

Family of John Helm & Joanna Harbourt

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky., 1987

John Helm and his wife, Joanna Harbourt, came to Shelby County, Ky. from Virginia between 1800 and 1803. John Helm was born 20 June 1768 in Frederick County, Va. Joanna Harbourt was of French descent and was born in Virginia on 10 July 1770.

The ancestors of the Helm family came to Virginia from England with Lords Baltimore and Fairfax in the early settlement of the early dominion. Members of the family settled in Kentucky as early as 1780 and were one of the most celebrated families in the early history of Kentucky.

John Helm was said to be a distant cousin of the family of Kentucky Governor John Larue Helm (1850-51 & 1867-71), Gov. Helm was a native of Hardin County, Ky., his father and grandfather were both named George, and his great-grandfather was Capt. Thomas Helm, The later was a soldier in the Revolution and settled in Kentucky only five years after the first settlers entered its territory, Capt. Thomas Helm left Prince William County, Va. and landed at the Falls of the Ohio, where Louisville, Ky. is now, in 1780. His family, together with the Roberts and Floyd families, founded the settlement (Paul's Settlement) that became Louisville, Ky. He resided there only about a year, before he moved to near where Elizabethtown, Hardin County, Ky. now stands. Here he built a fort (Helm's Fort) and resided there until his death. His farm was inherited by his son, George Helm, and Gov. Helm lived and died on the same farm. Of Capt. Thomas Helm's children and descendants were many noted surveyors, public officials, military heroes and statesmen, who helped to shape the course of Kentucky's history, Gov. John L. Helm's son, Gen. Ben H. Helm, married a sister of President Lincoln's wife. Ben H. Helm during the Civil War was a commander of the noted Kentucky Confederate Brigade, he rose to the rank of brigadier-general and laid down his life for his cause on the battlefield at Chickamauga. John Helm of Shelby County, Ky. was not a direct descendant of Capt. Thomas Helm, the pioneer of Hardin County, but it is believed he was a nephew to him.

John Helm settled on a farm in Shelby County, Ky., which was known as "the Grant". He died in Shelby County 19 July 1843 at the age of 75. His grave is marked by a monument in the cemetery at the Flat Rock Church, where he had been a member for forty years. His wife, Joanna, died about 1840.

To the marriage of John Helm and Joanna Harbourt were born ten children; Peter, John, Mariah, Mary, Thomas, William, Zilphia, Samuel, a daughter whose named is not known and Sarah. Their sons, William and Samuel became ministers. The families of five of their children.

Peter, John Jr., Mary, Zilphia and Sarah, settled in Daviess and Ohio Counties, Ky. Children of John Helm & Joanna Harbourt:

1. Peter Helm was born 16 February 1789 in Va. He is listed in the 1840 census of Shelby County, Ky., 1850 and 1860 censuses of Ohio County, Ky. He was residing in the northeastern section of Ohio County, near the Daviess County line, a short distance from Whitesville where other members of the Helm family had settled. In 1850 his age was listed as 61 and in 1860 was 71, both censuses gave Virginia as his place of birth and Sarah as his wife's name, she was born about 1793 in Va. He died in 1862; his will was recorded in Ohio County, Ky. on 5 May 1862; he left his estate to his wife, Sarah.
2. John Helm, Jr. was born 20 June 1791 in Va. He married twice. In Jefferson County, Ky. on 24 October 1815 he married Nancy Bartlett. She died between 1830-1832 and in the same county he married second Mrs. Lucinda (White) White on 17 January 1833. In the fall of 1837 he left Shelby County, Ky. and moved to Daviess County, Ky. There he settled near the present town of Whitesville, where his sister, Sarah Ford, had settled about five years earlier. He died 10 June 1868 and was buried in the Ford Cemetery on the Bill Brey farm, about a mile northeast of Whitesville, Ky. His wife, Lucinda, died on 22 November 1868 and was buried beside her husband; she was born 27 May 1796 in Ky. John Helm, Jr. had nine children, six by his first wife and three by his second, they were:
 - a. Rachel Ann Porter Helm born 23 January 1817 Shelby County, Ky. Married Walter Ward 16 April 1839 in Daviess County, Ky. Lived Daviess County. She died after 1883 and was buried in the Glover Cemetery in Whitesville, Daviess County, Ky.
 - b. George Strauder ("Straud",) Helm born 17 November 1819 Shelby County, Ky. Married first, Louisa Ward, 13 February 1842 Daviess County, Ky. and married second Mrs. Malinda (Day) Thornton, 26 June 1864 Daviess County, Ky. Lived Daviess County, where he died in 1897. Buried (?) Glover Cemetery in Whitesville, Ky.
 - c. Mary Ann Carter Helm born 18 May 1821 Ky. Married Duncan Evans 20 July 1837 Floyd County, Ind. Lived Daviess County, Ky. She died 17 July 1874 and was buried in the Ford Cemetery in Daviess County, Ky.
 - d. John Helm born 20 October 1823 Ky. Does not appear in the 1850 or later censuses of Daviess County, Ky.
 - e. Elizabeth Helm born 7 January 1826 Ky. Married James Wells 11 May 1847 Daviess County, Ky. Does not appear in the 1850 Daviess County, Ky. census.
 - f. Martha Ann Helm born 23 April 1830 Ky. Not in marriages or 1850 census of Daviess County, Ky.
 - g. Lucinda Helm born 28 April 1834 Ky. Not in marriages or 1850 census of Daviess County, Ky.
 - h. Ruth M. Helm born 1 July 1836 Ky. Not in marriages or 1850 census of Daviess County, Ky.
 - i. Sarah Francis Helm born 9 January 1839 Daviess County, Ky, Married Asa Noel Glover 12 March 1856 Daviess County, Ky. Lived Whitesville, Ky. Died 14 February 1921 and buried in the Glover Cemetery in Whitesville, Ky.

