

(Squire) Samuel Pate Cemetery

Hancock County, KY

By Jerry Long
Owensboro, KY
c.2022



Cemetery is near the bank of the Ohio River about three miles east of Lewisport, KY. Turn north off of the Hawesville-Lewisport Road (River Road, Hwy 334) into lane at historical marker for the Pate House. On farm owned by Eli Gregory about 50 feet northeast of the historic Pate House. The inscriptions on the monuments in the cemetery were copied by Jerry long on 28 July 1986 and rechecked 17 November 1988. To obtain a more accurate listing of the cemetery I crossed checked my listing with a recording of the cemetery made on 27 June 1927 by Emma Dunn Mastin (1889-1973), a prominent local historian. Information in parenthesis was on the monument. Additional biographical information was added in brackets below each entry.

Beauchamp, John H. (died in his 29th year)
[son of William Beauchamp & Sarah Morris; married Agnes
Jane McMillen, 17 September 1840 Hancock County, KY]

20 Jan 1846



Bishop, Joshua (aged 50 yrs, 5 ms, 3 ds) 8 May 1794
[married Juda Henrietta Gabbert, 23 February 1836 Hancock County, KY]

11 Oct 1844



Gabbert, Elisabeth S.
(d/o James & Martha L.; aged 23yrs & 10 ms)
[daughter of James Gabbert & Martha Lee Thrasher]

27 Dec 1827

18 Nov 1851



Gabbert, James (aged 49 yrs & 11 ms)
[son of John Wesley Gabbert & Judith Tuley; married Martha
Lee Thrasher, 9 December 1816 Breckinridge County, KY]

10 Apr 1844



Gabbert, Margaret A.

no dates



Gabbert, Martha Lee
(consort of James; aged 59 yrs, 10 ms, 9 ds)
[daughter of Eli Thrasher & Henrietta Lamar; married James
Gabbert, 9 December 1816 Breckinridge County, KY]

13 Dec 1793

5 Nov 1853



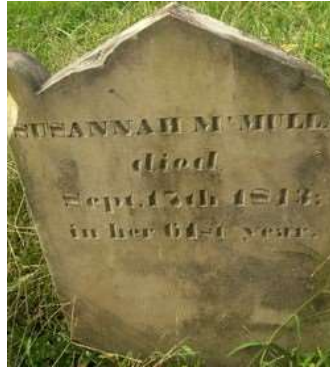
House, William, Senr. (died in the 38th year of his age)
[married Susannah Lamar, October 1805 Frederick County, MD]

17 Dec 1813



M'Mullan, Susannah (died in her 61st year)
[daughter of William Bishop Lamar & Elizabeth Smith; married
William House, October 1805 Frederick County, MD and Archibald
Neal McMullan, 13 March 1817 Breckinridge County, KY]

17 Sep 1843



Meadows, Nancy Jane (w/o W. W.; aged 31 yrs, 1 mo, 2 ds)
[daughter of Archibald Neal McMullan & Susannah Lamar; married
John H. Beauchamp, 17 September 1840 Hancock County, KY and
William W. Meadows, 14 May 1848 Hancock County, KY]

17 Jun 1852



Pate, George “(colored)”

23 Apr 1794

29 May 1867



Pate, Lucy “(colored)”

5 Nov 1797

1 Dec 1865

Pate, Samuel (aged 53 yrs, 11 ms, 27 ds)	27 Jan 1795	24 Jan 1849
[Samuel Crawford Pate, son of John Pate & Jane Crawford; married Arritta Thrasher, 11 March 1824 Ohio County, KY]		
Arritta	31 May 1806	2 Jan 1882
(w/o Samuel; aged 75 yrs, 7 ms, 1 dy)		
[daughter of Eli Thrasher & Henrietta Lamar; married Samuel Crawford Pate, 11 March 1824 Ohio County, KY; names of Samuel & Arritta on same monument]		



Pate, James M.

22 Jan 1826

10 Oct 1875

[James Monroe Pate, son of Samuel Crawford Pate & Arritta Thrasher; he was single]



Thrasher, Caroline (d/o E. & C.; aged 15 yrs, 5 ms, 9 ds)
[daughter of Eli Thrasher, Jr. & Caroline Meeker]

2 Jun 1851



Thrasher, Caroline (w/o E; aged 25 yrs, 5 ms, 14 ds)

25 Dec 1835

[Caroline Meeker married Eli Thrasher, Jr., 27 November 1834 Hancock County, KY]



Thrasher, Eli (aged 84 yrs, 8 ms, 13 ds) 18 May 1771
[son of Thomas Thrasher & Martha Lee; married
Henrietta Lamar, 23 October 1790 Frederick County, MD]

1 Feb 1856



Thrasher, Eli (aged 39 yrs, 6 ms, 26 ds)
[son of Eli Thrasher & Henrietta Lamar; married Caroline
Meeker, 27 November 1834 Hancock County]

16 May 1842



Thrasher, Henrietta (w/o Eli; died in her 53rd year)
[daughter of William Bishop Lamar & Elizabeth Smith;
married Eli Thrasher, 23 October 1790 Frederick County, MD]

8 May 1821



Thrasher, Thos. L.

[Thomas L. Thrasher, son of Eli Thrasher & Henreitta
Lamar, born 19 September 1798 & died 1849

broken



Thrasher, William F.

(aged 46 yrs, 11 ms, 14 ds)

[William Franklin Thrasher, son of Eli Thrasher & Henrietta Lamar;
married Michal McDaniel, 16 February 1846 Spencer County, IN]

20 Jun 1855



Samuel Crawford Pate (1795-1849)

Samuel Crawford Pate was born 27 January 1795 in Botetourt County, Virginia. His parents, John Pate (c1770-1820) & Jane Crawford (c1175-1839), were married 20 October 1792 in Botetourt County, VA. Several variations of his mother's first name appears in records; Jane Pate is the way she signed her name in her final will. The Pate family were very early immigrants from England to Colonial Virginia. Samuel's great-great-grandfather, Jeremiah Pate, of New Kent County, VA, was murdered by Tuscarora Indians on 14 October 1707. Samuel's great-grandparents were Edward Pate & Martha Tinsley; Edward's will was recorded in 1767 in

Bedford County, VA. Samuel's grandparents were Jeremiah & Mary Pate; Jeremiah appears in the 1770 tax list of Botetourt County, VA and his will was recorded in that county in 1797. Samuel's grandparents had children – Edward (married Mary Crawford), John (married Jane /Janet Crawford), Judith (married cousin Benjamin Allen Pate), Jeremiah, Jr. (married Elizabeth Withers), William (married Nancy Compton), Minor (married Nancy Smith & Margaret Brickey), Mary (married William Compton), Nathan (single), Rhoda (married John Smith) and Amelia (married James Johnson/Johnston); of these Edward, John, Judith, William and Minor all immigrated to Breckinridge County, KY. Patesville the first post office (established 1813) in what became Hancock County, KY was named for Samuel's uncle, William Pate (1775-1853), who operated an inn and stagecoach station two miles east of Patesville.

Samuel C. Pate was named for his grandfather, Samuel Crawford (c1750-1821), who married Jane Mason (died 1813), in 1771. They along with their children migrated from Botetourt County, VA to Breckinridge County, KY (then Hardin County, KY) to settle on a grant of 1,000 acres he had received on 5 November 1795. Their children were – Mary (married Edward Pate), Jane (married John Pate), William (married Malinda Hardin, daughter of William Hardin for whom Hardinsburg, the county seat of Breckinridge County, KY, was named), Eleanor (married Jefferson Jennings), Margaret (married Joseph Allen, the first clerk of the County & Circuit Courts of Breckinridge County, KY, the Allen family were profiled in the book, Historic Families of Kentucky by Thomas Marshall Green in 1889), Samuel Jr. (married Theodosia Earl Compton), Mason (married Mary Jane McCreary & Susan Thorp) and Sarah (married George Jackson). Samuel C. Pate's grandfather, Samuel Crawford, after the death of his wife, Jane, married Mary Elizabeth Blacklock (c1775-1839), 1813-1820. In Ohio County, KY on 3 November 1822 Samuel Crawford's widow, Elizabeth, married Eli Thrasher, Sr., whose wife, Henrietta Lamar, had died in 1821. Several generations of Samuel Crawford's descendants, including children of Samuel C. Pate (1795-1849) were named in an Ohio County, KY circuit court suit (case #1223, Samuel Crawford's heirs petition for sale of land, filed 19 November 1852) and deed recorded on 5 March 1859 (Ohio County, KY Deed Book Q p134). Samuel Pate had a first cousin, who was also named Samuel Crawford Pate (1795-1872), and who also had resided in Breckinridge, Ohio & Hancock Counties, KY, in the latter county he is shown as owning land on Lead Creek; he was the son of Edward Pate & Mary Crawford.

Samuel C. Pate's father, John Pate, is listed in the – 1797-1799 tax lists of Hardin County, KY, 1800-1812 tax lists of Breckinridge County, KY, 1810 census of Breckinridge County, KY, and 1813-1819 tax lists of Ohio County, KY. John Pate during 1804-1805 served as sheriff of Breckinridge County, KY. On 22 February 1820 John Pate wrote his final will and it was probated in August 1820 (Ohio County, KY Will Book A, p240). In his will he stated that "being very sick" he gives to his beloved wife Jennet Pate all his estate, both real and personal, to do with as she may think proper, during her natural life, and after her decease, whatever remains to be equally divided among all his children. John's widow, Jane Pate, appears in the 1820 census of Ohio County, KY, 1820-1829 tax lists of Ohio County, KY and 1830-1833 tax lists of Hancock County, KY. Samuel Pate was appointed administrator of the estate of his mother, Jennet Pate, on 25 November 1839 (Hancock County, KY Order Book 2 p256).

Samuel C. Pate was the administrator of the estate of his parents, John & Jane Pate. On 30 April 1840 to achieve a settlement of their estate he filed a suit against the other heirs in the

Hancock County, KY Circuit Court (File #154, Bundle #19). The other heirs in the suit were named as – John Crow & wife Polly Crow (late Pate), Allen Pate, William Pate, Thomas S. Blincoe & wife Margaret (late Pate), and heirs of Thomas Smith & wife Jane (late Pate), deceased (Henry D., John T., Mary Jane, Margaret Elizabeth & Rebecca Ann Smith). In the case Samuel Pate was represented by his attorney and first cousin, Alfred Allen, a noted lawyer and congressman. The plaintiff requested the sale and division of the proceeds of the remaining estate. At the time of their ancestor, Jane Pate's death in 1839 she owned four slaves (Moses, Patience, Dinah & Joseph). The file of the suit included copies of the wills of John Pate (originally filed in Ohio County, KY in 1820) and Jannet Pate (filed in Hancock County in 1839). In the October 1842 term of the Hancock County Circuit Court it was ordered that the slaves be sold at the courthouse door and the proceeds divided among the heirs. At the sale Samuel C. Pate purchased negro man Moses for \$459, Thomas S. Blincoe purchased negro woman Patience for \$169, Thomas Willian, Sr. purchased negro girl Dinah for \$452 and Nicholas V. Board purchased negro boy Joseph for \$410.

Samuel C. Pate was his parents' oldest son. His siblings were – Mary (married Gabriel Jackson & John Crow), Jane (married Thomas Smith), William (married Rebecca Midkiff & Mrs. Agnes Hord Bell Patton, Rebecca was a first cousin of Kit Carson, who played a key role in opening up the exploration and settlement of the western states, William & Rebecca are this writer's third-great-grandparents.), John Allen (married Matilda Morton), Margaret (married Thomas Sanford Blincoe) & Hugh C. (single).

Samuel C. Pate is listed in the annual tax lists of Ohio County, KY during 1816-1826 and appears in the 1820 federal census of Ohio County, KY. He married Sally Barrett, 6 December 1815 Ohio County, KY. Sally was born 3 October 1795. She was living at the time of the 1820 census of Ohio County and died before Samuel Pate's remarriage in 1824. She was a daughter of Thomas Barrett & Elizabeth Honaker, who had come to Kentucky and made their home in Ohio County during 1800-1804 (see Barrett family records in book, Blacklock Family: The Walter C. Whitley Papers (1981, p42). Sally Pate was named as a child in the will of Thomas Barrett that was probated in 1819 (Ohio County, KY Will Book A p229). A division of the slaves belonging to the estate of Thomas Barrett, deceased was recorded in September 1829 and one of the heirs named in the division was Samuel Pate (Ohio County, KY Will Book B p104)

Samuel C. Pate married second Arritta Thrasher, 11 March 1824 in Ohio County, KY. They were married by Rev. William Hart, a Methodist minister.

