

# The Saga of Kidd's Mill

By A.D. White

Among the wild, secluded spots of Jefferson Township of the present day, none is more secluded or more wild and beautiful than the site of the old grist and sawmill known for years as Kidd's Mill. The location is near the junction of the two branches of Scott's Run in southwestern Jefferson Township and near the West Virginia line. Near here once could have been seen a declivity known as Hiskus Jump, the story of which comes to us from Pioneer times that a man by the name of Hiskus was being closely pressed in a chase by Indians. When the red men were so close on him that he felt that capture was certain, he decided that he would rather leap over the cliff and risk death in that manner than to be captured by the Indians. He made his escape by jumping over the cliff, which he did safely, then concealed himself in a small cave which he found in a large rock on the other side of the creek.

When one visits the spot today, it is difficult to imagine that here at one time was a center of much activity. All that one sees today is Scott's Run flowing swiftly at this point, through a steep-walled valley whose sides on an early spring day are covered with white flowered trillium and other wild flowers in abundance, and over-hanging from the steep banks of the stream are many pine trees. The only sign of human progress in evidence is a very idle railroad trestle spanning the creek and a little farther upstream the ruins of the old mill. While this was once a flourishing crossroads community, today one sees only the scars of the roads which once converged here, there being no road on which one might use a wheeled vehicle within a half mile or more of the old mill site.

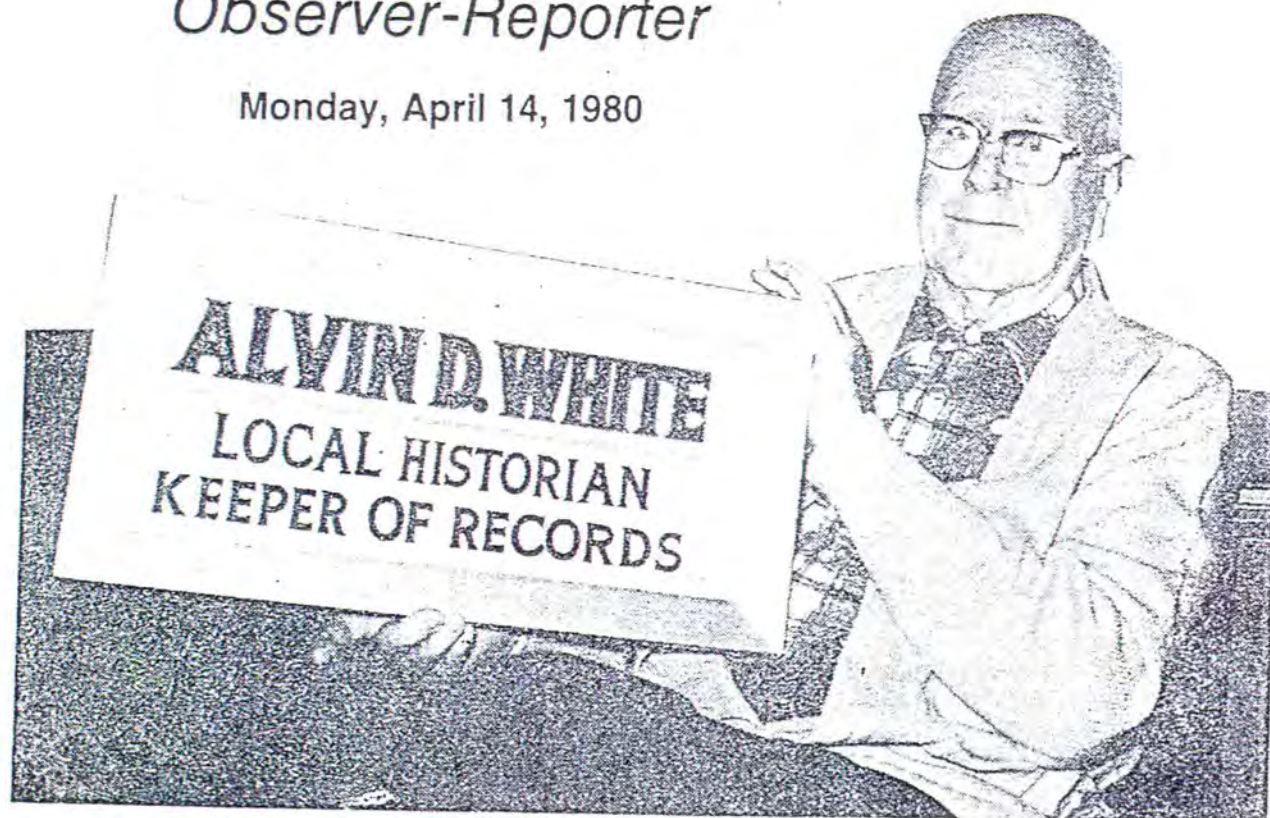
A mill was first established at this point by Charles Scott, an Irishman, who was an early settler here. This man, known as Charley at the Mill, to distinguish him from another Charles Scott, Charley on the Hill, was instrumental in assisting many of his friends in locating near him. When an Irish acquaintance of "Charley at the Mill" arrived, he always looked up Charley Scott who helped him get his bearings in the location of a good tract of land.

