

28306 Rey de Copas Lane  
Malibu, CA 90265  
27 March 1989

Ms. Cheryl Conover, Editor  
Kentucky Ancestors  
Kentucky Historical Society  
PO Box H  
Frankfort, KY 40602-2108

Dear Ms. Conover,

I am enclosing a chronology of Michael Stoner (ca. 1743-ca. 1813), a companion of Daniel Boone, a hunter for Colonel Richard Henderson of Transylvania Co., and a "spie" and a hunter for Colonel George Rogers Clark. I am one of his many descendants; I compiled this in celebration of the recent 50th wedding anniversary of one of my Stoner cousins, who is a historian.

Michael Stoner is the patriarch of many Kentuckians and many Texans, as one of his grandsons, Michael Lowery Stoner (1817-1875) migrated with his wife and children to Texas just prior to the Civil War. Other Stoners migrated to Texas later. Much of the genealogy of the Stoners is given in The Boone Family by Hazel Atterbury Spraker (Baltimore, Genealogical Publishing Co., reprint 1982). Some of it is incorrect, but that is not important at this time.

Since the enclosed chronology is based on secondary sources, I am not sure it is appropriate for your publication. In that case, would you see that it is deposited in the vertical files in the library of the society. I noted little information in the Stoner folder when I was there two years ago, and perhaps other researchers would like to make use of this material.

Sincerely yours,

*Evelyn Williams Wallace*  
Evelyn Williams Wallace

Enclosure - as stated

LIBRARY  
KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
100 WEST BROADWAY  
FRANKFORT, KY 40601-1931



MICHAEL STONER CHRONOLOGY  
Compiled by Evelyn Williams Wallace  
Malibu, CA, 1989

Michael Stoner (ca. 1743-ca. 1813), a companion of Daniel Boone, a hunter for Colonel Richard Henderson of Transylvania Co., and "a spie" and hunter for Colonel George Rogers Clark is frequently mentioned in a line or two of each Kentucky history. However, no author has seemed to show a great deal of interest in him, as no complete biography has been located to date. In most histories, his name is mentioned in relationship to another Kentucky frontiersman. Frequently reference is made to Stoner's heavy Germanic accent. Perhaps because he was not "one of us," that is of Anglo background, he has been largely overlooked by historians and biographers.

In an effort to flesh out a picture of the founder of a long line of Stoners who now live in several states, the writer has made a survey of much of the historical literature of Kentucky and has surveyed some Pennsylvania records.

The family tradition, partially explained in The Boone Family by Harriett Atterbury Spraker (1), is that Michael Stoner's name was Michael Holsteiner, and that he may have had an older brother named George Michael. This naming problem will be explored briefly. Theodore Roosevelt in The Winning of the West (2) also states that Stoner's name was Holsteiner.

Colonial Pennsylvania records indicate the immigration of the Holsteiner patriarch to Pennsylvania, and other records indicate the family lived in Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania prior to 1757.

According to Stoner's son, George Washington Stoner (1787-1871), Stoner (Holsteiner) had difficulty settling down to his apprenticeship after his father's death and soon departed Pennsylvania for new adventure (3). This interview was given to Lyman Draper in 1868. The son says his father met Daniel Boone, also a native of Pennsylvania, at New River, Virginia ca. 1774. See Appendix 4.

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(1) "The Stoner Family" (compiled by Miss Bess Hawthorne, LaPlace, Illinois, a Stoner descendant) in Hazel Atterbury Spraker, compiler, The Boone Family (Baltimore, Genealogical Publishing Co., 1982 reprint, orig. pub. 1922), pp. 550-553. Also see "The Burris and Tribble Families," and "The Harris Family." Throughout the volume will be found references to many of Michael Stoner's descendants.

(2) Theodore Roosevelt, The Winning of the West, Hastings, 1963.

(3) Draper MSS (unpublished collection, Archives, Wisconsin State Historical Society, Madison, Wisc.), Vol 24C, p. 55 ff. One of basic sources for information about Michael Stoner is called The Kentucky Papers of the Draper Manuscripts, located at the Wisconsin State Historical Society at Madison, which owns the collection. This is a collection of papers, manuscripts, newspaper clippings, interviews concerning early Kentucky pioneers, the interviews frequently being with the sons and daughters of the pioneers. These were collected by Rev. John Shane and Lyman Draper and contain much valuable information for historians. The collection has been microfilmed, and the section on Stoner is on Reel 8.



## Michael Stoner Chronology

Lyman Draper corresponded with George Washington Stoner (1787-1871) as early as 1855 but was not successful in interviewing him until 28 November 1868, at which time Stoner gave the following information concerning his father: Michael Stoner was about 5 feet 8 or 9 inches in height, was heavy set; he had no education - could not read or write. He died of "the flux"; he could not be persuaded to take medicine. (4)

Several written accounts seem to contradict two of these statements, that concerning Stoner's degree of literacy and that of the events concerning his death. Pulaski Co., KY Deed Books indicate some degree of literacy, enough to acknowledge a document and to sign his name (5):

In 1800, Michael Stoner signed a document recorded on pages 28-29, (probably Deed Book A): "7 Nov 1800. Please to deliver to Wm. Ellis or Sarah Turner the bill of sale from Joseph Turner to me for a Negrow girl Berry and revoke the same. Michael Stoner. Wit: Henry Francis."

