

**The 200<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
of the city of  
Weirton, WV  
1771-1971**

**By Louis C. Truax**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

## THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF WEIRTON, WEST VIRGINIA 1771 TO 1971

Beginning of the city of Weirton taken from the History of Hancock County Virginia and West Virginia written by Jack Welch.

The story of Weirton begins in 1771 when Harmon Greathouse built the first cabin in the area, that was to become Hollidays Cove, and later Weirton. Little is known of this early settler, but his first name has remained with the city in the name of Harmon's Creek, which is the southern boundry of the city.

The land office records at Richmond, Virginia shows that a land patent was granted to Harmon Greathouse on March 8, 1785 for 800 acres of land in the county of Yohogania, Virginia, along Harmon's Creek. This 800 acres of land covered a substantial portion of the territory formerly known as Hollidays Cove, beginning near Taylor Ave. south including the area along the Cove Road and part of Marland Heights.

Harmon Greathouse's children were Harmon Jr., Isaac, Jonathan, and William. Probably the First Patent for land in Weirton was made on March 27, 1780 to Alexander Wells, Assignee of Sarah Gibbs, Legal Representative of Thomas Gibbs, for 200 acres of land in the county of Agusta, Virginia. Not very far from Harmon's Creek, Nick named "Hard Bargain Creek". On May 6, 1793 the tract of land was conveyed by Alexander Wells to William Griffith and Anna Griffith his wife. Anna Griffith was the Daughter of Alexander Wells. This tract of land is identified today as that extending approximately from Taylor Ave. to the overhead bridge, including the Weir High School Stadium, Sheet Mill, Strip Steel, and a very great amount of land in the Weir Ave. Area.

The old family home stead built in 1793, built out of stone, and cemetery of the Griffith descendants, was located near the site of the present Weir High Stadium. The United States Government, then only four years old, allowed Griffith to keep a supply of government ammunition on hand for the settlers in their warfare against the indians. In 1932 the building was dismantled to build the Weir High Stadium.

The largest land grant in the Weirton area was made to Benjamin Johnson Jr. on March 7, 1785 for one or two tracts of land. The one tract of land of 1700 acres in the county of Yohogania, Virginia on the Ohio River and the waters thereof. In 1785 Hancock County was known as Yohogania County, Virginia. The land was granted by Patrick Henry, Esquire: Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia. No price was given in the patent or grant of land. This large tract of land is identified today as that covering the entire area which the Steel works, Coke Plant, Tin Mill, is built on including Brown's Island; to Kings Creek and east to what is now Mankowski line and Dave Campbell's or known now as E. Simon line. This Point that lies east of the Truax farm has five farm corners on it. That line is straight from that point to the point on Ave. J, about two or three hundred yards above the Weirton city building. As I have no records about the farms that lie along this line, only the farmers that lived there around 1900. The farms along the south side of this line were Smith Miller, John (Doc) Owings, Martin Hindman, and George Owings. On the north side Truax, John Williamson, and William Bell. A very large tract of land, the very same day that he received this tract he received another tract of 294 acres granted by Patrick Henry, Governor of Virginia. I have an old deed here that was made on the third day of April 1850 between William Morehead, and Elizabeth Morehead his wife, parties of the first part and Robert Campbell, party of the second part. This deed being that old is still in good shape. It states that Robert Campbell bought the farm from William Morehead, being part of the tract of land that was granted to Benjamin Johnson Jr. Strange as that seems, 1700 acres down town, by the river and 294 acres which covers the Truax and Frankovitch farms, but that straight line for two miles more or less may be the answer to that.

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509 acres of the original grant of 1700 acres were conveyed to Robert Crawford, and the rest could of reached to the eastern point of that line, if not then the tract for 1700 and 294 acres were separate tracts. All of the records show they were granted the same day, March 7, 1785. The tract for 294 acres covered all the area from this straight line, north to the north fork of Kings Creek. Mr. Mahan bought 127 acres about 1790; about the same time that Peter Tarr built his iron furnace. The coal that he used for his furnace was taken out of that part of the farm. The mine opening across the creek from the Union Chapel, beside Costadi's store across the creek at the end of Twelfth Street, hauled to the furnace by ox carts. The iron ore taken from the hill across the creek, from where the furnace stood. What a great blessing to the settlers in this area, for Mr. Tarr, to have that furnace making cast iron pots and kettles. No stores at that time to buy anything. A large kettle on the farm when I was a boy used at butchering time, it could of been made by Peter Tarr, I am not sure.

On March 5, 1794 (800) acres of the original 1700 acre tract was conveyed to Richard Brown, including Brown's Island, which received it's name from it's new owner. Brown's home and farm were located on the island. In May 1828 (452) acres of the 800 acre tract of land was conveyed to Richard Hooker, the old Hooker farm, located around the old filtration plant, tin mill, and coke plant.

Between 1843 and 1853 (509 acres of the original grant of 1700 acres were conveyed to Robert Crawford, the old Crawford homestead, that stood across Penna. Ave. from the present Bank of Weirton; dismantled 1966 for a parking lot.

