Floyds at the Battle of Tippecanoe

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To Be Presented at the Quarterly Meeting of the Ohio River Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation in conjunction with the Battle of Tippecanoe Bicentennial Commemoration in Lafayette, Indiana on November 4-7, 2011.

Floyds at the Battle:

There were at least three identifiable Floyds, maybe four, at the Battle of Tippecanoe who grew up on Bear Grass Creek near the little town of Louisville, Kentucky at the end of the 18th Century. They were Maj. Davis Floyd, Maj. George Rogers Clark Floyd, Pvt. William Floyd Tully I, and maybe Lt. James Floyd. Three of these men were blood first cousins and two may have been brothers. Davis Floyd's step-son and future business partner, Pvt. Milo Davis, also fought in the Battle. And Davis Floyd's brother-in-law, General Washington Johnston, was also present at the Battle. Johnston's sister, Susanna, married Davis Floyd in 1794. She was a widow, fourteen years of age, and pregnant. She died in 1808 and Davis Floyd remarried in 1809. His second wife, Betsy, was the mother of Milo Davis. While Nathaniel Hale Pryor, whose mother was a Floyd, was not at the Battle, he was sent by William Clark, then Superintendent of Indian Affairs at St. Louis, Louisiana Territory, to spy on Prophet Town in the summer of 1811 and to report back to him. Pryor was one of the three sergeants who completed the journey from Clarksville, Indiana Territory to the Pacific Ocean and back during the years 1803 to 1806 as part of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Davis Floyd's younger brother, Sqt. Charles Floyd of the Expedition, died on August 20, 1804 near modern day Sioux City, Iowa. His death was the only fatality among the members of the Corps of Discovery on their journey and had he survived he would have probably been at the Battle.

Maj. Davis Floyd:

Maj. Davis Floyd was the most colorful of the Floyds at the Battle. I have just finished writing a biography on him entitled *Davis Floyd and Southern Indiana at the Cross Roads of America in the Early 1800's and Floyd's Florida Connection*. Floyd first moved from Kentucky to Southern Indiana in 1800 at the age of 26 and then to the East Florida Territory in 1823 at the age of 49. I just moved to The Villages, a retirement community in central Florida, at the age of 74. Floyd would die there at the age of 57 in 1831. I am not speculating on the time of my death yet.

Maj. Floyd joined Capt. Charles Beggs' Company of Light Dragoons, a part of the Indiana militia, on September 11th, 1811 as a sergeant and was promoted to adjutant on September 20th, 1811. Beggs was from Charlestown, Indiana Territory, while Floyd was from Jeffersonville. Both were good friends and ardent anti-slavery men. Floyd and Beggs, and his two brothers, were members of the Clark County Antislavery Committee which issued its famous counterpetition against slavery in the Indiana Territory on October 10, 1807.

Diversion from Story:

Let me divert here for a moment and tell you what a wonderful experience I have had in writing this biography. I am neither a professional writer nor a professional historian. I practiced law in a county seat in Southern Indiana opposite Louisville, Kentucky on the Ohio River for 42 years. As I neared the completion of my biography last winter I submitted a prospectus to the Indiana University Press in Bloomington, Indiana and my biography was promptly rejected. That was okay with me because I just as promptly put it on a webpage. You can find the biography at <u>www.davisfloyd.info</u>. It is over 550 pages long and contains several appendices. That is one of the beauties of a webpage. You can include all kinds of things which would not be practical in a book and you can add to it or delete from it whenever it is convenient. I plan on doing this quarterly.

When I first started this project I thought I would be writing a historical novel filling in the missing parts of Floyd's life with speculation. But that did not turn out to be the case. My entire research experience led me to an abundance of valid information on the life of my subject. The history room in the city/county library of my hometown furnished me a lot of information. I went through history book by history book on shelf after shelf looking at tables of contents and indexes and found a lot that way. There was also a lot of information on the internet. I was able to trace Davis Floyd's boyhood, his young life, and most of his adulthood. I was able to get into his mind juxtaposing one stupid thing against one smart thing he did, one avoidable mistake against one brilliant move, etc.

I have spent thousands of hours reading, researching, writing, and rewriting the biography. It has consumed most of the first four years of my retirement. I and members of my family have visited many sites in Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, and Florida where Davis Floyd lived and worked. I have tried to get into his mind. He was a husband, twice; a father, six times including three natural born children and three step-children; a local politician; a soldier; a lawyer; the quartermaster for the so-called Aaron Burr conspiracy; an antagonist of Gov., later Gen., and still later, U. S. President, William Henry Harrison; a fiercely

antislavery man in the Indiana Territory; a county prosecutor in several counties; member and officer of the Freemasons; a class leader and lay preacher for the Methodist Church; Territorial auditor and then treasurer; a member of Indiana's first constitutional convention in 1816; the president judge of the Second Judicial Circuit of Indiana from 1817 until 1823; builder of three buildings in Indiana's first capitol, Corydon, all of which still stand; president judge of the federal East Florida Land Commission from 1823 until 1826; treasurer of the Florida Territory from 1826 until his death in 1831; a member and officer of the Florida Bible Society; and a member and first president of the Florida Education Society. He was a busy man his entire life.

In some respects I relate my life to Floyd's life. I was a lawyer and he was a lawyer; we both practiced law in Jeffersonville and Southern Indiana; I was a soldier and he was a soldier; I was a tank officer and Army pilot and he was a dragoon officer, we both wore the crossed swords on our uniforms; I was in a sky cavalry unit flying helicopters and he was a dragoon riding horses; I held political jobs and he held political jobs; I was married twice and he was married twice; I made mistakes and he made mistakes; I was a Methodist and he was a Methodist; I was in DeMolay, a junior Masonic organization, and an officer therein and he was a Freemason and an officer therein; and I enjoy life and he enjoyed life. In some ways we are a lot alike.

However, we are most creative in writing a biography when we leave ourselves behind and absorb ourselves in the life of another. I believe that Floyd developed a lifestyle that restrained greed and selfishness. As Karen Armstrong said in her book entitled *The Spiral Staircase*, "While writing *Muhammad*, I had to make constant, imaginative attempt to enter empathically into the experience of another. This was a kind of ecstasy." (p.279). I cannot emphasize strongly enough how writing this biography has been a kind of "seventh heaven" for me. I have a pretty good idea how he looked and how he lived his life. He was always defending those whom he perceived to be the downtrodden. Perhaps that was his lawyer's psych. I have done the same thing.