In 1801, Michael Stoner was witness to a document executed by one Mary Wamsley in Pulaski Co. Deed Book, page 55B: "4 June 1801. Mary Wamsley the wife of William Wamsley, deceased, do relinquish my right of administration of the estate of my deceased husband to Thomas Wamsley his father. Mary (X) Wamsley. Wit: Micl. Stoner, Nathl. Forbis. 23 June 1801. Proved by Michael Stoner and Nathaniel Forbis."

Concerning Stoner's death, William Henry Perrin, who wrote many Kentucky county histories, wrote, "Stoner was afterward killed at a barn raising by a log falling on him." (6) Perhaps a respiratory ailment occurred as a complication and he did indeed die of "flux."

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(4) Draper MSS 24 C-54. See Appendix 4C for brief excerpt.

(5) These examples are quoted in The Kentucky Genealogist, published by M. P. Miller, Washington, D. C., Vol 6, "Pulaski County, KY, Deeds, 1799-1803." It is important to note that Kentucky counties were frequently divided, and that is one of the reason we find so many different names for Stoner's place of residence: Madison (org. 1786), Clark (org. 1793), Montgomery (org. 1797), where Mt. Sterling, Stoner's burial place, is located; Pulaski (1799), Wayne (org. 1801), Bath (1811). That is not to say the Stoners remained in one place. Stoner, as many others of his day, had difficulty with his claims.

(6) William Henry Perrin, editor, History of Bourbon, Scott, Harrison, and Nicholas Counties, Kentucky, reproduced by the Rev. Silas Emmett Lucas, Jr (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, originally published 1882 and reproduced in 1979), p. 85.



## Michael Stoner Chronology

Note: Confusion about Michael and a brother named George Michael may have arisen because of German naming practices. The first Christian name was given to several males, i.e., George may be first name of all male children; the same practice applied to females. George Michael and Michael Holsteiner may be the same person. See Appendix 3.

However, it is possible Johann Leonhardt Holsteiner had kinsmen, probably brothers, who immigrated at approximately the same time. See Appendix 2 for probable male relatives who immigrated within a few years of each other. See Appendix 3 for name of Hollstein(er)'s wife--twice called Eva Barbara and once Catharine Barbara.

1758 - A tradition concerning Mathias Harman [of Harman's Station, KY] "is that in 1758 some forty Cherokees were returning to their villages after assisting the English troops seeking to reduce Fort Duquesne. These Indians engaged in the favorite pastime of the redskins, that of plundering the settlers along the way. They stole horses, cattle, and anything else they desired. Mathias Harman, Michael Stoner, Adam Harman, Casper Mansker and others of the frontiersmen fell upon the Cherokees and slew them to a man." Author Scalf indicates Stoner was a Harman relative. Source: Henry P. Scalf, Kentucky's Last Frontier, Second Edition, (Pikeville, KY: Pikeville College Press of the Appalachian Studies Center, 1972), pp. 65-66.

1759 - 5 June - George Holsteiner received a deed from Laurence Bausam and his wife, Philipina, the latter being the only one of George's sisters who appeared to be of age at that time. "After this transaction, the name appears to be changed to Holstein in all other papers." Source: Hawthorne in Spraker, op. cit., pp. 550-53. Has Hawthorne again confused two separate men, or are George and Michael the same person? Perhaps only a reading of the actual Lancaster Co. records will end the confusion.

1766 - "Five hunters from South Carolina were on the Cumberland where at the mouth of Stone's River they found James Harrod and Michael Stoner. Issac Lindsay led the party, but the names of the other four are unknown." The author's footnote states that Harrod and Stoner had come by water from Fort Pitt. He adds: "Harrod was destined to fame as founder of Harrodsburg in Kentucky. Stoner then or soon afterwards made improvements on a claim to a 'certain place known by the name of Stoner's Lick, on the east side of Stoner's River.' This, in 1780, he conveyed to Richard Henderson of North Carolina." Source: Samuel Cole Williams, LLD, Dawn of Tennessee Valley and Tennessee History (Johnson City, TN: The Watauga Press, 1937, reprinted 1972 by Blue and Gray Press, Nashville, TN), p. 323.

1767 - An account of the Captain Samuel Harrod of early Kentucky states, "He was with Michael Stoner in The French Country in 1767." Source: Draper MSS. 4NN-2 as noted in Genealogies of Kentucky Families, from the Filson Club History Quarterly (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1981), p. 599.

1769 - According to Hanson's journal, Stoner had been in western Kentucky and Tennessee with a man named Harrod, most probably Samuel, James' brother. Source: R. S. Cotterill, "Kentucky in 1774", Historical Quarterly of the Filson Club, Vol. I, No. 1, pp. 24-34. See Appendix 5.



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1773 - Cotterill inferred that Stoner had been with Boone's party and had been living on the Clinch River. Source: Ibid.

1774 - Stoner accompanied Daniel Boone to Kentucky at request of Gov. Dunmore. Source: Draper MSS, 24C-54. See Appendices 4C and 5.

