THE ROCKINGHAM RECORDER

Vol. III April, 1979 No. 1

The Official Publication of the
HARRISONBURG-ROCKINGHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Harrisonburg, Virginia
THE ROCKINGHAM RECORDER

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In Memory Of
Dr. John W. Wayland
(1872-1962)

DR. JOHN W. WAYLAND
(1872-1962)

Dedication of an issue of the Rockingham Recorder to John W. Wayland, teacher and historian who was eminently associated with the Shenandoah Valley, seems particularly appropriate. Dr. Wayland devoted much of a long and productive life to the study and perpetuation of knowledge of the people who settled and developed Rockingham County and Harrisonburg.

Born near Mt. Jackson in Shenandoah County, John Wayland was a descendant of one of the major ethnic groups in the early settlement of the Valley. He could trace his ancestry to a member of the first significant group of Germans to settle in Virginia, those who comprised the Germanna settlement in Spotsylvania County promoted by Governor Alexander Spotswood in the early eighteenth century. The first twenty years of Wayland’s life were spent in Shenandoah County, most of the rest in Rockingham County and Harrisonburg. He moved with his family to Bridgewater in 1893. Several years later, in 1899, he graduated from Bridgewater College and went from there to earn the Ph.D. in History at the University of Virginia in 1907. After two years of public school and college teaching, Dr. Wayland joined the faculty of the just-established Harrisonburg Normal and Industrial School for Women at Harrisonburg in 1909. One of only two men on that first faculty, he headed the Department of History and Social Sciences until 1931, during which time the Normal School evolved into a state teachers college. Retiring from teaching in 1931, he devoted the remaining thirty years of his life to research and writing with particular attention to the Shenandoah Valley, having already gained recognition as its premier historian.

John Wayland’s life reminds us of the impact that an individual can have as a teacher and scholar. He was one of the dominant influences during the early years of what is now James Madison University. He served as the first secretary of the faculty for ten years, authored the school’s first alma mater, was instrumental in the development of an honor system, served as advisor to a literary society, served on the committee that planned the development of an annual yearbook and chaired the committee for naming the first buildings on the campus. As a teacher, he was known for his fine mind, his mastery of the subject, his understanding and judgment, his ability to see both sides of an issue and to refrain from forcing his opinion on another and his keen interest in students. He achieved great admiration and respect from those who studied under him. His influence went far beyond his classrooms. He wrote the verses to “Old Virginia” which, after being set to music and published, became an unofficial state song,
sung by generations of school boys and girls. For a quarter century or more his *History of Virginia for Boys and Girls* was the adopted textbook for the state's elementary schools.

Dr. Wayland published over thirty books plus a number of articles. His first important publication, *The German Element of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia* (1907), is still an authoritative study of the subject. His *History of Rockingham County* (1912), *History of Shenandoah County* (1927), and *Historic Harrisonburg* (1949) remain the basic histories of these localities. Other titles include: *Ethics and Citizenship* (1924); *Historic Landmarks of the Shenandoah Valley* (1924); *The Fairfax Line; Thomas Lewis' Journal of 1746* (1925); *How to Teach American History* (1927); *The Pathfinder of the Seas; The Life of Matthew Fontaine Maury* (1930); *Virginia Valley Records* (1930); *Historic Homes in Northern Virginia and the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia* (1937); *Stonewall Jackson's Way* (1940); *The Bowman's; A Pioneering Family in Virginia* . . . (1943); *The Washingtons and Their Homes* (1944); *The Lincolns in Virginia* (1946); and *Twenty-Five Chapters on the Shenandoah Valley* (1957).

This issue of the *Rockingham Recorder* honors a man who enriched the knowledge and understanding of his native valley and continues to serve as stimulus and inspiration for those who seek to increase that knowledge. John W. Wayland demonstrated his awareness of the responsibility of the individual to record history as it happens by maintaining a daily diary for sixty years. He willed that this, his extensive notes and other papers be deposited in the library at his alma mater, Bridgewater College. There they serve as resource materials and guidelines for subsequent generations interested in local and regional historical research.

Raymond C. Dingledine  
Head, Department of History  
James Madison University

**Sources Available at**  
**The Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society**  
**And the Rockingham County Court House**

From the Courthouse:

1. Marriage Records from 1778, indexed. From 1788-1853 there are marriage bonds and some marriage licenses. Marriage licenses begin in 1854.
2. Deeds start in 1778, indexed. Not complete due to a fire during the Civil War.
3. Court Minutes from 1778, years 1834, 1841 and 1842 are missing. These volumes are being indexed.
4. Wills from 1778 are indexed. Some wills prior to the Civil War were also burned.
5. Land Surveys from 1761-1791, indexed.
6. Birth and Death records available only from 1862-1894, indexed.
7. Census for the years 1850 and 1860, partially indexed.

From the Historical Society:

1. Church records listing births and baptisms of: Frieden's, 1786-1795, Raders church in Timberville, Peaked Mountain, 1762-1882 in McGahesville and Trinity church in Keezletown.
2. Some Bible records.
3. Some copies of Revolutionary War pension papers of Rockingham County men.
4. Family genealogical files.
5. Diary of the Acker family and a Civil War diary of Samuel A. Firebaugh.
6. Obituary files from about 1911.
7. *Old Tenth Legion Marriages* compiled by Harry Strickler.
11. *Abstracts of Executor, Administrator, and Guardian Bonds of Rockingham County, Va. 1778-1864*, compiled by Marguerite Prioste. This is also sold through the historical society for $10.50 post paid.
12. All of Dr. John W. Wayland's books.
FROM THE JOURNAL OF JACOB RUSH (1780-1864)

**Submitted by Dr. Dorothy Boyd Rush**

Recipt how to make vinagar
Take creek water or rain water. To 12 gallons of water after it is boiling then take ½ quart of molasses and put it into the cittle when it is boiling and skim it if there should be a fome for 6 or 7 minits. Then sieve it into a clean vissel and let it becomes milk warm or before it is milk warm. Then put ½ quart of whiskey or brandy in the same vissel. Then fill it into a clean vissel and put it on a loft or store room and I will warrand it will mak good vinagar.

C. Meyers  
(1836)
In the resort era, there was great faith in these "waters". The minerals of each spring were highly recommended as a panacea by prominent physicians who named maladies surely to be cured by their use. Taylor Springs, as others, had a period of delivering its healthful water to the public without their traveling to its source, using glass cans and bottles. At Bear Lithia Spring near Elkton, a special railroad switch was built for a glass-lined railroad car. The unusual combination of healthful minerals is still listed in Massanetta Springs literature. Through the years, Taylor Springs was used extensively for social, political, and religious gatherings. In 1862, Stonewall Jackson passed by on his way to the Seven Days battle near Richmond. The old buildings were used as Confederate hospitals. Great speeches were made there. Among the orators, was Civil War Governor of Virginia, "Extra" Billy Smith, called "Extra" because of his extra term of office. Later came William Jennings Bryan.

After the death of the Taylors (buried at Cross Keys Cemetery), succeeding owners were Evan Henton, in 1854, who was followed by Abraham Miller, George E. Deneale in 1868, and finally Lareas Woodson. In 1870, a company was formed by John F. Lewis, Dr. Burck Chrisman, and others. The company sold "Healing Waters" in Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, and "to all cities of the country." In Dr. Chrisman's time the name was changed from Taylor Springs to Massanetta using Massan from Massanutten Peak, at whose foot the spring is located. To Massan was added a part of Henrietta, the name of Dr. Chrisman's wife. Today the befitting name is acknowledged by the Conference Center there, pointing out the Indian meaning of Massanutten as "place of vision" and "fresh outlook."

In 1909, Massanetta was bought by Mr. J. R. Lupton who organized the Massanetta Springs Company. The present brick hotel was built. From 1910 to 1920, it was a popular summer resort, advertising that they would accommodate three hundred guests with "outside rooms, well ventilated, and screened." The bottled water was $3.50 per gallon delivered.

In 1920, realizing a waning of interest in "Going to the Springs", Mr. Lupton deeded the hotel and fifty acres of land to Hampton-Sydney College for a Boys' School. This was not developed. About this time, Dr. William E. Hudson of Staunton and Dr. Benjamin F. Wilson of Harrisonburg suggested the Valley of Virginia as an ideal spot for a National Bible Conference ground. In 1921 this property was transferred to the Presbyterian Synod of Virginia for religious and educational purposes under a Board of Trustees. A year-round Conference Center with modern facilities ultimately resulted.

Rawley Springs, with a long resort history, is on the county's west side at Riven Rock where Dry River cuts through the Shenandoah Mountains. Around 1800, it was known as a Medical Spring. In 1810 one, Benjamin H. Smith of Charleston, western Virginia, cut out a road and built a "shantie" for his mother. After spending the summer months there, she recovered from what her doctor had pronounced an incurable disease. Four or five other "shanties" were added soon thereafter.

In 1825, Joseph Hicks advertised the place as Rawley Springs. Rawley was the name of a nearby farmer. Rawley Springs was incorporated in 1836, and again in 1877. It was during these years that health resorts had their greatest popularity. It is recorded that guests arrived at Staunton, Elkton or Harrisonburg, from Atlanta, Cincinnati, or Baltimore and rode in flat-bed, horse-drawn wagons through the Valley to the springs. Proprietors of 1845 through 1872 were Miller, Sites, Fry, and A. B. Irick. In 1884, J. Watkins Lee was manager. In 1875 there were five hundred guests.

Extensive building went on during those years. There was the Baltimore House, the Virginia House, and the Washington House, connected by arcades. They were two or three stories high, with porches along the front of each story. An elaborate band stand and a fancy spring house were erected. Beyond, were numerous cottages, a bowling alley, servants' quarters, a wash house, the bottling house, the reservoir, as well as bath rooms, stables, the bar room, the tennis court, and Riven Rock on a path over a mile up the mountain. The advertisement photo view of The Rawley Springs Hotels, Rockingham County, Virginia, Reception of guests, June 10, 1886, lists the many amusement inducements, and names the ailments for which the "Rawley water is unrivaled." The rates were $2.50 per day, $15 per week, $50 per month of four weeks. There were railroad connections from Baltimore, Richmond, and Cincinnati, "Excursion round trip and straight tickets on sale at all principle cities and depots." There was a "good livery for transportation of passengers and baggage from all regular trains with dispatch." J. F. Houck was President; C. A. Sprinkel, Treasurer; E. S. Conrad, Secretary; Major J. N. Woodward, General Manager and Superintendent. There was a resident physician, and a resident dentist to serve the many patrons.

Shortly after that season, most of the main buildings were destroyed by a mountain fire. Remaining were the billiard hall, bowling alley, bandstand, and the ballroom. In 1892, one large building was rebuilt for accommodations, a new dining hall and watch tower added. Advertisements mentioned "the Healing
Waters, String Quartets, Walks to Lover’s Leap, and casual conversation." Visitors appeared to be the young and healthy, seeking recreation, adventure, and romance. Long dresses and high buttoned shoes for ladies, and full suits with derby hats for men were the style of the day even for hiking and mountain climbing.

The 1892 to 1911 Hotel Registers show visitors from most states of the union. Even Cuba, London and Paris appear. Often entries were "Mr. __________, wife, two (or more) children, and nurse." Harrisonburg citizens were frequent visitors for a day or more. Picnic lists show family names of various parts of the county. A letterhead boasts, "Rawley Springs, Virginia, 2000 feet above sea level. The Tonic Water of the World. Open from June to November. Cool and Dry Summer Climate." Through the years, all of the buildings fell victim to fires and Rawley became a resort for people who owned family cottages. Area residents have enjoyed many years of "swimming at Blue Hole" on Dry River.

Liberty Springs, boasting the widest, most scenic view of any of these resorts, is to the north of Rawley, high on Second Mountain. Deed Book 18, page 123, March 8, 1845, in the Rockingham Court Records, shows that the Liberty Springs Company bought from Jacob Bowman and wife Elizabeth fifty-two acres for $32. The land was previously owned by Augustus Waterman. In 1857 (Deed Book 23) the Liberty Springs Company bought 158 acres of additional land from Jacob Bowman for $100. This early company included B. D. Bowman, Thomas W. Gordon, James Showalter, William and Benjamin Erwin, Archibald Hopkins, David Showalter, Jacob Dundore, John Beery, John Swank, James Burkholler, John Sebert, Jacob Shank, Anthony Burkholler, and William Phillips. To the south of the spring, chimneys still standing in 1889 showed sites of pre-Civil War cabins, which had been burned to prevent persons who wanted to stay out of the Confederate army from hiding there. By 1911, some people had rebuilt twenty cabins, but disuse followed because of the rough access road.

In 1852, Bloomer Springs, on the east side of the Massanutten mountain, four miles south of Elkton, was opened as a Health Resort by Colonel Henry Miller, Dr. S. B. Jennings, and Major John C. Walker. Soon, eleven or twelve cottages were built and families of the neighborhood spent summers there. One or two hundred might spend a day. Land around this area was owned by Jacob Burner and Henry Brill. The name was derived from the bloomery of the Iron Furnace nearby. Ore was burned and masses of wrought iron refined into "blooms" for future casting and forging.

Around 1870, Hopkins Springs, also on the east side of the Massanutten, a few miles south of Bloomer and north of McGaheysville, was developed by G. T. Hopkins and his son Edwin B. Hopkins. They were owners and managers of springs they named Rockingham Virginia Mineral Springs. They advertised chalybeate, sulphur, magnesium, and alum springs. By 1874, the improvements included the Long House of forty rooms, a two-story building on a slope with kitchen and dining room below on ground level. Also the Pine Cottage, the Locus, the Baltimore House, the bowling alley, and the laundry had been built.

In 1873, The Rockingham Register reported that Sidney Lanier, the poet, stopped in Harrisonburg, on his way to Hopkins Springs. In 1879, with his wife and young sons, aged five, eight, and eleven, Lanier spent the summer "in the quiet and shade of the mountains." He worked at his leisure, finishing his notable book, The Science of English Verse. He had been appointed lecturer of English Literature at Johns Hopkins University. In Sidney Lanier at Rockingham Springs Dr. John W. Wayland includes accounts of Lanier's instructions for a desk built for his use, of his climbing to White Rock, of his playing a Boehm flute, accompanied by his wife on a Fischer piano sent from Baltimore, of his sketching the willows up and down Stony Run, and of his autograph for little Bessie Long, "Man wants but little here below, but wants that little Long.

A tournament with thirteen knights was held at Rockingham Springs on August 8, 1879. It was addressed by Mr. Lanier, won by Mr. Thomas Kyger, who crowned Miss Minnie Bowcock, Queen of Love and Beauty. The Almond String Band played for the occasion. When a three-story hotel was built in 1893, with a dining room for all on first floor and a ball room on its second floor, a twelve page booklet was printed with "general directions for use of the waters." There were three pages of Rockingham Virginia Mineral Springs "For what complaints are they mainly useful." Rates of board per day $1.50, per week $8.00, per month (28 days) $25.00 to $30.00, children under ten years and servants were charged half price.

The Hopkins Springs buildings were torn down after World War I, and the lumber sold. Today the new development, Massanutten Village, includes the Hopkins Springs site near its entrance on the east side of the peak of Massanutten Mountain.

In 1874, Brock's Springs was opened on the west side of Massanutten
mountain, three miles east of Lacy Spring and twelve miles northeast of Harrisonburg. The resort was owned and operated by Mr. Charles J. Brock who named it Yellow Massanutten Springs. In a four leaf pamphlet of 1876, he informs the public that he is the proprietor, "Mr. Allen, formerly of east Virginia, superintendent, and Mr. William T. Jennings, president and physician. The attention of the valetudinarian (of weak or sickly constitution,) the pleasure seeker, and the public in general is called to the beautiful mountain retreat. High up the mountain-side, the hotel has a front of 115 feet, three stories high, having an office, reception room, parlor, ballroom, dining room, barber's saloon, and chambers with floors covered with Chinese matting ... cottages are connected by arcades ... the ball room is large and well ventilated ... the Chalybeate (carborate of iron) Spring is for all pathological conditions of the system for which a ferruginous tonic is indicated. The Silver Spring, having iron, sulphur, and alum has healing powers in Teter and other chronic cutaneous diseases, chronic diarrhoea, and dysentery. The Sand Spring emits, continually, a stream of hydrogen and carbonic acid gas, strongly recommended as a curative for Atonic Dyspepsia and other functional derangements of the alimentary canal."

A bath house adjoined the hotel where the ladies could take a plunge bath. "Another bath house collects water from all the different springs with a reservoir holding two thousand gallons of water. This is recommended to cure all cutaneous and skin diseases ... A livery of No. 1 carriages runs daily between Harrisonburg and Yellow Massanutten Springs." Earlier this had been the site of camp meetings. The buildings were razed about the time of World War II.

In 1878, Mrs. Kate Croushorn of Ottobine was asking for boarding guests at Union Springs. The resort is five miles south of Rawley, on Narrow Back mountain, where Beaver Creek comes through the mountain. Families of the western part of the county built summer cottages here. There was no hotel, but several families accommodated transient visitors. Names of cottage owners were Rolston, Rice, Erwin, Funkhouser, Hopkins, Heatwole, Moyers, and Rhodes. In an issue of The Rockingham Register, August 1875, a visitor tells of a leisurely prepared evening meal. Then the people "gather into their verandahs," the pine torches light up the scene, and religious services are held. He saw a notice nailed to a tree at Union Springs announcing, "a concert will be held in the Ball Room. Men 10â€‘ and free to women. For benefit of a narrow gage railroad to be built from Washington D. C. to California, via Union Springs." Now, 100 years later, there are some cabins built again at this mountain retreat.

In 1886, Sparkling Springs Company bought one hundred acres of land, plus twenty acres for a twenty-two foot access roadway, from David A. Heatwole and thus acquired old Baxter Spring. It is at the base of Little North Mountain, two miles west of Singers Glen. George Baxter had owned land here from 1782. He was a president of Washington College, later Washington and Lee University.

Here again, the iron, magnesia, and sulphur springs were believed health-giving waters for all ailments. Like the first mentioned, Taylor Springs (Massanetta), Sparkling has today an unbroken history of use since its beginning. After the land purchase, residents of the vicinity built twenty to twenty-five cottages, narrow, two-story, double front-porch design. They were originally placed on streets, but later rearranged into hollow squares on either side of the deep ravine where the spring house is located. The ravine is spanned by a high foot bridge, also a road bridge of stone. One side of the grounds is named New York the other, Brooklyn.

A charter was issued to the organized company on August 14, 1899, with capital stock of $5,000 divided into $10 shares. The company continues as first organized. The first officials were Mr. John S. Funk, a director and president, J. W. Minnick, secretary-treasurer. Other directors were Suter, Heatwole, Good, Weaver, Beery, Brunck, and Gowl. In addition to the cottages there was a "boarding house, a Fountain House, dairy, croquet grounds, and an access road." Mrs. J. W. Minnick, of Dale Enterprise ran the boarding house of ten rooms for many years. Later, it was used as a private dwelling. On Mr. Minnick's death, Mr. J. Owen Beard was secretary-treasurer until 1935 and was succeeded by Mr. Miller Rhodes.

Electricity was installed in 1930. In the last forty years, new and improved cottages have been added and the old-style, two story ones remain in use. Great speakers of the day probably never were entertained here, but there was a period of popularity for Sunday School picnics. Long lines of buggies brought those who attended. The young folk always organized a climb to the top of the mountain after lunch.

"Sparkling" remains a pleasant mountain retreat from hot summer days, and a place where the cool mountain breezes of the night are announced by the call of the whip-poor-will.

Of these eight resorts, only Massanetta Springs, the oldest, and Sparkling, the last established, have remained in continuous use. Massanetta is still
attracting visitors from far and near. Renowned speakers from England, Scotland, and the U. S. come to the Bible Conferences to bring refreshment to the mind and spirit. The church-related, as well as the secular conferences accommodated there are products of "attention to religion" by our ancestors. Our bodies are still refreshed by the healthful waters when "Going to the Springs."

The Spring Creek Normal School, 1880-82, at Spring Creek, Rockingham County, Virginia, was the educational venture of Daniel Christian Flory (1854-1914), a young Virginian, 26 years of age, who had spent three years as a student at the University of Virginia. Spring Creek, situated along a small stream about 11 miles southwest of Harrisonburg, was then an enterprising town of approximately 100 inhabitants.

Mr. Flory made plans for the founding of the school, in discussions with friends, while serving as principal of the Beaver Creek Graded School (located about nine miles southwest of Harrisonburg) during the session 1879-80.

The need of teacher-training institutions in Virginia, in consequence of the legislative enactment of 1870 for the establishment of a public school system in the state, was an important factor motivating Mr. Flory to open a normal school. More important still was his desire to establish a school where young people, especially of his own religious sect (German Baptist Brethren), would have an opportunity to get a broad, liberal education, while surrounded by "wholesome moral and religious influences."

His first step toward the establishment of such a school was his advertisement of a six weeks' summer school for public school teachers, actual and prospective, that he would conduct at Spring Creek, July 19 to August 27, 1880.

His printed four-page brochure also announced another normal school he would conduct at Spring Creek, September 6, 1880, to July 1, 1881, a period of 42 weeks, "to aid young men and women to secure a good, practical education, and fit them for a higher sphere of usefulness in after life," and to give special training to "those who are preparing themselves for the responsible duties of the school room." The fall term, of 16 weeks, was to end on December 24, 1880. After a one week's Christmas vacation, the winter term, of 13 weeks, would run from January 3 to April 1, 1881, and then the spring term, also of 13 weeks, from April 4 to July 1.

The Spring Creek Normal School, as it was called during its first session,
was "denominational, but not sectarian"; it was open to young men and women "regardless of religious creeds and professions." It offered "a hearty welcome" to all who sought knowledge. They must conduct themselves, however, as ladies and gentlemen. "No pupil will be tolerated in the school on other conditions."

The school esteemed "sound morality, obedience to truth and virtue, and a courteous regard for the opinions of others." It prohibited the "use of tobacco in any form" in the school building, and it took pride in the fact that Spring Creek was a town free from saloons and gambling houses.

The school's charges were low: tuition only $3.00 per month; "board in private families, including fuel and light," $10 per month; and "washing" $1.00 per month.

Six students, "five boys and one girl," entered the school when it opened on September 6, 1880. Only one of the six can be identified: Lee Hammer, of Franklin, West Virginia. No more students enrolled "until Monday of the 7th week when the number increased to 17 or 18." More students entered later, bringing the total enrollment during the three-term session, 1880-81, to 29. Twenty-five were men and four were women. Twenty-eight of the students were Virginians, 18 of them from Rockingham County and 10 from Augusta County, and one student was a West Virginian. The names and addresses of the 29 students of the first session appear below:

"Ladies"

Beard, Annie
Blakemore, Hattie V.
Koiner, Mollie
Wenger, Sue C.

