A HISTORY AND GENEALOGY OF THE RUDDLE FAMILY.

Compiled and Written

By

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INTRODUCTION

In writing a genealogical account it is customary to begin with the first definably known ancestor in America—the immigrant ancestor, if possible—and let the account run chronologically, giving each successive generation down to the present. However, in tracing one's progenitors, one usually proceeds in the exact reverse order. In the following short account of the Ruddell Family in America I shall follow the common custom.

To me no genealogical account is of any value unless references, taken, if possible, from original sources, are cited to prove one's assertions. Realizing that I have a case to make out in delineating the early Ruddell generations, I trust the reader will bear with me if I appear a little tedious at times with my citation of proofs and calculations of dates, ages, etc.

As one proceeds with the reading of this History of the Ruddell Family in America, one is at once struck by their fondness for transmitting to the new generations the Christian names of the preceding ones. This tendency on their part has been both a help and a hindrance to their genealogists. But the hindrance on the whole has been much greater than the help. When the genealogist encounters a Ruddell bearing such Christian names as Cornelius, Stephen, Isaac, or George, he is at once fairly certain he is dealing with the right family. In this way it may be a help. But, in this case such help has been scarcely necessary, for the name of Ruddell or Ruddle, unlike such names as Smith, Jones and Johnson, was distinctive enough, and the writer, in his researches, has not encountered a single Ruddell that he did not feel was descended from the immigrant John. This seems rather strange too for the name of Ruddell was not at all uncommon in England during the Colonial period, the church records of that time, particularly in London, containing numerous references to them with the name spelled both Ruddell and Ruddle. This also came as a surprise to me for I had regarded the spelling of Ruddle as being corruption of the Colonial period in America when education was at a low ebb and men spelled most names phonetically with a very imperfect knowledge of phonetics. Many family names underwent great and permanent change in that era.
But let us return to the subject of Ruddell Christian names and take a glance at them in the second and third generations:

Brothers---Cornelius, John, Stephen, Archibald, Isaac, George.
Sons-----Andrew, Cornelius, Archibald, Cornelius, John
         John, Stephen, Isaac, Stephen, George
         Stephen, Isaac, George, Isaac, Andrew
         Isaac, James, James, George, Abram

Even among the sons of these brothers the confusion is both obvious and actual and no genealogist can follow even this generation through the records and be certain that he is always right. But this is only the beginning and with each successive generation these scarcely distinctive names increase in a direct ratio, so that the task of the genealogist in differentiating between the numerous Corneliuses, Stephens, Isaacs, and Georges becomes an extremely difficult one. Therefore, unless the historian has intimate personal knowledge of the members of the various ramifications and branches such as may be gained from family tradition, family Bibles, etc., errors are certain to creep in. For this reason it is my intent to leave to their modern descendants who may possess this intimate family knowledge, the further tracing of the Ruddell family. And in this respect I may add that any descendant even ordinarily familiar with his own particular branch of the Ruddell family for three or four generations should be able to tie in with and bring this account down to date with almost absolute assurance that no mistakes have been made.

THE IMMIGRANT, JOHN RUDDELL, AND HIS SIX SONS

The Ruddell Family in America was founded by one John Ruddell who was born in England about the year 1695, emigrated to America, and settled in Nottingham Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, approximately 35 miles from the city of Philadelphia about the year 1717. Shortly after his arrival there he married Mary, daughter of Neal and Ann Cook of Nottingham Township. That Ruddell came to America as early as 1717 is clearly shown by the fact that the records of Nottingham township show that he paid taxes there each year from 1718 to 1740 inclusive, after which latter date no record is found of him in Pennsylvania. It is altogether possible that he may have married Mary Cook in England as early as 1715 and migrated shortly thereafter with his father-in-law's family to the Colonies. That is purely a matter for speculation and has no practical importance. Besides the tax record above referred to, an abstract of the records of Chester County, Pennsylvania, discloses that John Ruddell witnessed the will of one Hugh Morgan in Nottingham
Township on July 28, 1727, and also the will of Samuel Littler in the same township March 8, 1727. The records further reveal that John Ruddell of Nottingham Township was named executor of the will of one Joseph White, March 13, 1731.

In proof of some of the foregoing statements I wish to cite the following will, taken from Will's Book B, Vol. 11, page 27, in the Courthouse at Westchester, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

NEAL COOK'S WILL

In the name of God Amen, February the 24th, 1737, I, Neal Cook, of Nottingham in the County of Chester, Province of Pennsylvania, Yeoman, being weak in body but of a Sound mind and memory, thanks be given to God therefor, calling to mind the mortality of body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do give and recommend my soul unto the hand of God that gave it and my Body to the Earth to be buried in a Christian and decent manner at the Discretion of my Executors, hereafter named, nothing doubting but I shall receive the same again at the General Resurrection by the Mighty power of God. As for what Estates it hath pleased God to bless me with in this life, both Real and personal I give and dispose in manner and form following. That is to say:

Imprimis, my will is that all my just Debts and Funeral charges be paid as soon as conveniently they can after my Decease.

Item: My will is that my faithfull and loving Wife, Ann Cook, shall have benefit of my personal estate during her Natural life.

Item: My will is that my son, John Cook, shall have one English shilling. Item: My will is that my son, Daniel Cook, shall have one English shilling. Item: My will is that my son CORNELIUS Cook shall have one hundred and thirty six acres of land off the upper end of that land on Back Creek in Maryland where I myself formerly lived. Item: My will is that my son William Cook shall have one hundred acres of land at the lower end of the aforesaid tract of land paying my two Granddaughters, Katherine Cook and Elizabeth Cook, five pounds apiece when they come of age or else give them the said Hundred Acres of Land between them and my said son William Cook shall have five pounds to be paid by my Executors. Item: My will is that my daughter, Catherine Woolston, shall have Five pounds. Item: My will is that my daughter, MARY RUDDELL shall have my feather bed and bedding after my wife's decease. Item: My will is that my granddaughter, Catherine McKebb, shall have a heifer after my wife's decease. Item: My will is that William Rutledge shall have my sorrel mare after my wife's decease. Item: My will is that my son-in-law, JOHN RUDDELL, shall be assistant to my Executor and that the rest of my personal estate be disposed of at their discretion. Item: I constitute, appoint, and
ordain my faithful and loving wife, Ann Cook, executor of this will and Testament, dissannulling and revoking all other former wills and testaments, writings and legacies heretofore made by me in anywise, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

his
Neal x Cook mark

Sealed and Delivered in the presence of us: Thomas Scott, William Oldham, JOHN RUDDELL, JR.

Chester, May 29th, 1738, Then personally appeared Thomas Scott and John Ruddell, Jr., two of the witnesses of the within written will who on their oath did declare that they were present and saw the testator herein named, sign, seal, publish, pronounce, and declare the said writing to be his last Will and Testament and that at the doing thereof he was of sound mind and memory to be the best of their understanding.

Jural Corum
Jo Parker, Reg. of De

In the above will occurs the following item:- 'My will is that my son, Cornelius Cook, shall have 136 acres of land on the upper end of that land on Back Creek in Maryland where I myself formerly lived.' At first thought, Maryland sounds far away from Nottingham Township in Chester Co., Penn. but actually it is only fifteen miles from Back Creek, in Cecil County, Maryland, to Nottingham, only a couple of hours ride on horseback for John when he was courting Mary. And by the way, I might add in passing that Back Creek is today a very important body of water, the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal for ocean going ships traversing its entire length. I had a search of the records of Cecil County made in the hope of finding something of interest about Neal Cook or John Ruddell, but with no results, the records being incomplete for that period. I did, however, uncover the following fairly interesting item:- Deeds book I, page 316, at Elkton, Cecil County, Md. discloses that one Robert Ruddell, Merchant, of London, England, had conveyed the power of attorney to one Samuel Richardson, merchant, also of London, giving unto him full power, etc. This codument was signed, Robert Ruddell and bore date of March 20, 1703, and was witnessed by John Erisco and John Ruck.

All this might be construed to indicate that Robt. Ruddell merchant of London, England, had interests in Cecil County, Md. which adjoins Chester County, Penn. It could easily be that
John Ruddell was a relation, perhaps a son of Robt. Ruddell and that it was on account of Robert's interests in Cecil County that he came to the Colonies. It may have been while looking after these interests that he met Mary Cook of Back Creek and married her and then moved across the line with his father-in-law's family into nearby Nottingham Township, in Chester Co. Pennsylvania.

Referring again to the Robt. Ruddell, merchant, of London, England, I took occasion to examine briefly four or five of the scores of volumes of the Registers of St. Georges, St. Benedict's, St. Peters and other churches of London, all being affiliates of the Church of England and found numerous Ruddells and Ruddle's in them, the name being spelled Ruddell, and Ruddle with almost equal frequency. There was a number of Johns, Georges, and Roberts among them and I regard it as highly possible that John Ruddell, the founder of the Ruddell family in America, may have emigrated from London to the Colonies.

From the date of the proving of the above will only the following brief reference to the Ruddells in Pennsylvania is to be found, showing clearly that the family left there shortly thereafter:-- "Warrantees of land in Chester County, Pa., Cornelius Ruddle, 100 acres, Jan. 9, 1743" (Penn. Archives, Third Series, Vol. XXIV, P.95).

Almost simultaneously with the abrupt disappearance of the Ruddells from Pennsylvania, there appeared in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, seemingly from nowhere, seven Ruddell men who immediately began taking a very active part in Virginia life and affairs. Numerous historians and genealogists have written of the Ruddells, but none of them has ever told us from whence they came. Isaac Ruddle's name, because of the prominent part he played in the settlement and development of Kentucky and of the publicity he received in connection with the establishment and defense of Ruddel's Station, is spread all over the pages of history, but not a single account of him has had anything to say as to his parentage or the place of his birth.

The following is typical of the comments on the Ruddles:- William and Mary College Quarterly Magazine, Vol. VI, P.59, says that Cornelius Ruddle was one of the early settlers in the Valley of the Shenandoah, having located there in Rockingham County prior to 1745.

The latest official record of the presence of the Ruddells in Pennsylvania was Jan. 9, 1743, when Cornelius Ruddell was listed as a warrantee of land in Chester County. The earliest official record of their presence in Virginia was just three years later, March 8, 1747, when John Ruddle, Sr., John Ruddle, Jr. and Daniel Holman appraised the property of one Benjamin Allen, deceased (see Augusta County Records, Vol. III, P.8). It is therefore at once apparent that the year 1745 closely approximates the date of the arrival of the Ruddel family in Virginia and until a more accurate date is found, this approximated one will have to suffice.
Having definitely established the fact that there was a family of Ruddells living in Pennsylvania in the early part of the eighteenth century, let us now consider whether this was the same family as the one which appeared "seemingly from out of nowhere" in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia near the close of the first half of the same century. Before entering into this discussion I wish to give the following quotations from Vol. III of the printed abstracts of the Records of Augusta County, Va.:-


Deed, bearing date of Feb. 25, 1760, recorded in Book V, page 402, in the Courthouse at Winchester, Frederick Co., John Ruddle and Mary, his wife, of Frederick County a tract or parcel of land containing 85 acres lying on Smith's Creek to William Phillips. Witnesses, Isaac Ruddle and Cornelius Ruddle.

In the foregoing it has been shown that in Chester County, Pa., we had a John Ruddle, Senior, a John Ruddle, Jr., a Mary Ruddell, a Cornelius Ruddle and a William Rutledge, who was a son-in-law of Cornelius Ruddell. In Augusta County, Va., we find Ruddles or Ruddells with exactly the same names besides other Ruddles, and we note that these are connected in numerous land deals with a William Rutledge. All this added to the disappearance of the Ruddells from Penna. would seem to leave no room for doubt that they are one and the same family. If, however, any further corroboration is necessary, it may be found in the following; Joist Hite came to America from Germany in 1710 in his own ship, the Swift, bringing with him sixteen German families as tenants on lands he intended to acquire. He founded Germantown, Pa., now an incorporated part of the City of Philadelphia.
Owing to his petition for protection against the Indians being ignored, he sold in 1731 his holdings near Philadelphia and bought the Van Meter grant of forty thousand acres in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, and settled forty families on it. A little later he obtained a grant to one hundred thousand acres more in the same valley and immediately began colonizing it. Most of these Colonists went there from the Philadelphia area including Chester County. That the Hites and Ruddells knew each other is shown by the fact that John Ruddell's son Issac subsequently married Hite's granddaughter, Elizabeth Bowman. Nothing could be more natural than to suppose that Joist Hite induced John Ruddell and his six strong aggressive sons to settle on his new lands in Virginia.

Having proved that the Virginia Ruddells migrated there from Pennsylvania, we still have left to us the task of showing that John and Mary Ruddell of Chester County, Pa., were the parents of the other early Virginia Ruddells; namely, John Ruddell, Cornelius Ruddell, Archibald Ruddell, and Stephen Ruddell, George Ruddell, and Isaac Ruddell.

If the reader will refer to the will of John Ruddle, Jr., he will note that John, Jr. besides mentioning his father and mother, John Sr. and Mary, also names his brothers, Archibald and Stephen and other brothers and sisters. It becomes at once obvious that John and Mary had other sons than John, Jr., Archibald and Stephen. Who then were these other brothers referred to by John, Jr. if not Cornelius, George and Isaac. Inasmuch as the records show that Cornelius had also previously lived in Chester County, Pa. and since John Ruddell, Sr. had a brother-in-law named Cornelius Cook and a father-in-law called Neal (short for Cornelius) it is only logical that he should have christened one of his sons Cornelius. If the reader will refer to the last will and testament of Cornelius Ruddell found elsewhere in this account, he will note that Cornelius made a bequest to Ingabo Ruddle, daughter of his brother George Ruddle. This then would definitely establish George Ruddle as also a son of John and Mary. Of all the early Virginia Ruddles this leaves only Isaac, and since he was contemporary with the other Ruddles and was dealing in lands and witnessing deeds for Stephen, Cornelius and Archibald Ruddellans well as for John and Mary Ruddle and was associated with William Rutledge same as the other Ruddles, and since Archibald and Stephen each named one of their sons Isaac, it would seem to require no further proof that he too was a brother of Stephen, Cornelius, and the others.