1774 - Daniel Boone's deposition taken at Point Pleasant April 24, 1794: "About the last of May or first of June, 1774, Mr. James Hickman employed me to locate, enter, and direct the surveying of 4000 acres as soon as time would admit of and lodges with me Colo. Prestons Certificate for the survey and on the 26th day of June the same year I was employed by Governor Dunmore to go out to the country and give notice of the outbreaking of the Indian war and I took with me Michael Stoner & on the Creek that goes by the name of Hickmans Creek about two miles or three below Levi Todds I cut the two first letters of said Hickmans name on a large water oak with a large stone grown fast in said tree in the presence of said Stoner and finding the surveyors were driven in by the Indians I returned home and wrote to Colo. Preston to make the entry for Mr. Hickman at that tree agreeable to my instruction..." (Boofman's Heirs v. James Hickman County Complete Book A, pp. 604-42, Fayette County Courthouse) Source: Neal O. Hammon in "John Filson's Error," The Filson Club History Quarterly, Vol. 59, No. 4, October 1985, p. 462-63.

1775 - "Extracts from the Henderson & Co. Papers of Mr. James Alves: "Col. Thomas Hart in June '88 says 'Michael Stoner claims 500 acres by a verbal agreement with Henderson for his services in assisting to open the road to Boonesborough in 1775. He also produced a stated (?) act. from under Henderson's hand of L14 & some odd shillings, being due to him for hunting & other services rendered the company, wh. I have promised to pay him before I leave the country." Source: Draper MSS, 17CC-191-209.

1775 - From the "Journal of an Expedition to Cantuckey in 1775," by Col. Richard Henderson, of North Carolina: "Sunday, June 18. Michael Stoner, our hunter, not returned; was expected yesterday; no meat." Source: Collins' Historical Sketches of Kentucky by the late Lewis Collins and revised in 1874 by his son Richard H. Collins (Berea, KY: 1976 edition, Kentucke Imprints) p. 501.

1776 - Re Thomas Kennedy: "While upon his first visit [near present-day Paris, KY], he assisted Michael Stoner, who owned a large body of land on what is now Stoner Creek, to clear a piece of ground and build a cabin. During the time they were thus engaged, they lived for three months without bread or salt. Stoner was a man of some prominence and wealth, and was among the very first settlers of the county." Source: Perrin, op. cit., p. 85.

1777 - 8 April - Michael Stoner "arrived with News from the Sett," wrote George Rogers Clark in his diary. Source: James Alton James, "George Rogers Clark Papers, 1771-1781," "Taken from Draper MSS., 48 J 12," Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, Vol VIII, Virginia Series, Vol. III (Springfield: Illinois State Historical Library, 1912), p. 21.



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1777 - 24 April - "40 or 50 Indians attacked Boonsborough killed and scalped Dan Goodman wounded Capt. Boone Capt. Todd Mr. Hite & M. Stoner. Indians 'tis thought sustained much damage." Source: James, *ibid.*, p. 22.

1781 - included for 25 days on "A Payroll for Capt. Robert Barnet's Company of Lincoln County Militia drawn into actual service of the frontier of Lincoln County under the Command of Col. Jno Logan." Source: Margery Heberling Harding, George Rogers Clark and His Men Military Records, 1778-1784, (Frankfort: Kentucky Historical Society, 1986), p. 87.

1782 - named on "A Payroll of Capt. Nathan Huston's Company of Lincoln County Militia in actual service on an Expedition against the Indians" as a "Spie 12th Nov/24th of" and paid 3:25s. Source: Harding, *ibid.*, p. 175.

After 1784 - married Frances Tribble (born 3 Sept 1769). Source: Draper MSS 24 C-49.

1786 - married Frances Tribble, "a daughter of Reverend Andrew Tribble and his wife, Sarah Ann Burris. She was born 3 Nov. 1769; d. 11 May 1852 Source: "Taken from the Stoner family Bible," Hawthorne in Spraker, *op. cit.*, p. 551.

1787 - George Washington Stoner, son, born in Clark Co. 5 mi. southeast of Winchester. Source: Draper MSS 24 C-54, Draper's interview with George W. Stoner, 1868. See Appendix 4C.

Between 1781-1791 - Lincoln Co., KY Order Books, p. 121, "James Smith, Pltf., Against Michael Stoner, Deft. In Case. William Bush, Special Bail for Defendant in this Suit and said defendant defends the force and injury, when, etc. and prays Oyer of the writing Obligatory in the Declaration mentioned and leave to impart specially to the Plaintiff's Declaration until the next Court and then to plead, which is granted him." Source: The Kentucky Genealogist, Vol. 11, 1969.

Note: According to "The Burris and Tribble Families" in The Boone Family, p. 513, we deduce that William "Billy" Bush was Mrs. Michael Stoner's (Frances Tribble's) uncle by marriage to her maternal aunt, Frances Tandy Burris. Draper MSS. makes reference to Michael Stoner and Bush being on an expedition together when Stoner was treed by a bear, which he urged Bush to kill. The manuscript refers to Stoner's heavy German accent. This Draper excerpt is not appended to this document. See Draper's interview, Appendix 4A, with G. W. Stoner for more information about the Bush family.

