

GENEALOGY DEPARTMENT



Marie Dickoré, *Editor*

MILLCREEK TOWNSHIP HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO

by MARIE DICKORÉ

April, 1960 is census time for the United States, an enumeration of the population which has been the custom every ten years since 1790. In 1810 Cincinnati had only its second census while the country had its third. However the early census records for Cincinnati and Hamilton County were lost in the fire when the British, during the War of 1812, destroyed parts of our nation's capital. In some instances the lost census figures have been restored from other sources such as tax lists, petitions, and voters' lists. A good example of this is the "Virginia Census of 1790."

Lacking the early census records for Hamilton County it is good to find that the library of the Historical and Philosophical Society has in its manuscript collection several tax lists, voters' lists and other lists of names which eke out the lost census records. This time we are drawing upon the Bates Manuscript collection for two tax lists, one for 1811 and one for 1812, for Millcreek township which lies immediately north of Cincinnati.

The tax list for 1811 was taken by young Peter Hathaway Kemper, son of the Rev. James Kemper, Presbyterian minister who settled Walnut Hills. The tax list for 1812 was compiled by William Cary of College Hill, father of General S. F. Cary, Freeman G. Cary, founder of Farmer's College, and W. W. Cary. They were cousins of the famous poets, Alice and Phoebe Cary, whose lovely home is now known as Clovernook, home for the blind.

In pioneer days Mill Creek was a lovely little river whose valley was known for its beauty of scenery, and was desirable for its fertility, its many excellent mill sites and adjacent forests. Earliest settlers, most of whom had served with Generals St. Clair and Wayne in the campaigns against the Indians, were glad to find

both beauty and practical advantages such as stone quarries, fine trees to furnish building material for their homes, while the rolling countryside offered good farm lands and there was an abundance of excellent water. They built block houses and staunch stations at strategic points to afford shelter in time of Indian raids and, when it became safe, they built handsome houses for their growing families. They erected grist and saw mills to further adequate living conditions for the future. The land was purchased in large and small parcels, most of this from John Cleves Symmes, the proprietor.

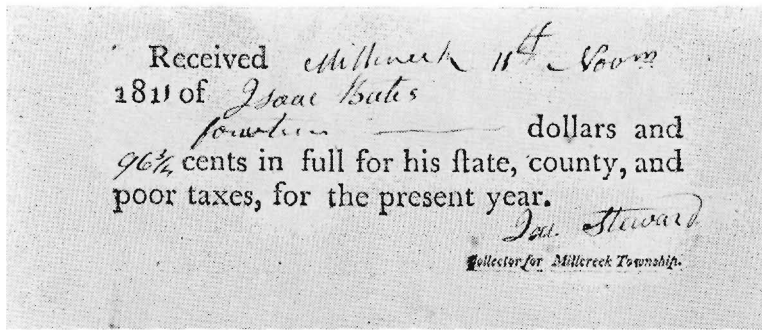
These two tax lists were written with goosequill pen, which the enumerator had to sharpen as he wore it down. No modern ball-point pen with permanent ink cartridges to insert. The pioneer carried a little bottle of iron-gall ink for which we are especially grateful because that was permanent and withstands anything except fire. Both Kemper and Cary wrote a clear, legible hand, they knew their neighbors and could spell their names, hence the genealogist meets with little difficulty. The early style of writing a double s (as in Bassett or Jesse) often confuses the modern student who takes this to be an f or p and so makes a mistake. But these clerks made their letters so clearly that the name is easily recognized.

However, there is one item about which we should caution. These enumerators placed a man's initial (for a middle name) before the first name, hence we find "H. Peter Kemper," and "D. William Ludlow." We need to transpose these initials.

It is interesting to note that in the 1811 tax list the lowest amount is $5\frac{1}{2}$ cents and there were 11 landowners paying this. The most affluent men of the township were Isaac Bates who was taxed \$4.71 $\frac{1}{2}$; David Risk, \$4.29; John Riddle, \$3.17, and Samuel Soward, \$3.38. The total tax for the township was \$100.86 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Bates owned much of what was later Cumminsville. Riddle owned a large tract which took in part of the present suburb of Clifton where we have Riddle Road. David Risk had married the widow of Israel Ludlow, one of Cincinnati's founders, who owned a large tract in the Mill Creek valley where he built Ludlow's Station.