3. Meredith Helm was born 11 October 1793 in VA. He married Anna Herbert, 19 August 1815 Campbell County, Ky. He died 1834 Shelby County, Ky.
4. Mary Helm was born 25 November 1795 in Va. She married William Bartlett on 5 December 1816 in Jefferson County, Ky. He was born about 1795 In Ky. They lived in Shelby County, Ky. She died in 1819-1821. Following her death her husband married her sister, Zilphia Helm. Mary Helm Bartlett had two children:
 - a. daughter born 1817-1821.
 - b. William Wilson born 22 December 1819 Ky. Married Charlotte P. Ford 7 August 1839 Daviess County, Ky. Lived Daviess and Ohio Counties, Ky. Died 9 July 1890 and buried the Union Grove Cemetery, near Taffy, in Ohio County, Ky.
5. Thomas Helm was born 21 May 1798 in Va. He married Pauline A. Gosney. He died 1836 Shelby County, Ky.
6. William Helm was born 26 November 1800 in Va. He married Martha Ann Scroggins. He was a minister, first in the Baptist Church and later in the Methodist. In 1842 he left Kentucky and went to Platts Purchase, Missouri and in 1845 journeyed on the Oregon Trail to Oregon. He died 22 January 1890 Oregon. They had six children: Walter, Wesley, William Benjamin, Richard Watson (lived Salem, Oregon), Asbury Coke and Mary.
7. Samuel Helm was born 26 August 1803 in Ky., a twin to his sister, Zilphia. He was a minister of the Christian Church. He married Emily Scroggins on 4 December 1827 in Jefferson County, Ky. and Frances Mashawn, 6 August 1837 Shelby County, Ky. He settled near Quincy, Illinois. He died 23 October 1853 Adams County, Ill. He had a daughter, Mrs. Eliza Urton, who lived near Barry, Ill.
8. Zilphia Helm was born 26 August 1803 in Ky. She married her brother-in-law, William Bartlett on 31 December 1821 in Jefferson County, Ky. Lived in Shelby County, Ky. and in 1840 moved to the Whitesville area of Daviess County, Ky. William Bartlett died in 1850 and Zilphia was still living at the age of 80 in 1883. They were probably buried In the Ford Cemetery in Daviess County, where several of her children, her brother John Helm and sister Sarah Ford were buried. William and Zilphia Bartlett had six children:
 - a. Mary Jane Bartlett born 7 November 1822 Ky. Married Josephus Ford in July 1842 Daviess County, Ky. Died 27 March 1858 Daviess County, Ky. Buried Ford Cemetery in Daviess County.
 - b. John T. Bartlett born 25 October 1825 Ky. Married Mary E. Goldsmith, 8 August 1848 Bullitt County, Ky. Lived Daviess County, Ky. Died 1 January 1898 and buried Knob Cemetery in Daviess County, Ky.
 - c. Samuel W. Bartlett born 5 July 1829 Shelby County, Ky. Married Catherine Harrison 6 August 1854 Daviess County, Ky. Lived Daviess County, Ky. Died 13 October 1912 Ohio County, Ky. Buried (?) Ford Cemetery in Daviess County, Ky.

