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1997 members are Jean Brown (President), Elizabeth Williams (Vice President), Nell Kipp (Secretary), Margaret P. Ramsey (Treasurer), Ellen Graham (Historian), Margaret Ann Colvin (Registrar), Charlotte Young (Recorder of Crosses), Lena Beck, Tillie Clark, Jo Colvin, Faith Heishman, Margaret Jones Hull, Martha Keith, Loretta Perkins, Justine Tilghman, Irene Trainum, Juanita Tuttle, Frances Tuttle, Baena Walker, Margaret Ann Whittington, Caroline Woebke, and Wanda Wolfe. *Submitted by: Margaret Ann Whittington, Club Reporter*  
Sources: Current UDC Chapter records and privately-printed biography, "Captain James S. A. Crawford", by Bouchelle A. Hall and Mary Lou Kunkel.

## VESUVIUS RURITAN CLUB #634

The Vesuvius Chapter of Ruritan National was founded on June 24, 1954, with thirty-four charter members, of whom Clarence T. Cash, Sr., Clyde Humphries, Howard Humphries, and Joe McGranahan are still active. The charter members purchased the land where the Vesuvius School once stood and built a community building in 1955. Since then, the Club has maintained the property which is available for use by area residents. The Club also owns property which is used as a county dumpster site, and leases property which is used as the community's ball field.



*Vesuvius Ruritans working during a recent Fundraiser Dinner*

Unlike many clubs, most of the members of the Vesuvius Ruritan Club live close to each other and have been together all or most of their lives. The exceptions include the new members who are also newcomers to the area. The members care about each other and their community, working together to get the job done.

Events such as Cake Walks and the annual Oyster Supper bring the community together for

evenings of fun and fellowship, and also serve as fundraisers for the Club's projects. During 1996, the Club signed a long term lease for the community ball field, repaired the road leading to the fields, and built bleachers and backstop for the baseball diamond. Other projects included sponsorship of a Farm League Team, a donation to the Fire Department for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, sponsorship of annual Candidate Forum, sponsorship of Highway Department Public Meeting, participation in Volunteer Night at Lime Kiln Theatre, participation in Adopt-a-Highway program, donations to area families in need, and member training as Red Cross volunteers.

1997 members are Margaret Ann Whittington (President), Reynold C. Grant (Vice President), Faye Eakin (Secretary), Jane Comstock (Treasurer), Bob Burjioice, Clarence T. Cash, Sr., C. T. Cash, Jr., Francis Clements, Carroll Comstock, Bob Eakin, Alfred Hamilton, Clyde Humphries, Howard Humphries, Joe McGranahan, Clyde Snyder, Dan Stanley, and Ed Wagner.

1997 honorary members are Helen Berkstresser, Rosa Blackwell, Lillian Cash, Mary M. Groah, Dorothy Hays, Dorothy Humphries, John Scott, and Robert Stull. *Submitted by: Margaret Ann Whittington, Club President*  
Sources: Vesuvius Ruritan Club records

## VFW POST 4805

Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) Post 4805 was organized on September 11, 1992, in Buena Vista, Virginia. The original charter has 53 members.

VFW is an organization of veterans helping veterans. Their purpose is to pay tribute to veterans of foreign wars and to the ones that gave their lives for our country. They sometimes help wives, etc., of foreign war veterans, give money to the veteran care center, as well as help own local veterans when in need.

In order to be a member of VFW you must have been a member of the armed services and have served overseas during a time of conflict.

The VFW meets the 2nd Thursday of each month.

Officers for year 1996-97 are as follows: Commander - Edwin Flesher; Sr. Vice Commander - Henry Moore; Jr. Vice Commander - Marshall Stinnett; Quarter Master - Andrew Wilhelm; Adjutant - Donald Hostetter; Judge Advocate - Al Vest; Chaplin - Herbert Watts; Surgeon - William Armstrong; Service Officer - Kenneth Evans; 3 Year Trustee - Preston Fitzberger; 2 Year Trustee - Charles Carter; 1 Year Trustee - Theodore Bochman *Submitted by: Erskine Wayne Mohler*

## WALKERS CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.

Walker's Creek is one of the many remote and isolated areas, and for this reason a few residents got together at Marvin McCray's store to discuss forming a fire department for the community. The first meeting for the department was held at Immanuel Presbyterian Church April 11, 1980 at which time we discussed fund raising events to purchase the first fire truck and get the building under construction. The land on which the fire house sits was donated by Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Nuckols. This became a reality on June 22, 1991 when construction began. With the joint efforts of members and residents of the community the building began to take form. When the building was finished it housed three units, have two bathrooms, a kitchen and meeting room. This new building was named "Walker's Creek Volunteer Fire Dept".



No doubt this is a labor of love the community can be proud of. Everyone put their differences aside and pulled together to make this dream a reality. We began planning fund raising events to pay for the equipment and building. One annual event is our chicken barbeque held every August. Since we are a remote community we felt the need for some medical training. We now have First Responders and three EMT's that can give life support to the residents of the community while waiting for a first aid unit to arrive. Since the area is growing and new structures are being built we have our fire house under construction again. This will include four bays, large kitchen, and a meeting room. This fire house will serve the community as a fire fighting unit, medical support unit and a place residents can meet for special occasions. As in the past it has been used for family reunions, wedding receptions, birthdays, temporary housing for flood victims, etc. A community that works together grows together.

## MILLS

### BIG SPRING MILL



*Big Spring Mill (rolling and planing mill) built 1828*

### BEATTY'S MILL



*Beatty's Mill c1928*



*Beatty's Mill showing mill race taken while wheel was running 17 October 1939*

## BRADY'S MILL



*Brady's Mill at Buffalo Forge*

## CAMPBELL'S MILL

Between Mill Creek and McClung Drive (across from Edge Hill) in the Timber Ridge area of Rockbridge County, stands Campbell's Mill, also known as Lyle's Mill. The oldest part of this mill is the stone foundation. The main part of the mill must have been destroyed as the present building does not have a chimney to match the fireplace uniquely built into the corner of the stone foundation. Most of the machinery is no longer there but one can see some of the gears and chutes as well as the millstones. The mill was operated by a water turbine turned by water that was piped down the side of the hill in an open ditch from a dam a half-mile upstream. The mill must have been used as polling place at one time as I remember the list of registered voters nailed to the front door.



*Campbell's Mill*

The deep pool of water behind Campbell's Mill is known as The Mill Hole. This natural swimming hole was formed over the ages because it lies at the bottom of a series of waterfalls. It is surrounded on two sides by solid limestone, and has a small bluff made of marl on the third side. The bottom is solid limestone. Generations of the Lyle-Williams family have enjoyed the Mill Hole on many hot afternoons. I can remember many hot August nights when it was too hot to sleep in the upstairs of Edge Hill. Our father would light a lantern and take all of us for a night swim. The resulting chill would keep us cool the rest of the night. In a biography of Sam Houston it is said that he learned to swim in a pool behind the local mill. Many of the residents of Timber Ridge, like Sam Houston, learned to swim and dive at the Mill Hole. The Mill Hole is fed by the springs that make up Mill Creek so the water temperature is always cold. It has been said that if you dip your feet in the water in the morning, you will stay cool the rest of the day. Luckily, above the Mill Hole, amidst the small waterfalls and pools is the 'hot rock'. This large limestone ledge faces south and always stays warm.

After staying in the Mill Hole until your lips are blue, the hot rock is a welcome resting spot. Above the hot rock is the 'bathtub' and the 'whirlpool'. These are small pools that were carved out of the limestone and serve the purpose their names imply. Since I have become the latest keeper of the Mill Hole, I look forward to the family picnics and reunions we have there each summer. There is seldom an afternoon that you cannot find a gathering there. However, when you can sit by the water and listen to the falls by yourself it quickly becomes apparent why this little corner of Rockbridge County is loved by so many. *Submitted by: Preston Williams*

## GILMORE MILLS

Gilmore Mills is located in Rockbridge County where Cedar Creek flows from under the Natural Bridge into the James River approximately 3 miles below.

The mill and community was probably named for the Gilmore family who lived on the south side of the James River. On the 13th day of June, 1868 the mill was sold at public auction, with Joseph and Virginia Gilmore being the owners. Joseph and Amanda Humphries Kennedy from Cedar Grove in Rockbridge County purchased and operated the mill and lived in the community until between 1875-1878 when it was sold to Captain Chiles.

Captain Chiles operated a boat on the James River & Kanawa Canal from Richmond to Buchanan. The boat made stops at Gilmore Mills to load and unload the boats where they had a storage house. Then the Richmond & Alleghany Railroad purchased the property and built the railroad, becoming the C&O, and today is the C.S.X.

The mill was operated by Captain Chiles until his death in 1916 when his son Earl N. Chiles, Sr. took over the operation until it was closed. It was torn down for salvage in 1950's. The foundation is remaining today.

Gilmore Mills was a thriving community until the 1930's with a mill, railroad station, store, church, school, post office, and cooper shop, which made barrels for the mill, blacksmith shop and many family homes.

The store was operated at one time by a man who sold his wares from horse and wagon before settling here. He later moved to Lynchburg, opening the store with his name, Guggeheimer's Department Store.



*The back of Gilmore's Mill, in operation until early 1930's*

The Cliffside Chapel where the Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian and in later years Brethren preached on Sunday afternoons, was washed away in a flash flood of September 1950. The church was lifted from its foundation floating until it hit the bridge which crossed the Cedar Creek, tearing from its foundation, continuing on until the chapel hit the railroad bridge where it broke into pieces. The bell tolled for the last time. The floor of the chapel floated into and down the James River.

There were 3 different schools in Gilmore Mills with the first being on the bank above the

road below the mill. The second was above the mill on land given by Matthew William Barger where Sunday School was also held. This building was washed away in a flood of 1913 at which time a new school was built on a hill overlooking the Gilmore Mills. The school closed in 1934 when school buses started in Rockbridge County taking the students to Natural Bridge Schools. The building was converted into a house in later years and stands today.

In the Gilmore Mills community there were many families including the Tolleys, Smiths, Hatchers, Bargers, Braford's, Nortons, Lawsons, Lotts, Laynes, Kidds, Gibsons and others of which only a few are still in this community today. *Compiled by: Frances Kidd Madison, life long member of Gilmore Mills*

## HAYS MILL

A list of Augusta county settlers who "proved their importation from Great Britain", between 1739-1740, in order to become entitled to enter public land included John Hays, his wife Rebecca, and their children Charles, Andrew, Barbara, Jane, and Robert.

John Hays was one of the first settlers to claim one hundred acres of land in what is now Rockbridge County, by cabin-right from Benjamin Borden in the Valley of Virginia. Mr. Borden had promised to deed the settlers one hundred acres for every cabin or hut built on the tract. He received his patent in November of 1739. Mr. Borden further agreed to sell the settlers additional land at a nominal price.

John Hays chose a three hundred and eighteen acre plantation for which he paid five shillings. It included some of the best land in Borden's tract. He probably chose it as having a natural mill site as well as rich fertile soil. The tract was located about two miles north of Rockbridge Baths, Virginia, where Hays Creek and Moffetts Creek run together. After 1752 Moffetts Creek was changed to Hays Creek and Hays Creek became Walkers Creek. The name change has caused much confusion over the years as to just where the mill site was located. According to the original names of these two streams, Hays Mill was on the banks of Moffetts Creek, and not Hays Creek. This explains why the lower part of the original Moffetts creek has been changed to Hays Creek and named after Mr. John Hays.

John Hays probably built the first mill in Rockbridge County in 1739. A grist mill was built first, and a few years later a fulling mill was added. Evidence from the foundation shows that it was a small mill, but being the first it was probably very profitable. The site has a natural dam, which is still evident today, along with the mill race.

It has been recorded that John Hays was a thrifty man and accumulated quite an estate in the short time that he lived on the tract. He died in 1750, leaving his wife Rebecca and children. In the late 1800's his three sons (Andrew, Charles, and John) had twenty-five or thirty slaves and owned about 3,000 acres of the finest land on Hays Creek. Andrew Hays acquired the mill after his father's death, later devising it to his eldest son John Hays.

The present owners do not have a mill, as it has been gone a long time, maybe by some of the raging flood waters that pass our way. We are able to enjoy the waterfalls from the dam and the tranquility that surrounds it. *Written by: Deborah (Graves) Mohler*

Sources: 1. Present owners: Odie and Deborah Mohler. 2.-Augusta County Court House, book marked "Records" from September 1789-April 1793, page 268. 3. Augusta County Court House, numerous deeds and wills. 4. Annals of Augusta County by Oren Morton. 5. A History of Rockbridge County, VA by Oren Morton. 6. Withrow Scrapbook at Washington and Lee Library. 7. Rockbridge County, VA Notebook by George West Diehl. 8. Benjamin Borden's map, 6 November 1739. 9. Rockbridge County Court House, numerous deeds and wills. 10. Research material of Angela M. Ruley.

## A MILL BUILT BY JOHN HAYS



### THE OLD McCLUNG MILL



Located about 2 miles west of Brownsburg, Virginia on Hays' Creek. Now (1997) known as Hays Mill. This mill has been known by many names over the years.

### MILLER'S MILL



Built in 1846, one of the largest in the area

### POTTER-WADE MILL COLLIERSTOWN

In every community there are special landmarks. In Colliertown the Potter-Wade Mill is one. People driving by will slow down, even stop, just to watch the wheel turn. The Mill has been in existence since 1792.

The old mill was run by John Collier and others until 1850 when it sold to Isaac Potter. Isaac Potter ran the mill until 1891 when he sold his interest to his son John E. Potter. John in turn ran the mill until 1894. During these years the miller kept meticulous records on the day to day activities of his customers. This ledger for those forty some odd years is like reading a modern day phone book, every family in the community is listed. These families bought, sold and traded for their every day necessities. From 1894 until 1924 the mill was operated by H.L. Wade, H.W. Wade and H.J. Wade. The Wades were a family of millers that ran mills all over the county. We believe the millers house was built about 1900.

On March 18, 1924 the original mill was completely destroyed by fire. There was also lost 4000 bushels of wheat and quantities of corn and flour.

A year later the mill site was sold to E. C. Cummings. Mr. Cummings rebuilt the mill from pre-cut lumber he hauled from a sawmill on Black's Creek. The original mill wheel was made of wood and so was destroyed in the fire. The wheel that is on the mill now was hauled up the road from the mill at Clemmer's store in the 1930's.

In 1937 Cummings sold the mill to H.J. Wade and his wife, who was Pearl Potter. They ran the mill until 1953. The Mill was a place to socialize, too. In 1946 a surprise wedding shower was given for Charles A. Potter and Ella Gay McCurdy. Charles is a nephew of Pearl Wade. Many happy hours were spent in the creek by the Wade's children, Virginia Mae, Howard Jack, and Catherine Ann.

After 1953 the mill was turned into a store by Joe Carter. He sold it to Willie Stiltz in 1954. Stiltz gave it to her daughter Ethel McCaleb in 1981. In 1987 Charles A. and Joan G. Potter, Jr. bought it.



Picture taken 1990

One of the first things that Charlie did was to get the wheel turning again. The Mill is now home to students in the form of two apartments.

Charlie's great, great, great grandfather was Isaac Potter and John E. Potter a great, great grandfather. His grandfather's sister is Pearl P. Wade. The ledgers for those Potter Mill years somehow found their way into Charlie's hands, too. Submitted by: Joan G. Potter

Sources: Newspaper articles and Land Records of Rockbridge County.

### RAPP'S MILL

Rapp's Mill is located just north of the Dividing Ridge where the water flow separates to the north and to the south. The elevation at Rapp's Mill is 1500 feet above sea level.

Here our ancestral home is nestled in the pristine mountains. It is often referred to as "South Buffalo" because it is on the south fork of the Buffalo Creek in Rockbridge County. The mountains are covered with tall oaks and pines, which furnish shady paths for plying walking sticks. Here my great, great grandparents, Matthias and Mary Saville Rapp, settled in a log home on 125 acres purchased from Matthew Taylor in 1836. A small church and school stood on this property. To ensure that all generations at Rapp's Mill were afforded an opportunity to worship God and to be educated, Matthias and Mary deeded the land on which these structures stood. The deed stipulates the land is to be used forever for the preaching of the Gospel by any Christian minister thus, Rapp's Church is a non-denominational community church.

Shortly thereafter, Matthias built a mill where he installed a turbine water wheel, which he had invented and received a Patent for in 1870. Mary gave birth to eleven children and she was listed on all deeds. The only document she was not ever listed on was the patent. With the rapidly growing family it became necessary to expand their log house. They added on a sitting room, dining room, three bedrooms, kitchen,

and later on a spring house. Matthias powered the mill with the water from a huge spring on the mountainside and the creek. The spring still produces 350 gallons per minute. The addition was structured uniquely by placing two by fours, one on top of the other to form all the outside walls and internal partitions. During the civil war they hid their personal valuables in a cave in a section of a property called Poplar Hollow.

James Buchanan Rapp, the youngest child of Matthias Rapp succeeded his father in the operation of the mill. The cave was sold to the Virginia Onyx Company who mined marble and stalagmites and stalagmites. A tramway was built to transport the marble from the cave to the mill where it was sawed into slabs which eventually became table tops. The saw blade was made of heavy metal and was the size of a doorway. My father, Dr. James S. Parsons was named after his grandfather who was a miller and was the postmaster at Rapp's Mill in the store until his death in 1932. At this time the post office was discontinued. My father recalls accompanying his grandfather into the mill when grinding operations were taking place. Other operations that took place in the mill were the sawing of lumber, and repairing of wagons and buggies. He remembers the horse drawn mail coach which was creamed color. Scattered throughout the countryside could be found pieces of marble that were used in the spring houses of many residences. In that day recycling took place by using pieces of marble to cover crocks and weight down fermenting sauerkraut and pickles.

A sad day occurred in the late spring of 1932, when the mill burned. My father resided here with his parents until he went away to college at Washington and Lee University. In 1985, my parents decided to make a southward crossing of the Mason Dixon Line to settle at Rapp's Mill to reside in our ancestral home. Eleven years later, my brother, John E. Parsons and I also made the journey home to Rapp's Mill. Submitted by: Ruth Anne Parsons

### RAPP'S MILL

Rapp's Mill was used to grind wheat and corn during the Confederacy. It was operated by Mathis Rapp at the time. It was built about 1836.

The Yankees came through, and no one knows why they never burned it.

James Buchanan (Buch) Rapp, a son of Mathis, came to operate it to the early part of the Century. In May of 1932 Mr. Lewis Parsons was burning brush near the mill, the wind got up and caught the mill on fire. Neighbors formed a bucket brigade from the creek, trying to keep the house from catching afire. The flames and embers scorched and caught fire to the large maple trees at Rapp's Mill Church nearby, and had to be cut down. In the fire many things were lost, that were stored there, including a horse-drawn mail wagon.

There was also a mill called the Manspile's Mill in this area around the year of (1800). There is a poem to describe the owner. The poem was as follows:

"Tom Manspile was a man of skill,  
On South Buffalo, he built his mill;  
The wheel turned around without a doubt,  
Every now and then, a little meal popped out."

Submitted by: Ruth Long  
Sources: information from Michael Pursely

### RED MILL

The old "Red Mill" is located three miles from Natural Bridge and two miles from Plank Road, on the Red Mill Road. It is at the point where the "Great Road", (one time called the "Valley Road", the main road pioneers built down through the Shenandoah Valley), crosses Cedar Creek which flows under Natural Bridge.



In 1765 a pioneer named William Poague built the mill. As Poague had hoped, the mill's location made it accessible both to settlers and to the increasing number of travelers on the "Valley Road". The mill was purchased by Hugh Barclay in 1770, who painted it red. He also built the Barclay Tavern across the road from the mill. The tavern has been used as a dwelling over the years. The present owners have future plans for the old mill. *Submitted by: Martha Reynolds Watkins*

## RED MILL AND BARCLAY'S TAVERN (PART 1)

The tract upon which today stands the Red Mill and Barclay's Tavern was patented to William Poague on 23 May 1763. It is not known if William Poague and his wife, Ann built a dwelling upon this tract. On 16 March 1768, William and Ann Poague sold the two tracts of 100 and 104 acres, which were located on Cedar Creek, to William McClenachan for £260. The 104 acre tract adjoined Robert Whillow, James McGuffey, and William Mill. Both tracts had been patented to William Poague on 23 May 1763.



Old Red Mill 1939

William and Sarah likely made their home on Cedar Creek for the next couple of years, where William operated a mill. William McClenachan purchased 400 acres from his father-in-law, James Neely, in September 1769 in what is present day Botetourt. He and Sarah moved from the Cedar Creek farm and remained on the Botetourt farm through 1782, later moving to more recent purchases in the area.

William McClenachan was prominent in Botetourt County, serving as Deputy Sheriff from 1772-1774, as justice "at Mason's Creek" and as a captain of militia. In 1779, he was again Deputy Sheriff, and became Sheriff in 1782. In 1779, he became interested in real estate and began increasing his holdings. He died in Botetourt County about 1820. *Submitted by: Angela M. Ruley*

## RED MILL AND BARCLAY'S TAVERN (PART 2)

Hugh Barclay applied for a license to keep an ordinary at his house in Botetourt County. William McClenachan was security on his £50 bond.

Hugh Barclay and his family made their home on the Cedar Creek tracts and ran a tavern on this well traveled road. The home which stood on the farm came to be known as Barclay's Tavern. In 1776, when Col. William Christian's troops prepared to head off for the Cherokee Expedition, Hugh Barclay sold them corn for their rations.

It seems apparent that Hugh Barclay operated a mill on his Cedar Creek property. On 14 March 1770, the same day he purchased the Cedar Creek tracts from William McClenachan, he received water rights from Robert Whitley. Already owning 204 acres on Cedar Creek, on 23 February 1771, Hugh Barclay added an additional 335 acres to his farm. This additional acreage on Cedar Creek was purchased from Robert and Jane Whitley. On 15 February 1775, he again added to his plantation, purchasing 90 acres from Thompson and Preston, Executors.



Old Red Mill near Natural Bridge

Hugh Barclay died about 1806 testate, in Rockbridge County, VA. In his will, he named his daughters Polly, Peggy, Rachel, Hannah, and sons Elihu, Hugh, John and David. Of the eight children, Hugh's deceased son, and Elihu's three sons, had received the 250 acre "mill tract" with all the improvements thereon as a Deed of Gift from their grandfather. Hugh Barclay had already given his sons Hugh, John, and David their due proportion of his estate before his decease. *Submitted by: Angela M. Ruley*

## RED MILL AND BARCLAY'S TAVERN (PART 3)

Matthew Houston became the owner of Barclay's Tavern and the adjoining farm. He apparently replaced the grist mill on the farm, painted it red, and called it "Red Mill." On the outside of the mill, he painted in large black letters "Laborare Est Orare" which in Latin means work is prayer. It is said that Matthew Houston built his home near the Red Mill. It remains unknown if he was the builder of the house which currently stands on the site, or if the home predated his purchase of the property, perhaps being built by Poague, McClenachan, or Barclay. It is believed that part of the original home remains from as early as the Poague's purchase, and additions have been made to the home by later purchasers, Matthew Houston being among them.

About 1810, Matthew Houston sold the Red Mill farm and built a new home about a mile and a half away which he called Vine Forest and was later called Forest Oaks. He kept a store at Vine Forest. *Submitted by: Angela M. Ruley*

## RED MILL AND BARCLAY'S TAVERN (PART 4)

By 1858, Tilman Hardy was in possession of the old Barclay Tavern, and Red Mill farm. Here he operated the mill, which became known to some as Hardy's Mill, yet the old name of Red Mill persisted to most. Tilman and his brother Wesley had apparently moved to Cedar Creek from Botetourt County, VA. Wesley lived nearby and likely helped his brother at the mill. It is believed these brothers may be buried at High

Bridge Presbyterian Church Cemetery, but no grave stones have been located for them there.

