

Rowan County  
Historical Society

Ruth (Skogge) Blewins  
780-7910  
6710 Cranston Road  
Morehead, Ky 40351

-1991-

## Local And Area Deaths

### Ella Sizemore, co-owner of Blevins Grocery, dies at 85

Mrs. Ella Blevins Sizemore, 85, of U.S. 60 East, Morehead, and co-owner of Blevins Grocery, died Feb. 13 at Mansfield General Hospital in Mansfield, Ohio, after an illness of several weeks.

Born May 29, 1905 in Carter County, she was the daughter of the late Elisha and Alliefair Bear Blevins.

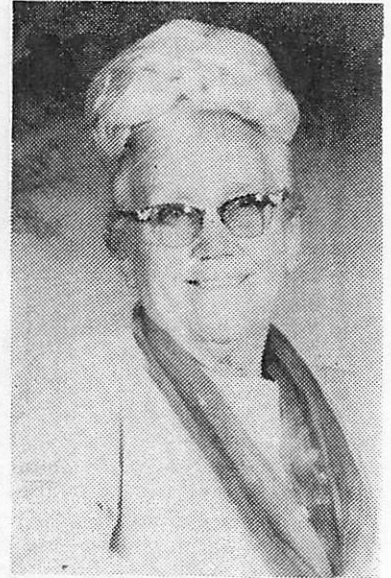
Mrs. Sizemore was a homemaker and along with her late husband Estill Blevins, owned and operated Blevins Grocery at Hayes Branch for 25 years. She was a member of the United Baptist Church for 65 years.

She spent her life in Rowan and Carter counties, until about a year ago when she moved to Mansfield, Ohio, due to ill health, to live with her daughter and son-in-law.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Estill Blevins, in June 1964; a second husband, John B. Sizemore, May 1977; a son, Billy Vernon Blevins; a daughter Bertella Blevins; a sister Edna Gorman; five brothers, Noah Blevins, James Blevins, Robert Blevins, Elmer Blevins and Kenneth Blevins.

Survivors include two daughters, Veronias Joy Wells, Mansfield, Ohio; Barbara Sue Barber, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Two brothers, Roy Blevins and Charles Blevins, both of Morehead; a sister, Hazel



Ella Sizemore

Blevins, Greenup; a grandson Dr. James Estell Wells, Ft. Wayne, Ind.; a granddaughter Kimberly Rose Barber Boggs, Glendale, Calif.

Also, a great-granddaughter, Chaunce Elysee Boggs, and great-grandson, Dylan Boggs, both of Glendale, Calif.

Services were conducted Sunday, Feb. 17 at Lane-Stuck Funeral Home with Owen Co and J.D. Riggs officiating. Burial was in the Pleasant Valley Cemetery in Carter County.

Pallbearers were James E Wells, Jeffrey Boggs, Carro Blevins, Gary Blevins, Charles Lee Blevins and Chester Blevin Jr.

# My Grandma's Christmas Memories

The following was submitted by  
Donna Blevins, age 15.

My Grandma, Edna (Sluss) Blevins, was born January 27, 1917 in Morgan County. She was the daughter of Daniel Boone and Nora Ann (McDaniel) Sluss. Grandma was the oldest daughter. Her brother Glenn, 8, and sister Olive, 2, are shown with Grandma in the picture.

Their dresses were made out of cotton material by their mother. Grandma has on long black stockings. Sometimes they wore bloomers that hung below their dresses. Their shoes were black and were buttoned on the sides.

Her brother, Glenn, wore long stockings, short leg pants, white shirt and tie. Grandma's other brother and sisters (not pictured) are Clyde, Verna, Reba, Myrtle and Lyda. Grandma Edna is showing her wrist watch she received for Christmas in 1923.

She couldn't remember the name of the watch but she said it was real. She was proud of her watch which her mom gave her.

One year she remembered getting a porcelain doll, and a cameo locket. Grandma said they always put a pine tree up for Christmas, that her father would cut in the nearby hills.

The tree was decorated with things found around the house. Popcorn was made into a garland and strung on the tree.

They each hung their own stockings above the fireplace for old Santa to fill. They would be filled with sugar stick candy, apples and

sometimes an orange.

