

JAMES KELLY.

“Kelly’s cabin stood within the limits of that afterwards enclosed his son, Meek Kelly’s cabin. Later the Alex Barclay farm. (See his will of 1803, among the early records of the county, and the sketch of the Kelly family in Armstrong Tp.”) In common with the other pioneers† he had a ‘hard row to travel.’ His cabin was constructed of round logs or poles, leaving large cracks between, which it was customary on the approach of winter to close up, so as to render the building more comfortable.”

“It is highly probable that Kelly, then in the vigor of manhood, with a small family around him, took an active part in the affairs of the border, but as few of the records of that period are within reach, we can only indulge in conjecture. We have several authenticated facts, however, concerning him, that are not without interest.”

“On one occasion he was out in search of his horses which had strayed several miles. When he came up to them he espied two Indians a short distance off trying to conceal themselves. They might have shot him, as he was unarmed, but their cowardice made them suspect there were more Indians in the vicinity, hence they dare not to venture to fire. Kelly quickly mounted one of the animals and sped away, the other following close in the rear. Arrived at his cabin, he placed his wife and children on the horses and proceeded with them in the direction of Wallace’s Fort, which they reached in the course of the ensuing night. They returned soon afterwards.”

“When it became known that Moorhead was taken prisoner and Simpson Killed, and that Indians were prowling through the neighborhood, Kelly, with his family, fled to the Conococheague, in Franklin county, where he entered the regular service as a private in Colonel McGraw’s regiment. He participated in the battles of Brandywine and Monmouth, and subsequently served in Sullivan’s expeditions against the Indians on the Mohawk.”

“After the war he returned to Indiana county, where he died in 1803.”

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† Jonathan Row.