THE ROCKINGHAM RECORDER

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  by John W. Wayland
Austin Loewner was a dedicated and faithful friend to the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society and to the area as a whole. All who knew him remember his genuine good will and friendly personality.

In addition to being an artist and historian, “Autie” was caretaker of the collective memories of the city of Harrisonburg. He never wanted praise for himself or special standing in other people’s eyes. His emphasis was on the city and county he felt so deeply as his own—its people, customs, history, documents, buildings—the things of its common, everyday life.

In his paintings he captured the essence of the Rockingham County seat from its days as Rocktown in the early Nineteenth Century to Main Street, Harrisonburg, in the year of its birth, 1906. His paintings are based on the recollections of earlier inhabitants of Harrisonburg and on his own extensive interviews and research. In his presentations to various civic groups, Austin gave them much more than a viewing of paintings. He gave them himself, his special personality, his enjoyment of telling a story.

It is probable that he rarely put a watercolor brush to paper without thought of all the people with whom he would be able to share his work. “Share” was always the key word in Autie’s life. Even though he is no longer among us, he left such a special legacy in his paintings and in the way he touched people’s lives that his memory will survive as long as people care about the history of Harrisonburg.

In memory of Austin Loewner, The Rockingham Recorder is featuring a number of his watercolors in this issue. These paintings depict the history of Harrisonburg from around 1800 until shortly after the turn of the century. The paintings are interspersed throughout this issue. The originals were donated by the artist to the Rockingham Public Library where they are on permanent display in the Virginiana Room. Negatives were provided through the courtesy of Mr. Irvin Lee.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As the Chairperson of the Publication Committee of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society, I want to take this opportunity to express my very great appreciation to all of the members of the Publication Committee, who have spent countless hours in meetings and in individual assignments during the past three years since the publication of the last Recorder. The members of this Committee, who are listed in the Standing Committees of the Society in the introductory section of this Recorder, have read and evaluated the articles included in this Recorder and articles submitted which have not been included. We express appreciation to all of those individuals who submitted material for our consideration.

Among the members of the Committee, I want to note especially the work of Mary Scott, who has typed and re-typed articles and has been more responsible than any other person for the final preparation of this material for the printer. I am sure that all of the members of the Committee join me in expressing our sincere appreciation to her for all of the time and skill which she has put into the project. In addition, the Publication Committee as a whole would agree with me in expressing appreciation to the membership of the Society and particularly to the Board of Directors for their support and encouragement in our preparation of this issue of the Recorder.

Finally, outside of the members of the Committee and of the leadership of the Society, we want to express our whole-hearted appreciation for the contributions of R. R. Donnelley and of Good Printers for the printing and covers for this issue of the Recorder. The following persons assisted by loaning photographs and art work: Irvin Lee for providing negatives of Austin Loewner's paintings; Fred Cooper for the sketch of the gate at Bethel Cemetery; Wayne Harper, Clerk of Court, Rockingham County, for the loan of the photograph of the site of the burning of the court records; and the officials of Rockingham Memorial Hospital for the photograph of the plaque honoring Dr. Jessee Bennett.

Roger E. Sappington
THE PUBLIC SQUARE ABOUT 1800—This is the first of a series of watercolors included in this issue of The Rockingham Recorder. This painting was made from descriptions found in the old town records and in the writings of Maria Graham Carr. The courthouse is the second structure located on the public square, the first being a log structure built in 1779.
A BRIEF GEOLOGIC HISTORY OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

by W. Cullen Sherwood

INTRODUCTION

During this period of bicentennial celebration for the city of Harrisonburg it is appropriate to take a brief look at another aspect of the past, the geologic history of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham County area. The term "history" is usually thought of in terms of human lives and activities and indeed the Harrisonburg-Rockingham area is rich in these terms. However, geologists working in the Valley area have found evidence of a rich and varied history which can be traced back thousands of millennia prior to the arrival of man on this continent. This aspect of history, known as geologic history, is well recorded in the rocks which underlie Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. These rocks reveal a rich history with events ranging from shallow tropical seas to Alpinesized mountain ranges existing here in the past. This paper will attempt to describe these events based on the evidence geologists have found in their studies of the rocks.

Studies involving the geology of the Valley have been undertaken periodically over a period of nearly 150 years. One of the first of these was published by University of Virginia geologist Henry Barton Rogers in 1853. Rogers, who subsequently left the University to found the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was a keen observer and first described many of the rocks and other geologic features which are available for our study today. Following Rogers' work many studies of the geology of Rockingham have been undertaken. Some of the best known are those by Butts (1940), Brent (1960) and Hack (1965). Recent interest in potential oil and gas deposits in the county has brought in geologists from as far away as Texas. These geologists using space age technology should provide even greater insights and clues to the local geologic past in the months and years ahead.

PRESENT DAY GEOLOGIC FEATURES

Perhaps a good way to begin our journey into the geologic past is to look at the major surface features or topography of Rockingham County as it exists today (see Figure 1). This varied landscape results from a combination of three factors: the distribution of the different rock types, the geologic processes of folding and faulting which have deformed these rocks, and lastly the long period of erosion which has worn this area down to its present landscape. Weathering and erosion are the great sculptors of the earth's surface. These processes working over millions of years on rocks of differing resistance are responsible for the landscape we see in Rockingham County today. Figure 1 shows that Rockingham contains four major topographic features: the Blue Ridge Mountains on the east, the Massanutten Mountain in the center, the western ridges (Allegheny Mountains), and the Valley Floor. Although these mountains, which reach an
elevation exceeding 3000 feet at many points, appear to be separate features, geologists consider all of the mountains in Virginia to be part of the Appalachian Mountain system.

![Map of Allegheny Mountains, Massanutten Mountain, and Blue Ridge Mountains](image)

Figure 1. Four major landforms are visible in Rockingham County today. These are 1) The Blue Ridge Mountains to the east, 2) Massanutten Mountain, 3) The Allegheny Mountains to the west and 4) The Valley Floor. Major streams and population centers are also shown. Key to cities and towns: B=Bergton, BW=Bridgewater, BY=Broadway, D=Dayton, E=Elkton, G=Grottoes, H=Harrisonburg, K=Keezletown, L=Linville, LS=Lacy Springs, M=McGaheysville, PR=Port Republic, SG=Singers Glen, T=Timberville.

The Allegheny Mountains are a series of ridges and valleys forming the western one-third of Rockingham County. These ridges bear such names as Little North Mountain, Narrow Back Mountain, Feedstone Mountain, and Church Mountain. Like the Massanutten, they are usually capped with resistant sandstone rock layers. In general, the rocks of the county become younger toward the west so that the rocks making up the Allegheny Mountains are usually younger than those making up the Blue Ridge and Massanutten Mountains to the east.

The Valley Floor is the gently rolling lowland between the mountains lying at an elevation of approximately 1000 feet above sea level. This lowland forms the central portions of the county and also extends between the Blue Ridge and Massanutten Mountain where it is known locally as Page Valley. The major rocks under the valley floor are limestones and shales. Since limestones and shales erode more rapidly than sandstone, they have gradually been worn down to a lower elevation. As one travels across Rockingham he will encounter a series of northeast trending low ridges (for example Chestnut Ridge just east of Harrisonburg) with many relatively flat areas between. Sinkholes are also common in the Valley area being formed when the roof of a limestone cave collapses leaving a bowl-shaped depression in the land surface. Small, well developed sinkholes can be seen along Route 910 west of Harrisonburg and along Old Furnace Road and Route 718 from the Harrisonburg city limits to one mile beyond Cedar Grove Church. Excellent large sinkholes occur just east of and behind Harris Gardens on the Smithland estate, north of Harrisonburg on Route 11.

ORIGIN OF THE MAJOR ROCKS

The oldest rocks in Rockingham County are exposed in the Blue Ridge in the vicinity of Swift Run Gap in eastern Rockingham County. These are granite-like rocks which are approximately 1.2 billion years old. The exact origin of these rocks is obscure but they are believed to be part of an ancient mountain system which existed before the present mountains in Virginia. These old mountains are now mostly eroded away but supplied some of the sediments (sand, silt and clay) which accumulated in layers at the edge of the sea to form many of the rocks presently exposed in the county west of the Blue Ridge. Most geologists believe that these granite rocks of the Blue Ridge, being the oldest rocks in the area, extend down under, and act as a foundation for all of the other rocks in Rockingham County.

The next oldest major rocks in Rockingham formed some 600 to 700 million years ago as a series of lava flows. These dark colored lavas poured from deep in the earth along huge cracks and flowed layer upon layer burying the old granitic rocks. These flows ultimately reached a thickness of over 2000 feet. During and after cooling, these lava rocks were covered with sea water and over a long period of time were deeply buried under thousands of feet of sediment. Later the lavas were metamorphosed (altered by heat and pressure) to form the Catoctin Green-
stone (named for similar rocks in Catoctin Mountain, Maryland). Greenstone is a major rock of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Its distinct bluish-green color is exposed along Route 33 on the west slope of the Blue Ridge to Swift Run Gap, at many points along Skyline Drive, and along secondary roads and trails leading into the Blue Ridge from the west. Spectacular exposures of the greenstone can be seen in the large road cuts along Interstate 64 east of Rockfish Gap near Afton, though these are not in Rockingham County.

It was probably during the outpouring of these lavas some 600 million years ago that a shallow sea began to spread across Rockingham County and most of eastern North America from what is now present day Canada to Alabama. This sea existed for some 400 million years and was to have a profound effect on Rockingham County geology since the rocks now exposed in the Shenandoah and Page Valley originated here. Into this shallow tropical sea, sediment composed of pieces of sand, mud, silt and clay were carried by rivers draining the continent to the west. Similar material was also being washed from volcanic islands which periodically formed in the sea and were eroded away. Also vast numbers of sea shells of many types were added to the accumulation as millions of generations of sea creatures inhabited the bottom of this warm shallow sea. This allowed a great thickness of sediment, later to become rocks such as sandstones, shales and limestones, to accumulate layer upon layer on the sea bottom. This vast blanket of sediment, almost 19 miles thick, is one of the thickest in the world. As the layers accumulated, a very slow sinking of the original sea bottom took place so that the sea was never very deep. Fossils and other evidence point strongly to a shallow-sea origin for the vast majority of the sediments which later hardened to form the limestones, sandstones and shales we see throughout the county today. Figure 2 shows a shallow sea accumulating layer upon layer of sediment.

Of all the rocks exposed in Rockingham County, limestone is perhaps the best known and most important. Two thick sequences of limestone occur here. The lower sequence made up of layers of limestone measuring approximately 10,000 feet is one of the thickest known on earth. It is this limestone which underlies most of the valley floor in Rockingham and is a common sight in farmers’ fields throughout the Shenandoah Valley. It is of interest that thin layers of volcanic ash are found within these limestone layers indicating that volcanoes somewhere along what is now the east coast of the United States were periodically exploding ash into the atmosphere, much like recent eruptions of Mt. St. Helens. This ash in turn settled to the bottom of the sea and was incorporated into the limestone forming at the time. Two such ash layers are clearly exposed today in the abandoned Betts Quarry just east of Harrisonburg. The younger and thinner sequence of limestone is found only in the Allegheny ridges in the western portion of the county.

Finally as the shallow sea began to recede some 350 million years ago swamps, meandering rivers and dry land began to emerge. The swamps allowed the accumulation of thick peat deposits which were later buried to form coal. These sedimentary rocks, younger than the limestones, are preserved only in the western ridges of the county so that known coal deposits are limited to these western locations also.

FORMING THE MOUNTAINS

Sometime during the 400 million year period when the shallow seas were accumulating sediment which would later become the major rock layers of the county, a curious thing began to happen. The existing Atlantic Ocean apparently began to shrink bringing Europe and Africa closer to North and South America. Finally, approximately 275 million years ago the Atlantic closed and the continents on either side of the ocean collided, ramming northwest Africa into eastern North America. As the continents collided the rocks along the edges were crumpled and broken forming the Appalachian Mountain system. This collision of the continents had a profound effect throughout the eastern United States. The flat sedimentary layers of rocks deposited in the shallow sea were heaved up, folded and broken (see Figure 3) to form mountains much larger than those existing in Rockingham County today. Indeed most of the present mountains of
MOLE HILL AND OTHER MELTED ROCKS

Formation of the mountains left the originally flat layers of Rockingham extensively folded and broken. Avenues of weakness were now available whereby any melted rock material formed at depth in the earth could find its way up to or near the surface. We have good evidence in Rockingham County that several masses of molten (igneous) material did find their way upward into the thick overlying sedimentary layers and cooled forming hard rocks. A number of these formerly molten rocks are exposed at the surface in Rockingham County today.

Most igneous rocks found in Rockingham formed as vertical thin tablet-shaped bodies known as dikes. Most are only a few feet thick, and extend downward like a curtain into the earth. These dikes can often be found in the field by looking for brown, rounded rocks on the surface. Two dikes well known to local geologists are located as follows: one just east and almost parallel to Rt. 910 north of Rt. 765 (this dike crosses Rt. 910 just north of Green Mount Church), the other is exposed in the field just east of the Mundy Quarry and west of Rt. 602 in east Rockingham. So far as is known all of the thin dikes or igneous intrusions in the county are composed of a nearly black igneous rock.

Probably the most interesting igneous intrusion in Rockingham County is that exposed in Mole Hill located approximately four miles southwest of Harri-

the eastern United States are believed to be the eroded remnants of the great mountains formed during this collision. Figure 3 is a diagrammatic sketch of some of the major folds and breaks (faults) which must have existed in our area at the end of the Appalachian mountain building period some 150 million years ago. These mountains were not formed overnight but were produced over a period of several millions of years and were being affected by rapid erosion as they were formed. The combined action of crumpling the rock layers and rapid erosion must have produced high, rugged mountains in our area similar to the Alps and the Himalayas of today.

Recent geologic investigations, mostly related to natural gas exploration, have indicated that faulting in the Valley may have been much more intense than was formerly suspected. Apparently in response to the African collision, large slices of rock were broken loose and pushed westward up over other rocks. Some geologists now believe that the Blue Ridge Mountains have been thrust several miles westward up over folded sedimentary rocks similar to those exposed in the valley floor. Drilling planned in this area for natural gas should soon begin to provide some insights into the nature and extent of this faulting and thrusting of the rocks.

Figure 3. A sketch of the major folds and faults in Rockingham County as they may have appeared some 140 million years ago.

Figure 4. A cut-away view of Mole Hill. The magnified view shows the olivine crystals and fragments of sandstone carried upward by the melted rock. Above in dashed lines is a volcano which may have existed millions of years ago but has now been eroded away.
sonburg near Dale Enterprise (see Figure 4). The rock here is also dark colored with large crystals of the green, glassy mineral known as olivine included in it. Also included in the rock are pieces of sandstone which could only have been picked up thousands of feet down and brought to the surface as the lava flowed upward. Evidence is strong that Mole Hill is the conduit or pipe which fed molten igneous rock to a volcano which has now been eroded away. Recent work by Wampler and Dooley (1975) shows an age of approximately 47 million years for the Mole Hill rocks. This date is considerably younger than the 180 to 230 million year dates formerly attributed to the igneous rocks of the Valley. So at this point we can say that Mole Hill may well have been one of the last volcanoes which existed in what is now Virginia.

CAVES AND CAVERNs

Of all the aspects of Rockingham County geology, probably none are more fascinating than the caves which abound here. Limestones are unique among rocks in having the ability to form caves which carry underground streams. Even a brief look around the Shenandoah Valley will show the observer that very few surface streams exist. The many streams normally found on the surface in other areas run underground in caves here. It is interesting to take a look back in time and see how these caves were formed. Over thousands of years, as rain fell and soaked into the ground, it entered cracks in the underlying limestone bedrock and began to dissolve out small channels in the rock. As these channels grew larger, more water could enter the openings and underground cave systems were formed. Some of our caves have active streams flowing in them, while others have become dry as the groundwater forms more channels and moves deeper underground (see Figure 5).

Dry caves with cave formations such as stalactites, stalagmites and columns are among the most beautiful of geological features. Many of the Shenandoah Valley caves have been commercialized and called caverns, but whether called cave or cavern they were formed by the same process. They draw thousands of visitors each year. Many other "wild" caves of near equal beauty occur throughout the limestone areas of the Valley and are known to but a few people. In addition to these dry caves, thousands of smaller wet caves carry much of the ground water available in Rockingham County. Local well drillers report the intersection of small caves to be a common occurrence when drilling in limestone areas. Many of the wells produce water from caves containing underground streams in the limestone.

Some of the older caves in Rockingham County have literally collapsed due to their size. This has occurred as a cave continues to grow larger and larger through time by dissolving away its limestone walls and ceiling. A stage will then be reached when the thin ceiling rock will no longer be able to support the weight of the overlying soil. The ceiling of the cave then collapses and a sinkhole forms at the earth's surface. These depressions then collect surface water from the rain and snow and funnel it into the cave system. Sinkholes are a common sight in

Figure 5. Evolution of cave and sinkhole. 1. Rain soaks through soil and starts to dissolve limestone. 2. Small wet cave carries underground stream. 3. Dry cave forms and groundwater forms another wet cave at a lower level. 4. Cave ceiling collapses forming sinkhole.

Rockingham County. They immediately notify the observer that a cave system has been developed in that area and continues to act as an underground drainage network. Sinkholes, like caves, only occur in limestone, consequently they are good surface indicators of which areas of the county contain limestone bedrock.*

EVOLUTION OF TODAY'S LANDSCAPE

Figure 6 shows the relationship between today's landscape and the underlying geology. This relationship has evolved over the last 240 million years following the formation of the Appalachian Mountains. During this 240 million years, erosion has been the dominant geologic process at work on the Rockingham landscape. Even though this erosion is slow in human terms, over tens of millions of years it can drastically alter a mountain range or even wear it down to sea level.

*For further information on Virginia's caves see "Descriptions of Virginia's Caves" by J. R. Holdinger (1974).
A look at the rocks making up Rockingham County today in Figure 6 indicates that thousands of feet of rock material have been eroded off and carried away by the rivers to the sea. So we know that our mountains of today such as the Blue Ridge, Massanutten and the Allegheny are mere stumps of former mountains which were originally much larger and more rugged. Areas underlain by hard resistant rocks like sandstone now stand as ridges while areas underlain by softer, less resistant rocks like limestone and shale now exist as valleys.

The most comprehensive study of the present landscape of Rockingham was made by geologist John Hack (1965) of the United States Geological Survey in his report on the geomorphology of the Shenandoah Valley. Hack theorized that the present ridges and valleys were related strongly to the resistance to erosion of the underlying bedrock. So areas with sandstone and greenstone bedrock have resisted erosion and now stand as ridges. Limestone being less resistant to erosion has worn down more rapidly and now forms the major portion of the lowland or valley floor. Hack calls this response a system of “dynamic equilibrium” indicating that erosion continues but the mountains and valleys retain their relative size and position.

Also of interest in Figure 6 are the extensive gravel deposits which exist along the edge of the Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains. The most extensive of these deposits have been washed out of the Blue Ridge by stream action and have accumulated as thick aprons of loose sand and gravel which become thinner westward, away from the Blue Ridge. Most of the gravel is composed of rounded pieces of hard rock known as quartzite. Rounded pieces of this tan or yellow gravel can easily be seen by even a casual observer in the fields and roadcuts along Highway 340 and nearby secondary roads and along Fulks Run and Briery Branch in the western portion of the county.

The South Fork of the Shenandoah has reworked many of these gravels as it has meandered back and forth across its valley through time. This action has resulted in the formation of a series of flat surfaces much like broad stair steps; these flat valley surfaces are called terraces. At many points in the vicinity of Elkton and along Route 340 one can notice the existence of these terraces. In some cases it is possible to look across the river and see a flat area of the same elevation indicating that the gravel layer once extended straight across, but the river has now deepened its valley forming newer flat areas at a lower elevation. Arrow points and other evidence of Indian occupation are commonly found on these terraces.

Finally, most of the rivers and streams in the county have developed active flood plains of various widths. Flood plains are the flat areas along streams covered by sand and silt deposited when the river is at flood stage. The flood plain often covers hundreds of acres and may cover the bedrock to a depth of several feet or even tons of feet. Flood plains usually make excellent farmland due to the fertile soil and moist conditions. However, building and development in the flood plain is risky and is usually not recommended due to the risk of periodic flooding during high rainfall periods. Figure 7 shows the present flood plain and terraces formed by a river.

**GEOLOGY AND HUMAN HISTORY IN ROCKINGHAM**

There is little question that geology has had a profound effect on human history in Rockingham County. The land use plan for Rockingham County (1975) shows a strong relationship between geology and existing land use. Most fundamental is the concentration of the population on the valley floor with comparatively low population density in the mountainous areas. Two factors are probably of most importance—first, the rich limestone soils and associated flood plain soils drew the early settlers to the Valley because of their agricultural productivity, secondly, the relatively flat valley floor made development of homes, towns, and roads relatively easy.
quarrying and mining for sand and gravel, crushed stone, and agricultural lime in several localities. Iron was formerly mined at a number of sites around the county and zinc at two localities near Timberville. Active drilling for natural gas is now underway based on new geologic evidence and some past production near Bergton. Ocre, an iron oxide pigment, occurs at several points within the county and has been mined near Keezletown. According to Brent (1960), coal was briefly mined at Wolf Creek near the Augusta County line and has also been found near Rawley Springs and Briey Branch Gap.

Geologic features have played a major role in the development of tourism and recreational areas in Rockingham. First and foremost is the generally acknowledged beauty of the mountain and valley scenery of the area. The construction of the Skyline Drive by the federal government attests to this point. Caves developed in the valley limestones have also fascinated Valley visitors for years. Massanutten, Endless, and Melrose Caverns have all been or are now operating as commercial caverns. The large number of non-commercial caves have also brought visitors interested in exploring the underground environment. Skiing, backpacking, hunting, boating, and a number of other outdoor activities take advantage of the appropriate geologic features of the county.

In short, many of the diverse activities in which the citizens of Harrisonburg and Rockingham are now involved, in making a living, in providing shelter, in raising food, or in providing recreation are intimately related with the geologic environment. A strong case can usually be made for a relationship between the geologic history of any area and the human history superimposed upon it. The relationship appears to be particularly striking in the case of Rockingham County where both the human history, recorded by man's hand, and geologic history, recorded in the rocks, are long and richly varied.

REFERENCES


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BEAR-LITHIA CEMETERY INSCRIPTIONS

Transcribed by Dorothy Boyd Rush

1724
DEN 15 NOVE
ISD JACOB BAER1 GE
BAREN. ABER
DER GERECHTE OB
ER GLEICH ZU ZEIT
LICH STIRBT ISD ER
DOCH IN DER RUHE
DEN SEINE SELE GE
FAELD GOTT DARUM
EILET ER MID IHM AUS
DEM BOESEN LEBEN
W. HEIT 4.7.142 ISD
GEST. A.D. 12 FEB. 1783

1726
IST ANA BAR
BARA BAERIN3
UND DEIN LEBEN
LANG HABE GOTT
VOR AUGEN UND
IM HERZEN UND
HUTETE DICH DAS DU
IN KEINE SUEnde WIL
LIGEST UND THUST WIL
DER GOTTES GERBOT
TOBI 4.6.4
IST GEBORN 1726

1724
On Nov. 15
was Jacob Baer
born. "But the
righteous (man),
even if he dies
too early, is
after all at rest,
for his soul pleases
God. . . .Therefore he
hastens with him out
of this evil life."
Wisdom (Weisheit) 4:7, 14.
Died 12 Feb., 1783.

1726
was Anna Bar-
bara [Mrs.] Baer
"And all your
life keep God
before your eyes and
in your heart, and
guard yourself that you
consent to no sin
nor transgress
God's commandment."
Tobit (Tobia) 4:6.
Was born 1726

1791
Died
A.D.
27 Nov.
1791
Until recently, there was a third, legible sandstone marker in the Bear-Lithia cemetery, which is situated near the locally famous Bear-Lithia Spring just north of Elkton, Va., on Route 340. The third stone was much more recent than the other two, being at the same time, larger, thinner, and less deeply cut. It is now broken and weathered beyond repair. It used to read: “Jacob Bear, departed this life, May 17, 1827, aged 61 yrs., 5 mos., and 17 days.” This Jacob Bear is known to be the son of the previously mentioned Jacob and Barbara Baer [Bear].

According to local DAR records, there was also, in years past, a small, aged footstone inscribed “J.B.S.” in the cemetery, suggesting that, in fact, three generations of Jacob Baers [Bears], paternal grandfather, father, and son, had the same final resting place, despite the fact that the spelling of their name gradually evolved from the German “Baer” to the English “Bear.” Others who are interred in this graveyard have no stones to mark their resting place. Some believe that Adam Müller [Miller], “the first settler,” is among them, as he died at his daughter’s Bear-Lithia Spring home rather than at his own nearby homestead. Originally from Baden, in Germany, Adam Müller [Miller] is regarded as responsible for the first documented German settlement between the Blue Ridge and Massanutten Mountains (now Rockingham County, Va.).

1Jacob Baer [Bear] (1724-1783) was the son-in-law of Adam Müller [Miller] (1703-1784), who is generally regarded as the first white settler west of the Blue Ridge. Miller’s homestead and that of his son-in-law were located in what is today the eastern part of Rockingham County, Va.

2A contemporary Lutheran Bible’s Apocrypha renders the text: Das Buch der Weisheit 4:7, 14. Aber der Gerechte, ob er gleich zu zeitlich stirbt, ist er doch in der Ruh. ... Denn seine Seele gafaelt Gott; darum eiler Er mit ihm aus dem boesen Leben.

