

# **Brooke County, WV Historical Review**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

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**May 1974**

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Albert Miller

BROOKE COUNTY HISTORICAL REVIEW

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Editorial Staff:

Nancy Caldwell  
Howard Craig  
John G. Patterson

## Foreword

The Brooke County Historical Review provides a means of publishing and preserving material of interest and value to the amateur and professional historian.

Original research and writing, reprints of newspaper accounts, excerpts from diaries, letters and similar material will be used within this Review.

Members and non-members are invited to submit material for consideration.

The Brooke County Historical Society was chartered by the State of West Virginia on the Sixth day of March, Nineteen Hundred and Twenty-nine.

Among the stated purposes of the Society, is "commit to writing and make records of historic events, persons and points of interest . . . that we may gain a more complete history of the hardships and heroism, the trials and triumphs of those pioneer settlers who won for themselves, their descendants, and future generations, the broad and beautiful land.."

EARLY BROOKE COUNTY CEMETERIES  
Nancy Caldwell

The upcoming national bicentennial will probably see a revival of interest in the art of tracing tombstone inscriptions from older and more interesting stones.

Information from cemeteries has long been a primary resource for people tracing family histories via birthdates and family relationships.

The first public cemetery in Wellsburg was located on the northwest corner of 12th and Main Streets and was laid out about 1814. This cemetery was abandoned in 1876 at which time the graves were moved to the present Brooke County Cemetery located on Pleasant Avenue in Wellsburg.

Land for the Brooke County Cemetery was purchased from George Cox in 1857, incorporated and laid out in lots.

In this cemetery may be found the graves of Captain Oliver Brown, a Revolutionary War hero, and Patrick Gass, a member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

The Rev. Doctor Joseph Doddridge of early church and historical writing fame is also buried here. His monument reads: "Rev. Doctor Joseph Doddridge, the first minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Western Virginia and Ohio. Born in Bedford County, Pennsylvania, October 14, 1769, died in Wellsburgh, November 9, 1826."

Another very early cemetery is located on top of the hill immediately south of Wellsburg overlooking the Ohio River. Members of the Cox family are buried there. Dates and names are now virtually illegible but some of the stones are dated in the early 1800's.

The Marshall cemetery is located on Bethany Pike near the old Marshall home. James Marshall, active during the Whiskey Rebellion and other members of the Marshall family are buried there.

A cemetery was laid out on the Cross Creek road as early as 1804. Among pioneer Brooke County families buried there are the Sanders, Fowlers, Hindmans, Headingtons and Pfisters.

The Lower Buffalo Cemetery was established in 1795 close to the Beall's Ridge Road and the Pennsylvania State line.

Among pioneer families buried there are the Bealls, Buchanans, Boyds, Carters, Coxes, Grimes, Harveys, Liggetts, Marks, Marshalls, Moores, Mulhollands, McGuires, Parkinsons, Pattersons, Ralstons, Scotts, Stevensons, Waughs, Wells, Whites and Wilsons.

Another cemetery was laid out close to St. John's Episcopal Church on what is now known as Eldersville Road. This burial ground was established in the late 1790's.

Among families represented in this cemetery are the Wells, Meeks, Allisons, Atkinsons, Applegates, Baxters, Bilbys, Bilderbacks, Bosleys, Browns, Brownings, Campbells, Carters, Clarks, Craigs, Donovans, Elliotts, Elsons, Finleys, Fowlers, Freshwaters, Hanlin, Hardy, Hendricks, Hunters, Latimers, Magees, Mahans, Marshalls, McCoys, McCreadys, McGuires, Mechlings, Millers, Mortons, Morrows, Murchlands, Owings, Pattersons, Strains, Walkers, and Wheelers.

Tent Church Road is the location of a small cemetery established early in the 19th century. Here are to be found Archers, Coxes, Browns, Cralls, Crewells, Divitts, Freshwaters, Fergusons, Hindsmans, Hunters, Halls, Hays, Hanlins, Klenis, Murchlands, McCarrolls, McDonalds, Millers, Mores, Pughs, Pooles, Raylands, Strains and Williamsons.

The precise year of the opening of a cemetery on what is now Three Springs Drive in Weirton is not known but it was very early. Some of the families buried there are Ralstons, Breens, Bells, Ewings, Hammonds, Sanders, Bridges, Hudsons, Wilcoxes, Freshwaters, Swearingens, Cochrans, Logans, Welchs, Browns, Colwells, Mortons, Marks, Hirāmans, McGlumphys, Millers, Bealls, Hood's, Morrows, Truaxes, Orrs, Hendersons, Griffitts, Craigs, McMillens, Owings, Campbells, Carothers, Baxters, McKitricks, VanBalkers, Tarrs, Hookers, Bilderbacks, Trushels, Freshwaters, Claypools, Hunters and Purdys.

Another large and well kept cemetery although relatively new is Oak Grove, Located at the top of Allegheny Street, Follansbee.

There are numerous small private cemeteries located on farms throughout the county.

One of these smaller burial grounds viewed by hundreds of people each year is located between the eleventh and twelfth fairways on the Highland Springs golf course.

## EARLY BROOKE COUNTY INNS

Much of an area's social and political life centered around Inns or "Ordinaries" as they were commonly known.

Brooke County, between 1797 and 1823, seemed to have its share of such establishments with most of them also serving as the home of the Inn Keeper.

Between June and August of 1797, Robert Potts, William Thorpe, James Magruder, James Davidson, Jonathan Palmer, Isaac Ward, Nicholas Gassoway, Daniel Patterson and James McDill were granted licenses to operate "Ordinaries" in their homes by the Brooke County Court.

In 1807, Charles Prather was granted permission to keep an "Ordinary" at the Ferry House, and in 1809 James Marshall was given permission to keep an "Ordinary" in his home on Bethany Pike.

As far back as 1788, mention is made of a Tavern and Inn operated by Danforth Brown.

In 1813 a Tavern operated by a Mrs. Miller was located on the northeast corner of Sixth and Main Streets near the steamboat landing.

In 1820, the Court granted licenses of Jesse Street, Isaac Jones, Thomas Moore, Thomas Brandon, William Burt, S. Connell, Hannah Coulter, John Orr, John Tibbs, George Wood, Alex Irwin, Charles Scott, Josiah Gamble, Absolom Wells, James Baker, Benoni Swearingen, Susanna Laurence, William Miller, and Seth Clark.

In 1821, nine more men were granted permission to keep "Ordinaries" and in 1822, the Court granted licenses to eighteen more men and one woman, Mary Woods. In 1823, seven more men received their licenses.

There are no records available to indicate whether these were all in operation at the same time but obviously a resident of the county did not have to venture far to find one.



In 1862, Christian Myers was granted a license as a Keeper of a Coffee House, and in 1863, Joseph Letzicuts had his license revoked for reasons unknown.

A published schedule of rates for Ordinaries as approved by the County Court in 1799 has been found. The following charges were allowed: Breakfast and Supper, 20¢; Dinner, 25¢; Lodging, 05¢; Hay, per night, 17¢; Oats or Corn, per quart, 02¢; Whiskey,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint, 09¢; Rum,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint, 10¢; Brandy,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint, 30¢; Wines, ranging from \$1.20 to \$1.75; Cider, 09¢; Beer, 09¢.

Judging from the number of Inns and Ordinaries present in Brooke County, there must have been an extremely large "tourist crowd" moving through the area!

## Brooke County Newspapers: Past and Present

In an era with electronic journalism threatening the existence of traditional news media and even large metropolitan daily newspapers becoming fewer in number, it is fascinating to review the emergence of newspapers in a sparsely settled frontier region.

The first newspaper published in Brooke County was the "Charlestown Gazette," established in 1814 by Samuel Workman.

The next paper to appear on the scene was the "Wellsburg Gazette," reflecting the change of town name in 1816 from Charlestown to Wellsburg.

Little is known about the life span of these two early efforts.

The third paper to appear in Brooke County was the "True Republican and Wellsburgh Advertiser" which began publication in 1824.

This paper was published by Solomon Sala with offices located on Water Street ( now Main Street), opposite J.&D. Brown's store, (approximately what is now Sixth and Main Streets.)

Conditions of delivery, subscriptions and prices were spelled out in an early issue as follows:

"The True Republican and Wellsburgh Advertiser will be delivered to the subscriber in town on Saturday morning and forwarded to those in the county as opportunity offers; to those at distance it will be sent by mail at their expense.

Its price shall be Two Dollars per annum, payable half yearly in advance, or Two Dollars and Fifty Cents to every one that does not pay before the end of the year. A failure to notify a discontinuance will be considered as a new engagement, and no paper discontinued, unless at the option of the Editor, until arrearages are paid."

"Advertisements not exceeding a square will be inserted three times for One Dollar and continued till forbid; at twenty-five cents per square for every subsequent insertion; larger ones in proportion.

Letters, communications, etc. must be post paid, or they will not be attended to. Approved country produce will be taken in payment for subscriptions, if delivered in Wellsburgh at market price."

Inasmuch as these local papers were for many readers the only printed information available, surprising amounts of foreign news was carried. News stories were lifted with abandon from such eastern papers as "The Baltimore Chronicle," "The North American Review" and others. Events from Great Britain, Ireland, Spain, Greece as well as news from states such as Georgia, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Kentucky were reported for Brooke County readers.

Events that were considered newsworthy for the early nineteenth century reader are sometimes fascinating as are the methods of expression.

The October 29, 1825 issue of the True Republican and Wellsburgh Advertiser carried this item:

#### Admonition to Servants

"A late English print mentions that two servant maids had been dismissed by the wife of a British Admiral 'because they allowed two potatoes to boil to pieces, there being three in the same pot.' "

In the same October 29, 1825 issue, two marriages were announced. Mr. Richard M. Connel, widower, to Mrs. Shrimplin, widow, both of Brooke County, married by Rev. Mr. Cozod. Rev. Mr. Hedington married John M'Connel to Harriet Roberts, both of Brooke County.

Then immediately below these announcements appeared this poem:

Was I right or was I not?  
 Tell me men, and tell me true;  
 You I mean who've wives got,  
 Was I wrong to do so too.  
 No, I'm sure to die a widower,  
 Never was meant to be my foe,  
 Nature called and I obeyed,  
 Was I right or was I not?

Travel on the Ohio River by Brooke County residents is indicated by a death notice in the same issue of the True Republican and Wellsburgh Advertiser:

"Died at Natchez on the 31st of August of yellow fever after an illness of five days, Mr. James Croft, a respectable young man who had been in the employ for sometime as a trader, for W. & C. Tarr, merchants, aged twenty-nine years.

The employment of younger members of the labor force is indicated by the following advertisement:

"Wanted. A couple of boys from 14 to 16 years of age, to the stone ware business, who coming well recommended, will meet with an advantageous situation by making immediate application to the subscriber in Wellsburgh.

H. N. Bakewell"

A generous concern on the part of public authorities for lost private property is indicated by the following announcement:

## Stray Steer

"Pursuant to a warrant to us directed, we have this day viewed an estray steer shrewn to us by Richard Waugh of this county, and do find the same to be a pale red steer, with some white in his face and under his belly, and his ears torn by dogs; that we cannot ascertain the mark; and we suppose him to be three years old past; and do appraise the said steer to the sum of eight dollars.

Certified under our hands this 28th day of Setember, 1825.

Robert M'Cantere

John Kimberland

John Shrimplin

John Connell, Clerk of Brooke  
County Court, October 1, 1825

An evening's entertainment was not as easy to come by in the late 19th Century as it is in the late 20th Century. As a result Literary and Debating Societies were formed throughout Brooke County providing not only immediate neighborhood entertainment but also meeting and competing with Societies from the surrounding areas.

An editorial report from the Wellsburg Herald of 1888 outlines the program for the "Closing Exercises of the Pierce's Run Literary Society" as follows: (the place of meeting was School House No. 8)

"The school house known as the Palmer school house, in Buffalo district, on last Monday night, April 12th, was the scene of the closing of the second term of the Pierce's Run Literary Society. Although the weather was anything but favorable, and the roads even worse than that, yet in spite of all, at a very hour the crowd began to assemble, and long before the appointed time every seat and every corner was full, and even standing room was scarce and very uncomfortable. Yet if ever order was perfect, it was on this occasion. All the drawback that was visible at the time was the failure of the string band to put in an appearance; however, this was not the fault of the Society, and none felt the disappointment more than they did.

"The curtain was raised promptly at eight o'clock. First came the opening song, entitled "When the Mists Have Cleared Away," by Messrs. J.J. and J.W. Hunter, Misses Lizzie Green and Lizzie Smith. This deserves special mention, yet it was only a very fair sample of what was to come. Select reading was next and played no mean part in the regular performance. Mrs. Maggie Lucas delivered a declamation with a great deal of effect, as also did Miss Lizzie Hunter, who we think,

considering her tender years, should wear the laurels of the Society. Master John Adams, a member of this class, should not be overlooked, and like his namesake may be heard in higher halls. Miss Lizzie Smith and Mr. J. J. Hunter each sang a solo, which fairly held the audience in breathless silence. Dialogues were numerous and well acted, in fact everything was of a high order of excellence. We almost forgot to say that Miss Lena Gibson of Bethany delivered the salutatory and J. J. Hunter the valedictory. The Society feels proud of having two such talented members to fill such honorable positions.

"After a performance of three hours without intermission, the Society adjourned to meet next October. Each one seemed well pleased with the entertainment, and the Society left no stone unturned to make it what it was - a grand success. Mr. Ed. Smith, Miss Lizzie Green, John Ralston and Ira McAdoo played prominent parts and added mirth and happiness to the occasion. May the Goose Run Literary Society continue on in this profitable and pleasant pastime."

A subsequent report in the Herald hints rather broadly at some kind of competition and rivalry between the Pierce's Run Society and Wellsburg.

In the later newspaper report mention is made of "the Pierce's Run Literary Society, which has convened weekly for the past six months at School House No. 8 in Buffalo district." Further along is found this statement, "The temperance sentiment that "cropped out" in more than one place, was very gratifying to friends of the cause, and if that sentiment grows as the speakers grow to the voting age, a few of them transferred to our county seat might save it from another humiliation.

## HISTORY TOLD THROUGH OBITUARY

A reader of this publication recently discovered an obituary notice among some old papers that describes life on the frontier in Brooke County. The clipping was not identified as to the publication in which it appeared.

## Obituary

On the 18th of August, 1872, at her residence near Athens, in Harrison County, Ohio. Mrs. Sarah E. Estep, relict of John Estep. In the 85th year of her age.

The deceased was an old resident of Brooke County, and entitled to more than a passing notice. She was born in Baltimore, County, Maryland, in the year 1787, and came West with her father, William Smith, who was one of the old Maryland emigration of that day, and settled in the edge of Washington County, Pennsylvania, in the year 1795. Mr. Smith shortly afterwards moved with his family into Brooke County, and located on the ridge, where reside some of his descendants to this day. At that time, the whole county almost was an unbroken wilderness; only three families, Henry Hervey, Joseph Gist and James Thompson resided in the neighborhood. The Indians had hardly relinquished their claims upon their hunting grounds; and the deer, the turkey, the bear, panther and buffalo, were in full possession. Then was the day of the spinning wheel and hand loom, the predecessors of the Piano, and to their music, many a lusty settler closed his eyes, while the stars shone upon him through the chinks in the cabin roof.