Researching and writing a biography is like flying or boating, hours of boredom and moments of ecstasy, and oh yes, stark terror. I had these moments. I was always rooting for the subject of my biography.

Let's Return to Davis Floyd:

Floyd was a fiercely anti-slavery man in the fight against legal slavery in the Indiana Territory in the early 1800's. Yet he owned one or more slaves in Kentucky and in the Florida Territory. He had been responsible on at least one occasion of apprehending escaped slaves and putting them in the hands of the

law in Louisville. How could these actions be reconciled with his antislavery actions? Stark terror for me!

A friend of mine, Pam Peters, a historian in herself, put me on the tract to find the original *Record Book A* of the Floyd Circuit Court in my hometown. This book covered the period of 1819 to 1821-22 during which time Floyd was the president judge of the Indiana Second Judicial Circuit which included Floyd County. This discovery led me to a 108 page book written in 1821 about a famous murder trial conducted by Judge Floyd in the Floyd Circuit Court that year. Pure ecstasy and what a book!

Last spring Alex Luken advised me a War of 1812 sword, which had belonged to Davis Floyd's step-son, Gabriel Jones Floyd, was going to be auctioned off in Cincinnati. I was the successful bidder of that wonderful sword. Pure ecstasy! I have photographs of the sword in Appendix IV of my on-line webpage. There are marvelous Indian scenes etched on the blade. I speculate that Davis Floyd may have carried this sword in the Battle of Tippecanoe. It was a dragoon officer's sword. Either way it was probably a gift from him to his step-son, whom he treated as his son from the day he was born in 1795. As I have said he had married the boy's mother the preceding year when she was a widow, age 14, and pregnant with Gabriel from her first marriage. That tells you something about his character.

Another Diversion, William Floyd Tuley II:

My great-grandmother's sister was married to a man whose name was William Floyd Tully II. He was a grandson of the William Floyd Tully I who fought in the Tippecanoe Battle. In 1906 he wrote a book entitled *The Tuley Family Memoirs, An Historical, Biographical and Genealogical Story of the Tuleys and the Floyd Family Connection in Virginia, Kentucky and Indiana*. He was an accurate recorder of facts as evidenced by several newspaper articles in my great-grandmother's scrapbook written by him on his experiences as a gunboat pilot in the Union Navy's Mississippi Squadron during the Civil War. Tuley summarized his life in his book as follows:

William Floyd Tuley...began his career on the [Ohio] river about the time Mark Twain was learning piloting. His uncle Capt. Israel C. Woodruff, one among the best pilots on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, was his instructor, and within three years Tuley was a full fledged pilot, serving, thereafter a number of years in that capacity on some of the palatial steamers plying between Louisville and New Orleans. On the breaking out of the Civil War he was appointed master and pilot in the Mississippi Squadron, serving under Admiral Foot, Davis, Porter and Farragut. He participated in the engagements at Island No. 10, Plum Point, Memphis, St. Charles, up White river, Haines" Bluff, Vicksburg, Grand Gulf, Pt. Hudson and Alexandria. He took the gunboat Essex past the batteries at Vicksburg in 1862, and was at the wheel of that gunboat when she destroyed the Confederate ram, Arkansas, above Baton Rouge. He was also at the wheel of the Benton, leading Admiral Porter's fleet when it ran the batteries at Vicksburg in 1863, to attack Grand Gulf and ferry Grant's army across the river to attack Vicksburg

After the war Mr. Tuley became the city editor of the New Albany Commercial after which he served in like capacity on the Ledger until 1872, when he became Indiana editor of the Louisville Commercial, serving twenty years on the last named journal. Mr. Tuley is past Commander of the New Albany Commandery, Knights Templar, and also passed through the chairs of other Masonic bodies.

I have checked the facts in this short article and the aforementioned newspaper articles, and his facts coincide with the official reports of the U. S. Navy at the time. Coincidentally, there is a partially restored ironclad gun boat, the Cairo, similar to the ones piloted by Master Tuley, on exhibition at the Vicksburg Battleground in Mississippi. A visitor can board the boat and get a pretty good feeling what it was like to fight in, especially the pilot house—not much different from some Army tanks I had been in.

Let's Return to Davis Floyd Again:

Let's turn to a report on Davis Floyd in Tuley's book:

Judge Davis Floyd, who was a very prominent leader in the affairs of Indiana, when first organized as a territory, was a son of Charles Floyd [this is an error; he was the son of Robert Floyd]. In 1794 he was married at Louisville to Susana [Johnston] Lewis, and at least one son was born to them, named Lewis, who resided in Jeffersonville many years [this son was probably his step-son, Gabriel Jones Lewis Floyd; Lewis was the surname of his deceased father].

Judge Floyd came to Indiana about 1801, settling at Clarksville. He operated a ferry between that town and Shippingport, was a licensed pilot, a captain of a militia company, surveyor, [Clark county] recorder of deeds, a trustee of Jeffersonville, [Clark county sheriff], [first Clark county member of the Territorial House of Representatives] and filled other minor offices. He was a member of the first constitutional convention in the territory and opposed to slavery in every way. He was at the organization of the Grand Lodge of Masons of Indiana at Corydon and for many years was Grand Secretary of that body.

When Floyd County was formed out of Clark and Harrison in 1819, Davis Floyd, for whom the County was named, became the first judge. Although the Judge was mixed up with the alleged Aaron Burr conspiracy, it did not seem to affect his popularity or usefulness. When General Jackson (sic) [James Monroe] became president he appointed the Judge as land commissioner of Florida. He died in that state about 1830. His will was probated in Harrison County, Ind.

Judge Floyd, although opposed to slavery, was a man who liked official pomp and attention. He had a negro servant with the high sounding name of Pompey, but the Judge called him Pottowatamie. He never traveled without his black attendant. One day while traveling in the wilds of Indiana he was thrown from his horse while crossing a swollen creek. The Judge called lustily for Pompey to come quick to the rescue, else he would drown, to which the servant responded, but it was a fierce struggle to save the portly Judge from a watery grave. Thereafter, Pottowatamie not only shared his master's confidence but [also] his good red liquor.

