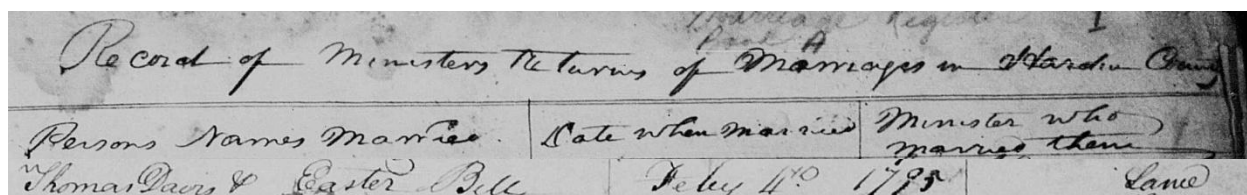


Davis – Vanmeter – Chambers – Bruner

By Jerry Long
Owensboro, KY

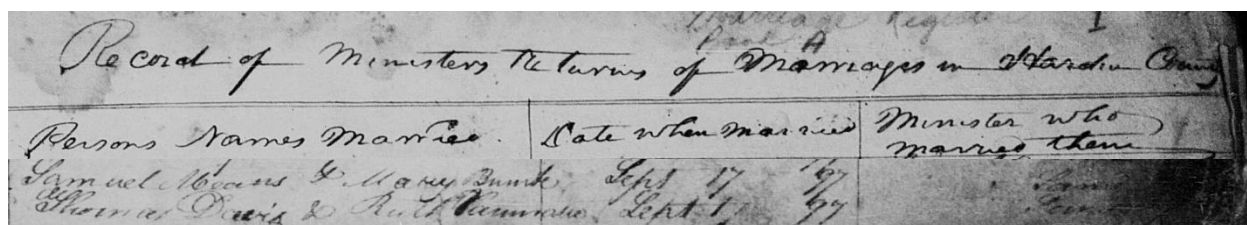
Thomas Davis was born 1765-1778. He is listed in the annual tax lists of Hardin County, KY from 1799 until 1813. The 1812 lists show that he was taxed on 150 acres on Valley Creek. In the 1810 census of Hardin County, KY the household of Thomas Davis consisted of – 1 male aged 26-45, 2 females under 10, 3 females 10-16, 1 female 16-26 and 1 female over 45.

Thomas Davis married Easter Bell, 4 February 1795 Hardin County, KY (Hardin County Marriage Book A, p1:



Persons Names Married	Date when married	Minister who married them
Thomas Davis & Easter Bell	Feb 4 th 1795	Lane

Thomas Davis married second Ruth Vanmeter, 17 September 1797 Hardin County, KY, by Josiah Dodge, a Baptist minister (Hardin County Marriage Book A, p1):



Persons Names Married	Date when married	Minister who married them
Samuel Thomas & Ruth Vanmeter	Sept 17 th 1797	Dodge

Ruth, daughter of Capt. Jacob Vanmeter (1752-1838) & Catherine Covenhoven, was born c1779. In the 1880 census she was reported to have been born in Virginia by her daughter, Isabella Royal, and son, Henry Chambers. Ruth's father was a veteran of the Revolutionary War. The Vanmeter family name appears under numerous variations in spelling. It is truly a historic family of Kentucky. The history of the family has been chronicled in numerous books and articles. See: "The Van Meteren's of Holland and America", The Register, Vol. 34 (Kentucky State Historical Society, Frankfort, KY, 1936), pp.22-42; Two Centuries In Elizabethtown and Hardin County, KY, Daniel E. McClure, Jr. (Elizabethtown, KY, Hardin County Historical Society, 1979), pp194-200; Yesterday and Tomorrow: Van Meter – Tabb – Shannon – and Allied Families, Roberta Shannon Stimpson (Berkley, MI, 1976); Bye-Line, Clarence B. and Jane Bye (New Albany, IN, 1981); A Genealogy of the Duke - Shepherd – Van Metre Family, Samuel Gordon Symth (Lancaster, PA, The New Era Printing Company, 1909); The Van Meter Families of Kentucky: A Genealogy, Robert S. Riley, Frankfort, KY); Pioneers of Old Monocacy: The Early Settlement of Frederick County, Maryland, 1721-1743, Grace L. Tracey &

John P. Dern (Baltimore, MD, Genealogical Publishing Co., 1987); Pioneers of Old Frederick County, Virginia, Cecil O'Dell (Marceline, MO, Waldsworth Publishing Company, 1995).



The location of the grave of Capt. Jacob Vanmeter (1752-1838) is not known. A memorial marker was erected in the Vanmeter plot in the Gilead Baptist Church Cemetery near his home in Hardin County. He was one of the founding members of the church in 1824.

Two Centuries In Elizabethtown and Hardin County, KY, Daniel E. McClure, Jr. (Elizabethtown, KY, Hardin County Historical Society, 1979), p194:

CAPTAIN JACOB VAN METER
1752-1838

The subject of this sketch, Jacob Van Meter, was a son of Henry Van Meter, a brother of Jacob Van Meter, Senior, prominent in the settling of Severn's Valley. Three Jacob Vanmeters arrived in the Valley in the same year, 1780: Jacob, Sr., Jacob, Jr., and Jacob, the nephew of Jacob, Sr. They came to Kentucky from the Muddy Creek settlement in southwestern Pennsylvania, at which place they had settled for some time after living in Virginia. All were descended from the Dutch immigrants, Jan Joosten and Macyken Hendricksen Van Meteren, who arrived in New Amsterdam in the year 1662.

The Jacob Van Meter of this sketch was granted land for his services in the Revolutionary War, as were many of the other settlers who were coming into the area at that time. He married his cousin, Rebecca Rawlings, granddaughter of Jacob Van Meter, Sr., and his wife, Letitia Stroud; she being a daughter of Rebecca Van Meter and Edward Rawlings, Revolutionary War veteran. The marriage took place May 12, 1793. To avoid confusion between the various Jacob Van Meters in the Valley, the senior Jacob was called "Valley Creek Jake" and his nephew was known as "Miller Jake," due to his milling interests.

Jacob Van Meter, "Miller Jake," died April 12, 1838. His efforts and those of his widow in obtaining pensions as a result of his military service are related in copies of statements in some of the pages following this sketch. His story might well be the story

of many of the men who came about the time that he did; all embodied the same spirit and courage.

The local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is named in honor of Jacob Van Meter, Sr., his uncle.

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Three preceding pictures were taken
on 18 August 1980 by Jerry Long

Home of Capt. Jacob Vanmeter (1752-1838) on the Bacon Creek Road, a short distance from the banks of Bacon Creek, near Glendale in Hardin County, KY. At the time I visited the home it was reported to be the third oldest home still standing in Hardin County. Daniel E. McClure in Two Centuries In Elizabethtown and Hardin County, KY (1979, p200) wrote "The chimney is over seventeen feet wide and the port hole in it is said to have been planned for use in firing at Indians, if necessary. The initials, J.V., and date 1800 are cut in the chimney over the port hole."

Images of America: Hardin and LaRue Counties, 1880-1930, by Carl Howell & Don Waters (Arcadia Publishing, Charles, SC, et al, 1998), p40:

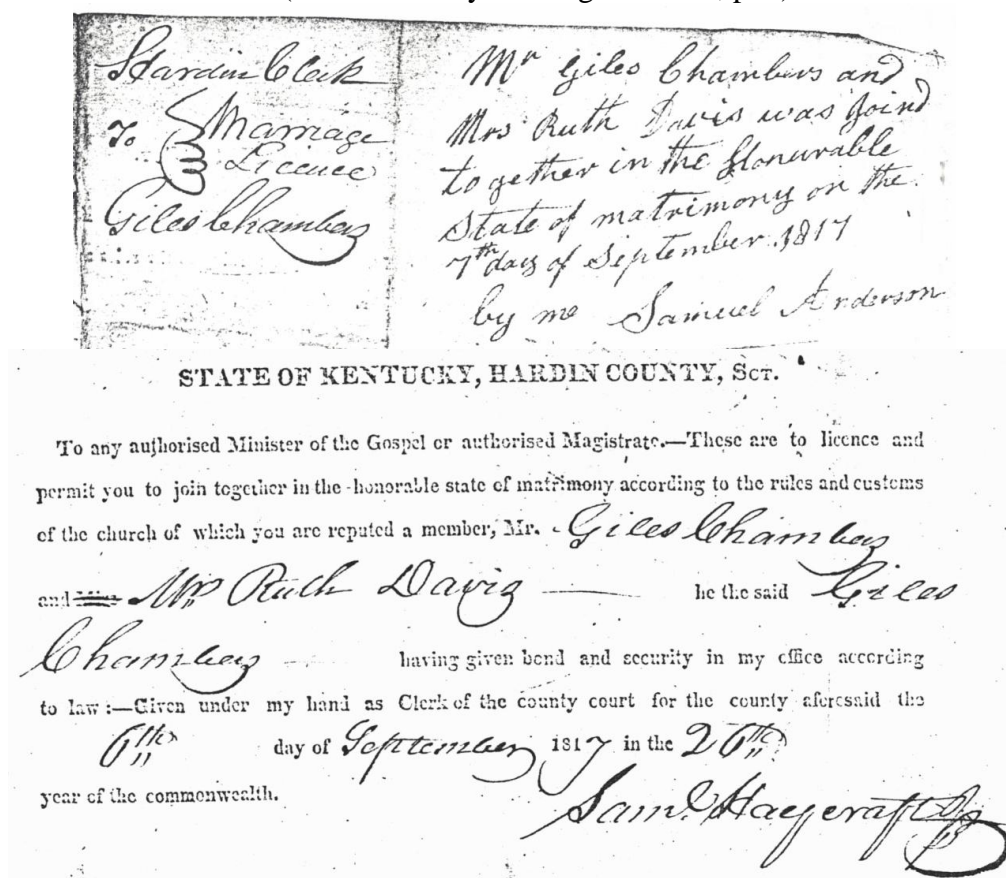


THE CAPTAIN JACOB VAN METER HOUSE, 1930. Revolutionary War veteran Captain Jacob Van Meter built this log home on the banks of Bacon Creek, near Glendale, in the late 1790s. The wide logs were hand-hewn and cut from timber on the property. The most distinct feature of the home was the 17-foot-wide chimney, equipped with a porthole which served as a lookout for possible attacks by hostile tribes. It is not known if the Van Meters ever utilized the porthole, but the danger of attack must have been great enough to warrant the need for its presence. Van Meter also built a mill near his home, which earned him the nickname "Miller Jake." The home was a popular landmark in the area until a few years ago, when it was torn down due to advanced decay.