On March 8, 1785 just one day after Benjamin Johnson Jr. received his tracts of land, a patent or land grant was made to James Campbell, for 400 acres of land in the county of Yohogania, Virginia. The patent was granted by Patrick Henry; Esquire Governor of Virginia. This tract of land covers that portion north east of Hollidays Cove area. Eight generations of the descendants of James Campbell, have resided on all or part of this land.

On December 2, 1795 Governor Robert Brooke of Virginia granted 744 acres of land to Samuel Ralston, Assignee of Joseph Ralston, the said land being on Kings Creek, Ohio County, Virginia. At that time; the Pleasant Valley Country Club is now situated on a part of this land. Also on December 2, 1795 Governor Brooke of Virginia granted a patent for 400 acres of land on Kings Creek, Ohio County, Va., Now Hancock County To Joseph Ralston Jr. Assignee of Joseph Ralston. The patent noted that Joseph Ralston Jr. had a settlement on this land. In the year 1775, if this statement is true, Ralston was among the first settlers in Hancock County. Joseph Ralston died in March 1843 and in his will dated Feb. 26, 1842 he bequested his saw mill to his son James Ralston. This will is the first documentry proof of any business, conducted in what is now Weirton.

Other original grants were made to Moses Holliday, Thomas Edgington, John Alexander, James Crawford, Alexander Eadie, Gabriel Greathouse, John Hayes, William Wallace, and G. C. Dellenbach. Holliday's Cove was named after John Holliday, who came into the valley in 1776 and built a block house and trading post. John Holliday is buried in Weirton, Above the Cove Road, and a stone marker J. H. carved in it was placed over his grave.

Most famous of all settlers, was James Campbell, because he was spiritual minded, and built the first log church in this area; on the south western part of his tract of land, built in 1790 at the end of where south 16th Street is now. A marker along Penna. Ave. tells us that Elisa McCurdy was the first pastor, that log church being the mother church of the Cove and Paris Presbyterian churches. Built about the same time that Peter Tarrs iron furnace was built. The original three springs cemetery, was beside that log church, and a great many of the settlers are buried there.

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In the early 1800 the Three Springs Cemetery was moved to it's present site, but the Tarr family was not moved. Many times as a boy or as a young man I would go hunting in the area where the old cemetery was, and read the names and dates on the tombstones of the Tarr family, surrounded by a rail fence.

Settler James Campbell and his wife had seven children, five sons and two daughters, James Jr., Alexander, Robert, one son drowned in the Ohio River and one moved to Tennessee, one daughter Maragret married Ephriam Langfit, who lived where Hookstown is now and another daughter Ann Capes.

James Jr., Son Wolly Jim, was the father of ten children, four sons, Archibald, John, Thomas, and Bartley, and six daughters, Eliza, Harriet, Sarah, Maude, Hattie, and Nancy. My uncle George Truax married Eliza Campbell, at Hollidays Cove in 1871, Their children were Jane: Born May 31, 1873, James McDonald (Don): Born Aug. 31, 1874, Sarah E.: Born Feb. 7, 1876, Jessie: Born April 4, 1878, My Uncle Georges wife's sister Nancy married Daniel McCloud and lived to be 100 years old, born 1855, and died 1955, I have the obituary here of that.

Robert Campbell a son of Alexander Campbell, Married Purdy, their children, John P., Jennie, Cyrus, Elizabeth, William, James, Robert A., Julia, Susan, Margret, Alice, Amanda, Earnest, George, and Hiram.

George Campbell married Alice Hammond, their children were, Charles, Elmer, Walter, and Jessie.

Hiram Campbell married Katherine Hammond, their children were, Myron, Jenette, Guy, Bernice, Alice, George, and Frank.

David Campbell a brother of Robert; his children were, Clara, Samantha, and Elizabeth, David and Daniel Campbell were twin brothers born 1811. David died 1890, his three daughters married, one to Henry Shibly her name was Clara, and Samantha Married Smith Miller, and Elizabeth Married John (Doc) Owings. To his daughter Clara he gave the eastern part of his farm, that takes in all the area of Bell View Addition and St. Paul Cemetery, and North of Penn. Ave., about the same amount of land on each side of the highway. His daughter Elizabeth that married John (Doc) Owings received the western part, all that area from South 24th Street to South 16th Street to North 20th Street to the Martin Hindman Line. The daughter that married Smith Miller stayed on the home place until after the death of her father, the old Dave Campbell homestead, better known in recent years as the Elias Simon Farm. That home stead was built about 1850 at the corner of 24th St. and Penna. Ave. The barn and stable, corn crib, and wagon shed stood where the Honda Shop and Kellers Tire Store is now, as a teen age boy I passed there many times with a horse and wagon going to Hollidays Cove to buy groceries at Lockharts Store or feed at Hindman's Mill. Greenbrier Road is the original road, known then as Campbell Hill Road.