W. F. Johnston, Sheriff of Rockbridge County and administrator of John Waskey, Jr. deceased, filed a bill of Chancery on a tract of land which had been owned by John Waskey, Jr. as administrator of John Waskey, Sr., deceased. This tract contained 410 acres and was conveyed to T. W. and Wesley Hardy. Wesley Hardy died and T. W. Hardy became his executor. T. W. claimed a deficiency in the amount of land purchased and also claimed that a partition had been made of the tract.

The survey showed 393 acres, 3 rods, and 20 poles. A Decretal Order dated 12 October 1878 with J. F. Steele as Special Commissioner conveyed to T. W. Hardy his share of the tract, and to the heirs of Wesley Hardy deceased, his share of the land. Tilman Hardy died about 1882 and his heirs at law, B. F. and T. H. Hardy were granted a deed to the tract on 9 February 1885 from J. G. Steel, Special Commissioner. This land was located on the waters of Cedar Creek.

The Hardy brothers had apparently bought this tract of land from John Waskey, Jr. as executor of John Waskey, Sr. without benefit of a legal deed being filed. This was not unusual. They apparently lived on the tract for many years, paying taxes on the tract. After John Waskey Jr's. death, a Chancery suit was filed in order for the Hardy brothers to get title to the land. Both Tilman and Wesley died before the process was complete, and their heirs inherited the tract. *Submitted by: Angela M. Ruley*

## RED MILL AND BARCLAY'S TAVERN (PART 5)

The next owner of the Red Mill and Barclay Tavern Tract was apparently Jacob Grim. Jacob Grim was born in Augusta County, VA on 26 August 1825 to Christian and Eli. Grim. On 9 September 1858, he married in Rockbridge County, VA to Sarah Catherine Barger. He was living in Augusta at the time of his marriage, but soon made his home in Rockbridge, as his first child was born in Rockbridge in 1860.

Just when did Jacob Grim obtain the Barclay Tavern and Red Mill Tract? He apparently did not get title to this land until after 1885, as the Hardy brothers Chancery suit to obtain title was not settled until that date. Jacob Grim died on 25 January 1896, although his wife survived until 1907.

From here, the chain of title becomes more clear. C. M. Grim, Sr. (Charles Madison Grim, Sr.), made his will on 13 June 1936, devising the farm conveyed by the will of Jacob Grim and all of that tract on the east side of the National Highway adjoining the Natural Bridge Company, Oscar Watts, C. A. Lotts, and the Stark heirs to J. E. Grim, Lula V. Gish and Fannie K. Whitmore. This excluded the timber land known as Kennedy Woods and which contained about 20-25 acres. Kennedy Woods adjoined B. F. Hardy and extended along the Red Mill Road. Also excluded was the Hardy tract of about 116 acres, and the Red Mill tract of about 4 acres. These last three mentioned tracts were devised to W. F. and J. W. Grim. The Red Mill and Barclay's Tavern both sit upon these tracts of land.

Charles M. Grim, Sr. named his son C. M. Grim, Jr. in his will, yet only left him \$100.00. Mattie O. Grim (nee Flaherty) was devised all household belongings in the "Hardy Home". She was to be allowed to live in the "Hardy Home" with W. F. and J. W. Grim for her lifetime. Five of the children; J. E. Grim, Lula V. Gish, Fannie K. Whitmore, W. F. and J. W. Grim were to pay their mother \$30.00 a year for her life.

No tombstone was located for Charles M. Grim, Sr. at High Bridge Presbyterian Church Cemetery. He apparently died between 1936 and 1941. If a tombstone exists in that location, it was overlooked. Martha Flaherty Grim died 7

January 1956. At her death, their two sons W. F. and J. W. Grim retained the home and the Red Mill. *Submitted by: Angela M. Ruley*

## RED MILL AND BARCLAY'S TAVERN (PART 6)

John W. Grim and his wife Evelyn A., raised their family in the Old Barclay Tavern, and apparently shared the home with his brother Wilbur Flaherty Grim, who was joint owner.

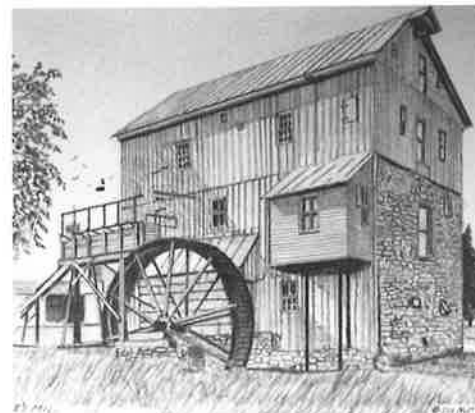
John W. Grim died intestate on 8 October 1969, thus his wife came into possession of his half interest of the Barclay Tavern/Red Mill tract. Wilbur F. Grim made his will on 13 March 1986, devising all of his property to his sister-in-law, Evelyn A. Grim. Wilbur died on 13 March 1988, and thus Evelyn owned the entire tract. Evelyn remained at Barclay's Tavern throughout her life, dying on 24 April 1991.

Evelyn left a will in which she devised her entire estate to her children.

On 19 November 1993, William L. Harris and Louise W. Harris purchased 15.42 acres on State Road 609, commonly known as "Red Mill" from Linda G. Madison and John Winston Grim. They are the current owners of the Red Mill Tract which now serves as a Bed and Breakfast. *Submitted by: Angela M. Ruley*

Sources: Campbell, Leslie Lyle. *The Houston Family in Virginia*. Lexington, VA: author, 1956. Chalkley, Lyman. *Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia: Extracted from the Original Court Records of Augusta County, 1745-1800*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1912. Kegley, F. B. *Kegley's Virginia Frontier*. Roanoke, VA: Stone Press, 1938. Rockbridge County, VA *Will Book 2*, p. 448. Hugh Barclay's Last Will and Testament, made 10 April 1805, proven 1 April 1806. Rockbridge County, VA *Deed Book YY*, pp. 421-422. Rockbridge County, VA *Will Book 54*, pp. 373-374. Rockbridge County, VA *Will Book 138*, pp. 437-441, Evelyn A. Grim's last Will and Testament, made 30 July 1990, proven 24 April 1991. Rockbridge County, VA *Deed Book 518*, pp. 4-5. See also Plat Cabinet 2, slide 127.

## WADES MILL



Wades Mill near Brownsburg, VA

## SOME LANDMARKS

### THE BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY

As you drive along the Blue Ridge Parkway, taking in the wonders of nature, have you ever stopped to think of how this scenic road came to be?

By 1890, the American frontier had just about disappeared, but not in the mountains of Virginia. Here many people still maintained a frontier-like existence up into the twentieth century.

Much of the Blue Ridge was isolated from the more settled areas. Many of these families existed on incomes of less than \$300.00 a year as late as 1920. Religious denominations became active among the proud, but needy people of the mountains.

The mountain people were intelligent and resourceful, but nature denied them nearly all means of livelihood except farming. Farming offered them little more than destitution. Lack of fertile land, poor farming techniques, and widespread erosion made their farms quite unproductive. What little they were able to raise was difficult if not impossible to get to market. Those who continued to try and make a living off the land found they had little more than the bare necessities by the 1930's. Their lifestyle was making few advances.

Mining and lumbering had caused extensive damage over the region, but without these industries there were no employment opportunities. Many of the people were so poor that only one third of the national average per child was spent on their education. Thus, the area also faced the sad fact of a high illiteracy rate.

The mountain people were aware of their circumstances but were quite often too proud to accept charity. These people held their heads high and preferred to work for a living rather than take government handouts. In 1929, as the Depression worsened, various projects were considered that would develop employment opportunities for the region.

The idea of building a parkway to link the Shenandoah and the Great Smoky Mountains National Parks came about. One of the arguments for constructing a mountain parkway was that the mountain people would not likely leave the area for employment. They were at home in the mountains.

Delays in obtaining right of ways slowed the program, but two years after this idea had passed, construction began in 1936. As a rule, property owners in the Path of the Parkway were anxious to sell. With the Depression on, money was scarce, and any source of income was welcome. However, there were those who for sentimental or economic reasons refused to relinquish the rights of ways. Sometimes the mountaineers held out for more money, while others simply required that their cabin be relocated.

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camps were established. People were hired for various jobs such as: construction, planting and stabilizing slopes, reducing fire hazards, erosion control, and fence building. This project provided employment from 1936 until World War II. Even then conscientious objectors were employed doing the same kinds of work as had the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Emergency Relief Administration crews. The contractors were required by law to employ as much local labor as possible.

One of the first problems contractors faced was getting their heavy loads and equipment to the job. Many of the mountain roads were nothing more than rut-filled trails. They were often forced to build access roads before they could begin Parkway construction. Local labor was employed in this effort.

The coming of the parkway was a terrific boost for the local economy. The construction promised relief from sub-standard living conditions. The mountaineers worked hard on their new jobs and built a Parkway for others to enjoy for generations to come.

New jobs became available the moment government surveyors began hiring local residents to help survey, cut, and trim the preliminary location lines. While teams surveyed the Parkway, they were reminded to remain alert to any handiwork worthy of preservation as physical evidence of the pioneer way of life. As a result the Parkway now offers a wide variety of historical attractions as well as those that nature provides.

As contractors began to hire, the employment opportunities increased, and available jobs further increased as the National Park Service began employing its maintenance and labor forces.

Great care was taken when blasting the rock to leave it aesthetically pleasing, versus blowing a huge chunk out of a mountainside and leaving an ugly scar. For the tunnels, the men were armed with sledge hammers, drills and bits, and lots of muscle. Several lines of ten foot horizontal holes were drilled into the rock, other holes were then drilled in a circular pattern near the center of the tunnel area, diagonally. These were dynamited first to allow space for crumbling rock discharged into the remaining blasts. Rock was carefully removed and taken to the rock crushers to be transformed into road materials.

The rate of absenteeism was low, as these men were delighted to have jobs. They quickly learned their new trades well and put an unlimited amount of effort into this project.

The benefits of expanded markets for the farmer's produce, plus the impact of a newly stimulated tourist industry greatly helped the mountaineer to continue to improve his lifestyle.

The building of the Parkway brought a new lifestyle for these mountaineers. They now had better roads off the mountain, tourist traffic was nearby, and they had been paid well for their labors. The next time you take a ride on the Parkway, pause a moment and recall the mountaineers who labored so valiantly to make this majestic roadway. As you drive along take time to notice the skilled engineering of the properly elevated curves, the gentle grades, and the smooth surface of the road. Remember the landscape architects who determined which trees should be left, where to construct over-looks and railings, how to hide any scars to the landscape, and where and what type of fences should be erected. Take in the beauty of it all, and remember how this project worked to revitalize the economy of the mountain people during the great Depression. Be proud of these workers. The end result of their efforts is this amazing piece of art by nature, enhanced by the toils of men. Without these mountaineers there would be no Blue Ridge Parkway today.

*Submitted by: Angela M. Ruley*  
Source: Jolley, Harley E., *The Blue Ridge Parkway*. Knoxville: The University of TN Press, 1969.

### EDGEHILL

Located in a quiet enclave that has protected it from growing commercialism, almost oblivious to the busy traffic of U.S. 11 and I-81, sits this historical house that is built into the side of a steep hill in Rockbridge county near the heart of Timber Ridge, Va.

The original, left side, of Edgehill is believed to have been built in the late 1700s, before the county lines were drawn. The house has the original stone foundation, hand-hewn logs walls, and sun dried bricks between the logs, that are now hidden by beaded weatherboarding. These logs and the stone foundation can be seen in the cellar of the original part of the house. The original house consisted of a cellar, a front porch, two rooms downstairs, two rooms upstairs, back stairs to the second level and stairs to the attic, a back porch, and a stone and brick chimney on the right gable end.

At a later date an addition was built extending the right gable end. The chimney was covered up and a new chimney built on the extended gable. This right side addition was built to look the mirror image of the left from the outside. The front porch was extended with steps descending from the center of the porch. The interior consisted of a room added to each level of the house.

Edgehill was purchased from the Lyles by William T. Williams, II in 1936 after his wife, Annabel Lyle, died. At this time many other improvements were made, including electricity



Edgehill

and plumbing. The kitchen and dining rooms were then attached to the house by a hall made by enclosing the back porch.

The house was filled with love and family when William T. Williams, III and his wife, Susan Mackey, moved in with their young children. It became a home, not only for the young family, but also for Bill's brother, John Lyle, a local high school teacher and later a mink farmer. Along with this family came more changes over the years. A new front porch, with steps descending from the left side, replaced the old wooden ones. The rock wall was extended and new steps built to access the garage area. Part of the original stone steps, built into the stone wall, are still visible.

Always welcome at Edgehill were any and all family and friends. At the Williams' 50th anniversary celebration, many cousins recalled "so many fond memories" of what they considered their second home. These memories are shared by the couple's six children as they grew in love and learned the workings of the farm and home. Submitted by: Ronda Williams Cox

## HISTORY OF "FANCY HILL"

Fancy Hill, the oldest and largest one of the group of brick mansions, located in the southern part of Rockbridge County is one of the "Seven Hills of Rockbridge". This mansion was erected in 1780 of handmade brick made on the premises. "Fancy Hill", many years ago, was one of the most famous stagecoach taverns between Baltimore and Tennessee and was noted for delicious food. There was a jail upstairs on the third floor and a bar in the basement. In stagecoach days, the prisoners were put in the jail while others celebrated in the bar room.



Fancy Hill as it appeared in the 1930's.

In 1880 Fancy Hill Academy was a classical boarding school for boys. Professor David E. Laird taught there. Dr. Edmund Pendleton Tompkins and Frank McClung attended this school at the age of twelve. The boys who attended were of this age group. The "Fancy Hill" post office was on the farm near the house.

On September 25, 1934, "Fancy Hill" was sold to Elmer R. Knick by Samuel C. Finney and consisted of about 350 acres of open and timber land.

At this time, the house was in deplorable condition and the land was very run down and overgrown with cedars and shoestring. Mr. Knick

was going to tear the house down and build a smaller one. At the request of Dr. Edmund P. Tompkins, the Historical Society, Garden Clubs and others, "Fancy Hill" was restored. Mr. Knick and his niece, Eva F. Hartbarger, saved "Fancy Hill" from demolition and restored it in the 1930's. This took many years, and Mr. Knick began clearing the farm land and fertilized, limed and sowed grass and other seeds. Once again "Fancy Hill" was made a beautiful farm and mansion.

The house has 23 rooms with gigantic windows and double porches, front and rear. The back porches are fully enclosed. There are two front doors with fan lights and two front halls with beautifully carved wood stairways.

Mr. Knick and his niece acquired an outstanding collection of antiques. The house was beautifully appointed with antiques from England, Scotland, and the U.S. They also acquired a collection of farm implements and primitive collectibles which were displayed in the basement.

Mr. Knick engaged in farming, raising Hereford cattle and sheep. He lived here until his death May 15, 1985 at the age of 90. Mr. Knick's niece, Eva Ferraba Hartbarger, inherited "Fancy Hill" and sold it to the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Vaughn.

There are seven of these famous "hills", all restored. These were all built by the Grigsby family and lived in by the Grigsby's, Welch's and their descendants.

These houses were built with such quality and greatness that they are certainly worthy of being called the mansions of Rockbridge County; Fancy Hill, Fruit Hill, Hickory Hill, Liberty Hill, Clover Hill, Rose Hill, and Cherry Hill. Submitted by: Nancy H. Wilkerson and Eva Ferraba Hartbarger

## MAJOR JOHN HAYS' GRAVE

Major John Hays lived on a farm under Jump Mountain, Rockbridge Baths, Virginia. The place afterward was owned by McCormick and later S.L. Serrett. John was the son of Charles and Barbara Hays. After retiring from the army and returning home from the North, John brought with him a bride from Maryland named Anne. Anne's maiden name is unknown. John and Anne had four sons as follows, Michael Hays, Andrew Hays, John Brown Hays, and James Campbell Hays.

Major John Hays was taught at Mount Pleasant Academy near Fairfield, one of the forerunners of Washington and Lee University. His teacher was Rev. John Brown. He must have had great admiration for Rev. Brown, because one of his sons was named John Brown Hays.

At the beginning of the Revolutionary war, protection from the Indians precluded men being called from this region to join Washington's army in the North. John Hays was selected as captain of the company that went North in 1776. His commission was due to his previous fine services as a soldier in the war against the Indians. During his three year's service Hays' qualities as a soldier were recognized by his being promoted to major.



Major John Hays Grave located at Indian Bottom

The exact date of his death is not known, but it is believed he died on his farm on Hays Creek in 1808. A marker was placed at his grave on 20 September 1930 by the Colonel Thomas Hughart Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution from Augusta County. Major Hays requested that he be buried on the hill in full view of the Indian mound so that he could see the Indians rise on the morning of the Resurrection.

Written by: Debbie Mohler

Sources: 1. Withrow Scrapbook in the Washington and Lee Library. 2. Picture taken in October 1994 by the Mohlers.

## HOOTIEVILLE

Hootieville Park was founded in 1976 by Houston J. Hatcher, Jr. (Hootie). Hootie is the eldest son of Houston Jennings Hatcher, Sr. and Carrie Lillian (Watkins) Hatcher. Hootie was born 22 July 1933.

Throughout Hootie's younger years, he always had a love for Country and Bluegrass music. He learned to play the fiddle and guitar at a young age and later learned to do the sound for musicians. Hootie always had a dream of having his own music Festivals. Finally, after years of hard work, Hootie's father designated seven acres of land to Hootie for music Festivals. Hootie's father named this land "Hootieville". Hootie went to work building a stage, dance platform, concession stand and outdoor bathrooms. He cleared the acreage for campers and spectators. Finally, in May 1976, Hootie opened his first Bluegrass Show.



Bands from Rockbridge County and other areas came to perform for the campers, spectators, and flat footers. Thereafter, Hootie held Bluegrass Festivals yearly, always excited over the younger generations and wanting to keep Bluegrass alive. Submitted by: Houston J. Hatcher, Jr. and Written by: Mildred Hatcher

## ONE OF SEVEN ALIVE IN VIRGINIA

Remember your Drive-In movie days? At one time Virginia had 155 drive-ins. Today it has seven, and one of them, Hull's Drive-In, is in Rockbridge County. In the early 1950's some of our parents and grandparents didn't approve of movies, especially drive-in movies, or 'things like that,' but their children went when their parents didn't know it.

Some of us went before we were born! Some of us went to play out in front of the car and in the shadows on the front row until the movie started at dark. Some of us took our children in their pajamas and ate supper in the car. It was so convenient! Some of us double dated, some of us didn't. All of us ate popcorn and drank Dr. Pepper and got a crummy speaker and had to move the car — just as the movie started. Today some of our children go when we don't know it!

We may still not approve of "such things" as drive-ins, but some of us have fond memories of them. We may have never been to one or we may be part of the crowd that turns out every weekend from the first of April until October for

the double feature show. It's part of our county's history and maybe some family histories have started or ended at a drive-in.

Sebert and Effie Hull first owned and ran a drive-in on Route 501 south of Buena Vista, but they were bought out in the summer of 1957. They took a ride over to Lexington to the one on Route 11 North to see what it was like, and in a few hours they had made a deal. Five weeks later they owned it! Hull's Drive-In has been The Rockbridge County drive-in theater for forty years. In 1957, the Hulls charged a dollar, and cleared 83 cents, per car.



Hulls Drive-In, Lexington, VA

The Hulls bought the theater from Waddy Atkins of Roanoke who had opened it in August of 1950, at the time when drive-ins were all the rage across the country, and they were a novelty. Sebert says that one year he lost seventy-five speakers — people just took them home — but lately he hasn't had any problems with that. Business is fairly steady. He thinks people come for the movie today, more than they did twenty or thirty years ago, "The back row isn't even used anymore," he said. Folks who don't live in Rockbridge County, say for instance, the D.C. area will call Hull when they are planning a trip to visit Lexington. They want to know what will be playing while they are here. Hull's customers come from Clifton Forge, Staunton, Lynchburg, and Roanoke. Christiansburg is the closest one to Rockbridge County.



Views from the back row.

Many of us have double dated many a time to the drive-in, or we've taken the whole family to Hull's — kids, dog and Grandma, once she learn to approve — for only a dollar per car! But that was in the 50's. Today it costs \$3.50 per person! Well, some things change for better or worse, but the Drive-In goes on — at dark. *Written by: Mary Sutton Skutt*

## JUMP MOUNTAIN

Distinctive and important in the skyline of northwestern Rockbridge County, Virginia stands Jump Mountain. Its long back slopes upward to crest like a huge breaking wave before dropping off sharply in steep grades to the north and east.

There is an outcropping of rock at the summit known by some as Lover's Leap, for Jump Mountain carries its own legend that goes back to the days when Shawnee and Cherokee Indians lived in and traveled along the creek lands lying at the foot of the mountain.



Jump Mountain

But all legends have their own variations. One version of the Jump legend is told by Oren F. Morton in his book *A History of Rockbridge County Virginia*, published in 1920. Jump Mountain is named because of a legend of a battle between Indians at the mouth of Walker's Creek. The story relates that an Indian woman watched the conflict from the mountain, and when she saw her husband fall she threw herself over the steep cliff.

Another version has been passed down in the McLaughlin family and is told to Maxwellton and Lachlan Campers at Camp Gathering time. A brief statement of this campfire tale relates that the surrounding area was contested by Cherokee and Shawnee tribes. In a Romeo and Juliet love story, the fate of a Cherokee maid and her Shawnee warrior depended on the outcome of a fierce battle between their tribes as they watched from the precipitous vantage point above the battlefield. Fearing the tide of battles heralded their separation forever, the two leapt to their deaths from the high cliffs of the mountain. If the lovers had only watched the battle a little longer! Ironically, the flow of the battle shifted in the final stages and, as a result, the two would have been allowed to marry. When the battle was over, each tribe had gained a new respect for the bravery and courage of the other, and the leaders decided it would be better to complete a truce so that the two tribes would share the valley in peace and cooperation, without fear of the other. When the two tribes learned of the death of the two lovers, they were deeply saddened. They decided to commemorate the truce of the two tribes and to honor the love of the two who had died by calling the cliffs Lover's Leap and the mountain Jump Mountain. *Submitted by: Mrs. Lee McLaughlin, Senior; Lee McLaughlin, Junior and Debbie Mohler*

## WILLIAM MACKEY HOUSE

The William Mackey House is located in the Timber Ridge area. The house was built for William Mackey, son of John and Mary Porter Mackey. John Mackey was one of the early settlers in the county; he purchased the property from William Carouthers for 115 pounds. The first house built on this site was a two-story log structure; here John and Mary raised their six children. When John died in 1773 his son William remained at the Timber Ridge farm with his mother. In 1796 the stone house was built. William married Elizabeth Kennedy in 1797; they raised 13 children in the stone house.



The William Mackey House

A date stone near the top of the west wall is inscribed "WM 1796" indicating the construction date of this two story I-plan house. The house was built from limestone rubble with some cut limestone around the windows. The walls are two feet thick. There are two large chimneys, one at each end, built in the walls, not showing from the outside. These chimneys are seven feet wide and three feet thick with large fireplaces with arched tops. There are only two small windows in the ends; they are close up to the roof and are two feet square. The original roof was wood shake. In 1900 a metal roof, back extension, and a porch were added.

The house and property have remained in the ownership of Mackey's descendants and is one of the oldest family holdings in the county. The current owner is Charles Williams, son of D. T. and Inez Mackey Williams. *Submitted by: Charles Williams and Written by: Ann Fix Runkle*

## MAXWELTON

Maxwelton is a 330 acre farm located on Walkers Creek and lying at the foot of Jump Mountain. The farm is on land that had already been settled by the Walker family when it was found to be part of the 500,000 acre land grant given to Benjamin Borden by William Gooch, royal governor of the Virginia colony.



The large brick house, situated on a rocky knoll above Walkers Creek, was the gift of the third generation John Walker to his daughter, Betsy. Mr. Walker gave the bricks for a home as his wedding present to Betsy when she married Hugh Stuart in 1813. All of the bricks were made on the Walker property. As it took about two years to fire all of them, the house was not built until 1815. The pillars on the front porch of the house were made of rounded bricks covered with plaster. The present back wing of the house was added a few years after 1815.

