

Amspoker Family

**Leaves of History-Cross Creek, Brooke County-Part II
Online use, Refer to Obituaries**

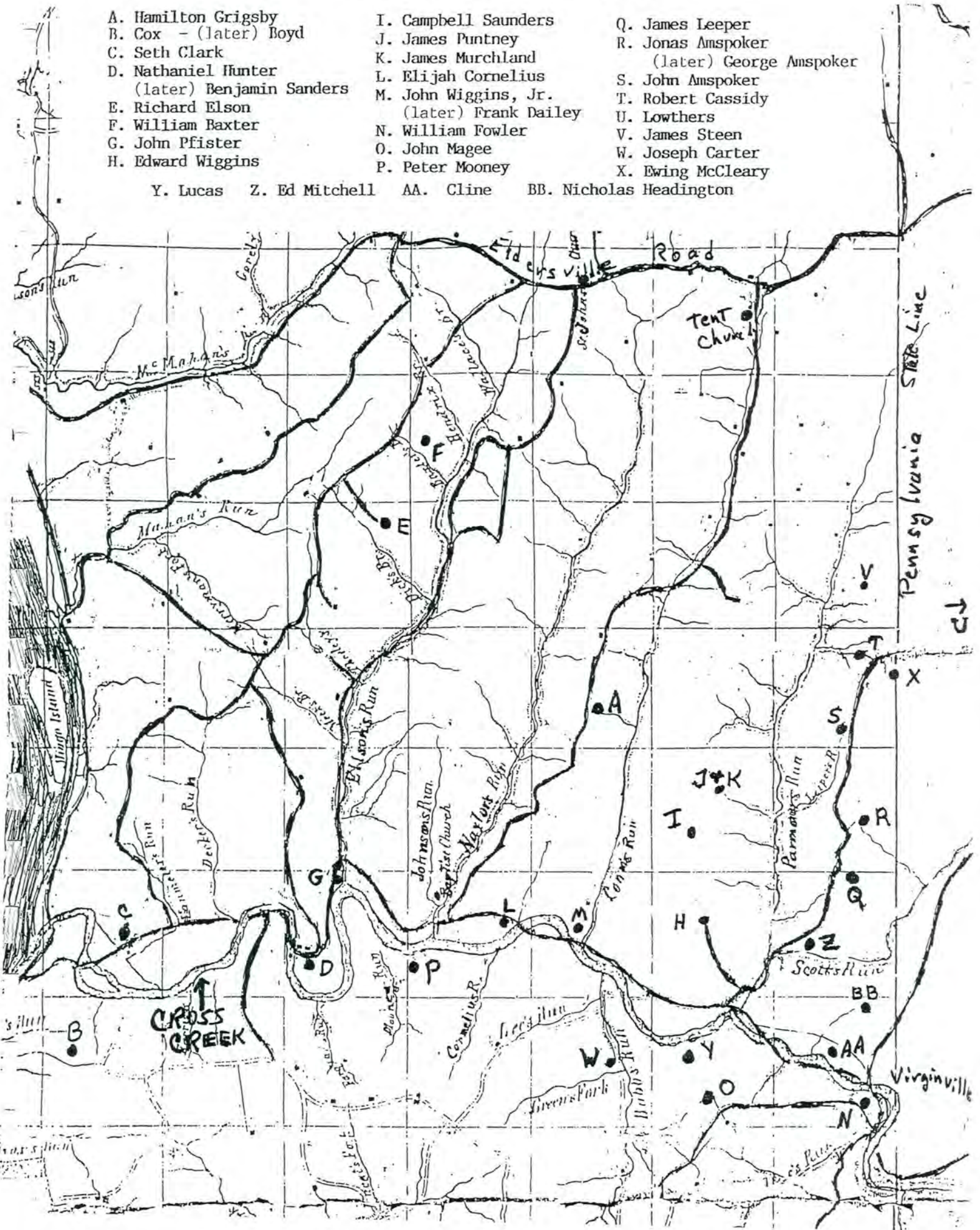
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

