Hatfield’s and McCoy’s
What is Fact and What is Fiction?

Presented by: Randy Hatfield
Randy Hatfield’s Genealogy
(next two slides)

• Randy Hatfield—son of Joe Wheeler Hatfield
• Joe Wheeler Hatfield—son of Jordan Hatfield
• Jordan Hatfield—son of Thomas Hatfield
• Thomas Hatfield—son of Thomas Henderson Hatfield
• Thomas Henderson Hatfield—son of Joseph Hatfield, who was a brother of Valentine Hatfield. This Valentine Hatfield was the father of “Devil Anse” Hatfield
Randy Hatfield’s Genealogy

• Joseph Hatfield—son of Ephraim “Eaf of All” Hatfield. Ephraim was the first Hatfield to settle in this area, thus, earning him the nickname “Eaf of All” since Hatfields in eastern Kentucky can be traced back to Eaf’s family line.

• Ephraim Hatfield—son of Joseph Hatfield.

• Joseph Hatfield—son of George Goff Hatfield, Sr.
January 7, 1865
Asa Harmon McCoy is Shot

• Asa, Randolph “Randel” McCoy’s brother and a Union sympathizer is shot. This occurs near the end of the Civil War.

• His body is found near a cave and his death is attributed to a Confederate guerrilla unit led by “Devil Anse” Hatfield or Anse’ Uncle Jim Vance. (Reportedly “Devil Anse” was in bed with a high fever at the time.)
Asa Harmon McCoy
Fall of 1878, Three Years Later
Stolen Hogs

• Ranel McCoy accuses Floyd Hatfield, cousin of Devil Anse, of stealing his hogs and files a complaint.
• Floyd Hatfield is acquitted by a jury of six Hatfields and six McCoys in the Kentucky trial.
• The trial was presided over by Anderson Hatfield, Devil Anse’s uncle. The trial occurred at Anderson Hatfield’s house in Pike County.
In the fall of 1878, Randolph McCoy brought charges against Floyd Hatfield for stealing one of his hogs. The resulting trial occurred here and was presided over by the local justice of the peace, Preacher Anderson Hatfield. Preacher Anderson was Devil Anse Hatfield’s cousin and did not want to appear biased so he gathered a jury of six Hatfields and six McCos to hear the case. When the jury reached its verdict, Selkirk McCoy, nephew of Sarah McCoy and a veteran of the Virginia Confederacy, sided with the six Hatfields in favor of Floyd. The McCos felt betrayed and open hostilities soon erupted between the Hatfield and McCoy families. Later Bill Staton, who testified in favor of his brother-in-law Floyd Hatfield, was killed by two of Randolph McCoy’s nephews while he was hunting. They were tried and acquitted in a trial presided over by Valentine Hatfield, uncle of Devil Anse. After this, violence between the families continued and the resulting conflict eventually escalated into the most famous family feud in American history.
Recreation of Anderson Hatfield’s Homeplace at Blackberry Creek
1879, One year later
Death of Bill Staton, a Witness

- Sam and Paris McCoy, still angry over the outcome of the trial, fight with one of the witnesses, Bill Staton.
- Staton dies in the fight.
- Warrants are issued for the arrest of Sam and Paris McCoy.
- They are tried in West Virginia with Devil Anse’s own brother serving as judge, and acquitted on grounds of self-defense.
1880, One Year Later

Johnse and Roseanna’s Romance

• Johnse (Johnson) Hatfield and Roseanna McCoy meet and fall in love.

• She moves in with the Hatfields, but Devil Anse refuses permission for Johnse to marry her.

• Pregnant and unwelcome at home, Roseanna goes to live with her aunt and learns of her brothers’ plan to ambush Johnse.

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1880

Johnse and Roseanna’s Romance, cont.

• She races on horseback to warn the Hatfields.
• Her baby dies of measles.
• There are four theories about the baby’s death, including one where she miscarries while riding the horse to the Hatfield home, but the baby actually lived eight months and is buried at the McCoy Cemetery in Pike County.
• Johnse marries one of Roseanna’s cousins.
Johnse Hatfield
Roseanna McCoy
Grave of Roseanna McCoy at Dils Cemetery in Pikeville, Kentucky
Randall McCoy and His Wife’s Graves at Dils Cemetery in Pikeville, Kentucky
August 7, 1882, Two Years Later
Election Day

- Tolbert McCoy, son of Ranel, fights with Devil Anse’s brother, Ellison.
- Tolbert, Pharmer, and Randolph, Jr. stab Ellison 27 times. Then Pharmer McCoy shoots Hatfield in the back.
- Warrents are issued for all three and the McCoys are arrested in Kentucky.
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August 7, 1882
Election Day, cont.

• Devil Anse forms his own posse and overtakes them, forcing them to an abandoned Mate Creek schoolhouse across the Tug River, near Watewan, West Virginia.

• They await the outcome of Ellison’s wounds.
Ellison Hatfield
August 9, 1882, Two Days Later

Pawpaw Incident

- Ellison Hatfield dies.
- In retaliation, the McCoys are taken back across the Tug River to the Kentucky side, near the mouth of Blackberry Creek.
- They were tied to a Pawpaw bush and executed. Some manuscripts just list it as “trees”.
- Ellison is buried at the Ellison Hatfield Cemetery.
Plaque Next to Road Where Shooting Occurred

PAWPAW TREE INCIDENT

This episode is result of August 1882 election-day fight. Tolbert, a son of Randolph McCoy, exchanged heated words with Ellison Hatfield, which started a fight. Tolbert, Pharmer and Randolph McCoy Jr. stabbed Ellison to death. Later the three brothers were captured by Hatfield clan, tied to pawpaw trees, and shot in retaliation.

