Holt-Bennett Family History

Compiled by
Margaret Abigail Holt Early
This book is dedicated to my two daughters, Helen Page Early Jones and Margaret Holt Early Shrewsbury, and to their children, Karla Channing Jones, Diana Nelson Jones, Richard Evan Jones, Charles Winton Shrewsbury, and Steven Holt Shrewsbury—and to their descendants—hoping they will be inspired to carry on the examples set for them by a wonderful father (and grandfather) and his ancestors who have contributed so much in the building of this nation and by the many Holt and Bennett ancestors whose lives have contributed to it as they passed through.
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FOREWORD

This history is not confined strictly to genealogical data or to historical records, although it contains much of both. The material has been collected from many sources, public records, copies of letters that have been preserved by members of the family, contacting relatives far and near and biographical sketches of those near and dear to me whose lives have contributed much worthy of being remembered and honored. The following "Foreword" accompanied copies of some of the letters as well as other information from Charles A. Jones, of Columbus, Ohio:

"Over a twenty-year period I have endeavored to gather together information concerning my great-grandfather, John Holt and his family. Year after year, I have gone back each August to the reunion of the branch of the family from which I am descended, a reunion held on part of his farm. His old home was familiar to me, and with many of his descendants I have had the pleasure of talking. The sketch attached contains all that up to this time it has been possible to develop in the midst of a relatively busy life.

"That John Holt was a man of exceptional ability, prominent in his community, successful in what he undertook, imparting to his children an incentive that sent several of them and their descendants into relatively prominent positions in life, has been clearly established. The door to more information than is here given seems to be closed."

I contacted Mr. Jones in 1970, who was then in a nursing home and unable to answer my letter except through his
daughter, but I believe he was mistaken in thinking the door to more information was closed, as this history will indicate.

Another valuable source of information was the compilation by Mabel Stoyer of Morgantown, which is in D.A.R. Library in Washington. And David Michael Cover (deceased), also of Morgantown, gave invaluable help.

In organizing the material for tracing the Bennett line, much credit goes to Clark Sprigg and his son, Edward of Walkersville; to Robert and Humbolt (H. Y.) Clark, originally from Randolph County, and to Hugh Bennett, formerly from Walkersville, who spent many years in Washington where he had access to the Library of Congress as well as close connections with family traditions in Walkersville.

Other sources of information include: I Was Made a Minister, by Bishop Edwin Holt Hughes; A History of Lewis County, by Edward Smith; The Life of Jonathan Bennett, by Rice; A History of Pendleton County, by Morton; and miscellaneous writings on Lewis County by Roy Bird Cook.

From the compilation of Benjamin Wilson Brown:

The "Good Book" says, pride goeth before a fall! I disagree. Pride engenders discipline, responsibility and most of the acceptable qualities of our civilized life. Pride of race, of ancestry, of personal accomplishments. Pride in our nation, its history, its religious heritage, its economical and political success, and above all, its freedom. We are entitled to burst with pride, but conceit NO arrogance is abhorrent.
PREFACE

My life has been wonderful and it is exciting to anticipate reliving part of it by recalling incidents from the past.

At a very early age, I loved to play tunes on the windowpanes. Nobody else could hear the melodies, but I could, and they were beautiful. At this age, I had already chosen my career; I was going to be a chorus girl, wear pretty dresses and dance. But my parents decided against this career. They wanted me to be a concert pianist, and bent every effort toward that end. At the age of nine, my musical training began.

My uncle, Samuel Dew, was my music teacher, and much to my annoyance, he was given the room right above where I had to practice, and he could hear everything I played. I was never allowed to dillydally. Sometimes I deliberately made mistakes and waited to hear him come running down the stairs in a rage. Of course, I didn’t dare overdo it, but went just far enough to have fun and keep on the safe side of the consequences.

At nineteen, I went to New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. It was then that I learned the difference between a village “prodigy” and a musician.

When I was twenty-two, I was asked to substitute as a piano teacher at Glenville (then) Normal School until they could find a certified teacher. With this position went supervision of public school music in their training school. I explained to the president that I was entirely unfamiliar with that branch of music, but he said they had a good corps of
teachers who would help me; . . . that it was required by the state.

This experience proved to be so interesting that I went back to school at Cincinnati Conservatory and prepared to be a public school music supervisor. Along with this preparation, I directed musical plays for Wayne P. Sewell Lyceum and Producing Company of Atlanta, Georgia. At the same time, spending a little time studying the dance. So I never really lost interest in my childhood ambition to deal with music, dancing, and “pretty dresses” on the stage.

Purely by accident, after working with my much younger sister teaching her what little bit I knew about the technique of dancing, I found myself with a class during the months school was not in session. Like Topsy, this grew and grew until the first thing I knew, I was putting on dance reviews at the theatre with my classes.

I was asked to prepare dances for the Forest Festival. Later, for three years, I wrote and directed the pre-coronation pageants for the Central West Virginia Strawberry Festival at West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon. My last major production was writing and directing the main pageant for West Virginia Glass Manufacturers Exposition, given at the Weston Fairgrounds. The theme was patterned after Cinderella and was titled “The Glass Slipper.”

So much for my real love, music, dramatics, and dancing. Now, for the mundane part of my activities: I served on the Weston City Council and was appointed acting mayor. I earned the A. B. degree at Salem College in 1951. After my husband’s death, and in order to keep my children in school at Weston, I took the only position open in that area, which was teaching music and mathematics. The latter required additional study and a degree, but was part of my work for six years both in Jane Lew and in New Jersey. I also taught junior high school English. But these activities were purely through necessity.
While teaching public school music, I continued studying piano along with putting on operettas, etc. And in 1926, won the adult scholarship in piano given by the West Virginia Federation of Music Clubs, through which I studied under Dora Sauvage at Morris, pupil of Theodore Leschetizski, of Vienna, Austria.

Collaborating with Mary Hamilton Walters, we wrote and produced an operetta-ballet, *Alice in Fairyland* based on *Alice in Wonderland*. Mary wrote the lyrics while I wrote the music and dance routines.

In spite of the varied activities in which I have participated, I have never given up my original love for music and related arts; nor have I given up the piano. I still both play and teach piano.

The last thing I ever expected to do was to write any kind of history. But there were so many of my relatives whose memory prompted me to learn more. And like Topsy and the dancing classes, the interest grew and grew. And so many relatives showed great interest in the project and furnished so much information, that this family history finally emerged.
ORIGIN OF THE NAME HOLT IN ENGLAND

According to genealogists Guerano and Albert Seddens, the name Holt was first recorded in the form of Hugo de Holte, who is listed in Kent in the year 1185. Walter in the Holte, Simon del Holte and Hugo atte Holt all appear in thirteenth-century records.

At that time, holt was a commonly used word for wood or copse. From another source the word referred specifically to a clearing in the woods in which hunting lodges were built, and relates that the name may have been chosen by those who owned these lodges. This would likely indicate some connection with sportsmanship.

Returning to Seddens, Holt is also the name of towns in several parts of England, including Leicester, Norfolk, and Dorset. Some families probably took their name from these locales. A number of Holt families are listed in the records. Some of them held estates in Aston, Edington, London, and other places.

The Earliest Holts in America

Passenger ship records were scanty in the early days of this country, but we find a list of Virginia residents that includes a Randall Holt. The record notes that he came from England on the ship George, 1620-21, placing him among the first settlers of the Virginia Colony. London ship records of 1635 show two other Holts who sailed from England that year. These men were all less than twenty-one years old. American Genealogist, 1961, volume 7, pages 69 to 94, has the follow-
ing: Randall Holt, born about 1606-7, and immigrant to Virginia on the ship George, 1620-21, as an apprentice to Doctor John Pott, subsequently Governor of Virginia. An entry in the Record Society for Lancashire and Cheshire raises the possibility that Randall was a relative of Doctor Pott's.
ANcestors and Descendants of John Holt
of Bunker Hill (1769-1853)

John W. Holt came from Hog Island, Virginia, with a company of the Virginia Militia, sent by George Washington to help quell the Whiskey Rebellion. According to a notation in his family Bible, “Left the place of my nativity September 16, 1794, arrived at Uniontown October 31, 1794.”

His mother died when he was ten days old and he was reared by his grandparents. His grandson, Samuel, son of Samuel Holt, through whom much of this information came, had never heard him mention his father’s name. Therefore it was difficult, and had been considered improbable by those who earlier attempted to trace his forebearers, that it would ever be learned. The militia records had been lost or destroyed during the War Between the States. I had understood that there are some of the old Virginia records in Charleston, and was told by the head of the genealogy department of West Virginia University that those old records were so scattered they might be found almost any place.

Following is a copy of a letter which was in the possession of Enos Holt, a grandson who was a minister in Illinois and who retired to California. It may be a link in the chain of descent. However, I found references in the Daughters of the American Revolution Library in Washington, D.C., which convince me the previously missing connection with John Holt’s ancestry has been made; and that he was descended from Randall Holt.

The letter was dated, “Memo: Came to hand 23 July,
1806.” The address, “Mr. John Holt, Fiatt County, near Evans Furnace” and “Favor of Mr. Copeman,” presumably the man who delivered the letter.

Dear Sir: I by chance met with a young gentleman which gave me some information of you for which I have taken the opportunity to [illegible] to you, hoping these few lines will find you well as they leave me, thanks be to God, I got back very safe from where I left you.

Through the hand of Providence and in March 17, 1798 I got very happily married. I have had two children but I've only one living, that is a very promising girl now in the seventh year of her age.

I follow still the same disagreeable calling of overseeing although uncertain, could [illegible] believe make out without.

Your brother Matthew Holt, happening in at my house and very anxious to write to you but had it not in his power, desires me to inform you of his situation at present. He, in the first place desires me to inform you of his [illegible]. He still continues single as when you left him.

Your brother Thomas is dead. He got married and he, his wife and one child are all three departed.

He is very desirous of seeing you if you think it worth while come and see him. He says he wishes he was with you. He feels very dejected at times on account of his conduct. He has all three children with him to struggle for. Your cousin Sally Cosby was married not long after you went away to William Price. They have no children nor never had. Jane Cosby has four children. They are all well. So no more but remain your sincere friend, John Slaughter.

Beginning with what I believe to be ample reason to conclude that John Holt’s ancestry is established (logically if not legally), the progenitor of the West Virginia Holts appears, with reasonable certainty, to have been Randall Holt (sometimes interchangeably recorded as “Randolph”). Since Randall was used more frequently in the records from Yorktown, Virginia, it is assumed that is the name by which he was more generally known.

As noted previously, Randall Holt came to America
1620-21. Before 1661, he had married Elizabeth, widow of Christian Wilson and daughter of John Handsford of York County, Virginia. He had a grant of land on Hog Island, 1650, due him as son and heir of Mary, sole daughter and heir of John Bagley, of Hog Island, who came to Virginia in 1618.

Later land grants listed from *Virginia County Records* by Crozier, volume 7, appears the following: Joseph Holt, 1716, 615 acres; William Holt, 1762, 400 acres; Thomas Holt, 1782, 211 acres.

In 1670, Randall Holt’s will was probated by his wife, Elizabeth, and son John (John I). Elizabeth Holt’s will probated in 1709 names her grandsons, Charles, Joseph and John, sons of John Holt; her granddaughters, Mary Seward, son Thomas Holt, Thomas Edwards, of Hog Island, son William Holt, daughter Jane, wife of John Handcock, and daughter, Lucy, wife of Joseph Moundford.

The will of John Holt (II) dated in July and probated in Surry, December 1723, names his sons, Thomas and John, and daughters, Mary and Elizabeth, and appoints his brother, Joseph Holt, as one of the executors.

*Tyler’s History Magazine*, volume 9, page 260, after naming the above sons of John Holt (III) says, “Of the other two sons of John Holt, John and Josiah Holt, I have no certain data.” It seems very obvious that this quotation, “Of the other two sons of John Holt, John and Josiah, I have no definite data,” refers to the great-grandsons of the first John Holt, son of Randall and Elizabeth.

The fact that John Holt of Bunker Hill, Pennsylvania, born at Hog Island, Virginia, 1769, went to Pennsylvania with the Virginia Militia, became ill with typhoid fever and did not return with his company, nor did he return later (according to the recollection of those from whom this information came, grandsons who had lived on the John Holt homeplace all of their lives). This would account for lack of data in the
Virginia records. And the fact that the names John, Thomas, James, and Samuel appear throughout the Randall Holt line and are names given to the sons of John Holt of Bunker Hill would not seem purely coincidental. Another interesting point is that I found no record of any Holts not in the Randall line in the Hog Island references.

From Tyler's *History*, Randolph Holt, son of John Holt, to whom his father, John, gave land on Hog Island, was a student at William and Mary College in 1754. The date indicates that Randolph would have been the son of the second John and an uncle of John of Bunker Hill, born 1769. Tyler's *History* continues, "In his will, dated October 4, 1765, he names his brother Josiah to whom he gives the plantation called Gray's, adjoining Hog Island. This doubtless marks the time when Hog Island went out of the family."

"John Holt of Hog Island, Surry [which would be John II] died in 1765, leaving issue John [which would be John III], David, Charles, Joseph and Benjamin."

Captain Thomas Holt, probably a son of Randall and Elizabeth Holt, was justice of Surry from 1697 and was paid his salary as a burgess in the county levies, apportioned in February 1699 and November 1700 (Surry Records). It is not known exactly when he died, although the historian notes that the Surry records may show. It appears to have been before the date of the will of Elizabeth, March 4, 1708-9. This will proved in Surry May 3, 1709, names her grandsons, Charles, Joseph, and John, sons of John Holt.

The will of John Holt, dated July and proved in Surry December 1723, names his sons, Thomas and John, and daughters, Mary and Elizabeth, and appoints his brother Joseph Holt and Charles Binas executors. Thus, his son would have been John Holt III.

Going back to the will of Thomas Holt: "The will of Thomas Holt, probably the son of Thomas, proved in Surry 1730, names his daughters, Elizabeth, wife of Nicholas
Cocke, daughter, Mary, wife of William Handsford, daughter, Martha, wife of Mr. John Newsom, daughter, Lucy Holt, wife and sons, Thomas, Henry and James.”

“The will of James Holt, son of Thomas, born at Hog Island in Surry County, Virginia, at present in Norfolk, attorney at law.”

From Virginia County Records by Crozier, volume 7, “Captain Thomas Holt served three years service, ending 1779.”


The Seddens record, quoted on page 1, states two other Holts came over about the year 1635 and settled in Virginia, but since my great-grandfather, John Holt of Bunker Hill, came from Hog Island, Virginia, and the only Holts I find listed from there are descendants of Randall, there is every reason to conclude my great-grandfather is descended from Randall Holt. His line is established by court records to the John and Josiah, of whom Tyler’s History states, “Of the other sons of John Holt, John and Josiah, I have no definite data.”

The following information was obtained from a compilation by Mabel Stoyer, of Morgantown, a copy of which is in Daughters of the American Revolution Library in Washington, D.C., and from other descendants whose information was obtained from Samuel Holt, son of Samuel and grandson of John Holt of Bunker Hill. Both he and his father lived at the Holt homestead all their lives and were very familiar with the family of John and Susanna Cobun Holt.

The dates recorded by John Holt in his family Bible correspond with those recorded in the official government records concerning the movement of the troops. The part of these to which John Holt belonged was under General Lee’s com-
mand, and was sent to what was known as Jones Furnace or Evans Furnace, afterward known as Springhill and Bunker Hill in Springhill Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. There, a liberty pole was erected. The furnace furnished the center which, at that time was a thriving small community to which trade came from across Virginia for quite a distance.

Ice’s Ferry, across the Monongahela River, was only five miles away. The furnace was about fifteen miles from Uniontown. It operated for about three quarters of a century. The old furnace was torn down so that its rocks could be used in building the Fairmont-Connellsville branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in the 1890s.

Home Established by John Holt

For two years after coming to Pennsylvania, John Holt clerked at Jones Furnace store. There he met his future wife, Susanna Cobun, born September 23, 1776. She was of German-English extraction and was the daughter of James and Sabria Cobun who settled Masontown, Monongalia County, Virginia, in 1770, and a granddaughter of Jonathan and Catherine Cobun and Arthur and Sabra Trader, who came from Botetourt County, Virginia. Her grandfather, Jonathan Cobun, built a fort on his land, near Dorsey's Knob, south of Morgantown, to protect settlers against Indians.

John Holt and Susanna Cobun were married March 6, 1797. They began housekeeping in a house across the bridge, just south of the Presbyterian church. Although nothing remains of the house, Charles A. Jones, a grandson of Jonathan and Susanna and son of Hiram and Nancy Ann Jones, said he could remember when there was evidence of the house’s location.

The Holt Homestead at Bunker Hill

About 1809, John and Susanna moved into the house in which they and members of their family and their descend-
Home of John and Susanna Cobun Holt.
ants lived until the death of three sons of Samuel Holt, about 1923. In 1925, the house was occupied for about a year and burned down in 1927. In 1970, when I visited the site, there remained part of the stone wall, a few large lilac bushes that had been in front of the cabin. A pump had been placed over the old well.

The log cabin, according to pictures, was a large one for that period, and was added to after the Holts occupied it.

The farm was part of three hundred acres patented by William Hill, May 8, 1786, and sold to Tobias Talbott, who, in turn, November 17, 1793, sold it to William Nichols, against whom William Bell obtained a judgment at the June term of Common Pleas Court, 1801. The land was "Exposed for sale" by Adam Stewart, high sheriff, December 15, 1801, and was bought by John Holt as a result of foreclosure on a loan.

Bell gave Morrison a mortgage for two hundred dollars with John Holt as surety. This mortgage, although dated January 29, 1802, was not recorded until December 3, 1806. The recording date may indicate the time near when the Holts moved into this property. Apparently, John Holt obtained no deed either from Bell or Morrison because none is recorded in Uniontown, nor was the title to the whole three hundred acres ever claimed by John Holt.

Part of the property was repatented by John Phelps. On request of the heirs of John Holt, a new survey was ordered in 1900, and a new patent issued May 1, 1902, confirming to the heirs of John Holt title to one hundred forty-six acres, eleven and eight tenths perches. Through one hundred years, no one raised objection to the ownership of John and his heirs.

The fact that John Holt had two hundred dollars to loan William Bell, in that early day, indicates that he was thrifty. On the assessor's rolls of 1820, John Holt was given a valu-
ation of $795; by 1838, this had been increased to $950. He was also recorded as owner of one dog.

On January 7, 1839, the will of Sarah Williams, widow of William Williams, was recorded, leaving to “My neighbor and friend, John Holt” the farm which she had been willed in 1834, by her late husband. This is the property long known as Jones homestead, passing from John Holt to his daughter, Nancy Jones, shortly before his death.

According to family tradition, John Holt had taken care of Mr. and Mrs. Williams, who apparently had no children and were believed to have come from England as indentured servants.

A great-granddaughter of Nancy Holt Jones, with her mother, Lula Emory, daughter of Margaret Jane Jones Harvey, still lives there. I had the good fortune to attend a family reunion there in 1970 and found Mrs. Emory, then well past ninety years old, very active and alert, both mentally and physically, and possessing a delightful personality.

Both the Jones homestead and the John Holt homestead command magnificent views of the surrounding countryside, extending for many miles across into West Virginia.

John Holt, the Man

After clerking at the Jones Furnace store for two years, John Holt taught school and was a shoemaker, which at that time was considered a skilled trade. He was reputed to have been a man of much intelligence and of high moral character. He was deeply interested in religion; a member of the Methodist class that met about two miles from his home, across into Virginia, from which developed Fletcher’s Chapel. The chapel was not built until after his death, but three of his grandsons and a granddaughter are buried there in the churchyard. John and Susanna Holt and some members of their family are buried down over the hill below where the log cabin stood.
A revealing insight into his character is shown by an incident related by his grandson, James, who was then past eighty years old. He told of a memory which he said had remained vivid in his mind. When he was a very small boy, he was picking cherries with his grandfather who told him not to pick them all, to leave some for the birds.

Copies of letters from James, oldest son of John and Susanna, and his father's reply tell the kind of person he was and indicate the closeness of relationship that existed between father and son.

The original of the letter which follows was preserved by Enos Holt, a minister who retired from an Illinois conference and retired to California where he spent the rest of his life. The copy which was given by Charles A. Jones, another grandson, to Ethel Wiant Davis, was accompanied by a note, "No attempt is made to make corrections to conform to present day usage. The general form of these letters has been given."

Mr. John Holt
Fayette County
Springhill Township, Pa.

Dear and respected Father

On Friday evening last, Jepse Paine came to my school and informed me that you were well and had sent a request by him to me to write a few lines or send some words home. I then determined to write you most of the particulars that had occurred since I left home and accordingly had allotted Saturday night for the completion of the purpose. But on that evening three Gentlemen one a lawyer of Kingwood and two of the Hagens came to spend the evening and one of them professedly to spend the evening with me. Consequently my scheme or plan failed in its accomplishment to have tried to write you a letter containing most of the little particulars that had come under my notice very correctly and according to the rules of grammar that is that I intended to have been correct in the arrangement and correct in the punctuation. But I have not time either to attend to grammatical arrangement nor to write anything more than I am well in health and enjoy myself in the general very well. I ought to feel
grateful to the dispenser of all good for my being and well being. But I must confess that I do not feel that gratitude and love that a being in my situation should. But I think full determined to try to make my peace calling and election sure.

My grammar school will end on Thursday next. Some of the pupils have made a very good progress others have learned but little. But I believe they will be generally satisfied. Indeed I have not heard a murmur. Hagenses who have made the best progress told me last evening that he had made far greater proficiency than he expected. I believe that I render general satisfaction to my employers in the day school. My day school has increased considerably since I left home. For the last two or three weeks I have my mind much employed. I have had a pupil who is far advanced in arithmetic and I had been pretty much puzzled particularly in cube root. I have had nine or ten scholars learning arithmetic and they have kept the slate in my hands almost all the day long and I have not had time to study grammar but I shall be clear of grammar and have time to devote my mind more particularly. The question in cube root that staggered me so much is this. If a ball six inches in diameter weighs thirty two pounds, what will be the weight of one of the same metal whose diameter is three inches. The answer is four pounds I could get the answer by at least two different methods of working the question but I could not fairly see the propriety of working the question by the method attended to. I want you to look over my book if you can find any question similar or any rule applicable send it to me if you have the opportunity.

I have spent a couple of weeks in Mr. Hagan’s family and spent them very agreeably. The men are well informed and considerable information to derive from their company. But I have been returned to Mr. Willets and expect to stay here as long as I stay. I do not know when I shall come home. I am so much engaged with my schedule that I have no time to read and seems on Saturdays that I am clear that I want to read that I cannot show the time to come home. It may be that I will come home before my time is out and it may be not. I should have much gratitude to have had time to write to you in a perspicuous and orderly manner but it is so I have not and this is the best that I can send at this time. But I can subscribe myself your affectionate son

James C. Holt

P.S. My love to Mother sisters and brethern and my best wishes for your happiness and welfare. J.C.H.
JOHN HOLT’S REPLY TO HIS SON

On the outside of the letter was: “Mr. James Holt, Preston County, Virginia.”

Dear Son

Tis with pleasure that I take up my pen to write you a line or two. I pleasure next to conversing with you personally. I proceed to tell you we are all reasonably well at present as to health. My humble and sincere thanks to Almighty God for the continuation of His unmerited mercy to me as a family. Received a letter from Jonathan I think, the Thursday after you left home—he wrote that he had been afflicted but was recovering to a tolerable state of health, was well treated and consequently well satisfied and was laboring to discharge the duty of his important trust. I hope my dear son you do not neglect your soul’s salvation—tis all important.

As I do not of this moment recollect anything of material concern that has transpired since you left home, I shall proceed to answer your request. After searching your work in vain, had recourse to other means by which I obtained ability to serve you. Cube the diameter of your largest ball for your first number, its weight your second, and the cube of the less ball for your third, viz: 216: 32:: 27: 4 the weight required. The same proportion will asy'n any other of the same nature. After a request to write me a line or two, I conclude and subscribe myself, Dr. son Yr truly affectionate Father, John Holt Mr. J. C. Holt P.S. Alfred is in apparent good health.

The Alfred referred to above was James’s son, whose mother died at his birth. He was reared at the Holt homestead by his grandparents, John and Susanna Cobun Holt. His full name was Alfred Thornton Holt. He was the father of John Homer Holt of Grafton, judge of the Third Judicial District. A letter from Judge Holt to his cousin, Susan Holt Camden of Parkersburg, will be given later. Susan Camden was the daughter of Jonathan Holt and granddaughter of John and Susanna Cobun Holt.

At this point, it is interesting to note, before discussing them individually, five Holt brothers, sons of John and Su-
sanna Cobun Holt, settled in Weston, Virginia (now West Virginia): Jonathan, 1831, and James, Mathew, John Fletcher Wesley, and Francis Asbury in 1832.
CHILDREN OF JOHN AND SUSANNA COBUN HOLT

I. James Cobun, born Thursday, December 6, 1799.
II. Jonathan, born November 19, 1800.
III. Louise, born May 29, 1803.
IV. Sabina, born March 14, 1805.
V. Mathew, born February 18, 1807 (my grandfather).
VI. John Fletcher Wesley, born February 8, 1809.
VII. Thomas, born February 7, 1811.
VIII. Nancy Ann, born October 4, 1813.
IX. Samuel, born November 6, 1815.
X. Francis Asbury, born June 16, 1820.

John Holt had all of the birth dates recorded in the family Bible, even giving the day of the week on which each was born. It was the custom at that time for the head of each household to keep his own Bible. Much information was recorded in that way.
I. JAMES COBUN HOLT AND HIS DESCENDANTS

James Cobun Holt
-1799

GENERATION II
Alfred Thornton Holt
Samuel Holt
Mary Sabina Holt (Howard)

GENERATION III
James W. Holt
Katurah Holt (twin of James)
John Homer Holt (Judge 3rd Judicial Dist.)

GENERATION IV
John D. Holt
Alfred Holt
William H. Holt
Howard Holt
Annie L. Holt
Mary Catherine Holt

John Homer Holt
Ellen W. Holt
Margaret Holt
James Neil Holt

Parents
John and Susanna Cobun Holt
James Cobun and Catherine Stanz Holt
James Cobun and Charlotte Hartley Holt
James Cobun and Charlotte Hartley Holt
Alfred Thornton and Maria Stone Holt
Alfred Thornton and Maria Stone Holt
Alfred Thornton and Maria Stone Holt
Alfred Thornton and Maria Stone Holt
James W. and Annie Jordan Holt
James W. and Annie Jordan Holt
James W. and Annie Jordan Holt
James W. and Annie Jordan Holt
James W. and Annie Jordan Holt
James W. and Annie Jordan Holt

John Homer and Marie Isabel Chaney Holt
John Homer and Marie Isabel Chaney Holt
John Homer and Marie Isabel Chaney Holt
John Homer and Marie Isabel Chaney Holt
James Cobun Holt, oldest son of John and Susanna Cobun Holt, was born Thursday, December 6, 1799. He died at Weston in 1836 and is buried in the old cemetery mound above the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad station. He was one of the five Holt brothers who came to Weston in 1831-32.

His first wife, who died at the birth of their son, Alfred Thornton Holt, was Catherine Stanz, daughter of Peter and Lydia Stanz, and granddaughter of Philip Stanz, the first Stanz to come to Fayette County, Pennsylvania.

James Cobun’s second wife was Charlotte Hartley. By this marriage, he had two children: Samuel, who was a captain in the United States Army, and lived in Muncie, Indiana; and Mary Sabina, who married Thomas Howard. Charlotte Hartley was a sister of Peter and Henry Hartley, of Masontown, Preston County, West Virginia.

Alfred Thornton Holt

Alfred Thornton, son of James Cobun and Catherine Stanz Holt, was born at Bunker Hill, 1820, died at Grafton, West Virginia, April 2, 1902. After his marriage to Maria A. Stone, from Culpeper, Virginia, he settled in Kingwood where he was a farmer and cattle dealer for sixty-six years. He was an active Methodist.

According to a letter from his son, Judge John Homer Holt, he had four children, but I have been able to find only three. The letter will follow later.

James W. Holt and Katurah were twins; another son was Judge John Homer Holt, of Grafton, Third Judicial Circuit.

James W. and Katurah were born at Bunker Hill, February 14, 1849. Katurah married a Mr. Brown and they had one son whose name (I think) was Charles.

JAMES W. HOLT

James W. Holt was educated in the common school and at Kingwood Academy. For three years he worked for the Pres-
ton County Journal, and from there, at the age of twenty-one, he took charge of the Grafton Sentinel. Within one year, he bought the plant and edited the paper until his health failed and he had a complete nervous breakdown and died in the state hospital at Weston. His son Howard took over the paper and it was continued under his son for many years. Howard’s widow was living in Grafton in 1971, but was very feeble.

James Wilson Holt first married Annie Jordan, daughter of John Jordan of Grafton. Their children were: John D., who moved to Horton, Kansas, and became rather wealthy in the oil business; Alfred, William H., Annie L., and Mary Catherine. His second wife was Florence Stemple.