Then the children would jump into their shuck beds with homemade quilts made by their mother, with the light from the fireplace to keep them warm.

They would cuddle up and go to sleep and wait for the arrival of Santa Clause.

For Christmas dinner, her mother always would bake a big hen, or they would have a chicken and dumplings. They also had plenty of vegetables that her mother had canned during the summer. They always had homemade pies, apple stack cake and apple butter. Grandma laughed and said, "You couldn't run out and buy things at the stores like you do now days."

They always has fresh milk, straight from the cow. Sometimes she helped with the milking. They made their own butter.

They hung their milk and butter in the well to keep it cool. They raised their own chickens and gathered the eggs daily, always leaving a nest egg.

At night, they used the light from the fireplace to read or just sit and talk. Later years they got kerosene lamps.

Grandma told me that one day her mother was washing clothes, a chore done every Monday back then, (using a wash board and two large metal tubs). She went to get her homemade lye soap she stored in a flour sack. When she picked up the sack it felt heavier than usual. She dumped out the contents and out with the soap slithered a large black snake, much to her surprise!

One day her mom left her with a young girl while she went out to do some farm chores. When she walked down the road and just as she turned around, she saw her fall out of the upstairs window. She ran back to find her on the ground but luckily she wasn't hurt.

Another time her mother was riding their mare down the dirt road and suddenly a neighbor's big ram sheep ran up, butting at the horse's legs. The mare was frightened by the ram and ran off through the briars, the bushes and through a corn field where some men were hoeing corn and they stopped the horse. Luckily her mom unmounted the horse safely, except for a few cuts from the briars. Her long black hair had fallen all around her face because she had lost all of her combs and hair pens.

My Grandma said she attended school at Crockett in Morgan County and lived across the line in Elliott County. She walked to school, which consisted of a three room schoolhouse grades 1-8. She remembered one of the girls that was in a higher grade, her name was Katherine, who looked out for her. On Friday they would open the

doors between the classrooms and held spelling and math bees.

She remembered when she moved from the Morgan and Elliott County area. When she was about eight years old. They came to Rowan County and lived where Clear Fork is today. She said, "We came to Rowan County on my uncle Jim Sluss's big wagon pulled by four mules." She added that she and her brothers and sisters sat down in the wagon bed covered by heavy quilts, to keep them warm as they traveled.

Later years they moved back to Morgan County and lived with her uncle Marion, who wasn't married at the time. They lived with him about two years. Then they moved to Rowan County again. This time she road what my Grandma called "The Old Blue Goose Train", from Redwine in Morgan County to Rowan County. She said, "They lived on the old Dave White's place." (The interstate goes through where she used to live.)

They later moved on Road Branch and bought them a home. Wildcats were plentiful, her dad Boone hunted wildcats and sold the hides

(Continued on page B-6)

(Continued from page B-3)

until she married at the age of 17 years, to my grandpa, Everett Blevins on Oct. 4, 1934.

One night after she was married, she looked out toward her family home and saw a large fire that destroyed their home. Her parents, brothers and sisters were all safe.

My grandma has shared a lot of her childhood memories. She is a very special person, she is 70 years old, my Grandpa Everett died in 1985. My Grandma lives next door to me on Cranston Road.

*Copied from  
The Marehead  
News*

Submitted By  
Donna Blevins  
Age 15



Donna Blevins' grandmother, center, showed off a watch she received for Christmas in 1923.

# Tilden Hogge Holds Talent Show

Tilden Hogge Elementary School held its annual talent show Friday, April 25.

Linda Sexton was in charge of the show assisted by Sandra Plank, Ronda Alderman, Barbara Clark, Cheryl Focht, Jan Lewis, Nancy Ellis and Connie McGhee.

Teachers assisting were Wanda Mann, Brenda Wells, Beverly Williams, Teresa Kinder, Tammy Anderson and Betty Sharp, who topped off the show with a song, "Tickey's Gang."

Participating children and adults were presented with talent show trophies.

A total of 19 acts were included in the show.

Mrs. Betty Sharp's fourth grade and Mrs. Phyllis Quisgard's fourth

and fifth grades presented "Slim's Gym."

Children in the act included Mica Adkins, Kim Alderman, Julie Butkiewicz, Veronica Caudill, Shannon Coleman, Toby Conn, Shawn Cooper, Hope Earls, Michelle Estep, Shawn Fraley, Steve Heltbrand.

