

Floyd Family of Union County, Kentucky

The following article was published in the Morganfield, Ky. newspaper:

A ceremony held near Morganfield, Ky., August 26, 1927 becomes of more than general interest in connection with the celebration in Virginia recently of the 150th anniversary of the birth of George Rodgers Clark, November 19, 1927.

This is the unveiling of a government marker to the memory of Lt. Henry Helm Floyd of the D.A.R. of Union Co., Ky. Lt. Floyd served as a Lieutenant in the Illinois. Regiment under General George Rodgers [spelling in original] Clarke in the conquest of the Northwest, and for this service received 2156 acres in "The Illinois" now Indiana across the river from Louisville, Kentucky, as appears in W.H. English Conquest of the Northwest, Volume two, page 840. Lt. Floyd sold 500 acres of this land, known as tract 55 in the grant for 250 pounds, August 4, 1802, as recorded in Nelson County, Kentucky records.

On the authority of these two records, the War Department ordered the rank of Lieutenant placed on the government marker for his grave.

Lt. Floyd was born September 21, 1761, in Prince William County, Virginia, a son of Henry Floyd and his wife, Ann (Helm) Floyd, daughter of Thomas Helm and Margaret Lynaugh and a sister Of Captain Leonard Helm who also served under Genn'l George Rodgers Clarke in the Illinois Regiment. He had a brother Leonard, named for his uncle, Capt. Leonard Helm.

Lt. Floyd later lived in Fauquier Co., Va. and there married Frances (Franky) Crosby, July 20, 1783, daughter of George Crosby of Stafford Co., Va. Soon thereafter Lt. Floyd emigrated to Ky. and settled in Jefferson Co., Ky., that was later known as Nelson Co. His father and mother with their younger children, John, Nathaniel, Leonard, Fanny and Polly, settling there about the same time.

About 1803-1805 Lt. Floyd, his father and brothers moved to Henderson County, later a part of Union Co., Ky.

Henry Floyd, Sr. moved down the Ohio River from Louisville by boat and shortly before landing at Uniontown [in Union County], his wife died and was later buried on the bluffs back of town. He died in 1816 and his will is among the first recorded in Union County. :

Lt. Floyd's grandfather was named Henry Floyd, as was also his great-grandfather according to family tradition, which says that Lt. Floyd was the 4th Henry Floyd in direct line and his son, Henry Crosby Floyd, was the 5th.

Lt. Floyd had three sons and six daughters, each having Crosby for a middle name.

Henry married Ann Threlkeld
John married (1st) Susie Church; (2nd) Mary Randolph
Elizabeth married John Peters
Charlotte married Robert D. Hughes
Lucy married James T. Hughes
Nathaniel married Susan Hart
Lucretia married Reuben Church
Frances married Andrew Luttrell
Nancy married Daniel Scott

Their descendants in the county are numbered by the score and have furnished many of the influential professional and business men and women of the county.

Lt. Floyd died September 6, 1850, and was buried in the family cemetery about one mile west of Waverly, Kentucky. A cedar was planted at the head of the grave and remained till blown down by a storm March 11, 1922.

The Government marker was obtained principally through the devotion and persistent and untiring efforts of a great-granddaughter, Mrs. George A. Prentice. This was in fulfillment of a dying request from, and a promise to her mother, Mrs. Malinda (Floyd) Robertson, daughter of Henry Crosby Floyd and granddaughter of Lt. H.H. Floyd.

Mrs. Prentice was for two years organizing Regent of the Henry Helm Floyd Chapter of the D.A.R. of Union County, Kentucky, and was the first Regent, serving for two terms. She is still greatly interested in all of the Chapter's activities.

There were present at the unveiling, Mrs. Prentice, the former Regent, Mrs. Phil Richards, ex-Regent and acting Regent, in the absence of Regent Mrs. J.J. Lamond, with many other members of the Chapter and descendants of Lt. Floyd; also, many from the General Samuel Hopkins Chapter, D.A.R., at Henderson.