Although the property has been owned throughout the years by various families: Patterson, Youell, Sterrett, Hull, Reed, - it had at times been occupied by tenants. When Mr. and Mrs. Lee McLaughlin, Senior bought the property in 1952 it was quite rundown. There was no electricity or plumbing in the house which needed many repairs. The land was poor and over-run with weeds, devil-shoestring, etc. The only access from the county road was a right-of-way through a corn field in front of the house but on the far side of Walkers Creek. It was therefore necessary to ford the creek in order to enter the property. And the creek was often affected by rising waters and flash floods!!



Since 1952 a new entrance has been made that eliminates having to ford the creek, electricity and plumbing have been installed in the house, and work has been done to improve the land. Improvements will continue to be made whenever necessary and appropriate. Maxwellton is the Lee McLaughlin's "family home". Submitted by: Mrs. Lee McLaughlin, Senior

## CAMP MAXWELTON / CAMP LACHLAN

During June, July, and August of every year since 1953, Maxwellton has been the location of Camp Maxwellton for boys, and Camp Lachlan for girls. Currently operated by Lee M. McLaughlin, Jr. and his wife, Nancy, the camps were originally under the leadership and vision of Mr. and Mrs. Lee McLaughlin, Sr. The camps have been in continuous operation by the McLaughlin family since they were first started.



Camp Activities

The McLaughlins believe that young people can best grow and develop in a wholesome Christian atmosphere, and they strive to provide that in every way at Camp Maxwellton and Camp Lachlan. Their aim is to aid in building the character and self-concept of the campers, and day-to-day Christian living is emphasized. The campers learn to live together in harmony, to accept duties and responsibilities, and to have the joy of participation and the satisfaction of achievement. Each camper becomes an important and lasting part of a loving "family" group.

Campers live in cabins located on the hillside above a small spring-fed lake. The camp dining room porch, kitchen and infirmary are in the McLaughlin's 1815 brick home. The camps have a full and varied activity program, and



Camp Maxwellton

each camper participates in all phases of it. Carefully supervised activities include horseback riding, swimming, riflery, tennis, archery, lacrosse, soccer, team games, camping out, arts and crafts, etc.

It has always been very rewarding to the McLaughlins to know that each summer many familiar second and third year campers will be returning to their Camp home. Most gratifying, too, is the knowledge that there are even some second and third generation campers included in the Camp family! Submitted by: Mrs. Lee McLaughlin, Senior

## "THE MOUNTAIN PLACE"

"The Mountain Place" is located (33 degrees 26 minutes 53 sec North 99 degrees 58 minutes 29 sec West GPS) it is located in the saddle of the mountain on the Highland Scenic Tour across the road from the Handicap overlook. It contains about 250 acres.

Thomas Hartbarger bought the land in 1829. The land was then passed down to his son Frederick Hartbarger. When Frederick died in 1892, he left it in his will to his children. One of his sons, T.W. Hartbarger, bought out all of the others so he could own all of the land. T.W. Hartbarger left it to his son, C.J. Hartbarger when he died. C.J. Hartbarger left it to his five sons when he died. The children and their wives sold it to Tony Preston Tolley and his

wife Barbara in November 1989. The land has been in the family since 1829. The Hartbarger's are related to Tony so this land still remains in the family to this day and Tony's mother, Elsie Tolley, is very proud of this fact.



The Cabin

The land is fairly flat although it's on the top of North Mountain. There are numerous rhododendrons and mountain laurel bushes on the land. Among all of the trees and bushes there still stands to this day in 1997 an "American Chestnut" tree. Chestnut blight, the orange fungus killed all of the American Chestnut trees back in the 1920's. There are also pieces of old chestnut trees still lying around on the ground everywhere, which really adds history as well as character to the place. The place also has many roads and many apple trees on it.



Mountain laurel and rhododendrons on "The Mountain Place"

The Hartbargers raised their families here for years and it couldn't have been easy getting off the Mountain especially during the winter months. The roads were surely much rougher back in those days.

Just off the corner of the property on Jim Mays land there was a bar room situated at the intersection of several roads and trails. Submitted by: Elsie (Knick) Tolley and Prepared by: Barbara (Jarrell) Tolley and T.P. Tolley



Camp Maxwellton

## OLD WALNUT FORT

The ancestral home of the Stuarts was located at the lower end of Walker's Creek, in Rockbridge County. The fort was nestled in a valley surrounded by many familiar mountains of Rockbridge. Jump Mountain stood guard, along with Hog-Back Mountain, and to the south, House Mountain could be viewed.

In 1757, John Stuart bought a tract of land on Walker's Creek from Benjamin Borden. He, his wife Sarah and infant son John, came from Ireland. This son John was born in 1740, and inherited his father's estate. He married Elizabeth Walker, and served in the Revolutionary War.

The Old Walnut Fort was constructed of walnut logs hewed square. "At each corner were great square hewn posts, and into the posts each log was mortised, and then secured with a locust pin. The walls were high, and the roof was steep. Not far below the roof were port-holes, through which the men might fire at approaching Indians."

There were huge fireplaces at either end of the fort. These opened into great chimneys. Across each fireplace was a heavy iron crane. Iron pots hung from this crane. In order to cook, very hot coals were raked out on the hearth. Skillets with legs about three inches long were placed over these coals. Corn pone, vegetables, and meats were cooked in this manner. Heavy iron lids were placed on the skillets, and hot coals were placed atop the lids. "Pot hooks" hung beside the fireplace to handle hot skillets and pots.

The French and Indian War and Dunmore's War of 1774 caused many of the settlers to erect forts. When the fort was no longer needed for protection, it was used as a residence. It was later weather-boarded outside. The inside was divided making two rooms, and the second story was also partitioned. Later, a wing was added to the northern side and divided into two rooms and a hall. On the western side, a two-story log kitchen was added. To the southern side was added a long porch.

One day while Walnut Fort was still used as a refuge from Indians, Alexander Walker, a neighbor of the Stuart family, discovered tracks made by moccasin-clad feet. He realized Indians were in the vicinity, and took off for the creek to warn his neighbors. The people of Walkers Creek fled to the Fort. The trail led up over a hill, apparently where the Walker Cemetery at Maxwellton now stands. As the settlers scurried to the Fort, they spotted the Indians coming. Alexander Walker was in front of the line. He reversed his gun upon his shoulder. The other men did the same with their guns. The Indians also reversed their guns. The two parties passed each other so closely on the trail that elbows rubbed. On this very same day, the same band of Indians went to Kerr's Creek. At Kerr's Creek they were not so friendly, and one of the two massacres which occurred in that neighborhood is said to have taken place.

"The old Walnut Fort was bought by Mr. Reid, who married into the Stuart family. He erected a new house on the farm, for his home; and abandoned the old Fort, which soon fell into decay. In 1918 a heavy fall of sleet broke down the roof timbers and made the building unsafe to enter; shortly thereafter it was torn down. Many descendants of the Stuart family secured some of the walnut logs from its walls, and had them built into furniture, tables, desks, etc." *Submitted by: Angela M. Ruley*  
Source: *Lexington Gazette*. "Half Forgotten Bits of Local History," E. P. Tompkins, 15 May 1936, p. 7.

## ROSELY

Rosely was built about 1827 by William Alexander. He was a son of Joseph and Sarah Reid Alexander. Sarah was a daughter of Andrew Reid of Nelson County, and sister of Agnes Ann Reid, who married Joseph's brother William Alexander (parents of Dr. Archibald

Alexander), and of Andrew Reid, who was the first Clerk of Rockbridge County. Joseph Alexander was the fourth child of pioneer Archibald Alexander and his first wife Margaret Parks.

Rosely stood about 1-2 miles west of Mt. Airy, on part of Archibald Alexander's land purchased in 1747. The land today is on Ogden property near the old Kemp house.

This William Alexander was born in Augusta (now Rockbridge) County in 1775, farmed at Rosely, and died there 12 May 1825. He married in 1805, Elizabeth Campbell, a daughter of Duncan and Margaret Newell Campbell. Duncan was born in Ireland, a son of Dougal and Mary Campbell. William and Elizabeth had three daughters, Margaret, Sally Reid, and Eliza Campbell Alexander. Margaret married Samuel Lyle (who made the Communion Table for Timber Ridge Church), and had nine children. Sally Reid married Jamison D. McGuffin of Midway, his third wife, and became a mother for his ten children by his second wife, Louisa Bolan, one of whom was Sallie Ann Austin McGuffin.

Eliza Campbell Alexander (1811-1876) married Captain James Henry of Midway (Steele's Tavern). Their son, Alexander Horace Henry, married Sallie Ann McGuffin, and they inherited Rosely. The Henrys lived, farmed, and reared their children at Rosely, near Crossroads. Their son James S. Henry's family also lived at Rosely until the late 1920s. Henry Hill rises to the north of the old home, and was named for A.H. Henry.



"Rosely" - L-R: Reid "Pat" Henry (on horse), Florence Henry, Sallie Ann Austin McGuffin Henry, Gertrude Henry, Charles Henkle, Nannia Henkle, Alexander Horace Henry, Louisa Henry, and Bessie Campbell "Cam" Henry

Rosely was built of massive stones from the farm. It was a story and a half high, contained nine rooms, and was said to have been the largest house in the neighborhood. The land adjoined that of the John Mackey descendants, and the Henry children enjoyed sledding down the hill from Mackey's in the winter. The house stood empty after the Jim Henry's moved to Roanoke. In 1953, stones from the house were used in building the Educational Building of Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church, and the stone grill at the church's Community Building.  
*Submitted by: Bobbie Sue Henry*

## STEELE'S TAVERN MANOR

This gray stucco tourist home is located on Route 11 at Steele's Tavern, midway between Staunton and Lexington, just inside the Rockbridge County line. It was built by the Searson family in 1916 as a residence and Mrs. Searson's Tourist Home. Mrs. Searson, the proprietor, advertised the home as modern, with good home cooking.

About 1938 the Parmelie family of Richmond bought the home as a primary residence. After his death, Mrs. Parmelie returned to Richmond.

In the spring of 1944 the George Butler family, of Pikeville, Kentucky, bought the property. Mrs. Butler, proprietor, named the home "The Virginian". Its phone number was 13F4. The home was used as a boarding house by construction workers on Route 11, and for the engineers who built the radar towers in the Blue Ridge Mtns. The Virginian was also used as a tourist home, mainly on weekends and holidays,



American Chestnut Tree, winter of 1997 Photo by W. B. Tolley

Sources: Indenture made 25, April, 1829 From Major Dowell to Thomas Hartbarger. Will of Frederick Hartbarger will book 28, page 74. Deed from Rachel E. Wilhelm & others Deed book 117 page 468. Deed from H.J. Wilhelm & others Deed book 125 at page 235. Survey recorded in Deed book 152, page 392. Wills of T.W. Hartbarger will book 53, page 144. C.J. Hartbarger will book 90, page 131. Donald M. Hartbarger, ET. AL to T.P. Tolley and Barbara Jarrell Tolley Book 295, page 649-653. On November 10, 1989 ....

## THE OLD RED BRICK HOUSE

There is located on Upper Kerrs Creek near the Old Denmark Store a beautiful old brick house. The house was originally built by John Harper who had immigrated over here from Ireland, somewhere around 1780. John who married Elizabeth Findley and had a son named James Findley Harper was said to have owned the house for some time. Before the red brick house was built there was said to be a log or stone house. Cunninghams were said to have lived there. More than two hundred years later there is still talk about the Indian raid where one of the Cunningham women was scalped and a baby girl carried off to Ohio by them. Numerous stories were told to this writer about the Indians and also the Civil War by Mrs. Thomas Hartbarger a later owner of this house. She told of hiding the slaves in the attic, also soldiers to keep them from capture.

On the left side of the house is the old log spring house where the slaves made apple butter. Thomas Hartbarger bought the house in 1893 and lived there most of his life. Mrs. Hartbarger was said to have fed lots of children going to Denmark school or they would have gone hungry. The panelling is believed to be original. The front porch is somewhat as it used to be. There was a mantle in the one bedroom that Mrs. Hartbarger used that had a beautiful old chime clock on it when she was living. There was a large fireplace in the living room. There were about four floors in the house with the kitchen and dining area separated. Also there was a place over the kitchen and dining room that at one time was the slaves' quarters. Beautiful maple trees stand in the front yard and the original house had a picket fence around it. At present it is owned by Mr. and Mrs. H.P. House and they are doing lots of work to restore the house to its original beauty. It is said to have been built about 1740 or maybe earlier. *Submitted by: Alice Garrett*



when local motels were full. The nine Butler children ranging in age from 20 years down to 5 years, called The Virginian home. Daughter Sylvia, one of the younger Butler children, said it was a few years before she knew Virginia was not spelled with an "n" on the end!

Later it was advertised as the Half Way Run Farm, with about 85 acres. Included in the farm were several springs, a large stocked pond, barn, silo, and machine shed. The real estate brochure boasted that the home had almost 5,000 square feet, 11 rooms, 6 bedrooms and 3 baths, with new kitchen and baths. It was said to be an ideal candidate as a Bed and Breakfast.

Today it is called "Steele's Tavern Manor" and serves as a bed and breakfast. The home and part of the farm were bought about 1994 by the Hoernlien family, with Ilene Hoernlien as proprietor. The beautiful new wooden sign, with the stars and stripes flying overhead, adds a touch of elegance to this stately tourist home.

Compiled by: Ruby Leighton  
Sources: Sylvia Butler Camper

## STEELE'S FORT

The log part of this house, located near Raphine, was built in 1750 by William Steele. A stone part was built in 1754 and served as a fort against Indian raids, having portholes for windows and very small doors for protective reasons. The final addition was added in 1812 and the windows and doors of the first part were enlarged and remodeled. Walls of the building are two-feet thick and are constructed of heavy limestone rock found in the vicinity. Many arrow heads have been found on the land while being cultivated for planting.



Steele's Fort, as it was in 1940

Orval R. and Mary Drawbond purchased the building and surrounding land in 1935 from the late Hansford and Lelia Bell who were descendants of the Steele family. According to accounts this was the first time it was sold out of the Steele family.

Still visible on the walls of the oldest stone portion is a dark plaster analyzed as potter's clay and buffalo hair. On the front wall of the building is supposedly the signature of General Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson, reportedly a friend who frequently visited the Steeles. A protective glass plate covered this signature at time the Drawbond's purchased the house.

An interesting story told through the years is that of a ghost that harassed a slave girl who

resided on Dr. John McChesney's farm near Brownsburg. It was said that Mrs. Steele and Mrs. McChesney were kin. The slave girl was temporarily moved to the Steele's home in an attempt to rid the other home of the "McChesney Ghost," but the ghost followed her! It was reported that stones flew about and furniture moved of its own accord. Mysterious noises were still heard in the early years of residency by Orval and Mary. Submitted by: Dorothy Drawbond Gearhart

## THE SEVEN HILLS OF ROCKBRIDGE

The settlement of Virginia east of the Blue Ridge was largely a southward and westward extension of the 1607 settlement at Jamestown. The northern end of the Valley was settled first, then the Valley of Virginia.

It was in 1737 that five settlers reached the area where the James River crosses the Valley, near the southern part of what is now Rockbridge County. Among them were James Greenlee and Mary McDowell. These two young people married and established themselves on the James River a few miles southeast of Natural Bridge, (Greenlee, Va.) on land acquired from the Borden Grant.

Now begins the story of the "Seven Hills". The ancient city of Rome boasted its seven hills, it might be suggested that Rockbridge has a counterpart in the Seven Hills of Rockbridge County, seven outstanding manor houses, country estates, which through the years have given rise to fact and fable, to legend and story. The names of these country places were Cherry Hill, Fruit Hill, Fancy Hill, Rose Hill, Hickory Hill, Clover Hill, and Liberty Hill. They are located in the Bullalo - Natural Bridge section of the southern end of Rockbridge County.

A son and grandson of James and Mary Greenlee, both named David, built two of the great houses, Cherry Hill and Clover Hill. Among the other early settlers in this area was John Grigsby who established himself at Fruit Hill. His sons Elisha and Ruben became established at Rose Hill and Hickory Hill. His daughter, Sally, married Thomas Welch, Sr. and lived at Fancy Hill. Two daughters of Elisha Grigsby were later mistresses of two of the "Hills". Hannah married David Greenlee, son of John at Clover Hill and lived there. Eliza married Thomas Welch, Jr. and lived at Liberty Hill.

Three families were possessors of these interesting country homes - the Greenlee, the Grigsby, and Welch families. The Greenlees had two of the estates, Cherry Hill and Clover Hill. The Grigsbys had three - Fruit Hill, Rose Hill, and Hickory Hill. The Welches had two - Fancy Hill and Liberty Hill.

All stand today, 165 to 280 years old. They are viewed with admiration, not only for their charm and worth, but for the men and women who in pioneer days could and did erect such homes.



Cherry Hill

"Cherry Hill", now "Marlbrook" property, came to David Greenlee by inheritance or nominal purchase in 1763. He married Jane White. By

1777 his home was inadequate for himself, his wife, six children, and his mother, Mary Greenlee. He then built on a splendid site a large brick house with a detached log kitchen. In 1804 he built on the north end of the house a kitchen wing of brick. He gave the manor the name of Cherry Hill.

An unusual interior feature is the use, in common by two side by side adjoining rooms, of a single chimney. A visitor can stand in the hall, look through the adjoining doors, and see both fireplaces.



Fruit Hill

"Fruit Hill" was bought by John Grigsby in 1779. The brick house is now painted white, with extensive porches in front. It has a large wing on the southeast end. It was probably added as the family grew. There were twelve or fourteen children, three of whom later lived at other of the Seven Hills.



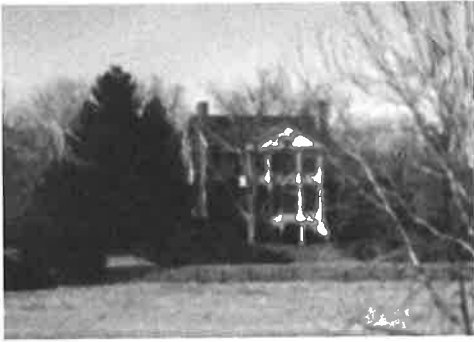
Fancy Hill

"Fancy Hill," one of the largest and most prominently located of the seven, was owned by Thomas Welch, who married Sally Grigsby, an elder daughter of John Grigsby. It is brick and now has an added wing on the north end. During its extensive life it has been used as a tavern, a boys' dormitory for the nearby academy, and later as a home.



Rose Hill

"Rose Hill" on the same, or adjoining farms as Fruit Hill was owned and occupied by Elisha Grigsby, son of John Grigsby. When Elisha was 22 he married Elizabeth Porter, and went to live at Rose Hill. Eliza and Hannah grew up there. The place is now known as "Hidden Valley."



Hickory Hill

"Hickory Hill" was built and occupied by Rueben Grigsby, a son of John. He married Verlinda A. Porter, his cousin and sister of the girl who married Elisha. Hickory Hill is particularly notable for its circular stairway.



Clover Hill

"Clover Hill" now "Herring Hall" was the home of John Greenlee and later his son, David Greenlee, who inherited the property in 1808. He married Hannah Ingram Grigsby, daughter of Elisha Grigsby in 1818, and built the present Clover Hill mansion in 1832.



Liberty Hill

"Liberty Hill" was the home of Thomas Welch, Jr. who married Eliza Porter Grigsby, (1806-1840), daughter of Elisha Grigsby. It has a handsome interior.

It is hard for us today to sense the difficulties encountered in the period of 1777 to 1832, in building houses such as the Seven Hills. The brick had to be made on the site or nearby. The timbers and lumber had to be cut, sawed and seasoned. Skilled carpenters and brick masons were hard to find, yet the finished product shows a surprising degree of skill, interest and pride of workmanship. *Submitted by: Martha Reynolds Walkins*  
Information taken from: the *News Gazette* (Dec. 22, 1968) from an article written by H. Flint Waller

## WELSH'S BATHING BEACH (NOW BEAN'S BOTTOM)

My grandfather, Daniel Welsh, (homeplace, Turkey Hill), founded the beach area in the early '30s on the Lower Farm on the North River, now Maury River. The flood in 1936 or 1937 destroyed all the area of the beach.

Granddaddy Welsh built a huge dance hall, with men's and women's dressing rooms underneath and a store in between the dressing areas. There was a boardwalk along the river with three lower diving boards, one high diving board, water slide, and a swing built up high to go off into the river. Many a time my brother, Sid, and I went down before pouring water on the slide and came up with 'warm' butts. The W&L students would give my brother, Sid, pennies to go off the high diving board. He was only between 4-5, like a little minnow, and swimming and diving came natural to him. We could not understand why some of these big men didn't go off the high dive, since we could.



Welsh's Bathing Beach - 1930

The swing went way out in the middle of the river. I soon learned to make a ball when I dropped or my feet would stick on the bottom where the mud had collected. My Uncle Julian Welsh built a wooden raft with four drums on each corner that floated near the cliff and was tied to the smaller rock there in the river. It was fun diving off and rocking the raft, and a good place for sunbathing when one got cold by being in the river too long. My Uncle Julian Welsh built boats. The boards were sawed at the mill on Turkey Hill, brought down to the beach for soaking while the sides were bent during this time. My, there were leaks off and on, and we just stuffed the cracks with material and went up the river to ride the rapids down or do a bit of fishing. These boats would float down the river during some of the floods and Tollie's Store at East Lexington (cover bridge, dam area), would call Granddaddy Welsh that his boats were on the banks across the river. One time the river raft had to be brought back to the beach area. The store was under the dance hall. Cold drinks were put in big wash tubs with 25 or 50 lbs. of ice. Candy, etc. was for sale. On Sundays, we would make homemade ice cream. To let the beachers know there was ice cream, granddaddy would have Sid and me go down



Welsh's Bathing Beach - 1930

with our filled cones. Next thing there were lines at the store for their cones. On weekends, parking places were not to be found. To come in at the entrance, all paid 10¢ during the week. Many were there from W&L and VMI, whenever they were off duty. On Tuesdays Granddaddy had bank meetings and we were left to take care of the store and collect the 10¢, even at our very young age. Many people knew and called us 'the Little Welshes'. Summers, we lived at the beach. Our mom, Hope Welsh, would bring our lunch down and supper sometimes. People would still be swimming or picnicking. There would be bonfires, hot dog and watermelon parties going on. My brother and I have had some wonderful times and we feel like we cut our teeth on each rock in the river. One would never believe all these activities went on, because now the river has filled up with rocks. One can wade over to the two big rocks out in the middle of the river. The foundations to the dance hall and store were visible till the flood of 1985. Now, only memories of those who were around still linger on!

I grew up with my grandparents, Josephine and Daniel Welsh, on Turkey Hill. Hope Welsh, my mother and I now live in Greensboro, NC. My brother LTC. (Ret.) Sidney F. Johnston, II, is in Albuquerque, NM. My husband and I built a house just above the beach and is our home for the summer. Now my three grandchildren are cutting their teeth on the river rocks and love the area as much as their uncle and grandmother. *Submitted by: Barbara Cary Johnston-Willard*

## THE WILLOWS

This home was built about 1812. William Ripley was a small boy at the time, and helped to carry the bricks for part of it. This brick was made close by, on land owned later by Ruby Braford Burford (1935). William Ripley's large stone house was only 1/2 a mile from "The Willows." The Ripleys were comfortably well off and "above reproach, with no one ever cheating his neighbor," according to Mary Madison Shafer Fitch, great granddaughter of William Ripley.



The Willows

The family of Philip Hileman Shafer and Margaret Catherine Zollman Shafer were born and grew up at "the Willows". William Ripley was the grandfather of Margaret Zollman who married Philip Shafer in 1849.

