

There is now a valuable book on John Dabney Shane's historical enterprise in documenting the early settlement of what she calls the Ohio Valley—the territory ranging northwestwards from Tennessee, through Kentucky, Ohio, and Illinois, to the Great Lakes:

Elizabeth A. Perkins, *Border Life: Experience and Memory in the Revolutionary Ohio River Valley* (Chapel Hill NC: UNC Press, 1998)

The greatest value of this book is its extended consideration of the Shane historical interviews published on film as part of the Draper Collection. Perkins tells us that, according to the auction catalog for the Shane's vast accumulated material (from which Lyman Draper purchased the heart of Shane's Ohio Valley historical material), there were originally 17 volumes of historical interviews and 12 on Presbyterian church history. Of these 17, Draper purchased only 12, and the others have never surfaced, but Draper himself says they were mostly empty or had little material of merit. Of these 12 volumes, the ones in the Draper Collection at the Wisconsin Historical Society (which become the repository for the collection) are those numbered 1, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14, and 16, while volumes 12 and 17 repose at the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia, and "volumes 7, 9, 10, and 15 are missing, but one of these is most likely an unidentified volume of Shane's historical collections found in the John Day Caldwell papers at the Cincinnati Historical Society."

"Of Shane's 'Collections in Church History', the Presbyterian Historical Society owns volumes 1, 3, 5, 7, 9-11, and an unnumbered volume called 'Baptist Coll.'; volume 2 is in the John Day Caldwell Papers at the Cincinnati Historical Society."

At the end of her volume, Perkins transcribes Shane's interview with Jane Stevenson in full as an example of his practice, noting, however, that it appears to be atypical of his other interviews, and quoting from Shane's note at the end:

It was an account of her bodily weakness that I deferred securing further information to a more favorable time. That time never came.

This seems definitive, yet it appears that there was, after all, a later version of this interview which did not make its way into the archived Draper Collection at the Wisconsin Historical Society (I had one of the librarians there verify that the version on film correspond to the manuscript version).

It is usually supposed, by researchers citing this interview that Jane Stevenson was the daughter of James Gay of the Calfpasture, in Augusta (and later Rockbridge) County, Virginia, yet there is no direct evidence to that effect in the original interview. In fact the only place where Jane appears to name her father, she calls him Samuel Stevenson! That she was indeed Jane (Gay) Stevenson can be inferred from a second Shane interview with Jane's nephew, James Stevenson, with the help of the circumstantial evidence in Jane's own interview, but I have yet to encounter anyone referring to this James Stevenson interview. What, then, makes everyone so confident that Jane Stevenson was born Jane Gay, the daughter of James?

The answer is that most "researchers" who have even bothered to check the sources they cite, have evidently based their claims on a secondary source, supposedly derived from the Shane interview in the Draper Collection, in which Jane does explicitly name James Gay as her father. This source is

R[oy] S[tevenson] King, "Major Samuel Stevenson", and "Jane Gay Stevenson" sketches, in *Genealogies of Kentucky Families, From the Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* (193?; reprint GPC, 1981), 2:762-770 .

King quotes Jane at some length from a source which he identifies only generically as "Draper Manuscripts" (I believe he was writing before the Draper material was formally organized as a collection, or perhaps even before it began to repose at the Wisconsin Historical Society). Was he, in fact, working from a later version of the interview which had somehow disappeared from Shane's papers before they were auctioned off to Lyman Draper and others? I used to think so, but on further analysis and reflection, I believe that the variant passages quoted by King are in fact a conflation of the original material with his own inventions. I shall reproduce most of the genealogically relevant passages in a separate section below, comparing them with the original. I have decided that King's version is impossibly corrupt, and do not intend to cite his Draper Collection references in the future.

Problems of Interpretation

By itself, the Draper Collection version of Jane's interview raises a number of serious questions, both large and small. The most significant genealogically is whether Jane was indeed the daughter of James Gay of the Calfpasture in Augusta (and later Rockbridge) County, VA. There are several references to "Daddy" in her interview but none to James Gay by name (or indeed to any Gays) anywhere in the text. At one point, in fact, Jane apparently refers to "Sam[uel] Stevenson (my father)". However, the next paragraph begins with additional material in the same vein, and in parentheses "(so said Samuel Stevenson)". This cannot have been Jane's husband, Samuel, who died in 1825, according her Revolutionary War pension application;^[1] it was probably, instead, her son Samuel, born in 1781, after the events in question. Presumably Samuel's knowledge came from stories told to him by the old-timers.