Davis Floyd's involvement with Aaron Burr turned sour on him. Floyd was implicated in four federal court trials concerning Mr. Burr, one in Kentucky in 1806, one in the Mississippi Territory in 1807, one in Richmond, Virginia also in 1807, and one in Jeffersonville, Indiana Territory in 1808. The real traitor in the Burr Conspiracy was not Mr. Burr or Mr. Floyd, but a general in the United States Army, James Wilkinson. Wilkinson embraced every conspiracy that came along and Burr's so called conspiracy was one of them. He led Mr. Burr along the prime rose path of a double cross. In later years it was discovered that Wilkinson had been Secret Agent No. 13 for Spain and was reporting to that country what was going on in the new west. He even reported to Spain on the activities of Lewis and Clark on their journey. What a despicable man!

When I say the Burr conspiracy turned sour on Davis Floyd, I mean that he was severely punished publicly for his misdeeds. For some reason, which remains even a mystery today, he pleaded guilty to a high misdemeanor in federal court in Jeffersonville in 1808. As a result of this and perhaps Floyd's involvement in the antislavery movement, Gov. Harrison took away his commission as a major in the Indiana Territorial militia, took away his commission as a Falls of the Ohio river pilot, and orchestrated his removal as clerk of the Territorial House of Representatives. Floyd's wife, Susanna, also died that year leaving him with four young children to raise. In 1809 Floyd married another widow which brought him two more children to raise. Not much is known about Floyd after that time until his involvement in the Battle of Tippecanoe. In the fall of 1811 he appeared as a sergeant in the Territorial militia. Later he was appointed adjutant of his regiment.

We know that Floyd and his family moved from Jeffersonville to Corydon in 1813, the new Territorial capitol. It is interesting to note that Floyd survived in Indiana but Gov. Harrison did not. Harrison became a very effective general in the War of 1812, but because of his proslavery sentiments and activities in Indiana, he lost favor there and eventually settled in Ohio. Floyd was excused by most people in the Indiana Territory for his misdeeds with Burr and he went on to have a very successful career there.

However, in 1819 Davis Floyd fell victim to the Panic of 1819. He lost his dry goods business in partnership with his stepson, Milo Davis. He lost his directorship of the bank in Corydon. He and his family lost their beautiful home on the square in Corydon to creditors. He hung onto his judgeship of the Second Judicial Circuit but one wonders whether the state had money to pay him.

In 1823 he accepted an appointment by Pres. James Monroe to be a federal court land commission judge in St. Augustine, Florida Territory. He and his family moved there. One can only imagine how they got there. It is doubtful they traveled over land. In most likelihood they went by boat down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and then across the Gulf of Mexico and around the Keys and up the Atlantic coast by sailing vessel.

Davis Floyd worked as a land commission judge until 1826. Ironically, one of his co-judges in Florida, also appointed by Pres. Monroe, was Alexander Hamilton II, the son of the man who was killed by Burr in the famous duel. Floyd and the third judge on the commission, William Blair who was from Kentucky and a friend of Floyd's, did not get along with Hamilton. Hamilton had called Floyd "an eternal psalm singing Methodist" and the co-judge "a violent presbyterian puritan." Needless to say, Hamilton did not last long as a land commission judge. In 1826 Floyd and his family moved to Tallahassee, the new capitol for the Florida Territory, where Gov. William Duval, another Kentuckian, appointed him treasurer of the Territory.

In 1823 Floyd met an interesting person who had come to St. Augustine. His name was Achille Murat. Murat's father was Gen. Joachim Murat and his mother was a sister of Napoleon Bonaparte. Achille had fled Europe several years after the defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 and the murder of his father by a British firing squad at the conclusion of that war. Achille was a Mason and eventually practiced law in Florida. Later on he would marry the great-niece of Gen. George Washington. On a trip to Tallahassee last spring I discovered that Achille and his wife are buried in the old cemetery near the present statehouse. I had the chance this summer to visit the Palace at Versailles outside of Paris and as my wife and I were exiting the War Room in the Palace I looked up over the door and saw a painting of Napoleon and then I

looked left and there was a painting of Gen. Joachim Murat. I was ecstatic again!

Davis Floyd at the Battle of Tippecanoe:

Davis Floyd's presence at the Battle of Tippecanoe is well documented by men who were there. Let me illustrate first from the following report written in 1833 by John Tipton who was an ensign in Captain Spier Spencer's company known as the "Harrison County Yellow Jackets":

The Battle had continued for some time when Col. Daviess observed to Gov. Harrison that the Indians were sheltering behind a log and some standing tree near the angle formed by the front line and left flank and were annoying our line very much, and he asked permission to dislodge them. Permission being granted, he called on his first division, as he termed them, which consisted of not more than 20 picked men, to follow him, and rushed to charge through the United States' [4th] infantry, who were formed in his front, followed by 6 or 7 of his men, and of that number at least three, to-wit. [Isaac] White, [Davis] Floyd, and Percil, were citizens of the Territory, not citizens of Kentucky as claimed by the visitor to the battle ground. Daviess and White fell and were with difficulty borne into out lines, without dislodging the Indians, and a company of the 4th regiment [probably commanded by Maj. George Rogers Clark Floyd, Davis Floyd's first cousin] as ordered by Gov. Harrison to dislodge them, which order was most gallantly executed. By the foregoing statement, for the truth of which the writer appeals to all who were present, the world may judge whether Col. Daviess threw away his life by rashness or whether it was sacrificed by the orders of his commander. It is admitted that if Col. D[aviess] had have been followed by his whole command they were competent to effect his object; but owing to the noise and confusion of the battle his orders were either not heard or were misunderstood and not obeyed.

