

The Low Dutch Company

A History of the Holland Dutch Settlements of the Kentucky Frontier

by Vincent Akers

A series of articles reprinted from The Holland Society's magazine of history
de Halve Maen.

Reprints from Vol. LV No. 2 and No. 3, 1980; No. 4, 1981; and Vol. LVI No. 1, 1981; with inserts.

Including "Henry County's Low Dutch Company"

1982



For Value rec^d? I do hereby Assign the within contents
and five thousand Nine hundred & forty five Acres
of Land and the Warrants of entry upon which
the Survey is made unto Abraham Banta &
his Heirs Witness my hand this 13th Day of
March 1786
Sete. J. Squire Boone

Barney Smock

Abraham Banta

Squire Boone's March 13, 1786 assignment of 5,945 acres to Abraham Banta, first trustee of the Low Dutch Company. This survey formed the principal portion of the Low Dutch Tract in Henry and Shelby Counties, Kentucky. The search for a tract and its ultimate purchase from Squire Boone are described in this booklet.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

A special note of thanks is due Rev. Dr. Howard G. Hageman, president of the New Brunswick Theological Seminary and editor of de Halve Maen. When a copy of my 1978 typescript draft of "The Low Dutch Company" found its way to his office he asked that the Holland Society of New York be permitted to publish it in their quarterly magazine of the Dutch colonial period in America. This presented a fine opportunity to make my preliminary findings available to interested family researchers and Kentucky history enthusiasts. With Rev. Dr. Hageman's kind permission, the de Halve Maen articles are now reprinted for those who have not had access to the magazine.

Readers should consider these articles as only a rough beginning of what I hope will eventually become a book-length history of the Low Dutch in Kentucky. Much additional material has been discovered relating to the first decade of the Dutch in Kentucky. Numerous references to the Low Dutchmen's military services and losses have been gleaned from the George Rogers Clark manuscripts. An account of the original settlement of the Low Dutch Station on Beargrass has been found among the Lyman C. Draper manuscripts. A Draper interview with a Low Dutchman has even been located -- Henry Banta, grandson of Father Henry. What has already been written will be revised and expanded to include this and much more new information.

The preliminary nature of these articles will be easily discernable from the way in which they so abruptly end. There is much yet to be told. Most of it will be told with previously unused primary sources. Foremost among these sources is the Low Dutch Company "Book of Accounts" and 145-page "Minute Book" of company meetings from 1790 to 1831. Law suits, deed records, letters, journals, church records and family traditions will be used to pull together the remainder of the Low Dutch story. The final product will include descriptions of the ultimate settlement of the Henry-Shelby County Low Dutch Tract, permanent settlement in the Mercer County area, land title troubles, attempts to organize the Dutch Reformed Church in Kentucky, defections to the Shakers, conversion to the Presbyterians, history of the Mud Meeting House and other places of worship, removals to Jefferson, Switzerland and Johnson Counties Indiana and further west, customs, habits and eccentricities.

The brief piece on "Henry County's Low Dutch Company" may provide a little glimpse of the remaining story. It is an expansion of an article originally published in the Shelbyville Sentinel-News in January 1974.

VINCENT AKERS
NOVEMBER 1982

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The Society is principally organized of descendants in the direct male line of residents of the Dutch Colonies in America prior to or during the year 1675. Inquiries respecting the several criteria for membership are invited.

De Halve Maen, published quarterly by the Society in April, July, October and January, is entered at the post office at New York, N.Y. Communications to the editor should be directed to the Society's address, 122 East 58th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022, telephone (212) PLaza 8-1675.

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Editor's Corner

If the average American is at all aware of colonial Dutch history, he thinks of us as a bunch of Rip Van Winkles who hung around the Hudson Valley until finally we had merged with the landscape. Obviously all members of The Holland Society know better, thanks in no small measure to the work done by *de Halve Maen* in years past. But not all members of The Holland Society are aware of the way in which some of the descendants of our Dutch forbears were instrumental in developing parts of a country that was expanding far beyond the widest boundaries of old New Netherland.

In recent issues we have tried to explore some of these Dutch settlements, notably the Conewago settlement in Pennsylvania and the Owasco settlement in central New York. With this issue we begin a series of articles on what was in some ways the largest and most important of all, the Kentucky settlement. Mr. Akers, the author, himself a descendant of one of the Kentucky Low Dutch families, has devoted a life-time of study to the history of this development and we are delighted that he is willing to share the fruits of his research with our readers.

When the present editor assumed his responsibilities just a few years ago, book reviews seldom appeared in our pages for the very good reason that little of any consequence was published in the field in which *de Halve Maen* is interested. Their omission from this issue is due to lack of space, but they will be in the next issue.

In the meantime the Editor has a drawer full of excellent future articles, so many of such fine quality that he hesitates to say what will be appearing next. Certainly our readers who have enjoyed Roderic Blackburn's excellent articles on *Dutch Material Culture* can look forward in the near future to the next installment which will be on Dutch colonial silversmiths. Our good friend and Fellow of the Society, Dr. Alice Kenney, has contributed an article on *Albany's Lady Historians* which is a delight to read (and a rather humbling experience for members of a Society the membership of which is entirely male!). And, of course, we hope that Mr. Akers, who leaves us in such suspense at the end of his first article on the Low Dutch in Kentucky, will have whetted our appetites to pursue their story further.

We try to vary our contents among the genealogical, historical, cultural, sociological and religious aspects of our heritage, fully realizing that one may be more appealing to some than others, but hoping that the final mix has something for everyone.



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The Low Dutch Company

A History of the Holland Dutch Settlements of the Kentucky Frontier

by Vincent Akers

A complete history of the Low Dutch settlements in Kentucky has never before been written. Fragments of the story have appeared in some of the published state and local histories and in several family genealogies—some published, some not. George W. Demaree wrote a history of the Shelby-Henry County Low Dutch Tract in 1873, but only portions of it exist today. Never before have all the pieces been put together into a whole.

This Low Dutch Company did not perhaps have the immediate or long-term implications of some better known ventures such as the Transylvania Company, but its history is no less interesting. Its origins in Kentucky date back to 1779. Already by 1784 its impact on frontier Kentucky was enough for John Filson's famous map to show two Low Dutch Stations. The Low Dutch were involved in two petitions to the Continental Congress decrying the monopolization of Kentucky land under the laws of Virginia. One of the petitions was exclusively Low Dutch. They were among the first settlers of Capt. Nathaniel Hart's White Oak Spring Station near Boonesborough. They built the stations bearing their name on lands rented from Col. John Floyd on Beargrass and from Col. James Harrod. They built Banta's Fort in Madison County. At least twenty-five of them were killed or captured by the Indians. Members served in the various Indian campaigns of the 1780s. They were involved in the Long Run Massacre, the Westerfield and Duree massacres and in the Dutch Defeat on Muddy Creek with Capt. James Estill.

The Low Dutch purchased thousands of acres in Shelby-Henry County, mostly from Squire Boone. They made their purchase in common as a company and formalized their organization with a constitution of sorts. They held the land as a company for fifty years keeping minutes of their meetings and accounts of their transactions.

Mr. Akers, a certified public accountant by profession, is also a skilled historian. A descendant of the early Dutch settlers in Kentucky, he has produced this detailed study as a tribute to them. Several installments will follow.

The Low Dutch were not merely adventurers. They were settlers and farmers. They were very clannish, but they were exemplar citizens—they were a moral and an educated people. They built schools and organized churches. They formed the first Dutch Reformed Church west of the Allegheny Mountains. Some of their members provided a nucleus for the Shaker movement in Kentucky.

The Low Dutch venture involved hundreds of families, thousands of whose descendants are spread today throughout Kentucky and the Midwest. The migration which brought the Dutch pioneers to Kentucky began in the mid-seventeenth century as group after group of their ancestors sailed from the Netherlands to New Amsterdam. The Monforts and Cozines were in America as early as 1640. Isaac VanArsdale came in 1645 and Simon followed in 1653. The Coverts and VanNuys settled in Brooklyn in 1651 and the Smocks on Long Island in 1654. The Banta family traces its origin to Epke Jacobs who came to America in 1659 on the ship *De Trouw*. The VanVoorhees (Voriss) family came in 1660 on the ship *Bontekoe* (The Spotted Cow). The Demarest (Demaree) family came three years later on the same ship.¹ Many of these families were prominent in the early government of New Amsterdam and in the settlement of nearby New Jersey towns.

The families for the most part were farmers with strong protestant religious convictions. Their church was the Dutch Reformed Church. A few of the families were of French Huguenot background having fled to Holland because of its more tolerant religious attitudes. These families had been readily assimilated into the close knit Dutch community, but still maintained some French characteristics. Even a century after arrival in America, the Durees and particularly the Demarees in Kentucky showed signs of French influence.

¹ There are several excellent published genealogies of Dutch families with Kentucky branches. Manuscript genealogies of many of the other Kentucky Dutch families are also available at many of the Midwestern libraries. References to strictly genealogical information in this sketch will not be cited.

The Dutch families were quite prolific. After a century the wilderness of New York and New Jersey, which had been separated by an ocean from European civilization, was becoming "crowded" for some. Vast family farms after two or three generations of division among heirs were now small. The government had long been taken over by the English and more and more the Dutch were having to associate with these "foreigners".

As early as 1765, the thirst for land and a desire for a place to themselves had led a large number of families to move to the Pennsylvania frontier where they founded a colony known by the musical name . . . "Conewago". The name survives today as the name of a stream and a mountain range. The colony was in Adams County (originally York County), near present-day Gettysburg. Settlers continued to move to the frontier colony for several years until there were not less than 150 families. Some names later prominent in the Kentucky settlement were: Aten, Banta, Bice, Brunner, Bogart, Bergen, Brower, Carnine, Cassart, Cozine, Conover, Commingore, Covert, Duree, Demaree, DeBaun, DeMott, Dorland, Hoagland, Monfort, Scomp, Smock, Terhune, VanNuys, VanArsdale, Voorhees, Wycoff, Westerfield and others.²

Beginning about 1769 and continuing through the early 1770s, several Conewago families moved to Berkeley County, Virginia (now Berkeley and Jefferson Counties, West Virginia), about forty miles southwest of Conewago. They settled near present-day Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Carnines, Durees, Demarees, DeBauns, VanArsdals and Vorises were represented in the settlement.³ These families maintained close contact with their Conewago relatives,⁴ but living near the head of the eastern segment of the vast Wilderness Road, these were apparently the Dutch who first contracted the "Kentucky fever".

Many of the Dutchmen of the Conewago and Berkeley settlements participated in the Revolutionary War, serving in the Pennsylvania and Virginia militias. More than thirty Kentucky Dutchmen are known to have seen Revolutionary War service in the East before their migration to Kentucky. Simon VanArsdalen commanded a company of York County Militia largely made up of his own people. Captain Van Arsdalen's Company served at Perth Amboy in September 1776 and in the Philadelphia and Trenton, New Jersey area in December 1776 and early 1777.⁵

The young men of the Berkeley settlement who served in the Virginia militia saw their action on the western frontiers. John Voris and Andrew Conine served as privates in Capt. Robert Little's Company under Maj. William Morgan. (later Colonel Morgan). In April or May 1778 they marched from Martinsburg in Berkeley County, Virginia to Fort Pitt (Pittsburgh), then went down the Ohio River to Holliday's Cove about twenty miles above Wheeling where they were stationed about four months as guards to the frontiers against the Indians.⁶ John Demaree and Garrett Vanosdall entered service at Martinsburg in late 1778. They also marched across the Allegheny Mountains to Fort Pitt where they joined a brigade under General McIntosh which built Fort McIntosh on the north bank of the Ohio thirty-four miles below Fort Pitt. They also built another fort or stockade on Tuscarawas Creek in present-day Ohio. They spent the greater part of the winter of 1778-79 on the frontier. Vanosdall recalled that the snow was very deep and they made boots out of bear skins with the wooly side in.⁷

These men were undoubtedly exposed to the wild stories

told about Kentucky by its earliest adventurers. During this period an idea developed which circulated among the colonists until like an epidemic it had infected every family and had become the master plan for the Conewago Dutch. The plan was to make a wholesale move to the Kentucky frontier and there to acquire thousands of acres of the cheap fertile land — enough to accommodate the colony for generations of large families.

The first Dutchman from Conewago to venture into Kentucky was fifty-six year old Samuel Duree. His was apparently a scouting mission. It is curious that one of the younger men was not chosen for such a task. Perhaps the suitability of Kentucky for a settlement was being left to the judgement of the colony's patriarchs. The older men were to play principal roles in the migration.

Duree left Shepherdstown on March 1, 1779 with eight other white men and two Negroes. Besides Duree the party consisted of William Morgan, Ralph Morgan, Thomas Swearingen, Benoni Swearingen, John Taylor, John Strode, George M. Bedinger, John Constant and two Negroes belonging each to the Swearingen brothers. All the men were apparently from the Shepherdstown vicinity.⁸ Duree was the only Low Dutchman among the group. George M. Bedinger was

² The principal source of information about the Conewago colony is Rev. Dr. John K. Demarest, "History of the Low Dutch Colony of Conewago" (several typescript and mimeograph editions are available of this work originally published as a series in the weekly *Gettysburg Star* beginning Jan. 8, 1884). Also of some interest, primarily for its genealogical information, is B.F.M. MacPherson, "A Bit of History About Early Settlers" (1964 mimeograph reprint of a series originally appearing 1960-1962 in the *Gettysburg Times*).

³ Revolutionary War pension applications of Andrew Conine (W9809), Jeremiah Conine (S42142), John Demaree (W7004), Daniel Harris (S36575), Samuel Harris (S10813), Cornelius Vanosdall (S4705), Garret Vanosdall (R10829), and John Voris (S14772). Andrew Conine indicated that his family moved to Berkeley Co. in 1769. Samuel Harris, whose father Daniel married a Demaree, said he moved when about seven years old (1770 or 1771). John Voris moved when twelve or thirteen years old (1770-1772). John Demaree moved at age twelve (1772 or 1773). Cornelius Vanosdall said he resided within five miles of Shepherdstown.

⁴ Mary A. Demarest and William H.S. Demarest, *The Demarest Family* (New Brunswick, N.J., 1938), 60-61, contains three letters to Pieter Demaree, New Bridge, N.J. from Samuel and Lea Demaree: Conewegen, April 20, 1772; Connewagen, Aug. 6, 1772; and Virginia, April 16, 1773. The last letter states, "We have just moved to here from Conewegen on a place belonging to Jacob Vanderveer and since Abraham DeBaan and our Minister were coming to the Jerseys we put a receipt in this letter, asking you also to send that money if you please with Abraham Debaun, Rev. Cozyn will convey it here. So soon as he arrives at home he will preach here . . ." There is a curious absence of reference to this Berkeley Co., Va. settlement in the various genealogical and Conewago related works.

⁵ Thomas Lynch Montgomery, ed., *Pennsylvania Archives*, Sixth Series, vol. 2 (Harrisburg, Pa., 1906), 455-456. Revolutionary War pension application of Samuel Banta (R479), affidavit dated May 6, 1833, Mercer Co., Ky.

⁶ Revolutionary War pension applications of John Voris (S14772), affidavit dated Mar. 14, 1833, Mercer Co., Ky.; and Andrew Conine (W9809), affidavit dated Dec. 3, 1832, Henry Co., Ky.

⁷ Revolutionary War pension applications of John Demaree (W7004), affidavit dated Aug. 9, 1832, Mercer Co., Ky.; and Garret Vanosdall (R10829), affidavit dated Apr. 5, 1834, Morgan Co., Va.

⁸ This description (together with its embellishments) of Duree's journey to Boonesborough and providential escapes from the Indians is from Draper's interview with G.M. Bedinger, Lower Blue Licks, Ky., July 1843, Draper Mss. 1A1-18. Bedinger lists the men in the party and gives the day of departure at Draper Mss. 1A12. He repeats the departure date and indicates the party consisted of nine white men and two Negroes at Draper Mss. 1A104. Deposition of George M. Bedinger (May 12, 1814) lists the same men, excluding John Constant, as the group who came with him to Kentucky, Henry Banta vs Green Clay, Madison Co. Circuit Court Com-

acquainted with the Low Dutch at Conewago as well as those in Berkeley County.⁹ Probably the entire group was well acquainted with their Low Dutch neighbors and Duree's mission.

The party journeyed to Kentucky by way of the Wilderness Road through Powell Valley and the Cumberland Gap to Boones Trace and on to Boonesborough where they arrived April 7, 1779 after two rather providential escapes from the Indians. This was just seven months after Black Fish's long siege of Boonesborough. The small garrison of the fort was still just barely able to keep the marauding Indians in the vicinity in check. About April 6th some ten or twelve men under Captain Starms, not relishing the frontier dangers and hardships, left Boonesborough headed for Virginia. Starms' party left the fort greatly undermanned. The Indians about the fort divided, some twenty or thirty following the trail behind Starms. About midday on the 6th the party which included Duree when some fifteen miles from the fort luckily missed the trail and wandered through the thick cane for perhaps a half mile before finding the trail again. Shortly before finding the trail the horses began snorting and showing alarm. When the trail was found they saw tracks of some thirty to forty persons and signs of Indians. They had evidently just missed Starms and the trailing Indians. Near dark they were within six miles of the fort. Someone proposed that for safety they go a little off the trail to set up camp and that they sleep without fires. Col. William Morgan, who had seen some service, dryly remarked they need not trouble themselves for they would not die until their time came. The others not wishing to be thought cowardly did not call the colonel's philosophy into question. A large blaze was kindled in the middle of the trail and they nestled down for the night before the cheerful fire. Next morning they had proceeded but a

small distance when to their astonishment they discovered where an Indian party seeing the large fire in the night and the men and horses so boldly encamped on the trail, had evidently mistaken extreme carelessness for stratagem, and shunned the distrustful spot.

Duree and his companions soon reached Boonesborough to the infinite gratification of the inhabitants. The loss of the Starms group was now fully replaced — sufficient cause for an extravagant reception. Not more than two hours after their arrival, Jacob Starms, son of the captain, came in with the melancholy news that his father's party had been attacked the night before some twenty or thirty miles from Boonesborough and all save himself were lost. A few other survivors later came in under cover of darkness. The two successive escapes of Duree's party were considered fortunate, if not providential.¹⁰

Indians were very troublesome around Boonesborough that spring. The men of the fort were divided into hunting squads of four to five men each. They would leave before dawn, hide during the day, kill game near dusk, then return at night.¹¹ They were, however, not so cautious as to stop venturing out to make land claims. Samuel Duree along with nine other men — Thomas Swearingen, Benoni Swearingen, John Holder, William Morgan, Ralph Morgan, George M. Bedinger, Joseph Donather, John Constant and John Taylor — agreed to go out and make improvements, one for each man, and ballot for them. It was a common practice for such parties to band together for mutual protection. The company was loosely known as Swearingen's company, but was apparently piloted by Captain Holder.

The party began improving on Muddy Creek below Little Muddy in present-day Madison County. Three improvements were made and balloted for as they moved down the creek. On May 5, 1779 the party made an improvement on upper Muddy Creek at a place of considerable fall. Samuel Duree fancied the place as a mill seat, and, as the others considered it too poor, they agreed to give it to him without balloting. Above Duree's mill seat the party turned up a west branch which Duree marked and called Deban's (DeBaun) Run after his son-in-law. The party quit Muddy Creek after these improvements following the East Fork of Otter Creek back to Boonesborough.¹²

Duree was somewhat the eccentric of the improving party. He was referred to as the "old man". He in turn called some of the younger members "the boys".¹³ One resident of Boonesborough thought he must have been seventy years old and recalled that he spoke broken English.¹⁴ Duree told Thomas Swearingen that he intended to take up the Muddy Creek lands for the Low Dutch Company. Swearingen later made fun of the choice commenting that Duree's was the poorest selection made while the group was conducting their search.¹⁵

The party lived at Boonesborough that spring and summer and raised corn in the vicinity. Most of them, including Duree, returned to the old settlements in the fall.¹⁶ Undoubtedly Duree's report on Kentucky was favorably received by the Conewago and Berkeley Dutch settlements. Preparations must have already begun for the first migration of Dutch settlers the next spring.

That first migration was accomplished by two separate detachments of the Dutch who made the trip over vastly different routes. Old Samuel Duree led the Berkeley families over the Wilderness Road — Cumberland Gap route to the White Oak Spring Station where they arrived in March 1780.¹⁷

plete Record Book D, 414-420. Deposition of Ralph Morgan (Feb. 6-7, 1815) indicates there were about twelve or thirteen who came with him through the wilderness to Boonesborough, Banta vs Clay, Box 68, Bundle 135, Madison Co. Circuit Court Records, State Archives, Frankfort, Ky.

⁹ Bedinger's father apparently was part of a German settlement formed in the 1750s on Conewago Creek in York Co., Pa. The family moved to Shepherdstown in the spring of 1762, Draper Mss. 1A2-3. Bedinger was a crier at the sale of Isaac Vanarsdall's estate at Conewago in 1773, Simon Vanarsdall vs Barnabas Smock, Administrators' Account, Box V-1, Mercer Co. Circuit Court Records.

¹⁰ Draper Mss. 1A13-15. Bedinger's deposition also states that the party arrived at Boonesborough before the middle of April 1779, Banta vs Clay, *loc. cit.*

¹¹ Draper Mss. 1A17-18.

¹² Depositions of G.M. Bedinger and Ralph Morgan, Banta vs Clay, *loc. cit.* Both depositions list the members of the improving party. The lists are in agreement except that Bedinger did not include John Holder.

¹³ Deposition of G.M. Bedinger, Banta vs Clay, *loc. cit.*

¹⁴ Deposition of Jesse Hodges (Dec. 12-13, 1811), Banta vs Clay, Madison Co. Record Book D, 346-357.

¹⁵ Depositions of Aquilla White (Nov. 20-21, 1809 and Oct. 29-30, 1810), Banta vs. Clay, Madison Co. Deed Book I, 87-92, and Record Book D, 331-346. David Lynch's deposition (Sept. 11, 1811) also discusses the poor quality of Duree's or the Low Dutch claim. Lynch stated that Abraham Banta explained to James Estill that they did not want rich land, that they did not expect to raise much corn, but rather intended to raise small grain and believed their claim represented the best kind of land for small grain, Record Book D, 263-269.

¹⁶ Depositions of G.M. Bedinger and Ralph Morgan, Banta vs Clay, *loc. cit.*

¹⁷ Depositions of Albert Duree (July 8, 1814) and Daniel Banta (June 24, 1815) make it clear that this branch of the Dutch Company arrived at the White Oak Spring in March 1780, Banta vs Clay, Madison Co. Record Book D, 434-437, 480-481; Box 68, Bundle 135, State Archives. Frederick Ripperdan's deposition (Oct. 16, 1810) leaves no doubt as to

The trip was not without an unfortunate incident. David Banta was killed by the Indians as the group passed through Powell Valley, Virginia. His widow returned to Conewago, but finally completed the Kentucky migration about 1790 with her second husband, Cornelius Demaree.¹⁸

The White Oak Spring Station had been built the year before the Duree group's arrival by Nathaniel Hart six-tenths of a mile above Boonesborough in the same bottom of the Kentucky River.¹⁹ The Duree group settling there totaled over thirty persons including the families of Samuel Duree, Peter Duree, Henry Duree, Peter Cosart, Frederick Ripperdan, John Bullock and Cornelius Bogart, and single men Daniel Duree, Albert Duree, Albert Voris, John Voris, Daniel Banta and Peter Banta.²⁰

Late in 1779 Hendrick Banta, the ruling patriarch of the Conewago Colony and brother-in-law of Duree, led a large group of the Conewago families over the Appalachian Mountains to Fort Pitt (Pittsburgh). The following spring this group made the perilous journey down the Ohio River to the Falls where they landed in March or April of 1780. Henry Banta, grandson of Hendrick, recalled that it was with difficulty that the group reached Kentucky "owing to the great numbers of hostile savages which roamed the Wilderness at that time."²¹

The Hendrick Banta party, which included at least seventy-five persons, was unique in that nearly half of them were children aged twelve or under. A dozen families can definitely be identified with this group — families of Henry Banta, Sr., Abraham Banta, Albert Banta, Simon VanArsdale, Samuel Demaree, Sr., Peter Demaree, John Demaree, Gerardus Riker,

John Westerfield, Christopher Westerfield, Sophia Voris and Catharine Dorland. The party also included many unmarried young men who would play a prominent role in the Kentucky settlement — among these were Henry, John, Cornelius and Jacob Banta; John, two Samuels and Jacob Demaree; John Riker; Samuel Westerfield; James, John, Frances, Cornelius and Luke Voris; John and Lambert Dorland; and Abraham Brewer.²² The party was one of the largest, if not the largest, groups of Dutch immigrants. Several smaller parties would take the river route over the next several years landing at Limestone (Maysville) or at the Falls (Louisville).