Ohio County, KY Marriage Book A, page 71:

431 The marriage authorized by the act is solemnized on the 11th of March 1824. Samuel Pate and Arritta Thrasher. Wm Hart. Cd Copy Test. The paper is 314

Arritta Thrasher, daughter of Eli Thrasher (1771-1856) & Henrietta Lamar (1769-1821), was born 31 May 1806 in Frederick County, Maryland. Her name is engraved as Arritta on her

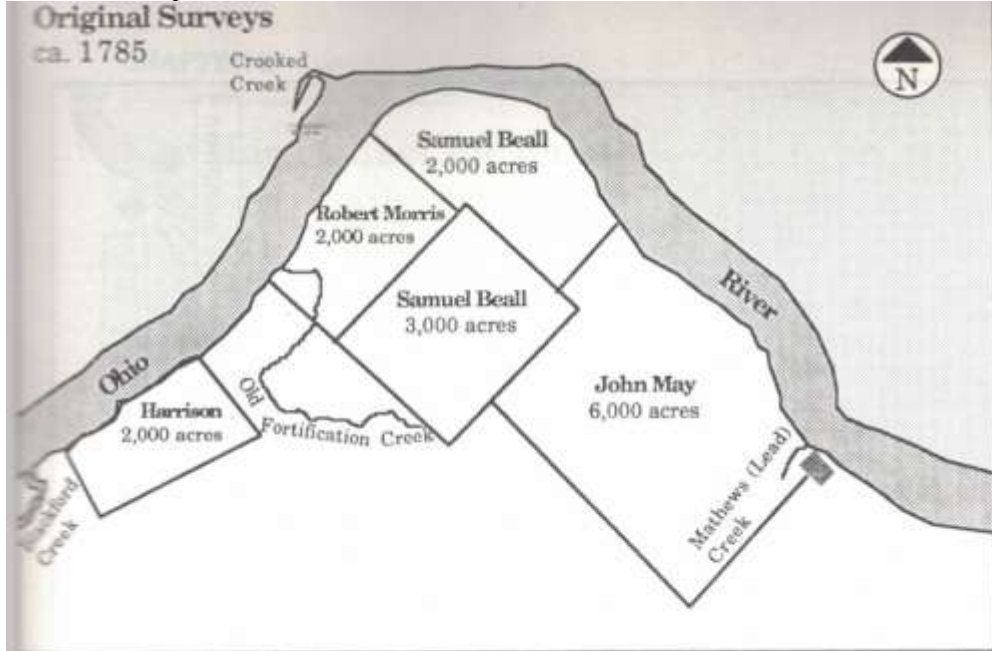
tombstone. In various records it is spelled under numerous variations. It appears to be a derivative of the name Henrietta. In the will of her father he names his daughter, "Henrietta Pate". Arritta was the granddaughter of Thomas Thrasher & Martha Lee and William Bishop Lamar & Elizabeth Smith. Arritta's parents were married in Frederick County, MD on 23 October 1790. During 1808-1810 they migrated to Kentucky and made their home in Breckinridge County. Eli Thrasher was listed in the 1800 census of Frederick County, MD, 1810 & 1820 censuses of Breckinridge County, KY, 1830 census of Ohio County, KY and 1850 census of Hancock County, KY. In the 1810 census Eli Thrasher was enumerated two households from John Pate, father of Samuel C. Pate. In the 1820 census Eli Thrasher was residing in what became Hancock County in 1829; one year after the 1820 census Eli's wife, Henrietta (Lamar) Thrasher died and was buried in the Samuel Pate Cemetery in Hancock County, KY.

About 1826 Samuel & Arritta left the Barrett's Ferry neighborhood of Ohio County and moved to a farm on the Ohio River in what is now Hancock County, KY. The farm was owned by her father, Eli Thrasher. Arritta had previously resided here and her mother was buried there in 1821. They lived the remainder of their lives here and were buried there. The obituary of Samuel's son, Gabriel Jackson Pate (1817-1883) stated that he "was born in Ohio county near Barrett's Ferry, July 6, 1817, and moved to Hancock county in his 6th year, his father, Samuel Pate, settled in New Chapel neighborhood in 1823" (Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, 25 April 1883 p1). The year the family moved was more likely in 1826. Samuel is last listed in the Ohio County tax lists in 1826 and in 1827 & 1828 he appears in the Breckinridge County, KY tax records. Upon the formation of Hancock County on 3 January 1829 he appears in tax lists there from 1829 thru 1848 and in the 1830 & 1840 censuses. Dr. Marion Thrasher in his A History of The Thrasher Family: Traced Through The Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries in England and America, (San Francisco, CA, 1895, p26) stated that they moved back to Arritta's former home in Hancock County, Ky., about 1826.

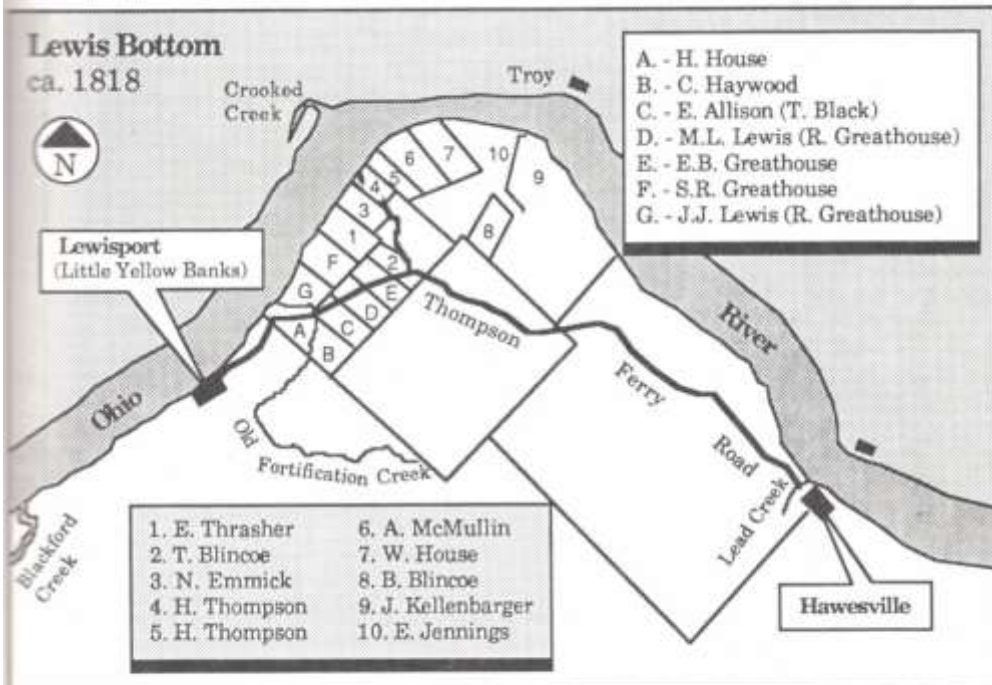
In July 1828 Eli Thrasher & his wife, Elizabeth, of Ohio County, KY sold to Samuel Pate, of Breckinridge County, KY for \$400 & 1000 pounds of pork, a tract of 98 acres of Eli Thrasher's 250 acre survey on the Ohio River in Lewis Bottom (Breckinridge County, KY Deed Book H, p483). The late Eli Samuel Gregory (1910-1996), of Lewisport, KY, a great-grandson of Samuel & Arritta Pate, who subsequently owned the Samuel Pate farm had the original deed whereby Samuel Pate had purchased his farm; on 14 April 1980 Mr. Gregory allowed this writer to make a copy of the original. Eli's wife, Henrietta Lamar Thrasher, in 1821 was buried on the Ohio River farm. The first tax list that shows Samuel C. Pate owning any land was the 1829 Hancock County list; he was then taxed on 98 acres on the Ohio River. The 1828 tax list of Ohio County, KY shows that Eli Thrasher was the owner of two tracts of land – 250 acres on the Ohio River then in Breckinridge County (98 acres of this tract became the Samuel C. Pate farm) and a 300-acre tract on Rough River in Ohio County, KY. Eli Thrasher on 30 November 1811 had purchased the 250 acre tract from John Lewis for \$1240; the deed stated that it was part of 2000 acres granted to Robert Morris on 1 September 1787, on the Ohio River, including the mouth of the old Fortification Creek, being the fourth creek above the mouth of Green River and the third creek below the mouth of Clover Creek at Cloverport, KY (Breckinridge County, KY Deed Book C p154). John Lewis, was an early settler in Lewis Bottom successively in what was Hardin, Breckinridge and Hancock Counties. One of the witnesses on the 1811 deed was

William House, who two years later (died on 17 December 1813) was buried in what is now referred to as the Samuel Pate Cemetery; his grave is the oldest marked grave in the cemetery.

Daybreak On Old Fortification Creek: A History of John Lewis, His Family and Descendants, by Glenn Hodges (Owensboro Publishing Co., Owensboro, KY, 1989), p12A:



Map of the tracts of Lewis Bottom land upriver from Lewisport, Ky., as they were surveyed originally in 1785.

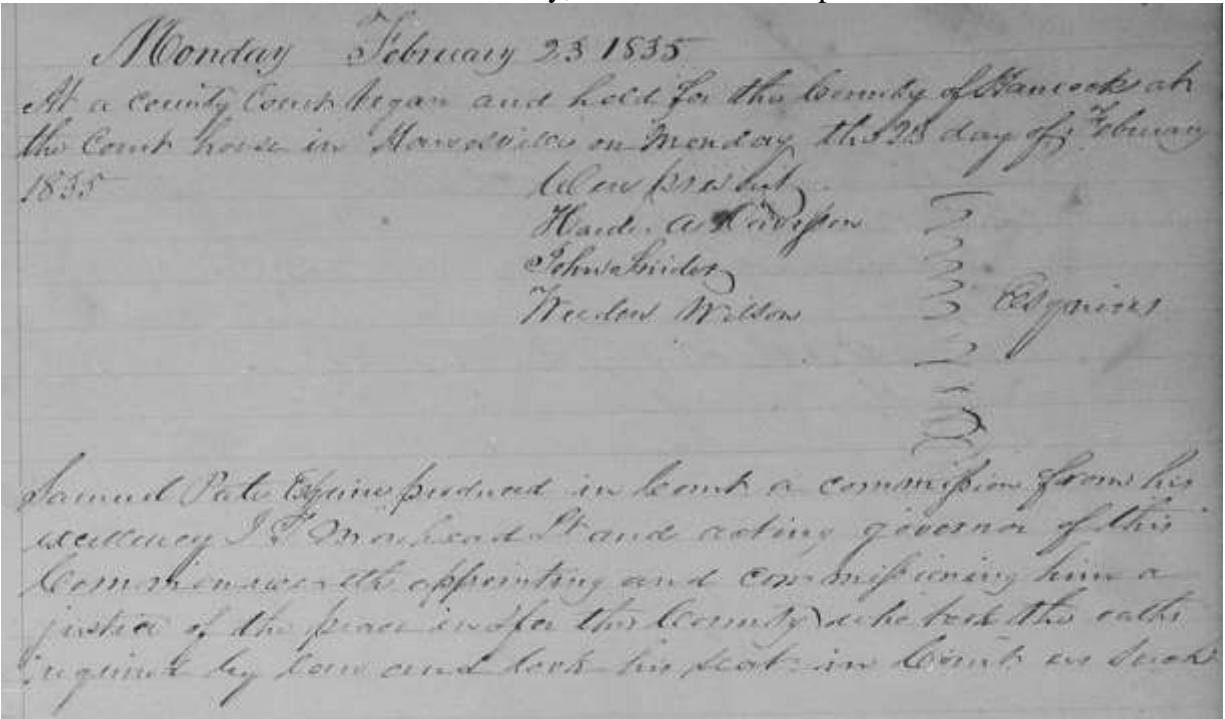


Numbered sections name the persons who had purchased Lewis Bottom land from John Lewis and his estate by 1818. Lettered portions show how Lewis' land was divided among his children following his death in 1813.

In Hancock County, KY Order Book 2 the following two entries were recorded –

- page 28: “Monday, November 24, 1834, A justice of the peace being needed in this county to fill the vacancy ??easigned by the resignation of Moses D. Carter Esq. Samuel Pate and John Henderson are recommended to his excellency the governor of this commonwealth as suitable person to supply said vacancy a majority of all the justices in commission and concurring therein.”
- page 39: “Monday, 23 February 1835, Samuel Pate Esquire produced in court a commission from his excellency J. T. Morehead Lt. and Acting governor of this commonwealth appointing him a justice of the peace in and for this county who took oath required by law and took his seat in court as such.”

Hancock County, KY Order Book 2 p39:



Samuel C. Pate died at the age of 53 on 24 January 1849. His widow, Arritta Thrasher Pate, is listed in the 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880 censuses of Hancock County, KY. Arritta joined her husband in death on 2 January 1882; she was 75. They were buried on their home farm overlooking the Ohio River. Following their deaths there were a host of documents recorded in the administration and settlement of their estates.

