

**Samuel VanHook (1733-1809)**

**Document Version: 3.0**

**Document Length: 32 pages, 15,771 words plus images**

**Updated: 07/23/2014**

**Author: Herb VanHook**

The following biographical narrative, including all research, analysis, assumptions and errors was written by Herb VanHook.

All Original material protected by copyright. No reuse without permission of the author. “Fair Use” (under copyright law) permitted.

Please DO NOT repost the document publicly (on the Internet/Web), nor include it in any printed publication.

You may save this pdf document locally or print it for your own use. You may also link to the document from another Web site with appropriate reference. This document is continually updated by the author as new research or analysis becomes available.

## **Summary**

**Samuel VanHook** was born 15 November 1733 in Monmouth County, New Jersey. He was the son of Henry (Hendrick) VanHook and Deborah Parent. When Samuel was 16, his father died and left a will naming him, his brothers and his mother Deborah. No definite proof of Samuel's parentage is known, but circumstantial evidence (dates, locations, geographic and family associations, etc.) points to this connection.

In the early 1750's, Samuel migrated with his uncle Aaron VanHook to Orange County, North Carolina and settled there for the next 25 years or so. In 1768 he purchased land located on the "middle fork of the Little River" in what became Caswell County, North Carolina in 1777.

In the spring of 1779, Samuel and his family migrated to central Kentucky and settled near the Licking River just north of present day Cynthiana, Kentucky. He lived first at Ruddle's Station (an early fortified "station" on the Licking), then the following winter moved upstream to Martin's Station. Samuel's first wife was killed there by Indians in March of 1780. In June of 1780, Samuel and his family was captured by the British and Indians and carried off to Detroit as prisoners.

Released from captivity in the late summer of 1784, Samuel settled again in central Kentucky. Shortly after his return to Kentucky, Samuel married Margaret Williams, the widow of Peter Williams, and mother of Ellison E. Williams. In 1786, the family was living at a place known as Higgins Blockhouse in present day Bourbon County.. By 1795, he was living in Campbell County, Kentucky, where he died sometime after 1809.

### **New Jersey Period**

The earliest record of Samuel VanHook is in the will of Henry (Hendrick) VanHook of Upper Freehold, Monmouth Co. N.J., dated 7 February 1750. In his will Henry names his wife Deborah (this would be Deborah Parent, who he married 15 July 1721), sons Lawrence, Benjamin, William, Samuel, and Isaac (named in this order). Henry was the son of Lawrence VanHook and Johanna Hendricks Smith, and had a brother Aaron (who is mentioned in Henry's will as Lawrence's Uncle Aaron). From Henry's will we can assume Lawrence was the oldest son as he was named as an Executor along with Deborah, and received a major parcel of land.

Benjamin is probably the next oldest as he also received a large parcel of land. The next three sons were probably still under 21 years of age as they received no land at the time the will was executed. However the will specified that when Isaac (being the youngest) reached 21 years of age, Henry's house and lot should be sold and the proceeds divided equally between Deborah and the three youngest sons. If this subsequent real estate transaction happened – no record has been found.

From Henry's marriage date and the information contained in the will, some birth dates may be assumed for Henry's sons: Lawrence was probably born between 1722 and 1728, Benjamin was born between 1723 and 1729, with William, Samuel and Isaac born approximately 1730 to 1735.

**NOTE:** This connection of Samuel VanHook (born 15 November 1733) to Henry (Hendrick) VanHook has never been proven. Baptisms for Henry's children have not been found.

## **North Carolina Period**

In the early 1750's, it is assumed Samuel VanHook traveled to North Carolina with his uncle Aaron VanHook, his VanHook cousins (Aaron's family), and his cousin Solomon Debow and his family, and possibly others from New Jersey. North Carolina was just being settled during this time and early records from the 1750's are scarce. This group settled in Orange County, North Carolina (parts of which later became Caswell and Person Counties), just south of the Virginia border.

Samuel first appears in North Carolina in May 1764 (he would have been 30 years old then) when he is named as a defendant in a case in the Orange County Court (held in Childsburg during this time). In August of the following year, he was appointed a constable of Orange County. A month later in 1765, Samuel buys 402 acres in Orange County from John Camp on the middle fork of the Little River, near present day Caswell County. About two and a half years later he sold 202 acres of this land to James McCandles.

There is an interesting record of a "Saml Vanhook" in the Prince William County, Virginia tax list for 1765 with "1 tithable." No connection between this record and location and the Samuel VanHook of this narrative has been found or proven.

In 1766 he was appointed overseer of a road in Orange County. In early settlements overseers (sometimes called *viewers*) were charged with keeping sections of a road clear and well-maintained. They would hire local labor (often farmers wanting to pick up extra money during the down time on their farm) to clear brush, fill in holes and the like. The road section for which an overseer had responsibility was usually one that was located close to his property.

Samuel served on the Orange County grand jury in September of 1768. This was the jury that tried a number of the "Regulators" who were charged with "inciting the people to rebellion."

Also in 1768 Samuel purchased an 82 acre tract in Orange County from Hosea Tapley. He kept this land a little over 3 years and sold it at the beginning of 1772 to Alexander Rose. His son, Samuel VanHook Jr., was a witness on this 1772 deed (Samuel Jr. first appears in January 1769 when he and his father were witnesses to another deed of Hosea Tapley's).

In 1772 Samuel signed a petition to divide the north part of Orange County into a separate county. Over three hundred men signed the petition submitted in 1771 requesting that the Colonial government at New Bern further partition Orange County. Because Orange County had just recently been subdivided and because matters leading to the Revolution took precedence, no action was taken on this petition. It was not until

independence had been declared and the Revolutionary War had begun that Caswell County was created in 1777 by the first state government. The new county was named Caswell after Richard Caswell, the first governor of the new State of North Carolina. Samuel VanHook appears in the Caswell tax lists for 1777.

### **Migration to Kentucky**

Samuel and his family migrated to central Kentucky in the spring of 1779, arriving there in March. They settled near Ruddell's Station on the south fork of the Licking River (referred to as Licking Creek at that time). Both Samuel and his son Samuel Jr. claimed preemptions of 400 acres each in this area. Later that year at the beginning of the fall, the settlement at Ruddle's Station was joined by settlers from the Holston and Clinch River valleys, including Solomon Litton and his family and John Dunkin and family. Kentucky was a wild and rough place in the late 1770's. Indian skirmishes and attacks were a daily fact of life. The winter of 1779 was unusually hard and the settlers were relieved when spring came.

During this first year in Kentucky, Samuel spent the time hunting up and down the creeks and runs that flowed into the Licking River, and cleared and farmed his claimed land a bit (probably just raising some corn). Samuel was a tailor by trade, and while he made a few items of clothing, there was little call for that skill in early Kentucky.

An old family story relates that Samuel migrated to Kentucky with Daniel Boone on Boone's second trip to the state. Since this occurred in 1773, it is quite doubtful that Samuel left North Carolina at that time. However, it is very likely that Samuel followed Boone's Wilderness Road across the Appalachians and through the Cumberland Gap into Kentucky. Samuel was a contemporary of Boone, and they signed common petitions in the early history of Kentucky.

### **Kentucky Certificates of Settlement and Preemption Warrants**

Under the Virginia Land Law of 1779, residents of the Kentucky District could purchase Certificates of Settlement and Preemption Warrants if they met certain residency requirements. Persons in Kentucky County prior to January 1, 1778, who had made an improvement and planted a crop of corn, were eligible for 400 acre Certificates of Settlement for the land they had improved. They could purchase an additional 1000 acres, adjoining the Settlement tract, under a Preemption Warrant.

Anyone in Kentucky County, Virginia, after January 1, 1778 and before May 1779 (when the Land Law was written) was eligible for a 400 acre Preemption Warrant for the tract on which they had made an improvement and planted a corn crop. The Virginia Land Law stated that family heads who had "*really and bona fide settled . . . upon any waste or*

*un-appropriated lands on the western waters, to which no other person hath legal right or claim, shall be allowed . . . four hundred acres . . . ."*

A Land Commission was appointed to hear testimony from Kentucky County residents and their witnesses; the Commission then decided who qualified for Certificates of Settlement, 1000 acre Preemption Warrants and 400 acre Preemption Warrants. The Commission for the Kentucky District consisted of William Fleming, Edmund Lyne, James Barbour and Stephen Trigg. The Commission conducted their hearings from 13 October 1779 to 26 April 1780 in Harrodsburg, St. Asaph (Logan's Fort – present day Stamford), Boonesborough, Bryants Station (near Lexington), and the Falls of Ohio (Louisville). Owning a preemption warrant gave the holder the right to have his land surveyed and entered into the official government record (paying surveying fees, entry fees, grant fees, etc. of course).

Like many new settlers, Samuel claimed a preemption of land, as did his son Samuel Jr. Samuel's preemption of 400 acres was about 8 miles downstream from Ruddells Station on Licking Creek (just south of present day Cynthiana, KY). His son, Samuel Jr., claimed a preemption of 400 acres located about 5 miles east of Ruddells Station (and 1.5 miles northeast of the buffalo road that ran from Ruddells Station to the Lower Blue Licks).

### **Quickly Disposing of the Land**

In January of 1780 the Commissions met at Bryant's Station to issue preemption warrants and Samuel Sr. and Jr. showed up to claim theirs. However, they immediately sold their warrants to a Jacob Myers. It's unclear whether Samuel Sr. and Samuel Jr. intended to ever settle permanently on this land, or whether living a few miles distant from a station (fortification) wasn't appealing once they had spent 10 months in Kentucky, or whether they were just engaging in a little land speculation.

Oddly, Samuel (and Samuel Jr.) did not assign their preemption warrants personally over to Jacob Myers. These assignments were done by a signature of John Martin (of Martin's Station) and attested to by Azariah Davies. So while the preemption warrants themselves say Samuel and Samuel Jr. "appeared before the commission," perhaps they had left after their claim had been honored and authorized John Martin to sell their warrants as best he could.

Jacob Myers of Richmond, Virginia, was an early land speculator in Kentucky and bought up a number of preemption warrants, hoping to eventually own large tracts of land. He later received a 10,000 acre land grant (on Slate Creek near present day Owingsville, Kentucky). Jacob built the first iron blast furnace in Kentucky in 1791, which operated until 1838. This furnace, operated by John Cockey Owings and Company, made tools and utensils early on, then later cannonballs and ammunition used by the US Navy and during the War of 1812.