Also, Missy Little, James Meade, Starla Nickell, Heath Patton, Miranda Pennington, Lisa Porter, Tara Reed, Bev Stacy, Gayler Stephens, Brinda Wagener and Jason White.

Gymnastics were performed by Caroline Doepke and Jon Little, Adam Martin and Kirk Morehouse presented "Breaking."

"Ninjas" was performed by Jodi Jent and James Legg and Galen

Sexton played "Batter Up" on the accordion.

Annie Sexton presented a ballet number to "I Let the Music Speak" and Sarah Lewis did a clogging routine.

Wes Alderman did an Elvis Presley pantomime and Sunshine White played the omnichord and sang "Help Me."

Shane Coleman and Brian Caudill presented a comedy act and Randa Waltz, Betsy White and Crystal Owens did a cheerleading routine.

Stara Nickell sang "My Old Kentucky Home."

A jazz dance routine to "Automatic" by the Ponter Sisters was presented by Annie Sexton, Kelly Day, Telina Perkins and Jacqueline Plank.

Missy Little and Michelle Estep did a clogging routine and Heather Mathis and Donna Dailey presented a pantomime.

Brandy McGrath sang "Katie."

Playing on homemade instruments, Darren Blevins, T.J. Blevins, Jamie Sparks, Arron Plank, Joshua Shuster, Melanie Branham, Donna Blevins and Ruth Blevins presented a skit with a hillbilly band and did a pantomime to "Hillbilly Fiddler" by the Sloas Brothers.



A hillbilly band skit was performed by these youngsters at Tilden Hogge Elementary School during the annual talent show last Friday. From left are Jamie Sparks, T.J. Blevins, Joshua

Shuster, Arron Plank and Darren Blevins. Sister is Melanie Branham. The students made their instruments and pantomimed "Hillbilly Fiddler" by the Sloas Brothers.

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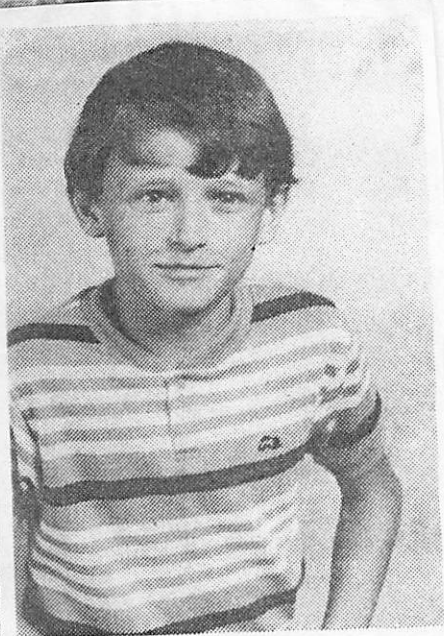
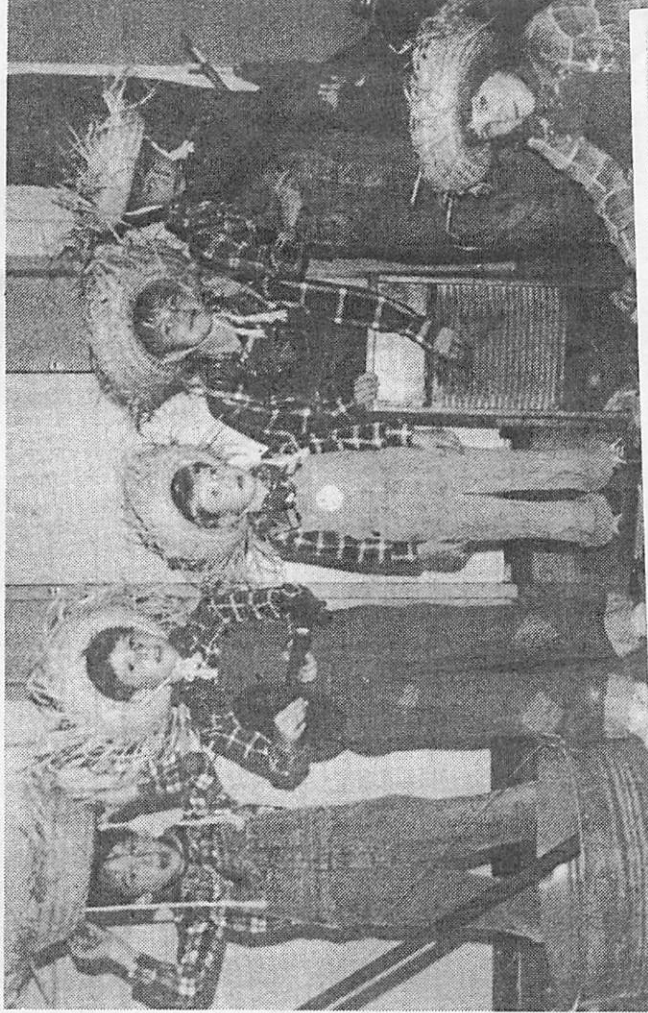
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Darren Blevins