Philip and Margaret had 9 children and John Henry Shafer was grandfather on my Dad's side of the family. *Submitted by: Dianne Pennington and Written by: Esther Pennington*

## THE LEGEND OF WOLF HOLLOW

Several miles from Lexington, on route 39, is a mysterious place called "Wolf Hollow". Legend goes that a wolf chased a man up a tree. The wolf chewed the tree down to get to the man, but as it fell it lodged into another tree, and the man climbed that one. The wolf started chewing that tree, but a hunter came along just in time and shot the wolf. There was a bounty on wolves in the early 1800's.  
Source: *The News Gazette*, 25 May 1966

# RURAL LIFE

## LIFE IN A LOG HOUSE

I have been told by relatives that I was born in a log house on Herring Hall Road. The house still stands. I was raised by my Grandparents, Jessie and Maude Smith, who lived in a log house beside of the C & O railroad and the James River at Natural Bridge Station on Gilmore Mills Road.



*The Wash Line, 1939*

My home was part log and part frame. Two rooms downstairs and one upstairs with wide plank floors and wood shingle roof. We had a room built on that was our kitchen in the summer-time. My grandfather built 2 additional rooms - 1 up and 1 down. It was not a lovely house to look at, but there was lots of love and laughter there



*Sorghum Mill, 1931*



*Old Log House*

that made it a home. I was blessed with good Christian grandparents, they were well respected and loved in the community. We had fireplaces for heat and burned some wood but mostly coal. We used kerosene lamps for light, which had to be cleaned and refilled almost daily. We carried our drinking water from a spring across the railroad track, also for cooking. We had a creek that ran beside our garden that we got water from to use to heat for washing clothes and bathing.

We raised both chickens and ducks and had lots of cats. My great-grandparents, John and Sarah Clark lived with us for awhile. John was a carpenter and built coffins, he also made us a cedar bed and made stools for our dining room table.



*The Outhouse*

We raised big gardens and canned vegetables and made lots of jellies and preserves. My grandfather raised hogs and would cure the meat. We canned some sausage and packed some in stone jars to be used up first. We always walked everywhere we went until 1925 my grandfather bought a Ford touring car. Submitted by: Louise Reynolds

## TOLLEY'S MOLASSES MILL

Hot homemade bread, country churned butter and sorghum molasses to complete a meal was better than dessert to the old timers. This molasses has its beginning when a farmer plows the ground and carefully plants sorghum cane seed. As these plants grow they take on the look of a corn field swaying in the wind. When it comes to harvest time though, the corn and the cane are handled very differently. The cane stalks are stripped of all their leaves (blades), cut, and carefully loaded onto a wagon to be transported to the molasses mill. At the site, the cane is run through a cane mill, which squeezes the cane juice from the stalk. This juice is then boiled at just the right temperature until the desired consistency is reached. The finished product is run into large containers to cool. It takes from 10 to 12 gallons of juice to make 1 gallon of molasses. The season for one batch of sorghum molasses goes from planting time in May to finished product in late September. Perhaps that is the reason there are few places anymore with the knowledge or the willingness to undertake the task.



*Tolley's Molasses Mill*

Bustleburg since the early 1900's has had the means for the production of sorghum molasses. Harrison Love Wade made molasses as early as 1915. The boiling down was done in three kettles over open flames. This boiling method made it possible to travel to surrounding farms and make the farmers' molasses. As another generation of farmers grew up and began to make molasses, the traveling method of processing was surpassed when in the 1930's another resident of Bustleburg, Roscoe C. Tolley, bought a squeezing mill and permanently built an outdoor shelter to cover an evaporating pan (purchased from Sears Roebuck & Co.) instead of kettles. This pan was a shallow oblong design with dividers to control the boiling process. This method of evaporation was quite modern compared to the kettles. Tolley was joined in his operation by two of his sons, Clyde D. Tolley and Clarence M. Tolley. The mill being used was powered by a horse traveling in circles to turn the rollers. In time the horse has been replaced by a Model T, a Dodge and a Model A engine. Now a farmer's tractor provides the power. Shortly after WW II, the Tolley family produced over 500 gallons of sorghum one year for two brothers who had a moonshine business and used the molasses for sugar. This seemed ironic since Roscoe Tolley was a Constable and Clarence Tolley was later to become a Sheriff's Deputy. Roscoe Tolley died in 1957 and Clyde Tolley in 1992. Clarence Tolley is still involved whenever molasses is made at the mill. However, the operation has been turned back to the Wade family in that Fred Weeks Jr., a great great grandson of Harrison Love Wade now uses Wade's original mill to produce molasses at the Tolley Mill location.

**SEE PHOTO, TOP OF NEXT PAGE.**



Left to Right: Fred L. Weeks, Clyde D. Tolley, and Clarence M. Tolley

## “APPLE BUTTER TIME”

The air begins to have a crisp, cool quality by October in the southern Shenandoah Valley. This means only one thing to the church family at Natural Bridge Christian Fellowship: It's apple butter makin' time again!

It was more than thirty years ago when the N.B.C.F. folk began making apple butter as a yearly project. To this day, the same procedures and recipe for “made-from-scratch” apple butter are followed. These dedicated parishoners do not believe in taking any shortcuts, for they know the best things in life are accomplished by doing it the right way, and with much patience.



To make the mouth-watering “butter”, the first thing to happen is the trip to the orchard to obtain sixty-six bushels of choice varieties of apples. Next, a group of hard workers begin the most laborious task of the whole event - peeling, slicing, coring and washing every single apple! This work is usually done in the early and latter part of October over two, four-day periods. Finally, around three to four a.m. on Saturday morning out under the picnic shelter behind the church, the fires are lit under two fifty-gallon copper lined kettles, when the cleaned, sliced apples are poured in, and the process of stirring with six-foot oak paddles begins. If the continuous motion of stirring is stopped, there is a great risk of the apples scorching, and there would be nothing left to do but start all over from the beginning!

The day will be filled with “taking turns” at the stirring, and one or two will keep tending the fires constantly. Meanwhile in the kitchen, a hearty meal will be prepared for the hungry

troops. Besides all the work, the most important event of the whole project will be taking place; and that is people working together, laughing, and sharing the blessings of good fellowship.

Finally, as the afternoon sun begins to set, the last steps are taken to complete the recipe, as prescribed amounts of pure cinnamon and cloves are added to make the distinctive, tangy taste that is characteristic of apple butter. Invariably, someone will jest by asking, “Have you added the butter yet?”

An assembly line is formed, and the now dark and rich mixture is poured into quart jars. Before this project ever began, orders were received and will be filled from the production. Many residents of Rockbridge County, having sampled this delicious fare in the past, place orders by the gallon! Each year, anywhere from 180 to 195 gallons of apple butter are enjoyed by people all over the area, and most always there will be a few late orders that cannot be filled because all of the wonderful apple butter will be gone.

Although it represents hard work for the congregation many benefits are derived from this time-honored tradition. One is that the profits received from the sale goes into missions and church planting projects all over the world, as well as projects within the community and the local church. But the most important element is in seeing more than two thirds of the congregation participate in this task, making it a great opportunity for real Christian fellowship! Submitted by: Pastor Barry L. Nall

## HOG KILLING TIME

Hog killing time was a time when you either loved it or you hated it. It was a time of cold hands, and greasy everything you touched. It was done around Thanksgiving Day when the kids were home from school, and the kin folks came back home for a visit. It was a good time because you needed all the extra hands you could get. Hogs were the prime source of meat for the family in the country. There was no part of the animal that could not be used. Cured sow-belly lasted from one winter to the next, and a cured ham was a blessing to be hanging in the smoke house. Since there were no freezers one had to rely on the winter months to keep meat from spoiling while cured.

Early in the morning on butchering day, the water was heated to scalding in an oil drum tipped half over. The hog was shot between the eyes and the vein on the left side of the throat was pierced. When the bleeding slowed, the hog was put in the scalden pot and dipped and rolled over to loosen the hair, then scraped with a knife, not too sharp, immersed again and this procedure repeated until most of the hair was off the hide.

When the hair was scraped clean, the hamstring was exposed on both hind legs and a gambling stick, sharpened on both ends, was slipped behind the exposed tendons. The hog was then strung up on a pole, usually supported between two trees. Raised into place, head down, hot water was dashed over the carcass and any remaining hair was scraped off.

With a sharp knife a cut was made down the middle on the underside from the crotch to the chin, being careful not to cut the membrane holding the intestines. With another cut the intestines fell into a large tub, the liver was cut free, usually used for supper that night.

## MRS. ARMENTROUT FEEDING CHICKENS, 1932.



The hog is then cut up, removing the leaf lard, putting it in a pot with other pieces of fat to be used for lard. The small lean pieces are put in a container to be ground for sausage. The tenderloin, backbones, and ribs are canned for later use during the winter months. The big pieces are put in the smoke house covered with salt and a mixture of brown sugar and pepper for curing.

Whether you like scrapple, jowl, tongue, snout, ears, liver or any part of the hog, it is some good eating. Just get a little pig, feed it well and when cold weather comes get the neighbors together and a big pot of water and have a good time and some good eating, too.

My Dad, Alfred Coffey helped his neighbors kill hogs for many years. Later he built a slaughter house in the Tinkerville area. He worked an eight hour shift at Lees Carpet and would work late in the night to get the butchering done for neighbors and friends. After retiring from the plant he continued this work until his slaughter house did not meet the government regulations. Hog killing has been a big part of his life for over fifty years. He is now 89 years old and loves to talk about the hogs that he has killed. *Submitted by: Cotton Coffey*



## CRUSHING ROCK

Crushing rock to put down on the dirt road which is now Route 627, West of Lexington, Rockbridge County. Picture was taken by Isaac G. Wilhelm. Model T. Ford in background belonged to Isaac. Harry Wilhelm has hat on. Pete Smith has sledge hammer. Person behind Harry is unknown. Emmett and Ressie Smith's home in the background. *Submitted by: Doris Johnson Phillips*

## SOME FAMOUS PEOPLE

### DR. ROBERT P. COOKE

During the Spanish-American War, Dr. Walter Reed was trying to find a cure for yellow fever which often afflicted soldiers. This disease was caused by mosquitoes, but before Dr. Reed began his work this was not known.

Dr. Robert P. Cooke volunteered as a "human guinea-pig," risking his life to help Dr. Reed determine the cause of yellow fever. After careful study, they were able to determine yellow fever was caused by mosquitoes. Within three months, the mosquitoes were eliminated in Havana, Cuba, and the American soldiers there no longer got the dreadful disease.

Dr. Cooke's efforts to help find the cause of yellow fever were very heroic. After the War, he moved to Rockbridge County and lived on Whistle Creek, near the Brown's Woolen Factory. *Submitted by: Angela M. Ruley*  
Source: Tompkins, Edmund Pendleton, M.D. *Rockbridge County, Virginia: An Informal History*, Richmond: Whitsett and Shepperson, 1952, p. 106.

### DAVY CROCKETT'S STAY IN ROCKBRIDGE

Davy Crockett was born in Limestone, Tennessee, August 17, 1786. He was one of America's most colorful frontiersmen and folk heroes. He came from a poor pioneer family. Davy's

father kept a drover's stand on the road from Abingdon, VA to Knoxville, TN. Jacob Siler was moving to Rockbridge County with a herd of cattle, and hired Davy to help drive the cattle to his new home, three miles from Natural Bridge. Davy was only twelve and very poor, so the money would help his family out.

Davy and Mr. Siler drove the cattle by day and camped at night by the roadside. Sometimes they stayed in farmhouses along the way, and once they slept in a tavern. Mr. Siler became very fond of Davy. He liked the way Davy worked the cows, and hunted game for their dinner.

Finally, they reached Mr. Siler's home in Rockbridge. By this time, Mr. Siler had decided he would not return Davy home to his parents as he had promised. He liked the boy far too much to part with him. Mr. Siler had paid Davy five or six dollars and treated him well, but he simply would not let him go home.

About five or six weeks after Davy and Mr. Siler arrived in Rockbridge, John Dunn and three weeks came along. Mr. Dunn knew the Crockett family and Davy recognized him at once. Davy stopped Mr. Dunn along the roadside and told him his story.

Mr. Dunn was afraid Davy's father had bound him out as an apprentice to work for Mr. Siler, but Davy assured him this was not the case.

After some thought, Mr. Dunn told Davy he was spending the night about seven miles down the road at a tavern. Mr. Dunn said he would not help Davy to run away, but if he happened to turn up in one of his wagons the next morning he would not take him back to Mr. Siler.

Davy was delighted. He ran back to the Siler house and collected his things. The Silers were visiting friends. Davy hid his knapsack, and that night after the Silers had gone to bed he sneaked out of the house.

When Davy stepped outside, he discovered it was snowing very hard. The snow was already deep and the path to the main road had totally disappeared.

Davy guessed which way to go and before long he was on the road heading to the tavern. He walked through the snowstorm the seven miles to the tavern. The thought of home kept him going.

When he neared the tavern, several men were hitching horses to three wagons. Mr. Dunn's son Tom spotted Davy and yelled to Mr. Dunn.

They took Davy into the tavern and warmed him by the fire and gave him a big breakfast.

Half an hour later, Davy curled up on a pile of furs, covered himself with a bearskin and fell fast asleep in the wagon headed for home in Tennessee. The Dunns took Davy home to his family.

"He had received no real education as a child but picked up the skills of a hunter, scout, and woodsman. He served (1813-14) under Andrew Jackson in the wars against the Creek Indians. After returning to Tennessee to farm, he was appointed (1817) a local magistrate, an office that required him to learn to read and write more proficiently. Elected a "colonel" in the militia, he also served two terms (1821-25) in the Tennessee legislature, and he defended the squatter rights of his west Tennessee constituents."

"As a U.S. congressman (1827-31, 1833-35), he won a reputation as an amusing, shrewd, and outspoken backwoodsman, and it was in Washington that the legend of the man as a coonskin-hatted bear hunter, Indian fighter, and tall-tale teller was promoted by his Whig allies to compete with President Jackson's image as a democrat. Crockett's opposition to Jackson's Indian-removal policies estranged him from the Democratic party, and this disagreement cost him his fourth bid for election in 1834. His bitterness over the defeat inspired him to leave (1836) Tennessee for Texas, where he died on Mar. 6, 1836, defending the Alamo during the Texas Revolution."

Sources: Meadowcraft, Enid Lamonte. *The Story of Davy Crockett*. Columbus, OH: Weekly Reader Books, 1952, pp. 48-67. Morton, Oren F. *History of Rockbridge County, Virginia*, org. pub. 1920, reprint, Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1980, p.303.

## ALEXANDER JACKSON DAVIS

Alexander Jackson Davis, born in New York City, July 4, 1803, died June, 1892. He was, from 1829 to 1844, a partner with Ithiel Town in the firm of Town and Davis, best known for buildings in the Greek Revival style. He designed buildings for the Virginia Military Institute (1852-59).

## DANIEL HARVEY HILL

Daniel Harvey Hill was born July 12, 1821, and died Sept. 24, 1889. He was a Confederate general in the U.S. Civil War. He graduated from West Point in 1842 and fought in the Mexican War. In 1849, however, he resigned to teach mathematics at Washington College (now Washington and Lee University) in Virginia and then at Davidson College in North Carolina. He wrote several textbooks and religious articles.

In 1861, he joined the Confederate Army and soon became a general. He fought well in the Peninsular campaign and at Antietam, and in 1863 became a corps commander in the Army of Tennessee. He accused Braxton Bragg of incompetence after the battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga. As a result Hill was removed from active command.

After the war he edited a newspaper and served as president, first of the University of Arkansas (1877-84) and then of Middle Georgia Military and Agricultural College (1885-89).

## GENERAL SAM HOUSTON

Sam Houston was born on the second day of March, 1793, near Timber Ridge in Rockbridge County. He later became governor of two states, president of the Republic of Texas, U.S. senator, and military hero. His father, Major Samuel Houston had served as a soldier of the American Revolution.

Major Houston died in late 1806, and Mrs. Elizabeth Houston moved the family to Tennessee the following spring. They stopped first at Knoxville, then moved on to Marysville, Blount County, TN. The family settled on Baker's Creek on the 419 acre farm Major Houston had purchased before his death. The family had relatives in Tennessee. John and James Houston, brothers of Sam, ran a store in Marysville.

In 1809, at age 16, Sam Houston went to live with the Cherokee Indians. The Cherokees were a civilized tribe and were among the most highly developed Indians in America. Sam stayed with them for about a year before returning home.



Monument - Sam Houston Birthplace, Timber Ridge, VA

Having been home only a few days, Sam went into Marysville where the militia was having a muster. He and Captain John B. Cusick overindulged in spirits and beat a drum beneath a court window while the court was in session. They both ended up spending the night in jail. At the next session of court, Cusick was fined \$10.00 and Houston \$5.00. The following court dropped the fines.

Sam soon had another argument with his brothers and again went to live with the Cherokees. Over a period of three years, he lived among the Indians three times. He would return home, then go back to live with the Cherokees. At age eighteen, he returned home to get a job and pay the debts he had made when he bought presents for his Indian friends.

In 1812, the war was ready to break out. Sam's brother Robert joined the Army. Sam opened a school and became a teacher. He then enrolled in Porter Academy, but dropped out and joined the Army. He served as Third Lieutenant under General Andrew Jackson in the war against the Creek Indians (1813-14). Sam was wounded when an arrow hit his thigh, and his friend pulled the arrow out for him. General Jackson ordered Sam to stay out of the fighting and allow his leg to heal. Later, General Jackson asked for volunteers to lead a charge. Sam limped forward and led the troops. Within a few yards of the enemy fortress, a musket ball hit his right shoulder and another one smashed a bone in his right forearm. He staggered on and saw his platoon had deserted him. He made it back to the ravine and collapsed. (Battle of Horseshoe Bend).

He nearly died from his wounds and the doctors did not expect him to live through the first night. Even several weeks later, the doctors expected Sam to die.

In August 1814, he rode his horse to Washington, D.C. for more medical treatment, only to find the British had burned the White House and Capitol.

After visiting the doctor, he rode back to Timber Ridge in Rockbridge County where he spent the winter visiting friends and relatives. By March, he was back in Tennessee.

His Doctor in Tennessee told him that unless the ball in his right shoulder was removed, he might lose his arm. Sam rejoined the Army and in New Orleans an Army surgeon dug out the musket ball while Sam took a slug of whiskey and held onto his chair. He lost a lot of blood and a great deal of strength. He recuperated in New Orleans for a while, then went on to New York for further treatment. He then returned to Marysville, TN.

In 1818, Sam resigned his Army commission and, after studying law for a few months, was elected attorney general for Nashville and appointed adjutant general of Tennessee. He served two terms in Congress (1823-27) and in 1827 was elected governor of Tennessee.

While governor, Sam "married Eliza Allen on Jan. 1, 1829. For unexplained reasons, however, the marriage was dissolved almost immediately,

and Houston, under pressure from the Allen family, resigned his office. For the next 6 years he lived with Cherokee in the Indian Territory (now Oklahoma), taking a Cherokee wife, Tiana Rogers, and adopting Cherokee citizenship. He was a trader, advisor, and special envoy for the tribe on several occasions. It was in this last capacity he first went to Texas, then under Mexican rule, in 1832, in a futile attempt to secure a land grant for the tribe. By 1835, Houston had moved to Texas. With the outbreak of the Texas Revolution in that year he was named commanding general of the revolutionary army." On March 2, 1836, Texas issued its declaration of independence from Mexico.

Sam Houston fought bravely against the Mexicans, helping to shape the future of Texas. He led Texans into battle, having horses shot out from under him and being shot just above the ankle. Still he fought on. After the battle he saw the Mexican leader, Santa Anna, was not among the prisoners. Sam refused morphine for his pain, and continued to search for Santa Anna. He caught up with Santa Anna and forced him to order all his troops out of Texas.



Gen. Sam Houston's Home, "The Mt. Vernon of TX"

Texas was free and independent and Mexico was forced to sell California to the United States. Sam Houston now is honored in Texas by having a city named for him, Houston, Texas.

He served as the first president of the new republic of Texas from 1836 to 1838 and was later elected to a second term (1841-44). After the annexation (1845) of Texas by the United States, he was elected to the U.S. Senate, serving from 1846 to 1859. In the Senate, he was known for his friendship for the Indians. "Unhappy that Texas seemed to be moving toward secession, he successfully ran for governor as an independent Unionist in 1859. Despite his efforts, however, the people of Texas voted to secede, and he was forced out of office in March 1861."

"In 1840, Houston had married Margaret Lea in Alabama. She had persuaded him to stop drinking, for which he had a sizable reputation, and to join the Baptist church. They had eight children. Houston died at his home in Huntsville on July 26, 1863. The city of Houston, Texas, was named for him."

A monument is erected at Timber Ridge at the Sam Houston wayside in his honor, and a bust of him can be found in the Capitol at Richmond. Sources: Hopewell, Clifford, *Sam Houston, Man of Destiny*. Austin, TX: Eakin Press, 1987. Nevin, David F. *Fight and Be Damned: Said Sam Houston*, Smithsonian, Washington, DC: Smithsonian Association, July 1992, pp. 82-91. *The New Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia*

## STONEWALL JACKSON

Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson was born in a four-room cottage near Clarksburg, Virginia, now West Virginia, Jan. 21, 1824. He died May 10, 1863. As a young boy he was orphaned and raised by his father's half brother.

When he was only sixteen years old, he was made a constable (sort of like a deputy). Two years later, because of his hard work, he





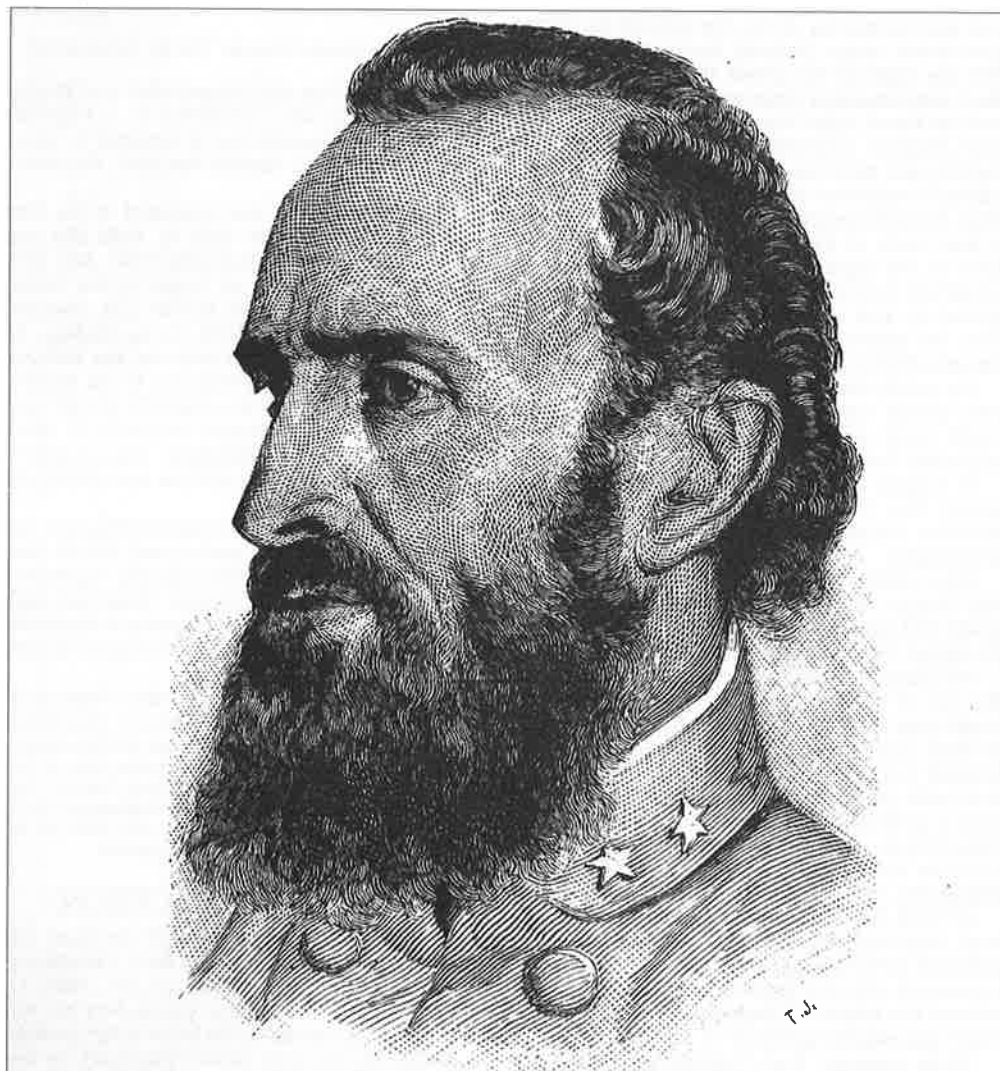
The Old Packet Boat on which remains of Stonewall Jackson were carried from Lynchburg to Lexington.

entered West Point, the United States Military Academy. To get there he had to walk all the way from Clarksburg to Washington, D.C. He had not had a very good education up to this point, but because he studied hard and never gave up, he graduated with a very respectable rank. He learned slowly, but never forgot what he had learned, and never gave up. After graduation, (1846) he joined the Army, serving in Mexico and rising to the rank of Major.