3Anna Barbara Miller Baer [Bear] was one of the four children known to have been born to Adam Müller [Miller], Sr., and his wife, Barbara. The others were: Adam Miller, Jr., who was probably killed by Indians sometime after 1764; Henry Miller, who inherited the original Adam Miller homestead; and Catherine Miller, who married John Baer [Bear], her sister’s brother-in-law. Both Jacob and John Baer [Bear], Sr. were the sons of Jacob Baer [Bear], Sr.

4A contemporary version of the Apocrypha cites the verse as follows: Das Buch Tobia 4:6. Und dein Lebenlang habe Gott vor Augen und im Herzen, und hute dich, dasz du in keine Suende willigest, und thust wider Gottes Gebot.

5On page 51 of A Short History of Page County Virginia (Deitz Press, Inc., Richmond, Virginia: 1952), Harry M. Strickler indicates that he believes that the footstone was inscribed “J.B.3” He visited the cemetery in 1931.

DR. BENNETT, THREE-WAY PIONEER

by Pauline Beard

DR. JESSEE BENNETT

July 10, 1769 to July 13, 1842
Near Edom, Virginia, January 14, 1794, in a heroic effort to save his wife and child performed the first successful Caesarean section and oophorectomy to be done in America.

Rockingham County Medical Society
January 14, 1959

Thus one may read from a bronze plaque in the front lobby of Rockingham Memorial Hospital, Harrisonburg, Virginia. The plaque features a bust sculptured from a photograph of a miniature of Dr. Bennett painted in Richmond in the early Nineteenth Century.
The little known accounts of this medical feat were uncovered and verified for this plaque by the late Dr. Noland Canter, Sr., along with the late D. W. Thomas, President of the Chesapeake and Western Railway. A West Virginia Medical Journal of 1929 stated that the first printed account of Dr. Bennett's operation was found in an 1894 *History of the Great Kanawha Valley*. There Dr. A. L. Knight, who knew Dr. Bennett and his family, had accorded this remarkable deed to him.

Jessee Bennett was born in Franklin, Pennsylvania. After medical training in Philadelphia, he began the practice of his profession in the recently formed County of Rockingham, Virginia, living in a log cabin at Edom. On April 3, 1793, he was married to Elizabeth Hog, a daughter of Major Peter Hog, the first Clerk of Rockingham County. On January 14, 1794, in his home, Dr. Bennett safely performed a Caesarean operation delivering his wife of a daughter. Mrs. Bennett survived many years and the child, living to the age of seventy-seven, was the wife of Dr. Enos Thomas.

After many hours of labor, it was obvious delivery could not be made normally. Dr. Alexander Humphreys was called in for consultation. Dr. Humphreys, a foremost practitioner in a wide area, was a tutor of medical students in Staunton. After failure in the use of forceps, the doctors were faced with losing the child's life in delivery or performing a Caesarean section. The latter was unprecedented in the New World and rarely achieved by the doctors in the Old World. The mother insisted the child be saved even if she must die. The older and more experienced doctor refused to perform such a dangerous operation and returned to Staunton. The young red-haired doctor made his decision.

The exhausted wife was given a large dose of laudanum and placed on planks across barrels. Dr. Bennett opened the abdomen and uterus and delivered the child. Then by lamplight he removed the ovaries with the remark, "This will be the last one." He sewed up the incision with stout linen thread used in making heavy clothing. Helping him, by holding his wife, were two Negro women. Another eyewitness was Mrs. Nancy Hawkins, Elizabeth Bennett's sister. Later she was the aforementioned Dr. Knight's informer.

This doctor's ingenuity and courage, using the instruments available to the country doctor of the time, had accomplished what no other had dared. Probably he had never seen a surgical operation during his medical training, nor even a description of any type of abdominal operation. When asked why he did not report the case to medical circles, he replied, "No doctor with any feelings of delicacy would report an operation he had done on his wife." He added that physicians generally would disbelieve the operation could be done successfully in the back woods of Virginia, and he "would be damned if we would give anyone a chance to call him a liar."

In 1797, the Bennett family moved from Edom to a place near the Ohio River, five miles north of Point Pleasant. To this pioneer, the wilds of the western side of Virginia brought no fear. He rode to his many patients with the reputation of a good marksman and the ability to ride a horse any place the animal could go. The Bennetts were accompanied to Kanawha County by Mrs. Bennett's brother, Thomas Hog, and her sister, Mrs. Nancy Hawkins, and their families.

Their father Peter Hog was the patentee of a nine-thousand acre tract in Kanawha County. He was Clerk of Rockingham from 1778 to his death in February, 1782. It may be supposed that the land to the west possibly was received by him under a provision of Royal Proclamation in that he was known to be Captain of a Company of Rangers until their discharge at Beford in 1780.

According to Kanawha County (later Mason County, W.Va.) records, Dr. Bennett was deeded two-hundred seventy acres of land by James Hog of Augusta County. Sometime prior to 1820, he erected a two-story brick residence, known as "River View." He was influential in forming Mason County from the large Kanawha County, and was one of the justices of its first court. He was a Major in the County Militia, and in 1808 and in 1809 represented the County in the Virginia General Assembly at Richmond. Further, he figured as a witness in the Richmond trial of Aaron Burr. In the War of 1812, he was a surgeon in the 2nd Virginia Regiment.

Dr. Bennett died in 1842 at "River View," Mason County, Virginia (now West Virginia). He most certainly should be known as a "Three-way Pioneer."

REFERENCES

*Daily Register*, Mason County, W.Va., Dec. 4, 1941.
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE DURING THE CIVIL WAR PERIOD—This was the third courthouse, 1833-1874, located almost directly between the sites of the first and second. Both had been torn down by the time the third was built. The building, which faced east, was a two-story brick structure topped with a weather vane ball and fish. The enclosed courtyard was considered a good location by both the Southern and Northern armies as a temporary place to keep prisoners.
Today, Bethel Church (U.B.) is located approximately 5½ miles north of Keezletown, just off state road 620 on 722. It is a small, “modern” structure. In years past, there have been other congregations occupying the same site, congregations known variously as: “Ehrmentrout's” (1806), “Saint Philip's” (1825), “Trinity” (1864), and, unofficially at least, “The Old Dutch Church.”

Prior to the year 1800, many of the original congregation attended the Peaked Mountain Church at McGaheysville. The distance being great, however, from Keezletown to McGaheysville, about 1787, steps were taken to erect a new, more conveniently located house of worship.

One of those most interested in the project was Henrich Ehrmentrou [Henry Armentrou] of Keezletown who had previously opened his home to visiting preachers, i.e., Gottlieb Deshler, a noted Lutheran minister, is known to have visited on a number of occasions. In 1787, in the Ehrmentroudt home, the earliest
congregation was formally organized. For many years, thereafter, it was commonly known as “Ehrmentroat’s Church.” It was, for much of its history, a Union Church, serving both the Lutheran and the Reformed members of the community.

Shortly after its organization, steps were taken to construct a church. Logs were hewn from nearby trees. According to some sources, when the church wall had reached a height of approximately twelve feet, a log that was being positioned slipped and struck George Ehrmentroat, killing him instantly. Work was subsequently stopped. Nothing more was done until 1806 when work on the log structure was finally completed. Sources indicate that the log which had caused the earlier tragedy was ultimately incorporated into the wall behind the pulpit and scored deeply with crosses. It remained as a constant reminder of the congregation's early loss until the original structure was torn down in the early part of this century to make way for the present structure. The old logs were then used to construct a barn on the farm of Madison Wise which ultimately became known as “Wiseland.”

A list of the first communicants survives. It is dated 18 May 1806. By name they numbered thirty-two: Phillip Ermentraut; Henrich Ermentraut; Isaac Diboy; Anna Diboy; Phillip Hauer; Phillip Ermentraut; Peter Ermentraut; Johannes Bihl and wife Eva; Levy Derien; Peter Ermentraut and wife Catarina; Michael Baisel and wife Doredea; Isaac Bolton and wife Maria Magtalina; George Lenert; Catharina Ermentraut; Elisabeth Stiegelester; Christina Dick; Eva Ermentraut; Johannes Kuhl(t); Magtalina Millerin; Maria Berkel; Maria Dashler; Magtalina Schafer; Catarina Vogt; Barbara Vogt; Maria Vogt; and, Barbara Miller.

Across 722 from the present church is the old burial ground, which is still being used by the present congregation. It is in excellent condition and surrounded by an iron fence.

The earliest, legible stones date from 1806. Not counting the more than two dozen fieldstones that are still in place, there are a number of broken and worn stones which undoubtedly date from well before 1806. They are concentrated in the central portion of the cemetery. One such partially obliterated fragment seems to indicate a death in 1797 ["gestorben 1797"]. There are obviously many graves that are no longer even marked by fieldstones.

In general, most of the stones date from the middle of the nineteenth century and almost all that can still be read are in English. A portion of this fine, old cemetery was previously recorded through the efforts of the Massanutten Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. In re-recording this cemetery, the area was marked off in fifty foot sections, running from to back, beginning on the left with the north-east corner.

BETHEL CEMETERY

FIRST SECTION:

ARMENTROUT:

John W., b. 18 July 1880, d. 1 Aug. 1932
Virginia B., b. 18 July 1857, d. 12 Nov. 1938

HAWSE:

Elizabeth E., dau. of Joseph & Ann Hawse
d. 12 Aug. 1917, aged 84 yrs.

ARMENTROUT:

Mother, Dottie E., b. 1 Dec. 1873, d. 24 July 1950
Father, Charles E., b. 10 Oct. 1872, d. 2 June 1954

ARMENTROUT:

Luna Pauline, b. 4 Aug. 1904, d. 2 Mar. 1957

ARMENTROUT:

John H., b. 3 July 1842, d. 12 May 1915
Forever with the Lord
We will meet again
Asleep in Jesus
Beloved one forever

ARMENTROUT:

Elmira, wife of John H., b. 8 Mar. 1843,
d. 4 Feb. 1926
Gone, but not forgotten

PITTINGTON:

Jacob Isaac, son of Isaac & Nancy Pittington
b. 17 Sept. 1926, d. 8 May 1930

LONG:

Infant son of Mr. & Mrs. Trenton William Long
(metal marker - no dates)

SNOW:

Robert, Sr., 1912-1972 [metal marker]

GRUBB:

Alpha Reiona, daughter, b. 8 May 1915,
d. 21 May 1915

SIE:

Anna May, wife of William O., b. 24 Aug. 1908,
d. 13 Sept. 1941

SIE:

d. 1930

SIE:

Baby Girl, d. 1927

DEEDS:

Robert W. P., son of William & Ollie L. Deeds
b. 16 July 1905, d. 7 Jan. 1908
Asleep in Jesus.

SIE:

Children of A. L. & M. See
Ethel V., b. 23 Oct. 1904, d. 23 Oct. 1918
Lurty B., b. 5 June 1900, d. 9 Nov. 1918
Lester E., b. 16 Jan. 1910, d. 25 Oct. 1918

SIE:

Arthur A., father, b. 1874, d. 1959
Mollie B., b. 1867, d. 1925
Gone, but not forgotten
MILLER:  Gideon, b. 30 Aug. 1846, d. 23 Oct. 1926
        aged 80 yrs. 1 mo. 23 days.
MILLER:  Abraham [metal marker, no dates]
DEEDS:   Lurty, dau. of Lydia J. Deeds, d. 2 July 1896,
        aged 3 yrs. 8 mos. 6 days.
        Gone to be an angel.
DEEDS:   George, d. 26 April 1899, aged 80 yrs.
        He is not dead, but sleepeth.
DEEDS:   Margaret A., wife of George, d. 26 Dec. 1901,
        aged 80 yrs. 1 mo. 25 days
        She was the sunshine of our home.
BAKER:   Mary E., b. 1 Aug. 1837, d. 26 Feb. 1920,
        aged 82 yrs. 6 mos. 26 days.
        Our hearts are sad and lonely,
        Our grief too deep to tell
        The time will come we care not when,
        That with you we may dwell.
LILLY:   George E., b. 14 May 1854, d. 17 Aug. 1923
        Lucinda C., his wife, b. 3 Apr. 1858, d. 23 July 1933
ARMENTROUT:  Hazel M., b. 4 Apr. 1920, d. 13 May 1921
ARMENTROUT:  John C., b. 2 Oct. 1902, d. 21 Dec. 1940
ARMENTROUT:  Delaney F., b. 28 Jan. 1911, d. 21 July 1941
ARMENTROUT:  G. Brooks, mother, b. 17 June 1878, d. 7 June 1968
MILLER:   Simon, b. 30 Mar. 1817, d. 8 June 1901,
        aged 84 yrs. 2 mos. 9 days.
MILLER:   Margaret A., b. 11 Sept. 1827, d. 13 May 1900,
        aged 72 yrs. 8 mos. 1 day
ARMENTROUT:  Homer C., brother, b. 9 Sept. 1894, d. 4 Oct. 1969
              Emma V., sister, b. 2 Apr. 1897, d._______
ARMENTROUT:  Lorenzo D., b. 11 Nov. 1871, d. 25 Jan. 1949
              Florence C., b. 1 July 1896, d._______
              When God shall wipe away all tears
              then we will understand
ARMENTROUT:  Melvin Leon, son of H. O. & Emsa V.,
              b. 13 Sept. 1912, d. 23 Mar. 1913
HANLIN:   John I., b. 6 Sept. 1872, d. 8 Nov. 1941
          Amanda J., b. 8 Feb. 1872, d. 16 July 1961
ARMENTROUT:  Lindsey M., b. 16 Jan. 1874, d. 27 Aug. 1961
              Maud V., b. 25 Aug. 1885, d. 31 Oct. 1975
BEAM:     John J., b. 3 Sept. 1855, d. 17 Aug. 1931
          Alice C., his wife, b. 17 Apr. 1862, d. 5 Mar. 1926
          Footstones: Father & Mother
BEAM:     Children of John 7 Alice Beam
          Viola V., b. 16 Mar. 1897, d. 18 Feb. 1988
          Ethel M., b. 16 Aug. 1898, d. 17 Dec. 1988
PITTINGTON:  James E., son, b. 23 Feb. 1900, d. 26 May 1942
              John W., father, b. 8 June 1856, d. 26 Aug. 1949
              Evelyn, b. 22 Mar. 1867, d. 29 May 1959
PITTINGTON:  David F., b. 7 July 1907, d. 17 Apr. 1957
              Virginia, PFC, Co. A, 75 Medical Bn, World War II
CRIGLER:  Infant, 11 Feb. 1945
PITTINGTON:  Clyde, b. 1892, d. 1960
              Willie Ruth, b. 1897, d. 1972
PITTINGTON:  Clyde, b. 24 Sept. 1892, d. 29 Dec. 1960
              (Bronze Footmarker)
              Virginia, PFC, 3 Biltong & Sup Det., World War I
LAYMAN:   Infant of L. S. & Sarah J., b. 15 Mar. 1895,
          aged 13 days.
LAYMAN:   Sallie Elton, dau. of L. S. & Sarah
          b. 30 Nov. 1897, d. 4 Feb. 1908,
          aged 10 yrs. 2 mos. 4 days.
LAYMAN:   Gideon, d. 6 Jan. 1891, aged 76 yrs. 10 mos. 15 days.
          Gone, but not forgotten.
LAYMAN:   Sarah Ann, wife of Gideon, d. 19 July 1899,
          aged 70 yrs. 5 mos. 23 days.
          There is rest in Heaven.
BEAVERS:  William Elmer, a friend, b. 18 Aug. 1892,
          d. 21 June 1963
          Not dead, he only sleeps.
DEEDS:    Hobart O., b. 18 Feb. 1900, d. 29 Sept. 1968
          Gone, but not forgotten.
DEEDS:    Minnie I. F., b. 17 July 1903, d. 29 July 1938
          Gone, but not forgotten.
DEEDS:    Lurena L., b. 25 Oct. 1874, d. 22 June 1971
          Orville H., b. 24 Jan. 1907, d. 17 July 1961
          Footstones: Mother and Son
DEEDS: Mary E., 1849-1931

DEEDS: Walter C. H., In memory of our son, b. 19 June 1879, d. 10 Sept. 1906, aged 27 yrs. 2 mos. 21 days.
To you the child was only lent
While mortal it was thine
The child who dead is yet alive
And lives forever mine.

DEEDS: Cyrus E., b. 14 July 1851, d. 18 June 1911, aged 59 yrs. 11 mos. 4 days.
A precious one from us has gone
A voice we loved is stilled
A place is vacant in our home
Which never can be filled.

WAMPLER: Jennetta S. Deeds, 1854-1918


DEEDS: Joseph, d. 3 Aug. 1895, aged 41 yrs. 4 mos. 2 days.

HASLER: Leon W., b. 28 Mar. 1913, d. 1 Feb. 1976
Una B., b. 11 Nov. 1914, d. 3 Feb. 1971
Together forever.

HASLER: Leon "Bunkey" 1913-1976 [metal marker]

HASLER: Anna Elizabeth, b. 12 Sept. 1906, d. 20 Nov. 1981

BAKER: James R., b. 14 Feb. 1885, d. 30 Apr. 1957
Lena Mary, b. 17 Aug. 1888, d. 17 Apr. 1950

SECOND SECTION:

KISLING: Hensel G., b. 21 Jan. 1922, d. 25 Aug. 1977
Carrie M., b. 12 Sept. 1926, d. 1926.
In loving memory.

MILLER: Marion E., b. 26 Sept. 1869, d. 26 June 1965
Rebecca B., b. 26 Apr. 1885, d. 4 Nov. 1975
Footstones: Mother & Father

MILLER: Rebecca F., 1886-1975 [metal marker]

MILLER: Mary Angeline, dau. of Peachy & Lydia
b. 3 July 1878, d. 30 June 1903

MILLER: Peach, b. 11 Nov. 1843, d. 15 June 1896, aged 52 yrs. 7 mos. 4 days.

MILLER: Lydia G., b. 5 Sept. 1846, d. 21 May 1920

GRANDIE: Mary, wife of Emanuel, d. 10 May 1877, aged 65 years
Beloved one far away.

GARNER: Margret, b. 19 Apr. 1795, d. 3 Mar. 1877, aged 82 yrs. 10 mos. 16 days.

FAWCETT: The children of JMS & MF
George Elite, d. 12 Mar. 1907, aged 2 days
Julia Page, d. 5 Feb. 1913, aged 2 yrs. 5 mos. 18 days
Budded on earth to bloom in heaven.

FAWCETT: Amanda dau. of George & Catherine,
d. 2 Dec. 1867, aged 8 days.

FAWCETT: George, d. 18 Apr. 1897, aged 74 yrs. 8 mos. 14 days.
Thy trials ended, thy rest is won.

LAYMAN: William D., 1888-1931


LAYMAN: David E., b. 1 Nov. 1883, d. 1 June 1965
Ella M., b. 28 May 1889, d. 26 Feb. 1956

ARMENTROUT: John A., b. 26 May 1839, d. 25 Feb. 1919
Lucy Jane, his wife, b. 11 May 1828, d. 14 Jan. 1914

LAYMAN: Elvie Elton, dau. of D. C. & Virginia, b. 2 Sept. 1897, d. 20 Dec. 1906
Those whom God loves die young.

LAYMAN: David C., father, b. 10 Sept. 1846, d. 7 Sept. 1901, aged 54 yrs. 11 mos. 27 days.
Gone, but not forgotten
By his children.

LAYMAN: Virginia, our mother, b. 31 July 1855, d 20 Jan. 1920
aged 67 yrs. 6 mos. 19 days
Gone, but not forgotten
By her children.

LAYMAN: James Oen, son of David C. & Annie V., d. 27 Jan. 1887, aged 7 yrs. 1 mo. 24 days.
Budded on earth to bloom in heaven.

LAYMAN: Josephine, d. 16 Aug. 1916

CREW: Infant dau. of Clyde & Rosie, b. & d. 5 Oct. 1947
Gone where no sorrow ever comes.

REID: Mary E. "Bessie", mother, b. 8 Sept. 1896, d. 23 June 1968
Your kindness and love
will guide us forever.

SHIPP: Mary V., b. 1 July 1915, d. Herman A., b. 29 July 1914, d. 27 Jan. 1946.
SHULTZ: Jacob R., b. 4 Oct. 1854, d. 16 Mar. 1937
SHULTZ: Mary V., wife of J. R., b. 21 July 1856, d. 11 Mar. 1934
SHULTZ: Virgie Catherine, dau. of Jacob & Mary V. b. 18 Apr. 1894, d. 25 Sept. 1945
SHULTZ: Phillip, b. 2 Aug. 1845, d. 2 June 1935
SCHULTZ: Joseph, b. 26 June 1857, d. 1 Nov. 1925
SCHULTZ: Florance H., b. 25 Dec. 1856, d. 7 Feb. 1921, aged 64 yrs. 1 mo. 12 days.
SCHULTZ: E. Charity, b. 15 Sept. 1841, d. 8 May 1903, aged 62 yrs. 7 mos. 24 days.
FLOOK: David H., in memory of, infant son of David & Mary d. 9 June 1838, aged 9 mos. 23 days.
MILLER: Henry, b. 24 Sept. 1821, d. 4 Feb. 1823
DERRER: Forrer Monroe, 3rd son of R. M. & L. V. b. 26 Dec. 1903, d. 13 Nov. 1906, aged 2 yrs. 10 mos. 17 days
   Safe in the arms of Jesus
   Our dear little son and brother
   Absent, but not forgotten
DERRER: Margaret F., dau. of R. M. & L. V., d. 2 June 1898
SCHULTZ: Adam, b. 26 Feb. 1843, d. 25 Mar. 1893, aged 50 yrs. 28 days
SCHULTZ: Susannah, b. 10 Mar. 1818, d. 20 Dec. 1892, aged 74 yrs. 9 mos. 9 days.
SCHULTZ: Lydia M., b. 27 Apr. 1852, d. 11 Feb. 1899, aged 46 yrs. 9 mos. 14 days.
BRIGHT: Carlile, 11 Mr 1807 [German]
PROFFIT: Ann, 28 July 1806, Prais.be.my God. Amen
DERRER: James M., b. 28 Jan. 1870, d. 3 Feb. 1955
REID: D. Clyde, b. 14 June 1914, d. 16 July 1977
   Forever in our hearts.
   Rosie K., b. 24 Mar. 1918, d. __________.
GRUB: Crisse Ann, b. 6 Sept. 1841, d. 15 Oct. 1844
   [Broken in three pieces]
GRUB: Milton, b. 19 Jan. 1840, d. 14 Feb. 1840
GRUB: Lydian, b. 23 Apr. 1816, d. 8 Mar. 1811

Illegible

DERROW: Jacob Krom [German]
   9 July 1806

DERROW: George M., b. 17 Aug. 1863, d. 14 Sept. 1924
   Augusta J., b. 28 Dec. 1850, d. 4 Jan. 1947
   Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.

GRUBB: Reuben M., 1840-1913
GRUBB: Amanda C., dau. of Peter & Susan
   b. 1 Nov. 1838, d. 18 Oct. 1895, aged 56 yrs. 11 mos. 17 days.
GRUBB: Susan, in memory of, d. 26 Sept. 1889, aged 82 yrs. 2 mos. 4 days.
GRUB: Robert, b. 1 Nov. 1843, d. 25 Apr. 1845
DERRER: Elmira J., b. 6 June 1868, d. 13 Feb. 1944
   Gone, but not forgotten.
DERRER: William, b. 15 Mar. 1834, d. 10 Apr. 1887, aged 53 yrs. 25 days.
   Dearest father, thou hast left us,
   And our loss we deeply feel
   But tis God that hath bereft us,
   He can all our sorrows heal.
   Yet again we hope to meet Thee,
   When the days of life is fled,
   When in heaven in joy to greet thee
   Where no farewell tear is shed.
Hanah M., b. 15 July 1834, d. 28 Feb. 1909
   We miss thee from our home, dear mother,
   We miss thee from thy place
   A shadow o'er our lives is cast
   We miss the sunshine of thy face
   We miss thy kind and willing hand
   Thy fond and earnest care
   Our home is dark without thee.
   We miss thee every where.
GRUBB: Herbert C., b. 8 Sept. 1892, d. __________.
   Maude V., b. 9 Mar. 1892, d. 21 Feb. 1969
WISE: John W., b. 24 Dec. 1858, d. 21 Nov. 1911
   It was hard indeed to part with thee
   But Christ's strong arm supported me
BAKER: Electra M. M., dau. of J. R. & Lena M.
   b. 22 Aug. 1910, d. 20 July 1911
THIRD SECTION — In Section Three there were at least six illegible German stones too faint to read.

HALTERMAN: Lucinda T. A., wife of N. A., d. 12 Dec. 1904, aged 56 yrs. 9 mos. 12 days
Rest, Mother, rest in quiet sleep
While friends in sorrow o'er thee weep.

LAYMAN: Ada A., our mother, wife of C. M.
b. 10 Mar. 1870, d. 27 Apr. 1906,
aged 36 yrs. 1 mo. 17 days.

ARMENTROUT: Fannie L., dau. of H. M. & Joanna Miller
b. 18 May 1887, d. 12 Mar. 1905,
aged 17 yrs. 9 mos. 22 days.

ARMENTROUT: Daughter of Virginia B. Armentrout
b. 13 Mar. 1877, d. 10 Apr. 1877, aged 29 days.

ARMENTROUT: Mary F. R. Rogers, wife of J. H.
b. 30 Jan. 1850, d. 4 Sept. 1875,
aged 25 yrs. 7 mos. 26 days.

