

## Hopkins County KY and the War of 1812

The War of 1812 broke out in June of 1812 and Governor Shelby of Kentucky issued his famous proclamation calling for volunteers to assemble at Newport on August 31, saying "I will meet you there in person, lead you onto the field of battle, and share with the men the dangers and honors of the campaign". Hopkins County, KY furnished a company, commanded by **Captain William R. McGary**, of which the roster is as follows:

#10718- Capt. William R. McGary's Company, 5th Regiment, Kentucky Militia , commanded by Colonel Henry Remick. 1774  
#09330- Israel Davis, Lieutenant; 1781  
#24966- Henry Ashby, Ensign; 1787  
#12720- Hugh Kirkwood, 1st Sergeant; 1767  
#05525- Robert Sisk, 2nd Sergeant; 1775  
#31812- Benjamin Stokes, 3rd Sergeant; abt 1780  
Samuel Berry, 1st Corporal;  
George Hooker, 2nd Corporal;  
Jacob Tucker, 3rd Corporal.  
Privates:  
John Bell,  
William Blair, he may be #15288  
Benjamin Kilbourne,  
#00197- **Gabriel Bourland**, 1794  
#02535- **Samuel Bourland**, 1790/1796  
Roderick Bryant,  
#14686- Thomas Earl, ?? 1778  
Jefferson Fulcher,  
Martin Griffith,  
#07582- Lemuel Green Hewlett, 1790  
Jesse Majors,  
#13826- Thomas Logan, abt 1790  
Granderson McGruder,  
Michael McKintly,  
Samuel Morrison,  
Stephen Murphy,  
#14415- Samuel Nisbet, 1794 Writeup  
#09893- Wiley Parker, abt 1794  
Thomas Ross,  
#14774- Meredith Sisk, 1791  
#24142- Asa Sisk, 1794  
#07093- Elijah Timmons.

**Israel Davis:** He died unmarried from wounds received in Shelby's Expedition. He was the Sheriff of Hopkins County for a brief period. See B223.

**Hugh Kirkwood:** He came from Ireland as a small boy and probably from Antrim, Ireland. In the revised 1790 Census for Georgia State, he was a member of the Wilkes County Militia in Washington Cty, Georgia until 1793. After that he lived for a while in Tennessee. He next shows up in the 1802 tax list of Muhlenburg County, Kentucky with 200 acres on Pond River. He received a grant of 200 acres in 1809 in Hopkins County. On January 30, 1809, the 76th Regiment of the Kentucky Militia was formed and among the Regimental Captains was Hugh Kirkwood. In 1812 General Harrison called for volunteers and he fought with General Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans in the War of 1812. He went to war as

William R. McGary's Company, Kentucky Mounted Volunteer Militia - commanded by Colonel Henry Renick. In 1814 he was serving as a Major.

**Robert "Robin" Sisk:** He was a volunteer in the War of 1812 and served two hitches in 1812 and 1813, until being mustered out on November 15, 1813 with a total of 128 days service and a final rank of second sergeant in the Kentucky Militia. On March 14, 1816 he hired an attorney to apply for benefits. On November 17, 1851 he appeared before Lysander G. Gordon, a Notary Public, in Hopkins County who estimated his age at 75. Robert declared that on or about December 20, 1850 he had applied for bounty land. He attested that he was in service with Captain William R. McGray, 5th Regiment, Kentucky Militia for 82 days when he was discharged at Limestone or Maysville, Kentucky on or about November 15, 1813. He also claimed additional service of about 45 days in the Company of Michael Wolfe in the 1st Regiment, Kentucky Militia, commanded by Lt. Col. Samuel Caldwell. He said he had volunteered in Madisonville in Michael Wolfe's company September 15, 1812 and was discharged near Vincennes, Indiana November 4, 1812. The jacket of the affidavit indicated an award of 80 acres of bounty land, under date of January 28, 1856.

**Gabriel Bourland:** His tombstone says he was in the War of 1812. There he served in the Captain Michael Wolf's Company with his brother, William. This was part of Captain William R. McGary's Company, 5th Regiment from Hopkins County, KY, commanded by Colonel Henry Remick.

