History Of Quakertown Community
Wood Co, WV 1887
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1887

Wood County, West Virginia

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Order from:
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It was unfortunate for the British soldiers that the act which settled the land of West Augusta (now West Va.) upon them was not more specific in its provisions. This oversight left the country open to the many patent speculations which followed and the consequent disputes and litigations. George Washington was the only man that made the necessary effort and succeeded in establishing a claim in all this expanse of military land.

The neighborhood to which our history will be confined embraces the whole of Thomas Jett's northeast survey and parts of P. Misner's, Wilson's and John Stokeley's survey, including also Blennerhassett's Island. The earliest settlement within the neighborhood of which we have any authentic account was made by John Wood, about the year 1780. Mr. Wood was a hunter, and about the time mentioned built a cabin on what is at this time a part of Mr. Samuel Romine's farm. It stood southwest of Mr. Romine's present residence, near a famous spring which bears the old hunter's name. He cleared away the native forest from around his cabin home and set out a peach orchard, which supplied fruit to succeeding accessions to the neighborhood for many years. Mr. Thomas Romine, a native pomologist, obtained here the pits from which he grew the trees which added to the attractions of the orchard which in after years made his homestead famous. The occupancy of this cabin was succeeded to by Mr. Geo. Gandy, whose daughter Polly was married here to Andrew Vanlara.

In 1816 Eliphet Dudley, a Quaker, from whose religious creed this neighborhood was afterward named, and Peter Romine located in the neighborhood. Mr. Dudley was a native of Maine and a carpenter by occupation. He bought one hundred acres from Thomas Jett, then living in Marietta, O., the same that is now occupied by Samuel Romine. He built on the brow of the hill south of Mr. Romine's dwelling, and split and hewed out puncheons for a barn built after the fashion of our modern frames.

He cleared up the land and planted a number of fruit trees. He was not a farmer and could not even harness a horse, but his kind and obliging disposition drew to his support the hearts and hands of all who knew him. He was educated and refined, as is evinced by the fact that one daughter and two sons were teachers.
His genuine Quaker principles took form in the organization of the neigh­
borhood, now enriched by the addition of several new families, into a Christian
brotherhood for the relief of the sick, poor and needy, and the many good
offices of this organization are still gratefully remembered by the survivors
of the plague which prevailed in 1822. He had two daughters, Joanna and
Lucinda, and three sons, James, John and Asa. Joanna taught the first school
in the neighborhood in a part of their dwelling. John was engaged in marriage
to Miss Theresa Neal, but owing to ill health he released her from the engage­
ment, and afterwards witnessed her union with Edward Tracewell. Asa was
preceptor to our worthy citizens, the Messrs. Romine.

Death visited Mr. Dudley's Quakertown home, and the remains of his wife
and two sons, James and John, rest in the Maddox family burial ground. He
sold out to Samuel Romine in 1830 and left the country.

Samuel Romine entered the neighborhood with his parents in 1816 and applied
himself to the cooper trade with his father. In 1830 he bought for $300 cash
Eliphet Dudley's farm, on which he located in December 1833, when he married
Miss Marinda Bridges. Six years later he bought 100 acres of the Wilson survey
from J Harwood, sr., agent for Charles P. Bailey, who was then living in the
West. For this he paid $250. He built a comfortable dwelling in 1828 to which he
made a substantial addition in 1861. In 1854 he erected the largest frame barn
in the neighborhood.

He has been a member of the Baptist church from an early date, and he was
one of the leading spirits in organizing the present prosperous Bethel church.
In his boyhood he was a pupil of Asa Dudley, who taught him arithmetic from a
manuscript copy which he still has.

His wife died in July, 1854. The fruit of this marriage was four sons-
William W., Maleleel O., Adelbert S. and David I., and five daughters-Rachel,
Therissa, Ethel, Juliette and Emma. In Sept. 1859 he married Miss Margarite C.
Calvert, who died the June following. Just two years after this he married
Miss G. L. Dewey, by whom he had one son-Samuel F.

Mr. Romine espoused the cause of the Federal party in the late civil
contest, and furnished one soldier to the loyal ranks. This circumstance,
together with the fact that he had filled positions of distinction in the church
and Sabbath school for many years, designated him as a proper person to fill
the office of district treasurer for Lubeck district under the re-organized
Government of the new State, and he was accordingly elected to that position.
He was succeeded in this office by Benjamin Robinson, at his own suggestion, while prostrated by a hopeless affliction.

In 1876 he took into his household Lafayette Rush, a destitute boy, who lived in the family two years.

Wm. W. lived at home till 1868, when he went west and spent ten years, since which time he has been at home. Maleleel O. spent two years-1862 to 1864- in the Government service. Before and since he has been a faithful son at home. Adelbert S. left home in 1876, and has since been engaged in business in Parkersburg. David I. went to Jackson county in 1863. Rachel married W. A. Haislep in January, 1855; Therissa, M. W. Williams, June 1869; Juliette, S. S. Hazen, February, 1866; Emma, G. B. Dewey, September, 1866.

Of these last, Mrs. Haislep lives in the neighborhood, Mrs. Hazen in Parkersburg, and the other two in the far west.

At this time (March, 1887), Mr. Romine is 81 years old, enjoys fair health and a clear mind, is surrounded by all the comforts of life and the company of his remaining family, five in number, and his elder brother, Joseph, who has lived with him the last two years.

(NOTE:-Persons feeling an interest in the continuance of this history will please procure such items of interest as they can obtain and deliver the same when called on by the writer.)