ROGERS: Elizabeth J., wife of James
b. 9 Feb. 1855, d. 29 Jan. 1892,
aged 36 yrs. 11 mos. 20 days.

DERRER: Luther V., b. 5 Aug. 1857, d. 21 July 1938
Gone, but not forgotten.

DERRER: Mary E., wife of Luther V., d. 7 Apr. 1883,
aged 28 yrs. 3 mos. 5 days.

HALTERMAN: Florina L. C., dau. of Noah A. & Tamson
b. 13 June 1882, d. 14 Nov. 1884
Rest in peace.

MILLER: Minnie [Undated]

MILLER: Madison, b. 25 Nov. 1855, d. 15 Nov. 1879,
aged 23 yrs. 11 mos. 20 days.

MILLER: Angeline, b. 3 Mar. 1824, d. 10 Oct. 1879,
aged 55 yrs. 6 mos. 7 days.

ROGERS: Lydia C. D., b. 27 Apr. 1853, d. 26 Sept. 1879,
aged 25 yrs. 11 mos. 19 days.

ROGERS: George A. W., b. 28 Feb. 1856, d. 26 Sept. 1878,
aged 22 yrs. 6 mos. 28 days.

ROGERS: Jacob J., b. 4 Jan. 1852, d. 9 June 1880,
aged 28 yrs. 5 mos. 5 days.

THOMSON: Delila, wife of James, b. 23 Sept. 1823,
d. 19 Apr. 1881, aged 58 yrs. 7 mos. 5 days.

THOMPSON: James, b. 25 Jan. 1810, d. 9 Apr. 1886,
aged 76 yrs. 2 mos. 15 days.

ARMENTROUT: Ida Virginia, b. 2 Jan. 1872, d. 10 Apr. 1881,
aged 9 yrs. 3 mos. 3 days.

SCHULTZ: Mary E., b. 16 Dec. 1849, d. 23 Feb. 1870,
aged 21 yrs. 1 mo. 22 days.

ARMENTROUT: Joseph, my husband, b. 6 July 1804, d. 9 Oct. 1877,
aged 73 yrs. 3 mos. 3 days.

FAUGHT: Hilbert Aquila, infant son of Josiah P. & Adaline
b. 8 July 1880, d. 8 Aug. 1880, aged 1 month

FAUGHT: Peter Paul, infant son of Josiah P. & Adaline
b. 27 June 1882, d. 18 Oct. 1882, aged 3 mos. 21 days.

FAUGHT: Josiah P., b. 26 Oct. 1832, d. 2 June 1902
Remember me as you pass by,
As you are now so once was I,
As I am now so you must be,
Prepare for death and follow me.

FOUGHT: Adaline, wife of J. P., b. 29 Nov. 1838,
d. 24 Mar. 1903.

ALDER: Barbara E., in memory of, b. 29 May 1845,
d. 20 Oct. 1848.

BOLTON: Elias C., b. 11 Feb. 1824, d. 23 Jan. 1837.

DESLER: Barbara, b. 14 Jan. 1785, d. 15 Aug. 1845.

DESLER: Abraham, b. 8 May 1784, d. 25 May 1842.

BOLTON: Jonathan, b. 16 Nov. 1806, d. 30 Apr. 1809

MOYERS: Christena, d. 1 June 1837, aged 62 yrs. 5 mos. 22 days.

ALDER: John M., to commemorate, b. 1 Mar. 1800,
d. 3 June 1846, aged 46 yrs. 3 mos. 2 days.
Remember me as you pass by,
As you are now so once was I;
As I am now you'll shortly be,
Prepare for death and eternity.
ALDER: Barbara Ann, to commemorate b. 24 May 1777, d. 28 May 1848, at 11 o'clock 40 min. PM, aged 71 yrs. and 4 days and a few hours.
   Dead mother with sorrow I bid you adieu.
   Thy days are ended across life's trouble sea.
   Like the mist of the vale from the bright king of day.
   You are summoned away farewell dear Mother.

SIBERT: Lucinda, in memory of, d. 20 Mar. 1844, aged 9 yrs. 11 mos. 4 days.

LAYMAN: Segourney Arebelle, b. 16 Aug. 1867, d. 16 Dec. 1869

LAYMAN: Caroline, in memory of, b. 5 Dec. 1831, d. 4 May 1836, aged 4 yrs. 4 mos. 29 days.

LAYMON: Daniel, b. 1 Mar. 1788, d. 25 Mar. 1864, aged 76 yrs. 24 days.

LAYMON: Barbara, our mother, wife of Daniel b. 10 July 1790, d. 29 Jan. 1877, aged 87 yrs. 6 mos. 19 days.
   Where immortal spirits reign;
   There we shall meet again.

ARMENTROUT: Sarah, b. 22 Sept. 1804, d. 6 July 1818, aged 13 yrs. 8 mos. 15 days.

CARRIER: Hannah, sacred to the memory of, b. 11 May 1785, d. 29 May 1823

MILLER: Peter, b. 24 Oct. 1734, d. 6 Sept. 1810?

DEPOY: Catharina, b. 11 July 1756, d. 4 June 1808 [German]

ARMENTROUT: Joab A., b. 26 Feb. 1834, d. 25 Aug. 1913, aged 79 yrs. 5 mos. 29 days.
   Gone, but not forgotten.

Large German stone with matching footstone — illegible.

   Peace be thine.

HOUCK: Henry, sacred to the memory of, d. 25 Aug. 1813, aged 72 yrs.

ARMENTROUT: Harvey, b. 4 Feb. 1866, d. 30 Aug. 1951
   Minnie May, b. 20 Apr. 1858, d. 31 Aug. 1946.

ARMENTROUT: Elizabeth Ann, 1859-1941
   Gone, but not forgotten.

SHIPP: Mary E., mother, b. 30 Nov. 1854, d. 4 June 1933
   Our kind mother.

SHIPP: William H., father, b. 4 July 1849, d. 12 June 1930
   Our kind father.

ARMENTROUT: David C., b. 8 Dec. 1850, d. 10 Jan. 1926
   Asleep in Jesus.

ARMENTROUT: Manda F., dau. of Reuben & Lucretia b. 25 Mar. 1857, d. 13 Mar. 1902, aged 44 yrs. 11 mos. 18 days.
   Dearest sister, thou hast left us.
   Here thy loss we deeply feel,
   But is God that hath bereft us
   He can all our sorrows heal.

HOUCK: Margaret, sacred to the memory of Margaret Houck or Smith, d. 8 Nov. 1831, aged 61 years.

SMITH: Eve, b. 24 Oct. 1783, d. 16 Sept. 1839, aged 55 yrs. 11 mos. 22 days.

ARMENTROUT: Abigail, mother, b. 2 Apr. 1853, d. 31 Jan. 1884
   Asleep in Jesus.

ARMENTROUT: Lucretia, wife of Reuben, d. 23 Nov. 1893, aged 65 yrs. 7 mos. 23 days.
   It was God's own hand, we know, that took our own sweet mother from this life of pain and woe, and brought her home with him forever.

ARMENTROUT: Reuben, b. 23 Sept. 1827, d. 28 Jan. 1908, aged 80 yrs. 4 mos. 5 days.
   Having served his generation, by the will of God he fell asleep.

   Death has been here and borne away
   A dear one from our side
   Just in the morning of his day
   In youth and love he died
   Happy loved one, early blest
   Rest in peaceful slumber, rest
   Fairly rescued from the cares,
   Which increase with growing years.
FLOOK: Virginia M., in loving remembrance of,
our dear mother, b. 30 July 1848, d. 3 Feb. 1917,
aged 68 yrs. 6 mos. 3 days.
A precious one from us has gone
A voice we loved is stilled
A place is vacant in our home
Which never can be filled.
William Christian, b. 9 May 1839, d. 28 July 1904,
aged 65 yrs. 2 mos. 19 days.
In loving remembrance of my dear husband.
Tis hard to break the tender cord
Where love has bound the heart
Tis hard, so hard, to speak the word
We must forever part
Dearest loved one, we must lay thee
In the peaceful graves embrace
But thy memory will be cherished
Till we see thy heavenly face.

FLOOK: Bettie, aunt, b. 2 Apr. 1827, d. 6 Apr. 1916
She believed and sleeps in Jesus.

SECTION FOUR
WHITMORE: Amanda G., dau. of C. E. & Lucy, aged 6 mos. 9 days.
Darling, we miss you.

WHITMORE: Charles E., d. 24 Mar. 1905,
aged 36 yrs. 11 mos. 15 days.
Gone, but not forgotten.

WHITMORE: Lucy E., wife of Charlie E.
b. 6 Sept. 1872, d. 17 Sept. 1929, aged 57 yrs. 11 days.

ARMENTROUT: Artha Elmer, son of Remiges and M. Frances
b. 22 Sept. 1877, d. 10 Dec. 1878,
aged 1 yr. 2 mos. 12 days.

FAUGHT: John Luther, infant son of Josiah P. & Adaline,
b. 26 Apr. 1869

CHAPMAN: Stephen, b. 28 May 1828, d. 9 Aug. 1907,
aged 79 yrs. 2 mos. 11 days.
Blessed is that man that maketh
the Lord his trust.

CHAPMAN: Maria, wife of Stephen
b. 11 Feb. 1834, d. 30 Apr. 1906,
aged 75 yrs. 2 mos. 19 days.
Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord.

ARMENTROUT: Elizabeth, in memory, dau. of David & Polly
d. 27 Mar. 1838, aged 21 days.

PITTINGTON: James Robert, b. 25 Oct. 1855, d. 12 Apr. 1932,
aged 77 yrs.

PITTINGTON: John, b. 19 Dec. 1806, d. 7 Oct. 1897,
aged 90 yrs. 9 mos. 18 days.

PITTINGTON: Elizabeth, d. 17 May 1899,
aged 81 yrs. 7 mos. 17 days

CRIGLER: R. Ann, b. 9 Nov. 1894, d. 18 Dec. 1951

Tombstones of Margret Armentout and Augustin Armentout. Complete inscriptions follow in
text of article.

ARMENTROUT: Augustin, erected to the memory of, b. 20 Oct. 1791,
d. 2 Oct. 1830, aged 38 yrs. 11 mos. 13 days.
Why should we mourn departing friends
Or shake at deaths alarms
Tis but the voice which Jesus sends
To call them to his arms
Why should ye tremble to convey
Their bodies to the tomb
There the dear flesh of Jesus lay
And left a long perfume.
Sculp. by J. N. Ball, Harrisonburg

SIBERT: Malinda, in memory of, d. 23 May 1828,
aged 1 mo. 7 days.

ARMENTROUT: Margret, b. 20 Aug. 1771, d. 13 Aug. 1825
ARMENTROUT: Peter, b. 17 Sept. 1751, d. 9 Jan. 1824
ARMENTROUT: Diana, b. 11 May 1818, d. April 1836
ARMENTROUT: Nicholas, b. 15 Aug. 1780, d. 24 Sept. 1828
DEEDS: Matilda C., b. 11 Apr. 1848, d. 5 Aug. 1890,
aged 42 yrs. 3 mos. 25 days.
MILLER: Noah, b. 15 Nov. 1812, d. 5 Feb. 1890,
aged 77 yrs. 2 mos. 21 days.
WISE: Cyrus S., b. 18 Jan. 1832, d. 26 Dec. 1896,
aged 64 yrs. 11 mos. 8 days.
WISE: Delilah, our mother, wife of Cyrus S.
b. 25 Apr. 1825, d. 25 Apr. 1905, aged 80 yrs.
At rest.
WISE: Madison, b. 12 Oct. 1838, d. 2 Jan. 1908
Virginia, his wife, b. 4 Jan. 1850, d. 21 June 1913
MILLER: G. Luther, b. 16 Sept. 1868, d. 14 Apr. 1945
Ollie, his wife, b. 23 Feb. 1878, d. 18 Aug. 1936
ARMENTROUT: Ananias, in memory of, d. 20 Nov. 1850,
aged 23 yrs. 10 mos. 7 days.
ARMENTROUT: Joshua, b. 23 Dec. 1832, d. 7 Sept. 1849,
aged 16 yrs. 8 mos. 15 days.
ARMENTROUT: Samuel, in memory of, d. 6 Nov. 1834,
aged 31 yrs. 6 mos. 3 days.
ARMENTROUT: Margaret, b. 19 Sept. 1762, d. 20 Oct. 1831
Who's illness was a cancer.
ARMONTROUT: Philip, b. 26 Oct. 1747, d. 1 July 1836
HEISERMAN: Marcus, sacred to the memory of, b. 14 July 1782,
d. 26 Apr. 1842, aged 59 yrs. 9 mos. 12 days.
HISERMAN: Barbery, b. 2 Oct. 1778, d. 22 Feb. 1862,
aged 83 yrs. 4 mos. 20 days.
Thy trials ended, thy rest is won.
HASLER: Margaret A., wife of John P., d. 5 Feb. 1862,
aged 30 yrs. 1 day.
ARMENTROUT: Amy, b. 6 Aug. 1803, d. 20 Oct. 1889,
aged 86 yrs. 2 mos. 14 days.
ARMENTROUT: Sarah C., wife of D. L., b. 17 May 1858,
d. 9 Feb. 1907
A kind wife mourns in thee a husband lost,
The poor, a friend who felt what friendship cost.
ARMENTROUT: David L., our father, b. 21 Mar. 1857, d. 3 July 1911
There is a chart whose tracing show
the onward
course where tempest blow, tis God's
own word,
there is found directions for the
homeward bound.
By his children.
LAYMAN: John, sacred to the memory of, b. 13 Mar. 1763,
d. 25 Apr. 1836
LAYMON: Elizabeth, sacred to the memory of, b. 22 July 1807,
d. 22 Apr. 1845
LAYMON: Lamanda, b. 11 Nov. 1829, d. 19 June 1848
ARMENTROUT: John H., b. 16 Feb. 1779, d. 31 Mar. 1848,
aged 69 yrs. 1 mo. 15 days.
ARMENTROUT: Peter, b. 18 Feb. 1821, d. 9 Dec. 1889,
aged 68 yrs. 9 mos. 21 days.
MILLER: Sally, wife of Phillip, b. 1808, d. 1849
ARMENTROUT: Anna, b. 8 June 1807, d. 31 May 1819,
aged 11 yrs. 11 mos. 13 days.
ARMENTROUT: Elizabeth, b. 30 June 1776, d. 24 May 1849,
aged 72 yrs. 10 mos. 24 days.
PITTINGTON: Charles R., son of I. & O. M., d. 10 July 1906,
aged 1 mo. 26 days.
A little time on earth he spent,
Till God for him his angel sent.
PITTINGTON: Ollie May, wife of Isaac, d. 14 May 1907,
aged 19 yrs. 9 mos. 9 days.
Gone, but not forgotten.
BRIGHT: John, b. 8 Apr. 1757? d. 8 Oct. 1826.
LAYMAN: Jacob, in memory of, b. 11 Jan. 1831, d. 5 Apr. 1852,
aged 21 yrs. 2 mos. 24 days.
SHULTZ: Phoebe Catharine, b. 26 Sept. 1845, d. 2 Oct. 1852
FARMAN: Mary G., wife of Abraham, d. 8 Jan. 1862,
aged 30 yrs. 11 mos. 19 days.
ARMENTROUT: Samantha, erected to the memory of,
consort of William W., d. 28 Oct. 1846 in the 32
year of her age.
ARMENTROUT: George, in memory of, b. 21 Mar. 1830,
d. 22 Nov. 1847
GRUB: Peter, b. 29 Apr. 1807, d. 13 Feb. 1849. [Two stones, same date, one loose and broken.]

ARMENTROUT: George W., b. 28 Aug. 1831, d. 10 May 1852, aged 20 yrs. 8 mos. 12 days.

ERMAN: David F. W. O., son of Abraham & Mary C., d. 10 July 1863, aged 13 yrs 6 mos. 11 days.

ERMAN: Mary E. V., dau. of Abraham & Mary C. d. 28 July 1863, aged 11 yrs. 6 mos. 25 days.

ERMAN: John N. G., son of Abraham & Mary C. d. 3 Aug. 1863, aged 6 yrs. 20 days.

FLOOK: Mary M., in memory of, b. 30 Dec. 1785, d. 11 May 1853

MILLER: Juliann, b. 21 Aug. 1813, d. 16 Apr. 1843
To her memory this stone is dedicated by her afflicted parents.
Phillip & M. Salome Miller

ARMENTROUT: Lewrenna, b. 27 Sept. 1828, d. 20 June 1844

GRUB: Peter, b. 11 Sept. 1781, d. 3 June 1845

GRUB: Christena, b. 18 Nov. 1783, d. 16 July 1845

HOWARD: Mary C., dau. of J. & L. b. 20 Mar. 1854, d. 18 Aug. 1863, aged 9 yrs. 4 mos. 28 days.

FRIDLEY: Carline, d. 6 Sept., aged 2 yrs. 11 mos. 9 days.

FLUCK: Henry, sacred to the memory of, b. 2 Nov. 1759, d. 26 Sept. 1841, aged 82 yrs. 10 mos. 24 days. [Two stones, one broken.]

FLOOK: Henry, b. 2 Nov. 1759, d. 26 Sept. 1841 [Newer Stone]
Set thine house in order;
For thou shalt die, and not live.

FLOOK: Elizabeth, in memory of, wife of Henry b. 1769, d. 23 May 1861, aged 92 yrs.
In my Fathers house are many mansions if it was not so I would have told you I go to prepare a place for you.

HUDDLE: M. Elizabeth, in memory of, dau. of H. Fluck d. 27 Oct. 1841, aged 17 yrs. 6 mos. 14 days.

ANDES: Elisabeth, sacred to the memory of, consort of Adam d. 10 June 1847, aged 47 yrs. 9 mos. 17 days.

ANDES: Adam, in memory of, b. 24 July 1784, d. 21 May 1849, aged 64 yrs. 9 mos. 27 days.

ALLEBAUGH: Ida Florence, dau. of S. R. & E. b. 16 Mar. 1855, d. 3 Nov. 1856, aged 1 yr. 7 mos. 18 days.
The rose that was just budding in life was clipped by the icy hand of death.

HOWARD: Michael, Sr., d. 16 Feb. 1856, aged 80 yrs. 11 mos. 16 days.

FLOOK: Michael H., son of David & Mary, d. 7 June 1862, aged 28 yrs. 10 mos. 2 days.
What is man that thou art mindful of him and the son of man that thou visitest him.

SCHULTZ: John, b. 1 June 1816, d. 25 July 1865, aged 49 yrs. 1 mo. 23 days.

HOWARD: Lydia, b. 15 Nov. 1784, d. 18 May 1869, aged 84 yrs. 6 mos. 2 days.

FLOOK: Phoebe, b. 22 July 1806, d. 9 Nov. 1882, aged 76 yrs. 3 mos. 17 days.
Dearest sister thou hast left us Here thy loss we deeply feel But tis God who has bereft us He can all our sorrows heal.

ARMENTROUT: Henry, in memory of, b. 2 Apr. 1800, d. 24 Apr. 1879, aged 79 yrs. 22 days.
My buried husband can't forget Or must the grave eternal sever They linger in my memory yet And in my heart they will forever.

ARMENTROUT: Maria C., wife of Henry, d. 7 May 1888, aged 84 yrs. 22 days.
Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

FLOOK: Ludovicus, b. 25 Aug. 1874, d. 27 Aug. 1874, aged 2 days.
SOUTH PUBLIC SQUARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS FIRE OF 1870—This is the artist's conception of the area on south Court Square before it was devastated by fire. The first structure on the left was the Washington House, a stage stop. This was the first—or one of the first—inns located in Harrisonburg. The next house was a bookshop and a printing office owned by the Wartmann family. Next door was the D. M. Switzer and Sons clothing store and tailor shop followed by the stone home of Dr. Asher Waterman.
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY COURT MINUTES
10TH INSTALMENT

September 24, 1781-November 27, 1781
Taken from Volume 1, Minute Book #1, April 27, 1778, to June 26, 1786, copied from Original Minutes.

At a Court held for Rockingham County Monday the 24th Day of Sept. 1781, present
Daniel Smith, Reuben Harrison Benja Harrison Ant’o Reader Gent Justices

Robt Rutherford & Uxr (wife) vs Thos Hewit, O for Ded’s be take the Depo. of Abraham Lincoln ab’t to remove.

Dan'l Price vs Spoon Attachm’t cont’d for pl’t O that the Church Wardens bind out R. Catherine Spoon & John Spoon Children of Conrod Spoon who has absconded, to Peter Ozmus until they come of Age & that he learn the sd John Spoon the Trade of a Shoemaker

Apprais’mt of the Estate of Robt Cravens Senr deceased not administered and O to be recorded. Apprais’mt of Mary Cravens Est. ret’d & O to be recorded.

present Thos Hewit & Henry Ewing Gent

The last will & Testament of James Waite decd. was produced in Court & proved by the Oaths of Joseph Haines & Andrew McKinley two of the Witnesses & Catherine Waite the Widow & Executrix therein named having ent’d into Bond wi Security & made Oath according to Law Certificate is granted her & O that Felix Gilbert James Brewster Joseph Rutherford jun’r & Joseph Haines or any three (of them) being first sworn do appraise sd Estate

O that the Sheriff summon 24 free holders to serve as grand Jurymen at the next Nov’r Court

The last will & Testament of William Campbell decd. was produced in Court & proved by the Oath of Joseph Hanna & Rose Hannah, two of the Witness(es) and Elizabeth Campbell & Jeremiah Smith the Executors therein named having entered into Bond wi Security & made Oath according to Law Certificate is granted them & O that James Baird, John Carthrae, Robt Hook Sen’r & Jacob Scott or any three of them being sworn do appraise said Estate

Comis’n & privy Examina of Bersheba the wife of Abraham Lincoln in the Land sold by them to Mich’l Shanks ret’d & O to be recorded

Absent Anto Reader Gent

Administrator of the Estate of Gotlieve Airy decd is granted to Anto Reader his Son in Law Mary the widow having relinquished her right in favor of the said Ant’o Reader, who having entered into Bond with Security & made Oath
according to Law O to be certified. O that Mich'l Rorok, John Fultz Sam'l Short & Wm. Oler or any three (of them) being sworn do appraise to sd Estate

Isaac Hankle is recommended to his Excellency the Gov'r as Capt't of a Comp'y of the Militia in the room of Andrew Johnston resigned, Wm Aberman as Lieut. in the room of Rob't Menies resigned

Deed of B & Sale from Samuel Philips & Eleanor his Wife to Jonah Hayton was proved by the Oath of Ephraim Hopkens & Peter Coger two of the Wit's & O to be certified

Issac Hankle took the Oath of a Capt' of the Militia O to be certified. Robert Harrison Ensign same Order

John Rudder took the Oath of a Lieut. of the Militia O to be certified; Mich'il Baker the Oath of a Capt' same Ord

present Abraham Smith Gent

Benj'a Harrison is appointed Guardian of Sam'l Skidmore Orphan of Sam'l Skidmore deced he having ent'd into Bond wi Security

Deed of B & Sale from Ab'm Smith & John Skidmore to Jno Grim acknowl'ded by sd Ab'm Smith & proved by Benja Smith & Henry Smith, as to sd Grim & O to be (recorded) (Note: deed not recorded, the record burnt in 1864 when the records were burnt by the Soldiers of Hunter or Sheridan. See Grantee Index, Deed Book No. 000, p. 350)

On the moto of Benja Harrison in behalf of Sam'l Skidmore his Ward O that James Davis Robt Davis & Jas Dyer do lay off the Thirds of Ann Skidmore widow of Joseph, in the Land sold by her husband to Sam'l Skidmore deced and father of sd Orphan & make report to the next Court

On the Moto. of Seruah Stratton his former Acco(nt) given in to Court is allowed to be stated in Specie & the Acco. now produced amounts to L6.0/ is allowed as reasonable & the Depreciation in the present circulating Bills submitted to his Excellency. O to be certified

O that the Court be adjourned to the Court in Course

Daniel Smith

At a Court held for Rockingham County Monday the 26th Day of Novem'r 1781 present

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Henry Ewing</th>
<th>John David</th>
<th>Gentlemen</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gawen Hamilton</td>
<td>William Herring</td>
<td>Justice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Inventory of William Campbells Estate ret'd & O to be recorded

Leave is granted to Samuel Gay to keep Ordinary at his (new?) house in Harrisonburg for one year from this date

Deed of I & Release from John Hite to George Trout was proved by the Oath of Peter Hog one of the Witnesses & O to be certified

A grand Jury to wit James Magill Robt Belshee Jacob Lincoln Thomas Bryant, Joseph Campbell Fred'k Erwine Robt Fowler Charles Campbell James Laird Yost Hankle John Gordon John Rush Leonard Herring John Edde James Beard Jacob Scott William Davis John Huston & William Hook & empannelled made (and) ret'd the following presentments &c O that the Offenders be summoned

On the Moto. of Peter Vaneman O that the Church Wardens bind out Sarah Norton Daughter of Thomas Norton who has left his Wife & Family destitute of the means of Subsistence, to Peter Vanemon until she comes of Age being 4½ years old present Wm Naile, Benja Harrison & Reuben Harrison Gent

Thomas Hewit Gent produced a Commission from his Excellency Thos Nelson Esqr the Governor constituting him Sheriff of this County for the ensuing Year whereupon the sd Thos Hewit took the Oath of Sheriff & entered into Bond with James Brewster Andrew Hudlow Rob't Cravens James Baird his Securities for the due Execution of his office. Thos Hewit wi said Securities ent'd into Bond wi the above Securities for the due Collection of the Taxes. Also ent'd into Bond For the Collecting Fines & Aemcraments. (What does the last word mean?)