In this art, the subject of our sketch is said to have been proficient.

In the year 1812, she married John Estep, of Washington County, Pennsylvania, and in 1825 removed to Ohio, where she resided until her death. She was the mother of a large family, of whom three sons and a daughter survive, and was sister to Dr. Edward and Andrew Smith of this county. In 1850 she became a member of the M.E. Church, and closed her eyes upon this world at a ripe old age, in the happy hope of a blessed immortality.

## RENTAL AGREEMENTS: 19th CENTURY STYLE

Most readers of this publication have at one time or another probably encountered a deed for transfer of property or been party to a rental agreement. Such incidents are usually accompanied by a great deal of wonderment about conditions, statements of rights, et cetera.

Reading of the rental agreement that follows may cause the reader to lose a reasonable amount of fascination for "the good old days."

"This agreement made this 10th day of December in the year 1887, between Elzy Cox, of the first part and Matthias Hensler, of the second part, Witnesseth: That the party of the first part does rent unto the party of the second part a certain tract of land situated in Brooke Co., West Virginia on the waters of Buffalo Creek, known as 'the bottom field next to Waugh's Mill', containing twelve acres, more or less, for the purpose of raising a crop of corn in the season of 1888, on the following conditions to wit: The party of the first part hereby reserves his potato patch in said field for his own use. The party of the Second part hereby agrees to prepare the ground and plant the corn in proper season, that is, at a time when all good farmers plant corn. He is to give the growing corn four good workings during the season at the proper time, the workings to be done in a farmer like manner. He is to cut, shock and tie the corn produced from said field at the proper time in farmer like manner. Said shock of cut up corn shall be composed of one hundred hills of corn to the shock. When the corn is ready for husking the party of the second part is to husk the corn in a good and merchantable manner, that is free of husks and silk. The party of the first part is to have direction as to what place in said field the husking shall be

commenced. The party of the second part is to bundle the fodder, make the shocks, two shocks in one and tie them. In dividing the corn the party of the second part is to take the corn produced from the first two (2) shocks and leave two shocks (2). Each party is to have the fodder from his own corn. This manner of dividing is to continue throughout the field until the entire crop is divided. It is hereby agreed that the party of the second part accepts said field for the purpose herein named with the fences as he find them, that is the party of the first part is not to be called upon to make repairs. The party of the first part agrees that in case any of his own live stock get into said field and it coming to his knowledge he will remove it immediately. The party of the second part agrees that if the live stock of the party of the first part be found in said field by the said party of the second part that he will inform the party of the first part of that fact or remove them without injury or abuse.

To the fullfilment of this agreement we bind ourselves in the penalty of Fifty dollars (\$50.00).

Witness our signatures and seals this 10th day of  
December 1887.

The party of the first agrees to  
find twine to bundle his own part  
of the fodder and tie his own  
shocks when the corn is husked.

Elzy Cox (Seal)

Matthias Hensler (Seal)

## BROOKE COUNTY AND THE CIVIL WAR

Although Brooke County was not the scene of any actual ground combat during the years of the Civil War, the entire upper Ohio Valley was caught up in the fears and tensions of a border state area.

Two incidents have been recorded that reflect the temper of the times in Brooke County. These are the procuring of arms for the local defense of Wellsburg in 1861 and cavalry raid by Confederate Colonel John Morgan in 1863.

At the outbreak of hostilities in early 1861 the Confederates had lost no time in seizing the National armories within their limits either under cover of law or by force. This process went on for many months, including the Harpers Ferry affair.

It is estimated by April of 1861, over \$40,000,000 worth of arms and military stores had been transferred from the control of the National government to that of the Confederacy.

When the call came for 75,000 men, guns were in great demand, not only to supply the rapidly forming regiments, but to supply the demands that came from all parts of the country, for arms and munitions for defense at home. The reserve was soon exhausted, guns were purchased and imported from foreign countries and the northern workshops were pushed to their utmost capacity. New and extensive armories were established, but still the demand was unsatisfied. The Union men in Brooke County felt that since the area was on the border, there was a necessity for arms to deter raiders that might ride across from the Virginia counties, or reach the area by river to plunder and destroy what they could not permanently hold.

Wheeling, the center of the separation movement was threatened

in this way and a determined raid there at any time might have done the Union cause terrible damage. If Wheeling were attacked in all probability Brooke County and Wellsburg might be threatened.

In the event of such a raid only local civilian defense forces would be available.

The matter was discussed by community leaders and it was resolved to try and obtain a supply of guns and trust to luck for effectiveness in their use. Wellsburg was selected as the distribution point rather than Wheeling believing that it could be done more quietly at that location.

( A delegation consisting of Messrs. Joseph Applegate, Adam Kuhn and David Fleming went to Washington, meeting Campbell Tarr on the way. President Lincoln received the delegation and referred them to Secretary of War, Simon Cameron. Mr. Cameron was favorably disposed to the request, but hesitated from lack of authority.

The Hon. E. M. Stanton from Steubenville, Ohio, was practicing law in Washington, met with the delegation and at once entered heartily into their plans. The next morning a consultation was held at Stanton's office. Stanton persuaded Secretary Cameron to authorize an order for arms. The sole basis for the order was based on patriotic emergency, not on law.

Stanton wrote out an order for two thousand stand of arms, Secretary Cameron signed it.

The guns were shipped and arrived safely on the 7th of May, 1861, on the steamer "Minerva" at their destination in Wellsburg.

The nearest Brooke County came to seeing actual conflict was the occasion of the Morgan Raid, which occurred in July 1863.

John Morgan, a noted Kentucky cavalry colonel, had been sent by the Confederates on a raid across the Ohio River into Indiana and Ohio, to take in if possible, Cincinnati on his route and whatever else the fortune of war might give him.

He started with 2,500 picked cavalry and caused considerable alarm at first, but was never able to strike any important places in the raided States. He was soon in trouble in trying to make his way back to the river for a crossing into friendly territory.

As he was forced further north he found himself trying to effect a crossing of the Ohio into the West Virginia hills through which he might make his way back into Confederate territory.

He was driven up into Belmont County, then into Harrison County and finally into Jefferson County, Ohio, where in back of Steubenville at Wintersville, he was finally cornered on the 20th of July, 1863.

By this time Morgan's feared raid had degenerated into a hunt with Morgan and his men being the hunted.

Worn out by the extended travel and almost constant skirmishing the remaining force of six hundred surrendered without significant resistance.

A resident of Wellsburg, Dr. G. W. Caldwell was caught up in the action in Jefferson County. The doctor was traveling along the public road on horse when the Morgan men appeared. One of the soldiers simply suggested that they swap horses and by this exchange the doctor was left to ride home on a very worn-out animal.

As Morgan and his force approached the Ohio River, all the fords along the river from Steubenville on down were guarded by soldiers under the command of Brig. General Shackelford.

The noise of the firing back of Steubenville in the final engagement was distinctly heard in the riverfront settlements of Brooke County.

In Wellsburg, the soldiers and militia were lined up in front of the wharf, expecting any moment to see Morgan and his men appear on the other side of the river.

At Steubenville, the excitement was at fever pitch and people from the surrounding country flocked to the city to learn how far away Morgan was.

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## 18th CENTURY MILITARY STRATEGY AND BROOKE COUNTY

Brooke County was in no small way a result of the French and Indian War which in today's terminology could be called "global strategy of the Great Powers."

Virginia, as one of the British Colonies, had obtained a sea to sea grant from the British crown.

The French, in their attempt to claim a sizable portion of the New World, claimed not only Canada but also the Louisiana territory with settlements at New Orleans and further up the Mississippi Valley at St. Louis. A quick glance at a map of North America will indicate the strategy undertaken by the French. An advance southward from the Great Lakes region along the watersheds of the Ohio River and the upper Mississippi, which could be effectively linked with settlements in the lower Mississippi Valley, would keep the British hemmed in along the eastern seaboard, certainly not beyond the eastern slope of the Allegheny Mountains.

The expedition commanded by Captain Celoron de Bienville in 1749 proceeded down the Allegheny River into the Ohio planting, lead plates along the way which were aimed to take possession "of the said river Ohio, and of all those which empty into it, and of all the lands on both sides as far as the sources of said rivers." The earlier explorations of La Salle had shown the way to linking up Canada with the mouth of the great Mississippi.

When these efforts by the French were impeding the movement of British colonists and land speculators conflict became inevitable.

During this conflict, the young George Washington made several expeditions into the area, and in his diary noted the Indian campfires opposite Mingo Bottom, the present site of Follansbee.

The Peace of Paris in 1763 removed the French claims to the western lands along the Ohio River and signaled the beginning of the larger movement of people into western Virginia.

The British by proclamation, endeavored to prohibit the western movement of settlers by forbidding patents for lands beyond the sources of the rivers which flowed into the Atlantic Ocean, outlawing private purchases of land from the Indians and placing trade with the Indians under royal control.

In spite of these British attempts to regulate the westward movement, pioneers of every description were filtering into the broad rich bottom lands of the Ohio River Valley and the numerous creeks which flowed into the river.

During the decade from 1770 to 1780, the first permanent settlements were made in what is now Brooke County. Following the valleys of Harmon Creek, Cross Creek and Buffalo Creek, these settlements were made in the vicinity of Hollidays Cove, Follansbee and Wellsburg.

"THE WELLSBURG FEMALE SEMINARY UNDER THE  
PATRONAGE OF THE PITTSBURGH ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH . . ."

The above caption is a facsimile of a circular letter issued about 1853 by Rev. Samuel H. Nesbitt, then Principal of the Wellsburg Female Seminary.

In the early 1850's, several public spirited gentlemen of the town and county, mostly of the Methodist connections, conceived the idea of establishing a Seminary.

Agents were put in the field, several thousand dollars raised by subscription, ground bought and one wing of a handsome and substantial building finished and equipped. This building stood on the lot adjoining the home of the late Captain Robert Oakes on Main Street.

Rev. Samuel H. Nesbitt, pastor in charge at Wellsburg was appointed Principal and from 1853 to 1856 seemed to be a growing success.

The course of study embraced the Primary Department, Seminary Department, and Operational Studies such as French, Latin, German and Greek.

A circular bearing the imprint of the Wellsburg Herald was distributed to advertise the establishment of the Seminary. Quoted below is a part of this circular:

"The Wellsburg Female Seminary, located in a healthy climate, easily accessible by the Ohio River and surrounded by an intelligent and moral people, possesses many advantages as an educational institution. It is now a Pittsburgh Conference School, and as such, seeks with confidence the patronage of Methodists living in the neighborhood of its location; and indeed all friendly to Methodism who would have the morals, as well as the intellect, of their daughters cared for.

"By appointment of the Conference, Rev. W.D. Lemon is now in the field as Agent for the School, soliciting the subscriptions and selling scholarships for the completion of the building."

After getting off to a rather good start, the Seminary ran into difficult times. The level of support from church sources dwindled and the outbreak of the War Between the States was the final blow to enrollment. The Seminary closed in 1862.

The building occupied by the Seminary was later used for a Public School and other purposes until abandoned and torn down.

## GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND OF BROOKE COUNTY

Planning for the national bicentennial celebrations in 1976 has brought to the forefront the processes of redefining the territory now known as Brooke County.

Until 1797, the area now known as Brooke County and Hancock County was a part of Ohio County.

When it was decided in 1797 to create a new county out of the northern portion of Ohio County for the purpose of establishing more effective local government for the territory, the name of Brooke was selected to honor Governor Robert Brooke who had served as chief executive of the Commonwealth of Virginia, 1794-1796.

A town had been laid out on the banks of the Ohio River in 1791 by Charles Prather and in his name bore the designation of "Charlestown."

The first court in the new county of Brooke was held on May 23, 1797 in the home of William Sharp, a structure built by Patrick Gass of Lewis & Clark Expedition fame. At that meeting, Charlestown was established as the county seat. Preliminary arrangements were also made to select a site for a Court House. The site selected was the one presently occupied by the Brooke County Court House and the original structure was completed in 1799.

In 1816 the legislature of the Commonwealth of Virginia acted to change the name of Charlestown to Wellsburg to honor Alexander Wells who had married Elizabeth Prather, the only daughter of Charles Prather who had originally laid out the town.

At the time of its creation, Brooke County had as its southern boundary Short Creek and embraced all of the territory in the Northern Panhandle north of that boundary.

As the population of the area increased over the years, considerable agitation developed to either move the county seat to a more central location or divide the area. The distance from the territory north of Harmon's Creek, particularly from the vicinity of present-day New Cumberland and New Manchester was considerable in the light of no roads to speak of.

By 1848, the dissatisfaction among residents in the upper portion of Brooke County had reached the point where action was required.

Accordingly, on January 15, 1848, Thomas Bambrick, representing Brooke County in the Virginia legislature concurred in an Act providing for "the distinct and new county of Hancock-the division line starting at the Ledge of Rocks at the River, known as Williams' Rocks, thence by a straight line to the toll-gate in Hollidays Cove, thence by a due east course to the Pennsylvania line."

Other appropriate and satisfactory provisions were embodied in the Act for fully consummating the arrangements and the division, so far as the "lower end" was concerned, was settled without objection or much discussion.

A somewhat heated and acrimonious controversy ensued, however, in Hancock County principally over the location of the county seat.

The dispute was primarily between New Cumberland and Fairview, now called New Manchester. Both towns wanted the county seat and at the time, they were about equal in population with New Cumberland being slightly larger.

An election was held in which voters selected New Cumberland by a margin of 13 votes. The county court, however, refused to move the records from New Manchester, and another election was ordered.



In the second election, New Cumberland received a majority of 46 votes, and the records for Hancock County were stored for the next four years in a frame schoolhouse in New Cumberland.

In another election held in 1853, New Manchester was selected by a margin of one vote and the county records were transferred to New Manchester.

Following this action, a David Pugh quickly donated a plot of land for a courthouse. The building was constructed and for the next 31 years the courthouse was in Fairview, New Manchester, and for a time bearing the name of Pughtown.

After the county seat was returned to New Cumberland, the building was occupied by the Tri-State Normal School and Business College until its closing in 1908. Its level of usage deteriorated after that and its latest use was as a storage building by a feed and supply company.

The historic Hancock County Court House has now been purchased by the Hancock County Court and turned over to the Hancock County Historical Society for restoration and maintenance.

The division of territory accomplished in 1848 has produced the result in modern days of having the City of Weirton straddling the Brooke-Hancock line. Certain of the Brooke County schools are even today accessible only by streets and roads that traverse Hancock County territory.

Hancock County was named in honor of John Hancock of revolutionary fame.

