

## The Endicotts of Indiana

By MABEL NISBET McLAUGHLIN

On Christmas day of 1815, the pioneers of Posey County gazed upon a white world. A heavy snow had fallen, followed by sleet. The lightest footfall produced a crunching, snapping sound. Very early on this Christmas morning the family of Jonathan Jaquess heard a noise outside their home. The sound seemed to pass around the house in circles. Investigation revealed Joseph Endicott running round and round the house exclaiming, "It's a girl, Becky! It's a girl!". Already the father of five sons, the good man rejoiced on this Christmas morning of 1815, the birthday of his first daughter, who was christened Elizabeth Fraser in honor of her maternal grandmother, Elizabeth Fraser Casey, wife of William Casey and sister of Mrs. Jonathan (Rebecca Fraser) Jaquess.<sup>1</sup>

In September 1628 there came sailing into the harbor of Naumkeag, afterwards called Salem, a ship bearing John Endicott and some forty souls besides. They were not adventurers, not vagabonds, but virtuous, well-educated, courageous men and women who for conscience' sake left comfortable homes in England. John Endicott was chosen governor, and faithfully did this first governor of Salem serve his people, braving his King's displeasure rather than swerve a hair's breadth from the course dictated by conscience. A zealous Puritan, he suppressed Morton and his roisterers of the "Merry Mount," and in 1629 shipped off to England two brothers named Browne, advocates of the Church of England, as "factious and evil conditioned."<sup>2</sup> In order to meet the needs of the Colony, he established a mint in spite of a law forbidding such action. His second son, Zerubbabel, administered to the Colony with pill box and lancet, a service that tried the soul in those days of pestilence and privation.

Leaving Massachusetts in 1698, Joseph Endicott<sup>3</sup> settled in Northampton, Burlington County, New Jersey. Whether this migration was due to the urge of pioneering blood, which ever seems to have stirred in Endicott veins, or to economic condi-

<sup>1</sup> Reminiscences of Elizabeth Fraser (Endicott) Nisbet.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Wentworth Higginson, "An English Nation," in *Harper's Monthly* (April, 1883), LXVI, 706-722. The title of this article should be, "America, An English Nation." The portion dealing with John Endicott is confined to pages 718-720.

<sup>3</sup> The name was originally spelled *Endecott* not *Endicott*.

tions, Joseph being one of thirteen children born to Dr. Zerubabel Endicott, one is left to surmise.<sup>4</sup>

It was in the new Northampton home that Joseph, Jr. second son of Joseph, Sr. and Hannah Endicott, was born in 1711. On May 12, 1736, he was licensed to wed Ann Gillam, who, ere her eldest son Thomas had reached the age of twelve, was widowed.<sup>5</sup> A Bible now in the possession of Charles F. Endicott of Danville, Illinois, contains the following record:

Thomas Endecott, son of Joseph and Ann Endecott was born March 27th, 1737.

Joseph Endecott was born June 8th, 1738.

Samuel Endecott was born February 5th, 1741.

[——] Endecott was born March 20th, 1742.

Sarah Endecott was born December 4th, 1744.

[Frazillia?] Endecott was born December 9th, 1746.

Sarah Endecott was born December 6th, 1722.<sup>6</sup>

In 1759 Thomas Endicott was licensed to wed Sarah Welsh. Soon after this marriage, another migration took place. The new home was probably established near the North Carolina-Virginia border, as in Surry County, North Carolina, there is a stream known as Endicott Creek flowing in the Low Gap neighborhood. It was from Surry County that the lad Moses Endicott, first born of Thomas and Sarah, enlisted as a soldier during the Revolutionary War. An affidavit made by him on March 12, 1833, states that he was born in Burlington, New Jersey, in 1759. Included in the statement is the claim that "the record is in an old Family Bible now in my possession." Young Moses Endicott enlisted in October, 1777, and served during the entire period of the War of Independence. About March, 1780, he undertook the dangerous duty of packing lead from the mines on New River, Virginia. A road marker at Fort Chiswell, nine miles from Wytheville, Virginia, contains the following inscription: "Lead mines nine miles south. Discovered in 1756 by Col. John Chiswell. The mines supplied lead for patriots in the Revolutionary War. Tories attempted to seize them in 1780, but were repulsed." Skirmishes with

<sup>4</sup> Charles M. Endicott, "The Endicott Family," in *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* for 1847.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*; papers in possession of Mrs. Mary Lovering of Watertown, Mass.