on furiously to Eldersville to secure medical help from the village physician, Dr. J.F. McCarrell. Elza Scott and his mother rushed home and the boy was dispatched to the homes of neighbors to tell them of the tragedy.

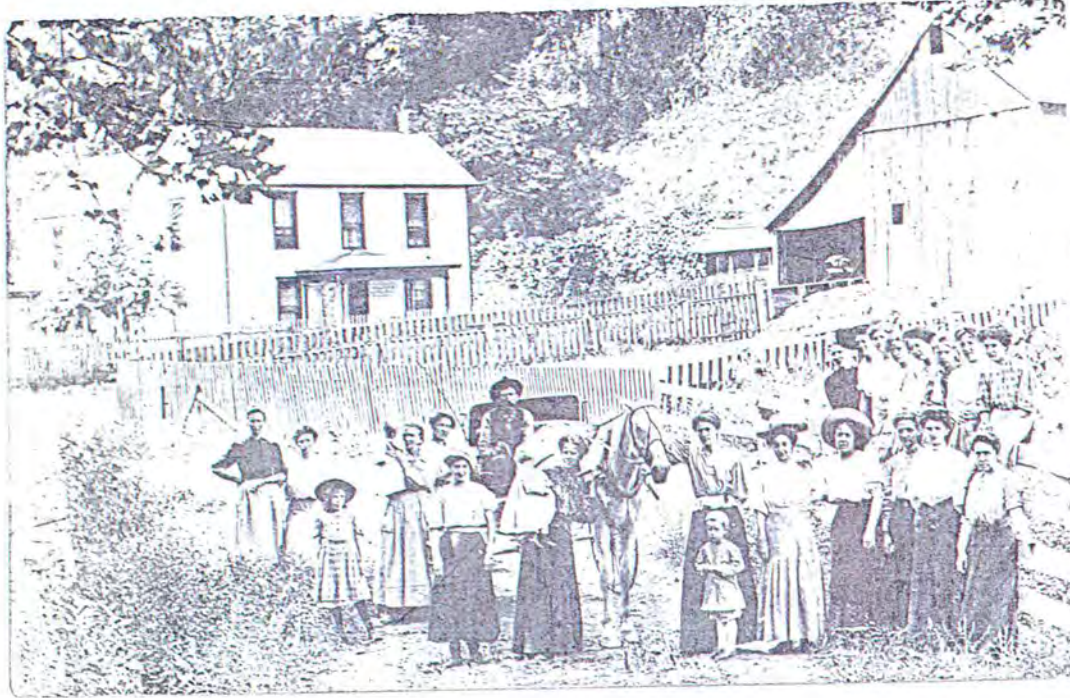
Kidd's Mill continued to operate until shortly after the turn of the century when it was closed down. At this place, Mrs. Agnes Murchland, sister of Robert Kidd, served as Postmistress at the Bancroft Post Office and also, for a period of ten or twelve years, conducted a summer resort hotel for working girls from Pittsburgh who came here for two-weeks vacations. The Post Office here was discontinued upon the installation of the rural free delivery of mail.