Sangerville, Augusta Co., Va.
Sangerville
Spring Creek, Rockingham Co., Va.
Fishersville, Augusta Co., Va.

"Gentlemen"

Andes, John K.
Blakemore, D. B.
Blakemore, D. L.
Blakemore, W. Byron
Garber, Jacob
Hammer, Lee
Heatwole, Thomas
Koiner, Joseph M.

Timberville, Rockingham Co., Va.
Sangerville
Sangerville
Sangerville
Sangerville
Franklin, Pendleton Co., W. Va.
Rushville, Rockingham Co., Va.
Spring Creek

Sangerville
Sangerville
Sangerville
Sangerville
Sangerville
Spring Creek
Spring Creek
Spring Creek
Spring Creek

A two-story frame building, about 20 by 35 feet, in Spring Creek, situated along the road that runs through the town, provided rented quarters for the Spring Creek Normal. The school used the two rooms on the first floor. The building had been used as a general store. No longer standing, its site is indicated today by a metal plaque along the roadway in the town. The "Stover house" (built by Sylvester Granville Stover about 1891), now the residence of DeRay M. Miller and his family, is on the site of the building used by the Spring Creek Normal School. Students who did not live at home roomed and boarded in the town.

When the school began in 1880, Daniel C. Flory served not only as its principal, but also as its chief teacher. James R. Shipman, of Bridgewater, assisted Mr. Flory as teacher during the first and second sessions. While "taking some studies as student," Mr. Shipman took "some classes as teacher," teaching "more in the second session than in the first."

The curriculum, during the first year, the school's catalogue reveals, included a wide range of subjects: "Orthography, Arithmetic, Geography and Map Drawing, and Physical Geography; Book-keeping; Natural Philosophy; History; English Grammar and Analysis; Penmanship; Composition and Rhetoric; Exercises in False Syntax; Physiology; Botany; Geology; Vocal and Instrumental Music; Algebra; Geometry; Trigonometry and Surveying; Conic
Sections; Latin, Greek, French, and German; Mental Science, and Methods of Instruction." During the second year, courses in literature, the Bible, and philosophy were added.

During July and August, 1881, Professor Flory conducted at Spring Creek another six weeks' summer normal school for public school teachers, devoted to the "Theory and Practice of Teaching" and to review of the "Common School branches."

When the Spring Creek Normal School began, it had no board of trustees to serve as its ultimate governing body, but near the end of its first session, in May, 1881, the school acquired a group of 30 sponsors, advocates of higher education among the German Baptist Brethren, whose names and addresses appear below:

Daniel Baker
John J. Bowman
Enoch L. Brower
Daniel T. Click
John T. Click
John A. Cline
Samuel Driver
Samuel A. Driver
John Flory
Levi Garber
Samuel J. Garber
Solomon Garber
Daniel Hays
Emanuel Hoover
Emanuel D. Kendig
Benjamin Miller
John Miller
Martin P. Miller
Jacob Myers
Samuel H. Myers
Samuel Petry
Samuel A. Sanger
Samuel F. Sanger
Emanuel B. Shaver
Samuel A. Shaver

Stephensburg (Stephens City), Frederick Co.
Broadway, Rockingham Co.
Waynesboro, Augusta Co.
Dayton, Rockingham Co.
Bridgewater, Rockingham Co.
Stuart's Draft, Augusta Co.
New Hope, Augusta Co.
Mt. Sidney, Augusta Co.
Bridgewater
Mt. Sidney
New Hope
Bridgewater
Moore's Store, Shenandoah Co.
Timberville, Rockingham Co.
Fishersville, Augusta Co.
Greenmount, Rockingham Co.
Mt. Sidney
Spring Creek, Rockingham Co.
Cherry Grove, Rockingham Co.
Timberville
Good's Mill, Rockingham Co.
Meyerhoeffer's Store, Rockingham Co.
Bridgewater
Maurertown, Shenandoah Co.
Maurertown

The trustees elected Jacob Thomas, of Spring Creek, president of the board; Daniel Hays, of Moore's Store, vice president; and Samuel F. Sanger, of Bridgewater, secretary.

During its second annual session, which lasted 41 weeks (divided into three terms), from September 5, 1881, to June 16, 1882, the "Spring Creek Normal School and Collegiate Institute for Males and Females" (the new designation in the institution's catalogue) had an enrollment of 30 students, of whom 25 were men and five were women. Twenty-eight were Virginians and two were West Virginians. Fifteen of the 30 students had attended the school during its first session. The five female students were Maggie Beard, Neie Beard, Hattie V. Blakemore, and Ella McCall (all of Sangerville, Augusta County), and Fannie Paul (of Ottobine, Rockingham County). Fifteen of the 30 students came from Rockingham County: 6 from Spring Creek, 5 from Ottobine, 2 from Bridgewater, 1 from Timberville, and 1 from Mt. Crawford. Of the 11 Augusta County students, 10 hailed from Sangerville and 1 from Waynesboro. The other two Virginia students came from Maurertown in Shenandoah County.

The school's catalogue for the session, 1881-82, listed three regular courses of study: "Normal, Scientific, and Classical."

The two-year "Normal Course," designed especially to "meet the wants of all those who are preparing themselves for the responsible duties of the school room," included the study of etymology, orthography, elocution, vocal music, English grammar, composition and rhetoric, Latin, penmanship, book-keeping, mental arithmetic, written arithmetic, algebra, geometry, mental science, astronomy, geology, physiology, botany, English literature, the history and Constitution of the United States, physical geography, map-drawing, political geography, natural philosophy, and the science of teaching.

The "Scientific Course," which required two years of work beyond the Normal Course, was "intended to afford a wider culture and more thorough mental discipline than the Normal Course." It included "Latin and German, and an extended study of the Natural Sciences and Mathematics."
The four-year “Classical Course,” designed to prepare “for any profession or calling in life,” included the study of Latin grammar and composition, Caesar, Virgil, Cicero, Horace, Sallust, Livy, and Tacitus; Greek grammar and composition, Greek Testament, Homer, Herodotus, Xenophon, Thucydides, Plato, and Aeschylus; German and French; astronomy, geology, physiology, botany, zoology, and chemistry; higher algebra, geometry, trigonometry, surveying, analytical geometry, differential and integral calculus; ancient and modern history, philosophy of history; rhetoric, English and American literature, and history of literature; mental philosophy, moral philosophy, natural philosophy, and logic; international law and political economy; the Bible and evidences of Christianity.

Some of the textbooks used in the courses were the following: “Venable’s Arithmetic, Davies’ Algebra, Venable’s Geometry, and Analytical Geometry, Robinson’s Surveying, Reed and Kellog’s English Grammar, Hill’s Elements of Rhetoric and Composition, Maury’s Geography (Political and Physical), Steele’s Natural Sciences, Westlake’s Literature, Wood’s Botany, Brook’s Higher Arithmetic, Robinson’s University Algebra, Cutler’s Physiology, Hill’s Science of Rhetoric, Fulton and Eastman’s Book-keeping, Haven’s Mental Science, Blackburn and McDonald’s History of the U.S., Wickersham’s Methods of Instruction, Brook’s Normal Methods of Instruction, Gildersleeve’s Latin Grammar, Jones’ Latin Lessons, Hadley’s Greek Grammar, Boise’s Greek Lessons.”

In September, 1882, Professor Flory’s school opened its third session at a new location, Bridgewater, a town four miles southeast of Spring Creek, and under a new name, the “Virginia Normal School.” Experience had shown that Spring Creek was too far away from important routes and means of travel. Bridgewater, on the other hand, was nearer to railroads and, better still, had the prospect of having railroad lines built to it in the near future. Bridgewater, also, was situated along the well known Warm Springs-Harrisonburg Turnpike.

In 1889, the trustees of the Virginia Normal School secured an amendment to the school’s charter, changing the name of the institution to Bridgewater College.*

*The published catalogues of the Spring Creek Normal School, in the Alexander Mack Memorial Library at Bridgewater College, are the main source of information for the foregoing article.

Our knowledge of the early phase of settlement in the Shenandoah Valley is very spotty at best. This is particularly true with respect to the two speculators and large-scale grantees who were active in procuring German-speaking immigrants for their grants in the Valley, Jost Heydt (Hite) and Jacob Stauber (Stover). Very little is known about their respective lives. In the case of Hite local historians had to rely largely on family “traditions” laced with outright fabrications. Recently Henry Z. Jones, Jr., a meticulous researcher specializing in the Palatine exodus of 1709/10, found the true origins of Jost Hite while combing through 17th and 18th century church records in the Kraichgau region of Wurttemberg. Jones was able to establish beyond doubt that Hite neither came from Strasbourg in Alsace nor was he married to a woman of the DuBois family. Other claims by descendants had been refuted earlier such as his having been a baron who led fellow emigrants to America on his own ships.

Unfortunately no such early documentation on Jacob Stover has been uncovered so far. Henry Z. Jones, Jr. found, however, that this early Rockingham pioneer was not the man by the same name who came over to the colony of New York with Jost Hite and the other Palatines as I had assumed in my The Virginia Germans (p. 30). That particular Stauber or Stuber originated in the Westerwald region and settled permanently in New York. So we must leave the discovery of the origins of our Stover to chance. All we know is that he was born in Switzerland and spent about two decades in Pennsylvania where, according to J. S. Sprogell, a merchant from Philadelphia, "he made Settlement in the remotest parts among Indians, whereby he has acquired the Reputation among all that knew him of one of the best skilled in Husbandry, and acquired by this particular Industry very handsome means."

In 1728 or early 1729, Jacob Stover explored the Shenandoah Valley and, selecting his own homestead within what is now Rockingham County, he may well be considered one of the earliest, if not the first of the settlers here. His involvement in various land schemes has been described in other accounts. His name appears frequently in connection with litigation and he did not have the reputation of a thoroughly honest man.

At one point, when he was threatened with the loss of part of his grant
because he seemingly had not procured the required number of people for the land, Stover submitted a long list of persons to be imported as settlers. The names on this list are mainly those of Swiss and Palantine Mennonite families. They look very much like any other passenger list of early 18th century immigration from the German-speaking countries. As none of these people seemingly came to Stover's Massanutten land, it was generally assumed that he invented the names in order to satisfy the authorities. It was Samuel Kercheval who recorded the story that Stover had merely given human names to every horse, cow, how and dog he owned.\(^3\)

One of Stover's dreams had been a vast colony west of the Blue Ridge complete with a governor and a German-speaking assembly. He had the support of a number of Britshers and of a Swiss syndicate headed by John Rudolph Ochs in London. Late in 1730, Stover himself traveled to London to further this project and to gather emigrants for his embattled grant in Virginia. For Stover this turned out to be an expensive trip: "Jacob Stauber hath allready in searching out the land and staying here these 9 Months above 200 Pounds expences besides the loss of 2 years time," we read in a letter written in London on September 1st, 1731.\(^4\)

Fifty years ago Ann Virginia S. Milbourne, while examining all records relating to Stover among the copies from the Public Records Office in London which are in the Library of Congress, became convinced that Stover's list was most likely not a fabrication.\(^5\) The chance discovery of a letter addressed by the Rev. Johann Spaler to the Lutheran Consistory in Amsterdam on August 1st, 1732 seems to vindicate Stover even further. The letter proves that he was actually gathering prospective settlers in London. The 194 persons on his contested list, to be sure, were not the passengers mentioned in the letter below but we have no reason to doubt now that he had more than one shipload lined up. The main reason for the failure of these people to come to Virginia was Stover's own insolvency and his inability to raise the passage money in London.

Pastor Spaler's letter was for a long time buried in the Lutheran Church Archives in Amsterdam, Portfolio America. Through the efforts of Pastor Abdel Ross Wentz, then President of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, the material pertaining to Dutch and German Lutherans in New York was systematically extracted, photocopied, transcribed and sent to New York in the late 1930's. The entire collection was deposited in the Manuscript Division of the New York Public Library. When I had a cursory look at this material it was in the hope of finding maybe some mention of Jost Hite or of a Lutheran clergyman who might have drifted south from New York in the early 1700's. Instead I encountered the familiar name of Jacob Stauber in this unexpected context.

The portion of Spaler's letter (written from Queensbury, New York) pertaining to Stover and Virginia in the German original, transcribed by Walter M. Ruccius in 1939, and in English translation reads as follows:

"... Ich bin in ein land kommen, welches in Teutschland nicht so beruhm't ist als Pensylvanien, daher auch nach selbigem, od. nach Virginien, werden dasige Einwohner schon lange nach einem Prediger verlauert, mein absehen gestellet war, wie ich dann auch auf H. Doctor Ziegenhagens Predigers in der Königlichen Capell zu London, anraten, von dem aus Virginien gekommenen und schriftliche Comission habenden Jacob Stauber, und zugleich von der gantzen Schiff's-Gemeinde, welche auf Jacob Staubers überredung auch gesonnen war, nach Virginien abzugehen, ein von 56 Mann unterzeichnetes Vocations-schreiben am 29ten junii Ao 1731s angenommen.

Jedennoch aber, weilen das Volck vernahm, dass in Virginien die nahrung, sonderlich vor Teutsche sehr schlecht seyn sollte, hingegen New York andere Provincien mit proviant aushefeln müsste, auch Jacob Stauber durch unterschiedliche Dinge, sich verdächtig funden, und ein grosses misstrauen auf den Hals gezogen hatte, wurde resolviret nach New York abzugehen, welches auch durch eine bis 30 Wochen wärende, höchstzubeklagende und mitleidens würdige Reise, mit verlust ohngefähr 70 menschen von 147 ist vollbracht worden ..."

(Translation)

"... I have come to a land which is not as well known in Germany as Pennsylvania. I had intended to go thither or to Virginia since the inhabitants there had repeatedly expressed a desire to have a preacher. For this reason, on the advice of the Rev. Dr. Ziegenhagen, Chaplain of the Royal Chapel in London, and at the urging of Jacob Stauber, who had come over from Virginia with a written commission, and also at the request of the entire ship's company who, persuaded thereto by Jacob Stauber, were planning to go to Virginia, I accepted on the 29th of June Anno 1731 a call signed by 56 men.

However, as these people heard that the livelihood in Virginia especially for
Germans, was supposed to be very bad while, on the contrary, New York had to help out other provinces with provisions, and moreover Jacob Stauber by various things had aroused suspicion and had brought much distrust upon himself, they resolved to leave for New York, which after a most deplorable and pathetic voyage of nearly 30 weeks, was accomplished with a loss of about 70 persons out of 147 . . . ."

Thus Jacob Stover and Virginia lost a shipload of Germans and the first Lutheran pastor.

FOOTNOTES

1. Henry Z. Jones's findings on Hite and his family relationships in Germany will be published later this year as The German Origins of the Hite Family by Shenandoah History, Box 98, Edinburg, VA.


6. This date is given by Spaler as 29 June 1732 which is clearly a mistake. The voyage alone lasted 30 weeks. If they left in July, they arrived at the earliest in January 1732. Moreover Spaler speaks of Easter 1732 in New York in another part of the same letter so that the date of his call must have been 29 June 1731.

MY RECOLLECTIONS OF HARRISONBURG

MY RECOLLECTIONS OF HARRISONBURG AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

by C. G. Price Sr.

Mrs. Carr wrote a book about Rocktown — now Harrisonburg — describing dwellings and other buildings in Harrisonburg. I decided to write my recollections of buildings and occupants at the beginning of the century.

First, the County Court House. I was present at the laying of the cornerstone in 1896. Rough boards were laid on what is now the first floor. Judge John Paul, Sr. was the speaker on that occasion. The Circuit Court room was where the Clerk's Office is now. The first room, east side entrance on the right, was the Treasurer's office. In 1911, I served as Deputy Treasurer under Senator George B. Keezel, in that room. The Clerk's Office and Sheriff's office were also on the first floor. The second floor was an Assembly Hall where public meetings were held. It was also used as a theatre.

COURT SQUARE NORTH

On the northeast corner of Court Square was a three-story brick building. The first floor was used by Fletcher Brothers as a drug store, and second and third floors as dwelling by the owner, Beauford Shacklett. Next, was a frame building occupied by Dan Wine for the first silent moving picture theatre in the city. Then a frame building occupied by John W. Taliaferro, Jeweler, and a frame building occupied by a Mr. Pace as a confectionery and fruit store. Next, Dr. E. D. Davis had his residence and office. He had the first electric auto in Harrisonburg. When he drove out in the county, he would get out and lead the horses by; otherwise, they would have climbed a tree. This site is now Fauls Clothing Store. Next was a residence owned and occupied by Dr. Hollingworth, now the Presbyterian Church. When digging the foundation for the church, a tunnel was discovered which extended from Collicello Hotel, near freight depot, to the Big Spring on the southwest corner of Court Square. Next was the Warren Hotel, operated by a Mrs. Caldwell, where I went to room and board in 1900 when I came to Harrisonburg to work. The southeast corner of that building, first floor, was occupied by the Bank of Rockingham, later the First National Bank, about 1860. It was also used by Dr. Frank L. Harris as a dentist office. Ed. S. and George N. Conrad, (Conrad & Conrad) also had a law office in the Warren Hotel, first floor. Dr. Tatum's three-story brick dwelling-office was next. On the west was Fultz's undertaking establishment, next
dwellings and office, and finally the jail. On a Court Day, about 1902, a man from Grottoes shot and killed a Mr. Lee at a livery stable on Water Street. That night a mob gathered at the jail and was going to lynch the murderer. The sheriff had the prisoner in the top tower and Judge T. N. Haas appeared and urged the crowd to disperse, which it did.

COURT SQUARE WEST

On the northwest corner of the Court Square was a three-story brick building, the first floor occupied by G. M. Effinger and Son as a dry goods store. Mr. Effinger owned the building and his niece, Miss Peg Houston, had a "boarding house" on half of the first floor and top floors. I roomed and boarded there for $12.00 per month. Next was a one-story law office of O. B. Roller and Martz (Ed. C.). Next, Sipe & Harris Attorneys, where I went to work in 1900 as a stenographer. Woolworth Store is now located there. Next, a three-story brick building occupied as a seed store by Wetsel Seed Company. Building owned and occupied top floors, as dwelling by Mrs. Kent. Across West Market Street on the corner was the Chandler two-story dwelling. Mr. Chandler was cashier of the First National Bank. Next was the two-story "Old Kenney" dwelling occupied by Judge Kenney and later by Mr. C. D. Beard, First National Bank teller. It is now Denton's furniture store.

SOUTH COURT SQUARE

Around the corner, South Court Square, was the law office of Judge George Grattan and his son George G. Grattan, Jr. Next, a building occupied by Bernard Bloom as a department store, later Golden Carriage Shop, and later Lineweaver, same business. Dr. R. S. Switzer, father of the late Crawford Switzer, had a dental office in a one-story stone building. All these now Advance Store. A narrow, three-story brick building is next and still standing. It is occupied as mercantile, and dwelling above. Next, the three-story brick building owned by J. Wilton, occupied first floor Wilton Hardware and hotel office. Second and third floors Clarendon Hotel owned, and operated by Mr. Charles Eshelman. It is now the First National Bank drive-in and parking. The First National Bank covers the corner of South Main and South Court Square. This is now owned and occupied by Virginia National Bank. The top floors are offices.

SOUTH MAIN STREET, EAST SIDE

On the east side corner of South Main and East Market Streets was a three-story brick building occupied by Herman Wise & Sons as furniture and shoe store. Next, a frame building occupied by A. M. Loewner as restaurant, a three-story brick building occupied by I. Hollander as clothing store and now a jewelry store, Wise building, Peoples Bank, later Valley National Bank, and now County School building. Loewner building occupied as restaurant now jewelry store. My insurance business — Burke & Price, started in the Hollander building, owned by the Sipe family. Mr. L. A. Zirkle also had an office there, a dealer in lumber and railroad ties. Next building also owned by Sipe family was occupied as mercantile by Bernard Bloom and later Nusbaum, and second floor by Dr. E. R. Miller and Sipe & Harris, attorneys. L. H. Ott three-story building was occupied as drug store by Mr. Ott and office above by Dr. T. C. Firebaugh. The Spotswood building was a two-story brick, and dates way back. It was occupied by Smoot drug store, later Williamson and various mercantiles. The Robert Liskey building on corner Water Street and South Main was occupied as a restaurant by Mr. Friddle, and later a barber shop by his son; also, by William Lauck who operated a mercantile. Across Water Street was the Revere Hotel, three-story frame. Now the Masonic Temple and Keezel building, now Valley Small Loan & The Valley Sports Center Annex then occupied as Daily News building and offices above. Where Newman Avenue is now, was a building occupied as a dwelling by Mr. Tom Warren, father of Dr. Rice and George Warren. This was razed when Newman Avenue was opened. Next was a dwelling owned and occupied by Dr. J. H. Neff who was our doctor when we lived on a farm north of town. His children obtained high honors at the University of Virginia and other colleges. It is now Legetts Department Store. It was also headquarters for the first Shenandoah Valley, Inc. office. Mr. Warren S. Lurty, an attorney, owned and occupied a small one-story dwelling, later State Theatre, now real estate office. Dr. T. O. Jones dwelling followed, now Professional Building, and then the Episcopal Church. Across Bruce Street was one of Harrisonburg's oldest brick dwellings. It was occupied by a Mr. Pollock and now is Craft House. John P. Burke, my early partner and a former mayor of Harrisonburg, lived in a frame dwelling and then dwelling of Mr. L. C. Myers, former cashier and President of the First National Bank. A two-story building was erected there by O. M. Masters, but it was destroyed by the big explosion about twenty five years ago, which killed about twelve people. It is now Old Dominion Savings and Loan Company site. Across Franklin Street was a small frame dwelling occupied by Miss Ward and Mrs. Kemper. Next brick dwelling built by E. W. Carpenter, Co. treasurer and sold by him to T. Norris Thompson, now home of Dr. Henry P. Deyerle. Next was a dwelling owned and occupied by Dr. Amiss and his stepson, Dr. Frank Olhausen. It was razed and dwelling of brick construction erected by Mr. William E. Manor. Later purchased by Dr.
Charles E. Conrad and used as a dwelling. Now, owned by Ed Crist and Page Price and occupied as office by C. G. Price & Sons, Inc. insurance, and Branch Cabell & Co. brokers, and other offices. South, a frame dwelling built by W. L. Dechert and used as dwelling, now occupied by Shomo & Lineweaver as insurance office. Across a small alley was frame dwelling of Mr. Ed. S. Conrad, a prominent attorney of Harrisonburg. Next, a brick dwelling built by Mr. John G. Yancey, Sr. and used as dwelling. Frame dwelling owned by Henry M. Newman as dwelling and later by Mr. Thomas P. Beery. Now Reformed Church. Across Campbell Street was brick dwelling erected by Mr. J. Wilton and used as dwelling. Mr. Wilton was a hardware merchant and President of the First National Bank.