       Wednesday, March 16, 1887
       Page 3, Columns 3 and 4
At the time Messrs. Dudley and Romine settled here the principal land office was at Clarksburg, notwithstanding the county of Wood had been formed out of Harrison seventeen years before. Parkersburg consisted of two small frame buildings, one brick, a court house and a number of log cabins. The modern conveniences of milling were unknown. A corn mill, built on what is now Michael Doyle's farm, was operated during freshets in Neal's run by Andrew Vanlara. Coolville and Marietta were the nearest points to get wheat ground, and in consequence the want of bread was a common privation. Game was plentiful in the country—bears, deer and turkeys; while wolves and wild cats added their terrors to the almost unbroken wilds. There were no Indians, but their trails were all visible and remained so for many years afterward.

Peter Romine was of Dutch descent, and came from the Shenandoah Valley to this part of the State several years before he settled in this neighborhood. He was a cooper by occupation and his choice of this location was determined by the abundance of superior timber in the native forests. He bought one hundred acres of Thomas Jett, but owing to financial difficulties, in which the latter had become involved, Mr. Romine refused payment, whereupon Mr. Jett relinquished his claims and gave Mr. Romine his papers. As stated in my introduction, there were disputes and suits at law between claimants under these patents and squatters, but this difficulty was settled in 1822 by act of Legislature.

Mr. Romine's purchase embraced Geo. R. Romine's present survey and the land included by an extension of his parallel North-and-South lines to the Ohio river. He built Northeast of Thomas Romine's present residence; the latter he built in 1829, and at that time it was the most pretentious dwelling in the neighborhood. It was roofed with shingles, and part of the material used in its construction was cut out with a whip saw. He burned on his farm the brick used in the chimney and supplied his neighbors. Three years later the house was provided with an addition, which was removed by Thos. Romine in 1865.

His wife was a sister to Thomas Maddox, and his family on entering the neighborhood consisted of eight members, including a sister—Aunt Rachel. Two more children were born to him here—Thomas and Mary.
Barrels were in good demand, as grain was then shipped in barrels, and George Neal, sr., before the days of much steam navigation, shipped a great many of Mr. Romine's manufacture in keel boats for the use of the Charleston salt works.

Mr. Romine was a progressive man, and while he cultivated the arts and ministered to the comforts of his fellows, had an eye to their spiritual needs. He was not a church member, but encouraged the church and church work, and to this end frequently drove for miles to bring ministers into the neighborhood, whom he entertained at his own house, which he threw open for public service before there was a church edifice in the vicinity. Among the ministers thus introduced were J. Dale, R. Burkley, G. Sedwirk, H. Gier, A. Darrell, J. Bradley and others. About this time he united with the Baptist church, and was instrumental afterward in having a hewed log church built on his own place, the material in which was subsequently moved and reconstructed into a barn now used by Thomas Romine.

In 1822 he and his brother-in-law, Thomas Maddox, erected a horse-mill and distillery, where they made pure spirits, the moderate use of which was not considered contrary to the principles of Christian discipline, and accordingly ministers partook of spirits in the pulpit in the presence of their congregations. During the three years that this enterprise was conducted a plague broke out in the neighborhood which destroyed a great many. James Scott, an elderly English sailor and school teacher, and his family, while prostrated with this disease, were moved into the neighborhood, Mr. Romine caring for a part of them. It was believed that the internal and external use of the product of this distillery was the means of restoring many from the extreme prostration supervening upon the subsidence of the fever.

In 1826 he took his aged father-in-law, Matthew Maddox, a pensioned soldier, into his care until his death in 1831.

About 1853 he sold to Peter Devlin, of Parkersburg, that part of his farm lying north of the Ridge road. By will he left the homestead to his son, Thomas, with provisions for the benefit of his sister, Rachel, and daughter, Mary.

His wife died July 1st, 1858, aged 82 years, and he died January 2d, 1860, aged 83. Their remains rest in the Bethel cemetery.

Peter Romine was the father of nine children, two of whom died in infancy. The names, date and order of birth of the survivors will be inserted here, in conformity with the plan of this essay. Their history will be found elsewhere. 1st-Joseph, born January, 1802; 2d-Rozel, born in 1803, died in middle life out of the neighborhood; 4th-Samuel, born March, 1807; Matilda, born February,
1811; she married Solomon Buffington in 1838 and moved to Jackson county; James, born February, 1813; Thomas, born in the neighborhood, May, 1815; Mary, born here, October, 1821. Aunt Rachel lived with her brother until his death, and after that with Samuel Romine until her death in April, 1874. Mary at the same time took up her home with her brother, James, where she now lives.

Thomas Romine succeeded his father in the occupancy of this farm. Being the youngest son of a large family, he was assigned the duties of general roustabout, and learned no trade. He married Ann M. Rolan, October 15th, 1840, and located on a wild farm of 116 acres, bought of John Harwood, sr., agent for Charles P. Bailey, for $232. He built a primitive house and cleared away the native forest, and at an early date set out an orchard comprising the largest collection of the choicest fruits in the country. The second year he enriched his improvements by the addition of a barn. Five children were born to him here—two sons and three daughters. His wife died Sept. 29th, 1850, and in consequence of embarrassments resulting from two years of sickness in his family he sold his farm to K. S. Boreman, of Parkersburg, for which he realized $750. After this he made his home with his father until 1855, when he married Mrs. Hannah Mitchell, who had a daughter—Martha A. and moved on the property now occupied by Hebrank & Rapp's brewery. This he sold to the latter gentleman after two years' occupancy and moved to the Bartlett farm on the Narrows, where he spent one season. The next winter he lived in the Crawford house, since destroyed, and left the river in the spring, locating temporarily in a log house on the east line of Samuel Romine's second purchase. This house was built in the place of one erected about 1848 for Rozel Romine's widow, and burnt about 1856 and replaced immediately for her benefit by neighborhood donations, by the one referred to.

The latter was occupied by Mr. Winon in 1861, and also by W. A. Haislip when first married. It was pulled down a few years since.