It is not clear whether Daveiss, Floyd, and the other four or five men, were charging on foot or were on horseback. One eyewitness, Judge Isaac Naylor, said twice in his narrative of the Battle, they were "on foot." However, there is a wonderful old engraving of the scene showing Daveiss, Floyd and the other men on horses. And it shows Daveiss being shot by an Indian. The three men in front are carrying swords, perhaps the one you will see shortly. Pvt. White, a member of Capt. Benjamin Parke's company, was killed instantly and Maj. Daveiss died the next day. These men were dragoon soldiers and it would have been natural for them to be on horses but maybe they weren't. Judge Naylor described these events as follows:

Colonel Daviess was mortally wounded early in the battle, gallantly charging the Indians on foot with sword and pistols according to his own request. He made this request three times before General Harrison would permit it. This charge was made by himself and eight dragoons on foot near the angle formed by the left flank and front line of the encampment. Colonel Daviess lived about thirty-six hours after he was wounded, manifesting his ruling passion in life—ambition and a patriotism and ardent love of military glory. During the last hours of his life he said to his friends around him that he had but one thing to regret—that he had military talents; that he was about to be cut down in the meridian of life without having the opportunity of displaying them for his own honor, and the good of his country. He was buried alone, with the honors of war, near the right flank of the army, inside the lines of the encampment between two trees. On one side of the tree the letter "D" was plainly visible many years.

Judge Naylor described another scene in his narrative involving Davis Floyd:

Soon after breakfast [after the Battle] an Indian chief was discovered by a soldier by the name of Miller, a resident of Jeffersonville, Indiana. The Indian was wounded in one leg, the ball having penetrated his knee and passed down his leg, breaking the bone as it passed. Miller put up his foot against him and he raised up his head and said: "Don't kill me, don't kill me." At the same time five or six regular soldiers [from the 4th Infantry] tried to shoot him, but their muskets snapped and miss fire[d]. Maj. Davis Floyd came riding toward him with dragoon sword and pistols and said he would show them how to kill Indians, when a messenger came from General Harrison commanding that he should be taken prisoner. He was taken into camp, where the surgeon dressed his wounds. Here he refused to speak a word of English or tell a word of truth. Through the medium of an interpreter he said that he was coming to the camp to tell General Harrison that they were about to attack the camp. He refused to have his leg amputated, though he was told that amputation was the only means of saving his life. One dogma of Indian superstition is that all good and brave Indians, when they go to die, go to a delightful region, abounding with deer, and other game, and to be a successful hunter he should have his limbs, his gun, and his dog. He therefore preferred death with all his limbs to life without them. In accordance with his request he was left to die, in company with an old squaw, who was found in the Indian town the next day after he was taken prisoner. They were left in one of our tents.

Is it possible that the sword you will be seeing shortly was the sword that Maj. Floyd was carrying when he came up on horseback in this scene?

There is one part of Judge Naylor's writings that caused me some confusion. He said when discussing Davis Floyd's involvement in the Battle that Floyd had

volunteered to ride to Ft. Harrison from Vincennes to check on the status of the fort and its garrison who were under siege by the Indians. Fort Harrison was built on the Wabash River near modern day Terre Haute, Indiana, in the month of October, 1811. It turns out that in the summer of 1812 the fort was under the command of Capt. Zackary Taylor and was under siege by the Indians and that was the time that Floyd made his dangerous ride. In scouting out the status of the fort Floyd was discovered by the Indians and chased by them for many miles. He escaped their pursuit and was able to report the condition of the fort to his commander in Vincennes.

Maj. George Rogers Clark Floyd:

Maj. Georges Rogers Clark Floyd served on the field and staff of the Fourth Regiment of Infantry in November and December 1811. The Fourth Regiment was a regular Army unit, not a militia unit. Biographer Tuley II included a description of Maj. G. R. C. Floyd in his Floyd family memoirs:

Major George Rogers Clark Floyd, second son of Col. John Floyd, distinguished himself as a soldier, commanding the regulars at the battle of Tippecanoe. At the hour of the Indians under Tecumseh [actually Tecumseh's brother, The Prophet] made the attack upon General Harrison's camp, Major Floyd was asleep. The yells of the savages awakened him and seizing his horse he mounted and rode into the fight only in his night dress. A soldier seeing his white clothes fluttering in the breeze, seized a cloak which he threw about the form of the major, rendering his person a less conspicuous mark. Owing to the rigors of that campaign the health of Major Floyd declined, he dying at his home near Cherokee Park, Louisville, in 1821.

It is recorded in history that when the injured leg of Gen. George Rogers Clark was amputated in Clarksville, Indiana, that his namesake, Major Floyd beat the drum and played on the fife which that sawbones were working with handsaw and cleaver in removing the General's leg.

Maj. G. R. C. Floyd was the only son of John Floyd who did not go back to Virginia. He had one son, John, by his first wife who went to Iowa. One daughter, Jane, by the second wife married James C. Penn, father of Col. Geo. Floyd Penn of New Albany and another daughter was the first wife of Edward Ford of Allegheny, Penn., formerly of that city.

Biographer Tuley was wrong about one fact in these paragraphs on G. R. C. Floyd and that was that Tecumseh was at the Battle. He was not; he was in the South recruiting Indians for his fight against the white settlers in the Indiana Territory. I believe that had Tecumseh been present, the Battle would not have occurred. Tecumseh's brother, The Prophet, orchestrated the Indian attack. One historian has mistakenly said that Gabriel Jones Floyd was G. R. C. Floyd's son where in actuality he was the son of a man by the name of George W. Lewis and Floyd's first wife, Susanna Johnston Lewis Floyd. Biographer Tuley II does not mention Gabriel as a son of G. R. C. Floyd. He mentions one son, whose given name was John and two daughters. Susanna Floyd had a brother whose name was Gabriel Jones Johnston and their mother's maiden name was "Jones." The names "Gabriel" and "Jones" are not names that appear as Floyd names. There is no doubt that Gabriel Jones Floyd was Susanna's son and the step-son of Davis Floyd. This same historian speculated that Gabriel's sword was in the hands of Maj. G. R. C. Floyd at the Battle of Tippecanoe. He cites a family recollection made by his wife, Letitia Preston Floyd, in 1843 where she wrote:

[Maj. G. R. C.] Floyd was in his tent, when the [Indian's] war whoop was heard; he jumped up, seized the sword, and at the door of the tent cut down an Indian, who was succeeded by a warrior with an uplifted tomahawk; Floyd seized it, struck an Indian with it and killed him. All of this was done in the Colonel's shirt-tail because he had not time to put on his pantaloons.