Sitting way back was a beautiful old brick dwelling owned and occupied by Mrs. Heneberger, a gifted musician who was organist of the old Main Street Presbyterian Church, when I attended there. It was razed and an apartment house erected. The present Elks’ Home was formerly the residence of A. Moffet Newman, Jr., farmer and President of the Rockingham National Bank. Across Paul Street is a residence built and occupied by Mr. J. C. Sibert. Several other dwellings follow formerly occupied by Staling, Verne Slater, J. E. Roller, and Mrs. A. M. Turner. One of these was the former home of Col. Charles T. O’Ferrall, former Governor of Virginia. He was a friend of my father and I was named “Charles” for him. On the corner a large dwelling, erected and occupied by Dr. and Mrs. Walter T. Lineweaver. Prior to this building was frame dwelling occupied for dwelling by Judge George G. Grattan, for whom I was also named, another good friend of my father. Across Grattan Street were two frame dwellings, one of which was occupied by Dr. Burbridge Yancey. Next a home erected and occupied by Mr. Frank Gould and followed by a dwelling erected and occupied by Mr. Frank Sublett. Then, the former manse of the Episcopal Church, now the site of the beautiful Emanuel Episcopal Church. Across Cantrell Avenue is a brick dwelling built and occupied by a Mr. Wiseman, who was an egg merchant. For a long period, this has been the home of Irving S. McNeill, now deceased, and his family. Next frame dwelling occupied by Mr. Orville Dechert, an attorney, and on the other side a dwelling of Mr. Hugh Morrison, a photographer, and another frame dwelling, now apartment building. Next brick home of Attorney Jas. B. Stephenson. It was damaged by fire and was restored by Mr. O. M. Masters and used as a dwelling by him. Across Grace Street was a frame dwelling occupied by Col. Patterson, attorney, home of Mr. Walter N. Sprinkel, and then dwelling of Mr. Ed. Dechert, all three latter now owned by James Madison University with buildings thereon. This leaves grounds of James Madison University, which was formerly a part of the

Newman Farm. This is as far as I will go on east side of South Main Street.

SOUTH MAIN STREET, WEST

Turning now to west side of South Main, starting with First National Bank, one room of bank building was used by Frazier & Slater Men’s Clothing and then a three-story building by J. P. Houck, furniture and shoes. Both of these are now owned and occupied by bank. A three-story brick building, occupied by James L. Avis as drug store and dwelling, and on the Water Street corner a brick building occupied by a Mr. Spitzer as real estate and banking office. North on corner, Old Masonic Temple building was razed and Hostetter Drug Store erected. A building occupied by C. A. Sprinkel & Son, heavy machinery, principally farming equipment, now a drug store and a restaurant. A stone dwelling occupied by Ott family and frame dwelling occupied by Mr. Patterson were razed and Harrisonburg Realty Company buildings erected, occupied entirely since as furniture stores or mercantile. These buildings were sold several years ago to Schewel interests. Next was a building occupied by Wine Brothers for a long period as a Dodge automobile business and now a restaurant. Next, a brick building owned and occupied by General John S. Roller as residence, now Chamber of Commerce. The rear stone building was used as his law office and now by Yancey, Weaver & Grattan, insurance. It is said to be the oldest building in Harrisonburg, and was used for church services by Bishop Asbury of the Methodist Church. Across Bruce Street was a vacant lot, part of the John T. Harris property, and sold by T. C. Firebaugh to the Methodist Church of Harrisonburg, present church. An old two-story brick and basement dwelling was owned and occupied as dwelling by John T. Harris, Sr., until sold to Dr. T. C. Firebaugh. Later it was owned by Mrs. Walter T. Lineweaver and Mrs. Good and when purchased by the Methodist Church, was razed and is now a parking lot of the church. George E. Sipe’s home follows a beautiful old dwelling now owned by the city and used by the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society. I worked for Mr. Sipe as a stenographer in his law office when I first came to Harrisonburg in 1900. My brother, Marshall, was also employed there as a stenographer. Mr. G. R. Eastham built a two-story brick dwelling and occupied it. Now used by City School Board. Next, the city’s first school building of any size or importance, now municipal building. Beyond that dwelling of Mr. William L. Yancey, an attorney who died early in life.

A city parking lot now covers the space. Next was residence of Captain C. A. Sprinkel, later residence of his daughter, Mrs. Williette Warren. This now the home of Sears Roebuck & Co. Beautiful old homes like these have been razed.
Next was frame dwelling of Colonel D. H. Lee Martz, for many years Clerk of the Circuit Court. A home of Mike Effinger, now the residence of Mrs. M. M. Pankey. Next undertaking parlor of Lindsey Funeral Home. A nice residence was erected by Attorney E. B. Crawford, now the property of the Lindsleys. Next was the beautiful home of County Treasurer, Sterling. It was later purchased by Mr. John T. Harris and for many years his home. Thus another old one gone, now the beautiful Baptist Church. A monument was erected on the south end of this lot in memory of the boys who gave their lives in World War I. Captain J. Samuel Harnsberger erected a two-story brick house and occupied it until his death. A home of Dr. A. C. Byers was next. A brick residence of Eddie Ney, occupied later by S. Beery Hoover, was purchased by the city and a street was opened over the new bridge. Alfred Ney home was also brick, and at his death was sold to the Baptist Church for a youth center. An apartment house by Judge T. N. Haas was erected and named "Hamilton Terrace" for his son.

Charles H. Mauzy erected a two-story brick house and occupied it until his death. On the corner of Grace and Main was the home built by Judge T. N. Haas. Judge Haas occupied it until his death and it is now the property of his son, Judge Hamilton Haas. Across Grace Street was the fine home of Captain James L. Avis, and at his death sold to Mr. Charles G. Harsberger for his residence. At his death it was purchased by James Madison University. A home built by Mr. W. J. Dingleidine for his residence was also sold to James Madison University. These latter two are now Anthony-Seeger School. Gilbert Spitzer built a spacious home and it is now owned by James Madison University. A beautiful home was erected by Ed. C. Wine and after his death sold, now a funeral home. Across Patterson Street was Shenandoah Apartments. I was president of this company and it was sold to James Madison University and is used now as a dormitory. Next a frame dwelling of L. A. Zirkle, and I believe now owned by the Pankey heirs. An apartment house was built by Dr. E. R. Miller and named for his daughter, Wellington. Now owned by Madison and a dwelling on corner occupied by a Mr. Bolton. I believe Madison is the present owner. After filling station, which was recently torn down, is a two-story brick dwelling erected by Mrs. Travis, and for years occupied by her as residence and tea room. It has recently been razed. Across C&W track is residence erected by Mr. Percy Warren, a Dean at Madison. From there on beautiful homes of Dr. F. L. Byers, Mr. Jimmy Terrell, Richard Funkhouser, Nelson Liskey, and others. On next corner of Main and Monument was an old frame dwelling used as a toll gate and operated by a Mrs. Snyder and her daughter Maude. As I recall, a charge was made of five cents for horse and buggy to pass through. This is as far as I will go on South Main.

NORTH MAIN STREET, EAST SIDE

Starting on the corner of North Main and East Market Streets is a three-story brick building, the A. M. Newman property, and occupied in 1900 by Rockingham National Bank. It is now a shoe store and offices, D. C. Devier had a jewelry store in the north end of the building. A vacant lot and then frame building occupied by Meserole Brothers dry goods and dresses. A three-story brick building, Bear property was occupied by John P. Burke, hardware, and the second floor by Mrs. Newton Bear as dwelling. A brick building owned by Owen Brock was known as "Farmers Exchange", mercantile. Joe Ney building, clothing store followed, part of first and second floor dwelling by Mr. Ney. Presbyterian Church was the next building, where my family worshipped, was converted to mercantile, Advance Store, and now Alfred Ney Company. Across a small alley was frame building occupied as restaurant by W. P. Anthony and later by Fravel 5 & 10 store. On the corner was a two-story stone building occupied by Coffman Brothers, grain dealers. This is now the office of Wharton, Aldhizer & Weaver, attorneys. On the corner of Main and Elizabeth Streets was the Presbyterian Church. It was sold to the Government and the building used as post office and U. S. Court for Western District of Virginia. It was razed and the present building erected. The Catholic Church was erected and still occupied. A small frame building was used as office for Charles E. Loewen, marble yard. On the corner was the Guyer residence, one of the oldest in Harrisonburg. Now used as a parking lot. Across Wolfe Street was a three-story brick building occupied as automobile sales room. Roudabush Grocery Store was razed and was part of ground of New National Hotel, which operated until the government took over this property. The Sheehy dwelling was beyond the hotel and it, too, went to the government. Across Rock Street was the residence of Mr. Pat Lamb. A Mr. Oates had an ice cream plant on the corner of Main and Gay Streets. Across Gay was the brick mercantile owned and operated by Mr. William Showalter. Practically everything from the Catholic Church to the Shomo garage and tire building was included in the government rehabilitation. Far out north is a two-story frame building known as the Captain A. H. Wilson residence, one of the oldest in Harrisonburg.

NORTH MAIN STREET, WEST SIDE

From the corner of Court Square north on west side of North Main Street were three small one-story mercantiles. On the corner of Main and Elizabeth was a four-story brick building mercantile, owned and occupied by Valley Hardware Co., and later, for many years, Hawkins Hardware. Across Elizabeth Street
stood one of the oldest buildings in Harrisonburg, B. Ney's big department store. The Kavanaugh Hotel was erected early in the century and one of the finest in the Valley. Frank Hayden built a dry-cleaning building and operated it until his death, now a restaurant. Next, was a three-story mercantile with various occupancies. Then, the Lutheran Church brick building used until a new church was erected on East Market. It is now Glen's Fair Price. Across Wolfe Street on the corner was a three-story brick building erected by Mr. E. B. Crawford and used for mercantile purposes. Another old building was the three-story Campbell Hotel, still in operation. Several small buildings take us to the corner where a three-story brick hotel was erected about forty years ago. On the corner of Main and Gay Streets was a frame building used way back as a grocery store. About twenty five years ago a gas explosion wrecked it. Across Gay Street was a brick building occupied as a grocery by a Mr. Gay, one of the oldest stores in the city. The Harrisonburg Mill was a landmark and was built about 1880 and was owned principally by Mr. J. C. Beery. It was razed several years ago. Far out on North Main, Mr. J. E. Reherd erected a large dwelling which he occupied until his death. It is now owned and used as an office by Rockingham Construction Company.

EAST MARKET STREET, NORTH SIDE

Several brick buildings on the north side of East Market Street were occupied by Lowenbach, china and glassware, Harrisonburg Meat & Grocery, Mrs. Gochenour, millinery, and the corner East Market and Federal Alley, the old Presbyterian Church building occupied by W. M. Bucher & Son, contractor, as office. Across the alley was a two-story frame dwelling of Mrs. Rohr, now a bank parking lot and on the corner of East Market and Broad, a frame dwelling of Mr. Dovel, custodian of First National Bank. Now the Spotwood United Virginia Bank. Across Mason on the corner was the Church of Christ. Some of the oldest dwellings in Harrisonburg were on this street: J. M. Snell, brick, L. P. Ott and William Bucher, frame, and Capt. W. H. Payne, Southern Railway conductor, frame, and W. M. Funkhouser, frame. Across Broad Street was a large frame dwelling of Mr. John N. Garber, a brick dwelling of Charles E. Loewner, frame dwelling of Mr. Whitesel, father of Frank Whitesel, and on up the hill an old brick dwelling of Mr. Billhimer. A large residence of Charles D. Harrison, former Commonwealth's Attorney and lawyer, frame dwelling of W. J. Dingedine, first cashier of Rockingham National Bank, were located on this street. The residence of Mr. Russell Rosenberger sits back from the street and the dwelling of John G. Yancey, Jr., presently occupied by his widow, Mrs. Lucile Rosenberger Yancey. This is as far as I will go on this side of the street.

MY RECOLLECTIONS OF HARRISONBURG

EAST MARKET STREET, SOUTH SIDE

Starting on the south side of East Market was a three-story brick mercantile, Blatt's frame dry cleaning establishment, and brick building occupied by Lineweaver Brothers Grocery and owned by Elks Lodge, occupant of above floor. On the corner of East Market and Mason was a frame building and lot occupied by Whitesel Brothers, farming implements, later by W. H. Cunningham, and later J. O. Stickley & Son, same business. It is now part of the Rockingham National Bank Center. Across Mason was the residence of B. Frank Garber, dealer in fine horses, and then a large brick residence of J. P. Houck. This is now an automobile parking lot. Several frame dwellings followed. Some were razed to make place for the Lutheran Church, one of the finest in the city. On the corner of East Market and Ott was a large frame dwelling owned and occupied by Mr. J. C. Byrd, now bank building. Beyond the cemetery was a brick dwelling of Mr. Landis and frame dwelling of Mr. Lou Rodgers, now owned by Cemetery Company. Across Reservoir Street was brick dwelling of Mr. John B. Peale, Deputy Treasurer of the county and the next brick dwelling of Mr. J. O. Stickley. Beyond and sitting back from street, was a residence of Mr. Lee Long and the Stoneleigh Inn follows, one of the old landmarks of the city. Dr. Walter Reed of Yellow Fever fame, visited his parents here. His father was a Methodist minister. Beyond were largely vacant lots owned by the Houck estate.

WEST MARKET STREET, NORTH SIDE

On the north side was a small office occupied by E. B. Crawford, attorney. Next was the Methodist Church which was later razed, and Rockingham Motor Co., Ford automobile plant, built there. It is now owned by Wetsels. A small brick mercantile, and then brick building grocer, then later by Mike Steele. A small shed for loading express was near railroad track and across tracks, a large dwelling next and a cinderblock building of W. G. Leake, junk dealer. On the hill a cinderblock parsonage of U. B. Church, and on the corner of West Market and High Street was the United Brethren Church, a beautiful building. Across High Street was the frame dwelling of Mr. Giles Devier. Several dwellings followed, brick owned by J. M. Kavanaugh and later by Mr. Liskey, next Presbyterian Manse, frame building. Beyond were many dwellings occupied by Douthat, freight agent, and Mr. P. F. Spitzer.
WEST MARKET STREET, SOUTH SIDE

On south side, starting at Court Square, was a three-story brick building owned by Judge John Paul, Sr. It was used prior to 1900 as a school. Dr. W. H. Keister and Dr. J. Silor Garrison attended there. Later it was used as a boarding house by Mrs. Thurmond. Beyond that was another brick mercantile owned by Judge Paul. On the corner of West Market and Liberty was a bakery operated by Ed. Friddle. Across Liberty was a frame building occupied by John E. Sullivan as a cigar factory. The B & O depot followed, which is now a parking lot for Wetsel Seed Company. Across the track was the Catholic Church which was destroyed by fire and Merchants Grocery and Hardware Company building erected, now Wetsel Seed Company warehouse. Up on the hill was a brick dwelling of E. S. Strayer, and on the corner of Market and High was the dwelling of Mr. Wise, Jewish Rabbi. On the corner across High Street were a number of dwellings, Mr. Fred Wampler and others. Among these were T. L. Williamson and George W. Hess. Far out was a small dwelling and stable on farm of John P. Burke, and beyond that a toll house and gate.

NORTH LIBERTY STREET, EAST SIDE

On the corner of Graham Street, east side, was jail lot, double dwelling in corner jail lot, now Clark, Bradshaw, Smith and Harrison Law Offices. Several old dwellings followed to the corner of Liberty and Rock where Troy Steam Laundry was erected and operated by Trenary & Sumption. Across the street was Buick Auto Sales. On out on the corner of Liberty and Gay was Carr’s Tire Plant and next Harrisonburg Grocery Co., wholesale. Around the corner was Mutual Milling Company owned largely by Charles F. Coffman. Fridle’s livery stable was on the corner. On across the street was Wenger’s barrel manufacturing plant of C. D. Wenger.

NORTH LIBERTY STREET, WEST SIDE

On the west side of Liberty (then German Street), was the Morrison dwelling and frame carriage shop. The John Wesley Methodist Church is next. Bear’s auto parts business was next and then dwellings and mercantile. W. F. Berry & Son Lumber Yard was across Elizabeth Street. Then a four-story brick building owned by Frank L. Sublett and used as hay storage by him. It was destroyed by fire about thirty years ago while used as junk storage. Across the street was one of the oldest frame dwellings in Harrisonburg. On beyond the diner were several dwellings. Up on the hill behind the diner was a skating rink owned and operated by Bassford Brothers. Across Gay Street was a large residence of Mr. Beery, owner of Harrisonburg Milling Co., now the residence of Mrs. Emanuel Blosser. Around the bend was Collicello, a landmark occupied largely as a summer resort. People came from cities and spent the summer there. Up over the hill were many dwellings, and at the bottom of the hill, corner of Liberty and Edom Road, was a pottery plant, and on beyond that, a black marble plant owned by Dr. E. D. Davis.

SOUTH LIBERTY STREET, EAST SIDE

On the corner of West Market and South Liberty to Water Street, were dwellings and on the corner was a dwelling of Ludwig Hirsch. The Houck Tannery occupied all the lot from Water to Bruce Streets, and it furnished electric lights for Harrisonburg until a city plant was built on the Shenandoah River. From there to the monument were several dwellings: one Chief of Police, Dovel, and the other G. Houston Ott.

SOUTH LIBERTY STREET, WEST SIDE

On the west side of South Liberty were a few dwellings and tin shop of J. E. Good & Sons, and a couple of mercantiles to the corner of Water Street. Beyond that was a dwelling and building of Valley Creamery, now the Police Station. To the rear was a poultry processing plant of Mr. Burkholder. Across Bruce Street where Lincoln Miller is now, was the dwelling of Mr. VanDevender, Superintendent of the Houck Tannery. Beyond the Daily News building is a large frame dwelling of the Meserole family, now the property of Victor J. Smith. Beyond, two dwellings belonging to Miss M. Chancaules, and next the large brick apartment house, formerly the dwelling of Mr. W. H. Rickard. On beyond was the residence of George G. Grattan, III, and Honorable George N. Conrad.

EAST WATER STREET, NORTH SIDE

East from Main Street were two saloons and a vacant lot known as “Horse Bazaar” where hundreds of horses were traded and sold on Court Day. On the south side was a saloon of the Revere House and then Whitmore Brothers Stable. They dealt largely in big percheon horses. Next was the veterinary office and dwelling of Dr. J. J. Willard and W. D. Garber. On Water Street East, opposite present city parking lot, was a large brick building occupied and owned by J. C. Staples as livery stable. Later, it was occupied by Wise Brothers shirt factory.
WEST WATER STREET, NORTH SIDE

First, a one-story building, O'Donnel saloon, followed by mercantiles and a large stable of Hirsch Brothers. They bought and sold the animals. Up on the hill near the bridge was a brick building, Campbell Shoe Company. It was used a number of years by Tay Box Factory.

WEST WATER STREET, SOUTH SIDE

Beginning at Main Street was a saloon of Charles C. Conrad, followed by mercantiles, one owned then by a Mr. Pankey, a blind man, and operated by him as a livery stable. The last Houck Training building was razed when the double deck parking building was built.

NEWMAN AVENUE

It was opened and developed by A. M. Newman. The only dwelling at the turn of the century was the large brick building known as the Ott property, inherited by Mrs. A. M. Newman, who was a daughter of Mr. Ott. It was Sheridan's headquarters during the Civil War. Being razed, it is now a parking lot.

SOUTH HIGH STREET, EAST SIDE

Coming off Bruce Street up hill was a frame residence occupied by the Meserole family. Then followed the Bradley Plow Factory office, and on to a large frame dwelling owned and occupied by Philco Bradley. Then followed several dwellings, one occupied by town policeman, John Logan. On the corner of Grace and South High was the residence of Samuel Bruman, long-time mail carrier. On out a block or so was the home of Lee Logan. At the bottom of the hill was a toll gate. Up the hill was a residence of Central Chemical Company, and plant in the rear.

SOUTH HIGH STREET, WEST SIDE

On the southwest corner of Water and South High Streets was a frame residence, occupied by Misses Jennie and Martha Davis, operators of a private school. On the corner of Bruce and South High was a large brick residence of Attorney Winfield Liggett. Beyond that, buildings of Bradley Plow Foundry. The dwelling on to the bottom of the hill was where Harrisonburg High School was erected. Beyond were dwellings and Virginia Craftsman Factory. The Rockingham County Fair Association was held on the ground, now high school and athletic field and stadium. I was Secretary-Treasurer of the Fair Association when the property was sold to the City. Down at the bottom of the hill beyond Craftsman Plant is an old stone brick dwelling owned by the Sharpe's family, built in about 1709.

NORTH HIGH STREET, EAST SIDE

Principally dwellings, one of which was the home of Captain Dangerfield, a prominent horseman, who removed from here to Kentucky.

NORTH HIGH STREET, WEST SIDE

Following some dwellings was the Reformed Church, which was converted into a dwelling when the new church was built on the corner of South Main and Campbell Streets. On the corner of North High or Virginia Avenue was the Lupton dwelling, one of the oldest in Harrisonburg.

NORTH MASON STREET, EAST SIDE

Beyond the "Little Church on the Corner" was a frame stable where Mr. B. Frank Garber housed his beautiful horses, he being a trainer of horses. Next on the corner of North Mason and Elizabeth Streets was Beck's Bakery, a one-story and basement brick building. Beyond that, residences.

NORTH MASON STREET, WEST SIDE

Principally dwellings until corner North Mason and Wolfe was First Baptist Church (colored).

SOUTH MASON STREET, EAST SIDE

Maphis-Chapman garage building. From there to hospital, principally dwellings. The hospital chartered in 1908 and opened in 1912. Next, James Madison University opened in 1908.

SOUTH MASON STREET, WEST SIDE

On the corner of East Market and South Mason, vacant machinery storage
lot, a small brick mercantile building, and dwellings to the University.

