

Crooke Family Papers, 1780-1880 (1.70 cu. ft.)

Processed by Luiz E. Simonetti, October 2004

Restrictions

Access to original manuscripts is restricted for research purposes. KDLA microfilms or photocopies must be used prior to using the original papers. The microfilm can be found in the Archives reading room and photocopies of the survey and entry books are in Box 04.

Biographical Sketch

John Crooke, born February 10, 1766, commonly called Major Crooke, was born in St. Mary County, Maryland. He enlisted while yet young in the Revolutionary war, and was with Washington at the capture of Lord Cornwallis at the siege of Yorktown, Virginia. He was married to Anna D. Reeves, the 5th January 1786. John Crooke studied mathematics pretty thoroughly; could master the arithmetic, and made one (book) himself. He understood navigation; could box the compass; made almanacs; and could count the eclipses of the Sun and the Moon; and in one almanac he left a little space along the margin, and late in May, he put down "Frost" and at the Battalion Muster the day before his frost, they laughed at him about his prediction; Says he: hold, wait and see. That evening a cloud came up from the North, rained a good shower, and a cleared off cold, and sure enough in the morning was a white frost. He was thenceforth put down as an almanac maker, and a sure profit. Major John Crooke with his wife, Anna D., and father, Osias Crooke, and two more brothers, Hezekiah Crooke and Absalom Crooke, immigrated from Virginia to Kentucky, in the year 1789. At that time many surveyors were in Kentucky, then part of Virginia, surveying out the military claims of the Revolutionary soldiers; the soldiers were all allowed a preemption of 1,000 acres of land and a homestead of 400 acre, generally laid out together.

Madison was made a county, still of Virginia, in 1785, and James French was her first county surveyor, and held the office for eight years. He held his office from appointment in Virginia. John Crooke was one of his deputies. John Crooke was the first surveyor elected to the office after the establishment of the state, by the magistrates of the county. Major John Crooke made many tables of numbers such as tables of logarithms, and the traverse table, and more than thirty maps of the different states and territories, the United States, Mexico, etc; and laid off all the counties in good colors all with his quill-pen. He made several maps of Madison county, and made connected plats of all the land in the county. He surveyed most of the lands in the early litigations in Madison and much in other counties. When he first became surveyor, Madison county extended to the Virginia line, on the south side of the Kentucky River. He had many deputies, and some of their names were James Kincaid, Richard Smith, David Williams, Jones Hoy, George Walker, James M' Cormick, Daniel Boone, William O'Rear, Thomas Mosely, Thomas Campbell, Wallace Estill, Joseph Barnett, James Anderson, Irvine Anderson, John R. Crooke, Kiah Crooke, and others.

Major Crooke used to teach school, and would also, teach young men the art of surveying. When they would ask him how far a man should be advanced in mathematics in order to study surveying? He would tell them to say “two times two, are four, and set it down, and not put down something else.” When the town of Richmond was established, as the county-seat, John Crooke laid off the town limits in rectangle; and called it the town-tract of fifty acres.

In religion he was a Methodist, and a great admirer of John Wesley and Lorenzo Dow; and was himself a local preacher. He lived to a good old age, was eighty-three years old when he died on the 17th of March 1849, at his home near where he was buried on a small hill overlooking the Muddy creek Valley near the village of Crookesville, which was named in his honor.

From the Miller Papers (family files), Eastern Kentucky University Archives.

Scope and Content Note

The Crooke family papers are an excellent source of information for researchers in early Kentucky history and pioneers in the American west. The papers can also be used to study the life of a studied man of the period. John Crooke included a variety of information in his papers and diary. One can find weather information, land information, religious biographies, and many more subjects considered important by this pioneer. It is also important to notice that John Crooke was a surveyor, a profession very sought after by people at the time. The information on land for these officers was amazing. John Crooke worked with honor and was elected a county surveyor many times in his life. The papers show his notes and notes from other surveyors after him from the first years of settlement to the end of the 19th Century when his great-grandson was the surveyor in Madison County.

