

## VANDEVER GENEALOGY

No doubt the ship that carried the early Dutch settlers from Holland to New Amsterdam in the early part of the Seventeenth Century, also carried the great grandfather of James Vandever. It is evident that in that early day the name was spelled Van Dever, as it was the custom of those old Dutch families, but has long since been shorn of the capital "D".

There remains pretty good evidence that some of the descendants of the first Vandever in New Amsterdam moved with some of his neighbors over into New Jersey and settled, thereby taking possession of that territory for the Dutch. Cornelius Vandever, grandfather of James, was one of those old patriots who helped to free the colonies from the tyrannical rule of Great Britain. He was the father of Garrett, Henry, Abram, John, James and Siche Vandever. James served in the war of 1812 and was badly wounded in the battle of New Orleans, when Gen. Andrew Jackson so completely defeated the English Gen. Pakenham. Garrett Vandever was married to one Sarah Chatham, in Kentucky. To this union were born four sons, Garrett, James, John and Hezekiah, and seven daughters, Martha, Maria, Jane, Betsey, Louisa, Ann and Sally. This family moved to Indiana and settled in Johnson County, October 11, 1823.

James Vandever was born in Mercer County, Kentucky, January 9, 1814. Like hundreds of other boys of his day, he was permitted to attend school but a very short time. He attended school about two months during his youth and went to Sundayschool in a log church. Being raised in the forest, the chopping axe became his constant and faithful companion. With due deference to Abraham Lincoln, James was never excelled in his day, by anyone in chopping wood, splitting rails or making clapboards. In the use of the broad axe he bore an enviable reputation. During his lifetime he cleared more than 300 acres of land in Johnson, Marion and Boone Counties. He was a carpenter by trade and hewed the timbers and built quite a large number of barns and houses in Marion County. The last barn he built is still standing today on the farm of Charles Herr, in Perry Township, Boone County.

James remained under the parental roof until he was twenty-three years of age. On November 2, 1836, he was married to Sarah Ellen Tucker, daughter of James and Mary (Ritchie) Tucker, natives of Virginia and Ireland respectively. Sarah Ellen Tucker had six brothers and two sisters, and was born in Henry County, Kentucky, August 22, 1821. She, with her parents and brothers and sisters, moved to Indiana and settled in Johnson County.

To this union were born seven children: Jane, wife of Rev. W. M. Benson; Louisiana, wife of J. H. Halfaker; William G.; Samuel L; Margaret, wife of Daniel Ross; Stephen R; and Alice, wife of James DeMott. After their marriage James and Sarah Ellen moved to a farm in Franklin Township, Marion County, where they lived until 1872, when they moved to Perry Township, Boone County.