Arrangements had evidently been made the previous fall for Henry Banta's group to raise corn near the Falls of the Ohio and to meet the Durees at White Oak Spring early in 1781 after the crop was in.²³ Kentucky experienced a tidal wave of immigration that spring of 1780. No less than 300 large family boats filled with settlers arrived at the Falls.²⁴ Louisville was little more than a fort and a few cabins. The settlers swarmed into the lands east of Louisville on Beargrass Creek in present-day Jefferson County. John Floyd built a station here in November 1779 on his 2,000 acre tract. This station, near present-day St. Matthews north of the creek on the west side of Breckinridge Lane, became the principal station of the area.²⁵ By May 1780, five new stations were built along Beargrass and one on the South Fork — the Spring Station, Hogland's, the Low Dutch Station, A 'Sturgis', Linn's and Sullivan's.²⁶ All of the stations except Hogland's are shown on John Filson's map.

The Low Dutch or New Holland²⁷ Station was located

(continued on page 21)

their route. To the question, "Did you come to this country by land or did you come by water down the Ohio River?" he replied, "I came by land through the wilderness." From answers to further questions it is clear that he came by way of the Wilderness Road through the Cumberland Gap in company with Samuel Duree and others, Record Book D, 324-331.

¹⁸ Theodore M. Banta, *The Banta Genealogy: A Frisian Family* (New York, 1893), 107 indicates that David Banta was killed by the Indians at Conewago prior to 1785. The "author's interleaved copy" with manuscript notes, letters and cards inserted at the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, however, includes T. M. Banta's note, "David is said to have been killed by the Indians in Powell's Valley, Va. on the way to Kentucky." His death must have occurred before 1783 since his wife and her second husband had a child baptized May 25, 1783 at Conewago. In addition, a widow Banta appears for one year (1780) in the York Co. tax lists, William Henry Engle, ed., *Pennsylvania Archives*, Third Series, vol. 21 (Harrisburg, Pa., 1898), 233.

¹⁹ William G. Eaton, "Ill-Fated White Oak Spring Station Was Built Near Boonesborough In 1779," *Lexington Sunday Herald-Leader*, Jan. 10, 1965, B-2.

²⁰ This list of Low Dutch settlers at White Oak Spring is based upon the following depositions in Banta vs Clay, Madison Co. Circuit Court Complete Record Book D: Frederick Ripperdan (Oct. 16, 1810), 324-331; Albert Duree (July 8, 1814), 434-437; Albert Voris (July 27, 1815), 457-460; Daniel Banta (June 24, 1815), 480-481; Simon Vanosdale (Aug. 11, 1815), 481-488; and Peter Banta (Aug. 25, 1815), 516-518. Vanosdale's and the Bantas' depositions are also included in Box 68, Bundle 135, State Archives.

²¹ Revolutionary War pension application of Henry Banta (R480), affidavit dated Nov. 28, 1833, Bourbon Co., Ky. Banta also stated that the group left York Co., Pa. in the fall of 1779 and arrived at the Falls the following April. Henry Banta also referred to the April 1780 landing at the Falls in two depositions in Banta vs Clay: (Oct. 10, 1809), Madison Co. Deed Book I, 197-204; and (Aug. 6, 1814), Record Book D, 432-434. John Demaree in the affidavit (Aug. 9, 1832) included in his Revolutionary War pension application (W7004) said he landed at Louisville April 9, 1780. His deposition given more than twenty years earlier (Jan. 8, 1810) was, however, not so exact. There he said he came to Kentucky in the spring of 1780, in the month of April, as well as he could recollect, Jacob Bowman vs Daniel Brewer, Box B-32, Mercer Co. Circuit Court Records. John and Peter Voris in affidavits (Mar. 14, 1833) included in John Voris' Revolutionary War pension application (S14772) stated that they landed

at the Falls in March 1780. Simon Vanosdale also placed the event in March, Banta vs Clay, Record Book D, 481-488.

²² In addition to the documents referred to in the preceding footnote, this list of Jefferson County Low Dutch settlers is based upon signers of the 1780 petition to the Continental Congress (see footnote 33) and upon Low Dutchmen mentioned in Jefferson Co. Minute Book A prior to 1782, particularly those included in the list of persons granted 400 acre "poor rights" by the court on Dec. 3, 1781, Alvin L. Prichard, ed., "Minute Book A, Jefferson County, Kentucky, 1781-1783. Part I," *The Filson Club History Quarterly*, Vol. 3, No. 2 (Jan. 1929), 55-83.

²³ Abraham Brewer in a deposition taken June 28, 1819 referred to the common goal of the Banta and Duree groups in the following exchange (Albert Voorhis vs A. Banta's heirs, File marked "ORD 1800-1821," Henry Co. Circuit Court Records):

Question - were you acquainted with Henry Banta sr., Abraham Banta & Saml. Duree & others in the fall 79?

Answer - I was.

Question - was it not understood that it was their intention to settle together & did you not remove with them to this country?

Answer - Yes, that was the talk & I removed with them to this country with that view.

²⁴ John Floyd to [William Preston?], May 5, 1780, Draper Mss. 17CC125.

²⁵ Neal O. Hammon, "Early Louisville and the Beargrass Stations," *The Filson Club History Quarterly*, Vol. 52, No. 2 (Apr. 1978), 154-155.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, 155-157. The date of settlement of the Beargrass stations was a major point of contention in the court case Moses Hall vs Aquilla Whitaker, Bundle 46, No. 1, Shelby Co. Circuit Court Records. Testimony confirms that all the stations were built by May 1780 and that Floyd's was the principal station.

²⁷ Various records of the Western Commissioners appointed to settle the frontier military accounts refer nine times in the early 1783 to the station as either New Holland, the New Holland Station or Holland Station. James Alton James, ed., *George Rogers Clark Papers 1781-1784* (Springfield, Ill., 1926), 190, 192, 195, 197, 203, 306, 308, 349, 415. John Floyd in his will recorded June 3, 1783 left his son, William Preston Floyd, "the residue of the two thousand acres I live on lying on the South side of Beargrass, including the stations of Hoglins & New Holland." Alvin L. Prichard, ed. "Minute Book A, Jefferson County, Kentucky, 1781-1783. Part III," *The Filson Club History Quarterly*, Vol. 3, No. 4 (July 1929), 173.

The Low Dutch Company (continued from page 4)

about seven miles from the Falls near where present-day Browns Lane crosses Beargrass.²⁸ There is a road nearby known today as Dutchmans Lane. Floyd's Station was a little more than a half mile from the Dutch Station toward the Falls. Hogland's Station, where many of the Dutch families also settled,²⁹ was about a half mile further down stream at the site of the present-day Big Spring Country Club.³⁰

Generous terms were probably obtained from Col. John Floyd for the use of his land to build the station and plant crops. Small or free rents were the easiest ways of getting large tracts cleared.³¹ But many of the settlers became impatient with the 1780 delay on Beargrass. Parties were moving back and forth through the Beargrass stations with stories of the fertile interior and lands they had claimed.

In the summer of 1780 John and Christopher Westerfield decided to move their families to Harrodstown. They hired John Thickston, one of Floyd's scouts, to guide the party and help carry the baggage on his two horses. About three o'clock on the Monday morning after they set out Thickston awoke to see three Indians looking at his gun which reflected the light of the camp fire. Thickston jumped up and seized the gun from one of the Indians. The Indian raised his tomahawk to strike, but Thickston knocked him down with the breech of

the gun. The firing commenced with a volley that sounded like thunder. Thickston was shot across the back of his neck but cleared himself and ran until he stumbled over a log. Here he stopped to look back and could see the Indians throwing pack saddles and everything they could find into the fire to make a light. He heard the crackling of skulls, plundering and screaming. He rose again and ran until he came to Clear's Station near Bullitt's Lick guided by the crowing of the roosters.

John and Christopher Westerfield and two others were killed during the attack. Polly, Debby and Garret Westerfield and Betsy Swan, all children, were captured. Garret Westerfield was taken with a seizure or fit. This upset the Indians terribly until at length one of them stepped up and tomahawked the boy. Betsy Swan was wounded in the shoulder; the Indians thought too badly, so she too was tomahawked. Polly and Debby were the only prisoners taken. They were taken to Detroit where they were exchanged.

The survivors returned the next day and buried the dead in a great hole. Mary Westerfield and son Samuel were among those who escaped. The story they told upon their sad return to the New Holland Station was but a prelude to the horrors to come for the Dutch.³²

To Be Continued

²⁸ The exact location is given by Hammon, "Early Louisville," 156. Vague locations given in Draper Mss. 8CC4 and 14CC214-216 indicate the Dutch Station was seven miles from Louisville near Mr. Brown's. Shane's interview with Capt. John Dial, a guard at Floyd's Station in 1781, indicates "Floyd's station was on the upper side of Beargrass and Hoagland's station and the Dutch Station on the lower side of Beargrass. Floyd's station and Hoagland's station, and the Dutch station formed an equilateral triangle - 7 miles from Louisville. The Dutch Station was above Hoagland's station on Bear-grass." Draper Mss. 13CC237. Revolutionary War pension applications of John Demaree (W7004) and Henry Banta (R480) both mention the Low-Dutch Fort or Dutch Station on Beargrass seven miles from the Falls. A picture taken March 22, 1922 at the site of the Dutch Station is on the front cover of *Kentucky Ancestors*, Vol. 13, No. 4 (Apr. 1978).

²⁹ Col. William Fleming, one of the Western Commissioners, on Jan. 8, 1783 passed "the lower dutch station or Hoglans" on the way to the Falls. The Commissioners found the Falls to be an inadequate place at which to conduct their business and adjourned to some convenient place in the neighborhood. Finding no vacant house at Floyd's Station, they went over to "the upper Dutch" but did not succeed there either. Captain Sullivan made an offer for their lodging which seemed so extravagant that they determined to return to Lincoln Co., but by Colonel Floyd's influence got a cabin in the Dutch Station where they met in January, February and March 1783, William Fleming's Journal, Draper Mss. 2ZZ69. There is no evidence that any Hoglands (Hoaglands or Hooglands) were members of the Low Dutch Company. There were no Hogland signers of the 1783 Low petition (see part III). The family was, however, of Holland Dutch

descent, was represented at the Conewago colony, and had intermarried back East with Kentucky Dutch families. It is perhaps no coincidence that James Hogland's Station in Shelby Co. also played a part in the Low Dutch story (see part IV).

³⁰ Hammon, "Early Louisville," 156.

³¹ *Ibid.*, 156, 164.

³² This account of the Westerfield massacre is based upon Rev. John Shane's interview with the daughter of John Thickston, Draper Mss. 13CC11-12. At the end of his notes on this interview, Shane wrote that he "might have had another sitting with this lady, but she seemed of so lively an imagination, my confidence flagged." Although the embellishments of the Westerfield story may be part of this imagination, the event itself is well authenticated. Shane's interview with [Miss. ?] Campbell, a May 1780 settler at the New-Holland, Low Dutch Station, includes: "Westerfelt's family killed, going to Harrodsburgh, near Bullitt's Lick. Samuel Westerfelt and his sister got back. This the same summer of 1780." Draper Mss. 13CC84. Administration of the estate of John Westervall was granted to Samuel Westervall by the Jefferson Co. Court April 4, 1781. This court held its first session March 7, 1781 which would account for the lapse of time since the massacre. Peter Demaree with others produced an appraisal taken April 18, 1781 of "the goods, chattels, & estate of John Westervell lately slain" which was recorded by the court Aug. 7, 1781. Mary Westerville was granted a 400 acre poor right by this court Dec. 3, 1781. Prichard, ed., "Minute Book A. Part I," 62, 66, 67-70, 74. It should also be noted that the signatures of Samuel Westervelt and Mary Westerfield "Widdo" appear together on the 1783 Low Dutch petition (see part III).

[The following material should be inserted in Part I, page 2.]

The Conewago colonists adopted the name "Low Dutch" to distinguish themselves from the neighboring "High Dutch" or Germans and to signify that they had come from the low countries of Europe. To the English anyone who spoke a foreign tongue was "Dutch". Almost invariably any reference in Kentucky to Dutch refers to Germans. The true Holland Dutch were always very careful to refer to themselves as Low Dutch.^{2a}

The Conewago colonists cleared farms and built homes along a road known as the Low Dutch Road which extended in a southwesterly direction from the junction of Little Conewago with Big Conewago Creek about two miles east of Hunterstown to the Baltimore Pike and down the pike to Two Taverns. The colony was shaped somewhat like a halfmoon, and at either end was a cemetery.^{2b} Both cemeteries are maintained today by donations from descendants of the colonists.^{2c}

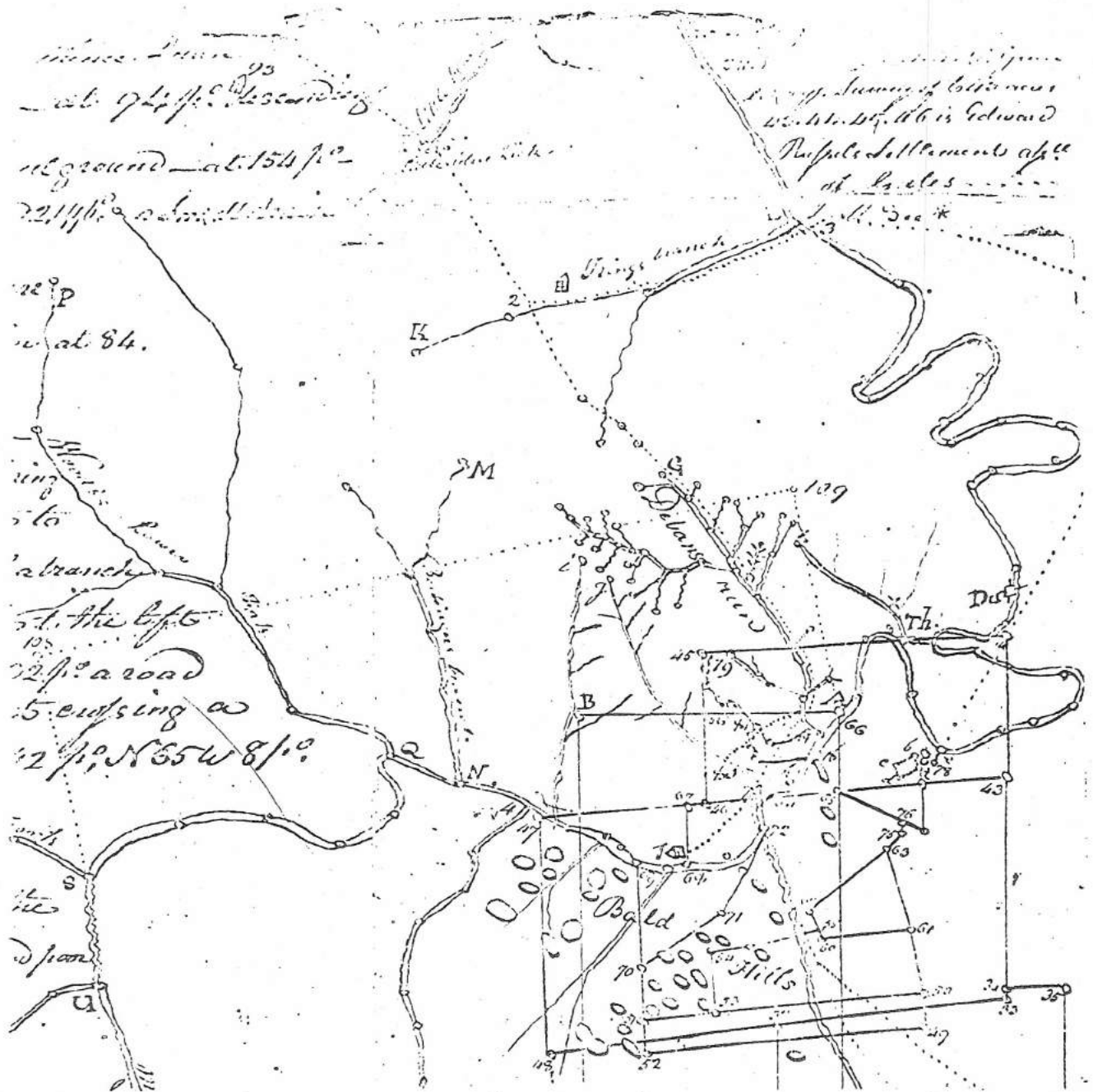
The Dutch Reformed Church was built at the northern end of the colony. The baptism records which have been preserved indicate that the church was organized at least as early as 1769.^{2d} Early baptisms were performed by Dutch missionaries. Conewago got its first full time pastor in 1772—Rev. Cornelius Cosine. Reverend Cosine served until his death in 1788. Rev. George Brinkerhoff was the second and last full time pastor, serving 1789-1793.

^{2a}The terms "Dutch" and "Low Dutch" will be used interchangeably throughout this sketch to refer to the Low Dutch.

^{2b}Roeliff Brinkerhoff, The Family of Joris Dircksen Brinckerhoff, 1638 (New York, 1887), facing page 35 is a detailed map of the Conewago settlement area.

^{2c}The Low Dutch Cemeteries Improvement Fund was administered by Miss Ruth McIlhenny from 1962 until her death May 2, 1977. The fund is now under the administration of Mr. John K. Lott, R.D. 4, Gettysburg, Pa., "Low Dutch Cemeteries Improvement Fund: 16th Annual Report 1977," mimeographed.

^{2d}A. Van Doren Honeyman, ed., "The Conewago Colony—Baptisms 1769-1793," Somerset County Historical Quarterly (Somerville, N.J.), Vol. 4, No. 4 (Oct. 1915), 267-281. Nineteen Conewago marriages 1789-1793 were also published in Vol. 5, No. 1 (Jan. 1916), 78.



A PORTION OF JOHN CROOKE'S OCTOBER 15, 1810 SURVEY
SHOWING THE 1781 DUTCH SETTLEMENT ATTEMPTS ON MUDDY CREEK

Shown above is less than one-tenth of John Croke's survey plat in the case of Abraham Banta's heirs (Henry Banta) vs Green Clay. Madison County historian William Chenault described the survey as "probably the largest ever done by that noted surveyor in any single suit in the county." The above section of Muddy Creek east of Richmond shows the locations of attempted Low Dutch settlements in 1781. Banta's Fort is at 16. Duree's mill seat is at D. Duree's cabin is in the upper left corner at 93. The full survey plat starts at Boonesborough and shows the entire length of Muddy Creek. It was the basis for the author's map at the end of Part II.

The Low Dutch Company II

by Vincent Akers

That summer of 1780 a petition to the Continental Congress circulated among the Kentucky settlements. The petition decried the monopolization of land by Virginia speculators and said the petitioners had but three choices: stay and become slaves to the laws of Virginia, remove down the Ohio and become subjects of Spain, or settle across the Ohio in enemy territory. The petitioners sought the approval of Congress in establishing a settlement across the Ohio. Among the nearly 400 signers were Abraham, Albert, Cornelius, Jacob and John Banta, Cornelius Bogard, Peter Demaree, John Dorland, Cornelius Vorheis and Jacob Westerfield.³³

The capture of Ruddle's and Martin's Forts in June 1780 by Colonel Byrd's Indians and cannon spread a panic throughout the Kentucky settlements and dispelled any notions of settlement on the enemy side of the Ohio. In retaliation, George Rogers Clark led an expedition across the Ohio in August which was successful in destroying the Indian towns of Chillicothe, Piqua and Loramie's store. Twenty-one year old John Voris and eighteen year old John Demaree volunteered in July 1780 for three month tours in Capt. Hardy Hill's Company and marched under Clark against Chillicothe the next month. Eighteen year old Henry Banta in April 1780 had volunteered for twelve months in Captain Hill's Company as a guard at the Dutch Station. He also served in the Chillicothe campaign and was wounded in the shoulder.³⁴ Several other Low Dutchmen probably participated in this campaign. Four or five of the Bantas were along.³⁵ The Bantas were believed to have taken an active part in nearly every campaign fought after their arrival in Kentucky.³⁶

In the fall of 1780 young John Demaree and James Vorhis journeyed south along the Wilderness Road to Powell Valley.³⁷ There they served among the militiamen employed by Capt. John Kinkead and Capt. William McBride as "labourers, Gard, packhorsesmen and bullock drivers" in late 1780 to improve the Wilderness Road from Moccasin Gap to Cumberland Gap, and into Kentucky to Hazel Patch. The road had not been worked on since Daniel Boone cut it in 1775 and these improvements left it still little more than a miserable pack-horse trail.³⁸

Upon his return to Kentucky, John Demaree again joined Capt. Hardy Hill's Company as an Indian spy based from the Low Dutch Fort on Beargrass. While serving in this capacity, on February 6, 1781 he and his father, Peter Demaree, were fired upon by a band of Ottawa Indians near Squire Boone's Station on Clear Creek in present-day Shelby County. John's left arm was broken and both men were captured. They were first taken to the Indian towns on the Auglaize River in Ohio. In May the Indians took their prisoners to Detroit where they were sold to the British and put in jail. In August they were taken down Lakes Erie and Ontario to Montreal and again put in jail. Late in October the Demarees were taken to Lake Champlain between New York and Vermont. Here at the south end of the lake they were at last able to make their escape after having been in captivity twelve months. They made their way to General Washington's camp where they were discharged to return home to Kentucky.³⁹

Albert Voris, one of the White Oak Spring Dutchmen,

also returned to the old settlements in the fall of 1780. He was back in Kentucky early the next winter.⁴⁰ Others may have made the journey east across the mountains that fall. Communication was maintained between the Beargrass and White Oak Spring Dutch settlers during 1780. One letter has been preserved documenting this communication.⁴¹ It is evident that the Low Dutch Company intended to unite and build their Kentucky colony the next year.

With the crops in and their families secure, a group of Dutchmen left the New Holland Station on Beargrass in January or early February 1781 to meet the Duree party at White Oak Spring. The Dutch Company set out in early February to build cabins for their families some sixteen or seventeen miles from the White Oak Spring near Duree's mill seat on Muddy Creek.⁴² The company was comprised of the following men:

Henry Banta, Sr.	Jacob Banta
Samuel Duree	John Banta
Albert Duree	John Bullock
Daniel Duree	Peter Cosart
Henry Duree	Frederick Ripperdan
Peter Duree	Cornelius Bogard
Abraham Banta	Simon Vanosdale
Albert Banta	Albert Voris
Daniel Banta	John Voris, Sr.
Henry Banta	John Voris, Jr. ⁴³

³³ Petition to Congress, read Aug. 23, 1780, Papers of the Continental Congress, Ser. 48, 245, National Archives. This petition was published in A.C. Quisenberry, "Five Hundred Kentucky Pioneers," *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, Vol. 10, No. 28 (1912), 41-46.

³⁴ Revolutionary War pension applications of John Voris (S14772), affidavit dated Mar. 14, 1833, Mercer Co., Ky.; John Demaree (W7004), affidavit dated Aug. 9, 1832, Mercer Co., Ky.; and Henry Banta (R480), affidavit dated Nov. 28, 1833, Bourbon Co., Ky.

³⁵ Deposition of John Voris (June 18, 1814), Banta vs Clay, Madison Co. Record Book D, 410-413. Peter Banta in a deposition given Aug. 25, 1815 stated that he was on the campaign with General Clark in 1780, *Ibid.*, 516-518, also in Box 68, Bundle 135, Madison Co. Circuit Court Records, State Archives.

³⁶ Deposition of Henry Banta, Sr. (Aug. 6, 1814), Banta vs Clay, Madison Co. Record Book D, 432-434.

³⁷ John Demaree in a deposition given Jan. 8, 1810 stated that in September 1780 he traveled from the Low Dutch Station on Beargrass along the road past Harrodsburg to Powell Valley, Jacob Bowman vs Daniel Brewer, Box B-32, Mercer Co. Circuit Court Records.