## THE WELLSBURG-BETHANY ELECTRIC RAILWAY

Transportation in the interior of the United States from the colonial period has gone through several movements all characterized by a rising crescendo frequently followed by virtual disappearance.

Toll roads and turnpikes were in vogue in the 18th and early 19th centuries only to disappear and then experience rebirth in the mid-20th century.

Canals into the western lands and throughout the then mid-west were popular in the first half of the 19th century only to give way to the iron horses of the railroads powered by steam.

Horse drawn street cars of the late 19th century, popular in virtually all cities of any size, gave way rapidly to another transportation phenomenon of the 20th century, the electric railway.

With the electric railway promising a capability for both freight and passenger traffic lines were planned not only for city purposes but also to connect cities some distance apart.

In 1903, the first steps to link Wellsburg and Brooke County with Washington, Pennsylvania, to the east were undertaken with the incorporation of the Wellsburg, Bethany and Washington Railway Company.

This was a natural linkage because all of the early movement of settlers into the Brooke County area had been from the vicinity of Washington and a turnpike to link Wellsburg with Washington had been completed in the early 19th century. Drovers Inn situated along the Washington Turnpike at Fowlerstown in the mid-19th century accommodated drovers bringing their livestock to the Ohio River at Wellsburg from western Pennsylvania.

President T. E. Cramblet of Bethany College who was quite a community builder in addition to serving as a college president was deeply interested in the project. He saw it as a means to transport both people and freight into and out of Bethany and also the medium to increase the availability of electric power for the community.

Bethany College purchased \$10,000 of the corporation bonds. Samuel George of Wellsburg was active in the project as were Millard Boyd, Frank Chapman and Robert Scott. Chapman drew up the documents for incorporation and Boyd surveyed the right of way.

Construction costs for the line from Wellsburg to Bethany were \$200,000.

The first car made its run on baccalaureate Sunday in 1908 and arrived in Bethany just as the services at the Bethany Church were concluded. The entire assemblage of faculty, trustees, students, parents and friends emerged from the church to give the new mode of transportation a thorough inspection.

For many years, the trolley ran every hour from six o'clock in the morning until eleven o'clock at night. The Wellsburg terminus for the trolley was at the Pennsylvania Railroad station at Eighth and Yankee Streets with the Bethany terminus being the far end of Main Street.

Probably the greatest collection of local notables ever riding the car at one time occurred in 1912 when the Honorable Champ Clark, a graduate of Bethany College in the Class of 1873 returned to speak at a college function.

At the time Clark was the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and a leading contender for the Democrat party's presidential nomination.

The Bethany trolley was crowded with a collection of Brooke County dignitaries including Charles D. Kyle, former sheriff of Brooke County; Helen Hammond Williamson, Doctor T. Weirich, Charles H. Beall, J.M. Walker, J.S. Liggett, T.H. Buchanan, John R. Elson, A.F. Wilkin, Frank A. Chapman, C. E. Githens, W.P. Campbell, George C. Curtis and John L. Lewis.

As a passing note, Clark went on from his Bethany visit to the national convention of the Democrat party where he led all contenders with a majority of the delegate votes on early ballots. The three-fourths rule then in effect finally did him in and a relatively unknown governor from New Jersey named Woodrow Wilson was nominated and won the presidency.

The advent of the automobile, the truck and the bus brought competition to the "Toonerville Trolley" and service was finally discontinued in 1926.

The plan of a Washington to Wellsburg electric railway never was completed.

## EARLY CHURCHES IN BROOKE COUNTY

The development of church congregations within the Brooke County area is somewhat hazy. It is known that as early as 1781 religious services of an organized sort were being held in various places throughout the county both in outdoor gatherings and in the homes of settlers.

Possibly the oldest existing church group in Brooke County is the Kadesh Chapel Church located on Apple Pie Ridge road between West Liberty and Hammond Community.

Kadesh Chapel was organized under what was known as the Ohio circuit, formed in 1787 and embracing Ohio county, Virginia and Washington county, Pennsylvania, and scattered settlements on both sides of the Ohio River. This was a Methodist circuit. It is on record that Judge Thomas Scott of Chillicothe, Ohio, preached at the Chapel in 1791.

Another early congregational effort was the Castleman's Campground, a short distance east of Bethany. This, too, was associated with the early Methodists and was started in the early 1800's.

The Presbyterians were also active in the early years of Brooke County. Rev. David Hervey organized the first Presbyterian Church in Wellsburg starting his preaching in the Court House and other places as early as 1835. By 1838, he had gathered together sufficient followers to build a church.

Meanwhile, the Methodists had erected a building in Wellsburg about 1815. A considerable congregation of Methodists had also gathered in the area known as Franklin Community and for many years worshipped in a building erected at private expense on the farm of C.H. Gist.

Among the earliest evidence of activity by the Baptists in Brooke County was "The Regular Baptist Church" erected in Wellsburg on land deeded to the congregation in 1816. Among those raising money to build the church was Alexander Campbell who was to later lead the congregation into a newer movement called the Disciples of Christ.

One of the oldest churches in the county is St. John's Episcopal Church located on Eldersville Road about nine miles from Follansbee.

This congregation was organized by Dr. Joseph Doddridge about 1793 and Doddridge continued to preach there for thirty years. The present building housing the congregation dates from about 1849.

The Wellsburg Episcopal Church dates from about 1848 when a small brick building was donated by Danforth Brown.

The development of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) into America's largest indigenous religious body from humble beginnings in Brooke County is a story much too large for these limited pages.

Suffice it to say that from a meeting on the headwaters of Buffalo Creek in 1809 came a movement which spread across the developing United States and today numbers several millions among its adherents.

Alexander Campbell, a young Presbyterian minister son of Thomas Campbell, a Presbyterian minister, took up residence on a farm near what is now the Town of Bethany. From this point he traveled extensively, wrote voluminously, preached all over Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, joined forces with the movement led by Barton W. Stone in Kentucky and gave church history of Brooke County its greatest luminary.

## THE WELLSBURG FERRY

Few residents of Brooke County during the first century and a half of its history did not have the pleasure or the necessity at one time or another to cross the Ohio River via the Wellsburg Ferry.

The Wellsburg Ferry was over 170 years old, or had been in existence for that period of time when it ceased operations in the early 1960's.

Charles Prather, the man who laid out the Town of Wellsburg or Charlestown, obtained a perpetual and exclusive charter for the ferry from the Commonwealth of Virginia in the year 1791. The charter included river front land of approximately one-half mile in both directions from the proposed Virginia ferry site.

Shortly after Prather's action, a Judge Ross of Pittsburgh received a patent from John Adams, second President of the United States, for a similar grant of land on the Ohio side of the river opposite Wellsburg.

The land acquired by Ross was subsequently the Town of Lagrange which was later named Brilliant.

For many years the only means of conveyance was a flat bottomed boat propelled by oarsmen. Many westward moving settlers used this ferry at Wellsburg to move on to the Ohio lands.

Subsequently a two-way traffic developed on the ferry as the produce from Ohio consisting of livestock and grain moved eastward on the ferry to market.

Eventually the oared flat boat gave way to a horse propelled ferry.

This boat gave way in turn to a small steam propelled boat. Until the P.W. & K. Railroad was extended across the Ohio River in 1878 the Wellsburg Ferry continued to serve as one of the principal routes of stages and other travel between the east and the west. An early "travel

advertisement" circulated through the New England area advertised Wellsburg as the shortest route to the Ohio River stating, "that from Washington to Wheeling the distance is thirty-four miles, and as evidence that the road from Washington to Wellsburgh is the nearest and best road to the river, it is generally used by the Road Waggoners." The distance from Washington to Wellsburg was only twenty-four miles.

This advertisement was circulated as early as 1818.

In its final years, the Wellsburg Ferry consisted of a diesel powered boat which handled the automobiles of people working on either side of the Ohio who had to travel from their homes to their places of work.

In the late 20th Century there is still considerable agitation on the part of Brooke County citizens to obtain a bridge to provide the convenience of travel once enjoyed by means of the Wellsburg Ferry.



### HOW TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR WIFE IN YOUR WILL

Early citizens of Brooke County were not unmindful of the duty of seeing that their widows were left in the best possible economic state possible.

Among the wills on record at the Brooke County Courthouse is to be found the following, executed August 3, 1833:

"In the name of God Amen. I, George Jones of Brooke County and State of Virginia, considering the uncertainty of this mortal life and being of sound mind and blessed be almighty God for the same, I do make and publish this my last will and testament in manner and form following that is to say first, I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Elebeth Jones one bad and suffint of bed close and bed lids hir chois and one pot, one oven, one teacetel, one set of Nives and Forks, two chares and hir room and privildg of both fire plases to be fond, wood and cole, one cow, hir chois, and one horse, hir choise, and paster and hay fer hir creters, also twenty-five dollars a yeare in cash to bee paid one-half every six months if she doth demand it and ware as I have giving to Philip and Samuel and Jemeria and Daniel and Margaret thare part till dath I have given to ENory one burrow, one sedel and bridle, one set of cheirs, my request is To give to bety and Saly and Margaret to Bety one seddel and bridle and burrow and To Saly one seddel and bridle and burrow and peGgy one burrow as the have had in my lifetime to make theme with the rest nameed. I want to be giving to Gasst one horse and seddel, one Cow, and to Abraham one horse and seddel and Cow, and to Washington

election held on July 14, 1906, the following were elected officers and members of council: Mayor, Thomas J. Mahan; Recorder, Brown Latimer; Council, A.S. Craig, George S. Hahne, Thomas Rogers, Harry Herbert and J.W. Nott. The new council elected Attorney R.L. Ramsey to the dual positions of City Sergeant and City Solicitor.

In January 3, 1907, the people reaffirmed their faith and showed their appreciation by re-electing the entire ticket.

SPECIAL NOTE TO READERS

The Brooke County Historical Review will be pleased to consider for publication any and all material relative to the history of Brooke County.

This is not a professional journal. It is intended for the edification and enjoyment of the reader. If it serves a higher purpose - so much as a bonus.

# **Brooke County, WV Historical Review**

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*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

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## Foreword

The Brooke County Historical Review provides a means of publishing and preserving material of interest and value to the amateur and professional historian.

Original research and writing, reprints of newspaper accounts, excerpts from diaries, letters and similar material will be used within this Review.

Members and non-members are invited to submit material for consideration.

The Brooke County Historical Society was chartered by the State of West Virginia on the Sixth day of March, Nineteen Hundred and Twenty-nine.

Among the stated purposes of the Society is, "commit to writing and make records of historic events, persons and points of interest . . . that we may gain a more complete history of the hardships and heroism, the trials and triumphs of those pioneer settlers who won for themselves, their descendants, and future generations, the broad and beautiful land. . ."

Excerpts from "THE SEVERAL WORLDS OF ALEXANDER  
CAMPBELL" by Louis Cochran

Alexander Campbell, founder of Bethany College and a principal force in the development of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the related Churches of Christ was undoubtedly the most widely known resident of Brooke County. During his lifetime 1788-1866 he developed a following throughout the United States and many parts of the world embracing Europe, Africa, Australia and Asia. In more modern times his teachings and preachings have been extended into South America.

On the occasion of a special convocation at Bethany College in 1965 the renowned novelist Louis Cochran of Santa Monica, California, presented a paper entitled "The Several Worlds of Alexander Campbell" to illustrate that this widely known resident of Brooke County was a many-splendored man, a leader in several worlds.

The following direct quotes from Louis Cochran's presentation illustrate this thesis.

"One of the fascinating and surprising facets of the Private World of Alexander Campbell is that, in reality, Campbell was actually not the cold, aloof intellectual he is generally pictured, but a romanticist, ruled by his heart as much as by his head in matters affecting his personal affairs."

"This generally unknown fact is first detected in the fragments that have come down to us of his days as a young man in Scotland. It was after the historic wreck of the good ship "Hibernia" in 1808, on which the Campbell family had undertaken to sail from Londonderry, Ireland, to America to join Father Thomas Campbell, who had emigrated two years before, that Alexander - then aged twenty - spent a happy and productive year at the University of Glasgow, and also taught for several

weeks at Helensburgh in Dumbartonshire, Scotland, before again setting sail for America. Dr. Robert Richardson tells us in his "Memoirs of Alexander Campbell" that this period' . . . seems to have thrown over his life a charm which he felt quite reluctant to dissolve.' Certainly, we know that the charms of his feminine associates in this idyllic ' setting inspired him to outbursts of romantic poesy which few in after years would have attributed to the grave and dignified founder of Bethany College. Sang young Alexander:

There's the elm and beach in shady rows,  
With other shrubs, entwine their pliant boughs,  
And form the cool retreat, the sweet alcove,  
The seats of pleasure, and the haunts of love!

There is more of this, much more, but this brief quotation is sufficient to refute the pious canard that Alexander Campbell thought even in his youth only of the salvation of souls; and of other meats upon which heroes feed."

"On October 23, 1809, Alexander and his family were finally united with Father Thomas in America, settling in a two storied log house in Washington, Pennsylvania . And there. . he still found time to give voice to his romantic inclinations. He paid court in person, and in rapturous prose and poetry, some of which has come down to us, to a childhood playmate, Hannah Acheson, who had also emigrated to America from Ireland, and was living with her family near the Campbell home."

"Alexander Campbell was a prolific letter writer . . . they also reveal what is known to be a fact, that wherever Alexander Campbell traveled, he was the center of feminine admiration as well as of the highest esteem of his masculine compeers. There was, for instance, the little-known case of Mrs. Eliza Davis, a young widow who heard Campbell

preach in her native city of Paisley, Scotland, on his visit back to the land of his youth in 1847. On this trip he became involved in a libel suit and, refusing bail, was incarcerated for ten days in a Glasgow jail before the charge against him was thrown out of Court as without cause or merit. Whether this dramatic incident heightened the young widow's interest is now known, but it is known that she was prominent among his visitors while in the local Bastille, and later followed him to America, and presented herself at his home where she remained for two years, treated as a member of the Campbell household, before Alexander found a position for her as a teacher in Kentucky Female Orphan School at Midway, Kentucky."

"He was devoted to his gentle Margaret (his first wife) as to no other woman of his life; ...On her deathbed, Margaret, realizing her condition, and deeply concerned for her young husband and children, asked Alexander to marry her close friend and almost constant companion, Selina Blakewell, then a spinster of twenty-six. That Selina would be willing to assume the relationship, Margaret apparently had little doubt, and in securing Alexander's promise she insured not only a good mother for her young children but a capable helpmate for her husband; who, in accord with her wishes, quietly married his wife's choice less than a year later."

". . .a letter written by Alexander to Selina years later which reveals the stark honesty of the man respecting this relationship . . . In this letter he said:

My dear Selina:

This day twenty-eight years ago I gave my hand, and my heart accompanied it, to your excellent predecessor in the holy bonds of matrimony. Heaven lent me that precious gift more than sixteen years, of the value of which I never did form an over-



estimate. But more than ten years ago He appointed you to fill her place in my affections, and to be her successor. I have, my dear Selina, found you worthy of all the affection and esteem which were due to her who desired to bless both you and me by nominating you to be her successor. I have never thought I saw one more deserving of my affection and esteem than yourself."

