

Who was Catherine “Katy” Murphy?

In about 1796, a significant group of interrelated families and individuals migrated from **Surry County, North Carolina**, to what has become Casey County, Kentucky. It is probable that they were in search of inexpensive land, and they repeatedly sought and obtained warrants, surveys and patents for open land. These included **Richard Murphy** and **Keziah Terry Scott Murphy**, **Benjamin Terry Scott** and **John Scott** (Keziah’s sons by her first marriage), **Joseph Murphy** and **Peter Murphy** (their sons, both single), **Zadock Riggs** (her son-in-law who had married Sarah Scott) and **Aaron Rite** (or Wright; their son-in-law who had married Mary Terry Murphy). Others in the entourage may have been **James Scott** (who married Chloe Riggs, sister to Zadock), Jesse Scott, **Thomas Scott** and **William Scott**; these names appear as early Kentucky landowners but the identity has not been confirmed. Later another **Richard Murphy**, son of Joseph Murphy and a nephew to the first named **Richard Murphy**, came. Still others may have been the **William Welcome Hodges**, **Amasa (“Massy” or “Macy”) Hodges**, **Moses Hodges** and **Amos Hodges** families; these Hodges names continued in Adair, Casey and Lincoln Counties though the 1850's. Rev. William Murphy, Jr. (1732-1799), brother of the elder Richard Murphy above (and the father of yet a third Richard Murphy, born 1776 in Surry County, North Carolina, and died about 1815 in Ouachita, Arkansas), had first married Margaret Hodge (1724-1765) in Virginia or North Carolina. Deans, Smiths and Snows may also have been a part of this entourage. We also recognize Casey County Atwoods as having come from Surry County, North Carolina, but slightly later.

It would be interesting to know if they chose to come to Casey County because they already had relatives and connections in the area, or whether this was effectively the leading edge of the frontier at the time (which it was). Land south of the Green River had originally been set aside for Virginia veterans of the Revolution, but in about 1796 it was opened to homesteaders. Still later, between 1820 and 1840, and then again after the War of Northern Aggression, many members of these same families, or subsequent generations, moved on to Illinois, Missouri and Kansas, again probably in search of inexpensive land to develop, and possibly to collect on services in the War of 1812.

At this point in our research, it appears likely from dates and spatial relationships that **Catherine “Katy” Murphy**, mother of **Mattie Murphy** and **Thomas Murphy** (and probably of **Felix**, **Renix**, **Stephen**, **Margaret** and others), was a part of that group, but we have not been able to identify the blood or marital relationships to the other Murphys. Where we can identify Catherine and her descendants from other strains of Murphys, we will distinguish them with a “☺”

It would seem odd that we would have five distinct groups of Murphys (John in the Crab Orchard area; **Catherine** on Green River; two related Richards on Green River; George Y. on Green River; Ralph Elkins on Big South Rolling Fork) to settle, even adjoining one another, in the same area of the frontier and interact and frequently help one another (such as by acting as sureties) yet have no relationship. Two of these Casey County groups (the Richards and Catherine groups), once very prominent in Casey County, appear to have moved on or given way to the George Y. and Ralph Elkins groups. George Y. and his descendants will be distinguished with a “☉”, and Ralph Elkins and his descendants will be distinguished with a “†.”

**An ACT to amend and revise the act entitled
“An Act for Encouraging and Granting Relief to Settlers”**

*Approved by the Kentucky General Assembly on **February 10, 1798***

SECTION 1. **WHEREAS** the law passed last February session, entitled “An Act for Encouraging and Granting Relief to Settlers” is found defective, and wants amending, and it appears most proper to draw the said recited act, with the necessary amendments, into one point of view: Therefore,

SECTION 2. **Be it enacted by the General Assembly, That any widow, or any free male persons above the age of eighteen years, and every other free person having a family**, who shall have, or may actually settle himself or herself on any vacant or unappropriated land, on the south side of Green river, on or before the first day of July next, clear and fence two acres of land, and tend the same in corn, shall be entitled to two and not less than one hundred acres, to include his or her settlement, in any part of the survey which he or she shall express in his or her entry.

