Marie/Mary Hirons Van Burkleo
1764 – 1833

William Van Burkleo
1761 - 1805

It is not known yet the parents of Marie/Mary but research is ongoing.

It is believed that William Van Burkleo was born about 1761 in the state of Maryland, the son of Samuel and unknown mother. He married Mary Hirons in 1782 in Kent County, DE.

They were the parents of: William Jr., born June 11, 1784 in Kent CO, DE and died March 17, 1867 in St. Charles CO, MO; Marie; Samuel and Jerusha, who married John Gaty, an irony since after William Sr. died, John's father George married Mary Hirons Van Burkleo.

It is believed that William died in the area of Cave-in-Rock, IL about 1805. According to Wikipedia, Cave-In-Rock is a village in Hardin County IL. It's principal feature and attraction is nearly Cave-In-Rock, on the banks of the Ohio River. It was originally a stronghold for outlaws including river pirates and highwaymen. However, the area did also have a history for making salt (or looking for silver) in the area around the Illinois Salines along the Saline River in southeastern Illinois.

Mary married George Gatti after William's death. He is also one of our ancestors and more can be found out about him in his section.

From "Delaware in the American Revolution- An Exhibition from the Library and Museum Collections of The Society of the Cincinnati:" The First Delaware Regiment was organized at the request of Congress in January 1776. Known for their distinguished uniforms, the "Delaware Blues" served with great distinction in nearly every major campaign in the middle states and the south, and were widely admired for their bravery and military skill. On the home front, Delawareans experienced the war firsthand during the Philadelphia campaign of 1777, when British troops crossed through the northern part of the state and occupied the city of Wilmington. The Battle of Cooch's Bridge was fought near Newark as American light infantry tried to delay the British advance through the

state....In 1776, Delaware's population of roughly 37,000 made it second only to Georgia as the smallest of the 13 original states. The varied inhabitants of these rural counties south of Philadelphia reveal the area's notable diversity. While many of Delaware's residents claimed an English background, Swedish, Dutch, and German settlers also inhabited the region....The only Revolutionary War battle fought on Delaware soil took place at the site of Cooch's Bridge near Newark. On the morning of September 3, 1777, British and Hessian troops marching east through Delaware under the command of General Cornwallis encountered General William Maxwell's special corps of light infantry about a mile north of Aiken's Tavern. Under Washington's orders to "give every possible annoyance" to the enemy, Maxwell's corps of 800 marksmen fired from the cover of the woods and ravines along the road to Cooch's Bridge. At the forefront of the British line was Lieutenant Colonel Friedrich Von Wurmb's elite force of German jagers who responded with cannon-fire and a bayonet charge, ultimately forcing the Americans to withdraw. The running fight ended in a final skirmish in the vicinity of the Welsh Tract Baptist Church. As the day ended, Maxwell's corps retreated four miles north to rejoin the main American army on White Clay Creek. The Battle of Cooch's Bridge was the first engagement of the Philadelphia campaign of 1777. A prelude to the more devastating defeat at Brandywine Creek a week later, the events at Cooch's Bridge nevertheless demonstrated a tenacity that would eventually lead the Americans to victory."

From "The History of Portage Des Sioux Township- The Land Between the Rivers" by Donald Mincke: " William Van Burkleo (Jr.), in the later years of his life, lived "on Salt River Road, above St. Peters, in the fork of the road which branches off from Salt River Road to Dog Prairie, near Audrain's Mill." He was bured at the old burying grounds at the Gaty home place near the intersection of Mexico and Jungerman Roads. His broken tombstone there was later moved to the Van Burkleo lot at Oak Grove Cemetery, St. Charles. His first wife Eleanor "Nellie" Fallis was the daughter of Isaac and Susanna (Martein) Fallis, of Virginia, who settled in Portage Des Sioux Township. Nellie died half a century before her husband. His second wife was Mary "Polly" Blackstone, and his third wife was Charity Jane Gilderland or Gilliland who he married on February 3, 1853. (Charity was younger than 11 of his children, as well as many grandchildren). A full dozen of William's 16 children lived to marry, and most of these raised families of their own. William Van Burkleo was born on June 1, 1783(or 1784) in Kent County, Delaware. He died March 17, 1867 in St. Charles

County, Missouri." Note that William's story of which excerpts are listed below lists his birthdate as June 11, 1784. According to Mr. Minck's book, when each of William Jr.'s children married, he gave him or her a dowry of 500 acres each.