³⁸ The list of laborers, including Demaree and Vorhis, is published in Louis A. Burgess, *Virginia Soldiers of 1776*, 3 vols. (Richmond, Va., 1927-29), 3:1272. See also Robert L. Kincaid, *The Wilderness Road*, 4th ed. (Middleboro, Ky., 1973), 157-159.

³⁹ Revolutionary War pension application of John Demaree (W7004).

⁴⁰ Depositions of Albert Voris (July 27 and Aug. 11, 1815), Banta vs Clay, Madison Co. Record Book D, 457-460, 488-500; the Aug. 11 deposition is also in Box 68, Bundle 135, Madison Co. Circuit Court Records, State Archives.

⁴¹ Bartlett Seavey, Fort of the Ohio, to Capt. Natl. Hart, Boonsburgh, Dec. 29, 1780, printed in "Shane Collection of Documents: The Hart Papers," *Journal of The Department of History (The Presbyterian Historical Society)*, Vol. XIV, No. 8 (Dec. 1931), 928. This letter includes the following: ". . . I have Bargand for a set of Black Smiths toles which 2000 Dollars is to be sent down by the first Loo Ducherman that das com down to the Duch Station on Bare Grafs which is for one vice and irons for one Bellas the other tooles is Consisting of one

Mr. Akers continues his fascinating story of the Dutch settlements on the Kentucky frontier.

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The party traveled in a southeast direction from the White Oak Spring along the Log Lick Trace to Clover Bottom on Otter Creek above which they followed the right fork toward the head of which they followed a path to the west waters of Muddy Creek. It was a wet season and their horses made a considerable trail.⁴⁴

They spent some four or five weeks in the area. Simon Vanosdale stated that some thirteen or fourteen cabins were started but none finished. A local resident later recalled that he saw some five or seven cabins in the form of a fort three of which were covered, the only covered cabins he knew of on Muddy Creek in 1781.⁴⁵ The cabins were built in a low bottom of Muddy Creek a mile above Debans Run. The place was referred to as Banta's Fort by some.⁴⁶ The Durees built a cabin about four miles away a little northwest of present-day Moberly near the path which connected the Log Lick Trace with Debans Run.⁴⁷

The Dutch Company returned to White Oak Spring in March. That month Peter Duree and his brother-in-law, John Bullock, moved their families to the Duree cabin. Frederick Ripperdan later recalled that the two families moved to their cabin on a Friday and were attacked by the Indians the following Monday.⁴⁸ They were apparently waiting for old Samuel Duree to bring out additional families to reinforce the settlement. They remained shut up in the cabin until their corn meal was exhausted. The two men then ventured out a short distance to cut a block to make a mortar in which to "bruise" their corn. They were attacked by savages — Bullock ran a short distance but fell and was tomahawked. Duree received a ball through the chest, inflicting a mortal wound, but reached the cabin before he fell. Mrs. Bullock ran to the

door to help her husband, received a shot in the breast and fell dead across the door sill. Mrs. Duree caught the other woman by the feet, pulled her into the cabin and barred the door. She grasped a rifle and presented it through several port holes in quick succession. The Indians apparently became alarmed and disappeared without breaking into the cabin.

That same March 1781, Peter's brothers, Henry and Daniel Duree, were killed by Indians at the White Oak Spring.⁴⁹ The Madison County venture was becoming a nightmare. In April or May most of the discouraged Banta party returned to the Low Dutch Station on Beargrass.

The idea of settlement on Muddy Creek had apparently not been given up entirely. The Dutch families who had come to Kentucky over the Wilderness Road remained at the White Oak Spring. In the summer of 1781 eight or nine Dutchmen went to James Estill's Station along the Wilderness Road southeast of present-day Richmond on the dividing ridge between Otter and Muddy Creeks. Estill's Station was about five miles due west of Banta's cabins from which they could be reached by way of Muddy Creek and the Mulberry Lick Trace. About the time the cabins were being built, Abraham Banta had visited Estill's Station to try to rent fifty acres of cleared land since the Dutch Company's land would not be cleared soon enough for the 1781 planting.⁵⁰

The men who met at Estill's Station in the summer of 1781 may have arranged with Captain Estill and his brother, Samuel Estill, to show them the lands rented by Abraham Banta. Other accounts say the party intended to recover the tools left by the Dutch Company at Banta's cabins.⁵¹ They rode along the Mulberry Lick Trace in the cane with Captain Estill in front and Sam Estill in the rear. About a half mile

anvill & sledg and other hammers and tongs the man wants Land for them. I dont no his name but he is Durees wives Brothers Son woh has the toolcs for Sail one of the men is come up to hunt at your Station . . . "The tools were being sold by a son of Henry Banta whose sister was married to Samuel Duree.

⁴² Henry Banta's deposition (Oct. 10, 1809) states, ". . . in the year 1781 in the latter end of January or first of February I went out with a Company to build the cabins . . ." Banta vs Clay, Madison Co. Deed Book I, 197. Frederick Ripperdan in his deposition (Oct. 10, 1809) said he thought the cabins were built in the first part of February 1781, *Ibid.*, 191. Simon Vanosdale (Aug. 11, 1815) stated that in February a small company of Dutchmen from Beargrass went to the Boonesborough vicinity to build a station and they built the cabins the same month, Banta vs Clay, Madison Co. Record Book D, 481-488.

⁴³ Six depositions in Banta vs Clay list men who participated in building Banta's cabins: Henry Banta (Oct. 10, 1809), Madison Co. Deed Book I, 197-204; Frederick Ripperdan (Oct. 16, 1810), Madison Co. Circuit Court Complete Record Book D, 324-331; John Banta (Aug. 22, 1814), *Ibid.*, 400-403; Henry Banta, Sr. (Aug. 6, 1814), *Ibid.*, 432-434; Albert Duree (July 8, 1814), *Ibid.*, 434-437; and Simon Vanosdale (Aug. 11, 1815), *Ibid.*, 481-488. No single deposition lists all twenty of the men included above; rather, the above list is a composite prepared from all the depositions and therefore may inaccurately include some men. For instance, John Bullock and Peter Cosart are listed in only one deposition — they very likely were engaged in building their own cabin four miles away at the time Banta's cabins were being built. Daniel Banta and Albert Voris are also both listed in only one deposition, yet their own depositions do not refer to their participation.

⁴⁴ Deposition of Henry Banta (Oct. 10, 1809), Banta vs Clay, Madison Co. Deed Book I, 197-204. Descriptions of the route from White Oak Spring to Debans Run and Banta's cabins are spread throughout the testimony in this lengthy land suit.

⁴⁵ Deposition of Simon Vanosdale (Aug. 11, 1815), Banta vs Clay, Madison Co. Record Book D, 481-488. Depositions of Jesse Hodges (Nov. 24-25, 1809 and Dec. 12-13, 1811), Madison Co. Deed Book I, 122-124; Record Book D, 346-357. Aquilla White (Oct. 29-30, 1811)

remembered two cabins with covers and three without, *Ibid.*, 331-346.

⁴⁶ Deposition of Simon Vanosdale, *Ibid.*, 481-488. See also questioning in Frederick Ripperdan's deposition (Oct. 10, 1809), Banta vs Clay, Madison Co. Deed Book I, 191-197.

⁴⁷ Depositions of Thomas Warren (Oct. 11-12, 1809), *Ibid.*, 207-223; Oswald Townsend (Dec. 13-14, 1811), Madison Co. Record Book D, 358-364; David Lynch (Dec. 14, 1811), *Ibid.*, 364-370; and Lawrence Thompson (Feb. 13, 1818), Geo. M. Bedinger vs Joel Walker's heirs, Madison Co. Circuit Court, Draper Mss. 1A175.

⁴⁸ Deposition of Frederick Ripperdan (Oct. 10, 1809), Banta vs Clay, Madison Co. Deed Book I, 191-197.

⁴⁹ Depositions of Ambrose Coffey (Nov. 21-24, 1809), Banta vs Clay, Madison Co. Deed Book I, 92-113; Frederick Ripperdan (Oct. 10, 1809), *Ibid.*, 191-197; and Simon Vanosdale (Aug. 11, 1815), Record Book D, 481-488.

⁵⁰ Depositions of Thomas Warren (Oct. 11-12, 1809), Banta vs Clay, Madison Co. Deed Book I, 207-223 and David Lynch (Sept. 11 and Dec. 14, 1811), Record Book D, 263-269, 364-370. Thomas Warren remembered the Dutch Defeat as taking place "in hot weather in the year 1781, about midsummer." Lynch gave the number of Dutchmen and told of Abraham Banta's visit. He also said some of the Dutch came and returned from building Banta's cabins by way of Estill's Station.

⁵¹ David Lynch told of Banta's attempt to rent land, but said the defeat occurred as they went to get their tools left at Banta's cabins, *Ibid.*, 364-370. Aquilla White (Nov. 20-21, 1809) also recalled that Estill's arm was broken by the Indians at the time the Dutch went for their tools, Madison Co. Deed Book I, 87-92. Further support for this explanation is Frederick Ripperdan's statement (Oct. 16, 1810) that the last time he was in the area was with Capt. Nathaniel Hart to hide the tools, Record Book D, 324-331. Thomas Warren thought the Estills were along to show the Dutch the way to Banta's cabins, Deed Book I, 207-223. John Banta (Aug. 22, 1814), however, said the Estills were neither showing them the way to the cabins nor acting as guards or pilots, but rather were along to show them some land, Record Book D, 400-403.

The conclusion of the Duree story with its documentation is inserted at the end of Part II.

from the station they passed a large red oak tree which had lately fallen close to the trace. Concealed behind the leaves of the tree and cane they had cut, Indians waited to ambush the party as it passed. Sam Estill noticed a moccasin behind the tree, instantly fired through the leaves, then threw himself off his horse on the opposite side and shouted, "Indians!" The Indians fired too, one shot badly breaking the right arm of Captain Estill whose horse wheeled and dashed back to the station. The captain seized the bridle with his teeth, his left hand holding his rifle, but his horse was beyond control. A large black-painted fierce-looking Indian, tomahawk in hand, leaped over the tree toward Frederick Ripperdan. Ripperdan in his fright forgot to fire his gun, but called to Sam Estill to shoot the Indian. Estill whose gun was empty retorted, "Why don't you shoot him, damn you! your gun's loaded." Ripperdan jerked his gun to his shoulder and fired, the muzzle almost touching the Indian's chest. The savage let his tomahawk fall, clutched a sapling for support, uttered a loud noise like a bear and fell dead. The remaining Indians retreated through the cane.⁵²

The incident was referred to locally as the "Dutch Defeat." Capt. James Estill's broken arm confined him to the station for several months and eventually cost him his life. At the Battle of Little Mountain ("Estill's Defeat") near Mount Sterling on March 22, 1782, the arm gave way suddenly while Estill was engaged in a life and death struggle with a powerful Indian — who buried his tomahawk in his victim's skull.⁵³

The Dutch Company made no further attempts to settle on Muddy Creek after the "Dutch Defeat."⁵⁴ But death was to take one more of their members in present-day Madison County. Peter Cosart was killed by the Indians near Fort Boonesborough in July 1781. Family legend records that he was murdered while gathering blackberries for his family.⁵⁵ Dutch families remained at the White Oak Spring until after the 1781 harvest. In January 1782 they joined the other Dutch families at the Low Dutch Station in Mercer County.⁵⁶

The Banta men had been discouraged by the Duree killings in March of 1781. In April or May of that year they left the White Oak Spring and returned to their families at the Low Dutch Station on Beargrass. Some short time later many of

these Dutchmen removed their families to present-day Boyle County (Mercer County until 1842) where they built the second Low Dutch Station.⁵⁷ This station was located on the west side of Harrods Run (present-day Mocks Branch) a little north of present-day Gentry Lane near James Harrod's Station at the Boiling Springs. The station is shown on John Filson's map. The Low Dutch rented the land from Col. James Harrod, it being part of his 400 acre settlement.⁵⁸ The Dutch intended to settle there only temporarily until the Indian menace had abated and they could settle their own tract. The arrival of the White Oak Spring Dutch in January 1782 made the idea of settlement on Muddy Creek a dead issue. The Low Dutch were in the market for a new tract.

Not all of the Dutch removed immediately from the Beargrass vicinity to Mercer County. The Demaree family was among those who did not move in the spring of 1781. Samuel Demaree, Sr. was probably the oldest man in the 1780 Dutch migration to Kentucky. Born in 1707, he would have been 73 at the time. He was the father-in-law of "Father" Henry Banta who led the Conewago migration down the Ohio. He was also the father-in-law of one of the Westerfields killed in 1780. His large family apparently established the first Low Dutch connections with Squire Boone.

Squire Boone's Station at the Painted Stone on Clear Creek in the unsettled region of Shelby County was established in the spring of 1780. It was the eastern-most station in the area, more than twenty-five miles east of Linn's Station the eastern-most Beargrass station. The station consisted of cabins with pickets between in the shape of a square covering about an acre on the north side of the creek.⁵⁹

Exactly when the Demarees threw their lot in with Squire Boone is not known. They are not among any of the sketchy lists of the original settlers of the spring of 1780. Squire Boone headed a company on Clark's campaign in the summer of 1780.⁶⁰ Perhaps John Demaree became acquainted with Boone during the campaign and influenced the family to settle at Painted Stone before he journeyed back to Pennsylvania in the fall of 1780. He had a son born there sometime in 1780. John and his father were captured by Indians near Painted Stone in February 1781.⁶¹

To Be Continued

⁵² This embellished account of the incident is from Lewis Collins and Richard H. Collins, *History of Kentucky*, 2 vols. (Covington, 1874), 2:527. Collins incorrectly placed the event in December 1781 and said the Estills were showing the Dutch lands whereon to begin a station. In addition to the depositions cited in the preceding footnote, the incident is also described in Nicholas Proctor's deposition (May 23, 1811), Banta vs Clay, Madison Co. Record Book D, 276-278.

⁵³ Collins, *History of Kentucky* (1874 edition), 2:527. Depositions of Warren and Lynch refer to the "Dutch Defeat." Warren, White, Proctor and Banta all refer to James Estill's broken arm or wound, *loc. cit.*

⁵⁴ Depositions of Warren, Lynch and Proctor, *loc. cit.*

⁵⁵ Joseph Arthur Cossairt, "The Cossairt Family," mimeographed [1936?], 59. This account incorrectly placed the murder near Harrods Fort. The date of the murder is per Frederick Ripperdan's deposition (Oct. 10, 1809), Banta vs Clay, Madison Co. Deed Book I, 191-197. The killing is also mentioned in the depositions of Ambrose Coffey (Nov. 21-24, 1809), *Ibid.*, 92-113 and Simon Vanosdale (Aug. 11, 1815), Madison Co. Record Book D, 481-488.

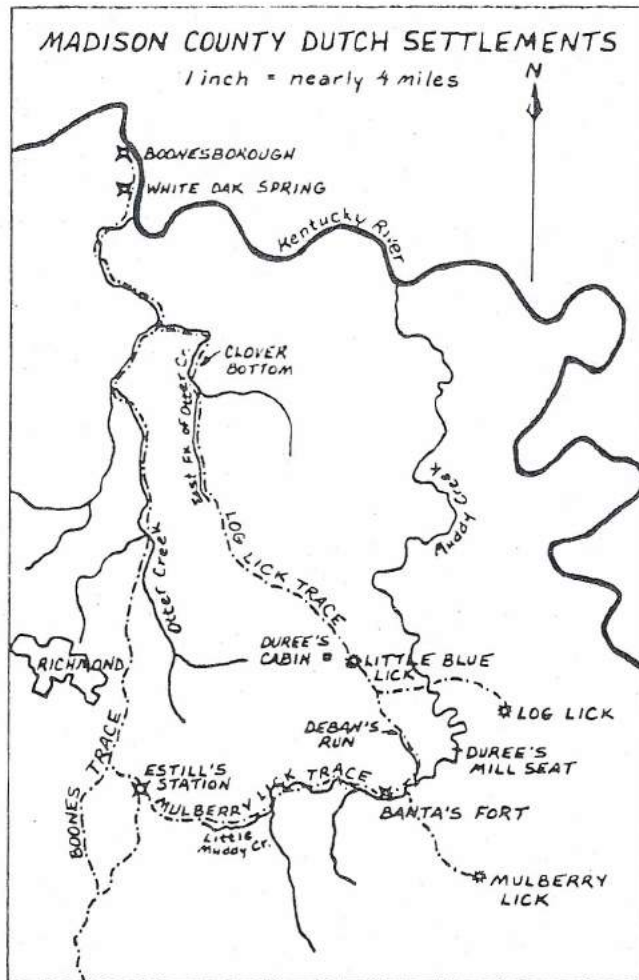
⁵⁶ Deposition of Frederick Ripperdan (Oct. 16, 1810), *Ibid.*, 324-331. Albert Durce (July 8, 1814) stated that he lived at the White Oak Spring until 1782. *Ibid.*, 434-437.

⁵⁷ Deposition of Simon Vanosdale, *Ibid.*, 481-488. Frederick Ripperdan (Oct. 10, 1809) stated that in May 1781 the Bantas were either at Harrod's Station or on the road from Beargrass to Harrod's Station and he rather thought, at the station. Banta vs Clay, Madison Co. Deed

Book I, 191-197. Henry Banta (Oct. 10, 1809) placed the settlement of the Dutch Station on Harrods Run in March 1781, *Ibid.*, 197-204. Henry Banta, in his Revolutionary War pension application (R480), placed his move to this station in the spring of 1781. Albert Voris, in his depositions given July 27 and Aug. 11, 1815, also said he moved to the Low Dutch Station near Harrod's Station in the spring of 1781, Banta vs Clay, Madison Co. Record Book D, 457-460, 488-500.

⁵⁸ Location of the Dutch Station is described in John Shane's notes as being near Harrod's Station about a mile up Harrods Run from where the Harrodsburg-Danville Road [U.S. 127] crosses the run near Cove Spring, Draper Mss. 14CC214-216. This coincides with the above description which is based upon a map drawn in the 1950s by a Mr. Caldwell, a resident of the area who had studied a plat of James Harrod's settlement and preemption among the Lincoln Co. Circuit Court Records. The Lincoln Co. plat can no longer be located. Mr. Caldwell's map was drawn for Rebecca W. Conover during the research for her biography of James Harrod and is now in her possession. Location of the station on Harrod's land is evident from testimony in John Cowan vs James Harrod's heir, Apr. 1798-Aug. 1800 suits, Lincoln Co. Circuit Court Records.

⁵⁹ Draper's interview with Moses Boone (Fall 1846), Draper Mss. 19C27. Squire Boone claimed that his station was first settled in the fall of 1779, deposition, Edward M. Booker vs A. Whitaker, Bundle 117, No. 15, Shelby Co. Circuit Court Records. Bland W. Ballard also placed the settlement date as the fall of 1779 in a deposition given Feb. 21, 1811, Todd vs Fry, Bundle 80, No. 1, Shelby Co. Circuit Court Records. Moses and Isaiah Boone, however, clarified that their



father fully intended to settle his Painted Stone tract in 1779, but the Indians were troublesome and so he postponed settlement that year. Instead, he purchased some town lots in Louisville and erected a cabin on high ground near the mouth of Beargrass Creek. That year he took his thirteen year-old son, Jonathan, to recently captured Kaskaskia, Illinois to live and learn French. In the fall of 1779 Boone and Evan Hinton went to the Painted Stone tract to make preparations for settlement the next spring and were stranded there by the legendary "hard winter" of 1779-80. Families were brought out and the station was built the next spring. Draper Mss. 19C25-27, 87. Also in a deposition given Jan. 3, 1805, Moses Boone stated that his father's family first moved from the Falls to Boone's Station early in the spring of 1780. Moses Hall vs Aquilla Whitaker, Bundle 46, No. 1, Shelby Co. Circuit Court Records. The Court of Appeals in its opinion on this suit also concluded that Boone's Station was erected sometime in April 1780. Josiah Boone in a deposition given June 11, 1802 said Boone and Hinton hunted and killed some meat at Painted Stone in 1779 and in the spring of 1780 settled the station. Booker vs Whitaker, *loc. cit.* Whether Boone's Station was settled in 1779 or 1780 is an open question. There is, however, no basis for the current local belief that the station was built on the south side of Clear Creek. This belief apparently stems from the writings of G.T. Wilcox, a grandson of Squire Boone. Wilcox claimed that the station was built on a beautiful bank fifteen feet above and 100 yards from the creek on the south side. To the north of the creek was a beautiful level plain. Draper Mss. 19C185. Moses and Isaiah Boone, however, stated that the station was built on a small ridge on the north bank of the creek. The settlers dug a covered way to the creek to resort to for water in case of a siege. Draper

Mss. 19C27, 87. The station is clearly shown on the north side of Clear Creek in the survey plats of two Shelby County court cases, John Breckinridge vs John Shackelford, Bundle 16, No. 4 and Michael Troutman vs John Cline, Bundle 21, No. 8, Shelby Co. Circuit Court Records. Steep cliffs do run along the entire south bank of Clear Creek in this area. Someone such as Squire Boone, who withstood the siege of Boonesborough, would hardly be expected to build his station above these cliffs where hauling water would have meant constant exposure to the Indians. G.T. Wilcox, born twenty-six years after the settlement of Boone's Station, obviously had it confused with Lynch's Station. Charles Lynch bought the Painted Stone tract in 1786 (Draper Mss. 19C42) and sometime later built his station on the high land south of the creek where it is shown in the 1882 atlas, D.J. Lake & Co., publishers, *An Atlas of Henry and Shelby Cos., Kentucky* (Philadelphia, Pa., 1882), 44.

⁽⁴⁰⁾ Draper Mss. 19C87.

⁽⁴¹⁾ Biographical sketch of Samuel Demaree of Jessamine County stated that his father, Peter son of John Demaree, was a native of Shelby County and was born there in 1780, Battle, Perrin and Kniffin, *Kentucky: A History of the State* (4th edition), 839. John Demaree was serving as an Indian spy based out of the Low Dutch Station when he and his father were captured in 1781, Revolutionary War pension application of John Demaree (W7004). To further confuse the question of where the family lived, it should be noted that John Demaree in a deposition given Jan. 8, 1810 said his place of residence in 1780-81 was the Low Dutch Station on Beargrass, Bowman vs Brewer, Box B-32, Mercer Co. Circuit Court Records.

[The following material should be inserted in Part II, page 13.]

Mrs. Duree used every effort to stop her husband's bleeding; every other remedy failing, she literally corked the wound with her handkerchief. Duree revived sufficiently to entreat his wife to take the children and flee, telling her that he was bound to die anyway. The poor woman stood gazing at her dying husband, surrounded by death on every side, her little children clinging to her, and he pointing to the door and uttering with feeble voice, "Save yourself and the children, go, go!" The decision was made to save the children. With her three year old child in her arms and her five year old son following, she was soon fleeing with all possible speed toward the White Oak Spring, a distance of some twelve or thirteen miles. Afraid to pursue the trace, she entered the woods. After losing direction and wandering till she was nearly exhausted, she came at length upon the blazed trail. Although she had traveled all day she found herself not more than a mile from the bloody scene from which she was fleeing. She determined to follow the trail at all hazards. She went but a short distance, however, when she met the other families coming out to join them, and told them the sad story. While they were parleying over what action was best, the Indians raised the war whoop in the distance. The men saw the situation at a glance; to make a stand there in the wilderness with the women and children was out of the question, hence they led the horses into an adjoining canebrake where they cut the packs, and mounting the women and children, they raced back to the White Oak Spring. The next morning seventeen men went out from Boonesborough and White Oak Spring to recover the baggage and bury the dead.^{48a}

^{48a} In addition to Ripperdan's deposition, these killings are mentioned in five other depositions: Ambrose Coffey (Nov. 21-24, 1809), Ibid., 92-113; Thomas Warren (Oct. 11-12, 1809), Ibid., 207-223; Albert Voris (July 27, 1815), Madison Co. Record Book D, 457-460; Simon Vanosdale (Aug. 11, 1815), Ibid., 481-488; and Lawrence Thompson (Feb. 13, 1818), Bedinger vs Walker, Madison Co. Circuit Court, Draper Mss. 1A175. Coffey and Thompson were members of the burial party. A very detailed account of the incident is given by George W. Demaree, "Low Dutch Tract" (originally published May 15 and 22, 1873 in the Shelby Courant, Shelbyville, Ky.) reprinted in T.M. Banta, Banta Genealogy, 95-96. The event is also described in detail in Lewis Collins, Historical Sketches of Kentucky (Cincinnati, 1847), 422. The embellishments in the account given above are based upon a selective combination of Demaree's and Collins' accounts. Both accounts have some obvious errors, particularly the dates in both versions and Demaree's placing the incident eight miles from Limestone (Maysville, Mason Co.) instead of the White Oak Spring. It is doubtful that Demaree ever saw Collins' earlier account, yet both stories have striking similarities—such as the men venturing out to cut a block for the hand mill; the sister shot at the door, Mrs. Duree losing her way and at last meeting her father-in-law on his way out to the cabin. There are inconsistencies, for instance Collins had Mrs. Duree calmly sit by her husband and close his eyes in death and Demaree had her lose her way in a blinding storm of rain and sleet. The killings are also mentioned in the recollections of Eleanor VanArsdale Banta who also told of the men being out cutting a tree for the purpose of building a hand mill, John W. Banta, letter to the editor of the Vevay (Ind.) Reveille, May 4, 1878, reprinted in T.M. Banta, Banta Genealogy, 175-176.

