The Steele Family
HARRY H. MARTINDALE

The first known ancestor in this family is John Steele, called the trader, of Hampshire, Virginia. The name of his wife is not known. He died in Montgomery County, Kentucky, in 1810, and is buried in the old Springfield Presbyterian Churchyard. His sons were John, Jacob, Samuel, Henry and Solomon.

John Steele, the eldest son, was born on January 25, 1761. He served as a private in the Revolutionary War in Captain Michael Stump’s Company of Colonel Muhlenberg’s Virginia Regiment. He was engaged in the defense of the town of Richmond from the British, and, while marching to that place, was in a skirmish at Silver Creek. He enlisted in April or May, 1781. He later served three months under Lieutenant Blue, and was with the Virginia troops at the siege of Yorktown. John Steele’s pension claim is S.17706, and the last payment was made on April 1, 1836. Among his heirs were: William R. Steele, Lewis County, Missouri; Solomon Steele, Morgan County, Indiana; Samuel B. Steele, Callaway County, Missouri. These are thought to have been his sons. John Steele lived in Hampshire County, Virginia, and moved later to Montgomery (now Bath) County, Kentucky. He was erroneously placed on the list of Johnson County, Indiana, pensioners; he lived and died in Morgan County, Indiana.

Henry Steele, son of John, the trader, was born about 1771, and was first married to Mrs. Prudence Scott, a widow with two daughters. She was the daughter of Anthony Badgley of Hampshire (or Hardy) County, Virginia. Henry Steele and his family joined in the migration of some one hundred families which went under the leadership of the Reverend David Badgley, brother of his (Steele’s) wife, Prudence, to the vicinity of Belleville, Illinois, in 1797. In three or four years, Henry Steele and family joined his brother John Steele in Montgomery County, Kentucky. About 1831, the two families came to Morgan County, Indiana. The children of Henry and Prudence Steele were: Jacob, Jesse, Beuniah, Hardin, Larkin, Henry, Elizabeth, and Katharine (m. Asa Maxey in 1814 in Kentucky). The children of Henry Steele by his second wife were Albert, Prudence, and
John. Henry Steele died in Madison Township, Morgan County, Indiana, in 1844. Solomon Steele, son of John, the trader, lived and died in Fleming County, Kentucky. Jacob and Samuel, sons of John, the trader, stayed in Virginia.