Thomas Davis died during 1813-1817. Many family trees report that the Thomas Davis in the early records of Hardin County, KY is a son of Allen Davis, of Alexandria, VA. The originator of this claim seems to be the late Ruth Bruner Sims (1893-1991), of Frankfort, KY; twice a great-great-granddaughter of Thomas Davis & Ruth Vanmeter. Mrs. Sims researched her family for 55 years. She had found that a Thomas Davis, on 22 October 1795 received 100 acres on Pond Creek in Jefferson County, KY from his father, Allen Davis, both of whom were reported to be residents of Alexandria, VA; the land was part of a 500-acre grant issued to Allen Davis on 2 December 1785. She provided no other clues that linked Thomas of Hardin County to the Thomas, who received land in Jefferson County. Mrs. Sims also claimed that Thomas Davis of Hardin County was a first cousin of the Confederate President Jefferson Davis. The many well documented genealogies of Jefferson Davis prove this to be clearly false. I have found no source that proves that the Thomas of Hardin County and the Thomas, who owned land in Jefferson County, were the same person. The following are two facts seem to suggest otherwise:

- The 22 October 1795 deed indicated that Allen Davis & his son, Thomas, were then residents of the town of Alexandria, Virginia (Jefferson County, KY Deed Book 4, p279). The first marriage of Thomas of Hardin County, KY proves that eight months before the deed Thomas was already a resident of Hardin County.
- The tax records of Hardin County show that Thomas Davis was taxed on no land holdings until 1812.

Thomas Davis' widow, Ruth Vanmeter Davis, in Hardin County, KY on 7 September 1817 married Giles Chambers (Hardin County Marriage Book A, p62).



Giles Chambers was born during the 1760's. His name is also found as 'Jiles'. Prior to marrying Ruth Vanmeter Davis, he had been married. His first wife appears to have died during 1815-1817. By this marriage he had the following children:

- Abraham Chambers, born 11 October 1805 Dayton, Montgomery County, OH; married Sarah Miller, 3 July 1828 Ohio County, KY and Mrs. Nancy C. Williams Hulbert, 6 August 1865 Warrick County, IN; died 17 April 1877 Warrick County, IN; buried Lynnville Cemetery, Warrick County, IN.
- Giles Chambers, Jr., born c1810 KY; married Sabrina Sellers, 13 March 1834 Hancock County, KY; died 1870-1880; 1870 lived Spencer County, IN; wife a widow in the 1880 census of Hancock County, KY.
- John Chambers, born 1814-1815 KY; married Lucinda Hall, 11 June 1835 Perry County, IN; died 27 November 1868; lived Warrick County, IN.
- William Lewis Chambers, born 11 March 1815 KY; married Belinda Miller, 10 April 1834 Hancock County, KY, Nancy Elvira McFerron, 9 May 1852 Warrick County, IN and Rebecca McFerron, 27 July 1854 Warrick County, IN; died 13 September 1883 Warrick County, IN; buried Barren Fork Cemetery, Warrick County, IN.
- Giles may be the father of Elizabeth Chambers, who married George Oldham, 14 February 1828 Ohio County, KY.

Giles Chambers in 1805 was in Dayton, Ohio. He may be the Giles Chambers that appears in the tax records of Green County, KY in 1808 and 1809. About 1810 he located in Breckinridge County, KY. He is listed in the Breckinridge County censuses of 1810 & 1820 and in the county's 1811-1823 tax lists. He is listed in the 1830 census of Ohio County, KY and is shown there in the 1826-1830 tax lists. He appears in the 1840 census of Hancock County, KY and is listed there in the 1833-1842 tax lists. Giles Chambers died in 1842. In Hancock County, KY on 26 September 1842 his widow, Ruth Chambers, relinquished her right to administer the estate of her husband, Giles Chambers, deceased, and John Snider was appointed his administrator. In Hancock County, KY an inventory of the estate of Giles Chambers, deceased, was filed on 27 October 1842 and sale of his estate was filed on 28 October 1842 (Hancock County, KY Will Book 2, p135).

I Ruth Chambers widow & executrix of Giles Chambers deceased. do by these presents renounce & relinquish my right & title to administer on said estate and desire that the same may be committed to John Snider - whereunto I have set my hand & seal this 26th Sep. 1842

Attest
Samuel Morrison
Henry Chambers

Ruth Chambers

Ruth Vanmeter Davis Chambers died 1843-1850 in Hancock County, KY. Her place of burial is not known. She was probably buried at the Blackford Baptist Church Cemetery in

Hancock County, KY, where four of her children were buried (Mary Bruner, Nancy Bruner, Hannah Bruner and Henry V. Chambers).

An unrecorded deed found in Hardin County, KY records that Jacob Vanmatre conveyed to his daughter, Ruth Chambers, and her children 554 acres (Kentucky Ancestors, Vol. 11, No. 2, October 1975, Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, KY, p71). The deed listed Ruth's children as Polly (wife of George Bruner), Nancy (wife of Samuel Bruner), Hanna (wife of Peter Bruner), Letitia (wife of Ansel Hall), Elizabeth (wife of John Tabb), Isabel (wife of John Royal), Rebecca (wife of Harbin P. Cole) and Henry V. Chambers. All of the heirs confirmed the sale by Daniel Williams, attorney for Giles Chambers, Sr., deceased, November 1843; the sale was acknowledged in Hancock County, KY.

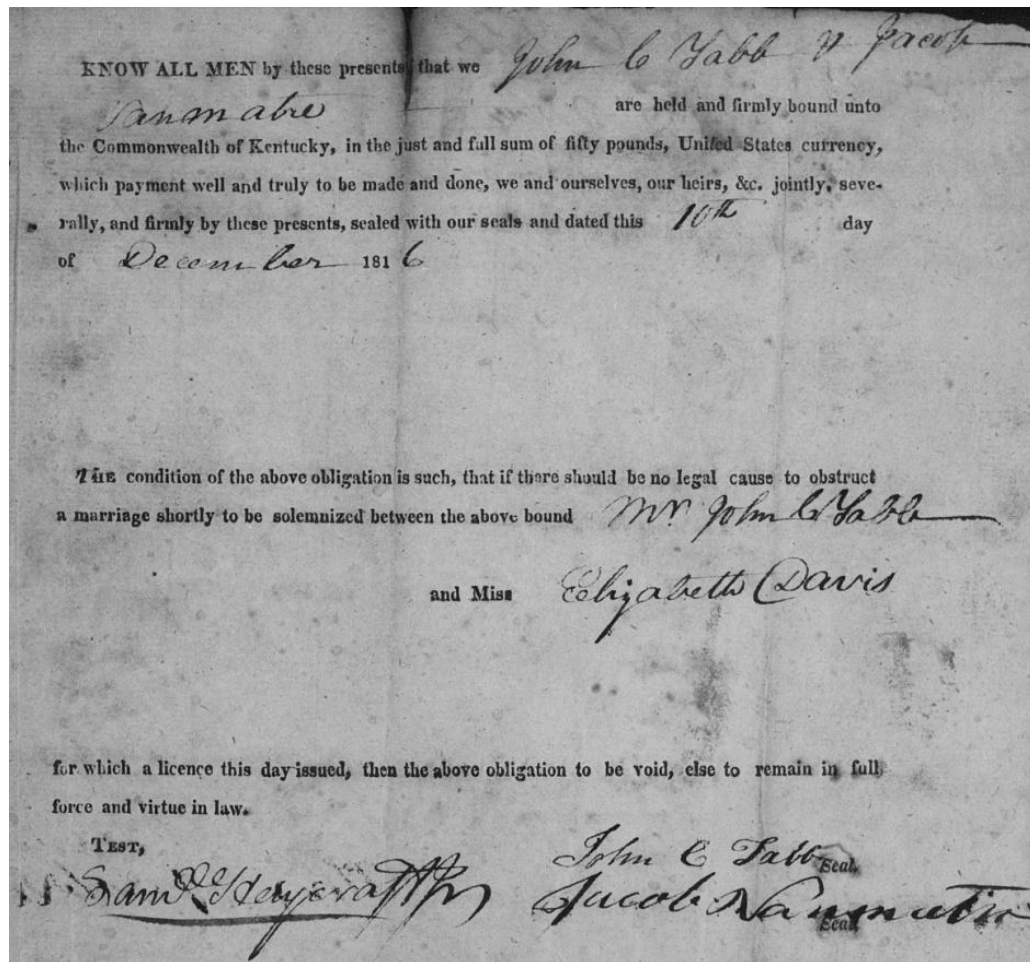
Ruth Vanmeter and Thomas Davis were parents of:

1. Mary Davis, 'Polly, born 1796-1800 Hardin County, KY. She married George Washington Bruner, 29 January 1818 Breckinridge County, KY. George W., son of George Peter Bruner & Anna Maria Achenbach, was born 1781 VA and died 20 October 1851 Hancock County, KY. Mary Davis Bruner died 5 November 1851 Hancock County, KY. She was buried with her husband at the Blackford Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, Hancock County, KY. Children – Maria (c1820-after 1840, married Thomas Clark Moorman), Sarah Jane (c1821-c1888, married James W. Snider), John S. (1823-1871, married Mary Jane Bye), Samuel (1823-1896, married Mary Jane Lyons), Ruth Elmira (1825-1919, married Williams Hale, Jr. & James T. Sanders), Horace Newton (1828-1881, married Elizabeth Jane Bruner) and Letitia (1834-1894, married John James Lyons). See articles – “Hale – Sanders Cemetery, Hancock County, KY” and “Blackford Baptist Church Cemetery, Hancock County, KY”, by Jerry Long, Internet (<https://wckyhhistory-genealogy.org/>).



Monuments of George W. Bruner (c1781-1851) & wife, Mary Davis Bruner (c1796-1851). Blackford Baptist Church Cemetery, Hancock County, KY

2. Elizabeth Vanmeter Davis was born 2 December 1798 Hardin County, KY. She married John Chisman Tabb, 10 December 1816 Hardin County, KY. John C., son of Robert Tabb & Mary Buckner Chisman, was born 30 December 1785 York County, VA and died 2 July 1865 Hardin County, KY. Elizabeth Davis Tabb died 18 June 1867 Hardin County, KY. She and her husband were buried White Mills, Hardin County, KY. They had 16 children – Robert Chambers (c1817-1887, married Susan Daniel Wortham), Thomas Davis (1818-1906, married Elvira Crutcher Price), William (1820-c1841), John Buckner (1822-1894, married Evaline Wade Price), Mary Chisman (1824-1909, married John Hackley Foushee Wortham), Martha Blue (1826-1907, married Samuel William Conway Thornton Wortham), Nancy Davis (1826-1912, married Henry Monroe Lampton), Abisha M. Vanmeter (1828-1882, married Susan Jane Lampton), Elizabeth Elliott (1830-1913, single), Lucretia (c1831-1911, married John C. Vanmeter), Edmund C. (1833-1903, married Mary Margaret Whitehead), Bailey Seaton (1834-1917, single), Malvina McNeil (1836-1922, married Daniel S. Handley), Eleanor Morgan (1838-1887, married James Monroe Allen), Ruth Vanmeter (c1841-1872, married James M. Lucky) and George Washington (1844-1922, married Elizabeth Hannah Vance).



3. Rebecca V. Davis was born c1799 Hardin County, KY. She married Harbin Petty Cole, 7 March 1815 Hardin County, KY. Harbin, son of Joseph Cole & Elizabeth Petty, was born c1788 KY and died 31 August 1867 McVile, Greene County, IN. He was a veteran of

the War of 1812. Rebecca Davis Cole died 13 January 1887. She is believed to be buried with her husband in the Ison/Isom Cemetery, Greene County, IN. Their children included – Elizabeth (1818-1891, married Shelby Raper), Sarah (1822-1852, married Philip T. Hendricks), Mary Jane (1823-1895, married Frederick Hendricks), Alexander Monroe (1824-1862, married Lucinda Kennedy), Minerva (1829-c1873, married Nathan Bullock & Samuel Sandefur) and Henry (c1831-after 1850).

