

with his wife is buried on the farm which they cleared.

Leonard Kratz was born in the town of Teutonia, three miles from Frankfort-on-Main, Germany, on the 14th February, 1756. Nothing is known of his parents except that his father, Peter Kratz, was killed three years after Leonard was born.

The next we hear of him is in 1776, when he was twenty years old, coming to America as a member of one of the Hessian regiments, which came over to help King George III quell a rebellion in the colonies.

They arrived at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and were instructed to proceed at once to Quebec, where they were to reinforce General Carleton's army and assist in driving the Americans from Canada. At Quebec they were joined by several regiments of Canadians and Indians and the whole army of 10,000 was placed under the command of Gen. Burgoyne. They moved down Lake Champlain and Lake George with the intention of forming a junction with an army from New York, and thereby cut off General George Washington's communications with the Eastern States. They met the Americans at Stillwater, near Saratoga, and after waiting for two weeks for the co-operation of General Clinton, General Burgoyne decided to try and cut his way through, as he was getting short of provisions. After failing in several desperate attempts, he decided to retire to the town of Saratoga, where, finding himself surrounded, he surrendered on the 11th of October, 1777, to General Gates, the American commander.

The army was taken to Virginia and held as prisoners of war for two years, after which they were given their choice of either free passage back to Germany or free grants of land as colonists.

Leonard Kratz, in 1779, when this offer was made, was absent on furlough visiting some friends. On his return he was quite surprised to find his company disbanded and most of them had sailed for home. Whether he would have returned with them or not, is hard to say, but when he found that his companions had gone, he at once decided to stay and take advantage of the free land grants.

In the years 1779 and 1780 there was a great rush of emigrants into the "Lone Lands" of Kentucky, and among one of the groups we find the families of Munger and Tofflemire, also the soldier, Leonard Kratz, who being familiar with the country, acted as guide to the party.

In the Munger family was a daughter named Mary. It is not known whether she and Leonard were acquainted before leaving Virginia, but somewhere on the journey it appears that Leonard proposed to Mary and was accepted. The next thing to be done was to obtain the consent of her parents, which, to his surprise, was most positively refused, their reason being that he was a soldier. This was a great disappointment to the lovers, but it also made them more determined. They waited until they were well on their way, when he brought them to a halt by declaring he would go on further as guide unless they would consent to his marriage with their daughter. This was placing them in an awkward position, for to be left in the wilds without a guide could not be considered for a moment, so after due deliberation they consented, and as soon as possible the ceremony was performed.

After this romantic event they proceeded on their way. Their destination was the fertile valley of the Licking, about thirty miles below the city of Cincinnati, where after a stockade