From a letter written by William Van Burkleo Jr. about his lifetime experiences, as located in the archives of the Missouri Historical Society, Maher Collection, which had been presented by Dr. Ben L Emmons. The letter below is taken from a copied version with some editorial corrections to the original spelling. In the third paragraph where he is talking about the "12 miles on the waters.." This area would be found right above the first "T" on the word Fayette on John Filson's map of KY.

"Written the first day of June 1854:

"A small sketch of my life and of ancient times from 1794, at which time I was ten years old. I was born in the state of Delaware, Kent Co, in June 11, 1784, and when I was about 4 years old my father moved to the Monangahalah where he stayed two years then moved to Kentucky in the hottest Indian times. Three families of us embarked in a flatboat for Limestone, which is now in Mason County, Kentucky."

Limestone is now Maysville KY. According to Wikipedia: Buffalo once forded the Ohio here, beating a broad path into the interior of Kentucky in search of salt licks. For thousands of years, various cultures of indigenous peoples inhabited the area, hunting the buffalo and other game. In the 17th century, the powerful Iroquois Confederacy, based in present-day New York state, drove out other tribes to hold the Ohio Valley as a hunting ground. European-American settlers' traveling down the Ohio in the 18th century and early 19th century found a natural harbor at Limestone Creek. The buffalo trace, also a well-used trail traveled for centuries by Native Americans, was a natural path into the bluegrass region, extending all the way to Lexington, Kentucky. Frontiersman Simon Kenton made the first settlement in the area in 1775 but was forced out by the western battles of the American Revolution. (Jon Hagee, a descendent of Simon Kenton says that he temporarily abandoned the property to fight in the Revolutionary War and provide assistance at various forts). Returning in 1784, Kenton built a blockhouse at the site of Maysville and founded Kenton's Station (frontier fort) at a site three miles (5 km) inland. Kenton met new settlers at Limestone, as the landing place was called, and escorted them inland to his

station. In 1786 the village which grew up near Kenton's Station was established by act of the Virginia General Assembly as the town of Washington. By this time John May had acquired the land at Limestone and Daniel Boone established a trading post and tavern there. In 1787 the little settlement was incorporated as Maysville, though the name Limestone persisted well into the 19th century. In 1788, when Mason County was organized and Washington was named its county seat, Maysville was still a rude collection of warehouses and wharves, with few dwellings. In 1795 the conclusion of the Northwest Indian War reduced the likelihood of Indian attacks from across the Ohio. Maysville began to flourish. Zane's Trace, a road from Wheeling, Virginia (now West Virginia), to the bank of the Ohio River opposite Maysville, was completed in 1797 and stimulated ferry traffic across the river. By 1807 Maysville was one of two principal ports in Kentucky; it was still mostly a place through which goods and people passed, having only about sixty dwellings. In 1811 the first steamboat came down the Ohio from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, passing Maysville on its way to New Orleans. With the coming of the steamboat, Maysville's population and area expanded rapidly.

"When we arrived there, I saw the first Indian barbarity. There were three flat boats just landed which started a day before we did. They had been delayed by a large number of Indian canoes. The boats were well made. The attack was made in the night. The Indians attempted to land the boats but were bravely resisted by all in the boats, men women, and children. They fought with guns, axes, knives. And the Indians after a long fight and loss of a great many men, retreated. The boats floated on till they came to Limestone where they got help to land. They had just landed when we got there. The scene was so alarming. I will never forget it. I think there were about 60 souls, big and small, amongst which there was but one man and two women who were not killed or wounded. My father went on board the boats and I went with him, and of all the horrid sights I have ever witnessed, it was the worst. Some dead, some dying, some crying, some mourning. There were horses, cattle, and people laying dead all over the boats."

Norma Jean Fields was a long-time (thirty four year) Professor of English and Communications at Lindenwood College, now Lindenwood University in St. Charles, MO and a member of the Board of Directors of the St. Charles County Historical Society. She conducted some research and her notes on the above: "This incident occurred in 1792. Thirty seven men, women and children died in this attack. During the 1790's the Shawnees became masters at attacking flatboats. One method was to dress a shawnedd in the clothes of a captive and have him hail the boats from shore. The decoy would cry out "Help me. I'm white, I escaped from the Indians!" If

the boats came close enough, the Shawnee leaped from the bushes and swarmed them. If the settlers were suspicious, the Indians kept 20 man canoes hidden in the bush ready to launch in seconds. Hundreds of settlers were killed in such attacks."

"We then moved out about 12 miles on the waters of Licking to Miles Station, where times were pretty warm the first night we got there. The Indians stole all our horses from the wagons, which were a few steps from the blockhouse and so when the time while we stay in Kentucky."