In 1851, he applied for a job as professor at Virginia Military Institute. He got the job and taught natural sciences, the theory of gunnery, and battalion drill. He had never taught before, but was a natural teacher. During his 10 years of teaching (1851-61), his first wife died and he remarried. He was a Presbyterian and was sometimes called "Deacon Jackson." He was something of an eccentric. Imagining one side of his body to weigh more than the other, he often walked or rode with one arm raised to restore his balance. He stood while eating to straighten his intestinal tract and aid digestion.



Stonewall Jackson Cemetery, Monument



Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, he was ordered to Richmond to be used as a drillmaster for recruits at Camp Lee. He never saw Lexington again. From Richmond, he was sent to Harper's Ferry as a Colonel of Infantry. He soon took command of an Infantry Brigade, (later called Stonewall Brigade).

In about a month, he became a general. His flanking maneuvers made him famous. General Robert E. Lee considered him his "right arm." Jackson's soldiers moved so fast they soon became known as the "foot cavalry".

In July 1861, at the first battle of Bull Run, he won his famous nickname. As the Confederates fell back before a Northern attack, Jackson and his brigade stood firm — "like a stone wall," according to Gen. Barnard Bee.

On May 2, 1863, at Chancellorsville, Jackson was wounded by his own men who mistook him for an enemy. Pneumonia developed as a result of his wounds, and he died on May 10th. His loss was a great blow to the Confederacy. Lee wrote, "I know not how to replace him." He is buried in Lexington in the Stonewall Jackson Cemetery.

Sources: Morton, Oren F. *History of Rockbridge County, Virginia*. org. pub. 1920, reprint, Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1980, pp. 233-37. *The New Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia*.

## ROBERT E. LEE

Robert Edward Lee was born on January 19, 1807, at his family's home "Stratford," in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He attended West Point in 1825, and graduated in 1829 at the top of his class. In 1831 he married Mary Ann Randolph Custis, great-granddaughter of Martha Washington by her first marriage. He served in the Army, and during the War with Mexico, he rose to the rank of colonel. In 1852, he became superintendent of West Point.

In 1859, he commanded the force that suppressed the John Brown raid on Harpers Ferry. In 1861, the Federal Army offered him the place at the head of the Union Army. Lee refused, as he was opposed to secession, and was not pro-slavery, but he thought he should fight for his native state and for state's rights. He resigned his commission in the U.S. Army, and offered his services to Virginia when it seceded in April 1861. Confederate president Jefferson Davis appointed Lee a general in the Southern army. Lee became commander of the main Confederate Army in Virginia — a force that he soon named the Army of Northern Virginia. On April 9, 1865, Union General Ulysses S. Grant trapped him at Appomattox Court House and forced him to surrender.

After the war, Lee became president of Washington College (now Washington and Lee University) in Lexington, Virginia. He worked hard to restore the campus which had been looted and vandalized during General David Hunter of the Union Army's visit to Lexington and Rockbridge County. He devoted himself to education and to helping rebuild the South. Lee died on Oct. 12, 1870. He is buried in Lee Chapel on the Campus of Washington and Lee University.

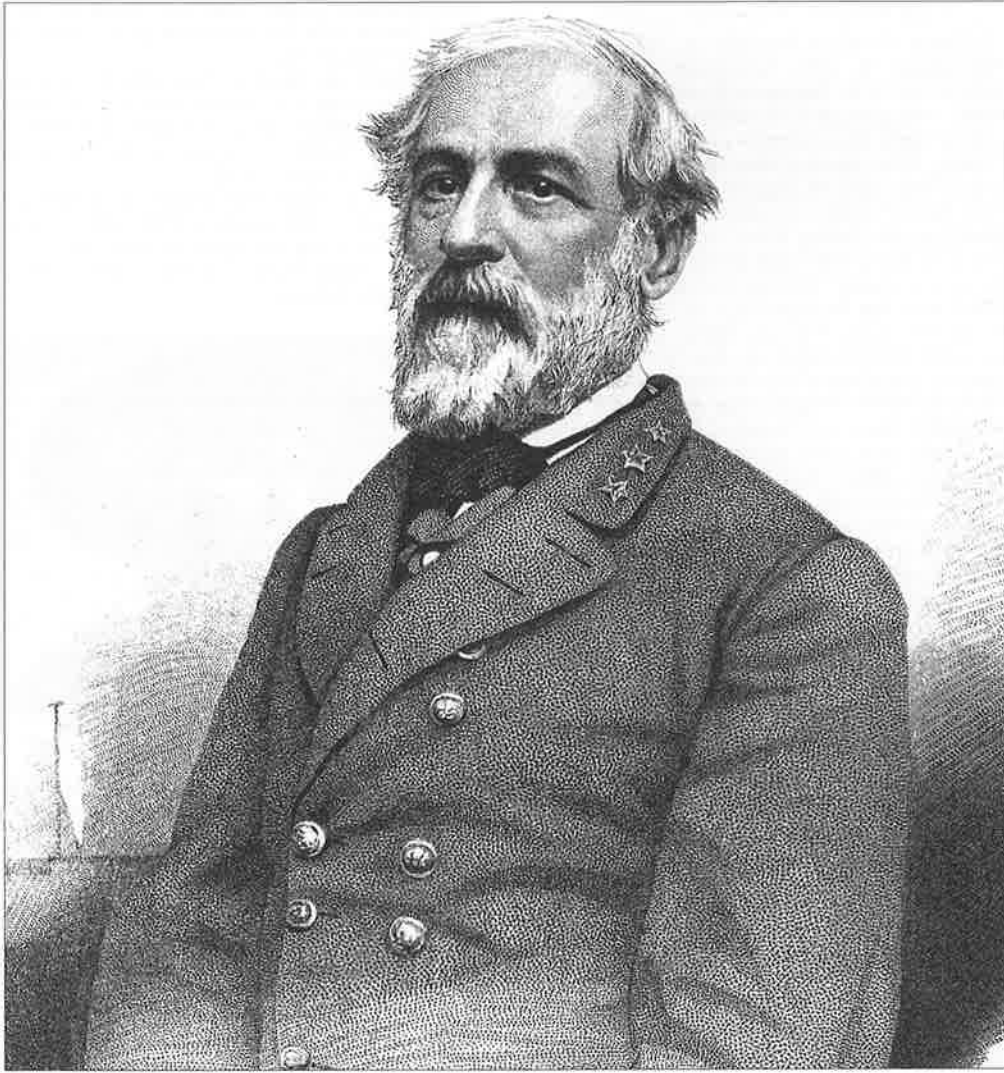
He had loved to ride across the country side of Rockbridge on his favorite War-horse, "Traveler". They wandered the mountains and enjoyed the fresh air often.

**SEE PHOTOS, TOP OF NEXT PAGE.**

Sources: Morton, Oren F. *History of Rockbridge County, Virginia* org. pub. 1920, reprint, Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1980, pp. 238-243. *The New Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia*

## GEORGE C. MARSHALL

George Catlett Marshall was born in Uniontown, Pennsylvania on December 31, 1880, he died October 16, 1959. He was an American army officer and diplomat, was chief of staff of the U.S. Army during World War II and the only person ever to be both secretary of state (1947-



General Robert E. Lee



Robert E. Lee's Study at Lee Chapel, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA

49) and secretary of defense (1950-51). He was one of the most widely admired military personalities in U.S. history.

"Marshall graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 1901. During World War I, he served in France as a staff officer and won recognition for his role in directing the St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne offensives. From 1919 to 1924 he was aide to General John J. Pershing. He became assistant chief of staff of the army (July 1938), deputy chief of staff (Oct. 1938), and

then chief of staff (1939). Predicting American involvement in World War II, he was a strong advocate of military preparedness. During the war he exercised general supervision over all U.S. military activities and was the leading U.S. military spokesman at Allied summit conferences. He became general of the army in December 1944."

"In November 1945, President Harry S. Truman made Marshall his personal representative in China, where he unsuccessfully attempted to

negotiate a settlement of the civil war between the Nationalists and the Communists. In 1947, Truman made him secretary of state. During Marshall's tenure, the United States adopted a strong anti-Soviet policy, the keystones of which were the Truman Doctrine of aid to nations threatened by communism and the Marshall Plan for the economic reconstruction of Western Europe, for which Marshall was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953. In ill health, Marshall resigned in 1949, only to be called back in 1950 as secretary of defense during the Korean War. He retired permanently in 1951.



George C. Marshall statue at VMI

The Marshall Research Foundation is located in Lexington on the campus of Virginia Military Institute.

## MATTHEW FONTAINE MAURY

Matthew Fontaine Maury was born in Spotsylvania County, Virginia on Jan. 14, 1806. He died in Lexington, Virginia on Feb. 1, 1873, aged 67 years. He was the first person to undertake a systematic and comprehensive study of the ocean. His work on oceanography and navigation led to an international conference (Brussels, 1853) that produced the International Hydrographic Bureau, established international standards of meteorological observations, and organized a uniform system of weather reporting at sea. He was associated with the National Conservatory in Washington D.C., and was largely responsible for the development of the Weather Bureau.

Because of his maritime knowledge, his ability to sound depths, and his wise instruction regarding the laying of the Atlantic Cable, he was called the "Pathfinder of the Seas." He revealed the secrets of trade-winds and ocean currents. He discovered the plant from which iodine is derived and wrote a book on physical geography, which was used in schools across the country. He helped the Confederacy by his Coast defense instruction.

After a severe injury in a stagecoach accident in 1839 forced him from active service, Maury took charge (1842) of the Depot of Charts and Instruments in Washington. While in this office he compiled oceanographic data from old and current ship logs. In 1847 he published the first (for the North Atlantic Ocean) of his Wind and Current Charts. During the Civil War, he was a captain in the Confederate Navy and engaged in research in mine warfare and torpedoes. After the Civil War, he went to Mexico and joined Maximilian's cabinet. He later went to England and continued his education at Cambridge University.



Maury Monument, Goshen, VA

He returned to Virginia in 1868. He was Professor of Meteorology at Virginia Military Institute for the rest of his life.

He loved the outdoors. Before he died, he asked that his remains be carried through Goshen Pass when the Rhododendrum was in bloom. Since he died in the winter, his body was kept in a vault at Virginia Military Institute until spring. In May, his body was accompanied by Cadets and carried through the pass to board the train at Goshen, then taken to Richmond for burial in Hollywood Cemetery.

In his lifetime, he was Knighted by the Czar of Russia, Emperor of France, and Kings of England, Belgium, Denmark, and Portugal.

He was given medals by the Pope and Kings of Austria, Sweden, Holland, Sardinia, Bremen, and Mexico. A monument was placed in Goshen Pass in his memory. The North River's name was changed to Maury River, and VMI has a building named for him, and a monument on the grounds. A bust of him is in the State Capitol at Richmond. Submitted by:

Angela M. Ruley

Sources: McClung, James W. *Historical Significance of Rockbridge County, VA*. Staunton, VA: McClure Company, Inc., 1939, pp. 18-19. *The New Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia* 1993.

## ROGER MUDD

Roger Harrison Mudd, born in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 9, 1928, has been a prominent network television correspondent since the early 1960s. In 1992, he became a professor at Princeton University. "He studied at Washington and Lee University and the University of North Carolina before joining the Richmond (Va.) News Leader as a reporter. He entered broadcast journalism in 1953 as news director of station WRNL in Richmond, and in 1956 - moved to WTOP-TV, the CBC Washington affiliate, as a reporter. In 1961 he became a CBS network correspondent, specializing in political coverage of Washington and appearing in special reports on the Pentagon, Watergate, and other national issues." He later joined NBC. At NBC, he was a co-host of Meet the Press, chief Washington correspondent, and was for a time co-anchor, with Tom Brokaw, of "NBC Nightly News." He joined PBS in 1987.

## LEWIS F. POWELL, JR.

Lewis Franklin Powell, Jr. was born on September 19, 1907. He was an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1971 to 1987. "He grew up in Richmond, Va., and graduated from Washington and Lee University (1929). After earning degrees from the Washington and Lee Law School (1931) and Harvard Law School (1932), he returned to Richmond to practice law. During World War II he served in the U.S. Army Air Force overseas, rising to the rank of colonel, and receiving the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star. In his law career after the war, Powell came to be widely respected for his legal acumen. In 1964 he was elected president of the American Bar Association. In 1971, Powell was appointed to the Supreme Court by President Richard M. Nixon to fill the seat being vacated by the retirement of Hugo L. Black. As a member of the Supreme Court, Powell was usually in the middle of the conservative voting bloc and often cast the deciding vote in crucial 5-4 decisions. His opinion in *University of California V. Bakke* (1978) was regarded as being of pivotal importance in the Court's resolution of that case. Powell announced his retirement from the Court on June 26, 1987.

Source: *The New Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia*.

## BISHOP WILLIAM TAYLOR

William Taylor was born in a log cabin on the foothills of Hogback Mountain near Rockbridge Baths. He became a Methodist minister and eventually Bishop of the entire continent of Africa. Before becoming Bishop of Africa, he had preached in India, the East Indies, Switzerland, Great Britain, Palestine, and in many countries of South America. His autobiography was entitled, *The Story of My Life*, and was "written during about one hundred ocean voyages."

During the Gold Rush to California, he preached on the streets of San Francisco for seven years. A twenty-story hotel was built there and named for him, the name changed in 1942, when it was taken over by the government. On the ground floor of this hotel was a church which seated two thousand people.

Source: Tompkins, Edmund Pendleton. *Rockbridge County, VA: An Informal History*. Richmond, VA: Whittet and Shepperson, 1952, p. 169.

## WILLIAM A. "BIG-FOOT" WALLACE

William Alexander Wallace was born just outside of Lexington in 1816. He died in Erie County, Texas in 1899. His parents were Andrew and Jane (Blair) Wallace.

In 1837, Wallace heard his brother, Samuel A. Wallace had been killed in the Fannin massacre by the Mexicans. When this news came to him, he was plowing. He left the plow and team of horses in the field, and started off for Texas to avenge his brother's murder. Two friends, James Patton and Frank Shields went along with him to Texas.

Upon reaching Texas, Wallace joined a ranger squad. He gained a reputation for being very brave and daring in the battles with the Mexicans and Indians.

In 1842, he was captured while on the Mier Expedition and was put in a Mexican prison for sixteen months. The Mexicans called him the "Big-Foot Gringo." He was made to work on the streets of Mexico City.

After his release, he killed "Big-Foot", a Lipan warrior, the name "Big-Foot" was soon stuck on

him. Wallace himself said the nickname "Big-Foot" came from the Mexicans who called him the "Big Foot Gringo."

He made his home in San Antonio but soon found this area too settled and moved west. Big-Foot Wallace never married, and died in poverty in 1899. He is buried in the State Cemetery at Austin, Texas.

In 1936, a marker was placed to his memory in Lexington, at the corner of Main and Houston Streets. This marker tells he was an Indian fighter, a Texas Ranger, a mail Carrier, and a Confederate Soldier.



"Big Foot" Wallace

Big-Foot Wallace was known throughout the southwest. He only visited Rockbridge twice after leaving, in 1850 and in 1872. He was a large man who bravely fought for his beliefs.

Submitted by: Angela M. Ruley

Sources: Morton, Oren F. *History of Rockbridge County, Virginia* org. pub. 1920, reprint Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1980, p. 277. McClung, James W. *Historical Significance of Rockbridge County, Virginia* org. pub. 1939, reprint, Lexington, VA; Bob Lurate, 1992, pp. 13-16.

## GEORGE WASHINGTON'S GIFT TO EDUCATION

The James River Company was organized in 1785. George Washington was elected its President and was given 100 shares of stock by the state. He donated these to Liberty Hall Academy. The school immediately changed its name to Washington Academy and later to Washington and Lee University.



James River Canal, Jordan's Point.

Over the years the canal stock brought over \$500,000.00 to the University. The James River Company was a canal navigation company along the James River. They cleared channels along the James River for Bateaux boats and later canals for packet boats. Submitted by: Angela M. Ruley

Source: Trout, W. E., III. *The Maury River Atlas: Historic Sites on the North River Navigation*. Lexington, VA; the Rockbridge County Canals Preservation Fund, 1991, p. 20.

# SOME LOCAL INVENTORS

## JAMES GIBBS, INVENTOR

James Edward Allen Gibbs was born in Rockbridge County, near Raphine on August 1, 1829. His father Richard Gibbs, brought the first carding machinery to the state of Virginia.

About 1850, James went to what is now WV and was a partner in a carding mill at Huntersville. He made his first invention, which was an improvement on the carding machinery.

James moved on to Nicholas County, (now WV) in 1851, and built a saw and gristmill for Colonel Samuel Given. He soon fell in love with Colonel Given's daughter, Catherine, and they were married in 1852.

James saw a newspaper advertisement for a sewing machine. He had never seen a real sewing machine and the picture in the newspaper only showed the top of the machine, not all the working parts. He decided to build a sewing machine the way he thought it should work. When he was able to read a Patent Office description of the Grover and Baker sewing machine, and then to see a Singer sewing machine, he realized his machine was different and had improvements over the others. He took out patents on two features of the machine.

In 1857, James went to Philadelphia. While there, he went to the office of James Wilcox and built a model of his sewing machine. They became partners and Gibbs took out a patent on the revolving looper of his sewing machine.

The sewing machine was small and was made to screw onto the edge of a table. It did not have a foot treadle, but had a little wheel with a handle. Someone, usually a child, turned the wheel while the person doing the sewing, usually the woman of the house, used both hands to guide the materials.

When the Civil War broke out, James Gibbs came back to Virginia. He fought for the Confederacy. Once, when he went to Richmond to get uniforms for his cavalry troops, he discovered they had been sewn on his machines.



James Edward Allen Gibbs House, Raphine Virginia

In June 1865, James went North to check on his sewing machine business. Wilcox met Gibbs at the door with open arms. Gibbs had made over \$10,000 on his sewing machine. He came back to Rockbridge and bought the farm where he had been born. He and his wife raised their family there.

When the Valley railroad came along, he gave them a right of way across his land on the condition he could name the station Raphine, which meant "needle" in Greek.

Gibbs took out a total of twelve patents. He was a very talented man. In 1861, he took out a Confederate patent on a breech-loading gun. His last invention was a bicycle which he did not patent.

He died on November 25, 1902 at his home in Raphine. He is buried at Mount Carmel Presbyterian Church Cemetery.

Mr. Gibbs' sewing machine used only one thread, other machines used two. It became very popular and was used in factories more often than any other sewing machine of the time, as the stitches held much tighter. One of Mr. Gibbs' sewing machines is on display at the

Campbell House, headquarters of the Rockbridge Historical Society, in Lexington, VA. Submitted by: Angela M. Ruley

Sources: Lexington Gazette. Remembrances of Lexington, 1870-1882. Bicentennial Edition, Section 4, p. 11. Morton, Owen F. History of Rockbridge County, Virginia org. pub. 1920, reprint, Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1980. Proceedings of the Rockbridge Historical Society. The Mystery of James Gibbs by Paul C. Wilson. Lexington, VA: Rockbridge Historical Society, 1990, pp. 519-525. Rockbridge County News. J.E.A. Gibbs, Inventor of the Wilcox-Gibbs Sewing Machine, Dead 27 November 1902, p. 3, c. 3. Rockbridge County News, The Funeral of Mr. J. E. A. Gibbs 4 December 1902, p. 3, c. 5.

## CYRUS McCORMICK, INVENTOR

Cyrus Hall McCormick was born in 1809 on "Walnut Grove" farm in Rockbridge County, Virginia. He died in 1884 at Chicago, Illinois.

In the spring of 1831, he invented and took out a patent for a hillside plow. His father was attempting to build a reaping machine. After Robert McCormick stopped working on the reaping machine, Cyrus took it up. He made a crude machine, using different principles, and tried it on the ripe wheat on their farm. He was encouraged by the results and made further improvements to the machine. In July, he made a public trial on late oats in the field of John Steele.



Walnut Grove - Homestead of the McCormick Family

In 1832, Cyrus introduced improvements to the machine and exhibited it on several Rockbridge farms. In the same year he invented and patented a self-sharpening horizontal plow.

After making further improvements to the reaper, Cyrus began to manufacture them for sale. Early construction began on the farm at "Walnut Grove", but reapers were also built in various parts of the state beginning in 1843.



Blacksmith Shop and Mill on the Walnut Grove Farm

In 1844, he arranged for manufacturers in New York, Ohio, and other western states to make his reaper. However, the manufacturers were less careful than the workers at Walnut Grove and they often used inferior materials. To save the reputation of his reaper, Cyrus decided he must have them manufactured all in one place. In 1847, he built a factory in Chicago, Illinois. By 1850, he had a national business.

Cyrus continued to improve his machine up until the time of his death.

In 1851, he took his reaper to the World's Fair in London and his business soon grew to an international one.



Front view of Blacksmith Shop and Mill

Because of Cyrus' invention of the reaper, farmers could cut their crops when they were ready, with less labor, less cost, and a greater yield. It allowed the United States to begin to export large quantities of grain to Europe.

Cyrus was among the first to introduce the field trials, guarantees and testimonials in advertising. Submitted by: Angela M. Ruley Source: Lexington Gazette Inventor of Reaper is Native of Rockbridge by H. A. Kellar. Bicentennial Edition 1738-1938, Section 5, pp. 7-9.

## MICHAEL MILEY, INVENTOR

Michael Miley born 19 July 1841 in Rockingham County, Virginia. He married Martha Mackey of Rockbridge. He died in 1918 in Lexington and is buried in Stonewall Jackson Cemetery.

In 1866, Michael Miley, a former Confederate soldier, came to Lexington to open a photography studio. He had grown up in the Valley of Virginia and had lived between Fairfield and Brownsburg when the Civil War broke out. He served in the Stonewall Brigade under General Stonewall Jackson. After every battle, Michael took colored pencils and drew maps of the battlefield and its surroundings. Michael was captured at Chancellorsville, in the same battle that Stonewall Jackson received his mortal injuries. He was taken to Fort Delaware, a Yankee prison off the New Jersey coast. He remained in prison for the rest of the war.

From 1866 until his death in 1918, Michael devoted his life to recording Rockbridge life through photography. The Miley Collection of about 15,000 negatives is housed at Washington and Lee University in the Special Collections.

With his son Henry Mackey Miley, Michael applied for a patent for an invention in color photography which he received. Submitted by:

Angela M. Ruley Sources: Tompkins, Edmund Pendleton. Rockbridge County, Virginia: An Informal History. Richmond, VA: Whittet and Shepperson, 1952, pp. 172-173. Campbell, Leslie Lyle. The Houston Family in Virginia Lexington, VA: the author, 1956, pp. 71-72.

