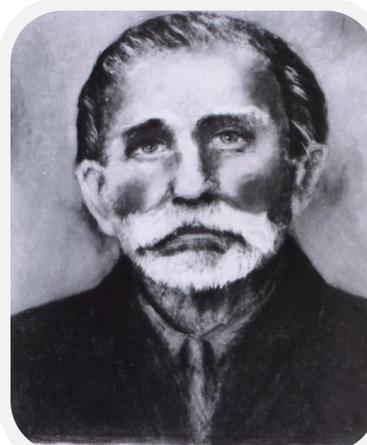
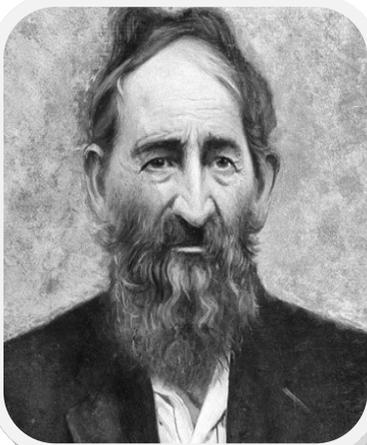


# *City Flash*

## *Tourism Hits Pikeville!*



You've always heard of the Hatfield and McCoy Feud in Eastern Kentucky, it's America's most favorite Feud in history. Dozens of books, films, music, cartoons, and theatre presentations have been made to revolve around the Hatfield and McCoy Feud, even a TV game show was inspired "Family Feud". Now the History Channel premieres a miniseries, and Pikeville and Eastern Kentucky are overflowed with tourism...

The Feud has entered the American folklore lexicon as a metaphor for any bitterly feuding rival parties. More than a century later, the story of the feud has become a modern symbol of the perils of family honor, justice, and vengeance.

A three night, six hour premiere aired May 28 through May 30 on the History Channel bringing back the Hatfield and McCoy feud; Starring, Kevin Costner as William Anderson "Devil Anse" Hatfield, and Co-Starring, Bill Paxton as Randolph "Ole Ran'l" McCoy. The show was the most watched non-sports show ever on ad-supported cable TV with 13.9 million viewers.

This show has brought tourism and talk alive in Eastern Kentucky. Here in Pikeville, we have many historic sites in which feature a marker telling the tragic stories from the feud. Serving as a reminder of past mistakes and the price of grudge. From 1863-1891 the Hatfield and McCoy Feud played a huge part in Pike County/Pikeville's History. Tourists from 43 of the 50 states have visited Pikeville to see where the Hatfield-McCoy Feud has been laid to rest.



# The Story Goes...

The Hatfield-McCoy feud began in the mountainous Tug River valley. The Tug River separates West Virginia from Kentucky and separated most of the Hatfield and McCoy clans. William Anderson Hatfield was the recognized leader of the Hatfield's and went by the nickname of "Devil Anse". The leader of the McCoy's was Randolph McCoy and went by the nickname of "Ole Ran'l".

In 1862-1865 lawlessness prevailed along the remote border regions dividing the North from the South during the Civil War. Groups of informal and unregulated gorilla combatants formed "Home Guard" units as a result of this void of civil authority. Neighbor against neighbor, violence tore the social fabric of the region. It was during this time of upheaval that the first killing of the feud took place.



Roseanna McCoy

## **Family of Origins:**

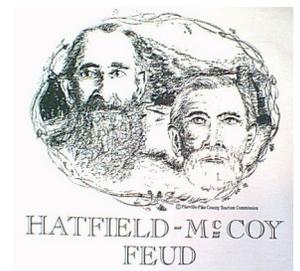
Both families were the first to settle in the Tug Valley. The majority of the Hatfield's living in Mingo County fought for the Confederacy in the American Civil War. The majority of the McCoy's living in Pike County fought for the Union Army. The Hatfield's were more affluent than the McCoy's and were well-connected Politically. Devil Anse Hatfield's timbering operation was a source of wealth for his family, but he employed many non-Hatfield's, and hired Albert McCoy, Lorenzo Dow McCoy, and Selkirk McCoy. Randolph McCoy, married his first cousin Sarah (Sally); together they had 15 children, 9 sons and 6 daughters.

Anderson Hatfield, was married to Levicy, together they had 13 children, 9 sons and 4 daughters.

