HARROD'S MEN—1774

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In these days of growing interest in the beginnings of our country, frequent attempts have been made to identify those who pioneered in ideas, inventions, and settlement. To Kentuckians, none should be more interesting than the names of those who made the first settlement in their State. Twenty-eight years ago, Lucien Beckner published a brief article on Captain James Harrod's Company who founded Harrodsburg or Harrodstown as they named it.[1] Using as a basis Collins' list appearing in his history of Kentucky,[2] Mr. Beckner verified and added to the roster by searching Lincoln County Court records and a book compiled by John May as clerk for the Virginia Land Commission, 1779, listing the certificates issued at that time. Through this valuable study and added sources, chiefly the Draper Manuscripts, we have been able to add further names and to verify others.

The two most important of the Draper Manuscripts are: a letter from John Fauntleroy, the son-in-law of James Harrod, to General Robert B. McAfee, containing a list of names he copied from Harrod's original Company Book in his possession; and the names General McAfee copied from the same source at a later date. It might seem strange that these lists are not identical, but in his letter to McAfee, Harrod's son-in-law, himself, indicates that there were other names.[3]

Fauntleroy gave 30 names, 2 of which do not appear on McAfee's list, while McAfee had 31, with 3 not given by Fauntleroy. Hence, we have a maximum of 33 men, all signatories of the Company Book. Collins had 10 not given by either, with a total of 22 on his list. Beckner, who did not use the Draper Manuscripts, was able to verify 7 of Collins' names not given by McAfee or Fauntleroy, while he added 4 new ones, with a total of 38 on his list.

Through further search of the Draper Manuscripts, it is now possible to find 5 names which have appeared on one of these four rosters, thus adding additional weight to the evidence. As it now stands, there are 49 names, including James Harrod's. It is by no means certain that even this list is complete. The James Harrod listed in the Company Book may have been his nephew James who is known to have been in Kentucky in 1774. This would bring the total to 50. Only recently a descendant of James

Francis Moore, a first cousin of James Harrod, claimed that a number of years ago he had seen documents listing his ancestor among the Company.[4] When the records in the State Archives at Richmond are completely catalogued, it may be possible to add an additional name or two, while the sources in Kentucky court houses have not been exhausted.

James Sodowsky and George Poague are often listed as members of Isaac Hite's Company, yet both of these men are named by Collins as belonging to Harrod's. Collins also claimed that Abraham Hite was among them.

It is highly probable that not all the men who enrolled with Harrod came down the river at the same time. Several may have arrived a week or two later. Abraham Chapline, in his narrative of the journey, states that the Captain waited for others to join him, but left before they arrived.

To anyone familiar with family history, it should not be surprising that among these men were many brothers and cousins. We find two Browns, two Campbells, two Cowans, two Crows, two Davises, two Glenns, three Harlans, and two Harrods in addition to James. This may have given rise to Judge Richard Henderson's statement that most of them were related by blood or marriage.

Where did these men come from? Kentuckians have long claimed that the majority were Virginians. Recently, scholars have surmised that many of them were Monongahelans who, at the time of the first settlement, only considered themselves Virginians, since the land dispute between the Old Dominion and her northern neighbor had not been settled, and many of the settlers below Pittsburg had taken up land under Virginia law, or thought they had. Through a study of records in the Virginia Land Office at Richmond, court records in Greene and Washington counties, Pennsylvania, and land patent maps of pertinent townships of that State as well as of the Roanoke area in southwest Virginia, it has been possible to locate the immediate geographical origins of most of Harrod's Men. The Draper Manuscripts, of course, furnished additional data.

Out of 48 names, excluding the leader's, 28 are shown to be Virginians, 12 Pennsylvanians, with 7 unidentified in this respect. It will be noted that only one man, Harrod's half-brother Thomas, is identified with North Carolina. This may have been due to Daniel Boone's long attempt to recruit for settlement in Kentucky. There could have been an agreement between the two leaders. Still, it is possible that among the seven whose origins are unknown, there were several from North Carolina. Most of