(Editorial note: Throughout his second marriage Alexander Campbell continued to celebrate each year the anniversary of his marriage to his first wife, Margaret Brown. The first child of Selina and Alexander was named "Margaret Brown Campbell.")

". . . other letters . . . reveal a droll side of his nature, little suspected by those who knew him only as a religious reformer . . ."

"There is, for instance, the rather precious one written at Richmond, Virginia, during his services as a delegate from Brooke County to the Virginia State Constitutional Convention in December, 1829:

I am still in Richmond and when I shall leave I cannot tell. The people like me, and I like them, but I love those at home even better. I believe, however, I could get a wife here pretty handy, for the ladies in the city have a very high opinion of me. But I must have your consent first, as well as my own. What do you think? I am still, however, unwilling to give you up, unless I could provide well for you, and I fear you would not consent.

After all this drollery I must tell you, my dear, 'England with all thy faults, I love thee still.' Yes, my dear Selina, I can find none to supplant you; you are my one woman of all the sex."

"Against this background we come to a better understanding of and appreciation for the public life of this many-splendored man which embraced many labors and rich rewards, and some bitter disappointments as well. He sat in the renowned Constitutional Convention of Virginia at Richmond in 1829, and held his own with some of the best minds of the Republic, demonstrating again that, had he been so inclined, he could have become one of the great political statesmen of the age. . . Evidence of his prophetic leadership is seen in some of the measures for which he fought. He advocated free public schools; the direct election of judges; the enlargement of suffrage rights; the gradual, compensated emancipation of the slaves, a measure which, if adopted, might have prevented the fratricidal Civil War. . . . We are indebted to Hugh Blair Grigsby, a young delegate from Norfolk, for a discerning portrait of Alexander Campbell as he appeared there among his great contemporaries. . . he gave an address before the Virginia Historical Society in which he paid his respects to Campbell, in part as follows:

In Virginia there has been a strong dislike of theologians, and it was feared that by the presence of a popular divine in the Convention, the element of religion might be mixed up in topics sufficiently exciting in themselves. But the course of Alexander Campbell dispelled all fears. There was no danger to religious freedom from him. He needed it more than anybody else! For with the doctrines of his church (the Baptist church), and with the Constitution of Virginia he was equally at war . . .

In his personal appearance, in his dress and manner, in his style of speaking, he was a man of the world; and it would

not have been suspected that he was other than a layman, if, in his speeches he had not drawn his illustrations from the Jewish system, and sought to strike out the Constitution of the State of Virginia with the view of inserting the Book of Deuteronomy in its stead . . . He had a great fund of humor. He was a fine scholar and with the younger members of the body, who relished his amusing thrusts, his pleasant address and social feelings rendered him very acceptable. As a Controvertist he had some great qualities. He was bold, subtle, indefatigable; and as insensitive to attack as if he were sheathed in the hide of a rhinoceros!"

"Alexander Campbell would also have excelled in the World of Business, his financial acumen being amply demonstrated by the fact that when he died in 1866 his personal fortune was then valued at between \$175,000 and \$200,000. He had the foresight, and the faith, in the expanding economy of his adopted country, to consistently increase his holdings, buying property not only around Bethany, Virginia, but in Pennsylvania and Illinois and Ohio. He discovered that the raising of Merino sheep was a profitable business, and became one of the leading wool growers in the nation. He went so far as to preside over several national fatherings of wool growers . . . it did provide him with a strange friendship. John Brown of Ohio, later of Osawatomie, Kansas, who was to achieve a dubious fame through the notorious Kansas Massacre in 1855, and as the leader of the abortive Abolitionist raid against Harper's Ferry in 1859, was one of his commission wool merchants, or agents . . ."

". . .In 1824 he entered the World of Publishing by establishing his own printing shop at Bethany, issuing on July 4th the first copy of his famous journal, "The Christian Baptist," a sometimes caustic but always instructive and lively journal of religious opinion, open to readers of every faith, and of none, but filled mainly with the writings of Alexander Campbell. This was merged in 1830 with the more tolerant "Millennial Harbinger," and he continued as its editor, publisher, and chief contributor for another thirty-six years. In addition to these journals, he produced a flood of books, sixty-nine in all, and Bethany became in due course the publication center, as well as the fountain-head, of the "Restoration Movement," and also remained until his death."

"Even in his own day Campbell's brilliant championship of his peculiar idea" of Christian unity, and his prophetic insight into the true nature of that unity, drew to him the great, and the near-great; . . . He preached by special invitation before a crowded assembly from both Houses of Congress in the U.S. Hall of Representatives at Washington, and before the assembled Legislatures of Indiana and Missouri . . ."

"Jeremiah Sullivan Black of Pennsylvania, United States Attorney-General, and later Secretary of State, was baptized by him in Buffalo Creek; James A. Garfield, President of the United States was his friend and fellow Disciple . . . He was so admired by Jefferson Davis that Davis caused his two young nephews, William Stamps, Jr., and Isaac Davis Stamps, of Mississippi, to enroll as students at Bethany College . . . Thomas Lincoln, the father of Abraham Lincoln, accepted Campbell's interpretation of the Scriptures and was for many years an Elder of the little Christian Church at Charleston, Illinois . . ."

"In 1840, at the age of fifty-two . . . this extraordinary man . . . founded Bethany College on acreage set aside by him for that purpose on his own farm . . . gifted students came to him from all parts of the country, from Mexico, England, Australia, to sit at his feet during his six o'clock morning lectures on Biblical History and Literature . . ."

"As George D. Prentice . . . wrote of him in the "Louisville Journal" in 1858 . . .

Alexander Campbell claims by virtue of his intrinsic qualities, as manifest in his achievements, a place among the very foremost spirits of the age. Surely the life of a man thus excellent and gifted is a part of the common treasure of society. In his essential character, he belongs to no sect, or party, but to the world."

"Ten years later on December 10, 1868, after Campbell's death . . . General Robert E. Lee, then President of Washington College, Lexington, Virginia, in a letter to his friend, Samuel M. Duncan of Nicholasville, Kentucky, thanking him for a copy of Campbell's "Address on Colleges," aptly characterized him for the ages:

As Dr. Symonds said of the great Milton, "so I may say of the late President of Bethany College, that "He was a man in whom were illustriously combined all the qualities that could adorn or elevate the nature to which he belonged . . . a man who, if he had been delegated as the representative of his species to one of the superior worlds, would have suggested a grand idea of the human race." Such a man was President Campbell!"

## EARLY FAIRS IN BROOKE COUNTY

County fairs were popular in 19th century Brooke County as extraordinary social events as well as stimulating situations for agricultural and industrial production.

The Farmers and Mechanics Industrial Society of Brooke County was organized the summer of 1854 and the first fair of record was held on a tract of land near Briggs' Lane, now 15th Street in Wellsburg.

By 1858 this Society had dwindled in importance and passed out of existence.

In 1876 the Panhandle Agriculture Association of West Virginia was organized and held its first exhibit in September of that year. It, too, lasted only a few years.

The Brooke County Agricultural Society of West Virginia came into being in 1882 and began to sponsor exhibitions in the fall of the year. By this time a tract of land located between 13th and 15th streets on the west side of Main Street in Wellsburg was known as the Fair Grounds.

The officers of the Society were: T.H. Buchanan, president; J.W. Cooper, vice president; David Brown, treasurer; W.C. Barclay, secretary; and George W. McCleary, assistant secretary. Directors were: W.C. Barclay, John A. Boles, John Brown, David Brown, J.L. Curtis, T.H. Buchanan, Samuel George, S.C. Gist, William Hammond, Jesse Hukill, Peter Pugh, O.W. Waddle, O.L. Worthington, J.M. Walker, and J.R. Windsor.

The Executive Committee for the Fair held in 1883 on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, September 18, 19, and 20 was composed of John Brown, J.R. Windsor, Samuel George, William Hammond, and Jesse Hukill. Chief Marshall was John Brown, and Assistant Marshalls were J.W. Cooper and John Ralston.

Committee on Gates, Hucksters and Shows included J.R. Windsor, Joseph Magee, Joseph Thompson and C.A.C. Smith.

The earlier Panhandle Agricultural Association had developed the grounds and buildings. The grounds consisted of about twenty-two acres of fine river bottom, including a half-mile track for racing, judged to be unsurpassed by any race track in the country.

Admission to the grounds for adults each day was 35 cents; children from 8 years of age to 12, 20cents and children under 8 paid no fee. For each horse a fee of 25 cents was charged.

## COLONEL BEALL, WOOL PRODUCER

Colonel Cornelius H. Beall was one of the most prominent citizens of Bethany, a trustee of Bethany College, and one of the foremost sheep breeders of the United States. His home, restored and remodeled stands today on Beall's Ridge.

He was born October 31, 1828, near Independence, Washington County, Pennsylvania, the son of Bazel and Louisiana Beall. He was a student at Bethany College and after completing his collegiate work, turned his attention to the sheep industry. His father was one of the largest wool growers in Pennsylvania and the fledgling United States.

At the National Wool Growers Association convention, which met in Washington, D.C. in December of 1889, he was chosen treasurer of that organization. At one time he had the honor of filling the office of President of the United States Marino Sheep Breeders Association and at its meeting in Steubenville, Ohio, in January, 1890, he was elected first vice president.

Col. Beall's first noted purchase of blooded sheep was made in Vermont in 1852 of Edwin Hammond. These sheep were imported to the United States from Spain. At the Centennial Exposition of 1876 his display of wool took the gold medal and also the first place at the subsequent New Orleans exposition.

During his lifetime Col. Beall accumulated great wealth in his business and at his death left between 2,000 and 3,000 fine sheep in addition to some 2,500 acres of farming land.



In 1850, Col. Beall married Virginia Burley, daughter of the Honorable James and Margaret Burley. She was born in May, 1830 about 12 miles east of Wheeling.

Col. Beall passed away February 23, 1890, leaving his wife and seven children. His children were James, Mary, Clara, Charlie, Louisiana, Ella and Virginia. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and was identified with the Republican party politically.

## RIVER WAREHOUSES OR "CHECK HOUSES"

The Ohio River was the economic lifeline from the days of the earliest settlements in Brooke County. As agriculture and subsequently industry developed, the Ohio River was the only means of transporting any substantial quantity to markets.

Grain, flour, live stock, timber, whiskey, pottery, wool and other products were brought to a point along the river where they could be loaded onto rafts and later steam boats. Most frequently the level of the river determined when raft and boat traffic could move. Storage facilities of some sort were required.

The first such warehouse, also known as "Check House" located in Wellsburg was south of the mouth of Buffalo Creek. It was operated by Alexander Wells. Records indicate that as early as 1788, flat boats left this point with their cargos of flour, whiskey and wool for New Orleans.

About 1795 John Henderson built a warehouse on the river bank just above the present 6th and Main Streets in Wellsburg. This building is the southern half of the building recently occupied by the Wellsburg Daily Herald.

During this same period the Tarr family built a stone warehouse on Fleet Street, now 12th Street, located near the present Wellsburg water works. Another warehouse was located just below 10th and Main Streets.

These warehouses were located on the river bank where the water was of sufficient depth to furnish good landing facilities. The earliest construction was of hugh logs and timbers but subsequent foundations were of massive stone construction. Structures as large as 60x100 feet were

built, with enough height to permit loaded wagons to be driven in on the main floor with ease.

Some were built with a large overhang to support a rope and pulley arrangement for loading and unloading the boats.

Others were built with a track running down the river bank from the main floor of the warehouse to water level. A car or platform was operated on this track by a cable permitting loads to be drawn up into the warehouse from the boat or lowered from the warehouse to the boat. The cable winch or drum was frequently operated by a horse traveling in a circle about a center post.

When outgoing cargo was being lowered down the track it was checked down the incline by the aid of a brake, and then transferred to the deck of the vessel. From this practice derived the name "Check House."

Many such warehouses included accommodations for the warehouse master and his family. Frequently they lived nearby and maintained an inn for public accommodations.

The Virginia side of the Ohio River from New Cumberland to Short Creek, all of which was Brooke County at the time, was dotted with such warehouses or Check Houses.

The products of the Peter Tarr iron furnace on King's Creek, the first iron furnace in this part of the trans-Allegheny country passed through the Check House located just south of the New Cumberland wharf.

A very large warehouse was located near the present site of the Fort Steuben bridge between present day Weirton and Steubenville. This was reputed to be the largest on the Ohio River as it served the rich Harmon's Creek Valley and its tributaries, along which were located flour and woolen mills, distilleries, tanneries as well as rich farming lands.

The present wharf of the Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel coke plant at the north end of Follansbee was the site of what was known as Seth Clark's Warehouse.

The last such warehouse to be used for its original purpose was Devinneys located just south of the Wabash Railroad bridge near the mouth of Cross Creek. It was destroyed in the flood of 1884.

An additional warehouse in Wellsburg was located near present Fifth and Main streets. The foundation was subsequently used to build the Warden Heating and Supply Company. The building was torn down in 1966, but the foundation is still standing.

The present site of Beech Bottom had Miller's Warehouse and at the mouth of Short Creek was Wilson's Warehouse.

The significance of these warehouses or Check Houses is indicated by the figures of cargo shipped. In 1820 the exports of flour and whiskey from Wellsburg exceeded those from Wheeling, and ranged well up to those from Pittsburgh.

## THE "C.W. BATCHELOR" PACKET BOAT

A few months prior to his death in 1968, H.A. Simmons, a retired Steubenville, Ohio, businessman who was born and reared in the steamboat era related to James L. Carty and John G. Patterson of Bethany College the story of the C.W. Batchelor and its colorful crew. At the time of the telling, Mr. Simmons was 95 years of age.

The local packet boat carried passengers and freight on a daily basis from one city to another such as Steubenville to Wheeling, Wheeling to Pittsburgh and the like. Frequently they linked towns to railroads that had not yet extended their network of tracks to any great extent. The potteries of the East Liverpool and Chester areas, for example, were linked to the railroad at Steubenville.

Mr. Simmons knew the steamboat business by active participation. In the early 1890's shortly after graduation from Washington and Jefferson College, he and two partners organized a transportation company and chartered the M.P. Wells for the purpose of linking East Liverpool to Steubenville. Steubenville had been linked to the Cleveland area by railroad. Pottery was brought by boat from East Liverpool to Steubenville by boat, unloaded on to the wharfboat, then transferred to railroad cars for shipment further.

A much larger packet boat in which Mr. Simmons had an interest was the C.W. Batchelor owned by the O'Neal Company of Steubenville. On a daily schedule it departed Steubenville in the morning for Wheeling, laid over for a few hours and departed Wheeling for Steubenville in late afternoon.

The crew of the Batchelor, according to Mr. Simmons were not only competent men but were virtually character actors. Captain Wintringer had the appearance of a stately United States senator and gave to the boat an unmistakable aura of quality. George Poe as pilot and his brother Dory were unlike in appearance but each was suited to his position. The pilot was quiet but skillful while Dory as chief clerk was a dashing matinee idol.