## *Observer-Reporter*

Monday, April 14, 1980



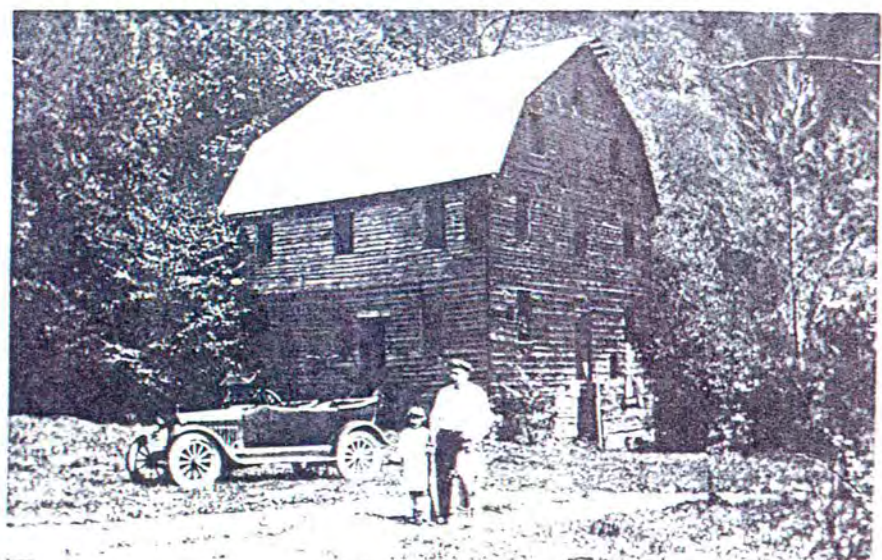
# *Alvin White:* **A Teacher Reminisces**



Hotel at Kidd's Mill where girls from Pittsburgh boarded for two-week periods during the summers. Bancroft Post Office was housed in the left front corner of the first floor.



Taken in 1988 at Kidd's Mill. A.D. White, age 94 is speaking about the history of the area to the crowd of visitors at the annual Kidd's Mill Walk.



KIDD'S MILL



Richard Wells Stone House - Avella, PA

Built in 1818, possibly by slave labor. Picture taken 1926.  
House razed 1950's.

Richard was the son of Pioneer Alexander Wells, the earliest settler in the Cross Creek Country.

Another son of Alexander, Bazaleel Wells, was the founder of Steubenville, Ohio. Bazaleel's first wife, Rebecca Resteau, died at the birth of her second child and is buried beside this stone house in the Wells Burial Ground. His second wife was Sarah Griffith who bore him eleven children.



Mary Donaldson Sinclair  
1862 - 1940

Keeper of the Records  
of Steubenville, Ohio  
and the surrounding  
area of Jefferson County.  
Genealogist and historian,  
Mrs. Sinclair was one of  
the greatest "Keeper of  
the Records" of all time.



First stone house in the Weirton area. Built in the 1790's.  
Home of William Griffith. Demolished to build Weir High Stadium.

Griffith House



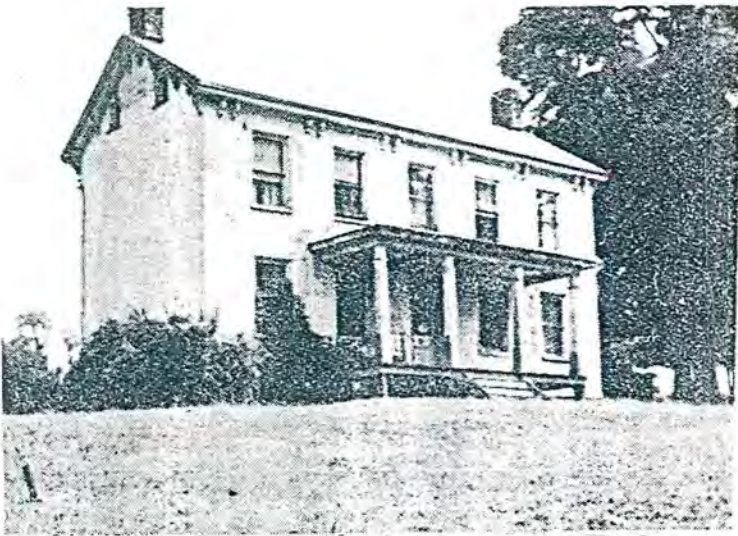
## Part Of Wall Of 154-Year-Old County Home Crumbles



Note: James Drain of Ligonier, Penna. bought the stone in ~~the~~ old Patterson Stone House and moved it to Ligonier where he erected it in a home and antique shop - torn down about 1970. ADW

Strain of time and weather over a period of 154 years finally crumbled a portion of the historic Patterson home in Cross Creek Township on Rea, R. D. 1. A section of the east wall of the famous landmark crashed to the ground recently, exposing two second-story rooms. The walls of the house, built in 1794, are two and one-half feet thick. They are in two layers, each a foot thick, the space between being loosely filled. For a number of years the bulging wall had been braced by great iron

bolts running through the attic and by wooden props on the outside. At the time of the crash, the Patterson family, Frank Ella, Annie and Mary, were in the dining room. Had any person been passing from the kitchen to the well they would have been instantly killed by the falling stones. The present occupants are the fifth generation of Pattersons to occupy the home built by their great-great-grandfather, William Patterson.