October 1, 1798: Stephen ☉ Murphy was a marker and **Thomas ☉ Murphy** was a chainman on a survey for James Allen, assignee of Robert Allen, of 200 acres on the south side of Green River. The surveyor was John Jones and the other chainman was Joab Swiney (probably Bro. Job Sweeney who had married Sarah Allen). The survey was made October 1, 1798, and was filed August 6, 1799; the patent was granted on October 22, 1811, and appears in Book O9, Page 387.^{Endnote 1} This demonstrates that Stephen and Thomas were probably adults and were personally present in Casey County on the date of the survey.

Stephen ☉ Murphy was probably the son of **Catharine ☉ Murphy**. Tax records for Lincoln County land owners show: **Stephen Murphy**, June 27, 1799; **Stephen Murphey**, July 24, 1800; **Stephen Murphy**, July 28, 1801, 200 acres on Green River assigned from “S. Murphy”; **Stephen Murphey**, August 10, 1802. He also appears as a Lincoln County householder from 1799 through 1802, establishing both ownership and residency. Assuming a landowner to

have been required to have been 21 years of age, this would place Stephen as born prior to 1778 and Catherine prior to about 1860.

Thomas ☺ Murphy was the son of **Catharine ☺ Murphy**. Thomas Murphy does not appear as a landholder between 1787 to 1811. There is a Thomas Murphy appearing as a Lincoln County householder in the years 1791, 1796 through 1806, and in 1811, but this is likely not to be this Thomas Murphy. In 1814, this Thomas Murphy appears to be living on the Catherine Murphy property. (One [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) source states that Thomas was the son of John Murphy and Catherine Bates Murphy, but that couple has also been identified with totally different children.)

November 16, 1798: Catharine ☺ Murphy obtained warrant #159 for 124 acres on Green River in Lincoln County in 1798. Survey #1587 was made on November 16, 1798 and filed on November 12, 1799; a patent was issued on December 16, 1811, and appears of record in Patent Book 10, Page 281, in the Land Office of the Kentucky Secretary of State. The surveyor was J. Jones and the crew were **Benjamin Scott, Stephen ☺ Murphy** and **John Scott**, with Jonathan Forbis examining and recording. This property is in the “Boyle” area of Casey County, on what was then “Scott Creek” and is now Calhoun Creek off U.S. #127 approximately 7 miles south of Liberty. The time lag between the survey and the patent is probably attributable to lack of funding to make the required payment. This grant is indexed as a “Grant South of Green River,” a group originally reserved for Virginia Veterans of the Revolutionary War, but this reserved area was opened to the public prior to Catharine obtaining her warrant. She did not qualify for this warrant by reason of service or by being a widow of a veteran. She was required to actually settle the property for at least one year prior to obtaining title. (This is a part of the same property, or located in the same place including the house site, as the **Catherine ☺ Murphy/ Felix ☺ Murphy/ Joel Murphy/ Robert Preston Murphy/ Samuel D. Murphy/ Samuel D. Murphy, Jr./** currently **Sharleen Murphy Watkins Power** farm. **Joel Murphy** (1807-1860) subsequently acquired a substantial amount of property including and surrounding this tract. Researchers should also be aware that there were at least four Joel Murphys; three in this family and one on Big South Rolling Fork.)

Tax records for both landowners and householders in Lincoln County show: **Kitty ☺ Murphy** on June 27, 1799; **Catherine ☺ Murphey** on July 24, 1800; **Katty ☺ Murphy** on July 28, 1801; **Katty ☺ Murphey** on August 10, 1802; **Catherine ☺ Murphy** on July 25, 1803; **Kitty ☺ Murphy** on August 6, 1804; **Catty ☺ Murphy** on August 6, 1805; and, **Catty ☺ Murphy** on August 4, 1806. Thereafter she should appear on the Casey County tax lists.

There are numerous John Murphys in Lincoln County dating from 1787, but at least one **John Murphy** claimed 200 acres on Green River as assignee of “**S. ☺ Murphy**” as of June 27, 1799. If any of these John Murphys were the husband of Catherine and the father of Thomas, then it is unclear why there was a listing for Catherine as head of a household and none for John, or why the number of males in her household does not appear to include him. One possibility is that they were separated in order to homestead different tracts. Another possibility is that Catherine had a son named John who was the brother of Stephen Murphy and Thomas Murphy and who became the father of George Y. Murphy, born in Adair County in 1811, which would tie these families together and explain their physical proximity. Another is simply that Catherine was a widow.

