

Epilogue (11-01-11)

**“A biography is never complete.”
Robert Rowland Smith in 2009**

Robert Rowland Smith makes the forgoing statement in a wonderful little book entitled *Breakfast with Socrates--An Extraordinary (Philosophical) Journey Through Your Ordinary Day*, Free Press, New York, New York, 2009, p. 136. In another place in his book he says “what all books do when they begin: they create a new world for you, dear reader, to enter. (p. 145)

I have spent countless hours researching, writing, and rewriting the chapters herein. However, I acknowledge that I have probably missed facts and myths out there somewhere which I never discovered in my research. Hopefully in the years to come another person such as me, but a more devoted researcher, will add words to each chapter, and new chapters on the life and times of Davis Floyd. Floyd was never a great public figure but he lived in great times and was involved in great events. However, he was probably a great private figure and in the real world that means a lot and really matters.

I have tried to create a new world for the reader to enter, or a new look at part of the old world, focused on one person. I trust that the venture has been worth the time and effort. If the reader skipped over any of the original documents or narratives written by master historians, they have missed a part of the substance of this book. The author has tried to make this book a reflection of facts, not opinions by a predisposed author. The reader has the advantage in a book like this to come to his or her own conclusions. He or she can raise questions such as: Was Davis Floyd anti-Negro? Was he a scoundrel? Was he a brave soldier? Was he a good lawyer and judge? Was he a good businessman? Was he a good family man? Did his wives love and respect him? Did his children like him? Did he dispense justice? Did he abide by the religious tenants of the Methodist

church? Did he apply the principles of Freemasonry? And the questions could go on. The purpose of this book has been to provoke debate perhaps in the form of a book review or another book, and to explore controversies for scholastic purposes, not for monetary reasons as is commonplace today. I hope that authoress Ravitch would be proud of my effort.

We live today in great times, but Davis Floyd would argue that he lived in great times too; and he did, and he made the most of it! The *Holy Bible* says there is nothing new under the sun and that statement applied not only today but for all times including the early 1800's in Southern Indiana and the Florida Territory.

My wife and I recently watched a movie entitled *As It Is in Heaven*. It was a 2004 Swedish film which was nominated for the Best Foreign Language Film at the Hollywood 77th Academy Awards ceremony. I thought it should have won the Oscar. The heroine in the movie had problems in her life which centered on an abusive husband. She not only overcomes the abuse but also sings a solo song written by the director of a musical presentation. The words of that song describe the issues in her life but they also describe the issues in Floyd's life:

**It is now that my life is mine.
I've got this short time on earth
and my longing has brought me here,
all I lacked and all I gained.
And yet it's the way that I choose
my trust was far beyond words
that has shown me a little bit
of the heaven I've never found.
I want to feel I'm alive
all my living days.
I will live as I desire**

**I want to feel I am alive
knowing I was good enough
I have never lost who I was
I have only left it sleeping
Maybe I never had a choice
Just the will to stay alive
All I want is to be happy
Being who I am
To be strong and to be free
To see day arise from night
I am here and my life is only mine
And the heaven I thought was there
I'll discover it there somewhere
I want to feel
that I lived my life.**

The words to this song probably express the outlook on life that Davis Floyd had during his journey here on earth.

Bill Smith