Presented by Pikeville-Pike County Tourism
September 18, 1882, A Month Later
Indictments

- Kentucky Court issues indictments for Devil Anse and twenty supporters.
- No action taken for five years.
1887, Five Years Later
Perry Cline Enlisted

• Ranel McCoy pursues the case, persuading Perry Cline to influence the governor of Kentucky to reactivate the indictments against the Hatfields for killing the McCoy brothers and begin extradition proceedings.

• Frank Phillips is appointed deputy and later dismissed, but illegally continues raids against the Hatfields.
Frank Phillips
January 1888, One Year Later
McCoy Homestead Burned

- West Virginia offers rewards for the McCoy “invaders”.
- Hatfields plan revenge, although Devil Anse is not directly involved.
- They burn the McCoy home, beat Ranels’ wife, Aunt Sally, and kill two adult children.
- They are buried at the McCoy Cemetery.
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January 1888
McCoy Homestead Burned, cont.

• Frank Phillips’ posse pursues the Hatfield supporters and West Virginia’s Logan County Court forms a posse to stop the raids of the Kentucky posse.
January 8, 1888
Jim Vance Killed

- An article on the raid appears in the Louisville Courier-Journal.
- Frank Phillips kills Jim Vance, Devil Anse’s uncle, the same day.
January 9-19, 1888
Hatfield Supporters Captured

• Frank Phillips conducts raids, capturing nine Hatfield supporters.

• Valentine Hatfield surrenders, but Devil Anse eludes capture.
January 19, 1888
Battle of Grapevine Creek

• A battle rages near Grapevine Creek between the two posses, resulting in the death of one of the West Virginia deputy sheriffs.
September 1889, Over a Year Later
Conviction and Hanging

• Hatfield supporters are tried in Pike County, Kentucky and convicted of murder.
• Eight are sentenced to life.
• Ellison Mounts—the only one to sign a confession—is convicted of murdering Alifair McCoy and is hung February 18, 1890.
The Real Story vs. The Press

• The version of the feud that appeared in the national papers was that “Devil Anse” Hatfield kidnapped three McCoy boys for no reason and executed them.

• Then he went to the home of Randolph McCoy, burned it, killing two of his children and brutally beating his wife.

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The Real Story vs. The Press, cont.

• In reality, Cap Hatfield and Jim Vance were the principles on the scene, not Anse.

• “Yellow Journalism” ran rampant during this time with various stories being told, so it is difficult to distinguish between some of the facts and some of the fiction.
No one may ever know all the reasons for the Hatfield and McCoy Feud. However, the plaque that stands on Chloe Creek Road beside where the path leads to where Randal McCoy, his wife, and daughter are buried, may best sum it up...
HATFIELD-McCOY FEUD

The feud resulted, in part, from Civil War conflicts, romantic entanglements, family-oriented discord, property and election disputes, mixed with mountain pride. Violence surrounding clan leaders Anderson Hatfield and Randolph McCoy eventually involved governors of Kentucky and West Virginia. Deaths and time brought an end to the feud. See over.
References and Web Sites

- Ancestry.com
- EdHelper.com (*contains lesson plans for grades 5-7, suggested reading level*)
- From Roots to Nuts (*Ephraim Hatfield*)
- HatfieldMcCoy Country Supply, 201 Central Ave., South Williamson, Kentucky 41503
- Person Page ("Big Eaf" Hatfield)
- Continued on next slide...
References and Web Sites

• Pike County Chamber of Commerce—Tourism Division
• The Feuding Hatfields and McCoys, by Dr. Coleman C. Hatfield, copyright 2012
• West Virginia Division of Culture and History
• westafer.com—lesson plans on Hatfields and McCoys
• Continued on next slide...
References of Web Sites

- Wiki Tree (*Ephraim “Eaf of All” Hatfield*)
- Wikipedia (*Devil Anse Hatfield*)
- Y. DeHart—Trip Advisor Pictorial History of Hatfield’s and McCoy’s
- A special thank you to Ellen Hatfield, a volunteer at the Anderson Hatfield home place, whose work has educated many a visitor who passes by Blackberry Creek, in Pike County, Kentucky
Devil Anse Hatfield and His Pet Bears
This Photo is Believed to Be a Publicity Shot to Promote a Silent Film
Devil Anse was a Member of the Logan Wildcats and a Civil War Veteran
This Photo was Taken Years After the Feud had Ceased
Devil Anse was a Successful Businessman in His Later Years
Randal McCoy Described Devil Anse as “Six feet of devil and 180 pounds of Hell.”
William Anderson “Devil Anse” Hatfield
Nancy Vance Hatfield, Devil Anse’s Mother, Child unknown
Devil Anse and Louvicey Hatfield Lived a Peaceful Existence Later in Life
Devil Anse’s Family Gathered at the Hatfield Homeplace for His Funeral
Hundreds of Friends and Family at Devil Anse’s Funeral
Devil Anse’s Baptism at Main Island Creek, Near His Home at Sarah Ann, WV
A Rare Photograph of Ran’l McCoy, Who Died on March 28, 1914
Randolph McCoy was Born on October 30, 1825
Later the Hatfield/McCoy Feud has Become Known as a Time for People to Gather in Pike County, Kentucky, Each Year
Areas Such as Matewan have Riding Trails and Self-Guided Tours
Tour Buses Advertise the Hatfield/McCoy Feud Sites in the Area
Hatfield/McCoy Tour Bus in Pike County, Kentucky
Landmarks have Signs Inviting People to Visit
Sources have Stated That the McCoy Family Graveyard is Closed to the Public
Now the Names are Associated Together in Various Other Ways
Randy standing at Devil Anse’s grave at Sarah Ann in Logan County, WV.