This old brick house, built by Major William Lee in 1838, was the "mansion house" on the Lee Farm and the home of the family for many years.

Cross Creek Village Area



Home of the Lees in Hollidays Cove - William McMillan Lee and his wife Caroline Patterson Lee and their children who included Caroline and Venie.



WILLIAM LEE.

One of the first elders of the Three Springs Presbyterian Church and the grandfather of William McMillan Lee.



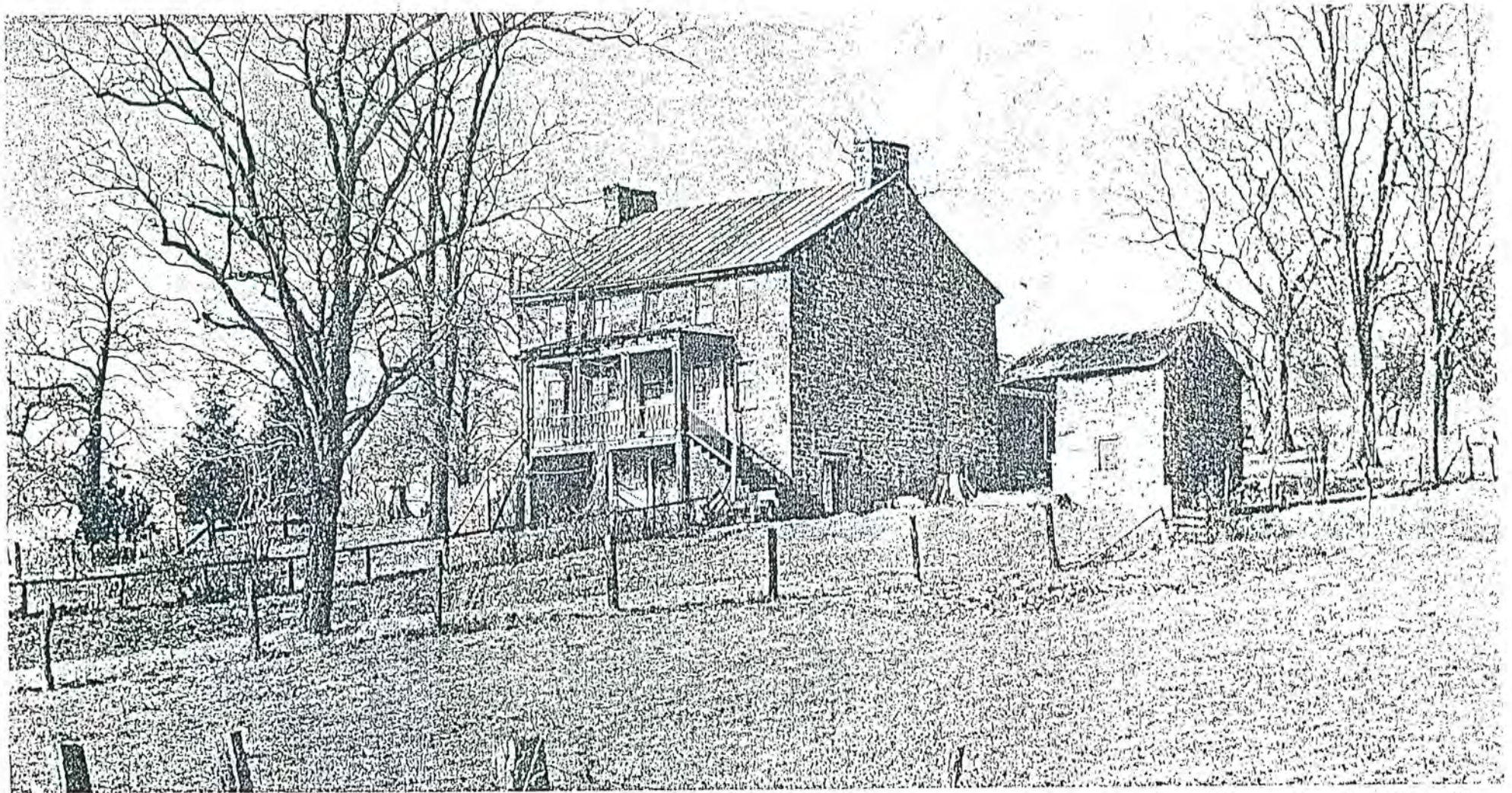
Caroline and Venia Lee  
Daughters of William McMillan Lee and Caroline Patterson Lee.  
Both were missionaries in China.