Maj. Floyd started his military career with an appointment in 1801 as a captain in the artillery in the 33rd Regiment, probably of the Kentucky militia. In 1807 he received a commission in the regular U. S. Army. He fought in the Indian wars and was several times promoted for gallantry. In 1808 he was promoted to captain and at some underdetermined time to major. In 1809 he commanded Ft. Knox II, which was located just north of Vincennes on the Wabash River. The original Fort Knox I was located on the banks of the Wabash River where the Gen. George Rogers Clark Memorial stands. Today, the location of Ft. Knox II is commemorated with posts marking the outline of the fort's exterior and signs giving historical information about the fort. Capt. Thornton Posey followed Maj. Floyd as commander in 1811 and then Capt. Zachary Taylor followed him. Maj. John Chunn was commander there in 1814 when the garrison moved to Ft. Harrison near Terre Haute. Maj. Floyd was a field officer and commander in the 4th U. S. Infantry at the Battle of Tippecanoe. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in 1812 in the regular U. S. Army and resigned in 1813. In 1814 and 1815 he was a captain in Joye's Company of the 13th Regiment of the Kentucky militia. He was listed in the census of 1800 as living in Jefferson County, Kentucky, and in census of 1820 as living in the same county as a farmer, probably a gentleman farmer. He was a member of the Louisville Chapter of Freemasons and was its scribe in 1818. He was named for Gen. George Rogers Clark, an intimate friend of his father, Col. and Judge John Floyd, who was killed by Indians in 1783.

In 1816 Col. G. R. C. Floyd was involved in a duel with Cassius Garrard who was killed in the duel. As a result of this killing, Col. Floyd was charged with murder since dueling was illegal in Kentucky. The duel grew out of an assault with the intent to kill Col. Floyd by Garrard when the latter struck Floyd over the back with a chair. The outcome of the murder charges is unknown. Records of the indictment or a trial are missing from the Jefferson County court records. It is likely that Col. Floyd was never tried or convicted.

Pvt. William Floyd Tuley I:

Pvt. William Floyd Tuley I was a member of Capt. Peter Funk's company of Kentucky light dragoons. The company was on active status from October 16th to November 24th, 1811. Biographer Tuley II provided the only information available about his namesake and grandfather, Pvt. Tuley I:

William Floyd Tuley, second son of Charles and Elizabeth Floyd Tuley, was born in Virginia in 1773. He came with his mother and family to Kentucky to join her husband in the fall of 1783, and took up their residence at or near the stockade at Floyd's Fork, about 6 miles east of Louisville. Here she underwent the trials and tribulations of frontier life in rearing her family, and keeping watch against the approach of the savage. Tradition says she was very tall, dark complexioned woman, a person of rare intelligence and tact.

The early life of William Floyd Tuley is little known. I have as a memento his license to marry Jane Bell, a woman of prominence at that time, issued by J. W. Gwarthney, clerk of the Jefferson County, Ky. court. This bears the date June 30th, 1798, and on the back is registered the fact that the ceremony was pronounced July 4.

After the marriage, the couple settled on a farm near Middletown, [Ky.] where they remained until 1800, when they removed to Springville, Clark County, Indiana Territory, then the county seat, but long since extinct. In April 1801 he was appointed constable of Springville township and Charles Floyd [later Sgt. Charles Floyd of the Lewis and Clark Expedition], a kinsman was appointed constable of Clarksville Township. At that time Clark County including all the territory now embraced in the counties of Clark, Jefferson, Jennings, Scott, Washington, Orange, Harrison and Floyd. The extent of territory over which these high constables were compelled to range in those early times, furnished ample opportunity for adventure and hair raising by the Indians, but if they made any narrow escapes a record of the facts have failed to come down to this generation.

In 1802 Gov. William Henry Harrison commissioned W. F. Tuley as Lieutenant of the Militia for Clark County. I have the commission, endorsed on the back by Col. [Joseph] Bartholomew, Major Marston G. Clark [a cousin of the famous Clarks] and Capt. Davis Floyd, together with a roster of Capt. Floyd's company.

In 1806 Grandfather sold out his land near Marysville, Clark County, and returned with his family to the farm near Middletown, [Ky.] where they pursued even tenor of their way, until 1811 when Tecumseh threatened Indiana, then he enlisted in Capt. [Peter] Funk's company of mounted men in Louisville, marched through the wilds of Indiana to Tippecanoe battle ground in 1811, where he fought on the left flank under Gen. [Samuel] Wells until the enemy was routed. Tuley was wounded in the engagement, and his death is 1818 was largely attributed to the sufferings and privations he underwent in that campaign. He was a very athletic man in his younger days, it being said that he could lay his hand on the rider of a rail fence and spring over it without the least trouble. Opposite this page will be found a picture of, W. F. Tuley taken from a life sized painting owned by my father [Milo Davis Tuley] and descending to me as the oldest son and namesake.

The remains of Grandfather lie entombed at Middletown, Ky. where also lie buried two children, and his mother Elizabeth Floyd [Tuley] who died in 1833 and Grandmother [Jane] Bell [Tully] who died while on a visit to New Albany friends in 1847. Although the latter had been a resident of Louisville many years the remains were taken to the old cemetery in Middletown. It was a hot Sunday in July and I, then a small boy [of the age of eleven], rode on the front seat of the carriage occupied by my father's family. I shall ever remember that mournful day. Upon arrival of the cortege at Middletown the entire population had gathered at the cemetery to honor one whom they had known in life as a friend and neighbor of former years, one they had learned to love for her many womanly virtues. If ever a woman was truly loved and mourned, that woman was Jane Bell Tuley.

It is rare to read anything about a woman in histories of that period. That is the reason I included the information, ever so slight, about Elizabeth Floyd Tuley and Jane Bell Tuley, two Kentucky pioneer women of note.

Two Brothers and the Rest, Blood First Cousins:

Maj. Davis Floyd, Maj. George Rogers Clark Floyd, and Pvt. William Floyd Tuley I were blood first cousins who grew up together on Bear Grass Creek southeast of Louisville. Sgts. Charles Floyd was a younger brother of Davis Floyd and they and Nathaniel Hale Pryor of the Lewis and Clark Expedition were also blood first cousins of the other two men and grew up with them on Bear Grass Creek. Davis Floyd was born in 1774 in Virginia, came with his family to Louisville in 1779, married Susanna there in 1794, then married Betsy in the Indiana Territory in 1809, and died in Florida in 1831; George Rogers Clark Floyd was born in Kentucky in 1883, married Maria Maupin in 1806, then married Sally Fontaine in 1811, less than a month before the Battle of Tippecanoe, and died in Louisville in 1821; William Floyd Tuley I was born in 1773 in Virginia, moved to Louisville with his mother and siblings to join their husband and father in 1783, was married in 1797, and died in 1818; and William Hale Pryor was born in 1775 in Virginia, came to Louisville with his family in 1783, married Margaret "Peggy" Patton in 1798, and died in 1831. They all had children.

