Society Member Jason Castle was kind enough to send me the following news article. It was published in a local Richmond, KY newspaper in 1970. It was written by Dr. Fred Allen Engle, a history professor at Eastern KY University.

MADISON'S HERITAGE WILLIAM WOLFSKILL 4-22-70

BY FRED ALLEN ENGLE

Everyone knows the stories of Kit Carson and Daniel Boone, but as great a trailblazer as these was the relatively unknown William Wolfskill.

He was born in Madison County on March 20, 1798 and died out West in 1866. He was the blazer of the Spanish Trail from Santa Fe, New Mexico to Los Angeles and he helped to open the southwestern empire. Accompanying him was fellow Kentuckian William Pope. About this same time Kentuckian William Becknell was founding the Santa Fe Trail from Missouri.

During his early teens, Wolfskill lived in Howard County, Missouri, then the jumping off place for the Western frontier. In 1815 he returned to Kentucky for schooling. He soon returned

to the West to open the Spanish Trail, the earliest and longest caravan route from the Pacific Coast through the Rocky Mountains to the desert towns beyond.

Wolfskill is also known as the father of the California citrus fruit industry having been one of the first to introduce this commercial venture on the West Coast. For this alone he deserves mention as a great Madison Countian.

In 1822, Wolfskill went with Becknell to trade in the newly opened Mexican territory of the southern Rockies. He was known, to the Spanish speaking people' as "Mr. William, Son of the Land."

William Wolfskill's name can thus be added to that roll of great Americans who were born right here in our own Madison County, Kentucky. You will note that the subject of the article, William Wolfskill, spent some time as a resident of Howard County, MO.

I can't resist adding that my ancestor, John Malcolm Miller, founded the city of Richmond, KY and later donated his barn to become the first courthouse of Madison County. The present courthouse stands on the same spot.

We still have a few members

who have not paid their 2022 dues. If you have not, please send your check for \$12.00 payable to HCGS. Send it to:

Fayette Public Library

ATTN: Genealogy 201 S. Main St.

Fayette, MO 65254

Thanks to those that have already paid and to those who will soon. Also, Happy Halloween and remember the Annual Meeting is 17 NOV at 1:30 at the Genealogy Room.