The Story of

WASHINGTON BOTTOM

Wood County, West Virginia

Compiled by
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Sponsored by
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In the Marietta Public Library, and other records of the State of Ohio,—in our State Archives,—in the records at the Wood County Court House,—in numerous small histories, pamphlets, newspapers, etc., we find much concerning the early settlers and settlements of Wood county; but very little about Washington Bottom and its early history and the chain of circumstances that have made it unique in so many ways.

I read once that writing history was just winnowing out the traditions and telling them over and over until they became facts. In this little story I shall try to give you traditions as "traditions" and "facts" as "facts" as near as possible to do so, together with the references therefor. If it seems at times that I stray too far into the biographical or genealogical line I must beg to remind you that as far back as the 17th Century, de-Lamartine, the great French Poet and Statesman, once said:

"History is neither more nor less than biography on a large scale."

and

Carlyle, (the famous author) said:

"Biography is the only true history. For, as I take it universal history,—the history of what man has accomplished in this world, is at bottom the history of great men who have worked here." While Lord McCauley, who wrote the History of England, had this to say: "Biography is properly a department of history, and it should not be a history of kings solely, but of the common people also," and Winston defines history as "a complete story."
CHAPTER I
WASHINGTON BOTTOM: LOCATION:

In the very early days it was considered seven miles from the upper end of Washington Bottom to the Juliana street County Bridge; improved roads and highways have cut the miles to near five and the time of travel from two hours to twenty minutes or less. The old road led from what was then known as the "Bob Edelen Lane" up a steep hill and along the ridge just above the Ohio river, most of it being originally the old Indian trail. There was a dirt road leading down to the Ohio river where the Blennerhassetts would ferry over to the Island in winter and ford in summer. Later the railroad established a station there called "Blennerhassett."

There has been much speculation as to conditions here in the Ohio valley before the so-called "ice-age" or "glacial period." The vast deposits of salt and sea-life—the fossils, petrified trees, plants and the bones of prehistoric animals,—have all written a history that people are beginning to read. Archaeologists are discovering ruins of tombs and mounds containing relics of the early races. Here on Washington Bottom there are still unopened mounds. Within the memory of people living today, a person could walk across this valley and pick up Indian arrowheads, shells, tomahawks, etc. A great many of the exhibits in the Stahl collection at the High School building in Parkersburg came from Washington Bottom. About the year 1886, Mr. James T. McMeech plowed up the skeleton of an Indian on his farm. His daughter, Mrs. Ruby Munchmeyer, said it was very large, the bones of the face and skull being large enough for her father to put over his face and head. There was another skeleton of an Indian found in the mound on what is now the Mrs. P. G. Moellendick farm. The dirt from the mound was used for filling when Lock No. 19 was constructed, but what else was found or what became of it, no one seems to know. Early settlers found evidences of ovens for cooking and fields where Indian corn had been raised. There is no doubt but that the tribes would spend a season here but so far as the records show, this was mostly a hunting ground for the different tribes. The Indians of Canada knew of it, even tho' they did not venture so far south for fear of the fierce, warlike Shawnees, who had conquered all the other tribes, the Wyandottes, Delawares, and Mingoes being subject to them, while the Iroquois being located further north, held a sort of kingdom of their own, which included the so-called "Five Nations."
However, in 1666, Courcelle, the governor of Canada, defeated the Iroquois in several engagements and forced them to make a treaty of peace; and the priests of St. Sulpice, of near Montreal, began extending a thin line of settlements to form a sort of outpost, and cast around for a man who was capable to take charge and who would work for the good of the Church as well as for the French.

CHAPTER II

LA SALLE

Rouen, France, had seen much history,—Joan of Arc had become a memorable and revered name—when (in the year 1643), there was born to an old and rich family named Caveller, a son, who was named Rene-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle. His father and his uncle Henri were wealthy merchants, and Robert Cavelier received an education befitting his position in life. At an early age he became connected with the Jesuits as a teacher in their schools and began studying for the priesthood (in consequence of which, under the French law, he was deprived of his inheritance from his father's estate). Parkman, (who is often called the best of the early historians), who made a trip to France to verify the early traditions and records of LaSalle's voyages, states that he was a "proud, self-controlled, reserved person, with a reputation of excellent acquirements and unimpeachable morals." And so, when an allowance of a small income was made to him, he converted it into cash and determined to go to Montreal, where his older brother Jean was a priest in the Seminary there. At this time he was about 23 years of age.

Queylus, Superior of the St. Sulpice Seminary at Montreal, made him a generous offer when he arrived there, and he accepted it. This was the grant of a large tract of land nine miles above Montreal: the sole condition, of delivering to the Seminary on every change of ownership, a medal of fine silver weighing one mark. LaSalle called his new domain "Transport de la Seigneurie de St. Sulpice," but it was later called "La Chine," as LaSalle was trying to find a route to China for the purposes of trade. LaSalle laid out the circuit for a palisaded village, and soon had a number of settlers, as well as numerous Indian tribes who would stay for months at a time. He made several journeys toward the North and Northwest, in 1667-68 and also began the study of the Iroquois and seven or eight other Indian languages and dialects. In his intercourse with the different tribes
he learned of a river called the “Ohio,” the Iroquois always calling the Mississippi the Ohio and the Algonquins giving it its present name. Since the Indians claimed it flowed into the Gulf of California, he figured it would give him a western passage to China and he determined to explore it.

Under the French law he must first obtain permission from governor Courcelle, a fact which made a trip to Quebec necessary. The governor readily gave his permission to go but not a cent for expenses! Nothing daunted, LaSalle went back to the Seminary and proposed that they buy back the estate together with the improvements. Queylus, being favorably disposed towards him, purchased the greater part, and one, Jean Milot, an ironmonger, purchased the rest. With what he received for the estate he purchased four canoes with the necessary supplies, and hired fourteen men. And since the Seminary was preparing to send out a similar exploring expedition under Dollier de Casson, who had been a soldier in his youth, and well-fitted to lead such a party, Courcelle, the governor, hearing of this other expedition, urged deCasson to modify his plans so as to act in concert with LaSalle. There were several priests in his party, one of them, Galinee, was a surveyor and could make a map of their route.

July 6, 1669, they set out. With them were two canoes of Seneca Indians, (a band of the Iroquois tribe) who were to act as guides. Father Galinee kept a record of the journey, in which he states: “This sort of life is so strange to us that before we were a hundred leagues from Montreal, not one of us was free from some malady or other.”

Thirty-five days after leaving LaChine they reached Irondequoit Bay on the south side of Lake Ontario, where they were met by a band of Seneca Indians who invited them to their village some 20 miles distant. Dollier and part of the men remained with the canoes and LaSalle and Galinee and eight other Frenchmen went with the Indians, reaching the village that evening. Here they were overwhelmed by Seneca hospitality—pumpkins and berries—feasts of cooked dog with boiled maize, seasoned with oil pressed from nuts and the seeds of sunflowers. That evening a party of warriors brought in a prisoner which they tortured for six hours before cutting up and eating it. Galinee records it as “the most miserable spectacle he ever saw in his life.” (Parkman)

After staying there a month and not being able to secure a guide, they went to an Iroquois village located at what is now
known as Hamilton, where they were presented with a Shawnee prisoner who said he could guide them to the Ohio in six weeks. At a neighboring village they met with Louis Joliet, a young Frenchman who had led a similar life to LaSalle’s and had changed to the adventurous one of a fur-trader. He showed them maps and told of the tribes he had visited and represented to the priests that they were badly in need of religious instruction, so they decided to go by the northern route instead of the southern as planned. A few days before this LaSalle had been stricken with a fever (which Galinee ascribed to his having seen three rattlesnakes crawling up a rock) and he refused to go with them.

On September 30th 1666, they made an altar, and all received the sacrament and the missionaries started on their way, leaving LaSalle at the Indian village.

For two years nothing was heard from LaSalle and his party; he is supposed to have taken notes and made maps descriptive of his journeys and discoveries which were lost in some way. In 1674 and 1678 he made brief trips to France where he told a friend (who was a Separatist Jesuit Abbe) that he went to a Mohawk village where he secured guides who led him down what we now know as the Allegheny river, and thence to the Ohio, which he descended as far as Louisville, Kentucky, or to what is known as the ‘Falls.’ The Abbe wrote down the record and it was kept in the Archives of France.

In 1677 LaSalle addressed a communication to Count Frontenac, in which he cites his discoveries and names among others “the great river Ohio”; and in 1752 the French Minister in a “Minute of Instructions” to Marquis Duquesne referred to it as “the river Ohio” otherwise “the Beautiful River.” As far as the records show, LaSalle and his party never examined the lands along the river until they reached Louisville; but he claimed it all in the name of the French king and so it was held for near an hundred years. The historian Hildreth, of Marietta, Ohio, says, that the French had clear title to it.

In 1749 Celeron (under orders from the French government), buried leaden plates, six in number, at different points on the Ohio. The following is the inscription on the 5th plate which was buried at the mouth of the Great Kanawha and found in 1846, where it had lain for 97 years (it was 11 inches long, 9 1/2 inches wide, and 1/4 inch thick):

“In the year 1749, reign of Louis XV, King of France, we, Celeron, commandant of a detachment sent by Monsieur
the Marquis de la Galisoniere, Commandant General of New France, to re-establish tranquility in some Indian villages in these cantons, have buried this plate at the mouth of the Chinodashichetha the 18th August, near the river Ohio, otherwise "Beautiful River," as a monument of renewal of possession which we have taken of the said river and of all those which fall into it, and of all the lands on both sides as far as the sources of said rivers; the same as were enjoyed, or ought to have been enjoyed, by the preceding Kings of France, and that they have maintained it by their arms, and by treaties, especially by those of Ryswick, Utrecht and Aix-la-cha-pelle.'"