<sup>6</sup> A copy of the record was furnished to the writer by Charles F. Endicott of Danville, Illinois. The name of the fourth person listed above may have been *Barzilla* or *Barzillia*; it is blurred in the original. There was difficulty in making out the name of the sixth person listed in the original; it may have been *Frazillia* as suggested. The Bible mentioned was printed by Robert Freebairn, His Majesty's Printer, in the year 1785 at Edinburgh, Scotland.

the Tories that occurred near the Big Glade on New River and on Reedy Fork of Haw River are mentioned by Moses Endicott, and his statement concerning the theft of his horse "a short time previous to the Battle of Kings Mountain," which prevented participation in that engagement, brings a vision of the youth's resentment at the fate which forced him to march with the foot soldiers "who went in a different route in an attempt to intercept the British commander, Major Feguson."<sup>7</sup>

It was in 1786, according to the deposition of Thomas Endicott, Jr., dated September 14, 1832, that the Endicotts left their Carolina home and moved to Kentucky.<sup>8</sup> Details of this journey are meager, but we know that Thomas Endicott, then a man of about forty-nine, and his wife Sarah (Welsh) Endicott, with their seven sturdy sons—Moses, Joseph, Aaron, Thomas, Samuel, William, and John—made the trip. With them came also the joy and pride of the family—Nancy—the only Daughter. It was in January, 1804, that Nancy married Memorial Forest. It is likely that she was a very small girl when she made the trip to Kentucky eighteen years earlier for pioneer marriages usually occurred early in life. Thomas Endicott, Jr. and Milly Grubbs were married in November, 1795; William Endicott, and Mary Trousdale in December of 1801; John Endicott and Ann Kimbrough Davenport Saddler in September 1811.<sup>9</sup> Some years previous to the migration of Thomas Endicott and family, at least two weddings had occurred—Moses to Martha Hill, and Joseph, who settled in Nicholas County, Kentucky, to Wilmot Phillips.

Another member of the party of Kentucky colonists was Joseph Endicott, son of Moses and Martha (Hill) Endicott, who was born in North Carolina on December 6, 1784. The little Joseph probably made the journey in a saddle-bag, as did many babies of pioneer times, for the "road cut by Boone in 1775 through the Wilderness from Cumberland Gap to Boonesborough was only a path for horses. Early emigrants either walked or rode horse-back prior to 1796."<sup>10</sup>

Thomas Endicott, Sr. must have had an unusual sense of

<sup>7</sup> The information embodied in the above paragraph was obtained through the Veteran's Administration, Washington, D. C.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> Court Records of Posey County, Indiana. Date obtained by W. C. Endicott of Cythiana, Kentucky.

<sup>10</sup> H. Addington Bruce, *Daniel Boone and The Wilderness Road* (1910).

land values. In April, 1789, he bought one hundred acres of land lying on Greer's Creek, paying sixty pounds for it. Woodford County Court records show that on February, 1790, ten months later, this land was sold to Henry Shous for one hundred ten pounds, the deed being signed by Thomas Endicott and his wife, Sarah.<sup>11</sup>

One of the first acts of the Endicotts on coming to Kentucky was to build a meeting house. The early records of the Cynthiana, Kentucky, Christian Church contains many names of persons who transferred their memberships from the "Endicott Meeting House," now known as The Indian Creek Baptist Church. It was nonsectarian prior to 1840. Built in 1791, it stands on land once owned by Moses Endicott, and its graveyard is probably the last resting place of many Endicotts. The tombstone of Mary Trousdale Endicott (wife of William), born October 3, 1781—died July 24, 1853, is still standing. The logs of the original meeting house remain beneath the present weather-boarding. The pulpit is at the back, facing the center window of the front. There were two doors, since it was the custom in the early days for the men to enter by the left door and the women by the right. With the men carrying rifles as a precaution against prowling savages, the pioneers worshipped in the old "Endecott Meeting House on the Millersburg Road."<sup>12</sup>

Deprived of the companions of their earlier married years, Moses Endicott and his sister-in-law, Wilmot Phillips Endicott, sought solace in each other's society, and, on March 27, 1834, were married in Harrison County, Kentucky.<sup>13</sup>