present Jno Gratten & Jno Thomas Gent

The last will & Testament of Dan'l Smith deced was proved by the Oath of Thos Lewis Felix Gilber & Gawen Hamilton three of the Witnesses & admitted to record, whereupon Jane Smith Robt Smith & Benja Smith the Exors therein named having entered into Bond with Security & made Oath according to Law Certificate is granted them &c. Ordered that Brewe Reeves Josiah Harrison? & Nehemiah Harrison or any three (of them) being first sworn do appraise the said Estate

Deed of B & Sale from Johnson Nelson to Jacob Deck was ack'ld by said Johnston & admitted to Record

Deed of B & Sale from Thos Harrison & Sarah his Wife to Thos Hewit She being first privily examined, was acknowledged by said Thos & Sarah & O to be recorded. same parties acknowledged Deed of B & Sale to Tobias Rheims, Same to James Hinton, same to John Hicks, same to Sam'l Gay

Peter Vanemon took the Oath of Deputy Sheriff which is ordered to (be) Certified
Administra of the Estate of John Fulton dec'd. is granted to Jannet Fulton his widow who wi Security ent'd into Bond made Oath according to Law O that Jno Hopkens, John Shankland, Archibald Hopkens & Thomas Shankland or any three (of them) being first sworn do appraise sd Estate

Bill of Sale of Moses Dougherty's Estate ret'd by the Sheriff O to be recorded

Appraism't of the Estate of Cutlive Arey deced ret'd & O to be recorded

Administra of the Estate of William Farney is granted to John Norton the Court being satisfied that the widow his Sister relinquished her right in his favour whereupon the said John Norton wi Security ent'd into Bond & made Oath according to Law O that Henry Black Edw'd Weldon John Smith & Isaiah Shipman or any three being first sworn do appraise sd Estate

On the Motion of Ann Riffe & William Dunlop Exers of John Riffie deced Ordered that David Robinson, Nicholas Shaver, John Kring & John Thomas & Josiah Davidson do value all the Lands belonging to said Jno Riffe deced & make return thereof,

Ordered that Henry Ewing Wm Herring Jno Davis & Benja Harrison view the work done by Corn(ellius) Cain on the County Jayl & report the sufficiency or Insufficiency of the same

Ordered that the Court be adjourned till tomorrow at 9 o'Clock

John Grattan

Then the Court proceeded to lay the County Levy —

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gabriel Jones Depty. Attorney for extra services</td>
<td>4000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to Peter Hog Clerk for extra services</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to Ditto per Accot</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to the Sheriff for extra services</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6600 wt 10/33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To Cornelius Cain for building the Jayl for the balance due & the Depreciation since it was undertaken, in Specie or in paper Money at the Depreciation fixed by the present Assembly 100

Samuel Parrot 2 old Wolf heads 1.5

To Robt. Campbell as a Gratitude for building the Court ho(use) 3.3

To the said Campbell for the additional work on the Court ho(use) 7.19

for furnishing the Jayl &c
A Depositum 10.13
To 6 p(er) cent to the Sheriff for collecting L196 (Lbs. 196) is 196.00
L196 (Lbs. 196) is 11.15
Ordered that the Sheriff collect three Shillings on Specie on every Tithable in this County as a Levy for the ensuing Year or the value thereof in paper Cur'y at the Depreciation to be settled by the present Session of Assembly, being 1450 Tithables 217.10

1450
3
435/0
217.10

At a Court cont'd & held for Rockingham County Tuesday 27th Day of Novembr 1781 present

John Gratten John Davis
John Thomas Benja Harrison
Josiah Davidson William Herring
Henry Ewing

Deed of Bargain & Sale from Cornelius Rusnell and Ingbo his Wife formerly acknowledge by the said Cornelius & Ingbo now order'd to be recorded, the Tax being paid viz:

Rusnell & Wife to Abraham Riffe
   to John Riffe
   to Jacob Riffe

(Note: The name as written in the Grantee Index is Rudder)

Ordered that the late Sheriff pay to Cornelius Cain the Money levied this last County Levy for building the County Jayl being L119.73 the Commissioners who let the building of the same having reported that it is finished according to the plan.

Geo Huston vs Stevenson 0 for Ded's to issue to examine Wm McClalen (or McClen) a wit's for pl't

Jesse Herrings Appraism't ret'd & 0 to be recorded On the Moto. of Nicholas Pace? O that a Bill or Certificate of Catherine Toutwiller concerning a false report raised on the Son of the said Nicholas Pace be recorded, being proved by two of the Witnesses viz: John Gratten & Thos. Hewit Gent

Joseph Douglas is appointed Constable in the room of James Davis 0 that he be sum'd to swear into his Office before John Davis Gent

Geo Boswell Gent last Sheriff settled with the Court for the County Levy on
1459 Tiths 8 Supernumeraries & 51 (or 57) Delinquents & there remains a Depositum of L580.7 one hund'd to be paid Tho. Harrison (or Hewit?) & 438.14 to be retained as a Decrepency of the per cent on the wag's Tax ball'ce to be paid Thos Hewit being L4

Edde vs Bowles 
Ag'd
Dawson vs Vanemon 
dism'd by 0 of pt't

John Edde is appointed Overseer of the road from Jacob Whitmore's to James Bairds leading to Rockfish Gap in the room of William Campbell deceased that the usual Tiths work under him

Capt. James Magill is appointed Overseer of the road from Col Benja Harrison's to the County Line leading to the Iron Works. 0 that the usual Tiths work under him

John Miller is appointed Overseer of the Road from the Court house to Seawright's run in the room of Wm Cravens 0 that the usual Tiths work under him

0 that Andrew Shanklen keep the Court house for the ensuing Year & provide a Stock Lock for the fore Door & an Iron Bolt for the other Door & provide the Court with Fire & Candles

Ordered that Robt Campbell undertaker of the Court house be allowed the further sum of L3.3 in Specie or the Depreciation as settled by the Assembly

Benja Harrison Gent is recommended to his Excellency the Gov'r as a proper person for the Office of County Lieut in the room of Dan's Smith deceased.

Benja Patton is recommended as Cap't of a Comp'y of Militia in the room of Cap't Robt Davis resigned

Reuben Harrison Son of Tho's is appointed Constable 0 that he be sum'd to swear in before Henry Ewing Gent

John Hunt (or Hewit?) is appointed Constable 0 that he be summoned to swear in before Jno Gratten Gent

0 that Tiths from the Picked (Peaked?) Mountain on one side & two Miles on the other side of the road work under Jacob Woodley Overseer of the road from the forks to the big Spring

Vendue Bill of Alex'r Herring junr ret'd & 0 to be recor'd Ordered that Henry Ewing Benja Harrison Gent settle the Estate Acco't of Alex'r Herring junr deceased

0 that Henry Ewing & William Herring Gent be appointed as Commissioners to let out the finishing (of) the County Jail to the lowest Bidder to (be) finished by the May Court

The Court are of Opinion that Henry Ewing be allowed five Shill'gs per Day for Sixty eight Days riding as Commissioner of the provision Law to which account he made Oath & 0 to be certified & likewise lodged an Affidavit of his having lost former Certificate for 23 Days which is now included in the above

Ordered that the Court be adjourned till the Court in Course

John Grattan
PUBLIC SQUARE ABOUT 1874—This brick structure was the fourth courthouse which was in use from 1874 until 1896. In the foreground was the firehouse which contained the mayor’s office and council hall upstairs. The bandstand was used in the summer for entertainment. To the right was the Big Spring. Behind the courthouse (to the east) was Main Street.
CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION IN THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY PETITIONS, 1784-1785

by Richard K. MacMaster

The idea that military service is one of the duties a man owes the community is essentially American, born of the isolation felt by English settlers on the narrow frontier between the ocean and the forest. With little reason to look to the Royal Navy or the British Army for protection from hostile Indians and restive slaves, Colonial Virginians, like their neighbors in the other colonies, saw every reason for imposing a military obligation on every able-bodied man. Instructions sent to Governor George Yeardley in 1626 were typical. He was to see that every male above seventeen years of age and under sixty was liable to be summoned to war and to perform military duties in proportion to his abilities. The 1639 General Assembly lowered the military age to sixteen and excluded slaves from serving in the militia. Successive Virginia legislatures kept similar requirements in force throughout the Colonial period.1

As early as 1696 Virginia Quakers complained to the House of Burgesses of the heavy fines which they had been condemned to pay for failing to attend musters and bear arms as the law required. Their protests were ignored.2

Quakers could not personally appear on the drill ground or hire a substitute to take their place. Court martial records from Frederick County show that a great many Valley Quakers and Mennonites were fined for non-attendance at musters and training days between 1775 and 1761. Many of their neighbors also paid fines for failing to perform militia duty.4 On the other hand, some members of Hopewell Monthly Meeting in Frederick County expressed regret at taking their turn standing guard, contrary to Quaker teaching.5

The middle years of the 18th century brought a new complication in the militia laws. Men were needed now for long-term service against the French and Indians, often on military expeditions hundreds of miles from their own Colony. The old rough-and-ready militia system of men turning out with what weapons they had to meet some local emergency gave way to demands for provincial regiments, armed and equipped at Colonial expense. In 1756 Virginia passed a law for drafting men from the militia for the purpose of raising soldiers to defend the frontier. This draft was limited to single men, within narrow age limits, who were to draw lots at the militia muster. If the lot fell to a man, he had the choice of paying a £ 10 fine or serving in one of the Virginia regiments.6

Under this new law, five Quakers from Hanover County and two from New Kent County were imprisoned in Winchester for some time when they refused to march after being drafted. Jacob Funkhouser, Jr., a Shenandoah County Mennonite drafted into military service, appears on muster rolls as a deserter.7
Perhaps this war-time experience influenced the General Assembly's decision to exempt Quakers from militia duty. The law passed at the November 1766 session borrowed one significant provision from the 1756 draft law. Quakers would be exempt from militia drills and militia fines, but, if the militia should be drafted into actual service, Quakers would have to provide an able-bodied substitute or pay £10. The law provided that the £10 "be levied by distress and sale of the estate of the Quaker so refusing," since Quakers would not voluntarily pay a substitute fine.⁹

In 1769 Jacob Strickler and Jacob Coughenor sent a petition to the House of Burgesses "on behalf of themselves, and their Protestant Brethren, of the Sect called Monenists," asking "that they may be exempt from the Penalties they are subject to for declining Military Duty." After hearing their petition, the House instructed the Committee on Propositions and Grievances to bring in a bill "exempting Monenists from the Penalties they are subject to for declining military Duty."[10]

The bill was evidently lost in the press of other business, for in 1772 Jacob Strickley and Henry Funk again petitioned the House "in Behalf of themselves, and their Christian Brethren, of the Sect, called Monenists." They asked that "they may be relieved from the Payment of Fines for not performing military Duty, which their religious Tenets forbid them to exercise." Once again the law-makers in Williamsburg responded favorable. Richard Bland reported for the Committee on Propositions and Grievances that the petition was reasonable.[10]

Virginia law exempted Mennonites and Quakers from militia duty and militia fines on the eve of the American Revolution. The Patriots who met at Richmond in July 1775 in the Virginia Convention reaffirmed their rights. They decreed that "all quakers, and the people called Monenists, shall be exempted from serving in the militia, agreeable to the several acts of the general assembly of this colony made for their relief and indulgence in this respect."[11] But it was not long before this exemption began to be challenged.

Demands that Mennonites and Quakers be enrolled in the militia and subject to fines for non-attendance at musters came exclusively from the Shenandoah Valley. In June 1776 a petition from Frederick County protested against "the injustice of subjecting one part of the community to the whole burthen of government" and proposed a special tax on conscientious objectors "in lieu of bearing arms at general and private musters." In the event that the militia was called into actual service, they should be required to furnish substitutes or pay an additional fine. The Dunmore (Shenandoah) County Committee of Safety sent an identical petition later the same year.[12]

The 1776 session of the General Assembly responded with an act obliging "all quakers and monenists" to be enrolled into the militia by the commanding officers of the respective counties, and be subject to the same rules and regulations, and liable to the same fines, penalties, and forfeitures, as the rest of the militia," except that "the said quakers and monenists shall not be obliged to attend general or private musters." While exempting them from personally drilling, conscientious objectors would pay the same fines as any other delinquent and be obliged to hire a substitute to serve in their place if drafted.[13]

Shenandoah Valley Quakers generally refused military service and accepted the consequences. In 1777 the Frederick County Lieutenant forcibly drafted fourteen Quakers. Although they offered no resistance, officers threatened them with drawn swords and ordered muskets tied on their backs. The Quakers marched with their unit to join Washington's army near Philadelphia, but they refused army food and water since they were not soldiers. Seven of these men collapsed from hunger and exhaustion before they reached York, Pennsylvania, where townspeople fed them. When the remaining seven reached the camp, George Washington himself gave them honorable discharges.[14]

Five other Quakers from Frederick and Shenandoah Counties were imprisoned at different times "for refusing to comply with military measures." David Berry and Nehemiah Ellis spent 41 days in jail, David Rees 13 days, and Joseph Allen a month. Thomas Barret was imprisoned in 1780 for refusing to stand guard over British prisoners.[15]

Valley Mennonites also refused military service. Captain Alexander Machir, who commanded a militia company in the Strasburg District of Shenandoah County, noted on his muster roll that "There are Several in this List that never appeared at Musters they pretending to be in Communion with the Monenists."[16]

The Augusta County Court Martial records include militia companies from the area that became Rockingham County in 1778. Among Captain Linkhorns [Lincoln's] company, the court martial ordered Oct. 16, 1776, that "John Brunk and Christopher Brunk be Summon'd To Appear at next Court Martial to Shew Cause Why they Did Not Appear at Seven Musters Each."

The Augusta County authorities evidently made a distinction between conscientious objectors and other delinquents, for, on the same day, they ordered Henry Lanfisco, Thomas Eaton, and Robert Smith of Captain Skidmors and John Vance, Handel Vance, and William Vance of Captain Hopkins to "Apply to their Meeting or Church to Obtain a Certificate That it is Against Their Articles of Religion to Appear Under Arms at Musters, and Produce the Same to their Capt. and he to Produce the Same to the next Court Martial."[17]

In May 1780 the General Assembly, aware that Mennonites and Quakers would not personally serve in the military or provide substitutes, revised the militia law to meet this situation. The new law provided "that any Quaker or Monenist who shall be so drafted, shall be discharged from personal service," but the commanding officer was authorized to procure substitutes and require the entire Quaker or Mennonite population of the county to bear the cost. Since they would not voluntarily pay for substitutes, the proportionate share of the total cost would be added to each Mennonite or Quaker county tax.[18]
The Virginia militia was totally reorganized after the war. Petitions poured into Richmond in the 1784 and 1785 sessions from many sections of the Commonwealth expressing concern about aspects of the new system. One of these petitions came from “Mennonists and Dunkards in the County of Rockingham.”

The war years witnessed the migration of many German families from Maryland and Pennsylvania to Shenandoah and Rockingham Counties. Others settled in Augusta and in Botetourt. A significant number of the new settlers along Smith’s Creek and Linville Creek were members of the Mennonite Church and the Church of the Brethren (Dunkards).

To the Honorable the General Assembly of the State of Virginia
The Petition of the Societies of the People Called Mennonists and Dunkards in the County of Rockingham Humbly Sheweth

That while we pay the greatest Respect to so Venerable a Body and wishing to Support Government and Comply with the Laws of so good a Legislative Body as far as we possibly can Suppose them consisting with the principles of our Christian Religion, but as it is well known we have long laboured Under the incumbrance and Grievance of a Military law requiring us to lift up Arms and perform Military duty contrary to the Dictates of our Consciences and the principles of our Religion and often tending almost to the Ruin or at least greatly to the prejudice of many poor Familys amongst us; while Fines are exacted off of us [The Manuscript is torn here and elsewhere.] non compliance with Military Orders, which we can in [ ] voluntarily comply with as has been evident [ ] late war; rather wishing to enjoy Peace of Conscience [ ] we purchase it at the Expence of our whole Estate [ ] Humbly pray, the Honorable the Generall Assembly [ ] take our case into their serious Consideration and [ ] Cause of our Greivance by granting to us the [ ] & indulgences as have already been granted to [ ] called Quakers in the same case. And your Petitioners in dutybounds shall Pray &c.

November ye 2nd 1784

Henrich Shang
Benjamin Bowman
Joseph Bowman
Jacob Bowman
John Crumpacker
Peter Cede
Abraham Miller

Peter Crumpacker
Nicholas Birri
John Maschberger
Michael Sheng
Abraham Brennan
Jacob Hight
Henrich Gaderman
Jacob Bauman
Jacob Reiff

Christian Fry
Nicholas Beare
Henrich Wissler
Ulrich Kessler
Jacob Ebersole
Jacob Miller
Henrich Roth
David Brennan
Jacob Kauffman

The Assembly Journal recorded “a petition of the Societies of the people called Menonists and Dunkards, in the County of Rockingham, setting forth, that the tenets of their religion forbidding them to take up arms, they have failed to attend the musters and other military Calls in the said County, and have been compelled to pay fines for such neglect, and praying that an act may pass exempting them from all military duty.” Nothing further was done.

In the October 1785 session the General Assembly passed a comprehensive militia act that included a provision, “That nothing herein contained shall be construed or taken to deprive the people called quakers or mennonists, of any privilege granted them by any former law.” This did not, of course, restore the situation that existed before the Revolution. Conscientious objectors were exempt from personal service, but not from fines for mission drills.

On December 10, 1785 the General Assembly received the following petition:

To the Honorable the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia The petition of the Subscribers Members of the Menonist Church in behalf of themselves and their religious Brethren Respectfully sheweth

That an Article of Faith established by the said Church forbids the bearing of Arms or shedding of Human blood which Article they conscientiously believe it is their duty to obey. In this scruple of Conscience Only they trust they have been short in being dutiful and Obedient Citizens. They have wished at all times to be faithful to the Laws that hath given them protection, and ever wish so to be, when consistent with the dictates of their religious Profession. There forefathers and Predecessors came from a far Country to America to Seek Religious Liberty; this they have enjoyed except by the Infliction of penalties for not bearing Arms which for some time lay heavy on them. But on a representation, and their situation being made known to the Honorable the Legislature, [in 1772] they were indulged with an exemption from said penalties until some few years past, when, by a revision of the Militia Law they were again enrolled and are now subject to the penalties aforesaid. Therefore your Petitioners pray that the Honorable the General Assembly will take their Case into their Wise Consideration and so exempt them from bearing Arms or indulge them with such Militia exemptions as any other Citizens of the Commonwealth are indulged with for Conscience Sake and as far as their Fidelity and good Example shall merit, and your petitioners as in duty bound shall pray &c.

Jaeboz Shuh
Benjamin Stickli
Samuel Boehm
Peter Stauffer
Jorg Westerberger
Johannes Hodel
Isaac Kauffman
Christian Andrich
Abraham Beydler
Abraham Stauffer
Ludoga Weili

Valendin Faber
Johannes Faber
Peter Faber
Henrich Kagi
Matthias Snatz
Abraham Guehrner
David Funkhouser
Johannes Funkhouser
Abraham Funkhouser
Christian Hirschel
Johannes Hein

Abraham Rothgeb
Isaac Rothgeb
John Stricker
David Coffman
Jacob Ruffer
Christian Graff
Jacob Boehm
Christian Neff
Gabriel Seeger
Conrad Seeger
Christian Fry
Hening, Statutes, IX, 135.


Hening, Statutes, IX, 139.

“A Narrative of the Sufferings of Thomas McClun,” Papers of the Meeting for Sufferings of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Quaker Collection, Haverford College Library, Haverford, Pa.

Minute Book, 1775-1785, of the Meeting for Sufferings of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, fols. 318-319 and 430. Quaker Collection, Haverford College Library.


Court Martial Records, 1756-1796 and 1807-1812, Augusta County Court House, Staunton, Va., fols. 59-60.

Hening, Statutes, X, 261, 334.


Legislative Petitions, Rockingham County, November 2, 1784. Virginia State Library, Richmond, Va.

Legislative Journal, as cited in MacMaster, Conscience in Crisis, p. 332.

Hening, Statutes, X, 416-419.

Legislative Petitions, Rockingham County, December 10, 1785. VSL.
MAIN STREET ABOUT 1885—This view looks south from Court Square in the center of Harrisonburg. In the center of the picture is the Sibert Building which housed First National Bank (now Virginia National Bank) and two stores. The second story contained the Armory and in the third story was the YMCA. At this time kerosene lamps and boardwalks with stepping stones at the crossings were in use.
THREE TAX-MILITIA LISTS:
HEADS OF FAMILIES AND MALE MEMBERS THEREOF
OVER SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE
OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA, 1788
Arranged from Commissioners' Original List of Capitations and
Personal Property Assessment for Rockingham County, 1788,
now in the State Library in Richmond

Captain Rodger Dyer's Company: No. 6, South Fork: 61 or More Listed
(Transferred to Pendleton County after 1788)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jacob Barger</th>
<th>James Kiester</th>
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<tr>
<td>Barton Blizzard</td>
<td>John Miller</td>
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<td>James Blizzard</td>
<td>Peter Mitchell, Rev.</td>
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<td>John Blizzard</td>
<td>John Moral</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Blizzard</td>
<td>Mathew Patten and</td>
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<tr>
<td>William Blizzard</td>
<td>William Patten</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacob Cowger</td>
<td>Frederick Props and</td>
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<td>Stophe Dancer</td>
<td>Henry Props</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Davison</td>
<td>Leonard Props</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Davison</td>
<td>Michael Props</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathias Dice</td>
<td>Michael Props, Jr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>George Duncle</td>
<td>Sophia Props</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Duncle</td>
<td>Zachariah Rexrode and</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Dyer</td>
<td>Zachariah Rexrode, Jr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rodger Dyer, Capt.</td>
<td>Christian Roleman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philip Fisher</td>
<td>Henry Roleman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacob Gilespey</td>
<td>Patt Sannitt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Hall and</td>
<td>John Spinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frederick Haviner</td>
<td>Christian Stone</td>
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<td>Jacob Haviner and</td>
<td>Henry Stone</td>
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<tr>
<td>William Herring</td>
<td>Henry Swadley</td>
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<tr>
<td>George Hoover</td>
<td>Nicholas Swadley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laurance Hoover</td>
<td>Peter Vindevender</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Hoover</td>
<td>Lewis Wagoner, Sr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pursley Hoover and</td>
<td>Lewis Wagoner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacob Keeper</td>
<td>Lewis Wornstors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frederick Kiester</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1 John W. Wayland includes versions of tax-militia lists 1-5 and 9-17 in his
Virginia Valley Records (Strasburg, Va.: Shenandoah Publishing Co., 1930):
No. 1, Captain Benjamin Smith's Company (103 listed); No. 2, Captain John
Herdman's Company (108 listed); No. 3, Captain Uriah Gartin's Company (98
listed); No. 4, Captain George Huston's Company (146 listed); No. 5, Captain
Robert Harrison's Company (105 listed); No. 9, Captain Josiah Harrison's
Company (125 listed); No. 10, Captain Jacob Trumbore's Company (122 listed);
No. 11, Captain John Ruddell's Company (89 listed); No. 12, Captain George
THE ROCKINGHAM RECORDER

Captain Uriah Strattin's Company: No. 7, South Fork, 82 or More Listed
(Transferred to Pendleton County after 1788)

Joseph Arbough
George Bible
Philip Bible
Joseph Briggs and _____
Leonard Bush
Lew Busch
Michael Bush
Valentine Catlen and _____ and _____
William Clifton
Thomas Cook
Thomas Collick
Andrew Cookhold
Jacob Coonrod [now Conrad]
Gabriel Coyle and _____ and _____
Gabriel Coyle, Jr.
George Coyle and _____
George Coyle, Jr.
Jacob Coyle
Henry Crook and _____
George Dice
Donally Dominick
Frances Evick
George Evick
Jacob Fisher
John Fisher
Jacob Friend and _____
James Graham
George Hammer
Adam Harper
Jacob Harper, Sr., and _____
Jacob Harper and _____
John Harper
William Harper

John Harpole
Michael Harpole
Charles Hedrick and _____ and _____
and _____ and _____
Lawrence Hushare and _____
Adam Kiplinger
George Kiplinger
Henry Kiplinger
Philip Kyzer
William Laurence
Michael McClure
Fountain Anthony Perine [now Perrine]
Henry Perine
William Peterson
Peter Phenimon
John Phereis [now Phares]
Charles Powers and _____ and _____
Samuel Richards
George Ritesel
Amos Skidmore
James Skidmore
John Skidmore and _____
John Skidmore, Jr.
Joseph Skidmore
Samuel Skidmore
Christopher Smith
John Smith
Martin Strattin [now Stratton]
Uriah Strattin, Capt.
George Vindevender
Jacob Vindevender
George Waldrim

THREE TAX-MILITIA LISTS

Captain Isaac Hinkle's Company: No. 8, North Fork: 64 or More Listed
(Transferred to Pendleton County after 1788)

Joseph Bennet
Thomas Bland and _____ and _____
Redin Blunt and _____ and _____
John Carpenter
Jacob Carr
Isaac Coberly
Carpenter Coonrod [now Conrad]
James Cunningham and _____ and _____
William Everman
Peter Ferrole
Lewis Full
Thomas Gilespey
Samuel Gregg
William Gregg, Sr.
William Gregg, Jr.
Jason Harper
Philip Harper, Sr.
Philip Harper
Abraham Hincle
Isaac Hinkle, Capt.
Yost Huncle [perhaps Hincle]
Andrew Johnston
John Lambard and _____
Adam Loagh
George Loagh
James McCalley

Leonard Miller
Robert Minnis
John Mitchel
Gabriel Murphey
John Shull
John Shull
Joseph Sommerfield
John Stuttler
George Teeters and _____
Paul Teeters
Philip Teeters and _____
Rebecca Teeters and _____
Cornelius Thompson
James Thompson
John Toups
James Wagh
Thomas Webb
George Wilkinson
Joseph Wilson
Peter Wiruck and _____
John Wolf
Isaac Wood and _____
James Wood

The identity of the person who did the original transcription which is on file at the Rockingham County Court House is, unfortunately, now unknown. It may have been John W. Wayland. This transcription was submitted by Dorothy Boyd Rush.