The papers are divided by: **Survey and Entry Books of Madison County**, his **Personal Books**, **State Maps** and **Survey Maps** (filed as oversize). A chronological and topical order was maintained when possible.

Donor Information

The Crooke Family Papers were donated to the Eastern Kentucky University by one of the descendants of the family, John L. Green, on June 30, 2002 (Accession 1989-025). The “Arithmetick” book by John Crooke, First Edition found in Box 02 f. 04 came from the Dorris Museum - accession #567 (2000-005).

Box 01

Madison County Survey Books - use photocopies in Box 04.

- f. 01 Madison County survey book 1783-1814. Surveys done by John Crooke.
- f. 02 Madison County survey book 1799-1893. Surveys done by John Crooke, Kiah Crooke, Ben F. Crooke and James Boggs.
- f. 03 Madison County survey book 1816-1844. Surveys done by John Crooke and Kiah Crooke.

Box 02

Madison County Survey and Entry Books and Personal Books - use photocopies in Box 04.

- f. 01 Madison County survey book 1847-1884. Surveys done by John Crooke, Kiah Crooke and John H. Parish.
- f. 02 Madison County entry book 1780-1795. [This book has been transcribed by Anne Crabb in her book "Land Entries for Madison County, Kentucky 1780-1793"]
- f. 03 Ms book titled "Arithmetic" 1823-1829. (by Doc F. Crooke)
- f. 04 Ms book titled "Arithmetick." n.d. (by John Crooke. First Edition) - see also B.03 f.02
- f. 05 Crooke Family Loose Papers, 1851-1883. Funeral notices and certificates of election for a county surveyor. (4 documents)

Box 03

Personal Books

- f. 01 Ms book 1827. Mathematical subjects.
- f. 02 Ms book "Arithmetick" n.d., (by John Crooke, First Edition.) - see also B.02 f.04
- f. 03 Ms book titled "The Treaties on Mathematical Subjects," 21 Apr 1818. The book also contains another subject titled "Kiah Crooke's Travels to the State of Indiana", Aug 1819.
- f. 04 Ms book 1822. Astronomical and geographical tables. Handmade tables of sun declination can be found in this book.

- f. 05 Ms dictionary by John Crooke, 1832. The dictionary also contains a table with latitudes and longitudes of major cities in the world.
- f. 06 Diary 1840-1847. The diary also contains an almanac, tables, religious biographies, geographical information and an autobiography written by John Crooke. The transcription for this autobiography follows:

Ozias Crooke was my father's name and Rebekah Stephens was my mothers maiden name. I was born in St. Mary's county, state of Maryland, on Monday February 10th 1766, brought over to Prince William County Virginia a sucking child, and lived in Prince William and in Stafford county until the year 1773. My father moved and lived in Fauquier county Virginia at John Coppages 1773, at Simon Morgans 1774-1775, at John Greens 1776-1777, at Ambrose Barnetts 1778-1779, at Captain Charles Chiltons 1780, at D.D. (La Soldier) 1781, and at Prince W. Again 1782-1785.

In 1786 I was married to Ann D. Reeve on January 5th 1786, and moved to Hampshire county in the fall of 1786 lived in it in 1787,1788 and in the fall 1789 moved to Kentucky landed in Madison county the 26th day of December 1789. In Madison 1790, 91, 92, 93, 1794, 1795 lived on uncle Absalom Crooke's land except the year 1792. Lived in Bushes Settlement Fayette county in 1796 in October I moved to land of my own on Muddy Creek and lived there until February 5th 1816 on that day moved to the tanyard(?) on Gen. Green Clay land lived there 1816, 1817, 1818, and 1819, moved to James Belshy's old place 1820. At Fox town 1821, at Adam Rogers (John's) 1822, at Belshy's old house 1823. My wife died 1823, married again 1823 moved to my own place on the location of Hayes' Fork 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827. At Otter Creek in 1828, at my place again in 1829, 1830, 1831, at Major D. Harris in 1832. School keeping at the state road 1833 (Cholera year). In Indiana in winter 1833 and 1834. In 1834 and 1835, transient in winter at Col. Azariah Doty's. School keeping in the summer of 1836, in the summer of 1836 at Hardin Golden's schoolkeeping, in 1837 at Audly Campbell's from March 13th 1837, until near Christmas, being the 21st of December 1837. Commenced living with my son K. Crooks on Monday the 1st day of January 1838, again in 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842 and again in Jan 1st 1843, again in January 1st 1844, again in January 1st 1845. Again January 1st 1846, in 1847, in Jan 1848". (Died 17th March 1849)