No portrait of Moses Endicott, the Minute Man of the War of Independence, exists, but a word picture handed down among descendants, shows a portly man, with ruddy complexion—a genial soul, who often spoke of freedom to a faithful Negro mammy. However, his sudden death in 1834, caused by a stroke of apoplexy, prevented the fulfillment of his

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<sup>11</sup> Court Records of Posey County, Indiana.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*

promise.<sup>14</sup> Let us hope some of his heirs made his word good.<sup>15</sup>

The substantial log house built by Moses in Harrison County, Kentucky, was purchased from his heirs by Aaron, son of his brother William. This home is today owned and occupied by Mrs. Jesse Endicott and her daughter, Jessie Belle Endicott. A part of the original log structure is preserved in the present building.<sup>16</sup>

Spanning almost one hundred years, Thomas Endicott lived through two wars. The part he played in the Revolutionary War is a matter of surmise. He may have been a Tory, but this is hardly probable with his eldest son, Moses, espousing the American cause. He was not, however, a pensioner, and search for his Revolutionary War record has, to date, been unfruitful. In 1812-14 he probably sought frequent news from the front, for he had at least five grand-sons in the American Army. According to a deposition of Wilmot Phillips Endicott, three of these soldiers of the War of 1812 were sons of Joseph Endicott of Nicholas County, and two (John A. and Joseph), sons of Moses, the Minute Man, and Martha (Hill) Endicott.<sup>17</sup>

Accounts of the death of the famous Tecumseh have been handed down in the Endicott Family. Will H. Davis, of Poseyville, Indiana, a grandson of Joseph, wrote under date of July 18, 1931, at the age of eighty: "Grandfather lived near us and often came to see us and spend the night. He enjoyed telling his grandchildren tales. I remember he told us about shooting at Tecumseh during the battle in which he was killed. He said there were [*sic*] a number who shot at the Indian and that it was never positively known whose bullet hit him." In May 1932, John A. Blakely of Platteville, Wisconsin, a Civil War Veteran, wrote:

My grandfather, John A. Endicott and his brother, Joseph, enlisted in Kentucky in Col. Richard Johnson's regiment of mounted infantry.

<sup>14</sup> Data obtained from Mrs. T. F. Hensley, El Reno, Oklahoma.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.* Heirs of Moses Endicott were: his children, Joseph, John A., Samuel, Jesse, James, Elizabeth Endicott Miller, Margaret Endicott Ross; grandchildren (children of his deceased daughter Sarah Endicott Mullen), Barzillia, Seldon, James, Elizabeth, Nancy, and Thomas. The heirs of Moses Endicott, Sr. were married as follows: Joseph to Rebecca Casey; John H. to Nancy Adair; Samuel to Zerelda Nisbet; Jesse to Sally Lowe; James to Jane Miller; Elizabeth to Abraham Miller; Margaret to James Smith; Moses Jr. to Sally Moffitt; William to Ellen Drummond; Nancy to William King; Martha to William Ross; Sarah to William Mullen.

<sup>16</sup> Court Records of Posey County, Indiana.

<sup>17</sup> Papers of W. C. Endicott, Cynthiana, Ky.

They fought in the Battle of the Thames [1813] with the British and their allied Indians. Col. Johnson was the man who killed the noted Chief Tecumseh, and my grandfather said it happened this way: "Col. Johnson had his horse shot 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."

After the arduous labor of clearing land on the North Carolina-Virginia border, and later in Kentucky, one would suppose that the adventurous spirit of Thomas Endicott should have been satisfied. But true to the Endicott tradition, he could not resist the lure of the unconquered forest. In 1799, he deeded land to several of his heirs. His charming wife Sarah Welsh Endicott, whose name has been handed along to so many of her descendants, had recently died. It could not have been long after the death of his wife and the bestowal of his Kentucky lands on his heirs before this hardy pioneer migrated to Posey County, Indiana Territory. Probably, the distribution of his lands in 1799 was made to avoid complications should he marry again. Some years later, in October, 1814, the old pioneer returned to Kentucky to wed Susanna Young of Nicholas County.<sup>18</sup>

The exact date of the migration of Thomas Endicott into the Indiana wilderness is not known, but it is certain that his last years were spent in Posey County. In Mount Vernon, Indiana, his will is recorded. It was drawn up in October, 1827, and includes the assertion that he was "very old and infirm of body." He made bequests to his sons, Moses, Joseph, Aaron, Thomas, Samuel, John, to his daughter, Nancy, and to his son William's heirs. The bulk of his estate, however, was left by his will to "My little son, Absolam Turner Endicott." His wife, Susanna is also mentioned. The will contains the following paragraph of peculiar interest to his descendants: "I also give extra to my little son, Absolam Turner Endicott, my large Family Bible.<sup>19</sup> Where this Bible is today is a most interesting question. One owned by Mrs. John F. Meade of Francisco, Indiana contains the following entries:

Aaron Endicott born August 12th 1764.

died January 4th 1831.