the Virginians who helped found Harrodsburg were living in the general vicinity of Roanoke and the neighboring valleys. As expected, nearly all of the Pennsylvanians came from the Monongahela country, since this was the base for James Harrod's operations in 1773 and 1774. Some of them were in central Kentucky the year before the settlement was established. It will be remembered that the McAfee brothers from the Catawba Valley, across the mountains from Roanoke, were on Salt River in 1773. The places of residence indicated prior to the founding of Harrodsburg do not necessarily correspond with the state or region of an individual's birth. It is probable that few of the Monongahelans, *if any*, were born west of the Alleghenies. Many of them came originally from the Valley of Virginia, Central Pennsylvania, or New Jersey. In his comparison of land patent maps of New Jersey and Greene County, Pennsylvania, Mr. Howard L. Leckey of Greensburg, Pa., discovered almost identical landholding relationships among families who pioneered west of the Monongahela. Migrations were largely by family and groups of families. One small group of pioneers who settled Knox County, Ohio—including Levi Harrod, one of Harrod's Men—are found far east in Virginia and Pennsylvania, and even in New Jersey. Recently, another nucleus containing descendants of this same group, were found in the records of southern Indiana and in Iowa, still neighbors.

Few of Kentucky's first pioneers were new to this type of endeavor. In many instances they represented second and third generations of the Western Movement, which may account for the success of this hardy adventure in a hostile land, infested by Indians. So far as it can be determined, only Thomas Quirk, a native of Ireland, was foreign-born.

It may seem strange to the average reader that Harrod's Men came from such widely-scattered areas. If one realizes that even in those early days, Americans were a restless lot, curious and adventuresome, the explanation is clear. James Harrod, according to studies of one scholar, Dr. Thomas Perkins Abernethy of the University of Virginia, was well-known along the Allegheny Ridge as early as 1773.[5] After the capture of Fort Duquesne by the British under General Forbes, he traveled widely along western waters—into Illinois, to New Orleans, Kentucky, Southwest Virginia, and North Carolina. One famous pioneer, Dr. Felix Walker, even speaks of him as "my old friend from North Carolina, James Harrod." In the records of Massachusetts, it has been reported, there is a mention of James Harrod of Kentucky, who

at one time visited "relations" near Boston. The Long Hunters, Daniel Boone, James Harrod, and many others were infected by the "itching heel." They were in a sense super-salesmen, who traveled by horseback and on foot, up and down the valleys, and across the mountains, singing the praises of Kentucky, and trying to recruit men for settlement there. But it was not until the treaty following Dunmore's War that their dreams came true, and men felt safe to accompany them on this hazardous venture.

A New List of Harrod's Men, with geographical origins:

Blackford, Joseph, Pa.
Blair, James, Pa.
Brown, James, Pa.
Brown, John, Pa.
Campbell, Arthur, Va.
Campbell, William, Va.
Chapline, Abraham, Va.
Clark, John, Va.
Cowan, Jared, Pa.
Cowan, John, Pa.
Crawford, John, Pa.
Crow, John, Va.
Crow, William, Va.
Davis, Azaria, Va.
Davis, James, Va.
Doran, Patrick, Va.
Dugan, Henry
Fields, William, Va.
Garrett, William, Va.
Glenn, David, Pa.
Glenn, Thomas, Pa.
Harlan, Elijah, Va.
Harlan, James, Va.
Harlan, Silas, Va.

Harmon, John V., Va.
Harrod, Levi, Pa.
Harrod, Thomas, N. C.
Henton, Evan (John?), Va.
Hite, Abraham, Va.
Hogan, Henry, Va.
Kerr, James, Pa.
Martin, William, Pa.
Mortimer, William
Myers, William
Ooley, Peter
Poague, George, Va.
Quirk, Thos., Va.
Rees, Azor (Azaria)
Sanders, James, Va.
Shelp, John, Va.
Smith, John, Va.
Sodowsky, James, Va.
Stull, Martin, Va.
Venable, William
Wiley, James, Va.
Williams, David, Va.
Wilson, John
Zane, Andrew, Va.

FOOTNOTES

1 Beckner, Lucien, "Captain James Harrod's Company," *The Register* of the Kentucky State Hospital Society, XX, No. 60, pp. 280-82.
2 Collins, Lewis and Richard H., *History of Kentucky,* (Covington, Ky., 1874), II, pp. 517, 422, 750.
3 For a list of Draper Manuscripts and other sources used in the preparation of this article, see Kathryn Harrod Mason, *James Harrod of Kentucky* (Baton Rouge, La., Louisiana State University Press, 1950), Appendix, James Harrod's Company.
4 Dr. O. M. Strickler, Louisville, to author, August, 1949.
5 Abernethy, Thomas Perkins, *Western Lands and the American Revolution* (New York, 1937), p. 105.