

## Settling Kentucky

This country was well known to the Indian traders many years before it was settled. They gave a description of it to Lewis Evans, who published his first map of it as early as 1752.

In the year of 1750, Dr. Thomas Walker, Colby Chew, Ambrose Powell and several others from the counties of Orange and Culpepper, in the state of Virginia, set out on an excursion to the Western Waters; they traveled down the Holstein river, and crossed over the Mountains into Powells valley, thence across the Cumberland mountain at the gap where the road now crosses, proceeded on across what was formerly known by the name of the Wilderness until they arrived at the Hazlepath; here the company divided, Dr. Walker with a part continued north until they came to the Kentucky river which they named Louisa or Levisa river.

After traveling down the excessive broken or hilly margin some distance they became dissatisfied and returned and continued up one of its branches to its head, and crossed over the mountains to New River at the place called Walkers Meadows.

In the year 1754 James McBride with some others, passed down the Ohio river in canoes, and landed at the mouth of the Kentucky river, where they marked on a tree the initials of their names, and the date of the year.

These men passed through the country and were the first who gave a particular account of its beauty and richness of soil to the inhabitants of the British settlements in America. In 1767, when John Finlay with others were trading with the Indians, they passed through a part of the rich lands of Kentucky. The Indians referred to the sitet (in their language) as the Dark and Bloody Grounds.

Some difference took place between these traders and the Indians, and Finlay deemed it prudent to return to his residence in North Carolina,

where he communicated his knowledge of the country to Colonel Daniel Boone and others.

Source: The Kentucky Gazette (August 25, 1826)]