Above where William is talking about the "12 miles on the waters" he was referring to the area right above the first "T" on the word Fayette on John Filson's map of KY, which is located at the end of this explanation. Salt Licks drew people to this area and the area of the Blue Licks became famous. From the Kentucky State Parks website article about "Blue Licks Battlefield History" at: http://park.ky.gov/parks/resortparks/blue_licks/History.aspx : On January 25, 1927 Blue Licks State Park became Kentucky's fifth state park. Judge Samuel Wilson of Fayette County, chairman of the Blue Licks Battlefield Monument Commission, presented a deed for thirty-two acres to the Kentucky State Park Commission on behalf of local citizens who had donated the land. Located north of the Lower Blue Licks Crossing in present day Robertson County, the site of the Battle of Blue Licks enshrines the memory of the men who died in one of the worst military defeats of the American Revolution.

The Battle of Blue Licks has the combined drama of frontier warfare and the Revolutionary War. On August 19, 1782, nearly seventy Kentuckians died in what some historians have called the "Last Battle of the American Revolution." While that claim is debatable, the struggle at Blue Licks embodies the conflict between the American Indian, Kentucky settlers, and the British Crown.

Although Lord Charles Cornwallis had surrendered British forces at Yorktown, Va. on October 19, 1781, bringing to a close the major hostilities of the American Revolution, isolated conflicts between the Americans, British, and Indians still occurred. The Kentucky frontier experienced some of the bloodiest British and Indian raids of the war. With the surrender of Cornwallis, many Kentuckians hoped that the attacks on their homes and

settlements had come to an end. Unknown to them, a large force of British and Indians had gathered at Old Chillicothe, Ohio, to prepare for a raid on the frontier settlements.

The British invasion force, made up of an estimated 1,100 men, included a number of Butler's Rangers from Canada, along with Shawnee and Wyandot Indians. Their invasion plans had targeted Wheeling, West Virginia, but on their way there they received word that George Rogers Clark and the Americans had planned a possible attack on Shawnee territory. The majority of the Shawnee decided to return home to defend their homes. British commander William Caldwell and Captain Alexander McKee, along with sixty Canadians and 300 Indians, some Shawnee, Delaware, Chippewa, Mingo, Ottawa, and mostly Wyandot, changed their plans and decided to attack some of the Kentucky outposts. They chose Bryan's Station, north of Lexington. On August 15, 1782, Caldwell's force surrounded the fortified settlement. Seeing that Bryan's Station had stronger defenses than anticipated, the British and Indians withdrew and began their journey home.

When word of the attack on Bryan's Station reached other Kentucky settlements, groups of militiamen prepared to come to their neighbors' defense. Col. John Todd, commander of the Fayette County militia, raised a force of 180 men comprised of about 130 men from Lincoln County under the command of Lt. Col. Stephen Trigg, and about 45 men from Fayette County under the command of Lt. Col. Daniel Boone, to help repulse the enemy. Col. Benjamin Logan and a large force of militia were also on their way to assist their beleaguered fellow Kentuckians. By the time Todd and his militiamen arrived at Bryan's Station the enemy had gone. Instead of waiting for Logan and reinforcements, Todd decided to pursue and overtake the British and Indians. His decision would be disastrous.

The retreating invasion force left Todd and his men an excellent trail to follow. On August 19, the Kentucky militia caught up with the British and Indians at Blue Licks. The night before the battle Todd's men had debated whether they should wait for Logan or engage the enemy at once. According to legend Major Hugh McGary insisted that the militia attack immediately. Boone warned of a possible ambush from surrounding ravines, but to no avail. On the day of the battle McGary supposedly rode his horse into the waters of the Licking River, waving his hat and calling out, "All those who are not cowards, follow me!" His fellow Kentuckians charged after him.

As they reached the north shore of the Licking, the Kentuckians began to ready for an attack. An advance column of Kentuckians then proceeded up a hill where some Indians had been spotted, followed by three groups of the main force. Todd commanded the center; Trigg led the right flank, and Boone the left. As the advance party reached within 50 yards of an area of ravines, the British and Indians who had been lying in wait launched their attack on the Kentuckians.

