26 September 1787 granted authority to Nicholas Casey of Hampshire County, Va. to collect money or whatever due him. The latter was born in 1745, he could not have been Peter Jr.'s father and possible was a cousin (or brother).

Peter Casey Jr. resided near Harrodsburg, Ky. until about 1810 when he moved his family to Union County, Ky. Twenty-five years earlier he had visited the area to survey lands granted to him & his uncle for their Revolutionary War service. Two hundred acres of this he transferred to William Rogers of Ohio County, Ky. (between 1804-1811). Peter Casey died in 1827. About 1781 he had married Nancy Waggener. The daughter of Andrew Waggener, she was born in Spotsylvania County, Va. on 17 October 1763 and died in Union County, Ky. on 12 July 1847. She has a monument in the Casey Cemetery, near Caseyville, Ky., no marker for her husband has been found. Peter & Nancy Casey had three sons: Samuel (1787 - 22 December 1859), Nicholas (1790 - 24 February 1863) & John (1800 - 25 December 1867). One of the

principal cities of Union County, Ky. was named Caseyville, in honor of the Casey family. Originally called Casey's Landing, the settlement was founded by Peter's son, Nicholas, about 1825.

Benjamin & Nicholas Casey, uncle & father of Peter Casey Jr.(?), may have been brothers of Peter Casey Sr. of Frederick, Hampshire & Hardy Counties, Va. In the DAR Patriot Index it is reported that Peter Casey Sr. was born ca 1715, died 1787, married first Mary Magdalin Depew & second Mrs. Mary Williams, listed due to his "patriotic service" rendered during the Revolutionary War. In the article, "The Pattons: A Pioneer Family in Kentucky and Their Descendants", in the Kentucky Register (Vol.35, April 1937), the following reference to Peter Casey (Sr.) is made: In 1757. .."One of the leading characters in the Indian raids in Hampshire, Hardy, Grand and Pendleton Counties was Kilbuck. He was of the same tribe as Tecumseh. Kilbuck had lived among the settlers and knew most of them. Against one of them at least he had a grudge. Peter Casey engaged him for fourteen shillings to bring back a runaway servant. Kilbuck promptly delivered the servant, but Casey refused to pay the stipulated sum. In the altercation which followed, Casey knocked Kilbuck down with his cane. When war broke out he sought opportunity to kill Casey, but never found it."

Peter Casey Sr. of Hampshire County, Va. according to Early Records Hampshire County, Virginia, Now West Virginia (Sage & Jones, Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, 1969), bought & sold the following lands in Hampshire County: On 13 June 1769 bought 300 acres on Patterson creek from James & Mary Ryan, on 8 April 1771 bought 400 acres on Patterson Creek from Vincent Williams, on 31 March 1777 sold 400 acres on Patterson Creek to Benjamin Casey, on 1 April 1777 sold 300 acres on Patterson to John Ryan, and on 11 August 1778 sold 356 acres on South Branch River to Nicholas Casey, in the latter deed his wife was listed as Mary. Peter Casey Sr. between 1778-1782 moved to Hardy County, Va., where he wrote his will on 24 January 1787 and it was recorded on 9 July 1787.

In the History of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania (Vol.II, A. Warner & Co., Chicago, 1889, pp.66 & 469) it is recorded that Mrs. Phillip (Elizabeth Casey) Ross, born in 1745, was the daughter of Peter & Madaline Casey of Hampshire County, Va. Between 1771-1780 Phillip & Elizabeth Ross left Hampshire County, Va. and settled in the Chartiers Valley, in Mansfield Township, Allegheny County, Pa. They were the parents of: John, Peter, Stephen, Phillip, Reuben, Benjamin & three daughters. Peter Casey Sr. & his wife, Magdalin, may also have been the parents of: Nicholas Casey, born 7/17 November 1745, & John Casey, born ca 1749. In Hampshire County, Va. a certificate, dated 14 June 1786 was recorded on 10 January 1788, stating that John Casey, age 37, disabled while in service of the U.S., is to receive 12 pounds yearly (Early Records Hampshire County, Virginia, Sage & Jones, p.7).

Nicholas Casey according to his Revolutionary War pension application filed in Preston County, Va. on 13 November 1832, was born in Hampshire County, Va. on 17 November 1745 and had lived in Hampshire & Preston Counties, Va., except for three years in Kentucky. His



pension was granted on 14 May 1833 (Virginia Revolutionary Pension Applications, John Frederick Dorman). The DAR Patriot Index reports that he was born 7 November 1745, died 10 May 1833, married Grace Forman, and served as a private in Virginia. On 11 August 1778 he received 356 acres on the South Branch of the Potomac River in Hampshire County from Peter Casey Sr. & his wife Mary. In 1781 Nicholas Casey served in the Hampshire County, Va. militia. He is listed in the 1782 & 1784 tax lists of Hampshire County, Va. Nicholas was a resident of Hampshire County, Va. when the following transactions were recorded in Hampshire: On 26 September 1787 he was granted power of attorney by Peter Casey Jr. of Mercer County, Ky.; 9 April 1794 he bought 94 acres on the North River in Hampshire County, Va. from Thomas Littler & wife Magdalene of Hardy County, Va.; 11 April 1795 he sold 119 acres on the South Branch to Isaac Parsons. When the following deeds were recorded in Hampshire County, Va. Nicholas Casey was listed as a resident of Monongalia County, Va.: 25 March 1797 sold 94 acres on North River in Hampshire County to Andrew Wodrow; & 15 October 1800 sold land in Hampshire County to Daniel Collins. In Graves of Revolutionary War Patriots (Patricia Law Hatcher, Pioneer Press, Dallas, Tx., c1987, Vol. I, p.160) Nicholas Casey (1745-1833) is shown as being buried in the Indian Mound Cemetery, at Romney, West Virginia.