## Blevins Receives Poetry Contest Honorable Mention

Darren Boone Blevins, 10, son of Danny and Ruth Blevins, recently received a second place honorable mention certificate in the Kentucky State Poetry Society's 1987 contest.

Darren received the award in the grades 1-3 division, "Through a Child's Eyes." His entry was entitled "Great Grandpa and Me."

The sponsor of the contest was Jim Proctor of Louisville.

Winners in the category were Kate Coltharp, Paducah, first place; Erik Scott, Frankfort, second place; Amanda Jo Hardman, Kentuk, W.Va., third place; Alan Baker, Paducah, first place honorable mention; Mary Hawkins, Paducah, third place honorable mention.

There were 39 categories in all for elementary, high school and college students, as well as members of the Kentucky State Poetry Society.

Darren attends Tilden Hogge Elementary School, and is a student in Betty Sharp's fourth grade class.

Following is Darren's entry in the contest:

### Great Grandpa and Me

My great grandpa was named for the old Kentucky frontiersman Daniel Boone,

In great grandpa's younger days, he hunted wildcats by the light of the moon.

I was named for my great grandpa, my name is Darren Boone, but if I ever hunt, it will be something more tamer, like a raccoon.

My dad says I'm a lot like my great-grandpa, because we both loved to fish in the Rock Forks and North Forks of Triplett Creeks.

I wish my great grandpa was still



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My dad says I'm a lot like my great-grandpa, because we both loved to fish in the Rock Forks and North Forks of Triplett Creeks.

I wish my great grandpa was still living, gosh! My great grandpa and me, we would hunt and fish for weeks.

— Darren Boone Blevins



Daniel Boone Sluss and Nora Ann Mcdaniel Sluss were the grandparents of Danny Blevins Sr. The Slusses were married on May 1, 1914 in Morgan County.

## Looking Back

This is a photo of Daniel Boone Sluss and Nora Ann Mcdaniel Sluss who lived in Cranston.

Daniel was born June 23, 1888 in Elliott County. He is the son of Noah H. and Roseanna Day Sluss.

Nora was born Jan. 11, 1895 in Morgan County. She is the daughter of Andrew and Martha Ann Fultz Mcdaniel.

They were united on May 1, 1914 in Morgan County by the Rev. John Barnett. The Slusses had eight children.