Pete Bob as first mate had a loud, strident voice and his commands to deck hands as the boat departed or arrived could be heard the length of the wharf. John A. Edie as purser had an ecclesiastic countenance that made him the ideal chaperone for the young women aboard for a day's outing.

The arrival of a packet boat provided diversion for the river town population as well as the travelers. Many local merchants locked their stores when the boats arrived and joined their customers and townspeople at the wharf to greet arriving passengers and simply see what was going on.

As a packet boat arrived, the captain stood on the front of the hurricane deck, resplendent in the best uniforms of the day.

The first mate in this operation was the center of attention from his position on the forecastle. From there he directed the throwing of the lines over the bits and cavel and when all lines were fixed he shouted, "All fast, Captain Wintringer."

As Mr. Simmons recalled the costume of First Mate Bob, it was easy to understand why he could be considered a character apart. He wore grey carpet slippers, a slouch hat, jane's pants, a blue shirt with sleeves which were rolled up to the elbow and showed his red undershirt.

The purser enhanced his reputation for sobriety by wearing a long black coat accentuated by a black hat and creased black tie. Female passengers were secure with him on board.

Chief clerk Dory Poe was the gallant figure observing the latest in fashions and regaling the passengers with interesting stories between card games, sight-seeing, and other pastimes. They were as delighted as if they were traveling on one of the luxurious liners traveling the Mississippi from St. Louis to New Orleans.

# **Brooke County, WV Historical Review**

**October 1976**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



BROOKE COUNTY HISTORICAL REVIEW

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Editorial Staff:

Nancy Caldwell  
Howard Craig  
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## FOREWORD

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## PHILLIP DODDRIDGE, INDUSTRIOUS EARLY SETTLER

On any list of 18th and early 19th century list of Brooke County residents the name of Phillip Doddridge would appear near the top for outstanding achievement.

Possibly no greater or reliable assessment of Doddridge's abilities was given than that furnished by Chief Justice Marshall who in paying his respects said, "Doddridge as a lawyer was second to none at the bar of the United States Court."

Phillip Doddridge was of English stock that migrated to the colony of New Jersey in the early 18th century. His father, John Doddridge was a native of Maryland who moved to Bedford County, Pennsylvania where Phillip was born on May 17, 1772.

In the spring of 1773 the Doddridge family moved further west near where the village of West Middletown now stands in Washington County, Pennsylvania.

Since the principal route of trade and travel was toward the Ohio River and Wellsburg it was only natural that at the age of 17 young Doddridge was placed in school in Charlestown, now Wellsburg, where he remained a short time under a teacher whose name was Johnson. He devoted himself principally to the study of the Latin language but also absorbed a great deal of the classics as was the pattern of education in that day.

By a combination of "reading the law" and continued study Doddridge prepared himself for entrance into the profession of law.

In 1799 Mr. Doddridge married Miss Juliana Musser of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and settled down to the practice of law in Wellsburg, Brooke County, Virginia, where he continued to reside until his death.

For most local historians the name of Phillip Doddridge is overshadowed by the name of his older brother, Rev. Doctor Joseph Doddridge whose historical writings are among the best material ever written to depict life on the American colonial frontier.

Phillip Doddridge served as a member of the Legislature of Virginia in 1815-16, 1822-23, and in 1828-29.

Doddridge was then elected to the House of Representatives of the United States Congress for the term of 1830-32 and was subsequently reelected for a second term without opposition.

On the 19th of November, 1832 Phillip Doddridge died before he could begin his second term as a Congressman.

In addition to the expression of regard by Chief Justice Marshall related above the great Daniel Webster visited Wellsburg to pay his respects and remarked that Doddridge was the only man he had ever really dreaded to encounter in debate.

## WENDEL TRAUBERT AND TRAUBERT'S BAKERY

Three or four generations of Brooke County residents can remember well the delicious baked goods provided by Traubert's Bakery.

The founder of this county institution, Wendel Traubert was born February 13, 1856, in Walkes, Germany. As a very young man he migrated to Pittsburgh in 1872 and the following year moved to Wheeling. He became a naturalized citizen in Wheeling.

In 1880 Traubert married Agatha Beiter in Wellsburg and a year later opened his bakery at 333 Charles Street in Wellsburg.

This location was housed in a building he erected to include a bake shop, a store room and six rooms for living quarters. The land for the building was a gift from his wife's family and his father still living in Germany provided \$800 as initial capital.

The large baking oven was constructed by Robert and George Nicholls.

Wendel Traubert learned the intricacies of the bakery business while employed at the Schafer Bake Shop in East Wheeling.

In 1881 all of the work in a bakery was done by hand. The sponge was set at night and kneaded at various hours during the night. Much of the bread was baked on the hearth of the brick oven and was available for sale in the early morning.

Initially the bakery used only a half barrel of flour per day which was obtained from either the David Waugh flour mill on Bethany Pike or the Pfister Mill on Cross Creek.

At the beginning the bakery oven was fired with wood but in a few years natural gas was installed.

Round loaves, rye break, and jumbo loaves were among the larger selling items. Products also included cinnamon rolls, cookies and various fruit pies.

The bakery followed the custom of giving each child a cookie when he or she was accompanied by an adult who had made a purchase of bread or sweets.

Deliveries from the bakery were by a sturdy custom built wagon made by Beltz, wagon makers in Wheeling. A bell on the floor of the wagon was tapped as the wagon went from house to house and store to store. A bay mare by the name of Mag pulled the wagon for many years and knew the entire route through the town of Wellsburg.

As the years moved on and the business grew, Mr. Traubert's sons, Edward, Leo, Frank and Arthur, and his daughter, Mame, became associated with the bakery.

In 1920 the business was moved to 1125 Charles Street to a new two-story brick building. This new building contained modern revolving ovens, proof boxes, freight elevator, a bread slicing machine, a wrapping machine and a large garage.

By this time the bakery now served Wellsburg, Follansbee, Bethany, and the general county area and included Bethany College and West Liberty College.

Wendel Traubert died on December 20, 1941 and was followed in death by his wife on March 20, 1944.

CHRISTOPHER MITCHELL - THE CLOCK FIXER

The figure of a small man, walking the roads of Brooke County, dressed in black, carrying a small satchel and an umbrella was a familiar figure in the latter years of the 19th century and the first decade of the 20th century.

The person, his trade, and the thoughts expressed in his last will and testament combine to provide a vignette of life in an earlier era.

The man was Christopher Mitchell, referred to throughout the county as, "The Clock Fixer".

Mitchell migrated to America from Switzerland and lived with the Moore family up Skull Hollow.

In plying his trade he simply walked all the roads of the county stopping at each house to determine if a clock needed repairs. He always carried an umbrella regardless of the season or the weather.

His will, dated May 9, 1908 and probated October 29, 1915, reads as follows:

"In the name of God, I, Christopher Mitchell, being of sound mind and memory and considering this fact, I therefore make and declare this to be my last will and testament. After all my lawful debts are paid and discharged, I give, bequeath and dispose of as follows, to wit: what money I may have in the bank to the building of a House of Worship in New Alexandria, Jefferson County, Ohio, for the Disciples of Christ or Christian Church. But if a House of Worship is built before my demise by the Disciples of Christ of New Alexandria of Jefferson County,

Ohio, then I desire that my money shall be used to help the Christian Church of Wellsburg, Brooke County, West Virginia, by paying twenty-five dollars a year toward the support of a minister as long as I have any money in the bank. My watch and leather scotch trunk I give and bequeath and dispose of as follows: to Dean Lazear, son of James D. Lazear, and what books I have to the Lazear family. I appoint the Pastor of the Christian Church in Wellsburg, West Virginia with the Elders thereof, to be the executors of my will dated this 9th day of May in the year of our Lord 1908."

The executors were Rev. Francis H. Riddle, Alexander Gilchrist and George H. Wilson.



## SPANISH AMERICAN WAR AS SEEN BY LOCAL SOLDIER

The Spanish American War is not one that fills many pages in the usual American History book. It was, however, a somewhat unique and in many ways significant experience for a relatively fledgling nation.

From a world point of view it represented a new military power on the scene. The United States was both willing and able to commit itself to armed conflict in a theatre that ranged from the Caribbean to the far Pacific.

As a domestic affair it represented the bringing together in military conflict those parts of the country that just a generation earlier had been widely separated by Bull Run and Gettysburg.

For the military historian the Spanish American war was the last conflict in which Americans were engaged in which such individuals or groups as Teddy Roosevelt's "Rough Riders" could ride glamorously across the news reports of battles.

The battle for Santiago, Cuba brought the name "Rough Riders" into all of the American homes.

Charles E. McKinley who was born on August 5, 1863 near West Liberty was a member of Troop E, First United States Volunteer Cavalry, familiarly known as the "Rough Riders". Letters written by McKinley to his mother and his sister about the battle for Santiago depict the scene in a very personal way.

Levitia de Cuba  
Seven miles NW of Santiago  
June 25, 1898

Dear Mother: I'll write you a few hurried lines as you will doubtless be anxious to hear from me. I am in good health at present and hope you are all well. We were on board ship 16

days, and landed on the 22d at Usla, 20 miles east of Santiago. We had fair weather and didn't get very sick; the port where we landed was first shelled by the navy; the enemy retreated, but burned the round house and engines first. We got ashore at dark and encamped for the night. The next morning we took a scout of two miles and got all the cocoanuts I wanted. At 4 p.m. we started on the march to the front. We marched about 11 miles and reached camp at 8 p.m. tired and almost played out. Lots fell out overcome by heat; and blankets and coats were thrown by the roadside by the wholesale. We camped at a place on the coast that was bombarded and captured that afternoon by the advance guard and Cubans. A few Cubans were wounded and a number of Spaniards killed, we passed about 15 in one heap. It is hard to get news here. I was awfully tired; at one time I thought I would have to drop my bundle, but kept tramping on and arrived with the "push". That was a taste of reality; it had been a pleasure trip up to that time. Next morning we had a good meal, broke camp at 5 a.m., marched four miles through a dense thicket, in most places only a trail, and we had to march in single file. It was very warm and I had very little water in my canteen. About 8 a.m. we marched right into 4,000 of the enemy, and had a four hours' engagement in a thicket surrounding a small opening by an old vacated house. There were about 450 of the "Rough Riders," the 10th colored cavalry and one other company, about 650 to 700 in all. The enemy had the better position and two rapid fire "machine" guns ranged on us, but we went right ahead and never a trooper flinched. It was a good bit of random work, for we could not see 100 yards ahead of us, the brush and vines were so thick. The best description I can give is that it sounded like a swarm of bees flying around my head, twigs and dirt were flying in all directions. We had one wounded in troop E corps, Dean by name. "Rough Riders" loss, one Captain and eight troopers killed, and fifty-three wounded. We camped on the battlefield in the evening, and not a Spaniard in sight, only dead ones. I can't tell what their loss was exactly, as they carry all off they can, but their loss was more than ours. Maj. Broady was wounded, and Capt. Capron of L killed. We just buried eight of our men awhile ago.

Col. Roosevelt says he never knew volunteers to stand fire as well as we did, never retreated a step. Spanish would fire and retreat, but there were so many of them they kept up a terrible fire, chopped the brush all up, but their aim was for the top of a hill, and we never stopped until we were over the brow of the hill, and the most of their bullets went high.

Well, I must close to get this in the mail; I had letters written to all my friends, but had to throw them away before I could get them mailed, but tell them I think of them just the same. Good-bye; love to all; ever your loving son,

C. E. McKinley

Military Station, No. 1 Cuba  
New York, New York

in the trenches. I am on now, from 4 to 10 p.m.; from where I am sitting I can almost see the color of the rascals' eyes. They are 500 yards in front of me. We dug another trench last night 100 yards nearer, so we can get within about 400 yards of them. We could see a line of reinforcements marching in on our left this evening; there must be near 2000 of them.

Our line of battle is 3 to 10 miles long; have them flanked on each side and Sampson has captured their fleet. I think they want to surrender, but if they open up again something is going to happen. We have bomb-proofs built; sheds with thick dirt roofs.

We have all worked hard since the 1st, and have been in a hurry and push all the time. I guess if you hadn't sent this paper I'd had to write on brown paper. I have an old dirty envelope addressed to mother that I'll have to send this in, but you must excuse everything now; my pencil is less than an inch long. It is just sun down and the bands are commencing to play in different parts of the line. They say our horses will be here soon; glad they weren't here now. Good bye; love to all, and if they don't get any closer to me than they have so far, I'll be back and tell you all how it happened. Ever your loving brother,

C. E. McKinley

Address, First U.S.V.C., Troop E, Military Station No. 1,  
Cuba, New York, N. Y.

At the time of McKinley's military service his family was living in Richmond, Jefferson County, Ohio.

So far as is known he was the only Jefferson County soldier engaged in the famous battle of San Juan Hill and the larger siege of Santiago. To honor his service his mother was given the privilege of hoisting the American flag at a special ceremony held in Richmond, Ohio on July 16, 1898.

McKinley was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Mylie McKinley. He survived the war, migrated west and died in Missoula, Montana on December 24, 1933.

## JOHN BROWN AND LOCAL SHEEP RAISERS

In a previous edition of the Brooke County Historical Review it was reported that the famous John Brown associated with abolitionist activity was active and successful in the raising of sheep in pre-Civil war days in the West Virginia-Ohio region. As such he entered into a cooperative arrangement with Alexander Campbell, among others.

It has also been learned that John Brown in 1842 entered into Matthew McKeever of Washington County who was a large sheep farmer of the area.

The agreement reads as follows:

"That said Matthew McKeever agrees to lease to said John Brown, two hundred ewes for four years from date as follows:

1. To divide the avails of all wool taken from said sheep (and their natural increase) equally with said Brown.
2. To divide said ewes and their natural increase, at the expiration of four years equally with said Brown by casting lots for first choice and then each selecting one alternately until all are divided.
3. To pay to said Brown fifty cents per head for every good sheep which the said McKeever's share of the sheep when so divided, shall exceed the number of two hundred.

The said John Brown agrees as follows:

1. To keep those sheep for four years in the best and most husband-like manner, providing at all seasons of the year abundantly for them and their increase.

swelled up about the head and became blind, I think from eating poison. I have succeeded tolerably well in regard to raising lambs, considering the cold, inclement spring we have had here. I have raised a little over 300 lambs in all: the exact number from your 200 ewes I have not learned by counting separately. I have put up the wool taken from 198 sheep, in three sacks, numbered 1, 2, 3 and marked McK, directed to Samuel Lawrence, Lowell, Mass., care of Lawrence, Stone and Lawrence, Boston, and expect to have it forwarded on the 1st day of August.