In 1881, he was appointed under President Garfield’s administration to a position in the Revenue Service, where he served for three years. In 1885, he was elected mayor of Grafton. Under Harrison’s administration, he was appointed postmaster at Grafton, where he served until 1894. He was a member of the Masons and Knights of Pythias fraternities.

John Homer Holt

Judge John Homer Holt, youngest son of Alfred T. and Maria Stone Holt, was born June 19, 1857. He obtained his education in common school, completing it at Kingwood Academy. His ambition was to practice law. He read it under
Brown and McGraw. Mr. McGraw was a distinguished lawyer and a member of Congress.

John Homer Holt was admitted to the bar and began practice in Kingwood, where he remained for two years. In 1881, he moved to Grafton. He had been an active Republican all his life. He was chairman at the convention that nominated George W. Atkinson, the first Republican governor since the Civil War. He was a member of the legislature from Preston County from 1878 until 1896.

He was married twice. On February 2, 1886, at Washington, D.C., he was married to Marie Isabel Chaney, daughter of Andrew and Catherine Barber Chaney. They had the following children: John Homer, Ellen W., Margaret, and James Neil. His second marriage was November 1, 1911, to Mrs. Nannie Brown of Beverly.

Letter from Judge John Homer Holt:

Grafton, West Virginia
March 3rd 1903

Mrs. T. B. Camden
Parkersburg, West Virginia
My dear Mrs. Camden:

I trust you will not take my long delay as an indication of a lack of interest on my part in the subject matter of your letter of the 20th of February, but attribute it to the real cause which was my absence from home made necessary by official duties.

It affords me pleasure to take the time to give you such information as I possess in relation to our common ancestry.

To begin with, I will answer your questions without repeating them here, in accordance with my best information. Your grandfather's name was John W. and about all the information I have concerning him is that he is of English extraction. In 1794, General Lee was sent from Virginia with a detachment of Virginia troops by the President into western Pennsylvania for the purpose of quelling what was supposed to be an insurrection growing out of taxes levied upon distilled liquors. When the troops reached Uniontown, the County Seat of Fayette County, Pennsylvania, on their return from quelling the insurrection, your grandfather John W. Holt who was a soldier in General Lee's command was
taken sick with typhoid fever and was left at that point while the other troops returned to Virginia. After his recovery your grandfather who was then a young man determined to remain in that section of the country. He married a Miss Cobun who was raised just across the river in what was then Virginia and Monongalia County. His family was composed of the following sons: James, Jonathan, Matthew, Fletcher, Thomas, Asbury and Samuel and two daughters, Sabina who was intermarried with John Jones. I think I have named all of the children of your grandfather, but they may not be named according to their ages. Some of those families I have known, some of them I have not.

I am acquainted with Uncle Thomas' family which during my recollection has lived in Monongalia County. The Holmeses have lived in this section of West Virginia, one of the boys, Matthew who spent twenty years in China now lives in Clarksburg, another son, Alfred now lives in West Union, Doddridge County. Calvin lives in Fairmont, and I have lost sight of the rest of the family which was large. The Joneses remained joining the old homestead in Fayette County on Bunker Hill, but that family have nearly all passed away. Samuel Holt's family remain on the old homestead at Bunker Hill, and the farm belongs to the family. He had a large family and they are scattered all over the country, and I am unable to give you their names. I understand that James, the oldest son and two of his brothers, all of whom are unmarried, own and still reside on the old homestead. As to Fletcher, Matthew and Jonathan, you doubtless have more information than I.

My father's name was Alfred Thornton Holt. He was the eldest child of James Holt and the only child of my grandfather's first marriage. After my grandmother's death, my father was taken by his grandmother Holt and was reared in her family, at the old homestead at Bunker Hill. His father, James Holt, my grandfather, left Fayette County and located in Lewis County and located at Weston in Lewis County where he carried on business for a number of years as a merchant and cattle dealer and where he died a comparatively young man.

He married a Miss Hartley the second time, and by whom he had two children, Samuel who is now a resident of Muncie, Indiana, and Mary who married Thomas Howard and whose children now live in Cowen, both Howard and his wife being dead.

My father married Maria A. Stone, of Kingwood, Preston County, Virginia. They had four children of whom I am the
youngest. He lived for a short time in Lewis and Gilmer Counties, I was born in the latter county.

Your father, Homer A. Holt and my father and mother were very intimate friends, and by reason of their relationship and intimacy, they permitted him to name me. And they named me John for my grandfather Stone out of a compliment to my mother, and Homer for himself. While I never met your father but twice, yet I have frequently heard my mother and father speak of him, so that I always appeared to have known him better than any other member of the family with whom I was not immediately associated.

My mother died in 1877, and my father died on the 2nd day of last April. My brothers and sisters are all living yet. I occasionally meet with members of the Holt family but there are a number whom I have never known.

I remember you very well, having met you while you lived in Wheeling some years ago. I should be very much pleased to meet you again and shall make it a point to call on you my next visit to Parkersburg.

I regret very much that I did not receive your letter while my father was living as he could have given you many more facts in relation to our ancestry than I am able to do. But if I can be of any other service to you or can in any way add anything to your information on this subject, all you need to do is command me and I shall take pleasure in responding. Very truly yours, John H. Holt.

As Judge Holt admits, he does not know about some members of the Holt family. For example: Sabina Holt married Nathaniel Holmes, not John Jones. Nancy Ann married Hiram Jones. He spoke of all of his brothers and sisters being well, yet I have failed to learn from any source of but three, James, W. Katurah, and John Homer, himself. He also spoke of the two children who were half sister and brother of his father, Alfred Thornton Holt, and said their children were in Cowen, but failed to give the children’s names.

The letterhead upon which the above letter was written bears “3rd Judicial Circuit, John Homer Holt, Judge, Grafton, West Virginia and Wilford H. Pilson, Official Reporter.”
II. JONATHAN HOLT (1800-1879) AND HIS DESCENDANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Generation</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Parents</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Jonathan Holt</td>
<td>John and Susanna Cobun Holt</td>
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<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Homer Adams Holt</td>
<td>Jonathan and Eliza Wilson Holt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Judge)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mary Louise Holt</td>
<td>Jonathan and Eliza Wilson Holt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Byrne)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Susan Holt</td>
<td>Jonathan and Eliza Wilson Holt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Camden)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>J. Howard Holt</td>
<td>Jonathan and —— Mealy (?) Holt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>John Holt</td>
<td>Homer Adams and Mary Ann Byrne Holt</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Huntington attorney)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Robert Byrne Holt</td>
<td>Homer Adams and Mary Ann Byrne Holt</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nina Holt</td>
<td>Homer Adams and Mary Ann Byrne Holt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Dice)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ella Byrne</td>
<td>Benjamin Wilson and Mary L. Holt Byrne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Given)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lydia Byrne</td>
<td>Benjamin Wilson and Mary L. Holt Byrne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Campbell-Boggs)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ann Haymond Byrne</td>
<td>Benjamin Wilson and Mary L. Holt Byrne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Venable)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>George H. Byrne</td>
<td>Benjamin Wilson and Mary L. Holt Byrne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W. E. R. Byrne</td>
<td>Benjamin Wilson and Mary L. Holt Byrne</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Mary Adams Byrne
Gertrude Byrne (White)

Jessie Camden (Lewis)
Harry P. Camden
Richard Camden (M.D.)
Rolla Camden
Guy Camden
Bernie Camden

Howard Holt, Jr.
Fay Holt (Mulligan)
Forest Holt (Brennen)
Fern Holt
Charles Holt

GENERATION IV
Byrne Given
Nell Brown Given (Lewis)
Louise Campbell (Reed)

Klea Holt

Harriet Byrne (Pressly)
Dorothy Byrne
Lulu Haynie Byrne (Merchant)
George Byrne, Jr.

George Austin Byrne
Marie Louise Byrne (ver Steeg-Sheets)

Benjamin Wilson and Mary L. Holt Byrne

Thomas and Susan Holt Camden

Howard and Primrose Thacker Holt

John and Ella Byrne Given

John Holt (Huntington attorney)

George H. and Lulu Hainly Byrne

W. E. R. and Amanda Austin Byrne
Barbara Lynn Byrne (Mohler)

Charlotte Virginia Byrne (Messmer)

W. E. R. Byrne, Jr.

Nina Holt White (Brown)

Homer Adams Holt (ex-Governor)

Mary Byrne Holt (Dye)

Nina Louise Holt (Jones)

Julia Holt (died young)

Joe Holt

Estelle Lewis

Camden Lewis

Susan Lewis

Nina Lewis

GENERATION V

William C. Pressly III

Harriet B. Pressly (Tucker)

Mary Lou Pressly

George B. Pressly

James M. Pressly

Dorothy B. Pressly (Fulghum)

Sandy ver Steeg (Brown)

Barbara Reeves Mohler (Wright)

W. E. R. and Amanda Austin Byrne

W. E. R. and Amanda Austin Byrne

W. E. R. and Amanda Austin Byrne

Olin and Gertrude Byrne White

Robert Byrne and Emma McWhorter Holt

Robert Byrne and Emma McWhorter Holt

Robert Byrne and Emma McWhorter Holt

Robert Byrne and Emma McWhorter Holt

Robert Byrne and Emma McWhorter Holt

Albert and Jessie Camden Lewis

Albert and Jessie Camden Lewis

Albert and Jessie Camden Lewis

Albert and Jessie Camden Lewis

William C. and Harriet B. Pressly

William C. and Harriet B. Pressly

William C. and Harriet B. Pressly

William C. and Harriet B. Pressly

William C. and Harriet B. Pressly

William C. and Harriet B. Pressly

Marshall A. and Mary L. Byrne ver Steeg

Daniel N. and Barbara L. Byrne Mohler
William Edward Mohler
Daniel Nathan Mohler, Jr.

Robert B.
Messmer, Jr.
William Byrne Messmer

Frances Marion Byrne (Getz)
W. E. R. Byrne III

Banjamin Wilson Brown
Robert Lawrence Brown

Julia Kinsley Holt (Coyle)
Isabel Holt (Dennenberg)
Robert Byrne Holt

John Holt
Joe Holt
Ben Jones

GENERATION VI
Carolyn Trauseau Tucker
Charles L. Tucker III

Patricia B.
Pressly
George Byrne Pressly
Robert Forrest Pressly

Daniel N. and Barbara L. Byrne Mohler
Daniel N. and Barbara L. Byrne Mohler

Robert B. and Charlotte Byrne Messmer
Robert B. and Charlotte Byrne Messmer

W. E. R., Jr., and Frances Parrett Byrne
W. E. R., Jr., and Frances Parrett Byrne

Elton Schumway and Nina Holt Brown
Elton Schumway and Nina Holt Brown

Homer Adams and Isabel Wood Holt
Homer Adams and Isabel Wood Holt
Homer Adams and Isabel Wood Holt

Joe and Julia Buery Holt
Joe and Julia Buery Holt

Ben and Nina Louise Holt Jones

Charles L. and Harriet Pressly Tucker
Charles L. and Harriet Pressly Tucker

George B. and Barbara Brown Pressly
George B. and Barbara Brown Pressly

George B. and Barbara Brown Pressly

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William R. Pressly
Merial C. Pressly

Julia Estelle Fulghum
William Scott Fulghum

David McPherson Brown
John William Brown III
Katherine Marshall Brown
Jane Austin Brown

William Edward Wright, Jr.
Susanne Lynn Wright (Thorniley)

Barbara Edna Mohler
Julia Byrne Mohler
Ann Morrison Mohler
William Edward Mohler III
David Ambrose Mohler

Marion McQueen Mohler
Margaret Mohler
Martha Mohler
Nathan Mohler III

Beth Byrne

James M. and Nelda Clements Pressly
James M. and Nelda Clements Pressly

Jack and Dorothy B. Fulghum
Jack and Dorothy B. Fulghum

William, Jr., and Sandy ver Steeg Brown
William, Jr., and Sandy ver Steeg Brown
William, Jr., and Sandy ver Steeg Brown
William, Jr., and Sandy ver Steeg Brown
William, Jr., and Sandy ver Steeg Brown

William E. and Barbara R. Mohler Wright
William E. and Barbara R. Mohler Wright

William E. and Mary Morrison Mohler
William E. and Mary Morrison Mohler
William E. and Mary Morrison Mohler
William E. and Mary Morrison Mohler
William E. and Mary Morrison Mohler

David N., Jr., and Harriet Hodges Mohler
David N., Jr., and Harriet Hodges Mohler
David N., Jr., and Harriet Hodges Mohler
David N., Jr., and Harriet Hodges Mohler

W. E. R. III and Beverly Byrne

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Relationship to Weston settlers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kimberly Brown</td>
<td>Robert Lawrence and Jill Stevens Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucy Holden Coyle</td>
<td>George, Jr., and Julia Holt Coyle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabel Wood Coyle</td>
<td>George, Jr., and Julia Holt Coyle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Coyle III</td>
<td>George, Jr., and Julia Holt Coyle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Dennenberg IV</td>
<td>Richard III and Isabel Holt Dennenberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger Dennenberg</td>
<td>Richard III and Isabel Holt Dennenberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Dennenberg</td>
<td>Richard III and Isabel Holt Dennenberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Austin Messmer</td>
<td>Robert, Jr., and Elaine Messmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte Randolph Messmer</td>
<td>William Byrne and Audrey Pettit Mesmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julia Byrne Messmer</td>
<td>William Byrne and Audrey Pettit Mesmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Messmer</td>
<td>William Byrne and Audrey Pettit Mesmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Byrne Messmer, Jr.</td>
<td>William Byrne and Audrey Pettit Mesmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cynthia Getz</td>
<td>William and Frances Marion Getz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pamela Getz</td>
<td>William and Frances Marion Getz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Randolph Getz</td>
<td>William and Frances Marion Getz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Barton Getz</td>
<td>William and Frances Marion Getz</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jonathan Holt, son of John and Susanna Cobun Holt, was born November 19, 1800. He was the first of the five Holt brothers who settled in Weston, West Virginia, arriving there as the first Methodist preacher. He arrived in 1831. He was not only a preacher, but also practiced medicine and law. At
that time, requirements were few and educated men often practiced more than one profession.

In 1865, he moved to West Milford where he lived until his death January 29, 1879. His remains were brought to Weston to the home of Mrs. Mary Barnes, a relative of his first wife, Eliza Wilson. Funeral services were conducted by the Reverend S. H. Jones. He and four of his five wives are buried in the cemetery on the hill above the reservoir at the head of Main Avenue. He has a large red granite monument on which is written:

Jonathan Holt  
Born  
November 19, 1800  
Died  
January 29, 1879  
Eliza Holt  
Born  
March 14, 1807  
Died  
July 29, 1853

On the left side of the nearly square red granite stone is written, “Eliza R. Holt” and “Jane C. Holt.” The markers of his wives bear the following initials: J.H., E.W.H., J.C.H., AND E.—.H., the blank necessitated because of the illegibility of the middle initial.

In a letter from Jonathan to his sister, Nancy Ann Jones, he speaks of the deaths that had occurred in their family and of his wives in this order, Eliza, Eliza M., and Jane. This probably indicates the order in which he was married to them. The last of his five wives survived him. She was Margaret Saddler. They had one son, William, who was a preacher and who died young and unmarried. The initial A (unless it is the middle letter on the grave marker, which is illegible because of being worn) does not appear except in the letter written to his sister. He refers to his then present wife, Ann, and their yet unnamed infant son. Since the last forty-eight
years of his life were spent in Weston and West Milford, it is probable that record of his many marriages may be found someplace among Lewis and Harrison County Court records, along with information regarding children of whom I have no knowledge.

Jonathan’s first wife was Eliza Wilson and her children are all accounted for. Another wife was ——— Mealy, thought to have been the mother of Howard Holt, a criminal lawyer of Moundsville. It may be that the Eliza M. referred to in the following letter, was Eliza Mealy.

November 2, 1858

Mrs. Nancy Ann Jones
My very dear sister:

Your letter of the 27th ult. came to hand a few days since and I avail myself of this, the first opportunity to answer it, in compliance with your request, and in full accordance with the feelings of my heart. The chief item of intelligence in your letter, that of Hiram’s death is sad intelligence, indeed to my heart. No wonder, my dear sister that your feelings had not yet recovered from the shock occasioned by such unexpected, sudden and great bereavement, at the time you wrote, being so soon after this sorely afflictive Providential visitation, came upon you. No words I know will, can adequately portray the anguish of your spirit or describe the wounds of your poor crushed and bleeding heart.

I have, my dear sister, Nancy drank deeply from the same bitter cup of sorrow and can feel, and I do feel for you and your dear little ones. Oh! glad I would be, my loved sister to enjoy your company this evening that I might mingle my feelings and tears of sorrow with yours. My heart bleeds for you while I write, and my eyes are dimmed with tears. I do, my much loved sister, sympathize deeply with you, and pray God to sustain you by His grace and His spirit, and to give you to feel that He is your allsufficient friend, and that His grace is sufficient for you. I will continue to pray for you; and I am glad to assure you that you have an interest in the intercessions of your blessed Redeemer! He ever liveth to make intercessions for you.

I expect to be down to your place, in the course, at the farthest, of a few weeks. I may be there in a few days. I have been intending to come for some time; but one thing after another has prevented so far. I will most freely give you any advise that will
be in my power, and afford you all the aid that I can in my way 
impart; and I doubt not your other brothers will do the same.

We enjoy our usual health. I lately heard from Mathew, Thom-
as and Asbury and saw Fletcher. They and their families are well. 
It is a time of general good health in our country. I was lately out 
to Sutton and found Mary Louise, Homer and their families well. 
Susan who lives in Weston and her family were also well a few 
days since I was there. We have a son in our family, born the 10th 
day of September, yet without a name. Ann and the boy have 
both been getting along well so far. We think he is a very interest-
ing child, he is a great pet, quite a plaything for us all. If you 
could pay us a visit, we would be very glad, indeed. I have been 
very anxious to visit the old homestead for a long time, to see my 
friends that still remain there. The last time I was back, Father 
was gone, since that time, Mother, Nathaniel and Hiram have also 
gone to the Spiritland. In a few years we shall all disappear from 
the earth, Father, Mother, James, Louisa, Nathaniel, Hiram, Eliza, 
Eliza M. and Jane within a few brief years have gone to the world 
of Spirits. Several of the children of my dear brothers and sisters 
have also died in the same time. It seems but yesterday when we 
were all home composing an unbroken family. What strange and 
sad changes time has wrought. Sometimes when I think of those 
loved ones that have died, it seems as though my heart would die 
within me, and I find it necessary to turn away from contemplat-
ing those heart w rending bereavements lest I should be wholly 
disqualified for the duties of life. Still, I would not murmur 
against the righteous dispensations of my Heavenly Father. I look 
forward to a day when I see all is for the best, when I hope and 
trust we shall all meet in Heaven. For Heaven I am striving to live 
and labor every day of my life, my dear sister, and I daily feel 
that my labor was not in vain in the Lord.

Ann requests me to say to you for her, “Though she has never 
had the pleasure of seeing you, she has long desired to see you 
and pay you a visit, and that she symphazises deeply in your late 
sad bereavement, that she now more than ever desires to see you 
and would be very glad if you would mingle in the society of 
your friends for awhile, and that it would afford her great plea-
ure to receive a visit from you, that you might become acquaint-
ed with each other.”

I regret that after I had my letter nearly completed, water was 
spilled on the desk, which ran under and wet it, and I have not 
time to rewrite it in time for the mail. Write to me often. I would
be glad to keep a frequent regular correspondence with you. I am
my dear sister, your affectionate brother, J. Holt, Bennett's Mill,
Lewis County, Virginia.

J. Howard Holt

Howard Holt (J. Howard Holt), son of Jonathan Holt, was
a criminal lawyer in Moundsville. He was a man of much
charm and warmth of personality, a humanitarian, and did
much for prison reform. At one time, the warden of the
penitentiary tried to bar him from visiting that institution
because he exposed some of the inhumane treatment of the
prisoners. He was opposed to capital punishment and wrote a
book on the subject. On one occasion, he defended Holly
Griffith, a dangerous and notorious criminal. He told me it
was not because he was not fully aware that Griffith was a
very bad man, but because he was confident that unless a vig­
orous effort was made to save his life, he would be hanged,
and he didn’t want to see anyone executed. Holly Griffith
lived the remainder of his life in the penitentiary.

Howard Holt and his entire family were musicians and
spent one season each year on concert tour for Redpath
Lyceum Bureau. He was a violinist; his wife, Primrose Thack­
er Holt, a pianist; his two sons, Howard, Jr., a violinist who
played in the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and Charles,
the cellist; the three daughters sang and gave readings, dou­
bling on other instruments. They were Fay, Fern, and Forest.

Fay married the man who had the lead in the original
company of the operetta Blossomtime, built around the life
of Franz Schubert; second, she married a Mr. Mulligan and
they lived in Pittsburgh. Forest married Ignatius Brennen,
poet laureate of West Virginia, and I never knew who Fern
married, but she lived in Moundsville with her mother a short
time after her marriage. Howard, Jr., died while still studying
in Baltimore. Charles was a young boy the last I knew of him.
Homer Adams Holt

Homer Adams Holt, ex-Governor of West Virginia, was born in Lewisburg, West Virginia, March 1, 1898, son of Robert Byrne and Emma McWhorter Holt. He obtained a bachelor's degree from Washington and Lee University in 1918, an LL.B. in 1923, and an honorary LL.D. from West Virginia University in 1937. On March 22, 1924, he married Isabel Hedges Wood. They have three children: Julia Kinsley, who married George Coyle, Jr., and they are the parents of Lucy Holden Coyle, Isabel Wood Coyle, and George Coyle III; Isabel, who married Richard M. Dennenberg, and they are the parents of three children, Richard Dennenberg, Roger Dennenberg, and Margaret Dennenberg; and Robert Byrne Holt.

Homer Holt has held many offices in various organizations. Before serving as governor, he was attorney general of West Virginia, was a trustee of Washington and Lee University, director of Acacia Mutual Life Insurance Company, director of Union and Carbide Corporation, on the executive board of the American Legion, West Virginia Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club, and has worked with the Boy Scouts of America, as well as several other organizations.

Mary Louise Holt

The following is copied from portions of a book compiled by Benjamin Wilson Brown and loaned to me by Nina Holt White Brown of Charleston, West Virginia.

Mary Louise (Nina) Holt, daughter of Jonathan and Eliza

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Wilson Holt, married Benjamin Wilson Byrne, son of John Brown and Anne Haymond Byrne. He was born in 1820 and died in 1903. A lawyer who held many political offices, he was a delegate to the Virginia legislature in Richmond prior to the Civil War. Representing Braxton County at the Secession Convention in 1861, he voted not to secede, but went along with his state. He moved to Augusta County, Virginia, where he was active in the production of munitions of war for the Confederacy. He was appointed a major of ordnance, C.S.A. With the fortunes and misfortunes of military operations in the Valley of Virginia, he with his family “refuged” up and down the valley from Mount Solon in Augusta to Big Lick (Roanoke) in Roanoke County and into Giles and Bland counties in southwest Virginia. The late W. E. R. Byrne, prominent lawyer of Charleston, was born on this “Safari.”

After the war, Colonel Ben was active in organizing the new state of West Virginia, living in Wheeling and finally in Charleston. He was an early state superintendent of education and active in the founding of the state college at Institute.

The children of Benjamin and Mary Louise (Nina) Holt Byrne were:

I. Ella Byrne who married John Given, a lawyer of Canton, Ohio. Their son, Byrne, married Amy Laidley; their daughter Nell Brown Given married ——— Lewis. Homer Given married in Kentucky, leaving a large family in the Lexington area. Both Byrne and Homer were educated in Ohio State University and both played baseball on semi-professional teams representing Charleston, 1901-3.

II. Lydia Byrne married ——— Campbell of Ohio. Their daughter, Louise Campbell, born in 1882, died in 1968, married Macon Reed, now deceased, was teacher of mathematics in Hampden-Sydney College.

Lydia Byrne’s second marriage was to James Martin Boggs, of Clay County, West Virginia. He was a gentleman farmer
and cattleman and a Confederate veteran from Big Otter Creek.

III. Anne Haymond Byrne was born March 29, 1855, in Sutton and died September 21, 1944, in Charleston. She married Mathew Walton Venable in 1893.

IV. George H. Byrne married Lulu Haynie of Texas in 1892. He was onetime editor and part owner of the Charleston Gazette. They had four children:

Harriet Byrne married William C. Pressly of Troy, Tennessee, in 1921. Doctor Pressly was president of Peace College, Raleigh, North Carolina, for over thirty years. Harriet was also connected with the college. He retired in 1966. They had six children: William C. Pressly III, born in 1922, died at age seventeen. Harriet B. Pressly, born in 1924, married Charles L. Tucker, Jr., of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, now living in Greensboro, North Carolina. They have two children: Carolyn Trauseau Tucker and Charles L. Tucker III.

Mary Lou Pressly was born in 1928, is unmarried and lives in Raleigh, North Carolina.


Dorothy Byrne, daughter of George H. and Lulu Haynie
Byrne was born in 1898 and is unmarried. She lives in Baltimore, Maryland.

Lulu Haynie Byrne, daughter of George H. and Lulu Haynie Byrne, was born in 1904. She married Weldon Merchant of Mathews, Virginia. They live in Portsmouth, Virginia.

George Byrne, Jr., unmarried and deceased.

V. The fifth child of Benjamin Wilson Byrne and Mary Louise Holt Byrne, William Eston Randolph Byrne, married Amanda Austin of Lewisburg, West Virginia, daughter of Dr. Samuel Austin, a captain in the Medical Corps, C.S.A. Mrs. Byrne was national president of Daughters of the Confederacy, and for many years, was national parliamentarian of that organization and the Colonial Dames (Who's Who in America) connected with Caperton family. W. E. R. Byrne was a prominent lawyer in the state, living briefly at Clay, but most of his active years were in Charleston. He was a member of West Virginia Legislature, one-term speaker of the house, and was the author of Tale of the Elk.

George Austin Byrne, deceased, son of W. E. R. Byrne, married Margaret Kennedy. He was a veteran of World War I. There were no children.


Marie Louise Byrne ver Steeg married a second time, Lester L. Sheets of Gallipolis, Ohio.

Barbara Lynn Byrne, daughter of W. E. R. Byrne, married Daniel Nathan Mohler, deceased, of Saint Albans. He was president of Charleston National Bank. He was an officer in World War I in the Marine Corps. They had three children:

William Edward Mohler, son of Daniel and Barbara Lynn Byrne Mohler, married Mary Ann Morrison, of Indianapolis. He was educated in the University of Virginia, LL.B., and is practicing in Charleston, West Virginia. They have five children: Barbara Edna, born in March 1946; Julia Byrne, born in July 1948; Ann Morrison, born in October 1949; William Edward III, born in 1953; and David Ambrose, born November 10, 1956.

Daniel Nathan Mohler, Jr., married Harriet Hodges of Charleston. He was educated in the University of Virginia Medical School, and is practicing in Charlottesville, Virginia. They have four children: Marian McQueen, born in 1952; Margaret, born in 1954; Martha, born in 1958; and Daniel Nathan III, born in 1959.

Charlotte Virginia Byrne, daughter of W. E. R. Byrne, married Robert Bonham Messmer, of Berryville, Virginia. They are living in Orlando, Florida. They have two children: Robert B., Jr., married and divorced Elaine ——. They had one son, Stephen Austin Messmer.


W. E. R. Byrne, Jr., married Frances Parrent, of Lexington, Virginia. They moved to Yuma, Arizona. They have two children: Frances Marion married William Getz and lives in Wilmette, Illinois. They have five children: Cynthia Getz, born in 1958; Pamela; William Randolph; Richard Barton; and ——.

W. E. R. Byrne III married Beverly —— of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Their daughter, Beth, was born in 1961.
VI. Mary Adams Byrne, daughter of Benjamin and Mary Lou­ise Holt Byrne, died young.

VII. Gertrude Byrne, daughter of Benjamin and Mary Lou­ise Holt Byrne, was born in 1868; died in 1959; married in 1903 to Olin White, of Galeton, Pennsylvania, who died in 1919. He was, for many years, connected with the lumber industry. The children of Olin and Gertrude Byrne White are:

Nina Holt White was born in 1905 and educated at David­son College; Converse College, A.B.; Marshall University, M.A.; and for twenty-four years was a teacher in Kanawha County. She married Elton Schumway Brown, who was born in 1900 and died in 1951. He was from Elkins, West Virginia, and was educated at Harvard. He was connected with Esso­ Standard, in the engineering department. They have two chil­dren: Benjamin Wilson Brown, born July 4, 1941, educated in engineering at Cornell University, and holds a Bachelor of Science degree. He married Margaret Mary Hodgdon of Bris­tol, Connecticut. They live at Nashua, New Hampshire.

Robert Lawrence Brown was born October 3, 1942. He received his Bachelor of Science and master’s degrees at West Virginia University. He married Jill Stevens of LaGrange, Illi­nois. They now live in Wilmington, Delaware. They have one daughter, Kimberly Ann, born in 1969.