FRANKLIN STREET, NORTH SIDE

Mr. J. C. Stiegel developed this street. First, small frame dwelling. Next a brick dwelling of D. Wampler Earman, a stucco dwelling of Charles F. Lupton, and corner dwelling of Mr. Eddie Ney. Across Mason Street was the dwelling of Mr. Stiegel, a frame building, and the first built on the street. Next was a dwelling of Dr. W. H. Keister, Supt. of Schools, followed by Mr. C. M. Shaver's dwelling, and Ed. C. Martz dwelling. The Methodist parsonage follows, the frame dwelling of Mr. Snell, a dwelling built by Mr. Samuel Beery, a small apartment built and occupied by George Black, and others. Jack Kerr home, and then was dwelling of I. S. Ewing; dwelling of Sam J. Prichard, and home of Dr. B. F. Wilson, Presbyterian minister. Then a home built by Albert Ney, now apartment.

FRANKLIN STREET, SOUTH SIDE

Sublett Apartments, then across alley to a frame dwelling built and occupied by J. Robert Switzer, attorney and clerk of Circuit Court. William M. Lowenbach built a dwelling, frame building, now an apartment house. Frame dwelling of Mr. A. K. Fletcher, Sr., and then frame dwelling of Mr. Ward Swank, attorney. Across Mason Street was frame dwelling erected by Mr. Walter C. Switzer, who started the first telephone company here. Dwellings continued owned and occupied by Dr. Harry Canter, Howard Whitmore, George A. Newman, Charles A. Hammer, Dr. John C. Myers, Dr. W. T. Lineweaver, and George W. Shaver, C. D. Beard, and others.

PAUL STREET, SOUTH SIDE

The residence of William Friddel is first, and next residence of Dr. John E. Wine, now the residence of his son, Dr. Jean F. Wine.

PAUL STREET, NORTH SIDE

There were two residences of the Coverse family: One the original home, and the other the residence of Dr. Henry A. Converse.

ELIZABETH STREET EAST, NORTH SIDE

A large frame dwelling was on the corner of this street and Federal Street, built and occupied by Mr. E. Purcell, a prominent contractor (roads). Beyond that a number of dwellings.

ELIZABETH STREET EAST, SOUTH SIDE

Immediately off South Main was a row of brick mercantiles erected by Mr. Carl Ney. Beyond that were many dwellings.

GAY STREET, EAST

Dwellings on both sides of the street.

GAY STREET WEST, NORTH SIDE

A large brick poultry processing plant of City Produce Company, owned by H. H. Weaver, Emanuel and Gabriel Blosser, erected near the beginning of the century. Beyond that the brick building of Harrisonburg Grocery Company, wholesale groceries, owned largely by Weaver, Blosser, T. P. Beery, and others.

WEST JOHNSON STREET, NORTH SIDE


WEST WASHINGTON STREET, NORTH & SOUTH SIDES

J. S. Dovel, contractor, now Valley of Virginia Milk Producers, a large dairy.
HENKEL SUBSCRIPTION LIST 1807

For Der Virginische Volksberichter
Va. Popular Instructor and Weekly News

The Henkel Press of New Market, Virginia, has rightly been called the most significant early publisher in the German language south of the Mason-Dixon line.

Primarily known for the publication of Lutheran materials since its establishment in the later part of 1806, the Henkel press also issued numerous imprints of a wide variety of categories such as birth and baptismal certificates, house blessings, broadsides, confirmation certificates, ABC and children's books, and a newspaper.

From December 16, 1807 until June 14, 1809 Der Virginische Volksberichter Und Neumarketer Wochenschrift was printed, edited, and published by Ambrose Henkel, the young and inexperienced son of Paul Henkel. In an announcement printed already in the second issue of the newspaper, December 23, 1807, Ambrose Henkel stated that he was disappointed at the small number of subscribers and the high cost of publication.

Ambrose Henkel tried his best to satisfy his German readers with a variety of items. Foreign and state news, local happenings, poems, hymns, and advertisements should have been worth the one dollar a year subscription price. Yet his venture did not succeed. Matthias Bartgis in Winchester and Jacob D. Dietrick in Staunton, experienced printers, published German newspapers in the Valley of Virginia for a very short time and failed.

In the issue of June 7, 1809 Ambrose Henkel informed his readers that "very few new subscribers were secured, and a number on the list stopped the paper." He promised to remit the money to those who had paid him in advance. "I feel sorry for those of my friends who took the paper for the purpose of encouraging their children to read German, and who hoped that it would continue . . . ."

The following list of 373 subscribers should be of value to genealogists and others who are interested in the demographical distribution of German speaking settlers in areas of Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina.

John G. Stewart

Daniel Riemer, Newmarket, Va.
Michael Zirckel (the older), in the Forest, Shen. Va.
Andreas Zirckel (the older) . . .
Johannes Zirckel, George's son, on the river, Shenandoah
Samuel Stickler, Esq. Smiths Creek, Shenandoah
Samuel Caufman, Storekeeper, Newmarket, Va.
Mathias Bieber (older), Rockingham near Newmarket, Va.
Jacob Dery, Newmarket, Va.
Johannes Bär, Rockingham near Selvages
Georg Schumacher, N. C. Guilford Ct.
Anthony Göbel, . .
Heinrich Herman, Rockingham Ct. Va.
Johannes Herman, . .
Johannes Brausz, Newmarket
Daniel, Riemer, . .
Daniel Dinkel, Rockingham Va.
Georg Ruff, Hatmaker,
Philip Kuntz (the older), Rockingham, Va.
Fransis Ries, Newmarket Va.
Jacob Kips, on the river, Shenandoah Va.
Jacob Neha, (the older) in the forest Shenandoah Va.
Henrich Buchung, near Rader's Church, Shenandoah
Friederich Poland, Rockingham, Kerns Mill
Jacob Weller, Rockingham near Plains Mill
Josuah Kring, Newmarket Va.
Henrich Guth (the older), near Plains Mill, Rockingham Va.
Christian Caufman, near Selvages Store Rockingham
Christian Funk, near Birys Mill, Rockingham Va.
Samuel Caufman (the older), near the Heuer (or Hammer?) Shenandoah Ct.
Jacob Ohllinger (the older), Newmarket
Johannes Kern, near Raders Church, Rockingham
Abraham Bachman, near Newmarket, Va.
Johannes D. Meyer, South River, Shenandoah, Va.
Balsar Hopp, near Newmarket, Va.
Johannes Ruff, in Rockingham Va.
Peter Grim (the older) near Plains Mill Rockingham
Johannes Rupbert, in the forest
Peter Stroh, Montgomery Ct. Va. Post Office
Johannes Grim (the older), near the Plains Mill Va.
Friederich Klein, Linvil Creek, Rockingham Va.
David Knope, in the meadows, Rockingham Va.
Johannes Huber, near the Long House?, Rockingham Va.
David Strickler, Smiths Creek, Shenandoah Va.
Johannes Voltz, South River, Rockingham
Jacob Gittinger, Newmarket Shenandoah Ct. Va.
Philip Brenner, Shenando River, Rockingham Va.
Heinrich Ermentraut, Rockingham Post Va.
Jacob Miller, Martinsburg, Berkley Ct. Va.
Jacob Bischoff
Elias Lang, NT Stephensburg Va. Frederick Ct.
Johannes Stauffer, Narrow Passage Shenando, Woodstock
Jacob Schreyock, Stony Creek Shenando Va.
Nicholas Pentz, Shenandoah, 8 miles from Woodstock
Johannes Nehs, Green Ct. Tennessee State (this name is marked out)
Peter Buschong, near Raders Church Shenandoa Va.
Peter Sauerwein, near Raders Church Rockingham Va.
Simon Schell, near Raders Church Rockingham Va.
Wilhelm Bär, near Linville Creek Rockingham Va.
Jacob Ruf, the older, Smiths Creek Shenandoah
Jonas Harmon, Pendleton Ct. Va. North Fork
Daniel Hoof, near Plains Mill Rockingham Va.
John Nehs, Green Ct. Greenville T
Philip Henkel, N. C. Lincolnton
Henry Rubbert, Newmarket
Lewis Markert, North Carolina
Jacob Lorros Revd., Franklin near Miamia Ohio
Johannes Huber, Miller, Custards Mill Rockingham
Johannes Hiestandt, Rockingham South River over the Mount
Jacob Strickler, South River Mill Run Shenandoah Va.
Ludwig Dreiber, near Plains Mill Rocking Va.
Joseph Strickler, on Smiths Creek Shenandoah Va.
Philip Stephan, near the Plains Mill Rocking Va.
Jacob Erbach, Brocks Gep Rockingham Va.
Doct. Jacob Neff, Shenandoah Va.
Revd Mr. John Brown, Rockingham Va.
Anthony Shomo, Newmarket
Frederick Way
Frederick Fischer
Philip Weyckel,
Friedrich Kirchhoff,
Johannes Herman
Jacob Hoffert
Jacob Schäffer
Jacob Heis
Peter Wagner
Johannes Niebel Va.
Christain Strohl, South River Rockingham near Fultzes Va.
Abraham Cempel
Andrew Caufman, near Raders Church Rockingham Va.
Mathias Miller
John Tusing, near Raders Church
George kring, Newmarket Va.
Christian Seeger, Forest Shenandoah Va.

Cunrad Pentz, Forest Shenandoah Ct. Va.
Jacob Ruth, Pendleton Ct. Va.
Heinrich Spitzer, gunsmith, Newmarket Va.
Heinrich Schnell
He Bernhart Wille, Woodstock, Shenando Va.
Rev Christian Streit, Winchester Va. (this name was crossed out.)
Michael Sommer, Rockingham near the Big Spring
Johannes Kägey Shenandoah near Kägey Mill
Rudolph Kägey
Isaac Kägey
Jacob Creutz, Millcreek Hardy Ct. Moorfield office
Elias Schumacher
Revd Storch, Salisbury N. C.
Johannes Tussing, Brooks Gap 5 miles from Ruddel
Henry Landes, New London Va.(?)
Gedfried Miller, Winchester Va.
Johannes Minich, near the Plains Mill Rockingham Va.
Jonas Staib, near Raders Church Va.
Henry Etter, Brooks Gap Rockingham Va.
Michael Wein, in Forest Shenandoah Va.
Isaac Meyer, in Forest
Tobler, South Schmid, Rockingham near Hays
Jacob Henkel, Pendleton Va.
Jacob Gerber, in the forest
Jacob Groff, near Zions Church Va.
David Trissel, near Rockingham near Kagy Mill?
Isaac Henkel, Pendleton Va.
Ludwig Steinberger, Stony Run, Shenandoah Va.
Georg Weber, 10 miles the road to Woodstock
Jacob Hauk, New Market
Daniel Breneman, on Smiths Creek Shenandoah
Benjamin Thomson, in Rockingham Va. in Goods packet
William Bentz, Rockingham Va. Fultzes packet or Stroles
John Nauman, Stroles packet Shenando Va.
John Bockins New Market Va.
Ferdinand Bury
Revd George Schmucker Hagerstown, Md.
Jacob Rutter(?) Pendleton Va.
Ambrose Henkel
Solomon Henkel
Andrew Henkel
David Henkel
Charles Henkel
Nabina Henkel
Hannah Henkel
John Neff, near New Market Va.
Philip Miller, Rockingham Kerns Mill Va.
Jacob Schnell, Rockingham Va.
Peter Grumbacher, Rockingham from Ruddles
John Bowman, Rockingham Kerns Mill
David Miller, H-Getzen's(?)
Peter Hauser, Lincolnton N. C.
Isaac Depoy, Rockingham Va.
Johannes Hauer, ...
George Boddel, New Market
Jacob Ludwick, Rockingham Va.
Michael Traut, Rockingham Salvages Store
Henry Guth, Rockingham Goods packet
Abraham Zimmermann, Salvages Store
John Bender, Mabury Store Shenan
David Bruckhard, Rockingham Steffeyes
George Weickel, Rockingham, Va.
Mathias Lang, Rockingham Va. Fuls Packet
Samuel Parot, Rockingham Va.
Friederich Hederich, Pendleton Va. Mosc Henkels packet (?)
George Tieter, ...
George Henkel, ...
Christian Schultz, Rockingham Va.
George Funchhauser, Shenandoah Maybery Store
George Printz Marys Store Shenandoah Va.
Ludwig Zerkel Sen, Rockingham Va.
Jacob Grebil, near Woodstock
Jacob Miller, Shenandoah Va.
Adam Bloss, Rockingham Naked Creek
Henry Shull/Skeil(?) Augusta Va.
Peter Ermentraut juner, Rockingham Va.
Michael Reinhart, Rockingham Va.
George Berry, Rockingham Ct. Va.
Mathias Schneider, Rockingham
Daniel Braun
Jacob Braun
Georg Fröblich
Andreas Bauer
Peter Kebel
Johannes Ihrich
Lohrentz Speigel, near New Market Shenandoah Va.
George Negel, North Fork Potomac Pendeltown
Chares Specht, Powels Fort Va.
Nartz? Zwecher Sen, North Mountain
Jacob Kegy, Shenandoah
Johannes Michael, Rockingham Va.
Johannes Keisser, Rockingham Stroles Mill Va.
Samuel Meyer, Rockingham Salvages Store
John Pitefisch, Rockingham Va. Fuls packet
Abraham Scherfig, Shenandoah Va. in the forest

Jacob Reif, Rockingham Linville Creek
Henry Fry, New Market
Christian Ermentraut, Rockingham Va.
Jacob Guth in the forest Shenandoah Va.
Goteib Hohman, Rockingham near Kerns Mill
Henry Printz, Hawksbill Shenandoah Va.
Jeremiah Hofman, Shenandoah Va. South River
Henry Fluk, Rockingham Va. near Briten's?
Catherine Kring wid., Rockingham Va. Linville Creek
Ferdinand Schmucker, Shenandoah Va.
Peter Funk, Smiths Creek Shenandoah Va.
Johanes Glück, near New Market Va.
Thomas Robertson, near New Market Va.
Wm. Rodeheffer, Brocks Gap, Ruddels
Christoph Braun, Wyth Ct.
Adam Dieting, ...
Nicholas Schneider ...
Jacob Kinnerling?
Johannes Deboy, Rockingham Va. Smiths Creek
Abraham Savage, New Market
Georg Weaver, ...
Jacob Heistand, South Branch
Henry Mallow, South Branch
William Fogel, Rockingham Kuntzes packet
Philip Knop, near Plains Mill Rockingham Va. Goods packet
Georg Tiller, New Market
Christian Sachsman, near New Market
John Caufman, New Market Va.
Elias Henkel, North Fork
Benjamin Jund, Rockingham Linville Creek
Jacob Richwein, Rockingham Plains Mill
Jacob Zerfasz, Shenandoah Forest Va.

Weisz, Rockingham Va.
Casper Hahn, ...
Peter Cnop(?), Rockingham Va.
Abraham Lehman, ...
Jacob Plume ...
Abraham Neff, Shenandoah Va.
Martin Walters, Powels Fort Shenandoah
Henry Wisler, Rockingham Va.
Friedrich Schäfer, Alemans N. C.
Jacob Beck, Lexington Rowan N. C.
George Lang ...
Philip Hederick, ...
Henry Shoemaker, Brocks Gap Rockingham Va.
Joseph Silvius, near Raders Church Va.
Daniel Lutz, Lincolnton, N. C.
Lewis Zirckel, Michaels son, Forest Shenandoah Va.
Isaac Neuschander, Rockingham Va.
Friederich Hahn, Linconton N. C.
Philip Andoni,
Adam Derr,
Charles Greim, Lexington
Michael Zink, (name is crossed out)
Valentine Day
John Beck
Wisman,
—— Wisman, Rinkers
—— Schafer, Jacob Nehs Packet
—— Sirkel, Mabursy Store
—— Hamman, ”
—— Ludwig, ”
—— Dieffenbach, Hamb—

Special thanks to Lois Bowman and Grace Showalter at Eastern Mennonite College Library for translating the Henkel subscription list.

PERSONNEL OF THE FIRST ROCKINGHAM COUNTY COURT

by C. E. May

Augusta County Court recommended to His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, March 18, 1777, that the following men be appointed members of a Commission of Peace and a Commission of “Oyer and Terminer” for the new county of Rockingham which the Commonwealth proposed to carve out of Augusta County: George Boswell, Robert Davis (Davies), Josiah Davison (Davidson), James Dyer, Henry Ewing, John Fitzwater, Felix Gilbert, John Grattan, Silas Hart, Thomas Hewitt, Isaac Hinckel (Hinkle), William McDowell, William Nalle, Anthony Ryder (Rader), John Skidmore, Abraham Smith, Daniel Smith, and John Thomas. December 16, 1777, Augusta County Court passed a resolution certifying that these 18 men had been recommended to His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, for appointment to the above-said commissions. The Virginia General Assembly passed an act March 1, 1778, creating Rockingham County out of the northern end of Augusta County; and His Excellency Governor Patrick Henry appointed all of the above-listed men except Felix Gilbert to the first Rockingham County Commissions of Peace and “Oyer and Terminer”. These two commissions were popularly known in Virginia as The County Court.

Who were these men chosen justices of the first Rockingham County Court? Where did they live? What were their vocations and some of their achievements? Why did His Excellency Governor Patrick Henry not appoint Felix Gilbert? What was a Commission of “Oyer and Terminer”? And how did it function?

George Boswell, the first man on the commissions, when the members are listed in alphabetical order, was of Scotch descent. The surname “Boswell” is found in Fife and several other Scottish shires. The lairds of Auchinleck, for example have the surname “Boswell”. James Boswell, one of them, was the biographer of Dr. Samuel Johnson, noted 18th century English poet, essayist, and dictionary compiler. The surname “Boswell” is a place name derived from Bosville, an anglicization of Boisville, a local place name in France. It signifies a wooded village or a town in the woods.

George Boswell was a planter who lived in the vicinity of present Port Republic. He purchased November 18, 1773, from John and Agathy Madison of Botetourt County 800 acres, part of 1,000 acres patented to John Madison,
March 10, 1756, August 16, 1756, and June 2, 1758. From 1753 to 1773, John Madison bought and had patented to him about 2,093 acres lying on the Shenandoah, North, and Middle rivers. One tract had Buffalo Run as a boundary; another tract lay on Stover’s Mill Creek.

Besides serving on Rockingham’s first County Court, George Boswell was a member of the County Parish Vestry, sheriff in 1780, and a militia captain. He had in 1782 a family of five souls, one dwelling, and nine other buildings. His wife’s name was Judith. Since he had a plantation of 800 acres, he was probably a slaveowner. Rockingham County Court allowed him compensation March 29, 1782, for military supplies and teams he provided and for the horses he lost in the public service.

Robert Davis (Davies) was of Welsh ancestry. “Davies” derives from the Christian name “David”, and it was originally written “ap Dafyd”. “Doue” is the abbreviated form found on Medieval rolls. “David” developed from “Doue” through confusion in Medieval script of the letters “v”, “u”, and “w”. “David” became a most popular Christian name in Wales in the Middle Ages because of the popularity of the Biblical story of David, the giant killer, and also because of the popularity of the Welsh sixth century Saint David. To strengthen his hold on Wales, Henry I of England (1100-1135) used his influence at Rome to have David canonized and placed on the International Calendar.

Robert Davis, a planter, lived on South Fork of South Branch of the Potomac in what is now Pendleton County, West Virginia. Augusta County Court appointed him August 20, 1746, overseer of the road from top of North Mountain to William King’s and thence to the court house in Staunton. About 1769 he married Sarah Horse, widow of Henry Horse, and secured the plantation of the deceased, which was situated on South Fork of South Branch of the Potomac. The plantation contained about 300 acres.

Robert Davis failed to qualify as a member of the first Court April 25, 1778, but he did so a few days later. He was given a commission by the Commonwealth of Virginia in March of 1782 to adjust titles in the District of Augusta, Botetourt, and Greenbrier. The titles to be adjusted related principally to land disputes in Greenbrier. The following month he resigned his commission of captain in the county militia. Robert Davis had seven members in his family in 1784, one dwelling, and seven other buildings. The same year Rockingham County Court allowed him six pence per diet for the diets he provided Hampshire County Militia when it was suppressing Tories on South Branch of the Potomac. He was sheriff of Rockingham in 1786.

Robert Davis was evidently married twice, for his will, dated September 11, 1804, mentions his wife Nancy, not Sarah Horse, and these children: James, Nancy, Anne, John, Robert, Samuel, and Ruth. Robert’s brothers James and Walter who lived southwest of Bridgewater were executors of his estate. According to a deed recorded in Rockingham County Court House September 11, 1817, his daughter Nancy and her husband, a Mr. McCampbell, conveyed to Daniel Bryan her interest in Robert Davis’s estate.

Josiah Davison (Davidson), son of Daniel and Phebe Davison, was of Welsh descent on the spear side and English descent on the distaff side. “Davison” is a surname which developed from the Christian name “David”. It means son of “David”.

Josiah’s father died in 1750 when Josiah was 16 years old; the youth chose John Harrison, Jr., with Thomas Moore, for his guardians May 19, 1761. His mother was executor of his father’s estate. Her settlement of the estate was recorded in Augusta County Court House August 23, 1766. The settlement shows she paid Samuel Lusk for smithwork, John Riddle for linen, David Jones for assisting in the care of creatures (livestock), and herself for the expense of making a trip to the Jerseys (New Jersey).

One year after the settlement of his father’s estate, Josiah Davison sold Thomas Moore, one of his guardians and a blacksmith, 370 acres of land lying on Smith Creek for L160. November 15, 1768, a year later, he bought 500 acres lying on Linville Creek from Jacob Bowman, late of Frederick County but now of South Carolina, for L180. Jacob’s father George Bowman had bought this tract of land from William Linville and at his death had devised it to Jacob.

Josiah Davison became the first sheriff of Rockingham May 25, 1778, but he did not complete his term of office. He refused June 28, 1779, to collect the taxes which the Court had levied; and he was then relieved of the office. Abraham Smith was named sheriff in his stead.

In 1782 Josiah Davison listed himself as a tithable with eight souls, one dwelling, and no other buildings. He, along with George Chrisman, Henry Ewing, John Grattan, and Benjamin Harrison, bought 683 acres of land in Brocks Gap from John and Jemima Thomas May 25, 1790. He was listed in Captain Thomas Shanklin’s militia company with a son Daniel and two slaves
above 16 years of age. Captain Thomas Shanklin's militia company included present Mt. Clinton area, Muddy Creek and War Branch.