December 7, 1798: Stephen ☺ Murphy was a marker on a survey made for James Allen of 200 acres on the south side of Green River. James Allen was an assignee of Robert Allen, who was in turn an assignee of **Stephen ☺ Murphy**. The survey was made on December 7, 1798, was filed on November 12, 1799, and the patent was granted on July 18, 1822, and appears in Book 25, Page 428. **Benjamin Scott** was a chainman.

December 10, 1798: Stephen ☺ Murphy was a chainman on a survey of 179 acres on the south side of Green River for Cavell Archer. A patent was issued on January 17, 1816, and appears in Book 17, Page 415.

February 10, 1799: Stephen ☺ Murphy was a chainman and **Benjamin Scott** was marker on a survey of 200 acres on the south side of Green River for **Benjamin Terry Scott**. The survey was conducted February 10, 1799, was filed August 6, 1799, the patent was granted August 4, 1806, and appears in Book 02, Page 507.

June 14, 1799: A survey of 200 acres on the south side of Green River was made, apparently in the name of, or upon a warrant issued to, **John Murphy**. It was filed on November 12, 1799. On December 20, 1819, it was assigned from **John Murphy** to William D. Allen. The surveyor was John Jones and the crew were **Stephen ☺ Murphy**, Robert Allen and **John Murphy**. It was examined and recorded by Jonathan Forbis.

1800-1810

In the **1800 “Second Census”** (again a compilation of tax records), there were 43 Murphey, Murphy or Murphree households in Kentucky. Most of Casey County was still a part of Lincoln County until 1806. The seven households in Lincoln County were: **Catharine ☺**

Murphey; John Murphey; **Thomas ☺ Murphey;** **Joseph Murphey;** **Peter Murphey;** uncle **Richard Murphey;** and **Stephen ☺ Murphey.**

December 31, 1801: **Thomas ☺ Murphy** married Elizabeth “Betsy” Scott in Lincoln County. He was the son of **Catherine “Katy” ☺ Murphy** and was born in about 1775 in **Virginia**. Their children are believed to have been: Benjamin (1804-1865); Kissiah (1806); Sarah Ann (1810-1870); John S. (1813-1853); Martha (1816-1896); Rebecca Jane (1820-1901); and, Margaret Ann (1823). This family group was in Adair County, **Missouri**, as of 1830.

1802 - Adair County formed from Green County

June 22, 1802: **John Scott** (son of Benjamin Terry Scott and Eleanor Hodges) married Mary ☺ Murphy in Lincoln County. This Mary may have been a daughter of **Catherine ☺ Murphy**.

June 13, 1803: John Murphy was bound over to the Lincoln Circuit Court by the Lincoln County Court on a charge that he had broken and entered into a hatter’s and stolen a number of furs worth 4£. This surely cannot be our family.

April 13, 1805: In Lincoln County, **Katy ☺ Murphy** gave her consent for her daughter, **Matty ☺ Murphy**, to marry **Joel Gesford**. Witnesses were **Stephen ☺ Murphy** and William Allen. The relationship of these names would lead us to infer that Matty, Stephen and Thomas were children of Katy.

April 13, 1805: James Scott married Nancy Williams in Lincoln County. Notice that this was the same day as above. May have been “double-double rang” and show relationship or friendship.

November 14, 1806: Casey County formed from Lincoln County.

July 24, 1807: The first tax list for Casey County lists **Catherin ☺ Murphy** as owning 124 acres of third class land on Green River originally entered and surveyed by her. Her household included no white males over 21, **two** white males over 16 and under 21, and four horses. (Her patent was not issued until December 16, 1811, probably for lack of cash.) Since **John**, **Stephen** and **Thomas** are assumed to have been adults, then Catherin must have had two minor sons born between 1786 and 1791, or before the migration to Kentucky (although we cannot identify Catherin as a part of that migration), and could prove to be **Felix** and **Renix**. Since females are not enumerated, she could have had more

children, and we know that Katy had consented to the marriage of **Mattie**, and Renix had a sister, **Margaret**.