Within 15 minutes the Kentucky militiamen had been defeated. The British and Indians inflicted heavy casualties on the surprised Kentuckians, forcing them to flee for their lives. Both Todd and Trigg died in the battle, as did Daniel Boone's youngest son, Israel. A few of the Kentucky militia stood their ground, trying to provide cover for their retreating comrades. The Indians pursued the routed Kentuckians for about two miles, and then came back to the battlefield to scalp and mutilate their victims. The Kentuckians had lost some 70 men. The British and Indians suffered about two dozen casualties with only 10 killed. Logan's force of 500 men met some of the fleeing survivors about five miles from the battle site. Logan and his men arrived at Blue Licks and buried the grisly remains of their fallen comrades.

The Battle of Blue Licks did not have an effect on the Revolutionary War. It did, however, cause Gen. George Rogers Clark to lead another military expedition against the Indians in Ohio. He destroyed Chillicothe and five other Indian towns in his reprisal for Blue Licks. The power of the Indians in the Old Northwest had been weakened.

With the deaths of Todd, Trigg, and others, the Kentucky frontier lost some of its most prominent leaders. The Battle of Blue Licks had again proven the vulnerability of the Kentucky settlements to attack. Not until the end of the War of 1812 would Kentuckians feel secure from Indian raids from across the Ohio River.

On August 19, 1928, the 136th anniversary of the battle, Federal Judge A.M.J. Cochran of Maysville, chairman of the Blue Licks Battlefield Monument Commission, called to order an estimated audience of 10,000 people for the formal dedication ceremonies of the Blue Licks Battlefield State Park. Judge Cochran then introduced the secretary treasurer of the Commission, Judge Innes Ross of Carlisle. Ross related to the audience the efforts of those who had worked for over 42 years for the establishment of a state park to commemorate the men who died in the battle of Blue Licks.

In 1928 the Kentucky General Assembly appropriated money for the erection of a granite monument inscribed with the names of those who died on August 19, 1782. At the base of the monument would be the names of the Indian tribes that fought in the battle. That same year the Commission employed the famous landscape firm of Olmstead Brothers of Brookline, Mass. to design the entrance parking section and roadway of the new park. In 1930 the legislature appropriated another $20,000 for expansion of the park. The appropriation provided funds for the construction of a museum and more landscaping. On August 19, 1931 officials dedicated the museum and new road that accessed the park. The museum housed the T.W Hunter Collection of prehistoric animal bones and the W.J. Curtis Collection of guns, Indian artifacts, and other items.

The Kentucky General Assembly appropriated $22,500 in 1934 to build a new museum and continue with other park improvements. With the Great Depression causing economic havoc throughout the nation, the federal government set up a transient workers camp at Blue Licks. Under the oversight of the U.S. Army the transient workers supplied both skilled and unskilled labor for various projects within the park. Improvements to Blue Licks continued through 1938.

In 1950 the holdings of the Blue Licks State Park increased in size by 68 acres to a total of 100 acres. Efforts to add more land to the park had begun in 1943. The permanent acquisition of the W.J. Curtis Collection that had been on loan greatly enhanced the park's artifacts holdings. Between 1960 and 1968, the state gave an additional $200,000 for renovations and improvements to the park.

Blue Licks now has 148 acres and over 50 campsites with water and electricity. Each August, the park hosts a reenactment of the Battle of Blue Licks. One unique feature of the park is the existence of a rare plant. The Short's Goldenrod is the first plant in Kentucky placed on the endangered species list of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The plant is named after amateur botanist Dr. Charles W. Short.

Daniel Boone has become a significant person in the history of St. Charles County, Missouri. His son Israel died at the Battle of Blue Lick on August 19, 1782 at the age of 24.

"On the first Sunday morning after we got to the station a young man went out to get his horse, the Indians had tied the horse in the brush with the bell open. They killed the

young man and scalped him in sight of the blockhouse. We stayed there and lived on wild meat and hominy or bread made from flour by pounding in a mortar until the war was over. The year that wane(Wayne?) whip(?), my father volunteered and went to Ohio to join the army as a spy. And as soon as wane (Wayne's?) last battle was over, he returned home with the first Indian scalp I ever saw. He brought 2 or 3 scalps and a tomahawk and some other trinkets all of which were a great toast in the station."

"He then moved to Ohio. We arrived in Cincinnati a few days after Wayne's Treaty with the Indians. Cincinnati was a small village. We remained there until the Fall of 1798, when old David Dust(Durst, Darst?) bottom returned home from this country on a visit to see his brother who was taken prisoner by the Indians and brought to this country. Davis Durst(?) was a close neighbor to us. He brought such great news about the Spanish Country, my father fixed up and we started from the mouth of the Big Miami about the first of October, 1794(1798?) with our family in one small flat boat and our cattle in a large boat, but the Ohio was so [shallow?] that we could not get along. We then turned the cattle out on the Indian side and drove them along the bank and lay with the boat that had the family every night, which was very bad. The buffalo and bear often scared the stock and gave us much trouble. We got to the 6 Mile Island which was six miles above Louisville the last of November where we put up for the winter."