A very brief outline of the Wilson ancestry follows: Wil­liam Wilson was born in Ireland in 1722, was son and grand­son of David, Jr., and David, Sr., both born in Scotland. David, Jr., and William, an infant, about 1725. William mar­ried Elizabeth Blackburn, also of Ireland.

Benjamin Wilson, son of William, was born in 1747. He married Anne Ruddell. He was an officer in the Continental Army, and a close friend of George Washington. He moved to Beverly, West Virginia, shortly after the Revolution. He was called Colonel Ben and my grandfather was named for him, and also called Colonel Ben from Civil War experience. I was
named for him. The original Colonel Ben had thirty children (two marriages).

Mary Wilson, daughter of Benjamin, married John Haymond. Ann Haymond, daughter of John and Mary, married John Brown Byrne, the parents of Benjamin Byrne who married Mary Louise (Nina) Holt.
III. LOUISE HOLT (1803) AND HER DESCENDANTS

Louise Holt (Dunlop)  

Parents
John and Susanna Cobun Holt

GENERATION II

Jane Dunlop  
Margaret Dunlop (McClosky)  
John Dunlop

Andrew and Louise Holt Dunlop
Andrew and Louise Holt Dunlop
Andrew and Louise Holt Dunlop

Louise Holt, daughter of John and Susanna Cobun Holt, was born May 29, 1803. She married Andrew Dunlop. I find very little information on this branch of the family except that they had three children, Jane, Margaret, and John. Margaret married Ephram McClosky, of whose daughter Belle, J. W. Vandervort, relative through the family of Sabina Holt Holmes, wrote, “Belle McClosky, a student at Moore Seminary when I was a little boy, at that time was one of the handsomest girls that I had ever seen; and I think that is true even yet.” John Dunlop married Martha Webb, a sister of Sam Hayes, of Gilmer County. After John’s death, she lived in Charleston, West Virginia.
IV. SABINA HOLT (1805) AND HER DESCENDANTS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Generation</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Parents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Sabina Holt—1805</td>
<td>John and Susanna Cobun Holt</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Matthew G. Holmes</td>
<td>Nathaniel and Sabina Holt Holmes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>John Milton Holmes</td>
<td>Nathaniel and Sabina Holt Holmes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Harriet Holmes (Pugh)</td>
<td>Nathaniel and Sabina Holt Holmes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>James Holmes</td>
<td>Nathaniel and Sabina Holt Holmes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Samuel Holmes</td>
<td>Nathaniel and Sabina Holt Holmes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Alfred Clark Holmes</td>
<td>Nathaniel and Sabina Holt Holmes</td>
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<td>Calvin A. Holmes</td>
<td>Nathaniel and Sabina Holt Holmes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Susan Holmes (Vandervort)</td>
<td>Nathaniel and Sabina Holt Holmes</td>
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<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Emma Holmes (Davis)</td>
<td>John Milton and Evelyn Cottrill Holmes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ella Holmes (Cunningham)</td>
<td>John Milton and Evelyn Cottrill Holmes</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Holmes (Highland)</td>
<td>John Milton and Evelyn Cottrill Holmes</td>
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<td>Charles Luther Holmes</td>
<td>John Milton and Evelyn Cottrill Holmes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Buena Holmes (Hickman)</td>
<td>John Milton and Evelyn Cottrill Holmes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Harriet Holmes (West)</td>
<td>John Milton and Evelyn Cottrill Holmes</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
William West
Jean West
Paul West
Maxine West

Landrum Holmes

Ida Mae Holmes
(Powell)

Gertrude Holmes
(Engle)

Vaughan Holmes
Ewing Holmes
Harold Holmes
Charles Holmes

Minnie Holmes
Howard Holmes
Edna Holmes
James Edward Holmes

Homer R. Vandervort
James W. Vandervort
Alice C. Vandervort
Anna M. Vandervort

GENERATION IV
Vivian Davis
Camilla Davis
Buena Davis

Marjorie Cunningham
(Sidebottom)

Kenna and Harriet Holmes West
Kenna and Harriet Holmes West
Kenna and Harriet Holmes West
Kenna and Harriet Holmes West
Kenna and Harriet Holmes West

James Landrum and Sarah Little Holmes

Alfred and Eliza Holt Holmes
Alfred and Eliza Holt Holmes

Calvin and Jennie Sturgess Holmes
Calvin and Jennie Sturgess Holmes
Calvin and Jennie Sturgess Holmes
Calvin and Jennie Sturgess Holmes

Matthew and Elizabeth McCleary Holmes
Matthew and Elizabeth McCleary Holmes
Matthew and Elizabeth McCleary Holmes
Matthew and Elizabeth McCleary Holmes

Amos and Susan Holmes Vandervort
Amos and Susan Holmes Vandervort
Amos and Susan Holmes Vandervort
Amos and Susan Holmes Vandervort

W. A. and Emma Holmes Davis
W. A. and Emma Holmes Davis
W. A. and Emma Holmes Davis

Cecil Warren and Ella Holmes Cunningham
Beatrice
Cunningham
Vera Cunningham
Warren
Cunningham
Victor Cunningham

Virginia Highland
Randall Highland
Charles Highland
Kenneth Highland
Denham Highland
Arnett Highland
Juanita Highland
Alice Highland
Carlson Highland
Gaylord Highland
Richard Highland

Evelyn Holmes

Mildred Hickman
Holmes Hickman
Kenneth Hickman

Alfred Powell
Pearl Powell
(Cook)
Ashby Powell
Clayton Powell
Lyle Powell
June Powell

Cecil Warren and Ella Holmes Cunningham
Cecil Warren and Ella Holmes Cunningham
Cecil Warren and Ella Holmes Cunningham
Cecil Warren and Ella Holmes Cunningham

Wade and Elizabeth Holmes Highland
Wade and Elizabeth Holmes Highland
Wade and Elizabeth Holmes Highland
Wade and Elizabeth Holmes Highland
Wade and Elizabeth Holmes Highland
Wade and Elizabeth Holmes Highland
Wade and Elizabeth Holmes Highland
Wade and Elizabeth Holmes Highland
Wade and Elizabeth Holmes Highland
Wade and Elizabeth Holmes Highland

Charles Luther and Gertrude Lynch Holmes

Joseph and Buena Holmes Hickman
Joseph and Buena Holmes Hickman
Joseph and Buena Holmes Hickman

Alton and Ida Holmes Powell
Alton and Ida Holmes Powell
Alton and Ida Holmes Powell
Alton and Ida Holmes Powell
Alton and Ida Holmes Powell

Sabina, daughter of John and Susanna Cobun Holt, was born March 14, 1805. She married Nathaniel Holmes and lived in Masontown, (West) Virginia. They had a large family, many of whom lived in the Clarksburg, Harrison County, area.
Two of the sons of Sabina and Nathaniel Holmes, Matthew and Samuel, were merchants in China, and both became United States consuls there. Matthew married Elizabeth McCleary, of Uniontown, Pennsylvania. After his return from China, he studied law at West Virginia University; then came to Clarksburg, where he was sheriff. Samuel, a doctor, married Orpha Pugh, who died in China. He returned to the United States and lived several years in Clarksburg. He then moved to Illinois where he spent the rest of his life. He was a soldier in the Civil War.

John Milton Holmes, a schoolteacher, married Evelyn Virginia Cottrill. Calvin A. married Jennie Sturgess. Susan Holmes married Amos Vandervort. Their son, through whom some of this information came, was a well-known lawyer in Parkersburg.

A third son of Nathaniel and Sabina Holmes, James Landrum, was a missionary in China during the Boxer Rebellion; his head was cut off and thrown at his wife, Sarah Little Holmes. They had one son, Landrum. Alfred Clark Holmes married Eliza Holt (his cousin), a daughter of John Fletcher Wesley Holt. They had two daughters, Ida Mae, who married Alton Powell and Gertrude who married John Engle. Their descendants are listed under John Fletcher Wesley Holt's descendants. Harriet Holmes married Dr. Pugh.

There are very few of the descendants of this generation that I have ever known, except Marjorie Cunningham, who furnished the information on this branch of her family. She, Marjorie Cunningham Sidebottom, taught school in the Kappa Sigma Pi building which accommodated the children from that home until her retirement. I also knew some of the Powells.

Susan Holmes, daughter of Nathaniel and Sabina Holt Holmes, married Amos A. Vandervort, a carpenter and farmer. They lived in Preston and Monongalia counties. He enlisted in Company B-14 in the West Virginia Regiment; was
taken prisoner at Cloyd Mountain and was in prison both at Andersonville and at Savannah, Georgia. He died in 1864. Susan died September 17, 1862, age thirty-five years, one month, and twenty-one days. She was buried at Pierpoint’s Church, Monongalia County. On her tombstone is the following: “Hope looks beyond the bonds of time, what we now deplore shall arise in full immortal prime and bloom to fade no more.”

They had four children: Homer R., born March 28, 1853; James W., born May 7, 1855, attorney in Parkersburg; Alice C., died in July 1859, age one month and fifteen days; Anna M., born June 1, 1862.
V. MATHEW HOLT (1807-1866) AND
HIS DESCENDANTS

Mathew Holt

Parents
John and Susanna Cobun Holt

GENERATION II
Jane Holt
James Holt
Louisa Holt
   (Hughes)
John Holt
William Holt
Rebecca Holt
   (Wiant)
Charles Baldwin
   Holt
Margaret Holt
Mathew Samuel
   Holt
Laura Holt
   (Doyle)
Charles Bennett
   Holt

Mathew and Abigail Collins Bennett Holt
Mathew and Abigail Collins Bennett Holt
Mathew and Abigail Collins Bennett Holt
Mathew and Abigail Collins Bennett Holt
Mathew and Abigail Collins Bennett Holt
Mathew and Abigail Collins Bennett Holt
Mathew and Abigail Collins Bennett Holt
Mathew and Abigail Collins Bennett Holt
Mathew and Abigail Collins Bennett Holt
Mathew and Abigail Collins Bennett Holt

GENERATION III
Matthew Simpson
   Hughes
William Francis
   Hughes
Edwin Holt
   Hughes
Effa Hughes
   (Barton)

Thomas Bayless and Louisa Holt Hughes
Thomas Bayless and Louisa Holt Hughes
Thomas Bayless and Louisa Holt Hughes
Thomas Bayless and Louisa Holt Hughes
Nellie Hughes  
(Taylor)  
LeRoy Howard Hughes  
Louise Holt  
(Cozad)  
Mabel Wiant  
Ethel Wiant  
(Davis)  
Lucille Wiant  
Harold Wiant  
Alma Wiant  
Matthew Holt Wiant  
Margaret Abigail Holt (Early)  
Mathew Samuel Holt, Jr.  
Charles William Holt  
Andrew Edwin Holt  
Rush Dew Holt  
Chilela Holt  
Rebecca Jane Holt  
(Chase-DeWalden)  

GENERATION IV  
Esther Hughes  
(Mettler)  
Blakeney Hughes  
Matthew Simpson Hughes, Jr.  

Thomas Bayless and Louisa Holt Hughes  
Thomas Bayless and Louisa Holt Hughes  
John and Columbia Carter Holt  
William and Rebecca Holt Wiant  
William and Rebecca Holt Wiant  
William and Rebecca Holt Wiant  
William and Rebecca Holt Wiant  
William and Rebecca Holt Wiant  
Mathew Samuel and Chilela Dew Holt  
Mathew Samuel and Chilela Dew Holt  
Mathew Samuel and Chilela Dew Holt  
Mathew Samuel and Chilela Dew Holt  
Mathew Samuel and Chilela Dew Holt  
Mathew Samuel and Chilela Dew Holt  
Mathew Samuel and Chilela Dew Holt  

Matthew Simpson and Harriet Wheeler Hughes  
Matthew Simpson and Harriet Wheeler Hughes  
Matthew Simpson and Harriet Wheeler Hughes  

William Francis and Lula Edith Tupin Hughes  
47
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
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<tr>
<td>Geraldine Taylor</td>
<td>William and Nellie Hughes Taylor</td>
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<td>Holt Hughes</td>
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<td>Isabel Hughes</td>
<td>Edwin Holt and Isabel Ebbert Hughes</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Ramey)</td>
<td>Edwin Holt and Isabel Ebbert Hughes</td>
<td>Ebbert Hughes</td>
<td>Edwin Holt and Isabel Ebbert Hughes</td>
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<td>Caroline Hughes</td>
<td>Edwin Holt and Isabel Ebbert Hughes</td>
<td>Francis Hughes</td>
<td>Edwin Holt and Isabel Ebbert Hughes</td>
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<td>Anna Louise Hughes</td>
<td>Edwin Holt and Isabel Ebbert Hughes</td>
<td>Rolland Holt</td>
<td>Louise Holt</td>
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<td>Cecil Cozad</td>
<td>Cecil and Louise Holt Cozad</td>
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<td>William Wiant</td>
<td>Isaac David and Ethel Wiant Davis</td>
<td>Barbara Wiant</td>
<td>Isaac David and Ethel Wiant Davis</td>
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<td>Davis, M.D.</td>
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<td>(Cherrill)</td>
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<td>Helen Page</td>
<td>Henry Word and Margaret Holt Early</td>
<td>Margaret Holt</td>
<td>Henry Word and Margaret Holt Early</td>
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<td>Early (Jones)</td>
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<td>Early</td>
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<td>(Shrewsbury)</td>
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<td>John Mathew Holt</td>
<td>Mathew Samuel, Jr., and Mary King Holt</td>
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<td>Charles Steele Holt</td>
<td>Charles William and Margaret Nicols Holt</td>
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<td>David Kingsley Chase</td>
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<td>(adopted)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anne Elizabeth Wiant</td>
<td>Harold Dana and Laura Kunz Wiant</td>
<td>Margaret Holt Wiant</td>
<td>Harold Dana and Laura Kunz Wiant</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Wendler)</td>
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<td>(Rollins)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
William Thomas Wiant II

GENERATION V

Rolland Holt, Jr.
Harris Holt
William Holt

Donald Miller Davis
William Wiant Davis, Jr.
Richard Davis
Deborah Davis

William and Mary Lydenburg Davis

Willis John Wendler, Jr.
(m.d.)
Peter Wiant Wendler

Willis John and Anne Elizabeth Wiant Wendler

Richard Rollins

Agnes Anne Rollins
Walter Huntington Rollins III
John Alden Rollins

Walter Huntington and Margaret Wiant Rollins

William Thomas Wiant III
David Harness Wiant

William Thomas II and Jeanette Ray Harness Wiant

Karla Channing Jones
Diana Nelson Jones
Richard Evan Jones

Richard Hess and Helen Page Early Jones

Richard Hess and Helen Page Early Jones

Richard Hess and Helen Page Early Jones

49
Charles Winton
Shrewsbury II
Steven Holt
Shrewsbury

Frances Mettler

Edith Manning
Hughes (Huggins)
Thomas Bayless
Hughes III
Edwin Holt
Hughes IV
Wynona Fidelia
Hughes (Haydon)
Robert Kyle
Hughes

Charles Edwin
Ramey
Isabel Ellen
Ramey (Norton)

Katherine Isabel
Holt (Quay)
Edwin Holt
Hughes III
Allan Bebout
Hughes

Charles Ebbert
Hughes
Nancy Hughes
(Owen)

Donald Edwin
Hughes
David Beach
Hughes
Sharon Ann
Hughes (Craig)

Charles Winton and Margaret Holt
Early Shrewsbury

—- and Esther Hughes Mettler

Thomas Bayless II and Inez Manning
Hughes
Thomas Bayless II and Inez Manning
Hughes
Thomas Bayless II and Inez Manning
Hughes
Thomas Bayless II and Inez Manning
Hughes
Thomas Bayless II and Inez Manning
Hughes

William H. and Isabel Hughes
Ramey
William H. and Isabel Hughes
Ramey

Edwin Holt, Jr., and Gladys Bebout
Hughes
Edwin Holt, Jr., and Gladys Bebout
Hughes
Edwin Holt, Jr., and Gladys Bebout
Hughes

Ebbert Magee and Edna Lillian Lourin
Hughes
Ebbert Magee and Edna Lillian Lourin
Hughes

Francis M. and Bettina L. Beach
Hughes
Francis M. and Bettina L. Beach
Hughes
Francis M. and Bettina L. Beach
Hughes

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<tr>
<th>GENERATION VI</th>
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<tr>
<td>Frank Nicholas Wanicka</td>
<td>Francis Nicholas and Agnes Anne Rollins Wanicka</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julie Elizabeth Wanicka</td>
<td>Francis Nicholas and Agnes Anne Rollins Wanicka</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Walter Rollins</td>
<td>Walter Huntington and Nancy Lee Wilson Rollins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Willis John Wendler III</td>
<td>Willis John and Mary McGrady Wendler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Girard Wendler</td>
<td>Willis John and Mary McGrady Wendler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christine Anne Wendler</td>
<td>Willis John and Mary McGrady Wendler</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Wiant Wendler</td>
<td>Willis John and Mary McGrady Wendler</td>
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<td>Mary Theresa Wendler</td>
<td>Willis John and Mary McGrady Wendler</td>
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<td>Willis John and Mary McGrady Wendler</td>
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<td>Anne Marie Wendler</td>
<td>Willis John and Mary McGrady Wendler</td>
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<td>Andrew Peter Wendler</td>
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<td>William Henry Huggins, Jr.</td>
<td>William Henry and Edith Manning Hughes Huggins</td>
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<td>Robin Bettina Huggins (Johnson)</td>
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<td>George Wayne Huggins</td>
<td>William Henry and Edith Manning Hughes Huggins</td>
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<td>Thomas Bayless Hughes IV</td>
<td>Thomas Bayless III and Mary Evelyn Moore Hughes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philip Moore Hughes</td>
<td>Thomas Bayless III and Mary Evelyn Moore Hughes</td>
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51
Betsy Jane Hughes
Kenneth Whitfield Haydon
Robert Kyle Hughes, Jr.
Glen Alexander Hughes
Deborah Joann Hughes
Christopher Scott Hughes
Isabel Caroline Norton
William Charles Norton
Nancy Jane Norton
Allen Quay
Edwin Holt Hughes IV
Ann Halloway Hughes
Elizabeth Howe Hughes
Katherine Hall Hughes (Natale)
Lee Ann Hughes (Shewring)
Malinda Hughes
Sarah Louise Hughes
Edwin Holt IV and Mary Jane Roper Hughes
Julian Woodrow and Wynona Fidelia Hughes Haydon
Robert Kyle and Nada Joann Johns Hughes
Robert Kyle and Nada Joann Johns Hughes
Robert Kyle and Nada Joann Johns Hughes
Robert Kyle and Nada Joann Johns Hughes
William Arthur and Isabel Ellen Ramey Norton
William Arthur and Isabel Ellen Ramey Norton
William Arthur and Isabel Ellen Ramey Norton
Clement and Katherine Isabel Holt Quay
Edwin Holt III and Ann Halloway Hughes
Edwin Holt III and Ann Halloway Hughes
Edwin Holt III and Ann Halloway Hughes
Allan Bebout and Marjorie Hall Hughes
Allan Bebout and Marjorie Hall Hughes
Allan Bebout and Marjorie Hall Hughes
Allan Bebout and Marjorie Hall Hughes
52
Mathew Holt, son of John and Susanna Cobun Holt, was born February 18, 1807. Along with three brothers, James, John Fletcher Wesley, and Francis Asbury, and a fourth brother, Jonathan, who had gone to Weston the previous year they settled in Weston, (West) Virginia in 1832.
At that time, the town was known as Independence.

From "Weston Schools 1823-1923," by Roy Bird Cook, is the following: "By the year 1832, five brothers by the name of Holt, among whom was Mathew, who proceeded to establish a private school, and to whom many of the young people of that day were indebted for their education. These young men were deserving of more than passing notice, as they were not only, it may be said, the founders of the first school of any definite record in Weston, but of the family in West Virginia." I have heard my father say this school was known as a school for young men who were not privileged to go away to college. Among his students were Jonathan McCally Bennett, J. N. Camden, and "Stonewall" Jackson. J. N. Camden later became a United States senator.

Jonathan McCally Bennett, who became the first auditor of Virginia, and whose picture is on Confederate bills, became Mathew Holt’s brother-in-law. See Confederate bill on page 154.

When he left home, at Walkersville, his father, William Bennett, gave him a horse and thirty dollars to start him out on his career. Jonathan Bennett organized the first bank in Weston, brought in the first printing press, helped financially in building a narrow-gauge railroad between Weston and Clarksburg, influenced the routing of the Parkersburg and Staunton Turnpike so that it would benefit that section, and he managed to have the insane asylum put in Weston.

Following is a copy of the letter written by Jonathan M. Bennett to his sister (my grandmother) Abigail Collins Bennett:

Dear Abigail,

I was looking intently to see you coming into town today, and felt a good deal disappointed when William came in without you. Do you suppose I was asking you here for my selfish views? It is true I have employment for you but this matters nothing, it is more for your own good that I wish you to come.

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At this time there is a very good society of young people in Weston of both sexes, and I know it would be an advantage to you to mix with them and learn what you can never have opportunity of knowing if you continue in that ignorant hole. I do not know what you can promise yourself there. You never see anyone there unless it is some ignorant clown, devoid of breeding. And I fear if you continue to live where there are no other description of people, you will some day get in the notion of marrying one of them, for people will marry.

You have sense enough to introduce you into the best companies. You have beauty and religion which is of more value than all the rest and which in a young lady is highly becoming, when not converted into foolish extravagances.

Come down with William, he will be down to see the show of animals next Saturday. Don’t be afraid of losing your religious opinions, and you will find nobody here so much your enemy as to weaken your belief in the least of the realities of the Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Don’t imagine that these remarks are intended to wound the feelings of any of our family. They have their notions, superstitions and fears and they know as much as could be expected considering the very poor chance which they have had. But I am afraid you have been persuaded. Your brother, J. M. Bennett.

Thus, my grandparents met and were married. Grandmother Abigail Collins Bennett Holt was the daughter of William and Rebecca McCally Bennett. Rebecca McCally was the daughter of Captain James McCally of Scotland, who was captain of a British vessel. He “jumped ship,” joined the colonists, and fought in the Revolutionary War. He came from Pendleton County with the four Bennetts who settled the Walkersville community.

Captain McCally was well educated, being able to speak
seven languages. He tutored his grandchildren, children of William and Rebecca Bennett. His son, Dr. James McCally, was in attendance at the birth of “Stonewall” Jackson in Clarksburg. This, I was told by my father. According to newspaper reports, Dr. McCally died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Ramage, in Clarksburg. This line will be given in the Bennett section.

Grandfather Mathew Holt was appointed constable and was named “Gentleman Justice” in Lewis County in 1840. He operated a mill at Bendale on the site of the old fairground, about two miles south of Weston, 1840 to 1844. It was there that Louisa Holt, mother of the two Methodist bishops, Edwin Holt and Matthew Simpson Hughes, was born. The old house stood near where the racetrack was located.

In 1845, Grandfather Holt helped to organize Gilmer County, which was then part of Lewis County. He moved his family there, where he was clerk of the superior court. At that time, the county seat was at DeKalb, where my father Mathew Samuel Holt was born, July 28, 1850.

In 1850, the county seat was moved to Glenville, where Grandfather bought a piece of land at the bend of the Little Kanawha River, at what is now Main Street at the dead end of College Street.

There, he and his family lived until the last surviving member, Laura Holt Doyle came to Weston in 1932, being no longer able to live alone. She died at the home of her brother (my father) in 1935.

Grandfather Mathew and his brother, John Fletcher Wesley Holt, were not only business partners, but they married sisters, Abigail and Rebecca Bennett.

The following is copied from the reprint in a Weston newspaper of an article by George Oliver, who wrote for the paper in the 1840s:
Mathew Holt, Sr., owned and resided on the farm where the village of Bendale is now located, about two miles south of Weston. Mr. Holt was one of the leading citizens of the county. He was a Pennsylvanian by birth and had secured a good education in his native state. He came to the state of Virginia while a young man, and after remaining here for awhile, he was united in marriage to Miss Abigail, a daughter of William Bennett, and located on the above mentioned farm, where he owned and operated a mill in connection with his farm. Mr. Holt was a man who had won the confidence and esteem of all who knew him, by his gentlemanly conduct and straightforward dealings with his neighbors; a man of strict religious principles exerting a great moral influence in the community in which he resided.

He sold out and moved to a farm on the Little Kanawha River in what is now Gilmer County in 1845. His leaving this county was regretted by all of his neighbors and acquaintances; and particularly his excellent wife and family.

Children of Mathew and Abigail Bennett Holt:
Jane born November 25, 1836, died in 1845.
James was born at Walkersville July 21, 1835, and died in 1847.

Louisa Holt

Louisa, born April 11, 1838, married Thomas Bayless Hughes, an itinerant Methodist preacher. He was reared in a cabin on the Elk River a few miles above Parkersburg, West Virginia. He was instrumental in promoting plans for West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon. However, he was moved to Iowa before final plans materialized.

My knowledge of Aunt Louisa's family has been almost entirely through Cousin Edwin and through correspondence with Aunt Louisa Hughes, whom I never saw, but with whom I corresponded many years ago, and recently through Francis Hughes of Indianapolis, Indiana.
DESCENDANTS OF THOMAS BAYLESS AND LOUISA HOLT HUGHES AND LOUISA HOLT HUGHES

I. Matthew Simpson Hughes, born February 3, 1863, died April 4, 1920. He married Harriet Wheeler. They had three children: Esther, born February 17, 1891, who married Mettler and had one daughter, Frances Mettler, born July 16, 1925; Blakeney Hughes, born November 1889, married Winfred Sloan; and Matthew Simpson Hughes, Jr., born July 24, 1905, married Marion Ryan. They had no children.

II. William Francis Hughes, born in Moundsville, West Virginia, December 31, 1864, died 1920 in El Centro, California. He married Lula Edith Tupin, born April 5, 1874, in Mount Shasta, California, died September 28, 1928, at Live Oak, California. They had five children:

Thomas Bayless Hughes II, born April 1, 1896, in Grinnell, Iowa. He married Lillie Inez Manning, of Robertsville, North Carolina, born January 9, 1901, died June 20, 1953. They were married April 3, 1920, and had the following children: Edith Manning Hughes, born January 2, 1921, in Wilmington, North Carolina. She married William Henry Huggins, born July 23, 1904, of Wilmington, North Carolina, on January 18, 1942. They had three children: William Henry Huggins, Jr., born January 24, 1944, married Frances Patricia Gemmill, born August 21, 1949. They have one child, Dana Marie Huggins, born March 6, 1969, in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Robin Bettina Huggins, daughter of William Henry and Edith Manning Hughes Huggins, was born March 4, 1946. She married Robert Allen Johnson, born May 27, 1942. They have two children, Shelly Alicia Johnson, born November 5, 1966, and Angela Gayle Johnson, born March 19, 1968. Both were born in Wilmington, North Carolina.


Thomas Bayless Hughes III, son of Thomas II and Inez

Edwin Holt Hughes IV, son of Thomas Bayless Hughes II, was born March 19, 1925. On December 5, 1948, he married Mary Jane Roper, born April 6, 1929, in Hamlet, North Carolina. They have one child, Betsy Jane Hughes, born July 26, 1955, in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Wynona Fidelia Hughes, daughter of Thomas Bayless Hughes II, was born November 20, 1927. On November 6, 1947, in the home of her great-uncle, Bishop Edwin Holt Hughes, in Chevy Chase, Maryland, she married Julian Woodrow Haydon. They were divorced 1960. Their son, Kenneth Whitfield Haydon, was born September 24, 1950, in Wilmington, North Carolina.


III. Edwin Holt Hughes (Bishop), son of Thomas Bayless and Louisa Holt Hughes, born December 7, 1866, died February 12, 1950. He married Isabel Ebbert. They had the following children:

Norton. They have three children, Isabel Caroline Norton, born June 2, 1951; William Charles Norton, born May 27, 1953; and Nancy Jane Norton, born April 25, 1957.

Edwin Holt Hughes, Jr. (called Holt), born November 11, 1896, died April 1959. He married Gladys Bebout. They had three children.

Katherine Isabel, born February 11, 1921, married Clement Quay. Their son, Allen Quay, was born February 14, 1952.

Edwin Holt Hughes III, son of Edwin II, was born October 2, 1922. He is now a member of the law firm, Hughes and Hughes, of Indianapolis, Indiana. He married Ann Halloway. They have three children. Edwin Holt Hughes IV, born July 26, 1951; Ann Halloway Hughes, born October 8, 1953; and Elizabeth Howe Hughes, born November 1, 1956.

Allan Bebout Hughes, son of Edwin Holt Hughes, Jr., and Gladys Bebout Hughes, born June 30, 1924, married Marjorie Hall. They have four children: Katherine Hall Hughes, born March 10, 1949, married Robert Natale. Their son, Robert Anthony Natale, was born August 5, 1971. Lee Ann Hughes, born December 24, 1951, married Gregory Shewring. Malinda Hughes was born October 12, 1955, and Sarah Louise Hughes was born November 3, 1961.

Ebbert Magee Hughes, son of Edwin Holt Hughes (I) was born August 15, 1898. He married Edna Lillian Lourin. They have two children. Charles Ebbert, born April 25, 1927, married Maurie Ann Mead. They have two children, Steven Ebbert, born February 8, 1957, and Elizabeth Mead Hughes, born November 21, 1959.

Nancy Hughes, daughter of Ebbert and Edna Lourin Hughes, was born April 22, 1929. She married Lewis James Owen. They have two children, Gwyneth Bronwin Owen, born September 3, 1963, and Geoffrey David Owen, born June 26, 1965.

Caroline Robinson Hughes, daughter of Edwin Holt and
Isabel Ebbert Hughes, born June 21, 1901, married John D. Crummey. They had no children.

Anna Louise Hughes (Soley), youngest daughter of Edwin and Isabel Ebbert Hughes was born February 11, 1907, and died February 7, 1937. She had no children.

Francis M. Hughes, head of Hughes and Hughes law firm of Indianapolis, Indiana, is the youngest child of Edwin and Isabel Ebbert Hughes. He was born December 16, 1908. He married Bettina L. Beach. They have three children.


David Beach Hughes, son of Francis and Bettina Hughes, was born November 13, 1939. He married Martha Lynn Dodge. They have two children, Steven Dodge Hughes, born October 31, 1965, and Douglas Beach Hughes, born April 29, 1973.

Sharon Ann Hughes, daughter of Francis and Bettina Beach Hughes was born July 18, 1946. She married Robert H. Craig. They have one daughter, Caroline Ray Craig, born June 13, 1972.

IV. LeRoy Howard Hughes died about 1946. He was the son of Thomas Bayless and Louisa Holt Hughes.

V. Effa Hughes married James O. Barton. They lived in California. She died about 1940. There were no children.

VI. Nellie Hughes, married William B. Taylor. They had one daughter, Geraldine Taylor. Other information regarding Effa and Nellie has not been made available to me.

The following information about this family was furnished by Edwin Holt Hughes.

Matthew Simpson Hughes, in his early days, floundered about. He studied a little medicine, a little law, was editor of Parkersburg Daily Journal, stumped the state debating with
Thomas Bayless and Louisa Holt Hughes.
Golden wedding photograph.—From I Was Made a Minister
Matthew Simpson Hughes. Aged 50.—From *I Was Made a Minister*
experienced speakers and winning acclaim as a keen platform speaker, and he was noted for his gift of sarcasm. Cousin Edwin described him as handsome, witty, musical, and polished. He was considered a more scholarly speaker than Cousin Edwin, but I doubt if he was more forceful. Cousin Edwin had a keen sense of humor which he could use effectively to drive home his points, and such an unusual skill at repartee.

Cousin Matt was elected bishop of the Methodist church several years later than his younger brother, Edwin. There was some controversy over the propriety of having two brothers as bishops. Cousin Matt countered by reminding them that Christ had two sets of brothers for his disciples; and he said, "I suppose I would be better off if I had a brother in the penitentiary." According to a cousin who visited him, he lacked the warmth and simplicity of Cousin Edwin. He had three children: Esther, Matthew Simpson, Jr., and Blakeney.

Again, according to Cousin Edwin's description, William was a happy-go-lucky person who never took anything seriously and never settled down. He frequently played practical jokes, often not considering the consequences. He had one son, Thomas B. Hughes II, who was a highly respected police sergeant, and who was rearing a promising family.

The youngest child of Thomas and Louisa Holt Hughes was LeRoy Howard. He was a graduate of the law school of Nebraska University, but ill health prevented him from practicing his profession. He died on a California desert surrounded with peace, quiet, and many books. He was described as an exceptionally well informed person.

Edwin Holt Hughes was a favorite among his relatives. When I was a student in New England Conservatory of Music, I was frequently in their home, and at that time, knew all of the children except Isabel, who was married and lived in Indianapolis. However, in the many years intervening, I have almost completely lost track of what became of all of them.
Bishop Edwin Holt Hughes.—From *I Was Made a Minister*
Isabel Ebbert Hughes. Aged 70.—From *I Was Made a Minister*
Cousin Edwin always felt a close tie to his Holt relatives, and they to him. When my daughter, Helen Page, was between two and three years old, he was at our house and she was fascinated by him. She begged to go to hear him speak. As soon as she was inside the church and saw him (his lecture had begun) she broke loose and started to run to him. I was trying to stop her and he stopped abruptly and said, “Margaret! You ought to know better than to try to stop a Holt when they want to do something.”

John Holt

John Holt, fourth child of Mathew and Abigail Bennett Holt, was born December 31, 1838, and died in 1912. He was first married to Columbia Carter. They had one daughter, Louise, who, because of humiliation over the birth of an illegitimate son, went west and never returned. The son, Rolland Holt, was reared by her parents. Rolland married Gertrude Harris of Clarksburg. They had three sons, Rolland, Jr., Harris, and William. All are successful businessmen. Rolland died a few years ago at the home of his son William in Moorefield. Rolland was talented in music. He had a good tenor voice and was a good drummer. For many years he operated a tailor shop in Glenville.

Louise married Cecil Cozad and they had a son, Cecil, Jr., who came back to the girlhood home of his mother about fifty years ago, but, to my knowledge, none of the relatives heard from him after he returned to the West.

John Holt married a second time. This time he married a widow, Sarah Christman, with one son. She was a close relative of Abraham Lincoln and bore a striking resemblance to him.

During the Civil War, John Holt was captured and imprisoned at Andersonville Prison. Due to starvation he went from one hundred eighty pounds to eighty. He was released
through the help of one of the guards who told him when there was a prisoner exchange, to answer to the name of another prisoner who had died. He escaped almost certain death through starvation because of the help of a Confederate soldier.

William Holt

William Holt, born in 1840, was also captured during the Civil War. One of the cousins ran in excitedly telling Grandmother Holt, “Aunt Abby, I hate to tell you, but they let Will out and are going to shoot him on the way home.” Before she had regained composure, Uncle Will walked in unhurt. One of the guards warned him not to go home by the road. He went through the woods. Thus he was the second uncle whose life was spared through the help of Confederate soldiers.

Another Civil War story told me by my aunts: A group of Confederate soldiers came through Glenville and raided my grandparents’ winter food supplies. The officer in command happened to see the picture of Jonathan M. Bennett on the wall. When he asked what it was doing there, Grandmother told him he was her brother. He showed great surprise and asked if there were anything she would like to have him tell her brother when he went back to Richmond. She said not unless he would like to tell him that they had taken all the food provisions she had for her family for the winter. He ordered the soldiers to put everything back.

Rebecca Elizabeth Holt

Rebecca Elizabeth, sixth child of Mathew and Abigail Bennett Holt, was born at DeKalb, May 22, 1846. She married William Thomas Wiant. He was involved in a number of diversified enterprises. When he was a comparatively young man, he bought stores in different localities, placing in charge and giving half interest to promising young men. Being a
good judge of people, the investments were not only profitable to him, but he started several young men on the road to success, some of whom became well-to-do. He owned interest in such diversified businesses as wholesale houses, hotels, and steamship lines, and also owned land that was leased to oil and gas companies.

He was a man of great determination. When he was past eighty years old, his hip was broken and he was told he could never walk. But he did walk five Parkersburg blocks from his house to the business center of town.

They had the following children:

Mabel, born in Glenville, May 12, 1876, died in Nantucket, Massachusetts, April 5, 1972. She was a graduate of Goucher College and held a master's degree from Columbia University. She traveled extensively and did some research in Africa. She died unmarried.

Ethel was born February 7, 1879, and died November 14, 1957. She married Isaac D. Davis October 2, 1906. He was a district agent for National Surety Company and was located in Parkersburg. They had two children:

Barbara, born August 21, 1907, married Richard Cherrill, from England. He is a graduate of Cambridge there, and is now teaching mathematics in Marietta (Ohio) College. Barbara died February 21, 1972. They had no children.

William Wiant Davis was born September 4, 1911. He married Mary Lydenburg, October 5, 1940. He served in World War II and holds the rank of lieutenant colonel. Before going into the service he practiced medicine as a pediatrician in Parkersburg. He now lives in Westerville, Ohio, and is employed as a doctor by Bell Telephone Company.

They have four children: Donald Miller, born May 7, 1945, married Jean Grosz. They have one child, Joelle, born August 3, 1970. Donald teaches mathematics in Northwestern University, Chicago.

William Wiant Davis, Jr., born May 26, 1946, holds a mas-
ter's degree and Richard, born October 14, 1951, holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Chicago.

Debbie was born June 12, 1956, and has just finished high school.

Lucille, daughter of William Thomas and Rebecca Elizabeth Holt Wiant, was born December 13, 1877, and died January 31, 1878.

Harold Dana Wiant was born January 1, 1881, and died December 8, 1962. He married Laura Kunz, of Marietta, a daughter of Peter Kunz. They had three children: Anne Elizabeth, born October 15, 1905, married William Wendler, and they live on Route 1, Gibsonburg, Ohio; Margaret, born April 7, 1907, married Walter Rollins, and they live at 1225 Sunbury Drive, Fort Myers, Florida; and William Thomas Wiant II, born February 20, 1911, married Janet Ray Harness, and they live in Marietta, Ohio.

Alma Holt Wiant, daughter of William Thomas and Rebecca Elizabeth Holt Wiant, was born May 6, 1884, and died in July 1972. I am not sure that she graduated there, but know she attended DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, at the time Cousin Edwin Hughes was president there. Alma was one of the kindest and most thoughtful persons I have ever known, self-effacing and generous. She was particularly thoughtful of the aunts who reared the Wiant family after the death of their mother.

Matthew Holt Wiant was born January 27, 1888. He died July 11, 1894, from scarlet fever. His mother died when he was born. He is referred to in the tribute paid Aunt Margaret Holt by Cousin Edwin Hughes. My father often spoke of him as an exceptional child. He loved poems and recited many of them without hesitating; not Mother Goose variety, but meaningful verse.

Charles Baldwin Holt

Charles Baldwin, son of Mathew and Abigail Bennett Holt, died at age eight.
Margaret Holt

Margaret, daughter of Matthew and Abigail Holt, was born in 1848, and died in 1930. The following tribute paid her by Cousin Edwin Hughes expresses the feelings of all who knew her. The tribute offered at her funeral:

My friends and the well beloved of Margaret Holt. I beg that none of you may misunderstand my participation in this service.

I well know that my natural place is with these other relatives; and in some ways I would far rather be with them, bringing only flowers of a lovely silence to this funeral day. But I feel that it would be the will of my dear aunt that I should have part in these simple exercises in her memory. So I set aside all minor preferences in favor of this deeper preference. In order that what I have to say may have a permanent form, I shall read my words of tribute; and I should add quite frankly, I shall lean upon this manuscript so that my heart and voice may be steadied.

And may I not make a second request? Let none of you who didn’t know Aunt Margaret intimately go from this place and say that I indulged in any exaggerations. I am very proud that I am her nephew, yet I shall not speak with the partiality of that relation determining my words. Sometimes at funeral services there are some things that must be concealed. While the preacher may not tell all that he knows, lest he offend against the rule of courtesy, he must indulge in much silence so that he may not offend against truth. For after all, the real preparation for an hour of burial is always made by the person who dies. We write our own records, and the entries that are made on high are the transcripts that are handed upward by our lives. I have not even the slightest fear that I shall now overdo my tribute. My fear is
precisely the opposite. For forty-four years I have been trying to make the English language do service in a holy cause. Yet, I confess that for this hour I have no ritual of words that would seem to me adequate; and I do affirm deliberately, and without haste, that what I am now saying must fall far short of representing in any sufficient way this quiet little woman who has been so deeply loved by all of us.

By the calendar of earth, she was almost eighty-two years of age. Had she lived till the coming fifth day of December, she would have reached the Psalmist’s three score and ten, with an addition thereof of twelve years. We who knew her best have difficulty in believing what the almanac declares. Certainly up to the time of her illness last winter, we would not have thought of classifying her among the octogenarians. Her eye was so bright and her step so quick, and her hand so agile and her spirit so vital that we accepted her naturally as among the middle-aged. We had to remember our own years and how long we had known her ere we realized that she was approaching the time for her departure.

She was only about eighteen when her father died; and as the eldest sister at home, with two brothers and two sisters younger than herself, she came to large domestic responsibility. Quickly and cheerfully she took up her burdens, and she has carried them and loved them ever since. In five different homes, she has wrought as assistant mother. She has had no little part in the care and rearing of nineteen nieces and nephews. Every one of them has felt for her that peculiar affection that goes to an aunt with a maternal heart. She never married, not because she could not have done so, but solely because she became wedded to the wider family circle and found no other love that could win her from that she had already bestowed. To one nephew, especially, little Matthew Wiant, left an infant in her arms when his mother died, she gave a surpassing devotion. He was a winsome boy with a glowing face and a wondrous memory; and when he very early went away he carried with him into the other country a vast fund of her affection and left behind a pathetic emptiness in her heart. But to all of us of the second generation, she gave the care of a natural mother’s heart. Too much could not be said for the service that for years she rendered in the home of her sister, Rebecca Holt Wiant who left behind a family of little children. By Aunt Laura and Aunt Margaret these nieces and nephews were saved from a real orphanhood. The two aunts became twin mothers to
them all, and I am assured that these children, now grown, would desire me to become today, their filial spokesman. Having no children of their own, they adopted us all into their hearts. Today, we rise up to call Aunt Margaret "Blessed" and to praise her in the "gates" and I must affirm that in love which we have given her the good God returned some compensation for her own gentle and lavish sacrifice.

I can recall that many years ago, we took her beautiful name and used it in rather unlovely diminutive, but there came a time when we could do that no longer. Without any conspiracy or even consultation, at just about the same time all of us dropped the diminutive and began to call her by her unmodified name, "Aunt Margaret." Was not the original meaning of her name "a pearl?" And is it not true the fine pearl surpasses a diamond even in value? I need not dwell long upon the significance of her baptismal name as applied to herself. I can say only that I am sorry for the person who, knowing her, would not feel that the rare jewel stood as a symbol of her heart and life. In one of the books of the Old Testament is pictured as saying, "And they shall be mine" saith the Lord of Hosts "in that day when I make up my jewels." Well, our Aunt Margaret, our pearl, cannot fail of a place in the diadem of the Most High.

She, herself, went through certain change of language of which I am sure she was not aware. She passed from "I" to "We" and from "Mine" to "Our." She would speak of our lot, our house, our home, our radio, our apples. When Aunt Laura was not immediately present, she would introduce us to friends by saying, "This is our niece," "This is our nephew." It has seemed to me that I have never seen two sisters who naturally supplemented each other, or whose lives made a nicer fellowship. The family relationship was exalted by the deeper bond. As it was the will of God that they should be together in this town and in this home so near to the old homestead, so was it God's will that they should be together in a more spiritual comradeship that gave to their lives a strange and beautiful unity. To all of us of the second generation there now remains a cherished duty, not to transfer love of one aunt to the other, but to offer to the aunt remaining on earth that degree of affectionate care no longer needed by the one who has passed into the Peace of the Father's home.

I would likewise be untrue to one call of this hour if I did not speak gratefully to our doctor uncle. Long since John Holt and
Charles Holt slipped away from earthly borders, and Matt S. Holt remained. Our native mountains have seen no finer example of the devoted and kindly brother. No night has been so dark, and no roads have been so rough, as to keep him from his sisters when his fraternal and professional help was needed. The record of his faithfulness is in our hearts, even as it is on High.

I have been not a little surprised that some of the poetry that, since Aunt Margaret’s sickness and death, has kept coming to me as representing her. One was a strange bit—an oversea’s product that floated across the Atlantic from England to America. It stands for a religious conception of domestic work and glorifies the common labor of the household by giving it a place in God’s own plan:

Lord of all pots and pans and things
since I’ve no time to be
A Saint by doing lovely things, or
watching late with Thee,
Or dreaming in the candlelight or
storming Heaven’s gates
Make me a saint by getting meals
and washing up the plates.

Warm all the kitchen with Thy Love
and light it with Thy Peace;
Forgive me all my worrying, and
make all grumbling cease.
Thou who didst love to give men food
in room or by the net,
Accept this service that I do,
I do it unto Thee.

I have omitted the second verse because there is a touch of the menial in it; and there was surely none of that in Margaret Holt. For her, in a way, the stove was an altar, and the kitchen a sanctuary. Her toil was not drudgery; it was her pride; her joy; her glory; her recreation. Long ago, Emerson, himself, said that a gift should be part of the giver; that the sailor should give a shell; the poet a verse; the artist a painting; the author a book. I cannot recall that in more than thirty years, Aunt Margaret has ever sent me a present that was not some form of tempting food prepared by herself.
Some people go to household work as to a slavery; she went to it as to a sacrament. When her illness came last winter and she began to convalesce, we nieces and nephews felt obliged to write, "Do not let her go to the Kitchen too soon." We knew where the heart of her work was located. If there be someplace in Heaven where manna is prepared as the food of angels and saints, I imagine that she will ask to be assigned to that department, and that in this form, after a rest beneath the altar, she will come forth to serve God day and night in his holy and helpful temple. The other poetry that occurred to me was very different. Indeed it was really a classic, a portion of Whittier's *Snow-Bound* with its description of winter's wind smiting vainly upon the sheltered house and of the great white heaps piling themselves around the windows and doors, while within there is loving communion. Could the Quaker Poet have helped me more if he had known I would be standing here now? Listen to this description!

Next the dear aunt whose smile of cheer
And voice in dreams I see and hear
The sweetest woman ever fate
Perverse denied a household mate
Who lovely, homeless, not the less
Found peace in love's unselfishness
And welcome, whereso'er she went
A calm and gracious element
And womanly atmosphere of home
[Or hear these words about the elder sister.]

And yet, dear heart, remembering thee
Am I not richer than of old?
Safe in thy immortality
What change can reach the wealth I hold?
What chance can mar the pearl and gold
Thy love has left in trust for me?
And while in life's late afternoon
When cool and long the shadows grow
I walk to meet the night that soon
Shall shape and shadow overflow
I cannot feel that thou art far
Since near at need the angels are;
And when the sunset gates unbar
Shall I not see thee waiting stand

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And white against the evening star
The welcoming of thy beckoning hand?

Our dear aunt is not the only one who can use these hopeful words of immortality and faith. We decline to believe that all of Aunt Margaret's plenteous love was cancelled in the quick cruelty of death. We cannot credit it that one hour she loved us all and that in the next hour her love had become a vacancy. Nor are we willing to say that at the moment of her death, her love was blotted out and that we ceased to love a person and began to love a memory! Our emotion joins our reason in the denial that her loving heart was nothing but glorified dust.

The love of God takes good care of the love of his child, and in all worlds, love is sure of love.

She, herself, is a commentary on the Apostle's statement that love never faileth. I never knew her love to get weary or to break down, or even to take vacation. It could be said of her as it was said of our Savior, "Having loved her own," she "Loved them to the end." She was the daughter of remarkable parents. Mathew Holt was a prince in God's kingdom, and Abigail Bennett Holt belonged to the Royal family of the Lord's Grace. Aunt Margaret never failed them even as she never failed any one of her three sisters or three brothers, John and Charles and Matt, she idealized and idolized them all. Louise, Laura, Rebecca. She stood at the call of each of them, and took their children to her arms. I have no memory of a day when I could not go to her. For the first time I am becoming aware of a world without her presence. We nieces and nephews could never escape from her outreach. If I, myself, had gone to all the coarsest swinefields of the earth, and had at last come back to her door, because there was no other that would open to me, if I had knocked there in the triple midnight of darkness and in the bitterness of winter, waiting as a drunken wayfarer, she would not have said as did the man in our Lord's parable, "Trouble me not, for I am in bed." But she would have arisen with eagerness and opened her door and her arms as well and would have said, "Why, Edwin, my poor boy, let me get you something warm to eat," and soon the house would be filled with the aroma of her love. I affirm, literally, that she had the charity that "beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things." I think that our Roman Catholic people have a Saint Margaret. Well, so have we. If any stranger or semi-stranger should feel that I have gone beyond bounds in this
tribute, none of those who really knew her will join him in his claim. We know, and we therefore speak.

But there is one person who would conscientiously object to all this praise. If Aunt Margaret, clad once more in the tiny garment of her body, could hear what I have said, and could answer me, she would turn astonished eyes on my face and say to me with tender rebuke, "Why, Edwin Hughes, you don’t mean to say that you have been talking about me? You really must give your poetry and fine words to someone else. This cannot be my funeral." The humor that so often lightened her countenance, would relieve the situation for her and for me, and then I would take her in my arms and say, "Yes, dear Aunt Margaret, this is your hour. You deserve the words and more because you think that you do not deserve them." For once we have given our hearts their full chance to express their love. We say, "Well done," as I am sure our Lord, himself, has said. If Aunt Margaret Holt does not go to Heaven, there be no Heaven for any of us. She would not be at home with bad souls. Her natural home is with God and the good. I speak what I must certainly know when I affirm that she bore the holy faith of her parents to the gates of death and fared forth across the great river, in humble trust in the God and Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ. When in some evening time, each of us, world-weary, shall trudge homeward, as I often did in my carefree boyhood, her great heart will be waiting for me, and we shall, according to the promise, break bread anew with her and her Lord in the eternal kingdom of his love.

Cousin Edwin has left little that can be added to his beautiful description of Aunt Margaret.

Mathew Samuel Holt (1850-1939)

My father, Mathew Samuel Holt, was born July 28, 1850, at DeKalb, in Gilmer County, West Virginia.

His father, Mathew Holt had helped to organize Gilmer County from part of Lewis County, and was appointed "Gentleman Justice" there. When the county seat was moved from DeKalb to Glenville, Grandfather moved his family there, having built a house at the bend of the Little Kanawha River on the spot which is now on Main Street at the dead end of College Street.

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When my father was sixteen years old, his father died, leaving him much responsibility of the family. At that early age, he began teaching school and taught on Sand Fork for two terms. Among the things he did during the next four years in which he saved enough money to enter medical college, was to take logs to Parkersburg on rafts, for which he received five dollars a trip (with no provision for his return).

He graduated from Louisville Medical College 1872, later studying at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia.

He began the practice of medicine under Dr. Nicklin in Middlebourne, the following year he came to Weston, where he continued practice until the time of his death, from pneumonia in March 1939. Before this, he had unusually good health and was very active both physically and mentally. May 1, 1895, he married Chilela Dew, daughter of Dr. Rush Hereford and Almira Letitia Pritchard Dew.

Recently, I saw a letter written by the mother of Judge Robert Bland in which she said, "Mathew Holt paid us a visit this afternoon. He has not made up his mind which he is going to study, medicine or law."

Having decided upon medicine, he had a long and successful career, but if his choice had been law, he doubtless would have been equally successful. He could read a contract or other legal document and almost immediately pick out the weakness or tricky or misleading wording.

My father’s interest was not confined to medicine and law. He was a man of many interests and many talents. He was an avid reader on many many subjects. His knowledge of history and his ability to trace cause and effect, enabled him to
analyze world affairs far beyond the ability of most of his contemporaries. He took an active part in both national and local politics. At one time, he and William Jennings Bryan debated political issues through Bryan’s paper, the Commoner, column for column. Three times, he served as mayor of Weston, the third time, receiving more write-in votes than were received combined by his Democratic and Republican opponents.

He was both loved and hated for the active part he took in politics. On three occasions he caused superintendents of the Weston insane asylum to be removed for their mistreatment of patients. Yet, he was very fair in his judgment. On one occasion, a doctor, whom he neither liked nor respected, was dismissed as superintendent because of an isolated instance of which he could not reasonably be expected to have known. Dad said, “If he had been removed because of incompetence, it would have been justified, but he should not have been held responsible for this.”

Another of my father’s interests was horses. He raised pedigreed race horses and nearly every year, went to Lexington, Kentucky, to the harness races. Often when he was worried and wanted to get his mind off of the thing bothering him, he went to the fairgrounds, sat in the grandstand, and watched his horses being tried out. He also loved music, dancing, the theatre, cards, and most of all, he loved people, especially the unfortunate and those needing protection.

He loved a good argument, particularly on the subject of religion when he was needled about his independent beliefs. He was reared in a very strict Methodist home and was well versed in the Bible. The following incident, while not related to argument, will illustrate his contempt for hypocritical religious bigots.

The advance agent for an evangelistic campaign had directed remarks to him on several evenings in the hotel lobby where a group of professional men met almost nightly to discuss topics of current interest. The man’s remarks were
ignored until one evening when a badly crippled man came in "passing a hat." When he came to the man who had annoyed Dad by his solicitude, he was told, "I have no change." The next remark he directed to Dad; Dad said, "Why are you so interested in me? I am not a damn bit interested in you." His reply was, "Because I know you are an infidel." Dad said, "You know nothing of the kind, but I do know what you are. You are a liar, and I'm going to prove which of us is the liar." He continued, "I took particular notice of what you told that poor cripple;—anybody could see he needed help. He didn't even pass the hat to me because he came to my office this evening and I gave him two dollars,—and he remembered me. You told him you didn't have any change. I know a man in your position isn't traveling 'broke', now turn your pockets out and prove you have no change." He became fidgety and said, "I said I have no small change." Dad said, "I paid particular attention to what you told him." With that, the man reached into his pocket and pulled out a quarter and a penny. Dad laughed and said, "Well, you are a bigger liar than I suspected. You first lied to the cripple, then you lied about what you told him. A quarter wouldn't have been much for a man of your religious pretensions to have given him, but you had the smallest change made." The men all laughed him out of the lobby.

The first thing the evangelist did when he came to town was to call Dad by name and attack him as an infidel. Some of the largest contributors to the tabernacle project immediately told him if he said one word against Dad, they wouldn't give one cent to him—that there wasn't a more philanthropic humanitarian in town than my father. On the heels of his attack, the evangelist announced that he had been misinformed about Dr. Holt. If he could only convert him, he would stay there six weeks longer without a cent.

Some of my father's best friends were ministers and priests whose beliefs he respected because he knew they were sin-
cere. With such, he discussed religion, but not in a manner of debate or argument.

As the following quotations from a book he wrote show, he did question the total inspiration of the Bible. He said, as the Council of Nice demonstrated, the religious students did too, or they would not have discarded parts of the Bible they considered uninspired. He also felt that the Bible had been used as a means of exploiting people. I do not consider the following as showing the degree of his real ability, but it expresses his reason for his doubts and independence of thought. He never questioned the existence of a power for good, but did not think of that power as a "being," which in itself implies limitations.

GODS ARE MAN MADE
By Dr. M. S. Holt
Primeval man at early dawn,
Deficient brain, equipped with brawn;
A scientific thought evolved,
Designers then a God resolved.

From Phenomena were Phantoms made,
Sky-pilot’s schemes were early laid;
The quaking earth and lightning flash,
Inspired greed man’s toil to cash.

Knowledge blazed out FREEDOM’S PATH
This kindled all exploiters’ wrath;
Then Philosophers and Magicians vied
The one explained, the other lied.

From clans to Creeds Fakirs combin’d
To stop investigator’s mind,
On wise men, wizards waged a war,
The ignorant knew not what ’twas for.

A heavenly mansion in the skies
Was promised the ignorant as a prize
For obedience to the Grafter’s Creed
Who revelled in rapacious greed.

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Man-made gods on earth abound.
Their temples in the mind unsound.
A scientific search will show
The shallow soil in which they grow.

While God's enthroned, man's reason's gone;
The light of truth can never dawn;
The flower of liberty ne'er can bloom,
His Dome of Thought is wrapped in gloom.

Each God of childhood does reveal
Its tutor's superstitious zeal;
Revengeful, passionate or kind
As pictured in its Master's mind.

A Creed-made God's tied to a stake;
He's circumscribed for opinion's sake.
His murderous deeds, the records show
Surpass all others here below.

With cultured kindness, Gods are good
In savage minds they feast on blood
The makers of all Gods, you'll see
Are reflected in their Deity.

God is but a thought, and not divine,
As you must know if you'd define
His acts, His looks, His attributes
Old Nature's laws each myth refutes.

All Gods of Hate and Gods of Love
Dwell here below and not above.
They're molded in each human head
And from that realm they never tread.

Gods slumber when their makers sleep
Are in their tear ducts when they weep;
Are in their arms their foes to slay
And in their knee joints when they pray.
Gods fight reforms their makers fight
They soar up to their makers' height
And when their Masters quit life's game
Their Deities always do the same.

There's but one God that satisfies
The one that's worshiped in disguise
He's swallowed whole, with optics closed
His past nor present ne'er disclosed.

No God was ever made complete
Except by those who sought to cheat.
All thoughtful men of good intent
Improve their Gods with each event.

With radiant hope and pure desire
Man's ideals soar higher and higher
God is but an ideal magnified,
Exaggerated till it's Deified.

If you'll only seek the Truth to know
The criminal records plainly show
That in point of numbers D.D.'s surpass
All vocations in the felony class.

Then make up your mind to bid adieu
To all creeds and dogmas binding you
The honest test of truth is light;
It dooms to death each parasite.