Some historians maintain that LaSalle traveled on further westward beyond the confluence of the Ohio with the Mississippi: where his men refusing to go further, abandoned him, and that he retraced his steps alone, either back up the Ohio or to some friendly Indian tribe. One Nicholas Perrot states he met LaSalle in the summer of 1670, hunting on the Ottawa river, with a party of Iroquois. But there is no doubt that he was the first white man to see Washington Bottom. At that time according to various writers, it was heavily timbered with immense oak, wild cherry, walnut, butternut (white walnut), hickory and other trees native to this climate. There is still in existence (owned by H. A. Beckwith) a walnut board 17 1/2 inches wide 16 feet long, 2 inches thick, which was cut from timber on what was later called "the George Neale I land."

In 1763 France ceded it to England.

CHAPTER III

WOOD COUNTY BELOW THE LITTLE KANAWHA:

At the time of George Washington’s trip down the Ohio in 1770, he wrote in his Journal:

***The lands below the Little Kanawha appear broken and indifferent, but opposite the Little Hock Hocking there is a bottom of exceeding good ground. The lower end of this bottom is opposite to a small island which I dare say little of it is to be seen when the river is high.*** The Ohio Archaeological and Historical Quarterly October 1908, states that on his return journey they camped "opposite the Little Hock Hocking, which may be distinguished by having a large stone just at its mouth."

There is some question as to whether Washington and his party camped on Washington Bottom, but there is no question
as to whether he walked over it, examined it and made mention as to how many acres he thought was in it "near 2,000 acres"—Crawford's survey says 2,314 acres.

When General George Washington resigned his commission as commander of the Continental Army in 1783 and turned his attention to his private affairs, he wrote to a friend that ten thousand acres of his western lands "lies upon the Ohio—the uppermost tract which I incline to lease begins about four miles below the mouth of the Little Kanawha".

"But supposing no pre-eminence in quality, the title to these lands is indisputable: and by lying on the south-east side of the Ohio, they are not subject to the claims of the Indians."

Ten years later this land was not yet leased and we find in the year 1794 he writes to a gentleman named Neville in Pittsburgh concerning the lease or sale of the same, saying: "The first (survey) is the first large bottom below the mouth of the Little Kanawha, containing 2,314 acres, and is bounded by the river five miles and a quarter."

In 1796 we find him advertising in the Alexandria Gazette in an effort to dispose of approximately 33,000 acres of land, located on the Ohio and Great Kanawha rivers. Washington directed in his will that certain tracts of these lands were to be sold but after a meeting of the legatees in 1802 it was agreed "that the lands on the Great and Little Kanawha and on the Ohio be divided." But it was not until 1805 that the final division was made by the District Court for the County of Alexandria.

At the beginning of the Revolutionary War there were three counties in what is now West Virginia: Hampshire, Berkeley and Augusta. Hampshire in the upper part from the Blue Ridge to the Ohio, while Augusta embraced all lands lying south of the Little Kanawha and extended to the Mississippi river. At the first roll of the drum the hardy settlers here hastened to Pittsburgh and elected John Harvie and John Neville to represent them in the Virginia Convention. John Harvie owned a large tract of land just back of Washington Bottom which he afterwards sold to the Beckwiths, (he and the other Harvie heirs signing and acknowledging the same at Richmond, Virginia). The deed recites that his lines adjoin those of the first entry of "the said John Harvie, John Lewis, John Madison and General Washington line" and signed and acknowledged 8th day February 1845.
John Randolph once said of those early Border Riflemen: "They were raised in a minute, fought in a minute, and vanquished the enemy in a minute." "They wore bucktails in their hats and carried tomahawks and scalping knives in their belts." (V. A. Lewis)

Since one of the best places to ford the Ohio was just above Belleville at either Hockingport or Newberry Island, it is reasonable to think that there was much travel over Washington Bottom. There are still indications that one trail led just back of the first ridge off the Bottom (in later years it was used as a road leading from one slave cabin to another). It left the main road near what is now the entrance to Lake Washington grounds, then southwest through lands owned by McPherson, Ivan Anderson, Olvin McDougle and Mrs. Bernice Hulse, past the ruins of the old Barnes log house and cemetery on the Arthur Moellandick land, across the corner of land recently purchased by the Carbundum Company, through the Lewis farm, the Wester and McDougle farms, and joined the main highway at the old Cofrer farm now owned by Miss Hattie Long. From there the road led to the Newberry crossing on the old Meldahl farm now owned by Everett and James Orem. This crossing was considered important enough during Dunmore's War that a stockade (fort) was erected on the Ohio side, sometimes called "Nye's fort" (since it was built on a lot drawn by Ichabod Nye, of Marietta, Ohio, later included in the Clough farm and later the Silas B. Oakes land). During the last year of the war a Company of Virginia Militia under Captain Bogardis was stationed there. (History of Newberry by Mrs. Laura Curtis Preston). There is probably no trace of the old stockade now but a well-cared-for cemetery is near there, in which we find names of ancestors of Wood county settlers: the Gilchrists and Lamps. There was originally a small cemetery close to the river bank, not far from the stockade, but in 1825 it was found to be subject to overflow and the other cemetery was located on the Clough and Pauk farms.

In 1785 General Richard Butler passed down the river to warn the settlers of Indian raids and in his Journal made note of the fact that there were settlers on the head of the first island below Washington Bottom and on the Ohio shore, who seemed to be a very reasonable people and that "he saw some women clean and decently dressed," but made no record of any settlers on Washington Bottom.
CHAPTER IV

CHRISTOPHER GIST II

Among the earliest explorers here we find the name of Christopher Gist II. His grandfather, Christopher Gist I, married into the Cromwell family of Maryland after emigrating to America, and had one son: Richard, father of Christopher II, who married Zipporah Murray. Richard was a surveyor and taught his son Christopher II. They laid out and surveyed the city of Baltimore and Baltimore county, Maryland. After Christopher II became the owner of lands on the Yadkin river, North Carolina, we find him associated with one Richard Lewis, also a former resident of Baltimore, although born in Landaff, Wales. He was a surveyor and draughtsman, and helped survey Christopher Gist II’s homestead. He married a cousin of Sarah Howard Gist (Christopher Gist II’s wife). Richard Lewis finally settled on his homestead on the Fairfax Trail in Northern Virginia, where he died in 1793.

Thus, we early find the Gist and Lewis families as being related by marriage, and in partnership together in exploring, surveying and platting land for others. Richard Lewis accompanied Mr. Gist on many trips into the Delaware Indian Territory, helped survey the Nemacolin Trail, and when Gist was engaged to explore and survey the land granted to the Ohio Company, Richard Lewis helped him. One of his maps is still preserved in the Archives of the Greene County Historical Society, Pa. Later we will find another Lewis, George, marrying into the Gist family and coming to Washington Bottom to live.

Randall & Ryan’s History of Ohio has quite a lot to say about Christopher Gist II, but there is one item in particular that I wish to refer to:

“During his explorations for the Ohio Company (beginning October 31, 1750, ending May 18, 1751), on Christmas Day while at the Wyandot town Muskingum, he held religious services at George Croghan’s house in the presence of a few traders and, to quote his words ‘several of the well-disposed Indians’ who came freely’, He treated of the doctrine of Salvation, Faith and Good Works, as extracted from the Homilies of the Church of England. He read and the interpreter Montour told the Indians what he read. He reports that the Indians seemed well pleased and came to him and returned thanks and gave him a name in their language “Annosanah”, which the interpreter told him was the name of a good man who had formerly lived among them.”
This (Darlington, the Annotater of Gist’s Journal) says was no doubt the first Protestant religious service ever held within the limits of the state of Ohio.

Afterwards Mr. Gist explored and surveyed the lands below the Ohio and no doubt knew and described Washington Bottom to General Washington during their trips together.

After the Battle of Ft. Necessity the French burned everything at his plantation near there. In 1754 he petitioned the Virginia House of Burgesses requesting payment for the loss of his home and household effects. (Journal House of Burgesses of Va. 1754 pp 223). The Bouquet Papers, letters No. 21644 and No. 21645, prove that Christopher Gist II died of smallpox in Winchester, Va. in 1759, and in the record of the proceedings of the House of Burgesses of Va. there are statements concerning “Christopher Gist II deceased.” And that is probably the only reason he was not in the party with Washington in 1770 when he came down the Ohio to view and seek out lands for himself and other soldiers of the French and Indian Wars. Composing Washington’s party were:

Dr. Craik, Captain Wm. Crawford, a boy of Crawford’s, John Nicholson, (interpreter), two Indian guides, and Colonel George Washington, who acquired this land by grant from Lord Dunmore Dec. 15, 1772, called “land in Botetourt County, Virginia,” upon a survey made by William Crawford in June, 1771. But the actual work of surveying was made by Valentine Crawford, brother of William, who reported to Washington that squatters were moving on the lands, and that if Washington wanted him to do so, he would go ahead and improve them.

Sometime during the month of April 1775, an Englishman named Nourse wrote in his Journal (concerning a trip down the Ohio): “Stopt at little Kanaway . . . passed several islands . . . the bottom opposite little Hocking—Col. Washington’s” . . .

In 1932 the State of W. Va. erected a tablet at the crossroads on Washington Bottom which says:

“George Washington acquired 2314 acres of this land in Washington Bottom by a grant, dated December 15, 1772, issued to him by John Murray, Earl of Dunmore, last Royal Governor of Virginia. Washington obtained this tract for services in the French and Indian War upon a survey made by William Crawford in June 1771 . . . .”
The beginning of the Crawford survey was on the Ohio, three or four miles below the mouth of the Little Kanawha (S. C. Shaw says five miles). All the lines are easily traced today except those up the river as the floods have greatly changed the shore lines.