## MATHIAS RAPP, INVENTOR

Mathias Rapp married Mary Saville in 1834. In 1836 they purchased a farm on South Buffalo Creek, built a house and a mill. In 1855, they gave the land for Rapps Church and cemetery.

Mathias Rapp was born in 1808, died in 1880, and is buried in Rapps Cemetery. He inherited an improvement in turbine wheels and applied it to his grist mill. Patent #104,199 was granted to him on June 14, 1870. Submitted by: Angela M. Ruley Source: Diehl, George West. Old Oxford and Her Families. Verona, VA: McClure Printing, 1971

## SOME OTHER INVENTORS:

Rev. Samuel Houston of Rural Valley invented a threshing machine in the late 1700's.

Dr. William Graham of Lexington, invented a fire extinguisher.

Charles H. Locher of Glasgow invented an Aerial dump used in excavation. Submitted by: Angela M. Ruley

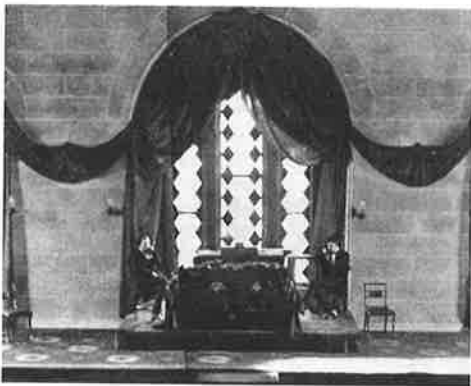
# MISCELLANEOUS TIDBITS

## GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE'S COFFIN

On 12 October 1870, General Robert E. Lee died, and owing to very high flood waters in North River, Mr. C. M. Koones, undertaker, was confronted with a very trying situation. A shipment of coffins from Richmond had been landed at Alexander's wharf, at east Lexington, and in the night, 9 October, 1870, flood waters of enormous proportions swept away the wharf and contents, including three coffins.

When on the 12th, General Lee died, not a coffin was to be had in the community. Such was the appalling situation. Think of the humiliation heaped upon the grief torn citizenry at not having suitable facilities for the burial of such a beloved friend.

Now in the community there were those indomitable spirits who would not be outdone, so search along the flooded river banks was begun with faint hope that a coffin could be recovered.



Robert E. Lee's Coffin at his funeral

Two young men, Charles Chittum and Harry Wallace, were among those eager to have the honor and feel the glory of success in doing a last service for the hero who had gone to his rest.

After hours of search their efforts were rewarded. The coffin had washed over the big dam and lodged two miles down the river on a small island. Mr. Charles H. Chittum was 22 years old when the coffin was found. Valentine's recumbent figure of Robert E. Lee, now in the Chapel at Washington and Lee University, came from Richmond to Lexington on this canal, passing within fifty feet of where the coffin was found. Submitted by: Paul C. Chittum and Charles H. Chittum

Source: The Story of Finding the Coffin in which Gen. Robert E. Lee was afterward buried.

Credit - Michael Miley Print at W & L University, Lexington, VA

## FUNERAL OF DOVE THE BROOM-MAKER

The story told here apparently took place between 1810 and 1830, likely in the 1820's.

Among the odd fellows of Colliertown, was Bob Houston, the bachelor son of John and Ann (Logan) Houston. Bob stood nearly six feet tall and had a Pickwickian conformation. He had an open, "manly countenance, well developed head, nose somewhat flat, and his under lip protruding beyond the upper."

A man named Dove lived in Colliertown. Dove passed on and Bob Houston and some of his bachelor friends undertook the task of Dove's funeral. "Old Billy Moody" and Jude, his wife, were to assist in the funeral.

Billy Moody was described as "a small bony man, stoop shoulders, his face dished, lips pouting, nose turned up, small gray eyes, set away back in his head, and a countenance altogether

not very amiable, when sober; when drunk, he 'looked things unutterable'." Billy's wife Jude, always wore her sunbonnet, "her keen little black eyes, and that long, solitary tooth in front, hanging loose in its socket and vibrating with the utterance of every word." This handsome couple was to convey Dove's body to the graveyard for burial.

On the day of the funeral there was a deep snow. A large two-horse sled was used as a hearse. The mourners met at Dove's house. Funeral preparations were made, then they all got drunk, as was the custom of a wake. The procession headed for the graveyard several miles away, most likely Oxford. Billy Moody was put in charge of the body. The day was cold, the snow deep, and the men and horses all felt rather spirited.

The small funeral procession made their way to the graveyard. They reversed the order of things and the mourners went ahead rather than behind the hearse. Bob Houston and his fellow mourners arrived at the graveyard well ahead of Moody and the hearse. They anxiously awaited Moody's arrival with Dove, so the funeral might proceed. Finally, Moody came into sight, "urging on his horses in his usual lazy, growing tone of voice," he drew up alongside the graveyard. Bob and his companions walked toward the sled to act as Dove's pallbearers. To their amazement, they found the hearse contained no corpse!

While driving, Moody sat atop one horse. He had driven rapidly, likely hit a rock or stump, and had unknowingly lost his cargo, Dove. He could not tell how or when the body had fallen from the sled. Bob Houston said, "Dove should have a Christian burial, and he would see Moody at the 'divil' before he would give up Dove as lost." Bob Houston and his fellow mourners mounted their horses and went back in search of Dove's corpse. Moody went too, bringing up the rear. They soon came across the coffin lying upside down in the road.

Dove's body was recovered, placed back on the sled, and with a solemn admonition from Bob Houston, Moody mounted his saddle horse, and they again made their way to the graveyard. They reached the cemetery safely on the second try and were able to bury Dove that very same day.

Some years later, Moody got drunk and fell into the fire on Christmas night, dying as a consequence.

And this little diddy was written about Dove:

"O Dove! the man! the brother!  
And art thou gone and gone forever?  
And hast thou cross'd that unknown river  
— Life's dreary bound?  
Like thee where shall we find another,  
The world around?"

Submitted by: Angela M. Ruley

Source: The story of Colliertown and the Funeral of Dove the Broom-maker, first appeared in The Gazette in the 1850's. It was written by a fellow signing himself "Sherbourne".

## PATRICK HENRY

Patrick Henry was a free black man. He worked for Thomas Jefferson, meeting and greeting guests who came to visit the cottage at Natural Bridge. Patrick often led tours underneath the Bridge, showing the visitors this wonder of nature.

On his visits to Lexington, Patrick met Louisa, a slave of Benjamin Darst. He knew this lady was the one with whom he would like to spend the rest of his life. Patrick spoke with Mr. Darst and told him of his desire to marry Louisa. As Louisa was a slave, Mr. Darst informed Patrick the only way he could marry her and take her to Natural Bridge with him was if he could purchase her.

Patrick saved all the money he earned, and the tips visitors gave him until he had enough to pay the purchase price Mr. Darst had asked for Louisa. Patrick then bought Louisa as a slave and married her in 1815.

They were happy for a while, but soon Louisa began to complain. She wanted no master, a husband was fine, but she did not want him to own her. Louisa also probably knew children born to a slave were considered to be slaves, but children born to a free mother were considered free people. She told Patrick she must have her freedom, and Patrick understood this.

The next time Thomas Jefferson came to the cottage at Natural Bridge, Patrick told him of his dilemma.

On the second day of December, 1816, Thomas Jefferson sat down with Patrick Henry and wrote out a Deed of Manumission which gave Louisa her freedom. This they took to Lexington and recorded at the courthouse. Patrick and Louisa Henry were happier now. They both were free, and they were certain their children would always be free, too. Submitted by: Angela M. Ruley

## ABDOMINAL SURGERY

On Toad Run, very near the old mill site, a young girl named Jane Todd grew up. In 1794, she married her neighbor, Thomas Crawford, and they moved to Kentucky.

In Jane's later life, she found she had a large abdominal tumor. Thomas and Jane Crawford lived about fifty miles from Danville, Kentucky and had heard that Dr. Ephriam McDowell had a medical practice in Danville.

Dr. McDowell had also been born in Rockbridge County and was a grandson of Captain John McDowell who helped Benjamin Borden to locate his land in 1737. Ephriam began his medical practice in Danville, KY.

Jane (Todd) Crawford visited Dr. McDowell to see if he could help to cure her tumor. At that time abdominal surgery was unheard of in America. Dr. McDowell examined Jane and told her he would try to perform the surgery to remove the tumor. This operation was to be a courageous attempt, as it had never been successfully performed.

Jane agreed, and rode the sixty miles on horseback to Dr. McDowell's house in Danville, Kentucky. On the 31st of December, 1809, Dr. McDowell strapped Jane Crawford to the kitchen table, and without anesthetics, worked for twenty-five minutes to remove a twenty-two pound tumor. Jane was given a drink of whiskey and a large dose of laudanum. Throughout the operation she repeated the Psalms.

In five days after the surgery, Dr. McDowell found Jane making up her bed. Only twenty-five days after the surgery, she was able to get on her horse and ride the sixty miles back home, a well woman.

Dr. McDowell did not publish an account of this operation until seven years later, when it had been repeated twice more successfully. After the medical journals received accounts of this successful operation, many in the medical world called him a liar. Some said that a plain country doctor living in the wilderness could not have performed such an operation under such primitive circumstances, when it had previously failed when attempted under the best of circumstances. Dr. McDowell's fame was triumphant, as the operation had truly been a success and was proven as such.

Dr. Ephriam McDowell and Jane (Todd) Crawford became famous for this successful surgery. There is a Jane (Todd) Crawford Highway in Kentucky, a monument in Danville, Kentucky, a park in Danville was named for the Dr.,

and a life-size statue in Washington D.C. commemorates this historic event. Dr. McDowell is known as "The Father of Abdominal Surgery".

The Medical Society of Virginia marked his birthplace in 1929, by placing a bronze tablet along Lee Highway (Route 11), about ten miles north of Lexington which reads:

"Near this spot Dr. Ephriam McDowell was born November 11, 1771. The father of Abdominal Surgery. Beginning medical study in Staunton, Va., continuing it in Edinburg, Scotland, he later received an honorary degree from the University of Maryland. Possessing the highest attributes of the physician and surgeon, he was a pioneer in work which has saved countless thousands. Erected by the Medical Society of Virginia, 1929." *Submitted by: Angela M. Ruley*  
Sources: Lexington Gazette. *Half Forgotten Bits of Local History 'Dr. Ephriam McDowell'* by E. Pendleton Tompkins, M.D. 2 September 1930, p. 2. Tompkins, Edmund Pendleton, M.D. Rockbridge County, Virginia: An Informal History. Richmond, VA: Whittet and Shepperson, 1952, pp. 104-105.

## DOCTOR JEFFRESS

One of the most interesting characters in Fairfield's past history was Dr. W. A. Jeffress. His beautiful home with its wide circular porch and thirteen rooms drew the attention of those entering Fairfield from the north. Dr. O. H. McClung had the house built in 1909 with the intention of his living there, but he decided to move to Lexington, so he sold the property to Dr. W. A. Jeffress in 1911. Dr. Jeffress had been practicing in the Fairfield area for several years prior to 1911. This home remained in the Jeffress family for seventy-nine years.

He married Miss Fannie Price and they had two daughters, Susie McCormick and Sarah Alexander.

For 50 years, Dr. Jeffress doctored people throughout the central and northern end of Rockbridge County. Usually he kept two horses and rode horseback over the rough back roads and mountain trails. Sometimes he went in his horse buggy. Often when he went as far as Montebello he would leave his horse at a mountain cabin to rest it and to be fed and borrow a horse to finish his rounds. Then he'd return for his horse.

The doctor carried his medicines in saddlebags. In cold winter weather when he forded the mountain streams (there were very few bridges at that time), his clothing would freeze to the stirrups and when he reaches his destination he would have to call for help to dismount.

In later years, Dr. Jeffress used cars, but he was considered better at handling horses than at driving a car!



Doctor Jeffress home

Many people in those days had no phone, so if they needed a doctor, they would ask the country store merchant to call the doctor for them. Then the doctor would stop at the store for directions to the house.

Dr. Jeffress died in 1948. When he became too infirmed to visit people in their home, he continued to do a limited practice in the office in his home. People would come to him for medicine which he kept in his own pharmacy.

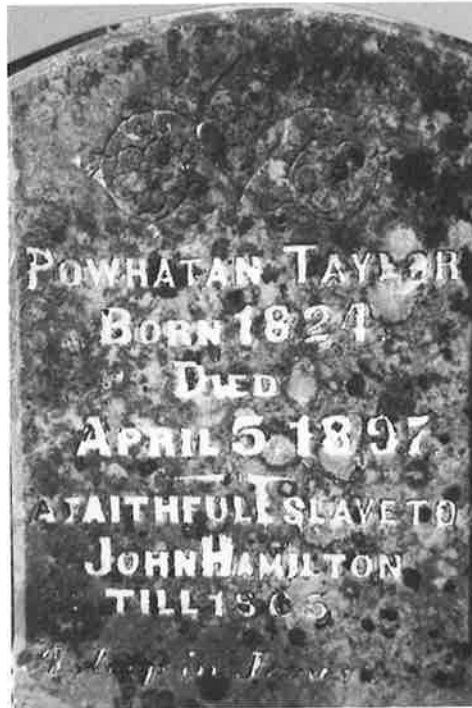
One of the conveniences that the house had, that was unusual for the time in which it was built, was indoor plumbing. A tower was built behind the house with a large water tank top. A ram was used to force water from a spring into the tank and gravity supplied the pressure needed. I believe it was the first home in Fairfield to have a bathroom.

Mrs. Jeffress was an excellent housekeeper and her hardwood floors were always kept waxed. Most people of that day mopped their floors, adding milk to the water to give a little shine, but not as nice as waxed ones.

Mrs. Fannie Jeffress continued to live in the home until 1985 when poor health forced her to go to a nursing home. She died in 1986 at the age of ninety-six. *Submitted by: Zena G. Austin*

## POWHATAN TAYLOR

In a slave cemetery located in a patch of woods on property that belongs to Louis Paxton on Highway 745 near Green Hill Cemetery is located one nice headstone for a slave. Mr. Paxton remembers that as a youngster there were approximately 100 sunken graves. This headstone is in memory of Powhatan Taylor. The inscription reads, "Powhatan Taylor, born 1824, died April 5, 1897, a faithful slave to John Hamilton till 1865, A Life in Jesus."



Recently members of the Ben-Wesley Ruritan Club cleared the cemetery, removing the headstone to be cleaned and repaired. The moss and other material was cleaned away so the inscription could be read and Rufus Holland repaired the lower part of the stone which had been broken. It was then returned to the cemetery and anchored on a concrete base. It is possible that there may have been other markers that have been destroyed through the years.

John Hamilton was a wealthy landowner who built an Antebellum home in the Ben Salem area of the county on the North, now the Maury River. *Submitted by: Nancy Holland Deavers*

## THE ZOLLMAN CEMETERY

The Zollman family cemetery is on a substantial hill in the northwest corner of lands which belonged to William Zollman and his wife, Mary Ann Ripley. In the 1800's the land was purchased from his sister, Elizabeth Zollman, and her husband William Cunningham, William Zollman reserved that high land for the burial of the Zollman family and their slaves.

There are many markers of various age but the older stones belong to William's son, Henry, and his wife, Elvira Shafer, dated 1892 and 1896 respectively. Henry and Elvira lived at the west end of the lane called Zollman Mill Road. To get to the cemetery today one needs some specific directions. Going south from Lexington on old route 11, go west on route 251 until you see a sign on the left hand side of the road marked, "Tree Farm". Turn left at the sign onto a lane. Go about 100 yards to an old Zollman barn. The road turns west and goes up the hill another 100 yards through pasture land. The Zollman cemetery is on the right side with a wire fence and gate around it. A row of evergreen trees run along the fence. Within this cemetery one will find the names of: Back Row (left to right): Ethel L. Zollman, wife of George W. Street, Nov. 18, 1909-Dec. 25, 1930. Willie Henry Shafer, wife of William Zollman, Feb. 12, 1882-Apr. 6, 1922. Margaret E. Zollman, March 10-April 4, 1908. Robert S. Zollman, Aug. 10, 1920-Nov. 28, 1920. Helen Zollman, March 17, 1912-March 3, 1922. Infant Zollman daughter. William Zollman, husband of Willie Henry Shafer, Aug. 1, 1875-Sept. 5, 1945. Charles A. Zollman, Jan. 5, 1848-Dec. 16, 1916. Edmonia T. Wife of J. W. Zollman, Oct. 11, 1849-Oct. 4, 1891. A. S., wife of Adam Zollman, b. 1823. Adam Zollman, March 27, 1923-April 18, 1906. Henry Zollman, March 13, 1813-Dec. 3, 1896. Elvira Shafer, wife of Henry Zollman, Sept. 29, 1821-June 20, 1892. Front row (left to right): Julia E. Meeks, wife of Charles Zollman, April 7, 1861-Aug. 2, 1941. John W. Zollman, Nov. 3, 1839-April 28, 1923. Robert A. Irvine, son of James and Susan Irvine, 1872-Oct. 31, 1929. Jesse Lee Zollman, wife of R. A. Irvine, April 16, 1871-Sept. 10, 1923. J. H. Zollman, June 29, 1872-Feb. 19, 1944. Lawrence Irvine, Jan. 1897-July 9, 1963. Robert A. Irvine, Jr., Oct. 31, 1906-Nov. 26, 1971. Martha McKenny Irvine, Aug. 23, 1907-Feb. 25, 1991. *Submitted by: Naomi A. Hendrickson*  
*Zollmans of VA - Wilbur Zollman, Zollman Historian; Naomi Adair Hendrickson, Zollman gen. gravestones copied by her in 1993.*

## ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY FAIR, 1931

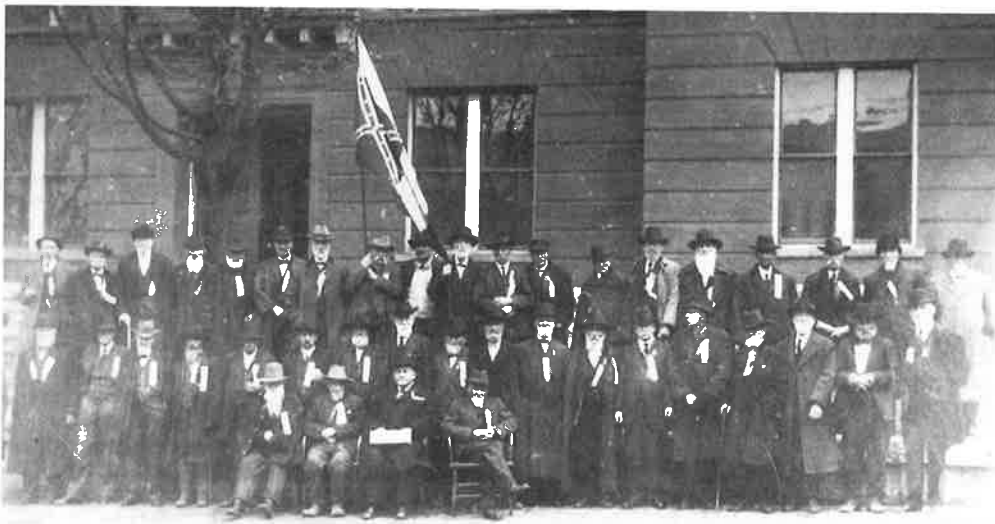


## BED BUGS

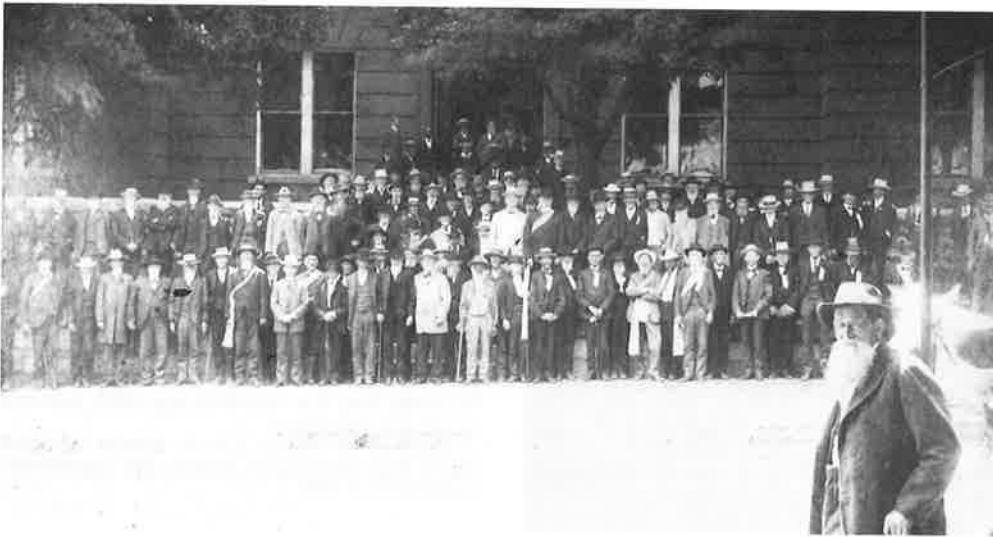
My Great Grandfather, John A. Nicely, was born in 1824 and made his home in Rockbridge County. He raised 10 children at the head of Collierstown, Union View.

In 1976 when my nephew Joe Wood and I were making plans to go on the Bicentennial Wagon Train to Pennsylvania, our Great Uncle Doug said he was glad, because his father, John A., had been a teamster in the Civil War.

John A. told the story of how he and another man were trying to sneak supplies through the enemy lines here in Virginia. They also had a wounded man with them who was trying to get home. They knew that the Yankees were close, so they pulled into some bushes to hide overnight. Grandpa said the bed bugs were so bad in the bed rolls that he got out of the wagon and bedded down in a patch of weeds (pennyroyal). This gave him some relief and he went



Confederate Veterans "Lee-Jackson Day January 1913"



Confederate Veterans, Lexington, Virginia

to sleep. When he woke up, the Yankees had found the wagon and had captured his buddy and the wounded man and killed them.

When the Yankees tried to hook the mule team up they put them on the wrong side of the tongue, and they wouldn't work that way. So they cut the mule's throats, but the knife must have been dull because the mules lived — so Grandpa tied his shirt around their necks to stop the blood, and got away!!

He always said those BED BUGS saved his life!! Submitted by: Albert E. Nicely

## YANKES COME TO ROCKBRIDGE

As Americans, we have been blessed since 1865 by not having a war fought in our own country. Devastation from war causes many hardships on the general population of a country. Such devastation was well known to the residents of Lexington and Rockbridge County during the Civil War.

General Averill had left Charleston on May 1, 1864, arriving in Wytheville on May 10th. His mission was to take out the railroad and leave the Confederates without a good means of transportation. Destroying the railroad as far as Christiansburg, the Union troops headed for Blacksburg where they met up with a troop of Confederate Cavalry. The soldiers were hungry and out of ammunition, they offered to fight the Confederates, but stole away in retreat. The Union soldiers trudged onward, meeting General Crook at Union the next day. They retreated to Lewisburg.

On June 3rd, they marched from Lewisburg toward Staunton. The combined forces of Crook and Averill met up with some Confederates near Warm Springs where they met with a stiff battle. However, the Confederates being outnumbered ten to one were forced to retreat. On the 8th of June, the Confederates had reached Staunton. In this town, the Union troops of Crook and Averill were joined by those of General David Hunter, making them 25,000 strong.

On June 10, 1864, the Confederate Cavalry headed toward Lexington and were unmolested until they reached Middlebrook where they had a skirmish. The Confederates held their own for a while, then retreated on into Rockbridge. Entering Rockbridge, Union troops came up Walkers Creek and Hays Creek. Others came through Brownsburg, Goshen, and Cedar Grove. As the Union troops came across the Rockbridge farms, they stole food and horses from the residents. Local residents were very much alarmed. Children were given horses and meats and told to go hide the food in the woods and conceal the horses from the soldiers. At Brownsburg, David Creigh of Greenbrier was hanged by order of General Hunter. Mr. Creigh was too old to serve in the Army. At his home in Greenbrier, one of the Union soldiers had broken into his home and Creigh had shot the man. Word of this had been received by General Hunter who had sent troops back to arrest Mr. Creigh. He was brought to General Hunter who ordered him hanged on the spot.