July 24, 1807 Casey County Tax Lists: **Stephen ☺ Murphy** owned no land. He was over 21 and the only male over 16 in his home. He had one horse.

July 24, 1807 Casey County Tax Lists: **Thomas ☺ Murphy** owned no land, was over 21 and the only male over 16 in his home. He had five horses.

November 2, 1807: The Casey County Court allowed **Felix ☺ Murphy, Amos Hodges** and **Joel Gesford** \$6.18 each for assisting John Jones in surveying the Casey and Lincoln County line. This is our earliest reference to Felix and should place him as born prior to 1786. Felix could not have been a member of Catherin's household, but he could have been a son who had just turned twenty-one; if so, then his birth date would have been about 1785 or 1786 and his birth place was probably North Carolina. Notice also that Felix and Joel Gessford would have been brothers-in-law (since Joel married Mattie Murphy), and Amos was the father-in-law of Felix (since Felix married Nancy Hodges).

1808: The town of **Liberty** was founded prior to 1806 by Revolutionary War veterans upon their military grants and named out of patriotic sentiment. In 1808, it was made the seat of Casey County owing to its central location. The post office was opened in 1814. The town was formally established by the state assembly in 1830 and incorporated in 1860.

July 18, 1808: The tax list for Casey County lists **Catherin ☺ Murphy** as owning 124 acres of third class land on Green River originally entered and surveyed by her. Her household included no white males over 21, one white male over 16 and under 21 (Renix?), and two horses. (See the 1814 tax lists.)

1808 Casey County Tax Lists: **Felix ☺ Murphy** appears owning 100 acres of 2nd class land on Green River that had been entered, surveyed and patented by (I.S. Dxxxxxx). He was over 21 and had 2 horses. Felix is believed to have been the son of Catherin and the male who had left her household between the 1807 and 1808 tax lists.

September 5, 1808: **Felix ☺ Murphy** appeared before the Casey County Court and requested that the route of a road be relocated. "The Sheriff this day returned the summons issued against the proprietors of the land through which the road from the Seat of Justice to intersect to the road from Standford to Columbia to within one mile of the foot of the Dry Ridge executed and all them seen except John Parker and John Rammey who he has not found and Felix Murphy moved the Court that same said road to be opened the

distance of one hundred yards southwestwardly from the place reported to pass through the plantation at the said Felix Murphy which is ordered accordingly and it is ordered that the said road be opened.”

1809 Casey County Tax Lists: **Catherine ☺ Murphy** had 124 acres of 3rd class land on Green River she had entered, surveyed and patented. She had no males in her home over 16. She had no horses.

Neither **Felix ☺ Murphy** nor **Renix ☺ Murphy** appear on the tax lists

1810-1820

August 6, 1810: In 1810 we have an actual U.S. Census for Casey County. The 1810 Census lists only two Murphy households, **Felix ☺ Murfey** and **Stephen ☺ Murpfey**, in Casey County.

Catharine ☺ Murphy no longer appears as a head of household, but **Felix ☺ Murfey** does appear as a 16 to 26 year old male head of household (∴ born between 1784 and 1794; since he was an adult in 1807 we believe he was born about 1785) living with a 16 to 26 year old female (∴ born between 1784 and 1794; probably his wife, later identified as **Nancy Hodges**), and a “45 & up” female (∴ born before 1765; very possibly **Catharine**). Prior to 1850 names of each family member were not listed. Notice that there is no child in this household who could prove to be Renix the younger, born in 1809, and probably the son of Felix.

1810 Casey County Tax Lists: **Felix ☺ Murphy** claimed the 124 acres of 3nd class land on Green River that had been entered, surveyed and patented by Catharin Murphy. He was the only male in his household over 16. He claimed two horses.