Sarah Endicott Whiting born December 25th 1790.

died May 10th 1829.

<sup>18</sup> Court Records of Posey County, Ind.

<sup>19</sup> Will Record of Posey County, Ind.

Harriet Endicott Barriet died January 19th 1822.

Thomas Endicott died January 22nd 1831—age said to be near one hundred years.

Virginia Endicott died November 22nd 1818.

Cynthia Endicott died August 4th 1819.

Nancy Endicott died January 12th 1821.

Phebe Endicott, daughter of John H. Endicott, died July 15th 1822.<sup>20</sup>

This Bible, judging from the records contained therein, must have been the Bible of Aaron Endicott, a son of Thomas, in whose custody the latter desired the son of his old age, Absolam Turner Endicott, to be placed:

I next earnestly recommend him, [Absolam Turner Endicott,] to be placed in the care and control of my son, Aaron Endicott, hoping that no interference in this last wish of mine will take place, for him to raise and educate in any degree of education that he and Joseph Wasson, my Executor, may determine on by having concurrent jurisdiction each.<sup>21</sup>

Nancy Endicott Forest, the much loved daughter of Thomas, also went to Posey County. In 1823 the Posey County Court ordered that James McCravey be appointed guardian for Levina Forest and Thomas Forest, infant heirs of Memorial Forest, deceased, while Sally Forest, aged fourteen years and three months, chose Mr. McCravey for her guardian. Other heirs were Matilda Forest McReary, wife of James McReary, and John M. Forest.<sup>22</sup>

It was on the first day of September, 1815, that Joseph Endicott, eldest son of Moses Endicott, the Minute Man, left Harrison County, Kentucky for Posey County, Indiana. The colony of forty-four persons of which he was a member divided into two companies, a part of the men traveling by land with horses, wagons and cattle. The women and children with men enough to man the boats embarked at Augusta and traveled by water, landing at Diamond Island, now known as West Franklin, from which point the journey was continued by land.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>20</sup> Copy of this record was furnished by Mrs. John F. Meade of Francisco, Indiana.

<sup>21</sup> Will Record of Posey County, Ind.

<sup>22</sup> Posey County Court Records. Data obtained by W. C. Endicott of Cynthiana, Kentucky. John A. Endicott and Samuel Endicott sons of Moses Endicott, the Minute Man, also settled in Posey County, Ind. The children of John A. were: James, Moses, Margaret (married a man named Emery), Ann Eliza (married a George Endicott, her kinsman), Amanda Melvina (married a Blakely), and Sarah (married a Tiddle). Data obtained from John A. Blakely, Platteville, Wisconsin. The known children of Samuel Endicott were Martha Ann (married an Ashworth) and Alfred Berry Endicott. Data obtained from the James Nisbet Bible by the author of this article.

<sup>23</sup> Diary of Asbury Cloud Jaquess. Data obtained through his grand-daughter, Mrs. Charles T. Johnson of Mount Vernon, Indiana.

We have little conception of the hardships of the journey, its hazards, and the trials which came to these sturdy pioneers, but it was not until September 25 that they arrived in Posey County.<sup>24</sup>

Included in the colony were William Casey and his two sons-in-law, Joseph Endicott and Stephen Eaton, with their families; the families of Jonathan Jaquess, his son-in-law, Samuel Hirons, and step-son James Rankin, who became one of Posey County's first teachers;<sup>25</sup> also the family of Alexander Ferguson, whose wife was another of the Fraser sisters (Mary).<sup>26</sup>

A trip, *via* horseback, to Vincennes was made by Joseph Endicott for the purpose of obtaining patents to his lands. Then the temporary cabin home was built, though it was soon replaced by a large log-house.<sup>27</sup> A part of this more pretentious and carefully built structure of logs is still preserved. Unseen, but well protected, some of the original walls are incorporated in the house still standing on the old Endicott place near Poseyville, Indiana.