James Dyer, fourth member of the first Court, was of English descent. The surname "Dyer" is an occupational one which originated in the manufacture of cloth. It means one who colors cloth. James Dyer was a son of Roger Dyer whose will is dated February 24, 1757. The will names five children besides James: another son William and daughters Hannah Gester, Hester Patton, and Sarah Hays. Roger Dyer's wife's name was Hannah. She was executor of his estate and was devised one-third of it in the Virginia Colony and elsewhere. Besides his land on the southernmost branch of South Branch of the Potomac in Rockingham, he owned land in Hampshire County, now in West Virginia. His estate was appraised by Daniel Harrison of present Dayton and Mathew Patton. Over and above his real estate, Roger Dyer died seized of L24-13-10 in gold, L42-0-0 in Virginia currency, 14 real estate bonds, and three notes. Settlement of his estate by Hannah Dyer, his widow and executor, was recorded in Augusta County Court House May 18, 1762. According to the settlement record, she paid two whiskey bills, one for the funeral and one for the sale, and James Dyer his legacy.

James Dyer was appointed constable by Augusta County Court on South Branch of the Potomac May 21, 1768. His wife was the former Feby Harrison, daughter of John Harrison. He purchased August 8, 1775, from John Patton of Tryon County, North Carolina, a tract of land lying on South Branch of the Potomac at Six Mile Lick in the vicinity of Swedeland Hill. In 1787, the year before Pendleton County was created, he owned 643 acres there valued at $3.00 per acre.

James Dyer qualified April 25, 1778, as a member of the first Rockingham County Court. His list of tithables for 1784 includes himself with 11 souls, one dwelling, and 13 other buildings. He was captain of a militia company.

Henry Ewing, fifth member of the first Rockingham County Court, was of Scotch ancestry. The surname "Ewing" is a shortening of "McEwen" which is derived from the Anglo-Saxon "eo, eoa, eaw". He lived on the head waters of West Fork of Cooks Creek. His land cornered to Daniel Harrison's, and approached first John Harrison's line, secondly William Ewing's, and then an old corner of his own line. William Ewing's land touched Mole Hill.

Henry Ewing was a juror in 1768 on a writ of ad quod damnum; and his land was processed in 1767-68 by Robert Craven and Jeremiah Harrison. He qualified April 25, 1778, as a justice of the first Rockingham County Court. The Court allowed him May 29, 1781, $20 per day for 23 days plus $100 for expense money for acting as commissary of the provision law.

Benjamin Harrison listed him in 1782 as a tithable with a family of ten souls, one dwelling, and four other buildings. He was named clerk of Rockingham County Court the same year, a position he held until 1792. He bought June 7, 1786, a 300-acre tract of land lying near Marks Spring, which joined his other land, from William Pettyjohn of Washington County, Maryland, for L100. He is listed in Entry Book A as an assignee of Alexander Herring of George Huston's warrant, No. 251, dated February 5, 1794, for 1,000 acres of land. He desired to locate this land between his own land and that of Cutter's on the Big Spring Run. He is listed in Captain James Davies's militia company for tax purposes as a tithable with four slaves above 16 years of age and three under 16 years of age.

Henry Ewing's daughter Margaret was licensed July 28, 1800, to marry Peter Long. The sureties were John Allison, James Coyner, Henry Ewing, and her fiance. Henry Ewing died shortly thereafter, for his executor John Ewing deeded a piece of his property, and the Court certified it. He was probably buried in old Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church Cemetery which now lies at the bottom of Silver Lake mill pond.

John Fitzwater, another member of the first Rockingham County Court, was of Irish descent. The surname "Fitzwater" is compounded of old French "fiz" or "Filz", signifying son, and the Christian name "Walter" which was pronounced without sounding the "t", or from "water", meaning a sea or inland body of water, because bearers of the Christian name "Water" lived by the water. "Fitz" is probably a misreading of the Latin "filius" which was often written in the contracted form "fîs". The line (-) over the "s" which was used to indicate omission of letters often made the "I" look like the letter "T". The use of "fis" became "fitz" in the 11th and 12th centuries. Also, its common use then in royal and baronial circles gave any surname compounded of "Fitz" with another word aristocratic connotations. The surname "Fitzwater", therefore, means sons of "Walter" or of "Water".

John Fitzwater lived in Brocks Gap in a pine log house 22 feet long and 14 feet wide. The house stood where North Fork of the Shenandoah River road forked in 1935, the main highway continuing northeastward to Mathias and Lost City, the northwestward one to Bergton. According to George
Washington's diary, he spent the night of September 29, 1784, "at one Fitzwater's in Brooks Gap, about eight miles from the foot of the mountain — 12 miles from Rudaborts and 36 miles from Colonel Hite's." Washington was returning from Pittsburgh by way of Cumberland.

John Fitzwater qualified August 21, 1752, as an ensign in the Augusta County militia, and he saw service in the French and Indian War from 1753 to 1763. He bought August 17, 1771, 131 acres of land on "North River of the Shanando" above Wests Gap at a place called Slippery Rock from Thomas West for $20. April 25, 1778, he qualified as a member of the first Rockingham County Court. The Court appointed him, John Davies, William McDowell, and Benjamin Harrison on May 25, 1779, to let the contract for building a stone court house and jail at the site of present Harrisonburg. This court house was partly destroyed by fire sometime between May 29, 1787, and August of the same year. The August 27, 1787, Court adjourned to Andrew Shanklin's house, but the March 24, 1788, Court met in the repaired court house.

John Fitzwater was succeeded September 29, 1781, as captain of his militia company by Michael Baker. According to a list of tithables he made in 1782, he was head of a household of 11 souls and had one dwelling and three outbuildings. He was one of a commission of three men appointed by the Court February 2, 1782, to value sundry lands in the county in accordance with an act passed by the Virginia General Assembly the preceding October.

John Fitzwater must have died in late 1786 or very early in 1787, for administration of his estate was granted his wife Judith and his son Thomas January 23, 1787. The Court ordered Paul Ceper, Henry Dever, Ferdinand Lair, and John Ruddle, or any three of them, to appraise it. Their bill of appraisal was ordered recorded September 25, 1787. February 2, 1799, Judith Fitzwater, his widow and relict, and Thomas and Mary Fitzwater, his son and daughter-in-law of Harrison County, Kentucky, deeded 131 acres in Brooks Gap, patented to Thomas West June 10, 1760, and conveyed by him to John Fitzwater, to Thomas McKinney of Rockingham County. One-third of the selling price of the land went to Judith, his widow, and the other two-thirds to Thomas Fitzwater, his heir-at-law.

John Grattan was of Scotch or Irish ancestry. The chance are he was Scotch Irish since he was a member of old Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church. He located in or before 1740 on the south bank of North River just below where Cooks Creek enters it. He was a planter, owner of a gristmill, and operator of a store on his plantation and also one in Fincastle. At his death he owned 1,000 acres of land in Rockingham County and several thousand in Kentucky.

John Grattan was a member of Augusta County Court when Rockingham County was created. He was a member of the Augusta County Convention in 1775 which aligned the county with the Whigs or Patriots in the struggle of the 13 American colonies with Great Britain over western lands, the Indian fur trade, and taxation. He contributed flour from his gristmill to the Bostonians in 1775 when George III closed their port. He was a member of the first Rockingham County Court and Parish Vestry. He was also one of Rockingham County's first delegates to the Virginia General Assembly. He was a slaveowner.

John Grattan died in 1792 survived by six children: Jane, who was mentally retarded; Robert, who married Elizabeth Gilmer of Lethe; Agnes, who married Elijah Paugus; Elizabeth, who married Colonel Samuel Brown; Margaret Law, who married Captain Samuel Miller of Miller's Iron Works on Mossy Creek; and Catherine, who married Robert Gamble of Augusta County, an officer in the Continental Line. Captain Gamble served throughout the Revolutionary War, seeing action from Quebec to Yorktown. He was a member of the Order of the Cincinnati. John Grattan's son John, Jr., was killed near Lunsburg, Georgia, during the War for Independence. A volunteer in the Continental Army, he served for three years in the 3rd, 5th, 7th, and 11th Virginia regiments, rising to the rank of lieutenant.

John Grattan was buried either in old Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church cemetery at Ft. Defiance or in the family cemetery on his estate, Contentment; probably in the latter.

Silas Hart was of English descent. His family originated in Islip, Oxfordshire, England. The surname "Hart" derives from "hart", the name applied to a male red deer above five years of age. It signifies a quick, alert, skilful, young huntsman.

Silas Hart was born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, May 5, 1718; and he migrated to Augusta County in his early twenties. He was a stonemason by trade, a planter, a speculator in land, especially on North, the Cowpasture and James rivers, and a money lender. His residence was on a 556-acre plantation near present Sangerville. According to tradition, he laid the stone in the original old Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church.

Silas Hart was a member of Augusta County Court from 1746 to 1778, the
year Rockingham County was carved from Augusta. He was sheriff of Augusta County in 1764; chairman of the Augusta County Convention in 1775 which aligned Augusta County with the Whigs or Patriots in the Revolutionary War; and also chairman of the Augusta County Interregnum Committee from July 5, 1776, to June 29, 1777.

John Hart qualified April 25, 1778, as a member of the first Rockingham County Court. After having taken the oaths of a justice of the peace and of "oyer and terminer" from Abraham and Daniel Smith, he then administered the oaths to the other men present who had been named justices. Acting on a commission from His Excellency Governor Patrick Henry, the Court named him sheriff of the recently created county. He served as sheriff for only one day as the appointment was only honorary. He negotiated in 1770 the purchase from Thomas Harrison by the Court of two and a half acres at the site of present Harrisonburg for a court house and jail. The Court named him one of Rockingham's two first representatives to the Virginia General Assembly. He was a member of the Linville Creek Baptist Church from 1766 until his death. His name headed a list of petitioners in 1784 against assessment for the Anglican Church in Rockingham County.

Silas Hart, richest man at that time in Rockingham County, died in 1795 without issue. He was buried in the original Mossy Creek Presbyterian Church cemetery in a handsome tomb, which cost L30. His will was presented and proved in Rockingham County Court July 27, 1795. The executors of his estate were John Smith, son of Abraham Smith, Alexander Robertson, and David Stephenson. They were bonded for $50,000. Their bondsmen were John Smith, William Craven, James Quinn, Thomas Harrison, and John Wayt. John Rice of Dry River, John Davies of Mossy Creek, Benjamin Smith, a son of Executor John, and Henry Smith, son of the late Abraham Smith, appraised his slaves and personal property at L1688-8-6. The bulk of his estate was left to his wife Jean Robertson Hart and the Baptist Association of Philadelphia. The will was contested by both the widow's husband, John Smith, one of the executors — she married him in 1801 —, and by the Baptist Association of Philadelphia. The Court of Appeals in Richmond ruled in July of 1823 against Benjamin and Joseph Smith, heirs and assigns of Jean Hart Smith and John Smith; and the Supreme Court of the United States ruled against the Baptist Association of Philadelphia in 1830.

Thomas Hewitt was of English ancestry. The surname "Hewitt" was very popular in the Middle Ages when the Christian name "Hugh" and the French diminutive "-ett" were compounded. The surname so formed signifies little or dear son of "Hugh".

April 25, 1778, Thomas Hewitt qualified as a member of the first Rockingham County Court; and a month later he qualified as a captain of a militia company. Ann, an orphan of Archibald Huston, chose him for her guardian in 1779. He was sheriff in 1781. George Boswell, sheriff of Rockingham in 1780, settled with the Court for a balance on hand of L580-7-0 levied on 1459 tithables, eight supernumeraries, and 51 delinquents. The Court ordered L100 of the balance of L580-7-0 to be paid Sheriff Thomas Hewitt, L438-14-0 to be retained for a contingency fund, and the remainder to be paid Sheriff Thomas Hewitt September 27, 1781.

Thomas Hewitt's plantation probably lay in the triangle now formed by Penn Laird, Keezletown, and McGaheysville. Benjamin Harrison listed him in 1782 in his militia company for tax purposes as head of a household with two souls, one dwelling, and one other building. He was deceased by April 25, 1785, for on that date his executors Benjamin Harrison and Andrew Shanklin posted bond of L1,000. Their bondsmen were Benjamin Smith, Joseph Reagan, and Thomas Harrison.

Isaac Hinchel (Hinkle) was of German ancestry. The name is spelled variously in early Valley records: Hanckel, Hinckel, Hinckle, Hinkle, and Henkel. Christian Hinckel, the first Hinkel in Pennsylvania of whom there is a record, entered the Colony through the port of Philadelphia October 26, 1741. He came over on the schooner Snow Molly, captained by Master John Cranach. Isaac Hinckel (Hinkle) qualified April 25, 1778, as a justice of the first Rockingham County Court; and he became captain of a militia company in 1781. He was sheriff in 1782. He is listed in his own militia company for tax purposes in 1782 as head of a family with four souls and one dwelling. In 1787 he was living on North Fork of South Branch of the Potomac on a 150-acre tract of land which was valued for tax purposes at L14-10-0; he possessed other property valued at L85-1-6.

William McDowell, a planter and merchant, was of Scotch Irish ancestry. He purchased February 19, 1769, from William and Jane McGee 158 acres lying between Timber Ridge and Smith Creek for L60. This tract of land cornered to Valentine Sevier's land and touched the lines of Andrew Byrd's, Borden's, and Thomas Milsap's land on the side of Limestone Ridge. About a year later he bought from William and Anna Milsap 186 acres of land lying on a branch of Smith Creek for L120. This tract touched Borden and Fairfax lines.
According to the fee books of Augusta County, William McDowell was a merchant in Staunton. He bought lot No. 13 there June 15, 1776, from Thomas and Jane Lewis, Andrew and Elizabeth Lewis of Botetourt County, and William and Susannah Preston of Staunton. He qualified as a justice of the first Rockingham County Court April 25, 1778. He took the tithables in Andrew Byrd's militia company in 1779. His list of tithables in 1782 included himself with 11 souls, one dwelling, and ten other buildings. The returns of tithables for 1784 listed no inhabitants for William McDowell.

William McDowell bought lot No. 18 in Staunton November 15, 1785, from George and Anne Mathews. Two years later he bought lot No. 6 there from Thomas and Nancy Poague. June 25, 1787, Rockingham County Court ordered it to be recorded that William McDowell declined to attend court. He was one of the organizers January 9, 1790, of the Staunton Fire Company. June 2 of the same year his daughter Mary married Jacob Swoope.

The will of William McDowell of Staunton is dated January 2, 1800. His wife's Christian name was Alice. He had the following children: sons John and William; and daughters Mary Swoope, Jane Leyburn, and Elizabeth and Margaret McDowell. He owned land in Rockingham and Shenandoah counties as well as in Staunton. The will names his son John and Archibald Stuart his executors. The will was proved in Augusta County Court March 25, 1807. Mr. Stuart refused to serve as an executor, but John McDowell qualified.

August 15, 1807, Alice McDowell, widow and relict of William McDowell, agreed to sell Peter Higgins the three following surveys of land near Smith Creek on both sides of the Great Wagon Road (Old Indian Road) in Rockingham County:

Survey 1 . . . . 158 acres
Survey 2 . . . . 400 acres called Milsaps of which 20 acres were sold to Jacob Salster.

Survey 3 . . . . 69 acres

Total . . . . 607 acres

Alice McDowell and the other heirs of William McDowell deeded these tracts to Peter Higgins March 27, 1809. This legal instrument was admitted December 12, 1815, by Rockingham County Court to be recorded. This agreement of 1807 to sell and the deed of 1809 definitely locate William McDowell in northern Rockingham near the Rockingham-Shenandoah County line.

William Nalle qualified May 23, 1773, as captain of an Augusta County militia company. He turned into the Court a payroll for himself and his company January 18, 1775. March 1, 1778, he was named a justice of the first Rockingham County Court; and about one month later, he qualified as a vestryman of Rockingham County Parish. August 23, 1778, he was recommended by the Court for the office of escheator, the office responsible for the reversion of land to the state when a deceased has no heirs. He qualified for his majority in the county militia May 25, 1778, and for his lieutenant colonelcy August 27, 1781. He was a member of the Virginia General Assembly from Rockingham from 1781-83, and sheriff of the county in 1786.

As near as can be determined from the records, he lived somewhere in East Rockingham. He is listed in 1775 for tax purposes as owner of seven slaves. A deed, dated September 29, 1790, in Deed Book 8 in the County Court House suggests he moved to Culpeper County in the late 1780's. This deed records the sale of 34 acres of land lying on the head waters of Cooks Creek to James Curry by a William and Anne Nalle of Culpeper County.

Anthony Ryder was of German ancestry. The surname "Ryder" is an anglicization of the German surname "Reider". Early Augusta County Court records confused the German surnames "Reider" and "Reader". "Reader" was anglicized to "Rader". The Anthony Ryder appointed to the first Rockingham County Court was Anthony Rader, not Anthony Ryder. He lived in the vicinity of present Timberville. His father was Adam Reader (Rader). Adam Rader and Alexander Peinter (Painter) conveyed in 1765 a small piece of land to Peter Scholl (Shull) for building thereon a Presbyterian Church (a German Reformed Church) and to Michael Nees for building thereon a Lutheran Church back of said meeting house where it now stands. The land referred to in this conveyance was for Rader's Church near the site of present Timberville.

Adam Rader's will, dated April 18, 1773, was witnessed by Jacob Caplinger, Anthony Rader, Adam's son, and Jacob Mire (Moyer). Augusta County Court authorized January 2, 1761, a road from Adam Rader's mines to Isaac Robertson's, thence to Widow Wright's mill, and thence to Thomas Harrison's on the Great Road (later Stage Road, and then Valley Turnpike) to Augusta County Court House. Among the petitioners for this road were Isaac Robertson, John Chrisman, Leonard Herring, and Thomas Harrison. This road had not been cleared by 1767.
Anthony Rader qualified April 25, 1778, as a member of the first Rockingham County Court; and about one month later he qualified for a captaincy in the County militia. According to the record of the settlement of Gotlive Airey’s (Arcy’s) estate in 1781, Anthony Rader was his son-in-law. Anthony Rader’s list of heads of families in 1784 included himself with nine souls, one dwelling, and two other buildings. He was commissioned sheriff of the county in 1787, but he could not qualify. September 25 of that year he came into court and made oath he could not obtain the necessary security.

Anthony Rader was listed in 1792 in Captain Ezekiel Harrison’s militia company for tax purposes with nine horses and two sons: John, aged 21; and Alexander, aged 16. This militia company centered around the site of present Timberville, including Rader’s Church, the Plains, and the Forest.

John Skidmore, who lived on South Branch of the Potomac River, was of English descent. The surname “Skidmore” derives from the French Escudamore, a local place name in Normandy. It appears as “Scudamore” in the Roll of Battell Abbey; but it does not appear in the Doomsday Book, unless “Scudet”, a tenant-in-chief, be a variant of it.

Joseph Skidmore, Jr., conveyed August 21, 1761, to his brother John 101 acres on South Branch of the Potomac for L25. This tract was part of lot No. 16 formerly surveyed for William Green, gentleman. Joseph Skidmore processioned for his brother John in 1767-68. A tract of land on Mud Lick Branch, a small stream on the south side of South Branch of the Potomac, was patented to John Skidmore March 1, 1773; he qualified as a member of Augusta County Court May 18 of that year. He became a member of the first Rockingham County Court in 1778. He was named in 1778 in Robert Davis’s list of heads of families for tax purposes with 338 acres of land, 13 souls, one dwelling, and four other buildings.

Abraham Smith, son of Captain John Smith, Sr., of North River, was born in Ulster Province in Ireland in 1722. He came to the Valley with his parents in 1740. He lived on a large plantation near present Sangerville. His wife was the former Sarah Caldwell of Augusta County. The surname “Smith” is an occupational one, denoting a worker in metals. John ye Smith appears on a brass Brightwell Baldwin in England under the date of 1400. The surname “Smith” is a popular one in both Wales and England; and so Abraham Smith was either an English Irishman or a Welsh Irishman.

Abraham Smith entered and/or purchased 3,315 acres of land in North River Basin from 1751 to 1772. Between the years of 1753 and 1763, he participated in the French and Indian War. At age 28 he was already captain of a militia company. He attended a court martial at Augusta County Court House September 11, 1756. He did ranger duty on South Branch of the Potomac, following the fall of Fort Seybert early in 1758. Following this tour of duty, he was sent by His Excellency Governor Dinwiddie to the Catawba Indians to request them to meet the Augusta Militia on the Monongahela in March. He rose to the rank of colonel in the militia.

Abraham Smith was a justice of Augusta County Court from 1763 until 1778, when Rockingham County was carved from Augusta. He served as presiding officer of West Augusta District Court Martial. He was a member of Rockingham County Court from the date of its organization until his resignation in the early 1780’s. He was sheriff of Rockingham following Josiah Davison’s refusal to collect the taxes which had been assessed. He was builder of the first Episcopal Chapel of Ease at the site of present Dayton.

At his death sometime in 1783, Abraham Smith was an Elder in Mossy Creek Presbyterian Church. He was buried in the original cemetery there, the site of which is now part of the Plummer Reeves farm. He was survived by his sons John and Henry.

Daniel Smith married Jane Harrison, daughter of Daniel Harrison, who lived near present Dayton, and sister of Colonel Benjamin Harrison. Daniel Harrison lived on a 660-acre plantation, lying about two miles north of the site of present Harrisonburg on Dry Fork and Naked Creek, two branches of Smith Creek. According to tradition, he built on this plantation the first brick house constructed in Rockingham County and named it Smithland.

Daniel Smith was a justice of Augusta County Court from 1753-1778 and sheriff of that county in 1772. He was a vestryman of Augusta Parish from 1771 to 1777. Like his brother Abraham, he was an Indian fighter also. He was with Washington at Fort Duquesne in 1755, when Braddock’s army was almost annihilated by the French and Indians; and he was at the Battle of Point Pleasant when Cornstalk and his Indian braves were defeated by the Virginia Long Knives.

Daniel Smith was a member of West Augusta Court Martial from 1753-1777; a member of the Augusta County Convention in 1775 which voted
assistance to beleaguered Boston and continued resistance to the tyranny of George III; a leader in the organization of Rockingham County and a member of its Court until his death; and Deputy Purveyor, Southern Department, Revolutionary army.

Daniel Smith was at the battle of Yorktown in 1781, when Cornwallis surrendered. Upon his return from Yorktown to Smithland in October, he mustered the county militia for a review to celebrate the Colonists’ final defeat of the despised British regulars and King George’s consequent humiliation. The last act of the review was a running salute to him. As the troops began firing in this salute, Colonel Smith’s horse became frightened, sprang suddenly aside, and threw him, injuring him internally. He died in a few days and was probably buried in the Old Dayton Cemetery, part of which lies at the bottom of Silver Lake mill pond.