Hiram Patton bought the Henry Shipley Farm around 1890 and lived there until 1917, then he sold it to George Sadd, about the same time that Elias Simon bought the Smith Miller Farm. Smith Miller was a very active and a machinery minded man, having about the first saw mill, and thresher, and steam engine in this locality. Purchased in the late seventies or early 1880ies. He threshed for my father many times. He built a home along the Cove Road and moved there about 1890 or 1895, back of where the Phillips 66 gas station is now. Many times I saw the engine in front of his home there, and the thresher in the old barn at the farm.

Gideon Keeder rented the Smith Miller Farm about 1904 until 1911 then Mr. Keeder built a home at the foot of Greenbrier Road. While Mr. Keeder lived there at the farm I saw Smith Miller quite a few times. He was a very active man, working around the farm there over 70 years old at that time. Born 1838, died 1926, 88 years old when he died.

(Dear Reader could I take time out here to tell you what I am looking at on television, Alan B. Shepard, Edgar D. Mitchell walking on the moon. would'nt a great many of those old timers liked to of seen those great events that we see on television?) February 12, 1971.)

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Hollidays Cove grew very slowly during the early nineteenth century. All of those settlers building log cabins and log barns. Many dangers confronted them, indians massacred a great many of the early settlers. A great many of the early settlers were soldiers of Washington's Army. When he discharged his army after the Revolutionary War, the government gave to the soldiers a large tract of land, in western Pa., Virginia, and Ohio. The government appropriated \$30,000 to finish the National Road from Cumberland, Md. to Wheeling, Virginia, called the National Pike. Work began in 1811 and finished 1818. With the new state of Ohio admitted to the union 1803 and the new road to Wheeling a great amount of settlers came to this locality. Not very much protection from all kinds of danger with the old muzzle loading guns they used at that time. They had to make every shot count. No doubt they had a good amount of food with all kinds of game animals around here. They cleared a great amount of land to raise crops of grain and vegetables on. In that primitive way of living with no convenience's of any kind, we could never understand the hardships they had to put up with. Can we picture the old spinning wheels that they used to make cloth with? And what wash day would be like. The great fire places that they had to cook on, no cooking stoves at that time. With more severe winters then we have now the only heat was from the open fire place, with plenty of wood for fuel no doubt they made the best of it.

Some how the axe played a very important part at that time. Not only to chop wood but to split rails for fences, and to hew out furniture from trees, and to cut out frames for barns, and buildings all had to be done with the axe. A very large blade axe called the broad axe was used to hew large timbers for framing barns and buildings. Wooden pins were used to hold the timbers together. Mortice joints all made by hand by hand tools, large augers and chisel's they had to use. That sure was hard work. We will have to say that they had men in those days that was'nt afraid of hard work. Another tool that they used to split shingles with was called a *fraw*, a large blade with a handle in top to hold it by and hit it with a large hammer. It took one man a long time to build a home with those kind of tools. With the opening up of new roads a great many of the settlers became blacksmiths. Many blacksmith Shops and wagon repair shops sprang up making work for many of the settlers. Which was really needed in those days. The blacksmith was a very important man making almost all of the farming implements and wagon's even the nails were made by him. Any one remember the old cut nails, that was made by hand? I saw many of those kind of nails the first oncs that was made by a machine was of the same type. Many times while hunting in the woods I would come upon an old abandoned oil well derrick, and marvelled at how the rigs were put together with heavy timbers and lumber nailed together with old square cut nails. They had real carpenters in those days who wasn't afraid of hard work. During the nineteenth century a great many covered bridges were built. They were made of heavy timbers also covered over to protect the flooring. Not very many of them left, one on Devil Den Road and one on Paris Kings Lake Road, a few found in Western Penn. I remembered the one that was at Twelveth Street and Kings Creek Road, but the flood of 1912 took it away.

When Benjamin Johnson was building a home on his tract of land of 294 acres, a great many of the other settlers were building and clearing their land. The old log house that Johnson built in 1785 is still standing, it has been in the Truax family for 100 years.

An exciting story about Thomas Campbell and how his baby and himself were murdered, or massacred by the indians. As the number of settlers increased in the Ohio Valley the indians realized that something had to be done. To halt the spread of the white man into their hunting grounds. Murder was the answer. Through out Hancock County the indian warriors silently spied out the habits of the farmers. Not very many indians had settlements here, they had settlements in Eastern Ohio, and used Western Pa. and the Pan handle of Virginia for hunting grounds.

In the spring of 1782 Thomas Campell, whose farm was where the Broadview

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school is now, decided to make some maple syrup for his family, he tapped a great number of maple trees around his cabin, the cabin stood near where the Pleasant Valley Golf Course is now. He worked until evening collecting the sap from the trees. On his next to the last trip to the house, his wife saw that he was tired from the days labor and volunteered to bring the last bucket of sap from the forrest. She walked to the hill overlooking their cabin and found the sap, when she started back down the hill she saw a party of indians approaching the cabin, shouting loudly, one of the warriors saw Mrs. Campbell and fired at her. In an attempt to get help for her family Mrs. Campbell ran to the home of James Gardner. When the men of the neighborhood arrived at the Campbell home they found Thomas Campbell shot to death on the door step and the baby lying dead beside the cabin wall, where it had been hurled by the indians.

