



CHAPTER 2

PIONEERS

Whoever brought news to the “Pennsylvania Dutch” about the desirability of the Piedmont, foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in North Carolina, was “right on” for those who loved to till the land. Young Palatines felt they had to move toward their own destiny. The youthful Peter did not find his permanent home in Pennsylvania. By 1762, much of the choice land in Bucks and surrounding counties had already been taken. If a person wanted a large landholding, one must go to less developed areas. Easily understood is the desire of these people to make a new start—they were looking for liberty of conscience, enjoying civil rights and gaining material benefits. Perhaps it was the latter that motivated the younger Peter to join one of the many groups moving down the valleys of the Appalachian Mountains to North Carolina.

Whether walking or riding in a wagon, people passed through wilderness of striking beauty. The forests towered overhead, and below were exquisite shrubs and wildflowers. Only that the land in the Shenandoah was owned by earlier arrivals kept the Palatines from stopping in Virginia. Yet, they were assured that in the Carolinas land at a cheap price was available.

Colonel W.I. Saunders, in his “Prefatory Notes” of *The Colonial Records of North Carolina*, describes the route taken by ambitious, restless pioneers.

“The route these immigrants from Pennsylvania took to reach their future home is plainly laid down on the maps of today. On Jeffrey’s map, a copy of

which is in the Congressional Library in Washington City, there is a plainly laid down road called “The Great Road from the Yadkin Valley thro’ Virginia and Pennsylvania to Philadelphia, distance about 435 miles.’ It ran from Philadelphia thro’ Lancaster and York to Winchester, thence up the Shenandoah Valley crossing the Fluvanna River at Looney’s Ford, thence to Staunton River and down the river through the Blue Ridge, thence southward crossing the Can River below the mouth of the Mayo River, then still Southward near the Moravian settlement to the Yadkin River, just above the mouth of Linville Creek, and about ten miles above the mouth of Reedy Creek.”

One wishes that Peter or Susanna had kept a diary of this journey.

Having traveled down the gentle Shenandoah Valley and laboring through the mountains that lie between that valley and the gently rolling hills of North Carolina, the settlers were pleased with the land that they found.

The sturdy ones who braved the Great Road in the mid 1700s, indeed, found a goodly land that had been their dream since they left the Palatinate. South and west of the Catawba River, rolling hills rest in fertile valleys. With adequate rainfall and a very long growing season, this area made for ideal farming.

The Moravians, a religious German-speaking community, had settled in 1753 into the well-ordered village of Salem, some 60 miles east of the Catawba. The inhabitants of Salem, who came with considerable resources, boasted the practice of medicine and dentistry. Music groups provided elegant entertainment. Blacksmiths and gunsmiths and those with skills for making cloth and shoes created the necessities for good living. So the immigrants of the mid-1700s were not far from well-advanced people of their own ethnicity.

Blacksmiths provided our pioneers with the tools for timbering and farming, and also the construction of dwellings and furnishings.

When land had to be cleared, like as not, the whole community joined in chopping down trees, sawing and notching the timber and constructing log houses. Our people made good use of the skills learned from the Swedes in Pennsylvania in constructing neat and sturdy log structures.

The Palatines brought seeds of every kind from their homeland, and no doubt those who came to North Carolina brought a variety of seeds from Pennsylvania. The first gardens were precious. They were surrounded by stick and pole fences woven together with whatever vines were available. Later, “living fences” of native shrubs protected the valuable vegetables from the plentiful wildlife of nearby woods. The gardener allowed no animal in the garden but herself/himself. The yield of squashes, pumpkin, potatoes and cabbage meant variety on the table. The surplus

was preserved for winter in pits lined with straw. Fruit trees, in a few years, provided much-appreciated variety in the menu, and the excess was dried for off-season use.

The first grain crop was corn, planted and cultivated by hoe. In following seasons, wheat was planted because the single-footed plow was available, thanks to the village blacksmith, who also made the scythe for harvesting grain. Wheat sheaves were dried then hauled to a barn with a good floor where they were spread out. Horses then tramped the harvest until the grain was separated from the straw. Later, threshers with a homemade wind blower further blew the chaff and dust from the wheat.

The area was laced with creeks and rivers so that mills were early located on these streams to grind the grain. A number of mills are still to be found in the area. Water wheels also made possible the sawing of timber, and attached lathes gave rise to the creation of furniture. Bumper crops of wheat, oats, corn and other grains meant security for the early families. The creeks and rivers also made another contribution to the pioneer diet with catfish, perch, carp and bass.

Among the many creatures of the forests were a number of edible mammals, chiefly deer, squirrels, and rabbits. Add to this the wild fowl of turkeys, ducks, geese, dove, quail and pheasants. The more fortunate families had a gun for hunting; those less prosperous made do with bow and arrows, as did their Indian neighbors. Traps and snares yielded more meat for the table.

To the early farmer, the land seemed limitless, so they were not troubled when cultivated land became less fertile. This land was put into pasture, and new land was cleared from the forest that would for several seasons be rich in nutrients for cultivated crops. The meadows supported horses, cattle and hogs. The latter two were butchered late in the autumn and salted down for further good eating.