On 24 October 1991 this writer copied the following family record pages from the Pate family bible in the possession of Samuel Markham Gregory (1918-1997), of Morganfield, KY. He is the son of Edward C. Gregory (1894-1919) & Willie Edna Markham, grandson of John S. Gregory (1871-1961) & Jessie Murray Brown, great-grandson of Edward T. Gregory & Latetia Taylor Pate (1847-1923) and 2nd great-grandson of Samuel C. Pate (1795-1849) & Arritta Thrasher.

Family Record page 1 – Births

Samuel Pate was born January 27th in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & ninety five.
Aritta Pate was born May 31st in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & six.
Gabriel Jackson Pate was born July 6th A.D. 1817.
Eliza Jane Pate was born June 26th A.D. 1820.
James Monroe Pate was born January 22^d A.D. 1826.
John Thomas Pate was born November 10th A.D. 1828.
Ann Margaret Elizabeth Pate was born May 14th A.D. 1830.
William Franklin Pate was born January 4th A.D. 1834.
Samuel Marion Pate was born May 4th A.D. 1836.
Mary Ann Pate was born January 15th A.D. 1840.
Eli Wesley Pate was born November 5th A.D. 1842.
Malissa Henrietta Pate was born Jan. 19th A.D. 1845.
Latetia T. Pate was born April 23 A.D. 1847.
Henry A. Pate was born on the 20 January 1849.
Martha E. Pate was born 14th A.D. 1832 [month not listed].
William S. Pate was born November 11th A.D. 1854.
John R. Pate was born Aug. 7th A.D. 1858.
James T. Pate was born Apr. 1st A.D. 1860.
Prentice E. Pate was born 23rd July A.D. 1860.
Lily Bell Pate was born Oct. 4th 1862.

Family Record page 2 – Deaths

Mary Ann Pate departed this life October 15th A.D. 1843.
Malissa Henrietta Pate departed this life June 12th 1846.
Samuel Pate departed this life January 23rd A.D. 1849.
Henry A. Pate departed this life July 5th A.D. 1849.
Ann M. E. Comteon departed this life August the 15, 1851.
Samuel M. Pate departed this life September 25, 1861.
Matilda Shelton departed this life August 16th A.D. 1865.
Latetia Taylor Pate died Aug. 26, 1923.
Caroline Thrasher departed this life June the 2, 1851.
Eli Thrasher departed this life February the 1, 1856.
William S. Pate departed this life November 20th 1858, buried in Monroe Co., MO.
Prentice E. Pate died April 13th 1862.
John T. Pate died September 22nd 1872.
James M. Pate died October 10th 1875.
James T. Pate died January 13th 1880.
Arritta Pate died January 2^d A.D. 1882.
Eli W. Pate died March 21st A.D. 1894.

Family Record page 3 – Marriages

Eliza Jane Pate was married Nov. 1st A.D. 1839.
Ann Margaret Elizabeth Pate was married January 1851.
John T. Pate was married Jan. 25 A.D. 1854 to Martha E. Moredock.

Family Record pages 4 & 5 – Births

[Note by J. Long: Entries on these two pages were slaves of the family, many of whom later used the Pate name. In the Samuel Pate family cemetery are monuments for “George Pate, colored, born 23 Apr 1794, died 29 Mar 1867” and “Lucy Pate, colored, born 5 Nov 1797, died 1 Dec 1865”.]

Lucey was born November 6, 1797, their mother.

Harrison was born Oct 18th.

Alford was born 1824.

Sary was born 7 Oct 1825.

Adaline was born August the 15, 1829.

Harriet was born April the 6, 1830.

Jane was born June 28, 1830.

Sam was born August 8, 1834.

Nancy was born April the 16, 1837.

Marier was born June the 6, 1839.

Henry was born June the 5, 1841.

Polly was born June the 6, 1843.

Mary A. was born on the 28 of May, 1851?

Elen was born 1844 December.

Harry was born 15 February 1853.

Parel? was born December 11, 1853.

Isiah? was born September 11, 1855.

Forde was born July 1851.

Lucy was born Feb 1854.

Lea was born January 18, 1857.

Rosey was born December 1858.

Mary Davis was born 30th day of Sep. A.D. 1861.

Cely Ann was born Feb 23, 1868.

Miles was born April ?, 1868.

Lucy Ann was born July 15th, 1864.

Hariet was born June 3rd in the year 1864.

Sallie Mecca was born 11th March A.D. 1867.

Birtie Walker Ramsey was born March 16th 1879.

On last page of bible:

John T. Pate started to Texas March 17, 1871 on the Robert Michael.

J. Thomas Pate started to Texas March 16, 1879.

The following was on three loose sheets inserted into bible

W. F. Pate & Mary E. Bell married April 6th 1859.

W. F. Pate & Patsy Greathouse married April 3rd 1871.

Births:

W. F. Pate was born Jan 4th 1834.

Mary E. Bell wife was born Dec 21st 1837.

Prentis E. Pate born July 23rd 1860.

Lily B. Pate born October 4th 1862.

Conway F. Pate born Sept 16th 1864.

Frank C. Pate born Dec 15th 1871.

Sam Pate born March 24th 1876.

Dont know year what Patsy was born I went up to Beckie Duncans & asked her she said she had forgotten.

Deaths:

Mary E. Pate wife of W. F. Pate died March 14th 1865.

Prentice Everett Pate died April 13th 1862.

Conway F. Pate died Jan 21st 1866.

Patsy S. Pate died Sept 3rd 1876.

Frank C. Pate died Jan 10th 1872.

W. F. Pate died April 8th 1886.

The preceding bible record was published in: Kentucky Ancestors, Vol. 32, No. 3 (Frankfort, KY: Kentucky Historical Society, Spring 1997), 154-156. Family Bible Records, Vol. 4, West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 2003), 170-174. Forgotten Pathways, Vol. 20, No. 1 (Hawesville, KY: Genealogical Society of Hancock County, Summer 2003), 6-9. Kentucky Family Records, Vol. 27, West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 2003), 85-88.

George Pate (1794-1867), “colored” & Lucy Pate (1797-1865), “colored”, have gravestones in the Samuel Pate Cemetery. For this to be the case they no doubt were highly thought of and were considered part of the family. In pre-Civil War days it was highly uncommon that slaves were buried inside the slave master’s family cemetery. General they were interred on the home farm in a separate sometimes adjoining space. Arritta Pate is listed as a slave owner in the 1850 & 1860 Federal Census Slave Schedules for Hancock County, KY. In 1850 she is listed as having 13 slaves, 5 males & 8 females; the two oldest were a male aged 55 years and a female aged 53 years. The latter two are no doubt George & Lucy Pate. In the preceding Samuel Pate bible record the births of 28 blacks were recorded. Several of these appear in subsequent records of Hancock County. Harrison, Henry and Samuel Pate, who are listed in the bible appear in the 1870 census of Hancock County. Some of the black Pate families after the Emancipation Proclamation continued to be nearby neighbors of their former owners and some continued to have interconnections with Squire Samuel Pate’s descendants for several subsequent generations. In 1870 Henry Pate (born 1841, son of Lucy) is enumerated immediately preceding the household of Mrs. Arritta Pate and in 1880 Henry is listed three households from her. Henry married Emily Tall (1842-1925), circa 1857; they had 13 children. One of their sons, Christopher Columbus Pate (1875-1933) married Tedie Roland and they continued to live in the Lewisport area of Hancock County. Their son, Chris ‘Tookie’ Pate (1926-1987), of Lewisport, and this writer during the early 1980’s were fellow employees of the Executive Inn Rivermont in Owensboro, KY. Having embarked on my exploration of my family tree in 1979 and learning that my third great-grandfather William Pate, was a brother of (Squire) Samuel C. Pate I asked Tookie about his family. He said he was a descendant of George & Lucy Pate, who were buried in the Samuel Pate Cemetery. He still occasionally worked on the Pate farm for its owner, Eli Gregory (1910-1996), a great-grandson of Samuel & Arritta Pate.



Samuel Crawford Pate (1795-1849) and wife, Arritta Thrasher (1806-1882)
Pictures hang in the Hancock County Museum, Hawesville, KY – see pp.45-48

Samuel Crawford Pate and his first wife, Sally Barrett, were the parents of:

1. Gabriel Jackson Pate was born 6 July 1817 Barrett's Ferry, Ohio County, KY. He married Eleanor G. Ray, 15 October 1846 Hancock County, KY. Eleanor, daughter of James Royal Ray & Mary Ellen Erskins, was born 14 September 1826 Washington County, KY and died 30 January 1849. Gabriel J. Pate married her sister, Susan Ann Ray 4 May 1851 Hancock County, KY. Susan was born 30 May 1836 KY and died 27 September 1863. In 1845 Gabriel was appointed postmaster of Lewisport, KY. He died 24 March 1883 Lewisport, Hancock County, KY; he and his two wives were buried Thrasher Cemetery, Hancock County, KY. Gabriel & Eleanor had one child – Warren S. (1847-1926, married Sarah C. Combs). Gabriel & Susan had four children – Sarah Eleanor (1853-1925, married William Curtis Pell), Isiah O. (1855-1872), Mary Eliza (1860-1912, married Burrell Alvin Whittinghill) and James (died infancy).
2. Eliza Jane Pate was born 26 June 1820 Ohio County, KY. She married Elias Butler Banks, 1 November 1838 Hancock County, KY. Elias Butler Banks, son of John V. Banks & Mary S. Stowers, was born 29 July 1814 Breckinridge County, KY. Eliza J. died of consumption 13 May 1886 Hancock County, KY and Elias Banks died 17 October 1904 Hancock County, KY; they were buried Banks-Johnson Cemetery, Hancock County, KY. They had twelve children – Samuel Dwight (1839-18877, married Pernetta A. Thompson & Mary Elizabeth Miller), John J. (c1842-after 1880, single), Sarah Julia (1844-1930, married George Washington Taylor), Margaret E. (1848-1874, married William Charles Johnson), Mary Clement (1850-1919, married William Charles Johnson), Benjamin K. (1852-1892, married Cordelia Ann Miller), William Butler (1854-1937, married Lavina Patterson, Sarah Ciceley Lampkins & Florence McDonald), Francis Marion (1856-1938, married Mary Isabelle Haydon), George Washington (1860-1863) and Anna E. (1864-1946, married John Charles Wollner). Among the descendants of Elias & Eliza (Pate) Banks are great-great-grandsons – Lewis Berkley Davis (1911-1997), who served as vice-president of the G.E. corporation; Cloran Waitman Taylor

(1927-2019), who served as mayor of Owensboro, KY; and James Holder Fallin (1945-2022), who served as county judge executive of Hancock County, KY.

3. Dr. Marion Thrasher in his 1895, A History of The Thrasher Family: Traced Through The Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries in England and America, stated that Samuel & Sally had 5 children, 3 of whom died in infancy; his source was Latetia T. Pate Gregory (1847-1923), daughter of Samuel Pate & Arritta Thrasher.

Samuel Crawford Pate and his second wife, Arritta Thrasher, were the parents of:

4. James Monroe Pate was born 22 January 1826 Ohio County, KY and died 10 October 1875 Hancock County, KY. He never married and was buried Samuel Pate Cemetery, Hancock County, KY.
5. John Thomas Pate was born 10 November 1828 Breckinridge County, KY. He married Martha E. Moredock, 25 January 1854 Hancock County, KY. Martha, daughter of James Moredock & Catherine L., was born 14 July 1832 Breckinridge County, KY; they were divorced 19 January 1870 Hancock County, KY. Martha died 27 August 1897 Louisville, Jefferson County, KY and was buried Greathouse Cemetery, Hancock County, KY. John T. Pate died 22 September 1872 Corsicana, Navarro County, TX, where he was buried in the Oakwood Cemetery. John T. & Martha had seven children – William Samuel (1854-1858), John Robert (1857-1895, married Mattie Elizabeth Greathouse), James Thomas (1860-1880, single), Kate Ann (1862-1865), Arritta Lee (1864-1911, married John Haden Read & Edward Oliver Henry Robbins) and two others died infancy.
6. Ann Margaret Elizabeth Pate was born 14 May 1830 Hancock County, KY. She married Dr. John William Compton, 21 January 1851 Hancock County, KY. John, son of Jeremiah Dabney Compton & Nancy Withers Judson Ball, was born 22 July 1825 Breckinridge County, KY. John W. & Margaret were second cousins, his grandmother, Mary (Pate) Compton and Margaret's grandfather, John Pate, were siblings. Margaret, died three months after her wedding. She had no children. Dr. Compton married Sarah A. Morton, 29 November 1853. Sarah, daughter of David Morton & Margaret Daniel, was born 10 May 1833 Owensboro, Daviess County, KY and died 21 June 1906 Terre Haute, Vigo County, IN. Dr. Compton died 28 May 1905 Terre Haute, Vigo County, IN; he & Sarah were buried Oak Hill Cemetery, Evansville, Vanderburgh County, IN. John W. & Sarah had nine children – William M., Margaret O., Morton James, Frederick S., Willie, David, Allene B., John W. and Vivia.