- d. James A. Bartlett born 9 May 1832 Shelby County, Ky. Married Mary Ann Simmons 22 January 1855. Lived Hardin, Shelby, Ohio and Daviess Counties, Ky. Died 16 September 1899 and buried Ford Cemetery in Daviess County, Ky.
- e. Sarah P. Bartlett born about 1834 Ky. Married Upton W. Hawkins 26 February 1854 Daviess County, Ky. During the 1850's her husband was a school teacher in Whitesville, Ky. Sarah died 1860-1869.
- f. Granville Helm Bartlett born about 1837 Ky. Married Margaret J. Chamberlain 27 December 1855 Daviess' County, Ky. In 1860 was residing in Ohio County, Ky.

History of Daviess County, Kentucky, Inter-State Publishing Co., Chicago, 1883, pp525-526:

Samuel W. Bartlett, son of William and Zilpha (Helm) Bartlett, was born in Shelby County, Ky., July 5, 1829. His parents came to Daviess County when he was eleven years old. When he was eighteen years old he went to Hardin County and worked eight months at \$8 per month. He then went to learn the saddler's trade, serving an apprenticeship of three years with Silas Hart, and received \$40 the first year, \$50 the second, and \$60 the third, together with his board. At the expiration of his apprenticeship he remained with Mr. Hart six months working for \$20 per month. He then came to Whitesville and opened a shop, having a set of tools and \$20 in money. In 1861 he bought a farm of sixty-two and a half acres, and two or three years after bought sixty-two and a half more, and again made an addition to it, till now he has 140 acres of good, well-improved land. He was married in 1854 to Catharine Harrison, a native of Nelson County, Ky., born May 20, 1835, and a daughter of William Harrison. Eleven children have been born to them, only seven now living--Julia A., born Oct. 23, 1858; Jane Lewis, born June 15, 1861; John R., born Feb. 29, 1867; Mary B., born June 8, 1869; Samuel, born Aug. 6, 1873; Nora L., born Sept. 17, 1876; Waver, born Feb. 13, 1879. Franklin D., Richard A., Joseph W. and Cates are deceased. Mr. Bartlett is a member of the Christian church.

History of Daviess County, Kentucky, Inter-State Publishing Co., Chicago, 1883, pp524-525:

James A. Bartlett, son of William and Zilpha (Helm) Bartlett, was born May 9, 1832, in Shelby County, Ky. In 1842 his parents came to Daviess County and settled in Whitesville Precinct. His father died in 1850. His mother still lives with her son, James A., aged eighty-two years. There was a family of six children, four sons and two daughters. Mr. Bartlett was previously married to Polly Helm, who died leaving a son and daughter. When fourteen years of age James A. went to Hardin County and lived with an uncle two years. Jan. 22, 1855, he married Mary Ann, daughter of Richard Simmons, of Bullitt County. The first year after his marriage he rented a farm in Hardin County, and the following spring came to Daviess County. He remained here five or six years and then went to Shelby County and traded in stock a year. He then bought a farm in Ohio County and lived there six or eight years, when he traded it for a farm in Daviess County, which he sold in 1879 and bought the one where he now lives. He now owns 145 acres of fine land, under a good state of cultivation, about a half a mile west of

Whitesville. Mr. Bartlett was reared a Baptist, and joined that church when a boy, but in 1857 severed his connection with it and joined the Christian church. Mrs. Bartlett was reared a Catholic, but joined the Christian church with her husband. They have had ten children, six of whom are now living--William L., Franklin W., Queen Ollie, Mary Magdalene, Ida and Orville A. William L. married Janie, daughter of Duncan Evans, and is a resident of this township. Politically Mr. Bartlett has always been a Democrat.

9. Joannah Helm married Amos Hall, 14 January 1830 Oldham County, Ky. They lived in Shelby County, Ky. and had two children, John Hall (married Sarah Snyder) and Julia Bell. Joannah died 1831-1850.
10. Sarah Helm was born 1810-1815 in Shelby County, Ky. In Shelby County, Ky. on 6 October 1833 she married Jesse Spencer Ford, a son of John and Rachel Ford. Near the time of their marriage they moved to Daviess County, Ky., where they were residing by May 1833. Spencer Ford died 19 April 1843 and Sarah. Helm Ford died after 1870. They were buried in the Ford Cemetery near Whitesville, Daviess County, Ky. They had four children:
 - a. William Samuel (Will Sam) born 12 August 1834 Daviess County, Ky. Married Helen Prudence Burton 12 October 1854 Daviess County, Ky. He died 12 November 1907. Daviess County, Ky. Buried Pleasant Valley Church Cemetery in Daviess County, Ky.
 - b. Mary C. born about 1838 Daviess County, Ky. Married Willis S. Woodside 22 February 1855 Daviess County, Ky. Died 1863-1870. Buried (?) Ford Cemetery in Daviess County, Ky.
 - c. Jesse Spencer born 14 December 1840 Daviess County, Ky. Married Polly Ann Bartlett 21 November 1861 Daviess. County, Ky. Lived Daviess and Ohio Counties, Ky. He died 20 October 1899 and buried Antioch Christian Church Cemetery at Taylorfield in Ohio County, Ky.
 - d. Henry Clay born 25 September 1843 Daviess County, Ky. Married Martha Edna Wells 18 October 1863 Daviess County, Ky. A minister of the Christian Church Lived Daviess and Hopkins Counties, Ky. He died 4 March 1924 and buried Union Cemetery at Nebo in Hopkins County, Ky.