Thrifty farmers also processed the surplus grains and fruits by distilling liquor. Nothing was wasted. Beyond the use the family had for this beverage, there was a market for whiskey and brandy that brought in much-appreciated cash. Families were aware they could extend land holdings with cash.

These pioneers made social events of occasions where practical work must be done. Barn raisings, church building, harvesting, corn shuckings were gatherings with much joking and bantering for men. Women socialized during quilting, spinning, carding and other tasks. Too bad the immense amount of weaving necessary for the pioneer family had to be done alone in one's own house. One cannot carry a loom about. Industrious women did most of their weaving by firelight, perhaps after the family had fallen asleep.

A union church was soon built that saw Lutheran and German Reformed services on alternate Sundays. Peter Eiger was among the founders of the St. Paul

Lutheran and Reformed Church located about one-and-one-half miles west of present day Newton, North Carolina. Good Christians must be able to read and interpret the Bible so schools had to be established. The first schools for German settlers were located in this area. Peter Ikerd was among nine planters who bought land in 1773 that was “forever set aside” for school purposes and for the benefit of the public. Quite often, the place of worship also housed the community school.

It was the nature of the early German-Americans to preserve their own language and customs. Because there were so many of them in settlements, they got by well enough except for dealing with the colonial government. All provincial officials, both powerful and petty, spoke only English. It is no wonder that our name got spelled so many ways. Within a generation, Eiger became Icard and Ikerd. By the time Peter’s grandson moved to Kentucky, about the turn of the century, he chose yet another spelling, Ikard. The many spellings of the family name complicate the work of the professional genealogist, not to mention the family historian. For the pioneer, the legal business of buying land and making wills had to be handled by civic servants who made the proud farming people feel illiterate. It became obvious that leadership would be dominated by English-speaking people.

Peter and Susanna Eiger braved the journey down the Great Road with their five children in 1761. Peter Jr. was 9; Philip, 7; Susanna, 5; John George, 3; and Henry an infant. They were not without resources for beginning a good life in the Piedmont.

By October 19, 1762, Peter paid Jacob Eagner five shillings proclamation money for 508 acres of land on Clark’s Creek that is now in Catawba County. On the following day, Peter paid Jacob the sum of thirty pounds Pennsylvania currency to seal the deal. He was now a planter who would cherish his land forever and in 1784 divide it among his children in his will. That will is on page _____ of this book.

The land rises from Clarks Creek to gentle rolling fields and pastures. It was being farmed by a descendant, Abel Ikard, in 1966 when I first saw it. Abel climbed from his tractor and joined me at the fence to talk a bit about the land. Fields and pasture were in good shape and reflected the care given to it by Ikards over the last two hundred years. Abel told me that Peter was buried in an old cemetery in the woods that follows a stream that pours into the Clarks Creek. I saw the stone that day. The old home place was on a rise several hundred feet from Clarks Creek.

Living was good as the Eigers experienced the American dream on the frontier. Another child was born to Peter and Susanna. They named him Lorenz or Lawrence, perhaps for their old friend Lorentz Bierson. The children were healthy and mastered the many tasks for a large plantation.

Peter pursued his competence in being a cobbler and fuller. A fuller is one who treats newly woven fabric to make it soft and pliable. This was a valuable skill, most appreciated, as most fabric for clothes and the household were woven by the industrious women of the family. Henry was the child most interested in his father's crafts. He was to inherit Peter's cobbler tools as stated in his will. Peter was active in community affairs. He contributed to buying land for St. Pauls' Reformed Church and for the establishment of a school for children in the area. Nearby were the Haas family and the Conrads, good friends and neighbors. A map on page _____ shows the school tract.

Though at times Cherokee Indians harassed people in the area, it is not known whether the Eigers were ever victims.

Yet, troubles in the older colonies were to filter down to the pioneers in colonies just beginning to develop. The English Crown felt that the colonies should not only pay their own way but should be a profitable venture for the Empire. Though most of the colonists were English, they were developing an independent streak and did not take kindly to the taxes and restrictions on trade that the mother country insisted upon. With the Palatines at a distinct disadvantage because of their lack of facility with the English language, their wish was to have as little dealing with the Colonial Government as possible.

Newspapers in the growing towns along the Atlantic Coast carried stories of the vigorous resistance of the colonists to the royal governors and their arrogant ways. On the frontier, people of many nationalities had their own ideas, all highly individual. Tories were people who saw the goodness of their present situation due to the power of the British Empire and were loyal to the Crown. Patriots, of Whigs, felt that they owed little to any European connection. Weren't they wrestling civilization and the good life from the wilderness—by themselves? They had little tolerance for any laws or taxes to benefit England. They began to see themselves as New World people – “Americans,” rather than British subjects.

Down in North Carolina, there was little government. There was a royal governor in New Bern who did very little for the pioneers. When Indians came marauding, the governor and his forces were too far away to assist. Any security the pioneers had was due to their own efforts. Since there was no one to enforce the law, groups of citizens, who were called “regulators,” attempted to control lawless people.