Another great exciting story about William Langfitt, around 1785 when William Langfitt whose farm was near Hookstown, Pa. cleared some land and planted a field of corn there. Since there was considerable danger of indians attacks at this time he moved his family to the home of his father-in-law on Kings Creek. Langfitt remained at the site of his new home near Hookstown during the summer. When autumn arrived Langfitt harvested his corn and hid it in his cabin before returning to Kings Creek for the winter. In the spring he returned to his cabin with James Garren. The corn was found as he had left it and he and Garren loaded it unto the backs of their two horses. On their return trip Langfitt and Garren rode single file at some distance apart. Suddenly a party of indians stood upon both sides of the trail and fired at the white men. Langfitt received three wounds in the lower part of his lung, the bullets passed completely through his body and lodged in a hickory tree. Although his left arm was shattered by the indians bullets he managed to hang to the mane of his horse as he galloped forward. Although he was aware of the cries of Garren he was unable to come to his rescue. Langfitt was found near the fort at Frankfort Springs, Pa. still clinging to his horse. He was nursed back to health and lived to be 96 years of age. His friend James Garren was never heard of again.

A great many other incidents like the ones above happend to many of the white settlers. There was always a great many hunting parties of indians around here, whether the settlers motives were those of gain or adventure; all had to face the threat of attacks from indians, who swept across the Ohio Territory from the Great Lakes, and into the Ohio Valley with devastating fury. They looted and burned the white settlements in their paths.

In the initial building of a community a party of men would usually come to the frontier, clear land, plant corn, and other crops, erect log houses adjacent to a common log fort, and then return in the fall to their families. In the spring the whole family would be transported to their new home on the frontier. Once the family was settled in their new homes the danger increased for all the indians discovered the permanent homes. During the summer months, which was the most common season for indian attacks, the settlers retreated every night to the shelter of the community fort, where a watch was kept to insure their safety against surprise attacks. The winter months were the safest time of the year, but when warm weather came the danger of indian attacks increased.

A great story about a settler named Greathouse and Muchmore and Phillip Jackson. Now the Pie brothers, their names were John, Andrew, and Adam Poe, John Cherry, William Castleman, William Ranken, and James Whitacre raced through the forest to Tomlinson's Run on that rainy day to rescue Jackson from the indians. A party of Wyandot Indians captured him on his farm about nine miles from Fort Cherry in Washington Co., Pa. Chief Big Foot and his two brothers, sons of the Wyandot Cheiftian and four other Wyandot Braves arrived at the area where Tomlinson's Run empties into the Ohio River. There they found Jackson sitting

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among five of the Indians. Cherry and Adam took careful aim and shot the two Indians closest to Jackson. When these two Indians fell dead Jackson leaped to his feet and ran toward his rescuers, but not before another of the Indians had sunk a tomahawk deep into his back. Firing was exchanged rapidly and two more of the Indians fell along with John Cherry. The last Indian in the group escaped across the river.

George Poe, Adam's son has a great story on Big Foot and the other Indians.

All of these stories and records taken from the History of Hancock Co. written by Jack Welch (1963). My old school book (History and Government of West Virginia) by Virgil A. Lewis. State Historian and Archivist: This same book that I had when I went to school in 1913 and 1914. I would like to quote some words from it.

"On a bright morning in 1770 Colonel Ebenezer Zane stood on the banks of the Ohio River just above the mouth of Wheeling Creek. He was the founder of a future city, erecting a cabin he remained a year, then went east to induce some friends to move with him to his home on the Ohio River. He was successful, his two brothers, John and Silas came and spent the summer of 1772. And in the early part of 1773 others settlers came, thus was made the permanent settlement of a future city, Wheeling was laid out in city squares by Ebenezer Zane in 1793 and December 26, 1795 it was made a town by legislative enactment.

The defeat of General St. Clair in 1790. General Josiah Harmar, with an army of 1450 men organized at Fort Washington, or known now as Cincinnati, Ohio, marched to what is now Fort Wayne, Indiana and when they were about 20 miles from their destination they were attacked by a large body of Indians who fought with such desperation that Harmar's army was thrown into utter confusion and retreated to Fort Washington, leaving the dead unburied on the field. The only effect of General Harmar's campaign was to intensify the hostilities of the savages and they waged a fierce and relentless warfare upon the frontier of Virginia and that of Kentucky. To stay the tide of bloodshed President George Washington appointed Arthur St. Clair to command the army of the North West. General St. Clair proceeded to Fort Washington, whence the ill fated expedition of General Harmar had marched, and there an army of 23 hundred men was speedily collected. On September 27, 1791 it was put in motion and filed away into the wilderness. On November 3 the army encamped in what is now Mercer Co., Ohio, within two miles of the present Indiana state line; here it was attacked and no battle on the North West was ever attended with such a loss of human life. St. Clair's army became a band of fugitives, most of whom finally reached Fort Washington.

General William Drake, a very distinguished military man, whose home was in Berkley Co., Virginia. He also left Fort Washington with a very large army. His regiment composed of mostly West Virginians and of those who lost their lives on that fatal field, eighty was from Berkley Co. alone. Long years after the story was rehearsed in the mountain homes of West Virginia "How We Lost Nine Hundred Men On The Banks of the St. Mary".