Another problem is that the narrative of Jane's coming to Kentucky with her young family in Oct1779 appears to be chronological, but in the midst of it we find "First summer we came out, Daddy stood sentry, while we milked." This is particularly puzzling since the will of James Gay of the Calfpasture was proved in AugustaCoVA on 19Nov1776.

There are three references to "Daddy" in the interview:

When I started to Kentucky, I was 100 miles back from Daddy's. {13CC:137, p6 below}

• • •

First summer we came out, Daddy stood sentry, while we milked.^[2] Things came on sooner that spring than ever I knew them. In the winter we were crowded. It was the continental war going on (safe for to be among Indians.) But as soon as warm weather came on, they put back.

Mr. Brookey didn't come out till the winter following 1780-81. The first of March 1781, John Brookey went out.... {13CC:139, p7 below}

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¹ Samuel & Jane Stevenson Revolutionary War Pension File, 20Oct1833 (date granted), W8769 (NARA film M805-771, image 716-724); online by subscription at Heritage Quest.

² Jane seems to have interrupted her heretofore chronological narrative here to speak about her families' earlier prospecting trip to KY in 1776. This too is made explicit in the King version of the interview.

One Mitchell, was the first that I knew killed by the Indians on the Wilderness Road. That was in 1776. When they got back to the first stations on Powell's valley, in June 1776, they found the place all deserted, and every thing standing, even to the milk-pails on the stumps, as if they had been abruptly forsaken. Mitchell was killed just on this side of the Cumberland Mountain.

Ben[jamin] Blackburn, W[illia]m Elliott, and Sam[uel] Stevenson (my father,) came out in April, and got back I think in June.^[3] Took Billy Campbell with them, whom they got at one Jimmy Gilmore's, over the Kentucky River. Campbell was a wheelwright by trade. He took in a parcel of buffalo horns in a bag, to make spoons of. Daddy and Billy Elliott spelled him so as to enable him to get his bag in, by walking and letting him ride some. Blackburn was so stiff with fear, we could hardly get him along. {13CC:139, p8}

Although, as we have seen, Samuel Stevenson (Jane's putative son) was present at the interview, and apparently given some license to interject, in each of the above references to "Daddy" it is clearly Jane speaking *as a participant* (note the pronoun "we") in events which took place before her son Samuel was born (on 31May1781, according to her pension declaration). However, she uses the same word "Daddy" to refer to two different people.

In the first use, "Daddy" can only mean her father, James Gay, who lived on the Little Calfpasture River, in the first of a long succession of Appalachian mountain valleys. Jane and her husband Samuel Stevenson settled first near her brothers on the some of the Gay land on the Cowpasture River, in the next major valley to the west (about 20 miles away), but then, in 1775 (as Jane says) they removed deeper into the mountains, into the Greenbrier district which was about "100 miles back from Daddy's".

The second use of the word occurs in the midst of a fairly tight chronological narrative of Jane and Samuel's first coming to Kentucky. They arrived in Oct1779, spent the winter of 1779/1780 in Todd's Station, then removed to McConnell's Station on 2Apr1780. By this time, her father, James, was dead. I think, therefore, that "Daddy" in this context must refer to Jane's husband, Samuel Stevenson, who is called "Daddy" here in deference to her son, Samuel's presence.

The third instance is more problematic, because the time period is ambiguous. Is Jane, referring, in the paragraph where she speaks of "Daddy and Billy Elliott" spelling Campbell, after they "came out in April" to 1776, referred to in the previous paragraph in which "*they* got back ... in June", and thus to a preliminary trip to KY undertaken by her husband and others to secure their future home, or is she referring to an incident which took place during the years when the family was living in the KY forts (1779-1784)?

I think, on the whole, the answer is probably: the former. There is evidence in the land records that Samuel did make a preliminary trip to KY several years before he removed his family in 1779, but in any case, the reference to "Daddy" here can only be to her husband, and not her father, even though the latter was still alive—though he would die later in 1776. Since, however, Jane again speaks as a participant in this expedition, when she would have had two infants to care for and a third well on the way, we are left with an unexplained anomaly. Maybe the error is Shane's?