1797 - Stoner family moved to Cumberland River in Pulaski Co. Source: Draper MSS 24 C-54, Draper's interview with George W. Stoner, 1868. Note: Pulaski was not organized until 1799, and first deeds for Pulaski were recorded 1800; next entry indicates Stoner was in Clark Co. in 1799.

1799 - 23 Feb - Michael Stoner witnessed will of Jacob Embree in Clark Co., KY. Source: Book A, Clark Co. Wills, as quoted by J. Estelle Stewart King, Abstract of Early Kentucky Wills and Inventories (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1969), p. 43.



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1800 - Pulaski Co., KY, Deeds show two entries concerning a slave (purchase and revocation of same). See introductory notes. Source: The Kentucky Genealogist, "Pulaski County, KY, Deeds, 1799-1803." (Washington, D.C.: M. P. Miller), Vol 6.

1804 - 3 April, Pulaski Co., KY, Deeds, 1803-1806, pages 155-56: "James Stevens and Susannah his wife of Clark Co., KY, to Michael Stoner of Wain [Wayne] Co., KY. For 35 pounds in property. 100 acres...George Lewis and Alexander Dick's lower corner on Cumberland River of their survey of 2666 3/4 acres...down the river...James Stevens, 3 April 1804. Acknowledged by James Stevens." The Kentucky Genealogist, op. cit., 1966, Vol. 8.

1813, Sept. 3 - Stoner died in Wayne Co., Ky; believed by his son George W. Stoner to be about 65 years of age. Died of "flux". Source: Draper MSS 24 C-49. See introductory notes and Appendix 4A.

1814 - 22 Nov - Frances Stoner appointed administrator of the estate of Michael Stoner, deceased; Bondsman, Charles Dibrell. Source: "Wayne Co., KY, Court Notes and Deed Book 1, 1801-1811," The Kentucky Genealogist, op. cit., Vol. 18, 1976, p. 106.

1817, 17 Feb - "Francis Stoner, Peter Tribble, John Tribble, George W. Stoner, Joseph Stephenson, Thomas Chilton bound for Francis Stoner as administrator of Michael Stoner, dec'd. Source: "Wayne Co., KY, Miscellaneous Court Papers from Box File 1817" as contributed by Mildred Moody Nutter, Rushville, Indiana, to The Kentucky Genealogist, op. cit., Vol. 19, 1977, p. 107.

From Israel Daniel Rupp is A Collection of Thirteen Thousand Names of German, Swiss, Dutch, French, and Other Immigrants in Pennsylvania from 1727 to 1776 (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1963) pp. 50-51.

21 Sept. 11, 1726 A number of Palatines with their families, about ninety, imported in the ship James Goodwill, from Hamburg, to the settlement, last from Deal, whence she sailed June 18th - 1726. Vol. III, 211-212.

John Leubart Heintzelman

In add to the confusion (according to letter from Alfred Harrison, Pittsboro, Pa, 1956, to writer), from the appendix in Rupp, pp. 211-212, 213-214.

"No. XIV"

Names of Early Settlers in Walpole, Berks and Lebanon Counties

As early as 1723, thirty-three families of Germans, who had come to the year 1710, settled in Schuylkill 1713, left there and located on Walpole Creek, where there were:

(Index of Walpole, Berks and Lebanon Counties 1743 to 1749)

John Leubart Heintzelman



Michael Stoner Chronology

APPENDIX 4

From the Draper Collection, Kentucky Papers 24 C-49 (Madison, Wisc., Wisconsin Historical Society)

Film reel 8 (University Research Library, UCLA)

Mt. Sterling, Ky June 24th (?) 1845

Lyman C. Draper, Esq.

Dear Sir I received your letter of the 19th April requesting me to give you all the information I could in relation to the early history of my father.

I regret exceedingly my inability to comply more satisfactorily with your request. My father was born on the Schuylkill River, Penna near Philadelphia. I do not know in what co. Neither do I know the year. He died in Wayne Co., Ky., September the 3rd 1813. Thought he was about 65 years of age. He was ----- an apprentice when quite young to a saddler in Lancaster, Penna. Remained with him until he was about 16 when for some cause he left and went to New River, Va. Here he became acquainted with D. Boone and in 1774 he accompanied him to Ky at the request of Gov. Dunmore--this I think was Boone's second trip to Ky. He was in several Indian fights but I do not recollect the particular ones--he was shot through the hip and wrist at one of the sieges of Boonesborough. My mother is still living--lives near me--her maiden name was Tribble--she was born on the 3rd September 1769. Came to Ky in 1784 at 15 years of age--lived at Craig's station a short time, then removed to Dix----lived in what is now Lincoln Co. There are a great many facts and in----- that I cannot convey in a letter would probably be of some service to you in your work. I should ----, therefore, if you visit Ky to come over see me.

I do not know of the works (words?) you inquire for but I shall make all the inquiries I can for it and apprise you if I find it. I will also collect all the information I can in reference to my father and if it is worth conveying (?) write to you again.

