

# The Kentucky Endicott Family Contribution in the War of 1812 ©

by

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The Endicotts are one of the oldest American families. The first was John Endecott (1588-1665) who was the first Governor in the Massachusetts Bay, 1629. <sup>1</sup> Over several generations, the family moved south to New Jersey, and then on to North Carolina by the time of the American Revolution. Thomas Endicott (1737-1831) and his wife Sarah WELSH (1742-1790) married in New Jersey <sup>2</sup> and had their first two sons there before moving on to Surry County, North Carolina. There they settled down to farming and produced seven more children.

During the Revolution, the family supported the rebellion against the British <sup>3</sup> and the oldest son, Moses (1759-1834), fought throughout the war culminating his service when he stood in the line of the North Carolina militia against Lord Cornwallis and the British at the Battle of Guilford Court House (15 March 1781). <sup>4</sup> After the war, he returned to farming with the family.

Thomas Endicott was always a pioneer, and after the war decided to find his future to the west. In 1786, Thomas Endicott, his wife Sarah, and their nine children left their home near Endicott Creek in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Surry County and traveled on foot along the Wilderness Trail through the Cumberland Gap to reach the new lands of Kentucky. It was an arduous journey. Thomas and his four oldest sons provided protection for the family from the Indians along the way while the four younger boys did all they could to keep up and Sarah carried the baby, Nancy, in her arms. <sup>5</sup> The first son, Moses, and his young wife Martha HILL <sup>6</sup>, also brought along a young son, Joseph (1784-1867) <sup>7</sup>, and the second son, Joseph (1761-1827) <sup>8</sup> helped his pregnant wife, Nancy FAUBION <sup>9</sup>, throughout the long walk. Soon after the family arrived, she gave birth to Phoebe (1786-1860) <sup>10</sup>, the first Endicott born into the land what would later form the new state of Kentucky.

Over the next two generations, the Endicott family flourished in Kentucky and was spread from Woodford County northeast to land in now Bourbon and Harrison Counties near modern day Cynthiana. However, in 1811 the patriarch of the family, Thomas Endicott, now an old man at 73 years old, still was a pioneer in search of new lands. He and two of his sons set out on horseback to explore southern Indiana Territory lands to the west. <sup>11</sup> They found rich lands there but were prevented from making any moves because of the advent of the War of 1812.

The Kentucky Endicotts' contribution to the War of 1812 was substantial. When Governor Isaac Shelby called up the Kentucky militia, some 25,000 men in 40 regiments answered the call. Among them were six Endicott sons and brothers and one brother-in law.

**William Harrison Endicott** (1792-1857) <sup>12</sup> was a noted Indian fighter and was with 1,000 other men who served under Governor and later President William Henry Harrison at the Battle of Tippecanoe during the "Tecumseh War", a run up to the War of 1812. The battle took place in the early hours of 7 November 1811. <sup>13</sup> The Indians moved through the dark to attack the soldiers and in the sharp clash that followed, 68 soldiers were killed and another 120 wounded. The Indians, however, were defeated and scattered and their village was burned. Many did not

survive the winter, and the dream of an Indian Confederation under Tecumseh largely died with them. <sup>14</sup>

**Joseph Endicott** (1784-1867) <sup>15</sup> and his brother **John A. Endicott** (1789-1874) <sup>16</sup> were sons of Moses Endicott (1759-1834) who had fought in the Revolutionary War. They, along with their cousin,



**Joseph Nation Endicott** (1795-1878) <sup>17</sup>, son of Joseph Endicott (1775), were all members of the Captain James Coleman Company, Colonel Richard Johnson's Regiment of Kentucky Mounted Infantry. <sup>18</sup>

Joseph Endicott  
John A. Endicott



These two brothers and their cousin fought by-side at the Battle of the Thames (5 October 1813) against a British and Indian force of 1,300 men.

“On the morning of 5 October, Colonel Johnson's Regiment at once galloped forward and struck the British formation which was totally unprepared for what hit them. In just a few minutes, the Kentuckians had ridden through the thin line, dismounted behind it, and opened fire with their rifles upon its rear. Caught between the two murderous fires, the British soldiers surrendered.” <sup>19</sup> Soon after, the Indian's great chief, Tecumseh, was also killed. According to Joseph Endicott, this is how that happened, “Colonel Johnson had his horse shot from under him and, in falling, caught his leg under it. Tecumseh, seeing his plight and thinking to get an easy scalp, rushed out but the colonel drew his dragoon pistol from his saddle holster and killed him.” <sup>20</sup> The Indians then surrendered.

