

The Skees family had no real impact on the Sunfish community, but were a part of the Durbin and Logsdon families. For this reason, I will give a short sketch.

Richard Skees, parentage unknown, born March 4, 1768 in Wales, was married to Ann, daughter of _____ Durbin and _____, in Madison County, circa 1790-1791.

Richard acquired land at Harcourt in Hardin County, near White Mills, in 1817, and began to build his cabin almost immediately. He somehow injured one foot, developed tetanus (lockjaw) and died within a few days, June 10, 1817.

Richard Skees and Ann Durbin were the parents of at least five children, and perhaps more.

1. Margaret, born October 31, 1792, was never married. When she died, John Simons was one of the administrators of her estate.
2. Susanna, born August 1, 1794, died circa 1870, was married to Elisha, son of Elisha Logsdon, Sr. and Rebecca Howard, November 15, 1816.
3. James Samuel, born March 8, 1796, died February 26, 1851, was married to Rebecca, daughter of Elisha Logsdon, Sr. and Rebecca Howard, in Madison County, November 17, 1816.

Rebecca died April 13, 1844, and James was married second to Isabelle Brown, parentage unknown, April 8, 1845.

On the census of Hardin County, 1850:

James Skees	54
Isabelle	41
William	25
James	20
Sylvester	12
Susan Eleanor	14

From St. John the Baptist baptismal records of Father Degauquier: "The 20th of Feb. 1836, I baptised Susan Eleanor, daughter of James Skees and Rebecca his wife, born 1st Feb. 1836, sponsor, Mary Bradley."

Mary Bradley was another child of Elisha Logsdon, Sr. and Rebecca Howard, the wife of Elisha Bradley, son of James Bradley and Ann Miller.

James Skees and Rebecca Logsdon were the parents of at least one daughter who was not on the census of 1850 with him. Mary Malinda, or Mary Melvina, was married to John Allen Wooldridge, in Hardin County, April 9, 1849.

John Allen was the son of Robert Wooldridge and Nancy Brunk, was born August 14, 1826, and died November 8, 1892. Mary M. was born October 25, 1823, died September 29, 1896.

John Allen Wooldridge and Mary M. Skees were the parents of eight children:

- A. Nathan Gather, born in 1851, died in Apache County, Oklahoma, was married to Frances A., daughter of Sylvester Gatton and Lydia F. Wellington, November 12, 1871.
- B. John Robert, born March 21, 1853, died June 9, 1938, was married to Ellen Floyd, in Hardin County, November 16, 1879.
- C. Nancy Ellen, born in 1854, was married to James, son of James Gatton and Mary Newton, February 22, 1876.
- D. James R., born in 1855, died in 1910, was married to Mary Frances Collard.
- E. William P., born in 1858, was married to Susan Litsey.
- F. George W., born in 1861, died before 1880.
- G. Rebecca T., born in 1862, was married to Christopher L., son of Alexander Logsdon and Mary E. Durbin, February 24, 1886. (Some researchers think Rebecca's middle name was Frances. The census records, and deeds in Edmonson County, have Rebecca T.)
- H. Henry Clay, born March 22, 1864, died at Mayfield, Kentucky, June 4, 1943, was married to Susan Ann, daughter of Alexander Logsdon and Mary E. Durbin, May 4, 1886.

Susan Ann Logsdon was born August 18, 1866, died at Mayfield August 30, 1910. Henry Clay was married second to Emma, daughter of John and Ann Catherine Stuart.

- 4. John, born October 10, 1802, died July 3, 1861, was married first to a Susan Grimes, parentage unknown, May 4, 1828.

John Skees was married second to Elizabeth, daughter of Christopher N. Durbin and Mary Durbin, in Hardin County, November 24, 1838.

John Skees and Elizabeth lived in Sunfish for a time, and John was one of the heads of household listed by Fr. Degauquier in 1845. John had moved back to Hardin County by 1850.

From the records of Fr. Degauquier at St. John the Baptist Church, "September the 22nd, 1840, I baptised Christopher, son of John Skees and Elizabeth his wife . . . ".

On the census of Hardin County, 1860:

John Skees	57
Elizabeth	40
Richard	17
Sarah A.	16
Polly A.	15
Amanda E.	12

5. Richard, born May 22, 1807, died September 13, 1882, was married to Mary Matilda Hill, parentage unknown, born May 24, 1813, died July 18, 1883.