It was just a logical step for the regulators to regulate the “high handed, unscrupulous, unmerciful and dishonest” officers of the colonial government. (A little freedom is a dangerous thing!) Governor William Tryon was petitioned to intercede against extortion and excessive fees of public officers. He declined. (One

can imagine how our German-speaking people felt imposed upon by officials who charge whatever they wished for deeds, wills and marriage bonds.)

Soon the regulators were turning the tables. They demonstrated and rejected court orders that they felt unjust. When the courts were disrupted, the regulators were jailed. In turn, the jails were attacked by armed bands of angry colonists. Much disorder followed—then insurrection. The regulators were violently put down. Yet, they learned the lesson that well-trained bands, like the local militia, could become a formidable fighting force.

As the conflict continued, the American Revolution was underway. The First Provincial Congress created a two-layer military establishment. The lower level was comprised of most of the able-bodied men of the state. Peter's and Susanna's second son, Philip (our direct ancestor) served in the Lincoln County militia under the command of Captain Rudolph Conrad, a neighbor. The upper level of the state's military was composed of regular army regiments, which were to be taken into the military establishment of the United States (the Continental Forces). Philip's younger brother, Henry, served in this force and like other soldiers of the Continental Forces, was rewarded for his service after the war with a grant of land.

For reasons that we don't know, George, the younger brother, case his lot with the Tories. Perhaps as an adolescent, his personal rebellion was running high. Surely his father, Peter, must have been disturbed by this rebellious child for his commitment was to the Patriots.

The desire for freedom and resistance to colonial oppression was strong. A meeting was called in New Bern in August of 1774 in defiance of the governor. It was decided that counties elect or appoint committees of safety to take charge of public affairs. Furthermore, until a constitution could be adopted, these committees were vested with all the power of government. Peter Ikerd was chosen to be on the Catawba area committee. Peter was an older man, a successful planter and well respected in his community. Matthias Barringer and Francis McCorkle, other neighbors, served on the committee with Peter and were soldiers for the revolutionary cause.

Catawba County was about equally divided among Tories and Patriots. An already strained situation became more tense as the King's army gave provisions to Cherokee Indians, who were moving into the area, and encouraged a reign of terror among the settlers. The local militia found themselves protecting settlers from Native Americans rather than the King's men. It is likely that Philip was among the militia that resisted the Indian raids. No military action between the Patriots and Tories took place within the current borders of Catawba County.

The first violence in Catawba County came in 1776 when Isaac Wise, a teen, refused to aid the Tories. He was captured and hung on the farm of Simon Haas, the Ikerd's neighbor. Haas took the body down and gave the patriot a decent burial.

The local militia was divided into four classes. As need arose, a class was called up. When the need subsided, this class was mustered out and another called up. Often these tours were short and as a result, few records were kept. But it must be noted that the threat of Indians and British kept the local militia on alert throughout the war.

An encounter between local militia and the Cherokees at John's River in Quaker Meadows in Burke County, an adjoining county, left Captain Matthias Barringer, Peter's long time friend, dead.

The Battle of Ramsour's Mill, in neighboring Lincoln County, took place not far from the Ikerd homestead. Colonel John Moore and Major Nicholas Welch commanded a force of 1300 Tories that was training on a high ridge that slopes down to the mill and Clarks Creek on the west. The Ikerd plantation was nearby. It is possible that Peter's son George was among the Tories.

Colonel Francis Locke collected about 400 militia from Rowan and Mecklenburg Counties, with only 15 or 20 men from Burke and Lincoln Counties, to attack the Tories. Good information from Adam Reep, a scout, allowed them to take the best positions possible. The battle raged with advantage moving back and forth between the Whigs and Tories. When the opponents met at close range with no bayonets, they bludgeoned each other with rifle butts. The Tories got the worst of it and ran up a white flag. Some 50 were taken prisoner; others escaped. Seventh deaths occurred, and more than 200 were wounded. It was a tragic scene with blood relatives and neighbors fighting on opposite sides—and recognizing each other on a smoking field.

The defeat of the Tories at Ramsour's Mill destroyed any sustained support for the Crown in the Catawba area. When General Cornwallis passed through the county six months later, more troops deserted than were recruited. These new Americans had no heart in killing close friends and relatives. My cousin Carl Ikard writes that Philip was killed in fighting with the militia in the Battle of Cape Fear, but I have found no hard evidence of this.

Many years later, the Ikards in Alabama gave the Daughters of the Revolution's Journal information that Philip died at the Battle of Bunker Hill. But Mrs. Soderburg, a genealogist who did research for Frank Ikard in the 1960s, reports that there were no North Carolina soldiers at the famous Battle of Bunker Hill. It is coincidental that a very large plantation west of the Catawba River was and is to this day called Bunker Hill. It is possible that Philip worked there, perhaps died there,

but not in a recorded military action, unless in repelling Indians. A number of family researchers list the death of Philip as June 17, 1775, which would precede the battles mentioned in this chapter.

