

Eugene Kinney Stauffer, Sr. Family Tree

by Chester Buchannon

The 1795 South of Green River Act by the Kentucky General Assembly might have been the catalyst that motivated Benjamin to move west because it allowed non-veterans to settle in the south-central Military District of Kentucky previously reserved for Revolutionary War veterans. Settlers who were 21 years old (later lowered to 18) and had settled on land in the county were entitled to purchase up to 400 acres from the county. Benjamin's initial land acquisitions lead one to believe that he first settled along the Big Difficult Creek a few miles east of present day Scottsville. After a few years he seems to have left his farm operations to his son, William, while he developed another farm in the northeast corner of Barren County in the Munfordville/Canmer area on the south side of the Green River. From land grants records and his will, it is apparent that Benjamin owned a variety of properties during his life in Kentucky, nearly all of which he left to his children.

Year	Acquisition	Acreage	County (future)	Drainage
1799	land grant	160	Warren (Allen)	Big Difficult Cr.
1799	land grant	200	Warren (Allen)	E. Fk Difficult
1799	land grant	200	Warren (Allen)	Difficulty Cr.
1804	land grant	200	Livingston	Camp Cr.
1804	land grant	50	Barren (Hart)	south of Green River
1816	land grant	124	Barren (Hart)	south of Green River
--	private	150	Barren (Hart)	south of Green River
--	private	200	Hardin (Hart)	north of Green River
--	private	200	Hardin (Hart)	north of Green River
--	private	136	Barren (Hart)	south of Green River
--	private	100	Allen	Big Barren River

Lucy had 17 children (10 boys and 7 girls) – only the names given in his will are listed below. Most, if not all, were born in Culpeper County, Virginia. The poor woman was pregnant nearly continuously from age 20 to 55; a 35-year period. Several of the older children were married by the time they moved to Kentucky, and two died before 1817 when their father died.

Name	Born Est.	Dead Est.	Spouse
Robert ²³¹	1769	1848 (OH)	Ditty (Delilah) Baumgartner ²³²
Joseph	1771	1854 (KY)	Margaret (Peggy) Ficklin ²³³
Mary	1772	--	Christopher Dicken (Jr.) ²³⁴
Sarah	1773	1846 (MO)	Gideon Pulliam ²³⁵
Benjamin	1775	1819 (KY)	Elizabeth Norton, Amy Carson
Thomas ^{DL}	1779	1852 (IL)	Nancy Decker
William	1778-9	1850 (KY)	Betsy Carter, Mary Curd ²³⁶
Nancy	1781	1850 (KY)	Walter Thomas ²³⁷
John	1782	1840 (TN)	Nancy Roundtree
Lucy	1784	1844 (IL)	Miles Brooks
Elizabeth	1787	1862 (KY)	William Amos
Susannah	1790	1880 (KY)	Rice Jamison (Jameson)
Charles S.	1791	1847 (KY)	Lucy Ragland (?)
Milly	1793	1835	Johnston Owens
James Graves	1797-9	1868 (KY)	Never married ²³⁸ *

Benjamin wrote his will on October 27, 1817, in Barren County, then died sometime before the Barren County December 1817 Court met, likely in November. He was 73 years old. The December Court ordered witnesses to appear at the January Court to swear to the authenticity of the will. Because some witnesses could not attend the January Court, the court issued a continuance until February 16, 1818, at which time the will was approved. Benjamin made the following bequeathments, much in the form of land, slaves, and horses that he had previously given to his children 15-20 year earlier: