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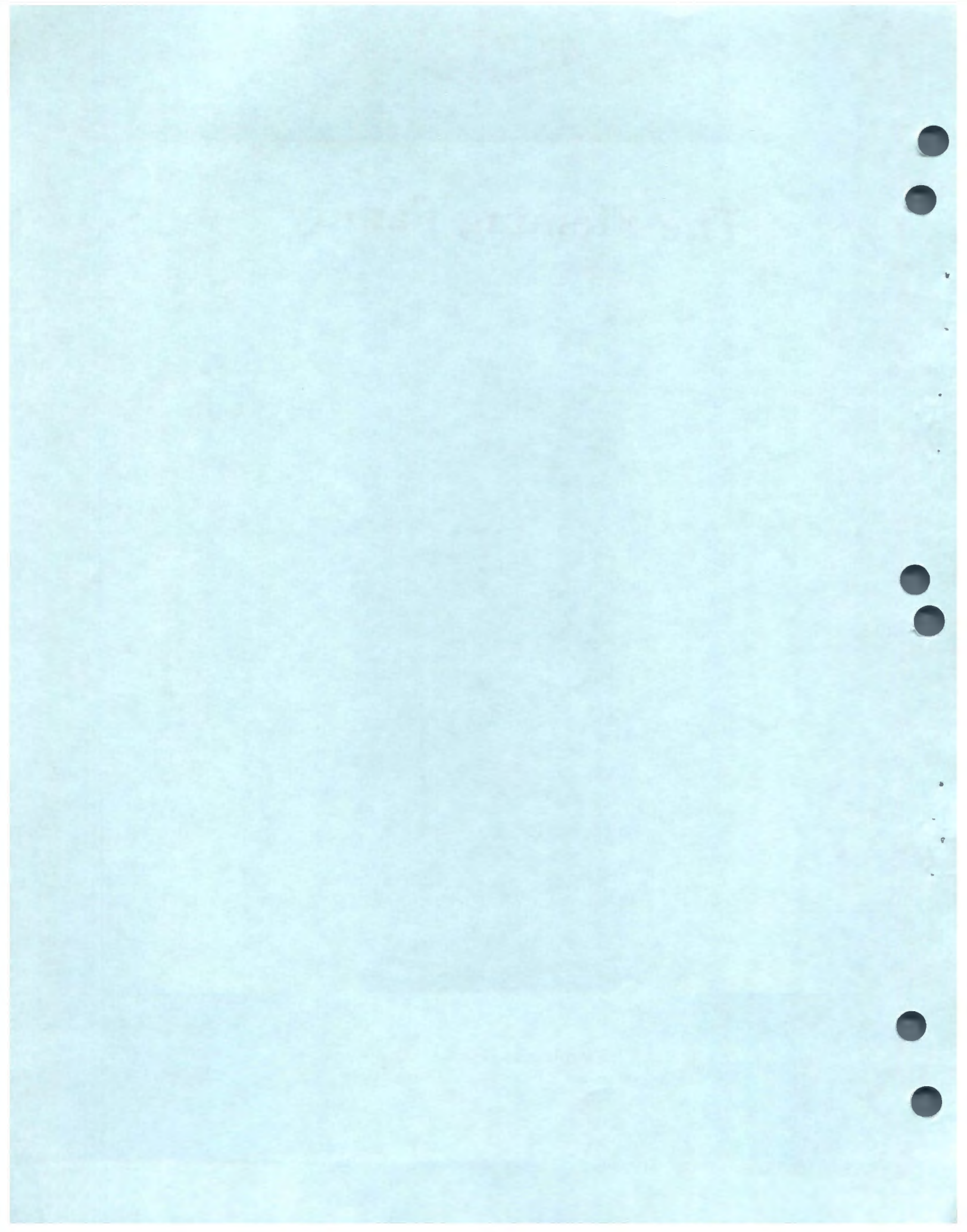
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The Fleming Family

(Revised 1991)

Bobby Anderson
7965 Ridgewood Road
Goodlettsville, Tenn. 37072



F L E M I N G

Part I, The Early Fleming Family.Page 1

Part II, The Family of Samuel FlemingPage 4

Part III, David's Other Children.Page 8

Part IV, Jesse D. Fleming and His Three Wives Page 13

The Browder Tornado.Page 18



F L E M I N G

(The Early Family)

PART I

By Bobby Anderson

(The efforts of James Richard Fleming, the unofficial historian of the Fleming family, are greatly appreciated. Mr. Fleming lives in New London, Texas. In 1981, he published a documentary, "Let the Deed Shaw", about the Fleming family. Much data is drawn from that document for these articles.)

* * *

If it has occurred to you that there are two distinct Fleming families in Muhlenberg County, you are at least, partially correct.

There were, shortly after the beginning, two separate and apart families of the Fleming name, connected by a common father.

David L. Fleming of Tennessee came to the Mud River country of Muhlenberg and Butler counties about 1815.

He bought land on both sides of Mud River, near to where Rocky (Clifty) Creek empties its waters into the river. Circumstances and marriage divided, though amicably, the two families he raised, into two distinct bodies. The families of his first son, Samuel, stayed near to its original settlement at Fleming's Landing, near to Ennis and Knightsburg. The children of David's second marriage, moved toward the Mud River Mine and Gus areas, nearer to their mother's family. Some eventually moved into Butler County. Though sired by the same father, the families have, as a general rule, remained as separate entities of the same name for more than 150 years.

Both families added to their respective communities and were highly respected in the areas in which they lived.

In this series, which contains four parts, we will look first at the early Fleming family. Next, we will visit with the first son of David, Samuel and his family, which includes a county judge, David J. Fleming. The third part will draw upon the families of the three children (Jesse D., Margaret and John Hackett Fleming) of David L. Fleming's second marriage. The fourth part will deal with the families of Jesse D. Fleming and his three wives. From that branch of the Fleming family comes the most of the Flemings of Butler County -- as well as the family of historian James Richard Fleming.

* * *

First it is necessary to look briefly at the progenitors of David L. Fleming.

His father was David Fleming Sr., who was born in Virginia about 1785. David originally was a Virginian, though the Flemings, or Flemish, were among the early American pioneers. David is thought to be the son of an earlier pioneer Samuel, and

true to the pioneer spirit he inherited, David, ventured from security and safety in Virginia to the frontier of Tennessee. He and his fellow pioneer-companions, the Loves and the Whites, moved to what is now Greene County, Tenn. in the last quarter of the 18th century. Before 1778, they had explored and owned all of the land that presently is Knoxville, Tenn. David, himself owned 1,000 acres. In 1778, David and his wife, Elizabeth, their children, the Love family and the Whites, boarded a boat with all their belongings, and moved downstream to what is now the city of Knoxville. James White is popularly considered the founder of Knoxville. As they moved with him to the area now known as Knoxville, that city was established. David Fleming and family became a part of its founding. When David died in 1802, Samuel, David L. (Jr.), and their sisters, Betsy (or Elizabeth) and Mary (Polly) inherited the bulk of that land.

After a debt was paid to John Love, the division of the land was in this fashion: David Jr., and Samuel each received 157 acres; Elizabeth (Jr.), 159 acres and Mary (Polly), 277 acres.

David was not yet 21, so his affairs were attended to by his guardian, the Rev. Samuel G. Ramsey, an uncle, who had married the daughter of Samuel Fleming, believed to be the father (or perhaps brother) of David, Sr. Before 1810, the four heirs had sold their Greene County inheritance. The Knoxville property was also sold by David L. Fleming, Jr., on Oct. 4, 1813. This was just before he began his trek westward to his new home in Kentucky.

On Sept. 1, 1812, David L. Fleming married Lydia Shelton (perhaps the daughter of Cuthbert Shelton, who came to Kentucky at about the same time as David and Lydia). The marriage was performed by David's companion, John Love, who had earlier married Samuel's (the elder) daughter, Margaret, and who had also been sheriff at Knoxville. Bondsman for the marriage was Samuel Fleming.

By 1815, David and Lydia, with their young son, Samuel C., had arrived in Mud River country. This according to Fleming historian James Richard Fleming, a great-great-grandson of David and Lydia Fleming. They stopped on Mud River in Kentucky, and obtained 200 acres, which was to remain in the Fleming family for many years.

Of his two sisters, Polly and Betsy, little is known. Polly's first marriage in Tennessee was to Joseph Galbreath in 1811, and a second to James McNutt is recorded in Tennessee in 1812. A Betsy Fleming married Alney M. Tolbert in Muhlenberg County on March 13, 1834, but it has not been proven that this is the daughter of David and Elizabeth. The Tolbert family was highly respected in the southern portion of Muhlenberg County.

David's brother, Samuel, married Peggy Taylor in Tennessee on Dec. 2, 1799, but it has never been proven that this Samuel came to Kentucky with his brother, David L.

According to James R. Fleming, David L. Fleming served during the War of 1812, which is probably correct. A David Fleming is shown to be a member of Capt. Harris H. Hickman's company in a Kentucky unit. Fleming's enlistment was for four months, July 1, 1814 to Oct. 31, 1814.

Another child, a daughter, was born to David and Lydia after their arrival on Mud River. The 1820 census shows David as head of household in Butler County, with three other members of the family, a female, between the age of 16 and 26, which would have been Lydia; a male under 10 (Samuel) and a female, younger, who

is not seen in another census. Probably she died between 1820 and the next census. Her name has never been known.

David L. Fleming was paying taxes during this general time frame: In 1819, he is listed as having paid his tax; in 1824, he paid taxes on 200 acres on Muddy River and an additional 93 acres on Clifty (Rocky) Creek in Muhlenberg County.

Lydia's death date, like her birthdate, is not documented. Death came between the taking of the 1820 census, when she was enumerated, and 1823, when David is listed as being re-married. His second marriage was to Margaret Davis. Margaret, the daughter of Jesse Davis and Charity Hunt Davis (she, the daughter of Hunt Settlement founders John and Charity Hunt), was wed to David L. Fleming on June 19, 1823. (Muhlenberg Book 1, Page 41, No. 593.)

Samuel was now 10 years old. (Note: The Fleming historian erroneously lists Samuel's birth in 1806 in one place, and again correctly in another, as Sept. 26, 1813, which is the date on his tombstone in the old Fleming cemetery near Ennis.) The female child of Lydia's is still not accounted for at this time, but David L. and Margaret Davis Fleming were soon to begin a new family, which would later influence much of the upper Mud River country of Muhlenberg County.

Jesse D. Fleming was born in 1825. Then came Margaret Ann Fleming, on Sept. 22, 1826, to be followed by John Hackett Fleming on Nov. 21, 1828. These, and their families, will be the subject of the third and fourth part of this series. It is popularly believed that a fourth child, David Love Fleming was born at about the time of the mother's death. He was placed with perhaps a relative, and lived the most of his life in Logan County.

For a man of his influence, it must be said that it is shameful that no one recorded the date of David's death or his final resting place. David died sometime in the early 1830s, for on March 31, 1834, guardianship papers were granted to Samuel C. Fleming, to be guardian of Jesse D. Fleming, now nine; Margaret Ann Fleming, now eight and John Hackett Fleming, just six years of age. Also, on Oct. 29, 1830, Margaret Davis Fleming, in the county court of Muhlenberg County, relinquished her right to dower of the Fleming property.

It is assumed that the three children continued to live for a while with their mother, Margaret Davis Fleming, as Samuel C. Fleming, in 1832 had married, and his own first child was born in 1834.

The date of death of Margaret Fleming, David's widow, also is not documented, but it is known that the three older children were on their own as early as 1846, and Margaret was not to be found in the 1850 census. Margaret, sometime known as Mary, was born Sept. 26, 1804 and died sometime before 1850. Like David, her final resting place is not known, but is believed to be in an unmarked grave at Old Hebron.

With the deaths of David and his two wives, the saga of the Flemings turns toward Samuel C. Fleming on the one hand, and toward his half-brothers and half-sister, on yet another.

Next, the attention will be focused on Samuel C. Fleming and his descendants, including some of those still residing in Muhlenberg County today.

* * *

(Note: the writer is himself a great-great-great-grandson of David L. Fleming).

F L E M I N G

PART II

The Family of Samuel

By Bobby Anderson

Samuel C. Fleming was the son of David L. Fleming and Lydia Shelton Fleming. Tennessee-born on Sept. 6, 1813, he came to Kentucky with his Mud River pioneer parents within a few months of the year 1815.

On Nov. 30, 1832, Samuel married Ann Kimmel (or Kimball), daughter of another of the Mud River country pioneers. They were married by the Rev. Simon Vaught (or Vought).

The Flemings, the Kimmels and the Vaughts were instrumental in the settling and the development of the lower Mud River country, with the Voughts more especially a part of Paradise country settlement, along Green River.

Samuel and Ann were the parents of five children, the most notable of which was David J. Fleming, who served two terms as Muhlenberg County judge in the late 1800s.

No record is shown of Ann's death, though like Samuel, after appearing in the 1870 Muhlenberg County census, she does not reappear again in 1880, leaving evidential speculation that she died sometime in the interim. Samuel died Jan. 30, 1876 and is buried in the small Fleming family cemetery just off Highway 70 (Browder to Rochester Road) on the Corum Landing Road. This is between the old Knightsburg community and Mud River at Corum's (Fleming) Landing. Perhaps Ann is also buried there. One historian said she outlived him "by some years".

As to whether Samuel had brothers or sisters, one is left to the mercy of poor census records filed in those days. Look, for instance at the 1820 census of Butler County, the county in which David L. and Lydia were living at the time, although their property lay on both sides of the river. The census clearly identifies David, Lydia and Samuel, but it also lists a young female, who does not reappear in another census. This leaves one to believe there was a sister -- but one who perhaps died early.

However, a more indepth search of Muhlenberg court records shows that Cuthbert Shelton, on July 26, 1830, petitioned the court to be appointed guardian of Elizabeth Fleming, orphan of David Fleming, "she being over 14 years of age". By that figure, Elizabeth would have been born in about 1816, three years after Samuel Fleming.

Remembering that David, Samuel's father, died at about this same time, and that David's first wife was a Shelton, this guardianship plea, which appears in an early Muhlenberg County court order book, could be for his grandchild, or niece, depending on the age of Cuthbert Shelton. That age has not been found. He could have been Lydia's father or maybe, a brother.

Again, though, the picture becomes cloudy when the second of such court pleas is made. On the same date, "Cuthbert Shelton was summonsed to court to show cause why DAVID Fleming, his grandson,

may not be bound out as the law directs". That same summons calls for Shelton "to bring into court, Elizabeth Fleming, orphan of said David in order to choose her guardian".

Of course, David Fleming was NOT Shelton's grandson. The only logical explanation is that the clerk, in handcopying the order, may have inadvertently omitted Samuel's name, and inserted David, the name of his father. An excusable error.

Perhaps it is meant to read that Cuthbert Shelton was seeking guardianship of both Samuel, 17-years-old at the time, and Samuel's sister, Elizabeth, 14. If that is true, it might suggest two things. Samuel did indeed have a sister, Elizabeth, who was "anonymous" in the early census records, since only household heads were named, the others numbered. And secondly, that perhaps the "C" initial in Samuel's name, never before revealed, might be for "Cuthbert", after his grandfather.

Again, speculating: If indeed, this Elizabeth is Samuel's sister, then she is probably the same Elizabeth Fleming who married Alney M. Tolbert in Muhlenberg County on March 13, 1834, as suggested in the previous Fleming chapter.

In the 1850 census Alney M. Tolbert, 38, and his wife, Elizabeth, 33, with children John B., 14, A. M. Jr., 13 and Nancy, 11, were living near Dunmor and Myers Chapel. This age, 33, would be the same as David and Lydia's daughter, Elizabeth.

Since these were the only Flemings living in Muhlenberg County at this time, other than Ezekiel Fleming, a civil engineer in the northern part of the county, it would seem that the above deductions are logical.

To extend this thought a bit, before we return to Samuel's family, Alney M. and Elizabeth Tolbert added greatly to their family, with other children, including David, James, Elizabeth, William, Alexander and Felix. The family was very prominent in south Muhlenberg County.

Alney M. Tolbert Sr. was born Dec. 30, 1811, and died Jan. 10, 1892. Elizabeth Fleming Tolbert was born March 16, 1816 and died Feb. 15, 1879. They are buried in Hazel Creek cemetery, near Belton.

* * *

Samuel C. Fleming and Ann Kimmel were blessed with six children. They are:

- (1) David J. Fleming, born Jan. 10, 1834; died Sept. 4, 1919;
- (2) Nancy J. Fleming, born 1838;
- (3) Lydia, born about 1841;
- (4) William, born 1846;
- (5) Samuel Archart Fleming, born Jan. 8, 1854, and died at an early age;
- (6) Martha E. Fleming, born Sept. 28, 1855.

* * *

(1) David J. Fleming was twice elected county judge, twice married and the father of 13 children. Well educated, he was a teacher as well as a successful farmer. He also served the Union army during the War Between the States, a member of the First Kentucky Light Artillery. He was captured by the enemy at the Battle of Murfreesboro, Tenn., but paroled by southern General Nathan Bedford Forest, and returned to his unit in an exchange of prisoners. He then took part in the Battle of Stone River, and later the seige of Tullahoma (Tenn.).

He was discharged on Oct. 24, 1864 and returned to his farm in

the Knightsburg community. In later years, he was also a minister of the Universalist doctrine, a church in his community at the time.

David J. Fleming first married Elizabeth Garst, daughter of Jacob Garst of McLean County, on May 9, 1858. She bore him six children, George Q., Mary W., Jacob, Samuel M., Margaret (Mag) and James G.

Elizabeth Garst Fleming, born Jan. 15, 1836, died Feb. 7, 1873, and is buried at Rochester.

His second marriage was to Virginia E. Westray (Wester) on March 7, 1875. She was born Dec. 7, 1853 and died March 25, 1932. She is buried in Eaves Cemetery in Muhlenberg County.

David J. Fleming was elected county judge Muhlenberg County in 1889. The county was in a financial dilemma at the time, torn apart, both in government and citizenry, by the railroad company's collapse. Muhlenberg, like many other counties had floated bonds (\$400,000) to help pay for building the railroad through the county. The company failed, leaving the county to redeem the bonds. Many lawsuits followed, but Fleming, running on a platform that he could defeat the efforts to collect the money due from the county, won the election. He won again in 1893, serving two consecutive terms, but never resolved the rail suit. That distinction went to his successor, Judge T. J. Sparks.

Fleming's final years were spent as a community leader and at his successful farming endeavors, north of Greenville. He died Sept. 4, 1912, and is buried in Eaves Cemetery.

George Fleming, his eldest child, born in 1859, married Martha E. (Mattie) Knight on July 13, 1882. She was born in 1861. Among their children were Charles Fleming and Fred R. Fleming. George died in 1947 and Mattie in 1929. They are buried at Union Chapel.

To carry the generations steps further, Fred R. Fleming (Nov. 16, 1887-Feb. 24, 1962) married Stella Lee (July 7, 1891-Sept. 13, 1975) in Muhlenberg County in 1924. They became the parents of Harold Gordon Fleming (formerly of Knightsburg, now deceased, who was married to Emma Jean Hill of Drakesboro. They have several children in Muhlenberg County. Fred and Stella, who lived at Knightsburg for many years, are buried at Rose Hill in Central City.

Among the other children of David J. Fleming: Mary, born in 1861, married Benjamin S. Knight on March 19, 1885; Jacob (Nov. 11, 1865-Oct. 22, 1919) married Narcissis Wilson Feb. 5, 1896; Samuel was born Jan. 30, 1867 and died March 25, 1892; Mag, born in 1870, married Wiley E. Robinson, on May 7, 1890, and from the Robinson family came former deputy sheriff and jailer, Ottis (Chuck) Robinson; James G. married Willie Weatherford in April, 1896. His children included Garrist, born in 1897 and Ethel, February, 1899. Jacob's children included Rayman, born March, 1897. Mary and Benjamin Knight had David H., born January, 1886; Ollie, born February, 1888, Hallie, December, 1889 and Benjamin J. (Jr.?), born July, 1892. Benjamin, Sr., died before 1900.

From David Fleming's second marriage to Edna Westray came these children: Lena, who married B. F. Green on Feb. 9, 1898; Carrie, born February, 1882, who married W. S. Arnold on Aug. 15, 1900; Louis E., born July, 1883, married Ruth Williams on Aug. 14, 1904; Florence, born June, 1885, married C. P. Ruester on Sept. 18, 1907; John H., born June 1887; David H., September, 1890 and Leonard, born October, 1895, died in 1960.

(2) Samuel's second child was Nancy, born about 1838. No other information is available. Perhaps some reader may be able to fill in the details.

(3) The third child was Lydia, born about 1841. She married J. T. Reno on May 13, 1860 in Muhlenberg County, but efforts to find them in later census records have proven fruitless.

(4) William, the fourth, married Irena J. Robinson on Dec. 20, 1866. He was born in 1846, and she about 1851. Their children included William M., who married Rossie V. McLean on June 14, 1896; Rosa E., born 1871, who married John W. Allen on June 9, 1898; Pallis L., born Nov. 7, 1873, married Ida Craig on Oct. 12, 1893 and David H., born 1879.

Rosa and John Allen lived at Ennis in 1900, and Pallis and Ida lived there for a while, but later moved to what is now Beechmont. "Uncle Pal" was for many years custodian at Hughes-Kirk school, and his son, Estill drove the one and only bus at the school in its early years. Estill was born in October, 1895, and married Cleo Gaines in 1915. He had an older sister, Mabel. Estill's son, Lehman, married Agnes Mihelcic in 1938, and also aided in operation of the Hughes-Kirk bus.

Pallis Fleming died Oct. 15, 1951 and his wife, Ida, on Dec. 20, 1952. They are buried at Union Chapel.

(5) The fifth child of Samuel and Ann was Samuel Archart, who was born Jan. 8, 1854, but no other record of him has been found.

(6) Martha E. was the sixth child. She was born Sept. 28, 1855, and married Moses Arndell on Sept. 28, 1855.

There are many, many more statistics on the Fleming family, which increased and spread to many geographic points, both in the county, and out. However, with this data, most Flemings of this particular branch of the David L. Fleming family can now trace their lineage back to Samuel C. and Ann Kimmel Fleming with little or no trouble.

F L E M I N G

Part III

David's Other Children

By Bobby Anderson

Shortly after Lydia Shelton Fleming, David L. Fleming's first wife, died, David remarried. The date of her death is not recorded, but it left him with two young children. So on June 19, 1823, David married Margaret (sometime Mary) Davis. His children at that time were Samuel C., 10 and Elizabeth, seven.

Margaret Davis was the daughter of Jesse and Charity Davis, and the granddaughter of two Hunt Settlement pioneer families. Jesse was the son of Henry and Fannie Davis, while Charity's parents were John and Charity Hunt, founders of Hunt Settlement. Jesse and Charity had married in North Carolina, and came with the Hunts and the Davises, and other North Carolina families to the Mud River country of Muhlenberg County shortly after 1800.

With the marriage, Samuel and Elizabeth (and possibly David Love) not only had a new mother, but soon were to have half-brothers and a half-sister.

First born was Jesse David Fleming sometime in 1824 or 1825. His exact date of birth has never been established.

On Sept. 26, 1826, Margaret Ann Fleming was born, and two years later, on Nov. 21, 1828, the third, John Hackett Fleming was born to David and Margaret Fleming.

Though David had a considerable acreage in both Butler and Muhlenberg counties, life would not be easy for Jesse, Margaret and John Fleming. Before they reached adulthood.

If court records are a barometer, Margaret Davis Fleming was left with three small children, plus her two step-children sometime in 1830. That is when court records began to reflect such things as estate settlements, guardianship petitions, dowery relinquishments and court orders for binding out of orphaned children, indicators of David's death.

Recall from the previous article on Samuel C. Fleming's family, that Cuthbert Shelton petitioned on July 26, 1830, for the guardianship of Elizabeth Fleming, orphan of David L. Fleming. She was 14 at the time, so her brother, Samuel, would be 17. Four years later, in 1834, when Samuel was 21 and married, and Elizabeth also had wed, widow Margaret Fleming relinquished her dower rights on the Fleming property. Perhaps then the estate was settled, and the property divided. Samuel then was made guardian over his two half-brothers and his half-sister, on March 31, 1834.

Little else is to be learned about the family for the next several years. Margaret's death is unrecorded, but it was almost certainly before 1844, when a series of events began which would lead one to believe she was not alive. Also, her burial place is not known, unless it is in Old Hebron cemetery, as tradition has stated.

On Feb. 3, 1845, the eldest, Jesse Fleming married Amanda

Harper of Butler County. However Fleming historian James Richard Fleming, a direct heir of Jesse, states several times in his book, "Let the Deed Show", that their first child was born on Oct. 4, 1843. Yet there is an eleven year gap between that first child and the second, indicating perhaps the 1843 date of Jesse's birth is too early. If not, Jesse and Amanda's first child was born two years prior to their marriage. Highly unlikely, but as James Richard Fleming paints the picture of Jesse's three marriages in his book, it is not impossible, as you will see in chapter four of this series.