When tears are shed o'er Deities dead,
It's not for grief, but for joy instead.
Both intellect and morals glow
When we bid all demons, Deities go.

Erect you'll stand in manhood Free
In defiance of delusive idolatry
No greater fraud on earth can be
Than so-called Doctors of Divinity.
Happy childhoods marred with fear
Of Phantoms Fakirs live on here.
Teach them the TRUTH to RIGHT uphold
In wealth of wisdom, not crowns of gold.

Dare think, you'll doubt, your idol's gone
The Fakes you've kept will be forlorn.
To honest toil when they are driven
Then on earth, prepare for HEAVEN.

Read these lines in them you'll find
Creator, Destroyer, Savior kind,
A Trinity, product of man's brain
Who'll join him in his last refrain.

TO MY SON RUSH DEW HOLT
Newly Elected U.S. Senator

Now do not be elated
With ecstasy and joy,
Because you're elevated
While yet you're called a boy.

The precious metals are the base;
Light gasses float on high.
'Twas rare conditions won your race
Let discretion hold your eye.

A minnow on the billow's crest
Looks down upon the whale.
But when the sea's at perfect rest
It may land in Jonah's Jail.

This world moves on in endless space,
Opportunities are rare,
In the history of the human race
Self-conceit lands in despair.

Dame Fortune gave the friendly knock
That awoke your aspiration.
Acting like a well-timed clock,
You sought the nomination.
The voters having trusted you,
Gave your record recognition,
As heretofore to them be true
You'll retain their approbation.

The credit that is yours alone
Was your youthful preparation,
You sewed the seed and it has grown,
The Fruit's your nomination.

Hereafter if to self you're true
You'll ne'er betray the people
As leader they have trusted you—
May you rest beneath Fame's steeple.

M.S. Holt
Weston, W.Va.
Thanksgiving, Nov. 29, 1934

There are many things I might recount to illustrate my father's moral and physical fearlessness, but one more short example:

During the influenza epidemic of 1917-18, when there were sometimes as many as five funerals a day in our small town, he hadn't lost a single case. This became known throughout the state. He was contacted from Charleston and offered a sum of money that would have tempted a lesser man. Instead, it offended my father. He said, "What do they think I am to leave my patients for money?"

In conclusion: Dr. Mathew Samuel Holt was one of those rare courageous individualists because of whom the world is better and happier to have known, and who will always live in the memory and affection of those capable of appreciating genuine honesty and freedom from hypocrisy.

The following tribute was offered by Warren Horner, head of the English Department of Shepherd College.

DOCTOR HOLT

Weston will not be the same with Dr. Holt gone. He was a great man of unique and powerful intellect. Literally thousands of peo-
ple were healed in his long ministration in medicine, and will remember him always with affection.

Like my own forefathers, he was a West Virginia pioneer representative of a day when men lived vigorous lives, independent of thought and action. A kind father, a public spirited citizen, a good doctor. When he passed it was as when:

A lordly cedar green with bough
Went down with a great shout
upon the mountains,
To leave an empty place against the sky.

Children of Dr. Mathew Samuel and Chilela Dew Holt:

MARGARET ABIGAIL HOLT

Margaret Abigail Holt, born February 13, 1896, on June 17, 1932, married Henry Word Early, born June 23, 1879, and died July 24, 1948. He was the son of Joel Nathaniel and Helen Lewis Nelson Early of Bedford, Virginia. A brief outline of the Early and Nelson lines will be found on pages 159-70.

Henry Early was truly a “Southern Gentleman of the Old School.” He always said exactly what he meant and there was never any doubt about what he did mean, but he said it with such gentility, he could tell you to “Go to hell” and make it sound like an invitation. He was straightforward in all his dealings and had the confidence of all with whom he dealt.

He was a devoted father and husband, always considerate and respectful of the feelings of his family. He had been a Knight Templar in the Masonic Lodge for many years, and it meant much to him, yet, when financial reverses caused him to choose between his affiliation in the lodge and his family’s needs, he gave priority to the needs of his family and dropped out of the organization.

As a young man, he was a car distributor for Norfolk and Western Railroad. A close friend, who was the son of the owner of Houston Coal Company, persuaded Henry to take the position of assistant superintendent, he, himself, being
superintendent. Henry remained in that position for many years until the Andy Mellon interest (Koppers Coal Company) bought it out. Henry resigned, feeling reasonably independent financially and not liking the tactics with which the, what he called “dam-yankee,” group operated. Within a few weeks, the bank in which he was a stockholder failed, and he was without both a job and money. At that time stockholders were not protected as they are today, and it took everything he had to make his stocks good. In the midst of that depression, and being past fifty years old, he was obliged to take anything he could get. Through an acquaintance who was in the wholesale business, he opened a little store on consignment, in Matoaka. (I was supervisor of music in the public schools of that district.) One by one, the mines throughout that section closed and nobody had money to buy, so he was forced to close the store.

Notwithstanding the circumstances, we were married on June 17, 1932. My father prevailed upon us to come to Weston. There, Henry floundered about taking whatever he could find, W.P.A. jobs and several that were pretty menial, yet he never complained and kept forging ahead, always with an optimistic outlook even when his lot seemed hopeless. He made the best of whatever befell him. This is not to mean that his ire could not be aroused when provocation arose, but he was always in command of his feelings.

In due time, he was given a position with the State Road
Commission and soon afterward became assistant to the state road commissioner in the Right-of-way Department, abstracting titles and buying rights-of-way. After a serious heart attack in 1943, he asked to be given something less strenuous and where he could remain at home. He was then assigned to a place in the department distributing equipment where he was at the time of his death, July 24, 1948.

He was held in such high esteem by his fellow workers that when he died the entire district was closed so that the men could go to his funeral. The district engineer told me that the men were calling in from the entire district saying so many were "taking off" it was useless to keep the offices open. Such a thing was unprecedented for anyone in Henry's status. The only time this district was closed before was when the state road commissioner, himself, died.

Henry Early was a gregarious person. He loved music, dancing, crowds—and always did and said the proper thing for the occasion.

This is the kind of man he was, both in the eyes of his family and the eyes of his associates; the kind of ancestor of whom his descendants may well be proud.

Helen Page Early, daughter of Henry Word and Margaret Holt Early, was born October 11, 1933. On June 8, 1952, she married Richard Hess Jones, born July 16, 1923. They have three children, Karla Channing, born August 14, 1953; Diana Nelson, born October 23, 1957; and Richard Evan, born May 24, 1960. Karla is a junior in Otterbein College; this year sent to Spain by the college to study Spanish, preparatory to becoming an interpreter. Diana is a junior in high school and Evan is in junior high school.

Richard Jones is assistant cashier in the Bank of Shinnston. He is a graduate of West Virginia University. Helen graduated from Fairmont College, summa cum laude and has a master's degree from West Virginia University. She is teaching fifth and sixth grades in Shinnston Elementary School. In 1971,
she won first place in the state in a project competition to encourage more effective teaching of the social studies. This award is given through the university by the Calvin Kazanjian Economic Foundation and the Joint Council on Economic Education. It is financed through business interests, and carries a five-hundred-dollar cash award. In 1973, she won, from the same foundation, second place in the nation. This, in addition to the prestige it carries, is also five hundred dollars cash. In March she will go to California where the winners will be honored.

Margaret Holt Early was born July 6, 1935. She married Charles Winton Shrewsbury, son of L. Winton and Florence Dillon Stickler Shrewsbury. He was born March 20, 1934. They were married June 8, 1957. A graduate of West Virginia University, he is employed by American Credit Indemnity Company in Baltimore. Until recently, he had been an agent in a territory out of Columbus, Ohio. Margaret is chief speech pathologist at Child Guidance Center in Columbus. She taught at the university there while working on her master’s and doctor’s degrees as associate professor teaching on a fellowship. She graduated from West Virginia University cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. They have two sons, Charles Winton II, born June 7, 1961, and Steven Holt, born May 20, 1962.

MATHEW SAMUEL HOLT, JR.

Mathew Samuel Holt, Jr., was born February 22, 1897. He married Edith Cook of Chillicothe, Ohio, first, and Mary King of Parkersburg, West Virginia, second. They have one son, John Mathew, who married Elisa Hoover. They have two children John and Saundra. John Mathew is a major in the Marines.

CHARLES WILLIAM HOLT

Charles William Holt, son of Dr. Mathew Samuel and Lela Dew Holt was born July 14, 1899. He graduated from Wes
ton High School; attended Glenville Normal School, where he obtained a teaching certificate in 1924; received a bachelor’s degree from Salem College in 1928; finished a master’s degree from University of Chicago in 1937; attended summer session, band directing school, University of Chicago under Victor Grebel. He was teacher and principal in Glenville Public School, 1928-30; organized and directed the first band in Weston High School, 1928, which he continued to direct, and taught in the upper grades of Weston Central School from 1930 to 1942. He taught special terms in Glenville State College, English and history. He was visiting music professor two terms at West Liberty. He was principal of Semour Junior School in Blue Island, Illinois, and in same system upon combining two junior highs; a total of twenty-one years of teaching.

He served as a judge in the first school band contest in Charleston, West Virginia, in 1927.

In June 1935, Charles married Margaret Nicols, daughter of William Llewelyn and Gertrude Steele Nicols, who was born in Laurel Park, Maryland, April 21, 1897. She attended grade school in Grafton, West Virginia, and graduated from Elkins High School in 1914. She attended Fairmont Normal School, 1916; obtained a bachelor’s degree from West Virginia University, 1923; taught first grade at Point Pleasant, West Virginia; taught English at Weston High School and Elkins High School and at Cairo during summers.
She did graduate study at West Virginia University and the University of Chicago. Both Charles and Margaret taught at Morgan Park Military Academy one year before he went to the Blue Island System.

Ten days after his death, July 2, 1973, a certificate came from the county superintendent of schools of Cook County, Illinois, "In grateful recognition of loyal and meritorious service to the people of Cook County, Illinois, through dedicated leadership in advancing the high ideals of American Education."

Charles and Margaret Nicols Holt were the parents of one son, Charles Steele, who was born June 18, 1937. He received his bachelor's degree from Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin, 1959; his master's degree from the University of Wisconsin, 1962; and his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota, 1965. Currently he is teaching (associate professor) biology at Bemidji State College in Minnesota.


Charles William Holt was loved and respected by everyone. He was gentle and hated any kind of discord, but was courageous, both physically and morally and always had the courage of his convictions.

He liked the simple things of life, and he loved music, and played cornet well. Along with his other activities, he directed a drum and bugle corps in Chicago. He was very talented in art and after his retirement, spent much time painting still life and landscapes and working in his basement workshop, making decorative gadgets, and toys for his grandsons.

As a child, he spent much time sitting around with a group of old men, who met in a nearby shoemaker's shop, telling tall tales. He joined them, introducing himself as "Uncle Dudley" or "Mr. Skeezix." "Dud" and Skeezix" stuck with him
(among his friends) as long as he was in Weston. From these sessions with the old men, he often came home, impersonating them and relating their stories. One that I recall was “Uncle Bud,” who was a wagon master in the Civil War and always had an experience to relate. Charles would come in, sit down and struggle trying to get his right leg crossed over his left knee, then spit, and begin, “Yes, by God, years ago during the Rebellion.” His mimicry was never in the spirit of “fun-making” at anybody’s expense—he truly loved these old men and wanted to share their stories with us. Two years ago, I visited him and Margaret in Chicago. She said she didn’t know when she had seen him enjoy anything as much as he did reminiscing about people and events in Weston. Some of the “town characters” that I had not thought of for years lived on in his memory and we exchanged reminiscences about them.

ANDREW EDWIN HOLT

Andrew Edwin Holt, born September 21, 1902, was married a short time to Alice Vandergrift Register Best, daughter of Bertha Bennett Vandergrift Keener.

His favorite joke is: When Rush’s son, Rush, Jr., was a small boy, someone asked him if he wanted to be a politician like his father. He answered, “No, I don’t want to be anything, I want to be like Uncle Andy.” The nieces and nephews all adore Andy and always look forward to his visits. Children, generally love him, and he loves them. Probably the best way I can describe him is by the song, “Don’t Fence Me
In.” He is an exceptionally good mathematician, never having made a grade below 96 in college on either mathematics or chemistry, and he has been offered what most people would consider an excellent opportunity with one of the leading chemical companies, but he said, “I don’t want a job that I can’t even go out and get a cup of coffee when I want it.” He dislikes “hobbles.” Among the many things he has done was leasing small coal mines and working right along with his miners; bringing in truck loads of plants in planting season by truck and air and also raising flowers for sale. I have been told by older people in Weston that he frequently brings them baskets of vegetables as gifts. He deals in glassware (personalized) for hotels, clubs, etc., and for the past few years, he has raised registered police dogs. If the pups are not sold by the time they are about six weeks old, he is very likely to become so attached to them, he keeps them. One English collie that was given to him as a pup, was so well trained, he followed commands given by word, spelling, or manual signs, and was written up in newspapers. When Prince died and someone from Ohio read of it, he sent Andy a registered Saint Bernard. Andy appreciated the gift, but to him Prince, was a companion—a person. He had a legitimate offer of a thousand dollars for the dog, but said, “He’s not for sale at any price.” This pretty well sums up the kind of person Andy is, kind, independent, and places things in general above monetary consideration. He is well informed on world and national affairs and enjoys life to the fullest just being himself.

I think it will be interesting at this point to describe the atmosphere in which we were reared, which, no doubt, contributed to the independent way in which each of us developed.

We had a large house with a hall in the middle. On the left was a music room, where we had open house for musicians every Monday night. Amateur musicians dropped in at will to
join in our fun sessions. We never knew what kind of instrumentation there might be, nor did we care, it was all for an evening of fun. Many people dropped in to listen and often brought “treats” for the musicians. In the summertime, the porch might be occupied, or in the winter, the house was open to friends.

On the right side of the hall was a large living room and behind it, another large living room, both with open fireplaces, as had the music room, which made it quite cozy.

The unusual thing or the thing of interest was not the house but the use that was made of it. The door was always open to friends. Often there were card games, political arguments, and all sorts of activity going on simultaneously. At the back of the hall was a dining room. My brothers’ friends sometimes brought food for a spaghetti or chili feed which Andy was always ready to prepare. Thus, the air might be filled with culinary odors, laughter, argument, music, all at the same time, for our musical get-togethers were not restricted to Monday night open house. In the modern vernacular, “Everybody did his own thing” independent of what the others wanted to do. It was a happy atmosphere, and I believe a healthful one.

Now going back to the family which was reared in it.

**RUSH DEW HOLT**

Rush was born June 19, 1905. He married Helen Louise Froelich, daughter of William and Edna Froelich of Gridley, Illinois. They had two children:

Helen Jane, born September 7, 1945, married David Seale, son of Dr. and Louise Seale, of New Orleans, Louisiana. David is employed in educational-social work in New Orleans. Before her marriage, Helen Jane was research librarian at Loyola University.

Rush, Jr., was born October 5, 1948. He married Susan Fraker from New Martinsville, West Virginia, in 1970. Rush is
employed by the city of New York in pollution control studies, presently dealing with ways of diminishing subway noises. Susan is a free-lance writer. They both graduated from Carleton College in Minnesota and both are continuing their studies, Rush in the field of science and Susan in Columbia University journalism school.

Helen Louise Froelich Holt, after Rush’s death, was appointed to fill his unexpired term in the West Virginia Legislature, 1955. During his political career, she had always been an active campaigner. In 1956, she received the largest vote of all the candidates for delegate-at-large to the Republican convention. She was the first woman member of the board of public works, and in 1957, she was appointed as secretary of state. After going down in defeat to Jay Rockefeller in the Democratic landslide, she was appointed as assistant to the housing administrator, in charge of nursing homes where she is still serving with headquarters in Washington.

She is a past president of Central District of State Federation of Women’s Clubs; member of American Association of University Women and the League of American Pen Women. In 1957, the West Virginia Society of District of Columbia selected her as “Daughter of the Year.” She also has served as president of that organization, and is active in the National Presbyterian Church.

I recall when Rush was about four years old someone gave him a primer. He lay down on the floor on his stomach associating words and pictures, and the words that had no
picture, he asked what they were. Each new word, he came running to ask what it was. When dinner was announced he wouldn’t stop reading until Dad made him. He began to cry and said, “All right, you’ll make me be back farther than I ain’t am.” From that time on, he read everything he found that was within his grasp.

When he was barely five years old, he went to a kindergarten taught by Miss Cherrington, “skipped” grades in school because he was always forging ahead and ready to go on. He finished high school at the age of fourteen, received his bachelor’s degree at the age of eighteen and would have finished his master’s degree the following year, but had a severe illness that caused him to discontinue.

Notwithstanding his seriousness in matters where seriousness belongs, he had an extremely keen sense of humor and thoroughly enjoyed practical jokes. He was very sensitive to the feelings of others but usually ignored or laughed off things that affected himself. On one occasion, when I told him something I had heard that I knew to be untrue, he just laughed and said, “If you can’t take it, you have no business in politics.”

When he was in Salem College (from which he obtained his degree), he wrote for a Clarksburg paper, organized his own little independent basketball team and was always busy at something. All his life, he had been proud of his hair. When he started to school, he begged not to have his curls cut off, but our mother was ashamed to let him go to school
with his long hair, so over his protests, the curls were cut off. He refused to eat that evening, not for stubbornness but for shame. He looked into the mirror, and sobbed, saying, "I look just like a——" (using the name of a distressed looking family "on the other side of the tracks"). Although the length of his hair when he started to college would not seem long at this time (it would actually be conservative), it was longer than the older college boys were wearing. And, they, being jealous of some of the attention he was getting (it was a group of arrogant athletes who had come from the Chicago area), caught him one evening and chopped his hair off.

I don't know who was the more furious, he or I. I was supervising music in the public school there at the time. When he came in and told me what had happened, I rushed right to the president of the college who expressed much concern over it, but said, "I don't know what I can do." I said, "I know what I can do, and I am going to do it. I'm going right down and swear out a warrant for every one of them under the Redman Act." He said, "You can do it, but it will hurt the college." I loved Dr. Bond, but told him it was up to him to protect the college, I was not going to let those ruffians get away with it—that Rush was only a boy, and the next thing they tried, they might hurt him. Dr. Bond asked if I would wait until the next day before doing anything, to which I agreed. That night he called a faculty meeting, and the boys were all suspended.

Yes, Rush was not without unpleasant incidents; later some that were serious. It is these things of which most people never knew that I am mentioning here. Rush did so much that is recorded—several whole shelves at the West Virginia University Archives are devoted to his writings and activities after he devoted himself to political activities, that in this limited space, they are omitted.

Copied from Who's Who, volume 25, 1948-1949:

Student W.Va. U. 1920 22; A.B. Salem Coll. 1924; L.L.B. La Salle 1943; m. Helen Louise Froelich June 19, 1941; 1 dau, Helen

Who’s Who in America (above) lists Rush as a Democrat, which he was at the time he was in the United States Senate, and for some short time after he returned to Weston, but feeling that the Democratic machine at that time had become so corrupt it was impossible to accomplish what he considered necessary for the good of the country in that situation, he changed his registration to Republican. The clerk at the courthouse told me the day after it became known that his registration had been changed, there were several hundred other voters who came in and changed.

A little illustration of Rush’s wit: A powerful political figure in the state (whom he opposed) wrote to him in Florida, “Dear Rush, It is none of my business but I don’t know how you can afford to spend your winters in Florida. I can’t afford it.” Rush’s reply was: “Dear Mr. ———, You are right. It is none of your business.”

This little bit of verse from Lord Byron is fitting in discussing Rush’s life. His consuming desire was to do all within his power to fight corruption in government. Those whom he opposed used every means at their command to kill him politically, of which more will be discussed after quoting Lord Byron.

If a man hath no freedom to fight for at home,
Let him combat for that of his neighbors.
Let him think of the glories of Greece and of Rome
And get knocked in the rear for his labors.
To do good for mankind is a chivalrous deed
And is always as nobly requited;
So, labor for freedom whenever you can,
And if not shot or hanged, you’ll be knighted.

At one time while he was in the United States Senate, there was a Senate hearing at which he was accused of sending material to Hitler. A secretary testified that she had typed the material which he was accused of sending. When Rush took the floor to defend himself against the false charge, the secretary began to cry. She admitted that she had committed perjury; that the testimony she had given was untrue and that she had been paid to say what she said. Rush told me that notwithstanding the fact there was absolutely no foundation for the accusation and that he knew he had done nothing to justify it, he was truly concerned that perjured evidence might convict him.

Referring to Lord Byron: Figuratively speaking, Rush was both shot and hanged by his enemies and knighted by those who knew him best and loved and admired him for his courageous opposition to corruption in government.

Quoting from the newspaper, News Leader, following his death:

It is quite possible that here on the News Leader we wouldn’t be capable of evaluating the late Rush D. Holt and delegating him a place in history. We liked the man too much for that; we felt he was an unheard Voice in the Wilderness, really, and that here in West Virginia we are paying and will pay in the years to come for not listening to him. Rush Holt’s name is secure. It will shine brightly long after his enemies are forgotten.

And from West Virginian (Fairmont):

In spite of the many honors and publicity accorded him during his sometimes stormy career, dearest to the heart of Rush Holt was the knowledge that those who knew him best liked and respected him most. A familiar figure in the capitals of the state and the nation, he was always happy to return to his native Weston, and now he is home for good.
Back in 1952, during the gubernatorial campaign, when he was being villified from many quarters, many a time he remarked, "If they want the truth about me, let them talk to my own people in Weston and Lewis County. No one knows me better than they do and they have always stood with me." (Note: I recall that one day when we were driving through the Walkersville country, one of the largest precincts in the county, Rush laughed and said, "Somebody up here voted against me. I'd like to know who it was." There was but one vote cast against him in both parties.) And when he changed his registration from Democrat to Republican, I was told by a clerk at the Lewis County Courthouse, that in the next few days, several hundred people followed suit and registered from Democrat to Republican. They had such confidence in his integrity.

Returning to the quotation from News Leader:

Rush Holt was, indeed a prophet in his own country. Seven times his people backed him when he ran successfully for the State Legislature. They supported him when he was the youngest man ever to be elected to the United States Senate. He had their vote when he lost the nomination for the Senate and when he ran for Governor on the Republican ticket.

Significant it was that he was re-elected to the House of Delegates for his fourth term by a write-in vote in which he received more votes than the two party candidates combined; that he was elected for a fifth term without opposition; that he was elected a sixth term on both Democratic and Republican tickets, and that he was elected a seventh term although he was in a New York hospital during the campaign.

The press association stories about Mr. Holt have given little space to this aspect of his career. They preferred rather to call attention to his many political controversies and battles. From a news standpoint their judgment was good. But to find the man, the real Rush Holt, it is necessary to go back to Weston, in Lewis County, where he was born and where he grew up and dreamed his dreams. He is back home now, there to stay, as we have said. But his dreams, his dreams of a better state live on. The passing of former Senator Rush Holt is a profound loss to the state and the nation.
When he was even on his deathbed, he was consulted by his colleagues from Charleston about pending legislation. I recall one time when he was in such intense pain, he turned white and had to wait until he caught his breath to answer. Helen, his wife, who was on the phone, asked if he wanted them to call back. He shook his head and as soon as the pain enabled him to speak, he went into detail to answer their inquiry. This was the faith his colleagues had in his opinions and the undying interest he had in continuing to work for that in which he believed.

Rush entered West Virginia University in 1920, at the age of fifteen, where he studied for his freshman and sophomore years; he then entered Salem College where he obtained his A.B. degree in 1924. He received his LL.B. from La Salle in 1943. He taught in Bedford City (Virginia) High School, 1924; was athletic director at Saint Patrick’s High School in Weston (West Virginia), 1925-28. He was an instructor in Glenville State Teachers’ College and at his alma mater, Salem College.

He was a member of the United States Delegation to Interparliamentary Conference at Oslo, Norway; was a member of the American Political Science Association; of the Flag Day Society (honorary vice-president). He was state president of both the Moose and the Elks.

As expressed by the Reverend Floyd Waldrop: “As I knew him, Rush Holt was an honest man. I refer not here to his paying honest debts and meeting other obligations. I speak of a trait of honesty that lies deeper. I believe I have known no man more tireless in his search for truth. I believe this trait is the basic characteristic of an honest man.”

There are many shelves at the West Virginia University Archives devoted to material by and about Rush Holt. He also donated many books to both the university and to Salem College.
CHILELA DEW HOLT

Chilela Dew Holt, daughter of Dr. Mathew Samuel and Lela Dew Holt, was born December 12, 1908. She died from pneumonia following measles in April 1910.

REBECCA JANE HOLT

The youngest child of our family, Rebecca Jane Holt, was born August 24, 1913, and died in November 1952. She married Ralph Kingsley Chase, son of Robert and Louise Chase of Schenectady, New York. He was a Maritime Commission lawyer in the Pentagon; had graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Harvard Law School, where he was also editor of the school newspaper.

Jane had been Rush's hostess during his term in the United States Senate.

She and Ralph adopted an infant, David Kingsley Chase, born April 15, 1941, who, after their death was taken by Rush, and after his death, Helen was his guardian and did an excellent job rearing him.

David is not a blood relation, but was always such a favorite of all of us, we never felt any difference. After serving an enlistment in the navy, he returned to school and graduated from Salem College with a bachelor's degree. He married Patricia Marshall from upper New York, where he has been teaching since his graduation, 1967. They have two daughters, Kimberly Marie and Kristine.
Laura Holt

Laura Holt, tenth child of Mathew and Abigail Bennett Holt, was born in Glenville, October 23, 1852. She married Bernard Doyle, a cotton gin contractor from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, when she was about eighteen years old, and lived there for a short time. However, coming back from buying furniture with which to begin housekeeping, he rode through a cold rain and developed a cold which culminated in tuberculosis. He lived only about two years. As referred to in Aunt Margaret’s funeral tribute, she spent many years in Parkersburg helping rear the children of her sister, Rebecca, who died from childbirth. Aunt Laura was active in many things. She taught school, was leader of a Campfire Girls troop, was active in the League of Women Voters, was a member of the Frances E. Willard White Ribbon Brigade.

After the Wiant children were all grown, the aunts returned to Glenville, had a house built on the site of the old home, and lived there until Aunt Margaret’s death; and Aunt Laura remained until 1932, when she was no longer able to live alone. She came to Weston where she died at my father’s (her brother’s) home in 1935.

Aunt Laura and Aunt Margaret always seemed to me to be a sort of twin-person. In speaking of them, both names were usually linked, although as individuals they were quite different. Aunt Margaret loved company but had little desire to find happiness outside the home, while Aunt Laura loved participating in things. One woman told me, as a little girl, she always thought of Aunt
Laura walking stately down the aisle at church, with a little white ruche around her neck and cuffs, while she connected Aunt Margaret with her cooky jar. They both loved music and had a collection of the best records. And Aunt Laura told me if her father had permitted it, she thought she would have loved dancing, and added, "But since he objected while he was living, I would not do it after his death." Thus, they remained loyal to the memory and the teaching of values that their parents had instilled in them.

Charles Bennett Holt

Charles Bennett Holt, the youngest child of Mathew and Abigail Holt, was born at Glenville, September 28, 1856, and died at Parkersburg April 12, 1892. He is buried in the Holt lot in Macpelah Cemetery in Weston. There has never been a stone placed at his grave. It is farthest back (from the drive­way) on the left. Beside it is another unmarked grave, that of Smith Thomas. Although he is not related, he thought so much of "Uncle Charley" he requested that he be buried beside him. To further identify the lot, it is where Rush, Jane and Ralph Chase and Henry Early are buried, also an un­marked grave of our infant sister, Chilela.

Uncle "Charley," as did many of the Holts and Bennetts throughout the generations, taught school. My brother Charles told me, the following anecdote told to him by Matt Schmitt, who was in Uncle Charley's class. "One Monday morning Mr. Holt called me up to his desk and said, 'Matt, I'm going to whip you. I didn't see you do anything Friday but I know you did.'" Matt laughed and said, "He was right."

In addition to teaching school, he worked as a printer on a Weston newspaper.
VI. JOHN FLETCHER WESLEY HOLT AND HIS DESCENDANTS

John Fletcher Wesley Holt, son of John and Susanna Cobun Holt, was born February 8, 1809, and died December 4, 1882. He married Rebecca Bennett, sister of Abigail Collins Bennett. He and Mathew were business partners, operating stores along the Little Kanawha River.

Children of John Fletcher Wesley and Rebecca Bennett Holt:

1. Eliza Holt married her cousin, Alfred Holmes, son of Nathaniel and Sabina Holt Holmes. They had two daughters: Gertrude, who married John Engle, a Methodist preacher, who was minister at the Clarksburg Methodist Church, which is now First United Methodist Church. They had one son, Blaine, in the insurance business in Clarksburg, and who lives near Good Hope.