So much for the sons of John and Mary Ruddle. That they had daughters also is clearly shown by the will of John Ruddle, Jr. Of these daughters little is known except that one of them, Clara, married Mounce Bird. Mounce was a brother and son of Andrew Bird, Jr. and Andrew Bird, Sr. both of whom the reader will recall witnessed the will of John Ruddell, Jr. The compendium of American Genealogy, Vol. V, page 629, has the following to say of the Birds:- "Andrew Bird died in Rockingham County, Va. in 1750. His son, Mounce Bird, was a large land owner."
He married Clara Ruddell, daughter of John and Mary Ruddell. Mounce died in Bourbon County, Ky. in 1794. These Birds or Byrds, as they sometimes spelled their name, were intimately associated with the Ruddles in both Va. and Ky. Though no definite proof has been found, it is highly probable that another daughter was married to William Rutledge. Rutledge was undoubtedly related to the Ruddells in some way else Neal Cook, John's father-in-law, would scarcely have made a bequest to him: "My will is that William Rutledge shall have my sorrel mare." Another daughter of John and Mary mentioned in Neal Cook's will was Mary Ruddell.

John Ruddell died in Shenandoah County where he had lived for more than thirty years, in May, 1781. He left the following will:

Will of John Ruddell, Sr., Will Book A, p. 338.

In the name of God—Amen the 20th day of March in the year of our Lord 1781. I, John Ruddell Sr. of the County of Shenandoah and State Colony of Virginia, being sick and weak in body but of a perfect mind and memory, thanks be given to God therefore calling unto mind the Mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last Will & Testament that is to say principally end first of all I give and recommend my body to the Earth to be buried in Christian like decent manner at the discretion of my Executors nothing doubting but at the general resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty Powers of God and touching such Worldly Estate where with it hath pleased God to bless me in this life, I Give, Devise and Dispose of the same in the following manner and form:—Imprimis it is my Will and I do order it in the first place all my just debts and lawful charges be paid and satisfied.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife, Mary Ruddell, all my personal Estate to maintain her during her Natural life and what of it remains at her death to be given amongst her children at her discretion and I do likewise constitute and ordain my well beloved son-in-law, Mounce Bird, Executor of this my last Will and Testament. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal the day and year above written. Published and Pronounced to be the Last Will and Testament in the Presence of the subscribers.

John Ruddell

Archibald Ruddell
Rubin Dobbin
Daniel Branniman

At a Court held for Shenandoah County on Thursday the 31st day of May, 1781. The last Will & Testament of John Ruddell, dec'd, was proven by the oaths of Archi. Ruddell & Daniel Branniman and ordered to be recorded.

TESTE: Thos. Marchall, C.S.C.
If John had followed the customary procedure of naming all his children in his will, he would have spared me the trouble of proving my case against him, to wit, that he was the father of the six other early Ruddles in Virginia; namely, John, Jr., Cornelius, Archibald, Stephen, George and Isaac.

It will be observed from the date of the probate of his will that John died in 1781. From a careful consideration of the facts in hand it may be easily deduced that at the time of his death he was approximately 85 years of age. It has already been shown that he was a tax-paying citizen of Pa. in the year 1718, at which time it is extremely improbable that he was less than 21 years of age. This would fix the date of his birth as not later than 1697. It will be further noted that his son, John Jr., witnessed the signing of Neal Cook's will in 1737, at which time John, Jr. almost certainly had attained the legal age of 21 years. This would fix the date of young John's birth at not later than 1716 and consequently the date of the elder John's marriage as not later than 1695. Thus by one calculation it is shown that John could not have been born later than 1697 and by another that he could not have been born later than 1695. In one instance he would have been 84 at the time of his death and in another he would have been 86. On the other hand, it is very improbable that he could have been born much earlier than the above estimated dates or else he would scarcely have lived to the year 1781.

The date of the death of Mary Ruddell is not known but that she lived to a ripe old age and was still living at the time of John's death is clearly shown by the husband's will.

Nottingham Township, near William Penn's City of Brotherly Love (Philadelphia) was largely settled by Quakers but there is no reason to believe that the Ruddells were themselves Quakers. In fact, what evidence there is points decidedly against any such conclusion. In the first place the Quakers kept rather full church records of births, marriages, deaths, and other church affairs, and most of these records have been brought down intact to the present day. I searched carefully the Quaker records of Nottingham, which were easily accessible in the library of the Pennsylvania Historical and Genealogical Society in Philadelphia of which I am a life member, and found not a single reference to either the Ruddells or the Cooks. Furthermore the Ruddells were not of the Quaker type. The Quakers were notoriously a peace-loving people who would have nothing to do with war. In fact they were conscientious objectors and got into plenty of trouble because of it during the Revolutionary War. But nobody ever heard of a Ruddell running from fight. On the contrary, they took an unusual interest in everything military and appear to have always been officers. They have participated in numbers in every war in which this country has become involved from the French and Indian War to the late World War.
It was no doubt on account of these qualities that Joist Hite, when he settled the Valley of the Shenandoah, where he founded the first white settlement west of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia, persuaded John Ruddell and his six stalwart martial sons to go there. The Ruddells must have been accorded unusual opportunities, for, from a comparatively humble beginning in Pennsylvania, within a few years after settling in Virginia, they had blossomed into affluence and were prominent in both the civil and military life of that colony, at least four of the brothers becoming officers in the Army. Isaac was a Captain of Virginia Militia from Washington County, Va., while George (note, since writing this part of the Ruddell history the writer has become almost certainly convinced that this particular George Ruddell was a nephew and not a brother of Isaac. See the account of George Ruddell) was a Captain of Militia from Rockingham County, Va. These two brothers served in the Revolutionary War. The Augusta County records Vol. I, p. 57, reveals the following:—"March 26, 1753. Cornelius Ruddle qualified as Captain of Horse and Foot, and Archibald Ruddle qualified as Lieutenant of Foot." The above is anything but the record of a Quaker family. Nor is this all. The Augusta County Records Vol. II, page 354, shows that on March 22, 1779 George Ruddle (Son of Archibald) qualified as Captain. The same volume, p. 338, discloses that John Ruddle (son of Cornelius) qualified as Lieutenant Nov. 23, 1778, while the very next page of the same volume reveals that Andrew Ruddle (son of Cornelius) qualified as Ensign in Capt. George Ruddle's Company.

JOHN RUDDELL, JR.

Of the six sons of John and Mary Ruddell it is practically certain that John Jr. was the oldest. He was also the first to die, an untimely death having overtaken him in 1749 while his five brothers lived on till the close or near the close of the century, and two of them, George and Isaac, well into the next.

As shown by his will John Ruddell, Jr. left neither wife nor children. But this does not mean that he had never been married, for I think just the contrary to be true. This conclusion is based on the following evidence:-

Thomas Rogers of Nottingham Township, County of Chester, Province of Penna, executed a will March 7, 1744, in which he made bequests to his wife Elizabeth, to sons, John, Thomas, William, and Rowland and to daughters Elizabeth Knight, Hannah Brooks, Pricilla and Susannah Rogers and to daughter DEBORAH RUDDELL. It is little short of certain that Deborah Rogers Ruddell was the wife of John Ruddell, Jr. and that she died before he did, leaving no children. This would explain the fact that John, Jr. although 33 years of age, at the time of his death, had neither wife nor children, an unusual occurrence in the early colonial period. Strong corroborative support is added to this theory by the fact that Deborah Rogers Ruddell and John Ruddell, Jr. both lived in Nottingham Township and by the fact that Cornelius Ruddell named one of his daughters Deborah.
probably out of deference for his brother John’s wife. Of course it is altogether possible that Deborah Ruddle may have been a first wife of Cornelius or one of the other brothers.

Whatever good John, Jr., may have accomplished while living he certainly, by his death, contributed in no small measure to the solution of the riddle of the Ruddles. For, from a genealogical standpoint, it would be difficult to overestimate the importance of his will. All that keeps it from being a perfect genealogical document is the fact that he mentions the names of only two of his brothers, Archible Ruddle and Stephen Ruddle and then refers to “all the rest of my brothers (Cornelius, George, and Isaac) and sisters”.

Following is a copy of the:

WILL OF JOHN RUDDELL, JR.

The 26th day of July in the year of our Lord, 1749, I, John Ruddle, Junior, of Smiths Creek in Augusta County and Colony of Virginia, Yeoman, being sick and weak in body but of perfect mind and memory thanks be given unto God therefore,—calling unto mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men to once dye, do make and ordain this my last will and testament; that is to say, principally and first of all I give and recommend my soul until the hands of God that gave it and for my body I recommend it to the earth to be buried in a Christian like and decent manner at the discretion of my executors nothing doubting but at the General resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God and as touching such worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this life I give devise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form:-

Imprimis, my will is that all my Just debts and funeral charges be paid as soon as conveniently they can after my decease. Item, I will and bequeath unto my loving father John Ruddle his heirs and assigns all my interest of land lying on the west side of Smiths Creek and my part of the mill, he paying unto my loving Mother Mary Ruddle ten pounds. Item my will is that my brothers, Archible Ruddle and Stephen Ruddle, shall have two shares of all the rest of my estate to be equally divided amongst all the rest of my brothers and sisters and Robert Wilson shall have the rest of my equal parts with them.

I likewise constitute make and ordain my loving father John Ruddle my only and sole Executor of this my last Will and testament and I do hereby utterly disallow revoke and disannul all and every other former testament will, legacies and executors by me in any ways before this time named, willed, and bequeathed, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

John Ruddle, Junior(SIGNED)
Signed, sealed, published, and declared by ye said John Ruddel as his last will and testament in ye presence of us, ye subscribers.

His
Andrew (A.) Bird
Mark
Andrew Bird, Junior
Edward Ryan

At a court held for Augusta County the 22nd day of August, 1749. This last will and testament of John Ruddell, Junior, being produced into Court by John Ruddle, the Executor therein named who made oath thereto according to law was proved by ye oaths of Andrew Bird and Edward Ryan two of the witnesses thereto who also made oath that the said Andrew Bird, Junior, signed the same as an evidence, the said will is admitted to record and on the motion of the said Executor and his performing what is usual in such cases certificate is granted him for obtaining a probate thereof in due form.

Tests:

CORNELIUS RUDDLE

Cornelius was probably next in order of birth of John's sons, having been born about the year 1717 in Nottingham Township, Chester County, Pa. Just as John, Jr. had been named for his father, Cornelius was named for his mother's brother, Cornelius Cook.

(After writing this account of Cornelius Ruddell exactly as it is here found, the writer chanced upon the following deed which is recorded in Deed Book G, page 454, at Woodstock, Shenandoah County, Virginia:--

Abstract of Deed--Cornelius and Ingabo Ruddell
to Mounce Bird, Shenandoah Co., Va.

Shenandoah County, Virginia, Deed Book G., p. 454--Cornelius Ruddell, eldest son of John Ruddell Sr., deceased, of the county of Augusta, and Ingabo his wife, to Mounce Bird of Shenandoah, County, consideration of 50 pounds, tract on the easterly side of Smith Creek, branch of North River of Shenandoah, being the same tract by warrant from the Lord Proprietor of the northern Neck, to John Ruddell assignee of Daniel Burger, containing 258 acres, by survey April 26, 1755.
Deed, dated Aug. 26, 1789, Cornelius Ruddell, eldest son of John Ruddell, Sr., deceased, of Augusta County and Ingabo, his wife, to Mounce Bird of Shenandoah Co., a tract of land containing 258 acres, lying on the easterly side of Smith Creek, a branch of the North River of Shenandoah, being the same tract, etc.

There are two interesting features about this deed. One is that it proves Cornelius to have been a son of John and Mary Ruddell as has already been contended. The other is that it apparently shows Cornelius instead of John, Jr. to have been the eldest of the Ruddell sons. However, this may be more apparent than real. Inasmuch as John, Jr. died relatively young almost half a century previous to the drafting of this deed, it is not at all unlikely that his former existence may have been unknown to or ignored by the one drawing up this deed. This could easily be, for it is certain that Cornelius was then and had been for 44 years the "eldest son of John Ruddell, Sr."

Cornelius with the rest of his family moved from Pennsylvania to Virginia near the end of the first half of the eighteenth century, probably about 1745, and settled in that part of Augusta County which later became Frederick and Shenandoah Counties, Augusta having been subsequently divided into several counties. That he lived in Frederick County for many years is clearly shown by the following official records of that county:

Order Book VI, Page 248. "At a court held for Frederick County on Tuesday May 6, 1755, Cornelius Ruddle took the oath appointed by act of Parliament and subscribed the test as a Captain of the Militia for the County."

Deed Book XI, Page 97. Deed, Aug. 3, 1766, Cornelius Ruddle and Ingabo his wife of Frederick County to John Keller 235 acres of land lying on the drains of Stoney Creek in Frederick County.

The same deed book on 583 shows that a few months later Cornelius Ruddle and Ingabo his wife sold to Turneralse 400 acres of land on the east side of Stoney Creek in Frederick County.

When one of the Ruddles sold his land it meant that he was preparing to move to other parts and thus it was with
Cornelius. After the date of the last deed above, no further record is found of Cornelius in Frederick County. He is next found in Botetourte County, further up the Valley of the Shenandoah.