There is a Virginia Land Grant for 400 acres for a Charles Abercrombie that was surveyed in March of 1785. According to the survey, that land was adjacent to Samuel VanHook's "1000 acres" – and it also mentions "Samuel Dennises" land. From the way the survey reads it seems to refer to 2 different tracts – a 1000 acre tract that borders Abercrombie's land on the north and on the west, and then another VanHook tract that borders Abercrombie's on the east line (running to the north in the survey). This tract on the east appears to adjoin Samuel Dennis' land. We know from Samuel VanHook's 1780 preemption warrant that his 400 acres claimed adjoined Samuel Dennis' land – but it is unclear where the "1000 acres" reference comes from.

### **Ruddells and Martin's Stations**

In the spring of 1780 Samuel and his family moved to Martin's Station (about 5 miles upstream on Stoners Creek from where it joins Hinkston Creek to form Licking Creek. This was about 8 miles upstream from Ruddle's Station). They helped John Martin finish building his station that spring. On 17 March 1780 a company was organized to defend the station against the Indians. Samuel Sr. was 46 years old at this time, and was selected as one of the sergeants of this militia under Captain Charles Gatliff. Samuel's son, Samuel Jr., and his son-in-law, John Loveless (married to Samuel's daughter Rachel) were privates in the company. Only 9 days later, on 26 March 1780 Indians attacked Martin's Station. Samuel's first wife was killed and scalped during this attack.

In late spring British Captain Henry Bird, with a group of Canadians and Indians, was preparing to attack Louisville, Ky. The winter runoff combined with constant rain had made crossing many of the water courses dangerous. However, this weather had made the Licking River quite navigable, and caused Bird to change his plans and to follow the river into central Kentucky, to attack Ruddells, Martin's, and Bryants Stations, eventually leading to Lexington.

Bird commanded a force of 1200 persons at this time. On the 26th of June he took Ruddells Station firing his cannon only once. They then marched the few miles on to Martin's Station and captured it without firing a shot. Very few (if any) of the settlers lost their lives during this encounter. The Indians and soldiers split the plunder they had taken and the British took charge of the prisoners, 470 in number. By this time Bird's provisions were running low and he worried about making it back down the river before the waters fell. Due to this, he decided to retreat and not go on to Lexington. With him went Samuel VanHook and his family.

Assembling the largest number of people ever in one place in Kentucky, on 27 June 1780 Bird began the 600 mile march to Detroit, some of the prisoners dying from exhaustion along the way. They went 50 miles up the Licking River to the Ohio, then 175 miles up the Big Miami River to its headwaters. Crossing land and other rivers they covered

another 156 miles to reach Lake Erie. Boarding boats there, they crossed the lake to the mouth of the Detroit River, then 18 miles up the river to Fort Detroit, arriving 4 August 1780. Some of the prisoners remained there, while others were taken on into Canada, as far as 800 more miles to Mackinac and Montreal. Maud Ward Lafferty published an excellent and detailed description of Bird's campaign in "[Destruction of Ruddle's and Martin's Forts in the Revolutionary War](#)" (from The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society, October 1956, Vol. 54, No. 189, pp 297-338.)

## **Returning Home to Kentucky**

Samuel was one of the lucky prisoners and remained alive. He was able to return home to Kentucky about August of 1784. It is not known whether he was taken all the way to Canada. He probably remained in Detroit the entire 4 years, and may have been sent to Pittsburgh when released. It appears Samuel returned to the Fort Harrod area of Kentucky after his release. By 1785, Samuel (and his son Samuel Jr.) was back in Kentucky signing petitions to the General Assembly of Virginia, and appearing in various court and land records again. In the fall of 1785 he moved north into Bourbon County, and married Margaret Williams, a widow, and mother of Ellison E. Williams. Her husband had been killed by Indians.

Samuel signed many early petitions in Kentucky in the 1780's. He appears in the Bourbon County tax lists beginning in 1787. His son, Samuel Jr., was living with him at the time. Samuel was living in the section of Bourbon County that became Harrison County. After his daughter Catherine married in 1794, he moved with his second wife and her children to Campbell County in northern Kentucky. Samuel and his stepson Ellison Williams are found in the tax lists there from 1795 to 1801. In 1797 he served as a constable in Campbell Co.

In the early 1800's he testified in Harrison County court to help establish the land claims of many of his fellow settlers in Kentucky 30 years earlier. These depositions provide many of the facts about Samuel, and that is where his birth date is known. Samuel died about 1809 in Campbell (or Harrison) County, Kentucky.

## **Samuel's Wives**

Samuel was married at least twice. While his second wife is known from statements made by her son Ellison E. Williams and court records, the identity of Samuel's first wife has posed problems. Samuel's first wife was the mother of all his children, and she was killed by Indians at Martin's Station in March of 1780 (known from pension applications from John Loveless and George Loveless, stepsons of Samuel's daughter Rachel VanHook).

## **First Wife - ???**



According to family stories, his first wife was Hannah Higgins, the daughter of James Higgins and Sarah Stout of Kingston, NJ. Proof of this connection with the Higgins family has not been found, and the assumption is difficult to prove. James Higgins (son of Jediah Higgins), who married Sarah Stout was a contemporary of Samuel VanHook. James was born about 1733/34, he married Sarah Stout in the late 1750's and their children were born from 1760 to 1779. Their daughter Hannah Higgins was born 4 Jan 1764, so she *could not have been* Samuel's first wife (who was the mother of all his children and was killed in March of 1780).

Another possibility is that Samuel was married to a Hannah Higgins that would have been a sister to James Higgins. James Higgins' parents were Jediah Higgins and Hannah Stout, and they did have a daughter named Hannah Higgins born in the late 1720's or early 1730's. However, she supposedly married a man named Henry Gulick.

There is another intriguing marriage record in New Jersey. On 25 June 1764 a Samuel *Hook* of Trenton, New Jersey married Hannah Mount of Burlington [New Jersey Marriages]. It is not clear if this is Samuel *VanHook* or not. The problem with this record is that the Samuel VanHook, subject of this history, was named in a court case in Orange County, North Carolina in the month before this marriage. Also, in no other record of this period is "*Van Hook*" spelled "*Hook*." However, during this time "*Hook*" was a common anglicized spelling of the German name "*Hogh*." But, given the Mount name, it should be noted that in the same area a Matthias Mount was married to a daughter of Frederick DeBow (Deboogh) and Johanna VanHook, and Matthias was an Executor on Lawrence VanHook's will.

## **Second Wife – Margaret Williams**

Samuel's second wife was Margaret Williams, the widow of Peter Williams. From contemporary accounts and interviews of Ellison E. Williams, son of Peter and Margaret Williams, we have a good record of the timeline of this family in the late 1700's. From Ellison E. Williams' long interview with Lyman Draper (probably in the 1840's) and from statements in Lewis Collins' History of Kentucky (first published in 1847), we know the name Peter Williams, details of his death in August 1783, as well as some additional information regarding Samuel VanHook Senior and Junior.

The entry in Collins History of Kentucky reads: "*After the battle of the Blue Licks, and in 1786, our family removed to Higgins' blockhouse on Licking river, one and a half miles above Cynthiana. Between those periods my father had been shot by the Indians, and my mother married Samuel VanHook, who had been one of the party engaged in the defence at Ruddell's station in 1780, and on its surrender was carried with the rest of the prisoners to Detroit.*"

The Battle of Blue Licks was in April of 1782 and according to the statements above Samuel and the widow Williams were married before they relocated to Higgins Blockhouse (south of Cynthiana about a mile and a half where Sellers Run flows into the South Fork of the Licking River) in 1786. Since Samuel did not return from his captivity in Detroit until about August 1784 (from his depositions in Harrison County, KY, court records in the early 1800's), they were probably married sometime in late 1784 or during 1785. If they were married in Fayette County, Kentucky, around this time their marriage record is probably lost. Due to a fire, all the original Fayette County marriages records before 1803 are gone (except for a few ministers' returns from the late 1700's that have been found).

We know Samuel's wife at this time was named *Margaret* because there is an extensively documented court case in late 1789 through 1790 (Bourbon County, Kentucky, court records) involving "Samuel VanHook Senr" and "his wife Margaret" (plaintiffs) versus Azor Mountjoy Rees.

It has long been believed by many that Samuel's second wife was a "Hannah Wilson Williams" who was a widow of Zadock Williams that was killed by Indians. There are a few problems with that belief. First, Zadock Williams wasn't killed until 1790 (from Lewis Collins' History of Kentucky, page 298), when he was shot by an Indian while working in a tobacco field near Stockton's Station in Fleming County, Kentucky. Since Samuel VanHook married his second wife in 1784/1785, *she could not have been Zadock Williams' widow*. Secondly, we know from the court records in Bourbon County that Samuel VanHook "Senior's" wife was named Margaret. (I've also seen "Zoduca" Williams or even "Zoduca" as the middle name of Hannah Williams – there is no such name as "Zoduca." "Zadock" itself is very rare, but it is an actual given name from that period).

Major Ellison E. Williams lived a long life and was one of the pallbearers at Daniel Boone's interment in Frankfort, Kentucky, on 13 September 1845 (when Boone's remains were moved from Missouri to Kentucky). Williams lived in Campbell County, Kentucky, having relocated there in 1795 (Kenton County was formed from Campbell in 1840). He had at least one sister, Sally Williams, who married William Curry there 13 March 1798. Samuel's children were all grown by 1795 and he relocated to Campbell County then also. Ellison Williams died in 1850, and was later re-interred in Frankfort Cemetery near Daniel Boone.

### **Samuel VanHook's Children**

Samuel may have had a number of children that have not been identified or accounted for. He may have lost part of his family during the 1780 capture and imprisonment by the British and Indians in the early 1780's. The children attributed to him (below) have assumable birth dates stretching from 1751 to 1775. This is a rather wide range with so

many gaps between the years, so this also points to the possibility of other children unaccounted for. By reviewing early marriage records, census information, location specifics and other available references, it is possible to deduce the following as children of Samuel VanHook.

