

Gibson & Posey Indiana Counties:

ROBERT ALCORN AND HIS DESCENDANTS

Compiled by

Elsie Martin Alcorn and Lloyd C. Alcorn, Sr.

J. Malvern Alcorn

Written by Lloyd C. Alcorn, Sr.

With supplements up front added by an unknown author.

[Notes by typist, if any, are in square brackets. Only small punctuation and typographical errors were corrected. Otherwise, all grammar and language is that of the original copy.]

Re-typed for electronic transfer purposes only. Feb 1998 by Delanie Alcorn-Jones (delaniej@aol.com). Ms. Alcorn-Jones assumes no responsibility for typographical errors nor does she accept responsibility for the accuracy of the original material.

I spent the week end of October 6, 1979 at Poseyville, to attend Alma's sale of her household furnishings. I brought home with me, the record of Robert Alcorn and his descendants, researched by Lloyd, Elsie, and Malvern.

I also brought the old old Alcorn family Bible. I knew of this Bible but had never paid much attention to it. I found that it was published in Philadelphia in 1832, and purchased by James Thomas Alcorn. Other information states that James Thomas Alcorn was born in Belfast, Ireland, in 1778(?). That date isn't too clear. Also that he came to America in 1780 (? , would be two years old).

There are two pages of Family History - torn, some indistinct, and some missing. I have assembled it the best I could, and wonder how these names and dates correspond with information which you have, and whether they contain additional information.

Nehemiah Alcorn born (no date), 4, 1805 - June 24, 1856

Thomas Alcorn born 1808 - July 2, 1858

James Grant Alcorn born February --, 1809 - Nov. 7, 1870

Robert Alcorn 1815 - Feb. 25, 1828

Agnes Alcorn December 20, 1820 - June 22, 1840

These dates correspond with an Agnes, you have listed.

Elizabeth Dyhouse April 26, 1826

Eli Alcorn March 27, 1845

George Alcorn Nov. 3, 1844

Thomas Alcorn Feb. 6, 1777 - died November

Caty Alcorn Nov. 19, 1779 - August 5, 1868

Montgomery Alcorn Nov. 19, 1800 - Aug. 7, 1827

Jane Alcorn March 9, 1805 - March 31, 1838

Benjamin Alcorn December 8, 1803

There is also a note regarding the marriage of (blank. Must have been James Thomas Alcorn and (1st two letters missing. Must have been Annie Boren in January 1866.

A RECORD of BIRTHS and DEATHS, copied from Alma's Bible Oct. 16, 1979. A note in the Bible indicates that it was given to Alma by the Old Union Church (no data).

David C. Alcorn born, October 3, 1868. Died Feb. 28, 1955

Ella Saulmon April 30, 1868 (copied from her mother's Bible)  
Died July 4, 1957

Corry A. Alcorn June 26, 1897

Alma P. Alcorn December 18, 1899

Elizabeth M. (Cook) Alcorn March 2, 1898

Quentin G. Alcorn June 22, 1923

Esther Louise Alcorn (Butler) July 12, 1931

David C. Alcorn and Ella Saulmon married Oct. 27, 1894. By J.H. Carnes

Corry A. Alcorn and Elizabeth M. Cook married Mar. 2, 1921.

Quentin G. Alcorn and Mae Christensen married June 22, 1952.

Susan Marie Alcorn born September 8, 1953

Michael Arthur Alcorn January 3, 1955

Most of the above information is in the handwriting of David C. Alcorn.

Additional information in David C. Alcorn's handwriting:-

Robert J. Brown born August 1, 1847 died April 24, 1913.

Anna Brown October 14, 1845 died May 23, 1923

Maud Brown April 23, 1874 died November 11, 1925

Horace L. Brown born February 16, 1876 died June 2, 1943

Arja Brown January 17, 1880 November 14, 1923

Cora Brown October 7, 1877

Maurice Evans Brown November 4, 1883 August 16, 1886

James Grant Alcorn November 17, 1866 December 1951

Ada Jane (Alcorn) Wilsey Oct. 21, 1870 May 16, 1944

SUPPLIMENT TO "ROBERT ALCORN & DESCENDANTS"  
by  
Elsie, Lloyd, and Malvern Alcorn

A letter from Elsie to Alma (no date): -

Alma, I found a book in our library here that listed the following heads of households in 1800 Census of Ky.

George Alcorn in Jessamine Co.	George Alcorn in Madison Co.
George Alcorn in Pulaski Co.	Thomas Alcorn in Madison Co.
John Alcorn in Mason Co.	William Alcorn in Madison Co.
Robert Alcorn in Garrard Co.	James Alcorn in Lincoln Co.
Robert Alcorn in Jessamine Co.	James Alcorn in Cumberland Co.

Also Montgomery in Montgomery Co. Isaac, James, Joseph, Thomas Sr. and Thomas. Lloyd wrote you about these.

I have not found Lloyd's letter regarding these people.

Robert Alcorn, 1728? to 1797  
A Colonial Soldier, and his Descendants

It is difficult to trace the figures of the dim past beyond 1790, the year of the first United States Census. Because of the disorganized society of the frontier territories, then hurrying to join the original thirteen states, many United States' citizens were not accounted for in this census.

