

The Van Cleave Story

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Jane Van Cleave, the mother of John Van Cleave Wible who settled in northeast Turman Township (Sullivan County, Ind.) in 1842, was of the fifth generation of the Van Cleave name in America. The original spelling of the name, however, was Van Clief or Van Cleef.

The first immigrant ancestor was Jan (John) Van Clief, who was born in 1628 at Amsterdam, Holland. When he was only a small lad, some of his father's neighboring Dutch farmers began coming to America, establishing the first white settlement at Flatlands on Long Island, within the present limits of the Borough of Brooklyn, N.Y. This was in 1636,

In 1645 another Dutch settlement was made at the western tip of Long Island, and because the marshy ground reminded the settlers of a similar place back in Holland called Brueckelen, the colony in the New World was likewise called Bruecken. It was also spelled Bruecklyn, Brucklyn, and finally Brookland, until the present "Brooklyn" was adopted. The name means "marsh land."

In 1650 a third Dutch colony called New Utrecht was founded nearby on Long Island, and it was to this place that 25 year-old Jan Van Cleef migrated in 1653 - exactly 300 years ago! Since he came from the town of Cleef, he was called Van Cleef, meaning simply "from Cleef."

Jan Van Cleef was married in 1661 to a Dutch girl named Engeltje Louwernes, or translated into English, "Angelica Lawrence". They resided at New Utrecht where Jan is listed in Vol. VIII, Compendium of American Genealogy (p. 889), as a patentee of land in 1659; a representative of the Bushwick Colony at a vital Convention in New Amsterdam in 1664; and a Constable in 1678. He took the Oath of Allegiance to the English in 1687, after the British had taken over the Dutch possessions in America.

Jan and Angelica Van Cleef's fifth child was a son named Isabrant, born in 1677. Isabrant was a grand juror at New Utrecht in 1699, the year his father died. About this time many of the Dutch, including the Van Cleefs, moved south across New York harbor to a colony in Monmouth County, New Jersey. There Isabrant Van Cleef fell in love with Jane Vanderbilt, a granddaughter of one of the original colonists, John Aertsen Van Der Bilt, who had come from Utrecht, Holland, to the Flatlands settlement in 1650.

Jane (whose Dutch name was "Jannetje Vanderbilt") was born in 1682. She had moved to the Monmouth settlement in New Jersey when she was a little girl, along with her parents, Aries and Hillitje Remsen Vanderbilt. This was the same Vanderbilt family of the famed American capitalist, "Commodore" Cornelius Vanderbilt. The great-grandfather of Commodore was Jacob Vanderbilt (1692-1760), who was a cousin of our Jane, wife of Isabrant Van Cleef.

Some of the Vanderbilts and Van Cleaves lived on nearby Staten Island at the mouth of New York harbor, and it was here that the nine children of Isabrant Van Cleef were born. One of these was Aaron, born in 1710, and he was the first to use the present spelling, with a "v". Most of the present-day Van Cleaves, of Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana (and all of the descendants of John Van Cleave Wible, trace their ancestry directly to Aaron, Sr., (1710-1780).

Aaron Van Cleave grew up around New York harbor and for many years was a captain of a Coast-wise trading vessel. Capt. Van Cleave was often mentioned in the Boston Weekly News and the New York weekly Post-Boy. His father, Isabrant, died in 1728, and the inventory of the estate is on file at Frehold, N. J., dated January, 1729.

Five years later the son, Aaron Van Cleave, married Rachel Schenck in Monmouth County, N. J., in 1734 She was born in 1709, the daughter of another Dutch pioneer couple named Jan Roelofsen Schenck and his wife, nee Sarah Van Couwenhoven. The children of Aaron and Rachel, all born in New Jersey, were:. (1) Samuel Van Cleave, born 1735; (2) Cary (a son) b. 1737; (3) John, bfl 1739; (4) Benjamin, born Nov. 15, 1741 (see records below); (5) William, b. 1743; (6) Aaron, Jr., b, 1745; (7) Ralph (or Rutliff), b. 1747; and (8) Jane, the only daughter, born Oct. 16, 1749.

Sometime between 1750-1760, Aaron Van Cleave and his family were among the horde of emigrants who traveled down the Great Wagon Road which ran from Philadelphia across Virginia to the Yadkin River in North Carolina (described in this series Oct. 15). Settlers from New Jersey, Maryland, and Pennsylvania traversed this old Road (originally an Indian War Path) literally by the thousands.