### **Samuel VanHook, Jr.**

Samuel VanHook Jr. was born about 1751. He may have been born in New Jersey. It is possible that Samuel Jr. is a nephew or some other relation of Samuel Sr., but they were living in the same household at various times, and moved from place to place together. Samuel Jr. appears in at least 6 different records with Samuel Sr.

Samuel Jr. lived in Orange County, North Carolina, probably with his father. The first record of Samuel Jr. is in a deed proved there in January of 1769. He moved with his father to central Kentucky in the late 1770's and claimed preemption of 400 acres there in 1779. He is shown in Kentucky tax lists as living in the same household as his father as late as 1790. In all likelihood, Samuel Jr. was captured at Martin's Station in June of 1780 along with his father, but there is no proof of this. In the 1790's he appears in the Harrison County tax lists owning 50 acres (while his father was living in Campbell County). In 1797 he served as a Lieutenant in the local militia.

It is believed that Samuel Jr. is the Samuel VanHook that married Sarah Morgan in Harrison Co., Ky. 25 February 1809. This may have been his first and only marriage (no other marriage records have been found), and Samuel Jr. would have been in his late 50's at this time. They were married by Charles Webb. The marriage bond was issued 4 days earlier on 21 February. (This may have been a marriage of Samuel Sr., but I doubt that he would marry again at the age of 73.) A James Johnson was the surety on this marriage bond, who was Samuel Jr.'s brother-in-law.

The above marriage was most likely not the first for Samuel or for Sarah. If he was married in 1780 when the British and Indians captured Martin's Station, it's possible his wife was killed then or in the trip of the prisoners to Detroit. No Samuel is found in Harrison County tax lists after this 1809 marriage, but a Sarah VanHook is found in the 1810 and 1820 census there. Possibly Samuel died soon after the marriage and left Sarah with her children from a previous marriage. It is also possible that Samuel Jr. never married previously and the Sarah Morgan marriage was his first. No children of Samuel VanHook Jr. have been found.

### **Rachel VanHook**

Rachel VanHook was born about 1760 in Orange Co., NC. She married John Loveless (b. about 1730) about 1777. This was John's second marriage. His first wife's name is not known, but he had about 6 children by his first marriage - of which 2 are known: George

**Samuel VanHook (1733-1809?) of North Carolina**  
(assumed son of Henry VanHook)

July 23, 2014

Loveless, born 5 September 1760, and John Loveless, Jr. born about 1770. John Loveless came from Holston (Holstein), Virginia. John and Rachel had about 6 children.

In 1777 John was drafted from Virginia to serve 6 months defending the settlements in Kentucky, but his son George substituted for his father. After serving in Kentucky, George returned to Virginia and moved his father's family to Kentucky where they settled. They were captured by the British and Indians at the taking of Martin's and Ruddle's Stations, and they were held prisoners in Detroit until 1784, when they returned to Kentucky.

Rachel (VanHook) Loveless died in 1807 in Ross County, Ohio. John married one more time to Rebecca McCall the same year. He died in 1808 and is also buried in Ross County. There is much research from the Loveless family on their descendants. Much of the information of the events relating to Ruddells and Martins Stations about Samuel and his family are from the depositions of John Loveless' sons.

**Elizabeth VanHook**

Elizabeth was born about 1768 (estimated from her 1790 marriage date) in Orange County, NC. About May of 1786, Elizabeth gave birth to a son, Thomas, while she was still unmarried. He went by the name "Thomas VanHook," and was "apprenticed as a covenant servant" to a John McAllister in Bourbon County, KY, in 1788 when he was 2 years old. Her father, "Samuel VanHook Sr." was a witness to this agreement. (It is believed that this Thomas later moved to Ohio, then to Fountain Co., IN, where he died in 1838.)

Elizabeth married John Scott on 22 May 1790 in Bourbon County, KY. Samuel, her father signs a permission paper for this marriage and clearly states Elizabeth is his daughter and that she "is of full age." Her brother Samuel Jr. witnessed this permission paper.

It's possible that Scott's Station (also know as John Scott's Station) in Bourbon County (5.5 northeast of Cynthiana, KY) was settled by this John Scott (along with George Low). This settlement was later renamed to "Shady Nook" and is now located in Harrison County, KY. No further information.

**Margaret VanHook**

Margaret was born about 1773 (estimated from her 1791 marriage date) in Orange County, NC. She married James Johnson on 29 August 1791 in Bourbon Co., KY. Samuel once again signs a permission paper for this marriage, and John Scott (husband of Margaret's sister Elizabeth) is one of the witnesses to Samuel's signature. No further information.

### **Catherine VanHook**

Catherine was born about 1775 (estimated from her 1794 marriage date) in Orange County, NC. She married William Patton on 22 September 1794 in Bourbon Co., KY. Samuel once again signs a permission paper for this marriage and clearly states that Catherine (Catrin) is his daughter. No further information.

### **John VanHook**

There is a John VanHook found in Campbell/Kenton County, KY, living near Ellison E. Williams in the early 1800's. It is possible this is a son of Samuel VanHook, Senior, and either his first wife Hannah or his second wife Margaret (making him Ellison's half-brother).

---

### **Records and Timeline of Samuel VanHook (son of Henry VanHook)**

- 15 Nov 1733** Samuel VanHook Sr. born in Monmouth Co., NJ
- 7 Feb 1750** Upper Freehold, Monmouth Co., NJ, Wills  
Will of Henry (Hendrick) VanHook of Upper Freehold, Monmouth Co. N.J., dated 7 February 1750. In his will Henry names his wife Deborah, sons Lawrence, Benjamin, William, Samuel, and Isaac.  
Dumfries, VA, Tax Lists???
- 1 May 1764** Orange County, North Carolina, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions in Childsburg – George Flynn vs. Samuel **VanHook** (case).
- 13 Aug 1765** Orange County, North Carolina, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions in Childsburg – Samuel **VanHook** was appointed constable in the room of Thomas Wilson, Sr.
- 27 Sep 1765** Orange County, North Carolina, Deed Book 2, Page 518 John Camp of Orange Co., North Carolina, sold to Samuel **VanHook** for 60 pounds, Middle Fork of Little River, Rutherfords line 402 acres conveyed to Nathaniel Walton by deed from Thos. Childs Esq. 15 July 1760, then to Luke Robertson, then to John Camp 1764. signed John Camp, witnessed Thomas Camp, Lawr. **VanHook**. Deed proved January Court 1769 by oath of Lawr. **VanHook**.

*(Note: The original Orange County Deed Books covering 1757-1768 were buried when the British troops occupied Hillsboro during the Revolution, and totally ruined when finally unearthed. The current deed book 2 has copies of a few deeds from that period. Court of Pleas Minutes also missing for Nov 1762 thru Mar 1777.)*

- 12 Aug 1766** Orange County, North Carolina, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions in Childsburg – Samuel **VanHook** was appointed overseer of a road in the room of George Lea.
- 13 Apr 1768** Orange County, North Carolina, Deed Book 2, Page 551 – Samuel **VanHook** of the County of Orange, Province of North Carolina of the first part and James McCandles of the same place second part, a tract situated Middle Fork of Little River... 202 acres of land granted to Nathaniel Walton by deed from Earl of Granville bearing date 15 July 1760, then conveyed to Luke Robertson, then to John Camp then to Samuel **VanHook**... signed Samuel **VanHook**, witnessed Willm. Laigh (Lea or Lee), Lawr. **VanHook**. Deed proved Orange County Court, 10 July 1769, on oath of Lawrence **VanHook**.
- 22 Sep 1768** Orange County, North Carolina, Court Records – Samuel **VanHook** was a Grand Juror, Hillsboro District.
- 18 Nov 1768** Orange County, North Carolina, Deeds – Hosea Tapley to Samuel VanHook... 82 acres. (See 17 Jan 1772 entry when Samuel sold this land).
- Jan 1769** Orange County, North Carolina, Deed Book 3, page 513 – (not sure of the exact date of this deed entry, but the deed was proved in the January Court of 1769). Hosea Tapley to John Pryor 13 Pounds N. Fork of Flat River, 100 acres conveyed to Tapley from Hon. Thos. Chile Esq. 14 Oct. 1761. signed Hosea Tapley, witnessed Hosea Tapley Jr., Saml **VanHook** Jr., Samuel **VanHook**.
- 9 Dec 1771** M.S. Records, Office of Sec. of State of North Carolina, page 89 – Samuel **VanHook** signed petition for the division of the north part of Orange County into a separate county. (*This petition was also signed by David **VanHook**, Isaac **VanHook**, Lawrence **VanHook**, Lloyd **VanHook***).
- To His Excellency Josiah Martin Esqr., Capt General, Governor in and over the Province of North Carolina the Honourable Council Mr. Speaker and Gent of the House of Burgesses. The Humble Petition of the inhabitation of the north part of Orange County Humble Sheweth, that whereas by the large extent of said County, it renders it very burdensom to attend general musters and courts, and we pray that a line beginning where Granville County line corners on the Virg'a line thence running south on Granville line twenty five miles and there corner thence west to Guilford line thence North Along said Guilford to the Virg'a line thence east along the Virg'a line to the beginning and your petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray.*
- 17 Jan 1772** Orange County, North Carolina, Deed Book 3, page 366 – Between Samuel VanHook of County of Orange, North Carolina, and Alexander Rose & Co. of the County and & Province aforesaid, 17 pounds Virginia Money for 82 acres, part of a parcel granted to Samuel VanHook by Hosea Tapley by a deed dated 18 Nov. 1768. signed Samuel VanHook, witnessed John Lea, Samuel VanHook Jr. (*Alexander Rose sold this land 20 Nov 1778, Deed Book A, and from this deed we find this 82 acres shared a boundary line with some land Lawrence VanHook owned*).
- 1777** [Caswell County, NC formed from the northern part of Orange County \(this included all land that would also be Person County in 1792\)](#)