"In consideration of a Proclamation dated at Williamsburgh the 19th day of Feby. 1754 and pursuant to a subsequent order of Council of the 15th of Decr. 1769, I have surveyed the following tract of land as part of 200,000 acres granted by said proclamation for the use of the officers and soldiers thererin mentioned, Beginning at a chestnut and hickory on the Ohio about 3 or 4 miles below the mouth of the Little Kanawha on the lower side of small run opposite to a small Island by the side of a large one and extending thence S. 5 W. 34 poles crossing water at 10 poles to a hickory, thence S. 50 W. 571 poles crossing water at 176 poles to a stake near two marked white oaks in a hollow, thence South 264 poles to a black oak on a level, thence East 78 poles to a black oak standing on the west side of a run, thence South 250 poles crossing a branch at 60 poles 86 and 246 poles to a Beach standing on the south side of said run, thence S 50 W. 220 poles crossing water at 72 poles to a large hickory on the North side of a hill, thence West 144 poles to two sugar trees and an ash on the Bank of river at a pint just below a gut & opposite to a little Island, thence up the River according to the several courses and meanders thereof and binding there with N. 40 E. 37 poles—N. 5 E. 80 N. 18 E. 40—N. 7 W. 80 poles—North 50 poles to a creek N. 18 W. crossing the same 168 poles N. 18 W. 200 poles N. 7 E. 74 poles N. 12 E. 50 poles N. 20 E. 60 poles N. 37 E. 275 poles N. 55 E. 60 poles N. 71 E. 174 poles East 160 S. 80 E. 74 poles S. 74 E. 140 poles to the beginning containing Two thousand three hundred and fourteen acres.

John Custard  
George Cox  
Wm. Jackson  
Morrius Hardin  
Joel Price  

Sworn  
chainmen  
and  
markers  
Win. Crawford Surveyor of the officers and soldiers land.  
June 1771.

By an order of counsel dated the 6 day of Novr. 1772 this survey 2314 acres of Land is to be patented in the name of the subscriber as will appear by reference thereto.

G. Washington

a copy from a copy  
Teste Alex r H. Creel  
2314 acres  
George Washington  
Botetourt County  
Virginia"

It bordered on the Ohio River Five Miles and One Hundred and Twenty Poles.

In 1776 Monongalia county was formed from Botetourt, and it extended to the Mississippi river. In 1784 Harrison county was formed from Monongalia, and thus Washington Bottom was, at the time of Washington’s death, in Harrison county.
On the death of George Washington it was found that he had drawn his will in such manner that his property was divided into lots and the heirs drew for their shares. Washington Bottom was divided into two parts, the upper end or half being drawn by Elizabeth Lewis Carter, wife of Charles Carter, (niece of George Washington), and the lower end or part drawn by George Steptoe Washington (nephew of George Washington).

Elizabeth Lewis Carter, through her husband, Charles Carter, sold her part to George Lewis, of Loudon county, Virginia, and George Steptoe Washington sold his part to Francis Keene, of Alexandria, Virginia, (later Loudon county, where he had married into the Simpson family). Since George Lewis's son, William Lewis, had married Mary Keene, daughter of Francis Keene, one can readily see why the two men purchased all of Washington Bottom and arranged to divide it among their children.
WILLIAM LEWIS HOUSE, the first house built on Washington Bottom, Jan. 23, 1807, Francis Keene Lewis born here and the first white child born here. Mrs. James W. McDougle and daughter. (Mrs. Bernice Huke, owners at the time picture was taken).
CHAPTER V

Just here I would like to state that the George Lewis who purchased Elizabeth Lewis Carter's interest in the Washington Bottom land is not, so far as a genealogist or historian can discover, related to the Lewis who married into the Washington families. The families, no doubt, were well acquainted, since Loudon, Stafford, Prince William and Fairfax counties were not far apart. George Lewis's family came to Powhatan county on the extreme eastern shore of Virginia from the Northumberland county, and sometime later we find George located in Loudon county, and married to Violette Gist, (sometimes called Guest), daughter of John Gist. At the time of the purchase of land of Washington Bottom George Lewis and wife were the parents of six children, all married and living in Loudon County, Va. Mr. Lewis divided part of his land into six farms of 200 acres each and in his will directed that the balance be equally divided between his two son-in-laws: John Hall Harwood and Robert Edelen. Mr. Lewis and wife Violette made their home at the Edelen household. We find through his will that he had horses, sheep, cattle, and hogs, but does not mention any slaves. He was a surveyor evidently, for a set of surveying instruments are listed in the appraisal of his property at $5.00. We assume therefore, that the slaves at the Edelen plantation were the property of Robert Edelen. We have the statement of Mr. Ransom Rector as to the fact that in later years the Edelen's had a slave who was born blind, but took all care of the horses and could go to the pasturefield and catch any particular horse that was wanted.

The following are the names of the children of George and Violette Gist Lewis:  
Elizabeth, who married Robert Edelen; 11 children  
Nancy, who married John Hall Harwood: 8 children  
Mary, who married Joseph Beard; 3 children (She died in Va.)  
Sarah, who married George Neale I: 5 children  
Jonas, who married Frances Toy Wyatt: 5 children  
William, who married Mary Keene: 8 children.

All the above named children, their husbands (and the grandchildren) (with the exception of Mary Lewis Beard, who died in Virginia, but whose two children came with their aunt Mrs. Sarah Neale) (one stayed in Va.: Lewis Beard), came to Washington Bottom and built homes.—large old-fashioned log and frame houses, immense barns, slave cabins (some built back
on the ridge just out of sight of their master's house, others near to the main house). There is one of the slave cabins still standing on the George Neale I land, now owned by a Mr. Umbargei, who has restored and repaired it to use as a "guest house."

They brought their household goods, tools, horses, cattle, sheep and hogs. Many of their slaves were highly trained workmen, blacksmiths, carpenters and farmers. The women could weave and were fine cooks and housekeepers. By the time their homes were completed there was a well-traveled road leading from one house to another (the houses being all built on the ridge just above the highwater line). They set out Bois-D'Arc hedges along the road, and each house was surrounded with fruit trees, resulting in the plentiful supply of cider, vinegar, peach brandy, and other kinds of refreshments of which our pioneer forefathers were fond. Whiskey was a common drink, as well as many others which were made and used as medicines, hoarhound cough syrup, quinine-and-whiskey, (also with rock candy, and glycerine,) peach-leaf tea, sassafras, spice and mint teas, were only a few of the "cure-alls." Mutton tallow, skunk oil, crude oil and others, with a dose of calomel in an emergency, together with sulphur and molasses in Springtime. Each farmstead had a lane leading out to the slave cabins on the hill. In after years these lanes were used as roads to connect with the main highway which the County officials surveyed out along the foothills ca 1880 and on which the landowners were expected to work or furnish a team and labor as payment for a certain portion of their taxes. However this custom was done away with ca 1890.

These farms were fenced with rails, called "worm fences," the rails being hewed from the best of timber. There is in existence today a piece of thick bark from a walnut rail, which C. R. Rector kept as evidence of the timber used.

THE KEENE LANDS

We find that although Col. Francis Keene, of Alexandria, Va. purchased the lower part of Washington Bottom in 1810, he did not come there until about the year 1814. He is mentioned in some records as being a resident of Loudon county, another as of Fairfax county, another says Prince William county, and the Census shows that he owned land in Kentucky. His father's will was probated in Fairfax county 1761. Col.
Keene was married twice: To a Miss Simpson and a Miss Massey, and had the following children: (who were married at the time of his purchase of land on Washington Bottom):
Karen, who married William Simpson, 4 children; he died, she married Oliver Phelps, 4 children; he died, she married James Neal, 3 children,
Sarah married her cousin Eli Keene (went to Ky.)
Mary married William Lewis, 8 children,
William married Susan Hunt, no children,
Susan married James King (went to Indiana)
Nancy married Thos. Manzee 1st, T. Javins 2nd (went to Mo.)
Francis married Thompson Simpson, (she died and he married:
Jane, (her sister),
Anastasia married William Neale,
Matilda married Wm. F. Coffer (his first wife) (his second wife was Mary Ann Harwood Talbott, (widow) sister to John Hall Harwood).
Francis Marshall Keene married Mary Ann Harwood, daughter of John Hall Harwood. 1st: Mary Edelen 2nd),
Elizabeth died unmarried and is buried by the side of her father in the Francis K. Lewis cemetery on Washington Bottom.

Col. Francis Keene gave Wm. Simpson, Sarah (wife of Eli Keene), William Neale, and James King, each a farm before his death. After his death the rest of his children received their portions under the law. Francis Marshall Keene purchased the interests of several of the heirs and at one time owned one of the largest plantations of the Bottom.