The census of 1800 was a much better census, but it still left out much desirable information that would be helpful to the genealogist. However, I believe that this lack of information was exactly what our forefathers most desired in a census. They were very jealous of their freedom and liberty of person. Being the immediate descendants of old world immigrants, they knew, firsthand, how population information was the first seed of regimentation and oppression. The desire for freedom and liberty of property and of person was the compelling force that kept strong men and their women on the frontiers of the new world.

The character of Robert Alcorn was molded in this frontier atmosphere of freedom and liberty. Robert spent his entire adulthood on the American frontier - in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Kentucky.

Robert Alcorn was born about 1728, perhaps in Virginia. The first information I have of his life begins in southwest Virginia, in Montgomery County, in 1749. He was a member of a road-building crew in Montgomery County. That county and other counties of southwest Virginia were at that time on the frontier of America. The frontiersmen were then settling the upper sources of the James and Roanoke Rivers.

The rivers were the favored routes of migration in the early days. Transportation by boat and raft were the best defense against Indian ambush and kept the frontiersman on the only clear trail that he knew. The best land was

along their banks, and the rivers were an unfailing source of food and water. Fish, which were plentiful in the rivers, and animals which came to the rivers to drink were here snared for their meat and skins. The better forests were by the river banks, and wood and lumber and skins were primary commercial items to be sold to settlements and towns down river.

These were Indian lands; and the Indians, justifiably jealous of the land of their fathers, were a grave and constant peril to the settlers. It was in this atmosphere of danger and peril that Robert Alcorn's manhood began.

From the Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish settlement in Augusta County, Virginia, an account dated August 30, 1750, Robert Alcorn made a claim against the estate of Sam Crockett, deceased, for a settlement of a debt owed by Sam Crockett to Robert Alcorn. A second account, dated January 15, 1753, shows that Robert Alcorn was one of a party of appraisers of the property of Robert Morris in Augusta County, Virginia.

A document in Montgomery County, Virginia, dates January 16, 1753, shows Robert Alcorn and others as signatories for the security of a note. Robert Alcorn bought or acquired 192 acres of land on Reed's Creek in Montgomery County, Virginia, before 1753; he sold this land to a Capt. John Adams on October 1, 1782. This sale, it is presumed, was by power of attorney since Robert Alcorn was at this time a resident of Fairfield County, South Carolina.

Lt. John Alcorn, later Capt. John Alcorn, also owned land on Reed's Creek, Montgomery County, Virginia, at this time (1753 to 1782). At the court of Montgomery County, May 3, 1780, John Bethel, John Alcorn, and others were awarded 40-acre grants for six-months' service under Col. George Washington. Their lawyer representative was Patrick Henry. A Sam Crockett, later, was sheriff of Montgomery County, 1781; and Lt. James Alcorn was sworn in as his deputy before the Montgomery County Court, 1781.

James Alcorn also owned land in Montgomery County on Looney's Creek and Reed's Creek. John and James Alcorn were long residents of Montgomery County, their records going back to 1755 and 1758 and continuing until James's death in 1781 and to John's migration to Kentucky, Madison and Garrard Counties, in 1788. John helped form Garrard County, Kentucky, from Madison County in 1796. He was a Court Justice for Garrard County. These two Alcorns were, I believe, brothers of Robert Alcorn.

The next dated information concerning Robert Alcorn after January 16, 1753, was a grant of land in 1757 to Robert Alcorn under a proclamation of the Crown to colonial soldiers. The grant was for 100 acres on January 2, 1757, and was in Craven County, Camden District of the Carolinas.

Robert Alcorn also served in Col. Richardson's battalion in the 1759 Cherokee Indian expedition to Fort Prince George. This fort was located in what is now Georgetown County, South Carolina. Robert served from October 1759, to January 1760, and was paid £7.5-0. He was a private.

The Pee Dee River, which springs somewhere above Montgomery County, North Carolina, flows through North and South Carolina and enters the Atlantic Ocean from Georgetown County, South Carolina. It was at Pee Dee, a military district of the Carolinas, now Montgomery County, North Carolina, that George Alcorn was born in 1760. George Alcorn was, I believe, the third son of Robert Alcorn. This proposition will be explored later in this account.

Robert Alcorn apparently left Virginia about 1755; and his route to Pee Dee, Montgomery County, North Carolina, from Montgomery County, Virginia, was perhaps by way of the Yadkins River, which would route him most of the estimated 150 miles to Pee Dee. Then about 1763, Robert possibly crossed overland, a distance of about 50 miles, to Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. There is considerable history of the Alcorns in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

The Catawba River is a common boundary between Mecklenburg County, N.C., and York County, S.C., and flows south, being the east boundaries of York, Chester, and Fairfield Counties of South Carolina. These three counties were to provide considerable history of Robert, James, George, William, and another James and Catherine Alcorn, and also a James Alcorn and his family who were counted in the 1790 census. A researcher reported that the Alcorns were processioners along the waters of the James and Catawba Rivers.