Weight of wool sent is about 476 pounds. It is washed uncommonly clean. I have written to Mr. Lawrence telling him that you will send him your address and that you are to draw for one half the amount of the wool. He will send you an account of it. The season has been one of the coldest I have ever known and on that account I did not shear till late. The two fleeces of pulled wool I have not sent as it is not such as Lawrence wishes to buy. I will hereafter account for them with you. Bad as Capt. Tyler is doing for us shepherds, I think we shall get something for such wool that will enable us to live by it. I shall be gratified to hear from you at any time and to learn how matters go with you, and with your friends and mine in your section. The flock is healthy.

Respectfully, your friend,

John Brown

## EARLY WELLSBURG WATER WORKS

In the modern era of chemically pure water available in every home it is somewhat difficult to picture entire communities depending upon backyard wells, neighborhood springs, or even nearby creeks for water supply. The typhoid fever statistics of the 19th century attest to some of the side effects of the system!

In the early 1830's a movement was started to develop a water system for Wellsburg that brought into being the Tucker Waterworks located between Main Street and the river just below the steamboat landing. The land was dedicated to this purpose by resolution of the Wellsburg City Council.

The first hydrant of record in Wellsburg was put in the premises of one Peter Shuey in November of 1830.

By 1836 the Wellsburg Water Works was operating under the direction of a Water Board consisting of three Water Commissioners with the town clerk acting as secretary to the Board. The Town Sergeant was charged with the collection of water rents and for this service received a percentage of the amount collected. The superintendent of the Water Works was elected annually at the regular town election.

Meters to measure the flow of water for customers had not been developed so rates were based on the number of persons in a dwelling or the rental value of a commercial property.

The table of rates adopted in 1886 was as follows:

Dwelling - 50c per annum for each and every person and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  on the annual rental value of the water taker.

Drug Store - 5% on the annual rental value.

Hotel or Ordinary - 6% per annum.

Boarding House - 2% on the annual rental.

Coffee House - 5% on annual rental.

Bath in Private House - 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ % for each person in family.

Bath (Public House or Barber Shop) - \$2.50 for each tub  
for three months.

Rules 45 and 46 prohibited anyone from disposing of garbage, filth or the carcass of animals in the Ohio River and no one was allowed to swim in the river within 500 feet above or 300 feet below the supply pipe.

#### Editors Note

As indicated in previous editions the Brooke County Historical Review will gladly review original writings, letters, or other material readers wish to submit for use in this publication. Such material should be sent to:

John G. Patterson  
Post Office Box 295  
Bethany, West Virginia 26032

The material will be returned to the owner.

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**May 1978**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*



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## HISTORY TOLD THROUGH PERSONAL JOURNALS

A very rich source of historical material is to be found in the personal journals kept by many people in the earlier years of the United States. This practice was not uncommon into the early years of the 20th century.

One of Wellsburg's most prominent citizens, George B. Crawford kept a journal in which he commented and reported on local and national events.

The following items are taken from records maintained by George B. Crawford:

Monday, January 22, 1894: Weather has been quite favorable for outside work on the new city building located on the site of the old Market House.

There is considerable comment on the construction of the building. In the first place, the town was not able to build it. Its bonded debt being now up to the lawful limit. An arrangement was entered into whereby the contractors agreed to take turn orders for pay or get their money whenever they could. The question is whether the town council has the right to use this lot for a building which was deeded to the city to be used as a Market Place.

Wednesday, January 24, 1894: A petition is being circulated by some of the city authorities asking the Post Office Department to take means to locate the Wellsburg Post Office in one of the rooms in the new city building. William P. Campbell, son of Alexander

Campbell, founder of the Christian or Disciples Church, has been appointed Post Master in Wellsburg. At this time he has not been confirmed. It seems that the senate is too busy with tariff questions and the Hawaiian matter to give the Post Office their attention.

A proposition was made by Mr. Campbell to the City Council to insert the lock and call boxes ordered by him. We are informed that Council refused to enter into the arrangement for the city to purchase a post office outfit, but are willing to assist in having the Post Office located in the City Building

Friday, January 26, 1894: Saturday was the day fixed for the great prize fight between Corbett and Mitchell for the championship of the world at Jacksonville, Fla. I did not get out after supper and have not learned the news. There is a rebellion in progress at Brazil.

Saturday, January 27, 1894: The news this morning is that Corbett knocked out Mitchell in the third round. So endeth the talk of our largely advertized prize fight.

The news yesterday looks favorable for the passage of the Wilson Tariff Bill. This country is now being treated to a large dose of unemployment and thousands of men are crying for bread and work.

Sunday, September 2, 1894: 10:30 a.m. I have just returned from a visit to the rock on the bar below the mouth of Buffalo Creek, which has served as a low-water mark in the Ohio River for generations past. There is one mark of 1854 and I find that the water is about three-eighths of an inch below this mark. There is a mark of 1879,

put there by myself, and I find that the water is about one-eighth of an inch below this mark. The above rock is known traditionally as "Washington's Rock" as it has been said that George Washington, in his passage down the Ohio River, cut his name on this rock. Its also called "Indian Rock".

I visited this rock on Sunday, October 12, 1879, in company with J. E. Montgomery. The rock was out of water at its highest point with 12 inches of water outside of rock. Walked to the rock on the pebbles without wetting feet. Average depth of water between this rock and shore in a N. E. direction, four inches. October 22, 1879, rock out of water 12 inches. These measurements are not absolutely correct as I had no level along. On this date I cut the low water mark of 1879 referred to above. By reference to a memorandum made at the time I find that on the 15th of September, 1811, that the rock was out of water 17 inches and that the river was lower in 1854, 1874 -  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches and that the bar between the rock and shore was entirely dry.

I have another bar water mark in the Ohio River. It is situated about 300 feet from the main bank and on a line with the north line of Walnut Street (present 11th Street). October 13, 1879 there was  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of water at the highest point of said rock. October 21st, this same rock was one-half inch out of water.

October 18, 1896: The presidential campaign now almost to a close, has been a very remarkable one. Major McKinley has remained at his home in Canton, Ohio, and has almost daily received large delegations

from many different states to whom he has talked on good government, sound money, a protective tariff and prosperity. Mr. Bryan has been over a very large portion of the United States and has been working off the same story - that of class against class. He has written the past two weeks of formally accepting the nomination of the populace as their candidate for President.

General Palmer and General Buckner, the former Union general, the latter a rebel general in the late war, are the presidential candidates for the National Democratic party.

At the present writing it seems as if McKinley will be elected. I was one of a party of 180 that went from Wellsburg, September 18, 1896 to Canton, Ohio to visit Major McKinley. I had a pleasant trip. Sunday, November 8, 1896: The National and State elections were held Tuesday, November 3, resulting in a complete victory for the Republican party. McKinley carried the following states beyond any question or doubt: Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia and Wisconsin. The entire Republican ticket in Brooke County was elected by good majorities.

Editorial Note: George B. Crawford was the Wellsburg cabinet maker who made the large display of West Virginia wood for the National Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876. The display was a plaque of large dimensions indicating all of the then states in the Union as well as various aspects of American Constitutional Government. The plaque is now on loan to the Smithsonian Institute as part of the Bicentennial collection.

## EARLY SETTLER GRAVES ON HIGHLAND SPRINGS GOLF COURSE

Golfers at the Highland Springs Golf Course located at the intersection of Routes 88 and 27 as they play up to the 10th and 12th greens will notice a small enclosure at the crest of the ridge in which are located two grave stones.

These graves are the final resting place of two of Brooke County's earliest settlers, Major Francis McGuire and his wife Barbara McGuire.

Major McGuire came into the area just at the end of the 18th century to take up land under a patent he received from the Commonwealth of Virginia for his services during the Revolutionary War. Legend has it that he endeavored to avoid trouble with the Indians by purchasing the property from them with a bag of beans and some plug tobacco.

All of the land encompassed by the Highland Springs Golf Course and what is now known as Waugh's Subdivision was included in Major McGuire's holdings.

The home now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. John Paull of Eagle Manufacturing Co. located on Route 88 was the site of Major McGuire's log cabin. In 1801 McGuire added the brick portion of the house that is now standing.

An unconfirmed story is told that shortly after the McGuires moved into the area their son was bitten by a rabid animal and died as a result. A family burial ground was started, the same that is now located on the golf course but there is no other stone than those marking the graves of the Major and his wife.

As late as 1822 the road known now as Route 88 was designated as McGuire's Road. It followed a different route than at present as it left the Washington Pike (Route 27) at the George Gist farm, now owned by Robert Baron, and passed over the hill to reach the McGuire house.

The grave stones indicate that Major McGuire died in September 1830 and his wife passed away on December 29, 1835.

When Campbell Waugh subsequently came into possession of the property he removed the log cabin portion of the McGuire house and built the frame portion that completed the house as it now stands.

Under ownership of the Waughs much of the land holding was devoted to orchards. The large building now used as a clubhouse for the golf course was a large apple storage and processing facility. Apples from these orchards were shipped to virtually every part of the United States.



## FRANKLIN LITERARY SOCIETY - 1899

In the issue of the Brooks County Historical Review appearing in the Spring of 1974 a report was given on the closing exercises of the Pierce's Run Literary Society held at the Palmer School House the evening of April 12, 1888.

The Historical Review has recently received from Frank O. Chapman a newspaper account of the closing entertainment of the Franklin Literary Society which was held at Franklin Church on Tuesday evening, April 11, 1899. The newspaper story was saved by Clara J. Hunter who subsequently became Frank Chapman's mother.

The newspaper account reads as follows:

The closing entertainment of the Franklin Literary Society, which was held at Franklin Church on Tuesday evening, April 11, 1899 was a complete success. The church was tastefully decorated with yellow and green, the class colors, and the motto, "No Excellence Without Labor," was very attractive. Chairs were arranged on the stage to accommodate all members on the program, and while room could not be obtained for all on the stage the members in the audience could be distinguished by the colors.

The president, S. C. Gist, and the secretary, Miss Maud Robinson, conducted the meeting in an able manner. Karl Callendine and Jay Gist acted as ushers, wearing sashes of yellow and green, and they did good work in seating the audience of about 250 comfortably. C. G. Reeves and Z. F. Simpson were collectors at the door and report quite a neat sum cleared. Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Hunter kindly furnished music which

was much appreciated. John A. Kelly, of Wellsburg, was present and read a report of the first literary society organized at Franklin. After Mr. Kelly's remarks a vote of thanks was tendered him by the society.

Quite a number of visitors were present from Wellsburg, New Cumberland, Colliers, Independence, Cross Creek and Buffalo Creek. Ora McCreary brought quite a number from Wellsburg in true picnic style. We hope that all who attended may feel repaid for coming and we hope to see them all on following occasions. Below we give the program as given. Each one did well and certainly deserves much praise.

Organ voluntary.

Prayer.

Roll call with memory gems.

Literary society song (composed by Mrs. Phillips).

Oration, "What May Happen to this Country," Charles Callendine

Recitation, "Kit," Miss Cornelia Simpson.

Solo, "Mamma's in Heaven," Howard Kelly.

Recitation, "The White Man's Burden," Will Gist.

Oration, "Woman," Miss Clara Hunter.

Song, "Come Where the Lilies Bloom," Mr. and Mrs. N. C.

Hunter, D. E. Hervey and O. M. Hervey.

Dress scene, "The Seasons;" "Spring," Miss Lucy Churchman;

"Summer," Miss Elizabeth Gist; "Autumn," Miss

Emma Cree; "Winter," Miss Cornelia Simpson.

Recitation, "Beyond," Miss Maud Robinson.

Essay, "Do Your Best Always," Miss Della Hunter.

Solo, "A Dixie Kid," Miss Stella Brady; organ accompaniment,  
Miss Clara Brady. An encore was responded to.

Essay, "Dreaming," Miss Olive Callendine.

Essay, "The Rising Generation," David Hervey.

Song by the quartette (named above), "The Fairy's Home."

Oration, "The White Man's Burden," Henry C. Hervey.

Selection, "Jamie Butler and the Owl," Miss Nannie Callendine.

Oration, "More Beyond," Rev. P. M. Phillips.

Solo, "She Was Bred in Old Kentucky," D. E. Hervey; Organ  
accompaniment, Mrs. N. C. Hunter. An encore was  
responded to.

Dress scene and drill, "The Nation;" "Goddess of Liberty,"  
Miss Stella Kelly; "Russia," Miss Ella Fowler;  
"Italy," Miss Clara Brady; "England," Miss Allie  
Love; "France," Miss Clara Hunter; "Germany,"  
Miss Frances Buxton; "Spain," Miss Nancy Simpson;  
"America," Miss Maud Robinson.

Closing song by the quartette, "Good Night."

Remarks by President Gist, followed by the dismissal.

Editorial Note: Many readers of the Brooke County Historical Review will recognize members of families involved in this program. It is also interesting to note that the United States was just beginning to emerge as a power on the world scene and some of the program reflected that move.

## WELLSBURG WOMAN'S CLUB OLDEST IN PANHANDLE

A twenty-eight year old newspaper clipping recounting, "50 Year History of Woman's Club Recalled by Miss Sanders" reveals that the Wellsburg Woman's Club is not only the oldest club in the Northern Panhandle of West Virginia but is also the third oldest club in the state.

At the 50th anniversary meeting of the Club held on September 27, 1949 Miss Margaret Sanders, the only living active charter member of the club recalled some of the events surrounding the founding of the club in 1899.

The Wellsburg Woman's Club was founded in 1899 by Miss Ellen Hunter Tarr and was the first woman's club to start in the panhandle district. There were only two clubs organized earlier in the state: The Point Pleasant "4 O'Clock Club" in 1892, and the Ronceverte Mutual Improvement Club in 1893.

The object in organizing the Wellsburg club was stated as follows: "Our object and purpose shall be self-culture and harmony of effort in the promotion of intelligent, methodical thought and expression, and through organization to form a center to broaden the lives and character of our women".

The meetings were held once a week at the home of different members, and the programs consisted of the study of history, literature and art of our own and European countries; parliamentary drill, book reviews and current events.

The charter members were 23 in number, including Misses Ellen Hunter Tarr, Sarah Barnes, Frances Tarr, Maggie Hervey, Anna Quest, Margaret Sanders, Mina W. Applegate, Dora Hervey, Lucy Abrams, Amanda

Miller, Ollie Wilson, Sarah Duval, and Mesdames T. E. Swan, W. M. Sampson, C. P. Waugh, T. H. Buchanan, James Paull, R. F. Craig, Anna Dalzell, J. T. Douglass, B. F. Harden, W. H. Tarr and Samuel Jacob, Jr. At the time of the organization Attorney F. A. Chapman made the prediction that "more brown hair was needed".

In 1905 the membership was increased and the club flourished. A contribution of \$10.00 was made to the Wellsburg Public Library. Departments within the club were formed under the headings of pure food, child labor, civics, forestry, domestic science, education, art, club extension, music, and a traveling library committee. Papers were assigned to various members and fines of 25 cents were levied if the person did not make the report or arrange for an appropriate substitute.

Special attention was paid to the early history of the area to include a review of the personages buried in the Brooke cemetery.