On June 11, the Confederate forces of 1,500 Cavalrymen, led by General McCausland, were

driven back to Lexington, having done all they could to hold back the 25,000 Yankees. The Confederates had cut trees across roads, and stationed Cavalrymen behind trees and rocks to act as snipers, in hopes of slowing down the Union Army until reinforcements could arrive. The Cadets at Virginia Military Institute were ordered to arms and lined the bluffs around East Lexington, helping the Confederates to guard the bridge. To further protect the town and slow down the Yankees, the bridge was set afire.

The Union soldiers began shelling Virginia Military Institute, Washington College and Lexington. Shells hit the barracks at Virginia Military Institute and bombarded the streets and houses in the town. Residents hid in their homes or fled town.

General McCausland realized his troops could not hold off the invaders much longer and he ordered the Cadets taken out of Lexington. They were marched to Balcony Falls where they set up camp.

The Union troops crossed the river at Rockbridge Baths and headed to Lexington on the Kerrs Creek road. Upon hearing this news on the 13th, General McCausland had no choice but to order his men to retreat from the town, as they were well outnumbered.

Other Union troops began to erect a bridge to replace the burned one at East Lexington. Some Union soldiers straggled into town and began looting and plundering the homes and the colleges. Virginia Military Institute was particularly despised by the Union. It was known as "the West Point of the Confederacy" and had supplied many officers to the Confederate Army. Throughout the town the Yankees took food, furniture, carpets, mathematical instruments, charts, books, paper, arms, cadet uniforms, and more. At Virginia Military Institute, ladies were told to get out of their houses and take any furniture they chose so their homes could be burned, others (Governor Letcher's wife in particular) were allowed to take nothing out before their homes were torched. At Washington College, little burning was done; however, the lecture rooms were used as stables; looting and vandalism was widespread.

Many people in Lexington fled to the mountains. Some left their wagons parked on the roads and ran for cover. These wagons were found and destroyed by Union soldiers, their contents stolen.

The people who remained in town had to contend with Union soldiers breaking into their houses and taking whatever they chose. If the soldiers couldn't use all of the livestock, they killed the animals and left them lying.

General David Hunter of the Union Army had led this attack on Lexington and Virginia Military Institute. It was not wholeheartedly supported by many other Union officers. Colonel Rutherford B. Hayes, (later President), was along, but not in favor of Hunter's actions.

Government warehouses at Jordan's Point, containing hay and corn to be shipped to Lynchburg were ransacked. Mills and factories were set on fire. Medicine, clothing, bedding, and other supplies were stolen from the hospital. Canal boats were burned, and warehouses, carpenter shops and such along the canal were destroyed.

Matthew X. White, Jr. had been Captain of the First Rockbridge Dragoons early in the war, and later was a private in the Second Rockbridge Artillery. Due to ill health, he was at home when Hunter's troops came to Rockbridge. On June 10, he and some Confederate pickets had shot John Thorn, a Rockbridge man, who was guiding Hunter's Union troops through the county. After having shot Thorn at the toll-gate, Captain White rode into town and had a drink with some of his friends. He told them of the incident. The next day to the surprise of many, two of the men who had been

staying at the hotel for several weeks and were thought to be Confederates, were leading the column of Yankees through the town. These two men were actually Yankee spies. The following morning Capt. White was arrested at his farm, taken through Lexington, and out of town three miles to near the place where John Thorn had been killed. The Union soldiers took him across the river and shot him in the back eight times. It was by accident that an Irishman named O'Brien came upon Capt. White's body. He sought help, but when Dr. James McClung arrived on the scene it was far too late. Capt. White was buried in the Lexington Cemetery.

In the eastern portion of Rockbridge, another troop of Union Cavalry came through White's Gap. They destroyed the Buena Vista Furnace and surrounding buildings. They took eighty men prisoners and confiscated seven hundred horses.

The Confederates had not given up. On June 13, they were camped on Broad Creek and skirmished with Yankees near Fancy Hill. The Confederate Cavalry fell back to Buchanan, burning the bridge across the James River behind them so the Yankees could not cross, but they soon found a ford and waded across the James. The Union Army set many homes and businesses on fire in Buchanan and Botetourt County, also. The Confederates headed over the Blue Ridge, crossing at the Peaks of Otter. They camped that night at Fancy Farm in Bedford County.

On June 14, the last Union soldiers left Lexington. They headed southeast through the county, robbing families of flour, meat, corn, lard, butter, and whatever else they could carry. Horses, hogs, sheep, and cattle were taken or destroyed. Crops were damaged or destroyed, as were farming implements. Union soldiers stated their purpose was to reduce the people of Rockbridge to starvation. They left little livestock, taking all means of transportation from the Confederates as they passed.

Near Natural Bridge, Union scouts spotted deep wagon tracks leading into the woods near Greenlee's Ferry. They approached the camp, attacking the Confederate wagon train. The Confederates held out until they ran out of ammunition and had to surrender.

At Lynchburg, the Confederates had decided that if any Union troops got into town, they would certainly be hurt. The Confederate Cavalry, now reduced to 1,000, held their ground against the 5,000 Cavalry men of the Union until their 20,000 infantrymen showed up. Just in the nick of time, a train whistle blew, and the Confederates knew what this meant. Reinforcements had arrived and General Early's forces were on the scene. As the train came upon the battle, soldiers jumped off and into action, allowing the Cavalry men to withdraw and remount. Hunter's Army retreated the next morning, going back through Buchanan, and on to Salem. At Salem another battle ensued as the Confederates caught up to the Union forces. The Confederates followed the retreating Yankees to the top of Sweet Springs mountain before leaving them. McCausland's troops headed back down the Valley through Lexington, Staunton, Harrisonburg, and Winchester, crossing the Potomac at Shepherdstown. They were on their way to fight at Monocacy.

The people of Rockbridge and Lexington soon began the long, hard work of rebuilding bridges, ferries, canals, and such. Although the people were poor, they generously helped others. Eventually the countryside returned to normal, but not without horrible memories.

*Submitted by: Angela M. Ruley*  
Sources: Driver, Robert J., Jr. *Lexington and Rockbridge County in the Civil War*. Lynchburg, VA: H. E. Howard, Inc., 1989, pp 54-84. Rockbridge County News: *General Hunter's Raid: Story of How General McCausland Held Immense Odds In Check* by J. Scott Moore, 29 June 1899, pp. 1,4. (J. Scott Moore was in the Fourteenth Virginia Cavalry, and was in this entire action.)

## ROCKBRIDGE "HERITAGE 200"

Rockbridge County was organized in the Spring of 1778. The northern part was taken from Augusta County, which had at one time extended to the Mississippi River. The southern part was from Botetourt County, which had been cut from Augusta in 1770.



*Rockbridge, Our Heritage*

In 1978, the celebration was called "Heritage 200" and involved all ages in numerous events. Every school had a program and made projects which were displayed in April, 1978, at the VMI Field House. The picture above shows a Rockbridge frontier wedding, which was part of the drama written by my students, with participants of all ages from the school community. "Rockbridge, Our Heritage" was performed at Rockbridge High School (now RMS) on April 7th. Students who wrote the play were Brenda Goad, Martha Moore, Theresa Eakin, Virginia Clements, Anne Henry, and Martha Clemmer. In this scene, Martha Moore, Brenda Clements, Robert Paxton, and Martha Clemmer witness the wedding with the bride portrayed by Darlene Smith and the groom by D. William Moore. The minister was Mike Bare. While the pictured wedding was "acting", Darlene and William have been married several years now. *Submitted by: Bobbie Sue Henry*

## SOMMERSBY

For some reason or other, people tend to think of the Civil War whenever they visit Lexington. Lexington folks are sometimes accused of being 'stuck in time,' and forever 'reliving history,' especially when they try to get through town at four-thirty on Friday afternoon. But few of us think about Hollywood as we turn left from Washington Street onto Main Street, and look for a parking place — without hitting any future lawyers from W&L, or tourists reading their maps while they cross the street. Lexington as Tinsel-town, a star studded stage? Never think about that!

But for three days in May of 1992 we did. We were discovered, Hollywood found us! Jodi Foster and Richard Gere came and took over the town. The picture company, the actors and 200 'extras' came and they spent 'good' money dressing up our 'stuck in time town'

For those few days, Lexington became Nashville, Tennessee and the time became 1867. Business arrangements were made about a year in advance and the plans laid out carefully. About \$350,000 was spent to create the changes. Trucks came carrying new timber, new this and that, made to make things look like old this and that with paint, make-up, costumes, and hats. Red silk leaves were tied in among the green, so that it looked like fall. Store fronts were changed to read Murphy's Dry Goods, Elias & Sons, Millinery de Rousselot, and one that sold Violas, Cellos, Banjos and Lutes. A jail was built that looked like stone and brick, but was only painted plywood walls, propped up from behind, which the wind roughed up a time or two. The gallows looked plenty real enough.



*Getting Set for Action*

*Sommersby*, a post Civil War story set in the South, was put firmly forever on the silver screen, and partially photographed in Lexington. Forever after we can say, "They were here for three days!" and ... "I saw that movie being filmed in Lexington!"

The final touch was twenty dump truck loads of dirt to cover the streets from Harb's on Washington Street, up and around the corner onto Main Street and down to the First Baptist Church!

On the second and third days, director Jon Amiel, stood up and yelled, "Action!", and a 1860's constable began directing traffic — a horse drawn carriage with a lady holding a parasol and a gentleman in a black top hat went by. "Extras" were stopping in front of store windows, buying flowers from the street vendor, and a troop of blue-coated Yankees came stomping up Main Street! Amiel yelled, "Cut!" and everyone went back to their starting places and did it all over again — and again — whenever he yelled, "Action!!"



*Richard Gere and Friends*

Seemed to be a lot of expense and trouble to go to just for making believe and play acting! You have to look very carefully at the movie to see the scenes it took three days to shoot. Jodi Foster, as Laurel the wife, drove a buggy down Main Street about twenty times, (in the movie it takes about ten seconds) and it looks real, but she wasn't driving horses. A pick-up truck was pulling the buggy and she was just holding the reins! Richard Gere, with handcuffs on looking what else but handsome, rode down the street to jail. The script says he was probably hanged, but he waved and smiled to us as he was driven away in a red Mercury Sable. How do they do that? In Hollywood, anything is possible.

Many of us lined the streets in front of the courthouse and the furniture store on the corner of Washington and Main Street, to watch the action for an hour or all day. Some of us didn't know what was going on or even care — then or now. Some of us, as always, were out of town.

But some of us were in it! Just ask us and we'll tell you. We were right in there with Richard Gere and Jodi Foster and all the hustlers and busters that came along with them. And if you look close enough and quick enough, you can see us! A Gala Preview of the finished movie



was held in the State Theater, ten dollar tickets were sold, and those who had spoken a word or two, walked in the crowd, or sat in the courtroom as 'extras' — Carter McNeese, Michael Gilmore, Bob Lurate, "Buckles" Johnson and Woody McDonald — stood on our real stage and told us what it had been like in 'reel life'.

During the night of the third day, the dirt street was taken away by snowplows. Then they tore down all the store fronts, took away the big clock, the jail and the gallows and we were right back where we had started. The sign on the corner building at Washington and Main is our souvenir.

If you haven't seen Sommersby, and you don't believe this story, go rent it from the video store and get your Kleenex ready. You'll get so caught



Something Old, Something New

up in the action you won't see all our people the first time through. You'll miss our big scenes, miss seeing the dirt covered street, the actor wearing a wrist watch (in 1867?) but then, you can always rewind the tape and look at it again. Which is what we try to do with family history!

Some people in Rockbridge County are probably wondering if there will be a sequel, or Sommersby II. Excitement and commotion like that wouldn't be nearly as exciting twice! Then it wouldn't be history, it would become tradition.

We enjoyed our fifteen seconds of fame and fortune, but we'll just go on doing our acting in real life and real time, even if we are stuck in history. Thanks, Hollywood, for the memory of one Sommersby in May of 1992. Submitted by: Mary Sutton Skutt

## OLD BUSINESSES

### THE COUNTRY STORE

My thoughts often wander back about forty years ago and memory

Refreshes my mind on the gang that used to hang around the Country Store.

They gathered there like the County Fair on Saturday afternoon.

To spin the many yarns about their farms Or hunting the opossum and ring tail coon.

Bro. Jim Brown, the village blacksmith and Wilson Clark

From up near Wide Gap shore could spin 'em tall

With their hand in the cracker barrel and their chairs back against the wall.

And then John Bogar with his checker games they played with all their might

And sometimes their games lasted far into the night.

Old Boy, Salter, Bum, Charlie, Skip, and Claude and Gralee Deacon

With Ole' Nell to the buggy, went shying by

When the above plugs were tied to the hitching post was a sight for a man to see

With heads drooped low, they swayed to and fro like a ship on a stormy sea.

Folks, there's been a lot of changes as father time has marched along,

And one by one the ole' timers are passing to the great beyond.

I suppose in the not too distant future He will call for me to take my space

In Oxford Cemetery and make the Journey o'er. Then I'll see the ole gang, that used to hang around my father's Country Store.

Robert L. Morrison  
Troutville, Virginia

March 6, 1960

Submitted by: Robert Morrison

in 1919, the store was operated until the early 1950's by my uncle, John Hull Morrison. After standing empty for many years, the store was torn down in 1988.

In the early years, the Country Store was well known for its gatherings around a pot bellied stove, for late night story telling, and checker games. I too, have spent much time in the "old store" through the many happy childhood memories of my dad. Submitted by: Robert L. Morrison, Jr.

### DOCK LESLIE'S STORE

Dock Leslie's store was located on Route 11, South of Lexington which later became Mohler's Ham House. Pictured below on the Indian Motor Cycle, Glen Wilson Irvine born 23 January 1928 died 5 June 1949, and William "Herman" Johnson, Jr. born 5 July 1932. Submitted by: Doris Johnson Phillips



### HARPER AND AGNOR INC.

In the large picture, top of next page, (left to right): Hamilton Lee (Ham) Emore born 9 March 1909; William Herman Johnson, Sr. born 7 April 1904 died 27 February 1969; Guy Sensabaugh born 9 April 1902 died 22 December 1985; Will Robert (Bob) Johnson born 9 June 1937; and Henry V. (Billy) Emore born April 1915 died about 25 years ago. This picture was taken about 1953 in the office of Harper & Agnor Inc. on West Nelson Street in Lexington. The store occupied two buildings. The feed store was where The Palms is located at the present time on Nelson Street downtown Lexington. There they sold fertilizer, seed, bags of coal, kindling, and Red Rose Feed, plus many other items. The other building was located where the Washington and Lee Lenfest Center is located at the present. This was called the coal yard. Trains would pull in with cars loaded down with coal which was dumped into a huge pile. The coal was then bagged for sale.

My interview with Ham Emore and his wife Susie Breedlove Emore 7 April 1997 was very pleasant. As I walked through the yards towards the Emore house I got a glimpse of someone out of the corner of my eye. As I turned and looked this gentleman had a gentle smile on his face as he nodded his head. I approached him and said, "Hi!, How are you today?" He didn't answer. I guess he was a little curious as to why I was there. I asked him where I could find Ham or Billy Emore. I told him I was seeking information about this picture which I had in my hand. He took one look at the picture and a huge smile came across his face. He pointed and said, "That's me!" Ham took me inside to meet his wife. Ham told me he drove a delivery truck for Harper & Agnor. Sometimes he had to load and unload the truck. When he didn't drive he helped split wood or bag coal. Ham laughed and said there was always something to do. He couldn't remember when he went to work there but said he worked there for over twenty years. Ham said Guy was a mechanic and he worked on all the vehicles. He remembered my grandfather Herman, and Bob Johnson. They worked in the coal yard most of the time bagging coal, and splitting wood.



Robert "Bob" Johnson

In the smaller picture, Will Robert (Bob) Johnson holds a block of wood on his knee. This picture was also taken about 1953 at the coal yard. Bob was employed for Harper & Agnor Inc. about two years. He worked forty five hours a week at fifty cents an hour. One of his jobs was to split the blocks of wood into kindling. The kindling was then tied into bundles to sell. Submitted by: Doris Johnson Phillips

### JAMES RIVER CEMENT WORKS

This company was established near Balcony Falls in 1848 by Charles Hess Locher. The cement mill was situated on the James River & Kanawha Canal below the mouth of the North River and known as Point Cabell. Hydraulic stone was blasted from quarries upriver,

### THE COUNTRY STORE

(PART 2)

The above was submitted in his father's original handwritten form by Robert L. Morrison, Jr. of Fincastle, in memory of his dad and the store. Robert, Jr.'s grandparents were James Wilson Morrison (b. Dec. 2, d. 1860-May 21, 1919) and Margaret Anna Hull (b. Feb. 3, 1866-d. Dec. 3, 1938) married April 24, 1899. Their children were: John Hull Morrison (b. Nov. 7, 1891-d. Aug. 14, 1951); Carl Davidson (b. Jan. 6, 1894-d. Feb. 14, 1949); Clyde Wilson Morrison (b. Feb. 4, 1896-d. Oct. 22, 1963); Fred Scott Morrison (b. July 27, 1900-d. June 16, 1967); Margaret Frances Morrison (b. April 9, 1906-d. Feb. 24, 1970); and Robert Leech Morrison (b. Dec. 29, 1909-d. Aug. 25, 1995).

The Country Store, known as Morrison and Sons, was erected in the early 1890's at Murat (North Buffalo), first on the East side of Buffalo Creek and was moved by teams of horses and wagons to the West side of Buffalo Creek. After my grandfather's death, during the flu epidemic



Harper and Agner: Left/Right: Hamilton Lee Emore b. 9 March 1909, William "Herman" Johnson Sr. b. 7 April 1904 d. 27 February 1969, Guy Sensabaugh b. 9 April 1902 d. 22 December 1985, Will Robert (Bob) Johnson b. 9 June 1937 and Henry V. (Billy) Emore b. April 1915. Picture taken about 1953 in the office at the coal yard

dumped into boats and carried to kilns where it was broken up by hammers and burnt. Then it was taken to the mill across the canal in cars upon an inclined plane and crushed fine. There the cement was inspected and packed into barrels to be loaded on canal freight boats.

From the beginning of the cement works to 1852, the canal company consumed all cement made by the company. Mr. Locher leased the cement mill from the canal company. The old mill was replaced in 1853 by a reputable mechanic and bridge builder named Hazael Williams, Sr. of Amherst. Locher's plant employed about 150 men in 1854 and produced between 1200 and 1500 bushels of cement a day. Ten to twelve boats conveyed the cement to market while the kilns consumed 1000 to 1500 tons of stone coal from Richmond.

During the Civil war, Charles Locher served in the quartermaster department and afterwards contracted to construct a new dam below the old Blue Ridge Dam. The 1870 flood heavily damaged the mill and washed away Mr. Locher's residence. Harry & Eben Locher took over the cement business after the war and managed it well until 1907. Their brother, Charles Hunter Locher, then began the Locher Brick Co. Submitted and Written by: Doug MacLeod Sources: *History of Virginia*, vol. 6, p. 317 Bruce; *Lexington Gazette* 4/6/1854

## THE MANGUS STORE

The story of the Mangus Store begins in 1904, when the partnership of C. B. and S. D. Mangus was formed. The partnership consisted of C. Byrd Mangus, a prominent local merchant, and his nephew, Sydney Daniel Mangus, who had just moved to Vesuvius the previous year, to help his uncle out. In 1910 they purchased the property which is now the site of the Vesuvius post office. In 1916 Sydney was appointed postmaster, and in 1919 they erected a large store building on the property. This was a general store, which sold everything from groceries to farm goods and furniture. It had a post office, a private office for Sydney, and later, a barber shop. At the time, Sydney was very prominent in local affairs. He was a very active member of Vesuvius Baptist Church, serving as church treasurer, Sunday School Superintendent, deacon and trustee. He also served as Vice President (1914-1918) of the Interdenominational Sunday School Association for South River District, and President (1919-20) of the County Sunday School Association. In 1932 Sydney ran the store while C. Byrd traveled. In November his clerk, G. D. Secrist, left him because of political differences, and was replaced by Max Seaman. C. Byrd died in 1934, and in 1946 Sydney was

ready to retire. He sold the store to his clerk, Clarence Cash, but helped out until about 1953. Clarence took over the postmastership about 1948 and in 1949 Sydney had retired from active life. In 1953 he died, ending an influential life. Submitted by: Lois Jean Ponton



Model of the Mangus Store

Sources: Interviews with C. T. Cash and Mrs. Helen Berkstresser; My Vesuvius history collection (including unpublished book containing information originally gathered by Mrs. Lillian Cash); Mangus Family information sent to me by Sydney's niece, Geraldine M. Obenshain of Buchanan, Va.

## NATURAL BRIDGE GENERAL STORE

Natural Bridge General Store sits on the intersection of Route 130 and 608. The original 94 acre tract was owned by Natural Bridge Park Company.

The center section of the store was built around 1896 to be used as tomato canner. Buck Smith and his family operated the cannery and grew tomatoes on the hillside behind the building. In 1903 the property was purchased by Rachel Johnson.

A Mr. Gilliam was the first person to keep a store in the building and then Mr. Paulette. By this time several "wings" had been added and there was a four room apartment across the back. Some of the families that lived in it were the Jack Manspiles, the John Millers and Evan Thompsons.

The next owner was Rebecca Barger who sold it to Morris and Robert Stoner on September 6, 1938. Robert bought out Morris and the store became known as "Robert Stoner's". He was a rather large man and quite outgoing. Besides groceries, feed, and the usual store items he sold second hand furniture. In the summertime he would cut watermelons for customers who had gathered there. Many people brought butter, eggs and chickens to pay for items such as sugar and matches.

Lewis Alphin owned the property for a while with Henry Gagnor managing the business. Evans Thompson worked here and remembers laying sacks of feed on the fender of Model T's for customers. A barber shop was put in a room at the back. Pence Lotts and Freddie Potter were two of the barbers there.



Natural Bridge General Store, 1988

On May 3, 1952, Jim Fainter purchased the property from Mr. Alphin. Jim West, his brother-in-law, ran the Rockbridge General Store with the help of Evans Thompson and later Jim's son Jeff West. After Mr. West's death the store was closed up to go out of business, when Marshall and LeVonne Flint bought it on September 16, 1987. By having fishing and hunting licenses added to the format of the business, the Natural Bridge General Store, Home of the Catfish Contest continues on with us and our faithful employees, Don Flint, our nephew, and Rosita Lane. Submitted by: LeVonne J. Flint

## SOUTH RIVER LUMBER COMPANY

The history of the South River Lumber Company at Cornwall, Rockbridge County, Virginia must begin with a few words about its parent company, the Whitmer-Steele lumber companies of Pennsylvania. When the South River Lumber Company was formed in March of 1916, the Whitmer-Steele companies had all but exhausted timberlands in Pennsylvania, Maryland and West Virginia. What timberland remained in these three states was either insignificant or owned by companies already established.

This part of Virginia with remaining timber straddled the Blue Ridge Parkway and was located in Rockbridge, Amherst, and Nelson Counties not far from Buena Vista. Today this area is a large part of the George Washington National Forest. The property was near that owned by the Buena Vista Extract Co., whose sole interest was the production of chemicals, especially for the tanning industry. Gathering tan bark was an important occupation for many local residents during these years. The extract company had not extended its railway spurs and tan bark business into all of their holdings. The timberland was ready for harvest. It was estimated to contain 60% chestnut, 10% yellow poplar, and the rest was oak and soft woods.

Under the laws of Virginia the South River Lumber Company was incorporated on March 27, 1916. The \$10,000 stock was held by three groups, William Whitmer and Sons, Whitmer-Steele, and White Deer Lumber. Charles Steele and Harry Steele were president and treasurer, respectively. Men and equipment were brought from Pennsylvania to begin the logging operation.