Ida Mae, married Alton Powell, a salesman for a Clarksburg wholesale house. It was probably the Koblegard Company, since he was a brother of Mrs. Jacob Koblegard of Weston.
Mr. Powell was an interesting old gentleman. He frequently visited us, and on one occasion sent a Christmas card from Florida with his picture, a dapper looking gentleman wearing a white suit and standing very erect, with the following greeting: "Hoping you will enjoy this Christmas as much as I have enjoyed my past ninety-three."

They had six children: Alfred; Lyle; June; Pearl, who married Robert Cook; Ashby; and Clayton, who married (1) Ruby Lawson, sister of Dr. Aubrey Lawson of Weston, and (2) Harriet Stealey of Clarksburg. She was an artist. Clayton and Ruby had one daughter who lives in Florida. Pearl had one daughter of whom I know nothing.

2. Susan Holt married Moore Ewing. He died in Andersonville Prison during the Civil War. They had five children, Homer, Alfred, Abby, Gertrude (of whom I have no information), and Edward, who was a dentist in Glenville. He had three children: Susan, who died in childhood; Lucy, who married Eugene Goff and lives in Parkersburg; and John.

After the death of Moore Ewing, Susan married Sanford Brannon. They had five children: Imogene, Maude, and Guy, of whom I know little. Earl was a doctor living in Bridgeport. Eva married Harvey Craddock. They had two children, Hugh, who died (in the service, as I remember) during World War I; and Susan who lives in Charleston. I do not know her husband’s name.

3. Mary Holt married John Varner. They had two sons, Thaddeus and Wilbur. I believe one of the boys was a doctor in Glenville, but do not have access to anyone to check this.

4. James married Catherine Armstrong. He taught school in Moundsville.

5. William Bennett Holt was born in Glenville in 1842, and died September 27, 1915. He married Martha Olivia Hyman, born February 20, 1845, in Ritchie County. They were married October 18, 1866. One infant son, born February 28, 1871, died. John Samuel married (1) Amelia Elanora
Nook and (2) Ethel Pinnell. Lillian Olivia married Sydney LaFollett. Charles Howard married Margaret Owens. Bessie Mattie married John Lawrence Sommerville. Homer Edwin married several times, (1) Mammie Keith, (2) Lucy Campbell, (3) Alice Payne Holmes, (4) went back to Lucy Campbell. Alice Estelle, born April 5, 1868, married Edwin Griffeth. They were the parents of Mabel Stoyer, and grandparents of David Michael Cover, both of whom furnished practically all of the information I have regarding those branches of the family closely associated with the Bunker Hill homestead. Nellie Blanche, born October 22, 1869, married Thomas Loar. Lena Leota married Marvin Lucius Taylor. Fannie Lana, born February 13, 1883, died when six weeks old from whooping cough. John Matthew. Elizabeth Rebecca (Latham).

6. Abigail Margaret Holt married Benjamin (“Doc”) Conrad, son of Colonel Conrad. I had the pleasure of talking to their son, Bernard, who was in a nursing home, and quite feeble, but interesting. He told me in the university he was considered “the Shakespearian scholar without peer.” He was unmarried. Notwithstanding his obvious senility, he retained the marks of a real gentleman, and he unobtrusively apologized for his forgetfulness in trying to recall the names of the spouses and children of his brothers and sisters, but he seemed quite clear in naming his brothers and sisters: Beatrice, Max, Meredith, Howard, and Geneva.

7. John Mathew Holt died single. He followed his father in the sheriff’s office in Gilmer County.

8. Rebecca married Isaac Hoops from Ohio.

9. Laura died in infancy.

The following children of John Fletcher Wesley Holt were by a second marriage to Elizabeth McKissic, daughter of Susan McCally, and granddaughter of James and Catherine Watson McCally:

10. Abraham Lincoln Holt, whom I knew as “Cousin
married Cora Shock. He was a lawyer at Glenville, and considered a very able one. I never knew of his being inebriated, but he was a connoisseur of good drink. When near beer became legal, some friends met in his office to try out the new drink. When one of them asked, "What do you think of it, Mr. Holt?" his answer was, "Whoever named it is a damned poor judge of distance." They had two daughters, Elizabeth Clyn, born May 6, 1906, died 1965, married Clarence F. Morrison, M.D., and they had four children, Lincoln, Karl Fisher, Sam, and Elizabeth Ann, who married Thomas Blaine; and Helen Holt, born June 27, 1908, married Robert Homer Mollohan.
1913, married Congressman Robert Mollohan, born at Grantsville, September 18, 1909.

The children of Robert and Helen Holt Mollohan are Alan Bowlby and Kathryn Clyan, who married Richard Dennis Moats and has two children, Debra Susan and Richard Dennis. Robert Holt Mollohan has two daughters, Sally Ann and Patricia Ann.


Waitman, son of Emory and Ella Holt Gough, was born May 22, 1877, and died September 28, 1944. He married Olive Maude Dew, born December 18, 1876, and died September 14, 1956. She was the daughter of Dr. Rush Hereford and Almira Letitia Pritchard Dew, and a sister of Lela Dew Holt, wife of Dr. Mathew Samuel Holt. They had four children: Lela, Ella Almira, Olive, and Dew.

Lela, born February 15, 1903, married Dave Reed, of Denver, Colorado. They had two children, Margaret, who married Lancer Carlson, and Dave, who married Grace Varisco. Lancer and Margaret Reed Carlson have two children. Karen married Klaus Gebhard and has two children, Klaus and Lynette. Bryan Carlson is unmarried.

Dave and Grace Varisco Reed have one daughter, Carol.

Ella Almira, daughter of Waitman and Maude Dew Gough, was born July 20, 1905, and died September 17, 1963. She married Wilbur Swenson, head of a certified public accounting firm. They had three children, Wilbur, Jr., Wilmira Jean, who married Gene Irwin, and Shirley, who married Dr. Latson.

Olive, daughter of Waitman and Maude Dew Gough, married Jerry Lane. After the death of her sister, Almira Swenson, Olive married Wilbur Swenson. By her first marriage, she had two sons, Kenneth and Frank.

Dew, the only son of Waitman and Maude Gough, was
born in 1902 and died August 17, 1940.

12. Sabina Holt married John Scott Withers, son of Major Henry and Dorcas Dinah Lorentz Withers. They were married September 27, 1875, and had four children: Oleta, Janet, Erma, and John.

       Oleta married Nelson Hooker. They had three daughters: Elizabeth who married Richard Lee and lives in Charleston; Rosemond who married Festus Greathouse (now deceased), the name of their daughter escapes my memory; Mary Withers married Glen Poling.

       Janet Withers, daughter of John Scott and Sabina Holt Withers married Harry Parker. They have one daughter, Patricia.

       Erma Withers married Frank Ast. They have one daughter, Virginia, and their home is in Charleston.

       John Scott Withers, Jr., married Gladys Bankhart. He was a druggist in Buckhannon. Their children are John Scott III, who is a chemical engineer in Martinsburg, married to Janet Whitehair; and Virginia Bankhart Withers, married H. F. Crawford, a physicist, and they lived in Cocoa Beach, Florida, until a government project on which he was working was discontinued. They are now living in Texas where he is teaching.
VII. THOMAS HOLT AND HIS DESCENDANTS

Thomas Holt, son of John and Susanna Cobun Holt, was born February 7, 1811. He married Jane Elliot. He was one of the two Holt brothers who did not settle in Weston, but remained at the old Bunker Hill homestead. He was a local Baptist preacher and farmer.

Thomas and Jane Elliot Holt had six children: William F., like his father, was a local preacher and farmer. Adoline married John Schaffer; Susan, Almira, and Louise never married. Louise was a schoolteacher. James was married twice, first to Mary Gorman, and second to Ann Creel. He was a teacher, and later in the Patent Office in Washington.
VIII. NANCY ANN HOLT AND HER DESCENDANTS

Nancy Ann Holt  
(Jones)

Parents
John and Susanna Cobun Holt

GENERATION II
Margaret Jane Jones  
(Harvey)
John Jones
Alfred J. Jones
Wilbur C. Jones
Susan Jones  
(Williams)

Hiram and Nancy Ann Jones
Hiram and Nancy Ann Jones
Hiram and Nancy Ann Jones
Hiram and Nancy Ann Jones

GENERATION III
Etna Harvey
Howard Harvey
Lulu Harvey  
(Emory)
Oscar Harvey
Mary Alice
Harvey
Louisa Jane Harvey

Calvin and Margaret Jane Jones Harvey
Calvin and Margaret Jane Jones Harvey
Calvin and Margaret Jane Jones Harvey
Calvin and Margaret Jane Jones Harvey
Calvin and Margaret Jane Jones Harvey

Ella Jones
Alfred Jones
Nannie Jones
Annie Jones
Emma Jones
Thomas Jones
Ewing Jones
Frank Jones
Samuel Jones

John and Mary Jarett Jones
John and Mary Jarett Jones
John and Mary Jarett Jones
John and Mary Jarett Jones
John and Mary Jarett Jones
John and Mary Jarett Jones
John and Mary Jarett Jones
John and Mary Jarett Jones
John and Mary Jarett Jones

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Mary Jones  
John Jones  
Charles Aubrey Jones  
E. Ray Jones  
Mae Jones  
Pauline Jones  
Winona Jones  
Walter Williams  
Jennie Williams  
Hattie Williams  
Charles Williams  
Nannie Williams

GENERATION IV
Harry Emory  
Georgia Emory (Fowler)

Robert Gordon Jones  
Elizabeth Eleanore Jones (Jones)  
Virginia Lee Jones (Ziesler)

GENERATION V
Nancy Lea Jones (Pfahler)  
Donald Lowe Jones  
Elizabeth Carr Jones  
Charles Allen Jones  
H. Lea Jones, Jr.

Lynn Barton Ziesler

John and Mary Jarett Jones  
John and Mary Jarett Jones  
Wilbur C. and Olive Belle Forman Jones  
Wilbur C. and Olive Belle Forman Jones  
Wilbur C. and Olive Belle Forman Jones  
Wilbur C. and Olive Belle Forman Jones  
Wilbur C. and Olive Belle Forman Jones

John and Susan Jones Williams  
John and Susan Jones Williams  
John and Susan Jones Williams  
John and Susan Jones Williams  
John and Susan Jones Williams

George and Lulu Harvey Emory  
George and Lulu Harvey Emory  
Charles Aubrey and Ireta Eleanore Lowe Jones  
Charles Aubrey and Ireta Eleanore Lowe Jones  
Charles Aubrey and Ireta Eleanore Lowe Jones

Herbert Lea and Elizabeth Eleanore (Jones) Jones  
Herbert Lea and Elizabeth Eleanore (Jones) Jones  
Herbert Lea and Elizabeth Eleanore (Jones) Jones  
Herbert Lea and Elizabeth Eleanore (Jones) Jones  
Herbert Lea and Elizabeth Eleanore (Jones) Jones

R. Barton and Virginia Lea Jones Ziesler

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Nancy Ann Holt, daughter of John and Susanna Cobun Holt was born October 4, 1813. She married Hiram Jones. They lived about a half mile from the old Holt homestead. A great-granddaughter, Georgia Fowler, still lives at that location. Nancy Ann was the last surviving member of the family of John and Susanna Cobun Holt.

In 1970, I attended the Jones reunion at the home of Georgia Fowler and her mother, Lulu Emory, daughter of Margaret Jane Harvey and granddaughter of Nancy Ann Jones. At that time Mrs. Emory, who was well past ninety, was very alert and active, and had a delightful personality.
DESCENDANTS OF CHARLES AUBREY
AND IRETA LOWE JONES

It is to Charles A. Jones that much gratitude is given for collecting and preserving a great deal of the information in this compilation.

Charles Aubrey Jones married Ireta Eleanor Lowe of Buckhannon, West Virginia, 1907. She died May 1967. They had three children.

1. Robert Gordon Jones, son of Charles A. and Ireta Jones, was born July 1912 and married Pam Greenwall in 1941. They live in Fort Worth, Texas. Their only son is married and lives in San Bruno, California.

2. Elizabeth Eleanore Jones, daughter of Charles A. and Ireta Jones, was born September 1916 and married Herbert Lea Jones, Sr., of Bristol, Virginia. They were married by our cousin, Edwin Holt Hughes, in 1938. They have the following children:

   Nancy Lea, born 1940, married Thomas Pfahler, Jr., and lives in Paradise, Pennsylvania. Their three sons are, Thomas III, Ronald, and Karl.

   Donald Lowe Jones, son of Herbert Lea and Elizabeth Jones, was born 1941 and married Charlotte Cluthe, of Morristown, New Jersey. They live in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Their four children are, Kathleen C., Jeffry T., Bryan A., and Diane E.

   Elizabeth Carr (Betsy) Jones, daughter of Herbert Lea and Elizabeth Jones, was born 1943. She lives in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

   Charles Allen Jones, son of Herbert and Elizabeth Jones, was born 1953 and lives in Bristol, Virginia.

   Herbert Lea Jones, Jr., was born 1956 and lives in Bristol, Virginia.

IX. SAMUEL HOLT AND HIS DESCENDANTS

Samuel Holt

GENERATION II
Sarah Jane
John Franklin
Enos
Thomas
Samuel
James
Matthew
Lincoln
Louise
Sanford

Parents
John and Susanna Cobun Holt

Samuel and Elizabeth Baker Holt
Samuel and Elizabeth Baker Holt
Samuel and Elizabeth Baker Holt
Samuel and Elizabeth Baker Holt
Samuel and Elizabeth Baker Holt
Samuel and Elizabeth Baker Holt
Samuel and Elizabeth Baker Holt
Samuel and Elizabeth Baker Holt
Samuel and Elizabeth Baker Holt
Samuel and Elizabeth Baker Holt

GENERATION III
Gladys Lewery
Susan
Edna
Lela Grace
Bernice
Harold Griffeth

John Franklin and Susan Lewery Holt
John Franklin and Susan Lewery Holt
John Franklin and Susan Lewery Holt
John Franklin and Susan Lewery Holt
John Franklin and Susan Lewery Holt
John Franklin and Susan Lewery Holt

The letter of “E. Holt Easterday” gives more information regarding the third and/or fourth generation descendants of Dr. John Franklin Holt, but the way it is written is a little confusing and rather than risk the probability of listing them wrong, what information can be obtained from the letter is all I will give. Also the possible error in her name, E., standing for Edna (which is the only one of Dr. John Franklin 116
Holt’s children beginning with E). However, as I interpret her letter, Edna had died in childhood. This branch of the family, having always lived in the West, and never having known any of them, makes it impossible to check further. However, there may be someone who reads this book that can make use of the information contained.

Samuel Holt, son of John and Susanna Cobun Holt, was born November 6, 1815. He married Elizabeth Baker. They lived and died at the Holt homestead, and three of their sons remained there until their deaths. Thomas and Samuel lived there until between 1920-23, according to the relatives who are still living in that area. “E. Holt Easterday,” the niece, gives the dates as between 1918-20 in her letter. For my purpose, the exact date is of little significance.

Several of Samuel Holt’s children went West. John Franklin Holt was a doctor and surgeon; born August 6, 1848; died April 17, 1915 and was buried at Assumption, Illinois. He married Susan Lewery of Greensboro, North Carolina. She died in 1925.

Enos Holt was an eminent Episcopal rector in Illinois, and later in South Pasadena, California. He had three children, Samuel Kenyon, an engineer in Washington, D.C.; Frank Co­burn, a teacher in Sans Lins, Obispo, California; and Ruth Landis, of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Mary Louise Holt Cragmile had two sons, listed in follow­ing letter.

Since the writer of the letter signed herself “E. Holt Easterday” and says there were six children in Dr. John Franklin Holt’s family, listing six, the only one of whose name began with “E,” I assume she is Edna. The others are Bernice Holt McGrath, who lives in Eaton, Colorado; Harold Griffeth Holt, Maywood, Illinois (near Chicago); Gladys Lewery; Lela Grace, deceased in childhood, and Susan.

Enos Holt was a minister of Rock River Conference in Illinois.
Letter from E. Holt Easterday to my father:

Santa Fe, N.Mexico.
December 4, 1934.

My dear Cousin Dr. Holt,

You cannot feel the thrill that I feel in addressing again a Dr. Holt, in memory of my beloved father who was one of the most wonderful men that ever practiced medicine. Last year when I was home my Father's memory was vernal. Tears flowed rather freely in the old families' home where he once paused daily. In spite of the Holt monument in the cemetery, I have always had a desire to follow Peter B. Kyne’s story and place an old hitching post at the head of my Father’s grave, with a cross board at the top with the inscription, “Office Upstairs.” Doctor John Franklin Holt, many the soul whose exit he made easy, and many the soul whose entrance, likewise.

Your handwriting is much like Father’s, and your closing, “Affectionately,” was his favorite. And now, my dear Dr. Holt you are filling a long vacant space in my life.

When Virginia takes her degree, we have promised ourselves a trip East. Olive Jones, my Aunt Sarah Holt’s daughter, wanted me to come to Fairchance, Pa., on my last trip and I am sorry I did not do that a year ago.

I am having a photostatic copy of the records I have for you. They begin with my great grandfather who left the land of his nativity, York Co., Virginia and came to Uniontown, married Susanna Coburn and reared his family. Even the hour of the day is registered in the birth records. Of the seven sons, I note that Mathew Holt was born Wed. at 9 o’clock A.M. February 18, 1807—Samuel, Mon. 9 A.M. Nov. 6, 1815—and Asbury 4-5 o’clock June 16, 1820. Interesting, isn’t it, and so on with the others.

I have written Uncle Enos Holt, 616 Meridian Avenue, S. Pasadena, California for other records. My record begins 1769 and just carries through my great grandfather’s family.

Now you ask about the Samuel Holt line. His birth is given above. His children are as follows, also the grandchildren: Sarah Holt, deceased, daughter Mrs. Olive Jones and her daughter, Joanne, Fairchance, Pennsylvania. Lincoln, Thomas, Matthew (deceased). Lincoln died in childhood. Thomas and Matthew were bachelors and lived long lives. They died about two years apart between 1918-1920.
Beginning with Father in 1915—during the next 12 years, five of my father’s family died. Sanford Holt married Mary Costello in W.Va. and died in LaGrange after the death of his wife. He died since Uncle Thomas—no children. John Franklin, my father, born August 6, 1848 died April 17, 1915 in St. Mary’s Hospital, Decatur, of Uremia—kidney stones. He was on a surgical case in the A.M. It was Friday. Friday night he was unconscious, died Monday, 11:30 P.M. Buried from the M.E. Church, Assumption, Ill. Crowds gathered for blocks who could not enter the church. Flowers were sent to the sick and his patients except for a blanket of roses which covered his grave.

Now your humble cousin, the writer of this epistle. I graduated at Millikin University, Illinois State Normal U. and Colorado State Teachers’. My degree is in Psychology and Education, although I have three complete minors, History, English and Foreign Languages. I married an assistant U.S. Engineer. We have lived from the lakes to N.Mexico and on both borders, Canadian and Mexican. Have had a wonderful life.

When Virginia was a baby, I was appointed by Secy. Davis to represent the State of Nebraska in conference in Washington. Since that time I have had several appointments. However, my health has not been so good in recent years, and in N.Mexico I have been quiet. Now to continue the Samuel Holt line: Enos Holt of Pasadena, his son Samuel Kenyon is in Washington, an engineer. Frank Coburn is in San Lins Obispe, Calif. a teacher. Ruth Elizabeth Holt Landis lives in Indianapolis.

Aunt Louisa Holt Craigmile died not so long ago, since my Mother’s death in 1925. Her sons are, Charles Samuel Craigmile, electrical engineer, living in Hinsdale, Illinois. He is assistant Supt. Insulated Wire, Chicago, Herbert Craigmile, Gadsden, Ala., Educational Director Goodyear Rubber.

Uncle Enos told me a pleasing story. He and Bishop Hughes were together at a banquet at the Morrison in Chicago. Bishop Hughes stood at his chair and said, “Before we sit, I want to greet my cousin, Enos Holt. He is here.” And as the two cousins greeted each other in that big banquet hall at the Morrison, before one of the largest Ministerial Assemblies ever held in Chicago. That was recently, some three years ago.

We are proud of Rush Holt and of the Holts before him. Last summer, Dr. Harold Holmes said to me, “Once a Holt, always a Holt.” Doctor Holmes is located in Decatur, Ill.

My father told me the story of Uncle Asbury Holt and his
leaving for the Confederate Army. I have wanted for some time
to write a story about it. I have thrilled with the Rupert Hughes'
story, "The Nest." How often have I seen the old oil lamp carried
to the window, watching for Father. And often Mother sat telling
us Bible stories so she could see out across the snowy driveway
watching for his return. "Men in White" are modern doctors but
Rupert Hughes deserves the Pulitzer Prize for "The Nest."

There were six of us children. My mother was Susan Lewery.
Her people were from Greensboro, N.C. But my grandfather and
his brothers went to the Union Army. My mother was born
June 1, 1861. My sisters, Gladys Lewery, Susan, Edna, Lela Grace
deceased in childhood. My sister Bernice Holt McGrath, lives in
Eaton, Colorado. My brother, Harold Griffeth Holt is Professor of
American Lit. in Proviso Co. High School Maywood, Illinois,
about 11 miles from Chicago Loop. He has two boys, John Rob-
ert, a pronounced Holt, age 8 and Harold Ritter Holt, age 6. My
brother has his degree and is continuing his studies necessary to
the Episcopal Clergy. He assists in the Oak Park Church, and has
his first license. The rector there at Oak Park is also a Holt and
his name is Harold Holt, too.

I have reread this letter and find that it is so incoherent that it
is unworthy of my college degree. But I have so much I desire to
say that my thoughts travel more rapidly than my pen. So please
pardon penmanship, sentence structure, grammatical errors, and
accept the genuine love for the appreciation of you in which it is
written. I shall not bother Senator Holt with long letters, but
when he is a candidate for President, we shall stump New Mexico
for him. I have stumped before and have seen my man elected.

With love, your cousin,
E. Holt Easterday

Mrs. A.M. I prefer my own name, however. It has been our cus-
tom in the Holt family.

The above letter was copied as my copy was written. How-
ever, I am confident, many of the abbreviations were not in
the original. It is otherwise too well written.
## X. FRANCIS ASBURY HOLT AND HIS DESCENDANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Generation</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Parents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Charles Holt</td>
<td>Francis Asbury and Louise Flesher Holt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Ann Eliza Holt</td>
<td>Francis Asbury and Louise Flesher Holt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Jack Holt</td>
<td>Charles Holt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Mary Lula Goodwin</td>
<td>Hiram and Ann Eliza Holt Goodwin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>(Riley) Augusta Goodwin</td>
<td>Hiram and Ann Eliza Holt Goodwin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Charles H. Goodwin</td>
<td>Hiram and Ann Eliza Holt Goodwin</td>
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<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>George L. Goodwin</td>
<td>Hiram and Ann Eliza Holt Goodwin</td>
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<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Samuel F. Goodwin</td>
<td>Hiram and Ann Eliza Holt Goodwin</td>
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<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Reverdy Estel Goodwin</td>
<td>Hiram and Ann Eliza Holt Goodwin</td>
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<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Ella C. Goodwin</td>
<td>Hiram and Ann Eliza Holt Goodwin</td>
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<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>(Penley) Myrtle M. Goodwin</td>
<td>Hiram and Ann Eliza Holt Goodwin</td>
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<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>(?) Lavinia Goodwin</td>
<td>Hiram and Ann Eliza Holt Goodwin</td>
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<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>(Withrow) Fannie Goodwin</td>
<td>Hiram and Ann Eliza Holt Goodwin</td>
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<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>(Withrow) Josephine Goodwin</td>
<td>Hiram and Ann Eliza Holt Goodwin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Grace Riley</td>
<td>Isaac and Mary Lula Goodwin Riley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>(Hayes)</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Paul Goodwin
Macel Goodwin
Zelma Goodwin
Louis Goodwin
Darrell Goodwin
Wanda Elsie
  Goodwin (Grant)
Naoma Goodwin
  (Brewster)
Thelma Josephine
  Goodwin
  (Brewster)
Pauline Myrtle
  Goodwin
  (Kalbaugh)
Walter Arnold
  Goodwin
Forrest Penley
Olie Withrow
Dennis Withrow
Ruby Withrow
GENERATION V
Sam Hayes, Jr.
Elsie Pauline
  Grant (LeRoy)
Carolyn Durst
  Grant (Tallman)
Harold Brewster, Jr.
Lowell Eugene
  Brewster
Elizabeth Helen
  Kalbaugh
Charles H. and Ella Riley Goodwin
George L. and Eleanor Landis Goodwin
George L. and Eleanor Landis Goodwin
George L. and Eleanor Landis Goodwin
George L. and Eleanor Landis Goodwin
Reverdy Estel and Elizabeth
  Durst Goodwin
Reverdy Estel and Elizabeth
  Durst Goodwin
Reverdy Estel and Elizabeth
  Durst Goodwin
Reverdy Estel and Elizabeth
  Durst Goodwin
Reverdy Estel and Elizabeth
  Durst Goodwin
William and Ella C. Goodwin Penley
Samuel and Lavinia Goodwin Withrow
George W. and Fannie Goodwin Withrow
George W. and Fannie Goodwin Withrow
Sam and Grace Riley Hayes
William H., Jr., and Wanda Elsie
  Goodwin Grant
William H., Jr., and Wanda Elsie
  Goodwin Grant
Harold Dale and Naoma Goodwin Brewster
Bernard and Thelma Josephine Goodwin
  Brewster
William and Pauline Myrtle Goodwin
  Kalbaugh
122
Donna Gail Goodwin
Walter Arnold Goodwin, Jr.
Terry Deloise Goodwin

Walter Arnold and Dorothy Pierce Goodwin
Walter Arnold and Deloise Diffey Goodwin
Walter Arnold and Deloise Diffey Goodwin

GENERATION VI
Daniel Jonathan Louis Lee Daniel and Elsie Pauline LeRoy
LeRoy

Andrew William Louis Lee Daniel and Elsie Pauline LeRoy
LeRoy

Francis Asbury Holt, youngest son of John and Susanna Cobun Holt, was born June 16, 1820. He was one of the five Holt brothers who came to Weston, 1831-32, at the age of twelve years. He married Louise Flesher of Weston. She died March 22, 1922. He was a surgeon in the Confederate Army. He was wounded and had an amputation and died soon after the war ended.

Asbury and Louise Holt had two children, Charles and Ann Eliza. Charles was an Episcopal rector serving in “The Little Church Around The Corner” in New York. This church had quite an interesting history. The story is that in the early days the theatre was frowned upon by many churches, and actors were welcomed there. It became known for accepting and welcoming actors. There are plaques all over the church given by theatre groups. Whether this had anything to do with the fact that Charles Holt’s only son, Jack Holt, became a well-known moving picture actor, I have no way of knowing, but his son, Timothy Holt, (although not as well known as his father) followed in his footsteps.

The daughter of Asbury and Louise Flesher Holt, Ann Eliza, married Hiram Goodwin, May 4, 1865. They had eleven children:

1. Mary Lula, born February 4, 1866, married Isaac Riley.
They had four children: Grace who married Sam Hayes and has one son, Sam, Jr., and two daughters, is now in Kentucky, but I was unable to contact her for more information.


3. Charles H., born August 28, 1869, married Ella Riley, sister of Isaac. They had three sons and two daughters, only one of whose name I know—and that because of the story told by one of our cousins. Paul Goodwin was a restless young man and frequently traveled, destiny unknown. On this occasion, he arrived at the gates of his cousin, Jack Holt. Being somewhat of a “hobo” in appearance, the gateman would not let him in. He insisted, claiming to be a cousin, but to no avail. Finally he persuaded the gateman to deliver a message to Jack in which he gave sufficient proof that he was not an imposter by telling of some family connections. He was not only admitted immediately, but was entertained there for several weeks. The last trip of which my informant knew, Paul Goodwin was in China in government employment.

4. George L., born October 3, 1891, married Eleanor Landis. They had four children: Macel, Zelma, Louis, and Darrell. Darrell now lives at the homeplace on a farm in Putnam County.

5. Samuel F. was born February 5, 1874, and died at age four.

6. Reverdy Estel, born April 20, 1876, died January 6, 1955. He married Elizabeth Durst March 4, 1910. They were the parents of five children:
The second daughter of William and Wanda Elsie Grant is Carolyn Durst, born August 12, 1940, married Charles Thomas Tallman, September 14, 1972.

b. Naoma Goodwin, born November 9, 1913, married Harold Dale Brewster, November 10, 1934. They have one son, Harold, Jr.

c. Thelma Josephine, born December 26, 1915, married Bernard Brewster. They had one son, Lowell Eugene. After the death of her husband, she married William Morton.

d. Pauline Myrtle, born May 2, 1920, married William Kalbaugh, June 30, 1935. They have one daughter, Elizabeth Helen.

e. Walter Arnold, born January 31, 1922, married Dorothy Pierce, 1941. They had one daughter, Donna Gail. He was married a second time (after a divorce) to Deloise Diffey. They have two children, Walter Arnold Goodwin, Jr., and Terry Deloise.

