

# *They also Came*

The Stories of 70 Lesser Known  
Jefferson Township Families

by  
June Campbell Grossman Welch

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

# They

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## **Acknowledgements**

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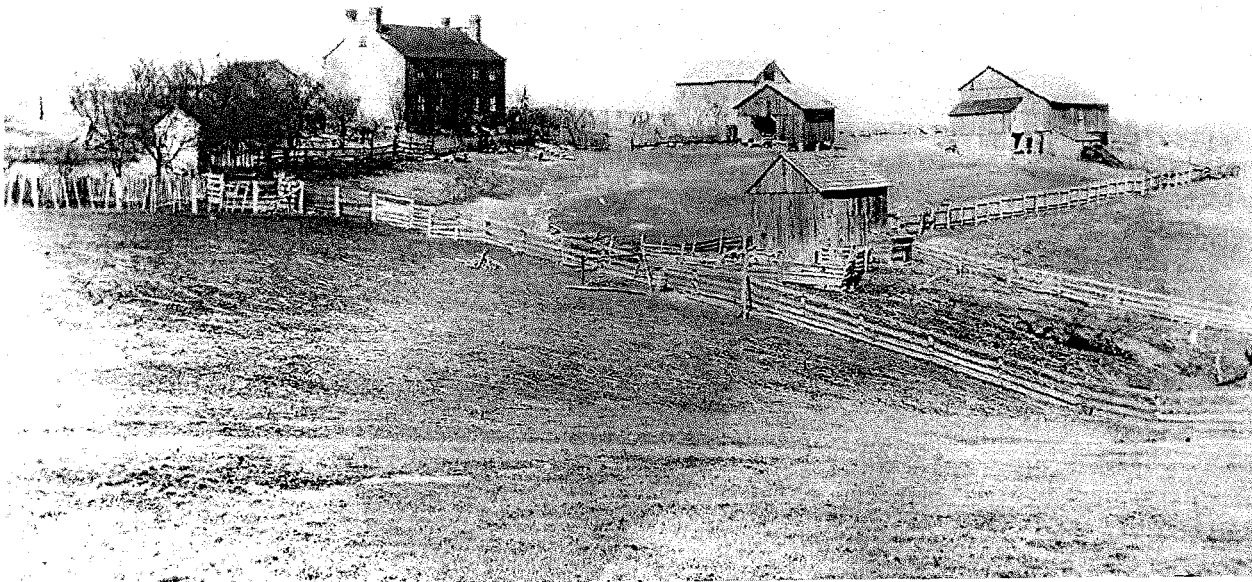
**Other persons who have provided data, an occasional old picture or bit of information are too numerous to mention, but are deeply appreciated for their contribution.**

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## **The McCuen Families**

**The first McCuen to appear in the Cross Creek/Jefferson Township census records is a Jane McCuen in 1810. She had in her household six males and four females in addition to herself. Jane is listed in the "over age 45" bracket. The ten other persons are probably her children. This writer believes that the location of the McCuens in 1810, is on the hilltop north east of the old "Greathouse Castle", home of the Samuel Gardner family for years. (Greathouse Castle is remembered today as the home of Gaylord and Helen Martin before their retirement to the Village of Eldersville.) The McCuen farm looked down on the Shintown mining camp in its heyday. All of the buildings are now gone and no sign remains of the extensive complex which comprised the living and farming areas of the family. Today, people recall this property as the home of the Kayatins in the days of the Shintown mine.**



**Careful study of census records and cemetery listings of the area provide some data concerning Jane's children. There is no definite proof that the following conjectures are totally accurate, but they provide a framework for anyone researching the McCuens to use as a guide.**

**William may have been the eldest son, and Thomas was definitely the youngest. From the records of the Cross Creek Presbyterian Church, early baptismal listings were carefully transcribed by the late A.D.White during his lifetime. One entry is particularly vital to this study. On 29 July 1804, the baptism of Thomas McCuen is recorded with this note: "son of Wm. McCuen, presented by his widow". No other baptisms in the later records reveal children of a William McCuen. This Thomas fits the data given in census records where a Thomas from this McCuen family is listed. This brief entry also tells us that Thomas's father was named William and that he was dead by 1804. Since Jane is the only McCuen entry in 1810, this William was, no doubt, her husband and the father of her ten children.**

**This writer believes that Jane died between 1830 and 1840, and was in her late seventies or early eighties. Her name appears only in the 1810 census listing, but she is most certainly the adult of advanced age listed in her son William's household in 1820, and in her son Thomas's household in 1830. This elderly person disappears after the 1830 census. Unfortunately, this author has been unable to find her grave.**

**In 1820, William McCuen was listed as the head of this household. It still contained four boys and two girls plus the elderly female who is no doubt Jane. From comparing neighbors in the census listing, the McCuens were probably living in the same location as they were in 1810.**

**There are no records of the names of the four McCuen girls. The two who left the nest by 1820, probably married. A third disappeared from the household the following decade, but to all indications, one girl remained single. She appears in the household of her brother, Thomas, in both 1830 and 1840, and then is gone.**

**Jane's sons, Samuel and James, were in separate households of their own in the 1820 censuses. Samuel is shown with a wife, a son and three daughters under the age of ten. Later listings state that Samuel's wife had a given name of Elizabeth. James was married by 1820, but had no children as yet. He is missing from the next census but reappears in 1840, with five sons and four daughters. He left the area before the taking of the 1850 census so the name of his wife is unknown.**

**The 1830 census reveals that William had married shortly after 1820, and produced three sons and a daughter by 1830. At that time, he was living next door (or perhaps in the same house) with his youngest brother, Thomas. His mother, Jane, was living with Thomas and his growing family, at the old homestead. William left the area before 1840. It may be that after Jane, the mother, passed away, William and James felt free to strike out on their own. Two of their brothers (names unknown) had apparently done so at an earlier time, since 1820, is the last time that the entire family can be accounted for in the Jefferson Township area census records.**

**Thomas, the youngest of the McCuen boys, married Rebecca Johnston. They spent their lives at the old homestead. It is not known at what point in time the big mansion house was built or just who may have had it constructed. No doubt the family first lived in primitive conditions customary to life in the early eighteen hundreds. But eventually the big house and many outbuildings were added to make life a little easier. But life never got easier for Thomas's wife, Rebecca. It is difficult to find as heart breaking a story as that of Rebecca.**

Thomas and Rebecca were probably married in the mid 1820s. A son whose name is not known to this author, and a daughter, Jane, were under the age of five in 1830. The siblings whose births followed that of Jane were: Eleanor, James, Mary Ann, William, Johnston, and Thomas. Thomas was born on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May in 1845. And at some point between his conception and the taking of the 1850 census, his father died. Cemetery inscriptions are too faded to give an exact date for his death, but he was in the prime of life – possibly his middle forties. This must have shattered Rebecca's dreams and placed a tremendous burden upon her. She was the head of the family when the 1850 census was taken. Her eldest son had apparently moved elsewhere, leaving her with the seven remaining children between the ages of 20 and 5. But what Rebecca did not know was that the hard times had not even begun.

Beginning on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March in 1860, when the eldest daughter, Jane, died at the age of 30, Rebecca was to bury five of her eight children before the late fall of 1869. No record remains of the causes of these untimely deaths. They do not appear to be from a dread disease epidemic since no two are within the same calendar year. But the white marble tombstones on the top of the hill behind the Eldersville Methodist Church are mute reminders of the stark reality of these events. Rebecca spent the rest of her life, until her own death in the spring of 1881, at the age of 76, with her two remaining sons, James and Thomas. Shortly before her death, it appears that Thomas moved her with him to the village, leaving James to operate the farm. A final sad note is the death of Rebecca's youngest son, Thomas, on Christmas Day in 1888, just seven years after his mother's passing. He was but 43 years of age. None of these last seven children married.

After the deaths of his mother and six siblings, James remained for a time on the old homestead. Eventually he sold it and moved out. At his death, his remains were placed in the little row of graves beside his parents, three brothers, and three sisters, on the top of the hill behind the Eldersville Church.

It is not known if the eldest son of Thomas and Rebecca ever married or had issue. If not, then the death of James in 1901, was the very end of Thomas McCuen's line. One must agree that the probability of having seven children, none of whom married or had issue is extremely small. It is certainly not what Jane must have had in mind when she took her little son, Thomas, to be baptized at the old Cross Creek Presbyterian Church that 29<sup>th</sup> of July back in 1804. Life can take some strange and heart-rending turns.

Jane McCuen's son, Samuel, was probably one of her older children. He and his wife, Elizabeth, were the parents of four boys and four girls. They were: Jane, born 4 November 1813; Nancy, born 10 September 1815; Eliza, born 21 June 1817; William, born 13 December 1819; Samuel, Jr., born 22 July 1822; Sarah Mariah, born 21 March 1824; John, born 5 March 1827; and David Clark, born 2 August 1829.

These birth dates are recorded in the baptismal records of the Cross Creek Church where Elizabeth, herself, had been baptized 15 February 1813. This was after her marriage to Samuel but some time before the birth of their children. She was 21 years old at the time. Elizabeth's maiden name is not known, but she and Samuel and their children appear to be the only McCuens to have affiliation with the Cross

**Creek Church. It is probable that Elizabeth was from the Cross Creek area prior to her marriage.**

**Since the married names of Samuel and Elizabeth's four daughters are not known, some of them may have remained in the Jefferson Township area but simply cannot be spotted in the records. But of the four sons, Samuel, Jr. always remained close to the home fireside all of his life, as did the youngest son, David, at least until after the deaths of the parents. David remained at home nearly forty years before he married. In the 1870 census after his parents were gone, he was still living either on the old farm of his parents or very nearby. He does not appear in any later township record.**

**The homestead farm of Samuel McCuen, Sr. referred to above is located between Cedar Grove Road and Karch Road, and was known in later years as the W.M. Truax Farm. Today it is owned and occupied by the family of Elmer Link.**

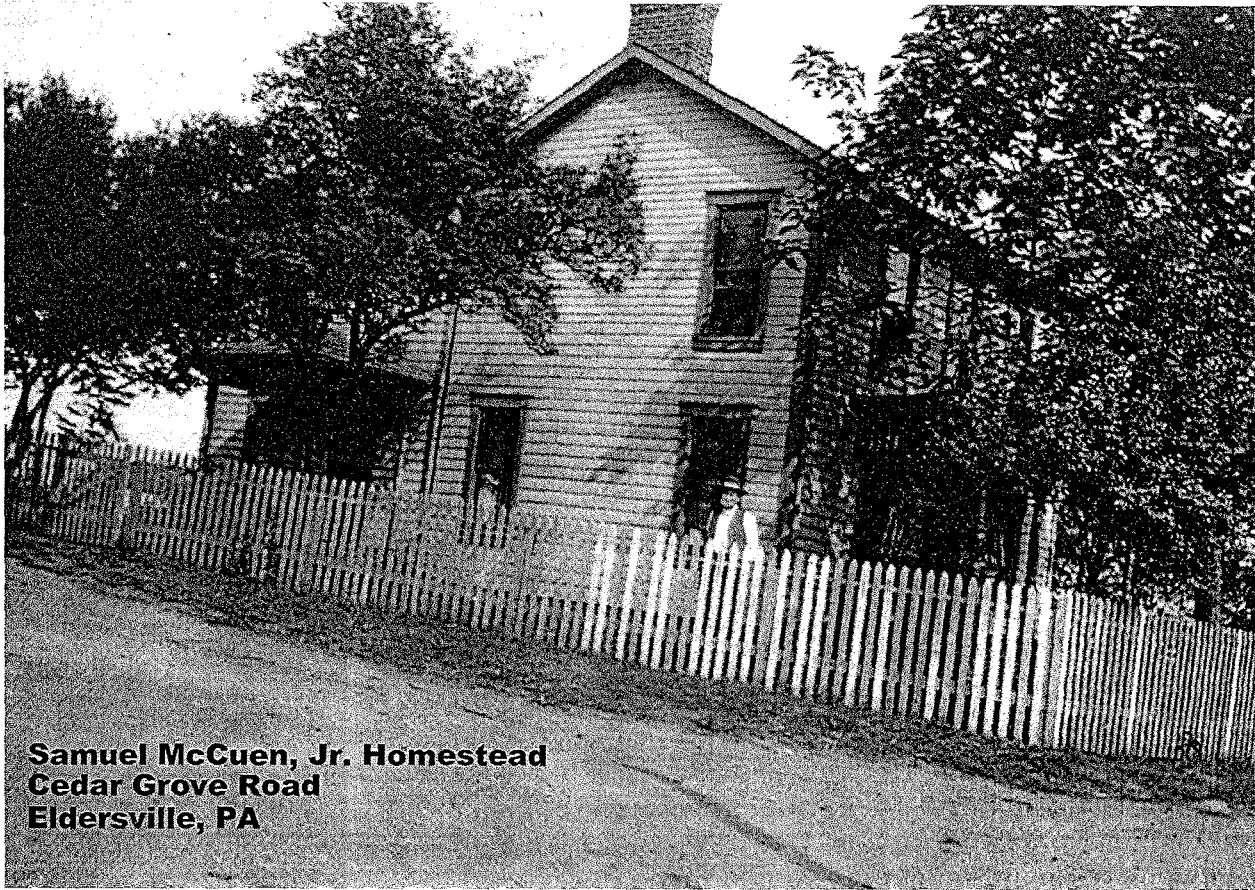


***Samuel McCuen, Sr. Homestead***

**Samuel, Sr. died in November of 1863, at the age of 80. He is shown in the 1860 census living in the village of Eldersville not far from Samuel, Jr. Perhaps he was no longer able to care for the farm he must have loved so well. Elizabeth lived six more years after his death. They are buried at Cross Creek Graveyard.**

**Samuel McCuen, Jr. married a girl named Rachel with whom he had four children. These children were: Mary Ann, Thomas Madison, Albert, and Sarah. Samuel and Rachel lived their entire married lives on Cedar Grove Road in Eldersville. The old log house they called home has been deftly camouflaged with a new façade, but still stands in its same spot in the heart of town. For years, it was known as the Walter Lee home. Louis Wiegmann and family lived there after the Lees. Today, Louis's granddaughter, Dalene Wiegmann Alrutz, calls it home.**





**Samuel McCuen, Jr. Homestead  
Cedar Grove Road  
Eldersville, PA**

**Tragedy struck the little family of Samuel and Rachel twice during the growing-up years of the children. Sarah died in 1860, at the age of 5, and Albert in 1864, at the age of 11. No record exists explaining these tragic deaths. Mary Ann apparently married and left home for a life of her own, but Thomas Madison was still living with his parents, unmarried at the age of 29, in 1880. His father died in 1887, at the age of 65. Rachel lived another eleven years.**

**The story of the McCuens of Jefferson Township is similar to that of many pioneer families of the area. They lived, they loved, they reared their children, they laughed, and they wept when they buried their dead. The hardships they endured cannot be measured by those of us who have never known such primitive ways. But in the lives of their children's children – wherever they are- their dreams live on. The old house on the hill above Eldersville where William and Jane came shortly after 1800 is gone forever. But perhaps with the telling of this tale, which is woven together by the meager fragments of information that exist today, the name of McCuen will not be forgotten. That first little family came to the Jefferson Township area to stay. And after a hundred years, they were still here.**

## **The Samuel Leeper Family**

**Samuel Leeper was born circa 1747, in Chanceford Township, York County, Pennsylvania, the son of James and Margaret McKee Leeper. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of September in 1786, he patented 399 acres on the north west side of Jefferson Township joining the lands of Robert McCready, Edward Justin, James Watson, Henry Bowling and others. He named his patent "Trouble". He was one of the first settlers in the area and was listed as a taxpayer on the Washington County Tax List of 1781, and can be found in the Cross Creek Township, Washington County, Census of 1790. Samuel's farm in later years was basically divided into two farms known in the past 75 years as the Tony Resnik property and the Andy Mikus property. After the Leepers left the Jefferson Township area, these farms were owned by Robert and George Pogue from the old Pogue family on Miller Road in the township.**

**A short distance from the Leeper Farm was the home of James Clark, another early settler, whose wife had died leaving him with three daughters. Samuel Leeper married Margaret (Nancy) Clark and took her home with him to the Leeper Farm. Her sister, Elizabeth, married another local young man, John Gardner, while Rachel became the wife of William Wells and moved with him to Columbiana County, Ohio, where the town of Wellsville was named for them.**

**Samuel and Margaret were married circa 1773, so in all probability, he was in the Jefferson Township area at that time. They were the parents of the following children. a) James, born circa 1773, married Elizabeth Kent, died in Ohio about 1823 at the age of about 50, had nine children. b) Alexander, born 1775, married Sarah, died in Ohio in 1858 at the age of 83, had 8 children. c) Margaret, born circa 1778, married Alexander Snodgrass, had one child. d) William, born 1782, married Rachel Hill, died in Ohio in 1864 at the age of 82, had children Crestine and James. e) Mary, born circa 1784, married Robert Ward. f) Elizabeth, born 1788, married Joseph McCready, son of her neighbor Robert McCready, moved to Columbiana, County, Ohio, where they raised a family and she died the day before Christmas in 1859 at the age of 71. g) Nancy, born 1793, married first John Everett and had a son James, and second Alexander McConnell and had children Jane and Eliza, died in 1881. h) Samuel, married Ann Everett.**

**Samuel Leeper, the pioneer, died on his farm in August of 1805, at the age of 58. In his will, he made provision for one of his sons to care for their mother. In 1813, Alexander, the second son, apparently had a problem with his brother, Samuel, Jr., so their neighbor, Robert McCready, who was a Justice of the Peace among other things, drew up an agreement between them, whereby Alexander was to get a clear deed to the property providing that he pay specified amounts to his brother for the next four years, and undertake the care of his mother as directed by his father in his will. Apparently this settled the situation since the brothers, according to census records, seemed to be living beside each other until 1830, when Samuel apparently moved on. Their mother, Margaret Clark Leeper, died in 1829. By the time the census accounting was made in 1840, the Leeper name was gone from the township. It would appear that since Alexander, without any brothers, was on the old homestead in 1830 after his mother's death, he must have fulfilled the requirement of**

the agreement with his brother back in 1813. He apparently took care of his mother to the end, staying on the old farm until after her death,

No amount of research by this writer has uncovered the graves of Samuel and Margaret. Samuel died in 1805, which was before the official creation of the graveyards at either Bethel or Eldersville. The Cross Creek Presbyterian Church records do not show these Leeper graves, nor does the Tent Church, which was practically in their back yard. In all probability, they were buried in a family plot on the farm. Since this writer was born and reared on the Robert McCready farm adjoining that of Samuel Leeper, a number of elderly persons in the past have been questioned about the possibility of such a private burial plot. No one consulted, even those who were known to be hunters and "walkers", reported having ever seen evidence of such a burial place.

In a very old newspaper clipping, given to this author by Robert Boyd McCready, grandson of the first Robert McCready, when he neared his one hundredth birthday, was the account of an interview with Margaret Leeper's sister, Elizabeth Clark Gardner. Elizabeth died in 1853, at the age of 95, the interview having taken place just shortly before her death. In her conversation, she reported a hair-raising incident of her youth when Indians had ransacked their cabin as she hid in the loft covered with flax. A young neighbor man who came to take her to Wells Fort for safety, never arrived at his destination, but was scalped by the Indians when he stopped at a spring for water. After telling the story, Elizabeth made this comment: "We buried him under the gum tree on the Leeper Farm where a number of others before him had been laid to rest". Since Elizabeth Gardner was Margaret Leeper's sister, she would certainly have been familiar with the Leeper Farm.

This little piece of information may hold the key to the location of the graves of Samuel and Margaret. But to find exactly WHERE they are on that old farm, the curious may have to wait until the Roll Is Called Up Yonder for the answer.



*The Robert Pogue Homestead, later built on the Samuel Leeper property*

## **The Robert C. Osburn Family**

**Robert C. Osburn was one of Jefferson Township's most successful merchants. His grandfather, James Osburn, was born in Ireland where he married a lady whose surname was Cutcheon. Eventually James emigrated from the Emerald Isle and settled in Washington County, Pennsylvania, after arriving in the New World. Some of his children settled in Westmoreland County while others moved to the area of Johnstown where a granddaughter, her husband, and six children perished in the infamous Johnstown Flood.**

**One son of this pioneer, James Osburn, Jr., was born in Ireland and came with his parents to America at the age of nine. He was a farmer and a miller by occupation. The Cross Creek Township 1830 census shows him living within range of Scotts Mill on Scotts Run (later Kidds Mill), the mill at Pattersons Mill, and the Buxton Mill. Beers history states that he practiced milling while living in Jefferson Township, but his location makes it impossible to tell at which of these grist mills he may have worked. James married Martha McKennett, the daughter of Adam and Rebecca Johnston McKennett of Robinson Township. James and Martha were the parents of four children, one of whom died in infancy. Of the other sons, James Jr., remained in Robinson Township, George W. settled in Burgettstown, and Robert C. came to Eldersville.**

**Robert C. Osburn had been born 25 March 1841. When he was two years of age, his father died at the age of 41. His mother died in 1885, at the age of 82 years. Robert lived on the home place with his brothers and mother until the age of 18 during which time he received a very good education. He taught school for five years and then attended Duff's Mercantile College in Pittsburgh, graduating in 1864. He also served in the Civil War. About 1864, he moved to Eldersville and opened his own general store. Since this was immediately after the Civil War, prices were sky high and it took a great deal of money to establish a viable inventory of goods. But Robert was a most industrious man and was determined to make a success of his business. He had to haul goods from Steubenville with horses and wagon to stock his store, which was a task of no small proportions. But during the remainder of his life, he made a gigantic success of the business, eventually becoming the proprietor of dry goods, groceries, and hardware. He was well liked in the area and was elected to a number of township offices.**

**Robert's private life was not quite so successful. In 1868, he married Mary Robertson, daughter of the well known James P. Robertson of Eldersville. They had no children. Mary died in 1877, and he buried her in the Eldersville Graveyard. Robert married for a second time, choosing Hannah Knight, daughter of W.W. Knight, who was one of the best educators of the township. But Hannah died in 1882, and was buried near Robert's first wife. Eventually, Robert married for the third time, choosing Hattie McConnell of Hanover Township. Hattie and Robert seemed very well suited to each other and her interest in the store business complimented his own. After their marriage, Robert hired Cyrus McConnell to build him a new store building with living quarters in the back. This store stood where, years before, John Wheeler had his tailor shop. It was built in 1871, and stood about a hundred years.**

It was located on what is today Cedar Grove Road in the village, on the east side of the James P. Robertson house, now the home of Eleanor Kidd.

On the east side of the Osburn home and store, was the beautiful big house of Agnes Murchland. The two families were very compatible and shared the well which together they hired dug to meet their water needs. The well was located on the Murchland property inside the white picket fence. One day, someone left the top off the well and the cat fell in. Agnes Murchland was horrified and screamed that the well would have to be pumped out and cleaned. But a bystander had another idea. He exchanged the old oaken bucket for a basket and lowered it into the well. Immediately, the cat jumped into the basket and was pulled to the surface. For a long time thereafter, that pussy cat was a village celebrity.

Oliver Scott was one of the Osburn's neighbors across the street. He and Robert were good friends and decided to try a new business together. They started a brick-making plant on Maiden Alley, but business was not good for a long time after the Civil War, so they abandoned it. After Robert's death on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March in 1900, Robert's old business partner, Oliver Scott, married his widow. Harriet is buried at Bethel with Oliver and a myriad of her husband's Scott relatives. Robert was buried beside his first two wives in Eldersville.

During the heyday of Osburn's Store, Hattie had a finger in the pie along with her husband. She made beautiful hats in one of the back rooms of their home and sold them in the store. The place for years was known in Eldersville as Hattie Osburn's Hat Shoppe.

Robert Osburn left no descendants. He had a very humble beginning and struggled greatly to make a life for himself. In this, he was well rewarded. Robert C. Osburn, at the time of his death, was considered to be one of the most successful, energetic, spirits Jefferson Township claimed for its own.



## **The William Richardson Family**

**William Richardson first appeared in the Jefferson Township area in the 1840 census records. At that time he was living near Harmon Creek with three Criss families and three Wright families not far away. This was a natural place for William to be since his wife was Margaret Wright and her mother was Sarah Criss. To further emphasize that much of this area was a family affair, it can be noted that two of the Wright homes near the Richardsons belonged to Margaret's brothers, while the third Wright dwelling was Margaret's former home where her parents, Samuel and Sarah Criss Wright, still lived. It is also true that two of the Criss properties nearby were occupied by Margaret's uncles.**

**A quick look at a map of this area reveals that Hanover and Jefferson townships are separated by Harmon Creek. Many families owned property which was later decreed to lie in both political areas. To find the Richardson family prior to the Cross Creek 1840 census ( of which Jefferson Township was a part), it is necessary to check the records of neighboring Hanover. The 1830 census confirms the Richardsons' presence. In fact, William may have been just across the creek from where he is first found in Jefferson Township ten years later in 1840.**

**Checking ages of children in these early records leads to the very probable assumption that William came to Pennsylvania after the 1820 census had been taken but before 1824, when he must have asked Margaret Wright to be his wife.**

**Later census records reported that William Richardson had been born in Ohio circa 1800. How he happened to come to this particular area in Pennsylvania is not known. About the only other known fact about him is that he was a cooper by trade, a skill which he apparently passed on to some of his children and grandchildren.**

**It should be noted at this point that there were other Richardson families in the area during the time that William and Margaret were busy with their young family. An Isaac and wife, Nancy Williams Richardson, are listed in the Cross Creek 1830 and 1840 censuses. They may or may not have had a blood connection to William.**

**In 1830, a Matthew Richardson appeared in the Cross Creek records not very far from William. It is known that his wife was Catherine Draper and that Matthew died in 1836, leaving at least two small boys and two small girls. There is no further information about his wife and children. The similar ages of the two men and their proximity of location may indicate that Matthew and William were cousins or brothers. It is also an interesting fact that William named one of his sons Matthew.**

**Yet another Richardson appeared on the Jefferson Township scene sometime between 1820 and 1825. Frances Richardson, reputed to have been born in Maryland in 1802, and supposedly "one of the Eldersville Richardsons", married William Steen of Scott Hollow Road circa 1825. Nothing further is known of her background. (She and William Steen were the parents of seven children. The two eldest girls died in 1837 with scarlet fever. In 1861, Frances and her eldest son, Reynolds Steen, died one day apart during another dread disease epidemic. Two other daughters died as a result of childbirth.) Frances was near the age of William Richardson with whom this writing is most concerned. But William reported a birthplace of Ohio while Frances claimed Maryland as her native state. There may have been no connection**

between the two. If there was no blood bond, a great unanswered question about these early residents is: "Who was Frances Richardson?" How did a young lady of age 20 get to Jefferson Township from Maryland in the early 1820s, unless some of her family were already here? As of today, that question still remains unanswered.

The Nathaniel Richardson family was in residence in Hanover Township in 1840, and in Jefferson in 1850. This Nathaniel married Rachel Wright, a sister of William Richardson's wife. Some descendants have written that Nathaniel was William's brother, but no concrete evidence of this was presented.

William spent his early years in this area in the northern end of the township next to Harmon Creek. But sometime in the 1840s, he moved his family to the Village of Eldersville. In the 1850 census he was found in the big house on the corner of what is today Cedar Grove Road and Eldersville Road.



*The William Richardson House*

Old timers would call it the "John Boles property". Also living not far from William's front door was a Joshua Richardson who was eleven years William's junior. His Ohio birthplace may suggest a close relationship between the two men.

By 1850, six of the children of Margaret and William were still living at home, namely, Joseph, Elizabeth, Matthew, Ruth, Melissa, and Mary Jane. (A faded tombstone in the northwest corner of Eldersville Cemetery indicates that a little Rachel died at the age of two and a half and also a Samuel. Dates of these deaths are no longer readable on this stone.) The other known children, Sarah and Nancy Ella, were married during the five year period prior to the census recording in 1850. Sarah's spouse was John Beany while Nancy Ella wed John Rinehart Klein, a young man from the southern part of the township. (According to the census of 1860, after this ten year interval, the only children still unmarried were Matthew and Mary Jane.)

The decades of the fifties and sixties were traumatic ones for the entire nation. The Village of Eldersville was no exception. Even before 1850, it is rumored that shades of the great Civil War loomed on the horizon. Folks crossed to the other side of the road to avoid a face to face meeting with someone who was once an old friend. Blood brothers turned bitterly against each other. Even the churches took sides in the all-consuming issue of the day - SLAVERY.

Times were ripe for trouble-makers to come to the forefront. One of the "agitators" of the town was a man named John Allingham. He operated a hotel and tavern across the road from the Richardsons.



*The John Allingham Hotel, Tavern, and Home*

This place of business gave him plenty of access to people on both sides of the fence. His name appears in old court records a number of times, the issues being slander, cheating, and such. Those bringing suit were generally persons who had felt the sting of his treachery. Allingham, however, was a mentally sharp man who usually managed to have others accomplish his goals for him and bear the brunt of retaliation for actions which he had instigated.

One such incident occurred when two men set fire to the barn of William Melvin, completely destroying the building and its contents. This was a tremendous loss which included Melvin's winter supply of hay for his livestock. William was prominent in the White Church movement which was dominated by bitter opponents of slavery. Many of these persons had withdrawn from churches where they and their forebears had worshipped for generations. They believed that any one who supported the slave issue had no business in a church. As a result, they banded



together and built the so-called "White Church" near the heart of town. Melvin's strong support of this movement made him a likely target for the opposition.

The identification and apprehension of the suspects in this crime were carried out in part by William Richardson's son-in-law, John Beany, who lived with his family in the big two-story house at the end of Scott Hollow Road. The Richardson family must have been deeply affected by this terrible upheaval which shook the little town to the core.

A man from a well-established old family of the township was eventually convicted and sentenced to time in prison for this crime of arson. But most townspeople believed that the real instigator of the affair was John Allingham.

It was, of course, but a couple of years from the barn-burning incident to the breaking out of the great Civil War. Young men responded to the call for volunteers and marched bravely off to glory or to death. Among the locals who signed up was John Rinehart Klein, a son-in-law of William and Margaret Richardson. From the peaceful mien of the little village in which they had settled many years ago to the agitation and uneasiness of the sixties, the change of atmosphere may have been the undoing of William Richardson. The very foundation of his life had been shattered. This, coupled with the horror of real war, may have been too much. On the sixth of November in 1864, six years before his promised three score years and ten, William Richardson left this world in the hopes of finding a better one. Margaret buried him beside their two little ones down over the hill behind the church, almost within sight of home. It was to be well over twenty more years before her children would bring her remains back to the area for burial beside him.

By 1870, with the war finally behind, Margaret's last two children, Matthew and Mary Jane, married. Mary Jane moved in with her mother in the big house on the corner in Eldersville and Matthew lived in this same structure with his wife and growing brood of little ones. Maybe life would get back on an even keel after all.

But shortly before Christmas, on the fourth of December in 1872, an event took place across the street from Richardsons which rocked the community into a turmoil from which it was years in recovering. John Allingham, whose loud-voiced opinions had dominated the town pump corner for decades, was murdered in his sleep. Margaret Richardson's son, Matthew, was the first at the scene, since Allingham's wife had dashed across the road on that frigid night and pounded frantically on the door of her neighbor's house. Matthew immediately alerted others nearby that a heinous crime had been committed right in the heart of town under their very eyes. The apprehension, trial, and ultimate conviction of the suspect whom most residents believed to be innocent, dominated the thinking of the little village for years to come.

It was some time after this event that the Richardsons left Jefferson Township. New faces looked out of the windows in the big house on the corner. The Cooper brothers worked diligently to make their store of general merchandise, which joined the old Richardson place, a triumphant success. People tried to weave together again the fabric of their lives which had been torn apart by the events of the times. But there are no records uncovered by this researcher of anybody by the name of Richardson ever living again in the township, after the great Eldersville murder of 1872.

## **John Beany Family**

**John Beany was born in England, 6 May 1823. Before he reached the age of three years, he was brought by his mother to America. Settling in Steubenville, Ohio, his mother, Sarah Beany, married John S. Bates, also born in England. It is not known if Bates made the trip to this country with Sarah and little John, but in 1826, Sarah gave birth to her second child. It has been reported that she was married a total of four times during her lifetime and had a total of seven children. Nothing is known of John Beany's father.**

**Just how John eventually found his way to Eldersville is not known. But on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July in 1845, he married Sarah Richardson in Eldersville and they lived there until sometime between January 15<sup>th</sup> in 1865 and the first of April in 1867.**

**John Beany's wife, Sarah Richardson, was the daughter of William and Margaret Wright Richardson and was born 6 January 1824 most probably in the Jefferson Township area.**

**The house in which the Beanies lived while in the local area is still standing today.**



***John Beany Homestead, Corner of Cedar Grove & Scott Hollow Roads***

**It is not known who built the house, but it is known to be very old. No picture of it in its original appearance has surfaced. The photo below is how it appears today. It is currently owned and occupied by Kurt and Carrie Torpey and family. A number of Eldersville families have lived in this house over the years. It has been extensively remodeled a number of times so that neither the interior nor its outward appearance bears much resemblance to the original.**

**While the Beany family lived in Eldersville, eight of their nine children were born. They were: Margaret Jane, born 4 November 1846, married Peter Van Buren Cox; Sarah Elizabeth, born 20 August 1848, and died 17 January 1852; Nancy Ann, born 18 September 1851, married James Robertson; Elzina, born 11 May 1853, married Joseph Johnson; William Wesley, born 11 September 1856; John Thompson, born 15 September 1859; Addie, born 10 August 1862; Tressie Lillie, born 15 January 1865, married David England. Their last child, Lettie, was born in Steubenville, Ohio, 7 October 1867, after the family had moved there. Lettie never married. She died 1 October 1888, in Steubenville at the age of nearly 21 years. She is buried with the Beany family in Union Cemetery, Jefferson County, Ohio.**

**John Beany was a bricklayer by occupation and for a number of years he served as constable for Jefferson Township. On 18 December 1857, while John Beany was serving as constable, a large barn in the township was deliberately set on fire. It was John Beany who eventually helped to bring the two men responsible for the arson into custody. Much of the evidence at the trial in March of 1859, was based on testimony submitted by W.W.Knight, a close friend of Beany and a highly respected citizen of the township. This affair dominated the minds of area citizens for years after the event. Most small villages like Eldersville were in a constant state of agitation at this time due to the conflicting opinions on slavery and the temperance issue. The Civil War was just over the horizon and John Beany, like all of his neighbors, was caught up in the drama of the age. Early newspaper accounts of the trial concerning the burning of the William Melvin barn, are replete with the story of the part Beany played in the event.**

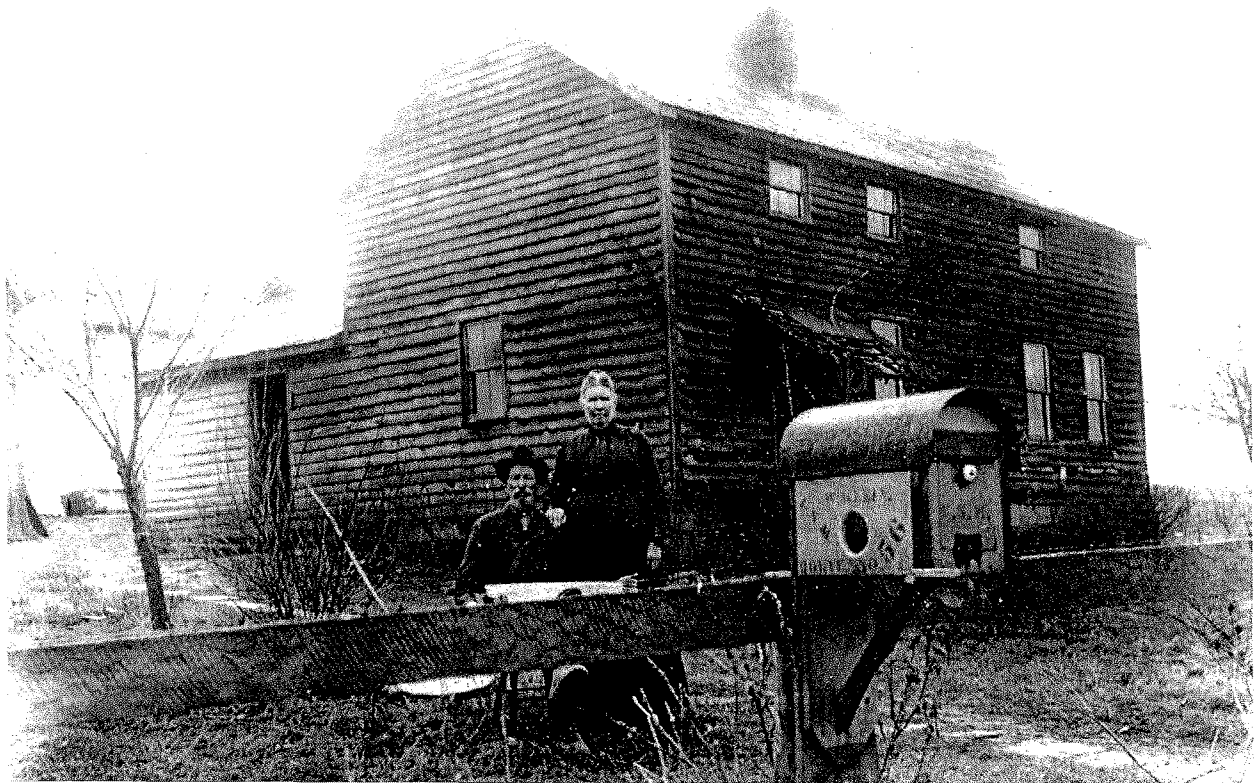
**It is not known why John Beany left the Eldersville area when he did, but the sale of his property to Jemima McCarroll states that at the time of the sale, 1 April 1867, John and Sarah were living in Steubenville, Ohio. Jemima was the young wife of Dr. McCarroll of the Eldersville area and it was in that house that they lived for many, many years and in which he set up his practice of medicine.**

**Little seems to be known about the lives of John and Sarah after they left the Eldersville area. It is believed that Sarah died 31 May 1896. After her death, John went to live with their eldest daughter, Margaret Jane Cox, in Macon County, Missouri. He lived nearly another ten years after the death of his wife, dying 18 January 1906. His children returned his body to the Steubenville area where he was buried beside his wife of over fifty years in Union Cemetery. His obituary states that at the time of his death, only his two sons and two of his seven daughters were still alive.**

## **John Freiderich Klein Family**

**On the 4<sup>th</sup> of November in 1816, John Freiderich Klein arrived at the Port of Philadelphia to begin a new life for himself. He listed his age as 22, his occupation as butcher, and his home as Marburg, Germany. It is believed that his father was Jonann Heinrich Kleinhen and his mother was Maria Elizabetha Schmidt. He had been born 3 February 1794.**

**He met and married Margaret Metz, probably in Virginia, sometime before 1820. It is probable that they lived in Virginia until late 1830 when they came to the southern part of what is today Jefferson Township. One of their sons who was born in 1830, lists his birthplace as Pennsylvania, but the Kleins are not listed in the 1830 census of the area. It was on the bottomland, near the stream of Cross Creek, that John and his family lived in a log house with their ten children. The last six or seven children were, no doubt, born there. This house was on the site of an old log cabin which, as early as 1811, had been used as a subscription school for children of the area whose parents could afford to help pay for a teacher. After many years, the Kleins lived in Penobscot in what became known as the Klein Homestead. The old log house down on Cross Creek was then abandoned.**



***Klein Homestead in Penobscot***

Only three of the Klein children were girls. The eldest daughter, Louisa Susanna, married George Veasy and had a child who was born in 1860. But the following year, George died at the age of 41 and Susanna went back home for a time.

As the seven little boys came along, they set a precedent in naming them. Each was named John, after his father. Of course they gave them each a different middle name by which they were called. Thus the final result was: John Christopher, John Adam, John Heinrich, John Rinehart, John Frederick, John Wilhelm, and John Alexander. It is said that Margaret Ann jokingly told the neighbors it was merely a matter of convenience. When they were growing up and working on the farm with their father, at dinner time, she simply went to the door and called, "John! Dinner is ready". And everyone dropped his hoe and came to eat.

Some of the older sons were trained to be stone masons, Adam and Christopher among them. Adam married Eliza Perrine, a grand daughter of Peter Perrine who was a Revolutionary soldier buried at Bethel. They had three children, but Adam died in 1851 at the age of 24. Eliza took her little ones and moved back with her parents to the Perrine big house in Cedar Grove. Her son, Isaac Perrine Klein, later became one of Wellsburg, West Virginia's outstanding citizens. He was a self educated man and worked as an agent for the railroad. Adam's brother, Rinehart, who married Nancy Richardson from Eldersville, also was a railroad man.

Wilhelm, or William as he was called, married Harriett Stewart. Their greatest sorrow in life was that they had no children. But it was William and Harriett who cared for his parents in their old age. It is believed that William built the house on the hilltop near Penobscot which was always known as the Klein Homestead of Jefferson Township. William's parents, John and Margaret, lived with William in their later years. William served in the Union Army during the Civil War, as did Rinehart. Some of the other sons may also have served.

There is a family story that six of the seven Klein boys served in the Union Army, the youngest remaining at home to help on the farm. The story continues that the six boys returned unharmed only to find that the youngest had been killed by a horse. There may be some small element of fact in this tale, but it is definitely not true as stated. In the first place, Adam, who was one of the older boys, died 8 October 1851, long before the Civil War. Thus he definitely did not serve with his brothers in the Army. And in the second place, Alexander, the youngest, worked in later years at a fabric plant in Cleveland, so was not killed by a horse while his brothers served in Civil War. (Later descendants reported having visited that very plant and their cousins who lived there at a later date.)

In the heart of springtime in 1870, John, the father, died at the age of 76. He was buried at Bethel which was always home to them. Margaret lived fourteen more years, but they were lonely ones. Life is never the same after a mate is gone.

This writer has been unable to find any other information on the children of John and Margaret, even though the Klein family genealogists have been consulted. One of the descendants of the Klein's second daughter, Margaret Ann, has done extensive research on her family. Margaret Ann married John Cariens Baxter, from a prominent family of Brooke County, and left a number of highly esteemed progeny to her credit. One of these, Robert Gracey, an ordained Presbyterian minister who has

**created one of the most comprehensive data bases of former residents of the Brooke County and surrounding areas, willingly supplies interested parties with needed genealogical facts, pictures, etc. on this line of Margaret Ann Klein.**

**Although the Klein name is gone from Jefferson Township, the descendants of this pioneer couple are many. They are a credit to their ancestor forefather, John Freiderich Klein – a lone immigrant boy from Germany, who decided back in 1816 to seek a better life in a strange and far off land.**



**Pictured above is the home of John Cariens Baxter and his wife, Margaret Ann Klein Baxter. This Margaret Ann was the second daughter of John Freiderich and Mary Ann Metz Klein of the Penobscot area of Jefferson Township. This house was believed to have been built by this John Cariens Baxter on the old Homestead of his grandparents, William and Ruth Elson Baxter. This Baxter property stood on a now abandoned road in Brooke County known as Goodwill Road. It ran north and south, joining Eldersville Road with Cross Creek Road. It was parallel to St. Johns and the Tent Church Roads, and was at one time a busy thoroughfare with the old Goodwill School House standing by its side. Although Margaret Ann's parents lived in the Penobscot area of Jefferson Township, it was a relatively short distance for Margaret to travel to visit her parents and the old homestead, using the country lanes of those days.**

## **The Joseph Corbin Family**

The first mention of a Corbin in the Cross Creek area is found in the 1800 census where an Abraham, aged 26-45 with a wife, same age bracket, is named with three sons under the age of ten. In the following census of 1810, Abraham is missing, but an Elizabeth aged 26 – 45 with 3 sons under the age of 10 is found. In the records of the Cross Creek Cemetery, an Abraham Corbin is listed as being buried there, but no dates are given. Also, a Joseph Corbin who died in 1858 and his wife, Margaret, who died in 1856, are also buried there. No age or birth date is given for either. Joseph, however, has the following inscription in the Cross Creek Graveyard Book: "He was wounded at the Battle of Fort Erie in the War of 1812." It is not known if this Joseph is a son of the Abraham and Elizabeth discussed above.

The 1820 and 1830 Cross Creek census records list no one by the name of Corbin. But in 1840, a Joseph aged 30 – 40, with a wife 40 – 50, was found near the Cedar Grove area of the township. Their two sons were aged 5 – 10 and 10 – 15. In 1850, a man named Joseph Corbin, aged 45, with wife, Margaret, aged 53, was living there with a son, David, aged 19. Not far away was a Joseph Corbin, aged 24 with wife, Angeline, aged 18, and daughter, Margaret A. aged 2. This Joseph is, no doubt, the son of the Joseph and Margaret mentioned above, and the brother of David. What connection, if any, there is between this Joseph and Margaret, and the Joseph and Margaret listed in the first paragraph as having been buried at Cross Creek cannot be established. The possibility that Joseph is one of the three sons of Abraham Corbin named in the 1800 records is quite feasible. The three sons were listed in 1800 under the age of 10, so would have been born in the 1790s and could have served in the War of 1812. The only fallacy in this reasoning is that the 1850 census gives Joseph's age as 45, which would make his birth year 1805. To accept that he served in the War of 1812 at the age of 7 is stretching it a wee bit. However, it is possible that his age of 45 is not correct. But the 45 figure agrees with his listing in the census of 1840. Another point in favor of believing that these two Josephs are one and the same man, is that both Joseph and Margaret disappear from the records after 1850. The reader will note that the cemetery record of the first Joseph states that he died in 1858 and Margaret in 1856. Until some definitive proof surfaces, the identity of the soldier of 1812 remains a puzzle.

It is a matter of established fact that the two sons, Joseph and David, of the Joseph and Margaret Corbin, of the 1850 census, both served in the Civil War. Joseph was wounded in the leg at Gettysburg after serving in a number of difficult battles with Company K of the 140<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers. Although it is believed that he was partially crippled the rest of his life, he fared better than his brother, David, who died 21 April 1863 in Stanton Hospital, Washington, D.C., from wounds received at Gettysburg.

Joseph was married to a woman named Angeline and was the father of five children, namely, Margaret, Ann Eliza, Oliver, David, and Hannah Martha before his enlistment at the time of the Civil War. After the war, the following children were born: Joanne, Ulysses, Jennie, Lawrence, and Alexander. At some point after Joseph returned home, his wife apparently died since his mate in the 1880 census is

named Dessa. She is believed to be the mother of his last two children. His first wife probably died about 1870. This writer has been unable to locate the graves of either of Joseph's wives.

During their lifetimes, the Corbins lived a number of years in Jefferson Township on the west side of Cedar Grove Road just south of its intersection with Bethel Ridge Road. This house may have been a tenant house for the Ulysses S. Wheeler property. It has been gone for many years.

Joseph's daughter, Hannah Martha, married James Gillespie of Eldersville where they owned and operated the Gillespie Store for many years. Their son, E.A.Gillespie, and his wife, Elizabeth Grigsby Gillespie, continued to keep store in that same building for many years later.



Edward Corbin was a familiar figure in Eldersville during the 1930s and 40s during which time he was a popular school bus driver for the Jefferson Township School District. He may have been a grandson of Joseph. The Corbin family appears to have had blood ties to the Jefferson Township family of Edward Jones, but this writer is not certain of the connection. It is possible that Joseph's first wife, Angelina, may have been a Jones. The 1900 census shows him living in Eldersville with Oliver Jones, and it may be noted that his first son was named Oliver.

Joseph Corbin died in 1912 at the age of 85 and is buried in the Eldersville Cemetery not far from James Gillespie, his son-in-law. There are three unreadable sandstone markers beside his grave. These may mark the final resting place of his two wives. We shall probably never know what other secrets they may conceal.



## The Edward Jones Family

Edward Jones was born in Maryland circa 1782. His wife, Anne, was six years younger. From the local 1820, 1830, and 1840 census records, it can be ascertained that they were the parents of probably three sons and four daughters.

According to Beers *Biographical History of Washington County*, Edward's daughter, Abigail Jones, was born in Maryland. She later married William Melvin of Irish Ridge in Jefferson Township. The Melvins, like the family of Edward Jones, were natives of Maryland and may possibly have known each other prior to coming to this area. The Melvin family bible lists Abbie's birth date as 5 July 1808. If these statements are factual, the Edward Jones family did not come to this area until sometime after the birth of Abbie in 1808. Since they are not listed in the 1810 census, it may have been after this time that they moved west.

Abigail Jones Melvin died two days before her 48<sup>th</sup> birthday on 3 July 1850. She was the mother of Ann, John, Tamar, Mary, Samuel, Lydia, and William, Junior.

This writer knows very little about the other three daughters of Edward Jones, but suspects that the Martha Jones, born in Maryland, 11 April 1795, who married David McCready, son of the pioneer Robert McCready of Jefferson Township, was a sister of Edward. Her McCready children were William, Elizabeth, John, Robert, Mary, David, Nancy, and Martha. Of these children, Nancy McCready married William Patterson, son of John Patterson of Jefferson Township, and her sister, Mary, married Thomas Smith, also a local man. Other Melvin records state that a Mary Jones married a brother of David Thorley. It is a fact that the Thorleys, Melvins and Joneses had a number of intermarriages. Anne, the daughter of William and Abigail Jones Melvin, married David Thorley. This statement concerning Mary Jones may possibly account for one more of the daughters of Edward and Anne Jones, or perhaps for another sister of Edward.