³ This is probably Jane's son, Samuel Stevenson, speaking here. Since, according to Jane's pension application, her son was born in 1781, he must be retailing stories here he had heard from the old-timers.

My Transcription of the Jane Stevenson Interview

Now, thanks to Perkins, we have a published book with an accurate transcription of this Draper version, and in fact, although her book is still very much under copyright, it can be quite readily accessed for free through many libraries as an "electronic book". However, I have endeavored to make things even simpler for the scrupulous researcher by making and publishing my own transcription of this interview here. Moreover, in a subsequent section of this report, I have also culled out those passages in the King article, all of which are cited to "Draper manuscripts", and have set them out side by side with the actual Draper Collection version available widely on microfilm, and in the original at the Wisconsin Historical Society.

I have followed a slightly different, and somewhat more explicit set of transcription rules than Perkins, and these are explicated in full below, but I would also like to note that I have carefully compared my independently done version to hers and made a number of small corrections to both versions. Thus, my corrected transcription bids fair to be the most accurate yet made, and I invite anyone who has access to the original Draper Collection images to try to nitpick it, in case it still falls short of perfection.

I do note a residual difference from Perkins (or Perkins corrected), on just one word, and that one is a judgement call: there is a sentence you will find below which begins either with "Where" or "When" (it really could be either).

My Transcription Rules

Like Perkins, I have expanded most abbreviations silently, though unlike her I have shown my expansions explicitly for names and proper nouns (e.g. "W[illia]m" in the original, becomes "W[illia]m" in my transcription). My silent expansions, like Perkins's have included "Pa:" -> "Pennsylvania", "Va:" -> "Virginia", "Mo:" -> "Missouri". These were standard abbreviations in Shane's day, and there is no ambiguity about their meanings. I have not written out numbers except when they occur as the first word of a sentence.

Otherwise, I have modernized only the capitalization, which chiefly affects the generic parts of compound proper nouns (e.g. I've changed "Powell's valley" to "Powell's Valley", and "McConnell's station" to "McConnell's Station"). Shane's punctuation and spelling I've rendered literally (and without sic-ing), and his interlineations have been merged silently into my text.

Also, unlike Perkins, I've omitted what I suppose to be all later editorial additions, in particular the underlinings (mostly of proper nouns), which she says are Draper's, but which look to me like the work of 20th century archivists intent on building an index to the material. And I've omitted the marginal notes, which in this case are evidently Draper's, and which are in some cases misleading.

The Draper Collection text also sets off many snippets and passages with doubled angle brackets (apparently in the same hand as the double underlinings) as a way of indicating elements of the text which are Shane's notes to himself. However, the whole text is a blend of "as told to" material and editorial questionings and commentary, and I think it sufficient to note here that where a "?", for example, appears in the text, there is no sure way of telling whether it represents a questioning note in Jane's voice, or a reminder by Shane to himself to follow up on the questioned material. I agree with Perkins that Shane has made a deliberate and largely successful attempt to let his subjects speak for themselves, even allowing them to structure their own interviews, and in Jane's case both the tone, and the impressive level of detail in her narrative and comments leaves one with the impression that she had little or no doubt of the accuracy of what she said. At any rate, like Perkins I have elided the editorial "<< ... >>" framings, and unlike her, I have in most cases let the text speak for itself rather than try to guess when Shane is dropping into his own editorial voice.

Finally, I've interpolated all the Draper Collection page numbers {within braces} at the exact point where the page breaks occur, as an aid to precise citation.

Jane Stevenson Interview, with John Dabney Shane, 184?, in the **Draper Collection: Kentucky Papers, 1768-1892** (microfilm), Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI (13CC:135-143).

{13CC:135}

No. 35. Jane Stevenson.

Jane Stevenson, wife of Sam[ue]l Stevenson, was born Nov. 15—1750, in Augusta County, Virginia.

The first fort I ever was in, a little girl was taken out of it, but from July to November older than me. She was but 7 years old. And was 7 years gone; untill Brocade's campaign [*see my bracketed note on this a few paragraphs on*]. We walked out and got some haws. They, some of the company, pulled down the limbs, and handed us some of the haws. I wouldn't go any farther. And when I came, went into another cabin, wouldn't go into Mammy's, she would know I had been out. Presently the alarm came. They had gone about 200 yards further and the Indians took them.