The Low Dutch Company III

by Vincent Akers

Indians were very troublesome around Painted Stone all of 1781 and the station was maintained only with great difficulty. An attack in the spring of that year left Squire Boone wounded and still barely able to creep around by fall. Several of the families were intermarried and these families were determined to leave Painted Stone for the relatively safer Beargrass stations. The prospect of this loss of manpower led to the decision to abandon the station September 14, 1781. The Jefferson Militia escorted the families on their trek of twenty-five miles west to Linn's Station. Squire Boone's and the Widow Hinton's families remained behind because there were not enough pack horses. They were to be returned for the next day. The fleeing families had agreed that in case of attack the women were to dismount and shelter themselves behind trees while the men defended them. Unfortunately the families became much scattered along the trail as they proceeded and ten of the guard fell behind to protect a man who became ill. Soon after midday an ambush commenced at the thirteen mile tree, eight miles from Linn's Station. The families in front ignored the agreement, cut loose their packs and darted off without fighting. The remaining men might have handled the Indians had they not been weakened by this loss and the loss of the guard in the rear. Instead they could only keep the Indians in check long enough to cut off the packs, mount the women and children and dash off. The attack continued for a mile and the packs were scattered along the trail for this distance. Midway between the thirteen and fourteen mile trees the families had to cross Long Run while still keeping the Indians in check. The waters were knee deep, swollen by recent rains. Those who were killed were shot as the ambush was commencing and the families ran along exposed. Most of the survivors straggled into Linn's Station by nightfall.⁶⁸

➡ The ambush of the fleeing settlers was generally known as the Long Run Massacre. It is occasionally referred to as "Boone's Defeat," although Boone was not present. Few names of victims have been preserved. One of the Demaree men with a son and two daughters, one with an infant, supposedly survived and arrived at the Low Dutch Station. This man later taught school at the Dutch Station. The mother and several children presumably were killed.⁶⁹ There is no further record of several members of the Demaree family after this date; however the only Dutchman who can specifically be identified

Mr. Akers continues his fascinating story of the Dutch settlements on the Kentucky frontier.

⁶⁸ This account of the Long Run Massacre is based upon Draper's interviews with Moses and Isaiah Boone (Fall 1846), Draper Mss. 19C32-36, 89-96. Isaiah Boone was a direct participant in the incident. Moses Boone was at Boone's Station at the time. Collins gives a similar more concise account, Collins, *History of Kentucky* (1847 edition), 172; (1874 edition), 241, 710. The settlers apparently considered it twenty-one miles, not twenty-five, from Boone's to Linn's Stations and marked the distance with "mile trees." The eight and nine mile trees and about six miles of Boones Trace past Long Run to about the site of present-day Eastwood is shown in the survey plat included in Finley's heirs vs Lynch and Blanton, Bundle 63, No. 64, Shelby Co. Circuit Court Records. Judging from this plat, the distance between "mile trees" was somewhat erratic.

⁶⁹ Shane's interview with [Miss. ?] Campbell, Draper Mss. 13CC87. This lady lived at the Low Dutch Station at the time. The "Dumaree" she refers to easily fits the elder Samuel Demaree with perhaps his son John, daughters Mary Westerfield and Rachel Riker or the wife of his



SQUIRE BOONE 1744-1815

Squire Boone first visited Kentucky in the fall of 1769 in search of his brother Daniel, ten years his senior. His activities contributed much to the settlement of Kentucky, but his memory has languished in the shadow of his brother's legend. Squire Boone was locator and seller of the vast tract of land in Shelby and Henry Counties Kentucky which became known as The Low Dutch Tract. Boone's Painted Stone Station founded in Shelby County in 1780 was the base of operations for the Dutch in their attempts to settle their tract. The portrait is from the collections of The Filson Club, Louisville.

as a victim of the massacre is Gerardus Riker a son-in-law of Samuel Demaree. He died September 15, 1781. His widow, Rachel Demaree Riker, later married John Vancleave, brother-in-law of Squire Boone.⁷⁰

➡ By 1782 the situation of the Low Dutch had become quite distressing. The Muddy Creek tract had been forever abandoned because of the Indian manace and perhaps because of the low quality of the land. Settlement elsewhere was equally dangerous as proved by the Demarees' experience. The families were forced by necessity into the crowded stations "... where the air seems to have lost all its purity and sweetness . . . and a

son Peter and her daughter-in-law with her son Peter born in 1780. This infant's father and grandfather were Indian prisoners at the time and it would therefore be logical that the women were with the elder Samuel Demaree.

⁷⁰ Enoch Boone stated that "Riker was killed & John VanCleave married his widow." Draper's interview (Aug. 1858), Draper Mss. 19C140. Vancleave's wife and two small children were also killed in the massacre. Draper Mss. 19C34, 92, 140. The Demaree family history also records that Gerardus Ryker died Sept. 15, 1781 killed at Boone's Defeat by the Indians. Voorhis D. Demarest, *The Demarest Family*, 2 vols. (Hackensack, N.J., 1964), 1:5-202; also (1938 edition), 111. The family history incorrectly lists Rachel Vancleave as a daughter of Samuel Demaree's brother, Joost Demarest. She is, however, listed as one of Samuel Demaree's children in Abraham Demaree vs Samuel Demaree's heirs, Complainant's Bill, Bundle 58, No. 1, Shelby Co. Circuit Court Records.

kind of a flux is common . . . of which numbers die . . . living in dirt and filth."⁷¹ The Dutch were generally concentrated in the relatively safe area of the Low Dutch Station in Mercer County. The land was rented from James Harrod, but it was becoming increasingly difficult for him to accommodate their large numbers.⁷² Several families were forced to settle away from the colony in surrounding stations.

Although the Dutch Station may have been in a relatively safe area, the men were, nevertheless, almost constantly exposed to Indian warfare. Henry Banta said that after moving to the Dutch Station near Harrodsburg in the spring of 1781, he was compelled to continue his service either voluntarily or as a draftee. He chose to volunteer in Capt. Joseph Kincade's Company of spies and rangers. He was first put to work for a month building and fortifying against the Indians. He then served as a guard at the Mercer County Dutch Station ranging through the country as an Indian spy. He went on a campaign in March 1782 and was discharged that spring. In the spring of 1783 he volunteered again under Captain Irwin as a guard, spy and ranger. His pension application stated that there was ". . . continued warfare with the Indians from the time he came to the country in the Spring of 1780 until the close of the Revolutionary War in 1783."⁷³

John Voris was drafted for one month in the summer of 1781 as an Indian spy under Captain Martin and was stationed at Leestown on the Kentucky River below Frankfort. As soon as he returned to Mercer County, he volunteered for another month under Capt. Hugh McGary again as an Indian spy at Leestown. In the summer of 1782 he volunteered for two months and marched with McGary to the Falls of the Ohio. Here in the fall of 1782 he volunteered for three months as first sergeant in Capt. Richard Chenoweth's Company under Col. John Floyd and Gen. George Rogers Clark. He participated in Clark's second invasion of the Indian towns in November 1782 crossing the Ohio north of Licking and proceeding to Piqua or New Chillicothe on the Big Miami where they had a battle with the Indians and destroyed their towns. Voris also worked on Fort Nelson being built by Captain Chenoweth in 1781-82 below the mouth of Beargrass near the Falls. In addition to the various special tours he served during 1780-82, John Voris calculated that he was out at least another seven or eight months: ". . . living on the immediate Frontiers . . . I was called almost continually as an Indian spy for three years on scouts and on guard for short periods at a time too numerous to recollect . . . as there was seldom a week at a time that I was not called out on scouting parties or in pursuit of marauding Indians . . ."⁷⁴

The Low Dutch colony had discovered that their master plan — a tract of thousands of acres of cheap fertile land — was no easy order to fill. The Indian menace was not really the principal difficulty. The land laws of Virginia had promoted

speculation and confusion to such an extent that a large tract of good unclaimed land was simply not available. The 1783 Low Dutch petition to the Continental Congress explicitly reveals the master plan of the Low Dutch and their distressed situation in 1783. The 151 signers (heads of families or unmarried adult men) of the petition are divided between the 46 inhabitants of Kentucky and 105 "intended friends" who intended to join the inhabitants should the lands be acquired, but who were at the time living at Conewago, Pennsylvania or perhaps at the Dutch settlements in New Jersey.

To the Honourable President and Delagates of the Free united States of America in Congress Assembled.

Gentlemen. a Memorial and Petition of a number of Inhabitants of Kentuckey Settlement of the Low Dutch reformed Church Persuasion in behalf of themselves and other intended Settlers was brought to me by one of those Petitioners desiring me in the name of the rest to give a Testimonial of their Character to the Honourable Congress because I was Personally acquainted with them, Some have lived amongst us and belonged to my Congregations. They were a Plain honest peaceable Sober & Industrious People remarkable for Agriculture and by Current reports we have of them they are all hearty friends to our Glorious Revolution and the Honourable Congress —

Gentlemen, I Remain with due Respect Your
Most Humble Servt.
J.M. Van Harlingen,
Minister of the Gospel at
Sourland and New Shennick
(now Harlingen and Neshanic, N.J.)

To the Honourable President and Delagates of the Free United States of America in Congress Assembled:

The Memorial and Petition of a number of Inhabitants of Kentuckey Settlement of the Low Dutch Reformed Church persuasion, in behalf of themselves and other intended settlers.

Humbly Sheweth.

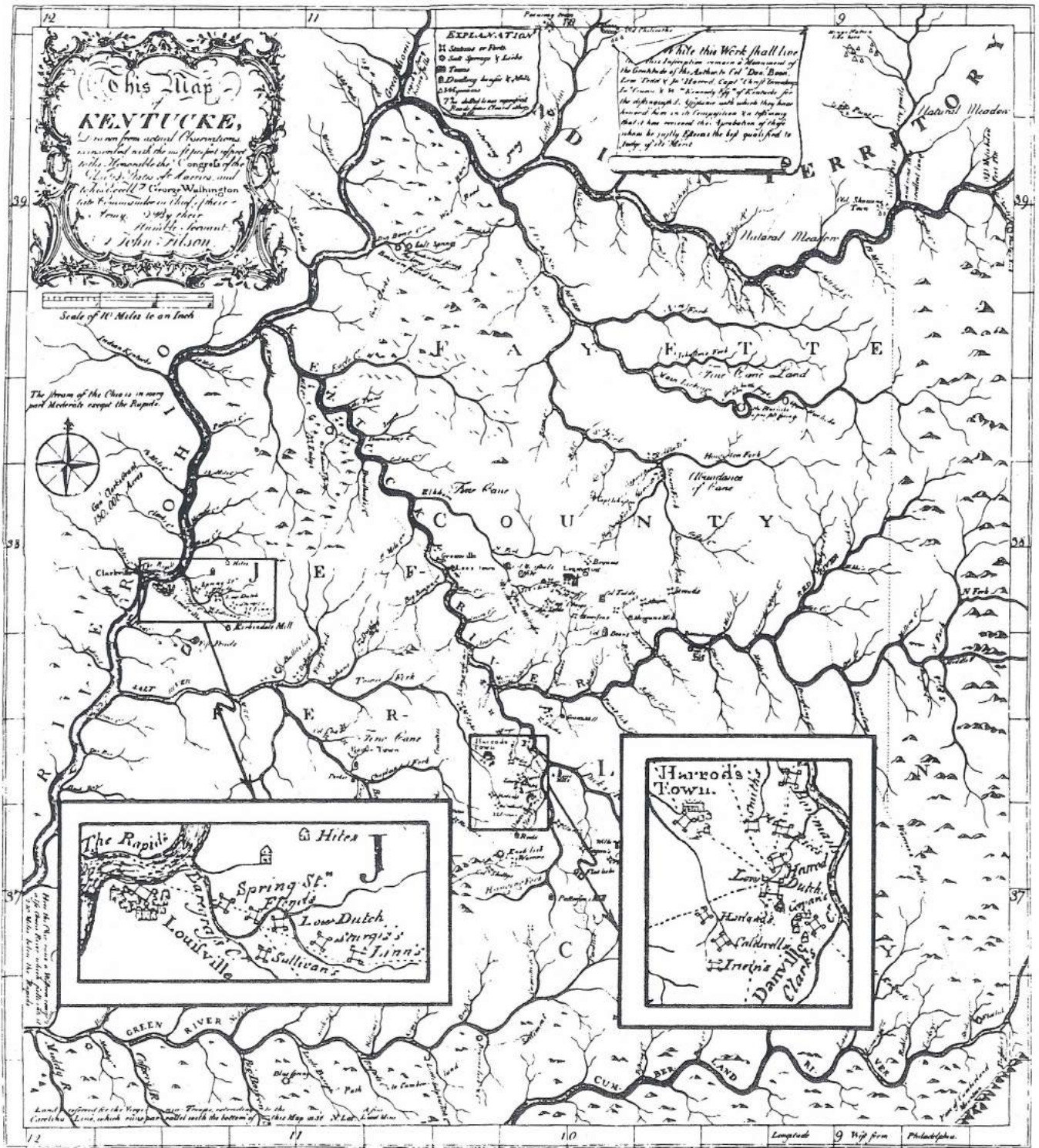
That in the Spring of the Year 1780 they moved to Kentuckey with their families and effects with a view and expectation to procure a Tract of Land to enable them to settle together in a body for the conveniency of civil society and propogating the Gospel in their known language; when they arrived there to their sorrow and disappointment they were thro' the dangerousness of the times by a cruel savage Enemy obliged to settle in Stations or Forts in such places where there was the most appearance of safety, notwithstanding all their precution numbers of them suffered greatly in their property, several killed and others captivated by the Enemy, living in such distressed confined way alway in danger, frequently on Military duty, it was impossiable for them to do more than barely support their families with the necessaries of life, by which means they are much reduced, and what adds more to their disappointment and affliction is, that contrary to their expectations before their arrival and since, the most or all the Tillable Land has been Located and monopolised by persons that had the advantage of your Memorialists by being acquainted with the country, and your Memorialists being strangers and confined as aforesaid, and being so reduced are rendered unable to purchase Land at the advanced price, and especially in a body conveniently together agreeable to their wishes. Whereas Providence has been pleased to prosper and support the virtuous resistence of the United States in the glorious cause of Liberty, which has enabled them to obtain an Honorable Peace whereby they have obtained a large extent of unappropriated Territory. And whereas it is currently and repeatedly reported amongst us that Congress has broke or made void Virginia's right or claim to Land in Kentuckey Settlement.

⁷¹ [John Floyd to William Preston, June 1780], Draper Mss. 17CC182-183.

⁷² Deposition of U. Peter Banta (Feb. 7, 1799), Cowan vs Harrod, 1798-1800 suits, Lincoln Co. Circuit Court Records.

⁷³ Revolutionary War pension application of Henry Banta (R480), affidavit dated Nov. 28, 1833, Bourbon Co., Ky.

⁷⁴ Revolutionary War pension application of John Voris (S14772), affidavit dated Mar. 14, 1833, Mercer Co., Ky. In a deposition given Nov. 21, 1837, Voris similarly described his service under Richard Chenoweth. In a deposition given Oct. 24, 1835 he said, however, his work on Fort Nelson was in 1781. Filson Club Mss. CC68x7, Chenoweth; Draper Mss. 3CC107. John Voras is also listed as a private under Capt. William McBride and Lieut. John Irwin in service at the Falls of the Ohio, Apr. 20 to May 20, 1782, Burgess, *Virginia Soldiers*, 3:1266.



JOHN FILSON'S MAP OF KENTUCKE - 1784

The Discovery, Settlement And present State of Kentucky by John Filson was published in Wilmington, Delaware in 1784. The book is considered the first history of Kentucky, but it was actually a kind of chamber of commerce brochure for a frontier which had seen its first settlement less than ten years before. An appendix to the book, "The Adventures of Col. Daniel Boone," helped to make Boone a legend in his own time. The book was an immense success both here and abroad. It was reprinted in London and French and

German translations were published in 1785. Filson's map was published in Philadelphia in 1784 for sale with his book. This famous map was also widely used and reprinted. The insets on the above copy show enlargements of the Harrodsburg and Louisville/Beargrass areas where the two Low Dutch Stations were located. These Dutch settlements on the Kentucky frontier were described in the first two installments of this series.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray, (in behalf of themselves and other intended settlers of that persuasion,) the Honourable Congress would indulge them with a grant of a Tract or Territory of Land in Kentuckey settlemt. if the Virginia claim thereto should be made void, or otherwise in the late ceded land on the northwest side of the Ohio river, whereto there is not any prior legal claim, to enable them to settle in a body together, on such reasonable terms as Congress in their wisdom and prudence shall see just and reasonable, they complying with, and performing all reasonable conditions required, to enable them to put their intended plan and purpose in execution, they having principally in view the Glory of God, the promotion of Civil and religious society, educating and instructing their rasing generation in the principals of religion and morality: hoping the Honrable Congress will give all due encouragement to such a laudable undertaking. The Premisses duly considered, your Petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray, &c.

Inhabitans

Hendrick Banta	David Allen
Peter Demaree	Benedick Yury
Cornelius Bogart	Henry Yury
John Demaree	John Voreis
Cornelus Banta	Simon Vunosdol
Samuel Durie	Sophia Voreis widow
albert Durie	Francis Voreis
Marga Cozart widow	Aaron Mon Four
Antje Durie widow	John Ryker
Daneal Banta	Cornelius Vories
Albert Vorhis	Henry Banta Junr
John Vorhis Junr.	Abraham Banta Junr
Luke Vorhes	Peter Banta Junr
Samuel Demaree	John Banta
Peter Demaree Junr.	William Vancleave
Henry Shiveley	Catharine Darling Widow
Saml. Demaree Junr.	Lambert Darling
John Vancleave	John Darling
John Harris	James Voreis
Peter Banta	Johanna Seburn Widow
Samuel Westervelt	Albert Banta
Mary Westerfield Widdo	Jacob Banta
Samel lock	Abraham Banta

Intend Frinds

Samuel Banta	Garret Dorland
James Cook	James Stagg
John Vanasdale	George Burnett
Samuel Bogart	Daniel Brower
Peter Seabourn	Rulef Vorhis
George Seabourn	John Brewer
David Seabourn	Daniel Brewer junior
Jacob Seabourn	Henry Commingor
William Seabourn	John Commingor
Derrick Connine	Samuel Demarest
bergun Covert	John Kneght
Derrick Kroesen	John Conrad Kneght
Peter Wickoff	Peter Persel
Henry Bogart	Martin Neavous
James Westervelt	William jewel
Tunes Vanpelt	John Monfoort
Andrew Shoc	John Monfoort Junr.
Mattis Shoc	Francis Cossaart
garrit Vanarsdalen	Jacob Cossart
yoseph Debaen	Simon Van Arsdal
abrahaem Debaen	Peter Carmicle
Peter Banta	John Van Arsdal
Cornelius Cousine junr.	John Bodine
John Couzine	John Smock
Lucas Vanarsdal	Maties Smock
Barney Smock	John kip
John O Bleanes	barney kipp
Peter Monfoort	Abraham Degroff

Thos Johnson	Luke Brinkerhof
Abraham Johnson	Andrew Conine
Andrew Johnson	John Persyl
Thomas Vantine	Cornelius Demaree
Jaquish Vantine	Corn. D Lowe
Francis Monfoort	George Hall
Peter Monfoort Senior	Begun Spader
Wilhelmas Hooghtelin	Jacob Prbacow
Abraham Hooghtelin	Samuel Briten
Hezekiah Houghtelin	Gilbert Lowe
James Vanderbilt	David Cossaart
Charls Vantine	Henry Stryker
Mikel Degroft	Rhoalef Brinkerhoff
William S. Degroff	Jacob Brinkerhoff
John Cownoven	John Aten
Peter Van Dyck	Adrian Aten
George Brinkerhof	John Aten
Jacobus Monfoort	Cornelius Aten
Cornelus Cosyne	George Williamson
Conelius Vorhes	Richer Persely
Cornelus Trueb	John hiels
Laurens Trueb	Daniel haris
Lawrence Monfort	Benjemin Sloom
Abraham brower	Jacob Smock ⁷⁵
Gilbert Brinkerhoff	

The petition bears no date, however the committee of the Continental Congress to which it was sent for study reported on September 27, 1783, "That it would be improper for Congress to take any grants of land in the Western Country, til they compleat their general arrangements as to the ceded territory."⁷⁶ Without government assistance the Low Dutch would continue the search for their tract.

Other than the occasional individual who traveled back to the old settlements and then returned, there apparently had been very few Dutch settlers move to Kentucky from the East since the 1780 migration. "Uncle" Peter Banta, a son of Henry who led the 1780 group to the Falls, moved to Kentucky sometime in 1782.⁷⁷ All but seven or eight of the remaining signers as inhabitants can be identified with one of the two 1780 groups. Some of these, such as John Vancleave, are known to have become associated with the Low Dutch cause through marriage in Kentucky. Such was also the case with Henry Shively who became a son-in-law of "Father" Henry Banta by his marriage to Mary Banta March 15, 1783 at Harrod's Station. Family legend survives regarding the migration of Henry Shively and his three brothers. They took the Ohio River route leaving Fort Redstone above Pittsburgh and landing at the Falls of the Ohio in the spring of 1780. The brothers apparently joined a party traveling over Harrods Trace into the interior, their destination being the Danville area. Somewhere on Benson Creek the party was surrounded and several cruelly massacred by Indians. One of the Shively brothers was captured and splintered, preparatory to being burned, but the Indians were surprised and had to abandon their victim, not, however, without dispatching him with their tomahawks.⁷⁸

⁷⁵ Papers of the Continental Congress, No. 41, V, folios 95-97, National Archives. The petition was published in Quisenberry, "Five Hundred Kentucky Pioneers," 46-48; and T.M. Banta, *Banta Genealogy*, 55-57.

⁷⁶ Worthington C. Ford, ed., *Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789*, vol. XXV, Sept. 1-Dec. 31, 1783 (Washington, 1922), 625.

⁷⁷ Deposition of U. Peter Banta, Cowan vs Harrod. *loc. cit.*

⁷⁸ Memoir or recollections of John M. Shively, original manuscript owned by Ralph Pinnick, Fort Wayne, Ind. The recollections are scheduled for publication in the *Oregon Historical Quarterly* at some future date. Christian Shively, for whom Shively near Louisville was named, was a brother of Henry Shively.

The lack of cooperation from the new national government apparently did not deter "intend friends" from later joining their relatives in Kentucky. At least one-third are known to have eventually made the move. Several migrated shortly after the petition circulated. Lucas Vanarsdel, later an agent for the Low Dutch Company, came in the fall of 1783. Another Samuel Demaree brought his large family to Kentucky late in 1783. This was the branch of the Demaree family which would be active in the government of the Low Dutch Company. In June 1784 "Uncle" Albert Banta, younger brother of Father Henry, sold his farm in New Jersey and moved to Kentucky with his wife and four younger children. His grown sons also made the move — Peter, shortly after the Revolution; Daniel in 1786; and the oldest son, Henry, in 1790 or '91.⁷⁹

Descendants of James Westerfield have preserved the story of his family's migration over the period 1784-86. Westerfield conducted a large group of immigrants from New Jersey to the Shenandoah Valley where they passed the winter of 1784-85. The next March they started the long journey over the mountains to the Ohio arriving near Wheeling. Here they planted crops and raised a stockade for their protection. In the fall and winter of 1785 they constructed flat boats which the next spring carried them down the River to the Falls. While floating near the Indiana shore, the party was fired on by Indians. Several stock animals were wounded and

⁷⁹ Deposition of Lucas Vanarsdel (see footnote 85); T.M. Banta. *Banta Genealogy*. 61, 98; *The Demarest Family* (1964 edition), 1:5-56.