No definite information exists to explicitly identify the sons of this Jones family. One son is probably Samuel H. Jones, who died in 1837, at the age of 18. He is buried at Bethel in the Melvin grave plot. Another son may be James T. Jones, who married Lydia Melvin. She was the younger sister of William Melvin who had married James's sister, Abigail. In the Bethel graveyard, there is also a grave for a Timothy Jones who was born in 1814. He might possibly also belong to the Edward Jones family. This writer, however, believes that the third son of Edward was Edward, Jr., who was born in Jefferson Township in 1830. The 1850 census shows him living in the household of Edward and Anne. Nothing further is known of him.

What is definitely known is that Edward's wife, Anne Jones, died on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October in 1837. She was 49 years of age.

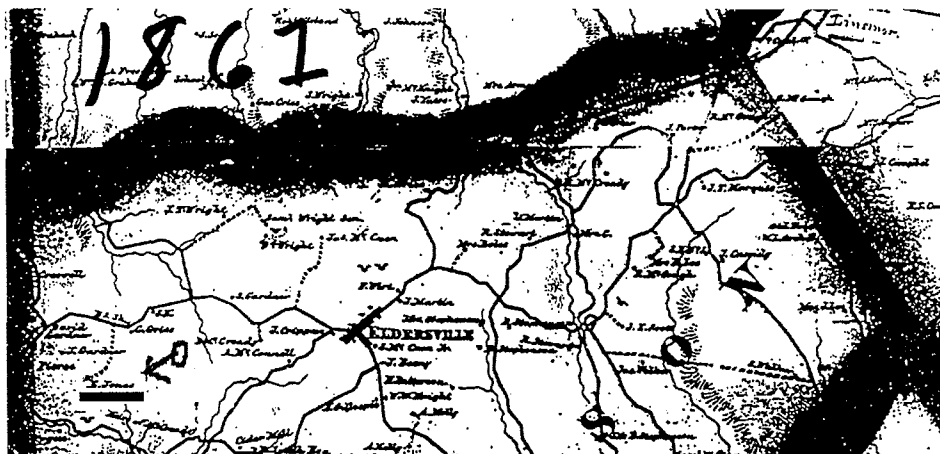
A close look at death dates on tombstones in local cemeteries will reveal a very frightening fact, namely, that the last of the year 1836 and the year of 1837 marked a dread disease epidemic of huge proportions. It appeared to strike at random, home after home, where some would be smitten and then recover, others would be left untouched, and often several of one family would be fatally stricken. In addition to the family of Edward Jones, this particular plague also took the lives of children in the Steen, Buxton, Boles, and Elliott families, two in each family, except that of

Jacob Boles where only little two year old Eleanor died. In the household of Edward Jones, it took his wife, Anne, his son, Samuel H., and his daughter-in-law, Lydia Melvin Jones, wife of his son, James T. Jones. It must have been a hard year for Edward.

Sometime around 1840, after the death of his wife, Edward married Anne Melvin, the eldest sister of his son-in-law, William Melvin. Edward died in 1858, and was buried beside his first wife. This second wife, Anne Melvin Jones, was buried in the Melvin plot beside her sister, Sarah Melvin, who never married. After Edward's death, these two sisters lived together until Sarah died in 1873 at the age of 70. Anne lived another year, dying in January of 1875, at the age of 77.

It has been said at the beginning of this article that Edward Jones came to this area prior to 1820. About 1818, another Maryland family, that of Hugh Cosgrove, also came to Jefferson Township. Hugh's wife was Priscilla Jones, daughter of a Samuel Jones of Maryland. She had been born in 1789. This writer believes there is a strong possibility that she was a sister of Edward. If so, then Edward was a son of Samuel Jones. This fits the picture of his life if the supposition that the Samuel H. Jones of Jefferson Township was, indeed, a son of Edward. The reader must be aware that so very little is definitely known about the family of Edward, that, as stated in this manuscript, the suppositions concerning who some of his family were, are just that – suppositions which appear very logical – but nothing more.

When Edward Jones came to Jefferson Township, he settled on a farm near the Robert McCready property down the State Line Road, about a halfmile. As a child, this writer often went with her sister and brother to an inviting little spot on the farm in question, where the remains of a log house beside a small, clear stream of water, gave a sign of warm welcome. It was a favorite "Get-away Place" for the three children and memories of it are still clear and pleasant. Rambling roses grew in what was apparently the yard of the little house, and it always had the wonderful aura about it of having been the abode of happy people. In much later years, A.D. White, local historian, described this little Eden as where he believed the family of Edward Jones once lived. This writer feels very sure that this is true. The site of that log house was wiped off the map by the coal strippers many years ago. But the memory of it is still very vivid in the minds of two little girls grown up. Some things simply cannot be destroyed.



## The Hugh Cosgrove Family

The pioneer ancestor of the Cosgrove family was Michael Cosgrove, a native of Ireland. After coming to America as a young man, he settled in Maryland where he married Annie Campbell. They were the parents of four children: William, Margaret, Hugh, and Hannah. He was a farmer by occupation and a Quaker by religious belief.

Michael's son, Hugh Cosgrove, was born 2 April 1784, in Maryland. In addition to helping his father with work on the farm, he became a schoolteacher, a profession followed by many of his descendants of the Jefferson Township area many years later.



**Eldersville Normal School - Circa 1900**

Back row: Greta Melvin, Anne Sutherland Irwin, Chap Gardner, Ann Brown Irwin, Lillian Murchland, unknown.  
Middle row: Winifred McCleary, Bill Wilson (teacher, Miller School 1899-1904), Mary Sanders Latimer (teacher, Miller School 1897-1898) and Anne McClurg Swearingen  
Front Row: Clyde Melvin, Ed Westlake, unknown man and R. P. Stephenson

*Pictured above are two of Hugh Cosgrove's great-grandchildren, Greta and Clyde Melvin, during their days of attendance at the Eldersville Normal School in preparation for their teaching careers.*

Hugh married Priscilla Jones, daughter of Samuel Jones, of Maryland. Priscilla was born 15 March 1789. This young couple became the parents of the following children: Eliza, William, Thomas, Amelia, Catherine, Maria, and Hannah.

Sometime between 1816, when William was born in Maryland, and 1819, when Thomas was born in Pennsylvania, the little family loaded all of their possessions in a two horse wagon and crossed the Allegheny Mountains. They decided to settle in what is today Jefferson Township, Washington County, Pennsylvania. Here they purchased a farm where they lived out the rest of their lives. (This writer believes that the incentive to settle in this particular region was the prior emigration from Maryland of the Edward Jones family to this area. Edward was probably the brother of Priscilla Cosgrove, or some other very close relative. Census records show the Cosgroves living next to Edward Jones and nearby the Gardner families, David Pierce, and others of the Eldersville Road region near the Virginia State Line. This farm may have been what, in later years, was known as the Frank Dellenbaugh farm, and still later, as the Mike Mikus property. The two families of Cosgrove and Jones may actually have traveled together, although it is believed that Edward Jones made the first move.)

As time went by, Hugh Cosgrove increased his land holdings and became active in the affairs of the day. He served as school director in the early days of the free schools and strongly supported the Eldersville Methodist Church after its inception.

Priscilla died 17 March 1847, just two days after her 58<sup>th</sup> birthday. Hugh died 4 March 1854, within a month of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. They are buried in the Eldersville graveyard.

The Cosgrove's daughter, Maria, married James Cassidy from Irish Ridge, a son of John and Jane Osborne Cassidy. It is from Maria's line that the well known R.C.Cassidies of four different generations descend.

Nothing further is known of the Cosgrove daughters. But both sons stayed in Jefferson Township all of their lives and are buried in the Eldersville Graveyard.

Records examined are not very conclusive concerning the younger son, Thomas. No readable dates are on his grave marker. His wife, Mary Ann, who is listed in his household every census from 1850 through 1880, is buried beside him. In the 1860 census, another member of the household is a John C. Cosgrove, aged 14. He is still there in 1870, but is listed as 22 years of age. Nothing further is known of this John. If he is their son, he is not listed in 1850, when he would have been aged about two.

In the grave plot where Thomas and Mary Ann are buried, there is another grave with inscription simply "Mary". There is also another old unreadable monument beside them. No one living today knows the secrets of what these illegible markers could reveal. Thomas and Mary Ann may have been childless. But if so, who is this John Cosgrove who shared their home for at least ten years???

The other son of the first Cosgroves was the elder of the two boys, William. Born in Maryland, he had made the precarious journey with his parents and sister across the wilderness to their new home. When he grew to adulthood, he married Margaret Johnson. They were the parents of the following children: John J., Mary E., Campbell T., Rebecca Amelia, Priscilla, and possibly one other daughter.

John J. was still in the family nest in 1870, when he was nearly 30 years of age. It is not known for certain what became of him after that date, however two tombstone inscriptions in the Eldersville Cemetery may shed some light. There is a John I. Cosgrove ...1840 - 1917 which is probably this son of William since his birth year is correct. The middle initial is probably a misreading. The other interesting stone is one reading: Louis Alvin Cosgrove, son of J.I. and L., died 19 October 1876, aged 8 months and 21 days. Once again, if the "I" is really a "J", this indicates that John married and had at least this one child. No wife, however, is buried beside him.

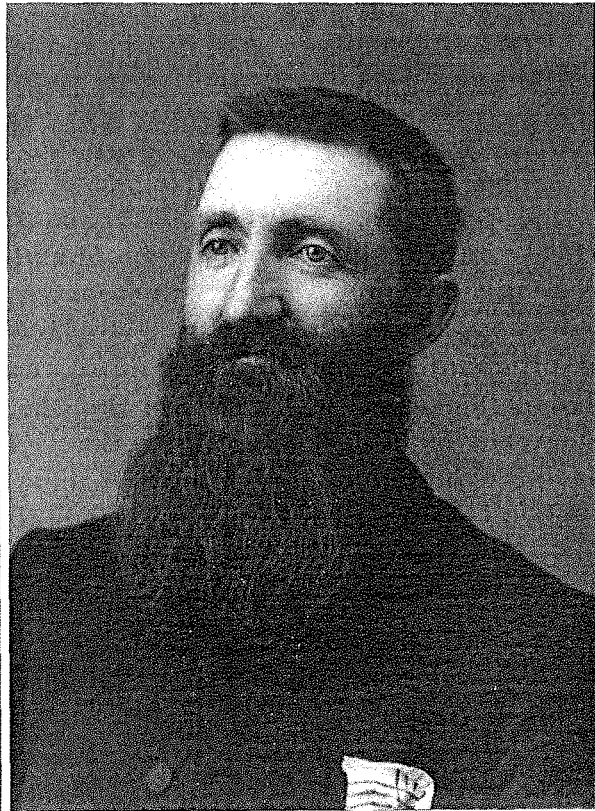
Mary E., eldest daughter of William and Margaret Cosgrove, was last found in the 1860 census still at home at the age of 18. Nothing further is known of her.

Rebecca Amelia died in 1854, near the age of ten. She is buried beside her parents. On an adjoining grave stone the initials of the parents are unreadable, but it states that a daughter of ? and ? died in 1854 in her 2<sup>nd</sup> year. Note that both death years are 1854. These childhood deaths may have been from one of the dread disease epidemics quite prevalent in these early years. This last child, if she belongs to William and Margaret, is, no doubt, their youngest.

The other daughter of the William Cosgroves was Priscilla. She was born in 1846, and grew up to marry William Melvin, Jr.



*Priscilla Cosgrove Melvin*



*William Melvin, Jr.*

Priscilla gave him three children: Clyde, Margretta, and Gayle. These three children became some of the most highly respected citizens of Jefferson Township. They were specially blessed with the finest of singing voices.



***First Row: Bessie Stroud Criss, Anna Dimit Irwin, Mary Thorley Allen, Anna Scott Criss, Anna Thorley Carpenter.***

***Second Row: Nick R. Criss, Margretta Melvin McCready, Frances Thorley Patterson, Mary Criss, Florence Strain Schary, Clyde Melvin, Gayle Melvin***

This writer recalls when a child, of hearing them sing acappella at church, community, or family affairs at the least provocation. They would stand together, looking happily at each other, and suddenly, one would hum a single note – and they were off on a three part harmony fit to present before a king.

Clyde and Margretta were both school teachers, Clyde being music instructor for much of Washington County at one time. He traveled by horseback from school to school, teaching and conducting “Singings” for the community. He taught at Melvin school on his father’s land on Irish Ridge for a number of years.



**It is not known if the musical talent of these three siblings came from their mother's Cosgrove side or from the Melvins. But old timers always credited the Cosgroves with this gift.**

**Of these three Melvin children, Clyde and Margretta both married but neither had children. Gayle remained single all of his long life of 97 years. His death marked the end of the Priscilla Cosgrove line. This writer, having known these three wonderful personalities when a child, can attest to their beautiful voices, their beliefs in education, and their marvelous senses of humor. With their passing, Jefferson Township lost a wonderful treasure.**

**The other child of William and Margaret Cosgrove was Campbell T.**



***Campbell T. Cosgrove Home***

**He married a lady named Hannah whose maiden name has not surfaced in this research. Hannah may have died young since she is not listed in any census with her husband after 1870. Their children appear to be: William A., Mary E., Fred W., and Emma. Emma married Charles E. MCGrew and had a son, Charles, who died in 1921, at the age of ten. Emma attended the Eldersville Normal School but died at the age of 42 in 1914. Fred died in 1890, at the age of 21 and is buried beside his father. Mary E. was living with her father in 1900. She was 34 years of age. Campbell T. Cosgrove died in 1904 at the age of 60. Hannah, his wife, is not buried beside him, and nothing further is known about Mary E.**

**The other child of Campbell and Hannah was William A. Cosgrove. William married Bessie McCleary from the big Victorian house on the corner in Eldersville. She was the daughter of John and Hannah Cunningham McCleary. They were the parents of**

**Esther, Lois, William, Jr., and Mabel, who died young. This William A. was apparently well thought of by his father-in-law who placed him in charge of monitoring his bequests to the children of both of his daughters upon his demise.**

**The Cosgrove name is no longer prevalent in the Eldersville area. But at least one house in which William Cosgrove once lived is still standing, pictured below.**



***William Cosgrove Homestead***

**Like the Jones family to whom they were related, Cosgroves no longer share the Jefferson Township scene. But at one point in time - long, long ago - both families came to the area to stay. And stay, they did - contributing love, laughter, faith in education, and glorious music to the entire area in which they lived and died.**

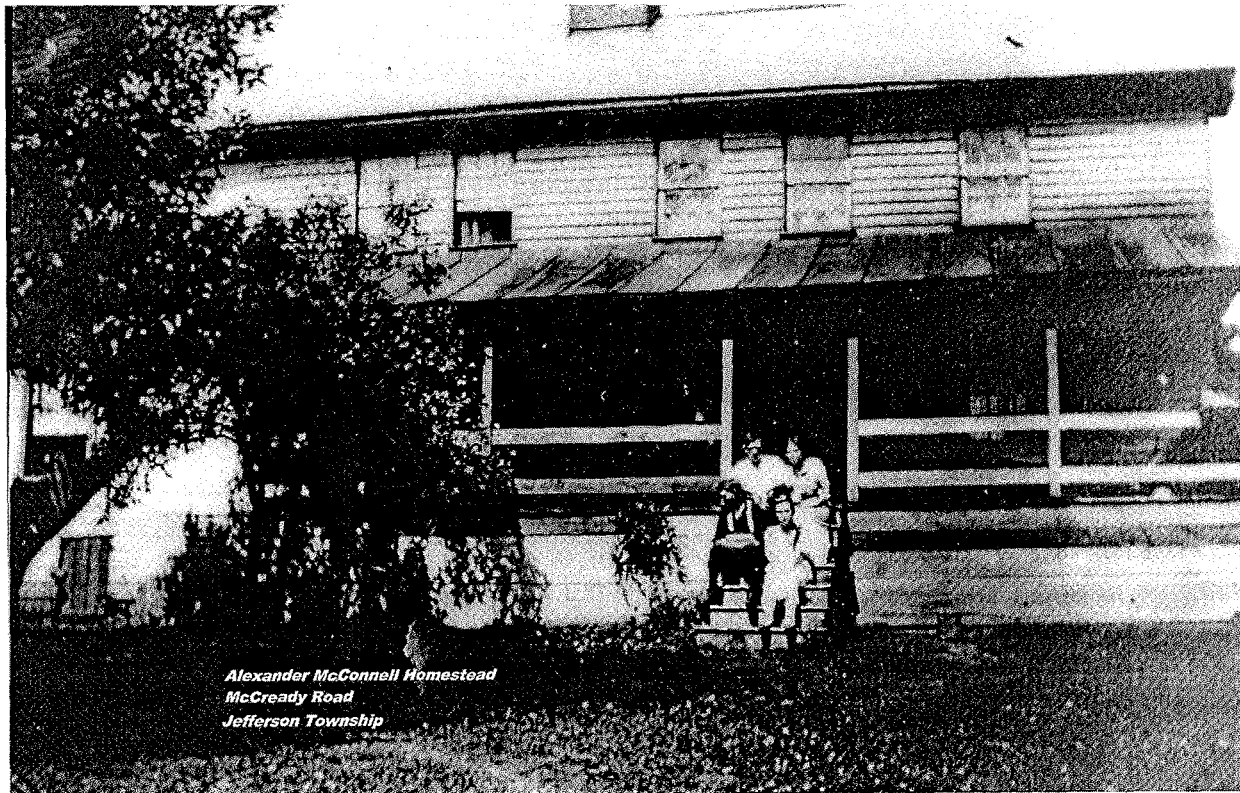


**The picture at the left illustrates the humor that was inherent in all three of Priscilla Cosgrove Melvin's children. It is a small section from the class picture of the Eldersville Normal School in 1894. Dressed in their very best, school mates were all showing their most dignified, grownup look. Well, that is, ALMOST all were doing this. In one of the windows of the school which was used as a backdrop, is Clyde Melvin (left). It seems that one of the young ladies forgot her best bonnet. And Clyde could not resist displaying it for her.**



## The Alexander McConnell Family

In both Jefferson and Cross Creek Townships, there were several different Alexander McConnell families, some being in the area before 1800. At least one of these families was prominent in the Cross Creek Presbyterian Church and their bodies were interred in the Graveyard there upon their deaths. In the Jefferson Township area of Cross Creek, there was an Alexander McConnell who lived with his family for a period of about twenty years in the early part of the nineteenth century, in the Scott Hollow Road section, his nearest neighbor being James Clarke. Later, at the time the Pine Grove Church was operating in the Kidds Mill area, a Nancy McConnell with children, and an Elizabeth, with a family, were living at different times in the neighborhood of the Leepers and Lawthers. This writer knows nothing of worth about these families except that they were here. The remaining McConnells of the township, about whom at least some small information is available, will therefore be the subject of this sketch.



The Alexander McConnell homestead is located on McCready Road, less than half a mile from Eldersville Road on the west side of the village. It is a very old house and at one time, it was evident from its appearance that it had been built in two sections, apparently at two different time periods. Residents of the township today will refer to it as the home of Samuel Fiazza. Other families occupied it after the death of the last McConnell, including the Robert Irwins and the Frank Jacksons.

Alexander McConnell is listed in the 1810 census as being near Robert McCready, John Gardner, and James McCuen. These were definitely the farms which bounded his land. There is an error in his age in this census. If his death is correct on his tombstone, he was born in 1778, which would have made him age 32 at the time. His wife, Ellen, whose maiden name is not known, was 38 at that time. Ellen died at the age of 46 on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February in 1818. All of this family are buried at Bethel.

In 1810, they had a son and two daughters under ten. One of these daughters was Ann, born, 19 November 1808. She never married but remained at the homestead until her death, 11 June 1873, at the age of 65. The other girl's name is not known. She appeared in the 1820 and 1830 censuses and then was gone.

This writer believes that the son listed in 1810 as under the age of ten, is the William McConnell who lived all of his life about a mile from the old homestead. His farm is presently the home of John Orenchuk, who removed the old log house and other log buildings from the farm to build his present residence. At one time, a large log barn stood on this property, but was gone before John Orenchuk purchased the property. There is no hard evidence that William was a son of Alexander and Ellen, but he and his wife, Nancy, are buried near them at Bethel, and his birth date of 21 December 1804, fits in with census record information.

The other daughter buried at Bethel, Sarah McConnell, was born, 25 January 1812, and died, 8 September 1887. She was the last surviving member of the immediate household of these McConnells. She and her brother, Alexander, Jr., both unmarried, were the only ones left in the big farmhouse after the death of their sister, Ann, in 1873. This writer does not know what became of Sarah after February 9, 1881, when Alexander died. Perhaps she stayed alone those last six years until her own death or she may have gone with William and his wife, Nancy. (This is assuming that William WAS her brother. He died on his 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday, four days before Christmas in 1887. Nancy lived until 1890, and was buried beside him.)

According to the census records from 1850 through 1880, Alexander and Ellen also had a son, Hugh, born in 1817. Hugh died, unmarried, in 1863, at the age of 46.

The censuses are very difficult to follow where this McConnell family is concerned. Consistently, they fudged on their ages when the census taker appeared on the doorstep, sometimes knocking off at least 12 years from their actual age. Only the inscriptions on their tombstones give what is probably a fairly accurate record of the span of their lives.

From the early census recordings, it is highly probably that the McConnells had four or five daughters and as many sons. In Jefferson Township, there was a Robert McConnell in the right age bracket to be one of these possible sons. But without a family bible or accurate genealogy, the real facts may never exist. Alexander, himself, said he was 80 years old in 1850, but his tombstone states that he died in October of 1851, at the age of 73. He was born in Ireland as was his wife, Ellen. He probably built the homestead sometime before Ellen's death in 1818.

The real puzzle in this family is James McConnell who died, 9 January 1855, at the age of 31. He could not be a son of Ellen and Alexander since he was not born until 1824, six years after Ellen's death. There are no clues as to his real parentage, but he lived with the McConnells all of his short life and is buried with them at Bethel.

## **The John Crippin Family**

**John Crippin was born in England circa 1795. This date is consistent with his age as given in three consecutive census records. He came to America at some point in time prior to 1844 when a son, Osmond Crippin, was born.**

**This child is listed twice in the 1860 Jefferson Township census records. He is accounted for by his father's household as being 16 years of age and born in Ohio. He is also listed in the household of William and Nancy McConnell who lived in the log house on Scott Hollow Road which for many later years has been the site of the John and Jennie Orenchuk home. He was still listed as having been born in Ohio, but his age was given as 15. Osmond died at the age of 21 and is buried in the Eldersville Cemetery. One earlier reading of his now illegible tombstone inscription states his birth date as 11 June 1844 and his death date as 24 September 1865.**

**Osmund would have been the age for military service in the Civil War. His untimely death at twenty-one years may have been the result of such an experience, but until a war record surfaces, there is no proof that such a speculation is true.**

**One reader of the Crippin tombstone inscriptions reported the following writing on Osmond's stone: " son of J. and N.E.". The reader further reported that on another face of the four-sided stone are these words: " Nancy E. Crippin, wife of John, 12 \_\_ 1821 - 12 \_\_ 18\_\_".**

**In the three census records of 1860, 1870, and 1880 where John Crippin is listed, his wife's name is given as Harriett. In all probability, this Harriett is the second wife of John Crippin, while Nancy E. was the first wife and mother of his eldest son, Osmond. According to Harriett's age as given in these censuses, she was born circa 1823.**

**Since persons who copied the inscriptions reported that the stone had inscriptions on four sides, most of which were illegible, it appears that some errors in reporting were made. One reporter listed Harriett as born in 1821 and dying in 1853. This is probably Nancy's inscription instead. Another reporter listed Harriett's death date as 1898, which is probably true since she does not appear in the 1900 census.**

**If the above speculation is accurate, the following scenario is probably very close to what actually happened.**

**John's first wife was Nancy E. and the mother of Osmond. They lived for a time in Ohio where Osmond was born in 1844. They came to Eldersville before her death in 1853 since she apparently died there as evidenced by her tombstone. They were NOT in Jefferson Township in 1850 for the census taking. Sometime between the death of Nancy in 1853 and the birth of John Crippin's second son, John, Jr., in January of 1857, John had married Harriett who is the mother of this second child. In 1860, Harriett gave her age as 37, making her 28 years younger than her husband who is listed at 65. Little John, Jr. is listed as a three year old in 1860. Harriett was no doubt his mother.**

**In the 1870 census, this little John is listed in the same household of William and Nancy McConnell where his elder brother, Osmond, was found in 1860. By 1880, John, Jr. is listed in another McConnell household. This family's land, now owned by Sam Fiazza, joined the property of the Crippins and the two McConnell heads of**

households are believed to have been brothers. Crippins may have simply been close friends and neighbors of the McConnell families or there may have been blood connections unknown to any persons consulted. The cold statistics of these ancient census records may actually be reporting the story of at least a fifty year friendship or relationship between these two families.

John Crippin, Jr. can be found on the 1904 and 1911 Jefferson Township maps living in the north-eastern corner of the township just west of the Richmond farm and a little south of Harmon Creek and Hanover Township. On the Eldersville map of 1876 there is a J. Crippin living on the north-west side of Main Street (now Eldersville Road) the third house from the alley near the Eldersville Schoolhouse.



This was probably John Crippen Jr. In the 1900 census, his household included Nellie, three years younger than he.

What became of this John, Jr. has not been ascertained. Neither he nor Nellie appears to be buried in the Eldersville Graveyard, and whether or not he left heirs is also a mystery.

John Crippin, Sr. lived past the age of 85 according to the 1880 census. The only part of his tombstone inscription still legible years ago at its reading was that his death was in the month of February.

The Crippins were probably not "regular church-goers". They do not appear on the early rosters of the little Methodist brick church on the hill in Eldersville. Thus another possible source of information is removed from a researcher's grasp.

**The meager information this author has been able to glean from existing records tells us little about John Crippin and his joys and sorrows. Certainly the death of his son, Osmond, must have been a terrible grief to carry with him forever. But one thing the records DO prove is that he was definitely a resident of the area when Jefferson Township was formed in 1853, since that is the year he buried his first wife in the little graveyard on the hill behind the Eldersville Methodist Church.**



**The location of the Crippin family on the 1861 map of the township is the same on every successive map. Since that house is still standing, it is definitely a Sesquicentennial Homestead. It is located on the south side of Eldersville Road near the intersection of McCready Road. For years after the Crippins departed, it was owned and occupied by Bertha Buxton Barnes, a prominent school teacher for perhaps 50 years in the Eldersville School. Later it was the home of the Sugick family. Recently it was renovated and landscaped beautifully into one of the most attractive homes in the township by the Daniel Kotouch family. It is to be hoped that this energetic young couple will cherish this wonderful heritage that is theirs.**

**Were you to ask any of the elderly residents of the township today what they ever heard about the John Crippen family, most would give you a blank stare or perhaps assure you that there was never an old family by that name anywhere in the area. But John Crippen DID settle here before the formation of the township in 1853. It was here that his second son was born and it was here that John himself died and was buried. Of course it cannot be said that the Crippens were a well-known, prominent family with descendants still in the township today. But one thing is definitely true. Like the settlers of those well-known families who came to make a home here, John Crippen also came.**

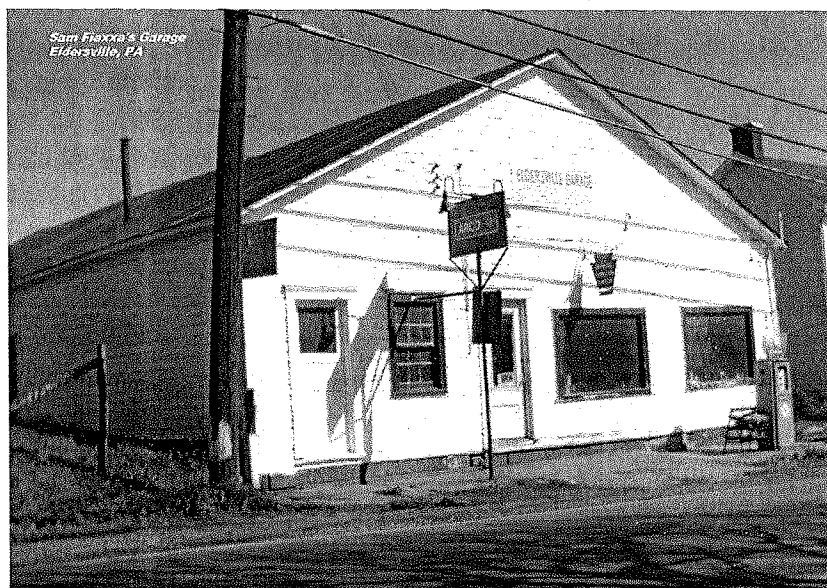
## The Samuel Haas Family

In the 1850 Cross Creek census, Samuel and Elizabeth Haas were living near Isaac Perrine in the area of Cedar Grove. Elizabeth was ten years older than her husband. Also in that household was a lad of 16 named Isaac Burrell. He was still in this household in the 1860 and 1870 censuses as well, probably remaining until after the death of Elizabeth in 1877. Apparently Isaac never married since in 1880, he was living in the home of Thompson Criss, and in 1900 at the age of 65, was living alone in the Meneely Road-Strope Road area of the township. He is not buried with the Haas family and no record of either his death or his burial has been found.

A bonafide Perrine genealogy shows that the Perrine and Haas families had a blood connection. This writer, however, believes that it may have been Elizabeth rather than Samuel to whom this child was attached. Although Isaac had lived most of his life with this couple, after the death of Elizabeth, he did not remain in the home with Samuel, even though Samuel may have needed him in his last years. Elizabeth's maiden name is not known. She may have had a close blood tie with the Perrine family. Their proximity to the Isaac Perrine household until after 1860 may further strengthen this possibility.

Elizabeth died 15 February 1877, at the age of 70 and was buried in the Cross Creek graveyard. Samuel lived until 12 May 1885, when he died at the age of 69. He was buried beside his wife.

Sometime after the taking of the 1860 census, the Haas family moved to Eldersville where they spent their remaining years. They lived in what elders of the village today describe as "the long black house between Frank Jackson's house and Sam Fiazza's garage. The house has been gone a number of years and no picture of it has surfaced. (At one time, Joseph McClurg lived in that house while caring for his aged mother.) Nothing further is known of this childless couple who spent part of their youth, their middle age, and their twilight years in Jefferson Township.



*The Haas house stood to the left of this building*

## **The Christopher Babel Family**

**Christopher Babel was born circa 1767 in New Jersey. Little is known of either Christopher or of his family, except a brief mention in the Cross Creek Graveyard records which state that he was with General St. Clair in 1791 at the bloody defeat of the Indians.**

**It is not known when he came to Cross Creek Township, but from some time in the 1820s until his death in 1853, he was a resident of the Jefferson Township area. In census records, he was found living close to the Cross Creek border of the township with neighbors being the Walker families, Arthur Campbell, Marquis, Cassidy, and Stephenson families. This author does not know on what farm Christopher resided.**

**Christopher must have been at least fifty years of age when he came to this area. In 1830, his wife was still living, both being in the age bracket of 60 to 70. Three sons and three daughters were in the household at that time, with a William Babel and an Ann Babel also in the area. Both were of an age to fit the picture of being his children. By 1840, two daughters and one son were still at home and his wife was yet alive. But by 1850, Mrs. Babel was no longer in the home and only a Nancy, probably a daughter-in-law or daughter, with a nine year old boy, were living with Christopher. He died three years later on 27 July 1853. His wife is buried with him, but not even her given name nor her death date are listed. Also buried at Cross Creek are a Samuel Babel and wife who died in the 1870s.**

**Nothing further is known of this family, but since they were in the township for forty years, and since Christopher took part in the Indian Wars, this meager information on their lives is herein included.**

.....

## **The John Hickman Family**

**The 1860 Jefferson Township census shows John and Anne Hickman and five children: Jane, Joseph, Elizabeth, John, and Margaret – all under the age of ten. They were living on Harman Creek next to Charles Hanlin. The family, as a unit, did not again appear in Jefferson Township censuses.**

**In 1870, the eldest son, Joseph, was found living with the Robert Stewart family. Joseph was 16 years of age. In the following census of 1880, his sister, Elizabeth, at the age of 22, was in the household of Robert Shields near the old Wheeler farm. Perhaps the Hickman family had lived long enough in the Jefferson Townships area before moving elsewhere that these children felt that it was “home”. Thus they continued to live in the region even after their parents had moved on.**

**Nothing else is known of this couple and their children except information on two tombstones in the Eldersville Cemetery. One is of a May Hickman who died as a young woman in 1882. It is possible that this may be the Margaret listed in the 1860 census. Beside this stone of May’s is another Hickman grave – that of Joseph, born in 1854 and dead in 1882. In the old records of Eldersville burials, the late M.O.Butler had penned in the following note: “Drowned in the Ohio River while trying to swim his horse across”. He was 28 years old. This is the extent of information available on this Hickman family.**

## **The Johnston – Johnson Families**

**By 1800, there were five Johnston families in Cross Creek Township. Heads of households in these families had given names of John, Samuel, Stephen, Isaac, and Daniel. By 1810, all except Samuel were still listed, plus another with given name of Lewis. These five families in 1810 lived very near to each other in the area where four Marshall families also lived. This writer believes this area was NOT in the Jefferson Township part of Cross Creek. By 1820, John was still in that area, and younger men named James and William also now headed households of their own. They may have been sons of the first settlers listed in 1800.**



*One of the Johnston Log Houses near Cross Creek Village*

**By 1820, some of these Johnstons had migrated into the Jefferson Township area of Cross Creek. A Charles was living near the Scotts at the Kidds Mill area, while Henry and another John, lived not far from Leepers and Robert McCready. Still another William lived near the Gillespies in the Cole School Road area of the township. An Andrew Johnson and wife, Margaret, were buried at Bethel in the early days and are probably the same Johnsons in the 1820 census who lived not far from James Clarke. Andrew died in 1828 at the age of 46 and Margaret followed him in 1830 at the age of 38. In the 1820 census, they had a boy and a girl under the age of ten. Perhaps they were old enough at the time of their parents' deaths to fend for themselves.**



By 1830 in the area of Cross Creek which was not Jefferson, the following names appeared as heads of households: William, Henry, Samuel, and John. These were basically young men with small children. In the Jefferson Township area that year, were two more John Johnstons and a George. In the Bethel graveyard are stones for two Johns, a Francis, a Thomas, and a Samuel. A Jane, Sarah, and Isabelle are also among these Johnston graves. The oldest stone is for an Elizabeth who died in 1819 at the age of 69. Unfortunately, this writer did not have access to any material which would spell out the relationships of these numerous family members. They were, however, residents most of their lives of the Jefferson Township area.



*A Johnston House at Seldom Seen*

The Cross Creek Graveyard, like that at Bethel, is replete with graves of Johnstons and Johnsons. In Cross Creek is the grave of a Captain John Johnston and at least three of his sons, named John, Thomas, and Robert. Captain John was a soldier of the Revolution and his son, John, served in the Whiskey Rebellion in 1794. These are among those found in the Cross Creek area in that first census of 1800.

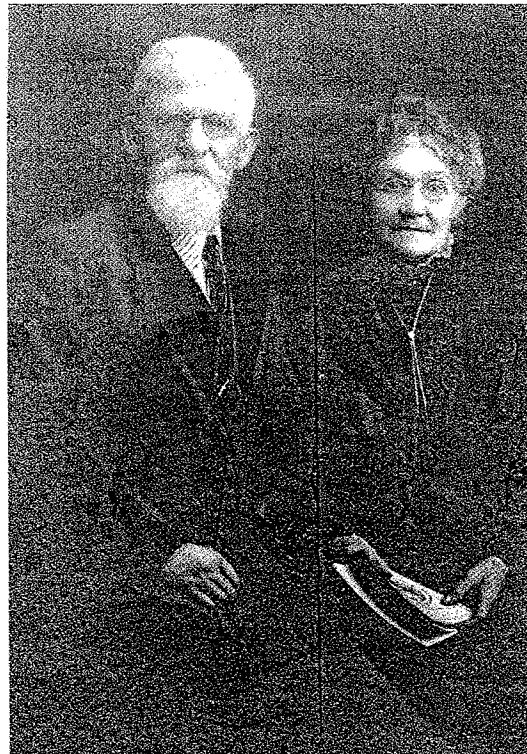
There was a Johnson family many years ago in Cross Creek who married into the Lee families of that region. Many of these Lees migrated over into the Lee Road area of Jefferson Township and settled near the old Marquis farm and the Walker families. This Johnson family had a very difficult beginning in the New World. The pioneer parents, John and Elizabeth, had set sail from County Down, Ireland, with six of their

seven children, the youngest having died in Ireland. Of these six youngsters, Richard was but nine years old at that time. On the ocean voyage, both the mother and father fell ill with a fever. They both died and were buried at sea, leaving their little family to fend for themselves. Upon arriving in America, that year of 1772, they settled in Delaware, and somehow managed to survive. They came to the Canonsburg area in 1791, many of them and their children, later moving into the Cross Creek area. Of the next generation or two, some of the families into which the Johnstons married, became deeply entrenched in the Cross Creek area, marrying into the Vance and Bebout families there.

An Ephraim Johnston for many years operated a tavern in Independence Village on the property where the Lower Buffalo Church now stands. The site of this tavern was on the main highway and was a favorite stopping off place for drovers in the early days. This writer believes that it was a part of this family who later were buried in the Eldersville Cemetery near the family graves of the Thomas McCuens. Rebecca, wife of Thomas, was from these Ephraim and George Johnson families. Rebecca named one of her sons Johnson McCuen. He died as a young man.

In the 1850 census of Jefferson Township, there are listed a George and a James Johnston, along with their families. This James Johnston married Isabelle Murchland of Brooke County. The George Johnston lived near Eldersville, but nothing further is known of him.

Later census records of Jefferson show a Sarah Johnston, born in 1810 in Delaware, living with one of the Gillespie families of the Cole School Road area of the township. Some of the Gillespies also came to this area from Delaware. At one point in time, just prior to 1900, a Martha Elizabeth Johnston married Wesley Gillespie.



**(They were the grandparents of Eldersville's oldest citizen, Gaylord Martin, their daughter, Bertha Gillespie, having married Alexander Martin.) Martha Elizabeth was from the Greensburg area of Pennsylvania. Her mother, Elizabeth Johnston, lived well into her nineties. Mrs. Johnston's grandmother was a sister of Anthony Wayne, famous as an Indian fighter in the frontier days of the nation. Martha Elizabeth had two unmarried sisters, Bertha Johnston and another (unknown name), who came to Jefferson Township to live out their lives. They lived a number of years with their sister, Martha Elizabeth Johnston Gillespie and her husband, Wesley, until their deaths, and continued to live there with Wesley's unmarried daughter, Nancy Gillespie, for as long as they lived.**

**Pictured below is a four generation shot of some of this Johnston family who lived in Jefferson Township. Center, seated, is Mrs. Elizabeth Johnston, great-grandmother of the little girls. Upper left is her daughter, Martha Elizabeth Johnston Gillespie. On the right rear, in the white blouse, is Martha Elizabeth's daughter, Bertha Gillespie Martin. The girls are Bertha's daughters. Left is Roxanna Martin Wiegmann and right is Milda Martin Davidson.**



## **The Hunter Family**

**Among the very early Jefferson Township residents was the Alexander Hunter family. Alexander appeared in the 1800, 1810, and 1820 census records, where, by 1820, he was over 45 years of age. A George Hunter was also nearby in 1810 and 1820. They were living near the Virginia state line in the area of the old Alexander Lawther homestead. Each man had several children.**

**In 1840, a Nathaniel Hunter between the ages of 60 and 70, with eight children still at home, was living near the Scott and Cunningham farms. This would place him not far from the Virginia border.**

**It is interesting to note that on the stream of Cross Creek in Brooke County, only a few miles from where these Jefferson Township Hunters were living, a Nathaniel Hunter purchased a grist mill in 1839. Nathaniel's parentage is not known, but he was born in Pennsylvania and in 1824, married Catherine Smith of Brooke County. The Smiths lived near the Pennsylvania line. Nathaniel and Catherine were the parents of seven children. One of their sons, Campbell Hunter, married a Jefferson Township girl, Karen Happach Steen, daughter of William Steen. The Steens lived on Scott Hollow Road.**

**It is possible that this young man who operated Hunter's Mill from 1839 until 1858, when he sold it to Benjamin Davis Sanders, was a son of one of the Hunter men listed in these early Jefferson Township records. Hunter families have always abounded in the area of Brooke County, but after 1840, the name disappeared from Jefferson Township census listings.**



**Hunter's Mill on Cross Creek, Brooke County, Virginia**

## **The Thomas Phillips Family**

**One of the early families in what is today known as the Kidds Mill area of southern Jefferson Township was that of Thomas Phillips. Thomas was probably one of the sons of Reuben Phillips who located in the northern end of the township near the McGough, Porter, and Provines farms. Reuben appears to have remained in that area from his arrival between 1810 and 1820, until after the 1840 census when he disappears from the records. In the 1840 census, he listed his age as between 60 and 70. The name of Reuben's wife has not surfaced in this research but she was still alive in 1840 and was in his age bracket.**

**Reuben probably had as many as four sons and five daughters. This writer has been able to place a name on only four of these nine possible children, and there is no genealogical proof that the four listed here are actually Reuben's children. However, many signs point in that direction.**

**The Thomas Phillips, who lived in the Kidds Mill area as stated above, probably occupied the farm where Joe Campbell lived out his life in the early 1900s. The little black shack which he called home may very well have been part of the Phillips log house. Thomas and family lived there from the late 1820s, until just prior to 1880, when they disappear from the census records and from the township maps of the day. A grandson of Thomas, William M. Phillips, born in the Kidds Mill area in 1863, lived in the township all of his life until the day of his death on January 15, 1925. From these facts, it is evident that some members of this Phillips family lived in Jefferson Township for well over 100 years.**

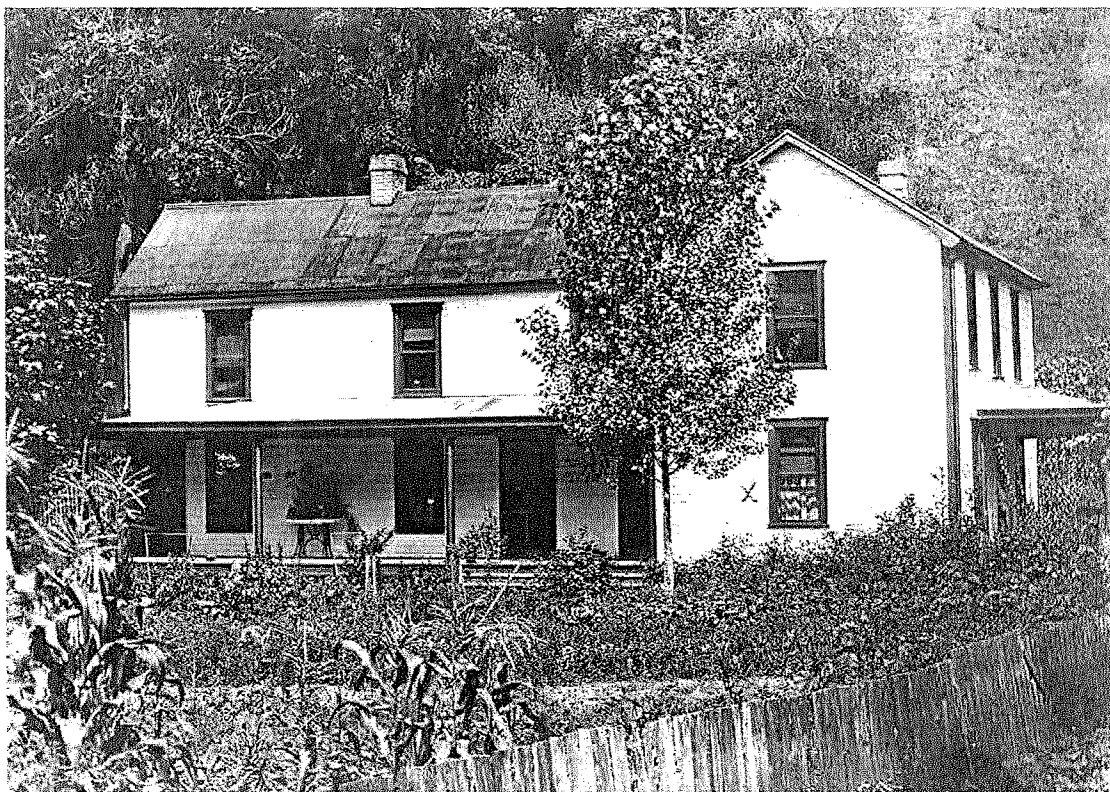
**This researcher believes that Thomas was one of the older sons of Reuben. He was born circa 1808, and probably died in the early 1870s. In the obituary of a grandson (listed with the Phillips family in 1870, at the age of 6), it is reported that he was raised by his grandmother. This probably indicates that Thomas died shortly after this census recording since he is not given credit for raising this child. Thomas's wife, Rosanna, whose maiden name (according to a descendant) was Goff or Goffe, is buried at Union Cemetery, Jefferson County, Ohio, on the hill above Steubenville. The records of that burial ground state that she died at the age of 84 in 1890. The records examined do not list Thomas as being buried there. The site of his grave is not known to this writer although extensive research was done to locate it and those of some of his children. This writer believes that after the death of her husband, Rosanna may have gone to Jefferson County, Ohio, to live with her daughter, Elizabeth, who had married John T. Hamilton in 1859, and who is known to have lived in this location in Ohio in 1925. If Rosanna died while living with this child, it seems natural that she would be buried nearby, even though her husband's body may have been placed in another location nearly 20 years before.**

**The children of Thomas, as this writer sees them, are probably: two daughters, names unknown, born between 1825 and 1830; Catherine, born 1830-1840; Reuben, born in 1840; Sarah, born in 1842; Elizabeth, born in 1843; Cornelius, born in 1845; Abigail, born in 1848; and James F., born in 1854. (The writer believes that little Abigail died young since she is listed in 1850 as age 2 years but does not appear in any successive census listing.)**

The youngest son, James F., is probably the James Phillips who died as the result of an explosion at Kidds Mill on 8 August 1882. The miller, Tom Bavington, was instantly killed and a helper at the mill named James Phillips was so seriously wounded that he died shortly thereafter. There is no proof that this is the same James, but since he lived in the mill area, it is highly probable.

In the obituary of Thomas's grandson, William M. Phillips, referred to previously, it states that the reason for his being reared by his grandmother was that both of his parents died when he was a mere child. This would indicate that one of Thomas's two older sons, either Reuben or Cornelius, was the father of this William. It also indicates that this man died prior to 1870, when his son was being raised in the household of the grandparents. The name of William's mother, who may have died when he was born, is also lost in the obscurity of time.

William was living with a neighbor, Jacob Boles, when he was 16 years of age, probably after his grandmother left the area. Jacob was a school teacher and highly respected person who no doubt had a great influence for good on the lad. In 1900, William lived at the Kidds Mill Hotel from which he carried the mail to Hanlin Station where he was later postmaster. The post office at the mill was known as Bancroft.



*Kidds Mill Hotel and Post Office*

As has been stated, Thomas Phillips was probably one of nine children of Reuben. One of his sisters was probably Mary A. who did not marry but is found in census recordings in the households of some of her nephews at various times of her life.

A brother of Thomas is no doubt the David Phillips who appears in a number of the records of this time period. This David married Mary Stevenson and was the father

of five known children: Mary, born in 1845; twins named Reuben and Margaretta, born in 1846; Robert S. born in 1848; and Jennie E., born in 1852. Margaretta married William Brown for whom the Browntown area of Avella was named. Her twin brother, Reuben , died at the age of 16 from the bursting of an engine as recorded in the cemetery listings at Cross Creek Church.

A final Phillips family appearing frequently in Cross Creek and Jefferson Township records is that of Joseph and Hannah McCreia Phillips. Their family consisted of at least three sons and three daughters, at least one of whom was born near Kidds Mill. It is highly probable that Joseph is a son of Reuben and a brother of Thomas Phillips.

The foregoing document is certainly not entertaining reading at its best. Nothing of an unusual nature has been unearthed in the research of this very old family. After 1870, most of the Phillips descendants disappeared from the records examined. But one item of interest is worthy of inclusion. It is a segment from the obituary of the William M. Phillips who as an orphan at a very early age, was reared by his grandmother, Rosanna. A quote from this obit follows.

*“ .....His entire life was lived in the vicinity of his birthplace, where he became active in all civic affairs. For a number of years he was tax collector of Washington County, later entering the postal service as mail carrier and attaining his position as Postmaster at Hanlin Station ten years ago, occupying that post until his death. He was a member of the Methodist Church from early childhood. Mr. Phillips never married, dying the last of his family. ....The death of Mr. Phillips is a deep shock to his many friends in his vicinity, where he was well known and liked. A man of sterling qualities of character, he made in both his public and private life a host of friends and acquaintances who held him in the highest esteem. His death means the loss of a worthy and capable citizen.”*



The preceding account should make any Phillips descendant happy to belong to the clan. But a final note should make them even a little extra proud. Persons acquainted with William Phillips who were consulted in the Jefferson Township area by the late A.D.White during the early 1980s, unanimously agreed with the words of praise found in the above quoted obituary. But what makes it doubly wonderful is their final statement about him. He accomplished all of this while laboring under a terrible handicap. William Phillips was a hunchback.