In 1860 Mr. Romine moved from this house to the old homestead, where he collected his surviving single children, three in number—Matthew, Geo. R. and Eliza J. His oldest daughter, Mary F., married Warren White, of Pond Creek, in 1859. The boys enlisted in the Confederate service at the breaking out of the war. Eliza went to Wirt county in 1865. Matthew returned to the neighborhood at the close of the war and soon after moved West. His wife's daughter married Bent Maddox, July 1865. He sold forty acres of the farm to Lewis Robbins in 1866, set an orchard on the remainder and made substantial
improvements on his house. In 1876 he transferred the remainder of the homestead to his son, George Rolan.

Mr. Romine is a member of the Baptist church and in politics a war Democrat. For several years he and his wife have lived alone. He has a noble heart and a clear mind, and is better posted in the early history of this vicinity than any other known person.

Lewis Robbins bought 40 acres of the Peter Romine farm in 1866 for $500, mostly in trade. He transferred to it a log house from the Thomas Romine farm, in which he lived till 1869, when he erected a comfortable frame. In 1868 he set 60 apple trees, and in 1875, 987 peach trees, followed by 200 apple trees more the next season. In 1872 he built a frame bank barn. In this year his sister-in-law, Miss Maggie Hazen, entered his family and remained eleven years. In 1880 he bought 100 acres on the west border of the neighborhood for $1,200. He received a pension as a Federal soldier in 1884, and still draws $8 per month. Miss M. M. Cooper, aged 14 years entered the family in Sept. 1885. On entering the neighborhood Mr. Robbin's family consisted of a wife and three sons—Sela H., Lewis S. and Chas. T., and one daughter, Mary V., who married J. D. Rapp in February, 1867. Sela taught school six years in Ohio, and went to Indiana in 1878. Lewis went to Illinois in 1880. Chas. lives at home.

Source for #2 The Quakertown Series: Daily State Journal, Parkersburg, W. Va. Tuesday, March 22, 1887 Page 3, Columns 3, 4 and 5
THE NARROWS

Article Number Three of the Quakertown Series

The Col. Johnson, Samuel Romine, Charley Bailey and other Farms in that Region with a Full History of "The Narrows"

For the State Journal - THIRD PAPER--THE "NARROWS."

The Narrows embrace a narrow strip of level or undulating land lying between the river bed and the abrupt hills, but the lines of the owners of this extend to the top of the hill, the Ridge road being their southern boundary. This land in its native state was covered with a heavy growth of timber—oak, beech and sugar. In former times wood was the only fuel used by the steamboats that plied upon the Ohio, and the woodchopper's occupation was an important one. Wm. Hutchinson used to keep a floating wood yard over at Cedarville, and handled that commodity in immense quantities. Boats in need of fuel would lash to a loaded barge and take on a supply while pursuing their course, cutting loose when supplied. The hands attending the barge would then pull her to shore, and await the next returning packet to tow her back while taking on her supply.

Primitive steamboats were clumsy affairs. The Captain stood at the bow and signaled to the pilot at the sweep, instructing him to turn right or left to follow the meandering of the channel. The first boat of any pretension that our citizens remember was named "Velocipede."

THE BARTLETT FARM.

The Bartlett farm lying in the Stokely survey, and constituting the eastern extremity of our limits, is a historic gem which has never been polished. It was the site of an Indian village in remote ages, and since the scene of a civilization lost in time. Evidence of the former is found in the presence of Indian implements of flint and an ancient burial ground, and of the latter in that of ruins of houses and that the fact that our fathers found a bearing orchard of apples and peaches here over sixty years ago. Our county history records the settlement of Peter Mixner above and Jno. Armstrong below this place in 1794, and speaks of their finding cleared lands.

It was for the protection of such pioneer settlements that the blockhouse was erected on the island in 1793.

Daniel Bartlett, sr., moved to this place about 1820. He found a vacant house which he moved up to the foot of the hill and built an addition
to it. This is supposed to be the same house afterward occupied by Thos. Hutchinson and later by Jas. Scott, the school teacher, who with his family, was moved from here and cared for by the Quaker benevolent association during the plague which broke out in 1822 and lasted three or four years.

Geo. Bartlett, a combmaker, seems to have been the first purchaser of this tract. He had it conveyed to his son, Reuben. He traded a house and lot in Steubenville, O., for it to Samuel Stokely, next of kin of Jack (John) Stokely, who left no issue (?). The old comb-maker lived alone, and plied his craft in a cabin which stood between F. Osburn's house and the river bank, so late as 1849, in which year Rodger Seffens, late from Maryland, entered the last mentioned house. Mr. Seffens lived here one year, then moved to George Neal's farm at the head of the island.

Bill Collins next occupied the house, followed in 1854 by Wm. Hanlon and his associate, Leander Snodgrass, a fiddler, who lived together. Next came Thomas Romine, and Wilson Paden in 1860.

Mrs. Crowser, relict of the late Simeon Killingsworth, bought this place of Wm. Dils, agent for Reuben Bartlett's heirs in 1869 with the pension received from the Government for benefit of her daughter, Theodotia, in consideration of the life and services of the said Simeon Killingsworth, who was killed in the service of the Government during the late unpleasantness. She with her ward and new consort lived on the farm five years, in the meantime building a log barn and making an addition to the house. In January, 1875, Fayette Osburn married Theodotia and took possession of the place and lived in the family one year. Mr. Crowser and wife left in 1876, and Mr. Osburn a year later rented the farm to Dan. Sams and left also. At the end of one year Dan. Sams left and James, his brother, took possession for three years. The O. R. R. R. Co. paid Mr. Osburn $510 for the right of way through his land, when he bought his mother-in-law's interest in the estate for $330 and returned to it November, 1886. He has three sons and two daughters.

THE COL. JOHNSON FARM.