Crismon's Company (157 listed); No. 13, Captain Richard Ragan's Company (150 listed); No. 14, Captain John Rush's Company (110 listed); No. 15, Captain Stephen Conrad's Company (92 listed); No. 16, Captain John Peters' Company (64 listed); and, No. 17, Captain Michael Rorick's Company (82 listed).

'Lists No. 6, 7, and 8 were partially burned in the Court House fire.
THE LETTERS OF JOHN LEE HOLT (1829-1863)
Edited by James A. Mumper

The quoted passages are from the manuscript, *I Wrote Your Word*, copyright 1979 by M. Ellen Bailey

John Lee Holt was born on a farm in Charlotte County, South Side Virginia, on May 31, 1829, the son of James and Sara Mason Holt. He was a tobacco grower, like his father, and a country schoolmaster. Two years before Fort Sumter he married Ellen Elizabeth Lawson, for whom the poignant letters under discussion here were penned. He fell in Pickett's charge at Gettysburg, July 3, 1863.

The letters which his widow Ellen preserved constitute a priceless heritage for John Lee's descendants. One of these is Professor M. Ellen Bailey of Bridgewater College, my colleague in a three-week course, "The Civil War in the East," during which the class visited all of the major battlefields of Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. Based on the evidence to be found in his letters, I had the frequent pleasure of saying, "Ellen, your great-grandfather was right over there!"

John Lee Holt, aged thirty-two, enlisted July 18, 1861, two days before the First Battle of Bull Run, in Captain William E. Green's company, Virginia Volunteers. His letters begin the following day and continue regularly, with few interruptions, until June 30, 1863, three days before he fell.

He shows Richmond in the first flush of victory; camp life in the early days of mobilization; Yankee prisoners in the tobacco factories along the James; a flag presentation by Jefferson Davis; the beauties and wonders of Columbia, S.C., discovered during a prisoner detail to that enchanted city; troop movements to counter the Union threat to Kentucky and Tennessee in the autumn of 1861; the Confederate mobilization at Bowling Green just before the fighting at Fort Donelson; the fall of Fort Donelson; a military hospital in Atlanta; the mobilization before Richmond in the face of McClellan's Peninsula Campaign; an eyewitness account of the *Monitor* and *Galena* 's attack on Fort Drury; the battles of Gaines Mill, Frayser's Farm, and Malvern Hill; Cedar Mountain and the Second Manassas Campaign; Frederick, Maryland, the day before Lee issued his "Lost Order;" South Mountain and Antietam; a hospital in Winchester, in Staunton, in Richmond; the Battle of Fredericksburg and the subsequent mock-battles in the snow; fraternity activities along the Rappahannock during picket duty; Guinea Station where Jackson died; a foraging expedition into Union-occupied southeastern Virginia and nearby North Carolina; the long, long march of Pickett's division in Lee's Army of Northern Virginia as it proceeds to disaster in Pennsylvania; and, at the end, Chambersburg three days before Holt fell.

6th Sept. 1790 This day have [sic] Samuel W. Williams Before me Benjamin Smith One of the justices of the peace for Rockingham County and Made Oath that the Within List is a true pole of An Election held in this County for A Member of Congress in this District Certified Under my hand.

Benj Smith

Holt's sterling sense of duty (which never, ever faltered) is apparent in his

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<tr>
<th>69</th>
<th>Andw Shanklan</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>Francis Kirtley</th>
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<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>Ralph Loftus</td>
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<td>Joseph Ditsen</td>
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<td>Wm. Higgins</td>
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<td>George Baxter</td>
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<td>Thomas Herring</td>
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<td>Robert Cravens</td>
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<td>69</td>
<td>Charles Rush</td>
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<td>Christopher Harmon</td>
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<td>Peter Sellers</td>
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<td>Charles McLain</td>
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<td>Cornelius Briant</td>
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<td>Daniel Guinn</td>
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<td>Hugh Tiffeney</td>
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<td>John Rush</td>
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<td>John Perkey</td>
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<td>Joseph Cravens</td>
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<td>Peter Coonrad</td>
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<td>Wm. Dunlap</td>
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<td>Coonrad Hansberger</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Anthony Brunamore</td>
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<td>John Lincoln</td>
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<td>John Brown</td>
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<td>Jacob Custard</td>
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<td>Anthony Lowerbur</td>
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<td>Henry Ewin</td>
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<td>John Graham</td>
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<td>John Guinn</td>
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<td>Henry Trusler</td>
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<td>Reuben Harrison</td>
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<td>Wm. Smith</td>
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<td>Richard McGee</td>
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They came in a fine time as there was a good deal to be seen in the Fair Grounds yesterday evening from about half hour by sun to dark: several regiments were out on a dress parade and a flag presentation to a Texas regiment. President Davis presented the flag and made a thrilling speech to the regiment as was responded to by Col. Wigfall, colonel of the regiment, on behalf of his men. [Louis T. Wigfall, an ex-U.S. Senator, who negotiated the surrender of Fort Sumter.] It was a very imposing scene. President Davis came in about half hour by sun, escorted by a splendid corps of soldiers, headed by the Richmond Brass Band; and as soon as he reached the Fair Grounds the soldiers began to gather around him as well as many citizens until there must have been nearly ten thousand. One whole square of the Fair Ground in front of the Texas encampment presented one solid mass of human beings. It was a very imposing sight. They couldn't one fourth part get in hearing distance of the President, although all were eager to even faintly catch a word now and then. I was one of the favored few who got close enough to hear him distinctly. He spoke with much feeling and in a loud distinct voice and although there were so many around him, all kept as silent as the grave during its delivery. He seems to have the entire confidence and esteem of all the soldiers who flock around him and follow him whenever he comes till he leaves the Fair Ground.

Private Holt's religious faith was a great solace to him during his long separation from his loved ones. Passages such as the following recur again and again:

I was truly glad to hear you all had so good a meeting at Falling [River Baptist Church]. It is truly refreshing to hear revivals of religion in times like these, when wars and rumors of wars is the one prevailing topic, when men's minds are rocked to and fro by the commotions of the times and almost seem to have forgotten the one thing needful. But I hope and pray that these times will not last long but that the time will soon come when the implements of war will be changed to implements of husbandry and all of us can return to our peaceful and happy homes and be with those we love to enjoy their smiles through the remainder of life's short journey, and when life's short journey is ended, to die in the arms of the dear Redeemer and be wafted to the shores of everlasting blessedness, where there will be no more parting, no more sorrow, nor crying, but all will be peace and joy, world without end.

The happiest occasion while in the service came to John Lee in late October of 1861. His company received the honor of escorting 150 Yankee prisoners by train to Columbia, S.C.:

When we got to the depot at Columbia, we found a large crowd assembled, white and black of all ages, all eager to get a glimpse of the Yankees. There were not less than five thousand on the grounds. There were four military companies from the city, all armed, who took charge of the prisoners and conducted them to their quarters in the city jail, and relieved us. They were beautiful companies.
were companies of cadets from City Institute. One was a company of boys between the ages of 12 and 16, well-drilled and all about the same height—just about the size of Dick [Ellen’s younger brother], and the other was a volunteer company of any of the city about to go into active service. They made a grand show. They had a splendid band of music and all the musicians were Negroes. They marched through the streets for about half a mile to the jail the band playing Dixie. Oh, I can’t begin to tell you what a grand display it was. We marched on after them and the crowd all around and along the way, on fences, in the windows, and in fact every place was crowded where they thought they could get a peep at the invaders of our soil. But I must tell you something about the city: it is certainly the prettiest place I ever saw or ever expect to see in this world; unless I see the same place again. It is nearly as large as Richmond, but not nearly so many houses or inhabitants. But the houses are nearly all new and beautiful [in February 1865 they would be in ashes], the streets wide and regular, and some of the prettiest yards and gardens my eyes ever beheld. They looked something like enchantment and not realities and the people so kind and familiar. Everyone seemed to want to take us by the hand and do something to render us comfortable and happy. The ladies presented us with a great many beautiful rosettes made of palmetto, a native growth of S.C. and from the state that bears the name Palmetto State. . . The trees about the river are full of a curious kind of moss, swinging down in great bunches about a yard long. I send you a piece of it in this letter. To see it swinging in the trees it is very beautiful indeed. . . I went to church in the evening and at night and heard excellent preaching and singing and saw a great many pretty ladies. I don’t think Columbia can be beaten anywhere for pretty women. There is hardly a single man in our company but says he is going back to Columbia when the war is over. . . [at the depot, upon leaving] the ladies of the Female Institute presented us with a box of palmetto rosettes by the hands of the principle, who made a few remarks in their behalf, and was responded to by Capt. Henry in our behalf. We then gave them cheers for the ladies of the Palmetto State and waved our hats and cheered lustily, and they gave three cheers for Virginia. . . we all felt almost as if we were parting with brothers and sisters, fathers and mothers, they treated us with so much kindness.

By late November the threat to Kentucky and Tennessee was apparent. West Virginia was already lost. Holt’s regiment, the 56th Virginia Infantry, began moving in the direction of Bowling Green, Kentucky, and Fort Donelson. But for several weeks in December the regiment was encamped at Abingdon, southwestern Virginia, ten miles from the Tennessee border. On December 6, 1861, John Lee wrote a letter expressing his constant homesickness:

While I sit in my tent on this beautiful morning (Oh, it is a delightful morning) to pen these lines on College Hill and look out on the beautiful scenery around the beautiful town of Abingdon at its foot on the South and the majestic mountains all around, it presents a scene truly grand and sublime, and I feel that I have much to be thankful for, even here, and I feel that if I could just be permitted to see you all once in a while I would be very well satisfied. But, Oh, I do want to see you so much and I want also to see my dear boy and girl very much indeed. [His son, Manly, was less than two. His daughter, Viola, had just been born on October 3.] Do, if you please, the next time you write, tell me all the particulars about them. I want to know how Manly looks, if he grows or alters any, how he gets on talking, what he says, if he ever says anything about me. And I also want to hear how my darling baby gets on, if she grows or alters any. . . Oh, how I wish I could see her, and I do hope and trust it will not be long before I can enjoy that privilege thou I now see no chance of its being so shortly as we expect to leave here shortly. . . there is not much doubt but our sphere of action will be in Kentucky. . . But I want you, my dear one, to enter a covenant of prayer with me; that each day we will pray earnestly and fervently that our Heavenly Father may give us hearts of resignation to his Holy Will, that he may give us faith in his promises, that he will fill us with his Spirit and make us to feel that his tender mercies are ever over those that love and fear him and although we are separated so far from each other, he can bring us together again. He has said, ‘Ask and you shall receive.’ Oh, can we not ask him to bring us together again. So let us console ourselves with the thought that we are in a just and holy cause, a cause for which our children’s children will rise up and call us blessed. . . So I don’t want you to give yourself any unnecessary uneasiness about me, but remember that I am in my Father’s hands and that he loves me too well to do with me anything but what is right.

His experience at Fort Donelson, the biggest battle yet to be fought in the West, was a shocking one for John Lee and his letters cannot conceal the horror of it all. He escaped capture but like thousands of soldiers on both sides he became seriously ill. After several days of unseasonably warm weather, the temperature at Donelson had plunged to 10° above zero. He wrote the following from Chattanooga on March 4, 1862:

I wrote to you last week from Murfreesboro and sent it by a friend to this place to have it mailed. . . we only tarried [in Murfreesboro] a few days and started off on a march for this place, over 100 miles distant. I marched with them 3 days and got to a place called Manchester and being right unwell with cold and pretty much broke down with fatigue, I came on with the sick on the cars. . . All of us who are well enough to go will leave this evening for Atlanta, Georgia, I understand, as they intend to remove all the sick there as fast as they can. I expect to go myself. It is about 150 miles from here.

The following letter, dated March 21, 1862, and written from a military hospital in Atlanta, is not in John Lee’s usually firm hand: the letters are shaky and misshapen.

I reckon you think it strange that I have not written to you again before now but the last is I have been so sick that I want [sic] able to write and I feel quite enfeebled now . . . I hardly know what was the matter with me. I was taken with giddiness in the head and violent headache and I also had a very bad cough.
Even as Holt lay sick in his hospital bed, McClellan’s campaign to take Richmond by way of the peninsula was getting under way. By the end of April John Lee was writing his letters to Ellen from camps in the southeastern suburbs of Richmond. Meanwhile, the Confederate Congress had passed its conscription bill and Holt discovered that he was in the service now for the duration.

I did not lack but two years of getting off under the conscription act, as I will be thirty-three the last day of this month. But I do hope and trust that this unholy and unjust war waged upon us by Northern Vandalso may soon be brought to a speedy termination. Oh, how happy I would be to return home and in peace and quietude to spend the remainder of life’s short journey with those I love best around our own loved fireside. But what would be the consequences if we should suffer ourselves to be subjugated by the tyrannical government of the North? Our property would all be confiscated and taken to pay the enormous debt of their government incurred by this war and our people reduced to the most abject bondage and utter degradation. I think that every Southern heart should now respond to the language of our great Patrick Henry in the days of ’76 and say, ‘Give me liberty or give me death!’

An early feature of the Peninsula Campaign was an attempt by a Federal armada to emulate Farragut’s success at New Orleans three weeks previously. The Monitor, a new ironclad named Galena, and three gunboats were steaming up the James to compel the surrender of the capital city. Private Holt would witness the entire affair. On Saturday morning, May 18, he wrote:

We were suddenly ordered off from Richmond Wednesday evening after I had written and sealed up my last letter to you. We knew not where we were going till we got to the river, when we found we had to go down the river by steamboat to Drury’s Bluff, about ten miles down the river from Richmond where our lower river fortifications are situated on the Chesterfield side [Drury’s Bluff was above a sharp bend]. We also have the channel of the river blocked by sinking vessels and other things to prevent the enemy’s gunboats from going up the river. We were landed on that side of the river and pitched the few tents we had along. At 10 o’clock that night Col. Stuart ordered Lt. Col. Slaughter to take the first four companies of the regiment and come down to Chaffin’s Bluff [a half mile down the river and within sight of Drury’s Bluff] where we had some pieces of artillery, our object being to skirmish on the high bluffs of the river bank out of range of the guns of the enemy’s gunboats and pick off their sharpshooters from the top of their boats. After a march of some 6 or 8 miles through the mud and rain we got here an hour to two till day and waited. as pickets to watch the gunboats as they were lying on the river only a short distance below us. Some were sent downstream to report that they were landing troops on shore. We then reported to Col. Slaughter and the artillery was drawn out in line of battle on the Richmond road, and our four companies, two on the right and two on the left, expecting to be attacked and intending to retreat toward Richmond if we were attacked by too strong a force. But several who were still on the look out on horseback reported that they were gone on board again and Col. Slaughter decided that we would return...as the gunboats passed us and attacked the fortifications. They threw a few shells over close to us... and by the evening the gunboats returned down the river, several of them said to be badly damaged [especially the Galena: inadequately armored, she took forty-three hits and suffered heavy casualties]. They did very little damage to the fort [the bluff was so high that the Union guns could not be elevated sufficiently]. The gunboats are said to be coming up on the river again today, but I hope we will be able to drive them back again as well as their land forces and save Richmond. God grant that it may be so.

By late May 1862 McClellan’s massive Union army had moved into position on the outskirts of Richmond. About one-third of this army was north of the Chickahominy River waiting to link up with McDowell’s forces coming down from Fredericksburg. On that night of May 30 the Richmond area was inundated by torrential rains. The Chickahominy swelled beyond its banks and the Union right, north of the river, was cut off from the main force. Taking advantage of this “Confederate weather,” Gen. Joe Johnston launched an attack at Seven Pines or Fair Oaks (south of the river) the following day. Holt describes the storm:

The gunboats came up in five or six miles of here yesterday evening and we rather expected to have a lively time with them today. But they have fallen back again. Our company and one other of our regiment were sent out some three miles down the river last night to watch for them and see that they landed no troops near us. It was the stormiest night I almost ever saw: cloud after cloud followed each other, from soon in the evening till after midnight, with the severest thunder and lightning I almost ever saw, though we got in a house out of most of the rain and did not get very wet.

The following day John Lee told Ellen about the Battle of Seven Pines:

Soon after I closed my letter yesterday heavy cannonading was heard over on the Chickahominy, pretty much an east course from us, and was kept up till after dark and we could hear the roar of small arms once in a while when the wind was favorable, and the firing commenced again this morning by day. We hear this morning that our forces have some 30,000 or 40,000 of the enemy cut off by the Chickahominy River and the river is up so that they can’t get back, nor can they get reinforcements from the other side of the river. We also heard that we had captured four batteries and had the fifth backed into water waist deep. I hope the time is close at hand when McClellan and his mighty army may be completely routed and driven from Virginia soil. I think that if we could completely defeat them here and on the Mississippi the war would speedily be brought to a close. God grant that it may be so.

Within a space of two weeks in June 1862, John Lee Holt suffered the loss of his beloved mother and endured the horrors of the Seven Days’ Battles. His regiment was now in Pickett’s brigade and it would remain so for the remainder
of the war. That brigade was actively engaged near the center of the fiercest fighting at Gaines Mill and again at Frayer's Farm. His mood is evident in the first letter he wrote after the battle was over:

After being debarred from the privilege of writing to you for several weeks, I feel, I trust, truly thankful to our Heavenly Father that I can now once more let you hear from me. We left camp last Thursday, was a fortnight ago [June 26, the day Seven Pines Battles began] and have not been to camp since... and have, therefore, had no opportunity of writing. We had no paper, pen or ink, and were without any means of writing whatever, and the army is still out some 25 miles below here now [keeping an eye on McClellan, who had retreated to Harrison's Landing on the James]. I was taken right unwell a few days ago and got permission to come to camp yesterday morning and came up in a wagon. I am still smartly unwell... but I am going about and hope I will soon be better. I would be very glad if I could get home, but I don’t see any chance. I never wanted to go anywhere as much as I want to go home now. It looks like, sometimes, I would freely give one thousand dollars, if I had it, for the privilege of going home and staying one month. But I will try and bear it patiently and hope that my time to go home will come after a while.

As the weeks of midsummer passed and no threat to Richmond emanated from Harrison’s Landing, a more pressing danger emerged: Gen. John Pope was moving toward the Gordonsville Loop, a vital railroad junction. Lee sent Jackson’s men and 25,000 of Longstreet’s to counter Pope’s advance, leaving only a small force to oppose an unlikely move by McClellan. The confrontation north of Orange Court House, the Battle of Cedar Mountain, and the Confederate victory at Second Manassas followed. Immediately, Lee invaded the North for the first time. Ellen did not hear from John Lee for twenty days when a letter marked Frederick City, Maryland, September 8, came to hand:

We have had a pretty severe time since we left Gordonsville, either marching or fighting pretty much all the time. As part of Longstreet’s division, Private Holt’s regiment held a bridge while Jackson crossed on his way to Brusie Station by way of Thoroughfare Gap. It had followed Jackson, fighting its way to Manassas where it was placed on Longstreet’s right, receiving and repelling Fitz-John Porter’s attack of August 30. We had a pretty severe fight at Manassas, partly on the old battleground of July of last year and I reckon we have marched 200 miles, taking all the crooks and turns. We sometimes marched day and night. D.S. Freeman has noted that Longstreet’s infantry there made as good time as had Jackson’s renowned ‘foot cavalry’ during the Valley Campaign. We are now in Maryland. We crossed the Potomac Saturday [September 6, at White’s Ford] and are now on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad within a mile or two of Frederick City... They say Marylanders are joining our army in large numbers... [a delusion]. Maryland is a beautiful country as far as we have come into it. The farmers seem to be men of taste and have their farms laid off in the most beautiful manner, and their dwellings and outhouses are built and arranged in a neat and tasty manner, and even the roads cross and turn at angles like the streets of a city. I don’t know in what direction we will go from here. Some think we will go on to Baltimore and some to Washington City and some think we will go into Pennsylvania. But none know but our head generals. [For the moment, the head generals of both armies would shortly be privy to Lee’s plan to split his forces three ways. The day after John wrote this letter, Lee issued his Order 191, the “Lost Order” which betrayed his intention to send Jackson to Harper’s Ferry, McLaws to Maryland Heights, and Longstreet to Harpersfield. Antietam, the bloodiest single day of the war, was just nine days away.]

Marched and countermarched to and from Hagerstown to South Mountain, John Lee, now under Richard Garnett, had been in fierce fighting September 14, in support of D.H. Hill at Turner’s Gap. His brother Merideth was severely wounded and John carried him from the field. Both were consequently spared the ghastly experiences of Antietam, September 17. The next letter is from a military hospital in Winchester three days after Lee’s retreat back across the Potomac:

Merideth got right badly wounded in the fight yesterday was a week ago. I carried him off the field and have been with him ever since as nurse. We are now in the hospital at what is called the Old Presbyterian Church in this place. I heard yesterday that Hick [Ellen’s brother] got wounded in the fight last Wednesday [Antietam] but not very badly... in the arm, I think. Oh, how thankful we ought to be to our Heavenly Father for his kind and watchful care over us and for the preservation of our lives, up to this time, when so many are falling all around us. It is, as you say, truly distressing to think of the bereaved families left destitute by the fall of the only prop they have. But I trust God will provide for them and make their sad bereavement a means of grace to work for their good, as he has promised that all things shall work together for good to them that love and fear God.

After Antietam, a general reorganization of Lee’s army took place at Martinsburg. Longstreet and Jackson were elevated to corps commanders and Pickett became a division commander, with Garnett inheriting his old brigade. This took several weeks. Merideth’s wound, in the lower abdomen, healed satisfactorily but slowly. First Merideth, then John, ill himself, were moved up the Valley to a hospital in Staunton. John’s one abiding obsession at this time was to get a furlough home. He applied again and again, but because of the precarious military situation he was always refused. Staunton, November 20, 1862:

...I found that I could go before the Board and I thought I would give them a trial for a furlough [he has not been home for fourteen months]. I came very near getting in yesterday and should have been about first this morning. But they received orders again from Gen. Lee not to grant any more furloughs. So all that were given yesterday were no account... I have no doubt that I could have got one if I could
have been before the Board... It seems to me is not intended for me to
get a furlough. This is the second time the same orders have been
issued just as I was on the eve of getting a furlough.

John Lee's disappointment was inevitable in face of the sudden emergency at
Fredericksburg. Gen. Burnside, McClellan's successor, was moving to cross
the Rappahannock and cut off Lee's army from access to Richmond. Lee had been
expecting a confrontation north of Culpeper, but on the day of John's letter
above Lee suddenly discovered that the entire Union army was on its way to
Fredericksburg. Saturday, December 13, Meade's forces attacked Jackson's near
Hamilton's Crossing and Sumner's and Hooker's men valiantly assaulted the
impregnable stone wall on Marye's Heights. The slaughter of the Union soldiers
had been appalling. Pickett's division, John's outfit, fought as a division for the
first time on December 13, but it was held in reserve for the center of Longstreet's
corps. Fredericksburg, December 16:

There has been no fighting of much consequence since Saturday.
Our brigade did not get into the fight at all, more than they had a few
shells thrown over them... We very much expected a general engage-
ment Monday or today, but the Yankees seemed to be satisfied with the
brushing they got Saturday and retreated back across the river
last night.

December 20:

We are having some quite cold weather here now but we have
tents and keep big fires and make out to keep tolerably comfortable.
From the way the winter has set in I fear we are going to have a very
severe winter. We were ordered to get under arms in quick time
yesterday morning as it was thought the Yankees were attempting
to cross the river again. But we have moved our camps farther back to
where we could get wood and I understand they thought we had
evacuated the place, but they soon discovered their mistake... We are
well fortified here and have a very commanding position and have no
fears that they can pass us here, though they have a much larger force
than we have... We are on the left of the Telegraph road as you go
into Fredericksburg, some four or five miles from the town [present
Route 1, one mile or so north of the Massaponax exit from 1-95].

For the next six weeks Holt was encamped with his company in and around
Fredericksburg. Being back with his brothers and friends was obviously good for
John Lee. His letters, although repeating constantly the theme of his homesick-
ness after sixteen months separation from Ellen and his children, reflect the fact
that his spirits are higher than they have ever been since Antietam. He has
enjoyed the horseplay around the camp area, has participated in the regimental
snowball fights and the singing around the campfire, and has observed the
Yankees on something like a personal basis while on picket duty along the
Rappahannock. And his health has noticeably improved.

Early in February Pickett's and Hood's divisions would be ordered to forage
in the Suffolk area of Southeastern Virginia and in neighboring North Carolina
where there were large quantities of badly needed corn and bacon. But John Lee
would not accompany his division. He joined it later, after an extended furlough
home.