Nathaniel Hale Pryor:

In 2006 Lawrence R. Reno wrote a book entitled *The Life and Times Nathaniel Hale Pryor, Explorer, Soldier, Frontiersman and Spokesman for the Osage*. Pryor was described by Meriwether Lewis as "a man of character and ability." Biographer Reno said the following about Pryor in his biography:

By the summer of 1811, the gathering of Indians of numerous tribes had grown to several thousands and the community was known as "Prophet's Town." News of Tecumseh's efforts was disconcerting to Superintendent [of Indian Affairs William] Clark and to William Henry Harrison, Governor of the Indiana Territory. In a letter to his brother Jonathan [Clark], Clark wrote that "I think the prophets party must be despursed they do much harm. all to yourself. In the spring of 1811, Clark requested his good friend Nathaniel Pryor to spy upon Tecumseh's camp and to report his observations to Clark and Harrison.

Pryor accomplished his mission assigned to him by Superintendent Clark and reported his intelligence to Clark. The information contained in Pryor's report was so alarming that the Americans decided to act quickly to squelch and the uprising before it grew any larger. General (and Governor of the Indiana [Territory] or Northwest Territory) William Henry Harrison promptly raised an army of one thousand men and marched near Tecumseh's camp on the Tippecanoe River, arriving there on November 6, 1811....

After reporting his intelligence to Clark and Harrison in the summer of 1811, Nat Pryor had returned to his smelter operation [probably in Galena in the Illinois Territory] and had not taken part in the battle [at Tippecanoe]. It is unknown as to whether or not

Pryor and his friend, George Hunt, had heard of the battle at Tippecanoe and it is unlikely that they had....

With the advent of the commemoration of the War of 1812 next year, it is interesting to note the participation of members of the Floyd family in the Battle of New Orleans. Of that battle Biographer Reno said in his biography on Nathaniel Hale Pryor:

During the Battle of New Orleans, Pryor and his 44th Regiment were in the center of the American line, together with the sharpshooters from Kentucky and Tennessee. It is speculative to wonder if the Floyd family held an extended family reunion in New Orleans. At least six members of the closely related Floyd, Pryor, and Tuley families were present. Definitely present with Nat Pryor were his brothers, James Pryor and Robert Lewis Pryor, who rafted down the Mississippi with the Kentucky contingency, together with Pryor's cousins Nathaniel Floyd, Thomas Floyd Smith and William Floyd Tuley. One may also wonder if Nat Pryor had the opportunity to converse with his cousin, Davis Floyd, the older brother of Sgt. Charles Floyd of the Voyage of Discovery, who may have been present. Other cousins and family who were probably present were George Rogers Clark Floyd, John Wesley Floyd, Robert McClelland (a brother-in-law of Nat Pryor), William Churchill Myrtle, George Lawson Rogers, William Preston Tuley and John Withers Winn....

Lt. James Floyd:

Not much is known about Lt. James Floyd. He was a lieutenant and adjutant on the field and staff of dragoons of the Indiana militia regiment commanded by Maj. Joseph Hamilton Daveiss. Since Maj. Daveiss was from Kentucky and Lt. Floyd was in the Indiana Militia, he could have come from either Kentucky or Indiana or anywhere for that matter. But Daveiss also came from Kentucky so my guess is that Lt. James Floyd came from Kentucky and had Kentucky roots.

Alex Luken recently sent me the following e-mail concerning Pvt. James Floyd:

James Floyd is a mystery. Because he is such a mystery, I can think of the following scenarios:

1. He is the son of Nathaniel Floyd [a blood uncle to Davis Floyd], who also served in the War of 1812 [he was a soldier under Gen. Andrew Jackson at New Orleans in 1815], but not at the Battle of Tippecanoe (to my knowledge) but as a spy or scout.

2. He is related to the Henry Floyd line.

3. There is a line of Floyds that married into the Johnstons in MO but is not related to our Floyd lines; they are off-the-boat English. James may be related to that family.

4. Totally unrelated.

5. There is another line of Floyds in Harrison Co. that off the top of my head I can't recall, but think it's the line that married Jane Norman??? This line also ended up in Todd Co., KY and married into Charles Floyd's family through Keziah Floyd before the family moved to Bond Co. IL.

The connection of [Maj.] Daviess and Spier Spencer for James Floyd makes me think perhaps it's a son of Nathaniel, but who knows.

According to biographer, Tuley II, Nathaniel Floyd married Mollie Thomas in 1793. They had a daughter named Abediah Davis Floyd Merriwether Weaver (she was married twice), a second daughter named Sallie P. Floyd Beeler (she married once in 1812), a third daughter named Mary W. Floyd John (she married once in 1816), and a fourth daughter named Ann Eliza Floyd Bowling (she married once in 1829). There is no mention of a son. The James Floyd who fought in the Battle of Tippecanoe remains an anomaly.

But I have a theory! Anna Cartlidge, a Floyd family biographer and genealogist, recorded in her publication entitled Marriages of People Named Floyd published in 1982 by The Maryland Geneological Society that the marriage record of John and Letitia Preston not only confirms the date and place of their marriage as May 13th, 1804 and Franklin (Co.?), Kentucky, but also confirms the name of his father as "James John" Floyd and her father as "Wm" Preston. She also refers to John Floyd I that way in her "monographic narrative" on the Floyd family. Jim Holmberg, the great Lewis and Clark scholar at the Filson Club in Louisville, states that he is not aware of any other documents which refer to Col. and Judge John Floyd as "James John Floyd" and that is probably true. Was Ms. Cartlidge wrong in this regard or is it possible that John Floyd II was known as "James" by his friends in Kentucky to distinguish him from his famous father? Col. and Judge John Floyd supposedly had a brother named James Floyd who was born in 1763. He is not mentioned in biographer Tuley's book so maybe he died in infancy or some other time before he reached manhood. Maybe Col. and Judge Floyd adopted the name, "James," to honor his deceased brother. Who knows?