Respectfully, G. W. Stoner

Yours very respectfully,  
Geo. W. Stoner



APPENDIX 4A

From the Draper Collection, Kentucky Papers 24 C-51

(Note: According to "The Stoner Family" by Hawthorne, op. cit., p. 551, Frances [also known as Franky in official records] Tribble Stoner died 11 May 1852.)

Bath Co, Ky, Nov 6, 1855  
(postmark on next film shows  
Mt. Sterling Nov 8)

Mr Draper

Dear Sir: I had the pleasure or receiving a letter from you more than one year since relative to the history of some of the early pioneers of Ky.

At the time I received your letter my mother was quite sick and while waiting for her recovery in order to ascertain the facts necessary for your purpose, the letter was misplaced. My mother died and I did not write you. I now have your letter of August before me but from causes have not attempted to answer it until the present ----- and I have not now ---- I can --- to but little information that would be available. I have no distinct recollection of the meeting between Kenton and my father at the Blue Licks. I also know but little of the siege of Boonesborough. I remember to have heard my father say that he was wounded in too [sic] places during one engagement and in the hip and arm and was prevented from being made a prisoner by Col. Billy Bush who when the Indians being anxious of taking him (my father) prisoner would not fire on them (Bush and him) and Col B by thus repeating the maneuver enable my father to make safety through the Gates when a shower of balls were heard to rattle upon it. I have heard my Father speak of several campaigns but have no distinct recollection of any but two. In one he was under Clark and the other under Hardin. I can refer you to a son of Col. Bush that lives in Sumner Co., Tennessee near Castalian Springs. His name is Willis A. Bush and Castalian Springs is his PO.

Yours very respectfully,  
Geo. W. Stoner

L. C. Draper



From the Draper Collection, Kentucky Papers 24 C-52

(Note 1: According to Spraker, The Boone Family, op. cit., p. 513, Billy Bush was married to Francis Tandy Burris, a sister of Sarah Ann Burris Tribble, who was the mother of Frances Tribble Stoner; hence, Billy Bush was an uncle by marriage to Michael Stoner's wife. Bess Hawthorne, compiler of "The Stoner Family" in the Boone genealogy, has taken much of her material from the Draper MSS, which she lists as a reference.)

(Note 2: John B. Stoner, author of this letter was a son of Dr. Michael Lower Stoner of Hickman Co., KY. The uncle to whom John refers is doubtless Andrew Stoner. According to "The Stoner Family," in The Boone Family, Andrew never married. In the 1850 census of Montgomery Co., KY he is enumerated in the household of his nephew, Michael Lowery [not Dr. Michael Lower] Stoner. The Stoners, as well as others of their day, had a habit of giving their children the names of other relatives in the family. When they seemed to exhaust the family names, they took the names of in-laws, such as Gatewood.)

Clinton, Hickman Co., Ky  
Sep 5, 1853

Mr. Draper Sir

If you will hold your work from the press a short time longer I think that I can furnish you with some very interesting incidents of my granfather's [sic] life whitch [sic] will soon follow this letter. I have an uncle hear [sic] at this time who has a better recollection of his life and exploits than my father's and through him I have already learned some scary (?) details of back woods and pioneer life.

Yours respectfully

John B. Stoner

Lyman Draper



APPENDIX 5

From The History Quarterly, Vol. 1, No. 1, published by the Filson Club and the University of Louisville, 1926 (UCLA, University Research Library, call # F446 F48 V. 1 & 2)

R. S. Cotterill, "Kentucky in 1774", p 24-34, excerpts re Michael Stoner:

"Concerning surveyors who acted under orders of John Murray, fourth earl of Dunmore, viscount Fincastle, baron of Blair, of Monlin, and of Tillimet, royal governor of Virginia, who arrived in Virginia in 1774.

"William Preston, who was surveyor of Fincastle County, instructed Captain Billy Russell down on the Clinch River to send out explorers to ascertain the identity of the Louisa River, and in the first days of April he sent two bands of surveyors under Hancock Taylor and John Floyd to survey in Kentucky the bounty lands due the Virginia veterans of the French and Indian War.---- In the party was a certain Thomas Hanson who kept a journal of the expedition, and it is from this journal that we gather the names of Floyd's men and nearly everything else we know of this surveying venture.

"Stoner had been in western Kentucky and Tennessee in 1769 in company with a man named Harrod--generally supposed to be James Harrod, but in reality James' older brother Samuel, according to Thwaites in Kerr's History of Kentucky, 1:114, and we infer he was in Boone's party in 1773, though we are not certain. Since that venture he had been living on the Clinch River--perhaps in Boone's family. He was well known to Russell as a hunter, as a Kentucky explorer, and as a friend of Boone's. It may be that Boone himself suggested Stoner's name, but at any rate it is odd to have him referred to as "one Michael Stoner." We would as much expect Damon to speak of 'one Pythias' or David to refer to 'one Jonathan.'