That first child was named Lott Harper Fleming, after his grandfather, Lott Harper, who was himself a direct descendant of Revolutionary War soldier John Harper, early Quality Valley (Butler County) settler. Following the first son, Lott Harper, were Sarah in 1854; Jesse J., who was to be the ancestor of James Richard Fleming, on Nov. 22, 1856, and James D. Fleming on March 13, 1859.

On the date of that final childbirth, Amanda Harper Fleming died, and is buried in the Adeline Harper cemetery in Butler County. Her death set off a chain of events that even Jesse D. Fleming's own death in 1864 did not stop.

Those event will be dealt with in a subsequent chapter, but in brief, Jesse D. Fleming remarried Susan I. Hope on April 27, 1859, and she bore him one child, being pregnant when they married. There is no proof that the child survived. Then on March 26, 1863, Jesse D. married Zilpha Rives, a neighbor of the Hopes in Butler County. One child was born to this marriage, Richard Franklin Fleming, on Feb. 28, 1864. He is the forebear of most Flemings in Butler County today.

Those children of Jesse D. Fleming and their descendants will be traced in the next chapter.

Jesse D. Fleming himself died on Sept. 11, 1864 in Warrick County, Ind. and is buried there. The controversy following his marriages to Susan Hope and Zilpha Rives lived on into the next century, according to his descendant and historian, James Richard Fleming.

* * *

During this period, the second child of David and Margaret Fleming, was experiencing troubles of her own.

On Sept. 2, 1844, Margaret Ann Fleming, unmarried and not yet 18 years old, gave birth to an illegitimate child. The child was to be named Nancy Jane Fleming.

We may only assume that Margaret Ann Fleming grew up, being shifted from the proverbial pillar to post, to make her home as best she could. She probably faced her young life without the benefit of parents or a stable homelife. Her father had died when she was four. She had only two young brothers, a half-brother as a guardian and an aging grandmother to turn to for guidance.

The first record of her child's existence is noted in the February, 1846 court log, when Margaret appeared before the Muhlenberg County Quarterly Court to swear (and from here, quoting from the actual hand-written court record), "that James A. Hunt, the defendant, was the father of her bastard child, name, Jane Fleming. The court awarded \$240 in six installments for the care and maintenance of the child. His (Hunt's) security, Queen Hunt, Jonathan Hunt and Lovet T. Whitney. Bond of \$500".

The preceding is recorded in order book five.

In the same order book, but almost four years later, on May 27, 1850, Margaret's brother, John Hackett Fleming, made application for guardianship of the child. The court noted that "Margaret A. Fleming (now Hall), was deceased, and that the child was ordered bound to John H. Fleming, she being five years of age on the second day of September, 1849".

Marriage records in Muhlenberg County show that Margaret Ann Fleming was married to Jesse Hall on Aug. 30, 1849, and her tombstone in Old Hebron cemetery shows that her death occurred on April 10, 1850, a little over a month prior to John Hackett Fleming's petition to the county court. Ironically, John Hackett Fleming had just married, taking Mary Ann (Polly) Hope as his bride on May 5, 1850.

Nancy Jane Fleming may have never lived with her mother and Jesse Hall after their marriage. The 1850 Muhlenberg County census records do not show Jesse Hall and Margaret Fleming. Nor does it show Jesse after Margaret's death. Later records show him remarried and in Butler County.

The census does, however, show Jesse D. Fleming and his wife, Amanda with their son, Lott, living near to what is now New Hebron Church. Nearby, and alone is John H. Fleming, who was unmarried when the census was taken. Near to the Flemings is their grandmother, Charity Davis, the widow of Jesse Davis. In her household is the four-year-old (should have been listed as five) daughter of Margaret Fleming Hall, young Nancy Jane Fleming.

In 1860, Charity Davis is deceased, and there has been no further trace of Nancy Jane Fleming (not to be confused with a Nancy J. Fleming, daughter of Samuel C. Fleming). No record is available to show that she ever lived with John Hackett Fleming, even though he had legal guardianship of his niece. She may have died at a young age, or being past 15 when the 1860 census was taken, she may have been married, though no record has been found of such marriage. Her whereabouts over the remainder of her life may always be a mystery.

* * *

That brings us to the third child of David and Margaret Davis Fleming.

At the age of 21, John Hackett Fleming married Mary Ann (Polly) Hope, a resident of what is today still known as the Hope community near Gus. It derived its name from her father, the venerable James J. Hope, who was the first Hope settler in this area, and lived himself to be 102 years old.

Mary Ann (Polly) Hope was born Jan. 22, 1832 to James J. and Susannah Hope, forebears of almost every Hope in Muhlenberg and Butler counties.

John and Polly were married on May 5, 1850, and immediately established the Hope community as their home.

Today many of their descendants still live nearby.

Raymond and Ray Fleming, and their sisters, Susie (Mrs. Garteen DeArmond) and Stella (Mrs. Sherman) Mallory of Penrod are great-grandchildren.

As is Shellie Fleming of near Greenville. His son Jerry, operates Fleming Marine Service on Highway 181 near Greenville.

Bessie Whitney of Beech Creek is a great-grandchild.

Harry Anderson of Greenville, Edna Lee Anderson McKinney of

Ebenezer and this writer are great-great-grandchildren of John Hackett and Polly Fleming, to name only a few. There are many others.

Mary Susan (or Susannah), called Mollie, was the first child born to John and Polly Fleming on April 24, 1851. She was followed by Missouri F. Fleming in 1855; John A. Fleming on Nov. 27, 1857; Lydia V. Fleming in 1859; James H. Fleming, Nov. 14, 1861; Samuel J. Fleming on Nov. 1, 1864; William H. Fleming on Nov. 8, 1869 and Patience E. Fleming in 1872.

John Hackett Fleming was a successful and respected farmer, if not a prosperous one in the Hope community. He died July 21, 1893, at the age of 64. His wife preceded him in death by two years, dying on July 18, 1891 at age 60. They are buried in Hope cemetery, a mile off the Dunmor to Forgy Mill Highway behind old Hope school house.