## **Feud:**

Devil Anse Hatfield, a southern sympathizer, formed his own home guard unit called the Logan Wildcats, to patrol the Tug Valley. The first victim of the feud was Union veteran, Asa Harmon McCoy, younger brother of Randolph McCoy. Harmon broke his leg and was mustered out of service on December 24, 1864. He returned home and was told by Jim Vance, an uncle of Devil Anse, that his unit of home guard would soon pay him a visit. Harmon hid out in a nearby cave on Blue Spring Creek where his slave, Pete, carried provisions to sustain him. The Hatfield gang, tracked Pete through the snow to the cave. There they found Harmon, shot and killed him. His service in the Union army was considered an act of betrayal by the southern sympathizers. No suspects were ever brought to trial.

For several years an uneasy peace reigned in the Tug Valley. In the 1870s, Devil Anse Hatfield got into a land dispute with Randle McCoy's cousin Perry Cline. Anse won the land dispute and was granted Perry's entire 5,000 acre plot of land. The McCoy's felt that Anse had used his political connections to influence the court's decision. A few months after the verdict, Randolph McCoy stop to visit Floyd Hatfield, Anse's cousin, and best friend. Floyd living in Stringtown on the Kentucky side of the Tug River. Randolph happened to see a hog, which he said, bore the McCoy marking on its ear. McCoy immediately accused Floyd of stealing his hog. Floyd then denied it. In order to resolve the dispute, Randolph went to a Kentucky Justice of the Peace and brought a lawsuit against Floyd and the magistrate put together a jury of six McCoy's and six Hatfield's to hear the case. Bill Staton, a nephew of Randolph and brother-in-law of Ellison Hatfield, swore to Floyd Hatfield's ownership of the hog. At the end of the trial one of the McCoy's voted with the Hatfield's for acquittal. That McCoy worked on Devil Anse's timber crew and the McCoy's claimed he voted with the Hatfield's to save his job. As a result, the McCoy's felt like they had been cheated again. Within months, the key witness Staton, was killed by Paris and Sam McCoy as a result of a shootout. At this point the hatred grew and the feud was on!



## *Continued...*

During the election of 1880, Johnse Hatfield, son of Devil Anse came to the Kentucky election grounds from West Virginia to sell moonshine. He spotted beautiful Roseanna McCoy, a daughter of Randolph McCoy. Their attraction was so strong that by the end of the day she went home with Johnse to the Hatfield cabin in West Virginia. Some months later she was forced back to Kentucky by Devil Anse, but their forbidden romance continued in secret. One night three of her McCoy brothers discovered the couple. The deputized McCoy brothers arrested Johnse on outstanding warrants for bootlegging and set out for the Pikeville jail. Believing Johnse might be killed along the way, Roseanna, in an act of family disloyalty, rode to tell Devil Anse. He quickly gathered forces, rode after and stopped the McCoy's and reclaimed his son. From that day on Johnse never risked being with Roseanna again. Hopeless and pregnant, she could not go back to her father, who considered her ride to Devil Anse an unforgivable sin.

On August 7, 1882, at the polls on Blackberry Creek, Tolbert McCoy, son of Randolph got into a fight with Ellison Hatfield. Two younger McCoy's, Pharmed and Randolph, Jr. rushed to the aid of Tolbert. Ellison Hatfield had been stabbed 26 times, when Pharmed grabbed a pistol and shot Ellison in the back. The McCoy's ran into the woods, but were caught and placed in the custody of a Justice of the Peace and a Constable, for the long trip to the Pikeville jail. Ellison was still alive, but Devil Anse organized a posse and took the McCoy boys away from the guards and forced the boys across the river to West Virginia. Sarah McCoy rode to her son's captor, Devil Anse, and begged for her their lives. Devil Anse replied, "I'm holding them to see if Ellison dies. If he dies or gets well, I promise to bring them back to Kentucky alive."

On August 9, 1882, news came that Ellison Hatfield was dead. The three McCoy boys were marched off to Kentucky. They crossed the Tug River to the Kentucky side. There the Hatfield gang bound the McCoy's to pawpaw trees. In the space of a few seconds, some 50 shots were fired into the brothers. Devil Anse had kept his promise to bring the boys back to Kentucky alive. These murders were brought to the attention of the Kentucky Governor, who in turn appointed a special officer, Frank Phillips, to arrest the murderers of the McCoy brothers. A large reward was also offered which unleashed an army of bounty hunters into the state of West Virginia. This angered the West Virginia governor so much that he threatened war between the two states. Fearing for their lives, the Hatfield's decided to leave no witnesses to convict them. The Hatfield's raided the cabin of Randolph McCoy during the night of January 1st, 1888, killing his daughter Alifair and son Calvin and seriously injuring his wife Sarah and left her for dead. The cabin was burned to the ground. Randolph, Sarah and their remaining younger children escaped to Pikeville.