This account of the possible route of Robert Alcorn is conjecture, but does prepare for the next dated activities of Robert. He exercised rights to two grants of land of 150 acres each in October and December, 1772. The land lay along Little River in Fairfield County, South Carolina, near the confluence of Little and Broad Rivers in this county. Fairfield County was to be the home and base of Robert Alcorn's activity for many years thereafter.

Robert Alcorn accepted one more grant of land under the proclamation of 1760. This grant was for 50 acres in April, 1774, in Craven County, South Carolina. This land lay on the south side of the mouth of Sandy River. This river is now located in Fairfield County.

It was here in Fairfield County, South Carolina, that the last four children of Robert and Mary Alcorn were born. They were Agnes, Robert, Dorcas, and Thomas. Thomas, the youngest, was born February 6, 1777. The older children - William, James, George, a girl, Nancy, and possibly another son, John - came to Fairfield County from Montgomery County, North Carolina, or some of them may have been born in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

Robert and Mary Alcorn were to make one more hard and perilous journey, seeking freedom and new land.

Before I continue with the history of Robert and Mary, I feel compelled to include more history of John Alcorn in this narrative of the life and times of Robert Alcorn. It is my belief that the simultaneous migration of John Alcorn of Virginia and Robert Alcorn of Fairfield County, South Carolina, to the territory of Kentucky in 1788 was planned by them.

John Alcorn actively participated in the affairs of Montgomery County, Virginia, for more than ten years, from 1770 to 1782.

John was born about 1734, perhaps in Virginia; his activities were being recorded in 1758 when he reported an Indian raid on his home. John was a soldier in the First Virginia Regiment during the Cherokee expedition in 1760. His activities as a land dealer, a soldier, and in the county civic operations were recorded in Fincastle, Botetourt, and Montgomery counties of southwest Virginia.

John married Jane Breckenridge, daughter of George Breckenridge and Ann Doakes about 1769. Jane was born about 1751. The Botetourt County records show John Alcorn and his wife, Jane, bought 120 acres of land on Looney's Creek on May the Second 1770 for £50. The records of May 5, 1773, show that the Court of Fincastle County, Virginia, assigned John Alcorn and others to assess the feasibility of building a proposed road in Fincastle County.

John took the oath of Ensign in the Virginia militia on May 5, 1778. He was assigned to Captain John Montgomery's company. This took place in the Court of Montgomery County, Virginia. On December 1, 1778 John Alcorn bought 201 acres of land in Montgomery County. John's name appeared on the docket of the grand jurors of Montgomery County on November 2, 1779. On May 3, 1780, John Alcorn, John Bethel, and others were awarded 40 acres each in the Montgomery County Court for army service under Colonel George Washington. The claimants were represented before the court by Patrick Henry.

On September 2, 1782, John Alcorn Sr., sold 39 acres of land on Reed's Creek, Montgomery County, Virginia, to John Alcorn, the son of James Alcorn. On the same day John, the son of James, bought 44 acres on Reed's Creek from John Mills, his grandfather.

According to the annals of South West Virginia, John Alcorn was certified as a lieutenant of the Virginia militia on November 28 1786. John moved his family to Madison County Kentucky about 1788. He was listed as a taxpayer of Madison County in 1789. In 1793 John gave Robert Breckenridge, his brother-in-law, power of attorney to dispose of property for him in Wythe County, Virginia. I believe this transaction was made to settle the estate of George Breckenridge.

The children of John and Jane were, I believe, John Jr.; George; Robert; and two or three daughters whom I have been unable to identify. The records list many Alcorn girls as having married from 1789 to 1799 in Mercer, Madison, Garrard, and Lincoln Counties, and it is hard to say whose children they were. John Jr. was born about 1770. He was shown as a taxpayer in Madison County in 1800. I think he moved to Mason County by 1810, and then to Jefferson County Indiana by 1820.

The Kentucky census of 1800 shows a Robert Alcorn as head of a family in Mercer County, a Robert Alcorn as head of a family in Garrard County, and a Robert Alcorn as head of a family in Jessamine County. I believe that the Robert in Garrard County was the son of John Alcorn Sr., that the Robert Alcorn in Mercer County was the son of Robert Alcorn Sr., who died in 1797, and that the Robert in Jessamine County could have been the son of William, George, or James.

The Kentucky census of 1800 also shows a George Alcorn in Madison County, and the 1810 census of Madison County shows a George Alcorn, a wife, and eight children. This George, I believe, was the son of John Alcorn Sr., and was probably named for his grandfather, George Breckenridge. The 1800 census of Kentucky also shows a George Alcorn in Jessamine County as head of a family, and a George Alcorn in Pulaski County. One of these, I believe to be the George Alcorn who was born in Pee Dee, North Carolina in 1760; the other perhaps was his son.

The same census shows a James Alcorn as head of a family in Anderson County and a James Alcorn in Mercer County as head of a family. The James Alcorn in Mercer County was probably the son of Robert Alcorn Sr. The 1800 census shows a Thomas Alcorn in Madison County, and a William Alcorn as heads of families. William and Thomas, I believe were the sons of Robert Alcorn Sr.

John Alcorn Sr. was active in the formation of Garrard County in 1796, and was appointed a Justice of the County at the time.