Felix ☺ Murphy married Nancy Hodges, daughter of Amosa and Judah (a/k/a Judith) Gentry Hodges (*when and where, but should have been before 1809?; these are all Surry County, North Carolina, names, but Felix did not become of age until at least 1805 in Casey County; I cannot find this in Lincoln, Casey, Adair or Green!*). Witnesses were **Amasa Hodges** and **William Murphy**. (*Where did I get that?*) In the 1810 Casey County census Emasey Hodge can be found on the same page as Mose Hodge, age 45 or older, and an Edmond Wood (Edmond Wood was married to Rebecca Hodges, reported daughter of Welcome William Hodges). Felix Murphy and Nancy (Hodges) Murphy are also on the same page. (Nancy Hodges is listed as daughter of Amos, married to Felix Murphy, per the sale

of her father's [Amos'] land listed below.) From deeds made by the heirs of Felix, below, it appears that he and Nancy had six children.

Stephen ☺ Murfey, a male 26 to 45 years of age (∴ born between 1765 and 1784), was living alone in the Big South area of the county. If this is the same Stephen Murphy who had been a chain carrier in 1798, and if chain carriers had been required to be adults (or 21, at that time), then Stephen should have been born prior to 1777, thus making him between 33 and 45. Also, to have been an assignor of a warrant or survey, Stephen must have been 21 or older in 1798. This narrows the birth date to between 1765 and 1777, and if Catherine's son, then her birth date must have been in the 1750's.

_____, **1810**: A John Murphy appears in the Adair County tax lists but does not appear in the 1810 Census for Adair County. Notice that George Y. Murphy was born in Adair County in about 1811 to a John Murphy. We will temporarily assign a "☹" to this chain.

_____, **1810**: A Thomas Murphy appears in the Adair County tax lists but does not appear in the 1810 Census for Adair County.

December 10, 1810: After the Census was taken, a **Stephen ☺ Murphy** married Nancy Reatherford (Rutherford) in Adair County, by Bro L. Dillingham.

January 14, 1811: Joel Gessford (husband of **Matty ☺ Murphy**, daughter of **Catherine ☺ Murphy**) was appointed by the Casey County Court as "surveyor of the road from the forks of the road near Job Sweeney's to where it intersects the Columbia Road near John Jones." This is south of Liberty in the vicinity of Catherine's property and some of the other Murphy warrants or surveys.

The 1811 Casey County Tax rolls included: **Felix ☺ Murphy** who claimed the 124 acres of 3rd class land on Green River that had been entered, surveyed and patented by **Catherin ☺ Murphy**. He was the only male in his household over 16. He claimed three horses.

January 13, 1812: Ordered by the Casey County Court that, "**Thomas ☺ Murphy** is appointed Surveyor of the road from the forks of the road near Job Sweeneys to the foot of the hill above John Jones in the room of Joel Gesford." This is south of Liberty in the vicinity of Catherine's property and some of the other Murphy warrants or surveys.

The 1812 Casey County Tax rolls: (Renix?) ☺ Murphy appears as a male over 21 with no land but with two horses.

September of 1812: John Murphy and William Murphy appear on the roll of Captain Henry James' Company, Second Regiment, Kentucky Militia, but their Casey County connection is not established. Other known Casey countians (James Adams and Daniel Sutherland) are believed to have served in this same unit.

November _____, 1812: **Felix ☺ Murphy** witnessed an Adair County marriage. (Whose? October 25, 1812; Susanna Retherford to Rice Duncan?; February 15, 1812, Dicey Spencer to Littleberry French?)

1813 Casey County Tax Lists: **Thomas ☺ Murphy**, over 21, claimed the 124 acres of 3rd class land on Green River that had been entered, surveyed and patented by Catherin Murphy. He was the only male in his household over 16. He claimed five horses.

October 18, 1813: Thomas Murphy was surety and witnessed the marriage of John Stephens to Sarah Paggett in Lincoln County. Consent was from Fanny Paggett.

_____, **1814:** The 1814 Casey County Tax lists also include a **Thomas ☺ Murphy** who was living on the 124 acres of third class land entered and surveyed for **C. ☺ Murphy**, presumably his mother. The household lists only one white male over 21 and three horses.

1815 Casey County Tax Lists (very hard to read): (**Renix ☺?**) **Murphy** had a small tract of land in Adair County. He was over 21 and the only male in his household over 16. He had one horse.