It is probable the next settlement on the Narrows was made on this place by Mr. Votz an old hunter and Indian spy. In 1794 John Armstrong, who, with his partner, Peter Mixner, had a floating mill a half mile above, built and occupied a cabin on this place between the present dwelling and the hill. It was here his wife and three children fell victims to Indian ferocity—the last tragedy of the kind that occurred in the county.
The land now under consideration is a tract of forty-five acres, embracing two parcels—one of thirty acres, being a part of the Thomas Maddox farm, and the other of fifteen acres, a part of the Wm. Oliver farm. Both were bought by George Neale, jr., and sold by him to J. M. Johnson in June 1853 for $214, lawful money. This was in the days of the State Banks, when it was found necessary to resort to legislation to determine what issues should be accepted as legal tender. Mr. Johnson cleared up the land and set out 220 fruit trees the first season. When he bought it there was a log house on the site of the present dwelling. That house was built in 1841 by Morris Pitts, a wood chopper, and was occupied by William Wires in 1844, by J. M. Johnson in 1845, and afterward successively by Archibald Johnson, James Chambers, Albert Dotson, and Isaac Mansfield.

In 1859 he sold the place to Isaac Mansfield, a plasterer, on time, and the latter, taking advantage of the social disturbances attending the war, held possession ten years without perfecting his title. During this time Mr. Mansfield replaced the original log house with the shell of a fair sized frame. In 1869 he rented the farm to Bent. Maddox for two years at an annual rental of $75, and sought other fields of operation, owing his friend and patron, Mr. Johnson, over $900 and other parties smaller sums.

After Mr. Maddox, the house was successively occupied by Mr. Robaugh(?), Richard Vigar, J. W. Jones, A. B. Johnson and J. M. Johnson from 1878 to 1882, when the Widow Chapman entered it and remained until April, 1886, at which time the railroad construction hands occupied all the buildings on the place. During his last sojourn on the place Mr. Johnson remodeled his dwelling and built out-houses and a barn. From here he moved to the Island, where we shall find him later. He received $300 from the railroad company and his son-in-law, James Sams, now lives in the house.

THE BAILEY FARM.

Levi and Rod Coe built a cabin near the mouth of Coal Hollow in 1840, which was afterward occupied by Isaac Norris, a shoemaker, and later by James McGraw, followed by George Tolson in 1860.

Thomas Hopkins, a wood-chopper, built another cabin further up the river in 1845, which was successively occupied by James Reed, Wm. Killings and Sam Cragley, who with his family and Jonathan Dunn and Wm. Miller, came down from Matamoras, Ohio, in 1852. This force, together with Mr. Cragley's
two grown-up daughters, was employed by R. Seffens to husk and crib corn on the Island in the fall of that year. Jas. Bickerstaff, a fisherman, built another cabin on the place about this time. These cabins were replaced by others during the next ten years, which were occupied, among the score of transient comers and goers, by Wm. Jackson and Charles Bailey.

In 1880 Charles Bailey erected a neat frame house on the place for his son, who had just married. The Ohio River Railroad passes near this house, which stands on high ground, and the foundation of the house is slowly falling into the cut made here in constructing the road bed, in consequence of which the house was abandoned and suit entered against the company. This suit is still pending.

SAMUEL ROMINE'S SECTION.

John and William Corbley, wood choppers, leased Samuel Romine's place in 1845, built a log house and lived on it about three years. Archibald Johnson afterwards lived here a few months and was succeeded by old Bob Truman, who lived on the place about two years. John C. Collins occupied it in 1853 and Frank Jackson in 1855. It stood vacant a year or two when Joseph Williams took up his residence here, and in 1856 made verbal purchase of the property. In 1867 he and his son, Tom, built another log house on the place, the same being the material of the River Hill school house, which James Johnson had bought, transferred to and put up on W. A. Haislep's place a year before. Mr. Johnson sold his claim to William Jackson, who relinquished it soon after on account of a slip of the hill, which threw his house down. After this the logs were bought and used on the adjoining lands by the Messrs. Williams as stated. Archibald Johnson jr., was the last occupant of the last-named house. The former was wrecked and burned by Mr. Romine in 1876, when he secured possession of the claim which Mr. Williams had forfeited by default. The Ohio River Railroad Company paid Mr. Romine $100 for right of way through this land.

THE CRAWFORD PLACE.

About the year 1848, one Colonel Hodge made verbal purchase of a tract of forty-five acres adjoining Mr. Johnson's land, and belonging to Samuel Stokely, and proceeded to convert its heavy growth of timber into cord wood. This accomplished, and the wood transformed into pocket change, the Colonel's relations with the place ceased abruptly. John Persy, who took the contract
for chopping the wood, and of whom I shall have occasion to speak elsewhere, lived on this land a year or two in the wood-choppers' temporary quarters. One Crawford, a carpenter by occupation, bought this tract, about 1855, erected thereon the shell of a frame house, in which he lived about two years, when he transferred his claim to Peter Devlin and left the country. Mr. Mansfield afterward bought this tract for $472. He borrowed the money from H. P. Dils, to whom he executed a deed of trust on the same for security. Mr. Dils sold the same under the said deed of trust in June, 1867, Mr. J. M. Johnson buying it for $600. The Crawford house, which has since been destroyed, was occupied in 1858 by Thomas Romine, and afterward by Mr. Hanes and John Fleming.

In 1870, Mr. Johnson leased this farm to John Moyers, for six years and at the same time built a house on it and set out a peach orchard. At the expiration of Mr. Moyer's lease, J. W. Jones moved into the house, lived one year, and was succeeded by A. B. Johnson, who is still there.

A. B. Johnson married Miss Laura Ripley, of Belpre, in March, 1863. The fruit of this union was six sons—George B., Peter D., Harry, S. T. Jackson, Frederick and Charles—and four daughters: Sarah A., Dora, Maggie and Aggie.

At this time Mr. Johnson is a Constable, and votes with the Democrats.