There are interesting records of another James Alcorn of York County, South Carolina, in the Archives Library in Columbia, S.C. This James Alcorn appears to have been born in the early 1730s. His wife was named Catherine. She continued to collect debts owed by the State of S.C. to James after he died in 1779. James was a horseman in Capt. Rbt. Thomson's Company in Gen. Sumter's Brigade of the Revolutionary Forces in S.C. James hauled supplies for the Forces and sold great quantities of food and grain to them.

Now I shall continue the story of Robert and Mary Alcorn.

The review of dated instruments both in South Carolina and Kentucky establishes approximately the date of their migration to the territory of Kentucky, frontier of the Commonwealth of Virginia, as being 1788. The route by which they moved from Fairfield County, South Carolina to Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky must have been very difficult for it took them over the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Great Smoky Mountains to the blue grass plains of the territory of Kentucky, west of the Cumberland Mountains.

Robert's reaction to this new land must have been that the blue grass plains of Kentucky was a truly remarkable America. It must have been an awe-inspiring journey - a hearty patriarch and his children and his children's children seeking, in hostile Indian lands, a new land to begin again, seeking new liberty and freedom.

I'm sure that Robert and Mary Alcorn's move from South Carolina to Kentucky, territory of Virginia, frontier of America was much like going home to them for it was on the frontier of Virginia that their early life began and it was here that life would end for them. There is no recorded date of Mary's death; but apparently she died before Robert, who died in 1797 in Madison County, Kentucky. He was about 69 years old.

Robert left no will. His personal property was listed and disposed of by his executor, William Alcorn, his eldest son. Among his listed property was an auger, a tool used for boring holes in wood. This auger must have been, somehow, preserved through many generations: I have an auger now which my father, James Grant Alcorn, often said belonged to his great-grandfather Thomas Alcorn.

Before I extend this narrative to the children of Robert and Mary Alcorn, I just record a few more important items concerning the activities of this extraordinary man. From his base in Fairfield County, South Carolina, Robert Alcorn was a supplier of food and grain to the revolutionary forces of that area. He earned about £8200 in this manner and was given notes of indebtedness against the State of South Carolina by the commanding officers. These notes were not presented for collection until after the conflict was over. The commanding officers were local businessmen who remained in the area after the war and, acting as notaries public, verified the items and amounts due. Robert's signature was photocopied from one of these accounts.

George Alcorn, Robert's third son, born in 1760 in PeeDee, North Carolina, enlisted in the forces command by these officers in the year of 1781 in Fairfield County, South Carolina. He received notes written and verified by them from the state of South Carolina for his military services as a private. This indebtedness of the State to George was collected by Robert Alcorn in April 1788 by way of a transfer note from George to Robert. This note was also notarized by the commanding officers who were George's superiors.

There are other interesting items concerning William Alcorn and James Alcorn, sons of Robert, but these will be recorded in the discussion of the children of Robert and Mary.

In 1787, Robert and Mary sold their land in Fairfield County to Isham Moberly in preparation for their move to Kentucky. There was one other recorded land transfer to Robert Alcorn that should be mentioned here. Book "E" of Deeds, 1787 to 1798, in Madison County, Kentucky, records that on June 14, 1795, Moses Bledsoe and his wife, Sally, of Fayette County, Kentucky, sold 600 acres on the Kentucky River, the survey beginning at Herrod's Ferry, to Robert Alcorn for the sum of £50. This sale was witnessed by a Capt. John Goggins, John Phillips, and Thomas Alcorn, who was then 18 years old.

In the following pages I shall attempt to surround Robert and Mary Alcorn with their family, which I must do by reasonable deduction and by documented facts.

The first child of Robert and Mary Alcorn was William Alcorn, perhaps born in North Carolina about 1756. William was a revolutionary soldier from South Carolina. He received a grant of land containing 85 acres for soldiering duty. This grant was on the waters of Little River in Fairfield County, South Carolina, where Robert owned land. William, as bondsman, and Robert, as father, signed the marriage application for Agnes Alcorn, who married Anderson Rice in 1789 in Harrodsburg, Mercer County, Kentucky. William was also executor of Robert's estate in 1798.

William married Sarah McClain in South Carolina. I can only guess about their children, but I believe that they had a son William, born about 1780; a son James, born about 1782; and a daughter Deliliah, born about 1784. The son William was an ensign in the 19th regiment, Madison County, Kentucky, Volunteers, in 1804. James was a lieutenant in the 6<sup>th</sup> regiment, General Officers, December 1806. Deliliah married Benjamin Rice in 1799.

William, son of Robert and Mary Alcorn, bought 150 acres on Dick's River, Mercer County, Kentucky, in 1796 from Zachariah Compton. He also had a grist mill on Sugar Creek before 1799.



Robert and Mary Alcorn's second child, James Alcorn, was also born in North Carolina about 1758. James Alcorn also served in the revolutionary forces in South Carolina. He received a grant of land containing 100 acres in 1788. This land he transferred to Robert Alcorn in 1789 after they went to Kentucky. This land was along Little River in Fairfield County, South Carolina, where Robert Alcorn's farm was when he sold to Isham Moberly.