Know all men by these presents that we Harbin Cole
and Jacob Vanmeter are held and
firmly bound unto the Commonwealth of Kentucky in the
first hand for a sum of fifty pounds United States Currency which
payment well and lawfully to be made and done we bind our
selves our heirs &c jointly and severally firmly by these
presents sealed with our seals & dated this 7th day of
March 1815

The Condition of the above obligation is such that
if there should be no legal cause to obstruct a
marriage shortly to be solemnized between the
above bound Harbin Cole and Miss Rebecca Davis
for which a licence this day issued them the above
obligation to be void else to remain in full force
& virtue in law

Witness —
Samuel Hayscraft Jacob Vanmeter

Hardin County, KY Marriage Register Book A, p49, 7 March 1815:

7th	Harbin Cole & Rebecca Davis	✓
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4. Nancy J. Davis was born 1806 Hardin County, KY. She married Samuel Bruner, 16 May 1824 Breckinridge County, KY. Samuel, son of George Peter Bruner & Anna Maria Achenbach, was born 9 May 1795 KY and died 29 October 1851 Hancock County, KY. Nancy Davis Bruner died 23 February 1864 Hancock County, KY. She was buried with her husband at the Blackford Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, Hancock County, KY. Children – Ruth Ann (1825-1899, married John W. Wiles), Thomas (c1826-after 1840), Andrew Jackson (1828-1891, married Lucinda C. Jones, Elizabeth Brown, Lucinda McMahon, Nancy Ann Butler & Joyce Bruner), Mary Jane (1830-1874, married Asa Jackson), Elizabeth Susan (1830-after 1860, married William Osborn), Jacob Vanmeter (1832-1873, married Sallie Jane Basey), Nathaniel Henry (1838-1922, married Sophia Alsop), Martha Ellen (1840-1921, married David L. Temple), Sarah (1842-1930, married William Mathias Scifres), Samuel H. (1844-1929, married Nancy Jane Alsop & Martha

Elizabeth Wroe), Zachary Taylor (1847-1921, married Isabelle Brown) and Nancy J. (c1850-1858).

5. Hannah Davis was born 13 February 1809 Hardin County, KY. She married Peter B. Bruner, 8 January 1827 Ohio County, KY. Peter B., son of George Washington Bruner & Patty Brickey, was born 27 January 1806 Breckinridge County, KY and died 7 February 1879 Hancock County, KY. Hannah Davis Bruner died 28 May 1874 Hancock County, KY. She and her husband were buried Blackford Baptist Church Cemetery, Hancock County, KY. Children – Mahalia Jane (1829-1852, married John Jackson), George Washington (1829-1838), Cynthia Ellen (1831-1908, married William Marshall Estes), Harriet S. (1833-1838), Davis Thomas (1835-1911, married Catherine Rice), Robert Tabb (1837-1909, married Rebecca Leura Hale), Henry Vanmeter (1840-1912, married Timandra E. Gabbert & Mrs. Mary E. Myers), Charles Morgan (1842-1895, married Eliza Newman), Martha A. (1844-1863, married William Washington Royal), Artimissa P. (1846-1850), Nancy B. (1848-1926, married John Hale Rice) and Lucretia Curtis (1850-1864).

Know all men by these presents that we Peter Bruner and
Harben P Cole are held and firmly bound unto the
Commonwealth of Kentucky in the penal sum of fifty pounds current
money the payment of which well and truly to be made to the said
Commonwealth, we bind ourselves our heirs & family jointly & severally
by these presents. Witness our hands and seals this 8th day
of January 1827

The Condition of the above obligation is such, that whereas
there is a license about to issue for a marriage shortly intended
to be solemnized between Peter Bruner and Hannah
Davis Now, shall if always hereafter appears that there
is no lawful cause to obstruct said marriage then the above
obligation to be void else to remain in full force and virtue

Peter Bruner (Seal)
Harben P Cole (Seal)

Ohio County Ky January the 6th 1827
This free binds & certifies that I am
willing to the Marriage of my Daughter
Hannah Davis to Peter Bruner
teste
Harben P Cole (Seal) Clerk of the Court
Charles Morgan (Seal) Justice of the Peace

Breckinridge County, Ky.
 January the 6th 1825
 These few lines I certify that
 I am willing to the marriage
 of my son Peter Bruner
 George Bruner

6. Isabella Davis was born 4 November 1812 Breckinridge County, KY. She married John Royal, 14 January 1830 Ohio County, KY. John, son of William Royal & Elizabeth Clifton, was born 17 May 1809 KY and died 29 April 1891 Ohio County, KY. Isabella Davis Royal died 3 October 1894. She and her husband were buried Friendship Cemetery, Ohio County, KY. Children – Martha Jane (1831-1858, married John Thomas Royal), Letitia A. (1832-1887, married James C. Bright), William Washington (1834-1921, married Martha A. Bruner & Mary Frances Roach), Henry Vanmeter (1837-1906, married Mary Ellen Westerfield & Mary Jane Swope), Arminda E. (1839-1896, married Jobe Farmer), Thomas Davis (1841-1904, married Mary Catherine Ralph), Jacob Samuel (1843-1885, married Louisiana Jane Wiles), Nancy Melissa (1844-1897, married Robert J. Brandon), Elisha James (1847-1858), Charles Henderson (1849-1883, married Kissiah Ann Bellamy), Ruth Elvira (1851-1930, married William Theodore Bellamy) and Druzilla Catherine (1853-1894, married Clifton Gordon Roach).



KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, THAT WE, *John Royal and*
William Royal are held and firmly bound unto the
 Commonwealth of Kentucky, in the just and full sum of £50, current money—and for the payment whereof
 we bind ourselves, our heirs, &c. jointly, severally and firmly by these presents; signed with our hands, sealed
 with our seals, and dated this *14th* day of *January* 1830—

The condition of the above obligation is such, that if there be lawful cause to obstruct the Marriage of the
 above bound *John Royal* and Miss *Isabella Davis*
 then the above obligation to be void, else remaining in full force and
 virtue.

Witness
Tr. Peyton

John Royal
 his
 mark

William Royal
 his
 mark

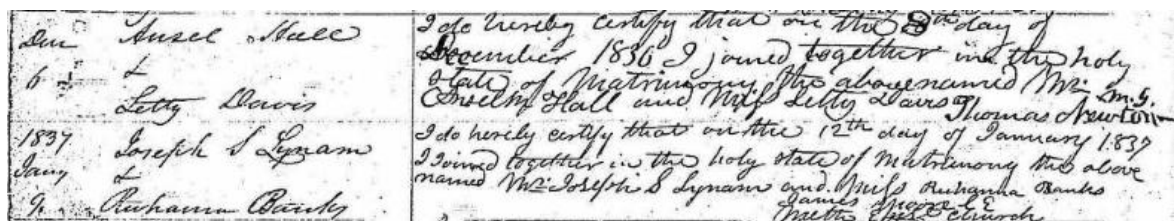
To the Clerk of Ohio County
 this is to authorize you to issue
 from your office for the purpose
 of marriage between John Royal
 and Isabella Davis Given under
 our hands and seals this 17th January
 1830
 Lest
 William Royal
 Ruth Chamberlain
 Seal
 Seal
 Seal



Grave of Isabella Davis Royal (1812-1894)
 Friendship Cemetery, Ohio County, KY

7. Letitia Davis was born 1813-1816 Breckinridge County, KY. She married Rev. Ancil Hall, 8 December 1836 Hancock County, KY. Ancil Hall was born 1775-1780, he was a Baptist minister, and died 16 June 1841 Ohio County, KY. Letitica Davis Hall died 1836-1839. He is listed in the 1820, 1830 & 1840 censuses of Ohio County, KY. They had no known children.

Hancock County, KY Marriage Book 1B, p14



Giles Chambers and Ruth Vanmeter were the parents of:

8. Henry Vanmeter Chambers was born 1 March 1819 Breckinridge County, KY. He married Sarah Elizabeth Price, 3 October 1844 Hardin County, KY. Sarah E., daughter of Samuel Price & Nancy Gunterman, was born 3 September 1827 Hardin County, KY and died 18 February 1908 Hancock County, KY. Henry V. Chambers died 23 January 1896. In Hancock County, KY Sam P. Chambers was appointed administrator of the estate of Henry V. Chambers, deceased on 18 July 1896. He lived in Hancock County, KY, where he and his wife were buried in the Blackford Baptist Church Cemetery. Children – Franklin C. (1845-1905, married Ellen Coatney Stewart), Ruth (1848-1857), Elvira Tabb (1849-1875, married Thomas Levin Wroe), Robert Tabb (1851-1894, married Sarah Jane Newman), Samuel Price (1854-1899, married Caroline E. Bruner), Nancy B. (1856-1903, married Charles Christopher Stewart), James Buchanan (1859-1917, married Ellen Nora Miller), Albert Newman (1862-1921, married Floris Kelly) and Evaline Price (1864-1942, married Ira Louis Rice).

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY

Friday, 21 February 1908 p4

wife of Henry Vanmeter Chambers

Mrs. Sarah Chambers Dead.

Hawesville, Ky., Feb. 20.—Mrs. Sarah Chambers, one of the oldest women of this county, is dead at her home at Chambers, eight miles from here. She was in her eighty-first year, and as she has been failing in health for some time her death was no surprise. The little town of Chambers was named for the family to which she belonged.



Kentucky Ancestors, Vol. 11, No. 2, October 1975, Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, KY, p71:

UNRECORDED DEEDS IN HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY

Abstracted by Margaret S. Richerson, 209 Elizabeth St., Elizabethtown, Ky. 42701:

__ November 1843. Ruth Chambers, late Vanmatre, a daughter of Jacob Vanmatre, deceased, and George Bruner and Polly, his wife; Samuel Bruner and Nancy, his wife; Peter Bruner, Jr ,

and Hanna, his wife; Ansel Hall and Letitia, his wife; John Tabb and Elizabeth, his wife; John Royal and Isabel; has wife, Harbin P. Cole and Rebecca, his wife; & Henry V. Chambers. [The aforesaid Polly Bruner, Nancy Bruner, Hanna Bruner, Letitia Hall, Elizabeth Tabb, Isabel Royal, Rebecca Cole and Henry V. Chambers being children of the aforementioned Ruth Chambers]. Power of Attorney to Daniel Williams to sell land on the waters of Rhodes Creek, a branch of Severns Valley Creek, conveyed to Ruth Chambers and her children by Jacob Vanmatre. Containing 1094 acres, adjoining corner of Jacob Funk, in line of Henry Rank's survey, excepting 540 acres for Abraham Vamnatre. All Heirs confirm the sale by Daniel Williams as attorney for Giles Chambers, Sr., deceased. Acknowledged in Hancock County.