The fortitude and courage of pioneer women is graphically portrayed by Rebecca Casey Endicott, who journeyed from Harrison County, Kentucky to Posey County, Indiana, in September 1815, endured the hardships of travel, established a home for her husband and five boys in the golden autumn days, and when the snows of Christmas fell welcomed her first daughter.<sup>28</sup>

The country was an almost unbroken wilderness. Game was abundant. Venison and wild turkey were common articles on the daily menu. Bears, panthers, and wolves added to the daily hazards of life, not to mention the prowling Indian. The flaming plumage of pheasant and parrotquet brightened the dark green of the forest; the swooping eagle menaced the safety of the flocks.<sup>29</sup>

But joy reigned in the log cabin home of Joseph and Rebecca (Casey) Endicott. Christmas was always a gala occasion, which at dawn was heralded by the firing of a home-made cannon. The Endicott sons made such a cannon by hollowing

<sup>24</sup> *History of Posey County* (1885), 284.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>26</sup> *Diary of Asbury Cloud Jaquess.*

<sup>27</sup> *Reminiscences of Elizabeth Frazer (Endicott) Nisbet.*

<sup>28</sup> See first paragraph of this article.

<sup>29</sup> *Diary of Asbury Cloud Jaquess.*



out a log, cut especially for the purpose, and filling the opening with powder.<sup>30</sup>

Eleven times quill pens were made and eleven times the Bible was opened at the page headed "Family Record"—five times in Kentucky, and six times in Indiana. Below are the entries:

Joseph Endicott born December 6, 1784.

Rebecca [Casey] Endicott born September 11, 1784.

Joseph Endicott and Rebecca Casey married June 20, 1805 at the Bride's home in Harrison County, Kentucky, by Benjamin Coleman, VDH, in the presence of Mary E. Jones and John W. Stone.

William Casey Endicott born March 7, 1806.

Moses born September 1, 1807.

Henry born March 7, 1809.

James born May 10, 1811.

Joseph born July 28, 1814.

Elizabeth Fraser born December 25, 1815.

Martha born April 21, 1818.

Joel born May 28, 1820.

Mary Casey born January 24, 1823.

George born August 19, 1825.

Samuel born February 5, 1829.<sup>31</sup>

Joseph Endicott was a hunter of exceptional prowess. Invitations to log raisings always ended with, "And, Joseph, you bring the meat."<sup>32</sup> To such an invitation he responded when the pioneers of Posey County erected a log fort, about 30 x 30 feet, as a common place of refuge from the numerous Indian depredations. This fort was located about one mile southwest of Stewartsville.<sup>33</sup> His eldest daughter, Elizabeth Fraser, frequently spoke of the time when the family was compelled to flee to the Fort for safety. They had only recently returned to their home after a period of refuge. The cry, "Indians"! "Indians"! was heard. Rebecca was preparing breakfast. Joseph hid his family in the corn field and went to investigate. Returning he had difficulty in locating them, so well had he hidden them, but he went up and down the rows, whispering, "Indians, Becky! Indians." To hasten their progress to the Fort, Rebecca and Joseph took charge of the larger of the smaller children, while the older children, with the precision

<sup>30</sup> Reminiscences of Elizabeth Frazer (Endicott) Nisbet.

<sup>31</sup> Copy of record furnished by Mrs. Edith Endicott Pierce, daughter of H. C. Endicott.

<sup>32</sup> Stated in a letter of Elizabeth Endicott Pierce.

<sup>33</sup> *History of Posey County*, 285.

of trained soldiers, took charge of the smaller and more easily managed children.<sup>34</sup>

The year 1816 brought log rolling for the school house, with its greased paper windows and log benches.<sup>35</sup> These were without backs, and at least one pupil who attended that school never used the back of her chair. This was Elizabeth Fraser Endicott who married Alfred B. Nisbet. Erect and proud of carriage, she scorned a chair-back until well past eighty. It is not known what part the Endicotts played in the organization of this school, but it is known that Samuel Endicott, uncle of Joseph, was "a distinguished classical teacher" of Harrison County, Kentucky. It is also known that the Endicotts contributed to the medical fraternity of Posey County, since Samuel, brother of Joseph, following in the footsteps of his ancestor Zerubbabel, dispensed pills and powders to his neighbors.