Some worthwhile projects of the club during the early years of its existence were as follows: a dictionary was purchased, the members being assessed to pay for it. In 1901 the club purchased a set of books consisting of 10 volumes, "The Best Literature of All Ages". Mrs. Henry Zilliken, Sr., headed a committee to procure a room in the court house to be used as a rest room. It was opened March 16, 1915. An anti-spitting ordinance was made a law through the efforts of the club with the members paying for the notices that were posted. The club urged the enforcement of the curfew law.

One of the more interesting club activities was to take over the Wellsburg Daily Herald for a day. The editor-in-chief was Mrs. T. H. Weirich, the former Miss Sarah Duval, with nine assistant editors. The advertising revenue for the day of \$24.87 was turned

over to the club treasury.

One of the activities of the club associated with World War I was the adoption of a French war orphan. Money from the club was sent for her support.

In 1929 the club celebrated its 25th anniversary with a dinner at the Elks Club. Mrs. Thomas E. Amick was president at that time.

The 30th anniversary of the club was celebrated in like manner with Mrs. Samuel Wells as president and Miss Margaret Sanders, the only living active charter member serving as toastmaster for the 1934 event.

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY ACQUIRES OLD NEWSPAPERS

The Brooke County Historical Society has acquired three very old newspapers for its collection. It is hoped that adequate space and facilities can eventually be obtained in the Brooke County Library for proper storage and display. These are invaluable for research under proper conditions.

The first is a copy of the Saturday, January 15, 1820 issue of the "WELLSBURGH GAZETTE".

The front page contains verbatim a fascinating letter from President James Monroe dated December 17, 1819, to the Senate and House of Representatives in which he explains how the recent act to control slave trade would be handled.

The Act directed the commanders of all United States armed vessels to seize and bring into port all ships or vessels of the United States, wherever found, having on board any negro, mulatto, or person of color.

President Monroe pointed out that the purpose of this was not to bring these persons for residence in the United States but to return them to Africa. He further pointed out that the coast of Africa was in most instances a very wild, inhospitable place and people could not be unloaded there without some concern for their welfare.

By means of this letter he then spelled out how United States agents would be employed to be stationed in Africa for the purpose of providing food, clothing and shelter to the persons being returned and would be charged with the responsibility of endeavoring to return these persons to the part of the continent from which they had come.

The Act had been supported by an appropriation to the Executive of \$100,000 for the general purposes of the law and President Monroe

by this letter was explaining to the Congress how he was going to administer the act. His interpretation of Executive freedom is interesting to note. He stated in this letter, "I think it proper to state the interpretation which has been given of the act, and the measures adopted to carry it into effect, that congress may, should it be deemed advisable, amend the same, before further proceeding is had under it."

His first planned action was to send two agents, the chief to receive \$1,500 a year and the assistant to receive \$1,200. One-third of the total appropriation, including salaries was to be placed at the disposal of this mission to set up the procedures for the repatriation activity.

The remainder of the front page was devoted to a review of actions taken in the British parliament.

Page 2 of this early paper includes reports on the construction of canals in Ohio, problems in the Territory of Texas, a controversy over a tax levied by the State of Kentucky on the United States Bank that the United States Supreme Court had declared unconstitutional, and a proposal in North Carolina that any alien arriving in the United States after January 1821 should be ineligible for any office under the state or general government.

Page 3 includes a report on Congressional action concerning the admission of Maine into the Union and how the Congressional delegation will be divided between Massachusetts and Maine.

Page 4 devotes two complete columns to, "Our affairs with Spain". Florida was the main subject and this interesting statement was made, "We shall take care that the Floridas do not pass into other hands, and we have good securities for ultimate indemnity in your neighboring possessions."



The other two papers are the Friday, February 21 and March 7, 1873 issues of "THE PAN-HANDLE NEWS". This was a weekly newspaper published every Friday morning in Wellsburg, Brooke County, W. Va. by Eugene Tarr. The offices were in the Tarr Building over the Bank of Wellsburg.

The front page of each issue contained a directory of county officers, banks, post offices, and the officers of the Town of Bethany and Bethany College. There were three newspapers listed for Wellsburg. These were the Pan-Handle News, Wellsburg Herald and the Christian Star.

The front page also included one column of advertisements for hotels, physicians and surgeons, attorneys, bakeries, and patent medicines.

The Pan-Handle News carried a banner, "Democratic At All Times And Under All Circumstances" and took great delight in these issues in dwelling on the investigations of the Credit Mobilier.

A front page story in the February 21 issue takes Ben Butler to task for introducing a bill in the Congress that would increase the salaries of representatives and senators. The language is interesting. "Here are a lot of ducks already getting \$5,000 a year of the people's hard earned money for attending to their own business or that of the corporations which buy them their positions - here these cusses are, sitting, discussing what are virtually their own measures and those of their clients, instead of legislating for the benefit of the whole country - here they are plundering the people, plundering their own clients ( the aforesaid corporations) and plundering each other, quarreling among themselves, like so many cats and dogs, about divisions of spoils or about not having had a hand dealt them in this or that

little game . . ."

The article then refers to Senator Harlan as "that pious old fraud" and goes on to berate most of the Congress in general.

A report is also given on the preparations for the inauguration to be held on March 4.

About half of pages 2 and 3 and all of page 4 are devoted to advertisements of local merchants and professional people. One column on page 3 is devoted to miscellaneous items ranging from notices of police arrests to comments on the proposed railroad from Wellsburg to Steubenville.

The death of Horace Greeley was reported. His assets totaled about \$120,000 but he had about \$100,000 of bad debts and worthless securities.

The March 14 issue reported on the preparations for the laying of the Atlantic cable and more on the Credit Mobilier.

There is also a story from the "Lynchburg Republican" stating that Virginia would be entirely willing to see Pennsylvania absorb the Pan-handle region, if thereby she could get back the rich valley counties and the magnificent Greenbrier and Kanawha country.

A feature story in this issue concerns the prize fight at Colliers Station between Harry Hicken of Philadelphia and Bryan Campbell of Wilksbarre for \$1,000 and the light weight championship of the United States.

Editorial Note: As stated above, it is hoped that these and other newspapers can be made available for research at the Brooke County Library.

# **Brooke County, WV Historical Review**

**April 1980**

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

BROOKE COUNTY  
HISTORICAL REVIEW

April, 1980

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## FOREWORD

The Brooke County Historical Review is being published to preserve materials which are of interest to the amateur and professional historians.

Members and non-members are invited to submit articles for publication.

All material, reprints of newspaper articles, letters, excerpts from diaries and original research and writing will be considered.

The Brooke County Historical Society was chartered by the State of West Virginia on the sixth day of March, Nineteen Hundred and Twenty-nine.

Among the stated purposes of the Society is, "Commit to writing and make records of historic events, persons and points of interest in order that we may gain a more complete history of the hardships and heroism, the trials and triumphs of those pioneer settlers who won for themselves, their descendents and future generations, the broad and beautiful land."

## LLOYD'S LEDGER

In January, 1978, the Brooke County Historical Society received several gifts from a gentleman whose ancestors (the Lloyd Family) once lived in Wellsburg, Virginia (now Wellsburg, West Virginia).

The Lloyd family originally settled in and around the Steubenville, Ohio area in the 1780's and moved to Wellsburg in the 1830's.

Among the gifts received was a small (6" x 4½") leather ledger. The first records in the ledger were dated in the 1790's and more than half the ledger was devoted to transactions involving "Buffalo Wheat" received from James Lloyd and sent to various area mills to be ground. The transactions were in pounds, shillings and pence. Middletown, Middletown Landing, George's Run and White \_\_\_\_\_ Creek were among places named in these transactions.

After the wheat records stopped several pages were devoted to arithmetic problems. After this there appeared school records that commenced October 29, 1798 and after this were a few records kept on store transactions that took place in 1798, 1799 and 1800.

The wheat transactions read:

"Middletown, May 23, 1790

Received of James Lloyd forty pounds, nineteen shillings and eight pence in full for ninety five bushels of Buffalo Wheat for Samuel Stroud to be delivered to him at \_\_\_\_\_ mill by James Cochran"

All of the names in this ledger were not legible but listed below are the names of those mentioned in the wheat transactions:

_____ Stanton	Benjamin Shoemaker	Alexander Gribon
Thomas McCarting	James Macklin	George Auling
Mordea McKinny	John Lytle	Jacob Robinson
James Lloyd	Archibald Moore	Job Robinson
Van Otten	William Harlin	John Hanainy
Benjamin White	Samuel Stroud	Thomas Starr
James Thompson	William Mendinghall	Joshua Stroud & Co.
Samuel Stewart	Thomas Dixon	Robert Ewing
L. Stewart	Joseph Benere	Samuel Evans
James Stewart	Joshua Stroud	Peter Eken
James Cochran	William Harlon	John Griffith
Jacob Metzger	Samuel Lindsey	John Westle
Jonas Yocom	Caleb Byrmere	Thomas Richards
Robert Irwin	William Davis	John Holmes
Robert Garvin	John Mohr	Thomas Rose
John Black	Samuel Dorflinger	Thomas Miller
William Benjamin	John Taylor	Robert McIlvanin, Merchant

The names mentioned in the school that commenced October 29, 1798 were:

James Tucker	James Blair
Joseph White	Mary Blair
John Lott	William Blair
Polly Lott	

The names mentioned in the store records were:

John Minges	W. Crockin
Susanna Mills	Dr. George Faulkenread
Anthony Hillman	Dr. Frances Swayne
Michael Spangler	Michael Fissell
John Fissell	H. Precher
Peter Sonders	Casper Hook
Abram Owens	Temoest Tucker
Conrad Fissell	

Most of these settlers signed their own names but a few made their "X" mark, which indicates that most of these early settlers were educated people.

February 15, 1980

Mayor of Wellsburg  
Wellsburg, West Virginia

Dear Sir:

I heard on T.V. last week where you had been in Charleston to see the Governor. That the Wellsburg Wharf was to be a historical site.

This was good news to me. I have a little information that might be of interest to you. My husband, Homer K. Dunn, owned and operated the last wharfboat there. We brought the wharfboat to Wellsburg in 1925 and left in 1927. It didn't pay. The packet boat business was declining rapidly. Trucks were replacing them. They were much faster and required less handling and transferring of goods.

Our two biggest customers shipped paper products and the other chemical tanks. One was the Eagle Manufacturing Company, I don't remember the name of the other one.

We lived at the top of the wharf in a flat in a building owned by a Mr. Warden. He had a tin shop on the first floor. In the basement he kept a team of horses he used for his hauling. On the second floor were two flats. We lived in the one facing the wharf. It was convenient for when boats landed in the night, you had to go down and open the wharfboat. The main boats to land were the Helen E., Liberty and Senator Cordell. There was also a very large boat, the Kate Adams. An excursion boat, the Verne Swain came about once a summer. She tied at the wharf just below the wharfboat.



There was a large building across the street at the top of the wharf called the Granite House. A Mrs. McCracken rented apartments and sleeping room. I remember Kyles, I think Lumber Company, Zogg's Meat Market and Walker Hardware.

My husband passed away in 1978 at age 77. I'm sure he would be as interested as I am.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Elsie B. Dunn  
Box 81  
Sardis, Ohio 43946

Editor's Note

The Wellsburg Wharf at Main and Sixth Streets has been entered in the National Registry of Historical Places, it was announced at a luncheon held by Governor Jay Rockefeller on February 8, 1980.

## WHARF RECALLED

### WELLSBURG MAN REMEMBERS OHIO RIVER DAYS

By Matz Malone

It all started a few weeks ago when Frank Kemper called and said he wanted to talk about the Wellsburg Wharf being placed on the National Registry of Historic Places. But, after a pleasurable afternoon of talking about nearly everything but the Wellsburg Wharf, I left the Kemper house with something that must be shared.

Mr. Kemper had taken the time to write some valuable remembrances and this, among the things we talked about should not be forgotten. The letter starts:

"I would like to say a few words on the Wellsburg Wharf. I was born in Freedom, Pa., in 1899, the 7th of November, and came to Lock 11 (in Brilliant) in 1911. When the dam was completed, my dad, Frank Kemper, Sr., was the diver that completed the dam. I have a picture of the mooring boat that put the last wicket on the Ohio side of the dam in 1913."

"We lived in the powerhouse on the Ohio side, upstairs where the engine room was. I remember the 1913 flood WELL. My older brother, Bill, my dad and I rowed a boat from the dam to McCunes Store in Brilliant, got groceries from the upstairs window. You did not have to row back, just ride the current to the dam. My younger brother Kenneth was born that same year. Mr. McDougal from Brilliant came down to deliver Kenneth. I had two sisters, Louise and Gertrude (and four brothers) Bill

was in the Marines, Ralph, Paul and Kenneth. My mother took sick after Kenneth was born so we moved to Wellsburg, Fourth and Commerce Streets, where my mother died."

"While living at the dam we used to ride the packet boats to Wellsburg, then ride back to the dam. We knew all of the boats that came through the dam. We moved our furniture from Freedom, Pa., on the packet boat "Lorena". Some of the boats (that I remember well) were the "Sunshine", a sidewheel excursion boat, the "Boaz", the largest boat on the river at the time, the "Jim Brown" and "Sam Brown", the "Steel City Queen" and the "City Packet Boats"."

"Some of these boats would tie up at the Wellsburg Wharf and the crews would stay at the hotel, which at that time was the second house from the corner of Sixth and Main Streets."

"I married Freda Huggins in 1920 and we have one daughter, Betty, who married Jake Ellis and lives at 10th and Yankee Streets in Wellsburg."

Mr. Kemper went on to say that he and his bride of nearly 60 years and her mother, who is 94 years young, have lived in the same house since 1934. "Them was the days", Frank Kemper said, "back when you used to see a lot of surries and buggies in Wellsburg."

He adds, "There sure have been a lot of changes around here. I have been in every flood since 1907, and could tell you some stories 'bout floods," he said, then started telling about the time in 1913 (or was it 1936 or 1941) when the water came up in one of the plants along the river and trapped some

of the workers, including Frank Kemper, and they were rescued by boat. Or, about the time in one of the floods when the liquor store was flooded, but sales went on, out of a second floor window - yep - those were the days."

Frank Kemper remembered things that should not be forgotten, like when he rowed a boat from his Brilliant home and went to work at the Riverside Glass Co. in 1911. Riverside Glass preceded the Crescent Glass Co. Anyway, Kemper said he went to work at the Riverside Glass Co. with Dick Nichols and remembers the pay was "90 cents for 10 hours".

After a few years he went to work for the George and Sherrard Paper Mill which eventually became the International Paper Co., which eventually became the Hammond Bag and Paper plant which eventually became the Hudson Pulp and Paper Co., and it was from that firm that he retired in 1965.

But it was the rememberings of Frank Kemper that are "pure gold", like when he remembers that he could distinguish all the boats on the river by the sound of the steam whistle, or when he recalls that his family bought fresh produce from the boats that were locking through the Brilliant dam.

Or the stories of when he and his brother carried water to workmen at Lock Four at Legionville, Pa., in "about 1905".