"As to the date of Boone and Stoner's departure, it must have been not the sixth but some time after the twenty-sixth (of June 1774), since Russell's letter to Preston was dated then and the men had not yet started. Colonel William Christian writing to Preston from Russell's Fort on July 12, says, 'When I got here I found that Boone and Stoner had set off yesterday two weeks in search of the Surveyors.' This would fix June 28 as the date of departure--two days after Russell had written to Preston. In a deposition made at Point Pleasant on April 24, 1794, Boone gives the date of their departure as the twenty-sixth. The Christian letter would indicate that the start was made from Russell's Fort, but Thwaites (in a note to p. 51 of his Dunmore's War) says Boone stopped at the house of Colonel Andrew Lewis before setting forth and that Lewis gave him his instructions. This is one of the things that must be classified under the head of 'interesting if true.' Colonel Lewis lived near Salem, Virginia, and Thwaites' note simply means that Boone traveled one hundred miles east in order to get started west, and in order to receive instructions he already had.



Cotterill (continued)

"For what purpose were Boone and Stoner sent to Kentucky? Not to bring home the surveyors, because they needed no one to bring them and, as a matter of fact, did bring themselves. Not to warn them of Lord Dunmore's war, inasmuch as no war against the Indians had yet been decided on. Boone and Stoner were first of all to find the surveyors and warn them that Indian hostility made it perilous for them to remain in Kentucky, and it may be supposed that in addition to this they were also to notify them that the Kentucky River was the boundary and that surveys west of it would be invalid. Apparently Boone had no instructions about Harrod.

"On this journey into Kentucky, Boone kept a journal, as we know, because Major Campbell in a letter to Preston of August 27 says he had seen it, but this journal has escaped the hands of Collins, Durrett, and Draper, and it, therefore, may safely be said to be non-existent. Such details of the journey as we have come from letters, depositions, and reminiscences of old pioneers. Russell's letter of the twenty-sixth of June was to the effect that Boone and Stoner were to search the country as low as the falls and to return by way of Gasper Lick on Cumberland and through Cumberland Gap. Colonel Christian in his letter of July 12 to Preston said: 'They were to go down the Kentucky to Your salt Lick; from thence across the country to the Falls of the Ohio; and from thence home by way of Gasper's Lick, on Cumberland River. . . .' Russell again in a letter to Preston, on July 13, says: 'Boone has instructions to take different routes till he comes to the Falls of the Ohio, and if no discovery there to return home thro Cumberland Gap which will give them opportunity to discover if they are about the upper Entrys on Salt River or have advanced toward Cumb: River: to make what few surveys were to be there: In which Tower (copy illegible) (if they are alive) it is indisputable but Boone must find them.' I presume that Boone and Stoner entered Kentucky through Cumberland Gap and proceeded to follow the Warrior's Trace through the mountains. Draper in his manuscript Life of Boone tells us (on the authority of Boone's Manuscript papers) that the two made a large camp on the north fork of the Kentucky, where they rested. Then then visited the Big Lick at Boonesborough--a place Boone had probably visited in 1760-1770, and, proceeding on down the Kentucky, they put in their appearance at Harrodstown. Draper fixes the date of this as some time before July 8, for a reason that will appear evident, which would allow about ten days for the trip from Clinch River. Collins is not quite sure whether Boone stopped at Harrodstown on his outward journey or as he was returning. The story is well known how Boone secured a town lot for himself at Harrodstown and later built a double cabin with Evan Hinton--a cabin which was burned by the Indians in their attack in 1777. (Mrs. Maria T. Daviess, in a Mercer County newspaper, has the following to say of the cabin: 'The location of this double cabin of Boone and Hinton, handed down through generations of Harrodstown descendants of the first settlers, places it about the site of the present residence of Mrs. J. D. Bryant on the north side of what is now Lexington Avenue, about the middle of the second block, east from Main Street. It is also said that Boone occupied this cabin most of the time on his visits to Harrodstown, and always approached it by walking along a stream that is now walled up as a small canal through Harrodstown--an instinctive caution that he practiced of going through water to hide his trail from the Indians.') Boone's visit at Harrodstown



Cotterill (continued)

seems to rest entirely on tradition: if there is any contemporary account of it, it has eluded the present writer.

"We do not know whether Boone and Stoner went to Harrodstown purposely to seek Harrod's men or whether they stumbled on them accidentally. It is quite reasonable to suppose that Boone knew of Harrod's presence on Salt River because Harrod had advertised his venture in order to secure settlers. The surveyors knew about it, as we have seen, because eleven men had left them at the mouth of the Kentucky to go up to Harrod. The entry in Hanson's journal on May 14 is as follows: 'Our company divided, eleven men went up to Harrod's Company one hundred miles up the Kentucky on Louisa River (n.b. Capt. Harrod has been there many months building a kind of town, etc.) in order to make improvements.' At any rate Harrod's company were on forbidden ground, since they were west of the Kentucky River and there is no doubt that Boone and Stoner, if they visited Harrodstown, apprised them of this fact as well as of the Indian threat. Whether either of these tidbits of information had any effect or not, we don't know, but an Indian attack certainly did. James Knox, the leader of the Long Hunters, had deserted Floyd's company of surveyors on Salt River, and in company with a man named Allen, another Long Hunter, had made his way to Harrodstown. On July 8 he and nine others were fired on by a band of twenty Indians while encamped on Salt River, and two men--James Hamilton and Jared Cowan--were killed. The seven survivors made their way to Harrodstown and 'the next day'--July 9--'the whole being forty-three' set out for Clinch, where they arrived on July 20. These facts were given by Knox to Preston and are related in a letter of Preston's on August 13, 1774, to be found in the American Archives, 1:707. Collins, II:518, gives a different version of this battle. He says that give of Harrod's party at Fountain Blue were fired on by Indians on July 10, and Jared Cowan killed. Jacob Sandusky and two others escaped through the woods to the Cumberland, and then to New Orleans by canoe. The remaining man fled to Harrodstown and gave the alarm. Harrod and Abraham Chapline with a strong party went down and buried Cowan, secured his papers, and then set out for the Clinch.