Ms. Fields: "President Washington named Major General (Mad) Anthony Wayne Commandant of the army and placed him in charge of the Indian wars. Wayne defeated the Indians at the Battle of Fallen Timbers on August 20, 1794. Mr. Van Burkleo's father was probably a member of the Kentucky Volunteers who were present at the battle."

William's reference to "Wayne's Treaty with the Indians" refers to his victory over the Indians at the Battle of Fallen Timbers, as indicated above. This information is taken from the Ohio History Central website at: http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Battle_of_Fallen_Timbers?rec=473.

The Battle of Fallen Timbers was an important victory for the United States Army against natives in the Northwest Territory. In 1792, President George Washington appointed Anthony Wayne as the commander of the United States Army of the Northwest, then currently serving in the Northwest Territory. The major purpose of this army was to defend American settlers from Native American attack. Josiah Harmar and Arthur St. Clair had both suffered defeat at the hands of Native Americans in the previous few years, and Washington hoped that Wayne would be more successful. Wayne arrived with additional troops to supplement the Army of the Northwest in May 1793. He positioned his force at Fort Washington, near Cincinnati.

Wayne repeatedly drilled his troops, hoping to avoid the horrific defeats that befell Harmar and St. Clair. In October, Wayne finally left the Cincinnati area and headed to Fort Jefferson. He proceeded six miles to the north of Fort Jefferson and ordered the construction of Fort Greene Ville. His army remained here for the winter of 1793-1794. He also had his men build Fort Recovery on the site of St. Clair's Defeat.

Tensions escalated between the Americans and the natives during the summer of 1794. On June 30, 1,500 Shawnee natives, Miami natives, Delaware natives, Ottawa natives, and Ojibwa natives led by Little Turtle attacked a supply train leaving Fort Recovery for Fort Greene Ville, killing or capturing many of the Americans. In late July, Wayne moved into northwestern Ohio. In early August, he ordered his men to construct Fort Defiance to protect his army as well as to serve as a supply depot. During this time, Wayne's men also destroyed native villages and crops. Believing that the Native Americans needed to sue for peace, Little Turtle, a leader of the Miami natives refused to lead the tribes into battle and deferred to Blue Jacket, a Shawnee leader.

As Wayne moved toward the Maumee River, the Native Americans prepared to attack him in an area known as Fallen Timbers. It was a place where a tornado had knocked down many trees. The natives expected the Americans to arrive on August 19, but the white soldiers did not arrive until the next day. The natives fasted before the battle for spiritual and cultural reasons and to avoid having food in their stomachs. The likelihood of infection increased if a person was wounded in the stomach and there was food in it. By August 20, the natives were weak from hunger.

Although the Native Americans used the fallen trees for cover, Wayne's men quickly drove the natives from the battlefield. The Americans had thirty-three men killed and roughly one hundred wounded, while the natives lost approximately twice that number. The fight became known as the Battle of Fallen Timbers. Blue Jacket's followers retreated to Fort Miamis, hoping the British would provide them with protection and assistance against Wayne's army. The British refused. Wayne followed the natives to the fort. Upon his arrival, Wayne ordered the British to evacuate the Northwest Territory. The British commander refused. Wayne decided to withdraw to Fort Greene Ville.

For the next year, Wayne stayed at Fort Greene Ville, negotiating a treaty with the Native Americans. The natives realized that they were at a serious disadvantage with the Americans, especially because of Britain's refusal to support the natives. On August 3, 1795, the Treaty of Greeneville was signed. Representatives from the Miami natives, the Wyandot natives, the Shawnee natives, the Delaware natives, and several other tribes agreed to move to the northwestern part of what is now the State of Ohio. Not all Native Americans concurred with the treaty, and bloodshed continued to dominate the region for the next twenty years as Americans and natives struggled for control.

"Charge of the Dragoons at Fallen Timbers," painted by R.T. Zogbaum, ca. 1895. The painting illustrates General Anthony Wayne's campaign against the Ohio natives in 1794.

As it relates to David Darst or David Dust/Durst/Darst as mentioned above, from Ms. Fields research: "David Darst was born in Shenandoah County, Virginia on December 17, 1757 and died in St. Charles County, Missouri December 2, 1826. A veteran of the Revolutionary War, Darst settled in Kentucky in 1784 with his wife and seven children. He settled Darst's Bottom, near Defiance, in 1798. Evidently Darst returned briefly to Kentucky after locating his claim."