In July, 1984, my wife and I drove to White Mills, looking for the cemetery of Old Saint Ignatius Church. We found the easiest way to get there is to drive down the Western Kentucky Parkway from Elizabethtown, and get off at the White Mills exit, east. Go east on Highway #84 through White Mills, and past the new Saint Ignatius (built in 1900) to Highway #1813, which runs north. The old cemetery, and site of the old St. Ignatius, is on the first gravel road leading to the left, on property owned by Jerome Peerce. Mr. Peerce is a direct descendant of Richard Skees and Ann Durbin. Jerome keeps sheep in the cemetery, to keep the weeds and grass down.

Jerome Peerce lives on land which was owned by Richard Skees in 1817. His home was originally built in 1830, with an addition added in 1900. When the house was built in 1830, a negro slave who had knowledge in the construction of houses, was borrowed from a friend who lived at Elizabethtown. He worked on the house for six months. There are two chimneys built into the house, and one of these chimneys had the initials "J.H." attached. It is thought the initials are those of John Hart, a well known stone mason of his time. The house seems to be in excellent shape and is being considered for the National Register of Historic Homes. From its outward appearance, it should last another 150 years.

The lineage of Jerome Peerce:

- A. Richard Skees, March 4, 1768 - June 10, 1817.
Ann Durbin, March, 1769 - circa 1847.
- B. Richard Skees, May 22, 1807 - September 13, 1882.
Mary Matilda Hill, May 24, 1813 - July 18, 1883.
- C. James Thomas Skees, October 26, 1840 - September 7, 1920.
Susan Frances Neighbors, October 20, 1846 - February 12, 1925.
- D. William Jefferson Peerce, July 21, 1874 - August 20, 1962.
Flagot Elizabeth Skees, March 28, 1883 - April 21, 1980.

Inventory of the estate of Richard Skees sale, page 187/188, first page missing.

one tray	\$25.00
one sheet	\$.50
Peggy Skees, one bed	\$20.00
Peggy Skees, one woman's saddle	\$20.00
Peggy Skees, one trunk	\$ 7.75
Peggy Skees, one flax wheel	\$ 3.00
Peggy Skees, one looking glass and paper	\$ 1.57½
Peggy Skees, five pounds of wool	\$ 2.57
Peggy Skees, one blanket	\$ 1.67
Ann Skees, five hogs	\$15.00
Joseph Logsdon, one bay filly	\$21.00
Elisha Logsdon, one cow	\$16.00
Peggy Skees, one hefer	\$11.50
James Hayden, one bull	\$ 7.25
James Hayden, one steer	\$ 8.00
Elisha Logsdon, four hogs, 1st choice	\$15.00
John Buckley, four hogs, 2nd choice	\$12.00
John Stevenson, five hogs	\$13.25
John Simons, one baresher plow	\$10.00
Robert Miller, one ax	\$11.50
Elisha Logsdon, one ? and one clip	\$ 2.02½
Elisha Logsdon, 17 pounds of wool	\$ 2.83
James Hayden, ? ? ? ?	\$ 1.57
Zekiah Ingraum, one blanket	\$ 5.00
Zekiah Ingraum, pair of saddle bags	\$ 5.50
Benjamin Utterback, one mares saddle	\$ 9.50
Zekiah Ingraum, one hand saw	\$ 3.37½
Robert Miller, ? ? ? ?	\$.87½
John Durbin, one pair of sheep sheers	\$.62½
Zekiah Ingraum, one chisel drawing knife	\$.80
David Simons, one chisel	\$.37½
David Simons, two chisels and auger	\$.80

The Skees Family of Hardin County

James Hayden, one keg	\$.52½
James Hayden, ? ? ? ?	\$ 7.25
Elisha Logsdon, one pack saddle	\$.25
John Hart, five sheep	\$10.50
Calib Brown, one ram	\$ 2.62½
James Hayden, one saw	\$ 3.12½

I, Ann Skees, administrator of Richard Skees, dec't, make this a true and faithful copy of the sale of the personal property of said dec't, on the sixteenth day of August, 1819, and make this return to the honorable Court of Hardin County, Kentucky.

Ann Skees, Admx.