The following is taken from page 50 of Wayland’s Virginia Valley Records:— "1757, Received unto the church at North River of Shenandoah and Linville Creek, 'A gentleman of no mean character, a man of authority, both civil and military, Cornelius Ruddle by name, who often had opposed the truths we profess publicly.'" Wayland says Ruddle was formerly a Church of England man. This coincides with my contention that the Ruddells were not Quakers. In fact, most of the modern Ruddells whom I have known could scarcely be called anything so far as church affairs were concerned and the majority of them, although moral and upright, in their manner of living, could hardly be called religious. Perhaps, they came by this trait honestly, for two years after the above entry the same church records in 1759 reveal the following:— "Brother Ruddle walking disobedient and disorderly, was refused communion."

Wayland says that Cornelius was a Captain of Virginia Militia in the French and Indian War.

Cornelius spent the last thirty years of his life in Botetourte County where he died in 1798, in the 81st year of his age. The Ruddells were sturdy pioneers and most of them lived to be octogenarians.

Following will be found a copy of:—

THE WILL OF CORNELIUS RUDDLE

In the name of God, Amen, this third day of March, 1788, I, Cornelius Ruddell of the County of Botetourt and State of Virginia, being weak in body but of perfect mind and memory, therefore calling into mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament.

First I give and Recommend my Soul to Almighty God that gave it and my body to be buried in decent Christian Burial at the direction of my Executors and, as touching such worldly Estate wherewith it has pleased God to Bless me with in this Life, I give devise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form:— It is my Will in the first place that all my funeral expenses be paid and all my Just and Lawful debts.

I give and bequeath to Ingabo, my well beloved wife, one Good bed and furniture, my Corner Cubbard, my Tea Kettle and Coffee Pot, my pepper Mill and tea ware, my square blue table and my burough. I also leave her the choice of all the Horse Creatures
that I may have in possession at my death with a Saddel and Bridle, also her choice of two cows and a three year old steer, a negro Girl named Milly and old Fillis; also the end of my mention House that I now live in and half the cellar during her natural life, the use of my smoke house, also two rows of apple trees where she May choose to take them, and two rows of Peach trees in the Young Orchard, also as many of my sheep as She chooses and the stable at this end of the barn, above and below with half of the Garden, and half the Barn.

I give and Bequeath unto my son, Andrew, three hundred and thirty-two acres on the northwest side of the tract that I bought of Saml. Crawford, with all the buildings pertaining thereto and one negro man named Ben, also one Bar Shear plow, and one shovel plow, and my A-tooth Harrow, one Black Walnut square table. Also I give and bequeath unto my Brother George Ruddle's Daughter Ingabo, one feather bed and furniture, two cows, three Ewes, one pot and skillitt, half Dozen plates and half dozen spoons, two chairs, Half Dozen knives and forks, one little wheel and a Bible and the Mother's Catechism and Half Dozen tin cups and old psalm Book, one blanket and a basket, one Side Saddel and Bridle.

I give and bequeath unto my son, John, the Sum of ten pounds in Cash besides my former Gifts which was the sum of L522:5.

I give and bequeath unto my Son, Stephen, the Sum of two pounds in cash besides my former Gifts which was the sum of 647:10.

I give and bequith unto my Daughter G^er Reader one negro Girl named Milly at the death of her mother, Ingabo Ruddell, besides my former gifts to her which was L137:10.

I give and bequith unto my daughter Deborough Rutledge twenty pounds in Cash besides my former Gifts which was 169:19:5.

I give and bequith unto my Daughter Catherine Sangler five shillings sterling besides my former Gifts which was L173:6:6.

I give and bequith unto my Daughter Elizabeth Alcorn the sum of ten shillings besides my former Gifts which was 293L.

It is also my will that Nat and Fat and Amy and Peggy be sold, if not sold before I die. It is also my will that the remainder of the Tract of Land I now live on be Sold after what I have left to my Son Andrew be measured off. It is also my will that the remainder of my personal Property that has not yet been mentioned before in my will be sold and after all my just debts be paid Out of the money arising from these properties above mentioned for sale, any balance of cash that my remain my wife is to have and do as she pleases with it.
I hereby ordain and appoint my well beloved wife, Ingabo and Stephen Ruddell and John Brooks to be my Administrator and Executors to act in all part and points as the Law shall Direct.

I do hereby disallow and revoke all and every former Testaments, wills, Legacies, bequeaths and executors ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my Last Will and Testament.

In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal the day and year above written.

CORNELIUS RUTDELL(SEAL)

Signed, Sealed and Pronounced in presence of us:

John Brooks, Richard Brandy, John x Bandy

Be it known to all men by these presents that I, Cornelius Ruddell of Botetourt County and State of Virginia, have made and declared my last will in writing bearing date the 3rd day of March, 1798, I, the said Cornelius Ruddell by this present Codicil do ratify and confirm my last Will and Testament. I give and bequeath unto my wife, Ingabo, two beds and furniture exclusive of what was before mentioned. Also it is my will that my son Andrew out of the produce of the land that I have willed to him here to find his mother, during her natural life, a sufficiency of bread and meat and every comfortable convenience for her support. Also Grain and Hay for such a part of the stock as I left her. My will and meaning is that this Codicil of schedule be adjudged to be a part and parcel of my Last Will and Testament as Witness my hand this 6th day of March, 1798.

Cornelius Ruddell (SEAL)

At a Court Held for Botetourt County the 10th day of April, 1798.

The Last Will and Testament of Cornelius Ruddell, dec'd, together with the 2 codicils thereunto annexed was Exhibited in Court and proved as to the will itself and the first codicil by the oath of Robert Bandy and the affirmation of John Brooks, who also made oath that they thought the said decedent was not in his perfect sense and memory when he signed and acknowledged the last codicil; and the last codicil was proved by the oath of Daniel James as the law directs, which will and first codicil are ordered to be recorded.

Whereupon the motion of Stephen Ruddell and Ingabo Ruddell and John Brooks, Executors named in the will of Cornelius Ruddell, deceased, who made oath according to law, certificate is granted them for obtaining a probate thereof in due form, they having,
with security, entered into and acknowledged bond with condition as the law directs.

A copy teste: Wm. Hill, D.D.

A copy teste:

Signed: Turner McDowell
Clerk of the Circuit
Court of Botetourt County, Virginia

As shown by his will, Cornelius Ruddell died in Botetourt County, Virginia in April 1798. He was survived by the following children:-

Andrew
John
Stephen
Clear Reader (Clara Rader) who was married to Adam Rader April 2, 1776, according to a record found in Wayland's History of Rockingham Co.
Deborah (Deborah) wife of Thomas Rutledge
Catherine (Sangler) wife of James Craig
Elizabeth Alcorn

The following is taken from the Augusta County Records, Vol. II, p. 199. A suit involving a large tract of land was instituted in 1815 against Gotlieb Gabbert by the following children and heirs of Cornelius Ruddle (deceased 1798):-

Stephen Ruddle, John Ruddle, Andrew Ruddle, Clara, wife of Adam Rader, Deborah, wife of Thomas Rutledge, and Catherine, wife of James Craig (no doubt a second husband, her first having been named Sangler). The suit dragged on for three years. On June 15, 1818, Cornelius Ruddle, son of Stephen Ruddle, one of the plaintiffs, deceased, deposed, etc. The above is taken from the official records because it shows relationship, thereby furnishing valuable genealogical data. It also shows that Stephen Ruddle, son of Cornelius, died some time between the institution of the suit in 1815 and its further prosecution in 1818.

The following is also of interest, taken from Deeds Book 46, page 18, in the Court house at Staunton, Augusta County, Virginia:-

April 25, 1821. Deed, Cornelius Ruddell, Thomas Ruddell, James Alexander and Ingabo, his wife (late Ingabo E. Ruddell) George Ruddell, Elizabeth Ruddell, Byrd Ruddell, and Hamilton Ruddell, seven of the children and heirs of Stephen Ruddle (deceased), to Robert Grey 557 acres on the great Calfpasture line of John Einkaid, Andrew Hamilton & Hughert, now Jones. Same tract conveyed by Thos. Phillips & wife to heirs of Stephen Ruddle dec'd of even date of these presents and which said tract on death of Stephen descended to his children above named and to his other two children namely John Ruddell and
Jane Hughes (wife of Peter), late Jane Ruddell, who have conveyed their interest to Thos. Ruddell above.

Signed: Cornelius Ruddell
Thomas Ruddell
James Alexander
Ingabo B. Alexander
George Ruddell
Andrew B. Ruddell
Hamilton Ruddell

The above mentioned Stephen Ruddle, son of Cornelius, spent some of his early life in Kentucky and was taken prisoner by the British and Indians at Ruddle's Station in 1780. After his release he appears to have had no further relish for that country and returned to Virginia where he spent his remaining years and reared his large family. That he was a member of the garrison at Ruddle's Station seems scarcely to require proof. The only other Stephen Ruddle of soldier age at that time was Captain Isaac Ruddle's brother, Stephen, and, as the reader will presently observe, the records of Hampshire County, West Virginia, show him to have been sheriff of that county in the year 1780.

In connection with this Stephen the following Bible record submitted by Robert Lee Ruddell is of interest in that it gives a few of Stephen's descendants.

Robert Lee Ruddell's record from his Mother's Bible:

Stephen Ruddell, b. Mar. 19, 1765, d. Oct. 18, 1816
m. Catherine Rutledge, b. 1763-1806

Issue:

Cornelius Ruddell, 1790-1827 (m. Christiana Pauly in 1817-she d. 1818).
Jane Ruddell, 1792- , m. Peter Hughes, 1807.
Thomas, 1794-1826, m. Margaret Hodge, d. 1825
Ingabo B., 1795-1886, m. Jas. Alexander, d. 1817
John, 1797-1823, m. Naomi A. Pepper, d. 1818
George, 1799-1833
Elizabeth 1801- m. John Magil, 1823

By second marriage about 1807: Andrew B., 1809-1856
Hamilton, 1812-

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Cornelius Ruddell, 1790-1827, had only one child, Stephen Lewis

Stephen Lewis, 1818-1886, m. Sarah Jane McCutcheon, 1818-1904
m. 1839

Issue:
James Cornelius Ruddell, 1840-1934, m. Laura Griffin
Martha Va. E., 1843-1865, never married
Amanda Ellen, 1846-1827, m. David King
Elizabeth Christina, 1849-1876, never married
George Lewis, 1852-1931, m. Elvia Fredlock
Mary Margaret, 1855-1863, never married
William Kerr, 1857-1940, Anna Eagon
m. Margaret Petty

Father moved to W. Va. in 1865—Robert Lee Ruddell.

The next son of John and Mary Ruddell to be discussed is:-

STEPHEN RUDDELL

Stephen Ruddell was born in Chester County, Penna, approximately 1725, when he was a young man he removed with his parents to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and settled for a short time in Augusta County as is shown by the following abstract of a deed taken from the Augusta County Records, Vol. III, page 293, "May 24, 1751. Archibald Ruddell to Stephen Ruddle 450 acres of land on Holman's Creek, Witnesses Andrew Bird and Peter Scholl." Page 367 of the same volume shows where Stephen disposed of this land. "Aug. 10, 1753, Stephen Ruddel and wife, Mary, to Phillip Harper, 460 acres on Holman's Creek in Augusta County, land originally deeded by Lord Fairfax to Archibald Ruddell and by him to Stephen Ruddel. Witness, Isaac Ruddle".

After disposing of his land as noted above no further record could be found of Stephen in Virginia till I finally ran across the following item in Vol. III, page 138 of the Augusta Co. Records, bearing date of April 4, 1777:-Will of Isaac Robinson—being in the township of Whittier, in the County of Philadelphia, Province of Penna. Requests to wife and children. Executors, wife Hannah and friend Stephen Riddle of Hampshire Co., Va. (now West Va.). This offered a clue. I had the records of Hampshire County searched which resulted in securing the following data, recorded in Deeds Book I in the Court House at Romney, Hampshire County, West Va.:-


The reader will note that the date of this transaction was just one year after Stephen and Mary Ruddell had sold their land in Augusta County, Va.

Page 91. "Deed, dated 1761, Stephen & Mary Ruddell of Hampshire County to Robert Denton, 416 acres on Lost River".

Page 102. "Deed, 1761, Stephen and Mary Ruddell of Hampshire County, to Daniel Wood, 300 acres on Lost River."

The following abstracts are taken from Will Book II of the Hampshire County records:


Page 44. "Dated 1782, Bond of Stephen Ruddell to treasurer, George Brook, for collection of "Sundry taxes and duties", Securities, Abram Hite and Jos. Nevill."

From the above references, it is at once obvious that the Stephen and Mary Ruddell of Hampshire County were the same persons as the Stephen and Mary Ruddle of Augusta Co. It is also clear that Stephen was a man of prominence and authority.

After the year 1782 no further record is found of Stephen in Hampshire Co. The Ruddells were essentially pioneers. Stephen, like most other members of his family appears to have liked lots of breathing space. Furthermore, the Ruddells were a very clannish family. They liked each other's company and tended to live near each other so long as where they lived was on the frontier. So not long after the above noted date Stephen pulled up stakes and moved to Kentucky and settled in Woodford County. If the reader will refer to a map of Kentucky he will observe that Woodford County is only 15 or 20 miles from Bourbon County where Stephen's brother, Isaac and a number of his nephews (sons of his brothers, Archibald and Cornelius) had already settled. In fact from the following abstract of a deed taken from the Register of the Kentucky Historical Society, it seems certain that the two Counties at that time adjoined each other: "Deed dated April 19, 1792, Isaac Ruddell and Elizabeth his wife to George Ruddell, all of Bourbon County--acres of land in Woodford and Bourbon Counties."