"We wintered finely. Game was plentiful. As soon as the ice broke, he bought a flat boat and put the cattle aboard and set out again and floated on finally till we came to Fort Massac(?), where there was a garrison of soldiers. There we had to stop and get a passport. We then floated on till we got to the mouth of the Ohio, where we stopped to kill bear meat to do us through the summer, intending to make a pevogue (a type of boat?) to come up in, but accidentally there was a keel boat which came along going to the solen(island?) after salt. We got the family in that, and we crossed the cattle over the

Mississippi, through swamps and marshes, which was a severe job. I waded many times to my waist through the cypress weeds and falling over them in the water till I was half-drowned until we got to Cape Girardeau, which was the first settlement we found."

From the Illinois Department of Natural Resources website about Fort Massac and it's history at:

http://dnr.state.il.us/Lands/landmgt/parks/R5/frmindex.htm : The rich history of this site begins before recorded history, when native Americans undoubtedly took advantage of its strategic location overlooking the Ohio River. Legend has it that Europeans took this same advantage as early as 1540, when the Spanish explorer Hernando DeSoto and his soldiers constructed a primitive fortification to defend themselves from hostile native attack.

The French built Fort De L'Ascension on the site in 1757, during the French and Indian War, when France and Great Britain were fighting for ultimate control of central North America. Rebuilt in 1759-60, the structure was renamed Massiac in honor of the then French Minister of Colonial Affairs, and came under fire only once, when unsuccessfully attacked by a group of Cherokee. Following the end of the French and Indian War in 1763, the French abandoned the fort and a band of Chickasaws burned it to the ground. When Captain Thomas Stirling, commander of the 42nd Royal Highland Regiment, arrived to take possession, all he found was a charred ruin. The British anglicized the name to "Massac" but, despite the counsel of their military advisers, they neither rebuilt nor regarrisoned the fort. This oversight left them vulnerable and in 1778, during the Revolutionary War, Colonel George Rogers Clark led his "Long Knives" regiment into Illinois at Massac Creek. From these he was able to capture Kaskaskia, 100 miles to the north, without firing a shot, thus taking the entire Illinois Territory for the State of Virginia and the fledgling United States. In 1794, President George Washington ordered the fort rebuilt, and for the next 20 years it protected U.S. military and commercial interests in the Ohio Valley. U.S. Vice President Aaron Burr and Gen. James Wilkinson, who allegedly drew up plans to personally conquer Mexico and the American southwest, met at Fort Massac during the summer of 1805. Edward Everett Hale later used the setting of Fort Massac and the Burr-Wilkinson plot as basis for his classic historical novel, "The Man Without a Country." Although ravaged by the New Madrid earthquake in 1811-12, the fort was again rebuilt in time to play a minor role in the War of 1812, only to be abandoned again in 1814. Local citizens dismantled the fort for timber, and by 1828 little remained of

the original construction. In 1839 the city of Metropolis was platted about a mile west of the fort.

The site briefly served as a training camp early in the Civil War, marking the last time U.S. troops were stationed at the site. The fort was abandoned after a measles epidemic in 1861-62 claimed the lives of a substantial number of soldiers of the Third Illinois Cavalry and the 131st Illinois Infantry, who were using the fort as an encampment. In 1903, through the efforts of the Daughters of the American Revolution, 24 acres surrounding the site were purchased by the state. On Nov. 5, 1908, Fort Massacwas officially dedicated as Illinois' first state park.

Archeological and historical excavations were conducted on the site from 1939-42 and attempted again in 1966, 1970 and during 2002. In the early 1970's a replica based on the 1794 American fort at Fort Massac was reconstructed off the original site of the forts. This reconstruction was brought down in the fall of 2002, when a replica of a 1802 American fort was constructed. The original site, where all the forts were built, has the archeological outline of the 1757 French Fort.

"There was Laramore(?), who was an Indian Chief and a Spanish Commandant when we got there. We had not eaten anything for two days. He gave us some hominy and dry venison, which was great nourishment. We then drove on through the Shone and Dilawar towns where we found a great deal of friendship. They gave us dry venison to last us .... Misear(?), as it was called then, which is where we found the family from whom father rented a house for the summer. He picked out his in Bobveeta Bottom(?).....move to it in the fall and became neighbors to the Indians, for their town was only four miles from us."