Among visitors from a distance were Rev. and Mrs. Sam T. McKenny and Mr. Torrey McKenny from Alton, Illinois. Dr. McKenny is a great-grandson of Lt. Floyd and made the principal address of the occasion. Mrs. McKenny is state Historian of the Illinois D.A.R. Others were Rev. Pierce from St Louis, Mo., a grandson, Mrs Georgia Helm Winterheimer, and Miss Maude Barger, of Junction, Illinois, and Mr. and Mrs. Logsdon, of Shawneetown, Illinois, great-granddaughters.

A pretty and touching incident at this ceremony was the actual raising of the American Flag from over the marker to the top of a pole by three little girls about six years old, Jane Dunahm Morton and Louise Bond Savage, great-great-great-granddaughters, and Virginia Adair Kennedy, a great-great-great-great-granddaughter.

In his application for a pension made on October 18, 1833, just 52 years after the surrender of Yorktown, when he was 72 years old, he makes the following affidavit, in effect: "That he entered the service of the U. S. in the spring of 1781 from Fauquier County, Virginia, under the command of Captain John O'Bannon whose company rendezvoused at Fauquier Court House and marched from there through Stafford County to Fredericksburg and from there to Mobbin Hills where they joined the main army and were attached to Col. Churchill's regiment. That they then marched down to Williamsburg and were stationed at the Barracks there. That the English landed there; drove the American Army from their entrenchments, took possession of their position and burnt the Barracks. The American Army retreated and crossed the Parnunky River and marched up to Richmond where, his services having expired, he was discharged and returned home. That later, in the same year, he again enlisted at Fauquier Court House in Capt. William Grigsby's Company of Col. Edmunds Regiment under General Stephen's command. That they marched from there and took station between Williamsburg and Little York (Yorktown), at the time General Washington was commander-in-chief and had Cornwallis enclosed in Little York. That a short time before the surrender of Cornwallis, his service having expired, he was discharged and returned home."

His application for pension was approved and he was granted the munificent pension of 20 dollars per annum, which was continued to the time of his death.

.....

The following letter was written by Nathaniel Helm Floyd (1835-1895/6) of Union County, Ky., son of Henry Crosby Floyd and Elizabeth Atkinson, to Rev. Ben Helm (1844-1928) of Elizabethtown, Ky.

Union County, Ky., March 16th, 1883

Rev. B. Helm, Highly esteemed friend and relative:

Nat Hughes, a cousin of mine, showed me a postal recently from you, asking for information concerning Henry Floyd's family, who married a Miss Helm, and the given name of his wife.

Aunt Charlotte Hughes, the oldest mother of the family now living, says her grandmother's name was either Polly or Nancy, not positive which, thought it was Nancy. The old family record was burned up some twenty years ago.

I will proceed from memory to give you all the information in my possession. In the first place, my grandfather's grandfather came from Wales and settled in Fauquier County, Va., long before the 13 colonies revolted against the British Crown. His name was Henry and had but two children, a son and a daughter - the daughter married a Mr. Catlett; the son whose name was Henry, married a Miss Helm. They were the father and the mother of my grandfather, Henry Helm Floyd, who died on the 6th of September 1850, near Waverly, Union County, in the old Floyd Settlement where the entire family lived and died. Grandfather's parents came to this country from Jefferson when Louisville was a small village.

Great-grandmother died on the boat just before they landed at Uniontown and was buried on the high hill that surrounds Uniontown. They had six children, four sons and two daughters, Henry Helm, the oldest, next John, Nat, Leonard, Polly and Fannie. I cannot give you their ages,

when they married or died. They all lived to ripe old age, except Leonard who died about the age of 20.

Henry H., the first, married Miss Fannie Crosby of Virginia. They had eight children, three sons and five daughters; Henry Crosby, my father was the first. Nancy, who married Daniel Scott near Beardstown [Bardstown] was 2nd; Elizabeth, who married John Peters was third; John first married a Miss Church, next a Miss Randolph. Lucy married James Hughes, Nat married a Miss Hart, his family all moved to Dallas, Texas, in 1853. Lucretia married Reuben Church, her family in Illinois. Charlotte married Dunning Hughes, she is the only one living and will be 83 years the 29th of May next. She resides near Corydon, Henderson Co., Ky.