When Mary Lewis Beard died in Virginia Mr. Lewis made a change in his plan to divide up his section of the Bottom, and sold the farm intended for her to Col. Francis Keene, who, in turn sold it to Lewis Neale, son of George Neale I. Lewis Neale, who had married Elizabeth Kincheloe, (daughter Col. Robert Kincheloe) began erection of the large brick mansion which was later torn down by Du Pont de Nemours Co. The bricks were burned on the Neale land. Mr. Lewis Neale resided there for 37 years and in 1855 sold the place to a Mr. Haddam, who died shortly thereafter and David McMechen purchased it. After passing through several hands it was finally purchased by the DuPont deNemours Company. Lewis Neale also had purchased the interests of some of the Keene heirs on the lower portion of the Bottom, which he sold to the Meunchmeyers, about the year 1850 and moved to Missouri 1855 where he died in 1872 at the age of 78.
CHAPTER VI

THE OLD BRICK CHURCH

After the close of the Revolutionary War, settlers began pouring over the Alleghenies seeking new homes on the lands which the government had promised them for services in the French and Indian Wars. Likewise came others who thought the western countries offered more opportunities for their children and others came just because they were not satisfied to remain in any location for any length of time. Along with all these came the Circuit Rider—preaching wherever he could find a place. The country was ripe for such work—it had grown tired of war, and so the greatest revival in the history of the Methodist church began. The members at Washington Bottom attended the services in Parkersburg, but soon felt they had enough members to have a church on Washington Bottom. For several years they had met at the different homes: the Neales, David Creel (who married Lucy Neale), the Edelens, and others—many attended the services who were members of other denominations. We find that in 1830 and 1831 a committee of three: Lewis Neale, William Neale, and George Neale jr., who had been appointed so to do, reported that three-fourths of the money necessary to build a good and sufficient meeting house, had been subscribed, they were authorized to commence the building. Lewis Neale gave the ground and Feb. 25, 1854, we find a deed from Lewis and Elizabeth Kincheloe Neale for a lot 60 x 80 feet to George Neale jr., Thomas Maddox and John Kincheloe, trustees for the Methodist Episcopal Church South. The bricks were burned on the Lewis Neale farm, Daniel Bartlett did the carpenter work inside, and for some thirty-five years a goodly number attended there. Then the older members passed away, a number went to the western country, and services were discontinued. The church stood empty and unused, the benches and pulpit left as when last used. One of the two front doors swung idly in the wind, the school children played there at noon and recess. Finally someone placed a long heavy plank in the entrance door and sheep belonging to a nearby farmer would take shelter there.

Sometime in or about the year 1894 a member of the Methodist church, went around among the people of Washington Bottom and collected enough money to repair the old church, and shortly afterwards Sunday School was held each Sunday at 2:00 P. M. together with preaching each first Sunday. The old church has been repaired lately, the inside repaint-
ed and carpeted, a new piano to replace the organ presented to it by a member of the McMechen family in 1894, a heating system installed, a tower with a bell, are all improvements which bid fair to keep it in active service for an hundred years more. Tradition tells us that in 1866-67 a summer school was held there. It is now over 150 years old.

At the present time (1955) the members are building a Sunday School room on the lot back of the church.

CHAPTER VII

SCHOOLS:

Scarcely had the Lewis—Keene families located their homes when the question of "education" was brought up. Many of the sons and daughters of the wealthier classes back in old Virginia were sent to Richmond and other private schools, or had tutors in their homes. Here it was different, so another plan had to be formulated. The first teacher of whom we have any record was a Miss Lathrop, who received a salary of $25.00 per month and stayed at the homes of her pupils. There was one of the early school buildings located on what was later known as the Meldahl farm, another on the P. G. Moellendick farm and one on the George Burd farm. These were known as "select" Schools. The Rev. Daniel Morrell conducted a school at the home of Robert Edelen during the years 1820 to 1825.

As far back as 1867 there were two free schools, the first free school-house was built on the George Neale I farm, and is still in use as a storage building by the DuPonts, who moved it up close to their plant.

The second schoolhouse was built at the end of the old Indian trail near the Cofer house and after many years' use, was replaced by another closer the highway. In 1888 a new schoolhouse was built beside the "old brick church" and the one on the Neale land reverted to the owners of the land. These two school buildings are used for the smaller children, the older students being taken by bus to Consolidated Schools in town.

Note: The Cofer school was later torn down and a more modern one erected.

CHAPTER VIII

CEMETERIES:

There are six old cemeteries on Washington Bottom, viz: The Robert Edelen, George Neale I, Jonas Lewis, Francis K.
Lewis, Barnes and Keene-Walker. Three laid out by later residents are: the Meldahl, McDougle and Munchmeyer. George Lewis and Violette Gist Lewis are buried in the Edelen cemetery, while Col. Francis Keene rests in the Francis K. Lewis cemetery. In the George Neale I cemetery we find all Neales except one: Off in a corner is a tall monument with this inscription:

"In memory of William Davison killed on the steamboat 'Motto' on the 9th August A. D. 1876 in the 20th year of his age."

(C. R. Rector is authority for the details) as follows:

Young Davison, whose home was in Boston, Mass. had been in school in Kentucky; had finished, and was on his way home, on the steamboat "Motto." Just across the river from the George Neale I house the boats were accustomed to take on wood for fuel. The Motto stopped, loaded up with wood, and backed out into the channel, and suddenly blew up, killing young Davison and the cook (a woman named Mary Hunt, who was buried in the Francis K. Lewis cemetery). Word of young Davison's death was telegraphed to his guardian in Boston, who wired back:

"Bury him there. He has no relatives here."

We wonder what became of his estate? Wasn’t there even one person who cared whether he slept with his people?

"Deep in the West, from kindred dust how far! On thy cold stone looks down the evening star."

The DuPont de Nemours Company has placed neat white painted picket fences around the Edelen and Neale cemeteries.

On the Knight and O. McDougle farms (once the Jonas Lewis farm lately sold to Borg-Warner Co.) we find in an open pasture, the graves of Jonas and Frances Toy Wyatt Lewis. Wyatt Lewis, second son of Jonas became the owner of this land by deed, and about the year 1850, he sold it to Edward Tracewell, who divided it between his two sons: Charles and Benjamin. Charles resided in the old home, while Benjamin built a nice home on the upper section of the farm. This land also sold to Borg-Warner Co., by the Knight and Sims families who had purchased same. The children of Jonas Lewis: George Vincent, Wyatt and William Linton removed to Missouri where today (1955) their descendants own seven large
farms, on one of which the house is a replica of the Jonas Lewis house. One daughter, Elizabeth Sarah married George Neale II and remained here.

The DuPont deNemours own almost all the Edelen, Harwood and Neale lands, where they have built a plant and employ hundreds of people.

The lower line of William and Mary Keene Lewis lands was the upper line of the Francis Keene lands, and when Francis Keene Lewis, son of William and Mary Keene Lewis, married Marietta Simpson, granddaughter of Col. Francis Keene, he thereby became possessor of Keene land. Wm. Simpson had built a large house on his lands and after Francis K. Lewis moved there, he built two more large rooms with halls (later one room was moved away to the side and used for storage). This fine old home is still beautifully cared for and used as a residence by Mrs. P. G. Moellendick. The last Lewis descendant to reside there: Mrs. Harriett Elizabeth Lewis Farrar sold to R. Colvin—he sold to P. Moellendick. On this land is now located Lock No. 19, together with the government buildings for same. Francis K. Lewis died in 1862, his wife Marietta lived until 1889. In her will she left $17,000.00 in cash to be given $1,000.00 to each grandchild when it became of age, there being 17 grandchildren. She had given a farm to each child, at the time of marriage, and their descendants are many. The farm just below and adjoining hers was given to her daughter Mary Frances, who married George G. Stout. It is now owned by The Carbundum Company of Niagara Falls, N. Y.

The next farm below the one she gave Mary Frances, she gave to her only son, Oliver Perry Lewis, who married Mary Elizabeth Butcher. The Carbundum Company also owns a portion of that: but Alfred Perry Lewis and sister Miss Edna I. Lewis reside in the home Oliver Perry Lewis built, they being lineal descendants of the two Keene-Lewis families who purchased this Bottom.

The next farm below that she gave to her daughter Jane, who married Albert A. McDougle. Jane died in a few years leaving a son Walter. Mr. McDougle remarried: this time to Mrs. Jane Davis Johnson (widow, with two children, Margaret and Oscar). Mrs. Jane Davis Johnson was the adopted daughter of Francis Marshall Keene and wife Mary Edelen Keene (her mother being Jane Edelen) who married Allen Davis Jr: and by this marriage he became possessed by the Fran-
Francis Marshall Keene home and lands. Sometime after this marriage Francis Marshall Keene mortgaged part of his land on bond of the sheriff of Wood county and had to sell same. A. A. McDougle purchased it and later lost it by mortgage to Mitchell Brothers of Belleville, who sold it to Alex Boso. Boso sold part of the land to Wm. Munchmeyer and his widow sold to Lewis Palmer who resides there.

About the year 1845-50 we find a number of German people purchasing land on Washington Bottom. The Muchmeyers (whose descendants still own their lands), the Krugers, Schmidts, Degners, the Meldahl land now owned by a Mr. Orem of Parkersburg, James Butcher owns lands from the Cofer estate. Mr. Nicholas Morey, Charles Boso, Wade Butcher and numerous others own parts of the lands once owned by Col. Francis Keene. The Eli Keene land is owned by Wm. Boso. Just across the lane was a large old brick house built by the Walkers, which burned ca 1890, the land is now owned by Sherrill Harless.

To her daughter Martha, who married Stephen Wallace Edelen, Marietta Simpson Lewis gave a farm just above hers. Mr. Edelen built his home out next to the hill. Two children were born to them and Martha died. He remarried—to Emma Harwood and later we find him residing on the Robert Edelen farm. The only child to survive this marriage resides in Huntington: Mrs. Lillian E. Parker. Two sons by the first marriage: Frank and George are both deceased. The Martha Lewis Edelen land is now owned by W. J. and Arthur Moellendick.

CHAPTER IX

THE McDOUGLE FAMILY

Sometime during the year 1846 Samuel McDougle Sr. and wife, nine children, his wife's mother and father, brother and sister, (the Armstrong family), came to Wood county from Warren county, Va. Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong located on Green street, in Parkersburg, and the McDougles rented the Thomas Tavenner farm at Ft. Neal. The father and three McDougle children are buried in the Tavenner cemetery.