**KIT JOHNSON'S FARM.**

George Tolson, in 1863, bought for $100 ten acres from J. B. Neal, of Parkersburg, who bought the same of Peter Devlin, who bought of Peter Romine. Mr. Tolson made some improvements and sold to Jack. Johnson, who lived here one year, and left the neighborhood till 1867, when he moved to the island as tenant under Albert Logan. During this time, Bryant E., brother to Jack. Johnson, occupied the latter's house on the river. In 1868, A. B. Johnson, now constable, bought two acres of W. A. Haislep, which he sold to James Johnson, the inn-keeper of Parkersburg, who sold it to his brother Jack, in 1869, for $73. These last transactions were all verbal except the final transfer.

Bryant E. left the Narrows in the fall of 1873 to take charge of the Logan farm on the island, after the death of his brother, Jackson, and the latter's widow and family returned to their own place. The widow has since occupied it. She has four sons—Sherman, John, Andrew and Fleetwood, all living at home—and one daughter, Luda L., whom Leo Pahl married in June, 1883. At present Leo and his family are living with the widow, preparing to take charge of the Moses Campbell farm, which she has just bought. She received $750 from the Ohio River Railroad Company, for the right of way through her lands.
The oldest settlement on the Peter Romine place was made by Wm. Wires, the old basket maker, who built about 1841. Austin Chapman bought his lease and moved on it with his family—a wife and one child—in 1846. He left it the next season to occupy his own purchase, and the flood of that year washed down the cabin.

I will state here that W. A. Haislep has a small strip of land extending to the river, the temporary settlement of which is incidentally noticed under "Sam Romine's Section." Mr. Haislep received $50 from the railroad company.

THE CHAPMAN LOT.

In 1847, Austin Chapman bought fifteen acres from George Neale, jr., for $100, on which he built and moved his family—a wife and one child—the same season. He cleared up the land and set out a small orchard. In 1859 he gave his sister-in-law, Peggy Johnson, five acres on the hill. Seven children more were born to him here. He died in 1866, leaving a wife and six children living, one of whom, Miss Polly, died in 1874. They received $160 from the Ohio River Railroad Company for the right of way, and replaced their old house with a more comfortable one in 1886. The old lady is 69 years of age, is sprightly and active, showing but little gray. The children—three sons and two daughters—remain single, and unite in their efforts to promote the common happiness.

Tuesday, March 29, 1887
Page 3, Columns 3, 4 and 5
For the State Journal — EARLY SOCIAL CONDITIONS

At, and for several years after the time the history herein narrated commenced, the social condition of the neighborhood was simple and primitive. There was no ceaseless struggle for wealth, and no restless ambition for superiority. The solid comforts of life were the maximum of desire, and these were so highly appreciated that their attainment was made the common aim of all. Work that could be done in compact was accomplished by united effort. In this way residences and school houses were built, and lands were cleared and crops harvested. Each man's prosperity was considered the benefit of all, and while no one was rich, individually, collectively all were wealthy. Their needs were few and bountifully supplied, making want and suffering strangers in a Utopia brightened by the cheer of generosity and common feeling. The dress of these primitive families was principally the handiwork of their own skill. The native fleece was manipulated with the hand card, spun upon the tardy wheel and the threads woven upon a clumsy device into substantial fabrics by willing hands and accessory feet. A great deal of flax was grown, and its texture manufactured into articles delicate and tasteful as well as useful. It is matter of regret that the destructive hands of Time have not spared us a few specimens of these old domestic arts as well as specimens of the devices by whose simple aid they were achieved. The writer has two specimens of the latter, one being the classic "little wheel", whose illustration on the face of one of the Buckeye State bank's issues of antewar times recorded silent history of the past while it hinted at the resources of the infinite future.

It was not considered in those "good old times" that a young man appeared grotesque when he made one of his easy informal calls on his sweet-heart minus patent leather boots or foot gear of any kind. The shoe-making of the country was done by itinerant craftsmen who "whipped the cat" every Fall. Misses entering their teens wore panties-pokes of bleached linen, which were drawn over the feet and gathered below the knee, on dress occasions, and their shoes and knitted hose were carried in a handkerchief till within the precinct of the expected company. Pedestrianism even among the fair ones was an accomplishment, and in those days pale faced did not call for paint and cosmetics, nor did
shortness of breath and consumption fill padded arm-chairs and premature graves.

SCHOOLS.

The earliest school of which I have any account was taught by Mr. Dudley's oldest daughter, Joan, who improvised a room of their dwelling as an infant academy. School books were scarce on the limited market, and although cheap and well bound, were still almost inaccessible to a community lying without the circle of exchange. Manuscript copies of the higher branches were used to some extent.