Two more Endicott boys served in the militia during the war. They were **William Endicott** (1789-1871) <sup>21</sup> of Woodford County who served in the Captain Tom Lewis Company <sup>22</sup> and his cousin **John B. Endicott** (1797-1878) <sup>23</sup> who served in the Captain Archibald Morrison Company. <sup>24</sup>

Nancy Endicott (1783-1831) <sup>25</sup> who had come to Kentucky in her mother Sarah's arms as a baby grew into adulthood and married **Memorial Forrest** (1783-1815). <sup>26</sup> He was a Captain in the Kentucky Volunteer Militia under Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Porter at Fort Gratiot, Michigan <sup>27</sup>. He died in the fort at the very end of the war. <sup>28</sup> His widow, Nancy, along with her five children, later moved to Posey County, Indiana where many other family members resided.

Like many Kentucky families, the contributions made by the Endicott clan during the War of 1812 can only be appreciated by understanding that this rural, newly opened land, and young state, made an extraordinary disproportionate contribution to the war effort <sup>29</sup>, in that the Kentuckians suffered 64% of the total combat deaths. As we reflect back 200 years, it is a legacy that has come forward until today when Kentuckians are once more standing in the line and doing their part for the future of our nation.

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<sup>1</sup> Felt, Joseph. *Who Was the First Governor of Massachusetts?* (Boston: Press of T. R. Marvin, 42 Congress Street, 1853). 11.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Endecott-Sarah Welch Marriage, 19 June 1759 New Jersey Archives 1 Ser. Vol. 24. 156. Bureau of Archives and Records Administration, Trenton, New Jersey.

<sup>3</sup> State of North Carolina, Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History. Volume A, Reports number 42-45.

<sup>4</sup> Moses Endecott file no. 3348 Revolutionary War Pension Application. Washington: National Archives and Records Administration.

<sup>5</sup> Harmon, Gordon S. and Sanford, Teddy H. Jr. *Thomas Endicott, The Pioneer Patriarch*. (Springfield, MO: GSH Visions, June, 2008). 5, 8.

<sup>6</sup> Moses Endecott and Martha Hill Marriage. *A Roster of Revolutionary Ancestors of the Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution Commemoration of the United States of America Bicentennial July 4, 1976*. 200.

<sup>7</sup> McCloskey, Mabel McFatridge. *Some Descendants of John Endecott, Governor, Mass Bay Colony*. Reprinted (Salem, MA: Higginson Book Company, 2002). 34.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid. 35.

<sup>9</sup> Sanford, Teddy H. Jr. *The History of the Endicott Family*. (Elizabethtown, Kentucky: Privately Printed, 2011). 12.

<sup>10</sup> McCloskey. *Some Descendants of John Endecott, Governor, Mass Bay Colony*. 36.

<sup>11</sup> Harmon and Sanford. *Thomas Endicott, The Pioneer Patriarch*. 14.

<sup>12</sup> McCloskey. *Some Descendants of John Endecott, Governor, Mass Bay Colony*. 47.

<sup>13</sup> Owens, Robert M. *Mr. Jefferson's Hammer: William Henry Harrison and the Origins of American Indian Policy*. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2011). 210-223.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> McCloskey. *Some Descendants of John Endecott, Governor, Mass Bay Colony*. 42.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid. 43.

- <sup>17</sup> Ibid. 187.
- <sup>18</sup> Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Kentucky. *Soldiers of the War of 1812*. Kentucky Legislature (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, Reprint, 1969) 224.
- <sup>19</sup> Gilpin, Alec Richard. *The War of 1812 in the Old Northwest*. (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1968). 214-234.
- <sup>20</sup> Endicott Family Traditions About Joseph Endicott (born 1784), 2011. Kyle Elwood, Compiler 1584 Scotch Ave SE, Salem, Oregon. Privately held by Elwood.
- <sup>21</sup> McCloskey. *Some Descendants of John Endecott, Governor, Mass Bay Colony*. 47.
- <sup>22</sup> Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Kentucky. *Soldiers of the War of 1812*. 105.
- <sup>23</sup> McCloskey. *Some Descendants of John Endecott, Governor, Mass Bay Colony*. 188.
- <sup>24</sup> Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Kentucky. *Soldiers of the War of 1812*. 197.
- <sup>25</sup> McCloskey. *Some Descendants of John Endecott, Governor, Mass Bay Colony*. 41.
- <sup>26</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>27</sup> Sanford, Teddy H. *The History of the Endicott Family*. (Elizabethtown, KY: Privately Printed, 2012). 16.
- <sup>28</sup> Memorial Forest Estate: Order Book C: 82-83. Court Clerk's Office Cynthiana, Kentucky.
- <sup>29</sup> Muster on the Kentucky. A Bicentennial Commemoration of Kentucky's Role in the War of 1812. <http://kynghistory.ky.gov/ky+War+of+1812+Event.htm> downloaded 1 September 2012.