George Alcorn was the third child of Robert and Mary. George's connection with Robert Alcorn has already been discussed on a previous page. George died in 1833 and is buried west of Columbus, Bartholemew County, Indiana.

I have no information about whom George Alcorn married; however, I believe he had a son, Jesse Alcorn, born about 1784. The records of Wayne County, Kentucky, show Jesse Alcorn married Polly Duncan, the daughter of George Duncan on April 4, 1806.

The children of Polly Duncan and Jesse Alcorn were Jesse Alcorn, Jr., and William R. Alcorn. This William R. Alcorn, I believe, bore the names of his great-great-grandfather, William, and his great-grandfather, Robert. The William who I believe was the father of Robert and grandfather of George was an Irish immigrant who arrived in America in 1721.

Jesse Alcorn, Jr., married Lina<sup>[1]</sup> Jones, daughter of James Jones, February 28, 1824. William R. Alcorn married Elizabeth Jones, March 27, 1834. The witnesses to this marriage were George W. Alcorn, bondsman, and Catherine Alcorn. The only known child of William Alcorn and Elizabeth Jones is John M. Alcorn, born in 1842. John M. Alcorn married Mary Angelina Branscomb, March 27, 1862.

There was a Circuit Judge, John Alcorn of Stanford, Lincoln County, Kentucky, who died in the 1960's; and his sister Kate Alcorn, as she was known, (I'm sure her name was Catherine) died in 1975 at the age of 99. I missed an excellent opportunity to find out about their family. I talked to her by phone in Stanford, Kentucky in 1974. We did not get into a discussion of her family other than her telling me about her brother John who was deceased. Neither John nor his sister Kate had even married; and they lived in Stanford, Kentucky, on what was known as the Alcorn Estate, a fine old home on about 18 acres in the town of Stanford.

The fourth child of Robert and Mary Alcorn may have been Nancy Alcorn. Nancy Alcorn was probably born in North Carolina in 1763. Nancy Alcorn married William Skillern in Madison County, Kentucky, in 1789.

The fifth child of Robert and Mary Alcorn probably was John Alcorn, who was born in North Carolina in 1767. He was a revolutionary soldier at the age of 16 years. John Alcorn is buried in Wilson County, Tennessee, east of Nashville.

The sixth child of Robert and Mary was Agnes Alcorn, who was born in South Carolina about 1769 and married Anderson Rice in Mercer County, Kentucky, in 1789. Robert Alcorn signed the application for her marriage as father of the bride. His signature, an unusual one, was also found on a document in the Archives Library in Columbia, South Carolina. Agnes's marriage application was also signed by William Alcorn, her brother, as bondsman.

The seventh child was Robert Alcorn, Jr., who was born about 1771 in South Carolina. Robert, Jr., married a widow, Mrs. Susanah Turpin Welch in Madison County, Kentucky, in 1795. There is a record of a land sale by Robert and Susanah to a Mr. Eastin in Madison County, Kentucky, in 1796. This land was owned by Mr. Welch, deceased, Susanah's first husband. The census of 1810 of Clark County, Kentucky, lists Robert Alcorn as being between the ages of 26 and 45 years and his wife as being in the same age group. The census lists in the same household one female from 10 to 16 years, three females under 10 years, and no male children. Madison County, Kentucky is south of Lexington about 26 miles; and Clark County, Kentucky, is east of Lexington about 15 miles. Robert Alcorn was listed as a taxpayer in Garrard County, Kentucky, in 1800. Garrard County joins Madison County along the south line of Madison County.

The eighth child of Robert and Mary was Dorcus Alcorn, who was born in South Carolina in 1774. Dorcas married Richard Searcy in Madison County, April 4, 1792.

The ninth child of Robert and Mary was Thomas Alcorn. Thomas was born February 6, 1777, in Fairfield County, South Carolina. Winnsboro is the county seat of that county and is about 40 miles north of Columbia, South Carolina. Thomas Alcorn was apparently the last child born to Robert and Mary Alcorn. Thomas was eleven years old when his family moved from Fairfield County, South Carolina, to Mercer County, Kentucky, in 1788. Thomas, I believe, was named for his great-uncle, Thomas Alcorn, brother of James and William Alcorn. Those three brothers immigrated to America from Northern Ireland near Belfast. I would guess that their father was James Alcorn of Ireland. The sequences of names lead me to this deduction. James, William, and Thomas Alcorn came to America in 1721.

The first record of Thomas Alcorn, son of Robert, is his signature witnessing a land sale of Madison County, Kentucky, on June 15, 1795. Robert Alcorn bought 600 acres of land along the Kentucky River in Madison County on that date from Moses Bledsoe and his wife Sally. Thomas Alcorn, who was at that time 18 years old, witnessed this land sale. On the same day, Thomas also signed as a witness the land sale by Moses and Sally Bledsoe to Captain John Goggins. This association, being a friend of Captain John Goggins, leads me to believe that Thomas was then a volunteer in the Madison County Militia. The Madison County Records show him as a volunteer in the 19th Regiment, Militia, Kentucky. He was recorded as a captain of that regiment in 1802. His division was known as the Cornstalk Division. There were two other Alcorns in this Division, William and James.