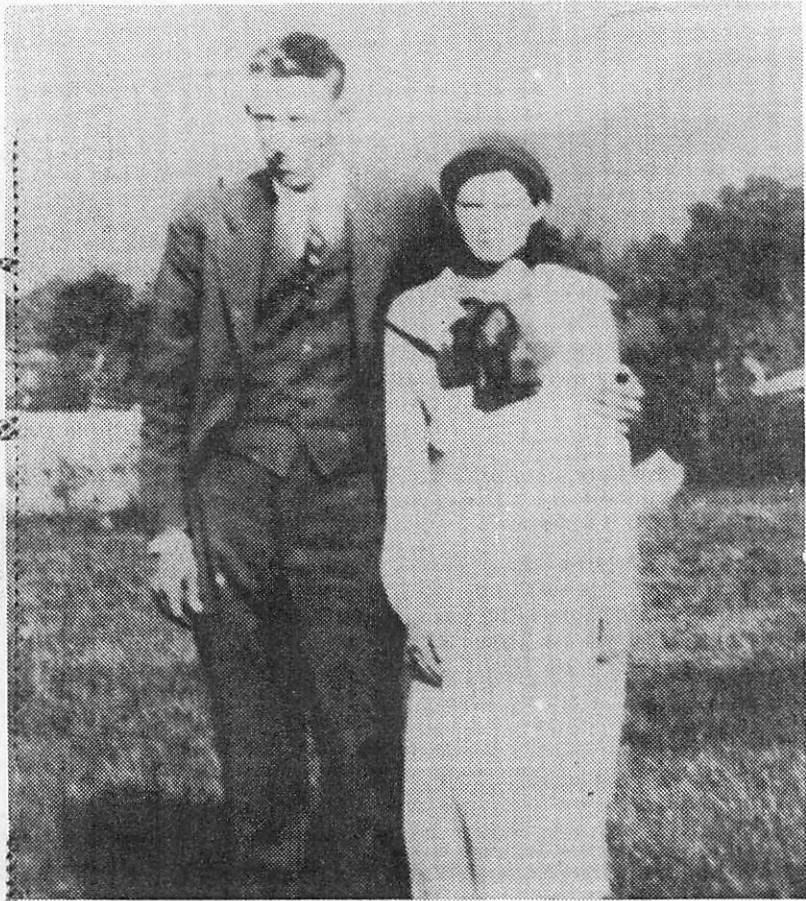
Their children Glenn, Edna Mae (Danny Blevins's

mother), Lyda and Clyde all reared families in Rowan County.

Reba and Verna moved from Rowan County after marrying. Daughters Olive died at age 16 and Myrtle died in infancy.

Daniel worked for 25 years for the C&O Railroad before retiring in 1950. Nora was a homemaker and member of the Newhope Primitive Baptist Church.

Nora died on Jan. 9, 1968 and Daniel died on April 3, 1977. Both are buried in Cranston Cemetery.



## Looking back

This is Edna (Sluss) and Everett Blevins's wedding picture. They were married Oct. 4, 1934 in Cranston and are the parents of Danny Blevins Sr. Ruth Blevins submitted this photo.



## Everett, Edna Blevins Mark 50th Anniversary

Everett and Edna (Sluss) Blevins celebrated their 50th Golden Wedding Anniversary Sunday, Sept. 30, at home on Cranston Road. Edna Blevins is the daughter of the late one Sluss and Nora Ann (Lavelle) Sluss and Mr. Blevins is of the late William Blevins and a Belle (Fisher) Blevins. The couple were married Oct. 4, 1914, at the Rev. George Hall in Wayne County. They are the parents of three children, Mavery, Danny Blevins and Edith Blevins, and they have 11 grandchildren and two great-

grandchildren.

A three-tier anniversary cake, decorated with yellow roses and topped with a Golden 50, baked by Juanita Littleton, was served to: Mr. and Mrs. Cephas Littleton Jr. and Derrick; Mrs. Susan Oney; Mr. Loranza Skaggs; Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Helterbrand; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Helterbrand and Wesley.

Also Mr. and Mrs. Fred Brown; Mr. and Mrs. Tim Blevins, T.J., Becky and Toby; Mr. and Mrs. David Shuster and Joshua; Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Mullins; Mrs. Carol Jenkins and sons; Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Sluss; Mrs. Curt Cundiff and Faith; Mrs. Robert McGrath and Brandy.

Also Mr. and Mrs. Leland Hall; Jeff Workman and Connie Helterbrand; Mr. and Mrs. Jake Plank; Mrs. James Sparks; Mrs. Floyd Hall; Mrs. Marion Caudill; Mrs. Victor White; Ray Sabiciumas and Ginny White; Mr. and Mrs. Danny Blevins, Dowe, Dana, Donna, Darren and Derrick; Mr. and Mrs. Danny Blevins Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Helterbrand and Steve; Mrs. Charlie Riggs; Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Forman; Mrs. Pauline Sparks; Mr. Bill Slack; and Mrs. Ruby Slack.

Out-of-town guests were: Mr. and Mrs. Enoch Caudill and Jeanette Caudill of Ashland; Mrs. Reba Caudill and Mrs. Eddie Caudill and Larissa of Franklin, Ohio; Mrs. Billy Goldsmith of Louisa; Mr. and Mrs. Ron Riggs, Bill and Jessie of Tollesboro.

