

Cassidy Family

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

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Karyn Adamson
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John Bernardini
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Frank and Ruth Blaskovich
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Tom Boyd
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Margaret Burkhardt
Tom Butcher

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Mary Ann Pfister Cox
Howard Cline
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Marie Reese Cripps
Alice Mowder Cunningham
Margaret DeGarmo Cunningham
Frank W. Craven

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Russell DeGarmo
Arthur Deuley
Matilda Rotunda Dorisio
Freda Saunders Dunn

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Albert and Esther Moore Fisher
Earl Fowler, Jr.
Eugene Georgetti
Bernice Gist
Ruth Neth Gilluspie
Elizabeth Grigsby Gillespie
Bob Gracey
Carl Granato
Gizelle Vargo Grew
Lewis Grigsby
Gabriel and Mary Ann Grilli

Morris Harlan
Lily Mae Harris
Delbert and Laura Tredway Henthorn
Mary Frances Pfister Hervey
Gwen Hubbard
Bob and JoAnn Higginbotham
Dewey Hutton

Jean Lucas Javersak
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Jim Jones
John Jones

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Lawrence Kimball
Mike Klem
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Ann Kress
Terissa Kvocka

Tracy Rouse Lancaster
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Jay Leon
Kern Lyons

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Ralph Martino
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Alberta McKee
Earl McLaughlin, Jr.
Earl McLaughlin III
Frank and Anna Mae McQuillan
Michael Minda
Albert Miller
Harry and Charlotte Pratt Mitchell
Mary Ann Mitchell

Ida Moore
Judy Moore
Pearl Mae Moore
Delbert Morris
Dorothy Morton
Ariane Yost Mowder
John Mowder
Dorothy McFarland Muzopappa

Mae Fisher Newton
Danny and Grace Cameron Nickoles
Elva Osaba

Goldie Pastor
P & W Railway Co.
Floyd and Nancy Hunter Petrel
Ruth VanOrman Plunkett
William N. Poellot
John Popp
Elvia Reese Pugne

Mike and Brenda Ragan
Charles Rangos
Amanda Reed
Annabelle Horvath Reese
Anne Puskarich Resnik
John Resnik
Harry and Agnes Rigo
William and Bertha Maluski Rihel
Robert Rotunda
Anna Bell Jolly Rouse
Homer Roush

Charles and Dorothy Saffle
Bill and Anna Mae Saunders
John and Mary Sebeck Schubenski
C.M. and Alice Schwertfeger
Kenneth Schwertfeger
Pete and Gay Sebeck
Ron Sebeck
Karen Beltrame Serafine
Jim and Sandy Shorts
Russell Slasor
Miriam Legge Smith
Jean Ann Spear
Howard Standish
Jim and Alice Stevens
Dominic and Pat Stillson
Carlton and Betty Stewart
Rae McFarland Supermaster
Jim Schweizer

Fred and Florence Moore Thomas
Julia Tisik
Lou and Helen Tokas Tranquill
Theresa Tripodi
Alice Ulrich
Charles Ulrich
Nellie Uphole
Anthony Valenti
Elizabeth Tokas Velegol
Jacque Clark Verbon

Frances Baranowski Wells
Sara Deer Walsh
Charles and Frances Puskarich Welsh
Don Wiggins
Denny Williams
George Williamson
Robert and Dolores Williamson
Howard V. Worley, Jr.