At some time between 1761, when Stephen and Mary had jointly signed a deed in Hampshire County, and Stephen's death in Woodford County, Kentucky, in the year, 1800, Mary had died and Stephen had remarried. This is clearly indicated by the following abstract of a will found in the Register of the Kentucky Historical Society:-

But the reader may ask: - "How do you know that Stephen, the Husband of Mary, was the same person as Stephen the husband of Sarah?" Very simple. The reader will readily admit that the later Stephen belonged to the same Ruddle Clan or else he would not have named his three sons, Isaac, Stephen, and Cornelius. Having granted that, he will further have to concede that either he was the same Stephen as the husband of Mary or else he was a nephew of this Stephen. Now, if he had been a nephew, he would have had to have been a son of either Stephen's brother Isaac or his brother Cornelius, because they were the only two brothers who had sons named Stephen. We know it was not Isaac's son because this was the Stephen who was taken by the Indians at Ruddle's Station in 1780 and lived among them for many years. We further know he could not have been Cornelius' son, for we have already shown that this Stephen died in Augusta County, Va. some time between the years 1815 and 1818. Moreover, it will be observed that Stephen the husband of Sarah had grown sons else he could not have named his son, Cornelius, executor of his will. It would therefore have been all but physically impossible for this Stephen with grown sons to have himself been a grandson of either Archibald, Cornelius, Stephen, George, or Isaac.

After writing the above account of Stephen Ruddell verbatim as it appears here, I procured the following will which is on record in the Court House at Versailles in Woodford County, Kentucky: -

**STEPHEN RUDDELL'S WILL**

I, Stephen Ruddle of Woodford County, Kentucky, being sick but of perfect sound memory and, calling to mind the certainty of Death & Uncertainty of life, do make constitute and appoint this my last will and testament, revoking all other will or wills heretofore made, and as to what worldly estate I possess I dispose of in the following manner: -

First: I give and Bequeath unto my beloved wife, Sarah Ruddle, the plantation whereon I now live containing one Hundred and Forty acres, during her natural life and after her decease I give and Bequeath the same to my son, Stephen Ruddle, to be possessed by him and his Heirs forever, and if my son, Stephen
Ruddle, should die before he comes to the age of Twenty-one years, the said land is to be sold and the money to be equally divided between my son, Isaac Ruddle, & my son, Cornelius Ruddle, & my daughter, Sarah Ruddle. Likewise I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife, Sarah Ruddle, all my stock and Household furniture during her natural life and after her decease I give and bequeath the same to my Daughter, Sarah Ruddle, to hers & her heirs forever.

Item—I give and bequeath unto my beloved son, Isaac Ruddle, a bond that John Jackson of Woodford County has of mine containing the sum of two hundred pounds cash to him and his heirs forever. And as touching my other children, James Ruddle and ELEANOR NEVILL, Cornelius Ruddle and Ann Wilson, I, having formerly given them what I intended for them, they are not to possess any part of my Estate now in hand.

Item—I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife a Negro Woman named Malinda during her natural life and at her decease my will and desire is that my beloved wife may dispose of said negro woman as she may think proper.

Item—My will and desire is that my Negro Man Hampshire be sold for the term of eight years from the date hereof, and the money arising from the said Negro I give and bequeath unto my beloved Daughter, Sarah Ruddle, to her and her Heirs forever, the said Hampshire at the term of eight years to be set at liberty.

Last—I appoint my beloved wife, Sarah Ruddle, my son, Isaac Ruddle, & my son, Cornelius Ruddle, Executors to this my Last Will & Testament revoking any other will or wills heretofore made. Given under my hand this 10 day of June, 1799.

Stephan Ruddle (L.S.)

Present
Elliott Bohannon
Morducci Redd
Nancy Haws (Harriss)

At a court held in Versailles, Kentucky, for Woodford County the first day of September, 1800, this Will was brought into Court and proved by Elliott Bohannon & Morducci Redd, Witnesses thereto and ordered to be recorded.

Teste
George Brooke Clk.

There are two items in the above will, which, if we had no other supportive evidence whatever, would make it absolutely positive that the maker of it is the Stephen Ruddle who had been the husband of Mary Ruddle and who had previously lived in Hampshire County, West Virginia. These two items are as follows—
"And as touching my other children, James Ruddell and ELEANOR NEVILL, Cornelius Ruddell and Ann Wilson, I having formerly given them what I intended for them, they are not to possess any part of my estate now in hand".

The reader will recall that the bond Stephen Ruddell for one hundred thousand pounds as sheriff of Hampshire County, W. Va. was signed by Abram Hite and Jos. NEVILL. The Hites have been friends of and associated with the Ruddells in Pennsylvania, Virginia, W. Va. and Kentucky. They are also intermarried with each other. But the name of interest here is that of Jos. Nevill, who was unquestionably Stephen's son-in-law, the husband of his daughter Eleanor Nevill.

Then Stephen's will goes on to say:-

"It is my will and desire that my negro man Hampshire, be sold for a term of eight years, et., the said Hampshire at the term of eight years to be set at liberty."

Stephen had named his negro man Hampshire after Hampshire County, West Virginia, where he had formerly lived.

As drawn by his will Stephen died in August, 1800, at the age of about 75 years, leaving the following children:-

James Ruddell
Cornelius Ruddell
Isaac Ruddell
Eleanor Nevill
Ann Wilson

The above being his older children and therefore belonging to his first wife, Mary and

Stephen Ruddell and
Sarah Ruddell

These latter two, being still minors at the time of the execution of the will in 1799, consequently belonged to his second wife, Sarah, for whom one of them was named.

According to Mrs. Chas. S. Beggs of Galesburg, Ill., the following are descendants of the above-mentioned Cornelius, one of the sons of Stephen and Mary Ruddell:-

Cornelius Ruddell, b. Aug. 5, 1789, d. July 15, 1849, m. Margaret Wilson, 1st wife, Jan. 22, 1788. She was born 4-7-1769, d. 9-19-1786.

Issue:

Mary, 1790-1871 (She was 2nd w. of Capt. Chas. Beggs)
Elizabeth, 1792-1830, m. James Sharp
William, 1794-1842
Stephen, 1796-1820
Sally, 1798-, m. Jacob Bottriff
Cornelius, 1800-1828
Rebecca, 1802-1839, m. Robinson
Isaac, 1804-1827
Wilson, 1806----
Margaret, 1811-1873, m. Thomas Jones
James C., 1816-1848

2nd wife of Cornelius Ruddell, b. 1789, was Catherine Bushfield, by whom he had a son, Jacob Edward, 1832-1878.

Jacob Edward Ruddell, m. Virginia R. Crow in 1855, and had the following children:

Mary Louise, 1856
William Cornelius, 1859
Charles Francis, 1863
Samuel B. 1869
Richard, 1871
Edward, 1876

ARCHIBALD RUDDELL

Archibald Ruddel was born in Chester County, Penna. about the year 1727 and moved with the rest of the Ruddell family to Virginia, settling in that part of Augusta County which later became Frederick County and Shenandoah County about the year 1745. Archibald must have been one of the younger of John's and Mary's sons, because Vol. III, page 393, of the Augusta County Records shows that on May 24, 1751, he sold a tract of land on Holman's Creek to his brother Stephen. It is apparent from this deed that Archibald was not married at that time, because, if he had been, as the grantor, his wife's name would have had to appear along with his on the face of the deed.

Very soon after establishing himself in Virginia, Archibald began to interest himself in military affairs. As early as March 28, 1753, he became Lieutenant of Foot in the Virginia Militia according to Vol. I, page 57, of the Augusta County Records. Henig's Statutes, Laws of Virginia, Vol. VII, page 215, contains the following notation:- "September, 1753, 32nd year of the reign of His Majesty, King George II, Frederick County, Archibald Ruddell, Lieutenant, drew 3 pounds and six shillings." Order Book VII, page 384 of the official records of Frederick County on Wednesday the 2nd day of November, 1757, a commission appointing Archibald Ruddell Lieutenant of a Company of Militia being read, the said Archibald, having subscribed the test ordered by Act of Parliament, was ordered to be certified."
Arehibald died in Shenandoah County in 1786 in about the 61st year of his age, leaving the following will:

ARCHIBALD (ARCHIBLE) RUFFELL’S WILL

In the name of God Amen. I, Archible Ruddell, of the County of Shenandoah and State of Virginia, Yeoman, being sickly and weakly in body but of a sound and disposing mind and memory, thanks be to Almighty God and calling to mind the Mortality of the Body and that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this my Last Will and Testament. That is to say, Principally and first of all, I give and Recommend my Soul into the hand of Almighty God that gave it, and my Body I Recommend to the earth to be buried in decent and Christian Burial at the Discretion of my Executors, nothing doubting but at the general resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God, and as touching such worldly Estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this life, I give, devise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form.

First. I give, and bequeath unto my dutiful sons, James Ruddle and Isaac Ruddell, all my land at Kentucky to be divided between them. Next I give and bequeath to my son, George, all the lower part of my plantation and track of land from the mouth of the Run that runs through the meadow by a line to run from the mouth of the said Run south south West to the outside line, and half the orchard. Next I give and bequeath to my son, Archible, all the rest of my land and plantation. Next I give and bequeath to my Daughters all my household goods and movable objects, my daughter, Mary, excepted, she having had her part of the Estate before.

And I give and bequeath to my loving wife, Elizabeth, the Third part of all my above Estate first of all to be taken out. And I do hereby, ordain and constitute and appoint my loving wife, Elizabeth, and my son, James Ruddle, to be the full and sole Executors of this my last Will and Testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twentieth day of May in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty six.

Signed, Sealed, Published and Pronounced and Declared by the said Archible Ruddell as his last Will and Testament in the Presence of us and in the presence of each other have hereunto set our hands.

Archible Ruddell (l.s.)

John Newman
Ulrich Keener
George x Sharp (his Mark)
The last Will and Testament of Archibald Ruddell, dec'd, was proved by the oaths of John Newman, Ulrich Kener, George Sharp and ordered to be Rec'd. On the motion of Elizabeth Ruddell and James Ruddell, Executors therein, a probate thereof is granted them in due form, they having sworn to the same, and given bond and security according to law.

Teste: John Williams, C.C.S.C.

Archibald Ruddell and Elizabeth, his wife, had the following children:

James Ruddell
Isaac Ruddell
George Ruddell
Archibald Ruddell
Mary Ruddell and other daughters not mentioned by name.

However, Wayland in his History of Shenandoah County quotes a record showing one of them was named Rebecca and that she was born Nov. 18, 1772. It will presently be shown that James was born in 1756. To give some general idea of the ages of James' brothers, a census taken of Shenandoah County in 1775 to determine the number of males fit for military duty revealed that Archibald had at that time two sons over sixteen years of age and two sons under sixteen, besides four daughters.

As shown by his will, Archibald left "All my land at Kentucky to my dutiful sons, James and Isaac." The Bourbon County records show that, with the possible exception of George, all of Archibald's sons who were not already there, moved to that county soon after the father's death. James was in Ruddle's Station when it was taken by the British and Indians in 1780.

Collin's History of Kentucky, Vol. 1, page 13, gives a list of the men at Ruddle's Station in 1775 and 1780, among whom was a James Ruddle. This James was the only James Ruddle in existence at that time except Stephen's son James and what evidence there is points to its not being Stephen's son.

But as I have previously pointed out the genealogist is treading on dangerous ground when he attempts to differentiate between all these James, Georges, Isaacs, Johns and Stephens.

This James Ruddell, according to Wayland in his History of Shenandoah County, had a son, Charles Ruddell, born in 1791, who was a Lieutenant in the Kentucky troops at Fort Levis and a member of the Kentucky House of Representatives from Grant County in 1836. Charles' son, James C. Ruddell, of Callatin County, Ky., was a Lieutenant in the Confederate Army.

The following family data on the descendants of James Ruddell was contributed by James Ira Ruddell of Croyden, Iowa:

Children:
- Mary b. Aug. 2, 1785
- Nancy b. March 27, 1786
- Elizabeth b. Aug. 23, 1789
- Charles Archibald b. Oct. 7, 1791
- George Nov. 8, 1793
- Sarah Apr. 23, 1795
- Margaret Nov. 6, 1796
- James Apr. 25, 1796
- Jennie Mar. 7, 1800
- Rebecca Apr. 14, 1802
- Cornelius Jul. 4, 1804


Children:
- Nancy Sept. 4, 1834, m. ______ Stuart
- James Oct. 14, 1835, m. Farthenia s. Emory
- William Aug. 20, 1837, m.
- Matilda Jan. 9, 1839
- Mary Aug. 21, 1841, m. Wm. Kellyer, 12-16-1858, d. Dec. 11, 1917

2nd wife, a widow by the name of Twomson


William Ruddell, Born Aug. 20, 1837 in Boone County, Ky.

Children:
- Lenora Jane b. July 5, 1866, d. July 21, 1940
  - m. Grant Markley, Mar. 4, 1886
- Ira James b. Dec. 8, 1869
  - m. Grace Dotts on Mar. 24, 1898

No issue

Geo. Willis b. Oct. 17, 1872 m. Mildred Hild or Mild


Nancy Alice b. Sept. 3, 1878 m. Dec. 20, 1899 to Chas. McHurry

James Ira & Wife, Grace Dotts m. Mar. 24, 1889

Children:

William Lowell, b. Dec. 21, 1898. Curra Wee McClure 1918

Doris Margaret b. July 10, 1905 m. Gerald Hopkins, 1932

Albert Earl & Wife Cora

Children:
- Lena, deceased in infancy
- Iabel, m. John Lowry
- Glen
- Cecil, m. Chas. Clark

Albert Earl & 2nd Wife, Bertha Shan

Children: Gale
  - Beth "V. Stevenson
  - Coy Lucile, b. July 23, 1900 m. Bert Nickel, 1920

Alum.
Moved to Iowa when 13. Married a widow Margaret Jane Case Sept. 28, 1865.