"Of course the two accounts may refer to two different attacks, but it is improbable that Cowan was killed on two different occasions. From a letter of Campbell's on August 9, 1774, we might infer that Harrod's men reached home before Harrod did.

"Meanwhile Boone and Stoner continued their journey down the Kentucky River. Perhaps they had seen while at Harrodstown the eleven men who had left Floyd at the mouth of the Kentucky and had come on to join Harrod. As Boone's main mission to Kentucky was to find Floyd, he, no doubt, learned all the men could tell him about his movements. There is no evidence I have found that Boone and Stoner met Floyd. The surveyors by this time had broken up into three divisions. Hancock Taylor and his company had left the main body on May 31 and had gone up Harrod's Creek and had continued to the Kentucky, as we know, because the other surveyors, after surveying on Salt River, had crossed to the Kentucky and there found Taylor encamped, somewhere near Frankfort, on July 1. On July 6 Floyd with three men separated from the others in order to make surveys on Elkhorn, having agreed to rejoin the others on August 1 at Harrod's cabin, twenty miles



higher up the Kentucky, and ten miles below the junction of the Kentucky and Dix. Hanson went with Floyd and kept up his journal day by day. He makes no mention at all of meeting Boone and Stoner. This is negative evidence and is more negative than evidence for the reason that there is an apparent break in the journal about July 10. Nor does Floyd mention any such meeting in the letters of his to Preston and others. This is negative evidence again, and again it is unsatisfactory, because when Thwaites edited Dunmore's War, he purposely left out a great many of the letters at his disposal. In a letter of Floyd to Preston on August 28, he says: 'You know what Boone has done for me by your kind directions for which reason I love the man.' This probably refers to Boone's trip to Kentucky, but we can't be sure, and at any rate it does not prove a meeting. There is one other bit of evidence. In a deposition made at Point Pleasant on April 24, 1794, Boone tells about going to Kentucky with Stoner in 1774, and about making surveys on Hickman Creek. Then he uses this language: 'And finding the surveyors were posted about the Indians, I returned home.' This language is ordinarily taken to mean that he met the surveyors, but it evidently might mean that he did not meet them, but only heard of them--say at Harrodstown.

"Whether he met Boone or not, Floyd continued surveying around Georgetown until July 21, when, being finished, he set out for the rendezvous, where he arrived on the twenty-fourth, but, early as he was, he found that Douglas' party had been there two days before. Down on the river landing, Floyd found these words written on a tree: 'Alarmed by finding some people killed, we are gone down this way.' Floyd was puzzled by the words, but the notice meant that Douglas' party had gone back down the Ohio and were returning home by New Orleans--a course they had debated on the Ohio when they heard of Indian hostilities. The men killed were Cowan and Hamilton already referred to. As for Floyd, he and his three men set out through the mountains and reached the Clinch River settlements on August 9. Douglas got home in December.

"There is no evidence that Boone and Stoner met Douglas. In the same deposition already quoted, Boone says that in 1775 he went to see Douglas to get him to re-survey some land he had surveyed in 1774, and Douglas told him then that he had surveyed the same land in 1774. If he and Douglas had met in 1774, Douglas would probably have known Boone's survey and not have trespassed on it. Nor is there any evidence that Boone and Stoner met Taylor. Taylor's party had been attacked by Indians on the Kentucky, as he and two of his men were buried in Madison County on August 4. Four of his men had reached the Clinch by the twenty-fifth. Taylor was buried near Richmond, about two miles south, and his brother, Richard, came out to Kentucky in 1803, found the grave, and marked it with a pile of stones and a headstone carved by a boy in the neighborhood.



Cotterill (continued)

"Whether Boone and Stoner met any of the surveyors they at least continued in their canoe down the Kentucky to its mouth. There they scratched their names on a big rock. From the mouth of the Kentucky they hastened to the Falls, where on a beech tree some three miles southeast, the words 'D. Boone, 1774' long showed. At Mann's Lick, says Draper, on the authority of a conversation with Nathan Boone, they found some surveyors and warned them. Draper infers that these surveyors at Mann's Lick were some of Taylor's men.

"As to Boone's return trip we have no record at all, and even Draper is dumb. If he returned by Gasper's Lick, he visited Davidson County, Tennessee. He returned through Cumberland Gap, we know, because a letter of Christian to Preston on August 28, 1774, says he tracked some Indians from the Gap to the settlement. All the way Stoner had been a sort of silent partner, and we would not know that he got back at all except for the fact that he helped Boone cut the road to Kentucky for Henderson the next spring. Boone reached Clinch on August 27, having been gone sixty-two days.

