

DOCTOR ISON AND ELIZABETH FRALEY ISON.

Doctor Ison, our Grand-father, was the 7th son of Archibald & Mary Gilliam Ison. He came from Old Virginia to Kentucky in his Mother's lap when he was one (1) year old. There he grew to manhood and married Elizabeth Fraley, May 5, 1845, she was the daughter of Isaac Fraley and Catherine Shoemaker Fraley. When I was researching in Lawrence County, Kentucky. In the County Records at the Courthouse I found a small yellow paper aged and worn, it was in their early Marriage Records, I made a copy of same and here it is:

TRUE COPY

✓ "Mr. Macher deer sir you may give Doctor Ison a par of
lisings for him and my Daughter Elezebth Fraley and this
my name shall be your rect. this 3 day of may 1845."
Isaac Fraley

I was thrilled over the finding of this bit of paper written so many years ago and to see the signature of our direct ancestor, they were happy, hard working Pioneers.

Doctor Ison was reported as being a very kind to his family, his friends, neighbors, and especially kind and helpful to his wife who had a large family of boys and raised two (2) daughters, their home was made of logs, having two (2) large rooms, 18 feet by 18 with a hall between the rooms, open at both ends so one could drive through it. But, neither room had a door opening into the hall, there was only one door in each room and they opened outside so to go from room to room one would have to go out doors and walk around, there was no windows in the house, just a small hole cut in the wall by the fireplace with a small wooden door to it that Granny could open and shut as she liked. It was her sewing window for remember, she made all the clothing by hand for a family of eleven (11) people and first had to wash, card, and spin the wool then weave it into cloth.

A large dining table, made of hand split logs, was in the center of the west room and two double beds, with great feather ticks, was in the east end and the east room of their home was for company and it had three beds in it and a large fireplace completely across one end. There was another fireplace just like it in the other room, here Granny did all her cooking for she never had a cook stove in her life, her cooking and baking was done in large iron kettles and the old Iron Dutch oven on the large rock hearth with live coals under the oven and on top of the lid.

Her pot rack was made out of wood with wooden pegs for the iron kettles to hang on, she would say "My pot rack hangs and bears but never blossoms." Before making their home, Doctor built a large brick kill and burned a lot of red brick. These were the first in the country and were used in making the two large chimneys in their home and also for foundation and although the old home has been rebuilt, those same red brick have been used in the new home and can be seen in good condition today.

Doctor was always kind, helpful to 'Bettie,' as he called her, he was handy and made her many Modern Conveniences, of her day and time: The wooden tub, wooden buckets all with handles of wood, the Hickory chairs with woven Hickory bark bottoms, but the most outstanding of his handy work was "Grannies Fat Trough," made from a hollowed-out White Walnut log, it was 6 feet long by 18 inches wide and 14 inches deep, it would hold 200 pounds of Lard and it was never empty, it was kept in the Smoke House.

Doctor did not live to be an old man he died at 65 and from all descriptions of what took him away, he must have had Cancer of the liver. During his life time he was a Peace Maker and the promise of our Saviour in His Sermon on the Mount, could very well be one of Doctors blessings. "Blessed are the Peace Makers for they shall be called the children of God." At the time of his passing he requested that clasper hands be cut on his Headstone as a reminder to his children and children's children that their father wished them to always keep on friendly terms with one another and always be willing to give all a brotherly handshake.

I made a pencil copy of his Headstone with the hands that are cut on it when I visited his grave in July 1940 so to show that his dying wish had been granted.

Elizabeth's parents, Isaac & Catherine Shoemaker Fraley, came from Scott County, Virginia in 1818 to the Newcomb Fork of the Little Sandy River in Lawrence County, Kentucky. They had eleven (11) children and Elizabeth is their fourth (4th) child she was born in Kentucky and lived 22 years longer than her husband. Her Grand-children all loved to go spend the night at Grannies. I have oftentimes heard both Robert & Isaac tell what a treat it was how they loved to climb up the ladder to the Loft where Grannie kept three (3) beds made down on the floor. She had a stroke seven (7) years before her death and never walked again but spent the rest of her life in a chair. Her son Samuel moved his family to her home, for she did not want to leave her home, and he cared for his Mother the rest of her life.

✓ She died on the 24th of March 1904 and is burried by her husband on the Old Home place in Isonville, Elliott County, Kentucky.

Written by: Louie S. Ison.
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