As proof that the Ruddell descendants just listed above are the descendants of the James Ruddle who was taken prisoner at Ruddle's Station and that he was also James Ruddle, the son of Archibald, I submit the following arguments:-

Firstly, their ages correspond as shown by the following deposition to be found in Vol. II page 103 of the Court and Other Records of Bourbon County, Ky:-

January Court, 1802, James Ruddle, aged 44 years, to establish land of John Logan, deposes: "He lived at Ruddle's Station 1779-80. Recalls improvements in question to be the second one from the Station." A little calculation discloses that this would fix the date of James' birth as the year, 1756, and that exactly agrees with the above family record which shows James to have been born Aug. 20, 1756.

Secondly, Wayland quotes James having a son, Charles born in 1791. This checks with the above James' son, Charles Archibald.

Thirdly, Archibald Ruddle's will shows him to have had children by the following names:- Archibald, George, James, Mary and Rebecca. The date of the James given above shows him to be more than a coincident.

Fourthly, it is more than a tradition, in fact it appears to be a well-known fact among the above descendants that their ancestor, James Ruddell, was one of the garrison at Ruddle's Station and was taken prisoner with the others on its surrender to the British and Indians.

Another and interesting feature of the above date is that it shows James to have married a Jane whose last name is apparently unknown, and that their first child, Mary, was born Aug. 2, 1785. Now the marriage records of Bourbon County show that James Ruddle married Jane Ruddle May 18, 1788. This also could scarcely be a coincidence. Granting that the first child had been born almost three years previous to the date of the above marriage, this is by no means contradictory because on the frontier in those days common-law marriages were not unusual and it is very probable that, after living together three or four years, as husband and wife, the marriage was finally being legalized. This would also account for the fact that they were both married under the name of Ruddle, for that was the name by which she had been prior to the legal ceremony. Of course Jane could have been James' cousin.
When I began this Ruddell genealogy I had intended writing an account of all six of the sons of John and Mary Ruddell, but in so far as it pertains to their son, George, I am temporarily at least abandoning the task. I am doing this because I do not at present possess enough data to build up an authentic record of him. I am, however, preserving there for future reference all the facts I have collected pertaining to the numerous George Ruddells, some of which undoubtedly relates to this particular George. But until such time as I may procure additional information that will enable me to differentiate between them, I am holding the task in abeyance. Before setting down these facts, however, I am giving for what it is worth a small amount of data which has been contributed by an alleged descendant of George's, Miss Gladys Fowler of Little Rock, Ark. Some of this data sounds good and goes into such detail at times as to inspire confidence in its authenticity. Some of this information has probably been taken from family Bibles in the possession of Miss Fowler's branch of the family, but since I have been unable to contact her, I can only conjecture.

Wrote Miss Fowler:-

Following is my lineage which has been accepted by the DAR and my aunt and cousin have thus joined that society under its acceptance:

John Ruddle and his wife Mary came to Augusta County, Va., in 1747, where in 1751 he became a magistrate.

George Ruddle, born 1740, came to Augusta County, Va., with his father, John Ruddle in 1747. In Feb. 2, 1760, he was married to Elizabeth Preston, born 1742, and died 1809. George died in Bourbon Co., Ky., in 1805.

Elizabeth Ruddle born Jan. 22, 1763, the daughter of George and Elizabeth Preston Ruddle was married in Dec. 12, 1786, to George Sharp, born 1762, and died Feb. 3, 1846. Elizabeth died in 1840.

Abraham Sharp-Margaret Custer
Sarah Sharp-Cyrus Fowler
Cyrus Russell Fowler-Cora Elizabeth Dawson
Gladys Fowler

Children of George Ruddle:

John, born Dec. 8, 1760
Elizabeth, born Jan. 22, 1763
George, born 1765
Andrew, born 1766
George's Service Record:

Captain of Rockingham County, Va., Militia, 1779. 
(See McAllister's Virginia Militia in the Revolution, page 230).

This reference is authentic enough, but after reading the unrelated data below on the various Georges I am at a loss to see how any conservative genealogist would be willing to go on record as saying which one of the Georges the above service pertains to. If George's wife were named Elizabeth, as alleged, then we certainly cannot exclude the possibility and the probability that the above is the service record of George, the husband of Magdaline, to whom Abram Bird sold land in Shenandoah County on Feb. 10, 1776. This latter George is unquestionably the son of Archibald, provided of course George's wife was named Elizabeth as claimed, because he was the only other George Ruddle of age in 1776. This George belonged to the third generation in America, but only a few years more and we encounter Georges of the fourth generation, when confusion is piled on confusion.

Following will be found miscellaneous data on the George Ruddles of the 18th century:

The Records of Frederick County, Deed Book 13, page 115, show George Ruddle on Feb. 14, 1869, witnessed a deed for Isaac and Elizabeth Ruddle.

Deed Book XV, page 331, February 10, 1772. George Ruddle of Frederick County for and in consideration of 36 pounds, 16 shillings and 7 pence, sells a negro boy named Tom.

Deed Book XII, page 528, Nov. 8, 1786. John Skeen of the county of Frederick of one part and George Ruddle of the same place of the other part. The said George Ruddle leases from the said John Skeen 29½ acres on the North River of Shenandoah for two years and nine months.

A Documentary History of Dunmore's War by Reuben Gold Thwaites, page 412, shows that in a list of Capt. Selby's Company, Oct. 7, 1774, from Fincairne (Botetourt County) the name George Ruddle appears.

Augusta County Records, Vol. III, page 324, shows:

Deed, Aug. 17, 1775. Phillip Nicholas to Jacob Rinker. A parcel of land on Brock's Creek. Witness, George Ruddle.

Collins History of Kentucky, Vol. III, page 624. Among the garrison at Herrodsburg, 1777-78, appears the name George Ruddell.

The Shenandoah County Records show that on Aug. 3, 1803, Lawrence Fitman bought 347 acres from Abram Bird and Rachel his wife for $5555.56, said land being a part of 550 conveyed to
the said Abram Bird by George Ruddle and Magdaline his wife,
Feb. 10, 1776. Witnesses, Jacob Rinker, Samuel Walton, and
Lewis Moore.

The Shenandoah County Records also show that George
Ruddle, one of the sons of Archibald Ruddle, and Susanna his
wife on April 13, 1801, deeded some land to Isaac Rudder,
Witness, Jacob Rinker.

The official records of Rockingham County, Va. show that
on May 4, 1786, a marriage license was issued for the marriage
of George Ruddle to Mary Goar, widow of Joseph Goar.

In Deed Book, page 398, in the Court House at Harrisonburg, Rockingham County, Va. we find the following:-

Deed, Dec. 25, 1787, George Ruddle and Mary his wife of
the county of Rockingham, in the State of Virginia to Jacob
Gunckel 225 acres of land lying and being in the County of
Rockingham on the North River of Shenando.

John W. Wayland in his History of Shenandoah County
quotes the following record: George Ruddle and Magdaline
his wife, a child, Mary Ann, baptized February 21, 1773.

Augusta County Records, Vol. II page 364, shows that on
March 22, 1779, George Ruddle qualified as captain.

McAllister's Virginia Militia in the Revolution, page 230
shows that Isaac Ruddle deposed that he and George Ruddle set-
tled on land in Bourbon County, Kentucky, in 1777.

Collins History of Kentucky, Vol. I, page 13, states that
there was a George Ruddle in Ruddle's Station when it was
captured by the British and Indians in 1780.

Cornelius Ruddle in his will bearing date of March 3, 1778,
said: - "I also give unto my brother George Ruddle's daughter,
Ingabo, two cows and three ewes, etc."

The Court and Other Records of Bourbon County shows the
following:-

"Jan. 7, 1796, George Ruddell appoints John Mulherrin and
John Ruddell attorneys to collect taxes and answer suits.

Bourbon County Records shows:-

Deed, April 19, 1792, Isaac Ruddle and Elizabeth his wife
of Bourbon County to George Ruddle of the same. Land in Bourbon
and Woodford Counties.
Deed, Aug. 19, 1794, George Ruddle of Bourbon County to Jarrett Menefree 150 acres in Bourbon County.

On page 252 of Wayland's History of Shenandoah County we find:-

"On June 14, 1814, George Ruddell was recorded Captain in the Second Batt. & 13th Regt. V.M. in the room(place) of A. Doyle, resigned and Fleazer Downey Lieutenant in the room of Ruddell, promoted."

It will be noted that, in all the above references to George or rather perhaps I should say the Georges Ruddell, there is no mention of an Elizabeth as being the wife of one of them. There was a Mary, a Maggie, and a Susanna, but no Elizabeth. There was indeed an Elizabeth Ruddell, but she was the wife of George's brother, Capt. Isaac Ruddell. If there had been a George whose wife was named Elizabeth, it is all but certain that their names would have appeared together in the court records. The Ruddells all dealt extensively in land and it would have been impossible for George to have sold real estate without his wife's name appearing in the face of the deed with his own. The reader will observe that he has no difficulty at all in ascertaining the names of the wives of all of George's brothers. All of this raises a question as to whether the Fowler branch of the family may not have gotten their cues mixed.

ISAAC RUDDELL

Isaac Ruddell was born in Nottingham Township, Chester County, Penna. not later than the year 1729, and he may have been born somewhat earlier. I make this statement relative to the date of his birth because of a deed exhibited below which shows that he purchased a tract of land in Frederick County, Va. in the year 1750 already. Now it is a fact that minors do not deal in real estate. Therefore, it is certain that Isaac had in the year 1750 already attained the legal age of 21 years.

Isaac with the rest of the Ruddell family, moved to and settled in the Valley of the Shenandoah near the close of the first half of the eighteenth century.

So much has been said about the Valley of the Shenandoah that a few words as to the origin of the name may be of interest to the reader. The valley as well as the county takes its name from the Shenandoah River, meaning, in the language of the Indian, "river of Stars". From the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains at whose base it flows, the Red Men looked down and in its transparent waters saw reflected the stars overhead. Hence the name with its pretty significance.

The earliest official record of Isaac in Virginia is the
following found in Deed Book VIII, page 268, in the Court House at Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia:-

"This indenture made—1763 between Isaac Ruddle and Elizabeth his wife of the County of Frederick and Archibald Riddle, conveying a certain tract of land lying in the said County of Frederick on the South Side of the North River of Shenandoah below the narrow passage, containing 140 acres, granted to the said Isaac Ruddle by deed from the Hon. Thomas Lord Fairfax, Prop., bearing date of Aug. 2, 1750."

The above deed shows Isaac in Frederick County in 1750. Three years later in 1753 we find him and his brother Stephen witnessing a deed for another brother Cornelius as follows:-


Then the above deed shows him to be living in Frederick County in 1763. Later in the Frederick County records in Deed Book XIII, Page 115, we find:-

"Deed, Feb. 4, 1769, Isaac Ruddle and Elizabeth his wife of the County of Frederick to John Teater of said county 450 acres of land lying on Stoney Creek in the County aforesaid. Witness, George Ruddle."

In the same book, page 156, we find:

"Deed(no date, but recorded Sept. 6, 1769) Isaac Ruddle and Elizabeth his wife of the County of Frederick to Marcus Iler 446 acres on the waters of Stoney Creek. Presence of George Ruddle."

In the two preceding deeds it is shown that Isaac disposed of 900 acres of land in Frederick in 1769 after which date no further record is found of him in that county. That can mean only one thing; namely, that he had gone elsewhere in quest of greener pastures. The Ruddles were restless, roving pioneers.

The following deposition made by Isaac in Kentucky in 1799 discloses that, after disposing of his land in Frederick County he moved to the extreme southwestern part of Va. and settled in Washington Co. "on the River Holston near the dividing lines of Virginia and North Carolina", where he was till 1778 when he removed to Kentucky:-

Bourbon County, Kentucky, Oct. 1799

Isaac Ruddell vs. Robt. Johnson, to judges of Dist. Court—
orator, Isaac Ruddell would show sometime in the year 1775 he executed to Hugh Johnson a note for payment of 37 pounds 10
shillings, that both Johnson and himself resided at that time on the River Holston near the dividing lines of Virginia and North Carolina about 13 miles apart, that sometime previous to year '78 orator being desirous to move his family to Kentucky determined to discharge all debts where he resided, and in the spring of the year, he paid Johnson two horses in part discharge of debt and gave order on certain Alexander Montgomery for sum of about 10 pounds, together with other small judgments—-Johnson did not have the bond with him but signed receipt and it was attested as well as he recalls by Hugh Ross and his mother Sarah Davis. In December, 1778, he moved his family to Ky. where he came to live, and in the month of June, 1780, he was taken prisoner from Ruddles Station by the Indians and British and remained among them until 1783, and at the time of his capture the receipt was among his possessions and at that time all his property, household furniture, and goods were destroyed or taken by the Indians and British, and on his return to Ky. he came by way of Holston in order to collect several hundred pounds and stayed there about four months.---Hugh Johnson departed this life and Robt. Johnson was administrator, whom he prays to be made defendant to this bill—sworn to Sept. 1800.

That Isaac became active in a military way while he was in Washington County is shown by the fact that he attained the rank of Captain and organized a company of militia. The Virginia Historical Magazine, Vol. VIII, page 18, shows that on May 25, 1770, a certain sum of money was paid him for his Company at Washington Militia to be sent under Co. George Rogers Clark to fight the British and Indians in Kentucky, and Illinois. As an interesting aside, Washington County, Va., was organized in 1777 and "it is a positive fact that it was the first locality in the United States to be honored with the name of the 'Father of Our Country'".

Somewhat at variance with the above deposition of Isaac is another sworn statement by him some nineteen years earlier taken from the Certificate Book of the Virginia Land Commission, 1779-80.