⁸⁰ Rosa E. Williams, "A Brief History of the Westerfield Family in America" (Racine, Wis., typescript, n.d.) from a manuscript of E.A. Westerfield.

⁸¹ Jefferson Entry Book A, 249, 259. Peter's survey, dated Dec. 2, 1785, appears in Virginia Survey Book 9:46; and the subsequent grant, dated May 10, 1788, appears in Virginia Grant Book 11:364-365.

⁸² Depositions of Samuel Demaree (Dec. 15, 1801) and Peter Demaree (May 25-26, 1809), John Smith vs Charles Lynch, Bundle 61, No. 32, Shelby Co. Circuit Court Records. Samuel said they were at the lick with Boone in the latter part of the summer of 1783; Peter said it was July or August 1784. Whether 1783 or 1784, it would have been the first Dutch cabin in the vicinity. The 200 acre survey, together with the deer lick and the upper branches of Guist Creek, Clear Creek and Six Mile, is shown in two plats in Boling vs Meriwether, Bundle 82, No. 13, Shelby Co. Circuit Court Records.

⁸³ Depositions of Anderson Long (June 11, 1802), Booker vs Whitaker, Bundle 117, No. 15; John Demaree (Dec. 11, 1813), James Swan vs John Miles and others, Bundle 105, No. 13; and Albert Voris (Sept. 10, 1817), Martin Aberhard vs William Tyler and others, Bundle 160, No. 17, Shelby Co. Circuit Court Records.

⁸⁴ Jefferson Entry Book A, 240. The entry was dated Dec. 24, 1782. Six Mile Creek is described in Boone's entry as "the big creek running into Kentucky 6 miles above Drenon's Lick Creek." Six Mile is actually about ten miles above Drenons following the Kentucky River, but the mouths of the creeks are about six miles apart as the crow flies. This description noted in other early claims on Six Mile apparently gave the creek its name.

⁸⁵ Deposition of Lucas Vanarsdel (July 5, 1819), Albert Voorhis vs A. Bonta's heirs, File marked "ORD 1800-1821," Henry Co. Circuit Court Records.

⁸⁶ Deposition of Albert Voorhis (Aug. 27, 1817), Abraham Jarrett vs Masterson Ogden and others, Bundle 110, No. 5, Shelby Co. Circuit Court Records. Giffith's 7,000 acres were entered May 18, 1780, Jefferson Entry Book A, 366. Lattimore, Potter and Beard's pre-emption rights were issued April 22, 1780 to Rich'd Bard, "Certificate Book of the Virginia Land Commission," *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, Vol. 21, No. 63 (Sept. 1923), 278. The three adjoining tracts were surveyed Nov. 15-16, 1783, Virginia Survey Books 3:318-319, 515; and 6:211. The grant for Lattimore's preemption was made in Abraham Banta's name Nov. 18, 1785. Potter's preemption grant was made the same date in Beard's name and Beard's preemption grant was made in his own name June 20, 1786, Virginia Grant Books 8:3, 31-32; and 10:123-124. Beard's name is spelled variously Beard, Baird or Bard.

James Westerfield was wounded (not fatally) in the abdomen. The party traveled from the Falls to the Mercer County Dutch Station by way of Bullitt's Station. They found Bullitt's Station to be so crowded and such a muddy uncomfortable place that they decided to camp outside. The next morning before daylight they were attacked by Indians. The Indians were driven off, but not before James Westerfield, Jr. was killed while in the act of firing a large double gun. One lock of his gun was carried away by a bullet which also penetrated his brain.⁸⁰

Other Low Dutchmen known to have made the migration to Kentucky between 1784 and 1790 include Adrian Aten, John Commingore, Francis Cosart, Cornelius Cozine, Jr., Joseph DeBaun, Samuel Harris, Francis Monfort, Barnet Reynearson, Andrew and William Shuck, and Barney and Jacob Smock. The list is undoubtedly incomplete. The 1790s were to see a flood of Dutch migration with as many, or perhaps more, Dutch families coming from New Jersey as from Conewago.

The experience of the Demaree family at Long Run apparently did not dampen the Low Dutch interest in the relatively unsettled area of present-day Shelby County. Squire Boone no doubt helped feed that interest. By the time his Painted Stone Station was reoccupied in 1783 he was quite well known among the Dutch.

John and Peter Demaree both entered land in the Shelby County area early in 1783 — John 400 acres on Floyds Fork January 8, 1783 and Peter 700 acres on Clear Creek February 3, 1783. Peter later surveyed 223 acres of his entry, but neither brother settled on the tracts.⁸¹

In July or August 1783 Squire Boone showed Peter Demaree and his son Samuel a deer lick and spring on a head branch of Guist Creek. The spot looked favorable to the Demarees so they purchased 200 acres from Boone and that fall built a cabin and cleared some ground. Indian troubles later arose and thus the site was never reoccupied. The Demaree cabin was built about a mile south of present-day Christiansburg and about three miles south of where the Low Dutch Tract would eventually be surveyed. This was the first Dutch attempt to settle in the vicinity of the Shelby County tract.⁸²

Other Low Dutchmen were also becoming acquainted with this unsettled area in the early 1780s. In 1782 Daniel Banta with Squire Boone and two others traveled up Fox Run from its mouth to its head and then crossed over to Clear Creek. They camped three nights on Fox Run. John Demaree said he first became acquainted with the upper branches of Clear Creek in 1783. Albert Voris stated that he was first on the Dutch Fork of Six Mile in the fall of 1783.⁸³

In 1782 Squire Boone had purchased a Virginia Treasury Warrant authorizing him to have 12,335 acres of unclaimed land surveyed. In December of that year he entered the preliminary area in which the survey would be made as being on Drenons Creek and Six Mile Creek ". . . No East of the painted stone about 6 miles . . ." ⁸⁴ Boone apparently found in the Low Dutch Company a purchaser wanting his tract all in one piece.

The Dutch unanimously appointed Abraham Banta, the oldest son of "Father" Henry Banta, as their agent to negotiate the purchase from Boone.⁸⁵ In the fall of 1783 or early 1784 Banta contracted to purchase Boone's 12,000 acres. The tract surrounded three 1,000 acre preemptions owned by Richard Beard — Lattimore's, Potter's and Beard's preemptions. The contract, however, was almost immediately cancelled due to the discovery of an overlapping claim of David Griffith of 7,000 acres.⁸⁶

(continued on page 19)

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Low Dutch Company *(continued from page 13)*

Shortly thereafter, sometime in 1784, Banta negotiated a second purchase contract with Boone for the portion of his entry not conflicting with Griffith's earlier claim. Banta also began negotiations with Richard Beard for the purchase of his 3,000 acres adjoining Boone's Tract. On March 4, 1785 Beard assigned his title to the three preemptions to Banta at the rate of thirty pounds per hundred acres to be paid in four annual installments. Although the details of the Boone purchase were not yet finalized, the Dutch in early 1785 found themselves in possession of a tract of over 8,000 acres. The master plan at last appeared to be approaching reality.^{86a}

To Be Continued

(19)

^{86a}The purchases are described in depositions of Albert Voorhis and Peter Bonta (Aug. 27, 1817), Jarrett vs Ogden, loc. cit. Voorhis stated, "Three of us were together & came down to make the second purchase spoken of by Bonta of Boon." The men apparently went to Squire Boone's Painted Stone Station. According to Voorhis and Bonta, Beard came to the Low Dutch Station on Harrods Run to sell his 3,000 acres. A copy of Beard's assignment is filed in Voorhis vs Bonta's heirs, loc. cit. Lucas Vanarsdel in this suit also stated that the Boone purchase was made in 1784.

[Footnote numbers 62-67 were not used in these articles.]

REGARDING THE LONG RUN MASSACRE AND FLOYD'S DEFEAT

The author is preparing a definitive account of the Long Run Massacre and Floyd's Defeat. Much additional information has been found in the Clark papers and Draper manuscripts connecting the Low Dutch with these events. While the story in Part III and in the inserts on the opposite page are substantially correct, a few errors need to be noted. The distance from Painted Stone to Linn's Station was twenty-one miles, not twenty-five. The massacre occurred Thursday, September 13, 1781. Floyd's Defeat was early the next morning, September 14, 1781. Gerardus Riker was probably killed at Floyd's Defeat rather than at Long Run. Low Dutchmen Albert Banta, John Voris, George Seaburn, and Cornelius Voris filed claims for horses and saddles lost at the massacre and defeat. These probably had been loaned to militiamen. However, George Seaburn about this time was listed in a militia payroll as "dead" and may therefore have been a victim of either the massacre or the defeat with his widow filing the property claim. The author would appreciate any new information on the massacre or the defeat.

[The following material should be inserted in Part III, page 9, first column. Footnote 68b relates to the last paragraph in that column.]

That night the Indians camped on the east bank of Long Run beside a large spring. They were joined the next day by a larger Indian party two or three times their size making their combined strength 200 Indians. The Indians had gathered for an attack on Painted Stone but concluded instead to wait and ambush the party they guessed would return to bury the dead. That day, September 15, 1781, twenty-seven men from the Beargrass stations under Col. John Floyd rode out, as the Indians guessed they would, and were ambushed near Floyds Fork about a mile west of the massacre of the previous day. Seventeen men were either killed or captured. The whites retreated as best they could back to the Beargrass stations. The attack was known as "Floyd's Defeat."^{68a}

^{68a}Draper Mss. 19C38, 96, 51J89, 13CC236-237; Collins, *Ibid*. The numbers killed and in Floyd's party are per Shane's interview with Capt. John Dial, Draper Mss. 13CC236, and per Floyd's letter dated Sept. 14, 1781 to Clark, Draper Mss. 51J89. Floyd's letter would have the massacre and defeat one day earlier than other accounts.

^{68b}Eight or nine Long Run Massacre victims can be specifically identified from Draper's interviews with the three Boone brothers. Collins' statement that over 100 men, women and children were killed or taken prisoner during the massacre and Floyd's Defeat apparently is total exaggeration, Collins, (1874 edition), 2:710.

[The following material should be inserted in Part III, page 9, second column.]

A day or so after Floyd's Defeat, 300 men from the Falls and Beargrass marched out and buried the dead in a great sink hole. They rescued the Boones and Hintons from Painted Stone together with much of the stock which had wandered back and salvaged much of the plunder dropped by the fleeing families.^{70a} Squire Boone and his family spent the winter of 1781-82 at the Low Dutch Station on Beargrass. He bought Albert Banta's crop and Banta moved to the Mercer County Low Dutch Station.^{70b} The next spring Squire Boone removed his family to Harrod's Station (perhaps along with the Demarees) where he remained until he went to the Virginia Legislature in 1783. He returned to Kentucky in the fall of 1783 and resettled Painted Stone in the winter of that year. The buildings had all been burned down, but the station was rebuilt and again became the principal fortress in the Shelby County area.^{70c} The Demarees and probably other Low Dutchmen were among those who reoccupied Squire Boone's Painted Stone Station.

^{70a}Draper Mss. 19C36-37.

^{70b}Draper Mss. 19C38, 96, 13CC86.

^{70c}Draper Mss. 19C38-39. Moses Boone also stated in a deposition given Jan. 3, 1805 that his family moved from Beargrass to Harrod's Station in the spring of 1782 and resettled Boone's Station in the winter of 1783, Hall vs Whitaker, Bundle 46, No. 1, Shelby Co. Circuit Court Records.

1783 LOW DUTCH SIGNATURES

Undoubtedly the single most historically significant document related to the Kentucky Low Dutch is their 1783 petition to the Continental Congress. It poignantly describes the plight of "...a Plain honest peaceble Sober & Industrious People remarkable for Agriculture and...all hearty friends to our Glorious Revolution and the Honourable Congress..." who had moved to Kentucky "...with a view and expectation to procure a Tract of Land to enable them to settle together in a body for the conveniency of civil society and propogating the Gospel in their known language..."

The entire petition is published in Part III of the de Halve Maen articles. On the following three pages the 151 original signatures of the petition are reproduced. The first set of signatures belongs to the 46 "Inhabitens" already living in Kentucky at the time the 1783 petition circulated. Most of these inhabitants came to Kentucky in one of the two 1780 migrations described in Part I. Note particularly the signatures of six widows some of whose tragic stories are told in these articles.

The second set of signatures belongs to the "Intend Frinds" who intended to settle in Kentucky if a tract of land could be obtained by the petitioners. There are 105 signatures (106 including the first which is illegible). At the time the 1783 petition circulated, most of these people were living at the Conewago Pennsylvania colony. Some may have been living in the Dutch settlements of New Jersey and perhaps some were at the Berkeley County Virginia colony. At least one-third of the intend friends are known to have eventually migrated to Kentucky. Some came almost immediately after the 1783 petition circulated; others came several years later.

able terms as Congress in their wisdom and prudence shall see just
 and reasonable. they complying with, and performing all reasonable
 conditions required, to enable them to put their intended plan and purpose
 in execution, they having principally in view the glory of God, the promo-
 tion of civil and religious society, educating and instructing the rising
 generation in the principles of religion and morality: Hoping the Hon-
 orable Congress will give all due encouragement to such a laudable under-
 taking. The petitioners duly considered. Your Petitioners are in duty
 bound shall ever pray. &c.

Inhabitors
 Hercules Banta
 Peter Banta
 Cornelius Banta
 John Demaree
 Cornelius Banta
 Robert Banta
 George Banta
 Robert Banta
 Samuel Banta
 John Banta
 Luke Banta
 Samuel Demaree
 Peter Demaree
 Henry Shuckler
 John Van cleve
 John Harris
 Peter Banta
 Samuel Westervell
 Mary Westervell
 George Cook
 Isaac Allen

Benedict Banta
 Henry Banta
 An Norris
 Simon van der
 Sophia Norreis
 Aaron Allen
 John Ryker
 Cornelius Norreis
 Henry Banta
 Abraham Banta
 Peter Banta
 John Banta
 William Van der
 Catharine Banta
 Lambert Banta
 John Banta
 James Vrealy
 Thomas Banta
 Albert Banta
 Jacob Banta
 Abraham Banta

Inter... of...
Samuel Banta
James [?]
Samuel Bogart
Peter [?]
George [?]
David [?]
Jacob [?]
William [?]
Derrick [?]
Derrick [?]
Peter [?]
Henry [?]
James [?]
James [?]
Andrew [?]
Mittis [?]
George [?]
George [?]
Abraham [?]

Lucas Konarsdal
John [?]
Peter [?]
James [?]

James Stagg
Daniel [?]
Ralph [?]
John [?]
Dennis [?]
Henry [?]
John [?]
Samuel [?]
John [?]
John [?]
Peter [?]
Martin [?]
William [?]
John [?]
Francis [?]
Jacob [?]
Simon [?]
Peter [?]
John [?]
John [?]
John [?]
Helen [?]
John [?]
Henry [?]
Abraham [?]
Thomas [?]
Abraham [?]
Francis [?]
Thomas [?]

147
Jagash Tanton

Francis Monfort
Peter Monfort senior
William Monfort
Nathan Monfort
Heghekeah Kaugy L. line
James ...
Charles Tanton
Mikee Tegrast
William T. Lane
John Comstock
John ...
Henry Brinkhoff
Jacobus Monfort
Cornelius Fosque

Cornelius Fosque
Cornelius Fosque
Lawrence Fosque
Lawrence Fosque
Gilbert Brinkhoff
Luka Brinkhoff
John ...
Cornelius Fosque
John T. Lowe
George Hall
Benjamin ...
Jacob ...
Samuel Briten
Gilbert Lowe
David ...

John ...
Charles ...
John ...
Cornelius ...
George ...
Richard ...
John ...
James ...
Benjamin ...
Lambert ...

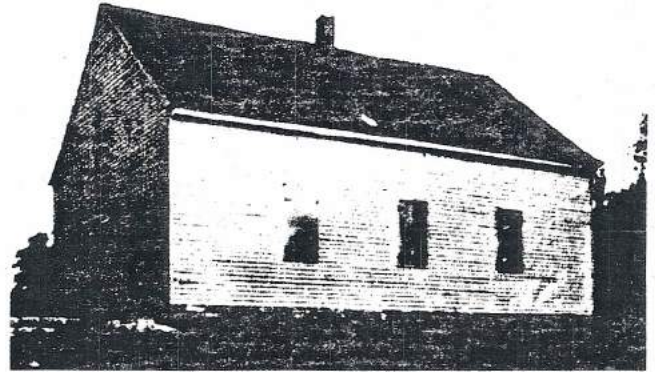
The Low Dutch Company IV

by Vincent Akers

The Dutchmen were determined to have a careful first-hand look at their purchase. In 1785 brothers Peter, John, Cornelius, Daniel and Jacob Banta with their brother-in-law Henry Shively and probably others took Harrods Trace from Mercer into Shelby County. Leaving the trace they traveled north to James Hogland's Station.⁸⁷ Hogland's and Daniel Ketcham's Stations had both been built very recently near the Dutch purchase. Ketcham's was built in November 1784 and Hogland's about the same time. Hogland's was immediately outside the Dutch Tract along its southwest line, along present-day highway 241 a half mile northwest of its intersection at Cropper with highway 43. Ketcham's can be placed a little less than two miles south of Cropper near East Clear Creek. Both stations were little more than cabins housing their namesakes' families. The nearest fortified station was Squire Boone's Painted Stone about six miles southwest of the Low Dutch Tract.⁸⁸

The Bantas plunged into the wilderness and built a cabin about two miles northeast of Hogland's Station on what was afterwards known as the old Magruder farm. This, beyond doubt, was the first Dutch cabin built in the limits of the Low Dutch Tract. It was constructed of blue ash logs and stood as a landmark until after the Civil War.⁸⁹ The Bantas perhaps planted the first crops on the Dutch Tract in 1785, but more probably spent their time on hunting expeditions. They

Mr. Akers concludes his fascinating story of the Dutch settlements on the Kentucky frontier.



Old Mud Meeting House in Mercer County, near Harrodsburg, Kentucky. Erected 1800

doubtless saw a considerable part of the Dutch Tract and surrounding region during their explorations that summer. Daniel and Jacob Banta are known to have followed the ancient buffalo road which bisected the tract from south to north on to Drennon's Lick in present-day northeastern Henry County.*

One of the Westerfields joined the Bantas and also built a cabin probably nearby but outside of the Dutch Tract itself. The cabin was referred to as Westerfield's Station and was apparently a strong one. Some of the Bantas spent the summer

⁸⁷ George W. Demaree, "Low Dutch Tract" (originally published May 15, 1873 in the *Shelby Courant*) reprinted in T.M. Banta, *Banta Genealogy*, 51. Demaree did not include Peter Banta or Henry Shively in the group. Albert Voorhis, however, in his deposition named these two plus Jacob and Daniel Banta "and others" as the first settlers in the area from the Dutch Station, *Jarrett vs Ogden, loc. cit.*

⁸⁸ Since Ketcham's and Hogland's Stations played such important parts in the early attempts to settle the Low Dutch Tract, it seems appropriate to detail here what little information is available regarding them. Moses Boone (Fall 1846) stated that several small stations were formed in Shelby County in 1784 and 1785 including James Hoagland's eight miles northeast of Boone's on an upper branch of Brashears (Clear Creek) and Dan'l Ketchum's on another upper branch of Brashears, *Draper Mss.* 19C40. Daniel Ketchum (Sept. 10, 1817) stated that he had been acquainted with the area around the head waters of Six Mile since November 1784, *Aberhard vs Tyler, loc. cit.* He also stated (Dec. 14, 1808) that he had been on the head waters of Guist Creek in 1784, *Smith vs Lynch, loc. cit.* Regarding Ketcham's settlement, Peter Banta recalled (Aug. 27, 1817), "I never understood whether any person lived there except Mr. Ketcham himself & his family." Albert Voorhis, in the same suit, said that Daniel Ketchum settled about 3 1/2 miles from Beard's preemptions while James Hogland's Station was about two miles from the preemptions and was settled before Banta's first purchase from Boone, *Jarrett vs Ogden, loc. cit.* David Standeford (Feb. 15, 1817) stated that in 1786 he traveled the buffalo road south from Drennon's Lick until he crossed the head waters of Six Mile then he followed a path, not a buffalo road, to Daniel Ketchum's. Traveling south he had come to another path which led to Hogland's Station before finding the path to Ketchum's. Depositions of John Arnold, Seneca McCracken and Robert White (Oct. 17, 1816) in the same suit also refer to Ketchum's Station, *Jarrett vs Spriggs, Bundle 110, No. 5, Shelby Co. Circuit Court Records.*

A long letter written April 2, 1873 to G.W. Demaree from his older brother D.V. Demaree contains answers to eleven specific questions which G.W. Demaree was asking while preparing his history of the Low Dutch Tract. D.V. Demaree stated, "The most of the

Dutch lived in Hogland's Station which was located if I am not mistaken near the site of the Pleasant Grove Methodist Meeting House." A copy of this letter is on file at the Filson Club. Trustees to the "Methodist Episcopal Congregation Meeting at Pleasant Grove" were appointed Oct. 9, 1843, *Shelby Co. Deed Book J-2, 122.* A mortgage dated Aug. 26, 1843 from Elijah Smith to Albert Bergen describes Smith's ninety-one acres "beginning at the southeast corner of Fords tract of land near Pleasant Grove meeting house . . ." *Ibid.*, 86. Hezekiah Ford's tract of 200 acres is described in a deed dated April 7, 1795 as being on the waters of Clear Creek adjoining the southwest line of Squire Boone's 12,335 acre entry, James Dunn to Ford, *Shelby Co. Deed Book A, 437.* The precise calls of Elijah Smith's tract are given in a deed dated Feb. 1, 1860 from Jesse J. Hill, executor of Smith's will, to Thos. W. Smith, *Shelby Co. Deed Book W-2, 244.* From these deeds the precise location of the Pleasant Grove Meeting House (and Hogland's Station) has been determined. Nicholas Smith, in a deposition given Sept. 19, 1814, stated that a branch of Clear Creek heading about a half mile northwest of this spot was known as Hogland's Branch, *James Swan vs John Miles and others, Bundle 105, No. 13, Shelby Co. Circuit Court Records.*

Daniel Ketchum lived on 200 acres purchased out of John Warford's 1,400 acre settlement and preemption, *John Warford and Daniel Ketchum vs Nicholas Merriweather, Plaintiffs' Bill, Bundle 30, No. 27, Shelby Co. Circuit Court Records.* The approximate location of Daniel Ketchum's station is based upon the location of Samuel Demaree's 400 acres near the station (see footnote 91).

⁸⁹ Demaree, "Low Dutch Tract," *Banta Genealogy*, 51. When the Low Dutch Tract was divided by deed among its individual owners in the 1830s, Josiah Magruder was deeded 414 acres, originally lots 13 and 30 in the tract, *Henry Co. Deed Book 14:201-203.* This was the only division deed to a Magruder. Lots 13 and 30 were originally part of Potter's preemption. Albert Voorhis stated that Daniel and Jacob Banta built cabins on Potter's and Lattimore's preemptions while their brothers first settled on the Boone purchase, *Jarrett vs Ogden, loc. cit.* Patrick Jordan (June 27, 1801) said he went by a place said to be Banta's and another said to be Ketcham's in the fall of 1785 while on a hunting trip through the area, *James Swan vs John Miles and*

* *Deposition of Albert Voorhis (Aug. 27, 1817), Jarrett vs Ogden, loc. cit.*

at Westerfield's Station.⁹⁰ The cabin was perhaps built on the 400 acre tract entered by Samuel Demaree December 1, 1785. That tract adjoined the southernmost corner of the Low Dutch Tract.⁹¹

The novel position the Bantas enjoyed that summer of 1785 did not last. One of those periodic storms of Indian wrath burst upon the frontier settlements, and the men wisely decided to concentrate their forces at Hogland's Station. The station proved to be poorly manned and provisioned, and was threatened daily with attack from redskins. So desperate did the situation become that the little garrison determined to send to the Dutch in Mercer County for reinforcements and provisions. Jake Banta, the youngest of the brothers, volunteered to perform the dangerous mission. The wilderness being full of prowling savages, he chose the darkness of night to pass through the "narrows" on the waters of Benson Creek near present-day Graefenberg on the Shelby-Franklin County line. But poor Jake never reached the Mercer County stations. As he crept silently and all alone in the darkness of night through the dreaded "narrows," the redskins pounced upon him from ambush and cleaved his skull with a tomahawk. They left Captain Banta on the tragic spot with his own tomahawk buried in his skull and his flesh hacked to shreds as a token of their fierce vengeance.⁹²

Jacob Banta had married Catherine Voorhies but a few weeks before he left with his brothers on the Shelby County venture. Now there was yet another widow in the Dutch community. As soon as the troubles subsided the other men returned to the Low Dutch Station fully satisfied that their attempt to take possession of the isolated wilderness at that time was premature. It can hardly be doubted that their good report of the excellent quality of the lands, carried back to the Dutch Company, led to finalization of the purchase and ultimate settlement of the tract.