From Ms. Fields: "Laramore was Louis Larimore, a French Canadian, who settled Cape Girardeau in 1793 with a band of Shawnee and Delaware Indians. The Spanish hoped to use the group as protection against the hostile Osage. Lorimore had lived with the Indians so long that he was easily mistaken for one. The settlement quickly attracted American settlers and by 1796 it was the first predominantly American settlement in Upper Louisiana."

"He became so dissatisfied that he determined to leave the country and sold out intending to get it all in salt and take it to Nashville. Salt was worth $4 a bushel then in Tennessee and intended buying cotton and taking it up to Ohio. He moved to the Salenes(?) to collect it. He there got his debts all turned over on Speners(?) and left have books they was caring on the salt works. He stayed there a year trying to collect it and the brook and he lost it all but about 100 bushels."

From Ms. Fields: "Parts of this passage are confusing. All sales in Upper Louisiana were conducted by bartering goods, usually furs, because money was very scarce. Mr. Van Burkleo's father accepted salt in payment for his land, intending to ship it to the United States for sale. He went to the Salines to pick up the salt but something happened to prevent it. It is difficult to determine exactly what happened. It is possible that Mr. Van Burkleo's creditors attached the salt."

"He then moved to St. Charles, which was called Petticoat. and stayed there one year being still dissatisfied, took what he had in salt and went to Tennessee and sold it for cotton and started up the Ohio. I was going on 14 years old. He gave me the choice of going with him or coming back here. I thought it best to come back here."

From Ms. Fields: "Le Petite Cotes or Little Hills was the original name of St. Charles. The tiny French village was built at the foot of several low hills."

"I got back about the last of September. When I got to St. Charles, there were two men by the name of Gardner that were fitting out for an expedition up the Missouri trapping. I joined them and went along. We went about 500 miles up the Missouri and then we got amongst the hostile Indians. There I learned my first lesson about Indians. We were in a canoe and had to dodge from side to side of the river to keep out of their way. Sometimes we would slip up some of the small rivers where we were afraid to shoot, and then we would live on beaver meat, when there was plenty of buffalo and deer all around us. It was seven months in which we saw no white man nor had neither bread nor salt. In the spring we came down to the river Lamen(?). We met two hunters."

"About the last of May we came down to make arrangements to start up again the next fall, but when I got to St. Charles there was a man waiting for me with tidings from my mother that father was dead and she wished me to come to her assistance. I started with the young man and myself in a bark canoe which I brought down with me. We went to the mouth of the Ohio in it, hen walked up the Ohio, killing meat as we went, till we got to the Volking Cave on the Ohio, where I found my mother with seven children. I then bought a large pevouge and hired two young men and started back and before we got to the mouth of the Ohio two of my little brothers died, but we came on, taking us pretty neigh all summer to get to portage Desoux. I stayed with her till she married old Mr. Gatey."

The above does not represent the whole "sketch" of his life as written by William Van Burkleo Jr. I have only included the portions that were relevant to his father and the family during the time that William Sr. was still living.

Research on William Van Burkleo Jr. reveals him to be the quite the interesting character. He was married three times and had sixteen children.

In doing research, Joanie located Arana Ferrante. Her grandfather was William Henry Burkleo, son of William Van Burkleo Jr. William Henry was born on June 11, 1784 in St. Charles and died in Kern CO CA. Evidently there were bad feelings in their family as William Henry was to have inherited from his father but his uncles took his portion.

William Jr.'s grave was marked by the St. Louis Pioneer Chapter of the Daughters of 1812 on Saturday, September 12, 1964 at Oak Grove Cemetery. In the "Grave Locations Project" form, his birth date is listed as June 11, 1784 and death date as March 17, 1867. He was in Captain Samuel Griffith's Company and mustered in at Portage Des Sioux, Territory of Missouri in October 1812. The form indicates that he was married three times and had 16 children.

According to the Oak Grove Cemetery Database as found on the website of the St. Charles City County Library, there are 7 Van Burkleos buried in the Cemetery: Ethyle born Nov. 3, 1894 in St. Peters and died Jan. 16, 2000 and buried in Block 04, Lot 075, Grave 5NE in a plot purchased by Eugene M. Van Burkleo on 11-21-1911; Annie Zerelda born Aug. 26, 1857 in St. Charles and died Jan. 16, 1878; Eugene M. born about 1863 in St. Charles and died on April 22, 1941 and buried in Block 04, Lot 075, Grave 2SW in a lot he purchased; James M. born Jan. 3, 1902 and died Aug. 8, 1903 and is buried in Block 05, Lot 038, Grave 5SE; Tottie died on Oct. 2, 1973 in St. Charles and is buried in Block 04, Lot 075, Grave 4NW in a lot purchased by Eugene M. Van Burkleo on 11-21-1911; Urilla P. born about 1869 in St. Charles and died on March 27, 1963 at age 94 of heart disease and is buried in Block 04, Lot 075, Grave 3W in a plot purchased by Eugene M. Van Burkleo on 11-21-1911; and James M. Van Burkleo who was born on Jan. 3, 1902 and died on Aug. 8, 1903 and is buried in Block 05, Lot 038, Grave 1.