Lucinda White, the wife of John Helm Jr., was the mother at Dr. William Lee White for whom the town of Whitesville, Ky. was named. She was the daughter of George White. On 3 November 1819 in Jefferson County, Ky. she married William D. White (1797-1840), they were the parents of Dr. William L. White. Her husband died and Mrs. Lucinda White married John Helm, Jr. on 17 January 1833 in Jefferson County, Ky. John and Lucinda Helm moved to Daviess County in 1837, where relatives of his were already living. After their arrival in Daviess County her son, William L. White, visited in the county on several occasions. In 1842 Robert Triplett, an entrepreneur of Daviess County invited a developer, Benjamin F. Ramsey, to come to the county for the purpose of laying out and developing a new town in the Boston Precinct. Triplett was probably acquainted with B. F. Ramsey, because of the latter's relationship

to Lucinda White Helm and her son Dr. White. She was an aunt of B. F. Ramsey and Dr. White was his first cousin. Benjamin Franklin Ramsey was born 8 March 1821 in Jefferson County, Ky. His parents were Abraham Ramsey and Sarah K. White, a sister to Lucinda White Helm.

When B. F. Ramsey came to Daviess County in 1842 he brought with him his cousin, William Lee White, a newly graduated doctor. They entered into a partnership and in 1842 laid out the plans for a town to be located at the place where the Leitchfield Road crossed an old Buffalo trace ("the oldest road in Daviess County"). In 1844 they built the first house at the spot. It was to be used as a dry goods store, office for Dr. White and a residence. The place was first called "Crossroads" and shortly afterwards was given the name of Whitesville in honor of its founder. The town of Whitesville is today the second largest in Daviess County. Dr. William Lee White resided in Daviess County for a few years, while here he taught school, practiced his medical profession and conducted his business interests. Before 1850 he went to Pennsylvania, he remained there briefly and then went to Eastern Kentucky. In 1851 he moved to Washington, D.C., where he was still living in 1883. On many occasions he visited in Daviess County. On one such trip he and Allen Helm (1845-1928) of Whitesville, Ky., a son of his step-brother Stroud Helm, erected markers on the graves of John Helm (1791-1868) and his wife Lucinda White Helm (1796-1868) in the Ford Cemetery just outside of Whitesville. Benjamin F. Ramsey remained a permanent resident of Daviess County, where he died on 7 June 1906, he was buried in Whitesville. Dr. William Lee White died 2 January 1909 and was buried in the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

In 1926 Mrs. Emma Dunn Mastin, a Daviess County, Ky. historian and genealogist, copied the Helm family bible. At the time the bible was in the possession of Jeff Glover of Whitesville, Ky. He was then 62 years old and was the son of Asa N. Glover and Sarah Francis Helm (1839-1921), daughter of John Helm, Jr. and Lucinda White, At the Owensboro, Ky. Library is a notebook of material compiled by Mrs. Mastin and in it is her transcription of the Helm family bible and several pages of notes on the Helm family.

In the quarterly, Kentucky Ancestors, a query was published by Terry A. Helm of Ballwin, Mo., seeking to locate the old Helm family bible. The advertisement appeared as follows:

Kentucky Ancestors, Vol.22, #4, Spring. 1987, p.263:
Seeking living descendants of John Helm, Jr, (1768-1840?), born in Frederick Co., Va., who married Joanna Harbourt (10 July 1770-1840) in Shelby Co., Ky. Died in Shelby Co. Ky. & buried in the old Flat Rock Cemetery. Also seeking holder of old Helm family bible, in possession of Jeff Glover, Whitesville, Ky. in 1935. Terry A. Helm, 533 Redbridge Court, Ballwin, Mo. 63021.