I will now give the number and names of John's family. 2nd John married a Miss Jeffers and had ten children, four sons and six daughters. William, oldest, married a Miss Hart. Nat, 2nd, married a Miss Hewett; John, 3rd, married a Miss Culver, George married a Miss Smith. Margaret married a Mr. Deloach; Polly married Joseph Crawford; Nancy married Hosea Smith; Fannie married Andrew Lutterell; Matilda married Ignatius Buckman; Delilah married Wash Hewett.

3rd, Nat, Major Nat married a Miss Wortham, near Beardstown [Bardstown], they had five Sons and four daughters; first Peter who married a Miss Pool; second, Armistead married a widow in Wisconsin - name unknown. Nat, Ellis and Charles went to Illinois when they were young. Nat was preaching the gospel in Missouri when last heard from. Nancy married a Mr. Cavandar; Elizabeth married a Mr. Buisett and lived in Louisville, Ky., at last account. Lucy married a Mr. Wathen and went to Illinois, Margaret married a Mr. Beaumont.

Polly married a Mr. Brinner, had two sons who died in infancy. Brinner died and she married a Mr. Reed and had three children by Reed, one son and two daughters - first George who married a Miss Cissell, Nancy and sister Alley never married.

Fannie married a Mr. Alvey, had two sons, John and William. John married a Miss Clements; William married I know not who.

I have nothing more of interest. I would like to have copy of your family tree when completed.

Yours truly, Nathaniel Helm Floyd

Henry C. Floyd my father, married a Miss Threlkeld, and had two sons and four daughters. His wife died and he married a Miss Atkinson and had four sons and two daughters by her. His widow and all of her family but one live in Dallas, Texas. Post Script.

.....

The following obituary was published in the Uniontown Sun, Uniontown, Ky., 1928:

DEATH TAKES UNION COUNTY'S
OLDEST RESIDENT AT AGE OF 103

John Henry Floyd, Native of Jefferson County, But For Many Years A Resident of Union, Died Friday Near Uniontown. Was Active At Age of 102. Survived By Wife 93 Years of Age.

John Henry Floyd, 103 years of age, reputed to be Union County's oldest citizen died at the home of his son, Robert Floyd near Uniontown, Friday morning at 10:20 o'clock. Mr. Floyd had been confined to his bed for only three weeks prior to his death, but had been in ill health for the past year.

Born in Jefferson County, Mr. Floyd came is Union County and lived with his father, John C. Floyd near Waverly for many years. He was a farmer until he reached the age of 83 years when he moved to Uniontown and was the proprietor of a rooming house until 1913. Since that time he had resided with his son Robt. Floyd on a farm near Uniontown.

Mr. Floyd is survived by his wife, who is 93 years of age. Six children, Robert Milton. Mrs. Ella Herrick, Mrs. Mary Thompson, all of Uniontown; Mrs. Frank Whitfield, Truman, Ark.; and Mrs. Frank Shaffer, Morganfield, also survive. Mr. Floyd is also survived by a sister Mrs. Rebecca Tear, 84, Webster county; 32 grand children and 64 great grand children.

He was a devout member of St. Agnes Catholic church at Uniontown, where funeral services were conducted W. 4 Saturday morning by Father J. F. Picters. Burial was in the St. Agnes cemetery.

Mr. Floyd was a well known character around Uniontown and surrounding community. At the time of his death he was 103 years. 5 months and 6 days old.

.....

[Note: John Henry Floyd was born 21 August 1832 Union County, Ky. not Jefferson County, and died 27 January 1928 Union County, Ky. He was the son of John Crosby Floyd and Mary Randolph and married Sarah Jenkins 4 December 1856 Hardin County, Ky.]

.....

Published in Kentucky Pioneer Genealogy and Records, Vol. 7, Society of Kentucky Pioneers (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1988), 117-120.