Greenville, North Carolina, April 3, 1863:

I embrace the present as the first opportunity I had since leaving
you of dropping you a few lines... The brigade is down about
Washington [100 miles south of Norfolk]. They were fighting down
there some this morning. We could hear the cannon but don't know
anything of the result. They say they have the place surrounded and
demanded its surrender, which it is thought will be compelled to do.
The primary purpose of the maneuvers, here and elsewhere in the
region, was to confine the Federals within their defenses while the
foraging proceeded. I expect to start down there this evening... We
took the cars to Tarboro [forty miles northwest of Washington,
N.C.]. set out from there on foot to this place... four of us stayed all
night at the house of a very rich old gentleman... and fared sumptu-
ously. The ladies came into the parlor where we were, after supper,
and played on the piano and sung for us till 10 o'clock... I have felt
quite lonely since I left you. It was very hard to bear parting with you
and my dear children. But I knew it had to be done and tried to take it
as patiently as I could.

Camp near Suffolk, Virginia, May 1, 1863:

This is a low swampy country... Our lines extend around to the
Dismal Swamp. I have not seen that swamp, nor do I wish to see one
more Dismal than some I have seen... You would be amused to see
the merriment the boys have at the ignorance of the... people of
the low country. Some of them seemed to be ignorant of the war
going on, and said, when asked something about it, that they believed
they had heard something about a war going on somewhere. They
believed it was way out in Virginia or somewhere out that way. One
old lady, on seeing the brigade pass, was mightily disturbed to know
where all them men would get their suppers.

After successfully accomplishing their foraging, the Confederate forces
quietly withdrew from the Suffolk theater. Pickett's division was ordered to
march to Petersburg to counter a reported cavalry raid south of the James. The
raid proved false and Pickett then set his course for Culpeper Court House,
arriving in the area about the first of June.

Camp near Hanover Junction, May 25:

We are now on the Central Railroad about three miles above the
Junction in the direction of Gordonsville... Our division is scattered
about here now at different points on the two railroads, the Central
and the Fredericksburg. We have a very nice camp here and plenty of
good water. Merideth got to us a few days ago. He is very near recovered from his wound, I believe.

Chancellorsville, in early May, had been a stunning defeat for Joe Hooker's Army of the Potomac. Robert E. Lee hoped to capitalize on that Union disaster by invading the North again. As John Lee wrote his next letter, the entire Army of Northern Virginia was gearing up for its calamitous Pennsylvania campaign.

Camp near Hanover Junction, June 7:

There is another fight expected to come off at Fredericksburg. In fact, I understand there has already been some fighting going on there...you need not be surprised when you hear from us again to hear we are at Fredericksburg, or somewhere therabouts...I understand Gen. Lee has ordered the hospitals to be in readiness to receive the wounded.

Camp near Summerville Ford, Orange County, June 10:

We are still on the march...[June 8] we took a long march of some 25 or 30 miles and yesterday we did not march so far. We came some 15 or 20 miles and again today we have come some 20 or 25 miles and we are now...about eight miles from Culpeper Court House...I do not know the object of our movement, whether Gen. Lee is expecting the enemy to advance or whether he intends a forward movement himself.

June 11:

God grant the time may not be long when the Angel of Peace may spread his beautiful wings over us and the war and bloodshed may cease in our midst and all be permitted to return to their loved families, friends, and homes. Oh, Happy Day! Would thou were with me today. Hasten thy speedy flight and come quickly.

Camp near Culpeper, June 14:

...we have had orders to hold ourselves in readiness to move on a moment's notice, and from orders read out on dress parade this evening, I anticipate there is some move on hand, but I do not know where it is or where we are going. They are making arrangements to take along ten days' rations, three in haversacks and the balance in wagons. Ewell's corps has already started...

John Lee's next is from Flint Hill, Rappahannock County, June 16. Since he left his camp at Hanover Junction he has more than halved his journey to Gettysburg. He is fifteen miles southeast of Front Royal along present Route 522. The path of the invasion will lie in the Great Valley.

I wrote in my last that there was some great move on hand but

could not understand where or what it was...We are on our way to Winchester and are, no doubt, going there...They say it is only some forty miles from here...Gen. Ewell, who now commands Jackson's old corps, has already taken Winchester [June 15] where he had a fight with the Yankee fiends of a Gen. Milroy, who has been spreading terror and dismay amongst the people of that noble town and surrounding country...[Ewell's rout of Milroy was as complete as Jackson's rout of Nathaniel Banks at Winchester the year before.]

Bivouac near Paris, Fauquier County, June 18:

We did not take the direct road to Winchester from Flint Hill as I expected...I understand about as little the object of our present movement as I ever did in my life...Old Gen. Lee passed us yesterday morning. We gave the old fellow a lusty cheer and, as he passed, he took off his hat and saluted us and passed on and seemed as tranquil as the morning sun. We are now right in the midst of the Blue Ridge Mountains near where four counties corner together: Fauquier, Loudon, Clarke and Warren and about three miles from the Shenandoah River. This is a beautiful and plentiful country from here back to Flint Hill. We can get milk and butter aplenty and cheap, when we can get a chance to go out and get it. I had a splendid breakfast this morning. We sent out and got as much good cold sweet milk, right out of the icehouse, butter, light biscuits—as much as we could eat...

Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, June 30, 1863:

We moved...our division back about one mile south of Chambersburg and our regiment is detailed today as Provost Guard in town...Our mail carrier came in a little while ago and says he is going back directly, so it don't give me much time to write now. So I will wait for a better opportunity to tell you particulars. We have been in no fight yet, and there has been no fight since the taking of Winchester, but I am expecting there will be some fighting before many days. My love to you all. This leaves me and brothers well...God bless you all is the earnest prayer of your ever loving and devoted husband.

Jno. L. Holt

This is the last letter Ellen ever received. Three days after he wrote it, Private John Lee Holt, aged thirty-four, in William's Company, in Stuart's Regiment, in Garnett's Brigade, in Pickett's Division, in Longstreet's Corps advanced with his comrades toward Emmitsburg Road—and the oak trees beyond.

Family tradition has it that two of his brothers saw him fall, that they turned to assist him but he waved them on. For this there is no hard evidence.

But, God grant that it may be so.
WEST SIDE OF COURT SQUARE ABOUT 1900—For years all activity in Harrisonburg was centered around the Big Spring and the Courthouse. The spring is in the lower left corner and on the right is North Court Square.
THE FUNKHOUSER-KITE FAMILY CONNECTION
—BEGUN IN TRAGIC TIMES

By John T. Funkhouser

AUTHOR'S NOTE: All names, dates, and places in this story are true as are the accounts of the principal events. In addition to information found in the Rockingham Court Records, valuable material provided by Mary E. Kite has been included. Her recollections of family traditions and oral history of unquestionable authenticity have been used for the more important personal matters. At points in these accounts, the author has filled in gaps that occurred from his own knowledge of personalities and characteristics of people involved and of conditions of life at the time.

The “War Between the States,” as the Civil War generally was called in the South, touched virtually every family in the State of Virginia. For some, a difference in how the “Cause” was perceived split family unity apart. For the same reason, other families seemed drawn closer together. For those who suffered the tragic loss of life and property, the War was devastating. Yet, soldiers made friends with each other and out of some of these friendships grew family bonds that have continued to the present time. Such was the case of David Funkhouser and Charles Kite.

David lived at Keezletown and Charles at Conrad’s Store (later called Elkton) some fifteen miles apart. They never met before the war. Although they entered the army at different times and at different places, the vicissitudes of war threw them together and a close friendship developed. This relationship was to become singularly unique and destined to carry far beyond the camaraderie that normally develops between two soldiers in war.

Just before the outbreak of the Civil War seven companies, made up of local men, were formed and organized in Rockingham County under Virginia laws governing the State Volunteer Militia. On April 18, 1861, these companies received their first battle orders of the war—Procede to Harper’s Ferry. The grim realities of the Civil War came sharply in focus at that point.

Within a few months this small force was expanded to eleven companies and became the Tenth Virginia Regiment, Volunteer Infantry. Soon the Tenth was integrated into the famed “Army of the Valley.” It eventually became the military home of both David and Charles.

In the spring of 1862, when General Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson began his famous Valley Campaign, he was stationed at Conrad’s Store. The Tenth Virginia Regiment was ordered to join Jackson’s forces at Conrad’s Store; there it was made part of General W. B. Taliaferro’s Third Brigade.
Following a number of battles up and down the Valley, Jackson met and defeated General John C. Fremont on June 8, 1862, at Cross Keys, and the next day defeated General James Shields in the battle of Port Republic. After these battles, Jackson's forces remained nearby in the vicinity of Mt. Meridian until June 17. The war had truly come to the heart of the Valley.

While Jackson's forces rested near Mt. Meridian, some ten or twelve miles from the home of David Funkhouser, David joined the "Army of the Valley." On June 14, he was mustered "in the field" into the Tenth Virginia Regiment and assigned to Captain D. H. Lee Martz to the veteran Company G, known as the "Valley Guards." He was eighteen years of age.

David was the fourth of ten children born to Rev. Joseph and Christina Funkhouser. He was born on September 2, 1843, near Passage Creek in Shenandoah County. When he was ten years old, his parents moved to Keezletown, Virginia. Here, his father was a minister in the Methodist Church, a farmer, and also a Justice of the Peace. David's family was a closely knit one. Under the instruction of a minister-father, it was dedicated to religious principles. David was of medium-height, rugged and strong in body, and his quiet demeanor reflected his family background. Having grown up in a large family, he soon learned to adjust to army life.

Training camps for the new recruits were non-existent. David was given a rifle, a uniform, and whatever supplies permitted. He was trained in the skill of soldiering as the army moved along.

On or about June 17, Jackson was ordered to leave the Valley and to support General Robert E. Lee in the defense of Richmond against Federal forces led by General George B. McClellan. Here, just north of Richmond and during seven days of fierce fighting, the Tenth was held in reserve. After the successful repulse of McClellan, Jackson moved his forces to Gordonsville and on August 8, 1862, engaged in a hard fought battle with Federal General John Pope. The Tenth was heavily engaged in this fight from start to finish and the losses were heavy. Pope retreated across the Rappahannock River and Jackson moved up the same river, crossed its two branches, and moved on Manassas Junction hoping to get completely in Pope's rear. This move resulted in a fierce battle—the second battle of Manassas—that raged for three days. The Tenth was again heavily committed and casualties were heavy. Pope was again repulsed with even heavier losses than before.

By this time David had had his baptism by fire and was no longer a raw recruit.

The next move for Jackson was the invasion of Maryland. After he reached Frederick City, Maryland, the Tenth was ordered back into Virginia and held in reserve while Jackson captured Harper's Ferry and supported Lee in the battle of Sharpsburg (Antietam) which was fought on Sept. 17, 1862.

In October of 1862, Charles Kite, just eighteen years of age, entered the army. He was assigned to the veteran Company I, known as the "Riverton Invincibles," Tenth Virginia Regiment, Volunteer Infantry, by the Company's commanding officer Captain W. D. C. Covington.

Charles Kite, born September 18, 1844, was the oldest of seven children born to Captain Hiram and Margaret Kite. His home was about a mile east of Conrad's Store. The Kite family, known for their integrity and leadership in community affairs, was intensely loyal to the Southern cause. Theirs was a highly principled family, always keenly aware of its personal responsibilities. Charles's father, who had been a member of the State Militia served as Captain of Company H, Second Regiment, Virginia Volunteers, Seventh Brigade, from the outbreak of the war until the spring of 1862. Captain Hiram's younger brother, Lt. Joseph H. Kite, served throughout the war with the "Riverton Invincibles," the same company to which his nephew Charles was assigned. Later in the war Charles' younger brother William, just under eighteen years of age, was mustered into Company A, Third Battalion, Virginia Reserves. He gained the rank of Sergeant and was wounded on May 15, 1864, in the battle of New Market.

Charles was slightly shorter than David though just as rugged and strong in body. Both boys had been reared on farms and were used to hard work. Charles, as the oldest child, had a deep love for his family and its principles.

Both David and Charles had now been mustered into the same Tenth Virginia Regiment. In the future whenever the Tenth was engaged in military action so were David and Charles. At this point the forces that were to have a lasting effect on their lives and later on their families came into play. It appears that it was more than a coincidence that David and Charles chanced to meet and become inseparable companions.

Later in the fall, Jackson moved his forces south of the Rappahannock, near Fredericksburg, to assist again in the defense of Richmond. North of the Rappahannock, on Stafford Heights, was stationed Federal General Ambrose E. Burnside. On December 13, 1862, Burnside crossed the Rappahannock and the desperate and bloody battle of Fredericksburg was fought. The Tenth saw no action on December 13, but was placed on the front lines during the night. Burnside, however, had suffered heavy losses on that day and decided to withdraw quietly to the north side of the river. The Army of Northern Virginia under Lee's command then went into winter quarters at Skinkers Neck below Fredericksburg and on the south side of the Rappahannock.

Almost one month later Charles wrote this letter to his mother:

Camp near Port Royall
Jan. 11, 1863

Dear Mother,

I received your letter last Saturday evening. I was glad to hear from home. I was as proud of my clothes as if I was worth two
thousand dollars. I am well, hope you all will soon be the same. Frank Sanford brought my comfort to me at Winchester. Tell the children I am always thinking about them. Tell Mary I have got my haversack full of candy but I have no way to send it home. I bought three papers of candy for thirty-six dollars and sold two of them for $38.00 and one for me to eat. I spent my Christmas on picket but it was a mighty dull one. The gloves will do splendid, my shirts are as good as new. I have enough stockings. Apples are selling from one to two dollars a dozen. Cakes are bought at five inches square. As the Captain ought to be thought of I will have to close. Write soon.

Yours truly,
Charles Kite

Port Royall is about fifteen miles southeast of Fredericksburg on the Rappahannock. Apparently clothes were hard to come by through regular army supply and a dollar didn’t buy much.

Toward the end of April, 1863, “Fighting Joe Hooker” who had been recently placed in command of the Federal Army replacing Burnside, began his “On to Richmond” campaign. Hooker had been in winter quarters north of the Rappahannock and to the north of Fredericksburg.

In anticipation of Hooker’s crossing the Rappahannock west of Fredericksburg and moving against his left, Lee began moving the bulk of his forces, leaving a division under the command of General Jubal Early to defend the Fredericksburg area, up the Rappahannock toward Chancellorville. Jackson’s forces were now combined with Lee’s, as there was no doubt that one of the major battles of the Civil War was about to take place.

Jackson’s “Army of the Valley” at this time was under the command of subordinate Brigadier General Raleigh E. Colston. Colston, who had been an assistant professor at V.M.I. with Jackson, had relieved General Taliaferro less than a month before and had never fought under Jackson. The Tenth was now in Colston’s Brigade and under the immediate command of Colonel E. T. H. Warren.

Intelligence reports indicated that Hooker had crossed the Rappahannock with a large force. Rather than await a Federal attack, Lee perceived that a better course of action would be to take the initiative and move quickly against the enemy. After further reconnaissance reports and some light contact with Federal forces, Lee, on the evening of May 1, outlined for Jackson a plan of attack. This would be a surprise move, using Jackson’s forces around Hooker’s right to attack him from the rear. On Jackson now fell the task of finding the best way to move his troops.

By three in the afternoon on May 2, Jackson had reached his objective and had strategically deployed most of his forces in readiness to execute what became his classic and most famous flank movement against Hooker’s forces. Jackson sent the following message to Lee:

Near 3 p.m.
May 2nd, 1863

General:
The enemy has made a stand at Chancellor’s which is about two miles from Chancellorville. I hope as soon as practicable to attack.
I trust that an ever kind Providence will bless us with great success.

Respectfully,
T. J. Jackson
Lt. General

Expecting much hand-to-hand combat, Jackson ordered his troops to “thrust bayonets” though he knew it would be an impediment to moving through the dense woods. At 5:15 p.m., Jackson inquired if all were ready; and, getting an affirmative answer, gave the order: “You can go forward then.” Bugles sounded the attack and rebel yells filled the forest.

In a fury the rebels rushed forward and soon overran the enemy’s light defense works; now for the push on the enemy’s main defense.

Twilight suddenly passed into darkness. As darkness fell, action virtually drew to a halt. Jackson, returning from a personal reconnaissance mission, was critically wounded this same evening and was replaced by cavalry chief Major General J. E. B. (“Jeb”) Stuart. The night of May 2 was devoted to reorganizing the rebel lines and beating off probing Federal counter-attacks.

May 3, 1863, dawned a warm and pleasant day. It was Sunday. Sunrise was at 5:11 a.m., and a heavy mist hung over the battlefield so that good visibility was not possible until nearly 6 o’clock. With the resumption of fighting, fierce Federal resistance was encountered. Forward progress was slow and made complicated by the loss of a great many ranking field officers necessitating constant and confusing changes in command. Though near exhaustion and low on ammunition, fierce determination moved the rebels forward. By 10:30 a.m. Stuart’s forces had closed with Lee’s command and Hooker was defeated. The Tenth Virginia Regiment had been in the center of this furious action from beginning to end and losses were heavy both on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. The battle was now over and the casualty count had begun. The cost was high; over seventeen thousand Federals and thirteen thousand Confederates had been killed.

Among the many slain on this bright and beautiful Sunday morning was Charles Kite. He had been killed instantly. Among the wounded was David Funkhouser, who had suffered a severe head wound. Though severely wounded, David knew that his closest companion was dead. The war for both of these
soldiers was now over. After his wound was dressed, David was ordered home. Charles was buried on Chancellor's farm.

To David, home was over eighty miles away in the Shenandoah Valley across the Blue Ridge Mountains. Because there was no public transportation, David started the long trek home, hitching rides on wagons and eating and sleeping wherever he could. Fortunately, he traveled through friendly territory where, in nearly every home, a wounded rebel was given the most protective care. He followed the Spotswood Trail across the Blue Ridge. About a mile from the foot of the mountain, he came to a large and inviting brick house. The house appeared to have been built some forty years earlier, and the walkway to the front door was lined with English boxwood.

It was now late afternoon and some days after leaving Chancellorsville. He was weak, tired, and weary. There was hope in his heart that here he would find food and shelter for the night. When David knocked on the front door it was opened by a man who seemed to be about the age of his own father. David merely asked if he could be given some food and shelter for the night.

After a momentary pause, caused possibly by the thought that his own son might be knocking at some stranger's door seeking help, David was immediately invited in; and, as the evening meal was about to be served, he was asked to join the family and share in the supper. During the meal he was plied with many questions about the progress of the war and the battle in which he was wounded. Later on he introduced himself and learned for the first time that the family's name was Kite. David remarked that his closest friend had been killed in the same battle in which he had been wounded and that his friend's name was Charles Kite. This remark brought a stunned silence to the table and Mrs. Kite quietly arose and went to the kitchen leaving the care of two-year old Florence to her oldest daughter, Susan. Hiram Kite, who had earlier captained a company of soldiers and witnessed at first hand the grim havoc that war could ravage on men, was visibly shaken. Presently regaining his composure, he explained to David that Charles was his oldest son, and that David had brought the first news of his death. Later in the evening, when the younger children were in bed, David related the events of the two fierce days of battle at Chancellorsville and told of other battles in which he and Charles had been engaged and how they became close friends. Before retiring to what she knew would be a restless night, Mrs. Kite applied a fresh dressing to David's wound.

David had never known just where Charles lived. However, it appeared more than mere chance that David had inadvertently stumbled onto Charles' home that night. The fate that had brought them together in the first instance was still at work and yet was to continue.

Next morning David was awakened early. The three youngest children were still asleep. He wondered about this when called to breakfast. Mr. Kite had risen about an hour earlier and hitched up a team of horses to the surrey to drive David the remainder of his journey to his home near Keezletown. Fannie, the second oldest daughter, accompanied her father but Edwin—now the oldest son was told to stay at home to comfort his mother and to provide whatever protection might be needed.

A few days later Hiram Kite received an official packet from the Army of Northern Virginia. This packet contained some of Charles' personal effects and the following unsigned letter, probably written by his uncle Lt. Joseph H. Kite, notifying Hiram Kite of the death of his son.

Near Chancellorsville
Spottsylvania Co., Va.
May 4, 1863

H.A. Kite-Esqr.
Sir:

It becomes my duty to inform you of the death of your son C. H. Kite. He was killed yesterday in the battle. Poor Charlie. We all learned to love him. He died a hero. We buried him yesterday. If you wish to come for his body you can easily find it. It is buried on the farm of Wm. Chandler, or Chancelor I don't know which. The first days fight was on this farm (2nd of May). The house is a weather-boarded one. Some two or three hundred yards below this house on the right side of the plank road, and about a hundred yards from the road under a walnut tree near some old field pines. You can find his grave together with A. Wyants and J. M. Phillips. The graves are plainly marked with head boards—also a plank nailed to the tree.

Quick to act on the suggestion that the body might be removed, Hiram Kite hitched a team of two horses to a spring wagon and set out for Chancellors's farm. He returned home on May 16, with the bodies of his son and those of Alexander Wyant and James M. Phillips. Burial services were held Sunday, May 17, just two weeks after Charles was killed in battle. The following account of the burials appeared in the Rockingham Register of June 19, 1863:

Sunday, May 17, 1863, was a day of beauty and no doubt happiness to many. The sun rose in an unclouded sky, carrying its beams of joy and gladness to every part of our beloved state. Alas! That such a day should have witnessed so much sorrow—for, although a day of beauty, it was a day of sorrow to this community. The corpses of three noble young men, members of Co. I, 10th Virginia Regiment, who were killed at the Wilderness, May 2nd, had reached the neighborhood the day previous, and this was the day of their burial. What a difference there would have been, had it been stated that Charles Kite, Jimmie Phillips, and Alexander Wyant were to be at church that day, just from the field of carnage and strife! Many would have gone just to see them, hear the news, and hear from the loved ones in the army. How different would have been the scene at home! "Pm, brother is coming!" "Ma, Papa is coming!" Oh! What rejoicing! But no! It was not thus. As the slow moving wagon approached that bound their bodies to their former homes, the eyes of all are suffused with tears, while suppressed sobs of anguish escape from many lips.
At ten o'clock on Sunday, the procession that followed two of these heroes, Charles Kite and Jimmie Phillips, slowly approached Elk Run Church, where, after their bodies were deposited in their silent resting places, close to each other, (comrades in life were not separated in death) their funerals were preached from Isaiah 25-8, (first clause) to a large and attentive congregation.

Upon reaching the house of Mr. Alexander Wyant, the services were more impressive, if possible, than before. There lay coffined the remains of the husband and father-who had been a steward in the M. E. Church South-while the tears of the widow and orphan were mingled with those of dear relatives and friends. The exercises were opened by dedicating to God in Holy Baptism, the children of the deceased, one of whom was an infant who bore his father's name. The sermon was then preached, by request from Isaiah 35-10, after which we followed the body to the grave.

In a ministry extending through a period of four years I have never passed through as solemn and impressive scene as these. Truly this is bringing the war to our own doors. May God in His mercy console the afflicted, and supply with His presence the absence of loved ones! Truly the living should prepare to die.

Geo. C. Vanderslice

The mention in the obituary that "comrades in life were not separated in death" appeared singularly prophetic when examined in relation to the events that were to follow in the Funkhouser-Kite families. The obligation that Hiram Kite earlier had felt to David Funkhouser soon developed into a mutual affinity between the two families. Attending the funeral services for Charles, the family of The Rev. Joseph Funkhouser had the opportunity to visit for a short time with the Kite family. Here again, as noted above, the common morality, family integrity, and dedication to kindred principles manifested themselves. The same mantle of spiritual kinship that once was shared by David and Charles in war was now shared by their families.

Family visits, thereafter, became common. On one of these visits David met a young girl named Georgiana Roudabush, a relative of the Kites, whose father owned a flour mill near Conrad's Store. After a courtship of several years, Georgiana and David were married on February 13, 1866.

David's younger brother, Jacob Funkhouser, soon began courting Fannie Kite, Charles' sister. On December 24, 1888, they married and built a house on part of the land owned by her father. They had no children and spent their entire lives on this farm.

Later, Charles' youngest brother, Alexander Kite, only eight years old when Charles was killed, became deeply interested in David's sister, Amanda. About a year after Jacob and Fannie were married, Alexander married Amanda on November 14, 1889. It should be noted here that only two, Fannie and Alexander, of Charles Kite's six brothers and sisters ever married; and they married a brother and sister of David Funkhouser.

Alexander and Amanda had two children, Hiram and Edgar. They both attended Randolph Macon Academy in Front Royal, Virginia, and Randolph Macon College in Ashland, Virginia. Hiram was graduated in medicine from Johns Hopkins University in 1918. He began practice in Atlanta, Georgia, specializing in orthopedic work. He had three children and two grandchildren.

Having graduated in pharmacy from the Medical College of Virginia in 1916, Edgar became a pharmacist in Elkton living there over forty years. He had one daughter Mary Elizabeth who still resides in Elkton.

During the late years of David Funkhouser's life, Edgar took him back to visit the Chancellorsville battlefield. Here, still clear in David's memory, he pointed out where hard fighting had taken place and where Charles had fallen.

As noted above, David Funkhouser married Georgiana Roudabush early in 1866. They first lived on his father's farm near Keezletown where their first two children, Mary and William, were born. Later, while living at Penn Laird, three more children, Hiram, Florence, and Samuel, were born. From Penn Laird, David moved to a farm near Mill Creek, where his sixth and last child, John, father of the author of this article, was born. Here David and his family lived until 1890, when he bought the Cyrus Pence farm near Montevideo. On this farm his children grew to adulthood and married. Here he spent all but the last few remaining years of his life. David died on January 18, 1936, at the age of ninety years.

The persistent force which wrought the extensive interrelationship, first of David and Charles and later of the Hiram Kite and Joseph Funkhouser families, remains inscrutable. Happenstance? Maybe. It appeared to transcend the mere will of those it touched.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


Reminiscences: Mary E. Kite, great-niece of Charles Kite.