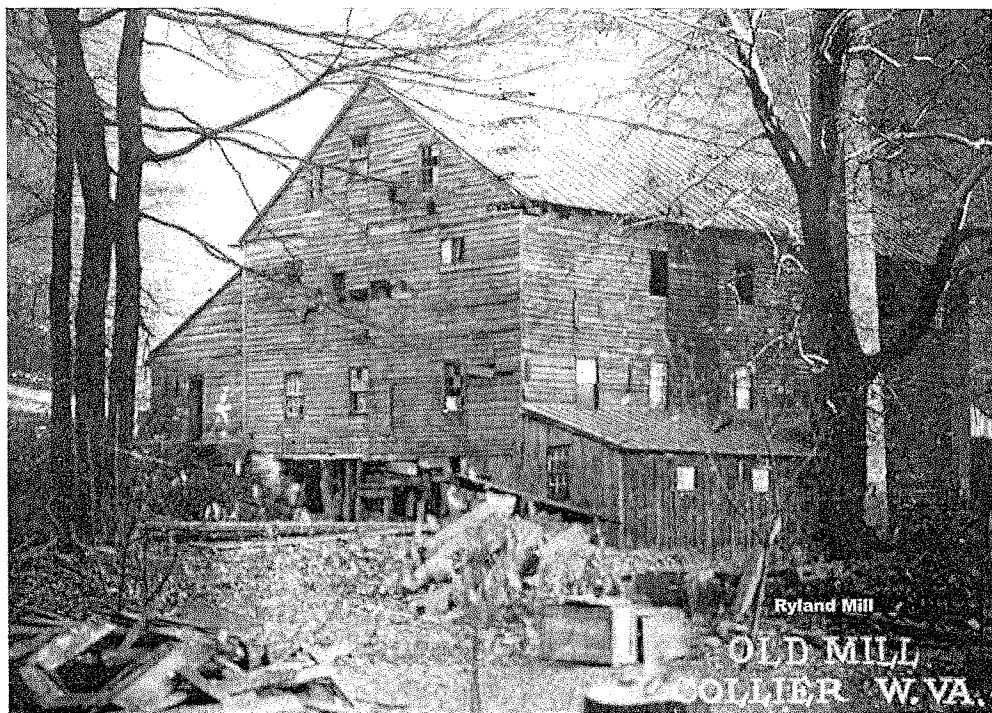
## The Samuel Creswell Family

Samuel Creswell was born in Brooke County, VA, near the east end of the present village of Colliers. The date was February the 22<sup>nd</sup> and the year was 1815. His grandfather, James Creswell, had come from Maryland in 1790, to Washington County, Pennsylvania, where he stayed for ten years. Among those of his family coming to the area with him was his eldest son, Robert. Robert later became the father of Samuel with whom we are concerned in this paper. Samuel's grandmother was Mary Johnston Creswell who became the mother of four sons and five daughters. James, her husband, was a farmer. It is not known why he chose to move to the Brooke County area in 1800, but it may have had something to do with the fact that this eldest son of his, Robert Creswell, had a yen to become a miller.

Robert had been born in 1780, and had been brought across the Allegheny Mountains with his parents at the age of nine. He helped his father with farming until he came of age, but his real interest was in milling. Since the Creswells, after coming to Brooke County, settled near a stream, Robert built himself a mill on the waters of Harmon Creek, just east of present day Colliers. About 1808, he married Mary McCarroll, the daughter of Revolutionary veteran, Thomas McCarroll, who was a pioneer settler in Jefferson Township near Bethel Church Road. This couple had seven children, of whom Samuel was the fourth.

A year after Samuel's birth, the grandfather, James, died at the age of 73. He and his wife are buried at the Tent Church Cemetery in Brooke County.

Samuel, who grew up under the tutelage of his father, Robert, became a millwright. At the age of 14, he built his own sawmill. This mill was in operation several years and became the well-known Rylands Mill.





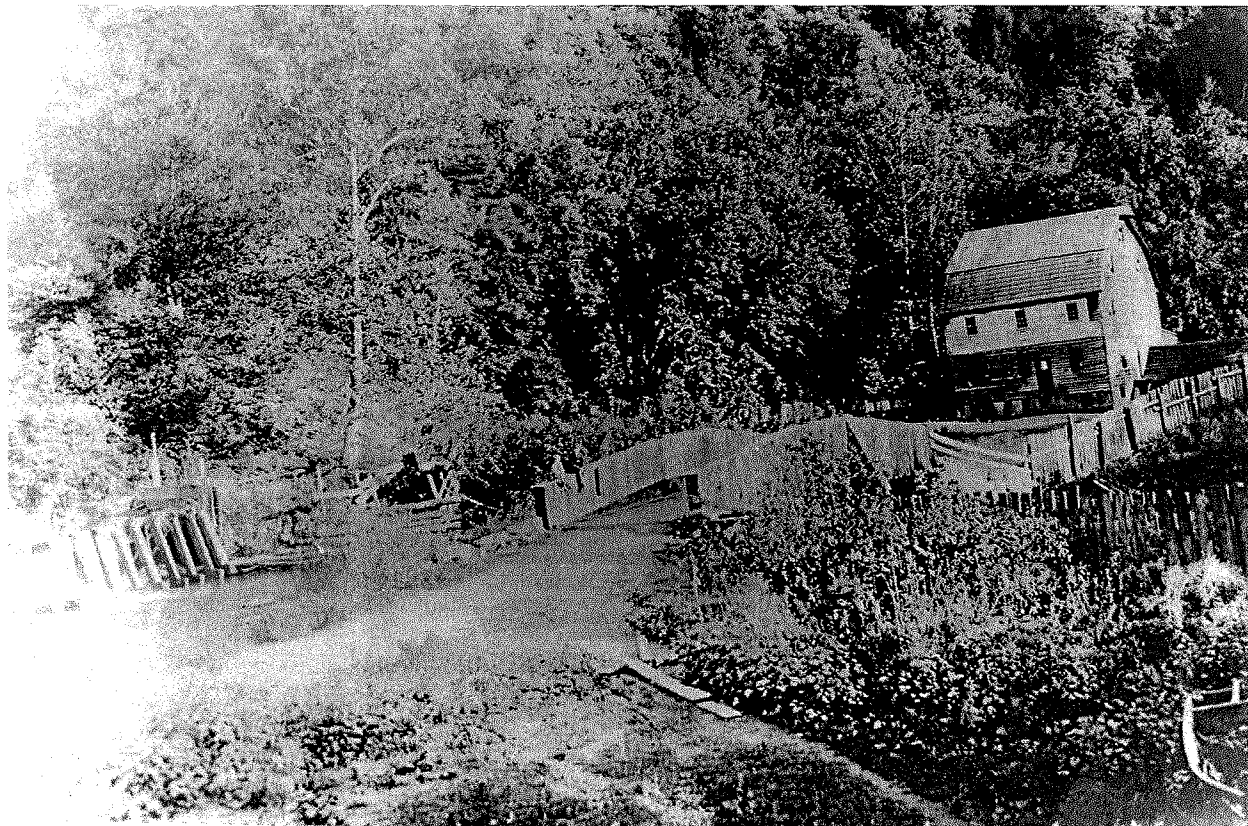
**Samuel eventually became one of the best millers in the local area and was a master builder of mills in those days when they were a necessity to rural life. During his lifetime, he built the McBain Mill in Columbiana County, Ohio, and the beautiful Wilson Mill in the Cross Creek Valley of Washington County, in the area of West Middletown. This sturdy structure stood nearly 150 years and would have been standing yet had it not been destroyed by the so-called patrons of progress who flooded the valley to create Cross Creek Lake.**

**In 1837, Samuel married Mary Cunningham, daughter of John Cunningham of Jefferson Township. The 1840 census shows them living in Cross Creek Township in the general area of Wilson's Mill. It may be about this time that Samuel built it.**



**Meanwhile, in what was to become Jefferson Township, another mill was in constant operation. Charles Scott, one of the earliest settlers in the area, built a mill on the waters of Scotts Run. This Charles had been designated by his neighbors as "Charlie at the Mill" to distinguish him from another Charles Scott whom they termed "Charlie on the Hill". The Charles who was the miller was also a preacher in the Bethel Methodist Church which stood on the hill above the old mill. He was highly thought of as a minister and was a hard-working Irishman who kept that mill going for most of his long life. He died in December of 1840 in his ninetieth year.**

**By 1848, Samuel Creswell had purchased this mill and its surrounding area. But Samuel was not satisfied with its production so he built a larger one. This last mill which he built in 1852, was the building known until its demolition in the 1930s as Kidds Mill.**



**It was during Samuel's stay at this mill that the Presbyterian element of the community decided to build a new church so they would not have to travel the 8 or 10 miles distance to Cross Creek or the Tent for services on the Sabbath. In the early session minutes written in 1849, the founders of that Pine Grove Church referred to "Creswell's Mill" as their chosen location. Samuel gave them the required permission and they built their church. Due, however, to the growing dissention in the entire country on the slavery issue, this church was short lived. But the early minutes still in existence of that Pine Grove Church prove that in 1849, Samuel Creswell was the owner of that mill on Scotts Run.**

**About 1855, another man became interested in this "new" mill built by the master builder, Sam Creswell. His name was Thomas Weaver. If Thomas were dead set on purchasing this mill on Scotts Run, the fates were with him. He seems to have owned at the time a piece of property which proved to give him great leverage in consummating a deal with Creswell.**

**In the 1790s, Thomas Weaver's forebears had patented 186 acres north of the Justice tract in what was to become Jefferson Township. (This land lay behind the present home of Alan and Florence Gould.) If Samuel decided to take Thomas up on his offer and move to the Weaver property, all he had to do was run down over the hill, and he would be "home". For Samuel had been born at the Ryland Mill area of**

**Brooke County, which was but a stone's throw from the Weaver land. It probably did not take Samuel long to make up his mind to go.**

**A look at the cemetery listing of the Tent Church, yields some sad implications for the Creswell family. Samuel's Aunt Jane had died at the age of 36 in 1826. Three other aunts who did not marry had continued to live on the home place near Rylands Mill. By the middle 1850s, the last of these aunts had died and was buried at the Tent, along with their youngest brother, James, and his wife. Samuel's father, Robert, had remained at home after 1830 with his children who were still unmarried. But since he does not again appear in records after the 1830 census, he may have died during the decade of the 30s. By the time Samuel moved his own little family to his newly acquired property on the hill, all of his Creswell relatives from his father's generation were probably gone. But still, the area was "home". And it was there that Samuel spent the remainder of his life.**

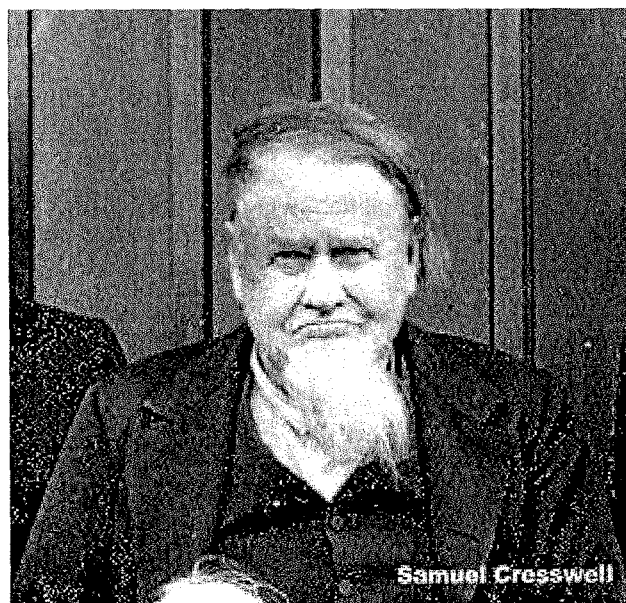
**Samuel and his wife, Mary, were the parents of four little girls.**

**Susanna married a neighbor boy, William Hanlin. She had eight children, only two of whom gave her descendants.**

**Little Mary died at the age of seven in 1847. Her sister, Rachel was born five months after this death. What a difficult time this must have been for Samuel's wife. Rachel never married and after the deaths of her parents, she was the solid rock on whom the rest of them leaned. After everyone left the nest, she moved to Eldersville and died there in 1929, respected and dearly loved by all.**

**The youngest child, Emma, was perhaps the best known of the Creswells in Jefferson Township. She became an excellent historical photographer, developing and producing her own pictures as a professional might have done. She married George Noah in later life. She had a daughter, Alitha.**

**Samuel died the last day of the year 1896. He was 82 years of age. His passing left a big hole in the fabric of life in Jefferson Township. He was one of its finest citizens. His wife, Mary, had preceded him in death by seven years. They, and three of their daughters, are buried at Bethel.**



## **The Thomas Weaver Family**

**The Jefferson Township Patent Map shows that Robert and Thomas Weaver were patentees of 135 acres and 104 perches in the northwest corner of the township on what later became known as the Samuel Cresswell farm. The patent is dated 8 February 1802. The warranty for this property was in 1797.**

**The relationship between this Robert and Thomas is not known, but they were possibly brothers since the 1800 census shows them in the age bracket of under 45, and it is known that Robert was about 40 years old at that time. Thus, Thomas could not have been his father. Thomas was gone by 1810. It may be that he died during the past decade since it seems unlikely that he would have patented the land, only to move on somewhere else. It is with Robert's son, Thomas, that this writing is basically concerned since he was born here and lived here until after 1860.**

**The 1800 census shows Robert as head of household with what is apparently his brother, Thomas, his wife, Elizabeth aged 35, two daughters under 10 and one son under 10. This son appears again in the 1810 census and is possibly still home in 1820. Nothing more is known of him. The Weavers had at least four daughters, three of whom were gone by 1830, and the last girl also gone by 1840. It is a sad commentary on life in those days to recognize that not only is nothing known about who they married or where they spent their lives, but even their given names were never recorded as a part of the area's history.**

**By 1830, young Thomas Weaver had married and was the father of two small girls. He lived on his father's land either with his parents or just next door. This farm, on which his father had received a warranty back in 1797, was located north of Eldersville Road just across the State Line. It lay behind the holdings occupied today by Alan and Florence Gould. Shawn and Tanya Dennis own this property today and live in a new house located very near what is believed to be the site of the Weaver settlement.**

**By 1840, the family of Thomas Gilbreath was located between Thomas and his father. By this time, Thomas and his wife had added two sons to their growing brood of children.**

**The census of 1850 gives the first definitive information about the Weavers. They were all living under one roof in their original location but Thomas was listed as head of household instead of his father. Robert was 90 years old at the time and Elizabeth (Betsy) was 85. Thomas was listed at age 46, so his birth year must have been circa 1804. His wife, Mary, was four years older than he. Their children were: Robert, Margaret, Thomas C., Hugh, Elizabeth, Sarah, and Reason.**

**Thomas died over the age of 90, sometime between 1850 and 1860. But Betsy was still alive and living with her son and family in 1860, when she was 90 years of age. Unfortunately, the graves where the Weavers are interred have not been located. It is conceivable that they could have been buried on the old farm which they must have loved, having spent perhaps sixty years there. Another remote possibility is that they may have been buried in the Criss Private Graveyard on the hill somewhere above Hanlin Station. The Criss families were near neighbors of the**

**Weavers and no doubt were friends. The exact location of this graveyard is no longer known.**

**On the 19<sup>th</sup> day of February in 1855, Thomas Weaver purchased 90 acres and 148 perches from Samuel Creswell. This purchase included what was later known as Kidds Mill. The Weaver family moved to the mill area probably in the spring of that year. (The deed which Creswell gave to Weaver stated specifically that if the Pine Grove Church, which had been built on Creswell's property, should close, the land was to revert to Thomas Weaver.)**



**Kidds Mill**

**It is unlikely that Robert Weaver at the age of past ninety years, would have left his original land and moved elsewhere. The fact that Thomas bought land in 1855, probably means that his father had died prior to this date.**

**Thomas operated the mill on Scotts Run until he sold it to David Benjamin in 1865. This writer has been unable to track this family beyond the 1860 census when Thomas C. Weaver, the son of Thomas and Mary, lived with a wife and three small children next door to them on the mill property. The only other sign of Weavers in Jefferson Township is the gravesite of Thomas C. and his wife in the Bethel Cemetery. It is not known where Thomas, his wife, and other children lived after 1865 when they sold the mill. Nor is it known when they died or where they were buried. But one thing is definitely known. Robert Weaver was one of Jefferson Township's earliest pioneers. He took up his land, and he settled in, and he stayed. He was probably a young man in his mid thirties when he first made his way through the virgin timber which covered his homestead. It was about sixty years later that he must have said his last goodbyes. It seems sad to think that those of us who remain today know so little about him. And it is sadder yet to know that wherever he was buried, should be marked as the final resting place of one of Jefferson Township's first pioneers. But that will probably never come to pass.**

## **Abraham Kelly Family**

**Abraham Kelly first appears in the local census records in 1820 with a wife and two small sons. There is also living with him another female over aged 45. This female does not again appear in his household. By 1830, he and his wife had added two more small sons and three daughters. The 1840 record shows a total of six sons, with the daughter count remaining at three. These nine children probably complete the Kelly family.**

**By 1850, the census shows that the two youngest sons were named John and Thomas. They were in their late teens at that time and were still living with their parents. Thomas was still at home in 1860, but John had apparently moved on.**

**One of the three daughters was named Maria. She died in January of 1847, at the age of twenty. This must have been a tragedy for the family to suffer through and no record remains explaining her untimely death. She is buried in the Eldersville Cemetery. As difficult as this death must have been for the Kellys, the Grim Reaper was not yet through with the family. In the spring of 1861, their youngest child, Thomas, who had always remained at home with them, died at the age of 27 and was buried beside his sister. A male named Nathan, aged 40, was living with the Kellys in 1860. He may have been a son. This writer has no other information on the children of this couple. Since they were raised on the Kelly farm near Eldersville, and probably were all born there, it seems a sad affair that not even their given names are a part of the history of Jefferson Township.**



**Abraham Kelly Homestead**

It was not quite two years after the death of Thomas that Abraham, himself, passed to the Great Beyond. He was 73 years of age, having been born in 1789. He listed his birthplace as Pennsylvania in the census records. His wife, Mary D., maiden name unknown, who was six years younger than her husband, lived another ten years after Abraham's death. She had been born in Maryland and was 77 years of age at her passing. They were laid to rest beside their son, Thomas, and daughter, Maria, in the graveyard at Eldersville. It is a known fact that Abraham served his country during the War of 1812, and he was, apparently, a farmer by trade. But the intricacies of his life remain a secret.

After Abraham's death in 1863, Mary is believed to have sold the farm to Eliza Jane Kidd and her son, Robert. (In the 1870 census, Mary was in the household of James Martin. This writer knows of no connection in the two families.) This Kelly land remained in the Kidd name until late in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. William and Kathleen Allen lived for a number of years on this property after Robert Kidd's son, Raymond, left the farm. The eight children of the Allens were raised in what was probably one of the original Kelly log houses. Unfortunately, it is no longer standing. Early maps show this farm as having two houses on the property, one on each side of what is today called Cedar Grove Road. The land lies south-east of Eldersville, next to the old Samuel McCuen farm, later, W.K. Truax, on the east. At the time of the Kelly occupancy, it bordered Alexander Smith on the west.

In the Bethel Graveyard, there is a grave of an Elizabeth Kelly who died in July of 1840, at the age of 70 years. She may have been related to Abraham but nothing definitive is known of her. Another interesting fact is a listing in the early 1810 census of a Nancy Kelly, who again surfaces in 1830, where she is listed as between 80 and 90 years of age. She was living alone at the time. Back in 1810, she had another female with her in her household. It is conceivable that although she was living alone at such an advanced age in 1830, she may actually have been living in close proximity to Abraham since she could have been living in the second house on his property. Since the houses were on opposite sides of the road, the census taker may very well have serviced these two homes at different times. To the knowledge of this writer, the above scenario is very feasible. Unfortunately, Nancy's grave has not been found to assist in this analysis. Of course she could be buried at Eldersville where persons copying the tombstone inscriptions there in 1938, indicated that there were at least one hundred earlier graves whose stones were down or missing, no record of which exists.

With nine children, seven of whom probably married and moved on, the Kelly name through Abraham's descendants, is, no doubt, firmly established, somewhere. It is regretful that nothing of a positive proof exists about them.

## David Kidd Family

David Kidd, a stock drover by occupation, was born in Ireland, the son of Joseph Kidd. David was the only one of the family to come to America. After making the journey, he met and married Eliza Jane Stewart sometime in the late 1840s. Eliza was the daughter of an early Jefferson Township couple, Robert and Ann McGough Stewart. After their marriage, and the birth of two daughters, David and Eliza Jane moved to Guernsey County, Ohio, where they made their home for fifteen years. This move was made circa 1854. By 1865, they had become the parents of one son and five daughters.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of July in 1868, David Kidd died, leaving Eliza Jane with the six children, the youngest of which was about four years of age. Realizing the task of raising these children, Eliza Jane returned to the home of her father in Jefferson Township where she lived for a few years on her father's land.

At the time of David's death, the only son, Robert Kidd, was but eleven years old. When Robert reached the age of fifteen, his mother and he decided it was time to strike out on their own. Perhaps with the help of her parents, she purchased, in 1872, the old Abraham Kelly farm just south east of Eldersville. Although not much more than a boy, her son, Robert, took over the farming and made a living for his mother and sisters. This remained the home farm of the Kidds through the lives of Eliza Jane's grandchildren.



*Robert Kidd, last operator of Kidds Mill*



This writer has not been able to learn what became of Robert's sisters, Sarah and Mary. Sarah was born in 1850 before her parents moved to Ohio and Mary was born in 1855, after the westward journey. Sarah was still at home with her mother by 1880, but Mary was gone from the nest. Between Sarah and Mary, another daughter, Anna Jane, had been born in 1852 in Pennsylvania. She died as a young lady of eighteen years in 1874, and was buried in a Presbyterian Cemetery on the hill above Burgettstown. Her mother, Eliza Jane, died at the age of 74 in 1894, and was buried beside this daughter.

The youngest daughter of David and Eliza was Rebecca. She was born in 1864, in Ohio, and returned to the Jefferson Township area with the family, eventually growing up on the Kidd farm near Eldersville. She married George Boles and left a number of descendants in the Avella and West Middletown areas.

Eliza's only son, Robert Stewart Kidd, must have been a godsend to his mother. Not only did he take over the farm work at the age of 15, but he was instrumental in the establishment of his sister, Agnes, and her family in the Kidds Mill area when she was left alone with four small children.



*Boarding House and Post Office at Kidds Mill*

Agnes had married James M. Murchland of Brooke County, who was the youngest of six children and was left motherless at birth. His aunt, Jane Murchland Miller, wife of George Miller, Jr., took this newborn infant home with her to Bancroft Farm after the funeral of his mother. The Millers raised James from birth as one of their

own. He married Agnes Kidd and they were the parents of four children: twins – Eliza and George, Harry, and Edna. This marriage, however, was always on rocky ground, and one day James went West, never to return again. This left Agnes with these four little ones to raise. Her brother, Robert Kidd, stepped in. He purchased the mill down on Scotts Run and the property connected to it from George Chalmers Miller, son of George Miller, Jr.. Robert Kidd was the operator of that mill until its closing many years later.



*Kidds Mill*

Prior to this time, the mill had been known as the Pine Grove Grist and Sawmill. After Robert's purchase of it, it has been known ever since as Kidds Mill. It has been passed down over the years by word of mouth that Robert Kidd, in operating the mill, walked nearly every day both to and from his home beyond Eldersville to the Scotts Run Valley for this daily task. At times, he rode a horse, but the usual method of transportation was on foot.

During the time that Robert was operating the mill, Robert's sister, Agnes Murchland, was certainly not idle. In addition to raising her children, she served as postmistress of the Bancroft Post Office which was located in the big house where she lived just across the stream from the milling operations. She also converted the big house into a boarding house in which she boarded and entertained young ladies from Pittsburgh for two-week stints in the summertime for the unheard of sum of \$4 per lady. Under her tutelage, Kidds Mill, according to the writings of the late A.D.White, was "... a busy place in those days, serving as a grist mill for a large area of the countryside, a trading center for the same area, and a summer resort."



*Kidds Mill as a Summer Resort*

**Agnes Murchland Kidd must have been made of stern stuff. Not only was she forced to go it alone in child rearing, but she lived to see three of her four children laid to rest. Little Harry died at about the age of three. George, who grew up to be a highly respected member of the community, died at age 33 of blood poisoning, contracted from a hemlock splinter he received hauling timber. And George's twin sister, Eliza, educated in the prestigious Normal School at Eldersville, and one of the best loved and most highly esteemed teachers in the township schools, died unexpectedly at the age of fifty from pneumonia. The last of Agnes's children, Edna, also did not escape hardships, even though she, herself, lived for nearly a century. Edna had married Creighton Pettibon and they had a child, Thelma. When this little girl was about four years of age, Creighton became violently ill and died. It is said that Edna never got over this loss.**

**After Kidds Mill operated for the last time as the need for grist mills diminished, Agnes moved to the village of Eldersville where she lived out her life, dying in 1944, at the age of 83. Helen Martin, a resident of the village and 95 years of age, recalls the days when the Shintown Mine was operating in full force and miners and management personnel roomed in town to avoid long distance traveling to work. Always alert to a new way to make ends meet, Agnes and her daughter, Edna, offered evening meals to men who had found rooms elsewhere in town but suffered from lack of restaurants or cafes. For years, these two industrious ladies filled this need by opening the dining room on a regular basis until strangers became friends.**



**side view of Agnes Murchland home in Eldersville**

**Robert Kidd, himself, who had to be one of Jefferson Township's finest, most industrious, selfless citizens, married Catherine Pettibon, daughter of William, Jr. and Nancy Metcalf Pettibon and moved her to his homestead near Eldersville. They were the parents of Eva, who married Merle Irwin, and Raymond, who married Mabel Cunningham. Both of Robert's children raised families who, for the most part, remained in the area and, like their forebears, were respected, worthwhile citizens of the Jefferson Township community.**



**Wagon shed on Kidd Farm**

## **The David Hayes Family**

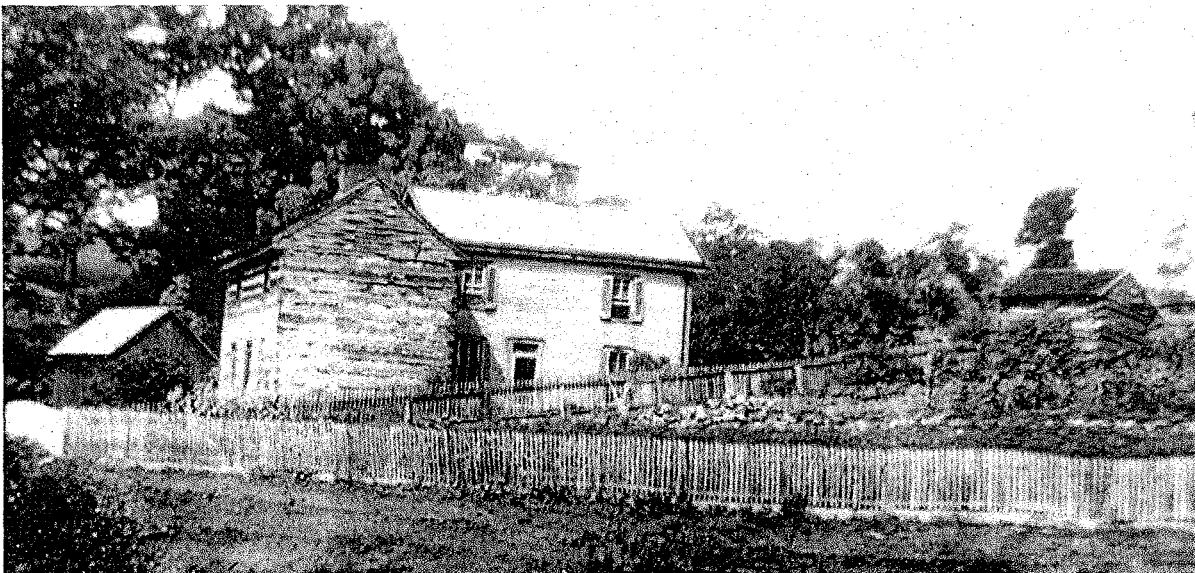
**David Hayes came to Smith Township, Washington County, Pennsylvania, from Sussex County, New Jersey, about 1783. He purchased several tracts of land on Raccoon Creek, part of which became known as "Hayes Bottom". This lay in the area presently known as Cherry Valley. Some Hayes family records state that he built his cabin near what later became the Raccoon Station on the Panhandle Railroad.**

**David was believed to have had seven sons and five daughters. The well-known Hayes brothers of the Tent Church area of Brooke County once told A.D.White that David Hayes had 18 children. At the time he wrote his will in 1782, he named seven sons and five daughters. The son with whom this writing is concerned is the eldest, Thomas Hayes, from whom the Hayes descendants associated with Jefferson Township descend. The name of David's wife is not known. Genealogists list David's death year as 1793. He is buried in the Cross Creek Graveyard.**

**Records show that six of David's sons served in the Revolution. Five returned back home, John having been fatally wounded in the Battle of Germantown in 1777. Thomas, the eldest son, was born in 1745 in New Jersey. The Revolutionary War record of Thomas is well established. He was first married to a Mary who is reputed to be buried beside him at Cross Creek. It is from his second wife, Elizabeth Clifford, that the Jefferson Township Hayes family descends.**

**The David and Thomas Hayes, listed in the early census records of Cross Creek Township, are NOT the David and Thomas with which this writing is concerned. Some Hayes family researchers believe they are related, while others believe they are an entirely different Hayes family. Be that as it may, the Jefferson Township connection to the Hayes clan is through the David and Thomas discussed at the beginning of this document who settled in Smith Township.**

**Among the children of Thomas Hayes was an Enoch Hayes who married Nancy Marshall.**



***Enoch Hayes Log Home, Tent Church Road, Brooke Co., Va.***

**For years, they were faithful members of the Raccoon Presbyterian Church at Candor, later transferring their membership to Cross Creek. This transfer was made because in 1830, Enoch and Nancy purchased a farm down the Tent Church Road in Brooke County. The distance to Candor from this Virginia homestead was much too far for the family to travel to church. It was a distance of nine miles to Cross Creek, but still a much shorter trip than to Candor.**

**By 1849, the Pine Grove Presbyterian Church was erected at Kidds Mill in Jefferson Township. Although the Hayes family lived in Brooke County, the distance from their home to Pine Grove was less than two miles. Thus it came to pass that this family of the Hayes clan were practically Jefferson Township people.**

**Unfortunately, at the building of Pine Grove Church, it was a time in the nation, of short tempers and high emotions over the slavery and temperance issues. A flag-raising incident over the church door one Sabbath morning created a near riot and there were some who blamed Enoch Hayes for the incident. Rather than cause a problem, Enoch withdrew his membership and joined the Three Springs Church where he was welcomed with open arms. He served there as an elder until his death in 1872. Unfortunately for Pine Grove, Enoch Hayes had been its strongest financial supporter. At his departure, the little congregation felt a void that was never filled. By 1886, Pine Grove was no more. This incident was extremely detrimental to the Jefferson Township area where a number of families were once again forced to find a church home which required extensive traveling distances for attendance. The George Miller family, who were prominent in the Pine Grove movement, turned their loyalties to Lower Buffalo Church. Others went an even greater distance. But the greatest loss to the area was the loss of the Hayes family itself, they having become an integral part of Jefferson Township during their stay at Pine Grove.**

**Enoch's son, Levi Hayes, married Virginia Campbell who descended from pioneer James Campbell of the Kings Creek area of Brooke (now Hancock) County. Levi stayed on the farm of his father and there he raised his two sons and two daughters. Mary married Rev. Leonard Richey of the Independence Township Richeys. After his death, she became a Methodist minister in her own right. The other three children did not marry. Clifford and Clarence were lifelong elders in the Tent Presbyterian Church and their devotion and loyalty to it were unparalleled, Clifford himself having a perfect attendance record of over 56 years.**

**A family of Hayes descendants who lived in Jefferson Township in 1850 are believed to descend from Levi Hayes, son of Thomas. In 1850, a Thomas Clifford Hayes, aged ten, was listed in the household of Jane, probably his mother, living in the area of the township near the Cole, Ritchey, VanOrdstrand families. This Thomas C. Hayes was a sergeant in Company K during the Civil War. He was killed at Gettysburg on 2 July 1863.**

**Although the length of time in residence in the township of some of the persons named in this article is small, their influence was felt in the area and there were many township people who considered them as "neighbors". The young Thomas C. discussed above, was probably born in the township and left from the township for that last fatal journey. Jefferson Township proudly claims Thomas Clifford Hayes as one of its sons who gave the last full measure of devotion.**

## **The Robert Cassidy Family**

**Robert Cassidy was born probably in County Donegal, Ireland, circa 1786. His brother, John, was born circa 1783, and came to America on a sailing vessel which required eleven weeks and two days for the journey. It may be that Robert came with John, or he may have emigrated from the Emerald Isle a little later. In 1816, John bought land on Irish Ridge in Jefferson Township, joining the Melvin Farm. Robert bought 132 acres from the original patentee, John Morrison, in 1818. This patent, known as "Rockbridge", was not far from the land of his brother, John. Robert's land not only bordered the Virginia State Line, but crossed it. About 25 years later, when Robert sold this land, he retained at least 7 acres which lay on the top of the ridge next to the state line. This was a beautiful plot of ground, opening on to Amspoker Ridge and easily accessible from any direction. It remained in the Cassidy family through four generations.**

**Although deeds prove that both John and Robert bought land before 1820, only John appeared in the census that year. In 1830, Robert was living on his land with a son and a daughter aged 5 to 10, and another son and daughter aged 10 to 15. His wife was apparently dead by this time. The ages of these children, if accurate, would place her death about 1820 to 1825. An unidentified broken tombstone at Bethel, states, "Mrs. Anne Cassidy, 1818, aged 37 years". If this is Robert's wife, there may have been a misreading, due to the poor condition of the stone, as to the year of her death. Sadly, after very extensive research by this author, (Robert Cassidy being her great, great, grandfather) nothing else is known of this first wife of Robert or of her children.**

**Robert's second wife was Isabelle Forbes, born circa 1804 in Ireland. She had a brother, Joseph Forbes, but nothing further is known of her family. She is believed to have come from the Chambersburg area of Pennsylvania before she married Robert. They were probably married about 1839 since their first child was born in 1840.**

**Robert continued living on his land after his marriage to Isabelle and, of his children to his first wife, one daughter continued to live at home at least for awhile. She was listed in the census of 1840.**

**While Robert and Isabelle lived in Jefferson Township, three sons were born to them: William Bramwell Cassidy, born 1840; Joseph Nelson Cassidy, born 1841; and John Robert Cassidy, born 1843. After the family moved to Brooke County, two other children were added to the family: James, born 1845; and Nancy J., birth year unknown. This entire family are buried together at Bethel.**

**In 1843, Robert and Isabelle sold to Ewing McCleary, their Jefferson Township property except the seven acres mentioned before. They then purchased 85 acres on Amspoker Ridge which joined their original holdings. A picture of their old log house appears on the next page. The persons in the photo are William and John Cassidy, sons of Robert. Neither ever married. William served throughout the Civil War, having taken the place of a cousin of his who was drafted. His mother volunteered this eldest son of hers to go in place of his cousin, since the other young man was married with children. William came home from his time of service to his country, safe and sound.**

*Robert Cassidy Homestead  
Amspoker Ridge  
Brooke County, WV*



**During his lifetime, Robert Cassidy was a faithful member of the Bethel Church. Like his brother, he was one of the original founders. He must have been a strong man since Clyde Melvin, who knew his sons, once reported that the three Cassidy boys were the strongest men he had ever seen. He said that he, personally, had seen them each pick up, unassisted, a 200 pound barrel of salt from the railroad station at Virginville on Cross Creek, and lift it into a wagon without lowering the sideboards.**

**The second son of Robert was Joseph Nelson, the great grandfather of this writer. He married Margaret Ellen Headington by whom he had three children. He was the only one of the children of Robert and Isabelle to produce heirs, little James having died at the age of three, and Nancy J. as an infant.**

**Robert died in January of 1851, leaving Isabelle with the three oldest boys under the age of eleven. Isabelle raised these children to adulthood alone. She died five days before Christmas in 1878, and was buried beside Robert.**

**Although Robert lived in Jefferson Township from a little after 1810 until 1843, he was always closely affiliated with his brother, John, and members of the next generation of both Cassidy families were very close. In the 1890s, Robert's granddaughter, Jane Isabelle Cassidy Clarke, and husband moved back to the land of her grandfather in Jefferson Township and lived in the brick house which Ewing McCleary had built after he bought the land in 1843 from Robert and Isabelle. It was in this house that four of her children were born. Thus the Cassidys remained in the township on Robert's original land, much longer than Robert's initial stay of thirty years might indicate to a casual observer.**



## **Ewing McCleary Family**

**Ewing McCleary was born two days after Christmas in 1810, in Brooke County, Virginia. He was the eighth of the eleven children of his parents, Thomas and Mary Linn McCleary.**

**Ewing's father, Thomas, had moved his family from Frederick County, Virginia, in 1806. Thomas had been born in Pennsylvania on 24 June 1762. He was thirty years old when he married seventeen-year-old Mary Linn on 18 December 1792. Thomas was a farmer and a cooper by trade. He and Mary were married 57 years. Thomas lived to be 88 years of age, dying 8 October 1850. His wife followed, just over six months later. They were buried at the old Baptist Cemetery on Cross Creek in Brooke County.**

**The children of Thomas and Mary were: James, John, Jane who married Jonza Fowler, Maria who married John Scott, Eliza who married James Kerr, William, Sarah who married John Fowler, Ewing, Martha who married Lewis Carter, Thomas, and Julie Ann who married James Reed.**

**The first property purchased by Thomas after coming to Brooke County was in 1816, when he bought two tracts of land on Cross Creek. It is not known exactly where they lived in Brooke County in 1810, when Ewing was born. Thomas added to this land in 1830. Upon his death in 1850, he left a sizable amount of money for that day and age to each of his living children, as well as to the children of his deceased offspring.**

**It must have been about 1840 or 1841 when Ewing McCleary married Mary Ann Magee, daughter of William and Martha Fowler Magee. Mary Ann had been born in Washington County, PA, on 12 December 1822. Her parents probably lived in Jefferson Township at the time of her birth. After Mary Ann married Ewing McCleary, they no doubt lived in Jefferson Township. It is known that their first child, Martha Ellen, was born in Pennsylvania on 2 May 1842, but records do not say exactly where. However, the second child, Mary Rebecca, who was born on New Years Day in 1844, was definitely born in Jefferson Township. The next child, John R. McCleary, was born in Pennsylvania about 1846. He is definitely a Jefferson Township product, not only having been born here, but also having lived out his life but a few miles from the place of his birth.**

**The other children of Ewing and Mary Ann were: Sarah, Lewis, Annie, Florence, Nancy, and Loretta. Mary Ann died about the time of Loretta's birth in 1861. She was not yet forty years of age. By 1888, Ewing moved from the farm to Wellsburg where he died in January of 1893. He had been a widower for 32 years.**

**It was in 1843, that Ewing and Mary Ann bought from Robert and Isabelle Cassidy, 125 acres of land in Jefferson Township west of Kidds Mill and overlapping across the State Line into Amspoker Ridge in Brooke County, Virginia. It is not known what sort of house the Cassidies occupied when they lived there in Jefferson Township from 1818 until 1843. During this time, Robert Cassidy's first wife had died in the early 1820s and about 1839, he had married Isabelle Forbes. This couple took their three young children in 1843, and moved just across the State Line to another farm they had purchased on Amspoker Ridge. The house on this Virginia property was a**

very rustic, log dwelling. If there had been a better house on their original property which Ewing purchased from them, they most certainly would not have moved to what became the Cassidy log house, which left much to be desired as a suitable home. Thus, it is almost certain, that after Ewing purchased this Cassidy land, he built the brick house which became the Ewing McCleary homestead in Jefferson Township. It stood until 1907 when it was destroyed by fire.



The eldest son of Ewing McCleary, John R., married Hannah Cunningham. They were the parents of two daughters, Mary Elizabeth and Nellie. It is not positively known if John and Hannah lived most of their early married life on the Ewing McCleary property in Jefferson Township in the brick house or perhaps nearby. They are listed in that area in both the 1870 and 1880 census records, and from their closest neighbors, it would appear that they were living in the brick house. It is a fact that John purchased 30 acres in Jefferson Township on 30 September 1887. This may have been his property in Eldersville where he lived out his life. A McCleary genealogist has written that John's younger brother, Lewis, who never married, farmed his father's farm for many years and paid his father rent for the privilege. This genealogist specifically says that this farm lay both in Jefferson Township, PA, and also in Brooke County, VA. It is not known if Lewis lived on the land while he farmed it.

**The late W.M. Truax, life long resident of Jefferson Township, once told this writer that the big white Victorian house across from the town pump on Eldersville Road in the village was built by John R. McCleary in the 1890s.**



**There was a house on this property for many, many years prior to the erection of this Victorian house since the McAfee family lived there for over 60 years.**

**John R. McCleary died in 1917, at the age of 68. Hannah lived until 1926, to the age of 84. They are buried in the Eldersville Cemetery. In his will of 18 January 1908, John made his son-in-law, William A. Cosgrove, his executor. His other son-in-law, Eugene Robertson, had died the previous year in 1907, at the age of 36. Both of his daughters had children. John gave each of his girls \$500 and left \$200 to each grandchild to be invested by his executor until they came of age. The remainder of his estate was left to his wife, Hannah.**

**John's son-in-law, William A. Cosgrove, was a prominent citizen of the village and a highly esteemed schoolteacher during his youth. He later became a banker in Vandergrift where he and his family lived for a number of years. He and his wife, Mary Elizabeth (Bessie) McCleary Cosgrove, are buried at the Fort Steuben Estates in Steubenville, Ohio. They had four children: Mabel, Esther, Lois, and William.**

**The other daughter of John and Hannah, Nellie, who married Eugene Robertson of Eldersville, had a son, Fred, and a daughter, Mildred.**

**John R. McCleary was the only one of Ewing's children to spend his entire life in Jefferson Township. Since John's children were both girls, the McCleary name left the area after his death and that of his wife, Hannah. But during the time frame of 1843, when Ewing bought the farm in Jefferson Township from Robert Cassidy, until Hannah McCleary's death in 1926, the members of the McCleary family were among the respected, industrious, honest citizens who made up the land.**

## **The George McAfee Family**

**(This name is sometimes spelled McFee.)**

**Just west of the town pump corner of Eldersville, stands a two-story building known for most of its century and a quarter existence as Centennial Hall. The land surrounding this structure and lying between Eldersville Road to the west and Shintown Road on the east was the property for fifty years or more of George and Mary McAfee. The land on which sits the big Victorian house which dominates the lots across from the town pump was also owned by the McAfees, as well as the left side of Eldersville Road as one leaves town headed west. This particular section of land was bordered at the west end by the property of John Crippen.**

**The big house standing today on the lots described above was not built until the 1890s according to the late W.M.Truax. It became the John McCleary Homestead.**



*John McCleary Homestead  
Corner Cedar Grove & Eldersville Rds.  
Eldersville, Jefferson Township*

**But another two-story house stood in its place. No picture of this first house is available. The springhouse, known in recent times as “The Gathering Place”, or its predecessor, was a part of the McAfee holdings. This estate also included two buildings behind the house which were removed some time ago because of deterioration. A barn and another outbuilding completed the layout.**

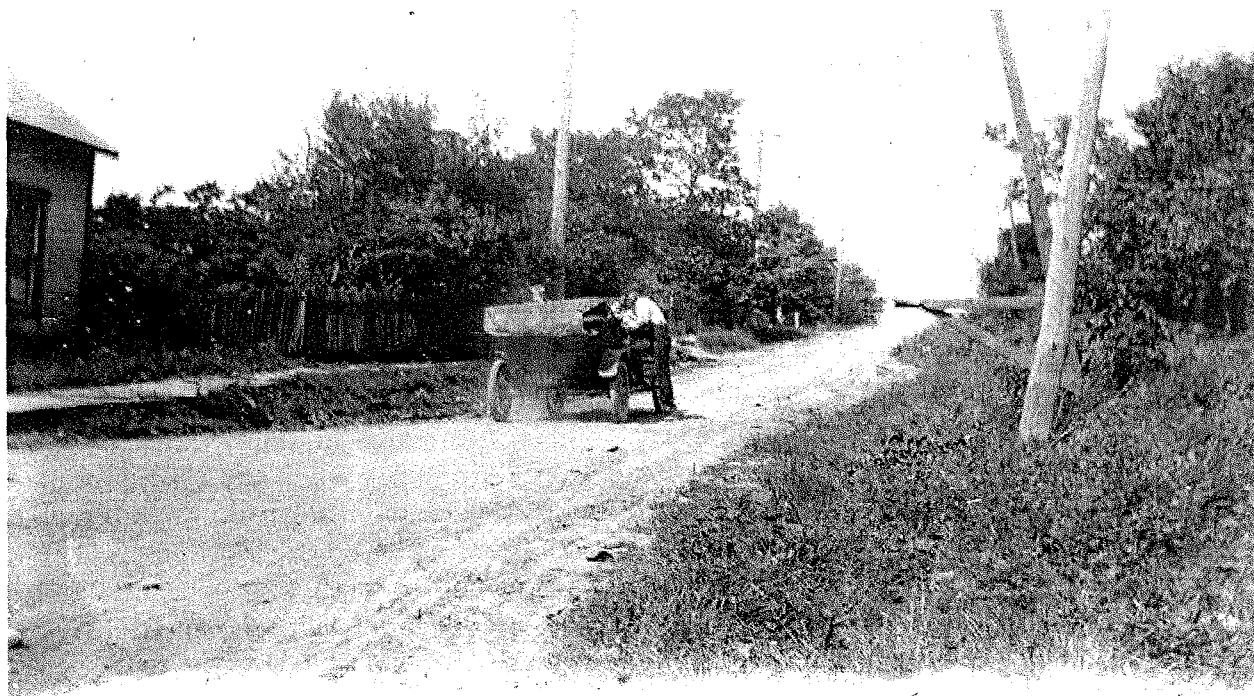
**It is not known where the McAfees lived before they bought this Eldersville property in the 1820s. But the 1830 census shows George and Mary with a young**

female aged 10 –15 and an elderly female aged 70 – 80 in their household. In 1840, a different girl, aged 5 – 10, was living with them, while the two extra members of their household in 1830 were gone.

In 1850, only George and Mary lived in the big house on the corner. But by 1860, eight year old Jenny Strong and 52 year old Hannah Bebout were part of the family. By 1860, Jenny was 17 years of age and still living with the McAfees, but Hannah was no longer there.

George McAfee, who had been born circa 1797, died just before Christmas in 1876, at nearly 80 years of age. Mary lived until 1886, dying at age of 83. They were buried at Cross Creek Cemetery. Since no other McAfee graves are found there, they were probably childless. They appear to have been people who opened their home and their hearts to others who perhaps needed them and needed a place to live.

It is believed that John McCleary, who built the big Victorian house which stands on the property today, bought the McAfee holdings after Mary's death. Nothing else is known of this family who were in residence in the township for better than half a century.