- 1777** Caswell County, N.C., Saint Lukes District, Tax Lists – Samuel VanHook.
- 3 Jul 1778** Caswell County, North Carolina, Land entries 1778-1795 – Aaron Vanhook enters 640 acres on waters of Double Creeks; border; Thos Hendricks on W and David Vanhook on E; includes his own improvement and Samuel Vanhook's where Michl Coker lived; this entry made over to John Cooper in whose name warrant is transferred.
- Mar 1779** From 17 Jan 1780 Preemption Certificate - Samuel VanHook settled 400 acres in Kentucky on the South Fork of Licking Creek
- 1779-...** Draper Papers, Lyman Draper interview with Ellison E. Williams, pp 237-251 (original page numbers 58-72), from microfilm in University of Kentucky Library, Special Collections. (note: although a long interview – it is transcribed in its entirety here for the historical record)
- “From Ellison E. Williams, near Covington Ky, born in Surry County, N.C. April 19<sup>th</sup> 1770.*
- In October, 1779, Peter Williams, the father of my informant, arrived in Kentucky from Surry County, NC - at Rockcastle Col. Boone met Williams & a large number of Emigrants, & conducted them in to Boonesboro. There were several hundred scattered along the road. Williams had been out to Bryan's Station in the spring, raised a crop of corn, & was now moving his family there. At this time Col. Boone had not yet settled his "Station."*
- In Spring of 1780, perhaps, late in May, a party from Bryan's went to Lexington & there joined by others, & started for Falls of Ohio for salt at Mann's and Drennon's Licks. The first night camped within 3 or 4 miles of Kentucky river; next morning early proceeded, for the Whites entered the river they were fired on by Indians from the precipice on the rocky precipice on the western bank where old Leestown was - Stephen Frank was killed: Nicholas Tomlin was shot through the back, but subsequently recovered; & Wm. Bryan (brother-in-law to Col. Boone) had his middle finger shot off near the first joint - his horse threw him, he remounted and escaped with the others. Thinks one was missing. The party wheeled & returned to Lexington that night. Next day party went out, & buried Frank - found his body much eaten by wolves. Hence the name of Frankfort.*
- For three months in 1780, say from 1st of March to abt the 1st of June, no salt nor bread was used at Bryan's Station. Peter Williams and several others had raised very good crops of corn the preceding year, but the great press of newcomers in the fall of '79 together with the ensuing hard winter, made the corn scarce. The newcomers half starved would have it - and the Stationers divided it as long as they had any.*
- Bryans Station Siege - The attack commenced Friday morning Aug. 16th, & the Indians left towards evening next day. Among the defenders were James & Aaron Reynolds, the John Craigs father & son; Thomas Hendon, Nicholas & Richard Tomlin, Lewis Gooding, --- Rogers, Jacob & David Stucker, Charles Beasley, Michael Mitchell Sr., --- Adkins, James Twynman, Wm Richards, -- & others & Peter Williams.*
- Charles Beasley had, but three or four weeks before, been captured by the Indians - was questioned by Girty about the strength of Bryan's Station, etc. - &*

*he suspected an attack was designed: He soon after, one night, managed to slip the ropes with which he was tied & escaped, & returned to Bryan's, just before this attack.*

*The morning of Friday early some of Capt. Craig's negroes in the watermelon patch were fired on - who ran to the fort with the intelligence - the guns were heard withal. The Indians, evidently did not try to harm, only alarm them, & thus decoy out a large party from the Station. Beasley strongly cautioned against being thus led into a snare - but to prepare for defence - he & others had seen the 5 or 6 Indians who showed themselves scamper off with much apparent alarm, & he rightly judged the stratagem designed.*

*It was thought best, however, that Aaron Reynolds and a few others sh(oul)d go out in the lane & make discoveries, but proceed no further than they could make good their retreat to the fort if attacked - & they should be properly supported from the station. They moved out cautiously, & when about 100 yards one of the men saw an Indian through the fence just in the edge of the cornfield - & only a few feet distant - he fired & killed the Indian; the party now wheeled & ran back - Ind(ian)s yelling after them & firing, but affecting nothing. None others of Reynolds party fired, save the one mentioned.*

*So the decoy failed the main body of Indians[?] advanced from the north to the attack, & aimed their greatest efforts at the north west corner, where Adkins was killed - & were fired on by the garrison as they approached. Don't recollect about the Indians marching to a fife.*

*Michael Mitchell, Sr. was shot dead at the first of the attack - shot in the forehead. - Adkins, a young man, was shot in the belly & killed, while in the bastion. - Nicholas Tomlin had his arm broke.*

*There were outside the fort 6 or 7 houses - among them a cabin occupied by James Twyman & Wm Richards as a hatter's shop. This was soon occupied by several Indians - & among other things from there (hastily abandoned with all the contents) was a violin, which some of them got & commenced amusing themselves by scratching on it, so that it was heard in the fort. Reynolds & several others fired a platoon into the shop, & raised much groaning within & several killed - saw none escape. These cabins were soon fired by the Indians but the wind favoured the besieged, & the flames blew towards the Indians & tended to drive them back, besides depriving them of a shelter. This was in the morning. After the siege was over, several charred bodies were found where the hatter's shop stood & burned several days.*

*Bell & Tomlin had early gone to Lexington for relief. About noon 16 horsemen ducked safe into the fort. - I think, Robt Patterson commanded them. The footmen under the Todds were driven back, McConnell killed - none got in: No distinct recollection about there being two different sets of footmen - one for Lexington, the others from Boone's Station.*

*Soon after the horsemen reached the Station, an Indian was seen behind a large Elm stump some 70 or 80 yards from the fort gate, over the little run: Jac(ob) Stucker shot with his big Yager, took him in the eye & killed him. And sometime during the siege (particular time not recollected) two Indians were seen high up in the big sycamore tree at the spring, Stucker shot one who tumbled down dead*



*through the limbs into the mud at the edge of the creek - the other scampered down like a bear. - The Indian shot behind the stump was very large & next evening after the Indians had gone, was dragged around by a rope by two stout negroes.*

*Recollects about Levy Craig (note: There was no Levy Craig at Bryan's Station during the siege. Possible Craigs who were there include Lewis, Lucy, and Jane [Jeny]) shooting an Indian over the cove of a cabin [ most likely when Reynolds & others shot into the hatter's shop. L.C.D.]*

*Girty Spoke - men shot at him - he laughed & retired. Recollects about James Girty being knocked down, or something of that kind, by a ball.*

*A good many Indians were killed.*

*Were several days hauling away the dead, swollen cattle, horses, sheep, etc. The Indians caught & carried away all the horses they could catch - & that such as they could not catch; & killed some of the young cattle for their own supplies, present & prospective. Peter Williams lost 27 head.*

*The aged Parson Suggett was too old to take part - was praying for the fort & people.*

*Jacob Stucker - was near 6 feet in height, a fine looking, smart & active man. He was in the Blue Lick defeat - was the first to return to Bryan's Station with the sad intelligence - in this shirt tail, through nettles, etc.; got his buckskin pants wet in crossing Licking, took them off & threw them away - was taken prisoner, knocked over an Indian with his fist & got away [this note made in a hurry, & is certainly wrong - it alludes to Reynolds plainly. L.C.D.]*

*Stucker was both at the Blue Lick defeat, & Clark's ensuing campaign that fall: He did not appear like a Dutchman - was truly a hero.*

*Blue Licks - Samuel Black & others were killed from Bryan's.*

*Peter Williams death - In August, 1783, Williams & David Stucker went down Elkhorn from Bryan's Station, hunting buffaloes - Williams spangled out his horse, which during the day strayed off, & at night Williams could not find him. Next day he started out from the Station, with his dog to hunt for the horse, & was never seen or heard of after - the dog & horse came in, the dog much wounded & torn, evidently by wolves; & though previously fond of going in the woods before, could never after be prevailed on to go out with the hunters. [Williams very likely was killed by Indians - his faithful dog remained to guard his master's body till driven off by a gang of hungry wolves - L.C.D.]*

*In 1786, Mr. Williams with his step-father (Saml Van Hook) & family, settled at Higgins Block House - situated on a rocky cliff on the southern bank of Licking, 2 miles above Cynthiana. Capt. John Higgins originally owned the land, & perhaps made the improvements, & sold to Capt. Ezra Reese. Capt. Reese, Mr. Van Hook, Michael Hogg & Daniel Ratcliff resided there with their families - & Wm. McCombs & family lived in a house some 30 rods off.*

*Wm. McCombs had gone to Lexington, in June 1788, his son Andrew, nearly grown, and a young man named Joseph McFall were the only men to guard the family. Early one morning, as these two young men went out of the house, they*

*were both shot by Indians secreted in the garden near by - McFall was shot in the bowels, ran to the block-house, & died the next night. McCombs had both his knees broken - mortification ensued, & he died the ninth day afterwards.*

*The Indians loitered around the McCombs house, without injuring any of the family, as they easily might have done, but showed themselves & dodged behind the house, yelling, trying to decoy out the men from the block-house. Young Williams & Sam'l Van Hook Jr. started, but went only part way, when suspecting the intended treachery, they returned. The main body of Indians were collected in the cornfield, back of the fort; & between them & the block-house were some corncribs and stables. They evidently intended, if the men could have been decoyed towards McCombs, to have rushed from the cornfield & possessed themselves of the place.*

*This failing, they collected some dry rails & other faggots & built a fire beside a stump in the rear of the cribs & stables, in order to burn off the rails & make fire brands of them, & then endeavor to fire the block-house. They did not burn these outbuildings, as doubtless they found them a safe protection to screen them from the rifles of the whites.*

*Capt. Reese now desired some one of the younger men to go to Col. Ben. Harrison's Station, two miles up the river, for a relief party. Williams volunteered - had to run some 30 yards exposed to the fire of the Indians, & three shots were fired at him, when he reached the cliff; he threw himself some 8 or 10 feet into the top of a small tree entangled with grape vines, without injury; caught, & descended the tree some 25 feet to the ground in all the work of a moment. Before the Indians could have got round & approached the shore, if they attempted it, Williams was far beyond their reach, having kept the beach, & protected by the overhanging rocks, trees & bushes. He soon reached Harrison's Station; & in less than an hour he was back with Col. Harrison & eleven men. The Indians had wisely decamped, but were too numerous to render it prudent for pursuit.*

*Col. Harrison settled his Station in the spring of 1786 - Col. Hinkson accompanied him from Penn., & re-settled his or Ruddell's Station.*