Where we lived was about 35 miles from Staunton. No Lexington then. The country was newly settled. Where Crawford was killed, was some 15 miles from Providence Meeting-house, down towards Staunton. Old Mr. John Brown preached there then. The men carried their guns to meeting, as regular as the congregation met. At Providence Meeting-house. The woman was told, bonie [*meaning "bonny"?*] Alex[ander] Crawford was killed. Well, said she, and indeed Mr. C.? or M? the lady or man who told her? M ___ he must take better care next time. This was a year or two after my mother was killed. I was only 9 or 10 then.

I was forted from the time I was 7 years old, 1757, and was never rid of the Indians till I moved to this place.

Carr's [*Kerr's*] Creek was in about 7 miles of us. We were on the Calf-pasture.^[4] Mother was killed when I was about 8 {13CC:136} years old. Mr. Crawford lived higher up toward Staunton than the Calf-pasture.

The settlement on Carr's Creek was taken twice. The first time it was taken, Aunt escaped in the woods. Had but 2 children then, and while she escaped that way, the rout[e] of the Indians was down the river.

The second time it was taken, I had an uncle and a cousin killed. This aunt and her 3 children, were taken prisoners and carried to the towns.^[5] Two of the children died there. The remaining child was brought in at the treaty following Brocade's Campaign.^[6] Aunt wasn't brought in, and Uncle went out that same fall and brought her, but didn't get home until next March.

In less than 3 hours, in 2 hours, they killed and took 63. They no doubt had the ground all spied out. What they would do they knew. And they came in like race horses. One Jim Milligan who got away from them at the Ghauley [*Shane interpolates the correct spelling, "Gauley" above the line*]

⁴ The Calfpasture Valley of then Augusta Co VA; "about 7 miles" north of Kerr's Creek, places Jane's family near the southern end of the Valley, and in fact James Gay's land lay on the northern bank of the Big Calfpasture River, near its confluence with the Little River. Although Jane nowhere names her father in this interview, or even provides her maiden surname, this reference alone greatly narrows the possibilities regarding her ancestry.

⁵ The circumstances given in this statement pretty unambiguously identifies Jane's aunt as Eleanor (Gay) Kinkead, as I have shown elsewhere.

⁶ "Bouquet's Campaign" of 1764, the year of the second Kerr's Creek massacre, and also the year in which her aunt, Eleanor (Gay) Kinkead, wife of William, and surviving child, were both kidnaped and rescued.

Mountains, said the Indians there had 450 prisoners; that he had counted as they passed along. These, besides what they had killed, and a parcel, who at that time were before, in a hunting company.

Two little boys, Jimmy Woods and Jimmy McClung were taken [*blank*]. They went to Staunton when they got back, and had their ears recorded.

The year the Indians took Carr's Creek Settlement a second time, they were greatly bad. Almost seemed as if they thought they would make their way to Williamsburgh that year. Shot the cows mightily with bows and arrows.

Simon Girty was from Virginia. He and old John Craig were schoolmasters together in Virginia? {13CC:137}

We moved to Greenbrier in 1775. The year after the battle of the Point. [*Battle of Point Pleasant: 10Oct1774. At this point there are a couple of lines of text scribbled out, then...*] [There] were but one or two families that were not dutch and half dutch, in that whole settlement. What S[ettlement]? But never was a settlement of kinder people. They were great for dancing and singing. 1. W[illia]m. Hamilton. 2. Samuel McClung.

The hard winter was such in Virginia, as well as here.

When I started to Kentucky, I was 100 miles back from Daddy's. My father came from Ireland when he was a boy. But then he lived on the frontier long before he was married.

John McKinney, the schoolmaster, came out with us. He was nearly killed at The Battle of the Point. We brought him out. We waited on the road a week or so, after we had left Greebrier, for another family. Were about 2 weeks ? getting to Blackamore's Station.

We never travelled a Sunday, but one in Powell's Valley, about 5 miles till we came to a beautiful clear spring of water. It must have been 70 miles we traveled in Powell's Valley, for we kept all the way down till we crossed at Cumberland Ford.

The morning before we came to the ford of Clinch (Blackamore's Station was 10 miles beyond that,) these murders were committed. A mother and 4 children; in sight of the fort too. The husband was in the field, but escaped. A girl about half grown, and 3 little boys tomahawked and scalped, who were talking while their brains were boiling out. The grandmother asked them if they saw their little brother? What had become of him? Said they didn't know. These were dutch people. We staid there {13CC:138} good part of a day. Their aunt sat on a stump, in sight of the fort, and cried all day.