**Burgettstown Road north. McAfee property on the left.**

## **The John H. Murchland Family**

**Robert Murchland, the father of John H. Murchland, Sr., was born in 1782, in Killyleigh, County Down, Ireland, the son of William and Jane Muchland. At the age of eight, he came with his parents, grandmother, siblings, and a large company of Murchland relatives to America on the brig "Brothers". They arrived in Baltimore, Maryland, where they remained for three months during which they recuperated from the long and tedious ocean voyage.**

**Robert's Uncle Robert had preceded the family to the New World by eighteen years and had settled in what is today Brooke County, WV, where he purchased a large area of land and established himself before sending for the rest of his family. This Uncle Robert never married. When he knew his family had arrived in Baltimore, he set out for that city with a large train of pack horses to bring his aged mother, sister, brother, and their extended families to his plantation on what is known today as Puntney Ridge in Brooke County. Some of the youngsters who were waiting in Baltimore for their Uncle Robert to come for them had been born since he had set out for America himself in 1773. It must have been a grand reunion, particularly in light of the fact that he had not seen his mother for eighteen years. Robert lived less than seven years after that joyous meeting, dying on St. Patrick's Day in 1797. In his will, he bequeathed his land to two of the sons of his brother, William. James, the eldest, received half of the property, while Robert, the youngest son, received the other half. This Robert, who received half of his uncle's land, was the father of Jefferson Township's John H. Murchland with whom this writing is concerned.**

**Robert married Sarah Henderson by whom he had ten children, five sons and five daughters. John H. was the second son, born 26 May 1815, on the old Murchland Farm in Brooke County. In all probability, his elder brother, William, inherited the land after the death of Robert in 1863. But William was fraught with burdens, which would have destroyed completely, a lesser man. He had married Mary Ann Boyle by whom he had two sons and two daughters. But Mary Ann died in 1859, when these children were between the ages of five and thirteen. In 1862, when the youngest of these children was eight years of age, the three oldest died within eight days of each other, two of them on the very same day. They were apparently the victims of an epidemic of disease which had spread throughout the entire area that year, claiming dozens of persons, many of whom were children. This author is uncertain whether or not William continued to live on the Murchland farm, but he died in 1875, a little over a decade after these tragedies.**

**John H., the second son of Robert, moved just a mile or two from home, but across the state line into Jefferson Township in Pennsylvania. In March of 1842, he married Sara Ann Dever, daughter of John Dever of the Hopewell area. They became the parents of seven girls and two boys. The eldest, Robert, eventually migrated to Iowa where he remained the rest of his life. The other son, John H., Jr., married Emma Gillespie of Jefferson Township and remained in the area all of his life. His children were Lillian and Floyd. Neither ever married. Lillian was a graduate of the Eldersville Normal School and a highly respected teacher in the township most of her life.**

Of the seven daughters of John H. and Sarah, two died as children. Two never married. Lydia married a local young man, George Chalmers Miller. She died, however at the age of 24 and her only child, Jessie, died at the age of eight with tuberculosis. Caroline, the eldest girl, married John Cooper of the Eldersville area. She lived out her life in the village. She was the mother of six daughters. Her grandchildren, however, numbered only two, and each died without issue. The only remaining daughter of John H. was Martha, who married W.S. Moore from the Independence area. Only one of their four children had issue. So it came to pass that despite having nine offspring, John H. and Sarah had but three great-grandchildren- all of them girls. The only possible exception would be if their eldest son, Robert, who went to Iowa, had grandchildren. It is known that, of his three children, the two daughters did not marry. If his son, another John H., produced a son, there may be a descendant yet, of John H. Murchland, somewhere in the world, who bears the Murchland surname. But in Jefferson Township, the Murchland name from this line died with the death of Floyd Murchland near Eldersville, 16 August 1963.

Sarah Ann, wife of John H., had died at the age of 42. John H. lived to rear his children, passing away 9 November 1889. He and Sarah are buried at Bethel.

The John H. Murchland farm was located on the bypass between State Line Road Extension, which ran toward Kidds Mill, and Amspoker Ridge just across the Brooke County line. This farm was known in later years as the Luce place. Pictured here is the flagstone house in which probably all of the children of John H. and Sarah were born. It was in partial ruins, but still standing, shortly after 1900. The beautiful brick home which stood closer to the State Line Road than this house, was probably built by John H. but this is not known to be factual. It was destroyed by fire when occupied by renters in later years. Arson was suspected. No picture of it has surfaced.

*John H. Murchland Stone House  
North of Kidds Mill-near brooke Co line  
Jefferson Township*



## **The James Williamson Family**

**The Williamson family first appeared in the Cross Creek census in 1820, where James was listed as being between the ages of 16 and 26. He had a wife and small son. By 1830, there were two sons and two daughters, all small enough to still be in the family nest. But by 1840, there were three sons and three daughters, two of whom had been born in the previous decade. This James Williamson disappeared from Jefferson Township after 1840. During his stay of nearly forty years, he lived in the south western end of the township, his neighbors being Robert Cassidy, Francis and John Cunningham, and Alexander Lawthers. Not enough information is given in the early censuses to pinpoint exactly where their home was located.**

**Also in this same area of Jefferson Township were the families of a John Williamson, and a William Williamson, both of whom were young men with wives and children. They did not live far from James, so may have been brothers or nephews.**

**This writer believes that James, discussed in the previous paragraph, moved to Brooke County shortly before 1850, and is the James found in the records of Brooke in the following decades. If this is true, he is buried at the Tent Presbyterian Church and from those cemetery records, other information about him comes into play.**

**The James buried at the Tent, was born in Pennsylvania, 14 January 1796, and died in Brooke County, 21 January 1778. His wife's name was Sarah. She was born, 8 October 1796, and died, 1 August 1883. After James's death, she lived with her daughter, Mary. The children of James and Sarah were: David, John T. and Margaret (twins), Mary, and James. There may have been others unknown at this writing.**

**The John Williamson family living also in this Kidds Mill area of Jefferson Township, was married to a Jane. John died before 1850, when Jane was the head of the household. With her were the following children: Samuel, Joseph, John, Robert G., and Margaret. This writer does not know what became of Jane after 1850. Neither she nor her husband, John, appear to be buried at the Tent. However, their son, Robert, is buried there, as well as a daughter, Jane Ann, who died, 16 September 1845, at the age of one year, and twin infant children who died 15 June 1842. These burials at the Tent, with the rest of the Williamson family, are a strong indication that there was some close blood relationship between John Williamson and the James Williamson discussed above.**

**Although the Williamsons disappeared from the Jefferson Township area before 1860, many of them did not move far away. On the south end of St. John's Road in Brooke County, just before it drops off steeply toward the stream of Cross Creek, once stood a 209 acre plot containing two log houses. One house stood on each side of the road, where families by the name of Williamson lived for several generations. They often bragged that in one of those houses, there had been 21 births and never a death. If that is true, this was definitely NOT the home of the William and Sarah Williamson found in the Brooke County censuses a number of years. In the Tent Graveyard are eight children of this couple, who died between birth and the age of seven between 1836 and 1847. Two of these little ones died the same day in 1843. Two other daughters died as young women. William, who was born in Ireland in 1800, lived until the age of 90, having outlived at least ten of his children.**



## **James P. Robertson Family**

**On the north side of Cedar Grove Road in Eldersville, just a few hundred yards from the Town Pump, stands the James P. Robertson Homestead. James was in Jefferson Township in the 1830s, and probably built the house before 1850, as it is clearly marked on the 1856 map, which is the earliest township map available.**



*James P. Robertson Homestead*

**James Robertson had been born somewhere in Pennsylvania circa 1814. His wife, Elizabeth, whose maiden name is not known, was about 4 years younger than her husband. They were probably married in the late 1830s. James and Elizabeth were the parents of two sons and four daughters.**

**The eldest daughter, Adeline, born in 1840, married Alexander Smith and lived on what was later known as the Louie Weigmann farm. She was the mother of five sons: James, Robert, Harry, E.C., and Oscar. Her sister, Mary Elizabeth, born in 1842, married Robert Osborne. She died in 1877, at the age of 35. She had no children.**

**Adeline's second sister, Annie, born in 1847, married Patterson Walker of Hollidays Cove. They had several children including: Charles, born in 1868, Clifford, born in 1870, and Emma, born in 1872. Clifford married Susan Hendricks, and Emma died at the age of 22. Nothing further is known of the children of Annie.**

**Alice, Adeline's baby sister, was born about Christmas time in 1851. She married Cyrus Wright. Alice died at the age of 31. She had no children.**

**The elder son of James and Elizabeth was Lycurgus Robertson. He and his wife, Jemima, had but one child, Eugene. The homestead, naturally, fell to Lycurgus since he was the eldest son. He had been born in 1844, and like other young men born at this time, he served in the Union Army in the Civil War. His father, James, died in 1880, but Lycurgus's days as head of the Robertson family were short lived. He died in 1891, at the age of 47 years.**

**By 1900, Eugene, the son of Lycurgus and Jemima, had married and was living next to his mother in Eldersville. His wife was the former Nellie McCleary, daughter of John McCleary who lived in the big house on the corner in the village. Eugene and Nellie were the parents of Fred and Mildred. But in 1907, Eugene died at the age of 36. The old homestead in the heart of Eldersville passed out of the Robertson name after being "home" to the family for three-quarters of a century. It was sold to Launcelot Cunningham whose farm house on Miller Road south of Bethel Church, had burned to the ground. In later years, Launcelot's daughter, Mabel, married Raymond Kidd and they lived there a number of years. Thus it is that old timers often refer to this property as either the Cunningham or the Kidd home.**

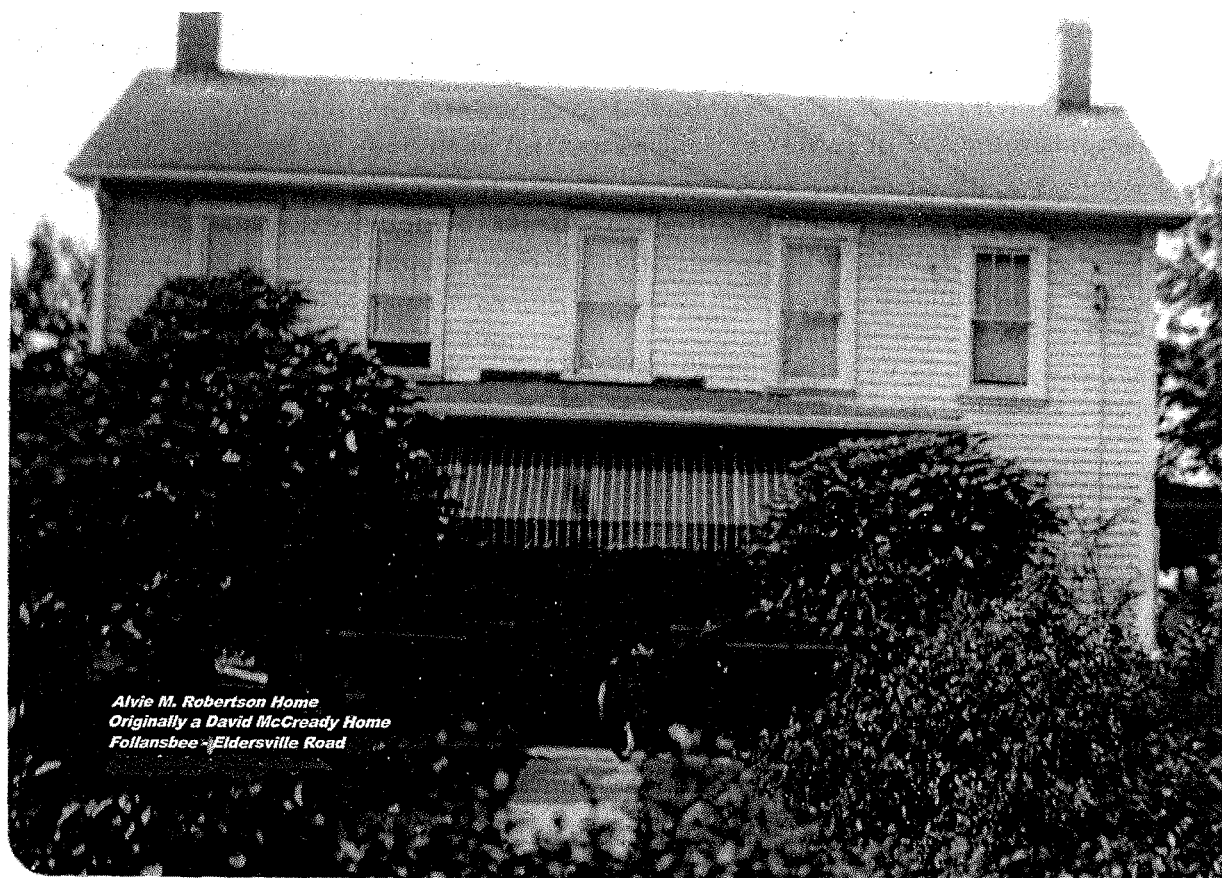
**The youngest son of James and Elizabeth was John C. Robertson, born in 1850. He married Melicindra Wright, daughter of Jonathan Wright of Jefferson Township. They had at least five children: Alvy, Minnie, Mary, James, and Barth. After the death of James P. and Elizabeth in the 1880s, the family of John C. disappeared from the township census records. Later family members say that they moved to the Pittsburgh area near Ingram where Alvy's children were born. About 1907, Alvy returned to Jefferson Township, settling on what later became the Robertson Fruit Farm.**

**When he was ready to move back to Jefferson Township, the story is told that the house into which he planned to move, burned to the ground. He was desperate for a place to put his family. But luck was with Alvy. Down the road on the farm where Rich Englert lived before his death, was the old house built by David McCready about 1835. No one had lived in it for a long time. David's son had erected the red brick house which stands there today and which was occupied at that time by Thompson Criss, a cousin of Alvy.**



***Thompson Criss House***

**Thompson gave the old house to the Robertsons and they moved it with teams of horses by rolling it on logs. It is the house known ever since as the Robertson home, still standing on the former Robertson Fruit Farm.**



**Alvy often related the story that the Fruit Farm got its start when two of his aunts each gave him a sprig from an apple tree and told him to plant them. It was the beginning of the Robertson orchards which covered the world with apple blossoms each spring for a large number of years.**

**Alvy married Maude McCoy. Their children were: William, born in 1896; Arthur, born in 1898; Florence, Helen, and Ilah. Arthur continued with his father's work in the orchards, and his sister Ilah, stayed nearby and married Ambrose McCaffery. With the death of Arthur's son, Edward (Bud), the Robertson Fruit Farm was no more. Although the bloodline of James P. Robertson, who came to Jefferson Township over 170 years ago, still is prevalent in the greater community, the last of this line to bear the Robertson name was Bud.**

**As one drives down Eldersville Road today, the once busy fruit market of this family is now a ghost structure. But in the heart of the village, uptown, the James P. Robertson Homestead still stands - grandly restored to much like it must have looked in the days when James and Elizabeth Robertson made it their home. The gracious occupant and owner today is Eleanor Kidd, who fills this Sesquicentennial Home of Jefferson Township with light and love.**

## **The Samuel Wright family**

**Samuel Wright is believed to have been the only one of his family to come to the Jefferson Township area of Washington County, Pennsylvania. Family tradition says that he had been born in Maryland about 1778, and that his father was probably a David Wright. Little else is known of him. He apparently came to this area in the late 1790s, although he does not appear as a Head of Household in either the 1800 or 1810 census records. About 1800, or shortly before, he married Sarah Criss who lived in what is today the Hanlin Station area of the township. Sarah's father, John Criss, was a Revolutionary soldier and after the war had become one of the patentees of land along the stream known as Harmon Creek. He and his wife, Ursula Hawkins Criss, had six sons followed by this one daughter, Sarah.**

**Samuel and Sarah Criss Wright had twelve children including seven sons. Persons with surname of Wright today whose ancestors came from the Jefferson Township region are descendants of these young men.**

**In 1808, Samuel bought the 300 acre patent of James Vanator and Amos Loney which lay on both sides of Harmon Creek. This land was just west of what is today Hanlin Station. The Panhandle Railroad went straight through this property in later days. Although this patent did not border that of his father-in-law, John Criss, Samuel's eastern border was but a stone's throw from the Criss western line.**

**Of the twelve children of Samuel and Sarah Wright, at least three remained in the area or had children who remained in the area long enough to be considered old Jefferson Township families.**

**One of these who remained near the home place for a number of years was their son, Samuel, Jr., who married Nancy Lawther. Nancy was of the old Alexander Lawther family whose homestead stood high on the hill north of the Kidds Mill area of the township. She was the sixth of the nine children of James and Jeanette Shaw Lawther who left County Antrim, Ireland, on their wedding day in 1790, and set sail for America. James Lawther was the son of Alexander and Christian Murchland Lawther who settled first in Brooke County before coming to Pennsylvania. Life at that time was not easy. Nancy's oldest sister, Eleanor Lawther, had been born in Wells Fort during an Indian raid.**

**Nancy married Samuel Wright, Jr. about 1828. Their children were: Enoch, Isaac, Nicholas, Joshua, Jacob, Alexander, Editha, and Hannah. The family was still in Jefferson Township in 1864, when Isaac died at the age of 32. It is not known if he served in the Civil War, but his age and death date might suggest that this could have been the case. He is buried at Eldersville. This family disappears from local census records in 1870.**

**One of the younger children of Samuel and Sarah was Jonathan Wright. He was born in May of 1822, and remained on the home place his entire life. He married Irene Cox and raised a very large family on the old homestead. (Jonathan and his brother, David, had inherited the home place from their father at his death, providing they gave each of their siblings a monetary amount stipulated by Samuel to make up for their share of his estate.) Jonathan died in 1918, at the age of 96. He and his wife are buried in the Eldersville Cemetery.**

**Jonathan Wright Homestead  
Creek Lane  
Jefferson Twp.**



**Jonathan's daughter, Melisandra, married John C. Robertson. Their son, Alvy Robertson, was the founder of the Robertson Fruit Farm on Eldersville Road. Several of the descendants of this Robertson line are still in the greater Jefferson Township area.**

**Jonathan's daughter, Mary Katherine Wright, who was born 11 September 1843, lived to the age of 97 years, mostly in Jefferson Township. She never married and**

was dearly loved by all. Aunt Kate, as everyone called her, died as the result of burns received a few weeks prior to her death on 10 February 1940. She had risen before others in the household and sat over the register to warm herself. The furnace fired up and she is believed to have fainted and fallen on the register. Upon arising, a family member found her there. She was buried in the Eldersville Cemetery.

Silas Wright, the son of Samuel's child, Nicholas, was also well known in the Jefferson Township area. He was born in Eldersville, 18 January 1844. At the age of 16 he enlisted in Co B, 85<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Regiment and served in the Union Army for 3 years, 4 months, and 3 days. He was in 23 battles and at one point in time was saved from death by a buddy.

Upon returning home, Silas became a pipe line walker for Standard Oil Company, a job he maintained for 22 years. At his retirement, it was calculated that during those working years, he had walked distances whose sum would equal three times around the world.

Silas married his first cousin, Mary Jane Richardson, by whom he had three sons and two daughters. This family was living in Eldersville in 1870, in the big building later known as the John Boles House and Store. Margaret Richardson, Mary Jane's mother, was living with them. In an adjoining area of the building were his brother-in-law, Matthew Richardson, and family. There were a great number of inter-marriages between the Wright and Richardson families in the Eldersville area during this period of time.

Silas Wright died of pneumonia in Houston, Pennsylvania, in 1922, at the age of 78. It was here that he had lived out the rest of his life. His wife of over half a century died in 1936, at the age of 91. They are buried at Oak Springs Cemetery near Canonsburg.

Wright family tradition says that Samuel Wright came to Jefferson Township before 1800, where he married Sarah Criss from down on Harmon Creek. After 200 years, the land on which they settled is still known today as the old Wright farm. The road down Creek Lane toward the railroad will take you very close to where Samuel and Sarah raised their brood of 12 children. There it was that they lived and loved and laughed and cried. And to that old farm came their children's children to still another generation. When, as a hearty young man of perhaps twenty years of age, he bought that 300 acres from the original patentees, one thing is certain. Samuel Wright came to stay.



## **The Robert Curry Family**

**Robert Curry, Sr. was born in the Highlands of Scotland circa 1754. In 1782, he and two of his brothers were pressed into service aboard a British man-o-war, where he saw the great naval engagement between the French and English fleets. On his journey to America, he met Isabella McKenzie, a gal also from the Highlands of Scotland. He made her acquaintance, and as fate would have it, they fell in love and later married.**

**Upon arriving in the New World, they spent some time at Fort Pitt where Robert worked at his trade of a cooper. By 1790, they had moved near Fort Henry at Wheeling. It is a known fact that Robert took part in the Indian Wars, but no details were available to this writer. Sometime after 1810, they moved to the Cross Creek area, living in what is now Jefferson Township, or very near its border.**

**Records say that Robert and Isabella had eight daughters and four sons. Several of these daughters may have married while the family lived in the Wheeling area, but at least three wed young men of this area, namely, Nancy who married David Caldwell of Mt. Pleasant Township, a daughter who married a Stephenson of Smith Township, and Sarah who married William VanOrdstrand. The Elizabeth Curry who married William after the death of Sarah, may also have been a daughter of Robert Curry.**

**The son, Archibald, was a bachelor. He and his brother, Robert, served in the War of 1812. These two brothers, plus John, made several trips to New Orleans in flatboats. On one occasion, Archibald walked the entire distance back home. In his youth, he was a trader at New Orleans for a number of years, having seen the city when the Spaniards held it and Louisiana. He died 18 May 1868, at the age of 84.**

**John Curry married and lived near Claysville, and died there. Robert, Jr. lived at Hanlin Station on the property owned, until their deaths, by John and Ruby Moore. At one point in their lives, this house caught fire from something Mrs. Curry was cooking and nearly the entire house was destroyed. It is believed, however, that a part of the original log house is concealed within the walls of the existing structure.**

**Robert Curry's first wife, Keziah, died in 1838, at the age of 38. His second wife, Sarah, died in 1880. Robert was 76 years of age at the time of his death in 1866.**

**The fourth son of the Currys was Superintendent of the State Normal School in Nebraska in 1876. Nothing further is known of him.**

**Robert Curry, Sr. died 25 June in 1838, at the age of 84. His wife, Isabella, lived until 28 March 1856, in the 96<sup>th</sup> year of her age. They are buried at Cross Creek, along with Robert, Jr., Robert's two wives, Archibald, a Daniel and Mary Curry, and a John who was born in 1819. The relationships to Robert and Isabella of the last three mentioned is not known.**

**Although the Currys are considered primarily citizens of Cross Creek Township, Robert, Jr. lived just across Harman Creek within a stone's throw of Jefferson Township, and Sarah, who married William VanOrdstrand, lived nearly her entire life here. The Currys were good people, highly respected and hardworking persons whose sons had served their country when the call came. Jefferson Township should be proud of this family who made a home here for over fifty years.**

## **The Benjamin Bebout Family**

**Benjamin Bebout was born in New Jersey in 1758. His wife, Hannah, was born in 1764. In the 1800 through 1830 census records, they were found living in what is today Jefferson Township, among their nearest neighbors being Thomas McCarroll and Alexander Smith. The Bebouts had crossed the mountains from New Jersey in 1795, coming to Cross Creek Township, now Jefferson. They purchased 146 acres which was part of William Wells' patent known as "Nancy's Fancy." Here they lived until after Hannah's death in February of 1830.**

**In 1800, the record shows eight children in the household. In 1810, a Peter Bebout was living on one side of them and a Thomas Bebout on the other. These were undoubtedly sons. In addition to other children over the age of ten, their household contained three sons and two daughters who had been born since the head count of eight children just ten years before. Cross Creek Graveyard records state that the Bebouts had eighteen children – eleven sons and seven daughters.**

**This writer does not have a bona fide record of the names of these eighteen children of Benjamin and Hannah. But from subsequent listings in local census records, it would appear that, in addition to the Peter and Thomas listed above, the following could also have been sons: William, Abraham, Benjamin, Samuel, Israel, Elisha, and Aaron. Buried in the Cross Creek Cemetery are also an Eli Bebout who died in 1821, at the age of eleven, a Moses Bebout who died in 1831 at the age of 18, and a Joshua Bebout who died in 1856, at the age of 38. This makes a total accounting of twelve sons, so one of these is probably a grandson. If the William who is buried at Cross Creek is a son, his mother, Hannah, was but fourteen years old at his birth. (This may be a William known to have lived in this area whose father was a John Bebout.) Cemetery records also reveal deaths of a Hannah and an Elizabeth whose ages fall into the range of possible daughters of this couple. In Crumrine's history, he alludes to Nancy, Mary, Hannah, and Rizpah as perhaps being daughters.**

**Graveyard records show that Hannah, the mother of these children, died on 11 February 1830, at the age of 66 and Benjamin on 8 November in 1858. He was within a few days of his one hundredth birthday. After Hannah's death, perhaps near 1840, Benjamin left the old farm, having lived there about fifty years. He moved to Hanover Township near Paris. It is believed that Mary and Nancy, probable daughters, lived with him at his death.**

**Some of his children left the area after their parents were gone and settled in Ohio. Hannah and Rizpah died in Hanover Township. It is not known if they ever married.**

**Nothing further is known by this writer of this old family. Benjamin was a soldier of the Revolution and belonged to the Minute Men against the Indians on the frontier of Washington County at the close of that war. Hannah was born in New Jersey and remembered General Washington passing her house during those dark days. Jefferson Township should be proud that once upon a time, they called a little corner of this area, "home".**



## **The William Hall Family**

**In the 1800 Cross Creek Census, there is a listing for a William Hall between the ages of 26 and 45 with a wife under the age of 26. There were as yet no children, so it is safe to say they had probably been married within the past two years.**

**William did not again appear in the local census records until 1820 when he was living in what was to become Jefferson Township. His neighbors were Cornelius Boles, John Stevenson and William Provines. By this date, William was past the age of 45, while his wife was between 26 and 45. Also living in the household were two sons under the age of ten and seven females, probably daughters, of various ages.**

**The 1830 census was the last listing for William Hall. His wife was apparently dead, but the two boys, now aged 10 to 15, and four girls of various ages, were still with William. The two males listed were, undoubtedly, William's only sons. William, himself, was between the ages of 70 and 80, but no information exists about his parentage or the place of his birth. Since he does not again appear in the census records, he must have died between 1830 and 1840 between the ages of 80 and 90. Cross Creek Graveyard records list a Mrs. William Hall as being buried there, with no dates given and no record of the death of William. This does not mean that he is not buried beside her since every graveyard listing is incomplete.**

**The 1840 census of Cross Creek lists a John Hall, aged 20 to 30 with a female of the same age. This writer believes this is William's eldest son. This is, however, not a proven fact, but many things point in this direction. In the Census of 1850, John Hall, aged 37, with wife, Elizabeth, aged 42, are found in Jefferson Township near the Bebouts, Coles, Metcalfs and others. In this record of 1850, John and Elizabeth have two daughters: Nancy and Esther aged 8 and 6, and two sons named William and Joshua, aged 4 and 2. Note that John named his eldest son William, which could have been for the boy's grandfather, as was most often the case in those days.**

**Unfortunately for our coverage of the Hall family, the first page of the Jefferson Township Census Record of 1860 is missing from the microfilm. Page 2 begins with a Hall household containing Nancy Jane aged 19, Esther Margaret aged 17, and William aged 15. It is obvious from the listings that the section containing the head or heads of this household were on page 1 and are therefore nonexistent. Neither John Hall nor his wife, Elizabeth, are again found in the local censuses. The Cross Creek Graveyard records say that a Mrs. John Hall died in 1855. Period. There are no dates nor ages to give any information about her. Neither is there any record of the death of John. This author believes that John was the missing name as the head of household in this 1860 record and that Elizabeth was already dead. Little Joshua of the 1850 census is also missing from the listing. The reader should note that this last speculation is exactly that - a speculation. No Hall family records have been found by this author to give any clues as to the death or burial of John Hall.**

**According to the 1860 records, a David Hall was living next door to the other Hall household. David was listed as age 28 with a wife, Mehalia, aged 25, and two daughters, Hannah and Margaret J. aged 3 and 2. This writer believes that David is the brother of the John Hall previously discussed and the second son of William Hall.**

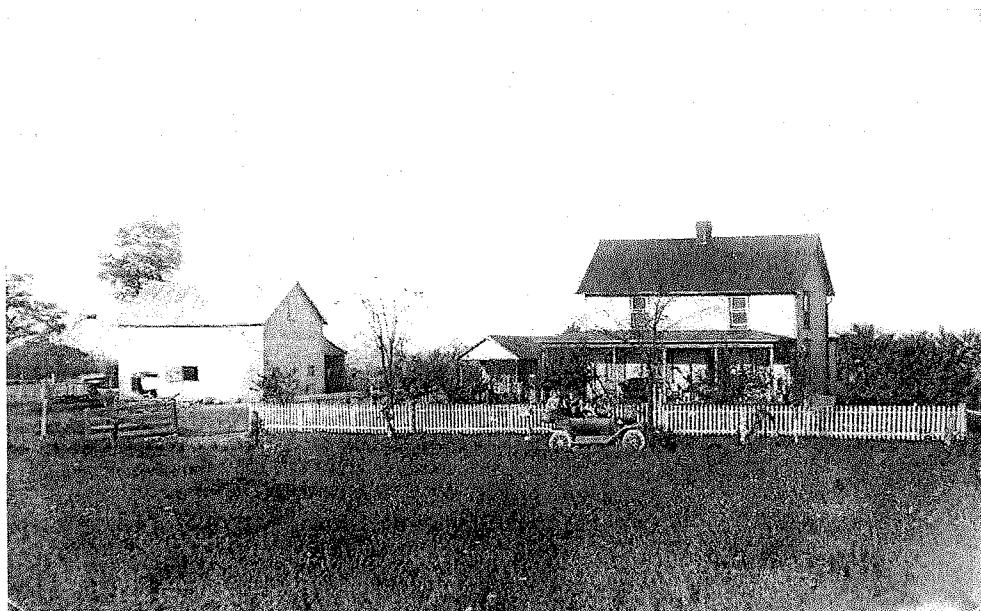
**He and Mahala were living on what is now known as Halls Road just off Eldersville Road over the state line in Brooke County. In addition to the two girls, they listed a son, William, aged nine. (Note once again the name of William for the eldest son of David Hall, as it was for John Hall.) William gave his age in 1870 as 45, which fits the pattern in most of the census records except 1860, where his age is definitely in error. His death certificate on 26 August 1875, in Brooke County, again lists him as 45. He was probably much closer to 55 by this time. (It is not at all unusual for persons to hedge on giving their ages to a census taker, in fact, many times it was the rule to do so, rather than the exception.) David's wife, Mahala, later married a Freshwater man from near Halls Road in Brooke County.**

**The only other account this writer has of the children of John and David Hall is the record in the 1880 Census of Jefferson Township. Living in the southern tip of the area near the Sutherlands and Buxtons was a William Hall aged 30. This may be the son of John Hall discussed at the beginning of this article, albeit his age has been reduced by about four or five years. He was married to a Margaret and they had children: George, Thomas, Jennie, and Ella.**

**Although there is no definitive evidence that these Hall families discussed here are all successive generations of the William Hall family who first appeared in 1800, there is definitely evidence leading to that conclusion. The fact that this David Hall spent probably about twenty years of his life in the Halls Road area of Brooke County may imply that other Halls from that area are also a part of the family of William. One of the Hall girls from Halls Road, Jean Hall, married Robert Irwin of the Eldersville area over a half century ago. Perhaps Jean is also one of this line.**

**These speculations concerning this family are included here as guides for persons seeking information on early Halls of this area. They are not meant to be a guarantee that these possibilities are gospel truth.**

**In case there are persons from the Brooke County Hall Road area who may read these words, this article closes with an old photo of the Hall Homestead on that road which stood there many years until its demise by fire about a half century ago.**



## **The Andrew Ferguson Family**

**Andrew Ferguson was born in Maryland and came to Cross Creek Township in 1786. Rev. Joseph Smith, a close connection of the Fergusons, had migrated to this area previous to Andrew's westward move, so it is believed this was his incentive to follow. Andrew bought a farm from Thomas Bay and it was on that land that he and his wife lived out the rest of their lives. This farm lay just north of Willow Valley School in Cross Creek Township and was later owned by D.M. Stewart. It is not known when Andrew and his wife died nor where they are buried. Inasmuch as Rev. Joseph Smith of the Cross Creek Presbyterian Church was a brother-in-law, one would expect that this would be their church home. However, the baptismal records of that church show no Fergusons in the listings and the only records of a Ferguson death in the graveyard there, is an Andrew Ferguson, but no dates given. Cross Creek Township census of 1800 and also of 1810 show Andrew and his wife as both being over 45 years of age. They do not appear in 1820, so may have died in the previous decade.**

**In the 1800 census, the household of Andrew Ferguson shows four sons and one daughter, all except one son over the age of 16. In 1810, only two sons and the daughter were still at home. Statistics in these records show that the last child was born before 1890. It is a good guess that the Ferguson pioneers were born before 1750 and most, if not all, of their children would have been born in Maryland before coming to the Cross Creek area.**

**According to Crumrine's history, the Ferguson children were: David, Andrew, Samuel, Benjamin, Joseph, Mary, and Abigail. Andrew died before 1812. Samuel went to Ohio to live and died there in 1841. David fought in the Indian Wars and eventually made a trip down the river from which he never returned. Nothing is known of Benjamin or Abigail. Mary married James Cummings of Cross Creek Township. He was killed in the War of 1812. Joseph, the youngest son, moved to Guernsey County, Ohio. One of his sons became a prominent Presbyterian minister.**

**It is not known the exact connection between these Fergusons who descend from Andrew of Cross Creek Township and those who appear in the Jefferson Township area by 1830, but there is probably a definite relationship. The Joseph Ferguson who appears in the Jefferson Township censuses from 1850 until his death in 1892, reported that he was born in Maryland. His children repeat this fact in the 1880 census when asked for the birthplace of their father. Since he was born in 1817, he could be a grandson of the pioneer Andrew, or a nephew. This Joseph was married to an Elizabeth and had children: John, Robert, Hannah, William, Mansfield, and Amanda. Mansfield died the same year as his father (1892) and is buried beside him in Eldersville. He was 37 years of age at his death.**

**Other Fergusons in the Jefferson Township area from time to time were: Hugh in 1850 with four sons including an Andrew; John aged 23 in 1850; and Robert, in 1850 and again in 1880, whose parents were born in Maryland. In the Presbyterian Cemetery in Burgettstown are buried five Fergusons, three named John. For a family who lived here 100 years, it is a shame that only these few facts exist about this old family.**

## **The Abraham Barbour Family**

**Abraham Barbour was born in New Jersey in 1775. Sometime before 1800, he married Jane Moore. Both young people were of English descent.**

**Soon after their marriage, they, along with Jane's family, began the long journey to western Pennsylvania. They crossed the mountains with the entire family and all of their earthly possessions in a large six horse wagon. Upon arriving in Westmoreland County, the Moore family decided to set up a permanent home there. But Abraham took his bride and continued westward, arriving in what is now known as the Bethel Ridge area of Jefferson Township. The farm where he settled is known today as the J.C.Mermon farm.**

**Money was scarce, so Abraham put down a small amount of cash, promising to make payments until the debt was liquidated. To meet this financial obligation, he conceived the idea that he would haul salt over the mountains and sell it to the settlers in the west. He would start with two or three horses and several sacks of grain. Along the road at various places, he would leave a few sacks, and on the return trip, he would feed the horses at the spots where he had left the grain. This proved to be a profitable business for him and he made the round trip from Jefferson Township to Winchester, Virginia, over and over, until his debt was paid. On the twenty-first of March in 1811, he finally was granted the patent for his land. His tract of 124 acres was, at long last, his own. He named it "Snipe".**

**Between the years of 1801 and 1821, Abraham and Jane became the parents of eight children, only five of whom survived to adulthood. It is believed that three daughters, Rebecca, Elizabeth, and Sarah died in early youth. They are probably buried on the old farm, as was the custom in those days.**

**The Barbour children were: Cornelius, born 1801; John, born 1803; Rebecca, born 1805; Elizabeth, born 1809; Jane, born 1814; Eleanor, born 1816; Sarah, born 1819; and Abraham, Jr., born 1821.**

**Cornelius, Abraham, Jr., Jane who married George Stewart, and Eleanor who married William Allen, all moved to Knox County, Ohio, where they reared their families and lived out their lives. Only John, the second son, remained on the home farm with his parents.**

**In 1824, John married Elizabeth Moore. For a time, he and his little family lived apart from the home place, but some time after 1830, they were back on the old farm beside his parents. John spent the rest of his life there, sharing the farm work with his aging father.**

**In 1858, Abraham passed away at the age of 82. His wife died the following year. They were buried at Cross Creek Cemetery near the little church where they had taken each of their eight children to be baptized during the child-rearing years of their youth.**

**John and Elizabeth Barbour continued to live on the old place, rearing their children there. John lived but fifteen years after the death of his father. He was buried at Cross Creek beside him. Elizabeth, however, outlived her husband by nearly 20 years, dying in the 89<sup>th</sup> year of her age.**



**John Barbour**



**Elizabeth Moore Barbour**

**During the five year period of 1824 to 1829, John and Elizabeth had four children born to them. The eldest, John Moore Barbour, never married. He served in the Union Army during the Civil War and is buried in the Eldersville Cemetery.**

**The second son, Cornelius, married Sarah Chambers and lived out his life on the old farm. He and Sarah are buried at Bethel. (It is from the line of this Cornelius that Frank Barbour of Hanlin Station and his children: Ethyl, Roscoe, Floyd, and Mazie descended.)**

***Frank Barber Home  
Hanlin Station***



**The third child of John and Elizabeth was Sarah, who married T.M.Patterson of Pattersons Mills. She had no children.**

**The fourth child, Robert Barbour, married and raised a family. He spent his life in Hanover Township.**

**Fifteen years after the last of these four children was born, John and Elizabeth started a 'new' family. A son, Abraham, and a daughter, Fannie, were born two years apart when Elizabeth was past the age of forty. These two children must have been a great comfort to Elizabeth during her twenty-year period of widowhood. Neither of these last two children married. They stayed on the old farm until after the death of their mother in 1892. Eventually they moved to Eldersville where they met a tragic end.**

**On a cold 19<sup>th</sup> of January in 1921, the gas heater in their home developed a malfunction. As a result, Abraham and Fannie died of asphyxiation. They were buried at Eldersville Cemetery almost within sight of the little house where they spent their last years together.**



*Home of Fannie & Abraham Barbour  
Corner of Eldersville Rd. & Church St.*

**There may be descendants of Abraham and Jane Barbour still in the township, but the Barbour name is no long prevalent. Bill Fulton, a great-great-great-grandson of Abraham, maintained active ties with the Jefferson Township area until his recent death, and fondly spoke of the Hanlin Station area where he grew up as "home". He was the son of Mazie Barbour Fulton.**

**The history of the Barbour family does not make for dramatic reading. The annals of their lives are not filled with risque tales of high-flying living or shady deeds of character. They were highly thought of people who worked hard, loved their spouses and their children and minded their own business. They were a credit to the Jefferson Township story.**

## **The James Fleming Family**

According to census records and cemetery inscriptions, a family named Fleming lived prior to 1810, on what is known today as Strobe Road in Jefferson Township. It is also known that later descendants of this family were still in residence on that same farm until after 1904. A map of 1911 shows the family still at least owning the property but not necessarily living there. Records indicate that at least four and probably five generations called this property "home". One would think that since the Flemings occupied this homestead for a century, most people in the township would at least recognize the name. But for even the eldest citizens consulted, the Fleming name does not ring a bell.

After much thought and research, it appears that there may be at least two reasons why the Fleming family, who lived in Jefferson Township, were not well known in the township.

First, was the location of the land, lying very close to the boundary line between Jefferson and Cross Creek. This made it a simple matter for the early family members to be in Cross Creek Township in a few minutes after leaving home, simply by turning east on the road which ran beside their house. Only the property of Francis Cunningham separated them from this neighboring township.

Secondly, the Flemings were of the Presbyterian faith, and the nearest church of this denomination was the one in Cross Creek Village. In those early days, transportation of any kind was difficult, and communication with even one's closest neighbors was nearly impossible. Thus families found themselves associating primarily with persons who also attended their chosen church. For the Fleming family, this meant the people of Cross Creek Township and perhaps the few from Jefferson who were Presbyterians. But even here, the number was quite small because the Tent Presbyterian Church of Brooke County was very near the state line and pulled most of the Jefferson Presbyterians in that direction. Two such examples were that of the Steens on Scott Hollow Road and the McCarrolls from Bethel Ridge, both of whom had heads of household serving at the Tent as ruling elders. Once a family had established friendships, these tended to continue down through the generations.

Cemetery records of the Cross Creek Church list a Robert Fleming, aged 96 years, who died the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April in 1802. This would make his birth year 1706. His wife, Jane, died at age 95 on January 16, 1805. These must have been the pioneer Flemings of the Cross Creek area, but if the James Fleming around whom this article is centered, was the son of this couple, his mother was 50 years old at the time of his birth.

James was a ruling elder of the Cross Creek Church from 1818 until his death in 1830. His wife, Jane Glenn Fleming, was born in 1766 and died eleven years after the death of her husband. They were the parents of at least five sons and probably two daughters.

The eldest son, John, was listed after the death of his father in 1830 as the head of the household. The Cross Creek Cemetery listings name a Robert Fleming who died in 1824 at the age of 22. He was probably one of the sons of James and Jane.

Before 1840, John had married Elizabeth McClurg and was the father of two sons, James and Joseph. By 1850, John and Elizabeth had increased their offspring by Mary Jane, Martha Elizabeth, Sarah Ann, John Chalmers, and Robert A. But in September of 1849, little Sarah Ann died at the age of 3. In the early 1850s, two more little ones appeared, to round out the family, namely, Rachel and David. When the last son, David, was little more than a toddler, his father, James, died at the age of 58. That never-to-be-forgotten year was 1858.

In the following census of 1860, Elizabeth, a widow, now aged only 43, was in charge of the Fleming household which included seven of her children plus a daughter-in-law, Isabelle, wife of her son Joseph. After ten more years, all of Elizabeth's children except Mary Jane and David had started lives of their own somewhere else. But Joseph and Isabelle with their family of four were living beside the old Fleming house – possibly in a newer one. By 1880, only David, at the age of 25, was still at home with his mother. But her son, Robert, wife, and daughters had replaced Joseph and his family in the adjacent house. Elizabeth lived until 1898 when she died at the age of 82. She outlived her husband, John, by forty years.

With the exception of John Chalmers Fleming, this writer was able to find little information about the rest of the children of John and Elizabeth. It was this John Chalmers who ended up with the old Fleming homestead. He is listed there in the 1900 census and other records show that he apparently continued to reside on the old home place until not many years before his death in 1914 at the age of 70.

In researching the Fleming family, this writer found only one person who knew the exact site of the old Fleming house and something of its appearance. Helen Martin, aged 95, has lived all of her life in the Jefferson Township area, and recalls that it was a very dark house. She believes that it was a large, two-story log house. This is highly probable since it is known that the Flemings lived there since circa 1802.

The late Mary Burris McFarland at one time wrote down that she, her sisters, and her parents lived there at the time the house burned. (They may have been the only occupants after the last of the Flemings.) The fire was a great tragedy to them because they lost every thing they owned except a pendulum clock and a large bowl which her father threw out of a window in his anxiety. Neither the clock nor the bowl broke. Mary, who was born in 1902, was very historically minded and had a wonderful memory her entire lifetime. This writer believes that her recollection of 1913 as the year the Fleming house burned is most likely accurate. Unfortunately, to date, many attempts to find a picture of this old homestead have not been successful.

As has been stated, the last of the Flemings to live in the old house was the family of John Chalmers Fleming. Although no one living today remembers the occasion, a shocking event took place concerning this family that stunned the community on Thursday morning, March 10, 1904, at 8:09 o'clock.

Mr. and Mrs. John Chalmers Fleming and daughter, Lottie B., lived on the old homestead farm (now occupied by Mrs. Betty Findling). On that fateful day nearly a century ago, the horse was hitched to the buggy and the family started for Hanlin Station to board two separate trains. John was headed for Burgettstown on



**business. Mrs. Fleming (Margaret Elizabeth) and their daughter had intentions of doing some shopping in Steubenville.**

**The accommodation train was due at 8:10. Mrs. Fleming and Lottie heard the whistle. They rushed across two sets of tracks to the platform where the westbound passengers were to board. A warning shout from a young boy was lost in the roar of the locomotive from Express No.7, which was running an hour behind schedule. Before the ladies could reach the platform, the pilot of the locomotive struck Mrs. Fleming, throwing her to one side. She died instantly from a fractured skull. Lottie was caught in the locomotive, her head terribly cut and torn from her body, which was horribly mangled and carried some distance down the track.**

**Meanwhile, Mr. Fleming had gone to the post office as his train to Burgettstown was not yet due. Thus he did not witness the accident. Upon hearing of it, he became wild with grief. Friends led him from the scene and later took him to his home. Mrs. Fleming was 56 years of age, and Lottie was 31.**

**An inquest was held and the jury returned a verdict holding the railroad company responsible for the two deaths. It read in part, "Said crossing is not safe for persons to get on westbound trains..... must wait for the train whistles, nothing to warn you that it is not your train."**

**It is not certain when the railroad company took steps to alleviate this condition. However, a below-track-level passenger train boarding station was built, the remains of which may be seen yet today. In early spring, weeds and undergrowth choke the entranceway, a condition that remains until late fall, when the obscure opening again becomes visible.**

**Newspaper accounts of the event state that Mrs. Fleming was survived by two daughters and a son. It is not known if her husband spent his remaining ten years alone or if some of these children, all of whom were married, came to live with him. But whatever the arrangements, it must have been a terrible horror from which he could never completely recover. It is believed that he was the last of the Flemings of Jefferson Township.**

## **The John Elliott Family**

**John Elliott was born circa 1757, probably in Ireland, and died at the age of 78 just five days before Christmas in 1835. His wife, Nancy Miller Elliott, was a sister of George Miller, Sr., well known owner of Bancroft Farm in southern Jefferson Township. Nancy was born circa 1764 and died at the age of 64 in 1828. These birth and death dates are derived from tombstone inscriptions in the Bethel Cemetery where this couple is buried.**

**John Elliott appears in the 1800 census listings but not in the 1790 Heads of Household roster. Since Nancy's brother, George Miller, Sr., bought Bancroft Farm in 1795, it is possible that both families came to this country together, probably in the early 1790s. If so, the territory at that time was filled with wild beasts, virgin forests, and very little cleared and cultivated land. Most dwellings were crude ones made of logs, often built by the first patentees simply to satisfy the government regulation that a dwelling had to be built and occupied for a specified period of time before a patent would be issued.**

**This author believes that during his nearly half century stay in the township, John Elliott probably did not own land. Nothing on any of the old maps or writings by early historians is mentioned about a John Elliott Farm. Using only census records as a guide, it is difficult to even estimate exactly where their cabin or home was located. In writing about the beginnings of Bethel Church, one reliable historian claimed that the original petition for funds to build the church stated that it was to be located "near where John Elliott now lives". All that can be said, therefore, is that the Elliotts lived in the area of Bethel Church – perhaps down Shades of Death or in the old house on the farm of Stephen Perrine which later became the home of Frank Pastor and family. These ideas of the location are purely speculative on the part of this author, using as a basis the close neighbors of the Elliotts found in census recordings, and should not be interpreted as gospel truth.**

**John Elliott is listed in the censuses of Cross Creek Township in 1800, 1810, 1820, and 1830. He died in 1835, but what are no doubt his sons, are listed in the 1840 and 1850 census records. These sons of John and Nancy left the Jefferson Township area in the middle 1850s, moving with their families to Davis County, Iowa. Some of the granddaughters of John were old enough to have married prior to this migration, so they remained with their husbands and reared their children here. Examples of this are the daughters of John Elliott, Jr., Hannah and Sarah, who stayed behind. Hannah married Peter Perrine and Sarah wed Robert Stewart. Sarah named a son John Elliott Stewart. It is difficult to locate these township residents who carry the Elliott bloodline because they are children of granddaughters. Thus the Elliott surname left with the westward trek.**

**In his days in Jefferson Township, John Elliott was instrumental in the building of the first Bethel Church, which is believed to have stood toward the lower side of the graveyard, a little west of the present brick building. Two of his sons were very active in that church. John, Jr. was a devout lay speaker, much in demand in the entire area, and his brother, George, was considered to be one of the finest class**

leaders in the Methodist movement of the entire region. George was also an undertaker and a maker of coffins.

Both of these Elliott sons had their share of hard times. The first wife of George, Rebecca, died at the age of nineteen from a dread disease of epidemic proportions which attacked the land. Just four days prior to Rebecca's death, the Elliott's twenty year old daughter, Nancy, had died of the same affliction. To further add to the grief, John's wife, Nancy, had died two weeks before his daughter of the same plague. That year of 1828 was filled with dark days. John, himself, lived another seven years. Many decades after this time, Dr. John Scott, author of *Fifty Years in the Ministry* and but a mere lad when the Elliotts lived here, wrote these words about John Elliott, Sr. "He was a small man – a devoted and enthusiastic Christian, consistent in life – an Israelite indeed, in whom was no guile."

George Elliott later remarried, several years after the death of his first wife. This time he chose Tamar Melvin, from a family closely knit in friendship with the Elliotts. They had a number of children, but when another epidemic went through the area in 1836 and 1837, their little Clarke Elliott died at the age of two, followed by his brother, Samuel, aged five. Life for them was never the same again. Much later, in 1850, disease again spread through the countryside, this time claiming John, Jr.'s little two year old Mary and seven year old John Elliott the Third. Not long thereafter, the families determined to move westward. Perhaps this move was made in part to leave behind their terrible grief at the loss of these children. For whatever reason, one thing is certain, the Elliott name left Jefferson Township with the migration to Iowa. But the influence of this God-fearing little Irishman lasted as long as the doors of Bethel Church opened in "Welcome" to the worshippers of the countryside – a century and a half after John Elliott went to a better home.