Public opinion shifted against the Hatfield's. Special officer Frank Phillips and a posse of McCoy's rode into West Virginia and captured several of the wanted men, even though they lacked properly executed extradition papers. In response, the Governor of West Virginia appealed the convictions of nine prisoners and unsuccessfully appealed the case all the way to the United States Supreme Court. The men were given sentences of long prison terms for the deaths of the three McCoy brothers and a sentence of death by hanging for Ellison Mounds for the shooting of Alifair and Calvin McCoy. Devil Anse made no attempt to get revenge for the conviction of his family members and this marked the end of the feud.

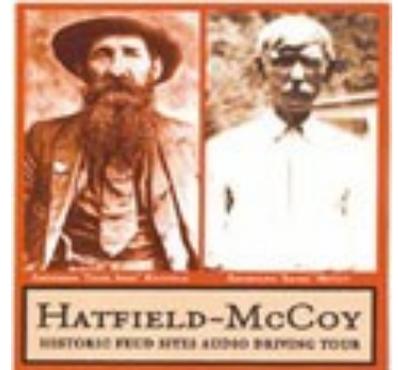
Roseanna moved to Pikeville and died, some say, of a broken heart at age 30. Randolph and Sarah McCoy remained in Pikeville to get away from the Hatfield's. They lived in the last house on Main Street at the corner of Scott Avenue. Randolph ran a ferry across the river for a living. Sarah died soon afterwards in the 1890's. Randolph died on March 28, 1914. Both are buried in the Dils Cemetery. Also buried in the cemetery are their love struck daughter Roseanna, their son Sam, and his wife Martha. Devil Anse Hatfield died on January 6, 1921 and is buried in the Hatfield Cemetery at Sarah Ann, West Virginia.



## Hatfield's and McCoy's in the Modern Era

In 1979, the two families united for a special week's taping of the popular game show "Family Feud", in which they played for a cash prize and a pig was kept on stage during the games. The Hatfield family won the contest 300-227.

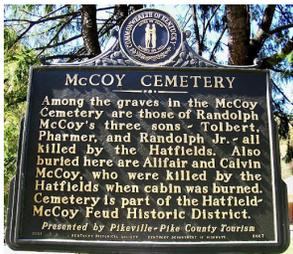
In 1999, a large project known as the "Hatfield and McCoy historic site restoration" was completed. This project was funded by a federal grant from SBA. Many improvements to various feud sites were completed. A committee of local historians spent months researching reams of information to find out about the factual history of the events surrounding the feud. This research was compiled in an audio compact disc, The Hatfield and McCoy Feud Driving Tour. The CD is a self-guided tour of the restored feud sites. It includes maps and pictures as well as the Audio CD, you can get a copy of the CD at the Pike County Tourism Office.



In 2000, Great-Great-Great grandsons of the feud patriarch Randolph McCoy, Bo McCoy of Waycross, Georgia, and his cousin Ron McCoy of Durham, North Carolina, organized an historic joint family reunion of the Hatfield and McCoy families. More than 5,000 people attended the reunion, which attained national attention. Also, in 2000, a 500-mile all-terrain vehicle trail system, the Hatfield—McCoy trails, was created around the them of the feud.

On June 14, 2003, the McCoy cousins partnered with Reo Hatfield of Waynesboro, Virginia, to author an official truce between the families. The idea was symbolic, to show that Americans could bury their differences and unite in times of crisis, most notably following the September 11 attacks.

## Historic Sites in Pikeville, KY



1. **Dils Cemetery**– Final resting place for Randolph and Sarah McCoy, Roseanna McCoy, and Sam and Martha McCoy. Dils Cemetery is believed to be known as the first interracial cemetery in Eastern Kentucky.

2. **Main Street**– Last house on the left, which is now known for the restaurant Chirico's; was the home of Randolph McCoy, after the Hatfield clan burnt the house on the Kentucky side of the Tug River, Randolph and family moved here to Pikeville, where Randolph ran a ferry on the Big Sandy River.

3. **Cline Street**- Perry Cline gravesite– Perry Cline married Martha McCoy. Perry's sister Martha Cline was married to Asa Harmon McCoy. Perry was a lawyer, deputy sheriff, and deputy jailer in Pike County, during the feud. In 1858, Perry inherited a large tract of land in Logan County, WV from his father and was considered to be wealthy. Perry had hatred for the Hatfield's. He relocated to Pikeville, established himself with the influential powers and developed a close relationship with Randolph McCoy. After Perry became Deputy Sheriff, he was instrumental in obtaining warrants to arrest the Hatfield's and bring them back to Pikeville for trial. Perry is considered to be a prime force in keeping the feud alive.

4. **University of Pikeville**- The Science building at U-Pike is where the hanging of Ellison (Cotton Top) Mounts was hung.