Wilbert and Helen Yost
Mike Young
Virginia Pfister Young

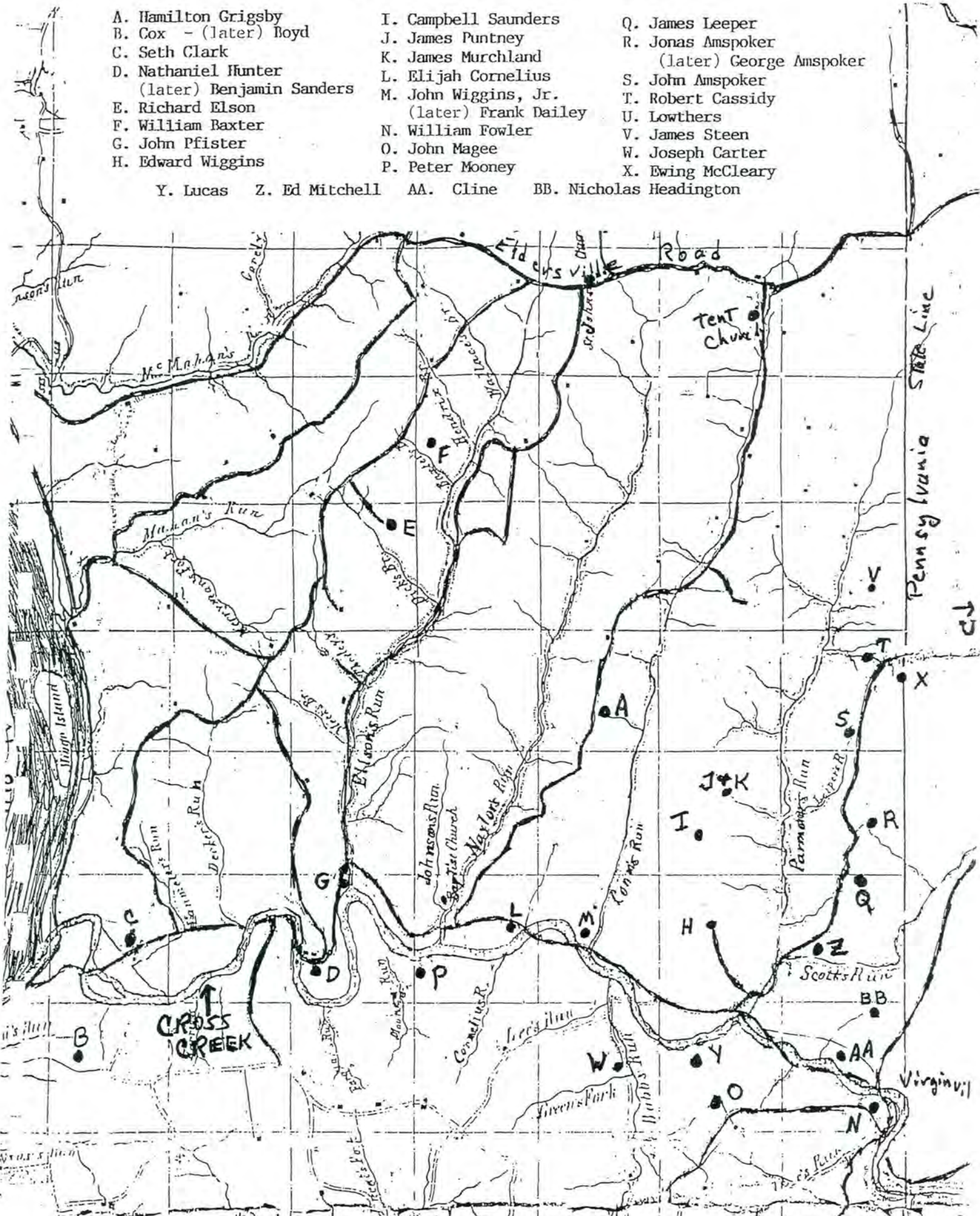
Ernest Zambarda
Millie Fisher Zambarda
Sarah M. Zang
Mary Martino Zwierchowski

DECEASED, WHOSE WORK IN WORDS AND
PICTURES IS STILL APPRECIATED

Helen Amspoker Boles
Howard Cameron
Fannie Clark Campbell
Shirley Carter
Betty Fowler Fell
Viola Cheesebrough Gillespie
Helen Rigo Marus
Glenna Haworth Morton
Irene Vargo Popp
Anthony Muzopappa
Elza Scott
Harold Scott
Ed Taylor
Helen V. Saunders
A.D. White
Rudy Zambarda