Their children and families include:

(1) Mary S. (Molly) Fleming married James Leonard Anderson (Aug. 9, 1838-May 29, 1915) on June 18, 1868 when she was 16 and he, 30. The wedding was solemnized by Anderson's half-brother, the Rev. J. E. Gardner, at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Fleming. Their children were: Suvarah Jane, born April 29, 1869, who married Thomas H. Arnold; Matthew, born Sept. 23, 1871, married Hettie Penrod; James Hackett, born April 16, 1871, married Susan Catherine McCoy and Shelby, born March 9, 1881, married Myrtle Ann Matherly. Suvarah had no children. Matthew fathered Amos, James, Bessie, Wilda and Mary. Bessie and Wilda are the lone survivors. James (Jim) was the father of the aforementioned Edna Lee McKinney. Hackett was the father of Leonard, who was the father of Harland, Harry and Clara Bell Anderson. Shelby had one child, Clayton, who is the father of this writer. Molly Fleming Anderson died Jan. 8, 1907 and she and her husband are buried at Old Hebron.

(2) Missouri F. Fleming married Matheny W. S. (Scott) Nanney on Jan. 10, 1872. Missouri's death date is not recorded, but she is buried in Hope cemetery. Their children included William in 1874; Mollie, 1875; Endora, 1879; and Ora Lee, born June 9, 1888 and died April 7, 1889 (buried in Hope cemetery). After Missouri's death, Scott Nanney married Vicie Smith.

(3) John A. (Johnie) Fleming was married twice, but had no children. His first wife was Lydia Nanney, a sister to the above Scott Nanney. They were married Jan. 22, 1874. Lydia was born March 20, 1849 and died on Dec. 21, 1886. She is buried in Hope cemetery. Later, on Sept. 11, 1887, Johnie Fleming married Edie (Sis) Grayson, daughter of George and Hannah Grayson. "Aunt Sis" was born in 1856 and died on Dec. 17, 1939. She is buried at Hazel Creek. Johnie died Dec. 29, 1909 and is buried in Hope cemetery.

(4) Lydia V. Fleming was born in 1859, and there is no further record of her, save census records. There is no record of her having been married or the time of her death.

(5) James H. Fleming was also twice married. He first married Curriller J. Newman (July 10, 1858-June 14, 1884) on Aug. 8, 1880. James then remarried Rosa Wood, daughter of Elias and Jenny Wood. She was born Nov. 8, 1869 and died Sept. 15, 1895. She is buried at New Hebron. James H. Fleming died Oct. 26, 1935 and with Curriller is buried in Hope cemetery. There is no record of children of either marriage except a child, John I. Fleming, who

was born and died in 1884.

(6) Samuel J. Fleming married Ida Matherly in 1887. They had no children. She was born Sept. 13, 1868 and died at Dunmor Sept. 30, 1958. Sam died Nov. 2, 1931. They are buried at Dunmor.

(7) William H. (Billy) Fleming married Josie Davis (April 25, 1870 - Jan. 12, 1944) on Dec. 24, 1889. Their children included Pearly, born Nov. 5, 1891 and died Jan. 27, 1961; Dellar (Dec. 14, 1894-March 3, 1897); Clarence, 1897-1920 and Melvin, March 6, 1901-Sept. 7, 1904. Clarence married Cora Davis on Dec. 5, 1914, and they are the parents of Shellie Fleming, who married Daltha Lovell. Pearly married Della Rives, and their children included Ray, Raymond, Susie and Stella mentioned above, plus several deceased. Billy Fleming died July 9, 1914, and he and Josie are buried in Hope cemetery.

(8) Patience E. Fleming was born in 1872, but no further record of her is found, indicating she too, may have died at a young age.

F L E M I N G

Part IV

JESSE D. FLEMING --- AND HIS THREE WIVES

By Bobby Anderson

In his history of the Fleming family, "Let the Deed Shaw", James Richard Fleming of New London, Texas, relates some interesting facts about his great-grandfather, Jesse D. Fleming, of Muhlenberg County, Ky, and of Jesse's three wives. These facts, plus other interesting, but heretofore unpublished incidents involving the Fleming family, are the bases for this chapter of the Fleming family.

First, to lay the foundation, Jesse D. Fleming was the son of Muhlenberg County pioneer David L. Fleming, and the grandson of David and Elizabeth Fleming, as alluded to in earlier chapters of the Fleming family history published in the Leader-News. His mother was Margeret Davis, daughter of Jesse and Charity Hunt Davis.

(Note: Though his full name has never appeared in printed documents, the belief is that Jesse D. Fleming was named Jesse David, honoring both his grandparents, Jesse Davis and David Fleming.)

The elder David Fleming and wife, Elizabeth, had four children, Samuel, Mary (Polly), David and Elizabeth (Betsy). The junior David, came to the Mud River country of Kentucky around 1815, after he had served in a Kentucky militia unit during the War of 1812. His wife, Lydia (Shelton) and their son, Samuel C. (born Sept. 26, 1813) and a daughter, believed to be named Elizabeth, came to the new home with David. This is the same Elizabeth Fleming who is believed to have married Alney M. Tolbert in 1834.

Shortly after their arrival here, Lydia died in 1820, leaving David Fleming with his two small children. On June 19, 1823, David married Margaret (Mary) Davis. To David and Margaret were born three children, Jesse D. Fleming in 1824; Margaret Ann Fleming on Sept. 22, 1826 and John Hackett Fleming on Nov. 21, 1828.

(For the record, Jesse D. Fleming, the subject of this chapter, was the great-grandfather of Fleming historian James Richard Fleming. Jesse's brother, John Hackett Fleming was the great-great-grandfather of this writer, his daughter, Mollie being the wife of James L. (Jimmy) Anderson of Gus.)

In about 1830, David L. Fleming died, his land holdings being 200 acres on Mud River, in both Butler and Muhlenberg counties, with another 93 acres being located on Rocky (Clifty) Creek near its mouth in Muhlenberg County. His wife, Margaret, relinquished her dower rights to the Fleming home on Oct. 29, 1830, according to county records, indicating his death had occurred prior to that date. The death left Margaret with three small children, and records show that Jesse, Margaret and John Hackett were under the guardianship of Cuthbert Shelton (who appears to be their maternal grandfather) and/or their older half-brother, Samuel C.

Fleming, until they reached their majority.

Jesse D. Fleming entered into the first of his three marriages on Feb. 3, 1845, when he married Amanda Harper of Butler County (just across the river from the present New Hebron community). Amanda was the daughter of Lott Harper, and the great granddaughter of Revolutionary War veteran John Harper of Pennsylvania, one of the early settlers of the Mud River country in Butler County.