- f. 07 Ms book titled "Book of Great Information" 1845. This book contains geographical and political information of Kentucky, the United States, and the World. The book also contains Crooke family information.

Box 04

Photocopies of Survey and Entry Books found in Box 01 and 02.

Box 05

All originals filed oversize.

State Maps Series

f. 01 State maps

1. Ms map, ca. 1830. The map contains political divisions (counties) in the following states: Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky. The back of the map contains notes on different topics. The map was done by John Crooke.
2. Ms map of Indiana, ca. 1844. The map contains political divisions and is divided by counties and show the main cities in the state of Indiana. The back contains information regarding price of land in Indiana during the period, Richmond, KY stores list, genealogical information of the Crooke family and religious notes.
3. Ms map of Virginia, ca.1830. The map contains political divisions in the state of Virginia (including what is now West Virginia). The map is divided by counties and shows the main cities of the state.

Survey Maps Series

f. 02 Land surveys of Madison County

1. Land survey for suit of John Mitchell against James Flack, 1820. The survey is signed by John Crooke.
2. Land survey for suit of John Mitchell against James Flack, 1832. The survey is signed by John Crooke.
3. Land survey for a suit of John Kincaid against William Blythe, n.d. This survey shows D. Boone's settlement, Silver Creek and other landmarks in the region. The survey is signed by John Crooke.
4. Survey Map of Madison County, n.d. The map shows the county divided by squares

representing miles, the survey or found that Madison County has 498 square miles. The map was done by Kiah Crooke.

f. 03 Land surveys of Madison County

5. Survey map of the Crookesville region, n.d. The survey shows large tracts of land owned by W. Burk, J. Estill, G. Clay, and others. Shingled plats showing overlapping land claims.
6. Survey map of the land north of Richmond, n.d. The survey shows large tracts of land owned by Irvine, G. Clay, Estill, and others. Shingled plats showing overlapping land claims
7. Survey map titled "Around Richmond," n.d. This survey shows land around the city of Richmond and north to the Kentucky River. Shingled plats showing overlapping land claims.
8. Survey map showing most of Madison County, n.d. The map shows Richmond, Kentucky River, old roads and creeks. The back of the map shows a more detailed survey map of Richmond and surroundings. Shingled plats showing overlapping land claims. A note on the back of the map indicates the birth date of John Crook [sic] and marriage information of Caroline Crooke.
9. Survey map showing in detail, the Northeast parts of Madison County, n.d. The map shows Richmond, Kentucky River, old roads and creeks. The back of the map has sketches. Shingled plats showing overlapping land claims.
10. Survey map showing the north side of Madison county, n.d. The map shows Richmond, all the way to the region of Foxtown. Shingled plats showing overlapping land claims.
11. Survey map showing the north side of Madison county, n.d. This map was done by John Kincaid. The back of the map shows calculations done by Kincaid. Shingled plats showing overlapping land claims.

Map Drawer MD/07/01

12. Survey map showing the northeast side of Madison county, n.d. Richmond can be seen in this map. Shingled plats showing overlapping land claims. (MD/07/01)
13. Survey map showing the north side of Madison county, n.d. Shingled plats showing overlapping land claims. (MD/07/01)