Went by Blackamore's Station next day, and didn't see the smoke of a chimney after that till we got to Boonesborough.

The pretty springs of water, and the woods, rendered Powell's Valley so exceedingly beautiful, I could have stopped very freely in it. A pack road all the way down, and mountains to one side of us.

Just before we got to the foot of Cumberland Mountains, the company 3/4 of a mile ahead of us, had all their horses stolen. They could do nothing better than just turn their feather beds loose. They could do nothing with them. About their cattle? We never saw any Indians, and were not interrupted.

I was most afraid coming down Cumberland Mountain: the place was narrow and rocky. Stood up on either side, not broader than a house. Woods more beautiful in Cumberland Valley than any other place.

We come to Lexington in October. It had been settled the previous April. There were every sort of people there, and that was what took us away. We had no notion of raising our children among that sort of people. Frances [*sic—Shane dotted his "i"s, and the spelling of this name is consistently "Frances"*] McConnell was the first man I knew when I got to Lexington. I had known the McConnells in Pennsylvania.

We went down to McConnell's Station 2nd April 1780. It was not settled till the day we went there. It took its name from Frances McConnell, and lay between Frances and W[illia]m McConnell's places, and about between 1 and 1 1/4 miles from Lexington. Right where Royall's Mill now is—on the rail-road. There was a grave yard there. Ja[me]s, Frances, and W[illia]m McConnell were cousins to Alexander and John McConnell.

{13CC:139}

Rob[er]t Edmiston, from Pennsylvania—Daniel Campbell from Pennsylvania W[illia]m Hadden—John Brookey—all Presbyterians I think. All at the station were Presbyterians, except 2 Mooneys, and they were raised Presbyterians. John Nutt, Matthew Harper, John Stevenson, killed or taken at the Blue Licks from McConnell's Station. these 3.

First summer we came out, Daddy stood sentry, while we milked. Things came on sooner that spring than ever I knew them. In the winter we were crowded. It was the continental war going on (safe for to be among Indians.) But as soon as warm weather came on, they put back.

Mr. Brookey didn't come out till the winter following 1780-81. The first of March 1781, John Brookey went out to cut the first log to build his house. The Indians thought to take him. In the spring they would rather have a prisoner than a scalp. They shot him through the shoulder, and it came out in the hollow of his back. He was a very round-shouldered man, and the bullet holes were 15 inches between the places. There was no doctor at the station. But he was taken care of and fed and nursed, on just what we had, and in 4 weeks he was able to pick up an axe and hew. I was out, bringing in a pail of water, when I saw the Indian after Brookey. A parcel of children were out at the time; some here, some there. Some got in, and some hid in hollow logs. One so near the passing Indian, who didn't see him, that the boy could see his gun was empty: (lock down.)

The company from Lexington were out in a few minutes, (they heard the gun,) and set their dogs on them. They had stripped, and left their clothes behind, in coming to catch Brookey. Their things were all gotten; {13CC:140} and one Indian was wounded. The Indians had gotten within 60 yards of the fort. Where [*or When?*] Brookey's tree had fallen he heard a stick crack, and looking round, saw that the Indians had almost gotten between him and the fort.

After the first campaign to Ohio had gone out, John Haggin was in it, (this after Brookey's affair, I think,)—one David Hunter determined to go the other side of the river, as a place of more secure safety. Before getting off however he had a dream—that either the women and children or that he himself would be killed. Henderson. He came down to bid us goodbye and seemed to stay and stay. He started, and was shot, just in the hollow, about 1/2 way between McConnell's Station and Lexington.

[I think this marks the end of Jane's chronological narrative of coming to Kentucky.]

One Mitchell, was the first that I knew killed by the Indians on the Wilderness Road. That was in 1776. When they got back to the first stations on Powell's valley, in June? 1776, they found the place all deserted, and every thing standing, even to the milk-pails on the stumps, as if they had been abruptly forsaken. Mitchell was killed just on this side of the Cumberland Mountain.