Meanwhile, his sister, Margaret Ann, on Aug. 30, 1849, married Jesse Hall of the Hunt Settlement. She died the next year and is buried at Old Hebron. His younger brother, John Hackett, also married soon thereafter. His marriage on May 5, 1850, was to Mary S. (Polly) Hope, daughter of the venerable James J. and Susannah Jagoe Hope of the community southeast of Dunmor that still bears his name.

With the background behind us, this is where the saga of Jesse D. Fleming actually begins.

* * *

The Saga of Jesse Fleming

To Jesse and Amanda Harper Fleming four children were born. The eldest, named for his grandfather, was Lott Harper Fleming. According to data compiled by Historian James Richard Fleming, Lott Harper Fleming was born on Oct. 4, 1843, which was more than a year before Jesse and Amanda were married. This is left to us without explanation as to whether the child was Amanda's by a previous marriage, or of illegitimate birth. Whatever, Lott was accepted and considered a full brother to the other children of this marriage. And indeed, he probably was Jesse's child in a birth which occurred prior to their marriage. Of the other children, Sarah was born in 1854, Jesse J. in 1856 and James David Fleming, the historian's grandfather, on March 13, 1859.

That date coincides with Amanda's death, indicating she died in childbirth. It also set off a series of events which would rival any present-day soap opera in romance and intrigue.

Family tradition holds to Amanda dieing in childbirth, but Historian James Richard Fleming believes that another event led indirectly to her death.

On Jan. 2, 1859, a child was born (apparently in Butler County) to Susan I. Hope, daughter of George W. and Martha Hope. Ironically, the Hopes lived next farm to the Lott Harper family, parents of Amanda Harper Fleming. Susan I. Hope listed the father of her child as Jesse D. Fleming. There is no recorded data to show what might have happened to this child. Records fail to show a child that would be her's in the 1860 census, and in later years, when applying for a pension, Susan stated she had no children. Very simply, this child may have died shortly after birth.

With this child being born to Susan I. Hope and its paternity attributed to Jesse D. Fleming, as his great-grandson believes, James Richard Fleming feels that this grief on the part of Amanda Harper Fleming, may have contributed to her death at the time his grandfather was born.

Regardless of how much is family tradition, how much is truth and how much is simply left to circumstantial evidence, Jesse D. Fleming did take unto himself a second wife on April 27, 1859, just 55 days after the death of his first wife. His new wife was Susan I. Hope, as you might have guessed. The marriage took place at the residence of her father, George W. Hope in Butler County,

and was performed by the Rev. James E. Gardner.

But as the historian so aptly put it, "the marriage was not a good one", and "was apparently in trouble from the start, because they did not live together".

The 1860 census in Butler County substantuates this. When the census was taken, Susan was living with her father, G. W. Hope, his wife, Martha and their children, James, Joel, Catherine, George Robert, Jeremiah, Sarah and Squire. Susan was 19 at the time. On an adjoining farm, Jesse was living with his children, Lott, Sarah and Jesse J. But where was his fourth child, James Richard? The one who was born when Amanda died? The one who would be Historian James Richard Fleming's grandfather?

The historian believes, but is not sure, that the young man of four months, living in the Lott Harper home under the name of "Columbus" is that child. Why James David would be listed as "Columbus" in his grandfather's household, the historian does not know. It could be that because of his mother's death immediatly following his birth, James David Fleming might not have officially been named at the time. This coming with his father's almost immediate re-marriage, could have led to the child not having an official name, and for census purposes, the "Columbus" could have been used.

However, it must be pointed out here that the census in which "Columbus" was enumerated and listed as four months old, was taken on June 16, 1860, and James David Fleming was listed as being born on March 13, 1859. Thus James David, by which ever named he was listed, would have been more than a year old, 15-months-old, to be exact, at the time the census was taken. Where James David Fleming was when the 1860 census was taken, may always remain a mystery.

* * *

More Intrigue

The intrigue surrounding Jesse D. Fleming does not end here.

With the War Between the States rapidly becoming a reality, Jesse D. Fleming moved to Indiana. Maybe it was to escape some of the family wrath that most certainly surrounded his martial dealings. Maybe it was for employment. But in Indiana, he enlisted in the Indiana Volunteer Cavalry. He was a private in Company G of the First Regiment. His term of service did not last long. Due to an injury sustained when he fell from his horse in Nashville, Tenn. he was discharged. (Authority: a letter from Jesse to his aunt in Muhlenberg County.)

He was honorably discharged on Nov. 26, 1861, at Camp Freemont, at Pilot Knob, Mo., for reason of disability and returned to Warrick County, Ind. There, on March 26, 1863, he married Zilpha (or Zelpha) Rives of Butler County, a woman who had lived near to his home in that county, and one his second wife, Susan, alleged he "took up with". Though the marriage is legally recorded in Warrick County, Ind., the historian Fleming, Jesse's great-grandson, says "when Jesse married Zelpha Rives, he did not obtain a divorce from Susan".

His own troublesome marriages ended when Jesse D. Fleming died in Warrick County, Ind. on Sept. 11, 1864. He is buried in Wesley Chapel cemetery near Millersburg, in Warrick County.

But death did not end the aftermath of the troubles surrounding his marriages. These trouble stem from the fights for the right to his Civil War pension.

* * *

The Pension Claims

After Jesse's death, Zilpha returned to Butler County, Ky., bringing with her the one child, Richard Franklin, born to her and Jesse. She was in the 1870 and 1880 censuses with her parents, Richard and Rebecca Rives, near Forgy Mill and Quality. In 1880 she was listed as 36 years old, and her son, Franklin, was 16. Zilpha died there in 1914 and is buried in Mt. Zion cemetery.

In 1902, Zilpha applied for a war pension based on her late husband's Civil War service. She listed her age then as 59, and stated that she lived in Butler County. She said she owned 50 acres and some small amount of livestock and household "plunder". Zilpha also stated in the pension claim that the land was worth no more than \$100, the timber having been cut from it, it was mortgaged and "it was not worth what she originally paid for it".

Records are not clear as to just when Zilpha was successful in obtaining the pension, but the notoriety of her successful claim must have spread, for on Sept. 10, 1906, Susan I. Hope Fleming filed for Jesse's pension also, and act that assuredly eliminated Zilpha Rives Fleming from further pension claims. Whether Susan had moved to Indiana for some particular reason, or whether she had followed Jesse there, is not known. But when she filed the claim, she noted she was 65 years of age, a resident of Mt. Vernon, Ind. in Posey County, and that she had married Jesse D. Fleming on March 14, 1859.