THE EARLY FAMILIES

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

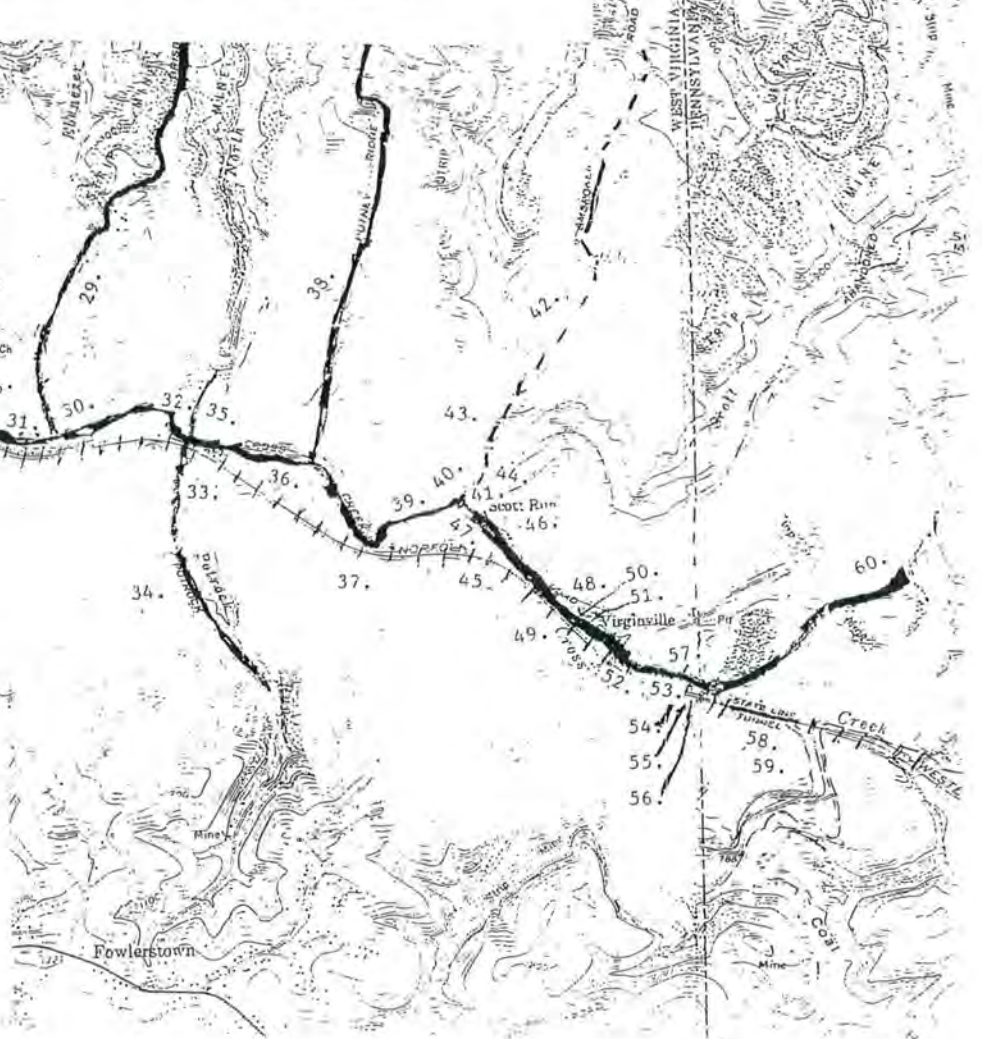
26. Glycerin Hollow
27. Williamson Farms
28. Downey Farms
29. Tent Church Road (Formerly Grigsby)
30. Sebeck Store
31. Fisher Store
32. Dailey House
33. Potrock
34. Bannen
35. Dermer Stout
36. Miller's Cut
37. Cliftonville
38. Puntney Road
39. Swinging Bridge

- OTHERS PICTURED
LOCATION
AREA OR ROAD
- ANSPOKER 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. Ampsoker 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)