*John Grist - This was the name of the young Dutchman, taken when young from the Wheeling or West Penn. Region, & surrendered himself. Early one morning, as James Smith left Higgin's block-house just at gaze? of days, to go out & kill a deer, he happened to espy Grist in the fence corner close by the block-house, & having every appearance of an Indian, Smith drew up his rifle to shoot him; when he said in broken English that he was a white man, & begged for his life. He told his name, & of the two Indians who came with him. Col. Harrison & Hinkson & a party went after the two, taking Grist along - On Beaver Creek of Licking, near the Big Elk Lick, they killed the old Indian; & chased the young Indian - finally steered their course to the mouth of Snag Creek where the canoe was buried in which the party came over; Harrison's party got there a few minutes first, & secreted themselves, & as the young Indian ran down the bank he was shot.*

*Grist was fitted out with clothes & money, & started for his friends - & never more heard of.*

*Martin Wetzel - no knowledge of his escape from Indians.*

*Lewis Wetzel & Cornelius Washburn, about 1789 or '90 were employed to take a couple of runaway negroes, going to join the Indians. One of the negroes belonged to one Stout who had settled at the Blue Licks: the other belonged to Arthur World, who lived near Hinkson's Station, & was named Basil, who had enticed the other to go off with him. A son of Stout, a young man, accompanied Wetzel & Washburn; they crossed the Ohio at Maysville & pursued several miles - finally discovered the negroes treed & well armed with good rifles. As Basil was behind a tree not quite large enough to cover his entire body, Washburn fired & brought him down - badly wounded. Both was surrendered, were taken back: Basil in due time recovered; but was subsequently hung for breaking open & robbing a store in Bourbon.*

*Ellison Williams' subsequent services - As already mentioned, was in spring '80, when but 10 years old, in Wm. Bryan's party defeated at the Kentucky river; in '82 the siege of Bryan's Station - & performed the gallant exploit in the attack on Higgin's block-house, in 1786: From this latter date he was pretty constantly engaged as a spy for several years - first spied to the forks of Licking; & when Cincinnati commenced settling then extended the rout to mouth of Licking. In 1790, he settled at Cincinnati: In '91, when St. Clair was defeated, he was engaged as a guard to carry supplies from Fort Hamilton to Fort Jefferson. When Gen. Wayne went out, Williams was in Kibby's spies, 75 men rank & file; & served in the battle of the 20th Aug. 1794.*

*Mays' horse fell on the rocks, & thus the Indians were enabled to catch & burn him.*

**17 Jan 1780** Court of Virginia Land Commission (held at Bryants Station on Elkhorn Creek in Kentucky)

*Sam'l VanHook this day claimed a preemption of 400 Acres of Land at the State price in the district of Kentucky lying on the South fork of Licking Creek adjoining Sam'l Dennis's land below by making an actual settlem't in the Month of March 1779 Satisfactory proof being made to the Court they are of Opinion that the s'd VanHook has a right to a preemption of 400 Acres of land to include the above location & that a Cert iss accordingly.*

*(Note: this land is mentioned in a deed recorded 8 Mar 1799 in Fayette Co., KY)*

**26 Jun 1780** History of Kentucky, Lewis Collins, Volume 2, page 327 – Capture of Ruddle's and Martin's Stations. - From depositions of Isaac Ruddle, James Ruddle, Nicholas Hart, Samuel VanHook, and John Burger - who were among the prisoners taken, and whose lives were spared - and from other sources, it appears that VanHook and probably most of the others were not released from captivity for 4 years and 2 months...

*(It appears Lewis Collins used the depositions from the Harrison County Court records in the 1800's)*

**17 Mar/26 Jun 1780** Illinois Papers of Clark's Campaigns, Document 33 – Samuel VanHook and Samuel VanHook Jr. were enlisted in Capt. Charles Gatliff's company for the defense of Martin's Station on 17 March 1780. The sergeants of this company were Samuel VanHook and George Loveless. Among the privates of this

company were Samuel VanHook Jr. and John Loveless. All of these men appear on 2 payroll lists for this company in the Illinois Papers. (See Harding's George Rogers Clark and His Men.) This company lasted until the destruction of Ruddle's and Martin's Stations on June 24th and June 26th respectively.

*(Note: Because these payrolls are contained in Clark's Illinois papers, I have seen references that contend Samuel VanHook served in Illinois with Clark. From investigation of these papers it is obvious that Samuel did not go to Illinois. The company he was in only served in Kentucky.)*

**17 Mar/26 Jun 1780** George Rogers Clark Papers, Draper Collection, University of Wisconsin, Reel 5, p. 385, Kentucky County – *"I do certify that Samuel Vanhook Sen. Served as Issuing Commissary from the 10th Day of March till the 26th Day of June at Martin's Station being 109 Days"* - James Trabue Coms.

**17 Mar/26 Jun 1780** George Rogers Clark Papers, Draper Collection, University of Wisconsin, Reel 5, p. 394, Kentucky County – *"I do certify that John Mahan, Solomon Litton, Samuel Vanhook, George Loveless and Joel Hill (may be Gill) found their own rations of Corn and Salt from the 10th day of March till the 26th day of June 1780 they being soldiers of actual service at Martin's Station each 109 days ration"* - James Trabue Coms.

**17 Mar/26 Jun 1780** George Rogers Clark Papers, Draper Collection, University of Wisconsin, Reel 5, p. 402, Kentucky Martin's Station – *"I do certify that Samuel Vanhook himself found his own rations of Corn and Salt from the 10th day of March 1780 till the 26th day of June the same year he being soldiers of actual service"* - James Trabue Coms.

**1784 – 1785** History of Kentucky, Lewis Collins, reprint by Henry Clay Press, 1968, page 343, (also from the 1850 Collins History, Volume 2, page 329) - (note: this account is similar, but not identical, to the account appearing in Lyman Draper's interview of Ellison E. Williams – it is unclear if Lewis Collins used the Draper account, or spoke with Ellison E. Williams directly) – *The following account of an adventure at Higgins' blockhouse, near Cynthiana, is from the notes of Mr. E.E. Williams, of Covington, Ky., an actor in the events which he records:*

*"After the battle of the Blue Licks [19 August 1782], and in 1786, our family removed to Higgins' blockhouse on Licking river, one and a half miles above Cynthiana. Between those periods my father had been shot by the Indians, and my mother married Samuel VanHook, who had been one of the party engaged in the defence at Ruddell's station in 1780, and on its surrender was carried with the rest of the prisoners to Detroit.*

*Higgins' fort, or block-house, had been built at the bank of Licking, on precipitous rocks, at least thirty feet high, which served to protect us on every side but one. On the morning of the 12th of June, at day light, the fort, which consisted of six or seven houses, was attacked by a party of Indians, fifteen or twenty in number. There was a cabin outside, below the fort, where William M'Combs resided, although absent at that time. His son Andrew, and a man hired in the family, named Joseph McFall, on making their appearance at the door to wash themselves, were both shot down -- M'Combs through the knee, and McFall in the pit of the stomach. McFall ran to the block-house, and M'Combs fell, unable to support himself longer, just after opening the door of his cabin, and*

*was dragged in by his sisters, who barricaded the door instantly. On the level and only accessible side, there was a corn-field, and the season being favorable, and the soil rich as well as new, the corn was more than breast high. Here the main body of the Indians lay concealed, while three or four who made the attack attempted thereby to decoy the whites outside of the defences. Failing in this, they set fire to an old fence and corn-crib, and two stables, both long enough built to be thoroughly combustible. These had previously protected their approach in that direction. Captain Asa Reese was in command of our little fort. 'Boys,' said he, 'some of you must run over to Hinkson's or Harrison's.' These were one and a half and two miles off, but in different directions. Every man declined. I objected, alleging as my reason, that he would give up the fort before I could being relief; but on his assurance that he would hold out, I agreed to go. I jumped off the bank through the thicket of trees, which broke my fall, while they scratched my face and limbs. I got to the ground with a limb clenched in my hands, which I had grasped unawares in getting through. I recovered from the jar in less than a minute, crossed the Licking, and ran up a cow-path on the opposite side, which the cows from one of those forts had beat down in their visits for water. As soon as I had gained the bank, I shouted, to assure my friends of my safety, and to discourage the enemy. In less than an hour, I was back with a relief of ten horsemen, well armed, and driving in full chase after the Indians. But they had decamped immediately, upon hearing my signal, well knowing what it meant, and it was deemed imprudent to pursue them with so weak a party -- the whole force in Higgins' block-house hardly sufficing to guard the women and children there. McFall, from whom the bullet could not be extracted, lingered two days and nights in great pain, when he died, as did M'Combs, on the ninth day, mortification then taking place."*

**1784 - 1787** Draper Papers, Fayette County interviews, page 169 – (The following is part of an interview Lyman Draper had with someone named Hardesty, who mentions the name “VanHook”):

*“Came down fall 1784. Staid at Bryant’s Station until spring. Moved then out here. Grant’s Station was not reoccupied. At the storehouse (was) where our English lived.*

*Where we landed, there was nothing to be seen at Maysville. The 1st house we saw after leaving Wheeling was at McClelland’s Station - and the next at Bryant’s. We were the first to pass up with wagons. McClelland’s Station - at that time the cabins were built, but nobody was yet living there. They moved there shortly after McClelland did. It appears to me they moved from Riddles Station. Not more than 2 cabins. About 2 miles this side of Millersburg.*

*Lindsey’s Station, 2 miles beyond the stamping ground, besieged 2 or 3 days - they were about it - in 1786, or 1787, at the Great Crossing the Indians were driven away.*

*Perhaps as many as 8 families came down with us. About half of us went to Bryant’s Station, the rest to Louisville, as they then generally did. Though few had then left yet to go by water to Louisville, and come by land to Bryant’s Station. We got out of our road at the Lower Blue Lick, and got lost with our wagons before we got to Bryant’s Station. Followed an old indian trace that led from Limestone to Bryant’s Station. The indians when they attacked Bryant’s*

*Station came that route, some, and some by the Crossing. Had made salt some at the Blue Lick, before we got there but were not making there then. We took the wrong buffalo trace, of a good many that came into the Lick. Was 2 weeks getting to Bryant's Station from Maysville. Hill at Maysville was so bad we had to take our wagons to pieces, piece by piece, and back them up.*

*1st cabins were put up, I imagine, in spring of 1785. For about 2 years the indians were not so troublesome.*

*Way had been blazed before we came along by some people that came down from Bryant's Station. Stuckers, Wm. Tomlin, Williams, Fosters, VanHooks, Mitchells.*

*General Wilkinson had landed at Maysville before we did, and gone on to Lexington with a company of movers. The road to Blue Lick was tomahawked - and from there to Bryant's Station the road had been opened by Col. Byrd."*

**28 Mar 1785** Virginia Land Office Grants – Charles Abercrombie (adjacent to Samuel VanHook's land). Land grant was issued in 1789, but the survey was done 28 March 1785.