Carl's idea about the death of Philip's death was that he died in battle along the Cape Fear River in eastern North Carolina. This would be the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge in which a large force of Patriots were determined to keep an equally large force of Tories from reaching the coast to unite with British troops. The commander of the Patriots knew that the Tories would have to cross the Moore's Creek Bridge to proceed. His men removed much of the flooring of the bridge, greased the log sleepers so that when the weary Tories started across the bridge, the logs slipped and slid so that the Tories lost their footing, were thrown into confusion and got much the worst of the ensuing battle. Only one Patriot died—not Philip.

The end of the Revolutionary War saw the return of soldiers. Henry Ikerd, who chose the Patriot side, was rewarded with a tract of land.

His younger brother, George, was accused, along with about fifty other Torie sympathizers, in 1782 of treason felony. In Morgan District court in Burke County, he was found guilty and his property was confiscated. However, during the next year, these convictions were "utterly quashed, annulled and made void." Perhaps this area with equal numbers of Tories and Patriots felt that peace could really be achieved by forgiving and forgetting.

In 1784 when old Peter made his will (find this document on page _____), he left most of his estate (350 acres and most of his livestock and household goods) to sons Henry and Lawrence and Peter Jr. George was left only ten pounds, the same amount that he gave to Philip's son, with the provision that Philip's son, Anthony, would receive his inheritance when he came of age at 20. It is likely that George was not in the good graces of his father, who had given his considerable support to the Patriots.

Anthony, the son of Philip Ikerd and Polly Anthony, was only 2 years old when his father died. Polly was likely the daughter of Paulus Anthony, a neighbor and fellow migrant. Mae Ricketts suggests that the widow Polly and her son Anthony may have lived with Philip's brother Lawrence for some time. The first U.S. Census in 1790 lists a woman (not Lawrence's wife) and a male child as part of Lawrence's household at that time.

Until well after the Revolutionary War, North Carolina boundaries extended from the Atlantic on the east to the Mississippi River on the west. Yet, this was to change. There was a cultural and political tension between citizens along the seaboard and those living in the Piedmont (foothills) of the state not unlike that of Tidewater Virginians and their mountain cousins. People who were English

worshipped in the Anglican Church, owned land and spoke English, tended to live near the coast and found the seat of government in New Bern, nearby, convenient and to their liking.

The Indians in this area were docile, and since this area had been settled for some time, these people had a very different set of concerns from the pioneers in the west.

By contrast, those living in the Piedmont were Scotch Irish and German, a more heterogeneous group, highly individualistic, less educated, and very concerned about Indians, for good reason. For these people, the government was personified in an English-speaking official who registered deeds and wills (for what the settler saw as excessive costs). New Bern was so far away that it was hard to send a representative there, and besides, the Governor was the power. When the westerners called for help in repelling Indians, the response was so slow that it was totally ineffective.

With the government of North Carolina insensitive to the needs of the western population, the pioneers looked westward, beyond the mountains, for opportunity. Daniel Boone, born in 1750, as a teen lived in the Yadkin Valley of North Carolina, learning the art of living in the woods. In 1769, he joined a group going to the beautiful country beyond the Appalachian Mountains—land that is now Kentucky.

Though the resident Indians called the land “Kan-tuck-hee,” translated “dark and bloody ground,” Boone was favorably impressed! After making several trips between the Yadkin Valley and Kentucky, in 1773, he brought his wife and children through the Watauga and Cumberland Gaps to Kentucky. This route was later known as the “Wilderness Road.”

Boone’s colorful tales of this rich land beyond the mountains encouraged numerous Piedmont pioneers to look westward for a better life.

“Our” Anthony was born about this time. He must have heard stories of productive land, almost limitless, that lay just over the Appalachians. The lands west of the Catawba were already taken by his father’s and grandfather’s generations. Old Peter’s 508 acres would be divided among several sons; Anthony was to receive 10 pounds from Grandfather Peter’s estate, and what would Anthony do?

Perhaps his father, Philip, found that he had not enough land to support his wife, Polly, and young Anthony. It is thought that Philip worked on the Bunker Hill plantation and, perhaps, died there. Though the date of Philips’ death is listed as 1775, his estate was not settled until the July session of Superior Court in 1880. If Philip had a will, I have not been able to find a copy. There is among the legal records of Burke County, North Carolina, in Morganton, an order that James Greenlee, Benjamin Adams and John H. Stevens be appointed as a committee to

settle Philip's estate. I do not know if Anthony received any money or property from his father, Philip.

At any rate, Anthony was growing up during the years of the revolution. He must have dreamed of a life in new country. After his father died, his mother, Polly Anthony Ikerd, may have remarried, and it is possible that he was unhappy as a stepchild, longing for the romantic move westward. According to Peter's will, he would have to wait until he was of age (20 or 21) to receive his inheritance. About this time, we begin to see the family name spelled Ikard.