In the fall of 1855, Samuel McDougle Jr., the eldest, and Elizabeth, his sister, came to Washington Bottom and rented land from Mrs. Francis K. Lewis, (what is now known as the John Wester farm), living in a small cottage on that land, and
planting a crop of wheat for the coming year. The rest of the family moved there the next year, and later moved to what was formerly a schoolhouse on the F. K. Lewis land. Later Mrs. Mary B. McDoug1e, widow of Samuel McDoug1e, Sr., purchased the farm just above the Martha Edelen land and which had been given to Adaline Lewis, (who had married Condee Hanson Broughton), by her mother, Mrs. F. K. Lewis. They also purchased the William Lewis land. James McDoug1e, (who married Antoinette Romine), moving into the William Lewis house and the rest of the McDougles, together with Miss Amanda Armstrong, residing in the Broughton house. Later Albert A. McDoug1e married Jane Lewis and moved into the cottage where he had formerly rented. The Wm. Lewis land and Broughton land was just recently sold to the Borg-Warner Co.

CHAPTER X

POST OFFICE. STORES, ETC.

During the extremely early years letters were sent overland by the scouts and caravans, or by flatboats on the river. About the time of the Lewis-Keene settlement General Rufus Putnam inaugurated a mail service on the Ohio River via Wheeling, Pittsburgh and down river via Cincinnati, Louisville and other towns. After the Baltimore & Ohio railroad was built through Little Hocking many of the Washington Bottom folks sent and received mail there. Since nearly every farmstead had canoes, skiffs and johnboats it was very easy to row across to Little Hocking, buy groceries at the general store and get the mail. Some families receiving mail at Lubeck P. O. The first Post Office of record on Washington Bottom was at the Meldahl community called Scott ca 1888. Two years after Scott was established the Washington post office was established. There is in existence in the home of the writer a small cupboard with pigeonholes lettered, mounted on a stand, in which the first mails were kept. Miss Florence Cooper was the postmistress, later John W. Stout, B. M. Stout, Alice Hull, L. A. Southern, A. T. McMurray, W. P. Woofter, D. H. Harless, and others. At present Mr. Kelsey Grogan is postmaster. The Post Office is located near the old brick church on Neale land.

The Scott Post Office was done away with about the year 1890, at that time there was a general store located at the crossroad leading to what was known as Walker’s Landing and railroad stop, owned by Messrs. Scott and Devore. This is now a residence building owned by C. Hofman.
Shortly after the Washington post office was inaugurated and B. M. Stout was Postmaster, he erected a small building near his home on what is now the George Burd farm and operated a general store until about the year 1888, when he sold the farm to a Mr. Hull and removed to near Nashville, Tenn. A few years later Lloyd and Melvin Southern, of Clarksburg, operating as "Southern Brothers," purchased the interests of Hull. They erected a large store building just across the road from the home, (to be used as office building, post office and store). They started a Nursery business, employing a number of people. Later they purchased what was known as the Harwood lands, erected buildings and operated a Canning Factory. Some years later financial reverses caused them to go into bankruptcy, which involved a large number of people. The Canning Factory buildings have all been torn down. Mr. George Burd owns and resides in the home place. A Mr. Kyle purchased the Harwood lands and built a home there. A Mr. Jas. Gilchrist owned part of the Edelen land heired by the Boobers and Frank Edelen, who built also, while Mr. Harless owns a general store and service station, (operated by Mr. and Mrs. Dewees), in the building erected by Southern Brothers. Just below the Harless store, (on Neale land also), the Fitch's have a grocery and service station. At one time about the years 1890-95 there was a large weighing house and scales just above where Fitch has a store, together with stockyards for loading cattle back of it near the railroad tracks. There was also a railroad station nearby called "Washington." At one time just below the Fitch store a Mr. Walter Woofter had a building and scales where he weighed out and sold coal. He also owned and built the small post office building where Mr. Grogan formerly had the post office, selling the same to A. T. McMurray, from whom Grogan purchased and later erected the present P. O. building. There have been several others who have owned these places but names are not available at present, a Mr. Grover Ashby once had a store in the first building, and a Mr. Chenowith owned and lived where Mr. Burd now lives, there are small tracts being sold for building purposes: Mrs. Godwin, Mr. Buckley and Mrs. Brant on the Neale land.

Many years ago John W. Stout gave his son Elias Stout a small tract out near the road, where he built a home. to his son Wm. G. Stout he gave 50 acres on the eastern end of the Neale land, his daughter Martha, (who married C. R. Rector), was given the home place and 12 acres. The rest of the farm he divided among his other sons, who sold their interests to Mr. C. R. Rector, and their heirs sold it to a Mr. Umbarger.
Sometime about the year 1900 the Wabash Railroad Company purchased the Lewis Neale lands from Mr. McMechen, parts of the Coopers, and Mr. Rector's lands. Eventually these tracts were purchased by the DuPont deNemours Company.

Upon the death of George Neale I, it was found he had left his property to be held by his widow until her death, when it was to be sold. Alexander H. Creel, (who had married Lucy Neale), was appointed administrator and after Mrs. Neale's death he proceeded to advertise it for sale. John W. Stout, of St. Marys, Pleasants county, (who was a surveyor and had worked with Mr. Creel), had sold his interests in Pleasants county and was going to Kentucky to locate. Upon learning this, Mr. Creel persuaded him to come to Washington Bottom and look at the Neale plantation. Which he did, and was so pleased with it that he purchased all of it, (except 70 acres which had been conveyed to L. L. Laflin and Lucy A. Laflin by Alexander H. Creel)—consideration $10,000.00. Mr. Stout afterwards sold parts of the farm to his two brothers: Rev. Benjamin M. Stout and Granville A. Stout. About 1870 he built the comfortable cottage home which he gave to his daughter Martha Stout Rector. The slave cabin built by Ab Wilson, slave of the Neales, stands near the house. After locating on Washington Bottom Mr. Stout surveyed the original lines of the George Washington tract, as surveyed by the Crawfords. For many years Mr. Stout was a well-known citizen of Wood County, having served a term as State Senator, was a Member of the House of Delegates, and a Surveyor of disputed lines for the Federal Court in Parkersburg.

CHAPTER XI

For a period of about thirty-five years the Lewis-Keene settlement enjoyed an ideal pioneer existence. They could go to Parkersburg by boat or on horseback or by carriage—many of the Little Hocking settlers visited with them—Marietta folk came—Belleville settlement was only 12 mile away—George Vincent Lewis, son of George and Violette Gist Lewis, married Margaret J. Davis and resided at Belleville, Gassaway Harwood, son of John H. Harwood and Nancy Lewis, married Ann Braden Davis and also resided at Belleville, Allen Davis, Jr. married Jane Edelen and lived near Belleville: we find that the mother of the Davis girls was a Crooks of Belleville family of that name. The Davis parents resided on the south side of the
Little Kanawha in a nice home with beautiful lawn: at one time Allen Davis, Sr., is mentioned in history as keeping a sort of tavern and was also sheriff of Wood county. The Creels, Kincheloes, Mayberrys, Clarks, Shaws, Leonards, Stephensons, and others married into the Lewis-Keene families. There were parties—weddings: life was pretty much on the same scale as in old Virginia. They took their tobacco, wheat and other produce on flat boats to Cincinnati and New Orleans, bringing back dry goods and supplies for their homes. Their slaves had comfortable homes, were well-fed and looked after.

About 1840 the question of slavery began to be agitated by people who opposed it: and in the year 1845 the following incident occurred, which is taken from "The History of Belpre" by C. W. Dickinson,–"The Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Quarterly for Jan. 1939,"—Howe's Historical Collections of Ohio, Vol. II pub. 1907"—and called: "The Garner Case" (of record in Richmond, Va. Court of Appeals):

"THE GARNER CASE: (pub. Jan. 1868 in the Marietta Register):

In 1845, six slaves of John H. Harwood (Daniel Partridge, Frederick Gay, his wife and three children), of Washington Bottom, Virginia, (W. Va.), just below Blennerhassett Island, were prevailed upon by an itinerating Baptist preacher named Romine, to make an effort to gain their freedom by crossing the river at night into Ohio. They left the Virginia (now W. Va.) side (or shore) in canoes and landed on the Ohio side at 2 a.m. July 10, 1845, where five Ohio men were waiting to assist them.

Meanwhile Mr. Harwood had become acquainted with the plot and with his son George L. Harwood, Oliver Perry Lewis, and several friends, fully armed, crossed the river and were hidden in the bushes near where the negroes landed.

The five Ohioans took the baggage of the slaves and directed Daniel and Frederick to take up the two smaller children (aged 3 and 6 years and follow with the wife and other child (age 14) up the bank. One of the white men went directly up the steep bank while the others took a more diagonal course, when the Virginians came out of the ambush. Daniel dropped the child he was carrying and hid under the roots of a large tree which had blown over. He said he heard one of the Ohioans exclaim: "Don't stab me—shoot me if you dare" and heard them scuffling. Someone fired a pistol which brought the other
slaves to a standstill. Two of the Ohio men got away, and Daniel lay hid until the Virginians had loaded the three men into the boats, one of them protesting against being taken over the river to be tried by what he called their "bloody slave laws." After they were gone he went to the home of friends who sent him North. He came back in after years and told his story. It is said that Mr. Harwood asked his slaves why they wanted to run away and they replied "To keep from being ever sold down the river."

The Ohioans who were captured were: Daniel Garner, Creighten Lorains and Mordecai Thomas. Romine, Shotwell and Stanton escaped. Since no Ohioan could go on their bond, the three men were kept in the County Jail. Feeling ran very high, the river banks were patrolled for fear of their friends crossing to set them free—Ohio people wanted the governor to order out the state militia—guards were posted around Parkersburg, Captain E. N. Chancellor in his Memoirs said that no one was hurt, but that one of the guards shot the town bull one dark night, thinking it was an enemy.