Daniel Smith was survived by his wife Jane Harrison Smith and 12 children: eight sons and four daughters. They were Abraham, Benjamin, Daniel, James, John, Joseph, Robert, William, Ann, Jane, Margaret, and Sarah. Four of these eight sons — Daniel, John, Joseph, and Robert — were at the battle of Yorktown. His will named his wife Jane with his sons Robert and Benjamin as executors of his estate. Their bond was $10,000. The bondsmen were Thomas Lewis, Felix Gilbert, and Benjamin Harrison.

John Thomas, the seventeenth member of the first Rockingham County Court was of either English or Welsh descent. About three-fourths of the “Thomases” are Welsh and one-fourth English. The surname “Thomas” is derived from the Christian name “Thomas”. It became very popular in the Middle Ages as a Christian name because of the story of doubting Thomas in the New Testament and the martyrdom of Thomas a Becket at Canterbury and his consequent canonization.

John Thomas was a son of Rees and Jane Thomas, a farmer who lived in Brooks Gap. According to Rees Thomas’s will, dated September 21, 1759, he and Jane had four sons: Evan, Rees, John, and James; and a 350-acre tract of patent land on Brooks Creek in Brooks Gap. John Thomas’s brothers Evan and Rees bought this tract in 1765. Two years later in July John Thomas bought 212 acres of land in Brooks Gap from Conrad and Catherine Lamb for $150. This tract was part of 800 acres patented originally to Benjamin Borden, Jr., in 1747, and conveyed by his executors August 16, 1756, to Conrad Lamb. According to Rockingham County Minute Book II, page 551, John Thomas was a brother-in-law of Abraham Miller, father of Deborah, wife of James Davies.

John Thomas qualified as a justice of the first Rockingham County Court April 25, 1778; and the next month he was named a vestryman of Rockingham Parish. The March, 1782, Court allowed him compensation for four diets at six pence each, and for two quarts of whiskey at two pence each, which he supplied the United States in the War for Independence. According to the list of Ralph Loftus’s Commission, he had 683 acres of land. Anthony Rader’s list of heads of families for tax purposes includes John Thomas with 12 souls, one dwelling, and four other buildings. Philip Felix declared in court November 6, 1832, that he had served as a substitute for John Conrad from Loudon County under Captain John Thomas in the Revolutionary War.

John Thomas, gentleman justice of Rockingham County Court, must have died late in 1811 or early in 1812. His will is dated February 12, 1812. Legatees mentioned in it are his wife Catherine; sons Thomas, John, and Jacob; and daughters Barbara Eckard, Catherine Snyder, and Rebecca Roberts (Probeck). Executors named in it are his son John and a John C. Sours. John Thomas refused to serve, but John Sours qualified.

Having completed sketching the lives of the 17 men appointed by His Excellency Governor Patrick Henry to the first Rockingham County Court, let us now examine the career of Felix Gilbert, the lone nominee to it whom he rejected. Felix Gilbert was of English ancestry. The surname “Gilbert” was and is still found in English aristocratic circles. It is a full-length surname in contrast to ones compounded of familiar forms. It frequently occurs in the Doomsday Book as the name of very powerful tenant-in-chiefs. This surname derives from Gilbert of Ghent, nephew of the wife of William the Conqueror. After conquering England, William rewarded Gilbert of Ghent with great endowments in several English counties.

Felix Gilbert was a planter, merchant, and land speculator in what is now Rockingham County. He owned a store at what has long been known as Pecoes Cross Roads, the intersection of Keezletown Road (Old Indian Road) and the former Rockingham Turnpike which is now a section of United States Route 33 or the Spottwood Trail. In addition to a store at this intersection, he owned from 600 to 1,000 acres of land on Broad, Cub, Honey (Stoney), and Lick runs. A deed from Joseph Rutherford to Joseph Rutherford, Jr., dated May 16, 1768, locates the land being sold by stating, “corner of Thomas Rutherford in line of Felix Gilbert on a spur of Peaked Mountain.” He owned on Cub Run 300 acres,
part of a 400-acre tract patented to Samuel Scott August 30, 1744. He purchased August 21, 1772, from Patrick and Jean Quinn part of two tracts patented to Jonathan Douglas on Broad Run, "a branch of North River of the Shenandoah. September 6, 1773, he bought a tract on Honey (Stoney) Run from Mathew Thompson, late of Augusta County, but now of Greenville, South Carolina. This tract was patented to Mathew Thompson and his son Mathew, Jr., March 5, 1747.

Felix Gilbert also operated a store in Staunton and speculated in land there and in what is now Augusta County too. Augusta County Court instructed the high sheriff of the county November 24, 1760, to sell, and Felix Gilbert and Israel Christian to convey lots remaining unsold in the land conveyed to the Corporation of Staunton by William Beverley. Felix Gilbert was a debtor to John Bowyer, a storekeeper of his, May 2, 1763, for board from December 1, 1758, to August 1, 1760, a period of one year and eight months at L15 per annum; and also to James McDowell, another storekeeper of his, for three months at the same rate per annum. March 25, 1765, Felix Gilbert bought from Robert Beverley 480 acres in Beverley Manor for L14-8-0. He and wife conveyed in 1772 or 1773 to a Mr. Mathews a lot at the corner of Augusta and West Augusta streets, whereon he had lately lived, and which was commonly known as Gilbert's.

Besides being a successful planter, merchant, and land speculator, Felix Gilbert was active in civic and political affairs. He qualified November 18, 1761, as a vestryman of Augusta Parish of the Anglican Church in Virginia. He became a member of Augusta County Court in 1763, a position he held continuously until 1778, when Rockingham County was created. He, Gawain Leeper, and Joseph Dicton surveyed in 1767 the road from Grattan's store (near present Mt. Crawford) to Naked Creek (near present Burkettown); and in 1774 he and Joseph Rutherford were overseers of a road from Daniel Smith's (Smithland) to Felix Gilbert's (Peeles Cross Roads).

Why did His Excellency Governor Patrick Henry pass over such a capable and important man as Felix Gilbert when he appointed the members of the first Rockingham County Court? The Governor probably suspected him of being a Tory sympathizer. A short time after Rockingham County was created and the county government organized, the County Court found Felix Gilbert guilty of speaking treasonable words against the Commonwealth and also of tending to encourage sedition on the western waters. His friend Gabriel Jones prosecuted him. The Court found him guilty, bound him to good behavior for a year and a day, and made him post a bond of L1,000 with two sureties in the amount of L500 each. His sureties were Francis Steward and John Young.

George Washington states in his diary that en route from Smithland to Bogota the afternoon of September 30, 1784, he passed "one Gilbert's". Shortly after 1784, Felix Gilbert moved to Georgia, settling in Wilkes County near the Gilmers, Meriwethers, Crawfords, and others from Virginia. A power of attorney from Felix Gilbert to James Quinn was proved in Rockingham County Court July 28, 1788, and ordered to be recorded.

The Commissions of Peace and of "Oyer and Terminer", popularly known as The County Court, are ancient ones in English law. The term "oyer and terminer" means literally "to hear and to determine"; hence, a court of "oyer and terminer" is one which hears charges and complaints and determines their validity. It is still used and has been used in England for centuries in commissions and writs issued to royal judges, sergeants-at-law, and others, empowering them to hear and to determine treasons, felonies and misdemeanors at the assizes or on special occasions. An assize is literally a legislative assembly or body. Courts of "oyer and terminer" in England, therefore, performed both judicial and legislative functions, and the Rockingham County Court established in Virginia in 1778 did likewise and continued to do so until comparatively recently. The County Court has now lost practically all of its judicial function, and its name has been changed to that of Board of Supervisors.

Summarizing, all of the members of the first Rockingham County Court were Whigs or Patriots, that is, supporters of the Colonial cause in the struggle with the British government over Indian lands, the Indian fur trade, and taxation; else His Excellency Governor Patrick Henry would not have appointed them. Second, they were all of English, Irish, Welsh, and Scotch Irish ancestry except Isaac Hinckle (Hinkle) and Anthony Ryder (Rader). These two men were of German ancestry. Third, all were comparatively large landowners except John Fitzwater, Isaac Hinckle (Hinkle), and possibly Anthony Ryder (Rader). Six of them were slaveowners; and five were justices of Augusta County when Rockingham was created. Fourth, all of them served without compensation. They were willing to serve gratis because holding the office of justice enabled them to look after the interests of landowners and gave them status in the community. They were designated "Gentlemen Justices". Fifth, all were or became militia captains; and they and their militia companies were called upon from time to time to fight the British, Indians, and Tories. Sixth, although a member of the Court received no compensation for his services, the sheriff of the
County was well paid. This office was passed around among the members of the Court on the basis of seniority. The Court submitted each year to His Excellency, the Governor, the names of several of its members as candidates; from these names he commissioned the sheriff. Nine members of the first Court — George Boswell, Josiah Davison (Davidson), Robert Davis (Davies), Silas Hart, Thomas Hewitt, Isaac Hinkel (Hinkle), William Nalle, Abraham Smith, and John Thomas — held the office of sheriff. Anthony Ryder (Rader) was commissioned, but failed to qualify; he was unable to secure sufficient security. Seventh, the first justices were well distributed over the county. Henry Ewing, John Grattan, Silas Hart and Abraham Smith were from southern Rockingham; George Boswell, Thomas Hewitt, and William Nalle, from East Rockingham; Josiah Davison and Daniel Smith, from central Rockingham; William McDowell and Anthony Ryder (Rader), from northern Rockingham; John Fitzwater and John Thomas, from Brocks Gap; and Robert Davis (Davies), James Dyer, Isaac Hinckel (Hinkle), and John Skidmore, from the extreme western part, which was created Pendleton County in 1788. These last members were located in the valleys of South Branch of the Potomac; they were concentrated in these valleys to make local government accessible to the people in the area and to keep watch on a Tory element there. All members of the first Court, with the possible exception of William McDowell, took their duties seriously and performed reasonably well as judges and legislators despite the fact they all had little, if any, formal education. Lastly, local government in Virginia was little more democratic after 1778 than it had been before the "so-called American Revolution" began. County courts were still closed corporate boards with their members being nominated by these boards and appointed by the governor of the Commonwealth. Sheriffs, likewise, continued to be nominated by county courts and to be commissioned by His Excellency, the Governor. It is true that the governor of the Commonwealth at this time was named by the General Assembly, and not by the king of England as he had been in Colonial days.

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"UNDER THE WINDOW IN STORMY WEATHER
WE JOIN THESE 2 OLD STICKS TOGETHER
MAY THE LORD THAT MAKES THE THUNDER
NEVER PUT THESE 2 OLD STICKS ASSUNDER"

Rev. Conder (1832-1928)

ORIGIN OF A ROCKINGHAM COUNTY FAMILY:
THE ARMENTROUTS

by Dorothy Lee Baugher

On August 27, 1739, an English ship, The Samuel, dropped anchor in Philadelphia harbor. Among those who stepped ashore in America for the first time, were a widow, Anna Elizabeth Ermentraudt, and her seven children: Johannes, 22; Anna Elizabeth, 20; Johan Philip, 18; Johan Frederick, 16; Christopher 14; Henrich, 12; and George 10.

The Armentrout name, originally spelled Ermentrode, carried the meaning "friends of the Valkyrie Thudr" and is thought to refer to some sort of governing council. The word "Thudr" is derived from the old Norse culture which preceded the Germanic, and is linked to the Nordic for "Thor's daughter," legendary leader of the Valkyrie who supposedly swooped down over the field of battle, selecting those who would be slain and bearing dead heroes away to Valhalla.

The roots of the Armentrout family were in a village now called Irmtraut, located in Nassau, Germany, in what was once the Rhineland Palatinate, 13 miles north of Limburg, on the Lahn River. Originally, this village of a hundred or so people appears to have been populated by inhabitants who nearly all bore the name of Ermentrode, later Ermentraudt. Now, however, there seem to be no families of that name living in or near the area.

At one time the village of Irmtraut was burned and when it was rebuilt, the foundations were laid at the site of the castle on the hill overlooking the village. It had also been burned.

According to records in the monastery at Irmtraut, Count Ude X Ermentrode, in the year 879 gave a newly founded monastery to the Gemunden Parish. It was dedicated on the ninth of November, 879.

In 1100, a Count Siegfried von Runkel I gained title to the Gemunden Parish and ordered the village of Ermentrode to pay half its church tithe to him. The parish remained under the control of this family until Count Siegfried II left to take part in the Crusades.

From 1215 on, records show that a knight's family known as "the lords of Ermentrode" lived in the vicinity of the village of that name. There is a complete genealogical record for this family dating from Godebrecht von Ermtraud, Ritter (Knight), 1339.

German immigration into the New World began in the late 1700's and early 1800's when William Penn sent agents to Germany to encourage settlers to come to Pennsylvania.

Over 30,000 came, many from the Rhineland Palatinate which had suffered severely in the Hundred Years War as French armies struck through repeatedly, burning and destroying whole villages, which, rebuilt, were razed again.

It was in the early days of this immigration that the widow Ermentrode and her children travelled down the Rhine on a river boat to the port city of Rotterdam near the mouth of the river. From there, they boarded the English ship The Samuel and set sail for Virginia.

A Peter Hain, thought to be the widow's brother, came over with the Ermentraudts and all travelled from Philadelphia to the home of George and Veronica Hain about seven miles northwest of present day Reading. They settled in Berks County near the Hain family and the St. John (called "the Hain") Church.

Here the daughter Anna Elizabeth remained, marrying a first cousin, Johan Frederick Hain, and bearing two sons, Johan and Frederick, both baptized in the Hain Church.

The eldest son, Johannes, married Elizabeth Hedrick on May 22, 1743 in the Lutheran Church at Stouchburg, Pennsylvania. Three children were born of this union.

In the summer of 1752, Johannes and his father-in-law, Adam Hedrick came down to Virginia to select land. Selling his farm in Pennsylvania, Johannes purchased a wagon and supplies for the trip to the Valley of Virginia, which was then the extreme western frontier.

He settled on two tracts of land, one purchased from Adam Pence and the other from Jacob Nicholas. A year later, he was dead, cause unknown.

Shortly after this, the widow and her second eldest son, Johan Philip, sold their Pennsylvania land and came to Virginia with three of the younger sons,
Johan Frederick, Henrich, and George, now grown men. It appears that Christopher married in Pennsylvania, that his wife died there, and that he did not come to Virginia until a little later.

These sons bought land along the west side of the Massanutten Mountain, then known as the Peaked Mountain, from Smith's Creek south to near the south fork of the Shenandoah River.

As in many colonial families, descendents were numerous. For example, one of the widow's sons, Johan Philip, had only three sons, but his son Peter married twice and had a total of eight children by his first wife, Catherine Ergebrecht, and thirteen by his second wife, Margaret Wolfe. Peter's son Augustine had only three children, but his son, John Augustine, had twelve.

Like most German colonists, the Armentrouts took little interest in seeking public office, but were active in church and community affairs.

A Document of Union between the Reformed and Lutheran Congregations and the Congregation at Stony Creek finalized on October 31, 1769, contains the signatures of Philip Ermentrout and Henry Ermentrout, apparently the widow's sons, now middle-aged with their names Americanized. The Church referred to here is the Second Peaked Mountain Church, the first apparently having been replaced by a larger or perhaps less rustic building.

The Armentrout family seem, from the church records, to have been the moving force behind the building of this second Peaked Mountain Church in 1769, seven of them signing the agreement. From this period on, until around 1806, all the Armentrout children were baptized there. Frederick Armentrout, the widow's third son, is listed as Elder.

Burial records are sparse, but it is known that another of her sons, Johan Philip, was buried at the Peaked Mountain Church cemetery, in or near McGaheysville. Brown Memorial Church is believed to be built on the site of this old graveyard.

In 1787, under the leadership of Peter Armentrout, son of Johan Philip, those Armentrout families who lived several miles north of present day Keezletown, formed a congregation and began building a new church. The building was of log construction and when the walls had reached a height of about twelve feet, a log fell, instantly killing young George Armentrout, then about sixteen, whose father was the youngest son of Anna Elizabeth Ermentrout. Work on the church stopped and was not resumed until 1806, when the building was completed. The church was known by several names — St. Philip's, Trinity, "the Armentrout Church," and "the old Dutch Church."

At a later date, in the 1820's when schism in the Lutheran Church was ripe, church records show that a letter, signed by Henry Ermentrout and Henry Miller, was written to the Tennessee Lutheran Synod, on behalf of St. Philip's Lutheran Church in Rockingham County, supporting the Augsburg Confession as the basic doctrine of faith.

Until well into the 1800's, the Shenandoah Valley Armentrouts spoke German and were primarily farmers with a few skilled craftsmen among them. Not until they began to use the English language, did they start to produce doctors, teachers, lawyers, ministers, engineers, so on. And of course it was well after 1800 before the Valley area reached the educational and economic level that the well-settled and established Berks County had already attained when Johannes and the rest set out for the Valley.

Since in the early days the family had a very martial background, it is not surprising to find that Rockingham and Augusta County Records show Armentrouts serving in every war from the French and Indian Wars, where Christopher, listed among Augusta County soldiers in 1758, was an Indian captive for five years, on down to the conflicts in Korea and Viet Nam.

An interesting fact apparent in tracing descendents of the 1739 Armentrouts is the appearance in every generation of all the original given names, probably a family tradition prior to their arrival here.

In addition to the Pennsylvania branch, some of the early Armentrouts moved on to Ohio. Families were frequently large and sons predominated. Today there are members of the family in every state in the union with the exception of several of the New England states.

For further information please consult: Rockingham County Court Minutes, 1778 on; Abstract of Land Grant Surveys 1761-1791 compiled by Peter Kaylor; Augusta County Records, 1745-1800; Rockingham Co. Records, 1778 on; Peaked Mt. Church Records, 1762-1882; Trinity Church Records; History of Rockingham County by John W. Wayland; The Massanutten Pilgrim by Howard Strickler; Abstracts of Executor, Administrator, and Guardian Bonds
Weather has always had a fascination all its own. Is there as much snow as last year? Is it drier than usual? Are the winters getting colder? Jacob Rush (1780-1864) of McGaheysville, Va., was obviously intrigued. Especially during the winter months, he made regular entries in his journal on local weather conditions. What appears here is a representative selection from his journal. The comments provided in brackets represent what the weather was in McGaheysville one hundred years later, just in case you'd like to draw your own conclusions. "No Record" is indicated by N/R. They were graciously supplied by Dr. Mary A. Jackson.

1836
February 3th Whitnesday Morning Pools Thermometer 8 Degrees below Zero or ought (Light snow; freezing rain.)
February 5th Fryday Morning Thermometer 11½ Degrees below Zero or ought (Moderate temperature on the 5th; 18 inches of snow on the 6th).

1837
January 3th Tuesday Morning Thermometer 10 Degrees below Zero or ought (N/R)
December 25th Thermometer 10 Degrees below Zero (N/R) at 8 o’clock in the morning.

1838
February 4th Sunday Morning Thermometer down to 3 Degrees below Zero or ought (Nice and warm; Sunshine.) at 8 o’clock.

1839
December 30th Monday Morning Pools Thermometer 2 Degrees below Zero or ought (Cold and disagreeable) at 8 o’clock.

1840
January 2th Thursday Morning Thermometer 15 Degrees below Zero (14 degrees; cold day, all day) at 8 o’clock.

1841
January 3th Pools Thermometer 8 Degrees below Zero (Cloudy all day and rainy in the evening) at 8 o’clock Sunday morning.

DAR HISTORICAL ESSAY CONTEST

Claudia Showalter, a 5th grade student at Anthony-Seeger Campus school in Harrisonburg, won the DAR Historical Essay Contest for the year 1977-78. Claudia’s essay, entitled “From Time to Thyme” was selected the winner in the Massanutten Chapter of the DAR contest. Then the Virginia state award was presented to her last February. Eventually she went on to win both the Regional Award for the Mid Atlantic states and the coveted National Award. Claudia’s essay is about a colonial boy and girl who enjoy drying herbs. Through the children, Claudia shows how herb drying was a colonial art.
December 6th Thermometer down to 2 Degrees below Zero (Sleet on Dec. 5, but some melting on the 6th) at 8 o'clock in the morning.

December 7th Sunday Morning 8 o'clock Thermometer down to Zero (Ground wet and soft) Clear.

Thermometer 2 Degrees below Zero Several Morning(s) in December and January (Several light snows, one of 7 inches; lowest temperature 2 degrees, several of 10 degrees.)

January 23th Fryday Morning Thermometer 2 Degrees below Zero or ought (0 degrees; "too cold to work," cold also on the 24th and 25th) at 8 o'clock.

January 12th Tuesday Morning 8 o'clock Pools Thermometer Down to Zero or ought (Weather nice today.) The coldest morning this year. December 25th Pools Thermometer Down 6 Degrees below Zero (20 degrees) at 8 o'clock in the morning. Clear. December 27 Pools Thermometer Down to 4 Degrees below (Very nice day) at 8 o'clock in the morning. Clear.

February 13th Sunday Morning 8 o'clock Pools Thermometer Down to 4 Degrees below Zero (1 degree below on Jan. 31st and snow; 10 degrees below on Feb. 2nd; warmer and some melting of snow on February 13th.)

January 12th Pools Thermometer within 2 Degrees of Zero or ought (Rain during the night and then colder) in the morning at 8 o'clock. Clear Morning.

January 1th Tuesday Morning 8 o'clock Pools Thermometer Down 2 Degrees below Zero (Warmer and rain) Clear Morning. Small Snow on the ground.

January 15th Tuesday Morning Pools Thermometer Down 2½ Degrees below Zero (Drizzled during the day) 8 o'clock. 6 Inches Snow on the ground & clear.

January 31th Fryday Morning Pools Thermometer within 2 Degrees of Zero (Snow on the 30th; 17 degrees on the 31st) 8 o'clock. Clear. December 15th Thermometer Down 2 Degrees of Zero (Cold and windy.) 8 o'clock. December 16th 17th the 18th Pools Thermometer within 2 Degrees of Zero (Jan. 16th, 4 degrees with 15 degrees the high for the day; Jan. 17th, 0 degrees; Jan. 18th, 7 inches of snow and somewhat warmer.)

January 7th Whensday Morning 9 Inches Snow. Thermometer 2 Degrees below Zero (Cold but nice day) at 8 o'clock in the morning. January 13th Pools Thermometer 2 Degrees below Zero (Nice day.) 6 Inches Snow on the ground. Clear at 8 o'clock in the Morning. January 20th Pools Thermometer 10½ Degrees below Zero (Not so cold) & Clear in the morning. 6 Inches Snow on the ground.

February 10th Saturday Morning. Clear. 3 Inches Snow on the Ground. Pools Thermometer two Degrees below Zero (Weather very nice.) 8 o'clock.