History of Vanderburgh County, Indiana, Brant & Fuller, 1889, pp239-241:

John William Compton, M.D., standing for nearly a quarter of a century in the front ranks of those who have attained special prominence in the general practice of medicine in the city of Evansville, was born near Hardinsburg, Breckinridge county, Ky., July 22, 1825. His father, Jeremiah Dabney Compton, was born near Culpepper Court House, Va., in 1801. He was a farmer by occupation, and a fine type of the Virginia gentleman of that day, tilling his farm in the summer and teaching the village school in the winter months. He married Miss Nancy, daughter of John Ball, of Culpepper Court House. She was born in 1804, and received a liberal education, and careful reading had given her a well stored mind and a love for literature. She became an extensive writer on religious subjects, leaving a large book of manuscripts, which, for want of press facilities in that day, were never published.

The Comptons, of English extraction, were among the old and reputable families of Virginia. The progenitor of the family was Matthew Compton, who came to Virginia from England long before the time of the Revolution. William, a son, was Dr. Compton's grandfather, and removed to Kentucky at an early day, and was a pioneer and prominent citizen of Breckinridge county. The early life of Dr. Compton was not unlike that of most of the youths of that time, being passed upon his father's farm. He received his education at a common school, and under the tutelage of a Prof. Fabrique, of his native village. While his advantages for obtaining an acquaintance with books were to some extent limited, his studious habits, quick perception and retentive memory enabled him to advance rapidly, and at length to possess a greater store of information than was common among the lads of this time and locality.

At the age of sixteen he was so far advanced as to be employed as a teacher, and continued so occupied for four years. At the end of this time he decided to make the practice of medicine his life's work, and entering the office of Dr. Norvin Green, now president of the Western Union Telegraph Co., in 1847 commenced the study of medicine under the instruction of that distinguished physician, and in 1849 took a course of lectures in the medical department of the University of Louisville, and later graduated in the medical college of Evansville.

In the early part of the year 1850 he established himself in the practice of his profession in Knottsville, Ky. The city of Owensburg, Ky., however, offered superior inducements and he removed there in 1852, where he remained in active practice until the breaking out of the war in 1861. Unswerving in his loyalty to the Union, he was commissioned assistant surgeon of the Seventeenth Kentucky Infantry. In March, 1863, while in camp at Nashville, Tenn., he resigned his commission to accept the position of surgeon of the board of enrollment of the Second District of Kentucky, and in that capacity actively served until the close of the war in 1865.

In October of that year he came to Evansville, where he formed a partnership with that distinguished practitioner, Dr. James P. DeBruler, and has since remained actively engaged in the practice of his profession. The doctor soon took a leading position among his medical brethren, and shortly after taking up his residence here was elected president of the Evansville Medical Society. In 1872 he was appointed county physician for Vanderburgh country. In 1875 he was appointed to the chair of materia medica and therapeutics in the Evansville Medical College, clinical surgeon for diseases of women, in the college dispensary, and staff surgeon to St. Mary's hospital.

As a teacher of materia medica he adopted a change in the mode of instruction, by leaving to botanists and others the technical description of medicines, and by confining his lectures more particularly to the therapeutic indications and the good that might be accomplished by the judicious administration of remedies and their application to diseases. He became a popular and instructive lecturer. In 1881 he became a member of the Indiana state board of health, and at its first meeting was unanimously elected its president. He filled this position four years, when the demands of his practice became so imperative that he was obliged to tender his resignation. He is at present a member of the board of health of the city of Evansville.

He is prominently identified with many of the leading medical societies of this country, such as the American Public Health Association, American Medical Association, Mississippi Valley Medical Association, Indiana State Medical Society, and is an honorary member of the Mitchell District Medical Society and

the Southwestern Kentucky Medical Association. In 1882 he was appointed a member of the United States board of examining surgeons for pensions, at Evansville, and served as its president until 1885.

He is a charter member of Farragut Post, No. 27, G. A. R., and has been surgeon of the post continuously since its organization. While the duties of his official positions and his practice have been onerous, he has made many valuable contributions to medical, scientific and general literature, notably: "The Geological, Geographical and Climatic Influences and Prevailing Diseases of the Second District of Kentucky," (reported to the war department and printed in the medical statistics of the provost marshal general's bureau), "Injuries to the Brain," "Solution and Absorption of Medicine," "Chemical compounds in the Nutrition of the Human Body," "Diseases of the neck and body of the Uterus," "Paralysis from pressure of displaced uterus on sacral plexus of Nerves," "State medicine and Hygiene," "Ante-partum Hemorrhage," "Precautions requisite in the administration of Ergot," and others which were read before different society meetings and published in leading medical journals; he has also written articles in extenso for current magazines, and on many important medical and sanitary topics, but lack of space forbids their enumeration.

But few physicians in this, part of the country are more extensively or favorably known than Dr. Compton, and justice to him requires the statement that but few have been more successful in all the varied departments of life. Early thrown upon his own resources, with indefatigable zeal he overcame every obstacle, and through his own personal efforts, unaided by the adventitious circumstances of wealth and influential relationships, has advanced to his present position.

His record as a physician and a private citizen is honorable in all its details, and his career is worthy of emulation. Politically he is a republican, active in local politics, but in no sense a politician. He is a member of the First Cumberland Presbyterian church and takes a lively interest in all benevolent enterprises.

In 1853 he was married to Miss Sallie, daughter of David Morton, a well known citizen and merchant of Owensboro, Ky. Of this union four children are now living: Margaret O. (now Mrs. Ira D. McCoy), Morton J., Frederick S. and John W., Jr.



J. W. Compton

7. William Franklin Pate was born 4 January 1834 Hancock County, KY. He married Mary E. Bell, 6 April 1859 Hancock County, KY. Mary, daughter of Abner G. Bell & Sarah G. Scott, was born 21 December 1837 Shelby County, KY and died 14 March 1867. William F. Pate married 2nd Patsy Sterrett (Adams) Greathouse, 1 February 1871 Henderson, Henderson County, KY. Patsy S., daughter of David Adams & Eliza Sterrett, was born 21 August 1840 Hancock County, KY, married 1st William Linton Greathouse, 24 March 1864; Patsy died 3 September 1877 and was buried Greathouse Cemetery, Hancock County, KY. William F. Pate during the Civil War served in the Confederate army. William F. died of pneumonia 8 April 1886 Lewisport, Hancock County, KY. William F. & Mary had three children – Prentice Everett (1860-1862), Lily Bell (1862-1950, married John Taylor) and Conway F. (1864-1866). William F. & Patsy had two children – Charles Franklin (1871-1872) and Samuel Francis (1876-1932, married Nealie Winkle, Rosetta St.Meyer & Ina Mae Marcum).

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday,
13 April 1886, p3, Lewisport column:

Died, in Lewisport, at his home on the 9th of April, W. F. Pate, of pneumonia, aged about 60 years. Wm. Pate, leaves, one daughter and one son, the daughter was married only about two weeks ago. The deceased was well and favorably known by a very great number of friends; he having for a long time been in the revenue service, as storekeeper and gauger. He was an open-hearted man, a staunch friend. He was a good Mason and an Odd Fellow. He will be missed and mourned by his many relatives and his brethren of the "mystic tie," as well as by a host of friends, and just here I drop a tear to his memory, for he was to me "more than a friend." "Billy," peace to thy ashes. U. B. DAM.

8. Samuel Marion Pate was born 4 May 1836 Hancock County, KY. He died single 25 September 1861 Gold Hill, Nevada County, CA.

Hancock County, KY Will Book 4, p41:

SAMUEL PATE	Mar. 12, 1859
	Nov. 25, 1861
I, Samuel Pate of county of Hancock and state of Kentucky being of sound mind and memory but being near the end of life do make and ordain this my last will.	
1st I give to my sister Letitia F. Pate my negro boy Joy to be her and her heirs for ever.	
2nd I give to my mother Aritta Pate all my real or landed estate also my negro boy Ford to her and her heirs forever.	
Witnesses:	
Jas. Prenter	Samuel W. Pate
Y.W. Taylor	Book 4, page 41
David W. Blanford	

9. Mary Ann Pate was born 15 January 1840 Hancock County, KY and died 15 October 1843 Hancock County, KY; buried Samuel Pate Cemetery, Hancock County, KY.

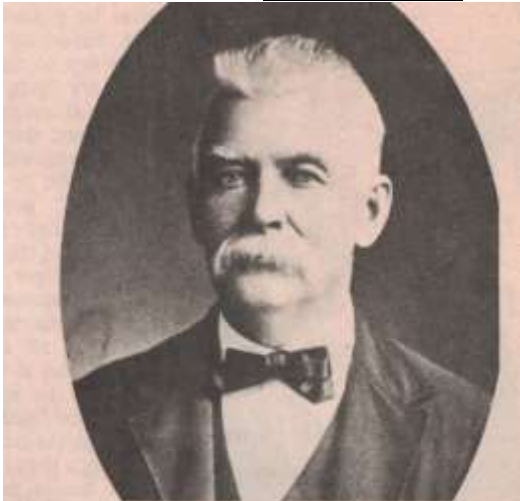
10. Eli Wesley Pate was born 5 November 1842 Hancock County, KY. He married Mary R. Mason, 3 May 1883 Hancock County, KY. Mary, daughter of James Madison Mason and Nancy Munday Blincoe, was born 26 November 1847 Hancock County, Ky. At their marriage he was age 40 and she 35; it was the first marriage for each. Eli and Mary were third cousins. His great-grandmother, Janet (Mason) Crawford, and her great-grandfather, Joseph Mason, were both children of John Mason of Mason's Cove, Virginia. Wesley died 21 March 1894 Lewisport, Hancock County, KY and Mary died 15 January 1900 Daviess County, KY. Eli Wesley & Mary were buried Lewisport Cemetery, Hancock County, KY. They had no children

Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 22 March 1894, p1:

Death at Lewisport.
 Mr. Wesley Pate died at his home in Lewisport Thursday after a short illness of pneumonia. He was 52 years old. He was a brother-in-law to Mr. Gregory, of the revenue office in this city.

11. Malissa Henrietta Pate was born 19 January 1845 Hancock County, KY and died 12 June 1846 Hancock County, KY; buried Samuel Pate Cemetery, Hancock County, KY.
 12. Latetia Taylor Pate was born 23 April 1847 Hancock County, KY. She married Edward T. Gregory, 7 October 1868 Hancock County, KY. Edward, son of John A. Gregory & Elizabeth Holder, was born 31 March 1841 Cloverport, Breckinridge County, KY. Edward was a second lieutenant in the Confederate army (Orphan's Brigade) during the Civil War. Edward died of Bright's Disease 16 July 1905 Lewisport, Hancock County, KY and Latetia died 26 August 1923 Lewisport, Hancock County, KY. They were buried Lewisport Cemetery, Hancock County, KY.

“So It’s Been Told: Footnotes to Hancock County History”, by Jack Foster
Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 20 March 1986



Ed Gregory was recruited for Confederate cavalry service as a young tobacco buyer in Cloverport. He wound up a lieutenant in the "Orphan Brigade". He is the grandfather of Lewisport's Eli Gregory.



Confederate Lieutenant Ed Gregory's bride after he returned from the Civil War, Letitia Taylor Pate, youngest daughter of Squire Samuel Pate.