In February of 1786 ten or twelve of the Dutchmen again left Mercer County for the Low Dutch Tract this time to make the final survey of the Boone tract. Isaac Hite was the surveyor in charge. Hite, a prominent figure in frontier Kentucky, was himself of French Huguenot background but was not one of the Low Dutch Company. John Voorhis and William Shuck served as chain carriers and Daniel Voorhis served as marker. Isaac

Hite had a part interest in David Griffith's adjoining claim, the survey of which was run first and dated February 13, 1786. Next the Boone survey was run, it being dated February 16, 1786. Two or three days were probably required to run the survey since to follow the calls would require a hike of nineteen miles. Surveying both tracts meant marking lines for over thirty-five miles.⁹³

With the Boone tract of 5,945 acres less Boone's 335 acres plus the three 1,000 acre preemptions purchased from Richard Beard, the Low Dutch Tract totaled 8,610 acres. Approximately 3,500 acres lay in Shelby County and 5,100 in Henry County. One of the 1,000 acre preemptions was almost immediately sold to Samuel Demaree to meet the first installment obligation on the Beard purchase.⁹⁴ That left a tract belonging to the formal Low Dutch Company of 7,610 acres. The acreage of the tract has often been given as larger than this, sometimes as large as 20,000 acres. Later writers were probably confused by the vast acreage of adjoining and nearby lands purchased over the years by Dutch families independent of the Company.

On March 13, 1786 Squire Boone assigned the 5,945 acre survey to Abraham Banta. The witnesses were Barney Smock and Daniel Banta. The price contracted for the tract was 935 pounds sterling; 250 pounds down and the remainder due in seven annual installments of 97 pounds 17 shillings due each June 1st beginning 1786. The installments were payable ". . . in produce such as hemp Tobacco flour pork & Baken to be delivered at the falls of the Ohio at Market price at or upon the 1st day of June . . ."⁹⁵

The next day, March 14, 1786, the Dutchmen congregated, probably at the Low Dutch Station, to sign the Article of Agreement. The families were then spread throughout the several stations in the Harrodsburg area. The convention formed that day to draw up the compact was probably the most joyous occasion in the six years since the Dutch had been in Kentucky. A tract had at last been purchased and was about to be settled. The agreement served as a sort of constitution which set forth the details of the purchase and some basic rules to be followed in the settlement of the Low Dutch Tract. With it the Low Dutch Company began a formal existence.

others, Bundle 105, No. 13, Shelby Co. Circuit Court Records. John Arnold also remembered Banta's and Ketchum's Stations near the buffalo road which crossed Six Mile, Jarrett vs Spriggs, *loc. cit.*

⁹⁰ Albert Voorhis stated that the Banta brothers who first settled on the Boone purchase moved to Westerfield's Station, *Ibid.* Cornelius Banta, in a deposition given Mar. 25, 1815, confirmed that "in the year of our Lord 1785 I lived at Westerfields Station within the bounds of Shelby County, as it now stands," Masterson Ogden vs John Roberts, Bundle 103, Shelby Co. Circuit Court Records. Another Shelby Co. suit contains a small survey of 175 acres, part of Daniel Sullivan's 400 acres, which shows "an old improvement . . . occupied under James Westerfield in the year 85," Ogden vs White, Bundle 94, No. 4.

⁹¹ The surveys of Samuel Demaree's 100 and 300 acre adjoining tracts dated Aug. 19, 1797 are recorded in Old Kentucky Survey Book 4:178-179. The grants dated May 13, 1798 are in Old Kentucky Grant Book 8:93-94. A copy of the entry for the 100 acres is filed in Abraham Demaree vs Samuel Demaree's heirs, Bundle 58, No. 1, Shelby Co. Circuit Court Records. An assignment in this suit indicates that the 400 acres lay ". . . on the south branch of Brashears Creek adjoining John Warfords preemption near Daniel Ketchums Station . . ." The south branch of Brashears is now East Clear Creek. The tract was sold sometime before the fall of 1793 to James Westerfield, Alexander Montgomery vs James Westerfield, Bundle 2, Shelby Co. Circuit Court Records.


⁹² Demaree, "Low Dutch Tract," *Banta Genealogy*, 51. John M. Shively

in his memoirs stated that a brother of his mother (a Banta) was ambushed and shot dead at a crossing of Benson in the same vicinity in which a brother of his father had earlier been killed, *loc. cit.* Demaree is the source for the tomahawk in the skull; Shively for the flesh hacked to shreds. Frederick Ripperdan (Oct. 10, 1809) recalled that Jacob Banta was killed "on Benson or some where along there towards Drennens Lick" some years after the Dutch attempt to settle in Madison County, Madison Co. Deed Book 1, 191-197. Albert Voorhis stated that the Bantas moved back to Mercer County because of the Indians, Jarrett vs Ogden, *loc. cit.*

⁹³ The Boone tract survey appears in Virginia Survey Book 7:285-287; the Griffith survey in Book 8:158-159. Albert Voorhis is the source for the number of men; he, however, incorrectly thought the survey was made in the summer of 1784, Jarrett vs Ogden, *loc. cit.* David Griffith's background and Isaac Hite's interest in his claim is discussed in Abraham Hite vs David Griffith's heirs, Bundle 91, No. 1, Shelby Co. Circuit Court Records.

⁹⁴ Abraham Banta to Samuel Demere, July 25, 1786, Supreme Court Deed Book A, 196-198; depositions of Lucas Vanarsdel and Abraham Brewer, Voorhis vs Banta's heirs, *loc. cit.*

⁹⁵ Virginia Survey Book 7:285-287. The original assignment with Squire Boone's signature is on the backside of the original survey no. 5933 on file in the Secretary of State's office at the Kentucky State Capitol Building. One of Abraham Banta's bonds, for the 1789 installment, has been preserved and is filed in Box V-1, Mercer Co. Circuit Court Records.

 An omitted paragraph and footnote are inserted at the end of Part IV.

ARTICLE OF AGREEMENT made and Concluded on and Between Abraham Banta of Lincollen County and State of Virginia of the first part and We who Names and within writing Father Hennery Banta Samuel Banta Uncle Peter Banta Daniel Banta Peters Banta Peter Banta Cornelius Bogert Andrew Shock Abraham Brewer Albert Vorhes John Comangore big John Vorhes Hennery Banta ble John Vorhes Simon VanArsdelen Jacob Smock Barney Smock ~~Hennery Shivelle~~ Francis Coorssart Luke VanArsdelen Luke Vorhes Uncle Albert Banta Daniel Vorhes Samuel Dumere Aran Monfort John Manfort Albert Banta Jacob Banta William Shock Soviah Vorhes John Banta Cornelius Cozine Frances Manfort Daniel al Banta of the other part Witnesseth that whereas the said Abraham Banta has purched a Certain trat or quantity of land of Squier Boon of the County of Jeffersin in the State of Virginia aforesaid Containing five Thousand Six hundred and Ten acres of Land Situated in the County Jeffersen aforesaid lying on the waters of Six miles Beginning on the Deviding ridge Between the waters of Six mile Creek and Clear Creek. . . Excepting and reserving 335 acres out of the above mentioned Tract at the price of £16,,13,,4 per hundred acres amounting in the whole sum of £935 payable in Eight yearly payments the first payment is 250 pounds and the rest in seven payments Each payment £97,,17 with an intent and Desine to inCourage and prenote a Settlement of the Low Dutch Reformed Church Socity now it is Covinated and agreed by and Between the said Abraham Banta and those person Names above mentioned and there seals afixed by these presents that Each of them shall be intitled to any quantity or Numbers of acres of Land of the above mentioned 5610 acres as they and sd Banta may agree for allowance Being made for Quality of said Lands Subject to and under the following Restrictions Viz 1 That we our heirs Executors administrators or Assigns will pay or Cause to be paid to the said Abraham Banta his heirs Executors Administrators or Assigns yearly and Every year such a sum or sums as shall bear in purporsion to the Quantity and Quallity of Land Each of us Shall hold to the whole Quntity of Land or sum giving till the whole sum be paid 2d That we will subscribe to and support the Low Dutch Reformed Church Socity by giving a Call and Invitation to a Regular Instituted Low Dutch minister to assosiate in said Church as much as in us lie and that we will indeavouer to have our children Taught and instructed in the Low Dutch Tongue so that they may Read the word of God and understand the Gospel when Preached unto them 3d That we will Each of us in purporsion to the Quantity of Land we hold with said Abraham banta pay towards purching of said Banta at the price above said 200 acres of Land for a personage or plantation for the minister to be called or invited as above said 4ly That the said Abraham Banta his heirs or Assigns shall not sell or Dispose of any Part or Percil of the above mentioned Tract of Land neither will we whose names are above mentioned our heirs or Assigns sell or Dispose of all or any Part of sd Land we shall hold with said Abraham Banta to any Person or Persons whotsoever unless they will fully Comply with the second above mentioned Article 5ly That if any Time hereafter their shall or may be any Claims or Disputes Related to the Title of said Land or any Part thereof, we Each of us our heirs Executors Administrators or Assigns will be at a purporsionable Cost and Expenche in Defending the Title thereto in purporsion to the Quantity of Land we may hold thereof and That if the title of the whole or any part thereof shall be made Void we will Bear an Equal Loss as above there to, as well to the improvement as to the Land, be it in the power of the said Abraham Banta to purchase from the Legal oner Each of us above mentioned shall pay or Cause to be paid to the price for which it may be bought in purporsion to that part or Quantity Each of us holds of the mentioned Tract; 6ly NOW Be it known that the above mentioned Abraham Banta has purched a Certain Tract or Quantity of Land ajoining of the above

mentioned Tract with the same Desine and for the purpose as above mentioned, from Richard Beard who Lives in pennsylvania State the Quantity of 2000 acres at Thirty pounds per hundred to be paid in four anul payments. . . Now be it known that We the above mentioned will and Shall aid and Assist the above mentioned Abraham Banta and his heirs Executors Administrators in Defending both the first and second mentioned tract aforesaid all as one; now for the True performance of all and both Tracts mentioned the second agreeable with first mentioned Tract We the above mentioned our selves our heirs Executors Administrators and Assigns Doth bind ourselves Jointly severally by these presents the one to the other in the penal sum of Three Thousand pounds In Witness whereunto we have set our hands and seals This fourteenth Day of march in the year one Thousand seven hundred & Eighty Six

Signed Sealed in the presents us Darra tharp	Henry Shively frances Cosart Lukes Van arsdel Luk Vories un Albert Banta Daniel Vorhis Samuel Demaree Aron Monfoort John Monfoort Albert Banta Jacob Banta William Shock Sophia Vorus John Banta Cornelius Cozine Francis Monfort Daniel Al Banta	Abraham Banta fa Hendreck Banta un Peter Banta Daniel Banta Samuel Banta Petrus Banta Peter Banta Corneleous Banta Andrew Shock Cornelius Bogart Abraham brewer Albert Voorhies John Commingor big John Voorhes Henry Banta Bu John Vorus Jacob Smock Simon Vanasdal Barney Smock
his Beniemen X Stout mark		

This agreement lay forgotten for 150 years until discovered in 1974 neatly filed away in an old Shelby County Circuit Court case. The document measures forty-three by thirteen inches. It is on four pieces of heavy parchment sewn together.⁹⁶ Taken with the 1783 petition to the Continental Congress, the master plan, which had been the unifying force for the Low Dutch since leaving the Conewago Pennsylvania colony, is dramatically described. Their design was to encourage and promote a settlement of the Low Dutch Reformed Church Society. They intended to associate together, to build a church, to secure a Dutch Reformed minister and to instruct their children in the Dutch language. In short their intention was to perpetuate on the Kentucky frontier an ethnic culture whose roots in this country dated back 150 years to New Amsterdam.

At the time the Article of Agreement was drawn up not a single acre had been purchased by a Dutch family in the Mercer County area even though this had been the Dutch community's temporary headquarters since 1781. The formal Agreement was signed by not more than perhaps one-third of the Low Dutch family heads in Kentucky in 1786. Nevertheless the entire Dutch community stood behind the project. The region in which the tract had been surveyed was virtually unsettled. Most of the adjoining and nearby lands were held by speculators who would be willing to sell to Dutch families on an individual basis. The Dutch had only to take possession and settle their land to make their master plan a success.

Despite the misfortune of the Banta brothers the summer before, the Dutch organized immediately to move on to their tract. It is impossible at this date to say how many families left Mercer County that spring of 1786 headed for the promised land. Perhaps all of the families signing the Agreement were

represented. Harrods Trace could be taken the greatest distance north to Shelby County. Even that was hard traveling, but once into Shelby County the trail turned west while the Dutch turned north to cut their way through the difficult terrain of eastern Shelby County to the Dutch Tract.

Daniel Ketcham's Station became the headquarters of the settlement. Several families probably stationed themselves nearby at Hogland's. A few more venturesome families may have moved immediately on to the tract. Besides the immediate necessity of strengthening the two stations, clearing the land for the first crops must have been the first priority. The settlement of the Dutch Tract has often been described as a communal endeavor. Without a doubt this first attempt was exactly that, for the only hope for success was through cooperation and community action. They found their tract a virgin forest without a stick amiss, with but one exception. A hundred acres about a mile southeast of present-day North Pleasureville was as clear as a prairie, not even a stump. They first thought some mineral had interfered with the natural production, but found the land quite productive.⁹⁷

The foundations of their settlement had hardly begun to be laid when trouble with the Indians began again. It was a period of severe Indian depredations in this region of Kentucky and particularly in the immediate vicinity of the Dutch Tract. Hunters would later recall that in 1785 and '86 they kept to the woods when traveling to Drennon's Lick; they considered the marked trails as an invitation to death.* The Dutch were driven by the marauding Indians to consolidate their forces at Ketcham's. Here on May 4, 1786 Simon and Rachel Van Arsdale's daughter Eleanor was born. On her ninety-second birthday Eleanor Van Arsdale Banta would recall her parents' stories of 1786. The morning she was born one of her uncles was shot near the station and the woods around the station were full of Indians. When she was nine days old her mother with the other women and children were evacuated under the cover of night to Boone's Painted Stone six miles back, the nearest fortified settlement.⁹⁸

The men stayed in the Dutch Tract area to fight for

awhile, but it became apparent that the battle was hopeless. That same May 1786 Abraham Lincoln, grandfather of the president, was killed by Indian raiders about twenty miles to the west. Families could not be settled in such an area. The times were against them. The Dutchmen faced the bitter reality and moved their families back to Mercer County.⁹⁹

Retreat again in the face of defeat! It would be nearly a decade before the Low Dutch Tract could safely be settled and by then the community would have lost much of its unity. Troubles would die down and smoulder until hopes rose, then flare again hot as ever. Tyler's Station on Tick Creek was attacked in 1788 and most of Bland Ballard's family killed.¹⁰⁰ This and other incidents made talk of new settlement attempts unnecessary. Nevertheless, a few Dutch families remained close to the Dutch Tract,¹⁰¹ but their examples only added to the discouragement.

On Sunday May 23, 1790 Matthew Smock, one of the Low Dutch Company members, was attacked by Indians as he returned from preaching near Boone's Station with Moses Boone, Captain James and Henry Hogland, William Cline and Miss Betsy Van Cleve. Six or seven Indians lay concealed behind bushes and a log. They raised a yell and shot, mostly at random, as their intended victims came within about thirty steps. The fire did no harm other than to scare the horses causing Boone and Miss Van Cleve to be thrown. Boone remounted. The Hoglands and Cline who had guns attempted to keep the Indians at bay while all tried to get Miss Van Cleve onto one of the horses. But the Indians reloaded and the men were forced to retreat without the girl. She ran nearly a quarter mile on foot before being overtaken and captured. Cline was shot and killed as he rode more than a quarter mile away. A few minutes later several others returning from the same meeting took up the Indians' trail and easily followed it through the pea vines. Within about a mile they came upon Miss Van Cleve's senseless body — tomahawked and scalped. The girl died soon afterwards.¹⁰²

The Demaree family had claimed a 400 acre tract adjoining the Dutch Tract on its south corner and just east of Ketcham's
(continued on page 17)

⁹⁶ Abraham Bonta's heirs vs George Bergen, Bundle 190, No. 28, Shelby Co. Circuit Records.

⁹⁷ William L. Vories, *Biographical Sketches of Vories and Montfort Families* (New Castle, Ky., 1905), 53. Vories indicated this was the lot of old Dr. Fallis which would make it Daniel Banta's lot 14.

⁹⁸ Letter to the editor of the *Vevay* (Ind.) *Reveille*, May 4, 1878, reprinted in T.M. Banta, *Banta Genealogy*, 175-176. See also the affidavit of Eleanor Banta dated Dec. 14, 1873 in Mabel Boyce Spell, "Twelve Conewago Families That Later Moved To Kentucky" (typescript, 1957), 32-33.

⁹⁹ *Ibid.* The deposition of Henry Banta (Oct. 10, 1809) indicated that he lived in the neighborhood of the Mercer Co. Dutch Station " . . . until spring 1785 or 6 then moved on the waters of Besheares [Clear] Creek in the now County of Shelby and removed back in the neighborhood of Harrods Station in the same year . . ." Banta vs Clay, Madison Co. Deed Book I, 197-204. George L. Willis, Sr., *History of Shelby County, Kentucky* (Louisville, 1929), 195-200, contains a long discussion of the Lincoln killing and conjecture as to where it took place. The exact location of Abram Linkhorn's cabin, near which he was killed, is shown in the several plats in William Taylor vs John McCampbell, Bundle 157, No. 23, Shelby Co. Circuit Court Records. The cabin was on Squire Boone's old wagon road at the ford of Long Run. Present-day highway U.S. 60 crosses Long Run at the same place. The plats in this suit show approximately twelve miles of Boone's road, almost its entire length.

¹⁰⁰ Collins, *History of Kentucky* (1847 edition), 173; (1874 edition), 2:42.

* Deposition of Patrick Jordan (June 27, 1801), Swan vs Miles, *loc. cit.*

¹⁰¹ Cornelius and Mary Ann Bogard and Peter and Samuel Demmere are included in the same district as James Hogland and Daniel Katchum in the 1789 tax lists, "State Archives — Tax Lists of Jefferson County — 1789." *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, Vol. 22, No. 66 (Sept. 1924), 230-232.

¹⁰² This version of the incident is from Draper's interview with Moses Boone (Fall 1846), Draper Mss. 19C54. Moses Boone was a participant in the incident and was twenty-one years old at the time. His younger brother, Enoch Boone, in his interview with Draper (Aug. 1858) alleged, "Smock was a heavy man, but a poor hand in an emergency or he might easily have aided Miss VanCleave on her horse and enabled her to escape, as he was close by her; but he did nothing but get off himself." Enoch Boone gave Smock's name as Jesse Smock. Unfortunately for Smock, this embellishment was published in Hazel Atterbury Spraker, *The Boone Family* (Rutland, Vermont, 1922), 141. In all fairness to Smock it should be noted that Enoch Boone's "recollections" of most every other incident also varied from his older brothers' (Moses and Isaac Boone) earlier interviews. Enoch also stated that the affair took place three miles from Ketchum's Station and that a party was raised at that station which pursued the Indians some eight or ten miles. Discovering that they were being trailed, the Indians tomahawked and scalped their prisoner. Miss VanCleave's pulse was yet beating when the whites rode up. Draper Mss. 19C144-145. Martin Daniels referred to the incident in a deposition given Jan. 24, 1795, saying Betsy VanCleave and Wm Cline were killed by Indians near his house in May 1790, James Holmes vs Nicholas Merriwether & others, Bundle 2, Shelby Co. Circuit Court Records. Moses Boone referred to Cline as John Kline while Enoch Boone called him Tom Cline.

Low Dutch Company (continued)

Station. Samuel Demaree, Jr. with his new wife, Mary Brewer Cozine, widow of Cornelius Cozine, was determined to settle it. In 1789 or '90 they moved in with the Ketchams and tended crops planted near the station. On August 9, 1790, nine year old Sarah Cozine, step-daughter of Samuel Demaree, and her twelve year old brother Daniel were pulling hemp about fifty yards from the station when six or seven Pottowattomie Indians came running at them from out of a cornfield. The Indians were without guns except one who fired at the children. They were chased to a fence where the boy's skull was crushed by a tomahawk. Sarah got over the fence but was captured by her pursuers who left the boy's dead body without scalping it.

Once safely away the Indians scalped the girl but spared her life. Sarah Cozine was a captive of the Indians for five

¹⁰³ A detailed description of the capture of Sarah "Parsains", step-daughter of Saml. Demaree, is contained in Draper's Notes together with the dates of her capture and release. Draper Mss. 16S176-177, 180. Family legend of Sarah Cozine's capture and later eccentricities is recorded in *The Demarest Family* (1938 edition), 110, 506-507. Neither source records the name of the twelve year old boy (Draper) or brother (family legend) killed. The victim, however, was almost certainly Daniel Cozine who was baptized Feb. 21, 1779. An estimate of his estate dated June 10, 1795 is recorded in Mercer Co. Will Book 1:210. See footnote 91 for a description of Demaree's land.

¹⁰⁴ On Aug. 24, 1791 Peter Banta, guardian of Cornelius Cozine's orphans, claimed expenses for "3 days removing the Orphans from Brashears Creek," Mercer Co. Will Book 1:67. Clear Creek was at this time considered to be the main or head branch of Brashears and was commonly called Brashears.

¹⁰⁵ Richard E. Banta, "Daniel Ketcham with the Tawas: A Kentucky Captivity," *The Filson Club History Quarterly*, Vol. 22, No. 3 (July 1948), 173-179.

¹⁰⁶ The dates of John and Peter Smock's capture by the Pottowattomies on Brashears Creek and their release is recorded in Draper Mss. 16S179, 207. The keg of rum legend, killing of Matthew and scalping of Lea is recorded in *The Demarest Family* (1964 edition), 1:5-196.

years, being released September 14, 1795 after the Battle of Fallen Timbers. She married and lived to be an old woman (she was living in 1855). Family legend records that she was regarded as somewhat eccentric for following some Indian habits learned during her captivity. It seems she kindled her fires Indian fashion and preferred to live in a wigwam in the summertime.¹⁰³

The murder of one child and capture of another broke their spirit and the Demaree family returned to Mercer County.¹⁰⁴ The Dutch host, Daniel Ketcham, continued to have difficulties. Three men had been killed on his farm and twice his family had been compelled to seek protection at Painted Stone. Finally he himself was captured by Ottawas. He was taken to near Detroit and held prisoner several months. He escaped into Canada, made his way to Maryland and eventually returned to Kentucky.¹⁰⁵

Samuel Demaree's brother-in-law Jacob Smock attempted to settle his family on the Demaree tract in 1794. His daughter Lea Smock was captured by the Indians, scalped, escaped and later married and raised a large family. His son Matthew was killed. Jacob's fourteen and thirteen year old sons, John and Peter Smock, were captured by Pottowattomies in March of 1794. Family legend says the boys were kidnapped by Chief Winomac and ransomed for a keg of rum after General Wayne defeated the Indians. The boys were released June 10, 1795.¹⁰⁶

This ends the de Halve Maen articles, but by no means concludes the story of the Low Dutch in Kentucky.

[The following material should be inserted in Part IV, page 7.]