On July 8, 1799, in Garrard County, Kentucky, Thomas Alcorn married Catherine Montgomery, daughter of Samuel Montgomery, a Virginian and a Revolutionary soldier of that same state. The marriage application was signed by Thomas Alcorn, and the permission for Catherine to marry was signed by Samuel Montgomery as the father of Catherine. Samuel Montgomery is listed as a patriot in the Daughters of the American Revolution libraries throughout the country.

The history of Samuel Montgomery is recorded in the publication entitled *The Montgomerys and their Descendants*. This publication was by D.B. Montgomery of Owensville, Indiana, in 1902. A copy of this work is in the public library in Princeton, Indiana, the county seat of Gibson County. A short history of Thomas and Catherine Alcorn and their descendants is included in this publication.

The next record concerning Thomas Alcorn occurs in the records of Garrard County when Thomas purchased 105 acres of land in Garrard County, Kentucky, along Boone Mill Creek. The date of the purchase was July 29, 1811, and the price was £168.

It was in the fall of 1811 that Thomas Alcorn and his wife Catherine moved their family from Garrard County, Kentucky, to Gibson County, Indiana. Samuel Montgomery and his family, and possibly other families of the area, joined in the move.

At this time Samuel Montgomery lived in Montgomery County, Kentucky, near Mount Sterling. Since Thomas and Catherine Alcorn lived about 50 miles south of Lexington, they apparently went by way of Mount Sterling, which is east of Lexington, to join Samuel. Then the route apparently led them to the nearest point on the Ohio River. Alcorn history relates that they built rafts and floated their possessions and families down the Ohio River to a point near Mt. Vernon, Indiana. From there, they went overland about 25 miles south of Owensville, Indiana, in Gibson County.

Thomas Montgomery, brother of Samuel, had already moved his family to this community in 1806. Before moving to Gibson County, Indiana, Thomas Montgomery had also lived in Montgomery County, Kentucky.

The records of Garrard County, Kentucky, show that Thomas and Catherine Alcorn sold their land on Boone Mill Creek, July 15, 1815, for which Benjamin Bell paid the sum of \$600.00 (Deed Book E, page 224).

When Thomas and Catherine Alcorn arrived at their new home, it was in the community where they would live the rest of their lives. Thomas was 33 years old and Catherine was 31 years old. This was also the final move for Samuel Montgomery, Sr. Samuel died in 1815 and is buried about two miles south of Owensville, Indiana, in the Benson cemetery, on land that he owned. Thomas' and Catherine Alcorn's graves are near by.

Thomas and Catherine Alcorn had 11 children, six of whom were born in Kentucky and five, in Indiana. Their children were Montgomery, Jane, Benjamin, Nehemiah, Thomas, Jr., and Dorcas - these being the children born in Kentucky. Those born in Indiana were Rachel, Pauline, Catherine, Robert, and Agnes.

Having been a captain in the 19th Regiment of Madison County Kentucky Volunteers, Thomas Alcorn also engaged in battle against the Indians in Indiana, possibly at Vincennes or Tippecanoe, November 7, 1811. Alcorn history reports him a soldier of 1812.

At the time of the battle of Tippecanoe, Thomas Montgomery was 61 years old. Nevertheless, he, with this son-in-law, Captain Warrick, organized a detachment of soldiers from Gibson County to aid General William Henry Harrison, his friend. They engaged Tecumseh at Tippecanoe. I assume Thomas Alcorn was among these soldiers.

Thomas Alcorn, Sr., was a farmer, carpenter and land speculator in Gibson and Posey Counties until his death on November 5, 1855. Catherine lived until August 5, 1860. Also, Thomas was a Peace-Justice of Posey County.

Thomas Alcorn, Jr., the fifth child of Thomas and Catherine Alcorn, was born in Garrard County, Kentucky on January 25, 1808, and he died July 2, 1858. He was my great-grandfather. Thomas Jr. married Jane Haynes July 8, 1833. Their first child, James Thomas Alcorn, was born Jan 28, 1838. Their second child, Sarah Alcorn was born in 1840. Jane Haynes Alcorn died in 1841.

Thomas Alcorn, Jr., then married Jane Marcus on June 25, 1843. Thomas Alcorn, Jr., and Jane Marcus Alcorn had four children: they were William, born in 1844; Joseph, 1848; Nehemiah, 1852; and Catherine, 1854. Thomas Alcorn, Jr., was a farmer in Posey County, Indiana; and he had a close personal and business relationship with his father, Thomas Alcorn, Sr.

Sarah Alcorn, daughter of Thomas and Jane Alcorn, married Pleasant Marques, December 7, 1856.

James Thomas Alcorn, my grandfather, at the death of his father on July 2, 1858, inherited the farm of about 180 acres which his grandfather, Thomas Sr., had left to him in care of his father.

James Thomas also assumed duties as head of the household and supported his step-mother and half-brothers and half-sister until he entered the Civil War in 1861.