Following is from the papers of Ida Grey Bruner Berry (1882-1961) and her brother, Dr. Stewart Bruner (1898-1982), of Owensboro, KY and reproduced in the book, Descendants of George Peter Bruner, by Henry Albert Bruner and Harlan Keith Bruner (Hawesville, KY, 1981), pp.202X, 261-262. The research in part was received from Ruth Bruner Sims (1893-1991), of Frankfort, KY. Mrs. Sims had done family research for 55 years. She worked with G. Gordon Smyth on his book, Duke – Shepherd – Van Metre Family and with William Heidgerd of New Paltz, NY on his yearly publications of The American Descendants of Chretien DuBois of Wicres, France:

THOMAS DAVIS AND RUTH VAN METER

Evan Davis from Wales to Philadelphia before 1756. Among his children were Allen and Samuel of Alexandria, Va. Both were soldiers in the Revolutionary War. After the war: Allen, our ancestor, and wife Ann received land grant of 500 acres in western Kentucky from Patrick Henry, Grant #1938. On Dec 21, 1785, he deeded 100 acres to his son, Thomas, also our line. The other son, Samuel, took his land in Georgia, but later he moved to Christian County, Ky, which later became Todd County. Samuel's son, Jefferson Davis, born 1808 died 1899, became President of Confederacy. Thus Allen's son, Thomas Davis, and Jefferson Davis were first cousins.

Thomas Davis (b.ca. 1775, d.ca. 1816) married 1. Easter Bell, February 4, 1795 Hardin Co., Ky, no issue. 2. Ruth Vanmeter, B 1779 D 1843. Thomas and Ruth were married September 17, 1797 in Hardin County, Ky, by Josiah Dodge, a Baptist preacher. Issue of Thomas and Ruth:

- (1) Hannah Davis, B 2-13-1809, D 5-28-1874) married January 8, 1827 in Hardin Co., Ky Peter Bruner B 1-27-1806, D 2-8-1879).
- (2) Nancy Davis, B 1806, D 2-23-1864) married Samuel Bruner (his 2nd wife) on May 1 1824, B B 5-9-1795, D 10-29-1851)
- (3) Isabel Davis married John Royal, issue Van Royal.
- (4) Letitia Davis married Ansel Hall.
- (5) Rebecca Davis married Harbin P. Cole.
- (6) Elizabeth Davis, B 1798, D 6-18-1867 married in Hardin County on 12-16-1816 John Chisman Tabb, they had 16 children, both buried in White Mills, but the graves have not been found.

(7) Mary (Polly) Davis, B ca 1796, D 11-5-1851, married 1-21-1818 George W. Bruner (2nd wife)

The Patrick Henry deed to Allen Dais of 500 acres in Western Kentucky was dated 2-12-1785, Grant #1938. The deed of 100 acres, from Allen Davis Sr. to Thomas Davis, both of Alexandria, Va., for 7c, is a deed of gift, Jefferson County, Ky Deed Book 4, page 279, date 12-21-1785. Allen Davis listed in 1800 census of Alexandria Town, Va. The 1850 census of Hardin Co. shows John K. Davis, age 40, wife and nine children and Ann (Allen) Davis, age 70, and born in Maryland. Ruth Vanmeter Davis , B 1779 D 1843 (widow of Thomas) married Giles Chambers D ca1843), 9-6-1817 Hardin Co. Book 1 p69), believed to be his second. As with her first marriage, her children are part of the Dubois line, which extends back to Charlemagne. Have not found any record of their burial. Their issue - Henry Vanmeter Chambers, B 3/1-1819 D 1-23-1899, married Sarah Elizabeth Price, B 9-31-1827 D 2-18-1908, daughter of Samuel Price and Nancy Gunterman, issue 9 children. .



Bits and Pieces of Hardin County History, Vol. 7, Issue No. 3, Summer 1986 (Hardin County, KY Historical Society):

A VAN METER LETTER

Long Grove, Ky.
Jan. 23, 1891

To Mrs. Mary Jane Wale
Jasper, Mo.

My dear friend and relative as it is raining this day I thought I would write a few lines. We be are not well, Margaret is right poorly. We would be very glad to see you. You have asked many questions. Some I could answer if I could see you, but many of them I couldn't.

My grandfather I think came with your great grandfather. There was several families in the move. I don't know who they were. The man Henton that was drowned is the only name that I remember. My grandfather Jacob Van Meter 1752, died April 12, 1838, aged 86 years, brought his wife with him. She was a Cohenoer. I think their children was all born in Ky.

My half uncles and aunts: Abraham, Wm., Jacob, Geo. Wash, Henry, John, Hannah, Rebecca, Ruth, last wives children, Nancy Letica, Mahala, and Edward Rawlings Van Meter who was my father.

I don't know Abrahams wife was. Henry's wife was Easter. Abe and Henry moved to Ill's, in an early day. If there is any descendants living I don't know. Jake married a Spurner. John married a Watson. Both of their families lived and died in Hardin Co. Ky. Washington married Ellen Carson they was my first wife's father and mother. Hannah married Ebenezer Richardson moved to Ind. in an early day. Rebecca married Jesse Morrison, lived and died in Hardin Co. Ruth's first husband was Davis. Second husband Chambers. Her Davis daughter married John

Tabb. Their children live in Hardin Co. Her son Henry Van Meter Chambers lives in Hancock Co., Ky. My own Aunts Nancy married Joseph Van Meter. Letitia married Jobe Watson. Their children are scattered over several states, none in this county. Mahala married Wm. Prather first, last Geo. Milburn. She has two Prather Children and two Milburn children in Mead and Breckenridge Co's. I don't know the P.O.

Edward Rawlings Van Meter married Mary Bird. My grandfather's children are all dead. I don't know what my great grandfathers name was but I am of the opinion that it was Abraham. I received two letters from D.S. Van Meter with blanks to fill out which I have filled out and returned I write this for you. We will never live to see Van Meter's book.

I never heard of John Van Meter getting killed horse racing. There are Kellers in this Co. but I don't know who they are related to Dr. Sams mother or not.

Miles Hart's Fort was 3 miles east of Elizabethtown and just moved into it, just had hung the door, and was standing looking out and was shot. Aunt Betsy ran and one Indian ran after her but was out running him. He threw his tomahawk and hit her back of the head and knocked her down. They killed all the children but Joe and Miles but Miles had a sore foot and they was afraid the white men would catch them and they killed him on the road. She had one child after the Indians got her but it died. Joe Hart never married. Aunt Betsy has grandchildren living. Aunt Betsey married Gunterman that Jackson in the News said she married Price. He was mistaken. Sam Price married one of her Gunterman girls. Bailey Tabb married the other one. Bailey Tabb and John Tabb was brothers lived a half mile apart until the families were raised. John Tabb married Aunt Ruth Davis daughter. Thos. Tabb. and John Tabb was their sons and both married Sam Price's daughters. Henry V. Chambers Aunt Ruth's son by Chambers married another one of them. Chambers lives in Hancock Co., Ky. Thos. and John Tabb post office is Elizabethtown. Tom's wife is dead. John's is living. Tom is the oldest and can tell more about Aunt Betsy than any other person. Aunt Betsey lived for many years at Bailey Tabbs and died there and John and Tom was raised all most with Aunt Betsey. I worked for Bailey Tabb the summer before Aunt Betsey died used to go in her room and hear her talk about her treatment by the Indians. She was confined to her bed with rheumatism and suffered greatly at times.

Bailey Tabb has one daughter living in Davies Co. I don't know her P.O. The widow Betsy Miller she was grown when Aunt Betsey died and waited on her several years. I am no akin to the Harts only by marriage. Uncle Wash married Ellen. Nellie she was always called. Col. Aaron Hart last wife was Polly Carson. Old Grayson Isaac Van Meter last wife was Jennie Carson. Old Uncle Aaron Hart was a twin brother of Miles Hart that was killed by the Indians. Uncle Aaron named four of Uncle Washington's children Hart. Moses H, Aaron H, Miles H, Hannah H.

You learned from my brother Wm. P. Van Meter that our forefathers came down the Ohio River to Louisville on a raft that is correct. My hand is so tired I shall have to stop my hands is so crippled with rheumatism that I can hardly write. I would like to see all the neighbors out there once more. Give my love and respects to all there I wish I could see you and talk to you one week straight out. I remain your true friend. John Henton Van Meter

[Note by Jerry Long: Letter was from John Henton Van Meter (1828-1904), of Long Grove, Hardin County, KY, to Mary Jane Wolfolk Wale (1820-after 1900), of Jasper, MO. He was the son of Edward Rawlings Vanmeter (1803-1887) & Mary Bird, grandson of Jacob Vanmeter (1752-1838) & Rebecca Rawlings. He and Mrs. Wale were third cousins. His great-grandfather, Henry Vanmeter (c1717-1783), was a brother to her great-grandfather, Jacob Vanmeter, Sr. (1723-1798, Jacob, Sr. – Jacob, Jr. – Susan Wolfolk – Mary Jane Wale.)]



Yesterday and Tomorrow: Van Meter – Tabb – Shannon and Allied Families, by Roberta Shannon Stimpson (1976, copy at Kentucky Historical Society Library, Frankfort, KY), pp130-133, 136 & 240:

CAPTAIN JACOB VAN METER

Captain Jacob Van. Metre was the son of Henry Van Meter and his first wife, Eve Pyle, and was born in Frederick County, Virginia in 1752 and died April 12, 1838 in Hardin County, Kentucky.

He was the 5th generation from Jan Joosten Van Meteren, the immigrant, and the 5th generation from Louis Du Bois, whose daughter, Sara, married Jooste Jan Van Meteren. Line being:

- (1) Jan Joosten Van Meteren m. Maeyken Hendricksen.
- (2) Jooste Jan Van Meteren m. Sara DuBois
- (3) Jan Jansen Van Meteren m. Sara Bodine (2) Margaret Mollenauer
- (4) Henry Van Metre m. Eve Pyle*, 2 Hannah Pyle, 3 Elizabeth Pyle

Captain Jacob Van Metre had married, in Virginia, a German woman, Catherine Covenhaven, and they had accompanied his Uncle Jacob Van Metre Sr. for whom he was named, with the large company of kindsmen and friends he lead to Kentucky to settle Elizabethtown in 1779-1780.

They had come down the Ohio River on 27 barges with their families, household goods and slaves and were given a pass to the Falls of the Ohio unmolested. Tradition states that they landed at West Point and came inland to Severn's Valley where they located and established homesites. Jacob Van Metre Sr., immediately built a fort 1779 on Valley Creek in Severn's Valley at the mouth of Billy's Creek near a big spring where he defended his family and friends against the Indians and where he later built his home and a mill for grain about 1 ½ miles from Elizabethtown. It was called "Fort Van Metre" and was one of the first forts built in Kentucky and easily located as the city of Elizabethtown still used this spring water for its water supply as late as 1963, 184 years after he settled there. (Drapers Papers, p.232)

Later Captain Jacob Van Metre, at a site about 5 miles below his Uncle Jacob's Fort, on Valley Creek near Glendale, built a Fort also called "Van Metre Port." He built a Mill and a Still on the land he had acquired. (Collins History of Kentucky, Vol. II, pages 24, 312, 733 and Withers Chronicles page 122 and Samuel Gordon Smyth's "Duke-Shepherd, Van Metre Families, page 64.)