7. Ella C., born September 17, 1878, married William Penley. They had one son, Forrest.

8. Myrtle M., born August 23, 1881, had one son John and two daughters; their surnames I do not know.

9. Lavinia, born February 1, 1884, married Samuel Withrow, who, with their son, Olie, died during the influenza epidemic of 1917-18.

10. Fannie, born April 6, 1886, married George W. Withrow, a brother of Samuel Withrow. They had two children, Dennis and Ruby.

11. Josephine, born July 12, 1888, (surname unknown) had three daughters and one son, Paul. One daughter was Edna.

Unfortunately the cousin from whom this information came, could not recall these missing names. What she had was copied from the Bible record, and is presumed to be correct.
THE BENNETT FAMILY IN WEST VIRGINIA

The earliest Bennett in our line, of whom I have record, was William Bennett, born in England in 1668. He married Elizabeth Lee. The son of William and Elizabeth Lee Bennett was Joseph, who was born in New Jersey in 1695, and died in 1767. He married Mary Vernon. The son of Joseph and Mary Vernon Bennett was Joseph, Jr., who married Hannah Starnes. They were the parents of my ancestor, William Bennett, born in Pendleton County October 21, 1776.

In 1800, William, Jacob, Abram, and John Bennett came from Pendleton County, Virginia, and settled in this area. William settled at the mouth of Bennett’s Run in what was then Harrison County, now Lewis, the Walkersville community. Bennett’s Run is a tributary of the West Fork of the Monongahela River and bears the name of Bennett.

Abram Bennett settled on Abram’s Run; Jacob Bennett settled on Leatherbark Run, named because of the great number of leatherwood trees growing there; John Bennett settled on Skin Creek.

Along with the Bennetts from Pendleton County, came James McCally, his wife Catherine Watson McCally and their family. The McCallys had come from Botetourt County to Pendleton, then to Harrison.

James McCally was an officer in the British Navy, although he was born in Scotland. He “jumped ship,” joined the colonists and fought in the Revolutionary War. He was a well-educated man, having been able to speak seven languages (according to the Bennett history, “fluently”). He tutored

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the children of his daughter, Rebecca McCally Bennett, who was married to William Bennett. They were the parents of my grandmother, Abigail Collins Bennett Holt. It is with this branch of the family that this compilation is primarily concerned, but insofar as I have the information, I will include lateral connections as well.

James and Catherine Watson McCally had seven children (some of whom were born in Pendleton County, some in Harrison): William, Polly, Rebecca (my great-grandmother), James, Susan, Henry, and Jonathan.

In 1813, James McCally, Jr., brother of Rebecca, married Penelope Williams, born in 1795, daughter of Dr. William Williams and his first wife, Rachel Woodruff, whose mother was Hannah Warren. Penelope and her brother, John, were born in Berks County, Pennsylvania, in Reading. She died in Clarksburg in 1858. Dr. James McCally, who practiced medicine in Clarksburg for many years, was in attendance at the birth of “Stonewall” Jackson. He died at the home of his daughter, Penelope Ramage.

Dr. James and Penelope Williams McCally had eight children:

2. Dr. William James, born December 21, 1814, married Helen A. Lee, born in February 1825 and died in 1904. He died June 14, 1877.
3. Rachel Penelope, born in 1818, married Thomas Ramage, born in 1810 and died in 1895.
4. Virginia married Judge George Lee. She died in 1873 or 1874. Their daughter, Maude, married George Duncan. Dabney Lee, a lawyer who was disbarred when a relatively young man for criticizing the judge (I have been told), was a fine looking gentleman and a man of much intelligence. He visited in our home rather frequently, when I was a child. He always told interesting stories, often connected with legal references; and he told them dramatically. A few years before his death
he was reinstated, but by that time he had lost all prestige. In
the meantime, he lived with a niece in Clarksburg who appar­
etly supported him, because he never worked. He consid­
ered anything less than his profession beneath his dignity.

5. John, of whom I know nothing except that he was a
doctor and had two daughters, Lelia and Nellie.

6. Ann, born December 13, 1827, married Joseph McCart­
ney on March 3, 1846. She died September 6, 1854.

7. Helen was born in 1832. She married —— Pitkin.

8. Charles was educated as a civil engineer. He was em­
ployed by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and went to
Kansas City in 1855. When the Civil War broke out he joined
the Confederate Army. He belonged to Hood’s Division
under command of Longstreet.

Much of the above relating to the descendants of Dr. James McCally came from Bennett and McCartney histories.
The following was copied from the latter history:

Doctor James McCally practiced his profession in Clarksburg
and vicinity for many years, and, at one time had considerable
wealth, but lost it in going security for a friend. He was a member
of high degree in the Masonic Fraternity and was regarded as a
gentleman of fine attainments and generous disposition, but of
somewhat choleric temper. He died in Clarksburg in 1872, at the
age of 86 years. His home was situated on Main Street in Clarks—
burg, West Virginia, on a lot about a quarter of an acre. The
house was of stone and it is related that one end of this house fell
in on the morning Doctor McCally died. His death occurred at the
home of his daughter, Rachel Ramage.

Rachel Ramage was the mother of Benjamin Franklin Ra­
mage who was the father of the following children:

1. Thomas.

2. Lavinia, who married Dallas McMillan.

3. “Nett,” whose name was doubtless Annette, but she
was known by a great-niece only as “Nett.”

4. Ann, who married Thomas Hornor of Duck Creek, Har­
arrison County.
The family of Thomas and Ann Hornor were people of much intelligence and individuality. Their son, Thomas R., practiced law in Weston for many years where he was noted for his willingness to defend those who were unable to pay for legal services and whom he considered worthy of being adequately protected. And in defending his clients, he often was known to make points by using wit. On one occasion, which I recall, he was defending a little Negro boy: The prosecutor referred to him as “A little black rascal.” Tom, with an air of sympathetic offense, said, “I don’t think Mr. —— should refer to my client as a little black rascal. If his mother and father had been as black as this little fellow’s are, he would have been a black rascal, too.”

Tom went to Seattle, Washington, where he became head of the largest law firm in the city.

Benjamin Hornor was a civil engineer on the Panama Canal. William Hornor was a merchant at Lost Creek and was the father of Genevive, who married “Greasy” Neal, well known in baseball circles. Henrietta married Hugh Martin, a lawyer from Shinnston. Their son is Robert Martin, an attorney who lives on the Will Hornor property in Lost Creek. Hugh Hornor lived near Weston, on Rush Run. He was active in community affairs, a member of the county court and participated in many activities. He married Icie Bartlett of Clarksburg. They had two children. Their son, Warren, taught in Shepherd College for many years before his death, and was a poet of unusual ability. New York Times reviewed some of his poems at length. His best known work was probably Saga of the Hills. The daughter of Hugh and Icie Bartlett Hornor is Estelle Springer. She married Alfred Springer of Fairmont, where they live and take active part in many civic affairs.

Thomas and Ann Hornor had another son, Guy. There were also two other daughters, both of whom died young and unmarried, Blanche and Ann. The latter was thought to have had considerable talent in art. Another interesting member of
the family of Thomas and Ann Ramage Hornor was George, who went west when a young man and the family knew nothing about his whereabouts for many years. He finally came home for a visit, then returned to the West and "got lost" again.

The boys in Thomas Hornor’s family were always playing tricks on their father, whom they called Boaz. On one occasion, "Boaz" complained about his wife’s selling eggs. George, who was no mean cartoonist, drew a picture of the cemetery, placing all graves in their proper location. All of the tombstones were in the shape of eggs. In the middle of their family lot was a large egg-shaped stone bearing the following:

Stranger pause and bend your leg.
Boaz lies buried beneath this egg.
Murmur a prayer long and devout
That in the Day of Resurrection
His soul may hatch out.

Other descendants of Dr. James McCally, who are in this area and are well known are Mrs. Pansee Williams of Clarksburg, Dr. Chesney Ramage, and Mrs. Matthew Mansfield Neely, of Fairmont.

Now, returning to the line with which this compilation is primarily concerned, William and Rebecca McCally Bennett:

William Bennett was born in Pendleton County, September 18, 1776. He died in Lewis County in 1857. He married the daughter of James and Catherine Watson McCally, Rebecca McCally. She was born in Augusta County, Virginia, October 21, 1776. Following the listing of William and Rebecca McCally Bennett's children (in order), the descendants of each will be listed under the Roman numeral given in this listing, and carried through succeeding generations, as far as I have the information.
CHILDREN OF
WILLIAM AND REBECCA McCALLY BENNETT

I. Rachel, born 1795, married David Alkire.
II. Phoebe, born 1797, married James Keith.
III. David, born 1799, married Jane Stewart.
IV. Margaret, born 1800, married Robert McCray.
V. James, born 1802, married Matilda Clark.
VII. Hannah, born 1805, married John Anderson.
VIII. Elizabeth, born 1807, married James Sprigg.
IX. William, Jr., born 1808, married Jane Rickett.
X. Rebecca, born 1810, married John Fletcher Wesley Holt. [Descendants listed under Holt section.]
XI. Abigail Collins, born 1812, married Mathew Holt. [Listed under Holt.]
XII. Jonathan McCally, born 1814, married Margaret Elizabeth Jackson.

Descendants of
William and Rebecca McCally Bennett

GENERATION I
I. Rachel, born March 31, 1795, in Pendleton County, married David Alkire.
GENERATION II
1. James was killed by bushwhackers during the Civil War.
2. Alcinda married John Cunningham.
4. William married Margaret Roby.
5. Joseph married Mary Snyder.
7. Rebecca married Jacob Conrad.

GENERATION I

II. Phoebe, born May 3, 1797, in Pendleton County, married James Keith.

GENERATION II
1. William B.
2. John J.
4. David.
5. Matilda.
7. Eliza.
8. James M.

GENERATION I

III. David, born November 24, 1799, in Pendleton County, married Jane Stewart.

GENERATION II
1. Stewart, born in Highland County, Virginia.
2. Sarah Jane died single.
3. Eliza married Jared Armstrong.
4. William married Betty Stewart. He was killed by bushwhackers, 1864, near Rock Cave in Upshur County.
6. Virginia married Peter Crickard of Randolph County.
8. Jonathan married Mrs. Miller, nee Coger, of Webster County.
9. Margaret married William Hyre of Webster County.

GENERATION III

Robert Armstrong, son of Jared and Eliza Bennett Armstrong, was head of the English Department of West Virginia University for many years. A few years before his retirement, he was named acting president of the university.

By his first wife, he had one daughter, Virginia. After she was grown, he married again. This time, to an art teacher in the Morgantown public schools. They had two children (possibly others of whom I do not know). At the time I last saw them, Robert, Jr., was a baby; Barbara was about eight or nine years old. I do not know the name of either wife. The second wife I knew only as "Cousin Myra."

She told me an interesting bit about their courtship, which I think is worth quoting here. He was a member of the board of education. He "observed" her art classes so frequently without making any comment that she finally decided he was not pleased with her work, and asked him to give her a reference to use in seeking another position. He asked why she wanted to leave Morgantown, and when she told him that she thought he was not satisfied with her work, to her complete consternation, he said he had been trying to get up enough nerve to ask her to marry him. Remembering Cousin Robert as I do, I can almost hear him laughing heartily at his own romantic awkwardness and timidity.

GENERATION I

IV. Margaret Bennett was born July 8, 1800. She married Robert McCray. Before coming to America, he had been
an officer in the British Navy. He came from Clover Gap, Pendleton County, in the party with the Bennetts and the McCallys.

GENERATION II

1. James was a captain in the Confederate Army and was killed in Webster County, 1863. He married Amanda Berry.
3. William married Martha Allison from Missouri.
5. Rebecca married Wesley Boggs.
7. Evan married Martha Bartlett of Upshur County.
8. Joseph married Marietta Young of Upshur County. They were the parents of Mrs. Matt McCoy of Weston and of two sons, Robert and Jack McCray. The McCoys had two children, Merritt and Mildred. Neither was married.
9. Lavernia married William Berry, of Braxton County.
11. Charles married Nancy Hall, of Virginia. He was the last surviving member of Robert and Margaret McCray’s family. He died in 1942 at the age of ninety-nine years. He was also the last surviving Civil War veteran from Webster County. He told the editor of Webster Echo (from which this information came) that he was present at Appomattox when Lee surrendered to Grant. Webster Echo, June 30, 1938, has a story of his life.

GENERATION I

V. James Bennett was born December 25, 1802, in Harrison County. He married Matilda Clark, great-granddaughter of Abraham Clark. Abraham Clark because of his championing of popular rights and leaving his offices under
the royal government to join the Patriot’s party, was known as “Champion of Independence.” In 1774, he was a delegate to the Second Continental Congress, where he voted for and signed the Declaration of Independence. In 1787, when the new Federal Constitution was being debated, he refused to approve it until the Bill of Rights was included.

GENERATION II

1. Harriet married Hanibal Hall. She was living in New York about 1930.

2. Clarissa married William Hoskins, second ——— Leonard. She was a brilliant and charming woman; very active in educational and civic affairs in New York City. She was named and served on a committee with “Al” Smith (one time Democratic candidate for president of the United States). Her daughter, Lula Farley, was a scenario writer of sufficient stature to have first-night passes to any Broadway show. Lula’s daughter, Frances Farley, lived with her mother and grandmother.

3. James C. Bennett died single. He was a student in West Point Military Academy, where he overworked and had a complete nervous breakdown from which he never recovered, and died several years later in the Weston State Hospital. Although this has not been checked, I have been told that the vacancy which occurred because of his failure to complete his assignment was filled by “Stonewall” Jackson, who was second-choice replacement.

4. Edward Bennett married Sally Tierney of Weston, where they lived. He was a collector of rare stamps and was a chess player who played in the national tournaments.

GENERATION I

VI. Joseph Bennett, son of William and Rebecca McCally Bennett, was born April 1, 1805. He was married three
times. His first wife was Mary Colmer; his second, Elizabeth Louden; and his third, Sarah Perkins Kincaid.

GENERATION II

Children of Joseph and Mary Colmer Bennett

1. Amanda died at age seven.
2. Rebecca married Eckert Monroe Hacker.
3. Abigail married Manley Carter, of Harrison County.
4. Mary Jane married William Sprigg, her cousin (a son of Elizabeth).
7. James Edward married twice. His first wife was Evalina Parks of Kansas. His second wife was from Oklahoma where he lived the latter part of his life. His farm adjoined that of Frank James, brother of Jesse (the notorious western outlaws). Cousin James told an interesting background of the James brothers’ career. He said Frank James was a quiet, peace-loving man whom he considered a good neighbor and a good friend. This story was related to him by Frank James.

When he and his brother Jesse were very young men (little more than boys) a posse had followed an outlaw to the vicinity of the James home and thinking he might have taken refuge in the house, they shot through the window without any investigation or warning. The James boys’ mother was sitting near the window, nursing their baby brother. The shot killed the baby and shot their mother’s arm off. Enraged by this unprovoked attack, they hunted and killed every man they knew to have been in the posse, thus, themselves becoming outlaws and hunted. In order to live, they were obliged to remain outlaws.


Children of Joseph and Elizabeth Louden Bennett

10. Elizabeth married Charles Powers, a minister. They lived in Missouri.

11. William Hanson apparently died in infancy. No record except his birth date has been found.

12. Margaret died at age four.

Children of Joseph and Sarah Perkins Kincaid Bennett

13. Robert A., born July 12, 1860, married Elizabeth Keller. For many years before his death, his birthdays were celebrated by friends and relatives from far and near. He and Cousin Elizabeth’s hospitality made every guest feel indispensable. This same delightful characteristic is part of all of his children whom I know. Some of the older ones, I have never known. See picture on page 144.


15. Tryssia Helen, born December 31, 1855, married James L. Clark of Randolph County.

GENERATION III

Children of Eckert Monroe and Rebecca Bennett Hacker

(She was born in 1833, died in 1918, and he was born in 1819. “Marriage was solemnized between Eckert M. Hacker and Rebecca M. Bennett by the Reverend G. I. March, November 4, 1850.”)


2. James M., born December 17, 1853, married Emeretta Brown. According to the relatives from whom this information came, “They had five sons and a number of daughters. The sons’ names were, Edward, Ora, Brent, Harley and Jack.”

They had two sons. Worth was a printer in Charleston. Another son, whose name I cannot recall (although I remember him well), was an engineer on the B.&O. Railroad, whose run was out of Clarksburg. He lived in the country above Weston. Joseph Hacker also had two daughters. The only one whose name I recall (and I knew her well) was Edith, who married Warren Bodkin. He was an engineer on the B.&O. Railroad. I believe they had two sons, but know definitely of only one, Warren, Jr. He married Mary Orr, daughter of Cecil and Elise Warren Orr. Cecil was the son of Flavius and Bertie King Orr, Elise was the daughter of Walter W., Sr., and Mary Harrison Warren. Warren and Mary Bodkin had several children, only two whose names I know. Mary Matilda, born 1933, is a secretary in Washington. Cecelia Bodkin is a nurse in Charleston.

4. Naoma J., the fourth child of Joseph Hacker, was born November 14, 1857.

5. Soella (Ella) was born February 1, 1862. She married George Life, a brother of Mary Life Hacker. Their sons are Samuel, Jonas, and Ora. Their three daughters are Idella, Cora, and Audra.

6. Eckert, born June 13, 1863, married Margaret Keith, a sister of Samuel Keith, who was the husband of Cymantha Hacker. So there were two sets of double first cousins. According to the cousin who furnished this information, “They had a houseful of children and lived in Clarksburg.” The only names I have been able to learn are Coy, Prince, and Robert.

7. Cymantha, born October 16, 1865, married Samuel Keith, brother of Margaret Keith Hacker.

8. Jonas, born August 4, 1868. His wife’s name I do not have. Both he and his wife died very young and left two daughters, Orpha and Nellie. These children were adopted and reared by foster parents.

9. Margaret V. was born February 15, 1871. She married Charles Walker. They were the parents of eight children: 138
Thurman, Clarence, Homer, Columbus, George and his twin sister, Georgia, and Icie. There was another daughter whose name I do not know.

**GENERATION IV**

*Children of William Edward and Virginia Ellen Chauveront Hacker*

1. Claudia, born May 27, 1889, is unmarried.
2. Blanche, born November 12, 1890, married Dorsey Bartlett.
5. Rebecca M., born November 16, 1897, was killed by lightning in 1900.
8. Maude S., born October 10, 1902, married Glen Floyd.

**GENERATION V**

*Children of Dorsey and Blanche Hacker Bartlett*

2. Venita is unmarried, and for a number of years, has worked in Washington for the government.
4. Betty married Marloe Davis.
5. Cleo married Arnett Rollins.

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7. David married Dorothy Ford.
8. Lois married Clarence Price.

GENERATION VI

Children of Harold and Jenneth Bartlett Smith
1. Warren married Julia Cummings.
2. Donna married Bruce Remke.
3. Steven married Sally Goldblatt.
5. David.

Children of Bob and Jane Lawson Bartlett
2. Bruce.
3. Clarissa.

Children of Marloe and Betty Bartlett Davis
1. Donna.
2. Robin.

Children of Arnet and Cleo Bartlett Rollins
1. Prudy married Bob Robertson.
2. Dixie married Dennis Armstrong.
4. Brent married Debbie Nutter.
5. Amy.
6. Beth.

Children of Joe and Jinny Bender Bartlett
1. Linda.
2. Laura.

Children of David and Dorothy Ford Bartlett
1. Daniel.
2. Mike.
3. Frank.
4. Dwight.
Children of Clarence and Lois Bartlett Price
2. Pamela.
3. Melvin.
4. Evelyn.

Children of Boyd and Mary Stefcowich Bartlett
1. Bryan.
2. Marla C.

GENERATION V

Children of Thomas and Emma Hacker Wilson
1. Thomas, Jr.
2. Margaret Ellen.
3. William Hall.
4. Daniel Bruce.
5. Anna Jane.

Children of William Worthington and Audra Hacker Dawson
1. Ralph married Frankie Kay Howard.
2. Thomas Henry married Anna Marie Taylor.

Children of Ray Mansfield and Mary Jane Hacker McWhorter
1. Dorothy Evelyn married Paul Wesley Hinzman.
2. Leonard Mansfield married Eleanor Louise Michael.
4. Richard Marlin married Betty L. Ware.

GENERATION VI

Children of Paul Wesley and Dorothy McWhorter Hinzman
1. Richard Wesley married Vicki Lynn Black.

Children of Leonard and Eleanor Michael McWhorter
1. Cynthia married Richard Berry.
Children of Bernard and Phyllis Woofter McWhorter
1. Kevin Brent.
2. Gary Paul.

Children of Richard Marlen and Betty Ware McWhorter
1. Mark Allen.
2. John Wesley.
3. Chrystina Lynn.

GENERATION VII

Children of Richard and Vicki Lynn Black Hinzman
1. Richard Wesley.
2. Robert Paul.

Children of David Ray and Rebecca Kidd Hinzman
1. Michelle Dawn.

Child of Richard and Cynthia Berry
1. Michael Hamilton.

GENERATION V

Children of Glen and Maude S. Hacker Floyd
1. Ella Virginia married Don Urvin Wills.
2. Jeannie married Roy Lee Williams. Both teach in Missouri.

GENERATION VI

Children of Don and Ella Virginia Floyd Wills
1. Deborah Lynn.
2. Donna Jean.

Child of Roy Lee and Jeannie Floyd Williams
1. Nathaniel Landon.
GENERATION V

*Children of William Brooks and Helen Hinzman Hacker*

1. William Lynn married Freda Roberts.
2. Janet Marilyn married William Addison Davis.

GENERATION VI

*Children of William Lynn and Freda Roberts Hacker*

1. William Todd.
2. Craig Allen.

Brooks Hacker calls attention to the fact that his father had more than a hundred descendants, and the only two to carry on his name are his two grandsons, William Todd and Craig Allen Hacker.

*Children of William and Janet Hacker Davis*

1. William Addison, Jr.
3. Wyatt Randall.

GENERATION II

Mary Jane Bennett, daughter of Joseph and Mary Colmer Bennett, married William Sprigg, her cousin, who was the son of William and Elizabeth Bennett Sprigg.

GENERATION III

1. Joseph W. Sprigg, son of William and Mary Jane Bennett Sprigg, married Mary Kessler.

GENERATION IV

1. James Sprigg, son of Joe W. and Mary Kessler Sprigg, died very young in the early 1920s. He was employed by Booth and Flynn Construction Company in Detroit, Michigan, where he died from typhoid fever.
2. Virginia was married twice. First to a Mr. Clark, second
to Lester Parrish, brother of the Parrish for whom legion post was named.

**GENERATION II**

Robert A. Bennett was born July 12, 1860, died July 19, 1942. He was the last surviving member of the family of Joseph Bennett. His mother, the third wife of Joseph Bennett, was Sarah Perkins Kincaid Bennett.

**GENERATION III**

1. Mae married Earl Bird, a schoolteacher of Ireland, West Virginia.
2. Jessie married Walter Malcomb.
3. David Worth married Frances Liller of Keyser, West Virginia.
4. Garnet married Audis Armstrong of Ireland.
5. Virginia married Homer Cunningham of Ireland.
6. Robert is unmarried and lives on the homeplace.
7. Nellie married (1) Sam Woolford, (2) Norman Armstrong of Pickens, where she was postmaster for many years.

Gathering celebrating birthday of Robert A. Bennett.
8. Margaret married "Joker" Stalnaker.

**GENERATION IV**

*Children of Walter and Jessie Bennett Malcomb*
1. Geraldine married Homer Kelly.
2. Pauline married Luthur Helmick.
3. Bennett married Vera Reeder.

*Children of Audis and Garnet Bennett Armstrong*
2. Rosalie.

*Children of Homer and Virginia Bennett Cunningham*
1. Vera married Gayle Smith.
2. Robert married Roberta Bender.
3. Helen is unmarried.
4. Betty married Virgil Lane.

*Children of Stanley and Rhoda Bennett Bakehorn*

**Son of "Joker" and Margaret Bennett Stalnaker***
1. Tyrus.

**GENERATION V**

*Children of Gayle and Vera Cunningham Smith*
1. David married Betty Jane Sampson.
2. Danny married Sue Mullens.

*Children of Robert and Roberta Bender Cunningham*
1. Gerald.
2. Robert.

*Children of Virgil and Betty Cunningham Lane*

1. Elizabeth married David Wills.
2. Patricia, unmarried.

**GENERATION VI**

*Children of David and Elizabeth Lane Wills*

1. Ginger.
2. Nicole.

**GENERATION II**

Tryssia Helen Bennett, daughter of Joseph and Sarah Perkins Kincaid Bennett, was born December 31, 1855, and died in 1895, leaving five children. She was married to James L. Clark. All of these descendants have contributed much, particularly in the field of education.

**GENERATION III**

1. Robert Clark, born in 1887, and died in April 1972, married Myrtle Bond from Keyser, West Virginia. They had three children: Roberta has, for a number of years been in government work in Washington, D.C. Richard Bond Clark holds a Ph.D. from Yale and is employed as a chemical specialist by a chemical company in Kingsport, Tennessee. He and his wife, Margy, have two daughters, Carolyn and Martha. The third child of Robert and Myrtle Bond Clark is Joanne, who married Erland Warsinkskey. The Warsinkskeys have four sons. Their home is in Akron, Ohio.

Robert Clark spent his life in the field of education. He was head of the certification department of teachers in the West Virginia Department of Education for a number of years. He did extensive work in evaluation of I.Q. testing. His findings were used in an educational encyclopedia. He was president of the West Virginia Educational Association; was superintendent of Monongalia County Public Schools; was
active in youth and civic affairs and served on the city council of Morgantown. Politically he was conservative, as this excerpt from one of the Christmas letters, which for several years he had been sending to the family and relatives, shows. These letters always contained interesting news of the family’s activities during the year along with observations such as the following:

“A current newspaper article displays the setting of Appalachia in a map of the United States. Appalachia, you know, is now the geographical symbol of poverty (some of you who may receive this letter will have migrated beyond this ‘poor man’s land’). What intrigued me when I surveyed this map was the observation that Randolph County, in which I was born, was wholly contained in the very center of Appalachia. When in 1878 my father built the log house in which I was born, he must have had no consciousness, nor even a suspicion of the unfriendly economic environment in which he located, or anticipated the poverty label which it has recently acquired. Yet, for eighty-five years, my father got along; without a pension; without social security; without surplus commodities. He paid his taxes (always in time, I remember, to get the early payment discount), helped to build the local church and schoolhouse of logs, and supplemented by cash, the teacher’s salary sufficiently to induce him to serve our school. The only government “handout” my father ever enjoyed was the occasional garden seed package by post from a politically philanthropic congressman. As an American citizen, he could have met, adequately the widely heralded exhortation of President Kennedy: ‘Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country.’

“Another achievement attained in this restricted economic environment may interest you. There were nine boys and girls and no high school within twenty-five miles, no free lunches, no school busses, and for the most part, no free tuition. Most of us paid tuition after the eighth grade. Yet, all
nine of us went to secondary school and all nine of us went to college (seven graduated). That was Appalachia!

2. Guy Bennett Clark married Willa Rohrbaugh, of French Creek, Upshur County, West Virginia. Their children are Guy Bennett, Jr., Margaret Haselden and Helen Hope. He, too, was a teacher in the Kanawha County schools until his retirement, after which he moved to Florida.


The following is copied from program of the dedication of Clark Hall:

Mr. H. Y. Clark, for whom this building is named, has long been active in the school teaching profession. He served 28 years as Professor of Education at Glenville State College beginning his duties in the fall of 1927 and retiring in 1955.

A member of Phi Delta Kappa, national education honorary fraternity, Mr. Clark was a charter member of the State Teacher Education Committee whose purpose was to advise the State Board of Education. He was, in 1965, awarded an honorary lifetime membership in the Glenville State College Alumni Association.

For 33 years Mr. Clark has been a member of Rotary International. He served in the United States Army during World War I. A member of the First United Methodist Church of Parkersburg, he was on the official board of the Trinity Methodist Church in Glenville.

He is a member of a teaching family which has accumulated 13 college degrees and taught some 255 years in West Virginia public
Clark Hall, Glenville State College, Glenville, West Virginia.

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schools and colleges. Their positions have included class-room teaching, supervision, principalships, county superintendencies, college professorships and deanships.

Mr. Clark is married to the former Louise Cain of Glenville. Their two daughters, Mrs. D. James Couto (Barbara) and Mrs. John D. Haywood (Beverly) both attended Glenville State College. The Clarks, who presently live in Vienna, W. Va., have seven grandchildren.

4. Icie Hope Clark, daughter of James L. and Tryssia Bennett Clark, married Patrick C. McCune of Clay, where she taught until her retirement. They had no children.

5. Amaretta Clark married Homer D. Martin of Montrose, West Virginia. They had the following children:
   1. Roscoe is a colonel in the United States Army.
   2. Delmar, a doctor (M.D.) died 1968.
   3. Carroll, a druggist in Elkins, former member of school board there.
   4. Ersel E.
   5. Robert Grant.
   6. Donald Paul.
   7. Fern Hope.