December 2, 1815: **Margaret ☺ Murphy**, sister of Phelix ☺ Murphy, married Joshua Gesford in Adair County. Later documentation indicates that "Phelix" may refer to Renix ☺, not Felix. It is very tempting to conclude that Mattie, Thomas, Felix, Renix and Margaret, and possibly even John and Steven, were children of Catherine.☺

July 22, 1816: The Casey County Court entered an order that, "Satisfactory proof being made to the Court by good and credible testimony that Joel Gessford is an actual settler on a certain tract or parcel of land on green River, tis ordered that a certificate issue therefor accordingly." On August 29, 1816, **Felix ☺ Murphy** was a chainman on a survey of 50 acres for Joel Gessford. Gessford's claim adjoined **Stephen ☺ Murphy's** (originally James Allen's) 200 acre survey and James Davis. The surveyor was James Allen and the crew were **Felix ☺ Murphy**, **Renose ☺ (Renix?) Murphy**, Abnor Hodges, **Joel Gessford**, Abraham Breeding and John Jones. Witnesses were Joel Gessford and **Felix ☺ Murphy**.

To further confuse, we have seen a reference on the Internet to "**Renix Peter**" **Murphy**.

1816 Casey County Tax Lists: Renix ☺ Murphy claimed 200 acres of 3rd class land on Green River entered, surveyed and patented in the name of (W.C. Overisapost??). There were two males in his household over 21 and they had six horses.

1816 Casey County Tax Lists: Felix ☺ Murphy, over 21, claimed the 124 acres of 3nd class land on Green River that had been entered, surveyed and patented by Catherin ☺ Murphy, and 74 acres of 2nd class land that had been entered, surveyed and patented by Benjamin Scott. He was the only male in his household over 16. He claimed three horses.

August 30, 1816: Felix ☺ Murphy was a chainman and a witness on a survey of 75 acres for Abraham Breeding. Breeding's claim adjoined **Stephen ☺ Murphy's** 200 acre survey, **B. Scott's** 200 acre survey and **B. Scott's** 150 acre survey. The surveyor was James Allen and the crew were **Felix ☺ Murphy** and Abner Hodges. Other witnesses were John Jones and **Joel Gessford**.

September 2, 1816: The will of William Powell written August 27, 1816, was probated in Adair County and appears in Will Book 1, page 207. He refers to his wife, Polly, and his unnamed children. He appointed Polly and his brother, Eliaz Powell, as Executors. Witnesses were **Thomas ☺ Murphy**, Thomas B. Johnston, and Joe Bowman.

1817 Casey County Tax Lists: Felix ☺ Murphy is listed with three tracts of land: 124 3rd class acres patented by Catherine Murphy; 63 2nd class acres patented by Benjamin Scott; and, 13 2nd class acres patented by John Scott.

1817 Casey County Tax Lists: Renix ☺ Murphy, over 21 and the only male in his household over 16, had no land but had one horse.

December 17, 1817: Felix ☺ Murphy surveyed for a patent for himself for 50 acres on the south side of Green River, now in Book E, Page 147. The surveyor was James Allen and the crew included William Hodges, **Renin ☺ (Renix?) Murphy** and Abraham Breeding. The claim was surveyed on December 17, 1817, filed on January 8, 1819, and granted on July 8, 1819. No adjoiners are listed.

November 24, 1818: Felix ☺ Murphy was a chainman on a survey of 50 acres on the south side of Green River for **Joel Gessford**. Gessford's claim adjoined Abraham Breeding's 75 acre survey. The surveyor was James Allen and the crew were **Felix Murphy**, William Hodges, John Jones and **Joel Gessford**.☺

In the **1819 tax rolls** for Casey County, **Felix ☺ Murphey** was head of a household with one white male over 21 and had tracts on Green River of: 68 acres of 2nd class land entered, surveyed and patented in the name of Benjamin Scott; 13 acres of 2nd class land entered, surveyed and patented in the name of John Scott; 124 acres of 3rd class land entered, surveyed and patented in the name of Catherin ☺ Murphy; and, 50 acres of 3rd class land entered, surveyed and patented in the name of Felix ☺ Murphy.