The parents of Daniel Boone had taken this trail from Berks County, Penn., to the Yadkin River country in the spring of 1750, when Daniel was only 16 and his brother, Squire Boone, Jr., was six. The Boone family tarried for perhaps a year in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, but finally arrived at Buffalo Lick, the north fork of the Yadkin River, N. C., in 1751.

Aaron Van Cleave and his family from New Jersey arrived in this part of North Carolina at about the same time. Due to the proximity of the Van Cleaves and Boones in the California frontier, it can be surmised that the children of both families grew up together. The first marriage of these new settlers in N. C. occurred in 1756, when Daniel Boone, then 22, wed Rebecca Bryan.

But Daniel Boone was restless by nature, as historians point out, and eager to explore unknown lands, all dominated by Indians at that time. In 1764 Boone sold a large acreage to Aaron Van Cleave, Sr. In the courthouse at Salisbury, Rowan County, N. C., is the deed by which Daniel and Rebecca Boone transferred 640 acres "within the works of the Yadkin River to Aaron Van Cleave for 80-pounds Proclamation Money of North Carolina."

This tract was originally granted to John Earl of Granville County and sold to Squire Boone, Sr., on Dec. 29, 1753; then bought by Squire's son Daniel Boone on Oct. 12, 1759. And now, on Feb. 21, 1764, it was sold by Daniel and wife to Capt. Aaron Van Cleave The deed was witnessed by Thomas Holman, Samuel Bailey and Benjamin Van Cleave, 23 year-old son of Aaron.

The next marriage of importance in our story was that of Benjamin Van Cleave to Ruth Munson, on July 14, 1765; and the following month, on Aug. 8, 1765, Benjamin's 16 year-old sister, Jane Van Cleave, was married to Squire Boone, Jr., the brother, of Daniel. These were both in Rowan County, N. C.

It is interesting to pause here and reflect that in this year, 1765, the Turman family was living across the line in Virginia, about 40 miles due north of Van Cleaves and Boones in N. C., and Benjamin Turman, Jr., (who came to Indiana in 1810) was then a little boy three years old (born in 1762). There is no legal evidence or family tradition that the Turmans knew any of the Van Cleaves, yet Benjamin Turman did know Daniel Boone and Simeon Kenton at Fort Boonesboro, according to tradition.

At any rate, 99 years after the 1765 marriage of Benjamin Van Cleave, his great-granddaughter, Anna Wible, became the bride, in Sullivan County, Ind., of Return J. Turman, a grandson of Benjamin Turman.

It was also in the year 1765 that the adventurous Daniel Boone explored southward from the Carolinas as far as St. Augustine, Fla., but on returning home was intrigued by the stories of Kentucky told by John Finley, who was one of the first adventurers into that wilderness of buffaloes, canebrakes, and Indians.

It must be remembered that the settlement lines along the Virginia and Caroline frontiers had grown increasingly populous from 1751, and the settlers were all eager to remove farther west to new and fertile lands. But even after the Colonists won the French and Indian War, the British King's "Proclamation Line of 1763" had forbidden further settlement beyond the line of watershed of the Appalachian mountains.

Despite this order, a few daring scouts and "long hunters" began to invade the Kentucky country. Among these was John Finley, whose accounts were so alluring to Daniel Boone, and in 1767 Boone himself crossed the Cumberland Gap and became acquainted with the highlands of eastern Kentucky for the first time.

In 1769 Boone again explored Kentucky in company with Finley and several others, including Boone's younger brother, Squire. The two brothers during 1769-71 became intimately acquainted with the table lands and valleys lying between the Big Sandy River and the Cumberland River. Hence in 1775, Daniel Boone was the logical man chosen to blaze a trail to Kentucky and to locate the best fording places for settlers of the Transylvania Land Company who were to follow, led by Judge Richard Henderson, of North Carolina.

In May, 1775, the settlement of Ft. Boonesboro was begun. Another settlement had been founded by James Harrod the year before - Harrodsburgh, Ky. The entire area at that time was included in the vast limits of Fincastle County, Va., but on Dec. 6, 1776, Kentucky was created as a separate "county" of Virginia.