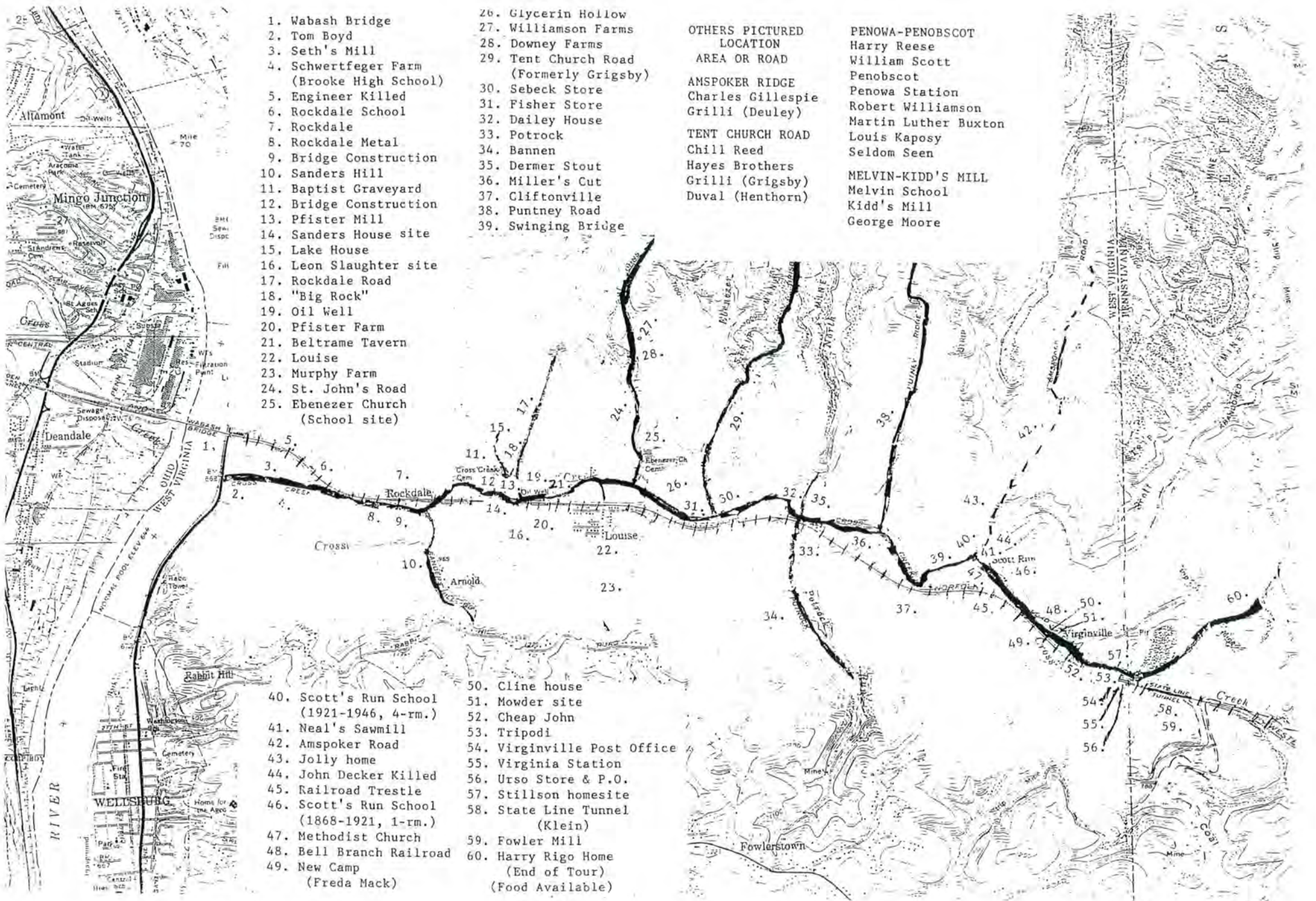
Without you, the former and the present residents of the Cross Creek Valley, this book could never have become a reality. To each of you, a hearty THANK YOU.