January 6th Thermometer Down to Zero (Nice and pleasant, but very dry.) Clear. 6 Inches Snow on the ground 8 o'clock in Morning. January 8th Thermometer Down 2½ Degrees below Zero (Jan. 7th and 8th, windy and cold all day) at 8 o'clock in the morning. 6 Inches Snow. Clear. January 10th Thermometer to 12½ Degrees below Zero (Cloudy with about 2 inches of snow) 8 o'clock in the morning. 6 Inches Snow. Clear. January 24th 8 o'clock the Thermometer 10 Degrees below Zero (Jan. 16th and 7th, about 5 inches of snow.) January 3 or 4 Morning(s) down to Zero and below Zero 5 Degrees about 12 Inches Snow on the ground. Cold during the Das and Nits up to the 27th more Snow and hail. January 28th, not quite as cold.) Clear and 8 Inches Snow on the ground 2 mornings.

February 5th Pools Thermometer 10 Degrees below Zero (Warm, lots of sunshine, up to 50 degrees. Much colder later in the month.) Clear. 5th and 6th still 8 Inches Snow on the ground. February 7th Raining and Sleeting. Ice is thawing. February Several morning(s) very cold.

January. During this month this weather was very cold and dry. 1th (Jan.) Thermometer Down to 10 Degrees of Zero (Cold, 2 degrees; windy, bitter day.) Snow on the ground until
the 18th. 19th of January very heavy Snow Storm. A good deal of Snow on the ground. The Snow very much driftet and very cold. The Thermometer within 5 Degrees of Zero (7 degrees.) Clear and Cold up to the 22th. 23 of January on Fryday morning 12½ Degrees below Zero. Still cold to the 25th. Thermometer 5 Degrees below Zero Tisday 25th. Weather moderatet 27th by a thaw and rain (Late January, more or less average, with no extremes.) February 4th Thermometer 5 Degrees below Zero (Spring-like day.) Several morning(s) Very cold untilt the 8th (12 degrees on Feb. 12th). The weather moderet. Unusuall warm for the time of the year. (Some snow.) November 17th Thermometer Down 10 Degrees of Zero (Bright, mild day.) Cold for 2 Days then moderatet and plesent and milder weather untilt the 5th of March.

1858-59

March 5th a Snow about 8 Inches. Thermometer Down to Zero in the morning. (Most of Jan. on the chilly side; 8 below on Jan. 18th. Feb. was quite cold and dry; Feb. 7th, 10 degrees the high for the day, high winds and drifting snow.) Cold Severel morning(s). Down within 10 Degrees of Zero. Very Cold Days and Nites for March weather. November tolerable Cold for the time of year. Sum Ice houses find only Lastet a Few Days. The balace of the Three Winter months very wetet. Every few Days Rain. Untill March 3th (1859) raining and sleating. This Closses the winter months. Very Little Snow and Cold this winter. Mud and rain nearly the Whole Season.

1860

January 15th Thermometer as Low within 10 Degrees of Zero (Warm and showery) for two or three mornings (Middle of the month cold.) After that pleasant weather. February 1th and 2th and third and fourth Day Thermometer as Low for Several Mornings as within 10 Degrees of Zero (Feb. 2nd, 3rd, and 4th cold.) December 17th Pools Thermometer as Low within 5 Degrees of Zero (2 degrees on Dec. 13th; 20 degrees on the 17th.) 6 to 8 Inches Snow on the ground. Clear and Cold. Had 2 or three Cold morning(s) this fall and very wet fall. December 30th Pools Thermometer down with one Degree of zero (Very nice winter day.) December 31th Pools thermometer down within Five Degrees of zero (Rain). About 16 Inches Snow on Ground.

ABSTRACTS OF EXECUTOR, ADMINISTRATOR, AND GUARDIAN BONDS OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY VIRGINIA 1778-1864

compiled by Marguerite B. Priode

The Historical Society has published a valuable genealogical resource this past June. These historical documents are found in Rockingham County's court house, however, they are not available to the public because of their delicate condition. This 100 page, indexed book sells for $10 and it is a limited printing. The book is available from the Historical Society.
I have now briefly described the land of Rockingham County. But what of her people? Judge Paul in his speech of 1876 stated that in 1778 there were 8,000 people in the territory of Rockingham. In view of the fact that the earliest settlers had arrived within that territory scarcely fifty years before, that is a very remarkable influx. Who were these people? Why did they come? Where did they come from?

It appears that there were two waves of immigrants who came and settled our Valley during those fifty years: the Scotch-Irish and the Germans. The Scotch-Irish were predominantly Presbyterians who were fleeing the harsh laws and bleak existence of Ulster. The Germans were of many faiths and sects and came from many areas of Germany. For the most part, they were Protestant and welcomed the chance to create a better life in a county that permitted them to observe their religious beliefs. Differences of language, religion, and temperament led to settlements of these two groups in different regions of the County. This natural inclination was also reinforced by the land sale system. The Governor and Council would award patents of vast areas to individual patentees on condition that the land be settled and made productive. If the patentee was Scotch-Irish or German, it was simply easier for him to recruit settlers from among people of his own kind than to seek them out among others. A William Beverly received a grant in 1736 for 118,491 acres lying in northern Augusta and southern Rockingham Counties. This grant was nearly exclusively settled by Scotch-Irish. On the other hand, Jacob Stover, a native of Switzerland, attracted predominantly German settlers to settle a patent of 5,000 acres located in northern Rockingham and southern Page Counties which was received in 1730. Most of our settlers German and Scotch-Irish, entered the Valley from Pennsylvania.

The language barrier and the differences in culture, religion, temperament, and social heritage were such that early observers remarked upon the differences among the local population. The Germans were noted to be orderly, industrious, frugal; they rarely had trouble with Indians; and if they interested themselves at all in politics, it was usually at the local level. On the other hand, the Scotch-Irish were notable Indian fighters and regarded as impetuous, given to drinking too much, actively concerned with politics. No contemporary observers ever accused them of being model farmers.

In any event, these two groups of people settled-in together to form the original population of our County. There seems to be little evidence of friction between them. Perhaps it was true that whereas the population was a majority of
German descent, it is also true that the Scotch-Irish were more homogeneous, having for the most part, a common origin in Ulster and almost all being Presbyterians — whereas, the Germans came from many diverse areas of Germany and Switzerland and included a diversity of religious persuasions.

Much of our ancestors’ lives, beyond the hard work necessary to tame and cultivate the frontier, revolved about the Church. Our ancestors seem to have shared a desire to educate their children and the earliest schools were normally conducted under the auspices of the Church. If there was a church building, it was often made to serve as a school during the week. The three private colleges created in Rockingham County had strong religious identifications. We have a diversity of religious denominations today in Rockingham, and they coexist with little friction and a high degree of religious tolerance and cooperation. The religious faith of our people continues strong today.

Judge John Paul stated:

"The name of Rockingham was a favorite one among the American colonists, and several of the colonies gave it to counties and towns founded during the struggle for independence. It was so honored because of Lord Rockingham, who exerted himself to restore harmony between England and her American colonies, though he was opposed by the King, George III, and unsupported by his colleagues in the Ministry. His greatest political achievement was that, in spite of his adversaries, he secured the repeal of the hated "Stamp Act" in the interests of the colonists. Burke said of him, 'In opposition he respected the principles of government, and in the Ministry protected the liberties of the people.' His record in the "Book of Peerage" is: "Charles Watson Wentworth, second Marquis of Rockingham, was born in 1730. He was twice Prime Minister of England and died in office July 1st, 1782." His epitaph, by Burke, is the highest eulogy: 'A man to be held in esteem, because he did not live for himself.'

THE FORMATION OF THE COUNTY

On April 27, 1778, the men commissioned by Governor Patrick Henry to serve as justices of the County Court assembled at the Daniel Smith home north of present-day Harrisonburg to take their oaths of office and to commence their duties. The County Court was an interesting institution of local government that was patterned after the justice of the peace courts in England. The Court combined judicial, executive, and legislative functions and its members, who were supposedly chosen from the best citizens of the locality, were appointed to serve life terms. The justices of the Court received no salary and were paid, if at all, by fees chargeable to citizens for performing certain functions. As vacancies would occur by death or resignation, the Governor would appoint new members upon the recommendation of the remaining justices.

The judicial functions of this court included the jurisdiction to try all civil disputes and suits in equity. In addition, the court would try all misdemeanors and certain felonies. Most felony cases fell under the jurisdiction of the general Court in Richmond. Later, judges of the General Court would come to the County at regular intervals to try cases of greater importance.

As to their other governmental functions, the County Court had enormous powers and responsibilities. They would appoint the officials of the County including the Sheriff and Clerk, the overseers of the roads and of the poor, and commissioners of the Revenue. They would establish the local tax and see that it was collected and then determine how to expend it.

Perhaps if we would hear the minutes of that opening session of the Court, we would conceive some idea of the nature of the work performed by the County Court.

(Here Judge Paul quoted the minutes of the opening session from the Rockingham Recorder Vol. I, #1, pp. 30-32)

ECONOMY

The economy of our County has always been founded upon agriculture. Apparently, the growing of grain was predominant prior to the Civil War. Immediately after the French Revolution of 1789, a shortage of grain in Europe gave great incentive to this production. Sheridan's March, however, resulted in destruction of grain processing mills and the opening of the Great Plains put Rockingham in a less competitive position. However, our agriculture is now founded upon the growing poultry and dairy products. In the twentieth century, the growing and marketing of poultry has been developed to an efficient technology by men such as Charles Wampler. Today, other parts of the nation and world look to Rockingham to learn the most efficient means to apply to the art and science of poultry production.

I have already noted the emergence in our County of three private colleges with strong church affiliations. After the Civil War, the question of establishing free public education within the state became a major issue. Rockingham County voted overwhelmingly during those years for state officers committed to education. Later a state teachers college was established at Harrisonburg and —
having recently acquired the status of a University — has made a major impact on the economic, cultural, and social life of our community.

We have several important institutions created by the people of the community that should be mentioned. Our citizens have created the Rockingham Memorial Hospital which provides health services not only to our County, but to persons from several adjoining Virginia and West Virginia Counties.

In addition, we have the resources of the Rockingham Public Library which is an enormous benefit to the educational and cultural life of the community. As an example of how great gifts to this community may occur through the workings of a few inspired individuals acting together, I would like to point out the earliest days of the library. In 1867, the Rockingham Library Association was chartered. Judge James Kenny was elected President. Judge Kenny was then the County Court Judge. Four years later, Judge Kenny wrote in his diary:

"Jan. 19, 1871.
The Young Men's Christian Association gave to Rockingham Library Association 86 volumes, which makes the number of volumes in the Library 265. The books are kept in my office, as I am President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Librarian of the Association."

The black population of our County deserves mention. A study of the early 19th Century census figures indicates an average black population of less than 10%. Of these, 20% to 25% were free citizens, the remainder, slaves. Education, one of the keys to the door of full equality of opportunity, has until more recent times, been limited. One of the outstanding citizens of the community was Lucy I. Simms, a black graduate of Hampton Institute, who taught the black children of the county and city for 55 years. Within the past twenty years, integration of our school system in the County has occurred and this was done by voluntary compliance rather than under court order. Today, the promise of full equality under the law without regard to race seems to be becoming at last fulfilled.

Another interesting trend has been the election of women to positions of responsibility. In 1975, the first woman was elected to our County Board of Supervisors, and also the first woman Delegate to represent our County in the General Assembly.

There is too often in a speech of this sort a tendency to exult in the history of our forebears, and to create the impression that there is something exclusive or

noble about the fact that we are descended from persons who first settled the Valley or who fought in the Revolution or who endured the hardships and devastation of the Civil War. So we must remind ourselves that we are all immigrants or descendants of immigrants and it makes no real difference whether our ancestors came early from Ireland, or Germany, or Africa; or whether we came within the last few years from Vietnam or Northern Virginia, or Ohio. We should in this community judge a person by who he or she is and not by whom he or she is descended from.

I note in this connection that the people of Rockingham do not exalt their chosen leaders. They seem to honor and respect them for their offices and their accomplishments, but they do not raise them in their memories as mythic folk heroes. With the exception of Turner Ashby, the names chosen for our schools and public buildings are those of places or esteemed educators. Thus, we have little memory of U.S. Senator John H. Lewis or U.S. Senator Isaac Pennybacker or Virginia Governor Charles T. O’Ferral, all of Rockingham County.

(Here Judge Paul concluded his address by quoting from the Rockingham Recorder Vol. 1, #1, p. 50.)

BENJAMIN HARRISON

Benjamin Harrison, son of Daniel Harrison of present Dayton on Cooks Creek, was captain of an Augusta County Militia Company which participated in both the French and Indian War (1753-1763) and in Lord Dunmore's War. He and his company were part of Colonel Andrew Lewis's Southern Division of the Virginia "Long Knives" who defeated Cornstalk and his Indian braves October 10, 1774, at Point Pleasant.
Lynwood, the wife of Thomas Lewis the Surveyor and their sister at Madison Hall, the wife of John Madison Clerk of Court. He would see each of them for he had been told they lived not far from each other.

This all flashed through one's mind while looking out of the stage coach window admiring the rolling green countryside, framed on the east and the west by continuous mountain ranges.

Entering Harrisonburg the grey stone house of Reuben Harrison about a block from today's Post Office marked the northern boundary of the town and an almost identical grey stone house built by Thomas Harrison, the southern. The latter is still standing across from the side of the Methodist Church, on Bruce Street. Passing through Harrisonburg the Big Spring was the center of activity. Women doing their laundry spread it over the surrounding vines to dry. Residents living even beyond the town limits, with buckets to be filled waited for water to carry home for all their needs. The Court House grounds also served many purposes. Records show that one man was appointed to keep the Court House supplied with firewood and candles.

Brockett's Stage Coach Stop and Horse Exchange was a short distance south of town, where The Lindsey Funeral Home is located. Opposite the Stage Coach Stop about a third of the way up the hill was the French Colonial house of Abraham Scherdin the wine maker. Its long windows were in sharp contrast with others in the area. Beyond the house and over the hill stretched the vast vineyard with a lookout on Red Hill. Abraham Scherdin and his family were happy here until his daughter, returning from Staunton drowned in a flash flood. They had crossed the broad ocean yet she had drowned in what was normally a shallow quiet stream. Crushed, he sold everything and returned to France. The vineyard was broken up into many parcels.

The blare of auto horns shatters our reverie.
In 1831-32 this Church now occupied by the colored Methodists was built on Seminary St. near Liberty St. a short distance south of the Market. A year or two later, a branch of the Congregationalists, the Northern Methodists, built a Church on the south side of the Market. It was later occupied by the Baptist Church.


In Jan. 1870 the Negro Methodists purchased Andrew Church, and it is still in use today.

John Wesley United Methodist Church.
The old Town Hall in Port Republic.
Elkton Railroad station, Elkton, Va.
Funk Store, Singers Glen, Va.
OLD WARREN HOTEL
Built in the 1850's at the northwest corner of the Court Square, Harrisonburg, Va.
Was razed about the first of August 1969 for another parking lot which exists.

Warren Hotel, Harrisonburg, now the First Presbyterian Church parking lot.
H. T. Harris home, now Harrisonburg Baptist Church.
1895, June 14, July 26—"The Valley Mennonites," by L. J. Heatwole, in the *Rockingham Register*.

1895, June 17—The *Evening Glance*, daily newspaper, makes its first appearance in Harrisonburg.

1895, June 25—Ten carloads of steel rails arrive at Harrisonburg for the Chesapeake & Western Railway, under construction towards Bridgewater.

1895, June 30—Shenandoah Confederate Veterans Association chartered at Woodstock.

1895, July—J. I. Miller, D. D., advertising "Young Ladies' College," Buena Vista, to open 2d session Sept. 3d.


1895, July 31—The Chesapeake & Western Railway completed to Dayton.


1895, Aug. 16—"The Killing of Meigs," N. W. Orb, in the *Rockingham Register*. "N. W. Orb" was Dr. T. H. B. Brown of Bridgewater, who had given professional aid to the Confederate Martin, who was wounded in the fight with Meigs and his companions. See Wayland's "Virginia Valley Records," page 189.

1895, Sept. 13—The Chesapeake & Western Railway completed to Bridgewater.

1895, Nov. 2—*The Virginia Clipper*. Populist organ; 4 pages, 15 by 22 inches: "Published every Saturday at Timberville, Virginia. Philip Strickler, Prop." This is Vol. 1, No. 1. No other copy known.

1895, Dec. 21 A destructive fire in Edinburg.
1896—The *Valley Herald*, weekly newspaper, started at Waynesboro; J. E. Cooke editor; name changed to the *Valley Virginian* about 1901.

1896—The *Philotathean Monthly*, literary magazine, launched by the Virginia Lee and Victorian literary societies of Bridgewater College.

1896—Stover Camp, Confederate Veterans, erects a monument at Strasburg to 36 fallen comrades.

1896, Jan. 5—First service in the United Brethren Church in Harrisonburg.

1896, Feb. 4—Elmer Weatherholtz shoots and kills his wife near Forestville.

1896, Feb. 14—Turner Ashby Chapter, U.D.C., Harrisonburg, organizes; chartered Nov. 11, 1897, with 24 members.

1896, March 8—Death at Woodstock of Isaac Haas, age 80.

1896, July 4—The Winchester *Evening Star* established by John I. Sloat; purchased by the Winchester *Times* in 1902.

1896, July 17—"Trumbo Family History" in the *Rockingham Register*.


1896, Aug. 28, Sept. 4—Roller Family Reunion in the *Rockingham Register*.

1896, Oct. 1—First rural free delivery of mail in the United States started from the post office in Charles Town, W. Va.

1896, Oct. 2—"Destructive Floods" in the *Rockingham Register*.

1896, Oct. 15—Address by Judge John Paul Sr. at the laying of the cornerstone of the new court house in Harrisonburg.

1896, Nov. 20—"Friedens Church" in the *Rockingham Register*.


1897—The fifth court house (stone) for Rockingham County completed in Harrisonburg; remodeled in 1931.

1897—Cross Keys Home Mutual Fire Insurance Company organized.

1897—The Stonewall Band of Staunton given a reception in New York by President McKinley.

1897—Geology of the Massanutten Mountain, by A. C. Spencer, published in Washington, D. C.

1897, Jan. 15—Death near Woodlawn, Shenandoah County, of Mrs. Lydia Pennywilt Neff, age 88, widow of Capt. David Tennessee Neff.

1897, Feb. 19, March 12, 19—"Friedens Church History" in the *Rockingham Register*.

1897, April 16—"Life in Rockingham in 1865" in the *Rockingham Register*.


1897, July 1—Dies in Staunton, in her 68th year, Miss Mary Julia Baldwin, for whom Mary Baldwin College is named.


1897, Sept. 24—"How Ashby Died," by E. C. Bruffey, from the *Atlanta Constitution*, in the *Rockingham Register*.

1897, Oct. 1—"Courthouse Opening" in the *Rockingham Register*.

1897, Oct. 15—Eduard Remenyi, violinist, plays in Harrisonburg.

1898—New water system for Harrisonburg put into operation. Water from Riven Rock, near Rawley Springs.

1899—The Funk Family History, by A. J. Fretz, published at Elkhart, Ind.

1899—Beginning of Powhatan College (for young women) at Charles Town. In 1903 (perhaps earlier too) Stewart P. Hatton was president.


1899, Feb. 10—Snowfall of 26 inches in the upper Valley.


1899, April 18—The Valley Telephone Company absorbed by the Rockingham Mutual System.

1899, May—History of Brown Memorial Church, by Rev. A. D. Wolfinger, in Our Assistant, Mt. Crawford.

1899, May 20—President McKinley passes through the Valley, stopping a while in Harrisonburg.

1899, June 18—Riverview Cemetery at Strasburg dedicated.

1899, July 1—The Rockingham County Medical Association organized.


1899, September—Massanutten Academy, Woodstock, opened to students.


1900—President McKinley a guest at Taylor’s Hotel in Winchester. See item under date of May 20, 1899.

1900—"History of Augusta Church, from 1737 to 1900," by Rev. J. N. Van Deventer, published in Staunton.

1900—Death in New Market of Mrs. Mary Frances Rodes Harrison.


1900—Bishop Meade’s “Old Churches, Ministers, and Families of Virginia” republished (in two volumes) in Philadelphia.


1900—Mennonites build the present Trissel’s Church, 4 miles west of Broadway; the first one here, built in 1822, oldest Mennonite church in Rockingham.

1900—Elder John Kline’s diary, edited by Benjamin Funk, published (480 pages) in Elgin, Ill.

1900—The third court house of Augusta County built in Staunton.


1900, July 22—“The Barn-Burners,” by N. M. Burkholder of Harrisonburg, in the Richmond Dispatch.

1900, Nov. 1—The Peoples Bank of Mt. Jackson organized.


1901, Sept. 27—Obituary of Col. Emanuel Sipe in the Bridgewater Herald.


1901, Nov. 29 and Dec. 6—History of Strasburg by H. S. Crabill in the Strasburg News.

1902—The Presbyterian Chapel in Woodstock erected.

1902—R. Gray Williams, editor, secures a copyright for Things and Thoughts, literary magazine published 6 times a year by the Eddy Press, Winchester.

1902—Funkhouser family history, by Jacob Funkhouser, published in Harrisonburg.

1902—The second edition of Waddell’s Annals of Augusta County.


1902, January—Rev. Wilbur Stover, missionary home from India, lectures at Bridgewater College.

1902, Jan. 4—Henry Swoope Keller, wagon-maker, age 71, son of Frederick, dies near Churchville.

1902, April—"The Lawyer" (Gabriel Jones), by R. T. Barton of Winchester, in the West Virginia Historical Magazine.

1902, April 3—Last issue of the Shenandoah Press, New Market.

1902, May 20—Death at Edinburg of Rev. Henry Talhelm, age 78.

1902, July—"Adam Miller, First White Settler," by Charles E. Kemper, in the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography.

1902, Aug. 27—in Our Church Paper, New Market, an account of the 82d Annual Lutheran Tennessee Synod at Rader's Church, near Timberville.


1902, Dec. 4—Death of Moses Strickler, mayor of Bridgewater, in his 78th year.


1902, Dec. 25—Death at Lacey Spring of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, age 66.


1903—Liberty Furnace, Shenandoah County, suspends operations.

1903, Jan. 2—"Rockingham Revolutionary Pensioners," by Charles E. Kemper, in the Rockingham Register.

1903, Feb. 20—Death near Hawkinson of Joseph Hawkins, age 75.