(Waynes Victory the savage power broken)

Now for one hundred years, a merciless warfare had been waged against the frontier settlements, but the time had come when the savage power was to be broken. General (Mad Anthony) Wayne, was placed in command of an army of more than three thousand men, which was collected at Fort Washington for the purpose of invading the Indian country. On the 2nd of August 1795 the army was at Fallen Timbers, on the Maumee, now in Lucas Co., Ohio. Here was concentrated the fighting forces of the Indians and here was waged the last battle for race supremacy in the north west. Waynes victory was complete, and the (Treaty of Greenville) which followed forever put an end to savage warfare on the south side of the Ohio and West Virginia. Pioneers were for the first time safe in their cabin homes. Now the settlers could build homes and live on their farms instead of near a fort for protection. This same time 1795 was when James Campbell built the original Three Springs Log Church, and

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Peter Tarr was operating his newly constructed iron furnace along Kings Creek.

Between 1800 and 1850 the pioneer farmers were living a great deal better than they were before 1800. Some of the farmers that lived along the creeks built water powered grist mills, which was a great blessing to every one. One mill built about one half mile from the Kings creek bridge, called the Taylors Mill, along route 2. Another one called Mathans Mill located across 12th Street from Union Chapel, about where you turn in at Willow St. Another one at Pleasant Valley Golf Course, across the road from the Pleasant Valley Methodist Church, called the Redd Mill, John Redd operated that mill for a great number of years, I knew his son very well when he was a farmer. William Redd who had a farm at the end of Kusic St. was a very good farmer. I remember the time that my brother Walter and I went to see Mr. Redd on business. Mr. Redd was cultivating his corn field, I will never forget what he said to me when I told him that I didn't want to stop him from working his corn. He told me quote "There was another day a coming, if there wasn't he would not need any corn". Many times I would think of him when a similar incident like that would occur to me. I saw him many times when he worked in the black smith shop at the tin mill. His children's names were Homer, John, Violet, and Clarence Redd. John his father lived in the red brick house there beside the mill. My grand father James Ralston lived across the creek where Howard Finchee lives now. My grand father moved there about 1850, I believe that he was some relation to Joseph Ralston who I wrote about as being a settler there about 50 years before. Him and his wife raised nine children, their names were Nettie, Amanda, Margret, Stella, John, (Julia my mother), Dallas, Viola, and Frank, a very wonderful family. James Ralston was a good christian man, a shoe maker, a farmer, and a carpenter. He and all the neighbors built the Pleasant Valley Methodist Church in the year 1873. The same church still stands after 98 years. We all know how Rev. Mansberger worked hard to keep the church going, (Rev. Mansberger died Oct. 11, 1969). My mother told me that they bought nearly all of the flour and meal they used from Mr. Redd. I saw the mill, it was still standing in 1908 when I went with my mother to visit her father and mother, dismantled about 1910. With all of the new homes built there now you would not know if there was ever a water powered mill there.

There was another grist mill along the Colliers Road. It stood across the railroad tracks just after you passed through the under grade, it was called Greenbury Hindman Mill. I remember that one the best, because my brother and I would go there to buy feed for my father's animals. Greenbury Hindman was born 1847, died 1925, we wonder what those people would have done if they had not of had those grist mills.

In the year 1868 Hollidays Cove had 250 inhabitants, two wagon maker's shops, two shoe shops, one drug store, and three churches; in a community of fifty homes. The area was primarily a farming community because the soil was rich and productive, various grains and vegetable crops were harvested in addition to stock raising. Before the civil war a woolen mill was built and operated by James McNeal. The mill was supplied with wool from the local farmers, and was employed in the service of the union during the civil war. Wool was a very valuable product at that time. A great many of the farmers had large droves of sheep. Shearing of sheep was a great art, many of the farmers would have sheep shearing days and many neighbors would help each other out at that time.

We wonder some times about those horse and buggy days, now that we have so many things, that they didn't have, power washers, electric refrigeration, dryers, and many other appliances, tractors to farm with and combines to harvest the grain. No real hard labor any more, television to enjoy in the evening. How our great grand mothers had to cook on a wood stove which made it so hot in the summer in the kitchen, and every thing she did was hard work and on top of that she had to do almost all the canning, and making preserves. Baking almost every other day,



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and all the house work, we wonder how they ever stood it, it is a wonder that they didn't have a physical break down early in life.

Dear readers we should give great honor to our grandmothers and grandfathers and to all our ancestors, we owe them all a great deal, if it was not for them we would not be here. I for one am very glad to be alive to live in this beautiful world, to have the good friendship of all you dear readers.