The next oldest school house was one built at an early day on the Dudley farm, between Samuel Romine's residence and Chas. Bailey's land. It was after the manner of many other houses built about that time—by the united effort of all concerned. About 1840 a hewed log house was erected on the southeast corner of Samuel Romine's last purchase. Although small it was a comfortable house, and was used during the winter months till the growth of the neighborhood and vicinity could support a summer school. No record has been kept of the martyrs who have wielded the undeveloped shell-bark and expounded mathematics within the undecorated walls of the primitive edifice, but within the recollection of the writer the names of Robert Fleming, P. G. Morrison, Mr. I McMaster, Prof. Arthur, of Allegheny City, Margarite Calvert, Ann Phillips, Joe Huff, Lizzie Reed, and Maggie Devore, (now Mrs. Capt. C. B. Smith, of Parkersburg,) will sound familiar to many of your readers. This modest little house stood on the border of a native West Virginia forest, of which the stately pine is the pride and the slow-growing oak, the monarch. To-day the house is gone, but the ancient oaks still point heavenward, and the old pines wear their habiliments of perpetual green, in solemn unison with the memory of those who survive the days when life was lived for life's own sake—when the varied panorama of the future was folded securely against the utmost penetration of childish scrutiny, to be viewed in its entirety only after the scenes and objects were passed forever. It was here your humble narrator graduated with a Second Reader and learned to "cipher" in multiplication of simple numbers. Indeed, it was an institution to be proud of, as the comfort of the pupils was recognized in the provision of seats and desks. The mammoth stove in the center was heated with pine-knots and fallen limbs collected from the woods. Moral suasion was not recognized as a force finding a responsive sentiment in the innate nature of the juvenile heart, and other limbs than fallen ones were ever and anon called in arbitration to settle questions of discipline.
But I have traveled too fast. I must return to the natural scenes and enchanting surroundings amid which I learned ab, eb; etc. Our worthy preceptor is still met upon the streets of the city which has attained virile proportions within the recollection of surviving subjects, and answers to the name of Geo. A. Welles. Although not living in Quakertown at that time, I had to wade through mud and snow two long miles to reach the plain old log school house, that in its loneliness echoes the solemn hooting of the midnight owl. The site of this institution of days passed away into the visions of Nirvana, the only relic of which is treasured up in the invisible and intangible recesses of memory, is now occupied by (that modern expression of domestic architecture) Mr. R. C. Tracewell's pleasant residence. Here, too, we enjoyed the fruition of the centrally located wood-stove, whose capacious stomach elaborated heat from our ligneous donations, and maintained an incandescent circulation within the room's rough-hewn walls. Little did I realize that at that time I was a living figure in a material representation of that mental operation, which, commencing with the articulation of a, b, c, traverses through the aggregation of academic research, and reaches its culmination in a grasp of the central truths of nature.

Our desk, a common property, was constructed of a rough board bracketed to the wall, and our seats were inverted slabs from the saw-mill on the creek, supported on pegs whose altitude placed us in mid-air. The half-grown boy of to-day, arrayed in apparel shaped to aesthetic models by ingenious devices, may perchance criticise the old man's grammar and pass the plane of modern rhetoric over his uncouth periods, unmindful of the fact that the fair proportions of the beautiful superstructure rest upon the rough stones imbedded in the mire beneath. Precocious youth, step lightly.

Those days are gone, and the things of those days which remain have been re-modeled to harmonize with our present surroundings. Is this quite true? The devices of art have indeed been transformed to modern views, but the faces of the survivors of our boyhood—how is it with them? They have not been renewed with our houses, our furniture, our vehicles, our churches and our school-houses. No; Time took hold of them when they stepped upon his highway, and he has rushed them along by his side, regardless of protest or supplication, dropping them only when death made them worthless. The close-packed "ring around the rosa" is broken, and only a few remain to reverberate the childish "good morning", or to respond to the counterpart of the school-boy's evening "tag"—the hearty hand-shake. This subject will be continued in another chapter.
THE BRIDGES FARM.

Wilson Hunt located on the land now held by W. A. Haislep, in 1817. He had his mother and sister with him, married "Patsie" Phinemore about 1819, and built on and cleared up the land. In 1820 he sold out to James Petty, a wheel-wright, whom Thomas Maddox had raised in the neighborhood. Mr. Petty induced Miss Salinda Bartlett to become the queen of his household, which was further enriched by her legacy—a sum which in those days was a modest fortune; but he neglected to apply the mathematics of his occupation to the economy of life, and failed, being compelled to sell his farm in the course of three years. Asa Johnson, a stone-mason by occupation, succeeded him in the ownership of the land. The latter had four sons—Alexander, John, Richard and Asa—and three daughters:—Elizabeth, whom Rozel Romine married in 1831; Mary A., whom D. Mann married the same year; Hannah; and Ann R. Caines, his step-daughter, whom Thomas Maddox married here in 1833; and a son, Jeremiah D. was born to him here. Mr. Johnson failed in a few years, and sold out to Adam Ruble, who at that time was jailor at Parkersburg. Mr. Ruble's object was speculation, and after renting to Charles P. Bailey and others for a few years, sold it to William Bridges, in 1834, for $300 cash.

Mr. Bridges came from Loudon county, Virginia, and his family consisted of his wife; a son, David A.; and two daughters, Marinda, whom Samuel Romine married December 19th, 1833; and Willy A., whom James Romine married September 10th, 1843. The latter Mrs. Romine left the neighborhood with her husband until 1849, when she became sick, was moved back to her old home and died here in August of that year. Her's was the first interment in the new Bethel cemetery. Mr. Romine remained here nearly two years, when he married Miss Elizabeth Woodyard and retired from the neighborhood, leaving his daughter, Cornelia, whom Charles Phillips married in 1871, and his son, Malcolm J., who went west in 1868, with their grandparents till the year before the death of the old lady, at the advanced age of 91 years, in 1867, when they took up their home with their father, and the old gentleman lives with his son.

Mr. Bridges was a quiet farmer, and spent his time improving the condition of his land, which had been much reduced by underletting, and adding to the comforts and surroundings of his home. He set out an orchard and built a barn of the logs hewed by Martin G. Maddox and intended by the latter as material for his home, and which he contemplated erecting on the hill west of Marrtown, but died before the work was completed. His son married Hester V. Maddox in October, 1856, added a frame addition to the original log house, and
lived here about five years, during which time three children—William F., John and Mattie—were born to him. His wife died May 30th, 1882, and he and his family live in the near vicinity.

The old gentleman sold his farm to W. A. Haislep, in 1866, for $2,000. and laid down life and its cares in April, 1873, having resigned himself to his Maker's will several years before.

Mr. Haislep located on the place at the time of purchase, with his wife and six children. He built a large frame barn in 1871, appended an addition to the house a year later, and set out a vineyard in 1883. Five children more were born to him here, making his family record thus: Seven sons—Andrew, Randolph, Ebert, Orlando, Lot, Willie and Henry—and four daughters: Anna E., Julia M., Concordia and Fanny. Of these, Andrew married Alice Leachman in September, 1883; Randolph, Aminda Robbins, October, 1881; Ebert went West in 1884. Andrew located on the farm north of the Ridge road in 1886, and has a daughter—Hattie. All the others are at home, Miss Julia applying her fine intellectual abilities to teaching, which she has followed creditably four terms.