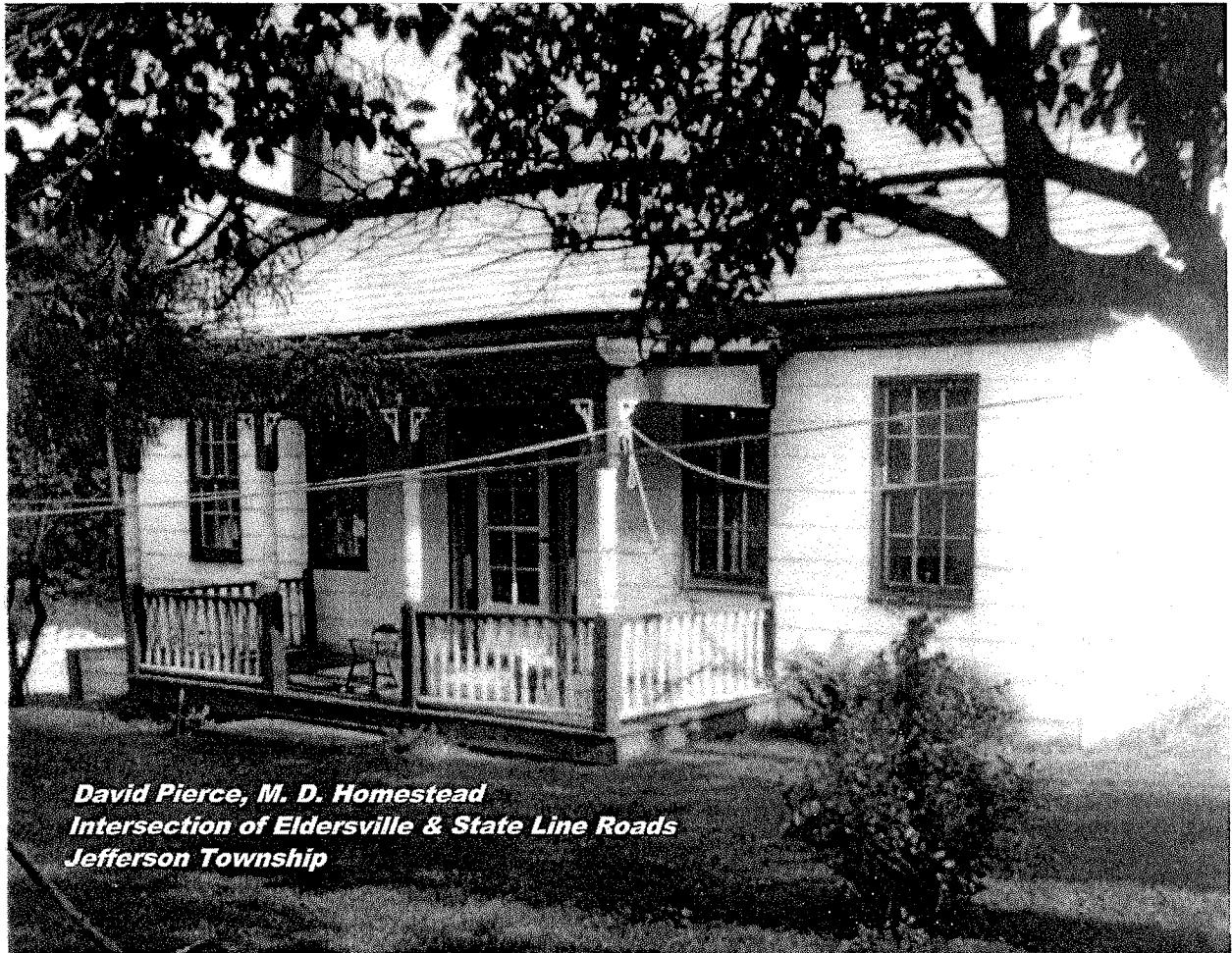


*Above is the Old Bethel Graveyard, showing the white frame church, built in 1878, and burned to the ground in 1909. The foreground shows the foundation of the second Bethel Church, the old stone church, built in 1832, and abandoned, before 1878, because of structural defects. John Elliott was one of those instrumental in having the stone church built. It replaced the original Bethel which was built in 1814. Elliott was one of the charter members of this first church also.*

## **Dr. David Pierce Family**

**In Boyd Crumrine's History of Washington County, it is stated that Dr. David Pierce opened an office and set up a practice in the Village of Eldersville in 1817. In 1819, he moved about three miles west of town, where he purchased a five acre plot of property where he continued his medical practice and to which he moved his family. It is believed that in the early 1820s, he built the little house in which they lived.**

**That house is in excellent condition today, over 180 years later, and is owned and occupied by David and Kathie Gregorski who have tastefully remodeled it in keeping with its original design. This house is the first property east of the State Line on Eldersville Road and is one of the most well-kept, attractive homes in the township. (David Gregorski is, himself, deeply interested in local history and has done extensive research on his property. He and Kathy took every possible means of preserving the original materials and plan while undertaking to give it the warm atmosphere it so forcefully radiates today.)**



***David Pierce, M. D. Homestead  
Intersection of Eldersville & State Line Roads  
Jefferson Township***

**Dr. Pierce and his wife were the parents, according to census records, of at least two daughters and four or five sons. Little David, Jr. died in 1834, at the age of**

three, and his brother, John L., apparently also died very young. They are buried far down the slope in the Eldersville Graveyard within a little burial plot which at one time was neatly fenced and tended. There are at least three other little Pierce graves in that plot. Unfortunately, nothing was ever written concerning the deaths of these children, and no record was kept of their ages or even their names.

Dr. Pierce and his wife, Elizabeth, were among the early members of the Bethel Church. In 1832, David served on the Building Committee for the construction of the stone church at Bethel and both he and Elizabeth were among the staunch advocates of establishing the Methodist Protestant Church at Bethel in 1829, when they withdrew from the Methodist Episcopal denomination.

David Pierce had been born circa 1800, and died at the untimely age of 48 on the day after New Years in 1848. No record exists to substantiate any cause of his death. Elizabeth is not listed in the 1850 census, but she appears on the township map of 1861. This information makes it difficult to surmise whether or not Elizabeth remained in the township after David's passing. It is not known what became of her or her children after her husband's death, but she is buried beside him at Eldersville, having died the 8<sup>th</sup> of May in 1871.

Dr. Pierce's early demise, plus the loss of a number of his children, are a sad commentary on a life which must have had such a promising beginning. But it is rewarding to know that at least the house where he and Elizabeth spent most of their married lives is still a place of peace and beauty – loved and tended by its present owners – the Gregorskis.



*The David Pierce House as it looks today*

## **Charles Leslie Family**

**Charles Leslie was born circa 1766, in Ireland. He was living in what is today Jefferson Township before 1800, where he and an Alexander Leslie appear in the census records. Neither was listed in the 1790 census of Cross Creek or any of the tax lists examined. In 1810, they were living near each other not far from John Morrison, an early patentee, and Alexander Leeper.**

**Very little information has surfaced on either of these two men. Alexander, in 1800, is listed between the ages of 26 and 45, and by 1810, is listed as over 45. Thus, he must have been at least 35 years old in 1800. He may very well have been a brother of Charles since Charles is known to have been about age 34 in 1800. Alexander probably had 5 sons and 4 daughters, with a wife in his age bracket. This family disappeared from the census records of the area after 1810, at which time his son, Alexander, Jr., was living next to him with a wife in his age range of 16 to 26. The only other information uncovered about Alexander is found in Crumrine's account of the beginnings of the Bethel Methodist Church a few miles from where the Leslies were living. This note from Crumrine lists the signers of a Subscription Paper dated 16 October 1813, petitioning for the right to establish the Bethel Church. Alexander Leslie is listed as being on the first board of Trustees. Thus, he apparently did not leave the area until the middle or late part of the decade 1810 to 1820.**

**It was Charles Leslie who came to Jefferson Township apparently intending to stay. And stay, he did – for over half a century. His wife, whose name was probably Nancy Ann, was eleven years older than Charles. She died 10 November in 1820, and is buried at Bethel. A grave near hers bears the inscription E.M. Leslie, but dates and other information are illegible. Charles was no doubt buried beside her but without a stone. He lived to be over 84 years of age and at the last mention of him, which is in the 1850 census, he was living with James Cunningham and wife and also the John Leeper family. Perhaps his daughters married into these families. It is possible that James Cunningham's wife, Eleanor, may have been one of the older daughters of Charles. In 1850 she is listed as having been born in Ireland and is age 68. In the 1800 census, Charles had two daughters between 16 and 26 who were gone from the household by 1810, and this Eleanor would have been 18 years old at that time. No doubt these two girls married after 1800, and before 1810, but it is impossible to track them since not even their names are known. If the census records are accurate, the Leslies probably had a total of six daughters. Records indicate that they also had two sons who were still at home by 1820, but gone by 1830. The female aged 15 to 20 who was the only other member of Charles Leslie's household in 1830, was probably the youngest daughter. Her mother had died in November of 1820, in which year there is shown a daughter under the age of ten. The Leslies do not appear at all in the 1840 records, but as is stated above, Charles was still, no doubt, in the area and was probably missed by the census taker.**

**The dearth of information on these early settlers is very evident in the research of this Leslie family. The only thing known for sure is that Charles Leslie came to the Jefferson Township area in the 1790s. And he stayed for over fifty years.**

## **The John Pogue Family**

**John Pogue was born in County Down, Ireland, 11 August 1740. He married Elizabeth Neal after coming to America. It is believed that the young people spent some time in Maryland since one of their sons, William, lists Maryland as his birthplace. The Pogues were in the Jefferson Township area of Washington County, Pennsylvania, by 5 October 1791, when John bought a tract of 87 acres from Thomas Marshall. (This farm later became the George and Dian Sutherland property. Eventually the Sutherland family sold it, after which it was purchased by Joseph and Emma Burkhart.) Three years after this purchase by John Pogue, his wife, Elizabeth, died. One of her descendants years later put a marker near her grave which gives her name, year of death as being 1794, and the words "Carlisle, Penna", which is probably the place of her birth. Nothing else is known of Elizabeth except that she had seven known children in the space of perhaps seven years. It is believed that she died in childbirth, possibly in giving birth to twins. She was apparently younger than her husband since he was 54 years of age when she died while she was still in her child-bearing years.**

**The 1800 census shows their daughter, Sarah, and three of her brothers under the age of ten. The other three brothers were between the ages of 10 and 16. If these records are correct, the first child of John and Elizabeth was not born before 1784. Cemetery records give the exact birth date for their son, Samuel, as being 26 December 1787, and in the 1850 census he says he was born in Pennsylvania. His brother, James, is believed to be older than Samuel, and William is considered to be still older than James. Unfortunately, William's exact birth date is not known, but as has been indicated, he was born in Maryland before they came to this area. Nothing has been found on either the date or location of James' birth. This does, however, lead to the conclusion that the Pogues must have arrived before 1787, when Samuel was born, but after 1784, which is the earliest that William could have been born.**

**Life for the Pogues was not easy. Since they arrived in the 1880s, Indian troubles still abounded. One of their family traditions is that many nights they slept in the grain fields when fear of the Indians was prevalent. They had placed bells on the horses so they might be alerted to any intruders. To understand the hardships of this little family, one must remember that after 1894, they were motherless, and at least three of them at that time were under the age of four.**

**John made several trips back east for salt during these early years. On one such occasion, he was returning with his load through the Pittsburgh area where he decided to stay overnight, the next day being the Sabbath. John was a strict Presbyterian and did not approve of traveling on the Sabbath Day. When Sunday arrived, he was appalled at the total desecration of the day by the majority of persons living in the area. One man offered him a trade of several acres of ground, in what today would be the heart of Pittsburgh, in exchange for his load of salt. He refused because he did not want to live in the midst of "such infidels".**

**The following paragraphs are a brief account of what is known about the children of John and Elizabeth Pogue.**

**William, who may have been the eldest, was probably born about 1785, in Maryland, before the Pogues came to western Pennsylvania. He married Sarah Allison, daughter of James and Sarah Rae Allison of the Upper Buffalo region of Washington County. Sarah is believed to have died before 1850 since William was living with a son, John G. Pogue, at that time, and there is no evidence that Sarah was still alive. They are believed to have had other children that may have included a Sarah Pogue who is buried in North Buffalo Graveyard. This Sarah died at the age of 50. This researcher has been unable to find the grave of William or to determine his death date.**

**James was probably the second son and was born circa 1788. He was married by 1820, when he is listed with a son and three daughters under the age of ten. He does not reappear in any census. Accounts of the Pogue family in county histories state that James never moved far from the old homestead and that he was a teacher in the early subscription schools. It is also recorded that he died in early middle age.**

**Samuel was born 26 December 1787, and died New Years Day in 1860. He is reputed to have lived at home for a number of years, probably until after the death of his father. He is found in the household of his brother, Robert, on State Line Road in 1850.**

### **Old Pogue Farm Outbuildings**



**Samuel may have married a woman named Eliza but had no children. She was living in Robert's household in both 1850, when Samuel was also in residence there, and is**



still there in 1860, after Samuel's death. She died in 1862, and is buried in the Pogue plot at Bethel.

George was born 16 January 1789. As a child, he helped his father and brothers clear the land for farming. He married a neighborhood girl named Nancy Davis, daughter of David Davis of Jefferson Township. In 1836, he moved to Belmont County, Ohio, near St.Clairsville where he spent the remainder of his life, dying in 1884. He and Nancy had six children. Their son, George W. Pogue, spent some of his early years back "home" in Jefferson Township. Since his Uncle Robert Pogue had no children, young George made an agreement with him for part of the Leepersburg Tract to which Robert had moved. Robert died in 1859, and left this nephew to settle his estate. Young George and his family lived on what later became known as the Andy Mikus farm on State Line Road.



**George Pogue Homestead, State Line Road**

Robert's widow lived out her life in the other house known later as the Anthony Resnik property. (All of this part of the original Samuel Leeper patent had been purchased by Robert Pogue prior to 1850.) Young George moved from this land in 1863, and settled in Hanover Township where he was a model citizen, highly respected by all. During his years in Jefferson Township, he was active in community affairs and was a staunch supporter of the Eldersville Methodist Church.

Sarah was the only daughter of the Pogues. She appears to have been born in 1794, but her brother Robert was definitely born in April of that year, so she may have been his twin. She was at home with her father for a number of years and eventually married John Curry of Buffalo Township where they appear in both the 1840 and 1850 census records. They had at least one son and one daughter. Nothing further is known about Sarah.

Robert was born 7 April 1794, and died 30 November 1859. He married Sarah Patterson, daughter of James and Sarah Givens Patterson of the Cole School area of the township. They had no children, but they raised Robert Cooper, the son of Sarah's dead sister, Elizabeth Patterson Cooper. Sarah outlived Robert by 17 years, staying on the Leepersburg tract which Robert had purchased after their marriage. As has been said, this property was on State Line Road and known at one time as the Sturgis farm, later, Anthony Resnik.

David was born either in 1793 or 94. He died at the age of 47 in 1841, and was buried in the Pogue private burial ground on the old farm. Also buried there are a daughter of David, Susannah Pogue, who died at the age of 25, twin children of David's daughter, Sarah Pogue Stewart, and the Pogue pioneers, Elizabeth and John Pogue.



On the left above is a picture of David's tombstone. On the right is the marker erected in memory of John & Elizabeth.

Below the data on David's stone, is the following verse:

“Rest here, oppressed by pale disease no more.  
Here find that calm thou sought so oft before.  
Rest undisturbed within this humble shrine  
Till angels wake thee with a voice like thine.”

The verse may indicate that David died of disease, rather than of some accident. In either instance, his young age of 47 makes this death doubly sad.

David and his wife, Christiana Sutherland Pogue, had at least one other daughter, Julie. They also had a son, John, who married Susanna Magee, daughter of John and Amy Fowler Magee. John and Susanna were the parents of at least five children. David's wife, Christiana, was the daughter of John and Susanna Norris Sutherland, among the earliest settlers of Jefferson Township.

David lived all of his life on the old homestead. Since birth dates of some of his siblings were calculated from ages given in census records, it is possible that David may have been the youngest of the seven Pogue children. His short life span must have been a heart-break for his wife, who lost her oldest daughter, Susanna, at the age of 25, and was left with little Julie still at a tender age when David died. Christiana lived until 1883, and is buried at Bethel.

The name, Pogue, has disappeared from the Jefferson Township area. Their lives were ones of early hardships and loneliness, having lost their mother before they hardly knew her. What crude shelter was their first home is not known today. Even the later frame house that one of the sons probably built in the 1830s or 40s, burned to the ground many years ago when the property was owned and occupied by Joseph Burkhart. But prior to the Burkhart occupancy, the George Sutherland family filled that house with a lot of love and living.

A granddaughter of these Sutherlands, Opal Lantz, still has vivid, wonderful memories of summers spent at Granddad Sutherland's. It was a place of joy and peace. George Sutherland was a pious man who practiced what he believed. In spite of summers filled with long hours in the fields, and cold winters feeding livestock and cutting firewood, George took time to leave behind him one beautiful tribute to the man who had first cleared this excellent farm - John Pogue.

George Sutherland constructed, by hand, a stone wall around the old Pogue burial ground. He kept the little plot clean and sacred as long as he lived. John Pogue had died just before Christmas in 1837, at the age of 97. He had spent forty-three years alone without his mate, raising their children from babyhood, clearing the land, and keeping their heads above water economically. It was not the ideal life he must have expected when he left Ireland about three-quarters of a century before.

Maybe George Sutherland had looked at those grave markers a number of times and contemplated the life John Pogue had lived. And he wanted to do something to commemorate his life. If so, he was successful. The house, the barns, the cattle that once grazed on the green pastures - all are gone. But still today, thanks to a man who followed John Pogue to that Jefferson Township farm years later, one thing still remains- the little graveyard with its precious contents. Some of the grave markers are crumbling and in the summer, the grass and weeds take over the little plot. George Sutherland died exactly 100 years after John Pogue's death. And it is probably 75 years since he built that wall. But today, most of the stones are still standing, marking for those yet to come, the final resting place of John Pogue, pioneer.



**Pogue Private Burial Ground**

## **The Elijah Robinson Family**

**Elijah Robinson came from Ireland and reputedly stayed for a time in Maryland. Sometime before 1790, he came to Jefferson Township in Washington County, Pennsylvania, where he was listed later in the Horn Papers as a Head of Household in that year. He was probably born in the 1730s or 1740s, since he died between 1813, when he signed a subscription paper for the erection of the first Bethel Church, and 1820, when he disappeared from the census records. Boyd Crumrine states that "He lived to a very advanced age." The 1890 Federal Census lists both Elijah and his son, Samuel, as heads of households.**

**No information discovered on this family gives any data on Elijah's wife. Her given name has not even been recorded. It would appear that she is the female in his household over the age of 45 in both 1800 and 1810. If so, she must have died about the same time as her husband since she does not seem to be listed in 1820, in the household of any of her sons. She is probably buried beside him at Bethel, but no stone marks her grave.**

**The three sons of the Robinsons were: Samuel, Abel, and Elijah, Junior. Samuel remained on the home farm after the death of his parents. He had two sons, Cyrus and John. Cyrus moved to Ohio and family records say that John married Elizabeth Perrine and lived near Eldersville. The Perrine history does not actually substantiate this. It states that an Elizabeth Perrine married a John Robinson, but it further states that he was from Venango County, Pennsylvania, and that they lived their lives in Oregon. This author does not know how factual either of these statements are. Census records also indicate that Samuel had a daughter. Nothing is known of this child. The name of Samuel's wife is another unknown in this family. They may have been married prior to coming to this area since the 1800 census shows them with three children.**

**Elijah's son, Abel Robinson, became a Methodist minister and went west. The family tradition states that all trace of Abel has been lost.**

**The third son, Elijah, Jr., married Elizabeth Chapman. He moved to Brooke County, Virginia, in the area of Colliers where a number of his descendants still live today. Well known among these are Donald Robinson, his sisters, Forrestine Robinson Wiegmann, and the late Delois Robinson Williams of Jefferson Township, and his brother, Wesley Robinson, also of the Collier area.**

**The pioneer, Elijah, also had two daughters. Fanny married Archibald Scott and settled in Cross Creek. The other daughter is reputed to have married a McQueen.**

**This first Elijah, a staunch Methodist, was one of the founding fathers of the Bethel Church. He may have been one of the first buried in the graveyard there. Today, only a stone with the faded inscription "E.R." marks his final resting place.**

**The farm on which the Robinsons settled lies very near Bethel. His warrant for the property was dated 1796, and the patent 1809. He named it "Remainder". The land extends into the valley of the Shades of Death and joins the Nick Bertovich farm. Probably after the death of Samuel, it was sold to the Irwin family. No trace of the old log homestead remains today, but Nick Pleska told this author that the knoll on which it stood was one of the most beautiful spots in Jefferson Township.**

## **The Robert McCrea Family**

**According to Gerald McCrea, a descendant of Robert McCrea, his pioneer ancestor landed in America on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of May in 1804. He was a native of Ireland and after living in this country for 24 years, he received his citizenship papers 10 October 1828.**

**Robert first appeared in the local census records in 1810. He was not listed in 1820 but this is not uncommon since a number of families in this area were missed in the 1820 census. He is again found in both 1830 and 1840. Bethel cemetery records show his death as 25 September 1841, at the age of 65. If this tombstone inscription is accurate, he was born circa 1776.**

**On the first day of April in 1813, he purchased 113 acres of land in southern Jefferson Township from James and Frances Pogue. James was a son of the pioneer Pogue of the area. He was a school teacher, husband, and father. He died in middle age. Pogue family members say he never left the area of the old home, but this writer has been unable to find his grave. The siblings of this James Pogue were among the closest neighbors of the McCreas after moving to this land.**

**In his will of July, 1841, just about a month before his death, Robert McCrea listed the following children: William; Julianna who married a Buxton; Margaret who married Dr. J.M.Swearingen; Thomas; Mary who married James Virtue; Walter; Jane; Hannah; Robert; and John. He also listed two stepdaughters, namely Sally Ann Dever and Susanna Murchland.**

**The mention of step daughters indicates that his wife was married before and had these two girls. This Mary, to whom he was married at the time of his death, was, indeed, married before. She was Mary Buxton by birth, the daughter of Jacob Buxton, Jr. and Mary Sparks Buxton. She was first the wife of John Dever of the West Middletown area of Hopewell Township. John died in 1822 at the age of 29, leaving Mary with two small boys and these two small girls, mentioned in the will of Robert McCrea. John Dever was buried at Grove Cemetery in West Middletown, as was their son, David, who died at the age of 18 in 1837. David's brother must also have been deceased by the time Robert McCrea wrote his will, since he did not name any step-sons.**

**Mary Dever did not marry Robert McCrea until sometime after 1830, since she was still listed in the Hopewell Township Census of that year as Mary Dever. This writer believes, however, that Mary married Robert McCrea about 1833. The McCrea children: William, Jane, and Hannah, who were born in the 1830s, were undoubtedly Mary's children. They were living with her in Hopewell Township at the time of the 1850 census. She had apparently returned there after Robert's death in 1841. William and Jane may have been twins since every record hinting at their ages indicates they were both born about 1834. Jane married Andrew Murchland of Brooke County. He was the son of Robert and Sarah Henderson Murchland. Jane and Andrew had a son, Andrew, Jr., who was born 11 April 1857. His mother, Jane McCrea Murchland, died six days later at the age of 23. This little Andrew is listed as a three year old in the 1860 Hopewell Census in the household of his grandmother, Mary McCrea. Mary's son, William, his wife and small daughter, were**

also in Mary's household that year. Since William's daughter was named Mary, and since Mary was still living with William in 1880, she must definitely have been his mother. His birth year of circa 1834, should fairly well establish that Robert McCrea took Mary Buxton Dever as his second wife sometime between 1830 and 1834. Mary died 10 May in 1880, at the age of 84 and was buried at the Grove Cemetery in West Middletown where her first husband, John Dever, was also buried.

Mary Dever McCrea's daughter, Sarah Ann Dever, married John H. Murchland of Brooke County. He was a brother of the Andrew Murchland whom Sarah's half sister, Jane, married. Sarah had nine children and died a few months after the birth of the last child. She was 42 years of age. The other daughter of Mary Dever to her first husband was listed in Robert McCrea's will as Susanna Murchland. Although this writer has done extensive research on the Murchlands of Brooke County, this Susanna has thus far eluded being identified as the wife of a Murchland.

William McCrea, son of Robert and Mary, married Elizabeth Maguire, daughter of Francis and Catherine Maguire. They were the parents of three daughters. This writer does know who the eldest daughter, Mary, married, but she was gone from the household by 1880. The second daughter, Sarah, died at the age of 5 years in 1877. Her mother, Elizabeth, had already died in 1874 at the age of 40. They were buried at the Franklin Cemetery in Brooke County where Elizabeth's parents and other Maguire family members had been interred. The last daughter, Anna McCrea, married George CunOningham. Anna and George had one daughter who married John Brown. The Browns had three children, none of whom left issue. Upon Elizabeth's death, she willed the Maguire property which she had inherited from her parents to her daughter, Anna Cunningham. When Anna's daughter died unexpectedly of pneumonia, leaving her husband, John Brown, with their three children under the age of eight, their Cunningham grandparents took them and raised them to adulthood. Their father, John Brown, lived on the land, which had been given to his wife by her mother, for the rest of his life. He never remarried. He was a good horseman and built a race track on that property. This land lay in Jefferson Township on the very southern-most part, next to Cross Creek, where the Buxton, (later Maguire) Mill once stood.

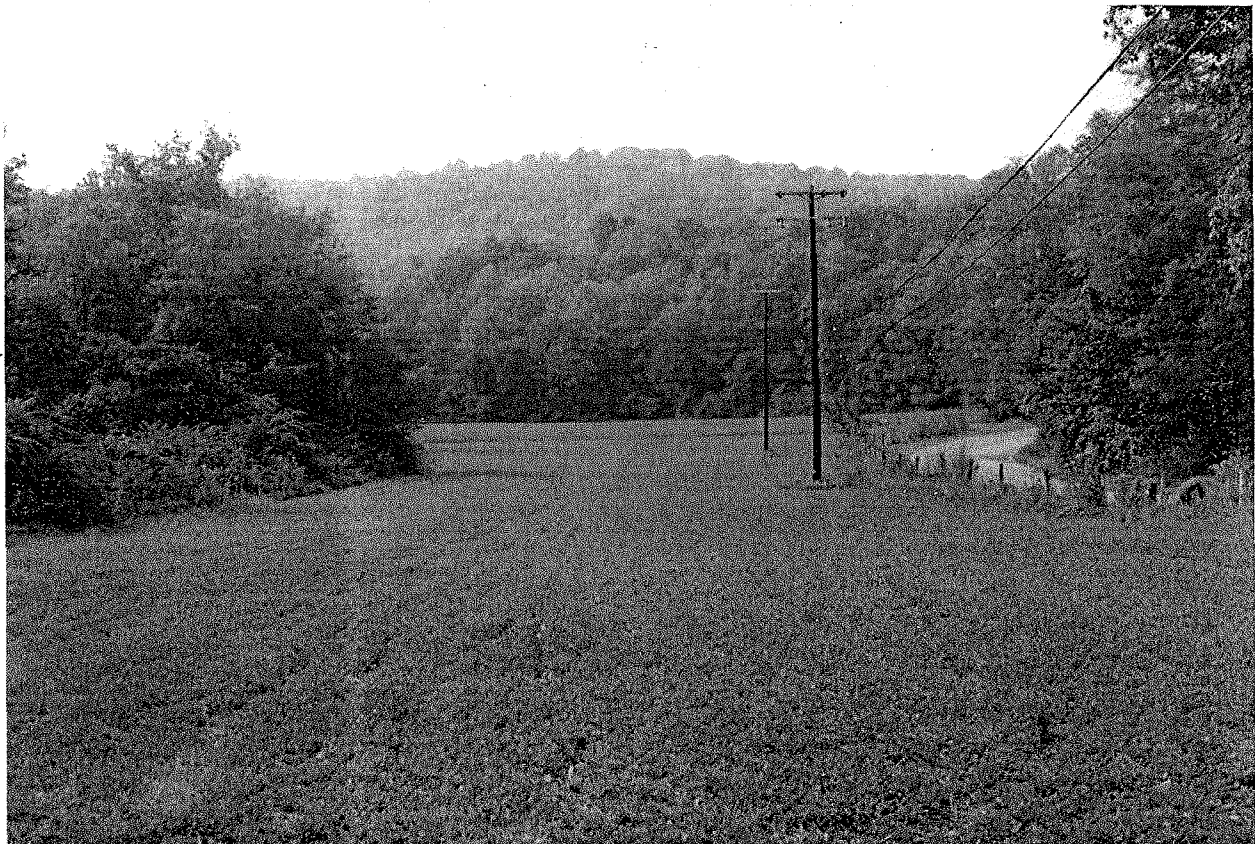
William McCrea died in 1886 at the age of 53. He was buried beside his wife and daughter, Sarah.

The only other child of Robert McCrea whose life information is available to this writer is Robert, Jr., born circa 1817, to Robert's first wife. He died 21 July 1854. On June 12, 1844, he had married Hannah Cunningham, daughter of Launcelot and Hannah Virtue Cunningham. They were the parents of Launcelot, Mary E., Hannah, and Isabelle. The son, Launcelot McCrea, as a young man migrated to Hamilton Missouri. He married and later moved to Montana. A large number of descendants from this line still live in the Great Falls, Montana, area, including the Gerald McCrea mentioned at the beginning of this article.

Probably the biggest unanswered question in the McCrea family is: Who was Robert MCCrea's first wife and the mother of at least seven of his children? Buried beside him at the Bethel Cemetery is Elizabeth McCrea who died 24 January 1830, at

the age of 46. This may be his first wife. If so, her maiden name may be forever a mystery.

In the census records of the township from 1810, when Robert first appeared in them until after 1840, a William McCrea is also listed. He is buried at Cross Creek Cemetery with a Sarah McCrea beside him. Data given, states that William died October 3, 1841, at the age of 85 and Sarah died March 3, 1825, in her 49<sup>th</sup> year. This information is consistent with that of the censuses between 1810 and 1840. In William's will, he does not name a wife. His children are Margaret, Jane, Nathaniel, William, Walter, and an unnamed daughter. With the exception of the name, Nathaniel, these are identical to names of some of Robert McCrea's children. William was twenty years older than Robert. Could Robert have been his son to a first wife who died sometime after Robert's birth? If not, what family connection was there between these two early Jefferson Township McCreas? Only a great deal of deep research or a very wide streak of luck may provide the answers.



Pictured above is Jefferson Bottom, a beautiful level stretch of land at the southernmost tip of Jefferson Township. It was near this area that John Brown, mentioned in the story above, built his race track in the early 1900s. This was Maguire property. Elizabeth Maguire married William McCrea. The McCrea homestead is believed to have been very near this land, but at a much higher elevation. This bottom land, shown in this photo, is bordered by the stream of Cross Creek, while the McCrea property enveloped the ridges above it.



## **The John Sharp Family**

**John Sharp was born New Years Day in 1774, in New Jersey, where he lived during his boyhood. As a young man, he moved with his parents to Fayette County, Pennsylvania, where he married Hannah Freeman who had been born 26 March 1778.**

**In Fayette County, they settled on a farm where their first four children were born. These children were: Mary, born 17 November 1797, married James Gardner of Brooke County, VA; John Freeman, born 20 February 1801, married Narcissa Atkinson who was the daughter of Thomas Atkinson of Morton Hill, Brooke County; Levi, born 1 July 1804, killed by a train at Steubenville, Ohio, 8 July 1876; and Ruth, born 18 August 1806, married Samuel Gardner of Eldersville.**

**About 1807 or 1808, John and Hannah left Fayette County and moved to Washington County, settling on a farm near Eldersville. Here their last five children were born. (This writer has been unable to learn exactly where the Sharps lived during this time, but near neighbors were Thomas McCarroll, Alexander Smith, Isaac VanOrdstrand, and Benjamin Bebout.) These last five children, who were Jefferson Township natives, were: Edmund, born 18 November 1808, moved to Indiana; Sarah, born 2 May 1811, married Alexander Walker of Jefferson Township; Jane, born 14 July 1813, married John Steen of Scott Hollow Road; Hannah, born 9 March 1817, married John Wheeler, a tailor living in Eldersville; and Elizabeth, born 23 March 1819, married John Stephenson of near Eldersville.**

**Although only the five youngest of these nine children were born near Eldersville, the other four grew up here, being under the age of ten when they came here with their parents. The successive generations of Sharps lived basically in Cross Creek Township and are considered by residents today as Cross Creek people. But a quick glance in the previous paragraphs at the spouses chosen by these nine children, reveals that at least five chose Jefferson Township residents for mates, and it was here their children were born and raised. Most of them lived and died in the Eldersville area.**

**John Sharp died 11 September 1860, at the age of 87. His wife, Hannah, had died at the age of 60, over twenty years before, in 1838. The Sharps are buried in the old graveyard at Cross Creek.**

**The eldest of John and Hannah's sons, John Freeman Sharp, lived sixty years of his life in Cross Creek Township where he and his wife, Narcissa Atkinson Sharp, raised a family of seven children. The last two little ones, Harriett and Sarah, died as small children. Narcissa died in 1847, at the age of 41 after the birth of Sarah.**

**Their youngest son, John Morgan Sharp, married Sarah Virtue, daughter of James and Mary Virtue of Cross Creek. John Morgan became well known in the Cross Creek area as an agriculturist and sheep raiser. He lived on a farm not far from his parents. One of these Sharp farms adjoined the well known Boyce Farm near Patterson Mills. The other property was north of this first mentioned land and lay nearer to Cross Creek Village.**

**John and Sarah's eldest daughter married Charles Scott, Jr. of Jefferson Township. The eldest son, John Freeman Sharpe, died at the age of 40 in 1901.**

## **The John Freshwater Family**

**In the 1850 Cross Creek Census, William Freshwater, his wife, Sarah, and seven of their children appear in the State Line- Kidds Mill area of the Jefferson Township region of Cross Creek. They are near the old Alexander Lawther homestead, but this writer is not certain of the exact location in which they were living. This William had been born New Years Day in 1816. His wife was the daughter of Alexander and Jane Beall Campbell of the Weirton Heights area of Hancock County, WV. It is not known exactly what year in the 1840s they came to Jefferson Township, but before 1854, they moved to Van Buren County, Iowa, where they lived out their lives. William was the son of Archibald and Sarah Gardner Freshwater. Sarah was a Jefferson Township girl herself, being the daughter of John and Elizabeth Clarke Gardner whose home was a half mile west of Eldersville.**

**One of William's brothers was Archibald Freshwater who married Elizabeth Truax. Two of their sons later came to Jefferson Township. In the 1870 census, their son, William, his wife, Mary Smith, and three sons were living in the same area where his Uncle William had been living in 1850. They were gone from census records by 1880.**

**Another of Archibald's sons was John Freshwater. It is this John who is considered to be the "Jefferson Township Freshwater".**



*John Freshwater Log Cabin on Creek Lane*

**John had married Margaret Wells, daughter of James and Margaret Crall Wells. This James Wells was a grandson of the well known Greybeard Wells whose property, still in the hands of his descendants, borders Jefferson Township along the state line. The Wells land lies on the West Virginia side of that line.**

**In the early 1880s, John Freshwater moved his family to the Creek Lane region of Jefferson Township where they lived in a small log cabin on what is today the property of Randy and Dawn Worden. It was here that John's children did their growing up. Among these children was a son who was well known to the elderly residents of the township today. One might wonder how people in 2003 could remember a man born in the early 1880s, but the answer lies in the fact that Oscar Freshwater lived well past the one hundred mark in counting his years of life.**

**Oscar and his brother, Wilbur, who lived to be 102 years of age, often related incidents about their childhood on the old home place on Creek Lane. They slept in the upper loft of the cabin and there being no stairway to the downstairs, when morning came, they took a little tour. They went out a window, down a ladder, around the house, and in the front door of the cabin. Cold winters were quite a hardship for the little fellows, traveling through the snow in bare feet.**

**Ralph Freshwater, a close relative of Oscar, performed the monumental task of compiling and publishing the Freshwater Genealogy a few years ago. The following excerpts about Oscar Freshwater are from this book. Ralph credited Herald Star staff writer, Sue Henderson, with the story from which these are taken.**

**"Oscar operated the first combination gas station and small country store in the area...He left one room vacant for teens to use for playing cards, monopoly, and other games on winter evenings. Whenever Oscar had to go to town, he would pay one of the boys to mind the store. On his poultry and produce farm, Oscar let the kids pick raspberries and strawberries to earn spending money. He also let the youths use a piece of his land to build a tennis court...pleasant memories of summer evenings spent playing games, doing tricks, and chatting under a large sycamore tree in Oscar's front yard...He never had any children of his own, but he loved us and was very interested in us and had plenty of time to share with us. The years of 1930 - 40 were lean years. We were just getting out of a great depression and then getting into war. He was a big help to many of us who needed it."**



***Oscar Freshwater and sisters , Lydia and Beulah***

**Oscar Freshwater was not only a good farmer and a good businessman, but he was an excellent hunter and trapper. He passed a lot of time teaching his skills to his nephews and other lads of the community. Although his parents left Jefferson Township eventually and moved just a stone's throw across the state line to the later John Freshwater house pictured below, today's residents should be quite proud that Oscar was one of the "Jefferson Township Freshwaters".**



***John Freshwater Home, Eldersville Road, near state line***



***John Freshwater, sons, and grandsons. Oscar 3<sup>d</sup> from right, back row***

## **The William Provines Family**

**John Provines was born in the Highlands of Scotland where he married and where his son, William, was born circa 1759. When William was a small lad, the family migrated to Ireland where William grew up. As a young man, he married an Irish girl named Rebecca Hemphill. Rebecca was twenty years younger than William. While still in Ireland, five children were born to them, namely: Mary, Samuel, Andrew, John, and Robert.**

**In 1812, the little family set sail for America in the sailing vessel, "William S. Bradford". They landed in New York where they remained a short time. Money was scarce, so many of the family members walked the long, troublesome journey to what was to become their permanent home. The Provines Farm of Jefferson Township lay in the northeast corner near where Lee School House later stood. This is believed to be the land which became well known as the Rollage Farm of Jefferson Township, now the property of Dr. Ted and Trudy McAuley.**

**The first home in which the family lived was probably a crude log structure. Both Mike Rollage, who once owned the land, and the present occupant, Ted McAuley, have knowledge of where this log house once stood, the foundation being visible into later years. Apparently, at some point in time, another house was built, no doubt by some of the sons of William Provines. This house was believed to have been the home of John Crippen, Jr. and family who owned it prior to the Rollage purchase.**

**One account of the Provines family states that before coming to Jefferson Township, the family moved first to the area of Cherry Valley in Smith Township where the last five children, namely, Margaret, James, Sarah, Jane, and Rebecca were born. They then purchased the Jefferson Township property where apparently they lived until the last of the sons died, which was probably the late 1890s. (The youngest son, James, was alive in 1900, but is believed to have lived near, but not in the original house. However, there is the possibility that he is the one who built the "new" house and thus appears on the census records to be living next door. This hypothesis may make more sense since James was married with children, while, to all appearances, Andrew, John, and Robert were lifelong bachelors.)**

**Little is known of the five Provines girls. The eldest, Mary, was apparently married and gone before 1820. She was believed to be the eldest of all the children and was born circa 1800, while the family was still in Ireland. Nothing is known of either Margaret or Jane, but one of the three girls named thus far must have married a man named Abrams or Abraham. Two children with this surname, listed as a niece and a nephew in census records, were later living in the Provines homestead with their aunts and uncles. The youngest daughter, Rebecca, married a neighbor, Robert Stewart, as his third wife. She had no children. Sarah, born in 1815, never married. She is buried with the family on the hill above Burgettstown in one of the Presbyterian graveyards. (It is interesting to track Sarah through the census records since she always reduced her age by a large number of years when confronted by the census taker.)**

**Samuel, the eldest son, married a neighbor girl, Isabelle Gracey, daughter of John Gracey. They spent their lives in nearby Hanover Township where Samuel bought a**

farm, which later fell to their sons, John and Andrew. Another son, Henry, died in early manhood. The four remaining sons - William, James, Samuel, and Harper - were all carpenters. There were also two daughters, Rebecca and Margaret.

Andrew, John, and Robert, sons of William, lived on the home farm until their deaths. All lived well past the proverbial three score years and ten. Tombstone inscriptions state that Andrew was past the age of ninety when he died. Crumrine states in his history, that Andrew and John had a blacksmith shop in Burgettstown in the 1830s.

The youngest son, James, married Mary Campbell of the Arthur Campbell family who lived nearby. Of their four children, John and Margaret died young. Rebecca married W.P. Shillito, and nothing is known of Mary. She may be the Mary Provines reported by area residents to be the last of the name to live on the old farm. James's wife, Mary Campbell Provines, died at the age of 39. James later married Mary Mortland. The Provines name through James's line ended with the death of his only son, John.

As can be seen through a close look at the data presented here, of the five sons of William and Rebecca Provines, only the eldest, Samuel, had sons to live to adulthood. Since Samuel had already left the Jefferson Township area at the time of his marriage, the Provines name is gone, and even the old house exists only in a faded photograph.



## **The William Porter Family**

**William Porter was born circa 1782, in Chester County, Pennsylvania, the son of Nathaniel Porter. Nathaniel was a native of the North of Ireland, immigrating to America about 1770. He located in Chester County, PA, where he married and reared a family of at least eight children. For many years, he kept a tavern at Williamsport, PA, which was a great resort for people crossing the mountains to bring salt and other merchandise to western Pennsylvania. This property was destroyed in the battle of Brandywine in the Revolutionary War. Nathaniel and his wife passed their lives in that area, and at their deaths, were buried in Chester County.**

**It was in Chester County that William Porter was raised, attending the English type schools of the area. As a young man, he married Margaret (Peggy) Wallace who was born in 1784. Her father, William Wallace, and William's father, Nathaniel Porter, had come to America with the same party of immigrants, so they had known each other before the births of these two young people. William and Peggy had ten sons and two daughters, but only six of these twelve children grew to adulthood.**

**In his youth, William Porter, like his father, Nathaniel, made a living as a tavern keeper in Chester County. But in 1827, he came to Washington County, settling in the Jefferson Township area of Cross Creek where he became a farmer. His property was in the north eastern section of the township, near the McGough and Provines farms. William's wife, Margaret, died Christmas Day in 1836, and was buried at the Paris Cemetery in Hanover Township. William lived another twenty years, passing away 26 May 1856, at the age of 73. He was buried beside his wife, Peggy, at Paris.**

**Of the six children of William and Peggy, this author has found nothing about James. In the 1820 census of Cross Creek, there is a James Porter who is in the right age bracket to be the son of William, but this is pure supposition. If it is this James, he preceded his parents to Jefferson Township by at least seven years. Another son, Wallace Porter, may be the W.W.Porter found in the 1860 census in the same area in which William had lived. He was living next to two of his brothers, Andrew and Franklin. His wife's given name was Verlinda, and his children, according to the census, were Elizabeth, Milton, Cynthia, Sarah, Mary, William, Andrew and John.**

**A third son, Andrew, lived all of his life on one of the Porter farms in that north eastern corner of Jefferson Township. He had been born in 1814, and died in 1888. His wife, Hettie, died in 1886. They were buried in the Paris Cemetery. Their children were Elizabeth, Margaret, Charlotte, William, Sarah, Mary Amanda, John, Esther, and Andrew. Sarah died at the age of 29, unmarried, and John died just one month after his mother in 1886, at the age of 33. Mary Amanda had married a man named Allison. She also died in 1886, at the age of 35. It would appear that some sore of contagious disease may have been at play in these three family deaths so close together.**

**Joseph G. Porter, another son of William and Peggy, lived a very fascinating life. He became a blacksmith in youth until he nearly died during a smallpox epidemic. In 1850, he joined the westward trek for the Gold Rush when he walked from Independence, Missouri, to Sacramento, California. He worked there at mining for a**

few years, returning by water to New York and eventually getting back to Washington County. In 1842, he married Nancy Fullerton of Hanover Township where they lived out their lives. Their children were John T., Joseph C., and Melissa. His son, John, continued with the farm after his father's retirement.

The youngest son in the Porter family was Franklin, born in 1821. He and his wife, Isabelle, lived on one of the Porter farms in Jefferson Township where he had been raised. Their children were William, Robert who died at the age of one month, Sarah, Andrew, John, Joseph, Laura, Mary who died at the age of nine months, Franklin, Idico, and Alice. Both Laura and Alice died unmarried, each at the age of 29. Franklin died in 1903, at the age of 82. His wife, Isabelle, had died two years before his death. They, and the four children whose deaths are mentioned above, are all buried in the Cross Creek Cemetery.

The only daughter of William Porter to reach adulthood was Sarah who married Robert Proudfit of Smith Township.

Records of the famous Company "K" of the Pennsylvania 140<sup>th</sup> in the Civil War list a William Porter, corporal, who was mustered out 31 May 1865. At least three of the Porter men had a son named William. The only one of these who would be of age to serve in the War Between the States was William, son of Andrew. Further research needs to be done to prove that the William Porter listed in the government records is indeed the William of Jefferson Township.

The 1911 Map of Jefferson Township still shows a Mrs. Andrew Porter owning land and apparently living there. No Porters are listed in the township in the 1900 census. As can be seen from examining the data on this family, there were at least three Andrew Porters who were grandsons of William. This Mrs. Andrew Porter on the township map is undoubtedly the wife of one of them.

Since William Porter came to this area in 1827, and the Porter name is still on the map in 1911 in the same place where William settled, the Porters were Jefferson Township residents for over 80 years. Apparently when that first William Porter gave up tavern keeping and came to Jefferson Township to farm, he came to stay.



## The Hugh Newell Family

Hugh Newell was born in 1744, in Connecticut. According to some of his descendants, he may have been the son of William Newell whose will was probated in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, in October of 1789. Some of his progeny also believe that he served in the Revolutionary War, but he is buried at the Cross Creek Presbyterian Graveyard in Cross Creek Township, Washington County, and is not listed among those interred there who were soldiers of that war.

Sometime prior to 1778, Hugh married a woman whose name is not known to this writer. On 12 April 1778, she gave birth to their son, David Newell. This David was living in Richmond County, Ohio, in 1850, but nothing further is known of him. David's mother must have died soon after his birth, since prior to 1780, his father, Hugh Newell, married a second time.

Hugh's second wife was Margaret Bentley, daughter of George and Jane Bentley. She was born 2 December 1759, in Chester County, Pennsylvania. To Hugh and Margaret Bentley Newell were born five sons and five daughters.

On 12 March 1788, Hugh patented 400 acres of land in what is today Jefferson Township, Washington County. It was bounded by the lands of Ebenezer Smith and Arthur Campbell, among others. Hugh named his land "Mutilation". On 25 March 1796, Hugh willed this land to his son, George Newell. After Hugh's death on 18 September 1810, the property belonged to George. On 26 June 1832, George sold part of the original holdings of his father to John Marquis, Jr., including the large brick house George had constructed on part of the 400 acre patent. This house is still standing today, but has been greatly enlarged over the years. It is located near Langeloth on the Eldersville Road and is commonly known as the Maggs property.



The remainder of the property was sold in 1851, to Samuel Archer. George Newell had died in 1840, and with the sale of this old homestead, the name, Newell, left the Jefferson Township area. This part of Hugh Newell's original patent became known as "The Archer Property". Samuel Archer, who had bought the land in 1851, sold it to his son, William Lee Archer, who had the present beautiful mansion house constructed.



*William Lee Archer Homestead*

No pictures of the old brick house where the Newells apparently lived has been located. But Matthew Donati, whose parents lived there when he was a child, recalled vividly the foundation of that original dwelling. In addition to the Donati family, this property was at one time owned by the late Jack Brunner. The Lesters are its current proud owners.

The children of Hugh and Margaret Bentley Newell were:

- a) George, born 12 April 1780, married Mary Marquis, died in 1840.
- b) James, born 20 May 1782, married Mary Fleming, died 7 December 1848.
- c) Jane, born 8 November 1784, married Allen Scott, died 22 October 1855.
- d) Mary, born February, 1787, married James McGibney.
- e) Joseph, born 1789, married Rhoda Luper, died 2 August 1854.
- f) John, birth date unknown, married unknown Parker, then Lydia Edie, died 1883.
- g) Elizabeth, born 4 January 1792, married Edward Marquis as 2<sup>nd</sup> husband.