As both Captain Jacob Van Metre (1752) and his Uncle Jacob Van Meter Sr.. (1723) build Forts and Mills, Kentuckians called Jacob Sr. "Valley Creek Jake" and Capt. Jacob "Miller Jake" to distinguish them apart. (These forts were needed to defend settlers against Indian raids for several years.) (Collins History of Kentucky, Vol. II p 24.)

Captain Jacob Van Metre's land went down to what is now Breckenridge County.

The two Van Meter's, Jacob Sr. and Capt Jacob, owned all land oil both sides of Valley Creek, from Elizabethtown to Glendale and over to White Mills, 12,399 acres or more. His lay 5 miles from Elizabethtown near Glendale, some of the finest land in Hardin County.

Capt. Jacob was given several grants of land for his Revolutionary Services and his services under General George Rogers Clark against the Wabash Indians in taking the Northwest Territory and, that together with the land he claimed when he originally came to Kentucky, had surveyed and received deed for around Jefferson County (Now Hardin County), made him hold approximately 4,508 acres of land.

In July Term of Hardin County Court, 1799, page 196, Captain Jacob Van Metre lists his land for taxation as: 300 acres 2nd rate land on Billy's Creek; 100 acres of 3rd rate land; 300 acres 3rd rate land; 2,575 acres of 2nd rate land on Longfall Creek; 333 acres on Rough Creek and 900 acres 2nd rate entered by Jacob Van Metre. Tax paid g-2,3,4,5 &6. Totaling 4,508 acres.

At his death, in 1838, no will was found and it is assumed he had given the land to his children as they became of age, or married, as the court did not settle his estate. His widow, Rebecca Rawlings Van Metre, sued for Dower Rights in 482 acres of land he sold shortly before his death, which must have been his home place. Suit filed April 15, 1841, bundle 124, Circuit Court Records of Hardin County, Ky. Suit was dismissed by agreement of both parties. Widow received nothing.

After the death of his 1st wife, Catherine Covenhaven, Captain Jacob Van Metre married the 2nd time, May 12, 1793 in Hardin County, Kentucky, by Josiah Dodge, a Baptist Preacher, Book A. page , Rebecca Rawlings, his cousin, who was born in Virginia in 1777. She was the daughter of Rebecca Van Metre and Edward Rawlings. Rebecca Van Meter was the daughter of Jacob Van Metre Sr., and wife Letitia Strode, who married Edward Rawlings in Virginia, son of Stephen Rawlings. All had come to Kentucky with the party of Jacob Van Meter Sr., and were influential in founding Elizabethtown. Stephen Rawlings was one of the first trustees of the City of Elizabethtown and a Justice of the court for many years. He was also Sheriff of Hardin County. Edward Rawlings served as Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff.

On Page 251, of October Court 1800 Hardin County, Kentucky, it states "On motion of Jacob Van Metre it is ordered that it be certified to the auditor of Public Acts that he is entitled to an audited certificate for 13 pounds, 13 shillings for sundries impressed for the late Expedition against the Wabash Indians under command of Gen. George Rogers Clark. Certificate dated 10th of August 1787, he having made oath according to law.

Court Record Book B, page 382, Monday July 9, 1810 Court states that Jacob Van Metre was given a permit to put a Water Grist Mill on Valley Creek where he lives and owns the land on both sides of the creek.

On page 190, May term Hardin County, Kentucky Court 1799 Captain Jacob Van Metre was appointed to help lay out a road from Van Meter's Mill to the Fort of Short Creek to the settlement on the Northside of Rough Creek and on to Van Metre's Mill.

On page 145, January Court, Captain Jacob Van Metre made security for Robert Moseley for a Ferry over Rough Creek, at Hartford Town and also subscribing witness to a bill for sale of property of Sam Forrister. In 1832 he made an application for a Pension and declared he was born in Frederick County, Virginia and was then in his 80th year (making him born 1752) and that in January 1778 he was commissioned an Ensign at Fort Henry, Virginia in the Militia for Kentucky, and in April 1778 aided in recruiting the company and then marched under Captain Harrod, descended the Ohio in company with Captain Leonard Helm and Joseph Bowman, all under Col. George Rogers Clark and at the Falls of the Ohio (Louisville) they were joined by other troops from the Western parts of Virginia and Kentucky, and then took all villages and posts east of the Mississippi River.

He was in the service 8 months returned home and resided in Jefferson County (now Hardin county), Kentucky. He was appointed by Governor Thomas Jefferson, May 7, 1782, a Captain and marched with Lewis and Clark's Expedition that fall. (Drapers Notes, Pension Statements Part I, Vol. II page 28).

Ensign Jacob Van Metre was allotted two plots of 156 acres each, (the same amount as a Lieutenant) in Clark's Grant on the Ohio. (Collins History of Kentucky, Vol. II page 738 and Jillson's land Grant Records for Allotments for Service in Revolution)

Pension granted March 4, 1831, Certificate #6582. Act of June 7, 1832. Issued March 2, 1833 @ \$105.00 per annum, from March 4, 1831. Kentucky Agency for Virginia Service as Ensign and Captain.

Residence at date of application, Hardin County, Kentucky. Enlisted February 1778. Served as Ensign under Captain William Harrod and Joseph Bowman in Col. George Rogers Clark's Illinois Regiment and on May 7, 1782 under General Clark, when he had been promoted, he had commanded an expedition against the Shawnee Indians. He was temporarily appointed a Captain of a Militia Company from Blue Licks, in which capacity he served two months.

He afterwards returned to the Illinois Regiment and continued to hold his commission as Ensign until the end of the war. He was allowed the Pension in 1833, residing in Hardin Co. Ky. Also for Captain Jacob Van Meter's Pension, see Hardin County Court Record Minute Book G, page 100, August 1832. It states: "Jacob Van Meter, a citizen of this county, came into Court and made oath to a Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress of June, 1832 in relation to the soldiers of the Revolution and the Court being of the opinion that the applicant, Jacob Van Metre (Captain) was a Revolutionary soldier and served as stated in the declaration, it is ordered that the same be certified under seal of this court.

He died April 12, 1838 and his widow, Rebecca Rawlings Van Metre, was allowed a pension on application executed Oct 21, 1838. Widow's File #8798. Her age 62 years and a resident of Hardin Co., Ky. She named Mahala (Van Metre) Prather, age 27, and Edward Rawlings Van Meter as her only surviving children. Date of Widow's death, July 16, 1849. (Abstracts from Original Applications in Dept. of Pensions Interior Bureau, Washington, D. C. "Duke, Shepherd, Van Metre Families" by S. Gordon Smyth.

CHILDREN OF CAPT. JACOB VAN METRE (1752-1838) and
his 1st wife CATHERINE COVENHAVEN

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----|---------------------|
| 1. Abraham Van Meter (moved to Ill.) | m. | Sally Van Meter |
| 2. William Prather Van Meter | m. | Elizabeth Goodin |
| 3. Jacob Van Meter, Jr. b. 1787 | m. | Ruth Spurrier |
| 4. George Washington Van Meter | m. | Ellen Carson |
| 5. Henry Van Meter (moved to Ill.) | m. | Easter |
| 6. John Van Meter | m. | Rachel Watson |
| 7. Hannah Van Meter (moved to Ind.) | m. | Ebenezer Richardson |
| 8. Rebecca Van Meter | m. | Jesse Morrison |
| 9. Ruth L. Van Meter | m. | 1st Thomas Davis |
| | m. | 2nd Giles Chambers |

CHILDREN OF JACOB VAN METRE and
His 2nd wife REBECCA RAWLINGS

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|--|
| 10. Nancy Van Meter b. 4 Oct 1796 | m. | Joseph Van Metre (cousin)
s. of his father's half- bro., Nathan |
| 11. Mahala Van Meter | m. | 1st William Prather
2nd George Milburn |
| 12. Letitia Van Meter | m. | John or Jacob Watson |
| 13. Edward Rawlings Van Meter | m. | Mary Bird |

Captain Jacob Van Metre was 86 years old when he died April 12, 1838 and he does not seem to have come to the end of life with his family around him. In answer to the suit the widow filed after his death for Dowery Rights, the rebuttal claimed she had not been living with her husband for several years, but had gone to live with a daughter, Mrs. Mahala Prather, which must have been true, as the suit was dismissed by agreement of both parties. A sad ending for one who fought for American Independence and the Conquest of the Northwest Territory and the settlement of Hardin County.

Capt. Jacob Van Metre (1752-1838) was given lot #232 of the 149,000 acres granted by Va. 1786 to be divided proportionately according to services in Illinois Regiment of Virginia under Gen. George Rogers Clark. It states he served from Feb 1778 to the end of the War. Marched on Kaskaskia and was allowed 2,156 acres in Ky. and he was allowed 6,666-2/3 acres of land in Clark County Indiana for his Services with Gen. George Rogers Clark in Kaskaskia and taking N. W. Territory. This is recorded in Clark Co. Indiana land Grants.

*November 7 1975 Excerpt from Ruth Sims letter. "Miss Alma Swan told me her grandmother Hannah Richardson said Capt Jacob gave each child 500 acres of land. Lucky I talked Miss Alma into giving her tornado torn copy of Samuel Gordon Smyths Genealogy "Duke-Shepherd-Van Meter Families" to Ky. Historical Society as 2 years later she was burned to death in a fire at Presbyterian Home for Aged in Louisville.

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Hardin County Enterprise – 1971 HOMES WITH A HISTORY. (Second in a series)

This dwelling on the Bacon Creek Road near Glendale was built in 1797 by Capt. Jacob Van Meter. The present owner is William Hill Jenkins, tradition says that the porthole in the wide chimney was used as a place from which to fire, at Indians. The chimney is 17 ½ feet wide, and it once served two fireplaces on each floor. First-story floors were laid on huge logs which can be seen from the basement. Capt. Jacob Van Meter was an officer in the Revolutionary War. This is one of 30 homes and other sites in Hardin County which have been given historical designation by the Kentucky Heritage Commission.

August 23, 1975 - Excerpt from Mrs. Lee Sims letter.

"Oh yes - I found a letter that said Capt. Jacob and 2nd wife Rebecca were married on Sunday after church meeting of Severn's Valley Church at the home of Jacob Van Meter, Jr. son of Jacob and Letitia. He, it was who inherited the home place of Jacob and Letitia so it was in that house that had been Jacob and Letitia's. Jacob was 1st cousin of son Jacob and Rebecca was niece of Jacob son of Jacob and Letitia. That Jacob sold his home to Goehagan and built Doe Run so his wife Elizabeth Rhodes could be nearer to her family who lived in what is now Muhlenburg County.

November 7, 1975 - Excerpt from Mrs. Lee Sims letter.