**Samuel Bourland:** See B041. He served in the War of 1812 with Captain William R. McGary's Company, 5th Regiment from Hopkins County, KY, commanded by Colonel Henry Remick.

**Lemuel Green Hewlett:** He came with his parents to Hopkins County in 1800. When General Andrew Jackson recruited in Kentucky, he fought in the Battle of New Orleans in 1815, and was wounded, losing several fingers. General Jackson tossed him an handkerchief to wrap around that hand. After the battle, the men were discharged and they had to walk home, up the Mississippi, the Ohio and home. On the way they ate with Indians who had camps on the rivers. He was found on the 1840 list of pensioners for Revolutionary or Military services.

**Samuel Bratton Nisbet:** He came from South Carolina to Kentucky in 1800 with his parents. They had 9 children, of which Francis was the sixth. He served with special distinction at the "Battle of Thames", in the War of 1812, which was fought in Canada near the River Thames, which flows into Lake St. Clair. Samuel B. Nisbet has written and signed an eye-witness account of the killing of Tecumseh, in this battle, by Colonel Whitley: "Now I saw Col. Whitley next after the battle commenced to where he was found lying dead behind a lynn stump some 15 inches through and broken off some ten feet high, some sprouts grown up on the left of it, where he of choice took his position in the battle, and Tecumseh lying dead some 30 or 40 yards from him, and Davidson's testimony is that Whitley's gun killed Tecumseh." Tecumseh, a Shawnee chief, and his brother, "The Prophet", had a plan to combine all the Indians from Canada to Florida in a great democratic confederacy to resist the encroachment of the whites into the so-called Northwest territory. The twofold influence that was to dominate the league was the wonderful eloquence and political ingenuity of Tecumseh, which was rare in an Indian, and the superstitious reverence aroused by "The Prophet". During Tecumseh's absence in the South, Governor William Henry Harrison of Indiana made a hostile move against "The Prophet's town", and "The Prophet" ventured to meet his forces, but was defeated in the famous battle of Tippecanoe, on the 17th of November, 1811. That broke the personal influence of "The Prophet", and largely destroyed the confederacy built-up by Tecumseh. When in June, 1812, war broke out, Tecumseh joined the British, was commissioned a brigadier-general in the British Army, and participated in skirmishes which preceded Gen. William Hull's surrender in Detroit.

active part in the sieges at Ft. Meigs, where he displayed his usual clemency towards his prisoners. After the battle of Put-in-Bay, when Col. Henry Proctor began to retreat from Malden, Tecumseh bitterly reproached him for his cowardice, and finally forced him to join battle with Harrison on the Thames River, on the 5th of October 1813, during which Tecumseh was killed.

In the meantime, Governor Shelby of Kentucky issued his famous proclamation calling for volunteers to assemble at Newport on August 31, saying "I will meet you there in person, lead you onto the field of battle, and share with the men the dangers and honors of the campaign". Hopkins County, KY furnished a company, commanded by Captain William R. McGary, of which the roster is as follows: Capt. William R. McGary's Company, 5th Regiment, commanded by Colonel Henry Remick. Israel Davis, Lieutenant; Henry Ashby, Ensign; Hugh Kirkwood, 1st Sergeant; Robert Sisk, 2nd Sergeant; Benjamin Stokes, 3rd Sergeant; Samuel Berry, 1st Corporal; George Hooker, 2nd Corporal; Jacob Tucker, 3rd Corporal. Privates: John Bell, William Blair, Benjamin Kilbourne, Gabriel Bourland, Samuel Bourland, Roderick Bryant, Thomas Earl, Jefferson Fulcher, Martin Griffith, Lemuel Hewlett, Jesse Majors, Thomas Logan, Granderson McGruder, Michael McKintly, Samuel Morrison, Stephen Murphy, Samuel Nisbet, Wiley Parker, Thomas Ross, Meredith Sisk, Asa Sisk, Elijah Timmons.