"Isaac Ruddle and George Ruddle each have a certificate issued for 1400 acres of land in Bourbon County about three miles above (what became two years later) Ruddles Station. The claims were made by Isaac Ruddle who deposed that he and George Ruddle had settled in the country in 1777 and had remained there since. Satisfactory proof having been made to the Court, the Court was of the opinion that the said Isaac and George Ruddle were entitled the settlement."
It seems an established fact that Isaac and George had, in the preceding year 1777, visited Kentucky and been much taken with it. In other words, he found pastures a little greener than those he had seen in Virginia and determined to move there. He no doubt at that time staked out the claims for which he sought the above certificates of title. There is a discrepancy of two years in the above sworn statements of Isaac, but, according to fairly well authenticated reports, Isaac was not a man to let such small matters as discrepancies bother him where his financial interests were involved.

Whatever may have been his weaknesses along other lines, Isaac seems to have had a sincere affection for and interest in the well being of his family. Knowing the land was good and cheap in Kentucky, he gathered up as many of his relatives as possible and took them along. Among these were a Stephen Ruddle, son of his brother, Cornelius, a James Ruddle, son of his brother Archibald, and a George Ruddle, who may have been either a son of his brother, Archibald, or, and this is most likely, a son of Isaac himself, or Isaac's brother, George. It is definitely known that Isaac's son, George, was there, for both he and his wife, Theodicia, were taken prisoners, Isaac's son, George, was, at the time, twenty-three years old and married and would therefore have certainly been reckoned among the men of the station.

Collins History of Kentucky shows all these Ruddles besides Capt. Isaac Ruddle to have been in the station when it was taken by the British and the Indians. Wayland says there was also a John Ruddle in the settlement but that he, with a Co. John Todd, happened to be absent from the station at the time the attack was made and thus escaped capture. Wayland thinks this John Ruddle was Isaac's son, but according to Isaac's will he had no son John. He must, therefore have been the son of Isaac's brother Cornelius, for Cornelius' son was the only John Ruddle in existence at that time, unless we consider the fact that Isaac's brother, George, is reputed to have had a son John, who would at that time have been twenty years of age. There was a John Ruddle in the settlement later on for the Court and other Records of Bourbon County show that on Jan. 7, 1796, George Ruddle appointed JohnMulhein and John Ruddle attorneys to collect taxes and answer suits.

Speaking of the difficulties of distinguishing between the various James, Georges, Isaacs, and Stephens, two such eminent historians as Collins in His History of Kentucky and Wayland in his Virginia Valley Records state that the above mentioned James Ruddle was a brother of Capt. Isaac, when nothing could be farther from the actual truth. This may sound like presumption on my part, but if Collins and Wayland had delved into original sources and had sought to verify all they wrote as I have investigated the Ruddles, their histories would not as yet be ready for publication. Wayland no doubt fell into error through copying Collins.
The reader has heard and will hear much more about the stations of Kentucky and must wonder what they were like. According to Collins, stations in Kentucky consisted usually of a cluster of cabins arranged for defense against the Indians. But Ruddle's Station, which Collins says was actually designed and built by Ruddle himself, amounted to much more than this. It was a stockade, to which the whole settlement could flee for protection when threatened by the Indians en masse. Ruddle's Station was rebuilt in April 1779, from Hinkston's Station which had been originally built by John Hinkston in 1775. Hinkston had remained there fifteen months and a little community was gathering about his station, but it was abandoned in 1776 through fear of the Indians (See Collins History of Kentucky, Vol. II, page 328). Isaac, on first removing to Kentucky in December, 1778, had remained at Logan's Station, which was nearby, until April, 1779, when he built and removed to Ruddle's Station.

Ruddle's Station was located on the east bank of the South Fork of Licking River, about seven miles from Paris, the County Seat of Bourbon County. Little did Isaac realize as he built this for the horrible tragedy that was soon to overtake it and its small band of occupants. At this point I can do no better than to quote from Collins' History of Kentucky, Vol. II, page 328.

"In the summer of 1780, a formidable military force, consisting of 600 Indians and Canadians, under the command of Colonel Bird, an officer of the British Army, accompanied by six pieces of artillery, made an incursion into Kentucky. Such a force, accompanied by artillery was resistless to the stockades of that state which were altogether destitute of ordinance. The approach of the enemy was totally undiscovered by our people until on the 22nd day of June, 1780, the report of one of the field pieces announced their arrival before Ruddle's Station. This station had been settled the previous year on the easterly bank of the south fork of Licking River, three miles below the junction of Hinkston & Stoner's branches of the same stream. A summons was immediately made by Col. Bird; to which demand Capt. Ruddle answered that he could not consent to surrender, but on certain conditions, one of which was that the prisoners should be under the protection of the British, and not suffered to be prisoners of the Indians. To these demands Col. Bird consented and immediately the gates were thrown open to him. No sooner were the gates opened than the Indians rushed into the station and each Indian seized the first person he could lay his hands upon and claimed him as his own prisoner. In this way the members of every family were separated from each other, the husband from the wife, and the parents from their children. The piercing screams of the children when torn from their mothers, the distracted throes of the mothers when forced from their tender offspring, are indescribable. Ruddle remonstrated with Col. Bird against this barbarous conduct of the Indians, but to no effect. Bird confessed that it was out of his power to restrain them, their number being so much greater than the troops over which he had control, that he
himself was completely in their power.*

It may be said without hesitation that Isaac Ruddle acted with perfect discretion and showed sound judgment in surrendering the fort without a fight on being guaranteed the protection of the British. It must be remembered that the stockade of Ruddle's Station was built entirely of wood and was made to withstand rifle fire only. Ruddled within its walls were not only the men but also all the women and children of the settlements. Capt. Ruddle, besides being vastly outnumbered by the British and Indians, had no cannons, whereas the enemy had six. To use the words of Collins, "Such a force, accompanied by artillery, was resistless to the stockades of Kentucky." To have held out against such odds would have courted certain disaster because Col. Bird with his six cannon would have reduced the fort in almost no time and brought needless slaughter to the women and children. No one knew this better than Capt. Ruddle. As it turned out, however, even this might have been preferable to the awful fate which overtook them after the fort's surrender.

The number of prisoners taken at Ruddle's Station is reputed to have been 470 in men, women and children. Most of the children and a large number of adults were slaughtered by the Indians, but a few of the most promising boys were adopted into the tribe. Of the fate of two of these boys you will presently hear.

It is at times very difficult to determine whether to regard the men taken at Ruddle's Station as soldiers or as merely settlers in that region. But that the British regarded them as Revolutionary soldiers is clearly shown by the fact that they were held prisoners by the British till the close of the war, some of them, including Capt. Isaac Ruddle himself having been released earlier in an exchange of prisoners. It appears therefore that the affair at Ruddle's Station may safely be regarded as an engagement of the Revolution. As one historian puts it, at Ruddle's and Martin's Stations both of which were taken at the same time, "was waged the War of the Revolution on Kentucky soil". And this was only five years after the first permanent white settlement had been made in Kentucky, at Harrodsburg.

In all fairness to Col. Bird who commanded the British and Indians, it must be admitted that he did all in his power to restrain his savage allies. He did manage to recover a large number of the captives, including all of the Riddles, except Isaac's two young sons, Stephen and Abraham, whom the Indians adopted. These he sent to Detroit and some of them across the border to Canada. Col. Bird personally saw that they were treated kindly and he himself married one of the captive women.
The records of the War Department show that Capt. Isaac Ruddle was released two years later in an exchange of prisoners and returned to the Colonies, in October, 1782, from Canada by way of Lake Champlain. Many of the others did not gain their freedom till after nearly four years.

But such Indian outrages as that pictured above did not daunt the white man in his quest for new homes in Kentucky, the very name of which is the language of the red savage signifying "Dark and Bloody Ground." Thus the very next year, 1781, was distinguished by a very large immigration, by prodigious activity in land speculation, and by the frequency of Indian raids in small parties. Every portion of the country was just kept in continual alarm and small Indian ambushes were perpetually bursting upon the settlers. Many lives were lost, but the settlements made daily advances in defiance of all obstacles. The rich lands of Kentucky were the prize of the first occupants and they rushed to seize them with a rapacity stronger than the fear of death."

The following amusing story is copied from the Filson Club History Quarterly, Vol. C, page 183. The Rev. John C. Shanes's notes on an interview in 1844 with Patrick Scott of Bourbon County. Scott, who appears to have known everybody in Bourbon County in these early days, reminisced as follows:--

"I was at Corn's Station when old Riddle(Capt. Isaac Ruddle) that was taken prisoner at Riddle's Station got back (back from British captivity). One McCune who was at Bowman's Station when Riddle got there, went out and got a hoop-pole of which he and a parcel and wore it out on Riddle. McCune had been a fellow prisoner with Riddle and had been planning to run away when Riddle went and told the British on him who put McCune in irons. "Now," says McCune, "tell on me again".

I have already shown that Isaac had a son George. The family Bible of this George Ruddle is in the possession of the writer's niece, Mrs. Pearl Ruddell, of Batesville, Ark., a great-great-granddaughter of George's. This Bible discloses that he was married to Theodicia Lynn at Ruddle's Station on April 12, 1779. The presumption is that George was taken prisoner along with the others. That his wife, Theodicia, was is certain. The Arkansas Gazette of Little Rock, Ark. under date of October 6, 1830, printed the following:--

"Died in Independence County(Arkansas) Mrs. Theodicia Ruddle, consort of George Ruddle on Sept. 30, 1830. She was taken prisoner by the British and Indians at the siege of Ruddle's Station in 1780, and continued with them for about two years in upper Canada, undergoing many privations and difficulties without a murmur, etc."
Let us consider what happened to Isaac's younger children. Tradition says that his youngest child, an infant, was snatched from its mother's arms by an Indian and its brains dashed out in front of her eyes. History records the fate of only two of them, though it is known that all of them, save the infant had their lives spared.

Following the treachery of Ruddle's Station the Indians decided to adopt such of the boys as should prove to have the nerve and endurance of Indian boys. So they rolled the captive white children one at a time down a steep bank. If one cried, he was rejected as being unfit to become a member of the tribe and was consequently put to the tomahawk. If he did not cry, he was adopted. Subsequent events proved that at least two of Capt. Isaac Ruddle's children, Stephen, then twelve years of age, and his younger brother, Abraham, had enough of the Ruddle hardihood and frontier prowess to make them the equal, if not the superior of any Indian boy. They were consequently accepted and became regular members of the Indian tribe. What eventually became of them I shall let Colonel Daniel Trabue, a contemporary, acquaintance, and eye witness to many of the events connected with them, tell you in his own words, just as he wrote it down in his journal.

For a number of years after the close of the Revolutionary War, the fierce Indian tribes waged almost incessant warfare against the whites on the Kentucky frontier and perpetrated upon them every atrocity their uncanny cunning could devise. Finally, in 1795 General Mad Anthony Wayne, of Revolutionary fame, was sent against them with a strong army. Wayne gained a great victory over them in the battle of Miamis in August, 1795, whereupon the Indians were glad to accept the terms of peace which he dictated to them, one of which was that all whites held captive or otherwise residing among them should be returned to their people. At this juncture I quote verbatim from Colonel Trabue's Journal:

"In the summer of 1795 I was with General Wayne at Grunsvil at the Indian Treaty. General Wayne hired some of the first Indians that came to the Treaty to go to the other towns and get the Indians to come to the Treaty. General Wayne had a large army, and it was well directed and disciplined; also a number of cannon. He would often muster and parade his men. They would fire their Muskets and Rifles, and cannon when on parade, to the astonishment of the Indians. General Wayne's Army made a Martial appearance.

The Indians were hard to persuade to bring in the prisoners, and treat; but, gradually they came in, and brought a large number of prisoners. A number of men and women that came to the Treaty had been captured when children and they now looked like Indians. I was at Fort Jefferson about six miles from Grunsvil, and at a distance, in the parade we saw an Indian riding up toward the Fort, and when he got to within the distance of about 200 yards, he halted."
Captain McColester beckoned to him, and told him to advance; so he came up some higher and stopped. CA\--P\--T\--\--I\--\--N M\--C\--C\--O\--O\--L\--E\--S\--T\--E\--R went out to meet him, and I went with him. He took no arms with us, and the Indian told us he was a Chief and he was willing to talk about the treaty.

He could speak broken English. When he told us what Nation of Indians he belonged to, Captain McColester asked him if he knew Stephen Ruddle and Abraham Ruddle. He said he did, so Captain McColester told him that the Father of these Ruddles was then at Gnawville, and wanted very much to see his children. The old Captain Ruddle had given many presents to other Indians to go to his children, and persuade them to come in.

Captain McColester invited the Indian when he came up, to come in to the Fort and Drink some Whiskey. He refused, and after talking some time, and asking more particularly about the Ruddles, he said "Me" and struck his hand against his breast saying "Me, Stephen Ruddle." The Captain and I immediately shook hands with him, and told him how glad we were, and we knew his Father was not far off, and that he, the Captain would send a message for old Capt. Ruddle.

Captain McColester then went with the Indian Chief to where his company were, and there found Abraham among them, Abraham Ruddle and Abraham's adopted brother. They all alighted and came in, and all had the appearance of Indians; they were painted and very Dirty, but they had some silver trinkets hanging about their necks and breasts, and some brooches in their breech cloths and beads in the leggings and mocassins. I suppose they thought themselves fine.

We gave them something to eat, but none could speak English, but Stephen, and he, in a very broken manner. He and his brother, Abraham Ruddle had been taken prisoners at his Father's Fort at Licking in June, 1782. He was then 2 or 12 years old. Stephen's squaw was old and ugly.

In the Fort several of the soldiers had their wives with them, and gathered together to see these Indians.

When Capt. Ruddle came, Captain McColeston conducted him to his children. Old Captain Ruddle cried out aloud, and fell down on the floor crying, and bewailing his condition. Said he, "My children are Indians." Stephen took hold of his Father, and said, "Hold your heart, Father, hold your heart." The Indians, the white women, and some of the soldiers cried aloud, and Capt. Ruddle continued crying aloud whenever he would look at his children.