James Clark had four sons who were not in the Bennett line, although there was a closeness of these two sets of children that made them seem so. Their mother was Mary Shannon Adolph. These were Dewey E., Price E., Forrest G., and Buell R.

GENERATION II

Joanna Catherine Bennett, daughter of Joseph and Sarah Perkins Kincaid Bennett, was born in July 1862. She married Jonas Zigafoose.

GENERATION III

1. Ross Zigafoose lives near Beverly.
2. Robert lives in Ohio.
3. Forest lives in Ohio.
5. Tryssia, twin of James, married Cecil Brown.
7. Georgia.

**GENERATION I**

VII. Hannah Bennett, twin of Joseph, was born April 1, 1801, and married John Anderson.

**GENERATION II**

1. Caroline, daughter of John and Hannah Bennett Anderson, married Emory Berry of Braxton County.
4. William J. died of typhoid fever in the Union Army, 1863, in Grafton.
5. Hannah died in 1862 from diphtheria.
6. Rebecca, twin of Hannah, died from diphtheria the same day.
7. Margaret married Robert Feltner. She was living in Buckhannon in 1915.
8. Harriet married Marcine Hartley of Marion County.

**GENERATION I**

VIII. Elizabeth, daughter of William and Rebecca McCally Bennett, was born February 20, 1807. She married James Sprigg.

**GENERATION II**

*Children of James and Elizabeth Bennett Sprigg*

1. Matilda Sprigg married John Alkire; (2) Ben (?) Malcomb.
2. Samuel Sprigg, the father of Clark Sprigg, to whom we are indebted for much of this information, married Laura
Kincaid. Samuel was a cousin and his wife a half sister of Tryssia Bennett Clark.

3. John D. Sprigg married Mary Sponaugle. They moved to Iowa, where he died in 1881.

4. William J. married Mary Jane Bennett, also a half sister of Tryssia Bennett Clark.

GENERATION III

1. Clark Sprigg, son of Samuel and Laura Kincaid Sprigg, married Hattie Anderson. He was responsible for collecting most of the early history.

2. Margaret married W. L. Weaver. She died in 1964.


GENERATION IV

1. Helen Sprigg, daughter of Clark and Hattie Anderson Sprigg, died unmarried in 1962.

2. Edward is unmarried. He has been very helpful in providing more information regarding several branches of the descendants of William and Rebecca McCally Bennett.

Descendants of Charles E. and Wessie Houghton Sprigg.

1. Robert married Vera Myers.

2. Samuel married Ernestine Post.

3. Margaret married James Wagner.


5. Mary Ruth married Lloyd Spaur.

6. Betty is unmarried.

GENERATION V

1. Joan, daughter of Samuel and Ernestine Post Sprigg.

2. Jan, daughter of James and Margaret Sprigg Wagner.

3. Pat, son of Charles Burke and Maydene Shipman Sprigg.
Children of Lloyd and Mary Ruth Sprigg Spaur

1. Linda.
2. Kim.

GENERATION I

IX. William Bennett, Jr., born December 20, 1808, in Harrison County, married Sarah Jane Rickett of Morgan County, Ohio.

GENERATION II

1. Nathan D., born November 27, 1844, died in 1911. He married Lucy Lorentz.
2. Mary E., born September 25, 1846, married John Lorentz. She died May 27, 1868.
5. Clarissa, born June 3, 1855, died December 11, 1876.
7. William J., born December 7, 1858, died October 23, 1884.

GENERATION I

X. Rebecca Bennett married John Fletcher Wesley Holt and is listed under Holt. One court record names Rebecca Smith Kline Bennett. Never having heard of Aunt Rebecca having been married before, I believe this must have been another Bennett. There were four Bennetts who came to (then) Harrison County (now Lewis). Her descendants are listed under John Fletcher Wesley Holt.

XI. Abigail Collins married Mathew Holt, brother of John Fletcher Wesley Holt, and is also listed under Holt.
XII. Jonathan McCally Bennett, youngest son of William and Rebecca McCally Bennett, was born in Harrison County (which became Lewis the year he was born) in 1816. He was a large landholder in Sandfork watershed, a lawyer for Collins settlement and a deputy sheriff. In 1842, he was admitted to the bar and became a prominent lawyer. He was treasurer of the Confederacy and Confederate bills bear his picture and signature.

Hugh Bennett, who was born and reared in the Walkersville area where William Bennett settled in 1800, knows much of the family tradition and told me that when Jonathan Bennett left home, his father gave him a horse and thirty dollars. From that meager beginning, he became the first mayor of Weston, brought the first bank into Weston and the first printing press, helped finance the first narrow-gauge railroad between Weston and Clarksburg, and was instrumental in having the Parkersburg-Staunton Turnpike routed in such a way that it was beneficial to Lewis County. He was also instrumental in having the state hospital for the insane (the largest handcut-stone building in the world—unless something larger has been erected within the last few years) built at Weston. Hugh spent many years in Washington, where he had access to the Library of Congress and says there is much information there about Jonathan Bennett.
In April 1846, Jonathan Bennett married Margaret Elizabeth Jackson, formerly from Ohio but then living in Weston. They had four children:

1. Gertrude married Dr. Fleming Howell of Clarksburg. They had one daughter, Margaret, who married S. W. Caesar. Gertrude donated the ground for the Walkersville School, gave them a piano, and was always interested in that community.

2. William George (Judge Bennett) married Alice Brannon, sister of Judge Henry Brannon of the West Virginia Supreme Court. Their son, William, died from influenza during the epidemic of 1918-19. Brannon lived in Walkersville, home of his great-grandfather. He had several children, only two of whose names I recall, Margaret and George. I think George lives there yet. Hunter McCally Bennett, a lawyer, married Madge Hinzman. They had three children: Hunter, Jr., a lawyer who lives in Clarksburg and has two children, Phoebe and Jonathan. He married Winifred Joyce. The second child of Hunter and Madge Bennett is Alice Lee, who is also a lawyer. She married Marion Vance of Kentucky, a lawyer. They had three children: James, Susan, and Jonathan. She is now married to Robert Taylor. She was city attorney of Weston for a few years. Mary Bland, youngest daughter of Hunter and Madge Bennett, married (1) David Jones by whom she had two children, David and Margaret; (2) Tom Rodebaugh, a lawyer in Dayton, Ohio. Their children are Sallie Hunter and Tom Bennett Rodebaugh.

Madge, daughter of Judge George and Alice Brannon Bennett, married Robert Crane. They had the following children: Robert, Bennett, Eleanor, and Margaret. Bertha Bennett married (1) a Vandergrift and (2) Dr. George I. Keener. By her first marriage she had one daughter, Alice, who married (1) Register, (2) Register, (3) Best, (4) Andrew Holt, and (5) a seaman from Baltimore, I understand, but do not know his name. Her son, Alton Register, is married and has a family. Alton is a very substantial citizen and a very fine young man.
By her second marriage, Bertha had one son, Joseph Keener, who married Joan Trinkle, daughter of Dr. Trinkle of Weston. They have a son.

3. Mary, daughter of Jonathan and Margaret Elizabeth Jackson Bennett, married William D. Bowie, son of Governor Bowie of Maryland.

4. The fourth child was Judge Louis Bennett who married Sallie Maxwell. They had two children, Agra and Louis. Agra married (1) Johnson McKinley by whom she had three children: Johnson M., who married Millie Hamilton; Agra married ——— Thompson; and Louis Bennett.

Louis Bennett, Sr., was the first president of Glenville (then) Normal School. Bennett Hall there is named in his honor. Thus: Two of the William Bennett descendants have halls at Glenville College named in their honor. The other is Clark Hall named in honor of Humbolt (H. Y.) Clark, who taught there for many years.

Louis Bennett Public Library in Weston was given by Sallie Maxwell Bennett in memory of her husband and her son. She also donated a room in a New York museum, but not as a memorial. She had great difficulty in gaining permission to donate a window in Westminster Abbey in memory of her son and his comrades who gave their lives in World War I. She was American and not native of England. But she finally told them, after going through many channels, that since her son had given his life fighting for England, it was the least they could do to permit his mother to give the window in his and his comrades’ memory.

Following is an article by Jack R. Adams, copied from a Weston paper. The first of the article is omitted because it only refers to his having quit school when he was a senior at Yale in order to organize a flying school composed of West Virginians to go into the air force as a unit (which he had been promised).
Nothing daunted Louis Bennett. The money that had been appropriated for this purpose by the state to the amount of $10,000.00, having been expended, he looked about and now secured a new instructor by the name of Frank Stanton from the Princeton Flying School, buying the Princeton Flying School out with his own money, and bringing new planes and life into the West Virginia Flying Corps.

The training then began anew with redoubled enthusiasm, and soon the students were showing signs of ability as pilots. About this time, Louis Bennett formed the West Virginia Aircraft Company, which was later to make training planes for the United States Government, turning out more than a million dollars worth of Curtis Training Planes. When everything seemed to be going along in good shape, word was received by Captain Bennett that no units such as the West Virginia Flying Corps would be permitted in the United States Army as a whole. Captain Bennett made a trip to Charleston and then to Washington to see Major General Squirer, Chief Signal Officer of the United States Army, who was then head of the Signal Corps, before the formation of the Air Service. No encouragement. The only thing to do, he was told, was to drop out of the state forces, enlist in the army as a cadet. He had been told that such a force as he had gotten together would be inducted into the U.S. Army as a unit.

Discouraged, but wishing to give the young men whom he had been with for the past several months all he was able to at this
time, he took those whom he thought showed the most aptitude for flying to Princeton, New Jersey, where they completed their course getting pilot's licenses.

It looked like a long time to wait in the United States Army for action, and Bennett having set his heart on such action on the front, at this time he visited his mother in New York, bade her good-bye, and enlisted in the Royal Flying Corps. The rest you all know, how he distinguished himself in those fights he had on the front, becoming one of the aces of the air.

Mr. Adams concludes with, expressing the feeling of all of the men in the West Virginia Flying Corps, "That memory we all hold dear."
OTHER ANCESTORS OF HELEN PAGE EARLY JONES AND MARGARET HOLT EARLY SHREWSBURY

The Nelson Family in America

“Scotch Tom” Nelson, so called because he came from northern England near the Scotch border, was the son of Hugh and Sarah Nelson of Penrith County, Cumberland, England. He was born there February 20, 1677, and emigrated to the colony of Virginia during 1700. He died at Yorktown, Virginia, October 7, 1745.

In 1710 he married Margaret Reade, born 1672, daughter of Robert Reade and granddaughter of Colonel George and Elizabeth Reade, and great-granddaughter of Nicholas Martiau, a French Huguenot, who emigrated to Virginia in 1620. He lived on and owned the site of Yorktown, Virginia.

GENERATION II

William Nelson of Yorktown, York County, Virginia, was the son of “Scotch Tom” and Margaret Reade Nelson. He was born in 1711 and died November 19, 1772. He was buried in Grace Episcopal Churchyard at Yorktown, at the foot of his father.

William Nelson was president of the dominion of Virginia. In February 1738, he married Elizabeth Burwell, who was born in 1721 and died in 1759. She was the daughter of Nathaniel and Elizabeth Carter Burwell of Gloucester, Virginia.
Thomas Nelson, Jr. (although he was the grandson rather than the son, as the “Jr.” would indicate, signed his own name that way), was born at Yorktown, Virginia, December 26, 1738. He was the eldest son of William and Elizabeth (“Betty”) Burwell Nelson.

On July 29, 1762, Thomas Nelson married Lucy Grymes who was the daughter of Philip Grymes of Middlesex County, Virginia, and his wife, Mary Randolph Grymes, daughter of Sir John Randolph of Williamsburg, and his wife, Susanna Beverly Randolph. She was a granddaughter of Major Robert Beverly, from Yorkshire who emigrated to Virginia in 1630, landing at Jamestown.

Thomas Nelson, Jr., was governor of Virginia, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and major general in the American Army. He lost his fortune by underwriting the equipment and maintenance of an army of one thousand men fighting for our independence. When “the enemy” was quartered in his home, he ordered his men to destroy it. Today, Nelson House is one of the historic spots preserved in Yorktown.

Thomas Nelson, Jr., is buried in the churchyard of Grace Episcopal Church at Yorktown at the feet of his father. Thus, three generations are buried in a continuous line, “Scotch Tom,” President William and General Thomas Nelson, Jr.

Children of Thomas Nelson, Jr., and Lucy Grymes Nelson

William Nelson, born August 9, 1763, married Sally Burwell Page.

Thomas Nelson, born December 27, 1764, married Frances Page.

Philip Nelson, born March 4, 1766, married Sarah Nathaniel Burwell.

Francis, born June 25, 1767, married Lucy Page.
Hugh Nelson, born September 30, 1768, married Eliza Kinloch (our line).
Elizabeth, born December 26, 1770, married Mann Page.
Mary, born December 19, 1774, married Robert Carter.
Lucy, born January 2, 1777, married Major Carter Page.
Robert, born October 14, 1778, married Judeth Carter Page.
Susanna, born October 3, 1780, married Francis Page.
Judeth, born May 8, 1782, married Captain Thomas Nelson.

Thomas Nelson, Jr., signer of the Declaration of Independence, governor of Virginia, major general in the American Army, was born in Yorktown, York County, Virginia, December 26, 1738. He died from asthma, caused by exposure during the Revolutionary War, at Mount Air, Hanover County, Virginia, January 4, 1789.

He was a member of the house of burgesses; and on the governor's council. He was the only member of that body, appointed by the governor who signed the Declaration. He was also a member of first convention at Williamsburg in 1774 to consider taxation of colonies; member of Provincial Convention, July 1774; appointed colonel in Second Virginia Regiment; member of Williamsburg Convention, 1776, to frame constitution for Virginia and offer resolution in Congress at Philadelphia to prepare Declaration of Independence. He signed the Declaration, July 4, 1776.

In August 1777 when the British fleet under Admiral Howe came within the Virginia capes, he was appointed commander-in-chief of the Virginia forces.

He raised a troop of cavalry at his own expense and went to Philadelphia. In June 1781, he was made governor of Virginia. He again raised and equipped, at his own expense, three thousand soldiers, ordering his own home, in Yorktown, to be bombarded to rout General Cornwallis, saying to Lafayette,
“Spare no part of my property so long as it affords shelter to the enemies of my country.” His services were highly commended in the general orders of General Washington, October 20, 1781, the day after the official surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown. His statue is one of the six around Washington’s Monument at Richmond, Virginia.

**GENERATION IV**

Hon. Hugh Nelson, born September 30, 1768, at Yorktown, Virginia, died March 18, 1836, “Belvoir,” Albemarle County. He was married April 28, 1799, to Eliza Kinloch, born December 31, 1781, “Chelsea,” King William County. She was the only child of Francis and Mildred (Walker) Kinloch of Charleston, South Carolina.

Hugh Nelson was in the house of delegates; later, judge of a Virginia federal court; then a representative to Congress, and in 1811 to 1823, he was minister to Spain, appointed by President James Monroe.

**GENERATION V**

*Children of Judge Hugh and Eliza Kinloch Nelson*

Francis Kinloch, born March 2, 1800.
Mildred Walker, born December 6, 1801.
Ann Carter, born February 8, 1804.
Thomas Hugh, born May 30, 1807 (our line) (doctor).
Charlotte, born November 15, 1810 (unmarried).
Cleland, born November 14, 1814 (minister).
Caroline, born February 26, 1818.
Keating Lewis Simons, born December 4, 1819.
Robert William, born June 27, 1822 (doctor).

**GENERATION VI**

Doctor Thomas Hugh Nelson, born May 30, 1807, at “Belvoir,” Albemarle County, Virginia, died November 11, 1861, at Elk Hill, Bedford County, Virginia. He first married Sarah
Ann Alexander, born April 13, 1812, at “Locust Grove,” Campbell County, Virginia. She died September 27, 1850, at “Elk Hill.” She was the daughter of John and Sarah Lewis (Cobbs) Alexander of Campbell County.

**Children of Thomas Hugh and Sarah Ann Alexander Nelson**

John Alexander, born January 9, 1836, Bedford County, died October 10, 1863, in Culpeper County, unmarried (listed Doctor and C.S.A.).


Eliza Kinloch, born August 15, 1839.

Thomas Walker, born March 9, 1841 (doctor).

Cleland Kinloch, born September 2, 1842.

Helen Lewis, born July 15, 1844, at “Elk Hill,” died November 22, 1886.

**Children of Thomas Hugh and Mary Ann Matthews Meem Nelson**

(She was widow of William C. Meem of Lynchburg, and daughter of Emily and Edwin Matthews. She was born July 15, 1831, at Lynchburg, and died November 18, 1881, at “Elk Hill.”)

Emily Groggin, born July 4, 1854.

Edwin Matthews, born October 12, 1855.

Frank Walker, born February 16, 1857.

Cornelia Page, born December 16, 1859.

Charles Keating, born October 20, 1860.

**Helen Lewis Nelson (mother of Henry Word Early).** A daughter of Dr. Hugh Nelson and Sarah Ann Alexander Nelson, she was born July 15, 1844, at “Elk Hill” (now Bedford) and was reared and died at “Winthrop,” Bedford, Virginia. When she was six years old, her mother died and she was reared by her mother’s aunt, Charlotte Alexander Sale, and her husband, John Sale, “The Blind Commonwealth Attorney of Bedford.
County." In April 1875, she married Joel Nathaniel Early, son of James Adair and Susan Thaxton Early. He was born June 23, 1843, in Bedford County, and died February 20, 1923. His genealogy is given under Early. He was a merchant and owned a mill for many years. Later, he was clerk for the Bedford County treasurer. After her marriage, Helen and Joel Early lived at "Winthrop" the rest of their lives.

All of their children were born there and all except Henry died there.

Helen Lewis Nelson Early, mother of Henry Early, died at childbirth, leaving a baby, Thomas Nelson Early, who lived only five months, and four other children.

**GENERATION VII**

1. Lelia Page, born January 6, 1876, died December 10, 1937.

2. Susan Alexander, born July 23, 1877, supplied much information from the Bible of Judge Hugh and his son Dr. Thomas Hugh’s Bible.

3. Henry Word, born June 23, 1879, died at Weston, July 24, 1948 (see Margaret Abigail Holt in Holt section).

4. Helen Kinloch, born March 24, 1881, married Dr. Richard Reynor Turner. They had one son, Henry Early Turner. He married Mary Frances Bowl. They had two children, Susanna and Richard.

5. Thomas Nelson, born November 22, died at age five months, April 1887.

After the death of Helen Lewis Nelson Early, "Nannie" Neighbors, who for years had been secretary to John Sale ("The Blind Commonwealth Attorney of Bedford County"), having to read to him along with the usual secretarial duties, stayed on and became governess for the children. A Negro servant, who had also been in the service of the family for
years, became “Mammy” to them. Following is a description of “Winthrop” written by Susan Alexander Early.

“WINTHROP” HOME OF THE FAMILY
OF HELEN LEWIS NELSON EARLY
By Susan Alexander Early

“Winthrop” on College Street, Bedford, Virginia, the home of the Early family is very significant of its name, windy point. The pure fresh mountain air from the Blue Ridge Range is unobstructed in its path from the Peaks of Otter to this point on the suburbs of the town.

The original tract of seven and a half acres, extended on the street front from the residence of F. C. Ford to Peaks Street, then down this street to the property of H. M. Stowe, running westward to the point parallel to the front, and joining the line between F. C. Ford and this property.
It was bought in 1843 from John F. Sale and his wife, Charlotte Alexander Sale by William G. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell began at once the erection of the house, the bricks being made from original clay on the front lot, adjoining the yard on the east.

The house is built in colonial style, T-shape design, without either garret or basement, which was ultramodern at that time. The building is most substantial with outside walls sixteen inches and all partitions of solid brick thirteen and a half inches. The door and windowsills are of solid stone, with fireplace facings and hearths of same. The interior is strikingly roomy with wide paneled halls, handsome stairway, moulding mantels and open fireplaces. The rooms are large with high ceilings, the second-story ceilings being six inches higher than the lower walls. This pattern being copied from "Red Hill," the house of Patrick Henry.

The doors are four paneled with brass knobs and large brass keys which are still in use.

The kitchen and laundry were originally in the backyard and all food was carried in on large trays (then called waiters) in covered dishes. Many of these are still in possession of the Early family, also old china, furniture, and bric-a-brac of the period in which the house was built.

In 1862, Mr. Campbell sold "Winthrop" to its original landowners. John F. Sale, the blind Commonwealth Attorney of Bedford County, and his wife, the former Charlotte Alexander, daughter of John and Sarah Lewis Cobbs Alexander, of "Rock Castle," Campbell County. They obtained immediate possession, and with Mrs. Sale’s niece, Helen Lewis Nelson, who married Joel Nathaniel Early, spent the remainder of their lives in it.

At the death of Mrs. Sale in 1880, the estate was willed to Helen Nelson Early and heirs, so this has been the birthplace and home of the Early family, who continue to possess "Winthrop."
The original garden was truly an old-fashioned one, with grape arbor, all kinds of berries and small fruits, asparagus, mint, horseradish, parsley beds and with all other kinds of herbs for seasoning. The orchard, pasture, and slave quarters completed the estate.

The front on College Street, both east and west of the house, which faces due south by compass, has been developed into city lots, and here, homes were built by E. Sumpter Smith, John H. Wright and P. W. Capeheart, and John H. Watts.

From the porches and windows at the rear of the house is a most magnificent view of the Peaks of Otter, forming the center of a panoramic view of the Blue Ridge from Monticello to Lynchburg.

"Winthrop" shows war scars from Hunter's Raid during the War Between the States, and for many years, bullets could be found embedded in the east wall.

When I was at "Winthrop" in 1932, the girls told me many other things of interest. At one time during the war, Winthrop was used as officers' headquarters. At another time it was used as a hospital for wounded soldiers, and there was still a very faint bloodstain that had been absorbed indelibly into the wooden floor.

Susan's report was written prior to 1934. At this time (1973), none of the family is living. Lelia Page Early died the winter of 1937, willing her share to her two sisters. When Susan died, she willed her share to Helen Turner. When Helen died, she willed her entire estate to her grandson, Richard Turner, who, forthwith sold the property.

The only heirs of Helen Lewis Nelson Early are Helen Page Early Jones and Margaret Holt Early Shrewsbury and Henry Early Turner (deceased) and the children of the above three grandchildren.
Henry Word Early was the last of the Early name of that branch of the family.

The Early Family in America

Copied from Susan Alexander Early, D.A.R. Number 239957:

John Early, the first of the name in America, came from Donegal County, Ireland, to York County, Virginia, as early as 1661.

His son, Thomas Early, was mentioned in the parish register of Christ Church, Middlesex County (formerly Lancaster) Virginia with his wife, Elizabeth, also the birth of their son, Jeremiah in December 1705; the death and burial of Elizabeth Early in 1716, and the marriage of Jeremiah Early and Elizabeth Buford in 1728.

Lieutenant Jeremiah Early married October 16, 1728, Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Johnson Buford. This Elizabeth was the daughter of John Johnson, who had emigrated to Virginia in 1661 and settled with John Early in York County. Later he moved to Middlesex with the Early family. The Earlys and Bufords moved from this county to Culpeper, where Colonel Jeremiah Early, Sr., and wife, Elizabeth are buried.

Joshua Early, born June 13, 1738, son of Colonel Jeremiah, Sr., came to Bedford County about 1758, following another brother and four Buford cousins who came about 1754.

Joshua bought a plantation near Forest, in Bedford County, where he specialized in raising fine horses and cattle. He owned some very fine racehorses. When New London Towne was laid out and lots were sold, he bought one on which he built a store where he and his sons were merchants. He is the ancestor who assisted in establishing American Independence while acting in the capacity of "Patriot and Rendering Ma-
terial Aid” according to records of Bedford County, Book 1774-1782, page 342.

On April 26, 1763, Joshua Early and Mary Leftwich, born 1746, daughter of Augustine and Elizabeth Stovall Leftwich, were married. They raised a large family.

CHILDREN OF JOSHUA AND MARY EARLY

James, born March 12, 1765, married Sophia Gatewood.
William, born November 6, 1766, married Joanna Walker.
Joshua, Jr., born October 16, 1768, married Polly Strange.
Tubal, born April 28, 1770, married Sophia Early.
Elizabeth, born March 25, 1772, married Robert Strange.
Joel, born February 27, 1774, married Ara Andrews.
Buford, born June 26, 1775, died single.
Polly, born August 1, 1777, married J. H. L. Mooreman.
Thomas, born April 6, 1779, married Susanna Rucker.
Jabez, born December 6, 1780, married Polly Leftwich.
Silas, born August 31, 1782, died single.
Lucy, born April 2, 1784, died single.
John, born January 1, 1786, married (1) Anne Jones, (2) Elizabeth Rives.
Sally, born January 26, 1788, married John Word.


CHILDREN OF JOEL AND ARA ANDREWS EARLY

Polly, born November 1, 1805, married John Hopkins.
—— B., born July 29, 1807, ——— (paper damaged beyond legibility).
Elizabeth Ann, born February 1, 1811, married Henry Challis Tackston.
James Adair, born March 12, 1814, married 1839 Susan Thackston.

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Clementine Louise, born December 31, 1815, married Joseph Wheat.

Edith Ann, born October 26, 1817, married James Moses (?)

Martha Jane, born March 25, 1819, married Martin Fuqua.
Sarah Buford, born March 26, 1821, married Colonel John Cofer.

John William Henry, born August 19, 1822, married Agnes Oliver.

James Adair Early, son of Joel and Ara Andrews Early, was born March 12, 1814, died January 17, 1899. In 1839, he married Susan Jane Thackston, born November 24, 1823, died June 22, 1893. She was from Prince Edward County.

Joel Nathaniel Early, son of James Adair and Susan Thackston Early, was born June 28, 1843. He died February 20, 1923. On April 9, 1874, he married Helen Lewis Nelson of “Elk Hill.” She was born July 15, 1844, and died November 22, 1886. The genealogy of Helen Lewis Nelson Early is listed under Nelson section.

Henry Word Early, son of Joel Nathaniel and Helen Lewis Nelson Early and last of the name (of this branch of the family), was born June 23, 1879, and died July 24, 1948. On June 17, 1932, he married Margaret Abigail Holt, listed under Holt.

The Dew Family in America

This line is completely documented in the book *History and Genealogy of the Dew Family* by Ernestine Dew White. The book is in the D.A.R. Library in Washington and gives detailed information. This outline, after a brief discussion of Colonel Thomas Dew, will contain only the names and dates of the direct line to Helen Page Early Jones and Margaret Holt Early Shrewsbury.

Colonel Thomas Dew (Generation I) was born in England,
about 1600, son of Thomas Dew, a London stationer. He was an investor and subscriber to stock in the Virginia Company of London. Like many other subscribers, he came to America to help colonize.

On July 13, 1635, his wife, Elizabeth, with their nine month old daughter, Ann, sailed from England on the ship Alice. Their son, Andrew Dew (Generation II), also born in England, 1625, joined his parents, later.

Seated, left to right, first row: Lillie Dew Davis, Lela Dew Holt, Samuel Dew, Dr. Fred Roderick Dew; second row: Almira Pritchard Dew and Dr. Rush Hertford Dew; standing behind her mother is Mary Jane Dew; and standing beside post, Maude Dew Gough.

Colonel Thomas Dew was speaker of the house of burgesses and adviser to the governor. And, he was commissioned to discover new lands and to go with the governor on several important missions.

Andrew Dew II (Generation III) was born in Virginia, about 1650.

William Dew (Generation IV), son of Andrew II, born 1711, was a surveyor, Richmond County.
Samuel Dew (Generation V), son of William, born 1733, migrated to Hampshire County. He established the West Virginia Dew line.

Samuel Dew II (Generation VI), born 1771, is buried in West Milford.

William Henry Harrison Dew (Generation VII), son of Samuel II, born in 1819, was a doctor in West Milford.

Rush Hereford Dew (Generation VIII), born in 1846, was a doctor in Salem.

Chilela ("Lela") Dew (Generation IX), born in 1870, married Dr. M. S. Holt of Weston.

Margaret Holt (Generation X), born February 13, 1896, married Henry Word Early.

The Pritchard Family in America

The progenitor of all the Pritchard families in America, according to all the material I have been able to find, was William Pritchard from Wales. There is quite a lot of information on him in D.A.R. Library in Washington, but very little on his descendants. The name came from "ap" "Richard," "ap" meaning son of. Later, as was sometimes done in Wales, the "a" was dropped and it became P Richard, Prichard.

1. William Prichard II was four months old when his father died.

2. Edward Prichard (or Pritchard) was the son of William Pritchard II.

3. Major Jacob P. Pritchard, son of Edward and Mary Ann Betts Pritchard, married Mary Ann Highland, daughter of Thomas and Ruhama Davison Highland. Ruhama Davison was the daughter of Obidiah and Polly Webb Davison, and granddaughter of Isaac and Isabella Webb Davison.


5. Chilela ("Lela") Dew married Mathew Samuel Holt.

I have found very little information regarding the Pritchard family before my great-grandfather, Major Jacob P. Pritchard. The reference found said that all the American families, so far as they could learn, were descendants of William.
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