Ben[jamin] Blackburn, W[illia]m Elliott, and Sam[uel] Stevenson (my father,) came out in April, and got back I think in June.^[7] Took Billy Campbell with them, whom they got at one Jimmy Gilmore's, over the Kentucky River. Campbell was a wheelwright by trade. He took in a parcel of buffalo horns in a bag, to make spoons of. Daddy and Billy Elliott spelled him so as to enable him to

⁷ This is probably Jane son, Samuel Stevenson, speaking here. Since, according to Jane's pension application, her son was born in 1781, he must be retailing stories here he had heard from the old-timers.

get his bag in, by walking and letting him ride some. Blackburn was so stiff with fear, we could hardly get him along. Had to light his pipe for him 2 or 3 times a day.

Moses MacIlwain[e] (so says Samuel Stevenson,) {13CC:140} was never taken but the once, (he has a son now living over in Ohio, back of Urbana,) that was in 1779. Cartwright the surveyor was with him. This was up in Clarke. One McCormick, that had known him when a boy in Ireland, was a trader among the Indians, and sent McIlwaine back. McCormick afterwards came with the company to the attack on Riddle's station, to avoid the imputation that he favored the Americans, and had sent away McElwaine. But said he never unloaded his gun.

Cartwright told McElwain he had better not speak so loud, the Indians might be about. He thought there was no danger, until his horse was shot under him. The horse fell on his leg. One of the Indians was going to kill him, but the other prevented, and showed the horse was holding his foot. He paid the Indian. McCormick afterwards came in, and he paid him.

Daniel Barton was taken over on North Elkhorn a little beyond Georgetown, at the same time that Samuel Hodge was killed. That day, 12 months to the very day, from the time he was taken, he returned.

White was killed at Todd's station, down on South Elkhorn, the day we left Lexington to go to McConnell's station. The boy, his son, that was with him, went to go home to his friends in Virginia, through the Wilderness, but took sick and died somewhere on the way, perhaps at Augusta, Virginia Mrs. Blanchard, a daughter of that Mr. White.

Rob[er]t or Charles Knox, started to go on foot up to Lexington, and was killed before he got there. He lived at the upper, we at the lower end of the station, so I didn't see him when he started. He was shot in the thigh. The Indians took him off a piece, but found {13CC:141} he could not travel, and shot him. We had moved down to McConnell's station but about a week.

Alexander McConnell had been out to kill a deer and had skinned and swung it up. He then came in and borrowed a chestnut dun horse, having a white main and tale, of W[illia]m McConnell, and went out to bring it in. 5 Indians were on the look out. His horse was shot from under him, but fell on his leg, the one Indian wanted to kill him but the other Indian showed that only the horse was on his leg. This was Thursday—and Tuesday he was gone. McConnell couldn't kill the Indian that had saved his life twice. He was the other side of the log. He got the Indians capps, blue (in the night, and he wanted to be dark,) and set his gun, and pipe, and tomahawk down.

I heard him tell the story many times, and he never varied a word in it. [*a revealing comment, showing Jane's high regard for accuracy, and suggesting pride in her own*]. Tuesday evening, about sundown, he came in. His wife ran out to meet him, but they had to carry her in, she fainted away, overjoyed.

They had killed the horse, and cut off the main and tail to dye for moccasin purposes, etc. They could make it any color, almost, they pleased. He shot the 2 guns first. Then shot the others alternately and both Indians fell into the fire, and flared up the ashes and light. It is said the place where this happened, was never improved, till some 4 or 5 years ago, and that then they discovered the guns. This somewhere a little below Limestone.

We raised 4 crops, and then moved out. That was in 1784. 80-81-82-83.

The first meeting house was built in 1785. Mr. Rankin gave us time about with Lexington. He preached at first out here in private houses. At Capt. William McConnell's (No kin to the McConnell's {13CC:142} at McConnell's station). This W[illia]m McConnell moved to St. Louis a great while ago.) Here. McElwain's and Samuel Kelly's.

He came in the fall, and the next spring we raised the house.

Elders—this Capt. McConnell, Samuel Kelly, Hugh Campbell (moved afterwards to Missouri) and another.

Was 17 days in the harvest, and every day in the river. When a young woman. Swam the Cowpasture, 300 yards wide, many a time on my back.