- h) Eleanor, born 27 July 1798, married James Adams.**
- i) Margaret, no further information. This child may actually be the daughter, Hannah, listed in the baptismal records of the Cross Creek Church as having been baptized 6 November 1802, as the daughter of Hugh Newell.**
- j) Hugh, Junior, born 8 April 1804, married Sally Thrift, died 10 April 1883.**

**At least five of these children spent their lives in Ohio. It is also known that Jane lived in Iowa after her marriage.**

**The eldest of these children, George Newell, remained on the home place in Jefferson Township. As has been stated, he married Mary Marquis by whom he had the following twelve children:**

- a) Jane, born 25 August 1811; b) Hugh, born 4 July 1813; c) Margaret, born 10 July 1814; d) Thomas Marquis, born 10 December 1815; e) David, born 2 March 1817; f) Mary Worth, born 12 July 1818; g) Sarah, born 6 May 1821; h) Ann, born 11 August 1822; i) Eleanor, born 8 October 1823; j) Joseph Stephenson, born 10 October 1827; k) Bentley, birth date unknown; l) Elzania, birth date unknown.**
- Eleanor and Joseph died as very small children.**

**George Newell, the father, died at the age of 60 in 1840. His wife, Mary Marquis Newell, lived to the age of 81. They are buried at Cross Creek Cemetery.**

**The George Newell Homestead pictured at the beginning of this article, was probably built by George just prior to his marriage or soon after. As has been noted, his father, Hugh Newell, gave him the property in 1796. Hugh died in September of 1810, less than a year before George's first child was born. It is highly probable that most of the twelve children of George and his wife, Mary, were born in that house. Later residents passed down the supposition that only the rectangular front section, as it appears today, comprised the original house. In this first dwelling, there were two very large rooms downstairs and two upstairs. A fireplace on each end provided heat. The partition between these rooms was later removed, revealing the enormity of the size of that original section. Later, a very large L-shaped addition was constructed. Today there are ten rooms contained in the entire structure. Near the newer part, are the remains of a stone walk, which, according to later members of the Maggs family, once led to an outside summer kitchen. (The Maggs Family were the owners and occupants from 1918 until the present time.)**

**Although at this writing in 2003, it is reputed that descendants of the Maggs owners have offered the property for sale, this beautiful home has had, to date, but three family surnames to its history: Newell, Marquis, and Maggs. To the best knowledge of this writer, not many properties of Jefferson Township can claim this status. (There were, according to the late A.D.White, just prior to his death, only two farms still in the family name of the original patentee. All of these have been since transferred into other hands.) So although descendants of the third owner, William Maggs, still lay claim to this homestead, the original family of Newell have long ago disappeared from the local scene. Just about the only place this surname appears in the area today is on one of the old patent maps. These maps testify to the indisputable fact that Hugh Newell in 1788, was granted ownership of a very fine farm in northeastern Jefferson Township. This land later became the site of the large brick house still standing in good repair today.**

## **Arthur Campbell Family**

**Arthur Campbell was born circa 1738 in County Donegal, Ireland. There he married Elizabeth whose maiden name is not known. The young couple immigrated to America and first settled near Winchester, VA, where they remained for a year or two. They then moved to Redstone, PA, (Brownsville). It was probably here that most of their children were born. After searching for a permanent home, Arthur decided on a 400 acre tract in what is today Smith and Jefferson Townships, Washington County. He named this land "The Levels" and received his patent for it on March 15, 1788. At the time of Arthur's decision to make this place his home, it was occupied by the famous Indian fighters - the Poe brothers - Andrew and Adam. They had made some improvement on it but had not applied for a patent. Part of this land lay near what is the town of Langeloth and may even have included the townsite. It is believed that it extended into the area of Donati or Lee Road in the Jefferson Township section of the patent. The Campbells moved into the house the Poes had occupied which was of hewn logs, a story and half high. It was on this homestead that Arthur spent the rest of his life, accumulating a large amount of land and becoming a highly respected resident of the area. He died in 1804 at the age of 66 and was buried in the Cross Creek Graveyard. Elizabeth followed him ten years later and was buried beside him.**

**Arthur and Elizabeth were the parents of eight children. A brief accounting of them follows.**

- 1) Nancy, born circa 1766, never married but remained at the homestead in the household of her brother, John, who inherited it, until her death in 1845 at the age of 79. She is buried beside her parents at Cross Creek.**
- 2) William, born circa 1769, moved across the Ohio River shortly after 1800 where he married Mary (Polly) White, 15 March 1803. They lived in what is now known as Island Creek Township, Jefferson County, Ohio, and were buried in the cemetery there at their deaths. William died in 1852, at the age of 80. They are believed to have had several daughters and perhaps a son, Arthur. The eldest daughter was named Rachel.**
- 3) Elizabeth, born circa 1770, married James Gibson who was over 20 years her senior. They lived in Hanover Township near the Jefferson Township line. James died in 1816, and is buried in the old Kings Creek Cemetery in Beaver County, PA. Elizabeth lived until past 1850, at which time she was 80 years of age. She may be buried beside him in an unmarked grave. They were the parents of at least 4 sons, namely, John, Robert, Joseph, and James. John never married but lived in the household of his brother, Robert, until his death.**
- 4) Margaret, born circa 1773, married Thomas Elder for whom Eldersville was named. Her husband had bought two acres of land from Thomas Ward who laid out the town of Eldersville. Elder owned and operated a tavern there and it is reputed that he gave the town the well on which the town pump still rests today. Elder had a tavern keeper's license there from 1809 to 1818. The building in which he conducted the tavern was torn down before 1882. No record was kept concerning its location. Thomas and Margaret were the**

parents of at least the following children: Rachel, Maria, John, Thomas, Moses, James, Robert, David, and Elizabeth. Margaret died in 1852 and is buried at Cross Creek.

- 5) John, born circa 1777, married Mary, maiden name unknown. Upon the death of their father, Arthur, in 1804, John and Robert inherited the homestead. They divided it between them, John taking the north side where the original log house stood. He lived the rest of his life in the same place where the Campbells had settled in the 1780s.

John and Mary had the following three sons and five daughters: a) Elizabeth, born 1807, unmarried, lived out her life on the home place with her brother, John. Died in 1861 at the age of 54 and was buried at Cross Creek. b) another daughter, name unknown, born between 1800 and 1810. c) Arthur, born circa 1810, moved to Black River Falls, Wisconsin, where he died and is buried. d) Margaret, born 1814, married Allison Vance. Had children: John, William, Rachel, David, Robert, James, and Levi. In 1860, the only daughter Rachel, aged 15, and son David, aged 13, died 9 days apart of a dread disease of the day. Margaret lived to the age of 75. e) John A. (known as Captain John Campbell), born 1816. Never married but helped raise some of his nieces and nephews. Died in 1890 at age 74. Buried at Cross Creek. He inherited the home place and lived there all of his life. f) Robert S., born 1820, died at the age of 28 in 1848 while in college studying for the ministry. g) Mary, born circa 1820. Was still living at home with her mother, brother, and one sister in 1850 at the age of 30. Nothing further known of her. h) Isabelle, born circa 1822, died unmarried in 1853 at age 31. John died in 1849 at the age of 72. Mary lived until 1861 to the age of 85. They are buried at Cross Creek.

- 6) Arthur, born circa 1780, married Sarah, whose maiden name is not known. They lived in Jefferson Township just off what is known as Strobe Road near where it is intersected by Meneely Road. It is believed that a part of the old house in which they lived may be concealed within the house presently owned by Tom Strobe. (The above information on the location of the home of Arthur Campbell is not guaranteed to be 100% accurate, but from information consulted by this writer, it appears to be true.) Arthur died at the age of 35 and is buried at Cross Creek. Sarah continued to live in their home and raised their four daughters to adulthood. The 1830 census shows all four girls still at home with their mother. Sarah and the girls are not found again in these local census records. But in 1840, a Margaret Campbell, who may have been one of these girls, was living alone near Samuel Wright, down Creek Lane in Jefferson Township. She was listed as being between the ages of 15 and 20, which is probably a census error. Sarah may have married again as she was certainly young enough to do so, and Arthur had been dead since 1815. She does not appear to be buried at Cross Creek beside Arthur.
- 7) Robert, born in 1782, married Jane Smith, daughter of Ebenezer Smith, in 1811. They were the parents of eight children, namely: a) Eleanor, born 1812, married John L. Proudfit; b) Arthur, born 1815, married Eliza Proudfit; c) Elizabeth, born 1818, alive at the age of 32 in 1850 but no further information;

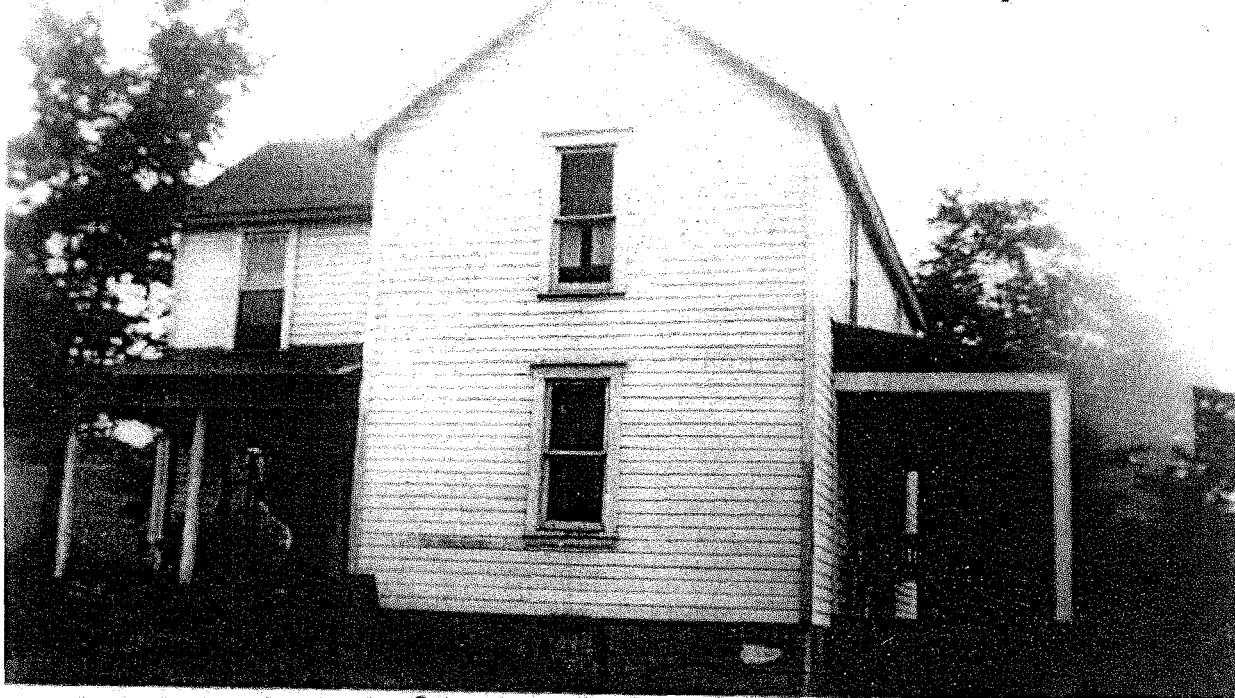
d) Ebenezer, born 1820, married Mary Ann McGough; e) William, born 1822, went to California and had not been heard from for years; f) Martha, born 1824, married John McGough; g) Margaret, born 1827, married Samuel Wilson and moved to Gordonsburg, VA; and h) James, who died at the age of nine in 1841.

Robert died in 1857, at the age of 75. He spent his life on the southern part of his father's original patent, which he received by the will of his father in 1804.

8) Joseph, born in 1785, studied medicine under a Dr. McClane of Florence, PA, and later married his daughter, Margaret McClane. They were the parents of at least three children: a) Louisa, born circa 1821, in Pughtown, married first a man named Chisholm and second a Rev. Joseph Thompson of Hickory, PA.; b) Arthur Montgomery, born in Pughtown in 1824, married Margaret Gardner, daughter of William and Patty Wilcoxon Gardner of Hollidays Cove. His children are listed in the next paragraph; c) William, born 15 August 1830, and died 27 March 1831, at the age of 7 months and 12 days. This baby is buried in the Flats Cemetery near Pughtown. The mother of these children died sometime after the birth of William. Since the two older children were still quite young and their father was a practicing physician in Pughtown, a family named Acheson took Louisa, and Joseph's nephew, Capt. John Campbell, took Montgomery into their homes. It is reported that Montgomery spent a great part of his growing up years with Capt. John, but the 1840 census shows him with his father and stepmother, Nancy Mercer Campbell, on the old Arthur Campbell patent living beside Joseph's brothers, John and Robert. Joseph is buried at Cross Creek with his second wife, Nancy. His first wife, Margaret, is probably buried at the Flats with her small son, William, but she is not listed in the records of the old graveyard. Joseph died in 1857, at the age of 72. His second wife, Nancy, had preceded him in death by five years.

Arthur Montgomery Campbell, son of Dr. Joseph Campbell, spent all of his life after the death of his mother, circa 1831, in or near Jefferson Township. He and his wife, Margaret Gardner Campbell, were married in 1848, and lived to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1898, at a huge celebration attended by 300 persons. Montgomery was a carpenter by trade and was said to have worked building more structures in his lifetime than any other man. He was possessed of a fine speaking voice and was an avid reader and a natural philosopher. He was known for his debating ability in the schools of his day and was a highly respected member of the Jefferson Township community. The farm on which he lived most of his married life bordered the Virginia State Line. It was reached from State Line Road Extension by means of the short stretch of roadway past the old John H. Murchland place which led to Amspoker Ridge. This is probably the farm which later became the Charlie Gillespie home.

***Charles Gillespie Homestead - built from the hotel at Kidds Mill  
Sits above Kidds Mill on the PA - WV line - Jefferson Township***



***The Charlie Gillespie House pictured above, was built after the closing of Kidds Mill. The hotel at the mill was still occupied by various families until about 1920. The house where the family of Arthur Montgomery Campbell lived preceded this house. The Gillespie family members consulted, do not know exactly where that old house stood and no pictures remain of it.***

**In 1903, Montgomery attended the Silver Anniversary celebration of his son, John, in Cross Creek. Although he was in his 80<sup>th</sup> year, he walked the twelve miles home at the close of the affair. He died 3 June 1906, and is buried at Bethel. The children of Montgomery and Margaret were: Louisa Fisher ( married first to Joseph Galloway); Martha Farner; John A.; Margaret McCurdy; Mary Fisher; Joseph; and Caroline Babel. The son, Joseph, never married, but lived on the farm where he was born down the State Line Road nearly all of his life. After the last of his family either died or moved away, he may have rented or sold the property. This is a good possibility since during the few years before his death, he lived down on the bottom land very near the road to Kidds Mill past the Lawther place. Joe was somewhat of a recluse, being of a totally different disposition than his community-minded father who was a good mixer and a born extrovert. Joe Campbell was the last to live and die in Jefferson Township of the family of that first Arthur Campbell who came here 215 years ago. Perhaps it can best be summed up in the words of an Old Timer of the area, who, when asked if he remembered anyone by the name of Campbell who once lived down the old road toward Kidds Mill, was quick to reply, "Why, yes. I remember a man named Joe Campbell. Quiet fellow. Minded his own business. Took care of himself till the day he died. They don't make them like that very often any more."**

## **The Andrew Reed Family**

The members of the Andrew Reed family were Jefferson Township residents for approximately 80 years. They moved to the area in 1835, and lived out their lives on the farm on which they settled.

This "Old Reed Farm", as it is still known today by the township's elderly residents, is on the present Cedar Grove Road joining the old Obed Edom Ritchey property, currently owned and occupied by Ignacious Yonis. A beautiful, gently rolling acreage, it is definitely one of the area's most attractive parcels of agricultural land. The house in which the Reed family lived may have been built by Andrew. It was constructed of rough cut timber and was removed from its foundation to a point further up the grade and used as a chicken house by the Cunningham family, who bought from the Reed heirs. Later, it was dismantled and parts of it used in the construction of other buildings on the property. The Cunninghams built a "new" house on the old foundation in 1927. This house is still standing and is occupied today by Duane Doak, who with his sister, Roseann, bought the property in 1977, from the Cree Stroud family who followed the Cunninghams as owners.

The old springhouse, a quaint historical landmark constructed of small field stones, still stands proudly on the slope below the residence. It is said that the springhouse loft was at one point in time used as a dwelling.

Andrew Reed was born near upper Buffalo on the fourth of July in 1798. He was the son of William and Margaret Reed. At the age of 18, he united with the Presbyterian Church of that area and upon his death, 30 July 1868, at age 70, his family placed his body to rest beside those of his parents in the old Upper Buffalo Graveyard.

When Andrew moved to the farm in what is now Jefferson Township in 1835, he took his membership to the Cross Creek Presbyterian Church. This congregation elected him ruling elder on 23 June 1854, according to *The Presbytery of Washington*. In a brief account of his life given in this book, he is described as "...well versed in scripture, strongly attached to the Presbyterian system of doctrine, a man of ardent piety." Apparently he passed his beliefs along to his children who are known to have been faithful to the Cross Creek Church until their deaths.

Andrew Reed's wife was Mary Ann Knox who had been born in Ireland in 1810. Andrew and she had two sons, George Andrew Reed and William Knox Reed, born in 1834 and 1836, respectively. In 1842, they added to their household a little girl whom they named Anna Mary. Although these children, with one exception, are found in the family nest in every census from birth to death, little else is known of them. The sons are buried in the Cross Creek Graveyard beside their mother, who lived to the age of 90. It is reported that Anna Mary is also buried there, but no records of the cemetery examined prove this fact.

The eldest son, George, served in the Civil War in the famous Company K, 140<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. Nothing else is known of these children. It appears that none of them married or had children. With the death of Anna Mary, the Andrew Reed line came to an end.



**Although it did not materialize, no doubt when Andrew left his home territory and settled here, he believed he would leave behind at least a few heirs to perpetuate his name and blood line. But all that remains today is in the memories of a few elderly residents who still refer to this beautifully manicured acreage as “the Old Reed Farm.” No grandchildren came along to take up where he left off, but back in 1835, Andrew Reed came to stay.**



*The old springhouse on the Andrew Reed property*

**This ancient building is believed to have been built by Ebenezer Smith, who once lived here. It is also rumored that it was, at one time, used as a dwelling. This may have been while the “next” house, no picture of which exists, was being built. That “next” house was later used as a farm building by the Cunninghams who built the third house which still stands. This springhouse is in remarkably excellent condition, and although not used for cooling milk today, is still utilized for other purposes by its present owners.**

## **The Obed Edom Ritchey Family**

**Very near the eastern border of Jefferson Township stands what the late A.D.White once termed "one of the oldest houses in the township". Elderly residents for years have called it the "Old McCorkle House". But John McCorkle did not come to the township until just prior to 1870, when he first appears in the local census. The house should rightly be called "The Obed Edom Ritchey Homestead".**

**Ritchey's parentage is not proven by this researcher but there was an Andrew Ritchey who had been a soldier of the Revolution in the area as early as 1800, with sons of an age comparable to Obed's. Obed, however, first appears in the census of 1820, in the location of the old house in question. He is shown with wife and a daughter aged 5 to 10. Obed is listed as being engaged in manufacturing which could mean that he was perhaps a harness or buggy maker, a cobbler, or a cooper.**

**In 1830, a son aged 5-10 is also recorded in the household, but the daughter is no longer listed. (She may have died, married, or is simply not listed.) This son is later ascertained as being named Peter Perrine Ritchey - a fact which proved a lead toward the maiden name of Obed's wife. The Ritchey home was very near the old homestead of Revolutionary soldier Peter Perrine, and the Bethel graveyard reveals that Obed is buried near Peter Perrine and his wife, Sarah, on the west side of Bethel Church. In the Daniel Perrine genealogy published in 1910, it is stated that Peter Perrine had a daughter, Catherine, born in 1793, who married Obed Edom Ritchey. It lists her son as being Peter Perrine Ritchey. This generally reliable source also records the Ritcheys with three daughters who grew to adulthood and married.**

**Although most of the statistics recorded in the census records about this family prove fairly consistent with each other and with other known facts, there are still some discrepancies. A final reckoning using all existing data would make it appear that a daughter, Margaret A., was probably born about 1834, but may have died before marriage. She is not mentioned in the Perrine history. But Eliza who is reputed to have married Samuel McCreary and Sarah who may have married Joseph McCreary, as stated by the Perrine genealogist, are probably daughters of Obed and Catherine. What is fairly certain is that a youngest child, Emily, grew up and married Levi Gardner and lived for a time in Hanover Township.**

**Obed died March 6, 1867, at the age of 75 and is buried at Bethel. Neither Margaret's death date nor burial place have been ascertained.**

**Their only son, Perrine ( as he was familiarly known), late in life married Cinda Cassidy, over 30 years his junior. This age discrepancy probably helped to become his undoing.**

**In the early 1890s, Perrine was attacked by an assailant with a bread knife having a 13 inch blade with a depth of 2 inches. His head was nearly totally severed from his body. According to witnesses, much quarreling and heavy drinking had preceded the crime. It was believed that Perrine's wife was the incentive for the murder, the accused being suspected of having a romantic involvement with her. The outcome of this case is not known to the writer.**

**The information on this episode is found in a faded newspaper clipping once in the possession of James Simpson, noted Cross Creek historian. It later became the**

**property of A.D.White who placed it in his Ritchey file. This article states that Perrine "...kept the Johnson House in Burgettstown and was at one time comfortably rich". Perrine and Cinda had a young son, Thomas, who was 13 years of age at the time of his father's murder. He was living with an aunt in Ohio at that time. What became of this child remains a mystery.**

**The old log house in which Obed and Catherine spent about 50 years of their lives is still standing with a "new" addition on the front. This addition was probably built by the McCorkles circa 1870. After the McCorkles left, the Fotovich family lived there for perhaps 20 years while their children were growing up.**



**If it takes a heap of livin' in a house to make it home, this old house is indeed a HOMEstead, for the Fotovichs filled it with a lot of warmth and caring which is evidenced even now nearly a century later by their offspring. Today the old house and adjoining land is the property of Ignacious Yonis who has kept the old homestead in constant repair and continued occupancy by members of his own family.**

## **The William VanOrdstrand Family**

**The VanOrdstrand pioneers were of Dutch descent, having first landed at New Amsterdam (New York) in 1649. A marriage license for a John and Annajete VanOrdstrand, believed to be ancestors of William, with whom this document is concerned, has been located in Somerset County, New Jersey, at the Six Mile Run Dutch Church. Many references to the descendants of this couple are contained in the files of this church, but researchers have actually uncovered very little data from them because they are written in the Dutch language. However, the marriage of this John and Annajete is dated 1743. Descendants of this family who have searched these records believe the family came to New Jersey circa 1700.**

**In the little Dutch Church at Six Mile Run are found the baptismal records of the following children: Isaac, baptized 1764, Peter baptized 1770, and William baptized 1772. It is known that the parents of these boys were named John and Ann. John was a warden of a prison at Trenton during the Revolutionary War and many records substantiate the fact that he was instrumental in the hanging of British spies. General Howe offered a reward for his capture, but he escaped without harm.**

**A descendant of this family reported the following information on the three sons whose baptisms are listed above.**

**William, baptized in 1772, remained at Six Mile Run and married there. In 1839, he went to Illinois to visit one of his sons, became ill and died there.**

**The other two boys, Isaac and Peter, went to Westmoreland County, PA, where they bought farms, married, and had children. Isaac later appeared in Cross Creek Township, Washington County. Since this was, in earliest years, part of Westmoreland County, this may have been one and the same place. Peter took his family to Ashland, Ohio, about 26 miles from Wooster. He began to clear off the land and establish a home but died within a year, leaving his wife with their eleven children in the wilderness alone. Somehow they survived. Two of the three boys, John and Isaac, moved to Iowa about 1855. The third son, Peter, Jr., remained in the Ashland area. His descendants still live in that place. In spite of such terrible hardships as children, these eleven youngsters are reported to have done well in life and left descendants who are prominent, worthwhile citizens of their home communities.**

**It is Isaac VanOrdstrand with whom this work is most concerned, since it was his son, William, who spent his life in Jefferson Township. Early records state that Isaac became a very wealthy farmer. It is certainly true that the land which he bought, before 1800, is still, today, one of the finest farms in the township. Its chief occupant at this time is Chris Burkett, who, with Matthew Snyder, have kept the property well manicured and green. This farm lies on both sides of Cedar Grove Road, about two miles southeast of Eldersville and not far from the Cross Creek Township border.**

**It is known that Isaac's first wife was named Ann and that she died 13 May 1810, at the age of 39. Their sons are believed to have been: John, Peter, James, and William. One descendant of this family, Lee Hill, has reported that in addition to these four sons, these parents also had daughters named Ann, and Catherine.**

**Catherine is reputed to have married a Marquis, while Ann married Samuel Hill in 1806. Nothing further is known of the daughters. The genealogist named above also believed that Isaac and Ann had a fifth son named Isaac, Jr. about whom nothing is known.**



***The VanOrdstrand Homestead, Cedar Grove Road  
Probably built by Issac's son William***

**The following information has been uncovered about John, Peter, and James, sons of Isaac and Ann. The last son, William, will be discussed at length later.**

**All three of these young men eventually settled near Wooster, Ohio. John did not live long after migrating there but left a number of descendants. Peter first married Cynthia Vance, of Cross Creek Township, Washington County, PA, before he moved to Wooster. They had a number of children. Peter served in the Pennsylvania State Militia in 1812, before moving west. Records show that his wife later received a pension for his years of service. James also settled near Wooster and left a number of descendants.**

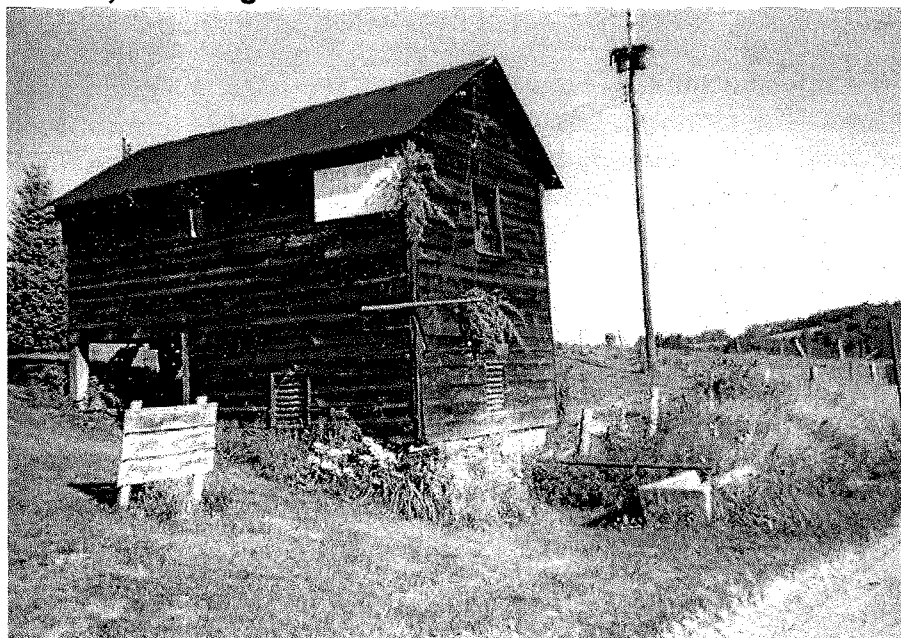
**William VanOrdstrand, son of Isaac and Ann, was born, according to the baptismal records at the Cross Creek Church on 6 September 1806. This does not agree, however, with the inscription on his tombstone at Cross Creek which states that he died 30 March 1885 in his 82 year. This last record would place his birth year as 1804. His age as given in the census records from 1850 through 1880 are not consistent, but place him in this bracket of 1804 - 1806.**

**William married Sarah Curry, daughter of Robert Curry of near Cross Creek Village. The following children are listed in their household in the 1850 census records: Jane, Alexander (living next door), Parker, William, Mary A., Robert, Elizabeth, James, John R., Sarah, and Hannah. The census of 1860 includes Elizabeth and James who were listed in 1850, but instead of Sarah and Hannah, it lists Isabelle, Mariah, Ross, and Martha. The Ross is probably the John R. from ten years prior. Sarah and Hannah may be other names for Isabelle and Hannah. Martha is listed at age 10, but may have been born after the census was taken in 1850. The older children were apparently out on their own by 1860. Since there is about a two year interval between births, it is possible that by 1850, two others may have been married and gone or else had died as children, since Alexander was 23 and Parker 17 with no children listed between those ages. Records do not show that any of these children made a permanent home in Jefferson Township, although it is reputed that Elizabeth married Abraham Bebout and Hannah married Thomas Marquis, so they may have remained close to home.**

**Sarah Curry VanOrdstrand, wife of William, died 15 February 1861, at the age of 56. It must have been some time after her death that William sold the farm. There were no VanOrdstrands living there in 1870. The Cross Creek 1870 census shows William living near where the parents of his deceased wife, Sarah, had lived. Living with him was Elizabeth VanOrdstrand, his second wife, who was a Curry. She may have been a sister of his first wife, Sarah. They were living in the same place in 1880.**

**William died 30 March 1885, and is buried at Cross Creek beside his first wife, Sarah. Elizabeth died in 1887, and is also buried there.**

**William's father, Isaac, who was the first of the family to settle here, died 16 September in 1834, at the age of 73.**

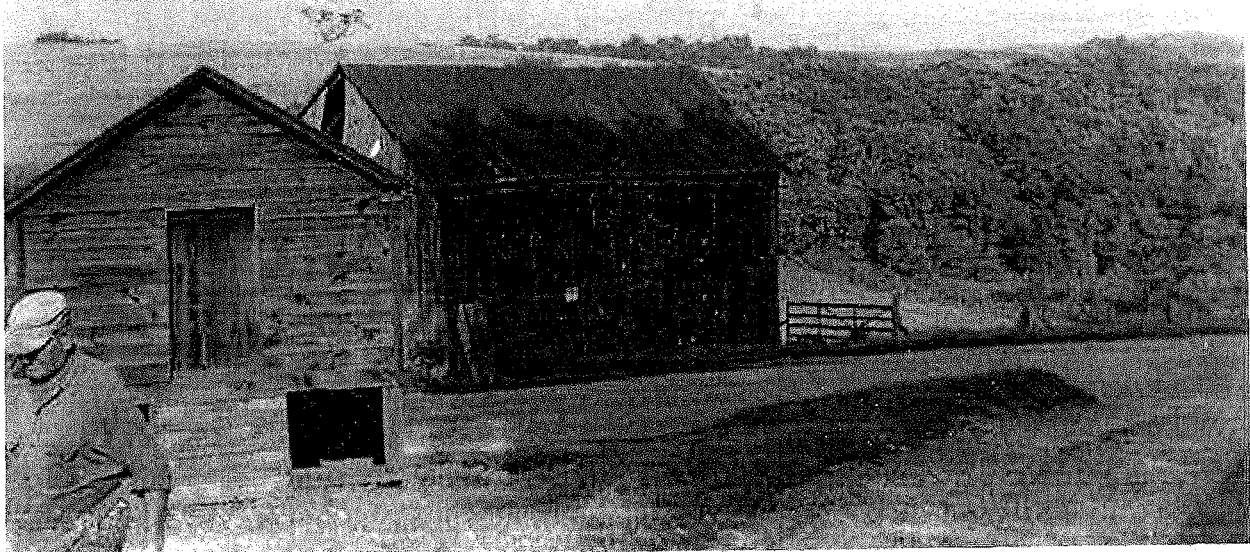


***The VanOrdstrand Springhouse***

The farm probably went to William at that time. William was, no doubt, born on the VanOrdstrand farm, but probably not in the house which stands there today. It was probably William who built it to accommodate his big family. Early maps show two houses on the property, not far apart, but no trace today remains of the first one. However, the springhouse is still there and is one of the oldest township structures standing today. It was probably built by Isaac, and may have been used as a dwelling as was often the case in those days.

Isaac's wife, Ann, died 13 May in 1810. She was the mother of William and of Isaac's other older children who were born before 1810. In 1820, it would appear that there is no "lady of the house". But in the 1830 census, just four years before Isaac's death, there is listed a female aged 50 to 60 who could be a second wife for Isaac. If so, she was not buried at Cross Creek with Ann and Isaac.

Not much is known about the daily lives of this family. The only personal item found by this researcher was that in 1856, William VanOrdstrand served on the Burgettstown Fair Board to represent Jefferson Township. It is regretful that more was not written down about them so that their descendants might have a better picture of the pioneers from whom they came.



*Pictured above is the original barn on the VanOrdstrand farm. It stood across the road from the springhouse which is still standing.*

## **The John Wheeler Family**

**John Wheeler was born 18 August 1812, near Tent Church Road, Brooke County, VA, on the home place of his parents, Thomas and Honor Donovan Wheeler. Thomas and Honor had been married in Maryland before coming to Brooke County where they became the parents of eight sons and three daughters, John being the second son.**

**John may have been born in the beautiful big stone house which was the Wheeler homestead most of the years before its demolition by the coal strippers about a century and a half after it was built. It is possible, however, that the big house was not built until a few years later when the young couple were more firmly established. If this were the case, John may have been born in a small cabin in the same location.**

**This home and the land on which it sat was not far from a large brick home built by Thomas Donovan, Jr. on the opposite side of Tent Church Road. This Thomas Donovan may have been Honor's brother. After the death of Honor's husband, Thomas Wheeler, in 1849, she is found in the 1850 census living with Thomas Donovan, Sr. and wife, who probably were her parents. The Donovans also came from Maryland, but the Wheelers were in Brooke County for the 1810 census while the Donovans do not appear until 1820. Perhaps Honor was lonely after coming to a strange land as a new bride and may have coaxed her parents to come to join her.**

**Honor Wheeler died in 1851, at the age of 60. Thomas, her husband, had died in the spring of 1849, at the age of 63. They were buried beside each other in the Olde St. Johns Cemetery in Brooke County. Their old homestead was occupied by their descendants many, many years after their passing.**

**It is written that John Wheeler helped his father with farming until about the age of twenty when he learned the trade of tailoring. In 1839, he married Hannah Sharpe of Washington County, PA, and the young people settled in Eldersville at that time. There John conducted a tailor shop for a period of twelve years. From the 1861 map of the township, it appears that the location of this shop was on the spot where Robert Osburn later had a house and store. (Robert's wife was a milliner and sold her hats and other frills to the ladies of the area at this site.) The building which old timers of Eldersville recall as "Hattie Osburn's Hat Shop" was not built until 1871, when her husband, Robert, hired Cyrus McConnell to do the carpenter work on it. From the old 1861 map, John Wheeler probably had his tailor shop on that same location where Osburn's Store was later built.**

**The Wheelers' six children were born in Eldersville. Amanda arrived in 1840, and Ulysses in 1841. The next four children, including a set of triplets, died as infants.**

**In the early 1850s, John left the village and moved to what is known today as the old Wheeler farm. It was located on what is today Cedar Grove Road just south of its intersection with Bethel Ridge. It bordered VanOrdstrand, Thomas McCarroll, and probably Edward Metcalf.**

**There is some discrepancy concerning when John and Hannah died. Beers history states that John died 1 February 1867, and Hannah on 30 August 1877. Neither of them appear in the 1870 census where their son was living on the home place. If these dates are correct, John died at the age of 55 and Hannah at about 64. Hannah**



may have spent her years of widowhood with her daughter, Amanda, who had married Dr. McCullough. Amanda herself died at age 41 in 1881.

Other death dates recorded for this couple are in the records of the Union Cemetery in Jefferson County, Ohio. These writings place John's death at the age of 76 in 1893, and Hannah's in 1901, at the age of 80. Neither these dates nor ages agree with Beers nor with census records. It is probable, however, that they ARE buried at Union since their son and his wife were later interred there.

Ulysses, the Wheeler's only son to survive babyhood, came with his parents from Eldersville, where he had been born, to the Wheeler farm when he was about 12 or 13 years of age. It was there that he spent the rest of his life.

In 1862, when the Civil War fever was rampant, like many of the Jefferson Township lads, he enlisted in the famous Company K, 140<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and served during the entire war. He was in 32 battles including Cold Harbor, Spottsylvania Court House, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg. He was honorably discharged in 1865, and returned home safely, albeit he had been slightly wounded at Chancellorsville. It is little wonder that his father is reported to have died about a year and a half later at the age of 55. No doubt John and Hannah were nearly wild with worry during those terrible war years since they had buried two sons and two daughters as babies and Ulysses was their only living son.

In 1866, Ulysses married Frances Sharpe of a prominent Jefferson County, Ohio, family. Her father, Benjamin Sharpe, was the leading livery stable owner and well-known undertaker in Steubenville. Frances was well educated for that day and age and was a graduate of Steubenville Female Seminary. Ulysses and Frances became the parents of two children- Benjamin Martin Wheeler, and Fannie.

Ulysses, during his lifetime, was considered to be one of the most enterprising farmers in Jefferson Township. He was elected to the position of tax collector for nine years and was census taker in 1890. His death occurred on the fifth of October in 1904, as he prepared to take his family to the Burgettstown Fair. He had harnessed the horses and drawn the surrey to the fence in front of the house. He then had walked to the porch, where he dropped dead of heart failure. Ulysses was but 63 years of age. His wife, Frances, lived 28 years after his death, dying in 1932, at the home of her daughter, in her 89<sup>th</sup> year.

Ulysses' son, Benjamin Martin Wheeler, his wife Margaret Fondersmith Wheeler, and two small sons- Bentram and Edward, were living beside Ulysses at the time of his death. No doubt he was planning a wonderful day at the fair with these two small grandsons when fate changed his plans.

It is not known by this writer how long Benjamin continued to live at the home farm after the death of his father. His mother is shown as still being in residence there on the 1911 map. Since Ulysses' father, John Wheeler, came to Jefferson Township in 1839, some of the Wheelers were in residence in the township for approximately three-quarters of a century. At this writing in 2003, the name is gone from local tax records, and the old farm is in other hands. But one thing is sure. When young John Wheeler left Brooke County at the age of about 27 and came to Jefferson Township across the state line, he came to stay.

## **The William Wirt Family**

**One of the most little known families of Jefferson Township is that of William and Mary Wirt. They were located in the township before the printing of the first township map in 1856, and at least one of them was still in the area as late as November of 1935. Not many families have lived in an area for over eighty years without making at least a mild impact on the community. But this writer has had a very difficult time coming up with even the most mundane facts about them.**

**On the first map mentioned above, they were living not far from the school house in Eldersville. Five years later when the 1861 map was drawn, they were still there. By 1876, however, the family was found on a farm off Eldersville Road with the Gardner and George Criss families nearby. The late A.D.White, historian of this area, when asked perhaps twenty years ago about this family's place of residence, commented that he believed they lived in the small log cabin which once stood on what was later the Mike Mikus farm. This writer knows from experience where this was located since she visited it a number of times as a child and sat on the crumbling foundation and picked the rambling roses which grew nearby. It was not far from the State Line Road but had no easy access from it to the cabin. This land has been destroyed by the coal strippers many years ago.**

**In the 1860 census, a Thomas and Cyrene family of Wirts with four small children were among the listings in the Cedar Grove Road area of the village of Eldersville. This Thomas was born in 1828. The William Wirt with whom this article is concerned, was born in 1822, so they may have been relatives or even brothers.**

**Mary, William's wife, was a Johnson by birth. William listed himself and both parents as having been born in New Jersey. He may have married Mary after coming to this area since her birthplace was Pennsylvania and there were a number of Johnson families nearby at the time they would have been married. Their children were: Annie, Kizzie, David, and Lillie. Annie disappeared from the household after 1880. She may have been the Anna Wirt who married John H. Carroll of Prosperity.**

**In the 1900 census, William was not listed. He probably died and may be buried without a stone at Eldersville where the children buried Mary after her death in 1907. The township map of 1904, shows the property in the name of David Wirt, the son. It is not known what later became of him.**

**Kizzie died in 1917, at the age of 57, leaving Lillie and perhaps David alone. This writer does not know when the Dellenbaugh family purchased the property. David moved from the area at some point before the death of Lillie in 1935, but perhaps not until Kizzie died in 1917. He is shown still living on the home farm on the 1911 map.**

**Although this writer made every attempt to find something of the lives of this little family who lived here eighty years, absolutely nothing surfaced. Helen Martin, at the age of 95, has told this writer that she remembers the name of Wirt and knew where they lived (which was a secluded, hard to reach location) but she never knew a single thing about them. In Lillie's obituary, which consists of but four short lines, it states that she died the 8<sup>th</sup> of November in 1935, and had been a life-long resident of the community. Perhaps the saddest words of all are this brief commentary: "She was the last of her family".**

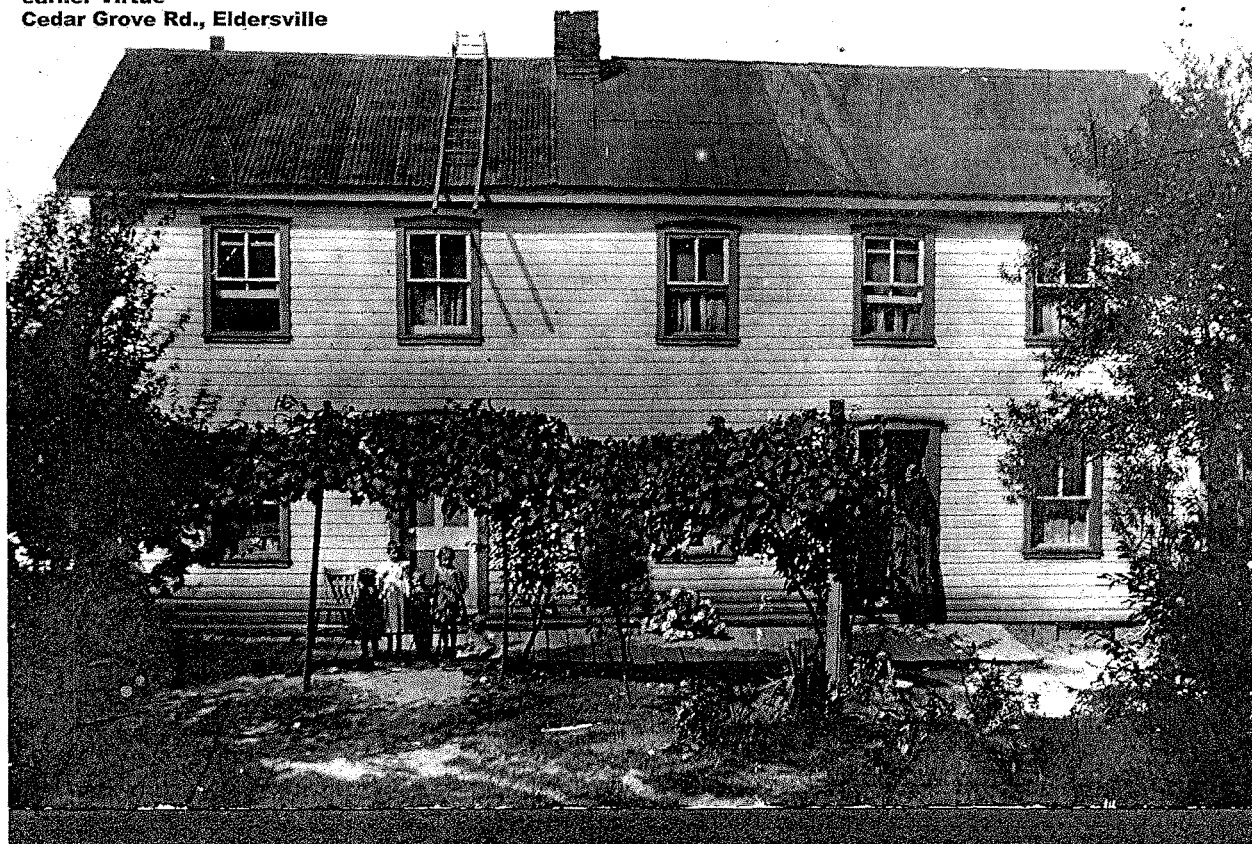
## The Virtue Families

The first Virtues to appear in the census records of Cross Creek Township are Samuel and James in 1840. Samuel was living in the Jefferson Township part of Cross Creek near the Pogue and Cunningham farms. He was 20 – 30 years of age and had a wife but no children. Samuel does not again appear in the records.

James and wife were 30-40 years of age in 1840 with three sons and three daughters under the age of ten. They were not living at that time in the region of Jefferson Township. By 1850, James and Mary had nine children listed in the census: Thomas, Mary Ann, Eleanor, Robert, James, Sarah Margaret, John, Walter and William. A tenth child, Martha Jane, according to Cross Creek Cemetery records, died in 1849. In 1851, their last child, Julie, was born.

In the 1860 census of Cross Creek, six of the younger children were still at home. In 1868, James's wife, Mary, died and was buried at Cross Creek. After their mother's death, either the remaining children moved out on their own or temporarily left the area since neither James nor his household appear anywhere in the 1870 census. However, a J. Virtue is shown on Caldwell's Map of 1876 living in Eldersville in what was to become the Tucker-Butler home in later years.

Oliver Tucker Homestead  
earlier Virtue  
Cedar Grove Rd., Eldersville



*J. Virtue Home in 1876*

**A possibility is that James remarried after Mary's death and was in transfer between Cross Creek and Jefferson when the census was being taken in 1870.**

**In 1880, James reappeared in Eldersville, this time next to Thompson Criss on the farm owned recently by the late Richard Englert and wife.**



***William McCready Home, later Thompson Criss***

**James was 72 years of age at the time and had in his household a Jane aged 46 and two Virtue children. These could be a daughter-in-law and two grandchildren or a "new" family for James. Whatever the case, he does not appear again in the local census records nor is he buried beside his wife, Mary, at Cross Creek.**

**One great sadness which James and Mary experienced during their lives was the death of their son, Robert Virtue, in September of 1863. He had signed up with the 140<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteers during the Civil War and died in University Hospital at Baltimore, Maryland, of wounds received in the battle of Gettysburg. He was 25 years of age.**

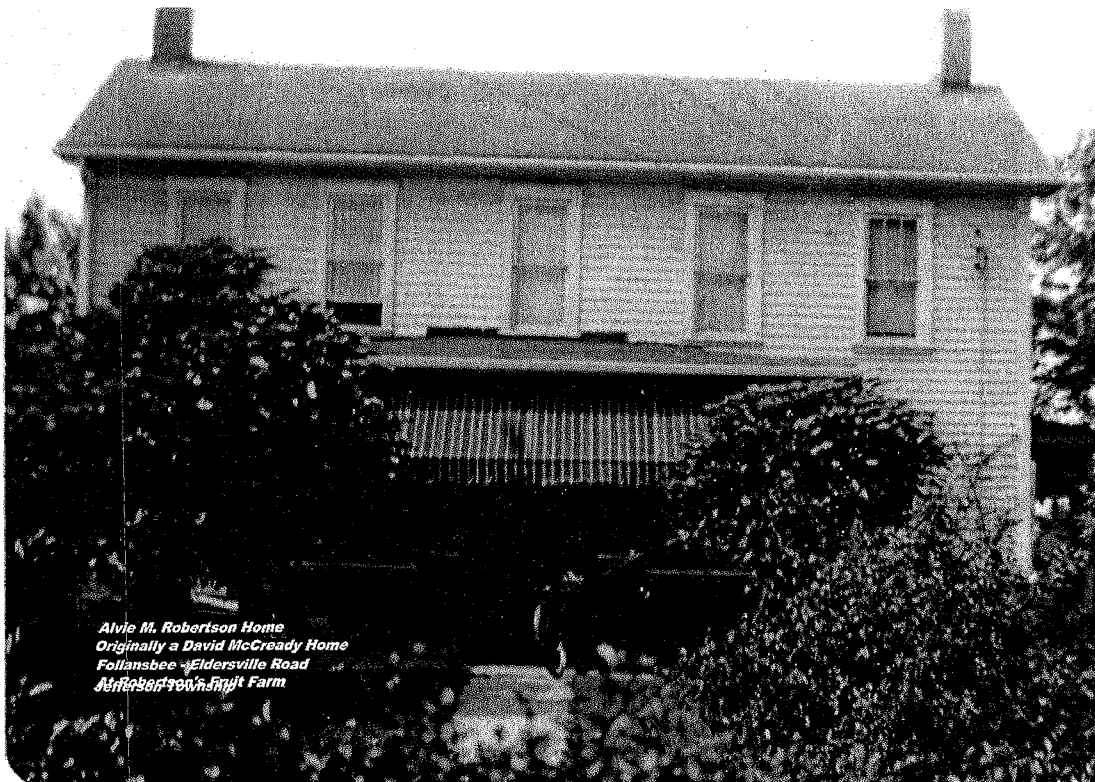
**This James Virtue is known to have been the son of a William Virtue who was an early immigrant from Ireland.**

**Beginning in the 1850 census records, another Virtue family appeared consistently up through the 1900 records. Susanna Cunningham, daughter of John and Susanna**

of Jefferson Township, had married a Henry Virtue sometime in the 1840s. Henry died 17 July 1847, at the age of 31. That same year, Susanna gave birth to their second daughter, Mary. Her sister, Rachel, had been born two years before. It is not known where they lived during their short married life, but by 1850, Susanna and her two children had moved back home with her widowed mother to the old Cunningham farm west of Bethel Ridge Road and not far from old Kidds Mill. For a number of years, Susanna's brother, Francis Cunningham, shared the home with them. The mother died in 1875, after which Susanna left that area of the township.

Nothing is known about Susanna's husband, Henry Virtue, except that he was born circa 1816. He may have been a brother of the James Virtue discussed in the forepart of this article.

By 1880, Susanna and her youngest daughter, Mary, moved to Eldersville with her daughter, Rachel, and son-in-law, Thompson Criss. Mary later married Thompson's brother, William Toland Criss. They were the sons of George and Elizabeth Toland Criss. An interesting observation is that James Virtue is shown in 1880, living on this same property. This is altogether possible since it is known that there were two houses on that farm at the time. David McCreedy had built the "old" house which his son, William, abandoned when he built the "new" house pictured on the preceding page. The "old" house was later moved to the Robertson Fruit Farm, remodeled, and still standing today. The picture below is the remodeled version of the "old" house in which James Virtue was undoubtedly living in 1880. No one today remembers where it stood in relation to the "new" house where the Criss family lived.