THE OLIVER PLACE.

Jesse Gandy bought eighty acres of the Stokely survey about 1818 and rented the same to one Nolan, who built a house and made improvements on the place. Two years later he sold to William Oliver, who came from the East with a wife and four sons. About 1832 he sold fifteen acres on the Narrows to Geo. Neale, jr. He lived on the place until 1852, in the meantime adding four sons and a daughter to his family, and consigning three of the same to the village of the dead—the Maddox graveyard. On the 26th of April of that year he sold to George and Stephen Strong and went West.

Henry W. Strong, of New York, brought a wife, two sons—George and Stephen, and one daughter—Ruth. They lived together on the farm until Dec. 1854, when George married Miss Vileta Tracewell and moved to Pond Creek. The latter died Feb. 15th 1859, and her husband returned to his old hime. In 1860 the brothers bought thirty acres more of the wild Stokely land for $3 0. About two years afterward George married Miss Emma Hoyt and the same year he and his brother Stephen made a division of their property, Stephen taking the northern part, on which he built. Stephen died in Nov. 1868, leaving his estate to his mother with a proviso that it should descend to his sister, Mrs. Ann Davenport, at the death of his mother.
George's second wife died April 29th, 1865, leaving a daughter, Emma H., who went to California with her grandmother in 1873. About 1861 George bought thirty acres more of the Stokely land, of which he sold five acres to Mr. Davenport north of the Ridge road. The latter built on his purchase in 1862, but as these last purchases are accessions of new territory I will not assume the responsibility of embracing them in this history.

Mr. Strong married Mrs. Julia A. Robbins in September, 1867, and moved to William Robbins' farm, where he was blessed with a son—George W.—in October, 1869. During this time Andrew Strong, another brother, who had come to the county later, had charge of the farm. In 1870 George bought Stephen's house, moved it to his own land, fitted it up for his mother and rented the place to Mr. Davenport, who after one year's occupancy vacated the house for Mart. Kales and Mr. Roseboom. He died that year, leaving his second wife's legacy to her daughter and his estate to his son, George W. Mr. Davenport soon after induced his mother-in-law to sell her inheritance to Jas. L. Gray and live with him in Parkersburg, whence they have all since moved West.

Henry W. Strong died in Sept. 1860 and his daughter, Ruth, died in May, 1857.

Mr. Gray lived in the house one year, followed by John Buckley, who rented the place two years.

Harrison Buckley married Mr. Strong's widow in April, 1873, and took possession of the place four years later. He brought with him two daughters—Emma, who died April 1st, 1883, and Ella; a grandson—W. T. Peden, who after a few year's absence, died here July, 1885, and a step-son—George W. Strong. Ella and George live at home. Mr. Buckley is 74 years old, and until within the last four years followed the active life of a drover. He is a Methodist and votes with the Republicans.

James L. Gray bought fifty acres of Mary Strong October 17th, 1873, for $950. It had an orchard and a barn on it. At the same time he bought thirty-five acres from Bent. Maddox, administrator for Thomas Maddox, deceased, for $700. He lived one year in the Strong house while building on his own purchase. In 1884 he moved his barn to a more convenient site, and two years later built a house on his farm for his son-in-law, A. L. Johnson.

Mr. Gray added to the census of the neighborhood three sons—Abraham, James W. and Charles T., and five daughters—Mary J., Pheba A., Sarah E., Emily P. and Nancy D. Abraham married Alice Sagar in June, 1881; James W. married Agnes Weinberg April 10th, 1886; Mary J. married A. L. Johnson Nov. 15th, 1878; Pheba A. married H. Staunton Jan. 10th, 1882. One son and three daughters live at home.
Mr. Gray is 65 years old, oversees his business in person, supports the Baptist faith and votes a straight Democratic ticket. He treasures two heirlooms—A Bible and a razor, made precious by the weight of accumulated ages. A. L. Johnson lives on the place and has a family of three daughters—Jessie, aged 8 years, Nevada, aged 6 years and Agnes, aged 3 years.

(NOTE TO THE EDITOR—My endeavor to lay a paper before your readers each week has interfered with their chronological order, but this defect I deem less important than an avoidance of omissions or errors in dates. A few errors have already crept in, but these I will try to correct in an addendum when the work has reached its completion. I will not delay longer an expression of my satisfaction with the care and faithfulness with which you have discharged your duty in editing the foregoing papers of this my maiden essay—THE WRITER.)
Article #5 The Quakertown Series - Could not be found.
LOCAL HISTORY

Being a Continuation of the Quakertown Series

Sketch and History of the Thomas Maddox Farm With a Sketch of Mr. Maddox's Life and Family

For the State Journal

SIXTH PAPER--THE THOMAS MADDOX FARM.

Thomas Maddox, with a family consisting of a wife and four children, entered the neighborhood about 1818. He bought the strip of the Jett survey, containing about seventy-five acres, lying between Peter Romine's purchase and Stokeley's survey, and one hundred acres of the latter survey. He was a cordwainer by occupation, but in his new locality applied himself to agriculture. He built, cleared away the forest and set out fruit trees, but the impoverished condition of the land proclaims but too loudly that he was worse than a novice in his new calling.