In 1812, the following year, the tax rate had been leveled out so that the lowest rate was 10 cents paid by 26 landowners.



Receipt given Isaac Bates for his 1811 taxes in full.

David Risk paid \$2.50 and Riddle \$1.90. Bates evidently had sold some of his land because he was taxed only 60 cents. Soward probably sold out and moved away or died. His name does not appear, but Adam Merrill was the wealthiest and paid a tax of \$4.00. The total now was \$145.70.

We find that four women were landowners in the township and paid taxes; Mary Hill, Catherine Hedger, Constance McMillan and Hannah McHenry. Constance McMillan was the widow of William McMillan who died May 5, 1804, naming her his heir in his will. When Hannah McHenry's husband died in 1806, he left her his estate. None of these women paid very high taxes.

Mill Creek valley was the home of some of our most prominent pioneers and their names are preserved in the names of streets and avenues of the county. The Ludlow family was prominent from the very first. Israel Ludlow's widow, Charlotte Chambers of Pennsylvania, married for her second husband, David Risk, the Presbyterian minister, who was a graduate of the University of Edinboro. John Ludlow, brother of Israel, was the high sheriff of Hamilton County, and William D. Ludlow, who served as a county commissioner, was his son.

Colonel John Riddle came from New Jersey in 1790 and established his home in the valley on the old Hamilton road. He was the first to raise a crop of wheat in the region. A veteran of the American Revolution, he served again in the west under General St. Clair and won his colonelcy under General Wayne at Greenville at the time of the famous treaty with the Indians. He remained active in the militia.

Richard Hankins, another Revolutionary War patriot, came from North Carolina; Henry Ewing had served Hamilton County as coroner in 1805–1806; Lewis and Samuel Bunnell came from New Jersey and settled in Mill Creek valley with Robert Harper, Richard and Robert Dill as early as 1789.

William Preston's will, probated in 1803, mentions as his heirs his sons Joseph and Abijah and his daughters Abigail Long and Susan McGilliard.

General Jared Mansfield was the United States Surveyor General for the Northwest Territory and we remember him especially as one of the early professors of mathematics at West Point. His son, Edward Mansfield, became one of Cincinnati's distinguished literary men.

John, Matthias, Abraham and Edward Roll were the sons of John Rool (Roll) named in his will probated May 18, 1808. His daughter was Rachel Badgley. We have two streets named for this family, Roll and Iroll. The latter was originally Isaac Roll Street but was shortened to Iroll.

A recent announcement that the famous Finneytown Inn will be destroyed to make way for the relocation of Winton Road saddens us very much, for this old building, still stout enough to outlast several more generations, was built by Ebenezer Ward Finney, a Revolutionary War soldier of Connecticut who heired the site from his grandfather, the Rev. Ebenezer Ward, who had purchased it from John Cleves Symmes.

The Mill Creek valley is still a valuable part of Hamilton County but its rustic beauty has given way to industrial development and history only records the names of pioneer settlers in the appellation of streets and roads.

TAX LIST FOR MILLCREEK TOWNSHIP
HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO

by PETER HATHAWAY KEMPER, Township Clerk

August 3rd, 1811

Agnew, Samuel	Finny, John
Akrist, Job	[Finney]
Ashburn, Cyrus	Flach, Robert
Ayres, David	Flin, Stephen
Ayres, Jedediah	Fordice, James
Ayres, Samuel	Foreman, Jonathan
	Foster, Gabriel
Babbs, John	Gambiel, Edward
Badgley, Robert	German, Caleb
Bassett, Elisha	Gill, Andrew
Bates, Clark	Gray, David
Bates, Isaac	Greenham, Daniel
Bishop, Thomas	Guess, Solomon
Bobo, Jesse	Guin, Benjamin
Brokaw, Isaac	Gurten, Christopher
Brooks, John	[Gurten]
Bunnell, Lewis	Guthrie, James
Bunnell, Samuel	
Burns, Archabald	Hadlock, Hezekiah
Burns, James, Sr.	Hammon, Lewis
Burns, James, Jr.	Hand, William
	Handkins, Richard
Cameron, Daniel	[Hankins]
Cannon, Isaac	Harper, Robert
Cary, William	Harper, Thomas
Chase, Abraham	Hedger, Catherine
Clark, Robert	Herron, Jesse
Coe, William	Hickson, James
Coil, John	Highland, Andrew
Concklin, Joseph	Highland, Anthony
Conwell, James	Highland, Robert
Coons, Fredrick	Hill, Mary
Coons, George	Howard, Cyrus
Coons, Henry	Huffman, Ambrose
Cooper, Thomas	Hulick, Isaac
Cooper, William	Hunter, James
Copeland, Jonathan	Hunter, William
Cox, Andrew	Huse, Thomas
Crary, John	Hutcheson, Ezekiel
Crissman, Elias	
	Imlay, Peter
Danelly, William	Johnson, Henry
Daugharty, Thomas	Johnson, William
Dayton, Aaron	Johnson, William
Dayton, Jonathan	[second of name]
Dill, Richard	Jones, John
Dodd, Jesse	Jones, William
Dolphin, John	
Dunn, Samuel	Kemper, Elnathan
	Kemper, H. Peter
Ewing, James	Kemper, James, Sr.
	Kemper, James
Finny, E. W.	Kemper, Peter
[Finney]	King, Jarret

- Langdon, W. John
 Leonard, Samuel
 Lion, James
 [Lyon]
 Lion, Jonathan
 [Lyon]
 Lines, Levi
 Lord, Joseph
 Ludlow, D. William
 Ludlow, John
 Lyon[s], see Lion
- McDaniel, James
 McGinty, Daniel
 McHenry, Hannah
 McHenry, Joseph
 McKey, John
 McMillin, Archabald
 McMillin, Constance
 McMillin, James
 [McMillan]
 McMillin, Samuel
- Mansfield, Jared
 Marsh, Mulford
 Marsh, R. Isaac
 Menessier, Francis
 Miller, Eli
 Miller, John
 Miller, R. John
 Mills, Jeremiah
 Mills, Peter
 Mires, Jacob
 [Myers]
 Mires, John
 [Myers]
 Mires, Jonathan
 [Myers]
- Nehemiah, David
 Nelson, Joel
 Nixon, Robert
 Noble, Jonathan
- Orr, Robert
- Parsonett, Joseph
 Passmore, Henry
 Pharis, Joseph
 Preston, Joseph
 Protzman, John
- Quick, John
- Rankins, John
- Rankins, Samuel
 Raymond, Samuel
 Reed, Abraham
 Reed, William
 Riddle, John
 Risk, David
 Risk, James
 Risk, Thomas
 Risk, William
 Robins, William
 Rogers, Henry
 Roler, George
 Rool, Edward
 [Roll]
 Rool, John
 [Roll]
 Rool, Mathias
 [Roll]
- Sands, Gidion
 Seaman, Joseph
 Sisson, James
 Soward, Samuel
 Steward, Jacob
 Steward, John
 Steward, Martin
 Steward, Stephen
 Steward, Zadock
 Studard, George
 Sweet, Benjamin
 Swift, B. Jedediah
- Thompson, Charles
 Toler, ?
- Van Doler, Jesse
 Van Horn, John
 Van Horn, Joseph
 Van Horn, William
- Waggoner, Aaron
 Waldo, Fredrick
 Walker, John
 Wallis, Robert
 Ward, John
 Warman, J. Thomas
 Whetstone, John
 White, John
 Williams, Cornelius
 Williams, Jonathan
 Williams, Joshua
 Willy, Samuel
 Wilson, John
 Wilson, William
 Winters, Josiah

Footnote—The tax list for 1812 will be published in the July issue of the Bulletin.