Or the times when Wellsburg was a hub of river commerce and "you could buy whiskey right out of a barrel with copper bands and if you wanted a pint, they would dip it right out of the barrel with a copper pitcher".

Or the photograph that he looked for but couldn't find

that was taken when the last wicket was placed on Lock 11. "That picture showed dad, Knute Bonecutter and Fred Bell on the positioning boat there at the old Lock 11," Frank Kemper remembers.

Kemper and his bride sat at the kitchen table and talked of how things were "back then" and talked of places most of us have never heard about, like the "Granite House" which was one of the hostels in Wellsburg.

They talked about people, long since gone, and some still around, such as some of the people who used to be in the paper industry in Wellsburg, and the demise of some of the major plants in Wellsburg. When we finished talking, Mr. Kemper commented, "Don't know if you got anything worthwhile about the Wharf, but it sure was nice talking."

THAT IT WAS, MY KEMPER, THAT IT WAS.

## THE ELDERSVILLE ROAD AREA

If you turn left at Oak Grove Cemetery on Hooverson Heights, you will travel the Eldersville Road area, first settled in 1772. The first part of the lane going to Frank Rihel's farm was once part of Eldersville Road. The house was first a four-room cabin built by Albert Elson sometime in 1700. He owned 400 acres of ground, which he gradually sold to farmers. Mr. Rihel bought the house, including 80 acres from Mr. Elson. Mr. Rihel relates the tale of Mrs. Elson's death in 1920, because the ambulance could not reach the Elson home. Mr. Rihel, John Brown and Leonard Carter carried her body up the hill to the Carter home on Brookeview Drive and dug her grave in old St. John's Cemetery.

What is now Brookeview Drive was a part of the Carter farm. The first Carter (Joseph), married in 1776 and settled here in 1780. Ewing Carter (Shirley's grandfather) bought the farm of 80 acres in 1885 from Albert Elson. This land was part of the Richard Elson's 400 acre farm, which was acquired from the Commonwealth of Virginia, and is signed by the Governor, Patrick Henry.

Shirley Carter's father, Leonard, brought his bride, Maud Robinson, to the farm in 1903. Shirley, their only son, was born in 1907 and still lives in the old homestead. Shirley's father was born in the old Preston Jordan home; formerly Boyd's and then Jim Strong property.

Richard Greybeard Wells came here in 1771, bought 400 acres and became a prosperous farmer. In 1772 he built Wells fort.

Other early settlers were William and Samuel Strain, who came from Ireland and settled in 1774 on a farm on Eldersville Road about 2½ miles from Oak Grove Cemetery. William Strain's son Ebenezer, lived and died on the same tract of land. The Strains sold the property to Eli Carter and John David; Floyd Hunter bought it in 1933. The barn on the property was built in 1856. Mr. Hunter, born in 1894, worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad for 40 years, and Mrs. Nancy Susan Headly Hunter, born in 1900, taught school for 11 years in Avella, Pennsylvania.

Other early settlers were Samuel Baxter, who in 1836 owned all the land on the right near the bottom of Cook's hill.

The William Patterson home was built in 1841 on 32 acres about two miles from Oak Grove Cemetery.

Robert Brown Latimer, grandfather of Mary L. Brown, married Charity Hendrick on January 24, 1839. Their son, Robert George, was born in a log cabin in 1851. He later married Mary Ann Marchland and moved into the new Latimer-Brown home in 1881. They had five children; Harry, Mary, Emma, Brown and Edna. Mary Latimer married John Brown in 1871 and moved into the homestead in 1914. Mr. Brown died in 1973 at the age of 96. The property on which the Latimer-Brown home stands was once part of the John Baxter farm. Mrs. Mary Brown was 95 years old September 16, 1975.

In 1845, through the Tamahawk Grant, the Wiggins family moved to property on Tent Church Road, near Cross Creek. Walter Saunders, married to the former Marguerite Beck, relates how his grandfather married a Wiggins girl and held church services in his home. The Wiggins family cemetery is located on Tent Church

Road. Some of the relatives are buried in Ebenezer Cemetery and others in Olds St. John's Cemetery.

A man named John Decker, traveling from West Liberty, West Virginia, on horseback with Holidays Cove as his destination, stopped to get a drink from the spring across the hill from the Wiggins property. Indians from the Mingo tribe, across the Ohio River, killed and scalped Mr. Decker. He was the last white man killed by the indians in this area. Hearing the shots, Tom Wiggins and others chased the indians as far as Harmon Creek, near Weirton, West Virginia. The Mingo's often came here to make raids on the farmers. Thomas Wiggins buried Mr. Decker 300 yards from where he fell, on land that later became the Wiggins Family burial plot.



## HISTORY OF BROOKE COUNTY CEMETERIES

Information from cemeteries has long been a primary resource for people tracing family histories via birthdates and family relationships.

The first cemetery in Charlestown, Brooke County, West Virginia, (now Wellsburg, Brooke County, West Virginia), was directly south of the Brooke Academy between Fifth and Sixth Streets on High Street. This was used until 1814 when a new cemetery was opened at the corner of Main and Twelfth on the west side of the street. The first person buried in this cemetery was a young boy Eli McDowell who died from the effects of a kick given him by a strong man who afterwards fled the county.

This Twelfth Street cemetery was abandoned in 1876 at which time the graves were moved to the present Brooke Cemetery located on Pleasant Avenue in the north section of Wellsburg. The first burial in the new cemetery was Eleanor George, wife of Samuel George.

Land for this cemetery was purchased from George Cox in 1857, incorporated and laid out in lots. Among those buried here are Captain Oliver Brown, a Revolutionary War hero, Patrick Gass a member of the Lewis-Clark Expedition, Rev. Doctor Joseph Doddridge whose monument reads: "Rev. Doctor Joseph Doddridge, the first minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Western Virginia and Ohio. Born in Bedford County, Pennsylvania October 14, 1769, died in Wellsburg November 9, 1826". Also buried here are General John Connell who fought in the War of 1812 and

General Isaac H. Duval who fought in the Civil War.

Another early cemetery is located on top of the hill immediately south of Wellsburg overlooking the Ohio River. Members of the Cox family are buried here and most of the stones are dated in the early 1800's.

The Marshall Cemetery is located on Bethany Pike near the old Marshall home. Colonel James Marshall, active during the Whiskey Rebellion, as well as other members of the Marshall family are thought to be buried here.

A cemetery was laid out on the Cross Creek road as early as 1804. Among pioneer families buried here are the Sanders, Fowlers, Hindmans, Headingtons and Pfisters.

The Lower Buffalo Cemetery was established in 1795 at the junction of Beall's Ridge road and McAdoo road and near the Pennsylvania State Line.

Another cemetery was laid out close to St. John's Episcopal Church on what is now known as Eldersville Road. This cemetery was established in the late 1790's.

Tent Church road off Eldersville road is the location of a small cemetery established early in the 19th century. Here are found the graves of the Archers, Coxes, Browns, Crails, Crewells, Divitts, Freshwaters, Fergusons, Hindmans, Hunters, Halls, Hays, Ranlins, Klenis, Murchlands and others.

The precise year of the opening of a cemetery on what is now known as Three Springs Drive in Weirton, West Virginia is not known but it was one of the very early ones. Another large and well kept cemetery, although relatively new is Oak Grove

located at the top of Allegheny Street out of Follansbee, West Virginia.

Numerous small private cemeteries were located on farms throughout the county. One of these is viewed by hundreds of people each year and is located between the eleventh and twelfth fairways on the Highland Springs Golf Course.

Kadish Chapel Cemetery is located on Forty Nine Hill a few miles from Beech Bottom, West Virginia. Franklin Cemetery located on Washington Pike across from the Franklin Methodist Church. The Campbell Cemetery, burial place of Bishop Alexander Campbell, is located on the hill across from Bishop Campbell's home on the outskirts of Bethany, West Virginia. Another early Methodist cemetery is located at the east end of Bethany, West Virginia.

INDEX TO 1798-1799 ROBERT MOORE LEDGER

William Craig, Blacksmith  
James Clark, Merchant  
Mathew Cooper, Miller  
John Connell, Clerk of County Court  
Joshua Carr, Western Territory (Butcher)  
Andrew Carmichael  
George Cox, Esq.  
Joseph Crawford  
Joseph Doddridge, Doctor and Minister  
James Dorsey, Lime Maker  
Henry Evans, Miller  
William Fowler  
William Gist  
Allen Griffith, Storekeeper  
Joseph Gist  
Thomas Grimes  
James Griffith  
Caleb Griffith  
John Greathouse, Soldier  
James Hammond, Carpenter  
Josiah Hedges, Charlestown  
James Hindman, Cross Creek  
Samuel Hedges, Carpenter  
John Hinds, Brickmaker  
James Jones, Cooper  
Richard Jones, Stonemason  
Robert Jonson, Doctor  
John Logan, Sadler  
William Litten  
Samuel Littin  
James Marshall, Miller  
John Moore, Miller  
James Magruder  
Robert Meeks  
Old Man Nottingham  
William Pumphrey  
Charles Prather  
James Perry, Constable  
James Reeves, Stonemason  
Josiah Reeves  
John Ray  
Samuel Reeves  
John Smith, Taylor  
William Stephens, Taylor  
Richard Speer  
Robert Scott  
Peter Tarr, Charlestown  
Jacob Walker  
Caleb Wells  
William Wells, Buffalo

## THE WELLSBURG FEMALE SEMINARY

In the early 1850's, several public spirited gentlemen of the town and county, mostly of Methodist connections conceived the idea of establishing a Seminary.

Rev. Samuel H. Nesbitt, pastor in charge at Wellsburg was appointed Principal.

The scholastic year consisted of 42 weeks divided into two terms of twenty-one weeks. The session commenced on the first Monday in September and closed the last week in June without any intervening vacation.

Names of Brooke County pupils in 1855 were as follows:

Charlotte Applegate, W. H. Applegate, Annie Applegate, J. Applegate, Sallie Blankensop, Mary Brown, Sallie Crothers, Matte Carle, Kate Cunningham, Clarinda Crafft, Belle Duvall, Mary Dare, Priscilla Ervin, Maggie Everett, Lavenia Goudy, Credilla Goudy, Mary Green, Sarah Green, Amelia Green, Sophie Green, Lillie Green, Angie Harding, Mary Harvey, Olivia Harvey, Clara Johnson, Latimer H. Jones, A. E. Jones, C. J. Jones, Ella Jeffers, Ophelia Kimberland, Ella Marshall, Sallie W. Moore, Jennie A. Murphy, Annie Murphy, Gabriella Mayhall, Sophia Mathall, Lizzie McCleary, Eliza A. Naylor, Sallie Naylor, Annie Nichols, Julia Noland, Joanna Poole, Hettie Plattenburg, Sallie Richardson, Julia Reeves, Sallie Reeves, Carrie Rose, Margarey Smith, Callie Starr, Lizzie Starr, Bell M. Tarr, Elizabeth Thompson, and Mary Wylie all of Wellsburg; Laura Beall, Mary Fleming, Cornelia Hall, Cornelia Jacob, Lettsy C. Jacobs, Lizzie Kuhn, Mahala Kuhn Michael Lewis, Leah Lewis, Clara Lewis, Ella Merryman and

Florence K. Wilson all of Brooke County, Virginia.

We will try to give some details on the curriculum and outside activities of this school in the future.

## NOTES FROM ALL OVER

Happy word from Florida... Our old friends, Dr. and Mrs. Jerry Patterson, now of Bradenton, are far from retired. As of this writing, Dr. Patterson is Chairman of the Ringling Museum's Children's Art Carnival. This caper is slated for April 19, and his committee of 18 heads a volunteer group involving 250 people! Dr. Patterson accomplished much, successfully, when in Bethany. And things haven't changed with him.

The fourth annual Elby's Wheeling Distance Race is to be held on May 24, and is going to attract a blue-ribbon field. Last years surprise winner in the women's division, 18 year old Amy Johns of Columbia, Mo., is expected to return to defend her title. Amy is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. William Johns of Columbia, and granddaughter of Mrs. Matilda Paull of Wellsburg.

We hear from Oglebay's Wilson Lodge of a Wellsburg native employed as an assistant food and beverage manager. Mrs. Ruth Ann Toxie, daughter of Harry and Dora Jean Crofford of Wellsburg, has the job of keeping a perpetual inventory for the lodge on daily food costs and daily personnel costs to be sure the operation makes the best use of employees. Mrs. Toxie. presently resides in Wheeling's Leatherwood section.

The Historical Society was saddened this year by the passing of two of its members, Carl McCord and Matilda Paull. Both will be missed by the membership.

Our special thanks to Edwana Rowand who consented to be the Editor for this issue of your Historical Review. This is quite a task and Edwana was certainly more than generous with her time and talent. Hopefully she will help us again in the future and we can resume the paper on a regular basis.

A recent acquisition of the Brooke County Historical Museum is a quilt made at the Tent United Presbyterian Community Church, by members and friends of the church.

This quilt was a gift of James A. Finley of Anaheim, Calif., in memory of his parents William and Anna Finley who lived near Follansbee.

The story behind the quilt is that the Tent Church Community, in order to raise money during World War I, for the Red Cross, conceived the idea of making a red, white and blue quilt and charging people to have their names embroidered on the squares. The project was started in the fall of 1917, and completed in the spring of 1920. More than 700 names are embroidered, mostly people who lived in the northern part of Brooke County. In one section of the quilt are the names of the men who were in the service and dates of World War I events. The larger amount contributed to the Cause, the larger space which was allotted for the name.

After the quilt was completed it was auctioned at a festival which was held at the church, and was purchased by William Finley, as a gift for his wife, Anna. After their deaths, their son James A. Finley became the owner of the quilt, and after



corresponding with Mr. Shirley Carter, a member of the Brooke County Historical Society and Museum Board, he donated the quilt to the Museum in memory of his parents, to become a permanent display.

## WOMEN'S LIB

By Nancy Caldwell

This phrase was known to our great, great grandmothers long before we ever thought of it. Stop a minute and think of what these pioneer women did in a day.

They probably got up around 5 a.m. or even earlier, prepared breakfast and it wasn't the breakfast most of us eat today. It would be ham, eggs, grits, coffee, a spread and perhaps other foods that we can't even imagine. After cleaning up the breakfast dishes, which were probably "Treen" ware (wooden ware), they would feed their chickens, if they were lucky enough to have any, gather the eggs and milk the cow.

After all this, the housewife would go to the fields to help her husband in clearing and planting the fields, or perhaps raise a barn or even help in caulking the logs in their home.

After preparing another large meal, around four or five in the afternoon, her evening would be spent in carding, spinning, weaving or knitting wool. If candles were low, she would spend the evening making Tallow candles in candle moulds while her husband spent his evening making bullets.

These ladies spent the long winter evenings making clothing such as quilts, counterpanes, hosiery, dresses, trousers, coats, bedsheets, towels, napkins, etc., for her home. An exhibit of some of these early woven items may be seen at the Brooke County Museum in Wellsburg.