Kentucky: A History of the State (W. H. Perrin, J. H. Battle & G. C. Kniffin, Louisville, KY, F.A. Battey Pub. Co, 1885) Hancock County section, p748:

EDWARD GREGORY, Hancock County, was born in Cloverport, Breckinridge County, March 31, 1841, to John A. and Elizabeth (Holder) Gregory. The father was born in Rockcastle County, Va., about 1818. His parents, John and Nancy (Dobson) Gregory, were of Scotch-Irish descent. The grandfather came to Kentucky when the father of subject was but a small boy, settled in Breckinridge County, and there died in the eighty-fifth year of his age. In that county, the father grew to manhood, and is still living at Cloverport. The mother was a native of Breckinridge County and died about 1845. Subject was the second of a family of four children, of whom two are now living, William H., at Hardinsburg, Breckinridge County, and Edward. The latter received his schooling at Cloverport. He began life for himself as a dry goods clerk in his native town. He handled tobacco for R. R. Pierce for two years. In October, 1861, he enlisted at Bowling Green in Company G, of the Ninth Kentucky Infantry, Col. Thomas Hunt, Confederate States army, and served until Johnston's surrender. Among the battles in which he participated were Shiloh, Vicksburg, Baton Rouge, Murfreesboro, Jackson (Miss.), Dalton (Ga.) campaign, battle of Atlanta, etc. He reached the rank of second lieutenant. After his return he began putting up tobacco at Mason's Landing on Green River; one year later he returned to Cloverport and followed the same business for R. R. Pierce for two years. In January, 1869, he moved to Lewisport, where he put up tobacco for one year for George W. McAdams. He then commenced business for himself, and has since devoted his attention to prizing tobacco. He now handles about 250,000 pounds per year. Mr. Gregory was married October 7, 1868, to Miss Letitia Pate, a daughter of Samuel and Aritta (Thrasher) Pate, natives of Virginia and Maryland, respectively. Mrs. Gregory was born in Hancock County, April 23, 1847, and is the mother of six children, five of whom are living: Myrtle U., John S., James H., Eli E and Cleburne E. Mrs. Gregory is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church South; he is a member of Lewisport Lodge, No. 303, A.F. & A. M. and McIntire Lodge, K. of H.

Breckenridge News, Cloverport, KY, Wednesday, 29 August 1923, p5:

DEATH CLAIMS MRS. L. T. GREGORY

Prominent Woman of Lewisport, Widow of Lieut Edward Gregory, Cloverport

Mrs. Letitia Gregory, widow of Lieut. Edward Gregory, who was born and reared in Cloverport, passed away at her home in Lewisport, Sunday evening at 7 o'clock. Death was due to a complication of diseases. The funeral and burial will be held in Lewisport this afternoon, Wednesday. The Rev. C. R. Crowe, pastor of

the Methodist church, having charge of the services.

Mrs. Gregory was 76 years old, and was born in Hancock county. Her husband was a Confederate veteran of the Civil War. He was the son of John A. Gregory, of Cloverport, and soon after his parents died, he moved to Hancock county where he was married and spent the remainder of his life.

Mrs. Gregory is survived by one daughter, Mrs. R. G. Higdon, of Frankfort, and four sons, Cleburne Gregory, of Atlanta, Ga.; Eli Gregory, of Brooklyn, N. Y.; Sam and Henry Gregory, of Lewisport. A grandson of the deceased, Mr. Wesley Gregory, and Mrs. Gregory, who are with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Squires at the Cloverport Hotel, went to Lewisport to attend the funeral.



Lewisport Cemetery, Hancock County, KY

Latetia T. Pate & Edward Gregory had seven children – Myrtle Una (1869-1964, married Robert Gore Higdon, a lawyer, no children), John Samuel (1871-1961, married Jessie Brown), James Henry (1874-1950, married Nellie Pell), Eli Edward (1876-1953, married Ella Mae Bassett, Alice Compton & Beulah Henderson), Latetia Arritta (died age of 4 months), Cleburne Earl (1883-1963, newspaper editor, served as executive director of the Georgia Historical Society, married Sarah Collis) and infant son (died age 12 days).

See also “Edward & Latetia (Pate) Gregory Family Bible” published in: (1). Family Bible Records, Vol. 4, West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 2003), 161-163; (2). Forgotten Pathways, Vol. 20, No. 1 (Hawesville, KY: Genealogical Society of Hancock County, Summer 2003), 4-5; and (3). website West-Central Kentucky History & Genealogy (wckyhhistory-genealogy.org).

13. Henry A. Pate was born 20 January 1849 Hancock County, KY and died 5 July 1849 Hancock County, KY; buried Samuel Pate Cemetery, Hancock County, KY.

Pages 24-27 from — A History of The Thrasher Family: Traced Through The Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries in England and America, by Dr. Marion Thrasher, San Francisco, CA, 1895, pp26-31:

ARRITTA THRASHER, 1806-1882 — SAMUEL PATE, 1795-1849
 THIRTEEN CHILDREN — Three Dying in Infancy.
 JAMES MONROE PATE MARY ANN PATE
 JOHN THOMAS PATH. ELI WESLEY PATE.
 ANN M. E. PATE MALISSA HENRIETTA PATE
 Wm. FRANKLIN PATE LATETIA TAYLOR PATE
 SAMUEL MARION PATE HENRY PATE

[The following biographical sketch of Arritta Thrasher and her descendants was furnished me by Mrs. L. T. Gregory, of Lewisport, Ky.]

Samuel Pate was born January 27, 1795. His first wife was Miss Barrett, of Ohio County, Ky. To this union were given five children, three of whom died in infancy. Gabriel Jackson Pate was born July 6, 1817. Eliza Jane Pate was born June 26, 1820. In 1824 he was married to Arritta Thrasher, of Ohio County, Ky., formerly of Hancock County, Ky., daughter of Eli Thrasher and Henrietta Lamar Thrasher. Such is a short record of a useful life, a life of toil and many good deeds. His counsel was sought, his opinions listened to with respect, and his judgment generally approved. Agriculture was his principal pursuit; by industry, integrity and economy he accumulated quite a nice fortune. His life was short, having died January 23, 1849, in his fifty-fourth year.

ARRITTA THRASHER, daughter of Eli Thrasher and Henrietta Lamar Thrasher, was born May 31, 1806. She was reared in Hancock County, Ky. When she was about grown her father moved to Ohio County, Ky., where they lived for several years. She was married to Samuel Pate, of Ohio County, Ky., in 1824. Samuel and Arritta Thrasher Pate lived in his native county for a few years, where their oldest child is buried, having died in infancy. They moved back to her former home in Hancock County, Ky., about 1826, where the remainder of their lives was spent. She was a helpmate to her husband, and in a comparatively short time they acquired a comfortable fortune. His death occurred in 1849, leaving her a widow at the age of forty-three, with a large family to care for, and to look after and manage his estate. She was a consistent member of the M. E. Church South, and ministers were always made to feel welcome at her home. No wayfarer ever asked for bread or lodging without receiving, at her hands, that which was good for them. Dear patient hands, oft weary with life's work, were laid to rest January 2, 1882. To this union were given thirteen children, three of whom were taken from them in infancy. Those named were as follows James Monroe, John Thomas, Ann Margaret Elizabeth, William Franklin, Samuel Marion, Mary Ann, Eli Wesley, Malissa Henrietta, Latetia Taylor and Henry.

JAMES MOROE PATE, born January 22, 1826. Died October 10, 1875. Afflicted from early boyhood, his life was spent at the old homestead.

JOHN THOMAS PATE was born November 10, 1828. While the California gold fever was at its height, he lived two years in that State, which proved to be time well spent, as it improved his financial position, and gave to him an opportunity to learn more of his country and her people. Returning home he was united in marriage with Miss Martha E. Moredock of Hancock County, Ky., January 25, 1854. After a few years of agricultural pursuits in his native county, he moved to Missouri where he again turned his attention to farming. Not meeting with the success he desired he moved to Hannibal, Mo., where he engaged in tobacco speculations and farming. He afterwards moved to Quincy, Ill., where he engaged in manufacturing tobacco, realizing very good profits from his business. From Quincy, Ill., he came back to his native county where he lived until March 17, 1871. In the Spring of 1871, he left Kentucky and settled in Corsicana, Texas, where he met with good success as real estate agent. Among the good characteristics which he possessed were firm integrity, tireless industry and a devotion to duty. John T. and Martha E. Pate were blessed with seven children, two of whom are living. The father and five of the children have passed away and but two infants of his family have found a resting place at his native home. John T. Pate departed this life at Corsicana, Texas, September 22, 1872, leaving a widow and three children. Martha E. Pate, widow of John T. Pate, is now living in Louisville, Ky. William Samuel Pate was born November 11, 1854. Died November 20, 1858, in Monroe County, Mo. John Robert Pate, born August 7, 1857, was married to Miss Mattie E.

Greathouse in 1889. He is now engaged in farming and stock raising near Lewisport, Ky. J. R. Pate and M. E. Pate have two children, John Wesley and Joseph Pate. James Thomas Pate was born April 1, 1860. Died in Sherman, Texas, January 14, 1880. Buried at Corsicana, Texas. Kate Ann Pate was born June 4, 1862. Departed this life September 16, 1865, in Monroe County, Mo. Arritta Lee Pate was born August 17, 1864. Was married to Mr. John Haden Read of Owensboro, Daviess County, Ky., April 28, 1886. J Haden Read died June, 1890, leaving a widow and two children – Anna Rheatz and Fannie Lee Read. Arritta Lee Read is at present living in Louisville, Ky.

ANN MARGARET ELIZABETH PATE was born May 14, 1830. Was married to Dr. J. W Compton of Cloverport, Breckenridge County, Ky., January, 1851. Departed this life August 15, 1851.

WILLIAM FRANKLIN PATE was born January 4, 1834. Was joined in marriage to Miss Mary E. Bell of Lewisport, Hancock County. Ky., April 6, 1859. To this union was given three children – Prentice B Pate, born July 23, 1860, died April 13, 1862; Lily Bell Pate, born October 4, 1862, was married to Mr. John Taylor of Lewisport, Hancock County, Ky., March 31, 1886. They have one child, Doris Taylor, and reside at Hawesville, Hancock. County, Ky. Conway F. Pate was born September 16, 1864; died January 21, 1866. Mary E. Pate, wife of William F. Pate, died March 14, 1867. March 3, 1871, he was united in marriage with Mrs. Patsy S. Greathouse. Two children blessed this union – Frank C. Pate, born December 15, 1871, died January 10, 1872; Samuel Pate, born March 24, 1876; now living in Lewisport, Hancock County, Ky. Patsy S. Pate, second wife of William F. Pate died September 3, 1876. William F. Pate died April 8, 1886. He loved liberty – personal, political and religious. His was the religion of humanity. He was not a sectarian, but possessed the sublimest reverence for the God who he realized was the Maker and Giver of all good gifts. He was a kind, affectionate husband; a loving, indulgent father. While every member of his family and himself were slave-owners, he believed it was not right, and often in the home circle would advocate the abolition of slavery. The equality and brotherhood of man was in him an inborn sentiment. He was in Arkansas at the beginning of the Civil War; although he was in the Confederacy, his whole heart was filled with patriotism, believing that no vicissitudes of the war could justify the dissolution of the Union. Possessing wit and a genial nature, he was a favorite with his associates; and through life would drive dull care away. He died in the prime of life, being only fifty-two years of age.

SAMUEL MARION PATE, was born May 4, 1836. His nature was one to enjoy life, to see the bright and cheerful side of all his surroundings. In 1859 or 1860 he sought to better his fortune by going to California, remaining there until his death, which occurred September 25, 1861. He was buried at Gold Hill, Nevada County, Cal.

MARY ANN PATE, was born in January 15, 1840; departed this life October 15, 1843.

ELI WESLEY PATE, was born November 5, 1842. The greater part of his life was spent at his old homestead, where he was born and reared, in Hancock County, Ky. Farming was his principal pursuit He was united in marriage to Miss Mary R Mason, May 3, 1883. After his marriage he moved to Lewisport, Hancock County, Ky., where he engaged in dealing in leaf tobacco. He continued in the tobacco business three years and was successful. Then he entered into general merchandise business. This business, in connection with farming, engaged his attention until his death, which occurred March 21, 1894. His bearing was pleasing, possessing a pleasant and kindly face. Throughout the whole of his life he enjoyed the confidence and esteem of the people among whom he lived. He was honored for his honesty, benevolence and benignity. One who held a contempt for falsehood, abhorred deception and hypocrisy, and could

not look on such acts with any degree of allowance. He was sought by the poor and oppressed for pecuniary aid and counsel, the worthy were not turned away without his assistance.

MALLISSA HENRIETTA PATE, was born January 19, 1845; died June 12, 1846

LATETIA TAYLOR PATE, was born April 23, 1847 Was married to Mr. Edward Gregory, of Cloverport, Breckenridge County, Ky., October 7, 1868. To them have been given seven children. Myrtle Una Gregory, was born September 8, 1869, was married April 18, 1893, to Mr. R. G. Higdon, of Calhoun, Ky. They now, live in Calhoun, Ky. John Samuel Gregory, born September 16, 1871, was married to Miss Jessie Brown of Lewisport, Ky., October 31, 1893. They have one child, Edward Caldwell Gregory, born December 3, 1894. They live in Lewisport, Ky. James Henry Gregory, born March 20, 1874. Was married to Miss Nellie Pell, of Lewisport, Ky., January 27, 1892. They have one child, Myrtle Una Gregory, born May 17, 1893. They now live at Grissom's Landing, Daviess County, Ky. Eli Edward Gregory, born June 2, 1876. Latetia Arritta Gregory, was born February 11, 1882; died June 15, 1882. Cleburne Earl Gregory, born October 26, 1883. Infant son was born July 13, 1888; died July 25, 1888. The parents, Edward Gregory and Latetia Taylor Pate Gregory, reside in Lewisport, Ky., where their children were born and reared.