Familiarly known as "Aunt Jane." Had been bedridden for many years, previous to her decease. The time I obtained the preceding notes, she was very much enfeebled in body, scarcely could speak audibly, or for a moment at a time. Yet her mind was clear, and her memory held what she wished to communicate, without incoherence of thought, or even broken expression. It was on account of her bodily weakness, that I deferred securing further information to a more favorable time. That time never came.

Mr. Trabue of Scott County Kentucky, obtained of "Aunt Jane", information, such as was necessary in order to obtain a pension.

The Other "Draper Manuscript" of Shane's Jane Stevenson Interview as partially replicated in

R[oy] S[tevenson] King, "Major Samuel Stevenson", and "Jane Gay Stevenson" sketches, in *Genealogies of Kentucky Families, From the Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* (193?; reprint GPC, 1981), 2:762-770 .

These articles, and especially the one for Jane, include quoted passages attributed to Jane which do not appear in the film-published version of Shane's Draper Collection interview with Jane. Most of the quoted passages are virtually identical, some are slightly different, and others do not appear in the Draper Collection version at all. Throughout, there are missing end quotation marks, and evident misrepresentations of paraphrases as direct quotations. Thus, when one encounters wholly new quoted material, some of it genealogically valuable, one wonders whether, despite Shane's end note that "the time never came" for a followup interview with Jane before she died, Mr. King might have come across a later version of this Shane interview. If he did, he did a poor job of presenting the actual evidence, contaminated as it evidently is, with his editorial interpretations and interpolations. In at least one instance, where King has Jane say,

Samuel Stevenson and I knew each other for years—we were cousins you know, his mother and my mother being sisters.

it appears that he's putting into her mouth the words of her nephew, James Stevenson, from another Shane interview {at 11CC:248}:

Old Mr. Gay [*Stevenson is referring to his "Aunt Jane's" father*], and Old Mr. Stevenson, Uncle Sam's father, married sisters. And Uncle Sam and Aunt Jane were cousins.

At any rate, nothing of the sort appears in Jane's interview, as I have transcribed it faithfully above.

While one hesitates to cry fraud, as other writings of King illustrate,^[8] he seems to have a fatal tendency to lapse into the kind of cavalier "professional" history writing which is all too prevalent even unto the present day. However, because some of this material has significance for the histories of the Gay and Stevenson families, I've chosen to present it below, in juxtaposition with the original, for what it may be worth. Despite King's apparent editorial meddlings, perhaps, after all, a revised Shane interview will turn up some day, in some obscure archive.

⁸ Roy Stevenson King, *The Ancestral Pilgrimage Along Life's Pathway* (AtlantaGA: 1939; Ancestry), which contains quite a nice anecdotal account of the Battle of Blue Licks, from the point of view of the KY settler families, but which also recycles, or perhaps even lays the groundwork for one of the hoariest canards in the Gay family history of AugustaCoVA: the notion that the brothers Gay of the Calfpasture were sons of a William Gay, as shown by an OrangeCoVA "importation" records, which does not, in fact exist, as I have shown in Appendix B of [this published paper](#).

Passages From the official Draper Collection Shane interview with Jane Stevenson,
compared with R.S. King's version

I was forted from the time I was 7 years old, 1757, and was never rid of the Indians till I moved to Pisgah, Ky. The first fort I was in, a little girl was taken out of it... {King, 769}

[*compare with:*]

The first fort I ever was in, a little girl was taken out of it, but from July to November older than me. She was but 7 years old. And was 7 years gone;

I was forted from the time I was 7 years old, 1757, and was never rid of the Indians till I moved to this place. {Draper Coll 13CC:135}

“Where we lived was about 35 miles from Staunton. No Lexington then. The country was newly settled. Where Crawford was killed, was some 15 miles from Providence Meeting-house, down towards Staunton. Old Mr. John Brown preached there then. The men carried their guns to meeting, as regular as the congregation met. At Providence Meeting-house. {Draper Coll 13CC:135}

[*compare with the King version:*]

The men carried their guns to meeting, as regular as the congregation met. Communion services generally lasted three to four days. {King, 767}

The following passage are only found in King (I've omitted his evident, parenthesized, interpolations):

“Samuel Stevenson and I knew each other for years—we were cousins you know, his mother and my mother being sisters. For some time Sammie and I planned on being married and finally set the day, this was on ... may 22, 1771. Our wedding was no different than other weddings at that time.