"He had an enormous fireplace, would cut a log (big tree) size of back of fireplace then they built a fire in front of the backlogs, my grandmother said. We were searching for his grave but it was across The Valley Creek and had been destroyed. An old man at Glendale told me he was buried there and his first wife also (2nd wife Rebecca buried with her children at Gilead) He said Chenault destroyed the graves which had stones piled over graves and used the stones for stepping stones to the barns. The old mill he ran was torn down also. I don't think the stones could have been engraved but maybe they were. "

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From Ruth Bruner Sims: (Granddaughter of John Buckner Tabb)

"Roberta, I'm so concerned because we do not know of John Chisman Tabb and wife Elizabeth and Robert and Mary Tabb's burial place. If we cannot locate them and mark them this generation it will never be done and I'm afraid we will never locate them."

"Hardin County around southern end had no roads but dirt for years. It must have been in the 1940's when they began roads of gravel. We left there because of no roads and went to Harrodsburg, where roads were Macadam. We left in 1910. "

"John and Elizabeth Tabb died during the Civil War days. Living was terrible in Hardin County then. I've heard my grandmother tell about it. The North came down going south and over ran Hardin Co., again and again. Coming over at West Point, Brandenburg, etc. It was a terrible life and after raising 16 children I'm sure they had nothing left, as I can find no court settlement. Some people have said there were papers signed by John C. Tabb held by members of the family but I've never seen them. I guess he just sold off his land to get money to live on a little bit at a time but Pm about sure they were buried at White Mills where they lived. Blanche Tabb Cardin (granddaughter of John Buckner Tabb) died in January and she is the last of Uncle George Daniel Tabb's children. It was Uncle George who paid for Aunt Lizzie's (Elizabeth Tabb 1830-1913 - his aunt) funeral and asked the other nieces and nephews to help him but got little or no response, but she would have known where they buried Aunt Lizzie Tabb. It was after we went to Harrodsburg and I know nothing about it and don't know who to ask if she is buried at White Mills, supposedly where her parents were buried. Time erases all these traces we leave behind us!!!"

Roads everywhere are now blacktopped. White Mills cemetery has been cleared and Carrie Van Nort's grave found. This year (1974) it is better than ever according to Iva Jeffries. We plan on checking in October for the above mentioned graves.



13 February 1988
Eva Pope
1133 N. Ridgewood
Wichita, KS 67208

Dear cousin,

I am sorry it has taken me a month to answer your letter. Since Christmas I have been working 40 hours a week at McDowell Publications new book store and genealogy research center in Owensboro. Also I have been trying to finish a commission for a book on the Todd & Thruston families of Daviess County, Ky.

Thank you for all the wonderful material on the Bruner, Van Meter and Wilson lines. I hope you are able to find the page with William Lee's consent for his daughter, Winney, to marry Samuel Wilson. I have several questions regarding the Samuel Martin Wilson family bible record. Would you please compare with your copy my interpretation on the enclosed sheets? Where I have entered ?'s can you help me clarify what the original had? Also concerning the Wilsons I have the following questions:

- Do you know if Susannah Howard Wilson (1806-1870) was born in Ohio County, Ky. or not?
- Do you have copies of the Civil War records of Samuel Martin Wilson or his brother Robert N. Wilson?

- The birth entry for Susan. Samantha Wilson, d/o Samuel M. Wilson & Elvira Jane Liles, I read to be 23 Nov. 1872. Her grandson, Daniel W. Jones, in the House of Daniel gave her birth as 22 Nov. 1872. David Arthur Myers in his book has the later date but in some of his older material he listed 23 Nov.
- Was Anna Bell, d/o Samuel M. Wilson & Elvira Jane Liles, born 13 or 19 June 1878? Mr. Myers in his book has the first date but the age accompanying her death entry in the bible would make her born on the 19th June not the 13th.
- Mary Belle Haynes, the second wife of Samuel Martin Wilson, was she born 31 July 1860 Ohio County, Ky., to Francis Whitely Haynes & Helen M. Stephens, and died 22 March 1935? Where did she die and where was she buried? Was her first husband, Harvey J. Barker, do you know when and where they married? On the 17 June 1887 at Rosine, Ohio County, Ky. an Alva Whitely Haynes married Margaret E. Ashford, one of my relatives. Do you know anything about him? On his marriage bond it was recorded that he was age 21, born Spencer County, Ind., father born Hancock County, Ky. and mother born Washington County, Ky. In 1895 he was supposed to be living in Daviess County, Ky.

For some time I had debated about the age of Mary Bruner and whether or not she was a daughter of Ruth Van Meter Davis. I have concluded that the age reported on her tombstone was in error. You would think that what was written in stone on a grave would be correct but I have found many instances where that is not the case. For example, on the monument of my great grandmother it is recorded that she was born in 1871, however, she appears in the 1870 census. A baptismal record and numerous other sources prove that she was born in 1869.

I believe on Mary Davis Bruner's monument her age was reported to be about two years older than she actually was. A Hardin County, Ky. deed gives proof that Mary was a daughter of Ruth Van Meter Davis. In 1981 while at the Hardin County Courthouse I found a notebook of typed abstracts of unrecorded deeds. Among these was a November 1843 deed involving the sale of land by the heirs of Ruth Van Meter Chambers. In the record it was stated that the aforesaid Polly Bruner et al were children of the aforementioned Ruth Chambers. I made a xerox of the abstract. I had wanted to get a copy of the original record but no one seemed to know where it was and being near the end of the day when I found it I soon ran out of time. The same deed may have been recorded in Hancock County.

Later I found that the same deed abstract had been published in the Kentucky Ancestors, Vol. XI, #2, 1975, a copy of which is enclosed. The land sold by Ruth's heirs had been given to her and her children by her father, Jacob Van Meter. This record names Mary Bruner as a child of Ruth and also proves that she was a heir of Jacob Van Meter. Consequently the age reported on Mary's monument has to be wrong. Instead of being aged 55 years and born about 1796 (a year before Ruth Van Meter's marriage to Thomas Davis). I believe Mary was probably the first child of Thomas Davis and Ruth Van Meter, born about 1798 and was thus about age 53 when she died in 1851. In the household of Thomas Davis in the 1810 Hardin County, Ky. census there are three girls aged 10-16. These were probably his daughters, Mary, Rebecca & Elizabeth, born in the years 1798, 1799 & 1800 respectively. Several sources indicate that Elizabeth, who married in 1816, was 16 years old when she married, which would make her born in 1800.

I have enclosed a copy of a 1975 letter written by Ruth Bruner Sims, of Frankfort, Ky. to Dr. E. S. Bruner of Owensboro, Ky., concerning the 1843 deed of Ruth Chambers' heir; as well as two other pages of notes on the Davis family transcribed by Dr. Bruner from information sent to him by Mrs. Sims. In 1980 I obtained these copies from the late Dr. Stewart Bruner (1898-1982). Dr. Bruner and his older sister, Ida Grey Bruner Berry (1882-1961) I do not believe have received just credit for their major contribution in the preservation of the history of the Bruner family of Hancock County, Ky. His sister had been a family historian since early in life, recording page after page of notes on the Bruners and their related families. Late in life Dr. Bruner became interested in preserving his sister's work, he took her handwritten notes, organized and added to it. His material was photocopied by Marcus Whitler and since has been widely circulated, with copies in many of the local libraries.

These pages on the Davis family, from Dr. Bruner's papers, were the source for the section on the Davis family in Henry Bruner's book. Dr. Bruner in his papers as well as in my interviews with him stated that he got these notes from Ruth Bruner Sims. On 6 Aug. 1981 while in Frankfort, Ky. I briefly talked to Mrs. Sims on the phone (she was then 87, resided at 510 Capital, phone 223-7908). She said that what research she had Dr. Stewart Bruner of Owensboro also had and I could get it from him. She would not answer any more questions about the Davis material and ended by saying that the research on the Davis line was not done by her but by Dr. Bruner's sister and suggested I talk to him. In Dr. Bruner's notes it is written that until Mrs. Sims sent him notes on the Davis line "the best that I had, was, that Thomas Davis, my Great Great Grandfather, had married, as his second wife, Ruth Van Meter", at that point he had nothing on the origin of either Thomas Davis or Ruth Van Meter.

The claim that Thomas Davis was a first cousin of Pres. Jefferson Davis is clearly false. The ancestry of Jeff Davis has been well documented. It is true that his father was named Samuel and his grandfather Evan. However, it is soundly proven that Jefferson Davis' father, Samuel Emory Davis, was the only son of Evan Davis & Mary (Emory) Williams; he did not have a brother Allen Davis. Jefferson Davis' ancestry appears in the book The Davis Family In Wales and America, H. A. Davis, Washington 1927, pp.289-303. I have not yet been able to locate a copy of this book, in most of the general biographies of Jefferson Davis it is used as a reference. This source needs to be checked for both Thomas and Allen Davis. If you ever find a copy and check it please let me know.

Since the connection between Allen Davis and Evan Davis is false I also have doubts about the alleged relationship between Thomas Davis and Allen Davis. There was an Allen Davis of Alexandria, Va., who received a 500 acre grant in Jefferson County, Ky., and who later divided the tract among his four sons: Thomas, Edward, Allen Jr. and Benjamin. I have found the following two references to the Allen Davis grant:

Abstracts of Jefferson County, Ky. Deed Book 4 (1792-1798), p279: Indenture 22 Oct. 1795. Between Allen Davis, Sr., of Alexandria, Va. and Thomas Davis, of the same location. To said Thomas Davis, heirs etc., for money consideration, one tract of 100 acres of land in Jefferson county, Ky., beginning at corner to Peter Balie' & being a part of a 500 acre grant by Land Warrant of Patrick Henry unto said Allen Davis, 2 Dec. 1785, #1938, surveyed by Wm. Pope. Wit. Hanson Davis, Edward Davis, Allen Davis,

Benjamin Davis, 22 Oct. 1795. Said Allen Davis Sr. acknowledged this before John Dundas, Mayor.

Kentucky Court of Appeals, Vol. I, Cook & Cook, p346: Kentucky Court of Appeals Book 6, p168, Indenture, July 27, 1802, Allen Davis of Amherst County, Va. to his son, Allen Davis Jr., of Alexandria in the District of Columbia. Whereas a survey was made for Allen Davis in Jefferson County, Ky. on June 20, 1783 by virtue of a treasury warrant for 500 acres of land, beginning corner to Peter Bailey's survey, thence northwest. And whereas Allen Davis has already conveyed to his sons Thomas Davis and Edward Davis each 100 acres of land adjoining each other at one end of the said survey. Now this indenture witnesses that Allen Davis for \$1.00 and the natural love and affection he bears for his son Allen Davis, Jr., conveys to Allen Davis, Jr. 100 acres adjoining the 100 acres conveyed to said Edward Davis, to be laid off in the same manner (the said Allen Davis the father having also this day conveyed the residue to his son Benjamin Davis). Witnessed by Nathaniel Offutt, Benjamin Davis, and David Sutton. Recorded by the Kentucky Court of Appeals on January 4, 1803.

Both of these deed abstracts were from published books and both describe the same tract. At the Jefferson County, Ky. Courthouse I tried unsuccessfully to locate the old deed books, hoping to check for some record of Thomas Davis, the son of Allen, transferring the 100 acres. In the clerk's office they have only deed books from 1930 and since no one in the office knew about the older books they must not have been available there. Possibly because of space problems they were microfilmed, with copies at the Louisville Library or the Filson Club, but if so it would seem that a copy would also be at the courthouse. The next time I get to Louisville I will check further.