Today as one drives through the rich, well-tilled farm lands of Posey County thoughts turn back to the time when ancestors labored to wrest homes from the wilderness. The clearing of a quarter of an acre a day was considered a good day's work.<sup>36</sup> Joseph Endicott, at lunch time, cut his bread with an axe, resorted to flint and steel to kindle a fire, and warmed the frozen hunks of food until they were fit to be eaten.

This old home place was the scene of the weddings of the three Endicott daughters—Elizabeth, Fraser (Betsey), who married Alfred Berry Nisbet; Martha (Patsy), who married William Calvert; and Mary Casey (Pop), who married Joseph Davis. The old log schoolhouse saw the beginnings of courtship for at least two of these sisters. Here Young Alfred Nisbet presented to Elizabeth a gift the memory of which brightened her eyes after more than a half a century—just an egg shell blown out and filled with maple sugar from his father's camp. Here, also, Joseph Davis, near kinsman of the Joseph Davis of the Confederacy, instructed Mary Casey Endicott in English Grammar. Evidently the parsing pages were stressed for it is said that one day the sunny "Pop" was moody, and, either by accident or intent, several members of the family inquired, "What are you doing, Pop, parsing?" The dreamy

<sup>34</sup> Reminiscences of Elizabeth Frazer (Endicott) Nisbet.

<sup>35</sup> *History of Posey County*, 286-287.

<sup>36</sup> *Diary of Asbury Cloud Jaquess*.

girl ran weeping from the room. They were fair, these Endicott sisters, made fair by pure rain-water and the dew of the wheat fields, to which they repaired early in the morning for the purpose of dashing the dew upon their faces.<sup>37</sup>

To acquire a proper trousseau for his eldest daughter, the devoted father rode horseback all the way to Cincinnati. White satin slippers and a large white leghorn hat were among the purchases that were carried back to Posey County. The home furnished hand-woven linen, since on Good Friday of each year, Joseph sowed his flax patch.<sup>38</sup>

The trio of young women were missed in that home after they were married. In July, 1851, a few years after the third daughter was wedded, the mother died. Then indeed was the home circle broken. On February 12, 1854, Samuel, the youngest son, married Elizabeth Schrader. The bride, whose father, John Schrader, was a pioneer preacher, was brought to the Endicott home. A capable and much loved mistress did this daughter of the parsonage become. Soon she was known as "Aunt Liz" and warmly did she welcome one and all of the eighty-two grand children who, from time to time while the years passed, sought the old Endicott home's comforting hospitality.

Within sight and sound of the walls which echoed the merry shouts of his children, grand-children and great grand-children, on land that he cleared himself, sleeps Joseph Endicott, soldier of 1812. By his side rests the comrade of his life—Rebecca Casey Endicott. Near them sleep some of their children: Joel, claimed by the wilderness ere he reached his thirteenth birthday—crushed by a felled tree; and James, who contracted the dreaded plague, cholera, while serving in the Indiana Legislature. Returning on horse-back from Indianapolis, while desperately ill, James Endicott was nursed by his wife, Mary (Nisbet) Endicott. Within five days both slept in the family burying ground.<sup>39</sup>

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In 1824 a party of pioneers, among whom Abraham Miller and his wife, Elizabeth Endicott Miller, daughter of Moses and Martha (Hill) Endicott, were numbered, settled near Crawfordsville. They migrated from their Kentucky home,

<sup>37</sup> Reminiscences of Elizabeth Frazer (Enricott) Nisbet.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*

guided by the slender needle of a compass once the possession of Daniel Boone. Back in 1792 the Miller homestead had been the last white settlement toward the Kentucky-Indiana frontier, and here Boone frequently stopped, sometimes remaining for weeks. During these visits he taught the boy Abraham Miller to load a rifle without wasting powder and the use of the compass and sun-glass. At the age of eleven, Abraham killed a large panther which was about to attack the herd in his charge. When Boone, on one of his visits, saw the hide stretched on the side of the cabin, he was so pleased with his pupil's presence of mind and marksmanship that he presented him with a compass and sun-glass.<sup>40</sup>