“We started housekeeping in Augusta County, Virginia, near my father's home. Our first child was born on April 21, 1772. He was named for my father—James Gay. Our daughter Martha, named for her grandmother, was born on February 23, 1774. This was the year of Dunmore's War. All of the able-bodied men were called out for service. The Continental militia consisted of all men able to bear arms. The Stevensons and Gays fought under Col. Andrew Lewis and were in the battle of Point Pleasant. They were in the west Augusta Battalion of Major Connolly. This Battle was fought on Oct. 10, 1774, at the mouth of the Great Kanawa River. [*This supposed quotation discussing the battle flows on and is never ended. I have truncated it here arbitrarily.*]” {King 768}

In the following passages, the changes, additions, and reorganizations of text are much more extensive:

“We moved to Greenbrier in 1775. The year after the battle of the Point. [*At this point there are a couple of lines of text scribbled out, then...*][There] were but one or two families that were not dutch

and half dutch, in that whole settlement. What S[ettlement]? But never was a settlement of kinder people. They were great for dancing and singing. 1. W[illia]m. Hamilton. 2. Samuel McClung." {Draper Coll 13CC:137}

"We moved to the Greenbrier in 1775, says Jane, "the year after the battle of the Point".

"Where we settled on the Greenbrier," says Jane Gay, "there were but one or two families that were not Dutch and half Dutch, in that whole settlement. *[omitted is Shane's parenthesized "What S"]*. But never was a settlement of kinder people. They were great for dancing and singing."

"Our daughter Mary was born in December 23, 1778", says Jane Gay, "while Samuel was with George Rogers Clark's Illinois Regiment. My husband was with Capt. John William's Company and was stationed at Kaskaskia July 17, 1778 to May 31, 1779. His brother John also served in this campaign. *[again the ending quotation mark is omitted. I think this additional material about her husband's war service comes from her pension declaration and other sources. King's text continues:]*

"In 1776", says Jane Gay, "my father, James Gay, Samuel Stevenson, Ben Blackburn and William Elliott went out to Kentucky in April and got back in June I think." *[Note that Jane's father, James Gay, has been added explicitly to the list in the Draper Collection version, which reads: "Ben[jamin] Blackburn, W[illia]m Elliott, and Sam[uel] Stevenson (my father,) came out in April and got back I think in June." The parenthesized "(my father)" in the Shane version is clearly apposite to "Sam[uel] Stevenson", and I think the "(my father)" represents an interjection by Jane's son, Samuel. King finishes the paragraph with some obviously interpolated material which I have skipped.]*

"In the fall of 1779," says Jane Gay, "Sammie and I determined to move to Kentucky and make our home. Sammie had already spied out the land and selected our future home. This became later known as the Asparagus Patch of Kentucky. My husband was selected as the leader of a group who desired to move into 'Old Kentucky'. When we started to Kentucky we were 100 miles back from Daddy's. *[Again note the omission of a quotation mark terminating Jane's supposed statement. In reality, I believe, only the final sentence is actually Jane's, and the pronouns in that have been modified to fit King's made-up introduction: "When I started to Kentucky, I was 100 miles back from Daddy's."]*

"John McKinney the School Master, came out with us. He was nearly killed at the 'Battle of the Point'. After leaving the Greenbrier settlement we never traveled a Sunday and it must have been 70 miles we traveled in Powell's Valley. The cavalcade was so well organized the Indians followed it for miles hoping to find a point of attack but finally gave up and let them through without interference. ["them"? *This is supposed to be Jane speaking of an event in which she participated*]. After leaving Blackmore's station we didn't see the smoke of a chimney until we reach Boonesborough." *[the narrative continues from here as in the Draper version, and King even tosses in a generic citation to "Draper"]* {King 769}

[Here is the full original text corresponding to the above:]

When I started to Kentucky, I was 100 miles back from Daddy's. My father came from Ireland when he was a boy. But then he lived on the frontier long before he was married.

John McKinney, the schoolmaster, came out with us. He was nearly killed at The Battle of the Point. We brought him out. We waited on the road a week or so, after we had left Greenbrier, for another family. Were about 2 weeks ? getting to Blackamore's Station.

We never travelled a Sunday, but one in Powell's Valley, about 5 miles till we came to a beautiful clear spring of water. It must have been 70 miles we traveled in Powell's Valley, for we kept all the way down till we crossed at Cumberland Ford. {Draper Coll 13CC:137}