Karyn Adamson	Lois Siasor Early	Ida Moore	Fred and Florence Moore Thomas
Anne Aftanas	Albert and Esther Moore Fisher	Judy Moore	Julia Tisik
Chester and Heler Tisik Aftanas	Earl Fowler, Jr.	Pearl Mae Moore	Lou and Helen Tokas Tranquill
Joe Aftanas	Eugene Georgetti	Delbert Morris	Theresa Tripodi
Arlene Boies Alexander	Bernice Gist	Dorothy Morton	Alice Ulrich
	Ruth Neth Gillespie	Arlene Yost Mowder	Charles Ulrich
Betty DeGarmo Saileys	Elizabeth Grigsby Gillespie	John Mowder	Nellie Uphole
Cecil and Ruth Robb Baker	Bob Gracey	Dorothy McFarland Muzopappa	Anthony Valenti
John R. Bannen	Carl Granato		Elizabeth Tokas Velegol
Walter Baranowski	Gizella Vargo Grew	Mae Fisher Newton	Jacque Clark Verbon
Louis and Mercy Campbell Beltrame	Lewis Grigsby	Danny and Grace Cameron Nickoies	
Tony Beltrame	Gabriel and Mary Ann Grilli	Elva Osaba	Frances Baranowski Wells
Bill and Judy Bernardini			Sara Deer Welsh
John Bernardini	Morris Harlan	Goldie Pastor	Charles and Frances Puskarich Welsh
Nick and Catherine Strho Bertovich	Lily Mae Harris	P & W Railway Co.	Don Wiggins
Robert and Pat Cline Bongiorno	Delbert and Laura Tredway Henthorn	Floyd and Nancy Hunter Petrel	Denny Williams
Carol Shepherd Boyce	Mary Frances Pfister Hervey	Ruth VanOrman Plunkett	George Williamson
Pete and Helen Blaskovich	Gwen Hubbard	William N. Poellot	Robert and Dolores Williamson
Frank and Ruth Blaskovich	Bob and JoAnn Higginbotham	John Popp	Howard V. Worley, Jr.
Richard Boyd	Dewey Hutton	Elvia Reese Pugne	
Tom Boyd			Wilbert and Helen Yost
Ralph Brady	Jean Lucas Javersak	Mike and Brenda Ragan	Mike Young
Aubrey Brothers	Doris Lake Jones	Charles Rangos	Virginia Pfister Young
Mary Rigo Bryan	Jim Jones	Amanda Reed	
Margaret Burkhardt	John Jones	Annabelle Horvath Reese	Ernest Zambarda
Tom Butcher		Anne Puskarich Resnik	Millie Fisher Zambarda
	Louis and Gladys Kaposy	John Resnik	Sarah M. Zang
Allan Campbell	Lawrence Kimball	Harry and Agnes Rigo	Mary Martino Zwierchowski
Becky Care	Mike Klem	William and Bertha Maluski Rihel	
John and Doris Pfister Care	Jean McFarland Korpos	Robert Rotunda	DECEASED, WHOSE WORK IN WORDS AND PICTURES IS STILL APPRECIATED
Bill and Betty Mitchell Carey	Ann Kress	Anna Bell Jolly Rouse	
John Cheripko	Terissa Kvocka	Homer Roush	Helen Amspoker Boles
Paul and Della Reed Chilensky			Howard Cameron
Bob and Deloris Hess Cline	Tracy Rouse Lancaster	Charles and Dorothy Saffle	Fannie Clark Campbell
Gary Cline	Lucille Marker Legge	Bill and Anna Mae Saunders	Shirley Carter
George R. Cline	Jay Leon	John and Mary Sebeck Schubenski	Betty Fowler Fell
Dick and Millie Swearingen Cole	Kern Lyons	C.M. and Alice Schwertfeger	Viola Cheesebrough Gillespie
Mae Conley		Kenneth Schwertfeger	Helen Rigo Marus
Judy Coulter	James and Freda Mack	Pete and Gay Sebeck	Glenna Haworth Morton
Mary Ann Pfister Cox	Veronica Madis	Ron Sebeck	Irene Vargo Popp
Howard Cline	Bob and Teresa Dailey Marino	Karen Beltrame Serafine	Anthony Muzopappa
Gaye Cheripko	Gaylord Martin	Jim and Sandy Shorts	Elza Scott
Marie Reese Cribbs	Ralph Martino	Russell Slasor	Harold Scott
Alice Mowder Cunningham	Joyce McAlpine	Miriam Legge Smith	Ed Taylor
Margaret DeGarmo Cunningham	Alberta McKee	Jean Ann Spear	Helen V. Saunders
Frank W. Craven	Earl McLaughlin, Jr.	Howard Standish	A.D. White
	Earl McLaughlin III	Jim and Alice Stevens	Rudy Zambarda
Terry and Lois Saunders Dami	Frank and Anna Mae McQuillan	Dominic and Pat Stillson	
Russell DeGarmo	Michael Minda	Carlton and Betty Stewart	
Arthur Deuley	Albert Miller	Rae McFarland Sutermeister	
Matilda Rotunda Dorisio	Harry and Charlotte Pratt Mitchell	Jim Schweizer	
Freda Saunders Dunn	Mary Ann Mitchell		