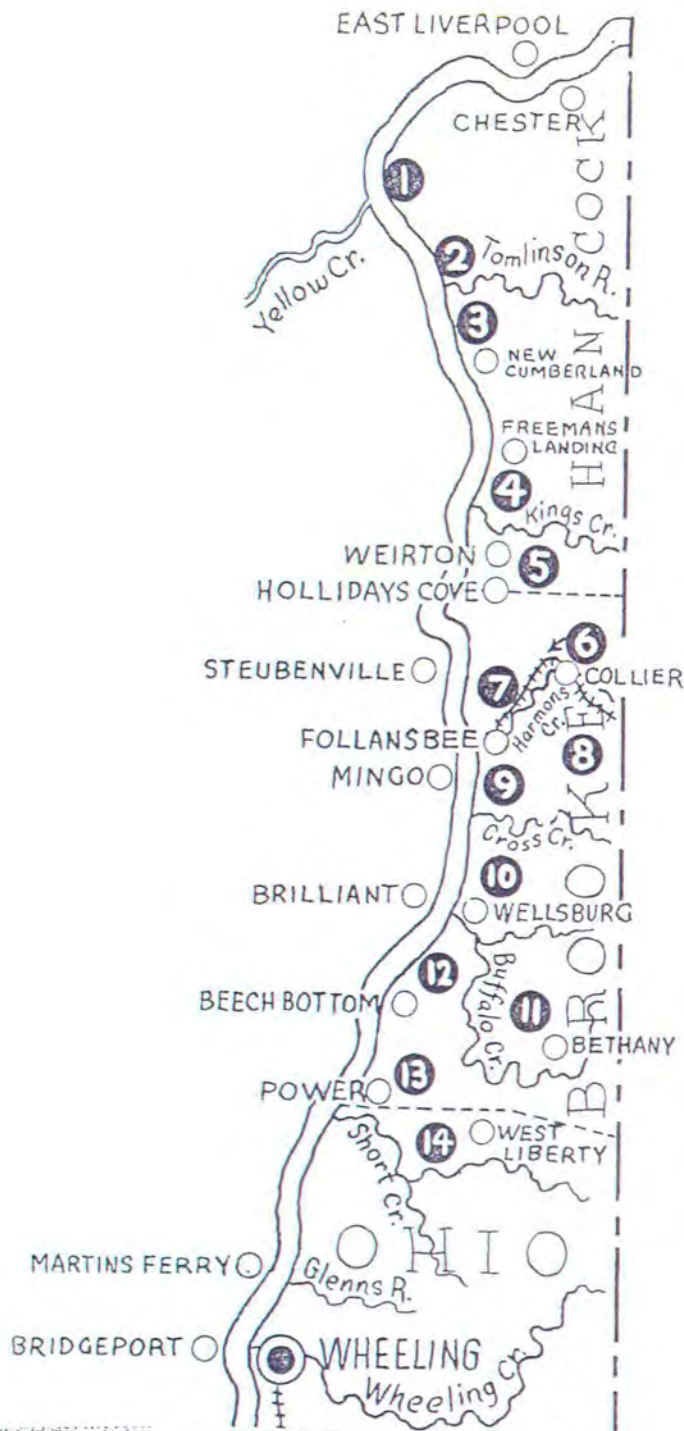


↑  
PROFESSOR ELZA SCOTT

*Eldersville  
Normal  
School  
- 1908 -*



ODDITY. The Patterson home in Avella, Washington County, is little changed from its original appearance. Built in 1794 of rough-hewn native stone, the walls are almost two feet thick. "Oddity" was the name William Patterson gave to his odd-shaped parcel of 245 acres. His patent was signed by Benjamin Franklin.



## PLACES OF INTEREST TO VISIT

(Numbers refer to map.)