There are records of times when he sent money to his family while he was away. James Thomas Alcorn was a corporal in Company "B" of the 28<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 1st Cavalry, Indiana Volunteers. He was captured at the battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, March 8, 1862, and was taken to a Texas Confederate Prison. James Thomas Alcorn was released from the Texas Prison after Texas had been effectively severed from the Confederacy by action of the Union Army in the Mississippi Valley and by the action of the Union Navy in the Gulf of Mexico. He re-enlisted in the Union Army at New Orleans on the 20th of March, 1864. He was mustered out of the Union Army, July 1, 1865, at Indianapolis, Indiana, with the rank of sergeant.

Jane Marcus Alcorn married Charles Bellis, a Posey County, Indiana, farmer, November 10, 1862. Mr. Bellis had lost his wife; and his children by his previous marriage together with Jane Alcorn's children made a large family. Mr. Bellis moved them all to Kansas in 1865. They settled in Ottawa County, Kansas, and were listed on the 1870 Census in that county.

Joseph Alcorn became a successful wheat farmer in Kansas. His farm was near Miltonvale, Kansas. He was well respected in his community. My brothers, Malvern and James Oral visited him on his farm about 1917.

William Alcorn, son of Thomas Alcorn, Jr., and Jane Marcus, was still at the Bellis farm in Kansas in 1880 and was listed on that census. What became of him after 1880 I do not know.

I also know nothing of Nehemiah Alcorn, William's brother.

Katie (Catherine) Alcorn, their sister, married a man in Kansas - a Mr. Little.

Now I shall continue the history of my grandfather James Thomas Alcorn. After being mustered out of the army on July 1, 1865, he returned to his farm near Poseyville, Indiana. There he found a portion of it, about 80 acres, had been possessed by a Mr. Land. James Thomas repossessed the land by purchasing it from Mr. Land. He then set about the usual duties of a bachelor farmer until January 1866. On this date Anna Boren became his wife. Anna, born October 14, 1845, was the daughter of James Boren and "Kitty" Knowles Boren of Mount Moriah Community in Gibson County, Indiana. Anna died May 23, 1923.

My father, James Grant Alcorn, the first child of James Thomas Alcorn and Anna Boren Alcorn, was born November 1, 1866. David Colfax Alcorn, the second child of James Thomas and Anna, was born October 8, 1868. Ada Jane Alcorn, third and last child of the James Thomas and Anna, was born October 21, 1870. I shall detail further history of their lives in the following pages.

It was in the early morning darkness, on a gray November 7, 1870, out by a pasture gate, near the frozen bank of Black River, in sight of the darkened cabin where his family slept, James Thomas Alcorn died suddenly and unexpectedly. He was thirty-two years old.

The complete story of his death was detailed by a reporter of the Evansville Journal on November 9, 1870. A film of this paper is on file in the Willard Memorial Library in Evansville Indiana.

James Boren buried his son-in-law in the Mount Moriah Cemetery near his home. A headstone marks his grave. It is similar in size, design, and inscribed legend to the headstones of the Indiana Civil War dead. It tells his name and the date of his death, and has the following inscription (with possibly a few errors due to erosion.)

Oh!, a sudden and unexpected stroke,  
The little thread of life has broke.  
In the bloom of life his breath resigned,  
And left his mourning friends behind.

The remainder of the inscription was not legible.

Anna Boren Alcorn, with her fatherless young family, went to her father's farm to live. Mr. Boren's farm was in the Mount Moriah community in Gibson County Indiana, about four miles west of the town of Haubstadt.

In the month of June, 1836, my wife, Elsie, my small daughters, Maurine and Imogene, and I went with my father to Mount Moriah community in Gibson County Indiana. The cemetery is in the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of section 38, Union twp. The Boren home was in the SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of section 37, Union twp. We went by the cemetery and around the church, on the side toward Fort Branch, and up a slight hill to the home of my father's aunt, Mary Boren. She was 88 years old. She was still a lady of unbelievable mental sharpness and physical agility, yet delicate from the ravages which nature inflicts upon the old. Mary Boren lived in the house that belonged to my great-grandfather and great-grandmother, James Boren and "Kitty" Knowles Boren. They lived here in 1870, and it was the

home of my grandmother, Anna Boren. Here my father lived (after his own father's death) from the time he was four years old until he was seven.

The old house was surrounded by large oak trees, and a well was to the left of the house beneath the trees. My father showed me the well; and as he stood by it, he quoted the moving stanzas of "The Old Oaken Bucket." As his mind spanned the intervening years to his childhood, the summer's mid-evening sun disengaged itself from a lazy cloud, and its brilliant light burst through the green canopy of the ancient oaks. The light danced playfully upon the well and on the old house of my great-grandfather. It caught my father in its warm embrace, and the moment was blessed.

I am sure, as my great-aunt watched the happy faces of my young daughters, she recalled the many times she happily played with her sister Anna in this same house. That was the first and only time I saw my Aunt Mary, for the pressures of a hectic oilfield life in West Texas completely engrossed my life.