Nothing in these two records suggests that the Thomas Davis, son of Allen, is the same Thomas Davis, who lived in Hardin County, Ky. Note that in the Davis notes on the enclosed pages as well as in Henry Bruner's book it is stated that Allen Davis deeded the 100 acres to his son Thomas on 21 Dec. 1785 and the original grant was dated 12 Feb. 1785. In the Jefferson County, Ky. deed referred to before it was recorded that the sale was on 22 Oct. 1795 and the original grant was dated 2 Dec. 1785 (? in the Ky. Court of Appeals abstract the grant was listed as being surveyed on 20 June 1783). The Jefferson County deed indicates that at the time of the sale, 22 Oct. 1795, Thomas Davis (s/o Allen) was then residing in Alexandria, Va. Our ancestor Thomas Davis in February of the same year married Ester/Easter Bell in Hardin County, Ky. This fact makes me seriously doubt that the two Thomases are the same person.

The first definite record I have found of our Thomas Davis is his Feb. 1795 marriage in Hardin County, Ky. I was not able to locate him in the Hardin County tax records until 1799. Have you checked these records, I wonder if I missed him? If he was not in the 1795, 1796 & 1797 Hardin County tax books (the 1798 list is missing) I wonder where he was at? I checked the deed and will books at the Hardin County Courthouse and found none recorded for Thomas Davis. In the Hardin County tax lists of 1799-1811 he is not shown as paying any taxes on any land. If he was the son of Allen Davis he thus would have to have sold the 100 acres he got from his father between 1795-1799 and the deed would have to have been recorded in Jefferson County, Ky. I believe the Jefferson County deeds could prove or disprove that the Thomas Davis of Hardin County, Ky. is also the son of Allen Davis. The Jefferson County tax records also need

to be checked after 1795 to see if Allen Davis son, Thomas, came there to live on his 100 acres (the tax lists would list who the land had been originally granted to, in this case, Allen Davis).

I hope you are feeling better since your last letter. If you have any more clues or ideas about Thomas Davis please let me know. Bye for now.

Sincerely yours,
Jerry Long
Owensboro, KY

P.S: I later checked the Jefferson County, KY tax lists and in the lists of 1789 thru 1799 no Thomas Davis appeared.



Queries on Davis, Vanmeter, Tabb, Cole & Chambers, Ancestral News, Vol. 21, No. 1 (Vine Grove, KY: Ancestral Trails Historical Society, Spring 1996), 39-40:

DAVIS, VANMETER, BELL

Thomas Davis was born about 1775. He married Ruth Vanmeter, 1797, in Hardin Co., KY, and he died there 1812-1816. Is there any proof of who he was the son of? Is he the same Thomas Davis that married Ester Bell in Hardin Co., KY in 1795? If so, were there any children by this marriage? Member #1042 Jerry Long, 1701 Alexander Ave., Owensboro, KY 42303

TABB, DAVIS

Interested in exchanging data on the 16 children of John Chisman Tabb (1785-1865) & Elizabeth Vanmeter Davis (c1799-1867) of White Mills, Hardin Co., KY. Member #1042 Jerry Long, 1701 Alexander Ave., Owensboro, KY 42303

COLE, DAVIS, PETTY

Harbin P. Cole married Rebecca Davis in Hardin Co., KY in 1815. Listed in the 1820 Hardin County census and in the 1830 census of Ohio County, KY. Where did they go after that? Who were their children? His mother was Elizabeth Petty Cole. Who was his father? Member #1042 Jerry Long, 1701 Alexander Ave., Owensboro, KY 42303

CHAMBERS, DAVIS

Giles Chambers born in 1760's (?England), married Mrs. Ruth Vanmeter Davis in Hardin Co., KY in 1817. In 1805 he may have been living at Dayton, Ohio., KY. Have found him in KY first in 1808 in Green Co., KY. By 1810 was living in Breckinridge Co. Later lived Ohio & Hancock Cos., KY. He died in Hancock County in 1842. By his marriage to Ruth there was one son, Henry Vanmeter Chambers (1819-1899). He also had several children by a prior marriage. Who was his first wife & who were their children? Member #1042 Jerry Long, 1701 Alexander Ave., Owensboro, KY 42303



14 May 1996
200 N. Fairfax Blvd.
Ranson, WV 25438

Mr. Jerry Long
1701 Alexander Avenue
Owensboro, KY 42303

Dear Mr. Long,

Yesterday, I received my copy of the Spring 1996 Ancestral News and noticed your querie regarding the Tabb and Davis families- I have enclosed the information I have in my computer on John Chisman Tabb, Elizabeth Vanmeter Davis and their children. I have considerably more data on some of their children if you are interested. if you can tell me specifically who you are interested in, I will be glad to send you what I have. Most of my data on this family came from census records, cemetery records, marriage records, etc. from Hardin County available from Ancestral Trails Historical Society. Should you notice any errors, omissions or other mistakes, please provide me with the correct information.

I have been working on the Tabb family for over ten years and currently have over 5,000 individual records in my computer on the family and related families. I hope some day to publish a book on the descendants of Humphrey Tabb, the immigrant, from whom I descended. If you have any information on members of this family that you would like to contribute, I would greatly appreciate it.

Thanks for your help!
Sincerely,
George E. Tabb, Jr.

4 June 1996
George E. Tabb, Jr.
200 N. Fairfax Blvd.
Ranson, WV 25438

Dear Mr. Tabb:

Thank you for the data you sent on John Chisman Tabb & Elizabeth V. Davis & their sixteen children. There were several items I did not have. In addition to what you sent I have additional notes on four of the children:

- #6 Nancy Tabb Lampton according to her death certificate (copy enclosed) died at Sonora, Hardin County, KY, on 28 February 1912 and was buried at Sonora.
- #9 Miss Elizabeth Tabbt according to her death certificate (copy enclosed) died in Hardin County, KY on 17 January 1913 and was buried at the Valley Creek Baptist Church Cemetery in .Hardin County.

- #12 Bailey Tabb according to his death certificate (copy enclosed) died on 10 January (not 3 Jan) 1917.
- #13. Malvina Tabb Handley according to the Index to Kentucky Deaths died on 28 June 1922 in Hardin County, KY. I have not yet gotten a copy of her death certificate.

I am a descendant of Mary Davis Bruner (1796/1800-1851), a sister of your ancestor, Elizabeth Davis Tabb (1798-1867). Have you done any research on the Davis family? Do you know of any clues on the parentage of our ancestor, Thomas Davis? I have estimated that he was born circa 1775 and died in Hardin County, KY between 1812-1816. Do you know if he married Ester Bell in Hardin County, KY in 1795 before marrying Ruth Vanmeter in 1797? There is some question on the year of birth of my 4th great-grandmother, Mary Davis Bruner. Her age as reported on her gravestone and in the 1850 census suggests she was born in 1796, which if correct would make her born prior to Thomas Davis & Ruth Vanmeter's marriage. Mary would seem to be Ruth's daughter by the fact she was named in the Hardin County, KY deeds as an heir to Jacob Vanmeter (Ruth's father).

Has a tombstone and/or a gravesite of Elizabeth V. Davis Tabb (1798-1867) been located? What source(s) record her full date of birth (2 December 1798)? If you ever publish a book or any listing of the descendants of John Chisman Tabb & Elizabeth V. Davis please keep me in mind - I would very much like to purchase a copy.

Thanks again for answering my query! Good luck in your research.

Yours truly,
Jerry tong

1701 Alexander Ave.
Owensboro, KY 42303

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July 20, 1996
Mrs. C. H. Higdon
2602 Merriwood Drive
Louisville, KY 40299

Dear Mr. Long,

I was looking over some of my old Ancestral Trail publications and noticed your query concerning Harbin P. Cole.

I believe this is the son Of Joseph Cole who died in Mercer Co. His widow's name was Elizabeth. You might be interested in researching Mercers' Will Bk. C on Joseph Cole; pg. 120 Inventory, pg. 122 Widow's dower, pg. 123 Division of property or estate.

His children were:

George Cole who married Rhoda Powell on 13 Mar 1790, Mercer Co. Mary Cole
Jesse Cole
John Cole (who I believe to be my ancestor)
Sally Cole who married George Neff on 14 Aug 1806, Mercer Co. Harbin Cole said to have gone
to Hardin Co. & later Green Co., IN
Betsy Cole who married John Ayres on 28 Sept 1813, Mercer Co.
Nancy Cole who married John McBrayer on 7 Apr 1796, Mercer Co.
Francis Cole who married Mary Harrison on 24 Aug 1802, Mercer Co.

The children Harbin and Betsy (Elizabeth?) were small children when their father died, or under
age.

If you believe this is the gentleman you are researching shall be glad to copy what deeds I have.
There does not seem to have been a will.

Sincerely,
Mrs. C. H. Higdon

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e-mail from Richard A. Johnson (rjohnson@plix.com) to Jerry Long, 8 July 1999:

-----Original Message-----

From: Richard A. Johnson [<mailto:rjohnson@plix.com> <<mailto:rjohnson@plix.com>>]

Sent: Thursday, July 08, 1999 9:53 PM

To: kentucky@dcpl.lib.ky.us

Subject: Research Trip

Jerry Long, I am planning a Genealogical Research trip to the Ohio County, KY. area. Several
lines of my family came through the Daviess County, Ohio County KY. area. From there they
went to the Warrick County Indiana area. Is there any advice you could give me on doing
research in your area. My family lines are CHAMBERS, MILLER, BARNETT, HODGES,
MORRIS. Thank You. Rich Johnson.

Richard A. Johnson, Kettle Falls, WA.

e-mail from Jerry Long to Richard A. Johnson (rjohnson@plix.com), 12 July 1999:

Mr. Johnson,

My name is Jerry Long. I am replying to your e-mail that you sent to the Kentucky Room of the
Owensboro, KY library a few days ago.

I had saved references to the Chambers family that you had contributed in 1990 to the "Forgotten
Pathways" of the Hancock County, KY genealogy society. I have done a little research on the
family of Giles Chambers of Hardin, Ohio & Hancock Cos., KY. I am not a Chambers
descendant but Giles Chambers' 2nd wife, Ruth Vanmeter Davis is my 5th great grandmother.
Have you made any other discoveries on Giles Chambers since the "Forgotten Pathways" article?

To do search in the Ohio-Hancock County area I would suggest first the Courthouses. After this I would recommend two other research sites: the Hancock County Archives, on the 3rd floor of the old Courthouse in Hawesville, KY and the Kentucky Room of the Owensboro library. Our library has one of the best collections in the Western Kentucky area.

I hope you have a great trip. Best wishes,
Jerry Long

e-mail from Richard A. Johnson (rjohnson@plix.com) to Jerry Long, 12 July 1999:

Thank you for the reply. No, I have not found much more on Giles CHAMBERS. I hope to find more on my trip to your area. Rich Johnson

e-mail from Richard A. Johnson (rjohnson@plix.com) to Jerry Long, 7 October 1999:

Jerry, Finally got all the info. together for you that I promised. I sent it today. Hope you can use it. Maybe we will solve the Giles CHAMBERS. Puzzle. Thanks for the help you gave me on my research trip to your area. I enjoyed seeing the area where 1/2 of my mothers family came from. Beautiful Country. If you ever come across anything on Colmore MORRIS, I would appreciate you contacting me. Rich Johnson.