THE EARLY FAMILIES

- | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------|
| A. Hamilton Grigsby | I. Campbell Saunders | Q. James Leeper |
| B. Cox - (later) Boyd | J. James Puntney | R. Jonas Amspoker |
| C. Seth Clark | K. James Murchland | (later) George Amspoker |
| D. Nathaniel Hunter
(later) Benjamin Sanders | L. Elijah Cornelius | S. John Amspoker |
| E. Richard Elson | M. John Wiggins, Jr.
(later) Frank Dailey | T. Robert Cassidy |
| F. William Baxter | N. William Fowler | U. Lowthers |
| G. John Pfister | O. John Magee | V. James Steen |
| H. Edward Wiggins | P. Peter Mooney | W. Joseph Carter |
| Y. Lucas | Z. Ed Mitchell | X. Ewing McCleary |
| AA. Cline | BB. Nicholas Headington | |





1. Wabash Bridge
2. Tom Boyd
3. Seth's Mill
4. Schwertfeger Farm (Brooke High School)
5. Engineer Killed
6. Rockdale School
7. Rockdale
8. Rockdale Metal
9. Bridge Construction
10. Sanders Hill
11. Baptist Graveyard
12. Bridge Construction
13. Pfister Mill
14. Sanders House site
15. Lake House
16. Leon Slaughter site
17. Rockdale Road
18. "Big Rock"
19. Oil Well
20. Pfister Farm
21. Beltrame Tavern
22. Louise
23. Murphy Farm
24. St. John's Road
25. Ebenezer Church (School site)

26. Glycerin Hollow
27. Williamson Farms
28. Downey Farms
29. Tent Church Road (Formerly Grigsby)
30. Sebeck Store
31. Fisher Store
32. Dailey House
33. Potrock
34. Bannen
35. Dermer Stout
36. Miller's Cut
37. Cliftonville
38. Puntney Road
39. Swinging Bridge

- OTHERS PICTURED
LOCATION
AREA OR ROAD
- AMSPOKER RIDGE
Charles Gillespie
Grilli (Deuley)
- TENT CHURCH ROAD
Chill Reed
Hayes Brothers
Grilli (Grigsby)
Duval (Henthorn)

- PENOWA-PENOBSCOT
Harry Reese
William Scott
Penobscot
Penowa Station
Robert Williamson
Martin Luther Buxton
Louis Kaposy
Seldom Seen
- MELVIN-KIDD'S MILL
Melvin School
Kidd's Mill
George Moore

40. Scott's Run School (1921-1946, 4-rm.)
41. Neal's Sawmill
42. Amspoker Road
43. Jolly home
44. John Decker Killed
45. Railroad Trestle
46. Scott's Run School (1868-1921, 1-rm.)
47. Methodist Church
48. Bell Branch Railroad
49. New Camp (Freda Mack)