*Beverly Randolph Esquire Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia To all, to whom these presents shall Come Greeting Knoweth that by virtue and in Consideration of a Land Office Treasury Warrant Number 3485 Issued the Seventh day of March and part of Number 3492 Issued the Seventh day of March 1780 there is granted by the said Commonwealth unto Charles Abercrombie a certain tract or parcel of Land containing four hundred Acres by Survey bearing date the twenty eighth day of March 1785. Lying & being in the County of Fayette on the South fork of licking adjoining the Land & bounded by Samuel Vanhook of one thousand Acres on the North West & bounded as followeth To wit Beginning faie (?) Vanhooks beginning or near (?) Samuel Dennises upper Corner on the Creek a maple & Box elder Running from thence W 253 poles to two (?) hickory & buckeye thence S 253 poles to a hackberry, Hickory & two buckeyes thence E 253 poles to a Box elder & two buckeyes Vanhooks Corner & thence N 253 poles with Vanhooks line to the beginning. ... at Richmond on the 9 Feb 1789*

**28 Sep 1785** Petitions of the Early Inhabitants of Kentucky (to the General Assembly of Virginia 1769 to 1792), Petition No. 26 – Samuel VanHook signed a petition of the inhabitants of Lincoln County requesting a town for the county. This was the request for the formation of the town of Harrodsburg. (*This petition is also signed by Samuel Dennis, who owned land next to Samuel's original preemption, and Samuel Dennis Junior, among others. There is a reproduction of this particular petition in the Filson Club publication covering these petitions.*)

**25 Nov 1785** Petitions of the Early Inhabitants of Kentucky (to the General Assembly of Virginia 1769 to 1792). Petition No. 28 – Samuel VanHook and Samuel VanHook Jr. signed a petition of the inhabitants of Fayette County to request for division of the county. (*This division occurred in 1786 when Bourbon County was formed.*)

**1786** [Bourbon County, Ky. formed from Fayette County.](#)

- 26 Oct 1786** Petitions of the Early Inhabitants of Kentucky (to the General Assembly of Virginia 1769 to 1792). Petition No. 33 – Samuel VanHook Jr. signed a petition to protest the division of Bourbon County into 3 counties.
- 10 Sep 1787** Bourbon Co., Ky., Tax Lists, District of John Waller, page 7 (also page 24) – Person from whom tax is due: Samuel VanHook. White males older than 21 in household: Samuel VanHook and Samuel VanHook, 2 horses, 11 cattle.
- 19 Sep 1787** [Petitions of the Early Inhabitants of Kentucky](#) (to the General Assembly of Virginia 1769 to 1792). Petition No. 48 – Samuel VanHook signed a request of the inhabitants of Limestone and Bourbon County to divide Bourbon into 2 counties. (*This petition was also signed by Daniel Boone, among others.*)
- 01 Nov 1787** Petitions of the Early Inhabitants of Kentucky (to the General Assembly of Virginia 1769 to 1792). Petition No. 49 – Samuel VanHook signed a protest of the previous petition. (Either Samuel signed one petition and Samuel Jr. signed the other or Samuel just changed his mind).
- 27 May 1788** Bourbon Co., KY, Court Records – Hadden vs. VanHook (**Junior**) [front cover] *Hadden vs Vanhook Lease August [ ] confessed by Def March 1788 Special Imparlanse April N aft will ST Mar 88 [ ] for Pltf Hadden vs Vanhook Jur. Subpd Vanhook & William Executed C Moore DS*  
[full page] *Haddan vs Sam'l Vanhook Jur. Executed*  
*The Commonwealth of Virginia to the Sheriff of Bourbon County greeting you are hereby commanded to summon Samuel Vanhook Sen. & John Williams to appear before the Justice of our said county at the courthouse on the third tuesday in August next to testify and the truth to say in behalf of William Hadden in a certain matter of controversy in our said Court depending & undetermined between said William Hadden Plt. & Sam'l Vanhook Junr deft. and their they shall in no wise omit under the Penalty of 100 pounds*  
*and have then there this writ witness John Edwards clerk of our said court at the Courthouse this 27th day of May 1788. In the 12th year of the Commonwealth Test. John Edwards Cl. B. C.*  
*To Hereby Certify that I Received of William Haddin four pounds Lawful Money of Virginia in parte of pay for the Land that I sold to him Given My hand 8 Day of December 1785*  
*Samuel Vanhook (signature) (this is Samuel VanHook Jr's signature on the lease)*
- 16 Jun 1788** Bourbon Co., KY, Court Records – Hadden vs. VanHook (**Junior**)  
*.. of Virginia to the Sheriff of Bourbon county greeting you are hereby .. Samuel Vanhook Jur. if he be found in your Baliwick & ... you have his body before the Justice of our said County at the ... the third Tuesday in March next to answer William ... Trespass on the Case damage 10 pounds and have them there ... John Edwards clerk of our siad court this 16th day of June ... 12th year of the Commonwealth Test John Edward CBC Bourbon*  
*William Hadden complains of Samuel Vanhook junior in custody and so forth for that whereas the said Defendant on the day of the year 178- at the parish of Kentucky and county aforesaid was in debt to the said Plaintiff in the sum of four pounds Lawful money for he like sum of money by him the said Defendant before*

*that Time had and received to the use of said Plaintiff and being so indebted he the said Defendant afterwards (that is to say) the same day and year at the parish of Kentucky and County aforesaid in Consideration these then and there undertook and faithfully promised that he the said Defendant would & will and truly Content and pay to the said Plaintiff the said sum of five pounds whenever after he should be thereunto required Nevertheless the said Defendant not regarding his promise and undertaking aforesaid but contriving and [ ] craftily and [ ] this particular hath not paid the said sum of money to the said Plaintiff [ ] he the said Defendant hath been often requested thereto by the said Plaintiff at the parish of Kentucky and county aforesaid But he the said Plaintiff hath and [ ] doth refuse to pay the same wherefore the said Plaintiff saith that he is [ ] to the value of ----- Pounds & therefore he brings suit. Hall for Pltff ]*

**24 Jun 1788** Bourbon Co., KY, Court Records – VanHook (**Senior**) vs. Cartmill

*The Commonwealth of Virginia to the sheriff of Bourbon county, greeting. You are hereby commanded to take John Cartmill if he be found in your Bailiwick & him safely keep so that you have his body before the Justice of our said county at the Courthouse on the third Tuesday in August next to answer Samuel Vanhook Sen. if a Olea Covenant not performed Damage 150 pounds*

*and have then there this writ witness John Edwards Clerk of our said Court this 24th day of June 1788 In the 12th year of the Commonwealth Test John edwards CL. B. C.*

*The Commonwealth of Virginia To the Sheriff of Bourbon County Greeting you are hereby Comanded to attach so much of the goods and chattles of the within named John Cartmill as will be of value sufficient to Satisfy and Pay the within mentioned sum of one hundred and fifty pounds & costs and that you secure the same in your Hands or otherwise provide that it may be forthcoming and Liable to the payment Thereof as the Justice of our Court of our said coutry at the Courthouse on the third Tuesday in October next Shall in that part Consider and have then there this writ witness John Edward Clerk of our said Court at .....{\rest of page torn\}*

**19 Aug 1788** Bourbon Co., KY, Deed Book A (1786–1790), pp 220-222

*Elizabeth VanHook of Bourbon County to John McAllister of Boubon County. "Elizabeth Vanhook places her son, Thomas Vanhook, aged 2 years and 3 months, in apprenticeship or as a covenant servant to John McAllister until the age of 21 years."*

Witnesses Benjamin Harrison and Sam. VanHook Sr.

**Oct 1788** Bourbon Co., KY, Court Records – VanHook (**Senior**) vs. Cartmill

*Vanhook vs Cartmill Oct 1788 Bourbon county Court 1788 Samuel Vanhook Pltf vs John Cartmill - deft In Court The sheriff having returned that he left a copy of the Pltfs writ with the Def whereupon the said Deft was Solemly Called but came not upon the motion of the Pltf an attact is awarded him against the Defts Estate for 150 pounds and costs returnable [ ] Test John Edwards ... as within ordered have attached one hankerchief the property of John Cartmills and [ ] the same to [ ] to the Said Samuel ...*



- 1788** Bourbon Co., Ky., Tax Lists, District of John Waller, page 11 – Person from whom tax is due: Samuel VanHook. White males older than 21 in household: Samuel VanHook and Samuel VanHook, 1 white male 16 to 21, 2 horses.
- 15 Dec 1789** Bourbon Co., KY, Court Records – [cover] *Vanhook (Senior) & Azor Rees Capias* [warrant] *Feb. 1790*
- [document] *Commonwealth of Virginia to the Sheriff of Bourbon county Greeting You are hereby commanded to take Azor Rees if he be found within your baliwick and him safely keep so that you have his body before the Justices of our said county court at the Court house thereof On the third Tuesday in February next to answer Sam'l Vanhook & Margaret his wife a plea of Tresspass Assault and Battery Damage Two hundred pounds*
- And have then there this writ Witness John Edward Clerk of our said Court at the Court house this 15 day of Dec. 1789 And in the 13th Year of the Commonwealth Jno Edwards*
- 11 Jun 1789** Kentucky Historical Society Register, Vol. 32, Page 241 – Samuel VanHook for 288 lbs. of beef Impressed for the Guards of Bourbon County Kentucky 1 pound, 16 shillings 0 d. for Kentucky's active militia.
- 1789** Bourbon Co., Ky., Tax Lists – Person from whom tax is due: Samuel VanHook. 2 White tithables, 2 horses.
- 8 Feb 1790** Bourbon Co., KY, Court Records – [cover] *Vanhook (Senior) & Azor Rees, Vanhook vs Rees* [cover] *Mary Talor John Pickens William Williams Executed A. Mountjoy A copy left for John Pickens & William Williams Vanhook Mary Talor is no inhabitant of this county vs A. Mountjoy Rees to Augt 1790*
- [document] *The Commonwealth of Virginia To the Sheriff of Bourbon County Greeting you are hereby commanded to summon Mary Taylor John Pickens William Williams To appear before the Justice of our Said county on day of [ ] next Feby Court instant to testify and the Truth to say in behalf of Sam'l Vanhook Sen & Margaret his wife in a certain matter of controversy in our said court depending and unditermoned Between Sam'l Vanhook Sen & Margaret Wife & Azor Rees And this they shall in no wise omit under the penalty of 100 pounds*
- and have then there this writ witness John Edwards Clerk of our said Court at the Courthouse the 8th day of Feby 1790 In this the 14th year of the Commonwealth John Edwards*
- 22 May 1790** Bourbon Co., Ky. Marriages – John Scott and Elizabeth VanHook. James Scott is surety on bond. Permission paper reads: “*Sir, An intention of Marriage is between the Bearer hereof Mr. John Scott, & my Daughter Elizabeth Vanhook, She is of full age, & my consent is not necessary to the Granting of License, were it they have it & pray Sir you will Issue them. I am (illegible)*”. Signed by Samuel Vanhook, Test: by Benj. Harrison and Saml Vanhook. Marriage was registered by Augustine (Austin) Eastin, minister.
- 7 Jun 1790** Bourbon Co., KY, Court Records – *Vanhook (Senior) & Azor Rees*
- The Commonwealth of Virginia to the Sheriff of bourbon County Greeting You are hereby sommanded to summon Mary Taylor and John Perkins & William Williams to appear before the Justice of our said county at the courthouse*