1. Site of Massacre of Logan's people.
2. Poe's fight with Indians.
3. Pioneer Orchards.
4. Pioneer Iron Furnace.
5. Pioneer Military Storehouse. Supplies sent from here to aid Fort Henry. Weirton, (immense steel mill.)
6. Pioneer Rail Road.
7. Indian Grave (75 skeletons), (Destroyed and obliterated now.)
8. Washington's camp and route across the Panhandle. Rendevous of two Pioneer Armies—(Gnadenhutzen Massacre army), (Crawford's Expedition).
9. Pioneer Crossing (Cox's Rifle.)
10. Pioneer Shipping Center. Lottery River Wall. Dodridge's Home and Burial Place, also Patrick Gass' Home. Church built by Alexander Campbell. Many Pioneer Graves.
11. Bethany College. Historic home of Alexander Campbell. A beautiful drive.
12. Site of Pioneer Orchards, Race Tracks.
13. High Tension Electric Center of American Water Works Co.
14. Historic Short Creek, Site of VanMetre Fort, First Court House, Home of Famous McCullochs. Place where Major Samuel McCulloch was shot by Indians.

### HISTORIC PLACES IN WHEELING

Mouth of Creek where DeCeleron buried Leaden Plate—(1749).

Site of Fort Henry on Main Street, between 10th and 11th Streets.

Site of Ebenezer Zane's home, from which his sister Betty carried the powder to the Fort during the second battle of Fort Henry—on Alley back of Stone and Thomas Store.

Place of Major Samuel McCulloch's Famous Leap at top of Wheeling Hill.

Monument Place, Historic old Shepherd Fort and Home at Elm Grove. Also Pioneer Flour Mill still in use, Old Stone Tavern of National Pike days.

Former State Capitol Building

Historic Old Homesteads.

### CORNER OF MARKET AND SIXTEENTH STREETS

This corner was purchased by the U. S. Government in 1855 and a building erected to be used as a Custom House and Post Office. Also used by Federal Courts during Civil War period.

The Second Wheeling Convention (1861) held most of their sessions here.

Arms and Ammunition were stored here.

**Tips and Trips**  
for  
**TOURISTS**  
in  
**WHEELING**  
and  
**THE PANHANDLE**  
by  
**W. ELZA SCOTT**

*Places Of Interest In and About  
Steubenville*

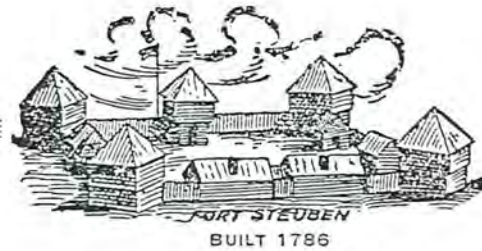
1. Site of Fort Steuben, between South High Street and Lake Erie Avenue.
2. Dr. Joseph Doddridge, pioneer preacher, physician, and historian, held church services in the early 1790's, at foot of Market Street.
3. Location and original main building of the famous old Steubenville Female Seminary, the first (1829) in the Northwest Territory, and a noted educational center for over sixty years, on South High Street.
4. Birthplace of Edwin M. Stanton (famous attorney and Lincoln's Secretary of War at 526 Market Street. His other homes on North Third Street.
5. Site of pioneer United States Public Land Office, (1801) managed by the same man, David Hoge, during its entire existence, or over forty years. 120 North Third Street.
6. Site of Bezaleel Well's beautiful home and grounds, Corner South and Third Streets.
7. The scenic drives and views in the beautiful Union Cemetery, 1720 West Market Street.
8. The magnificent drive over Sunset Boulevard, to either Richmond or Cadiz. No more beautiful sunsets can be seen in the entire region.
9. Mingo, site of Indian village and place of many early historical events, among which was Geo. Washington's visit in 1770. Three miles south of Steubenville over Ohio River Route No. 7.
10. Historic Yellow Creek, 16 miles up the Ohio, over Ohio River Route No. 7. Site of Indian Chief Logan's home and pioneer embarking point of Indian raiders and Colonial Armies.
11. Abraham Lincoln, enroute to be inaugurated as President in 1860, addressed a vast throng at foot of Market Street.



GREAT SEAL OF OHIO

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W. C. COOK CO., STEUBENVILLE, O.



Tips and Trips  
for  
Tourists  
In and Around  
Steubenville

Founded 1797

Incorporated 1805



BEZALEEL WELLS