HENRY PATE, was born January 20, 1849; departed this life July 5, 1849.

The home of (Squire) Samuel & Arritta Pate in various accounts was built during 1823-1827. The approaching 200-year old home still stands today. The original log cabin over the years has been weather boarded and added to – the front of the house formally faced the river, a second floor, a room and a front porch have been added. By 1913 the home and farm were rented to tenants. Ownership of the property descended to Samuel & Arritta's daughter, Latetia Gregory (1847-1923) then to her five surviving children. By 1940 Latetia's daughter, Una Gregory Higdon (1869-1923) had become the sole owner and Iva Cambron was renting the place. In 1959 Mrs. Higdon sold the property to her nephew, Eli Samuel Gregory (1910-1996), and upon his death his daughter, Sammie Lou Myers inherited the home.



Eli Gregory (1910-1996) at his home in Lewisport, KY.
Picture was taken by Jerry Long on 31 March 1980



Home of Samuel C. Pate (1795-1849) & wife, Arritta (1806-1882)



From Owensboro Star newspaper, negative, 1968



Picture was taken in February 2008



Picture was taken in February 2008



Picture was taken by Jerry Long on 26 February 1980



Picture was taken by Jerry Long on 28 July 1986



Picture was taken by Jerry Long on 17 November 1988

The home of Squire Samuel Pate was the site of possibly the most written about event in the history of Hancock County, KY. Allegedly the home was the scene of an event in the life of President Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865). Due largely to this event in 1979 the home was added to the National Register of Historic Places. At the entrance to the lane that leads back to the Pate house and family cemetery is a Kentucky Historical Society Highway marker that was erected in 1964 commemorating the event. The marker is the first one awarded and erected in Hancock County. The memorial has the following inscription:

LINCOLN ACQUITTED

Abraham Lincoln, 16th president of the United States won his first law case here, 1827. Charged by the Commonwealth of Kentucky with operating ferry without license; Lincoln pleaded his own case in trial at the home of Presiding Justice of the Peace Samuel Pate. Pate encouraged Lincoln to study law and loaned him books. Lincoln often visited here on "law days".



Picture was taken by Jerry Long on 26 February 1980

Carl Sandburg, who many consider the definitive biographer of Abraham Lincoln refers to Squire Pate. In his book, Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years (Vol. I, 1926, Chapter 21, pp83-84) the following chapter appears:

YOUNG Abe was out with ax, saw, and draw-knife building himself a light flat-boat at Bates's Landing, a mile and a half down the river from Anderson's Creek. He was eighteen years old, a designer, builder, navigator; he cut down trees, hewed out planks, pegged and cleated, together the bottoms and sides of his own boat, wood from end to end.

Pieces of money jingled in his pockets. Passengers paid him for sculling them from Bates's Landing out to steamboats in the middle of the Ohio River.

He studied words and figurations on pieces of money. Thirteen stars stood for the first Thirteen States of the Union. The silver print of an eagle spreading its wings and lifting a fighting head was on the half-dollar. As though the eagle were crying high, important words, above its beak was inscribed "E Pluribus Unum"; this meant the many states should be One, young Abe learned.

Circled with the thirteen stars were the head and bust of a motherly-looking woman. On her forehead was the word "Liberty." Just what did She mean?

Waiting for passengers and looking out on the wide Ohio to the drooping trees that dipped their leaves in the water on the farther shore, he could think about money and women and eagles.

A signal came from the opposite shore one day and Lincoln rowed across the river. As he stepped out of his boat two men jumped out of the brush. They took hold of him and said they were going to "duck" him in the river. They were John and Lin Dill, brothers who operated a ferry and claimed Abe had been transporting passengers for hire contrary to the law of Kentucky.

As they sized up Abe's lean husky arms they decided not to throw him in the river. He might be too tough a customer. Then all three went to Squire Samuel Pate, justice of the peace, near Lewisport.

A warrant for the arrest of Abraham Lincoln was sworn out by John T. Dill. And the trial began of the case of "The Commonwealth of Kentucky versus Abraham Lincoln," charged with violation of "An Act Respecting the Establishment of Ferries"

Lincoln testified he had carried passengers from the Indiana shore out to the middle of the river, never taking them to the Kentucky shore. And the Dill brothers, though sore and claiming the defendant Lincoln had wronged them, did not go so far as to testify he had "for reward set any person over a river," in the words of the Kentucky statute.

Squire Pate dismissed the warrant against Lincoln. The disappointed Dills put on their hats and left. Lincoln sat with Squire Pate for a long talk. If a man knows the law about a business he is in, it is a help to him, the Squire told young Abe.

They shook hands and parted friends. Afterwards on days when no passengers were in sight and it was "law day" at Squire Pate's down the river, Abe would scull over and watch the witnesses, the constables, the Squire, the machinery of law, government, justice.

The State of Indiana, he learned, was one thing, and the State of Kentucky, something else. A water line in the middle of a big river ran between them. He could ask "Who makes state lines? What are state lines?"

The earliest published account of the connection of Samuel Pate to Lincoln was an article written in 1913 by Cleburne Earl Gregory (1883-1963) and published in the Louisville Courier-Journal. Gregory was a grandson of Squire Samuel Pate. He was a noted journalist, working on

the newspapers, Owensboro Inquirer in Owensboro, KY, Central City Argus in Central City and the Atlanta Journal in Atlanta, GA. He also served as executive director of the Georgia Historical Society (Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 21 February 1963). A transcription of Cleburne Gregory's article follows.

“Lincoln Defendant In First Case At Bar: Career As Lawyer Dated From Day He Was Tried On Complaint Of Ferrymen”; by Cleburne E. Gregory, Courier-Journal, Louisville, KY, Sunday, 16 February 1913, p1D:



Central City, Ky., Feb. 14 — History records the fact that the Lincoln family removed from Kentucky to Indiana in 1827 and that Abraham Lincoln was "hired" to one Green Taylor, residing at the mouth of Anderson Creek, Indiana, in 1829. History still further records that Taylor was a hard task master and upon one occasion laid an ear of corn against the ear of Lincoln with more violence than affinity, But, despite his numerous duties, young Lincoln found time for a few diversions, the principal one being the use of a rowboat on the Ohio River. This figured in an incident hitherto unpublished.

Even at that early date there nested a village at the foot of a hill adjacent to Anderson Creek, Indiana, and it was the only accumulation of houses and stores for several miles on either side of the river. The result was sufficient trade with the Kentucky shore to warrant the dignity of a licensed ferry. John and Len Dill, pioneer Kentucky farmers and staunch believers in their individual and collective rights, chanced to hold the ferry privileges at the time.

Hail Is Answered

One bright day the ferry bell on the Kentucky shore rang out lustily and in the narrow path through the willows extending to the water's edge a lone traveler appeared. There was no response to the first bell and it sounded again and again.

A boat put out from the Indiana shore and soon poked its inquisitive nose into the foot of the pathway on which the traveler stood. Instead of jumping in, the man who had rung the bell, grabbed the chain of the boat and held it while the Dill brothers emerged from the willows and made the boatman a prisoner.

One advanced giving the young oarsman a ducking, but whether this was done will never be known, as the records of the subsequent trial fail to show whether the prisoner was present in court wet or dry.

About one mile below the scene of the capture of the boat lived Squire Samuel Pate, another pioneer, who was Justice of the Peace at that particular time. To the home of this jurist the Dill party immediately repaired, not knowing nor caring to know the name of the prisoner. Upon their arrival the plowshare was temporarily dropped while plowman took hold of the wheels of justice. The prisoner at the bar gave his name as Abraham Lincoln, and to his auditors the name then meant nothing. It took only a few minutes for the Dills and their decoy to tell their story, and, although the Dills were thoroughly upright men, they felt that they had a just grievance and asked that the full penalty of the law be inflicted upon the prisoner.

His First Case At Bar

Realizing that conviction meant a possible term in a dingy jail, young Lincoln was at first somewhat disturbed, but as the trial progressed he became angry. When his turn came around he told his story with considerable emphasis.

In the first place, he did not know that there was a penalty for violating the ferry privilege, other than that the ferryman might inflict as man to man. Further, he thought that he was conferring a favor upon the ferrymen as well as the supposed traveler, as they might have been away from home or upon a distant portion of their farm. Therefore, he had decided to ferry the traveler for them, as he had done on previous occasions when there was delay in responding to a call.

Squire Pate was so impressed with the straightforward manner of the young man that he exercised the rural court's prerogative of overlooking that fact that ignorance of the law does not excuse. He therefore dismissed the charge with an admonition to the young man to be more careful in the future. Lincoln, not caring to return the mile up the river in the company which was forced upon him when he came down, remained for a time at the Pate farmhouse.

Start As Law Student

The Justice who had tried Lincoln had become interested in him and engaged him in casual conversation. He advised him to post himself better on the law, in order to avoid similar scrapes which might prove more serious, and loaned

the future emancipator a volume from his limited supply. He further invited the youth to come again to a session of his court under more pleasant conditions.

Lincoln accepted both the invitation and the suggestion, becoming a frequent visitor to the Pate home and taking a great interest in the few court sittings he was able to attend.

Squire Pate died in 1849, not living to see the height to which Lincoln ascended. Had he done so, he might have become a contender for the honor of planting the first seed of the study of law in the brain of one of the world's greatest lawyers. Yet he would have, as all his descendants did, disagreed to the last with his pupil on the issues of the Civil War.

House Still Stands

Although Squire Pate is long gone, the house in which Lincoln was tried, a hewn log structure erected in 1825 and weatherboarded in later years, still stands and serves as a tenant's house on the banks of the Ohio River in Hancock county, then a portion of Breckenridge county. It is about four miles above Lewisport. There is no one in its immediate vicinity who is not thoroughly familiar with the above story, and most of the neighbors know the exact room in which the trial took place. The only surviving one of Squire Pate's thirteen children pointed out the room to the writer.

In an adjacent overgrown graveyard there is a stone which has sought support against a nearby tree until it is embedded halfway through. This stone marks the grave of a young woman of Lincoln's age in whom he is said to have taken an affectionate interest until he learned that she was betrothed to a neighbor. However, it is possible that this latter version is merely a tinge of romance added by one of the intervening generations to make the facts of the martyred President's first trial more interesting. Be that as it may there are scores of good people in Hancock county who believe in the romance as strongly as they do in the trial, although the facts in the former could hardly have come to them as convincingly as did the data in the latter — from eye witnesses.

Cleburne Gregory in his article notes that his is the first published account of the Pate family's connection to Lincoln. At the time of the article his mother, Latetia Pate Gregory (1847-1923), was still living and was no doubt his primary source for his article. The events related by her son occurred about 20 years before her birth. No official primary records of the Lincoln trial have been located. The fact that eighty plus years had elapsed since the events he describes makes one wonder about the veracity of everything stated. The framework for the event and many details iterated in Gregory's story are substantiated. Abraham Lincoln circa 1827-29 indeed was residing in Spencer County, Indiana and was employed by James Taylor, of Troy. Lincoln in his own words stated he also worked as a ferryman near the mouth of Anderson Creek. The creek is across the Ohio River from the Troy bend neighborhood in Hancock County, Kentucky, where Squire Samuel Pate and the Dill family resided. It also seems very logical that there could have been a conflict over ferry rights between the close Indiana and Kentucky landings.

Other statements in Gregory's article are not as supported by additional evidence. There are some inaccuracies in his article. The statement that the Lincoln family moved from Kentucky to Indiana in 1827, for example, is an error – most scholars report that the family made the trip circa 1816. As stated Samuel Pate indeed was commissioned a justice of the peace in Hancock County. However, the date of his appointment was on 23 February 1835 as recorded in Hancock County Order Book 2, page 39 (see page 13 of this article). This date seems to present a conflict since Lincoln by 1835 had left Indiana and removed to Illinois.

John and Lin Dill as stated by Cleburne Gregory in his article were residents of Hancock County and were close neighbors to the Pate family. They resided in the Troy Bend neighborhood, near what was known as the Thompson Ferry. The Dills were associated with the Thompson Ferry that had been owned by Hugh Thompson. Hugh Thompson owned land bordering on the Ohio River a short distance west of Troy, Indiana.