Before logging could begin, the railroad was needed to transport the timber out of the forest and to the Norfolk and Western Railroad. The Irish Creek Railway was an early and short-lived corporation. Its spurs reached from the mill at Cornwall to the Irish Creek settlement, and then to the top of Painter Mountain, from which branches traveled in all directions.

The South River Lumber Company employed many local men who commuted daily to their work. There were others who needed housing,

so two large boarding houses and 18 company homes were built for their convenience. Some camps were operated for single men. Cornwall was not considered a 'company town' because businesses and residences were already in existence in 1916.

Lumber employees from White Deer, Pennsylvania were sent to Cornwall to supervise the construction and initial operation of the logging company. Elmer Crissman was supervisor, Robert Crissman was mill foreman, sawyers were Fred and Howard Crissman, and H. C. Raup brought horses and equipment. Others who came early on were James Badger, Ashley Badger, Marice Troutman and William Douty. Equipment was brought from other locations outside Virginia by the parent company. This equipment had to be dismantled, shipped to Cornwall, and reassembled. Some of the equipment included locomotives, log loaders and other mill equipment. The one new piece of railroad equipment was a velocipede, a 3-wheeled track bicycle. Much of the equipment proved unsatisfactory and was either returned or left to rust.

An early problem was grading the granite road beds, which required expensive dynamite. The men were accustomed to easily grading the shale and sandstone of Pennsylvania with black powder and hand tools. An early grading contractor, Mr. Latschaw, asked to be relieved of the contract because he was going broke.



Cornwall Mill

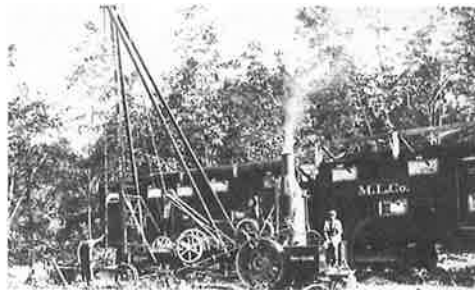
It was necessary to build eight bridges to cross Irish Creek from Cornwall to Nettle Creek. This added greatly to construction costs. Logging continued, although not at the pace and profit the company originally expected.

By 1920 the logging operations increased, partly because the First World War was over and younger men were available for work. Many of the older men from Pennsylvania returned home. One who was induced to return was Elmer Crissman, superintendent. He returned to Pennsylvania, via the Norfolk and Western Railroad, every two weeks for the weekend. When he died at Cornwall about 1937 his body was shipped back home to Pennsylvania on the N&W Passenger train #14. His friends had a brief service before the train pulled out of Cornwall. George Wesley Swanson was named superintendent to replace him. One tragedy was the death of Charles Floyd, Cornwall engineer, who was crushed by a runaway train in August of 1924.

The loading crews and tong hookers were at times a rough, ready and jolly bunch. Two tong hookers once hooked a large chestnut stump and signalled for the loaderman to start. He tried in vain, and probably never knew he had been hooked to the stump. The loaders and hookers often carried pistols for signaling and for killing the many snakes found in the woods.

By 1925 few Pennsylvania men remained at Cornwall. Bob Crissman left and returned and William Douty bought a farm here. They became part of the local community and have descendants who can be proud of their contribution to the logging industry at Cornwall.

Production was in full swing by 1925. Four locomotives were running and another was ordered. It is believed the new locomotive and its engineer, Elmer Clevenger, came from Fulton County, Pennsylvania. The new locomotive and its nine cars cost \$3,750. The logging business



Train at South River

was returning a profit until the chestnut blight hit, reducing the value of the timber.

Besides the chestnut blight, equipment began to wear out and the Great Depression was in force by 1930. This all signaled tragedy for the South River Lumber Company. The Cornwall lumberyard had 13 million feet of stacked lumber and no market. Operations declined and some engines were retired as early as 1932. Minor lumbering continued until September 1938 in the Crabtree Falls and Montebello areas. The mill was closed and the railroad was dismantled almost to the Cornwall sawmill. The lumber on hand was sold at a loss. Coal mines bought some of the valuable chestnut boards for plank and shoring. Today its value would be great.

A company in South America bought the mill machinery and hired Horace Crissman to erect a mill there in 1940. The sorting shed was dismantled and shipped to Clinton County, Pennsylvania in 1941. The only locomotive to leave Cornwall in serviceable condition was sold for \$850. The other locomotives were cut up for scrap. The timberlands were sold mostly to the Fitzgerald Lumber Company and then to the Atlantic Lumber Company. Finally, they became property of the National Park Service. Local people and employees bought the company store, boarding houses and homes.

Many local families can be remembered for their employment with the South River Lumber Company. Although men from Pennsylvania were the first to work the lumber company, in the end local men ran the company. Some local family names were Clark, Cash, Terry, Lilly and Lawhorne. Two company engineers, William P. and James N. Lawhorne, purchased company houses and continued to live in Cornwall.

About the only remains of the South River Lumber Company are the abandoned roadbeds in the forest. Today some are used for recreation roads, hunting trails and fire lanes. If the silent forest could talk, it would speak of the mighty chestnut trees, the logging machinery, and the strong men who roamed and walked its lands. *Submitted by:*

*Ruby Leighton and prepared by: Ruby Leighton*  
Source: Kine, Benjamin F. G., Jr. *Wild Catting on the Mountain. The History of the Whitmer and Steele Lumber Companies* Book number 2 in a series, *Logging Railroad Era of Lumbering in Pennsylvania*. Lancaster: 1970, pp 251-256.

## TODD'S DRUGSTORE

On February 1, 1946, William Wayt King Todd, Sr. opened his drugstore in Glasgow, Virginia. Located on McCulloch St., the two story building previously housed Roy Martin's store. Although Mr. Martin had operated a soda fountain and sold patent medicines, Todd's arrival ushered in a new era in Glasgow. According to Jim Bud Watts, Todd's Drugstore was the first registered pharmacy in town.

Wayt Todd had received his pharmacy degree from the Medical College of Virginia in 1930. Following graduation, he continually searched for a place to open his drugstore. After working in pharmacies in Buchanan, Hillsville and Richmond, he stumbled across Glasgow while a representative with the Eli Lilly Company. A native of Staunton, Virginia, he had traveled the entire state before coming back to the Shenandoah Valley.

In Glasgow, Wayt Todd found the opportunity

to serve the community. A customer entering the store would likely find some of the "regulars", "Mert" Waugh, Manson Massie, Richard "Pat" Patterson, and Dick Brown, sitting at the counter or at the tables in the front of the store. Affectionately known as "Doc", Todd would be in back, filling prescriptions and mixing his medicines. He developed cold capsules, "Todd's Cough Syrup," and a mange remedy. (An accomplished horseman and avid fox hunter, he gladly treated animals with his medicines.)



Portrait of Todd's Drugstore

Through the years, Claudine Roberts, Loyd "Wootsie" Glenn, Jr., Edison Birmingham, and Edna (Mrs. Wayt) Todd worked in the drugstore. But it was Virginia Trevey, a longtime employee, who would probably be behind the soda fountain. The ornate mirror opposite the marble counter gave anyone who perched on the red stools a view of the goods offered.

"Doc" Todd strived to meet his customers' needs. Health and hygiene products, patent medicines, candy and magazines were sold. Beer, wine, jewelry and school products could also be purchased there. When the Todd family lived over the drugstore, the store was open during the evening and deliveries were made.

After Wayt Todd's death on April 26, 1970, the drugstore closed and an era came to an end. For over twenty years, it had been the only pharmacy in Glasgow. After twenty-four years of service, Todd's Drugstore had earned a distinguished place in Glasgow history. *Submitted by: Edna Todd and Prepared by: Barbara Slough and Edna Todd.*

## TODD'S FOODETTE

From 1973 until 1978, Edna (Mrs. Wayt) Todd and her son Bill Todd, Jr. owned and operated a store out of the former Todd's Drugstore building. Although the pharmacy had been sold, Todd's Foodette offered many of the same services as the drugstore.

The old bench remained on the front porch and tables and chairs still occupied the front of the store. As in years past, the red stools twirled temptingly at the soda fountain and the mirror reflected a variety of goods. Groceries, newspapers, and other miscellaneous items could be purchased.

Although much remained the same, there were some differences. The workers behind the counter had changed with the business. In addition to Edna and Bill Todd, Beryl Thomas, Madeline Ogden, and Leigh (Mrs. Bill) Todd worked there.

Another difference was the luncheonette. The soda fountain still served up milkshakes and Cherry Cokes; but it also doubled as a lunch counter. Foods such as homemade vegetable soup and brown beans would nourish the hungriest diner. On hot summer days, chicken salad and other cold plate meals were prepared. The foodette's food, service, and location made it a favorite lunch time retreat of James Lees & Sons' employees.

In 1978, a final change came to the business. Todd's Foodette closed and the building was sold. The building remains, but an apartment now occupies the space that served so many Glasgow and Rockbridge families. With its five years of operation, Todd's Foodette had continued Wayt Todd's tradition of service to the community. *Submitted by: Edna Todd and Prepared by: Barbara Slough and Edna Todd.*

# OLD PHOTOS



*Tankersly House*



*Robert E. Lee Hotel, Lexington, Virginia*



*Jefferson College, Natural Bridge Hotel*



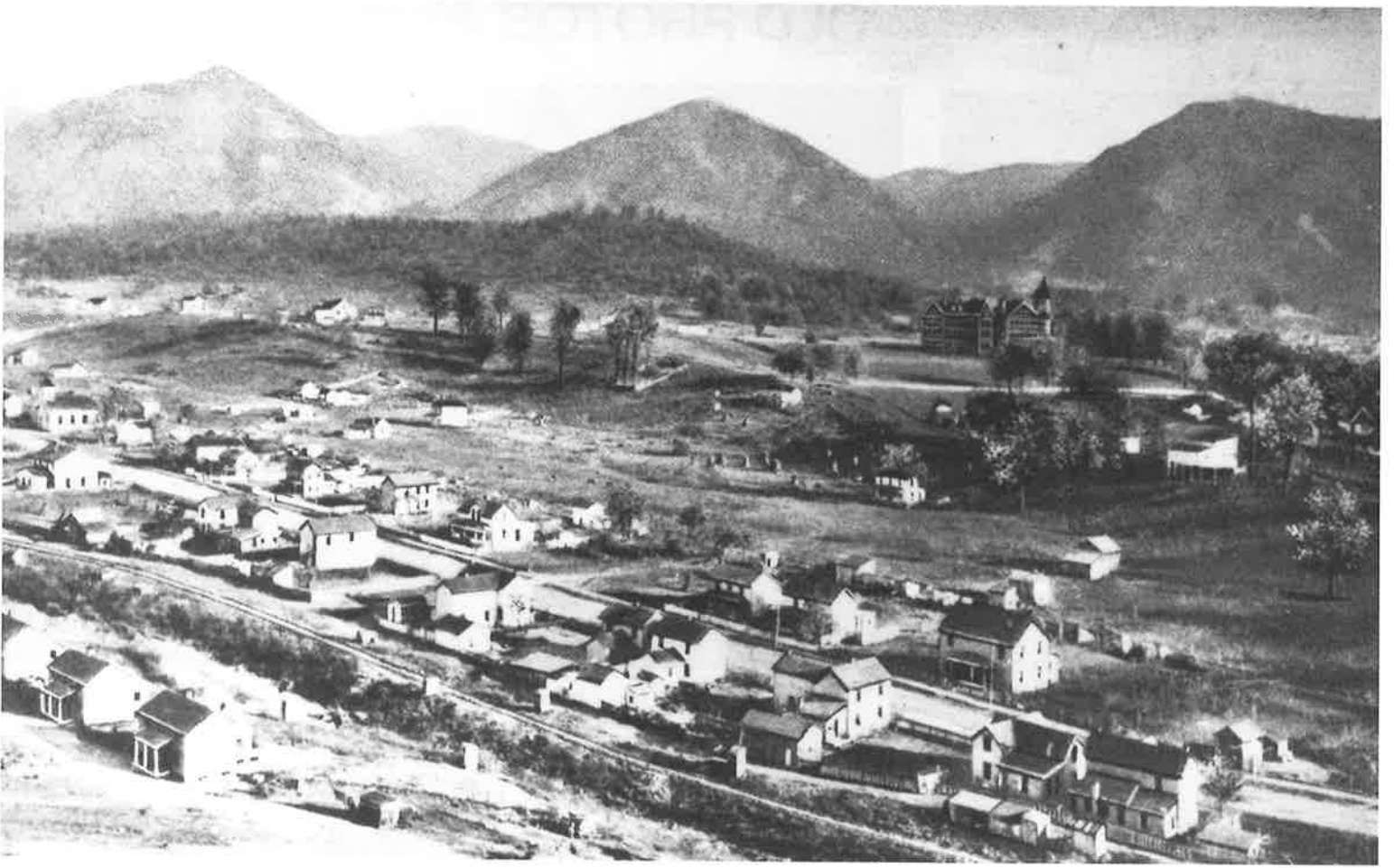
*Phil Nunn "Old Dixie"*



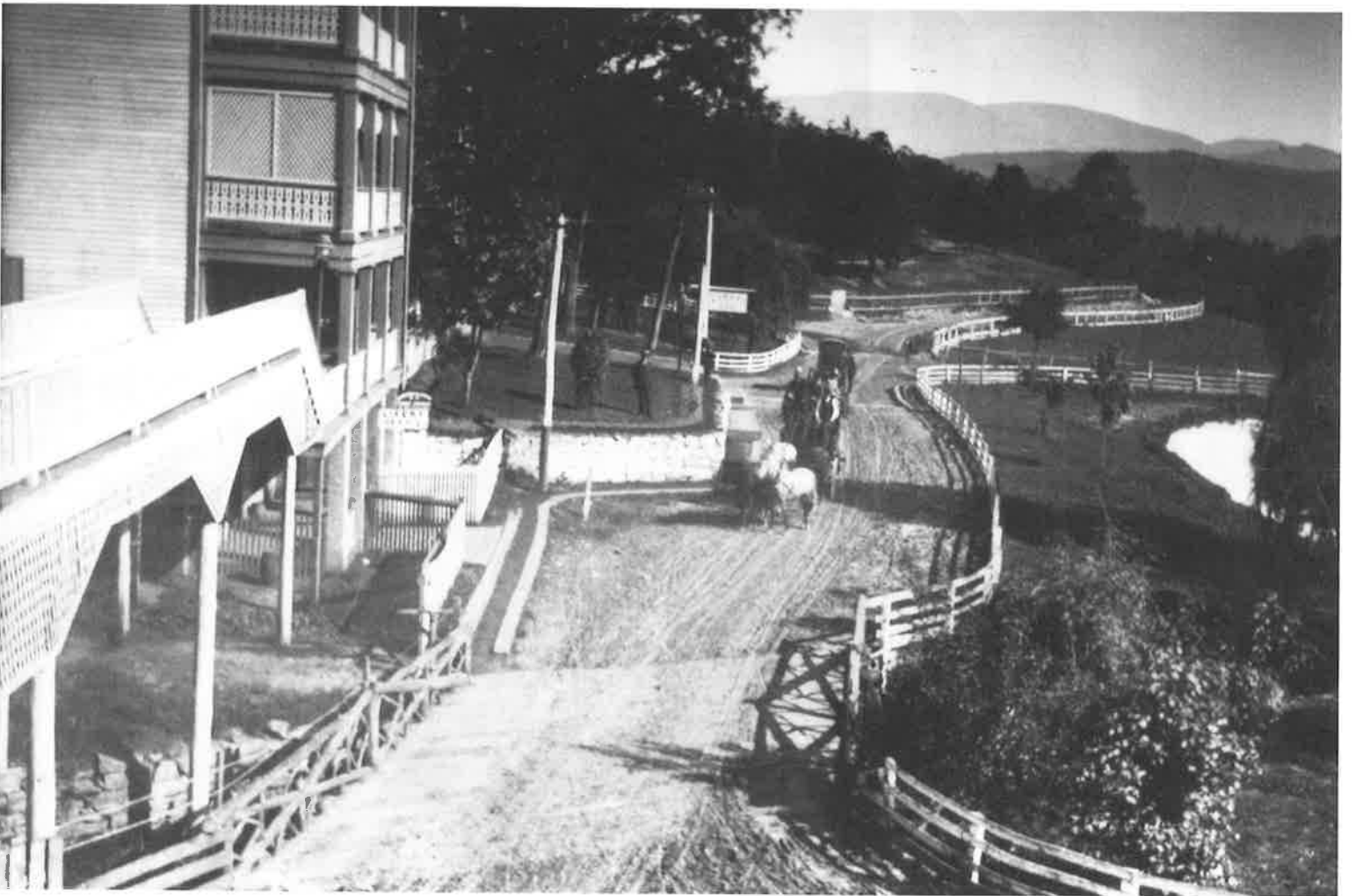
*Dutch Inn, Lexington, Virginia*



*Natural Bridge Hotel with buggy*



*View of Buena Vista, Virginia*



*Forest Inn, Natural Bridge. Stagecoach bringing guests*



*The Mayflower Inn, c1935*



*Mill Creek Indian Fort*



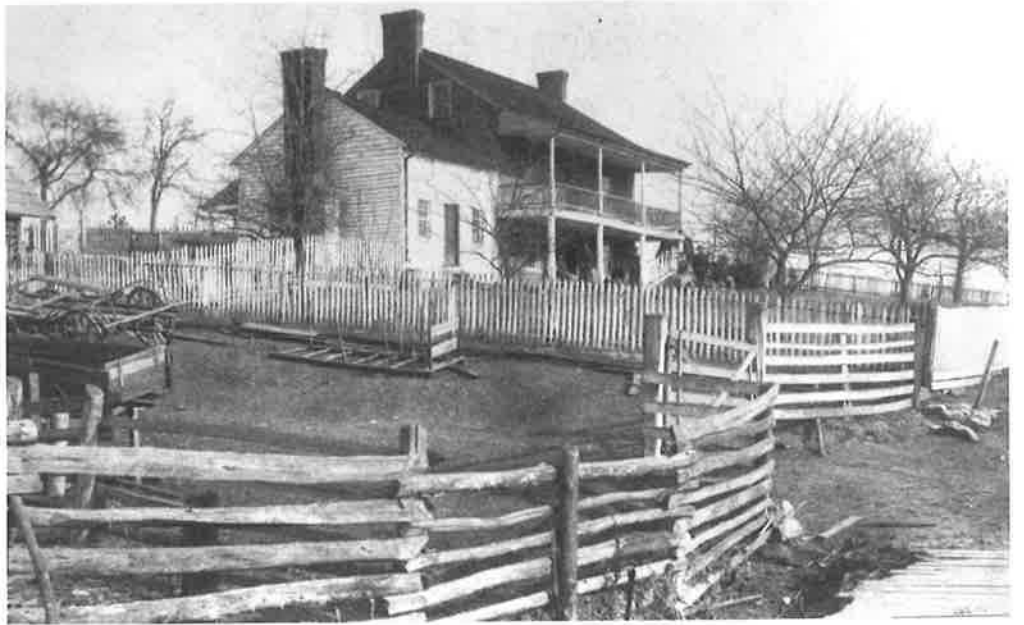
*House on the "Island", East Lexington, 1932*



*Mayola Dykes, Teacher in Natural Bridge Community*



*Plane at Rockbridge Baths, Virginia, late 1920's or early 1930's, landing viewed by Fred Snider*



*The Ackerly Home on Plank Road*



*Little Inn near Natural Bridge, Virginia*



*Castle Hill, Lexington, Virginia*



First National Bank, Lexington, Virginia. Unidentified ladies on steps.



Little Martha in front of the Greenlee House, Arnold's Valley. [Martha (Reynolds) Watkins].

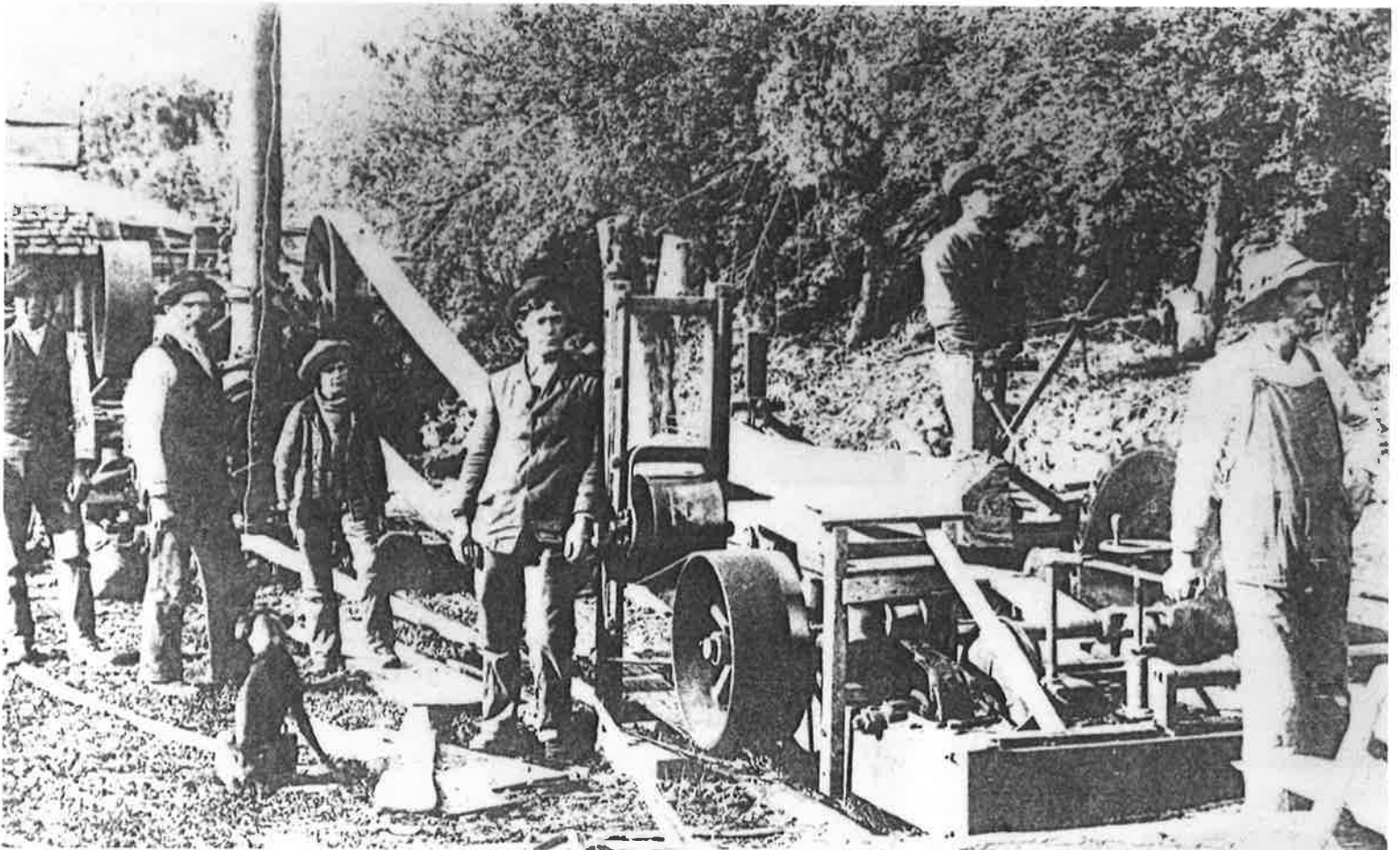


JOHN JOHNSON'S STORE and GULF GAS STATION  
Kate Johnson and grandchild

John Johnson's Store and Gulf Station, Arnold's Valley, Virginia



Glasgow House and Jordan House, Main Street, Lexington, Virginia



A Plank Road sawmill (left to right) Elmer Manspile, William A. Mohler, John Worth, Tom Worth, Frank Brownlee, James F. Mohler.