(Note: That is in error. Her marriage in Butler County is recorded as being on April 27, 1859. The March 14 date is one day after Jesse's first wife died, and if Susan was living in the Fleming household as some believe, she may have considered that date to be her marriage date.)

Susan stated that she was married to Jesse D. Fleming "from March 14, 1859, until about one year and seven months after he deserted her and took up with Zelpha Rives, then went from Butler County to Warrick County, Indiana". She stated in her affidavit that she had heard he had gone into the army through a letter he wrote to his aunt in Muhlenberg County, Ky., the letter referring to the accident in Nashville, where he was almost killed when he fell from his horse.

Her affidavit declared that she was never divorced from Jesse D. Fleming and that she was still widowed at the time of the affidavit.

The claim for pension, No. 549-573 issued to Zilpha Fleming on March 26, 1903, was dropped from the pension rolls on July 11, 1906 because she was found to not be Jesse's legal widow.

Susan, in making her claim, said she had no visible means of support, other than that she worked for 50 cents to a dollar a week, washing or piecing quilts for other people.

She was successful in her claim for a pension. When she died on Nov. 10, 1915, she was living at 902 Vine St., in Evansville, Ind. A Department of Interior, Bureau of Pensions order of Feb. 28, 1916, noted that Pension No. 549-573 (the same number originally assigned to Zilpha), issued to Susan I. Fleming, in the amount of \$12 a month, to Nov. 15, 1915, was dropped due to her death on Nov. 10, 1915.

* * *

The Children

The children born to Jesse D. Fleming and his wife Amanda,

include:

(1) Lott Harper Fleming, born Oct. 4, 1843; died July 9, 1927 in Booneville, Ind. He married Udoxie Sams (1848-1919). They had at least eight children, Alcie, Addie, Fred, Charles, James E., Sarah, Mabel and Claire.

(2) Sarah E. Fleming, born in 1854, married John Thurman in Warrick County, Ind. on March 31, 1873. They had at least one child, Emma. Date of death and place of burial for Sarah are not documented.

(3) Jesse J. Fleming, born in Kentucky on Nov. 22, 1856, died April 21, 1938 in Iola, Kansas. He had one son, Jess.

(4) James David Fleming, born in Kentucky on March 13, 1859, died in Coleridge, Neb. on Oct. 1, 1924. He married Emma Jane Edwards (1863-1928) in Clarinda, Iowa on July 4, 1882. Among their children were Stella, Jesse J., Maude and Sadie. James David ultimately was to become the grandfather of the historian whom we have quoted, James Richard Fleming. Jessie Josiah Fleming (5-4-1885--8-9-1965), the son of James David, became the father of James Richard, born on May 23, 1930. For those who would like to write him, James Richard Fleming gets his mail at Post Office Box 142, in New London, Texas, 75682.

* * *

There are no records indicating that the only child born to Jesse D. and Susan I. Hope Fleming lived past infancy. In fact, Susan, in her affidavit, said she had no children.

* * *

The one child born to Jesse D. and Zilpha Rives Fleming was Richard Franklin Fleming, born in Indiana on Feb. 28, 1864. He died in Butler County, Ky. on Sept. 29, 1934. He is buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery near Quality in Butler County. He was married to Martha E. (?), who was born Nov. 11, 1868 and died March 26, 1926. She also is buried at Mt. Zion.

Among their children are Zelpha, Eben, Earl R. and Frank Oren. Zelpha was born in July, 1888, and died at Huntsville.

Eben was born Jan. 24, 1891 and died at Huntsville on May 1, 1969. He, his wife, Elsie and at least two children are buried at Mt. Zion.

Earl R. Fleming as born in December, 1893.

Frank Oren was born May 10, 1896, and died Oct. 21, 1968. He served with Battery C of the 326 Field Artillery in World War I. He returned to Huntsville and became a highly respected member of the community, raising his family there. He is buried in the Huntsville Methodist Church Cemetery.

* * *

There are many Flemings remaining in Muhlenberg and Butler Counties today, as integral and important parts of their communities. Still others were caught up in the great trek westward, to Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas and Texas, as well as other far-flung places. We have only touched briefly on these--but all of them owe their very existence to one David L. Fleming, who pioneered east Tennessee, and then the Mud River country of Kentucky. The most of those of Fleming blood from the Ennis-Skilesville-Knightsburg areas are of the Samuel C. Fleming line. Those in the extreme southern (Gus-Penrod-Dunmor) portion of the county come from the family of David L. and Margaret Davis Fleming, through John Hackett Fleming. In Butler County, the most are offsprings of Jesse D. Fleming and Zilpha Rives Fleming.

TORNADO KILLS TEN

AT BROWDER IN 1942

A tornado ripped through the southwest section of Browder, Ky, and sections of the Browder-to-Rochester Road on Monday, March 16, 1942, killing ten residents. An eleventh died in Paradise as a result of the storm.

Among the victims of the tornado which struck at approximately 5:30 p.m. were five members of the Lloyd Fleming family.

Dead in that family were: Lloyd M. Fleming, 41, born July 13, 1900; his wife, Ida Marie Fleming, 34, born Dec. 11, 1907; thier children, Lorelta Sue, 11, born Feb. 15, 1931; Roberta Lee, 9, born Dec. 12, 1932 and Jo Nell, 5, born May 25, 1936.

Lloyd was the son of J. H. and Cordia Fleming. Ida Marie was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ophus Knight. The five killed by the tornado were buried in one large grave at Union (Simmons) Chapel.

Other killed were:

Ronald Lee Baggett, seven-month-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Baggett.

Joan Baggett, 10, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Baggett.

Eva Pearl Kuhn, 37, wife of Dean Kuhn.

Gracie Vaught Vanlandingham, 49, and her son, Clyde N. Vanlandingham, 14, wife and son of Don Carlos Vanlandingham.

Killed at Paradise was 72-year-old R. W. Depoyster. He died while standing outside his home, when a chimney blew over on him.

Sixteen more were injured in the tornado.

The tornado apparently first struck the southwestern outskirts of Browder at the Vanlandingham home. It then skipped across country, striking next on the Browder-to-Rochester road. On the southside of the road, the tornado ripped out a section of trees in a heavily wooded area, the path of the storm remaining visible in that woods for many years following the disaster.