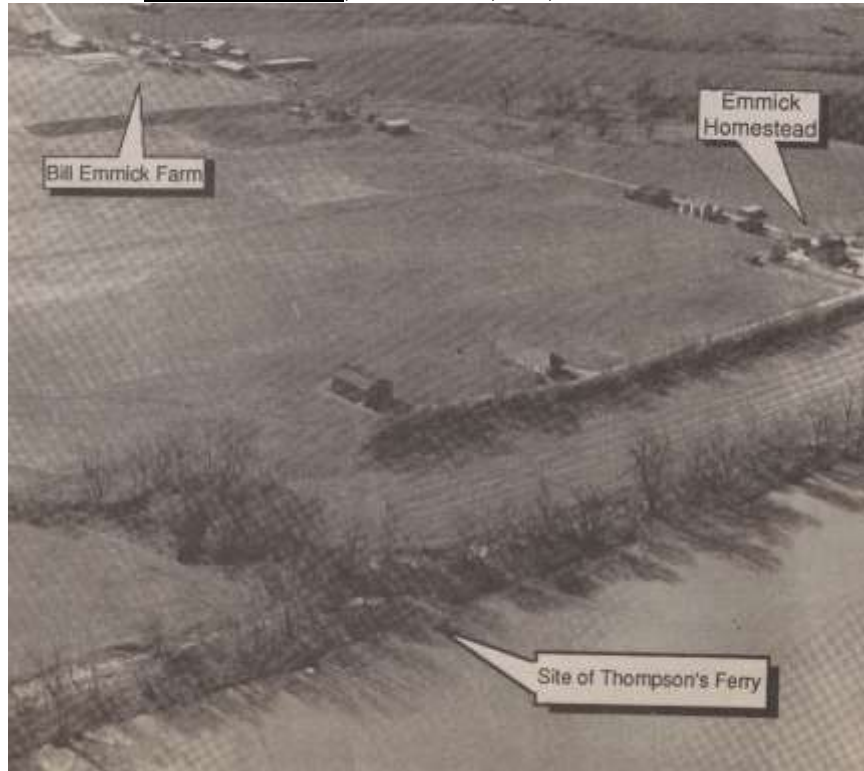
The Kentucky Historical Society has erected a historical highway marker commemorating the Thompson Ferry in Hancock County at the junction of KY Highway 334 and the Emmick Road. Side 1 of the marker bears the inscription: "Thompson Ferry is the site where many biographers of Abraham Lincoln say Thomas Lincoln family crossed the river to Indiana in 1816. A river ferry in area established Feb. 1804, by Daniel Lewis; later operated by Hugh Thompson. Ferry run by John and Lin Dill in 1827, when they charged Abe Lincoln with illegally ferrying passengers on river. Lincoln later acquitted." Side 2 records: "Thompson Ferry Road – One of Hancock County's first roads, built in 1815, ran from Thompson Ferry Landing toward Hardinsburg in Breckinridge County. The land on this site later bought by George Emmick, who built on the riverfront here one of the oldest houses in Hancock County in 1854. Presented by Mrs. Retha Emmick Newell." [Note by Jerry Long – the statement on the marker about John & Lin Dill operating the ferry in 1827 is proven to be erroneous by data presented herein.]

John A. Dill in the 1840 federal census of Hancock County was enumerated two households from the residence of Samuel Pate. His is the only Dill family appearing in the early records of Hancock County. John according to the 1840 census was born during 1810-1820. He does not appear in the annual tax lists of Hancock County until the 1838 list. In Hancock County on 23 August 1837 John A. Dill married Miss Maria(h) Thompson. John A. Dill died during 1845-1846. John's wife, Maria A. Dill (c1811-1876), appears as a widow in the 1850, 1860 & 1870 censuses of Hancock County. John & Maria had two children living in 1850 – Catherine Jane (1840-1858) and Lindsey Thompson Dill. (1840-1873). Maria and the two children have gravestones in the Greathouse Cemetery a short distance from the Pate residence. Lindsey Dill also went by the name of "Lin" Dill.

Hancock County Minute Book 2, page 8 records that John Thompson, son of Hugh Thompson, on 26 May 1834 was authorized to run the old Thompson Ferry at his father's landing. Thomas Blincoe & Samuel Pate were securities on John Thompson's bond. John A. Dill, and his wife, Maria, sold the Thompson Ferry landing on 2 November 1840 to George Emmick for \$600 (Hancock County Deed Book 3, pp.426-427). The ferry was part of a 24-acre tract on the Ohio River that was formerly owned by Hugh Thompson, deceased. The land had been laid off and allotted to Maria Dill as an heir of her father, Hugh Thompson – the ferry

landing owner (several deeds related to the division of lands of Hugh Thompson, dec'd, were recorded in Hancock County Deed Book 4, pp.112-119). The 1840 deed by John & Maria Dill was presented in court and recorded on 10 February 1846. The deed specified that two deckhands were assigned to operate the ferry boat, which was 40 feet long and 30 inches deep, and carried as many as six persons. The landing was a chief shipping point from which Lewis Bottom farmers sent their produce to markets in New Orleans and other points.

Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 5 March 1992:



President Abraham Lincoln and his family are believed to have crossed from Kentucky into Indiana at Thompson's Ferry in Hancock County. The site of the crossing is shown above. The Hancock Historical Society is trying to obtain a marker for the site.



The Anderson River is where Lincoln operated a ferry during his youth. The park in Troy, Indiana to the left honors the president. The river is two to three miles upstream from Thompson's Ferry.

John A. Dill and his son, Lin Dill, appear to be the Dills alluded to in the story related by Cleburne Gregory. John and Lin Dill, however, were not brothers as stated by Gregory – they were father and son. Also Lin Dill was not born until 1840 and thus could not have been a participant in the Lincoln episode during the late 1820's.

Subsequent accounts about the relationship of Squire Pate and Abraham Lincoln point out that scores of people in Hancock County knew of and related stories of Lincoln's trial before Justice Pate and his subsequent visits to the Pate house. The strength and extent of these stories suggest that there must indeed be some kernels of truth in the Lincoln lore. Some of the stories with the retelling over many years have become embellished and important details have been added and subtracted.

A great volume of articles about Squire Samuel Pate's connection to Abraham Lincoln have been published in newspapers, magazines and books. The following partial list was compiled to illustrate how extensively this tale has been repeated. This list is not comprehensive there being as many as these and more. Almost all repeat the same essential story as set forth in the earliest 1913 article by Cleburne E. Gregory with some embellishments being added here and there in subsequent essays.

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- Perry County: A History, Thomas James De la Hunt, W. K. Stewart Company, Indianapolis, IN, 1916, Chapter VIII – "Lincoln Family In Perry County," pp72-73
- Lincoln the Litigant, William H. Townsend, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, MA, 1925, pp30-40
- "The Girl Across The River, Lincoln's Friend At Court", William E. Barton, Dearborn-Independent, Dearborn, MI, Saturday, 12 February 1927, pp3-4, 21-23
- "Commonwealth of Kentucky vs. Abraham Lincoln", by William Townsend Author of "Abraham Lincoln, Defendant" and "Lincoln the Litigant", Lexington Leader, Lexington, KY, Sunday, 13 February 1927, p7A
- "Lincoln Is Said To Have Visited A Young Woman In Lewisport", Breckenridge News, Cloverport, KY, Wednesday, 23 February 1927, p7
- Lincoln Trail Near Cloverport, Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 27 February 1927, p10B
- "Story Told Of Trial Of Abe Lincoln In Hancock County", Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 27 February 1927, p1B
- "Pate House is Near Lewisport", Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 6 March 1927, p7 [farm then owned by Mr. & Mrs. Robert G. Higdon]
- "Winning Ways Saved Lincoln From Ducking In The Ohio", Evansville Press, Evansville, IN, Sunday, 24 April 1927, p12
- "Breckinridge Recalls Lincoln", Boonville Enquirer, Boonville, IN, Friday, 27 May 1927, p8
- The Women Lincoln Loved, William E. Barton, Indianapolis, IN, 1927, p141, 149

- “Commonwealth of Kentucky vs. Abraham Lincoln, William H. Townsend, American Bar Association Journal, Washington, DC, February 1928, Vol. 14, #2, pp80-82.
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- “Commonwealth vs. Abraham Lincoln”, Daily Telegraph, Bluefield, WV, Thursday, 5 April 1934, p6
- “Commonwealth vs. Abraham Lincoln”, Maryland Independent, La Plata, MD, Friday, 6 April 1934, p2
- “Commonwealth vs. Abraham Lincoln”, Chino Champion, Chino, CA, Friday, 13 April 1934, p4
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- “Squire Pate’s House”, Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 15 February 1935, p6
- “Squire Pate’s House”, Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 16 February 1935, p4
- “Lincoln Lore Connected With Squire Pate’s House In Hancock”, Breckenridge News, Cloverport, KY, Wednesday, 27 February 1935, p4
- “Looking Backward”, Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, Friday, 13 September 1935 (article originally appeared in the Hancock Clarion in October 1914)
- “The Arduous Progress of Lawyer Lincoln”, Albert A. Woldman, The Philadelphia Inquirer, Philadelphia, PA, Saturday, 13 February 1937, p9
- “House In Hancock Where Lincoln Was Tried”, Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 24 September 1939, p6B
- “Hancock County Scene Of Episode In Youth Of Abraham Lincoln”, Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, Friday, 9 February 1940, p1
- “‘Valentine Days’ In The Life of Lincoln – Sixteenth President”, Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, Friday, 16 February 1940
- “News and Views”, W. E. Daniel, Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 10 February 1944 p8
- “Many Fine Farms On River Road In Hancock”, W. E. Daniel, Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 7 May 1950, p9B
- “Abraham Lincoln, Defendant: His long-forgotten appearance in court got him interested in the study of law”, William H. Townsend, Courier-Journal, Louisville, KY, Sunday, 8 June 1952, p132
- “Story Of Lincoln’s Debut As Lawyer Is Told As a Favorite In Hancock County, Trial Scene”, Fred L. Senters, Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 8 February 1953, p6A
- “Lincoln Won Ferry Case Against Him At Pate Home Near Lewisport”, Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, Thursday, 12 February 1959
- “Ferry Story – Abe at 18 Beat Rap in Kentucky case”, Indianapolis News, Indianapolis, IN, Thursday, 12 February 1959, p12
- “Samuel Pate House, Hancock County”, J. Winston Coleman, Jr., Sunday Herald-Leader, Lexington, KY, Sunday, 4 November 1962, p49
- Lincoln’ Boyhood: A Chronicle of His Indiana Years, Francis Marion Van Natter, Public Affairs Press, Washington, D.C., 1963 [contains section on Squire Pate & Lincoln episode, two of his sources were: “Lincoln The Litigant”, by William H. Townsend, 1925, and Mrs. R. G. Higdon, of Frankfort, KY, a granddaughter of Samuel Pate; Van Natter in November 1935 visited the Samuel Pate farm and interviewed several older residents]

- “Lincoln’s Samuel Pate”, Harold James Spelman, Lincoln Herald, Fall 1964, Vol. 66, No. 3, pp140-143
- “Two Events In Lincoln’s Life Linked To Hancock County: An Unlawfully Operating Ferry Charge Dismissed”, Hugh O. Potter, Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 12 August 1966, p9D
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- “Samuel Pate House: Hancock County”, This Is Kentucky: Drawings and Text by Robert A. Powell, Kentucky Heritage Artist, Kentucky Images, Frankfort, KY, 1975, p54
- “Hancock House Subject Of Abraham Lincoln Lore”, Herald-Leader, Lexington, KY, Wednesday, 23 July 1975, p52
- “Squire Pate’s House, Hancock County”, Times-Tribune, Corbin, KY, Sunday, 27 July 1975, p8
- “Squire Pate’s House, Hancock County”, Advocate-Messenger, Danville, KY, Wednesday, 30 July 1975, p8
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- “Squire Pate’s House, Hancock County”, Dawson Springs Progress, Dawson Springs, KY, 7 August 1975, p7
- “The Squire Pate House”, Hancock 29: Pictorial Heritage of Hancock County, Kentucky, Robert A. Powell, Kentucky Images, Lexington, KY, 1978, p23
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- Abraham Lincoln and The Union, Oscar & Lilian Handlin, Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 1980, p13
- “So It’s Been Told: Footnotes to Hancock County history, Jack Foster, Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, Thursday, 21 August 1980, p2
- “Historical society has picnic at historic home”, Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, Thursday, 23 September 1982, p6
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- “Dispute may have lead Lincoln into law”, Glenn Hodges, Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 30 May 1992, p31
- “Young Abe Lincoln still remembered in Hancock”, Glenn Hodges, Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 12 September 1995, p1D
- “Pate home harkens back to Lincoln”, Laura Skillman, Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Monday, 28 April 1997, Ore Region ’97, p6
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- “Scenic Byway program filmed at Pate House to air next week’, Ralph Dickerson, Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, Thursday, 22 January 2004, p1
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- “Lincoln just one aspect of Pate House history”, Malena DeJarnette, Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, Thursday, 9 August 2007, p1
- “Artist unveils paintings of Lincoln trial in Hancock County”, Ralph Dickerson, Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, Thursday, 27 September 2007, p8
- “Scene of Abraham Lincoln’s first legal argument”, Kentucky Monthly, February 2008, Frankfort, KY, p29
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Drawing by Robert A. Powell, Kentucky Heritage Artist, 1975



Picture of Squire Samuel Pate (1795-1849)

By Jerry Long
c.2025



Picture donated to the Hancock County Museum in Hawesville, KY by Eli Samuel Gregory (1910-1996). Purported to be (Squire) Samuel Pate (1795-1849).

In researching my ancestry this writer made several visits to the home of the late Eli Samuel Gregory (1910-1996), of Lewisport, KY. Mr. Gregory was a great-grandson of (Squire) Samuel Crawford Pate (1795-1849) & Arritta Thrahser (1806-1882). He was the owner of their home – the “Pate House” that is on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1980 Mr. Gregory showed me notes recorded by his aunt, Una Gregory Higdon (1869-1964), that proved that my third great-grandfather, William Pate (c1806-1873), was a brother of Squire Samuel Pate.

In an interview of Eli Gregory on 18 November 1985 he revealed to me that he had pictures of Samuel & Arritta (Thrasher) Pate. He said he would not unveil them until the

dedication of the proposed museum in Hawesville. On 21 April 1986 Eli Gregory was presented the annual Hancock County Historian of the Year award. He was keenly interested in Lincoln lore and Lincoln's connections to the Pate family. He had applied and succeeded in having the Pate House added to the National Register of Historic Places on 21 December 1978. Mr. Gregory's comments at the award banquet referred to the only known pictures of Squire Sam Pate & his wife ("Gregory honored as Historian of the Year, Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 24 April 1986, p.8). He said the photos have been enlarged to 10x14 inches and he is having black walnut frames made for each if them. He promised they would be shown to the public for the first time at the dedication of the Hancock County Historical Museum. On 8 October 1988 the museum was dedicated (Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY, 29 September 1988, pp.1&4).

At the Hancock County Museum in Hawesville, KY on 3 July 1994 I took pictures of the Pate photographs – identified as Samuel Pate & his wife, Arritta Thrasher. The photographs have since been published in numerous sources – including Hancock County, Kentucky: A Pictorial History (Tawana Publishing Company, Hudson, KY, 2004, p.228); FindAGrave.com; FamilySearch.org; Ancestry.com; etc.

When I first saw at the museum the picture of a young man reported to be Squire Samuel Pate (1795-1849) my immediate thought was that it was highly unlikely that it was him. The art of photography had only been introduced to the world in 1839. The general public would have had little access to the process during the last decade (1840's), of the Squire's life. My doubts were confirmed when I obtained copies of papers collected and compiled by the late historian Hugh O. Potter (1905-1986). Potter was a writer for the Owensboro, KY newspaper, Owensboro Inquirer, and later for many years was the general manager of the Owensboro radio station, WOMI. He was a historian and wrote several articles on local history. In 1974 he published the book History of Owensboro and Daviess County, Kentucky. One of his main interests was Lincoln lore and at the time of his death was working on a manuscript on Lincoln's boyhood.

Hugh O. Potter's historical collections are housed in the Special Collections Department of the Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, KY. In his collection I found 26 pages related to Squire Samuel Pate and his connections to Abraham Lincoln. Of these is the following three page letter written by Hugh O. Potter (1905-1986), of Owensboro, KY, to Carl Haverlin (1899-1985), of New York, NY, a music industry executive.

Jun 21, 1953

Dear Carl:

I have just addressed a separate envelope to you in which I have enclosed Bill Ladd's report on the BMI Clinic in Louisville, giving Cliffordean the headline and you the picture. Also enclosed are picture pages from the "Tall Kentuckian" and a couple of features with Lincoln or Civil War connections – all from today's Louisville Courier-Journal.

I spent a pleasant hour or so this afternoon with Mrs. Una Higdon (1), the granddaughter of Squire Samuel Pate and present owner of the old Pate home which we visited last Tuesday. Mrs. Higdon cleared up some of the questions in our minds. For possible use as notes in the event I carry out the suggestion you and Cliffordean made. I am using this letter to you as a means of getting in typewritten form the notes I made during our conversation.

Since I plan to use this method, as I explained in my letter of a day or so ago, I do not want, or expect, you to reply to each of these letters unless there is a reason for so doing, such as suggesting more intensive research on particular points, etc. If I do carry out the suggestion of compiling a story of Lincoln's Boyhood in Kentucky and Indiana, this will certainly be a novel way of recording – and prechecking – the information, speculation and questions. (2)

Now to my visit with Mrs. Higdon, who is 83 years old and presently a patient in the Owensboro-Daviess County hospital, where she is receiving treatment for a fractured legs.

Mrs. Higdon has the appearance of a woman in her early 70's and her mind and memory are as good and as solid as the logs I brought back from the old Pate home. She is certainly a historical researcher's ideal. One of her brothers, whose name she gave me and who was an Atlanta, Ga., newspaper writer until he reached retirement age, is now executive secretary of the Georgia Historical Commission. She said he once wrote a story on Squire Pate, so he, too, should be a good source of material. I plan to write him very soon. (3)

Mrs. Higdon said Samuel Pate was a widower when he married her grandmother, Miss Aritta Thrasher. At that time Aritta's father, Elias Thrasher, gave them 50-acres of land and Pate bought another 50-acres to make the total of 100-acres in the Pate home-place. Squire Pate's first wife was a Miss Barrett of Ohio County, Kentucky, by whom he had two children (she thinks), Mrs. Higdon does not know how many children Samuel and Aritta Pate had but she knows they reared thirteen and thinks some died in infancy.

She said Squire Pate never had a photograph made and, as far as she knows, spent most of his time farming. She thinks the position of magistrate was received by appointment rather than in a political race. At the time he was magistrate, what is now Hancock county (the county in which the home is located) was then part of Breckenridge county with the court house in Hardinsburg. (4)

Mrs. Higdon said that it is generally known and agreed that the Dills had Lincoln arrested and that he was tried and acquitted by Squire Pate, there is no evidence of which she knows that Lincoln later came back to court or borrowed, or studied law books there. Also, she said, there is no evidence he didn't.

She said she remembers an old Negro man who was a slave on the Pate place while the Squire and Mrs. Pate were alive, and while Lincoln was a boy in Indiana, who talked about seeing young Abe. Mrs. Higdon said "Uncle Harrison" told her that he "remembered that boy that worked over there for Mr. Taylor at Anderson creek and that he had seen him pulling a skiff around there" when he'd be taking Mrs. Pate to Troy, Indiana, by row boat to shop. Mrs. Higdon said "Uncle Harrison" referred to Squire Pate as "Marse Sam" and that he was "Marse Sam's body servant." (5)

Mrs. Higdon's mother, was Miss Latetia Taylor Pate before she married Edward Gregory, and that she was named for the wife of President Zachary Taylor.

Since Mrs. Higdon's grandmother was born only three years (I think it was 1806) before Abe Lincoln was born and since she lived until she was about 75, I asked Mrs. Higdon whether there were any family stories connected with Lincoln such as might be expected in view of the fact

that he had been president and people usually recall “knowing such people way back when”. She said she knew of none and explained that Lincoln wasn’t so well thought of during those days around her ancestral home.

She explained that while Lincoln was a boy he was just like any boy and no one had a special reason for paying attention to him. Then the Pates had a number of slaves (Mrs. Pate freed 34 after the war, many of whom Mrs. Higdon said remained and worked for her). In addition to this, Edward Gregory of Cloverport, Ky. (son-in-law of Mr. Samuel Pate and father of Mrs. Higdon) was a Confederate soldier.

“Mother was, I think, eighteen, when they freed the slaves. I remember hearing her say in later life “I was a minor. I was just 18 when they took my slaves. They were my property. I don’t think Lincoln became very important to my family which was intensely Southern,” she said with a twinkle in her eyes.

Mrs. Higdon said her mother “had the greatest contempt for anybody who was not good to his slaves” and spoke of such slave holders very harshly. She said her people sold only one slave and he was a young man who would steal out the horses at night and ride them around the country. She said in one corner of the family cemetery, in which the Squire and his widow were buried, are two simple head stones bearing the names “George” and “Lucy”. These mark the graves of the mother and father of the slave family on the Pate place.

Mrs. Higdon recalls what she believes was the first story written about the Squire Pate connection with Lincoln. It was written by William Barton and appeared in the Dearborn Independent. (6) She said the story carried a picture of a one-story house instead of a picture of the “two and a half story” Pate house, and used a picture of an old man in a flowing beard to represent the Squire **(who never had a picture made)**. She also said it was Barton who “made up the story about Lincoln having a sweetheart buried in the Pate cemetery. She said her late husband wrote a “scorching letter” to the Dearborn Independent about the story and they later received a reply from Barton in which he admitted the pictures were fakes.

The story about Lincoln’s sweetheart clears up the question I asked in my first letter to you. Barton told of a Caroline Meeker, a niece of Squire Pate, being at the Pate home and that Lincoln was attracted to her but that Mrs. Pate objected to him and Miss Meeker later married a brother of Mrs. Pate. She died at a young age and was buried in the family plot. It is the stone from her grave that is now missing. The Meeker girl’s husband was a Thrasher. (This and the fact that Mrs. Samuel Pate was a Thrasher explains why there was member of Thrashers in the Pate cemetery.)

Another question I believe Mrs. Higdon answered for us was the location of the “court room” in the Squire Pate home. Instead of being upstairs, as we speculated, it was on the ground floor in the room we first entered. That is in the front room on the side of the house nearest the cemetery. (The up-river side or the righthand side as you face the front of the building). She said it was then, also, the “parlor” but that it is now, she believes, being used as the kitchen by the present tenants.

Mrs. Higdon said she has no intention of selling the place outside of the Pate family and that at least one Pate has said he wants to buy it when she is ready to sell. I suggested to her that she place in the deed, or her will, a provision that at no time could the home, roadway leading to it,

or the cemetery be sold to anyone outside of the family, unless it be sold to a historical society, and that there be placed in the deed a provision prohibiting any one from tearing the old home down.

I also suggested that she take steps to protect the original head-stone from the Squire Pate grave. She indicated she thought this would be a good idea.

I plan to see her again and check with other members of the family who may have family bibles or other documentary material that may tie in the Pate family closer to the Lincoln boyhood.

As you can see, I am typing this in my best newspaper-learned pick-and-punch style so I will make no apology for the typing or the rambling length.

Sincerely your,
Hugh O. Potter

The following footnotes by Jerry Long were added to the letter as an additional explanation of the preceding passages in the letter:

- (1) This is Una Gregory Higdon (1869-1964), daughter of Edward T. Gregory & Latetia Taylor Pate and granddaughter of (Squire) Samuel C. Pate & Arritta Thrasher.
- (2) Hugh O. Potter (1905-1986) published an article about Lincoln's trial before Squire Samuel Pate – "Two Events In Lincoln's Life Linked To Hancock County: An Unlawfully Operating Ferry Charge Dismissed", Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 12 August 1966, p9D. At the time of his death Hugh O. Potter was working on a manuscript about Lincoln's boyhood.
- (3) Mrs. Higdon was referring to her bother, Cleburne Earl Gregory (1883-1963), who penned and published in 1913 an article about his grandfather, Squire Samuel Pate's, connection to Abraham Lincoln ("Lincoln Defendant In First Case At Bar: Career As Lawyer Dated From Day He Was Tried On Complaint Of Ferrymen", Courier-Journal, Louisville, KY, Sunday, 16 February 1913, p1D). In the collection of the papers of Hugh O. Potter at Western Kentucky University this writer found no further documentation of any contact with or feedback from Cleburne E. Gregory.
- (4) Hancock County was created in 1829 from parts of Breckinridge, Daviess & Ohio Counties, KY.
- (5) Harrison Pate (age 50, Black, born KY) is enumerated eight households from the residence of Mrs. Arritta (Thrasher) Pate in the 1870 federal census of Hancock County, KY.
- (6) William E. Barton published the article, "The Girl Across The River, Lincoln's Friend At Court", in the Dearborn-Independent, Dearborn, MI, Saturday, 12 February 1927, pp.3-4 & 21-23.

Hugh O. Potter in the preceding letter reported that Squire Samuel Pate's granddaughter, Una Gregory Higdon (1869-1964), stated that her grandfather **"Squire Pate never had a photograph made."** This statement leaves little doubt that the picture at the Hancock County Museum purported to be Squire Samuel Pate (1795-1849) is definitely not him. Possibly it is one of his sons.