The case was finally argued before the Court of Appeals at Richmond, Virginia, and resulted in a tie. Later at a special term of court at Parkersburg the prisoners were admitted to bail of One Hundred Dollars each and the case was never again called for trial: since the question at law was that of "jurisdiction or boundary between the two states."

During the Civil War the slaves began drifting away, but a number remained with their old masters and lived quietly on the place working for people, until they died. The last one of the Neale slaves "Tom Needham" died in 1904—his home being on the land now covered by Lake Washington. His two sons Wallie and Ralph went to Ohio after his death. Cynthia Wilson, who stayed on at the home of Mrs. Elias Stout, was a partial invalid, She was a faithful attendant at church and Sunday School and many white people attended her funeral.

Some years ago there was built under the auspices of the Washington Women's Club a Memorial to George Washington at the cross-roads near the old brick church. It was built of logs from the old Robert Edelen house, (stones from the Blennerhassett mansion used at the portico), and is built in the style of the old-time log cabin, with slab roof, stone chimney and wooden shutters. Just recently a Library for the benefit of the community has been housed in it. At the dedication of the Memorial 1935 many descendants of the early pioneers were present. Mrs. M. E. Boord read the following poem dedicated to her maternal grandparents: Mr. and Mrs. Wm. H. Harwood:
OLD LANES:

"Old Lanes"—written by Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Bond Boord, descendant of George and Violette Gist Lewis, first settlers on Washington Bottom:

I wandered down old lanes today
and conjured visions rare
Of other folks and other times
and things that happened there.

I heard the music of their songs:
the lilt of laughter gay:
I felt the wet caress of tears
that they had known one day.

I saw the cortage of the dead
pass slowly down the lane,
With those behind too young to know
their loss was Heav’n gain.

I glimpsed the swiftness of the feet
as neighbors came and went:
Their smiles of courage and of cheer—
the helping hands they lent.

I watched a little barefoot lad
go whistling down the path:
With fishing rod instead of books—
and felt parental wrath.

I joined a dimpled little girl
among the hollybocks
And played with dolls more wonderful
than e’er came out of box.

I caught a whiff of newmown hay—
of earth just after rain:
I drank the scent of clover in—
the perfume of ripe grain.

The lilacs nodding by the gate
called back a thousand dreams—
The magic fragrance of old flowers
can transform life it seems.

And down the lanes the lovers passed,
pledging their troth anew,
And sealing it with kiss
as soft as sunshine on the dew.
I saw the twilight shadows
  steal across the western sky
And heard the dear familiar sounds
  of dusk as she drew nigh.

The low of kine—the bleat of sheep—
  the children coming home—
The lamplit windows like bright stars
  to guide them lest they roam.

I knew the pangs of birth and death
  as I went wandering there:
And learned once more that Life is sweet
  If we with others share.

O lovely lanes of long ago!
  Thour't graven on my heart:
A sheaf of golden dreams is mine,
  in which you've played a part.

Tho' it be mine to travel far
  and view Earth's beauties rare—
These lanes with all their friendly tales
  will be to me more fair.

And some day, when the Sun shall set,
  and I at length shall go—
May I pass down some olden lane—
  goldwashed with Sunset's glow—

For somewhere down that kindly lane
  I'm sure that I shall meet
Those whom I've known and loved before,
  and join with them my feet.

And at the journey's end, what joy!
  just as there was of yore:
Wide open gates, and happy smiles!
  and Home — FOREVERMORE.''

Used by permission of Mary E. Boord, Miami, Florida.
In the years 1951-52 the Washington Community Club
built a large Community House on land donated by Mr. Lewis
Palmer, near the Cofer Schoolhouse. Since then they have added
another room and have a very attractive substantial building
in which to hold meetings, serve meals or for whatever purpose
the building was intended.
THE CIVIL WAR

The Civil War put an end many friendships between the folks across the river in Ohio and on Washington Bottom; and due to better roads and a daily steam packet which permitted marketing and shopping in Parkersburg, there was very little trade or visiting between the two communities. There were some families here who had relatives in both armies; the “Home Guards” were organized to preserve peace but more often used their position to harass and trouble Southern sympathizers. However, there was a romance in which they helped: Allen Harwood, (son of Gassaway of Belleville), and a friend William Nesmith, came to the Harwood home under cover of darkness for a short visit with Allen’s family. It was indeed a very short one, for hot on their trail came the “Home Guards.” Elizabeth Harwood, sister of Allen, took them to her bedroom and let them down through a trap-door into the cellar where they hid until all danger was past. After the War William Nesmith went to Missouri, (whither the Harwood family had removed), and married Elizabeth. Their descendants reside at the little town of Dover, Mo.

After the death of Gassaway Harwood, (who was the eldest son of John Hall Harwood), (in 1851); his widow, together with eighteen of her relatives, went by way of steamboat to Dover, Missouri, in 1865, where they were met by her brother-in-law, James Harwood, with covered wagons, and transported all their household goods and family two miles to their new home. Among those who went were: Mrs. Ann Braiden Davis Harwood, widow of Gassaway W.; Bessie Davis Saunders, widow of Gustavus Saunders; John A. Harwood, wife, Phoebe Spencer, and three children; Adaline Harwood who married Christopher Wells, two children; Robert Preston Harwood and bride, Rebecca Beckwith; Sarah Harwood who married Otis Shaw, (they later returned to Wood county, W. Va.): Elizabeth Harwood, (who later married Wm. Nesmith): Henry and Lucy Davis, (brother and sister to Jane Davis McDougle); a little colored boy called “Booker Washington,” (who ran off when he was 16 and returned to W. Va.). There are many descendants of these families living in Missouri today.

In Lafayette and adjoining counties, Mo., there were so many of Virginia, (now W. Va.), people located that it is known unofficially as “Little Dixie.” There we find the well-known names of Lewis, Creel, Neal, Harwood, Saunders, Walker, Logan, Woodyard, and Wells.
The Ohio River Railroad Division of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad:

Sometime during the year 1879 a company was formed for the purpose of building a railroad to the city of Charleston. It was called "The Parkersburg and Charleston Railway Company" and was made up of Parkersburg people. A Civil Engineer named McConnell of Richmond, Va. was hired to survey a preliminary line by way of Mineral Wells, Rockport, Limestone Hill, Ripley and Sissonville; but at Ripley the route was changed so as to go by Ravenswood.

Then, the Company changed its name to "The Wheeling, Parkersburg and Charleston Railway Company," and an engineer named Flickenger was hired to run a line from Moundsville to Parkersburg.

In July 1881 the surveyors reached Charleston—thence to Pt. Pleasant—and connected with the line at Ravenswood. In the fall of 1881, Mr. McConnell started work on the final survey from Moundsville to Parkersburg, which was completed in April of the next year.

During this time the name of the Company was again changed, this time to "The Ohio River Railroad Company," and today that part of the line is known as "The Ohio River Railroad Division of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad."

July 10th 1884 an inspection trip was made and six days later, June 16th 1884, the road was opened for traffic.

On Washington Bottom was established two stations, one near the upper end called "Washington" and one near the lower end called "Meldahl." For several years the local trains would stop at each lane or 'crossing' when flagged with a handkerchief or light. (these were called "whistle stops"). Later regular stops were made by certain trains to pick up milk and passengers at Walker and Tallman's, and during the building of Locks No. 19 a switch was built and stops made at the lane leading down to it. This was discontinued later but emergency stops are still made. The "whistle stops" were done away with about 1890. Mr. Charles E. Bryan was General Superintendent of the Ohio River Division until his death some years ago.

Sometime in the winter of 1894 a freight train was wrecked at Walkers, made up of oil tanks; on which two tramps were riding. One of the tramps was terribly burned but made his
way to a farmhouse where he was cared for until able to be taken to a hospital; the other tramp, whose identity was never known, was completely burned to death. Two years later a freight train carrying 17 cars of oil and 1 of dynamite was wrecked on the George G. Stout land. The car of dynamite was pushed by hand to a safe distance but the oil tanks were completely destroyed. No one was killed but a brakeman named John Meacham was badly burned.

There is a hardsurfaced highway running north and south across Washington Bottom—many lanes are graveled—there are two good general stores and service stations. The DuPont deNemours Company, the Borg-Warner Company and the Carburundum Company have purchased tracts of land on the Bottom—the DuPont deNemours have built a handsome plant and employ hundreds of workers—but there is still much good farming land, with modern up-to-date homes. As you enter from the north the state has erected a marker which states that Aaron Burr and Harman Blennerhassett were tried in Richmond, Va. for treason; which is an error and should state that Aaron Burr was tried for treason; and that Harman Blennerhassett was never tried for treason.

Driving south for two miles you come to Meldahl Hill. Pause before you reach the top and look back: "Opposite the Little Hocking there is a bottom of exceeding good ground"—Truly, George Washington, the "First Farmer of America," knew whereof he spake.

CHAPTER XII

SOME TRADITIONS AND TALES OF EARLIER DAYS:

The natural formation of hills surrounding Washington Bottom is very similar at both the upper and lower ends, viz: an island is just opposite to a small creek with the hills coming down to the river. There is a tradition that in the early days one of the members of the old river pirate gang of Fink’s being hard pressed by the law, ran his skiff up into the upper creek as far as possible and then carried his loot up near the head of what is now known as "Coal Hollow" on the Butcher farm and buried it. As late as 1952 two men with modern appliances for hunting metals and buried treasure inquired the way to reach the site. It is also a well-known fact that there is a vein of coal in the vicinity.
The creek at the lower end of the Bottom and the small island, (Newbury), were of great help to the survivors of General Morgan's raid during the Civil War. A number crossed here and made their way through to the southern army. A story is told that when General Morgan started to cross the river his personal slave rode after him. The river was high and the general shouted "Go back Sam, you'll be drowned." "No sah," was the answer, "I ain't gointer get ketched on Yankee soil." The general turned back, with the result everyone knows.