The Rockingham Register, Harrisonburg, Va., May 15 and June 19, 1863.

This photograph shows the location near the Keeler home in Grottoes where the court records of Rockingham County were burned in 1864. The wagon, loaded with the records en route to safety east of the Blue Ridge, broke down and was left in the middle of the road. A squad of General Sheridan's cavalry set fire to the wagon and its contents. This photograph, made in 1924 by Lewis Lupton Kaylor, shows Quincy G. Kaylor, Jacob R. Mohler, and Charles D. Harnsberger with the cane marking the place in the road. The photograph was presented to Rockingham County in 1929 by P. C. Kaylor and is presently located in the County Clerk's Office in Harrisonburg, Va.
EDITORIAL NOTE: The following article was taken from a booklet distributed locally to members of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society in the early 1970's. Believed to have been written by Reginald Barrack, it was intended to encourage the printing of the burnt records still in private hands.

Within the annals of the history of our great country are to be found incidences of courage and bravery performed by a citizen, which are often missed by the history books. Such is the story of an afternoon deed of Mary Nicholas Keezel in Rockingham County in 1864.

General John D. Imboden was placed in command of the Confederate forces which remained at New Market after the battle of May 15, 1864. On June 1, Union forces led by General David Hunter pushed Imboden up the Valley. General Imboden, passing through Harrisonburg on June 2, retreated to Mt. Crawford where a few Confederate re-inforcements gathered on June 3 and 4. General Hunter advanced to Harrisonburg on June 3 and on June 5 defeated General Imboden's troops near Piedmont.

General Hunter's forces carried on the Union policy of burning and destroying public and private property throughout the Valley. Fearing for the safety of the court records when it became apparent that Hunter was advancing on Harrisonburg, Dr. A. M. Newman had his Negro teamster load the Rockingham County Court records with the intention of taking them east of the Blue Ridge for safe keeping. These records were removed from the safety of the Court House, where others remained without damage, only because of the persistence of Dr. A. M. Newman and the unfortunate decision of Judge Allen who was persuaded to allow the removal. Pressure from a county official who wanted to profit from the use of his four horses and Newtown wagon was involved also.

On the road leading from Port Republic to Mt. Vernon Forge and Brown's Gap, a tire came off the back wheel and the wagon broke down. The teamster unhitched his horses from a wagon and left it in the road. A squad of Hunter's cavalry found the wagon load of court records and set fire to them. There is no record that the burning was ordered by General Hunter or that he ever knew of the act.

The grandchildren of Mary Keezel were told that their grandmother approached the area, which was very close to her residence, as the Yankee troops were leaving. She must have known the value of the records for she abandoned her small children in her wagon and quickly raked new mown clover from a nearby field to smother the fire. She was aided in hauling water from a well by Stephen Harnsberger. Ironically, although she preserved many records, the deed for her own house was lost in the fire.
At the time of this deed, Mary's husband, Calvin, was away fighting in the war. He suffered injury and illness at Gettysburg and, returning home in poor health, died very shortly. His widow received no compensation for the loss of her husband. A few years later because she was unable to pay for her home, Mary Keezel was forced to sell it and return to the Nicholas farm near Penn Laird.

In a special to the News Record of 1897, the obituary of Mary Keezel appeared. It follows:

Mt. Solon, Va. May 24 - Mrs. Mary E. Keezel quietly passed away Thursday evening (May 20) at 2:30 o'clock after an illness of two months. Her four sons: A. S. Keezel of Niles, Mich., G. W. and C. M. Keezel of Harrisonburg, and Dr. J. R. Keezel of Mt. Solon, with whom she resided, and her sister, Mrs. Rinker of Penn Laird, Rockingham County, were with her. She was buried at Cross Keys by the side of her husband who preceeded her nearly thirty years ago. Mrs. Keezel was a Miss Nicholas, daughter of George W. Nicholas of the well known Nicholas family in the Valley. Age 61 years 5 months and 20 days. Short and appropriate services were held at her house by Rev. L. H. Paul. The funeral was preached at Cross Keys Saturday evening at 2 o'clock by Rev. George L. Brown, her pastor.

It may be of interest to some of Mrs. Keezel's friends to know that she was the woman who left her little children and property to the mercy of the enemy to rescue from the flames the County Records of Rockingham County which it will be remembered was burned near her home on the famous battle field of Port Republic.

Mary Keezel's deed was important historically because she saved valuable Rockingham County Court Records. We can only conclude that it was due to the chaos of a war torn county that the remaining records were not returned to the Court House until several years later. Regrettably much of the material went into private ownership.

Today there remains a tremendous gap in the recorded history of Rockingham County due to the fire of 1864. This gap can be closed if privately held deeds, patents, and grants are re-recorded. The deed abstracts, listed at the end, outline the ownership and history of the Keezel farm at Penn Laird. This tract of land is owned by Francis and Janie Keezel and has been in the Keezel-Nicholas family for five generations. The deed abstracts are from the Keezel's private collection and cannot be found in the Court House. They illustrate the type of information that is lost to historians and genealogists. Fortunately, these documents will be re-recorded and available for future reference.

It is the goal of the Rockingham County Historical Society to have these numerous deeds, patents, and grants, which are in private ownership, re-recorded. The County Clerk of Court has agreed to store such documents until a sufficient collection for microfilming can be obtained. The records will then be copied and returned to their owners.

The recording of the documents heretofore uncopied is of paramount importance to historians and genealogists. Evidence is lacking for certain validation of Valley life in an age gone by. Family histories and genealogies often cannot be completed because the records of Rockingham are missing.

The Rockingham County Historical Society wishes to solicit the recopying of all old deeds, patents, and grants in order that they might be kept safely in the County Court House for all to use.
MAIN STREET ABOUT 1906—This view shows the northern and eastern portions of Court Square shortly after the turn of the century. In the center of the painting is North Main Street with East Market Street branching off to the right.
EDITORIAL NOTE: The following excerpts were taken from an old edition of the *Bridgewater Herald* dated June 1, 1894. The material, submitted by Miss Lula A. Miller, was sent to her by a friend in Florida.

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G. W. Thomas, President
E. L. Berlin, Sec. and Treas.

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Keeps constantly on hand the Very Best Quality for High Grade and Second Grade Roller Process Flour at current wholesale and retail prices for Cash or Exchange. Also the best, cleanest nicest Yellow and White Bolted Cornmeal, and crushed and ground Cornmeal, Feed, etc. For 5 bushels and 25 pounds of high grade flour, and 70 pounds of middlings and bran. And for 5 bushels of such wheat we will give 196 pounds of second grade flour and 60 pounds of off-fallings. We will exchange 48 pounds of white or yellowbolted corn meal for 56 pounds of good, clean, sound corn, white or yellow, or 60 cents in cash. We will exchange good, fine, ground, crushed corn meal for good and sound corn pound for pound, less one-tenth for grinding and crushing. And we always keep these articles on hand ready for exchange so as to save our customers the trouble of a return trip for their flour, off-fallings, cornmeal, crushed corn, etc. And our flour and bolted cornmeal are always kept on hand by G. W. Thomas & Co., and D. W. Byerly in Bridgewater, and our flour at J. W. Click & Co., J. F. Lowman, B. M. Rice, and Byrd Bro's, in Bridgewater, Virginia, and S. G. Switzer and Mount Crawford, Virginia.


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REMINISCES OF "CINDERVILLE" AND OTHER THINGS

By R. E. L. Russell

EDITORIAL NOTE—The following article was written in 1946 and submitted for publication by Mr. Russell, a former resident of Harrisonburg. Mr. Russell of Baltimore, Maryland, wrote fondly of his experiences growing up in the northern section of Harrisonburg. His longtime interest in railroads was inherited from his father, a conductor for the B&O Railroad. As a young man, he began work with the Old Valley Railroad and later took a position with the Baltimore Sun in 1899 and worked there until 1929. An avid student of the Civil War, he has fifty-one maps of the battlefield operations at Manassas in the museum there. (Mr. Russell has always taken a keen interest in the Harrisonburg area and was a charter member of the present Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society.) The article is printed with minor alterations to preserve the author’s style.

"have you ever sat by the r.r. track
& watched the empties coming back?
 lumbering along with a groan and a whine—
 smoke strung out in a long gray line
 belched from the panting injun’s stack
 ...just empties coming back.
 —Annapolis Log.

Before the days of automobiles and airplanes, a railroad was the most fascinating thing in the life of small-town boys, all of whom wanted to be engineers. These reminiscences have to do with that part of Harrisonburg known in by barefoot days as “Cinderville”, being located in and around the railroad depot, yards, and other things that go to make up a railroad community. They consist mainly of the activities, adventures and names of the embryo railroaders, aged from 10 to 15, who were part and parcel of the scene between 1885 and 1895.

I often wonder as I record these recollections in 1946 whether the name “Cinderville” still clings, after sixty years, to that part of town north of Gay Street enclosed roughly by the Kratzin road (now Liberty Street), Washington Street and the Pike, although one leg might be said to have run as far north as the cottage, or the “Pat” Sullivan home.

The boys who “infested” this area were mostly sons of railroaders, and they knew all of the ins and outs of that business. No train ever came in without one or more of them on the spot. They hopped the cars and the engines, rode in the coaches and cabooses, knew all the trainmen and made themselves more or less nuisances, often having to be “shooed” away. Yet despite the danger, there is no remembrances of any being seriously injured. Oh, there were “stumped” toes, brushed fingers and stone bruises from tramping the rails and ties, but these were minor things.

It is doubtful if many of the “old gang” survive, but for the sake of the record they should be remembered by name—more often by nickname. The leaders
were the Magalis boys—John ("Shadow", because he was so thin). Jim, who later became a circus acrobat, and Lawrence, all sons of J. H. ("Hi") Magalis, head machinist. The family moved to Roanoke before 1890. Next came the two Miller boys, Ed. and Marshall ("Tuck"), sons of Charlie Miller, foreman of the coal chute. Both families lived almost under the coal chute. "Tuck" was later head machinist for many years. The Bragg boys, Maynard and "Jim" ("Eskimo", because he once wore a cap that covered his face except for his eyes), lived on the Kratzer road south of Washington Street. Both, after they had grown up, went to Newport News and became members of the Fire Department there. Then followed in turn Will Rutherford, "Joe" Manuel ("Brother" he was called); the Conrad boys, Netw and Charlie; Rob Davis, "Jim" Sheehy and Charlie Cubbage, all of whom lived on Washington Street; John McClooney, lived on Depot Hill; the writer, who lived on North Main Street opposite the mill enginehouse; "Lou" Carter and the Moomaw boys—Will, "Bud" and Paul who lived at the junction of Main and the Kratzer Road; and Carl Roadcap and John Ramey, who lived on the edge of Newtown.

As the older boys grew up, their places were taken by younger ones: John Reilly, Carlton Payne, "Bope" McClooney, Edgar Davis, Dan Cubbage, Lurty VanPelt, Vince ("Mike") Sheehy, Harry Jenkins, Will Bell, "PH" Baugh, Claude Baugh, Bayard Russell, Willie Welland, Ed. Sullivan, and "Little John" Sullivan.

Their "stamping ground" began at Gay and Main on the southwest corner of which was the store of W. N. Gay and Bro. Just west of the railroad tracks at Gay and German was the home of D. D. Lewis, whose large kennel of foxhounds yelped incessantly. Between present Collicello Street and Virginia Avenue stood the stables of Major Foxhall A. Daingerfield, late of the Eleventh Virginia cavalry, who bred horses with his beautiful stallion, "Sam Purdy." Across Gay Street from the stables was a small training track. This site, later on, became "The Boom" and was developed into building sites. Major Daingerfield was the father of Algernon Daingerfield, for many years secretary of the New York Jockey Club. He also had a daughter who, in recent years, was in charge of "Man O' War" in Kentucky.

The store of Walker Ritter was on the northwest corner of Main and Gay. North of that came "Ritter's Bridge" with a small field of corn between it and the city pump house, from which artesian water was pumped to the reservoir on Red Hill. The exhaust from this pump could be heard night and day for quite a distance. Above this was the John E. Kelly place, the Moomaw house, then the Pinkerton house just where the Kratzer Road branched. Around the corner on Gray Street was the home of Mr. Logan, whose daughter married J. Ed. Glenn.

On the east side of Main and Gay was the Woodson home, with a vacant lot between it and the "erick." One summer this lot was occupied with a traveling carousel, or "hobbyhorses" as we called them. It was owned and operated by "Jim" Lynch, whose salescry was "Double up, double up, two to one; the heavier she's loaded the better she runs." The platform and horses were swung from above, that is, did not run on a track. Its novel braking system consisted of two boards, each two feet long, spaced an equal distance apart and attached to the platform by short pieces of rope. When the whistle blew to stop, two of his "brakemen" laid the planks on the ground on the inside and stood on them, raising a lot of dust, but bringing the whirling machine to a standstill in short order. The pay was a free ride.

North of the bridge on this same side once stood a long skating rink, one corner extending part way across the creek. The champion skater of those days was the late "Walt" Magalis, who lost his life in the Municipal Dam some years ago. He could leap over a dozen or more chairs placed in a row. The rink later became a carriage factory and, later still, was destroyed by fire.

Just north of this site was the home of "Buck" Baugh, whose cigar box factory was on a lot in the rear. This factory was the source of long strips of thin wood for kites and many ornamental wall racks for bri-a-brac. North of this, where Main Street curved, was the Rohr warehouse. Next, stood the home of James Bell, on whose rear lot rented from "Buck" Baugh was a cooper shop, which turned out thousands of barrels for the Beery Mill.

Next to this was the home of Captain Ed. "Russell, father of the writer. It had once been known as the "VanPelt House" and was the first house in town to have water piped from the new water system. Here, in 1893, died my great-grandmother, Polly VanPelt at the advanced age of 93. She was born in the oldest house in Harrisonburg in 1800. This old Stone house is still standing opposite the Methodist Church on Bruce Street.

It was long about this time, 1893, perhaps a bit later, that a series of incendiary fires broke out in warehouses along the tracks. These were first discovered by the night hostlers on duty around the enginehouses and were immediately followed by the blood-curdling engine whistles which aroused the whole town in a jiffy. The identity of the incendiary fiend was generally known among the railroad men, but no action was ever taken against him.

Next door to the Russell house was the Perkins house, half of which was occupied by Edward Reubush, an engineer on the Valley Branch. Across the small lane here was the older John Kelly home. After Mr. Kelly's death it was occupied by "Bilb" Roudabush, the miller at the Beery Mill. The family later moved down on Main Street, opened a grocery store and a boarding house, later known as the National Hotel.

Just west of the railroad tracks and opposite the Lewis home was a large field in which hundreds of baseball games were played. I especially remembered one in which " Alleg" Daingerfield, Douglas Huxey, the older Lewis boys, Bots and John Frank Lupton, and Pitts took part. Every time "Alleg" Daingerfield made a run he ran over and kissed a pretty girl on the side lines. She may have
been his wife, or just his best girl, but the scene I clearly remember. Almost fifty years later, when coming down from New York to Baltimore one evening, I strolled into the smoking compartment of the Pullman in which sat a stranger, smoking. We entered into conversation. Later, he asked something about train connections at Staunton for Harrisonburg. Looking at him a moment, a flash of recognition came to me. "Aren't you "Algy" Daingerfield?" I asked. Sure enough it was he. We talked of Harrisonburg and "that ball game" until the train reached Baltimore. He was on his way to visit his boyhood chorl, Charlie Loewner.

North of Gray Street and opposite the passenger depot was a large pasture field belonging to the Luptons. North of the Kratzer Road stood a dozen piles of new cross ties for the railroad; then came the cattle loading pens where Clay Phillips was the major-domo, the two huge, grimy enginehouses, the oil house, sand house and, a short distance above the latter, was the huge coal chute, rising perhaps forty feet in the air and running north half way to the Kratzer Road crossing near the pottery.

On the east side of the tracks was a long, vacant stretch between Gay and Gray Streets. Across Gray Street was the passenger depot, a two story, frame affair, the platform extending from Gray Street to and across the Kratzer Road to the end of the freight depot, where a large stop-block was located. The ticket agents and operators were George Harrison and "Jim" O'Brien (day and night); later, J. Ed. Glenn and "At" McCarty. The baggage man was "Bill" Gambril. The yard-master was "Jim" Gordon, uncle of Will Fallis. Kent Bryan also worked as an operator between some of the above.

The freight office was in the north end of the freight depot and was in charge of Captain Robert E. Douthat, an ex-Confederate soldier and a gentleman of the old school. Some of the clerks I remember are "Tom" and "Mike" Firebaugh, "Will" Cavey, "Bob" Dwyer. An icehouse was connected with the platform north of the depot.

Across the intervening space and the Kratzer Road from the passenger depot stood the large flour mill owned by the Beerys, the former Clem Mill having burned around 1887 or 1888. I was only ten years old at the time of the "big mill fire" and prostrated with fear because our home was just across the road. It had recently been improved with new weatherboarding and a tin roof and was saved only by the most desperate work of the firemen. The grain and flour burned for weeks and weeks, making a fearful odor through Cinderville. Every few days the fire hose was turned on the smouldering fire without avail. It burned for three months.

At the Beery Mill were Stuart and Kemper Beery and "Tim" Heatwole, "Tim" later came to Baltimore, studied dentistry, became Dean of the University of Maryland Dental College and a member of the City Council.

North of the mill was the warehouse and coal yard of Yancey & Snell, with a high board fence running along Main Street to the Riley house, near Black's Run. In an open field across Johnson Street from Riley's stood the huge, deserted paint mill along Black's Run.

North of the Yancey-Snell warehouse along the sidetrack were several large warehouses, generally filled with fertilizer and hay. They were scenes of several incendiary fires one winter. North of these, in the angle of the "Y" a small office building, a huge pile of bridge timbers on a trestle-work (headquarters of "the gang"), then the blacksmith shop, all across the tracks from the huge coal chute, now disappeared. Between the two legs of the "Y" ran a spur track usually accompanied by "Joe" Cavey's bridge camp cars. Across this track in the extreme angle of the "Y" stood the water tank and pumphouse. North of Washington Street to Pat Sullivan's home were fields and orchards.

The Valley Division in those days was a lively railroad with fourteen scheduled trains daily, four passenger and ten freight, besides extras which, in the fall, were quite frequent. "Everybody" went to the depot when the "mail train" was due, the platform usually being crowded. One day while "Judge" Kent (father of Pauline) was waiting for the "mail train" reclining against the stop-block, the angle of which was about the height of a man, he placed his hands behind his head and around the large nut which protruded against the stop-block. An engine chanced to "bump" some cars against the block, pushing the nut out about an inch. Mr. Kent's thumb slipped under the nut and when it went back in place held him prisoner. He screamed in agony for some minutes until word was sent to the train crew to "bump" the stop-block hard enough to release him. Whether he lost his thumb I do not remember.

Much excitement occurred at the depot when Lurty Harris showed up one day on his father's brand new wooden-wheel safety bicycle, the first in town and one of the seven wonders to us boys. We had been familiar with the old high-wheelers, several of which were in town. Pete Thomas, whiskers and all, pumped one with a small wheel in front about town on his way to his plumbing work. The pedals worked up and down with a ratchet and did not revolve like the one in an ordinary bicycle.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES—BAREFOOT DAYS

School lasted only seven months and was out by the first of May. On the first warm day thereafter came the cry, "Ma, can I go barefooted?". Almost every day "the gang" gathered at the timber pile next to the blacksmith shop to play "grease", which consisted of chasing one another up, down, over, and under the logs. Weather made little difference; it was dry under the logs and clear of snow in winter. Often in cold weather, we would "hook" a bit of waste from a journal box and build a fire under the logs, dangerous as it was. This spot was prolific with kindling wood when the bridge men were fashioning the timber for repairs.

Early in this period the blacksmith shop was operated by "Old Mister"
Glenn, father of the late J. Ed. Glenn. His wrinkled face and shaky hands bore evidence of many years at the forge. He lived on the Kratzer Road near Washington Street. Next door was the home of the Bells, Henry (a mail clerk); Fannie, who married John Sullivan, Minnie and Ida, who married Clint Devier. After Mr. Glenn retired, the shop was operated by “Andy” Welland. He allowed us to pump his bellows lever as much as we liked, hopping around to keep the fiery sparks from our barefeet. One day a drawer, connecting an engine and tender, had been welded and placed on a truck to be taken to the enginehouse. Eager to help push the truck, I placed both hands on the hot welded spot and received some severe burns. Being “a man”, I stuck them in my pockets and went off whistling—to my grandmother’s home nearby on Washington Street. She plastered both hands with cool applebutter and bandaged them. No ill effects were suffered from the burns.

What could be more thrilling to a twelve-year-old boy than being tattooed by a hobo? And, under a water tank, the most intriguing spot imaginable for such an adventure! The water tank, built up on high timbers, afforded a shelter and a rough sleeping place for such hoboes as passed through town. We spotted some there one day and paid them a visit. One was a tattoo artist—and very hard up. For thirty cents my initials, a crescent and two stars were soon pricked into my arm with the needles—remaining clear to this day. It was quite painful, but the thrill of the adventure took away the sting. But not, however, the sting of the “lamming” I got when it was found out at home. I was told that “Old Scratch” would get me yet. Joe Manuel “hooked” the tattoo artist some sandwiches and was rewarded with a star and a crescent. Charlie Conrad had his initials “CCC” put on and thereafter stood for a lot of teasing as to what “CCC” stood for.

The water tank was the source of a lot of fun for us. “Bill” Craun was the pumper and he allowed us to climb down the long ladder into the well where the pump filled out buckets with cold artesian well water for drinking purposes at home. As for my thirty cents capital, it came from the sale of bones, rags, and old bottles, from which we kept Cinderville free. It was almost our only source of revenue.

Another thrill was to ride a camelback engine when it pushed and puffed up the coal chute with two iron, pot-bellied hoppers of coal. We would help “drop the bottoms” of the hoppers and watch the coal slide into the pockets ready for loading into tenders. A huge iron apron would be dropped over a tender, a crowbar would knock loose the gate latch, allowing the coal to slide by gravity, filling a tender in a few minutes. Often the apron and tender overflowed covering the ground with coal. This was “legitimate surplus” and we toted it home in bags.

The old, deserted paint mill on Black’s Run near the “Y” with its hundreds of window panes offered a shining target for stones and slingshots. Not a whole pane of glass was left in it. On summer evenings near dusk its tall chimney would be surrounded by a crowd of swallows and bats. A man once had committed suicide there and we were sure the place was haunted. Only the bravest dared enter through a lower window. The floors were filled with red paint dust. Up the stairway bloodstains might be seen on the sides near the head of the steps. We gave it a wide berth after dark. I believe the building was eventually destroyed by fire and replaced by the ice factory of H. C. Pankey or the ice factory was put in the old building and it burned later. The engineer who built this ice plant was a Mr. Pitcher, from Baltimore. He was such a nice man that he soon endeared himself to all the boys who “superintended” the job.

There was no place nearby to go swimming, but this did not deter us. We went “up the creek” into the thickets half a mile above Washington street and built a sod dam. The banks were so very low that water seldom reached much above our knees, but down into the muddy water we went, dirtier when we came out than when we came in. On the way there, we often stopped by Shepherd’s slaughter house in a field just north of Washington Street and close to the “crick.” If it happened to be butchering day, we lent our weight to the rope which “Will” Shepherd had hoop around a steer’s horns and helped pull him in on the slaughtering floor.

While these activities were in progress weeds overran the gardens and potato bugs were on the potato vines. To rid the gardens of these was the worst of all jobs and we neglected this as often as we saw a chance to sneak away from the parental eye. Sometimes we walked along the railroad a couple of miles to the farm of Dave Cromer where we pitched in and helped him hoe his corn or tomatoes. Then, we were given a big dinner and returned home at dark to the daily walloping. Our hides were pretty tough by the time summer was over.

The real and greatest of all summer thrills were the circuses. The leading ones visiting town in those days were John Robinson’s, Sells Brothers’, Wallace’s and a few one-ring ten cent shows. When the advance “bill board car” reached town, it was surrounded by eager helpers—hoping for a pass. The night before the circus arrived was one of intense excitement. The railroad men were pestered with: “What time will she be in?” “Has she left Mt. Jackson or Broadway?” “Who’s the conductor?” “What engine?” This went on into the night until we found out that “she had left Broadway.” Along the railroad we then hiked, sometimes before daybreak, to the pottery where the first sight of “her” might be had coming around the curve near the Assembly Park.

Then came the unloading. Elephants pushed the wagons until the horses could be hooked up to take the wagons to the circus grounds on “The Boom.” A thousand and one exciting things occurred, few of which were missed. Carrying buckets of water for the elephants would often produce a pass. Some boys, with more business acumen than others, set up a lemonade stand, with a tub and glasses wheeled from their mothers. Then would come their selling cry: “Lemon! Lemon! the pure wine, it’s two for a nickel or four for a dime.” This cheap brand of drink could not compete with that put out by the circus people, colored red. The hookey voiced circus vendor would cry: “Lemon! Lemon! Ice-cold lemon! Five cents, a nickel, half a dime, the twentieth ‘pacht of a dollah.’” Peanut vendors, candy
sellers, popcorn peddlers and balloon sellers all rent the air with their cries, making it a day long to be remembered.

Then the street parade! What thrills! We darted in and out of the parade line, from one side of the street to another to get a better view. Joe Manuel ventured too close one day and was kicked in the chin by a pony. He bears the scar to this day.

After the departure of the circus, “tight ropes” and trapeze appeared in many backyards, and here we sought to outdo the circus performers, or at least, duplicate what we had seen them do.