Anthony would have known that life on the frontier would be like that his grandparents had experienced not too many years before. Men were challenged to clear the land, build houses, barns and outbuildings. They must raise crops and get all necessities from the land and woods, all the time protecting themselves from Indians as best as they could.

The "Lost state of Franklin" was really a county of western North Carolina whose inhabitants, wearied of neglect from the state government in North Carolina in New Bern, decided to break away. It was not a tidy breach, but in 1789, North Carolina gave up lands west of the mountains. In 1796, the region was admitted to the United States as the state of Tennessee. Most of its people were from North Carolina, giving rise to Tennessee being called "the child of North Carolina."

One can assume that by 1795, Anthony had received his inheritance from his grandfather Peter's estate. With the 10 pounds he was no doubt eager to carve out his own destiny westward. It is very likely that he knew the family of Thomas Harrison who lived nearby in Lincoln County because in a little more than ten years, their paths were to cross in Warren County, Kentucky, with serious consequences.

It is likely that he followed the Wilderness Road through the Watauga Gap across the Holston and Clinch Rivers, through the Cumberland Gap into Warren County, Kentucky. There is a copy of a deed for 200 acres of public land that Anthony bought in that county in 1799, on the middle fork of Drakes Creek, now Allen County. One puzzles over how he fared on this farm and how much of his inheritance the land cost him. One wonders what he found pleasing in his own establishment and what may have been wanting. A map on page _____ shows the area.

We may well imagine the conversations of pioneer men whenever they met. They must have made a comparison of the relative advantages of the place where they now lived to that of newer, less settled places. They all possessed a mindset of opportunism. Hardly anyone was willing to "settle down."

Perhaps Anthony was prospering in Kentucky, but he was ever alert to opportunities in other areas. In a very short time, he bought the land in Tennessee

thinking it would increase in value. No doubt he knew of the rich, productive land in Franklin County, Tennessee. Much of Franklin County had been set aside for grants to Revolutionary Veterans. When some vets chose not to claim their grant, this land reverted to the state and could be sold for attractive prices.

Thomas Harrison, Anthony's old friend from North Carolina, current neighbor and future father-in-law, very likely would have received a grant in that county. Perhaps land was cheaper because some vets chose not to migrate beyond the Appalachians.

In 1807, Anthony bought 200 acres in Franklin County, Tennessee on the waters of the Elk River that later was Coffey and now is Grundy County. It was not for an investment but to establish a homestead. He built a log house and went back to Kentucky to woo Elizabeth Harrison, the eldest child of Thomas and Nancy Harrison.

On January 11, 1808, he secured a marriage bond between himself and Elizabeth Harrison for fifty pounds. Elizabeth may have had a dowry, her share of the Harrison's fortune. William Harrison (a broth of Elizabeth) signed this bond swearing that Elizabeth was at least 21 years old. She was, indeed, 23 years old. Anthony had chosen a sturdy and lively woman worthy of his own adventurous and ambitious self. What a woman she was! Between 1808 and 1820 she bore eight children for Anthony.

As the firstborn of Thomas and Nancy, Elizabeth had learned the skills of running a household and earning a living. She was only 14 when the Harrisons left North Carolina for the journey to Kentucky and the challenge of making a home in the wilderness.

In North Carolina, girls often married in their teens. Perhaps she had already been courted by young fellows in Lincoln County. Failure to marry by 25 meant one had become an old maid, a despised figure "who enters the world to take up room, not to make room for others," to quote an old adage. Certainly this was not to be Elizabeth's destiny.

Elizabeth and Anthony lived in Burrows Cove when, in 1810, John Wesley was born. We think the family was Methodist because of the choice of his name. In 1812, it was Milton; in 1815, Nancy Caroline; in 1816, Seyborn; in 1817, Ann Polly; in 1818 Mary Anthony.

After this, the restless couple moved to Missouri. There was all this talk of the fabulous opportunities in a territory of rich bottom land, lying right across the trail to Oregon. Until only recently, Missouri had been Missouri Territory. Edwin C. Reynolds wrote of the events of the time in his book, *Missouri: A History of the Crossroads State*. It was, indeed, a crossroad of many cultures. At that time,

President Thomas Jefferson, in a rare brash action, bought the enormous land of the Louisiana Purchase for the young United State of America. The area was known as Upper Louisiana or New Spain. It was a stereotype of the frontier with fur trappers, lingering Spaniards, opportunists, Indians and a smattering of American pioneers, eager for cheap land and a free lifestyle.

The first friendly Indians were soon corrupted by the white man's politics and economics. During the War of 1812, the British persuaded Indians to attack the settlers by providing them with weapons and liquor. President Jefferson was not slow in sending the Lewis and Clark expedition to explore the vast unknown heartland of the continent. The military provided a temporary government. About 2000 inhabitants of St. Louis grew tenfold within ten years.

The houses were mostly of logs with timbers held together with wooden pegs. Porches wrapped around the houses and large fireplaces were placed at the ends of the log structures. The space between the logs was chinked with stone and mortar.