Let us think about the old log cabins that was here around 1900. There were six that I had seen and knew of, one was standing at the end of where Hillcrest Street is now and one stood at the foot of Cove Hill, and one stood at the end of North Fifteen Street, one was built west of Liberty School, one above the Pleasant Valley Golf Course, and my fathers house the one that Ben Johnson built in 1785, the only one still standing. I do not have all the history of all the farm homes, that the city is built on, but I do have all the history of my father's old home stead. As I said before that it was an old settlers cabin, I have all the deeds that proves all the history of the farm. Benjamin Johnson conveyed it to Charles Moorehead Sept. 26, 1793. Then Charles Moorehead, devised the same by will to William Moorehead, who conveyed to Robert Campbell April 3, 1830. His son John Campbell lived there until 1869 then sold the farm to George Hindman, who sold it to my grandmother April 1, 1871. My father the youngest son and my uncle William were the oldest and youngest sons of my grandmother Jane Adair Truax. My grandmother heard about that farm for sale so she looked it over and decided to buy it, her husband William Truax died 1864. He was a son of William Truax Sr. and Martha Malott Truax, who was born in New Jersey 1773, who with his two sons William my grandfather and Elias. William born 1803 and Elias born 1835 moved to the Hankin Station area, Washington County, Pa. My grandfather William married Jane Adair Dec. 14, 1837. Ten children was born and raised by them. After her husband had been dead for almost seven years she bought that farm from Mr. Hindman. A widow with ten children was it the best she could do? It sure was with five sons and five daughters the best place was on a farm. William H., Thomas J., George W., Mary Ann, Martha Jane, Thomas James, Rebecca Ellen, (Charles Sumner), Margret Ellen, and Isabel Alice Truax, these are the names of my grandmother's children. The location of this farm is on what is now Seneca St. off of North 20th Street. Would'nt it of been wonderful if all of those who lived there before would of left some notes or writings on paper of the events and happenings in that old house? About six months after she bought the farm she bought a four acre tract south of the farm along what is now North 20th Street, it had a house on it. She bought it so her oldest son could live there, Uncle William moved into it and raised a large family there. 12 children were born to Uncle William's wife, two were born before they moved here. William married Lydia Bable 1866, her home was in or near Bavington, Pa. Ten more were born here, the old house they lived in was across the street from where I live. While I am writing this I can lift my eyes and see the site where my uncle's house stood. Their children's names were Lucy O'Neil, Annie E., Frank, Fred, Lizzie J., Ulysses G., George W., (Jess), Clarence L., Daisy Bell, Jennie Cora, Nellie E., Thomas A., and Maude Truax. They lived there until 1895 then they bought a farm along Kings Creek north East of Paris, Pa. My cousin James McDonald Truax lived in the old house for about five years, Emma Truax was born there. I remember the old house, it was still standing when I was about six years old. My older brother's dismantled it and used the lumber at the home place. Salvador Trujillo, 121 Paul Ave. has a new brick home on the same site. My father met my mother Julia Mae Ralston at the Pleasant Valley Methodist Church. After a wonderful courtship they were married Feb. 24, 1881 at Florence, Pa. by Rev. Kendig. They set up house keeping on what is now North 20th Street, Mrs. Rossell has a new brick home on the same site now, Three children were born there, George W. born Feb. 14, 1882, Charles Jr. (Ted) born Aug. 31, 1883 and James D. Truax born Aug. 17, 1885. My grandmother

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who was living in the old farm house alone, (because seven of her children had died in about 12 years) wanted my father to build on to the farm house, he built three rooms on the west end. After they moved down there in 1886 six more children were born to them Alvin Wm., born Sept. 26, 1887, Lillian V. born Nov. 18, 1889, Bert Adair born March 4, 1892, Jess Logan born March 7, 1894, Walter Scott born June 15, 1897 and myself Louis Cecil Truax born June 25, 1902.

Grandmother Jane Adair Truax died 1898 at 77 years of age, buried at Three Springs Cemetery. My Great Grandfather, Grandfather, and almost all of my uncle's and aunts are buried there. My father and brother's and Uncle William's family buried at Paris Cemetery. Being the last one born of a family of nine am I very glad that my mother and father had nine children so I could be born in this beautiful world. Of all the children that was ever born in this world there could'nt of been any born to better parents then my father and mother. I suppose everyone thinks the same as I do about that. We owe a great deal of respect to our parents. My baby days were spent no doubt very good with all that family. A wonderful mother to take good care of me, so came the year 1905. About the first thing that I can remember in the home was the old Edison cylinder phonograph. Here is a list of some of the old records at that time, (Turkey in the Straw, Water Melon Smilin on De Vine, Bake Dat Chicken Pie, Clancys Wooden Wedding, Preacher and the Bear, Poor John, Red Wing, My Sweet Rainbow, Old New Hampshire Home, Nellie Gray, Old Mill Stream, A great Many of Stephen Foster's Songs. A Great many of Cal Stewart, Pumpkin center songs, a great many more that I have forgot. Some of the singers at that time, Henry Burr, Billy Murry, Billy Golden, Arthur Collins, Albert Campbell, and many more all very good singers. I think they were the best because they were the first I heard and those were my baby hood days.