Richard A. Johnson
Kettle Falls, WA

Letter [Chambers] : From Richard A. Johnson, 15 Barstow Bridge Spur Road, Kettle Falls, WA 99141-9542, 12 October 1999:

Sent 42 pages related to Giles Chambers (c1760-1842), whose 2nd wife, Ruth Vanmeter Davis, was my 5th great-grandmother. Among them were copies of their 1817 marriage record from Hardin County, KY.

e-mail from Jerry Long to Richard A. Johnson (rjohnson@plix.com), 13 October 1999:

Mr. Johnson,

I have received the pages that you mailed. Thank you very much for the copies. I was really glad to get the marriage record of Giles Chambers & Ruth (Vanmeter) Davis. She is my 5th great-grandmother. According to my records she was born in 1779 to Jacob Vanmeter & Catherine Covenhaven, & she died in Hancock Co., KY in 1843. Family lore reports that she was buried in the Blackford Baptist Church Cemetery but she has no monument there. It makes sense that she was buried there and possibly Giles Chambers also. Her son-in-law, George W. Bruner, donated the land for the church and cemetery in 1825. The George W. & Mary (Davis) Bruner home place adjoined the church property on the north side. Several of Ruth's relatives had already been buried there by the time of her death.

I have that Giles & Ruth's only child, Henry Vanmeter Chambers, was born 1 Mar 1819 & died 23 Jan 1899. He married Sarah Elizabeth Price in Hardin County, KY on 3 Sep 1844. They are buried at the Blackford Baptist Church in Hancock County, KY. John Chambers (born 1814-15 KY), son of Giles Chambers & his first wife, you reported in your article in the "Forgotten Pathways" of Hancock Co.KY died on 27 Nov 1868. Do you know where his death occurred (in 1850 living Warrick Co., IN), did he also die in Warrick County, IN, as did his brothers Abraham & William? John married Lucinda about 1839. Do you know who & where he married? I did not find his marriage in Ohio, Daviess or Hancock Cos., KY or Spencer Co., IN.

I enjoyed your visit to the Owensboro Library. Best wishes and thanks again,
Jerry Long

e-mail from Richard A. Johnson (rjohnson@plix.com) to Jerry Long, 26 December 1999:

Jerry, While looking through some of my records, I came across something on your family. Did you know that the VANMETER family came from the Washington County area of Pennsylvania? The were members of the Goshen Baptist Church. An entry in the books dated Sept.18,1779, discloses that the following persons ask for letters of dismission: Jacob VANMETER,Sr., John GARRARD, John VENTREES, John EASTWOOD, Joseph EASTWOOD, John GATES, Issac DYE, David HENTON, Abraham VANMETER, Jacob VANMETER, Jr., Rebecca VENTRESS, Letitia VANMETER, Hannah DYE, Mary NDERWOOD, Mary HENTON and Hannah EASTWOOD. It states that they were going to the Severn Valley, near Elizabethtown, Kentucky. If you donot have this info., I will send photocopy's of it and other info. I have on this area. This is the area of Pennsylvania that I think my John MILLER came from.[Remember he is the one I found the Court Case in the Ohio County Courthouse proving he was a Rev. War Vet.] I think he might have been in the 8th Pennsylvania Line, which was recruited in this area. Also, the info. you asked for about John CHAMBERS. Do you know Don PARKE? His email is dparke58@evansville.net. He should have the info. You want on John CHAMBERS. Keep in touch. Rich Johnson.

e-mail from Jerry Long to Richard A. Johnson (rjohnson@plix.com), 8 January 2000:

Richard,

Sorry it has taken me so long to reply to your message. First, I had to get through the holidays and then this past Monday Owensboro was hit by a tornado. It just missed my neighborhood.

The Jacob Vanmeter, Jr. that you mentioned in your e-mail is my 6th great-grandfather. Yes, I would very much like to have copies of the Washington County, PA records that you referred to. I do not have any thing from that county. If there is anything that I could lookup here for you in exchange please let me know.

Thanks for your offer!!
Take care and best wishes,
Jerry Long

e-mail from Richard A. Johnson (rjohnson@plix.com) to Jerry Long, 8 January 2000:

Jerry, I read about the Tornado. I hope it didn't cause too much damage to your area. I will photocopy the info. I have on the VANMETER family and send it as soon as I can. I also sent for a book about SW Pennsylvania that has info. on the VANMETER family. As soon as I get it I will send you that info. also. If you ever come across that Probate information on Colmore MORRIS in Daviess County, I would appreciate having it. Rich Johnson, Kettle Falls, WA.

e-mail from Richard A. Johnson (rjohnson@plix.com) to Jerry Long, 12 January 2000:

Jerry, I misplaced your mailing address. Could you send it to me? Thanks.
Rich Johnson.

Richard A. Johnson
Kettle Falls, WA
[sent him my mailing address on 13 Jan 2000]

Letter [Vanmeter] : From Richard A. Johnson, 15 Barstow Bridge Spur Road, Kettle Falls, WA 99141, 22 January 2000:

Sent 3 pages related to the Jacob Vanmeter family in Pennsylvania moving to KY in 1779.

Letter [Vanmeter] : From Richard A. Johnson, 15 Barstow Bridge Spur Road, Kettle Falls, WA 99141, 28 January 2000:

Sent 11 pages on the Vanmeter family from the book The Tenmile Country and Its Pioneer Families.

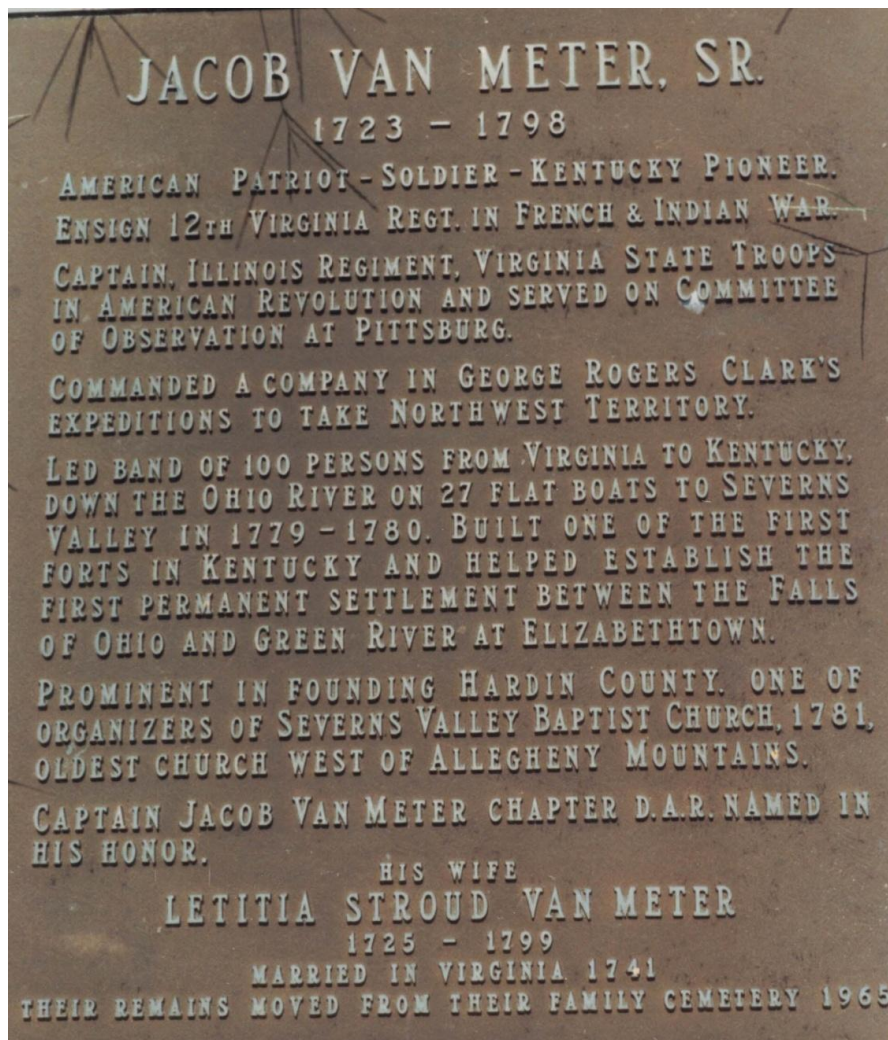
e-mail from Jerry Long to Richard A. Johnson (rjohnson@plix.com), 20 February 2000:

Richard:

Thanks for the Vanmeter pages that you sent. They motivated me to review and organize my Vanmeter file. On the Vanmeters I have been content with just copying published articles and books and have never seriously studied or analyzed what was presented. So much has been written about the Vanmeters and since the sources that I had seen were all consistent and did not contradict each other I assumed there was no question about the lineage. Not until I read the pages you sent from the book "The Tenmile Country" did I realize there were some questions and different theories on the lineage of Jacob Vanmeter (1752-1838), father of Ruth Vanmeter Davis Chambers, and of his alleged father, Henry Vanmeter. Hundreds of pages that I had seen all said he was the son of Henry Vanmeter (1717-1793, & wife, Eva Pyle), who died in Berkeley Co., VA and this Henry was the brother of Jacob Vanmeter (1723-1798) of Greene Co., PA & Hardin Co., KY. But after reviewing the pages I have on the family I was struck by the dreadful lack of original documents that proved and supported the conclusions put forward. They all seemed to be rewriting something that someone else had previously written.

I do know that: Jacob Vanmeter (1752-1838) was born in Frederick County, VA and had resided in Berkeley Co., VA & in the adjoining Bedford Co., PA before coming to Kentucky. In the latter county he & his wife, Catherine, sold land on 21 Aug 1772. Other members of Catherine's family, the Covenhovens, were also residing in Bedford Co., PA at this time. In Jan 1778 he was commissioned an ensign at Fort Henry, VA. The following April he helped recruit a company that marched under Capt. William Harrod to the Falls of the Ohio (Louisville). He is the Jacob listed on page 255 in the book, "The Tenmile Country". After 8 months in the service he came to Kentucky in 1779 and settled in the Severn Valley (now Hardin Co., KY). A letter written in 1891 by Henton Vanmeter states his grandfather, Jacob Vanmeter (1752-1838) & wife Catherine (Cohenoe), came in the party with Jacob Vanmeter (1723-1798), who in other sources is referred to as his uncle.

Happy hunting and best wishes,
Jerry Long



Memorial plaque for Jacob Van Meter, Sr. (1723-1798) in the Elizabethtown City Cemetery, Hardin County, KY. The late Ruth Bruner Sims (1893-1991), of Frankfort, KY, was instrumental in having the plaque erected. Pictures were taken by Jerry Long on 18 August 1980.



Kentucky State Historical highway marker commemorating site of fort built by Jacob Van Meter, Sr. (1723-1798); on Highway 62 on the southern city limits of Elizabethtown, Hardin County, KY.