1903, May—C. S. A. monument near Mt. Jackson erected by U. D. C.

1903, May 19—Death near Strasburg of Eleanor Hite (Mrs. Isaac S.) Bowman, age 90.

1903, June 17—Death at Dayton of Rev. John W. Howe (United Brethren) age 74.

1903, Aug. 12, 13—St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Strasburg, dedicates its new pipe organ and celebrates its 134th anniversary.

1903, Tuesday night, Nov. 24—Dies Capt. Berryman Zirkle Price, age 66-6-19, at his home near New Market.


1904—Death at Strasburg of Edward Zea, age 75.

1904—"Forty Years of Active Service," autobiography of Charles T. O'Ferrall, published in New York City.


1904, Feb. 8—the Bank of Elkton opens for business; Jas. E. Leebrick president; C. G. Harnsberger vice-president; I. L. Flory cashier.

1904, April 23-27—the 75th convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Virginia held in Woodstock.

1904, June 4, July 2—Harrisonburg War History, by Mrs. Emma Lyon Bryan, in the Harrisonburg Free Press.

1904, July 9—Death at Edinburg of Dr. Peter Belew, age 85.

1904, Aug. 5—Death at Paintertown (Fort Painter), Shenandoah County, of Naason Bear Painter, age 73.

1904, November—John Casper Branner of California in the Shenandoah Valley tracing the history of his ancestors, who lived near Forestville.
1904, Dec. 30—"Myers Family History" in the *Rockingham Register*.

1905—The Methodist Church in Strasburg remodeled.

1905—The fourth Methodist Church in Woodstock built.

1905—"The Immortal Six Hundred," by J. Ogden Murray, published in Winchester.

1905—Death near New Market of Samuel R. Hoover.


1905—"Bridgewater College: Its Past and Present," a tribute of the alumni and alumnae, printed in Elgin, Ill.

1905—The Harrisonburg *Daily Times* started.


1905, Jan. 25—Dies, Archibald M. Simpson, aged nearly 95, Staunton's oldest resident.

1905, May 5—Death at Lacey Spring of Abraham Lincoln, age 82.

1905, May 28—St. Peter's Church (Lutheran) at Tom's Brook dedicated.

1905, June 22—Death at Edinburg of W. H. Hutcheson, age 71.

1905, August—The Virginia Valley Conference and the Virginia Central Conference (Christian) unite at Leasburg, Page County.

1905, Sept. 5—The Masons lay the cornerstone of their new temple, south corner of S. Main and E. Water Street, Harrisonburg.


1905, Nov. 25—Death at Woodlawn, Shenandoah County, of Abram J. Kagey, age 72, son of Jacob and Barbara (Neff) Kagey.

1905, Nov. 30—Death in Woodstock of Bernadotte Schmitt, druggist, age 75.

1905, Friday, Dec. 8—In the *Staunton Spectator* a muster roll of McNeill's Rangers, C. S. A.

1906—J. C. Paxton builds his lime kiln at Linville.

1906—The old stone jail in Woodstock torn down and new jail erected.


1906, April—The Fravel Sash and Door Company moves from Broadway to Harrisonburg - the site now the Daly Shoe Factory.

1906, April 5, 6—In Harrisonburg, Assembly Hall, Court House, the 4th annual educational conference of the 7th Congressional District of Virginia, Prof. Ormond Stone presiding; among the speakers were A. B. Coffey, Dr. Robert Frazer, Dr. W. H. Heck, Dr. Bruce R. Payne, Dr. J. L. Howe, C. G. Maphis, Dr. F. V. N. Painter, Andrew M. Soule, and (as I remember) Pres. Edwin A. Alderman.

1906, September—Big Confederate reunion at Forestville Crossing (on the railroad).

1906, November—"Legend of Cook's Creek," by L. J. Heatwole, in the *Old Dominion Home*, Dayton.

1907—New church at Flat Rock, Shenandoah County, dedicated.

1907—Virginia Female Institute, Staunton, renamed Stuart Hall in honor of Mrs. J. E. B. Stuart, a former principal of the school.

1907—Wayland's "The German Element of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia" printed in Charlottesville.

1907—C. J. Heatwole's Heatwole Family History published in Harrisonburg.

1907—W. N. McDonald's "The Laurel Brigade" published in Baltimore.

1907—Monument erected on Cedar Creek battlefield, northwest side of the Pike, by survivors of the 128th N. Y. Regiment.

1907, January—The Independent, weekly newspaper, established in Shepherdstown.

1907, March 13-17—U. B. Conference in Edinburg.

1907, April 6, 11, 22, 24—Valley Soldiers in the French and Indian War, by John W. Wayland, in the Harrisonburg Daily News.

1907, April 21—Rebuilt Garber's Church, 2 miles west of Harrisonburg, dedicated.

1907, August 3—Cornerstone laid for Presbyterian Church on North Court Square in Harrisonburg.

1907, Aug. 6—The Germans in the Valley, by D. S. Lewis, in the Harrisonburg Daily Times.

1907, Aug. 16—Death at Woodstock of Luther S. Walker.

1907, Aug. 29—Death of Charles S. Roller, founder of Augusta Military Academy, Fort Defiance.


1908—Death at Strasburg of Cyrus Keister, age 69.

1908—Bethel Lutheran Church, near Hamburg, Shenandoah County, rebuilt.


1908 Shenandoah Valley Academy (Adventist) founded near New Market.

1908—Joseph A. Waddell's History of Mary Baldwin College published in Staunton; written in 1905.

1908—Heber M. Hays's "German Dialect in the Valley of Virginia" published at Middletown, Conn.


1908, March—The town of Elkton incorporated; J. A. S. Kyger the first mayor.


1908, August—"Aldine S. Kieffer and His Work," by Weldon T. Myers, in the Musical Million, Dayton.

1908, Aug. 24—The Farmers and Merchants Bank of Timberville opens for business; John H. Hoover president; E. M. Minnick vice-president; J. A. Garber cashier.

1908, Dec. 13—Presbyterian Church of Harrisonburg dedicated on North Court Square.

1909—Cartmell's "Shenandoah Valley Pioneers and their Descendants" (primarily a history of Frederick County) published in Winchester.


1909—Eastern College, S. M. Newman president, successor to J. S. Gruver, moved from Front Royal to Manassas; H. U. Roop president.


1909, March 1—Death at New Market of Capt. M. M. Sibert.
1909, April 15—Cornerstone-laying of the first academic building for the new state normal school at Harrisonburg (now Madison College). This Building was first called Science Hall; it is now known as Maury Hall.

1909, May 22—History of Timberville in the Harrisonburg Daily News.

1909, June—Annual meeting of the German Baptists (now Church of the Brethren) held in Assembly Park, 1 mile north of Harrisonburg.

1909, Saturday, July 3—Rockinghamers at the U. Va. summer school present in the 4th of July pageant "Spotswood and the Knights of the Horseshoe."

1909, Sept. 30—First chapel exercises of the State Normal School (now Madison College) at Harrisonburg.


1910—Hopewell Friends' meeting house, 7 miles northeast of Winchester, repaired - the eastern (older) half rebuilt.

1910—"Historic Shepherdstown," by Danske Dandridge, printed in Charlottesville.

1910—Death at Strasburg of Peter A. Spengler, age 80.

1910—The stone mansion house at Dunmore Mt. Airy rebuilt.


1910, Jan. 18—Death in Harrisonburg of Adolph H. Snyder, editor and journalist.

1910, Tuesday, April 14—Dr. Minor C. Baldwin gives a pipe-organ recital (evening concert) in the new Harrisonburg Presbyterian Church.

1910, May—Halley's Comet visible in the Shenandoah Valley.

1910, May 19—The Coburn Players give the "Merchant of Venice" in the courthouse hall, Harrisonburg.

1910, Autumn—Notable cave-ins on or near Central Avenue and Lewis Street in Staunton.

1910, Friday, Nov. 18—Concert in Harrisonburg by the Harrisonburg Negro School Jubilee Chorus.

1911—Harrisonburg and Rockingham County adopt the compulsory education law.


1911—The Hollingsworth mill, at the southwest end of Winchester, burns.

1911—A new school house built at Conicville, Shenandoah County.

1911—The U. S. Government begins buying for the Shenandoah National Forest area.

1911—The Waterman School, at the north side of Harrisonburg, opened.

1911—Rockingham Memorial Hospital, Harrisonburg, erects its first building.

1911—L. J. Heatwolfe of Dale Enterprise publishes his perpetual calendar.
FORT HARRISON

The Daniel Harrison house on Cook's Creek, also known as Fort Harrison, is located just north of the town of Dayton in southwestern Rockingham County, Virginia.

Daniel Harrison, a brother of Harrisonburg founder Thomas Harrison, was born on Long Island in 1701 or 1702. He migrated to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia from Delaware about 1738, settling on Naked Creek in what is now northeastern Rockingham County and southeastern Page County. Around 1745, he moved to the other side of the Valley and settled on the headwaters of Cook's Creek. In 1749 he purchased a 120-acre tract of land from Samuel Wilkins near the head of the western branch of Cook's Creek. It was on this tract of land that Daniel Harrison built his stone house, the front portion of the present Fort Harrison, between 1746 and 1749.

The house remained in the Harrison family from Daniel Harrison's death around 1770 until 1821, when his grandson, Dr. Peachy Randolph Harrison, sold the property to John Allebaugh. In 1916 the property came into the ownership of the Koogler family. It is from this family that the property was purchased in 1978 by Fort Harrison, Inc., a non-profit corporation formed by members of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society.

The proposed restoration will reflect the various stages in the development of the house, from its original construction around 1750 until the renovations in the late 1860's.

Funds are being made available from local political subdivisions and on a matching basis from the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission. It is anticipated that more than $200,000 will be needed by the end of 1983 to restore and furnish the house, landscape the grounds and provide a public facility reflecting the history of this portion of the Shenandoah Valley.

Officers of Ft. Harrison are: Chester L. Bradfield, president; Joseph H. Meyerhoeffer, vice-president; James MacNeil, treasurer; Dorothy Boyd Rush, assistant treasurer; and Martha B. Caldwell, secretary.

For further information please write to:
Ft. Harrison, Inc.
P. O. Box 366
Dayton, Va. 22821

FROM THE CIVIL WAR DIARY OF SAMUEL A. FIREBAUGH

Submitted by Mary T. Mullen

Samuel A. Firebaugh was born in Rockbridge County Va. in 1833. He came to Rockingham County in 1860, settled in Mt. Clinton and married Elizabeth Whitmore. He was a soldier of Company H, 10th Va. Infantry. Enlisting as a private in 1861 he was later made color sergeant, with rank of lieutenant.

A copy of Firebaugh's diary is housed at the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society. Notes, maps, and an index were added to the diary by Dr. John W. Wayland in 1932. The following is an excerpt from the diary depicting a Confederate soldier's thoughts of Christmas.

Wednesday 24

Releaved Come back to the reserve Camp. Our Bickets and the Yankees take each other cross the river and exchange tobacco for coffee.

Thursday 25 Christmas

Morning very lonesome lying in Camp. Every one seems to be Blue. H. Heatwole John H. Gaines Ira Bukr and My self setting around our camp-fire. If ever I had the Blues have them now. Most lonesome day I have spent since in service.

Dinner consists of Coffee Soop - Sweet'nd with Sugar and Candy. "Bully" for Christmas. 3 P. M. ordered to go on Picket. on our post Reserve in a Pach of Pines 1 o'clock on post Conversation with the Yankees across the river Say they are very tired of the war and are ready to play quits. 3 A. M. releaved lay down in one of the Lousy'st places I ever saw 4 A. M. reliefs Come Went back to a nother Pack of woods to the reserve.

Friday 26

Ordered to not converse with the Yankees Genl Stuart gone on a nother requimoirting Excursion a round the Yankees."
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY COURT MINUTES
9TH INSTALMENT

At a Court held and continued for Rockingham County Tuesday the 29th Day of May 1781.

Present

Dan'l Smith
Abraham Smith
John Gratten

Henry Ewing
John Fitzwater
Gawen Hamilton

Breedings &c vs Fultz & Oller Atta for answer
Alderson vs Murray cont'd
Monsey vs Vanpelt & als Answer & Time Copy Answr.
Dillings vs Milso & wife cont'd
Foaland vs Humble Answer for Conrod & Atta wi procla
Crow vs Cravens Atta for answer vs Inf't & Guard'n
Huston vs Stevenson's Exrs Answer set for Trial on Bill
Johnson vs Bowyer & als plea & Answer & Time Copy

Abraham Smith late Sheriff settled his Acco't with the County for the year 1779 & there remains a balance (due the) County of one hundred & Seventy nine pounds Six shillings due

Present Thos Hewit & Wm. Nalle Gent

Brock vs Huston ag'd
Skidmore vs Aberman plea j'd & cont'd
White vs B. Smith
Hainey vs B. Smith J W E
Smith vs Williams N G & cont'd
Greenlee vs Greatrick's Abates plt married
Kyper vs Mcfarland ag'd
Rush vs Craige Assd & cont'd
Reeves vs Monsey N Assd & cont'd
Browbaker vs Smith N. G. j'd & cont'd

Gawen Hamilton is recommended as a proper person to act as Major of the Militia in this County 0 to be certified. Also Michael Baker is recommended as

Present Anto Reader & Reuben Harrison

Meffort vs Thomson cont'd Def't
Archenbright vs Perky cont'd pl't
Bear vs Knox cont'd
Brock vs Lair a Jury to wit: John Harrison, John Brown, William Davis, Thomas Hicks, Elijah Garten (or Gaston?) James Shannon, Gideon Harrison, Josiah Harrison, John Robertson, George Hinton, Peter Hinton, & Derby Reagan who ret'd Verd't for Def't & Nonsuit
Order'd that Mathias Lear (Lair) pay Marg't Lear (Lair) 7 Days Attend. (ance) as a wit's ag't Brock. O that Jno Brock pay Reuben More 4 Days attend, as a Wit's ag't Lear (Lair).

God(frey) Haga vs Croyder cont'd
Geo. Haga vs Croyder cont'd
Croyder & Wife vs Haga cont'd
Berger vs Meffort cont'd pl't

Lewis Circle proved 5 Days Attend. as a Wit's for Jacob Woodley ag't Huling, Jno Philips junr. 6 Days William Pickeron 6 Days James Locky 3 Days & Grace Woodley 1 Day Anto Reader 3 Days attend. as Wit's for Jas Huling ads Woodley, Catherine, Wife of Jo. Sampson proved 2 Days Attend. as a Wit's for Ditto.

Com'wealth vs Eversole Acquit'd pay't Costs
Cravens Admr. vs Ewing, a Jury to wit John Brown Elijah Garten, James Shannon, John Robertson, Peter Hinton, Geo Hinton, Derby Reagen Thomas More, John Reeves James Huling, Brewer Reeves & Thomas Hicks who ret'd papers without agreeing.

Elizabeth Ewing proved 3 Days Attend as a Wit's for Henry Ewing at the Suit of Cravens Admr.

Josiah Harrison took the Oath of an Ensign of the Militia. O to be certified.

Culbertson Asse vs Hunt als Atta
(Assignees?)
Davis vs Mathews ag'd
Smith & Ux vs Rodgers Imp
Dawson vs Vanemon Imp
Rorork vs Harrison Imp
Rich'd Mathews vs Dan'l Love A C
Com'wealth vs Baker C O

vs Ramboe C O
vs Swadley C O
vs Harper C O
vs Stephenson C O
vs Grogg C O
Com'wealth vs Hammer C O
als Sum's
Com'wealth vs L. Baker C O
vs Ramboe C O
vs Spears Jud't
vs Lauderbach C O
vs D. Lauderbach C O
vs Kite C O
vs Stevenson C O
vs Oaker A S
vs Cleck A S
vs Holby C O

Orders: to fine Peter Conrod confirmed. Adam Reader acquitted.

Silas Hart is appointed to take the List (of) Tiths in the Districts of Huston & Young, Josiah Davidson in the District of Rice & Harrison, Anto. Reader in the District of Fitzwater & Ruddle, William Mcdowell in Harrison & Dunlap, John Davis in the District of Herring & Magill, Mich'l Coger of his own Comp'y, Thos Hewit in Cap't Conrod & Capt Beesly's Comp'y, Jas Dyer in Cap't Johnsons & Strattens Comp'y, Robert Davidson in his own Comp'y.

The Court are of Opinion that Henry Ewing be allowed twenty pounds p day for twenty three Days that he acted as a Commissioner of the provision Law & 100 Dollars for his Expenses Ordered that the Court be adjourned till the Court in Course.

Daniel Smith

At a Court held for Rockingham County Monday the 27th Day of August 1781.
Josiah Davidson ret'd his List of Tiths
Deed of B & Sale from Alex'r Panther to Valantine Trout was further proved by
Nicolas Cairn & Geo Ruddle & O to be recorded

Thos Hewit Gent ret'd his List of Tiths, John Davis Gent ret'd his List of
Tiths

Davis vs Norton Attachm't Garnishee Jno Heath says he owes him a
bus(hel) of Salt & Atta cont'd for pl't to prove his acco't

Report of the viewers of the road round Josiah Davidsoms plantation ret'd
& on the Moto. of sd Davidson O that the said Road be established.

Mich'l Coger Gent ret'd his List of Tiths
Inventory of Henry Lungs Estate ret'd & O to be recorded

Browbaker vs Smith left to the Arbitra. of Silas Hart & Jno Gratten Gent
whose aw'd to be the Jud't of Court

Croyder ads Godfrey Haga O for Ded's to examine Henry Croyder for Def't
Croyder & wife vs Geo. Haga O for Ded's to examine Mary Lewis? Widow, for pl't.

Report of the viewers of a road up & down the No. fork ret'd & O to be
opened & that Ab. Hankle be Overseer who together with the Tithables in Cap.
Johnstons Comp'y work on the same Wiliam Mc.dowell Gent ret'd his List of
Tiths

Thomas Hewit Gent is appointed by the Court to the Office of Sheriff for
the ensuing year O to be certified to his Excellency the Gov'r.

Deed of B & Sale from Wiliam Craurfur & Marg't his Wife to Solomon
Mathews was prov'd by the Affirma. of Jas Webb & the Oaths of Reuben
Harrison & Jno Thomas & O to be recorded with the privy Examina of Marg't
now ret'd

George Bungardner is appointed Constable in the room of Jacob
Aberman. O he be sum'd to swear in before James Dyer Gent

(The Above two minutes on page 99 of the Minute Book)
On the petition of the Inhabitants of Brocks (Gap?) that a convenient Road may be opened to the Court house O that John Thomas Reese Thomas Peter Hog & George Spears or any three of them being first sworn do view the nearest & best Way from the Gap to the road at Mich'l Waren's

Com'wealth vs Munger C O

Peter Bryant took the Oath of a Lieut. of Militia which is ordered to be certified.

James Dyer Gent ret'd his List of Tiths O to be certified O that the Church wardens bind out Rosanna Swikher Orphan of Henry Swikher to Martin Croyder according to Law. O that Robt Wilson Orphan of And'w Wilson be bound by the Church Wardens until he comes of age to Robt Mathews according to Law.

It appearing to the Court that a Traveller by the name of Moses Doughty with his Wife & Child was burnt up in the House of Adam Nelson & no relations or other Connexions of the sd Doughty appearing to claim Administra of this Estate consisting of a horse & a mare O that the Sheriff take the same into his possession being now in the Custody of Jno Thomas Coroner & sell them at public Vendue & make return to the Court.

Christian Kyger took the Oath of Lieut of the Militia, John Perky the same O to be certified.

O that Peter Bowman of Brocks Gap be exempted from the payment of County Levies on Acco't of his being a Cripple.

Thomas Lewis junr. took the Oath of an Ensign of the Militia O to be certified.

O to summon Wm Sommerset, O to be dism'd on sd Somerset pay'g Costs & that the Church Wardens bind Geo Friedly Orp. of Ludovick (Friedly) to sd Sommerset according to Law.

Deed of B & Sale from Thos Harrison & Sarah his Wife she being first privately examined was acknowledged to Andrew Shanklen O to be recorded.

The Court recommended Jno Robinson as second Lieut of Cap. Reagans Company & Benja Smith as Ensign of sd Comp'y O to be certified.

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY COURT MINUTES

Mathews vs Love dism'd Campfield vs Couts ag'd

William Nalle Gent took the Oath of a Lieut. Col'o of the Militia which is O to be certified.

Administra of the Estate of Robt Cravens the elder not admiister'd by his Executors deed is granted to Robt Cravens his son he having ent'd into Bond & made Oath according to Law which is O to be certified. O that Joseph Dictam Nehemiah Harrison Josiah Harrison & William Herring or any three (of them) being first sworn do appraise sd. Estate.

John Robinson took the Oath of a Lieut in the Militia Benja Smith took the Oath of Ensign O to be certified.

Robt Davis Gent ret'd his List of Tiths

Huston vs Stevenson Exrs O of Survey of the Land claimed by the Complainant on Mot'o of his Guardian.

O that the Court be adjourned till the Court in Course Daniel Smith

THE WARM SPRINGS-HARRISONBURG TURNPiKE COMPANY

The Warm Springs-Harrisonburg Turnpike Company was organized May 13, 1831, in Colonel William McMahon's home in Harrisonburg to build a turnpike from Colonel James Hall's home in that town via Miller's Iron Works on Mossy Creek, Jenning's Gap, Scotttown, and Bath Alum Springs to Warm Springs, county seat of Bath County. The Turnpike was located by Engineer Claudius Crozet; it was constructed by Thomas I. Michie and William H. Garber of Staunton at an average cost of $500 per mile.
A SAMPLE OF A MARRIAGE BOND

A Marriage bond was a guarantee but not proof that the marriage would take place. It was submitted by the bridegroom, his friends or often his family. Marriage bonds were used until 1853.

KNOW all men by these presents, that we

John Firebaugh and

Peter Whitmore

are held and firmly bound unto His Excellency

George W. Smith

Esquire, Governor of Virginia, and his successors, for the use of the Commonwealth, in the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars, to which payment well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators jointly and severally, firmly by these presents. Sealed and dated this 18th day of May 1817 in the 25th year of the commonwealth.

The condition of the above obligation is such, that whereas a marriage is shortly intended to be solemnized between the above bound

John Firebaugh and

Elizabeth Whitmore daughter of Peter Whitmore

of Rockingham county, if therefore, there shall be no lawful cause to obstruct the said marriage, then the above obligation to be void; otherwise, to remain in full force and virtue.

Signed, sealed and delivered

in the presence of

Thomas Lewis

John Firebaugh

Peter Whitmore