Meanwhile, back in Rowan County, N. C., Jane Van Cleave Boone, wife of Squire, Jr., was busy rearing her family of four, prior, to joining her husband in Kentucky. Jane's brother, Benjamin Van Cleave, and his wife Ruth lived nearby in the Yadkin River area with their own five children. Benjamin's family then consisted of (1) Mary Van Cleave, born May 22, 1766; (2) Aaron III, born Dec. 15, 17_8; (3) Samuel, born Feb. 25, 1770; (4) Rachel, born May 7, 1772; and (5) John Van Cleave, born April 15, 1774.

Then in 1775 Benjamin Van Cleave and his brothers - Aaron Jr., 30, William, 32, and John, 39, and their families - joined their Boone relatives in Kentucky at Boonesboro. The family Bible records show that the next two children of Benjamin and Ruth Van Cleave were born at the Fort! They were Jane Van Cleave II, born Jan. 29, 1778; and Eunice, born Nov. 15, 1779.

Jane was no doubt a namesake for her aunt Jane Van Cleave Boone. It was this younger Jane Van Cleave, born in the Boone fort on the Kentucky River, who later married the widower, Adam Wible, in 1795, and who, after settling in Washington County, Indiana, in 1813, became the mother of John Van Cleave Wible (1816-1879) as mentioned in this column last week.

Van Cleavees in Kentucky

"The weak fell by the wayside; the cowards never started!" - Carl Sandburg (in his biography of Abraham Lincoln, relative to the hardships faced by all pioneers migrating to the Northwest Territory.)

Anyone who is descended from a pioneer who helped to develop Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois or "points west" can take 'pride in such a statement. Your particular ancestor may not have achieved unusual fame, nor accumulated vast riches. He may have done no more than to establish a family, clear lands and make a living in the wilderness., But at least he was courageous and brave, else he would never have started on the perilous venture, but would have remained behind in the comparative safety of the already-established communities.

Those who survived the repeated Indian attacks on the frontier forts in the discouraging days of early Kentucky must have possessed unusual stamina, as well as bravery. These included the four Van Cleave brothers - Benjamin, John, William and Aaron Jr. - and their sister, Jane, wife of Squire Boone Jr. As mentioned last week, these Van Cleaves and their families came in 1775 from North Carolina to Kentucky and lived at first within the protection of the two original forts, Daniel Boone's and James Harrod's.

Fort Boonesboro was laid out in April, 1775, on a plain south of the Kentucky River, near a salt lick frequented by herds of buffalo. Some 30 miles further west, at the headwaters of Salt River, was Harrodsburg, founded the year before. These two outposts were to become vital "backdoors" in the cause of the American Revolution, and throughout the war Harrod's settlement was the seat of "Kentucky County".

Even before the end of 1775, Shawnees from the north were raiding the area, and two settlers were killed. It soon was realized that immediate aid from Virginia was imperative if the frontier was to survive. Among the new arrivals in 1776 were George Rogers Clark, destined to become the hero of the Northwest as conqueror of Vincennes; and Simon Kenton, also slated to win fame as a scout and Indian fighter.

To settle disputed land claims which arose between the men of Harrod's settlement and those of Judge Richard Henderson's at Boonesboro, it was decided to send Clark and John Gabriel Jones to the legislature in Virginia. They also were to appeal for supplies of gunpowder, etc.

In June, 1776, Clark and Jones departed down the Wilderness Road to Virginia, but soon afterward an Indian raid occurred and three teen age girls were captured while canoeing on the river not far from Boone's fort. They were Jemima Boone, daughter of Daniel, and Elizabeth and Frances Callaway, daughters of Col. Richard Callaway. This was on Sunday afternoon, July 14, 1776.

In Boone's party of men who by Squire Boone Jr., Samuel Henderson, fiance of Betsy Callaway; and three weeks later Sam and Betsy were married in the first wedding ceremony at Boonesboro, solemnized by Squire Boone Jr. Samuel Henderson was the younger brother of Judge Richard Henderson. The city and county of Henderson in Kentucky are named for this Henderson family.

The most authentic references to the Boones, Hendersons, Van Cleaves and others of that day are found in the Draper Manuscripts at Madison, Wis. This miscellaneous collection of historical data was gathered by Lyman C. Draper (1815-1891) who was one of the first genealogists of the country. About 100 years ago he traveled around the countryside on horseback, visiting the oldest people he could find, and writing down everything they could remember. Thus numerous incidents of the earlier times, that otherwise would have been lost to posterity, were recorded.

Mr. Draper in later years was a Doctor of Laws and secretary of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. At his death, his unpublished manuscripts were presented to the Society, and the collection today constitutes one of the most valuable sources of colonial Kentucky lore in existence.