The next morning Capt. Ruddle gave his sons clean clothing, and got them to wash off the Paint, and put on the
clothes. I gave Abrams adopted Brother a shirt, and he was very glad to get it. He told Capt. Ruddle he ought to give Stephen's Wife something, but he refused. As there was a Store in this Fort, some of the soldiers got some calico and the white women in a little time sewed it up, and when this was given her, she was highly pleased.

Among the Indians there were different grades of Chiefs, some command 50, some 100. Captain Stephen Ruddle commanded 100, and it was said he was resolute in Battle. He told me he was in the Battle when Brigadier General Harmer was defeated; also when General St. Clair was defeated; also in the Battle when General Anthony Wayne defeated them on the Maumee.

Captain Stephen said the British told them previous to the Battle, that if they were defeated they might run into their Fort; when the French came, however, they told a lie. The battle was brought about in the following manner. About 850 men called spies were commanded by Colonel Price who marched in advance about half a mile ahead of the Army down the Miami River. Their line extended square off from the River, so that it was a half a mile in width.

Colonel Price's orders were that wherever he met Indians he should, after firing, Retreat to the main Army. This was to give the Army time to form for Battle. "Now," said Capt. Stephen Ruddle, "I believed that, when we met this advance party, we had met the main army. We pursued them with all our might, thinking we had defeated them, so when we did meet the main army we tried to outflank them. To our astonishment the whites outflanked us, and all of a sudden made a much greater force of men."

Stephen Ruddle and his men ran to the British Fort to gain entrance, but the British refused to open the Gate. Capt. Ruddle said they were nearly exhausted, and that some of them were killed. The whites were rushing hard on them, and it was with difficulty that they made their escape. He was willing to make peace with the Kentucky men; but he said he would never like the British again, as they had broken their word, and deceived the Indians.

The next day Old Capt. Ruddle and his children, and the Indians who were with him all went to Greensville, and after two or three days, old Mr. Ruddle told me he knew I could be of benefit to him. So said his son Stephen thought a great deal of me, and he wanted me to talk with him, and persuade him to leave his squaw and go home with his Father. But Stephen told me that although he was willing to go home he would not give up his squaw for any woman in the world. He would do anything for him and was mighty good to him.
I thought old Mr. Ruddle was in fault for giving up the Fort to the British and Indians, which he did since James Trabue, and Captain John Hinkston and others were opposed to it, and advised otherwise; but Capt. Ruddle put too much confidence in the British. One night at Greensville, Stephen said that all of his company's horses had run away. I asked him if he were going to hunt them, and he said no, his squaw would go after them alone. After two or three days she brought them all back from a distance of forty miles, five horses in number. I then thought that she was worth all the rest of the company together."

Thus was enacted the final scene in the tragedy of Ruddle's Station, a true life drama of as absorbing interest as is to be found in the annals of fiction.

One almost instinctively wonders what effect all these years spent among the Indians by Stephen and Abraham Ruddle had upon their subsequent lives and careers. Did they return to and adopt the white man's way of living or did they remain at heart and in effect Indians? I shall let the records and those who knew them while they lived answer this question.

The following, copied verbatim from the Compiled Records of Cooper's River Baptist Church in Bourbon County will speak for Stephen:— (See the Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society, Vol. XXIV, page 254.)

"Four ministers were appointed at different times from the membership and licensed to preach wherever they felt the call.

"James Garrett, Sr., in 1780, Reuben Payne in 1796. John Todd in 1800 and Thos. Smith in 1817 and Stephen Ruddle in 1805 was furnished as a missionary to the Indians. He was particularly fitted for the position, having lived for many years among them following his capture at the destruction of Ruddle's Fort in 1780, at which time he was twelve years old. He and his brother, (Abraham) were adopted into an Indian tribe and people who remember hearing him preach say that he wore his straight black hair uncut like the Indians and ear rings in his ears which were trimmed long and pendent. He is also described as being tall and erect and of the athletic build.

"After he was grown and had married an Indian squaw, he returned for a time to his people whose mode of life however seemed so strange to him that he was not satisfied to remain very long. During his missionary labors he tried to serve the government by promoting good feelings between the Indians
and the Whites, but of course was not able to accomplish
much in this respect as the British were keeping them stirred up
in preparation for the War of 1812. In the negotiations
following this war in regard to the exchange of prisoners
he was again useful in acting as an interpreter."

John W. Hayland, the well-known Virginia Historian in
his history of Shenandoah County, page 635, has the
following to say of Stephen:-

"The Rev. Stephen Ruddle was born (in Frederick County,
Va.) in 1768. He met Tecumseh when both were 12 years of
age and grew up in the same village with him. Stephen was
with the Indians in several fights against the whites. After
his return (from Indian Captivity in 1795), he was converted
to Christianity, given some education, and became a Baptist
preacher. From 1805 to 1811 he made yearly missionary visits
to the Shawnees and Delawares and introduced Christianity
among them. He acted as interpreter for John Johnson,
Indian agent at Upper Piqua, during the War of 1812. He
preached in Kentucky, Ohio, Missouri, Indiana, and Illinois,
dying in the last named state in 1845. Rev. Stephen Ruddle's
son, John M. Ruddell, represented Adams County in the Illinois
House of Representatives 1846-48. The people of Bourbon
County, Kentucky, remembered with respect Rev. Stephen Ruddle."

Because of the fact that Abram was six years younger
then Stephen when they were adopted into the Indian tribe,
the influence of the Indian association was much more in
evidence in him than in his brother. Wayland says that he
never became "civilized", but was always in manner an uncouth
Indian. Wayland further says that Abram was a spy and interpreter,
for Gen. Harrison in the War of 1812.

"Judge Asa C. Jeffrey of Batesville, Ark., a life long
friend and acquaintance of the Arkansas Ruddells wrote a
short account of the family which was published in the
Melbourne (Arkansas) Clipper in 1877. He had the following
to say of Abraham:-

"Old Abe Ruddell was captured by the Indians in the
settling of Kentucky while a small boy and was not changed
or given up till nearly grown. He talked very brokenly and
always had a decided Indian Appearance. He shunned people
except his intimate acquaintances. On one occasion he went
to witness a ball and when some compliments were paid to a
young lady's dainty foot and ankle while dancing, old Abe
said:- "Yes, looks jes like pins stuck in a pumpkin seed."

"Old Abe" may not have been a connoisseur of dainty
ankles and he may have been in manner and mien an "uncouth"
Indian, as contended by Wayland, but he was a "grand old man"
according to Trent Noland and he blazed the trail of civilization
in the State of Arkansas. He was among the very earliest settlers in that territory and played no small part in wresting it from its wilderness state. "See Shinn's Pioneers and Makers of Arkansas."

Abram Ruddle married Mary Culp in Bourbon County, Kentucky, Aug. 21, 1797, and had the following children:

Abraham
Daniel
America Ann Caldwell
Sally Criswell
Elizabeth Shannon
Esther Harris

Abram was born in Washington County, Virginia, in 1774. After his experiences in Kentucky, he moved to New Madrid County, Missouri, about the beginning of the nineteenth century, and a few years later in 1812 settled at Batesville, Arkansas, at which latter place he died in 1857, leaving a will which is on record there.

So much for Isaac Ruddle's two "Indian" sons. Again it may with truth be said: "Truth is stranger than fiction."

Now to return to Isaac himself.

The following interesting bit of gossip was taken from the Filson Club History of Kentucky, Vol. X, page 170 and was found in the Rev. John D. Shane's Notes on an interview in 1844 with Patrick Scott of Bourbon County, is quoted as saying: "Old man Isaac Riddle was a great rogue and his son George as great a rogue." This appeared along with other statements by Scott such as follows: "Capt. Isaac Rite was at McAfee's Station when it was attacked by the Indians. He came to Herrodsburg in a remarkable short time. I do not recollect how many seconds, but he was quick. He lived at Herrodsburg when we did."

Scott appears to have not been lacking in a sense of humor and to have remembered chiefly the weaknesses of his early contemporaries, but there was probably an undercurrent of truth running through his remarks. For instance, the reader has already seen how Isaac in order to clear title to a 1400 acre tract of land in Bourbon County swore that he and George Ruddle lived on said land since 1777 and later on in another sworn statement he says he did not settle in Bourbon County till December 1778. The following copied from Vol. XLVIII page 228, of the Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society appears in a way to corroborate Scott's contention that "Isaac was a rogue."

Petition recites that Isaac Ruddell and (his brother-in-law) Mounce Bird made entry on May 26, 1780, for 1000 acres of land on the south side of Dividing Ridge including an improvement made by Isaac at a spring where Isaac had his name carved on a tree; that the said Isaac had surveyed the same, contrary to description, and thereby included a great part of the land of the complainant; that the said Isaac and Mounce, having obtained patent upon their survey so illegally made, proved prior in time to date of the complainant's and had legal title vested in them and that the said Isaac conveyed his said title to the said land to his son, George Ruddell, etc."

It appears that Isaac Ruddell and Robt. Johnson just couldn't keep out of each other's hair. First there is a suit in 1789—Isaac Ruddell vs. Robt. Johnson—about an affair that happened 21 years previously in Virginia, then one year later in 1800 another suit—Robert Johnson vs. Isaac Ruddell—about a disagreement that had taken place twenty years earlier in Kentucky.

This apparent tendency to roguishness seems to have been hereditary to an extent in this branch of the Ruddell family. I quote from Judge Asa C. Jeffrey, a lifelong friend of the Ruddells, who wrote an article on the family which was published in the Milbourne (Arkansas) Clipper in 1877:—

"John Ruddell, a character of considerable note in the early settlement of this valley (White River Valley at Batesville, Arkansas), grew up in the vicinity of New Madrid, Missouri. His father, George Ruddell, was a man of some property but, becoming involved, he put it in John's possession to hold. The old man accused his son of holding it for good, which caused a split between them and John and his uncle, old Abe Ruddell (who had been taken prisoner by the Indians along with his brother Stephen) came to Batesville, (Ark) about the beginning of that place. John accumulated a large fortune. He was a warm-hearted friend, a man of strong intelligence, which seemed to be directed in the channel of accumulation, often to the detriment of other virtues."

The reader will recall that Patrick Scott in his interview had said that George Ruddell was as big a rogue as his father Isaac. Here we find George living up to the reputation. In his endeavor to cheat others of what he owed them, he was himself cheated by his own son. Which reminds one of the old say, "Like father, like son." So much for some of the frailties of a great pioneer family. What family does not have some?
Isaac Ruddell was married in Virginia to Elizabeth Bowman who was born in Virginia in the year 1737. This marriage took place about the year 1756 for their oldest child, George Ruddell, was born February 14, 1757. Elizabeth was a daughter of George Bowman and Mary Hite, who in turn was a daughter of Joist Hite. The Hite family of which Joist was the founder, was one of the best known pioneer families in America.

Joist Hite (Hans Jost Heydt) came from Germany via Holland in his own ship, the Swift, bringing with him sixteen families to Kingston, Long Island, N.Y. in 1710. In 1716 he settled Germantown, Pa., now a part of the City of Philadelphia. He played a prominent part in the early life of Virginia and was justice of the First Court of Orange County. He married Anna Maria, daughter of Louis DuBois, a Hugenot. He died in 1750. The Hites and Ruddles were for a century close friends and neighbors in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Kentucky.

Isaac Ruddell died in February, 1812, at a ripe old age of not less than 81 years in Bourbon County, Kentucky, a county made famous largely through his efforts and leadership. In the graveyard at Ruddle's Mills which he himself founded, lies this day all that was mortal of Isaac Ruddell, Pioneer, Patriot, Revolutionary War Soldier. Over his grave one finds a marker bearing the following simple inscription:

(See Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society Vol. XXX, page 192.)

Isaac Ruddell on March 6, 1806, executed the following will:

ISAAC RUDDELL'S WILL

Bourbon County, Kentucky:

Will Book, D, p. 239—Appoints son, Stephen Ruddell and son-in-law John Mulhering Executors; to wife, Elizabeth Ruddell, one-third of the movable estate for life and one-third of home plantation with buildings, two negro slaves, said slaves to have their freedom at her decease, likewise all her grain is to be found toll free; to two sons, Steven Ruddell and Abraham Ruddell 390 acres already laid off on East side of tract whereon I now live to son-in-law, John Mulhering 200 acres as now laid off, but if no prior right should take the 200 acres which I give to my daughter, Betsey which John
Mulhering has sold to Adam Smilser, then John Mulhering is to pay for the 200 acres he now lives on, as woodland, to be divided among my children hereafter mentioned, likewise if any prior right should take any part of the 390 acres given my two sons, Steven and Abraham, it is to be made up to them out of the home plantation so as to make all whole, and if the home place is not sufficient it is to be made up out of the "Elenor Grant", to be understood if any part of the 200 acres said Mulhering sold to Smelser be lost he to be made whole out of home plantation and other land mentioned; to daughter, Margery Dewit's two sons, namely Isaac and John Dewit, 500 acres in the "Elenor Grant" on frontier mile creek, the lot is now 179 and also to have equal division of movable estate that is their mother's part; to Cornelius Ruddell's two daughters, Folley and Nancy, shall have the equal share that should have been their father's of my movable estate; as to outlands "should any claim be brought against my home plantation" the outlands mentioned to be divided equally between Stephen Ruddell, Abraham Ruddell, and Elizabeth Mulhering and at wife's death other third of home place divided among Mulhering and my three children named, and as for my son, George Ruddell, I have given a full proportionable part with the rest to wit, 600 acres on Elk Horn and 200 acres on Flat run with the note of 100 pounds, also another note of 200 pounds, also will him $100, one negro given to Stephen at 85 pounds, also one given to Abraham Ruddell at 40 pounds the purchase of both to be charged to them and taken out of their share of home plantation. Written 6th March, 1806, probated February 18, 1812. Witnesses: Thos. A. Tomson, Jesse Daugherty, Wm. Thomson.