All of this is speculation. But for a James Floyd to have joined the Indian campaign in the Indiana Territory in the fall of 1811, there had to be

some eminent attraction or reason for him joining. It is unlikely he "popped" out of nowhere? Col. and Judge John Floyd, whom I will hereinafter refer to as John Floyd I, had four children, a daughter born in Virginia, the child of his first wife who died in childbirth, and three sons born in Kentucky. His second wife, Jane Buchannan, was pregnant with John Floyd II when Floyd I was killed by Indians in 1783. Is it possible that John Floyd II and Lt. and Adj. James Floyd were one and the same person? There was an irresistible reason for John Floyd II to have been in Kentucky at the time. The wife of George Rogers Clark Floyd, Maria Maupin, had died, maybe in childbirth, and he was marrying for the second time, a lady by the name of Sally Fontaine on October 14th 1811. It would be a natural thing for John Floyd II and maybe even his wife, Letitia, to be present for his brother's wedding in Kentucky even if he or they had to travel the distance from Virginia. He and Letitia had been married in Kentucky seven years earlier and he certainly, and maybe she, had a lot of friends there. It would be a chance for him and his wife to meet his brother's new wife and for him and his wife to renew old acquaintances. The wedding occurred just under three weeks before the Battle of Tippecanoe was fought.

There must have been a lot of excitement in Kentucky and the Indiana Territory at the time about the Indian campaign which was organized in September. Davis Floyd had already left; maybe he returned for the wedding. His cousin, William Floyd Tuley II, had probably left with his unit when it was organized on October 11th; maybe he returned. And, of course, G. R. C. Floyd returned to attend his own wedding. It may have been important to him to provide a mother for his son, John (another John), since he could not have been more than five or six years of age at the time of the second marriage. It may have also been in his mind that he might be killed and his child would need a mother.

Maybe John Floyd II decided on the spur of the moment to join the fight. His brother was a major in the regular U. S. Army's Fourth Regiment. His cousin, Davis Floyd, was a sergeant promoted to adjutant in Col. Daveiss' regiment of Indiana dragoons. His other cousin, William Floyd Tuley I, was a private in the Capt. Peter Funk's company of Kentucky dragoons. Milo Davis, Davis Floyd's stepson, was a private in Capt. Charles Beggs' company of light dragoons.

These men had grown up together on Bear Grass Creek in the station-fort of John Floyd I. Sgt. Nathaniel Pryor of the Lewis and Clark Expedition was born in Virginia in 1772 and moved with his parents to Floyd's Station in 1783; William Floyd Tuley was born in Virginia in 1773 and moved there with his parents in 1783; and Davis Floyd was born in Virginia in 1774 and moved there in 1779, on the heels of Gen. George Rogers Clark's conquest of the Northwest Territory. Sgt. Charles Floyd, also of the Lewis and Clark Expedition was born at Floyd's Station in 1782 and G. R. C. Floyd in 1783. These five men, two sets of brothers and all blood first cousins, grew up together in this station-fort on Bear Grass Creek near Louisville.

I contend that John Floyd II and James Floyd was the same person. No one else agrees with me in this contention. John Floyd II left Kentucky in the early 1800's and ended up in Virginia where he had an outstanding professional, military, and political career. According to Ms. Cartlidge he attended Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania and then graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia with a medical degree in 1806. He was a major and surgeon in the Virginia militia from 1807 until 1812, a surgeon in the regular U. S. Army in the War of 1812 with the rank of Major, and a brigadier general in the Virginia militia in the 17th Brigade after the War. He was recorded as living in Christiansburg, Montgomery County, Virginia in the censuses of 1810 and 1820.

He then went on to serve in the Virginia House of Delegates in 1814 and 1815 and was then elected to the U. S. Congress in 1817 and served six consecutive terms. In 1830 he served two terms totaling four years as governor of Virginia, the only native Kentuckian to ever serve as governor of that state. A change in the Virginia constitution made for his two terms. In 1832 he received the electoral votes of North Carolina for the U. S. Presidency. He was offered the governorship of the Arkansas Territory but declined it. And because he fought for the Oregon Territory in Congress he is known as "The Father of the Oregon Territory." He also designed the State flag of Virginia.

His son, John Floyd III, was also a governor of Virginia, the Secretary of War for President Buchannan, and a Confederate general in the Civil War.

After reading all of this why would John Floyd II, calling himself James Floyd, become a lieutenant and adjutant on Maj. Daveiss field and staff of the Indiana militia dragoons? The only answer I have is that he just wanted to go along since his brother and two blood first cousins with whom he grew up on the Kentucky frontier were going to be there and maybe his surgical skills would come in handy if one of his relatives was injured. Maybe his mother made him go or his brother's brand new wife. People do things on the spur of the moment and there was plenty of energy at the wedding to compel such a spontaneous decision. Frankly, in assimilating all the evidence on the life of John Floyd II it is probably more false than true that this Floyd was Lt. and Adj. James Floyd. Then who was he?

Alex Lukens added several more "zingers" to my theory. John Floyd II married in 1804 and his wife, Letitia, gave birth to four children in 1807, 1809, 1811, and 1814. It is unlikely, therefore, that Letitia would have visited Kentucky in October 1811 since she was pregnant, nor would her husband have left her to go to his brother's wedding in that condition. Apparently, Letitia gave birth to their son, Benjamin Rush Floyd in December, 1811. She also contends that G. R. C. Floyd married Sarah Tevis Fontaine on April 16, 1810. Was Sarah also Sally, the person he supposedly married on October 14, 1811, or was Sarah a sister or cousin of Sally, resulting in him marrying two Fontains.

Pvt. Milo Davis:

Pvt. Milo Davis was in the same company of light dragoons of the Indiana militia with Capt. Charles Beggs of Charlestown, Indiana, commanding, in which his step-father was. He was the son of federal judge Thomas T. Davis and the latter's wife, Betsy Davis. He would become the step-son of Davis Floyd when the latter married his mother in 1809 after the death of his father, Judge Davis, and the death of Davis Floyd's wife, Susanna Johnston Lewis Floyd in 1808.