Mr. and Mrs. Blevins received several gifts and cards including a special card from President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan.



Everett and Edna Blevins — married 50 years.

Floyd Co. 1840 census.

Riley Blewins	1	1	—	—	1	E
Wiley Blewins	2	1	1	—	2	1
James Blewins Jr.	1	—	—	—	1	1
David Blewins	2	1	1	—	2	2
Elisha Blewins	2	2	1	—	1	1
<del>James Blewins</del>	<del>1</del>	<del>1</del>	<del>1</del>	<del>—</del>	<del>1</del>	<del>1</del>
James Blewins Jr.	1	—	—	—	1	E

Lawrence Co. 1850 census.

David Blewins	38	b. Va.
Sarah	34	b. Ky.
Wm.	19	
James	16	
Cynthia Ann	14	
Frances	12	
Elizabeth	10	
Jane	7	
Mary	4	
Daniel	2	

Ephraim Blewins	45	b. Va.
Letty	50	b. Va.
James	23	
Hannah	21	
Emaline	14	
Andrew	13	
Rebecca	10	marriage 7

Floyd Co. 1840 census.

Riley Blewins	B D	—	E
	1 1		1
Wiley Blewins	A C F	—	B C F
	2 1 1		2 1 1
	D		B E
James Blewins Jr.	1	—	1
	b C F		A C E
David Blewins	2 1 1	—	2 2 1
	A B E		A B C G
Elisha Blewins	2 2 1	—	1 1 2 1
	A B C G		A B C F
<del>James Blewins</del>	<del>1 1 1</del>	<del>—</del>	<del>1 1 1 1</del>
	D		E
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1810 Wayne Co. Ky

Jonathon Blewins

1820 Wayne Co. Ky. Jonathon Blewins

1820 NC Burk Co. Ky

Joseph Blewins b. 1804

1830 No Joseph No Where

1830 Jonathon Blewins Marion TN

1840 Joseph Blewins Estill Co. Ky

Jonathon Blewins Wayne Co. Ky

No Blewins in Owsley Co. Ky. in 1888

1840 Estill Co. Ky Census

Joseph Blevins 1 male 30-40, 1 female  
 20-30 - 2 males 5-15 - 1 female 5-10  
 1 male under 5, 1 male 70-80  
 2 over 21 years cant read or write  
 head engaged in Manufacture & Trade

1850 Estill Co. Ky Census

1805 Joseph Blevins 45 shoe maker b. Ky.  
 1804 mary 46 b Va  
 1832 Absolum R. 18  
 1833 Eli A. 17  
 1835 Nancy 15  
 1837 Joseph 13

1860 Owsley Co. Ky. census

Travellers Rest precinct  
 Joseph Blevins 56 shoe maker worth 0-100 b Ky. R  
 mary 56 Va R

Eli Blevins 27 Farmer Tenn<sup>r</sup>. b. Claiborne  
 Co. TN. son of Joseph Blevins & mary ? m.  
 9-5-1856 in Owsley Co. Ky.

Milly 24 Ky r Free Hubbard  
 Hulda 7 Ky m. Daniel Sparks  
 Laurabell 2 Ky.

Lawrence Co. 1850 census  
Lewis Blevins 19  
Hannah 90

Wm. 22

Wilks Co N.C. Marriages  
Wm. Blevins to Rhody Prewitt 2-4-1816  
Elisha Blevins to Nancy Adams 1-1-1854  
John Blevins to Nancy Prewitt 1-7-1821  
John Blevins to Susanah Hays 10-25-1849  
~~Andrew Blevins to Nancy Hays 12-4-1847~~  
✓ Elisha Blevins to Sarah Tribble 7-12-1784

Wilks Co, NC, Court minutes  
May 3, 1797 Elisha Blevins vs. Jesse Robinett,  
same jury, none suit

Wilks Co. NC. taxables  
✓ Joseph Blevins 1792 ----  
Wells Blevins 1792 ----

Wilks Co, NC, taxables  
Elisha Blevins ----

no place listed  
Aley Blevins to John Sizemore both b. Va

~~Orange Co. Va~~