Speaking of parades brings back a vivid memory of having seen Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, with his long, white whiskers, on foot, leading a torchlight procession down Main Street during his campaign for governor. He was nominated by the convention in Richmond, and his campaign slogan was “Boots and saddles!” He delivered his keynote address in Harrisonburg on September 5, 1885. Among the crowd were numerous old Confederate vets whose “Rebel yells” really woke up the town.

This brings to mind another incident. The heaviest traffic ever handled on the Valley Branch of the A & C Railroad was on July 20-21-22, 1891, the thirtieth anniversary of the Battle of First Manassas, when the monument to “Stonewall” Jackson was unveiled at Lexington, mainly by the Valley Branch. My father, who was a conductor on the first returning train on the 21st, collected more than 1,000 tickets; the platform and even the roofs of the cars were filled with people. That was his last trip. He was taken ill and died on August 10.

Excursion trains were more or less frequent during the summer. One annual affair was the Fisher’s Hill picnic, held on the old battleground, and an occasional “Jennie Smith” picnic to Island Park at Harper’s Ferry. It was the custom of a number of boys to hop the freight train leaving about seven o’clock, go to Broadway and meet the returning excursion trains. On one occasion six of us got into a cattle car loaded with barrels of coal oil. The conductor, W. S. (“Ply”) Powers spotted us, and, without driving us off, arranged with the engineer to stop at Linville. Here he put the whole bunch of us off. The excursion train did not stop, and all six of us—three barefooted—had to “hoof it” home—six miles on the cross ties on a dark night. Never again did this writer go to meet the excursion train.

SCHOOLS DAYS

Eventually, summer faded and the cool days arrived. This meant “back into shoes” and get ready for school about October 1, and other outdoor activities that went with winter.

My dear mother preserved for me many of my early school reports, which I

have in front of me. The earliest, dated December 1883, is signed by Fannie Conrad, teacher, and W. W. Robertson, principal. He was a terror to the boys, having switched a number of them. The November 1884 card is signed by Annie T. Shands, teacher; early 1885, by the same. The next session, November 1885, is signed Gussie Patterson, teacher; C. E. Kregloe, principal. October 1886, fifth grade, Emily Strayer, teacher, (I remember especially her large bustle). There were A and B classes in each room. The session of 1888 was under Mary L. Conrad; (Miss Molly, as we knew her; she was such a sweet lady); the principal was Charles G. Maphis, afterwards dean at the University of Virginia. The 1889 session was under the same teacher and principal. The school term was then seven months.

A certificate of distinction in 1886 shows the following teachers in the school: C. P. Nowlin, first grade; Miss Jennie Davis, second; Miss M. L. Conrad, third; Miss Emily Strayer, fourth; Miss Gussie Patterson, fifth; Miss Betty Conrad, sixth; C. E. Kregloe, principal.

A certificate of distinction in 1886 shows the following teachers in the school: C. P. Nowlin, first grade; Miss Jennie Davis, second; Miss M. L. Conrad, third;

In looking back over these old report cards, memory brings back the names of scores of schoolmates, some older, some younger than myself, in addition to the boys mentioned elsewhere. They are named here without reference to date or age; but I knew all of them during my eight years in the old brick building back of the present front building:


On Saturdays after the first frost we pushed a two-wheel cart several miles out the Kratzer Road hunting walnuts. Usually the haul was good, and we laid away a bushel or two for Christmas. Someone said that one walnut was enough
for ten men, and if the haul was poor, we comforted our selves by saying we had gotten enough for five hundred when we got no more that fifty walnuts.

Lupton's field, from the top of Depot Hill to the willow trees was our coasting place when snow was on the ground. Skating places were scarce, but a pond near the pottery was made to do. "Come the first freeze" we rushed to "Dixie" Wakenight, the shoemaker, to have "heel-plates" put on. a knob on the heel of the skate would be inserted into the plate and the skate turned back even with the toes, the front end being strapped. Thus we went our ways. Eventually, we grew up, went to work and all this was ended.

—written for the Rockingham Historical Society
by R. E. L. Russell, Baltimore, Md., July 1946

SHENANDOAH VALLEY CHRONOLOGY

Ninth Instalment

by John W. Wayland

1911-The Rockingham Daily Record started in Harrisonburg.


1911-"The Long Roll," by Mary Johnston, published in Boston and New York; the scene largely in the Shenandoah Valley.

1911-"Descendants of Nicholas Beery," by J. H. Wenger, published at South English, Iowa.

1911, Jan. 12-Creatore and his band of 50 members give a concert in Assembly Hall (court house), Harrisonburg.

1911, Jan. 19-Meeting of the Confederate Veterans and the Daughters of the Confederacy in Harrisonburg.

1911, March, 1-James E. Reherd sells his farm northwest of Harrisonburg to Frank B. Showalter for $36,968.50.

1911, Friday, March 10-Meeting of the Educational Conference for the 7th Congressional District of Virginia in Front Royal.

1911, Saturday night, March 25-The Scotch Singers of Glasgow (4 women) give a concert in Harrisonburg.


1911, May 25, 26-The Coburn Players give "Much Ado About Nothing" and the "Taming of the Shrew" at the Normal School [now James Madison University].

1911, June 17-Death at Strasburg of Rev. L. L. Smith (Lutheran), age 57.

1911, Aug. 13-General Order No. 117 provides for the establishment of the U.S. Remount Station in Chester Gap, near Front Royal; name changed to Aleshire Quartermaster Depot in or about 1945.


1911, Sept. 1-The cornerstone laid of the new Methodist Church, west corner of S. Main and W. Bruce Street, Harrisonburg.

1911, Friday, Sept. 15, 4 p.m.-The formal opening of Waterman School, Harrisonburg.

1911, Sept. 29-Obituary of J. H. Ralston in the Harrisonburg Daily Times.


1911, Oct. 12-Death at Maurertown of Elder Samuel Shaver, age 82.

1911, Oct. 27-Rev. Demetrius Elias Constantinstinzzias Vishanoff, M.D., a Macedonian, speaks at the State Normal School [now James Madison University].

1911, Friday, Dec. 8-Patrons’ Day meeting in the new public school building in Bridgewater.


1912-Rev. B. F. Wilson, Harrisonburg, publishes "Historical Year Book" of the Harrisonburg Presbyterian Church.


1912-"Sidney Lanier at Rockingham Springs," by John W. Wayland, printed at Dayton.


1912-The Christian (Disciples?) Church in Strasburg enlarged.


1912, Jan. 10, 11-The 16th annual meeting of the Virginia State Horticultural Society in Harrisonburg.

1912, Sunday night, Jan. 14-Temperature 25 degrees below zero at Dale Enterprise."


1912, Saturday night, March 30-The first trip of students and teachers from the State Normal School [now James Madison University], Harrisonburg, to the Peaks of the Old Dominion.

1912, Saturday, April 6-Educational meeting in Winchester.


1912, Friday night, April 12-Celebrated spelling match in Harrisonburg conducted by Dr. Currell of Washington and Lee University.

1914-Death at Strasburg of Philip Eberly, age 92.


1914, April-The Ohio Archaeological and Historical Quarterly, Columbus, prints Rev. Paul Henkel's journal of 1806 of a missionary tour from New Market, Va., to Ohio.

1914, Monday, May 4-The senior class of the Normal School [now James Madison University], Harrisonburg, begin digging the foundation for a new building, now Harrison Hall.

1914, Wednesday, May 13-The V.M.I. cadet battalion passes through Harrisonburg on its way to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the battle of New Market, May 15.

1914, May 15, 16-The Coburn Players present "Jeanne d'Are" and the "Merry Wives of Windsor" and "Hamlet" at the State Normal School, Harrisonburg [now James Madison University].

1914, Aug. 20-First reunion of the old Dale Enterprise Literary Society.

1914, Sept. 9-The new Otterbein Church (United Brethren) near Rinkerton, Shenandoah County, dedicated.


1914 or 1915-"The Public Schools of Rockingham County," 8 vo, 144 pp., illustrated, by Leighton Hulvey, Robert Eastham, and Robert Bowers; printed in Harrisonburg.

1915-The railroad bridge at Edinburg over Stony Creek burns.

1915, March or thereabouts-The first issue of the Rockingham Outlook, weekly newspaper, published at Dayton by F. S. Dill and W. H. Ruebush.

1915, Wednesday night, March 3-The Boston English Opera Company give Verdi's Il Trovatore in Harrisonburg.

1915, March 25-U.S. Commissioner of Education P. P. Claxton delivers an address in Harrisonburg.


1915, July 28-Death at New Market of Samuel P. Shirley, age 78.

1915, Sept. 8-Death at Edinburg of James M. Painter, age 82.

1915, Oct. 5-The Hagenbach-Wallace show in Harrisonburg attended by a crowd of 6000 to 8000.

1915, night of Oct. 6-Verdi's Rigoletto given in the New Virginia Theater, Harrisonburg, by the Italian Grand Opera Company.

1915, Oct. 25-Hamilton Holt speaks at Shenandoah College, Dayton, on world federation.

1915, November-Rev. Charles S. Stanton, a native of Shenandoah County, dies in Harrisonburg.

1915, autumn-Miss Maria P. Duval opens St. Hilda's Hall, girls' school, in Charles Town.

1915, December or thereabouts-Progressive School News, 4-page weekly, started in Harrisonburg by L. M. Hulvey, E. V. Crist, and R. C. Bowers.

1915-1916-First issue of the Taj, published by the students of Harrisonburg High School.

1916-The Methodists build a new church in Edinburg.

1916, January-First issue of the Normal Bulletin, educational magazine, published quarterly by the State Normal School, Harrisonburg [now James Madison University].

1916, Tuesday night, Jan. 18-Richard P. Hobson speaks in Harrisonburg in favor of nation-wide prohibition.

1916, March 10-Harrisonburg Chamber of Commerce organized.

1916, March 16-Last issue of the Virginia Free Press (established in 1821), Charles Town. It had been consolidated with the Farmer's Repository in 1827.

1916, Sunday, April 9-a heavy snowfall in Rockingham County.

1916, April 15 or thereabouts-First issue of the Daily Independent, published in Harrisonburg by R. B. Smythe and Allen M. Smythe.


1916, May 25, 26-Two-day Shakespeare pageant at the State Normal School and in Harrisonburg.

1916, Saturday, June 24-Destructive wind and hail storm at Harrisonburg.

1916, July 11-Death near Hawkinson of Robert J. Walker, age 57.

1916, August-The old wooden bridge across the river at Bridgewater torn down to make place for the new iron bridge.

1916, September-George P. Manro dies in Harrisonburg, aged 107-8-10.

1916, Friday, Dec. 22—Destructive storm of wind and lightning before daylight in the counties of Augusta, Rockingham, and Shenandoah.

1917—The Shenandoah National Forest established.

1917, April 8 to May 7—Gypsy Smith Jr. preaches in Harrisonburg in a large building on German (now Liberty) Street, northwest side.

1917, Saturday, April 21—Mass meeting in Harrisonburg for 20 young men of city and county, volunteers for the war against Germany and Austria.

1917, May 18—Debate at Shepherd College, Shepherdstown, between a team of Blue Ridge College, Md., and one for Daleville College, Daleville, Va.

1917, Friday night, Dec. 7—Beginning of a big snow and a very cold winter in the Shenandoah Valley and elsewhere.

1918—E. E. Keister of Strasburg purchases the *Edinburg Sentinel* from Hisey and Stoneburner.

1918—The Shenandoah Publishing House established at Strasburg.

1918, January—F. B. Showalter of Rockingham County sells 24 head of cattle to William Joseph for $401.50.

1918, March—Red clover seed selling in Harrisonburg for $22 a bushel; sapling clover seed for $24 a bushel.

1918, March—A brilliant display of Aurora Borealis.

1918, March—W. C. Funk of Singers' Glen sells 40 head of cattle to J. N. and R. H. Swank for $660.50. They averaged in weight 1377 pounds.

1918, March 31—The clocks turned forward one hour.

1918, April 9—Earthquake shocks felt in Harrisonburg and adjoining areas.

1918, April 9-12—A snowfall lasting almost continuously for 72 hours-wet and melting most of the time.

1918, April 21—Rev. Peter Miller (Lutheran), age 90, dies at Rio, W. Va. He was well-known in the Valley.

1918, May—The city council of Harrisonburg changes the name of German Street to Liberty Street.

1918, Sunday, May 5—The Baptists of Harrisonburg hold their first services in their new church on E. Market Street.

1918, June 14—An army biplane, with two men, lands near Bridgewater because of leakage in the gasoline tank; the machine damaged somewhat in landing.

1918, July—The old brick Baptist Church in New Market (built in or about 1833) torn down.

1918, July 1-3—Liberty Hyde Bailey, of Ithaca, N. Y., delivers three addresses at the State Normal School, Harrisonburg [now James Madison University].

1918, Aug. 30—Branner family reunion at Forrestville.

1918, Sept. 1—Tollgates removed from the Valley Pike.

1918, October-November—The State Normal School at Harrisonburg [now James Madison University] closed 4 weeks on account of the influenza epidemic.

1918, Nov. 11 and 16—Parades and peace celebrations in Harrisonburg.

1918, Dec. 25—The first community Christmas tree in New Market.

1919—The old jail in Charles Town torn down to make way for the new Federal building.

1919—Cedar Grove Church of the Brethren on Rude's Hill rebuilt.


1919, Jan. 16—The iron bridge over Tumbling Run, foot of Fisher's Hill, wrecked by an army truck out of control.

1919, March—Charles E. Kemper's "Early History of the Peaked Mountain Presbyterian Church" published in the *Journal of the Presbyterian Historical Society*.

1919, March 3—Death near Quicksburg of John L. Schaeffer, age 76.

1919, March 4, 5—Dr. William E. Dodd of the University of Chicago delivers three addresses at the State Normal School, Harrisonburg [now James Madison University].

1919, March 10, 11—Hamlin Garland delivers three addresses at the State Normal School, Harrisonburg [now James Madison University].

1919, March 29—Educational meeting at Berryville; Leslie D. Kline, superintendent; Charles G. Maphis, Dr. Brumfield, and John W. Wayland, speakers.

1919, May 23—Staunton Military presents a loving cup to New Market.

1919, June 19, 20—Commencement at Shepherd College, Shepherdstown; about 30 graduates; Thomas C. Miller president of the college.

1919, July—Spring chickens ("broilers") sell in Harrisonburg at 46 cents a pound; hogs on foot, 23 cents a pound.


1919, Sept. 2—Meeting in Harrisonburg of the Grand Camp of Confederate Veterans of Virginia.

1919, Dec. 25—The first community Christmas tree in Strasburg.

1920—Morton's History of Rockbridge County published by the McClure Company, Staunton.
1920-A History of Virginia for Boys and Girls, by John W. Wayland of Harrisonburg, first published by Macmillan, New York City; used for many years in Virginia schools.


1920, July 29-E. E. Keister, Strasburg, starts the Woodstock Times.

1920, August-E. E. Keister, Strasburg, starts the Front Royal Record.

1920, Aug. 14-Endless Caverns, under new management, opened to the public.

1920, Monday, Oct. 18-Carter Glass and Sam Small speak in Harrisonburg.

1920, Nov. 15, 16-Destructive sleet blizzard in the Shenandoah Valley.

1920, Dec. 1 and whereabouts-Eggs selling in Harrisonburg at 80 and 81 cents a dozen.


1920, Dec. 19-Death at Lantz Mills, Shenandoah County, of Jacob B. Clem, age 76.

1920, Dec. 31-Death of Absalom Koiner of Augusta County; born August 5, 1824.


1921-New house of worship of the Church of the Brethren at Mill Creek, Rockingham County, finished.

1921, Jan. 14-Stehli and Co., Inc., begin operating a silk mill in Harrisonburg.

1921, April 1-Harrisonburg Rotary Club organized.

1921, May 22-James A. Fry dies at Bridgewater, aged 69-1-10.

1921, May 29-Death at Strasburg of Joseph W. Sonner, age 83.

1921, July 15-Harry St. George Tucker, candidate in the Democratic primary for governor of Virginia, speaks in Harrisonburg.

1921, Aug. 11-Bowan family reunion at Endless Caverns.


1921, night of Nov. 12-The opera “Robin Hood” presented in the New Virginia Theater, Harrisonburg.

1921, Dec. 13-Noah W. Beery of Rockingham County dies, age between 90 and 91.

1922-The Federal building in Charles Town erected in the site of the old jail in which John Brown and his associates were confined.

1922-Charles L. Kagey of Kansas, a native of Shenandoah County, goes as U.S. Minister to Finland.


1922-J. P. Stirewalt’s book on Rader’s Lutheran Church, 1765-1921, published in New Market.

1922-The railroad bridge over Mill Creek at Mt. Jackson burns.

1922-Death at Union Forge, Shenandoah County, of James B. Rhinehart, age 63.

1922-Narrow Passage community church erected.

1922, January-Sugar selling in Harrisonburg at 5 cents a pound; apples at $3.50 to $5.00 a bushel.

1922, Jan. 14-Property valuations in Rockingham County (not including the city of Harrisonburg) reported by Joseph G. Myers, county treasurer, as totaling $21,990,477.00.

1922, Jan. 22-Dedication of Augusta Stone Church, Fort Defiance, enlarged and remodeled. First dedicated January 22, 1749.

1922, February-Death in Woodstock of Capt. John H. Grabill, age 83.

1922, May-Shenandoah Caverns, near Quicksburg, opened to the public.

1922, May 10-Harrisonburg Kiwanis Club organized.

1922, May 30-Crystal Caverns, near Quicksburg, opened to the public.

1922, July 21, 22-The Virginia Press Association (about 60 representatives) tour the Shenandoah Valley; their second visit in six years.

1922, Aug. 14-Dr. Stuart Holden of London preaches at Massanetta.

1922, Aug.: 15-7th annual Sunday school convention meets at Cedar Grove Church on Rude’s Hill.

1922, Aug. 18-Henry W. Scarborough of Philadelphia and John W. Wayland of Harrisonburg locate the site of the old Quaker meeting house near Quicksburg.

1922, Oct. 11-14-Ida M. Tarbell in Harrisonburg, on Linville Creek, and in Staunton-collecting information about the Lincolns.

1922, Oct. 27-Caroline Lazzari and Rafaelo Diaz sing in Harrisonburg under the auspices of the Music Lovers Club.

1922, Nov. 21-Josephus Daniels delivers two addresses in Harrisonburg.
1922, Nov. 22-Prof. John W. Taylor, aged 87, dies at Lacey Spring. He was born at Shenandoah, Page County.

1922, Saturday, Dec. 2-The first issue of The Breeze, college weekly newspaper, printed at Strasburg, distributed at the State Normal School [now James Madison University].

1922, Dec. 25-First community Christmas tree at Woodstock.

1923-The new road built at Fisher’s Hill — on the southeast side of the hill, replacing the old road on the northwest side.

1923-The strasburg Methodist Church remodeled.

1923, Feb. 6-Death at New Market of Mrs. White (Mary Lynn) Williamson, teacher and author.

1923, March 14-Newell Dwight Hillis lectures on Ruskin at the State Normal School, Harrisonburg [now James Madison University].

1923, March 17-Two large Hoover barns near Timberville burned.

1923, April 10-D.A.R. educational meeting in Winchester for the school children.

1923, April 17-George H. Harrison and wife lease their farm on the Valley Pike, between New Market and Tenth Legion, to Willis Sharpe Kilmer.

1923, May 9, 10-Blinding flurries of snow in Harrisonburg and elsewhere in the Shenandoah Valley.

1923, June-Dr. James Howard Gore has published in Philadelphia a volume of 160 pages, “My Mother’s Story,” of Mrs. Sidney Cather Gore, who lived at Gore, Frederick County, 1849-1906.

1923, night of July 17-Opie Read lectures in Harrisonburg on “Politics and Human Nature.”

1923, July 9-St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Strasburg dedicates a new addition.


1923, Thursday, Sept. 20-From 1 to 2 p.m. 3000 or 4000 U.S. Marines and 200 to 300 V.M.I. cadets re-enact the battle of New Market, which was fought May 25, 1864. The spectators estimated at 30,000 to 40,000.


1923, Saturday, Oct. 27-The U.S. Zeppelin, Shenandoah, flies over the Shenandoah Valley from northeast to southwest.


1923, Nov. 7-The Kiwanis Club of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County votes to aid in the establishment of a public library.

1923, Wednesday night, Nov. 7-Charles Wakefield Cadman and the Indian Princess Tsianina give a concert at the State Normal School, Harrisonburg [now James Madison University].

1923, Dec. 5-Reported that 30 bears had been killed in Rockingham County in the year 1922-23.


1923, Dec. 19-The Strasburg water tunnel through a part of the Massanutten Mountain completed.

1923, Dec. 26-Death in Richmond of John McCarty of Harrisonburg, believed to be over 100 years old. He in 1850 helped to build the railroad through Manassas Gap, into the Shenandoah Valley.

1924-The first Apple Blossom Festival in Winchester.

1924-Economic and Social Survey of Rockingham County, by J. S. Peters and W. F. Stinespring, published by the University of Virginia.

1924-Rockingham Geography Supplement for use in the schools published.

1924-The church at Union Forge, Shenandoah County, remodeled.


1924-“Art Folio of the Shenandoah Valley,” by John W. Wayland, printed in Staunton.

1924-Harry M. Strickler’s “Massanutten,” the first settlement in what is now Page County, published.

1924, Jan. 5-Death at Woodstock of Capt. Samuel H. Bowman, age 82.

1924, Jan. 10-“Shenandoah Valley Incorporated” organized in the Virginia Theater, Harrisonburg.

1924, February-Death at Saumsville of Rev. Peter Rhodes (Disciples of Christ), age 85.

1924, Feb. 25-Hugh E. Naylor of Front Royal, at a meeting of “Shenandoah Valley Incorporated” in Harrisonburg, recommends a movement for a national park in the Massanutten and Blue Ridge area.

1924, March 11, 12-Heavy snowfall in the Valley and the Blue Ridge.

1924, March 11-Big fire in Harrisonburg-the Iseman Store and others.

1924, March 16-An article on Shenandoah County by F. F. Keister published in the Richmond Times Dispatch.
1924, April 21-Death at Edinburg of Prof. J. Monroe Hottel, age 74.

1924, May-Destructive floods; bridges, including the one over the north fork of the Shenandoah just above Red Banks, washed down.

1924, May-The American Motorist, of nearly 100 pages, is devoted to Virginia and especially to the Shenandoah Valley; complimentary, with about the usual proportion of erroneous statements.

1924, May 28-30-First Annual Encampment of Virginia Department, V.F.W., in Harrisonburg.

1924, July 4-The American Legion War Memorial, at the intersection of Liberty Street and S. Main, Harrisonburg, unveiled.

1924, July 22-Horace Payne dies near Singers Glen, age about 105.

1924, Saturday, Aug. 2-Second decennial reunion of the old Dale Enterprise Literary Society.

1924, Aug. 6-Harrisonburg Day in the Home-Coming Week of the Shenandoah Valley.

1924, Saturday night, Aug. 9-William J. Bryan speaks again in Harrisonburg, this time under the auspices of the Rotary Club.

1924, Sunday, Aug. 31-The Roads (Rhodes) Memorial unveiled at the Bloody Ford, Page County.

1924, Sept. 22-The editor of the Harrisonburg Daily News-Record, commending another letter by R. J. Snapp of Elkton, states that Mr. Snapp "for years has been urging that a movement be organized to obtain a National Park in the Shenandoah Valley."

1924, Oct. 27-Reported that 50 bears had been killed in Rockingham County in the year ending February 1, 1924.

1924, Dec. 8-Death at Rolette, N.D., of Prof. William H. Smith, a native of Shenandoah County, age 77.

CONTRIBUTORS

Pauline Beard will be remembered by regular readers of the Rockingham Recorder for her previous article describing the varied spas of Rockingham County. It appeared in 1979.

John T. Funkhouser, now of Arlington, Va., grew up in the McGaheysville area of East Rockingham. He learned of his family's role in Valley history at an early age, from his grandmother. His interest, once aroused, never diminished.

Richard K. MacMaster, of Bridgewater, is the director of the recently formed Shenandoah Valley Historical Institute.

Lula A. Miller, a graduate of Bridgewater College, has had a distinguished career as a public school teacher. Both her personal and professional horizons were broadened by a stay in Nepal as a member of the Peace Corps.

James A. Mumper, a long-time member of the Bridgewater College faculty, currently teaches a class there on the Civil War in the East. He is much in demand as a speaker.

Dorothy Boyd Rush teaches European and American history as well as genealogical research techniques at James Madison University.

R. E. L. Russell submitted his article to what is now the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society in 1945. It was but recently "recovered" from the files. A former resident of Harrisonburg and Baltimore, Md., Mr. Russell was known for his abiding interest in local history in general and Valley railroading in particular.

Wilsene H. Scott, a native of the area, currently resides in Penn Laird. Her avid interest in genealogy came about as a natural consequence of her family being long-time residents of Rockingham and Shenandoah Counties.

Cullen Sherwood teaches geology at James Madison University. Since obtaining his doctorate in geology, he has become especially interested in the geology of his adopted state, Virginia.

Donna Triplett, a graduate of James Madison University, is employed at the Rockingham Public Library. Her professional exposure to the local history and genealogy of the region is, in part, responsible for her dedication to the preservation of the heritage of Rockingham County.

John W. Wayland of Harrisonburg received his doctorate from the University of Virginia for his work on the German Element in the Shenandoah Valley. Before his death, he was the editor of the Rockingham Recorder as well as a consistent contributor.