

ROBERT POAGE (POGUE/POGE) HOUSE
CIRCA 1794

Prepared by Craig A. Stanfield, Craig A. Stanfield Real Estate & Auction Services, Tollesboro, Kentucky, for marketing and informational purposes, 2008, All Rights Reserved. The information was compiled from various sources, public and non-public in nature, and not independently verified by the preparer. Some of the following information was provided by the property owner, Douglas Mellor, as well as from the Kentucky Gateway Museum, online research of public records (biography of Thomas Metcalf), and other reference sources including the Kentucky Heritage Council and the National Register for Historic Places and thus is believed accurate and reliable, and is compiled by agent and provided to the reader for their own interpretation, however no warranty or guarantees as to the accuracy of the information, or for any liability thereto, is retained for statements that are not in error or which might be in dispute. It should be noted that online research displays significant ambiguity relative to Robert Pogue, mainly due to the three potential spellings of his last name, the fact that his rank changed (elevated from Colonel to General during War of 1812), and as many military accounts list "Col. Pogue" (spelling of last name can vary) or "Gen. Pogue", without referencing the first name, regiment (alternatively listed as 3rd Kentucky Mounted Volunteers and/or 4th Kentucky Volunteers), or state of origin (also, other details vary relative to his overseeing construction of Fort Amanda, with statements indicating that the fort was named after his wife or alternatively after a daughter. However his wife's name was Jane and he did not have a daughter named Amanda, but did have a daughter named Amy).

Two and a half-story stone house located on the Parker Lane, near the community of May's Lick, Mason County, Kentucky. The stone portion of dwelling was built by contractors for Robert Poage (1766-1833) sometime between 1791 and 1795 or so.

Robert Poage was the first-born son and second child of William and Ann Kennedy Wilson Poage, and was born in Augusta, Co., Virginia, October 6, 1766, and later moved with his parents to Boonesboro, Kentucky in 1775 and then to Harrodsburg, Kentucky in Feb., 1776 (NOTE: Robert Poage's father, William Poage, was killed by Shawnee. He was wounded three times in a skirmish outside Harrodsburg September 1, 1778, his companions unhurt and forced to retreat. His gun having been captured by the Shawnee, and himself severely wounded, William Poage went into hiding. The next day, Sept. 2, 1778, settlers returned to recover Poage, and attacked the Shawnee who were surprised while awaiting in ambush, killing 4 Shawnee including the Shawnee who had capture Poage's gun, and thus recovered Poage's gun. The settlers found Pogue and carried him to his home where he died the next day, Sept. 3, 1778, of his wounds. The recovered gun became the property of Robert Poage, his eldest son).

Robert Poage served under General George Rogers Clark as a teenager in the Revolutionary War as a member of the Kentucky Militia. At the outset of the War of 1812, Poage was commissioned a colonel, commanding the 4th Regiment of Kentucky Volunteers (and/or the 3rd Mounted Regiment Kentucky Volunteers??? Research inconclusive due to numerous spellings of last name and occasional omissions of first names, and as there were a number of officers with same last name during War of 1812. Commissioned as a Colonel at outset of war, applied for pension as a General to which rank he was elevated for meritorious service), under General William Henry Harrison at the outset of the War of 1812. Supervised his troops in the original construction of Fort Amanda on the banks of the Auglaize River in Auglaize County, Ohio during the Fall of 1812. He would distinguish himself at the Battle of the Thames (the battle in which Tecumseh was killed, reportedly by fellow Kentuckian and future Vice-President Richard Mentor Johnson), and ascended to the rank of General before the end of the war. After the War of 1812, Poage retired from military service (an interesting note is that, sometime after the war, the spelling of the name Poage changed to Pogue).

On June 4, 1791 (exactly one year prior to the admission of the Commonwealth of Kentucky to the Union as the 15th State) Robert Pogue married Jane Hopkins (born Sept. 14, 1767, the daughter of Kentucky pioneers John and Jean Gordon Hopkins who settled in Harrodsburg in 1774), of Staunton, Virginia. The Pagues were to be blessed with 9 children (the first born in 1792, and the last born in 1808), however three, including their only set of twins, died in infancy.

Robert Pogue purchased 150 acres from William May in 1790 on Lee's Creek in Mason County, Kentucky outside of the settlement of May's Lick, this being the land upon which the stone home was constructed, and moved with his wife to Mason County, Kentucky, beginning construction of the stone home sometime shortly thereafter. Local lore (oral history) handed down through future owners of the property (Sanford Parker) indicates that the home was constructed possibly by future Kentucky Governor Thomas "Stone-Hammer" Metcalf (1780-1855), and that the contractor was offered a choice of either 100 acres or \$100 to construct the residence, and that the contractor opted to take the money rather than the land (NOTE: Based upon the independent online research of the preparer, for this to be true, the subject home was constructed when Thomas Metcalf was aged 11 through 15, depending upon the actual date of construction and assuming that the online biographies of Thomas Metcalf indicating that he was born in 1780 are accurate. One on-line biography of Thomas Metcalf indicates that he began serving as an apprentice stone-mason under his older brother at the age of 16. It is very possible that Thomas Metcalf thus served a role in construction, but probably not as general contractor, but possibly as either an apprentice or journeyman, or just as a laborer. If true, particularly if construction began as early as 1791, it potentially was one of the first, if not the first, stone home that Thomas Metcalf may have been involved in the construction of, and may have therefore been the "spring-board" that lead to his apprenticeship as a stone-mason as he got older? Alternatively, if construction began in 1796, Thomas Metcalf would have turned 16 and may have began his apprenticeship on this very home??? Regardless, in my opinion, it does not appear that the home would have been constructed by Thomas Metcalf as the general contractor due to the time frame estimate of construction versus the age of Thomas Metcalf and the reported age at which he began to serve as an apprentice stone-mason), and (according to Frances McHugh whose parents rented when she was a child) that a civil war soldier was shot in the front yard and buried on the property to hide the act (it was not known conclusively whether the soldier was Union or Confederate). In 1791 (May 5, 1791; Survey Tract # 6850, Survey Date 11-17-1789, Recorded in Book 14 page 350-351), Poage/Pogue received a land grant of 400 acres on the North Fork of the Licking River (one would