Rachel Virtue, who had married Thompson Criss, was the mother of two sons, George and Henry. When these boys grew to manhood, they married sisters - Jennie



## **The David Thorley Family**

**Sometime between 1851 and 1855, David Thorley moved his wife and young family from near his father's home in Brooke County, VA, to a farm in Jefferson Township across the state line. This farm was to be known as the Thorley Homestead for the next 150 years. It was located on the hill above State Line Road near the old Alexander Lauther farm. From its vantage point, one could look across the valley leading to Kidds Mill and see the hilltop where stood the Samuel Melvin homestead. To David's wife, Anne Melvin Thorley, this place on Irish Ridge was home.**

**Anne had first seen the light of day in 1828, and after marrying David Thorley before the age of twenty, had moved with him to Brooke County where their first two sons had been born. William was born in September of 1848, and Samuel on 11 October 1851. After settling on their newly acquired land in Pennsylvania, two more children were born to them, namely, Albert and Sarah. Nearly twelve years after Sarah arrived, a last son, John Thorley, was born when Anne was past the age of 40.**

**Of these five children of David and Anne, only William and Albert married. The other three lived at the homestead until their deaths. It must have been a lonely life. After Sarah and Samuel were both dead, John and an unmarried niece, Lola, lived at home, rarely venturing into the outside world. Lola in particular became a complete recluse. She spent the last years of her life in California with a woman who had been a neighbor when she was back on the farm. She died in 1962, at the age of 75.**

**John, the youngest of the Thorley children, was the last to die at the old homestead. He was a well-known blacksmith in the Jefferson Township area and a member of the Grange. He also played for square dances on Saturday nights in the old Gardner barn on Eldersville Road. John never married, but it was rumored that at one point in his life he was nearly mortally wounded in a fight with a man who was his rival in a love affair. He eventually recovered from his wounds and his assailant disappeared from the area for a number of years. Neither of the men in this triangle ever married.**

**David died just past the age of 60, and was buried on the hilltop at Bethel Church among the Melvins, his wife's family. Anne Melvin Thorley, his wife, 18 years younger than David, outlived him by 35 years, and died at the age of 80 in 1908.**

**David Thorley was a talented man and a wonderful asset to the Jefferson Township community. He was a fine cabinet maker, working long hours in his little shop behind the house. It was said that homes in a wide area of the neighborhood housed many of his fine bedsteads and other beautiful pieces of furniture. He was also a coffin maker and an undertaker. It was his policy to never make a coffin until he was notified of a death. Each one was individually designed by him with the person in mind whose body was therein to be interred. He also repaired and made violins, and rendered much community service as a veterinarian. His son, Samuel, had many of his father's fine traits and was considered to be a mechanical genius of his day. Both David and this son, Samuel, were kindly, honorable men - highly esteemed by all who knew them.**

**With three of his five children unmarried, the only possibilities of continuing the Thorley name from David's line, lay in the hands of his two sons who did marry,**

namely, Albert and William. Albert's only child was a daughter, thus narrowing the field to the offspring of William.

William, the eldest son of David and Anne, married Laura Jennie Strong, and to them were born two sons and three daughters. William and Laura lived their lives on Maiden Alley near the Methodist Church in Eldersville.

#### **William Thorley Homestead**



All five of their children married and it is believed that each of them had children. The daughter, Francis Thorley Patterson, was a prominent schoolteacher, having taught at Duff's College as well as in New York City. Unfortunately, she died at the age of 50 of pneumonia following an appendectomy. William's son, Russell, had only one daughter who left a number of descendants none of whom, of course, bore the Thorley name. His other son, Roy Thorley, married Belle Steele in a storybook romance still repeated by old timers of the area.

It seems that Belle was one of the "Pittsburgh girls" who came to Hanlin Station by train and from there to Kidds Mill by horse and wagon each summer for a two week vacation. These girls lived at the beautiful boarding house across Scotts Run from the old mill and were royally entertained by its proprietress, Agnes Murchland. Among the exciting affairs of the vacation were Saturday night square dances with young men from the Eldersville area shyly appearing down the long lane toward the hotel where they would serve as dance partners to the young ladies. It was in this manner that Roy Thorley met Belle Steele, a pretty gal who had been born on the



**Emerald Isle and now found herself in love with the eldest son of William Thorley. When the Pittsburgh girls returned to the big city that summer, Belle Steele stayed behind. She married Roy and to them was born a son, Merle.**

**Merle Thorley was a productive citizen of Eldersville all of his long life. He never married, having been severely handicapped with cerebral palsy. This affliction however did not prevent him from living life to its fullest. He always supported himself and was never a burden to anyone. From 1928 until 1947, he operated a newspaper delivery agency for several area newspapers. He then operated the Thorley Garage, a gasoline station in the heart of town until his retirement in 1972. Merle died Christmas Day in 1992, at the age of 80. He was the last in the area to bear the name of Thorley.**

**With Merle's death, it had been nearly a century and a half since David Thorley married Anne Melvin. No one remembers how this lad from Brooke County met the Melvin girl from Irish Ridge near old Scott Hollow Road in Jefferson Township. It is believed that David was one of the eleven sons of Samuel Thorley whose old brick house built in the 1830s, still stands in Brooke County near Cooke's Hill on the Rihel Farm.**



***Samuel Thorley Homestead in Brooke County***

**Little is known of Samuel's other children. He and his wife are buried at the Olde St. Johns Graveyard, having died in the early 1850s, at a ripe old age. Their advanced ages and ultimate deaths may have been part of the incentive for David to**

strike out on his own. No doubt Anne's Melvin heritage was a big factor in choosing the location for his future home. If so, it proved a wise choice.

The Thorley-Melvin connection was far more than this one marriage bond. These two surnames are intertwined again and again in the pages of the history of Jefferson Township. When Anne's brother, William, wished to buy out his siblings in order to own the Melvin homestead, it was his brother-in-law, David Thorley, who had a legal finger in the pie to make this possible. And before and during the dark days of the Civil War, both families were prominent in the establishment of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Eldersville. This "White Church" was faithfully supported by the Melvins and the Thorleys during its entire existence and it is said that Samuel Thorley, David's son, was probably the last to give up on the idea of keeping the church open. Both families were staunch Abolitionists with a bitter hatred of slavery and were also very much against any use of alcohol.

The old Thorley homestead was once a pleasant house filled with love and laughter and music.



*The David Thorley Homestead*

Today, the spot on which it sat is a hole in the ground created by one of the giant bull dozers which played havoc with much of Jefferson Township during the coal stripping years. Even the name, Thorley, is unfamiliar to most of the area's residents today. But it is to be hoped that this meager effort at telling the tale of David and Anne will enable some one in the future to remember that among those who came to this land long, long ago, David Thorley also came – to stay.

## **The Patterson – Cooper Families of Jefferson Township**

**Shortly after the Revolutionary War, two brothers, James and John Patterson, along with three sisters, came to America from Ireland. (This was NOT the Patterson family of Cross Creek Township whose progenitor was William Patterson.) For some time, they lived near Philadelphia where the brothers worked at flailing wheat for 33 1/3 cents per day. Later, they moved to Allegheny County where they rented a farm. After a few months, they came to Washington County to what is today the Jefferson Township area, and purchased from Richard Wells a farm which in later years was known as the Hugh Patterson, then the Earl Forney, and then the Steve Bertovich farm. This property was very near the old one-room Coles Schoolhouse.**

**By the time they came to this area, James had married Sarah Givens. In the old two-story log house on this land, were born their children: John, Mary, James, Sarah, Elizabeth, Hugh, and William.**



*James Patterson Log House*

**James's brother, John Patterson, also lived in this house, at least for a time, since it is known that John's son, William, was born there. It is not known how soon after their settlement John struck out on his own, nor is it known what farm it was to which he moved. But census records show that the two brothers never lived very far apart. Both were active in the establishment and perpetuation of the Bethel**

Methodist Church all of their lives. They and their wives are buried there. James died the last of August in 1849, at the age of 92 while John died two months later at the age of 87.

This writer does not know what became of three of James's sons – James, Jr., John, and William. There are Patterson men buried at Bethel which could be any or all of these. However, the son, Hugh Patterson, who was born in the old log house in 1807, never married. He remained on the home farm, caring for his elderly parents until their deaths at advanced ages. At some point during these years, Hugh must have built the new frame dwelling which stands today. The old log house stood for at least 150 years but was beginning to deteriorate when the Earl Forneys lived there. Steve Bertovich removed the top story and used the first floor as a farm building during his ownership. The present house was probably built before 1850.

Shortly after the death of his father, Hugh moved to Eldersville, where, in company with William Wilson, he carried on a thriving mercantile business. It is believed that this operation was conducted in the building which later residents knew as "Gourley and Boles" store. In 1867, Hugh sold the business to his nephews, John and Henry C. Cooper.



Hugh Patterson was a well built man, nearly six feet in height, and was held in the highest regard by those who knew him. He served as a school director and as treasurer of the Jefferson Township School Board. He was an anti-slavery advocate and a staunch Methodist by faith. He was petitioned by his neighbors to become Justice of the Peace and County Commissioner, both of which he declined. In 1842, he served as Post Master at Eldersville and for many years was class leader of the church.

**It was probably during his 15 year engagement in the store business that he built the large house on the hilltop behind the store.**



***Hugh Patterson Home***

**It is generally known today as the George Cunningham house or the Bane home. As years went by, Hugh purchased other pieces of property in the village, all the time keeping the old Patterson homestead back on Coles School Road. He was a well-to-do gentleman, the result of a lifetime of hard work and thrift.**

**Having taken care of his aged parents during the last twenty to thirty years of their lives, Hugh was suddenly afflicted with yet another burden. His sister, Elizabeth, had married Erasmus Cooper and moved with him to Allegheny County where four little boys were born to them, namely, William, John, Robert, and Henry. In 1846, when Henry was but 18 months old, his mother, Elizabeth Patterson Cooper, died. The Pattersons united to raise these children, farming them out among members of the family. Mary, who had married William Moore, took the baby, Henry. (It was reputed that Henry was a hunchback from birth.) In the 1850 census, John Cooper, aged 14, was living with his Uncle Hugh in Eldersville. Sarah, who had married Robert Pogue, took Robert. Erasmus, their father, may have kept William, the eldest, with him.**

**In 1854, Erasmus took the two oldest sons, William and John, with him to Iowa. But Erasmus died the next year. It is known that in 1863, William came back to Eldersville where he became involved in the development of the Allegheny County oil fields. He died in 1895, at the age of 62 and is buried at Eldersville. He never married. It is not known exactly when John returned, but he does not appear in the 1860 census. He is, however, definitely back home by 1867, for after 15 years in business, their Uncle Hugh Patterson sold John and Henry his entire operation in Eldersville in May of that year. They formed a partnership and the Cooper brothers**

became one of the best known business operating firms in the western part of Washington County. The store was well filled with various articles needed in a farming community and their patrons were scattered throughout the entire county as well as in neighboring West Virginia.

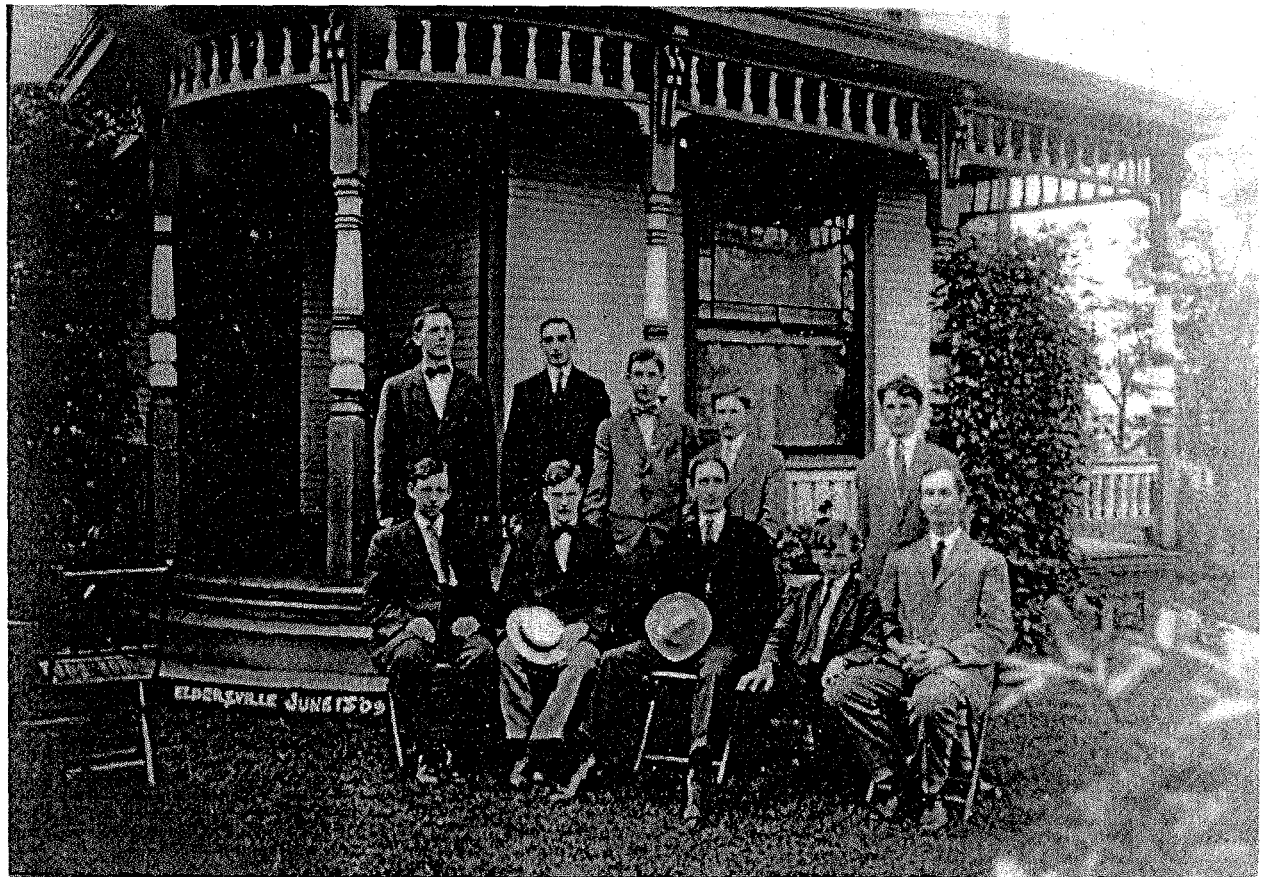
After nearly 35 years, Henry retired from the firm in 1891. In 1889, he had married Carrie McCarroll of the old Bethel Ridge family by that name. They were staunch supporters of the Methodist Church and are buried at Bethel. They were married late in life and had no children.

At the age of nearly 98, Gaylord Martin, of Eldersville, recalls Henry Cooper vividly. He remembers him as being stern of nature when children were present, expecting them to be seen and not heard. Gaylord repeats with gusto an incident when he and another small boy talked during the church service. Henry Cooper, who was sitting near the front of the church, turned around and scowled. When their chatter continued, he stood and threw a hymnal at them full force. Gaylord recalled that he quickly had decided that "Old Man Cooper" meant what he said.

After John and Henry went into business, John married Mary Murchland, daughter of the well-known John H. Murchland of the Kidds Mill area of the township. To them were born six daughters, two of whom died before the age of 2 years. Of the four remaining girls, Nannie married Lewis Welker, Nettie married D.C. Brown of Avella, Awilda married Sam Campbell, also of Avella, and Mary never married. Nettie and Awilda each had a son, but neither of these boys had children. Nannie was childless. There are, therefore, no descendants from the John Cooper line.

As has been said, John's brother, William, did not marry, and Henry had no children. Only Elizabeth Patterson Cooper's third son, Robert, left heirs for Elizabeth and her husband, Erasmus Cooper. Robert had been reared by his mother's sister, Sarah Pogue, who lived not far from Irish Ridge in the township. There it was, that he met the love of his life, Lydia Melvin, daughter of William. He married Lydia and took her to Iowa with him where it is reputed that they had four children. Lydia then became seriously ill and wanted to go home. Robert brought her back to the old Melvin home where she died at the age of 33. Her children and their descendants are all that remain of the Erasmus Cooper-Elizabeth Patterson line.

Most Eldersville residents of today have never heard the names of Hugh Patterson or Henry Cooper. To many, even Gourley and Boles Store, which grew out of the Patterson and Cooper businesses, only exists on old postcards lying face down in the attic dust. But standing on the top of the hill in the village between the church and the fire hall, are two lasting monuments to these enterprising businessmen of a by-gone era. The George Cunningham or Bane house, to Hugh Patterson who was born in a log cabin in 1809, must have been a dream mansion there atop one side of Eldersville Road, while the house now owned by Dorothy Petrel, across the way, was the pride of Henry Cooper. Built over a century ago, this home was the ultimate in Victorian beauty of its day. Remodeling has removed its original grandeur, but it is well kept and still maintains its original setting, reminiscent of the days when the pupils of the Eldersville Normal School held reunions there in what was termed "Cooper's Grove."



*Normal School students and teacher  
In front of Henry Cooper's house*

**The uncle, Hugh Patterson, and his dead sister's sons, John and Henry Cooper, were once among the best known businessmen of Jefferson Township. But like most things earthly, the business, the building that housed it, the faithful patrons, and the hard work and planning which made it a success, have all passed away. Only in such a drab historical manuscript such as this do even the names of the personalities involved still exist. But once upon a time, over 200 years ago, a man named James Patterson with his younger brother, John, had a dream of a better life. They came to Jefferson Township off Cole School Road before 1800, to live in a small log house of their very own with the hope of making their dreams come true. And they came to stay.**

## The William McClurg Family

In Cross Creek Township, prior to 1800, a William McClurg with two or three sons can be found in the census listings. He was still living in 1830. In the Cross Creek Cemetery, is buried an Isabella McClurg who died in 1814, at the age of 65. It is possible that she was William's wife. No record of his burial at Cross Creek has been found. By 1840, a Joseph McClurg was living in the part of Cross Creek which now comprises Jefferson Township. Joseph's home was near the Lees, Walkers, and Stephensons.

Joseph may or may not have been a son of the William discussed above, but the name, Joseph McClurg, appears a number of times in Jefferson Township records. A Nancy Perrine, daughter of Benjamin and Sarah Criss Perrine of the Hanlin Station area of the township, married a Joseph McClurg and had a son also named Joseph. Her husband died at a young age and Nancy later married George Noah. Her son, Joseph McClurg, moved to the west to make his home but when his mother became aged, he returned to care for her. They lived in Eldersville in what old timers referred to as "the long black house" which stood at one time between the home of Frank Jackson and the garage of Sam Fiazza. Nancy died in 1929, at the age of 95 and was buried at Eldersville. It is not known what became of her son, Joseph McClurg.

In the meantime, a William McClurg of Scottish descent was born in Westmoreland County, later marrying Nancy Ann Mercer of Beaver County. The parents of this William McClurg were Joseph and Ruth McKenzie McClurg. William and Nancy spent their lives in Beaver County and were buried in Mill Creek Valley Cemetery there. Their three daughters apparently died young. They were: Margaret Jane, Elizabeth, and Sarah who married Robert Johnston. Four sons were born to this union: John Sylvester (who spent nearly his entire life in Jefferson Township), Alvin who operated a store in Candor, and twin sons named Joseph and David. The twins spent a lot of their lives in the Hookstown area.

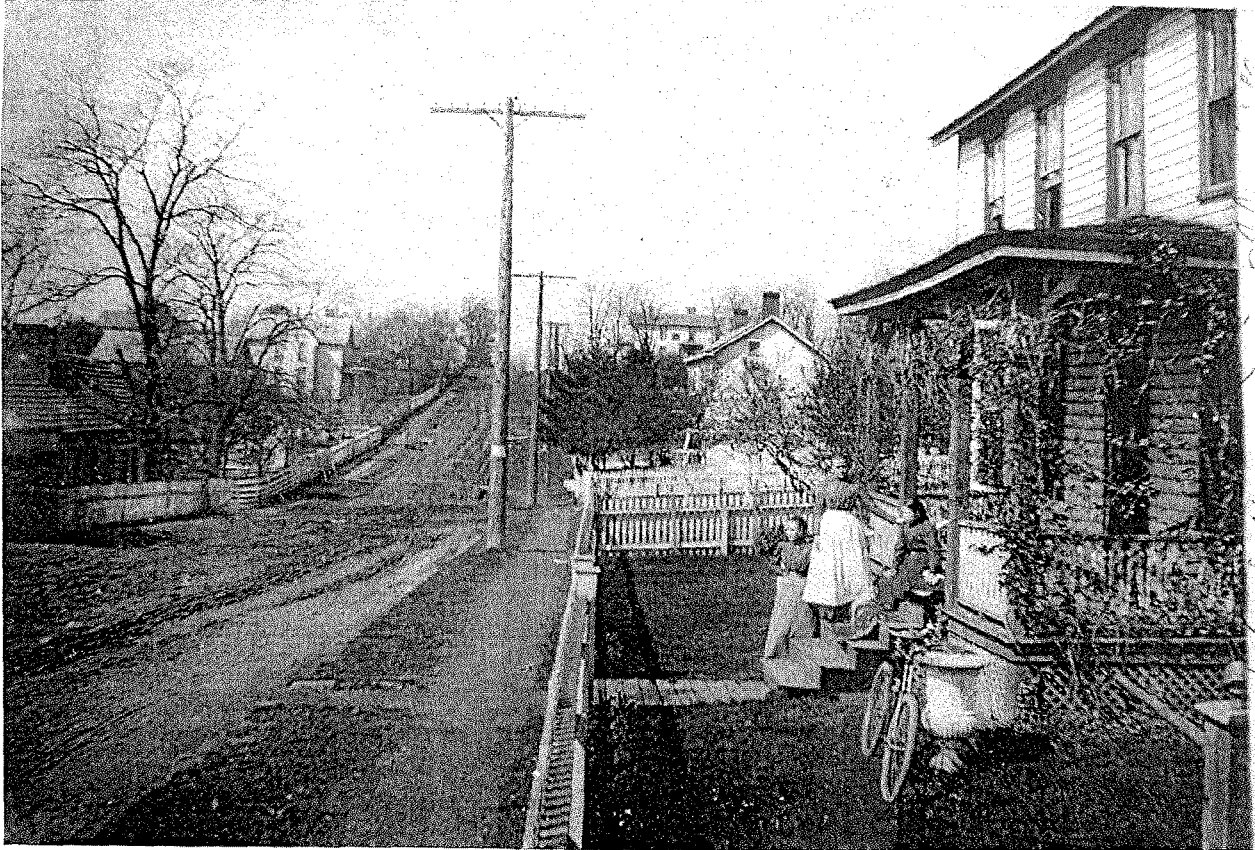


*Anne McClurg Swearingen, daughter of John Sylvester McClurg*



**John Sylvester McClurg, who came as a young man to Jefferson Township, married Mary Cunningham, daughter of Francis and Sarah Ann Byrd Cunningham. Mary Ann was from the old Cunningham family of the township where her father eventually became the owner of 750 acres of land. John Sylvester and Mary Ann lived for quite a time on the land of Francis Cunningham on the hilltop above Kidds Mill. It was considered to be one of the finest farms in the area.**

**John McClurg became a highly respected citizen of Jefferson Township, serving many years as school director, road supervisor, and judge of elections. The family eventually moved from the farm to the Village of Eldersville to enjoy their retirement.**



***On the left, below the parsonage, is the retirement home of John Sylvester McClurg in Eldersville***

**They were the parents of three children: Francis, who was a farmer in the township in early life, later in the hardware business at Imperial; Anne, who was a graduate of the Eldersville Normal School, a teacher in the Midway High School for many years, and the wife of J.J. Swearingen of Hookstown; and Alverta, who married John Johnston and lived on the old Riddle Farm of Jefferson Township.**

**The McClurgs were staunch members of the Bethel Methodist Church, where John Sylvester and Mary Ann are buried. She died in 1913, at the age of 57. John married later for a second time. This wife, Lulu, died in 1919. A son of John and Lulu, Alvin, lived but to the age of five years. He and his mother are also buried at Bethel.**

## **Margaret Jane Moore**

**From the date of the formation of Jefferson Township from Cross Creek, until after 1910, there was basically but one person by the name of Moore living in the township. This person was Margaret Jane Moore, a most unique personality and a citizen worthy of some attention. For this reason, this writer believes that although she was a household of one, for most of her life, she warrants listing as one of the families who left a mark on the history of Jefferson Township.**

**Margaret Jane Moore was born in the spring of 1823, in Muskingham, Ohio, the daughter of James and Jane McCarroll Moore. Even after a considerable amount of research, this writer has not uncovered information on who this James Moore was who married a daughter of Thomas and Eleanor McCarroll of Bethel Ridge Road. The McCarrolls are well documented in nearly every history of Jefferson Township, being early patentees who stayed seemingly forever. Thomas was a soldier of the Revolution, an excellent farmer, and an early elder in the Tent Cross Creek Presbyterian Church in Brooke County, VA. One would think that a grandchild of this man would have a comparatively easy path through life. But such was not to be.**

**Margaret Jane's mother died at the time of her birth. She may have had older siblings. A John Moore is buried beside Margaret Jane in the graveyard at the Tent Church. He was born in 1816, and may have been a brother.**

**As an infant, Margaret Jane was taken to Jefferson Township to the farm where her mother had been born. The plan was that she would be reared by her maternal grandparents. Her grandmother was 77 years of age at the time. When Margaret Jane was thirteen, her grandmother died at the age of ninety. Her Uncle Tom McCarroll, who lived on the old homestead, kept this young girl and raised her with his own children. But it was never the same as a home with her own parents. Some records state that her father, James Moore, also died when she was but a mere child. Be that as it may, she learned to fend for herself and spent most of her life living alone. It appears from census records, that at one point in life, a Margaret Moore, possibly a sister of her father, lived with her for a time.**

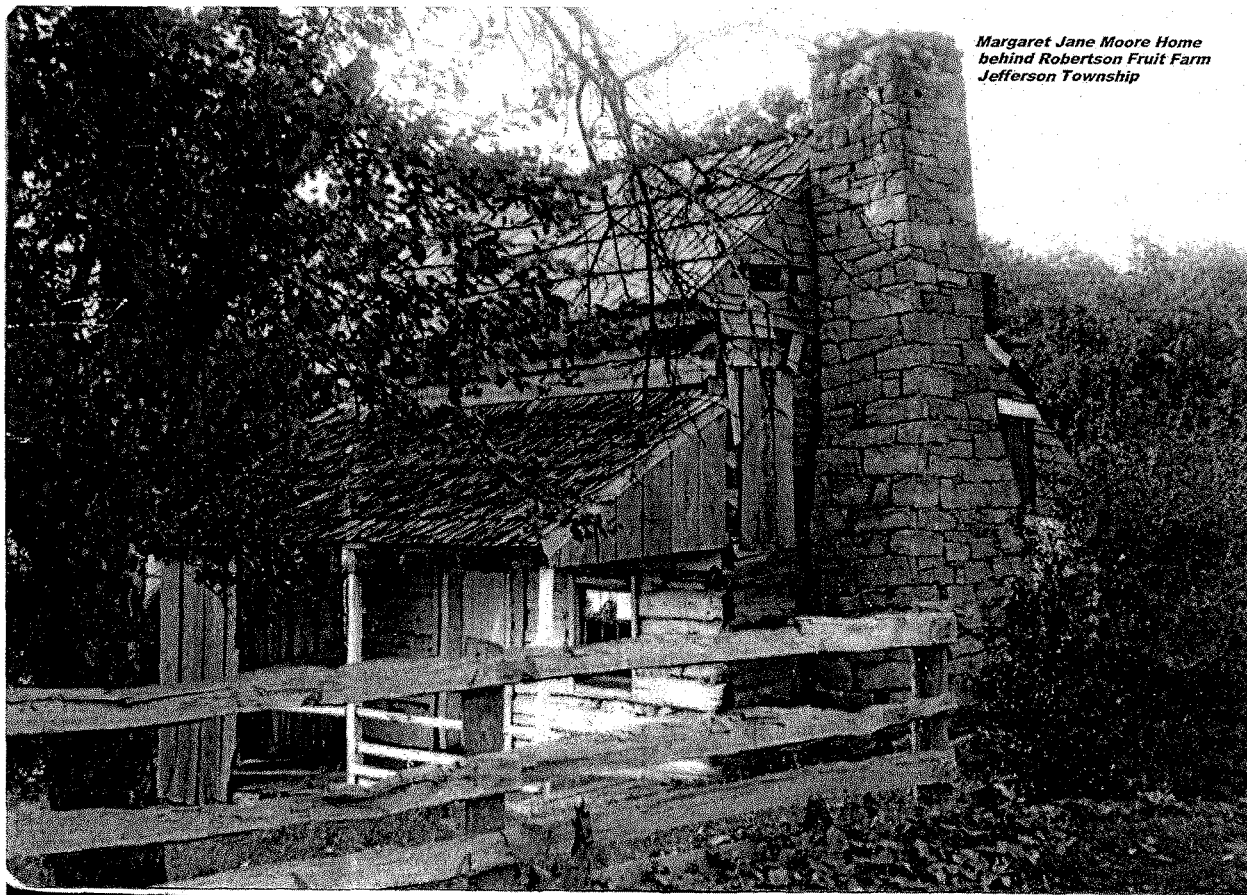
**Margaret Jane somehow received an education which enabled her to teach school. It is written that her first teaching assignment was at the Miller one room school in Jefferson Township where, in 1853, she taught a three month term, at a salary of \$15 a month, with a room full of 33 boys and 31 girls. This was the same year that Jefferson Township became an entity of its own.**

**Margaret Jane's teaching career spanned fifty years and took her to many different locations, including, according to one source, Scotts Run School in Brooke County. She was a strict disciplinarian, but loved her students dearly and was considered one of the best educators of her day.**

**In 1909, on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the enactment of the Public School Act in 1834, a gigantic celebration of the event was held in Eldersville. Everybody, who was anybody, attended the affair. A contemporary of Margaret Jane, W.W. Knight, and Margaret Jane were the two honored guests, chosen for their half century in the public schools and for their devotion to the profession of education. Mr. Knight, about 92 years of age at the time, was one of the featured speakers. Although in**

excellent health at the time, he died the following year. Margaret Jane was not far behind, passing to a better world three years later in 1912.

During her long and useful life, Margaret Jane learned a great deal about living with only the bare necessities. A little distance north of Eldersville Road and west of Creek Lane, she lived in a quaint little cottage of her own with mismatched wood shingles for siding.



*Margaret Jane Moore Home  
behind Robertson Fruit Farm  
Jefferson Township*

Here she became totally self-sufficient. She grew her own food, cut her own locust posts, made her own maple syrup, and lived far from the busy outside world.

Margaret Jane lived into her ninetieth year. She was buried at the Tent Church beside her McCarroll grandparents. Those who knew her during her long lifetime, always remembered one little trait of which they emphatically spoke when asked about their recollections of her. The conversation always ended something like this.

“What do I remember most about Margaret Jane Moore? Well, for one thing, she always smoked a corncob pipe.”

## **The James McClelland Family**

**In the 1820 Cross Creek Census, James McClelland, his wife, small son, and small daughter were living in the Jefferson Township area of Cross Creek. This writer believes this property to lie at the end of what is today Short Street in Eldersville. It may have covered the territory beyond where the old Gillespie Store and Post Office were once flourishing parts of the village, and may have extended to the top of the grade beyond where the Dimit house once sat. The 1853 map shows the McClelland name in this general area, but the McClelland land may have extended behind the Eldersville company houses in the direction of Scott Hollow Road. In an account of the testimonies at the investigation of the Melvin barn burning in 1859, one man reported that he left the home of W.W. Knight and crossed the McClelland farm to get to the farm of Alexander Smith. This testimony would suggest that the McClelland acreage was much more than just the area behind the old post office.**

**In the 1830 census, James' widow, Hannah, was in charge of the household. James had been born in 1794, and died 7 July 1830, at the age of 36. In the decade of the 30s, Hannah and James had become the parents of one more son and one more daughter. All four children were living at home with their mother when James died.**

**By 1840, the older girl was probably married, as she is not listed in the household. Neither her married name nor her given name is known.**

**The younger daughter was Nancy McClelland, and the boys were Hugh Kennedy McClelland and John Kennedy McClelland. Perhaps this name of Kennedy may be a clue to the maiden name of their mother, Hannah.**

**In 1843, Hannah, the mother of the four McClelland children, died at the age of 45. They buried her beside her husband, James, in the Cross Creek Cemetery.**

**In the 1850 census, Hugh, John, and Nancy were all living together, probably on the old place of their parents. Nancy died in 1854, at the age of 32. John lived until 1878, dying at the age of 53. It is not known if he ever married, but he is buried in the family plot with the others of the family and no wife or children are buried near him.**

**The eldest son, Hugh Kennedy McClelland, Sr., studied medicine, and according to Boyd Crumrine, returned to Eldersville where he set up a practice in 1842. The following is a direct quote from Crumrine concerning Dr. McClelland.**

**“ As a practitioner, he was bold and fearless, and always expressed his convictions plainly, regardless of feelings or results. He succeeded in amassing considerable wealth. His qualifications were of the highest order, and he made himself felt in the affairs of both state and church.”**

**In the late 1840s, Hugh had married Rebecca Magee, daughter of William and Martha Fowler Magee. They had two sons, Hugh Kennedy, Jr. and Darwin. Rebecca died in 1854, at the age of 24. Hugh continued his practice of medicine in the village and the raising of his sons. He died in 1860, at the age of 40, and was buried beside his young wife, parents, and siblings.**

**Hugh's eldest son, Hugh Kennedy McClelland, Jr., was twice married. He lived his life in California where he later died and was buried. The younger son, Darwin,**

married Elizabeth Briggs. They were the parents of two children: William Briggs McClelland, who never married, and Shirley Easton McClelland, who died young.

As can be seen from this brief account, at least 5 of the original members of the McClelland family died many years before their allotted three score and ten. Even Hugh's wife, Rebecca, fell into this same pattern of a very short lifespan. But in the words of one genealogist of this area, the McClellands have left their mark despite the few short years they were here. She wrote: "Eldersville had one citizen who has given it a claim to fame. That person was Dr. Hugh McClelland – the inventor of the fountain pen."

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### *Eldersville "Old Timers"*



Top row: Mrs. O. M. Taylor, Jacob Dimit, Hanna Ann McClurg, William Melvin, Samuel Cresswell, John Melvin, Rev. O. M. Taylor  
Middle row: Jemima Robertson, Rebecca Gardner, Susan Melvin, Priscilla Melvin, Jennie Thorley, Amy Dimit  
Bottom row: Henry Cooper, Carry Cooper, Mary Stephenson, Rachel Cresswell, Mrs. Dr. Glass  
( photo taken 1897 or prior)

## The James Crall Family

James Crall was born circa 1799, the son of William Crall. William and family are listed in the 1810 census of Brooke County, Virginia, where James was in the age bracket of 10 to 16. At that time, James had six sisters. Later records show that the William Cralls were parents of nine daughters but only one son, namely, the James Crall of Jefferson Township with whom this document is concerned.

William Crall is not listed in the 1800 Tax List of Brooke County. This does not mean, however, that he was not living there. It may merely mean that he owned no land or other taxable items. Very little is known of this father of James. This writer believes, from the listing of neighbors in the censuses in which he appears, that he probably lived either on Harmon Creek between Colliers and Hollidays Cove, or near the Morton Hill area. William's son, James, was buried at the Tent Cross Creek Presbyterian Church at his death in 1850, even though he had been living in Jefferson Township by 1830. This may mean that the Colliers -Tent Church area of Brooke County was "Home" to the Crall family.

In the 1820 census of Brooke County, William Crall listed his occupation as "Manufacturing". In those days, this meant that he was a harness maker, or a cooper, or a wagon maker, a weaver, or engaged in some similar type of work. William and his wife, whose name is not known, were still in Brooke County in 1830, their near neighbors being Cresswells who were millers on Harmon Creek at the foot of Halls Road. Near the Crall home was James Wells, grandson of the pioneer Richard (Graybeard) Wells. James Wells married Margaret, one of William Crall's nine daughters.

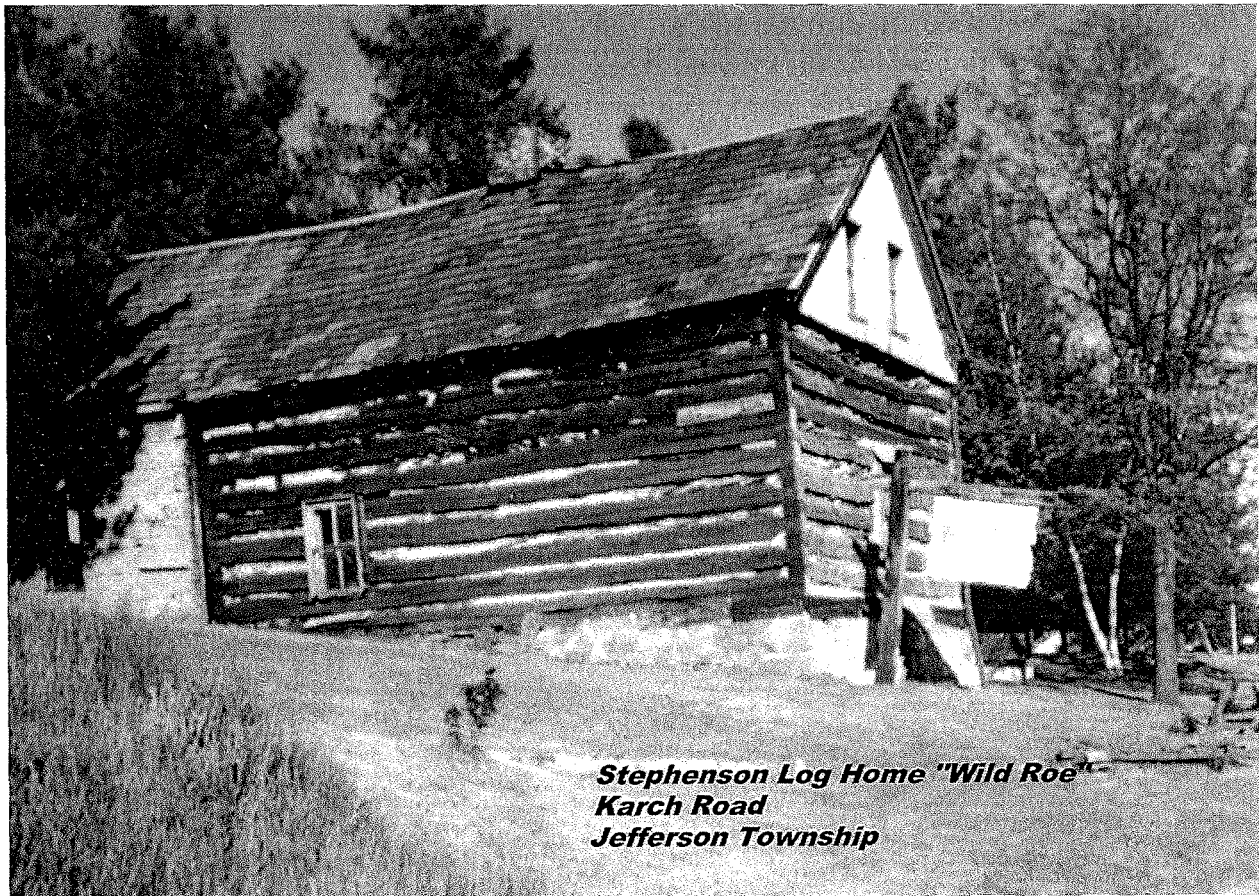


The family group picture is of James and Margaret Crall Wells and some of their children. Margaret was a sister of the James Crall with whom this article is

concerned. Several of her sisters married into Morton Hill families. Two of Thomas Atkinsons's sons married Crall girls, as did others from that area.

The last time William Crall appeared in Brooke County census records was in 1830. His wife was still living. Several daughters and probably a son-in-law were living with them. William and his wife may have died before 1840, but this writer has been unable to find their graves. In 1830, William was listed as between the ages of 50 and 60. The Cralls may have been buried at the Tent without markers.

Sometime in the 1820s, James Crall married Eliza Stephenson. Eliza had been born 25 September in 1806. She was the daughter of Andrew and Margaret Boyd Stephenson. Margaret died 18 August 1821, at the age of 40. Andrew, Eliza's father, was a son of Revolutionary War soldier, John Stephenson, who lived on what is now Karch Road in Jefferson Township. He may have built the log house known as Wild Roe which has been beautifully restored and preserved by the David Gourley family. It was part of a 400 acre grant to John Stephenson for his service in the Revolutionary War.



*Stephenson Log Home "Wild Roe"  
Karch Road  
Jefferson Township*

At John's death in 1821, he left a part of the farm to Andrew since Andrew had helped him with farming. Andrew's mother, Margaret Huston Stephenson, was a daughter of Andrew Huston. It was no doubt for her father, that she named this son, Andrew.

Little is known of Andrew Stephenson except that at one time he was a postmaster at Burgettstown. He was born circa 1781 and was still living in 1850. If he is buried beside his wife in Cross Creek, his grave is not marked. When Eliza had first married James Crall, she and James were living next door to an Andrew Stephenson in the Eldersville area, possibly on a part of the old Stephenson farm. This Andrew was less than 40 years of age and was probably a brother of Eliza. After the death of James Crall on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February in 1850, Eliza's father, Andrew Stephenson, lived in her household, perhaps to help with the children. From a look at their neighbors in 1850, they were probably still living somewhere on the Stephenson farm. James and Eliza Stephenson Crall were the parents of the following daughters.

Margaret Crall was born in September of 1827. She died unmarried 18 February 1860 at the age of 32. She was buried beside her father, James Crall, at the Tent.

Elizabeth, born 25 February 1830, married Robert Ferguson. They were the parents of several children including: Agnes Virginia born in 1850, and died 2 February 1860, at the age of nine years. James F., born circa 1853. Adda V., born 1855, died at the age of 2 years in 1857. Jessie, born 1858, married Robert H. Murchland, son of John H. and Sarah Ann Dever Murchland. (They moved to Iowa where they spent the rest of their lives. They had two daughters who did not marry and a son, John H. Murchland.) Other children were: George, born in 1864; Charles, born in 1866, died in 1929, and was buried beside his parents at the Tent; and Robert, born in 1874. There may have been other children of whom this writer is unaware. Robert, the husband of Elizabeth, served in the Mexican War. He died shortly after Christmas in 1900. Elizabeth lived until 1913, dying at the age of 80. They are buried, along with three of their children, at the Tent, not far from the graves of Elizabeth's sister, Margaret, and her father, James Crall.

The third daughter of Eliza and James was Nancy, born 1832.



*Nancy Crall, daughter of James Crall    Jesse Crall Wells, son of Margaret Crall Wells*  
**FIRST COUSINS**

Nancy married Zachary Donovan, son of Thomas Donovan, Jr. and Catherine Owings Donovan of the Tent Church Road in Brooke County.





*Thomas Donovan, Jr. Homestead, Tent Church Road, Brooke Co.*

Zachary had been born 6 December 1833, and died at the age of 33 on 16 December 1866. This was but a month and a half after the birth of their son, Harry Latour Donovan. Harry was a student at the Eldersville Normal School and taught in the Jefferson Township schools as a young man. He married Eva Belle Tipton. (A grandson of Harry is Dal Donovan of Coshocton County, Ohio, a genealogist in his own right, who has done extensive research on the Crall and Donovan families.)

Sometime after the death of Zachary, Nancy married for a second time. Her choice was Stephen Cole, son of Samuel Cole and his second wife, Annie Perrine Cole, of the Bethel Church area of Jefferson Township. In the will of Stephen Cole, in 1891, he left the major portion of his estate to his wife, Nancy Crall Donovan Cole. He is buried at Bethel beside his mother and brother, David. Nancy died 5 December 1905 in Eldersville. She is probably buried in the Eldersville Graveyard beside her first husband, Zachary Donovan, but no marker appears to exist.

The youngest daughter of James Crall was Alvira. She listed her age in 1860 while still living with her mother in Eldersville, as being twenty. She was not in her mother's household in 1870, so apparently married before that time. Nothing further is known of Alvira.