50. Cline house
51. Mowder site
52. Cheap John
53. Tripodi
54. Virginville Post Office
55. Virginia Station
56. Urso Store & P.O.
57. Stillson homesite
58. State Line Tunnel (Klein)
59. Fowler Mill
60. Harry Rigo Home (End of Tour) (Food Available)

THE AMSPOKERS

Jonas Amspoker is listed in Sims Index to Land Grants as owning 315 acres in 1786 on the waters of Cross Creek. He and his wife, Elizabeth Leeper Amspoker, were the parents of John, Sarah, Martha, Samuel, and Mary. Except for John, the others, for the most part, migrated to Ohio. Jonas died on 6 July 1796 when his son John, the eldest, was but 16 years of age.

Young John grew to manhood and married Mary Ramsey, a native of West Middletown, Pennsylvania. They had seven children who lived to adulthood. Martha married Rezin Criss while her sister, Elizabeth, married John McFarland. Samuel was killed in 1857 leaving one son and five daughters. (This son, Samuel, Jr., became an attorney in Washington, Pennsylvania, but since his only heirs were two daughters, the Amspoker name from the Samuel branch came to an end.) John and MARY's son, Jonas, lived for a time on Harmon Creek in Hanover Township, Washington County, Pennsylvania, moving in the 1850s to New Concord, Ohio. After the death of her husband, John, Mary Ramsey Amspoker, with her unmarried daughter, Mary, also moved to New Concord. She died in 1880 in her 96th year.



This brick house built from bricks made on the farm, was the third Amspoker house. It later became known as "The Grigsby Place", having been purchased by that family in 1904.

John and Mary's two remaining sons, George and John, Jr., remained on the home place. George had four daughters and no sons, his daughters marrying into the Wheeler, Donovan, Criss, and Reasoner families. John, Jr. married Mary Magee. Their family consisted of one son, John C. and two daughters. (This John C. Amspoker was the "Johnnie Amspoker" who was the father of Zelma, the last of the Amspoker name to occupy the original land of Jonas, the pioneer.) John C. and his wife, Maggie Holstead Amspoker, were the parents of four daughters including Zelma, but no sons were born to them to carry on the name.

The original log cabin built by Jonas is said to have stood near the brick house pictured on the preceding page. After the death of Jonas, his son, John, built a log house to replace the original cabin. It was on the site of this log house that the Grigsby family later built their garage. This log house was then replaced by the brick one in 1851. Until 1865, the families of both George and John, grandsons of Jonas, lived in the brick house. At that time, John decided to go out on his own. He took 180 acres of his father's land, leaving the "home" place to his brother, George. John built the large frame house known until its destruction a few years ago as "the Amspoker place". After the death of George Amspoker, his heirs sold the remaining 135 acres of the home place to Grigsby.



The John C. Amspoker home. Its last occupant was his daughter, Zelma.

once stood nearby the location of Jonas Amspoker's first log cabin. A little farther on the left is the foundation of John C. Amspoker's eight room mansion. Not one vestige of either of these old homes remains today. Where once orchards and pasturelands, grain shocks and hay fields abounded, today only thick briars and brambles cover the terrain. Like the rest of the farmland on Amspoker Ridge and its neighbors, Tent Church Road and Puntney Ridge, the greed and disregard for the earth of the strip miners has taken its toll. Lack of regard of later generations for the toil and sacrifice of their ancestors is everywhere evident. Zelma Amspoker's single-handed attempt to preserve the land of her forefathers is common knowledge. Zelma waged a one-woman-against-the-world battle to keep the homestead intact. She tried everything within her might to spare the land from the destruction of the bulldozer, caring more for the land of her heritage than for the almighty dollar. But in the end, she lost. The only evidence remaining today of the sturdy pioneer, Jonas Amspoker, and his great-great-granddaughter, Zelma, is in the hearts of those who still remember with deep sadness the beauty of that hilltop and refer to it yet as Amspoker Ridge.