"If Boone is to be taken literally when he says he completed a tour of eight hundred miles in sixty-two days, we can only conclude that he traveled slowly. As a matter of fact we know that he spent considerable time both in hunting and surveying. He says he passed through many difficulties, but we have no means of knowing what they were. It is certain that he stayed in Kentucky much longer than was expected of him. In Christian's letter to Floyd on July 12, 1774, he said Boone would probably return in ten days from that time if he went to the Falls. Russell to Preston, on July 13, says he is in hopes that in about two or three weeks from that time Boone would produce the surveyors.

"All the surveyors reached home (except Douglass) before Boone and Stoner. Harrod and his men had been home a month, Floyd and his party had been home eighteen days. Even Taylor's men had been home three or four days before Boone arrived. Flint's Life of Boone says: 'Under his guidance, the surveyors arrived at the settlements in safety.' Abbott says that Boone with great sagacity led his band by safe paths home. But the surveyors did not go home under Boone's guidance, nor did he with great sagacity lead them by safe paths. He didn't lead them by safe paths or any other paths for the reason that he did not lead them at all. In conclusion, it is interesting to notice Cotterill's History of Pioneer Kentucky--an extremely unreliable book. It says that Boone and Stoner, followed by the alarmed surveyors, reached home sixty-eight days after they had left it. Sixty-eight days is an instance of astonishing liberality, even for an historian, and as for the alarmed surveyors following Boone and Stoner home, they followed them exactly as the horse follows the cart in the ordinary process of locomotion. R. S. COTTERILL"

Writer's note: In researching another branch of my family, Williams, I have discovered that in all probability David F. Williams (1818-1881) of Victoria Co., TX, was descended from William Williams (173?-1775) of Granville Co., NC, who died at Boonesborough 27 December 1775, having made his will there on 25 December 1775, in which he named his wife and children and in which he appointed his brother John Williams and his friend, Col. Richard Henderson as exeuctors. One of the witnesses was John Floyd.

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Michael Stoner as Told by a Grandson, John N. Stoner

From Draper MSS. 24C-53 (Reel 8), State Historical Society of Wisconsin - Boone Papers. Although this document is several pages long, Draper numbered subsequent pages with superscript. Thus each page is 53 with superscript following.

Note 1: This is a letter from John M. Stoner, grandson of Michael Stoner, son of Dr. Michael Lower Stoner and Katherine Emerson, of Hickman Co., Ky. (Source: Bess Hawthorne, "The Stoner Family" in Harriett Spraker, The Boone Family (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1982 reprint), p. 552. According to information elsewhere in this series of Draper Collection, John Stoner was murdered in 1862 by Yankee guerillas.

Note 2: Transcriber has attempted to keep the original spelling of John Stoner. Some punctuation has been added for legibility. Some words were not able to be deciphered. Spelling in America was not standardized until about the turn of the 20th century.

Clinton, Hickman Co., Kentucky  
Nov 1, 1855

Dear Sir: I must offer an excuse for not sending you the promised information before now. Shortly after writing to you I was taken with the chills which disabled me very much. I could not write nor could I have the same opportunity to collect the materials which I intended sending you. My uncle Andrew Stoner has left for home but not without giving me some information. He said that his father died when he was so young that it would be hard for him to give any very interesting incidents of his life and --- like the balance of the old pioneers wasnt of a very communicative nature. He was of German accent and born in the dutch portion of pennsylvania. At an early age he went as an apprentice to the saddling business but did not remain long enuff to complete his trade. His nature was such that he could not bare to be tied to a saddlers bench. He longed for a more active life and consequently he left his boss at the age of twenty one and emigrated to virginia in the hope of finding some employment more suited to his nature. He thare met with Daniel Boon and gladly excepted a proposition from him to visit Kentucky.

They arrived at the Cumberland gaps with a small party witht having any adventures worth relating. Passing through the gaps they were fired on by Indians in ambush.



2 [handwritten, probably Stoner's numbering]

and several of their party killed. The occurrence caused a fear to pervade among the company and they all turned back with the exception of Boon and my Grandfather Michael Stoner and they continued to dive deeper into the wilds of the Kentucky wilderness until they found a country that abounded with all kinds of game. The place where the Craborchart now stands is the spot where they first made their headquarters. My Grandfather had a single combat with an Indian there. The particulars I cannot state but I know by some mishap or other each of them lost their arms. They climbed. Stoner's strength proved superior and the contest ended tragically.

After leaving there, he proceeded to Louisville and there made a temporary stay. He next struck out for Cumberland river and followed its current as far down as Nashville at the same time using all the vigilance he possessed to the eyes of the Indian.

While traveling down the Cumberland river, he discovered at the bottom of the presipis the dead remains of an Indian. He supposed he had avidently slipped from the top. He also found the dead Indians tommyhawk which he made his companion through all of his wild woods life. The next day he found his tommyhawk of grate service. His riphel failed to do its accostam service while trying to kill a she bar. He was compelled to take to a small tree for security but he unluckily seated himself on a rotten lim and he fell to the grond as he fell but he sent his weapon and the bar fell.