Many things inside the home were the first thing that I want to say is about the good meals. The best meals that any one can have are prepared by a farmer's wife, and I for one can say that the meals that my mother prepared were the very best. She baked about seven large loaves of wonderful bread every other day. The way she cooked green beans was delicious, home fries was very good everything she cooked sure was pleasing to the taste. Home made jams and jellies, every bit of food was plain, we all liked it that way the best. Poor woman she had to do almost all the house work, washing clothes, canning fruit, making preserves, but this is typical of every house wife or farm mothers, work all day with no pay some times all night up with the sick. But I beleive that the mothers at that time really enjoyed their family more then they do now. My father helped mother a great deal in the kitchen after supper all of us sat around the open fire place in cold weather, and the evenings were enjoyable. Dad always sitting at the right side of the fire place reading the farm paper, The Rural New Yorker or The Farm Journal, and the older brother's talking about what happened that day or making plans for the morrow. Some one going down to the basement and bringing up not a half peck, but a half bushel of apples, eating apples, cracking nuts, popping corn, My' O My' what a wonderful home life we had, none could be better. Brother James playing on his violin and George playing his banjo, two very fine musician's. I wish that I would of had a tape recorder at that time and recorded those conversations and that music, I could really enjoy them now as none of the older brothers were married this same routine went on about the same every year. A great many things that went on outside the home. My father was a great fruit grower, about 42 different varieties of apples on about 20 acres of land. About 12 different varieties of peaches, many kinds of pears, grapes, berries of all kinds, with all the general farming, raising of corn and grain and a great many hogs and chickens. There was always a great amount of work to be done, as there was seven brothers older then me there were plenty of help to do the work. I stayed close to my father as a small boy watching the things that he did. How he grafted the fruit

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trees and spraying and trimming and picking of fruit, running errands, doing what my father told me to do. I learned a great many things from my father that stayed with me all my life. My brother George was the salesman, making about three trips a week during the summer months to Steubenville to sell fruit. He was a very good salesman always getting rid of the load of fruit. A spring wagon pulled by a team of large ponies. Then came the year 1909, being seven years of age it was time for me to go to school. Some time in August my mother and I rode to Steubenville with George on the wagon seat to buy school clothes for me. I remember the trip like it was yesterday, a very great trip for a seven year old boy, a great thrill, the first time away from home. Seeing the trains was something, great in my young life, how large the engines were and how they pulled all of those cars. I could not understand at that time, crossing the river at (Ferry Road) on the ferry at the present site of Fort Steuben Bridge. (25) cents for two horses and wagon, Uncle Dan Daily skipper of the ferry, over the river on into Steubenville. My mother took me to the photo studio and had my picture taken and then we went to La Belle Clothing Store and bought my clothes for school. I remember those little canisters that traveled by cable, the clerk put the money in them and the change came back. Oh how I wanted to take a hold of them, but it seemed that something kept me from doing it. About two or three o'clock my brother had his fruit sold and we started home. On the way home my brother and mother showed me the street that led up to where the new mill was being built, Main St., now at Cove Road the new tin mill was under construction at that time. The first time that I heard about Weirton, which was to be the name of the new town. That evening I had a great deal to tell my brother Walter who was nearest my age. I started to school in Sept., Edith Ramsey was the teacher. I remember how the year before I went one day with my brother Walter. It seemed strange to me no one talking out loud. I was trying to put a bolt in the seat that had fallen out, not knowing any better I talked out loud I guess the other children was getting more of a thrill out of it then I was. I remember saying "I bet you I will get you in there this time" my brother was trying to tell me to keep quiet. The names of the other children; George, Frank, Leslie Campbell, Eva and Florence Stetsen, John Owings, Frona and Winnie Williamson, maybe some that I forgot. That first year was the same as any child, primary class at that time. The new tin plate was starting to operate the last of Dec. that year, which was the beginning of a great progressive city to be built later. About this time sorrow struck our home, mother's father passed away Dec. 25, 1909. His last words to me were "(keep going to school)".

As I said before the tin mill started to operate the last of Dec. Ten mills at first and ten more before 1911. As it took nine men to a crew to operate one mill with 20 mills that would be 180 men. Three turns would make 540 men not counting the millwrights and all the maintaince men, shearmen and their helpers, openers and cold rollers, tanners picklers craneman, roll turners, barshear workers, all told could of been about 1000 men. Things sure were buzzing around there. Men came from Irondale, Charleroi, Aliquippi, East Liverpool, McKeesport, and many many other places. A great many came from Chester, W. Va. There was a tin plate mill there, some brought their crew with them. My father-in-law Emery Tingle was married about four years before to Elizabeth Green of East Liverpool, Ohio. My wife now who was about three years old at that time. They moved here and lived on Ave. B. Later they built a house on Ave. E. Emery's brothers Henry, Daniel, Joseph, Clair, Carrie, and Arthur and their father and mother and their two sisters moved to the new town about one year later. Emery Tingle among the first with the crew that he brought with him started operations, the first ones to roll tin plate. The Tingle brothers, pioneer workers of the Weirton Steel Co. Now as I am writing this 45 descendents and four or five generation's of Tingle's have worked or are working for the Weirton Steel Co. I could be corrected about this,

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but I believe this is the largest family who came as pioneer workers that ever worked for the Weirton Steel Co., known then as (Phillips Sheet and Tin Plate Co. Between 300 and 350 descendents of Granville and Anna Tingler living in or near Weirton. Was'nt that Tin Plate Mill a wonderful blessing to all of those people and all others who made their home here.