Before the death of James Crall in 1850, he and his wife, Eliza, adopted a child whom they named William Crall, probably for James's father. This adoption may have been made with the hope of continuing the Crall name in the area. Since

**James Crall was the only son, among nine daughters, of William Crall, and since he and his wife, Eliza, had four daughters and no sons, this adoption may have been a last ditch attempt to preserve the Crall name. Unfortunately, if this were the intent, it was a failure. William grew up in Eldersville in the home of his adoptive parents and when the Civil War came along, he enlisted with most of the young men of the village. He served in Young's Battery, but nothing further is known of his time in the service of his country. William returned safe and sound and took up life again. He went to the Pittsburgh area where he took a job with a railway company. It was in that capacity that he met his death. He was killed by walking in front of a train which he apparently did not hear coming down the track. His body was brought back to Eldersville where Eliza buried him. At her death on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June in 1893, she was buried beside him.**



***Eldersville Cemetery***

**The fact that Eliza was not laid to rest beside her husband, James Crall, at the Tent Graveyard, may be indicative of a deep attachment which she must have had for this adopted son. Perhaps she had taken him as an infant when he was alone and unwanted, and she wanted to be buried beside him that he might not be alone in death. Be that as it may, James Crall's passing in 1850, was the real end of a chance to perpetuate the Crall name in the area. But the nine daughters of William Crall gave him ample grandchildren to guarantee the bloodline practically forever.**

**After the death of James, his wife, Eliza, lived the remainder of her life in the little village of Eldersville. The 1876 map in Caldwell's Atlas, shows two properties bearing her name. One stood between Richardson's house and Cooper's store.**



***Richardson house on left, Cooper Store on right, Crall home in center. Entrance to Crall home through the door under the center portico. All three were under one roof.***

**The other property was on Eldersville Road, the house past the springhouse of John McCleary.**



*John McCleary Homestead  
Corner Cedar Grove & Eldersville Rds.  
Eldersville, Jefferson Township*

***Crall House sat to the right of the picture, past the little springhouse.***

**That little house has been gone long enough that no one in the area today remembers it.**

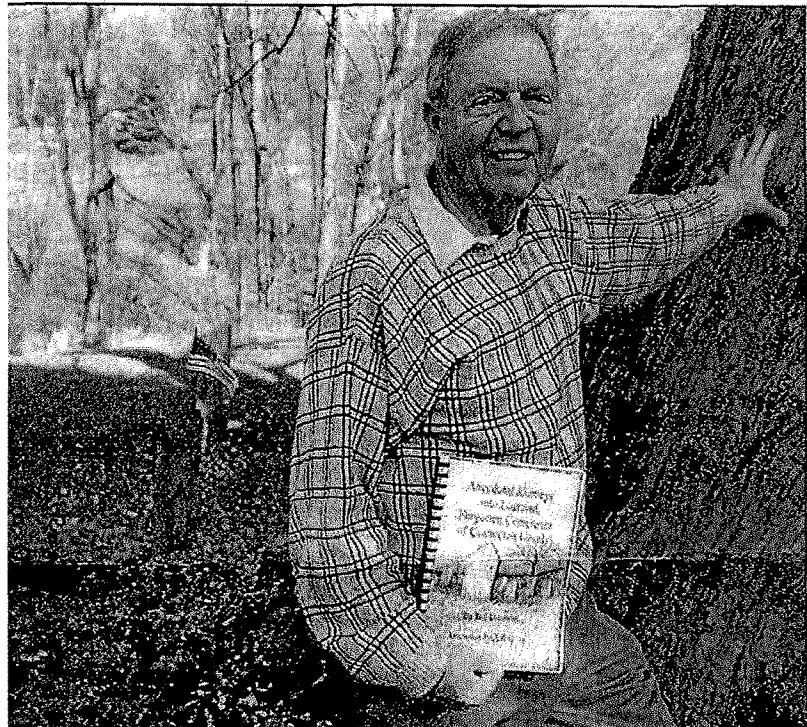
**Like many other families of Jefferson Township, the Cralls were here for a long while, but the time has come when not only they, but their very name is gone from the area. When young James Crall came to Eldersville in the early part of the twentieth century, he came to stay. It is to be hoped that this meager account of him and his loved ones will help the name of Crall to live on.**



**Pictured on the left is Harry Donovan, son of Zachary and Nancy Crall Donovan of Eldersville in the middle and late 1800s. Harry was a student at the prestigious Eldersville Normal School where he was trained to be a teacher. Records indicate that he taught for a time in the schools of Jefferson Township. His father died when he was less than two months of age.**

**This picture of Harry is believed to have been taken between 1890 and 1895.**

**Dal Donovan, pictured at the right, is a grandson of Harry Donovan. He is the author of "Anecdotal Journeys into Lost and Forgotten Cemeteries of Coshocton County", a 2003 publication sponsored by the Coshocton County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society. Professor Barnes of Ohio State University proclaims the book as "Local history at its best". Dal descends from Eldersville's Crall family.**



## **The William Wilson Families**

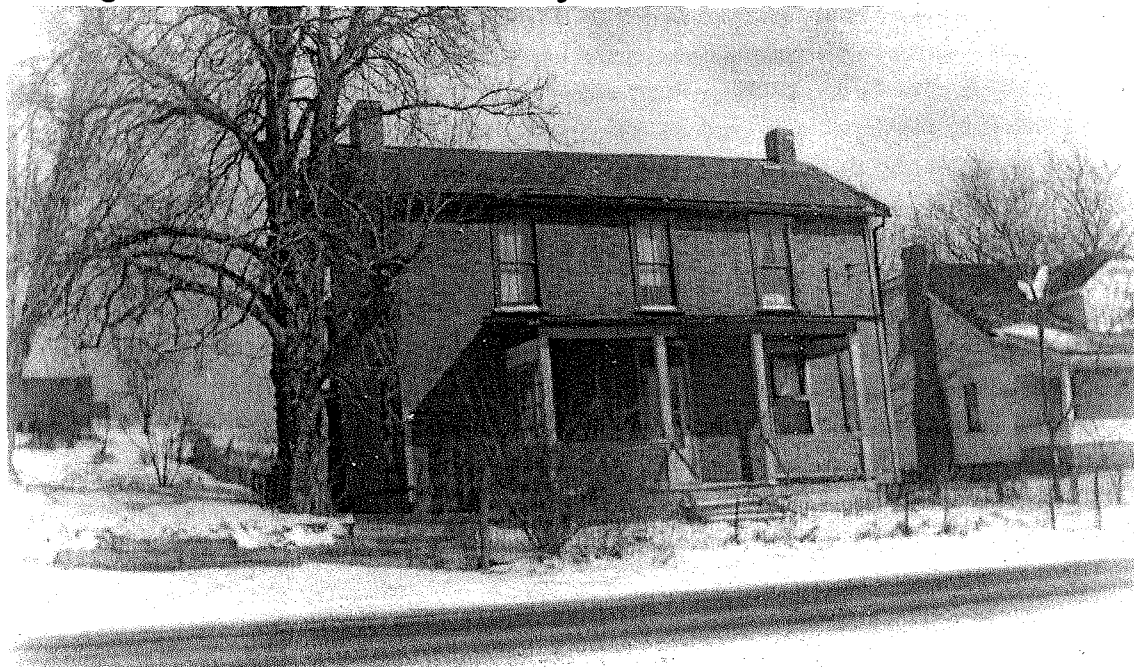
**In the nineteenth century, there were three distinct families in the Cross Creek and Jefferson Township areas whose head of household bore the name of William Wilson. The first William Wilson with which this article deals was born in Ireland in 1776. He married Elenor, also born in Ireland in 1780. This marriage was prior to 1810, when they first appeared in the Cross Creek census with two boys and two girls under the age of ten. They were living in Cross Creek Township not far from Jacob Buxton. They later had a few more children, but Elenor died at the age of 46 on 22 July 1826. By 1840, William had remarried, this time to a woman named Mary who died 18 July 1845, at the age of 49. In the 1840 census, a Hugh Wilson, probably a son, was living next door to William and Mary. By 1850, William was 75 years of age and living with a Susanna Wilson who may have been one of his daughters. William died 29 July 1852, and was buried in the Cross Creek Cemetery beside both of his wives. His first wife, Elenor, was, no doubt, the mother of most, if not all, of his children.**

**This first William Wilson did not live in the Jefferson Township area of Cross Creek, but his son, Thomas, did. Thomas lived in the area of the Lees and Walkers in Jefferson, living there from before 1840, until his death in 1882. Thomas was born 12 October 1806. He married Ann Jones Marshall. They were the parents of one son, William, and three daughters: Eleanor, Mary Ann, and Margaret Jane. Little Mary Ann died in 1845, at the age of three. They buried her at Cross Creek beside her grandparents, William and Elenor. Thomas's son, William, married and had at least a son and a daughter. He was living in Jefferson Township in 1870, beside his parents, after his marriage. Thomas's wife, Ann, died 4 September 1877, at the age of 67. She was buried at Cross Creek beside little Mary Ann. After Ann's death, Thomas was living with their unmarried daughter, Eleanor, in 1880, still in his original home. Apparently, the other daughter, Margaret Jane, married and went with her husband. Thomas died 9 October 1882, and was buried with the rest of his family at Cross Creek. He spent about fifty of his 76 years of life in Jefferson Township.**

**A second William Wilson who spent some time in Jefferson Township was the son of Henry Wilson who had been born east of the mountains and had come to the McDonald area of Allegheny County as a young man. His son, William W. Wilson, was born 14 May 1815, and attended a subscription school in the McDonald area, and learned the wagon-making trade. When he struck out on his own, he settled in Eldersville where he practiced his trade. While living there, he married an Eldersville girl, Jane Smith, daughter of Robert Smith from the Scott Hollow Road area. In 1839, after the birth of two sons, they moved to the village of Paris in Hanover Township where they had six more children. They spent the rest of their lives in that area. They do not seem to show up in the 1830 census, and since they left Jefferson in 1839, this may indicate that they came late in 1830, or after 1830, and stayed less than a decade.**

**The last William Wilson of the Cross Creek- Jefferson Township area was born in Ireland in 1807. He first appeared in Jefferson Township in the 1850 census with a wife, Sarah M., and daughter, Ann M., aged three. Sarah was 17 years younger than**

**William. (Although there is no proof, this writer believes that Sarah's maiden name may have been McCuen.) They were living in Eldersville between Hugh Patterson and James Robertson, on the main street, now, Cedar Grove Road. This property where they lived may have been what later became the home of Walter and Blanche Harris Gardner. There is no proof that this is true, but a number of things point in this direction. A picture of this house is included here, but the observer is asked to please note that the Wilsons may have lived next door to this house in either of the little cottages that bordered this two story one.**



**By 1860, William and Sarah had added two more little girls to the family, namely, Emma Jane and Ella. Anne must have married prior to 1870, when only the last two girls were still at home. William died 26 March 1878, at the age of 71, and was buried at Eldersville. Nothing further is known of Sarah and what became of her after William's death. Buried beside him is probably Emma Jane. The inscription on her stone is nearly unreadable, with the name blurred and the date obscured. Helen Martin, at age 95, has a vague recollection that in the early 1900s, when she was a child, a Wilson woman lived in the upstairs apartment of the house pictured above. She says she cannot be certain of this, but has a vague recollection that this is true. No data has surfaced on Ella, the younger daughter, unless the mysterious lady on the top floor of this old house, was the last of the Eldersville Wilsons.**

**If William Wilson had learned a trade, it is not known to this writer. But Hugh Patterson, who lived in Eldersville very near William, went into partnership with this friend of his in the early 1850s. They operated a thriving mercantile business until 1867, when Hugh sold it to his nephews, the Cooper boys. This operation was reputedly conducted in the same building which later housed the Gourley & Boles Store. Hugh and William were almost exactly the same age and Hugh's parents had come from Ireland, as did William. Perhaps their families had known each other back in the Emerald Isle.**

## **The Mert William Schary Family**

**Mert William Schary was born in County Galway, Ireland, 9 May 1852. As a lad, he came to America, perhaps in the company of at least two brothers – Thomas and Michael. It is not known how he came to settle in Jefferson Township, but the 1870 census shows him in the household of Thomas Marquis at age 18.**

**In 1880, Mert was living in the Cyrus Stephenson household in Eldersville along with other young people including Margaret Ravenscraft. On September 22 of that year, he married Margaret. Most of their married lives was spent in the big two story house in the village which sits atop the grade on the corner of Eldersville Road and the route to the Fire Hall. Today, this is the home of Linda Dellenbaugh.**



*Mert Schary Home*

**The children of Mert and Margaret were: Mayme, James, John, Hattie, and Thomas. James and John left the area upon reaching adulthood, but Hattie married a local man, Oscar Truax. Thomas stayed in the Eldersville area all of his life. He never married. He was an employee of the Pennsylvania Railroad and active in both the Odd Fellows Lodge and the Eldersville Methodist Church. He worked for years doing odd jobs for the Robertson family at their fruit farm on Eldersville Road. He lived to be 80 years of age and was the last of his family.**

**One of life's saddest times for the Scharys was after Christmas in 1907. Their daughter, Mayme, had been elected to teach school at Eldersville and was a very popular person with her students. At the annual teacher's institute that winter, she attended the sessions but developed a terrible cold. No one thought anything of it and on January 3, she joined other young people at the I.O.O.F. Hall in the center of**

town for a holiday celebration. She returned home at eleven o'clock that evening and became suddenly very ill. Dr. Mercer was called and responded immediately. He stayed at her side all night, but at 7:30 the next morning, Mayme Schary was dead at the age of 25. Her illness was labeled acute pneumonia. Her pupils attended her funeral in a body and were terribly saddened at the sudden turn of events. Mert and Margaret never got over this tragic loss.

Mert Schary, despite his Irish background, became one of the area's most popular citizens. He was a charter member of the Cynosure Lodge of Eldersville and served as Deputy Grand Master at one point in time. He held public offices of tax collector, assessor, road supervisor, and constable, serving as the latter for 25 years. He was a man of strong conviction and a warm and affectionate human being. He dearly loved little children and was considered by them to be their special friend.

In 1914, Mert became quite ill and was eventually confined to bed for seven months. He died on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May in 1915. Margaret followed him four years later. He was only 63 years of age at the time of his passing.

Mert Schary's funeral was an event remembered in the Eldersville community for years after its occurrence. Lodge members from Avella, Burgettstown, and Florence turned out in large numbers in support of their Eldersville brother. The service was held in the Eldersville Church but so many friends were in attendance that at least a hundred persons could not be seated and were forced to stand outside. He was buried in the Eldersville Cemetery.

In 1918, the year before Margaret's death, their youngest daughter, Hattie Schary Truax, died at the age of 30. Beside her is buried her infant son. Margaret, her mother, died in 1919. Another Schary grave in the Eldersville Cemetery is that of Catherine Agnes Schary who died on 8<sup>th</sup> of January 1914. She was 34 years of age. It is possible that she could be the eldest daughter of Margaret and Mert. But this assumption is purely speculative since no evidence appears to exist to support this hypothesis.

Since John and James, the two older sons of the Scharys, moved from the area, it must have been a lonely life for the youngest, Tom. But Eldersville was home to Tom Schary and it was there that he lived out nearly all of his 80 years. When old timers of today are asked if they know anything about the Schary family, the same response generally is given. "Yes, I remember Tom Schary. He was a real good fellow."



## John Love Family

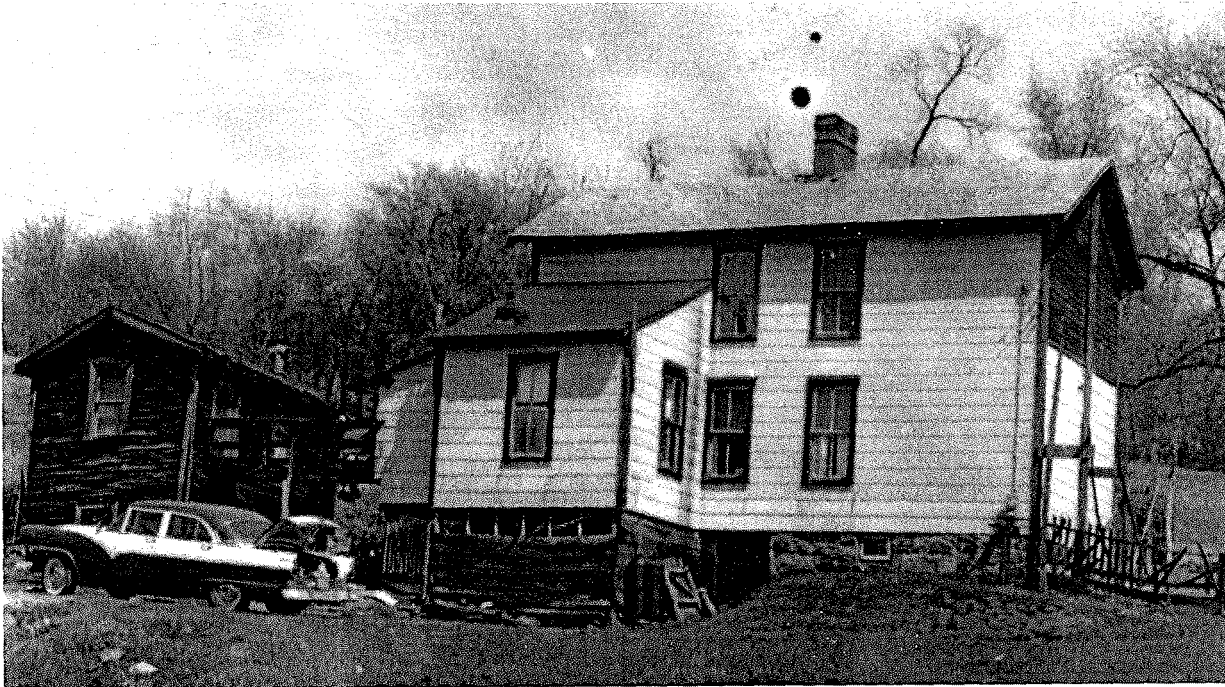
John Love, son of James and Letitia Love, was born in March of 1834, somewhere in Pennsylvania. He had an older brother, James, a younger brother, Andrew, and a still younger sister, Margaret. There may have been other siblings not known to this writer. The Love family first appeared in Jefferson Township in the 1860 census and were living near Obed Edom Richey, currently the farm of Ignatius Yonis on Cedar Grove Road.

Within the next ten year period, the oldest boy, James, had married a woman named Permelia, and they had become the parents of a son and a daughter. John had also married and was living near W.W. Knight in Eldersville. His wife was a local girl, the former Margie Noah. Apparently, the father, James Love, had died in the 1860s since John's mother, Letitia, was living with John and Margie by 1870. During the 1860s, John also served in the Union Army during the Civil War.

By 1880, John's mother had either died or moved with one of her other children. This writer has been unable to find where James and Letitia are buried.

In February of 1873, John and Margie became the parents of a little girl, Clara. Two years later, Frances found her way into the Love's inner circle. These two girls seem to be the only children of John and Margie.

Not much is known about the habits of the Love family, but John was known to be an excellent builder and carpenter.



*The house pictured above is that of Charles Scott, Jr. and was built by John Love. It stood just off Miller Road, near its intersection with Bethel Ridge. It was later the home of Charles's son, Harold Scott, who was born here and lived here until a week before his death at the age of 82 in 1970. The house was later destroyed by vandals.*

**John Love's specialty was barns. He used only a square and his eye to align timbers, most being hand hewn oak. He never used a nail, but applied wooden pegs at the joints. In the early 1890s, he built a large barn, measuring 54 by 34 feet. It stood just off Karch Road. The roof was of slate brought into the rail yards at Hanlin Station and pulled by horses and wagon up the long, steep, winding Hanlin Hill.**

**W.W. Knight, a contemporary of John but about 20 years older, was also an excellent carpenter in the Eldersville area. The two of them seemed to be fast friends and often combined their skills to erect a building. Many structures which are the result of their handicraft are still standing in Jefferson Township today.**

**For at least the last 25 years of their lives, John and Margie lived on Eldersville Road in the village, in a two story house occupied by Roy Thorley when his son, Merle was a small child. Later, the Paul Stewart family lived there for a good number of years. Today it is the home of Edward and Shirley Smith who fill it with a great deal of warmth and care.**

**Shirley Smith says it is a very old house. It was probably standing when Jefferson Township became an entity in 1853. It is not known if John Love had a hand in building it. It is also possible that the original very old part had an addition built to it at a later date. The picture of that house at the close of this story was taken when the Thorleys lived there, circa 1915.**

**In 1900, Clara and Frances, John's children, were still at home with their parents. But in 1905, Margie, their mother, passed away at the age of 61. Three years later, John followed her. They are buried in the Eldersville Cemetery. This writer does not know what became of the girls after the deaths of their parents. It may be that it was at this time that the Thorleys moved to the John Love house.**

**John Love left behind him a number of worldly objects in the form of barns and houses as a legacy. It is a sorry thing that no one of that day bothered to make a list of what buildings were created by him. No one in 1900 was sufficiently interested in preserving local history to bother to make a list of anything of historical value. Today is over a century later. But nothing much has changed.**



**John Love Home  
corner Eldersville Rd. & Spring Alley  
Eldersville, PA**

## **WILLIAM WESLEY KNIGHT**

**William Wesley Knight was born in Hopewell Township near West Middletown, the son of Zachariah Knight, whose birthplace was Maryland. At an early time, Zachariah had migrated to Bedford County, then eventually settled on the Thompson farm in Hopewell Township, Washington County. Here, with a partner, Judge McKeever, he manufactured hats.**

**W.W.Knight was born May 28, 1818, in a two-story log house on this Thompson farm. The house served as a dwelling and also for the manufacturing enterprise. Wesley, as he was familiarly known, moved with his father to Eldersville in 1825. Being only seven years of age, he was enrolled in one of the common schools in Jefferson Township. After getting what education he could, he worked as a carpenter during the summer and taught school in the winter.**

**As a carpenter, he had the reputation of being the best fitter and joiner in the area. Some landmarks still standing in the township are part of his handicraft. It was said that he could "cut and frame a building year in and year out without miscutting a joint." He built the house in which he lived, which was owned later by Clyde and Pearl Melvin and then by the Clarence Socha family.**

**For a number of years he taught at Gardner School twenty-six days a month for \$28. At one time, he received as low as \$18 a month. He also taught at Eldersville School in 1857-58 and again in 1875-76.**

**During the administration of President McKinley, Mr. Knight was appointed Postmaster of Eldersville. He served nine years when he was compelled to give up the office owing to his advanced age.**



***William Wesley Knight on his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.***

Although he was approaching the century mark, he had always enjoyed the best of health. He often walked to the railroad station at Hanlin from his home in Eldersville, even when he was past the age of 90.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of October in 1840, Wesley had married Eliza Piatt. Two daughters were born to them. The elder child was Emeline who was eight years old in 1850. She died sometime during the next decade and is buried at Eldersville. The inscription on her tombstone is no longer legible. The younger daughter, Hannah Mary, was born New Years Day in 1845. Upon reaching adulthood, she married Robert C. Osborne as his second wife. Hannah died, however, at the age of 38 in 1883, leaving her parents bereft of both children.

Wesley's wife, Eliza, died 4 March 1891 at the age of 74. In 1893, Wesley took as a second wife Amanda Caroline Daubenspeck of Butler County. Amanda died just two years after this marriage. A year later, he married Mary Ann Orin Sunderland, a widow with three sons and a daughter. Mary Ann was from Ohio and had been a teacher during her earlier life. She outlived Wesley by nearly a year, dying at the age of 83 as the result of an accident which left her with a broken hip.

W.W. Knight was one of the township's finest citizens. He was considered to be one of the best known educators in that entire section of Washington County, and was blessed with a marvelous memory his entire lifetime. In 1909, at the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Public School Act of 1834, Eldersville held a gigantic reunion at which Mr. Knight, aged 92, was one of the speakers. It was said that he gave a beautiful talk which included the recitation, from memory, of a very long poem which he had given while a boy in school 80 years before. His address was received with enthusiasm by the entire crowd, as he was known and loved, not only by the community at large, but by every child in the village. He died the following year on August 20, 1910, as the result of a fall. He was buried at Eldersville Cemetery. At the time of his death he was the oldest resident of Jefferson Township.

*W. W. Knight Homestead  
Cedar Grove Road  
Eldersville, PA*

*standing in front are  
Clyde & Pearl Melvin*



## **The Peter Noah Family**

**Peter Noah was the son of Conrad Phillip Noah, a Hessian soldier of the Revolutionary War. When the colonists began the war with England, the British went to Germany to enlist men to fight the war for them. Where necessary, they kidnapped unsuspecting young men of fighting age and forced them into their armies. Such was the fate of Conrad Noah. After serving in the Revolution through a number of battles, 2500 of these "hired" soldiers were captured by the Colonists and taken prisoner, including Conrad. The plan of their captors was to take them to Virginia for incarceration. Thirteen of these prisoners escaped at New Brunswick, New Jersey, including Conrad Noah.**

**After a frightening escape in a strange land, Conrad found himself in Frederick County, Maryland, where eventually he married Catherine Mary Kridler. Among the children born to this marriage were Peter, born 28 February 1780, with whom this sketch is concerned, and John George who was born 15 August 1782. There were no doubt other children born to them since Conrad is believed to have died between 1797 and 1799 in Frederick County, Maryland. In a later census record, Peter's mother, Catherine Mary, was living with Peter in his household in the 1800 census of Franklin County, Pennsylvania.**

**Research by some of Conrad's descendants indicate that he was born in 1748 near Hofzminden, Brunswich, Germany. He is reputed to have been aged 30 years and 9 months at the time he deserted the British Army. Records also show that prior to having been kidnapped by the British, he had a daughter born 2 November 1775 in Germany to a first marriage. Her name is not known. The name of Noah at the time of Conrad's service to the British, was spelled Noa.**

**Peter Noah, with whom this article is concerned, was born 28 February 1780. He married Jane, whose maiden name is believed to be McCarroll or McCorkle. Peter and Jane first appeared in Jefferson Township before 1820 at which time they were listed in the census with 2 sons under the age of 10 and five daughters under the age of 16. In the 1830 census, four daughters were still at home and one son who was under the age of 15. Beside them, was living their son, George Noah, who was born in 1804 and had married Elizabeth Martin, daughter of David and Esther Miller Martin of Jefferson Township. (David and Elizabeth had at least eight children during their lifetimes.) George and Elizabeth were living on the Noah Farm in Jefferson Township in 1870. Their son, George, Jr., wife and two children were also nearby. This branch of Peter's family do not seem to appear again in Jefferson Township and their deaths and places of burial are not known to this writer.**

**By 1840, all but one son and one daughter were gone from the Peter Noah nest. But also in Jefferson Township in 1840 was Peter's son, James Noah, with his family. James, who was born 1 October 1806, was reputed to have been born at Greathouse Castle, the land of the John Gardner family near Eldersville. If this is true, it is surprising that Peter is not listed in the 1810 census as being in the Jefferson Township area when this son was born in 1806. James married first, Cassie Ann Madden from Harrison County, Ohio. They were the parents of ten children. After her death, James married Mary Ann Buxton of Cross Creek Township and lived on or**

near the old Jacob Buxton Farm, not far from Pattersons Mill. He and Mary Ann had eleven children, making James a total of twenty-one. James died 9 March 1904 in his 98<sup>th</sup> year and was buried at Eldersville where he had buried his first wife, Cassie. Cassie had been born 20 February 1807 and had died on her 39<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1847.

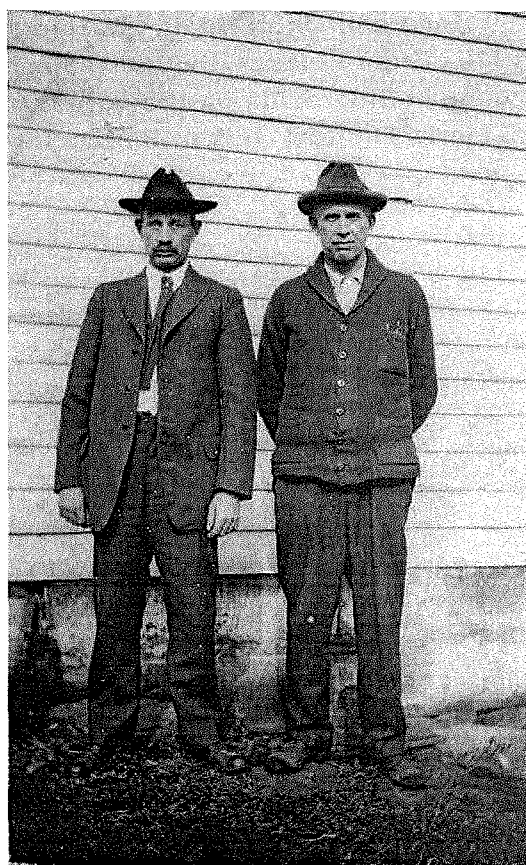
Among the children of James and Cassie Noah were: Peter, Rebecca, Samuel, James, Margaret Eleanor, and John Lawrence.



*Pictured above are two sons of James and Cassie Madden Noah.  
Left is Peter Noah (1832-1922) and right is John Lawrence Noah, born in 1844.*

Samuel died at the age of 23 from a fever while serving in the Civil War. He had been born in 1839, near Eldersville. Margaret Eleanor, born in 1846, less than a year before her mother, Cassie, died, married James Sanson Buxton, son of Amos Buxton from Cross Creek Township. Margaret Eleanor's son, George Buxton, was the father of several well known members of the Independence Township community, including James Lee Buxton, Mary Buxton, Florence "Poe" Buxton Ertle, and George Buxton, now all deceased. Norma Buxton Hadden, an excellent historian and genealogist in her own right, is a daughter of James Lee Buxton and a great-great-great granddaughter of Peter Noah. (Norma has compiled a very fine history of

**Independence Village that is invaluable to persons researching family members from that area.)**



***Pictured above is Margaret Eleanor Noah and her husband, James Buxton. Margaret Eleanor was the daughter of James and Cassie Maddon Noah. On the right are their two sons, John Clarke Buxton and George Buxton.***

**Another of James and Cassie Noah's children was John Lawrence Noah, born 1 August 1844, in Jefferson Township. John married Cynthia Pardee. They were the great grandparents of Charles Noah of Huntington Park, California. Charles, a retired educator, is an avid genealogist of the Noah family and has traveled to Germany, and other places from which his ancestors emigrated, in search of his roots. He has accumulated a vast store of data on a number of the branches of the Noah family.**

**Among the other children of Peter Noah who spent some time in the Jefferson Township area was his son, Samuel Noah, born in 1816. Samuel married Malinda Gardner and lived nearly all of his life in Jefferson Township. Their children, born and raised in the township, were: John, Gardner, Edward, Robert, Samuel, Belinda, Ruth, Martha, James, and Mary. A number of these children of Samuel also raised their children here. Samuel died in 1895 and his wife, Melinda, in 1915 at the age of 93. They are buried in the Eldersville Cemetery. Their sons, Robert and Gardner who lived here all of their lives are also buried at Eldersville along with their wives.**

**Of the other children of Peter and Jane Noah, two of their daughters were named Jane and Annabelle. From early census records, they seem to have had at least five**

daughters. This writer does not have information on any of the others. Annabelle born circa 1807, is reputed to have married Hugh Nelson, and after his death, Joseph Vasbinder. Jane Noah married Samuel Gardner.

Peter's son, John Noah, married Ruth, maiden name unknown. John was born in 1810. From at least 1850 until his death in 1887, he and Ruth lived in the little log house in Eldersville on the corner of Spring Alley and Eldersville Road, later the home of Merle Thorley. It is still standing today.



*Pictured in later days is the log house in which John Noah, son of Peter, lived most of his life. It is still standing today in the Village of Eldersville.*

*Peter and Jane Noah lived next door to their son, John.*

*It is therefore possible that they, rather than John, may have lived in this house, while their son occupied one next door which is no longer standing.*



In 1850, his father and mother, Peter and Jane Noah, lived beside him. John and Ruth were the parents of at least the following children: Rachel, born in 1837; Samuel, born in 1839, Clarissa, born in 1841 and died in 1865 at the age of 24; Margery, born in 1843; John, born in 1846; William born circa 1850 and died circa 1850; and Franklin, born in 1853 and died in 1873 at the age of twenty. Clarissa, Franklin, and William are all buried beside their parents in the Eldersville Cemetery. Ruth died, 31 July 1881, at the age of 67 years, and was buried beside these three children. John followed her, 24 April 1887, at the age of 77. He is buried beside her.

Sometime after 1850, Peter and Jane must have died at their home in Eldersville. In the 1850 census when they were found in the village living next to their son, John, Peter's age was listed as 78, while Jane was 70. It is this author's firm belief that they were buried in the Eldersville Cemetery. It is quite possible that at one time, stones marked their final resting place, but even in August of 1938, which is the earliest listing of tombstone inscriptions available, Peter and Jane were not included. However, it should be noted that the persons who copied the inscriptions at that time, were devoted historians whose efforts at recording graveyard markings resulted often in the only records of local cemeteries available. They added to their comments after copying Eldersville graveyard, that it was in only fair condition with many old stones down. Another person later added to this note, that at least 100 such stones were down or illegible.



***Susan Jane Noah Stroud Thompson***

***Rebecca Ann Noah Kline***

***Daughters of Peter and Jane Noah***

## **The David Martin Family**

**David Martin and family first appear in local census records in 1820. He is, however, in the Mt. Pleasant Township Census of 1810. Records of some of his descendants report that David was the son of a William Martin. If this is true, it seems strange that the same descendants list David's son, William, as his third or fourth son. The usual method of naming was to call a FIRST son for his paternal grandfather. Be that as it may, the 1810 census shows David with one son under aged 10 and also two daughters in the same category. A James Martin was also living nearby and another male in the same age bracket as David was in David's household. These three men may have been all brothers, and it is possible that they were sons of a William Martin. There is, however, no proof of this hypothesis that has come to the attention of this writer.**

**David is reputed to have been born circa 1783, somewhere in Washington County. He married Esther Miller, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth McNeis Miller, of Mt. Pleasant Township. Esther died near Eldersville circa 1826. She is believed to be buried in the graveyard there, but no stone marks her final resting place. David left the Jefferson Township area before 1840, and went to Ohio, and later to Indiana where he died in 1854. He was living with a daughter at the time. He remarried at some point after leaving Eldersville. His second wife was Elizabeth James. David was buried at Moore's Vineyard in Ogilville, Indiana.**

**The following information on the daughters of David Martin has been provided by a descendant.**

**Elizabeth Martin was born circa 1805, near Eldersville. She married George Noah of Jefferson Township. By 1830, they were the parents of a son and a daughter. They left the local area after 1830. Elizabeth died between 1870 and 1880.**

**Isabella Martin was born circa 1808, in Eldersville. She married John Criss of Jefferson Township. It is known that they had at least one son, David. They moved to Carroll County, Ohio.**

**Mary Martin was born circa 1812, in Eldersville. She married John J. Thompson on 21 March 1837, in Carroll County, Ohio.**

**Jane Martin was born 20 May 1817, in Eldersville. She married Alexander Moore 29 September 1841. She died 7 January 1888, in Newcomerstown, Ohio.**

**This writer believes that David and Esther Martin had five sons, despite the fact that in the records of some of their descendants, only three are listed. The following paragraphs contain a brief account of what has come to light on these five sons.**

**The eldest son was probably James Martin, born, according to his tombstone in the Eldersville Cemetery, 16 October 1806. He married Nancy Boles, daughter of Cornelius and Nancy Buxton Boles of Eldersville. In the census of 1840, where he first appears as a head of household, he and Nancy have a female listed aged 5 to 10. This child does not appear again in their household. She may have been a visiting relative, have married before the next census was taken, or have died. Nothing further is known of her. There appears to be no further accounting of children for James. James lived in the Eldersville area all of his life. He died 28 June 1873, at the age of 66. His wife does not appear to be buried beside him.**

**In the History of the John Stephenson Family of the Eldersville area, it is stated that Isabella Martin married Thomas Stephenson and bore him eleven children. After his death in 1846, Isabella sold part of the Stephenson farm to her brother, James Martin. This makes a lot of sense since the 1876 Map from Caldwell's Atlas shows this land as belonging to the heirs of J.Martin and the old Stephenson house as being occupied by N. Martin. This N. Martin is probably Nancy, the wife of James. James had died in 1873, as stated previously. The only discrepancy here is that the Isabella Martin who is listed as a sister of James by a Martin descendant, is reported to have been born circa 1808 and to have married a John Criss. This Isabella Martin listed as the wife of Thomas Stephenson, was born 9 October 1796. This writer does not know which of these Isabella Martins is the sister of James. Since the early maps show James Martin as holding a fairly large land area in his name, it makes sense to believe that it came from this Stephenson family. The land in question is definitely a part of the 400 acre grant to John Stephenson, father of Thomas who is reputed to have married Isabella Martin. This land was in payment for John's service in the Revolutionary War. A picture of the Stephenson house which was apparently later the home of James and Nancy Martin is pictured here. It is still standing today.**



**This writer believes that the next son of David and Esther Martin was David, Jr., born circa 1809. The writer of the Martin genealogy does not even mention a namesake for David. However, this writer has proof that David Martin, Jr. did definitely exist. He is a head of household in Jefferson Township in 1840. He appears to be living in the Village of Eldersville at the time. The maiden name of his**

wife, Nancy, is not known. Among their children were: Ann, James, William, David the third, Nancy, Jane, and John Thomas. David died 4 March 1886, at the age of 77. Nancy had died the year before, aged 75. They are buried at Eldersville.

Among the descendants of this David Martin, who was the son of the first David Martin in Jefferson Township, is Gaylord Martin of the Village of Eldersville today. At this writing, he is just past his 98<sup>th</sup> birthday. Gaylord is the son of Alexander Martin and the grandson of James Martin who was the James listed in the paragraph above as being among the children of David and Nancy. Thus he is the great, great grandson of the township's first David Martin.

The third son of David and Esther Martin was Samuel Miller Martin, born 1810, in Eldersville. He married first, Mary Ann Smith, daughter of Dr. Thomas Smith of Burgettstown. They had two children: Isabella, born 1832, married Michael Shoup; and Thomas Smith Martin who died at the age of two. His mother died when he was but a year old. Samuel later married Martha McGrew. They had two daughters who died as babies and two sons: Nathan Clay Martin and David Finley Martin, both of whom grew to adulthood and lived full lives. Samuel was a Methodist minister and at one time served the Tucker Methodist Church in Hanover Township. He and his second wife died in 1848, during an epidemic of some dread disease. They were in their thirties at the time of their deaths. It is not known who raised their little sons.

William Martin is listed as the next son of David and Esther. His birth date was 20 August 1815. He was born in Eldersville and married Catherine Wyant on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December in 1842. He died in Lewisville, Oregon, 16 March 1895.

The last son of David and Nancy was Hugh Lee Martin, born in Eldersville, 29 August, 1820. Little is known of him and he probably never married. From time to time he is found in the Eldersville area, but most of his life seems to have been spent elsewhere. He died at nearly the age of 75 in 1895, and was buried beside his brother, David, and David's wife, Nancy, in the Eldersville Cemetery.

Every family, however prominent, always seems to have its share of skeletons in the closet. The Martin family was no exception. The incident alluded to here was of such widespread publication that no writing of the Martin family would be complete without its telling. The following account is intended to be as factual as is possible after the passing of 146 years. It is based on the newspaper story, in the possession of this writer, which related, word for word, the testimony at the trial which followed the incident related herein.

On a cold December night in 1857, someone purposely set fire to the barn of William Melvin of Jefferson Township. This barn stood part way down Scott Hollow Road and was not within sight of either the village or the Melvin home on Irish Ridge. The barn was a total loss and the Melvins were without their entire winter supply of hay and grain for their livestock. It was, to say the least, a terrible act.

After all was said and done, the David Martin named in this article as the husband of Nancy and the son of the first David, was tried and convicted of the crime, along with an accomplice, James Scott. The preceding statements, however, do not tell the whole story. This time in history was just preceding the outbreak of the Civil War. Every village and countryside in the nation was in a great time of extreme turmoil. Brother was pitted against brother in the battles taking place over slavery

and the temperance issue. The liquor question was a great bone of contention with most families. Even in remote little Eldersville, parents were alarmed to find their teenage children slipping off from home and making their way down to Harmon Creek from which they could easily move down to the river and cross to Steubenville where liquor was plentiful. The Melvin family had been very bitter on both the slavery and the temperance issues and was very powerful in the establishment of the White Church movement. It was brought out in the trial of David Martin that he was definitely a user of liquor, as were most of the other men in town. This would have pitted him against Melvin in the first place. But most of those who testified at his trial - men of prominence in the area - staked their reputations on their belief that he was an upright, trustworthy man. Although the judge warned the jury that all evidence was purely circumstantial, he was convicted and sentenced for a time to prison on the charge of arson. The Village of Eldersville never recovered from that drama during the lifetimes of those who lived in that day. It was the belief of most of the town, that the tavern keeper of the village was the brain behind the scheme and had merely manipulated Martin to do the job for him. No one will ever know the true story of this unfortunate affair. But today, the descendants of David Martin are among the finest citizens Jefferson Township claims for its own.



*This house is still standing, very near to the first Martin house pictured in this writing. It may also be one of the houses on the property of James and Nancy Martin during their life times. It is possible that both are Sesquicentennial structures.*

## **The Jacob Dimit Family**

**Jacob Dimit was born in Maryland in 1790. He came to Brooke County, Virginia, prior to 1820, when he appears in the census record there with a wife, aged 16-26, and a son and daughter, each under the age of five. By 1860, Jacob and his wife, Sidney, still had six unmarried children living at home with them, the youngest being Mary, aged sixteen. They had a number of other children who were already married and on their own. Their son, David, had died 3 September 1865, as the result of a disease contracted while serving his country in the Civil War. His parents buried him in the cemetery at Franklin in Brooke County.**

**The whereabouts of Jacob in 1870 are a puzzle. His wife, Sidney, was living with their youngest daughter, Mary, in Jefferson Township at that time. Also in that household was a Robert Andrews aged 52, which was just six years younger than Sidney. Perhaps he was her brother. Jacob, however, is not listed in this census nor in the records of any of the surrounding townships, nor in Brooke County. This may have simply been a census error of omission.**

**Sidney, who had been born 25 February 1802, died 27 April 1876. She was buried at Franklin beside their son, David. Jacob lived until 1883 and was living in Brooke County with their daughter, Permelia, and family in 1880 after Sidney had died. He was buried beside his wife of nearly sixty years. In 1905, their youngest daughter, Mary, died and was buried with her parents and brother.**

**In 1880, living in Jefferson Township was an Andrew Dimit who may possibly have been one of Jacob's sons. He married Sarah Murchland, daughter of James and Isabelle Murchland of Brooke County. He and Sarah had at least nine children. They spent most of their lives in Independence Township. Sarah died in 1874 at the age of 54 and was buried at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Hopewell Township. This writer has been unable to find the burial place of Andrew, but he was in Jefferson Township, as stated above, in 1880.**

**Also in Jefferson in 1880 were a Valentine Dimit, wife and six children living next to Metcalfs and Gillespies that year. Jacob had a son named Valentine who may have been this man. (A Joseph Dimit and his wife, Achsah Puntney Dimit, were in Independence Township in 1880. This writer believes he is the Joseph Dimit listed as a son of Jacob.)**

**Another Dimit household found in the Jefferson Township census records in 1850, 1860, and 1870, was that of Benjamin Dimit. From the list of his children, it is highly probable that he was the eldest son of Jacob. He was born circa 1818 in Virginia. He married a Sidney, maiden name unknown, and by her had at least thirteen children. She died 17 June 1876 at the age of 51. From looking at names of their neighbors, it would appear that they lived in the Kidds Mill - Bethel Ridge area of the township. They are buried at Bethel where Benjamin's tombstone states that he died in June of 1887 at the age of 70.**

**Also buried with them is little Benjamin, Jr., who died at the age of eighteen months. In 1880, a son of Benjamin, Robert C. Dimit, was living in Jefferson Township in the same area in which he had been raised. His wife and two small children were in his household as well as his brother, Hugh.**

**Benjamin Dimit also had a son, Jacob, born in 1846. The Andrew Dimit discussed previously who settled in Independence Township, also had a son named Jacob, born in 1846. Benjamin and Andrew are probably brothers, and probably sons of the first Jacob discussed in this sketch.**

**The Jacob Dimit who was Benjamin's son, married Amy Ann Vance of Cross Creek Township. Jacob and Amy Ann lived in a beautiful brick house in Eldersville most of their married life.**



**It is not known if Jacob had the house built or if it had a previous owner. Sometime before Jacob and Amy died, they sold it to a McGregor family. The house stood just to the south of where Gillespie's Store was located on Short Street. Its location made it ideal for Mr. McGregor who was superintendent of the Shintown Mine during its heyday. The McGregors loved the old Dimit house and had wonderful times in it. But in the early 1920s, it was believed that someone in the mine had a grudge against Mr. McGregor and set fire to his house. It was totally destroyed and nothing was ever proven about the cause of the fire.**

**Jacob died the year of the fire and Amy died five years later in 1931. They were buried at Bethel beside his parents, Benjamin and Sidney. Among their children who were buried beside them were Samuel, who died at age 16, Mary who died at age 3, Elsie who died at age 4, and Catherine who died at age 3. At least three children**

grew to adulthood. They were: John who became a minister and moved to Ohio, Jesse who married Motlena Walker and lived in Jefferson Township, and Annie who married Bert Irwin and lived in Eldersville.

Margaret Dimit, a sister of this Jacob Dimit, married a Jefferson Township man, James Martin. A grandson of James Martin, Gaylord Martin, aged 98, still lives in the Eldersville area, as does Gaylord's son, Leo Martin, and family.

Although the first Jacob Dimit was born in Maryland and lived out his life in Brooke County, some of his children and many of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren lived near Eldersville or in the vicinity, and were good citizens of the Jefferson Township area nearly all of their lives.

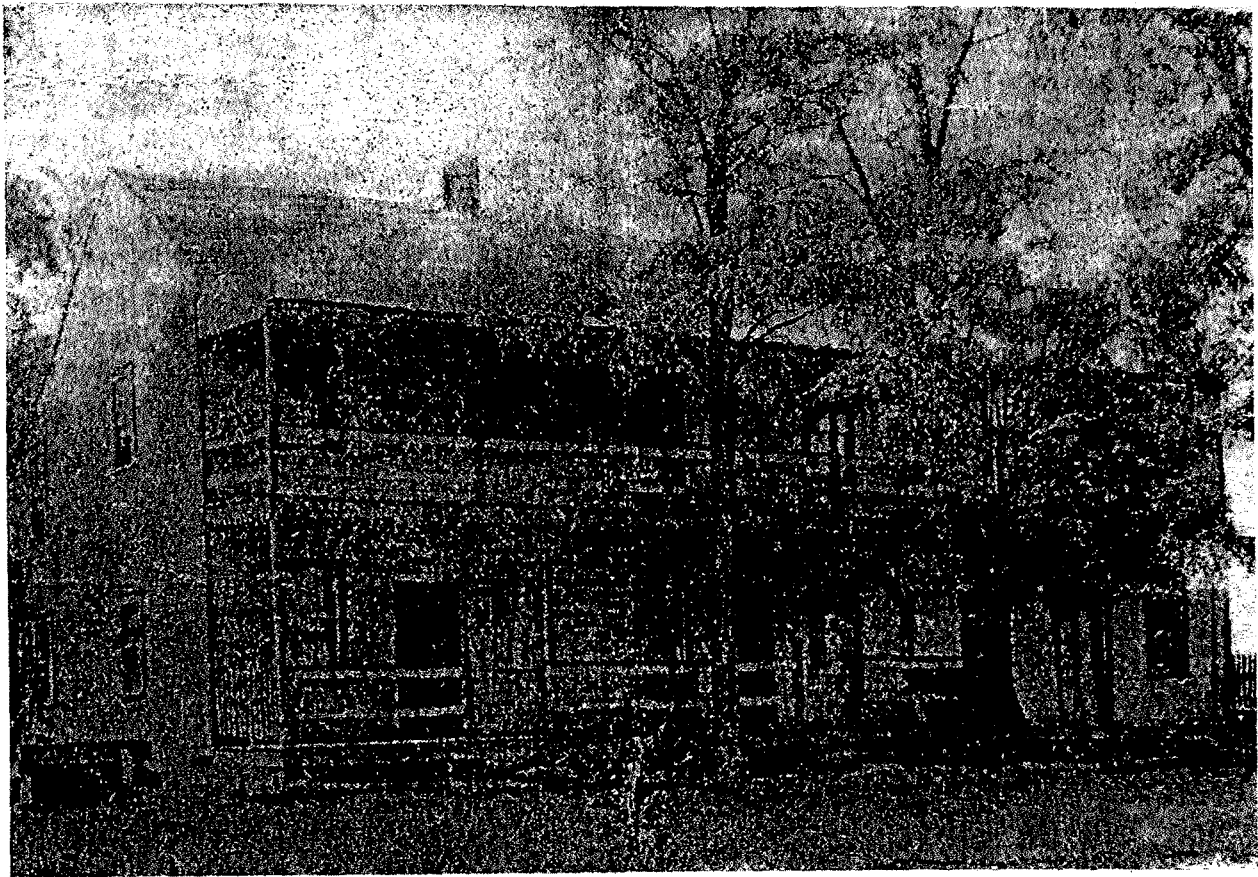


*The little house pictured above stood in Eldersville beside Gourley & Boles Store on Cedar Grove Road. It was the home of Jacob and Amy Ann Dimit after they left their big house pictured on the previous page. Next door to them on the right of the house pictured above, stood a two story house, later the home of Walter Gardner. When John Dimit, son of Jacob and Amy Ann, married and had children, he lived in the two-story house next to his parents. They had two or three very handsome boys of whom they were very proud. The story was told by Helen Martin years later that someone once asked John why the picket fence (note part of it in the picture above) around his property and that of his parents was so extensive, reaching even to the top of the long hill behind the two houses. Without a moment's hesitation, John replied. "When you have sons as good looking as mine are, you have to build a fence to keep out the girls."*



## **The John Allingham Family**

**John Allingham was born in Ireland circa 1807. He and his brother, George, came to America shortly before 1850 and settled in Eldersville. It is not known how they determined to make their home in this region, but they opened a small store at which they became very successful. They were well known in the surrounding area and soon increased their business operations to include a hotel and tavern. The building in which they conducted their enterprises was also used as a dwelling. It was very large, two story, with an excellent location. It stood on what is today the corner of Cedar Grove Road and Short Street in the village. Thus, being in the heart of town, it provided easy access for clients coming from any direction.**



**John's brother, George, was of a totally different bend than his older brother. He had been a schoolteacher in his youth while living in Ireland, and was easy going and liked by all who knew him. On the other hand, John was an antagonist, constantly arousing suspicions in the townspeople and pitting them one against the other. The store and bar room became places where men gathered to discuss the growing problems of the nation and to listen to the advice of the bartender which was always forthcoming without provocation.**

**The days of the 1850s were filled with mounting suspicions. The Civil War was just around the corner, and two issues dominated the minds of the whole nation – slavery and prohibition. People took up sides in both of them and tempers often**

flared, sometimes destroying friendships of a lifetime. It was difficult to remain neutral and times were exactly right for agitators to come to the forefront. Just such an agitator was John Allingham.

For the first time in history, young people were becoming difficult to control in the Jefferson Township area. The old road, down over the hill behind the Hall, was a quick route to the Harmon Creek area where it was a short distance to the river. It was an easy matter for a young man to get across that river and end up in a saloon near the water's edge in Steubenville, Ohio, where liquor was prevalent. Parents were frantic over their loss of control and the temperance issue dominated every social event and crept into the pulpits of the churches where hellfire and damnation were the topics of the day. Among the strongest advocates of prohibition were a few township families, including the Melvins and Thorleys, who became adamant in their insistence that liquor should be abolished. This issue, alone, was enough to place them outside the circle of John Allingham's domination.

The slavery topic was just as dynamic. These prohibitionists also believed that anyone who supported, even mentally, the slavery issue, should not be allowed in church. Eventually this led to the erection of the "White Church" in the Village of Eldersville. Of course this also meant that the Methodist Churches both at Bethel and at Eldersville lost the followers of the White Church movement from their congregations. This created much animosity and many hard feelings. Since John Allingham was very outspoken, he became the object of much criticism and many things were blamed on him in which he may actually have had no part.

One such accusation was that Allingham was at the center of a counterfeiter's ring. Charges were brought against him and it was later reported that he had cast the counterfeiting dies into the well under the town pump. Years later, it was reported that they had been recovered. This author does not know the extent of the veracity of this report.

Another such incident was the burning of the barn of William Melvin. It was an act of terrible consequences, Mr. Melvin having lost his entire supply of winter food for his livestock. Allingham was in the thick of the plot and is believed to have initiated the incident and then played a part in sending the perpetrator of the crime to prison.

If the part played by John Allingham in the above mentioned incidents is a fact, then the time came when he certainly got more than his just dues. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of December in 1872, near midnight, an act of unmitigated hatred took place which rocked the little town of Eldersville out of any complacency it might have possessed. An improvised gun made of gas pipe and filled with heavy slugs was touched off outside his bedroom window. John was instantly killed and the bed torn to pieces. His wife was not hurt but was frightened nearly to death. It was a long and complicated investigation and trial, but eventually a former Negro slave named Henry Briceland was convicted of the crime and sentenced to life in prison. The little town was, for the most part, highly incensed about this, since most believed the man was innocent, and some believed that Allingham had received his just dues for his treatment of Briceland. This writer personally heard from the lips of the late Albert Miller that his family, along with many other prominent ones of the township,

went to bat for Briceland and never believed in his guilt. He had been a good worker, an excellent carpenter and even today, there are, in the township, pieces of evidence of his handiwork in the form of handmade bureaus, cabinets, and the like. After a period of twenty years, at the continual insistence of the Eldersville community, a judge pardoned Briceland and he was released. He died about a year later, proclaiming his innocence with his last breath.

No one knows what became of Elizabeth, John's wife. She was still in Eldersville at the taking of the 1880 census records, but she does not appear to be buried there.

George Allingham continued to live in the village until 1896 when he went to the County Home where he died the 28<sup>th</sup> of September in 1910 at the age of 92. His body was returned to Eldersville for burial.

Not many signs exist today to tell the story of what local historians termed "The Great Eldersville Murder". In fact, at the side of the Eldersville Methodist Church where John Allingham is buried, there is nothing to remind the world of his terrible end. The inscription on his tombstone states very simply "John Allingham...died Dec. 4, 1872....aged 65 years."



*Side view of Allingham House in later years*