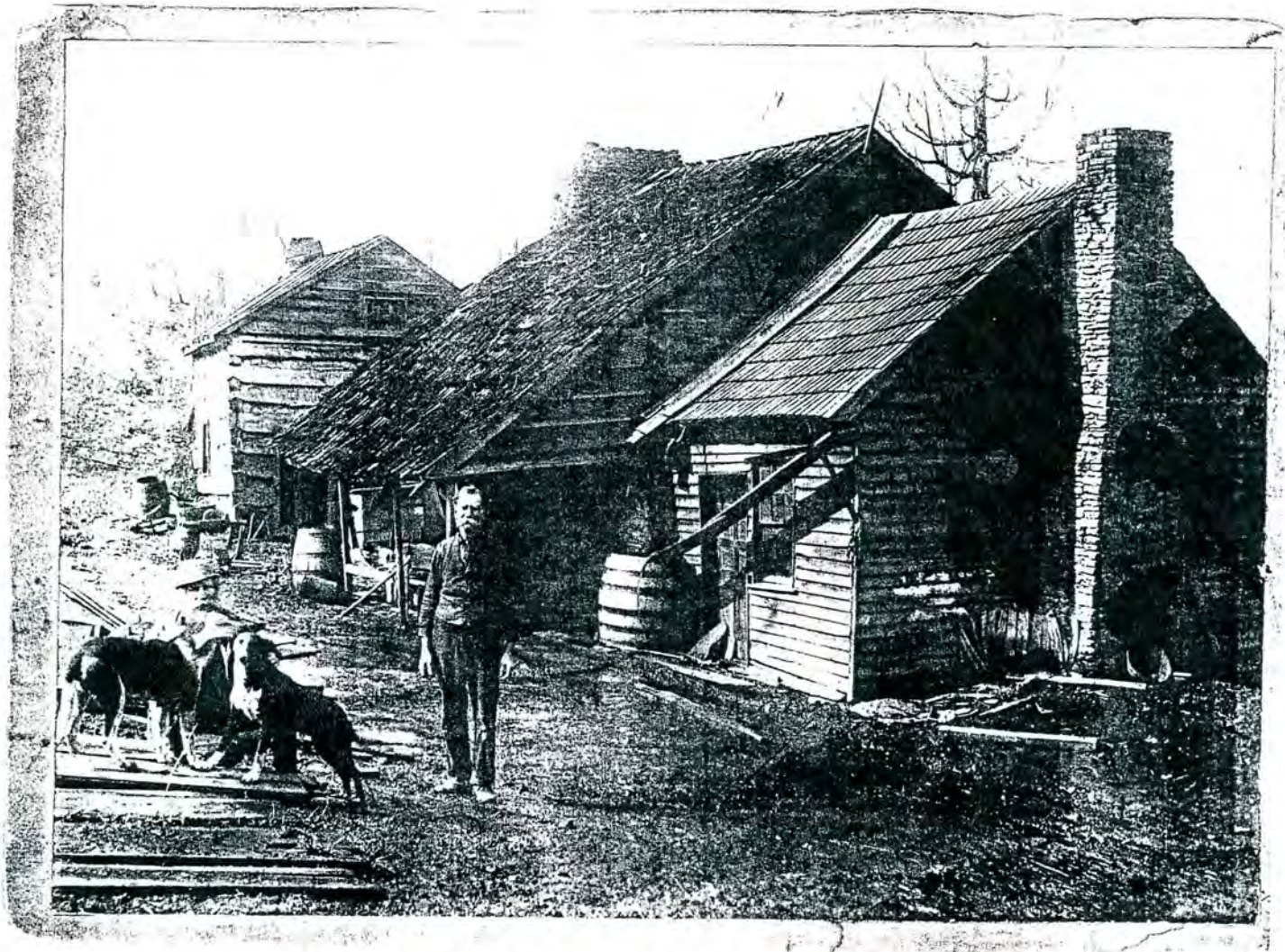
50. Cline house
51. Mowder site
52. Cheap John
53. Tripodi
54. Virginville Post Office
55. Virginia Station
56. Urso Store & P.O.
57. Stillson homesite
58. State Line Tunnel (Klein)
59. Fowler Mill
60. Harry Rigo Home (End of Tour) (Food Available)



THE CASSIDYS

Robert Cassidy was born in County Donegal, Ireland, circa 1786. It is not known exactly when he came to America, but his younger brother, John, was in Cross Creek Township (now Jefferson), Washington County, Pennsylvania, by 1810. This John Cassidy was one of the founders of the old Bethel Methodist Church in Jefferson Township, where today (1998) eight generations of Cassidys lie buried, including Catherine, the mother of Robert and John.

Robert purchased 132 acres of land very near his brother, bordering the Virginia state line. It had been patented by John Morrison, an early pioneer, by whom it was named "Rockbridge". By 1818, Robert purchased an additional 85 acres, this time joining his other property but in Brooke County, Virginia. This farm lay on Amspoker Ridge between lands of Robert Steen and John Amspoker, and bordered the Robert Murchland tracts. By 1843, Robert and his new wife, Isabelle Forbes Cassidy, sold all but 8 acres of their Pennsylvania tract to Ewing McCleary, and moved across the state line to what has been known for the last century and a half as " the Cassidy place".