*thereof on the 2nd day of their next August Court to Testify and the truth to say in behalf of Sam'l Vanhook and wife in a certain matter of controversy in our said court depending and undetermined Between said Vanhook & Wife Plffs and Azor Rees defendant - this they shall in no wise omit under the penalty of 100 pounds and have then there this writ witness John Edwards Clerk of said Court at the courthouse the 7 day of June 1790 In the xiv Year of the Commonwealth John Edwards*

- 27 Aug 1790** Petitions of the Early Inhabitants of Kentucky (to the General Assembly of Virginia 1769 to 1792). Petition No. 77 – Samuel VanHook signed a request of the inhabitants of Bourbon County for the erection of grist mills on Stoner and Hinkson’s forks of the Licking River. (*This petition was received in Virginia 22 October 1790. It is also signed by Nicholas Hart, among others.*)
- 1790** Bourbon Co., Ky., Tax Lists – Person from whom tax is due: Samuel VanHook sen’r. 2 White tithables, 2 horses.  
*(Note: This is the last entry for Samuel showing 2 white males over 21, and also the only entry labeling Samuel as senior explicitly. From this and previous records it looks like Samuel Junior was the son of Samuel Senior and they were living in the same household.)*
- Jun 1791** Bourbon Co., Ky., Tax Lists – Person from whom tax is due: Samuel VanHook. 1 White tithables, 1 horses. (*This is also the source for the Samuel VanHook entry in the reconstructed 1790 “First Census of Kentucky”. There is no entry for a Samuel VanHook in the reconstructed 1800 “Second Census of Kentucky”.*)
- 29 Aug 1791** Bourbon Co., Ky. Marriages – James Johnson and Margret (Margaret) VanHook (*I have seen James “M.” Johnson, but am not sure if this is right*). Surety on bond is Atwell Worll. Permission paper reads: “August the 29 1791. Sir, I am Satisfied that Licenses Should Issue for James Johnston and Margret Vanhook this is from an under my hand and Seal, Samuel Vanhook”. Test: John Scott and Robert Scott. Marriage was registered by Augustine (Austin) Eastin, minister.
- 22 Sep 1794** Bourbon Co., Ky. Marriages – William Patton and Catrin (Catherine) VanHook. Absalom Hunt is surety on bond. Permission paper reads: “*This is to certify that I have no objections to William Patton having my Daughter Catrin Vanhook Joined together in Matrimoney. giving under my Hand this 22 day of September 1794. Samuel Vanhook*”
- 1794** [Harrison County, Ky. formed from Bourbon and Scott Counties.](#)
- 1794** [Campbell County, Ky. formed from Harrison, Mason and Scott Counties.](#)
- 20 Jul 1795** Campbell Co., Ky. Tax Lists – Sam’l Vanhook, 1 white male over 21, 2 horses, 5 cattle. (*Ellison Williams also appears in the Campbell Co. tax lists during this period.*)
- 16 Jul 1796** Campbell Co., Ky. Tax Lists – Samuel Vanhook, 1 white male over 21, 4 cattle.
- 4 Jun 1797** Campbell Co., Ky. Court Order Book A, page 92 – Samuel Vanhook witness on will of John McCollum.
- 7 Jun 1797** Campbell Co., Ky. Tax Lists – Samuel Vanhook, 1 white male over 21, 150 acres 2nd rate land on Bank Lick.

**Samuel VanHook (1733-1809?) of North Carolina**  
(assumed son of Henry VanHook)

**July 23, 2014**

- 14 Jun 1797** Campbell Co., Ky. Court Order Book A, page 92 – Samuel Vanhook estate appraiser of John McCollum.
- Jun 1797** Campbell Co., Ky. Will Book A – Will of John McCollum, wife Ann, sons John and Thomas, daughter Ann, Executors John McCollum and son-in-law Bryant Senior, witnesses William Townsley, Samuel VanHook and James McCollum.
- Jun 1797** Campbell Co., Ky. Court Order Book A, page 99 – Samuel Vanhook is appointed Constable of Campbell County and takes oath; Obediah Scott is his Security on bond.
- 1798** Campbell Co., Ky. Tax Lists – Samuel Vanhook, 1 white male over 21, 150 acres 2nd rate land on Bank Lick.
- June 1798** *Stewart's Kentucky Herald*, Tuesday, 24 Jul 1798, Volume IV, Issue 179, page 3: Bourbon County. June Court 1798 – *On the motion of John Ruddell, Ordered, That James Ruddell, John Waller, and Daniel Isgrig, or any two of them, be appointed commissioners under the act of assembly, entitled, "an act to reduce into one, several acts to ascertain the boundaries of, and for processing lands," to take the depositions of witnesses, to establish the beginning and specialties called for in a pre-emption of four hundred acres of land, lying about one mile and a half north east of the Buffaloe road leading from Ruddell's station to the Lower Blue Lick, and five miles from said station; granted to Samuel Vanhook Inness; and to do such other acts as may be thought necessary, and agreeable to law. A copy. Teste, THOMAS ARNOLD. A true copy from the records. The commissioners to meet at the place the 17<sup>th</sup> day of August next.*
- 8 Mar 1799** Fayette Co., Ky., District Court Deed Book B, page 350 – Jacob Myers of Mercer County, Kentucky sold to Samuel Cook of Harrison County, Kentucky, 100 acres in Harrison County for 300 pounds. A tract on the south fork of Licking River, above the mouth of Indian Creek, part of Samuel **VanHook's** settlement and bounded as follows (to wit) Beginning at a sugar tree & white oak thence north 3E109 poles crossing the river to William Rankins upper corner to some ash & Elm on the Bank thence up the said river with its meanders thereof (as follows) N67W24 poles, N59W58 poles, N75W20 poles, N80W50 poles, S65W9 poles to a hackberry & box elder lower corner to Thomas Gallispie, thence with Gallispie's line South 145 poles to a stake thence East 145 poles to the beginning. Witnesses: John Owings, William Ford, James Nicholas. Recorded 3 June 1799.
- 11 Jul 1799** Campbell Co., Ky. Tax Lists - Samuel Vanhook, 1 white male over 21, 150 acres 2nd rate land on Bank Lick.
- 20 Aug 1801** Campbell Co., Ky. Tax Lists - Samuel Vanhook, 1 white male over 21, 1 horse, no land.
- 9 Feb 1804** Harrison County Court Records, November Court 1803 John Dougherty states he first knew Coopers Run in 1779 that he in company with Wm. Whitsell, Samuel Potter and George Lovelace (*Loveless*) and Samuel VanHook was hunting and encamped first night above Grants improvement.

[\(Note: I have been unable to find the original of the above record. It is not in the Harrison County Court order books for the date given. This reference was taken](#)

from Keister's [VanHook and Allied Families](#), and she in turn took it from Kentucky Records by Ardery. - HLV)

**6 Oct 1806** Harrison County Court Record Book B, October Court 1806, pages 1-2 - At a court held for the county of Harrison at the courthouse thereof on Monday the Sixth day of October one thousand Eight hundred & Six. Present David Dils, Robert Ellison, Josephus Perrin, Chichester Chin, John Berry & John Miller.

*The depositions of Samuel VanHook, Jacob Stucker, Nicholas Hart, John Morrison, and Abraham Venable to Establish William Walkers land on Raven Creek was returned into Court by the...*

*The deposition of Samuel VanHook being of lawful age deposeth and saith that he was at Bryants Station where the Commissioners Set at that Place in the winter of 1779 or 1780 at which time he hunted on this creek which was known by the name of raven Creek. Moreover that Captain John Martin and John Haggin informed him that it was called Raven Creek and that the said VanHook has resided in this county ever since and has never known it by any other name than that of Raven Creek. question by Beale (note: Benjamin Beale) how old was you when the Commissioners Set at Bryants Station? : Answer I shall be 73 the 15th day of next month. Question by Same at what time did you know the Creeks now called fork lick and Crook(ed) Creek by those names, Answer at the same time I knew raven Creek, the same Fork lick went by the name of big lick, Question by Same was not fork lick, Crooked Creek, & Raven creek known by those names by those bowersant (sic) with said licks at that time Answer yes & further this deposant sayeth not. Signed Samuel VanHook*

**2 May 1807** Harrison Co., Ky. Tax Lists - Samuel VanHook - Class of Levy.

**4 May 1807** Harrison County Court Record Book B, May Court 1807, pages 26-28 At a Court held for Harrison County at the Courthouse Thereof on Monday the fourth day of May one thousand Eight hundred and Seven. Present David Dils, Chichester Chinn, and Henry Edger.