As shown by his will Isaac Ruddell had the following children:-

George
Stephen
Abram
Margery Dewit
Betsey (Elizabeth) wife of John Mulherren
Cornelius (dead at the time of the execution of the will, but leaving two children, Folley and Nacey).

According to Wayland, this Cornelius was born after his father's return from captivity. Wayland is also authority for the statement that an unnamed infant was killed at the time of the capture of Ruddle's Station.

Isaac had another son, Isaac, Jr. who died in June, 1794, without heirs. This son consequently was not mentioned in his father's will. Book A, page 205, of the Bourbon County records shows that an inventory was made on June 12, 1794, of the estate of Isaac Ruddell, Jr. by George Ruddell and four others.
Will Bood E, page 277, shows that an inventory was made of the Estate of Elizabeth Ruddle by John Mulherran and others in March, 1815. This makes clear that Isaac’s wife Elizabeth died in that year, 1815.

Of two of Isaac’s sons, Stephen and Abram, we have already written. Now a few words about his eldest son, George.

George was born in Frederick County, Virginia, February 14, 1757, and died in Independence County, near Batesville, Arkansas, March 10, 1846, in the ninetieth year of his age. What sturdy pioneers the Ruddells were! About the turn of the century, George removed his family to New Madrid County, Missouri. His residence in that state is shown by the following abstract of a deed:–

Bourbon County Records, Deeds Book E, page 272. Deed, March 17, 1808, to Isaac Ruddell from George Ruddell of the District of New Madrid, Territory of Louisiana. George acquits the said Isaac of every demand by virtue of deed of one thousand acres on Elkhorn.

The following record is taken from the Bible of George and Theodosia (Dochy) Ruddell:

Theodisla Lynn, born in Virginia, June 13, 1763, and died near Batesville, Independence County, Arkansas, Sept. 30, 1830; married at Ruddell’s Station, Kentucky, April 12, 1779. George Ruddell, born Virginia, February 14, 1757; died near Batesville, Independence County, Arkansas, March 10, 1846.

Born February 14, 1757, George Ruddell
Born June 15, 1763, Theodosia Lynn Ruddell
Born May 17, 1781, Sara, daughter of George and Theodosia Ruddell.
Born Feb. 14, 1763, Elizabeth, daughter of G. and T.R.
Born June 8, 1785, Abraham, son of George and Theodosia Ruddell.
Born January 3, 1788, Isaac, son of “”””
Born June 12, 1792, John, son of “”””
Born September 10, 1796, George, son of “”””
Born March 12, 1799, Rebecca, daughter of “”””
Born November 10, 1801, Cornelius, son of “”””

Isaac Ruddell died February 5, 1815, aged 27.
Theodosia Ruddell died September 30, 1830, aged 67.
Rebecca Harris, d. of G. Ruddell died Nov. 15, 1839, a. 39.
Sarah Summers, d. of George died (blurred) 1839 aged 58.
Cornelius Ruddell died Jan. 15, 1842, aged 41.
George Ruddell (in parenthesis after this name is the notation, “our father”) died Mar. 10, 1846, aged 89.
Abraham Ruddell died Nov. 22, 1855, aged 70.
John Ruddell died April 13, 1857, aged 74.
The Ruddells whom I have known are all descended from the above named John Ruddell, son of George and Theodocia. The following Character sketch of him was written in 1877 by an old friend of the family, Asa C. Jeffrey, Judge of the District Court at Batesville:—

John Ruddell, a Character of considerable note in the early settlement of this valley grew up in the vicinity of New Madrid, Mo., and was there when the country blew up in the earthquake in 1811. His father was a man of some property but becoming involved, he put it in John's hands to hold—the old man accused John of holding it for good, which caused a split between them and John and his uncle, Old Abe Ruddell, came to Batesville, about the first beginning of that place. John Ruddell accumulated a large fortune, lived to be very old and to see his fortune vanish in the late rebellion. He was a warm-hearted friend, a man of strong intelligence, which seemed to be directed in the channel of accumulation, often to the detriment of other virtues. He prided himself even in his old days, in habits of temperance, industry, and great frugality, and a strict adherence to backwoods' customs. These peculiarities in a rich man called for a great many anecdotes, one of which was:

It was said of him that neither he or his negroes had any meat to eat. One morning he smelt meat cooking. He had an old negro woman named Salley, whose cabin was some thirty yards off. He called out in a loud voice, "Sally, what is that burning?" "A piece of meat skin, Massa, I found and am broiling in the coals." "Well", said he, "save the sop, Sally."

The following story was contributed by one of his descendants, Mrs. Chloe Vida Toothaker, to whom I am deeply indebted for much of the data contained in this History of the Ruddell Family in America:—

"John had made arrangements to buy, or trade, for an ass then before the transaction was completed, he became very sick, was in bed for some time and was under the doctor's care. One day the man who owned the ass brought the creature to John's home. One of the slaves brought the message that the animal was outside and the owner was ready to trade. John ordered the negro to bring the ass to his bedside so that he might examine it and determine whether he was making a good trade. The animal was brought in, and he had them open its mouth, that he might see its teeth. The tale goes on that he was satisfied and traded for it.

When the Civil War broke out, John's chief regret was that he was too old to enter it, but he sent his only son old enough
to bear arms, John Ruddell, Jr., into the fray. This son was severely wounded twice, but still lived to a very old age. Though John was too advanced in years to follow the Ruddell tradition and march away to war, he kept the home fires burning and killed with his pocket knife (an act of which he was completely vindicated) a Yankee intruder who forced his way upon his premises. He died at Batesville, April 17, 1978, and was buried on his own land back among the tall pines on a high spot of ground overlooking his fertile acres in the White River Valley below. His final resting place is marked by a Masonic stone on which the following engraving appears, clearly legible to this day:

John Ruddell
Husband of Mary Ruddell
Born June 12, 1794
Died, April 17, 1867
Aged 72 years, 10 mos. and five days.

Apparently John wanted his posterity to remember him as the "Husband of Mary Ruddell". What a fine tribute to pay to one's wife! John's wife, Mary Gill, survived him by nine years, dying at the home of their son, John, at Denton, Texas, July 11, 1876.

John Ruddell left the following remarkable will which is recorded in Will Book B., page 131, in the Court House at Batesville, Ark. This will shows much of the shrewdness and sagacity of the man.

JOHN RUDDELL'S WILL

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That I, John Ruddell of Independence County in the State of Arkansas, being in feeble health but of sound mind and disposing memory, do make and publish this my last Will and Testament hereby revoking all former wills by me at any time heretofore made.

Item First: I hereby deputies and appoint my wife, Mary Ruddell, my Executrix, and John L. Ruddell, my Executor, of this Will and Testament, directing my said Executors and Executrix to pay all my just debts, funeral expenses and the legacies hereafter given out of my Estate.

Item Second: I give and bequeath unto my wife, Mary Ruddell, the following tract of land, to wit:

The SW Frl. 1/4 of Section 18 in Twp. 13 North, Range 6 West, containing 160 acres, more or less, with all the
appurtenances for and during the natural life of said
Mary Ruddell, and at her death the said tract of land to
go to my daughter, Margaret Adelaid Ruddell, subject to
the exceptions and limitations as set forth in the parti-
cular time which enumerates the property bequeathed to my
said daughter. If my daughter, Margaret Adelaide, should
die without issue then the said lands to go to her brothers
and sisters, the whole blood and their descendants subject
to the same condition of other lands which I have bequeathed
to them, that is, they shall have a life time's estate therein
and at their death go to the heirs of their body. I also
give and bequeath to my wife, Mary Ruddell, all my household
and kitchen furniture.

Item Third: I give and bequeath to my daughter, Sarah
Jane Williams, (wife of Alexander Williams, dec.) the follow-
ing tracts of land, to wit:

My interest in the West 1/2 of the SW 1/2 of Section 18,
Twp. 13, North, etc., etc.,
it being the lands which formerly belonged to the Estate of
Andrew Caldwell and was purchased by me from Marian L. Caldwell
and Francis H. Caldwell, they being the heirs at law of And-
rew Caldwell and America Caldwell, reference is here made
to the deeds for a more particular description of my interest
in said tracts of land; also my interest in the undivided
part of the SW 1/2 of the SE 1/2 of Section 7 in Twp. 13
North, Range 6 West, it being one third, which I purchased of
Daniel Ruddell and reference is made here to the said Ruddell's
Deed to me, (which is on the Record Books of the Recorder's
Office of Independence County) for a more definite description;
also the SW 1/4 of Section 27, Twp. 10 North of the Base line
in Range 1 West, containing 160 acres, more or less, this
tract of land is in Jackson County.

My said daughter to have the use of all of said lands for
and during her natural life as her separate property free
from all liability and control of any husband which she may
hereafter have, and at her death the said lands and tenements
to go to and be the absolute property of the heirs of her
body. Should she die without issue of her body then the
said lands and tenements to descend to and be the property
of her brothers and sisters, that is the heirs of my body,
and be equally divided among them.

Item Fourth: I give and bequeath unto my son, George V.
Ruddell, $300, which is to be paid to him, or if he is not
living it is to be paid to those of his children who may
prove themselves to be legal heirs, and shall be this in
five years after my death. This money is to be paid out of
the money left by me at my death. The reason why I do not
give my son, George V., more than $300 is that I have at
various times advanced him money sufficient to equal the

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bequests which I am now able to bestow upon the rest of my children.

Item Fifth: I give and bequeath to my grand-daughters, (the children of my daughter, Theodosia Summers, dec.) Evaline Jane Nelson (wife of John Nelson, dec.) and May Summers the following description of lands and tenements for and during their natural lives, to be held by them as their separate property free from all control and liability of any husband they may have or may hereafter have. At their death the said lands and tenements to be descended to and be the absolute property of the heirs of their bodies, that is one-half thereof to belong to the heirs of the body of Evaline Jane and the other half thereof to the heirs of the body of Mary, Namely:

(Description of lands)

With all the appurtenances thereto belonging to the said lands. These lands are situated in the County of Marion, State of Arkansas. In making this bequest to my Granddaughter, I think I have given them an equal portion with my other children, taking into consideration the advancements I made to their mother during their lives. Should either of my said Granddaughters die without issue of their body that portion willed to the deceased shall go to the surviving one, and in case both die without issue, then the property herein bequeathed to them, is to go to and be divided between my children equally or their descendants, the descendants to receive such part only as their parents would have received and had they been living.

Item Sixth: I give and bequeath to my daughter Elizabeth Jane Goodwin, wife of Alber F. Goodwin, the use of the following described lands and tenements for and during her natural life, as her separate property, to be free from all liability and control of her present or any future husband which she may have, to sit:

(Description of lands)

At the death of said daughter, Elizabeth Jane, said lands and tenements to descend to and be the absolute property of the heirs of her body; but should the said Elizabeth Jane die without issue of her body then the said lands and tenements shall go to and become the property of her brothers and sisters, and to be divided between them equally.

Item Seventh: I give and bequeath unto my sons, John L. Ruddell and William Byers Ruddell for and during their natural lives the following described lands and tenements, to wit:
It is my intention to give one undivided half of my interest in all of the above mentioned Real Estate to my son, John Lynn Ruddell for his natural life, and the other one undivided half to my son, William Byers Ruddell for his natural life and at the death of my sons, John Lynn Ruddell and William Byers Ruddell the said Real Estate to descend to and be the absolute property of the heirs of their body, that is, one undivided half thereof to the heirs of the body of John Lynn Ruddell, and the other undivided half thereof to go to the heirs of the body of William Byers Ruddell. Now, should either John Lynn Ruddell or William Byers Ruddell die without issue of their body, that part of the property willed to the deceased shall descend to and be the property of the surviving one of the two brothers for his natural life, and then to descend to the heirs of his body, and be their absolute property. If, however, both the brothers, namely, John L. and W.B. Ruddell, shall die without issue of their body then said property shall descend to their sisters of the whole blood, subject to the same conditions that each of their respective bequeaths, that is, they have a lifetime Estate in it, and at their death it becomes the property of the heirs of their body.

Item Eighth: I give and bequeath unto my daughter, Margaret Adelaid Ruddell, for and during her natural life as her separate property to be free from all control and liability of any husband which she may hereafter have, the following described lands and tenements:

(Description of lands)

My said daughter to have the use of all of the said lands and tenements for and during her natural life as her separate property, free from all liability and control of any husband she may hereafter have. At her death the said lands and tenements to descend to and be the absolute property of the heirs of her body; should she die without issue of her body then the said lands and tenements shall become the property of her brothers and sisters of the Whole Blood, that is, the children of my present wife by me begotten, and be equally divided among them.

(The next six items contain only the gist of the original ones).

Item Ninth: The foregoing bequests to my two minor children namely Margaret Adelaide Ruddell and William Byers Ruddell shall be and are subject to the provisions of this item; I direct my Executors to (Follow directions as to the management of the Estate of the minors.)
Item Tenth: (Direction to Executors as to disposal of personal property and the management of the residue, which was to be divided among the children equally except for Sarah Jane Williams who was to receive $200 if as much as $1000, and if as much as $2000 she to receive $700.

Item Eleventh: (Direction that upon demand the legacies be delivered).

Item Twelfth: (Investment of Executors with full power).

Item Thirteenth: (Executors to sell at Public Auction all lands not disposed of in Will).

Item Fourteenth: (Explanation of bequests and their fairness and forfeiture of legacy of anyone trying to annul will.

Signed:

John Ruddell

John's two sons, John Lynn Ruddell and William Byers Ruddell, were prominent and influential men in their respective communities, John at Denton, Texas and William at Batesville, Ark. They both reared large families and have numerous descendants.

There is much more that could be written in detail of this branch of the family, but these facts are well known; and, inasmuch as I am interested chiefly in research, I shall leave them for some one else to record.

Kirk Bentley Barb, M.D.
1303 Princess Avenue
Camden, New Jersey

March 12, 1941