Mr. Maddox was appointed constable in 1822, but after serving two years resigned the office in favor of Edward Tracewell. At that time constables were appointed by the Board of Magistrates, twelve in number, who exercised the civil functions of the county. During this time he bought of Watt Coe, for $100, a tract of three hundred and sixty acres of land, which he sold soon after to Chas. P. Bailey, for $250, taking in part payment two copper stills, which were afterward set up on the spring branch east of his house and operated in connection with a horse-mill, by himself and his brother-in-law, Peter Romine. About this time he and the neighbors built a neat log house on the southern portion of the Jett land, for his father, Matthew Maddox, a pensioned Revolutionary soldier who lived here till the death of his wife, in 1826. It is worthy of record of this old hero of shot and shell that when his surgeon decided than an operation was necessary for the relief of an affliction under which he labored, he volunteered his services as assistant and calmly held his own extruded bowels in his hands during the operation.

It is a matter of tradition that Mr. Maddox afterward sold this property to Bailey Petty, but Mr. Petty failing he sold it again to Robt. Flemming. I find no record of such transfers, but he did sell it to his son Benton in 1866. Mr. Petty lived on the place and in 1830 replaced the house referred to with a larger one. He was a brickmolder, and superintended the kiln burnt by Peter Romine about this time. Mr. Flemming succeeded him about 1832 and lived here about four years, plying the craft of blacksmith. From here he moved to town. P. C. Morrison occupied this house and had charge of the land in 1856.
In March, 1831, Mr. Maddox's wife died, aged 40 years and leaving a family of eleven children-three sons-Martin G., John and William P., and eight daughters-Amy, Lucy, Mary, Fanny, Drusilla, Victoria, Frances and Emeline. Martin married Julia A., third daughter of Rozel and Elizabeth Romine, Sept 3rd, 1844. He died Nov. 15th, 1847, while on a visit to Peter Romine, and was laid away in the family graveyard.

Wm. P. married Nancy Prince on Blennerhassett's Island, in Jan. 1840, where she died in Aug. 1844. Two children-Irena and Benjamin, were born here, the first dying in 1842.


In 1832 he sold thirty acres of the Narrows to George Neal, jr., and in March of that year he married Ann R. Caines, a school ma'am, at James Petty's on the Bridges farm. He moved to Newport about 1841, and was absent about seven years. He rented the farm to Samuel R. Gaston, who had succeeded Robert Flemming in the occupancy of the Petty house, and who now moved into the Maddox dwelling. After a year or two he vacated the house for Wm. Stevens, from Mineral Wells, who had charge of the farm about a year, when Martin G. Maddox rented the place and employed a colored woman (in those days called a wench) to keep house for him. About one year after this he married Miss Julia A. Romine, with whom he lived on the place till 1846, when he moved to Marrtown. His daughter, America, the late Mrs. Jackson Stout, was born on the Maddox farm.

In June, 1852, he sold thirty four acres of the wild Jett land to R. Seffens for $172, the same now occupied by R. Seffens, jr. In the spring of 1858 his house took fire one morning while the women were preparing breakfast and burned to the ground, together with all its contents. A few weeks after this, July 16th, his son, James, was drowned while bathing in the Ohio river. Aided by the voluntary contribution of friends and neighbors he rebuilt his house immediately, in the meantime living in the vacant house on the Jett land.

April 18th, 1866, he sold his son, Benton, thirty-one acres of the Jett land for $200, and two years later he sold him three more acres, verbally, the deed for which was made by the heirs of the estate to Benton's widow in 1882. By demise he set apart thirty acres to be sold and the proceed divided in a legacy between the heirs of his first marriage, and nominated his son, Benton, as administrator to execute this provision.
Mr. Maddox died August 12th, 1872, aged 84 years. He was a man of strong
prejudices, was a class leader in the M. E. Church, South, and a Sunday-school
worker. He believed in the divinity of negro slavery, and emphasized this
belief in his political life, having contributed a soldier to the Confederate
ranks.

His widow remained on the homestead in company with her daughters-
Lodemia, Ann and Minerva—and a small boy, Clark Wade, who had been taken into
the family three years before. The old lady died in March, 1881, aged 66
years, while on a visit to her daughter, Mrs. Bartlett, in Lubeck.

The fruit of this second marriage was two sons—James, who was drowned
in 1858, and T. H. Benton—and ten daughters; Virginia, whom R. G. Morrison, a
school teacher, married March 8th, 1853; Hester V., whom D. A. Bridges married
in 1856; Lodemia, whom Grandison Wolfe married in December, 1877; Pauline,
whom John W. Moyers married; Eliza, whom M. Kales married in 1871; Ann R., whom
The remainder of the list died young.

Benton Maddox was born in Newport July 6th 1841. When the draft for
soldiers was about to be made in the fall of 1862, he enlisted in the Confederate
service, and, returning at the close of the war, in 1865, married Mattie A.
Mitchell, in July of that year. The next year he bought thirty-one acres of
the homestead, on which he built and set out a fine collection of fruit. About
two years later he sold twenty-five acres of his purchase to Edward Seffens for
$600, and soon after made verbal purchase of three acres more of the homestead.
He moved to the Narrows in 1869, accepted an agency under the Wheeler & Wilson
Sewing Machine Manufacturing Co., in 1871, was promoted to a general agency and
moved to Parkersburg in Oct. 1872. He was absent three years, during which time,
D. A. Bridges, his brother-in-law, and N. S. Roseboom, a sewing machine agent,
successively occupied his house. In 1873 he sold to J. L. Gray, for $700,
the tract of thirty acres placed in his hands for sale by a provision of his
father's will. Two years later he paid his sister, Eliza, $150 for her
interest in her father's estate. His return to the country was determined
in part by failing health, which rapidly developing into consumption, he
resolved on a trip to Texas under the care of his brother-in-law, John Bartlett.
Continuing to sink, he returned after a few weeks' absence, and died October
15th, 1876. He left two sons—A. S. Johnston, born June 23d, 1866, and Elmore,
born Aug. 30th, 1868. His widow received his interest in his father's estate
in land—about seven acres—in 1882, and in 1866 remodeled her dwelling.

Mr. Maddox was an officer in the church of his father's choice, was a man of pleasant address, and a kind husband and parent.

(TO BE CONTINUED)