In the **1819 Casey County tax rolls**, **Renix ☺ Murphey** has a tract of 90 acres of 3rd class land on Green River which was a part of the 277 acres which had been entered, surveyed and patented to John Parker in 1786.

Notice that the **Richard**, Felix ☺ and Renix ☺ lands are contiguous, as shown on the topographical plats made by James F. Sutherland.²

July 26, 1819: Renix ☺ Murphy accepted Zachariah Upton, 17 years of age, as an apprentice by contract with John Upton and Joel Sweeney of record in Deed Book 2, Page 293A.

September 27, 1819: Felix ☺ Murphy bought 76 acres on Green River from John Scott by deed of record in Deed Book 2, Page 264A.

1820-1830

1820 Casey County Tax Lists: Renix ☺ Murphey, over 21 and the only male in his household over 16, listed 96 acres originally entered, surveyed and patented to John Parker. He also had a horse.

1820 Casey County Tax Lists: Felix ☺ Murphy is listed with the same four tracts of land: 124 3rd class acres patented by Catherine ☺ Murphy; 63 2nd class acres patented by Benjamin Scott; 13 2nd class acres patented by John Scott; and, 60 3rd class acres he had patented in his own name.

August 7, 1820: The U.S. Census lists Casey County households headed by: **Janney Murphey; Rennix ☺ (Rennise) Murphey;** and, **Felix ☺ Murphey.**

Rennix ☺ Murphey was 26 to 45; his wife was 16 to 26; they had a daughter under 10.

Felix ☺ Murphey and his wife were 26 to 45 (about 35); there is a female 16 to 26, but this is too old to be a daughter; they had one daughter and two sons under 10. The older

woman no longer appears in this household so Catherin ☺ (if it had been she) must have moved, not died, because she was living in 1821 when she conveyed her 124 acres to Felix.

August 7, 1820: In Adair County, Murphys were: Peter Murphy (over 45), Stephen ☺ Murphy (over 45), John Murphy (over 45) and Thomas ☺ Murphy (26-44).

January 3, 1821: Jacob Carpenter, assignee of William Edwards, surveyed 50 acres on Scott's Creek on the south side of Green River adjoining **John Murphy's** 200 acre survey. This may be the same 200 acres assigned to William D. Allen, and may have been assigned to William D. Allen by **Stephen ☺ Murphy**. According to Richard A. Montgomery, Casey County Surveyor, what was then Scott's Creek is now Calhoun Creek and what was then Murphy's Branch is now Allen Creek.

February 16, 1821: **William Murphy** married Nancy Edwards in Casey County.

1821 Casey County Tax Lists: **Felix ☺ Murphy**, over 21 and the only male in his household over 16, is listed with four tracts of 2nd class land without further identification: 174 acres, 70 acres, 50 acres and 100 acres. He also had one horse.

1821 Casey County Tax Lists: **Rennex ☺ Murphey**, over 21 and the only male in his household over 16, claimed 93 acres of land originally entered, surveyed and patented to John Parker. He had one horse.

July 19, 1821: **Catharine ☺ Murphy**, no marital status stated and therefore presumably single, sold her 124 acres to **Felix ☺ Murphy** for \$300.00 by deed filed on January 29, 1822, and recorded in Deed Book 2, Page 341, in the Casey County Court Clerk's Office. This is the last recorded reference we have to Catherine.

Your turn. Who was she?

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July 1, 2014 (11:29am)

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1. Patents are recorded in the Land Office of the Kentucky Secretary of State in Frankfort, Kentucky. They are not ordinarily recorded locally. For full indexes and actual images of early patents, search online at the Kentucky Land Office at <http://www.sos.ky.gov/land/>. For the best service in the world by a state employee, contact: Ms. Kandie Adkinson, State Capitol Suite 152, 700 Capital Avenue, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601; Office +1 (502) 564-3490; Business e-mail: Kandie.Adkinson@Ky.Gov; Business web site: <http://sos.ky.gov>.
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2. See ***Some Original Land Grant Surveys Along Green River in Lincoln and Casey Counties, Kentucky (1781-1836)*** by James Franklin Sutherland. This and the topographical maps included show the spatial proximity of the Murphys despite the lack of established relationships.
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