Pictured above is the Robert Cassidy log house on Amspoker Ridge above Cross Creek. In the picture are John and William, sons of Robert and Isabelle Forbes Cassidy. The house was abandoned in the early 1900s when a frame house, built by Joseph Cassidy, replaced this one.

Three of the sons of Robert and Isabelle grew to adulthood, but little James died at the age of three. He and his little sister, Nancy J. are buried near their parents graves in the old Bethel Graveyard, small white headstones marking their resting place.

Robert died 22 January 1851, but Isabelle survived him by twenty-five years. The Bethel Church records list her death date as 30 October 1876, but the stone which marked her grave a few years ago has disappeared.

Of the three Cassidy brothers who grew to manhood, only Joseph married. John, the youngest, and William, the eldest remained on the home place to live out their lives. John was a dairy farmer as well as a broom-maker by trade. William served in the War Between The States, having been "volunteered" by his mother to go in place of his cousin who was an only son and the father of small children. All three of the Cassidy men were noted in their lifetimes for their extraordinary strength. William Truax, during his lifetime, told this writer that he, personally, had seen each of them at old Virginia Station lift a 200 pound barrel of salt from the ground, up over the sides of a wagon, single-handed.

Joseph married Margaret Ellen Headington, a daughter of John and Jane Murchland Headington, and brought his bride to the Cassidy homestead where the young couple shared living quarters with his elderly mother and two bachelor brothers. Here, in the old log house, were born their three children - Jane Isabelle (Jennie), John Robert, and Mina. But fate had other plans for Joseph and Margaret Ellen. Shortly after the birth of Mina, Margaret Ellen died of the dreaded childbed fever, ending their marriage of five years and five days. Joseph never remarried and life seemed never to be quite the same again.



Joseph Nelson Cassidy



Margaret Ellen's mother, Jane Murchland Headington, took little two year old John Robert to raise, while her sister, Isabelle Headington Wiggins, took the new baby, Mina. But Joseph refused to give up his first-born. Little "Jennie" remained with her father. For a few years, she had her grandmother Isabelle Cassidy as a mother substitute. But when Jennie reached the age of six, this grandmother also died, leaving her to be reared by her widowed father and two bachelor uncles. Years later, after her marriage to David Clarke, an Irish immigrant, and the birth of her children, she and David returned to the old Cassidy place. Here they lived at the time of their deaths just a few months apart in the mid 1930s.