In one of Mr. Draper's interviews with Moses Boone, son of Squire and Jane, an attack on Harrodsburg in 1777 is described as follows:

"Prior to July, 1776, when the girls were taken, Squire Boone had moved to Harrodsburg, went there in the spring. He had erected a cabin in the town. The next spring (on March 6, 1777) Wm. Ray was killed and James Ray, his brother, escaped and got in just at dusk, reporting that he had seen some 30 Indians. Mrs. Squire Boone (for her husband was absent in North Carolina to settle up some old business there) moved her effects and family to the Fort after sundown, and others did the same.

"Next morning before sunrise smoke was seen rising from Benj. Vancleave's turner shop, and a party foolhardy enough marched out and discovered a gun standing beside one of the cabins. The Indians, as they got quite close to the cabins, opened fire, hidden behind the brush between the cabins and the Fort, but killed none. Wounded Major McGary and John Gass slightly, cut on side of his neck. Ben Linn shot an Indian and ran up and took his scalp amid a shower of bullets. This was the work of a few minutes.

"One or two of the men got run off and did not venture in till after dark that evening. All the cabins were burned. The Indians fired several distant shots at the Fort, and finally went off."

The Major McGary mentioned was the stepfather of the boy, Wm. Ray, who was killed. The McGary's were a Scotch-Irish family from Pennsylvania who had moved down to North Carolina with the Boones. There in the Yadkin River District, Hugh McGary Sr. married the widow, Ms. Mary Buntin Ray, who had three sons - William, James and John Ray. James, who was about 16 at the time his brother William was killed, later became a general, as shown in the Ky. Register, vol. 42, p. 59:

"Gen. James Ray came to Ft. Harrod in 1775 at age 14 or 15 with his mother, his stepfather Hugh McGary and his two brothers, Wm. and John Ray. The mother, Mary Buntin, was the Widow Ray who had wed Hugh McGary in N. C. They all came to Ky. in a party headed by Dan'l Boone."

In January, 1778, Daniel Boone himself and 15 companions were captured by Shawnee warriors and taken to Chillicothe, Ohio. This was the year that Jane van Cleave (later the wife of Adam Wible) was born at the Boone Fort. Boone managed to escape from the Indians in July and returned to warn the settlement and to strengthen the fortification for an imminent attack by the British-led savages.

The seige of Boonesboro began on Sept. 7 and continued for eight hazardous days before Chief Black Fish withdrew. "One more day of siege and the exhausted people in the fort would have had to surrender because of physical inability to resist any longer," wrote Thomas D. Clark in "The Kentucky River," page 52.

Tradition in the Wible and Van Cleave family refers to the aid given by the Van Cleaves in repulsing the Indians both in this crisis and in other vicious attacks upon the Kentucky blickhouses. One of these was at the "station" built in 1779 by Squire Boone at the Painted Stone, near the present site of Shelbyville, Ky. It was the only refuge on the road between Harrodsburg and the Fort at the Falls of the Ohio (Louisville).

Pertinent information on this is contained in Lyman Draper's interview with G. T. Wilcox, grandson of Squire and Jane Boone, in Mss. 19 C 183-3:

"Benjamin and Aaron Van Cleave, brothers of Squire Boone's wife, lived in Squire Boone's Station on Clear Creek in 1780. When Floyd's Defeat happened in 1781, they made a settlement on Bull Skin Creek, called the Vancleave settlement...

"Benjamin's son, Samuel Van Cleave, and another young man went to the woods to get some timber, and a party of Indians captured them. The young man put his arms around a tree and wouldn't go with them, so they tomahawked him. They took Samuel with them, but in six weeks he made his escape, traveling 15 days and all he had to eat was one dryland terrapin, two young blackbirds, and pawpaws. He was my mother's cousin, became a preacher and baptised my Father and Mother in 1818. Signed: G. T. Wilcox,"

In an interview with Samuel Graham, the following is found in Draper Mss. 16 CC 312, further pertaining to Samuel Van Cleave's, capture:

"Sam was going along a trail with a bag, pumpkins in each end, thrown across his shoulder. He threw the end in front of him and back over his shoulder and it struck the Indian so violently he loosed his hold of Sam, and Sam ran." This was apparently when Sam escaped.

"Years afterward," Mr. Graham continued, "Samuel Van Cleave built himself a new home and was walking in a new large room as it was finishing, thinking how he would soon dance over that floor at a ball he intended giving as soon as the house was completed. When the words from the Bible, "Thou fool, etc." came powerfully to his mind; and he turned to be a Baptist preacher! This his father told me."