A newspaper article gives the details of the marriage of Ruth Burkleo, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Burkleo on Tuesday, September 8, 1914 at St. John's Church to Mr. T. S. Isenmann, son of Mr. and Mrs. Simon Isenmann. Mr. Isenmann had recently purchased the general store of Mr. J. H. Machens at Machens, MO. Note that the last name is listed as Burkleo rather than Van Burkleo. Miss Ruth Lenore Van Burkleo had graduated from St. Charles High School on Friday evening, June 14, 1912.

Another newspaper article relates the death of Grant A. Van Burkleo, 26 years old which occurred Thursday morning in the Lindlahr Sanatarium in

Chicago. According to the article, he had been a patient there for a few days and died as a result of leukemia. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Van Burkleo who were residing in Missouri Point. In addition to his parents, he left behind four sisters: Mrs. T.S. Isenmann, Misses Lottie, Ethel and Ardis Van Burkleo. The funeral was to take place Sunday from Steinbrinkers Chapel to the Fifth Street M.E. Church with burial in Oak Grove Cemetery where the Masons were to be in charge. Six of his cousins were pallbearers. By doing some research it was determined that Grant died on June 6, 1923.

Records held at the St. Charles County Historical Society which were records from the St. Charles County reflect court related cases involving William Van Burkleo Jr.:

In 1805, William Van Burkleo was one of a number of men including Hezekiah Crosby, Zadock Woods and David Darst who filed a road petition to build a road from St. Charles to the Mississippi River.

In April 1807, William Burkeloe sued Charles Denny for slander and was awarded damages of $5,000.

In February 1812, William Van Burkleo sued over a debt and was granted $200 in damages.

In July 1819, William Vanburkleo (Vanbarkeloe) was involved with a suit which was appealed from Justice of the Peace because of a debt.

In July 1820, William Van Burkleo was sued by Augustine Webber . Mr. Webber claimed that Van Burkleo unlawfully detained a brown horse belong to Webber. The horse had lost it's left eye at the Battle of River Thames in 1813. Mr. Webber was from Christian County, KY and deposition were from that county. The last name was also spelled Van Burkeloe.

In June 1821, Samuel Van Burkleo filed suit over a debt of $148. He was awarded damages of $100. Van Burkleo was to be paid for delivering mail from St. Charles to Franklin. The surname was also spelled Van Burkelo.

In 1832, a quit claim deed involving William Van Burkleo

In January 1835, William Van Burkleo was listed as the administrator for the estate of Christian Holstuter which involved land sold to Samuel Wells, who later sold it to Polly Robertson.

After the death of William Van Burkleo, Marie/Mary married George Gaty or as William Jr. referred to him- old man Gatey.

According to "Colonial American in the Eighteenth Century" by James T. Lemon of the University of Toronto: "By 1775 the population of the 13 colonies had reached almost 2.5 million, compared with only 250,000 in 1700, a tenfold increase.....Although few married as teenagers in England or in America, women married on the average at 21 and men at 24 in the colonies.....So, in America continued earlier marriages led to earlier births, thus adding more quickly to the population.....Childbirth complications led to the death of one in every six or seven mothers. In England approximately two-thirds of those born lied to the age of 15, and perhaps threequarters did so in America.....Friends, pejoratively known as "Quakers" because of their vibrant rhetoric, were prominent from 1680 onward, following a half century after the so-called Puritans of New England.....In contrast to Europe an even England by 1700, religious groups had to learn to live with one another as "denominations" more or less as equals. The Quakers, for example, had to accept others after their early dominance in West Jersey and Pennsylvania."

The information for this chart was also in Mr. Lemon's article. The chart shows the estimated population of the American Colonies, 1700-1780 and the three specific colonies listed are those lived in by members of the Van Burkleo (and all the other spellings) family.

State	1700	1720	1740	1760	1780
Pennsylvania	17,950	30.962	85,637	183,703	327,305
Delaware	2,470	5385	19,870	33,250	45,385
Maryland	29,604	66,133	116,093	162,267	245,474