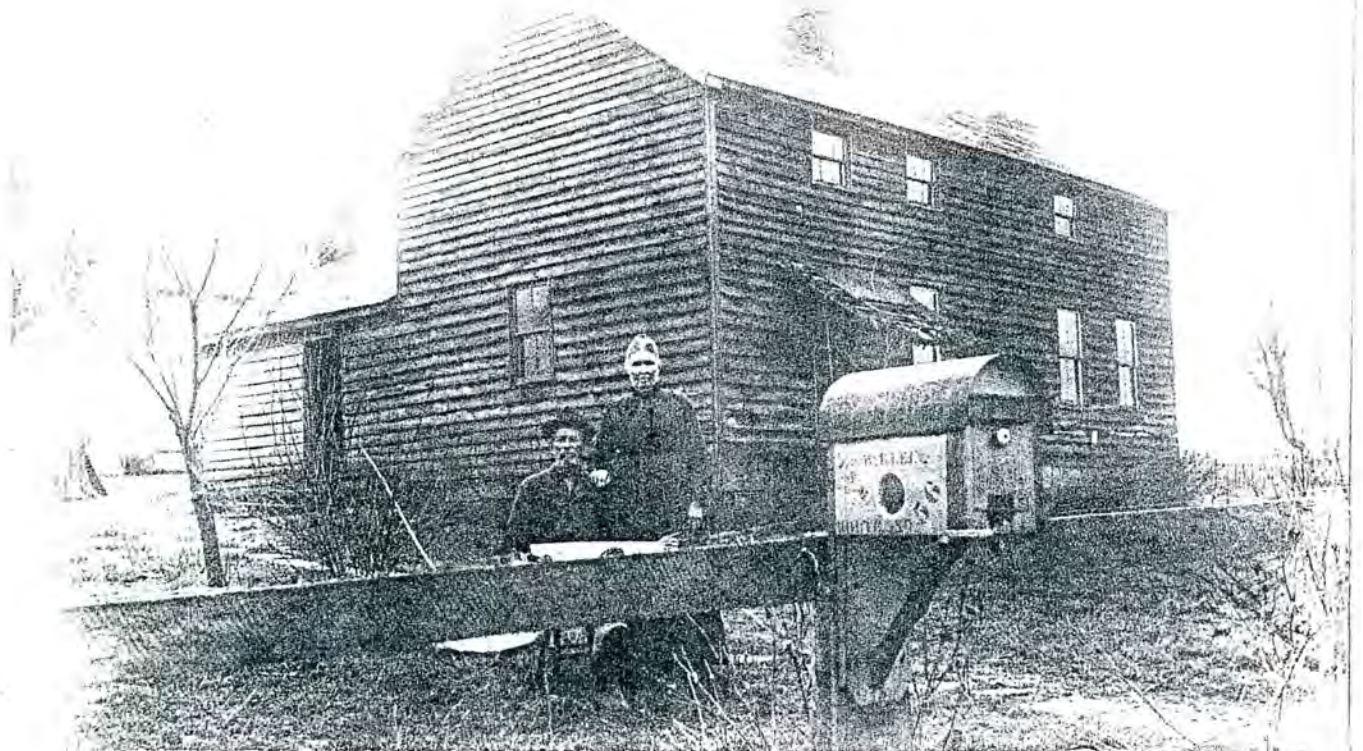
Pictured at the left is the only likeness the family possesses today of Jane Isabelle (Jennie) Cassidy Clarke. Hers was a life of many hardships, but she was well known in her lifetime for her exceptional talent in telling sunny stories, a trait of her Headington ancestors



John Robert Cassidy

John Robert Cassidy, who was reared by his Headington grandmother after the death of his mother, grew to manhood on the old Headington farm on the hilltop above Virginville. He married Flora Lantz and bought the old John Frederick Klein property joining his grandmother's land and lying in Pennsylvania bordering the state line. He was a staunch supporter of the Bethel Methodist Church where his wife served many years as song leader, Sunday School Superintendent and teacher. They were the parents of three sons and one daughter. This daughter, Rosetta, was organist and pianist at Bethel for many years during her youth. Two of their sons died as small children. The surviving son, Nelson Cassidy, married but had no issue. Rosetta, however, who married Joseph Pugne, left the world with some descendants of the Robert Cassidy line.

In physical appearance, John Robert Cassidy resembled his Headington ancestors. He was a quiet, unassuming man of few words. He was an excellent carpenter and in his later years, built for himself a home on the remaining eight acres in Pennsylvania of the original Robert Cassidy farm. This feat he performed under trying circumstances, having lost his right arm in an accident prior to that time.



Home of John Frederick Klein, later, the John Robert and Flora Lantz Cassidy home.

With the death of Nelson Cassidy, son of John Robert and Flora Lantz Cassidy, the Cassidy name from the Robert and Isabella Cassidy line, nearly disappeared. Their descendants are many but they bear such names as Kerns, Clarke, Campbell, and Pugne. And as the name disappeared, so did the old home place, like its neighbors - the Steen, Amspoker, and Grigsby houses - victims of the coal strippers. For this writer, not one vestige of "Grandma's Place" remains today. Even the spring from which we drank as children has disappeared along with the huge willow tree where we played childish games with our cousins. All that remains is the picture of the old log house on an accompanying page, and the memory of homemade bread and butter piled high with brown sugar every time we went to Grandma's.



Pictured above is Mina Cassidy Kerns, youngest child of Joseph and Margaret Ellen Headington Cassidy - sister of Jane Isabelle (Jennie) Cassidy Clarke and John Robert Cassidy - and granddaughter of Robert and Isabelle. Mina married Thomas Kerns, a handsome, talented man who was unexcelled in musical ability. She was reared by her aunt, Isabelle Headington Wiggins, on the John Wiggins, Jr. property, later known as the Dailey home on Cross Creek.