Graham's interview also reiterates that Benjamin Van Cleave "lived down on Clear Creek, below Shelbyville, near his brother John. I visited them when I first, came to this county. Benjamin Van Cleave told me he first camped at the head of a little creek and found such a quantity of Ticks at his encampment that from then on he called it Tick Creek.

"Buffalo Creek and Tick Creek head up together. Buffalo goes off the other direction (east) into Benson Creek, while Tick runs west into Brashear's. He supposed the buffalo had brought, the Ticks there. There were cords of old buffalo skulls here when I cane. Benjamin Van Cleave was a very fine man. "

At the Battle of Boone's and Floyd's Defeat (referred to in the Wilcox interview above), John Van Cleave - oldest of the four Van Cleave brothers - suffered heavily. John had married Mary Shepherd in North Carolina and they had five children when they came to Kentucky. In 1779, four years after arriving in the Bluegrass State, twin girls named Nancy and Sally were born to this couple.

In the fall of 1781 the settlers at Squire Boone's Station were warned of the approach of another band of Indians on the warpath. The whites immediately started for the protection of the stronger fort at Louisville, but on Sept. 14 they were attacked at Long Run Creek and 40 or 50 men, women and children were massacred. (Draper Mss. 19 C 120-154).

Among the casualties were John Van Cleave's wife, Mary, and twin daughters. John afterward married Mrs. Rachel Demaree Ryker, whose husband was killed at the same time as John's wife. As time went on, Rachel's son, Gerardus Ryker Jr., married Leah Van Cleave, one of John's older daughters by his first wife.

It is stated that the very first corn raised in Kentucky was in 1775 in a field planted by John Harmon at the east end of Harrodsburg. Benjamin Van Cleave also raised a corn crop in the Kentucky wilderness as early as 1776, as shown by the following Kentucky Court record dated Nov. 20, 1779:

"Squire Boone for and in behalf of Benj. Van Cleave this day claimed a settlement and preemption to a tract of Land lying on Clear Creek known by the name of Painted Stone, a branch of Brashear's Creek, a branch of Salt River; by the said Vancleve's Improving same and raising a Crop of Corn in the year 1776. Satisfactory proof being made to the Court, they are of opinion that the said Vancleve has a right to a settlement of 400 acres of Land including said Improvement, and the preemption of 1000 acres adjoining." (Kentucky Register, 1923, p.56).

The Certificate Book of the Virginia Land Company, 1779-1780, shows a certificate for 1400 acres was issued accordingly, and court fees, etc. were paid to Col. Clark at Harrodsburg.

The streams referred to in the above Draper interviews, etc. - Bull Skin creek, Tick, Clear, Brashear 's and Benson's Creek - are all located in Shelby County, Ky., sane 30 miles or more east of Louisville, on the route to Frankfort, the state capitol. This is the area where most of the Van Cleave's spent the rest of their lives, and is also the region where the Grigsby and Wible families resided prior to migrating to the Indiana Territory in the early part of the 1800's.

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The following additional notes on the early Van Cleave pioneers of Kentucky are taken from the manuscript, History of The Van Cleave Family, The McMullen Family & The Taylor Family, on file at the Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, Ky. The manuscript was compiled by Errett Van Cleave of San Francisco, Ca. in 1946 from notes left by his uncle, James William Van Cleave (1845-1925) of Montgomery County, Ind.

Aaron Van Cleave, son of Isabrant Van Cleef & Jan Van Der But, and his wife, Rachel Schenck, both died in the year 1780 in North Carolina, at the Forks of the Yadkin River. Aaron & Rachel Schenck Van Cleave had eight children, six of whom were early pioneers of Kentucky. Their children were:

1. Samuel Van Cleave was born about 1735 in New Jersey. Moved from North Carolina and settled in Virginia.

2. Cary Van Cleave (a son) was born about 1737 in New Jersey. In later years moved to Ohio.

3. John Van Cleave was born about 1739 in New Jersey. In North Carolina about 1764 he married Mary Shepherd. In 1775 moved to Kentucky, where in 1781 his wife and their twin infant daughters, Sally & Nancy, aged about 2 years, were killed in an Indian attack (Sally was known to have been killed & Nancy was carried off, never to be heard of again), John Van Cleave between 1781-1785 married Mrs. Rachel (Demaree) Ryker. He settled in Shelby County, Ky., where he died in 1812. His children by his first wife were: Rachel born ca 1765 N.C. married Peter Banta. John born ca 1766 N.C., married Eunice Van Cleave (daughter of Benjamin Van Cleave & Ruth Munson) 22 Sep. 1794 Shelby County, Ky., in 1810 he was residing in Shelby County, Ky. Aaron born about 1769 N.C., married Elizabeth Griffin, in 1810 was living Shelby County, Ky. Benjamin born ca 1771, married Sarah Kerns 1 Jan. 1801 Shelby County, Ky., in 1810 was living Shelby County, Ky. Elizabeth born ca 1773 married Aaron Van Cleave (son of Benjamin Van Cleave & Ruth Munson) 4 March 1794 Shelby County, Ky. Sally born in 1779 Ky. and killed in 1781 by Indians. Nancy born in 1779 Ky. and was killed or carried off by Indians in 1781. John Van Cleave by his second wife had two children: Peter born about 1785 and David born 24 March 1787 Ky., married Rachel Swearingen and in 1820 was living Shelby County, Ky.

4. Benjamin Van Cleave was born on 15 (or 22) November 1741 in New Jersey. In Rowan County, N. C. on 14 July 1765 he married Ruth Munson, who was born 10 July 1746. In 1775 moved to Kentucky, where they lived for a time at Fort Boonesboro and Bryants Station, before settling in Shelby County, Ky. He died in Shelby County, Ky. on 27 July 1819 and his wife, Ruth, died on 4/5 Dec. 1823 in Shelby County, Ky. They were the parents of eleven children, six sons & five daughters, they were: Mary born 22 May 1766 N.C., married Jonathan Ryker. Aaron born 15 Dec. 1768 N.C., married Elizabeth Van Cleave (daughter of John Van Cleave & Mary Shepherd) 4 March 1794 Shelby County, Ky. Samuel born 25 Feb. 1770 N. C.,

married Elizabeth Woods 1790-1794, he was a Baptist minister and was living in Shelby County, KY. in 1820. Rachel born 7 May 1772 N.C., married Henry Smith. John born 15 April 1774 N.C., married Marjorie Kerns 18 Nov. 1794 Shelby County, Ky., died 1833 Montgomery County, Ind. Jane born 29 Jan. 1778 Ft. Boonesboro, Ky., married Adam Wible 1795, died 1835 Livonia, Washington County, Ind. Eunice born 15 Nov. 1779 Ft. Boonesboro, Ky., married John Van Cleave (son of John Van Cleave & Mary Shepherd) 22 Sep. 1794 Shelby County, Ky., moved to Montgomery County, Ind. Sarah born 15 Dec. 1781 Ky., married John B. Van Cleave (son of Aaron Van Cleave & Rachel Brent/Bent). Ralph born 18 March 1784 Ky., married Elizabeth Stebbins, lived Shelby County, Ky. in 1820. Benjamin born 9 Feb. 1787 Ky., married Mary Mount, died 28 Oct. 1855 Montgomery County, Ind. And William born 3 May 1789 Ky., married Polly Mount, he was a drummer in Jackson's Army at the Battle of New Orleans, where he was killed on 26 Feb. 1815.

5. William Van Cleave was born about 1743 in New Jersey. He married Abigail Frost and settled in Kentucky. In the 1796 tax list of Madison County, Ky. an Abigail Van Cleave is listed, who may be William's widow.

6. Aaron Van Cleave was born about 1745 in New Jersey. He married Rachel Brent/Bent & moved to Ky. in 1775. Among his children were sons: Aaron, Cary, Burdet & John. The latter married Sarah Van Cleave (daughter of Benjamin Van Cleave & Ruth Munson) and resided in Washington County, Ky.

7. Ralph Van Cleave was born about 1747 in New Jersey. He married Lydia Combs & moved to Ky. in 1775. His children included: Betsey (killed by Indians on 23 May 1790), Joseph, Jesse, Benjamin (married Nellie Foye; in 1813 at the Battle of the River Raisin he disappeared), Jane (married Nathan Chapman 1796) & Mary (never married).

8. Jane Van Cleave was born 16 Oct. 1749 in New Jersey. Married Squire Boone 8 Aug. 1765 Rowan County, N.C. Came to Ky. in 1775 & died 10 March 1829 at the home of her son, Enoch Morgan Boone "at the mouth of Otter Creek, Ky."

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