There was a great deal of coming and going, as the vanguard pushed westward. For those who stayed, there was the discomfort of dealing with the hordes of mosquitoes that hung over the low land. Malaria was a continuing problem. Quinine was the favored treatment.

Ferries of two canoes lashed together brought people across the mighty Mississippi River. A cage was strapped between the canoes when livestock had to pass across.

In the outlying areas, the pioneers built two-story log structures with the upper floor overhanging the lower floor. Openings were left to allow visibility and good position for settlers defending their homes from the non-to-friendly Indians.

No doubt this primitive and lively area appealed to both Thomas Harrison and his son-in-law Anthony Ikard. It was much like the move from North Carolina to Kentucky, only here was the exciting element of a vast number of people moving westward and the political reality of the United States taking over land that had belonged to the French then the Spanish and again the French.

First the Ikards lived with the Harrisons, but in 1818 they bought 160 acres of land lying within a fertile curve of the Meramec River in St. Louis County. It was beautiful land. Two more children were born here to Anthony and Elizabeth, Elijah Harrison in 1819 and Anthony Jr. in 1821.

They were a frugal and self-sufficient family. Most of the necessities were produced at home. Elizabeth kept house, cooked for the family, tended the garden and farm animals and in her other hours manufactured the clothes and linens for a growing family. This was no task for a laggard or dummy. Cotton, wool and flax

had to be carded, spun, loomed and then cut and sewn into needed garments and household linens.

Then there was the care and education of children, no small chore. Few children were indulged. In fact, the general theory of proper bringing up of children was lots of hard work with severe discipline.

The Ikards prospered by raising an excess of crops that could be marketed. Elizabeth, no doubt, earned money with a flock of chickens and a herd of dairy cattle. Money was extremely scarce, so that bartering was the usual exchange. Furs and pelts were currency. Yet, on rare occasions, an itinerant peddler brought such necessities as pots and pans, eating utensils, needles and other household items. It was possible to swap produce for these essentials. Elizabeth had confidence in her ability to raise and market produce.

Unfortunately, Anthony died in 1821, while on a trip to Calloway County, to the west of where they were living. Calloway had been one of the earliest counties settled in Missouri Territory. Daniel Boone had moved to this area and so had a number of people the Ikards and Harrisons had known back in Warren County, Kentucky. Anthony was likely visiting old friends and, perhaps, considering moving further westward.

Anthony did have a will, so Elizabeth was declared administratrix of his estate. Women often did the legal work for the family when the husband was away. It could not have been easy for Elizabeth. Even her older sons, John Wesley and Milton, were only 11 and 9 years old; and though they had initiative and shouldered the burdens of pioneer farming, it was a most difficult situation.

Elizabeth must have had a love for the land and the concept that only the ownership of land brought stability and prosperity to a family because after Anthony died, she bought 35 acres of land adjoining their farm. Her parents must have been supportive of Elizabeth and her children. There seems to have been a strong bond between Elizabeth and her parents.

Later Elizabeth and her children returned to Franklin County in Tennessee, about 1830. It may have been when the Thomas Harrisons sold out in Missouri and returned to Tennessee. Elizabeth did not sell her property in Missouri. Perhaps her older sons hoped to return to this productive land. Isabelle Ikard Pearsall and my cousin Carl have each been to Anthony's and Elizabeth's farm in Missouri. Both describe it as truly beautiful. Carl writes with profound regret that eventually it was sold but not while Elizabeth lived. Isabelle's map of this area is on page _____ of this book.

I have found no evidence that Elizabeth owned land in Tennessee. The years she struggled as a widow with eight children could not have been easy, even with the

help of the generous Harrisons. The older boys were spirited, quite a handful I expect. Yet, she remained a widow for nine years at a time when a capable woman of property was a “good catch,” very eligible.

When a Mr. Howard McElroy came courting, Elizabeth consented to marriage, even though it came at what in all probability was a large price. It may be that Howard did not want the burden of so many children; perhaps he did not like children. I do not believe that Elizabeth had children by Howard McElroy. John Wesley and Milton were eager to be on their own and had dreams of a freer life further West. They decided to go on their own. But what to become of the six younger ones? Elizabeth could not be parted with Mary Anthony. This child was to live with Elizabeth until she grew up.

In 1830, it was Thomas and Nancy Harrison who stepped up and assumed responsibility for Elizabeth’s small children. A court, called Orphans Court, in Alabama, where the Harrisons were living, gave guardianship to Thomas of Elizabeth’s other five children: Nancy Caroline, Seyburn, Ann Polly, Elijah Harrison, and Anthony Jr. Thomas was a ripe 69 years old, but he and Nancy would see that these five children were properly raised with the rudiments of education. On page ____ is the Orphan’s Court document.

Court records gave another incident of the life of Elizabeth Ikard McElroy and her sons. In 1835, she and her sons Seyburn and Elijah Harrison were charged with trespass and assault and battery in Franklin County. The plaintiffs were Green and Nancy Mosley, and the altercation seemed to have been about a property line. The court citation uses such words as, “with force arms—and with stronghand unlawfully did enter into—“ and “with strong hand did throw down the fences of the said Moseley and threaten to kill the said Mosley.”