The fulfillment of a great vision by a very great man, Earnest T. Weir who with his brother David Weir, John Williams, Ed Mudge, walked over the land which was then farms in early 1909. They searched and looked over many sites many of them in the Pittsburgh area, even as far as Buffalo, New York. Finally decided on the Ferguson Group known then as Crawford's Crossing there was 105 acres in the first tract they bought. The history of any city is linked with certain outstanding men who take it upon themselves to lead in the developing of that city. Such a man was Cyrus Ferguson, he was born 1852 on what was then the Dave Campbell farm, known now as the Elias Simon Farm, two miles east of Weirton along Penna Avenue, within sight of the place he was destined to lead. He spent most of his life on various farms in Hancock Co., and in 1883 he opened a meat market in Wellsburg. In 1885 he moved to McDonald, Pa. to engage in the manufacture of bricks and to operate a meat market there. In 1891 he entered the oil business and from that time his interests steadily grew. In 1902 Mr. Ferguson sensing the commercial possibilities of the floodless valley where Weirton is situated bought up the entire valley extending from the river to Hollidays Cave. His purchase comprised ten different farms or about 1700 acres of land. He moved into the Crawford homestead which stood across Penna. Ave. from where the Bank of Weirton now stands. In 1912 he laid out his first allotment consisting of 160 lots and extending from Virginia Ave. southward to the Cove Road. Mr. Ferguson threw his energy into the building of the valley giving free factory sites to bring in Weirton's Industries. Donating lots for building of various school houses and churches in Weirton and taking a leading part in securing improvements in the community. We all owe him a great deal of honor, along that line, because if someone other than him would of had all of that land they no doubt would of held out for a great amount of money and would of made it hard for the people to build homes and for the newly formed company to purchase the land. Being in the oil business I remember seeing the oil derricks around his farm two on the hillside above the High School Stadium, two or three above where the city building is now, where the Atlantic service station is at. Many times I passed there as a boy and saw a great amount of oil well supplies there, no houses there at that time, only a pasture field. Speaking of oil wells we do not want to forget the great oil boom here between 1885 and 1915. A great many oil wells were drilled in the Weirton area. Some very good wells were drilled on the Charles Cable farm and on the George Forsha farm, also on the Elias Freshwater farm and Henry Sutton farm, Richard Hocker farm, Frank Morrow and George Owings farm. I imagine I can still hear all of those gas engines that they used to pump those wells with, the ones I heard all those years when I was a boy. My two Uncles were oil well drillers, Dallas and Frank Ralston. The Hudson brothers were very famous at that time because they had a great amount of oil well machinery and drilling equipment. I knew them all very well, William, David, Paul, and John Hudson. That is why the road is called Hudson Hill Road because it goes through the Dave Hudson farm at the foot of the hill. The farm house still stands above the road a short distance from Kings Creek. Henry Sutton and his sons also were drillers and had a great amount of drilling equipment. The oil fields provided a very great amount of work for the farmers. A great many used their teams of horses for hauling the machinery and equipment to and from the wells. A great many worked as rig builders and carpenters. How many can remember the Eureka Pipe Line Co., pump station at the

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intersection of Kings Creek and Turkey Foot Road, where Sun Valley is now. Louis Osterling, operator of the pump station, and Bernard Ross, who worked for the Pipe Line Co., I knew very well. I saw Richard Hooker a few times, he had a small machinery store beside George Lockhart store, across from where Weirton Lumber Co. now stands. George Lockhart operated the grocery store, the post office, also was in his store; I remember buying postage stamps there. Billey Roberts had a blacksmith shop at the corner of Cove Road besides Lockhart's store, we took our father's horses there to have new shoes put on them. The store and blacksmith shop was dismantled about 1924. I almost forgot the Penn. Railroad, it was built about 1870 to 1880. Mr. John Crissinger of New Cumberland told me how his father was one of the workers that built the piers for the first railroad bridge over the Ohio River at Steubenville. It has been rebuilt two times since then. A great many farmers sold cross ties to the railroad co. at that time. My father and his brothers cut and sold a great many, there is still evidence in the forest around the farm, old tie roads are still visible. The railroad from Steubenville to Pittsburgh was a very great asset to the Weirton area. Would there of been any factories or steel mills here? or those great coal mines around Colliers, Burgetts-town, McDonald, or any where between here and Pittsburgh? if it were not for the railroad? We should be very thankful for the railroads because of the progress and work it has provided. The Chester branch was built about 1898 or 1900. When Earnest T. Weir and David Weir, John Williams, and Ed Mudge looked over the valley that day in April 1909 they saw how valuable that site was because of the railroad and the river, great transportation facilities, freedom from difficulty as far as transportation was concerned.

Dear readers are'n't we glad that they decided to buy and build here. How much all of us owe to the Weir brothers and the others because of their decision in planning to build here at what is now Weirton. If they would of built their steel mill in the Pittsburgh area or some where else would'nt this of been a dead place; if someone else would not of built factories here.