There has been tragedy, too. Willie Miller, of Lubeck, was trying to ford the river at Meldahl's landing and lost his life—Joseph McGuinness drowned there while in swimming. The terrible tragedy when the Kanawha sank in 1906 in winter took a toll of two hundred lives.

During the Civil War many families were divided in their opinions and suffered much from the War but here on Washington Bottom life was pretty much the same—a few slaves left here and some of the sons of the pioneer families went to the Southern Army. During the time of the raid by General John A. Morgan there was some excitement—several of his men crossed at Newbury Island and made their way to the Pike leading toward Staunton, Va. After the War many of the old slaves hired out to work for their former owners, some of them had been given small tracts of land and had built themselves humble homes. Among these was the Wilson family on the Lewis land, Tom Beaver on the Keene land, the Burleses, the Needham on the Neale land, Old 'Easter' the last of the Harwood slaves kept house for Mr. John Harwood until she died. A few years ago a descendant of one of the earlier negro families came back and rented a cottage on the Bottom but was disappointed in the life here and soon went back to Ohio to live.

Sometime about the year 1870 George G. Stout, (and brothers), operated a grist mill on the farm which Mrs. Lewis had given his wife. It was located in a 1 1/2 story frame house built in the early days half way down the lane, (Lewis), and in which at one time the Wm. Manuel family resided. About the year 1890 Alfred Lewis, Millard and Frank Butcher built and operated a grist mill on the O. P. Lewis land.

A ROMANCE OF EARLY DAYS:

Coming to Washington Bottom in the early 1800's, was a young widow from Maryland. Very soon the unmarried gen-

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tlemen for miles around came a'courting. One Sunday there was arranged to have a picnic at the home of her brother, J. H. Harwood; and it was such a short time since the war-times, each gentleman carried a gun. Upon arrival these were stacked in one room of the house. Dinner was scarce over when word went around that a deer was seen drinking on the river bank. Immediately a rush was made for their guns and the male element scattered for a hunt. That is, all but one: a certain widower took this opportunity to woo the young widow and when the hunters returned, the glad news was announced that he and the young widow would marry soon: and Mrs. Mary Ann Harwood Talbott became Mrs. Wm. T. Coffer and helped organize and maintain the First Baptist Church in Wood county.

The trips to the different markets were long, slow ones, sometimes the produce was shipped by boats who were in that sort of business, sometimes the owners had their own flatboats manned by slaves. On one trip to New Orleans the following incident occurred: Mr. Harwood, who was a passenger on the packet boat hauling his tobacco, noticed a very beautiful lady accompanied by a colored maid, and, desiring to make her acquaintance seated himself that evening in the lounge in close proximity to the table upon which lighted candles were flickering. The lady was sitting near the table also and as he seated himself she turned to her maid and said: "Please extend to me those significant digits, that I may curtail the superfluity of that nocturnal illuminary, that it may shine more brilliantly upon our optics"—

Whereupon, Mr. Harwood related that he lost all desire to meet any person who used such wonderful language.

Usually after selling their products the persons would go by boat up the coast to Baltimore and return home overland for fear of the many river pirates who often robbed and killed travelers on the return trips.

CHAPTER XIII

BLENNERHASSETT ISLAND

The story of Washington Bottom would be incomplete without including the history of Blennerhassett Island, (as it is known today).

The Island, or rather a cluster of four islands, was first known to the Indians of the different tribes as a sort of "Trad-
ing Post. It was held immune from any attack at any time and even after settlement by the white people, no one was molested while on the islands.

George Washington, it is claimed by some historians, owned it but never perfected his title to it. But in 1786 Alexander Nelson received a patent from the Commonwealth of Virginia for it; Nelson sold it to James Heron and Heron sold 566 acres to Elijah Backus, of Marietta, Ohio, who later sold 170 acres to Harman Blennerhassett for $4,500.00, who later purchased 30 acres more.

In 1798 there were over 20 families residing on it. Captain John James had built a blockhouse near the center for protection in which the Blennerhassettts lived while building their mansion, (1797).

The Blennerhassettts visited with the new settlers on Washington Bottom. It is said that during the time they were building their house on the Bottom, that William Lewis and wife entertained the Blennerhassettts at dinner which was served on a large chest in lieu of a table. Among those who went to Richmond, Virginia, as an interested observer at the trial of Burr was William Lewis. Later George Neale II, and John Hall Harwood and others purchased parts of the islands, John Hall Harwood dividing his part between his two sons: George L. and James Harwood.

After the tragic ending of the Blennerhassett life on the island, Mrs. Blennerhassett wrote the following poem, (parts of which I quote):

"THE DESERTED ISLE"

The stranger that descends Ohio's stream,
Charmed with the beautious prospects that arise,
Marks the soft isle that 'neath the glittering beam.
Dance with the wave and mingle with the skies.
Sees, also, one that now in ruin lies,
Which erst, like fairy queen, towered o'er the rest.
In every native charm, by culture dress'd.
The black'ning fires have swept throughout her halls.
The winds fly whistling o'er them, and the wave
No more in spring floods o'er the sand beach crawls,
But furious drowns in one o'er-whelming grave.
The hallowed haunts it watered as a slave.
Drive on, destructive flood, and ne'er again
On that devoted isle let man remain."
GENEALOGICAL DATA:

ELIZABETH LEWIS—Robert Edelen
Children: Sarah m John Stephenson; Catherine m John A. Bailey; Lucy m John Kincheloe; Benjamin m Susan Clark; Elizabeth m Wm. Logan; Violet d unm; Ann Mathilda m A. G. Leonard; Jane m Allen Davis; Fanny m S. C. Shaw; Nancy Mathilda m C. D. Haworth; John E. m Mary Timms; Mary m Francis M. Keene.

NANCY LEWIS—John Hall Harwood
Children: Gassaway W. m Ann B. Davis; Elizabeth m Charles P. Bailey; Mary Ann m Francis M. Keene; Henry H. m Eliza King; James m Elizabeth Lysle; George L. m Elizabeth Phelps; Richard H. d young; John d unm; William m Eliza Chancellor.

SARAH LEWIS—GEORGE NEALE I
Children: Lewis m Elizabeth Kincheloe; Lucy m Alexander H. Creel; Elizabeth m Dr. David Creel; William m Anastasia Keene; George jr m Elizabeth Lewis; Ann M. P. m Wm. Safford.

JONAS LEWIS—Frances Toy Wyatt
Children: George Vincent m Margaret M. Davis; William Linton m Eliza Warth; Charles L. m Elizabeth Mayberry; Elizabeth Sarah m George Neale jr; Wyatt m Mary C. Harden.

WILLIAM LEWIS—Mary Keene
Children: Sarah E. m Otis L. Bradford; Francis K. m Marietta Simpson; Matilda Ann, Mary, Oliver P., Louisa Jane all died unm; Alfred P. m Emmeline King; Monroe S. to Mo. m. there; Edward William m. Sarah Frances Neale.

MARY LEWIS—Joseph Beard. (she died in Virginia but two of her three children were brought to Washington Bottom by their aunt Sarah Neale).

KAREN KEENE—WILLIAM SIMPSON
Children: Marietta m Francis K. Lewis; Harriet. Jane, George M.;

KAREN KEENE—Oliver Phelps
Children: Olive m Jefferson Barrett 1st, Benj. Walker 2nd; Sophronia m Goucher; John Marshall m Mary Lowther 1st, Sarah J. Hageman 2nd;
The only persons residing on Washington Bottom today, (1955), who can trace their lineage to the Lewis-Gist lines are: Mrs. Margaret L. Keever, Frank H. McDougle, James Butcher and children and grandchildren, Alfred Lewis, Edna Lewis, W. E. Bailey jr and children, Harwood A. Beckwith and Nancy Beckwith: but there are numerous descendants of the Lewis-Gist families in Wood county, W. Va., and since we do not have a complete list will not attempt to give them.

The Gist Family: (from which Violet Gist Lewis was descended), came to Maryland from England about the time Cromwell's power was on the decline. Coming at about the same date we find three Cromwell brothers and a sister Edith, whom we find married to Christopher Gist II in or about 1681-2, In 1690-1 we find his will recorded dividing his estate equally between his wife and son Richard, (the only child).

RICHARD GIST married, (in Baltimore co., Md.) Zipporah Murray, and to this union was born four sons and three daughters. Three of the sons married into the Howard family and all were participants of the Revolutionary War.

CHRISTOPHER GIST II (who was the Explorer, guide, surveyor, and friend of Washington), married Sarah Howard, and left three sons and two daughters, but we only have the record of one son, Col. Nathaniel Gist, a noted Revolutionary War officer, who located in Ky., and the fact that one son Richard was killed in battle at King's Mountain, and left descendants in South Carolina.

JOHN GIST, father of Violet Gist Lewis, died 1778, his will being probated in May 1778, his wife Mary and his son-in-law George Lewis were the executors; all being at that time residents of Loudoun co., Va. In a letter from the Virginia State Library it is stated that an examination of the records cited will show "that the Captain John Gist who received bounty land from Va. for his Revolutionary War services was a native of Maryland and was a relative of the John Gist of Loudoun co., Va., who was father of Violet Lewis." But we have not as yet traced the lines.