assume relative to his service in the Revolutionary War as the War of 1812 in which he was commissioned a Colonel and ascended to rank of General had not yet occurred?). Poage purchased an additional adjoining 500 acres in 1796. Tax records indicate that Robert Pogue paid taxes in Mason County for the first time in 1795, indicating that he probably did not finish permanent improvements (home, outbuildings, etc.) until that time. Oral history indicates that Jane Hopkins Pogue managed a large family of slaves and the large plantation farm during the absence of her husband and eldest son during the War of 1812. The fact that the Poage's were slave owners is also reflected in a diary kept by a soldier during the construction of Fort Amanda where Col. Poage's slave/servant, Dave, is mentioned, indicating that Col. Poage was accompanied by his slave as a servant during the War of 1812. Robert Poage owned the property on which the stone home was constructed until 1826, moving to Indiana in 1827 where he lived until he died in 1833 (or alternatively still living in Kentucky until his death in 1833 and being buried in Mason Co., KY according to some genealogical postings??).

Since construction, the stone home has been owned by: General Robert Poage, from construction until 1826; William Waddle from 1826 to 1836; John S. Mitchell from 1836 to 1862; Joseph and Michael R. Burgess from 1862 to 1863; Alexander Shackelford from 1863 to 1877; Samuel Piper from 1877 to 1889; James Shanklin from 1889 to 1911; Molly Parker from 1912 to 1946; Sanford Parker from 1946 to Jan., 2004; current owner Douglas Mellor.

The following excerpt is from the KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCES Individual Inventory Form, Description and House Plan, prepared by Carolyn Murray-Wooley, Kentucky Heritage Council, April, 1984 and is used with permission of the author, Carolyn Murray-Wooley (NOTE, the inventory from which this excerpt was taken was prepared in April, 1984. Changes have occurred in the dwelling since that date, most notably rear addition partially removed and a larger rear addition constructed, and the removal of the later added Greek Revival portico/front porch):

Two and a half story, three bay, hall-parlor, dry-stone house, 24'x 40' with cellar and added rear ell. Upper Ordovician limestone, fossiliferous, tooled and coursed. Exterior chimneys each end, flanked by square attic windows. Original mortar fairly flat (even on front), slight steeple; fairly hard, some cement?, repointed in Greek Revival times?, now new cement repointing. Window frames pegged, ovolo trim, nosed sill, 9-11 voussoirs with key the same height. Cornice returned on front; has row of dentils typical of Thomas Metcalf's work – masonry and chimneys also compatible with his work.

Federal trim throughout house except in hall, where chair rail was removed and Greek Revival mantle installed (which is marbleized, under flaking top coat of paint). Late Federal mantel in parlor. Six panel door with beaded diagonal battens on inside. Enclosed corner stair atypically lined with plaster; rare curved plaster ceiling above stairway. Horizontal beaded flush wainscot in upstairs stairwell; peg rail in upstairs hall; shelf mantels upstairs. Attic has tray ceiling, all plastered; batten door, board partition wall.

Fireplace in cellar; exterior entrance from east end of house, behind chimney.

House has two story, two-bay Greek Revival ell added, with stone chimney in gable end. Frame, weatherboarded – has some flush weatherboard. Ell had two story porch on west side, now gone – upstairs door closed off. Ell corresponds with Greek Revival front porch (NOW GONE) and change in hall mantel, with illustrates the change in fashion. One-story room on rear and enclosed side porch are minor detractions.

House faces south; located on crest of gentle slope to Lee's Creek. Ruins of smokehouse in yard southeast of house, illustrating relationship of dependency location to house, may have archaeological value.

The following excerpt is from EARLY STONE HOUSES OF KENTUCKY by Carolyn Murray-Wooley, where the subject home is featured (with black and white photographs --- photographs show the Greek Revival front porch that was a later addition to the home, and which was in poor condition and which has since been removed from the dwelling) on pages 150-151 (in addition to the following information and photos of the home, also included within the book is a sketch of the plan of the home as well as a front elevation sketch), with a color photo from the 1970s or 1980s on Plate 28. This information is provided with permission of the author, Carolyn Murray-Wooley:

"The building date of Robert and Jane Poague's stone house is unknown, but the house has features of early nineteenth-century construction. It is a two and a half story, three-bay house with a hall-parlor plan, built with a full cellar, exterior gable end chimneys, and a dentiled cornice. Except for later Greek woodwork in the hall, the woodwork is Federal throughout, including the six-panel front door with beaded diagonal battens on the inside. Atypically, the enclosed corner stair rises from the parlor and has a curved, plastered ceiling. Another enclosed corner stair rises from the second floor to the attic; the attic has a fully plastered tray ceiling and is divided into two rooms by a board partition wall. The original kitchen may have been replaced by the two-story, two-bay frame ell that has a gable end stone chimney. The house faces south on a gently slope to the creek". In addition, the book notes that "Poague's house is atypical in having two exterior chimney stacks" (this reference would be exclusively relative to and concerning early stone home construction as many early brick homes --- as well as wood frame homes with stone chimneys --- were constructed with exterior chimney stacks).