*The depositions of Samuel VanHook, William McCune, William Anderson, and Thomas Ravenscraft was returned into Court by the Commissioners & ordered to be Recorded in the words and figures following (to wit).*

*We Josephus Perrin & Josiah Griffith Commissioners appointed by the County Court of Harrison under an act of Assembly intituled an act to Ascertain the Boundaries of & for processioning of Lands to Take depositions to establish the Special Calls of an entry of 2000 acres of land on Mill Creek entered in the name of Thomas Moore & Benjamin Johnson on the 24th of june 1780 &; haveing met at the house of Thomas Moore in Harrison County on the 15th day of April 1807. and thence proceeded to a large pond in said County & on said Creek the Bason we suppose to Contain about two acres & a half & about half an acre farther is Covered with water Shrubs growing in the same incircled fully three fourths around by the above named Mill Creek and on the east Side of said Creek where we proceeded to take the following depositions.*

*The Deposition of Samuel VanHook who being of lawfull age and first duly Sworn deposeth and saith that in the year Seventeen hundred & Seventy nine he first saw this pond and that after he Came back from being a prisoner I*

*frequently saw it again and I have hunted all these woods from a great way above this and to the mouth of this Creek & I never saw any other pond but this (viz) Mill Creek. quest. by Thomas Moore were you acquainted with John McFalls Settlement & preemption & whether it was Generally known or the place generally known by the name of McFalls Settlement & preemption. Answer It went by that name by the people at Ruddells Station, I know no further. quest. by Same how far is you Suppose it is from this place to McFalls up this Creek. Answer I Suppose about three or four miles. quest. Please to describe this pond. Answer about three quarters of an acre I suppose is as much as is usually Covered with water perhaps two acres may be more in the Bason or descent. quest. by Same was there water brushy in it when you first saw it as ther is at present. Answer yes. quest. by William Brown for James Coleman when did you Settle at Ruddells Station when were taken prisoner & when did you return. Answer in the Spring Seventy nine I settled there in the year Eighty in the winter after Christmas I moved to Martins Station taken prisoner in june following & I returned in four or five years I dont recollect which but I believe About four years and two months. quest. by Same who did you hear Call McFalls Claim by the name of Settlement and preemption and was it before or after you were taken prisoner by the Indians. Answer by the Generality of the people it Called so I dont recollect who particularly. quest. by Same do you recollect any one person who Called it by that name. Ansr. no. quest. by same who was with you when you first saw this pond. Answer I was by myself. quest. by Thomas Moore dont you remember to have heard Mr. McFall Say or Call his Claim by that name. Answer yes but I thought that that would not answer as he is dead. I have heard him Call it his Settlement and preemption but whether he was Obtained a grant from the Commissioners I Cant tell. quest. by Wm. Brown did you hear McFall or any other person after he had procured his Certificate from the Commissioners Call it by the name of McFalls Settlement and preemption. Answer no. quest. by Thomas Moore did you ever hear it Called by any other name. Answer no. quest. by William Brown what business did you follow when you lived in the Station. Answer I raised Corn there & I followed hunting. quest. by Same are you not a Taylor to trade & did you not follow that in the Station. Answer yes, I served a time to it but I did not follow it further than make two or three pair leather Breeches. (signed) Samuel Vanhook*

*(Note: The above record was paraphrased in Keister's [VanHook and Allied Families](#) and some words were transposed to where it looks like Samuel was taken prisoner twice. - HLV)*

**25 Feb 1809** Harrison Co., Ky. Marriages. Samuel VanHook and Sarah Morgan. James Johnson was surety on this bond.

**13 Nov 1809** Harrison County Court Records, November Court 1809, Page 141 – Deposition of Samuel VanHook to establish land of William Woods.

*At a Court held for the County of Harrison at the Courthouse In Cynthiana on the thirteenth day of November one thousand Eight hundred and Nine. Present William Rayman, Chichester Chinn, John Miller, Christopher McConnico, Gresham Forrest, Isaac Coleman, & Abraham Adams.*

*The Commissioners appointed on the motion of Archibald Woods to take the depositions of Witnesses to establish the Special Calls of an entry of the*

*Governing lines of a Survey made thereon of one thousand acres entered Surveyed and Patented for William Woods This day returned the Depositions of Samuel Vanhook & Robert Layson which is ordered to be Recorded in the words & figures following court. The deposition of Samuel Vanhook age Seventy-Six years or thereabouts who being first duely Sworn deposeth & Saith that some time in the year one thousand Seven hundred & Ninety nine he was acquainted with the Spring where we now are Called & Known by the name of the Cave Spring having frequently Camped by it in Company with Others & alone & that he Continued to be acquainted with Said Spring & to encamp by it when he was hunting until the time that Ruddells Station was taken by the indians & Brittish which was sometime in the month of June in the year 1780. This deponant well recollects that during the year 1779 & from that time to the time Ruddells Station was taken in the month of June 1780 this Spring where we now are was well Known to a majority of the hunters living at Ruddells Station & to a Majority of the hunters that were in the habit of hunting on the South fork of licking. This deponant further States that Ruddells Station was the nearest Station or Settlement to this Spring in the year 1779 & 1780. that he knows of no Other Cave Spring nor ever heard of any other on the South fork of licking either in the years 1779 & 1780. or ever Since although this deponant in those years was well acquainted with & was in the habit of hunting on said South fork in the year 1779 & the Beginning of the year 1780 from Ruddells Station down to Byrds Crossing This deponant further States that he is Convinced that the Spring where we are now at was so well Known to a majority of the hunters in Ruddells Station & the Companies of hunters that were in the habit of hunting on South fork of licking in the Spring of the year 1780 that if any person had inquired of them where there was a Cave Spring on the south fork of licking they would have directed the enquirer to this place this deponant further States that he was taken prisoner by the indians & Brittish at the time Ruddells Station was taken & after he returned from his Captivity Sometime in the year 1784 or 1785 he lived in Bryants Station & the place and Spring where we now are was at that time well Known to a Majority of the hunters who then lived in Bryants Station & that he was at that time in the habit of hunting in the neighbourhood of this Spring in Company with other persons & he is well Convinced that a Majority of the hunters who hunted on the South fork of licking at that time were acquainted with this place & Spring: This deponant is well Convinced that this Spring was so well Known by a Majority of the hunters at Bryants Station & a Mojority of the hunters that hunted on the south fork of licking at the time this deponant lived in Bryants Station that if any person had enquired of them for a Cave Spring on the south fork of licking thay would have directed the enquirer to the place of further this deponant Saith not. (signed) Samuel Vanhook*

**17 Aug 1832** Revolutionary War Pension Records, National Archives - Deposition of John Loveless to obtain military pension for his brother George Loveless:

*John Loveless doth on his oath depose and say that his Father John Loveless formerly lived at Holstein in the State of Virginia and that his brother George Loveless now an applicant for a pension under the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832, went as well remembered to Kentucky and that he was there one or two years, and that on his return we the family went to Kentucky and entered Ruddles Station...we remained in that Station and during the Winter*

*erected Martins Fort and when finished we with others moved into it about the last of March was attacked by a large body of Indians, after severe fighting they were repulsed and retired...well remember that Father and brother George the said applicant fought the Indians (this would be the John and George Loveless in Capt. Charles Gatliff's company)... At which time in this engagement my Father was dangerously wounded and my Stepmother's Mother killed and scalped. In about 3 months afterwards the British under Col. Bird Canadians and Indians again besieged us and took us prisoners of War, and marched us to Detroit where we was detained Prisoners of War until in 1784 when we was released and sent to Pittsburgh escorted by two Indian guides and interpreters, said there were 10 prisoners in number. and were marched to Pittsburgh on the old Indian trail and found provisions by the British until we got to Pittsburgh.*

**15 Oct 1832** Revolutionary War Pension Records, National Archives - Deposition of George Loveless to obtain military pension - This deposition contains quite a bit of detail but the gist of it is:

*In the spring of the year 1777 his Father John Loveless (then residing at a place called Holstein and about 12 miles from Wolf Hills Court House in the State of Virginia then so called) was drafted for a six months Tour to go on a campaign under Col. Bowman to Kentucky at which time Kentucky was a part of Virginia. (note: Col. John Bowman was the Clark's County Leut. of Kentucky County, and it was he that also ordered the organizing of Charles Gatliff's company.)... George Loveless entered said service as a substitute for his said Father John Loveless ... and was detailed as one of the Pack horse guard while on their march (to Kentucky)... He was discharged in October or November 1777 and returned to Holstein. George returned to Kentucky in the spring of 1778 with a party to raise corn and in his turn guarded the parties at work and in making preparation for the reception of his Father's family. But this year they could not remove and he the said George continued through the winter following and early in the spring of the year 1779 again planted corn and then joined a party of volunteers. He talks about a campaign with this company into Ohio. He returned to Ruddles Station, then returned to Virginia and brought his Father and family to Kentucky with nineteen other families. They built Martin's Fort on Licking River. On the 26th of March, 1780, Indians attacked and wounded his Father, John Loveless. He describes the attack and capture of the Station on 26th of June, and his subsequent transport to Detroit.*

**2 Sep 1844** Revolutionary War Military Pension Records, No. R3650 – Deposition of Silas Force, Henry County, Ky. to obtain military pension (this application was rejected). (In this deposition taken when Silas was 78 years old he is 2 years off on his dates concerning the events he relates.):

*Silas Force was born 1 January 1766 in Prince Edward County, Va. Soon after his birth his mother died leaving 13 children. In the winter of 1777/78 his father Peter Force and 7 children came to Martins Station in Bourbon Co., Ky. In March 1778 the Indians attacked. In June 1778 his father died. Also in that month Ruddles Station was attacked and they heard the firing at Martins Station. Two men were sent out for reinforcements and one of them, McGuire, was captured.*

*Some British officers brought McGuire to the fort and demanded surrender. McGuire convinced them it was useless to resist and the station capitulated. Martins Station was commanded at that time by Charles Gatliffe, but he was absent at the time the fort was taken. He had gone to the salt works. The prisoners were taken to Detroit and exchanged 4 years later. Silas tells about what happened to his brothers and sisters and lists persons he remembered as living at the fort at that time: David White, Joel Hill, Vanhook, Wm. Whitesides, Solomon Litton, William McGuire, Capt. Duncan, Chas. Gatliffe, Lovelace, Saml Potter, Wm. Foster, Thos. Foster, Thos. Berry, Wm. Leforce, Mahan, Wm. Mahan, Thos. Mahan.*