Witnesses were called in a jury trial, and the three were given stiff bonds: Elijah Harrison’s was \$250; his mother’s and brother’s were \$125 each. I expect that was a lot of money in 1836. Yet, it would appear that Elizabeth and her sons were scrappy and would not readily yield land that they thought they had the right to.

As it turned out, a jury declared Elijah and Seyburn not guilty. And since Green Mosley had charged them in a frivolous and malicious manner, he had to pay court costs. Elizabeth was not mentioned in this record. One may assume that she was not guilty, also. On page ____ is a copy of the court document.

It is interesting to note that Elizabeth’s daughter Ann Polly, on October 15, 1834, married a man named James Mosley (this was a year before the hostility) and that he was held in esteem because only a few years later, Elijah Harrison named his firstborn son James Mosley. If or how James is related to Green and Nancy Mosley

makes for interesting speculation. Perhaps the altercation was an in-law problem as well as territorial.

Elizabeth had a lot of heartache in these years. In 1831, her 16-year-old daughter Nancy Caroline died. In 1835, her husband Howard died, and in that same year daughter Anne Polly died. Her run-in with the Mosleys came when she was burnded with grief. At 50, she had done a heap of living, moving and burying those she loved. She may have felt keen guilt about turning over five of her children to her always generous and reliable parents and been embittered by being left a widow again.

In 1838, Thomas died leaving a will in which Elizabeth was named an heir. Thomas had lived quite a life. When he applied for a pension for his service in the Revolutionary War, he listed Maryland, North Carolina, Kentucky, Indiana, Tennessee and Alabama as places of residence. A clerk wrote with some hesitance that Thomas was "Now permanently settled." Nancy was to live on as a widow until the ripe old age of 90 years.

All, however, was not grief. In the years 1834-1843, five of Elizabeth's children married, and she became a grandmother several times over. She helped her mother, Nancy, to qualify as a widow of a Revolutionary War vet for a pension.

Then in April of 1846, while on a visit to Memphis, in Shelby County, Tennessee, she died and was buried in a cemetery that is called Winchester Park. Carl describes the place as currently in a poor neighborhood and overrun now with weeds and litter. She died in testate. Her son Elijah Harrison was named executor of the estate. Within a month, her six surviving children had sold the beautiful land in Missouri that she had held through thick and thin.

When Elizabeth Ikard gave over her minor children to the guardianship of her father, Thomas Harrison, the older sons were not minor. Each in his own way set out to determine his own destiny. Warmth and security had been provided the children by the strong marriages and relationships of their parents, the Ikards and their grandparents, the Harrisons.

John Wesley, the oldest child, married Mary Ann Vann in Madison County, Alabama in 1835 and brought her to live in Tennessee for a time. The young couple lived down the road from his mother, Elizabeth, and were still living there when her second husband, Howard McElroy, died.

Later, John Wesley and Mary Ann moved to northern Alabama and had sixteen children, born between 1836 and 1860, when Mary Ann died.

Then in July of 1864, John Wesley married Ann Eliza Christon. They had nine more children. The 25th child was named Perry Malone Ledbetter William Winson

Guinn Ikard. Family legend has it that John Wesley wanted folks to know that, with 25 children, he had not “run out of names.”

Fifteen of John Wesley’s children married, many into the neighbor Whitaker family. Carl Ikard, who researched this family, mused that a gathering of the Whitakers and Ikards “must have been a real picnic!”

A younger sister, Mary Anthony Ikard (the one who remained with Elizabeth), married a Harrison Johnston and raised a family in Alabama. Pictures of Mary Anthony, her children and husband Harrison R. Johnston are on page 177. Harrison prospered with a retail clothing store. The Johnstons were a prominent family according the newspaper clippings. One of their sons served as an officer in the Confederate Army and met his Uncle Elijah Harrison Ikard, who also served as a Captain in the Confederate forces, during his tour of duty.

The second son, Milton, a confident and competent person, stayed in Franklin County long enough to court the high-spirited and indefatigable Isabella Tubbs. She came from a prominent family, being the great-granddaughter of William Floyd, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. With pride, she listed her descent from the Powhatan tribe of the Tidewater region of Virginia, of whom Pocahontas was a member. High cheekbones, a distinguishing feature of the tribe, are evident in a portrait of Isabella.

Both Milton and Isabella were 25 years old when they married on March 17 in Franklin County. They moved to and for several years lived on the Tom Bigbee River near Farmerville, Alabama. Two sons were born to them, Lafayette Eugene in 1838, and Robert Emmett in 1840. Other Ikard families lived in the area, yet this vigorous young couple was not content to remain here.

Their next move was to Somerville in Noxubee County in Mississippi. In the few years they lived in Mississippi, two more sons were born, Elisha Floyd arrived in 1846. There is a legend that after three sons, Isabella was eager to have a daughter and swore that her next child would be named Susan, regardless of gender. The Ikard’s next child, born in 1847, was a son named William Susan. He grew up to be one tough trail driver and fearless cattleman who made a strong imprint on his adopted state of Texas. The family most often called him “Sude.”