To Rush County, Indiana, went Thomas Endicott, Jr., and there is found his will, dated in June of 1836, listing his wife, Mildred, his only son, James Clayton Endicott, and the following daughters: Nancy (Endicott) Carothers; Malinda (Endicott) Amos; Antoinette (Endicott) Amos; Elizabeth Ann (Endicott) Mahan; Sally Ann (Endicott) Norris; and Ann Mariah Endicott, who after the date of the will became the wife of Holmes McFatrige. The will also mentions two grand-children, Henrietta (Moore), Thomas and William Moore.<sup>41</sup>

A John Endicott is a witness to this will, and it is known that about one hundred years ago Rush County was the home of John's children, whose names are said to have been: Jane Welsh, William Harvey, Jesse Thomas, Joseph Samuel, Sarah Ann, Jeremiah Saddler, Mariah Fenton, Charles Beroe, John J., and Barzilla James.<sup>42</sup>

For many years it has been the custom of the Central Indiana Endicotts to hold an annual reunion. Mrs. George Hunt Harting (Ida Belle Endicott) recalls the days of the early reunions when she, with her nine children, made the trip, *via* the family carriage, from Lebanon to Kokomo, the scene of the yearly reunion. The start was made about four o'clock in the morning. After a night stop with relatives, the journey was completed on the following day. At one time Mrs. Harting invited the Endicotts to her home for the reunion. They had to come in family carriages, on horse-back, and in buggies—

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<sup>40</sup> These pieces are now owned by Claude E. Hensley of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, a descendant of Sarah (Endicott) Mullen who was a sister of Elizabeth (Endicott) Miller. Information furnished by Mrs. Mott Keys of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

<sup>41</sup> Data furnished by Mrs. Mabel McCloskey of Camden, Indiana.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*

many from some distance—and it was the responsibility of the hostess to feed the entire company. The Harting household consisted of nine children, an aged aunt and uncle and two servants. Seventy-five or eighty of the Endicott clan assembled for the reunion, for which elaborate preparations had been made—even the immense barnyard had been swept. Mrs. Harting, however, was apparently not a harried, exhausted hostess, for most of the guests decided that a one-day meeting was far too short. Some remained for two and some for three days. Chickens were killed and hams were baked, while the odor of fresh bread and toothsome pies filled the air.<sup>43</sup>

To Montgomery County went James H. Endicott and wife, Jane (Miller) Endicott, with their sons; Jacob, William, Abraham, and Aaron, and their daughters, Nancy, Sarah, and Maria. It was from the home of Jacob that the sixteen year old Solomon S. Endicott, now of Myrtle Point, Oregon, went forth with Company F, Forty-third Indiana Volunteers. But he did not march alone, Jacob, his father, also followed the stars and stripes. To the Mexican War, this family of James H. Endicott had already given a son—Samuel.<sup>44</sup>

At least three grandsons of Joseph Endicott of Posey County marched away with the Indiana troops in the stirring conflict of the eighteen sixties—Samuel, son of William, and two sons of James—Jesse and the young Alfred who sleeps on southern soil.<sup>45</sup> To this list we can add the name of Alfred Berry Endicott, son of Samuel and Zerelda (Nisbet) Endicott and grandson of Moses, the Minute Man. The World War's call was answered by Byron, Ralph, Russell and Shirley Endicott, and it is probable that there were also other Endicotts who enlisted with the Indiana troops.

The Endicotts were pioneers—"going before to prepare the way for others." Through the almost trackless wilderness they passed, facing privation and disease, Indians and wild animals, the biting cold of winter and the blazing heat of summer. In their wake, they left roads and settlements, schools and churches. Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky, and Indiana have felt their touch. Many of the Indiana descendants of Endicott pioneers have pushed

<sup>43</sup> The account of the reunion was furnished by H. C. Wells of Bloomington, Indiana.

<sup>44</sup> Data furnished by Mrs. Lily Fish of Myrtle Point, Oregon, and Mrs. S. L. DeLon, of Russiaville, Indiana.

<sup>45</sup> Reminiscences of Elizabeth Frazer (Endicott) Nisbet.

*McLaughlin, Emigrants of Indiana*

westward into Missouri, Wisconsin, Kansas, Oregon, Colorado, Oklahoma, and California. And ever they have been mindful that their ancestor first to come to America, John Endicott, Governor at Salem, "sought not the treasures of the mines, nor the wealth of the sea, but a faith's pure shrine," and ever they have sought to keep undimmed the luster of the jewel he found on American shores—Freedom to Worship God.