Milo and his step-father, Davis Floyd, were in the dry goods business together in Corydon, Indiana before the Panic of 1819. Milo is buried in the 9th Street Cemetery in Logansport, Indiana. His military plaque states that he was born in 1793 and died in 1834 and was a Colonel in the 5th Indiana Militia in the Indian Wars. That means at the time of the Battle of Tippecanoe he was eighteen years old. It is assumed that the reference to the Indian Wars on the plaque was to the War of 1812. Please remember that the father of biographer, William Floyd Tuley II, was named Milo Davis Tuley.

Sgt. General Washington Johnston:

Pvt. General Washington Johnston was promoted from the ranks of Capt. Benjamin Parke's troop of light dragoons, a part of the Indiana militia, to the position of quartermaster on the field and staff of Maj. Daveiss' dragoons on October 30th, 1811. He was described as follows in the June 1924 issue of the *Indiana Magazine of History*:

General Washington Johnston was born November 10th, 1776, in Culpepper county, Virginia, near where George Washington had lived many years. He came to Vincennes, Northwest territory, in 1793. He was the first postmaster of Vincennes (1800), the first lawyer in Vincennes, the organizer of the Knox County Bar Association, a member of the first territorial legislature (elected April 2nd, 1810) a member of the first board of trustees of Vincennes university, adjutant general of the Indiana Territory, three times chairman of the borough of Vincennes, twice president judge of the court, a member of the state legislature for several terms, and during the seventh session was speaker of the house of representatives. His name is on the muster roll of Tippecanoe. General W. Johnston's name is connected with the publication of early Indiana Territorial laws. He was auditor of Indiana Territory and its treasurer when it became a state. He brought Masonry into it and put slavery out. He organized the Vincennes Lodge No. 1, F. and A. M., March 13th, 1809. He was the chairman of the committee which organized the Masonic Grand Lodge of Indiana, and was its deputy grand master for two years. In. 1825, General Johnston was highly spoken of for lieutenant-governor of Indiana.

The author of this story on Johnston goes on to say that one of the outstanding features of his life was "the abolishment of slavery in Indiana." Admittedly, the famous anti-slavery report issued under his name by a special committee of the Indiana Territorial House of Representatives in 1808, is a masterpiece on the horrors of slavery. However, somebody else wrote the report for the committee. John Badollet said in a letter to his friend, Albert Gallatin, Pres. Thomas Jefferson's Secretary of Treasury, that he, Badollet, had written the report for Johnston. This would be consistent with other such reports that Badollet published in local newspapers, and elsewhere, at the time. In addition, after Indiana became a state in 1816 Johnston was involved in a lawsuit with his so-called indentured servant who was black. She had voluntarily indentured herself to him for several years when such contracts were supposedly legal in the Indiana territory. The Indiana Supreme Court reasoned that contracts for personal service became illegal under the State's new constitution and that whether the servant was white or black, the law would not enforce personal service contracts. That remains the law even today. Johnston could have sued for breach of contract but that never happened as far as is known. The black lady won her freedom and Johnston lost his servant. Indiana was a free state no matter what angle the master tried to use to keep a servant in place.

John Badollet:

As I said Johnston was credited with writing the anti-slavery report for a committee of the Indiana Territorial House of Representatives in 1808. Prior to the issuance of that report he had sided with the proslavery forces in the Territory including Gov. and later Gen. William Henry Harrison and Benjamin Parke, Territorial attorney general, then delegate to the U.S. Congress, and then judge and later federal judge. Johnston's report was not written by him but by John Badollet, the land title officer in Vincennes. Badollet had come to Vincennes in 1804 and died there in 1836. Badollet was a boyhood friend of Albert Gallatin, Pres. Thomas Jefferson's Secretary of Treasury. The two men corresponded with each other from 1804 until Badollet's death. Badollet hated slavery and he hated Gov. and Gen. Harrison and what he did to impose slavery in the Indiana Territory. His letters to Gallatin are full of accusations against Harrison, not only on the slavery question but also on the Indian situation. Badollet wrote several letters to Gallatin stating that Harrison stirred up the Indians, exaggerated their threat to the Indiana Territory, and tricked the Indians into attacking his small Army at Tippecanoe. My biography at www.davisfloyd.com presents several versions of the battle and some of Badollet's letters so that the reader can determine for himself or herself who was right.

The Accomplishments of the Men of the Battle of Tippecanoe

It is interesting to observe that the men who fought each other so hard over the slavery issue, then joined forces at the Battle of Tippecanoe to fight the Shawnee Indians—Harrison and Parke on one side of the slavery issue and Floyd, the Beggs brothers, Johnston, and Badollet on the other side. Actually, John Badollet was not there but his son, Albert, was, and only one of the Beggs brothers was present at the Battle.

The real defeat over slavery occurred in the fall of 1807 when the Clark County Anti-Slavery Committee met in Springville, Clark County, Indiana Territory in the fall of 1807 and issued its famous anti-slavery report which was forwarded to the U. S. Congress for action. The three Beggs brothers from Charlestown and Davis Floyd were four of the seven members of this committee. Floyd was the committee's secretary and forwarded the report to Congress. The report was critical of Harrison and Parke for their shenanigans in the Indiana Territorial General Assembly from 1805 until 1807. Petitions favoring slavery were sent to the U. S. Congress and laws legalizing slavery were passed without the appropriate approvals of the two houses in the General Assembly. Harrison did not survive politically in Indiana but Parke did. The same men minus Harrison would meet for a third time in 1816 to draft the first constitution for the new state of Indiana in Corydon, its capitol. Floyd, one of the Beggs' brothers, Johnston, and Badollet were there to make sure slavery remained dead in Indiana. Parke went along with them seeing what had happened to Harrison. The anti-slavery provision in the new Constitution, which mimicked the anti-slavery provision in the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, was adopted almost without opposition. There was no great battle over slavery at the convention as some historians suggest; the issue had been dead since 1807 and 1808 when it was killed by men such as Floyd.

My biography has chapter in it which covers in detail Floyd's involvement with Aaron Burr, the battle over slavery, and the Battle of Tippecanoe. It can be found at <u>www.davisfloyd.info</u>.

The Floyd family was well represented at the Battle of Tippecanoe and they played a significant part in the success of the American victory. The Battle is probably best described by Judge Naylor:

"Ours was a bloody victory and theres was a bloody defeat!"

Submitted this 5th day of November, 2011, in Lafayette, Indiana to the Ohio River Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation as part of the commemoration of the Battle of Tippecanoe fought on November 7th, 1811.

Bill Smith