As finally surveyed, the Boone tract held out at 5,945 acres of which Boone reserved 335 acres off the west end. The tract was watered by three creek systems—the southwest portion by Clear Creek which eventually drained into Salt River and the northwest and east portions by Drennons and Six Mile Creeks which drained into the Kentucky River. The beginning point of the survey was on the dividing ridge between Six Mile and Clear Creeks. This point can easily be located today as where the country road south of Cropper crosses the L & N railroad tracks. The L & N runs south out of Pleasureville along that dividing ridge. The tract included the present-day communities of North Pleasureville, South Pleasureville, Defoe and part of Cropper. The ancient Leestown buffalo road came north down the Indian Fork of Six Mile and up the Dutch Fork into the Low Dutch Tract, passing through the tract and out the north corner along present-day highway 22. The road passed on through present-day Bethlehem then along present-day highway 1360 through Franklinton on to Drennons Lick. After settlement began in the area the road was occasionally referred to as the Dutch Road.^{93a}

^{93a}An extensive Shelby County lawsuit, Jarrett vs Spriggs, Bundle 110, No. 5, centered around the call in David Griffith's survey, "where the Buffalo road from Drenons Lick crosses the first branch of the first Big Creek above Drenons lick Creek." This call, meaning where the road crossed Bantas Fork of Six Mile, is also found in Boone's Dutch survey. Numerous depositions were taken to gather evidence about the buffalo road (or roads) between Drennons Lick and Leestown. The suit contains two huge plats which show Griffith's survey, the Dutch Fork of Six Mile and the buffalo road south from Drennons Lick to below the mouth of the Indian Fork of Six Mile. Creek crossings and other geographical points are shown in such detail that the eighteen-some miles of buffalo road platted can be pinpointed on present-day maps. Among the points of interest shown on the plats is a buffalo wallow on the Dutch Fork in lot 37 of the Low Dutch Tract. Cornelius Voris, who worked with the surveyor in the case, said in a deposition (June 12, 1817) that he first became acquainted with the road in 1785-86. The buffalo road from the head of Bantas Fork down the Dutch Fork through Griffith's survey is also shown in plats in two other lawsuits, Joseph Spriggs vs David Griffith, Bundle 86, No. 5; and Hite vs Griffith's heirs, loc. cit. Patrick Jordon referred to the Buffalo road as the Dutch Road in a deposition given June 27, 1801, Swan vs Miles, loc. cit.

HENRY COUNTY'S LOW DUTCH COMPANY

This paper is only a very brief summary sketch of the Low Dutch Company. Its full history will later be published. If anyone has the slightest information on the Low Dutch, please write to Vince Akers, 6683 W. Division Rd., Bargersville, IN 46106

The Low Dutch Company was one of the most unusual groups to settle in Henry County—in all Kentucky for that matter. Among their descendants in Henry County are the Bantas, Bergens, Brewers, Bruners, Demarees, Lists, Monforts, Shucks, Terhunes, Vanarsdales, Vorises, and many others. They were of Holland Dutch and French Huguenot background. Having come to New Amsterdam in the mid-seventeenth century, they migrated across the American frontier and settled together as a Dutch community for the next 200 years. Few groups in American history maintained their ethnic community for so long and in the face of such hardships as these Low Dutch.

Many of the Kentucky Dutch ancestors were prominent in the early governments of New Amsterdam and the nearby New Jersey towns which they helped to found. But New York and New Jersey became increasingly crowded with English "foreigners." Eventually, in the 1760s the thirst for land and desire for a place to themselves led a large number of the Dutch to form a colony known as Conewago in Adams County, Pennsylvania, near present-day Gettysburg. Here they built a church, school house, and made farms. They adopted the name "Low Dutch" to distinguish themselves from neighboring "High Dutch" or Germans and to signify that they had come from the low countries of Europe.

But Conewago was only a stopping place for a much larger and longer migration. An offshoot colony was formed in the late 1760s and early 1770s about forty miles southwest in Berkeley County, Virginia (now West Virginia). The two communities kept close contact. Dutchmen from both served in the Revolutionary War. Young men from Berkeley saw their action on the western frontier. These men were undoubtedly exposed to the wild stories told about Kentucky by its earliest adventurers. During this period an idea developed which circulated among the Dutch until like an epidemic it had infected every family and had become their master plan. The plan was to make a wholesale move to the Kentucky frontier and there to acquire thousands of acres of the cheap fertile land—enough to accomodate the colony for generations of large families.

Samuel Duree was the first Low Dutchman to venture into Kentucky. He left Berkeley County on March 1, 1779 and arrived at Boonesborough the following April 7th by way of the Wilderness Road. On May 5, 1779 he laid claim to a tract of land for the Low Dutch Company on Muddy Creek in present-day Madison County, Kentucky. He returned in the fall of 1779 to the old settlements where preparations had already begun for the first migration the next spring.

That first migration was accomplished by two separate detachments of Dutch who made the trip over vastly different routes. Samuel Duree

led the Berkeley families over the Wilderness Road - Cumberland Gap route to the White Oak Spring Station near Boonesborough where they arrived in March 1780. The group totaled over thirty persons including Bantas, Bogarts, Cosarts, Durees and Vorises.

The other, larger, group was led by Duree's brother-in-law, Hendrick Banta. In the fall of 1779 Henry Banta led at least seventy-five persons from Conewago over the Appalachian Mountains to Fort Pitt (Pittsburg). The following Spring they took the Ohio River route to the Falls (Louisville) where they landed in March or April 1780. They rented land on Beargrass Creek in present-day Jefferson County from Col. John Floyd and built the Dutch or New Holland Station as their temporary headquarters. Brewers, Demarees, Dorlands, Rikers, Vanarsdales, Vorises, and Westerfields in addition to Bantas were represented in the group. Some of the Westerfields were massacred by Indians that first summer of 1780.

Arrangements had been made for the men of Henry Banta's group to meet the Durees at White Oak Spring in early 1781. They met as planned and in early February 1781 the Dutch Company set out to build cabins for their families some sixteen or seventeen miles southeast of the White Oak Spring on the Muddy Creek land claimed in 1779. In four or five weeks they put up thirteen or fourteen cabins and christened the place "Banta's Fort." The Durees built another cabin four miles away.

But Banta's Fort and the Madison County Muddy Creek lands were never to be settled by the Low Dutch. In March 1781 several of the Durees were massacred by Indians after having moved in only a few days at their cabin. Two more sons of Samuel Duree were killed by Indians the same month at the White Oak Spring. In April or May most of the discouraged Banta party returned to the Low Dutch Station on Beargrass. The few Dutchmen who remained behind in Madison County were defeated by the Indians on Muddy Creek in the summer of 1781 at a small battle known locally as the Dutch Defeat. James Estill's arm was broken in this affray.

A short time after returning from Madison County, the Banta group moved their families from the Low Dutch Station on Beargrass to near Col. James Harrod's Station at the Boiling Springs in present-day Boyle County (Mercer County until 1842). They rented land from Harrod and built the second Low Dutch Station. It was intended only as a temporary settlement. They were joined in January 1782 by the White Oak Spring Dutch families who had given up the attempt to settle on Muddy Creek. The Low Dutch Company was in the market for a new tract of land.

Unfortunately, the attempts to purchase a frontier tract were as disheartening as Indian troubles. Much of the desirable land had been bought up by speculators. Acquiring a clear title to any lands was another difficulty. By 1783 the outlook was so bleak that a petition was sent to the Continental Congress requesting that the government grant them a tract in Kentucky or "on the Northwest side of the Ohio river." The petition was read to Congress by Rev. J.M. VanHarlingen and it set forth in their own words their plight:

That in the Spring of the Year 1780 they moved to Kentuckey with their families and effects with a view and expectation to procure a Tract of Land to enable them to settle together in a body for the conveniency of civil society and propogating the Gospel in their known language; when they arrived there to their sorrow and disappointment they were thro' the dangerousness of the times by a cruel savage Enemy obliged to settle in Stations or Forts in such places where there was the most appearance of safety, notwithstanding all their precution numbers of them suffered greatly in their property, several killed and others captivated by the Enemy, living in such distressed confined way alway in danger, frequently on Military duty, it was impossiable for them to do more than barely support their families with the necessaries of life, by which means they are much reduced, and what adds more to their disappointment and affliction is, that contrary to their expectations before their arrival and since, the most or all the Tillable Land has been Located and monopolised...

The petition was signed by the heads of 46 families then in Kentucky. Heads of another 105 families at Conewago, and perhaps New Jersey, also signed the petition as intending to settle on the frontier when the lands were acquired. But the petition was filed away without action being taken by Congress.

The Low Dutch were determined to acquire a large tract with or without government assistance. They had already established connections with the man who would help them do it—Squire Boone. He had founded his Painted Stone Station on Clear Creek in the spring of 1780. The station was extremely isolated being twenty-one miles east of its nearest neighbor. It was near the center of present-day Shelby County. Some of the Demarees at the Dutch Station on Beargrass were attracted by its prospects and moved there sometime in 1780 or 1781. But Painted Stone was plagued with Indian attacks and had to be abandoned in September 1781. Some of the Low Dutch were among the fleeing Painted Stone settlers who were ambushed at the Long Run Massacre September 13, 1781. Gerardus Riker was killed and his widow, a Demaree, later married John Vancleave who also lost his wife at Long Run. Vancleave was a brother-in-law of Squire Boone.

After the Long Run Massacre and Floyd's Defeat, Squire Boone spent the winter of 1781-82 at the Low Dutch Station on Beargrass where he bought Albert Banta's crop. The next spring he moved to Harrods Station in Mercer County. Here he was again among the Dutch who were scattered in the vicinity, mostly at their own station nearby on Harrod's land.

Squire Boone eventually resettled his Painted Stone Station in the winter of 1783. The Low Dutch were close at hand. Vorises, Bantas, and Demarees had made visits to the area with Squire Boone in 1782 and 1783 before resettlement. He showed the Demarees a spot about a mile south of present-day Christiansburg where they built a cabin. They were driven off by Indians, but it was the first Dutch attempt to strike off on their own in this area.

Squire Boone was well acquainted with the Low Dutch community's desire for a tract of land. In 1782 Boone had purchased a Virginia

treasury warrant authorizing him to have 12,335 acres of unclaimed land surveyed off. Boone entered the preliminary area in which the survey would be made as being on Drennon's Creek and Six Mile Creek "...No East of the painted stone about 6 miles..." He found in the Low Dutch Company a purchaser wanting the tract all in one piece.

The Dutch unanimously appointed Abraham Banta, the oldest son of "Father" Henry Banta, as their agent to negotiate the purchase from Boone. In the fall of 1783 or early 1784 Banta contracted to purchase Boone's 12,000 acres. The tract surrounded three 1,000 acre preemptions owned by Richard Beard—Lattimore's, Potter's and Beard's preemptions. The contract, however, was almost immediately cancelled due to the discovery of an overlapping claim of David Griffith's of 7,000 acres.

Shortly thereafter, sometime in 1784, Banta negotiated a second purchase contract with Boone for the portion of his entry not conflicting with Griffith's earlier claim. Banta also began negotiations with Richard Beard for the purchase of his 3,000 acres adjoining Boone's tract. On March 4, 1785 Beard assigned his title to the three preemptions to Banta at the rate of thirty pounds per hundred acres to be paid in four annual installments.

Even before the details of the Boone purchase were finalized, the Dutchmen were determined to have a careful first-hand look at their purchase. In 1785 brothers Peter, John, Cornelius, Daniel and Jacob Banta with their brother-in-law Henry Shively and probably others took Harrods then Boones Traces from Mercer into Shelby County. Leaving the trace they traveled north to James Hogland's Station. They plunged into the wilderness and built a cabin about two miles northeast of Hogland's Station on what was afterwards known as the old Magruder farm. This, beyond doubt, was the first Dutch cabin built in the limits of the Low Dutch Tract. It was constructed of blue ash logs and stood as a landmark until after the Civil War.

James Westerfield joined the Bantas and also built a cabin probably nearby but outside of the Dutch Tract itself. The cabin was referred to as Westerfield's Station and was apparently a strong one. Some of the Bantas spent the summer at Westerfield's Station. But the position enjoyed that summer of 1785 did not last. One of those periodic storms of Indian wrath burst upon the frontier settlements, and the men wisely decided to concentrate their forces at Hogland's Station. The station proved to be poorly manned and provisioned, and was threatened daily with attack from redskins. So desperate did the situation become that the little garrison determined to send to the Dutch in Mercer County for reinforcements and provisions. Jake Banta, the youngest of the brothers, volunteered to perform the dangerous mission. The wilderness being full of prowling savages, he chose the darkness of night to pass through the "narrows" on the waters of Benson Creek near present-day Graefenberg on the Shelby-Franklin County line. But poor Jake never reached the Mercer County stations. As he crept silently and all alone in the darkness of night through the dreaded "narrows," the redskins pounced upon him from ambush and cleaved his skull with a tomahawk. They left Banta on the tragic spot with his own tomahawk buried in his skull and his flesh hacked to shreds as a token of their fierce

vengence. As soon as the troubles subsided the other men returned to Mercer County with a good report of the excellent quality of the lands.

In February of 1786 ten or twelve of the Dutchmen again left Mercer County for the Low Dutch Tract this time to make the final survey of the Boone tract. Isaac Hite was the surveyor in charge. Hite, a prominent figure in frontier Kentucky, was himself of French Huguenot background but was not one of the Low Dutch Company. John Voorhis and William Shuck served as chain carriers and Daniel Voorhis served as marker. Isaac Hite had a part interest in David Griffith's adjoining claim, the survey of which was run first and dated February 13, 1786. Next the Boone survey was run, it being dated February 16, 1786. Two or three days were probably required to run the survey since to follow the calls would require a hike of nineteen miles. Surveying both tracts meant marking lines for over thirty-five miles.

As finally surveyed, the Boone tract held out at 5,945 acres of which Boone reserved 335 acres off the west end. The tract was watered by three creek systems—the southwest portion by Clear Creek which eventually drains into Salt River and the northwest and east portions by Drennon's and Six Mile Creeks which drain into the Kentucky River. The beginning point of the survey was on the dividing ridge between Six Mile and Clear Creeks. This point can easily be located today as where the country road south of Cropper crosses the L & N railroad tracks. The L & N runs south out of Pleasureville along that dividing ridge. The tract included the present-day communities of North Pleasureville, South Pleasureville, Defoe, Elmburg and part of Cropper. The ancient Leestown buffalo road came north down the Indian Fork of Six Mile and up the Dutch Fork into the Low Dutch Tract, passing through the tract and out the north corner along present-day highway 22. The road passed on through present-day Bethlehem then along present-day highway 1360 through Franklinton on to Drennon's Lick. After settlement began in the area the road was occasionally referred to as the Dutch Road. Six Mile derived its name from Boone's entry which described it as "the big creek running into Kentucky 6 miles above Drenon's Lick Creek." Several creeks in this area derived their names from the Low Dutch—the Dutch Forks of Six Mile and Benson, Bantas Fork and Demarees Branch of Six Mile.

With the Boone tract of 5,945 acres less Boone's 335 acres plus the three 1,000 acre preemptions purchased from Richard Beard, the Low Dutch Tract totaled 8,610 acres. Approximately 5,100 acres lay in Henry County and 3,500 in Shelby County. One of the 1,000 acre preemptions was almost immediately sold to Samuel Demaree to meet the first installment obligation on the Beard purchase. That left a tract belonging to the formal Low Dutch Company of 7,610 acres. The acreage of the tract has often been given as larger than this, sometimes as large as 20,000 acres. Later writers were probably confused by the vast acreage of adjoining and nearby lands purchased over the years by Dutch families independent of the Company.

On March 13, 1786 Squire Boone assigned the 5,945 acre survey to Abraham Banta. The witnesses were Barney Smock and Daniel Banta. The price was 935 pounds sterling—250 pounds down and the remainder

due in seven annual installments of 97 pounds 17 shillings due each June 1st beginning 1786. The installments were payable "...in produce such as hemp Tobacco flour pork & Baken to be delivered at the falls of the Ohio at Market price at or upon the 1st day of June..."

The next day, March 14, 1786, the Low Dutch organized themselves under a constitution of sorts. The tract was divided into 200 acre plantations assigned to individual families but legally held in common by the Low Dutch Company with Abraham Banta as trustee or agent. They agreed:

That we will subscribe to and support the Low Dutch reformed Church Socity by giving a Call and Invitation to a Regular Instituted Low Dutch minister to associate in said Church as much as in us lie and that we will indeavouer to have our children Taught and instructed in the Low Dutch Tongue so that they may Read the word of God and understand the Gospel when Preached unto them...

The agreement, measuring forty-three inches long and thirteen inches wide, was discovered in 1974 filed away in the Shelby Circuit Court case of "Bonta's heirs vs Bergen." The case had been filed away for 151 years.

Despite the misfortune of the Banta brothers the summer before, the Dutch organized immediately to move onto their tract. Daniel Ketcham's Station became the headquarters of the settlement. Several families probably stationed themselves nearby at James Hogland's. Hogland's was located on the west side of present-day highway 241 a half mile northwest of its intersection at Cropper with Highway 43. Daniel Ketcham's was a little less than two miles south of Cropper near East Clear Creek. Both stations were on paths leading off from the great buffalo road from Drennon's Lick to Leestown. They were little more than cabins housing their namesakes' families. They however played an important role in the settlement of this area by the Low Dutch.

A few more venturesome families may have moved immediately onto the Dutch Tract. But the foundations of their settlement had hardly begun to be laid when trouble with the Indians began again. It was a period of severe Indian depredations in this region of Kentucky and particularly in the immediate vicinity of the Dutch Tract. Hunters would later recall that in 1785 and '86 they kept to the woods when traveling to Drennon's Lick; they considered the marked trails as an invitation to death.

The Dutch were driven by the marauding Indians to consolidate their forces at Ketcham's. Here on May 4, 1786 Simon and Rachel Vanarsdale's daughter Eleanor was born. On her ninety-second birthday Eleanor Vanarsdale Banta would recall her parents' stories of 1786. The morning she was born one of her uncles was shot near the station and the woods around the station were full of Indians. When she was nine days old her mother with the other women and children were evacuated under the cover of night to Boone's Painted Stone six miles back, the nearest fortified settlement. The men

stayed in the Dutch Tract area to fight for awhile, but it became apparent that the battle was hopeless. The Dutchmen moved their families back to Mercer County to wait for the Indian menace to pass.

At the time the Low Dutch Tract was purchased, not a single acre had been purchased by a Dutch family in the Mercer County area even though this had been the Dutch community's headquarters since 1781. The entire community stood behind the Henry-Shelby County project. But the "temporary" return to Mercer County in 1786 was a long and disasterous one for the grand scheme of the Low Dutch Colony. It was not until 1794 or '95 that settlement was established on a permanent basis in the Low Dutch Tract. Isolated attempts to move onto the tract met with misfortune. In May 1790 Matthew Smock was attacked by Indians between Ketcham's and Boone's. He escaped but two others in his group were killed. In August 1790, twelve year old Daniel Cozine was killed near Ketcham's and his sister Sarah was taken prisoner. In 1794 two of Jacob Smock's children were killed near the tract and in March two of his children were captured.

The Cozine and Smock children were released by the Indians in 1795 after General Anthony Wayne's victory at the Battle of Fallen Timbers. But by this time the Dutch community had lost much of its unity with many families having bought farms and settled permanently in the safer confines of Mercer County. The Company's first trustee, Abraham Banta, was in fact the first Dutchman to buy a farm in Mercer County (in 1789). By the time the Low Dutch Tract could safely be settled, the Dutch had abandoned their dream of one large united colony in Kentucky. Their numbers would be equally divided between the Henry-Shelby County settlement and the Mercer County settlement.

Other difficulties besides Indians had also appeared with the Low Dutch Tract. The first four of the seven annual installments due to Boone had been paid when it was learned that there were several prior claims to much of the land in the Dutch Tract. Because of these claims, Abraham Banta obtained an injunction from the Supreme Court of Kentucky preventing Boone or any of his assignees from collecting the remaining notes. The Company, however, lost heavily because of the conflicting land claims. In 1813 the Company compromised a claim of 1,000 acres by payment of \$2,700. In 1820, after nine years of litigation, the Company lost a case in the Henry County Circuit Court to George Calhoun. The judgement was for 407 acres, including part of what is today Pleasureville, then the heart of the colony.

But despite Indian troubles and land disputes, the Low Dutch Tract was eventually settled by the Dutch Company. Most of the tract had been divided into thirty-four 200 acre lots distributed among the original members by means of a drawing held in 1786. The names of the original members, their lots and the appraised values are given on one of the accompanying maps. Several modern geographic features are indicated on the map as locaters.

The allotted land could be sold, but purchase of a lot did not guarantee membership in the Company; that was strictly elective. Membership carried with it certain rights and responsibilities which

included an equal vote at Company meetings, common defense of law suits, a share in the undivided lands, and share of profits and losses. Lands lost because of lawsuits were replaced with lands out of the undivided portion of the tract. Meetings were held in Mercer County until settlement of the tract around 1794. Important decisions at the early meetings in the Dutch Tract were postponed until the opinion of the Mercer County members could be obtained. Mrs. Frederick (Jayne Bergen) Beers of West Palm Beach, Florida, owns the original leather-bound account book dated from 1786 and the book of minutes of the meetings from 1790 to 1831. Mrs. Beers is a great-great-granddaughter of Col. George Bergen, one of the last Company trustees.

Nearly all the tract was covered with timber with one exception. Lot No. 14 had about 100 acres of land as clear as a prairie, so clear it was at first thought some mineral had interfered with the natural production, but the land produced fine. The early settlement centered from this area northwest along present-day highway 421 to North Pleasureville, then called Bantatown. The first house in Pleasureville was built by Cornelius Banta.

Land was probably farmed in common until farms could be cleared on individual lots and until the Indian threat was completely gone. Farming was the predominant occupation, but other businesses soon sprang up. Andrew Carnine built a wagon factory in North Pleasureville. Albert Voris operated a ropewalk where rope and cording were made. Peter Banta had a tanyard. Another Peter Banta made a business of tapping the numerous sugar maples. In one year he tapped over one thousand trees. The Dutch patronymic system of naming children resulted in many men in the community of the name. These two Bantas were known as "Tanner Pete" and "Sugar Pete." Other nicknames were also devised to distinguish men such as "Father Henry" Banta, "Uncle Albert" Banta, "Big John" Voris and "Blue John" Voris.

Some of the families connected with the Low Dutch Colony were: Banta, Demaree, Voris, Shuck, Bergen, Vanarsdale, Smock, Monfort, Carnine, List, VanNuys, Westerfield, Cozine, Cosart, Commingore, Kiphart, Terhune, Covert, Brunner, LeCompt, Bice, Rucker, Brewer, VanDiver, Demott, Dorland, Wycoff, and others. It should be noted that many of these names had several spellings. Not all the families were Dutch, but the "outsiders" were given close review before acceptance into the colony for the Dutch were much given to "hanging together." It approached being a law that they marry within the "family." Everyone was "akin" to one another. Overall they were a plain, honest, sober and industrious people. They were of steady habits and conservative in their beliefs and notions. They loved the old ways.

The school and church were early concerns of the colony and small lots were set aside in the Dutch Tract for both. The religion of these people when they came to Kentucky was Dutch Reformed. At their Mercer County settlement they built the Old Mud Meeting House, the first Dutch Reformed Church west of the Alleghenies. But because of the difficulty in getting a minister supplied to the frontier, most defected to the Presbyterians. In the Low Dutch Tract they built

the Six Mile Meeting House near the site of the present historical marker along highway 421. Preaching was begun here in 1796 by Rev. Archibald Cameron, a well educated and outspoken Scotsman. Cameron preached more than thirty years in the area. There were many defections around 1805 to the Shakers, especially among the Vorises, Bantas and Monforts. The real decline, however, of the Presbyterian Church in the area was due to the exodus of settlers to Indiana.

About 1817 several families moved to Switzerland County, Indiana, and formed a small settlement in Pleasant Township. But the mass exodus was to Johnson County, Indiana, where the attraction was \$1.25 land. Several decades beginning with the mid-1820s saw family after family from both the Henry-Shelby County and the Mercer County Dutch settlements make the move to Indiana.

By the mid-1820s individual lots in the Low Dutch Tract were changing hands often enough that private ownership was imperative. However, Abraham Banta, the original trustee in whose name the Company lands had been purchased, had died in 1793 and title to the lands had passed to his heirs. The heirs contended that all excess lands, those lands not divided into the original thirty-four lots, belonged to them. It was necessary for suits to be filed in both the Henry and Shelby Circuit Courts before the heirs would agree to deed the tract over to the Company.