After moving back to her parents' farm, Anna Boren Alcorn and her children lived there for three years. Then, on August 12, 1873, Anna Boren Alcorn married Mr. Robert J. Brown, a farmer and school teacher. Mr. Brown was a good influence upon the young boys he had taken to raise. James Grant and David Alcorn grew up in the community where their great-grandfather Thomas Alcorn had settled in 1811. Anna Alcorn Brown kept the title to the Alcorn farm clear of debt; and when the children, James Grant, David, and Ada Jane became adults, they inherited their part of the Alcorn farm.

James Grant and David Colfax Alcorn combined their efforts and financial investments in the farming business. Through their tireless labor, they improved their standard of living until they were able to venture alone into a way of life that requires a fortuitous outlook upon the rewards and disappointments of incessant toil. This Spartan attitude toward life appears to be the reward of many who seriously adapt themselves, early, to the chores and toil upon a farm. Thus, the character of the two Alcorn brothers was molded by their early acceptance of responsibility; and their future, by thoughtful planning and productive toil. They became pillars of strength in their community and examples of sound religious beliefs and undying hope. These attributes of self-disciplined men remained with them throughout their lives.

James Grant Alcorn married a beautiful brown-eyed neighbor girl, Florence Lee Craig, daughter of David Early Craig and Louisiana Cleveland. James Grant always said this marriage to Florence was the highlight of his life. They were married September 23, 1891.

Florence Lee Craig was born May 29, 1872. She died on April 23, 1934, in San Angelo, Texas after a long illness diagnosed as tuberculosis of the throat which probably resulted from toxic deterioration of the thyroid glands. Her body was moved in July of 1952 from San Angelo to Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Posey County, Indiana to be laid beside her husband, James Grant Alcorn and their two infant sons. James Grant Alcorn died December 29, 1951.

When they were first married, James Grant Alcorn and Florence Lee Craig lived in a log cabin on the Alcorn farm which had belonged to his great-grandfather, Thomas Alcorn. He later sold his interest in this farm to his brother David and bought Mr. David Craig's farm, Florence's former home. They lived here until James Grant and Florence moved their home to Imboden, Arkansas, in November 1903.

They bought about 500 acres along Wayland Creek, about one and one-half miles south by west of Imboden. The farm was known at that time as the Reddin Farm. They lived here, where the remainder of their family was born, about 20 years. In February 1924, they moved to Andrews County, Texas. This move was made to improve Florence's health since her doctor had recommended a moderate and dry climate. Florence entered St. Mary's Hospital in Carlsbad, New Mexico, in 1926. She was there about a month and seemed greatly improved. James Grant rented a farm near Carlsbad and moved there to be near Florence.

They then bought a farm in the Hope Community west of Artesia, New Mexico, where they lived until 1933. Florence's condition being terminal, they then moved to San Angelo, Texas, to be near their sons, Thomas, Lloyd, Paul, and Arthur, who were in business there.

Wherever James Grant lived, he was always supporting and espousing the cause of the Church of Christ, the religion which he embraced as a young man in Posey County, Indiana. He was instrumental in organizing congregations of the church in most of the places where he lived. And on many occasions in the absence of a minister, he assumed the ministerial duties to the congregation. He also ministered to the needs of any of neighbors who health and misfortune prompted the need.

After Florence Lee's death, James Grant lived and visited among his children for a time. Then to dispel the boredom of an inactive life, he took residence in Kermit, Texas, where he labored among the congregation of the Church of Christ. He also laboriously wrote a book consisting of about 400 pages as well as many short poems - of which the central theme of most was Florence Lee. Then in 1948, at the age of 81, he hears about a small congregation of the Church of Christ in a woodland community near Pea Ridge, Arkansas. Believing he could be of some assistance, he moved there. Here he met and married an elderly lady, a Mrs. Wardlaw, who became his wife and companion until her death in 1951. He became ill due to failing kidneys a few months later. His son, Malvern Alcorn, moved him to his home in Evansville, Indiana, where he died at the age of 85 in December 1951.

James Grant Alcorn and Florence Lee Craig had thirteen children. (1) Maruice Lee was born August 25, 1892 in a log cabin on the Alcorn farm in Posey County, Indiana. (2) James Oral was born October 25, 1893, in the same log cabin. (3) Melborn died at birth, 1894. (4) Jesse Malvern was born November 24, 1895, on the David Craig farm in Posey County, Indiana. (5) David Russel, born in 1897, lived only one month. (6) Manford Craig was born December 21, 1899, on the David Early Craig farm. (7) Arja Thomas was born February 2, 1902, on the David Early Craig farm. (8) Lloyd Colfax was born February 16, 1904, on the Alcorn farm near Imboden, Arkansas. (9) Paul Harold was born September 16, 1905, on the Alcorn farm near Imboden. (10) Arthur Loren was born November 19, 1907, on the Alcorn farm. (11) David Early was born April 12, 1911, on the same farm. (12) Anna Florence was born April 19, 1914, also on the Alcorn farm. (13) Garland Grant was born December 10, 1917, also on the same. Farm. Garland died in the service of his country at Neuernburg, Germany, in 1943, when the B-17 bomber, his station of duty, was shot down.

Next I will give a brief history of each of these thirteen children who reached maturity.

[The copy ends here]

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1 [Unsure of spelling of name; copy is difficult to read.]

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