As ill fortune would have it, the entire family came down with chills and fever, a common malady in Louisiana at that time. It was here that Milton came across a book that described a “water cure.” It worked! For all the family! From this time forward, Milton successfully treated illness in his family and among neighbors and was addressed as Dr. Milton Ikard. His specialty was hydrotherapy, which uses a minimum of patented medicine and a maximum of water.

The early 1850s was a time of boundless opportunities in the young nation, the United States of America. Milton and Isabella were determined to make their fortune. Milton's eyes were on the state to the west, Texas. His family would claim a life of abundance there.

Isabella, her five young sons and the Ikard slaves remained in Louisiana recuperating while Milton moved westward. He located close by other Tennesseans near Honey Grove on Sanders Creek in Lamar County, Texas.

Not one to be content away from the dynamic Milton, Isabella in 1852 made up her own caravan of a carry all (a covered one horse carriage with two seats) in which her sons rode, followed by covered wagons filled with household goods and her slaves. In the lead rode the resolute Isabella. It was a bold adventure, with some lack of hospitality along the frontier and the persistent danger of unfriendly Indians. Isabella personally managed the passage of her vehicles over rough and hazardous trails.

It must have been some reunion when she joined Milton. In 1855, the Ikards moved to Parker County, near the present town of Weatherford. The little settlement was called Millsap at the time. There, on Grindstone Creek, Milton and his family built a crude, windowless log cabin.

Grindstone Creek was the source of upward mobility for the Ikards. Stones in the creek could be cut and shaped into large grindstones to sharpen axes, knives and plows. The industrious Ikards earned cash with these valuable stones, which they sold in Weatherford.

In the following year, tax rolls reveal that Milton and Isabella paid taxes on 160 acres of land and eight Negroes. The uncomfortable cabin was replaced with a house of milled timber having windows. And if that was not enough, a log school was provided for educating the Ikard sons and other children. The school terms were short, but the work was intense, according to Sude.

For approximately 15 years, the family lived with the danger of attack from the fierce Kiowa and Comanche Indians of the Plains. Fortunately for the Milton Ikards, they never were victims of these marauders. In fact, through interesting circumstances, the Ikards learned to live peaceably with Indians.

In 1836, a blond, blue-eyed child named Cynthia Parker was taken hostage by Comanches. She grew up part of the Indian culture and became the wife of Chief Peta Nocona, with whom she had three children. One of those children took her name. He was the legendary Quanah Parker.

Young Milton Ikard Jr. was among a group of six cowboys from Parker County who pursued Quannah after a raid on horses. It was a deadly choice; one of the six cowboys died. The Indians lost 12 horses and 9 men.

In 1869, Cynthia Parker was recaptured by Captain Sull Ross of the Texas Rangers and brought to the Ikard ranch. Lafayette Eugene Ikard and his wife were later to name a son Sull Ross. It was Isabella who suggested that the captive could be Cynthia.

Indeed, the captive woman pointed to herself and said, “Me, Cynthia.” A bond grew between the Parkers and the Ikards.

The Ikard’s oldest son, Lafayette Eugene, did not serve in the Civil War because a severe accident in his youth left him with poor use of one arm. The second son, Robert Emmett, served with the CSA 19th Cavalry. He was a young man of gentle manners and reserved disposition. Letters he wrote to his parents are on pages ____ of this book. He was stationed in Arkansas. In time, Robert fell ill with typhoid, wishing for the hydrotherapy practiced by his father, Milton. Sadly, like so many of his compatriots, he died in camp in 1863. A letter from Milton to his son Robert is found on page ____ of this book.

Earlier, the senior Milton corresponded with his younger brother, Captain Elijah Harrison Ikard, who had recruited and led the 32nd Tennessee Infantry in the Battle of Donelson and Battle of Shiloh during the early months of the Civil War. On page ____ is a letter from Elijah to his brother Milton. Elijah’s death after the Battle of Shiloh of “fevers” brought the first grief of the war to the family.

The other sons of Milton and Isabella, too young to fight in the war, were ever on the alert to economic opportunities. In 1865, Elisha Floyd and William Susan came up with a service that was mutually helpful to nearby ranchers and themselves. They rounded up strays, fed, then delivered these branded cattle to their rightful owners for a dollar a head or they would take pay in cattle. It was the beginning of a cattle empire called E.F. Ikard and Brothers, which included Lafayette Eugene, William Susan and Milton Jr.

Besides managing their own herds, the Ikard boys had the job of driving herds on the Chisholm Trail to the railroad in Kansas. Elisha Floyd and William Susan were trail drivers and entrepreneurs. They successfully delivered the cattle, bought wagons, drove them back to Texas and sold them for a profit. The ins and outs of ranching and trail driving is admirably told in Burton Ikard’s book, *Another Time* and in the chapter “The Ikard Connection” of the *Merrick Family History*. Burton’s father, Bob, son of Lafayette, worked on the ranches of his uncles.