

# Montgomery Notes

By Hazel Mason Boyd

## Orear Family

Many of the early settlers of Montgomery County were men who came into the area, lived a few years and then moved farther west in search of a better financial opportunity. Often the original settler died here but his children moved on to the rapidly developing land west of Kentucky. After a few generations we often find none of the family of the original settler left in Kentucky.

This is not true of the Orear family, who came from Virginia at an early date.

According to Judge E. C. Orear, the Orears were a pioneering stock, and each yearned for acres. He described the early Orears as being short, stocky people, with fair complexion, clear blue eyes, stern visage, and deep gruff voices. Many had red hair and sandy beards. They were a long-lived group, many living past 80 years. All traditions describe them as a deeply religious group.

The Orear family, believed to be French Huguenots, were living in Stafford County, Va., as early as 1711. John Orear (son of Daniel and Esther Thorn Orear) married a Renoe. He died in Prince William County in 1805. He was the father of ten children: Jeremiah, Mary, Benjamin, John, Jr., Elizabeth, Margaret, Jesse, Daniel, William, and Enoch.

The first of the family to move west was William Orear, who moved to Boonesborough about 1784. He was followed soon by his brother Jeremiah

in 1787, and his brother, John, in 1803.

While Jeremiah Orear died while at Boonesborough most of the family soon moved to what is now Montgomery County, settling on lands south and east of Mt. Sterling patented to their kinsman William Calk.

William Orear (son of John and --- Renoe) married Anna Calk (daughter of William and Sarah Catlett Calk). He lived in Montgomery for a time and later emigrated to Boone County, Mo., where he died in 1864. Their children were: John C., Enoch C., Sarah, Elizabeth, Jeremiah, Catherine, Eliza and Thomas Calk.

John Orear (son of John) married Sarah Davis. He died in Montgomery County in 1836 leaving issue: John D., William, Anna, Sarah and Elizabeth.

Jeremiah Orear (son of John) died 1797 at Boonesborough. He was married to Nancy Catlett (daughter of Robert and Mary Floyd Catlett). They were parents of ten children, six of whom settled in Montgomery County. His children were: John, Robert, Catlett, Jeremiah Co., Nancy, Celia, and Mary. (who all settled in Montgomery), Daniel and Benjamin (who settled in Clark County), and Elizabeth Ann who married Henry Rowland and lived in Woodford County, Ky.

John Orear (son of Jeremiah and Nancy) married Tamar Calk and had issue: Daniel, Sophia, Jeremiah C., Marquis, James, Nancy, Newton, Sarah E., John Wesley, Joseph C. Orear.

Jeremiah C. Orear (son of

Jeremiah and Nancy) married Lucy George and lived in Montgomery until his death in 1872. His children were: Nancy, Malinda, Zerilda, Edwin, Wellesly, Jeremiah C., Albin, and Mary Ann Orear.

Nancy Orear (daughter of Jeremiah and Nancy) married John Berkley and died in Montgomery County in 1845. Their children were: B. F., Sidney, Harrison, Breckinridge, Elizabeth, John, Nannie, Sallic and George Berkley.

Celia Orear (daughter of Jeremiah and Nancy) married John Moss and lived in Montgomery County. Their children were: Jane, Tamar, John, Edward, Richard, Rebecca, Sarah, Mary Ann and Nathaniel Orear Moss.

Nancy Orear (daughter of Jeremiah and Nancy) married Isaac Keys and lived in Montgomery County. Their children were: Elizabeth, William, Nelson, James, Emily, Isabelle, Sidney, Frank, Isaac and George Keys.

The descendants of Jeremiah and Nancy Catlett Orear spread out over the area of present day Montgomery County and unlike many other early settlers found the land so good they had no desire to go west in search of a fairer land.

After nearly 200 years present day Montgomery is still the home of many families who all had a common ancestor, the pioneer Jeremiah Orear. These family names include: Orear, Berkley, Howell, Greene, Mark, Gaitskill, Robertson, Coleman, Moss, Redmon, Thompson, Hoffman, Venable, Wyatt, Quisenberry, George, Marshall and Robinson.