In order that those who might read this story can see how many descendants George and Violet Gist Lewis now live in this locality, we will give you some of the names:
Elizabeth Lewis and Robert Edelen children were:

Sarah Edelen who married John Stephenson, (to Oregon); Catherine who married John A. Bailey; Lucy E. who married John Kincheloe and settled at Belleville; she died 1840, buried in Edelen Cemetery on Washington Bottom; he remarried to Mrs. Sarah Stephenson, widow of Dr. Wm. Stephenson; his eldest daughter Virginia married Capt. John W. Mitchell; Benj Edelen married Susan Clark; Elizabeth Edelen married Wm. Logan; Violet Edelen d unm; Ann Mathilda Edelen, married A. G. Leonard, (she died same month and he remarried to E. Annis Shaw; Jane Edelen married Allen Davis Jr.; Frances Edelen married S. C. Shaw; Nancy Matilda Edelen married C. D. Haworth, (to Navada); John Edelen married Mary Timms; Mary Edelen married Francis M. Keene, (his second wife); his first wife being Mary Ann Harwood:

Nancy Lewis and John Hall Harwood children:

Elizabeth Harwood married Charles P. Bailey; Gassaway Harwood married Ann B. Davis, (to Mo.); Mary Ann Harwood married Francis M. Keene, (his first wife); Henry Harwood married Eliza King, (to Ind.); James Harwood married Elizabeth Lysle; George L. Harwood married Elizabeth Phelps; Richard Harwood died young; John Harwood d unm; William Harwood married Eliza Chancellor. Nancy Lewis Harwood died 1821 and he married Susan Beck of Md.—one daughter Henrietta who married John W. Mitchell.

Sarah Lewis and George Neale, Sr., children:


Some of the LEWIS family of Missouri:

George Vincent and Margaret Jackson Lewis children: Charles Jonas, Anne Elizabeth, James Wiatt, Mary Frances, George V., Charles William, William Drayton, Laura.

William Linton and Eliza Warth Lewis Children:


Charles and Elizabeth Mayberry Children:

Benjamin M.
Elizabeth Sarah Lewis and George Neale Jr. Children:
Laura married Nye of Marietta, O.; Sarah married Lewis, of Phelps co., Mo.; Isaac married Groves.

ALFRED PEYTON and Emmeline Lewis, had two children—both died when small and they took two children of his brother, Edward William and Sarah Frances Neale (of Mo.) and raised them: Harry and Myrtle.

Wiatt and Mary Caroline Lewis Children:

(Elizabeth and D. Brown had a daughter Nancy, who married E. T. Holman of Dover, Mo., Hilton had a son Harvey of Dover, Mo.

Charles Jonas (son of G. V. and Margaret Jackson Lewis) married Lillian Huntley Lake of Dover, Mo., Children:
Charles Marion, who married Mary Hunter; Leon Hamilton, who married Byrd Eppes, George Vincent, died unmarried, Margaret Stella, resides at Corder, Mo.

Mary Frances and George (children George V. and Margaret Davis Lewis) died young: Elizabeth married Benj. Lewis; Drayton married Molly Taylor; James married Kate Heriot, (all of Mo.).

Some of the HARWOODS of Missouri:
James, who married Elizabeth Lysle (W. Va.), one son Thomas, married Mary McGill (to Mo.) two children: John, of Higginsville, Mo. and Maud of Siloam Springs, Ark., both deceased.

Robert Preston Harwood married Rebecca Beckwith (to Mo.), children: Albert Sidney (married at Waverly, Mo.); Virginia married Plattenburg, (Dover, Mo.); Braiden married --Martin, (Dover, Mo); William married—Vaughan, two sons in California.

Mary Wahl who resides at Dover, Mo. is a descendant of these Harwoods.

MARY ANN HARWOOD, daughter of Gassaway and Ann B. Davis Harwood, married Henry (Harry) Logan and
removed to Kansas City, Mo. after the death of Mr. Logan. She had one daughter Lura, who married Alf Offut Downing, one daughter, Mary Downing Knipmeyer, one son, Sabert Downing. Avice Knipmeyer, married Joseph P. McKibben, of Terre Haute, Indiana and has a daughter Mary Elizabeth.

John Allen Harwood (who married Phoebe Spencer), (a son: Dr. Harwood of Dover, Mo.), married and had three children.

The Harwood Family of England-Maryland and Virginia (West Virginia):

This family is descended from Thomas and Mary Harwood who were granted large tracts of land in Md. in payment for bringing a large number of settlers to Md. Thomas never lived in Md. but was there at two or more times and at his death willed his Md. plantation to his son Richard, who came to Md. prior to 1695. He married Mary Hall, daughter of Rev. Henry Hall and Mary DuVal. Their son Col. Richard Harwood born in 1703 in AnnArundel Co., Md., married Anne Watkins, daughter of Col. Gassaway Watkins. They had a large family, as follows: Richard, who married Margaret Hall, daughter of Major Henry Hall and granddaughter of the Rev. Henry Hall, Joseph H., Gassaway, John B., Samuel: Nicholas, William, Benjamin, Mary, and Elizabeth.


George L. Harwood married Elizabeth Phelps, great granddaughter of Col. Hugh Phelps, William Harwood married Eliza Chancellor, and Elizabeth married Charles P. Bailey. There are many of their descendants in Wood county, W. Va., as well as other states.
Alfred and Edna Lewis, the James Butcher family and Harwood A. Beckwith and wife Nancy Stout Beckwith all trace their lineage to this Harwood line. There are several descendants living in Ravenswood, W. Va. in Pennsylvania, Missouri, Kansas and Oregon. John Harwood, father of John Hall Harwood, who came to Washington Bottom, was a Revolutionary War soldier: was at Ft. Necessity during that battle and was granted land for his services, but so far as known did not locate any of it here.

Among the families who came here in the very early days and intermarried with the Lewis and Keene families we find the WALKERs. Benjamin Walker sr., born December 14, 1793, probably in Loudoun Co., Va., and wife Angeline McDonald, born March 17th, 1806, in Berkeley Co., Va. married December 22nd, 1825, came to Washington Bottom from Wellsburg, W. Va., with the following children: Thomas, (married a Bartlett); William (married Emeline Spencer, 1852): Margaret Ann (died in infancy); Permelia (married David Bailey—moved to Ohio): Derinda (married Abe Lewis—moved to Dover, Mo.); Vesta (died in infancy): Benjamin jr, born March 27th, 1842, married Keren Matilda Barrett: John and Amanda (died in infancy).

Angelina McDonald Walker died in 1854.

Benjamin Walker sr. remarried in 1860 to Olive Bassett Phelps Barrett (widow of Jefferson Barrett) — a younger half-sister of Marietta Simpson Lewis (wife of Francis Keene Lewis). To this marriage there were no children: but, the following children were born to Olive Bassett Phelps and Jefferson Barrett: Sarah (married Thornton T. Toothman, (two children): Caroline (married Captain William Harris), (she was lost when the boat on which she was traveling as guest of the Captain’s wife, exploded and sank): Matilda (married Benjamin Walker jr. (five children): Henry (married Bevie Campbell (to Texas, no issue): Arthur (never married—was the first State Librarian: Sophronia (married her cousin Eli Keene (no issue).

All members of William and Emeline Spencer Walker's family have passed away.

To Benjamin Walker jr and Matilda Barrett was born the following children: Robert E. Lee, (died in childhood); Harry died in early manhood, never married; Beva (married William H. Dunbar, no issue); Ola and Ora, twins. Ola never married; Ora married Colonel John T. Harris, U. S. Army, of Washington, D. C. and has a daughter: June Harris McCreery, of St. Louis, Mo. (who has four children: two girls and two boys).

Benjamin Walker sr. on April 1st, 1867 purchased from F. M. and Mary Keene a small tract of land in Lubeck District located on the Ohio River. on which he built a fine brick house and resided there for many years. He purchased other tracts of land and at one time had a large plantation. In 1871 the large square white frame house was built across the lane from the brick for his son Benjamin Walker jr. and wife Matilda Barrett. Sometime about 1890 the brick house burned down and Benjamin Walker jr. and family removed to Parkersburg, W. Va. and Mr. and Mrs. Eli Keene resided in the white frame house. Mrs. Olive Bassett Phelps Barrett Walker residing with her until her death a few years later. The William Boso family own and reside in the white frame house at present.

About the years 1890-93 or later the H. H. Custer family of Parkersburg, purchased part of the above land from the Bid­dle family and resided there: Mr. Custer worked in the railroad yards in Parkersburg. There were several children, one daugh­ter Jessie (who married Aaron Givens) resides on Emerson Avenue, in Parkersburg. The Walker plantation has been cut up into many small tracts and numerous houses built on it.

THE EDELEN FAMILY: Robert Edelen, who married Elizabeth Lewis, emigrated to this county from Maryland, with the Lewis family. In the Edelen cemetery (now on DuPont land) we find buried many of their children, and there are sev­eral descendants now residing in Parkersburg: Miss Sarah Edelen, Oscar Edelen and the daughter Nancy, children of Rufus Edelen, deceased, are all of the name, but there are many others of allied families in Wood county.

The George Neale family: George Neale I who married Sarah Lewis, came from Loudoun Co., Va. There are none of their descendants in this county, except those of George Neale jr. who married Elizabeth Sarah Lewis, daughter of Jonas
Lewis and Francis Toy Wyatt—the rest of Jonas Lewis children going to Missouri in the early days.

The William Lewis-Mary Keene, the Bradford (Otis L. who married Sarah Lewis): Francis K. (married Marietta Simpson) all came here from Loudoun county, Va. and there are many of their descendants in Wood county as well as the descendants of Karen Keene-Simpson-Phelps-Neal.

This Story of Washington Bottom was written primarily to record the names of the pioneers who settled here and to give in a small measure a description of how they lived and what became of their descendants. We hope it merits your commendation, and that those who read it will make a resolution to preserve the history of our land in every form whatsoever.

"There was a time when we were not. The fixed and changeless eons of the past hold not a trace of you or me. But on the ever-changing future we have cast our tiny shadows: now there nevermore can be a time without us . . .

Look forward then, and trust . . . that those who leave us, go a step ahead upon the unseen way each one shall find—And wait us there." (Kimbell).