Since Abraham Banta's death in 1793, many men had filled the position of trustee, among them Lucas Vanarsdale, Col. Garret Darland, Albert Voris, Samuel R. Demaree and David Demaree. Col. George Bergen and Tunis VanNuys were chosen as the final trustees, entrusted with responsibility for closing the Company's business. From 1828 to 1831 several deeds for the tract were made from Banta's heirs to Bergen and VanNuys. These deeds are to be seen at both New Castle and Shelbyville. It required well over ten years to close the Company's business. Fifty-three deeds were made by Bergen and VanNuys for the transfer of the land to individual owners. Forty deeds were filed in Henry County and thirteen in Shelby County. One of the accompanying maps shows the division of the Dutch Tract as finally made by Bergen and VanNuys.

The decline of the Low Dutch Colony is illustrated by Tunis VanNuys; he moved to Johnson County in 1835, half way through closing the Company business! The colony never achieved the size and purpose planned for it. But much of Henry and Shelby Counties were cleared and settled because of it, and many descendants of families associated with the colony are still to be found in the area.

Prepared for
The Henry County Historical Society
November 19, 1979

Vince Akers
6683 W. Division Road
Bargersville, Indiana
46106

THE LOW DUTCH TRACT

HENRY & SHELBY COUNTIES, KENTUCKY

SCALE - 1.23 INCH EQUAL 1 MILE (320 POLES)



43

335 ACRES RESERVED BY SQUIRE BOONE

WHERE THE BUFFALO ROAD
CROSSES THE FIRST BRANCH
OF THE FIRST BIG CREEK
ABOVE DRENNONS LICK
CREEK

BEGINNING POINT, ON THE
DIVIDING RIDGE BETWEEN
SIX-MILE AND CLEAR CREEKS

ON THE WATERS OF DRENNONS
LICK CREEK ON THE EAST
SIDE OF AND NEAR A LARGE
BUFFALO ROAD

ON THE WATERS OF SIX-MILE
CREEK

5945 ACRE TRACT

[SAMUEL POTTER'S
1000 ACRE PREEMPTION]
2000 ACRE TRACT

[RICHARD BEARD'S
1000 ACRE PREEMPTION]

[GEO. LATTIMORE'S
1000 ACRE PREEMPTION
Sold by a Bond for the
Low Dutch Company to
Samuel Demaree]

5945 ACRE TRACT

BEGINNING AT 3 SUGAR TREES ON THE DIVIDING RIDGE
BETWEEN SIX-MILE AND CLEAR CREEKS FROM A 2
WALNUTS AND 2 MULBERRIES CORNER (A), THENCE

LINE DIRECTION LENGTH
A-B N45°W 570 poles TO A HICKORY AND 2 SUGAR TREES
CORNER (B), THENCE
B-C N 448 poles TO A WHITE OAK, BLACK OAK, &
SUGAR TREE CORNER (C), THENCE
C-D N45°E 1220 poles TO A WHITE OAK, SUGAR TREE &
HICKORY CORNER (D) ON THE WATERS
OF DRENNONS LICK CREEK ON THE
EAST SIDE OF AND NEAR A LARGE
BUFFALO ROAD, THENCE

2000 ACRE TRACT

BEGINNING AT AN ELM, SUGAR TREE & ASH CORNER (L)
FOLLOWING ALONG THE SE. LINE OF THE 5945 ACRE TRACT,
LINE DIRECTION LENGTH
L-N S45°E 346 poles TO A HONEY LOCUST, SUGAR TREE &
DOGWOOD CORNER (N), THENCE
N-O N45°E 462 poles TO A SUGAR TREE & ASH CORNER (O),
THENCE
O-P S45°E 346 poles TO A HICKORY, OAK & DOGWOOD CORNER
(P), THENCE
P-Q N45°E 232 poles TO 2 SUGAR TREES & A MULBERRY
CORNER (Q), THENCE
Q-H N45°W 672 poles TO A WHITE OAK & SUGAR TREE CORNER
(H), THENCE
H-L S45°W 674 poles TO THE BEGINNING (L).

SOURCES: 5945 ACRE SURVEY (1786) AND
VIRGINIA GRANT (1787) TO ABRAHAM BANTA,
ASSIGNEE OF SQUIRE BOONE - SECRETARY
OF STATE'S OFFICE, STATEHOUSE, FRANKFORT.
DEEDS RECORDED 1815-1831 FROM THE
HEIRS OF ABRAHAM BANTA TO GEO.
BERGEN & TUNIS MANLYS, TRUSTEES
OF THE LOW DUTCH CO. - HENRY &
SHELBY CO. COURTHOUSES, NEW
CASTLE & SHELBYVILLE.

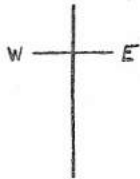
LINE DIRECTION LENGTH
D-E S45°E 1280 poles TO 3 BEECHS CORNER (E) ON THE WATERS
OF SIX-MILE CREEK, THENCE
E-F S45°N 44 poles TO 3 BEECHS CORNER (F), THENCE
F-G N75°W 590 poles TO A SUGAR TREE CORNER (G), THENCE
G-H N45°W 442 poles TO A WHITE OAK & SUGAR TREE
CORNER (H), THENCE
H-I S45°W 266 poles TO A SUGAR TREE, WHITE OAK &
HICKORY CORNER (I), THENCE
I-J N75°W 672 poles TO A HONEY LOCUST & 2 HICKORIES
CORNER (J) WHERE THE BUFFALO
ROAD CROSSES THE FIRST BRANCH
OF THE FIRST BIG CREEK ABOVE
DRENNONS LICK CREEK, THENCE
J-K S15°W 106 poles TO A HICKORY, SUGAR TREE &
DOGWOOD CORNER (K), THENCE
K-L S45°W 310 poles TO AN ELM, SUGAR TREE & ASH
CORNER (L), THENCE
L-M S45°E 180 poles TO 2 SUGAR TREES CORNER (M),
THENCE
M-A S15°W 614 poles TO THE BEGINNING (A).

V. AKERS
5/1/73

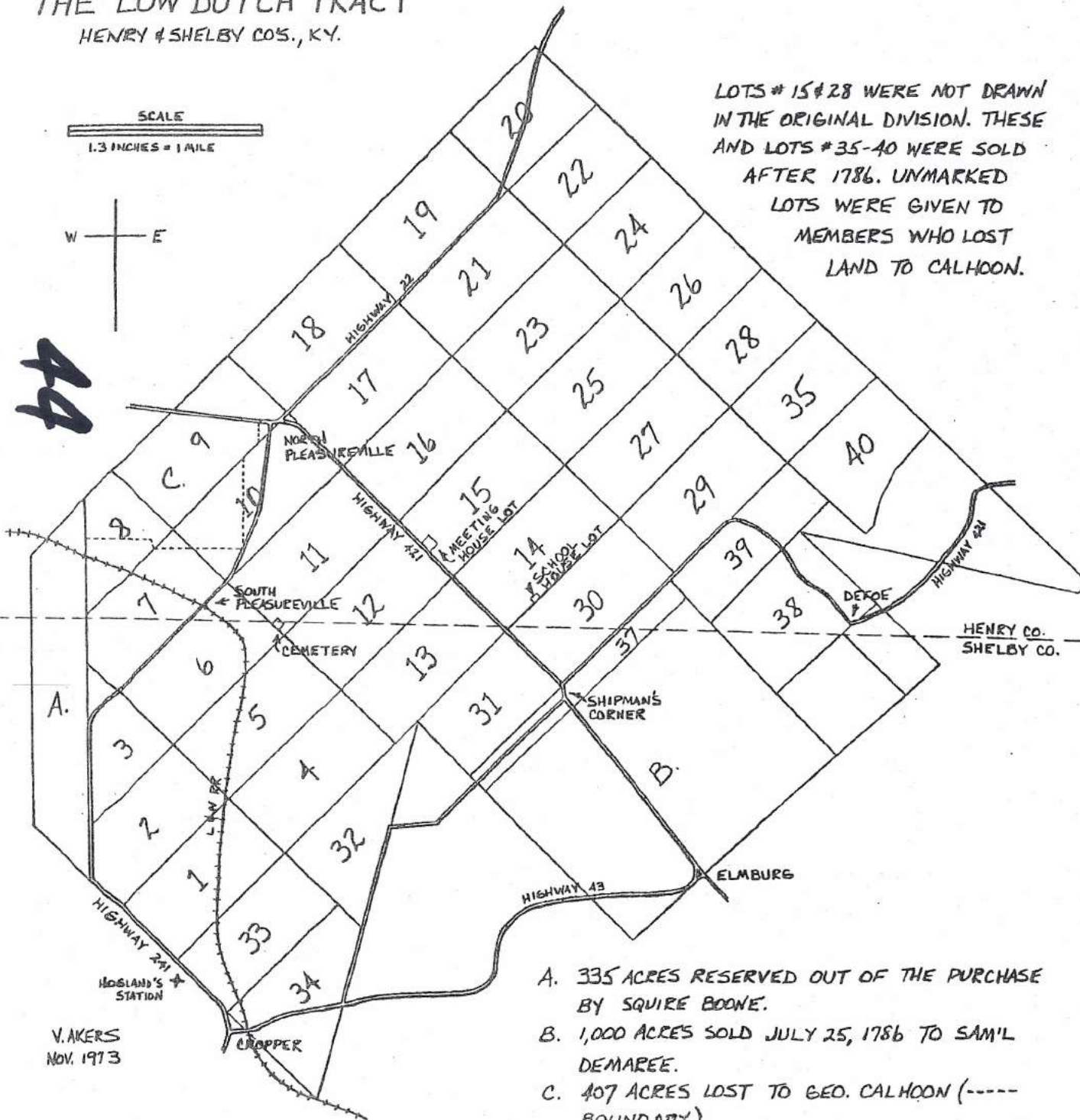
THE LOW DUTCH TRACT

HENRY & SHELBY COS., KY.

SCALE
1.3 INCHES = 1 MILE



44



LOTS # 15 & 28 WERE NOT DRAWN IN THE ORIGINAL DIVISION. THESE AND LOTS # 35-40 WERE SOLD AFTER 1786. UNMARKED LOTS WERE GIVEN TO MEMBERS WHO LOST LAND TO CALHOON.

- A. 335 ACRES RESERVED OUT OF THE PURCHASE BY SQUIRE BOONE.
- B. 1,000 ACRES SOLD JULY 25, 1786 TO SAM'L DEMAREE.
- C. 407 ACRES LOST TO GEO. CALHOON (----- BOUNDARY)

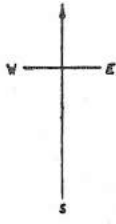
THE ORIGINAL COMPANY MEMBERS AND VALUE OF THEIR LOTS - 1786 -

	£	S	P
1. JOHN COMMONGORE & BARNEY SMOCK	49	3	2
2. DANIEL VORAS	96	17	2
3. ANDREW SHOCK	70	11	11
4. ALBERT BANTA	59	10	3
5. ALBERT VORAS & HENRY BANTA, Jr.	52	17	3
6. JOHN BANTA	52	17	3
7. ABRAM BANTA	52	17	3
8. SIMON VANOSDAL	24	11	8
9. HENRY BANTA, Sr.	66	3	3
10. & 19. SAMUEL DEMAREE	96	17	2
11. DANIEL BANTA	49	3	3
12. FRANCIS MONFORT	52	17	3
13. HENRY SHIVELY & CORNELIUS BANTA	62	16	9
14. DANIEL BANTA	52	17	3
16. CORNELIUS COZINE	49	3	3
17. SAMUEL BANTA	43	19	11
18. FRANCIS COSART	43	19	11
20. ARON & JOHN MONFORT	52	17	3
21. ALBERT BANTA, Jr.	55	1	7
23. BLUE JOHN VORAS	21	16	7
24. LUCAS VANOSDAL & JACOB SMOCK	21	16	7
25. LUKE VORAS	21	16	7
26. PETER BANTA	12	19	3
27. JACOB BANTA	32	18	3
29. WILLIAM SHOCK & BIG JOHN VORAS	52	17	3
30. UNCLE PETER BANTA	59	10	3
31. ABRAHAM BREWER	77	4	11
32. CORNELIUS BOGART	62	16	9
33. PETRUS BANTA	56	3	9
34. SOPHIA VORAS	29	11	9

V. AKERS
NOV. 1973

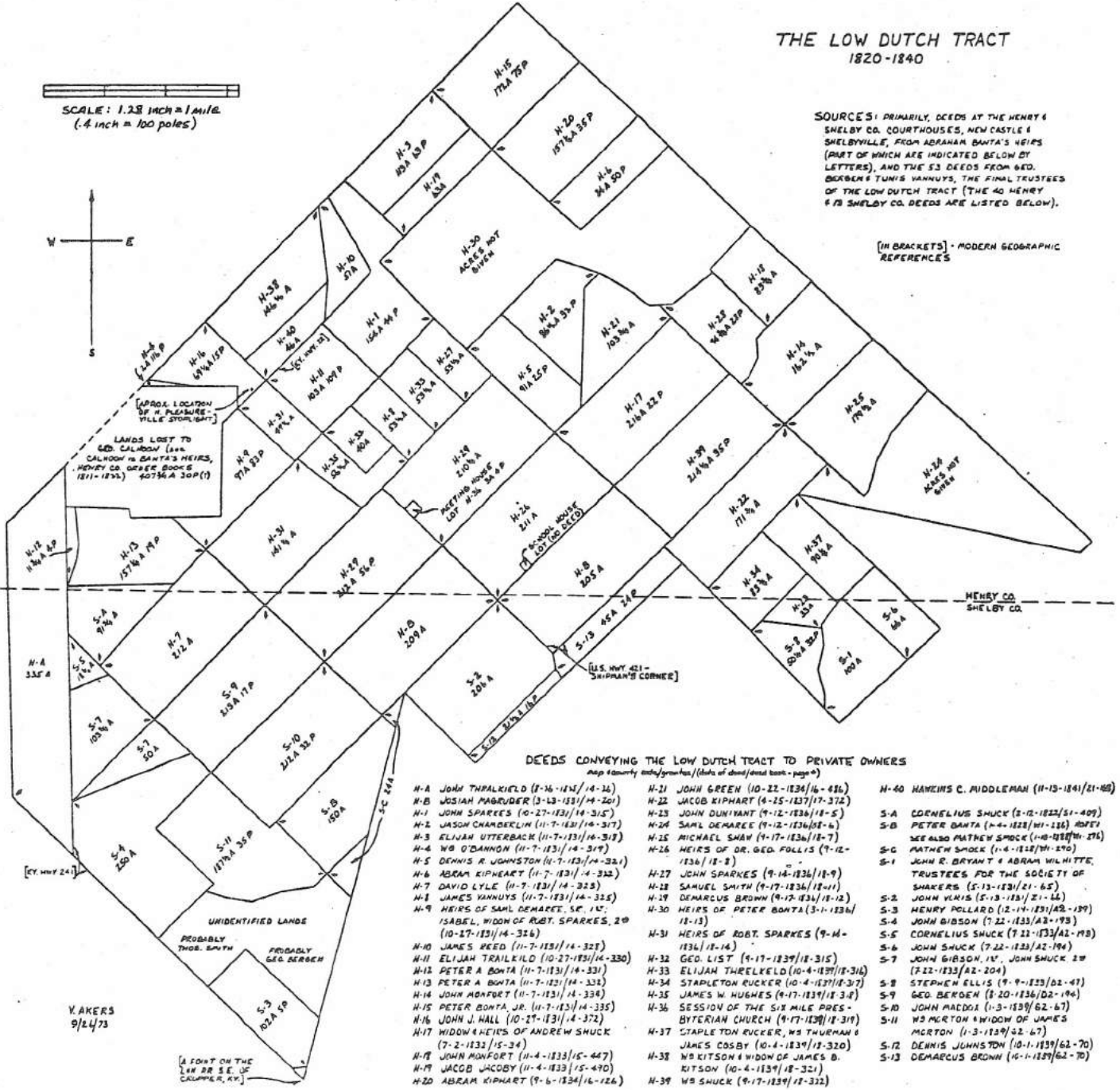
THE LOW DUTCH TRACT 1820-1840

SCALE: 1.25 inch = 1 mile
(.4 inch = 100 poles)



SOURCES: PRIMARILY, DEEDS AT THE HENRY & SHELBY CO. COURTHOUSES, NEW CASTLE & SHELBYVILLE, FROM ABRAHAM BANTA'S HEIRS (PART OF WHICH ARE INDICATED BELOW BY LETTERS), AND THE 53 DEEDS FROM GEO. BERKEN & TUNIS VANHUYNS, THE FINAL TRUSTEES OF THE LOW DUTCH TRACT (THE 40 HENRY & SHELBY CO. DEEDS ARE LISTED BELOW).

[IN BRACKETS] - MODERN GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCES



DEEDS CONVEYING THE LOW DUTCH TRACT TO PRIVATE OWNERS

map & county subdivisions (date of deed/area - page #)

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| H-A JOHN THPALKFIELD (8-26-1815/14-26) | H-21 JOHN GREEN (10-22-1836/16-486) | H-60 HAINES C. MIDDLEMAN (11-18-1841/21-60) |
| H-B JOSIAH MAGRUDER (3-13-1831/14-201) | H-22 JACOB KIPHART (4-25-1837/17-372) | S-A CORNELIUS SHUCK (2-12-1822/51-409) |
| H-1 JOHN SPARKES (0-27-1831/14-315) | H-23 JOHN DUNYANT (9-12-1836/18-5) | S-B PETER BANTA (4-4-1828/181-186) HEIRS SEE ALSO PETER SHUCK (1-18-1838/181-276) |
| H-2 JASON CHANDLER (11-7-1831/14-317) | H-24 SAM'L DEMAREE (9-12-1836/18-6) | S-C MATHEW SHUCK (1-4-1828/181-270) |
| H-3 ELIJAH UTTERBACK (11-7-1831/14-318) | H-25 MICHAEL SHAW (9-17-1836/18-7) | S-1 JOHN R. BRYANT & ABRAHAM WILHITE, TRUSTEES FOR THE SOCIETY OF SHAKERS (5-13-1831/21-65) |
| H-4 W.B. O'DANNON (11-7-1831/14-319) | H-26 HEIRS OF DR. GEO. FOLLIS (9-12-1836/18-8) | S-2 JOHN VLEIS (5-13-1831/21-66) |
| H-5 DENNIS R. JOHNSON (4-7-1831/14-321) | H-27 JOHN SPARKES (9-14-1836/18-9) | S-3 HENRY POLLARD (12-14-1831/181-189) |
| H-6 ABRAHAM KIPHEART (11-7-1831/14-322) | H-28 SAMUEL SMITH (9-17-1836/18-11) | S-4 JOHN GIBSON (7-22-1831/181-193) |
| H-7 DAVID LYLE (11-7-1831/14-323) | H-29 DEMARCUS BROWN (9-17-1836/18-12) | S-5 CORNELIUS SHUCK (7-22-1831/181-193) |
| H-8 JAMES VANHUYNS (11-7-1831/14-325) | H-30 HEIRS OF PETER BANTA (3-11-1836/18-13) | S-6 JOHN SHUCK (7-22-1831/181-194) |
| H-9 HEIRS OF SAM'L DEMAREE, SR., 1/2 LABEL, WIDOW OF ROBT. SPARKES, 20 (10-27-1831/14-326) | H-31 HEIRS OF ROBT. SPARKES (9-14-1836/18-14) | S-7 JOHN GIBSON, JR., JOHN SHUCK JR (7-22-1831/181-204) |
| H-10 JAMES REED (11-7-1831/14-327) | H-32 JOHN LIST (9-17-1837/18-315) | S-8 STEPHEN ELLIS (9-9-1839/181-47) |
| H-11 ELIJAH TRAILKILD (10-27-1831/14-330) | H-33 ELIJAH THRELKELD (10-4-1837/18-316) | S-9 GEO. BERKEN (8-20-1836/181-194) |
| H-12 PETER A. BANTA (11-7-1831/14-331) | H-34 STAPLETON RUCKER (10-4-1837/18-317) | S-10 JOHN MADDOX (1-3-1839/181-67) |
| H-13 PETER A. BANTA (11-7-1831/14-332) | H-35 JAMES W. HUGHES (9-17-1837/18-318) | S-11 W.S. MORTON & WIDOW OF JAMES MORTON (1-3-1839/181-67) |
| H-14 JOHN MONFORT (11-7-1831/14-334) | H-36 SESSION OF THE SIX MILE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (9-17-1837/18-319) | S-12 DENNIS JOHNSON (10-11-1839/181-70) |
| H-15 PETER BANTA, JR. (11-7-1831/14-335) | H-37 STAPLETON RUCKER, W.S. THURMAN & JAMES COSBY (10-4-1839/18-320) | S-13 DEMARCUS BROWN (10-11-1839/181-70) |
| H-16 JOHN J. HALL (10-27-1831/14-372) | H-38 W.S. KITSON & WIDOW OF JAMES B. KITSON (10-4-1839/18-321) | |
| H-17 WIDOW & HEIRS OF ANDREW SHUCK (7-2-1832/15-34) | H-39 W.B. SHUCK (9-17-1839/18-322) | |
| H-18 JOHN MONFORT (11-4-1833/15-447) | | |
| H-19 JACOB JACOBY (11-4-1833/15-490) | | |
| H-20 ABRAHAM KIPHART (9-6-1834/16-126) | | |

Abraham Banta Sr & Co

<p>2</p> <p>1831</p> <p>R.G.</p> <p>10.1</p> <p>March</p>	<p>To one Lot n^o 7 Margins 200 Acres -----</p> <p>Appraised to -----</p> <p>To be paid as follows viz of the 250 Payment -----</p> <p>Of the 600 Payment -----</p> <p>Of the 685 Payment -----</p> <p>Interest on the Balance from March 2^d 1796 to</p> <p>March 2^d 1799 inclusive -----</p> <p>To his part of the Expence -----</p>	<p>£ 50</p> <p>52 17 3</p> <p>18 12 2 1/2</p> <p>20 13 4</p> <p>23 11 10 1/2</p> <p>5 11</p> <p>4 16 6 3/4</p> <p>77 7 13 1/4</p>
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THE LOW DUTCH COMPANY BOOKS

The Low Dutch Company record books have been preserved for over 150 years by the Bergen family. The books are now owned by Mrs. Frederick (Jayne Bergen) Beers of West Palm Beach, Florida. Mrs. Beers is a great-great-granddaughter of Col. George Bergen, last trustee of the Low Dutch Company.

The 145-page "Minute Book" records the activities of seventy-nine meetings held from September 11, 1790 to May 9, 1831. The minute book documents formal company matters as well as providing quaint details such as the February 5, 1812 resolution "that the Books be bound in soft leather (which Peter Banta proposed to furnish) and S.R. Demaree is requested to put on the covers in a plain strong manner." The leather bindings on both volumes of records remain in excellent condition 170 years later.

The second record book is the "Book of Accounts". It summarizes the financial dealings related to each lot in the Low Dutch Tract. An example account for Abraham Banta's Lot No. 7 is shown above and on the facing page (reduced to less than one-half the original size).

Contra Co

784

1793	By Cash paid Crig Moor	122
July 12	By Cash paid	25
	By Cash paid Thomas Allen for copies of patents	76
	By Cash paid Sawyer Nicholas for Advice vs Moor	11
	By Cash paid Pette for Advice vs Marshal	110
	By Cash paid Sawyer Murray for Advice vs Beard	12
	By Cash paid Sawyer Nicholas for Advice vs Beard	18
	By Cash paid for searching the Registers Office	1
	By Cash paid for three copies out of the Survey Books	3
	By Cash paid out Brunswick Office	8
	By Cash paid in Brunswick Office for copies of patents	1
	By Cash paid Henry Woodland for hunting	10
	Richard Lane	1
	By Cash paid John Mansford for taking papers to Chamberburgh	2
	By Cash paid to Christ Greenup for Tax to incur suit vs Marshal & Moor	6
	By Cash paid to John Thomas for clerk to the	1
	By Cash paid Samuel Taylor for a copy of a paper sent from Richmond	3
	By Cash paid Major Skuman for Writing Definition	12
	By Cash paid Lawyer Nicholas for a case against Marshal in Chambers	5
	By Cash paid Pette to Kate Nichol for a bill	2
	By Cash paid Robt Brunswick for copies of - bills & returns	12
	Learned over	11

47/47