

*Grandparents of Sarah Faulkner who married  
Daniel Wilkerson*

TOLIVER CRAIG

and his wife

MARY (POLLY) HAWKINS CRAIG

About 1703 or 1704, a John Craig, in Scotland, married Jane Taliferro. He died shortly after his marriage and his widow started with her two brothers to Spottsylvania county, Virginia. On board the ship, in 1704, or 1705, a son was born to Jane Taliferro Craig and she named him "Taliferro Craig". She died soon after the birth of this child, and so Taliferro Craig, an orphan, grew up in Virginia, with his mother's brothers. The name Taliferro soon came to be called "Toliver" and as Toliver he was known throughout his long and active life.

Toliver Craig married Mary (Polly) Hawkins about 1730 and raised a large family of children. During Toliver Craig's life the new country was in almost constant state of warfare with the Indians, and later with the British. Records at Richmond Virginia show that Toliver Craig was a Captain of Orange county militia in 1777.

The family of Toliver Craig was intensely religious. Three of his sons became Baptist ministers noted for their zeal. This preaching being contrary to the laws of the Established church in Virginia persecutions began against them. Some members of the family were arrested and kept in jail, but even this failed to stop them from their labors. To escape this situation and live in peace, and for the betterment of their families it was decided that they would all seek new homes in Kentucky.

At this time Toliver Craig was about 77 years old and all of his large family, had married. Some of them had large families of their own. However the entire group of them were firmly united and willing to make the change for the good of all.

A party was sent to select a location for the new home in the wilderness. John Craig, age about 50 years, eldest son of Toliver, was accompanied by his son Elijah, age 16, and by his brother Jeremiah Craig, age about 27. The spring of 1780 found them in Kentucky, seeking a suitable spot for their settlement. They visited many places and located various tracts of land before they returned to Virginia with their report. By 1781 a large number of the Craigs had reached Bryan Station, where they took

up their abode in the cabins which had been abandoned by the Bryans and other families who had returned to North Carolina. Another part of the Craig family with Rev. Lewis Craig as leader, settled at Gilbert's Creek, a few miles east of Lancaster, Garrard county, Kentucky. (See "The Traveling Church" by Ranck).

Living in Bryan Station at the time of the siege in August 1782, we find Toliver Craig about 78 years of age and his wife Polly Hawkins Craig age about 66. Three of their sons, with their families, (Capt. John Craig, Toliver Craig, Jr., and Jeremiah Craig), three daughters with their families, (Jane Craig Saunders, Elizabeth Craig Cave, Sarah Craig Singleton) were also residents of Bryan Station at the time of the siege. All of these took an active part in the defense of Bryan Station. As there were numerous children in each of the families mentioned, the name "Craig" is found among the defenders more than any other name. It is claimed by the Craig family history that Polly Hawkins Craig, wife of Toliver Craig, Sr., was the oldest woman in the fort and was the first to offer to go for the water. Craig family tradition also claims that she led the procession to and from the spring.

In 1783 Toliver Craig and his wife moved with their son, Capt. John Craig to "Craig's Settlement," on Clear Creek (now in Woodford county). But ten years later, in 1793, when Capt. John Craig again moved, the old couple, Toliver and Polly Hawkins Craig, remained behind. Two years later, in 1795, Toliver Craig died. In 1804 his wife died. They were buried near their home. No record is found of their graves being located or marked.

Much of this information was given by Miss Kathernie Craig, lineal descendant and historian, of Grant, Boone County, Kentucky.

FAMILY OF TOLIVER CRAIG, SR.\*

Born 1704—Married 1730—Died 1795

and his wife

MARY (POLLY) HAWKINS CRAIG\*

Born 1716—Married 1730—Died Jan. 6th, 1804

\*John Craig, born 1730, died Aug. 15th, 1815, married Sallie Page\*, born 1738; died 1835.

\*Toliver Craig, Jr., married \*Elizabeth Johnson. Lewis Craig, born 1738 or 1740, died 1825; married Elizabeth Saunders.

Elijah Craig, married Frances Smith.

Joyce Craig, married John Faulkner.

\*Jane Craig, married \*John Saunders.

\*Elizabeth Craig; married \*Richard Cave.

Joseph Craig; married Sallie Wisdom.

Benjamin Craig; married Nancy Sturman.

\*Jeremiah Craig; married \*Lucy Hawkins.

\*Sallie Craig; marriage Manoah Singleton, soldier at Bryan Station between May 1780 and December 1782, not listed as present during siege of August 1782.

Another "Tree" gives the children of Toliver Craig, Sr., in the following order: John Craig, Joyce Craig, Lewis Craig, Toliver Craig, Jr., Elijah Craig, Jane Craig, Joseph Craig, Sallie Craig, Benjamin Craig, Jeremiah Craig, Elizabeth Craig.

\*In Bryan Station at time of siege.

A "Tree" made in 1854 by J. W. Craig, 2nd, spells this name JOSSA. Family record written by Miss Katherine Craig.